



**Active
Albania**
adventure tours
www.activealbania.com

Albania - Last Hidden Gem of Europe

Discover with us the adventurous, mysterious and untamed Albania.



DURATION
15 Days



MEETING POINT
Tirana Airport



GROUP SIZE
Private



SEASON
Apr—Sep



ACCOMMODATION
**Luxury and boutique
hotels**



DIFFICULTY
Moderate

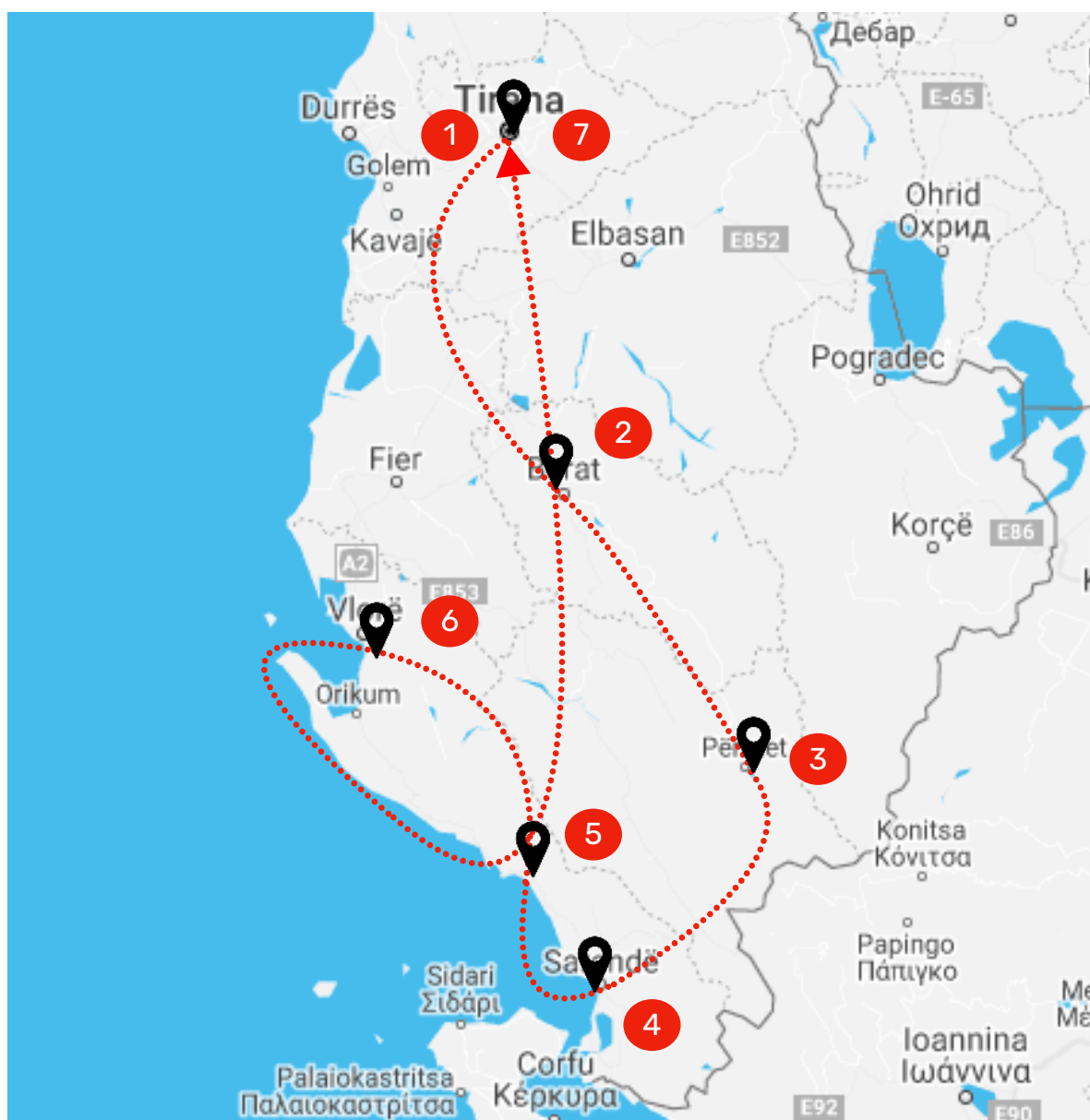
No experience needed for different outdoor activities , just a reasonable level of fitness and the ability to handle 2-6 hours of activity a day.

