









THE EUROPEAN UNION'S CROSS BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME

# DISCOVER MAVROVO ROSTUSE AND DIBËR GUIDE



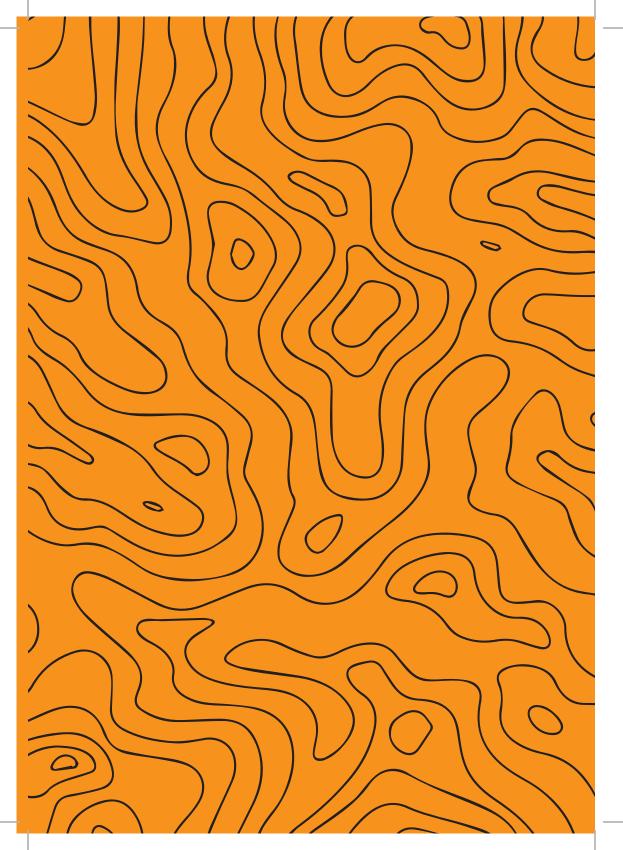


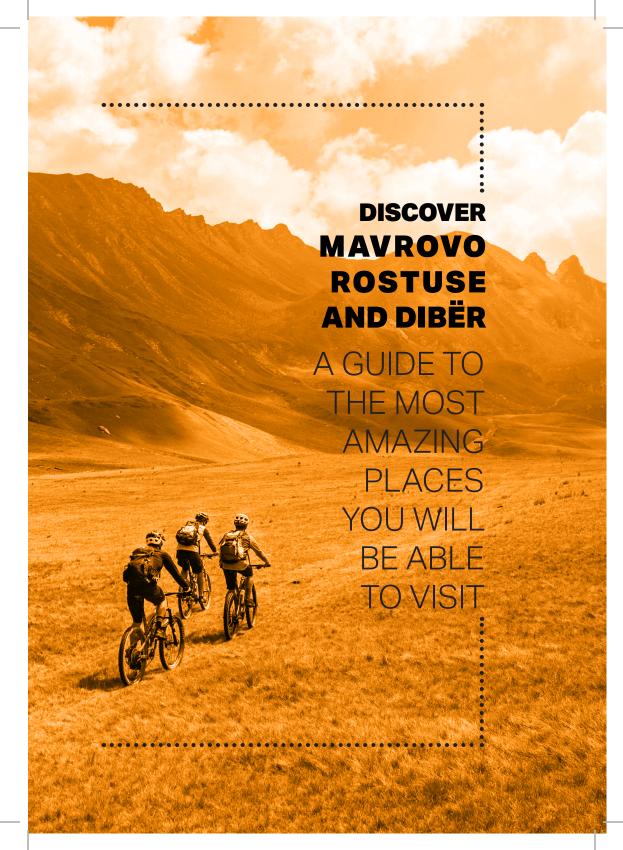












# Reka Regior

Reka Region (or just Reka) - A region in Western North Macedonia, located between the Municipalities of Mavrovo -Rostuse and Debar on one side, and between the border with Albania and the Kichevo District, on the other.

Geographically, the Reka Region to the northwest is bordered by the southern branches of the Sharr Mountains, and to the south by the northern parts of Mount Deshat. To the west, the border of the Reka Region is drawn by the mountains Korab and Krchin, and to the east by Bistra and Stogovo.

The Reka Region got its name from the Radika River and its tributary Mala Reka. Due to the extremely rugged terrain, with a number of mountain peaks higher than 2,500 meters above sea level, it is ideal for performing most of the activities that are part of active tourism. Here you can play sports and recreation (mountain biking - cross country or all mountain, hiking, horse riding, visit to Sharkova Dupka cave, visit to Duf waterfall, rock climbing, mountain running, skiing, snow shooing, ski touring, safari visits and adrenaline park, fishing, jeep tours), all together with your friends, family, children, and the choice to be only yours and at your discretion.

The Reka region has had its own continuity of life since the period of antiquity and the Middle Ages, although this region reached its zenith in the time of the XIX and the beginning of the XX century. Well, we warmly recommend you to visit (The Immersed Church of St. Nicholas in the artificial lake Mavrovo, the Old Mosque in the village of Rostuse, the Monastery of St. John Bigorski, the thermal baths in the village of Kosovrasti, the stone bridge - Ellen Skok, the Memorial House of Families Kemal Ataturk in the village of Kodzadzik, then the villages of Galichnik (put special emphasis on the Galichnik wedding) and Jance (Hotel Tuto - built entirely of ecological materials, which is also a member of the Slow Food community in North Macedonia) with their authentic architecture.







# Getting to Mavrovo from North Macedonia



#### BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT (BUS/TAXI)

Most commonly used method and in same time cheapest that will help you to come in this cross border area is (bus/taxi combination). Railways of North Macedonia - operates a train from Skopje to Lakavica once daily. Tickets cost 5 – 19 euros and the journey takes 1h 32m. Alternatively, AD Galeb Ohrid operates a bus from Skopje to Kichevo every 4 hours. Tickets cost 15 – 20 euro and the journey takes 1h 57m. Makedonija Soobrakaj AD also services this route 3 times a day.

City taxi in Gostivar you can find at this phone number: +389 72 250 315, duration 34 min, estimated price 20 - 30 euros (Prices may change due to local circumstances)

Mavrovi Anovi is the place where it's most likely to get a bus to Skopje or some other destination at any time since the village is located on the local road that leads to Debar and Gostivar and on to Skopje. Bus stop in front of the restaurants and grocery stores, which are attached one by another.



#### FROM SKOPJE AIRPORT:

First you need to come in Skopje bus station and from there you can take bus till Gostivar, after is time for taxi (Long day)

One-way ticket price: 3,5 euros (Prices may change due to local circumstances)

Working hours: 15:00-21:00h

#### **CONTACT:**

Phone numbers:

- + 389 (0) 2 3115 539
- + 389 (0) 70 233 882

#### FROM OHRID AIRPORT:

First you will need transfer to Ohrid bus station. How you will arrive to Ohrid bus station?



By taxi (price is between 10 and 13 euro) — 10km or 15min ride. Later you will need bus transfer to Straza (pass) picnic point — price 10 euro and from this point you will need to make last transfer to Mavrovo (your accommodation place). You need to arrange taxi (we recommend one day in advance) — price for this service 40 to 60 euro.



# **Ohrid Lake**

#### **TAXI MERCEDES - OHRID**

- +389 70 26 91 92
- +389 75 26 91 92
- +389 78 26 91 92



#### GALEB OHRID (BUS STATION)

+389 46 26 03 39



#### TAXI GOLDI – GOSTIVAR

(you will need this for Straza to Mavrovo – last transfer)

+389 77 98 20 05



## Getting to Mavrovo from Kosovo

First you need transfer from Pristina airport to official bus station in Pristina – price 3 euro by bus, or taxi 20 to 25 euro. Later you need another transfer from Pristina bus station to Skopje bus station (by bus you will need 45 to 55 euro and for taxi 120 to 130 euro). From Skopje bus station you need to follow our instructions given in section: From North Macedonia – article: By Public transport

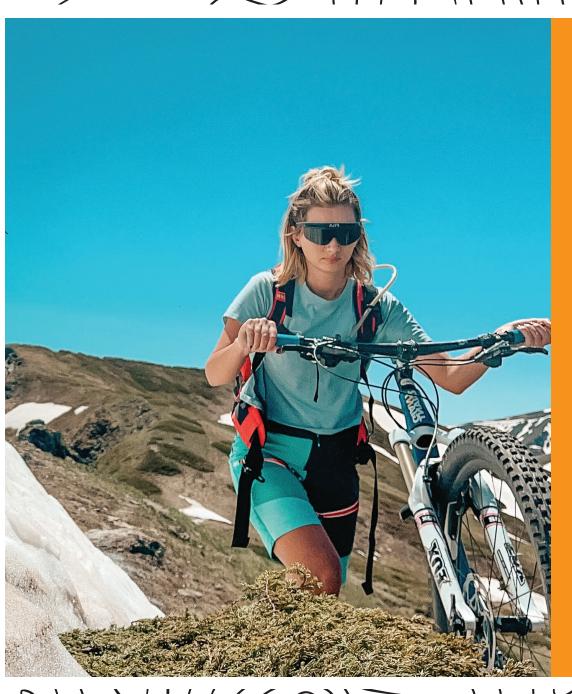
Another available option, to cross the border on Green pass! (most interesting one, we highly recommended for adventure people) – at this border crossing's you can go from one to another country (on foot, bike, ski) only if you send application to both border police departments (Albania and North Macedonia) – OUR RECOMMENDATION 14 DAYS IN ADVANCE!

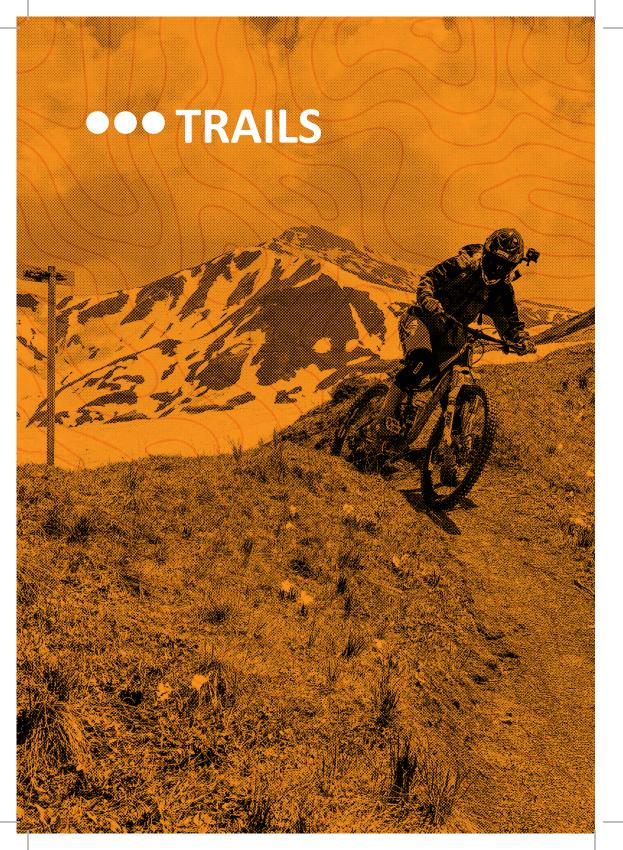
# Getting to Mavrovo from Albania

First you need transfer from Tirana airport to official bus station in Tirana. From there you need transfer to Peshkopi. From Peshkopi you can take taxi till the border line 20 to 25 euro, or you can cross the border by your bike or foot. Even North Macedonia and Albania are not new members of EU, they have national understanding for such activites and you can do that by sending application to both border police departments (Albania and North Macedonia)

**OUR RECOMMENDATION 14 DAYS IN ADVANCE!** 







## Asan Kula - Vrbjani - Zirovnica - trail >>>

If you like to ride on this trail you will need some transfer to v.Tanushe (41°43'15.0"N 20°34'22.9"E). ( How to get there : First to exit from the main road Debar - Mavrovo at this location, direction Tanushe or Ribnica. Later you follow the dirt road in direction to Tanushe and on 1km before you get to village of Tanushe is the place where you you take left in direction to Asan tower. From there you continue direction east - south east and how you ride on this dirt road you will get to the junction where this single trail start 1807masl. At this point you have short climbing till you get to the saddle with stoning views and this is the place from where your descent will start. First you will get in Vrbjani on nice single trail and from there you need to go in direction south west, towards village of Zirovnica. At this trail there are big chances to see or meet the bears







## Hikes around Asan Kula - Vrbjani -Zirovnica - trail >>>

ZIROVNICA TO VELIVAR

This route starts in the Zhirovnica, to be more precise, in the higher zone of "Gorno Maalo" - from the information billboard. The mountain trail leads to the valley under "Golema Planina – Big Mountain" and the highest parts of the mountain Ridge of Deshat



Mountain. Later this trail continues to the borderline ridge between the Republic of North Macedonia and Albania. From this point along the ridge you can follow the path that leads you to Peak Velivar. As an option you can descent in. Bitushe, or you can follow same trail back to Zirovnica. This trail from the border line continued towards Albanian Rabdisht side through the green passage, which is marked on the map and with official way point from our cross border biking project.



