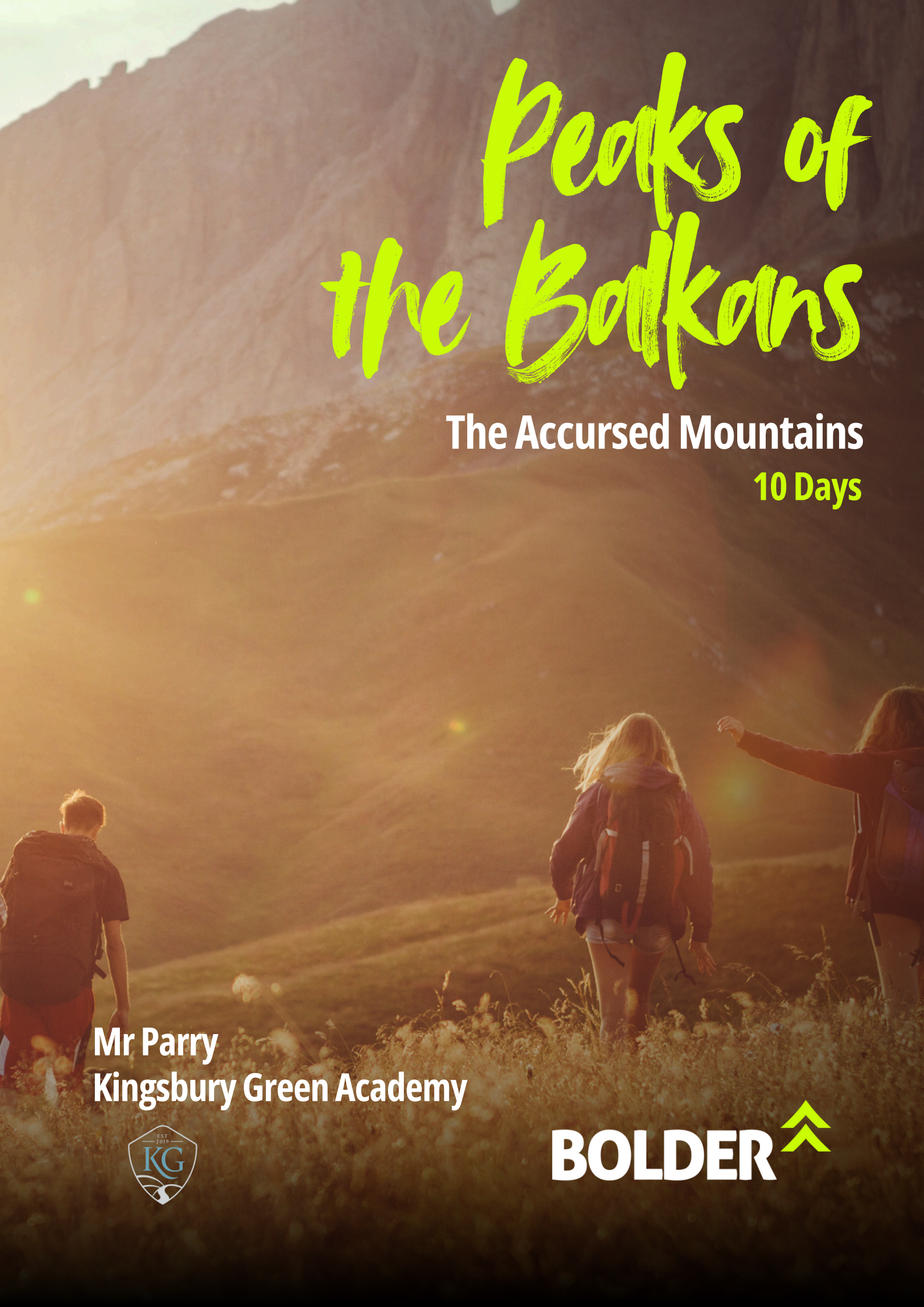


Peaks of the Balkans

The Accursed Mountains

10 Days

Mr Parry
Kingsbury Green Academy

BOLDER

A Journey of Remote Trekking, Culture & Shared Challenge

Destination: Northern Albania (Shkodër, Valbona & Theth)

Duration: 10 Days

Perfect for: Schools seeking a genuine trekking expedition in a lesser-known mountain region, with strong cultural immersion, sustained challenge, and a real sense of journey through remote landscapes.



Albania is a country of dramatic landscapes and deep-rooted traditions, where high mountain passes connect remote valleys and everyday life is shaped by the land. From the historic streets of Shkodër to the wild peaks of the Accursed Mountains, this journey blends sustained trekking, cultural immersion and a real sense of travel. Students will cross mountain passes on foot, stay in family-run guesthouses, paddle quiet lakes, and learn how communities have lived and adapted in these remote regions for generations. It's an expedition that feels purposeful and authentic — challenging, rewarding, and rich in perspective.









