



Travel to
Albania
and Greece
broadens
one!

Jim Gold Folk Tours

Albania!

and the Greek Island of Corfu!

Folk Dancing, Culture, Art, History, Adventure !

October, 6-18, 2013

with

Jim Gold and Lee Otterholt



- ★ See Tirana, Durres, Vlora, Kruja, Saranda, Berat, Shkoder, and Corfu!
- ★ Visit Butrinti, and Gjirokastra, and three UNESCO World Heritage sites!
- ★ Explore the Greek Island of Corfu!
- ★ Meet Albanian folk dance groups!
- ★ Folk dance with local Albanian teachers!
- ★ International dancing with Lee Otterholt!
- ★ Price includes round-trip air, transfers, hotels, private bus, guide, sightseeing, all breakfasts and dinners !



Itinerary

Day 1: Sunday, October 6: Depart from NYC on Turkish airlines.

Day 2: Monday, October 7: Transfer from Tirana International Airport to our hotel in Durres. Welcome dinner in a traditional restaurant. Overnight in the Arvi Hotel.

Day 3: Tuesday, October 8: Durres-Apollonia-Vlore

Morning walking tour of Durres. Then we'll drive through Albania's oil fields towards the 7th century BC archaeological site of Apollonia, second largest Greek colony in Albania. We'll explore the Odeon, Pritaneon, and Temple of Diana. Then a scenic drive along the coast of Vlora Bay, through the Coldwater tunnel, next to the ex-dictator's villa. Before arriving to Vlora, a short stop at the island Monastery of Zvernec surrounded by beautiful nature. **Folk dancing with Lee and local teachers.** Overnight in Vlora. Dinner and accommodation at Vlora International Hotel.

Day 4. Wednesday, October 9: Vlora- Saranda

Drive along the spectacular Albanian Riviera looking down at the Ionian Sea. Upon leaving Radhima, the landscape dramatically changes as we climb to 1100 meters above sea level through the forest of Llogara National Park. Stop for refreshment and photos in Llogara, then continue on Strada Bianca road for a visit to a local family in Dhermi village where treats of raki and local deserts wait for us. Continue driving south through the seven villages of the Himara region. Lunch in local restaurant in Himara. The region of Himara is 72 kms is rich with natural and historical monuments such as Llamany beach and the 18th century Panormic castle of Ali Pasha. After a short coffee break at the springs of Borshi, we'll continue our tour towards Saranda. **Folk dancing with Lee and local teachers.** Dinner in local restaurant by the sea. Overnight in Saranda's Brilant Hotel.



Day 5-7: Thursday-Saturday, October 10-12: Saranda-Corfu

Depart by ferry for three days on the sun swept Ionian island of Corfu. World Heritage Old Town and miles of scenic coastline. Relax, swim, sunbath, tour, visit archaeological museums, or stroll the beaches. **Meet and dance with the Laodamas dancers!** Delve into the myths of ancient Greece. **Folk dancing with Lee.** Overnights in Corfu Holiday Palace Hotel.

Day 8: Sunday, October 13: Corfu-Butrinti - Gjirokastra

Take the ferry from Corfu back to Saranda. Then drive to 7th century BC city of Butrinti, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. See Asclepeion temple, Roman baths, and aqueduct to learn more about the history of this town, originating as a Greek colony in the 7th century BC. Visit the museum in the 14th century Venetian castle. Drive towards Gjirokastra, a UNESCO World Heritage town, tour the 14th century castle. Gjirokastra is best known as the birthplace of Enver Hoxha, dictator of Albania (1908-1985). His house is an ethnographic museum open to visitors. **Folk dancing with Lee and local teachers.** Dinner and overnight at Cajupi Hotel in Gjirokastra.

Day 9: Monday October 14: Gjirokastra-Berat

Morning drive to Berat, one of the most fascinating Albanian towns with a mixture of cultural influences. Established in the 3rd century B.C by an Illyrian tribe of central

Albania, it was known as the fortified city of Antipatrea. In 1417 the town was occupied by the Turks who build mosques in the area below the town's old castle. Berat, situated at the foot of Tomorri Mountain and on the shores of River Osum, is famous for its white-washed houses with many windows which give it the nickname "town of a thousand windows". Before arriving to Berat we will make a short visit at one of the famous winery in Albania for wine tasting. Lunch



in local restaurant in Berat. The castle is the only one in Albania and perhaps one of the few in the World that still has houses and inhabitants within its walls, going about their daily life in exactly the same place their predecessors did centuries ago. We will visit the Fortress, Onufri Museum and several churches and mosques. Dinner in a traditional restaurant followed by **folk dancing.** Overnight in Berat. Gega Hotel.

