

# Albania — The Magic of the Balkans

## PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

### DURATION

12 days · 11 nights

### PROGRAM TYPE

Partner Program · Land Program

### DESTINATION

Albania

### FORMAT

Tailored to your group

A 12-day journey through Albania and Istanbul that weaves a color-splashed capital, two UNESCO World Heritage stone cities, and a turquoise Ionian Riviera. From Cold War tunnels beneath Tirana to mountaintop cable-car panoramas, and from Ottoman bazaars to the islets of Ksamil and the ruins of Butrint.

## SUITABLE FOR

Travel agencies

Tour operators

Cultural & educational groups

Associations

Private & family groups

## WHO THIS PROGRAM IS FOR

Ideal for operators building a Balkans discovery itinerary that blends culture, history and coast in one loop. It suits groups seeking UNESCO heritage cities, dramatic mountain and Riviera scenery, and a relaxed pace with free days and beach time, all with an Arabic/English-speaking guide and a comfortable Istanbul stopover on each leg.

- Bunk'Art 1 — a vast Cold War nuclear bunker turned underground museum beneath Tirana
- The longest cable car in the Balkans up Mount Dajti for panoramic views over the capital
- Krujë's clifftop castle, the Skanderbeg museum, and its cobbled Ottoman bazaar
- Berat, the UNESCO 'city of a thousand windows' above the Osum River
- Gjirokastër, the UNESCO 'stone city' crowned by one of the largest castles in the Balkans
- The Blue Eye (Syri i Kaltër), a fathomless natural spring of vivid sapphire water
- Butrint, a UNESCO archaeological site spanning 2,500 years of Greek, Roman, Byzantine and Venetian history
- Ksamil's turquoise coves and swimmable islets — the 'Maldives of Albania' — plus an Ionian Sea boat cruise

## WHAT CAN BE TAILORED

Available on request and confirmed in the partner quote.

### Hotel category

Adjusted to your group's preferences

### Travel dates

Set around your group's calendar

### Meals

Meal plan tailored per group

### Pace of the itinerary

Relaxed or full — your call

**Group size**

Built to fit your numbers

**Guide language**

Arranged on request

**Optional visits**

Added on request

**Start & end points**

Adaptable per group

**DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY****DAY 1****Casablanca – Istanbul**

Gather at Mohammed V International Airport and complete travel formalities. Depart in the evening for Istanbul; on arrival, meet the team and transfer to a hotel near the airport for the night.

**DAY 2****Istanbul West-Side Tour – Tirana**

After breakfast, discover the west side of Istanbul: the Pelit Chocolate Museum with its remarkable chocolate sculptures, the award-winning modernist Sancaklar Mosque near Büyükçekmece, and a stroll along the calm Büyükçekmece waterfront on the Marmara Sea. In the afternoon, transfer to Istanbul Airport and fly to Tirana, the Albanian capital, where the local team welcomes the group and transfers to the hotel for the first of three nights.

**DAY 3****Tirana: Albania Underground and Above the Mountain**

Visit Bunk'Art 1, one of the largest nuclear bunkers built in the communist era, now a striking museum of tunnels and underground rooms. Ride the cable car up Mount Dajti for sweeping panoramas over the capital and surrounding mountains, then return to explore the lively Blloku district — once reserved for the party elite, today Tirana's most fashionable quarter of cafes and boutiques.

**DAY 4****Krujë: Skanderbeg's Stronghold**

Drive to the town of Krujë (about 45 minutes), perched on a mountainside as the capital of national hero Skanderbeg, who held off Ottoman armies from its walls. Visit Krujë Castle and the Skanderbeg Museum, then enjoy free time in the old Ottoman bazaar, where carpets, copperware and antiques are sold as they were centuries ago, before returning to Tirana.

**DAY 5****Berat and Gjirokaštër: Two UNESCO Cities**

Leave Tirana for Berat (about 2 hours) to visit its historic castle and wander the stone lanes and Ottoman houses above the Osum River. Continue to Gjirokaštër (about 3 hours) for an evening walk through the old town before overnight.

