

ALBANIA · KOSOVO · MONTENEGRO

12-day Peaks of the Balkans

Take the longer way through three countries**12 / 11**

days / nights

10

walking days

120.5 km

approx. walking

+7,325 m

-7,775 m descent

Stay longer in the Accursed Mountains. The extended journey adds Kosovo's Rugova highlands, Milishevc, the foothills of Hajla and the Liqenat lakes before continuing into Montenegro and back to Theth.

Along the way

- Komani Lake & Persllopi Pass
- Doberdol & the three-border ridge
- Milishevc & Rugova highlands
- Hajla foothills & Liqenat lakes
- Jlenka Pass, Grebaja & Theth

A three-country journey with substantial walking sections in Kosovo's Rugova highlands, as well as Albania and Montenegro.

Start / finish: **Shkodër, Albania**

Sample itinerary; details and rates on request

THE JOURNEY, DAY BY DAY

Days 1–4

Base walking route.
Times exclude breaks.

01 Welcome to Shkodër

Tirana → Shkodër

Travel to Shkodër for your first night beside the Albanian Alps. Meet your guide, talk through the route and prepare for tomorrow's early start. Transfer arrangements and meeting times are confirmed with your proposal.

Stay: Hotel · private room

Travel: Around 2 hours from Tirana

02 Komani Lake & Valbona

Shkodër → Komani Lake → Valbona

Take the ferry through the steep-sided landscapes of Komani Lake, then continue into Valbona. A gentle introductory walk follows streams and beech woodland beneath the valley's limestone peaks.

7.5 km ↑ 250 m ↓ 50 m About 2½ hours

Stay: Guesthouse · shared room

Travel: Road transfers and around 3 hours by boat

03 Across Persllopi Pass

Valbona → Persllopi Pass → Çerem

Climb from Valbona through grazing land into an open alpine basin. Cross rocky high ground near Mount Kolata before descending to Çerem. The guide selects an alternative when snow or weather makes the pass unsuitable.

14 km ↑ 1,200 m ↓ 950 m About 7½–8 hours

Stay: Guesthouse · shared room

Travel: Short local transfer if needed

04 The Gash Valley & Doberdol

Çerem → Balqin → Doberdol

Walk from Çerem through flower meadows and conifer woodland into the Gash Valley's pastoral landscape. Reach Doberdol's seasonal settlement and spend a night in simple shepherd huts at around 1,750 metres.

16 km ↑ 1,100 m ↓ 450 m About 6½ hours

Stay: Shepherd hut · shared room

Travel: On foot

THE JOURNEY, DAY BY DAY

Days 5–8

Base walking route.
Times exclude breaks.

05 Over the border into Kosovo

Doberdol → Trekufiri → Roshkodol Pass → Milishevc

Climb towards the three-border summit of Trekufiri and follow the high ridge beneath Marijash and Rops. Cross Roshkodol Pass and descend towards Milishevc, a seasonal settlement among pine forests.

18 km ↑ 825 m ↓ 1,100 m About 7–7½ hours

Stay: Guesthouse · shared room

Travel: On foot

06 Into the Rugova highlands

Milishevc → Lumbardhi Ridge → Rugova → Reka e Allages

Climb to the Lumbardhi Ridge for views across the surrounding peaks. Descend through forest towards Rugova Gorge, then take a short transfer to Reka e Allages for the night.

9 km ↑ 500 m ↓ 1,250 m About 5½ hours

Stay: Guesthouse · shared room

Travel: Around 45 minutes

07 Below Mount Hajla to Drelaj

Reka e Allages → Hajla foothills → Pepaj → Drelaj

Follow pine forest and open meadows below Mount Hajla. Continue towards Pepaj and descend to Drelaj, a permanently inhabited village in the Rugova highlands. A longer summit variation depends on the guide's assessment.

10 km ↑ 525 m ↓ 600 m About 4–4½ hours

Stay: Guesthouse · shared room

Travel: On foot

Mount Hajla variation: approximately 13 km, +1,250 / –1,300 m and 8½ hours for the full day.

