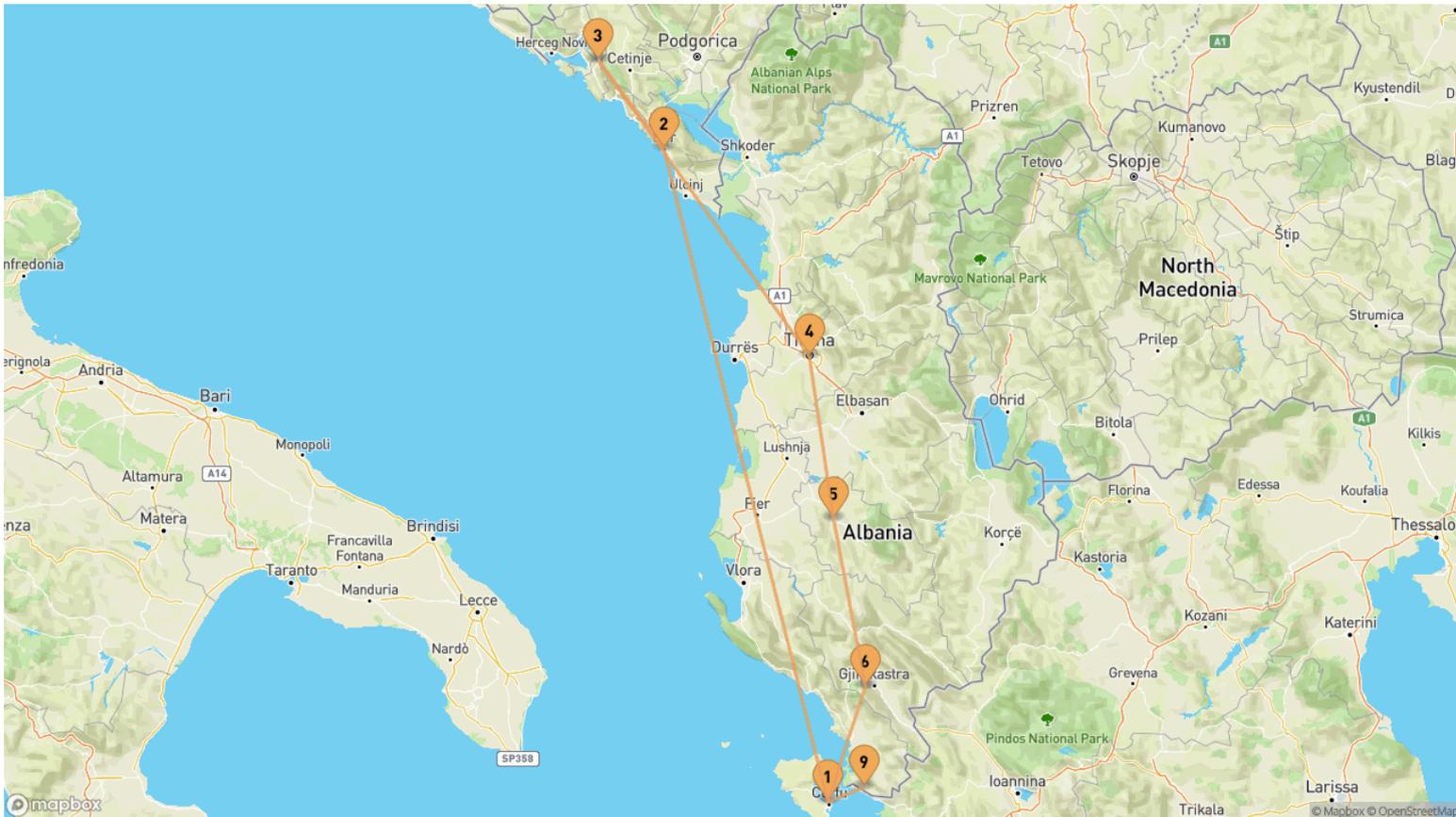




# Yachting Cruise in Albania, the secret Mediterranean departing from Geneva

Albania! Long cut off from the world and still largely unknown, the land of the Eagles has everything to surprise: wild landscapes, a sunny coast with crystal clear waters, sublime mountains and countless archaeological treasures. In Albania, Byzantine, Greek, Roman, Venetian and Ottoman influences have left a priceless heritage. Here, mosques rub shoulders with churches, East meets West and the vestiges of communism mingle with a modernity that loves freedom, forming a land rich in its contrasts. A welcoming destination, still confidential and preserved from mass tourism, to visit without delay! In parallel with this discovery of Albania, the Variety Voyager will stop in Corfu and Montenegro, two pearls of the Adriatic and Ionian seas. Mountainous and wooded, Corfu is an island of wild beauty that has retained its authentic charm. In Montenegro, in the impressive Bay of Kotor, the mountainous slopes of the fjord plunge into the azure waters. Perched villages, fortified citadels and lush flora are an integral part of this cruise rich in colors and emotions. Embark on this unique cruise aboard the Variety Voyager, an intimate ship reserved for a privileged few, ideal for discovering these new horizons that will renew the charms of the Mediterranean for you.

- Regions / Countries: **Greece Montenegro Albania**
- Duration: **9 Days / 8 Nights**
- Tags: **Island, Popular, Greenery, Mainland port, Town, City, Discovery, Village, Secluded, Castle**
- URL: <https://embarq.travel/boats/variety-voyager/yachting-cruise-in-albania-the-secret-mediterranean-departing-from-geneva/>



## Day 1



### [Greece / Corfu](#)

Island, Popular, Greenery

Corfu, the most green Greek island verdurous with old olive and pine trees, holds you with emerald waters of its many-faced beaches and entices you with its old town through Italian and French squares, and ancient fortresses and temples.

