



BASHKIA MIRDITË



Mirdita

Magical, Wild Romantic Heart
of Central-Northern Albania



Infokulla-mirdita

Unknown Mirdita

on ancient paths, to remote villages
and through deep gorges

9 days tour

Arthur Moor, an English scholar, for whom "Albanians are possibly the oldest peoples in Europe", writes: "Mirdita is such a strange world in Europe that it deserves careful scrutiny...the 'heart of Shqipnis' which the Turks never conquered. That is still unexplored and indescribable as in the beginning..."

I can only agree. Mirdita is still an unnoticed region even for many Albanians. Too isolated, too stigmatized during the dictatorship, too idiosyncratic. Such a journey as offered is not just a search for clues in the realm of the mystical, mythical and an incredibly rough story, but also a journey to ourselves - a journey through life. Nowhere had you rewarded like this if you have the courage, of course with a competent guide, to venture away from the tourist attractions into the unusual, into the completely unexpected. Nowhere does the saying "If someone takes a journey, then he can tell something" fit better than on paths that lead to smaller and bigger adventures.

Marianne Graf

This trip is for you if:

- You appreciate getting deeper impressions of culture, country and people
- You are a lover of untouched landscapes.
- You want to experience a country with all your senses.
- You are looking for the authentic.
- You like traditional dishes.
- You want to get in touch with the locals.
- They love the simple, unspoilt life in the country.
- You want to immerse yourself in old times.
- You are uncomplicated and love the special.
- They do not want to be satisfied with superficial information.
- Minimum age of participants: 12 years
- Requirement: Endurance, Solid shoes
- Participants: 10 to 20



Including

- 8 nights' accommodation in double rooms
- All meals
- Entries
- Transport by bus and 4x4 cars
- English speaking guide
- Local guides

Exclusively

- International flight
- Drinks, tips, purchase of Mirdita produce and expenses of a personal nature

Program:



peasant life, peculiarities of the Mirdita ethnoregion, we see valuable ethnological-historical exhibits. We visit the church on the steep rock. Its apse with the frescoes from 1272 is the only religious sign in Mirdita that has survived the destruction mania of the dictatorship. We meditate on the creation stone with a life bowl before we have a snack in the culture house. Now we drive to the delightful valley of Katund i Vjeter and check in at the idyllically situated Eco hotel Marub. After a short break, we visit the ruins of the Church of St. Nicholas on the mountainside. Back in the Marub we end the day on the terrace.

Day 1

Tirana – Departure 8:00

Morning departure from Tirana and drive to Rubik. The first way leads us to the Infokulla with the Tourist Infopoint and the Museum of the North. Here we hear interesting facts for our upcoming ventures. In addition to information about the history of the region,



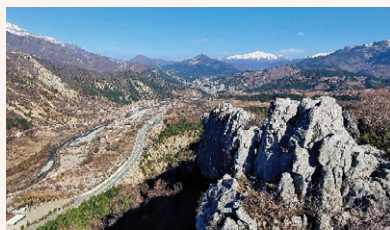
Day 2

Departure 8:00

We drive to Orosh, which for centuries was the capital and center of social and spiritual life of the northern Albanian tribes. Of great importance was the Alexander Monastery, known far beyond the borders, which, like the

Seraglio of Kapedan, was completely destroyed during the dictatorship. The church was rebuilt according to templates. While it even enjoyed internal self-government during Ottoman rule, today it is a mountain village in the middle of nowhere. Far away and difficult to access, it wants to be rediscovered by us. You will be amazed when

the kingdom opens up to us with bold rocks and defiant farmland. In the afternoon, we drive up to the “Holy Ground” of Nenshejt, which more than inspires us with its wide, overgrown karst areas and magnificent views.



Day 3

Departure 8:00

Today, fan is our daily goal. We drive to Shengjin and start our trek. On old settlement ground, we get to know the old farm life. Depending on the season, we will be able to watch the farmers sowing, planting, plowing, harvesting

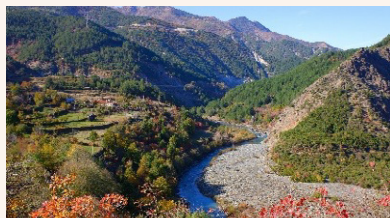
and fences. Visits to locals are on our program as well as exploring traces of the Bronze Age and the last remains of Anderfajt Castle. It is a mighty panoramic hiking trail around Kujt, Klos, Konaj that captivates us. Return to Marub in the evening.



