



Adventure Travel
4x4 Expeditions
Consultancy
Training



OneLife Adventure
www.onelifeadventure.co.uk



Albanian Recce

8th – 19th May 2021

OK, be honest, how much do you know about Albania ?

- ✓ Mother Teresa was Albanian and their only Nobel prize winner. Her full name is Anjezë Gonxhe Bojaxhiu and no, I can't pronounce it either.
- ✓ Albanians nod when they mean "no" and shake their head when they mean "yes".
- ✓ Albania was never part of the USSR but fiercely communist.

Don't worry, you are not alone! Albania has been described as Europe's last unexplored corner, with stunning mountains, sandy beaches and boasts more than 3,250 species of plants, around 30 per cent of all the flora in Europe. This small Balkan country sits just across the Adriatic and Ionian seas, only 45 miles from Italy, where the Strait of Otranto squeezes the Adriatic to its narrowest point. Greece is to the south and Montenegro to the north, and it's backed by high mountains.

After World War II, Albania became a Stalinist state under Enver Hoxha, and remained staunchly isolationist, even from Russia until its transition to democracy after 1990. The 1992 elections ended 47 years of communist rule. Having spent nearly half of the 20th century isolated from the rest of the world, Albania remains somewhat a land of mystery. While 'the land of eagles' may be better known for its stormy communist past (with some 750,000 concrete bunkers still scattered around to prove it), it has a rich and diverse historical and cultural legacy.

Home to Illyrians, Romans and centuries of Ottoman rule, all have left their mark with impressive castles and fortified villages for us to wander in. This recce will explore the Southern mountains and beaches, great offroad driving and fascinating villages with time to chill on world class beaches before heading to the mountainous north. If snow melt allows then we'll explore the high northern Alps. The huge network of forest and mountain tracks are rough, rocky and typically neglected as a program of major road building has taken place. Expect some winching and slow progress, this is about as wild as you can get in Southern Europe.



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Summary

Start point	Brindisi, Italy
Finish point	Brindisi, Italy
Number of days	12 days, 12 nights. Meet 7 th May at Brindisi
Approx. distance	1200 km
Road conditions	Mixture of gravel, rock tracks and local roads.
No' of vehicles	Maximum of 6 vehicles or 12 adult guests plus our support vehicle.
Accommodation used	Accommodation will be in good standard campsites with toilet/shower facilities, or wild camping in the pristine countryside. 1-2 nights will be in rural hotels.
Specialist equipment - vehicle	A well maintained and serviced 4x4 vehicle fitted with underbody protection. A CB radio must be fitted. Tyres of All Terrain or Mud Terrain tread patterns are most suitable. Front and rear recovery points and a full set of recovery equipment (strops and shackles) is essential, along with a spade. A winch is not essential and additional fuel cans are not needed. A vehicle fridge/coolbox is useful for cold drinks and keeping food fresh.
Specialist equipment - camping	Either roof or ground tents are suitable. You will need good quality sleeping mats if using ground tents, along with sleeping bags. You should bring your own chairs, table, stove, pans, cutlery and utensils. Clothing can be light as the days will be hot, in the sheltered valleys, however you should bring some warm and windproof outer wear as there will still be snow on the peaks. Protection from the sun and UV is needed.
Passport	Required. The vehicles original V5 is also required.
Visa	Not needed for UK citizens.
Health	No special requirements beyond small first aid kit and travel insurance. From 01 Jan 2021, EHIC – the European Health Entitlement Certificate provisions will no longer apply to most UK citizens.
Cost of living	A lot less than the UK. You will be able to withdraw either Lek or Euros from ATM's and in some bigger places credit cards are accepted. Euros are generally accepted in most places.



Weather

Warm and sheltered in the valleys but it can be cool up on the mountains, snow will still be present on the high peaks. Gets dryer and warmer as we head west and south.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average daily temp												
Max ° C	11	13	16	21	26	30	34	33	29	24	17	13
Min ° C	4	4	7	11	15	19	22	20	17	14	10	6
Rainfall mm	95	82	60	58	49	47	24	9	33	69	64	117

Food and Shopping

Food is readily available even in small villages, there is a strong culture of home cooking and I'm sure we'll all get to try some traditional dishes in local restaurants as well! Meals can be cooked individually or communally; the choice is yours and we will co-ordinate and assist you with food purchasing while in country.

Schedule and Pace

The route and timings are not fixed, we will be free to break journey, stop and explore, as you desire. We aim to be in the campsite by 17.00 on most days to allow us to relax and enjoy the experiences of the day. The daily distances driven vary due to the terrain and ground conditions but a typical day will be 2-3 hours driving in the morning, 1 hour for lunch and then a further 2-3 hours driving. There will be at least 1 rest / non driving day during the trip when you'll be free to explore or rest as you choose, additionally there will be time to visit major sites and attractions on our route.

Outbound shipping

The crossings from Dover to Calais and Brindisi to Vlore are made by ferry and are included in the expedition price. You are free to specify your own preferred dates and times, then drive directly our meeting point in Italy and take the ferry – or take the long slow drive through Europe and the Balkans to meet us in Vlore, a great way to see some extra countries if you want.

Note – While this section of the expedition is unsupported by OneLife Adventure, we are happy for you to join us as we drive down to Brindisi – perfect while you get used to driving “on the wrong side”! Accommodation, meals and refreshments you take during this transit stage are not included.

Inbound Shipping

The return crossings from Vlore to Brindisi and Calais to Dover are made by ferry and are included in the expedition price. Again, you are free to break the return journey and specify the ferry dates and times, allowing you to extend your holiday as you choose.

Note – As for the outbound journey, this section of the expedition is also unsupported by OneLife Adventure but again you are welcome to join us for the return. Accommodation, meals and refreshments you take during this transit stage are not included.



Cost

- £1699 per person for the first 2 adults (based on 2 sharing) **inclusive of all ferry crossings.**

The expedition price includes **flexible return ferry crossing from Dover to Calais and Brindisi to Vlore, all campsite/accommodation costs, full backup and guiding from the support team.**

- *If one adult and one under 16 only then the price is for 2 adults.*
- *Under 16's - £290 each.*
- *Adult single supplement, add £799.*
- *For each additional adult up to a maximum of 4 per vehicle, add £425*
- *Your fuel, food, snacks, drinks and personal spending are not included.*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK YOUR PLACE ON THIS
EXPEDITION
PLEASE CONTACT US**

NUMBERS ARE LIMITED – maximum of 6 vehicles or 12 adults!

OneLife Adventure Expedition Rating System

ALBANIA RECCE



Easy, short driving days, suitable for families and drivers with basic off road driving skills.



Easy camping with occasional wild sites interspersed by sites with facilities, no technical needs, suitable for families and young children.



Higher off road content, moderate driving days, suitable for families and medium off road driving skills.



50% wild camping, some technical needs, suitable for families and young children used to camping.



Longer days occasionally and high content of off road driving, recoveries likely and moderate levels of off road skills needed.



80% wild camping +, weather or environment requires some technical clothing/equipment, suitable for experienced families with older children.



Long days and long distances are the norm, likely to encounter severe hazards and will require teamwork to succeed, experienced drivers.



Extreme weather (hot, wet or cold), will require extensive technical equipment, irregular meals and physical discomfort will be the norm! Success is achieving the destination – Camel Trophy style.