In a Europe that's been tamed and explored, with rules and order in every single corner – from the supermarket to the bus stop – Albania is the last defender of the rugged.

A place where the mountains have no roads, the rivers flow wild, and the beaches unspoiled by the concrete and promenades of the West. Where adventure isn't guided by velvet ropes or lonely planet guides, but simply by the feet in your shoes, and the spirit in your heart. Where questions and unknowns are answered with the inviting smile of local rather than automated and collated search result. Where an holiday can melt away your routine, and reinvigorate your zest for the undiscovered and the grit of nature beyond the maps.

Highlights

- > Discover unspoiled bays with turquoise waters
 - > Visit of UNESCO sites
 - > Packrafting in the last wild river of Europe
 - > Canyon exploration and thermal springs of Benja
 - > Meeting the locals
 - > Spiritual hiking in the holy mountain of Tomor
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Accommodation



DAY 1 – 3 Tirana

Arté Boutique Hotel

Two nights in Deluxe Rooms
B&B service



DAY 3 – 4 Berat

Hotel Colombo Berat

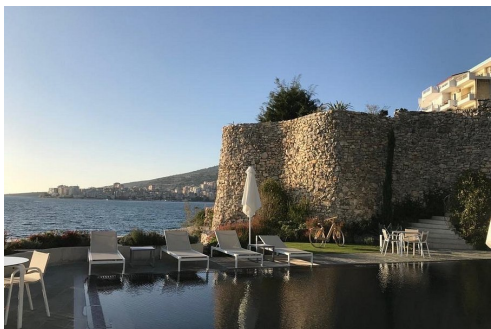
Overnight in a Luxury Suite
B&B service.



DAY 4 – 7 Permet

Villa Permet, Permet

Three nights in a traditional Boutique Hotel
B&B service



DAY 7 – 10 Saranda

Buze Hotel Saranda

Three nights
B&B service



DAY 11 – 12 Dhermi

Zoe Hora Dhermi

Two nights in a Boutique Hotel
B&B service.



DAY 13 – 14 Vlore

Hotel Yacht

Two nights
B&B service

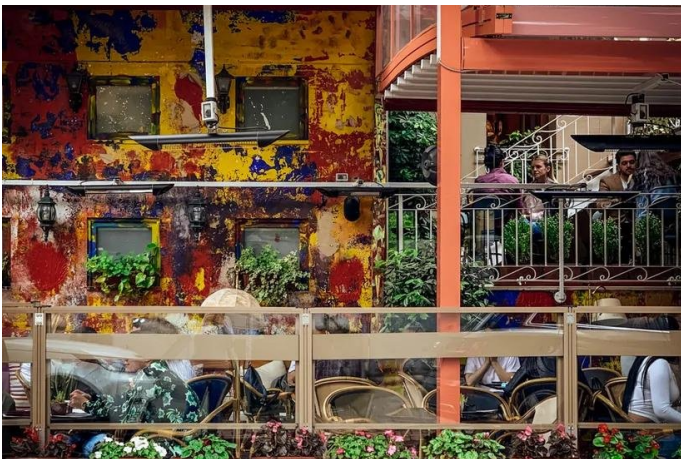
Itinerary

DAY 1 Tirana - The vibrant Albanian capital

*Upon arriving in Tirana a private transfer is organised to take you to Arté Boutique Hotel.

Tirana is an intriguing city with a fascinating mix of old and modern. Since communist rule ended, the city's gray and drab buildings were turned into vibrant works of art featuring interesting abstract shapes, light colors, murals, and graffiti. The House of Leaves, BunkArt2, and the National Museum are three museums in Tirana worth visiting if you want to learn more about the country's history.

