



Prokletije – Montenegro



Mt. Arapit – Albania



Guri i Kuq – Kosova

# BALKANS PEACE PARK PROJECT

Creating a trans-national, cross-border park in the adjoining mountain areas of Albania, Kosova, Montenegro



UK Registered Charity No. 1105447

[www.balkanspeacepark.org](http://www.balkanspeacepark.org)



## UK NEWSLETTER No. 9 December 2012

### **“WE DIDN'T CROSS THE BORDER; THE BORDER CROSSED US.”**

This remark was made not in the Balkans but by a Latino man in the southern USA to the BBC correspondent Mark Mardell in the lead up to the presidential election in November 2012. Although it was made in the context of the contentious border between the USA and Mexico, this poignant remark reminds us of the many problems all over the world created by artificial borders imposed on people by international powers, thereby dividing linguistic, cultural and family groups and making it difficult to manage issues which are common across these borders. This 2012 B3P newsletter shows how B3P is working with friends and agencies in the Balkans to overcome some of the problems created by the borders between Albania, Kosova and Montenegro. We see Bjeshkët e Nemuna/Prokletije as one entity, a whole unique range of mountains and valleys where people can thrive from the income brought in by visitors to the mountains and work together to develop infrastructure and tackle environmental conservation issues.

## **1. SUMMER PROGRAMMES 2012**

### **a) THETHI**

For the 5<sup>th</sup> year running B3P put on a programme of English teaching and environmental awareness for young people in the village of Thethi in the Shala valley in northern Albania. As always, the English teaching was done by international volunteers who paid all their own way to be there while Albanian teachers were paid to deliver the environmental education that is so important. The two separate sessions ran from July 2<sup>nd</sup> to July 13<sup>th</sup> and July 16<sup>th</sup> to July 27<sup>th</sup>, the first coordinated by the 'evergreen' Chris Whichelo, the second by first timer

Seth Pyenson from the US, a former Peace Corps Volunteer. The age range of children/students was restricted this year to 5 to 15, in line with elementary education in Albania. The environmental awareness was incorporated into the general English classes for the younger children but given to separate boys and girls groups by Albanian teachers for the older students. 37 children/students were registered and the average attendance was about 30.



### Popular as ever

As Chris Whichelo reports, “The B3P presence in the village is now more than just a summer school. We were accepted with joy and friendship wherever we went. Some examples of how we were integrated into village life for the short time we were there include:

- a) We helped to collect in the hay harvest
- b) Several of our group baked bread in the Albanian fashion in an outside oven
- c) We had a great farewell party
- d) Nurses from the new pharmacy in the village joined in the classes because they wished to communicate with the tourists.”

### b) VERMOSH AND LËPUSHË

As the crow, or eagle, flies, the village of Vermosh lies at the head of a long valley, a mere 20km north over the mountains from Thethi but 160km by exciting Albanian mountain roads.



15km before you get to Vermosh is the separate village of Lëpushë, from where you can do a splendid, high mountain walk to Okol and Thethi via Qafa e Pejës in about 11 hours. Contact with VIS (Voluntary International Service), an Italian organization working in the Vermosh region with aims similar to B3P’s, led to cooperation and the setting up of a Summer Programme, first in Vermosh and then extended to Lëpushë, with about 70 students involved overall. Again, it was a hugely popular initiative, coordinated by Antonela Melonari, our very active Albanian member of B3P who works in London much of the year. Angela Selmani, our B3P UK secretary, in

Albania for the summer, helped to coordinate the Lëpushë programme. These were 'pilot programmes' for two weeks, 30<sup>th</sup> July to 9<sup>th</sup> August.

