








Welcome *to* Paradise Durrës, Albania

Adriatik Hotel



Beachfront Luxury Resort

The iconic Albanian Hotel Adriatik, overlooking Adriatic sea, is located in the city of Durrës only 25 minutes drive from Tirana International Airport. The Historic Five Star Luxury Resort, totally renovated and refurbished in 2017, is open all year round. Experience the world class quality service & Albanian hospitality in our Beachfront Resort. You can book online on our official website the best rates and enjoy the benefits at: www.adriatikhotel.com

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TRAVEL 2 ALBANIA MAGAZINE



ADRIATIK TOURS LLC

ADRIATIK TOURS LLC

Travel 2 Albania Magazine

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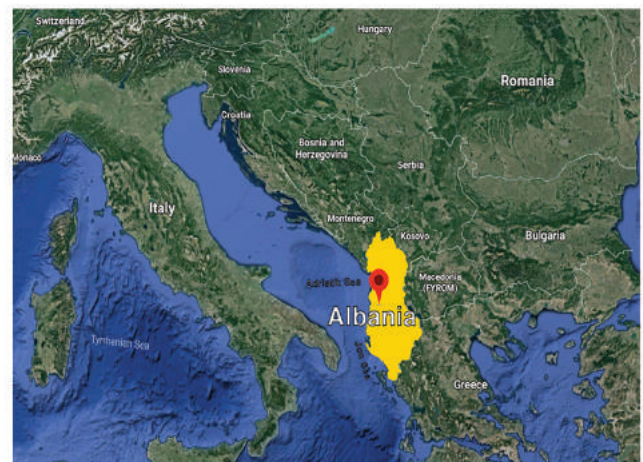
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Sokol Molla

(Captured in front of Adriatik Hotel

Durres, Albania)



FACTS ABOUT ALBANIA

Where Is Albania Located?

Albania is a European country located in the western part of the Balkan Peninsula. In Albanian the country is called Shqipëria which means “ the land of eagles ”.Albania is bordered to the northwest by Kosovo and Montenegro,to the east by the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, to the south by Greece,and to the west by the Adriatic Sea and Italy.Tirane is the capital of Albania with an estimated population in 2018 of 421,000 inhabitants.

Other major cities are: Durrës, the port and the second largest city, population 113,000. Elbasan, the agricultural center, Population 78,000.The ancient city of Shkodër, population 95,000 and the port of Vlorë.Albania is one of the smallest countries in Europe. It stretches 345 km from north to south and 145 km from west to east. Its total area is 11,100 square miles. The relief of Albania is mountainous with peaks between 2,100 and 2,600 m. To the north, in the Albanian Alps, forming the southern limit of the Alps, stands the highest point in the country, Mount Korab (2,764 m). In the center and in the south of the country, the mountains are interspersed with high plateaus and basins. You will find pristine, sandy and rocky beaches, in over 300 miles of coastline, while sharing the Adriatic Sea with Italy and the Ionian Sea with Greece.Most of the rivers flow from east to west towards the Adriatic Sea. The most important of them Drin, Shkumbin and Mat, have wide valleys.The three big lakes of the country are Shkodër in the northwest, Ohrid and Prêspa in the east, span the borders.

Major airlines connect TIA Tirana's International Airport Mother Theresa with the rest of the world:

Alitalia through Rome is only 1 hour and 20 minutes flight time.Turkish Airlines through Istanbul is 1 hour and 15 minutes flight time.

British Airways through London is 3 hours flight time. Lufthansa through Munich is 1 hour and 30 minutes flight time.Austrian Airways from Vienna is a 1 hour flight.

Air Serbia through Belgrade is just a 1 hour flight.

Adria Airways through Ljubljana is 1 hour flight time. Transavia connect Tirana and Paris in 1 hour and 50 minutes time.Aegean Air through Athens is 1 hour 10 minutes flight time.Other low cost airlines , connect Tirana to other European cities, like Norwegian, Eurowings, Blue Express, Ernest Fly, Isair, Albawings, Pegasus, Small Planet Airlines, TUI, etc..

email: gm@adriatictours.com



.Nevila Dudaj
General Manager & Founder
Adriatic Tours, LLC

An expert in hospitality and a passionate world traveler, born and raised in Tirana, Albania.

It's a great honor as the Founder & Manager of Adriatic Tours LLC, the only Tour Operator representing Albania in the U.S from September 2017, introducing you to my beautiful home country, Albania. This second issue of Travel2Albania Magazine will show you more about Albania, the American tourists, bloggers and celebrities , who visited our country in 2018, and our successful tour Agency achievements within our first year of operations.Me and my ambitious team, are proudly promoting Albania as a new and attractive destination, as the only Destination Management Company for Albania, in the U.S & Canada. This magazine will continue our mission to further inform and PR about our country in 2019. Enjoy your reading .



Nevila Dudaj
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CEO and Founder of Adriatic Tours LLC
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Anthony Melchiorri

 Adriatik Tours LLC

 @travel2albania

A 3,000 years old country to discover in the Mediterranean

- We are the only Tour Operator for Albania in North America.
- Custom made packages for individuals, small & large groups, MICE, specially designed tours, Adventures, Archeology, Food tours with 4 to 5 Star luxury accomodation at incredible prices.
 - Commission based packages for all travel agents.
- We design & deliver combined tours of Kosovo, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Italy & Greece.
 - Albania is a Visa free country for US citizens.



American Hospitality Expert

Anthony

Melchiorri



Albania
*A big surprise
for me*

Interviewed by Flora Xhemani Baba



The day that my phone rang, I was so much impressed, when I found out that in two days a personality of the Tourism and Hospitality was coming to Albania to pay a short visit. It was as such a wonderful surprise to hear that Anthony Melchiorri was interested to hear about Albania, and not only, but to visit the country as well. With a special invitation from Mrs. Nevila Dudaj, the CEO of Adriatik Tours LLC, a Tour Company based in United States of America, representing the international sales office of Adriatik Hotel as well, Anthony committed to a Consultancy and PR agreement with Adriatik Tours LLC. He committed to assist and offer his consultancy services to Adriatik Tours, to Market and PR Albania, as a new destination in the United States.

For that specific reason he had to visit the country first and proceed afterwards. Being one of the most famous TV personalities, the host and creator of Extreme Hotels & Hotel Impossible on Travel Channel with more than 20 years' of experience in the hospitality industry,



Anthony Melchiorri

Hospitality Expert

President and Founder of Argeo Hospitality / Exec Producer and Host Hotelier ecor-nell.com Founder of Hotel Impossible, Extreme Hotels Creator of "Five Star Secrets" on the Travel Channel www.anthonymelchiorri.com

Anthony Melchiorri was impressed of what he found in Albania. He spent three lovely days in Albania jammed packed with people and meetings, but he experienced the most particular hospitality, after all the countries and hotels he has visited during his life. He was kind and friendly to everyone, he did compliment my job, our Albania Travel Magazine, and he appreciated the fact that I went at Adriatik Hotel, just to have an interview with him. This experience for me was incredible... Albania was the cherry on top, the most impressing surprise for him, because of the great potential, because of the people, because of the natural beauties, historic value and tradition. A whole new experience to discover. Cheaper than our neighbors and more intriguing. While celebrating Albanian Night in the terrace in front of the sea, with Albanian traditional music and dance he expressed his admiration about the hospitality of Albanian people, which he found out to be the spirit of Adriatik Hotel as well as of all Albania in general.

