

# Montenegro & Albania Jewish Heritage Experience



Friday, October 17 to Monday, October 27, 2025

## Tour Overview

This immersive 10-day journey through Montenegro and Albania is a unique blend of history, culture, nature, and gastronomy. Dive deep into the region's rich Jewish heritage as we explore historical landmarks, hear untold stories of bravery, and visit sites that showcase Albania's role in sheltering Jewish families during WWII. Alongside these cultural experiences, marvel at breathtaking landscapes, from the pristine beaches of the Adriatic to the rugged peaks of the Albanian Alps. Each day also offers opportunities to savor the diverse flavors of local cuisine, with farm-to-table meals, wine tastings, and even a hands-on cooking class to learn traditional recipes.

### Day 1: Friday, 17 October 2025

#### Arrival in Montenegro

Upon arrival at Podgorica Airport, Group transferred to our hotel in Budva, a coastal town known for its medieval charm and stunning beaches. In the evening, a visit to the Budva Synagogue will offer an introduction to Montenegro's Jewish history, followed by Shabbat prayers. A welcome dinner with Kabbalat Shabbat will conclude the evening, setting the tone for an enriching journey ahead. Guests will stay for two nights at the TQ Plaza Hotel.

**Overnight:** TQ Plaza Hotel, Budva

**Included meals:** Dinner



### Day 2: Saturday, 18 October 2025

#### Kotor & Perast Exploration

Following breakfast, the journey continues with a scenic drive to the UNESCO-listed towns of Kotor and Perast. A boat trip to the island of **Gospa od Škrpjela** unveils its rich legends and historical significance. Lunch in Perast provides an opportunity to admire the town's Venetian architecture and serene waterfront views. Afterward, guests will explore the Old Town of Kotor, one of Europe's best-preserved medieval cities, with time to relax at a charming café before returning to Budva for an evening at leisure.

**Overnight:** TQ Plaza Hotel, Budva

**Included meals:** Breakfast, Lunch



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## Day 3: Sunday, 19 October 2025

### Budva to Zogaj & Shkoder



Departing Budva, the group will travel to **Zogaj**, a picturesque village on the shores of Lake Shkoder. Here, a traditional lakeside lunch will showcase local specialties before a visit to a women's **qylym** weaving cooperative, where guests will observe the intricate craftsmanship of handmade rugs. The journey continues to **Shkoder**, one of Albania's oldest cities, where a visit to the legendary **Rozafa Castle** offers panoramic views over the surrounding landscapes. The evening concludes with dinner and relaxation at the hotel.

**Overnight:** Golden Palace Hotel, Shkoder

**Included meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## Day 4: Monday, 20 October 2025

### Theth Adventure



A morning drive on minivans will lead us deep into the Albanian Alps, arriving at **Theth National Park**, a remote village known for its breathtaking scenery and traditional stone towers. A guided hike through the valleys will highlight the area's stunning waterfalls and untouched natural beauty, including a visit to the historic **Lock Tower**, a symbol of Albania's ancient traditions. After a day immersed in nature, guests will return to Shkoder for a relaxing evening.

**Overnight:** Golden Palace Hotel, Shkoder

**Included meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

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## Day 5: Tuesday, 21 October 2025 Farm Visit & Kruja's Historic Bazaar

The morning begins with a drive to **Shade of the Fairies Farm** in **Fishta**, an iconic agritourism destination where guests will enjoy a wine tasting and a seven-course gourmet meal prepared with locally sourced ingredients. The journey then continues with a visit to the home where **Solomon Adija's family found refuge during WWII**, a powerful testament to Albania's history of offering sanctuary to Jews. In the afternoon, guests will explore **Kruja**, Albania's medieval capital, wandering through its vibrant bazaar, historic castle, and the mystical **Bektashi Teqe** before having the evening free for independent dining.