### **Volunteers for English, music, drama, etc.**

The whole two weeks consisted of English teaching. Since it was a pilot project, Environmental Awareness classes were not organized this year but they are thought to be of prime importance



for 2013. Music was incorporated into the programme, as it has always been in Thethi when possible, and a musical performance formed part of the Closing Ceremony. Three British volunteers organized their classes around creating a stage show of Albanian folk tales performed in English by students for the final day celebrations. The teaching was done by seven international volunteers with help from six Albanian VIS

volunteer interpreters from Tirana and Peace Corps Volunteers from the US. They helped students to make a video 'Welcome to Vermosh' which can now be seen on You Tube and Facebook. (*The photo shows a moment on the football ground in Lëpushë*)

### **Next year?**

There is a feeling that maybe the Summer Programme has run its course in Thethi and might evolve into something different, but it is hoped and being planned to develop the programme in Vermosh and Lëpushë, adding the environmental element. We think of bringing the programme to Tamarë on the road to Vermosh and also to Valbona, the valley east of Thethi. Furthermore, during a day visit to Gusinje and Plav in Montenegro, only 8 to 12km from Vermosh and easily accessible across the border (no advance permission required!), teachers and volunteers found clear interest in the idea of our extending the Summer Programme concept to those centres.

### **Curriculum document**

Teaching English in the summer programmes can often seem to volunteers like being thrown in at the deep end. Each year more advice is available to them on travel to and within Albania with an introduction to the Albanian language as well. A 'Handbook for Volunteers' in 2012 was

#### **CONTENTS:**

- Foreword
- 1. About Me
- 2. Shape, Colour and Size
- 3. Food
- 4. Clothes
- 5. Where we live/Our Homes
- 6. Animals/Flora and Fauna
- 8. Weather
- 7. Position and Direction
- 9. Maps and Geography
- 10. The Hungry Caterpillar/Days of the Week
- 11. Specialist Themes

written and printed this year. Another major help has been a written curriculum, produced by Chris Whichelo, a very experienced UK Primary School headteacher, and a team of 4 volunteers from previous years with terrific help from our secretary Angela Selmani. The Foreword states unequivocally that it is not a prescribed curriculum. It can be used

pragmatically by new volunteers or not at all. The box here shows the range of topics available and each topic covers vocabulary, illustrations, games and exercises, with ideas for teaching. Copies are available by e-mail or CD for next year's volunteer teachers to use in the centres.

### **Environmental awareness?**



These waste bins were installed in Thethi as part of the Summer Programme in 2008. The children on this year's programme are good at filling them but how often are they emptied and where does the waste go? A common problem across all three countries.

### **More volunteers**

Information about volunteering for next year's programmes can be found on the B3P website.

### **Further reading?**

At the end of this newsletter you'll find an entertaining article about travelling to Vermosh and teaching there by Tom Phillips, one of the volunteers. The article first appeared in the Bristol Post in September.

## **2. CROSS- BORDER TREKKING**

### **a) Getting permission in advance for crossing borders at unofficial places**

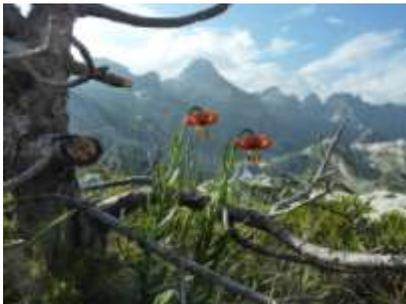
The three countries of the B3P area are not yet in the EU so there is no free movement across borders between them. There is no problem at officially manned crossings, e.g. at the Vermosh/Gusinje crossing, though passports are needed and are recorded. However, for people who wish to cross borders in the mountains, on treks, mountain bike tours, climbing or caving expeditions, etc. police permission must be obtained in advance. The Round Table meeting with border police in Podgorica in October 2011 was very positive and agreement was reached on a system for applying for permission from abroad. However, it has taken longer than expected for the respective police forces and government bodies to get the system up and running. Basically, you have to apply **to each country you are leaving**. The police in that country will then check with their counterparts in the country you are going to and permission should be given. You can find the required application form for each country on line and submit it by e-mail to Montenegro and, regrettably, by post to Albania. At the time of writing the procedure for Kosova is not clear. An application form is available but with no information where to send it. The governments in Albania and Kosova are still a bit wary about independent travellers over their borders. They prefer us to use recognized tourist agencies and outdoor activity organizers, asking them to get the permissions for their clients. A document explaining how to get permission for Montenegro

and Albania is on the B3P website with space for the Kosova details when we get them. The document is also included at the end of this newsletter.

