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perspectives

Explore Albania

Prepared for: Twins Perspective
Dates: 19th - 26th September 2026



Our Travel Style

Our global network of local experts deliver the types of experiences that can't be Googled. Immersive trips that enable you to explore authentic local culture in a sustainable, experience-rich way. We love the highlights, but the real magic for us happens well away from a beaten path, the real life experiences you won't find in a search engine.

Explore Albania 8 days/ 7 nights

About Your Trip

Start Location

Tirana, Albania

Finish Location

Tirana, Albania

Accommodation

Hotel 4 nights

Guesthouse 3 nights

Rooming Requirements

Single/Twin/Double/Quadruple

Included Meals

Breakfast (7)

Lunch (2)

Dinner (5)

Transport

Per Daily Itinerary

Leader/Guide

English Speaking Leader
throughout

Included Activities

Per Daily itinerary

Entrance/Admission Fees

Where applicable with
included activities

Airport Transfers

Arrival and departure transfers are
included on a group basis

Support

24-hour support from our local
office

Exclusions

- International Flights
- Any visas required
- Services not mentioned in the itinerary
- Late check out at hotels
- Meals and drinks not mentioned in the itinerary
- Drinks with included lunches and dinners
- Tips for leaders, guide and driver
- Expenditure of personal nature
- Personal Insurance
- Optional activities

We offset these emissions on your behalf. But we know that is not enough, so we also have a [carbon reduction target](#).

Safe and responsible travel, always.

As you look to get back on the road, we continue to ensure our trips are safe for everyone. That includes our travellers, our leaders and crew and the people we visit along the way. Our health and safety policies follow recommendations from the World Health Organization and the World Travel & Tourism Council's (WTTC) Safe Travel protocols for tour operators. Before we resume trips in any destination, our itineraries undergo a comprehensive risk assessment and audit, while leaders and suppliers will complete COVID-19 health and safety training. We have also introduced specific policies around testing and vaccination for your safety.



Who we are

For over 30 years we've been taking travellers around the globe, on small group tours with like-minded Intrepid people. Our extensive COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines ensure your wellbeing is looked after during your travels.



Safe travels

We're with you every step of the way through our value chain - from our suppliers, to our on ground operations and leaders.



Certified B Corp

When we became certified as the world's largest travel B Corp in 2018, it was not only our official pledge to be a responsible business, but also a promise to be the best travel company for the world.

About your Tour Leader

Tour leader

On this trip you will be accompanied by one of our tour leaders. The aim of the tour leader is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible.

Your leader will provide information on the places you are travelling through, offer suggestions for things to do and see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends. While not being guides in the traditional sense you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the places visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects. We aim to support local guides who have specialised knowledge of the regions we visit. If you were interested in delving deeper into the local culture at a specific site or location then your leader can recommend a local guide service in most of the main destinations of your trip.

Explore Albania Itinerary

Day 1: 19th September 2026

Destination: Tirana

Meals Included: Dinner

Mire se vini – welcome to Tirana, Albania! Your expedition begins with a welcome meeting at 6:00 PM, where you'll meet your local leader and fellow travellers who'll be joining you on this journey. If you arrive with time to spare, take a walk through the heart of Albania's vibrant capital. Discover its Ottoman-era architecture, citadels, mosques, and museums — or simply relax in one of the city's colourful public squares or cafés. After the meeting, enjoy a welcome dinner with your group at a local restaurant, where you'll get your first taste of Albanian cuisine. It's a great chance to connect with your fellow travellers, share expectations for the trip, and experience Tirana's warm hospitality.

Arrival Transfer

- Included

Included Activities

- Tirana – Welcome Dinner

Special information

It's very important that you attend the welcome meeting as we will be collecting insurance and emergency contact details at this time. If you are going to be late, please let your travel agent or hotel reception know. Ask reception or look for a note in the lobby for more information on where the meeting will take place.