Day 4

We travel a short distance by bus and change to 4WD cars in Munazë. The hidden Valley of Vele fascinates with small-structured farmland, which suffers from high emigration of the younger generation. On the new forest road, it goes up into the mountains of Vele with many hairpin bends. Albania's first school stood over

the ridge in historic Vele. We stop at a spot that lies like a green island in the rugged mountains. We have reached the mountain station. The heart place greets you above, the best place with a spectacular view for a souvenir photo. After a hearty lunchtime snack, we will enjoy the afternoon at the young reservoir.



Day 5

Departure 8:00

A long drive to the headwaters of the Great Fan is ahead of us. We drive through sparsely populated mountainous country on many curves to Gjegjan, Gojan, the main towns in the

narrow but fascinating Fan valley. In Shkoze we branch off and visit a small farmer's mill and the large sinter deposit, the mythical cave of the Zanen. We will have lunch with a friendly farmer's family. Then it's off to the small mining town of Fushe Arrez and on to Kryezi. After visiting the romantic, legend-laden waterfall, we check in at Makry Guesthouse.

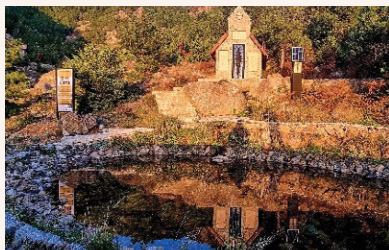


Day 6

Departure 7:30

We have a great and exhausting day ahead of us. After a long drive back we will have a drink at Cafe Çupi. Preparing to visit a place with a terrifying history. It is the Spaç mine, an oppressive former penal camp, and high-

security prison (opened in 1991) that is reminiscent of the terror of the Hoxha era. With two stops, the vehicles take us in steep curves on the canyon road to the former place of horror. We take our time and listen, look, feel. After a depressing tour, we drive on a narrow mountain road up to 950 m to Gurth Spaç. A completely different world opens up to us. The Natura Magica Spac Guesthouse welcomes us in a magnificent setting.



Day 7

Departure 8:00

On the lower level the horror and here an island of peace and quiet. Here at the foot of the great Munella Mountains with great biodiversity, with the last refuge of the Balkan lynx, Marianne Graf has deliberately set congenial counterpoints to

the madness on the lower slope and opened up the area for loving ecotourism. We use the day for a first-class discovery hike. The bell tower, lynx watchtower, medieval sheep pen, water mill and above all the place of power with the chapel built over a spring are places of healing and power to look positively into the future. In the special atmosphere of the Eco hotel we will spend the evening and the night.



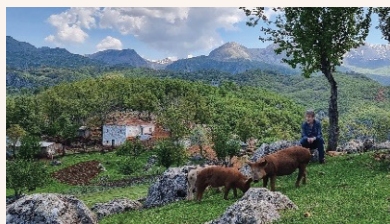
Day 8

Departure 7:30

We wind our way back down into the valley and head straight to Rrëshen and south to Urakë. From now on in 4x4 cars, we drive to Bruç. We will comfortably approach the caves of Shpella e Blazit, e Keputit, e Nezirit and e Valit on foot.

It is a prehistoric settlement area and unique in Albania in terms of the number and size of the former dwellings. We eat our lunchtime snack in front of a cave and then set out on the completely unknown, fairytale-like high plateau of Lufaj. Checked into the "Tranga Adventura", a traditional family fortified house, we immediately pay a visit to the new highlights for ecotourism, which have been sensitively adapted to the

landscape. We see the high-pressure water tank - a project to collect drinking water from a depth of 260 meters for the first time in 2022 after 3000 years of settlement history. We see the adventure children's playground, the refreshing cisterns, the cave with stalagmites, stalactites, including dragons. We look into dizzying depths and, accompanied by a shepherd, hike to the Maria Anna Chapel on the magical Place of Peace. By the fireplace or at the evening table we will either digest it all or already dream of a return.



Day 9

Departure 9:00

Last day. Saying goodbye to the thousand-year-old high pastures and to an extraordinary Guesthouse that we want to anchor firmly in our hearts. With a view of the sparkling ribbon of the Mat River, we descend deeper, rejoin the autobus and head to Rubik. In the Agro Center, we can support the hard-working people of Mirdita in their struggle for existence by buying wonderful handicraft products and agro products. After lunch snack return to Tirana.

A heartfelt
Mirupafshim to you all!



