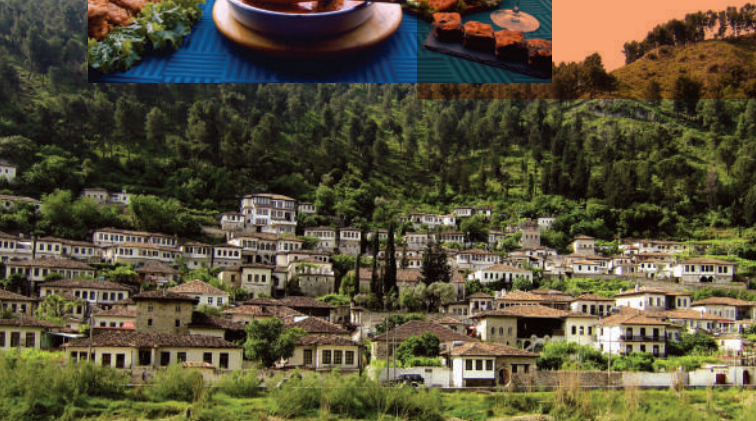


## Food not to miss

*"This country is warm and fertile, because it is packed with fine olive groves and vineyards."  
Ancient Greek historian Straboni in his description of Illyria.*

The food products, wine, rakí, and olive oil degustation compose a unique, can't-miss experience for your visit to Berat. The geographical position, the natural conditions, and the mild Mediterranean climate showcase Berat as exceptionally rich with agricultural products like, olives, figs, and cherries. Berat is also distinguished for its savory meats and original varieties of cheese. The wineries produce the numerous local and numerous varieties of grapes and organize degustation tours of the wonderfully aromatic wine and rakí found here. The olives and olive oil produced here for centuries represent authentic treasures in Berat. A bottle of rakí, wine or olive oil provides the perfect souvenir for anyone – from the city of one thousand windows.



## Events not to miss

*Any time of year, your visit to Berat will coincide with a must-see event. Various activities and events, which are becoming more frequent, not only enliven the city, but they are becoming yearly traditions.*

- In May, another event called Xixëllonja Fest (the Firefly Fest) will bring together nature lovers in the village of Mbreshtan.
- In June, during the Cherry Festival, visitors will have the chance to try the many varieties of cherries and other traditional kinds of food and will get to know various dimensions of art and plays performed by talented children in the Nationwide Children's Theater Festival.
- In September, visitors may get the opportunity to experience the process of picking figs and grapes during the Roshnik Festival.
- In October, travelers will enjoy and experience a degustation of Berat's many wine varieties of wines in the area's wineries. During the three-day nationwide event, Wine & Stories of Berat, everyone will have the opportunity to visit vineyards, meet with the local wine producers, and get to savor local products.
- In November, every nature lover and sports enthusiast may find themselves as part of the Green Marathon, a two-day event which promotes nature and the rural areas around the city.
- December evenings will be full of life and entertainment for every visitor. Throughout the month, many events will take place, which will vivify and brighten the city life. Mangalem Shades, a multi-color light installation event, will, as never before, light up the white facades of Mangalem quarter. A street party to which everyone is invited.



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## Tourist Information Center

Located in Berat's "Theodor Muzaka" main square, the Tourist Information Center provides help for every visitor so they can have an enjoyable visit. In addition, in the Tourist Information Center, visitors can find information about the events and activities, tours, guided activities in the city, and its surroundings.

Working hours: Monday-Sunday, 8.00-16.00



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A thousand  
windows  
Infinite  
stories



# Top 10 things to do in Berat

## 1. Experience a time travel with a visit to Berat's historic quarters

Mangalem, Gorica, and Kala (the Castle) quarters, with architecture dating back to the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2008. The houses have white facades and numerous windows and are built on opposite hills on both banks of the Osum River. When you visit the Castle with its cobblestone paths, you will be transported back in time – making your visit a unique experience.

## 2. Visit History and Art museums

The Ethnographic and the Onufri National Iconographic Museum have been visited for years by thousands of visitors. The rich Medieval collections of important art and religious works dating from the 14<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries showcase an impressive level of craftsmanship, while the Ethnographic Museum's collection of 1400 artifacts truthfully represents Berat's lifestyle over the centuries.

## 3. Visit the three Byzantine churches

The three Byzantine churches of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries – St. Mary of Blacherna, Holy Trinity, and St. Michael – are unique cases in Albania. Visitors will witness not just the religious importance of Berat in Medieval times and the mastery in the field of construction, but also the high architectonic level of development and the amazing art of the frescos.

## 4. Get to know the legacy of the Islamic world

Berat's mosques are a legacy of the Islamic history not just in Berat, but also throughout the region. The Red Mosque and the White Mosque (15<sup>th</sup> century) inside the walls of the Castle, the King Mosque (15<sup>th</sup> century), the Lead Mosque (16<sup>th</sup> century), the Bachelors' Mosque (19<sup>th</sup> century), and the Helveti Tekke (18<sup>th</sup> century) hold exceptional values for Berat's culture, art, and architecture.

## 5. Walk on Gorica Bridge for a 360° view of the city

Built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Gorica Bridge is one of the city's symbolic monuments. A walk on the bridge provides a magnificent perspective of the city's landscape, giving a 360° panoramic view of the city at every moment of the day.

## 6. Learn about religious tolerance by visiting the many places of worship

This itinerary provides the opportunity to visit dozens of churches, mosques, and tekkes found not only in the urban space of Berat, but also in the rural areas. The post-Byzantine Churches, such as St. Spyridon, St. Elijah, St. Nicholas, St. Constantine, and St. Helen, and the objects of the Islamic religion – such as the King Mosque, the Bachelors' Mosque, the Lead Mosque, and the Helveti Tekke – clearly convey the message of tolerance and harmonious religious co-existence between Christians and Muslims over the course of centuries.

# City of a thousand windows

## 7. Take a tour of the Tomori Mountain National Park

With a surface area of 4,000 hectares and a rich flora and fauna, Tomori Mountain National Park offers many opportunities for active exploration: hiking, trekking, and camping. A climb up the 2,416-meter Tomori Mountain will create an unforgettable memory for nature lovers. Over the centuries, Tomori Mountain has been considered a holy place. Each year in August, a massive pilgrimage of Bektashi believers is organized – making it one of the most renowned religious celebrations in the country and beyond Albania's borders.

## 8. Enjoy the picturesque view of the city

The highest spot south of the Castle, known as Tabia Tower by the locals, is considered the most picturesque spot to take in a panorama of the city. It is the ideal place from which to photograph the city, as if this beautiful collection of architectural wonders sat in the palm of your hand. From the lenses of a binocular, visitors can get an even more detailed view of the city.

## 9. Boost your adrenaline rafting through the Osumi River canyons

The Valley of the Osumi River offers countless opportunities to explore the natural monuments, such as the Osumi Canyons and the Bogova Waterfall. For many years, rafting in the Osumi Canyons has become one of the most exciting sports activities and part of every tour for adventure enthusiasts. If you are in search of an adrenaline rush, this is an experience not to miss.

## 10. Indulge in the greenery of the countryside

For visitors who want to appreciate the countryside, the hospitality, and the traditions of locals, take a field trip into Berat's mesmerizing rural areas, which provide numerous opportunities to explore ecotourism offers. The villages of Roshnik, Sinja, Lapardha, and Drobonik have already become favorite destinations for Albanians and foreign visitors alike.

