



# Tourist guide of Dibër





**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Sweden  
**Sverige**



## **Dibër: Trails and Tradition (D2T) project**

This brochure is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and by the Embassy of Sweden. The contents are the sole responsibility of ALCDF and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID; the United States Government and/or Embassy of Sweden.

Prepared by: Albanian Local Capacity Development Foundation

Published by: M&B Botime dhe Studio Grafike

ISBN: 978-9928-307-30-9

© All rights reserved

# CONTENTS

1. **About Dibër**
2. **Getting to Dibër and around**
  - Tourist Information Center
  - Getting to Dibër
3. **Sights and attractions**
  - **Korabi Mountain**
  - **Thermal spa in Peshkopi**
  - **Twenty-one glacial lakes in Lurë and Kacni**
  - **Black Drini River**
  - **Grama Mountain and Pasture, The “Pearl of Dibër”**
  - **Rabdisht, the stone village**
  - **Kërçisht village, Balcony of Maqellara**
  - **The Museum of Dibër**
  - **Museum of Skanderbeg and the Kastriot family**
  - **Agropark of Begjunec**
  - **Hinoska pasture**
  - **Zimur village, the “Roof of Peshkopi”**
  - **Peshkopi city**
4. **Hiking Trails**
  - **KORABI MOUNTAIN Trail**
  - **GRAMA Trail**
    - Itinerary no.1: Kastriot-Grama Pasture*
    - Itinerary no. 2: Sohodoll-Grame Pasture*
    - Itinerary no.3: Sllatine-Grame Pasture*
  - **HINOSKË PASTURE Trail**
    - Itinerary no.1: Kërçisht – Hinoskë Pasture*
    - Itinerary no. 2: Melan-Hinoskë Pasture*
  - **SETA RIVER TO LURA FLOWERS LAKE, Trail**
  - **HEALING VALLEY Trail**
5. **Traditional cuisine**
6. **Local events and festivals**
7. **Accommodation in Dibër**
8. **Local Guides**

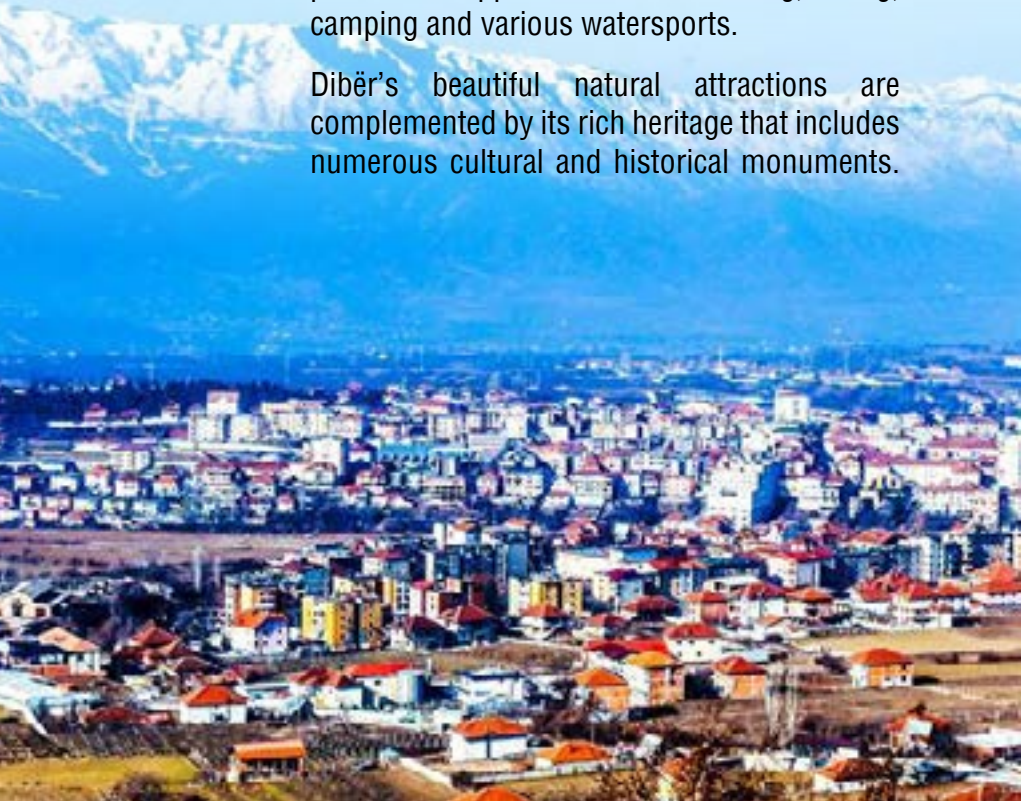
# 1. ABOUT DIBËR



Dibër is located in the mountainous region of northeastern Albania. This off-the-beaten-path destination is noted for its beautiful natural attractions, complemented by its rich cultural heritage and tradition.

Dibër is distinguished for Albania's highest peak "Korabi" Mountain, "Black Drini" River and Lura Lakes, national park of Lura and the nature park Korab-Koritnik, including rivers, glacial lakes, caves, canyons, natural grassland and forests which include mainly beech, pine, fir and oak. The biodiversity value of this area is also enhanced by over 30 mammal species including: the bear (*Ursus arctos*), the wolf (*Canis lupus*), the goat (*Rupicapra*), the deer (*Capreolus*), and the lynx (*Felis lynx*). Both parks offer opportunities for climbing, hiking, camping and various watersports.

Dibër's beautiful natural attractions are complemented by its rich heritage that includes numerous cultural and historical monuments.



Dibër is the birthplace of Gjergj Kastrioti Skënderbeu (Skanderbeg), the Albanian national hero, who, for 25 years led the Albanians in battle against the Ottomans. The Skanderbeg Museum is located in Sinë village and a national monument can be found in Kastriot. Grazhdani Castle, located near Grazhdan, is the largest ancient monument in Albania dating back to the 4th century. There are several ancient religious monuments that show case Albania's religious diversity, including the Mosque of Allejbegi in Burim, built in 1585 and the Church of Cveti Spas in Kërçisht built in 1270 which still retains portions of its original frescoes.

Visitors to Dibër can try delicious traditional dishes and a variety of locally grown agro-products. Depending on the season, visitors can purchase cherries, apples, blueberries, chestnuts, walnuts, honey, apple juice, pickled vegetables, and so much more!

**If you have not visited Dibër, you have not seen Albania yet!**



## 2. GETTING TO DIBËR AND AROUND







## **TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER**

The Tourist Information Center is located in the center of Peshkopi, the main city in Dibër region, conveniently located on the second floor of the Culture Palace, situated along a linden tree-lined pedestrian boulevard.

The Tourist Information Center welcomes visitors and provides them with information services, including brochures, maps, tour itineraries of Dibër, contacts with local guides, and booking accommodation, based on the chosen itinerary. Inside the center, visitors will find friendly and knowledgeable staff who can help them discover also local restaurants and information about local attractions Dibër has to offer.

The office is open year-round. Opening hours vary according to the season:

- May to October from Monday to Friday, 8:00-17:00hrs.
- November to April from Monday to Friday, 9:00-16:00hrs.

Address: Blvd “Elez Isufi”, Peshkopi  
mobile: 00355673840009;  
email: [info@visitdiber.com](mailto:info@visitdiber.com) / [info@ticdiber.com](mailto:info@ticdiber.com)  
webpage: [www.visitdiber.com](http://www.visitdiber.com)



## GETTING TO DIBËR

You can reach Dibër by public transport or by private car which also be rented.

**By Public Transport** - can minivans that can transport around 12-15 people.

– **From Tirana**, the van leaves from the Bus Terminal located near Hygeia Hospital, right at the corner of the so called “Kthesa e Kamzes”. Vans to Dibër (Peshkopi) leave regularly throughout the day starting at 5:00 AM until 16:00 PM. The cost is between 600-700 ALL for a one way trip. The trip takes 4 hours and includes one stop along the way.

