

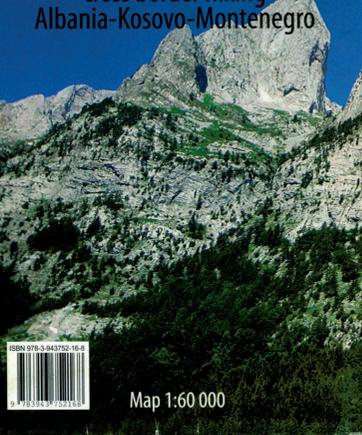
Cross border hiking
Albania-Kosovo-Montenegro

Peaks of the
Balkans



Peaks of the
Balkans

cross border hiking
Albania-Kosovo-Montenegro



Map 1:60 000

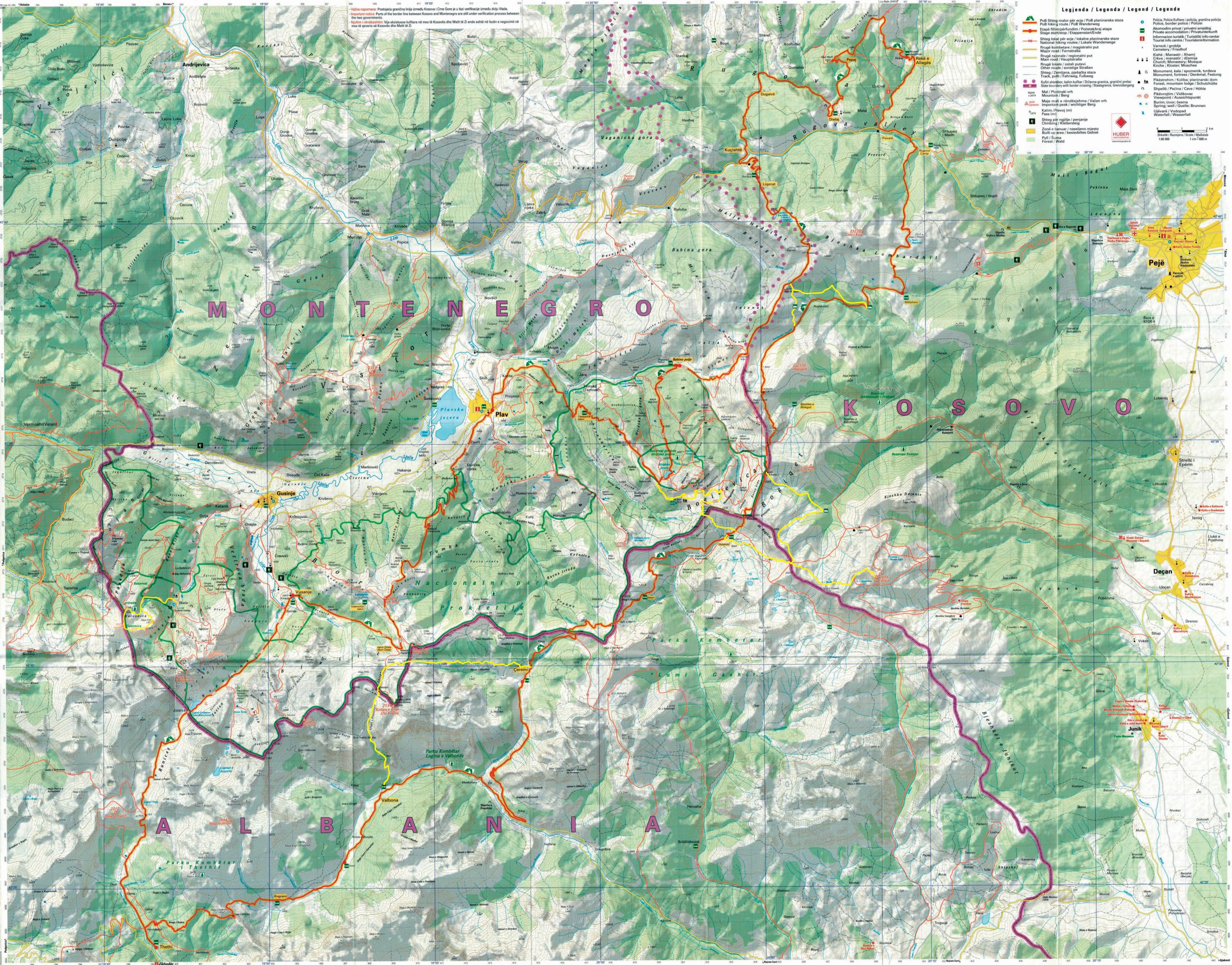


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Legjenda / Legenda / Legend / Legende