Accommodation

Hotel Metro (Standard room) or similar

Day 2: 20th September 2026

Destination: Tirana – Lake Koman – Shala River

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Depart Tirana early and journey north through scenic mountain landscapes to reach the breathtaking Lake Koman. Here, board a boat for a stunning ride through narrow gorges and dramatic cliffs, often compared to Nordic fjords. Upon arrival at the remote Shala River, continue by boat to your riverside guesthouse, nestled in one of Albania's most untouched natural areas. Spend the afternoon swimming in the crystal-clear waters, relaxing on the riverbank, or simply taking in the peaceful surroundings. In the evening, enjoy a freshly prepared dinner made from local ingredients before settling in for a restful night under the stars.

Included Activities

- Lake Koman - Boat Ride

Special information

Traveling time from Tirana to Shala River is approximately 5.5 hours. Please note that the guesthouse offers a unique experience but has quadruple rooms only, with no single supplement available.

Accommodation

Neomalsore Agroturism (Quad Room, Shared Bathroom) or similar

Day 3: 21st September 2026**Destination: Shala River****Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

Spend the day exploring the stunning Shala River area with a scenic hike along the riverbanks or choose the optional hike to the nearby Molle village. Return to the guesthouse in the evening for a relaxing overnight stay surrounded by nature.

Included Activities

- Shala River - Hike

Accommodation

Neomalsore Agroturism (Quad Room, Shared Bathroom) or similar

Day 4: 22nd September 2026**Destination: Lezhe****Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner**

In the morning, depart the Shala River by boat and begin your scenic drive to Mrizi I Zanave, a renowned farm stay known for its focus on sustainable agriculture and traditional Albanian cuisine. Upon arrival, settle in and enjoy a delicious farm-to-table dinner prepared with fresh, local ingredients. Spend the night immersed in the tranquil farm atmosphere.

Included Activities

- Mrizi I Zanave – Farm-to-table Dinner

Special information

Today's travel time is approximately 4.5 hours.

Accommodation

Mrizi I Zanave (standard room) or similar

Day 5: 23rd September 2026**Destination: Mrizi I Zanave – Divjaka-Karavasta NP - Berat****Meals Included: Breakfast**

Depart Mrizi I Zanave and visit the Karavasta Lagoon, a protected area famous for birdwatching and ongoing conservation efforts. After exploring the lagoon, continue your journey to the historic town of Berat, where you'll spend the night surrounded by its UNESCO-listed architecture and charming streets.

Included Activities

- Karavasta National Park Visit

Special information

Today's travel time is approximately 3 h.

Accommodation

Hotel Osumi (standard room) or similar

Day 6: 24th September 2026**Destination: Berat****Meals Included: Breakfast**

Start your day with a guided morning tour of Berat's UNESCO-listed Old Town and its iconic castle, exploring historic churches, Ottoman architecture, and picturesque streets. Afterward, head to nearby Roshnik village for a relaxing visit to a local winery, where you can enjoy a tasting of regional wines and learn about Albanian viticulture. Return to Berat for an overnight stay.

Included Activities

- Berat – Guided Tour with Castle Visit
- Roshnik – Roshnik Village Visit with Wine Tasting

Accommodation

Hotel Osumi (standard room) or similar

Day 7: 25th September 2026**Destination: Tirana****Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner**

After breakfast, depart Berat and drive back to Tirana, enjoying the scenic route through Albanian countryside. Upon arrival in Tirana, take some time to relax or explore local highlights before gathering for a special farewell dinner, celebrating your journey with traditional Albanian dishes and shared stories from the trip. Overnight in Tirana.

Included Activities

- Tirana – Farewell Dinner

Special information

Today's travel time is approximately 2 h.

Accommodation

Hotel Metro (standard room) or similar

Day 8: 26th September 2026**Destination: Tirana****Meals Included: Breakfast**

After breakfast, your adventure comes to an end. If you'd like to extend your stay, just get in touch with your booking agent ahead of time to arrange additional accommodation.

Departure Transfer

- Included

Important Information

Passports, visas and entry requirements

PASSPORT

You'll need a valid passport to travel internationally and most countries require your passport to have a minimum of 6 months validity, so remember to check the expiry date.