Full moon nights with the magic of the Illyrians

4 days tour:

When the moon completes its cycle, the full moon shines in all its glory in the sky and many people feel a special energy. You feel more emotional and creative. According to the latest scientific findings, the full moon should help to store energy in our body and to regenerate the body.

Where is there a better place to let the special celestial event have a better effect on you than on the place where human traces were found thousands of years before Christ. Where they performed cultic acts to beseech the moon for growth, fertility and love. We stop there on the fascinating high plateau above the river Mat. Now it's time to look back to throw off mental ballast and supplied with new strength, to look to the future with hope and to agree with Mahatma Gandhi:

"When I admire the wonder of a sunset or the beauty of the moon, my soul expands."

Marianne Graf

A 4-day excursion specially designed for nature lovers and romantics: the untouched landscapes, immersion in prehistory, visits to spectacular caves, visits to small farms, fantastic views of valleys and deep gorges make the days unforgettable.

This trip is for you if:

- You love hiking in nature.
- You are a lover of untouched landscapes.
- You can enjoy traditional dishes.
- You live in traditional guest rooms.
- You want to get in touch with the locals.
- You are a nature lover.
- You love the unspoilt life in the countryside.
- You want to immerse yourself in old times.
- You love the special.
- Minimum age of participants: 12 years
- Requirement: Endurance
- Participants: 10 to 20



Including

- Three nights' accommodation in double rooms
- All meals
- Entries
- Transport by bus and 4x4 cars
- English speaking guide
- Local guides

Exclusively

- International flight
- Drinks, tips, purchase of Mirdita produce and expenses of a personal nature



Program: Day 1

We will depart Tirana at 8:00 am and arrive in Rubik at around 9:30 am. In order to get a comprehensive impression of Mirdita and the entire north, we visit the INFOKULLA Mirdita with the Tourist Information Point and the Museum of the North. Here we get information

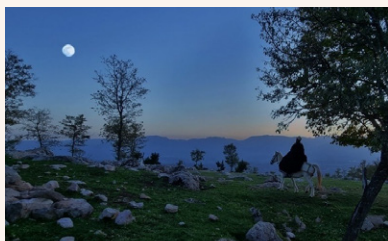
about mythology, history of the region, peasant life, peculiarities of the Mirdita ethno region, way of life and see valuable ethnological-historical exhibits. We visit the church "Kisha e Shëlbuemit" with frescoes in the apse from 1272 and the "Stone of Creation with the Life Bowl". We walk to the Culture House, where they serve us a snack. Afterwards we drive to the delightful valley of Katund i Vjeter and check in at the idyllically situated eco hotel Marub. After a short breather, we head east, switch to 4x4 cars and visit the remote Valley of Vele. On an adventurous forest road, we reach the Mountain Station. A visit to the Heartplace with a souvenir photo is an absolute must. As the sun sets behind the Vele mountains, we enjoy our moonlit dinner. Overnight stay in the eco hotel Marub.



Day 2

After taking a deep breath in the morning on the romantic creek bank and having breakfast, we drive at 9:00 a.m. into the interior of Mirdita, past the district town of Rreshen and the towns of Prosek and Perlat to Urake. Here we change

to 4x4 cars and drive to Bruc. Before us spreads out the ancient Illyrian settlement area with its ravines and plateaus. Now it's time to visit the caves Shpella e Blazit, e Keputit and Nezirit on an old mountain path that is very easy to walk on. The caves, which document settlement in the Bronze Age, are not only highlights for every speleologist, but also make the heart of every nature lover beat faster. After exploring Nezir's Cave, we settle into the forecourt for a snack. Freshly strengthened, we set off on the last part of the "cave trail" to the cave of Vale. For 6 km there and back we planned 4 hours. That should be enough to admire and enjoy the natural wonders of a special class. Back in Bruc we now go up to Lufaj. The guest kulla "Tranga Adventura", a traditional family fortified house, welcomes us and invites us to dinner and to spend the night.



Day 3

This day is entirely dedicated to the spectacular but unknown Lufaj plateau with the millennial high pastures. After breakfast, the gates open to us into a world that we thought we had already lost. On the way to the high-pressure water tank, past abandoned small farmsteads,

we meet shepherds and their flocks. Let us consider ourselves lucky when we meet domestic pigs on the way and goats eye us. At the adventure snack point, you can take a sip of raki back to happy childhood days. After a delicious traditional lunch, we explore some of the main attractions. We venture a look into the adventurous gorges and descend into the magical realm of the cave dragon, adorned with stalagmites and stalactites. Before dusk falls, the evening meal is served, made from the genuine local produce. After that, we are accompanied to Peace Square at dusk. Guided by a shepherd and a packhorse, we reach the unique Maria Anna chapel and let the full moon work its magic on us high above the river Mat in an unexpected calm. In silence, it goes back to the guest kulla.



