

South Albania Grand Adventure

Southbound: The Great Albanian Overland | 7-Day Roadmap

Roadmap page only

This document is prepared as a clickable route roadmap. It does not repeat the main offer page, pricing, booking conditions, vehicle inclusions, FAQ or company description. Use it as a separate route page opened from the main 7-day roadmap selector.

Route overview

A balanced southbound loop: mountains above Tirana, Riviera coastline, UNESCO heritage, canyon landscapes, Mount Tomorr highlands and a calm historical return through Elbasan.

The route starts near Tirana, moves south toward the Albanian Riviera, turns inland through Gjirokaster, Permet, Osum Canyon and Berat, then climbs toward Mount Tomorr before returning through Skrapar and Elbasan.

Day	Route	Main experience	Map
Day 1	Tirana / Airport -> Bovilla Lake -> Kruja	Mountain awakening, lake views, Kruja old town	Open route
Day 2	Kruja -> Apollonia -> Vlora / Dukat	Ancient ruins and transition toward the coast	Open route
Day 3	Dukat -> Llogara Pass -> Himare -> Saranda / Ksamil	Spectacular Albanian Riviera drive	Open route
Day 4	Ksamil -> Butrint -> Blue Eye -> Gjirokaster	UNESCO, spring water and Stone City	Open route
Day 5	Gjirokaster -> Permet -> Osum Canyon -> Berat	Vjosa valley, canyon viewpoints and Berat heritage	Open route
Day 6	Berat -> Mount Tomorr -> Skrapar / Corovode	Highland gravel stage and summit atmosphere	Open route
Day 7	Skrapar -> Elbasan -> Tirana / Airport area	Historical return and calm departure setup	Open route

Key route highlights

- [Bovilla Lake and Kruja](#)
- [Apollonia Archaeological Park](#)
- [Llogara Pass and the Albanian Riviera](#)

- [Himare, Porto Palermo, Saranda and Ksamil region](#)
- [Butrint UNESCO World Heritage Site](#)
- [Blue Eye spring and Gjirokaster Stone City](#)
- [Permet, Vjosa valley and Osum Canyon](#)
- [Berat - the City of a Thousand Windows](#)
- [Mount Tomorr highland summit stage](#)
- [Skrapar region and Elbasan old town return](#)

Driving character

- Balanced southbound progression with no unnecessary backtracking.
- Mixed road character: asphalt, mountain roads, coastal roads, gravel sections and optional more adventurous stages.
- Mount Tomorr and remote gravel sections require local weather, track and safety confirmation before departure.
- Google Maps links are planning aids only. For 4x4 tracks, use local track files, offline maps and pre-departure road confirmation.

Complete day-by-day roadmap

Day 1 - Mountain Awakening

Route: Tirana / Airport -> Bovilla Lake -> Kruja

Google Maps planning link: [Open route](#)

Your Albania overland journey begins just north of Tirana, where the road quickly leaves the city rhythm behind and rises into rugged scenery. Bovilla Lake introduces the first mountain panoramas of the route before the day continues toward Kruja, one of Albania's most atmospheric historic towns.

Morning plan	Afternoon / evening plan
• Vehicle handover and short operational briefing near Tirana or the airport area. • Check tyre pressures, communication, first-aid kit, recovery equipment and offline maps. • Drive toward Bovilla Lake and stop at selected viewpoints.	• Optional short hike or viewpoint stop near the Gamti/Bovilla area if conditions are safe. • Continue to Kruja and check in before sunset. • Walk through Kruja Old Bazaar and the fortress area.

Nearby places to visit

- [Bovilla Lake viewpoint](#)
- [Gamti Mountain / Bovilla hike](#)
- [Kruja Castle](#)
- [Old Bazaar Kruja](#)
- [Skanderbeg Museum Kruja](#)
- [Sari Salltik viewpoint](#)

Camping / guesthouse suggestions to verify

- [Camping Tirana](#)
- [Camping Dajti](#)
- [Kruja guesthouses / boutique hotels](#)
- [Pre-approved wild camp near Bovilla only with local permission](#)

Food / local stop suggestions

- [Restaurant Bardhi Kruja](#)
- [Kruja traditional restaurants](#)

Driving and operational notes

- Bovilla road can be narrow and busy with day tours; avoid rushing.
- Do not promise wild camping unless land access and safety are confirmed.