#### **DAY 1: GENEVA– CORFU (GREECE)**

Departure to Corfu on a scheduled flight. Arrival in Corfu and check-in at a 4\* hotel. Dinner at the restaurant.

## Day 2



### [Montenegro / Bar](#)

Mainland port

Bar is one of the least touristy towns on the Montenegrin coast, which makes it perfect for off-the-beaten-track exploring. Inspires to write stories and reminds about layers of history.

#### **DAY 2: CORFU (GREECE)**

Free morning and lunch. Then transfer from the hotel to the port and boarding the M/Y Variety Voyager. In the afternoon, sail towards Bar.

## Day 3



### [Montenegro / Kotor](#)

Mainland port, Popular, Town

One of the most beautiful bays in the world. Tradition of seafaring unity prevails and continues on. Kotor bay is the southernmost fjord in Europe.

#### **DAY 3: BAR (MONTENEGRO)**

Bar is the main seaport and trading port of Montenegro. Although the city has a modern appearance today, it still has vestiges of the Byzantine era, such as its ancient citadel, Stari Bar, located 4 km from the modern city. During its rich history, the city of Bar was successively attached to Rome, the Byzantine Empire, the Republic of Venice and then the Ottoman Empire from the 16th century. Today, it is the seaport of Montenegro.

#### **Optional: Skadar Lake**

Lake Skadar is shared between Montenegro and Albania and is an exceptional nature reserve in Europe both for the richness of its flora and for the preservation of many animal species. The shores of the lake are bordered on one side by the Albanian mountains while on the Montenegrin side, a marshy landscape borders the northern shore of the lake. Towards the south, mountain slopes shelter the small fishing village of Virpazar. Embarkation for a boat trip through the clear waters of the national park. Buffet lunch on the Pjesacac peninsula.

