



DISCOVER THE UNTAMED ALBANIAN BEAUTY "EUROPE'S FIRST WILD RIVER NATIONAL PARK"



DURATION
8 Days



MEETING POINT
Tirana - La Boheme Hotel



GROUP SIZE
Private



TRANSPORTATION
Private



ACCOMMODATION
**Boutique hotels, agro tourism
& wild camping**



DIFFICULTY
Moderate

No experience needed for different outdoor activities, just a reasonable level of fitness and the ability to handle 4-8 hours of activity a day.

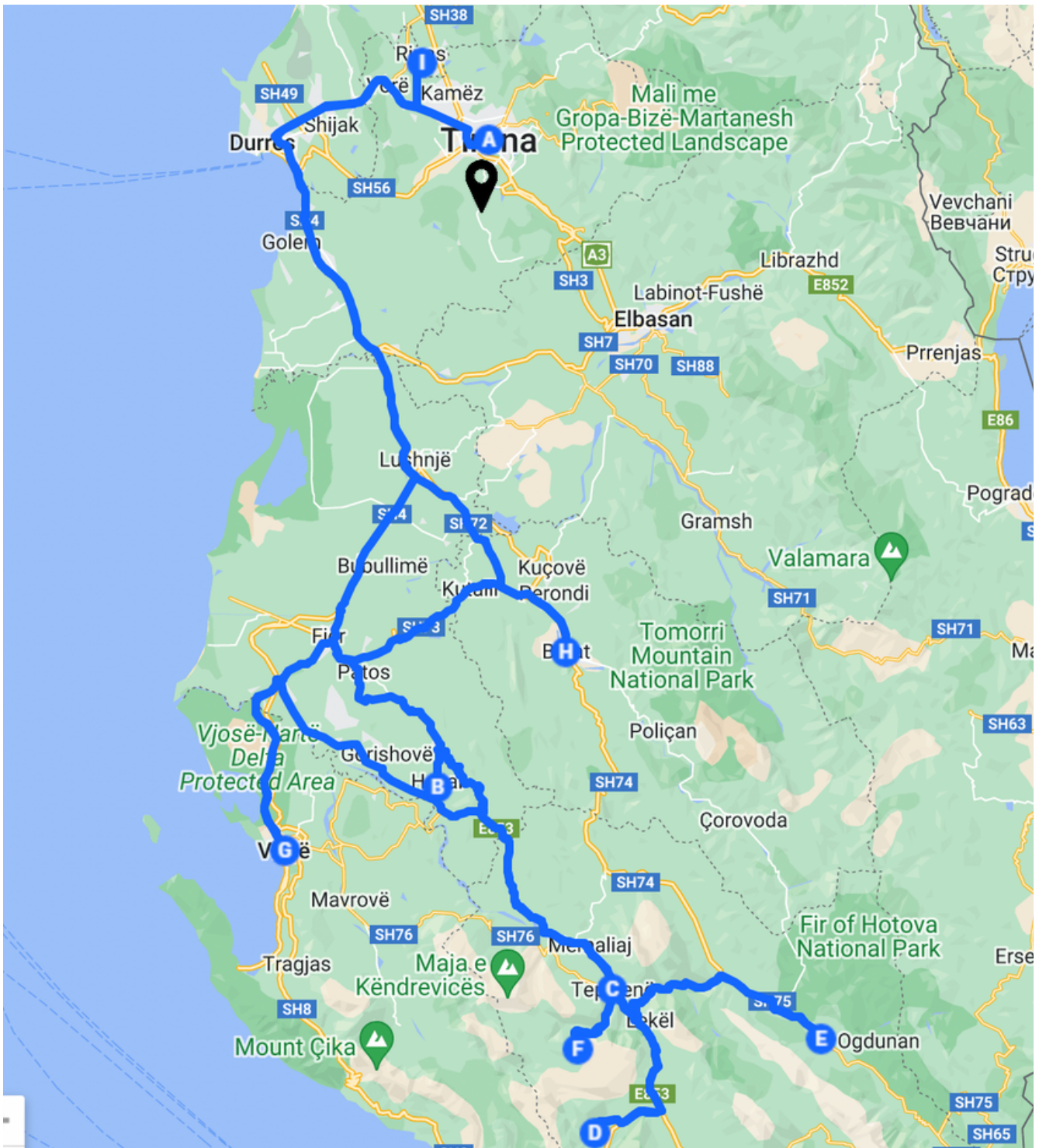
Get ready for an unforgettable adventure in Europe's very first Wild River National Park, where nature's wonders and exciting experiences come together. This unspoiled sanctuary is home to more than 1,100 different plants and animals, and you'll have a chance to meet the friendly locals who call this place home. As you explore the lush, peaceful riverbanks, you'll also uncover hidden caves and tunnels beneath the ground. And for thrill-seekers, there's no shortage of excitement with activities like rafting, biking, waterfall hiking, and birdwatching – all set against the backdrop of Europe's very first Wild River National Park. Vjosa valley is more than just water; it's an incredible blend of nature and adventure waiting for you to discover.