Day 4

After breakfast at 9:00 a.m., the return journey begins. It will be difficult for us to leave the unique highlands, which cannot be found in this kind in the Balkans. The desire to stay in this place with its magic is great. But Rubik with his agro center calls and invites us to buy

handicrafts or agro products made by loving hands. After a lunchtime snack, head back to Tirana. And if the longing for Lufaj gets too much, let's visit it again!

Magical cult places - legend trail

8 days tour:

If you really want to get to know a country and its people, you must not be satisfied with just visiting cities, no matter how interesting they may be. Take opportunities like this to go to places few know to hear authentic things from the locals. To hear their story, to get to know their joys, sorrows, fears, moments of happiness, emotions. Look for landscapes in which nature has entered into a special emotional connection with people, so-called landscapes of the soul. For ages people have been visiting the magical places that give them strength and inspiration. Myths, legends and sagas have formed in all of the places that you need to hear and feel. Mirdita and its surroundings have many such areas with an Illyrian past, mysterious places of worship, primeval rock formations, the sight of which releases energies in your deepest inner being and makes your soul vibrate.

Marianne Graf

The journey takes you to special places with a unique charisma and magic that are still unknown. The journey designed for people who are looking for the extraordinary, not the flashy, but the magical.

You are on the way to paradisiacal secret places that not offered by any common tour operator. You hike up Bronze Age cult sites, roam over high pastures, marvel at deep gorges, experience deeply sad moments from the past and spend the night in small, family-run hotels and guesthouses. The close contact with the locals will make your trip unforgettable.

This trip is for you if:

- You feel drawn to places of power.
- You love hiking in nature.
- You want nature to tell captivating stories.
- You are a lover of untouched landscapes.
- You are looking for traditional dishes.
- You live in traditional guest rooms.
- You want to get in touch with the locals.
- You love the simple, unspoilt country life.
- You want to immerse yourself in old times.
- You love the special.
- Minimum age of participants: 12 years
- Requirement: Endurance
- Participants: 10 to 20

Including

- 7 nights' accommodation in double rooms
- All meals
- Entries
- Transport by bus and 4x4 cars
- English speaking guide
- Local guides

Exclusively

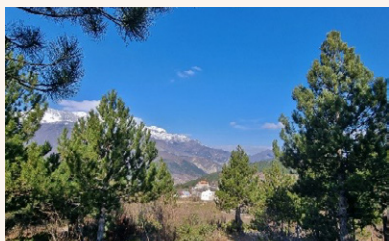
- International flight
- Drinks, tips, purchase of Mirdita produce and expenses of a personal nature



Program: Day 1

Tirana - Departure 8:00

We immediately visit the INFOKULLA Mirdita with the Tourist Infopoint and the Museum of the North to get a comprehensive impression of Mirdita and the entire north. Here we get information about mythology, history of the region, peasant life, peculiarities of the Mirdita ethnoregion and see valuable ethnological-historical exhibits. We visit the church on the steep cliff, whose apse with the frescoes from 1272 is the only religious sign in Mirdita that has survived the destruction mania of the dictatorship. We meditate on the stone of creation with a life bowl and hear about the goddess Robiko at this ancient cult site, who saved people from a plague in pre-Christian times. After a snack at Culture House we drive to the delightful valley of Katund i Vjeter and check in at the idyllically situated eco-hotel Marub. After a short breather, we slip on our hiking boots and climb up to Marianne Graf Point and the pictogram that keeps alive the memory of prehistoric settlement. A fantastic view of the Fan Valley and a delicious dinner in the Marub reward our day's efforts.



Day 2

Departure 8:00

After breakfast, we leave for Fan valley and drive to Shengjin. Here we begin a hike that takes us across small-scale farmland. On ancient settlement ground, we get to know traditional farm life. Traces can be traced

back to the Bronze Age, and in a wider area, the unique stone slab of Xhuxh with the enigmatic pictogram was found (currently in the museum in Tirana). Near the sparse remains of the Anderfajt Castle, we feel a special place of power. We go there, and after a local family offers us a snack. High species diversity and an impressive panoramic hiking trail around Kujt, Klos, Konaj make the day unforgettable. Return to Marub in the evening.



