THE ACCURSED MOUNTAINS **HIKING TRAILS IN KOSOVO**

North to West Hiking Trail

The starting point of this hiking trail is in the village of Shtupeq i Madh which is 15 km away from the city of Peja. Transportation can be arranged through local tour operators or individual guides, or alternatively you can also take the public transport that runs on the Peja-Rugova route twice a day (08:00 and 15:00). The trail progresses through stunning areas of the mountains, panoramic villages and seasonal settlements in the highlands of the Rugova Valley, with three optional border crossings into Montenegro, which connect to trails on the other side of the border. These border crossing points are the Shtedimi Pass (Gurri N'drenikës), the "Qafa e Dasmorëve" (Pass of Wedding Procession) near Boge village, and along the area known as the Beautiful Meadows near Stankaj village.

Itinerary: Shtupeq i Madh – Podi Jakupit – Shtedim – Hajla Pass – Hajla Peak – Dramadol – Qafa e Dasmorëve - Stankaj.

Length: 41.17 km

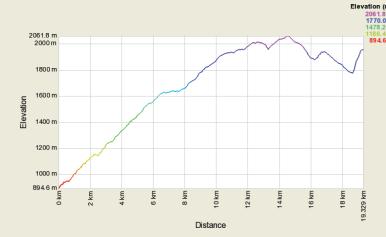
Altitude: Minimum 890 m/maximum 2,400 m

Difficulty: Moderate (suitable for mountaineers of all ages and visitors who are in good shape and are familiar with hiking)

Stages: The trail is divided into three stages, and is recommended by guides to be coved during a three-day period which includes recuperation breaks and overnight stays in guesthouses found in panoramic villages along the trail path.

Attractions: Hajla Peak 2403 m, views of Leqinat Highlands, views of Guri i Kuq, views of Lumbardh, views of Montenegro mountains, etc.

Stage one – Hiking time: 7 hours / Length 19.31km / Difficulty: Moderate



Your trail continues on the road into Rugova, through the Rugova Gorge which is largest natural attraction of this highland area. This magnificent canyon is considered Kosovo's greatest natural wonder, which has gained an international reputation also. The first village into the highlands is Shtupeqi i Madh, 15 km from Peja, along the left bank of the Lumbardhi river, and it is from this village that you will start your adventure, full of outdoor and cultural experiences. Your adventure starts from trail no. 7167 in the village of Shtupeq i Madh, renowned as one of the most picturesque villages in the Rugova highlands, sitting opposite the Rugova Gorge massif. This village has got now quite an attractive tourist offer, as inhabitants offer accommodation and traditional food aslo. From there you follow the trail to the so-called Broqi Pass at an altitude of 1390 m (optionally you can find accommodation here also), to then reach the famous site of Podi i Jakupit (Jakup's Basin) at an altitude of 1850m (optionally you can find accommodation here also) from where you can see magnificent views of the Rugova gorge and of the Accursed Mountains in general (it should be noted that due to private properties, part of this trail passes through the main road, which is paved). From this point the trail reaches the Shtedimi Pass (Gurri N'drenikës), which is the first crossing point into Montenegro (Municipality of Rozhaje), and then passes from the Hajla Pass to reach the guesthouse located at 1800 m above sea level, in a pristine mountain environment which in not even covered by the electric power grid.

Stage two: Hiking time: 5 hours / Length 6.98 km / Difficulty: Moderate

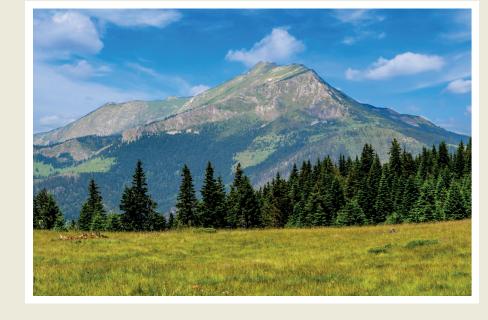


Stage two continues early in the morning with conquering of Hajla Peak at an altitude of 2403 m, from where you get quite magnificent views of the Accursed Mountains. This part will take you at least 2 hours but this is one of the most attractive peaks, and it is summited all year round by climbers, mountaineers and nature lovers, not only from Kosovo but from all over the world. This pristine habitat is home to a range of plants, and if you are lucky, you may also find the Alpine Star flower, or Edelweiss as it is commonly known. The trail then continues through the Hajla Ridge and drops slightly to pass along the old shepherds' trail in order to reach Dramadol (1750 m), which belong to the village of Koshutan where you will make your next stop, and you'll be able to get accommodation and enjoy traditional