Welcoming dinner at Gzona restaurant.



Duration of sightseeing activity: 3 hours

Level of difficulty: low

(Drive: 45 min (Tirana International Airport - hotel

DAY 2 Learn how to cook Albanian pasta

One of the surprises of the vibrant and dynamic capital of Tirana is undoubtedly having a cooking class of the Mullixhiu's chef Bledar Kola, a chef with prestigious international experience (including Noma).

The Mullixhiu cooking dishes menus are a delicate interpretation of Albanian tradition, in their plant based expression. And yes you'll cook also the Albanian pasta: the dromsa, a kind of maltagliati diffused in the Balkans.

Fancy dinner at Salt restaurant and cocktail night in Blloku, known as an entertainment destination with its boutiques, shops, restaurants, trendy bars, pubs, and cafes.



Duration of cooking activity: 2 hours

Level of difficulty: low

DAY 3 Emerge into the eternal city of Berat

Today we'll discover one of Albania's most enchanting culture sights. Berat, the ancient city, cascades steeply to the banks of the serene Osum River. This UNESCO protected site is a veritable labyrinth of timeworn white-washed streets, uneven cobblestones and of course, the captivating mosaic of window frames that stare out from every wall, capturing Berat's two halves, Gorica and Mangalem, in an unblinking staring match across the water.

Dinner and wine tasting at one of the most famous wineries in Albania, Çobo winery.



Duration of sightseeing activity: 2 hours

Level of difficulty: low

Drive: About 2 hours min (Tirana - Berat)

DAY 4 Spiritual hiking in the holy mountain of Tomor

Not far from Berat's city center, the ancient home of the Illyrian gods, Mount Tomor, rises some 2416 meters above sea level. The mountain is famous for the National Park Tomori (Parku Kombëtar Mali i Tomorit) but also has a deeper, spiritual significance. This sacred mountain, named for and presided over in Albanian lore by Baba Tomor or Father Tomor is the mountain where Gods sleep. An home made picnic lunch is tasted during the day.



Duration of the 4x4 jeep safari and hiking activity: 6 - 8 hours

Level of difficulty: medium

Drive: About 2 hours min (Berat - Mount Tomor, partly off-road)

DAY 5 River Hiking in Lengarica Canyon and Thermal Spots of Permet

The gorgeous canyon of Lengarica is located in the Fir of Hotova National Park, Permet. During the exploration we will see several caves and the most impressive is Pigeons' Cave at 160 meters long and up to 3 meters. At the beginning of the canyon there is a stone bridge arcs over a winding stretch of brilliantly blue-green water. Built in the Middle Ages, it has been letting people cross the sulfur-rich river since the days of the Ottoman Empire. Warm water rushes beneath it, providing a relaxing treat during our river hiking trip.

Traditional dinner with saze music.



Duration of river hiking activity: 3 hours

Level of difficulty: medium

Drive: About 3,5 hours (Berat - Permet)

DAY 6 Rafting/ Packrafting in the last wild river of Europe

It is called the last wild river of Europe and is one of the natural wonders of Albania. It is home to over of 1,100 species and authentic communities. The fish fauna of the Vjosa is characterised by high shares of species endemic to the Balkans. The lush vegetation makes this river a great place for adventure enthusiasts to explore and relax. There are many underground passages and unexplored caves throughout the length of the free flow. We will raft the most 10 beautiful km of Vjosa river.



Duration of rafting activity: 3 hours

Level of difficulty: medium

Drive: About 45 min (Permet - Vjosa river)

DAY 7 Waterfall hiking

Today we will do a short hike from the village of Stëmbec to the beautiful waterfall at the foot of Nëmërçka Mountain wall. This trail offers amazing views of the most dramatic southern face of Nëmërçka Mountain including the natural monument of the glacial of Nëmërçka. After 1,5 hours of hike we will enjoy a picnic lunch. The hiking roundtrip is about 6 km.

