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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

ALBANIA

En el corazón del Mediterráneo, en el mar Adriático y el Mar Jónico, Albania se está convirtiendo en una de las escapadas más interesantes del mundo. Aun relativamente intacta por la globalización, los turistas disfrutarán de una mezcla inspiradora de las civilizaciones y culturas - haciendo este país europeo verdaderamente único.

El hogar de la Madre Teresa, Albania hoy ofrece no sólo vacaciones en la playa y en la montaña y una vibrante vida urbana y una cultura relajante de las cafeterías al aire libre sino también algo cada vez más raro en Europa en estos días - una mirada a una cultura enteramente suya. Criada en una dieta de separación y sufrimiento, Albania es distintivamente albanesa.

No sólo un lugar exclusivo para los aventureros, Albania es un país cálido y sinceramente hospitalario - con suficientes aristas para que siga siendo interesante.

MACEDONIA

En el corazón de los Balcanes y cercada de tierra, la República de Macedonia es uno de los países más jóvenes y más pequeños de Europa, pero al mismo tiempo es una de las naciones más antiguas. La montañosa Macedonia todavía tiene un aire de misterio. Mismo tiempo antiguo y nuevo está luchando por encontrar su lugar en el mundo post-comunista. Monjes ortodoxos vestidos en negro son tan parte de esta renovación como las hordas de adolescentes ataviados a la última moda italiana tomando café en los bares elegantes de la capital.

Para los amantes del aire libre Macedonia es un paraíso. Sus extensiones salvajes dan muchas oportunidades a los excursionistas, alpinistas y esquiadores. Mientras tanto, ruinas y monasterios antiguos fascinarán a quien tenga un poquito de interés por la historia. En resumen, en un lugar pequeño cada uno puede encontrar algo para sus gustos.

A parte de los picos, lagos y ríos espectaculares de Macedonia, es la hospitalidad de la gente de esta nación eslava más meridional lo que hará su visita inolvidable.



SUGGESTED ITINERARY

DAY 1

Arrival to Tirana airport
Meet and greet at the airport and transfer to a hotel (20km)
Check-in
Free for dinner
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
A visit of Tirana
Free for lunch
Afternoon free at leisure
Free for dinner
Overnight in Tirana

DAY 3

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out
Drive to Kruja (36km) for a visit
Free for lunch
Continue to Shkodra (86km)
Free for dinner
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
Free for lunch
Afternoon free at leisure
Free for dinner
Overnight in Shkodra

DAY 5

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out
Drive to Pristina (234km) via Prizren and Djakovo, birth places of Mother Teresa parents
Sightseeing tour of Prizren
Free for lunch
Continue to Djakovica (81km) and visit Dechani monastery (88km)
Drive to Pristine
Check-in to a hotel
Free for dinner
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 Theater, 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
Free for lunch
In the afternoon drive to Skopje (85km)
Check-in to a hotel
Free for dinner
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 Skopje
Free for lunch
An afternoon visit of Skopje's surrounding monasteries
Free for dinner
Overnight in Skopje

DAY 8

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out
Transfer to Skopje airport (10km) for your return flight

SERVICES

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

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.

OTHER:

Organization of the tour and VAT

SERVICES EXCLUDED:

- Services not mentioned in the program
- Meals unless where specified
- Porterage
- Tips