More particularly, giving a short testimonial he was showing his reasons for visiting: "I came to the Adriatik Hotel to experience the beauty and luxury of this Historic hotel and to meet a lot of friends and Yes... I will highly recommend the Hotel. I didn't know what to expect where I got here, I didn't know what to expect about Albania, but the food, the people, the hotel, it's beyond the words. I say it all the time, it's not what you say, it's how you make people feel, it is the spirit that makes you special. Not only Albania but the resort... And Yes I will return back, I'm going to return..."



Adriatik Hotel

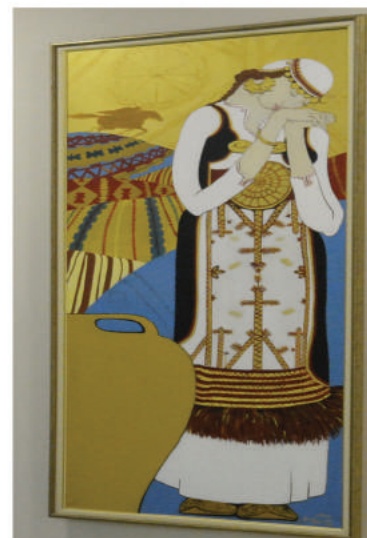


Beachfront Luxury Resort

Imagine for a moment that you've just come to Albania for a while and you are not able to visit it, even for a short tour, somewhere in the city, near the hotel you're staying. Let's assume that your work is the reason that brought you to stay at the Adriatik Hotel, in the coastline of Durrës. Your short time does not promise you a touristic visit and tours of different sites and cities in Albania.

Albanian national identity

If we tell you that the halls of the hotel have the features of a museum, we would not exaggerate at all. Dozens of objects of various jewels of art and handicrafts have decorated the walls and windows of the hotel, conveying an overview of the Albanian national identity, through which many aspects of Albania's culture can be recognized. Handmade handicrafts, original paintings, old photographs from Albanian history, artwork scattered around the corner, national costumes from various parts of Albania give you enough time to get a little of our tradition and cultural identity, as if you were really in a museum, even with a guide.



A cultural tour inside the hotel

Do you know that such a tour can also be done in the Adriatik hotel? Being a tourist attraction as one of the oldest hotels in Albania, 62 years old, thanks to the management and the professional staff, makes this hotel unique in its kind, and you can consider this hotel as a little Albania. If you can't visit the tourist spots of Albania, you can visit them in every hotel room at Adriatik Hotel, as they are decorated with the most beautiful tourist sites in Albania. You can be sleeping at the edge of the Rozafa Fortress, beneath the beautiful and white windows of Berat, under the columns of Apollonia, between the magic of Butrint or near the Durrës Beauty Collection, images that have worn the walls of the rooms, instead of ordinary wall paper. Even a guide can accompany you to each room and convey the Albanian beauties with the right information. Here's where you can make a virtual cultural tour.



Albanian Culinary

At this point, Adriatik Hotel is unique. In a five star standard hotel but that reaches the best of the traditional cuisine, the culinary staff carefully prepares each recipe for it to have the most distinctive features and come from a certain province of Albania, conveying through the recipe the culinary culture of the country. Modernity is not necessarily expressed through modern cuisine, it can be beautifully passed through elegant decoration but preserving the tradition and Adriatik especially the taste of the served food. Thus, since the bread made of grain grown naturally in Albanian lands, up to the dairy and other organic food, comes to the restaurant through farmers and small growers from all parts of Albania, giving you the opportunity that through a menu with some lanes, enjoy a culinary tour through the provinces of Albania.



Yoga and Wellness at Adriatik Hotel

Albania is developing these services during the recent years, and are linked to health and aesthetics. Thermal waters, offer soothing cure and would have been a great way to fill a day of your journey. But even at this point, the whole wellness treatments and yoga packages, offered by the Adriatik hotel with personalized SPA services, ranging from massages, to various salt and mineral treatments, can come to your aid. Not bad, right?

Magical Sea View


Where else can you enjoy the most stunning scenery than at the verandas and balconies of Adriatik Hotel? Its seafront location gives you the opportunity to enjoy it at any moment of the day and with all the spectacular views of the sunset. Seaside walks along the shore, especially off-season, the fresh air, are a wonderful cure for your mind and body that will add value to your enjoyment. If you love to take pictures, you can be sure to experience the most beautiful and different sunsets everyday.



**Did you enjoy exploring a little
Albania inside Adriatik Hotel ?**

See you soon in Durres at Adriatik Hotel :

www.adriatikhotel.com

 **Rruga Pavaresia, Plazh Durres, Albania**



Highlights





of Albania





Albania has something for almost everyone. Lovers of the outdoors will be happy to explore every part of the country. Those who are interested in archaeology and history will find Albania full of delights. In the southwest part of the country, the ancient city of Butrint, already draws hundreds of thousands of visitors every year. No visit to southern Albania would be complete without the ancient cities of Gjirokastra, Berati and Apollonia, with their hilltop castles and unique architectures. In the north, the castles of Shkodra and Kruja embody centuries of history, one laying upon another. Lovers of medieval art should visit the icon collections in Berati and Tirana; the whole of central and southern Albania is full of half-forgotten churches with magnificent frescoes. You may have heard of the Albanian Riviera and beaches with traditional villages nestled in isolated bays and golden beaches lapped by turquoise waters. It was a revelation when travelers first started discovering the country a decade ago. Since then, Europe's last untouched beaches have changed almost beyond recognition, but there's still plenty of reason to come here and explore this magnificent coastline where the Adriatic and Ionian seas meet to each other. Adriatik Tours LLC job is to provide the best of its customers by staying flexible to the clients' requirements. We guarantee you the cheapest packages such as Cultural Customized Tours for individuals, Food Tours, Archaeological Tours,

Honeymoon vacation packages to celebrate your wedding in Albania, Castle Tours, ect. We can create tour packages according to their demand. On our tour packages you can change the itinerary or choose between the different choices of tours, (each day itinerary) we are flexible, if you let us know in advance by sending an email: gm@adriatiktous.com

The Driver and Guide will be happy to stop anywhere you will tell them to have a rest, in case you want to relax, have drinks, or take pictures. They are very flexible.



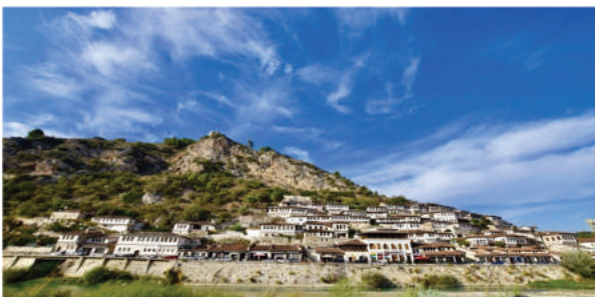
KACH MEDINA OCTOBER 25, 2018

Hello from my 120th country, Albania! This marks the end of my 2-month European Trip and all I can say is this is such an amazing country to visit! Albania isn't a very popular tourist destination compared to other European Countries so I wasn't expecting much. Aside from the grand plan to visit every country in the world, the reason why I chose Albania is to just relax and take a City break.

Well, this supposed City break turned out to be one of the best days of my trip. Adriatik Hotel in Duress made sure that I completely enjoy my stay and relax by hosting me in one of their best rooms! As if it's not enough, Adriatik Tours LLC showed me around with a private car and a private tour guide. I am so spoiled here! Hahaha. Anyway, with or without these blogging perks, I absolutely loved Albania and I'd be back one day!

