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# THE MOTHER TERESA TOUR

8 days / 7 nights

*Come and explore who was blessed Mother Teresa*

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Find out about the roots of Mother Teresa
- Feel a mixture of cultures, landscapes and religions from Albanian Orthodox to Sunni Muslim, and from beautiful beaches to Rocky Mountains
- Experience the feeling of stepping back in time to Ottoman Empire in Old Bazaar in Skopje



## GENERAL INFORMATION

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### MACEDONIA

Landlocked in the heart of the Balkans, The Republic of Macedonia is one of Europe's youngest, smallest countries, but is simultaneously one of its oldest nations. Mountainous Macedonia still has an air of mystery to it. Simultaneously ancient and brand new, it's struggling to find its place in the post-communist world. Black-clad Orthodox monks are just as much a part of this renewal as the hordes of teenagers, bedecked in the latest Italian fashions, sipping coffee in the stylish bars of the capital.

For outdoors types Macedonia is a paradise. Its extensive wilderness allows ample opportunities for hikers, mountain climbers and skiers. Meanwhile, ancient ruins and monasteries will fascinate anyone with even a smidgen of interest in history. In short, for a little place it's crammed with something for just about everyone.

Quite apart from Macedonia's spectacular peaks, lakes and rivers, it's the hospitality of the people of this most southern of Slavic nations that will make your visit truly memorable.

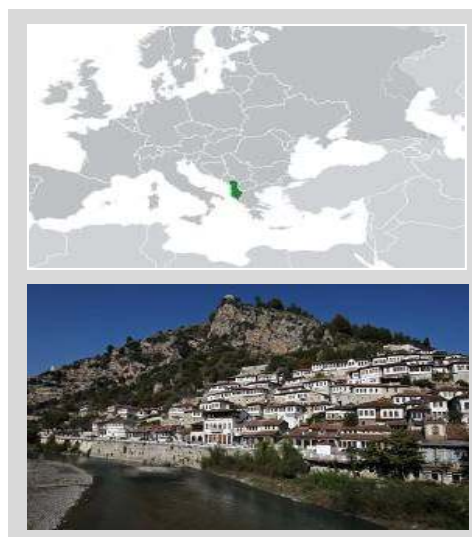


### ALBANIA

In the heart of the Mediterranean, on the Adriatic and Ionian Seas, Albania is fast becoming one of the world's most interesting getaways. Still relatively unspoiled by globalization, tourists will notice an inspiring mixture of civilizations and cultures - making this European country truly unique.

Home of both Mother Theresa, Albania today offers not only beach and mountain holidays, a vibrant city life and a relaxing outdoor cafe culture, but also something increasingly rare in Europe these days, a glance into a culture that is all its own. Raised on a diet of separation and hardship, Albania is distinctly Albanian.

Not just the preserve of the adventurous, Albania is a warm and sincerely hospitable country – with enough rough edges to keep it interesting.



# SUGGESTED ITINERARY

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## DAY 1

Arrival to Tirana airport  
Meet and greet at the airport and transfer to a hotel  
Check-in  
Dinner at a local restaurant  
Overnight in Tirana

### **TIRANA – the capital and the largest city of Albania**

Tirana is the capital and the largest city of Albania. It is also country's administrative, cultural, economic, and industrial center. The founding and later development of the city of Tirana were made possible by its geographic position on a fertile plain, rich in forest lands and water. The year 1614 is considered the date that Tirana was founded, when Sulejman Pasha Bargjini built a mosque, a hamam (Turkish bath), a bakery, and several shops. Tirana began to develop in the beginning of the sixteenth century, when a bazar was established, and its craftsmen made silk, cotton, and leather fabrics, ceramics, iron, silver, and gold artefacts. On February 8th, 1920, the provisional government formed at the Congress of Lushje moved to Tirana, and at this point Tirana became the capital of the country. This played an important role for the development of the town.



## DAY 2

Breakfast in the hotel  
Visit of Tirana  
Lunch at a local restaurant  
Afternoon free at leisure  
Dinner at a local restaurant  
Overnight in Tirana

## DAY 3

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out  
Drive to Kruja (31km) for a visit  
Lunch at a local restaurant  
Continue to Shkodra (85km)  
Dinner at a local restaurant  
Overnight in Shkodra

### **KRUJA – the centre of Albanian resistance**

Kruja is a medieval town in north central Albania built 560 meters above sea level, on the slopes of Sari - Salltiku Mountain. The name of Kruja derives from the Albanian word krua, meaning 'water spring'. The citadel has become the main Illyrian fortress in the area in the 4th century AD. In the year 879, Kruja was mentioned for the first time as a Christian religious center. The first Albanian feudal state was created here circa 1190. It is touted as a good daytrip from the capital, not only for sightseeing but also for souvenir-hunting.



