



Kosovo

the untold story...

Balkan Outdoor Experience



The Republic of Kosovo is the youngest country in Europe and is also home to the youngest population on the continent with an average age of 25. Kosovo is positioned in the heart of Balkans between Albania, Montenegro, Serbia and Macedonia.

Beautiful landscapes and mountains, rich cultural heritage and gastronomy, artifacts from the Neolithic period, incredible hospitality, adventures, multilingual inhabitants, strong traditions and more are just a few of Kosovo's many highlights.



Kosovo has been promoted by international media as a country to visit with great diversity, cheap but very delicious traditional and international food, easy access between touristic attractions (most within 30 km of each other), the place where you can have the best macchiato in the world (according to Yahoo Travel), young and very dynamic cities, and challenging outdoor adventures such a hiking, biking, the Via Dinarica, and Via Ferrata.

Outdoor & Adventure in Kosovo

Experience the most beautiful landscapes and mountains. Prepare for adventure where your adrenaline will rise to the highest levels. Outdoor activities combined with a great hospitality, visits to touristic sites, traditional food, and friendly people all mixed with unknown historical stories in the most beautiful country in region will certainly leave you with one of the most memorable experiences of your life. Your tour will start with a Prishtina city tour on the first day followed by one of the top destinations for nature enthusiasts the day after on the outskirts of the capital in Germia Hill. By bike tour, you will then explore the region around Novo Brdo Castle. On the following day, your tour will continue to Peja where you will test your adrenaline exploring Rugova Valley by climbing and hiking along the Via Ferrata, the most daring adventure activity in Kosovo. For a little break, we will also visit the Patriarchate of Peja, a UNESCO world heritage site, as well as Peja's Ethnological Museum. Before departing for Prizren, a stop will be made at Decani Monastery, one of the most visited tourist attractions in Kosovo. Once in Prizren, there will be the possibility for an interactive works session at a filigree factory with a long tradition and to try delicious kebab specialties at the most popular kebab shop in Prizren.

After a city tour, the trip will continue on to the next adventure: hiking from Prizren Castle to Struzha (15km). Dinner and overnight accommodation will be at a guesthouse in Struzha where you will have some time to relax.

The final day will conclude with an early morning hike from Kosovo to Macedonia through Scarpa Peak and passing by Kara Nikolla Lake.



Day one

Thursday, May 05, 2016

Guest arrivals: (Prishtina or Skopje Int. Airport).

- 12:00 – 13:00 Meeting and accommodation at 4* hotel
- 13:00 – 15:00 Lunch at local restaurant Pishat (traditional food)
- 14:00 – 18:00 Prishtina city tour
- 19:00 / Dinner at another local restaurant with traditional food
- Overnight

Points of interest/other details:

Mother Teresa statue (born Gonxhe Bojaxhiu, an Albanian born humanist and Nobel Peace Prize 1979),

George Kastrioti Skanderbeg statue (15th century Albanian lord who defended country against the Ottoman Empire for more than

two decades).

Çarshi Mosque – Prishtina's oldest building constructed in the 15th century by Turkish Sultan Bajazit, Clock Tower 26 meters high built by Jashar Pasha in 1764, 'Fatih Mosque' or Imperial Mosque was built in 1461 under the Turkish Sultan Mehmed II Fatih, Ethnographic Museum Emin Gjiku.

The city tour will then take you to meet an older couple who after their son's death established a small business making the Albanian specialty "Fljja". Learn how to make a Fljja and hear extraordinary stories from the elderly couple.



Day two

Friday, May 06, 2016

- 08:00 – 09:00 Breakfast at hotel
- 09:00 – 10:00 Departure by minibus to Germia

Phase 1 / Mountain Bike activity

- 10:00 – 14:00 Mountain biking in a rural area from Germia Hill to Novo Brdo through Mramor, Kukavicw, and Vllasoll (small villages eastern of Kosovo).

Difficulty: Medium

Distance: 27 km

Time: 4 h Max.

