

## Your Journey in the Balkans

Kosovo is a prime destination for backcountry skiing, ski touring, freeride, and cat-skiing. There are two main large mountain ranges in Kosovo: the Sharr Mountains and the Accursed Mountains, both known for heavy snowfalls and perfect conditions for skiing.

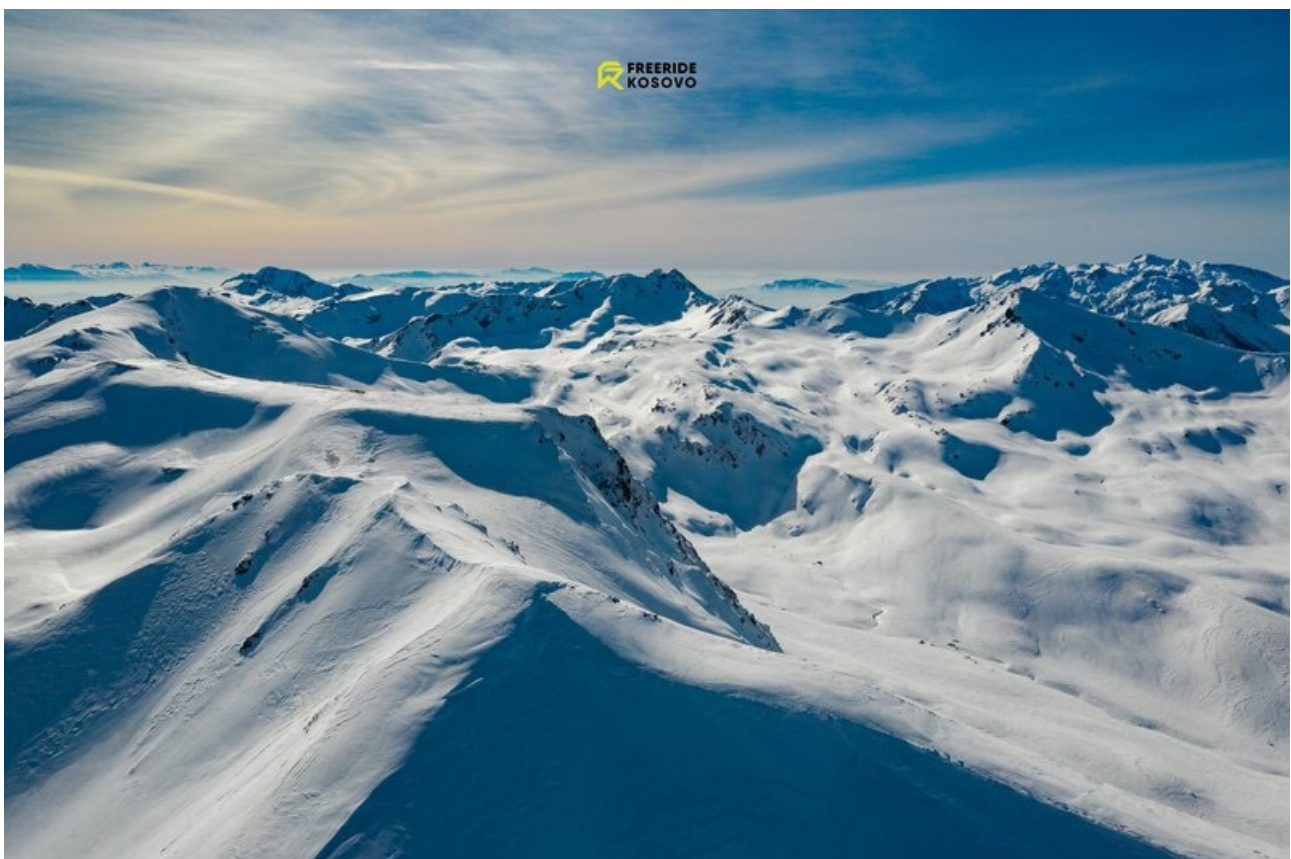
Freeride Kosovo offers the ultimate ski experience in the Balkans! Our cat-ski and ski touring company is the perfect choice for those seeking a unique adventure and wilderness experience on the European continent in the Accursed Mountains. Although the company is relatively new, our team comprises experienced guides and adventure tourism professionals passionate about the Balkans. We offer a range of customizable packages, from day trips to multi-day expeditions, allowing you to explore this beautiful part of the world.



