

Albania



Visitors Guide

www.albaniantourism.com
www.akt.gov.al

Albania 
yours to discover

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INTRODUCTION

At the front entrance of "Mother Teresa" Airport, a huge poster welcomes everyone to the "Country of the Eagles," otherwise known as Albania.

Albania is well known for its traditional hospitality and extraordinary nature. From one province to another, the climate of this small country varies from exotic Mediterranean to cold continental, with a relatively short winter and a hot, dry summer.

Albania is home to centuries of history with ancient archaeological sites, medieval modern villages, and a magnificent coastline with crystalline waters. Albania is geographically located in Europe, in the western part of the Balkan Peninsula, and is easily reachable by air, land, and sea.

The territory of Albania is known for its varying landscape and diverse relief. Rocky beaches, lagoons, rugged hills, high mountains, valleys, and rivers are the key components in this perfect combination, just waiting to be discovered by visitors.

The southern Albanian coastline stands out for its particular beauty and is considered a pearl of the Mediterranean Sea. Mountains rise behind the beaches, creating an ideal environment for those seeking a perfect holiday. All of this unexplored nature is conveniently situated within a relatively small territory of 28,748 km².

It is believed that the prehistoric origins of the Albanians come from an Indo-European tribe, which, by the Greek historian Herodotus, was known by the name, "the Pellazgs." The Pellazgs are considered direct ancestors of the Illyrians and it is supposed that they existed here for many centuries. Albania, the present name of the country, is an Illyrian denomination of the Illyrian tribe, the Albans. The desire to preserve the ancient beauty and the natural and archeological treasures of Albania is turning the country into a true paradise for all seasons and all types of tourists.

This guide contains information on the geographic position, population, history, climate, national parks, museums, coastline, forests, language, religion, and other topics of interest for tourists.

WELCOME TO ALBANIA



Area:
28,748 km²

Capital city:
Tirana

Population:
3,150,886 inhabitants

Language:
Albanian

Currency:
Lekë

Government:
Parliamentary Democracy

Flag:
Black double-headed eagle
on red background

**International
telephone
prefix:**
00 355

GEOGRAPHY

Geography

Albania's surface area of 28,748 km² (11,100 square miles) makes it slightly smaller than Belgium. It is situated in the Balkan Peninsula, in southeastern Europe, and shares borders with Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Kosovo. In the west, the country is made up of coastline that runs along the Adriatic and Ionian seas. The division of these seas is marked by the Bay of Vlorë, about 170 km north of the southern border with Greece, and the Strait of Otranto, which also marks the narrowest point in the sea where only 72 km of water separates Albania from Italy. Albania has four primary topographical areas: the Albanian Alps, a central mountainous region, a southern mountainous region and the coastal plain. The interior of the country is mostly mountainous and approximately 36% is covered in lush forest. The plains are extensively planted with olive trees, citrus trees, and grape vines that collect into beautiful vineyards. There are numerous lakes located throughout the country. Measuring 370 km², Lake Shkodra is not only the largest lake in Albania but also the largest in the Balkans. Lake Prespa is the highest tectonic lake in all Balkans. Lake Ohrid, in the eastern portion of the country, is shared with Macedonia and at 294 m (931 ft), is exceptionally deep. The Ionian coast, known as the "Albanian Riviera" from Vlorë to Sarandë, is both rugged and beautiful, featuring some of the most picturesque scenery in the country. The overall length of Albania's borders is 1,094 km. Of this length, 657 km is made up of land borders with other countries, 316 km stretch along the seas, 73 km is comprised of lakes, and 48 km is marked by various rivers. The highest point is Mount Korab, 2,751 m above sea level. Additionally, Albania enjoys a total of twelve National Parks areas, which together with other protected areas cover approximately 39% of the country (34,550 hectares).



HISTORY

History

The area known as Albania today has been populated since prehistoric times. In antiquity, much of it was settled by the Illyrians, who are the ancestors of present-day Albanians. It was around the turn of the third millennium B.C. that an Indo-European population settled there. The result of this melding of cultures was the creation of a population incorporating the unique cultural and linguistic characteristics of the whole Balkan Peninsula. Based on this ancient population, the Illyrian people developed through the second millennium and the first century B.C. After its collapse in the year 30 B.C., Illyria came under the control of the Roman Empire. Upon the division of the Roman Empire in 395 A.D., Illyria became a part of the Byzantine Empire. The Greeks arrived in the 5th century B.C. to establish self-governing colonies in Epidamnos (now Durrës), Apollonia, and Butrint, and they established an expansive trading system with the Illyrians, who formed tribal states in the IV century B.C.

The expanding Illyrian kingdom clashed with Rome in 229 B.C. A lengthy struggle ensued and resulted in the extension of Roman control over the entire Balkan area by 167 B.C. Under the Romans, Illyrians enjoyed relative peace and prosperity. Large agricultural estates flourished under slave labor. Like the Greeks, the Illyrians managed to preserve their own language and traditions despite centuries of Roman rule. Over time the people gradually replaced their old gods with the new Christian faith championed by Emperor Constantine. Trade continued to flourish during this time. The main route between Rome and Constantinople, the Via Egnatia, passed through the port at Durrës. When the Roman Empire was divided in 395 A.D., Illyria fell within the Eastern Empire, later known as the Byzantine Empire. Three early Byzantine Emperors (Anastasius I, Justin I and Justinian I) were Illyrian in origin. Ongoing invasions by Visigoths, Huns, Ostrogoths, and Slavs continued through the 5th and 6th centuries.



The monument of our National Hero
Gjergj Kastrioti Skanderbeg
Tirana



HISTORY



In 1344, Albania was annexed by Serbia. Their control of the area was brief, though, as the Turks defeated the Serbians in 1389. At this point, the Venetians controlled some coastal towns but with the Serbian defeat, the entire region became vulnerable to Ottoman attack.