The hike to Korab starts with a short hike through forest. After that, there's no shadow anymore. The hike itself it's difficult, but does not requre any rock-climbing. However, it is a quite demanding walk due to the length of the uphill walking (11-12 km) and height difference (1550 m). The complete hike took us about 9 to 11 hours

About 2 km from the border police station there is a sheep farm. The first 7 km are basically only uphill, after that 2 km of relatively flat terrain, followed by another 2 km of relentless climbing.

The views along the way are magnificent and only get better when you approach the peak. Just below the peak in late spring or early summer be aware of small patch of ice or snow.

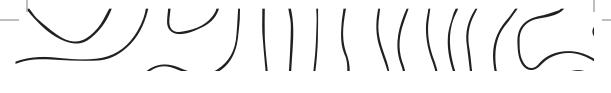
At this area you will encountered a few herds of sheep, with the obligatory sheep dogs. You always have to be careful with these dogs and try to seek contact with the shepherd so he can call of his dogs.

## Golema Planina - Mala Planina - Zirovnica - trail >>>

This trail starts at the first parking lot (855m) in the village Zirovnica, and if someone enjoy both (climbing and descending). This is one of most demanding trails, because you ride uphill from village of Zirovnica till the border line. This is constant climb till you reach the altitude of 2150m a.s.l. From there you have stoning panoramic views over Albania and North Macedonia + many mountain ranges that arise from both sides. Later you will continue with riding on isohypse on a patrol trail from WW2. This trail later will take you to one of the sheep farms and from there you will continue riding direction east in the beginning and later you will ride direction south and this is how you will get back in Zirovnica.

If you like to skip part of climbing you can take shuttle (jeep or horse) that will bring you to 1750m a.s.l and from there you have another 300m to climb on 7 to 8% on uphill trail that will bring you at the border line between North Macedonia and Albania.







## Hikes around Golema Planina - Mala Planina - Zirovnica - trail

## 01 BITUSHE – KRCIN PEAK – SKUDRINJE/BITUSHE





This trail starts at the first parking lot (855m) in the village Zirovnica – start (41°40'13.1"N 20°35'36.6"E), located on a distance of 1,250m from the main road that connects Mavrvovo and Debar.

This is one of the most beautiful hikes in North Macedonian (in this area), but in same time is serious mountaineering challenge. This path starts from village Bituse or Skudrinje, according to the place of accommodation, or you can choose from which side you climb to the top, and from where you will descent. Krcin peak can be climbed about an hour moving from the sheepfold, or a small church situated at the foothill of the top Krcin. Its very nice trail with many landscapes, panoramas over North Macedonia and Albania (peak Korab, Bistra mountan, Stogovo mountain range, Jablanica and etc). For the most part the trail is clearly visible, marked (red and with) and easy to follow. The base of this trail is separate in segments. Some parts are covered with: soil, grass and rock, this generally means a pleasant walk. In the lower parts (at the beginning) you will be in forest, but soon you left a tree line (1700 meters and higher) you will be in the zone of pastures (Alpine terrain). Three to four places, has sources of drinkable water.

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#### JANCE - GALICNIK

One of most historic trails in the region. This trail is old same as both villages. During your hike along the path you can enjoy at the most beautiful panorama in the region. This trail start close to Hotel Tutto in Jance and will bring you up to Hotel Neda in Galicnik. This trail is visible, due to the connection and trades in the past times and in same time it's weary easy to follow. On the way to v.Galicnik you will have option to drink water from natural spring with drinkable water, called Sofino Cesmice. Very nice path that connects two important historical places in the region. The base is mostly soil, parts with stone/rock. No special technical difficulties, but be aware on the way down.

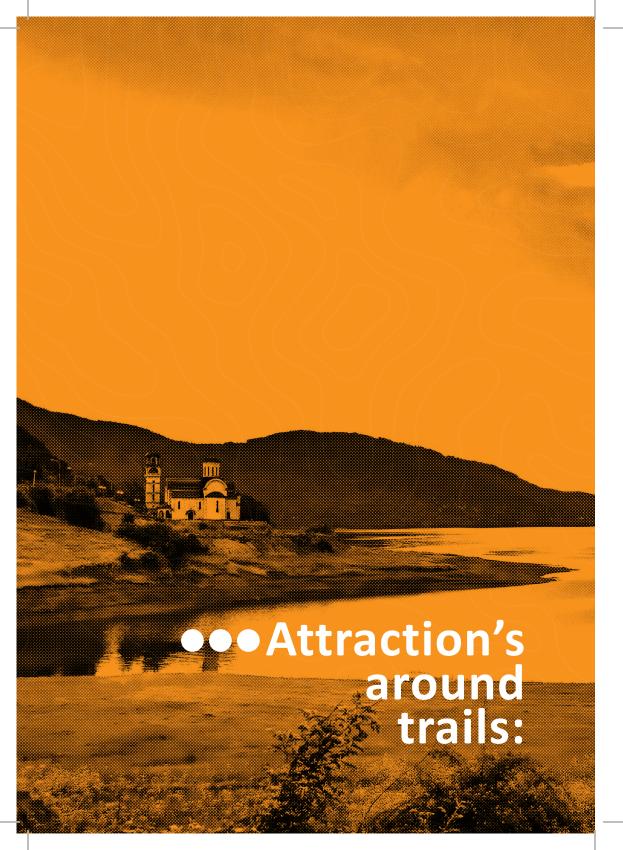
#### ZIROVNICA - BORDER LINE - RABDISHT MTB (MK-AL)

First part of this trail is the same as the previous one. You have two options:

- TO RIDE YOUR BIKE FROM ZIROVNICA UP TO THE BORDER
  LINE BETWEEN (AL AND MK)
- SECOND OPTION WILL BE SHUTTLE (JEEP OR HORSE) THAT
  WILL BRING YOU TO 1750M A.S.L AND FROM THERE YOU
  HAVE ANOTHER 300M TO CLIMB ON 7 TO 8% ON UPHILL
  TRAIL THAT WILL BRING YOU AT THE BORDER LINE
  BETWEEN NORTH MACEDONIA AND ALBANIA.

Because you will cross the border line and your ride will finish on Albanian side of the border, you need to follow our instruction of how you can apply and get permission to pass this border line. When you cross the border you have descent till village of Rabdisht or Peshkopi.





# Saint Jovan BigorskiMonastery

(St. John the Forerunner Bigorski Monastery)

The monastery complex St. Jovan Bigorski (St. John the Forerunner Bigorski Monastery), dedicated to St. John the Baptist, is located along the beautiful river Radika, on the way between Gostivar and Debar, in the vicinity of the villages of Rostuse, Bitushe, Velebrdo and Trebishte. According to the chronicle of St. Jovan Bigorski monastery, it was founded by the monk John in the year 1020, and in the 16th century the monastery was destroyed after which only the small church remained from the entire complex. It is also discovered from the chronicles that the monastery was restored again in the year 1743 by the monk Ilarion who was the first abbot of the St. Jovan Bigorski monastery in more recent time.



# The Old Mosque in village Rostuse

Compared to the relatively large concentration of Christian sacral objects, the cultural heritage related to the Islamic monuments shows drastically more reduced range.

According to the local population and some notebooks that have been found (some of which are still kept in the premises of the mosque), the object is more than 350 years old. The unsuitable treatment of the mosque and neglecting its cultural and historical value has contributed to making several inadequate construction works on it, by which its outside original look has been changed to great extent.



## ●●● Elen Skok – Bridge

The bridge was built on the river Mala Reka, at about six hundred meters from the place "Boshkov Most" in the vicinity of the regional road Gostivar-Debar.

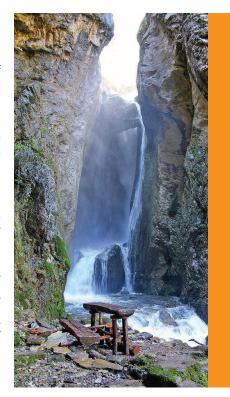
According to the stories of the local population and the legends, the bridge was built 3-4 centuries ago in the memory of an enchanting and magnificent deer.

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### Duf waterfall

Duf waterfalls are located in the vicinity of village. Rostuse, and you can reach them in about 30 minutes if you set off from the village center. The trail to the waterfalls is marked, well-made, and secured with a wooden fence. It is quite steep at several places, but most of it is easily passable. In order to reach the waterfalls you need to go through the canyon of Duf, which is up to 60 meters high and represents a real attraction. The place is also specific for its pleasant climate and the temperature is from 18 to 20 degrees centigrade even in the hottest summer periods. The river Rostushka flows through the canyon, which is widest in the spring period. The main attraction and a real enchanting view is the Duf waterfall by which the place got its name, and it is found at the end of the canyon.





## Thermal bath in Kosravasti

Kosravasti baths are located at the foot of the mountain Krchin, right next to the river Radika near Debar. The source has a capacity of about 60 l/sec. The water temperature is 48 degrees. It is characterized as sulfur-sulphide with a high degree of radioactivity and the presence of sulfuric bacteria and algae suitable for treatment and for scientific purposes. With these features the water is used to treat multiple diseases, such as increased blood pressure, rheumatic diseases, diabetes, skin diseases and respiratory infections. Surrounded by beautiful nature, high mountains, canyon of the Radika River, Debar Lake and mountain walks, are guaranty for adventures and challenges. Water rich in health has proven for centuries that it is the only solution for treating various diseases. The Bath Kosovrasti has a professional medical team, which applies the old natural factors, as well as the most recent achievements in medicine. The results are carefully monitored and compared with the planned ones.

The bath Kosovarasti, is a modern resort with 75 modern rooms, all with a view towards Debar Lake.

### **Korab Falls**

Korab Falls is a waterfall in the upper course of the Dlaboka River on Mount Korab, North Macedonia. It forms in springtime from the melting snow on the east side of Mal Korab peak. The waterfall differs in height and intensity, depending on the season. It is the highest waterfall in North Macedonia and the Balkan Peninsula.

The highest water levels are in late May and early June, and afterwards the level drops throughout the summer. During very dry summers, the waterfall may dry out in late August and September.

The best track route to the waterfall is the one that leads through the river canyon. It can be accessed both from the left bank of the river through the villages of Nistrovo and Zuznje, or from the right bank from Bibaj, beneath Kabash Peak. The routes are poorly marked, covered with overgrowth, and there are several unsecured river crossings.



