

Three Peaks of the Balkans – Albania, Kosovo & Montenegro

A rugged trek along the scenic, mountain trails of the Balkans Peace circuit. Experience an ancient way of life in this hidden corner of Europe.



Group departures

See overleaf for departure dates

Holiday overview

Style	Trek
Accommodation	Hotels, Guest Houses, Mountain Hut
Grade	Vigorous / Strenuous
Duration	11 days from London to London
Trekking / Walking days	On trek: 7 days
Min/Max group size	4 / 12. Guaranteed to run for 4
Trip Leader	Local Leader Balkans
Land only	Joining in Pristina, Kosovo
Max altitude	2,656m/8,714ft, Gjeravica Peak, Day 10

Private Departures & Tailor Made itineraries available



tel: +44 (0)1453 844400 fax: +44 (0)1453 844422 info@mountainkingdoms.com www.mountainkingdoms.com

Departures

Group departures

2025 Dates:

Thu 05 Jun - Sun 15 Jun

Thu 07 Aug - Sun 17 Aug

Thu 04 Sep - Sun 14 Sep

Will the trip run?

This trip is guaranteed to run for 4 people and for a maximum of 12. In the rare event that we cancel a holiday, we will refund you in full and give you at least 6 weeks warning. Many trips do fill up quickly - we advise you to book early if you want to secure a place(s) on the dates of your choice.

Group prices and optional supplements

Please contact us on +44 (0)1453 844400 or visit our website for our land only and flight inclusive prices and single supplement options.

No Surcharge Guarantee

The flight inclusive or land only price will be confirmed to you at the time you make your booking. There will be no surcharges after your booking has been confirmed.

Insurance

We offer a travel insurance scheme - please contact us for details.

Private Departures

We can also offer this trip as a private holiday. A Private Departure follows exactly the same itinerary as the group departure but at dates to suit you (subject to availability) - please contact us with your preferred dates.

Tailor Made service

We pride ourselves on the level of quality and choice we provide for our clients who want a fully tailor made holiday. A holiday will be created especially for you by one of our well-travelled experts. They will be able to advise on the accommodation best suited to your needs, the sights you should visit (and those to avoid!) and the best walks and activities matched to your ability. In short, we will work together with you to create your perfect holiday.

If you would like to explore the idea of a Tailor Made holiday with Mountain Kingdoms then please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 or see the Tailor Made pages of our website for further inspiration.

Your guide



Our Three Peaks of the Balkans trip will be led by a professional local guide who speaks excellent English and knows the area well.

Guides for this trip include Semir Kardovic who has been leading treks in this region of the Balkans for many years. In fact, he was born just across the Kosovan border in Montenegro and, not only speaks English and Montenegrin but also the local dialects and languages of which there are several. Semir is very familiar with the mountain trails and has a great deal of knowledge about the flora, fauna and history of the region. He will undoubtedly lead you with great patience and charm through the Balkans.

Your trip highlights

- Trek the superb little-known eastern section of the Balkans 'Peace Trail' circuit through Kosovo, Albania and Montenegro
- Ascend three peaks - Mt Tromeda, 2,365m, which straddles three nations, dramatic Mt Hajla, 2,403m, and Mt Gjeravica, 2,656m, the highest in Kosovo
- Enjoy wild mountain scenery and rugged walking through lush meadows carpeted with wildflowers
- Experience the warmest of welcomes and the generous hospitality of the local shepherds and farmers
- Stay in a traditional shepherd's hut and village houses for a glimpse of an ancient way of life

At a glance itinerary

Days 1-2	Fly to Pristina in Kosovo and transfer to Valbona in the Accursed Mountain region of Albania.
Day 3	Trek from Valbona to the village of Ceremi.
Days 4-5	Trek to the Doberdol Valley. Ascend Tromeda peak, 2,365m/7,759ft, and descend to Milishevc and drive to the town of Peja in Kosovo.
Day 6	Sightseeing in Peja and drive up the Rugova Gorge to Reke e Allages.
Day 7	Ascend Hajla Peak, 2,403m/7,84ft, descend to Drelaj. Transfer to Liqenat.
Days 8-9	Trek to Babino Polje, cross into Montenegro, and continue to Doberdol crossing back into Albania.
Day 10	Ascend Mount Gjeravica, 2,656m/8,714ft. Drive to Gjakova.
Day 11	Transfer to Pristina airport and fly home.

Trip summary

In 1999 the Balkans Peace Park Project started work to establish a cross-border national park to preserve the fabulous flora and fauna of the high mountains and to help the local inhabitants sustain their centuries old lifestyles. One of the earliest initiatives was a long-distance walking trail. This has come to be known as the Balkans Peace trail, and our trek covers many of the best parts of the trail. In fact, if you complete both this trip and our 'Accursed Mountains' trek, you will have walked virtually all the Peace trail.