Highlights

- ⊗ Explore the blue heart of Europe
- ⊗ Enjoy the vibrant life of Tirana
- ⊗ Discover an UNESCO site
- ⊗ Wild camp and raft in the valley of Vjosa
- ⊗ Meet the locals



Itinerary



DAY 1 Tirana - Embrace the Capital's Energy

As you touch down in the bustling and vibrant capital city of Tirana, your adventure amidst Albania's natural and cultural wonders begins. While the exact time of your arrival is yet to be confirmed, one thing is undeniable: you're on the brink of an exhilarating journey tailored for outdoor enthusiasts. You'll find comfort at the charming La Boheme Hotel, your home for the first two nights, as you prepare to immerse yourself in Albania's natural beauty- Vjosa Wild River National Park and valley.

The rented vehicle will be handed from an appointee of Active Albania representative, at the airport.

DAY 2 Tirana - Tirana Exploration & Gastronomic Delights

Your adventure starts with an enticing cooking class, led by food activist Dhurata Thanasi. Here, you'll master the art of preparing traditional Albanian dishes using fresh, local ingredients. Following the cooking class and a savory lunch, you'll dive into the heart of Tirana with a walking city tour with our culture guide Frosina, immersing yourself in its lively culture and rich history. As the day unfolds, you'll relish a sumptuous vegetarian dinner at Fustanella agro tourism. Your night in Tirana is filled with anticipation for the reinvigorating experiences that await.

Duration of cooking activity and lunch: 4 hours

Tirana City Tour: 2 hours

Level of difficulty: easy

Drive: About 30 min



DAY 3 Tepelene - Archaeological Marvels & Environmental Advocacy

Your adventure takes you to the Byllis Archaeological Park, a gateway to the past where you'll explore ancient ruins while enjoying breathtaking views of the Vjosa Wild River National Park. Spanning a vast 12,727 hectares, this protected area promises a captivating journey into Albania's pristine wilderness. Lunch at Agroturizem Byllis will introduce you to the flavors of local cuisine.

Next, you'll journey to Tepelena, where you'll gain a deeper understanding of the region's unique ecosystem. To conclude the day, you'll enjoy a dressing experience and photoshoot (optional) at Lord Byron Agrotourism, followed by an unforgettable dinner at this picturesque location. Your night at Lord Byron promises serenity amidst the wonders of nature.

Duration of culture tour in Byllis 1 hour

Visit the Vjosa Research Center 1 hour

Dressing experience & photo shooting 1 hour

Level of difficulty: easy

Drive: About 3,5 hours (2 hours Berat - Byllis & 1 hours Byllis- Lord Byron)

Dinner at Lord Byron.