For now, I'll give you 10 Reasons Why Albania Should Be On Your Destination Bucketlist This 2019.

1) It's an active destination- When you travel a lot in European Cities, there will come to a point that you'll feel like it's all the same— beautiful architecture, huge castles, good food, century-old churches, lots of quaint cafes and restaurants, and of course— thousands of tourists (yourself included) trying to get the perfect Instagrammable photo. Albania is an amazing country to do something different in Europe. You can go rafting, swimming, sailing, hiking, and what not! It's a totally good country to take a break from the City.



Travel Blogger Featuring US



2) Its historic!— The Town of Berat is a designated UNESCO World Heritage Town since 2018 and it's not hard to see why. It's a town surrounded by mountains and hills where the past and the present blend harmoniously. I went here with Adriatik Tours where we started from the Medieval Town next to the Mangalemi Neighborhood and the Old Bazaar by the river. We then headed to the Fortress dating back to the 4th Century BC and is located on top of the hill overlooking the Osumi River. This town is just so beautiful. The Onufry's Gallery is a must visit! The Ancient City of Dures, just less than an hour from the capital of Albania (Tirana) is also very interesting. In the Old Town, you'll get to see the ruins of the Town Forum, Roman baths, City center, Townhall, Roman Amphitheater, Byzantine walls, Venetian tower and an Archaeological museum with a panoramic display of discoveries and urban planning of the city.



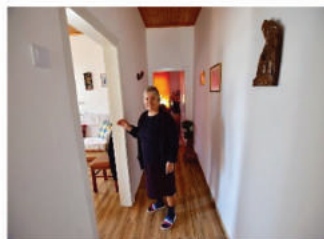


3) They have beautiful beaches- Whether you want to swim, snorkel, simply feel the sand between your toes or all of the above, you can get this wherever you might find yourself in Albania. The most famous are the Dhermi Beach in Dhermi, the Livadhi Beach in Himare, the Pulebardah Beach in Seranda, and the Borsh Beach in Borsh.

4) It is cheap compared to other European Countries- We all know that Europe is expensive but Albania is a lot cheaper compared to other European Countries. As per Numbeo, a full meal at an inexpensive restaurant is around 4.78 Euros, a pint of draught beer at 1.20 Euros, and a one-way ticket for a local transport is at 0.32 Euros. Everything stated here could be twice or thrice as much in other parts of Europe.

5) It is still raw- Compared to other countries in the Balkans, this country is still raw and untouched by any effects of tourists coming in. You went get a thousand tourists with you as you look through the galleries in the museum or as you relax by the beach, you won't get the rip-off tourist prices in car rentals, you won't be charged exorbitant admission fees wherever you go, and most of all, you'd get the chance to experience things as it is. So visit ASAP while it's still like this. Things will never be the same again once tourists come flocking in!

6) The locals are very friendly and nice- Out of all the countries I've visited in Europe, Albanian people to me are the warmest and the most sincere. Unlike people in some European Countries who are always on the rush to go on and about their everyday lives, Albanians always give me a shy smile or a quick wave.



Sometimes, they would even say hi and attempt to start a conversation (yes they do try to speak in English especially the younger generations). This is where I feel 'most welcomed' in Europe, really!

7) Their local cuisine is worth traveling for- If there's love at first sight, there's also love at first bite and that's what I experienced in Albania. Adriatik Tours took me to the best restaurants around serving authentic Albanian Cuisine and the moment I tasted it, I know it was made out of the best meat and fish and the freshest ingredients.

Here are some that made it on my 'Eat List':
A. Restaurant Muzakajt in Berat where you have to try their Stuffed Peppers, Spinach Pie, Homemade Wine, and different Local Dishes and the Village of Fishta near taste some extraordinary traditional Albanian food prepared in a modern way.

The chef here uses the freshest seasonal products from his garden to create some culinary masterpieces such as the Jufka with Mushrooms and Fermented Cream and Yogurt Pies made with Local Berries, among many others. If you're not a fan of their local food, worry not as International Restaurants are all over the place especially in Tirana.

8) Agriculture is their thing- Vegetarians and foodies, rejoice! Albania is home to one of the freshest vegetables in fruits in Europe simply because it's their thing. I told you about the Love at First Bite that I've experienced here and aside from the culinary skills of everyone in the kitchen, I have to say that it's because of this as well. All their cuisine is infused with the taste of the freshest tomatoes, onions, and garlic and that alone took the food quality to an entirely different level. What more if they add the freshest lime, ginger, potatoes, and lettuce? YUM

9) It is SAFE- Personally, I never had any bad experience with the people here in Albania. I felt safe wherever we went and the locals have been really nice! Compared to other European Countries where pickpockets are always on the move, Albania has just a few cases of this. However, the rate has been increasing over the past 5 years so I still suggest you still take the necessary precautions.



10) It's easy to get to places and other countries from here- Aside from having their own airport called the Tirana Airport, they also share a border with Montenegro, Kosovo, Macedonia, and Greece. These countries are easily accessible by car, bus, or train.

WHERE I STAYED

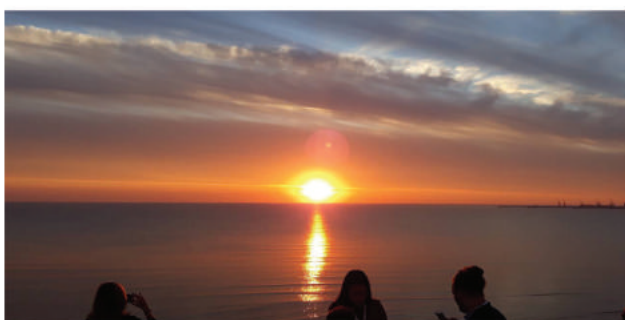
in

DURRES, ALBANIA

Less than one hour away from Tirana is this town called Durres where a lot of beaches are. This is the last 4 nights of my trip around Europe and surely, Adriatik Hotel made it memorable by providing me with an Executive King Room where there is a seating area, a desk, a TV, a phone and a mini-bar aside from all the nice things you'll find in a nice hotel like comfortable bed, a nice toilet, and bath complete with bathrobes, toiletries, and fresh towels. You can also book it directly on their website. I have a huge Balcony complemented with sea view and my own Jacuzzi! The blue and white interior as well as the floor to ceiling window on the living area surely infused the room with all the relaxing and refreshing coastal vibe which reminds me of our sailing days in the Florida Keys. The balcony is huge and it looked like a porch to me where 2 sunbeds are ready to take all the stress away. The staff is amazing and

professional. They honestly set the bar high to the word hospitality. I absolutely loved my stay! They also provided me with 3 tours with a Private Car, Private Driver, and a Private Tour Guide care of their Tour Company, Adriatik Tours.

Adriatik Hotel is 5-star Luxury Hotel which was totally refurbished and renovated last April 2017. It used to cater only to Diplomats, Head of States, Chairs from all over the world when it was constructed in 1957 so I felt like a real VIP when I was here haha. They take pride in offering impeccable and professional service, their newly renovated rooms, the best view of the Albanian Coast, and the largest outdoor pool in the coast. Overall, this hotel is notably worthy of my recommendation.



MASTERCLASS IN ALBANIA ON APRIL 20, 2019 SPECIAL GUEST AT ADRIATIK HOTEL:

Vjosa Pacuku

Vjosa Pacuku is a New York-based makeup artist and beauty influencer.