Stage three: Hiking time: 5 hours / Length 14.90 km / Difficulty: Moderate



From your current location in Dramadol the trail proceeds with an easy climb through Hajle of Shkreli to reach the location known as the "Qafa e Dasmorëve" (Pass of Wedding Processions) at an altitude of 1770 m, where the trails from Kosovo and Montenegro join. From there the trail continues along the border, above the village of Boge. The tourist village of Boge is the westernmost village of the Rugova highlands, right on the border with Montenegro. From the village of Boge the trail leads to the village of Stankaj which is at an altitude of 1450 m, and which is also a remarkable village in terms of its environment. Your morning will end with the Kosovo part, and you will continue your unique journey filled with natural beauty and cultural experiences which Montenegro has to offer. From the village of Stankaj to the border area known as the Beautiful Meadows there about 2



THE ACCURSED MOUNTAINS HIKING TRAILS IN KOSOVO

South to West Hiking Trail

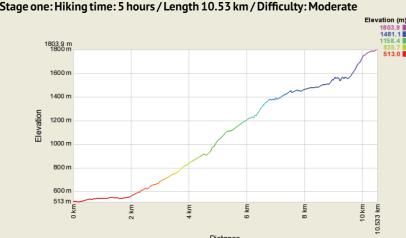
The trail starts directly from the city of Peja, by initially taking the recreational pedestrian path known as the "Health Trail", and then taking the path known as Livadhi Sakes (Saka's Meadow) trail which connects to the Çfërle peak Trail, where you have the option of summiting the peak of the mountain or take the trail around it to reach the highlands of Deçan Municipality, which also offer spectacular views of mountain ranges. The trail progresses towards Montenegro reaching the crossing point known as the Zavoji Pass. It is at this point that the trail connects to previously established trails of the "Peaks of the Balkans" and those of "Via Dinarica", hence providing various options for continuing your hiking adventure further.

Itinerary: Peja - Livadhi Adilit - Stanet e Irzniqit - Maja e Çferles (with the optional route bypassing the peak) - Milishevc - Pusi i Plaves - Zavoji Pass.

Difficulty: Moderate - suitable for mountaineers of all ages and visitors who are in good

Stages: The trail is divided into three stages, and is recommended by guides to be coved during a three-day period which includes recuperation breaks and overnight stays in

guesthouses found in panoramic villages along the trail path. Attractions: Views of Peja and its cultural heritage sites, Livadhi Sakes (Sake's meadow), Views of the Dukagjini Flatlands and Lake Radoniq, Çfërle Peak at 2,461m, Views of the mountains of Deçan and in general the Accursed Mountains, even over in Montenegro and Albania, the peaks of Gjeravica (2,656 m), Marijashi (2,530 m), Guri i Kuq (2,522 m), Jezerca (2,694 m), and other mountain ranges.



Your adventure starts from the center of the beautiful city of Peja, following trail no. 7168 which is the main trail to the Çfërle peak at an altitude of 2,461 m. The trail passes through the Zatra neighborhood of the city and connects to the so-called Health Trail, then onwards through the Pine Trail and Sake's Meadow Trail, which is another point where you can take a short break and replenish your water reserves with fresh water from the spring. Your trail continues through a steeper slope, but not too difficult, to reach the site known as the Tarabosh Balcony, offering stunning views of the city of Peja, and making you feel like you're holding the Rugova and Istog highlands in the palm of your hand. We suggest you take a short break here. From there your trail runs towards Adil's Meadow and into the main road leading to the Irzniq highlands, which is also a shepherds' summer settlement area. Stage one ends at this point, and here you can find accommodation in any of available