**Overnight:** Hotel Panorama Kruje  
**Included meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

## Day 6: Wednesday, 22 October 2025 Vlora & Jewish Heritage Sites

Today's journey will take our guests to **Vlora**, home to Albania's historical **Road of the Hebrew**, a significant Jewish settlement. Guests will have the option to either hike or drive to **Tragjas**, a village that played a crucial role in the WWII resistance, they will meet local shepherds and hear personal accounts of how Jewish families were sheltered during the war. The evening will conclude with a group dinner.



**Overnight:** Hotel Miramare Vlore  
**Included meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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## Day 7: Thursday, 23 October 2025

### Apollonia & Berat

Today a short drive will bring us to **Apollonia**, an ancient Greek and Roman settlement rich in archaeological wonders. Continuing to **Berat**, known as the "City of a Thousand Windows," guests will explore the traditional Jewish quarters of **Mangalemi and Gorica**, which reflect the city's unique blend of cultures. The evening is free for personal exploration of Berat's charming streets.

**Overnight:** Hotel Colombo Berat

**Included meals:** Breakfast, Lunch



## Day 8: Friday, 24 October 2025

### Berat's Jewish Legacy

The morning is dedicated to Albania's Jewish history, beginning with a visit to the **Solomon Museum**, the country's only Jewish museum. This will be followed by a wine tasting and a gourmet lunch at a local vineyard, where guests can savor regional flavors. In the evening, a **Kabbalat Shabbat dinner** will bring the group together to reflect on their journey.

**Overnight:** Hotel Colombo Berat

**Included meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



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## Day 9: Saturday, 25 October 2025

### Durres & Tirana's WWII Heroes

A morning stop in **Durres**, a historical Adriatic port city, precedes a visit to a **Bunker Farm**, where guests will meet the **Kuci family**, who reclaimed their land after the fall of communism. The day's journey continues with a guided tour of **Tirana**, featuring landmarks such as **Skanderbeg Square** and the **Pyramid of Enver Hoxha**. The highlight of the day is meeting **Ermal Hoxa**, whose family saved Jews during the Holocaust. The evening concludes with a traditional **dinner at Toptani Castle**.



**Overnight:** Hotel Elisa by Melia, Tirana

**Included meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## Day 10: Sunday, 26 October 2025

### Tirana Jewish Heritage and cooking workshop

The day begins with a visit to **The Light of Isaac Synagogue**, where guests will meet local Jewish leaders and learn about Albania's present-day Jewish community. Later, a **hands-on cooking class** offers the chance to prepare traditional Albanian dishes, followed by a shared meal. The day also includes a meeting with a **Righteous Among the Nations family**, providing a deeply personal perspective on survival and rescue efforts during WWII. A **farewell dinner and folk show** will bring the journey to a memorable close.

**Overnight:** Hotel Elisa by Melia, Tirana

**Included meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



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**Day 11: Monday, 27 October 2025**

## Departure

With hearts full of memories, guests will be transferred to Tirana Airport for their departure flights.

**Included meals:** Breakfast



**All clients should be aware that while all efforts are made to avoid any problems before, during or after your trip, Yaya Food and Travel carries no insurance for your health or luggage. While using the services only of registered suppliers, we recommend that you purchase fully comprehensive travel insurance, to include cancellation, as Yaya Food and Travel, cannot be held liable for any mishaps during your stay.**

### Price Per person:

€2645 per person (double/twin room)

Single supplement: €450

### Price Includes:

10 nights in 4-star hotels  
6 dinners, 8 lunches, including wine & water  
Group transfer to and from airports  
Air condition Bus  
Entrances to all our activities mentioned in itinerary  
Cooking class & wine tastings  
Boat trip  
Meetings with locals  
Private transportation  
Professional English speaking guide and local guides where needed  
Whispers  
Tips to the service givers

### Not Included:

Flights, travel insurance, tips, personal expenses  
Additional drinks, meals outside itinerary.