

HOTEL & BIKE

## Roundtrip Albania · Albania

### Route

from Tirana / to Tirana

### Duration

10 days / 9 nights

### Distance

approx. 485 km

**Level 5** / 5



### Discover Albanias stunning nature by bike!

Albania (Shqipëria) has recently become one of Europe's hottest and least expensive holiday destinations. Its untouched beaches, snow-capped mountains, traditional cuisine, Cold War era artefacts, unique traditions, unrivalled hospitality and wild countryside are just waiting to be discovered.

Some say that discovering Albania by bike is as close as you'll get to traveling back in time. On our Albania tour we explore the 3 UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Butrint, Korçë and Gjirokastrë.



# Itinerary

## 1st Day Tirana (Arrival)

Individual journey at Tirana. If you arrive early, take the time to enjoy a walk around Tirana. The trip officially begins at 6pm at the hotel where the guests and guide are introduced, and an initial tour briefing is held. After the briefing, we enjoy a welcome dinner all together.

## 2nd Day Qafë Thanë to Tushemisht (Pogradec) (aprx. 18 mi./29 km)

In the morning we take a 2-hour transfer to the northern side of Lake Ohrid at the Albanian-Macedonian border. We cycle along the scenic shore of Lake Ohrid towards Pogradec. After reaching our hotel in the town of Tushemisht, just 4 km east of Pogradec, lunch will be served at a waterfront restaurant at Drilon national park. After checking in the hotel we will continue cycling in the afternoon, crossing over into Macedonia, and visiting the monastery of St Naum. Note on crossing the border: Passport must only be carried by non-EU citizens. For EU countries an identity card is sufficient.

## 3rd Day Tushemisht (Pogradec) to Korçë (aprx. 32 mi/50 km)

Leaving Lake Ohrid we climb up to a high plateau surrounded by mountains. We then continue following the gorge for a while until the hills open up into a vast plain, a patchwork of individual farms and colourful fields. Depending on our arrival at the city, we will have the time to visit the old market and its quaint cobblestone streets run between and behind the main streets. Day ends with a short walking tour of Korçë, the Paris of Albania.

## 4th Day Korçë to Sotirë (aprx. 45 mi/72 km)

Today we leave behind the agricultural plateau of Korçë as we climb steadily into the border mountains through a landscape of barren rock scattered with wildflowers. Numerous cols and valleys lie ahead, as we cycle into the heart of the Gramoz Mountains and over the Barmash Pass (1,159m). We will stop for lunch in the town of Ersekë, the highest city in Albania at about 1000m above sea level. Overnight at Sotirë farm, nestled in its own tranquil valley with all kinds of animals a family farm can have. After checking in one of the wooded bungalows, relax by the fish ponds with a glass of family's special red wine made from grapes growing at 1000m of elevation.

## 5th Day Sotirë to Benje (Përmet) (aprx. 36 + 4 mi/68 km)

Our morning begins with a climb from Sotirë to a high Pine forest plateau surrounded by soaring peaks, before reaching the source of the River Vjosa and descending through its spectacular gorge to Leskovik. The 17km long descend to Çarshovë is both a pleasure and a thrill to cycle in one of the most scenic rides of the tour. After arriving at our guesthouse for lunch, in the village of Bënjë, we will there after continue cycling for another 4km to the thermal pools of Langerica and its canyon. A 16th century ancient ottoman bridge marks the spot and the end of the road. If you feel adventurous and want to swim alone in one of the more secluded pools, build every spring by the locals, hike upriver through one of the most magnificent canyons in Europe.

## 6th Day Benje to Gjirokastër (aprx. 44 mi/70 km)

Today we continue along the valley towards Këlcyrë, the distant "Shark's Tooth Peaks" which guard another gorge. We cycle between the gorges to the tributary of the Drino River until we reach the next valley. Here the view opens onto a wide plain, over which the UNESCO-protected city of Gjirokastër ("City of Stones") towers majestically. After checking in

our hotel we will go on exploring on a guided tour, visiting the charming cobbled alleyways between the white-walled buildings and the fascinating traditional houses.

#### **7th Day Gjirokastër to Sarandë (via Butrint) (aprx. 44 mi/70 km)**

We begin our morning with a transfer (approx. 16 mi./25 km), after which we start cycling at the top of Muzina pass towards Sarandë, located on the Ionian coast. A short ride on a rustic ferry brings us to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Butrint, one of the Albania's most important archaeological treasures, with its Lion's Gate, theatre, forum and aqueduct, as well as the temples of Asklepios and Athena. Butrint's urban history can be traced back to the Greeks and Romans. After a guided tour in Butrint, we will make our way along the coast heading north with the island of Corfu always at your site.

#### **8th Day Sarandë to Himarë (aprx. 31 mi/52 km)**

Once the sun has cleared the morning haze, the view of the Greek island of Corfu lying opposite becomes visible. Today we climb the rocky plateau outside Sarandës by bike. Then it's over cols into bays and around headlands, always with the stunning mountain scenery to the right and coastal views to the left before descending to the long beach and the bay of Himarë, where there's plenty of time for a swim in the clear blue waters of the Albanian riviera. Along the way we will pay a visit to Porto Palermo Castle, a Venetian castle, wrongly asserted as being build by Ali Pasha of Tepelena in the 19th century is shrouded in many mysteries.