– **From Kukës**, the bus leaves daily around 12:30 and costs 800 ALL for a one way trip. The van station is located at the intersection of Rruga Islam Spahiu and Rruga Mahmut Daci. The trip takes approximately 2 hours and includes one stop along the way.

**By Car** – if you depart from Tirana, take E762 north, turn right towards Milot on A1, then follow the SH6 through Burrel, Klos, Maqellarë all the way to Peshkopi. The drive takes approximately 4 hours.

If you depart from Kukës, the distance is 75km along the Peshkopi-Kukës road and the trip should take approximately 2 hours.

# 3. SIGHTS AND ATTRACTIONS

Dibër is known for its amazing landscape, beautiful nature, rich tradition, cultural heritage and delicious food. Some of the biggest attractions are:







## **KORABI MOUNTAIN**

Korabi Mountain is the highest peak in Albania, standing at 2,764m above sea level. It is situated within the Korab-Koritnik Natural Park (Vth category of IUCN), which is noted for its rich flora (including species such as Bosnian pine, European beech, Coppicing forest, and Alder forest) and fauna (such as bear, wolf, lynx, chamois, deer, and, among the birds, we distinguish wild chicken and eagles). The Korab range is located around the border triangle of Albania, North Macedonia, and Kosovo, and is southwest of the Šar Mountains.

The peak of Korab is very attractive for visitors who can find cottages, campsites, a mountain lake, hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding. Near Korabi mountain you could find the tourist village of Radomira (selected as one of 100 tourist villages in Albania) known for its shepherds with their flocks of sheep.







## **THERMAL SPA IN PESHKOPI**

Healing in the thermal waters of the city of Peshkopi, is a famous attractive touristic activity. The Dibër area is rich in thermal-mineral waters, which are located just outside of Peshkopi, where there is a spa facility. Although there are many legends about the source of the springs, the oldest testament to the existence of balneotherapy in this region are the two outdoor pools in Peshkopi that were used by locals since the 1870s. Many people believed that the thermal waters helped to alleviate symptoms of arthritis and other diseases, and bathing facilities, special therapy rooms were built, as well as the hotel next to them.

The thermal waters have a temperature of 41°celcius, and are comprised of minerals such as sulfur, magnesium, sodium, potassium, and calcium. The water is offered as 100% natural and is not artificially cooled or heated. It is also very rich in negative ions and belongs to the category of “Alive Waters”, the waters that “give life” and have “magical” abilities to treat various diseases, according to locals.





## **TWENTY-ONE GLACIAL LAKES IN LURË AND KACNI**

The glacial Lakes of Lura and Kacni is a group of 21 lakes in the northern part of Dibër. They are amphitheatrically situated in the cirque of the Lura mountain range, especially Deja Mountain. They are located between 2,200 and 2,475 meters above sea level. Their shores are steep and rocky. Pine-scrub grows around the lakes due to the high altitude. Most of them are part of Lura National Park, which is known as an area with very high biodiversity values. The Lura and Kacni lakes are among the main tourist attractions in the area, because in addition to the stunning nature, the visitors can enjoy the traditional style architecture of the high carved stone traditional houses and landscaped courtyards with wood fences, along side the traditional Albanian hospitality and local cuisine. Glacial lakes offer many opportunities to discover, explore, and enjoy the wild nature; hiking, off road driving, mountain biking, camping and adventure tours.





## **BLACK DRINI RIVER**

Black Drini is a branch of Albania's longest river and is one of the country's emerging destinations for water sports. The Black Drini, along with the vast surrounding valleys, is a beautiful area which largely remains unexplored. The river springs from Lake Ohrid in North Macedonia and travels through Dibër up to the city of Kukës. This river offers great opportunities for rafting, swimming, playing on the beach, and fishing.

The canyons of Black Drini are the best adventure rafting places in Albania. The citizens of Peshkopi are fortunate to have the foundations of their city near the banks of this river. Along the valleys of this region, where the river's flow settles down, the Black Drini turns into a wonderful beach. As such, during the summer season, the locals enjoy this beach oasis created by the river. It takes only 10-25 minutes driving from Peshkopi. Black Drini is famous for its fish, including carp, trout and eel. The local fishing enthusiasts can spend hours fishing in the Black Drini waters. Before setting out on the exploration of the Black Drini, practical guides of the many outdoor attractions and destinations of this beautiful region can be picked up at the tourist information center in Peshkopi.





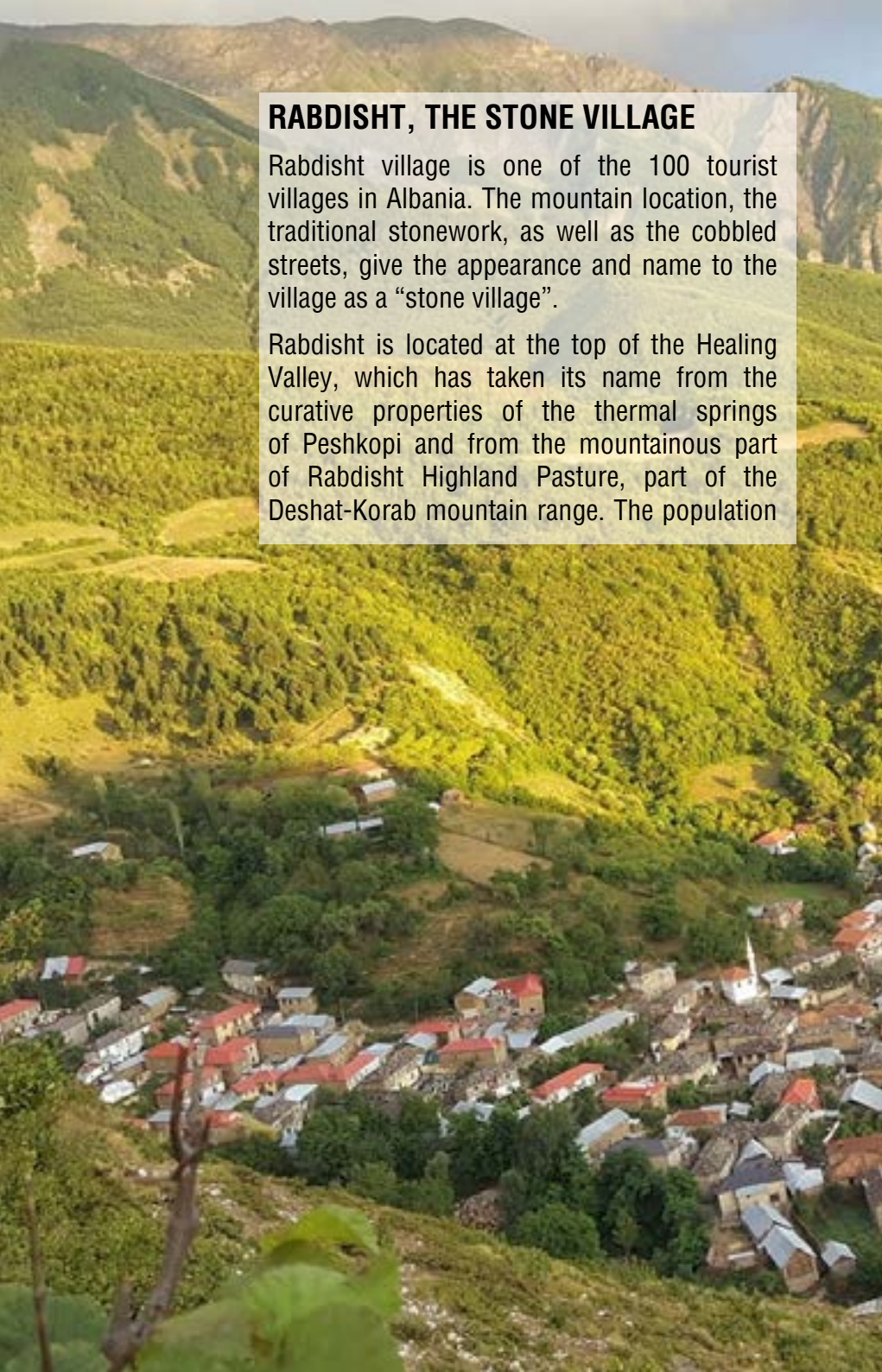
## **GRAMA MOUNTAIN AND PASTURE, THE “PEARL OF DIBËR”**

