


# Albania: "true" people, hidden places

**Directed by:** Luigi Cammarota  
**Produced by:** SD Cinematografica  
**Duration:** 4 x 43 min.  
**Versions:**   
**Format:** HD

A mini-series to discover Albania. An unknown Albania made up of "real" people and places far from conventional destinations.



**Episodes:**

- Vjosa River, the last queen
- The mountains of the living past
- The heroes of the zadrime
- Mimoza and the mulberries

## Episodes



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### **Vjosa River, the last queen**

The Vjosa River is the last wild river in Europe. But not for long. It is feared that its irreplaceable environmental value will be sacrificed in the name of energy hunger and economic development. He was born in Greece, in the Pindo National Park, the mountain range that connects Greece and Macedonia, and after crossing southern Albania flows into the Otranto Canal, north of Valona. 280 kilometers long, it flows into a watershed of almost seven thousand square kilometers. The area crossed by the river is called "the Blue Heart of Europe" because it offers glimpses of extraordinary beauty and crosses some of the most beautiful and unspoiled territories of the Balkan Peninsula. This earthly paradise of water, rocks and forests could soon disappear. In the programmes of the Albanian Government there is the construction of as many as 36 dams, which would deface the protected areas that the Vjosa crosses, with irreparable damage to the life of the traditional communities that live in its course, as well as destroy a unique biodiversity, with several endangered species, such as the lynx, which could disappear. Wild salmon are still being fished here and if the waterways disappear, the last European population would disappear. This area is part of the list of Unesco Geoparks, for its unique natural and historical features, with vegetation that passes from Mediterranean to Alpine flora and where live 140 species of birds including vultures and eagles and all species of European mammals up to bears and wolves. Along the river there are mule along and where merchants once passed with mules loaded with goods bound for the north. Some are engineering masterpieces, such as the Vradetho Staircase or the three arches of the Plakida Bridge, where a bell warns you when the wind is strong enough to knock you down, in the rapids of the crystal clear river.



### **The mountains of the living past**

We are in the center of Europe, in the third millennium! Permosh is a very small village in a remote valley in the mountains of northern Albania, in the Scutari region. It is nestled between peaks that reach 2500 meters above sea level, often snowy, immersed in nature and its wild noises. It is located in the meeting point of three borders, Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro and retains the most authentic and intact face of western Balkan culture, so much so that it will become a supranational Park of Peace. The whole Kelmand Valley is far away: from the modernity that advances throughout the region, from the comforts and comforts that often affect our lives. The landscape is primal and authentic, no asphalt, little TV, mobile phones, internet or street lighting. The night in return gives the spectacle of the Milky Way clearly visible to the naked eye, without light pollution. Almost two-thirds of the valley is covered by trees, mainly oak trees. The forests are so inaccessible to humans that they are considered a "primordial forest". The Cem River flows from north to south and is famous for its abundance of mountain trout. 170 caves and caves, 10 of which are of international importance. Inside the caves are stunning underground lakes, huge tunnels and giant siphons that feed dozens of pure water sources and three waterfalls. All these wonders, however, are nothing compared to the inhabitants. It is an ancient and leathery community of a few people dedicated to breeding and farming heroic at high altitude, in the best preserved example of a mountain village, with houses with typical wooden tiled roof gathered around a real working water stone mill, in step with the slow weather of Nature. At the center of the clock tower, used over the centuries as a refuge during the recurring family feuds. Many women in the villages still wear the "xhubleta", the bell skirt whose origin is lost in the night of time.



### **The heroes of the zadrime**

In the heart of Mediterranean Europe, a few miles from our coasts, there is a beautiful valley in the north of a country we know little about, Albania. Zadrime is the name of a fertile plain, surrounded by mountains, sun-kissed and irrigated by rivers. A region of ancient traditions, witnessed by the vestiges of castles and monasteries, and at the same time also by the most authentic peasant culture that still survives today. Age, a strong and sweet woman. She has struggled all her life but is still impeccable and smiling in her traditional black and white dress. And then there's Yak, Zef, Kol. Together with them we will discover the treasures of this land such as the "byrek" the salt cake, the "pekmes" from the blackberries of mulberry, the white corn bread, the fine "Kalmet" wine, also chosen by the Pontiff.



