

SHQIPONJA TRAVEL

CARNIVAL

IN ALBANIA

*visiting Tirane - Shkoder - Shirok
- Durres - Kruje - Belsh - Berat . .*



12 - 17 FEB, 2026

The capital city of Albania is Tirana, which is a vibrant and rapidly developing city known for its mix of communist-era buildings, modern cafes, and lively streets.

The official language is Albanian, which is unique and has its own branch within the Indo-European language family. It's spoken in two major dialects: Tosk (south) and Gheg (north).

Albanian food is a blend of Mediterranean flavors with influences from Italy, Greece, and Turkey. Common ingredients include olive oil, cheese, yogurt, grilled meats, seafood, and fresh vegetables. Don't miss trying Byrek (savory pie), Tavë Kosi (lamb with yogurt), and Fërgesë (a rich, tomato-based dish with peppers and cheese).

Albanians are known for their warmth, hospitality, and pride in their country's culture. The practice of "besa", a code of honor and trust, is an integral part of their social values.

Albania is still relatively undiscovered, making it a hidden gem in Europe for travelers seeking authentic experiences





DAY 1 - 12FEB26

We meet at Malta's International airport @ 18.30 for our Wizz Air flight to Tirane departing 20:40 arriving at 22:20. We head straight to the hotel : Tirana International 4* which is centrally located at Skanderbeg square

DAY 2 - 13FEB26 - Exploring Tirana & Mount Dajti

We have breakfast at the hotel to kick start the day. We begin our city tour of Tirane on foot, exploring the vibrant streets of the capital. Highlights include: Skanderbeg Square – the central hub, home to historic landmarks like the National History Museum and the Et'hem Bey Mosque, The Pyramid of Tirane – a former museum turned quirky landmark, Bunk'Art 2 – an insightful museum about Albania's communist past. The colorful Blloku District, once off-limits during communist rule, now bustling with cafes, boutiques, and street art.

After roaming in the city, we head to the Dajti Ekspres Cable Car (included), which will take us up to Mount Dajti. Once at the top, enjoy some free time to: Breathe in the fresh mountain air, sip a coffee while taking in panoramic views of Tirane, or opt to have lunch at your own pace at one of the mountain restaurants.

After the cable car ride back down, we'll head to the hotel for some free time to relax or explore on your own. Dinner will be served at a traditional Albanian restaurant, where you'll enjoy local dishes and experience the warmth of Albanian hospitality.



DAY 3 - 14FEB26 – Full Day Excursion to Shkoder



We start the day by having the usual breakfast. After we begin our journey to Shkoder, known as the "City of Two Wheels" for its love of cycling and outdoor life. This picturesque city sits at the foot of the Albanian Alps and is rich in culture and natural beauty.

Our first stop will be the Mesi Bridge, an iconic Ottoman-era stone bridge that spans the Rijeka Drin. It's not only a historical marvel but offers great views of the surrounding landscapes.

Next, we'll experience a unique carnival mask-making workshop at the Venetian Mask Factory. Here, you'll learn the traditional art of mask-making—a fascinating glimpse into the local craft and Venetian influence. The mask of Tom Cruise film : Eyes wide shut was actually made here !

After our cultural stops, we'll take a relaxing boat ride on Shkoder Lake, the largest lake in the Balkans. Here you can enjoy the peaceful surroundings and admire the natural beauty of the area.

During the boat ride, we'll also visit a local carpet factory, where we can watch artisans at work and learn about the traditional weaving methods used to create beautiful handmade carpets.

For Valentine's Day, we head to Mrizi i Zanave, one of Albania's top slow-food restaurants. Here you'll enjoy a delicious traditional Albanian meal made with fresh, local ingredients—perfect for a cozy and memorable dinner. After dinner, we make our way back to the hotel for a well-deserved rest.