For sheer variety, it would be hard to beat this trek. From the delightful beech forests of the lower hills to the flower-filled meadows of the high alps and from the characteristic verdant valleys of the region to the dramatic limestone peaks of the Accursed Mountains, every day brings different scenery and experiences. And, as you trek between Kosovo, Albania and Montenegro, criss-crossing numerous times across the three borders, you soon come to realise how unimportant these artificial lines on maps are both to the landscape and to the customs and culture of the local inhabitants. Regardless of the country you are in, you will be welcomed by the local shepherds and farmers who are rightly renowned for their exceptional warmth and hospitality. The old tradition of welcoming all travellers is well and truly alive in this corner of the Balkans and you will even spend a couple of nights staying in an authentic shepherd's hut to give an insight into the simple way of life of the local people.

Your holiday begins in Kosovo, but immediately you travel across the border into Albania and the heart of the Accursed Mountains. The scenery here in the beautiful Valbona valley is truly awe-inspiring with a dramatic mountain backdrop and lush meadows carpeted in wildflowers. From the village of Ceremi you trek to the high mountain pastures of Doberdol where, for centuries, sheep, goats and cows have been pastured during the summer months and this tradition continues to the present day. Trekking out of Doberdol you enjoy a fabulous ridge walk before ascending your first peak. The three peaks of the trek are relatively easy climbs: Tromeda, your first peak, forms the border of the three countries, Hajla Peak sits on the Kosovan-Montenegrin border and Gjeravica is the highest peak in Kosovo. All are easily achievable by a fit hill-walker, and do not pose any technical challenges. After descending to Kosovo, you have a rest day exploring the culturally fascinating town of Peja and a night of comfort. Continuing your trek in the Rugova valley of Kosovo, you climb your second peak and then trek over a stunning pass to the Montenegrin mountain hamlet of Babino Polje. This is an area of beautiful mountain tarns and, after revisiting Doberdol, you climb your final peak before descending into the historic town of Gjakova in Kosovo.

Carrying only a day sack (as your luggage is transferred for you), and staying in basic accommodation in the mountains and comfortable guest houses or hotels elsewhere, this challenging new trek takes you on ancient trading paths and shepherds' trails through some of the most remote and little trekked mountains in Europe, revealing a hidden, yet very beautiful and culturally interesting, corner of the continent.

Your trip itinerary

Day 1: Depart London.

You depart from London on your overnight flight to Pristina.

Overnight: In flight

Day 2: Arrive Pristina and transfer to the Valbona Valley.

You will be met on arrival at Pristina airport and there will be a single group transfer to your hotel in the Valbona Valley. The transfer is timed to fit the group flight, please check with us for further information.

Pristina airport is situated on the wide plain of Kosovo, and you will drive west, initially on the excellent new dual carriageway, towards the hills and the Albanian border. At the town of Gjakova the road climbs into the mountains and you cross the border at a sleepy checkpoint. As you descend through a picturesque valley, cows and sheep appear on the roads and the verdant fields are covered in old fashioned haystacks in the late summer. At the permanently semi-built town of Bajam Curri, the road starts climbing up the Valbona Valley. The road twists and turns up the stunning limestone gorge before the vista of the wide Valbona Valley opens out, with the soaring peaks of the Accursed Mountains on both sides.

Overnight: Valbona Guest House (Meals: D)

Day 3: Trek to Ceremi - 3 hours. Explore village.

Weather permitting, you should be greeted in the morning by a stunning view of the valley. Your walk today is relatively short and designed to break you in gently to the more challenging walking ahead! A fifteen minute road transfer takes you to the start of the walk. The very rough track is surrounded by beautiful trees and soaring high above are the astonishing limestone rock faces that dominate these mountains. After about an hour of climbing you reach a welcome water fountain before the path flattens somewhat and the wider Ceremi valley appears in the distance. Ceremi is a widely spaced out village, inhabited by shepherds in the summer months who have started welcoming foreign trekkers into their traditional houses. The same families have inhabited the old stone houses for many generations and their hospitality is legendary. You will be given a very warm welcome and fed with delicious local produce. In the afternoon there is the opportunity to explore the village and the picturesque waterfall at the head of the valley.

Ascent 640m

Overnight: Cerem Guest House (Meals: BLD)

Day 4: Trek to Doberdol - 7 hours.

