



## BALKANS MOUNTAIN MINSTRELS TOUR

June 11<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> 2018



*"How beautiful upon the mountain  
Are the steps of those who walk in peace"*



We are a group of 8 friends from the UK coming to do a musical journey on part of the PoB trail from Peja to Thethi. As musicians (4 ukuleles and a flute) and singers we will sing and play our way on the journey, giving short concerts of about one hour in Peja, Plav, Grbaje, Thethi and Shkodra, and just making music in the guesthouses where we stay in the mountains.



- We are not professional musicians, just happy people who like walking in the mountains and singing. We don't ask for money. Our concerts are FREE.
- The songs and music in the concerts will include:
  - Popular British and American songs from the 1950s and onwards
  - Traditional folk songs from Britain and Ireland
  - Traditional British folk dance tunes. We could even teach you to do some of our dances!
  - Albanian and Montenegrin songs, especially if you help us!
  - We sing mostly in English, but we'll try to make copies of some of the words available
- We hope that local singers/musicians will come and share their music with us



**Are we celebrating something? YES!**

- The vision of the Balkans Peace Park Project (B3P): communities in Kosova, Montenegro and Albania working together in peace and friendship to protect and conserve the environment of their uniquely beautiful Prokletije - Bjeshkët e Nemuna mountain range
- The creation of the Peaks of the Balkans cross-border trail in 2012, now bringing active mountain lovers from all over Europe to walk, climb, trek and cycle in the region, leaving behind nothing but their footsteps on the land and income for families in the towns, villages and farms.
- The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kosova's independence in 2008. Congratulations!
- 2018 is also ERA's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. Congratulations to them too!

## The schedule

We fly into Pristina on 11<sup>th</sup> June and leave from Tirana on 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

Our concerts/performances will be in:

Peja: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June Haxhi Zeka Mill (ERA)  
Wednesday morning 13<sup>th</sup> June in a school in Peja  
Plav/Grbaje: Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June  
Thethi: Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June  
Shkodër: Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June

(The exact venues and times will be confirmed later)

## THANK YOU!

Many thanks for your help and your welcome for us:

Lendita Hyseni Kosova Outdoor, Peja

Ellen and Fatos at ERA (Environmentally Responsible Action), Peja

Emir Feratovic, Plav Tourist Information Office, and Admir Lalic, Prokletije National Park, Gusinje

Pavlin Polia in Thethi

"Mi casa es tu casa" , Backpackers Hostel, Shkodra

## UK Organizer

Richard Hargreaves [strand@hawswick.net](mailto:strand@hawswick.net)

Richard came on the first International Cross-Border Trek in the proposed Balkans Peace Park in July 2003 and he has been back to trek through the mountains on foot or on a mountain bike nearly every year since then. He has often played tunes on his piccolo but he has really wanted to bring a team of UK musicians and singers to celebrate the B3P idea and to make music with local musicians. This Mountain Minstrels tour is his dream come true!



*Piccolo in Cerem 2012*