- PoB Shing motor për ecje / PoB planinarska staza
- PoB hiking route / PoB Wanderweg
- Etape filmiperitendur / PoB planinarski etape
- Stage start/stop / Etappenstart/Ende
- Shing lokal për ecje / lokale planinarske staze
- National hiking routes / Lokale Wanderwege
- Rrugë kombëtare / magistralni put
- Main road / Hauptstraße
- Rrugë lokale / ostali putevi
- Other roads / sonstige Strassen
- Shing / Zemelna, postpanska staza
- Track, path / Fahrweg, Fußweg
- Mal / Planinarski vrh
- Mountain / Berg
- Mal / Planinarski vrh
- Mountain / Berg
- Zone e hamar / naseljeno mjesto
- Built-up area / besiedeltes Gebiet
- Pyll / Suma
- Forest / Wald
- Polica, Polica Kufare / policia, granična policia
- Police, border police / Polize
- Akomodim privat / Privatvermietungen
- Private accommodation / Privatvermietungen
- Informacioni turist / Turistiski info-centar
- Tourist info centre / Touristeninformation
- Vareze / grupe
- Camps / Freizeid
- Kisha / Manastir / Xhamia
- Church, monastery / Moschee
- Kocine / Kloster / Monache
- Monument kalle / spomenik, turdava
- Monument, fortress / Denkmal, Festung
- Forest, mountain lodge / Schutzhütte
- Shpella / Pezina / Cave / Höhle
- Pikëvizitimi / Vidikovoc
- Viewpoint / Aussichtspunkt
- Burime ujorrezuese
- Spring, well / Quelle, Brunnen
- Ujëvara / Wasserfall
- Waterfall / Wasserfall

Scale: 1:60 000

Peaks of the Balkans Hiking Trail

BACKGROUND

Fast facts:

- Trail length:** 192 kilometers
- Elevation min:** 670 meters (near Çerem, Albania) **max:** 2,290 meters (near the Valbonë, Albania – Milishevç, Kosovo)
- Cumulative height uphill:** approx. 9,800 meters **d downhill:** 9,900 meters
- Time:** 10 days
- Overnights:**
 - Theth, Albania
 - Valbonë, Albania
 - Çerem, Albania
 - Dobërdol, Albania
 - Milishevç, Kosovo
 - Reka e Allagëris, Kosovo
 - Leqinat i Kuçishtëris, Kosovo
 - Babino Polje, Montenegro
 - Play, Montenegro
 - Vusanje, Montenegro

Peaks of the Balkans is a map guide to the wildest and most untouched mountain range in the Western Balkans, spreading across Skola, Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro. Prokletije, Bjeshkët e Namuna, or the Albanian Alps (Albanian: Bjeshkët e Namuna or Alpet Shqiptarë; Kosovo: Bjeshkët e Namuna, Montenegrin: Prokletje) occupy the north of Albania, the southwest of Kosovo, and the east of Montenegro. Prokletje and Bjeshkët e Namuna mean "The Accursed Mountains", a term which describes the cruelty of these mountains and the hard life suffered by those who live in their vicinity.

Prokletje/Bjeshkët e Namuna is a landscape of wild beauty, relatively unspoiled by modern development, and one of the most unexplored mountain ranges in Southeast Europe. There is a great tradition of hospitality in the valleys; delicious cheese and homemade "rak" are omnipresent not only in the valleys, but also in the shepherds' mountain huts.