Born and raised in Kosovo, she moved to the US at the age of 14. Self-taught, Vjosa landed her first professional artistry job at MAC Cosmetics by the age of 18.

After working for MAC for 5 years in LA, she freelanced full time, which led to a repertoire in the male grooming space that includes prolific rappers like Nas, Common and Snoop Dogg.

After building her portfolio in LA, Vjosa moved back to NY and partnered with renowned photographer Fadil Berisha. Vjosa specializes in soft yet dramatic red-carpet looks, with impeccable complexion always being the focus.

With over a decade in the beauty industry, she launched her own eyelash brand, Duart Beauty, in July of 2018.

Vjosa has an over 80K following on Instagram (@vjosamua), as a result of her dedication to creating influential beauty content that's both trendsetting and exclusive to her skillset.

She teaches Makeup Master Classes both across the country and on her youtube channel <http://Youtube.com/c/vjosamua>.

As a heavy-hitter in the social media space, Vjosa consistently partners with the industry's top beauty brands.

She recently filmed content for Maybelline's Youtube channel and has taught Master Classes for ULTA and Kiehl's.

She has also created content for industry leaders Smashbox Cosmetics, Foreo, and Gerard Cosmetics. She is currently the key makeup artist for the renowned hair company "Color Wow Hair"

INSTAGRAM PROFILE

@DUARTBEAUTY

@VJOSAMUA



The poster features a blue background. At the top, a white rounded rectangle contains the text '@ADRIATIKHOTEL' in orange and yellow. Below this, a white box contains the text 'VJOSAMUA MAKEUP MASTERCLASS' in black. In the center is a portrait of Vjosa Pacuku with her hair pulled back and light makeup. Below the portrait, the word 'ALBANIA' is written in black. At the bottom left, it says 'Adriatik Hotel Durrës' and 'vjosaxalbania.eventbrite.com'. At the bottom right, it says 'April 20, 2019 12-4'. At the very bottom, the Instagram handle '@vjosamua' is written in white.



**YOU CAN BOOK YOUR TICKETS AND YOUR STAY WITH 10% DISCOUNT USING THE CODE
"VJOSA" AT WWW.ADRIATIKHOTEL.COM**

My name is Mario...

& I am the tour Guide of Adriatik Tours in Albania, running the Tour office at Adriatik Hotel's Lobby with Katerina & Marsi.

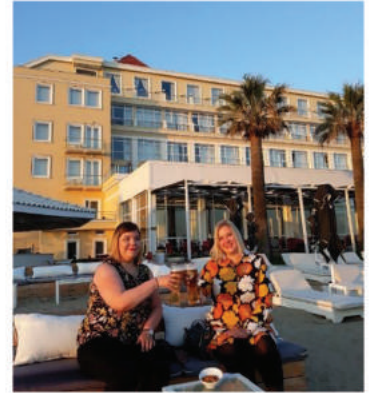
- We love meeting people from different countries, show them the most beautiful places in Albania and design for them customized tours on request.
- We organize any tour that matches your interests.
- We are passionate about our job and the fact that we can introduce our country to visitors who want to experience, discover and learn more about Albania. Making sure that every visitor will enjoy their experience to the fullest, our top rated topics include history, art, local life, gastronomy, modern architecture, while discovering the extraordinary hidden paths of our fascinating Albania. Staying at Adriatik Hotel you can join us for an unforgettable tour of Albania.



- We will show you the hidden spots that only the local Albanians know. Starting from your pick-up once arrived in Albania, stay in our hotel, further on your way to explore each destination, until the time that you go back to the airport. We can assist you book your airline tickets and purchase an all inclusive package with us. All our vehicles are officially authorized with an operation certificate issued by the Albanian government, they are well-equipped with air-conditioning and comfortable seats, spacious for you and your luggage.

We deliver great experiences, welcome them in a very different way, as they were part of our family and they become part of our life. All our guests coming from U.S, who booked the packages, stayed at Adriatik Hotel and took the day tours with us, have already commented, rated their stay and the overall experience.





Ms. Erika from New York, who travelled 64 countries, at the age of 87, the Nourani Family from San Diego California with their adorable children, Grace, the Travel Agent from Connecticut, Shumei and Talong, Grace and SuanBoon , Mr.Owen from California, you will find their pictures published in this article, and their testimonials in our social media :

Review From Denise, Nourani Family, San Diego CA :

Absolutely amazing hotel and staff! To sum it up, our entire family (including 9 year old) cried on our last day when we had to say goodbye. These people make you feel like family. The hotel itself is so clean. They have the sweetest Luleya (I hope I spelled her name correctly) clean & buffer the floors every single day with kisses and hugs for us every we went down for breakfast. The front desk is so friendly & accommodating. The food is organic, fresh & delicious. The pool is literally the cleanest pool I have ever swam in my life & the slide is super fun. The rooms super clean & she always made sure to decorate the made bed with my toddler's Moana doll which was such a sweet gesture. To top is off with the cherry on the top, was our sweet Mario. The event coordinator who also filled in as the tour guide. He was absolutely amazing. So accommodating, helpful, and recommended the best of the best places. From the best restaurants, to hidden spots to drink fresh water from streams, from the best shopping places, he knew it all! He made us feel so comfortable, he became family to us. We all cried when we had to say goodbye to him. The girls still talk about him and say they miss him dearly. Our driver astriti was also the best. Albania is beautiful and special & till this day and I'm sure forever, will be the best country we have visited. We cannot wait to be back.



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Facebook: Adriatik Tours LLC
Address: 970 Farmington Ave,Suite
 208 West Hartford, CT 06107

Travel Agents impressions *about* Albania!

Linda Reynolds is a travel agent from almost 30 years. She visited Albania for the first time, in September 2018. During their visit, she and her husband were accommodated in Junior Suite at Adriatik Hotel for 5 days. The last day before they left the Hotel they left a testimonial video about Adriatik Hotel and Albania.

🗨️ Hello, I'm Linda from UK and we came to Albania because we were looking at something different. We have been staying at Hotel Adriatik for 5 days. The weather has been exceptional, beautiful sandy beach outside the hotel where we relaxed, also the staff has been exceptional. If you are looking for excellent value for money and friendly staff, Albania is a new holiday destination where everyone should come.

I will recommend people to come here to have a lovely great time. I'll be back soon!
Thank you!



Testimonial – October 2018

We introduce you David's story and his impressions about Albania. For Mr. Owens 52 years old, from England is not the first time visiting Albania. He came in 1982 in the communism period for the first time in Albania with a group of tourists from Birmingham, England. During his weekly stay in Albania, he was introduced to the girl who would become his wife. They met each other in Albania, where they spent a beautiful time at Adriatik Hotel in Durres. They turned back to England to get married, where they lived a beautiful life together. On David's 50th anniversary, which they celebrated in America, he promised his wife that they would celebrate her 50th anniversary in Albania. But unfortunately she died from bad illness before coming to Albania. David kept his promise and came to Albania at Adriatik Hotel, this time only by himself, even he had reserved a room for 2 people. He had a very emotional and impressive experience after 36 years from the last visit.



Mr. Owens- How it is your travel experience in Albania?

The last time I was in Albania was over 30 years ago and although the country has changed so much what has remained the same is the beautiful country and its people. The food is incredible, such a high standard. The goat's meat is the best I have ever tasted and I believe some farms and restaurant should be part of the Slow Food Movement.

What about your Tour Guide?

Mario as part of Adriatik Tours LLC arranged a personal tour of the country and with his knowledge and friendly company gave me an unforgettable experience. I will be back as soon as possible in Albania. Thanks to Adriatik Tours staff!