From 1443 to 1468, an Albanian nobleman named Skanderbeg (Gjergj Kastrioti) united warring Albanian princes and led a resistance effort against the Turks from his castle at Kruja. Skanderbeg won all 25 battles he fought against the Turks and kept them at bay for more than two decades. He would go on to become a national hero, but upon his death, the Ottomans overwhelmed Albanian resistance and took control of the country in 1479. For more than 400 years Albania was under Ottoman rule. Muslim citizens

were favored and were exempted from the Janissary system, which dictated that Christian households give up one of their sons to convert to Islam and serve in the army. Consequently, many Albanians abandoned their Christian faith and converted to Islam. The subsequent insurrection efforts eventually brought about the proclamation of the independence of Albania in 1912. King Zog I ruled for nearly fourteen years until the country was invaded by Italy in 1939 and eventually occupied by Mussolini's forces. German forces occupied portions of Albania during this time, as well. A resistance against this foreign occupation was formed and became known as the Antifascist National Liberation front.



In November of 1944, the occupying forces were eventually expelled and the Communist Party assumed power. Shortly thereafter, a totalitarian regime was established under the communist leader Enver Hoxha. For nearly fifty years, the regime enforced a policy of strict isolationism. This left the country in an extraordinarily impoverished state when it finally emerged from this isolation upon Hoxha's death in 1991. The Democratic Party assumed control at this point and led the country from 1991 until 1997. 1997 saw a period of great financial and political upheaval as the collapse of vast pyramid schemes threw society into a brief state of chaos. The Socialist Party guided the country through this pivotal time and remained in power until 2005. Following the most recent elections in July 2005,

the Democratic Party regained political power and continues to lead Albania today. Looking to the future, Albania's leaders hope to integrate the country into the European Union (EU). Albania is now a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and also part of many other international organizations.



POPULATION & LANGUAGE



Population

The population of Albania numbers 3,150,886, with a density of 113 people per square kilometer. Population is growing by 0.73% per year. A slight majority of the population, about 51%, lives in rural areas. The average life expectancy is 75 years for females and 69 for males. The vast majority of inhabitants are Albanian, with ethnic minorities, comprised primarily of Greeks and Macedonians, representing only about 2% of the population. Tirana is the capital and largest city with 800,000 inhabitants. Other important cities with significant populations include Durrës, Elbasan, Shkodër, and Vlorë.

Language

Albanian is the official language. It comprises a separate, original branch in the family of the Indo-European languages, and can be linguistically traced to its Illyrian origins. In its lexicon one can see influences from Italian, old and new Greek, Latin, and Slavic languages. Despite these influences, Albanian has retained its original, distinct nature and structure. The alphabet is comprised of 36 letters, each pronounced the same way, regardless of usage. This enables visitors to quickly and easily learn a few essential phrases to facilitate communication. Many Albanians, particularly in larger cities, speak English.

Religion

In Albania, there is a peaceful coexistence of those practicing a variety of religious faiths. Muslims, Orthodox, and those following the teachings of the Catholic Church comprise the majority of people adherent to religion. In 1967, religious worship was prohibited and the country became the world's only official atheist state. Since the end of the Communism, Albanians have been guaranteed the freedom of religion and have exercised that freedom in various ways.



CLIMATE



Climate

Albania has a Mediterranean climate with each season offering distinct, yet pleasant weather. Some features of the climate vary by region:

The coastal areas have a Central Mediterranean climate with mild, wet winters and hot, dry summers.

The alpine areas have a Central Continental climate with cold, snowy winters and temperate summers. The lowlands have mild winters, averaging about 7°C, and summer temperatures average 24°C. Lowland rainfall ranges from 1,000 mm to more than 1,500 mm annually, with greater rainfall in the north. Nearly 95% of rainfall occurs in the winter and rainfall in the upland mountain ranges is heavier. Despite the rain, Albanians enjoy a great deal of sunshine; the country is second only to Spain in average annual sunny days. The overall climate is pleasant and favors outdoor activity.



ECONOMY & AGRICULTURE

NATURAL RESOURCES & POLITICAL STRUCTURE



Economy

Since the fall of Communism, the development of the Albanian economy has been fueled primarily by the service and construction industries, though tourism has recently played an increasing role in the economy and is growing rapidly. Many people are curious to explore a country whose borders were closed to travel for many years. Given the continued development of both summer and winter resorts, people all over the world have begun to think of Albania as a tourist destination.

Agriculture

Agriculture comprises over half of Albania's GDP. It is comprised of both small and large scale operations, and has experienced recent growth due to diversification of production.

Natural Resources

Albania is rich in natural resources, including chromium, copper, coal, ferry, nickel, oil and natural gas.

Political Structure

The Albanian Republic is based on a democratic pluralist parliamentary system. The People's Assembly, comprised of a 140-seat chamber, is selected by popular election every four years. Every five years the People's Assembly elects the country's president, who serves as of head of state. The nation is governed by the Council of Ministers, which is led by the Prime Minister. Local government is conducted by directly elected mayors and proportionally elected councils.

HOW TO COME TO ALBANIA

By Air

The only airport in Albania with international service is "Mother Theresa" International Airport, located in Rinas, just 17 km northwest of Tirana. The most convenient way to get from the airport to Tirana is by taxi.

The journey from Tirana to the airport takes twenty to thirty minutes, depending on traffic, and costs about 2,500 lekë (or 20 EUR) each way.

The "Rinas Express" departs every hour between 7am and 7pm, a 24-hour bus service between the airport and the National Museum in the center of Tirana. The bus depart hourly and the single fare is 200 Albanian Lekë (mobile phone: 00 355 69 20 98908).

"Mother Teresa" Airport

The airport has a duty free shop.

Customs operates 24 hours a day.

Phone: 00355 4/2381800/1600

Fax: 00355 4/2379065

Lost & Found:

Phone: 00355 4/2381681/82

Mobile phone: 00355 69 20 66626

E-mail: info@tirana-airport.com

Website: www.tirana-airport.com.al

Transport Travel Agencies operating in Albania-Tirana:

ADRIA AIRWAYS

Blv. "Bajram Curri"

Commercial Center ETC,

Phone: 00355 4/2272666/2274 666

Website: www.adria-airways.com

Offers flights to Ljubljana (Slovenia)

ALBANIAN AIRLINES

"Mine Peza", Str. Nr. 2,

or "Dëshmorët e 4 Shkurtit", Str.