Grebajce - Taljanka - Popadiza Loop

Trail section from Grebajce Valley commencing from Skola to Volunjaç 1879m, Maja Vajushës/Taljanka) 2057m and Popadiza 2030m Peaks is a day hike loop that offers mesmerizing view on Albanian and Montenegro Alps with lime stone formation and offers the opportunity to climb three peaks in one day .

Nevertheless, this section is not a direct part of Peaks of the Balkans trail but it is one of the most popular trail amongst the tourists and definitely it is a place worth to visit. Car transfer is needed from Plav or Vranje to reach Grebajce Valley hiking commencing point.

TRAILS

Theth, Albania – Valbonë, Albania

Trail distance: 139 kilometers
Elevation min: 415 meters **max:** 1,759 meters
Cumulative height uphill: 1,368 meters **d 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 Skala 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 ridge of Theth and Pëk Hanuša 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 Gushnjë, Montenegro and Valbonë, Albania. The hike continues gently up along a dirt road until we see the first house of Gjetaj 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 northward, 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 paths enter into an open, wooded area along a clear trail. After approx. 600 meters, we reach a mountain 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

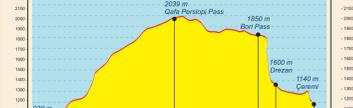
for about 3 kilometers and we finish our hike at Fusha e Gjes Hotel (WP 12). Valbonë center is located 3.5 kilometers northeast and can be reached by taking this route.

UTM Waypoints:

- 34T399041 4694549, 716 m, Theth bridge
- 34T398793 4695067, 782 m
- 34T399285 4695200, 935 m
- 34T400086 4694929, 1193 m, meadow
- 34T401256 4695832, 1397 m, water source
- 34T402500 4695499, 1759 m, Valbona Pass
- 34T402192 4695977, 1696 m
- 34T402569 4696171, 1528 m, stream crossing
- 34T403108 4696019, 1436, water source
- 10.34T04473 4696149, 1127, Rragam village
- 11.34T404780 4696239, 1122 m
- 12.34T407097 4697679, 995 m, Fusha e Gjes Hotel

Valbonë, Albania – Qafa Perisllipi, Albania/Montenegro – Çerem, Albania (Optional)

Trail distance: 14 kilometers
Elevation min: 920 meters **max:** 2039 meters
Cumulative height uphill: 1190 meters **d downhill:** 960 meters
Difficulty level: •moderate / difficult
Time: 8-9 hours
Markings: ■ white/red/white



This 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.

Grebajce - Taljanka - Popadiza Loop

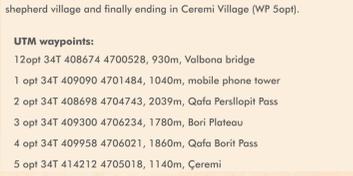
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for about 3 kilometers and we finish our hike at Fusha e Gjes Hotel (WP 12). Valbonë center is located 3.5 kilometers northeast and can be reached by taking this route.

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 further on, 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 Balin (WP 8b), a beautiful shepherd's village also used only during the summer time. Balin 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 8c) we 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 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 mountain lakes located a few kilometers southeast. You can stay overnight at the glacial hut (WP 13b) which is managed by a local family for touristic purposes.

UTM waypoints:

- 34T 414611 4705511, 1139 m, Çerem center
- 34T 414919 4705565, 1191 m, stream crossing
- 34T 414940 4705849, 1338 m, meadow
- 34T 415148 4706301, 1466 m, dirt road
- 34T 416875 4706918, 1593 m, bear left at the junction
- 34T 416838 4707134, 1593 m, border pyramid
- 34T 417356 4707595, 1792 m, meadow and border police survey point
- 34T 418434 4707468, 1898 m, turn right at the junction
- 34T 419635 4708607, 1840 m, Balin
- 34T 419965 4709720, 1809 m, junction (turn right is suggested)
- 34T 420060 4710127, 1728 m, stream crossing
- 11b. 34T 420757 4710353, 1775 m, water source and the ruins of border police office
- 34T 420757 4710353, 1659 m, start ascending
- 34T 423294 4711127, 1741 m, mountain hut in Dobërdol

Dobërdol, Albania – Milishevç, Kosovo

Trail distance: 18.2 kilometers
Elevation min: 1534 meters **max:** 2,290 meters
Cumulative height uphill: 915 meters **d downhill:** 980 meters
Difficulty level: • Moderate
Time: 8-9 hours
Markings to the border: ■ white/red/white, from the border to Milishevç: ■ 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 (Milishevç). Milishevç 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 Milishevç (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 Qentit (the peak in front of us, a few hundred meters from WP 3c). The west slope of Maja e Qentit 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 Roshkodoll pass (WP 5c).

