



Rilindja Hotel & Quku i Valbonës Guesthouse

Alfred Selimaj

tel: 067 30 14 637

2011

RATES and INFORMATION

for additional information

Contact Us:

Catherine Bohne 067 30 14 638 or
Alfred Selimaj 067 30 14 637

email: catherine@journeytovalbona.com

Skype us as: [journeytovalbona](https://www.skype.com/journeytovalbona)

Read all about us: www.JourneytoValbona.com

Quku i Valbonës Guesthouse



One of a handful of 100 year old farmhouses in the hamlet of Quku i Valbonës ('Valbona Hollow'), our guesthouse combines the charm of a working traditional farm with tastefully modernized facilities indoors. Eat delicious traditional meals cooked by Sose in the cozy kitchen, hike the trails on Pecmarres Mountain or explore further afield with a guide, and return to sleep in our 4 hostel-style rooms, containing a total of 16 bunk beds with two shared bathrooms.

Rates:

- 15€ per person, per night with breakfast (9€ for children under 12)
- 25€ per person, per night with 3 meals (15€ for children under 12)

Extras:

- 50€ per day for a guide
- 70€ per day for a horse
- 25€ for private transportation from Bajram Curri
- 20€ for private transportation to Gjellaj (start of the trail to Theth)



Stay for a while!

Anyone staying for 5 days or more during our high season (8 July through 25 September) gets a 10% discount.

Avoid the Crowd!

Visit us during off-season (26 September through 7 July) and get a 10% discount.

Note: Prepayment in full (possible through our website soon!) will absolutely guarantee that a bed is held for you on the dates of your choice. In the case of *no* deposit, we will hold reservations until 3pm on the day of arrival, after which *if we have not heard from you* we will consider the reservation cancelled. Just call us! – but remember that the only telephone network that works in the Valley is Eagle Mobile. If you don't have an Eagle number, almost anyone will probably let you use their phone.

Details:

- **Capacity:** sleeps 16, all in “bunk-style” beds, in four rooms (2 large rooms for 6 each, and two small rooms for 2 each)
- We have **2 shared bathrooms**, one with shower, one with bath.



- **Three meals** include breakfast, a picnic lunch and full dinner, all traditional fare made from either our farm or local produce (see “Culture” on our website for information about local cuisine!)
- All meals eaten in the large family kitchen or outside, weather permitting.
- An informal sitting area is available under the beautiful and mysterious traditional wood-tile roof.
- **Laundry services** are available for 1€ per wash
- information about daily minibus service is available on our website



Things to Do:



Traditional Skills and Handicrafts

Quku i Valbonës, one of the Selimaj Family's homes, is a working farm, still operating the way people have farmed and lived here for 100s of years. Depending on the time of year that you visit, you're welcome to lend a hand with the season's tasks: Milking cows, cutting the grass (with a scythe!), building mullars (the traditional haystacks) or who knows what! Pictured here is the raw wool we clean and spin by hand into the traditional “lesh” (literally 'fur' – what we call yarn). Sose can teach you to knit socks, and

Rugova can teach you to crochet lace. You can make cheese, grind corn in the old mill to make your own cornbread, or learn to cook local delicacies like “fli” (hint: it involves about 3 hours over an open fire outdoors!). In winter, you can even try to make your own snowshoes!

Hiking, Walking and Camping

The whole of Valbona is officially a National Park. Beginning in 2011, we have some 40 km of trails marked, mapped and signposted to international standards. We hope to extend this system to over 100 km of trails by summer. Local Guides are also available for hire, with a variety of languages. There is much much more information about this available on line, at www.JourneytoValbona.com, under “Your Journey/Itneraries.”



Nature

Valbona boasts over 3000 species of plants, many of them endemic, including the rare Albanian Lily. Wild Fritellaria and Cyclamen vie with wild strawberries and thyme. We also have Europe's largest populations of wolves, wild boar and bears, mountain goats as well as a very large number of salamanders! If you'd like to explore this, our staff includes one trained biologist, who's happy to take you exploring.



Explore Further Afield

We are happy to help you plan, or guide, excursions further afield. Visit the traditional market streets of nearby Kosovo, or explore Montenegro (with a little forethought, or simply a cavalier attitude to international borders, you can walk there!) Whatever your interest, we are happy to help you plan your stay.

Note: All planning, looking at maps, arranging and dreaming are best done with our staff at the nearby Hotel Rilindja. Feel free to write to us ahead of time, or come prepared to figure it out as you go.

Please Note these Guidelines:

- Check in, payment or invoicing and arrangements further services **are all handled at the Hotel Rilindja office**. Please stop at Rilindja before settling in to the Guesthouse.
- **Please be prepared to pay in Euro**. If necessary, total due can be converted to Albanian Lek, calculated according to the exchange rate at the time of check in.
- **Check in/out Time:** We don't have formal times, but we do ask that guests respect our staff – when checking in, do not plan on having access to the rooms before 3 pm and when checking out, try to have the rooms clear by 12 noon (unless special arrangements are made).
- Please make your best effort to make final arrangements for hiking guides (especially if specific languages are requested) and horses at least 2 days before they are needed.
- We ask that you **use the minimum number of rooms** (4 people in one room, not 1 person each in four rooms). You may not mind sharing with unexpected late arrivals, but other guests want to stay together in their own room if possible.
- Language spoken: Albanian. English, Italian & French speakers available.
- **Kitchen Hours:** Normal kitchen hours are from 7 am to 9 pm. Special arrangements for early or late meals can be made. Please respect the early hours kept by our staff and plan on vacating the kitchen by 11pm.
- For a change or special occasion, guests **can also dine at our Restaurant at Hotel Rilindja** (1 km away), choosing from the prix fix menu.
- Special requests for special meals (fli, byrek, whole roast goats) can be made, and special events can be hosted in our restaurant at Rilindja – please arrange prices and menus at least one day before.
- **Cancellation policy:** Please note that partial cancellations (2 people show for a booking for 4) count as cancellations (that would count as 2 cancellations).

up to one month before:	No charge
30 - 15 days before:	30%
15 - 4 days before:	50%
less than 4 days before:	full payment

- Please observe normal Albanian customs: No shoes indoors (and no house slippers *outdoors*), quiet in the rooms (especially when other people are sleeping), and a minimum amount of running around the corridors naked (no one will say anything, but locals think it's not very civilized).