There are two routes leading uphill from the lovely village of Ceremi. Both offer great views as you climb through a mixture of forest and dazzling flower-filled meadows. On either route you can stop after about an hour at the 'Forest Cafe'. This cafe was started by an enterprising Tirana man who speaks perfect English and lives with his family in the forest for the summer months. The trail continues uphill through the forest before you turn off onto a smaller path to climb gently to reach an open meadow and the Montenegrin border. You continue in Montenegro on a narrow mule trail, a truly delightful path, to finally reach a further clearing and the Albanian border. There are distant views from here of Doberdol, your final destination.



Walking on, about an hour of descent leads to the tiny village of Balqin. Perched on a steep hillside, the families here produce sheep's cheese to sell and you may well stop here to eat your lunch at one of the small stone houses. The summer inhabitants grow some vegetables and keep hens in addition to herding. With glimpses of distant Doberdol you contour around and down through beech and fir woods until you reach the Glansh valley. This wonderfully unspoilt conservation area is home to a few families in summer. A steep hundred metre climb at the head of the valley brings you out at the base of the huge Doberdol valley.

Here, there are sheep, cows and ponies everywhere in summer as the traditional farming families bring their animals up from the lowlands to graze and the human population swells to up to 500 people.

Ascent 1330 metres, Descent 650 metres.

Overnight: Doberdol Shepherd's Hut (Meals: BLD)

Day 5: Trek to Milishevc. Ascend Tromeda Peak, 2,365m/7,759ft - 8-9 hours. Drive to Peja.

From the broad, grassy floor of Doberdol valley you climb the side of the valley, quite steeply to start with but compensated by the superb views, to reach a saddle. Your first peak, Tromeda - 2,365m/7,759ft - is just ahead of you, an easy ascent up a grassy ridge to reach the top and the triangular border point of Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro. You descend by an alternative route to re-join the path and the start of a superb ridge walk. You are now in Kosovo. The display of wildflowers in spring and summer is remarkable - from tiny gentians to rare orchids the grassy uplands are a blaze of colour. The path undulates through high alpine meadows until you reach the Roshkodol pass at 2,258m/7,408ft. This is a good lunch spot and about halfway through your walk. As you continue on, the wide Roshkodol valley lies below you, and you traverse the head of the valley to gain another ridge and descend through sparse forest with a distant view of the town of Plav in Montenegro. The path then descends through trees, quite vaguely at times, to reach a meadow and then the scattered village of Milishevc. From here you descend by jeep to the Kosovan town of Peja.

Ascent 915 metres. Descent 980 metres.

Overnight: Hotel Dukagjini (Meals: BLD)

Day 6: Sightseeing in Peja. Transfer to Reke e Allages, through Rugova Gorge.

Kosovo is of course a young country, only formed in 2008, and it is immensely interesting as part of your Balkan trek to spend your rest day investigating some of the historic sites of the Peja area. Your day will start with a visit to the exquisitely beautiful monastery of Visoki Decani. Having survived since the 13th century, this important Serbian Orthodox monastery is carefully guarded following the formation of Kosovo as an independent country. The church was designed by a Franciscan monk, and both the Romanesque exterior and prolific interior frescoes provide a visual surprise and delight. The site is home to 24 monks who find time to make cheese and brandy in addition to preserving this important symbol of Serbian Orthodoxy in the heart of Albanian Kosovo.



As possible light relief, you next visit the caves at the source of the White Drin river and experience the popular Kosovan past-time of eating trout. There will be time to visit the reconstructed centre of Peja town and the mosque (burnt by the Serbs in the recent war but rebuilt) before visiting the 13th century Serbian Orthodox Nunnery and Patricarch church on the edge of town. This is followed by a drive of about an hour up the stunning Rugova gorge to your homestay for the night with a friendly and hospitable Ariu family.

Overnight: Reke e Allages Guest House (Meals: BLD)

Day 7: Trek to Liqenat via Hajla Peak, 2,403m/7,884ft - 8 hours.

The trek today starts right outside the back of your accommodation. You initially zig-zag up the home pastures of the family, climbing quite steeply until you reach woodland. Eventually you reach an impressive large meadow with old wooden huts. You climb behind these to reach a small rocky ridge, covered in wildflowers, before descending slightly to a mountain cabin. This is where you start your climb of Hajla peak - 2,403m/7,884ft and straddling the border of Kosovo and Montenegro. It is a steady two hour ascent, eventually following a stunning ridge with views to Montenegro. The mountain appears to be cut in half, with vertical cliffs on the Montenegrin side and far below views of the town of Rozaje. In the far distance, Serbia and the Albanian peaks can be seen. The summit is reached along a sharp ridge on a good path. The descent is via the same ridge to reach steep, grassy meadows and the path to the bottom. You now join the remains of an old caravan route to reach a small path that leads to the village of Pepaj. It is an interesting walk through this mountain hamlet to descend on an old route to Drelaj, a small hamlet with a large mosque.

