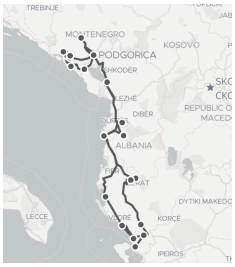
Albania & Montenegro – 9 Days



Day by day itinerary

Day 1	Travel day & Tirana
City:	Tirana
Nights:	1 night
Included meals:	Welcome dinner

Airport pick-up service available throughout the day (included).
Welcome to Albania! Transfer to Tirana and settle into your hotel. For those of you not too tired, there is a guided walking tour of the city center, including Skanderbeg Square, Et'hem Bey Mosque, the Pyramid and the Blloku area.
Then, meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

Day 2	Walking Tour & Local Food in Berat (UNESCO)
City:	Berat
Nights:	1 night
Included meals	Breakfast, Agritourism Lunch
Included entrances:	Berat Castle

Transfer to Berat passing through suggestive hills full of olive trees.
Get settled in the hotel and set out for a walking guide through the UNESCO – recognized old town.
- Admire the White Mosque, the Holy Trinity Church, Gorica Bridge and the Berati citadel/castle.
- Enjoy a coffee and raki break inside the castle of Berat.

Transfer to the scenic and family owned Alpeta Agrotourism & Winery located among the rolling hills that surround the city. Tour the facilities for a complete view of the process of vinification, its cellar and vineyard.
After the visit, enjoy lunch with their seasonal home-grown and locally sourced organic delights and their fine wine.
Return in Berat for a free evening.

Day 3	Saranda via Gjirokastra (UNESCO)
City:	Saranda
Nights:	1st night
Included meals:	Breakfast, Lunch
Included entrances:	Castle of Gjirokastra, Skenduli House

Transfer to Gjirokastra to discover the city of "a thousand steps", driving through small villages.
- Step into Skenduli house, the nicest Ottoman tower house and listen to its history and details from the 10th generation of Skenduli family.
- Soak up to the rich history of the castle and enjoy the view of the "city of stone" from above.
- Pass by the Ottoman Bazaar and historic wooden houses.
- Head out for lunch in a small, local restaurant for a taste of the city's authentic dishes.

Transfer in Saranda in the late afternoon.

Day 4	**Butrint National Park (UNESCO) & Blue Eye Spring**
City:	Saranda
Nights:	2nd night
Included meals:	Breakfast, Lunch
Included entrances:	Blue Eye Spring, Butrint Archaeological Park, on-site expert guide

In the morning, we travel to the Blue Eye and marvel at the spring's shades of blue and nature around it.

- Transfer to Butrint for a guided tour of the UNESCO Archaeological site where a local guided explains 2500 years of history embedded in the Amphitheater, the Castle, the Churches and the Lion's Gate.
- Set off for a beach day at Ksamil Islands where you will have them to explore, swim, sunbathe and enjoy food and drinks at small cafés and restaurants on the Islands.
- Enjoy a fish-based lunch in Ksamil.

Spend your afternoon in Ksamil and on the way back to Saranda visit the Lekursi Castle overseeing the city.

Day 5	**Durres via Porto Palermo & Albanian Riviera Road**
City:	Durres
Nights:	1 night
Included meals:	Breakfast, Lunch
Included entrances:	Ali Pasha Castle

En route to the city of Durres via the scenic Riviera road, explore the Ali Pasha Castle with your Tour Director.

- Marvel at the architecture and listen to entertaining legends about the man who build it, Ali Pasha Tepelena.
- Stop for lunch at a rustic local restaurant along Shushica river.

Reach Durres, get settled in the hotel and enjoy an evening in the lights and promenade of this seaside town.

Day 6	**Montenegro's capital of Podgorica via Kruja & Shkoder**
City:	Podgorica
Nights:	1 night
Included meals:	Breakfast
Included entrances:	Museum of Skanderbeg, Rozafa Fortress

Continue on to Podgorica, making stops along the way.

- Take a guided tour of the Albanian town of Kruja, located between the Ishëm River and Mount Kruja. You'll visit a small bazaar full of local handicrafts before entering Kruja Castle to visit the Skanderbeg Museum. Inside, you'll learn about national hero George Castriot Skanderbeg and his involvement in the Albanian-Ottoman wars.
- Enjoy some free time in the town to eat lunch, shop and explore on your own
- Stop in Shkodra, a small city situated at the foot of the Albanian Alps, to step inside the hilltop Rozafa Castle

Reach the capital of Montenegro, get settled into the hotel and enjoy an evening in Podgorica.

Please note: Travelers should be prepared to show their passports at the border crossing between Albania and Montenegro.

Day 7	**Sightseeing tour of Podgorica & Lake Skadar**
City:	Budva
Nights:	1st night
Included meals:	Breakfast, Lunch
Included entrances:	Monastery of Ostrog

This morning have a walking tour of Podgorica along Independence Square and the Roman Bridge where the Moraca and Ribnica rivers converge.
Continue on to Budva, making stops along the way.

- Travel through the Lake Skadar region of Montenegro to the town of Virpazar/Rijeka, where you will enjoy a traditional lunch on the shores of the lake. You have here also an option to hop on a boat for a tour of Lake Skadar (not included in the price).
- Continue along the Montenegro coast to Budva, stopping for a photo of the charming peninsula village of Sveti Stefan en route

Get settled into the hotel and enjoy this seaside town renamed the Miami of Montenegro.

Day 8	**Boka Kotorska | Kotor & Perast (UNESCO)**
City:	Budva
Nights:	2nd night
Included meals:	Breakfast
Included entrances:	Boat ride, cathedral of Saint Tryphon, Our Lady of the Rocks, Local guide

Today we explore the sunny city of Kotor on a guided walking tour.

- Passthrough the UNESCO-recognized medieval old town to view the ancient city walls and Cathedral of Saint Tryphon.
- See the old clock tower and Orthodox Church.

You will have the option to hike up with your Tour Director the section of Kotor's UNESCO–listed fortified walls located on the mountain of St. John to enjoy stunning views of the Bay of Kotor. Enjoy free time for lunch and to wander around the Old Town.

- Travel along the Bay of Kotor to the Venetian Town of Perast. Here, you'll embark on a boat trip out to the man-made islets of Saint George and Our Lady of the Rocks.

Return to Budva in the late afternoon.

Day 9	**Tirana via Lovcen National Park & Local Food in Njegusi**
City:	Tirana
Nights:	1 night
Included meals:	Breakfast, Njegusi delicacies
Included entrances:	Lovcen National Park

Head for Lovcen National Park, where Njegos tomb' is positioned at its top.

- Visit the tomb and admire the stunning views of the summits of Montenegro, Skadar lake, (the largest lake in the Balkans) with the Albanian Alps in the background as well as Cetinje, the Adriatic coast and Boka Kotorska Bay.
- Enjoy a coffee break with the stunning views of the Bay of Kotor

Continue to the village of Njegusi, located on the slopes of Mount Lovćen, and enter a traditional Montenegrin smokehouse to sample aged-prosciutto, cheese, and other specialtie
En route to Tirana, stop in the Old Town of Shkoder and enjoy free time in the "Pedonalja", the beating heart of Shkodra. Equipped with everything you need to relax, it's a great street to wander around, shop and drink something.

Reach Tirana for the last night on tour and in the evening gather with your group to celebrate your trip.
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Day 10	**Departure Day**
City:	Tirana
Nights:	0 nights
Included meals	Breakfast

Please note that the airport drop off is not included on tour.
If you want to include this service, you can book it during your reservation.