Stage two: Hiking time: 5 hours / Length 11.98 km / Difficulty: Moderate



Your hike will start from the Irzniqi Shepherds' Huts, following trail no. 7511 with a moderate climb to the Çfërle peak at 2,461 m, one of the most beautiful peaks of the Accursed Mountains, and is one of the top three peaks conquered all year round by mountaineers, climbers and nature lovers from Peja and beyond. Here you have the optional route that avoids climbing the peak, for those that want a less demanding hike. However, this peak offers awesome views, and from here you can see almost the entire highlands area of the Accursed Mountains spread in all three countries, and pretty good views of the Gjeravica peak 2,656 m, Marijashi 2,530 m, Guri i Kuq 2,522 m, Jezerca peak 2,694 m, and others. The trail then continues to descent, passing by the village of Pleqe at an altitude of 1800 m and reaching into the villages of Milishevci and Zllanopoja of the Deçani region, at an altitude of 1,700 m. This is a top site for tourists, mountaineers and nature lovers, as it is the crossing point of the *Peaks of the Balkans* and *Via Dinarica* trails, and you will find accommodation services, food, transportation etc. This mountain is also rich in splendid views and in flora and fauna.

Stage three: Hiking time: 7 hours / Length 8.26 km / Difficulty: moderate



From Zllanopoja or Milishevci you will continue the trail ascending over the Roshkodol Shepherds' Huts at an altitude of 1800 m. Roshkodol is a summer settlement used by residents of the village of Isniq, who bring their flocks of animals here during the summer. It offers a unique experience with its shepherds' huts built like in the olden days. From Roshkodol the trail ascends gently towards the site known as the Plava Well. Here you will reach an altitude of 2030 m, and we suggest you take a break here. From this point you'll hike on almost flat terrain, passing by the Bajrak Peak 2,078 m, Kërshi i Pish's (Pine Rock), and reach the end point of Zavoji Pass which then connects to Montenegro. At this point you



THE ACCURSED MOUNTAINS **BIKING TRAILS IN KOSOVO**

North to West Biking Trail

This trail passes through the Rugova Gorge and leads into the most beautiful Rugova highlands, where you'll be immersed in mountain landscapes, panoramic views of the peaks rising above 2000 m, the local culture of the inhabitants, their traditions and way of life, and other experiences of the flora and fauna you will encounter during your biking travels.

Itinerary: Peja - Shtupeq i Vogël - Podi i Jakupit - Shkrel - Gropat e Mëdha (Boge) - Kuqishte crossing into Montenegro towards Çakor.

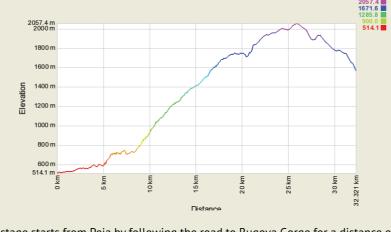
Length: 60.29 km

Difficulty: Moderate - suitable for non-professional recreational bikers of almost all ages and visitors who are in good physical shape.

Stages: The trail is divided into three stages, and is recommended by guides to be coved during a three-day period which includes recuperation breaks and overnight stays in guesthouses found in panoramic villages along the trail path.

Attractions: Hajla Peak 2403 m, views of Leqinat Highlands, views of Guri i Kuq, views of Lumbardh, views of Montenegro mountains, etc.

