
Day 2

Transfer to Lake Ohrid; cross the border into Macedonia; visit St Naum monastery before ending in Ohrid Town.

This morning we start with a transfer to the northern side of Lake Ohrid. Upon arrival, the bikes will be unloaded and adjusted to everyone's comfort. Our ride starts with cycling along the scenic shore of Lake Ohrid towards Pogradec. After reaching Tushemisht, just 4 km east of Pogradec, lunch will be served at a waterfront restaurant. We will continue cycling in the afternoon, crossing over into Macedonia, and visiting the monastery of St Naum. The road then takes us through Galicica National Park to Ohrid Town.

Lake Ohrid, one of the oldest lakes in the world, came into existence during the Pliocene epoch as a result of tectonic shifts. It is home to unique flora and fauna and the lake is one of the largest biological reserves in Europe; with 212 known endemic species and a surface area of 358 km² it is probably one of the most diverse lakes in the world.

Villa Royal View or similar

Meals included: Breakfast

Distance covered: 60 km / 37 miles

Altitude gain (m): 500

Altitude loss (m): 750

Day 3

Climb to a high plateau bounded by mountains; continue following the gorge to Debar.

Leaving Lake Ohrid behind, we start today by climbing to a high plateau bounded by mountains. We continue to follow the gorge for a while until the hills open up, leading to a vast patchwork plain of individual farms in the Debar region. Our ride finishes in the city of Debar where we rest for the night.

Hotel Leon or similar

Meals included: Breakfast

Distance covered: 67 km / 42 miles

Altitude gain (m): 500

Altitude loss (m): 550

Day 4

Cycle towards Lake Mavrovo.

Today we cycle toward Lake Mavrovo. Spreading over an area of about 780 square kilometres (300 sq mi), the Mavrovo National Park features deep canyons, snowy peaks and blue lakes as well as dense forests providing a habitat for an array of wildlife. We enjoy cycling through this diverse National Park, we reach our hotel in the afternoon at the foot of the Bistra mountains.

Hotel Radika or similar

Meals included: Breakfast

Distance covered: 61 km / 38 miles

Altitude gain (m): 1000

Altitude loss (m): 300

Day 5

Transfer from Mavrovo to the Kosovo border; continue through Brezovica National Park and the Sharri mountain range.

Transferring out of Mavrovo National Park, we reach the border crossing with Kosovo. We will ride through Brezovica, an area frequented by skiers in the winter. We continue into Sharri National Park, which was recently established in 2013. It is still relatively undiscovered with huge areas of intact ecosystems home to several threatened species in Europe, making it an important ecological area to protect.

Hotel Pine or similar

Meals included: Breakfast

Distance covered: 72 km / 45 miles

Altitude gain (m): 1300

Altitude loss (m): 1050

Day 6

Climb up to Prevalle through the forest of Kodra e Diellit; descend to the historic city of Prizren.

From the ski resort of Brezovica, we cycle up to Prevalle through the forest of Kodra e Diellit before a long descent to the historic city of Prizren, Kosovo's cultural capital. Kosovo's second biggest city is rich with history and traditions and is surrounded by incredible nature. Throughout history, Prizren has played a vital role in the region. The city is known in this region of the Balkans for its gastronomy and wines, traditional handicrafts and wonderful mix of Byzantine and Ottoman architecture. This afternoon we go on a city tour to explore the old town.

Hotel Theranda or similar

Meals included: Breakfast

Distance covered: 40 km / 25 miles

Altitude gain (m): 650

Altitude loss (m): 1100

Day 7

Free day in Peje

Today we transfer from Prizren to Peje where we will overnight. Today we have the opportunity to visit another beautiful city in Kosovo before heading to Montenegro tomorrow.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 8

Transfer to border with Montenegro; cycle from the border to Berane via Rozaje.

This morning we transfer to the border between Kosovo and Montenegro. We start cycling from the border and enter Montenegro. We will cycle down to Rozaje, the city is surrounded by magnificent mountains and we will see both Hajla and Turjak mountain. The area is covered in large forests and abundant with flowers. We then continue to Berana, located on the Lim river where we spend the night.

Hotel Berane or similar

Meals included: Breakfast

Distance covered: 56 km / 35 miles

Altitude gain (m): 900

Altitude loss (m): 1500

Day 9

Pedal to Andrijevica and on to Kolasin; magnificent views of the rugged Albanian Alps.

