

Adventures in Albania & Lake Ohrid

Tour Style: Guided walking

Destination: Albania

Trip code: ASLCL

Trip Walking Grade: 3



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

An up-and-coming Eastern European gem set on the shores of the Ionian Sea, Albania shines brightly for walkers and adventurers keen to enjoy a mix of scenic wonders and cultural thrills. Join us as we journey through its diverse landscapes, including mountains, valleys, glistening lakes, national parks, and traditional villages. You'll also enjoy walks around the shores of Lake Ohrid, the so-called "European Galapagos" that straddles Albania and North Macedonia. Itinerary highlights include a cookery demonstration in Voskopje, discovering the beautiful Morava mountains, and taking a guided tour of the dynamic capital, Tirana.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return flights from London Heathrow, including baggage and transfers
- Guided walks with a local leader
- HF Holidays Tour Manager
- 7 nights' touring accommodation in Albania & North Macedonia
- 7 breakfasts & 7 dinners
- All in-destination transport

HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Exploring the peaceful landscapes of Galicia National Park
- Learning about Korçe, and Tirana on guided walking tours
- Walking along part of the Roman Via Egnatia route
- Discovering Lake Ohrid, one of Europe's deepest inland bodies of water
- See a cookery demonstration in Voskopje
- Enjoying the unique textures and flavours of Albanian cuisine

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrive In Tirana

Arrive in Tirana and transfer to our hotel. We will get together for a welcome drink and dinner this evening.

Day 2: Via Egnatia To Voskopje

Distance: 7.5 miles (12km)

Ascent: 620 feet (190m)

Descent: 920 feet (280m)

After an early morning start, our first walk takes us from the small village of Polis along the highland landscapes of the historic Via Egnatia. Originally constructed by the Romans in 2BC, this ancient trail began on Albania's Adriatic coast through to the city of Byzantium, now Istanbul. We will learn more from our local guide as we walk. Later, a short bus journey offers a stop in Lin before heading on to Voskopje. Here, we'll take a walk around the village before learning how to cook a traditional pie, which we'll dine on for dinner at the Pashuta Guesthouse, where we stay for two nights.

Day 3: Voskopje, Villages & Valleys

Distance: 6.5 miles (10.5km)

Ascent: 1,230 feet (375m)

Descent: 1,230 feet (375m)

After an early start, we'll enjoy a circular walk from the village centre along the riverside and up to the traditional village of Shpëskë. We'll take a break to admire the newly restored church before our journey back to Voskopje. It's a steep descent but will reward us with breathtaking valley views over streams and forests. Enjoy free time in the afternoon at your leisure. In the evening, we'll visit a traditional village house and have dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 4: Morava Mountains To Korçe

Distance: 7 miles (11km)

Ascent: 1,575 feet (480m)

Descent: 690 feet (210m)

This walk starts from Voskopje, passing the Church of the Archangels on a path within the beautiful Morava mountains. We'll learn about nearby military tunnels, built during the communist period, and see the "Soldiers'

Fountain". After a short-but-steep section to our highest point of the day, we'll stop and take in the view of Valamara Mountain. After descending a gravel path we'll hop on a bus transfer and drive to Korce. We'll enjoy a guided tour of this ancient city with its charming, cobbled streets and market quarter. We'll check in to our next hotel, Hani i Pazarit, and enjoy dinner.

Day 5: Galicica National Park To Ohrid

Distance: 5 miles (8km)

Ascent: 2,300 feet (700m)

Descent: 2,300 feet (700m)

It's an early start today, but there'll be a coffee break at St Nau, before we reach Galicica National Park where our walk begins. Joined by an expert local guide, we'll begin at a high point between Lake Ohrid and Lake Prepsa and ascend through the forest, emerging to the Magaro Peak. We'll have magnificent views of the surrounding mountains before heading back downhill on a different route and transferring by road to Ohrid. We'll check in to the Sky Corner Hotel for two nights and have some time to refresh before dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 6: Velestovo To Peshtani

Distance: 9 miles (14km)

Ascent: 985 feet (300m)

Descent: 2,300 feet (700m)

Today we'll uncover more trails within Galicica National Park, starting in Velestovo with a longer but more leisurely route. We'll pass through remote villages such as Konjsko and Elshani, with panoramas of Lake Ohrid. Our local guide will tell us more about how this area was affected by World War II, as we pass thought-provoking ruins and monuments. Back in Ohrid, there'll be afternoon free time before a walking tour of the city and dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 7: Through Gracen, Pajenge & Terbac To Tirana

Distance: 6.5 miles (10km)

Ascent: 1,345 feet (410m)

Descent: 985 feet (300m)

An early start today as we drive alongside Lake Ohrid, then travel westwards by road on the panoramic route to Krabe, over the crest of Krasta, Albania's highest town. Our last walk will take us through the villages of Gracen, Pajenge and Terbac, before a lunch break. Arriving in Tirana in the afternoon, we'll have time for a walking tour of the country's capital, seeing some of the key sights, such as Skanderbeg Square. We'll enjoy a farewell dinner together at a local restaurant, before our final night's stay at Hotel Senator.

