The "Peaks of the Balkans" Hiking Trail
Transborder Hiking through Albania, Montenegro and Kosovo

In order to create income for the local population, stop abandonment of the mountain regions of Kosovo, Montenegro and Albania and to bring these parts of the region closer together, the national and local tourism organisations and hiking clubs joined forces with the German Development Cooperation to develop the **"Peaks of the Balkans"** regions as one destination for mountain tourism. With the development of a transnational hiking trail, one of only few in the world, a common base for further development was set up.

The transnational **"Peaks of the Balkans"** trail leads through one of the most remote and wild mountainous regions of the Western Balkans. By using shepherd paths and footways, the trail winds through high alpine mountains up to 2,300 metres above sea level and leads through wild mountain scenery, with a diversity of breathtaking landscapes, varying from green valleys to crystal-clear mountain lakes, waterfalls, rivers and remote picturesque mountain villages, in which time seems to have stopped. All in all a "hidden treasure" for nature lovers and hikers.

Until twenty years ago, the region had been almost inaccessible for visitors, which makes it an authentic cultural experience and adventure to hike across the three mountains of Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro.

The Region

The region of the Dinaric Alps spreading across the north of Albania, the southwest of Kosovo and the east of Montenegro, which is also called "accursed mountains", counts to the least known areas in South East Europe. Until now, this mountain region of Kosovo, Montenegro and Albania has virtually remained untouched and is only sparsely inhabited. Thus, it has preserved its fascination and authentic character.

The region is known for the hospitality of its inhabitants, which visitors can enjoy while staying in one of the traditional houses that can be found along the trail in all three countries. The variety of accommodation ranges from traditional stone houses, so called "Kulas", to mountain huts and small mountain lodges where local and house-made dishes are served by the local hosts.

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The Trail

The quite ambitious **"Peaks of the Balkans"** trail comprises 192 km and completes a circuit crossing the three countries. The hike can be started in each country: Theth (Albania); Plav (Montenegro) or in the small town of Peja (Kosovo).

10 stages of the trail can be hiked in 10 to 13 days depending on the motivation and condition of the hiker. The level of difficulty ranges from easy to moderate, but requires good physical condition and mountain equipment (e.g. hiking boots, waterproof clothing, lamps, GPS, first aid kit, mobile phone). Even though the whole trail is marked and signposted, it partly leads through uninhabited mountain regions. Hence, it is recommended to hike in a group or accompanied by a hiking guide.

Local mountain guides, trained by the DAV (Deutscher Alpen Verein) and familiar with the trail, are ready to accompany individuals and small groups. Further information on guides, accommodation, cross border procedures and a detailed description of the trail stages, including GPS data and high profiles, can be found on the website (www.peaksofthebalkans.com) or on site in one of the three tourist information offices listed below.

WORLD TRAVEL & TOURISM COUNCIL
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Kosovo

Tourism Information Centre
in Peja, Kosovo
Str. Mbretëresha Teuta no. 59
(Municipal building)

T +381 39 423 949
E kosovo@peaksofthebalkans.com
I www.pejatourism.org

Albania

Tourist Information Office in
Shkodër, Albania
Square Nënë Tereza, Str. Teuta
(in the front hotel Rozafa)

T +355 22 24 39 95
E albania@peaksofthebalkans.com

Montenegro

Local Tourism Organisation
in Plav, Montenegro,
Str. Racina b.b. 84325 Plav

T +382 51 252 888
E montenegro@peaksofthebalkans.com
I www.plav.montenegro.travel/en/plav

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