Gramma Mountain and Pasture is part of the Korabi Mountain Range, with an altitude of 2,345 meters, endless highland pastures, alpine trees, and a beautiful mountain lake. There are several natural monuments in Grama, such as: White Mountain Karst formed by gypsum, Grama Mirrors formed from selenium deposits that reflect the sunlight, the Ladies' Highland Pastures, which according to the legend was the property of the Kastriot family and was used for summer pilgrimage. Nearby, is the “Shllinasi” of Vrenjt or the Salt Rock, whose slopes are favored by the wild goats. The most beautiful place is the Lake of Grama about 1,750 meters above sea level, located in the middle of the highland pastures. Along with the crystal-clear springs, Grama is a magical mountain located only 9 km away from Peshkopi. Cottages and camping sites offer traditional food, accommodation and tourist activities such as hiking, fishing, hunting, and horseback riding.


## **RABDISHT, THE STONE VILLAGE**

Rabdisht village is one of the 100 tourist villages in Albania. The mountain location, the traditional stonework, as well as the cobbled streets, give the appearance and name to the village as a “stone village”.

Rabdisht is located at the top of the Healing Valley, which has taken its name from the curative properties of the thermal springs of Peshkopi and from the mountainous part of Rabdisht Highland Pasture, part of the Deshat-Korab mountain range. The population





A scenic view of a mountain village, likely Rabdisht, nestled in a valley. The foreground shows a rocky outcrop. The middle ground features a cluster of buildings with red-tiled roofs, surrounded by lush green trees and terraced fields. The background consists of steep, forested mountains under a clear sky.

of the village is around 600 inhabitants, with approximately 110 families. Agriculture is the main part of the village economy, specializing in potatoes, different types of nuts, apples, forest fruits and medicinal plants.

Rabdisht is located only 6 km from Peshkopi and offers a combination of natural beauty, thermal waters and fresh mountain air. Visitors can experience the typical life of the village, being accommodated in the guesthouses of Rabdisht, where local hospitality and traditional cuisine of Dibër can be enjoyed.





## **KËRÇISHT VILLAGE, BALCONY OF MAQELLARA**

Kërçisht i Epërm is a village near Maqellarë. It is located close to the North Macedonia border, at the Kërçin mountain, which is part of Korab-Koritnik Natural Park. The village has several natural monuments such as Kërçin stone, Pocest waterfall, and Kërçin pastures and springs.

It is one of the tourist village models in Dibër, offering a good combination of both natural beauty and five Byzantine churches which are a cultural heritage. Kërçisht village offers access to trails for hiking, mountain biking, or horseback riding and excursions to springs, pastures and waterfalls where different herbal plants can be collected along the way.



MUZEU



## THE MUSEUM OF DIBËR

The museum is in the center of Peshkopi, about 30 meters from the main boulevard.

The museum exhibits consist of history, archeology, and ethnography, which depict the entire material and spiritual history of Dibër from the early neolithic period to present day. In the archaeological exhibit, there is a small collection of Illyrian bronze and iron weapons. This museum exhibits about 2,000 artifacts of great value, some of which are very rare, ranging from archaeological such as flint tools, various clay pots, firearms, swords, personal objects of historical figures, and an enormous ethnographic wealth, from livestock, agricultural, culinary, down to various types of clothing worn by people throughout Dibër. About 80% of the museum's artifacts are original.







## **MUSEUM OF SKANDERBEG AND THE KASTRIOT FAMILY**

Dibër is the birthplace of Skanderbeg, the Albanian National Hero. The Skanderbeg Museum is located in Sinë village and houses numerous places, traditions, and legends of the Kastriot family. Nearby is the village of Kastriot, which was named after the Kastriot family. Skanderbeg's birthday coincides with St. George's Day (local festival) and both are celebrated together. The museum was built in 1985, depicting the history of the Kastriot family. At the entrance of the museum the busts of Pal, Gjon and Gjergj Kastrioti are displayed. There are several combat weapons of the Skanderbeg period. On the walls are displayed all the battles fought by Skanderbeg. There is also a family tree that shows the origin of the Kastrioti clan.

Through the footsteps of Skanderbeg and the Kastriot family, visitors can see "the secrets" of the Kastriot family fatherland, legends, and history. Also, they can see the Kastriot village area and Seta canyon, a beautiful spot in Diber.







## **AGROPARK OF BEGJUNEC**

Peshkopi is well known for its agro-products and fruit plantations. In the land surrounding Peshkopi, there are many different orchards that grow fruits such as cherries, plums, apples, and pears. The village of Begjunec, which is located just outside of Peshkopi, is known for fruit trees and for vegetables and dairy farms.

Hiking to the man-made lake in Begjunec (1,400m above sea level) is a popular activity for locals and visitors since it is a wonderful view point of the Black Drini Valley and Peshkopi city.

“Gradishtë of Begjunec” is a cultural monument. It is the ruins of an ancient settlement that together with part of the Bishop pastures had been the center of monasteries and churches and from which Peshkopi takes its name.

Begjunec is part of Korab-Koritnik Nature Park, and Boroviku (pine trees) of Begjunec is a natural monument of this area.





## **HINOSKA PASTURE**

Hinoska pasture is part of the nearest mountain destination from Peshkopi, only 6 km away. The pasture is part of the mountain peak of Velivar (2,369m), which is characterized by extensive high mountain pastures on a silicate ground and smaller areas under silicate rocky sites. During the summer this area is populated by the local people that pick wild blueberries, mountain tea, blackberries, etc. Visitors stay at the shepherd house, guest houses, and campsites nearby. On the way to the pasture, visitors pass through the villages of Ilnica and Melan. The traditional architecture is still visible in parts of the houses, the water mill, the wood bridges, and small agro farms with fruit trees and potatoes. Ilnica village has been known in the region by many fortune seekers as “Ilnica teqe”.





## **ZIMUR VILLAGE, THE “ROOF OF PESHKOPI”**

The village of Zimur, located about 1,400 meters above the sea level is known as the “Roof of Peshkopi”. The village is located 4 km from Peshkopi and together with 3 other villages, Bahute, Shimcan and Staravec are known as the upper villages of Peshkopi. These villages are known for their potatoes and hazelnuts as well as the beautiful natural landscape with high hills and rocky mountains, which are part of Korab – Koritnik Natural Park. There are legends surrounding the healing monasteries of Staravec and the ancient ruins of a city in Bahute. These destinations create opportunities for visitors to hike and mountain bike in Llapshnik and Grama (up 2,200m) mountain. From Zimur village, after a 1.5 hour hike you can see the highest parts of Korab in the north, the Black Drini River, peaks of Velivar Mountain in the south, and Lura mountain range.





## **PESHKOPI CITY**

Peshkopi is the administrative center of Dibër Municipality. It is thought that the name of Peshkopi is related to the existence of the “Episcopate of Stefanika”, since 1020. Peshkopi is as small, beautiful city with a combination of the old combined with a new style of communist period. Also, it is famous for “Linden Trees Boulevard”. In the main boulevard is the Palace of Culture, where various concerts are held, including “Oda Dibrane” an annual folk festival, with participation from all Albanian territories. There are many bars and restaurants where visitors can enjoy a coffee, drink, try some local raki and varieties of delicious traditional food.