## Mustafa Kemal Ataturk Memorial Museum

Mustafa Kemal Ataturk Memorial Museum It is located at 1200 meters above sea level over the karst countryside in village Kodzadzik, Municipality Centar Zupa, formerly known as Svetigrad (Holy City) where Mustafa Kemal Ataturk grandfather on his father's side - Hafız Ahmet Efendi settled in North Macedonia. He was from Kocacık Yörüks tribe. a nomadic shepherd tribe from Anatolia, that had come from Konya and Aydın and settled in Tshli Maala (Tashli neighborhood - the stone neighborhood), because of the surrounding mountain and the fortification that existed there. The house is told to be built bigger than one of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk's grandfather, but is worth representing one of the greatest Turkish persons with Macedonian origin.



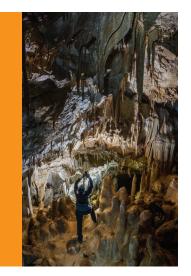






## "Gorna Ledina" Picnic Location

The route starts from the area "Staparov Bridge" near the village Velebrdo or through a trail starting before the village Bitushe. The walk takes place along a partially marked trail which is well passable and goes through a pine tree forest which makes the journey especially pleasant. If you decide to take a shortcut and set off from the new trail before the village Bitushe, then you can reach this place, to some extent, by jeep and then on foot, in about 20-minute easy walking. You will arrive to a place where an interesting cottage has been built, placed on 4 trees and equipped with a relaxation bed, as well as with an improvised terrace with a beautiful view over the entire canyon of the river Radika. The place offers good conditions for mountain rest, and there are benches and a fountain with cold and clean spring water for drinking.



## "Sharkova Dupka" Cave

"Sharkova Dupka" is located in the Municipality of Mavrovo-Rostuse, in Mavrovo National Park, near the winter tourist resort, more precisely in the village Mavrovo. This beautiful cave is located in the vicinity of the last village houses. There is a 10-minute walk to the entrance along the pathway and stairs. The "Sharkova Dupka" cave, which is open for tourists, is protected by an iron door and bars, it is decorated with winding metal staircase and is fully lit by reflectors. The cave is at a depth of about 20 meters from its entrance, it is about 18m wide and 25m long. In the lower part of the cave there is an opening that leads to two more

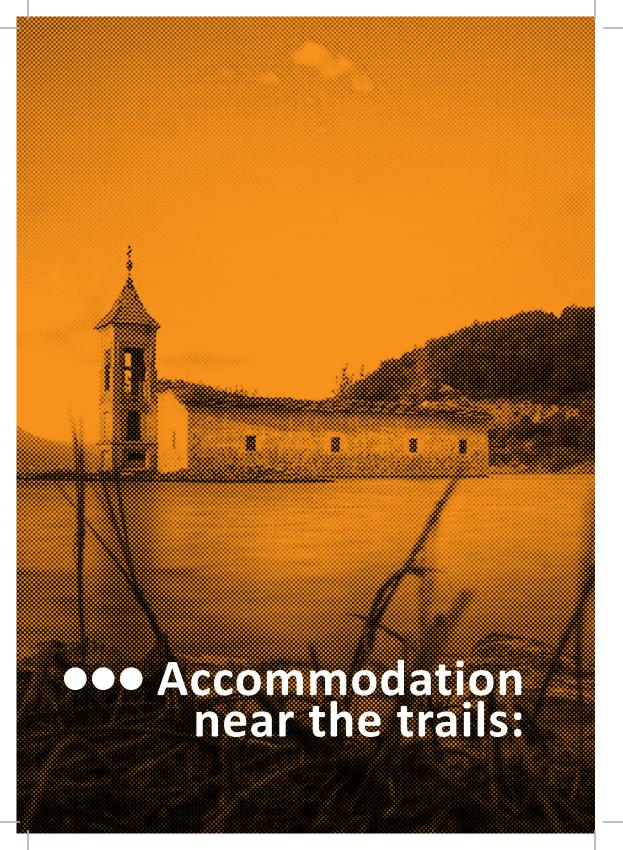
cave halls, but due to lack of funds required for their adaptation, they are still unavailable for tourists.

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### Mavrovo Lake

This lake represents a genuine pearl both in the National Park and in the Municipality. Although it is artificial, it still captivates with its beauty especially when it can be seen from виев поинт Царевец (он тхе њаѕ то вГалицник). Besides fishing, the lake offers opportunities for camping, walks, etc. Around the lake there is a well-maintained asphalt road which is suitable for cycling all around Mavrovo lake and passing our beautiful ski slopes, hotels, villas, villages and many other tourist facilities. One of the most impressive views that the lake offers is the old church submerged in the Mavrovo Lake, from which in a particular period of the year, when the lake water reaches its highest level, you can see only part of the roof and half of the bell tower. This church was submerged when the lake was created. The most popular resting locations around the lake are the place "Bojkov Kladenec" and "Crn Kamen".





"Govedarnica Mountain Hut" is located in Zirovnica
- NP Mavrovo

This is first Mountain Hut in area of lower Radica region. Daut (owner) is passionate professional mountain leader and man with vision and dreams for better future/tourism in his birth place.

This place is perfect for those who like to spend their free time walking, hiking, and biking in this lovely mountain region. This accommodation place was part of the project High Scardus Trail (colorful trail) – transnational long distance trail, connecting 3 neighboring countries (North Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo), in length of 400km (hike trails).

Govedarnica Mountain Hut has a garden, kitchen, free WiFi. At the guesthouse rooms are with shared bathrooms, dining room is located in the ground floor, where guests can stay together, eat best food that local wife's will prepare just for you and finally you can rest or you will choose some of Daut recommendations.

For more information contact: Daut Jashari, Mobile: +38978244181

02.

"House of Mijaks - Rostuse" is located on the main road (nearRostushe and Rostuse bridge) – NP Mavrovo

This accommodation place is perfect for those who like to fill, taste and become familiar with their Orthodox religion, but in same time no one force you to do it if you don't like. There is long list of activates what you can do in this area. Everything in our place is with your will.

This complex is supported by the Monastery St. John Baptist and this place has nice story behind. Its open for people which are addicted on many thing, but here in this complex they find second option for living.

At this place you will taste different traditional food, you can meet and chat with some of the Monks

(history, culture, traditions, today live, and etc.), you can be part of their daily activates, or you can choose hiking, biking, or to take care for your body and spirit in the hot thermal springs in Kosovrasti.



For more information contact: Mobile: +38970378333

7km from our bike trails-Location Monastery St. John Baptist

"Fuat - Rostuse" is located in Rostuse NP Mavrovo

This place is perfect for those who like to spend their free time walking, hiking, and biking in this lovely mountain region. This accommodation place was part of the project High Scardus Trail (colorful trail) — transnational long distance trail, connecting 3 neighboring countries (North Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo), in length of 400km (hike trails).

This accommodation place can offer dormitory or kind of a hostel stay standards, but what is important it's clean, new and well maintained!

For more information contact: Mobile: +38978495575

10km from our bike trails (but they have bike and hike trails near them) – Location Monastery Rostuse

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"Vase - Bitushe" is located in Bitushe NP Mavrovo. This place is perfect for those who like to spend their free time walking, hiking, and biking in this lovely mountain region. This accommodation place was part of the project High Scardus Trail (colorful trail) – transnational long distance trail, connecting 3 neighboring countries (North Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo), in length of 400km (hike trails).

This accommodation place can offer dormitory or kind of a hostel stay standards, but what is important it's clean, new and well maintained!

For more information contact: Mobile: +38978495575

12km from our bike trails (but they have bike and hike trails near them) – Location Monastery Rostuse

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"Mountain Hut Carevec" is located in Mavrovi Anovi – NP Mavrovo. Two of the owners are young people who decided to replace their life in the metropolis (Skopje) with life in NP Mavrovo.

In this place you can feel like being home, and how it can be different besides warm and cheerful hosts, who with their knowledge of the region will help you enjoy your stay to the maximum during your stay with them (4 seasons adventure 24/7).

This place is perfect for those who like to spend their free time walking, hiking, and biking in this lovely mountain region. This accommodation place was part of the project High Scardus Trail (colorful trail) – transnational long distance trail, connecting 3 neighboring countries (North Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo), in length of 400km (hike trails).

Mountain Hut Carevec has a garden, bar with kitchen, terrace, and free WiFi. At the guesthouse rooms are with shared bathrooms, dining room is organized in nice traditional ambient, and their guests can stay together, eat best food that you will ever try (this Mountain Hut is part of Slow food providers in North Macedonia), resting and enjoy the peace - mountains





For more information contact: Vladimir Gorgioski, Mobile: +38972210777

25km from our bike trails (but they have bike and hike trails near them) – Location Mavrovo Lake.

"Ski Hut Gorica" is located in Mavrovi Anovi — NP Mavrovo.

This hut is Base camp for all hikers, climber's skiers and all who like and enjoy th mountains! We are a mountain/ski hut located at 1300masl around

Mavrovo Lake in NP Mavrovo.

**Ski Hut Gorica** has garden, small bar with kitchen, terrace, and free WiFi. At the guesthouse rooms are with shared bathrooms.

For more information contact: Dimitar Popov, Mobile: +38971555185

"Baba I Dede - Galicnik" is located in Galicnik - NP Mavrovo

This family of (grandpa and grandma) are the only locals who spend winter in village of Galicnik and here you can find everything what you need, from: food, accommodation, guides in the region and some MTB

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tours which are offered/provided by their grandson Marko.

They have only one (single room, just for two people), but with our support they can extend this place in the future and for sure more people can enjoy in the stay here at this nice and warm place, owned by locals

For more information contact: Mobile: +38970209403

40km from our bike trails, by car (but they have bike and hike trails near them) – Location Galicnik

From this place they need 15km on bike riding on red trail that leads to Jance – from there they go on main road for next 11km.

"Vertical Hostel - Nikiforovo" is located in Nikiforovo NP Mavrovo

This hostel is perfect for stay in the area where you can work and explore the nature in the same time. This area offers a lot opportunities, like: hiking trails, MTB trails, nice atmosphere for working in spring time, skiing in winter and other activates.

This hostel has many rooms and options. If you are looking for nice, quiet spot for adventure, pleasure or working (online) you are more than welcome here in their place.

For more information contact: Mobile: +38978915775

35km from our bike trails (but they have bike and hike trails near them) – Location Mavrovo Lake

"Motel Topila - Gari" is located in Gari

This accommodation is perfect if you decide to discover mount Stogovo (neighboring mountain of Bistra – NP Mavrovo) and Centar Zupa region, no

this Motel or some other activates.

matter walking, biking, by horses that you can find in

As part of this motel is ethno restaurant Topila, in addition to the beautiful ambiance and delicious food, offers a horseback ride on the slopes of Mount Stogovo and a visit to part of the sheepfold on this picturesque mountain.

For more information contact: Mobile: +38970510674

26km from our bike trails (but they have bike and hike trails near them + horseback riding as their activity) – Location Gari

"Hotel Tutto - Jance" is located in Jance NP Mavrovo

Tutto hotels are born as a result of the dream of a man who has been working for a long time in the country. The owner, Tefik Tefikoski, built every corner with his passion to conduct activities such as the restoration of old houses using authentic techniques with local materials, such as land, wood and stone. Today, we have luxurious apartments that are used for accommodation in hotels near the hotels.

In addition to the beauty nature has to offer in this part of North Macedonia, at the hotel you may also have the opportunity to enjoy the "dolnorekanska" specialty cuisine. The restaurant menu includes both local and international dishes prepared with natural, locally sourced produce. In Hotel Tutto also there is a seasonal harvest of local, organic blackberries,



plums, strawberries, mushrooms and other plants, as well as preparation and packaging of jams, juices and other delicacies. Products are available to guests for purchase.

