

## Cycling in Albania



Turkode  
MVA

Turen destinasjon  
Vlore

Destinasjoner  
Albania

Reisen er levert av



Turen starter  
Pogradec

8 dager  
Fra : NOK

## Oversikt

Discover the beauty of this previously isolated country by bike



## Reiserute

### Day 1

Start Pogradec.

Start Pogradec. Those on the group flight will be met at the airport and transferred to our hotel in Pogradec, situated on the shore of Lake Ohrid (approx. 3hr drive). The afternoon is free to relax and enjoy this lakeside location. Hotel Millenium or Similar

### Day 2

Transfer to Korçë; steady climb through a landscape of barren rock interspersed with wild flowers; cycle towards Grammoz Mountain and over the Barmash Pass (1159m) to Germej.

We begin with one of the most demanding days of the tour. After a quick transfer to Korçë, we begin cycling and leave behind the agricultural plateau, climbing steadily into the border mountains through a landscape of barren rock interspersed with wild flowers. Numerous cols and valleys lie ahead, climbing towards Grammoz Mountain and over the Barmash Pass (1159m) to Germej, lying in its own tranquil valley. Here we relax at our accommodation, Farma Sotira, which is also a working trout farm. Meals here consist of organic produce that is reared or sourced from the farm itself. Once you've finished eating your hearty dinner, you can sit and relax by the open roaring fire in the dining area with a glass of homemade wine or a bottle of Korçë beer (Albania's most popular). Cycle approx. 72km, total ascent approx. 1150m, total descent approx. 1050m. Farma Sotira Hotel or Similar

### Day 3

Cycle through high grassy plateaux surrounded by soaring peaks before descending to Carshove and on to Benje; ride to thermal springs for a swim.

In the morning there is a climb out from Germej to a high grassy plateau close to the Greek border, surrounded by soaring peaks before reaching the source of the River Vjosa and descending through its spectacular gorge to Leskovik. We continue descending to Carshove and then follow the cornice route high above the river to Benje situated on a ridge above the river. After lunch at the guesthouse, we take a short ride to the thermal springs to relax and soothe aching muscles. Both lunch and dinner will be served on the peaceful terrace. Cycle approx. 60km, total ascent approx. 687m, total descent approx. 1352m. Guesthouse Coli

## Day 4

Valley ride towards Kelcyra; after lunch at Tepele Waterfalls transfer to Gjirokastra for afternoon city tour.

Today is one of the easiest days. We continue along the valley towards Kelcyra with its distant shark-tooth peaks, which guard a further gorge. We ride between these gorges until the two rivers meet. After lunch at the waterfalls of Tepelene we drive (approx. 30 mins) through the wide plain toward the town of Gjirokastra (city of 1000 steps). The well-preserved town is perched on the steep side of the Drino Valley, overlooking snow-capped mountains. In the afternoon we take a cultural tour through the city and explore its narrow cobbled alleys and 18th Century Ottoman houses. We also visit the 13th Century castle and learn about the fascinating history of this town, which has seen many rulers and has inspired poets, authors and artists. Cycle approx. 46km, total ascent approx. 350m, total descent approx. 520m. Hotel Cajupi or Similar

## Day 5

Transfer up the Muzina Pass, long descent to Sarandë via the coast and the UNESCO site of Butrint.

After breakfast we load the bikes on to the support vehicle and transfer up to Muzina Pass (approx. 45 minutes), the gateway to southern Albania, for a spectacular downhill ride to Sarandë. Located on the Ionian Coast, Sarandë is sandwiched between the high mountains and the sea and is close to the ancient remains of Butrint, which we visit on the way. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Butrint is located very close to the Greek border and is one of the country's most important archaeological sites, tracing its origins back to the Greeks and the Romans. We have lunch at the site and continue along the coast to Sarandë. Cycle approx. 70km, total ascent approx. 725m, total descent approx. 1285m. Hotel Nertili or Similar

## Day 6

Spectacular coastal ride to the long beach of Himarë Bay.

Climbing steeply out of Sarande to a rocky plateau, we enjoy a spectacular coastal ride over cols into bays and around headlands. Always with the stunning mountain scenery to the right and sea to the left, we continue along before descending to Himarë, a small communist-era fishing village with a small promenade filled with cafes, restaurants and ice cream stands. There is plenty of time for a swim in the Ionian Sea, and our hotel is a short walk to Potam Beach. Cycle approx. 54km, total ascent approx. 1064m, total descent approx. 1064m. Hotel Rondos or Similar

## Day 7

Ride towards Vlorë; optional 1043m climb to the Llogara Pass; long descent through Llogara N.P. finishing by the coast.