Stage one: Length 32.30 km / Difficulty: Moderate



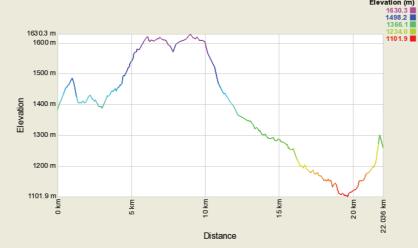
This stage starts from Peja by following the road to Rugova Gorge for a distance of 15 km reaching the access road to the village of Shtupeq i Madh, renowned for the beauty of its meadows laying on the left bank of the Lumbardh river of Peja. From this location the trail continues to the Broqi Pass at an altitude of 1390 m (optional accommodation can be found here) to reach the well-known site of Podi i Jakupit (Jakup's Basin) at an altitude of 1850 m (optional accommodation can be found here) from where you can see magnificent views of the Rugova gorge and highlands and of the Accursed Mountains in general. It should be noted that due to private properties, part of this trail passes through the main road, which is paved. From this point the trail reaches the Shtedimi Pass (Gurri N'drenikës), which is the first connecting point to the Montenegro trail (Municipality of Rozhaje). From this point the trail continues with a moderate descent while arriving to the village of Pepaj, at an altitude of 1800 m.

Stage two: Length 5.96 km / Difficulty: Moderate



The biking starts in the village of Pepaj, and continues in the direction of the village Koshutan, which is also one of the remarkable villages of the Rugova highlands. This stage of the trail is shorter and more relaxing, so you can use this day to soak in the panoramic views and the nature of these mountains for your enjoyment. Upon arrival in the village of Koshutan you will be accommodated in one of the guesthouses in this village. Along this trail, you will enjoy views of the Halja peak (2,403 m), views of the Guri i Kuq (2,522 m) which is highest peak in Peja Municipality, panoramic views of the Accursed Mountains on the territories of Albania and Montenegro, as well as the diversity of the flora and fauna and many other marvels created by nature.

Stage three: Length 22.03 km / Difficulty: Moderate



The stage begins in the village of Koshutan, from where you will follow the trail towards the village of Shkrel, which is one of the most beautiful villages in the Rugova highlands. This village is located at an altitude of 1600 m offering magnificent views of different Rugova highland zones. The trail proceeds west towards the village of Boge, going through the area known as "Gropa e Madhe" (Great Basin), where there is an access point to the Montenegro side. From here the trail continues to the village of Boge, which is a skiing center, and onwards to the village of Kuqishte, where you can find accommodation. From the village of Kuqishte, the trail then connects to the Çakor trail and crosses into Montenegro. Another point of entry is from Shkreli village, through the "Qafa e Dasmorëve" (Pass of the Wedding Procession), which leads into Montenegro.

THE ACCURSED MOUNTAINS **BIKING TRAILS IN KOSOVO**

South to West Biking Trail

This trail starts from Peja city centre and goes through the villages along the fields of the Dukagjini flatlands, for a distance of 20 km to reach the Deçan Gorge, where the mountainous part of the journey begins, and leads to the Bogiqe Pass at an altitude of 2100 m full of panoramic views of the Deçan highlands. The end point of this trail is also the triborder between Kosovo, Montenegro and Albania, and is where your experience continues in the Montenegrin part of the trails.

Itinerary: Peja - Loxha - Llozhan - Strellc i Ulët - Isniq - Deçan - Deçani Gorge - Kozhnjer - Zalli Rupes - Bogiqe Pass.

Length: 44.85 km

Difficulty: Moderate - suitable for non-professional recreational bikers of almost all ages and visitors who are in good physical shape.

Stages: The trail is divided into two stages, and is recommended by guides to be coved during a two-day period which includes recuperation breaks and overnight stays in guesthouses found in panoramic villages along the trail path.

Attractions: Cultural heritage sites full of old stone houses (Kulla's) along the trail from Peja to Deçan, panoramic views of the villages along the flatlands, views of the Accursed Mountains, Deçan Gorge, Deçan Monastery, views of the Accursed Mountains in Montenegro and Albania, etc.

