

Reka e Allagës, Kosovo – Pepaj, Kosovo – Drelaj, Kosovo – Dugaivë, Kosovo – Kuçishtë (Guri i Kuq), Kosovo


Trail distance: 23.26 kilometers

Elevation min: 1,072 meters **max:** 1,820 meters

Cumulative height uphill: 1,257 meters **downhill:** 1,139 meters

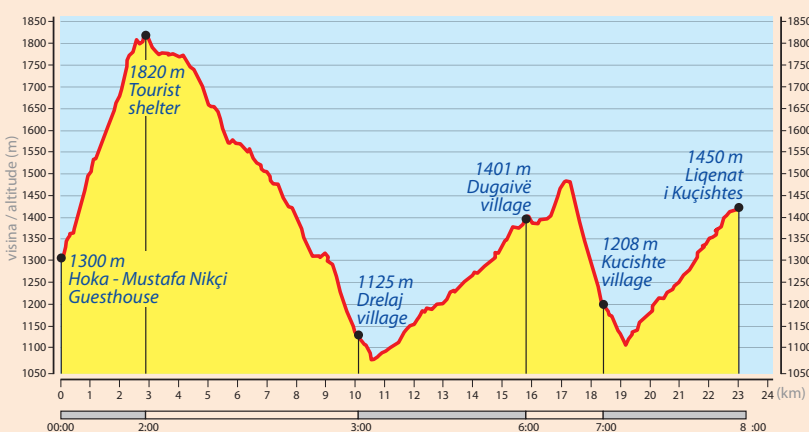
Difficulty level: ● Moderate

Time: 8-9 hours

Markings:  red/white/red

The transfer hike to Kuçishtë is long and interesting and allows for the possibility to visit some other villages along the way. Although it is a long day hike, the difficulty rating is low because the major part of the hike goes along dirt and gravel roads. There are also options to stop the hike and continue to the last point by vehicle.

For a less challenging hike, the trail can be divided into two parts. The best option for an overnight stay is Drelaj village (WP 9e) where accommodation can be found at the family of Osman Shala's, tel. +37744586740. The trail distance from Reka e Allagës to Drelaj is 10.1 kilometer long and from here to Kuçishtë (Guri i Kuq) or Leqinat i Kuçishtës 12.9 kilometers.



The hike starts with an ascent northwest through the meadow behind Mustafa Hakaj's guesthouse (WP 15d). Upon approaching the pine trees, we turn right (east) along a mule track. The track is lined by a fence on our right, and a few meters further on we turn left at the junction (WP 1e). After a few hundred meters following northeast, we reach a meadow with beautiful views towards Reka e Allagës and the surrounding mountains.

At WP 2e, we cross the dirt road and follow the ascent northwest through the forest. We take a left turn at the junction (WP 3e), then we follow north until we exit the forest and reach a nice meadow and tourist shelter (WP 5e). This is an inviting place to rest awhile.

From here, we follow west along a dirt road to Pepaj village. On the way to Pepaj there are two water sources along the road. At the junction of WP 6e and 7e, we turn left and the descent to Pepaj village can be seen from both positions. After approx. 1 kilometer, we see the cemetery (WP 8e) and take a right turn at the junction a few meters further on. The descent follows very gently along a gravel road no longer used by cars; auto traffic having moved to a more recently built road. By following this road for a few kilometers, we reach Drelaj village (WP 9e) and from here we turn right at the junction. We continue southwest through the village along a road lined by fences. This road leads us to the village exit, a bridge (WP10). We cross the bridge and follow a gravel road ascending north along the river into a beautiful canyon.

If you want to finish this hike, you can take a left turn after crossing the bridge and approx. 1 kilometer further on you meet the main road. Here you can hire a taxi to Kuçishtë (WP 20e).

At WP 11e, bear left at the junction and follow the ascending gravel road north-west. When we arrive at Dugaivë (WP 14e), we do not take any of the dirt roads; rather, we follow southwest along a meadow, then south to the forest. We follow south at WP 15e and approx. 200 meters further on we start descending along a mule track through the forest which leads us to Kuçishtë village (WP 16e). At the village, we take the dirt road and continue southwest until we meet the paved road at the bridge (WP 17e).

Worth visiting in this village is the Catholic Church which is located in a place called "Church Hill" (ask locals for a guide or directions). Ruins of this church represent one of the most valuable monuments of medieval Rugova.

To go to Guri i Kuq Hotel (the point nearest to the trail head of the next hike), follow south for approx. 3.8 kilometers and bear left at the junctions of WP 18e and 19e.

UTM waypoints

15d. 34 T 430988 4730890, 1300 m, Mustafa Hakaj guesthouse

1e. 34 T 430906 4731108, 1370 m, turn left at the junction

2e. 34 T 430550 4731248, 1477 m, dirt road

3e. 34 T 430171 4731535, 1588 m, turn left at the junction

4e. 34 T 430126 4731850, 1656 m, turn left at the junction

5e. 34 T 430120 4732624, 1820 m, tourist shelter

6e. 34 T 428691 4731186, 1651 m, bear left at the junction

7e. 34 T 427959 4730751, 1557 m, bear left at the junction

8e. 34 T 428571 4730553, 1477 m, cemetery and bear right at the junction

9e. 34 T 427977 4728774, 1125 m, Drelaj village

10e. 34 T 427762 4728500, 1072 m, bridge and follow SW

11e. 34 T 426958 4729709, 1190 m, turn left at the junction and follow the ascent NW

12e. 34 T 425195 4730312, 1307 m, turn left at the junction

13e. 34 T 424812 4730283, 1358 m, turn left at the junction

14e. 34 T 424996 4729735, 1401 m, Dugaivë village

15e. 34 T 424444 4728905, 1475 m, follow S at the junction

16e. 34 T 424179 4727984, 1208 m, Kuçishtë village

17e. 34 T 424379 4727310, 1107 m, bridge

18e. 34 T 423971 4726616, 1154 m, bear left at the junction

19e. 34 T 424790 4726670, 1212 m, bear left at the junction

20e. 34 T 424800 4726178, 1420 m, Guri i Kuq Hotel