Day 2 - The Southern Descent

Route: Kruja -> Apollonia -> Vlora / Dukat

Google Maps planning link: [Open route](#)

The route begins its long southbound arc. From Kruja, the journey moves across central Albania toward Apollonia, one of the country's most important archaeological sites. By late afternoon, the mountains begin to close in again around Vlora, Orikum and Dukat, setting the stage for the Riviera crossing.

Morning plan	Afternoon / evening plan
• Depart Kruja after breakfast. • Optional quick stop at Durres or Ardenica Monastery depending on timing. • Continue to Apollonia Archaeological Park.	• Visit Apollonia and continue toward Vlora. • Optional stop at Zvernec Monastery or Narta Lagoon if daylight allows. • Arrive in Dukat / Orikum / Llogara foothills area.

Nearby places to visit

- [Apollonia Archaeological Park](#)
- [Ardenica Monastery](#)
- [Narta Lagoon](#)
- [Zvernec Monastery](#)
- [Vlora promenade](#)
- [Orikum](#)
- [Dukat village](#)

Camping / guesthouse suggestions to verify

- [Eco Camping Valona](#)
- [Camping near Radhime / Orikum](#)
- [Guesthouses in Dukat](#)
- [Llogara guesthouses / lodges](#)

Food / local stop suggestions

- [Vlora seafood restaurants](#)
- [Dukat traditional food](#)

Driving and operational notes

- Apollonia visit should not be too late; check opening hours before departure.
- Avoid overloading Day 2 with too many coastal stops if the group wants a calm arrival.

Day 3 - The Spectacular Albanian Riviera

Route: Dukat -> Llogara Pass -> Dhermi -> Himare -> Porto Palermo -> Saranda / Ksamil

Google Maps planning link: [Open route](#)

This is one of the defining days of the route. The ascent to Llogara Pass reveals a dramatic coastal panorama where mountains fall sharply toward the Ionian Sea. The route then follows the Riviera through Dhermi, Himare, Porto Palermo, Qeparo, Borsh and Lukove before reaching Saranda or Ksamil.

Morning plan	Afternoon / evening plan
• Early departure from Dukat / Orikum area. • Climb Llogara Pass with viewpoint stops. • Descend toward Palase and Dhermi.	• Flexible beach and village stops: Dhermi, Gjipe access, Jale, Himare and Livadhi. • Photo stop at Porto Palermo Castle and bay. • Continue via Qeparo, Borsh and Lukove to Saranda / Ksamil.

Nearby places to visit

- [Llogara Pass viewpoint](#)
- [Dhermi village and beach](#)
- [Gjipe Beach access](#)
- [Jale Beach](#)
- [Himare Castle](#)
- [Livadhi Beach](#)
- [Porto Palermo Castle](#)
- [Qeparo old village](#)
- [Borsh Beach](#)
- [Lukove](#)
- [Lekuresi Castle Saranda](#)

Camping / guesthouse suggestions to verify

- [The Sea Turtle Camping Dhermi](#)
- [Gjipe Eco Campground](#)
- [Social Camping JAL](#)
- [Camping Livadh](#)
- [Kamping Himara](#)
- [Saranda Camping Riverside](#)
- [Ksamil Caravan Camping](#)

Food / local stop suggestions

- [Himare seafood restaurants](#)
- [Qeparo / Borsh traditional restaurants](#)
- [Saranda dinner with sea view](#)

Driving and operational notes

- High-season coastal traffic can slow the route; keep the day flexible.
- Gjipe access may require walking or careful local confirmation.

Important route caution

This section can be weather-sensitive or traffic-sensitive. The final operational decision should be made locally before departure and again on the day of travel.

Day 4 - From Sea to Stone

Route: Ksamil / Saranda -> Butrint -> Blue Eye -> Gjirokaster

Google Maps planning link: [Open route](#)

Morning light over the southern coast leads to Butrint, one of Albania's most important UNESCO heritage sites. After the coast, the route turns inland through the Blue Eye spring toward Gjirokaster, the preserved Stone City of Ottoman roofs, steep alleys and fortress walls.

Morning plan

- Optional sunrise or early swim near Ksamil if the group stays close to the coast.
- Visit Butrint National Archaeological Park.
- Optional short stop at Ali Pasha Castle viewpoint near Butrint.

