



Adventure Travel
4x4 Expeditions
Consultancy
Training



OneLife Adventure

www.onelifeadventure.co.uk

Balkans Explorer

25th June – 7th July 2026

OK, be honest, how much do you know about Albania and its Balkan neighbours?

- ✓ 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".
- ✓ It's common to use stuffed toy animals hung outside of houses as guardians to ward off evil spirits. These guardians are known as "dordolecs".

Albania and its neighbours Kosovo and Montenegro are 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. These small Balkan countries sit on the Adriatic and Ionian seas, 45 miles from Italy with Greece to the south and Croatia to the north.

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. Kosovo also suffered wars and ethnic cleansing under the Serbs and now 92% of the population is displaced Albanian Muslims, having split from Serbia in 2008. It remains Europe's youngest and smallest country, with one of its youngest populations - over 70% of the population is under the age of 35. As for Montenegro, most of the country is 1000m above the sea level and it boasts having the oldest olive tree in Europe. All 3 countries, though small, have a rich and diverse historical and cultural legacy.

After our first recce in 2022 we fell in love with Albania, a brief recce in Montenegro in 2025 raised our sights to its neighbours. You'll find very friendly people, great offroad driving, stunning wild camps and fascinating villages, one of the few remaining unspoilt pieces of Europe. This trip focusses on the central and northern areas of Albania, western Kosovo and NE Montenegro, all high mountains and forests. The extensive network of forest and mountain tracks are rough, rocky and typically neglected as a building program of new major roads 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	Bari, Italy
Finish point	Montenegro. You can then join us on a drive home through Europe or return to Durres to take the ferry back to Italy.
Number of days	13 days, 14 nights. Meet 24 th June at Bari, Italy.
Approx. distance	1400 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.
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 / V5	Passport and the vehicles original V5 is required. Schengen rules apply and your passport must have a 'date of issue' less than 10 years before the date you arrive and have an 'expiry date' at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave the Schengen area. If you renewed your passport before 1 October 2018, it may have a date of issue that is more than 10 years ago. NOTE: For 2026, the European Union's new Entry/Exit System (EES) will have begun. When travelling into and out of the Schengen area, for short stays, you may need to have your fingerprints and your photo taken, also answering the Schengen Border Code questions. If you enter the Schengen area through the Port of Dover, this information will be taken at the border, before you leave the UK. You may also need to provide either your fingerprint or photo when you leave the Schengen area. You will NOT need the new ETIAS system visa that will come into effect in Q3 2026.
Visa	Albania, Montenegro and Kosovo do not require visas for UK citizens. However, you will be transiting Schengen countries. UK residents, travelling as tourists, can travel without a visa to the Schengen area, for up to 90 days in any 180-day period.



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Health

No special requirements beyond small first aid kit and a GHIC – Global Health Entitlement Certificate (available from UK.gov online). The UK GHIC has replaced the older European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). If you have an existing EHIC you can continue to use it until the expiry date on the card.

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 may still be present on the high peaks.

	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 Bari to Durrës 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.



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Inbound Shipping

The return crossing from Calais to Dover is made by ferry and is 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. At the end of the trip in Montenegro you can either return to Durres in Albania to take the ferry back to Italy at an additional cost or alternatively you can join us for a drive home through Europe, a great way to see some extra countries and stop on the way if you want.

Note – While these transit sections of the expedition are unsupported by OneLife Adventure, we welcome you to join us as we drive down to Bari for the June trip – perfect while you get used to driving “on the wrong side” and we’ll assist where we can with any problems on these legs. Accommodation, meals and refreshments you take during this transit stage are not included.

Cost

- £1799 per person for the first 2 adults (based on 2 sharing) **inclusive of all ferry crossings.**

The expedition price includes **flexible ferry crossing from Dover to Calais return and Bari to Durres one way, 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

BALKANS EXPLORER



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.