Phone: 00355 4/2235162/2269026

Fax: 00355 4/2235138/2228461

E-mail: ticketing@albanianair.com

Website: www.albaniaairlines.com.al

Offers flights to Rome, Milan, Turin, Bologna, Istanbul, Frankfurt, Pristina, Zurich, Athens, and London.

AEGEAN AIRLINES

Phone: 00355 4/2245100/2253342

Ticketing by Albtours Travel Agency

Flights to Athens.

ALITALIA

Blv. "Dëshmorët e Kombit"

Rogner Hotel "Europapark"

Phone/Fax: 00355 4/2230023.

E-mail: reservations@alitalia.it

Website: www.alitalia.it

Offers flights to Rome and Milan.

AUSTRIAN AIRLINES

Blv. "Dëshmorët e Kombit"

Rogner Hotel "Europapark"

Phone: 00355 4/2235029/2235028

Fax: 00355 4/2235026

Website: www.austrian.com/al

Offers flights to Vienna.

BELLE AIR

Blv. "Zog I"

Phone: 00355 4/2240194

Fax: 00355 4/ 2240213

Website: www.belleair.al

Offers flights to Pristina, Genova, Pisa, Milan, Bologna, Rome, Verona, Forli, Bergamo, Florence, Trieste, and Liege. It is a low cost carrier.

HOW TO COME TO ALBANIA



BRITISH AIRWAYS

Phone: 00355 68 3229007/68 2011777

Offers flights to London Gatwick.

HEMUS AIR

"Durrësi", Str.

Phone: 00355 4/2230410

Fax: 00355 4/2228752

E-mail: Tirana@hemusair.bg

Website: www.hemusair.bg

Offers flights to Sofia.

MALEV

"Abdi Toptani", Str.

Torre Drin center, second floor

Phone: 00355 4/2227900

Fax: 00355 4/2234578

E-mail: tirana@malev.hu

Website: www.malev.com

Offers flights to Budapest.

OLIMPIC AIRWAYS

Blv. "Zogu I"

VEVE center, 2nd floor

Phone: 00355 4/2228960/61

Fax: 00355 4/2228959

E-mail: tiato@olympicairlines.al

Offers flights to Athens.

TURKISH AIRLINES

"Skanderbeg" Pl.

"Hotel Tirana International"

Phone: 00355 4/2234902/2228960

Fax: 00355 4/2228961

E-mail: tkkamgsa@icc.al.org

Offers flights to Istanbul.

LUFTHANSA

Blv. "Zhan D'Ark"

Pallatet e Shallvareve

Phone: 00355 4/2258010

Fax: 00355 4/2258010

Website: www.lufthansa.com

Offers flights to Munich.



HOW TO COME TO ALBANIA



By Sea

Visitors can access Albania by passenger ferry through its larger coastal cities. Several foreign companies have regular services to:

Port of Durrës

Connects to the Italian ports of Bari, Ancona and Trieste in Italy and Koper in Slovenia.

Phone: 00355/052222028

Customs operate 24 hours a day.

Port of Saranda

Daily trips are made to the Greek island of Corfu.

Phone: 00355/073222734

Customs operate until 22.⁰⁰ pm.

Port of Vlora

Connects to Brindisi and Otranto in Italy.

Phone: 00355/033224521

Fax: 00 355/033229417

Customs operate until 22.⁰⁰ pm.

Port of Shëngjin

Customs operates until 22.00.

Ticket offices for travel via boat

AGJENCIA TAULANTIA - Durrës

Phone: 00355/052 222233/227333

Fax: 00355/052222911

AGAUDIMOS LINES - Durrës

"Skanderbeg", Str. No. 111

Phone: 00355/052 224255

DUNI - Durrës

Quarter No. 4

"Skanderbeg" Str.

Phone: 00355/052225338/224900

Fax: 00355/052224012

KAD - Durrës

Phone: 00355/052225154

Fax: 00355/052220341

QUALITY LINE - Durrës

Quarter No. 4,

"Prokop Meksi" Str. No. 156

Phone: 00355/052224571

Fax: 00355/052224571

HOW TO COME TO ALBANIA



By Road **KOSOVA**

- From Kosovo, the primary route crosses the border near Qafe Morinë (Albania) and connects Prishtina and Kukës. The other entry points are Morinë (Tropoja with Gjakova) and Qafe Prush (Hasi with Gjakova)

GREECE

- From Greece through Kapshtica to Korça. Customs operates 24 hours.
- From Greece through Kakavija leading to Gjirokastra. Customs operates 24 hours.
- From Greece through Qafë Boti (Konispol) leading to Filat. Customs operates until 22.00.
- From Greece through Tre Urat, connecting Përmet with Konica. Customs operates until 22.00.

MONTENEGRO

- From Montenegro through Hani i Hotit, leading to Shkodra and Shkodra Lake. Customs operates until 22.00.
- From Montenegro through Murriqan-Sukobina, connecting Shkodra with Ulqin (Montenegro). Customs operates until 22.00.
- A crossing has recently opened at Vermoshi, which links the region of Kelmendi in Albania with Plava and Gucia (Gusinje) in Montenegro. Customs operates until 22.00.

MACEDONIA

- From Macedonia through Qafë Thana leading to Pogradec, Librazhd, and Elbasan. Customs operates until 22.00.
- From Macedonia through Tushemisht at the southeastern end of Lake Ohrid, leading to Pogradec. Customs operates until 22.00.
- From Macedonia through Bllata, leading to Peshkopi, Bulqiza, and Burrel. Customs operates until 22.00.
- From Macedonia through Gorica, leading to the northern shores of Lake Prespa. Customs operates until 19.00.

There are regular bus services between the following cities:

Tirana - Tetova (Macedonia), through Qafë Thana.

Tirana - Prishtina and other towns in Kosovo through Morina.

Korça - Thessalonica (Greece) through Kapshtica.

Tirana - Athens through Kakavija.

