Coastal Trails of the Albanian Riviera

Trip Code: ACW

Version:

WALK & TREK	GUIDED GROUP	MODERATE
		4



HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy a point-to-point trek along Albania's Riviera, crossing diverse coastal and mountain landscapes
- Walk between hidden beaches, turquoise coves and dramatic cliffs above the Ionian Sea
- Follow ancient mule paths linking traditional villages from the coast to remote highlands
- Experience authentic local life with stays in village guesthouses and warm hospitality throughout
- Balance rewarding hikes with time to swim, relax and savour freshly prepared regional cuisine

AT A GLANCE

- 6 days point-to-point walking
- Join at Tirana

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

Set along one of Europe's last truly unspoiled coastlines, Albania's southern Riviera offers a compelling blend of wild natural beauty, rich cultural heritage and warm, authentic hospitality–without the crowds found elsewhere in the Mediterranean. Here, rugged mountains plunge into the turquoise Ionian Sea, and traditional village life continues much as it has for generations, creating a uniquely rewarding setting for a walking holiday. This point-to-point journey along Albania's spectacular southern coastline reveals the very best of this remarkable region.

After transferring from Tirana to the start of the trek at Dhermi, the route unfolds southwards through a rich variety of landscapes, from dramatic cliffside trails and hidden coves to olive groves, highland plateaus and traditional stone villages. Each day brings a new perspective as you walk between carefully selected family run accommodations, following century-old mule paths once used to bypass a coastline to connect isolated communities. Once off-limits under communist rule, history is written into the trail itself, from abandoned bunkers to hillside terraces.

The itinerary is designed to be rewarding yet accessible, combining moderate walking distances with time to swim, relax and fully appreciate the surroundings. Along the way, you'll also enjoy authentic regional cuisine, from fresh coastal fare to simple, home-cooked dishes in the mountains, experienced in welcoming guesthouses and small hotels.

Blending scenic walking, cultural discovery and relaxed moments by the sea, this journey offers an immersive way to explore one of Europe's most captivating and lesser-known coastal regions.

Is this holiday for you?

This journey is ideal for travellers who enjoy active days on foot balanced with time to relax, swim, and take in their surroundings. Over six days of point-to-point walking along Albania's southern coast, you'll explore hidden beaches, coastal trails, and traditional mountain villages, discovering a quieter, more authentic side of the Mediterranean.

The walking is moderate, with daily distances of 8 to 12km and around 3.5 to 4.5 hours on foot. Some days include steady ascents on rocky or uneven paths, especially when heading inland, so a reasonable level of fitness and sure-footedness is important. In return, you'll enjoy sweeping sea views, varied landscapes, and a strong sense of journey.

This trip suits those who value comfortable accommodation and warm local hospitality over high-end luxury, and who are curious about local culture and cuisine. For a relaxed yet rewarding walking holiday blending coastal scenery, mountain trails, and authentic cultural encounters–far from the crowds–this

Albanian Riviera adventure is an excellent choice.

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

- A professional and qualified tour leader
- Single timed Tirana Airport transfers on arrival and departure
- All accommodation as described
- All meals
- Entrance fees where applicable
- All land transport required by the itinerary
- Baggage transfers by vehicle between accommodation

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Tips
- Miscellaneous expenses - drinks and souvenirs etc.

Meal Plan

All meals, from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 8, are included.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide for special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your meals with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Food & Water

Water from the taps may not be drinkable in all locations on this trip - please check with your guide. We recommend taking water purification tablets and a reusable bottle with a filter such as **Water-to-Go**, which can both be used to help make safe other water sources. Please note that we do not encourage the purchase of single use plastic bottles.

With a mix of Balkan, Greek and Italian influences, Albania offers a rich variety of dishes with a Mediterranean flair, utilising the seasonal produce of the region. In the mountains, you can expect hearty meat dishes such as stews or grilled meats, typically with lamb. A national specialty to try is Tave Kosi, a baked casserole of lamb, yoghurt, eggs and rice. The popular side dish of stuffed peppers filled with rice and herbs, or even meat or cheese are delicious. At the coast there will be plenty of excellent seafood options, with freshly caught fish such as bream, sea bass, octopus, squid, shrimp and so on. With the Italian influence you can also expect pasta and pizza to be readily available, plus coffee is a way of life. While in Albania, you should try the Byrek, a popular snack of filled filo pastry. Meat-free dishes are also readily available, with grilled or baked vegetables, cheese dishes, soups and salads.

To satisfy your sweet tooth, make sure you sample some baklava with layers of thin filo, honey and nuts; or a variation with shredded filo called kadaif. Fried dough balls called petulla are a popular snack any time of day, with a variety of toppings such as chocolate, jam, honey or cheese.