## The Zone of Freeride Kosovo

Freeride Kosovo provides an opportunity for adventure in the Freeride Zone, located in the Accursed Mountains above the town of Decan, Kosovo, near the borders of Albania and Montenegro. The area offers three different locations, each providing the opportunity to ski for two to three days on various slopes. Some slopes can be up to 4 km long, while the average length is 2.5 km. The ski area is about 4 km wide and very diverse.

The slopes in this area are mainly located on the north and northeast faces of the mountains. The region is known for its rugged wilderness and low number of visitors due to its remote location. Due to its proximity to the Adriatic Sea, these mountains receive the highest snowfall in southeastern Europe, similar to British Columbia. However, the climate shifts from Mediterranean to continental, resulting in cold temperatures. The snow quality is excellent, as storms from the Atlantic Ocean gather moisture from the Adriatic Sea before depositing it on the mountain peaks.





## The Hotel and Accommodation

Freeride Kosovo partners with Gacaferi Guest House, located at 1,840 meters above sea level. A 30- to 40-minute transfer to the slopes is included in the package. The hotel complies with national regulations by not building in protected areas.

The Gacaferi Guest House offers excellent conditions and local cuisine served in the charming ambiance of a hut surrounded by the high-altitude pine forest of Gacaferi Mountain. The hut (Guest House Gacaferi) is located in the heart of the Kosovar part of the Accursed Mountains, close to the three-border point (peak) between Albania and Montenegro. Gacaferi Guest House is the only guest house operating at this altitude during the winter.

The whole range will be ours for a week-long stay. The cherry on top will be the last day, where you will visit one of the most popular mountain tourist cities in the Balkans, Peja. Our tour is planned to include visits to the city's historic heritage sites and tasting traditional food.



## Cat Skiing Highlights:

- Freeride skiing in one of the most remote areas in the Balkans
- Freeride skiing in the deepest and best powder in the Balkans
- Freeride skiing in the border zone between Kosovo, Albania, and Montenegro
- Enjoy phenomenal views of the Accursed Mountains with unlimited visibility
- Taste regional highlander food and experience distinct mountain culture in Kosovo

## Is This Trip for You?

### Activity Level: 3 (Moderate+)

This cat skiing and freeride ski touring trip is suitable for keen freeride skiers who are prepared to put in some physical preparation. For the most part, our routes follow good and safe skiing paths, though the terrain can be steep and rocky in parts, winding through high alpine mountains. Most of the route is not exposed to steep and dangerous faces, but some sections are. However, having a very experienced mountain guide with you should alleviate any concerns.

Accommodation is very good, meeting Kosovo's standards for hotels. Facilities include heating, Wi-Fi, and very kind conditions.

## Itinerary



### Day 1, Saturday: Welcome to Kosovo!

- **Arrival in Prishtina**  
Morning: Meeting point at the airport. Shuttle to the mountain tourist village Belle Resort.  
**Accommodation:** Belle Resort - Belle Deçan Valley  
**Shuttle time:** 1h 30min  
**Services:** [transfer to our lodge, luggage transfer, welcome drink, dinner, briefing, overnight stay in hotel]

### Day 2, Sunday: Cat Skiing

- **Cat Skiing - Freeride:** Freeride Skiing in the "Bjeshka Gacaferit" zone
  - Skiing between: 1,500 m - 2,400 m ASL
  - Transfer: 45 min.
  - **Accommodation:** Hotel - Belle Deçan Valley