Tirana - Sofia (Bulgaria) and **Istanbul** (Turkey) from Qafë Thana.



HOW TO COME TO ALBANIA



Transport Travel Agencies operating in Albania:

INTERLINES

INTERLINES

Blv. "Zogu I" Nr. 39 - Tirana

Phone: 00355 4/2251866

Buses to Greece.

POLLOGU

Blv. "Zog I" Pallati 103, Nr. 2 - Tirana

Phone: 00355 692094906

Buses to Macedonia.

KLID BALLKAN INTERBUS

"Murat Toptani" Str. No. 26 - Tirana

Phone: 00355 4/2222228

Fax: 00355 4/2222228

Buses to Athens & Skopje.

VJOSA TRAVEL

"Wilson Square," - Tirana

Phone: 00355 4/2253929

Fax: 00355 4/2253929

Mobile phone: 00355 68 2070360

JOY TRAVEL

"Selman Stërmasi" Stadium

Phone: 00355 4/2273030

Fax: 00355 4/2272992

Buses to Athens



SKENDERBEU

"Mine Peza" Str., Nr. 139 - Tirana

Phone: 00355 4/2234629

Fax: 00355 4/2234629

Buses to Thessalonica.

OSUMI TRAVEL

Blv. "Zogu I"

Phone: 0355 4/2255491/2272644

Fax: 0355 4/2255491/2272643

Buses to Athens & Thessalonica.

ALBA-TRANS

"Abdi Toptani" Str. Nr. 4 - Tirana

"Torre Drin" Center

Phone: 0355 4/2259204/2228968

Fax: 0355 4/2270434

Buses to Athens.

SONDOR

Blv. "Zogu I" - Tirana

Phone: 00355 2225063

Fax: 00355 2225063

Mobile phone: 00355 692394929

Buses to Kosovo, Macedonia and Montenegro.

TIRANA METROPOL

Blv. "Zogu I" - Tirana

Phone: 00355 2253639

Mob: 00355 692847201

Buses to Kosova.

Active holidays in North Albania



BORDER FORMALITIES

Passport & Visa

All visitors from the following countries are allowed to enter Albania without a visa. Entry requirements of only a passport and the payment of 10 EUR allows visitors to remain in the country for up to 30 days.

Australia	Latvia
Austria	Liechtenstein
Belgium	Lithuania
Bulgaria	Luxemburg
Canada	Malaysia
Croatia	Malta
Cyprus	Netherlands
Czech Republic	New Zealand
Denmark	Norway
Estonia	Poland
Finland	Portugal
France	Romania
Germany	San Marino
Great Britain	Singapore
Greece	Slovakia
Hungary	Slovenia
Iceland	Spain
Ireland	Sweden
Italy	Switzerland
Japan	Turkey
Korea	USA



Visas

The citizens of the following countries may obtain a visa at any entry point by payment: Macedonia (10 EUR/5 EUR at the embassy), Montenegro (free of charge), and Israel (30 EUR). The citizens of other countries (not listed above) are required to obtain visas at the Embassy of the Republic of Albania in their country of residence. These missions can also provide them with necessary information about traveling to Albania. The Albanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs website offers information (in English and Albanian) about visa requirements and the application process.



Customs

All personal items, new or old, may be taken into Albania without incurring custom duties. A reasonable amount of tobacco, beverages and perfumes for personal use are allowed. Prohibited items include firearms, ammunition, narcotics, drugs, and goods jeopardizing the observance of public order and social security. Special export permits are required for precious metals, artifacts, antiques, books, and works of art – specifically those that are considered to be part of the national culture and heritage. For more information, please see www.dogana.gov.al

HOW TO TRAVEL IN ALBANIA



By road

There are about 18,000 km of road in Albania of which 7,450 km are considered to be "main roads." Roads are maintained by the state and standard international rules and road signage are usually present. Several new highways are under construction and many older routes have recently been improved.

Traffic circulation

Traffic travels on the right side of the road, as in most other European countries. Unless posted signs indicate otherwise, there is a 50km/h speed limit in urban centers and 90km/h limit in rural areas.

Taxi Service

Taxis are readily available in most Albania cities, are recognizable by their yellow color, and most of them have a taxi meter. Fares are generally predetermined based on the distance traveled, but can sometimes be negotiated in advance. Taxis are plentiful in Tirana and can easily be hailed on the street or retained at one of many taxi stands throughout the city.

Taxi agencies

Some taxi companies use dispatchers that can send a taxi to your location:

Radio Taxi "Korrekt"

Phone: 00355/4 2244444

Radio Taxi

Phone: 00355/4 2377777

In other cities the taxis can be found parked near railways stations and near the larger hotels.

Car repair

Car repair services are available throughout the country, even in rural areas

Gas Stations

Gas stations are plentiful and available in both rural and urban areas. Those located on major roads often offer automobile repair services and restaurants.



HOW TO TRAVEL IN ALBANIA

Selected gas and service stations in Tirana

Alpuka

"Barrikadat" Str. Nr.131/1

Phone: 00355 4/2243972

Anas Fiat

Laparakë

Phone: 00355 4/2227888

Audi service

Tirana - Durrës Highway

Phone: 00355 4/8202972

Mobil phone: 00355 692057773

BMW Group

Tirana - Durrës Highway

Phone: 00355 4/2356526

00355 4/2356488

Opel Noshi

Tirana - Durrës Highway

Phone: 00355 4/8200098

00355 4/8200093

Kadiu

Tirana - Durrës Highway

Phone: 00355 4/8300074

Ultramotors Mitsubishi

"Kavaja" Str. Nr.116

Phone: 00355 4/2259024

00355 4/2233650

Vehicle break - down service

Phone: 00355 4/2363423

Mobile phone: 00355 682065065

Car Rental Companies

There are many car rental companies available in Albania. Most are competitively priced and are listed below. The requirements for renting a car include having:

- a valid passport
- the driving license
- payment (most agencies accept major credit cards or cash)

Avis

Blv. "Dëshmorët e Kombit"

Rogner Hotel Europapark

Phone: 00355 4/2235011

Mobile phone: 00355 682055807

Fax: 00355 4/2271960

E-mail: reservations@avisalbania.com

Website: www.avisalbania.com

Europcar

"Durrësi" Str. Nr. 61

Phone: 00355 4/2227888

Mobile phone: 00355 682093922

Fax: 00355 4/2246511

E-mail: europcar@abissnet.com

Website: www.europcar.com

Hertz

"Skanderbeg" Pl.