In case you find the passing of this mountain slope too difficult, consider following the path through Bjeshka e Belegut to Milishevç, which is a longer but easier option (mainly along dirt roads). From Roshkodoll 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 Roshkodoll at WP 8c – an optional place for an overnight stay.

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

UTM waypoints

- 34T 423294 4711127, 1741 m, mountain hut in Dobërdol
- 34T 424072 4711901, 2218 m, the border

- 34T 424949 4713682, 2117 m, follow N at the junction
- 34T 425060 4714762, 2183 m, follow N at the junction
- 34T 424768 4715620, 2260 m
- 34T 424866 4717014, 2258 m, Roshkodoll pass
- 34T 426180 4719645, 1728 m, cross the river
- 34T 426180 4719645, 1728 m, gravel road
- 34T 427293 4720707, 1583 m, Roshkodoll village
- 34T 427389 4720865, 1547 m, bear left at the junction
- 34T 429013 4721231, 1687 m, bear left at the junction
- 34T 430729 4721074, 1743 m, Milishevç village

Dobërdol, Albania – Gjeravica Peak, Kosovo – Dobërdol, Albania

Trail distance: 19.6 kilometers
Elevation min: 1770 meters **max:** 2656 meters
Cumulative height uphill: 1050 meters **d downhill:** 1050 meters
Difficulty level: •moderate / difficult
Time: 8-9 hours
Markings: ■ red/white/red



In this trail you will be climbing the highest mountain top of Kosovo Gjeravica Peak(2656m) and the second highest of the Accursed mountains after Jezercia Peak(2694). The route to the summit from Dobërdol is a back n' forth hike. This is a back and forth hiking trail which goes to Kosovo side, cross the border which is not heavily protected anymore as it was in the past. However, during the communist regimes in this part of the world this was the border between Albania and Yugoslavia and one of the most protected borders in the world. First section of the trail goes for approx 3.5km (NNE) through Dobërdol Valley which is one of the most beautiful valleys in whole Peak of the Balkans trail. It reminds very much the Scottish highlands.

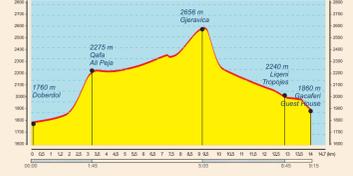
At 2275m of altitude the trail crosses from Albania to Kosovo side through All Peja Pass (WP 14opt). The pass itself offers breathtaking panoramic views in all three countries. From that point the trail stays in high altitude mainly in Kosovo territory as after 3.1km of 2290m reaches one of the most iconic lakes Lijeni Zemes which has a heart shape and blue turquoise colors (E – WP 15opt). From the lake the trail starts to climb for about 1.2km until it reaches the ridge in 2440m. The last section of the trail goes in a straight line with Gjeravica Peak (NNE) with a slight descent in the beginning and after few hundred meters starts to climb directly to the Gjeravica Peak 2656m (WP 17opt).

UTM waypoints:

- 34opt 34T 423043 4710888, 1775m, Dobërdol
- 14o,opt 34T 425880 4709949, 2275m, Qafa All peja pass
- 15o,opt 34T 427879 4709997, 2310m, Lijeni Zemes lake
- 16o,opt 34T 409300 4706234, 1780m, Bari Plateau
- 17o,opt 34T 429421 4709301, 2656m, Maja Gjeravica Peak

Dobërdol, Albania – Gjeravica Peak, Kosovo – Gacafieri Guesthouse

Trail distance: 18.8 kilometers
Elevation min: 1770 meters **max:** 2656 meters
Cumulative height uphill: 1050 meters **d downhill:** 1050 meters
Difficulty level: •moderate / difficult
Time: 8-9 hours
Markings: ■ 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 (Milishevç). Milishevç 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 Milishevç (WP 11c) by a dirt road easily identifiable with a map.