The day starts with avalanche gear checking and an avalanche safety refresher training. On the first two days, you will freeride in the Bjeshka and Gacaferi freeride zone and enjoy the wide, easy to intermediate slopes with the



possibility to ski through some couloirs. The ski slopes of Bjeshka and Gacaferi start at an altitude of 1,850 meters. Although there are some huts in the area, they are closed during the winter season. This place offers access to several different peaks with five different downhill points at altitudes between 2,200 and 2,400 meters. Some peaks may require a hike to reach the top for the more adventurous. The difficulty level of skiing in this area is mostly easy to moderate, with some steep couloirs available on selected peaks for more experienced skiers. Additionally, the lower sections offer excellent pillow skiing, making it a fantastic place for some jumping. The ski area stretches over a length of 1.6 kilometers and is partly bordered by a ridge, which also forms the border between Albania and Kosovo. From the ridge, you have a view of the Doberdol valley, which is one of the stops on the Peaks of the Balkans trail. The east, west, and north sides of the peak can be skied, and the avalanche danger is very low in this area.

**Services:** [breakfast, transfers, lunch packet, dinner, guide, overnight stay in hotel]



## Day 3, Monday: Cat Skiing - Freeride

- Freeride Skiing in Bogiq Peak Zone
  - Skiing between: 1,500 m - 2,400 m ASL
  - Transfer: 10 min by snow-cat
  - **Accommodation:** Mountain Hut - Gacaferi Guest House

Today's destination is a carefully chosen spot in the northwest part of the range, a remote area known for its stunning landscapes, challenging slopes, and numerous natural features, including jumping pillars – steep mounds of snow that invite daring skiers and snowboarders to catch some air. The northwest slopes are a playground of diverse terrain. Steep chutes, open bowls, and dense glades challenge the group's skills, providing a perfect canvas for their adventurous spirits. The jumping pillars, strategically scattered across the landscape, beckon those seeking an extra dose of excitement.

**Services:** [breakfast, guide, transfers, lunch packet, dinner, overnight stay in hotel]

## Day 4, Tuesday: Optional Cat Skiing, Ski Touring, Rest Day

- Freeride Skiing in the "Gjeravica Peak 2,656m ASL" Zone
  - Skiing between: 1,500 m - 2,656 m above sea level
  - Transfer: 30 minutes by snow-cat
  - **Accommodation:** Mountain Hut - Gacaferi Guest House

Skiing from Gjeravica, the highest peak in Kosovo, offers an exhilarating experience for adventure seekers. This location is 20 minutes away by snow-cat and is situated at an altitude of 1,760 meters. The Bjeshka e Junikut area is characterized by steeper slopes with fewer trees and rocks, requiring more caution when selecting slopes. You can take the snow-cat up to 2,300 meters and hike an additional 100 meters to reach even higher elevations. From here, you have a breathtaking view of the Accursed Mountains, the Deçan Valley, and Mount Gjeravica. Although some parts of the area are extreme, there are



also opportunities for more moderate descents. The valley faces east and northeast and has numerous small couloirs and gullies. The area is sparsely tree-covered and offers ample opportunities for skiing, with a return to the hotel in just 10 minutes. When the weather is nice, this area is perfect for freeriding with its varied pistes and wide range of options.

**Services:** [breakfast, transfers, lunch packet, guide, dinner, overnight stay in guest house]

## Day 5, Wednesday: Cat Skiing - Freeride

•Freeride Skiing in "Bjeshka Vokshit"

◦Skiing between: 1,500 m - 2,400 m above sea level

◦Transfer: 15 minutes by snow-cat

- **Accommodation:** Mountain Hut - Gacaferi Guest House

The landscape of Bjeshka e Vokshit reveals itself in all its glory – expansive bowls, steep chutes, and hidden glades await those who dare to venture into this untouched sanctuary. The guides, adept at reading the mountain's language, lead the group through a carefully curated selection of descents, ensuring a perfect blend of challenge and exhilaration. Lunchtime will be a break on a snow-covered ridge with panoramic views of the surrounding peaks. The group, surrounded by pristine wilderness, will refuel with a mountain feast, exchanging stories of their most exhilarating descents.

**Services:** [breakfast, lunch packet, guide, transfer, dinner, overnight stay in guest house]



## Day 6, Thursday: Cat Skiing - Freeride

A day to be organised with the group based on experience weather and requests. The activities can be separated on two different activities one with the guide and one with the tail guide.