Hotel Tirana International

Phone&Fax: 00355 4/2255028

Mobile phone: 00355 682058775

E-mail: hertz@albaniaonline.net

Website: www.herz.com

Sixt

"Kavaja" Str. Nr. 116,

next to Classic Volkswagen

Phone: 00355 4/2259020

Fax: 00355 4/2233650

Mobile phone: 00355 692068500

E-mail: sixtalbania@europe.com



HOW TO TRAVEL IN ALBANIA

Interurban transport

Many buses are available for transport throughout the major cities of Albania.

Travel by bus is economical and provides a unique view of the countryside.

From Tirana the main routes are:

- Southbound:

Tirana-Berati

Tirana-Vlora

Tirana-Gjirokastra

Tirana-Saranda

Southbound buses depart from "Kavaja" Str. at the Beer Factory.

- Northbound:

Buses to Kukësi and Peshkopia depart from the Lapraka.

Buses to Shkodra depart near the railway station on "Karl Gega" Str.

Mini-buses to Bajram Curri depart from "Murat Toptani" Str. (near the Democratic Party headquarters)

- Southeast:

Tirana-Pogradec

Tirana-Korça

Southeast buses depart from "Qemal Stafa" stadium.

- West

Buses to Durrës and the Golem beach area depart from the Railway Station.

Journey time and fare cost:

The approximate journey time and fare cost from Tirana to other cities are as follows:

Tirana-Durrës

1 hour - 100 lekë (westward)

Tirana-Shkodra

2 hours 30 minutes - 300 lekë (northward)

Tirana-Vlora

3 hours - 300 lekë (southward)

Tirana-Kruja

45 minutes - 150 lekë (northward)

Tirana-Saranda

5 hours 30 minutes - 1,000 lekë (southward)

Tirana-Lezha

1 hour 30 minutes - 150 lekë (northward)

Tirana-Golem

1 hour 10 minutes - 150 lekë (southward)

Trains

The rail network is comprised of approximately 470 km of single track and all of the trains in Albania are diesel powered. Rail travel is affordable, but generally considerably slower than other methods of transportation.

There are three railway lines in Albania:

- The northbound train originates in Tirana and makes the following stops:

Vora, Mamurrasi, Laçi, Miloti, Lezha and Shkodra.

- The eastbound train departs from Tirana, initially heads south, and then makes the following stops:

Golem, Kavaja, Rrogozhina, Peqini, Elbasan, Librazhd, Përrenjasi, Guri i Kuq, and the Pogradec region.

- The southbound train originates in Tirana and makes the following stops: Durrës, Golem, Kavaja, Rrogozhina, Lushnja, Fier and Vlora.

Railway Station of Tirana

Blv. "Zogu I"

Phone: 00355 4/2251094





Thethi waterfall



10 SUGGESTED ITINERARIES

Albania offers a wide variety of destinations and attractions for all types of tourists. Communist era memorabilia, museums, ancient ruins and outdoor adventures all vie for visitors' time and attention. With this in mind, some itineraries are suggested below. For assistance in planning your vacation, contact any of the travel agencies offering package tours in Albania.

Tour 1

Saranda - Butrint - Gjirokastra

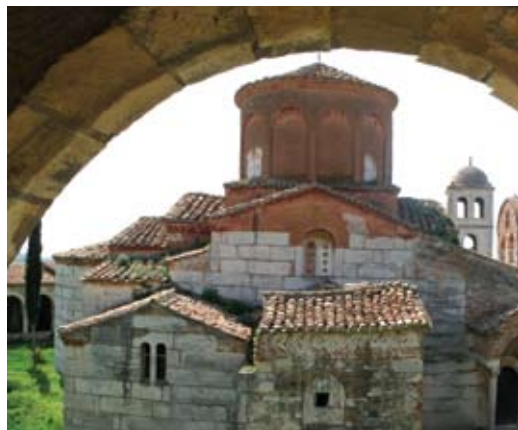
Saranda is southern Albania's primary port and offers spectacular views of the Greek island of Corfu across a narrow stretch of the Ionian Sea. Daily trips by passenger ship allow visitors to explore this beautiful island. Just south of nearby Butrint Lake is the ancient city of Butrint, the most significant archeological site in Albania and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Tour 2

Vlora - Narta - Rradhima Orikum - Amantia - Apollonia

Vlora is one of the largest, most densely populated cities in Albania and it is located only 120 km from "Mother Theresa" International Airport. The port activity in this thriving trade center is rivaled only by that in Durrës. Continuing southward, visitors will enjoy spectacular views of the Gulf of Vlora. The small city of Orikum lies south of the Gulf of Vlora, near a marina that can accommodate up to 650 yachts. Orikum was an important harbor in the ancient world, and features a variety of ruins to explore. The major city of Fier is about 30 km north of Vlora, and the archaeological site of Apollonia lies just west of Fier. The ancient city of Apollonia was named for the Greek God Apollo. It was founded in the beginning of the seventh century B.C. by Corinthian settlers and features extensive ruins to observe and discover.



10 SUGGESTED ITINERARIES

Tour 3

***Llogara - Palasa - Dhërmiu - Vunoi
Himara - Qeparoi - Borshi - Lukova***

The Llogara National Park lies approximately 40 km south of the city of Vlora. It is situated on Mount Llogara and has a surface of 810 hectares. Altitudes within the park range from 470 m to 2,018 m above sea level. Here you will find a beautiful, dynamic setting where the sea meets the mountains. Dhërmiu is notable for its crystal-clear waters and small, intimate pebble beaches. One can access this extraordinary stretch of the Ionian coast via beaches at Jaliksari, Shkambo, and Gjipea. In particular, Gjipea features dramatic scenery and is situated at the foot of a 70 m high cliff. Nearby is the legendary and scenic Cavern of the Pirates. Eight km south of Dhërmiu is the village of Vunoi, which is known for maintaining cultural traditions.



