



Projekti mbështetet financiarisht nga Bashkimi European



Ekonomia e shtetëz për një Zhvillim Rural



EDEN  
Centra Mjedisore  
për Qytetet  
e Reja

# BIODIVERSITY AND TRADITIONAL, CULTURAL VALUES OF TOMORRI NATIONAL PARK



*Për Mirëqenie  
Sociale e Mjedisore*



# **Introduction**

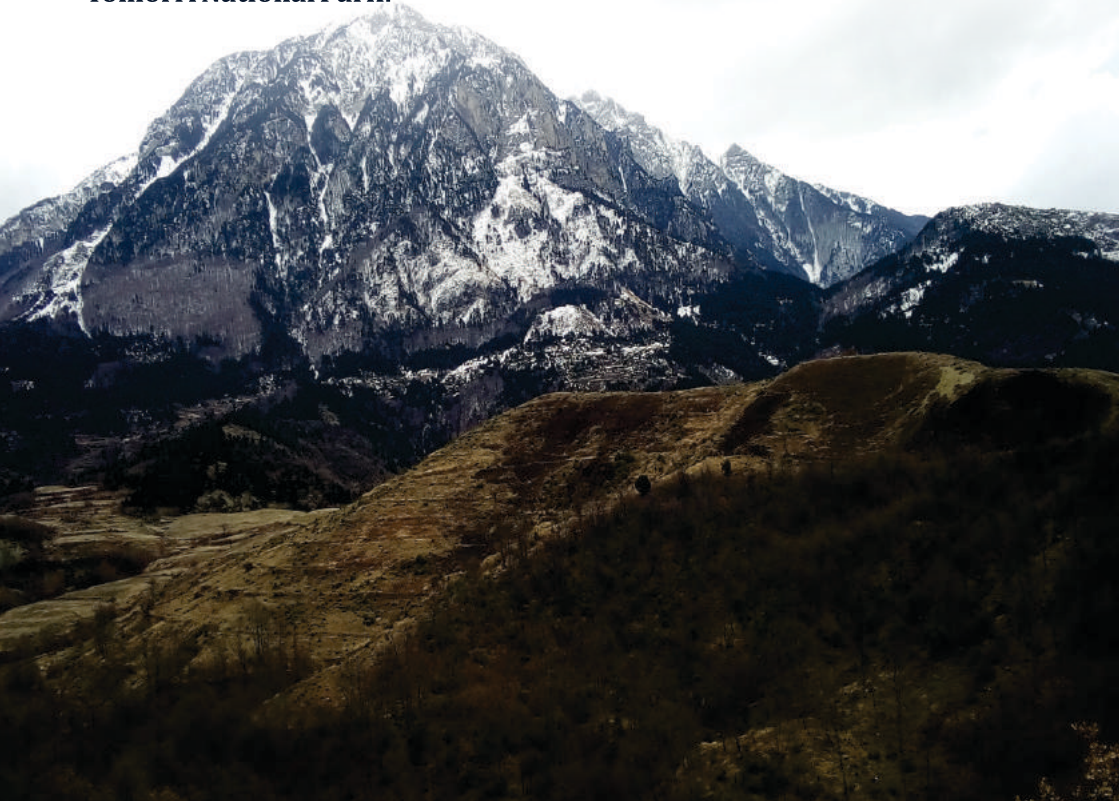
**Welcome to Tomorri Mystical Mountain!**

**This booklet provides detailed information on the rare floristic values of Tomorri National Park, entwined with local, traditional culture and social-economic impact in the area.**

**The tourists and visitors get all the necessary details about guest houses, Tomorri National park values and it is an attraction motivational booklet, encouraging their visit in this pearl of nature.**

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**A big thank you to our collaborators and we look forward to having you back in further Projects and a special welcome to visitors and tourists of Tomorri National Park!**





This sacred mountain, named like Baba Tomorr (Father Tomorr), carries a special significance among even modern day Albanians. Tomorr exemplifies much about the Albanian spirit.

Baba Tomorr, accompanied by his eagle servants, his crafty fairy mistress "E Bukura e Dheut", and numerous wind spirits, rules over Albania and the world beneath his perch on this mysterious mountain. Or so the story goes. "E Bukura e Dheut", a mysterious beauty herself, serves to illustrate man's duality with the gods, and women, her golden hair and black skin the ultimate temptation for heroes of old. Her temperament is as fickle as the winds themselves.