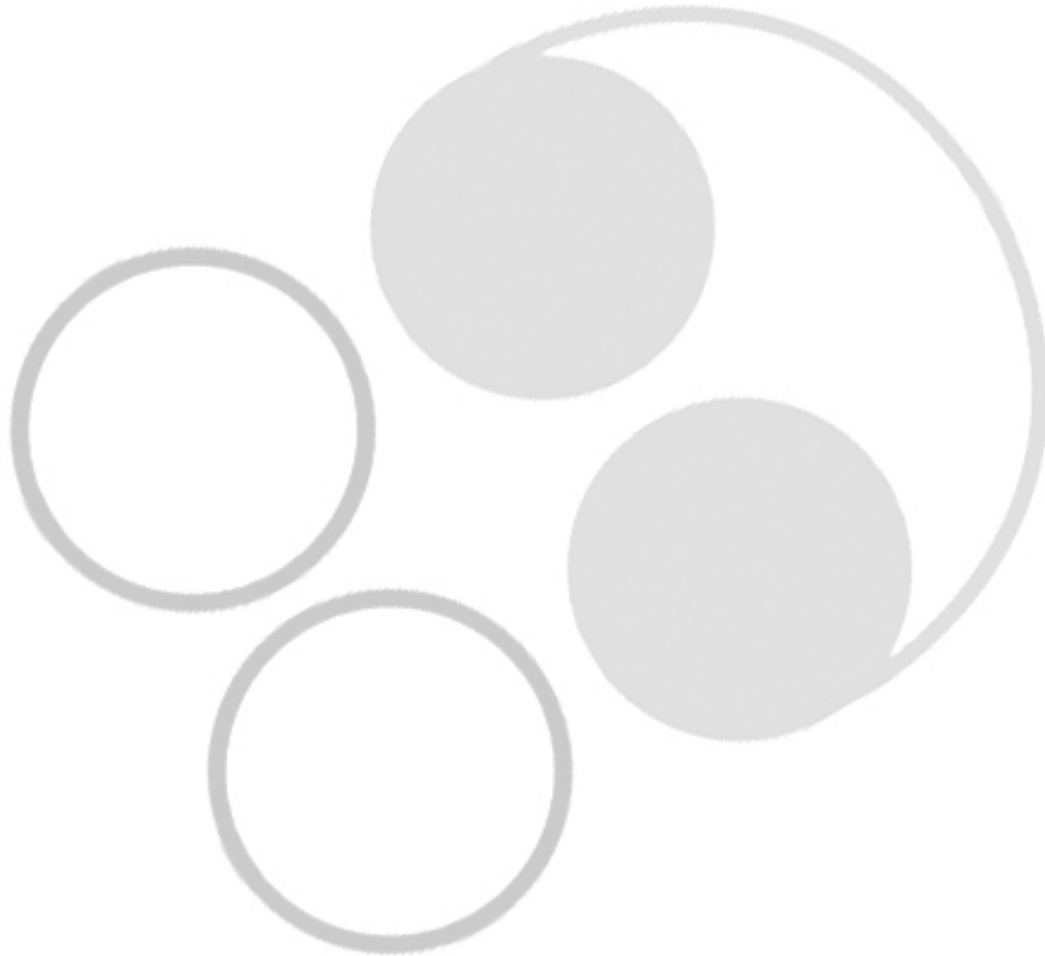
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### **Mimoza and the mulberries**

Albania, Scutari district. Mimoza is probably the last woman in Europe to take care of the complete silk cycle, from the breeding of worms to spinning and weaving, with which she makes traditional clothes to the frame. Weaves fine linen for wedding kits, tablecloths, shirts, undercarves, scarves and scarves, following the method practiced for centuries in the Western Balkans, inherited from her mother. Once in his village, every family owned mulberry trees and raised silkworms. Then, because of a parasite but especially to the competition of China, this tradition has gradually disappeared. As had happened in Italy, at the beginning of the twentieth century. Mimoza wants to take that tradition back by involving the other women in the village. In spring he wanders around in search of abandoned mulberities, collecting the leaves to feed the worms. In the breeding helps Lejla, a retired entomologist from Tirana, the highest Albanian expert of bees and silkworm, who for passion and nostalgia takes care of the larvae and keeps them alive during the winter ... in the refrigerator at home. Then, between April and May, he incubates the eggs and follows the birth of the worms, which he entrusts to Mimosa for the growth phase until the formation of cocoons.



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