Day 3

Departure 7:30

Today the valley of the Great Fan is on the agenda. We drive to Geziq and enter the ancient soil of the Arber Principality, which appears as the first Albanian state in recorded history (1190-1216). We visit the Maje Malthi and

continue through sparsely populated mountain landscape to Gjegjan. On the right the Ambulanc Gojanit - it is one of the many projects of Marianne Graf, which provided valuable supply services during the time of the Kosovo war, when unimaginable masses of refugees came over the mountains. In Gojan we stop briefly and look at the meander of the Fan river and a rugged mountainside, where the material for ceramics is still mined by hand, which is produced in the oldest combustion technology in the world and unique in the Balkans. Before long, we will turn to the village of Shkoze and visit a small mill. We will have lunch with a friendly farmer's family. Then our Legends Trail begins at a special cult place: Shpella e Zanave. Here, in the narrow, mystical mountain landscape, we hear the proven miracle of the boy who was healed with the help of mountain fairies. In his descendant family, we had lunch! Now begins the 3 ½-hour hike through sparse forests, picturesque pastures, past shepherd shelters to the place of worship: the chestnut tree from Rrape, which is several hundred years old and is still visited by the fairies of the highlands. The bus is already waiting to take us to the small town of Fushe Arrez and on to Kryezi with the guesthouse Makry, where we can look forward to two social evenings.



Day 4

The day belongs entirely to Kryezi. We will get to know the village, visit mountain pastures with cattle sheds and a picturesque old settlement above the village. A special highlight is the next fascinating place of worship, the romantic, legendary waterfall of Kryezi. Here, in the

fresh forest air, we find the filling station for new energies. We leave burdens behind and listen to the wondrous legend of the water woman and the shepherd, while the mountain stream rushes into the natural stone basins. The evening is reserved for a glass of wine near the fireplace



Day 5

Departure 7:30

A busy day lies ahead of us. We head south again and turn left. In Reps we switch to four-wheel drive cars and let ourselves be taken to the most notorious place in Albania on a gravel road with many curves. The Spaç mine, at the

same time an oppressive former penal camp and mining prison, reminiscent of the terror of the Hoxha era. After a depressing tour, we drive on a narrow mountain road up to 950 m to Gurth Spaç. A completely different world opens up to us. The Natura Magica Spac Guesthouse welcomes us in a magnificent setting. The afternoon is used for a first-class discovery hike. The bell tower, lynx watchtower, medieval sheep pen, water mill and above all the place of power with the chapel built over a spring are counterpoints deliberately built by Marianne Graf to the madness of the mining prison on the lower slope. After all the experiences of today, we will spend the evening and the night in the special atmosphere of the eco hotel.



Day 6

Departure 8:00

It's time to say goodbye to this incomparable place. We drive back towards the district capital Rrëshen, turn left and reach Urake after 17 km. After switching to 4x4 cars, drive to Bruç and from there about 3km walk to the

caves Shpelle e Blazit, e Keputit, e Nezirit and I Valit, which were settlement areas for prehistoric cultures and are rare in number and size in the country. On the forecourt of the Neziri Cave, which served as a place of worship for people as early as the Neolithic Age, we strengthen our bodies and souls. We enjoy the time in this primeval environment filled with special energy vibrations. Back in Bruç, you now head through fascinating, constantly changing parts of the landscape to the high plateau of Lufaj. "Tranga Adventura", a traditional family fortified house, is our goal and will anchor itself in our hearts as an extraordinary guesthouse.



Day 7

We dedicate the entire day to the spectacular, unknown Lufaj plateau. After breakfast, we immerse ourselves in a world that you thought you had already lost. Small farmsteads, abandoned stone houses, old fruit trees and wooden fences line our way over thousand-

year-old high pastures. The local guides will proudly take us to the high-pressure water tank, because after 3000 years of settlement history, Lufaj got drinking water for the first time in 2022 from a complex pumping system from a depth of 260 meters. This will be toasted with raki at the adventure snack point. After a delicious traditional lunch, we visit the magical realm of stalagmites and stalactites where the cave dragon resides. In the late afternoon, we will hike to a unique magical place accompanied by a shepherd. The Square of Peace with the inspiring Maria Anna Chapel is a miniature paradise. We let our eyes wander from high mountains to the glittering ribbon of the river Mat deep below us. Full of special impressions we return to our hostel in absolute peace.



Day 8

Departure 9:00

We say goodbye to this highland that is unique in Albania and far beyond. The desire to stay in this place with its magic is great. But Rubik with his agro center calls and invites you to buy handicrafts or agro products made in

the regions we visited. After a lunchtime snack, return to Tirana and with that, an extraordinary journey ends.