Leaving Berane behind, our ride this morning is along a flat road to the small town of Andrijevica. From here we take a magnificent narrow road with spectacular scenery all the way up to Kolasin. On our left hand side, we will have impressive views of the Albanian Alps and we should be able to spot the mountain of Jezerca, the second highest peak in Albania, on a good day. This evening we spend the night in Kolasin, a ski resort during the winter months.

Hotel Cile or similar

Meals included: Breakfast

Distance covered: 61 km / 38 miles

Altitude gain (m): 1000

Altitude loss (m): 750

Day 10

Short transfer to Mojkovac; cycle through the Tara Canyon before reaching Zabljak.

After a short transfer to Mojkovac, we start cycling through the Tara Canyon, one of the deepest river canyons in Europe. We will also have the chance to see the famous Tara bridge before reaching Zabljak our final destination for the day. The town is in the centre of the Durmitor mountain region at an altitude of 1,456 metres, it is the highest situated town on the Balkans.

Hotel Enigma or similar

Meals included: Breakfast

Distance covered: 53 km / 33 miles

Altitude gain (m): 1100

Altitude loss (m): 500

Day 11

Morning climb out of Zabljak through the Durmitor region; descend to Pluzine/Rudinice.

Our day starts with a long climb out of Zabljak. As we ascend through the Durmitor region we see the magnificent mountain ranges with its dramatic high peaks. After our challenging ride this morning we are rewarded with a long descent to Rudinice village where we spend the evening at a small quiet farm stay.

Etno Selo Izlazak (guesthouse)

Meals included: Breakfast

Distance covered: 57 km / 35 miles

Altitude gain (m): 1000

Altitude loss (m): 1500

Day 12

Cycle towards Nikšić, Montenegro's second largest city.

Today we have an easier cycle toward Nikšić, the second largest city in Montenegro, situated at the foot of Trebjesa Hill. It is the largest municipality by area and second most inhabited after the capital Podgorica.

Hotel Trim or similar

Meals included: Breakfast

Distance covered: 48 km / 30 miles

Altitude gain (m): 450

Altitude loss (m): 850

Electric bikes offer all the thrills and healthy exercise of a regular bike, but with one crucial difference - power! A tiny electric motor (capped at 25mph) assists your pedalling, allowing you to make molehills out of mountains. Cycle further, see more, have more fun. They are just perfect if you want to try a trip with companions of differing fitness level - or a trip at a slightly harder grade - and want to know there's a bit of motor power available if you need it.

Practical Information

Visa

Albania

No visa required for most nationalities, including USA passport holders, most other EU nationalities, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand.

Macedonia

No visa required for USA Passport holders.

Kosovo

No visa required for most nationalities, including USA passport holders, most other EU nationalities, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand.

Montenegro

No visa required for USA passport holders.

Visa regulations can change without notice: please check the current regulations in good time to obtain a visa if one is required.

Vaccination

Albania

There are no specific health risks.

Macedonia

There are no specific health risks.

Kosovo

There are no specific health risks.

Montenegro

There are no specific health risks.

Travel health can often be something people forget about before going away, but a little preparation and knowledge can go a long way to help you stay fit and healthy while abroad.

The Travel Health Pro website recommends to have a rabies vaccination on this trip, as cycling is considered a higher risk activity.

The above information can change at short notice; as we are not qualified to answer all your questions about travel health we strongly recommend you contact your Medical Professional or a Travel Health Clinic at least 8 weeks prior to departure for up-to-date information. Please note: vaccinations that are routinely recommended to residents of North America or Australasia are not considered to form part of the travel health advice, and you should ensure these are kept up to date where necessary.

For additional information please visit: Centers for Disease Control C.D.C at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel>

Insurance - are you adequately covered?

It is a condition of joining any of our holidays that you must be fully insured against medical and personal accident risks (to include repatriation costs and air ambulance or helicopter rescue services where appropriate). On arrival in destination for your trip, you will be asked to present details to your leader or local representative of your policy.

If you are resident of the United States, we recommend the Travelex Travel Select travel insurance policy, this is specifically designed to cover all activities on your trip. If arranging your own policy please ensure that you are covered for all activities that are part of the trip, optional activities that you intend to take part in and/or on high altitude itineraries, that you are covered up to the maximum altitude of the trip.

Local Time

Albania's Timezone: Europe/Tirane CET (GMT +01:00)

Macedonia's Timezone: Europe/Skopje CET (GMT +01:00)

Montenegro's Timezone: Europe/Podgorica CET (GMT +01:00)

Electricity

Albania's Electricity: European plug - 2 round pins. 230 Volts AC.