Phase 2 / Novo Brdo Tour

- 14:00 – 15:00 Lunch at local restaurant in Novo Brdo (traditional food)
- 15:00 – 17:00 visiting old castle of Novo Brdo.
- 17:00 – 19:00 Departure by minibus to Peja (110 KM)
- 19:00 Accommodation and Dinner in Hotel Dukagjni in Peja.
- Overnight



Points of interest/other details:

Germia is a regional park located in the north-east of Pristina, capital city of Kosovo, and it covers an area of 62 km². This mountain massif is a part of the Rhodope Mountains, which lie from the Black Mountain of Skopje to Kopaonik Mountains. Germia's highest point, Butovc Peak, is 1050 meters above sea level and its lowest is 663 meters above sea level.

Novo Brdo or Novobërdë/Artanë is a town and municipality in the Pristina district of eastern Kosovo. It has a continental climate, with dry summers and icy winters. It is among the



most relaxing sites in Kosovo, with its nature and the castle on top of the highest peak, with a great panoramic view. It used to be an urban and mining settlement of great importance in the Balkans. In the medieval period, Novo Brdo was one of the richest settlements in the region, having the richest mines with gold and silver.

Novo Brdo castle was built in the 13th century, during the reign of Prince Lazar, and was fortified later in 14th century under the orders of Sinan Pasha.

Day three

Saturday, May 07, 2016

- 07:30 – 08:30 Breakfast at hotel
- 08:30 – 09:00 Departure by minibus to KM 5 from Peja

Phase 1 / Outdoor Activity: Via Ferrata Ari and Hiking

- 09:00 – 13:00 Via Ferrata Ari

Difficulty: Medium

Distance: 4 km

Time: 4 h Max.

Points of interest/other details:

Peja and Rugova Valley

Peja is perceived as the capital city of Dukagjini Plane, holding rich history and beautiful landscapes very worth exploring. Peja lies on a territory of 603 square kilometers; the city and its 95 villages hold 170,00 inhabitants.

Elevation of Peja varies from 395 m to 2.552 m, forming a beautiful environment with a flat city center and sharp surrounding hills.

The national park of the Rugova region, which is part of the “Accursed Mountains,” is only 2 kms from Peja in the beautiful Rugova Valley, which is traversed by the 56 km Lumbardhi River.

Via Ferrata Ari is the most adventurous outdoor activity in Kosovo with 100 meters of vertical climb. The whole climbing and hiking trip takes two to three hours depending on the group and offers a spectacular view over the city of Peja and the Rugova Gorge. There’s no need for climbing experience, it like climbing stairs most of the time.



Phase 2 / Culture Activity: PEJA

- 14:00 – 15:30 Lunch at local restaurant in Peja
- 15:30 – 17:00 Peja City Tour

Patriarchate in Peja, Haxhi Zeka Mill and Ethnologic Museum in Peja

Points of interest/other details:

The patriarchate is an old complex of Orthodox monasteries. It consists of four structures built during the medieval era, influenced by Byzantine architecture. It is characterized by several round domes over a rectangular base. In 2003, the Patriarchate of Peja became part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site list.

Ethnologic Museum in Peja: Tahir Bey Guesthouse which is

now an ethnological museum is home of the old city that belongs to the second half of the 18th century. This house is quite interesting from the aspect of preservation of archaic elements, almost nearly intact in the interior, so as such, this house is an object of cultural significance, both in terms of architecture and ethnology.

Haxhi Zeka Mill is an important part of the industrial and historical heritage of Pec dating back to the Austro-Hungarian period.

- 17:00 – 18:30 Departure by minibus from Peja to Prizren (57 km)
- 18:30 Accommodation and Dinner in Hotel Theranda in Prizren
- Overnight



Day four

Sunday, May 08, 2016

- 08:00 – 09:00 Breakfast at hotel

Phase 1 / Culture Activity

- 09:00 – 12:00 City Tour in Prizren

Points of interest/other details:

Visit Stone Bridge, symbol of Ottoman Prizren, built in 1534 by Ali Bag. *Gazi Mehmet Pasha Hammam Turkish bath built in 1534, *Sinan Pasha Mosque, Prizren's most prominent mosque, built in 1615, *Albanian League of Prizren Museum is one of the most historical sites in the country and the place where Albanian patriots gathered on 10 June 1878 to start the political, military and cultural struggle against the Ottoman Empire.

*Visit Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Succor Catholic church from 1870 with three naves and a marble clad column holding frescoes above the door which depict the medieval Christian Albanian hero Skanderbeg. *Temple of Our Holy of Ljevis dates back to the 9th - 11th century as a Byzantine church (unique architectural design and UNESCO World Heritage protected).