In hotels breakfast are continental style, with cereals, bread and jam, meat, cheese, tea, coffee and sometimes eggs and fruit. You may also have the chance to try a more traditional Albanian breakfast of flavoured rice.

Included picnic lunches usually include bread, vegetables such as tomato, cucumber or pepper, cheese, boiled egg, sometimes with some cured meat. Fruit may also be included depending on the season. You may wish to bring some supplementary snacks, it is often nice to have your favourite trail food with you on your hikes.

If you would like to sample some locally-produced drinks, Albania produces lagers and wines, or you might also like to brave the strong grape liquor known as raki. These can be purchased from most hotels and shops along the way.

Accommodation

On this holiday, you will stay 4 nights in comfortable small hotels with private bathrooms and 3 nights in traditional guesthouses, 2 of which have shared bathrooms.

Whilst we do our best to accommodate rooming preferences, in some locations, dormitory-style accommodation is the only option. However, we always ensure that male and female participants are separated. The village guesthouses, whilst charming and friendly have basic facilities but the warm welcome more than makes up for the lack of hotel facilities! Staying with local families is all part of the overall Albanian trekking experience and allows us to experience traditional Albanian hospitality.

If you are travelling by yourself, you will be paired up with another single client of the same sex for the hotel nights. Single rooms are available for a supplementary cost.

If you are planning on extending your holiday additional nights in Tirana are available on request. Alternatively, why not extend your stay with some extra nights on the coast? Please contact us for further information.

Group Leader & Support Staff

The group will be led by a professional English speaking tour leader and one or more support vehicle drivers(s).

Altitude

This holiday does not involve any significant ascent to altitude and we would not expect any altitude issues with this trip.

Spending Money

Approximately £100 to £150 should be allowed for miscellaneous expenses including your bar bills and reasonable tips for the guide and support staff. If you intend to buy expensive souvenirs, you should budget accordingly. Albania's unit of currency is the Lek but the Euro is also widely accepted. ATM machines are available at Tirana Airport and in larger towns and cities. Credit cards can be used to purchase goods and services in some shops, hotels and restaurants in Albania.

Guidance on Tipping

Tips do not form part of the wages of local staff but they are very much appreciated. It is important to remember that tipping is voluntary and should be dependent on good service. It is best if the tip is given at the end of the trip by the group as a whole. We recommend that each group member contributes around £25 and that tips are then distributed between the guide and support staff as the group feels is appropriate.

Baggage Allowance

Your main luggage will be transferred between each accommodation. We ask that you please ensure your luggage is limited to one soft bag (duffle bag or rucksack) max 15kg per person. Suitcases or flight cases are not suitable for this trip. You will also need a daypack to carry your daily essentials with you.

Group Size & Holiday Status

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in the ‘Dates and Prices’ table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

Joining instructions

The group will meet at Tirana Airport in the early afternoon of Day 1.

A single timed group transfer is provided from Tirana Airport to the group hotel in Dhermi mid-afternoon on Day 1. The transfer will take approximately 3.5 hrs.

An emergency contact number and the details for the group hotel will be provided with your booking confirmation.

General Information

Passport & Visas

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders.

A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required**,** and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

For other nationalities, please refer to your own Government website for the latest information.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates *(see Health & Vaccinations below),* **and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check the FCDO for the latest advice for **each country visited** before travel.

Visa Albania

UK and USA passport holders do not require a visa for shorts stays.

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations:

You should be up to date with the routine vaccinations recommended in the UK for overseas travel.

You must also contact your doctor or travel clinic to check if there are specific vaccinations or other preventive measures that you need for the area you are visiting, in good time before you are due to depart.

Please ensure you are looking at the recommendations for all countries visited on your holiday plus recommendations for any borders you cross.

On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dental check-up.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates.

Please check the FCDO and Travel Health Pro. For all of your intended destinations for up-to-date advice.

Severe Allergies:

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips.

Currency

The unit of currency in Albania is the Lek.

Preparing for your Holiday

Getting some additional exercise before coming on an active holiday makes a lot of sense. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable you will find the experience.

You should be aerobically fit and comfortable with walking 4 to 5 hours for consecutive days. Hill walking, with a good amount of ascent and descent, is the best training. Running, cycling and swimming are also good for developing cardiovascular fitness and stamina.

We suggest that you try to fit in a number of daily walks in hilly countryside before your trip and it is always a good idea to spend some time walking in the footwear you are going to use on this holiday.

