

## Overseas News & Reviews

News from around the world and reviews of caving publications.

### ALBANIA

#### Exploration on Lura Mountain

This summer Bulgarian cavers from speleo club Helictit – Sofia continued exploration in Albania. From July 12 to 19 2008, K Stoichkov, V Drobenov, D Dishovski, I Buserski, Tr Vasilev, and P Tzhonkov, explored and mapped two caves on the eastern part of Lura mountain, east Albania.

The expedition's camp was located near Arras village in Dibra (Peshkopia) district. Thanks to

the Kuites Haka from the Alpine Mountaineering Club 'Korabi' – Peshkopia and the strong support of the native people, exploration began as planned.

Efforts focused on the spring cave Shpella Seponik, where preliminary expectations were confirmed. The river passage ended in a sump, but a muddy dry passage continued, ending in two well decorated rooms 50m above the level of the entrance. A few unsuccessful attempts were made to find the way upstream past the sump and on the last day of the expedition a sump bypass was found. Tr Vasilev dropped into the river and

swam upstream, passing two ducks without reaching the end. Further exploration required rigging, so exploration was halted. The cave's current length is 240m.

The second cave mapped was Shpella Loh Nesh. This spring cave ended after 60m at a sump. The caves drain two different massifs which are separated by the Seta river. The Seta has cut a beautiful canyon where some cave entrances are located. Locals told the expedition members that up the mountain there are big pits, such as Shpella Rusit Cave which was pushed to approx. –100m by Korabi cavers few years ago. The

team's biospeleologist collected typical cave fauna which is currently being studied.

The cavers from SC Helictite expressed their special thanks to the leader and coordinator of Bulgarian speleological explorations in Albania and Prof Gezim Uruci, President of the National Committee of Speleology of Albania, for indispensable help and support of this expedition.

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