

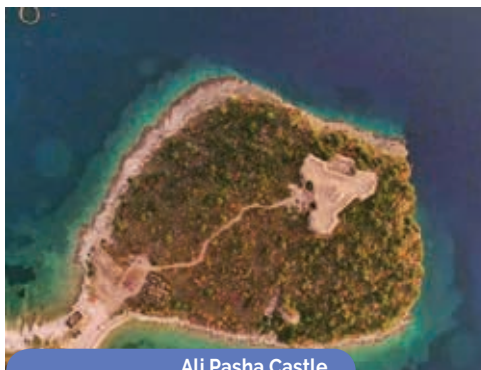
Our Tour Tip

From Çika Highlands to the beach

Known as the house of wilderness, Çika peaks the 100 km coastal range stretching along the south western Ionian coast of Albania with a steep elevation from 0 to 2045m in less than 5 km distance from the sea.

Considered to be the continuation of the Dinarics, Çika mountain faces Corfu Island of Greece 40 km South and the coast of Apulia, Italy 70 km southwest across the straits of Otranto. Ptolemy, Strabo and Pausanias describe Çika in the ancient Greek writing as Ceraunian Mountains or the "thunder-split peaks". Çika is home to one of the most important National Parks in Albania, Llogara National Park, covered with sparse marquis mixed with pine and Shed Cypresses.

The lower mountain landscape is of a large crescent of coastal watershed with many intermittent stream beds having carved a series of gorges and hills with denser vegetation leading further up the slopes providing good opportunities for hiking routes. This crescent ends in a long shore divided into beaches separated by a ridge of limestone jutting into the sea. Ancient olive yards and citrus trees dominate the lower parts of the range. About 1400 species, or 42.4% of the Albanian flora of which 68 threatened & rare species, or 21.25% of the total in Albania, make up the flora of this region. There are 105 birds, 6 rare & endangered species and 2 threatened deer species of the Mediterranean. Starting at Llogara pass, this Eco-itinerary winds through alpine meadows stretching for 58 km from the famous Ceasar's trail dating 48 B.C. to Panormi bay along the



Ali Pasha Castle
Porto Palermo © Ecogeo

The highlights on the way:

- Guided tour of the Botanical Garden & Ceasar's Pass
- Paragliding from Panorama
- Walk Gjipe Canyon

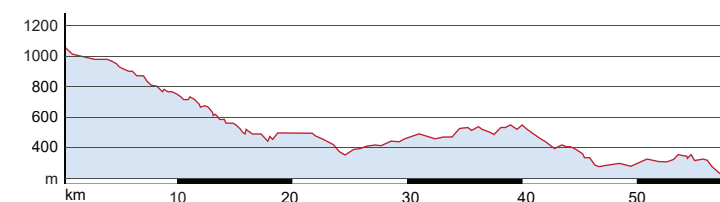
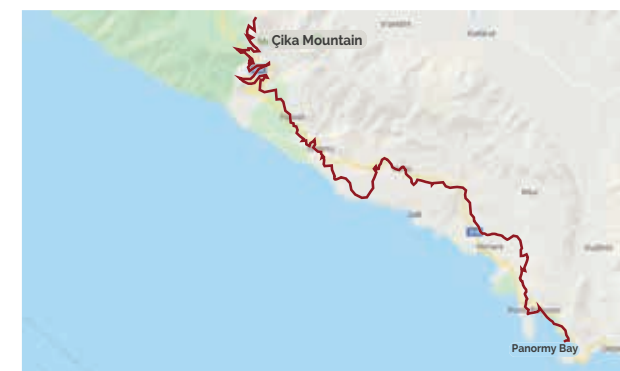
Start: Llogara pass • **Destination:** Panormi Bay
Length: 58 km • **Walk & drive/ride time:** 10 hours
Altitude: 1,050 m • **Difficulty:** medium
Refreshments: in Himara

Albanian Riviera. The bay is jeweled with an islet hosting a 14th C triangular Venetian Castle last used by the infamous ruler of Epir, Ali Pasha. A submarine base, a relic landmark of the communist ruled Albania, sits in the same bay. The path is blessed with natural balconies offering stunning unobstructed views of the sparkling Mediterranean Sea, a paragliding platform, mountain passes, canyons, gorges, hills, historic villages and the 2400 year old castle of Himara mentioned by Thucydides. A stop at Himara renewed promenade is the best refreshing reward before hiking to Pilur, the village of nightingales. Best spirits and polyphonic music inspire rapsodes at 700 above-the-sea village.

INFO www.himara.gov.al



Çika Mountain
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Mediterranean
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