



# Out of Isolation

ALBANIA  
REDISCOVERED



**BETHEL**  
UNIVERSITY

GLOBAL  STUDIES

Although the political and economic situation in Albania has improved a great deal since the Soviet Era, there are still significant deficiencies in infrastructure, high unemployment, lack of access to education and government corruption. In the countryside, it was only recently- in 2009- that girls began to be required to go to school. Though progress has been made, Albania is still one of the poorest countries in Europe. In partnership with local nonprofits, volunteer participants have the opportunity to create real and sustainable difference within this country that is still fighting its way out of isolation.





**Impact Areas: Environment • Sustainability • Education • Community Engagement**

## *Make a Difference*

Participants will work to implement sustainable improvements, including participation in educational and conservation projects that will enrich and improve the lives of the host community members. Participants will teach and learn from one another, embrace a new culture, and participate in experiences that shape lives.

## *Educational Opportunities*

Students will be fully prepared to make the most of their service and global leadership development program as a result of the unique online pre-departure educational component offered with BLV's educational partner, Bethel University.



### **PRELIMINARY ITINERARY**













#### **Tirana**

- **Day One** Arrive in Tirana and settle into accommodations. On-site orientation followed by a cultural tour of the capital city and a special welcome dinner and introduction to Albania cuisine.
- **Day Two** Begin the first day of work in the children's center.
- **Day Three** Continuation of service project work. Bunker tour/team challenge in the afternoon.
- **Day Four** Excursion to take a boat tour on Lake Ohrid, on the border to Macedonia. Shopping and sightseeing in St. Naum.
- **Day Five** Back to work on the community center projects!
- **Day Six** Continuation of service project work. Afternoon hiking and swimming excursion!
- **Day Seven** Morning completion of service project, afternoon ceremony with the local students, followed by a farewell party with the community members!
- **Day Eight** Depart for airport after project debriefing in the morning.

## Education Components

Bright Light Volunteers, in conjunction with Bethel University, provides participants with the opportunity to earn three hours of transferrable college credit. This credit, in Global Studies, is available to high school Juniors, Seniors, and college students. Adults may audit the course as well. Instructions on course enrollment will be shared with you upon completion of registration.

## What we cover:

-  Community service project funding
-  All cultural activity expenses
-  All community donations
-  Tuition for dual-enrollment college course offered online via our educational partner, Bethel University
-  Certificate of Global Citizenship administered by Bethel University
-  Presidential Service Award - Bronze Level
-  All lodging
-  All meals in country
-  All onsite transportation
-  Bilingual, local, on-site, group leader
-  On-site Bright Light Volunteers state-side representative
-  Medical and emergency insurance

## ESTIMATED CONTRIBUTION PER PARTICIPANT : \$3260.00

Includes Education Component: \$550\*

Airfare Estimate: \$900\*

\*This is an airfare estimate only. Please contact your BLV representative for information on additional airfare procurement policies and services.

\*\*Includes access to our web based, dual enrollment 3 credit hour transferable college credit course AND Certificate of Global Citizenship awarded via our educational partner, Bethel University.

## MINIMUM PARTICIPANTS: 10

Quote only valid from 30 days after submission. Our cancellation policy can be found online at <https://www.brightlightvolunteers.org/faq/>



\*Bright Light Volunteers does not cover visas, checked baggage fees, cancellation insurance, immunizations (if applicable), extra food (beyond three meals per day), or souvenirs. Airfare arrangement assistance is available on a case by case basis.

## A Note From Bright Light Volunteers

Bright Light Volunteers is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt nonprofit organization. Our mission is to make the world a brighter place by providing educational service opportunities that foster the development of global leaders and citizens.



Global Service-Learning and Citizenship is course-based, culturally-immersive, service-learning opportunity designed to equip participants with the broad knowledge and skills necessary to become informed, responsible, culturally competent, global citizens.

All of our programs are designed to support the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Contact Stacie Freeman for more information: [freemans@bethelu.edu](mailto:freemans@bethelu.edu)