## 4. HIKING TRAILS







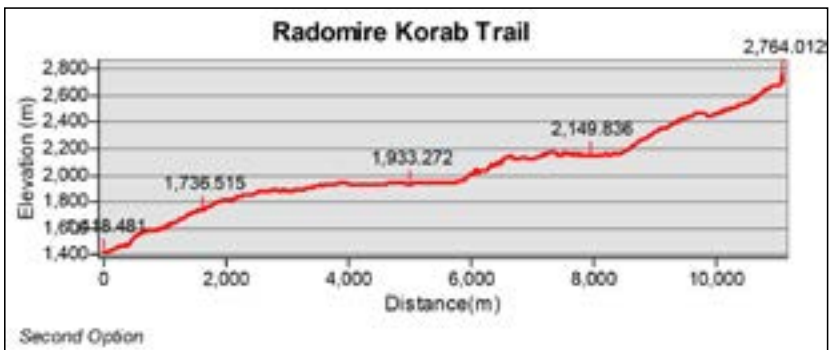
## KORABI MOUNTAIN TRAIL

<b>Walking distance:</b>	About 11 km
<b>Time needed:</b>	6 hours
<b>Difficulty level:</b>	Moderate to difficult
<b>Itineraries:</b>	1 (one)
<b>Activities:</b>	walking; horseback riding

Korabi mountain is the highest mountain in Albania with 2,764 meters. The route starts in Radomira village to Korabi peak mountain through “Korabi Field”. The trail is 11.1km long. The hike should take approximately 6 hours and the trail is rated as moderate to difficult. Korabi Field is the first attraction to be reached after 3-4 hours of hiking starting from Radomirë. The Korabi Field has a variety of flowers, vegetation and natural cold-water springs. This field is well-known to the local population and beyond, and even songs are sung about it. The Korabi Field, located at 2,000 meters above



sea level, is a plain surrounded by high mountains approximately three kilometers long. Shepherds live and pasture here in the summer. Next hiking route is to 'Panairi pasture' at 2,200 meters above sea level. According to legend, 100 years ago, this spot was a marketplace to exchange livestock and wool. Panari Field is also a monument of nature. Climbing to Korabi peak is the next destination. Korabi Peak is a difficult route, and hiking will take approximately 1.5 hours. After reaching the top of the Korabi mountain, a unique fantastic view can be enjoyed. Under normal circumstances, the trip takes at least six hours uphill, and three to four hours to return in the period from June till September. Good hiking equipment is needed, while water sources can be found throughout the route.





## GRAMA TRAIL

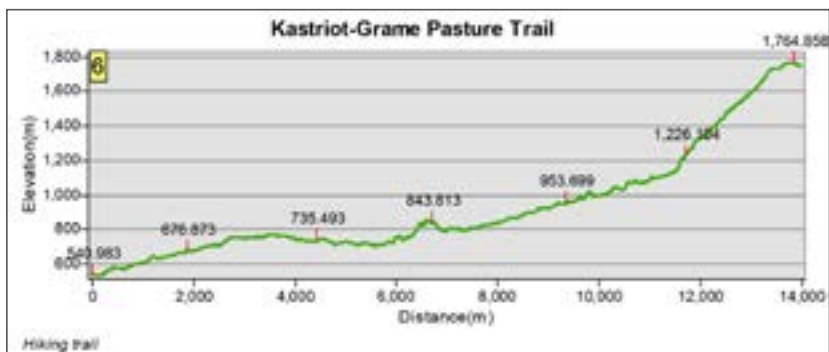
<b>Walking distance:</b>	16 km
<b>Time needed:</b>	6 hours
<b>Difficulty level:</b>	Moderate
<b>Itineraries:</b>	3 (three)
<b>Activities:</b>	Hiking; horseback riding, fishing.

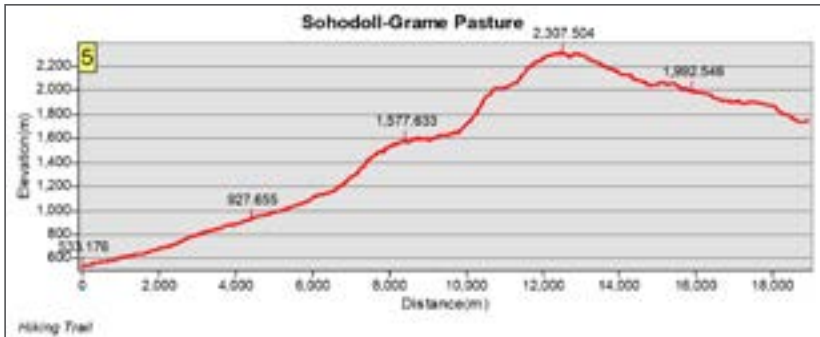
Grama is a magical mountain destination, located 9 km away from Peshkopi. Cottages and camping sites offer food and accommodation and tourist activities such as hiking, fishing, hunting, and horseback riding. Grama is accessible by several routes. On foot, visitors can hike from the villages of Kastriot, Sohodoll and Sllatinë which are the starting point for each of the three itineraries.



### *Itinerary no.1: Kastriot-Grama Pasture*

The route starts in the village of Kastriot, at Chestnut Hill (Kodra e Gështenjës in Alb.). This route used to be the trail for the Skanderbeg family. The route is 14 km and the hike should take approximately 4-5 hours. The trail goes to the Ladder, or terrace, of Rrahmane (Shkalla Rrahmane) which is a very beautiful place and then on to Grama Pasture, and after 1.5 km to Grama lake. The level of difficulty of the trail is moderate.

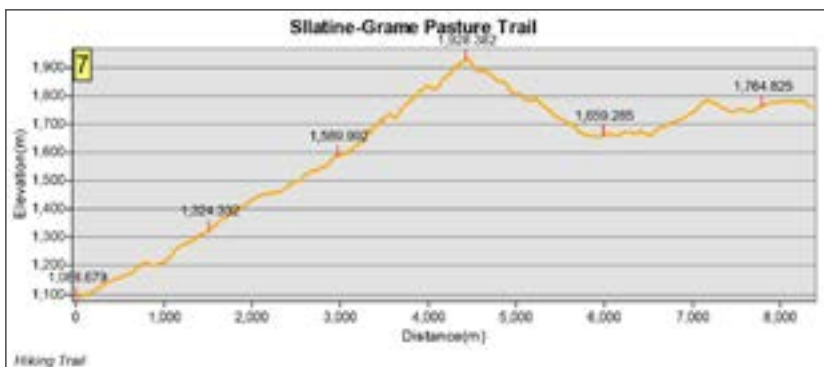




### *Itinerary no. 2: Sohodoll-Grame Pasture*

The route starts in the village of Sohodoll. This used to be the trail used by locals to take the sheep out to pasture, gather firewood, and pick herbal plants and aromatic herbs. The route is 18.8 km and the hike takes approximately 6 hours. It goes through Sohodoll and Voles villages where Zuna tower could be seen, the ancient ruins of Voles Castle and fruit plantations. Then the trail goes to Vrenjt village that is famous for the massive of white gypsum stone and natural monument of “Shllinas” or the Salt Rock. The route then continues to the foot hill of the Ladies Pasture, located at 2,300 meters above sea level. The level of difficulty of the trail is moderate.





### *Itinerary no.3: Sllatine-Grama Pasture*

The 8.3 km trail starts in the village of Sllatina and the hike takes approximately 3 hours.

Visitors can stop at some interesting historical places in Sllatina village continuing then to Pelpeniku peak mountain, then through the Mirrors of Grama, passing through the place called “Tershizë” and then arriving in Grama pasture. This route option offers opportunities to see Grama creek and lakes, beautiful pastures, and shepherd huts, dairy places and a lot of non-timber forest fruit areas. The level of difficulty of the trail is moderate.