### **b) Richard's B3P trek, June 2012**

With five friends from the UK climbing club, the Fell and Rock, Richard Hargreaves achieved most of a long-held dream, to walk on foot all the way from Peja in Kosova, through to Plav in Montenegro and on to Thethi and Valbona in Albania. The system for getting permission to cross the borders into Montenegro and Albania was not working by April 2012 so the wonderful helpers in each country, Lendita Hyseni at Rugova Experience in Peja, Admir Lalić in Plav and Pavlin Polia in Thethi, had to use their contacts with police to get the necessary permission. They also arranged accommodation, guides, transport (for airports and some places en route) and, by specific request, the carrying of the party's big rucksacks each day by Landrover, bus or horse. This made each day's walking with only a light daysack much more enjoyable but it was also essential for those whose dodgy back or new hip made backpacking no longer an option. Lendita, Admir and Pavlin were excellent hosts, efficient, welcoming and very enjoyable company.

#### **A peak in each country**



The group, all thoroughly experienced mountain travellers, walked 136kms in 10 days, had rest days in Plav and Thethi, and climbed a peak in each country (Hajla 2403m in Kosova, Visitor 2211m in Montenegro and Arapit 2217m in Albania) plus a bonus of Volusnića and Talianka above the Grbaje valley in Montenegro. Total ascent on the trek was 7230m. The flowers were spectacular the whole way but especially on the way up Hajla and in the green pasture below Volusnića and Talianka. There were butterflies in profusion too, unlike in the UK where they are in serious decline. Another of Richard's purposes for the trek was to see if it could be recommended as viable to UK trekking companies who already bring groups to Albania but have not tried the full trek across the Bjeshkët e Nemuna/Prokletije mountain range. He will try to persuade them to come and try it!

*Photos by Paul Exley: Liliium albanica on Maja Arapit, Camberwell Beauty, Swallowtail*

At the end of this newsletter you'll see a flyer offering Richard's illustrated talk on the trek to any group of any size in any venue nationwide. Any proceeds to B3P.

### **3. UNEP STAKEHOLDERS CONFERENCES**

#### **a) Trilateral Stakeholders' Meeting in proposed Transboundary Protected Area (TBPA) Prokletije/Bjeshkët e Nemuna in Gusinje (Plav Montenegro) 15<sup>th</sup> - 16th March, 2012**

We had very short notice of this conference, but Nigel Young who was working in Munich at the time was able to attend for us. He reports that there were general contributions from the ministries in Kosova and Montenegro, then informative accounts of more detailed activities by ERA (Environmentally Responsible Action) from Peja, Kosova, TRITON environmental organization in Plav, and the newly created Prokletije National Park in Montenegro, headed by Enes Dresković (Enko).

Perhaps most useful was the break-out session on NGO activities and goals. The group came up with five dimensions of practical cross-border activity for co-operation:

1. Courses for Mountain guides and English classes
2. A network of Guesthouses (e.g. Pavlin's) in each region for cross-border trekkers
3. Marking trails, trail maps – avoiding "core" protection zones
4. Environmental education centres/workshops in the 3 countries
5. Generating needed research projects on cross-frontier issues: plants and products; biodiversity of mountain lakes, etc.

All the above should establish common standards on each side of frontiers.

#### **b) Second Trilateral Stakeholder Meeting in the proposed Trans-Boundary Protected Area - "Prokletije/Bjeshkët e Nemuna Mountains"**

Hotel Colosseo, Shkodër, Albania - 12th September 2012

Approx 60 individuals took part, with representation from across borders and from a variety of stakeholder groups. This meeting was set up largely to enable ministries from the Albanian government to attend and become involved since they had not been able to get to the Gusinje meeting in March. Despite intense lobbying by Antonia Young and Drini Xhafa and promises made no Albanian ministry people turned up. There was, however, great support from the city authorities in Shkodër.

