
Day 2

Drive to Komani Lake; scenic ferry journey, followed by a walk to Tropoje Village

This morning we drive (approx. 4 hrs) to Komani Lake. We then have a 2 hour ferry journey through the gorge to Fierza. The boat journey allows us to take in the spectacular scenery whilst we wind our way between high cliffs and towering peaks. It is described as one of the world's great boat journeys. Three hydroelectric power plants have been built here at the lake, which produces approx. 70% of Albania's electricity. Upon arrival in Fierza, we'll visit the 200 year old Mic Sokoli tower, which is significant in northern Albanian history and culture. We'll then walk for 2 hours to our guesthouse in Tropoje.

Aste Guesthouse or similar

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Distance covered: 7 km / 4 miles

Altitude gain (m): 244

Altitude loss (m): 164

Activity (hours): 2

Day 3

Through Tropoje Valley, following the river to Sylbice

We walk up through Tropoje Valley and follow the river, taking several breaks along the way to enjoy the beautiful alpine scenery. Lunch will be a picnic in the valley. In the afternoon we reach our alpine huts in Sylbice Alpine Pasture, which is where we stay for the night. The huts belong to a local family and we'll enjoy the homemade food and traditional hospitality, which has remained unchanged in this area for decades.

Max. altitude 1620m.

Sylbica Huts

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Distance covered: 16 km / 10 miles

Altitude gain (m): 1693

Altitude loss (m): 493

Activity (hours): 7

Day 4

Cross the border into Kosovo; trek through alpine pastures to Belegu

Today we cross the border into Kosovo and trek through green alpine pastures to Belegu. We start walking at 1650m, eventually reaching Ali Cela Pass at 2227m, where we have stunning views of the glacial lakes in Albania. We then start descending to Belegu. For lunch, we'll enjoy another picnic en route, and dinner will be taken at Belugu shepherd huts, where we'll be staying this evening. Our host built this hut in the pine forest and plays the cifteli, a traditional musical instrument, so we'll enjoy some folk songs from the area.

Max. altitude 2300m.

Belegu Huts

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Distance covered: 15 km / 9 miles

Altitude gain (m): 977

Altitude loss (m): 693

Activity (hours): 6

Day 5

Walk along ridges to the shepherd village of Milisevac

Today's trail is carpeted with a dazzling array of wildflowers as we ascend from deep valleys to green mountain pastures, enjoying breathtaking panoramic views as we walk along ridges to the shepherd village of Milisevac run by a delightful family. Today's route takes us off the tourist map and follows trails known by our local guide, we are unlikely to pass fellow trekkers as our paths takes us away from the Peaks of the Balkans trail. The halfway point of today's walk is the remote village of Prilep where we will enjoy local hospitality and have our lunch.

Max. altitude 2018m.

Milishevc hut, Lojza hut

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Distance covered: 13 km / 8 miles

Altitude gain (m): 515

Altitude loss (m): 716

Activity (hours): 6-7

Day 6

Trek to Lumbardhi ridge; descend to Rugova Camp Hotel and continue to Reka e Allages

Today's landscape is truly untouched and wild starting at 1600m we hike up to 2150m over 6km. This area is renowned for its hospitality, with delicious cheese and homemade raki available to try. We first ascend to Lumbardhi ridge and then descend through forest (sometimes the trail may be muddy) to Rugova Camp Hotel. From here we take a ride in 4x4's to our guesthouse in Reka e Allages to avoid walking along the tarmac road.

Max. altitude 2127m.

Reka e Allages Ariu Guesthouse

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Distance covered: 15 km / 9 miles

Altitude gain (m): 1059

Altitude loss (m): 1529

Activity (hours): 8

Day 7

To Boge via Mt Hajla (2403m)

An exciting day today as we trek to Boge via Mt Hajla (2403m). Hajla is a mountain situated on the border of Montenegro and Kosovo and belongs to the north-eastern part of the Prokletije mountain range (or the Accursed Mountains). It is the highest peak in this range. Many consider Hajla to be one of the most beautiful peaks in the area. Those who live in this area still rely on stock-breeding and forestry, where shepherds still migrate to their summer huts and high settlements using the trails on which we walk on. Lunch will be a picnic en route and tonight we stay in a mountain hotel in Boge.

Max. altitude 2123m.

