

Theth, Albania – Valbonë, Albania

Trail distance: 13.9 kilometers

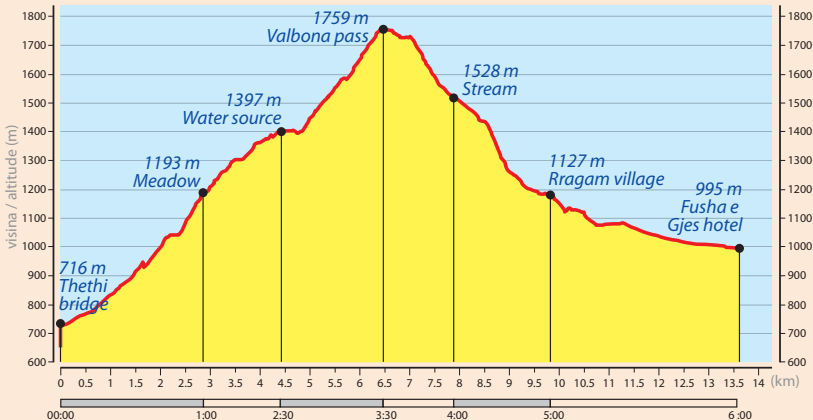
Elevation min: 745 meters **max:** 1,759 meters

Cumulative height uphill: 1,068 meters **downhill:** 792 meters

Difficulty level: ● Moderate

Time: 7 hours

Markings: — white/red/white



This itinerary involves a hike from Theth (745 m) over the Valbona Pass (1759 m) to Valbonë (995 m). This hike follows the route of an ancient mule track linking the tribal regions of Shala and Nikaj.

The trail can be separated into two parts through having an overnight at one of the guesthouses of Rragam (WP 10) approx. 6 km before reaching Valbonë center (WP 3a). Another option for separating the trail is camping at the meadows before reaching Valbona pass. There are no people (neither shepherds during the summer time) near the Valbona pass, but recently a bar is being built and people can be found during the summer time.

The hike starts at Theth center, waypoint (WP) 1, and continues northwest on a gravel road with the Theth River on our left. The main bridge of Theth and Prek Harusha guesthouse can be taken as orientation points. After a few hundred meters, we cross a stream along a footbridge and immediately take the path on our right at the junction. The trail takes a right turn at WP 2 and continues northwest. A few meters further on, there are signs for Gusinje, Montenegro and Valbonë, Albania. The hike continues gently up along a dirt road until we see the first house of Gjellaj village along with the mule track on our left at WP 3. We take the mule track and the ascent becomes steeper. After approx. 200 meters, the mule track enters the forest, continuing through it for 1 kilometer until we reach a picturesque meadow (WP 4). This is an inviting place to rest awhile. Our hike next leads steeply uphill northeast, reentering the forest after approx. 500 meters. After walking through the forest for about 1 kilometer, we reach a water source (WP 5). A few meters further on, we pass a new wooden bar which was closed at the time (in Nov 2011), but according to locals will be opened during the summer time for hikers. We follow the path southeast through the forest for approx. 700 meters and then we exit the forest and continue east to the Valbona pass (WP 6). This point offers breathtaking views onto two valleys (Valbonë on the east, Theth on the west).

The descent to Valbonë begins northwest and then heads northeast through a series of zigzags (WP 7). At the end of the zigzags, we cross a (dried-up) stream (WP 8). We then continue southwest as the path enters into an open, wooded area along a clear trail. After approx. 600 meters, we reach a stream with drinkable water (WP 9), a good place to rest a bit before taking the final descent to Rragam village (WP 10). At this point, we take a left turn at the junction. In Rragam, our hike is lined by fences and the Valbonë valley can be seen on our right. After a few hundred meters of walking through the village, we take a right turn at the junction (WP 11) and this route leads us down a gravel road lined by pine trees. This is the main road connecting Valbonë with Rragam. We take this route for about 3 kilometers and we finish our hike at Fusha e Gjes Hotel (WP 12). Valbonë center is located 3.5 kilometers northeast and can be reached by taking this route.

UTM Waypoints:

1. 34T399041 4694459, 716 m, Theth bridge
2. 34T398793 4695067, 782 m
3. 34T399285 4695200, 935 m
4. 34T400086 4694929, 1193 m, meadow
5. 34T401256 4695832, 1397 m, water source
6. 34T402500 4695499, 1759 m, Valbona Pass
7. 34T402192 4695977, 1696 m
8. 34T402569 4696171, 1528 m, stream crossing
9. 34T403108 4696019, 1436, water source
10. 34T404473 4696149, 1127, Rragam village
11. 34T404780 4696239, 1122 m
12. 34T407097 4697679, 995 m, Fusha e Gjes Hotel

Valbonë, Albania – Çerem, Albania

Trail distance: 19.8 kilometers

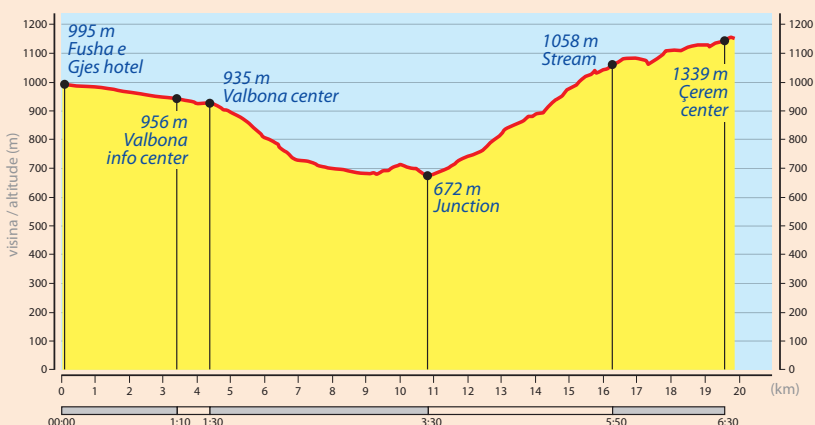
Elevation min: 670 meters **max:** 1,156 meters

Cumulative height uphill: 541 meters **downhill:** 382 meters

Difficulty level: ● Easy

Time: 7 hours

Markings: None



This itinerary involves the transfer from Valbonë to Çerem village. To get to Çerem, one can either hire a taxi or hike along the gravel road for 20 kilometers from Fusha e Gjes Hotel (WP 12) to Çerem. The mule track – the shortest way – used to connect the two villages, but has been destroyed by erosion.