Your vehicle will transfer you to Liqenat, starting point for tomorrow's trek. The mountain lodge has superb views back across the valley to Halja Peak and much of the route you walked today.

Ascent 1,250m. Descent 1,300m.

Overnight: Liqenat Mountain Guest House (Meals: BLD)

Day 8: Trek to Babino Polje - 8 hours.

The start of today's walk is a lovely ascent on a good path through lofty pine trees. Your initial objective is the lake of Kucishtes at 1,860m. You skirt around this lake and climb to reach a smaller lake of a deep, green colour similar to the Rio Olympics diving pool! From here it is a steady uphill climb to reach a valley full of dramatic rock formations. Your route takes you up the side of the valley to reach the pass of Jelenka. This is your high point of the day and there are expansive views of the Accursed Mountains to the south. There are several good lunch spots here before you descend to walk the ridge to Ravnobrd. Here you cross into Montenegro. It is a delightful descent, gentle to start with through a high alpine meadow to reach the sheep pastures above the Babino Polje valley. The final descent is steeply through forest before you reach the valley floor and your accommodation for the night.



Ascent 1150m. Descent 980m.

Overnight: Babino Bolje Mountain Hut (Meals: BLD)

Day 9: Trek to Doberdol - 7-8 hours.

Today you start walking on a farm track to reach a couple of picturesque mountain hamlets. There are excellent views from the meadows of the peaks of Montenegro. The trail now leads uphill on a small path through forest before contouring for half an hour to reach the stunning alpine lake of Hridsko Jezero. There will be time to relax here and take in the scenery before ascending on large rocks that eventually lead to a small hut. A rough track leads you back to the Albanian border, with lovely views of the big Albanian peaks. A ruined army post marks the border and you climb from here for an hour or so to the edge of the Doberdol valley.

Ascent 1000m. Descent 950 m.

Overnight: Doberdol Shepherd's Hut (Meals: BLD)

Day 10: Trek to Gropa and climb Gjeravica Peak, 2,656m/8,714ft - 7 hours. Transfer to Gjakova.

Your final day's trekking is an ascent of the highest mountain in Kosova, Gjeravica - 2,656m/8,714ft. You initially walk up the Doberdol valley before ascending the side of the valley to reach the pass of Aleiq. There are excellent views to enjoy from here before you descend to take a small path walking along two giant mountain cirques. This is another day of great contrasts as you initially cross limestone pavements to reach the first cirque. The small, rocky path contours the cirques and offers great views of soaring granite peaks. The second smaller cirque ends in a lovely little tarn and you can enjoy some time here before you start climbing on an old caravan path to reach the Gjeravitza pass.

Weather permitting, from here it is about one and a half hours to the rocky top of the peak. This is the highest mountain in Kosovo (and was the highest peak in Serbia), and there are stupendous views from the top. You descend back to the pass and then initially down a steep rocky path which gradually becomes more gentle to reach meadows and the small summer hamlet of Gropa. Your vehicle will meet you here for the drive to Gjakova and hotel for the night. Gjakova is an interesting, historic town and in the evening you will have a chance to wander through its lively streets.

Ascent 1165m. Descent 1195m

Overnight: Hotel Carshia e Jupave, Gjakove (Meals: BLD)

Day 11: Transfer to airport and fly to London.

After breakfast there will be a group transfer back to Pristina airport to catch your flight home. (Meals: B)

Our grading system

Three peaks of the Balkans graded as a Vigorous/Strenuous trekking holiday, as described below.

Vigorous

Typically these trips involve 8 to 14 days (occasionally more) trekking in relatively remote landscapes. High passes up to 4,900m/16,000ft may be crossed (sometimes snow-covered) and there may also be glacier travel and peak ascents. Walking days can be between 5 and 8 hours with considerable ascents and descents. This grade also covers some European treks of shorter durations. Overnight stops on trek could be in tea houses, mountain huts or camping.

These holidays would suit enthusiastic hill/mountain walkers.

Strenuous

Our strenuous trekking holidays can involve anything from 10 to 30 days on trek and are often in remote areas, far from 'civilisation'. Rest days are interspersed but there may be up to 7 consecutive days of hard walking. Most treks reach altitudes of at least 4,900m/16,000ft and there will be a great deal of ascent and descent. The majority of our strenuous treks utilise camping, tea house or mountain lodge accommodation.

These holidays are suitable for fit individuals who have regular experience of mountain walking.

Trip altitude

Important - please be aware that this trip involves travel at altitude. Whilst all our itineraries are carefully designed to optimise acclimatisation to high altitudes, participants on this trip are likely to experience some symptoms of being at altitude. The Dossier pack we provide when you book your holiday includes comprehensive advice on safe travel at altitude. If you require further information or advice on travel at altitude prior to booking please contact the office to speak to an experienced member of our team. Alternatively we recommend www.medex.org.uk as a good source of information.

