WILDERNESS BALKANS

LOCAL MOUNTAIN SPECIALISTS

7 Days

PEAKS OF THE BALKANS

SELF-GUIDED

SELF-GUIDED HIKING TOUR

6 nights | Albania - Kosovo - Montenegro

EUR 595 **per person**

Base price for a Sunday Day 1 start

01 June - 10 October 2027

INDEPENDENT HIKING. LOCAL BACKUP. EVERYTHING ORGANIZED.

24/7 online support from our own local mountain guides throughout the tour, plus assistance on the ground whenever needed.

Freedom on the trail. Local knowledge behind you.

A compact cross-border journey through the Accursed Mountains, linking stone villages, high passes, alpine lakes and three countries. You hike independently while our local team arranges the complex pieces: guesthouses, meals, permits, transfers and route materials.

DURATION	NIGHTS	COUNTRIES	FROM
7 days	6 included	3 on foot	EUR 595 pp

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Cross Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro on foot
- Hike the Valbona Pass and summit Gjeravica
- Reach the Three Borders ridge and Hrid Lake
- Walk the Taljanka ridge beneath the Karanfili massif
- Stay with local hosts in remote mountain villages
- Finish through the Ropojana valley and Qafa e Pejes

WHY CHOOSE WILDERNESS BALKANS

- Your guide team, not a distant call centre. Message our own local mountain guides at any hour during the tour.
- Help on the ground when needed. If an issue cannot be solved online, our team coordinates practical local assistance on the route.
- More trail, less road. Strategic transfers remove low-value road sections and protect time for the mountain experience.
- One local team for the complex details. Guesthouses, drivers, permits, GPX tracks and the physical map are already arranged.

HOW THE TRIP WORKS

You walk independently with our GPX files, detailed route information and a physical Peaks of the Balkans map. We reserve the guesthouses, arrange meals, secure cross-border permits and coordinate every listed transfer. Your final digital route pack is supplied before departure.

Best-value start: arrive in Shkoder on Saturday (optional Day 0) and begin Day 1 on Sunday. You may start on any other available day for an additional EUR 50 per person.

What is arranged - and what stays flexible

The package covers the essential mountain logistics while keeping optional services separate, so you pay only for what you need.

INCLUDED

- All 6 nights in local guesthouses, in shared rooms
- Breakfast, picnic lunch (except Day 1) and dinner during the tour
- All transfers stated in the itinerary
- 4x4 transfers where specifically stated
- GPX files and detailed route information
- Physical Peaks of the Balkans map
- Cross-border permits
- Direct 24/7 online support from our local guide team, plus on-the-ground coordination when needed
- Our offline app with maps and all the details for your tour

NOT INCLUDED

- Optional luggage transfer
- Airport - Shkoder - airport transfer
- Accommodation in Shkoder before or after the trek
- Picnic lunch on Day 1
- Travel and mountain evacuation insurance
- Drinks, tips and personal expenses

ROOMS

Guesthouse rooms are shared. If two or three friends book together, in most locations you will have a private room for your own group at no extra cost. Solo travellers use shared rooms; a private room can be requested for a supplement where available.

LUGGAGE TRANSFER - UP TO 15 KG PP

Solo: EUR 170 pp
Two travellers: EUR 150 pp
Three travellers: EUR 130 pp

Carry a daypack. Use a soft, securely closed travel bag for the transferred luggage.

SEASON, START DAYS AND OPTIONAL ARRIVAL TRANSFER

Season: 01 June - 10 October 2027, subject to trail conditions and availability. Base price: EUR 595 pp when Day 1 starts Sunday. Other Day 1 start days: +EUR 50 pp. Airport transfer: EUR 65 one way per private vehicle, shareable by up to four people. Shkoder accommodation is not included.

DAY 1

Theth to Valbone over the pass

Shkoder -> Theth -> Valbona Pass -> Valbone

DISTANCE	ASCENT / DESCENT	WALKING TIME	OVERNIGHT
approx. 16.4 km	+1,175 / -940 m	7-8 hours	Valbone

Leave Shkoder early on the arranged transfer to Theth and begin the trek beneath the limestone walls of the Accursed Mountains. The trail climbs through beech forest and open rocky ground to Valbona Pass, with broad views back over Theth and ahead into the long Valbone valley. Descend steadily to your guesthouse, where dinner and your overnight stay are waiting.

GOOD TO KNOW

Day 1 picnic lunch is not included. Bring food from Shkoder or buy it before starting the hike. Breakfast begins with the first included guesthouse overnight.

