

ITER ALBANIA Program

21 June - Arrivals (we will organize 3 or 4 transfers from the airport to Tirana). Meetings with local specialists of the Albanian flora visits of the Natural History Museum and the Herbarium situated in there. 16:30 seminary about geology climate, floristic and vegetation features of the areas that will be visited. 18:00 Transfer to Librazhd. Dinner and overnight in Librazhd (if all the foreign participants arrive early we can anticipate the seminar and the departure to Librazhd).

22 June - Explore the area of Shebenik: on serpentine rocks, 1 hour travelling with the help of local minivans that are able to penetrate the mountain areas to arrive in Sereçi 1200 m a.s.l., along the road there is *Fagus sylvatica* forest, *Pinus nigra* forest, *Quercus cerris*, *Q. petraea* areas and *Cistus albanicus*, from Sereçi to Liqenet e Dragostunjës 1900 m a.s.l. 1.5 hour walking trip, along the road there is *Fagus sylvatica* forest and at Liqenet e Dragostunjës there are grasslands where can see *Campanula hawkinsiana*, *Viola sp.*, *Pinguicula hirtiflora*, etc. Turning back to Librazhd for dinner and overnight;

23 June - Explore the mountains of Polis: on calcareous rocks from Librazhd - Hotolisht - Dardhë Mal - Lugu i Spatharit (1500 m a.s.l.) 2.5 hour travelling with the help of local minivans that are able to penetrate the mountain areas, along the road you can see beech forests and alpine pastures, than walking 1.5 hour you arrive at Faqja e Madhe 1900 m a.s.l. where is a small areal with *Leontopodium alpinum*. Returning to Librazhd for dinner and overnight;

24 June - Explore the area of Jabllanica Mountain at the borders between Albania and Macedonia, from Librazhd - Fushë Studën 1100 m a.s.l. – Liqeni i Draganit (1500 m a.s.l.) 2 hours travelling with the help of local minivans that are able to penetrate the mountain areas, there are few conglomerates and mostly calcareous rocks along the road and you can see meadows, reservoir of Fushë Studën, beech forests, Dragani Lake, alpine pastures, than walking for 30-40 minutes you can see *F. sylvatica* with *Abies alba* and arrive to Jabllanica mountain (1700 m a.s.l.) calcareous rocks where is *Ramonda serbica*, *Sideritis raeseri*, *Moltkia petraea*, *Viola sp. etc.* Dinner and overnight in Librazhd.

25 June - Drive to the direction of Korça. From Korça - Dardhë 1500 m a.s.l., 1 hour travelling with the help of local minivans ½ of the road is conglomerates and the rest is calcareous, along the road there are *Pinus nigra*, *Fagys sylvatica* and *Abies alba* forests. Explore the region of Boboshtica and Dardha (serpentine rocks, 950 m (min.) - 1.500 m (max.). Distance: 10.8 km from Korça. Overnight and dinner in either Korça (downtown) or the village of Voskopoja.

26 June - Drive to the direction of Berat with several stops on the way (serpentine rocks, 200m (min.) - 950 m (max.). We propose to explore the Canyons of the Devolli River and reach. Dinner and overnight in Berat.

27 June - Exploration of the Tomorri Mountains (Geological formations are composed of limestone rocks, limestone – siliceous, from 300 m to 2450m a.s.l.) for the whole day. Needs 2.5 hour travelling with the help of local minivans that are able to penetrate the mountain areas. Dinner and overnight in Berat.

28 June - Transfer day. We will take a long driving day to the direction of the Northeastern of Albania, Kukësi city. It will be about 4 -5 hours of driving through the very beautiful and interesting Highway of the Nation, with several stops on the way (serpentine rocks, 300m (min.) - 500 m (max.). Arrival in Kukësi city at midday. Check in local hotel. In the afternoon adjustment and processing of materials collected. Dinner and overnight in Kukësi.

29 June - Exploration of the Pashtriku Mountain, a mountain located in Kosovo and Albania for the whole day. Its highest peak is located on their mutual border, 1,986 m. (Geological formations are composed of limestone rocks. The village of Krumë is positioned next to it. Needs 1.5 hour travelling with the help of local minivans that are able to penetrate the mountain areas. Dinner and overnight in Kukesi city.

30 June - Transfer day. We will take a driving day to the direction of the very Northern valley of Valbona with several stops on the way (serpentine limestone rocks, 400m (min.) - 1000 m (max.)). It will be about 2 hours of driving through Kruma Has, Tropoja after that. Arrival in Valbona at midday. Main road connecting Valbona Valley National Park to Bajram Curri town is approximately 27 km, from which half is asphalted. Explore the Valbona Valley. The Valbona Valley is a national park of 8,000 hectares located in the eastern part of the Albanian Alps and one of the most beautiful natural areas in Albania. (Geological formations are composed of limestone rocks. Check in local hotel. Dinner and overnight in Valbona.

01 July - Explore the Valbona Valley, the mountain of Çet Harusha 2422 m high. It is located at the northwestern side of the mountain range Grykat e-Hapeta Zhaborre and rises over the Valbona valley with an altitude difference of over 1500 meters. From the top, the Valbona valley is fully visible up to Dragobi, and you have a beautiful view over the glacial trough of Kukaj. The best and shortest way to ascend the mountain of Çet Harusha starts in Valbona, follows on the north-western side of the mountain range to the source Buni i Ziçit at 1495 meters above sea level, continues through the forest to the saddle in the altitude of 2100 m and runs left towards the southern side of Çet Harusha that is covered by alpine meadows. Geological formations are composed of limestone rocks. Dinner and overnight in Valbona.

02 July - Explore the Valbona Valley, Qafa e Valbonës (Valbona pass) lays at an altitude of 1812 m. Over it leads the mountain path from Theth to Valbona and here the National Park Valbona meets with Thethi National Park. The pass separates Alia summit (2471 m) lying on the northwest, from Boshi summit (2416 m) on the southeast. On both sides it is covered with beech trees and pines. An attractive natural monument near the pass is the Valbona waterfall, which is the first source of Valbona river. The Valbona Valley is a national park of 8,000 hectares located in the eastern part of the Albanian Alps and one of the most beautiful natural areas in Albania. (Geological formations are composed of limestone rocks. Check in local hotel. Dinner and overnight in Valbona.

03 July - Early morning transfer to Lake Koman. Ferry ride to the direction of Vau i Dejes. Arrival in Tirana early evening. Dinner and overnight in Tirana.

The last day we will reach Tirana in the afternoon, one vehicle can reach Tirana for lunchtime for those who have the fly in the early afternoon.

The overnight of the 3th July is optional for those that will have the airplane the 4th July.