BE IN/ALBANIA

OLIVE OIL TRAILS AND HISTORY IN ALBANIA

Overview

Discover the ancient traditions of olive oil production while exploring the rich cultural tapestry of Albania. This 5-day itinerary takes you through the heart of Albania's olive oil regions, visiting historic cities, family-owned olive orchards, and local markets, all while experiencing the best of Albanian gastronomy.

Historical Background

Olive oil production in Albania dates back thousands of years, tracing its origins to the ancient Illyrians who cultivated olive groves along the Adriatic coast. Over the centuries, the tradition of olive cultivation passed through Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman periods, each leaving its mark on the techniques and methods still used today. Albania's Mediterranean climate and fertile soil provide the perfect conditions for olive trees, some of which are hundreds of years old and still bear fruit. The country's olive oil is known for its robust flavor and high quality, making it a staple in local cuisine and a symbol of Albanian heritage.

Day 1: Shkodra & Kruja - Gateway to History and Olive Oil

Arrive in Shkodra, visit Rozafa Castle, explore local olive orchards, travel to Kruja for castle and bazaar exploration. Gastronomy highlight: Tave Kosi with olive oil tastings.

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Day 2: Tirana & Durres - Olive Oil Craftsmanship

Explore Tirana, visit Shkalla Olive Oil, Subashi Olive Oil, and finish the day in Durres with Roman ruins and olive markets. Cultural stop at the Archaeological Museum.

Day 3: Berat - City of Pickled Olive Production

Visit Berat, explore olive orchards and pickled olive production. Discover Berat Castle and the Onufri Museum. Gastronomy highlight: Pickled olives with bread and cheese.

Day 4: Vlora - Tradition and Taste at Musai Olive Oil

Travel to Vlora, visit Musai Olive Oil estate, explore olive groves, and enjoy tasting sessions. Afternoon to explore the seaside promenade and local markets.

Day 5: Ionian Coast, Gjikondi Olive Oil, Saranda & Gjirokastra

Drive along the Ionian Coast, stop at Gjikondi Olive Oil in Qeparo, continue to Saranda and Butrint National Park, explore Gjirokastra, and return to Tirana.