## HINOSKË PASTURE Trail

<b>Walking distance:</b>	15.7 km
<b>Time needed:</b>	6 hours
<b>Difficulty level:</b>	Moderate
<b>Itineraries:</b>	2 (two)
<b>Activities:</b>	Hiking

### *Itinerary no.1: Kërçisht– Hinuskë Pasture*

The route starts in Kërçisht village and ends at Hinuskë Pasture. The route is 15.7 km long and the hike takes approximately 6-7 hours. The level of difficulty is rated as moderate. Continuing along the trail, the ascent to mountain Kërçin begins, which is situated at 2,300 meters above sea level and ends at the Hinoska Pasture. The highest point of this mountain range is mountain Velivar (2,375m). Mountain Velivar is in Hinuskë Pasture at 2,375 meters above sea level and is situated within the center of the Korab -Deshati mountain range. Mountain Velivar is naturally shaped like a

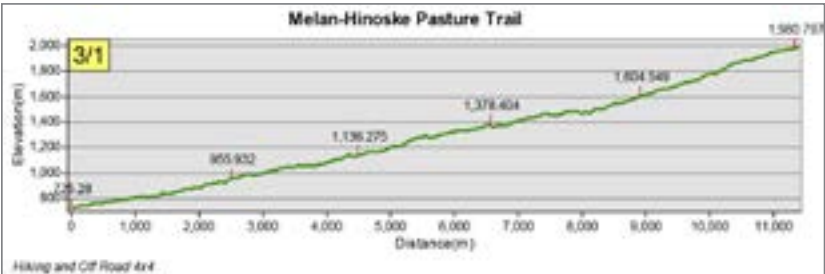




pyramid and the small streams that originate from the peak flow westwards and join with the Black Drini river.

*Itinerary no. 2: Melan-Hinoskë Pasture*

The route starts in Melan village and ends at Hinoskë Pasture. The route is 9.4 km long and the hike takes approximately 3.5 hours. The trail is rated as difficult. Just before reaching Melan village a stop could be made at the Ngota dairy factory, which produces cheese of the Korabi brand. In Melan you can see some houses that were built using traditional architecture with stone, a water mill located up the hill, and a wood bridge. The route continues to Ilnica village where there are small agro farms producing fruit trees and potatoes. After reaching Hinoskë pasture, some rest can be taken at the guest house where visitors can try the highland food (bread, cheese, yogurt, tea and plum raki). The hike can continue to the peak of mountain Velivar (2,375m), the highest point of Deshati mountain range. The return trip can follow the same route.





## SETA RIVER TO LURA FLOWERS LAKE

<b>Walking distance:</b>	21 km
<b>Time needed:</b>	8 hours
<b>Difficulty level:</b>	Moderate to Difficult
<b>Itineraries:</b>	1 (one)
<b>Activities:</b>	Hiking

The route starts in Arras village, at “Krashi” fish farm, located in Seta river valley and ends at Flowers Lake in Lura. The route is 21 km long and the hike takes approximately 8 hours. The level of difficulty is rated as moderate. When passing through Seta river, visitors can enjoy the canyon atmosphere and water breeze. The first stop is at Sopanika cave, which is a big waterfall. Seta canyon has like 17 caves but none of them are well explored or studied. The route continues through Seta canyon and after 1.5 km is a Small Hydropower Plant and there are two gorges of Seta river,



one direction is for “Pllaj” valley, which is a rocky mountainous area and a historical place of Skanderbeg, and the other direction is through Gurë-Lurë village to Flowers Lake in Lura. Near to Gurë Lura village, visitors can visit the “Murate” waterfall and a very nice small, rocky canyon called “Gjallica”. The hiking continues through the National Park of Lura and ends at Flowers Lake. Visitors can enjoy the sights of Korabi mountain in front and Nezhda mountain in the background. The lake is named for the flowers that grow in it (water lilies) and it’s a very nice place to enjoy nature, flowers, butterflies, and birds. The return trip is along the same route through Gurë Lurë village to Cidhen village, or on the other side through glacial lakes of Lura to Fushë Lurë village.





## HEALING VALLEY TRAIL

<b>Walking distance:</b>	8.9 km
<b>Time needed:</b>	4-5 hours
<b>Itineraries:</b>	1 (one)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy to Moderate
<b>Activities:</b>	Hiking

The route starts at the Thermal Spa, close to Peshkopi city and ends in Rabdisht village. The route is 8.9 km and the hike takes approximately 4-5 hours. The level of hiking difficulty is rated as easy to moderate. Stop and see the Thermal spa center (*Llixha* in Alb.), which is used for curative purposes for many years by visitors and locals alike. The route continues along thermal water stream and into a valley, known as the Healing Valley, which has taken its name from the curative properties of the thermal springs. The most interesting points of attraction for visitors along



this route are the thermal spring, the Water Mill restored in 2015, the cold springs (which is part of the Thermal Spa center), and “Natural Pyramids of the city” a naturally formed pyramid-shaped mountain. The route to Rabdisht village, located at 1,234 meters above sea level, continues through “Bear valley”. Visitors can enjoy the beautiful pine forest called “Boravik” growing on the gypsum and rock composition offering a suitable environment for wild fauna. The route continues to Rabdisht where visitors can see apple orchards, potato fields, which are typical of the area. On the horizon is the “Healing Valley”. After the visitors arrive in Rabdisht, the ‘stone village’, they can walk through the cobblestone streets where they can ‘touch’ the typical life of the village.



## 5. TRADITIONAL CUISINE



The traditional cuisine is just another symbol of Dibër's rich tradition, which is preserved even today. A little has changed, but it is still delicious. The secret of its taste is that it has been prepared the same way for centuries, with lots of love. The relatively warm climate of the region provides excellent growth conditions for a variety of fruits, herbs and vegetables. Beans, chicken with jufka (a traditional pasta), sarma (cabbage or vine leaves prepared with meat and rice), stuffed peppers with cottage cheese, potato stew and sheqerpare (a lovely dessert) are considered the most famous traditional dishes. Dibër is also famous for growing tasteful walnuts, chestnuts and hazelnuts as well as fruits such as cherries, apples, pears, plums, which are also used for preparing nice compotes.







## 6. LOCAL EVENTS AND FESTIVALS





Dibër is famous for its local events and festivals organized throughout the year. They are celebrations that aim to revive tradition and religion and are part of the cultural heritage of the region.

Visitors can be part of these local events and festivals:



**Summer Day:** It is celebrated on the 13th and 14th of March, celebrating the ending of winter. This is a very popular celebration where all people get out in the open and participate in traditional games, music activities, picnics, food exhibitions, kid's activities, and games.



**St. George's Day:** It is a celebration of particular importance, on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Although the name of the celebration derives from the Christianity, people relate it more with the birthday of the national hero, Gjergj Kastrioti Skënderbeu. This is the most popular festival organized in Kastriot and Peshkopi.



**St. Nichola's Day:** It is a festival held in the villages of Selishtë and Lurë on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May. During this day folk performances, food festivals, fire camps, horse racing and other outdoor activities are organized.



**Cherry Harvest Festival:** It is organized every year in Peshkopi at the end of May or beginning of June, which coincides with harvest time of cherries. Dibër is very famous for its cherry plantations, and the vast varieties of cherries grown in this area. The cherry festival is combined with on-site cherry farm tours where tourists can experience cherry harvesting and preparation of cherry jam and juice.



**Drini River Festival:** It is organized every year in July. Along the Black Drini riverway, visitors can enjoy swimming, rafting, water sport games, and the traditional cuisine of the nearby area. Usually the tourist season opens on July 1st, but this depends on the weather. The locations of the festival are Muhurr, Luzni, and Maqellarë.



**Pasture Festival:** This celebration takes place at the end of June or early July, on the Korabi Mountain range, on the part of the Radomira and Sllatina villages. Various activities are performed such as: folk dance, folk music played by flute and drums, soccer, horse riding, traditional games, etc.