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UTM waypoints

- 12o,opt 34T 423043 4710888, 1775m, Dobërdol
- 13o,opt 34T 425880 4709949, 2275m, Qafa All peja pass
- 14o,opt 34T 427879 4709997, 2310m, Lijeni Zemes lake
- 15o,opt 34T 409300 4706234, 1780m, Bari Plateau
- 16o,opt 34T 429421 4709301, 2656m, Maja Gjeravica Peak
- 17o,opt 34T 425551 4710849, 2240m, Lijeni Trojpas Lake
- 18o,opt 34T 426720 4712075, 1850m, Gacafieri Guesthouse

Stanet e Gacaferve, Kosovo – Zllanopoj, Kosovo

Trail distance: 15 kilometers
Elevation min: 1670 meters **max:** 2240 meters
Cumulative height uphill: 480 meters **d downhill:** 790 meters
Difficulty level: • easy
Time: 5 - 6 hours
Markings: ■ red/white/red



This section offers spectacular views in all directions, crosses through different passes where amongst them are Qafa Bogjice Pass, Qafa Bogjice Pass and Qafa Roshkodoll pass. Starting directly from the Gacafieri settlement the trail winds through the pine tree forest for a while until it reaches the open part under the Qafa Bogjice pass. After converging to the Gacafieri settlement the trail winds through the pine tree forest for a while until it reaches the open part under the Qafa Bogjice pass. After converging to the Gacafieri settlement the trail winds through the pine tree forest for a while until it reaches the open part under the Qafa Bogjice pass. After converging to the Gacafieri settlement the trail winds through the pine tree forest for a while until it reaches the open part under the Qafa Bogjice pass.

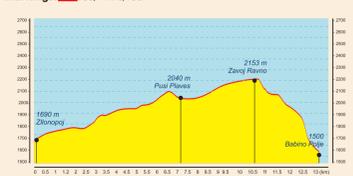
From Roshkodoll Pass (WP 22opt) the 5.1km trail descends along the Roshkodoll Valley all the way down to Roshkodoll settlement. Roshkodoll settlement is the biggest seasonal shepherd village in whole Kosovo. It is a crossroad as it connects different mountain settlements with two towns in western part of Kosovo, Decan and Peja. After crossing the settlement the trail converges to the dirt car track and continues towards [NE] for about 4.6km in direction of Milishevç settlement. Milishevç and the Zllanopje (WP 25opt) settlement are situated in the very beautiful pine tree forest valleys but at the same time very close to the rocky mountain gushes.

UTM waypoints:

- 18c,opt 34T 426720 4712075, 1850m, Gacafieri Guesthouse
- 19c,opt 34T 425768 4712689, 2010m, Water well
- 20c,opt 34T 425119 4713850, 2100m, Qafa Bogjice pass
- 21c,opt 34 425071 4714793, 2200m, Qafa Bogjice pass
- 22c,opt 34T 424877 4716992, 1780m, Qafa Roshkodoll pass
- 23c,opt 34T 427241 4720719, 2080m, Roshkodoll settlement
- 24c,opt 34T 426720 4720763, 1700m, Zllanopje

Zllanopoj, Kosovo – Babino Polje, Montenegro

Trail distance: 13 kilometers
Elevation min: 1670 meters **max:** 2178 meters
Cumulative height uphill: 520 meters **d downhill:** 680 meters
Difficulty level: • easy
Time: 5 hours
Markings: ■ red/white/red



This is a detour from the classic Peaks of the Balkans trail. This section will go through some of the least traversed trail in the Accursed Mountains in Kosovo part. The hike after 5.6km will converge to the classic PoB trail in the section Lijenat to Babino Polje, at the Pusi Plaves swamp (W,