May we stay healthy until we come back!

Hiking highlights in Mirdita

9 days tour

Three good reasons to choose this special hiking tour:

If you want to conquer the landscape of an unknown country, a region, you have to set off on foot.

To understand the soul of a country you have to immerse yourself in its culture, be close to the people and explore the simple in hidden regions.

Anyone who wants to regain their down-to-earthiness in these fast-moving times and do their soul good will take advantage of this offer.

Desired silence and breathtaking nature, rich biodiversity, spectacular views and warm encounters, thousand-year-old historical sites, fascinating rock formations and cave experiences are the mix of the unforgettable hiking week.

Marianne Graf

You can be sure that only a few tourists have left their mark on lonely mountain trails apart from shepherds and hunters. The network has not yet released comprehensive information about the routes.

This trip is for you if:

- You love hiking in untouched nature.
 - You love traditional dishes.
 - You live in traditional guest rooms.
 - You want to get in touch with the locals.
 - You appreciate high biodiversity.
 - You love the unspoilt life in the countryside.
 - You want to immerse yourself in old times.
 - You love the special and the surprising.
-
- Minimum age of participants: 14 years
 - Requirement: Enduring, sure-footed, demanding mountain hiking (no climbing)
 - Participants: 10 to 22



Including

- 8 nights' accommodation in double rooms
- All meals
- Entries
- Transport by bus and 4x4 cars
- English speaking guide
- Local guides

Exclusively

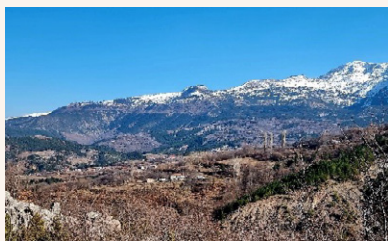
- International flight
- Drinks, tips, purchase of Mirdita produce and expenses of a personal nature



Program: Day 1

Tirana – Departure 8:00

Morning departure from Tirana and drive to Rubik. In order to find out the essentials for the hiking days and to be able to classify correctly, what is to come, we visit the INFOKULLA Mirdita with the tourist information point and the Museum of the North. Here we get information about mythology, history of the region, peasant life, peculiarities of the Mirdita ethnoregion and see valuable ethnological-historical exhibits. We visit the church on the steep rock, whose apse with the frescoes from 1272, as the only religious sign in Mirdita survived the “cultural revolution” in the dictatorship. We see the stone of creation with the shell of life and look at the fan valley, which only gains in width here. After a snack in the culture house, we drive along the washed-out streambed into the romantic valley of Katund i Vjeter and check in at the idyllically situated eco-hotel Marub. After a short breather, we slip into our hiking boots and climb up to the Marianne Graf Point and the Pictogram. A fantastic view of the Fan Valley and a delicious dinner in the Eco hotel Marub round off the first day. Walking time: 3 hours



Day 2

Departure 7:30

We set off into Fan Valley and drive to Shengjin. Now the hike begins, which takes us along an ancient path to an altitude of 950 m. Here the rock slab with the enigmatic pictogram from prehistoric times was found, which is now in

the National Museum in Tirana. Passing small farmhouses, we climb through sparse forests with black pines and firs to the cave of Batos. Karst formations and many pastures make the area special. What a high diversity of plants and insects can be found here! It is one of the great moments to eat lunch here on a summer pasture in front of a hut in the presence of a shepherd. With views of a mighty mountain scenery, we climb lower again and drive back to Marub.

Walking time: 6 hours

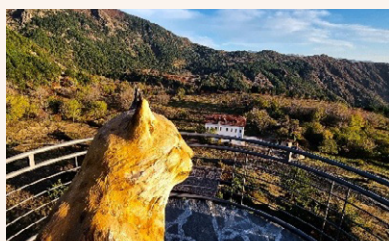


Day 3

Departure 8:30

Before breakfast, it is worth visiting the morning power station at the creek in front of the Marub with all the sounds of nature and only then enjoying breakfast. Today the hidden Valley of Vele is on the agenda. We get special impressions of the tedious farm work and notice visible signs of emigration due to unemployment. On the new forest road, there are many hairpin bends, always daring up to a special spot. When the trees give way to the bushes, the Mountain Station is in front of us. We have to reckon with an ascent of two hours to get to the top of the Vele Mountains and to be greeted by the pilgrimage destination Zoja e Veles, the Mother of God of Vele. The views we are offered are fantastic, from the lowlands around Lezha to the Adriatic Sea. On the way back we stop at Place of Heart and immortalize ourselves in spectacular photos. With a hearty Highland snack, we get our used strength back and enjoy the fragrant air and the peace until the cars take us back to Marub.

