

Culture and Folklore Trip to North Albania and Kosovo

September 10-23 , 2018 with Yves Moreau and Kujtim Ismaili.

Day 1-Monday September 10: TIRANA-DURRËS - Arrival in **Tiranë** (*Mother Teresa Airport*). Transfers from Airport to hotel in Durrës. Free time. Welcome dinner. Hotel in Durrës.

Day 2 - Tuesday September 11: DURRËS - Morning visit of Durrës City , archeological sites and free time. Lunch in Durrës city. Evening dinner **with folklore program and local folk musicians**. Hotel in Durrës.

Day 3 – Wednesday September 12 : DURRËS-KRUJË-SHKODËR - Morning departure for Shkodër stopping on the way in Krujë in the **traditional bazaar** (costumes, textiles, etc.) Lunch in Krujë Castle . Depart early afternoon for Shkodër. Dinner in Shkodër. Hotel in Shkodër.

Day 4 – Thursday September 13 : SHKODËR - Morning visit of the famous *Marubi Photo Museum* and free time to explore the city's historical centre . Lunch at restaurant on Buna River followed by **workshop with local folklore group**. Free time and dinner at hotel. Hotel in Shkodër.

Day 5 – Friday September 14 : SHKODËR-BAJRAM CURRI-VALBONË (ALBANIAN ALPS) - Morning departure to Koman for scenic ferry boat cruise on Lake of Koman through the mountains . Lunch onboard the ferry , with **dance and folk music**. Dinner in Valbonë (Albanian Alps) . Hotel in Valbonë .

Day 6 – Saturday , September 15 : VALBONË - Morning hiking, nature walk, etc. Lunch at the traditional restaurant in Valbonë. Afternoon folklore program with traditional folklore group from Tropojë region. Evening dinner with **live music and dancing**. Hotel in Valbonë.

Day 7 – Sunday, September 16: VALBONË-GJAKOVË (KOSOVO) - Morning departure for Gjakovë crossing border into Kosovo . Lunch in Gjakovë. Afternoon free time to **visit the local Bazaar**. Evening dinner at *Hani I Haracise* traditional restaurant. Hotel in Gjakovë.

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Day 8: Monday, September 17 : GJAKOVË-PEJË-GJAKOVË. Morning departure to the City of Pejë, stopping at *Visoki Dečani* Serbian Orthodox Monastery (14th Century World Heritage Site), then continuing to Pejë with its **old bazaar**. Lunch in Pejë and free time. Dinner at hotel in Gjakovë with **local folk musicians**. Hotel in Gjakovë.

Day 9 – Tuesday, September 18 : GJAKOVË-RUGOVA CANYON – GJAKOVË - Morning Folklore and dance program with group of Gjakovë. Lunch in Gjakovë and depart for a visit to beautiful Rrugova Canyon. Return to Gjakovë for dinner and free time. Hotel in Gjakovë.

Day 10 – Wednesday, September 19. GJAKOVË-PRIZREN - Morning departure for Prizren . Lunch in Prizren at traditional restaurant. Afternoon free time to visit Prizren Castle, the **old bazaar**, etc. Dinner in Prizren. Hotel in Prizren.

Day 11 – Thursday , September 20 : PRIZREN-PRISHTINË-PRIZREN -Morning time departure for Prishtinë, capital of Kosovo. Visit **ethnographic museum**. Walk through City Center and lunch. Afternoon visit to beautiful Gračanica Monastery XIII sec (UNESCO List) and travelling south to explore the 80 Million year old Gadima Marble Cave. Dinner in Prizren. Hotel in Prizren .

Day 12 –Friday, September 21: PRIZREN : Morning **folklore and dance workshop with** group from Prizren region. Lunch at hotel. Afternoon visit to the Historical Museum House where the pan-Albanian League of Prizren was proclaimed in 1878. Free time to explore the Old Town. Dinner in Prizren. Hotel in Prizren

Day 13 – Saturday, September 22 : Morning departure for Durrës (Albania). Lunch stop during the trip. Evening farewell dinner in Durrës with **local folk musicians**. Hotel in Durrës.

Day 14 –Sunday, September 23 : Morning transfers to Tiranë *Mother Teresa* Airport for flight home.

- 13 days through Northern Albania and Kosovo
 - Visit Durrës, Krujë, Shkodër, Valbonë, Gjakovë, Pejë, Prishtinë and Prizren
 - Shopping in the old bazaars of Krujë, Gjakovë and Prizren
 - Dance parties with live music
 - Meet traditional folklore groups and learn dances
 - Nature walks and hiking in the beautiful Albanian Alps
 - Scenic ferry boat cruise on lake Koman with dancing
 - Archaeological ruins in Durrës, Monasteries of Dečani and Gračanica (Kosovo)
 - Prehistoric Marble Cave of Gadimë (Kosovo)
 - Marubi Photo Museum in Shkodër and Ethnographic Museum in Prishtinë
- ...and much more...

COST: € 2000 euros (double occupancy)

add € 300 euros for single occupancy

Payments to be made by bank transfer in Euros €

Price Includes: Airport transfers, 4-star hotels, three meals a day (with drinks), air-conditioned bus, all gratuities, english-speaking guides at museums, folklore programs with village groups and dance teachers, parties with live music, and more.

Not included : Air transportation to/from Tiranë (Albania), travel insurance and personal expenses

Participation for this trip is **by invitation only** and is limited to **40 people**
Schedule of deposits, payments, refunds and penalties will be available soon

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