In the afternoon we will have the opportunity to visit the stone city of Gjirokastra, an UNESCO protected site. Dinner at Te Kube restaurant, a taste of art and local rich cuisine.



Duration of hiking activity: 3 hours

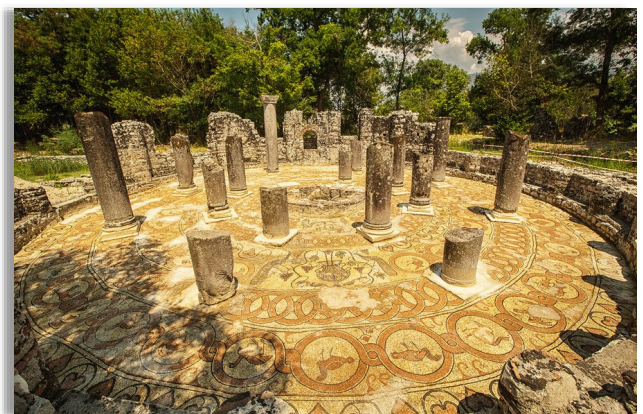
Level of difficulty: medium

Drive: About 3 hours (Permet - Gjirokaster - Permet)

DAY 8 Visit of Butrint National Park and Mussle tour

Albania's rugged coastline, with traditional villages nestled in isolated bays and golden beaches lapped by turquoise waters, was a revelation when travellers first started discovering the country a decade ago. Since then Europe's last untouched beaches have changed almost beyond recognition, but there's still plenty of reason to come here and explore this magnificent Ionian coastline.

We will emerge into the history of the heritage site of Butrint, Albania's top archaeological attraction.



After the visit to Butrint we will join a mussel tour. On the way with the boat we will discover how the activity of growing and cultivating mussels became important for the region and all Albania during communist time. We will pick out mussels for lunch and watch how are cleaned and cooked with the local recipe.

Duration of the activity: 5 hours

Level of difficulty: medium

Drive: About 1 hour (Sarande - Butrint - Ksamil - Sarane)

DAY 9 Relaxing beach day in Ksamil

Once in Ksamil, we will enjoy Paradise beaches offering white sand and crystal clear water with a Mediterranean climate year round. It's made up of dozens of small coves that wrap around the jagged landscape. In short – The perfect way to have a joyful day on the beach.

Dinner with a view in Lekursi Castle.



Duration of the activity: It's up on you

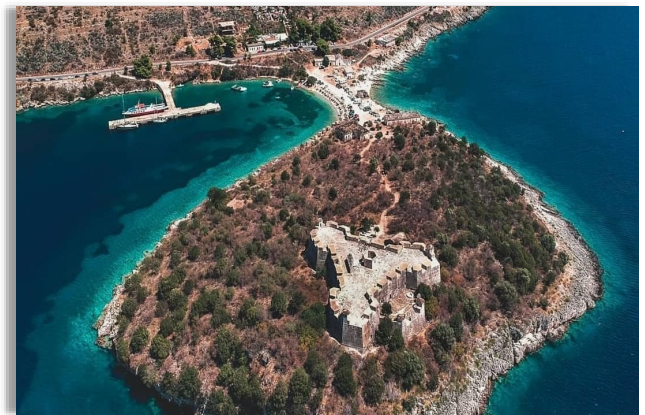
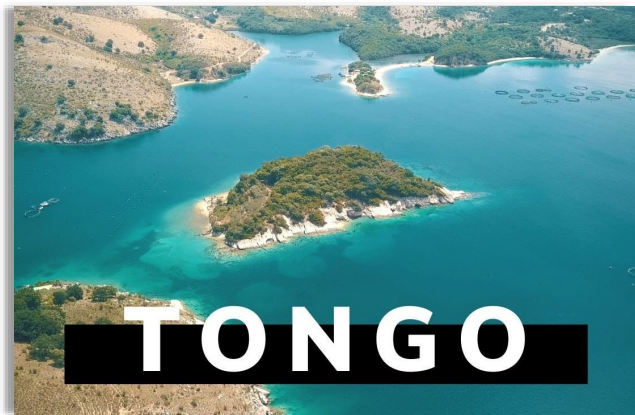
Level of difficulty: none