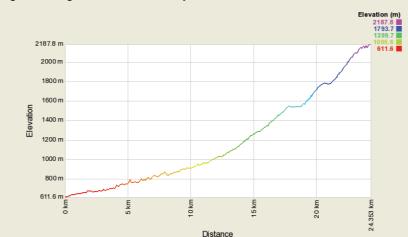
Stage one: Length 22.50 km/Difficulty: Moderate



Your experiences start from Peja, from where the trail passes through city streets and leads east towards to the village of Loxhe. The trail follows the Loxha village road on which then you take the left turn towards the village of Graboc and then the proceed to the village of Llozhan (Peja to Llozhan distance is a total of 10 km). Knowing that this stage offers a recreational ride and will not take much of your time, we suggest you conserve your energy and take relaxing breaks at different sites to experience the beauties of the villages and enjoy the opportunity to talk to the locals about their culture and traditions. As you approach the village of Llozhan you can find a resting place where you can take a short break, and then continue to the school where you can also see the monument of the first hydropower plant constructed in this village. The trail then continues through the villages Strellc i Ulët of Deçan, whose beautiful rural landscapes will make your experience special (the length of this stage is 12km). Upon arrival in Deçan you will have completed the first stage, and now is time to relax a little; later you will continue with other experiences by visiting some cultural heritage sites in Deçan, such as the Deçan Monastery, which is under UNESCO protection, the Kuklecaj and Osdautaj Kullas, as well as Tahir Sadria's water mill in Isniq, the Mazrekaj Kullas in the village of Drenoc, and the Shabanaj's mill in Deçan, all of which have great architectural and cultural heritage values.

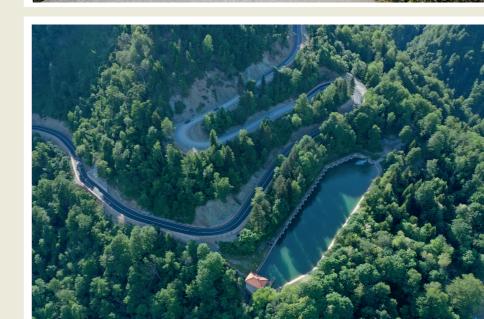
Optional: An option for all those who want to stay in the highlands is to continue the trail along the Deçan Gorge and at the 7th kilometer you will reach the Kalaja hotel, a stone construction that offers very good service.

Stage two: Length 24.35 km / Difficulty: Moderate



You need to be better prepared for the second stage, as it goes over mountainous terrain, but with greater effort come greater experiences and adrenaline rushes. From the center of Deçan, which sits an altitude of 661 m, you must follow the main road which passes along the splendid Deçan Gorge, slowly progressing into the highlands. As you progress on the trail, in about 2 km, you will reach the Deçan Monastery, built in the 14th century, and in case this is your first tour of the area we strongly recommend you pay it a visit. This Orthodox monastery is under the protection of UNESCO. This part of the trail, leading all the way to Kozhnjeri, makes for an easy ride through beautiful landscapes, and part of the road is paved. This stage of the trail winds along the beautiful Lumbardhi of Deçan river, whose flowing waters bring freshness in the warm summer days. The trail continues along the main road in the direction of the Albanian Creek, reaching the area known as Zalli i Rupës (Rupa's sand) which is a natural site of stunning views. From here begins an indescribable adventure, as you are now in the highlands, which means you are over the altitude of 1,500 m, and the sights these mountains have to offer will enchant you with their beauty. From Zalli i Rupes the trail continues to the next point known as Bjeshka e Dobroshit (Dobroshi mountains), and after a climb you will reach the last destination in Kosovo, known as Bogiqe Pass at an altitude of over 2,100 m. This is the highlight and most attractive point of the whole trail, sitting on the tri-border between Kosovo, Montenegro and Albania.





WAY POINT COORDINATES **VIEW POINTS & WATERS SOURCES**

No	GPS Coordinates (Latitude, Longitude)	View Point Location	Trail
1	42.643013, 20.255582	Vori Shejt Podi	South to West Hiking
2	42.612798, 20.214393	Veterniku Pass	South to West Hiking
3	42.621618, 20.178558	War Memorial	South to West Hiking
4	42.622689, 20.169680	Milishevcit Pass	South to West Hiking
5	42.617854, 20.075933	Kryqi Zavojit	South to West Hiking
6	42.643193, 20.097814	Pusi Plaves	South to West Hiking
7	42.701905, 20.187919	Before reaching Podi Jakupit	North to West Hiking
8	42.715536, 20.195832	Podi Jakupit	North to West - Hiking and Biking
9	42.741780, 20.192699	Shtedimit Pass	North to West - Hiking and Biking
10	42.778968, 20.060113	Qafa e Dasmorëve	North to West - Hiking and Biking
11	42.567937, 20.084124	Bogiqe Pass	South to West Biking
12	42.684009, 20.207618	Shtypeq i Vogël	North to West Biking

