

Peaks of the Balkans

ALBANIA, KOSOVO
AND MONTENEGRO

BOLDER 

Adventure

HIGHLIGHTS



HIGH PASS TREKKING

Ancient trails, steep climbs and spectacular views through the Accursed Mountains.



THREE COUNTRIES ON FOOT

Cross borders between Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro by remote mountain trail.



SUMMIT CHALLENGE

An optional ascent of Gjeravica, Kosovo's highest peak, and a true expedition milestone.



LAKES & GORGES

Kayaking on Lake Shkodër and a dramatic ferry journey through Lake Koman.

Destination

SNAPSHOT



LANDSCAPE

High mountain passes, glacial lakes, limestone peaks, deep valleys and remote shepherd trails through the Accursed Mountains.



CULTURE

A rich mix of Albanian, Kosovan and Montenegrin mountain life, shaped by hospitality, tradition, resilience and close connection to the land.



CHALLENGE LEVEL

Challenging. Sustained trekking, long days, steep ascents and high passes, with expert guidance and adaptable pacing.



ACCOMMODATION

Simple hotels and family-run mountain guesthouses, offering warm hospitality, local food and a real sense of place.



CLIMATE

Hot summer conditions in July, with cooler mountain mornings and evenings. Weather can change quickly at altitude.



TRAVEL

Fly to Tirana, then travel north to Shkodër and into the Albanian Alps. Return via Lake Koman and Tirana.



ATMOSPHERE

Remote. Rugged. Rewarding. A true expedition feel, with big landscapes, shared challenge and a powerful sense of journey.



BEST FOR

Schools seeking a genuine mountain trekking expedition, combining sustained physical challenge, cultural immersion and the rare experience of crossing borders on foot through one of Europe's wildest regions.



PEAKS OF THE BALKANS
ALBANIA, KOSOVO & MONTENEGRO



PEAKS OF THE BALKANS THREE COUNTRY EXPEDITION 14 DAYS

ONE POSSIBLE JOURNEY This sample itinerary shows how we believe you can get the most from your time and create a well-balanced adventure. The exact running order and individual elements may vary according to availability, local conditions and the needs of the group. Most aspects can be tailored to suit your school's aims, preferred duration and priorities, so please get in touch and we can shape the right programme with you.

Day 1

Arrival in Albania & Journey to Shkodër. We arrive into Tirana and transfer north to Shkodër, the gateway to the Albanian Alps. As the landscape shifts from lowland plains to rising mountains, students get their first sense of the scale of the journey ahead.

After settling into our accommodation, there's time for a short walk through the historic town before a full expedition briefing in the evening.

Day 2

Shkodër: Culture, Context & Preparation. Today provides important context before heading into the mountains. We explore Shkodër's historic streets and visit Rozafa Castle, with wide views across Lake Shkodër and the surrounding peaks.

The afternoon is focused on preparation - kit checks, route briefings, and setting expectations for the days ahead.

Day 3

Theth Valley & Blue Eye | First Trekking Day.

Approx. 18–20km | Moderate | Gradual ascent/descent

We transfer into the mountains and begin trekking in Theth National Park. The route follows the Shala River through forest and open valley, leading to waterfalls and the striking Blue Eye natural spring. It's a longer but steady first day on foot, allowing the group to settle into pacing, movement, and trekking as a team.

Day 4

Theth – Valbona | High Pass Crossing.

Approx. 16km | +1100m ascent | Demanding

One of the defining days of the expedition. We climb steadily toward the Valbona Pass (approx. 1750m), gaining over 1,000m in elevation.

The trail follows an ancient mule track linking the valleys of Shala and Valbona, with panoramic views across both sides of the mountains.

A long descent brings us into Valbona - a physically demanding but highly rewarding day and a real milestone for the group.

Day 5

Cerem – Doberdol | Into Remote Terrain.

Approx. 16–17km | High mountain terrain

We move deeper into the Accursed Mountains, trekking between remote shepherd settlements and high alpine pastures. The route climbs steadily to elevations close to 2,000m, passing through isolated landscapes where traditional ways of life remain unchanged.

Doberdol, our destination, is only accessible on foot - marking a clear shift into truly remote expedition terrain.





Day 6

Gjeravica Peak (2656m) | Summit Day or Active Recovery.

Approx. 18km | +1100m ascent | Challenging

Today offers the opportunity to summit Gjeravica (2,656m), the highest peak in Kosovo.

The route is long and physically demanding, but achievable with steady pacing and support. For teams needing recovery, a shorter hike to nearby glacial lakes is available.

