



Learn to Ride in Albania

ALBANIA

On this **beginner-friendly riding holiday**, you will follow a structured programme that combines clear, progressive tuition in the arena with relaxed trail rides, helping you to build a solid foundation from the ground to the saddle. During the week, you will have the chance to discover a more authentic side of Albania from **rural villages** to hidden tracks and enjoy dinner with your hosts.

Whether you're a complete beginner or a novice rider looking to **build confidence** for future trails, this holiday will be a great option for you

Centre based holidays	 8 days (6 days riding)	 From £993	
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ITINERARY

Highlights

- Enjoy a programme tailored to those wanting to learn to ride and gain confidence riding outdoors.
- Stay with local hosts in their home, giving you a deeper insight into Albanian life and traditions.
- Ride small, sure-footed Albanian mountain horses - calm, hardy and ideal for building confidence.
- Choose from a wide range of optional activities during your free time, from guided walks to craft workshops and cooking classes.

Day 1 — 1: Arrival Day

Fly to Tirana airport. Flights are not included but can be arranged upon request. Please make sure to book a flight landing before 2:30pm.

Upon arrival, will be transferred to your hotel in Gjirokastra. After settling into your room, you will have time to explore the historic city centre. You can opt to visit Gjirokastra Castle, the Church of the Old Bazaar, or perhaps just enjoy a drink at a local café.

In the evening you will meet the team for dinner in a local restaurant.

Overnight at the hotel.

Day 2 — 2: Asim Zeneli - 2h riding

 Asim Zeneli Guesthouse

After breakfast you will be transferred to the stables. For the next few days you will overnight in a local guesthouse which is a 5-minute drive away from the riding centre.

Today you will have the first contact with the horses. You will learn how to approach a horse safely from the ground and maintain safe distances. You will then move on to practice grooming and tacking up.

Lunch will be held in a local restaurant.

In the afternoon, the focus shifts to basic riding positions in the saddle, balance exercises in the arena and general confidence building.

In the evening, you will enjoy a traditional dinner prepared by your hosts at the guesthouse.

Overnight at the guesthouse.

Day 3 — 3: Asim Zeneli - 4h riding

 Asim Zeneli Guesthouse

This morning you'll take care of your horse independently before heading out on your first short trail ride through the Albanian countryside to consolidate what you learned the previous day.

The exact lunch spot is chosen according to the group's preferences.

In the afternoon, you begin in the arena to revise or learn the basics of steering and rein aids. You then head out on another ride, with your guide placing particular emphasis on safety measures, risk management and using the reins with one and two hands.

Dinner and overnight at the guesthouse.

Day 4 — 4: Asim Zeneli - 4h riding

 Asim Zeneli Guesthouse

This morning's session is a revision of all the skills covered so far, and afterwards you will be introduced to trot work. You'll learn the difference between sitting and rising trot and practise both, before putting these new skills to use outdoors.

The lunch spot will be chosen according to the group's preferences.

After lunch you will return to the arena for another lesson, this time to refine your trot position and learn how to adjust your seat when riding uphill and downhill, in preparation for more varied terrain on future rides.

Dinner and overnight at the guesthouse.

Day 5 — 5: Lake Cini - 4-5h riding

 Asim Zeneli Guesthouse

Today you will enjoy a half-day ride. After preparing your horse, you will work through some more advanced trot exercises before setting off on a trail ride towards Lake Cini. This route will take you through rolling hills and valleys. Along the way, the guide will offer you tips to help you refine your technique outdoors.

You'll return to the stables for lunch and the afternoon will be spent at leisure. You may opt to wander through the village, or book one of the optional activities such as a cooking class, wood-carving workshop, etc (payable locally).

Dinner and overnight at the guesthouse.

Day 6 — 6: Asim Zeneli - 4h riding

 Asim Zeneli Guesthouse

This morning you will have an intense trot work session in the arena, combined with mounted games and exercises in pairs.

After lunch, the afternoon lesson will take place in the outdoors, while riding through the varied landscapes of the Gjinofshat hills. You will continue building on the morning's work with additional trot exercises and short stretches of canter to evaluate your balance.

Dinner and overnight at the guesthouse.

Day 7 — 7: Lake Qestorati & Santa Triada Castle - 4h riding

For your final riding day, you will begin in the arena with a comprehensive skills test - a highlight of the week that brings together all the techniques you have been working on. Under the guidance of your instructors, you will ride through a series of exercises designed to assess your control, precision and fluid transitions in the saddle. You then set off on a scenic ride to Lake Qestorati, passing the imposing Santa Triada castle whose ancient walls bear witness to the region's rich history.

After lunch, you will be transferred back to Gjirokastra and have a free afternoon to rest or explore the city.

Dinner will be held in a restaurant in the city centre.

Overnight in the hotel.