The father of the gods though, seems to have stretched his mighty hand through eternity, to the common man in Albania even today. It is said that peasants of this region still swear to Baba Tomorr. The oath is sacred to Christians and those of the Bektashi Order – Christians still climb the mountain to honor the Virgin Mary on Assumption Day – August 15th, while the Bektashi make their own pilgrimage later, from August 20-25, in honor of Abbas Ali.

Tomorri mountain is well-known as "The Albanian Olym", "The Mountain of the Gods". It has many natural, cultural and historical treasures. Hiking his trails, you will explore stunning landscapes and sense a fresh breeze. You will meet mountain shepherds; see unique plant species from the Terciar to nowadays, as well as a variety of animal species, among which the Wild Goat.





**Steno-endemic species: plants that are geographically located only and exclusively on Tomorri Mountain and in no other place.**



*Campanula aureliana* Bogdanović, Rešetnik, Brullo & Shuka

**Synonyms:** *Campanula garganica* var. *albanica* Markgr

**Albanian Name:** Lulekëmbana vezulluese

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***Campanula aureliana*** has recently been reported to science (in 2014) and more precisely since its discovery on Tomorri Mountain. It is an herbaceous species (10-30 cm), perennial covered with rough hairs with blue in purple flower.

***Where can it be found?*** This plant grows on calcareous rock, on fresh slopes. Beware! Considering the fact that it grows close to the inhabited areas and its population is globally known to be restricted in Tomorri Mountain, this species is endangered by the influence of human factor.

Currently, this population is healthy and you can enjoy this flower's beauty in the villages of Lybesha, Kapinova, Tomorri and in the northern peak, in an altitude of 500- 1950 m.



*Astragalus autranii* Bald

**Albanian name:** Arrithja e Autranit

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***Astragalus autranii*** is reconfirmed at Mount Tomorri in 2013, after 120 years (collected and described by the botanist Antonio Baldacci). It is a perennial herbaceous species with pink flowers. It is very beautiful and unique.

***Where can it be found?*** It grows in fresh alpine pastures. Plants' population is actually healthy but they are AT RISK due to their limited distribution and the influence of climate change.

To witness this species, you must climb to the alpine limestone pastures of the southern peak (Abaz Ali Tomb) and Zaloshnja peak pastures.

## ENDEMIC SPECIES:

*plants that are geographically located only in specific areas in Albania.*



*Onosma mattirolii* Bald.

**Albanian Name:** *Çiklla e Matirolit*

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***Onosma mattirolii*** has a yellow tubular flower. It is a perennial herbaceous plant, with a height of 10-30 cm, rough hair which pierces when you try to touch the plant. It has a tough beauty.

***Where can it be found?*** It grows on limestone pastures, at 2000 m altitude near the southern peak. Its range of distribution is limited, so we must be careful to avoid harming them by stepping and picking.





## SUB-ENDEMIC SPECIES:

*plants that are geographically located in Albania and in the Balkan region where similar habitat features are found.*



*Campanula hawkinsiana* Hauskn. & Heldr

**Synonyms:** *Campanula halacsyana* Bald.

**Albanian name:** Lulekambana e Havkinsit

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***Campanula hawkinsiana*** has a blue-violet color and creates a beautiful belt in the whiteness of limestone screes. It is a perennial plant, up to 10 - 20 cm long.

***Where can it be found?*** This species usually grows in siliceous screes, but on Tomorri Mountain it has two distinct features: 1) it can be found on limestone screes in the alpine zone and 2) it is the highest altitude of its distribution. As a result, in Tomorri this species is important and is more specific due to the morphological deviations incurred by this specific growing environment.

***The species*** is globally critically endangered, and we must all take care and contribute to protect it.



*Edraianthus australis* (Wettst.) Lakusic

**Synonyms:** *Edraianthus graminifolius* var. *australis* Wettst.

**Albanian name:** Edraianti i Australise

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***Edraianthus australis*** is a perennial herbaceous plant with blue flowers. It distinguishes for its dwarf shape, and woody stem. The flowers grow among limestone rocks. It is a sub-endemic species in a region shared between Albania and Greece.

***On Tomorri Mountain,*** you may encounter it over 2,000 m of altitude on alpine pastures. You can identify some evident blue spots among limestone cliffs, spread from southern to the northern peaks.