ALBANIA
PEAKS OF THE BALKANS
10 DAYS

Mountain Trekking, Culture & Journeying

This draft itinerary outlines one way your Accursed Mountains expedition could run. It's been shaped to balance sustained trekking, cultural immersion and time to recover and reflect, but the exact order and pacing may adapt to weather, trail conditions or local considerations. We'll finalise the detail with you to ensure it fits your group, aims and preferred dates.

Day 1

Arrival in Albania & Journey North. We arrive into Tirana and begin the journey north toward Shkodër, Albania's historic gateway to the mountains. As the city gives way to lakes and open countryside, the scale of the landscape begins to reveal itself. On arrival, we settle into our hotel and take a short evening walk through the old town. Dinner together marks the start of our journey into the northern highlands.

Day 2

Shkodër: Culture, History & Context. Today is about understanding where we are and what lies ahead. We explore Shkodër's historic streets and visit Rozafa Castle, perched high above the city with sweeping views across Lake Shkodër and the distant mountains. Time in the city gives students cultural context before heading into more remote areas. The afternoon is relaxed, with space to prepare kit and brief for the days ahead.

Day 3

Lake Koman Ferry & Into the Alps. An early start takes us to Lake Koman, where we board the ferry for one of the most dramatic journeys in the Balkans. As the boat threads through steep cliffs and narrow gorges, the sense of isolation deepens. From Fierze, we continue by road into the Valbona Valley, surrounded by towering peaks. We arrive in the late afternoon and settle into our guesthouse beneath the Albanian Alps.

Day 4

Exploring the Valbona Valley. Today we explore the Valbona Valley on foot, following trails through open meadows and along glacial rivers. The pace is steady, allowing time to adjust to the terrain and altitude. Guides introduce trekking skills, route awareness and mountain safety, while students begin to find their rhythm as a group. The evening is spent sharing stories and food with our hosts.

Day 5

Trekking Valbona to Theth. This is the defining day of the expedition. We set out early for the classic Valbona–Theth crossing, climbing steadily toward the high mountain pass. The views open dramatically across both valleys, rewarding the effort of the ascent. After reaching the pass, we descend through forested slopes into Theth, where traditional stone houses and warm hospitality await. It's a long, demanding day - and a real achievement for the group.





Day 6

Waterfalls, Canyons & Local Life. Today's walk takes us deeper into the Theth valley, following river paths toward waterfalls and natural rock pools carved by the Shala River. The route is long but gentle, offering a chance to loosen legs after the mountain crossing. Along the way, we pass through small hamlets and learn more about daily life in this remote region. The afternoon is relaxed, with time to rest and reflect.

Day 7

Exploring Theth & Mountain Culture. We spend the day exploring Theth village and its surroundings. Students learn about the area's history, including traditional tower houses and the Kanun code that once governed life in these mountains. Short walks and viewpoint climbs are balanced with cultural visits and discussion. It's a day that brings together landscape, history and perspective.

Day 8

Return to Shkodër. After breakfast, we travel back from Theth to Shkodër by mountain road. The return journey offers a final look at the highlands before the landscape opens out again. The afternoon is free to rest, explore the city, or enjoy a swim by the lake. A group dinner provides a chance to celebrate the trek and share highlights from the journey.

Day 9

Kayaking on Lake Shkodër. Today we take to the water for a full day of kayaking on Lake Shkodër. After a safety briefing, we paddle along the shoreline and into quieter channels, working in pairs and small teams. The day offers a different physical challenge and a chance to experience the landscape from a new perspective. We return to Shkodër in the late afternoon for a final evening together.

Day 10

Homeward Bound. After a relaxed breakfast, we transfer back to Tirana Airport for the journey home. Students leave Albania with a strong sense of accomplishment, shared experience, and a deeper understanding of what it means to travel through a remote mountain region, and one of Europe's last true wildernesses, under their own steam.

















WHAT'S INCLUDED



Teaching staff, 1:10 ratio
Bolder Adventure Guide

International flights



All in-country transport
All accommodation, meals and safe drinking water

All required permits/park fees
Guided activities with expert local partners



Group safety, communication & sleep-out equipment
Travel Pack, inc. hoody

Comprehensive travel insurance
Safety management & planning
24/7 support during travel



Highly experienced UK account management
Pre-trip briefings & training (*as applicable*)

PLEASE NOTE: *Cancellation insurance, visas, vaccinations, personal expenditure, tips for leaders, guides and drivers - and any other services not listed above are not included.*

BOLDER

SEE THE WORLD DIFFERENTLY

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