There are no accommodation possibilities along this trail for separating the hike/drive. People at Fusha e Gjes Hotel can help you find a taxi.

Çerem is a small village, largely abandoned, located approx. 17 kilometers northeast of Valbonë. At the moment it is populated only during the summer time by shepherds. The village is empty during the winter time due to poor weather conditions. The road which connects the village with Valbonë and the city of Bajram Curri is blocked by snow during the winters.

The hike/drive starts at Hotel Fusha e Gjes (WP 12), located about 3.5 kilometers southwest of Valbonë center. We follow northwest along the main (unpaved) road which connects Rragam with Valbonë. Approx. 1 kilometer from the hotel, we cross a bridge (WP 1a). A few kilometers further on, we find the Tourist Info Center of Valbonë (WP 2a) located next to the main road close to the village center (WP 3a). Most of the guesthouses and other facilities are located here.

Take the main road and then, after approx. 7 kilometers, bear left at the junction (WP 4a) to Çerem village. By taking a right turn at this junction, the route takes you to Dragobi village and then on to Bajram Curri city. We take a left turn at the next junction (WP 5a) and follow the gravel road. After some kilometers, we cross a stream (WP 6a) flowing over the road. We follow the gravel road for 2 more kilometers and then cross the river and approach Çerem center (WP 7a). Çerem is a good option for staying overnight or taking a break at one of its hospitable alpine huts. We stayed at Hysen Sula's guesthouse (WP 8a).

UTM waypoints:

12. 34 T 407097 4697679, 995 m, Fusha e Gjes Hotel
- 1a. 34 T 407468 4698259, 986 m, bridge
- 2a. 34 T 408260 4699582, 956 m, Valbonë Tourist Info Center
- 3a. 34 T 408772 4700569, 935 m, Valbonëcenter
- 4a. 34 T 414397 4699325, 672 m, take a left turn at the junction
- 5a. 34 T 413686 4700449, 798 m, take a left turn at the junction
- 6a. 34 T 414761 4703230, 1058 m, stream crossing
- 7a. 34 T 414611 4705051, 1139 m, Çerem center
- 8a. 34 T 414751 4705175, 1155 m, Hysen Sula guesthouse

Çerem, Albania – Dobërdol, Albania

Trail distance: 15.64 kilometers

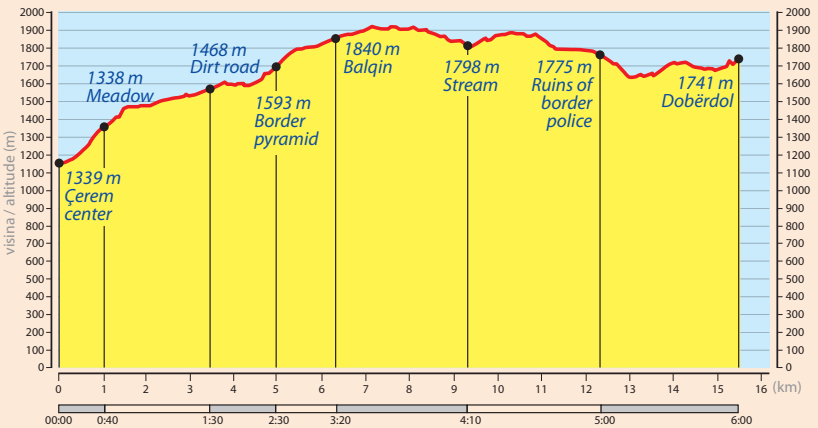
Elevation min: 1,152 meters **max:** 1,920 meters

Cumulative height uphill: 1,025 meters **downhill:** 440 meters

Difficulty level: ● Moderate

Time: 6 hours

Markings: — white/red/white



This day involves a transfer hike from Çerem to Dobërdol, a remote shepherd's village accessible only by mule tracks and populated only during the summer time by shepherds. From Çerem, the hike climbs up to the Montenegrin border, passes the beautiful summer shepherd's village of Balqin, and continues through the Gashi valley (protected area) to the shepherd's village of Dobërdol. The main attractions in Dobërdol are the glacial lakes of the Dobërdol-Sulbicës plateau.

This trail can be separated perfectly into two days hike by having an overnight stay at the picturesque summer shepherd's village of Balqin (WP 8b) which is located almost in the middle of the trail. The first day hike is 9.1 kilometers and the second day is 6.5 kilometers long. You can either camp there or ask the shepherds for a shelter. Fresh food can be bought directly from them.

There are a number of springs and streams along the trail which are safe for drinking.

The hike starts at Çerem center (WP 7a) and continues northeast on a gravel road along the Markafsha stream. At WP 1b, we cross the stream and follow the mule track which enters the forest and zigzags upwards. The path exits the forest at WP 2b and follows northeast through a beautiful meadow with breathtaking views towards Çerem. The track is easily identifiable by a slight depression when the grass is long and very easy to follow because the meadow is lined by the forest leading you to the gravel road (WP 3b).

The ascent softens as we follow the gravel road through the forest for approx. 2.5 kilometers. Our route turns left at the junction (WP 4b) and we leave the gravel road at the border pyramid (WP 5b). From the border pyramid, our track continues along Montenegrin territory for approx. 2.5 kilometers by following an easily identifiable, gently ascending mule track northeast through the forest. At WP 6b, we reach a nice meadow and can see a small building on our left which had been used as a survey point by the border police. We take a right turn at the junction, and as our path enters the forest, after several meters, the ascent starts to become steeper. We bear right at the junction of WP 7b and after approx. 100 meters we meet a dirt road. A few meters ahead, on our right side, another border pyramid is located.

We cross the dirt road and follow the mule track northeast, passing through the forest until we reach Balqin (WP 8b), a beautiful shepherd's village also used only during the summer time. Balqin is an inviting place to take a rest and get to know a little more about the locals' culture.

The track to Dobërdol follows northeast with an easy ascent through the forest. At the junction (WP 9b), one can either turn right or left. Both ways are marked and lead you onto the same path. We suggest making a left turn because this way is shorter. From here we start a gentle descent and then cross a stream (WP 10b), following the track east along the stream. After approx. 800 meters, we reach a water source (WP 11b). The ruins of the border police office can be seen a few meters off to our right side.