This species is included in the red list and it is vulnerable to climate changes. So please take care not to damage and threaten it!



*Lilium chalcedonicum* L.

**Synonyms:** *Lilium byzantinum* Duch.,  
*Lilium heldreichii* Freyn., *Lilium*  
*chalcedonicum* subsp. *heldreichii* (Freyn) K.  
Richt.

**Albanian name:** Zambaku kalcedon

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***Lilium chalcedonicum*** is a sub endemic bulbous plant occurring in a region between Albania and Greece. It grows from 40 cm up to 1.2 metre high. It has beautiful flowers, usually brilliant red or orange.

***Where can it be found?*** It is found in the fresh environments of dense beech woods (*Fagus sylvatica*) at 1100-1200 m altitude, in the eastern side of Tomorri Mountain in the former path of the Albanian army.

**The species** is very beautiful plants so if you find it, take a picture of it, admire it but please avoid plucking it so that all visitors to the park can enjoy its beauty. There are only few individuals of this species and it is highly endangered.



*Pedicularis graeca* Bunge

**Albanian name:** Pedikularja greke

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***Pedicularis graeca*** can grow to a high of 10-20 cm. It has a lightly hairy stem, with light yellow flowers surrounded by dense long hairs, like a bunch of cotton.

***Where can it be found?*** It grows in fresh environments of the herbaceous layer of Bosnian pine woods (*Pinus heldreichii*) on northern peak, south-western exposure, at 1500 m altitude. This species is globally endangered so it is advised to contribute for its protection by avoiding disruption of its habitat.





*Viola albanica* Halacsy

**Albanian name:** Manushaqja Shqiptare

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***Viola shqiptare*** a perennial plant, which grows in communities in rocky environments in beautiful violet flowers with rose shades.

***Where can it be found?*** It is found along Tomorri ridge; on rocky pastures of over 2200 m altitude. The populations appear healthy and in a considerable number of individuals. Be careful! These populations are endangered by climate changes, so let's help us to raise awareness.



**Natural habitats of priority importance for conservation - according to the classification of the European Union in Habitats Directives "Natura 2000 network".**



8240-Limestone pavements

**Albanian name:**

Sipërfaqe shkëmbore të rrafshta

**Limestone pavements** are considered as priority natural habitats, therefore their conservation is of high importance. It is a natural karst land form consisting of a flat, incised surface of exposed limestone that resembles an artificial pavement. The rock surface is clean and there is almost total lack of soil.

*Limestone pavements* on Mount Tomorri are of a distinctive beauty with their whiteness and different shapes, you can find them inside a mixed pine and beech wood (*Pinus heldreichii* and *Fagus sylvatica*) at 1500 m altitude east; it is also widespread in the northeastern peak on alpine pastures and rocky vegetation

The characteristic morphology of this habitat creates conditions for diverse microclimate, which is reflected in a complex vegetation's a mosaic of different but poor plant communities in terms of number of species.

The most common species are: *Ceterach officinarium*, *Asplenium ruta - muraria*, and *Dryopteris filix-mas* but often dominate *Geranium macrorrhizum* by offering a very beautiful landscape with its large pink flowers. The lichens on these pavements are diverse and dense.

Evaluating its importance for biodiversity pose threats to this, we must all pay attention to protect and report any activity in the park that habitat. Especially at the times when the Park is being destroyed from uncontrolled human activity of stone quarries activities.

**These forests** are medium altitude formations dominated by *Juniperus foetidissima*, a habitat which so far is only reported in Greece. On Mount Tomorri you will enjoy the panorama of this habitat on the northwest site, in the itinerary of pastures starting from "Cezma e Tarikos". However, separate and frequent individuals of *juniperus*, occur almost everywhere within the Bosnian pine and beech forests (*Pinus heldreichii* and *Fagus sylvatica*).

**This habitat** This habitat creates a mystic landscape, in an altitude up to 1000 – 1100 m, with *bersheni* trees 35 cm trunk-wide and 4 m tall, grown on limestone slopes. So, we are talking about old forests even though most of them have suffered frequent cuttings and overgrazing. Interesting herbaceous species from the red list and the Balkan endemics list, which are hosted in this habitat are: *Ceterach officinarium*, *Draba muralis*, *Morina persica*, *Satureja montana*, *Sideritis raeseri*, *Stachys scardica*.