Full day with lunch - Price per person: €125

## Day 4



### [Albania / Tirana](#)

City, Discovery

#### **DAY 4: KOTOR (MONTENEGRO)**

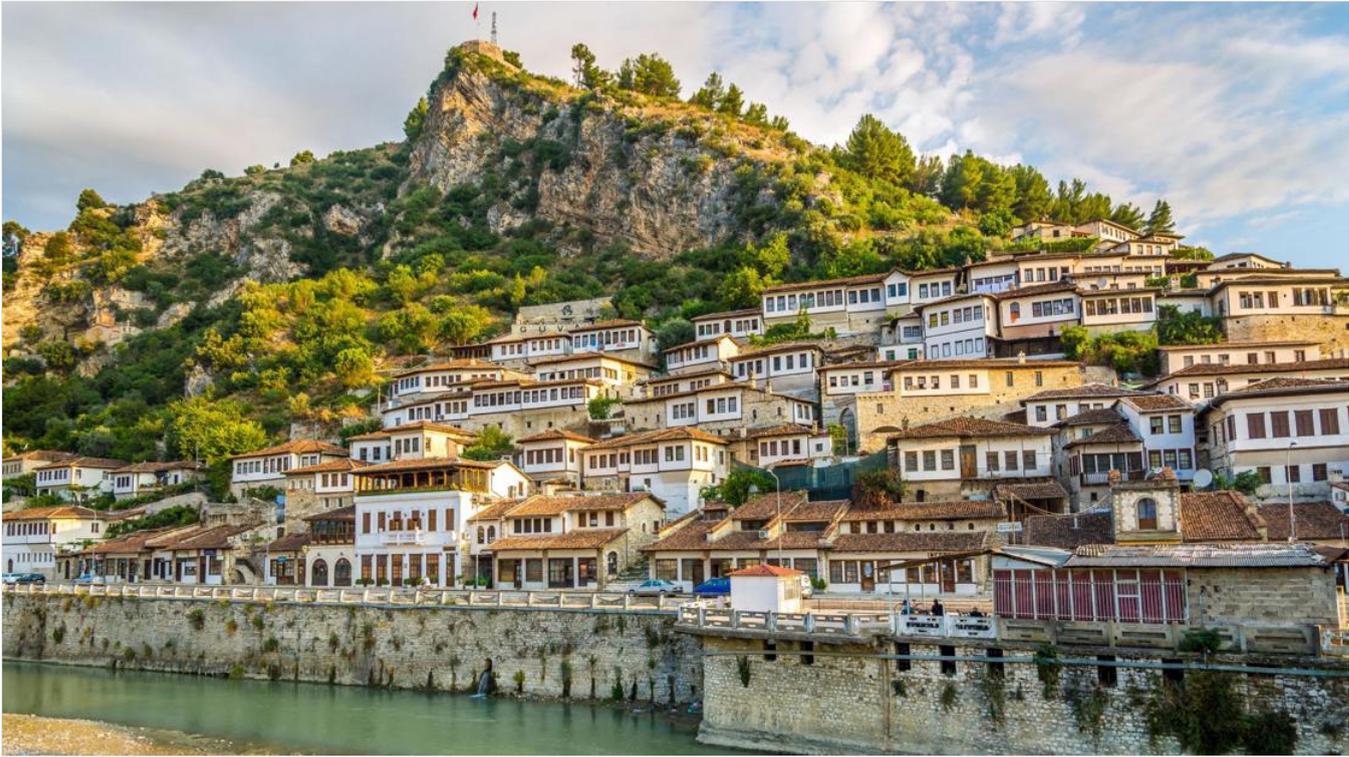
In the morning, magnificent navigation in the Bay of Kotor which constitutes one of the only large fjords in the Mediterranean. Arrival in Kotor in the morning. Free visit of the city.

#### **Optional: Cetinje**

In the early afternoon, departure for Cetinje, the historic capital of Montenegro located at the foot of Mount Lovcen, better known as the Black Mountain from which the country itself takes its name. When Montenegro declared its first independence in 1878, Cetinje became the smallest capital in Europe but experienced a certain boom with the construction of the Palace of King Nikola Petrovic Njegos and also became an active spiritual center thanks to the influence of its Orthodox monastery. The city also experienced an interesting architectural boom thanks to the establishment of embassies, particularly those of Russia and France. Visit the former Royal Palace which is now also the seat of the Residence of the President of the Republic and walk through the streets of the city. On the way back, stop at Njegosi to taste local specialties. Return to Kotor in the late afternoon by taking the road called "the serpentine" offering spectacular views of the Bay of Kotor.

Price per person: €85

## Day 5



### [Albania / Berat](#)

Village, Secluded

#### **DAY 5: DURRES (ALBANIA) - TIRANA**

Arrival in the morning in Durrës, the major port of central Albania. Departure by coach for a visit to Tirana, the capital of Albania. Tirana is today a booming city that wonderfully combines the legacy of its tumultuous past with an obvious thirst for modernity. The visit will begin with Skanderbeg Square, the heart of the city, with in its center the statue of the eponymous national hero, the Ethem Bey Mosque built in 1789, the National Museum whose "socialist realist" fresco traces the eventful history of the Albanian people and finally the opera built in the purest Soviet-Soviet style of the 1960s. Walk on the main artery, the Boulevard of the Martyrs of the Nation built by the Italians in the 1930s, lined with administrative buildings in ochre tones, to the University of Tirana. Stroll through the neighborhood called the "block" referring to the residential area of the former communist nomenklatura, which has now become the trendy bar and restaurant district. Lunch in a restaurant in the new market. In the afternoon, exceptional visit to the Enver Hoxha bunker. The communist leader had a gigantic anti-atomic bunker built near Tirana, which was supposed to house the country's leaders. There is a meeting room that can accommodate more than a hundred people, private apartments with futuristic decoration and a huge communications center. Return to Durrës in the late afternoon. Departure in the evening from Durrës towards Vloa.