What the price includes

Mountain Kingdoms aims to offer the best value for money. We do not charge extra for meal packages or apply local charges and try to ensure that all the key elements of your holiday are included.

What's included:

- ✓ A local English-speaking leader
- ✓ Daily luggage transfer
- ✓ Good twin share en suite standard hotel accommodation in towns
- ✓ Dormitory accommodation elsewhere
- ✓ 9 x breakfasts, 8 x lunches, and 9 x dinners
- ✓ Sightseeing and activities as specified
- ✓ Economy class return air fares from the UK (flight inclusive option)
- ✓ All road transport by private vehicles
- ✓ Single timed group transfer to/from Pristina airport at the start and end of the holiday
- ✓ Carbon offsetting with the Ecoan Tree Planting Project (for clients taking our flight inclusive option)
- ✓ A free high-quality Mountain Kingdoms kit bag

Airport transfers

The cost of a transfer to/from the airport is included in the price of your holiday. This is a single group transfer which is arranged to coincide with the timings of the group flights. If you book your own flights which arrive/depart at different times to this, or we book flights at your request that have different timings, we will be happy to provide a quote for a separate transfer. Please contact us should you require any further information.

What's not included:

- × Travel insurance
- × Locally paid bar bills and laundry
- × Optional activities
- × Tips

Water-to-Go Reusable Bottle Campaign

We have joined the campaign to help cut down on the use of plastics and, in particular, single-use water bottles. To do this we have teamed up with the revolutionary company, Water-to-Go who have developed a multi-use drinking bottle with a reusable filter that eliminates over 99.9% of all microbiological contaminants. This makes water from virtually any source safe to drink and significantly reduces the need for travellers to buy bottles of water wherever they are in the world.

Our clients who are not given a free Mountain Kingdoms kit bag for their holiday (these are required for certain treks), will instead receive a free Mountain Kingdoms Water-to-Go bottle. These unique Water-to-Go bottles can also be purchased from us at a discounted rate.

For further information about our campaign visit [For further information about our campaign visit <https://www.mountainkingdoms.com/water-to-go-reusable-bottle-campaign>](https://www.mountainkingdoms.com/water-to-go-reusable-bottle-campaign).

Your accommodation

We will endeavour to secure the hotels named in the itinerary but if our first choice of hotel is not available we will book a suitable alternative of a similar standard.



Valbona Guest House

A simple, stone guest house with multi-bed rooms and shared modern shower rooms. Traditional and delicious food. Fabulous views from the terrace of the Valbona valley.



Cerem Guest House

A lovely 200 year old house with an outside dining area. The accommodation is simple, with 4-5 bed rooms and an inside shower room with hot water. Delightfully hospitable family who grow their own vegetables and make cheese. Delicious food.



Doberdol Shepherd's Hut

Fabulous food and hospitality, with very basic dormitory sleeping arrangements in this extremely remote hamlet. A large mountain hut with a shared wooden platform for sleeping, very good mattresses but no electricity. An outside toilet and cold water for washing. This accommodation is suitable for the adventurous!



Hotel Dukagjini

Comfortable en suite rooms with air-conditioning and Wi-Fi. This large hotel is situated in the heart of Peja and close to the old city. It has a large terrace overlooking the river.



Reke e Allages Guest House

High in an alpine slope, a very modern and comfortable house with an amazingly hospitable family. Renowned for its excellent food, the accommodation is 4-5 bed rooms. There is a modern indoor shower room with hot water.

Homemade cheese and raki are available in abundance!



Liqenat Mountain Guest House

Basic accommodation in simple wooden huts with en suite shower rooms. A large dining room with good food and superb views.



Babino Bolje Mountain Hut

Simple accommodation with shared facilities, excellent hospitality and food.



Hotel Carshia e Jupave, Gjakove

Set in the heart of the old town of Gjakove, this very comfortable hotel has air-conditioned en suite rooms. There is an excellent restaurant and bar and Wi-Fi is available. It is a one minute walk to the bazaar, which has a remarkably lively nightlife and many interesting shops.

Meal arrangements

9 x breakfasts, 8 x lunches, 9 x dinners.

Flight arrangements

Flight inclusive from price

Our 'Flight inclusive from' price is based on the best fare available at the time of printing. As airfares change on a constant basis, this should be used only as a guide price. Rest assured that, at the time of booking, we will endeavour to get the best possible price for the flights you need. Remember, the earlier you book the greater your chances of securing the best fare.

Flight inclusive packages booked through Mountain Kingdoms are protected through our ATOL bonding scheme.

