

NORTH ALBANIA & MONTENEGRO: Best of Balkan Peaks

June 3-9, 2025



Trip Classification: Moderately Strenuous

Overview: This hiking trip explores some of the most beautiful passes in the peaks of the Balkans in northern Albania and Montenegro (see photos below). It begins and ends in the capital city of Albania, Tirana, and combines hiking with transport by road and boat. It is suitable for those with average fitness level, and offers more or less strenuous options on some days depending on the wishes of the group. Expected group size is maximum of 12 hikers. The route passes from Lepushe Pass-Vuthaj-Theth-Valbone-Shales River-Komanit Lake as follows:

Day I, June 3

Departure from Tirana at 09:00

Transfers to Lepushe

Stop at the Leqet e Hoti panoramic point

Lunch at Tamare Sofra e Kelmendi

Visit to Vermosh Union Canyon
Accommodation Hotel Alpini Lepushe

Day II, June 4

After breakfast we start climbing to the top of Vajushe 2056m and then we will go down to Black Mountain in Gerbaje village from here by transfer car to Vuthaj
The whole ascent and descent will take about 5 hours
Accommodation in the guest house in Vuthaj

Day III, June 5

Breakfast at the guesthouse
transport by car to Lake Geshtajes from where the walk to the mountains of Runice begins
- our former summer border post - Kafa e Peje - Theth
The whole walk on the second day will be about 7 hours depending on the pace of the group, including breaks

Car transfers Okol - Theth
Accommodation in guesthouses in Theth

Day IV, June 6

Transfers Theth - Nderlysaj
Visit to the Blue Eye and the Baths of Nderlyses (2 hours)
Visit to the test tower and Ujevara (1 hour)
Accommodation in Theth

V Day, June 7

Car transfers
The ascent starts in the Gjelaj neighborhood to the Valbone pass, there is a difference in level of 1000m and it is described from 2.5 to 3 hours, counting the breaks along the path and a stop at the Zefi cafe.
The whole walk will take us about 6 hours, including breaks
Stop at Kafe Simoni, the source of Valbone
After going down from the Valbone side, we have Gjelaj - Valbone transfers again
This pass is suitable for those people who have an average fitness level
Accommodation in Valbone

Day V, June 8

Breakfast at the guesthouse
Car transfers Valbone - Lake Fierzes (1 hour)
From the Fierze lake dam by boat to the Shale River (15 min)
Walking along the river Te Shale and Stupe (1 30 min)
Hotel accommodation

Day VI, June 9

After a leisurely breakfast, by boat from the Shale River to the Koman Lake Dam (15 minutes)

Car transfers from Koman to the city of Tirana (3 hours)

The things you need with you

Shoes with neck for hiking,

Bathing suit, hat, sunglasses & sunscreen

If you are allergic to grasses, long pants are suggested

The price is **1,740 €** per person, double occupancy (**Single supplement is 150 €**) which includes all hotels, meals, alcoholic drinks and local refreshments, transport & guide, transfers by car Gerbaje - Vuthaj, Vuthaj former Yugoslav border post , Okol - Theth, Theth Gjellaj, & from the Valbones Gjellaj wing - the center of Valbones, the journey with fast boat from Fierzes Lake to Shales River, boat trip from Shales River to Koman Lake, video & photos with drone, filming in the most beautiful places, and park taxes.

1818 Trip Coordinator: Ellen Goldstein, ellengoldstein000@gmail.com

Tour company: Fation Plaku Tours Nipt (NUIS) L82222003C

To register, send an email to 1818society@wbgalumni.org

PHOTO GALLERY:



