## Day 6



### [Albania / Gjirokaster](#)

Secluded, Greenery, Castle, Village

#### **DAY 6: VLORA - APOLLONIA - BERAT**

In ancient times Vlora was known as Aulon, famous for its olives, wine and salt. It became the first port of Illyria after the decline of Apollonia and Orikum. In the 14th century, the city was placed under the control of the feudal family of Balshaj. Conquered by the Turks in 1417, the city became an important administrative center. In 1531, Sultan Suleiman used the stones of the ancient city of Aulon to build his fortress. Departure to the archaeological site of Apollonia, the largest in the country. Emperor Augustus was sent there by Julius Caesar to complete his education. Visit the ruins of the temple, the Odeon and the library. Then visit the Byzantine monastery Sainte-Marie adjoining and part of which has been transformed into a museum. The remarkably laid out museum presents a complete set of statues and objects found on the site.

Then departure towards Berat.

The city of Berat is nicknamed "the city of a thousand windows". Since 2005, it has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit the fortress where the Onufri Museum is located, a renowned 16th century painter specializing in icons. Lunch will be served in a typical restaurant within the fortress itself. From the promontory of the citadel, we discover the Morica district facing the Magalem district with its unique architecture where houses with multiple windows intertwine on steep hills. Walking tour through the city's alleys where mosques, Orthodox and Catholic churches stand side by side in perfect harmony. Return to Vlora in the late afternoon.

## Day 7



### [Greece / Corfu](#)

Island, Popular, Greenery

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#### **DAY 7: SARANDA - BUTRINT - GJIROKASTËR**

Saranda is the most popular seaside resort in the country. Its current name comes from the Monastery of the Forty Saints, built in the 6th century. Archaeological excavations have been carried out to uncover buildings dating from the 2nd and 4th centuries.

Departure to the archaeological site of Butrint.

This site, whose origins date back to the 3rd century BC, is of exceptional beauty and is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Many civilizations have developed there. The city was successively occupied by the Illyrians, the Greeks, the Romans, the Byzantines, the Angevins, the Venetians and then the French. The site today includes remains from practically all of its successive eras. Visit the temple of Asclepius, the baptistery, the theater, the Porte of the Lion, the Nymph and the Acropolis. Butrint is cited as an example in many literary works such as Virgil's Aeneid.

After visiting the site, departure towards Gjirokastër.

The city has been declared a "museum city" by UNESCO due to its exceptional architecture. It is a typical example of an Ottoman city. The city seduces with the charm of its colorful houses, its alleys with black and white patterned paving stones and roses. It has some houses with turrets. This type of house generally has a raised ground floor, a first floor used in the cold season and a second floor used in the summer. The fortress overlooks the city and offers a splendid panorama of the surrounding mountains. Visit the Ethnographic Museum which was once the birthplace of the dictator Enver Hoxha. Finally, Gjirokastër is also the birthplace of the great Albanian writer Ismaël Kadaré whose house has been transformed into a museum.

## Day 8



### [Greece / Corfu](#)

Island, Popular, Greenery

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#### **DAY 8: CORFU (GREECE)**

The main Greek island in the Ionian Sea, it loops the Adriatic Sea and was throughout its history a strategic location fought over by many maritime and commercial powers. In turn Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Venetian, French and then controlled by the British, Corfu was the scene of rivalries between Greece and Italy before the Second World War.

#### **Optional: Corfu and Paleokastritsa**

Walk through the alleys of the old town located below the citadel built by the Byzantines and the Venetians. Visit the church of Saint Spiridon. The church preserves votive offerings in gold and many icons. Visit the monastery of Paleokastritsa. This monastery built on two levels, is a beautiful example of Greek religious architecture. It was built from the 13th century. The lower floor is built around a flower garden and includes beautiful arcades. In the monastery, the monks run a small shop where they offer for sale products of their own production including olive oil and kumquat liqueur.

Price per person: €75

## Day 9



### Navigation

#### DAY 9: CORFU – GENEVA

In the morning, after breakfast, disembarkation and transfer to Corfu airport. Flight on scheduled flight.