Tour 4

***Shkodra - Shirokë - Velipojë - Franc Josef
Lezha - Shëngjin - Kune Vain***

Shkodra is one of the oldest cities in Albania, founded in the fourth century B.C. as an important center of Illyrian society. Shkodra's primary tourist attraction is the Rozafa Castle, which overlooks the city from a hill in the west. The area is also marked by the convergence of three rivers: the Drini, Buna, and Kiri. A few kilometers south of Shkodra is the city of Lezha, another extraordinary old city. The Memorial of the Grave of Skanderbeg is striking and not to be missed. He was buried in the Cathedral of Shën Kolli in Lezha in 1468.



10 SUGGESTED ITINERARIES

Tour 5

Valbona River Valley - Canyon of Shoshan Dragobia - Selimaj - Rragami



The Valbona River Valley lies in the eastern portion of the Albanian Alps. The area features a national park of 8,000 hectares and nearby lofty peaks offer some of the most striking natural beauty in Albania. Valbona is located 25 km northeast of the city of Bajram Curri and is the most populated city in the Valbona River Valley.



10 SUGGESTED ITINERARIES

Tour 6

Razma- Boga - Thethi - Vermosh



This tour gives visitors the chance to venture into the heart of the Albanian Alps: Gropa e Thethit. The road from Razma leads to the village of Dedaj and then onto Boga, a beautiful village surrounded by the Alps and described by Edith Durham in her book, *The Burden of the Balkans*. After leaving Boga, you will reach the main tourist destination, Thethi, which is located about 70 km from Shkodra.



10 SUGGESTED ITINERARIES

Tour 7

Pogradec - Lin - Drilon

The road to Pogradec passes near the shore of Lake Ohrid, the deepest lake in the Balkans at 285 meters. UNESCO has declared this lake a protected site due to the unique animal species that call it home. After Pogradec is the city of Korça, one of the largest urban centers in Albania.



Tour 8

The Valley of Vjosa - Përmeti

Përmeti is known for its beautiful flowers, unique songs, and tranquility. It has been known as an administrative center since the 15th century.



10 SUGGESTED ITINERARIES

Tour 9

Berat - Mali i Tomorrit
- *The Cave of Pirrogosh*
- *The Canyons of Osumi*



Located just 120 km south of Tirana, Berat has been inhabited for nearly 2,500 years, is the crown jewel of Albanian archeological sites, and is even protected by UNESCO. Local costumes, songs, and traditions show that both western and eastern influences have shaped modern Berat. Even with these obvious influences, there is a wealth of Albanian culture to discover in this city that was founded in the fifth century, B.C. as an Illyrian settlement. Berat also provides a good starting point from which to explore Mount Tomorri, which is also known as the Albanian Olympus, or the “throne of the gods.” It is located about 35 km from Berat and provides spectacular vistas; some say it resembles a giant lion crouching behind the city. Situated 2,416 m above sea level, this is one of the highest points in Albania.

Tour 10

Tirana - Kruja - Durrësi - Elbasani

Tirana, the capital of Albania, is a bustling European metropolis brimming with culture and boundless energy. With its museums, clubs, cafes and taverns, Tirana is worth exploring by day or night. The historic city of Kruja lies on a picturesque mountain slope 32 km north of Tirana. Situated 600m above sea level, the city is one of the country's most scenic destinations. Abundant shopping and cultural experiences are available here, as well. Durrësi, the busiest seaport in the country, is located just 34 km west of Tirana. Inhabited for more than 2,500 years, it is probably the most ancient city in Albania. Settlers from Corinth and Corcyra settled here as early as 627 B.C. Many relics remain from previous civilizations and further enhance the rich history of this city.





Viroi water sources



ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotels

Many hotels throughout the country are registered by the Ministry of Tourism and this means that they are regulated and their facilities are required to maintain certain standards. More information about tourist agencies and hotels is available at the website www.akt.gov.al.

Hotels are plentiful throughout the country and satisfactory accommodations are readily available and can be secured with little effort, particularly in major seaside cities. Often these locations will offer package deals that include access to beaches and/or breakfast with the cost your accommodations.



Guest Houses

A reasonably priced option, guest houses provide travelers with the comforts of home and can easily be found throughout Albania.



Camping

Camping sites are rare but can be found. Contact a company that organizes outdoor adventures for more details.



Cuisine

Albanian cuisine offers unique flavors that have developed and evolved over the centuries. Albania's geographic location, more or less at the crossroads between East and West, has resulted in an original culinary blend. It shows influences from Asian, Turkish, and various European sources.



Agriculture flourishes here and the organic fruits and vegetables grown in the Mediterranean climate serve to further enrich the cuisine. A traditional Albanian drink is called raki. It is a distilled spirit usually made from grapes. Additionally, the locally produced cognac, Skanderbeg Cognac, is excellent and has won many international prizes. Wine is also produced on a large scale in Albania and many delicious varieties of red and white are available.



Coffee (Turkish or espresso varieties) is very popular and enjoyed by many Albanians throughout the day



There are a wide variety of restaurants in Albania. Larger restaurants usually feature some variety of international cuisine in addition to some Albanian offerings. Often the best Albanian food can be found in the smaller restaurants. Some of the mainstays of Albanian cuisine include: roast lamb, veal escalopes, biftek (beef), qebab (kebobs), and qofte (meatballs). Fërgesë tiranase, a traditional dish of meat, eggs, and tomatoes is cooked in an earthenware dish and is very popular. Excellent quality, fresh seafood can be readily found when travelling anywhere near the coast.



TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

Many ruins and vestiges of Albania's rich history await visitors. The most notable tourist attractions are the ancient sites of Apollonia, Butrint and Kruja. Additionally, Albania's coastline has becoming increasingly popular with tourists due to its relatively unspoiled beauty and amazing beaches.