## SHKODRA – the centre of education, culture and trade

Shkodra is one of the oldest and most historic places in Albania, as well as an important cultural and economic centre. During many different epochs it has retained its status as a major city in the Western Balkans, due to its geostrategic positioning close to the Adriatic and the Italian ports, but also with land - routes to other important cities and towns in neighbouring regions. Its importance is heightened by the Lake of Shkoder to the west of the city - the largest in the Western Balkans - that straddles Albania and neighbouring Montenegro. Shkodra is also the centre of Albanian Catholicism as well as a fine example of tolerance between religions, with the city comprising all the major faiths found in Albania.



## DAY 4

Breakfast in the hotel  
Visit of Shkodra  
Lunch at a local restaurant  
Afternoon free at leisure  
Dinner at a local restaurant  
Overnight in Shkodra

## DAY 5

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out  
Drive to Pristina (260km) via Prizren and Djakovo, the birth places of Mother Teresa parents  
A sightseeing tour of Prizren  
Lunch at a local restaurant  
Continue to Djakovica (81km) and visit Dechani monastery  
Drive to Pristine (81 km)  
Check-in to a hotel  
Dinner at a local restaurant  
Overnight in Pristine

### PRIZREN – a charming Balkan city

Prizren is a town with around 70,000 inhabitants, and it is a true open air museum, one of the most beautiful towns of Kosovo. It is situated on the slopes of the Sharr Mountains and on the banks of the river Bistrica. Thanks to its preserved architecture, this town with houses built under the Kalaja is a special curiosity. It is rich in dwelling quarters and houses with balconies facing gardens full of foliage. Numerous narrow, winding streets cut the whole town up, giving the town an oriental physiognomy. Since the end of World War II, Prizren has developed into a modern town with food processing, textile, pharmaceutical, and metal processing industry, at the same time efforts have been made to preserve its ancient architecture.

### VISOKI DECANI MONASTERY

Visoki Decani is a major Serbian Orthodox Christian monastery located in Metohija (Kosovo). Its cathedral is the biggest medieval church in the Balkans which contains the largest preserved monument of Byzantine fresco-painting. The Monastery was built in the mid-14th century for the Serbian king Stefan Decanski and is also his mausoleum. During its turbulent history the Monastery was an important spiritual centre with developed artistic and intellectual activities. Although the monastery buildings suffered damage from the Turkish occupation, the church has been completely preserved with beautiful 14th century fresco paintings. Today a young brotherhood of 30 brethren lives in the monastery continuing the centuries old tradition of the past. The brotherhood



has developed various activities: wood carving, icon painting, book publishing and is also active in the missionary work.

#### **PRISTINE**

Pristine is the capital and largest city of Kosovo and has a majority Albanian population, alongside other smaller communities including Bosnians, Roma and others. It is the administrative, educational, and cultural centre of Kosovo. The history of this fascinating region is visible in prominent historical figures including Gjergj Kastrioti (Skanderbeg) and Mother Teresa, as well as the National Museum, National Theatre, and Public Library, Government building gardens, and University of Pristine also in the shops for traditional handicrafts.



### **DAY 6**

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out  
A sightseeing tour of Pristine with lunch at a local restaurant  
In the afternoon drive to Skopje  
Check-in to a hotel  
Dinner at a local restaurant  
Overnight in Skopje

#### **SKOPJE – the capital and largest city of the Republic of Macedonia**

In its 2,500 years of existence, Macedonia's welcoming capital city has had many different embodiments. All of them – from Roman to Byzantine, from Ottoman to Yugoslav – have left permanent traces on the city as is evidenced by Skopje's varied architecture and its mix of cultures. Yet in addition to its strong historical associations, Skopje is a forward-looking city offering an abundance of modern amenities and attractions.

Here one can find sleek modern hotels above the cobblestoned Ottoman streets, outstanding neoclassical homes right around the corner from grand old Yugoslav-era buildings, red-bricked Byzantine churches and rounded Turkish mosques, chic cafés, shopping malls and brightly-coloured new offices.



### **DAY 7**

Breakfast in the hotel  
Visit of Skopje  
Lunch at a local restaurant  
Afternoon visit of Skopje's surrounding monasteries  
Dinner at a local restaurant  
Overnight in Skopje

### **DAY 8**

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out  
Transfer to Skopje airport for your return flight

# SERVICES

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## SERVICES INCLUDED:

### TRANSFERS:

Air conditioned comfortable vehicle through the whole tour

### ACCOMMODATION (in DBL or SGL room, breakfast included):

2 nights in 4\*/5\* hotel in Tirana, 2 nights in 3\*/4\* hotel in Shkodra, 1 night in 3\* hotel in Pristine, 2 nights in 3\*/4\* hotel in Skopje

### GUIDES:

English speaking guide through the whole tour including meals and accommodation + local guides where obligatory

### ENTRANCE FEES:

Tirana National museum, Cable car ride to Dajti Mountain, Kruja castle, Rozafa castle in Shkodra, Daut Pasha hammamin, Cifte Amam – National Art Gallery and church of St. Spas in Skopje

### MEALS:

As per program

### OTHER:

Organization of the tour and VAT

## SERVICES EXCLUDED:

- Services not mentioned in the program
- Porterage
- Drinks during the meals
- Tips