



ANCIENT CROSSROADS

Albania + Greece + Macedonia

11 DAYS + FROM \$3,799 + Small Groups of Never More than 16 Guests or Travel Privately + No Solo Supplement

Our Distinctive A+R Style

- + Our expert Trip Leader reveals the cuisines and centuries-old traditions that endure in this lesser-visited corner of Europe.
- + Tour the workshop where colorful Venetian Carnevale masks have long been made.
- + Spend time with an Albanian family to learn what life was like during the Communist era.
- + Explore the amazing monasteries of Meteora, built atop pinnacles of rock.
- + An engaging local archaeologist will shed light on Heraclea Lyncestis, the ancient city founded by King Philip II of Macedon.

OUR JOURNEY

See 3 UNESCO World Heritage sites

DAY 1 | Welcome to Tirana

On arrival, you'll be escorted to the *Hotel Plaza*. Meet your fellow travelers and Trip Leader, Aleksander over cocktails and dinner. MEALS D

DAY 2 | Excursion to Shkodra

In Shkodra, tour the workshop where Venice's colorful *Carnevale* masks have traditionally been made. Ascend to Rozafa Castle, built in 350 BC, and take in the views of this ancient city. Sit down to lunch at *Mrizi i Zanave*, famed for its farm-to-table cuisine, and then return to Tirana. MEALS B+L+D

DAY 3 | Kruja + Tirana

Learn about Sufism at a Dervish monastery, meet the curator of the Ethnographic Museum, and have lunch within the walls of Kruja Castle. Back in Tirana, your city tour includes the Block district, erstwhile enclave of the Communist elite. MEALS B+L+D

DAY 4 | Journey to Gjirokastra

See the Venetian, Byzantine and Roman landmarks of Durrës and meet with monks at Ardenica Monastery. Then tour the ruins of Apollonia, one of the greatest cities of the Greco-Roman world. Continue to the *Kalemi 2 Hotel* in Gjirokastra. MEALS B+L+D



DAY 5 | Discover Gjirokastra

Enjoy a tour of Gjirokastra, perched on the slopes of the Drino Valley. Then spend time with the matriarch of a Balkan family for insight into Albania's enduring traditions. Discover the town's Ottoman architecture and enjoy a performance by *Iso Polifonia*, an acclaimed polyphonic choir. MEALS B+L+D

DAY 6 | Onward to Kalambaka, Greece

See Byzantine ruins in the castle town of Ioannina, built by Emperor Justinian. Continue to Kalambaka and ascend the Great Meteoran Monastery to watch the sun set over these breathtaking landscapes. Overnight at the *Amalia Hotel*. MEALS B+L+D

DAY 7 | Meteora Monasteries + Skopje

Continue your exploration of the Meteora Monasteries at St. Trinity. Tour Heraclea Lyncestis with an archaeologist and have dinner at a local winery. Continue to the *Marriott Hotel* in Skopje. MEALS B+L+D

Handpicked for Ambience, Location + Comfort



TIRANA - HOTEL PLAZA

Perfectly located close to the city's principle cultural sites, our deluxe hotel offers spacious rooms designed with contemporary flair.



GJIROKASTRA - HOTEL PRAGA

Our boutique hotel, built in 1826, is in one of the oldest neighborhoods in the city and was originally a family home.



KALAMBAKA - AMALIA HOTEL

Our hotel is surrounded by landscaped grounds that offer fine views of the breathtaking Meteora landscapes.



SKOPJE - MARRIOTT HOTEL

Our modern hotel offers spacious, well-appointed guestrooms and an ideal location on Macedonia Square in the heart of the capital.



OHRID - UNIQUE RESORT + SPA

A warm welcome awaits you at our comfortable hotel, wonderfully situated on the shores of Lake Ohrid.

DAY 8 | To Ohrid, Macedonia

Visit Skopje Fortress and the 15th-century Stone Bridge. Meet a young artist to learn about the city's modern spirit and browse in the old bazaar. Enjoy a free afternoon in the lakeside town of Ohrid and spend two nights at the *City Palace Hotel*. MEALS B+L+D

DAY 9 | Ancient Ohrid

Discover Ohrid, one of Europe's oldest cities and home to cultural treasures of the Renaissance, Byzantine and Slavic eras. Meet a local artisan before a lake cruise and lunch. This afternoon, visit the St. Naum Monastery overlooking the lake. MEALS B+L+D

DAY 10 | Back to Tirana

On the return journey to Tirana, stop in the timeless village of Labinot to experience a slice of rural Albanian life. Continue to Elbasan and dine within the old fortress walls before a tour of this 15th-century landmark. Continue to Tirana for another night at the *Hotel Plaza*. MEALS B+L+D

DAY 11 | Depart Tirana

Transfer to the airport for your onward journey. MEALS B

MEET OUR TRIP LEADER ALEKSANDER

With his Masters in Archaeology from the University of Tirana, Aleksander will share his deep knowledge of Balkan history. But beyond his passion for his native heritage, he'll delight you with his attentive ways, engaging demeanor, and the personal insights which he'll bring to your travels.

11 DAYS FROM ~~\$4,299~~ \$3,799

OUR ORIGINAL JOURNEY Value

- + Comprehensive, expertly-guided sightseeing with never more than 16 guests including all entry fees
- + All 29 Meals: 10 breakfasts, 9 lunches and 10 dinners
- + Enjoy fine regional wine or beer at all midday and evening meals
- + 10 nights in our first class and deluxe hotels
- + All on-tour transportation and transfers
- + All luggage handling, hotel taxes, and fees
- + All gratuities are included, except for your Trip Leader
- + 4 or more guests save \$100 each
- + Solo guests enjoy double occupancy accommodations throughout

2023-2024 Rates LAND ONLY PER PERSON

No Solo Supplement on all 'never more than 16 guests' departures

Never More than 16 Guests

2023	DOUBLE	SOLO SUPPLEMENT
Apr 23, May 16		No
Sep 19, Oct 3	\$4,299	Supplement
2024		
Apr 23	\$4,299	No Supplement

Travel Privately Any Day

2023	DOUBLE	SOLO SUPPLEMENT
Jan - Dec	\$6,299	\$400
2024		
Jan - Apr	\$6,399	\$400

Save up to \$1,000 per couple | \$500 solo when you pay in full at time of booking

Go on a Custom Journey

The Balkan Peninsula offers a wealth of things to see and do... Let us design a tailored tour just for you.