Climate

Albania has a Mediterranean climate which varies by region. Coastal areas experience mild, wet winters and hot, dry summers, with temperatures reaching highs of 35-40 °C in July and August. Spring and autumn bring a moderate climate with temperatures reaching daytime highs of 22-26 °C, which are more comfortable for a walking holiday, hence this holiday is not offered in the summer. Flowers are in bloom in the spring, while the Ionian Sea is delightfully warm in the autumn. Mountainous regions such as Llogara feel cooler, with temperatures between 15-19 °C in spring and autumn and can experience alpine microclimates with strong winds. While Albania enjoys a great deal of sunshine, rain can be expected at any time of the year particularly in mountainous regions, so you should always be prepared for all eventualities.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's **'Travel Aware'** campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. All other nationalities should check their government websites for relevant information.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Books

- The Accursed Mountains - Robert Carver
- Broken April - Ismail Kadare
- General of the Dead Army - Ismail Kadare
- High Albania - Edith Durham
- The Albanians : A Modern History - Miranda Vickers

Private Groups Information

Make this KE Adventure holiday your own!

- Do our normal group departure dates not fit?
- Would you prefer to travel with just friends and/or family?
- Are you looking to organise a trip for your local walking, biking or mountaineering club?

It's really easy to make a trip your own. Simply select from our full range of adventure holidays and choose the dates that work for you and your group.

We are experts in creating holidays for groups of friends, families, charities and clubs. Our personal service means you'll be fully involved as we make the arrangements for your perfect adventure holiday.

Independence with Security

Travelling as a KE Private Group allows you more flexibility and choice, but still with the peace of mind that everything is pre-planned and arranged for your group by a reputable adventure travel company.

To take your first step to an amazing adventure with your friends and family complete the private group enquiry form, or call our **Sales Experts on: 017687 73966**

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our Travel Insurance page for further information and to get a quote.

Equipment Information

Equipment List

The following checklist should help you with your packing. As a general rule, you should always try to keep the weight of your equipment to a minimum. Please also read the section on 'Baggage allowance' for more details.

You should bring the following items:

- Hiking boots
- Trekking trousers / shorts
- Baselayer shirts (1 short sleeve, 1 long sleeve)
- T-shirts or casual shirts
- Socks & Underwear
- Light fleece shirt or mid-layer
- Warm fleece jacket or jumper
- Waterproof jacket & overtrousers
- Lightweight thermal gloves
- Sunhat

- Warm hat
- Sunglasses
- Daypack 30 litres
- Headtorch and spare batteries
- Sun protection (including for lips)
- Water bottle (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Washbag and toiletries
- Travel towel
- Basic First Aid Kit including: Insect repellent; antiseptic cream; throat lozenges; diarrhoea treatment (Diocalm or Imodium); painkillers; plasters and blister treatment; and re-hydration salts (Dioralite). Glucose sweets and vitamin tablets are a useful addition.

The following items are optional:

- Training shoes or sandals
- Trekking poles (highly recommended)
- Camera
- Swimsuit
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

Land Only Information

Please refer to the 'Joining Arrangements & Transfers' within Holiday Information for further details.

Flights and other transport to your destination should not be booked until you have received your booking confirmation and the departure is showing 'Guaranteed to Run' or 'Limited'.

Land Only Information

The LAND ONLY dates and prices are for the itinerary starting and ending at Tirana Airport. A single timed group transfer from Tirana Airport to Dhermi will be provided on the afternoon of Day 1 of the itinerary. A single group transfer back to Tirana Airport from the group hotel is also provided on the final day of the holiday.

There are a number of low cost carriers offering direct flights to and from Tirana. If you would like to take advantage of these schedules please check the timings of the provided transfers on Day 1 and Day 8 with the office team.

Flight Inclusive Information

Limited seats are available at the advertised flight price, please book as early as you can. If we are unable to secure seats at the price shown, or you have requested regional departures and/or upgrades, we will provide you with an alternative quote. It is likely that flight payment will be in advance of your final holiday balance. Booking a flight inclusive package means you will benefit from full financial protection, eases your holiday planning, and leaves us to deal with airlines and schedule changes. If you book flights through KE Adventure Travel we will offset the carbon of your flight.

Regional departures and/or alternative carriers are available on request.

Flight Inclusive Information

The FLIGHT INCLUSIVE dates and prices are based on UK flights from London to Tirana with Austrian Airlines. Outbound flights will usually depart from the UK in the morning, arriving in the early evening of the same day (Day 1 of the itinerary). Return flights will depart Tirana at around midday on the final day of the holiday, arriving in the UK later that same evening.

Why Choose KE

Why KE?

Walking the Southern Coast Trail of Albania with KE offers a rare point-to-point trek along the stunning Albanian Riviera, setting it apart from many centre-based holidays. Rather than staying in one place, you walk from village to village with our expert guide, experiencing the ever-changing coastal and mountain scenery along the way. Combined with excellent local cuisine and fewer crowds than neighbouring Greece or Italy, it offers an immersive yet comfortable Mediterranean hiking experience.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 11/11/2026 and the trip is subject to change