**DAY 6****From the Mountains to the Albanian Riviera**

Visit Gjirokaštër Castle, one of the largest fortresses in the Balkans, then head toward the Riviera with a stop at the Blue Eye (Syri i Kaltër), a vivid natural spring welling up from unfathomed depths amid green forest. Continue to Sarandë to settle in, with an evening stroll along the seafront.

**DAY 7****Butrint and Ksamil: UNESCO Ruins and Turquoise Beaches**

Explore the Butrint archaeological park, a UNESCO World Heritage site with a Roman theatre, a mosaic-floored baptistery and walls set among a lake and forest nature reserve. Continue the short hop to Ksamil to enjoy its white-sand beaches, swimmable islets and turquoise water, with time to swim and relax before returning to Sarandë.

**DAY 8 Boat Cruise on the Ionian Sea**

Set off on a boat cruise to discover the bays and beaches around Sarandë, stopping at coves reachable only from the water for swimming and coastal scenery, before returning to Sarandë for free time in the afternoon.

**DAY 9 Open Day on the Albanian Riviera**

A full free day to enjoy Sarandë, the horseshoe-shaped pearl of the Riviera embracing a blue bay. Relax in the city or on the beach, with optional activities available such as jet ski, parasailing, speedboat tours, or renting bicycles or small cars.

**DAY 10 Sarandë – Vlorë – Tirana**

Travel the famous coastal road (the Llogara Pass), one of the most beautiful drives in Europe, with stops at panoramic viewpoints over the Riviera. Pass through Vlorë, the city where Albania declared its independence in 1912 and where the Ionian meets the Adriatic, then continue to Tirana for the night.

**DAY 11 Tirana – Istanbul**

Enjoy free time for last-minute shopping, then transfer to Tirana Airport and fly to Istanbul, arriving in the evening to settle into the hotel for the night.

**DAY 12 Istanbul – Casablanca**

After breakfast, transfer to the airport and fly back to Casablanca — end of the journey.

**SERVICES**

Final service list is confirmed in the partner quote.

**Included services**

- International and regional flights, taxes included
- Accommodation for 11 nights along the route (Istanbul, Tirana, Gjirokastër, Sarandë) with daily breakfast; hotels confirmed to your group's preferences after the order — category adjustable per group
- All transfers by air-conditioned tourist coach throughout the program
- Local Arabic/English-speaking guide throughout the program
- Entry fees to the sites listed in the program
- Guided west-side Istanbul tour (Pelit Chocolate Museum, Sancaklar Mosque, Büyükçekmece waterfront)
- Mount Dajti cable car and the Ionian Sea boat cruise
- Airport meet-and-greet on arrival and departure

**Not included - Available on request**

- Lunches and dinners (left free for group flexibility)
- Personal expenses
- Optional activities (jet ski, parasailing, speedboat tours, and similar)
- Health/travel insurance and visa if required
- Anything not listed under inclusions

**OPERATIONAL NOTES**



## PARTNER PROPOSAL

[www.jarjinia.com](http://www.jarjinia.com)

[contact@jarjinia.com](mailto:contact@jarjinia.com)

- The final service list is confirmed in your partner quote.
- Hotel and supplier availability depends on your travel dates.
- Pricing depends on group size, season, and hotel category.
- Jarjinia confirms every detail in writing before anything is committed.

### PARTNER TERMS

- This document is a proposal for travel agencies and partners — not a contract, an invoice, or a confirmed booking.
- Commercial terms are confirmed in the partner quote; no fixed public price is shown.
- Payment schedule and cancellation conditions depend on the destination and supplier deadlines.
- Programs are land-based (arrival to departure); international flights and visas are not included unless explicitly stated.
- Length, pace, routing, hotel category, and inclusions can be tailored to your group.

### Request a Partner Quote

Tell us your group size, preferred dates, and accommodation level — we'll reply by email with a tailored quote built for your travellers.

[contact@jarjinia.com](mailto:contact@jarjinia.com) · [www.jarjinia.com/packages/albania-12-days](http://www.jarjinia.com/packages/albania-12-days)