From here, one path descends to the Gashi valley, while another one climbs up to the border. We follow north along the descending path to the valley and a few meters further on we make a left turn at the junction. At WP 12b, the path starts ascending (from 1660 to 1760) and afterwards the hike through the beautiful meadows of Dobërdol is flat along the river.

Dobërdol is a good option to spend a day at and have a relaxing hike to the glacial lakes located a few kilometers southeast. You can stay overnight at the mountain hut (WP 13b) which is managed by a local family for touristic purposes.

UTM waypoints:

- 7a. 34 T 414611 4705051, 1139 m, Çerem center
- 1b. 34 T 414919 4705565, 1191 m, stream crossing
- 2b. 34 T 414940 4705849, 1338 m, meadow
- 3b. 34 T 415148 4706301, 1468 m, dirt road
- 4b. 34 T 416875 4706918, 1593 m, bear left at the junction
- 5b. 34 T 416583 4707134, 1593 m, border pyramid
- 6b. 34 T 417356 4707595, 1792 m, meadow and border police survey point
- 7b. 34 T 418434 4707468, 1898 m, turn right at the junction
- 8b. 34 T 419635 4708607, 1840 m, Balqin
- 9b. 34 T 419965 4709720, 1809 m, junction (turn right is suggested)
- 10b. 34 T 420060 4710127, 1798 m, stream crossing
- 11b. 34 T 420757 4710353, 1775 m, water source and the ruins of border police office
- 12b. 34 T 420757 4710353, 1659 m, start ascending
- 13b. 34 T 423294 4711127, 1741 m, mountain hut in Dobërdol

Dobërdol, Albania – Milishevc, Kosovo

Trail distance: 18.2 kilometers

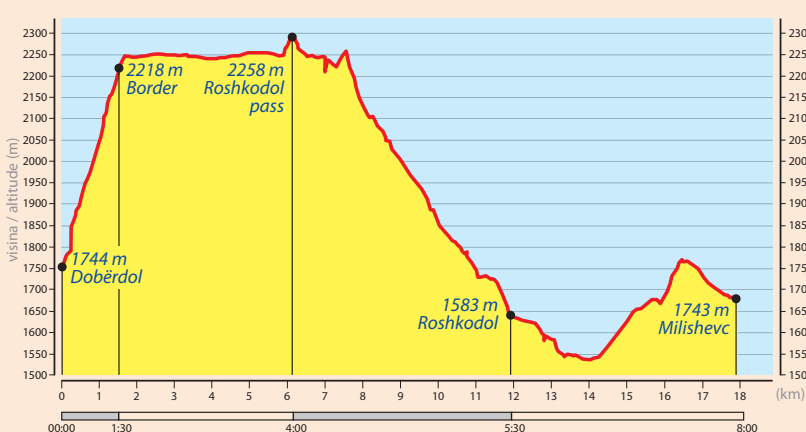
Elevation min: 1,534 meters **max:** 2,290 meters

Cumulative height uphill: 915 meters **downhill:** 980 meters

Difficulty level: ● Moderate

Time: 8-9 hours

Markings to the border: — white/red/white, from the border to Milishevc:
— red/white/red



This is a long trail which involves a hike from the remote shepherd's village of Dobërdol to another less remote shepherd's village in Kosovo (Milishevc). Milishevc has a good road connection with the city of Peja and more and more mountain huts in this village are being used for touristic purposes.

For a less challenging hike, the trail can be separated into two parts. One can follow the eastern path at the junction (WP 3c) and descend to Bjeshka e Belegut where accommodation, camping possibilities and fresh food can be found at the shepherd's summer huts. Bear in mind that there are no GPS waypoints from WP 3c to Bjeshka e Belegut, but the path remains easy to orientate. Bjeshka e Belegut is connected with Milishevc (WP 11c) by a dirt road easily identifiable with a map.

The hike starts at an altitude of 1741 m – mountain hut of Dobërdol (WP 13b) – and climbs up northeast to the altitude of 2210 m at the border between Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro (WP 1c). It continues northeast with little ascents and descents along the border between Montenegro and Kosovo. At WP 2c, we turn right (north) at the junction. The path on our right leads to Babino Polje, Montenegro.

Bear left (north) at the next junction (WP 3c). The east path leads to Bjeshka e Belegut. Our route follows the west side of Maja e Qenit (the peak in front of us, a few hundred meters from WP 3c). The west slope of Maja e Qenit is steep but short (approx. 500 m hiking) and is also the best option to get to the other side of this mountain (WP 4c) and head north to Roshkodolit pass (WP 5c).

In case you find the passing of this mountain slope too difficult, consider following the path through Bjeshka e Belegut to Milishevc, which is a longer but easier option (mainly along dirt roads). From Roshkodolit pass, the track descends and follows along the valley. At WP 6c we cross the river and continue along the track from the west side. We meet the gravel road at WP 7c, followed by the village of Roshkodol at WP 8c - an optional place for an overnight stay.

Milishevc is located approx. 5 kilometers west of Roshkodol and is accessible by a dirt road. Bear left at WP 9c and 10c. This day hike finishes at Milishevc (WP 11c), where you can stay overnight at the village's mountain huts.

UTM waypoints

- 13b. 34 T 423294 4711127, 1741 m, mountain hut in Dobërdol
- 1c. 34 T 424072 4711901, 2218 m, the border
- 2c. 34 T 424949 4713682, 2117 m, follow N at the junction
- 3c. 34 T 425060 4714706, 2183 m, follow N at the junction
- 4c. 34 T 424768 4715620, 2260 m
- 5c. 34 T 424866 4717014, 2258 m, Roshkodoli pass
- 6c. 34 T 426180 4719645, 1728 m, cross the river
- 7c. 34 T 426180 4719645, 1636 m, gravel road
- 8c. 34 T 427293 4720707, 1583 m, Roshkodol village
- 9c. 34 T 427989 4720866, 1547 m, bear left at the junction
- 10c. 34 T 429013 4721231, 1687 m, bear left at the junction
- 11c. 34 T 430729 4721074, 1743 m, Milishevc village