Beaches

Adriatic Coast

Albania's Adriatic coast begins in the north, in the delta of the Buna River. The coastline offers countless opportunities for outdoor recreation and extends southward through the communities of Velipoja, Shëngjin, Kune, Gjiri Lalzit, Durrësi, Golem, Mali i Robit, Spillea, Divjaka, Darëzeza and Vlora.

Ionian Coast

The Ionian coast begins in Vlora and continues southward toward Greece, to the Cape of Stillo. This coastline is marked by its rugged beauty and, although rocky, offers many opportunities for kayaking, swimming, and other forms of outdoor recreation. The Ionian coast and the "Albanian Riviera" stretch through Dhërmi, Himara, Qeparoi, Vunoi, Borshi, and even more communities.



Rural Tourism

Albania has several regions where mountain and rural tourism is well developed. Among the most impressive are:

- Mountainous areas of Korça (Voskopoja, Dardha, Vithkuqi).
- Shores of Lake Ohrid, located in one of the most popular tourist areas (Lini, Hudenishti, Pogradeci and Tushemishti).
- Shores of Lake Prespa. Tourism has flourished here recently and the following towns offer a variety of activities: Pusteci, Gorica e Vogël, Gorica e Madhe and Gollomboçi.
- Albanian Alps. Rugged and imposing, the Alps in northern Albania offer world class mountaineering opportunities. Some cities with resources include Thethi, Vermoshi, Ndërlýsa, Lugina e Valbonës, Dragobia, Selimaj and Rragam.





Flora

Albanian flora is extraordinarily rich, ranges from Mediterranean plants to Alpine fir, and is estimated to be made up of more than 3,000 kinds of plants (not including sub-species and varieties).

The Balkan Peninsula provides a unique climate that allows for a remarkable diversity of plant life.



Fauna

Albania is host to a wide variety of animals. Carnivores are represented by wolves, foxes, jackals, and a variety of wild cats. Opportunities for hunting abound with large mammals such as deer and boar making their homes in Albania. Many species of birds flourish here, too; from grouse to pelicans, a broad array of more than 350 varieties is represented.. Mullet, carp, bass and trout are just some of the species of fresh and saltwater fish that are abundant here. Lake Ohrid boasts several important species, including the endangered Koran Trout, a distinct type of eel, and a variety of snail whose origins can be traced back 30 million years!



LAKES & RIVERS

Main Lakes

In the northwestern part of the country lies Lake Shkodra, the largest lake in the Balkan Peninsula. Its surface measures 368 km², of which 149 km² are within Albania's borders, and its depth varies from 10-12 m. In the northeast is Lake Fierza, a narrow but lengthy body of water offering a variety of fishing opportunities. In the southeast lies Lake Ohrid, which is shared with Macedonia and boasts a surface area of 367 km². Just south of the Ohrid region, Lake Prespa and Little Prespa Lake offer numerous recreational opportunities. They measure 285 km² and 44 km², respectively. Other small lakes, including the beautiful glacial lakes in the Lura region, dot the Albanian countryside.



Main Rivers

Several significant rivers flow throughout Albania, many of which provide not only beauty but also irrigation essential to agriculture. Among them are: River Drini (285 km), River Semani (281 km), River Vjosa (272 km), River Shkumbini (182 km), River Mati (115 km) and River Buna (44 km).



NATIONAL PARKS

Dajti National Park

Located to the east of Tirana, Dajti National Park has an area of 3,300 hectares. This popular park features a number of beautiful 200-year-old beech trees that provide an enjoyable sightseeing opportunity that is rivaled only by the fantastic views of Tirana. Accommodations and a variety of restaurants are available for visitors within the park. One can reach the park either by road or by cable car; either mode of transportation provides spectacular vistas.



Lura National Park

Lura National Park has an area of 1,280 hectares and lies to the east of the area known as “Lura’s Crown.” This park offers a great deal of unspoiled, natural beauty.



NATIONAL PARKS

Fir of Drenova National Park

Located 10 km from the city of Korça, this park has an area of 1,380 hectares. Pure, unspoiled water resources within the park provide drinking water for the communities of Shën Gjergji, Plaka, Pllica and others.

Valbona Valley National Park

Featuring an area of 8,000 hectares, this park is the gem of the Albanian Alps. It is located 25-30 km to the northwest of the city Bajram Curri and is notable for its tremendous biodiversity.



Divjaka Pines National Park

This park has an area of 1,250 hectares and has been protected under the RAMSAR International Convention since 1994. It is part of the Karavasta Lagoon and represents one of the most important ecosystems in the country.



Llogara National Park

About 40 km to the southeast of Vlora, Llogara National Park marks the transition point between the Adriatic and Ionian seas. The climate created here by the confluence of these bodies of water provides an extraordinary backdrop for outdoor activities of all sorts.



Tomorri Mountain Park

With an area of 4,000 hectares, Tomorri Mountain Park is located east of the historically significant city of Berat. Visible from a great distance, Mount Tomorri is reminiscent of an enormous fortress.



Fir of Hotova National Park

With an area of 1,200 hectares, this park is located about 35 km to the northeast of Përmet, in the Frashër region. It is noteworthy due to the presence of the Hotova Fir, the most important Mediterranean plant relic in the country.



Zall Gjocaj National Park

With an area of 140 hectares, this park is located 40 km to the northeast of the city of Burrel. It is an extraordinarily picturesque area offering a number of natural springs and creeks.

Shtama Pass National Park

With an area of 2,000 hectares, this park lies 25 km to the northeast of Kruja. A water source known as the Queen Mother is one of the most attractive areas in the park. It offers clean, cold and legendarily curative waters.



NATIONAL PARKS



Butrint National Park

Butrint National Park is located about 25 km south of Saranda. It is, without a doubt, the most archeologically significant site in Albania and offers visitors a variety of ruins and sightseeing opportunities. The park measures 2,500 hectares. Ecotourists will be captivated by the Butrint Lake region, which features a tremendous variety of plant and animal life. The area offers a variety of water sports, as well, and there are opportunities to engage in "blue tourism" in the nearby town of Ksamil.