We need your passport information to get everything ready for your trip so it's important that the information on your booking matches your passport exactly. Please take care to provide the correct details. We recommend carrying a copy of the photo page of your passport while travelling and leaving a copy at home with family or friends.

VISAS & ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Many countries require a visa and obtaining the correct visa for your trip and any countries you may transit through is your responsibility. We recommend you check your visa requirements as soon as you have booked your trip. This will ensure you have time to prepare your documents and for your visa application to be processed. You can check the entry requirements for your nationality on your government's foreign travel advisories, consular websites or on our page here: <http://www.intrepidtravel.com/visa-entry-requirements>

Medical and health information

GENERAL HEALTH

All travellers need to be in good physical health in order to participate fully on this trip. For the safety and wellbeing of yourself and others, if you are unwell prior to travelling, please stay at home and contact us to make alternative arrangements.

When selecting your trip please make sure you have read through the itinerary carefully and assess your ability to manage and enjoy our style of travel. Please note that if in the assessment of our group leader or local representative a traveller is unable to complete the itinerary without undue risk to themselves and/or the rest of the group, we reserve the right to exclude them from all or part of a trip without refund.

You should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information or for any necessary vaccinations before departure. We recommend that you carry a first aid kit as well as any personal medical requirements in their original packaging as they may not easily be obtained while travelling. If you are carrying medication, ensure you check your government's foreign travel advice for any local restrictions or requirements.

Food and dietary requirements

While travelling with us you'll experience the vast array of wonderful food available in the world. Your group leader or local representative will be able to suggest restaurants to try during your trip. To give you the maximum flexibility in deciding where, what and with whom to eat, generally not all meals are included in the trip price. This also gives you more budgeting flexibility. As a rule, our groups tend to eat together to enable you to taste a larger variety of dishes and enjoy each other's company. If you have dietary requirements and/or food allergies, please let your booking agent know prior to departure.

Money matters

SPENDING MONEY

When it comes to spending money on the trip, every traveller is a little different. You know your spending habits better than we do, so please budget an appropriate amount for things like optional meals, drinks, shopping, optional activities, and laundry. Make sure you have read the itinerary and inclusions thoroughly so you know what is included in the trip price and what you may need to pay for while travelling.

The local currency in Albania is the Lek (ALL).

TIPPING

Tipping can be an appropriate way to recognise great service when travelling. While it may not be customary in your home country, it is an entrenched feature of the tourism industry across many of our destinations and is

greatly appreciated by the people who take care of you during your travels. It is always best to avoid tipping with coins, very small denomination notes, or dirty and ripped notes, as this can be regarded as an insult rather than the goodwill gesture it is intended to be.

We recommend budgeting approximately EUR 10-20 per person per week to tip local service providers for activities included in this trip, in local currencies. This doesn't include a tip for your leader.

YOUR GROUP LEADER OR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE

Tipping your group leader or local representative is highly appreciated if you feel they've provided outstanding services throughout your trip. The amount is entirely a personal preference; however, as a guideline, the recommended amount is 4-7 USD or EUR per traveller per day (in a currency relevant to your destination). Of course, you are free to tip more or less as you see fit, depending on your perception of service quality and the length and involvement of your group leader or local representative on your trip.

CONTINGENCY FUNDS

We try to plan for every eventuality, but there are still some things beyond our control. We reserve the right to change an itinerary after departure due to local circumstances or a Force Majeure Event. In such emergency circumstances, the additional cost of any necessary itinerary alterations will be covered by you. Please note we are not responsible for any incidental expenses that may be incurred as a result of the change of itineraries including but not limited to visas, vaccinations or non-refundable flights. Make sure you have access to an extra US\$500 for emergencies (e.g. severe weather, natural disasters, civil unrest) or other events that result in unavoidable changes to the itinerary (e.g. transport strikes or cancellations, airport closures). Sometimes these things necessitate last-minute changes to enable our trips to continue to run, and as a result, there may be some extra costs involved. The recommended amount is listed in USD for the relatability of universal travellers, however, local currency may be needed once in the country to cover these costs.

