

## ALBANIA IN 7 DAYS

### *Day 1. Arrival in Tirana (35 km)*

Nënë International Airport Teresa . Transfer to the hotel.

***Overnight in Tirana.***

### *Day 2: Tirana - Krujë - Tirana (76 km)*

Breakfast at the hotel.

City tour of the capital of Albania, Tirana.

Skanderbeg square . We visit the **National Museum of History** with rich objects that demonstrate the long history, the E`them Bey Mosque, the Clock Tower, etc. Next, we visit the **World Headquarters of the Bektashi Community** .

Then we continue to the main boulevard where the different ministries, Academy of Fine Arts, Main University, etc. are located. Italian-influenced ministries and the bourgeois district of Blloku , where the communist elite lived for more than 40 years.

After having visited almost all the interesting parts of Tirana, we continue to Kruja , a medieval town at the foot of the mountain with a strong Ottoman influence. We will visit the bazaar, the citadel and the **Scanderbeg Museum** , of the Albanian national hero of the 15th century.

***We return to Tirana for accommodation.***

• *Visit of the National Museum of History in Tirana and the world headquarters of the Bektashi community*

*Skanderbeg Museum in Kruje .*

### *Day 3. Tirana - Durrës - Ardenitsa Monastery - Gjirokastër (245km)*

Breakfast at the hotel.

Departure for Durrës, a port city on the Adriatic. Our visit here includes the old medieval walls and the **Roman amphitheater**.

We continue our way to the **Ardenitsa Monastery** built in the 13th century. In the place where the Monastery now stands, there used to be a pagan temple dedicated to the goddess Artemis, which explains the origin of the name Ardenica .

Then continue to Gjirokastra , a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and visit its impressive citadel.

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**Accommodation in Gjirokaster .**

- **Tourist visit of Dures, its ancient medieval walls and the Roman amphitheater.**
- **Visit to the Ardenitsa Monastery , dedicated to the Greek goddess Artemis.**
- **Visit of the citadel of Gjirokaster .**

**Day 4: Gjirokastër - Butrint - Saranda (82 km)**

Breakfast at the hotel.

We start our day with a tour of the city of stones, Gjirokaster with **the castle** and its characteristic **Skenduli house** , built in 1700, in the Ottoman period and considered one of the most beautiful houses in the Balkans. There we can find the owner and he will tell us about the history of the house and the difficulties during the time of communism. They have to walk about half an hour because all the paths are made of stone. There is no chance of the minivan going there. Gjirokaster , apart from the extraordinary historical and cultural values, is inextricably linked to the literary genius Ismail Kadare , who has made Albanian literature speak in 45 world languages, presenting Albania with its centuries-old history and culture.

Then we leave for Saranda, but before arrival there, we make a stop in **Butrint** and visit the ancient Greco-Roman city, which was inhabited until the end of the Middle Ages, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. The ancient city of Butrint (also known as Buthrotum in ancient times), was once one of the finest and most beautiful cities in the entire Roman Empire. 2,400 years later, it is a place that still captivates people today.

- **Visit of Gjirokastra , with castle and skenduli house .**
- **Visit of Butrint , the ancient Greco-Roman city, which was inhabited until the end of the Middle Ages, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.**

Butrint was supposed to become a hospice for veterans of Roman wars, but in the 3rd century AD an earthquake destroyed most of the city. Many of the ruins you see today are from the same earthquake, and the city disappeared from the map after that.

After the visit to Butrint, we continue to the last stop of the day, Saranda.

**Overnight in Saranda .****Day 5. Saranda - Vlora - Berat (265km)**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Depart for Berat. Brief stop in the bay of **Porto Palermo** and visit of the 19th century fortress. In the ancient world, the bay of Porto Palermo has always been an important port that had to protect Himara . In Greek it was

called Panormos (Panorama), and was later renamed Porto Palermo in Byzantine times, similar to what happened to the city of Palermo in Sicily.

On the way to Berat, we pass through Vlora and along the coast road, we have a fantastic view of some tourist towns. From our means of transportation we can see the Ionian Riviera and every beautiful corner of that part of our country.

Arrival in Berat, known as "the city of a thousand windows" and declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

**Overnight in Berat.**

- *Brief stop in the bay of Porto Palermo and visit of the 19th century fortress.*

***Day 6 Berat - Tirana (125 km)***

Breakfast at the hotel.

Our day begins with a sightseeing tour of the old city of Berat.

We visit the huge citadel of Berat, which is still inhabited today and is home to many Orthodox Christian churches and the **Onufri Museum** with its 16th century icons.

We will visit the lower part of the city with its old neighborhoods of Mangalemi and Gorica on the banks of the river.

After having seen the most interesting parts of Berat we continue to Tirana.

***Overnight in Tirana.***

- *Visit the citadel of Berat, the Onufri Museum, the old districts Mangalemi and Gorica.*

***Day 7. Tirana - Airport (35 km)***

Breakfast at the hotel and transfer to the airport. End of our services. Have a nice flight!