Day 8 — 8: Departure day

After breakfast, you will be transferred back to Tirana airport for your return flight. Please book a flight departing after 12:00pm.

DATES & PRICES

DEPARTURE	RETURN	PRICE WITHOUT FLIGHTS	STATUS
06/06/2026	13/06/2026	£993	Guaranteed departure
04/07/2026	11/07/2026	£993	Open
15/08/2026	22/08/2026	£993	Guaranteed departure
03/10/2026	10/10/2026	£993	Open
31/10/2026	07/11/2026	£993	Open
12/12/2026	19/12/2026	£993	Open
16/01/2027	23/01/2027	£1,088	Open
13/02/2027	20/02/2027	£1,088	Open
20/03/2027	27/03/2027	£1,088	Open
17/04/2027	24/04/2027	£1,088	Open
08/05/2027	15/05/2027	£1,088	Open
19/06/2027	26/06/2027	£1,088	Open
03/07/2027	10/07/2027	£1,088	Open
07/08/2027	14/08/2027	£1,088	Open
11/09/2027	18/09/2027	£1,088	Open
02/10/2027	09/10/2027	£1,088	Open
06/11/2027	13/11/2027	£1,088	Open
11/12/2027	18/12/2027	£1,088	Open

Price details

- Flights or transportation to your destination (international/domestic) are not included but can be booked on request - please contact us for rates.

- Rates are per person, based on riders sharing a twin/double room.

- Groups are composed of a minimum of 2 riders and a maximum of 6 international riders.

- Please note: the ride will also confirm for 1 rider on payment of a supplement of €155/£135/\$185 per person. Once the group has reached 2 people, we will remove this supplement from your invoice and refund you if you have already paid it.

- There is no single supplement if you are willing to share a room with another guest of the same sex. To guarantee your own room there is a single supplement of €175/£155/\$210 (paid locally in card, or cash - Euros only).

- Airport transfers are not included. Return transfer from Tirana airport to Gjirokastra are an additional €90/£80/\$100 per person, (225 km, 3-4 hours). To join this transfer, flights should arrive no later than 14:30 pm and depart after 1pm.

If your flights do not match these transfers, a private transfer can be organised from Tirana airport:

- 1 rider: €140/£120/\$160 one way

- 2 riders: €70/£65/\$80 one way

- 3+ riders: €55/£50/\$65 one way

We cannot organise transfers from the city centre. There is a bus every hour starting from the centre of Tirana (behind the opera palace) to the airport, or you can take a taxi.

> Saranda Port to Gjirokastra: €50/£45/\$60 return per person, 64km, 1 hour. Transfers departing from Saranda leave no later than 15:00. If flying in and out of Corfu, please allow one extra day as ferry schedules can be unpredictable due to local conditions.

- Riders from 14 years old are welcome if accompanied by an adult and provided they meet the minimum riding requirements.

- Optional activities (payable locally, rates are per person):

Wood-carving workshop - €36

Albanian cooking class - €46

Guided city tour (includes tickets to 3 museums) - €55

Embroidery class - €25

Please Note

The itinerary may be modified at anytime for security reasons, meteorological or events beyond our control such as blocked roads, rivers in flood, drought, strikes and local holidays. Equus Journeys, our local partners and their local guides will always strive to find the best solution and will alter the itinerary as needed.

The names of the hotels and accommodation are given for information only and depending on availability, they may be modified without notice and replaced by another of a similar standard.

Price includes

SUPPORT TEAM

1 English-speaking guide/instructor

LOGISTICS

1 horse equipped with saddle and bridle per rider

ACCOMMODATION

Double/twin room - guesthouse (5 nights)

Double/twin room - hotel (2 nights)

MEALS

Full board from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 8

Price doesn't include

MEALS

Personal extras

TRANSPORT

International flights

Return airport transfers

EXTRAS

Tips to the local team

Small group supplement - see above for the details

Additional activities

INSURANCE

Visas and personal purchase

Cancellation and travel insurance are not included in the above listed price. Please note that insurance is mandatory. We recommend taking out an insurance policy as soon as your trip is booked to cover you in case of cancellation

Optional

ACCOMMODATION

Single room supplement

EQUESTRIAN INFO

Horses

The horses are a local breed of Tarpan and Arabian horses. They are small but robust, and perfectly suited to the rocky terrain. There are 23 horses in total - steady, brave and sure-footed, they make ideal equine companions.

Guide & local team

Aurel and Kristina are specialised in mountainous trail rides. Their objective is to offer a holiday combining culture, history, nature, while keeping the welfare of the horses in mind.

They love their country and its history.

Minimum riding ability

MINIMUM RIDING ABILITY

This holiday is designed for beginner riders who wish to learn to ride outdoors, over varied terrain.

Rider weight limit: 90kgs / 14,1 st / 198 lbs

PACE

The main pace is walk, with a progressive introduction to trot and short canters for those who are ready/comfortable.