Beautiful Albania with a staff that treats you like *Family* !



These are the first words that the Nourani Family from San Diego, Texas, expressed about Albania. While staying at Hotel Adriatik in Durrës they did some tours with Adriatik Tours LLC around Albania. For them Albania was an undiscovered country, thinking it was unsafe. One day they saw on TV an explorer movie about Albania, when they decided to come to Albania on March 2018 at the Adriatik Hotel for around two weeks together with their two small daughters.

During the interview we asked them about their accommodation at Hotel Adriatik and the tours they had with ADRIATIK TOURS LLC.



Mr. Nourani express:

Absolutely amazing hotel and staff! To sum it up, our entire family (including our 9 years old daughter) cried on our last day when we had to say goodbye. These people make you feel like family. The hotel itself is so clean. They have the sweetest housekeeper, Luljeta (I hope I spelled her name correctly) who cleaned the floors every single day with kisses and hugs for us every day we went down for breakfast. The front desk is so friendly & accommodating. Fastest WiFi. The food is organic, fresh & delicious. The pool is literally the cleanest pool I have ever swam in my life & the slide is super fun. The rooms super clean & she always made sure to decorate the bed with my toddler's Moana doll which was such a sweet gesture. To top it off with the cherry on the top, was our sweet Mario tour guide. He was absolutely amazing. So accommodating, helpful, and recommended us the best of the best places. From the best restaurants, to hidden spots to drink fresh water from streams, from the best shopping places, he knew it all! He made us feel so comfortable, he became family to us.

We all cried when we had to say goodbye to him. The girls still talk about him and say they miss him dearly. Our driver Astriti was also the best. Albania is beautiful and special & till this day and I'm sure forever, will be the best country we have visited. We cannot wait to be back.

Traditional Albania



Albania has a rich cultural heritage, musical tradition and especially folk that is characterized by great diversity: each region has its own distinctive costume, music, dances, and rituals. Albanian folk dances have a character and style of its own and represent Albanian history and culture from antiquity to present time. Costumes are the greatest asset of this ensemble, not only for their originality, but also for the variety of colors and they are estimated as rare values of traditional culture of our nation. Costumes are without doubt one of the most powerful manifestations of our traditional culture. Their development has proceeded in parallel with the social, historical and cultural human development. Albania also has a rich tradition of dances with a great variety of choreography and costumes mainly depending on the origin. There are epic dances as well as lyrical dances. Particularly famous for their elegance, rhythm and drama are the dances of Tropoja, Devoll, Lunxhëria, the couples' dance of Rrajca, ect. The music is performed at a wide range of social events, such as weddings, religious celebrations and festivals, such as the well-known Albanian folk festival in Gjirokastra.



The interpretation of Albanian folk music varies from great polyphony songs (without instruments) to flute or bagpipe polyphony to other kinds of songs and instruments altogether. Northern Albania uses specific types of instruments such as: lahuta (single string instrument), orchestra with cifteli which is unique for the northern Albanian music, sharki and flutes, drums. def or daire. While in the south iso-polyphony is particularly popular, a “masterpiece of the oral heritage of humanity” protected by UNESCO. Dances are accompanied by a “sazet”, an orchestra with def, violin, clarinet, llauto and fiz-harmonika. Besides folkloric music, Albania has a rich tradition in urban music from Shkodra (jahre songs), Elbasani, Korça (serenades) Vlora, Përmeti, Leskoviku, Berati and Delvina (saze songs). At Adriatik Hotel we get pride of organizing the Albanian Night with Folk music and dances perfectly combined with traditional food to give our guests a unique experience of Albanian culture and hospitality. We organize this events very often during all the seasons, you can just let us know that you are interested to such events when booking your accommodation in Adriatik Hotel:

www.adriatikhotel.com

You can contact us from US by calling on Viber or WhatsApp:

+1860 936 2216 / +355 697075784

Or email us: events@adriatikhotel.com

We look forward to receiving your requests.



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www.fondacionitraditapopullore.com



Holy places of Albania

Sarisalltik biography

Sarisalltik was a renowned figure in the Balkan region as a symbol of religious tolerance. As such, he has historically been the main figure among the Bektashi believers and one they have relied upon when spreading their beliefs. Sarisalltik has been written about by the famous French scholar Baron Alexandre Degrاند in his “Souvenirs de la Haute Albanie” (1901), a diary of his visit to Albania from 1893 to 1899. For the curious ones, you may like to look at Degrاند’s entire photograph collection of his trip to Albania here or his notes on his visit to Tirana here. Sarisalltik has also been mentioned by the Moroccan geographer Ibn Battuta (1304-1377), who is the first to have recorded the legends associated with Sarisalltik.



The pilgrimage

As with other religious activities, during Communism, the pilgrimage to the masjid was banned, but the religious shrine was swiftly rebuilt from the people of Kruja with the beginning of the democratic era in the country. Now, thousands of pilgrims visit the Sarisalltik Masjid during holidays but many of them visit daily, as well. During the summer of 2017, twenty-five couples marked the record of receiving blessings for their marriages in the span of one single day. There are many of those who make the hike up to the cave only to enjoy the wild and beautiful nature of the mountain. The meadows are ideal for picnics! The view below reveals many small lakes with the Adriatic Sea shimmering in the background.

The legend of Sarisalltik

On top of the mountain, you will find a cavern with a depth of 15m and height of 4m, with a beautiful fountain of holy water in the middle. Next to the cavern, you have the very first masjid (i.e. very small mosque) ever built in Albania and inside it, the grave of Sarisalltik, the man-legend. Legend has it that Sarisalltik was a dervish on a mission to distribute the bones of his teacher in the seven kingdoms of Russia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Edirne, Bogdan and Dalmatia. As a result, there are seven mazars (tombs or religious shrines) in the world which honor Sarisalltik’s teacher. By the year 1300, when Sarisalltik finally reached Kruja, he heard that, in the cavern at the top of the mountain, a dragon wanted a virgin in exchange for not burning the place. When the time came for the princess to be sacrificed, Sarisalltik climbed up the cavern with the young lady and, using a stick, killed the seven-headed monster with a single move. Part of the mountain suffered, turning to ash after the fire. Shortly thereafter, Sarisalltik built the masjid inside the cavern. And so Sari Saltik lived in the cave above the town for many years, but with time people grew envious of his powers and started conspiring against him. Finally the prince, following evil instigations, decided to send an assassin up the mountain. Sari Saltik was warned by the young man who delivered him food every morning, this time a basket of fruit. On hearing the news, Sari Saltik angrily threw a watermelon which he had held in his hand, and the fruit stuck to the ceiling of the cave. Then he hurried away in four steps: one just out of Kruja(footprints in photo), the second close to Shijak, the third in Durrës on the Adriatic coast, and with the fourth he arrived in Corfu. In all the four places teqes were built. He died – as they say – in Corfu.



Ultimately, even climbing up the mountain represents a spiritual experience in itself. As the famed Russian mountaineer Anatoli Boukreev has said, “Mountains are not stadiums where I satisfy my ambition to achieve, they are the cathedrals where I practice my religion.” Reaching these heights pays off in the exhilarating feeling one experiences at the peak. This is why, when locals run into those brave tourists who are beginning their journey, they greet them with the phrase “May God help you on your way!”

How to get there : Sarisalltik is only 15 minutes away from Kruja by car. For an organized hiking or driving to Sarisalltik and for a full day trip to Kruja reserve in this email guide@adriatikhotel.com.