##### **Activities and issues**

After Antonia Young reviewed the history of B3P, its aims for the region and its many activities there were excellent contributions by Ellen Frank from ERA in Kosova, Pavlin Polia from Thethi Arian Gjura from Shkodër and Ismail Beka from GIZ in Tirana. These all highlighted the way that people who are thinking 'cross-border' are having an impact on activities already organized or

being prepared across the region and also on the range of environmental and development issues under discussion in the three countries. Particular issues raised were the problem of waste disposal and the balance to be agreed between the needs for modern infrastructure, such as roads, accommodation and utilities, with the need to preserve the landscape, traditions and environment of this unique area.

#### **B3P Albania**

It has been a long term aim of B3P UK to develop committed and energetic groups as NGOs in each country to carry forward the concept of the trans-national, cross-border park, helping to link government agencies and working with people living in the valleys. B3P Albania is now established as a registered NGO. Two new members were voted onto it after the conference, but it still needs more enthusiasts with sufficient time and energy to take it further. No sooner do such great people come on board than they find themselves in demand by other jobs and organizations with less time available for B3P Albania. We are ever hopeful that it will soon flourish!

#### **4. FACEBOOK**

Thanks to our ever enthusiastic secretary Angela Selmani you can now follow the activities of B3P on Facebook. There are accounts and pictures of the Summer Programmes in Thethi and Vermosh/Lëpushë and an illustrated log of Richard's trek as well as news of our AGM in Leeds in September. If you are a Facebook user you will find us easily but if not just tap Facebook Balkans Peace Park into Google and you will be transported there.

#### **5. OTHERS' CROSS-BORDER ACTIVITIES**

**ERA** (Environmentally Responsible Action) based in Peja, Kosova, and founded by our friends Fatos Lajci and Ellen Frank, is very active in environmental education for young people in Kosova and neighbouring Montenegro. They have recently built a new 'Mountain Education Centre', a cabin under Hajla Peak on the Kosova/Montenegro border.

**GIZ** (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit). We are pleased to have close cooperation with this German government organization for development in the Balkans. They organized the October 2011 meeting in Podgorica with border police from the 3 countries which agreed a system for getting permission for crossing borders in unofficial places. They promoted a 6 day, 3 countries trek by 30 mountain walkers in 2011 which led to a cross-border project team being formed to design and waymark a circular trekking route through Bjeshkët e Nemuna/Prokletije. GIZ also helped to produce a new walking and cycling 1:50,000 map of Prokletije. It is a pity that Kosova was still called Serbia in this publication!

**'Peaks of the Balkans'** ([www.peaksofthebalkans.com](http://www.peaksofthebalkans.com)) was the name given to that 3 country cross-border trek in 2011 and to the project team which has been busy since, waymarking the circular trekking route and preparing a new map: **Peaks of the Balkans, cross-border hiking, Albania, Kosova, Montenegro**. It should be available from Huber Verlag and Amazon but is not there yet. The route can also be seen on: [www.marimangat.org/3-countries-in-1-go.html](http://www.marimangat.org/3-countries-in-1-go.html)

**Rock climbing** For the second year running a group of UK rock climbers camped below the old army hut on the way to the Runicës meadows beyond Qafa e Pejës in Albania, exploring routes on the crags high on the mountainside above. This year it was a Climbers Club group with their president, Fiona Sanders. They hit a week of intensely hot weather, temperatures well into the 40s, so they had to restrict their climbing to crags in the shade. They would have climbed on the peaks bordering Montenegro, but it was too hot!

**Sustainable Travel International** At the time of writing, we are awaiting the result of a bid to the European Union, led by Sustainable Travel International, to start an exciting project to set up a Balkans Transnational Trail, traversing six Balkan countries, including Greece, Macedonia, Croatia and the B3P. The theme of the project is Accessible Transboundary Tourism, and is intended to provide access to people otherwise unable to participate in sustainable tourism, such as those with disabilities, older visitors and families with young children. We expect to hear the result of the bid soon and, if successful, we will lead five workshops over the 18 months from January 2013.

## 6. PEOPLE

There have again been a number of international MA students doing dissertation projects on the B3P and Summer Programmes. One of these, **Victoria Gabioud** from Argentina, a Rotary student at Bradford University, deserves special mention, as she spent 2 months in Albania in the early summer helping to prepare the Summer Programmes and to start setting up the Shkodër conference. She then returned to help with the final organization of the conference in September.

