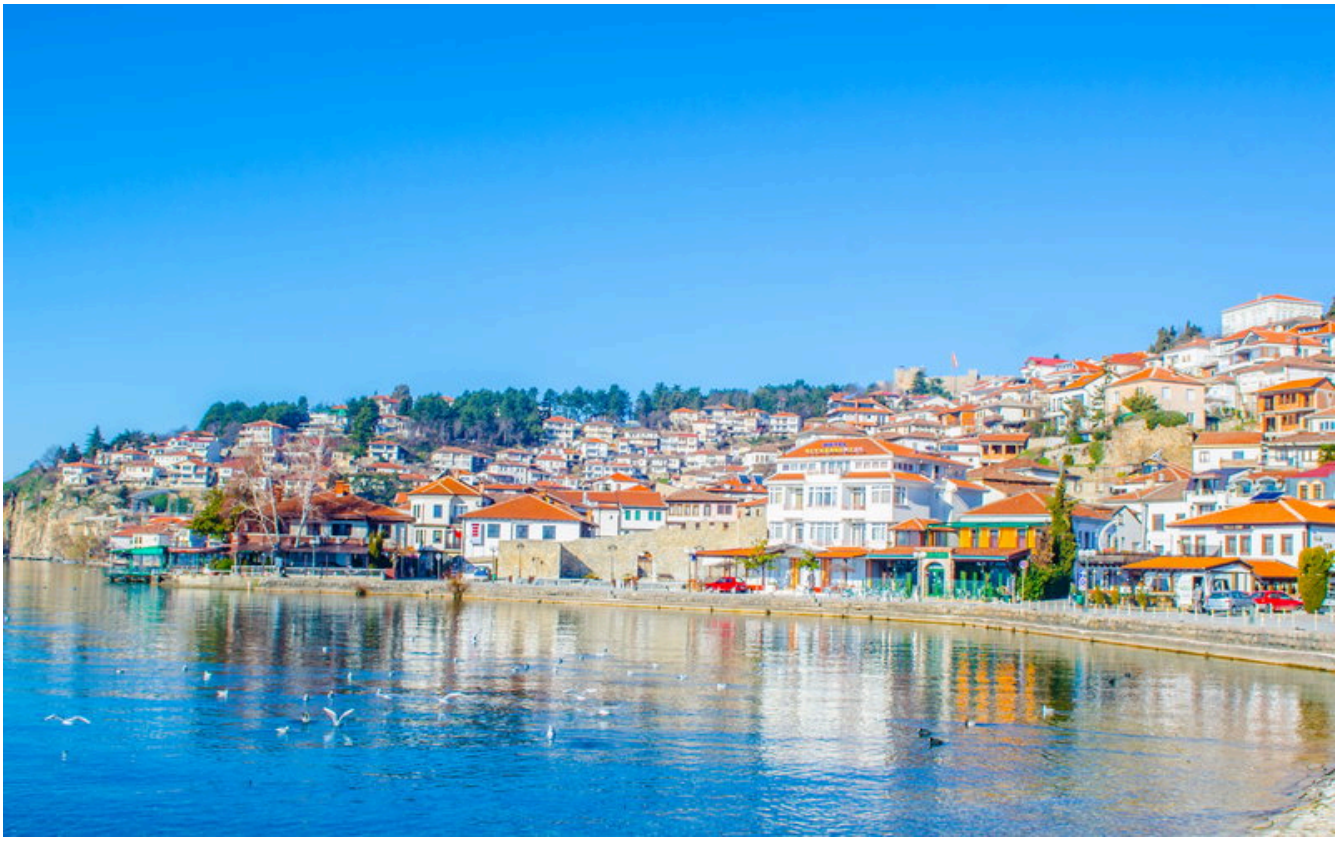
Adventures in Albania & Lake Ohrid



Trip style:	Destination:	Walking Grade	Carbon Footprint:
Walking with sightseeing	Albania	6	860kg CO2

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 stay for two nights in North Macedonia to enjoy walks around the shores of Lake Ohrid, the so-called "European Galapagos" that straddles the border. Itinerary highlights include a cookery demonstration in Voskopje, discovering the beautiful Morava mountains, and taking a guided tour of the dynamic capital, Tirana.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Exploring the peaceful landscapes of Galicia National Park
- Learning about Korce, 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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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

ITINERARY - 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 Voskopoje**

Distance: 5 miles (8km)

Ascent: 1475 feet (450m)

Descent: 1475 feet (450m)

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 Voskopoje. 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 **Voskopoje, 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 Shipske. We'll take a break to admire the newly restored church before our journey back to Voskopoje. 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 Korce**

Distance: 7 miles (11km)

Ascent: 1,575 feet (480m)

Descent: 690 feet (210m)

This walk starts from Voskopoje, 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". At 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: 4 miles (6km)

Ascent: 1,310 feet (400m)

Descent: 1,310 feet (400m)

It's an early start today as we cross over into North Macedonia. There'll be a coffee break at the site of the St Naum Monastery, 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 our hotel close to the shores of Lake Ohrid and have some time to refresh before dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 6 Raca and Lake Ohrid Panoramas

Distance: 8 miles (13km)

Ascent: 1855 feet (565m)

Descent: 1855 feet (565m)

Today we'll uncover more trails within Galicica National Park, starting in Raca. We'll pass through remote villages such as Konjsko and Eleshec, 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.

