

ALBANIA – A JOURNEY THROUGH MILLENNIA

Experience unique sites of history

(October 5th – October 15th, 2023)

Itinerary

Day 1: Tirana – Durrës

On the first day of the unique journey through the millennia of Albania, arrival at Tirana airport. We continue directly to Durrës to visit the impressive amphitheatre. During a tour of the city, you can also see parts of the Roman thermal baths. Overnight stay in Durrës.

Day 2: Durrës – Tirana – Elbasan – Selce e Poshtme – Lin – Korça

After a good breakfast, the day starts early with a city tour of Tirana to get an impression of the vibrant capital. Afterwards we go to Elbasan, the ancient Scampi. There we visit the impressive fortifications and walk through the old town. In the early afternoon, a visit to the Illyrian royal tombs in Selce e Poshtme is on the programme; this is followed by a tour of the excavated basilica in Lin. We continue to Korça, the town of Albanian beer. Overnight stay in Korça.

Day 3: Korça – Gjirokastër

The day in Korça begins with a visit to the Archaeological Museum. On the way to Gjirokastër there will be a picnic with Albanian specialities at lunchtime. Upon arrival in Gjirokastër (UNESCO World Heritage Site) visit of the mighty fortress and a walk through the old town. Overnight stay in Gjirokastër.

Day 4: Gjirokastër – Antigonea – Butrint – Sarandë

On the fourth day, visit the archaeological park of Antigonea. Then continue to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Butrint, one of the most beautiful archaeological sites in the country. The journey continues to Sarandë. In Sarandë, we will visit the uncovered remains of a synagogue, a rare testimony to early Judaism in Albania. Two nights in Sarandë.

Day 5: Sarandë – Phoinike – Mesopotam – Syri i Kaltër – Sarandë

Before heading to the largest archaeological park in Albania (Phoinike), we visit the 13th century monastery of Mesopotam. Due to its construction, the church is a special feature. This is followed by a relaxing visit to the idyllic karst spring Syri i Kaltër before returning to Sarandë.

Day 6: Sarandë – Himarë – Amantia – Kaninë – Vlorë

After breakfast, drive first to Himarë to visit the old mountain village with its mighty walls and impressive churches. Afterwards the drive leads to the archaeological park Amantia. Here you can find the only ancient stadium in Albania. The tour continues to Kaninë; an impressive castle complex is on the programme. Afterwards we will drive to Vlorë. Two nights in Vlorë.

Day 7: Vlorë – Apollonia – Byllis – Ballsh – Vlorë

We start early today to visit ancient Apollonia as the first highlight. The journey continues to Byllis. It is an Illyrian settlement in a magnificent location. With a view of this settlement, we have another picnic with Albanian specialities and wine. Finally, we go to Ballsh to have a look at the remains of an early Christian basilica.

Day 8: Vlorë – Berat – Ardenica – Tirana

After a good breakfast, we head to Berat, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In Berat, the castle with the Onofri Museum will be visited; in the old town, selected monuments can be seen. There will also be a wine tasting on the way. Afterwards, the tour continues towards Durrës. On the way there, the monastery of Ardenica is a special point of visit, as it played an important role in Albanian history. The journey then continues swiftly to Tirana. Here you will visit the National Historical Museum with its focus on antiquity and the Middle Ages. The last two nights are spent in Durrës.

Day 9: Durrës – Krujë – Shkodër – Lezhë – Durrës

Today you will travel to Krujë, the ancestral home of the Albanian national hero Skanderbeg. Here, a walk through the historic bazaar and a visit to the fortress are planned. Afterwards we continue to Shkodër, visit the fortress Rozafa and enjoy the fantastic view over Lake Scutari. On the way back to Durrës, we will stop for an extraordinary lunch in Lezhë, so that we can take a look at the Skanderbeg memorial.

Day 10: Durrës – Tirana

Today is unfortunately the last day of the journey through Albania's millennia of history and it is time to say goodbye.

DATES AND PRICES

Travel time:

5.10.2023 to 15.10.2023

Price:

from 1.240,00 € in double room

120,00 € supplement for single room

Services:

- Tour guide and travel companion (partly English with translation) MEDER Commtch AudioSystem
- Round trip as per programme in air-conditioned coach
- Overnight stays in middle-class hotels, partly in historical ambience
- Half board and two picnics, dinner 7 x in hotel and 2 x in traditional restaurants, 1 x lunch, 1 wine tasting
- All entrance fees to museums and excavation sites

Programme subject to change

Not included in the price:

- Flight¹
- Drinks in hotels and restaurants
- Tips
- Other personal expenses

Group size: min. 7 - max. 25 participants

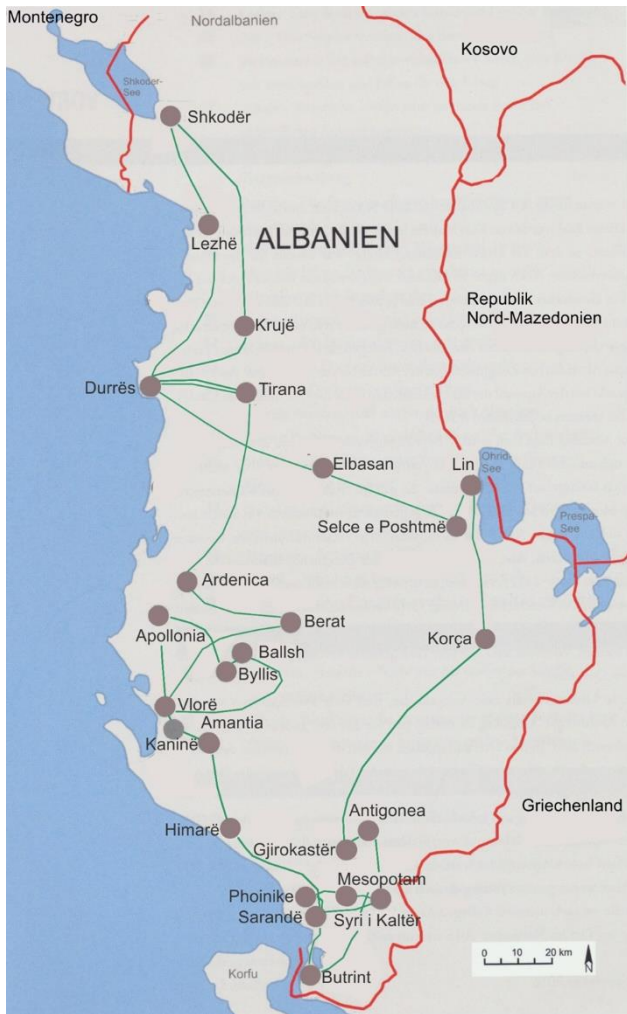
MORE INFORMATION

Feel free to contact me (wletzner@web.de).

BOOKING

Travel Agency: www.goatlantis.de

¹ Flights to Frankfurt with connection to Tirana can be booked through the travel agency.



Map of Albania with the itinerary of the tour