Holy Water at Cave of *Sarisalltik*



If we know anything about the history of the world’s many religions it is that a higher experience and spiritual wisdom are often acquired in the highest heights. Whether you are a believer in Buddhism, Christianity, Muslimism, in any of the other countless religions or none at all, you know that high peak has revelatory power. This is where most miraculous events take place which, through generations, are passed on as legends. One of Albania’s many peaks with its respective legend is the Sarisalltik (Sah-ree-sahl-tick), at the height of 1176 meters. This place marks the epicenter of dissemination of the Bektashi Order in Albania. For the Bektashi believers, climbing the mountain has a sacred meaning but, surely, you would have to test this on your own visit!



Balkan Discoveries: Croatia, Montenegro, Kosovo & Albania



14 DAYS & 13 NIGHTS, PRIVATE JOURNEY

Experience the most beautiful cities of the Balkan, beginning with Croatia and a stroll the walled city of Dubrovnik, will see the Rector's Palace, and explore the Adriatic coastline. Across the border in Montenegro, you will enjoy the sun on Budva's beaches and see the fortified town of Kotor. The long-closed doors of Albania now are opened up, where you can stroll the ancient streets of Berat, can shop at Kruje's bazaar, and visit the capital of Tirana. We will explore Vlora magnificent coastline where the Adriatic and Ionian seas meets together, and we will also visit an old city called Prizren in Kosovo.

Day 2 - Dubrovnik

Enjoy a perfect day to explore Dubrovnik. Take the recently reopened cable car or you can relax on the green island of Lokrum. In the evening, you will go by a private launch to the nearby fishing village of Cavtat, and savor a dinner of fresh local seafood. (B)

Day 3 - To Budva, Kotor

This day we will cross the border into Montenegro city to visit the Bay of Kotor and its namesake walled town. You will experience the most spectacular road in the country to the village of Njegos, famous for its air-dried ham and cheese. In the afternoon, the time will pass by the Budva Riviera, from where you can enjoy a special piece from the Old Budva city except the spectacular beaches. (B)



Day 1 -Arrive Dubrovnik

At Dubrovnik airport you will meet our guide that will accompany you to your hotel. At late afternoon, you will see the Croatian gate at the entrance of the old city to take a guided walk through Dubrovnik Old City, a UNESCO site. Overnight in Dubrovnik. Upon your arrival in Dubrovnik, you will be accompanied to your hotel. After the experience tour of the Old Town, you can spend hours to relax from your day.

Day 4- To Durres

Explore one of the biggest Roman amphitheaters in the Balkan from the 2nd century, built during the reign of Emperor Trajan. Also you will visit the special old city in the center, one of the most important pieces of history in Albania. After it's important that we will walk along the beautiful streets to admire and understand the history mirrored in the Venetian architecture.

Then we will head to the Venetian Tower, where a flight of stairs will take us to the roof and give us some of the best views of this old city. We will enjoy wine tasting and a light lunch at the same time. You will taste the traditional food, such as grilled country chicken, lamb, beef or sausage, accompanied with the “Kokomani” best red wine. Can't write anymore. Just imagining the combo smell in front of you.

In the evening, we recommend you a special dinner at our hotel's restaurant exploring local traditional cuisine. (B, D)



Day 7- To Kruja

Will leave Durres in the morning, because the next city to discover is Kruja. Experience tour to the narrow streets of the medieval well preserved Old Bazaar, which has a wonderful selection of authentic antiques and souvenirs where you can see or buy traditional Albanian costumes, books, musical instruments, and different items. Then we will visit Skanderbeg's museum, which contains objects dating back to Skanderbeg's time. Nearby you can visit the Holy Mountain of Sari Salltik and have some holy water from their fountain, up in the mountain. Optional lunch will be enjoyed in a restaurant up in the mountain. This will be the last experience in this city. (B, D)



Day 8 - To Tirana

Today after breakfast, we will visit one of the top wineries in Albania. UKA Winery produces around 20'000 bottles a year.

The main variety remains “Kallmet” wine, but also “Merlot”, “Cabernet Sauvignon” and “Mavrud” for the red wines. Apart from the grape, they also produce apples, tomatoes, green bean, peppers, plums, eggplant, and olives. We will enjoy wine, tasting a light lunch and at the same time will be able to see from there a great view overlooking the vineyards. After, we will return in the center of Tirana to discover much more about the history. Highlights include Skanderbeg Square, the Clock Tower, Et'hem Bey Mosque, and the Blloku district. A visit to the Dajti National Park is a great way to spend a day in an attractive mountainous landscape outside and literally ‘above’ the city. A relaxed trip up the mountain 1612 meters high with the Dajti Express cable car gondolas, which offers a great view over Tirana and its surroundings. This will be the perfect ending for this city. (B, D)



Day 9 - To Berat

This day we will see a historic city named Berat, at 09:00 AM after eating breakfast in Hotel. This city has a special history and architecture. The tour will start with the castle area. Visiting the 'Kala' involves a steep walk up a cobbled path, till the end of the road that you will be able to see a view from top of the surrounding area. After that, everyone should visit the Museum of Iconography 'Onufri' (which bears the name of the renowned fresco and icon-painter Onufri, who has left a rich inheritance) because it has a powerful history inside. This museum is located within the cathedral of St. Mary's Assumption. In the castle we will visit the Red Mosque, recognized by its lonely minaret and St. Trinity Church. After the fortress you will visit the Mangalemi quarter and the National Ethnographic Museum. Across the Osumi River lies the Gorica neighborhood, whose houses face those of Mangalemi. Optional lunch can be in a restaurant with a traditional cuisine. You will be able to visit there also this family's winery and taste some different wines and brandy. We're sure that you will enjoy this experience. (B, D)



Day 10 - To Shkodra

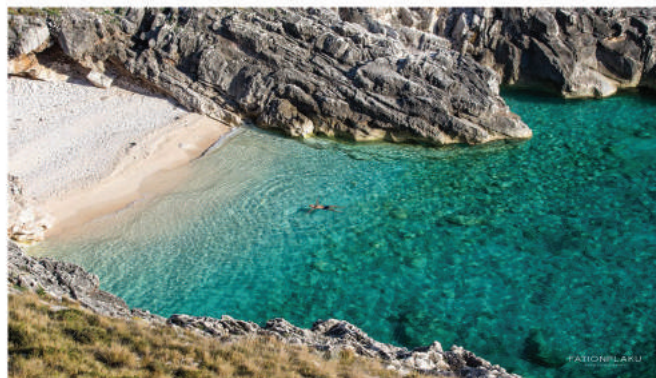
Today we will meet in at 11:00 o'clock at Adriatik Hotel to visit the next trip into the village of Fishtail near Lezhë city, one of the most famous farmhouse and restaurant in Albania where we will taste an excellent traditional Albanian food prepared in a modern way. The chef uses the freshest seasonal products from his garden to realize culinary masterpieces, such as "Jufka" with mushrooms and fermented cream cheese, and yogurt pies made their berries. We will continue our tour to the final destination, at the most beautiful and ancient city in the Balkan which is the city of Shkodra. We are visiting the pedestrian area with Italian influences and Rozafa Castle which is thought that has existed from Illyrian times. Coffee Break we will be able to enjoy at the largest lake in Southern Europe, where you can have also a little trip with boat around the lake, to enjoy the magnificent view. After all the day we will return back at the Hotel. (B, D)



Day 11 - To Prizren, Kosovo

Today we will start this tour to Rahovec, the center of wine production in Kosovo. We will leave Hotel 08:00 AM in the morning for a unique experience in wine tasting. All vineyards of this area lie in hilly terrain at an altitude of 340 to 600 meters. The average 270 days of sunshine each year make Rahovec an ideal spot to produce fine wine. Wine Tasting tour includes a visit to two main wineries in Rahovec: Stone Castle, built during the 1980s, a few kilometers outside the town of Rahovec where the original winery had been built in 1953 (huge winery the biggest one in the region,) and "Bodrumi I vjeter" (a winery run by Haxhijaha family).