#### **9th Day Himarë to Vlorë (aprx. 40 mi/64 km)**

Today's tour is as challenging as it is spectacular. We cycle up to the Llogara pass 1,000 m above the blue water of the Ionian Sea and on through the National Park, home to black pine, Eurasian otter, and golden eagles. The park is a scenic expanse of protected woodland that encompasses the forests on the northern side of the Llogara Pass. After lunch we cycle downhill all the way to Vlorë.

#### **10th Day Departure (transfer time aprx. 3 hrs)**

It's time to say farewell! After breakfast and check-out from the hotel, we take a transfer from Vlorë to Tirana Airport. As the transfer to the airport takes about three hours, please book a return flight that departs from Tirana Airport after 1 pm.

# Dates, Prices & Services

## Included services 2025

Included services guided tour:

- 9 nights in selected hotels and family-owned guesthouses
- 9 x breakfast, 8 x lunch [&] 7 x dinner
- Professional English-speaking tour guide
- 30-speed rental bicycle (GIANT™) and waterproof panniers
- Transfers as described in the itinerary
- Support vehicle with bilingual driver
- Luggage service from hotel to hotel

## Not included in the basic tour price 2025

Not included guided tour:

- Journey to/from Albania
- Taxi from Tirana Airport to Tirana town: 20 euro (1 – 3 people)
- Drinks with meals
- Entrance fees for sights
- Lunch/Dinner on day of departure
- Tips for driver and tour guide
- SGR Insolvency protection (5€ per person)

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[SGR Insolvency protection](#) (mandatory consumer contribution SGR insolvency protection guarantee scheme: € 5 per person - will be specified separately on the booking confirmation)

## Prices for Additional Optional Services 2025

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Additional optional services (guided tour)

Single room surcharge	230 euro per tour
Rental E-bike with Ortlieb pannier	200 euro per tour
Transfer Tirana Airport – Tirana Town (per person)	1 – 3 people: 30 euro 4 – 7 people:50 euro
Additional night in Tirana	Prices see additional nights

## Discounts

If this is your third or more Islandhopping tour booked directly with us, you will receive our SEA-YOU-AGAIN discount for your next tour in 2025.

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As this tour is operated by a third party partner, not all regular Islandhopping discount offers apply.

# Dates

Date	Accommodation	Start City	End City	Base Price
30.06.2025 – 09.07.2025	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
25.06.2025 – 04.07.2025	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
28.08.2025 – 06.09.2025	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
02.09.2025 – 11.09.2025	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
24.08.2025 – 02.09.2025	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
04.09.2025 – 13.09.2025	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
06.09.2025 – 15.09.2025	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
05.10.2025 – 14.10.2025	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
09.10.2025 – 18.10.2025	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
30.09.2025 – 09.10.2025	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
14.10.2025 – 23.10.2025	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
18.10.2025 – 27.10.2025	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
09.04.2026 – 18.04.2026	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
10.05.2026 – 19.05.2026	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
23.04.2026 – 02.05.2026	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
18.04.2026 – 27.04.2026	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
14.05.2026 – 23.05.2026	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
27.04.2026 – 06.05.2026	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
04.05.2026 – 13.05.2026	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
28.05.2026 – 06.06.2026	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €

13.06.2026 – 22.06.2026	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
23.05.2026 – 01.06.2026	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
06.06.2026 – 15.06.2026	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
19.05.2026 – 28.05.2026	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
20.06.2026 – 29.06.2026	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
26.06.2026 – 05.07.2026	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
13.09.2026 – 22.09.2026	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
07.09.2026 – 16.09.2026	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
17.09.2026 – 26.09.2026	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
29.08.2026 – 07.09.2026	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
05.09.2026 – 14.09.2026	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
24.09.2026 – 03.10.2026	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
26.09.2026 – 05.10.2026	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
17.10.2026 – 26.10.2026	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
15.10.2026 – 24.10.2026	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
21.09.2026 – 30.09.2026	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
10.10.2026 – 19.10.2026	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
05.10.2026 – 14.10.2026	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
19.09.2026 – 28.09.2026	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €
30.09.2026 – 09.10.2026	Hotel Albania	Tirana	Tirana	1.390,00 €

# Arrival

## Arrival by plane

The Airport of **Tirana – Rinas (TIA)** can be reached by direct or stop-over flights from around the world.

When booking your flight, please keep in mind that the transfer from Vlorë to Tirana Airport on the day of departure takes about 3 hours. We recommend booking a return flight that leaves after 1 pm.

## Airport transfers

We organize fee-based collective transfers between Tirana Airport and your accommodation in Tirana at the beginning of the tour (Transfer from Vlorë to Tirana Airport on the day of departure is included into the tour price).

Transfer Tirana Airport – Tirana Town: 1 – 3 people 30 € / 4 – 7 people 50 € (at specific times only)

Reservation required.

For the organization of all airport transfers please indicate your exact flight details included:

- arrival [&] departure date
- flight route
- airline
- flight number
- estimated arrival/departure time

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Should there be any belated changes to your flight times you are kindly requested to inform us at our office immediately.