**Harvest Festival:** This event is usually conducted in the beginning of October and lasts 1 to 3 days. It takes place on the main boulevard of the city of Peshkopi, where exhibitions of agricultural produce, traditional cooking, and handicrafts of the area are displayed and sold. Such an event is accompanied with a variety of cultural activities throughout the city. Many visitors, from all around Albania, join the festival activities during these days.

ODA DIBRAN







### **“Oda Dibrane” Folk Festival:**

In the traditional culture, its name has the meaning of “Dibër living room” where guests were attended. This is a folk music and tradition display of Dibër region, both from Albania and North Macedonia side. It is a very special event nationwide, which serves as a place where people can celebrate traditional music and rejoice. Such event is organized annually by the end of October or the beginning of November.



## 7. ACCOMMODATION

Dibër offers a variety of accommodation opportunities for its visitors, such as guesthouses, hostels, campsites and hotels.

Visitors can book accommodation through “Dibër Tourist Information Center” via:

mobile: **00355 67 38 40009**

email: **info@visitdiber.com/ info@ticdiber.com**

webpage: **www.visitdiber.com**

# GUESTHOUSES





## “SABRIU” GUESTHOUSE



This traditional guesthouse is located in the center of Rabdisht village, in a renovated 80 years old house. The house was rebuilt with care and respect to tradition, accommodating three bedrooms and one living room, with a beautiful garden. The living room features a traditional Dibër style with fireplace, sheepskin seating area, carpet and other traditional furniture including also old traditional furniture and handicrafts. This guesthouse is an ideal place to stay while enjoying the village, having an afternoon cup of Turkish coffee or local tea, or a nice lunch or dinner. Built on the remains of an old village, this traditional house will amaze you with its cozy atmosphere and stunning view of surrounding mountains.

During their stay visitors will be able to try your hands-on experience at cooking traditional Dibër food with the hosts and taste authentic flavors.

The area around the guesthouse is a beauty for nature lovers. Forests, rivers, creeks, alpine meadows, mountain peaks above 2.000m, rare fauna and flora will satisfy most tastes. Just ask Sabri, the owner of the guesthouse and he will custom design your excursion for Trekking in Rabdisht pasture, Bear Valley, walking on Rabdisht village, hiking on Healing Valley, visiting natural monuments of Gradishta and water spring of Bellova, caves and waterfall of black stone.





## “GOLECI” GUESTHOUSE



This guesthouse has been established in 2019 adapting an old traditional house built with great craftsmanship in a very friendly guesthouse. The house was built in 1980 with stone and a distinctive roof made of stone slabs, in full harmony with the architecture of the village. The guesthouse has 3 bathrooms, a dining room and kitchen, two bathrooms and a nice cherry tree garden.

The guesthouse offers a delicious breakfast with superb local products, fresh fruits, local honey, home-baked bread and cake, mountain tea, fresh eggs and locally



prepared fruit jams. You'll also love the organic homemade plums raki, delicious cheese and other local products. Fitim Goleci, the owner of the guesthouse, is very much interested in production of organic fruits and vegetables. He has an organic farm producing apples, potatoes and honey.

Surrounded by nut trees, this wood and stone-built guesthouse will win you over with its traditional architecture, warm hospitality and exceptional cuisine.





## BUJTINA “KORABI”



Guest House “Bujtina KORABI” is located in Radomira village (one of 100 tourist villages in Albania). Korab mountain, the highest peak in Albania at 2,764m is here and visitors can enjoy the beautiful natural monuments of Korabi Nature Parks such as Black Lake, natural springs, Korabi Pasture, Panairi Pasture, and stone of Korabi.



Bujtina “Korabi” has a garden, bar, terrace, and free Wi-Fi and the guesthouse rooms come with a private bathroom. The dining room is traditional, and guests or travelers can stay together, eating, resting and enjoying the traditional hospitality, cooking and music.



The owners of the guesthouse, can guide and accompany guests for hiking or climbing the peaks of Mountain Korabi, which could be reached in 6 hours walking.

A traditional breakfast with cheese, homemade bread, yogurt, eggs, and pancakes is available each morning at “Bujtina KORABI”.







## **BUJTINA “ARBRI”**



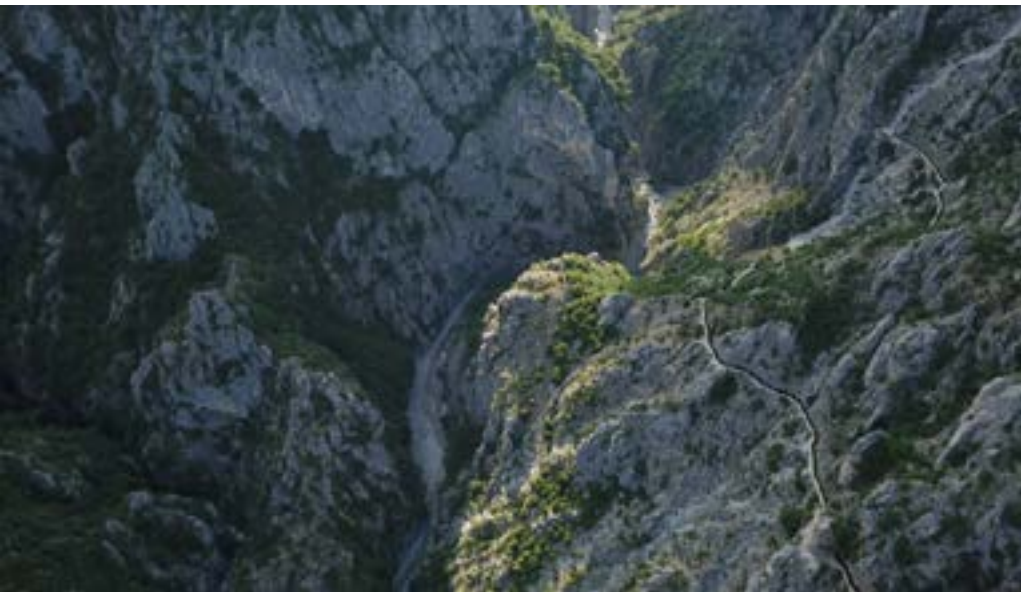
Bujtina Arbri is located in Arras village and managed by a friendly and hospitable family. The location of the guesthouse is very beautiful, situated in one of the most brilliant areas of Dibër, the Lura national park and birthplace of Albanian national hero Skanderbeg.

Visitors can enjoy breakfast and dinner, traditional food cooked with fresh products from the guesthouse farm. Each room comes with a private bathroom, however, the guesthouse offers also a camping site for those who would like to raise their tent. There's a lovely garden area perfect for



enjoying a drink or food. The guesthouse owner guides the visitors around the region either hiking, cycling, hunting, caving or fishing. If visitors would like to swim, Seta Canyon and the Black Drini rivers are only a 10 minute walking distance. If the visitors enjoy, they can take part in activities on the farm, milking cows, making cheese, etc.

Bujtina Arbri is only a 10 minutes drive from Peshkopi which can be arranged by the guesthouse owner.





## “KONAKU” GUESTHOUSE



This is a rural and stylish Bed & Breakfast style guesthouse, situated in Tomin, a village on the outskirts of Peshkopi and across the street from the organic apple juice factory ‘Eliksir’. It’s uniquely situated near Korab-Koritnik Nature Park and the Black Drini river. The guest house has two comfortable self-catering apartments, and six rooms en suite. All rooms en suite and apartments have their own unique design, comfortable box spring beds with high quality mattresses, and bathrooms with rain showers heads. Some of the rooms have French style balconies with wonderful views over the fields and the Korabi mountain range. Other rooms are situated

on the garden side with their own private entrance and terrace. Visitors can relax with a glass of local apple juice or raki and enjoy the wonderful views.

