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ALBANIA

As part of the Balkan Peninsula, Albania has been a mystery country for over 50 years. In the rain of its dictator Enver Hoxha, that lasted from 1944 till his death 1985, Albania was simply detached from the rest of the Balkans. With his death and opening of the borders, it opened the was beauties and treasures this country hid for all those years. From the vast virgin beaches of the Eonian and Adriatic Sea, to the Northern mountain terrains of Valbona Valley National Park, Albania reveals amazing country sides, incredible views, unexplored castles and archeological sites and natural wonders. Also enriched with centuries of history, tradition and folklore, Albania has become in the past 10 years the new trend in the travel industry which reveals the extraordinary people ready to spread their wonders in front of their feet. It is unique and trendy place with ecological and wild grown food and textures that will dabble your six scents of smell, taste, sound, touch, hear and view and last but not least fill your heart with excitement and joy.



Basic facts about ALBANIA :

Albania, on Southeastern Europe's Balkan Peninsula, is a small country with Adriatic and Ionian coastlines and an interior crossed by the Albanian Alps. The country has many castles and archaeological sites. Capital Tirana centers on sprawling Skanderbeg Square, site of the National History Museum, with exhibits spanning antiquity to post-communism, and frescoed Et'hem Bey Mosque. With population over 3 million Albania has in the past experienced vast immigration due to the tyranny of its dictator. Mainly most Albanians moved across Adriatic Sea to Italy , Greece and Macedonia but a large population can be also found in the USA. Albanian history is enriched with periods of the Hellenistic time,. Roman period who's remains you can find in the rich archeological sites all around Albania. In the post World War II period Albania was known as the country of the bunkers as its president surrounded the country with more than 15-20 thousand bunkers on every border.

Places of interest :

TIRANA - the capital of Albania with population over 800,000 people is the largest city in Albania. It was founded as a city in 1614, but the region that today corresponds to the city territory has been continuously inhabited since the Bronze Age. Post communist Tirana host the mauseum of Enver Hoxha and the main communist square with the National Museum. Also it surrounded by high hills and mountains which are home of several castles from the period of Skendebeg and the Crusader wars.

DURRES - is the largest port and second largest city and a municipality of Albania. Founded by Greek colonists from Corinth and Corfu as Epidamnos in 627 BC, it has been continuously inhabited ever since and is one of the oldest cities in Albania. With its ancient Greek Amphitheater which at one time was the largest capacity 20,000 people, Durrës is one of largest cities on the Adriatic Sea and ranks 5th with a population of 175,110. Also Durres is one of the biggest touristic coast line vacation city that has hotels and weekend apartments that makes this city unique.

BERAT - iis a city and a municipality located in south-central Albania, and the capital of the County of Berat and also one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities. In July 2008, the old town called Mangalem district, was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The municipality was formed at the 2015 local government reform by the merger of the former municipalities Berat, Otlak, Roshnik, Sinjë and Velabisht, that became municipal units. The unique architecture of the city describes the history of the Balkans from the 12- 19th century with its unique hill side houses.

GIROKASTER - is a city in southern Albania, on a valley between the Gjerë mountains and the Drino, at 300 metres above sea level. Its old town is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, described as "a rare example of a well-preserved Ottoman town, built by farmers of large estate". The city is overlooked by Gjirokastër Fortress, where the Gjirokastër National Folklore Festival is held every five years. It is the birthplace of former Albanian communist leader Enver Hoxha and notable writer Ismail Kadare.





HIKING IN ALBANIA

Albania is a country enriched with high peaks, undiscovered places and unbelievable mountain terrains. Known as the Alps of the North - the Valbona National park is home to the highest and most ravishing mountain heights in the Balkans. Including the lakes and rivers this place is known as the paradise for hikers and trakkers. The south of Albania also has tall ravines and mountains that are home to the best river rafting and fishing in Albania. So take a chance and indulge your thirst for adventure by giving Albania your time to hike and explore.