- 12:00 – 13:00 Workshop for Filigree



Workshop:

Prizren is also famous for the ancient craft of filigree which uses fine thread, mostly silver and gold, to produce astonishingly intricate and beautiful, lace-like works of art. The old part of Prizren is surrounded by many shops selling filigree products originally made in town. Group will visit a filigree factory and feel how it is to make artistic crafts from silver.

- 13:00 – 14:00 Lunch at the most popular kebab restaurant "Te Sylja" and preparation for hiking. Vegetarian option also available.

The city of Prizren lies in the Southern Dukagjini plane on 640 square kilometers territory. At one point in history it was known as Theranda, a name which belongs to town of

Suhareka nowadays. Prizren plays a significant role in the region, business and economy wise, because of its geographic positioning near the border with Albania and Macedonia.

The city lies at 400 meters above sea level, while some of its surrounding hills of the Sharri Mountains reach heights of up to 2000 meters.

In Prizren and its 74 surrounding villages there are 240,000 inhabitants, with diverse ethnic origins, thus living in full harmony and giving cultural diversity to the city.

Phase 2 / Hiking activity

- 14:00 – 16:30 Hiking from Prizren Castle to Struzha
- Difficulty: Medium

Distance: 5 km

Time: 2.30 h Max.

Points of interest/other details:

Prizren Castle is an important part of the ancient history of the city. Its topographic position, its domination over the city, a rather attractive natural landscape, and the well-thought architectural configuration render the site rather valuable in terms of archaeology, history and tourism.

- 19:00 – 20:30 Accommodation and Dinner at the Guest-house in Struzha
- 20:00 - free time

Day five

Monday, May 09, 2016

- 07:00 – 08:00 Breakfast at the Guesthouse

Phase 1 / Hiking Activity

- 08:00 – 13:00 Hiking from Struzha to Kara Nikoll Peak.

Difficulty: Medium

Distance: 14 km

Time: 4 h Max.

Accent: 550 meters

Points of interest/other details:

Although the origins of the name of this peak are not known for certain, in Albanian it's known as Kara Nikolla (Black Nikolla) peak, while originally in Serbian it was called Karanikolica, which is another way of saying "the wife of Kara Nikolla".

The peak Kara Nikolla is located near the Bozovca pass, a region that connects the Kosovar town



Prizren and the Macedonian town of Tetovo. The mountain's peak of Kara Nikolla's elevation is 2422 meters.

- 13:00 – 16:00 Hiking from Kara Nokolla Peak to Bozovtse (1300 alt)

Difficulty: Medium

Distance: 10 km

Time: 3 h Max.

Decent: 1400 meters



About Airtour

Airtour is an inbound tour operator for Kosovo and the Balkan region.

We are fully organized in providing the best experience for all travelers willing to visit Kosovo.

Airtour is a tailor made inbound tour operator and provides cultural tours, city tours, adventure tours, and religious tours. Airtour is an ATTA member since 2015.

Our goals are to make a perfect balance between clients' needs and wishes on one side and respect to clients' budget and deadlines on the other.

Therefore our teams are more than happy to help our clients and partners in choosing the perfect elements for making travel the most comfortable and memorable as it can be.

Balkan Outdoor Experience

After 12 years of a successful career in marketing, having been part of virtually all major marketing campaigns in a small and beautiful country of Kosovo, Uta Ibrahim gained a clear understanding of what it was that she was really good at. She understood what her passion was and where she excelled: outdoors! Anything and all outdoors: hiking, climbing, running, cycling... up and down and round and round. All with a touch of style, and graciousness, and beauty, and passion, and feel-good energy. Then, four years into parallel marketing and outdoor experience, and having had climbed everything in the vicinity and up to the highest peak of Europe, Mont Blanc, Uta decided to merge it all into the Balkan Outdoor Experience. A company with an aim to share the love of nature, and to offer an outdoor experience with a spirit and safety.

No of pax: 10 to 12

Price per person in SNGL room:

Duration: 5 days

10 – 12 pax 590 Euro

Price includes:

Transportation in all directions, meals, guide, accommodation at 4* hotel and guesthouse, water, snacks, equipment, entrance fees.

Trip difficulty: 3/5

Start: 05 May 2016

Ends: 09 May 2016

Climate in Kosovo: No humidity

Weather: Dry

Night: Chilly

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