Afternoon / evening plan

- Drive through the Saranda region toward Blue Eye.
- Continue to Gjirokaster and check in.
- Evening walk through Gjirokaster Bazaar and castle area.

Nearby places to visit

- [Ksamil Islands](#)
- [Butrint National Archaeological Park](#)
- [Ali Pasha Castle Butrint](#)

- [Blue Eye Albania](#)
- [Gjirokaster Castle](#)
- [Gjirokaster Bazaar](#)
- [Skenduli House](#)
- [Zekate House](#)

Camping / guesthouse suggestions to verify

- [Camping Family Gjirokaster](#)
- [Gjirokaster guesthouses old town](#)
- [Kerculla Resort / upper Gjirokaster area](#)

Food / local stop suggestions

- [Gjirokaster traditional restaurants](#)
- [Saranda coffee / lunch stop](#)

Driving and operational notes

- Butrint needs sufficient time; do not treat it as a 20-minute stop.
- Blue Eye parking and access rules can change; confirm current arrangements.

Day 5 - Canyon Passage

Route: Gjirokaster -> Permet -> Benja / Langarica -> Osum Canyon -> Berat

Google Maps planning link: [Open route](#)

The route turns inward through river valleys and mountain roads. Permet and the Vjosa valley offer a softer, natural rhythm before the day moves toward Osum Canyon, one of Albania's most dramatic limestone landscapes. By late afternoon, the route arrives in Berat, the City of a Thousand Windows.

Morning plan	Afternoon / evening plan
• Depart Gjirokaster toward Tepelene / Permet. • Scenic stops along the Vjosa valley and Kelcyra Gorge. • Optional visit to Benja Thermal Baths / Langarica Canyon if timing allows.	• Continue toward Corovode / Osum Canyon viewpoints. • Optional guided rafting or kayak activity in season, if booked in advance. • Continue to Berat for evening arrival.

Nearby places to visit

- [Tepelene](#)
- [Kelcyra Gorge](#)
- [Permet](#)
- [Benja Thermal Baths](#)
- [Langarica Canyon](#)
- [Osum Canyon viewpoint](#)
- [Bogove Waterfall](#)
- [Berat old town](#)

Camping / guesthouse suggestions to verify

- [Albturist Eco Camping Permet](#)
- [Guesthouse & Camping Peshtan](#)
- [Camping Castle Berat](#)
- [Berat Caravan Camping](#)
- [Camping Villa Juri Berat](#)

Food / local stop suggestions

- [Permet traditional food / gliko](#)
- [Berat traditional restaurants](#)

Driving and operational notes

- This is a longer and more complex day; build in a fallback to skip Benja or rafting if timing is tight.
- Rafting or kayaking must be booked with qualified local guides and depends on season and water levels.

Day 6 - Summit of the Highlands

Route: Berat -> Mount Tomorr -> Skrapar / Corovode

Google Maps planning link: [Open route](#)

After a morning in Berat, the route climbs into the highlands toward Mount Tomorr, Albania's sacred mountain. Gravel tracks, open ridgelines and panoramic silence define this stage. This is the summit moment of the journey: raw, elevated and elemental.

Morning plan • Slow morning in Berat: castle, Mangalem and Gorica quarters, coffee stop and photo walk. • Briefing for Tomorr stage: weather, tyres, fuel, water, convoy spacing and turnaround plan.	Afternoon / evening plan • Depart toward Mount Tomorr / Kulmak area. • Climb selected gravel routes depending on conditions. • Photo stops on ridgelines and highland viewpoints. • Descend toward Skrapar / Corovode region for overnight.
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Nearby places to visit

- [Berat Castle / Kala](#)
- [Mangalem Quarter](#)
- [Gorica Bridge](#)
- [Onufri Museum Berat](#)
- [Mount Tomorr National Park](#)
- [Kulmak Pass / Abaz Aliu area](#)
- [Corovode](#)

Camping / guesthouse suggestions to verify

- [Camping Castle Berat](#)
- [Berat Caravan Camping](#)
- [Hotel Kanione / Corovode area](#)
- [Pre-approved mountain camp near Tomorr only with local confirmation](#)

Food / local stop suggestions

- [Berat breakfast / coffee](#)
- [Corovode local restaurants](#)

Driving and operational notes

- Tomorr is weather-sensitive; snow, rain, fog or track damage can change the plan.
- Always keep a lower-altitude alternative route. Do not force the summit stage.