## Day 7, Friday: Cat Skiing - Freeride

- Freeride Skiing in the "Bjeshka e Dobroshit" Zone, Skiing from the 3 Borders Peak Toward Montenegro
  - Skiing between: 1,500 m - 2,350 m above sea level
  - Transfer: 10 minutes by snow-cat
  - **Accommodation:** Belle Resort Hotel

These days offer more variety and, for lucky groups, snow-filled couloirs up to 1,000 meters. The base of this resort is at an altitude of 1,700 meters and is famous for its couloirs, which can be up to 1,000 meters long and offer extreme skiing experiences. However, due to its southern location, the timeframe for skiing on these couloirs is limited. Nevertheless, there are many slopes in this area where the snow stays for a long time. It is a wide valley that offers access to the east, north, and west faces. We can reach the three-country peak between Kosovo, Montenegro, and Albania in just 30 minutes by snow-cat, and a 2,400-meter peak can be reached after a 30-minute walk. From this peak, you can ski down to the guest house or, in good conditions, extend the forest skiing to Zalli Rupës. The famous couloirs are located below the Ropa peak at 2,525 meters, which marks the border with Albania. These couloirs are a unique opportunity for experienced skiers. Depending on the conditions and difficulty level, the group can be split into two to take on the challenge of more extreme skiing. However, the area also offers many gentle and soft runs, and the forest runs can be quite steep. Even though the area is now covered with snow, it is known for its small lakes and ponds.

## Day 8, Saturday: Cat Skiing - Freeride

Drive to airport

# HOLIDAY TOUR INFORMATION

### Price Includes:

- English-speaking local guide and tail guide
- Airport transfers
- All accommodations during the tour
- All meals during the tour as described
- All land transport required by the itinerary
- All entrance fees
- Luggage transport
- Avalanche Equipment

A, B, C

- Avalanche Airbag Backpack

### Price Does Not Include:

- Airline tickets
- Travel insurance
- Hotels and transfers if you travel earlier or later than the tour dates
- Airport taxes
- Tips for local staff
- Alcoholic beverages or soft drinks
- Personal items

## GEAR LIST

To achieve maximum comfort with minimum weight, the following checklist has been created to help you choose your clothing and gear for this trip. Try to keep the weight of your equipment to a minimum.

## TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

- Airline Tickets (Confirmation and Itinerary)
- Passport

## CURRENCY

The unit of currency in Kosovo is the Euro.

- ATM Availability:
  - Deçan (10 km from Belle Resort)
  - Prishtina
  - Pejë
  -

## LOCAL TIME

- Time zone: GMT+1

## ELECTRICITY

- Electric supply and plugs: 220V, 50 Hz, two-pin round plugs

## WHAT IS THE ACCOMMODATION LIKE?

During the tour, we will stay in hotels and guest houses. The hotels and guest houses are well-built, with charming views and mountain-style architecture typical of Kosovo. They are cozy and suitable for this region. Rooms are shared among group members, with a maximum of 4 persons per room.

Hotels/Guest Houses provide:

- Shampoo
- Towels
- Bed
- Blankets
- Hot shower



- Room service
- WIFI
- TV
- Heating
- Bar
- Restaurant
- Fireplace
- All other hotel facilities for client service

## WEATHER

Kosovo has a largely continental climate, although Pristina is considered to have an oceanic climate. Generally, summers are long and dry, and winters are mild and rainy, with occasional heavy snowfall in the mountains. It can get surprisingly hot in summer, between May and August, with temperatures sometimes reaching as high as 32°C (90°F). The warmest month is July, with an average high temperature of 26°C (79°F). Winters are cold, and snowfall is common. The coldest month is January, with an average low temperature of -5°C (23°F).

## USEFUL CONTACTS

- Kosovo Emergency Numbers:
  - 112 Emergency call
  - 192 (Police)
  - 94 (Ambulance)
- Kosovo Mountain Rescue Service:
  - 0800 80008 (Free Call)
  - +383 49 840 228
- Netherlands Embassy in Pristina:
  - +383 38 516 101
  - [pri@minbuza.nl](mailto:pri@minbuza.nl)
- **Email:** [admin-etrangers.pristina-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:admin-etrangers.pristina-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr)
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