Milishevc, Kosovo – Reka e Allagës, Kosovo

Trail distance: 16.24 kilometers

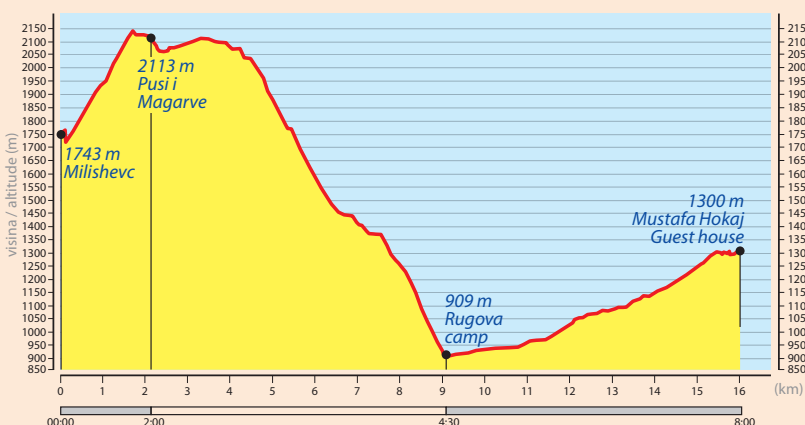
Elevation min: 910 meters **max:** 2,136 meters

Cumulative height uphill: 863 meters **downhill:** 1,277 meters

Difficulty level: ● Moderate

Time: 8-9 hours

Markings:  red/white/red



The interesting transfer hike to Reka e Allagës begins with an ascent to the Lumbardhi ridge, a vantage point which offers breathtaking views towards the surrounding mountains and Milishevc. It then continues with a steep descent to Rugova Camp Hotel before continuing up along gravel roads to Reka e Allagës. Bonuses of this hike include drinks at Rugova Camp and delicious traditional food served with warm hospitality at Reka e Allagës' guesthouses.

For a less challenging hike, the trail can be separated into two days. The first day would involve an ascent hike 9.1 kilometers long to the Lumbardhi ridge and the steep descent to Rugova Camp (WP 11d, tel: +38 (0) 44-248-270) where accommodation can be found. The second day will involve a 6.8 kilometers hike from Rugova Camp to Reka e Allagës village with a gentle ascend along the gravel roads.

This hike starts at the main road (dirt road) of the village (WP 11c) and climbs directly north via the mule track which crosses the Bjeshka e Lumbardhit ridge. At WP 1d, we reach a beautiful meadow with breathtaking views towards Gjeravica Mountain (the highest in Kosovo), Marjashi peak (southwest from our position), and Milishevc.

Our ascent north is along an unclear, but easily orientated track that arrives at a pass (WP 2d). From the pass we continue north towards Guri i Kuq Mountain which can be identified by its red rock formations. When we are about to approach the mountain wall, we reach a broad path which takes us to Pusi i Magareve (WP 3d) – a small lake for cattle. We follow the path north with the lake on our right and then begin a steep descent north at WP 4d along a mule track. At WP 5d, we reach a dirt road that we follow until we take a left turn at the junction (WP 6d). The hike continues along a mule track through the forest.

Our descent follows north along the mule tracks, dirt roads, and some junctions (see the waypoints list for the directions) until we reach Rugova Camp Hotel which is located next to the main road. Rugova Camp is an inviting place to have a rest before finishing this day hike at Reka e Allagës village.

From Rugova Camp one can either hike to Reka e Allagës or take a taxi. The distance left from here is 6.8 kilometers and the trail goes 1.7 kilometers along the main road, followed by the remainder along a gravel road.

We stayed at Mustafa Hakaj's guesthouse (WP 15d) located in the Hokaj neighborhood of Reka e Allagës village.

UTM waypoints:

- 11c. 34 T 430736 4721046, 1743 m, Milishevc village
- 1d. 34 T 430362 4721773, 1975 m, meadow
- 2d. 34 T 430404 4722198, 2136 m, pass
- 3d. 34 T 431026 4723009, 2113 m, Pusi i Magareve lake
- 4d. 34 T 430739 4723722, 2024 m, start of a steep descent N
- 5d. 34 T 430850 4724683, 1682 m, dirt road
- 6d. 34 T 430983 4725360, 1465 m, leave the dirt road and take mule track left
- 7d. 34 T 430836 4725888, 1408 m, cross the dirt road and follow the mule track N through the forest
- 8d. 34 T 430898 4726110, 1383 m, follow N along the gravel and bear right at the junction
- 9d. 34 T 430835 4726437, 1343 m, end of the gravel and we take a left turn and follow a mule track through a meadow
- 10d. 34 T 430956 4726594, 1282 m, cross the dirt road and follow N through a mule track in the forest
- 11d. 34 T 431201 4727364, 909 m, Rugova Camp and then take the paved road NW
- 12d. 34 T 429811 4727850, 939 m, bear right and follow the gravel road N
- 13d. 34 T 430375 4729251, 1069 m, bear right at the junction and then Reka e Allagës
- 14d. 34 T 431383 4730601, 1236 m, bear left to Hokaj
- 15d. 34 T 430988 4730890, 1300 m, Mustafa Hakaj Guesthouse

Reka e Allagës, Kosovo – Pepaj, Kosovo – Drelaj, Kosovo – Dugaivë, Kosovo – Kuçishtë (Guri i Kuq), Kosovo


Trail distance: 23.26 kilometers

Elevation min: 1,072 meters **max:** 1,820 meters

Cumulative height uphill: 1,257 meters **downhill:** 1,139 meters

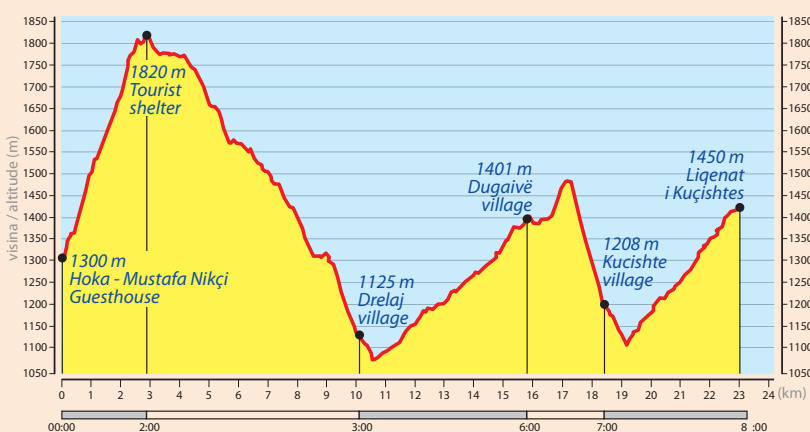
Difficulty level: ● Moderate

Time: 8-9 hours

Markings:  red/white/red

The transfer hike to Kuçishtë is long and interesting and allows for the possibility to visit some other villages along the way. Although it is a long day hike, the difficulty rating is low because the major part of the hike goes along dirt and gravel roads. There are also options to stop the hike and continue to the last point by vehicle.