Flight upgrades and regional Airports

Please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 for flight options from regional UK airports, Business Class upgrades, alternative airlines and stopovers. Please also check our website for the most up to date flight inclusive 'from' prices.

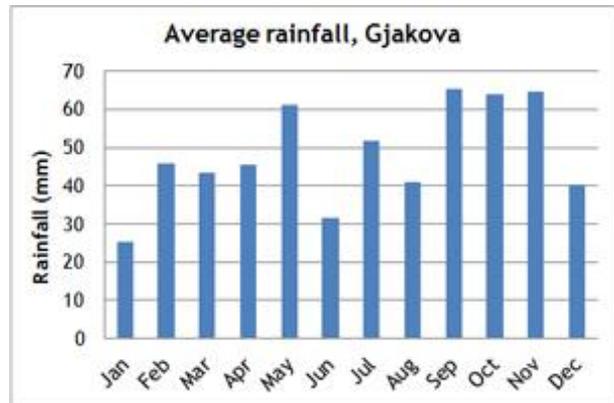
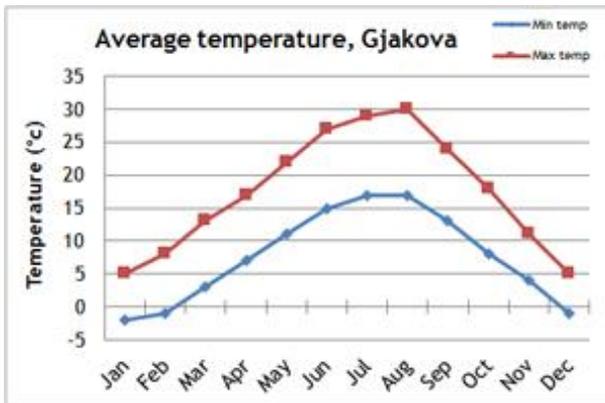
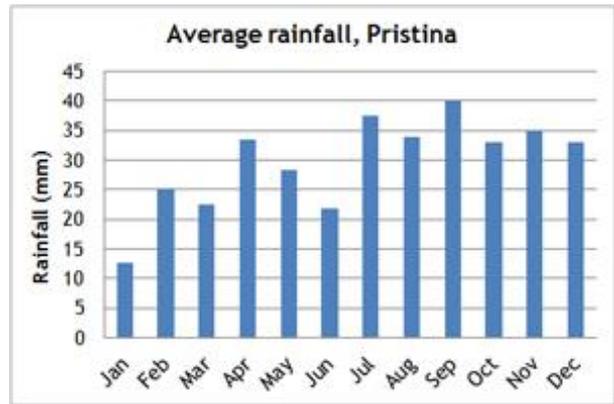
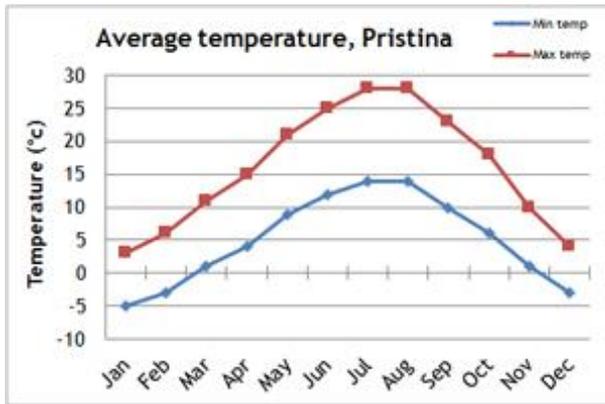
Further information

When we receive your booking, we send you a full Trip Dossier which contains details of any visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. If you do have queries at this initial stage do call us on 01453 844400 and we will be pleased to offer advice.

The nature of adventure travel

Every effort will be made to keep to this itinerary but we cannot guarantee that things may not change, either before you travel or while you are away. By its very nature, adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected, particularly in more remote areas. A variety of factors such as adverse weather conditions, changes to local schedules and difficulties with transportation can all contribute to the need to make changes to the itinerary, often at the very last minute. Our Operations Manager and your Trip Leader will make every effort to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary and minimise the impact of any changes, but an easy-going and flexible nature is a real asset! Please note that all timings and distances given are approximate.

Climate information



Extensions

Extending your holiday

If you would like additional inspiration on how or where to extend your holiday please call us on 01453 844400. Alternatively, you can download a range of extension information sheets on our website, at www.mountainkingdoms.com.



There are many ways you can extend your holiday with Mountain Kingdoms: you could book extra hotel nights at the start or end of your trip, arrange a personal sightseeing tour or enjoy some other exciting activities. In fact, whatever's available we can help make it happen. We're happy to suggest ideas, provide quotes and make all the arrangements.

We can also assist with flight and hotel upgrades.



