

The descent provides a panoramic view of the Drinos valley. Please note that there are a few sections that require you to dismount and lead your horse.

You will arrive at Lazarat village, and spend the night in a local home which offers you an authentic experience.

Day 7 — 7 : FUSHEBARDHA - GJIROKASTRA - 3 hours riding

On the final day of the ride, you will make your way back to the stables near Gjirokastra. The trail will take you through diverse landscapes, including valleys, and the picturesque Drino's valley.

You will have the opportunity to enjoy cantering and galloping through open fields. As you approach the Asim Zaneli village, you will ascend the hills and, eventually arrive back at the stables.

After saying goodbye to the horses, you will have a picnic thoughtfully prepared by a local family.

Farewell dinner in Gjirokastra and overnight at a hotel.

Day 8 — 8 : GJIROKASTRA - TIRANA - EUROPE

After breakfast at the hotel you will be transferred back to the airport of Tirana. Your flight should depart in the afternoon.

If you are flying out of Corfu please allow for an extra day to ensure you have time to cross over with the ferry.

DATES & PRICES

DEPARTURE	RETURN	PRICE WITHOUT FLIGHTS	STATUS
13/07/2024	20/07/2024	£1,163	Full
27/07/2024	03/08/2024	£1,163	Full
10/08/2024	17/08/2024	£1,163	Full
24/08/2024	31/08/2024	£1,163	Full
07/09/2024	14/09/2024	£1,163	Full
21/09/2024	28/09/2024	£1,163	Full
03/05/2025	10/05/2025	£1,210	Open
10/05/2025	17/05/2025	£1,210	Open
31/05/2025	07/06/2025	£1,210	Open
14/06/2025	21/06/2025	£1,210	Open
28/06/2025	05/07/2025	£1,210	Open
12/07/2025	19/07/2025	£1,210	Open
26/07/2025	02/08/2025	£1,210	Open
09/08/2025	16/08/2025	£1,210	Open
23/08/2025	30/08/2025	£1,210	Open
06/09/2025	13/09/2025	£1,210	Open
20/09/2025	27/09/2025	£1,210	Open

Price details

Tips to the local team
Entry fees to the museums and local attractions
Small group supplement - see above for the details

INSURANCE

Cancellation and travel insurance are not included in the above listed price. Please note that insurance is mandatory. We recommend taking out an insurance policy as soon as your trip is booked to cover you in case of cancellation

Visas and personal purchase

Optional

ACCOMMODATION

Single room supplement - only possible on the first and last nights.

EQUESTRIAN INFO

Horses

The horses are a local breed of Tarpan and Arabian horses. They are small but robust, and perfectly suited to the rocky terrain. There are 23 horses in total, well used to long trail rides and the rocky grounds: steady, brave and sure-footed, they make ideal equine companions.

Guide & local team

Illir, Aurel and Kristina are specialised in mountainous trail rides. Their objective is to offer a trail combining culture, history, nature, and always in the respect of the horses. They love their country and its history. All trails are accompanied by a lead guide and a back up guide. They speak English, Italian and Greek.

Minimum riding ability

MINIMUM RIDING ABILITY

You need to be a competent rider, capable of riding at all paces in the outdoors, over steep and technical paths. Previous trail riding experience is recommended.

Rider weight limit: 90 kilos / 14,1 st / 198 lbs. This is a strict limit as the horses are small and the terrain is demanding.

PACE

The pace is varied to include trots, canters and possible gallops in the valleys. Some of the riding is across varied terrain so you need to be secure in the saddle. There are some technical paths and steep hills where you will be asked to dismount and lead your horse on foot (please make sure to wear appropriate footwear). The horses are sure-footed, make sure to trust their judgement!

Please note that although this trail includes some beach riding, any fast riding takes place along an old path 100m from the beach. The sand is rocky and therefore is only suitable for walking on.

The mountain horses are also not too keen on the water, so they will not tend to want to paddle.

TACKING ABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

You will be asked to help look after the horses in the morning, at lunch time and dinner time. Please note that the horses stay in paddocks near your guesthouses while the guides go back to the stables for the night, which means you will be asked to feed the horses in the evening and morning.

You can help groom and tack up although this is not mandatory.

TRIP CONDITIONS AND REQUESTED EXPERIENCE

You should have experience riding outdoors on trails and be confident riding in open spaces. You need to be fit enough for this trail. On some occasions you will be asked to dismount and lead your horse on foot over steep hills and rocky terrain. Some paths are close to the cliffs, so this is not suitable for riders suffering from vertigo.

The terrain is quite rugged and stony - the horses are well trained, sure-footed and quite used to navigating terrain that would be tricky for most European/Western horses.

Please note that although this trail includes some beach riding, any fast riding takes place along an old path 200m from the beach. The sand is rocky and therefore is only suitable for walking on. The mountain horses are also not too keen on the water so will not tend to want to paddle!

EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT

English saddles and bridles.

Personal saddlebags are welcome if riders would like to bring their own. Small saddlebags are provided by the ride but just for food and water.

Helmets are mandatory and you should bring your own.

TRAVEL INFO

COMFORT

You will stay in modest homestay accommodation with locals, except for the first and last nights that are spent in hotels. This is a fantastic way to discover the local culture and learn about the country.

Hotel: double or triple bedrooms, WC and shared showers. Wifi.