HAT 01 - Northern Albanian Trail - Exploring the Albanian Alps on foot

Duration: 5-7 days

Itinerary : Day 1 - landing Tirana. Overnight with sightseeing. Day 2 - Continue to Berat sightseeing with dinner with overnight. Day 3 Durrës, Lezhë to Shkodër for sightseeing and overnight. Day 4 - Valbona National Park off road. Day 5/6 - off road driving to Peshkopia and to Kruja. Overnight. Day 7 - return to Tirana. END OF PROGRAM

ORA 02 - Southern Albanian Trail - Hiking the coastline of Albania

Duration: 5-7 days

Itinerary : Day 1 - landing Tirana. Overnight with sightseeing. Day 2 - Continue to Durrës for sightseeing to Apollonia archeological site. Hiking to Vlorë for overnight and dinner. Day 3 Hiking from Vlorë to National Park Logra and by the coast line passing Dermi and Papasë to Saranda for overnight. Day 4 - Saranda to Butrinti and hiking the coastline of Ionian Sea. Overnight, Day 5. After visit of Gjirokastër. we start hiking to Korçë and Podgradec. Overnight. Day 6 -Podgradec and surrounding lake. Day 7 Hiking to Elbasan and return to Tirana. END OF PROGRAM

HAGMT - Hiking the Western Balkan trail - Albania - Greece - Macedonia

Duration: 7-9 days

Itinerary : Day 1 - landing Tirana. Overnight with sightseeing. Day 2 - Continue to Berat sightseeing and continue to Gjirokastër. Overnight & dinner. Day 3 After visit of Gjirokastër. we start hiking to Korçë and continue hiking to Greek border to Florina. Overnight. Day 4 - After Florina we continue to Bitola hiking the Pelister National Park. Overnight Bitola. Day 5 - Continue to Ohrid hiking over the National Park Galichica. Overnight and dinner. Day 6 Ohrid - hiking the border line of Albania to Elbasan. Day 7 - Transfer to Tirana. END OF PROGRAM

HAKMT - Hiking the peaks of the Balkans - Albania - Kosovo Macedonia

Duration: 7-9 days

Itinerary : Day 1 - landing Tirana. Overnight with sightseeing. Day 2 -Continue to Peshkopia and th the Valbona National Park. Overnight. Day 3 - Hiking the Valbona National Park and transferring to Kosovo. Overnight in Prizren. Day 4 - Continue hiking to Macedonia and to mount Shapka. Overnight. Day 5 - Hiking the Shapka trail to Mavrovo. Transfer to Mavrovo of dinner & overnight. Day 6 Today we hike to Galichnik and Lazaropole. Overnight. Day 6 - Today we hike down to the main road and continue to Peshkopi. Return to Tirana. Day 7 - Transfer to airport. END OF PROGRAM



BIKING IN ALBANIA

Biking through Albania is like combining a trip by the Croatian Adriatic coast with Swiss and Austrian Alps. Being a closed country for such long time, allows you to enjoy untouched regions and bike on farm and country trails that let you feel and explore the local culture and lifestyle. Also being part of the great travel industry you can enjoy the efforts of great food and accommodations as you enjoy the extraordinary views of this country by bike.



BAT 01 - Northern Albanian Trail - Biking the Albanian Alps and beyond

Duration: 5-7 days

Itinerary : Day 1 - landing Tirana. Overnight with sightseeing. Day 2 - Continue to Durrës sightseeing. Continue to Kruja for Skanderbeg castle. Arrival in Shkoder for overnight and dinner. Day 3 Shkoder sightseeing and biking Skadar lake. overnight. Day 4 - Valbona National Park biking overnight Day 5/6 -biking the Albanian Alps on the dirt roads and country. Sleep in homestay. Day 7 - Bike to Peshkopia and return to Tirana. END OF PROGRAM