Macedonia's Electricity: European plug - 2 round pins. 230 Volts AC.

Kosovo's Electricity: European plug - 2 round pins. 230 Volts AC.

Montenegro's Electricity: European plug - 2 round pins. 230 Volts AC.

Money

Albania's Currency

The national currency of Albania is the Albanian Lek (ALL), with an exchange rate at the time of publication (January 2020) of approximately 109 to the USD, 84 to the CAD, 122 to the EUR, 76 to the AUD and 72 to the NZD.

Macedonia's Currency

The national currency of Macedonia is the Macedonian Denar (MKD), with an exchange rate at the time of publication (August 2017) of approximately 52 to the USD, 41 to the CAD, 61 to the EUR, 41 to the AUD and 38 to the NZD.

Kosovo's Currency

The national currency of Kosovo is the Euro (EUR), with an exchange rate at the time of publication (August 2017) of approximately 0.84 to the USD, 0.66 to the CAD, 0.67 to the AUD and 0.62 to the NZD.

Montenegro's Currency

The national currency of Montenegro is the Euro (EUR), with an exchange rate at the time of publication (August 2017) of approximately 0.84 to the USD, 0.67 to the CAD, 0.67 to the AUD and 0.62 to the NZD.

ATM Availability

Cash machines are available in Tirana Airport and all major towns visited. Major credit cards are accepted in shops for larger purchases as well as restaurants, but cash is usually easier. It is best to use a mixture of US Dollars, Euros and ATMs.

Extra Expenses & Spending Money

Please budget at least 10EUR per meal, depending on what you choose and drink this come to more.

Please budget around 10EUR for entry into some of the local attractions.

Tipping

Our local staff are paid well and fairly for their work with Breakaway. Tipping is at your discretion but many clients wish to tip their leaders and driver at the end of the trip, we suggest between €20-30 for the guide and €10-15 for the driver. Most groups prefer to present the money to the leader at the end of the week with two separate envelopes (one for the leader and one for the driver). This is completely at your own discretion and to be used as a guideline only.



Responsible Tourism

At Breakaway we believe in the power of Responsible Travel.

Every time we travel, we are part of a global movement that creates jobs, builds more sustainable societies, encourages cultural understanding and safeguards common natural and cultural heritage.

Important Information

On all guided trips

Although our leaders are well trained to deal with different capabilities, if they have any concerns about someone's ability to safely partake in an activity, or their impact on other people's enjoyment, we authorize them to take necessary action which, in some circumstances, may involve asking someone to miss that activity.

Although rarely enforced, by booking this trip you agree to section 5 of our Booking Conditions which clearly states that our leaders have the authority to do this. In these circumstances we will ensure anyone sitting out is safely provided for and offered alternative options where possible. Refunds will not be provided for activities missed and customers may be liable for additional costs incurred.

On all trips

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call the Breakaway office and ask to speak to one of the experts on this itinerary.

In an emergency, please contact our 24 hour out of hours service on +44 (0) 844 326 7041.

Every time that you travel abroad you should take the time to read the warnings in the essential information in the brochure.

Full joining instructions including local emergency numbers, and details of how to reach the start point, will be sent to you approximately 2 to 3 weeks prior to departure. If you do not receive these at least a week before departure, or require them earlier please contact our office or your travel agent.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure or website, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure and website. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; in order to enjoy them you should be prepared to be flexible where necessary. Occasionally, as stated in our brochure, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned. This may be for a variety of reasons - climatic, political, physical or other. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements that maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

This trip includes time by a lake, river or sea, where there may be opportunities to swim. Swimming results in more tourists deaths than any other activity. All customers should always seek local advice before deciding whether to swim, and are requested to treat the sea with extreme caution if they choose to enter the water.

TRAVEL AWARE – STAY SAFE & HEALTHY ABROAD

The U.S. State Department has up-to-date advice on staying safe and healthy abroad. For more on security, local laws, plus passport and visa information, see <https://www.state.gov/travelers/>

Keep informed of current travel health news by visiting Centers for Disease Control C.D.C at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel>

Advice can change so check regularly for updates.

For all latest travel information about your holiday, please visit our Travel Safety Advice page.

How to Book

Ready to book? Please contact **Breakaway Adventures on Tel: 1-800-567-6286; International Tel: +1-843-856-9771.**

<https://www.breakaway-adventures.com>