08 Alpine lakes & Jelenka Pass

Drelaj → Liqenat → Jelenka Pass → Babino Polje

After a short transfer, climb to Liqenat's alpine lakes and continue over Jelenka Pass. Follow open high ground towards Ravno Brdo, then descend across the border into Montenegro and Babino Polje.

15 km ↑ 1,150 m ↓ 1,050 m About 8 hours

Stay: Guesthouse · shared room

Travel: Around 45 minutes

THE JOURNEY, DAY BY DAY

Days 9–12

Base walking route.
Times exclude breaks.

09 The ridges above Grebaja

Grebaja Valley → Taljanka / Popadija → Vusanje

Transfer into Grebaja Valley and climb through beech forest to open meadows and the ridge above. Views reach across the Karanfil towers and the border mountains. Return to the valley and transfer to Vusanje.

12 km ↑ 950 m ↓ 950 m About 6½ hours

Stay: Guesthouse · shared room

Travel: Road transfers before and after the walk

10 Through Ropojana to Theth

Vusanje → Ropojana Valley → Peja Pass → Theth

Follow the glacial valley past springs, open pastures and traces of the former border zone. Cross Peja Pass and descend steeply into Theth. An optional Mount Arapi ascent is a substantially harder extension, considered only when the group and conditions allow.

11 km ↑ 675 m ↓ 975 m About 5½ hours

Stay: Guesthouse · shared room

Travel: Short local transfers as arranged

Mount Arapi extension: approximately 15 km, +1,150 / -1,400 m and 8½ hours for the full day.

11 Theth's waterways & return to Shkodër

Theth → Grunas Waterfall → Nderlyaj → Shkodër

Walk past Theth's church and historic lock-in tower, then follow the river towards Grunas Waterfall and Nderlyaj. A longer Blue Eye walk may be possible. Travel over Thore Pass to Shkodër for the final night.

8 km ↑ 150 m ↓ 400 m About 2½–3 hours

Stay: Hotel · private room

Travel: Around 3 hours to Shkodër

Blue Eye extension: approximately 16 km, +225 / -500 m and 5 hours for the full walk.

12 Farewell to the mountains

Shkodër → Tirana

After breakfast, depart Shkodër with onward transport arranged in advance. Travel to Tirana city or airport can be included in your proposal. Please agree flight-compatible timings before booking travel.

Stay: No overnight

Travel: Around 2 hours to Tirana

GOOD TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

A little preparation. A better journey.

Every departure is arranged individually. Your written proposal confirms the final route, services, group size, transport, accommodation and rate.

The walking

These are sustained mountain journeys on rocky and sometimes indistinct paths, with steep climbs and descents. Good fitness, hiking experience and steady footing matter. Walking times are approximate and exclude breaks.

Your guide adapts walking plans to weather, trail conditions and the group. Summit extensions are optional and can make a day considerably harder. Distances and ascent/descent totals describe the base route.

Where you'll stay

Expect hotels at the start and end in Shkodër, welcoming guesthouses with shared rooms and facilities, and a basic shepherd-hut stay at Doberdol. Mountain cabins can also be simple and shared. Private en-suite rooms are not available throughout.

Getting here & travel dates

Transport through Tirana can be arranged. Meeting points, airport transfers and timings are agreed for each departure; please confirm before booking flights.

Ask us about suitable travel dates and mountain conditions for your plans.

What can be included

Indicative arrangements — confirmed in your proposal

- English-speaking guiding
- Accommodation along the agreed route
- Meals specified in your individual proposal
- Transfers and Komani Lake ferry as agreed
- Border-crossing permits and entrance fees where agreed
- Luggage transport where included in your proposal

Generally excluded

- International flights
- Travel insurance
- Personal spending, tips and souvenirs
- Drinks and meals outside the agreed arrangements
- Private-room supplements where available
- Extra transfers, itinerary changes and additional luggage services unless agreed

ARRANGE YOUR PRIVATE DEPARTURE

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Travel-trade cooperation enquiries welcome.

Sample itinerary; details and rates on request. Base-route totals exclude optional extensions. Route and accommodation may change with conditions and availability.