Walk the length of the Balkans Peace trail

This Three Peaks of the Balkans trek covers much of the eastern section of the Balkans Peace Trail, but you can complete virtually the whole trail by joining our Accursed Mountains Trek. Both treks offer superb walking through pristine mountain scenery, staying in local guesthouses and traditional accommodation en route.

Why book this holiday with Mountain Kingdoms?

- This itinerary, which takes you through a little-known region, is unique to Mountain Kingdoms and is a challenging seven-day trek between traditional Balkan villages, which includes the ascent of three rewarding three peaks.
- You will trek on sections of the newly established 'Peace Trail' circuit, which has been designed to preserve the local flora, fauna and traditions.
- Your local English-speaking guides will have excellent knowledge and experience of the trekking route and of the local history and culture
- We use simple and authentic accommodation on trek including a shepherd's hut and village homestay
- All meals are included and the food of the region is delicious
- You only need to carry a day sack, your main luggage is transferred for you by jeep or packhorse
- Our itinerary provides excellent value for money and includes the transfers to/from Pristina airport (single, timed group transfer)
- We research all our holidays ourselves and this trek was completed in 2016 by Steve and Seraphina Berry. Please contact them if you have any questions.
- As part of our commitment to 'Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency', we will be carbon-offsetting all international flights booked through us by donating funds to the Ecoan Tree Planting Project in Peru.
- If you wish to fly with a specific airline, from a regional UK airport or on alternative dates to the main group we would be happy to arrange this for you. Please contact our Flights Manager, April, for flight options, quotes and further information.

If we've tempted you to take your next holiday with us, we advise you to check availability and you can do this via our website: www.mountainkingdoms.com or by calling the team on +44 (0)1453 844400. Bookings can be made online, by phone or by completing a booking form and returning it to us. We can also provisionally hold places if you need time to consider your options.

What our clients say



We had a wonderful trip to the Balkans. The scenery was wonderful, the guest houses exceeded our expectations, delicious wholesome food. We had Semir, a wonderful guide who knew everybody and who wasn't fazed when things went wrong; it's almost as if those things were planned into the itinerary. The walking was spectacular. The jeep rides along the roads were terrific!! We enjoyed the itinerary with the lovely hotel and city break in the middle. I'd recommend this trip to anybody.
- AMF, Scotland



If anyone is looking for an alternative to overcrowded routes in popular European mountain ranges the Balkans is certainly it. Mountain Kingdom's '3 Peaks of the Balkans' trek really whets the appetite for further exploration of this stunningly beautiful area. It has all the intrepid hiker could want: incredible scenery, the chance to see flora and fauna in abundance and the opportunity to experience the warm hospitality of the Balkan people. I will definitely be returning!
- Miss P, Herefordshire



A very enjoyable trip. The scenery was beautiful; the wild flowers - gentians, orchids, primulas, geums, etc - provided the best display we have ever seen (including in the Alps), the accommodation and food were generally very good and the itinerary was well planned (it was good to intersperse the trekking with trips to two beautiful monasteries; and we liked having a full last day of trekking - by contrast, some trips peter out with only a brief walk on the final day). Semir Kardovic was an excellent guide and we enjoyed his company.
- Mr M, Surrey



What a wonderful trip! The scenery was spectacular. I loved hiking in remote places and staying with lovely local families. The food was fantastic as well. Semir was a great guide who taught us a lot about the region and its history. I can definitely recommend this trip and I am looking forward to returning to the Balkans soon.
- Ms G, Switzerland



This trip was extremely well organised and the attention to detail was incredible. The flights, the transfers, the luggage porters, every thing went like clockwork. This is an extremely beautiful part of the world and still a developing country (3 countries). The local inhabitants are Unbelievably FRIENDLY and very GENEROUS. We were welcomed as long lost family into their homes. The food and catering was exceptional. Perhaps the most memorable part of the trip will be our Guide, Semir, ...we arrived as strangers, but left as good friends. Anyone thinking about going on this trip, do it now before it changes!!
-Mr C, Perthshire

Fantastic trip to this beautiful part of the world. Very well organised from start to finish. Made even better by the amazing Semir! Arguably one of the best guides I've ever had in my 12+ years of trekking holidays.
-Ms W, Bristol

Excellent trek, well graded, with beautiful scenery in between the clouds, and the chance to meet really lovely, warm and hospitable people in countries which till quite recently were only associated with war and strife.
-Ms M S, Somerset

Mountain Kingdoms - distinctly different

Truly independent

In an age where many so-called 'independent' travel companies have in fact been bought out by multi-national giants, we remain fiercely independent with all the benefits this offers our clients.

