

underwater heritage



albania

pocket guide



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Albania
theme guides

Underwater heritage





Albania has historically a close relations with the sea and waters. Illyrian tribes use to sacrifice the horses for the honor of the Poseidon ‘The god of the Sea’. With its old links to sea , Albanian civilisation is full of maritime metaphors, symbols and legends . On these symbols is the century old *lembe*, a ship invented by the ancient Illyrians.

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In Illyrian mythology the name of the Jonan Sea come from the name of the nephew of Illyrian King Epidamnus, who was killed accidentally by the hero of Greek mythology, Hercules. Ionian coast starts with a high, rocky coastline in the Gulf of Vlorë, especially in Karaburun Peninsula.

The scenic road from Vlorë to Saranda winds up through beautiful mountains covered with pine trees and offers views of a unique coastal scenery populated by many unspoiled traditional villages. Much of the coast is rugged and dramatic, with steep backdrops to fine white sandy beaches. The beaches are smaller and rockier here, and the water is deep right from the shore. Citrus and olive trees dominate the landscape, giving it a classical Mediterranean beauty.





This area is wonderful for divers. Clean water in all season, underwater walls till in 45m where you can see big fishes, aragostas, amphoras 2000 years old and wrecked ship of Second World War, sea caves, underwater sources with drinking water etc.





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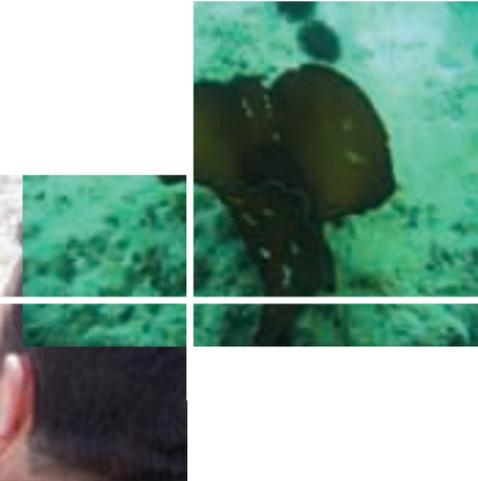


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Adriatic sea which stretches from the border with Montenegro until the bay of Vlora.. It is an excellent area not only for family vacations and nature lovers but also a godd destination for the divers as well. The most important places are the cape of Rodon, the cape of Lagji etc.

The Albanian coast continues to be an undiscovered mystery. The underwater world conceals miracles, which very few divers have managed to explore. If we could go back in time, we would understand that the Albanian coast has been a natural port for Illyrian, Greek and Roman ships. Traces of these anchorings can still be found today in the Ionian and Adriatic coasts. Ships, amphorae and many archaeological artifacts can still be found untouched in the Ionian and Adriatic depths. In Porto Palermo, the Bay of Grama, in Raguza, at the Rodoni Cape and in some of the main bays of the Albanian coast, lie some very interesting objects that bear witness to the history and culture of our country. Because of isolation and the late start of diving as a sport, many places have remained unexplored, turning the Albanian coast into a very interesting destination for exploratory and archaeological diving.





Diving as a sport in Albania is still in its beginnings, but it is developing at a very fast pace thanks to divers' clubs, fans of this sport, and foreign diver groups who have visited our country in the last years. Currently, the possibilities exist to organize groups of 10-15 divers and to offer the necessary equipment and underwater escort. Some of the most interesting spots for sport and adventure diving are:



The Bay of Vlorë offers several possibilities to diving fans. This is an area with a history. It is believed that during the civil war between Caesar and Pompeii, Caesar sank his ships in the Bay of Vlorë near Oricum. Many of the most interesting diving points in Albania are near Vlorë, between the Ionian and Adriatic seas. The underwater world of this bay is rich in archaeological artifacts, sunken ships, World War II weapons, rocks, caves, which create marvelous underwater scenery. Some of the most interesting points can be visited by apnea diving (breath-hold diving), thus giving the possibility to professional sportsmen to visit some of the underwater ships and caves, simply by free diving. Oricum, Sazan, Karaburun and Grama, are some of the most interesting areas for free diving and scuba diving. Even though they are not completely explored, these places have many artifacts and evidence from the Albanian antiquity. The main diving points in Vlorë are:





1. Wreck dive to second World War ship from 20- 35 m deep, called "Spitalier" where daughter of Mussolini have been on.
2. Second dive in wrecked boat of Second World War in 27 m.(Military boat full with weapons, pullets and munitions of war.
3. Dive in history .In the bay of Raguza 2 in the deep 40 m a lot of amphora's.
4. Dive in underwater wall: In Sazani Island till in 40-50
5. In out seaside of Karaborun peninsula
6. Plazhi i Zhironit . Vend ku mund te observohen disa lloje algash nen uje



Possibilities of underwater exploration in Albanian are numerous, but the Ionian Riviera is a rare phenomenon in the field of underwater tourism. The marvelous scenery, jagged rocks, and the clarity of the Ionian make diving in the Riviera romantic. Palasa, Dhërmi, Jal, Llanan, Lukova, Ksamil and many other bays constitute what many Albanian and foreign divers have named the 7 Miracles of the Ionian. With their rich underwater world, these bays are some of the preferred spots for professional divers, Albanian and foreign. The Karaburun caves, the fauna of Jal, artifacts in Porto-Palermo, ships in Saranda are some of the main diving spots in the Albanian Riviera.



