

# HIMARA

## QUICK CITY GUIDE





## Getting around

### ON FOOT

Its perfectly possible to visit Himara on foot. The old town boasts an unbelievable wealth of sights, all within walking distance from our guesthouse. So why not wander through the streets and experience Himara at walking pace?

### BY SCOUTER

Discovering Himara by scooter is an absolute must: the city has great drivers along the coast but also adventures mountain roads. Don't have your own bike? You can rent one at the city centre.

[RENT SCOOTER HIMARA](#)

### BY CAR

Himara is easy to drive around by car even in high season. Just be ready for one of the most scenic views of your trip. There are no car rentals in Himara. Temporary parking along the road is ok, just not for a long time. Try to avoid private parkings as they charge too much even for a few hours.

### BY BUS

The city also is easy to explore by public transport. Buses will take you through every village or city from early morning till late at night. Find out about timetables at:

[OLGENOTRAVEL.COM](#)

### BY BOAT

The whole region of Himara is accessible by water, and the numerous operators would love to show you during one of their unforgettable boat trips. The 'hop on hop off' water taxis are another option to view the coast from this unique perspective.

[THE GREAT CHIMERA](#)

### BY TAXI

The taxi piazza is located at the city center. Prices are often exaggerated but you must always negotiate. Minimum fare is 500 and a 10-15 minute drive costs 1000 Lek.

[+355694454191](#)





# HIMARA

2700 years of continuous history

According to the legend the town of Himara was founded by the Greek god Apollo and the first mention on history books was by Pliny the Roman on 77 A.D.

In antiquity the region was inhabited by the Greek tribe of the Chaonians. The Chaonians were one of the three principal Greek-speaking tribes of Epirus, along with the Thesprotians and the Molossians. According to Thucydides, Chaones were people without kings, ruled by two lords who were elected every year and who were descended from the ancient royal bloodlines, whose privileges had been circumscribed.

The castle was built by the Chaones tribe during the 7th century BC and it was known by the name Chimera.

The Ottoman Empire overran Epirus from the late 14th century, but being a natural fortress, Himara was the only region that did not submit to Ottoman rule. It became a symbol of resistance to the Ottoman but suffered from an almost continuous state of warfare.



## THE CASTLE TOWN

A ghost town atop a cliff overlooking the Ionian Sea, in the early morning amongst the abandoned buildings and maze of cobbled streets being reclaimed by nature, it feels like you are the first to have stumbled upon it in decades. Thankfully, for today's visitor, you still can marvel at the remarkably well preserved Church of St. Sergius and Bacchus, replete with its bright, vibrant frescoes, and the harmony between the old stone, the wildflowers, and the sea. The church of All Sants with its bell tower, the Greek school founded by St. Cosmas and many more marvels.

## THE CASTLE OF ALI PASHA

The castle of Porto Palermo was built by Ali Pasha of Tepelena in 1804. At this time this ruler was distinguished for the reconstruction and construction of fortifications, he created a whole system of castles and separate towers as predicting a possible conflict with Turkey. The castle has a triangular shape, with three bastions in its corners, built on the roof and two bastions built in the western courtyard of the castle. The bay of Panormi is a natural wonder and apparently, Ali Pasha must have liked this place too much to set up the castle there.





## UPPER QEPARO

Hidden in the hills behind the coast, between the popular Porto Palermo and Borsh Beaches, upper Qeparo is a hidden gem on the Riviera. Accessed via a steep road that follows the Apolis Valley, the village is separate from lower seaside Qeparo, despite being partially abandoned, upper Qeparo is an excellent example of a traditional Himariot village. Upper Qeparo is a place to see traditional architecture and experience a slower pace of life in a less-touristy corner of Himara. It also has majestic sea views, castle ruins, and – surprisingly – two very good restaurants.

## DRYMADES VILLAGE

Dangling off the side of the Ceraunian Mountains like a string of pearls, Drymades is a dreamy village of whitewashed houses and blue-domed churches. With strong Santorini vibes, it is widely regarded as the most charming settlement on the Albanian Riviera. It is perfectly positioned for exploring the northern portion of the riviera and popular beaches including Jaliskari, Perivolo and Alevra. Its most popular attraction the Monastery of St Mary sits on top of a small hill on the north-western side and is one of the best vantage points for a sweeping view of the village.