For a less challenging hike, the trail can be divided into two parts. The best option for an overnight stay is Drelaj village (WP 9e) where accommodation can be found at the family of Osman Shala's, tel. +37744586740. The trail distance from Reka e Allagës to Drelaj is 10.1 kilometer long and from here to Kuçishtë (Guri i Kuq) or Leqinat i Kuçishtës 12.9 kilometers.



The hike starts with an ascent northwest through the meadow behind Mustafa Hakaj's guesthouse (WP 15d). Upon approaching the pine trees, we turn right (east) along a mule track. The track is lined by a fence on our right, and a few meters further on we turn left at the junction (WP 1e). After a few hundred meters following northeast, we reach a meadow with beautiful views towards Reka e Allagës and the surrounding mountains.

At WP 2e, we cross the dirt road and follow the ascent northwest through the forest. We take a left turn at the junction (WP 3e), then we follow north until we exit the forest and reach a nice meadow and tourist shelter (WP 5e). This is an inviting place to rest awhile.

From here, we follow west along a dirt road to Pepaj village. On the way to Pepaj there are two water sources along the road. At the junction of WP 6e and 7e, we turn left and the descent to Pepaj village can be seen from both positions. After approx. 1 kilometer, we see the cemetery (WP 8e) and take a right turn at the junction a few meters further on. The descent follows very gently along a gravel road no longer used by cars; auto traffic having moved to a more recently built road. By following this road for a few kilometers, we reach Drelaj village (WP 9e) and from here we turn right at the junction. We continue southwest through the village along a road lined by fences. This road leads us to the village exit, a bridge (WP10). We cross the bridge and follow a gravel road ascending north along the river into a beautiful canyon.

If you want to finish this hike, you can take a left turn after crossing the bridge and approx. 1 kilometer further on you meet the main road. Here you can hire a taxi to Kuçishtë (WP 20e).

At WP 11e, bear left at the junction and follow the ascending gravel road north-west. When we arrive at Dugaivë (WP 14e), we do not take any of the dirt roads; rather, we follow southwest along a meadow, then south to the forest. We follow south at WP 15e and approx. 200 meters further on we start descending along a mule track through the forest which leads us to Kuçishtë village (WP 16e). At the village, we take the dirt road and continue southwest until we meet the paved road at the bridge (WP 17e).

Worth visiting in this village is the Catholic Church which is located in a place called "Church Hill" (ask locals for a guide or directions). Ruins of this church represent one of the most valuable monuments of medieval Rugova.

To go to Guri i Kuq Hotel (the point nearest to the trail head of the next hike), follow south for approx. 3.8 kilometers and bear left at the junctions of WP 18e and 19e.

UTM waypoints

15d. 34 T 430988 4730890, 1300 m, Mustafa Hakaj guesthouse

1e. 34 T 430906 4731108, 1370 m, turn left at the junction

2e. 34 T 430550 4731248, 1477 m, dirt road

3e. 34 T 430171 4731535, 1588 m, turn left at the junction

4e. 34 T 430126 4731850, 1656 m, turn left at the junction

5e. 34 T 430120 4732624, 1820 m, tourist shelter

6e. 34 T 428691 4731186, 1651 m, bear left at the junction

7e. 34 T 427959 4730751, 1557 m, bear left at the junction

8e. 34 T 428571 4730553, 1477 m, cemetery and bear right at the junction

9e. 34 T 427977 4728774, 1125 m, Drelaj village

10e. 34 T 427762 4728500, 1072 m, bridge and follow SW

11e. 34 T 426958 4729709, 1190 m, turn left at the junction and follow the ascent NW

12e. 34 T 425195 4730312, 1307 m, turn left at the junction

13e. 34 T 424812 4730283, 1358 m, turn left at the junction

14e. 34 T 424996 4729735, 1401 m, Dugaivë village

15e. 34 T 424444 4728905, 1475 m, follow S at the junction

16e. 34 T 424179 4727984, 1208 m, Kuçishtë village

17e. 34 T 424379 4727310, 1107 m, bridge

18e. 34 T 423971 4726616, 1154 m, bear left at the junction

19e. 34 T 424790 4726670, 1212 m, bear left at the junction

20e. 34 T 424800 4726178, 1420 m, Guri i Kuq Hotel

Leqinat i Kuçishtës (Guri i Kuq), Kosovo – Babino Polje, Montenegro


Trail distance: 15.8 kilometers


Elevation min: 1,438 meters **max:** 2,276 meters

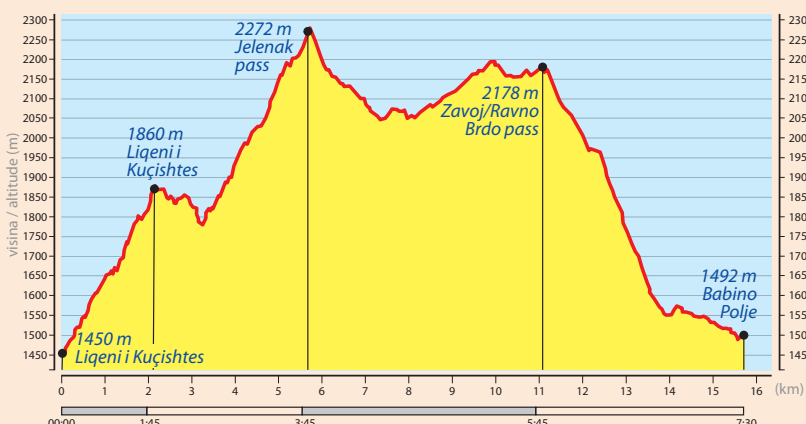
Cumulative height uphill: 1,151 meters **downhill:** 1,109 meters

Difficulty level: ● Moderate

Time: 7-8 hours

Markings to the border:  red/white/red **from the border to Babino**

Polje:  red circle/white fills



This day involves a transfer hike to Babino Polje, Montenegro. This is a relatively long hike which passes the border between Kosovo and Montenegro. It goes through beautiful mountain areas with many water sources, glacial lakes, and mountain passes featuring breathtaking views.