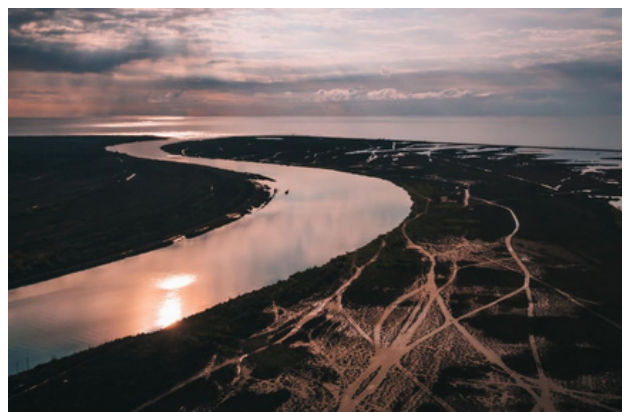
DAY 4 Tepelene - Nurturing Nature's Secrets Along the Vjosa's Embrace

Your focus today centers on the enchanting Kardhiq tributary, part of Vjosa WRNP. Discover the profound significance of the Vjosa River, understanding its pivotal role in the region's ecological balance and cultural tapestry. Your expedition leads us to Zhula, a picturesque hamlet nestled amidst the rugged terrain of Gjirokaster, Albania. Despite its modest dimensions, Zhula boasts a vibrant cultural legacy, having nurtured remarkable luminaries over the ages. Savor the authentic flavors of the region with a delightful local feast, relishing the unique culinary offerings that reflect the essence of this captivating locale. Finally, unwind and immerse yourself in the tranquility of Permet, where a restful overnight stay awaits, ensuring you're rejuvenated for the adventures that lie ahead.

Duration of environmental tour 4-5 hours

Level of difficulty: easy

Drive: About 3 hours (Tepelene - Kardhiq - Zhulat - Permet)



DAY 5 Permet - Venture to Permet & rafting adventure in Vjosa WRNP

Your adventure unfolds as you depart for Permet, a hidden gem nestled among the mountains. The Chri Chri Guesthouse, your sanctuary for the day, awaits.

Prepare for an exploration of Permet on two wheels with a captivating cycling adventure, leading you through lush landscapes and picturesque vistas. A delectable fish-based local lunch will replenish your energy.

In the evening, brace yourself for a sunset rafting experience in Vjosa Wild River National Park, a chance not only to connect with nature but also to experience the transformative power of the river.

Duration of cycling : 2-3 hours

Duration of rafting activity : 2-3 hours

Drive: About 1 hour (Permet - Rafting Departure Point)

Dinner at Restaurant Antigoni.



DAY 6 Lekdush - Experience living in a mountain hut

Today, you'll embark on a brief hike to the enchanting Peshtura Waterfall. Along the way, you'll have the privilege of meeting the warm-hearted locals, deepening your connection to the region's culture and traditions.

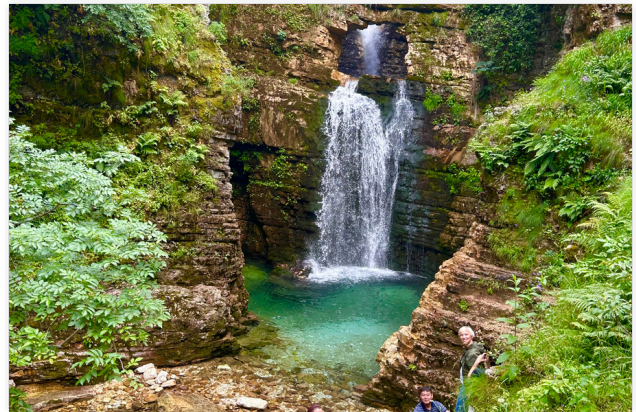
Your overnight stay in a cozy mountain hut will be surrounded by the unspoiled beauty of the Albanian mountains.

Duration of the hike : 1,5 hour

Level of difficulty: moderate

Drive: About 2 hours (Permet - Lekdush)

Local dinner.