Walking time: 4 hours



Day 4

Departure 8:00

A special day lies ahead of us. In the morning, we let ourselves be taken to the most notorious place in Albania on a gravel road with many curves. It is the Spaç mine, at once an oppressive former penal camp and mining prison, reminiscent of the terror of the Hoxha era. After a depressing tour, we drive on a narrow mountain road up to 950 m to Gurth Spaç. A completely different world opens up to us. The Natura Magica Spaç Guesthouse welcomes us in a magnificent setting. The afternoon is used for a first-class discovery hike. Bell tower, lynx watchtower, medieval sheep pen, water mill and above all the place of power with the

chapel built over a spring are counterpoints deliberately built by Marianne Graf to the madness of the mining prison on the lower slope. Dinner and overnight stay in the special atmosphere of the eco hotel.

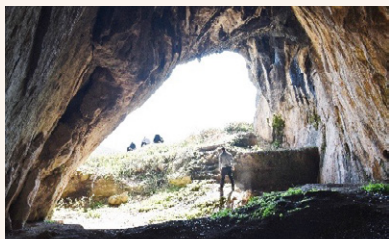


Day 5

Today's destination is the last refuge of the Balkan lynx, the mountain range of the Munella. Through beech forests, past simple alpine huts, over magnificent high pastures and rock formations that inspire respect, we reach the summit of the Munella (1991 m) with

a magnificent view. Exploring the strongly structured landscape with its enormous biodiversity is a matter of course, as is a snack with the shepherds. Overnight at the "Natura Magica Spaç."

Walking time: 7-8 hours



Day 6

Departure 7:30

Today it goes into the mountains on the southern border of Mirdita to Urake. From Bruç you have to visit the caves of Shpella e Blazit, e Keputes, e Nezirit and e Valit on a little-used path. The caves, which were already

a settlement area in the Neolithic Age, are not only highlights for every speleologist and archaeologist, but also inspire every nature lover. We take our time to admire and enjoy the natural wonders of a special class. Afterwards it goes to the height of Lufaj. The Guesthouse "Tranga Adventura", a traditional family fortified house, a so-called Kulla, knows how to score with the charm of bygone times and the warmth of the residents. Dinner and overnight stay promise to be unique.

Walking time: 3-4 hours



Day 7

A day in a world believed lost, on the spectacular, unknown Lufaj plateau lies ahead of us. A canyon adventure, hiking through thousand-year-old high pastures, visiting small farmsteads, always accompanied by local guides await us. It's also the guides

who proudly take us to the high-pressure water tank, because after 3000 years of settlement history, Lufaj got drinking water for the first time in 2022 from a complex pumping system from a depth of 260 meters. After a delicious traditional lunch, we visit the magical realm of stalagmites and stalactites where the cave dragon resides. In the late afternoon, we hike to a unique magical place. The Square of Peace with the inspiring Maria Anna Chapel is a miniature paradise and there is a special magic in the landscape when the silver ribbon of the Mat River greets you from the depths while the sun disappears behind the mountains.

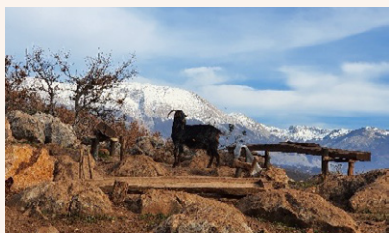


Day 8

After breakfast in the morning, we set out on an impressive climb.

We climb from Lufaj e Poshtme on the edge of the Trangë high plateau to Lufaj e Sipërme over soft grass mats, past old partly collapsing stone houses. Fairytale karst formations line

our way. Arriving on the mountain of Trangë, a very special natural site presented to us. If the visibility permits, you can see all of Albania's mountains from here in a 360° panoramic view. We stand there and marvel, returning to the special guesthouse with the overwhelming impressions.



Day 9

Departure 9:00

It is time to say goodbye to this highland that is unique in Albania and far beyond. The desire to stay in this place with its magic is great. But Rubik with his agro center calls and invites you to buy handicrafts or agro products made in the regions we visited. After a lunchtime snack, we return to Tirana and an extraordinary journey ends!