For more information contact: Mobile: +38978495575

12km from our bike trails (but they have bike and hike trails near them) – Location Jance

**11**.

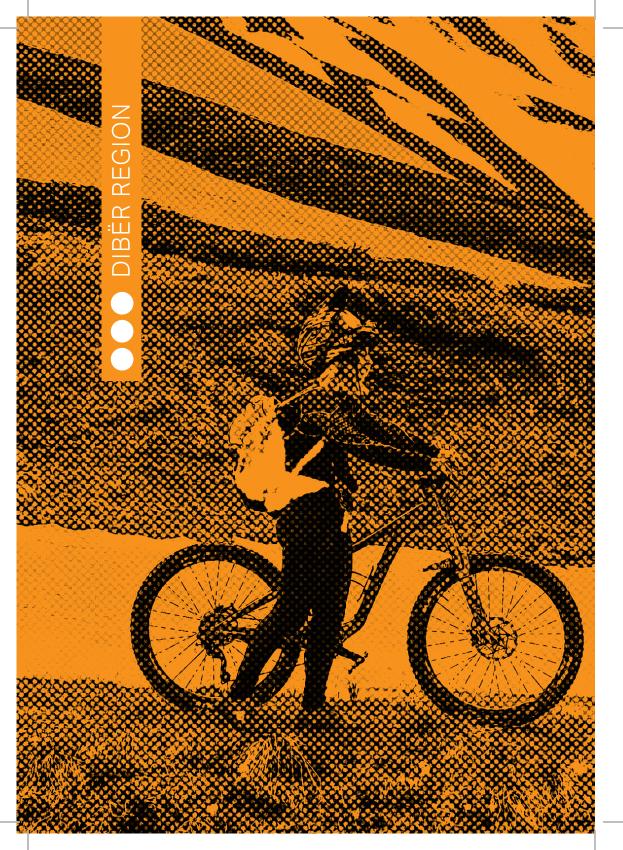
"Hotel Korab Trnica - Trnica" is located near Trnica
NP Mayroyo

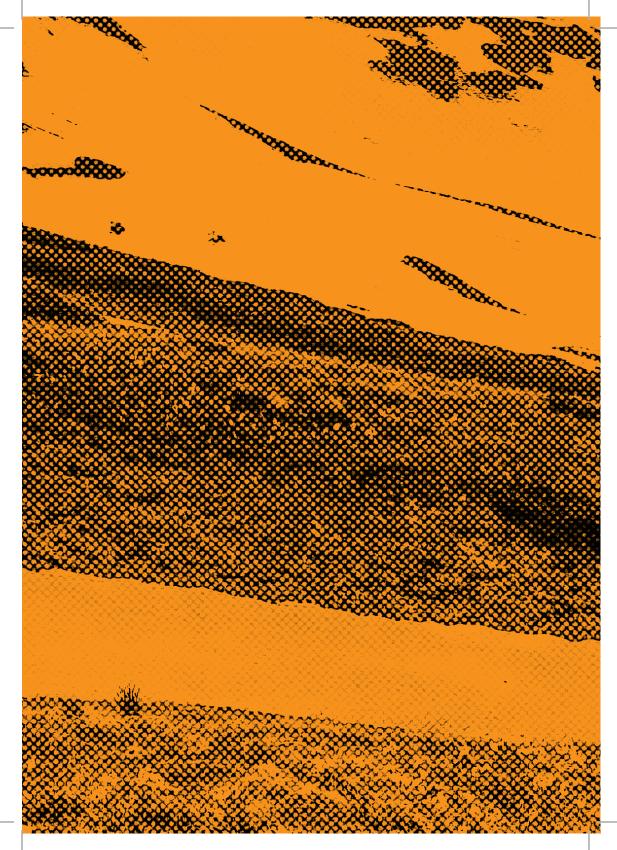
The brand "Korab Trnica" dates from the distant 1945. From the beginning of its existence, the main activity was the breeding of sheep, and thus the production and independent sale through its own dairy and meat shops. "Korab Trnica" as a brand is known for its renowned traditional products such as "Korab yellow cheese", "Trnica's cheese" and "Trnica's sour milk". Over the years, the company has continuous growth and expansion of its activities. Hence, in 1974, the restaurant "Korab Trnica" was built and started to work, and then it is complemented by an accommodation complex. As a special feature of the restaurant, the kachamak is served with sour milk, "Korab yellow cheese" or "Trnica's sheep cheese", which were traditionally produced in the mandra, and then kept in the caves of Mount Korab.

In 2015, the investment cycle returns the glitter of the brand "Korab Trnica". Today, beside the traditional spirit, modernization and development of the activities of the enterprise has been done. The concept of "Korab Trnica" can be called "from nature to table". This concept includes the production of natural products and their sale.

For more information contact: Mobile: +38978495575

14km from our bike trails (but they have bike and hike trails near them) – Location Trnica





# Diber Region

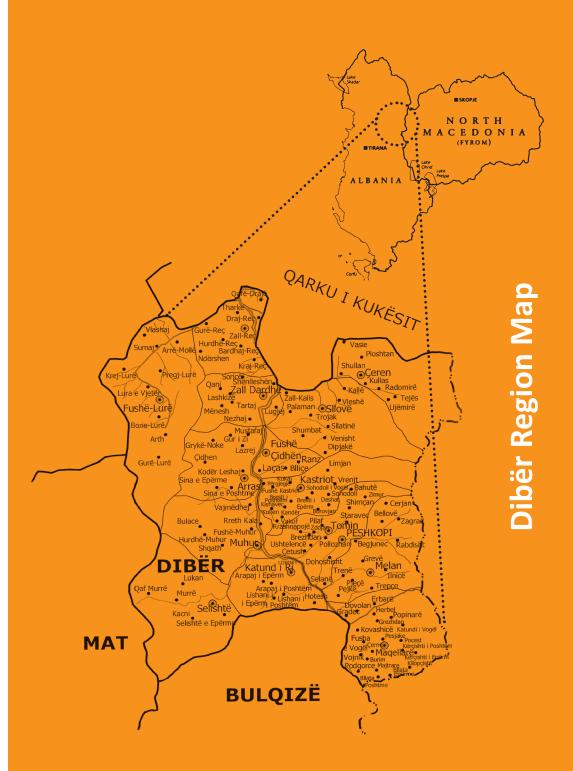
02.

Dibër is located in the mountainous region of northeastern Albania, although only 2586 km² in size, this off-the-beaten-path destination is noted for its beautiful natural attractions such as Albania's highest peak, Mount Korab, the Black Drin River, and Lurë Lakes, that are further complemented by its rich cultural heritage and abundance of locally grown and made products.

Within Dibër there is one national park, Lurë-Dejës National Park, and a nature park, Korab-Koritnik Nature Park. In addition to the mountainous terrain of both parks, there are also rivers, glacial lakes, caves, and canyons, plus natural grassland, and forests that include beech, pine, fir, oak, and more.

Dibër's beautiful natural attractions are complemented by its rich heritage that includes numerous cultural and historical monuments. Dibër is the birthplace of George Kastriot Skanderbeg, an Albanian national hero, who, for 25 years, led Albanians in battle against the Ottomans. The Skanderbeg Museum is located in Sinë village, and a national monument can be found in Kastriot. Grazhdan Castle, located near Grazhdan, is the largest ancient monument in Albania dating back to the 4th century and was believed to be under the control of Skanderbeg. There are several ancient religious monuments that showcase Albania's religious diversity that include the Mosque of Allejbegi in Burim that was constructed in 1585, and the Church of Cveti Spas in Kercisht that was built in 1270, and still retains portions of its original frescoes.

Additionally, visitors to Dibër can try delicious traditional dishes and a variety of locally grown and made agro-products. Some of the region's most popular ones include chicken breast, pasta made with flour, milk, and eggs and served with chicken; cottage cheese peppers; fried pancake often served with sugar, honey, or cheese; and, Sheqerpare, similar to a shortbread cookie served with syrup. Depending on the season, visitors can purchase cherries, apples, blueberries, chestnuts, walnuts, or honey, apple juice, pickled vegetables, and so much more!



## ●●● Getting to Dibër



#### **FROM ALBANIA**

#### BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The most commonly used method of transportation is the furgon, a van that can transport 12-15 people.

From Tirana, the furgon leaves from the Regional Bus Terminal – North and South Albania located on Rruga Dritan Hoxha directly across the street from Dilo Hotel. Inside the bus station, the Peshkopi/Diber furgons are located in the middle on the right-hand side. Furgons leave regularly throughout the day starting at 5:00 AM. The cost is between 600-700 lek one way. The trip takes 2.5 hours and includes one stop along the way.

From Kukes, the furgon leaves daily around 12:30 and costs 800 lek one way. The Bus station (stacioni i autobusave) is located at the intersection of Rruga Islam Spahiu and Rruga Mahmut Daci. The trip takes 2 hours and includes one stop along the way.



#### BY PRIVATE VEHICLE

**From Tirana**, take E762 north, turn right towards Milot on A1, then follow the SH6 through Burrel, Klos, and Maqellare all the way to Peshkopi. The drive takes approximately 4.5 hours.

**From Kukes**, the distance is 75km along the Peshkopi-Kukes road and the trip should take 2 hours.

From Rruga e Arberit. To achieve the destination you must start via the airport through SH60 for 7.1 km and then to SH2 to Tirana for 7.3 km. Take Rruga Dritan Hoxha and Rruga Ferit Xhajko to

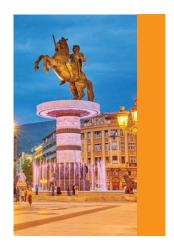




Rruga e Dibrës/SH54 for 4.3 km. Draving to Rruga Myslym Keta (2.6 km) turning left onto Rruga e Dibrës/SH54. Turn left onto Rruga Myslym Keta and after three km you will be in the starting point of the road to Peshkopi. After 37 km at the intersection of the the road coming from Burrel and going to Peshkopi turn on the right following the road SH6 to Bulqize, Maqellare and than in Peshkopi.

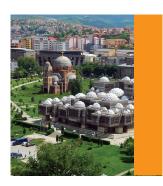
## FROM NORTH MACEDONIA BY PRIVATE VEHICLE

From Skopje International Airport, take A1/E75, keep right at the fork following signs for Skopje. Continue on A4 and after approximately 10 km continue straight onto A2, both are partial toll roads. After arriving in Debar, take R1201 north approximately 6km to the Albanian border. After crossing the border, continue along the same road, which is now SH44. After approximately 3.3 km, you will approach a roundabout where you will continue to go straight along road Maqellare-Peshkopi. And after approximately 15.5 km you will arrive in Peshkopi. Travel time from Skopje airport to Peshkopi might take about 3 hours.



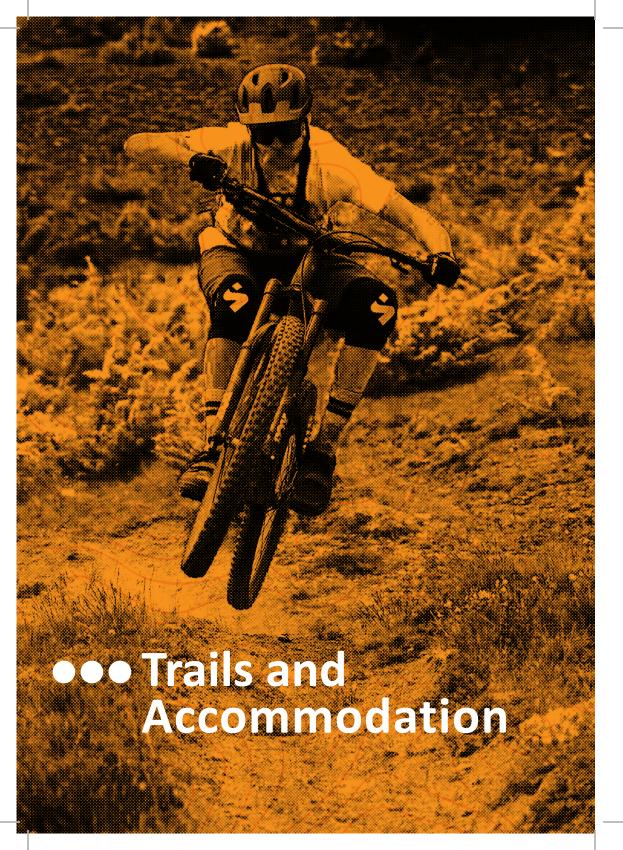
## FROM KOSOVO BY PRIVATE VEHICLE

From Pristina International Airport, take the M9 to Autostrada Dr. Ibrahim Rugova approximately 82 km to the border crossing with Albania. After crossing the border into Albania, continue along the same road, which is now Rruga Kombit. After approximately 19km, turn left on SH31 towards the Kukes airport and continue along this road until you arrive in Peshkopi. Travel time from Kukes to Peshkopi should take about 2 hours.



