

## **Draft of our new new Albania and Greece Trip Prices coming soon.**

**Departure April 14/15 and add Athens Post Trip**

### **Day 1 Arrive in Tirana – to Durres**

Welcome To Albania! Upon arrival at Mother Teresa Airport, the group will be welcomed by our local guide. Group transfer arranged for 12:00 pm. Private transfer available upon request. Explore the ruins of the town forum, Roman baths, city center, town hall, Roman Amphitheater, Byzantine walls, Venetian tower and Archaeological Museum, a panoramic display of discoveries of this once important city. Check in at hotel and prepare for dinner. Overnight. **(D)**

### **Day 2 Durres–Kruja–Tirana–Durres**

Depart for Kruja, one of the principal old towns and most glorious cities in Albania. The walking tour takes you through the Ottoman bazaar with wooden shops and displays of various gifts and antique items. Visit the castle walls and **Historical Museum** Lunch at a local restaurant After lunch, depart for Tirana City and a tour of Tirana. We explore including some of the historical highlights, the city center, Skanderbeg Statue, Et'hembey mosque, Clocktower, Italian buildings and Martyrs' of the Nation Boulevard. Visit the ex-communist buildings, painted with vibrant colors. Drive back to Durres Accommodation and overnight in Durres. **B and L**

### **Day 3 Durres–Berat–Durres**

Drive to Berat. Walking tour of **Berat Fortress**. Known as the "City of one thousand windows" and is declared a Museum City". The old part has religious buildings like a mosque and Byzantine churches. Time for lunch at a restaurant. Walking tour and visit of Mangalem quarter and medieval center, including now the Helvetia Teke and King's Mosque. Continue with a visit to Çobo Winery, scenically nestled at the base of Mt. Tomorri in the hills that surround the city of Berat. A tour of the facilities includes a viewing of the winemaking process and detailed explanations, punctuated by alternating poignant and comic vignettes that paint a glowing picture of the family's history and the origins of their wines. Conclude the visit with **wine tasting**. Drive back to Durres. Accommodation and overnight in Durres. **(B, D)**

**Day 4 Durres–Apollonia–Vlora–Sarande** Check out and depart for Apollonia Archaeological Park. The archaeological site, driving through Fier city. The walking tour of the ancient Apollonian site includes the Encircling Wall, the monuments of Agonothetes, the Library, the Odeon, the Portico, House with Mosaics, Archaeological Museum and the Church of St. Mary. Time for lunch on your own. Drive towards Saranda, with a stop en route to Vlora, Llogara, Porto Palermo. Enjoy the scenic mountain ride, descending rocky shore and Ionian Sea, offering photos of the landscape, villages, the fortress of Porto Palermo, Himara beach town. Check in at hotel and prepare for dinner. Overnight in Saranda. **(B, D)**

**Day 5 Saranda–Gjirokastra–Saranda** After breakfast board the bus and transfer to Gjirokastra, on the way stop for visit Blue Eye. Syri i Kaltër (Albanian version for "Blue Eye") is a spring on the western slopes of Mount Mali Gjerë. Continue our drive to Gjirokastra. Many houses in Gjirokastra have a distinctive local style that has earned the city the nickname "Town of the Stones". Of a great importance and interesting to visit are the Ethnographic Museum or known as the Enver Hoxha house, and Castle of Gjirokastra. This UNESCO SITE has something unique. Explore the Old Town, the Bazaar, with its characteristic shops and opportunity to interact with local folks. Drive back to Saranda. Time for dinner at a local restaurant. Accommodation and overnight in Saranda. **(B, D)**

### **Day 6 Saranda–Butrinti–Saranda**

Depart for Butrinti. Butrinti Walking Tour. This impressive walking tour will stir your imagination about the ancient world during the peak of the Roman power and the classical Greek mythology. Start with the Asclepius temple, Theatre, Roman portico and baths, early Christian Baptistery, Byzantine basilica, defensive walls and their impressive Gates. Lunch will be arranged in one of the local restaurants in Saranda. Leisure time. Accommodation and overnight in Saranda. **(B, L)**

### **Day 7 Saranda–Corfu**

Board the ferry towards Corfu Island (please notice 1 hour of difference between Albania and Corfu). Accommodation at the hotel and prepare for a walking tour of Old City Of Corfu. The Old Town of Corfu, on the Island of Corfu off the western coasts of Albania and Greece, is located in a strategic position at the entrance of the Adriatic Sea and has its roots in the 8th century BC. The three forts of the town, designed by renowned Venetian engineers, were used for four centuries to defend the maritime trading interests of the Republic of Venice against the Ottoman Empire. The mainly neoclassical housing stock of the Old Town is partly from the Venetian period, partly 19th century. As a fortified Mediterranean port, Corfu is urban and the port ensemble is notable for its authenticity. Check in and prepare for dinner. Accommodation and overnight in Corfu. **(B, D)**

### **Day 8 in Corfu**

Visit of the **Achillion Palace** and **Mon Repos Palace**. The Achilleion Palace was built by Empress of Austria Elisabeth of Bavaria, also known as Sisi. Elisabeth was a woman obsessed with beauty. She had a very powerful, but tragically vulnerable character since the loss of her only son, Crown Prince Rudolf of Austria in 1889. A year later in 1890, she built a summer palace in the region of Gastouri, about ten kilometers to the south of the city of Corfu. The central theme of the palace is the mythical hero Achilles. Mon Repos Palace is situated on top of Analipsis hill, near Kanoni area, in a beautiful setting full of greenery. It was built in 1826 by the British Commissioner Frederic Adams as a gift to his Corfiot wife, Nina Palatianou. It is a small but very beautiful palace with colonial architectural elements. Leisure time. Optional visits to the Archeological Museum or Museum of the Asian Art. Overnight in Corfu. Overnight. **(B, D)**

### **Day 9 Depart Corfu**

Breakfast and check out. Free time for souvenirs. Group Transfer to airport at 10:00 a.m **(B)**

### **Day 9-11 Optional extension to Athens see below.**

The itinerary blends some longer days with shorter days and leisure time. Walking tours, as well as walking longer distances, up stairs or on uneven surfaces are expected.

#### **Price includes:**

- Selected 1<sup>st</sup> class hotels, rooms with private facilities
- Service charges and hotel taxes
- Breakfast daily
- 1 bottle of water per person daily (on a coach)
- Meals per program
- Assisted arrival and departure airport transfers
- All transfers with standard A/C motor-coach as per itinerary
- Professional tour director throughout
- Sightseeing tours as per itinerary
- Entrance fees included where indicated in bold letters
- Luggage handling at hotels (one piece per person in / out)

### **OPTIONAL EXTENSION TO ATHENS**

Selected class hotels, rooms with private facilities

Service charges and hotel taxes

Breakfast daily

Assisted arrival and departure airport transfers

All transfers with standard A/C motor-coach as per services Sightseeing tour as per itinerary

Entrance fees included where indicated in bold letters

Luggage handling at hotels (one piece per person in / out)