Drive: About 45 min (Sarande - Ksamil - Sarande)

DAY 10 Explore Tongo Island by Boat

Today we will escape the crowds and discover some truly hidden gems of the Albanian Riviera by boat. Tongo Island is an uninhabited island in the Ionian Sea just 300 meters off the Greek coast. The island rocky is about 2.5 hectares and has an amazing sand beach and a great aquatic life. During the trip we will explore several places, including Cape of Stillos, Ftele Bay and Tongo Island.

While enjoying the secret bays we will cook a barbecue lunch with fresh caught fish from the local fishermen.



Duration of the activity: 6-8 hours

Level of difficulty: medium

Drive: About 1 hour (Sarande - Butrint - Sarande)

DAY 11 & 12 Beach Day in Dhermi

Have you ever been somewhere you just felt instantly comfortable and at ease? That's how you'll feel in the little coastal village of Dhërmi. It is calm and stunningly gorgeous. with several historical sights in the area that are worth visiting, such as the Monastery of St. Theodore, the church of the monastery of Panagia and the church of Hypapante. Dhermi is also known for its white stone houses with blue windows, which is why many call it the Albanian Santorini. While in Dhermi we will rent a boat and head to Gjipe Bay. We can walk 4km long Gjipe Canyon and see the Petasma Waterfall. In addition to that, we will visit the Pirate's Cave, which can only be accessed by boat.



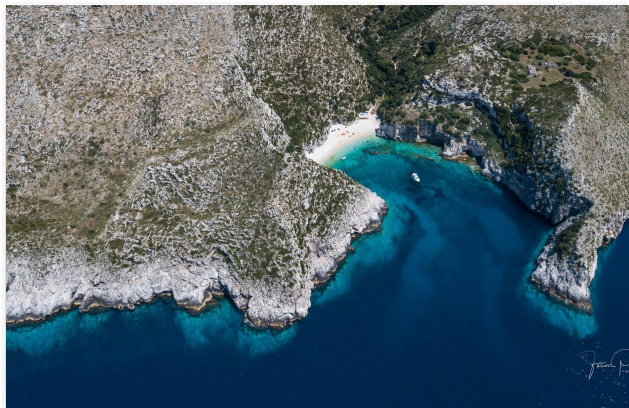
Duration of outdoor activities: 3-5 hours

Level of difficulty: medium

Drive: About 2 hours (Sarande - Dhermi)

DAY 13 Explore the beautiful Karaburun peninsula by yacht

We will reach by yacht the Karaburun-Sazan National Marine Park, the only reserve of its kind in the country, home to turtles, seals and dolphins. We will stop at the mysterious cave at Haxhi Aliu, used by traders and smugglers for millennia and now a national monument. We will do a stop and visit Sazan island. It has a pristine coastline, but it is still shrouded in mystery, even to most Albanians. That's because the island was once a fortified, isolated military base and has never had any civilian population. We will snorkel in a remote bay, sunbathe on an untouched beach and enjoy a fresh caught fish lunch.



Duration of the activity: 6 hours

Level of difficulty: medium

Drive: About 2 hours (Dhermi - Vlore)

DAY 14 Visit of Orikum and relaxing beach day

Archaeological remnants reveal the province as one of the most important among the highly developed southern settlements! Among many other ruins, the park includes especially beautiful traces of an ancient Roman-style theater. It was actually in ancient Orik that Ceasar prepared his attacks against those who did not obey the southern Italian cities.

Goodbye dinner with a view at Tiku & Mato.



Duration of the activity: 1 hour

Level of difficulty: low

DAY 15 Tirana International Airport and time to say Goodbye

Drive: About 2,5 hours (Vlore-Tirana International Airport)