

Valbonë, Albania – Çerem, Albania

Trail distance: 19.8 kilometers

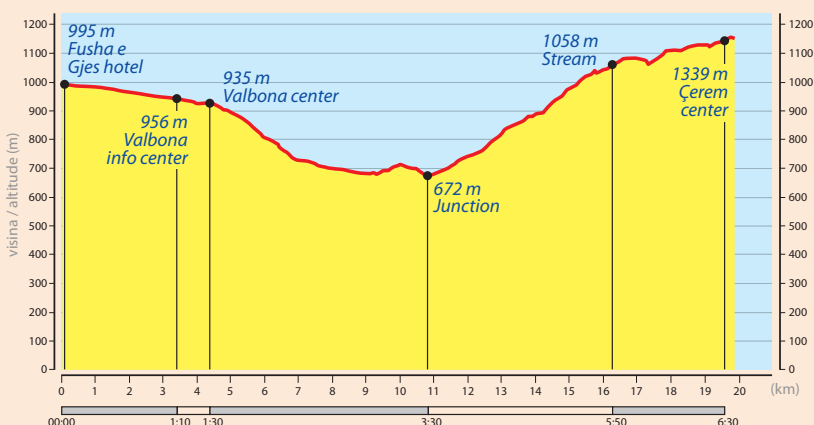
Elevation min: 670 meters **max:** 1,156 meters

Cumulative height uphill: 541 meters **downhill:** 382 meters

Difficulty level: ● Easy

Time: 7 hours

Markings: None



This itinerary involves the transfer from Valbonë to Çerem village. To get to Çerem, one can either hire a taxi or hike along the gravel road for 20 kilometers from Fusha e Gjes Hotel (WP 12) to Çerem. The mule track – the shortest way – used to connect the two villages, but has been destroyed by erosion.

There are no accommodation possibilities along this trail for separating the hike/drive. People at Fusha e Gjes Hotel can help you find a taxi.

Çerem is a small village, largely abandoned, located approx. 17 kilometers northeast of Valbonë. At the moment it is populated only during the summer time by shepherds. The village is empty during the winter time due to poor weather conditions. The road which connects the village with Valbonë and the city of Bajram Curri is blocked by snow during the winters.

The hike/drive starts at Hotel Fusha e Gjes (WP 12), located about 3.5 kilometers southwest of Valbonë center. We follow northwest along the main (unpaved) road which connects Rragam with Valbonë. Approx. 1 kilometer from the hotel, we cross a bridge (WP 1a). A few kilometers further on, we find the Tourist Info Center of Valbonë (WP 2a) located next to the main road close to the village center (WP 3a). Most of the guesthouses and other facilities are located here.

Take the main road and then, after approx. 7 kilometers, bear left at the junction (WP 4a) to Çerem village. By taking a right turn at this junction, the route takes you to Dragobi village and then on to Bajram Curri city. We take a left turn at the next junction (WP 5a) and follow the gravel road. After some kilometers, we cross a stream (WP 6a) flowing over the road. We follow the gravel road for 2 more kilometers and then cross the river and approach Çerem center (WP 7a). Çerem is a good option for staying overnight or taking a break at one of its hospitable alpine huts. We stayed at Hysen Sula's guesthouse (WP 8a).

UTM waypoints:

12. 34 T 407097 4697679, 995 m, Fusha e Gjes Hotel
- 1a. 34 T 407468 4698259, 986 m, bridge
- 2a. 34 T 408260 4699582, 956 m, Valbonë Tourist Info Center
- 3a. 34 T 408772 4700569, 935 m, Valbonëcenter
- 4a. 34 T 414397 4699325, 672 m, take a left turn at the junction
- 5a. 34 T 413686 4700449, 798 m, take a left turn at the junction
- 6a. 34 T 414761 4703230, 1058 m, stream crossing
- 7a. 34 T 414611 4705051, 1139 m, Çerem center
- 8a. 34 T 414751 4705175, 1155 m, Hysen Sula guesthouse