## VUNO VILLAGE

Vuno is located along the road between the municipal center of Himara and the village of Ilias and lies on the foot of the Acroceraunian mountains. A peculiarity of Vuno is the special way and the high quality of construction of stone houses and paths that create the first impression and contact with the village. Its houses are situated on rocky terraces forming arched landscape and some of them were more like palaces in Italian provinces. Vuno is the village where Lord Byron and writer Edward Lear stopped for a while to enjoy the architecture and church frescoes during their travels across Albania.

## LLOGARA PASS

If you love mountains and fresh air, this is the trip for you. The Llogara Pass takes you through stunning scenery along the Ionian coast and into Llogara National Park. You will see green forests, high peaks, and wide sea views that make the drive unforgettable. To enjoy everything at your own pace, it's best with a car. One of the best things about the road trip to Llogara Pass is the variety of viewpoints along the way. At the highest point, you can look out over the Karaburun Peninsula, the deep blue of the Ionian coast, and the island of Corfu on a clear day.



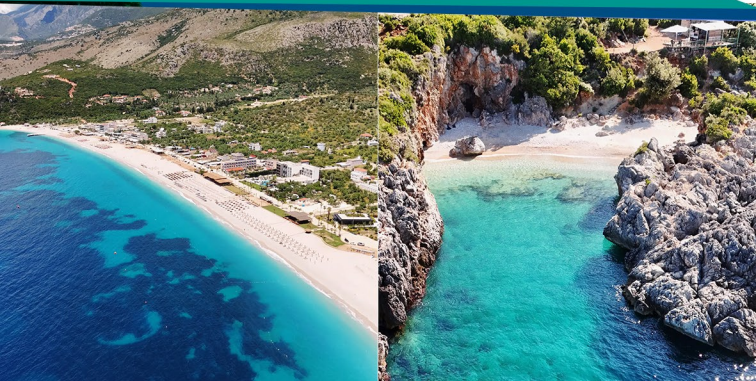


# BEACH GUIDE

The rugged coastline of Albanian Riviera, with traditional villages hidden in secluded coves and golden beaches surrounded by azure water, is a true revelation when travelers first started to explore the region of Himare. Below are the most recommended beaches you must visit.

## LIVADHI & AQUARIUM

Livadhi beach is famous for its deep blue waters and the endless fields of olive trees, it is one of the largest beaches of the region, it has a stretch of 1.2 km and more than 60 meters of sand. The beach is divided in two parts, the north side named Gonia famous for its two marble stones inside the sea where people used to jump from there and the south named Apelistra, also famous for its rock with the same name. A little farther north visitor can find a small beautiful beach named Fusa (or Aquarium), it is highly recommended to visit it.





## FILIKURI BEACH

Tucked away just south of the center, there's absolutely no question that Filikuri beach is one of the best beaches in Himare! This visually stunning pebbled bay is surrounded by rugged cliffs and headland that spill out into the blue of the Ionian Sea on either side. It's a spectacular and unspoiled natural setting that, mostly due to its location, has avoided any real development. However, the harsh surroundings also make it one of the most challenging beaches to get to, with an incredibly steep and sketchy final descent down to the bay. But I'd argue this adds to the appeal, with a great reward waiting for those who make the effort!

## BAY OF PANORMI

If you're dreaming of a serene escape on the Albanian Riviera beaches, Porto Palermo beach is one of the most captivating destinations to add to your itinerary. Nestled in a secluded bay, this beach combines crystal-clear turquoise waters with a rich history, offering visitors a perfect mix of relaxation and exploration. Overlooking the iconic castle of Ali Pasha, the area is not only a haven for swimming and sunbathing in but also a glimpse into Albania's intriguing past. Whether you're seeking a quiet day under the sun, a cultural experience, or a scenic boat ride, Porto Palermo the best choice.