Day 8: Depart Tirana

Departure day

ACCOMMODATION

Guesthouse Pashuta & Dion, Voskopje

In the small mountain village of Voskopje, Guesthouse Pashuta & Dion offers a warm welcome full of Albanian hospitality. Guest rooms feature simple décor with traditional touches. Socialise after a day's adventure with hearty home-cooked dishes in the restaurant and enjoy al fresco drinks in the garden.

Hotel Hani I Pazarit, Korce

This charming property in Korce is set around a central courtyard. Guest rooms are individually designed, many with traditional stone walls, and all with mod cons such as TV and mini bar. After a day of exploration, relax in the bar area or on the outdoor terrace.

Hotel Sky Corner, Ohrid

Located in the centre of Ohrid, the Hotel Sky Corner is within walking distance of both the lake and the city's old quarter. Enjoy a drink at the Sky Bar, whilst looking out over the city skyline, try traditional breads and cakes at the on-site patisserie, or relax with a treatment in the salon.

Hotel Senator, Tirana

Just a short walk to Tirana's vibrant city centre, the Hotel Senator is perfectly positioned for exploring Albania's capital. Nearby attractions include the Saint Paul Cathedral and House of Leaves. Back at the hotel, bedrooms vary in style but are all equipped with flatscreen TV, air-conditioning, minibar and hairdryer.

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Joining Instructions (With Flights)

Book your holiday 'with flights' and you can choose to depart from a range of UK airports* to your destination. For latest flight times and prices please call us on 0203-974-8865 or email reservations@hfholidays.co.uk

If you choose to book your flights with us, we automatically include return transfers between the destination airport and hotel.

Joining Instructions (Without Flights)

Alternatively, tailor your journey to suit you by booking your holiday 'without flights' and you'll have the freedom to book your own flights from your local airport.

Shared group transfer

You can still purchase a seat on our group airport transfer, but you must arrive in destination prior to the main group. It is your responsibility to book flights which allow enough time to meet our shared transfer.

Please note, all flight times are subject to change. If your arrival and/or departure time changes and no longer fits our group transfer, we will be unable to delay departure for you. Should this occur, we will refund you the cost of the transfer and you can either make your own way to the accommodation or we can book a private taxi transfer (at your expense). HF Holidays cannot be held responsible for your onward travel if you are unable to meet the transfer coach.

Private taxi transfer

Depending on your destination, we may be able to arrange a private taxi transfer for you. Please call us up to 5 weeks in advance to enquire about availability and costs for this option on 0203-974-8865.

*Subject to availability

Essential Information

It's best to be prepared for all weather conditions. To make it easier, here is a list of items you should consider packing.

Essentials

- Walking boots
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Insulated jacket/top
- Walking clothing
- Walking socks (plus spares)
- Sunhat
- Gloves/mitts and warm hat
- Water bottle (minimum 2 litre capacity)
- Headtorch
- High-factor sunscreen (minimum SPF 30)
- Sunglasses with a dark lens
- Rucksack (15-30 litres)
- Mobile phone
- Personal first aid kit (containing your medication, blister plasters, etc.)
- Passport
- Visa (if applicable)
- Copy of your travel insurance policy
- UK Global Health Insurance Card (**formerly known as EHIC**)

Recommended

- Collapsible walking poles
- Swimwear and travel towel
- Snacks
- Dry bags
- Rubbish bags
- Insect repellent

Optional extras

- Camera
- Sit mat
- Flask for hot drinks
- Durable lunch box
- Gaiters
- GPS device

Useful Information

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is a condition of booking. Therefore, if you have not already arranged insurance, it is imperative that you do so, and advise us of the insurance company and policy number.

We work with Campbell Irvine to provide you with competitive single and annual multi-trip insurance. Please

see our website for more information and details of how to contact them for a quote:
<https://www.hfholidays.co.uk/about-us/booking-information/insurance>.

For more information about healthcare abroad and its costs, please visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/>.

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

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 HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

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