#### **GET AROUND PESHKOPI**

The bulk of the town may be seen on foot. Many points of attraction within the Dibër region can be reached via local minibuses, taxi, or private vehicle.



# Hinoske -Ilnice -Melan >>>

The trail starts at coordinates 41°39'43.7"N 20°30'58.0"E The starting point of the trail is located at an elevation of 2045 m above sea level. The climb to the top of Hinoska starts in the village of Melan and follows the gravel road to the village of Ilnice. During the climb you will enjoy the beauties and the landscape of the area where the trails lie. From the village of Ilnice the road continues and climbs towards the tents of the Fidallars, contemplating the beauty and diversity of the flora encountered along this itenerary. At the Fidallari sheeperhouse you can enjoy livestock products rich in cattle milk production grazing in the mountains richest in foliage in the region.

When you reach near the top of Hinoska somewhere along the road meets the state border with North Macedonia. After five minutes you will be at the starting point towards the trail.

With a length of 6.2 km the trail is suitable for cyclists with experience above average adventure cycling. This trail has features which are typical for mountain biking.

Starting from 2045m and descending to 811m a.s.l, the trail passes through the mountains for a distance of about one kilometer with a relatively sloping terrain and then the level of difficulty begins to increase along its entire length. Close to this trail there are a lot of possibilities to explore other attractions described as below:







## Hiking Trail in Hinoska pasture

#### KERCISHT – HINOSKE PASTURE ROUTE

The route starts in Kercisht village and ended on Hinoska Pasture. The route is 15.7 the hike should take approximately 6-7 hours and the level of difficulty is rated as moderate. While passing through Kërçisht, stop and see the 250-years old tree and spend some time in the ancient Eastern Orthodox churches of St. Demetrius and the Holy Church of Sotir. Continuing along the trail, the ascent to Mountain Kercin begins, which is situated at 2300m above sea level and ends with the Hinoske Mountains. After reaching the top, enjoy the magnificent view of the Drini Valley on one side and Mavrovo National Park in North Macedonia on the other side. The peak of this mountain range is Mountain Velivar (2375m), Velivar Mountain is located in Hinoske Pasture at 2375 m above sea level and is situated within the center of the Korab -Deshati mountain range. Mountain Velivar is naturally shaped like a pyramid and the small streams that originate from the peak flow westwards and join with the Black Drin river...



#### **MELAN-HINOSKE PASTURE ROUTE**

The route starts in Melan village and is 9.4 km and the hike should take approximately 3 hours and the level of difficulty is rated as easy. While passing through Melan village, stop and see the dairy factory "Ngota" which produce the best quality cheese of Korabi brand Melan's traditional architecture, which includes stone in portions of the buildings, a water mill, and wood bridges made of Chipsy stone, is highly appealing to visitors. The route continue to Ilnica village has been known in the region by many migrants, fortune seekers at "Ilnica tege", and for traditional houses with stone. Also, there are small agro farms with fruit trees and potatoes on natural away of cultivations. After reaching the Hinoska pasture, you can stop at Fida tribe guest houses, camping side and shepherd huts to try the Albanian hospitality and very nice highland food (bread, cheese, yogurt, tea and plumbs raki). After the break at Fida tribe, you can hike to the peak of Mountain Velivar (2375m), the highest point of Deshati mountain range. The Hinoske Pasture





is situated within the center of the Korab -Deshati mountain range, and the peak of Mountain Velivar is naturally shaped like a pyramid and the small streams that originate from the peak flow westwards and join with the Black Drin river. The panorama on the top is magnificent view of the Black Drini Valley on one side and Mavrovo National Park in North Macedonia on the other side. Many locals camp here and harvest medicinal herbs since the grassland is abundant in blueberry, blackberry, mountain tea, etc. The way back route is in the same route or it can be on the other side of Rabdisht pasture through the village of Rabdisht.







## "Hinoska" guest house and camping

Along the road pass to the top of the biking trail where it is located "Hinoska" guest house and camping. It is a traditional building with decorated stone wall and wood roof and furniture. It is situated on Hinoska pasture lands (1,600 m elevation) on the side of Valivar mountain, part of Korab-Korritnik natural park. Hatem Fida is the first family who built a guesthouse on the pasture,. The property is a two-floor guesthouse, with a nice garden and a camping site space. One can enjoy Peshkopi city, Black Drini River and Lura national park views. The second floor has 3 bedrooms with 7 single beds and one double bed, and two toilets and showers. The living room is in the first floor and it is dinning, seating, Chelly, and desk. Camping site is well organized with 10 tends and 10 places for caravans. The garden is well organized for barbecue.

Fida family's traditional breakfast may enjoy the substantial cuisine and eating of handmade dishes like bread, cheese, yogurt, eggs, pancakes, beans, vegetables, honey, fruit juice and mountain tea.

Picnic and hiking on Velivar mount and Hinoska pasture can guide by Fida family and barbecue grill to prepare your own dining adventure.

For more information contact: Geni Fida, Mobile: 00355 672087194

From Hinoska" Guest House for 3 km you will be on the top of the biking trail. After finishing of your biking guide explained above from the top of the trail, a rest for a night can be offered for you at "Zerja" Guest House

## "Zerja"

Guest house Zerja is a one stop touristic place in Diber. It is situated in agro-park of Peshkopia hills, 1km far from Peshkopi town center along the

national Road to Tirana, featuring a farm style lodge with a touch of urban luxury, a shop, which sells the famous "Zerja" agro-farmer products, and famous popular Jufka/pasta, are manufactured.

"Zerja" was originally established by the Dashe Zerja owner and her family as an agro farm and Jufka/pasta productions, after 1990. Customers travelled from Tirana and abroad for the their products, and they enjoy eating and visit their farmer land. Therefore, her son Fabjon, who is well educated started his idea to build a guest house to accommodate travelers.



Today, "Zerja" agro-tourism has nine rooms, a bar-restaurant, conference venues, shopping room and manufactory for Jufka/pasta and other agro productions and fruit plantations with apple, cherries and plums surrounding the buildings. "Zerja" guesthouse has a variety of rooms to cater for everybody's needs. It accommodates families, businessmen, youth and touristic groups, as well as school groups. All rooms have access to a TV, Wifi, bar fridge, and all of them are set amongst our lush, beautifully maintained gardens.

"Zerja" Farmer's restaurant offers a variety of options for breakfast, lunch and dinner. It is specialized in hearty homestyle cooking and traditional Diber food. The famous Jufka with farmer chicken and plumes raki can always be found and the restaurant is open for three course buffet dinner spread.

## Skertec - Rabdishtbiking trail >>>

One of the most attractive, adventurous, and enjoyable trails is the Skertec - Rabdisht biking trail.

The trail starts at the coordinates of 41°40'31.5"N 20°31'30.5"E To reach the starting point you must follow the same road you use for the Hinoske-Ilnice-Melan route. Once you have reached an altitude of 1971 m above the sea level following the patrol route on the other side of the border which can also be used by cyclists of a slight level difficulty and after 2 km you will reach the starting point of the trail Skertec - Rabdisht.

Located in the quota of 1971 m above sea level and in a length of about 6.6 km you will descend to the elevation of 1085 m above sea level.

The trail is the only one of its kind as for a distance of about 3 km you will find all the possible alternatives that the biking trails can offer. There you will find a trail with a slope from 1 to 30%, lawns and rocky parts, very attractive ups and downs. After you have probably taken a short break and refreshed yourself at the Qaka spring, the trail continues with more adrenaline as you pass through the beach area and a higher level of difficulty than the first part of the trail. As you descend towards the village to the left of the trail is a small artificial lake.

#### At the end of this trail is Rabdisht

The village is one of the 100 touristic villages in Albania. The mountainous position, and the stonework style as well as the cobbled pavements, give the appearance and name to the village as a "stone village".









Rabdisht Village is located on the top of Healing valley, which has taken its name from the curative properties of the thermal springs of Peshkopi and from the mountainous part of Rabdishti Highland Pasture, part of the Korab mountain range.

Rabdisht village is a journey destination, only 6 km from Peshkopi city, with a combination of the natural beauty of the thermal waters, fresh mountain air, legends of settlements, both old and new. This itinerary provides you with the opportunity to stay in the guest houses of Rabdisht, where you will experience traditional Albanian hospitality and the traditional dishes of Dibër.

Guest House "Sabriu" is located in the center of this village. The village is characterized of stone buildings, and the guesthouse of Sabri is typical of traditional house with stonewall and roofs. Guest House Sabriu features a shared lounge, green and apple garden and free Wi-Fi. Featuring family rooms, this property also provides guests with a children's playground. The accommodation provides a 24-hour front desk, a shared kitchen and currency exchange for guests.

The guesthouse is equipped with a seating area, a TV with

satellite channels, a kitchen, a dining area and a private bathroom with a hairdryer, a bidet and a shower. All units will provide guests with a desk and a kettle. A traditional breakfast (continental) with pancakes, llallangia/traditional crepes, cheese, eggs, homemade bread, fruit juice, milk or mountain tea, and vegetables is available daily at Guest House "Sabriu"

Sabri, the owner of the guesthouse can guide for walking in the village and hiking in Rabdisht pasture or Korab-Deshat mountain range.

#### For more information contact:

Sabri Shahini, Mobile: 00355 695114003 or 0047 46552534, e-mail: guesthousesabriu@gmail.com;facebook:@GuesHouseSabriu

Guest house "Goleci" closed to Guest house Sabriu is waiting for you.

Guest House "Goleci" is a new one opened on September 2019. Guest House Goleci features a shared lounge, green and cherry garden and free Wi-Fi. Featuring family rooms, this property also provides guests with a children's playground. The accommodation provides a 24-hour front desk, a shared kitchen and currency exchange for guests.

The features, services offered, food are almost the same with Guest house Sabriu

Fitim, the owner of the guest house can a company or guide for walking in the village or in his apple farm and bee parks and hiking in Rabdisht pasture or Korab-Deshat mountain range.

The accommodation offers a balcony.

For more information contact:

Fitim Goleci, Mobile: 00355696429888, e-mail: botimemb@gmail.com









While you are staying in Rabdisht, along the road to Peshkopi you will have the opportunity to visit the attractions below:

The located at 744 m above the sea level on the right of the road Rabdisht – Peshkopi. They constitute karst sources that come in lithological contact between upper Permian's gypsum-lower Triassic and Paleozoic schist. The water is clean and cold. They create an attractive environment. It has a lot of values like: scientific, geologic, geomorphologic, hydrological, didactic, touristic and cultural. A lot of people used this source for curative purposes like rheumatism, skin diseases, etc.



If you want to stay outside and are well equipped you can accommodate at Kapxhiu Camping site. It is situated in the wine and fruit orchard of Kapxhiu family, next to the river Llixha in Peshkopi. It takes 10 minutes waking distance from the center of Peshkopi.

The camping has places for tents. Camper or caravans and three bed & breakfast rooms. Also, the camping has 6000 m² land, 10 places for caravan with all energy and water facilities, showers and toilets, two double rooms and terrace.

Camping site is located in the in the mountains area, and it is well located for hikes and trekking, trips to Mount Korab (2764m), National Park of Lura or Mavrovo in North Macedonia, that the border is 16 km away.