Congratulations! To our old friend **Fatos Lajci** from Peja in Kosova, founder of ERA, builder of many cabins high in the mountains above the Rugova valley and one of the original inspirations for the dream of B3P. He married Aida from Macedonia (FYROM) in August 2012 and we wish them much happiness and success in all their mountain and environmental activities.

## 7. TEACHING AMONG THE PEAKS

(A shortened version of Tom's article in the Bristol Evening Post)

Bristol writer Tom Phillips travelled across Europe to the Balkans Peace Park on the turbulent borders of Albania and Montenegro - where, teaching English to the mountain community, he felt a long way from home.

### **"Motorised yomp"**

There isn't a road to Vermosh. There's a rocky track hacked through the mountains. It took six slow, bumpy hours to get there from Shkodra, most of them spent trying not to look down and hoping the minibus wouldn't blow a tyre or meet oncoming traffic. The views were spectacular - as were the drops into deep, arid valleys below. We weren't travelling through the Himalayas or the Andes, though. Vermosh is in Europe, in northern Albania, just inside the border with Montenegro, and without the six-hour motorised yomp through the mountains it wouldn't be much more than four hours from the UK. I was heading there with my children - Lydia, 19, and Sam, 13 - as part of a group of 16 English, American and Albanian volunteers with the Balkans Peace Park Project (B3P), and we were about to spend a fortnight teaching English in one of Albania's northernmost and Europe's remotest communities.

### **Far from 'accursed'**

Like most of our small but eclectic group, we were there by chance. Back in January, I happened to perform a one-man show, *I Went To Albania*, during Bristol Old Vic's 'Ferment Fortnight'. B3P's chair, Ann Kennard, was in the audience and left an email address at the box office. Soon after we were invited to Yorkshire to meet the charity's founders, anthropologist Antonia Young and her husband Nigel, and before I knew it we were signing up for the summer programme. Although we'd visited Albania as a family twice before, we'd never been into the northern alps and we didn't know what to expect. Vermosh is in the heart of the chillingly named Accursed Mountains, where long-running blood feuds are said to claim dozens of lives every year. The village itself couldn't have looked less 'accursed'. As we rolled off the end of the mountain track onto a short stretch of tarmac, we arrived in a broad, green valley dotted with farms and orchards, waited while sheep and cows ambled across the road, and then pulled into a dusty square with a red-roofed church, two shops, two bars, and the village school which would become our HQ. Forests covered the lower slopes, while a seemingly endless chain of towering peaks stretched into the distance.

### **Gargantuan meals**

Our hosts, Flamur and Manushaqe Nacaj, lived on the far side of a wide dry riverbed in a traditional stone farmhouse surrounded by cherry trees. They were almost entirely self-sufficient. They were also bountifully hospitable, treating us as members of the family and feeding us gargantuan meals. Needless to say, everything put on the table couldn't have been more locally sourced or organic: huge dishes of roast chicken or lamb, slabs of white cheese, creamy butter, plum jam and abundant salads. When Flamur asked me to help prepare lunch one day, I wasn't entirely surprised to find that 'lunch' was still very much alive, bleating in a field. Thankfully, my job amounted to raking charcoal under the spit and drinking dangerous amounts of his home-distilled *raki* - which tasted like nectar but punched like Mohammed Ali.

## Idyllic??

On the face of it, life in Vermosh was idyllic. It was certainly easy to believe that whilst sitting in a high mountain pasture overlooking the patchwork farms or sharing a beer outside one of the village bars as a full moon rose above the forest. Adjectives like 'hectic' or 'stressed' don't apply - and with no mobile signal and only very intermittent access to the internet, the rest of the world seemed a very long way away. There's a strong community spirit, too. Blood feuds haven't blighted this particular valley for decades, and when a man fell ill last winter and the village was snowed in, the heads of all the local families got together and carried him to Shkodra over the mountains on foot. That said, it's equally easy to romanticize. Life in Vermosh can be hard. Those winter snows keep the village cut off for up to five months, and last year the Nacaj family were effectively trapped on their farm when the unbridged and unbridgeable river flooded back into their part of the valley. This kind of mixed, low-tech, subsistence farming is a 24/7 business, and making ends meet is becoming increasingly difficult. Many people have already left to seek jobs elsewhere - all but two of Flamur's ten siblings live in the USA or Greece - and in the last twenty years the population has fallen dramatically. Most of the young people we met hoped to migrate to the States in the very near future.