ORA 02 - Southern Albanian Trail - Experience the coastal Albania

Duration: 5-7 days

Itinerary : Day 1 - landing Tirana. Overnight with sightseeing. Day 2 - Continue Durrës and after sightseeing start biking to Vloë. Arrival in Vloë for overnight and dinner Day 3 Vloë sightseeing and continue to National Park Logra and by the coast line passing Dermi and Papasë to Saranda for overnight. Day 4 - Saranda to Butrinti and bike to Gjirokastër. Overnight and dinner Day 5 After Gjirokastër we continue biking to Berat. overnight. Day 6 . Sightseeing Berat and the bike surroundings Day 7 - return to Tirana. END OF PROGRAM

BMT - Albania & Macedonia Tour - Biking the neighboring countries

Duration: 7-9 days

Itinerary : Day 1 - landing Tirana. Overnight with sightseeing. Day 2 - Continue to Elbasan for sightseeing and from there bike to Podgradec.overnight in Podgradec. Day 3 Podgradec continue to Macedonian border and bike to St. Naum. From there bike National Park Galichica to lake Prespa. Continue biking to Resen and Ohrid . Overnight in Ohrid. Day 4 - Full day in Ohrid. sightseeing and biking. Day 5 - Continue to Struga and biking to Debar by the canyon of the rivers Drim and Radika. Stop in Debar and continue to Mavrovo for overnight and dinner. Day 6 - Biking to Galichnik and off road to Lazaropole. overnight and dinner. Day 7 - Bike to Debar and Peshkopia and Tirana. day 8 - Tirana depart. END OF PROGRAM



OFF ROAD IN ALBANIA

Explore untouched nature of Albania through off road route & trails that tell forgotten tales. Enjoy the company of the local farmer, shepard, & experience the life of village people where time is not of essence. Go back in time where simplicity was a craft of survivor skills and knowledge of the nature that surround us. Stop to view breathtaking scenes in distant locations from where you will believe God created the world.



ORA 01 - Northern Albanian Trail - Explore the Valbona National Park **Duration: 5 -7 days**

Itinerary : Day 1 - landing Tirana. Overnight with sightseeing. Day 2 - Continue to Berat sightseeing with dinner with overnight. Day 3 Durres, Lezhe to Shkoder for sightseeing and overnight. Day 4 - Valbona National Park off road. Day 5/6 - off road driving to Peshkopia and to Kruja. Overnight . Day 7 - return to Tirana. END OF PROGRAM

ORA 02 - Southern Albanian Trail - Experience the coastal Albania **Duration: 5 -7 days**

Itinerary : Day 1 - landing Tirana. Overnight with sightseeing. Day 2 - Continue to Lushnje off road and to Apollonia archeological site. Continue to Vlorë for overnight and dinner. Day 3 Valona to National Park Logra and by the coast line passing Dermi and Papase to Saranda for overnight. Day 4 - Saranda to Butrinti and off road to Gjirokastaer. Overnight and dinner Day 5/6 - off road driving to Korcha and Podgradec. Overnight . Day 7 - return to Tirana. END OF PROGRAM

ORA 03 - Full Albanian Off Road Experience **Duration: 7 -9 days**

Itinerary : Day 1 - landing Tirana. Overnight with sightseeing. Day 2 - Continue to Berat sightseeing with dinner with overnight. Day 3 Durres, Lezhe to Shkoder for sightseeing and overnight. Day 4 - Valbona National Park off road. Day 5/6 - off road driving to Peshkopia and to Kruja. Overnight . Day 7 - return to Tirana. END OF PROGRAM

ORAM - Albania & Macedonia Off Road Cross Country Adventure **Duration: 7 -9 days**

Itinerary : Day 1 - landing Tirana. Overnight with sightseeing. Day 2 - Continue to Berat sightseeing with dinner with overnight. Day 3 Durres, Lezhe to Shkoder for sightseeing and overnight. Day 4 - Valbona National Park off road. Day 5/6 - off road driving to Peshkopia and to Kruja. Overnight . Day 7 - return to Tirana. END OF PROGRAM

ASK FOR ALBANIA CULTURE & HISTORY TOURS SKENDERBEG - MOTHER TERESA - ENVER HODZA



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