Guesthouses: double bedrooms (sometimes up to 3 or 4 beds), shared bathrooms. Your hosts don't necessarily speak English but a little bit of raki and sign language go a long way!

Very limited internet access during the trail, with no guarantees for it at all.

MEALS

The local gastronomy is delicious and varied. During the ride, you will enjoy freshly prepared meals that will give you a sample of the Albanian gastronomy.

Country breakfast with local dairy products, honey, pancakes; pies and cakes, eggs, milk, tea and coffee.

Picnic lunches. In the morning you prepare your own lunch according to your taste (bread, cheese, vegetables, eggs...). Sometimes you will bring this with you in your saddlebags, and sometimes it will be brought to you by the back up vehicle. On some occasions you may have your lunch at a local small restaurant/cafe.

Dinner is a hot meal prepared by your hosts (veal, pork, chicken, goat or fish), with local wines and raki.

Vegetarian meals and allergies can be accommodated, please contact us with your requirements.

CLIMATE

This ride takes place in southern Albania which is around 5 degrees warmer than the rest of the country. You will experience different types of weather on the trail; from cooler mountainous air to a warmer climate down on the coast.

The best time to visit Albania is the months of April, May, June and September, with lovely warm weather. July and August are dry and temperatures can be extremely hot, from 25 to 45°C! In October, November and March, there is a chance of rain and temperatures average 10-15°C, with April starting to get warmer.

TIPS

Tips are left to your discretion and are not mandatory.

The local currency is the Lek, but Euro is widely accepted. Don't bring too much money as this trip is fully inclusive.

PACKING LIST

Head

- Helmets are mandatory and you must bring your own helmet to ensure a correct fit. There are many lightweight options available nowadays.
- Sunglasses - with a cord attached so they don't fly off when riding
- Buff or bandana

Upper body

- Long sleeved shirts provide protection from the sun or branches and are an extra layer
- T-shirts
- Lightweight fleece or jumper
- Warm fleece or jumper (and a spare in case one gets wet)
- Warm and waterproof jacket - it can rain outside July and August and the evenings can be cooler.

Legs

- 2 Lightweight, comfortable riding trousers or jodhpurs - we recommend riding in them at home before taking them on holiday to ensure they don't rub
- Casual trousers for the evenings, such as jeans or tracksuit bottoms
- Bathing suit and towel

Hands and Feet

- Comfortable riding boots. We recommend good hiking boots with half chaps. There might be some walking over steep trails so we don't recommend taking your favourite long leather boots in case they get damaged, and normal riding boots with a smooth sole can be slippery when walking on foot.
- Trainers or equivalent light shoes for the evenings
- Several pairs of socks
- Gloves - your hands are particularly exposed to the sun, cold or rain whilst riding. Waterproof gloves can be particularly useful

Other useful items

- Camera and high capacity memory card.
- Bumbag for carrying your camera and small items whilst riding
- Headtorch or small torch for moving around at night - bring spare batteries and bulbs
- Water bottle (2 litres or 2 x 1 litre) - plastic bottles are not provided but the team will provide water for you to refill your bottles every day.
- Swiss army knife (or equivalent)
- Small plastic bags for rubbish
- Ear plugs (for light sleepers)

In your hold luggage

- Take any liquids, such as shampoo, moisturiser, deodorant unless they are less than 100ml and all bottles can fit in a small, clear, plastic ziplock bag. We recommend biodegradable washing products where possible.

In your hand luggage

- Any valuables, such as your camera, ipod, ipad etc.

Medical kit

- Any medication you regularly take
- Sunscreen and lip balm - should be high factor
- Insect repellent, preferably containing deet
- Blister plasters in case of any rubs
- Antiseptic cream, plasters, aspirin, anti-histamine, insect-bite salve etc...
- Spare prescription glasses/contact lenses
- Eye drops
- Imodium or similar anti-diarrhoea medication
- Antiseptic wipes
- Handwash gel

Our Recommendations

- Backpacks cannot be worn whilst riding. We recommend a small bumbag or a coat with pockets so that you can carry small items with you during the day (passport, camera, sunscreen, lipbalm etc)
- We recommend travelling in your riding boots and carrying your hat and some riding clothes in your hand luggage - then if your luggage goes astray you are still able to ride!
- You should also bring a copy of your passport/insurance in case you lose your documents. You can also save a copy into your mobile phone.
- You can bring small gifts or pictures from your country/family to show your hosts.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

1. **Travel light** . It's a little known fact, but the lighter you pack, the better for the environment as heavy bags will produce higher emissions (when flying a plane or driving a car!).

2. **Reduce plastic waste.** Take your favorite reusable bottle with you. Avoid single-use bags, cups, or straws.
3. **Preserve nature.** Always take your rubbish with you during the ride and recycle them. Leave all the flowers or plants as you found them, and never get too close when observing wildlife. Make sure to use eco-friendly products such as body wash or laundry detergent (if camping) to protect both your skin and the environment.
4. **Choose your experiences carefully.** Respect animal life by not participating in any activities that abuse wild animals (shows, elephant rides, etc.).
5. **Support local populations.** Buy local handicrafts, be respectful of customs, and learn about the culture of local communities.
6. **Share!** Raise awareness among your family and friends about sustainable tourism.

For more information please [see this page](#) .