Come as a tourist and leave as a friend

7 days tours

6 people

Albanian life in direct contact with 2 northern Albanian families - unaffected, warm, autochthonous

"If the aim is to get to know the landscape, culture, living tradition, people, traditional food and drink, and to do so up close, then staying with farming families is the perfect form of an active holiday. Far away from tourism, contacts with the locals are not exotic experiences, but experiences with heart and soul. And even if the hosts cannot speak the guest's language perfectly, everyone can be sure that communication will work with just a few words, because the heart speaks."

Marianne Graf

If you are looking to broaden your horizons with family members, friends or partners, then this offer tailored to you. Come as curious tourists and leave as trusted friends!

This trip is for you if:

- You would like to have close contact with people from the host country.
- You love traditional dishes.
- You would like to have close-to-nature experiences on the small farms.
- You want to look over the hostess' shoulder while she is cooking.
- You love to be away from the hustle and bustle and away from tourism.
- You love the unspoilt life in the countryside.
- You love originality and regionality.
- You love the special and the surprising.

Including

- 3 nights in double rooms
- 3 nights in a 6-bed room with hut character
- All meals
- Entries
- Transports with English speaking driver

Exclusively

- International flight
- Drinks, tips, purchase of Mirdita produce and expenses of a personal nature

It is recommended to bring sturdy shoes with you!



Day 1

Meeting point in Infokulla Mirdita in Rubik.

In order to get in the mood for the coming days, it is important to find out the essentials about the country and its people. The information from the tourist information point and the visit to the museum from the north used for this purpose. Here you can get information about

mythology, history of the region, peasant life, peculiarities of the Mirdita ethnoregion, way of life and see valuable ethnological-historical exhibits.

Now a farming village in the north beckons. The taxi picks us up, drives to Rreshen and turn left. From there it goes on a lonely mountain road, past sparse settlement to Gjegjan - Gojan and on to Shkoze. At the Lika Guesthouse, they expect us.



Day 2

Here we can find everything we are looking for in farmland. A small stable with animals, a small farmer's mill where we grind the corn for corn dishes ourselves and grandmother, who introduces us to various jobs, from baking fli to spinning wool with a hand spindle. We rely on the advice of the Lika family. She tailors the program to us so that we can fully enjoy the untouched nature and the magical place.



Day 3

If the season allows, they take us into the mountain forest to pick all sorts of wild berries and mushrooms. Visiting shepherds and cattle farmers is also part of the program, as is meditating in the old, magical fairy cave. If you have stamina, climb higher and enjoy the intoxicating views. After returning from the mountains we enjoy the great traditional food again.



Day 4

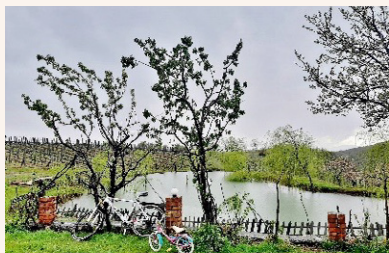
Departure 9 am

Although we would like to stay, the route taxi picks us up at 9am. It targets the south of the Mirdita region. We stop at special places in the fascinating Fan Valley, reach Rreshen, the capital of the district Mirdita and after about 15 km we reach Malaj. We arrive at the Doda Guest House.



Day 5

In the midst of the gently rolling hills, it is a real insider tip for tranquility - own vineyards, vegetable garden, wine press, a fishpond that is a good service in summer. We are invited to harvest and process vegetables. The meals with own products leave nothing to be desired.



Day 6

With breakfast we will be well taken care of for the day. Hikes to some key points, from where we have a 360° view of the area, fill the morning. After a delicious lunch, we rest in the shade of the fruit trees or behind the old, lovingly renovated stone kulla. If you like, you will find enough space for volleyball or football

or secure the inflatable boat to swing in front of the house. In the evening, a walk to the church calms you down and the house wine promises a good night's sleep.



Day 7

Departure 8 am

The last day has dawned. I am sure that we can fully agree with the title of this trip: "Come as a tourist and leave as a friend!" We found places where we were able to perceive the really big in the small and simple with all our senses.

Strengthened internally, we drive back to Rubik and let the agro center show us lovingly made handicrafts and agro products to take home with us as a souvenir of a special time. After a snack, we climb into the cars and roll towards hectic Tirana. How impressed we were by the rediscovery of the unaffected!

Thank you
for this touching experience!





Come as a tourist
and leave as a friend



Infokulla Mirdita

+355 68 200 97 97

www.hikingmirdita.com

infokulla.mirdite@gmail.com

Ruga e Kombit (E851) Km. 19/VI

4603 Rubik-Albania