DAY 4 - 15 FEB 26 : DURRES - KRUJE - MT. SARI SALLTIK

After breakfast, we head to Durres, Albania's bustling coastal city. Upon arrival, we'll enjoy a walking tour of Durres, where we'll explore its lively streets and vibrant atmosphere. Highlights include: The Durres Amphitheater, one of the largest Roman amphitheatres in the Balkans, offering insight into the city's ancient past. The Archaeological Museum showcasing historical treasures, and the Venetian Tower for a taste of the city's Venetian heritage. After our exploration, you'll have free time to roam around the city or simply relax at one of the seafront cafes, enjoying a delicious cup of coffee while gazing out over the sparkling Adriatic Sea.

Next, we head to Kruje, a historic town located in the foothills of the Albanian Alps. Here we'll visit the famous Kruje Castle, the stronghold of Albania's national hero, Gjergj Kastrioti Skanderbeg. The castle offers panoramic views of the surrounding area and is a testament to Skanderbeg's resistance against the Ottoman Empire. After the castle, we'll stroll through the Kruje Bazaar, a vibrant market where you can pick up authentic souvenirs, locally handcrafted, and Albanian textiles.

After the bazaar, we make our way to Sari Salltik Mountain, where you'll be rewarded with a splendid view of the town and the valley below. From this vantage point, we'll also visit the Bektashi Monastery, a peaceful spiritual site associated with the Bektashi Order, a mystical branch of Sufism. For dinner, we'll head to a local agriturismo restaurant, where we'll enjoy a traditional Albanian meal made from fresh, local produce—a truly authentic experience. Return to the hotel after a full day of exploration.



DAY 5 -16FEB26 - Belsh, Berat, & Divjake Narta Lagoon

After breakfast, we head to our first stop: the lovely town of Belsh, nestled by Lake Belsh. This charming town offers a peaceful atmosphere perfect for a relaxing start to the day. We'll enjoy a leisurely coffee break by the picturesque lake promenade, taking in the calm surroundings before continuing our journey.

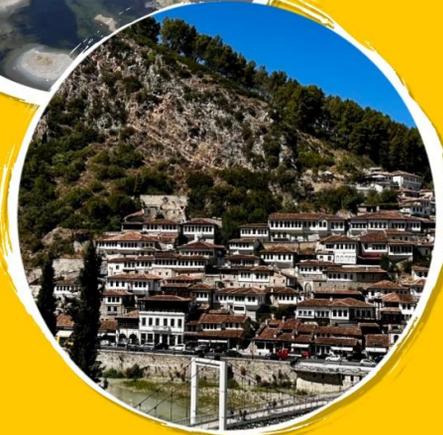
We continue to Berat, the historic town also known as the "City of a Thousand Windows," where we'll step back in time to explore the centuries-old architecture and culture of this UNESCO-listed gem.

Berat Castle will be our first stop, offering panoramic views of the town below. We'll then explore the Mangalem Quarter, renowned for its Ottoman-era houses and winding streets.

After soaking up the history of Berat, we'll shift gears and head to the serene Divjake Narta Lagoon, located on Albania's western coast. Known for its rich biodiversity, the lagoon is a peaceful retreat and a haven for birdwatchers. With a bit of luck, we may spot a variety of migratory birds, especially around the wetlands and salt marshes. The lagoon is also home to the Karavasta Lagoon, which houses the rare Dalmatian pelican.

We'll finish our day with an authentic Albanian dinner at a local restaurant, where you can enjoy traditional local dishes made from fresh, regional ingredients—perfect for reflecting on the journey.

After dinner, we head back to the hotel, where we'll take a moment to reflect on the experiences we've shared during this unforgettable trip. Tonight, we say our goodbyes to Albania after an enriching adventure through its cities, nature, and culture.



DAY 6



DEPARTURE DAY

Prices : Eur 799 pp sharing Double room
Eur 725 pp sharing Triple room
Eur 970 for single

Price includes:

- Return Wizz Air flights (including 10Kg luggage)
- Accommodation 4* centrally located at the main square : Tirana International , BB
- Coach throughout the journey
- Maltese tour leader and local guide
- All excursions including entrance fees, cable car, boat ride
- 4 Dinners (Traditional cuisine)
- Insolvency fund certificate

17FEB26

At 03:30, we proceed to check out and head directly to Rinas Airport for our departure flight at 06:00, arriving back in Malta at 07:50.

BOOK YOUR SPOT NOW.

CALL US ON 9925 1028