Day 8 Depart Tirana

Departure day

DAILY WALK OPTIONS



Moderate walking grade 6

Longer full day walks with more ascent and varied terrain. Good fitness and agility are needed. Typically, 9-10 miles (15-16km) with around 1,500ft (460m) of ascent.

ACCOMMODATION

Guesthouse Pashuta & Dion, Voskopje (2026)

In the small mountain village of Voskopje, the adjacent guesthouses of Pashuta & Dion offer 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 at Pashuta. Whilst all meals will be taken at Pashuta, the guesthouse Dion is just a few steps away, where some of our group will stay.

Hotel Hani I Pazarit, Korce (2026)

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 (2026)

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.

Hilton Garden Inn Hotel, Tirana

Located just over 2 km from the city centre attractions, including Skanderbeg Square, the Hilton Garden Inn is a modern and welcoming property, perfect for our overnight stay. There's a bar to unwind after a busy day, as well as a light restaurant, which also serves an ample buffet breakfast.

Hotel Sky, Tirana (2027)

The 4-star Sky Hotel is centrally located in the vibrant Blloku district, minutes from Skanderbeg Square. It boasts the Balkans' largest rotating rooftop bar and restaurant, as well as a gym, sauna, and modern spacious rooms feature city-views, air conditioning, soft carpets, flat-screen TVs, and free Wi-Fi

Hotel Park Plazza, Korce (2027)

The 4-star Park Plazza is located in the heart of Korçë on Bulevardi Republika. On-site facilities include a restaurant, bar, coffee shop and shared lounge, whilst rooms feature air conditioning, Wi-Fi, private bathrooms, flat-screen TVs, desks, and minibars

Hotel Tino & Spa, Lake Ohrid (2027)

Hotel Tino sits in the beachside village of Sveti Stefan on the shores of Lake Ohrid. This four-star retreat, 6 kilometres from Ohrid Town, features indoor and outdoor pools, a wellness spa (treatments at own cost), and a restaurant. Standard rooms are comfortably furnished, offering free Wi-Fi, air conditioning, a minibar, and private balconies

VACCINATIONS & HEALTH

Vaccinations & health information

Before booking, you should check with your doctor to see whether any health precautions are needed for your trip. Health advice and requirements can change, so we recommend doing this in good time before travel.

As a general rule, travellers should ensure they are up to date with routine UK vaccinations and boosters, including, for example, MMR and diphtheria, tetanus and polio. Some countries may require you to have specific vaccinations such as Malaria, Rabies and Yellow Fever. Please check with your GP if you are unsure.

Please note that the use or possession of some common prescription or over-the-counter medicines is restricted or banned in certain countries. If you will be carrying medication, you should check with the relevant embassy or consulate before travelling. As an extra precaution, we recommend keeping medication in its original packaging, carrying a copy of your prescription, and, where possible, asking your pharmacist to provide the medication name in the language of the country you are visiting.

For further country-specific health advice, visit www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk or www.traveldoctor.co.uk. If you are travelling from outside the UK, please consult your own doctor and check local entry requirements.

PASSPORTS & VISAS

Passport & Visa information

This information is for those travelling with a full 'British Citizen' passport; for all other nationalities or passport holders, please check with your local consulate for advice.

Passport Requirements

This information applies to travellers holding a full British Citizen passport. Entry requirements vary by destination and can change at short notice. For most EU and worldwide destinations, passports must be valid for the entire duration of your stay. Some countries also require a minimum period of validity remaining on your passport (often up to 6 months beyond your return date), even if you are not staying that long.
We strongly recommend ensuring your passport has at least six months' validity remaining at the time of travel to avoid any issues.

If you hold a different type of British passport or a passport issued by another country, you must check the requirements with the relevant embassy, consulate, or official government website.

Visa Requirements

Visa rules depend on your nationality, destination, length of stay, and purpose of travel, and they can change frequently. It is your responsibility to check whether you require a visa before travelling.
British passport holders should check the latest entry, passport validity and visa requirements for their destination on the UK government's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) website:
https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Packing list

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)
- Swimcap (compulsory in Itialian resorts)
- 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 (excluding Bhutan, Georgia and India)

JOINING INSTRUCTIONS (WITH FLIGHTS)

With flights

Book your holiday 'with flights' and you can choose to depart from selected 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)

Without flights

If you are booking on a land-only basis, you can join the group transfer at an additional cost. To do so, your arrival and departure times must be in line with the scheduled group flight timings. Guests travelling at different times will need to arrange their own transfers. Please contact us before booking to discuss the available options and costs.

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 before you travel.

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

Drinking Water

Drinking Water

Standards for drinking water vary widely around the world. In many destinations, tap water may not be safe to drink, brush your teeth with, or use for making ice. Where advised, you should drink only bottled or treated water and ensure that bottle seals are intact before use. If bottled water is unavailable, water should be boiled or filtered.

Staying well hydrated is particularly important in hot climates and during active holidays. Carry water with you and drink regularly.

If you are unsure about local water safety, check official country-specific health advice before travel, or ask your accommodation or local guides for guidance once you arrive.

LOCAL CURRENCY

Local currency for Albania

Local currency

Please note that Albanian Lek is a closed currency, so can only be purchased and exchanged within Albania. Card payments / Euros are otherwise widely accepted in the larger cities. A small amount of Euros / local currency is recommended for any purchases at smaller shops.

TRIPNOTE VALIDITY

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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