After visits and tasting wine we take a lunch break at one of the best restaurant in Prizren city, where prepare traditional food. The restaurant is set on the hill across the river. Afternoon tour continues in the center of Prizren. (the oldest city and cultural capital of Kosovo) Tour in Prizren includes visits to main sites and monuments: "Stone Bridge", "Shadervan", "Catholic Cathedral", "Sinan Pasha Mosque", "Halveti Tekke," Museum of Albanian League of Prizren, Hamam. We will continue the visit one of the city's many traditional handicrafts filigree shops. After we will return back. (B, D)



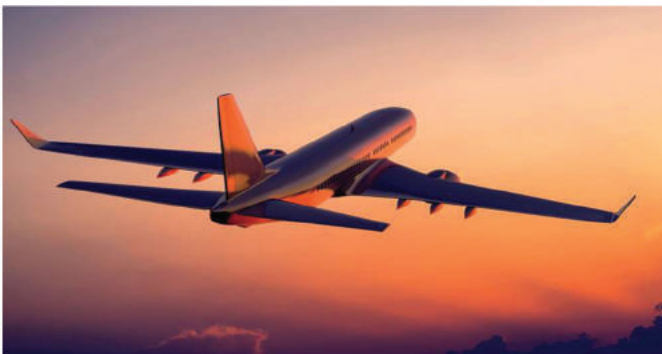
Day 12 - To Vlora

After breakfast we will see Vlora city, where we will pass through the spectacular Albanian Riviera with traditional villages around. We will stop during the trip at different places like the Waterfall of Borsh, Himara village etc. We will spend time visit Ali Pasha Castle in Himara, which was once one of the most important military bases during the cold war. We will take a coffee break at Kanina Castle and there we will be able to understand much more about the story of the Kanina castle which has a major historical importance, being once the fortress of Gjergj Arianiti, Prince of Kanina. In the 6th century BC it was rebuilt by Emperor Justinian and after a long period, in the 14th century, the castle represented the residence of the Principality of Vlore. On our drive thru Vlore we will be making short stops to relax beside the seaside cold water spring which is connected with the salty sea. We will have lunch in a restaurant on seaside, where at the same time you can taste the country and the sea cuisine. Almost all the restaurants in this city has unique taste food because of the growing area full of iodine and salt which comes from the wind of the Ionian Sea. Our tour will continue to Narta lagoon in the city of Vlora, near the Lagon, is located St. Mary's Monastery, one of the most beautiful in Albania to visit and than will return back to our Hotel. (B, D)



Day 13 - Koman Lake

We will leave the hotel at 06:00 AM to continue our tour at Koman Lake, the most beautiful place of North Albania, when we'll arrive there around at 9:00 AM. From there we will take the boat to Shala River and the trip will last about 1 hour and a half. We will stop in Shala River, which is an amazing place right in the middle of Koman Lake. Boating between popular beauties that nature offers, the blue and cold water color is characteristic of the Shales River, the rugged cliffs surrounding it and the green mountains make this place qualify as Albanian Thailand. On the way you will enjoy a spectacular scenery where the virgin nature meets the hazy water of the lake but we will also see an amazing cave which you will love and you can even swim on it. Once we arrive by boat we will rest at the guest house. Free time to relax about 3-4 hours, walking across the virgin nature, entertainment, volleyball, beach, lunch with bio products produced in the area. At 15:00 PM we will sail again with a boat to Koman Lake and get ready to return to Durrës. (B, D)



Day 14 – Flight Home

This morning is the day that you will be ready to flight home.

No tears. You will exchange experiences and contacts with us and also with your friends and family. We're sure that your experiences here in Albania and in our hotel we'll be nice and important in your lifetime.

EXCHANGE



American Dollar



Albanian Lek

The currency you can use in Albania is Lek, and you can make the money exchange very comfortably in Reception. You can easily pay with Dollars or Euro anywhere, but it's more convenient to have Lek with you. Exchange rate:

1 \$ = 109 lek as of January, 2019

Cash payments are highly appreciated in Albania and very much recommended.

Normal tipping is rounding the bill, depending on where you have coffee, lunch or dinner. People usually tip those services, Bellboys, Waiters, Tour Guide. The tipping rate starts from 10% -15% but it's not obligatory, it depends from your experience and how happy you are with the service. You don't need a Visa to enter Albania, make sure that your Passport is valid at least for 6 months after you enter Albania.

The Guide and our Managers will be happy to assist you during your stay in Albania. Please ask for assistance our Reception. Albanians speak English, they are always friendly and will be happy to help if you ask, on the streets, and outside of the hotel.

Enjoy your stay in Albania

BOOK YOUR TOUR NOW!

See your travel agent, visit us on the web at Adriatiktours.com or call us :

+ 1860 936 2216

gm@adriatiktours.com



Greetings from Albania !

Hello you reader, tourist or business partner that are just reading this second edition of Travel Magazine USA . You surely are one of the travelers that are interested in visiting Albania, or a tour planner who wants to show the Americans how beautiful Albania is, a small country in the southwest of the Balkan peninsula. This will be offered to you through Travel2Albania Magazine, a collaboration of Adriatik Tours and Travel Magazine Albania. This magazine will be your direct connection with Albania, a path that can be fully explored and enriched through the assistance of Adriatik Tours LLC , the Tour Agent , who will provide you with all the information you need, than assist you to perfectly plan and experience your trip to Albania. Did you know that Albania has 450 kilometers of wonderful coastline with beaches and magical islands? Did you know that the roots of Albania go deep down to antiquity, the foundations of Illyria, which have survived to the present day on numerous cultural sites? Do you know that Albania has the best gastronomic offer across the Balkans and a lot of beautiful hotels? Maybe you know a little or do not know anything about these facts . That's why, you need to talk to Adriatik Tours, as soon as you decide to start your journey, because they will prepare for you an unforgettable experience.

Enjoy !

We travel like a family
But we enjoy like adventurous!



BabaBloggers
It's not our experience,
it's our soul we offer to you!

**Greetings from BABA FAMILY, the first Albanian Travel Bloggers.
Enjoy the impressions of 15 years of traveling around Albania & Balkans!**

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The cultural *wonders* of Albania

6 NIGHTS FROM \$ 1,290

6 nights (*Durres, Tirana, Cape of Rodon, Kruja, Berat*)

What's included?

- Accommodation in Luxury 5***** Adriatik Hotel
- Small Groups: 2-12 guests per tour.
- Airport transfers: Arrival and Departure transfers in Albania

- Buffet Breakfast Daily

Enjoy traditional Albanian and Mediterranean food.

Baggage Handling

- Hotel Taxes, City Taxes, Hotel Service Charges

- Professional Tour: Licensed local guide

Tickets: Entrance to the Castles and Museums

BB = Buffet Breakfast **D** = Dinner **L** = Lunch

Day 1: Depart from USA

Boarding your overnight flight, you're off to Albania for the adventure of a lifetime!