Day 10: Tuesday October 15: Berat-Shkodra

After breakfast we'll depart for Shkodra with its 4th century BC Illyrian castle. From the top of the castle we can look towards the horizon with views as far away as Montenegro in the northwest and Shkodra Lake in the northeast. Lunch in local restaurant in Shkodra. **Folk dance with Lee and local teachers.** Dinner a traditional restaurant where Albanian

highlands food is served. **Folk dance with Lee.** Overnight in Shkodra. Colosseo Hotel.

Day 11: Wednesday October 16: Shkodra-Lezha-Kruja-Tirana



After breakfast, continue to the ancient town of Lissius, dating back to second century BC. Explore the Roman castle and Saint Nicolas cathedral where the national hero, Scanderbeg is buried. Then drive to Kruja, Scanderbeg's home town. We'll tour a traditional carpet workshop located in the 18th century bazaar. Here you can find and purchase many excellent Albanian souvenirs and antiques. After lunch in traditional restaurant, in Kruja, we'll explore the castle in which dwell the Bektashi—a little-known Muslim sect—Dollma Teqe (Bektashi Mosque). Later we'll see the Ethnographic Museum located in a traditional house built in the 18th century A.D (1764), by Ismail Pashe Toptani. Proceed to Tirana. Dinner and **folk dancing with Lee.** Overnight in Tirana International Hotel.

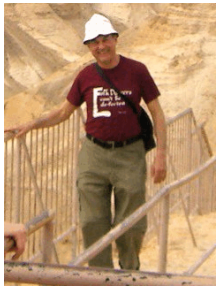


Day 12: Thursday October 17: Tirana

After breakfast we'll visit Et'Hem Bej Mosque, one of the most beautiful in Albania. Then see recently discovered ruins of Justinian castle near the center of Tirana. Drive to a private art gallery in an 18th century traditional Tirana House. While at the gallery, will have a rare opportunity to admire paintings dating back to the time of socialist realism. Afternoon at leisure. Evening We'll explore the area where villas of Albanian communist leaders still stand. Nearby are boutiques, pubs and exclusive jewelry shops. **Folk dancing with Lee and local teachers.** Dinner in local restaurant. Overnight in Tirana. Tirana International Hotel.

Day 13: Friday October 18: Tirana -Airport

We'll transfer you to Tirana international airport for your flight back home.



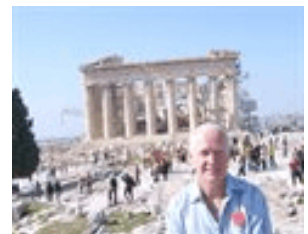
About Jim Gold

Jim brings a love of music, people and languages to his tours and dance classes, making them a joy for all ages. For over 25 years, he has led **Jim Gold International Folk Tours** to Bulgaria, Greece, Norway, Turkey, Hungary, Israel, Jordan, Croatia, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Egypt, Tunisia, Russia, the Baltics and Spain to experience their history and culture, from a folk dance perspective. He is also the author of ten books. His latest is: 50

Folk Dances Choreographed by Jim Gold. Jim is a classical guitarist and folk singer as well. He has performed on TV, at universities and schools, and on national radio.

About Lee Otterholt

Lee Otterholt, born in USA of Norwegian-American parents, has lived and worked in Norway as a professional dancer, teacher, and choreographer. He founded the Center for International Folk Dance in Oslo, and was professor of dance folklore at the Norwegian National College of Ballet, and University College of Oslo. Lee established folk dance and performing groups in Norway, taught at festivals and workshops throughout Europe, United States, and East Asia, and authored folk dance and instructional manuals for Norwegian schools. He was a choreographer for the Opening Ceremony of the Winter Olympic Games in Lillehammer.



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Land and Air: \$4395

REGISTRATION FORM: I can't wait to go! Enclosed is my registration deposit of \$200 per person. Single supplement: \$695. Additional charges: air tax: \$395. Service charges: \$85. Gratuities and drink during meals not included. Program subject to change without notice. Cancellations 45 days prior to departure: Refund: 50% of total price. Less than 45 days: No refund. Travel insurance recommended.
Total balance due July 1, 2013

Name _____

Address _____

No. of people _____ Phone (____) _____

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Phone (201) 836-0362. Web site: www.jimgold.com E-mail: jimgold@jimgold.com



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