For more information contact: Ferizate Kapxhiu, Mobile: 00355 692258182

How long you will stay in you can visit the main touristic attraction described >>>>>



- Zimur Shimçan
- Staravec Peshkopi
- biking trail >>>

The trail starts at 41°43'48.1"N 20°28'17.1"E With a length of 10.3 km, the biking trail Zimur-Shimcan-Staravec-Peshkopi is one of the longest trails currently identified within the project "Cross-border biking: Next level adventure tourism in Mavrovo-Rostuse & Dibër".

It has its origins in the pastures of Zimur from an altitude of 1780 m and descends to 700 m above sea level. Characteristic of this trail is because it follows almost the entire length the trail of pedestrian movement starting from its starting point to the final destination.

To get there you must have special means or contact the persons who offer the service of the mountain adventure biking guide (mentioned in the trail Hinoske - Ilnice - Melan).

To reach the starting point of the trail you have to follow the road Diber Prefecture - Kamen Neighborhood - Stravec - Shimcan - Bahute - Zimur with a distance of 8.6 km and further for a distance of about 5 km after passing the village of Zimur you will reach the destination desired by each of you.

Besides the possibilities you can visit attractions in Peshkopia city, closed to this trail are located other attractions and possibilities you can use during your adventure.

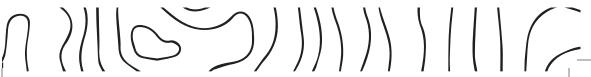
Grama Mountain and pasture is the biggest and more visited attraction



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Those that are passionate about nature usually employ the following when they visit hiking trails to go in Grama is fantastic summer pasture highland place and mountain. Grama is a magical mountain destination, located 9 km away from Peshkopi. Cottages and camping sites offer food and accommodation but also tourist activities such as hiking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding.

Grama is accessible by several routes. On foot, visitors can hike from the village of Kastriot, Sohodoll, Sllatine or from Shumbat village.

#### THE ROUTE KASTRIOT-GRAME PASTURE

The route starts in the village of Kastriot, to be precise, at Chestnut Hill (Kodra e Geshtenjes)" (the upper hill) of the village. This route is very interesting and significant because it used to be the trail for Skaderbeg family and many places related with Kastriot's family secrets. The route is 14 km and hike should take approximately 4-5 hours. The rout goes to the Ladder/terrace of Rrahmane (Shkalla Rrahmane) which is very beautiful place and then to Grama Pasture, and after 1.5 km in the middle of the pasture is the Grama lake. Panorama and landscape are magnificent, where you can enjoy the beautiful natural monument attraction such as White Mountain and Grame's Mirror, which is rockface made of selenium that sparkles in the sun. You can also stop in places and enjoy the nature of Korab Mountain and Lura mountain range.

#### SLLATINE-GRAME PASTURE ROUTE

The route starts in the village of Sllatina and it is 8.3 km and hike should take approximately3-3.5 hours. This route is very interesting and significant because it used to be the trail of local people from the village to the pasture for herd of sheep, wood, herbal plants and grasses, and you can join on the route the local people. Also, the visitors can know the history and stop on some interesting historical places of Sllatina village. The rout goes to the to Pelpeniku peak mount, then through the Mirrors of Grama, passing through the place call "Tershizë" and then arrive in Grama pasture. This route

option offers different opportunities to see Grama creek and lakes, beautiful pastures, and shepherd huts, dairy places and a lot of non-timber forest fruits areas. The level of difficulties of the trail is moderated.

The way back rout is the same for three of them, and it will be on the other side of the Grama creek through the village of Shumbat. The return trip from Grama to Shumbat takes 2 hours.

For more information for the trail and routs you can see at Grama trail brochure in www.visitdiber.com, or contact the Tourism Information office in Peshkopi at 0675866911

Descending from the top of the mountain and arriving in Peshkopi you can be comfortable at

## Guest house "Konaku", Peshkopia backpacker hostel or "Library" hostel

**"Konaku"** is a guesthouse in north Albania. Konaku, is a rural and stylish bed & breakfast style guesthouse, situated in the village area of Tomin, close to Peshkopi town and historical village of Kastriot (Skenderbeg birthplace). It is situated in a nature, Korab-Korritnik Natural Park and bordering the river Drini i Zi, but close to Albanian famous apple farms and apple juice factory of ELIKSIR.

"Konaku" have transformed it into a trendy guesthouse with





two comfortable self-catering apartments and six B&B rooms, maintaining the building's original characteristics. All en-suite rooms and apartments have their own surprising funky design, comfortable box spring beds with high quality mattresses and bathrooms with rain showers. Some of the rooms have French balconies with views over the fields, Korabi mountain range. Others are situated at the garden side having their own private entrance and terrace. Here you can relax and enjoy the wonderful views and sunsets, while enjoying an excellent glass of local apple juice or raki.

When you are staying at Konaku experiencing the tranquility and space around, it is hard to imagine that you are so close to everything the Diber region has to offer. Hiking and explore the National park of Lura and Korabi mount (highest mountain in Albania 2764 m), fruits farms, interesting town of Peshkopi and villages, museum, and restaurants are all within a 10 - 40 minutes' drive. In fact, to drive to the North Macedonia border in the eastern Peshkopi does not even take 20 minutes.

Peshkopia backpacker hostel features free bikes, garden, a bar and shared lounge in Peshkopi. It is the first hostel in North Albania, established by outdoor Albania.

Each room is equipped with a terrace with views of the city. Guest rooms at the hostel are equipped with a TV with satellite channels, a kitchenette and a dining area. Each room includes an electric tea pot, a shared bathroom and free Wi-Fi, while selected rooms contain a balcony and some have garden views. All guest rooms will provide guests with a fridge. The seating room is very traditional and connected old traditional of Diber with communist period when is build this house.

The garden is very well organized; beautiful view of the city and mountains, and it can be used for camping site.

A continental breakfast is available daily at **Peshkopia** backpacker hostel.

For more information contacts: Remzi Kaleci, Mobile: 00355 674673322

## Pejke - Hoteshbiking trail >>>

The trail starts at coordinates 41°38'20.5"N 20°26'03.3"E. While you have entered the road that leads to the village of Pejke for about a km of paved road you will initially pass through the village of Pjeçe and after about 1.5 km you will be in the village from where you will head to the starting point of the biking trail. Following about 1.6 km of unpaved road in the Gjurra neighborhood, the biking trail to the Butterflies camp begins.

The length of the trail is about 7 km and its beginning is located at 640 m above sea level. For a distance of about 1 km the trail passes through meadows and forests to produce unprecedented adrenaline. Then the Drini i Zi valley appears with a very stunning view. The rest of the way to the Butterflies camp has a very high level of difficulty. After about 150 m that you have started the difficult part, you can stop at an observation point where you can enjoy the impressive views and take photos or videos which are rare in their kind. The chosen position is very strategic as it provides you with very picturesque images of the area.

After you follow the rest of the trail you will reach the suspension bridge part which creates the adrenaline to the maximum. While you enjoy around the suspension bridge, you are at the Butterfly camp.

## **Black Drin River:**

This is branch of Albania's longest river doubles as a beach in certain areas and is one of the







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country's emerging destinations for water sports. The Black Drin, along with the vast surrounding valleys, is an immensely beautiful area of Albania which largely remains to be explored. The river stretches throughout Albania's northeast and, in the west, reaches all the way to the Adriatic Sea. The Black Drin springs from Lake Ohrid in Macedonia and traverses the Dibra district up until the city of Kukës, in the Albanian border. In the north, it joins the White Drin and, here, the two deep rivers become one: Drin River, which flows into the Adriatic. Black drini is a good opportunities for rafting, beach and fishing.

The Rafting, has started to practice by amateurs of river sports. Right at the point where the capricious river cannot follow its natural flow, the visitor has the chance to fully enjoy it and its beautiful surrounding landscape. Here, adventurers have the opportunity to raft on Drin's wide riverbed. Actually, as a result of this wide space, rafting in this particular spot is safe and hardly straining, making it an ideal spot to commune with nature while enjoying this fun water sport. The canyon of Topojan to katund i Ri and Rec to Skavica are the best adventure rafting places in Albania.

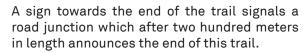


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## Arapaj i Epërm -Katund i Ri biking trail

As trail is located on the opposite side of the mountain range where most trails are located, it has different riding surface and scenery

The starting point of the trail is located at 780 m above sea level and the trail has a length of about 3.2 km with a level of 400 m and terrain with stable structural composition, this trail is considered the average level of difficulty. Many signs are placed along the trail to signal the direction of the trail as there are many duplications of them, but in most cases, they are functional and join each other after a certain distance.



Once you reach the village of Katund i Ri, you can cross it to the Luznia Bridge. Then, you can stop at the restaurants near Drini where you can have a beer or something else or following the paved road for a distance of about 5 km you can reach Peshkopi.





## Black Lake - Radomirebiking trail >>>

The access the starting point of the trail is possible via the road that goes up from Ujemire village. Trail divides from the gravel road and initially has a short descent down the existing path. Nevertheless, the path soon ends in the ditch of small stream that needs to be crossed.



From there on there is no path up to the starting point of the descent.

The coordinates of the starting point of the path are 41°49'37.8 "N 20°28'46.7" E. The height of the starting point is 1607m a.s.l and the end point is 1192 a.s.l passing through the tall pine trees by bicycle on a path with a length of 3094 m. An interesting trail that has different riding surface and scenery from other trails in the proposed trail system. It is also much shorter from other trails.

## 1. HIKING IN KORABI MOUNTAIN TRAIL RADOMIRE-KORAB TRAIL

Mount Korabi is 2'764m a.s.l is in the border between Albania and Macedonia, therefore It is the highest peak of these two countries, also it is the 4th highest peak in the Balkans. The terrain is mainly meadow but, in some places, there are some rocky trails.

The starting point for this hike is from Radomirë village, part of Kala e Dodes Administrative Unit, which is located between the city of Kukes and Peshkopi. To get there you need to go to Kukes through the highway, or through Peshkopi city. We would suggest sleeping in Radomirë a night before reaching the top. There are around two famous Guest houses in Radomira, Setki Ahmati, and Haxhi Hima. There are in front of the starting point of the trail, sleeping there is not expensive, and the food is great too, sheep's cheese and yogurt are way beyond delicious.. At the beginning of the trail to Mount Korab, you will go through the river. The trails are easy and meadow. You can choose two ways, the right one which is shorter but you need to ascent faster, or the left one. The figure below is for the first on yellow is shorter but steep and other option is easer but longer and it is in red.

### **OPTION 1: RADOMIRE -KORAB (RIGHT TRAIL)**

The route is 8.7km which started in Radomire and ends at the top of Mount Korabi, and hike takes approximately 5 hours and the level of difficulty is rated moderated but in some places is difficulty. After passing through the river

you will need to climb two hills, where you can access to water sources. The peak isn't visible yet. You can see two small lakes and some mountain huts. The first point is the last shepherd house in the village, continue to the right along the Korabi stream until arriving at the Korabi waterfall. It is a lovely place to rest while enjoying the waterfall. The journey continues through rocky terrain until arriving at the Korabi Plain. From there, the hike becomes steep until the top where one can enjoy the view of Mountain Korab. When you reach the ridge, you will need around 400 meters to hike before reaching the top. The views from the top are stunning.