Important route caution

This section can be weather-sensitive or traffic-sensitive. The final operational decision should be made locally before departure and again on the day of travel.

Day 7 - Return Through Time

Route: Skrapar / Corovode -> Elbasan -> Tirana / Airport campsite

Google Maps planning link: [Open route](#)

The route closes with a measured return through central Albania. Depending on road conditions and time, the route can include Elbasan's old town, Belsh lakes or a direct return toward Tirana. The final evening is designed to be calm, practical and close to the airport or vehicle return location.

Morning plan	Afternoon / evening plan
• Depart Skrapar / Corovode after breakfast. • Choose safe return option based on road conditions: scenic interior route or more reliable asphalt route. • Optional stop at Gramsh / Holta Canyon or Belsh if timing allows.	• Visit Elbasan Castle old town area or continue direct to Tirana. • Arrive near Tirana / airport campsite. • Final dinner, vehicle check and departure briefing.

Nearby places to visit

- [Holta Canyon](#)
- [Gramsh](#)
- [Belsh Lake](#)
- [Elbasan Castle](#)
- [Elbasan old town](#)
- [Tirana centre optional](#)
- [Tirana International Airport](#)

Camping / guesthouse suggestions to verify

- [Camping Tirana](#)
- [Camping Dajti](#)
- [Airport-area guesthouses / hotels](#)
- [Final vehicle return area](#)

Food / local stop suggestions

- [Elbasan traditional restaurants](#)
- [Tirana final dinner](#)

Driving and operational notes

- Do not schedule a late risky gravel section on the final day.
- Keep final night near airport / vehicle return area to avoid departure stress.

Day 8 - Departure Day

Route: Vehicle collection / airport transfer

Google Maps planning link: [Open route](#)

The final day is intentionally simple. Vehicles are collected from the agreed campsite or airport-area location. Airport transfer can be arranged, and guests can depart without rush after a complete and memorable route through Albania.

Morning plan	Afternoon / evening plan
• Final vehicle inspection and equipment check. • Collect personal items, camping kit and route materials. • Transfer to airport or optional Tirana city extension.	• Flexible departures. • Optional extra night in Tirana for guests with late flights.

Nearby places to visit

- [Tirana International Airport](#)
- [Skanderbeg Square Tirana](#)
- [BunkArt 2 Tirana](#)
- [Blloku Tirana](#)

Camping / guesthouse suggestions to verify

- [Camping Tirana](#)
- [Airport hotels](#)

Food / local stop suggestions

- [Airport area coffee](#)
- [Tirana lunch](#)

Driving and operational notes

- Confirm flight times and vehicle return process one day before departure.

Useful master search links

- [Tirana International Airport](#)
- [Bovilla Lake](#)
- [Kruja Castle](#)
- [Apollonia Archaeological Park](#)
- [Llogara Pass](#)
- [Himare](#)
- [Porto Palermo Castle](#)
- [Butrint National Archaeological Park](#)
- [Blue Eye Albania](#)
- [Gjirokaster Castle](#)
- [Osum Canyon viewpoint](#)
- [Berat Castle](#)
- [Mount Tomorr / Kulmak Pass](#)
- [Elbasan Castle](#)

Route verification notes

- Confirm every campsite, guesthouse and mountain access point before publishing as a confirmed option.
- Do not publish wild-camping locations unless permission, safety and legal basis are confirmed.
- Check Mount Tomorr conditions before each departure; keep a lower-altitude alternative route ready.
- Verify opening hours for Apollonia, Butrint, Blue Eye and other managed attractions before each departure.
- Keep the final night near Tirana Airport or the vehicle return area to avoid departure stress.

Image placement suggestions

- **Hero image:** Mount Tomorr ridge at sunset with 4x4
- **Day 1:** Bovilla Lake aerial / 4x4 above Bovilla Lake
- **Day 2:** Apollonia ruins and rolling Albanian hills
- **Day 3:** Llogara Pass coastal panorama / Ionian Sea road
- **Day 4:** Butrint ruins or Gjirokaster stone rooftops
- **Day 5:** Osum Canyon cliffs
- **Day 6:** Mount Tomorr gravel ridge
- **Day 7:** Elbasan castle walls or final camp near Tirana