1. Night dive in tourist village Dhermi: Rocs, caves, fish.
From 10-25 m
2. Dive in Jala village: A reef in up to 40 mtr of depth:
Fish, aragosta
3. Dive in Porto Palermo bay
(Panormi Bay) from 20-37
4. Diving and History:
Ancient amphora and fish. (2 dives)
5. Dive in Llamani bay: reef till in 60 m.
Fish rocks
6. Dive in "Cekina e Lukoves" in the front of Lukova.
(500 m far from the seaside, a rock goes from 30 m
deep to 2,5 m under surface. Fish,
underwater landscape.)

In addition to being a special tourist town, Saranda is one of the main diving destinations. With its array of diving possibilities, Saranda offers some very interesting spots for sport and adventure diving. These are the Ksamil islands, the sunken ship in Saranda, the Blue Eye and many other spots.





1. Dive in wrecked ship of second World War in, 5 m to 26 m deep.

2. Dive in wrecked ship "Tomorri" wrecked in the 1965

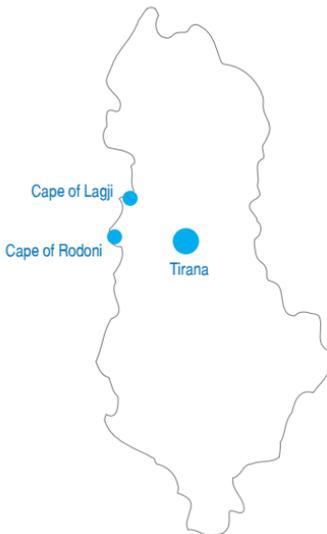
3. Adventure dive in big underwater cave of Blue Eye.

4. Adventure diving in the Black Eye near by Kelcyra

5. Dive in Black Eye hole (more than 37m deep and more than 100m long)



The Adriatic Coast, even though less explored, has much to offer in the field of archaeological diving with its many sunken ships (the Italian ship, the Austrian ship and other ships), amphorae, underwater walls (at the Rodoni Cape), etc. Porto Romano, Divjaka and the Rodoni and Lagji Capes are some of the main diving areas that are of special interest to free diving and scuba enthusiasts



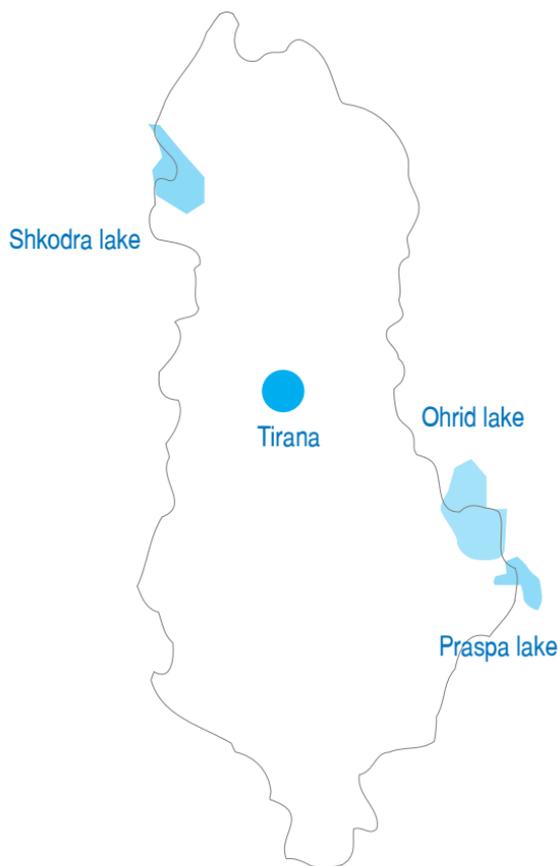
- 1 .Dive in the cape of Rodoni walls of the castle.
- 2 . Cape of Lagji underwater flora and fauna.





Underwater caves of Shegan (in the Shkodra lake, up to 30m deep), Lake Ohrid, which is rich in archaeological artifacts and underwater reefs, the Këlcyra caves.

All programs are proposals and may be influenced by the guests in order to provide convenient Diving for all grades of divers. Alternate programs will be offered as well to fulfill the Requirements of our guests.



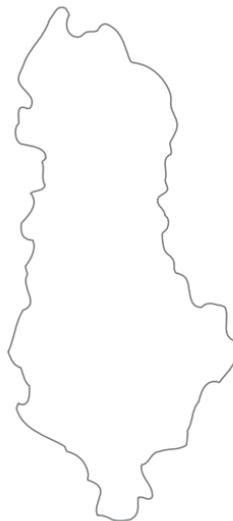


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