Albania, North Macedonia, Kosovo: Capitals and UNESCO – 7 days



Day by day itinerary

Day 1	Travel day & Tirana
City:	Tirana
Nights:	1st 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	Sightseeing tour of Kruja & Durres
City:	Tirana
Nights:	2nd night
Included meals:	Breakfast
Included entrances:	Skanderbeg Museum, Durres Roman Amphitheater

We start our journey from Tirana, directly to the city of Kruja.

- Set off on a guided tour of Dollma Bektashi Teqe, the surroundings and the Castle itself and the Skanderbeg Museum.
- You will have free time to wander around the Old Bazaar, with beautiful cobblestone alleys and lovely old architecture, and enjoy lunch with a view.

After lunch, head for the seaside historic town of Durres and set off on a guided tour of the City Walls, Byzantine Forum, Roman Thermal Baths, the Venetian Tower and the Amphitheater and enjoy the city's street art around the ancient ruins.
Return in Tirana in the late afternoon.

Day 3	Sightseeing tour of Berat (UNESCO) & Alpeta Agrotourism
City:	Berat
Nights:	1 night
Included meals:	Breakfast, Agritourism Lunch
Included entrances:	Berat Castle, Onufri Museum

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.
- Visit Onufri National Iconographic Museum, built in 1986. The Museum's name honors the Albanian master painter of the 16th century, Onufri, who is responsible for a rich legacy of iconography in the

country. The museum contains an immense collection of one-hundred and seventy-three select objects from Albanian churches and monasteries.

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 4	**Sightseeing tour of Ohrid (UNESCO)**
City:	Ohrid
Nights:	1 night
Included meals:	Breakfast
Included entrances:	St. Sophia Church, Samuel's Fortress, Local Guide

Transfer to Ohrid via Struga where we will have a coffee break on the shores of Ohrid lake.

Get settled in the hotel and enjoy free time for lunch with the lake as your view.

Take in all that the UNESCO–recognized charming city of Ohrid has to offer on a guided tour with a local guide.

- Pass by the glorious Church of Saint Sophia and the National Workshop for a handmade paper-making demonstration.
- Enter Samuil's Fortress and walk along its historic 4th-centrury walls.
- Discover the Ancient Theater of Ohrid, built in the Hellenistic style.
- Walk up to the cliff-top Church of Saint John at Kaneo for panoramic views of the lake and surrounding mountains.

<u>Please note:</u> Travelers should be prepared to show their passports at the border crossing between Albania and North Macedonia

Day 5	**Matka Canyon & Sightseeing tour of Skopje**
City:	Skopje
Nights:	1 night
Included meals:	Breakfast
Included entrances:	Boat ride & Vrelo Cave, Mother Teresa Memorial House

Transfer to Skopje and on the way stop in Matka Canyon known for its butterfly colonies.

- Here we embark on a boat ride for a short exploration of the Vrelo Cave, one the deepest in the world.

Drive to Skopje, get settled in the hotel and have free time for lunch.

Set out to explore the beautiful capital city of North Macedonia.

- Some of the highlights are Mother Teresa Memorial House, opened in 2009 to pay tribute to the life of the celebrated humanitarian, the old railway station and the Stone Bridge, which dates back to 1451.

Day 6	**Sightseeing tour of Prishtina**
City:	Prishtina
Nights:	1 night
Included meals:	Breakfast
Included entrances:	Ethnographic Museum

With a short drive we arrive in Prishtina, the capital of Kosovo. Discover the city with its many mosques, cathedrals and markets.

- Take a photo of the Newborn monument, symbol of their independence and being a young new country.
- Visit the Cathedral of Saint Mother Teresa with its own clock tower.
- Admire The National Library of Kosovo, a building that definitely stands out from the rest, consisting out of 73 white domes.
- Wander the Old Bazaar in Pristina with nearby the ethnographic museum that shows the traditional Kosovar life.

Have the rest of the day on your own. The main boulevard in the capital, Sheshi Nena Tereza, is a nice street to stroll through and enjoy a delicious meal or coffee at one of the restaurants.

Please note: Travelers should be prepared to show their passports at the border crossing between North Macedonia & Kosovo.

Day 7	**Prizren (UNESCO) via Adem Jashari Memorial Complex**
City:	Prizren
Nights:	1 night
Included meals:	Breakfast
Included entrances:	Adem Jashari Memorial Complex, Albanian League of Prizren

This morning we drive to the village of Prekaz, home of Adem Jashari, considered one of the founders of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) and the leader of the armed resistance against the Serbian president Slobodan Milošević and his regime.

- Visit the Memorial Complex and Museum. For the "political tourist" this is a chilling view of what was left from the Serbian attack on the Jashari's houses. After three days of continuous shelling, Adem and more than fifty members of his extended family (including women, children, and the elderly) were killed; only one survived. Besarta, Adem's niece, who was ten years old at the time, was the only one to live through the attack.

Transfer to the "Ottoman" town of Prizren, surrounded by mountains and crossed by Bistrica river.

- Set out for a walking tour with your local guide into the ancient streets of Prizren, with its picturesque and historic building, churches, mosques such as Sinan pasha Mosque.

Enjoy the rest of the day on your own to enjoy food and to wander around this charming city.

Day 8	**Departure Day**
City:	Tirana
Nights:	0 nights
Included meals	Breakfast
After breakfast, we depart at 09.00 for Tirana/Tirana Airport.	