## Visitors are important

Tourism at least offers a means of bringing much-needed income into the valley. Several guesthouses have already opened, but visitors are scarce and the biggest group of tourists we encountered were some German off-road enthusiasts in 4x4s who roared across the border from Montenegro and disappeared up the track to Shkodra in a cloud of dust. Unsurprisingly, perhaps, the chance to learn English - which, for whatever reason, has become the *lingua franca* of international tourism, especially in SE Europe - proved popular. Such was the demand, in fact, that we opened a second school in the neighbouring village of



Lëpushë - and between us taught some 70 children and adults a day. In Vermosh, Lydia and I took a dozen-strong class teenagers in a schoolroom which was unusual in having a blackboard, chalk and an occasional electric light. Although theatre isn't on the curriculum in rural Albanian schools, the class liked the idea of putting on a play. Being teens, they chose to dramatise two bloodthirsty

local folk tales: in one, a young woman was promised in marriage to an Ottoman pasha and stabbed him on their wedding night because she couldn't love him; in the other, a young wife and mother agreed to be buried in the wall of Shkodra castle to stop it falling down, but only if she could still breastfeed her baby through a hole. Two weeks later, they made their debut in front of the village, performing both tales in English and in paper costumes. Although unfamiliar with the language, the audience recognised the stories and went wild - albeit not quite as wild as for the adult class singing 'My Heart Will Go On' against a backdrop of granite-purple mountains. (Photo: 'Curtain Call' by Tom Phillips)

That weekend, the tables turned and we became the audience. The annual Miss Bjeshka festival in Lëpushë attracts thousands from across Albania and beyond. A dozen women compete, not to be the most attractive, most cosmetically enhanced beauty, but to best represent their traditions and community via extraordinarily intricate costumes, dancing and crafts. It was hard to tell but we were probably the only non-Albanians there. Dance troupes from Kosova and poets with extravagant moustaches told traditional stories, backed by lutes or *çifteli*. After the spectacle, the regional chief of police invited us to join him for lamb and *raki*, but our ride back to Vermosh arrived and we had to leave, bouncing through the mountains on the back of a flatbed truck. It took the best part of the next day to cross the border into Montenegro and come anywhere close to a railway line or airport.

## 8. TALK FLYER

(Print this out or ask Richard for a full A4 version!)

"MOUNTAINS OF PEACE IN THE BALKANS"  
Kosova - Montenegro - Albania  
An illustrated talk

In June 2012 six members of the Fell and Rock Climbing Club enjoyed a 13 day journey on foot through the Bjeshkët e Nemuna/ Prokletije mountain range which straddles northern Albania, southern Montenegro and western Kosova. These spectacular mountains and valleys, under threat from depopulation and environmental destruction, are at the heart of the Balkans Peace Park Project (B3P) which aims to unite the communities of the three countries in preserving their natural heritage and enabling their inhabitants to continue to live there in the valleys as they always have done.



*(Photo: About to cross the border, Ropojana valley between Vuthaj (Montenegro) and Thethi (Albania))*

This talk shows the dramatic, flower-rich mountain scenery and the homes and lifestyles of the people living in what is one of the least known parts of Europe. It includes snippets of history and politics to set the context and shows briefly the work of B3P's Summer Programmes, international volunteers teaching young people enough English to welcome visitors to their wonderful surroundings. The speaker is Richard Hargreaves, a retired teacher now living in the Yorkshire Dales, who has walked and climbed, albeit modestly, in Britain, Europe and

beyond over many years. He has been involved in B3P since its inception in 2001 and has visited the area to walk, trek, mountain bike or for meetings almost every year since 2002. Proceeds from the talks will be given to B3P.