Staying at “Konaku” guesthouse offers visitors close proximity to everything the Dibër region has to offer! Visitors can explore Lura-Dejës Mt. National Park, hike to the top of Mt. Korabi, and visit local fruit farms. If visitors are looking for a stylish and convenient place to stay while having access to Dibër’s many attracttions, this guesthouse is the perfect choice! The owners, would be delighted to welcome their guests and provide them with information and any assistance during the stay!





## “ELMIRA VOKA” GUESTHOUSE



Situated in Vakuf village, the newly built guesthouse features a large garden surrounded by farmland. Elmira Voka, the owner, is well-known as an excellent cook specializing in traditional food such as Jufka (pasta), sheqerpare (dessert), fruit compote and juice. Boasting a shared kitchen, this property also provides guests with a barbecue and free parking. All rooms have a flat-screen TV with cable channels, a kettle, and a desk and a private bathroom.





The guesthouse has a balcony and nice viewing area of the Korabi and Lura mountain ranges, and the Black Drini valley. Visitors can enjoy a traditional breakfast, and for those who like to cook, learning how to cook traditional food. Visitors will be able to enjoy activities in and around the Drini river and mountains, like fishing, swimming, hiking, etc.





## “HINOSKA” GUESTHOUSE AND CAMPING SITE



It is situated on Hinoska pasture at 1,600 meters above sea level, on the side of Valivar Mountain, part of Korab-Koritnik Nature Park. The property has a two-story guesthouse, garden and camping site. The second floor has three bedrooms with seven single beds and one double bed, and two bathrooms. On the first floor there is the traditional style living room and dining room. Visitors can enjoy a traditional breakfast during their stay made of bread, cheese, yogurt, eggs, traditional pancakes, beans, vegetables, honey, fruit juice and mountain tea. A barbeque grill is





also available for those who want to cook themselves.

The camping site is well organized with 10 tents. Picnicking and hiking on Mt. Valivar and Hinoska pasture can be arranged.





## “AGRO ZERJA” GUESTHOUSE



It is located one km away from Peshkopi, alongside the national road to Tirana. It features a farm style lodge with a touch of urban luxury, a shop which sells the family’s agro-products, including their well-known jufka (traditional pasta). Zerja was originally established as a family-owned and operated agro-farm and jufka production which was later expanded to include a bar-restaurant, conference venue, and a small store to sell their agro-products. The gusethouse is surrounded by an orchard with apple, cherry and plum trees.



All rooms in the guesthouse have access to a TV, minifridge, free Wi-Fi. The guesthouse offers the opportunity to dine there, reception and VISA card facilities.

Visitors can take advantage of activities such as hiking, fruit picking, or cooking classes.





## GUESTHOUSE KORABI



This private two bedroom, one bathroom home is newly built and located about 6 km north of Peshkopi, in Bahute village. The guesthouse is beautifully situated on the edge of Korab-Koritnik Natural Park with a lovely landscaped yard and stunning views of the surrounding mountains and valleys. The fenced property includes an outdoor wood-burning oven, and the option to provide guests with a stocked kitchen. Each room is quite spacious and clean. Guests have access to all parts of the property. The kitchen comes equipped with a gas countertop stove, refrigerator, and basic cookware and utensils. Visitors can bring their own food or make arrangements with the owners.



The owner of this guesthouse is a certified local tour guide, for hiking on the “Roof of Peshkopi” trail of Zimuri (the highest village in Albania), Korabi mountain range and Healing valley trails. He can offer off-road driving for visitors.



# CAMPING





## “DIBRA” CAMPING SITE IN SHUMBAT

It is located on the main road between Peshkopi and Kukës, near the village of Shumbat. The camping site offers 13 spots for campers on a 3,000 m<sup>2</sup> land. Guests can enjoy the surrounding views of Shumbat lake, Grama mountain as well as the panoramic view of the Black Drini river valley.



The camping site offers onsite facilities such as a bar-restaurant, mini market, and carwash. Caravans and motorcycles are welcome and will have a place at the main part of the campsite. All of the spots have a 10A electrical hook-up.



The campsite has a pitch and a shower and toilet for guests, free Wi-Fi and internet, and offers maps and other relevant information for the area. One of the owners speaks English and guides visitors to Shumbat, Grama pasture, and Korab mountain.





## “PESHKOPI” CAMPING OF KAPXHIU FAMILY



The camping site is situated in the wine and fruit orchard of the Kapxhiu family, next to the river Llixha. The campsite is in the spa neighborhood of Peshkopi and is a 15-minute walk from the center of the town. The 6,000 m<sup>2</sup> site has 10 spots for campers with all the electrical and water facilities, showers and toilets, as well as two double rooms and a terrace.



It is well situated for hikes, trips to Korabi mountain, National Park of Lura or Mavrovo in North Macedonia. The border is only 16 km away.







## “BLACK DRINI” CAMPING IN HOTESH

It is located in Hotesht village, and is run by a certified tour guide who can accompany visitors in many tour options. The campsite offers three cabins, ten tents and a nice place for cooking and dining. The camping offers opportunities for group grill and volleyball. Black Drini is the longest river in Albania and a nice destination for hiking, swimming, water sports such as rafting, fishing, and other activities.





## “KORABI MOUNTAIN” CAMPING

It is located in the Korabi Mountain range, at Grama pasture (the “Pearl of Dibër”). The nature offers a unique opportunity for outdoor enthusiasts to explore the wilderness of Albania. A melting pot of different types of terrains (sandstones, mountains, hills, valleys, rivers, lakes, sedimentary rock etc.)The area offers numerous trails for hikers, who can witness first hand not only the beauty of the region but also the history of the country. Views of the glacier lakes located in Grama Lake have a calming effect on the human eye. Once a strategic heaven for dissidents of the late communist regime in Albania, who used some of the trails to leave the country, the area is now trying to revamp itself into a modern tourist location.





The camping offers five wood cabins where up to 20 people can be accommodated, as well as other tents can be offered based on the visitor's needs. These are perfect for those that just want to get away without having to pack up the tent! Just grab your cooler, your sleeping bag/linens and head to Korabi Mountain Campground for a great time.



# HOSTELS





## “UKA” HOSTEL

It is located very close to the main boulevard in Peshkopi, next door to the local bookstore and right across from the Peshkopi Museum.

The hostel has 5 beds, and a nice small garden which can be used to camp. In the garden, guests can relax in a hammock and enjoy the stories and company of fellow travelers, as well as read one of the many books available at the hostel. The owner of the hostel is a licensed tour guide who speaks English and can accompany visitors who like to hike throughout the Dibër region.





## “PESHKOPIA BACKPACKER” HOSTEL

It is the first hostel established in North Albania, in a building which once used to be a vacation home for the communist elite. The shared space at the hostel includes a lounge with a TV with satellite channels, a kitchen and a dining area, and four bathrooms with showers. There are two private rooms each with a double bed, and three dormitory style bedrooms with single beds. Each room includes an electric tea pot, and free Wi-Fi, while selected rooms have a balcony with garden views.

The outdoor patio has a bar area with seating and provides guests with a great view of Peshkopi. Guests are also welcome to use the backyard for camping. A continental breakfast is available at the hostel.





## “DESHATI” HOSTEL

It is located in Peshkopi along the main boulevard, in a very quiet place. Deshati Hostel offers free bike rides to its visitors, a garden, and free Wi-Fi throughout the property. There is also a shared kitchen, lounge space, and luggage storage for guests.

Each room has a bed, a desk and a garden view, with a shared bathroom fitted with a bidet and free toiletries. Guests at Deshati Hostel will be able to enjoy activities in and around Peshkopi, like hiking on Korab-Deshat mountain range and cycling. The owner of the hostel, speaks English and can guide visitors to the most attractive places in Dibër.