9560 - Endemic forests with *Juniperus foetidissima*

**Albanian name:** Pyje endemike me Bërshen



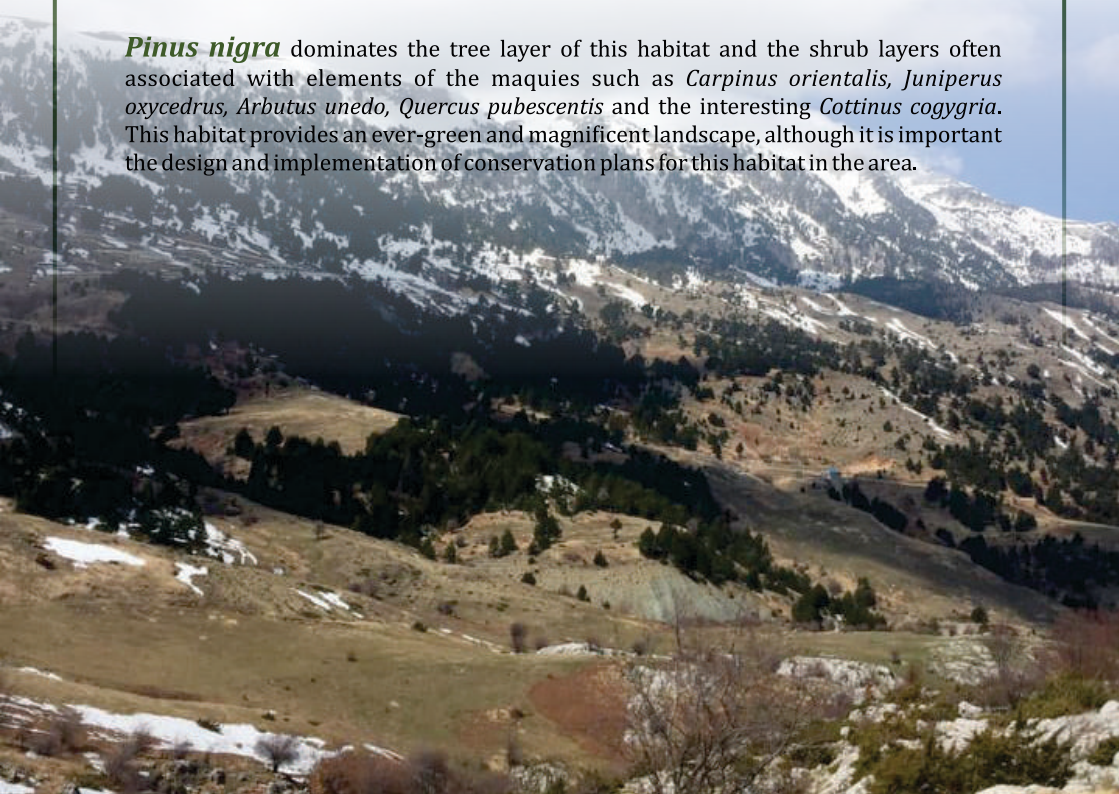


9530 (Sub-) *Mediterranean pine forests with endemic black pines*  
**Albanian name:** Pyje sub-mesdhetare me pishë të zezë

**The habitat represents** dense forests of Mediterranean mountainous region on dolomitic substrate, dominated by various subspecies of Black Pine (*Pinus nigra*).

**This habitat type** occurs randomly in Tomorri Mountain and you will have the chance to see it, but not all *Black Pines* woods represent this habitat. Most of them are plantations from communist times. So, the natural habitat of *Black Pines* you can visit on northeastern part of Tomorri Mountain, starting the trip from Gramshi town.

***Pinus nigra*** dominates the tree layer of this habitat and the shrub layers often associated with elements of the maquies such as *Carpinus orientalis*, *Juniperus oxycedrus*, *Arbutus unedo*, *Quercus pubescentis* and the interesting *Cottinus cogyria*. This habitat provides an ever-green and magnificent landscape, although it is important the design and implementation of conservation plans for this habitat in the area.



*Other natural and beautiful habitats, typical for Tomorri Mountain, which host different species of interest for the Albanian Genofond*

Tomorri Mountain offers a variety of habitats, but here we have identified those habitats that inhabit the largest area in the region, accommodate important species for biodiversity and help in its typology.