DAY 7 Vlore - Birdwatching & Ecological Exploration of Narta lagoon

Your journey leads you to the serene Narta Lagoon, a haven for birdwatching and ecological wonders. A delightful fish based lunch will introduce you to the region's flavors. As the day draws to a close, a captivating sunset birdwatching adventure, led by the birdwatching expert Erald Xeka from the Albanian Ornithological Society, awaits.

Duration of birdwatching : 4-5 hour

Level of difficulty: moderate

Drive: About 3,5 hours (Lekdush - Narte -Berat)

Wine tasting and dinner at Balaj winery. Overnight in Berat (tbc).



DAY 8 Berat - UNESCO Heritage in Berat & Meeting with the family of Blerina

Prepare to be amazed as you explore the UNESCO World Heritage site of Berat. This ancient city, celebrated for its unique architecture and historical significance, will leave you in awe. After a captivating town exploration and a delightful lunch at Blerina's family, you'll journey to Alpeta Winery for a wine tasting that will transport your senses through the Albanian terroir.

The afternoon finds you at the tranquil Alpeta agrotourism, where the beauty of nature and the sounds of the countryside create a serene backdrop for introspection and renewal.

Duration of culture tour 2-3 hours

Level of difficulty: easy

Drive: About 2 hours (Berat-Tirane)



END OF THE ADVENTURE AND TIME TO SAY GOODBYE!

NEED TO KNOW

WHAT IS THE FOOD LIKE AND CAN MY DIETARY REQUIREMENTS BE CATERED TO?

Albanian food is hearty and healthy, usually based around meat and vegetables much of which is seasonal and sourced locally. Popular dishes include turkey, lamb or goat Pershesh, served with a local bread known as kulac, a meat and leek pie made with thin pastry called Byrek and freshly caught fish served in a Mediterranean style. Fish dishes are often flavored with white vinegar and olive oil grown in Southern Albania and many dishes are served with wine from one the local vineyards. If you've got specific dietary needs, contact us before you book and we'll take care of to accomplish them.

WHAT IS THE WEATHER LIKE?

The best months to explore Albania are from February to July and from September to November when the weather is warm and sunny, reaching temperatures of around 30 degrees. August can be hotter, however this is usually broken up by cool coastal breezes.

WHAT SHOULD I PACK?

Recommended packing includes: - Comfortable boots - Lightweight, breathable clothing that's suitable for walking/ hiking/biking - Wind/waterproof jacket - Hat - Water bottle - Sunglasses - Sunscreen - Swimwear in case of water activities - Towel in case of water activities- A small backpack in case of outdoor activities.

PRICE

Starting from 600 Eur/person

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Rented Vehicle

For all the days of your stay with unlimited mileage

Accommodation

5 nights in hotels, 3 nights in guesthouses

Meals

8 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 4 dinners

Equipment & Activities

Everything you need for canoening, birdwathcing and rafting

24-hour emergency service

NOT INCLUDED

Flights to and from the meeting point

Personal expenses

Meals & Beverages other than those specified in the itinerary

Travel insurance

Visas where required

Gratuities to local hosts for included services

Any item not mentioned as included

Personal expenses



**DID NOT FIND WHAT YOU ARE
LOOKING FOR?**

LET US CREATE YOUR DREAM TRIP

Our team leader Blerina Ago will be delighted to tailor a completely personalised itinerary to suit your interests, time and budget.

Email/ Call/ WhatsApp Blerina on

blerina@activealbania.com / +393498949201

SOME INSPIRATION



VJOSA NATIONAL PARK

[HTTPS://WWW.ADVENTURETRAVELNEWS.COM/VOTE-WITH-YOUR-PADDLE-VJOSA-NATIONAL-PARK-NOW](https://www.adventuretravelnews.com/vote-with-your-paddle-vjosa-national-park-now)

ADVENTURES NOT DAMS

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ALBANIA: UNPARALLELED, EXCEPTIONAL & AUTHENTIC

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