From Guri i Kuq to Babino Polje, there are no accommodation possibilities/villages in between along the trail, but one can set up a tent. We suggest camping at Lugu i Shkodres pass (WP 4f) or in between Jelenka pass and Ravno Brdo pass – near the small lake (WP 7f). If you decide to divide this hike into two parts, the first day would be mostly ascending and the second day mostly descending. Considering the split up of the trail WP 7f, the length of the first day is 7.4 kilometers and the second day 8.4 kilometers. Please note that camping outside organized camping sites is not allowed in Montenegro.

It starts at Guri i Kuq Complex (WP 20e) and goes gently upwards south along an unpaved road, later becoming a hiking trail marked with red circles. After approx. 2.2 kilometers hiking uphill, we reach an amazing glacial lake. The locals call it Liqeni i Kuçishtës (WP 1f). Our route follows northwest for approx. 500 meters and then southwest. A few meters further on, we reach a water source (WP 2f) and a glacial lake called Liqeni i Drelajve (WP 3f).

Up to this point, the path is clearly visible, but after we pass the second glacial lake the path starts to become less noticeable and requires good orientation skills. A GPS device or a local guide is recommended for this part of the hike.

From Liqeni i Drelajve the route follows southwest uphill to the Lugu i Shkodrës pass (WP 4f). The pass is called Lugu i Shkodrës (Shkodra pass) because it used to be the pass of an ancient path connecting this area with the city of Shkodra in Albania.

A water source can be found in Lugu i Shkodrës pass (WP 5f). Our route continues south uphill for approx. 400 meters until we reach Jelenka pass (WP 6f). From here, we can see the valley of Babino Polje. We start the hike southeast downhill and after approx. 1.5 kilometers we see a small artificial lake (WP 7f). The locals use this as a water reserve for donkeys, horses, etc. From here, the route follows southwest along a nearly-flat terrain until Ravno Brdo pass (WP 8f) is reached. From Ravno Brdo pass, we have a very clear and beautiful view towards Babino Polje village. The path is not always visible because of the long grass, but it is not difficult to reach the village since we have a clear view of it. The path continues downhill and we see many shepherd huts (WP 9f). After an approx. 1 kilometer hike downhill, we reach the village. After we cross the bridge (WP 10f), we continue northwest along an unpaved road. Babino Polje is a nice option for an overnight stay and it is easy to find accommodation.

One can stay in Armend Alija's house, tel. +37744557386, WP 11f.

UTM waypoints

20e. 34 T 424800 4726178, 1420 m, Guri i Kuq Hotel

1f. 34 T 425369 4724425, 1876 m, Liqeni i Kuçishtës (lake)

2f. 34 T 426113 4724454, 1784 m, water source

3f. 34 T 426155 4724353, 1811 m, Liqeni i Drelajve (lake)

4f. 34 T 426800 4723160, 2188 m, Lugu i Shkodrës pass

5f. 34 T 426885 4723124, 2191 m, water source

6f. 34 T 426804 4722822, 2272 m, Jelenka pass

7f. 34 T 426055 4721607, 2048 m, a small lake

8f. 34 T 424205 4718643, 2178 m, Ravno Brdo pass

9f. 34 T 422988 4717640, 1756 m, shepherd huts

10f. 34 T 422408 4717585, 1551 m, bridge

11f. 34 T 421050 4718300, 1492 m, Armend Alija's house

Babino Polje, Montenegro – Hrid lake – Plav, Montenegro

Trail distance: 20.31 kilometers

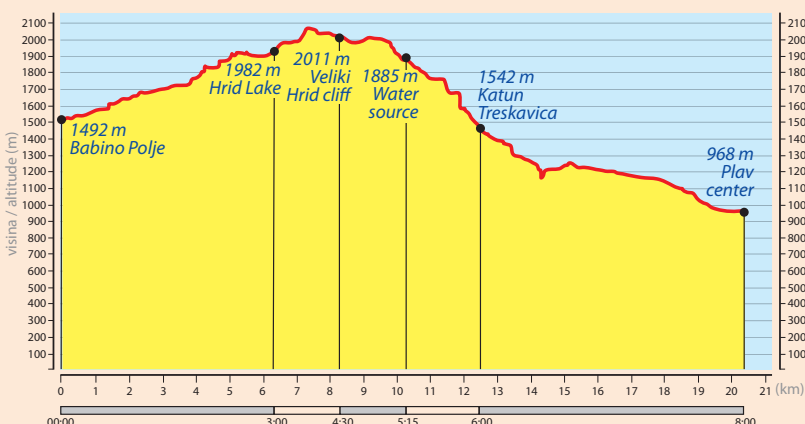
Elevation min: 953 meters **max:** 2,068 meters

Cumulative height uphill: 719 meters **downhill:** 1,250 meters

Difficulty level: ● Moderate

Time: 7-8 hours

Markings: ● red circle/white fills



This is a long transfer hike from Babino Polje to Plav. The hike ascends up from beautiful Lake Hrid and finishes at the city of Plav.

The best option to separate this day hike into two days is by having an overnight stay at Treskavički Katun/Katun Treskavica (WP 4g) where the length of the trail will be 12.1 kilometers on the first day and 8.2 kilometers on the second day. There are shepherds in summer time at Treskavički Katun (late June to late September) from whom you can get fresh food and possibly a shelter to stay overnight. If you separate this hike, the first day would be mostly ascending and the second day mostly descending to the town of Plav.