Reaching the summit is a genuine highlight - a moment of real achievement within the expedition.

Day 7

Doberdol – Babino Polje | Border Crossing on Foot

Approx. 13km | Moderate

We cross from Albania into Montenegro on foot, following high mountain trails along remote border ridgelines. There is the opportunity to visit the “three borders” point - where Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro meet - before descending into a traditional Montenegrin shepherd settlement.

A slightly shorter day, allowing for recovery while still maintaining momentum.

Day 8

Babino Polje – Plav | Distance & Endurance.

Up to 20km | Long but steady

One of the longer days of the expedition, covering significant distance across rolling terrain and high plateaus. We pass glacial lakes and wide open landscapes, with the option to shorten sections if needed.

This day is about endurance - maintaining pace, supporting each other, and moving consistently over distance.

Day 9

Grbaja Valley & Taljanka Peak | Panoramic Ridge Walk.

Approx. 9–10km | +900m ascent

We transfer to Grbaja Valley and begin a steep but rewarding climb to Taljanka Peak (approx. 2050m). The ridge offers some of the most dramatic views of the entire expedition, with sharp limestone peaks and expansive mountain panoramas.

Shorter in distance, but still physically demanding due to sustained ascent.





Day 10

Vusanje – Theth | The Wildest Section.

Approx. 17–18km | +1100m ascent | Demanding

A long and challenging day through some of the most rugged terrain of the journey.

The route passes through remote valleys, rocky paths, and former border zones, with dramatic mountain scenery throughout.

Day 11

Theth: Culture & Reflection | Return to Shkodër. A more reflective day exploring Theth village, one of the most isolated and historically rich communities in northern Albania. We visit traditional tower houses and learn about local customs and history before transferring back to Shkodër.

A chance to pause, recover, and reflect on the journey so far.

Day 12

Lake Shkodër Kayaking. A change of pace. We take to the water on Lake Shkodër, working in pairs or small teams to navigate the lake by kayak. This offers a different type of challenge - coordination, teamwork, and a new perspective on the landscape.

Day 13

Koman Lake Ferry | A Dramatic Finale. We travel by ferry through Lake Koman, navigating narrow gorges and steep mountain walls. Often described as one of Europe's most spectacular boat journeys, it provides a memorable and visually striking conclusion to the expedition.

Day 14

Return Journey. After breakfast, we transfer to Tirana Airport for the journey home.

Students leave with a strong sense of achievement - having completed a multi-country trekking expedition across one of Europe's most remote mountain regions.



SHAPE YOUR *Adventure*

10 DAY

NORTHERN ALBANIA

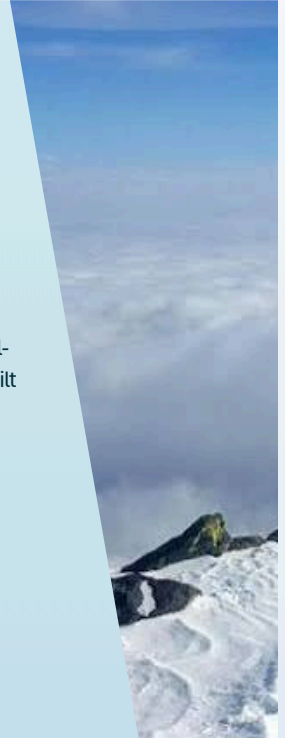
Combine Shkoder, Koman Lake, Valbona, the Valbona-Theth crossing, Theth culture and optional lake kayaking.



CHALLENGE

SUMMIT & EXPLORE

Keep Gjeravica or Taljanka as stretch objectives, with glacial-lake and valley alternatives built into the plan.



STRETCH

EXTEND THE CHALLENGE

The full Peaks of the Balkans route is 192km long! Take on as much as you'd like, in line with your aims, and the age and capabilities of your students.



BESPOKE

TAILORED YOUR WAY

The route can be shortened, softened - or made more ambitious - without losing its central character: mountain travel, village connection and a strong sense of journey.



NOT SURE WHICH WORKS BEST?

That's where we come in. We'll help shape the right adventure for your team.



WHAT'S INCLUDED



Free teaching staff places
Bolder Adventure Programme Leader 

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 or tech tee

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.

NEXT STEPS

1

Consider your preferred itinerary or direction



2

Book a 20 minute planning call. We'll confirm your aims, shape the itinerary, and prepare what you need for SLT and promotion

3

Receive your customised pack for confirmation and launch

4

Reserve your dates with a small holding deposit



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DIFFERENTLY**



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