Today's route is as challenging as it is spectacular as we cycle the most demanding ride of the tour; it will show you how strong you have become. In the morning there is a climb out of Himarë, which naturally is rewarded with an enjoyable downhill. We then have another climb before our coffee break. Our break is followed with a nice downhill, but we must climb yet again before we regroup. We then come face to face with the long steady ascent to the Llogara pass. At 1043m above sea level, this climb is completely optional, so if you think it is too much then you can jump in the support vehicle. However, if you are looking for an extra challenge, this climb comes with a real sense of achievement, and the views are fantastic. At the pass itself (which you will also see if you take the van) it is possible to see across to Italy on a clear day. We recommend taking a warmer layer for reaching the top of the pass. From here you enter Llogara National Park, home to black pine, Eurasian otter and golden eagles. The park is a scenic expanse of protected woodland that encompasses the forests on the northern side of the Llogora Pass. We begin to descend and have lunch in the National Park. In the afternoon we continue descending towards our hotel, which is located by the sea just outside of the city. Here we can relax and take a dip in the sea, the perfect reward for a hard day's cycle. Cycle approx. 65km, total ascent approx. 1630m (including the optional climb), total descent approx. 1630m. Hotel Coral or Similar

## Day 8

End Vlorë.

End Vlorë. Those on the group flight will be transferred to Tirana airport in the morning (approx. 2.5hr drive).

## Viktig Informasjon

The trip destination

5 nights hotels, 2 nights guesthouses 6 days cycling with full vehicle support Group normally 4 to 16, plus local cycling leader and driver. Min age 16 yrs Trip can be combined with Cycle Macedonia & Northern Albania E-bike hire available on request

### Food

All breakfasts and 2 dinners included. Food in Albania is quite varied thanks to the many influences on the country and particularly Mediterranean combining Turkish, Greek and Italian tastes. Dairy products, especially milk and yoghurt are present in almost every meal, usually locally sourced. Under the leadership of Enver Hoxha (the communist leader of Albania from 1944-1985), Albania became a self-sustaining country due to its isolation to the world. However due to the lush fertile valleys, fresh mountain springs and Mediterranean climate, they are still very much a subsistence culture and show very little signs of changing. In the countryside expect your food to have been reared/grown not too far from your plate. Breakfasts are typically eggs, fresh bread, jam, honey and coffee or tea. For lunch and dinner, meat dishes are often goat or lamb, with fish dishes ranging from trout to whitebait. Courses often come in mezze form complimented with a variety of succulent vegetables, salad, freshly baked bread, homemade cheeses, local wines and of course, raki. Your guide will recommend the best options when in the towns.

### Accommodation

## Priser / Datoer

Ved skriftlig aksept av vårt tilbud bekrefter du/dere at våre betingelser er både lest og forstått og at evt kansellerings gebyrer kan tilkomme ved en evt. avbestilling av reisen

Tilgjengelige datoer	Pris (1 voksen)	Pris (1 barn)	Status reise
Fri, 10 Sep 21 / Fri, 17 Sep 21	NOK 14 059	På forespørsel	Ledig
Fri, 24 Sep 21 / Fri, 01 Oct 21	NOK 13 447	På forespørsel	Ledig
Fri, 08 Oct 21 / Fri, 15 Oct 21	NOK 14 059	På forespørsel	Ledig
Fri, 22 Apr 22 / Fri, 29 Apr 22	NOK 14 059	På forespørsel	Ledig
Fri, 29 Apr 22 / Fri, 06 May 22	NOK 14 671	På forespørsel	Ledig
Fri, 13 May 22 / Fri, 20 May 22	NOK 15 282	På forespørsel	Ledig
Fri, 27 May 22 / Fri, 03 Jun 22	NOK 15 894	På forespørsel	Ledig
Fri, 10 Jun 22 / Fri, 17 Jun 22	NOK 15 894	På forespørsel	Ledig
Fri, 17 Jun 22 / Fri, 24 Jun 22	NOK 15 894	På forespørsel	Ledig
Fri, 02 Sep 22 / Fri, 09 Sep 22	NOK 15 894	På forespørsel	Ledig
Fri, 09 Sep 22 / Fri, 16 Sep 22	NOK 15 894	På forespørsel	Ledig
Fri, 16 Sep 22 / Fri, 23 Sep 22	NOK 15 894	På forespørsel	Ledig

Fri, 23 Sep 22 / Fri, 30 Sep 22

NOK 15 282

På forespørsel

Ledig

Fri, 07 Oct 22 / Fri, 14 Oct 22

NOK 14 059

På forespørsel

Ledig

Vi vil komme tilbake til deg med et tilbud på den forespurte reisen/pakken i løpet av 48 timer. Alle tilbud er uforpliktende og er vanligvis gyldige i 7 dager. Vi gjør oppmerksom på at reserverte tjenester kan bli kansellert innenfor disse 7 dagene og at pris kan endres inntil en endelig bestilling er mottatt.



VIRKE



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