DAY 2

Valbone to the high village of Cerem

Valbone -> Persllopi Pass area -> Cerem

DISTANCE	ASCENT / DESCENT	WALKING TIME	OVERNIGHT
approx. 17 km	+1,200 / -950 m	7-8 hours	Cerem

Climb out of Valbone into quieter, less-travelled terrain and follow mountain paths toward the seasonal village of Cerem. The route moves through forest, high meadows and limestone scenery near the Montenegrin border. This is a substantial mountain day with rewarding views and a strong sense of remoteness. Finish at a family-run guesthouse for dinner and a simple mountain overnight.

GOOD TO KNOW

There are limited services between villages. Carry the picnic lunch supplied by your guesthouse, enough water and a charged phone with the GPX track downloaded offline.

DAY 3

Cerem to the Doberdol summer pastures

Cerem -> forest and alpine pastures -> Doberdol

DISTANCE	ASCENT / DESCENT	WALKING TIME	OVERNIGHT
approx. 16 km	+1,100 / -450 m	6-7 hours	Doberdol

A beautiful transition from forested slopes to the open high country of Doberdol. Follow shepherd paths, cross broad pastures and gain altitude gradually toward one of the trail's most memorable summer settlements. Wooden huts and grazing animals sit beneath rounded border ridges, creating a landscape that still feels connected to traditional mountain life.

GOOD TO KNOW

Doberdol is remote and accommodation is simple, with shared facilities and limited electricity. The warm welcome, homemade food and high-mountain setting are the reward.

DAY 4

Gjeravica summit and descent to Gacafer

Doberdol -> Gjeravica (2,656 m) -> Gacafer

DISTANCE	ASCENT / DESCENT	WALKING TIME	OVERNIGHT
approx. 18 km	+1,150 / -1,085 m	8-9 hours	Gacafer

Cross into Kosovo and climb through a chain of alpine basins and small glacial lakes toward Gjeravica, the highest mountain in Kosovo. From the 2,656-metre summit, layers of the Accursed Mountains spread across the borderlands. The long descent leads through open ridges and pastures to Gacaferi Guest House, where you can rest over a generous local dinner.

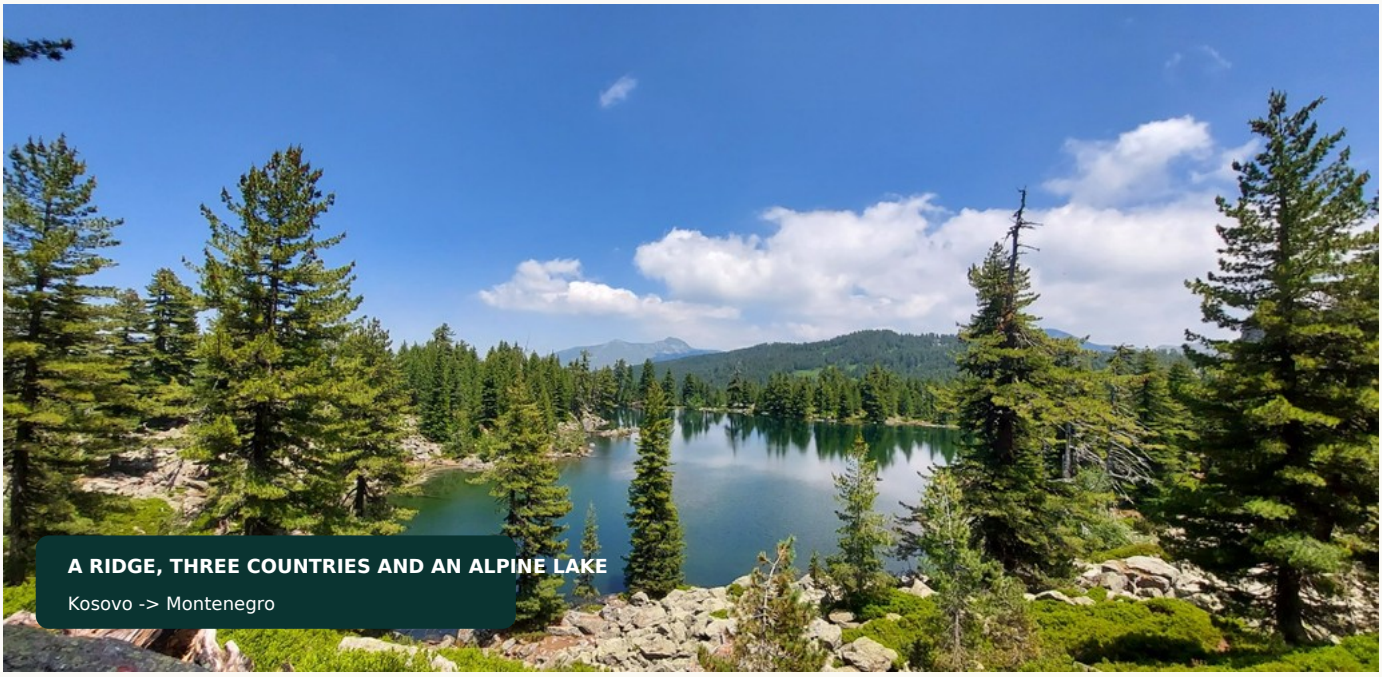
GOOD TO KNOW

This is one of the longest and most exposed days. Start early, carry adequate water and warm layers, and contact our guide team before committing to the summit if weather is unstable.