Hotel Magra Austria

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Distance covered: 22 km / 14 miles

Altitude gain (m): 987

Altitude loss (m): 840

Activity (hours): 8

Day 8

Transfer to Kuqishte; trek to Babino Polje, Montenegro

We have a 30 minute transfer to Kuqishte, the start point of today's trek. We begin with an ascent on a good path, which leads us through lofty pine trees. From here, we have a steady climb to a valley full of dramatic rock formations and lakes. This is our highest point of today, with expansive views of the Accursed Mountains to the south. Depending on visibility, we may be able to see Babino Polje in Montenegro. We cross the border into Montenegro from here, with a delightful descent through a high alpine meadow, until we reach the sheep pastures above the Babino Polje Valley.

Max. Altitude 2276m.

Triangle Woodhouse

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Distance covered: 16 km / 10 miles

Altitude gain (m): 991

Altitude loss (m): 1006

Activity (hours): 7

Day 9

Trek to Hrid Lake in Prokletije National Park; continue to Plav

Today we trek to Hrid Lake, starting with a trail through woodland. Hrid Lake can easily be circled, with its western part offering enjoyable views. The lake is recognised as a strict nature reserve within the Prokletije National Park. If the weather is good we can enjoy a quick refreshing swim at this tranquil spot. We then continue along a series of hills to Plav. Today's walk is one of the longest and we cover a variety of terrain. In Plav there is a supermarket so there is an opportunity to purchase snacks and ice-cream.

Max. altitude 2046m.

Hotel Lake View or similar

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Distance covered: 22 km / 14 miles

Altitude gain (m): 626

Altitude loss (m): 1202

Activity (hours): 8

Day 10

Transfer to Gradec; trek to Vuthaj via Bor Peak (2106m)

We have a beautiful and exciting trek today, as we are going to summit Bor (2106m). This morning we start with a transfer to reach the start point of the trek, we begin driving on a tarmac road before turning off onto a gravel road where it gets progressively bumpier the higher we go. The trail starts in the beech forest and then it opens out into meadows covered in wildflowers. We then climb Bor (a steep ascent), from the top there are stunning panoramic views of the Guisinje Valley, Plav and the surrounding mountains of Kosovo and Albania. The next part of the trek follows a nice path as we gradually descend to the village of Vuthaj.

Max. altitude 2106m.

Rosi or Dudushi Guesthouse Vuthaj

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Distance covered: 12 km / 7 miles

Altitude gain (m): 584

Altitude loss (m): 1116

Activity (hours): 7

Day 11

Trek to the glacial lakes of Jezerca

This morning we will be transported with our luggage by 4x4's to the Zastan huts. From the old police border office, we climb up to the Jezerca lakes, passing through dense forest. It is important to carry enough water for the day on this day as there are limited water sources along this route. From the lakes, we continue through forest along a trail all the way to Rossi Pass. We then descend into the village of Valbona.

Max. altitude 2000m

Hotel Margjeka or similar

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Distance covered: 11 km / 7 miles

Altitude gain (m): 640

Altitude loss (m): 760

Activity (hours): 7

Earplugs

Energy bars and snack supply, enough for a small snack each day

Chlorine tablets

SteriPen

Breakaway **Kitbag**

If you book this trip, we provide an Breakaway kitbag to pack your luggage in while on trek. Once you have booked you will be sent instructions on how to claim your free bag (they will not be sent out automatically). Please note that if you book less than three weeks before the departure date we cannot guarantee that your kitbag will arrive before your trip starts, so if this is the case please contact us to let us know.

Practical Information

Visa

Albania

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.

Kosovo

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

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

There are no specific health risks on this trip.

Vaccination

Albania

There are no specific health risks.

Montenegro

There are no specific health risks.

Kosovo

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 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)

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

Electricity

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

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

Kosovo'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.

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.

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.

ATM Availability

It is easier to use Euros in this region; Kosovo & Montenegro use the Euro, while Albania use the Lek. You can obtain the Lek at ATM's in Tirana. There are ATM's and currency exchange in the arrivals hall at the airport but you will usually find better exchange rates outside the airport.

Extra Expenses & Spending Money

You will usually find better exchange rates outside the airport, so you are better to exchange the bulk of your money in Tirana. It is important to carry small denominations as prices in Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro are relatively cheap compared to elsewhere in Europe.

Most meals are included in the price of the tour, and for those that aren't, you need only allow approx. €7.50 for dinner and €4.50 for lunch (plus a little more if drinking wine). Approx. drink prices in restaurants: beer, a glass of wine, water, soft drinks are €1.50.

Tipping

It is also customary to leave a tip for the driver and the local staff. This can be handed to your leader at the end of the week. For the driver and local staff, we recommend to budget approx. 10-15 Euros per person.

A tip for the leader at the end of the trip is greatly appreciated. As a guideline, we recommend a contribution of between 30-40EUR per person.



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>