Packing PACKING

On this trip you must pack as lightly as possible because you will be expected to carry your own bag and although you won't be required to walk long distances with your luggage (max 30 minutes), we strongly recommend keeping the weight under 15kg / 33lb. Most travellers carry their luggage in a backpack, although an overnight bag with a shoulder strap would suffice if you travel lightly. Smaller bags or backpacks with wheels are convenient although we recommend your bag has carry straps to accommodate the cobbled streets, uneven surfaces, stairs and steps you are likely to encounter while carrying your luggage. You'll also need a day pack/bag to carry water and a camera etc for day trips. You can find Intrepid's Ultimate Packing List on our website. It should be used as a guide only and isn't intended to be a complete packing list.

<https://www.intrepidtravel.com/packing-list>

As there are a number of river crossings on our hike in the River Shala region, please bring shoes suitable for trekking that you are prepared to get wet. You will also need enclosed, sturdy footwear for our other hikes on the itinerary.

Mosquitoes can be present in some areas we visit. Bring appropriate protective clothing and insect repellent.

WATER BOTTLE

Please bring your own water bottle to refill. Although it can be difficult to avoid bottled water when travelling, please use the water dispensers which are provided on some of our vehicles and at some of our accommodation. When unable to avoid bottled water, it is better to buy the largest available and distribute it into your smaller bottle for the day. Some travellers like to bring a bottle with its own filtration system or water purification tablets. If you are walking or trekking as part of your trip, you will need to carry at least 2 litres of water with you.

Group Leader

All Intrepid group trips in Europe are accompanied by one of our local European group leaders. 'Local' in this context means a leader who is European or lives in Europe. The aim of the group leader is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. Intrepid endeavours to provide the services of an

experienced leader however, due to the seasonality of travel, rare situations may arise where your leader is new to a particular region or training other group leaders. Your leader takes care of logistics, will provide information on the places you are travelling through, offer suggestions for things to do and see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends. While not being guides in the traditional sense you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the places visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects.

At Intrepid we also aim to support local guides in the individual cities or locations we travel to. If you are interested in delving deeper into the local culture at a specific site or location then your leader can recommend an optional local guide service in most of the main destinations of your trip.

Safety

We recommend that you check your government's foreign travel advisory for the latest information about the destination before you travel. You will also need to ensure that your travel insurance covers you for all destinations and activities on your trip. We also recommend saving the phone number for emergency consular assistance for your government's consulate in the destination/s you'll be travelling. Links to travel advisories and any current travel alerts for our trips can be found here: <https://www.intrepidtravel.com/travel-alerts>

PERSONAL SAFETY

Ensure you have a secure method of carrying your passport, phone, credit cards and cash while travelling such as a money belt. Leave all other high value items, including jewellery, at home Use safety deposit boxes at hotels to store your valuables when available and ensure your luggage is lockable. Be aware of the risk of pick-pocketing and petty theft. Exercise caution when walking at night, don't walk alone and stick to well-lit streets wherever possible. Be vigilant on public transport and look out for your fellow travellers. Take precautions such as carrying your bag in front of you and never leaving personal items unattended.

LGBTQIA+ TRAVELLERS

Intrepid welcomes all LGBTQIA+ customers on our trips, however we operate in parts of the world that are less accepting. We support LGBTQIA+ customers to travel to these destinations and are committed to ensuring they face no discrimination on any part of the trip we control. We recommend you visit Equaldex (<https://www.equaldex.com/>) and your government's foreign travel advice for LGBTQIA+ travellers when choosing your trip.

<https://www.intrepidtravel.com/safety-guidelines>

PETTY THEFT AND PERSONAL SAFETY

While travelling there is always the risk of pick-pocketing and petty theft, particularly in the more touristy cities. We recommend that you exercise caution when walking alone at night and encourage you to walk together and only on main, well-lit thoroughfares. Be particularly vigilant on public transport. Simple measures like carrying your day pack on your front, not hanging your bag over the back of your chair or on the floor and wearing a money belt will reduce any chance that your valuables should go missing.