DAY 5

Three Borders and Hrid Lake

Gacafer -> Three Borders ridge -> Hrid Lake -> Babino Polje



DISTANCE	ASCENT / DESCENT	WALKING TIME	OVERNIGHT
approx. 18 km	+800 / -1,000 m	7-8 hours	Babino Polje

Climb from Gacafer toward the high ridge where Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro meet. Continue across open borderland terrain before descending toward Hrid Lake, a clear glacial lake surrounded by pine forest. The change from exposed ridges to cool woodland gives this day exceptional variety. Finish in Babino Polje for a full-board guesthouse stay.

GOOD TO KNOW

The final GPX pack confirms the operational line through the Three Borders area. Keep the border permit accessible and do not improvise shortcuts near the frontier.

DAY 6

Taljanka and the Karanfili amphitheatre

Babino Polje -> transfer to Grbaja -> Taljanka/Vallushnica -> Vusanje

DISTANCE	ASCENT / DESCENT	WALKING TIME	OVERNIGHT
approx. 12 km	+950 / -950 m	6-7 hours	Vusanje

A morning transfer brings you from Babino Polje to Grbaja Valley, beneath the sheer rock faces of the Karanfili massif. Hike the Taljanka and Vallushnica circuit for some of the finest ridge views on the entire journey: green valleys on one side, jagged limestone towers on the other. After the hike, the arranged transfer continues to Vusanje for dinner and overnight.

GOOD TO KNOW

The ridge is exposed to wind and cloud. In poor conditions, use the safer alternative provided in your route pack and speak with our local guide team before setting out.

DAY 7

Ropojana valley to Theth and Shkoder

Vusanje -> 4x4 to Shtraza/Ropojana Lake -> Qafa e Pejes -> Theth -> Shkoder

DISTANCE	ASCENT / DESCENT	WALKING TIME	OVERNIGHT
approx. 17 km	+750 / -1,000 m	7-8 hours	Tour ends in Shkoder

After breakfast, take the included 40-minute off-road transfer to Shtraza/Ropojana Lake, cutting roughly six kilometres from this long day. Hike into Albania through the dramatic Ropojana valley and over Qafa e Pejes. Communist-era bunkers, Mount Arapi and the Kullat e Langojve cliffs frame the steady descent toward Theth. Your driver meets you at the first agreed cafe on the approach for the transfer to Shkoder, around two hours.

GOOD TO KNOW

Shtraza Lake normally holds water mainly in June and July. The exact pickup point and time are confirmed in your departure pack. Accommodation in Shkoder is not included.

Simple booking. Serious local support.

Tell us your preferred start date, number of travellers and whether you want luggage or airport transfers. We confirm availability before you pay.

RESERVATION AND PAYMENT

- Pay by bank transfer or secure credit-card link (+2%)
- 30% deposit confirms the booking
- Remaining 70%: two days before departure, or by card on arrival at Gacaferi Guest House

CANCELLATION

Free cancellation more than 10 days before Day 1.

For cancellation 10 days or less before Day 1, the cancellation charge is 30% of the tour price.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY ON A SELF-GUIDED MOUNTAIN TOUR

This is a demanding, independent trek in remote terrain. You should be a confident mountain hiker, follow the supplied route materials, check conditions each day and carry suitable footwear, waterproof and warm layers, water, a charged phone and power bank. Travel insurance covering hiking and mountain evacuation is strongly recommended. Our 24/7 support helps with route questions and coordinates practical assistance, but it does not replace public emergency services or insurance.

Trail statistics are approximate. Weather, guesthouse location and operational transfers can change the exact distance. The final GPX tracks and departure information take precedence.

MEET ADRIATIK

The Wilderness Balkans local team is led by Adriatik Gacaferi, a mountain guide from western Kosovo at the foot of the Accursed Mountains. With more than 12 years of guiding experience in the Balkans and on international expeditions, Adriatik has built his work around landscapes and communities he knows personally. On the Peaks of the Balkans, that means direct relationships with local hosts, drivers and guides - not a trip managed from a distant office.

SUNDAY DAY 1: EUR 595 PP | OTHER START DAYS: +EUR 50 PP

CHECK YOUR 2027 DATE

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