Beginning from the path crossing in Babino Polje (300m southeast from the "Hrid" eco-mountain huts, WP 11f), and progressing through the woods, the trail leads to lively Katun Bajrovica where homemade food is available for purchase. From there, the hiking trail (numbered 542 in the national trail network) continues west from Tepsijica along the river, Hridska Rijeka, and leads to the eastern side of the Hrid river (at an altitude of more than 1800m, WP 1g). The lake can be circled and its western part offers particularly enjoyable views. Lake Hrid is recognized as a strict nature reserve (the highest level of protection) within Prokletije National Park and camping is not allowed. Further on, the trail leads to another viewpoint at Sacirov vrh (Sacirov Peak). Continuing along the ledge of Veliki Hrid (numbered 540 in the national trail network), the next point is Veliki Hrid (WP 2g, 2011m). Following down Trskavica hill, past the Katun Treskavica summer huts (Katun Temnjak, WP 4g), and along the Treskavicka river, there is a forest road to be crossed in the direction of Kofilajca. The trail leads further along the northern brim of the Kofilajca mountain and across the Redzov dol* to exit the forest at Korita. From there, continuing down a dirt road followed by an asphalted street (WP 5g), the trail follows along the town's old, architecturally characteristic Ottoman symmetry to arrive at the traffic circle in the center of Plav (WP 6g). In Plav, the Redzopagica kula (tower) and old wooden mosque can be visited. Stores stocking food, rest stops, and overnight possibilities are also available.

*from Redzov, there is a possibility for a 12 km circular hike around the Kofilajca mountains. This optional hike does not belong to our trail, but is recommended as an additional trip.

UTM Waypoints

1g. 34 T 420875 4713728, 1800 m Lake Hrid

2g. 34 T 419291 4715059, 2011 m Veliki Hrid cliff

3g. 34 T 418870 4715461, 1885 m water source

4g. 34 T 417679 4716266, 1542 m Katun Treskavica summer huts

5g. 34 T 413639 4717092, 965 m meeting the asphalt road

6g. 34 T 413381 4716577, 968 m Plav center

Plav, Montenegro – Bor Peak – Vusanje, Montenegro

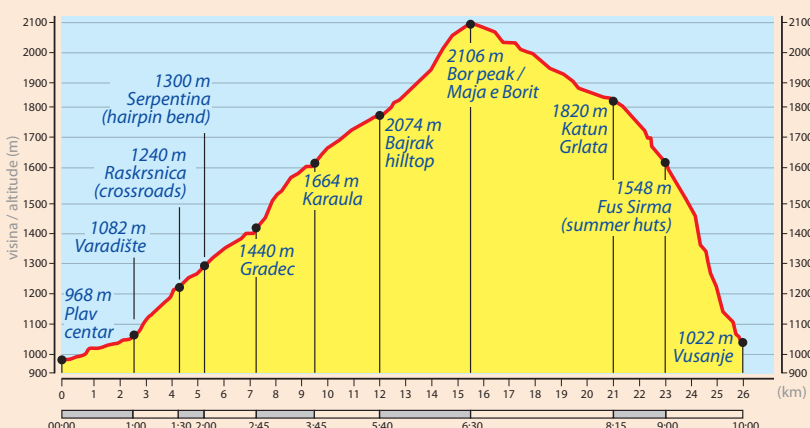
Trail distance: 27.4 kilometers

Elevation min: 968 meters **max:** 2,106 meters

Difficulty level: ● Moderate

Time: 10 – 11 hours

Marking: ● red circle/white fill (to be completed before the season begins)



This is a long hike which starts at the city of Plav (968 m), climbs up to Bor Peak (2106 m), and finishes at the village of Vusanje (1022 m).

This hike could be divided into two parts through staying an overnight at Kolenovica Katun (UTM 34 T 408166 4709032) where shepherds can be found during the summer time. From Bor summit, follow the ridge northwest and head down from the saddle where Kolendarsko lake lies. This katun lies down the Kolendarsko lake and has drinkable water over the whole summer.

This trail is numbered 552 in the national trail network. It begins at the traffic circle in front of the old mosque in Plav (WP 1h). Posted signs can be found pointing towards the southern direction. Upon crossing towards Đuricka Rijeka (Djuricka river), there is a road to the village Zaviš 30 m after the mosque. This part of the trail is simultaneously a mountain bike path. Along the trail, you will come to a place known as Radunov laz which contains a spring of drinkable water and wonderful view points towards Lake Plav, the Ljuča river, Visitor Mountain, and the town of Plav. This is a suitable place to take a rest after hiking 4.5 km from the starting point. Afterwards, the trail goes along a good path through the woods until Gradec hill, at which point the trail turns southwest after the second curve towards Karaula Feratovica (1664 m). Here we enter the territory of Prokletije National Park. This is also a view point looking over the wider region surrounding Lake Plav, the Kofiljaca, and Visitor mountains, and the Djuricka river.

From that point, along the eastern hillside of Bairak hill, the trail leads to Katun Paljvukaj (not on the map). During the summer months, visitors can taste homemade products and experience local culture here. After 8.5 km of hiking, this is a good place for taking the next break and refilling your water reserves. From Radunov laz until Katun Paljvukaj, the trail goes through mixed forests of spruce, fir and beech trees included in the territory of Prokletije National Park.

Following west towards the Bairak hilltop (2074 m), the trail leads over the northeast ridge of Maja e Borit to the Bor pass which contains a small lake. The next point is Bor Peak (2106 m), which we reach along a grassy ridge covered with plenty of wild blueberries for us to sample. In total, we have now hiked 15.5 km.

Along the 3 smaller lakes, we are moving southeast towards the southern peak of Bor Mountain (above the Katun Mala Scapica) to the boundary park viewpoint (2149 m). From there, you can see the Čerem valley, the Kolata massif, Lake Plav, northeast towards Hajla Mountain, and the Komovi and Karanfili mountains.

Downhill, in the southern direction, the trail goes towards the Katun Grlata (Buni Cesalj) while passing a series of destroyed military block houses. This place is temporarily populated during the summer months and is a nice point to have a rest or camp, two water springs being located close to the katun.

An extra day of hiking (in addition to the regular PoB trail) affords the possibility to hike to the Zla Kolata (2535 m) peak through the Skripa valley and Preslopit (2039 m) pass. The northwest chamber of Preslopit leads to the triple pass (2526 m), and then to the very top of Kolata (Maja e Keq) (2535 m) Peak. The hike is long - approx. 4h in one direction. It is necessary to have full hiking and alpine equipment. Hiring a local guide is recommended.

Following a good path (used to bring the cattle to katuns), you will reach the village of Vusanje (Vuthaj) at WP 3i after approx. 7 km, or 3 hours walking. Accommodation can be found here. Close to Vusanje, you can find a wonderful waterfall fed by the Grlja river. An overnight stay and rest for the next day's hike towards Theth is suggested.