	No.	(Latitude, Longitude)	Water Source Location	Trail
	1	42.657170, 20.265830	Kroni (fountain) i Bajramit	South to West Hiking
	2	42.647392, 20.255496	Livadhi Sakes	South to West Hiking
	3	42.640915, 20.250471	Kroni Koranikut	South to West Hiking
	4	42.620459, 20.230402	Tre Projet	South to West Hiking
	5	42.614065, 20.226203	Kroni Begut – Irzniq Huts	South to West Hiking
	6	42.608738, 20.214441	Kroni Dallandushes – Irzniq Huts	South to West Hiking
	7	42.620839, 20.185987	Kroni Pleqes	South to West Hiking
	8	42.616349, 20.217132	Water Source at Irzniq Huts	South to West Hiking
	9	42.615240, 20.218953	Water Source at Irzniq Huts	South to West Hiking
	10	42.636192, 20.137188	Kroni Lojza	South to West Hiking
	11	42.699212, 20.175106	Shtypeq i Madh near the school	North to West Hiking
	12	42.705486, 20.183082	Water Source near Broqit Pass	North to West Hiking
	13	42.712586, 20.188221	Kroni Podi Jakupit	North to West - Hiking and Biking
	14	42.717631, 20.193491	Water Source in Podit Jakupit	North to West - Hiking and Biking
	15	42.747296, 20.137768	Water Source along the trail	North to West Hiking
	16	42.764241, 20.102931	Water Source in Dramadol	North to West Hiking
L	17	42.758049, 20.092170	Water Source in Dramadol	North to West Hiking
	18	42.758863, 20.087004	Water Source exiting Dramadol	North to West Hiking
	19	42.771471, 20.070015	Kroni Sadikut - Hajla Shkrelit	North to West Hiking
	20	42.768722, 20.075519	Kroni Magjupit - Hajle Shkrelit	North to West Hiking
	21	42.774905, 20.064640	Water Source in Hajle Shkrelit	North to West Hiking
	22	42.763502, 20.032753	Water Source above Stankaj	North to West Hiking
L	23	42.759806, 20.034492	Water Source in Stankaj	North to West Hiking
	24	42.752291, 20.032690	Water Source in Stankaj	North to West Hiking
	25	42.566815, 20.100356	Water Source at Dobroshi Huts	South to West Hiking
	26	42.572840, 20.203106	Kroni at Kalaja Deqanit Hotel	South to West Hiking
	27	42.663946, 20.231339	Kroni at 5 th km of Rugova gorge	North to West Hiking
	28	42.678971, 20.213811	Kroni at Shtype i Vogel	North to West Hiking

SAFETY

day or multi-day tour with or without a professional guide

alone, always in an organised group

adequate equipment.

guide's instructions.

you leave the site.

line operators carefully.

RECOMMENDATIONS

For your safety and comfort, we remind you when hiking or biking on mountain trails to:

• Ensure you have adequate clothing and footwear, means for orientation (map,

• Gather all necessary information for your safe hiking or biking – about local weather

• Assess your own abilities and fitness, so choose a trail of a corresponding difficulty.

rays, your hiking guidebook and/or map, and personal documents.

Use official maps and tracks, updated guidebooks for a selected trail.

and a GPS device or smartphone with GPS functionality if available.

• Do not forget protective clothing for rain and cold, skin and eye protection from UV

• Start your hike or bike early in the morning, with planned time for rest, sightseeing and safe arrival to the planned destination and/or return during daylight.