HOTELS





## “LURA” HOTEL AND CAMPING SITE

Lura Hotel is located in Fushë Lura village (one of 100 tourist villages in Albania), and it offers guests a 24-hour front desk service, free Wi-Fi, a bar, restaurant, free lounge, a garden, and free parking. Rooms at the Lura Hotel have a flat-screen TV, air-conditioning and a balcony, while the bathrooms come with a hairdryer and free toiletries.



The property provides luggage storage space, and currency exchange for guests. Some rooms have garden views, and others have a patio. Guests can enjoy a continental breakfast.



The hotel has also a camping site of about 4,000 m<sup>2</sup>, with more than 15 places with electricity connections for caravans and motorhomes and includes showers and toilets.



The hotel also offers tour guides for hiking, climbing, or driving with 4x4 cars through Lura National Park.





## “RADOMIRA” HOTEL AND CAMPING SITE



It is located in Radomira village (one of 100 tourist villages in Albania), and it offers guests a restaurant, a bar and shared lounge. The hotel is near the trailhead to Mt. Korabi, the highest peak in Albania. Guests can also enjoy natural attractions in Korab-Koritnik Nature Park such as Black Lake, water spring, Korabi Pasture, Panairi Pasture, and the stone of Korabi.



The hotel offers free parking, free Wi-Fi and 24-hour front desk service. Rooms at the Radomira Hotel have a flat-screen TV, air-conditioning and a balcony, while the bathrooms come with a hairdryer and free toiletries. The property provides luggage storage space, and currency exchange for guests. Some rooms have garden views, and others have a patio. Guests at the accommodation can enjoy a continental breakfast.



Radomira Hotel has a camping site of about 2,000 m<sup>2</sup>, with more than 15 places with electricity connections for caravans and motorhomes, and includes showers and toilets.



The hotel can provide tour guides for hiking, climbing, horseback riding to the Korabi pasture.



## HOTEL “VERI”

This is a four-star hotel, located in the center of Peshkopi. The hotel offers a bar-restaurant, a 24-hour front desk, along with room service and free Wi-Fi.

The rooms have air conditioning, a flat-screen TV, a mini fridge, and a private bathroom. Some rooms have a balcony looking either at the city, or the city creek. Private parking in the hotel's underground parking garage can be arranged without extra charge. All guests can enjoy a continental breakfast. The hotel also offers conference rooms and a large space to host weddings or other events.





## “PIAZZA” HOTEL

It is located on the main pedestrian boulevard close to Peshkopi Museum. Peshkopi thermal spa known for its curative qualities is just 1.5 km away from the hotel and the valley of Black Drini river is only 11 km from the property.

The hotel offers free parking, free Wi-Fi and 24-hour front desk service. Rooms at the hotel feature a flat-screen TV, a desk, air-conditioning, a private bathroom featuring a shower, a hairdryer, and free toiletries. Guests can also enjoy the restaurant and the bar with an outdoor patio looking over the boulevard. The hotel also offers laundry and ironing services.



## “KORABI” HOTEL

It is located on the main pedestrian boulevard in Peshkopi. The hotel offers a traditional bar and restaurant, free Wi-Fi, and a 24-hours reception. The rooms are furnished with a TV, air conditioning, private bathroom, and a balcony.





## “BROOKLYN”HOTEL



It is located along the main boulevard of Peshkopi. The recently opened hotel offers spacious rooms, favorable prices, and a delicious breakfast.



The hotel owner and staff are very friendly, and hospitality is a value that visitors can see since their arrival. The reception is available 24-hours. The rooms are furnished with a TV, air conditioning, private bathroom, and balcony.





## HOTEL “ALPIN”

It is located close to the thermal Spa of Peshkopi, and it is one of the most popular hotels in this neighborhood.

The hotel offers free parking, free Wi-Fi and 24-hour front desk service. Rooms feature a TV, and a balcony, while the bathrooms include free toiletries. Extras include a bar with a terrace in the garden, and thermal spa bath treatment. Ironing and laundry services are also provided.





## HOTEL “BALKAN”

It is located close to the thermal Spa of Peshkopi. The hotel is frequently used mainly by visitors to the thermal spa and other travelers to the Korab-Deshat mountain range and the city of Peshkopi.

The hotel offers free parking, free Wi-Fi and 24-hour front desk service. Rooms at the Balkan Hotel feature a balcony, flat-screen TV, air-conditioning, private bathrooms which include a hairdryer and free toiletries. Guests can also enjoy a drink at the bar with a terrace in the garden. Ironing and laundry services are also provided.

Nearby attractions include castle ruins of Gradisht, cold water springs and the water mill. The tourist mountainous village of Rabdisht is located about 3km away. Lura Lakes and Mt.Korabi are about 30 km away, while the border with North Macedonia is about 16 km away.







## 8. LOCAL GUIDES

There are 9 tour guides operating in the Dibër region who can offer services for tourists. You can contact any of them through “Dibër Tourist Information Center” at:

mobile: **00355 67 38 40009**

email: **[info@visitdiber.com](mailto:info@visitdiber.com)/ [info@ticdiber.com](mailto:info@ticdiber.com)**

webpage: **[www.visitdiber.com](http://www.visitdiber.com)**





**Nevila Manga:** She has worked as a tourist specialist at the Tourist Information Center in Peshkopi since 2017 and she holds a master's degree in tourism. Nevila is licensed as a tour guide in 2018 by NATGA (National Association of Guides Training in Albania). She is an excellent tour guide for culture and city tour, and speaks English.



**Valdrin Vlesha,** is a licensed tour guide, since 2019, by NATGA (National Association of Guides Training in Albania). He speaks English, holds a master's degree in geography and works as a specialist at the museum of Peshkopi. He is an excellent tour guide for culture, city and mountains tour and speaks English.



**Adriatik Sula,** is a fully licensed local tour guide since 2019, licensed by NATGA (National Association of Guides Training in Albania). He is an excellent tour guide for city and Healing valley tour. He speaks English and Arabic languages.

**Grehans Uka**, is a fully licensed local tour guide since 2018, licensed by NATGA (National Association of Guides Training in Albania). He holds a master's degree in economics and speaks English. He is an excellent tour guide for Korabi, Healing valley, Hinoska, Grama and Seta tours.



**Fitim Spahiu**, is a fully licensed local tour guide since 2019, licensed by NATGA (National Association of Guides Training in Albania). He speaks English very well, having lived in London for several years. He is an excellent tour guide for Kërçin, Hinoska, Grama, Lura, Korabi and Black Drini river tour.



**Hamit Salkurti**, is a professional tour guide in the Dibër area, since 2003 with a Duch Embassy project in Theth and after that in Dibër with SNV (Netherlands Development Organization). He speaks English. He is an excellent tour guide for all Dibër tours.





**Gazmir Bardulla**, is a licensed local tour guide since 2018, licensed by NATGA (National Association of Guides Training in Albania). He speaks Italian. He is an excellent tour guide for Kërçin, Hinoska, Grama, Lura, Korabi, Healing valley and Black Drini river tour.



**Vladimir Marku**, is a licensed local tour guide since 2019, licensed by NATGA (National Association of Guides Training in Albania). He speaks English. He is an excellent tour guide for Seta, Lura and Black Drini river tour.



**Kadim Selmani**, is a licensed local tour guide since 2019, licensed by NATGA (National Association of Guides Training in Albania). He speaks English. He is an excellent tour guide for the Korabi tour.

We would like to thank Adriatik Sula, Agim Totraku,  
Fatjon Plaku, Bujar Karoshi for providing  
the illustrative photos for this publication.



**DIBËR TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER**

For more information:

**[www.visitdiber.com](http://www.visitdiber.com)**

Bldv "Elez Isufi", Peshkopi, Albania

Phone: **+355 67 384 0009**

E-mail: **[ticrodiber@gmail.com](mailto:ticrodiber@gmail.com)**

Facebook: **Visit Diber**



ISBN 978-9928-307-30-9



DIBËR TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER  
[www.visitdiber.com](http://www.visitdiber.com)

Price: 10 €