Value for money prices with an emphasis on quality

We are not in the business of cutting our itineraries and services to the bone to offer eye-catching cheap prices. We use some of the best airlines, and typically 3 or 4 star hotels in cities. We include the majority of meals and private transport for road travel. We use excellent equipment and appoint well-trained staff and leaders. Last year, over 98% of our clients rated their Mountain Kingdoms holiday as 'excellent' or 'good'. We are members of AITO and bound by their quality charter.

Complete financial security

You can book with us confident that your holiday has full financial protection. Flight inclusive holidays are financially protected by the Civil Aviation Authority under ATOL licence number 2973 and 'Land Only' holidays are covered by a bond secured with ABTOT.

No Surcharge Guarantee

Your peace of mind is important to us so we have a No Surcharge Guarantee on all Land Only and Flight Inclusive bookings. This means that there will be no change to the price of your holiday once we have confirmed your booking, regardless of fluctuations in exchange rates or fuel prices.

Award winning Responsible Tourism

We feel strongly that all our holidays should benefit local communities, protect the environment and respect local traditions, religion and heritage. You can read more about the charities we support and our Responsible Tourism commitments and initiatives on the following page or at www.mountainkingdoms.com.

Genuine small group travel

Almost all of our holidays have a maximum group size of just 12, plus leader. This provides more contact with your leader, readier access to off-the-beaten-path areas, greater interaction with local communities and a reduced environmental impact.

Loyalty Discount

If you have previously travelled with us we recognise your loyalty with a discount on future trips.

Booking your holiday - it couldn't be easier

Once you've chosen your Mountain Kingdoms holiday you can book online, call the office or complete and post a booking form which can be found in our brochure or downloaded from our website. If you would like to hold a place on one of our trips, whilst you make up your mind, please give us a call to make a provisional booking. This is a no-obligation, no-cost booking and we will hold your place until space comes under pressure or we need your decision.

Comprehensive information

When we receive your booking we send you a full trip dossier which contains details of visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. In fact, everything you need to know to give you peace of mind and allow you to prepare for your trip of a lifetime.



RESPONSIBLE TOURISM STATEMENT CLIMATE EMERGENCY PLAN



For over 33 years, Mountain Kingdoms has been offering people the chance to visit amazing places on this extraordinary planet. We now offer trips to all corners of the world, but we are conscious that inevitably our holidays have a detrimental impact on the world around us, and we want to do all we can to reduce our carbon emissions. We are a signatory to Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency, along with a growing number of like-minded, reputable tour operators. For more information, please visit www.tourismdeclares.com

From 2020 onwards, we will be focusing on how we can reduce the carbon emissions that our holidays produce, and how to counterbalance this carbon by supporting carbon offset measures.

Here are some of our current and future plans to minimise the impact of our business as a whole:

Carbon Offsetting

Already doing:

- ✓ We have been offsetting carbon since 2007, but will be increasing our donations to the [Ecoan](#) tree planting project in Peru this year. This is with a trusted partner where the funds go directly to a project where the community plants trees on its own land.

Will do:

- ✓ We are working on making our carbon offsetting more accurate and targeted.
- ✓ In future, we will add to that a further estimate for carbon produced by hotels, local road travel, trains and internal flights to arrive at a carbon offset sum for each trip we operate.
- ✓ Carbon offsetting will be included in our holiday prices. For our Flight Inclusive holidays it will include the international flight and any emissions produced by inland travel and accommodation. Our Land Only prices will include the cost of offsetting emissions caused by inland travel and accommodation.

Reducing Carbon Emissions

Already doing:

- ✓ We already offer the majority of our customers a free filtered water bottle which means they can instantly cut down on their single-use plastic consumption. This will be an ongoing project.
- ✓ We already predominantly use locally owned hotels, but will continue to ensure that, where possible, we use these rather than multinational chains.
- ✓ We have joined the Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency initiative to stand alongside like-minded travel companies, to work together to initiate best practices to make tourism as sustainable as possible.

Will do:

- ✓ We will re-evaluate our flights to make sure we are using the most fuel efficient airlines with the youngest fleets and, where possible, direct flights for each trip.
- ✓ We will stop offering unnecessary optional flights - for example our Everest sightseeing trip.
- ✓ We will eliminate unnecessary staff flights wherever possible.
- ✓ We will look at minimising internal flights.
- ✓ We will be asking all our worldwide agents and suppliers to look at their own carbon footprint and encourage them to reduce it.
- ✓ We will promote our more low impact trips to give customers an informed choice.

As part of our wider commitment to Responsible Tourism, we will continue to support a number of charities with whom we have had a long standing relationship over many years. These include: Shiva Charity in Nepal (Ginette Harrison School), Simien Mountains Mobile Medical Service and Porter Welfare, as well as setting aside a sum for emergency disaster relief should the need arise.