Community guidelines

Intrepid won't tolerate any kind of violence, harassment (whether physical, verbal or sexual), or disrespect toward fellow travellers, our teams or local communities.

To ensure the wellbeing of everyone on the trip, decisions made by your group leader are final.

Romantic relationships between travellers and group leader or local representative are not permitted while on trip. Any behaviour that prevents your leader from continuing the itinerary as planned, breaks local laws or opposes any of these guidelines may result in Intrepid denying your booking or removing you from the trip.

If something concerns you during your travels, please speak to your group leader immediately. Alternatively, you can contact us on the emergency contact number detailed in the Problems and Emergency Contact Information section of this Essential Trip Information.

Travelling on a group trip

As you travel on a group trip you will be exposed to all the pleasures and maybe some of the frustrations of travelling in a group. Your fellow travellers will probably come from all corners of the world and likely a range of age groups too. We ask you to be understanding of the various needs and preferences of your group - patience with your fellow travellers is sometimes required for the benefit of everyone's travel experience. Remember too that you have responsibilities to the group. If you are requested to be at a place at a certain time, ensure that you don't keep the rest of the group waiting. We have found time and time again that the very best trips we operate are those where the dynamics within the group work well - this takes just a little effort on your part. Due to privacy reasons, we are unable to provide you with contact details and any personal information about your fellow travellers booked on your trip prior to departure.

SOLO TRAVELLERS

On our trips, rooming is organised on a twin-share basis. We pair up solo travellers with another traveller of the same gender, as per the gender marker on each of their passports.

We also offer an optional single supplement on most trips for travellers who prefer to have their own room. This only applies to accommodation during the tour. Pre-trip and post-trip accommodation booked through us will always be on a single-room basis.

On a small selection of trips some accommodation will be open-gender and multishare, such as a felucca in Egypt or an overnight train in Vietnam. Please review the Accommodation section of the Essential Trip Information for details about your trip.

LGBTQIA+ TRAVELLERS

We strive to create a safe and inclusive environment for everyone. If your gender identity differs from what is indicated on your passport, please contact us so that we can discuss rooming options with you.

Travel insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory on all our trips for those travelling internationally. We require that, at a minimum, you are covered for medical expenses, including emergency repatriation. If you are travelling within your home country or region, please confirm before travel that you are entitled to access the public medical system easily should an accident occur. We strongly recommend all travellers have a policy that also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage or personal effects. For international trips, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance and the insurance company's 24-hour emergency contact number has been sighted by your group leader or local representative.

If you have credit card insurance, your group leader or local representative will require details of the participating insurer/underwriter, the level of coverage, policy number, and emergency contact number, rather than the bank's name and your credit card details. Please contact your bank for these details prior to arriving in-country.

For travellers who reside within the European Union, Switzerland or the USA, the requirement to purchase travel insurance cannot be compulsory. However, the purchase of travel insurance is still highly recommended, and each country you visit may have its own specific entry requirements. For example, some mandate travel health insurance for all foreign travellers, regardless of their nationality. Travellers from the European Union, Switzerland or the USA who decline travel insurance when travelling outside their home region must sign a Travel Insurance Waiver Form at the Group Meeting, recognizing personal responsibility for emergency medical and repatriation costs should they arise.

For assistance with travel insurance or other services, please visit the link below:

<https://www.intrepidtravel.com/booking-resources/our-services>

Responsible travel

Our Responsible Travel Policy outlines our commitment to preserving the environment, supporting local communities, protecting the vulnerable, and giving back to the places we travel. All our trip group leaders or local representatives, suppliers, and staff are trained on these principles and are core to us delivering sustainable, experience-rich travel.

Explore the different parts of our Responsible Travel Policy by visiting:
<https://www.intrepidtravel.com/responsible-travel>

OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH MEET

To bring you some of the immersive local activities on this itinerary, we have collaborated with MEET, a program developed by the non-profit organisation IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature). MEET support local providers located within national parks throughout the Mediterranean by providing them with the tools to develop community-based ecotourism projects with a low carbon footprint. Our exclusive commercial partnership with MEET not only supports the important conservation and environmental work they do, but also gives our travellers the chance to visit protected areas within Europe in a meaningful and sustainable way.