8210- *Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation*

**Albanian name:** Shpate shkëmbore gëlqerore me bimësi shkëmbore tipike

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**This habitat** consists of plant communities that colonize the cracks and fissures of limestone rocks and presents a great regional diversity, with many endemic plant species. On Tomorri Mountain this habitat is widespread on 1000-2400 m altitude.

**The plants** grow far apart, and the combination of plants in rocky habitat is casual because it depends only on ecological conditions. This habitat is important as it hosts many endemic and sub endemic Balkan species such as: *Satureja montana*, *Siderites raeseri*, *Ramonda serbica*, *Edraianthus graminifolius*, *Pterocofalus perennis subsp. bellidifolius*, *Valeriana crinii*, *aurelian*, *Campanula*, *Crepis baldaçi*, *Saxifraga grisebachii*, *Saxifraga paniculata*, *Potentilla apenina*, *Arabis alpina*, *Amphoricarpos neumayeri*, *Aubrieta gracilis*, etc.

**Eastern Mediterranean** screes represents a rocky habitat of limestone and serpentine screes that can be found on Tomorri ridge, on southern and northern side and create large unstable surfaces.

It is a typical habitat of Balkan Peninsula and Tomorri Mountain it is just magic, not only for the landscape breaks that it creates but also for the high adrenaline to those who walk over it and especially for the rare and beautiful species.

There are located a lot of rare and astonishing species. Some of floristic treasures you can look in this habitats, are: *Campanula haëkinsiana*, *Thlaspi bellidifolium*, *Veronica thessalica*, *Cardamine carnosa*, *Galium degenii*, *Viola albanica*, *Linaria alpina*, *Valantheria aprica*.



8140- *Eastern Mediterranean screes*

**Albanian name:** Çakëlltishte të Mesdheut Lindor



6170 - *Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands*

**Albanian name:** Kullota alpine dhe subalpinene shkëmbinjtë gëlqeror

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**Alpine and subalpine** calcareous grasslands occur above the timberline on limestones mountains of Europe. It includes herbaceous alpine and subalpine plants. In Tomorri Mountain it occurs on 2000-2350 m altitude, above the timberland.

**The panoramic view** of the subalpine area today is characterized by a mosaic of rare, dispersed trees, and a great variety of pastures, typical of the Alpine and mountainous areas. Some characteristic species of this habitat in the Tomorri Mountain are: *Gentiana verna*, *Erigeron alpinus*, *Draba aizoides*, *Globularia cordifolia*, *Helianthemum oleandicum*, *Armeria canscenscens*, *Ptilotricum cyclocarpum*, *Linum capitatum*, *Botrychium lunaria*, *Viola albanica* etc.

**This habitat** represents forests with the noble tree, a relic from the tertiary period, the Bosnian pine (*Pinus heldreichii*). These are open forests. At Mount Tomorri this habitat is very widespread and transmit the feeling of an ancient mountain with many treasures.

**The average** height of these forests is 15 m and the average trunk diameter is 30 cm. In general, they are monodominant forests, but are often mixed with beech. Other species that are sheltered in this habitat are:

*Juniperus communis subsp.nana*, *Juniperus foetidissima*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Fraxinus ornus*, *Pyracantha coccinea*, *Helleborus odoratus*, *Euphorbia cyparissias*, *Digitalis grandiflora*, *Asphodelus albus*, *Morina persica*, *Festuca rubra*, *Thalictrum minus*, *Sideritis montana*, *Thymus praecox*, *Myosotis sylvatica*, *Satureja montana*, *Primula elatio*, *Onosma mattioli*, *Pedicularis graeca*, *Sideritis raeseri* etc.

**The spur** is widely known as an ornamental and landscape tree rather than a timber source. This is why these forests are relatively in a good condition and the influence of human intervention is generally weak, but the greatest danger in the area are the fires during the summer season.



95A0- *High oro-Mediterranean pine forests*  
**Albanian name:** Pyje pishash të lartë të zonave malore të Mesdheut



## *Well-known areas (Villages):*

***Roshniku***, ancient name was Rudnik, which has two meanings: “digging” or “mountain side”.

The area is located between the two streams beneath the mountain and this is favorite for the woods, agriculture and villages: Bogdan i Poshtëm, Bodgan i Sipërm, Karkanjoz, Kostren i Madh, Kostren i Vogël, Mimiasm, Perisnak Qendër, Roshnik i Vogël, Qafë Dardhë, Vojnik, Rabjak, this site has great potential for development based on tourism economy.