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## **9. APPLYING FOR PERMISSION TO CROSS INTERNATIONAL BORDERS AT UNOFFICIAL CROSSING POINTS IN THE B3P AREA**

The general principle, agreed at a Round Table meeting of border police from Albania, Kosova and Montenegro with GIZ and other interested organizations, groups and individuals in Podgorica, Montenegro in October 2011:

When you wish to cross from one country to another at an unofficial crossing point you apply in advance for permission from **the country you are leaving.**  
E.g. If you are trekking Kosova, Montenegro, Albania and back to Kosova, you will apply to all three countries.

The procedure for applying in advance on line is detailed below.

### **A. MONTENEGRO**

To find the information and instructions go to:

- [www.montenegro.travel](http://www.montenegro.travel)
- Click on 'Montenegro' at top right of screen. This will bring up 'English'
- Click on Montenegro on Left of menu bar, next to 'Accommodation' which has come up by default
- Click on General Information on menu below
- Click on Borders Crossing and Visas
- Scroll down to find UNOFFICIAL CROSSINGS
- On menu at the bottom find Application Form and 'Contact list for border applications' (this tells you where to send the form in the region you are going to. E.g. for crossing to Albania or Kosovo in Projkletija/Bjeshkët e Nemuna find Plav, which comes under Berane)
- Complete form on line and send it in.
- Good luck!

### **B. ALBANIA**

At the moment (October 2012) you have to find an application form on line, fill it in and then **post it by air mail** to a police station in Tirana, Shkodër or Bajram Curri. You include your phone number so that the police can phone you back with the permission. The reason for this will be that Albania prefers or 'strongly recommends' that you use the services of a tourist agency in the country or a local tour guide when arranging your trip to Albania. There are two websites with application forms:

1. Albania National Tourist Organization [www.akt.gov.al/news](http://www.akt.gov.al/news) Click 'English' on top right, then find 'Border Crossing Procedures for hikers . . .' in the column on the right. It is dated 03/01/2012. The form was only in pdf, with only partial translation into English and it didn't tell you where to post the form to. Now we have been asked to help with the English translation, so it will soon be more helpful.
2. Shkodra Regional Council [www.qarkushkoder.org](http://www.qarkushkoder.org) this should bring up a page in English with 'Border Crossing Procedure' in the column on the right. The form here has full

English translation and there is a list of police stations to send it to, depending on which area you intend to trek, i.e. Shkodra for crossing from Thethi to Montenegro, Bajram Curri for crossing from Valbona to Montenegro or Kosova. If the correct page does not come up automatically you may need to enter the whole website address:

[www.qarkushkoder.org/index.php?lang=en](http://www.qarkushkoder.org/index.php?lang=en)

### C. KOSOVA

An application form is now available at the NGO Marimangat e Pejës, [www.marimangat.org/3-countries-in-1-go.html](http://www.marimangat.org/3-countries-in-1-go.html) . It should also be available soon from Peja Information Office and Rugova Experience ([rugovatour@hotmail.com](mailto:rugovatour@hotmail.com)). Only some of the form has English translation and it doesn't actually tell you where to send it. I hope this will be rectified soon!

This is a copy of the instructions available on our B3P website. They are changed as new information comes in.

Richard  
November 2012

## 10. B3P EXHIBITION PANELS

For the last 3 years the 7 panels of the B3P travelling exhibition have been on display in the Royal Armouries in Leeds, in a small but important display on the theme of Peace. The Royal Armouries is an outpost of the Imperial War Museum in London. The exhibition has been updated this year and there are now 9 panels, each one 3ft x 3ft, with hardware for hanging it, available for appropriate venues in the UK. They are currently housed in Yorkshire from where, for the cost of transportation only, they could be taken to venues elsewhere in the country.

### **Support our work?**

Our successful and enjoyable Summer Programmes and their extension into all three countries depend entirely on funding from donations.

Donations can be made on line at:

[www.justgiving.com/balkanspeacepark](http://www.justgiving.com/balkanspeacepark) or by cheque to Balkans Peace Park Project, sent to Hon Treasurer B3P, The Camp, Gladestry, Kington HR5 3NY

### **Get involved?**

We are always interested to hear from people who might be able to help on our current projects.

Please check our website [www.balkanspeacepark.org](http://www.balkanspeacepark.org) for our latest volunteer requirements and details of membership

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