

Albania in Spring – 8 Day Extension

NaturetrekTour Itinerary

Outline itinerary

Day 1	Stay Tirana following the tour
Day 2	Visit Gjirokastra on the way to Saranda - stay Saranda
Day 3	A day at leisure in Saranda
Day 4	Visit the ancient city of Butrint and stay Saranda
Day 5	Take the Ferry from Saranda to Corfu - stay Corfu
Day 6	Time at leisure in Corfu
Day 7	Time at leisure in Corfu
Day 8	Fly home from Corfu



Gjirokastra

N.B. Please note that the itinerary below offers our planned programme of excursions. However, adverse weather and other local considerations can necessitate some re-ordering of the programme during the course of the tour, though this will always be done to maximise best use of the time and weather conditions available.

Day 1

Arrive in Tirana following the tour

You will spend the first night of this extension in the capital Tirana. You will stay in the boutique Hotel Vila Alba, 4* <http://www.vila-alba.com/> or a similar hotel should this not be available. When the group tour finishes and the group are dropped at the airport, you will carry on into Tirana and be dropped at the hotel. There is a restaurant on site but you will be recommended the best restaurant within a short walk of the hotel should you wish to go out.

Day 2

Leave Tirana and travel to Sarande via Gjirokastra.

After breakfast you will transfer to Saranda with a short en route stop in Gjirokastra.

Gjirokastra, an UNESCO World Heritage Site, is known by many as the “City of Stone” and comprises hundreds of Ottoman-style tower houses with distinctive stone roofs, wooden balconies and whitewashed stone walls. Dominated by the sheer flanks of its vast castle, Gjirokastra is a magical city with a tumultuous past. From feudal stronghold to Ottoman jewel to Italian colony, the city has known many rulers and has inspired poets, authors and artists. A walk around the network of cobbled streets will transport you back in time. A visit to the vast 13th-century castle brings the adventurous tales of medieval rulers and communist atrocities alive.

Saranda is situated on a beautiful horseshoe bay between the mountains and the Ionian Sea. The name Saranda derives from an early Christian monastery dedicated to Agioi Saranta (Forty Saints). Located opposite the Greek island of Corfu, Saranda is one of the most attractive tourist towns on the Albanian Riviera, where honeymooners traditionally spend their holidays.

You will stay in Saranda in Hotel Brillant 4 * <http://www.brilanthotel.com/> or a similar hotel should this not be available. You will again be dropped at the hotel by your driver and recommended a place to eat with many options very nearby.



Saranda

Day 3

Day at Leisure in Saranda

Today is a chance to relax and explore Saranda. Excursions can be booked at reception and it is a pleasant area to explore and relax.

Day 4

Visit Butrint

After breakfast transfer to the archeological site of Butrint, UNESCO saite for a guided tour.

Butrint is a National Park that includes a very well preserved archaeological area, an uncontaminated vegetation area of Mediterranean maquis, and also has a lake that is connected to the Ionian Sea by a natural channel. The excavations and studies have proved that during the VII and the VI centuries BC. Butrint was a protourban center. By the V century BC Butrint has got the full form of an ancient city.



Butrint

This is a fascinating place and one of the highlights of a visit to southern Albania. Following a fascinating guided tour you will be transferred back to your hotel.

Overnight in Saranda, Hotel Brilant 4 * <http://www.brilanthotel.com/> or similar

Day 5

Breakfast and Ferry to Corfu

After breakfast you will take the ferry to Corfu. Even with the passage of time it can still feel the spirit of a distant glorious past. Corfu never fell under the Ottoman oppression. Due to the successive dominations of the Venetians, the French and the British over the centuries, the island has primarily become part of the Western rather the Levantine world. Their culture wielded strong influence in the city. In the beautifully preserved Old Town of Corfu, a UNESCO world heritage site, Renaissance, Baroque and Classical "repertoire" came to be successfully applied to local artistic traditions.



Corfu

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You will stay in Corfu in Hotel Arion <http://www.arioncorfu.gr/index.php> or a similar hotel should this not be available. The hotel is only a very short 5-10 minute walk away from the ferry terminal. You will be given clear instructions on how to get to it and with heavy luggage a taxi will cost no more than 10 euros to get there from the port.

Day 6

Day at leisure in Corfu

Today you will be free to spend time in Corfu. Options could be a visit of the Achillion Palace, the old town of Corfu or the Castle. Reception will be very happy to help arrange this and give advice.

Overnight in Corfu. Hotel Arion 3* <http://www.arioncorfu.gr/> or similar

Day 7

Day at leisure in Corfu

Today you will be free to spend time in Corfu once again.

Overnight in Corfu. Hotel Arion 3* <http://www.arioncorfu.gr/> or similar

Day 8

Breakfast and Flight to UK

After breakfast it will be time to fly home. The airport is no more than a 20 minute drive and please request a taxi at reception which will give you enough time to catch your flight home.

What is included:

7 nights' accommodation in 3*& 4* hotels on a Bed and Breakfast basis.

Private transfer from Tirana to Saranda with a professional driver and a visit to Gjirokastra.

A guided tour of the famous UNESCO ancient city of Butrint with transfers from Saranda to Butrint and back to Saranda.

Transfer to ferry terminal and one-way ferry ticket from Saranda – Corfu.

Cost:

For two travelers sharing a room this extension will cost £525 per person.

For a single traveler this extension will cost £795. This will include a private room, private transfers and excursions.

NB: Should I receive interest from two or more single travelers for the same extension then it will cost as above for two travelers plus £140 per person for the single room. You will have a room each but be sharing transport, transfers and joining excursions together.

How to book your place

In order to book your place on this extension you will need to have joined the main tour and please let us know when booking that you wish to extend. Please give us a call on 01962 733051 with a credit or debit card to confirm your place. We will need 20% of the extension cost alongside the deposit for the main tour. Please call with any questions and speak to Tom or email tom@naturetrek.co.uk