

# Archaeology in Albania – On the tracks of the Illyrians, Greeks, Romans and Byzantines with new destinations

10-day trip through Albania with a detour to Northern Macedonia, 5 UNESCO World Heritage Sites and more

## Tour guide and travel companion

Dr. Wolfram Letzner is a classical archaeologist with profound knowledge of the archaeology and history of Albania and the Western Balkans. He works as a freelance author for various renowned publishing houses and as a tour guide.

Dr. Arjan Dimo is responsible for one of the most important archaeological museums in Albania. As an archaeologist with many years of excavation experience, he is very familiar with the archaeological sites of his homeland. He conveys his great knowledge with enthusiasm.

## Services

- Tour guide and travel companion (partly English with translation)
- MEDER Commtech AudioSystem
- Round trip according to the program in an air-conditioned bus
- Overnight stays in middle class hotels, partly in historical ambience
- Half board and two picnics, dinner 7 x at the hotel and 2 x in traditional restaurants
- All admissions to museums and excavation sites
- Program is subject to change without notice

Not included in the price are

- Flight
- Drinks in hotels and restaurants
- Tips
- Other personal expenses

## Group size

min. 10 – ax. 25 participants

## Price

from 1.290,00 € in a double room  
120,00 € single room surcharge

## Dates

15. 10. – 24. 10. 2020  
Groups from 10 persons on request

## Itinerary

### DAY 1: ARRIVAL TIRANA – DURRES

Arrival at the airport of Tirana, continuation to the capital. Visit of the National Historical Museum with focus on Antiquity and the Middle Ages. Drive to Durres. Overnight stay in Durres .

### DAY 2: DURRES – BERAT – APOLLONIA – VLORA

After breakfast you will go to Berat (UNESCO World Heritage Site). In Berat visit the castle and selected monuments in the old town. Continuation to Apollonia (UNESCO World Heritage Site). There visit of the ancient city with visit of the Archaeological Museum. Overnight stay in Vlora.

### DAY 3: VLORA – KANINA – BYLLIS – VLORA

From Vlora the journey continues to Kanina. Here you will visit the castle. The journey continues to one of the most famous archaeological sites: Byllis; an Illyrian settlement in a magnificent location.

Here you enjoy a picnic with Albanian specialities. Return journey to Vlora. Overnight stay in Vlora.

### DAY 4: VLORA – ORIKUM – BUTRINT – SARANDA

In Vlora walk through the city centre. Drive to Orikum Archaeological Park (access only with special permit). Continuation to Butrint (UNESCO World Heritage Site), one of the most beautiful excavation sites in the country. Drive to Saranda, visit of the exposed remains of a synagogue, a rare testimony of early Judaism in Albania. Overnight stay in Saranda.

### DAY 5: SARANDA – PHOINIKE – MESOPOTAM – SOFRATIKA (HADRIANOPOLIS) – GJIROKASTRA

The journey leads to Phoinike, one of the largest archaeological parks in the country. The journey continues to Mesopotam, a monastery complex from the 13th century with a special church. Then the journey continues to Sofratika. The day's destination is Gjirokastra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site; walk through the old town and visit the huge fortress. Overnight stay in Gjirokastra.

### DAY 6: GJIROKASTRA – ANTIGONEA – KORÇA

Visit of the archaeological park of Antigonea, then continuation to Korça, interrupted by a picnic in Permet. During the afternoon we reach Korça, the city of beer. Opportunity for a walk through the city. Overnight stay in Korça.

#### DAY 7: KORÇA – BITOLA (HERAKLEA LYNKESTIS) – OHRID – LIN – POGRADEC

From Korça the way leads to northern Macedonia. Visit to the excavations of Heraklea Lynkestis on the Via Egnatia. Continuation to Ohrid, the ancient Lychnidos (UNESCO World Heritage Site). Picnic and wine tasting, return to Albania. Visit to the early Christian basilica in Lin. In the afternoon arrival in Pogradec. Overnight stay in Pogradec.

#### DAY 8: POGRADEC – ELBASAN (SCAMPA) – BRADASHESH (AD QUINTUM) – DURRES

Drive to Elbasan, visit the impressive fortifications. Continuation to Durres, stopover in Bradshesh with visit to the excavation of a Roman road station. In Durres, visit to the Archaeological Museum, the only amphitheatre in Albania, as well as individual monuments in the city area. Overnight stay in Durres.

#### DAY 9: DURRES – ZGERDESH (ALBANOPOLIS) – KRUJA – SHKODRA – DURRES

The first destination of the day is Albanopolis, an impressive site, before heading to Kruja, Skanderberg's ancestral home, where we will walk through the historic bazaar and visit the fortress.

Continue to Shokdra; visit the fortress of Rozafa with a fantastic view of Lake Skutari. Return journey to Durres. Overnight stay in Durres.

#### DAY 10: DURRES – TIRANA

In the morning transfer from hotel to airport and return flight to Germany.

***Please note that this English text is a service. Should the trip find your interest, please ask the tour operator (reiseland-albanien.de) for a binding English version. They will be pleased to send it to you.***