TACKING ABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

You will be asked to help look after the horses.

TRIP CONDITIONS AND REQUESTED EXPERIENCE

This holiday can be your very first experience on horseback, but a reasonable level of physical fitness is recommended, as you will be in the saddle every day.

EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT

English saddles and bridles.

Small saddlebags are provided locally, but they are intended for carrying food and water only. Riders are welcome to bring their own personal saddlebags if they wish.

Helmets are mandatory and you should bring your own.

TRAVEL INFO

COMFORT

The first and last nights will be spent in a hotel in Gjirokastra.

The remaining nights will be spent at a guesthouse located in the village of Asim Zeneli. There are 5 rooms and 3 shared bathrooms. Guests are also

welcome to enjoy the common areas like the living room and terrace. There is air conditioning available.

Wifi is available every night.

MEALS

The local gastronomy is delicious and varied. During the holiday, you will enjoy freshly prepared meals that will give you a sample of the Albanian gastronomy.

Hearty country breakfast with local dairy products, honey, pancakes; pies and cakes, eggs, milk, tea and coffee.

Lunches are held in local restaurants.

Dinner is a hot meal prepared by your hosts (veal, pork, chicken, goat or fish), with local wines and raki.

Dietary requests can usually be accommodated if mentioned in advance - please inform your travel advisor upon booking.

CLIMATE

The best months to visit Albania are April, May, June, and September.

There is very little rainfall in July and August, and temperatures can be very hot, ranging from 25 to 45°C.

October, November, and March are wetter, with average temperatures of 10 to 15°C, although April is warmer.

Between May and June, temperatures range from 18 to 32°C.

TIPS

Tips are left to your discretion and are not mandatory. We recommend around €40/£35 per rider for the week, to be divided between the team.

The local currency is the Lek, but Euro is widely accepted. Don't bring too much money as this trip is fully inclusive.

PACKING LIST

Please pack carefully and sensibly: the following guide is here to give you an idea of what to bring. This list must be adapted depending on the season and individual needs.

Head

- Helmet
- Sunglasses - with a cord attached so they don't fly off when riding
- Buff or bandana

Upper body

- Long sleeved shirts provide protection from the sun or branches and are an extra layer
- T-shirts
- Lightweight fleece or jumper
- Warm fleece or jumper (and a spare in case one gets wet)
- Warm and waterproof jacket - it can rain outside July and August and the evenings can be cooler.

Legs

- 2 Lightweight, comfortable riding trousers or jodhpurs
- Casual trousers for the evenings, such as jeans or tracksuit bottoms
- Bathing suit and towel

Hands and Feet

- Comfortable riding boots. We recommend good hiking boots with half chaps. There might be some walking over steep trails so we don't recommend taking your favourite long leather boots in case they get damaged, and normal riding boots with a smooth sole can be slippery when walking on foot.
- Trainers or equivalent light shoes for the evenings
- Several pairs of socks
- Gloves. Waterproof gloves can be particularly useful.

Other useful items

- Bumbag for carrying your camera and small items whilst riding
- Water bottle
- Ear plugs (for light sleepers)

Medical kit

- Any medication you regularly take
- Sunscreen and lip balm - should be high factor

- Insect repellent, preferably containing deet
- Blister plasters in case of any rubs
- Antiseptic cream, plasters, aspirin, anti-histamine, insect-bite salve etc...
- Spare prescription glasses/contact lenses
- Eye drops
- Imodium or similar anti-diarrhoea medication
- Antiseptic wipes
- Handwash gel

Our Recommendations

- Backpacks cannot be worn whilst riding. We recommend a small bumbag or a coat with pockets so that you can carry small items with you during the day (camera, sunscreen, lipbalm etc)
- We recommend travelling in your riding boots and carrying your hat and some riding clothes in your hand luggage - then if your luggage goes astray you are still able to ride!
- We recommend taking a copy of your passport and insurance documents with you in case you lose your originals
- You can bring pictures of your family and small gifts for your host family if you like.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

1. Travel light. It's a little known fact, but the lighter you pack, the better for the environment as heavy bags will produce higher emissions (when flying a plane or driving a car!).
2. Reduce plastic waste. Take your favorite reusable bottle with you. Avoid single-use bags, cups, or straws.
3. Preserve nature. Always take your rubbish with you during the ride and recycle them. Leave all the flowers or plants as you found them, and never get too close when observing wildlife. Make sure to use eco-friendly products such as body wash or laundry detergent (if camping) to protect both your skin and the environment.
4. Choose your experiences carefully. Respect animal life by not participating in any activities that abuse wild animals (shows, elephant rides, etc.).
5. Support local populations. Buy local handicrafts, be respectful of customs, and learn about the culture of local communities.
6. Share! Raise awareness among your family and friends about sustainable tourism.

For more information please see [this page](#) .