DRESS CODE

In general, there are few dress restrictions in Europe. When visiting churches, monasteries or other religious sites modest dress is required - shorts or sleeveless tops may not be permitted, for both men and women.

The Intrepid Foundation

Our non-profit, The Intrepid Foundation, gives travellers more opportunities to make a positive impact in the places they visit.

We have over 50 Intrepid Foundation partners across the globe addressing four key focus areas: protecting the environment, taking a stand for wildlife, addressing inequality and empowering communities.

Intrepid matches all post-trip donations dollar for dollar and takes care of the admin fees – this doubles your impact and ensures every cent goes to our partners on the ground.

Visit our website for more info: <http://www.theintrepidfoundation.org/>

This trip supports Humana Zagreb, who provide job opportunities and education programs in sustainable fashion and textiles for people with disabilities. Donations fund educational programs run by Humana employees with disabilities. These programs teach school children about the issues of fast fashion, the importance of reusing and recycling clothes, and the barriers that people with disabilities face when searching for employment. Intrepid will double your impact by dollar-matching post-trip donations made to The Intrepid Foundation.

To find out more or make a donation, visit <https://www.theintrepidfoundation.org/t/humana-zagreb>

Booking Conditions

By booking this Intrepid Travel Tailor-Made Adventure, you agree to the Intrepid Standard Booking Conditions <https://www.intrepidtravel.com/au/booking-intrepid/booking-conditions> and any deviations specified below that apply to your Tailor-Made booking as set out below.

If you are making a booking on behalf of a group, you must ensure each traveller has read and agrees to our Booking Conditions before making the booking.

- You must provide a travellers' name list and details including name as per passport, passport number and expiration date, nationality, DOB, gender, rooming requirements, dietary requirements, medical concerns at least 60 days prior to departure of the trip.
- All rates are per person, based on indicated numbers travelling together as one movement. Any changes to the group size at any time before or after confirmation of services will require the trip to be repriced.
- The details set out in your proposal are a quotation only. The pricing and itinerary are subject to availability of accommodation, transport, leaders, and other suppliers at time of booking. We reserve the right to amend and requote itinerary if such suppliers are not available.
- By making your payment, you are agreeing to the most recent itinerary and price quote. All revisions will be subject to requote and additional approval.
- A contract will exist when we accept your deposit.
- If we, or a third-party operator, is required to make amendments to your original proposal, subsequent pricing may become applicable to your booking.
- Any changes to the itinerary made by you AFTER services have been confirmed will require a revised quote and may be subject to an additional charge (as levied by hotels, ground operators or airlines). No additional changes are permitted within 30 days prior to departure.
- Hotels listed in the quote are indicative only and are subject to change. If the hotel listed in the quote is unavailable, we will confirm an alternative hotel of similar standard.
- If complimentary transfers are included, (on a group basis) they are only applicable if going to accommodation booked through us. Please advise flight arrival details (flight number and arrival time) at least 30 days prior to departure if you wish to have this transfer provided. There is no guarantee we can arrange this transfer if we receive these details within 30 days of departure.
- Some Tailor-Made tours, such as our Tailor-Made Australia trips, may have cancellation terms that deviate from those set out in the Intrepid Standard Booking Conditions. Your Tailor-Made consultant will advise you of the cancellation conditions that apply to your booking prior to you paying your deposit.
- You acknowledge that you are choosing to travel at a time where you may be exposed to the COVID-19 virus. We will take all reasonable steps to ensure your safety and may require you to follow additional safety protocols before and during your trip. Depending on the most recent health information available to us, we may require you to comply with mandatory health policies, including the need for proof of vaccination or medical tests. More information can be found on our Covid-19 Customer Information page [here](#). Please note that these policy requirements are subject to change following advice from relevant authorities.