UTM Waypoints:

1h. 34 T 413381 4716577, 968 m Plav center

2h. 34 T 409610 4706179, 1820 m Katun

3h. 34 T 408511 4707351, 1548 m Fus Sirma (summer huts)

4h. 34 T 405097 4708730, 1022 m Vusanje

Vusanje (Vuthaj), Montenegro – Theth, Albania

Trail distance: 21.35 kilometers

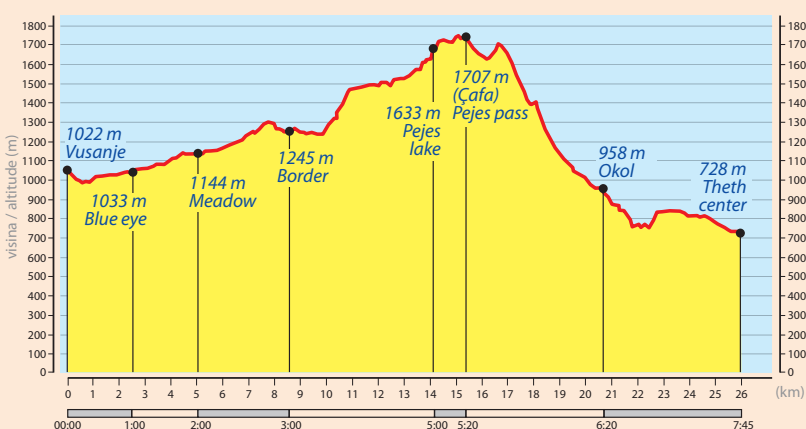
Elevation min: 726 meters **max:** 1,748 meters

Accumulative height uphill: 1,111 meters **downhill:** 1,437 meters

Time: 8 hours

Difficulty level: ● Moderate

Markings to the border: ● red circle/white fills **from the border to Theth:** ■ red/white/red



This is a relatively long hike which crosses the border between Montenegro and Albania. The path passes along the craggiest part of the Prokletje/Bjeshkët e Namuna/Alpet Shqipëtare mountains. Almost the entire hike is surrounded by steep mountains with stunning views. This itinerary allows us a glance into the region's past when it was a forbidden zone during the Communist era. A border military post, a bunker and the border crossing pyramid sign still remain by the crossing. The transfer hike finishes at the beautiful village of Theth with its traditional tower houses surrounded by steep mountains.

If you would like to divide this hike into two parts (two days), the best place to stay overnight is the meadow at Sheh i Bardh (WP 6i) where you can set up your tent. There might also be shepherds during the summer time at the former border police building from whom you can buy fresh food. This place is located almost in the middle of the trail.

The hike starts at Vusanje (WP 4h) and follows southwest along a dirt road. After approx. 300 meters, we find a wonderful waterfall flowing out of the Grlja river (WP 1i). Our hike continues along the dirt road and after approx. 1.4 kilometers we take a right turn, continuing over a narrow foot path for about 50 meters, until we arrive at another area attraction – the “blue eye”. The blue eye is a small lake whose rich groundwater sources grant it the bluish color of its water (WP 2i).

From the blue eye, we turn back to the dirt road and follow it southwest. After approx. 2 kilometers we reach a nice meadow (WP 3i). Travelers can also reach this point by 4WD.

Our route gently ascends southwest along a path, which can be easily followed, lined by steep mountains. After approx. 2 kilometers of following the valley southwest, we will reach a lake (Liçeni Gšfars) which might be dried up during the summer time. We follow the path southwest and after approx. 500 meters we reach the Albanian border where a pyramid (WP 4i) from Communist times reminds you that you have entered a border area. The Albanian motif and the letters “RPSSH” are written on the pyramid. RPSSH is an acronym for the “People’s Socialist Republic of Albania” (Republika Popullore Socialiste e Shqipërisë).

From the border, we continue ascending southwest, first through an oak forest, and then through a pine forest, for approx. 1.4 kilometers until we reach a very nice meadow (Fusha e Ruinicës). This is an inviting spot to rest awhile. At Fusha e Ruinicës a water source is located close to the shepherds’ summer huts (WP 5i).

The route continues along a visible path south over flat terrain which gently begins to ascend through the valley. After approx. 1.5 kilometers, we reach a bunker followed by a water source (WP 6i) approx. 100 meters further on. The abandoned building close to the water source used to be a military building protecting the border. There is also a nice meadow here (She i Bardhë), a good option for camping if you are not planning to go directly to Theth.

From She i Bardhë, the route follows the gentle ascent south along a visible path. We start to descend for several meters as we approach Lake Pejës (Albanian: Liqeni i Pejës or Liqeni i Peshkeqes) at WP 7i. From the lake, we start an ascent south and reach the Pejës pass (Qafa e Pejës) after approx. 400 meters. Qafa e Pejës (WP 8i) offers a stunning view towards Theth valley.

Our descent from the pass zigzags south along a very steep, but well-maintained and safe path. This takes us to Theth valley. As the descent becomes gentler, the visible track passes through a wooded area of pines. After approx. 1.3 kilometers through the forest, we reach a water source (WP 9i). The source itself is located approx. 700 meters before Okol village in Theth valley. From Okol we follow a dirt road southeast over flat terrain bordering the Thethi River, reaching Theth village (WP 10i) approx. 3.8 kilometers later.

In both Okol and Theth, village guesthouses can be found. Theth is also a good option for spending one or two days to visit the surrounding attractions (e.g. blue eye, waterfall, blood tower, ethnographic museum, etc.).

UTM Waypoints

- 4h. 34 T 405097 4708730, 1022 m Vusanje
- 1i. 34 T 404845 4708497, 990 m waterfall
- 2i. 34 T 404291 4707256, 1033 m blue eye
- 3i. 34 T 403030 4705798, 1144 m meadow
- 4i. 34 T 400701 4704071, 1245 m border pyramid
- 5i. 34 T 399590 4702816, 1490 m water source
- 6i. 34 T 399276 4701505, 1613 m water source
- 7i. 34 T 398806 4700168, 1633 m Pejës lake
- 8i. 34 T 398890 4699824, 1707 m Pejës pass
- 9i. 34 T 398150 4698017, 958 m water source
- 10i. 34 T 399276 4694292, 728 m Theth