## GJIPE BEACH

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## JALI BEACH

Jale Beach looks like a chill, empty cove on Instagram, but the surprising truth is that in peak summer it feels more like a compact beach festival with better water clarity. It sits on the Albanian Riviera between Himarë and Gjipe, down a steep side road that makes you question your life choices until you see the bay. For backpackers, it's a trade: the water is absurdly clear, the seabed is great for casual snorkeling, and the sunsets hit hard, but the beach is lined with bars, loud music, and tightly packed sunbeds that eat most of the sand.






# FOOD GUIDE

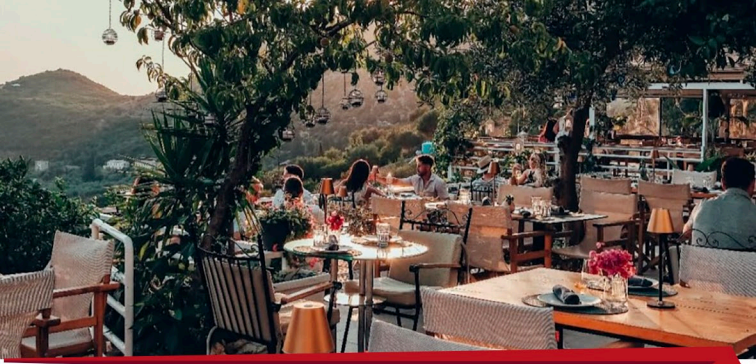
We invite you all to come immerse yourself in the sights, sounds and flavours of the Ionian Sea and the breath taking beauty of the Acroceraunian mountains. Savour the pleasures of Mediterranean and discover our gastronomic culture, a culture inseparably connected with our historical territory and genuine hospitality.

## ESPERIA RESTAURANT

Esperia Restaurant is a charming seaside dining spot in Himarë, offering a relaxed and scenic atmosphere right by the water. Diners consistently praise the quality and presentation of the food—fresh seafood (like grilled shrimp) and vibrant vegetable dishes are frequently highlighted. Many guests describe the experience as “beautiful,” “delicious,” and “well worth a visit”.


 +355 69 935 6181





## FIG & OLIVE BISTRO

Nestled along the charming streets of Himara, Fig And Olive offers a dining experience that effortlessly blends local flavors with Mediterranean flair. From the moment you step inside, the warm ambiance and attentive seating arrangements invite you to relax and enjoy a leisurely dinner, whether with friends, family, or a special someone. It has quickly become a favorite spot for those seeking both quality cuisine and a welcoming environment.

 +355 68 905 0872

## ELEA RESTAURANT

Perched on a peaceful hill just above Himara, Elea restaurant offers an enchanting retreat with breathtaking sea and mountain views. This family-run restaurant blends land and sea ingredients like no other. Their unique menu is full of Greek-inspired dishes with high-quality, locally sourced ingredients. Many consider it one of the best dining experiences in Himara .

 +355 68 278 6200





## TAVERNA PIROSIA

Taverna Piroasia is a charming and cozy restaurant located in Potaml neighborhood of Himara. With a warm and welcoming atmosphere, this restaurant is well-known for its delicious traditional cuisine. Visitors can enjoy a variety of local dishes, including mouth-watering grilled meat, fresh seafood, and tasty vegetarian options. The portions are generous, and the prices are reasonable, making it a popular spot for both locals and tourists alike.

☎ +355 393 22601

## MOM'S FOOD

Mom's Food is a delightful culinary treasure nestled in Vuno, Albania. The restaurant exudes a warm, homey atmosphere, featuring an intimate terrace that invites guests to relax while indulging in lovingly prepared meals. Its famous about the freshness and authenticity of the dishes, with highlights including stuffed aubergine, grilled cheese drizzled with honey, and a comforting apple pie. Each bite tells a story of care, reminiscent of home-cooked meals shared with loved ones.

☎ +355 68 395 6335





# GUIDED TOURS

Whether you're visiting Himara for its many hidden beaches, to discover the charming villages and culture of the region, explore the mysterious constructions of the communist era or a couple looking for a romantic gateway, our bespoke escapes offer everything you need where your host feels more like a long lost friend than a tour guide.

As well as a choice of three exceptional signature one-day tours, we create bespoke escapes that introduce you to the secrets of the spectacular Region of Himara with three various options for overnight stay, carefully handpicked by us.

<https://visithimara.al>