*The area* has natural, historical and never- ending potentials for residents which make the visitors so curious, such as "Qafen e Les", a herbaceous field that is located in the outfall, which is of value because once residents used to fill the mattresses with grass due to its incredibly high quality.

***Roshniku***, is the place where history began 1200 years ago. The ruins of a Slavic church have been found here, traced during the excavations made in the 1990's.

During the Ottoman conquest many residents moved from Roshnik to Istanbul. Some of them returned to then Roshnik to invest and restore the site's traditional identity.

***In Dardhe*** is located the "Korita's area", a meadow that is used for pastures where it is also found a tap of water coming from the mountain. The village of Dardhë has unique historical values, as once here it was described the so-called "Korça caravan road", where caravan from the place called "Hani i Perisnakës" travelled to Korca through a narrow street.

There are several monuments of nature, such as “Çuruqet e Bezgës”, “Ujrvra e Sotirës-Sotira waterfall”, or “Çezma e Tarikos-Tariko's tap”.



## AMONG THE LOCAL RESIDENTS

**Demokrat Keli** is a well-known popular doctor who collects many of the medicinal herbs in Tomorri Mountain

**Ardit Fiska** completed university in Tirana but despite his wish to live in he chose to return to live and work in his village and establish a family business. He has been working for several years in a modest restaurant, located in the center of Roshnik and these last years he has begun to accompany visitors/tourists. The wonderful view that is offered in this area, the region delicious dishes, wine and rakia, altered Ardit's modest restaurant in the most and frequented place by foreign visitors/tourists.

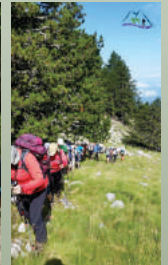
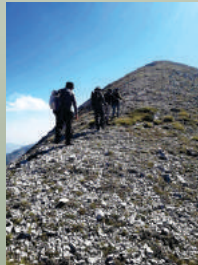
**Lumturi Kuqi**, is a housewife who uses spices, oregano and nenexhik (nane) in her cooking recipes. She says that the traditional cooking of her area is pispilit, which is cooked with different varieties of wild cabbage that she easily finds in her own yard.

**Zenepe Fiska** is a retiree in Roshnik village, who during all her life has dried and sold figs, thanks to the high quality that the fig tree has in this area, and the way they are preserved.

**Albet Fiska** is an immigrant who every Christmas Eve (2018) visits his family in Roshnik and this year he is really amazed by the evident change of his village, the tourism development in this area and he is seriously planning to come back and live there.

**Shahin and Minevere Marra**, a couple who hope for a better future for their region and can make their economic profit through further tourism development, considering the fact that their home is next to **Zall-Dardhe-Tomorri Castle trail**.

**Tomorri Mountain offers various sports such as hiking, horse or donkey riding, canoeing, rafting, and skiing.**





It is said that from the top of Tomorri mountain you can see the lights of the city of Bari, in Italy.

Grape raki is the earliest traditional drink of the area and the inhabitants have preserved the tradition of home-made rakia.

Grapes, figs and olives are the most important fruit-crops, especially the fig tree of Roshnik, which continues to be a brand of the area, for the quality of the fruit, but also for the love and care that the inhabitants use for drying it.

The mountain tea, Tomorri's most requested plant, is served today in bars and restaurants in Berat.

Oregano and many other spices are used by women in the area of this administrative unit, giving a special flavor to traditional cooking. Today, the dairy products are the most demanded in the market, as livestock grazes in the Tomorri meadows.

Residents of the villages are proud of their natural wealth, traditions and culture, as well as the pure air, land, and the history that connects them with the famous mayors of Roshnik, who used to run the Turkish Empire for many years.

In Roshnik village, during these recent years is noticed a new trend-guesthouse who serves local traditional meals by their own products and it is also noticed the tendency of emigrants to return and contribute in their village as they see their future connected to tourism.





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*Thank you for choosing Tomorri Mountain  
as your destination !!*

*You are always welcome!!!*



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*References: The information provided in this booklet is based on scientific data and serious research work of organization's volunteers, referring <http://www.doktoratura.unitir.edu.al/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Doktoratura-Ermelinda-Mahmutaj-Fakulteti-i-Shkencave-i-Natyrore-Departamenti-i-Biologise.pdf> and scientific materials of the Regional Administration of Protected Areas Berat <https://www.facebook.com/adzmerat/>.*

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