### **OPTION 2: RADOMIRE -KORAB (LEFT TRAIL)**

The second option is route from Radomira to Korabi mount through "Fusha e Korabit" pasture and Panair pasture. The route trail is 11.1km and hike should take approximately 6 hours. The difficulty is rated as as moderate but some places difficulty. Hike to Korab Field or Fusha e Korabit, is the first attractive destination to be reached after 3-5 hours of hiking from Radomirë. Climbing difficulty is rated difficult but the landscape is wonderful, mountainous and pastoral. The Korab Field has a variety of flowers, vegetation, and natural cold-water springs. This field is well-known to the local population and beyond, as songs are sung about it. Fusha Korabit is a big alp at 2000 meters, a plain surrounded by high mountains approximately three kilometers in length. Shepherds are living here in summer. Ask them for direction of Panair. Next hiking route is to Panairi pasture or plain at 2200 m, which is called as a fairground used by the local population to sell sheep, wool, and other things. According to legend, 100 years ago, for the Radomira villagers and neighboring areas, this spot has served as the marketplace to exchange livestock and wool was done here too. Fair Field is also a monument of nature. Climbing to Korabi peak is the next destination. Korabi Peak is a difficult route, and hiking will take approximately 1.5 hours.. After reaching the top of the Korabi, enjoy the fantastic views that only Mountain Korab can offer. Under

normal circumstances, it takes at least six hours uphill, add three to four hours for coming back.

## Korabi Mountain:

Korab Mountain is the highest peak in Albania, standing at 2764m. Mountain Korabi is situated within the Korab-Koritnik Natural Park (V category of IUCN), which is noted for its rich flora (including species such as Bosnian pine, European beech, Coppicing forest, and Alder forest) and fauna (such as bear, wolf, lynx, chamois, deer, and, among the birds, we distinguish wild chiken and eagles.). The Korab range is located around the border triangle of Albania, North Macedonia, and Kosovo, and is southwest of the Šar Mountains.

The peak of Korab is very attractive for visitors who can find cottages, campsites, mountain lake, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding etc.

Also, the touristic village of Radomira (one of 100 villages in Albania) consider famous for shepherds with their flocks of sheep is near of Korabi peak.





### **Guest House "Bujtina KORABI"**

Guest House "Bujtina KORABI" is located in Radomira (one of 100 touristic village in Albania). The Korab Mountain (highest mount in Albania 2764m) is here and you can enjoy the beautiful landscape of natural monuments of Korab Natural Parks such as black lake, water spring, field of Korabi pasture, Panairi plant, and stone of Korabi.

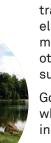
Bujtina "Korabi" has a garden, bar, terrace, and free Wi-Fi. At the guesthouse rooms come with a private bathroom. The dining room is traditional, and guests or travelers can stay together, eating, resting and enjoy the traditional hospitality, cooking and music.

The owners of the guest house Haxhi Hima and his son Agron can guide and company for hiking or climbing in peaks of Korabi mount, which is 6 hours from the guesthouse.

For more information contact: Haxhi Hima, Mobile: 00355 692538172 or 00355 693127708



## Renz - Brest i Epermbiking trail >>>



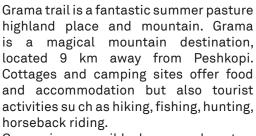
The coordinates of the starting point of the trail are 41°44′55.6″N 20°23′39.3″E and the elevation of 779 a.s.l with a total length of 4452 m. The trail is relatively flat in comparison with other trails in the proposed trail system and thus suitable for less experienced mountain bikers.

Going to this trail you must go first at Rrenx village which is located 12 km away from Peshkopia city in the main road Peshkopi – Kukes. In order to arrive at the starting point of the trail on the right of the main (asphalted) road, the gravel road passing near to Rrenx mosque direct you to this destination after 1 km.



There is only the descent into the canyon that needs to be adapted to enable less skilled mountain bikers to complete the whole trail without having to walk. The middle part of the trail offers a very fun and flowing riding experience on the existing single track.

### 14 HIKING IN GRAMA TRAIL



Grama is accessible by several routes. On foot, visitors can hike from the village of Kastriot, Sohodoll, Sllatine or from Shumbat village.



## 102. HIKING TRAILS: THE ROUTE SOHODOLL-GRAME PASTURE

The route starts in the village of Sohodoll. This route is very interesting and significant because it used to be the trail of local people from the village to the pasture for herd of sheep, wood, herbal plants and grasses, and you can joined on the route the local people. The route is 18.8 km and hike should take approximately 6-6.5 hours. The route goes to the Sohodoll and Voles village and you can see the culture monument of Zuna tower, ancient ruins of Voles castell and very beautiful place of Sohodoll famer fruit plantations. The route goes to Vrenjt village, who is famous for white gypsum stone massive and natural monument of "Shillnas" or the Salt Rock, whose slopes are favored by the wild goats that lick the salt off the rocks of those slopes. From the Salt Rock goes to the foothill of the pasture are to the Ladies Pasture or the legends say for the Skanderbeg's sisters pasture at 2300m above sea level, This route option, from different points during the journey, one can see the Drin River Valley and the mountains surrounding it, including Lura National Park and Mount Korab. The level of difficulties of the trail is moderated.

### Guest house "Vladimir Marku"

Guest house "Vladimir Marku" is located in Arras village. The location is beautiful, situated to Lura national park and birthplace of Albanian national hero Skanderbeg.

Vladimir can guide you around the region either hiking, cycling, hunting, caving and fishing. If you would like to, you can take part in the activities of the farm (to milk cows, cheese and so on). Vladimir Marku guesthouse is 10 minutes driving from Peshkopi (don't follow (Hidden by Airbnb) maps itinerary). Vladimir can arrange transport from Peshkopi if you need to. Nice and big garden. Canyon of Seta and Black Drini rivers to swim in within 10 minutes walking.

The accommodation offers also camping site.

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For more information contact: Vladimir Marku, Mobile: +355 692845694 / +355 686506061, e-mail: markuvladimir@yahoo.com

Anyway, if you are looking for a stylish well-located place to stay, away from it all, while having axcess to all the interesting destinations and beauties of the Diber area, will be the perfect choice for you. Adelina and Hamit (couple of owners) would be delighted to welcome you as their guests!

For more information contact: Hamit Salkurti, Mobile: 00355 692053492,

e-mail: hamitsalkurti@gmail.com / korabitt@yahoo.com



#### "Dibra" Camping site in Shumbat

Located at village of Shumbat, Sllove Administrative Unit, situated in privileged natural surroundings of Shumbat lake, Grama mountain and pasture Georges part of Korrab-Korritnik Natural park, with nice panorama of Lura National Park mountains and valley of Black Drini river.

The camping site is in main national road of Peshkopi-Kukes, welcomes you with their 13 accommodations on a terrain of more than 3000 m²of land. Also, the owner of camping site Dritan Herra and his son, offer other relevant facilities such as bar-restaurant, mini market, carwash, etc. Caravans and motorhomes are welcome and will have a place on the main part of the campsite. All the spots have a 10 electrical hook-up (for some of you, make sure having an extension cord).

Accessibility: the campsite has a pitch and a shower and toilet for visitors, WIFI and internet, and offered maps and other relevant information for the area. Also, owner son knows English, and He can guide the visitors to Shumbat village and farmer, Grama pasture and Korab mountain.

For more information contact: Dritan Herra;

Mobile: 00355682351518; E mail: soniherra@gmail.com; Facebook: Dibra camping

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#### HIKING TRAIL IN SETA RIVER CANYON TO LURA LAKES.

## O1. SETE RIVER CANYON – FLOWERS LAKE OF LURA ROUTE

The route starts in Arras village, at "Krashi" fish farm in Seta River valley and ended on flowers lake of Lura. The route is 15.4 km and the hike should take approximately 5-6 hours and the level of difficulty is rated as moderate. The first stop is at Sopanika cave which is a big water spring like a miracle waterfall. Also, the Seta canyon has several (about 17) caves but none of them are not explored. The route continued through the Seta canyon and after 1.5 km is the Small Hydropower Plant and there are two Georges of Seta river throat, one direction is for "Pllaj" valley which is very rocky mountain area and historical place of Skanderbeg natural castell, and other directions is through Gure-Lure village to flower lake of Lura. Near to Gur Lura village the viewing area is a miracle, you can see all Seta canyon, the "Murate" waterfall in Gure Lura and very nice rocky small canyon called "Gjallica". After "Gjallica" hiking continue through National Park of Lura and ended to flower lake of Lura, one of the most famous glacial lakes of Lura. The visitors can enjoy the mountain viewing area of Korabi mount in front and Nezhda mount in background. The way back route is in the same route through Gure Lure village to Cidhen village, or it can be on the other side through glacial lakes of Lura to Fushe Lure village.

## 1 LURA LAKES- FUSHË LURË TRAIL

The route starts in Fushe Lura village, one of the 100 touristic village in Albania, at "Hotel Lura" which is in the center of the village. You can enjoy the panoramic view of Fushë Lura village, the beautiful alpine valley. The first route can be the visit the characteristic towers, landscaped courtyards with wooden fences, such as Towers of Tolle which is a cultural monument, and other characteristic houses. The route from Fushe Lure to flowers Lake of Lura is 15 km and the hike should take

approximately 5 hours. Hiking through the forests of the Lura Park, where after 1.5 hours the Lakes of Lura appear. Exploring 7 lakes will take approximately 3 hours. Visitors will learn about the characteristics of the lakes, names, nature and legends. The first stop is at "big lake" and sorrounding it are also 4 other lakes. For amateurs of climbing, suggested to climb the pick of Nezha mount (45 minutes climbing) where you can enjoy the viewing area of Lura National Park, Drini valley and Peshkopi city in the east, Kukes city in the west and Mati river valley and Burrel in the south. The next stop will be at black lake which is the beautiful nature on the lake and surrounding, and during the route to flower lake you can explore also two other lakes and different water resources. The last stop will be at Lura flower lake and Mares' Field pasture. The way back route is in the same route through Lura lakes route or via Gurë Lura village, that visitors will have the opportunity to enjoy the natural diversity of Lura Park, the beauty of Runja Mountain, and the spectacular view of "Gjallica" of Gurë Lura and Seta canyon The turn back through Gure Lura should take 2.5 hours of normal walking.

## TWENTY ONE GLACIAL LAKES IN LURË AND KACNI

The glacial Lakes of Lura and Kacnia is a group of lakes in the northern parts of Diber which include 21 lakes. They are amphitheatrically situated in the cirque of the Lura mountain range especially Deja Mountain. They are located between 2,200 and 2,475 m. Their shores are steep and rocky. Pine-scrub grows around the lakes due to the high altitude.

The lakes are situated in the vicinity of the Lura and Selishta Administrative Units. Most of them are part of Lura National Park, which is known as an area with very high biodiversity values: with pine forests, walnut, spruce, beech and shrubs; various endemic species, some subendemic species and relic trees, and characteristic fauna, very special for

our country; alpine meadows, etc., there are large mammals protected by special regulations such as bear, wolf, lynx, chamois, deer, and, among the birds, we distinguish wild turkey and eagles.

The Lura and Kacnia lakes are among the main tourist attractions in the area, because in addition to the stunning nature, the visitors can see the traditional style architecture of the high carved stone towers and landscaped courtyards with wood fences, plus you can enjoy traditional Albanian hospitality and special local products such as cheese and honey.

Also you can visit the Fushe Lura village, one of the 100 touristic village in Albania.