Day 2: Arrive in Tirana – Pick up from the airport- Dinner at Adriatik Hotel

Welcome in Albania! We are pleased to offer commentary transfers from Tirana airport to our hotel at scheduled times. The driver and the Guide will be waiting for you at the airport.

You will enjoy your first dinner in Durres in our beautiful hotel, relaxing and tasting delicious food.

BB, D

Day 3: Durres – The Amphitheatre – The Ancient City Walls – The mosaic of Arapaj Village – Vollga avenue - Afternoon at the beach

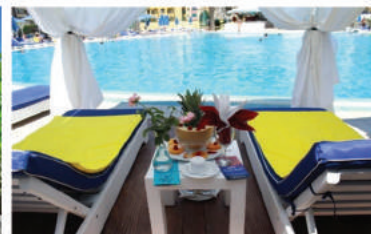
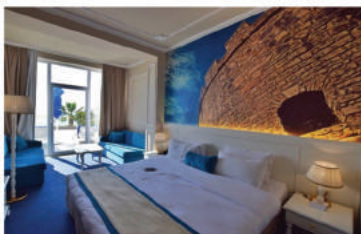
Today we will visit the ancient city of Durres with almost 3,000 years of history. Meet at the lobby at 10:00 AM after breakfast. We will start our walking tour from the main boulevard to the center to learn more about the history of the city.

Durres is one of Albania's oldest cities, has the country's main sea port and it's the second largest industrial center after Tirana. From the Venetian Tower to the harbor, the Medieval Town Walls will lead us to the amphitheater, dating back to the II century AD, containing an early Christian Crypt with a rare wall mosaic. We will have a stop at the Venetian Tower, where a flight of stairs will take us to the roof and give us some of the best views of this old city. Here we can have a short break to enjoy a good Albanian beer. During the trip in Durres we will spend some time at one of the most beautiful farms of the area, exploring the nature, walking with the animals, and eating delicious fresh food in the farm restaurant. Return back to Adriatik Hotel, to have a relax massage in our SPA **BB, D**



Day 4: Hiking to Cape of Rodon – Visit the Castle of Scanderbeg – Wine tasting – Afternoon at the beach

Today after breakfast at Adriatik Hotel, we will meet at the lobby at 09:00 AM for a walking tour to the Cape of Rodon, located on the coastline of Adriatic Sea, in the west part of Albania. We will visit the Castle of Scanderbeg, which was built by him in 1451-1452.



This castle was used by the Army of Scanderbeg to control the Adriatic Sea. Apart from the Castle, we will visit The Church of St. Anthony which was built in the XIV-XV centuries and is still possible to visit now days. It is one of the 4 Monasteries that used to exist before the castle was build.

The church of St. Anthony belongs to the Roman-Gothic architecture, which is seen at the sharp bows of the structure. (Optional) Lunch and wine tasting at Kokomani Winery. Just imagine, you are sitting on the table.

Followed by this, you can have a grilled chicken, lamb, beef or sausage, accompanied with Kokomani's best red wines. In the evening, we recommend you a Dinner at our hotel's restaurant exploring local traditional cuisine.

BB, D

Day 5: Kruja – The Old Bazaar – The National Museum “Gjergj Kastrioti Skënderbeu” – The Cave of Sari Salltik – Traditional Lunch – Relaxing afternoon at the pool

Today we will go back in time to antiquity and to the middle ages. After breakfast, at 08:00 AM, we depart to Kruja to get to know one of the most beautiful cities in Albania. Kruja provides a great view and a rich collection of historical and cultural objects, perfect for all ages of tourist. The most important site is the Castle of Kruja, which was built during the V and the VI centuries. We will start our walking tour through the narrow streets of the medieval well-preserved Old Bazaar, dated back on the XVII century. The Bazaar was built approximately 400 years ago and used to have about 200 shops starting from Kruja city to the entrance gates of Kruja Castle. After Shopping at the Old Bazaar, we will continue to visit the “Watch Tower”, which was part of a chain of communication used by Skanderbeg, in the XV century, whereby fire beacons lit at Kruja could be seen by the towns of Petrela in the south and Lezhe in the north.

We will continue to visit the main exhibition of the Museum of “Gjergj Kastrioti Skënderbeu” the Albanian national hero. The museum holds artifacts, writings, and accounts of Skanderbeg's life and death, while additional displays continue to be added as discoveries are made. We will also visit the Cave of Sari Salltiku, at the top of Kruja mountain.

(Optional) You can enjoy a lunch in a traditional restaurant where you will taste delicious traditional food as: Tave Dheu one of Albania's national dishes. This great recipe they serve in clay dishes and it is baked the same way they did many years ago in Albania. After getting back at Adriatik Hotel, you can enjoy your dinner in our restaurant. **BB, D**

Day 6: Tirana walking tour – Government buildings – National Historic Museum – Dajti Mountain by Cable Car – Petrela Castle

Depart from Durres early in the morning at 09:00 AM after breakfast, for a tour to Petrela Castle. The castle of Petrela is located on a rocky hill at the height of 400 m above sea level. It was built in the late antique period (III-IV century AD) and it was rebuilt during the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Justinian I (527-565). During Skanderbeg's fight against the Ottomans, Petrela Castle used to be under the command of Mamica Kastrioti, Skanderbeg's sister.



After the castle, we will continue our way to the center of Tirana to explore more about the history highlights including Skanderbeg Square, the Clock Tower, Et'hem Bey Mosque, and the Bllok area district. We will make a visit to the Dajti National Park, which is a great way to spend a day in an attractive mountainous landscape outside and literally 'above' the city. This tour will start with a relaxing trip up to the mountain 1612 meters high with the Dajti Express cable car, which offers a great view over Tirana city and its surroundings. An optional lunch may be enjoyed in the restaurant up in the Dajti Mountain, with some traditional Albanian food. After enjoying this great view, we will return back to Durres.

BB, D



Day 7: Berati Castle – National Iconographic Museum "Onufri" – Ruins of the White Mosque – The Church of Saint Mehilli – Wine Tasting

This morning at 11:00 AM, we will travel towards the beautiful city of Berat. On the way, we will stop for a traditional Albanian wine tasting in the charming Çobo Winery, settled scenically at the base of Tomorri mountain, in the rolling hills that surround the city of Berat. The tour will include an oversight of the wine making process and detailed explanations that paint a glowing picture of the family's history and the origins of their wines. After the tour of the grounds, guests are invited to share a glass of wine and exchange stories with a member of the Çobo family while enjoying a variety of homemade Albanian cheeses and locally-grown olives. Then we leave the winery and head towards Berat city. This city is one of the oldest and the pride of Albanian architecture.

Berat, known as the city of 'one thousand windows', is a treasure of Albanian history, culture and a testament to the country's tradition of religious harmony. We continue our visit to the fortress located on the top of the hill overlooking the Osumi River. Within the fortress, we will visit the old Christian orthodox cathedral of the town, where we will admire some of the most beautiful and oldest byzantine icons in Albania, dating from the XIII century, in the Onufri's gallery.

(Optional)lunch break at one of the best traditional food in Albania. We will learn the secrets of preparing the all-time regional favorite "Përshesh" with turkey and other local recipes.

End of the tour, we return back to Adriatik Hotel.

BB, D



Day 8: Flight Home – Tirana – USA

This morning you board your flight home. Hope you enjoyed your stay with us and looking forwards to welcome you back.



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+355 69 20 217 78

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