• Adjust your walking/biking speed to the group, take frequent breaks and follow the

• Do not stray from the group on your own, and always follow marked trails and

Always bring your mobile phone, backup phone batteries/power-bank, flashlight

• If you are in any doubt, go back, especially in difficult weather conditions, to the

• Do not leave trash behind in nature – leave the resting places as you found them.

Use of open fires should be reduced to a minimal, especially in summer

• Do not disturb wildlife and always protect the flora (make photos instead).

• Remember, you are using trails at your own risk, act responsibly!

• In the case of an accident, provide first aid with resources and abilities

available to you and call the emergency line 112 in Kosovo and

Montenegro, and 129 in Albanian. Follow the instructions of the emergency

SIGNS TO LOOK FOR

ALONG THE TRAILS

periods, and always make sure the fire has been completely put out before

nearest shelter in consultation with the guide, and never arbitrarily decide on your

Avoid drinking water from unverified springs, and always carry water reserves.

conditions and specific risks on a chosen trail, and ensure you have prepared

compass or GPS device), protection from bad weather, a flashlight, water and food

reserves, first aid, a signalling whistle, regardless of whether you are going on a one-



EXQUISITE OUTDOOR DESTINATION

ACCURSED MOUNTAINS

ACCURSED MOUNTAINS EXQUISITE OUTDOOR DESTINATION MAP 1:70,000



www.accursed-mountains.org

For more information on the trails, outdoor activities and tourism service providers, please visit the website above, where you can also find the link to download the iOS and Android apps which contain all this relevant info and offline maps that can be used while on the trails.

If you wish to obtain more information on Peja and the region as a tourist destination, we advise you to visit the website of the Peja Tourism Information Office. www.pejatourism.org









Since these mountain trails go through a cross border area without an official border crossing point, mountaineers who plan to cross the border at any of the crossing points specified in the brochure and map, have to inform border police in advance. The procedure

For crossing into Montenegro:

- You have to report entry and exit of the mountaineering group to and from Montenegro to the border police on the following email: igplav@t-com.me. Contact tel: + 382 67 469 710
- You will receive an application form, which has to be filled out with the information about the members and the guide of the mountaineering group
- You have to pay a fee of 5 Euros per person to the Border police
- account: 840-0000000000080-82, reference number: 30204-13-006-100000.
- It is recommended to apply for the form and pay the border crossing fee three weeks in advance, but it is also possible to accept the entry of a group on shorter notice.

• If you wish to enter Albania or vice versa you have to get an approval of the border

• You have to report the entry and exit of the group to the following email: ndreke.zyle@asp.gov.al

• You have to fill out the application form about the members and the guide of the

mountaineering group. The entry and exit should be reported 15 days in advance.

For crossing into Kosovo:

• If you enter Kosovo from Montenegro/Albania or vice versa, you will have to inform Kosovo Border Police. • You have to inform the police about the planned crossing at least 10 days in advance on

the following email: ragip.bunjaku@kosovopolice.com, and CC to samedin.mehmeti@kosovopolice.com and nexhmi.krasniqi@kosovopolice.com. • You will receive an application form, which has to be filled out with the information about the members and the guide of the mountaineering group.

• Completed application form, signed and sealed, together with a scanned copy of the

first page of the mountaineers' and guide' passport should be sent back to Kosovo

• It is not necessary to pay any fee for border crossing to Kosovo Police.







Trail markings

LEVELS OF DIFFICULTY OF THE HIKING AND BIKING TRAILS

- Moderate: follows a marked path, possibility with steep inclines and some risk
- of falling. Basic orientation and sure-footedness required; Difficult: Usually no recognizable path. Terrain requires a well-developed ability
- to assess terrain accurately and excellent orientation skills. Several highly exposed sections, with difficult slopes. Experience and familiarity with alpine equipment required.

Easy trail: Gentle ascents only, comfortable path and an easy orientation even without a map;

ENVIRONMNETAL RESPONSIBILITY MESSAGE

The Accursed Mountains region which includes the territory of both countries has virtually remained untouched and is sparsely inhabited. Please take only pictures, leave only footprints and take your rubbish to the nearest bin!



Hiking Signs