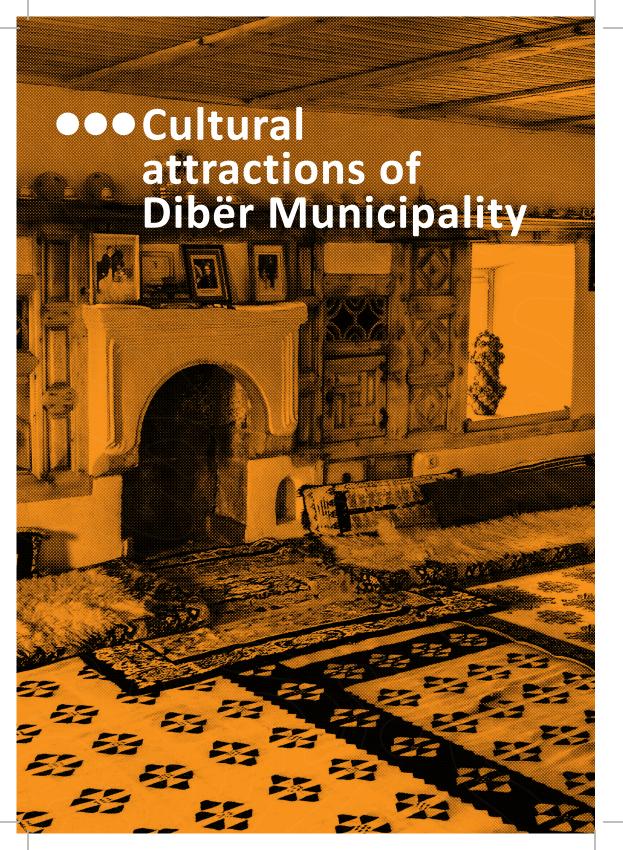
### **Camping Lura**

Lura Hotel, located in Fushe Lura village (one of 100 touristic villages in Albania), offers guests a restaurant, bar, shared lounge, and garden. The hotel provides free parking, free Wi-Fi, and 24-hour front desk service. Rooms at the Lura Hotel have a flat-screen TV, air-conditioning, and a balcony, while the bathrooms come with a hairdryer and free toiletries.

The hotel has a camping site, about 4000m² of space, with more than 15 pitches with electrical connections for caravans and motorhomes. The site also includes showers and toilets.

The owner of the hotel can offer guests the opportunity to go hiking, climbing, or driving with 4×4 vehicles through Lura National Park.

For more information contact Mr. Hasan Hoti, Mob. +355682187497 / +355684060271 E-mail hasanhoti90@gmail.com Fushë Lurë, Albania



## • Museum of the Skanderbeg and Kastriot's family:

Diber is the birth place of Skanderbeg, the Albanian national hero. The Skanderbeg Museum is located in Sinë village and houses numerous places names, traditions, legends of the Kastriot family Nearby is the village of Kastriot, which was named after the Kastriot family. Skanderbeg's birthday coincides with St. George's Day and both are celebrated together. The museum was built in 1985, and at the entrance of the museum the busts of Pal, Gjon and Gjergj Kastrioti are displayed. There are several combat weapons of the Skanderbeg period. On the walls are displayed all the battles fought by Skanderbeg. There is also a family tree that shows the origin of the Kastrioti tribe. The museum was renovated in May 2011 thanks to the Arbresh, Giorgio Mario Castriota Scanderbeg, who is considered to be a Kastrioti family member. "Oda Dibrane" Folk Festival:

'Oda Dibrane', in folk symbolizes the 'guest reception room'. It is a symbol of the fervor of Albanian generosity, resistance and bravery, a location for organization of assemblies, ceremonies of joy and misfortune, where the wisdom of the people unfold. It has also served as a place where the beautiful epic and lyric songs were created, where people could celebrate and rejoice, where people could either sing songs or mourn, where a friend of the house was seen in or out, where prominent words and allegorical dialogue was utilized That was also the place where the beautiful melodies of our songs, rituals, humor and graceful satire, the words of wisdom and allegoric thought were created.















## The Museum of Dibër:

The museum is located in the center of the city of Peshkopi, about 30 meters from the main boulevard. This museum, currently exhibiting historic objects, was created in recent years, as the previous building turned into headquarters of the municipality of Peshkopi.

The museum has about 2000 artifacts of great value, some of which are very rare, ranging from archaeological works such as flint tools, various clay pots, firearms, swords, personal objects of historical figures, and an enormous ethnographic wealth, from livestock, agricultural, culinary, down to various types of clothing used by various Dibër provinces. About 80% of these articrafts located in the premises of this museum are original.

It consists of the pavilion of history, archeology, and ethnography, which depict the entire material and spiritual history of Dibër from the early neolithic period to nowadays. In the archaeological pavilion, there is a small collection of Illyrian bronze and iron weapons, related to the phase I-III of the iron period.

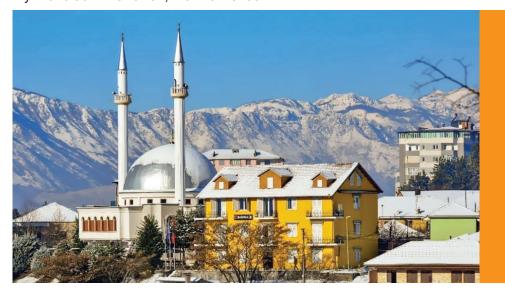
Entry is free of charge

## Skanderbeg statue

It is located along the promenade "Elez Isufi". The inauguration of the monument took place on June 9, 2009. Realized by Zaim Korsi. Dedicated to Gjergj Kastriot Skenderbeu, our national hero was born in 1405 and died in 1468. In 1440 he was assigned "sancakbeji" Turkish name Leader in Dibër, the latter one of the three sancakbeji of Albania of that period. In June 1444 he led the battle of Torvjoll in Lower Dibra. During this period until August 1466 he led 18 other battles fought in Dibra.

## The New Mosque of Peshkopi

This building was built in 2009, is located in the center of the city, has two minarets, the interior includes the offices of the myfti and administration, the imam's room.



## Tower of Reshit Zuna

Reshit Zuna tower or known as Zuna tower built in 1827, has a simple four-cornered plan with dimensions 7 -7.7m and height 11m. The width of the tower walls is 1m. The tower is 4-storey and has 7 windows measuring 1m x 0.70m. The gate of the tower has dimensions 0.96x1.60m. Zuna Tower is built of stone and limestone. The floors from the second have lattice turrets which are numerous. The construction technique is unique in its kind. The tower is also surrounded by steam.

It is located in Sohodoll village, Kastriot Administrative Unit.



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## Summer Day:

It is the most dominant and conspicuous calendar ritual in both the city and the countryside, and it is marked by the population's enthusiasm and active participation, as it has the feel of a major celebration. It is celebrated on the 14th of March all over the region of Dibër. It is a pagan celebration that is celebrated throughout Albania, but in this area it has its own characteristics.. A few days before, eggs are boiled, dyed with onion barks or in food colors. Children go to the village hills and play various popular games such as: kala dibrance jumprope, burning balls and so on. Egg win-over is one of the most interesting parts, where the winner is the one who with his egg breaks more. Children use with egg shells to mark summer flowers, which are plucked by them the next day on March 14th. Also, a night in advance, children spark off fires to scare off winter. Children eat around the fire, jump and sing songs, expressing the desire to have the biggest fire.

Date: 14 March, Location: Peshkopi



## St. George's Day:

It is a Dibër celebration of particular importance and incredibly interesting, in Christian name, but of pagan faith in ritual, which falls on April 23rd according to the old calendar and May 6th, according to regular calendar. This joyful revival of nature was also recognized the first day of the year, or the New Year's

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Day. On this night and the following day, many meaningful rituals are observed. The young men used to kindle fires in the night in visible places. At night, they ate traditional foods outdoors. With all these foods, they "tugged" the flowers ("they fed them"), especially kukurek, metimi flower and the flowers of Saint George. They 'tugged' also the green grass in a patch of grassfield or meadow with a round white stone or a plow of soil that they lay over the hollow grass. It is a pagan celebration, which announces the coming of summer, the greenery of all plants and the salvation of livestock from shortage of dry hay. For this day, the family has the best lamb to be slaughtered. Legends in these areas highlight that there is a date coincidence on May 6th; it is both, Saint George's Day and also the birthday of our national hero, Gjergj Kastriot-Skanderbeg.

Date: 6 May, Location: Kastriot and Peshkopi

## Cherry Fair:

It is organized every year in May-June, which is also the harvest time of cherry trees. It is organized every year as there



is an increase of farmers participating in this fair who trade and promote cherry product and in some cases find market for sale. There is a noticeable increase in the land surface area, thanks to the farmer support scheme. The fair should be combined with on-site cherryfarm tours where tourists can experience preparation of cherry jam and juice.

Date: First week of June, Location: Peshkopi

## St. Nichola's Day:

Villages of the administrative unit of Selishtë and Lurë organize on this occasion folk performances, food festivals, fire camps, horse racing and other outdoor activities. It is celebrated in May in the numerous meadows of Selishtë and Lurë. There is a participation from both the city of Peshkopi and other administrative units. The Peshkopi-Selishtë and Peshkopi-Lurtë road is a concern, as it is only crossed by vans and off-road cars. But this does not prevent people from mass participation in this activity. St. Nichola's Day is usually organized by the Administrative Units of Selishtë and Lura.

Date: 20 May, Location: Selishte and Lura

## Harvest Festival:

The festival is an activity usually conducted in October and lasts 1 to 3 days. It takes place on the boulevard of the city of Peshkopi, where tents for the exhibition of agricultural & livestock, as well as traditional cooking or handicrafts of the area are displayed. Quite often, it is held at the same time with the Oda Dibrane folklore festival, as there is a wide participation from residents of Dibër and beyond. It is the fair that is distinguished for wider participation and many agricultural products. Among the most important products are: apples, pears, quinces, nuts, livestock products such as goat's or sheep's cheese, honey, 'Raki' of various types, varieties of sweets, pickles, 'pastërma' (jerky = dried salted meat), 'jufka' (home-made pasta), etc. These products selected by farmers are offered to citizens and, at the same time, traditional products of the area are promoted.

Date: First week of October, Location: Peshkopi

## The castle of Grezhdan

Located in the field of Maqellara, it is one of the largest fortresses in Albania. It was located at a strategic point, connecting the Dibra region with Kosovo and Macedonia. The surrounding walls of Grezhdan castle are 3.5 m wide and have

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a perimeter of about 2800 m, reinforced by 42 watchtowers of square, rectangular and cool types, fortified with massive watchtowers in the shape of "U", characteristic of the fourth century after our area. The main place in this area, which is surrounded by 18 towers, is occupied by the city of Grezhdan. The castle had three entrances, each of them was protected by two horseshoe-shaped towers. The walls of Grezhdan castle are built of river stones and abundant limestone mortar. The height of the castle walls is 1.5 meters but there are wall segments where the height is even greater. Church of St. Sotir (Sveti Spasit)



The cult object is about 700 years old and is a small one-sided church with internal dimensions of 3.4x6.3m. Structurally the church is a simple solution. The roof of the church is two-sided with wooden construction and is covered with stone slabs.

The altar environment is located in the eastern section, from which the three-sided apse rises. A wooden iconostasis separates the altar from the nave. The masonry of the church is built of almost unworked stones, bound with lime mortar. The interior of the Church is decorated with murals.



#### TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER IN ROSTUSE VILLAGE

It is located near the old Municipal building in the center of the village. This Information center is located on a ground near to the Main Post Office in Rostuse. This visitor center is open for all people who like to find more about this cross border region, all attractions that this region can offer, local experience's and activates of all kinds. With who you will have option to meet from the staff - Anis Saliu is local person from village, full with information's and knowledge about the region. Here you can get or find more about tourist maps, brochures, local guide itineraries, mountain biking trails and information about the accomodations such as guesthouses and camping sites and tourist attractions. Location of this info point can be accessed trough this QR code.



#### HOURS:

Monday - Friday, 8.00 - 17.00 (May-October) Monday - Friday, 09.00 - 16.00 (November-April)

#### ADRESSES AND CONTACTS:

Rostuse village, North Macedonia Mobil.: +38(0)978382601 E- mail : rostuseinfo@gmail.com

#### TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER IN DIBER MUNICIPALITY

Dibër's official Tourist Information Center, also known as the TIC, is open year-round. It is conveniently located on the second floor of the Culture Palace, which is situated along a linden tree-lined pedestrian boulevard. The Tourist Information Center welcomes visitors and provides them with information services, including brochures, maps, and tour itineraries of Dibër. Inside, visitors will find friendly and knowledgeable staff who can help them discover local restaurants, book lodgings, and explore the many attractions Dibër has to offer!



#### HOURS:

Monday-Friday, 8:00-17:00 (May-October)
Monday-Friday, 9:00-16:00 (November-April)

#### ADDRESSES AND CONTACTS:

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