Prespa National Park

This park offers an impressive 27,750 hectares and straddles the borders of three countries: Albania, Greece and Macedonia. It contains the lakes of Prespa e Madhe and Prespa e Vogël, along with their water source. It is an area rich in both natural beauty and cultural tradition.



NATIONAL PARKS



Thethi National Park

Located in the Albanian Alps, in the vicinity of the “Cursed Mountains” (Bjeshkët e Namuna), this park has an area of 2,630 hectares. Visitors can enjoy the beauty of tremendous oak trees alongside an array of wildlife.







Berati, UNESCO site

MUSEUMS

Tirana

National Historic Museum

Phone: 00355 4/2223446

00355 4/2228389

00355 4/2223977

Visiting Hours: 10.00-17.00
Sunday 10.00-15.00

Closed: Monday

E-mail: informacioni@albmuseum

Website: www.albmuseum.com

Address: Blv. "Dëshmorët e Kombit"
Skanderbeg Pl.



Archaeological Museum

Phone: 00355 4/2226541

Visiting Hours: 10.30-14.00

Closed: Saturday and Sunday

Address: "Nënë Tereza" Square



Natural Science Museum

Phone: 00355 4/2229028

Visiting hours: 08.00-15.00

Closed: Saturday and Sunday

Address: "Kavaja" Street



National Art Gallery

Phone: 00355 4/2233975

Visiting hours: 09.00-13.00

17.00-20.00

Closed: Monday

Address: Blv. "Dëshmorët e Kombit"

Vlora

Independence Museum

Phone: 00355 3/3229419

Visiting hours: 09.00-13.00,

17.00-20.00

Closed: Monday



Kruja

National Museum

"Gjergj Kastrioti - Skënderbeu"

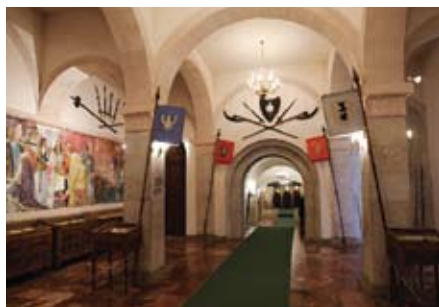
Phone: 00355 5/1122225

Visiting Hours: 09.00-13.00
15.00-18.00

Closed: Monday

From May to September: 08.00-13.00
16.00-19.00

Address: Fortress of Kruja



National Ethnographic Museum

Phone: 00355 5/1124485

Visiting hours: 09.00-13.00
15.00-18.00

Closed: Monday

From May to September: 08.00-13.00,
16.00-19.00

Address: Fortress of Kruja



Durrësi

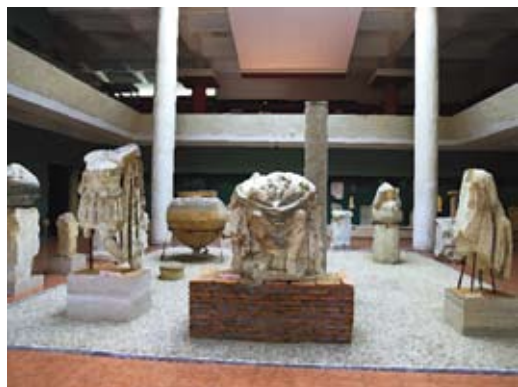
Museum of Archeology

Phone: 00355 5/2222253.

Visiting hours: 09.00-15.00

Closed: Monday

Address: "Taulantia" Street



Ethnography Museum

Phone/Fax: 00355 5/2223150

Visiting hours: 09.00-13.00

Closed: Monday

Amphiteatre of Durrës

This is open continuously
and charges no admission fee.



MUSEUMS

Berati

National Museum "ONUFRË"

Phone: 00355 3/2232248

Visiting hours: 09.00-16.00

Closed: Monday

From May to September: 09.00-13.00
16.00 -19.00



National Ethnographic Museum

Phone: 00355 3/2232224

Visiting hours: 09.00-13.00
15.00-18.00

Closed: Monday

From May to September: 08.00-13.00
16.00-19.00

Address: "13 Shtatori" Quarter



Korça

National Museum of Medieval Art

Phone: 00355 8/2243022

Visiting hours: 09.00-13.00
15.00-18.00

Closed: Monday

From May to September: 08.00-13.00
16.00-19.00



National Education Museum

Phone: 00355 8/2243022

Visiting hours: 09.00-13.00
15.00-18.00

Closed: Monday

From May to September: 08.00-13.00
16.00-19.00

Address: Lagja 12, Blv "Shën Gjergji"



Gjirokastra

Castle Museum

Phone: 00355 8/4262460
 Visiting hours: 08.00-16.00
 Closed: Saturday & Sunday



Ethnography Museum

Phone: 00355 8/4262460
 Visiting hours: 09.00-19.00
 Closed: Monday & Tuesday

Shkodra

History Museum

Phone: 00355 2/2243213
 Visiting Hours: 08.00-14.00
 Closed: Saturday & Sunday

Rozafa Castel Museum

Phone: 00355 2/2243213
 Visiting hours: 09.00-14.00

National Photo Gallery "MARUBI"

Phone: 00355 2/2243467
 Visiting hours: 08.00-16.00
 Closed: Saturday & Sunday

Peshkopi

Historic Museum of Dibra

Phone: 00355 2/1282516
 Mobile phone: 00355 68/2309998
 Visiting hours: 09.00-13.00
 14.00-16.00
 Closed: Saturday & Sunday
 Address: Blv. "Elez Isufi"

Lezha

National Museum of Skanderbeg's Grave

Mobile phone: 00355 69/2147344
 00355 68/3647880
 Visiting hours: 09.00-13.00
 16.00-19.00
 Closed: Monday
 Address: "Skanderbeg" Quarter



ALBANIAN TRADITIONS

Folklore

Albania has a rich history of folklore and music dating back to Illyrian times. Songs feature elaborate dances and instrumental works in which you can glimpse the vibrant spirit of the Albanian people.

Albanian folklore is a diverse, artistic expression which is handed down from generation to generation. It is a historical narrative of sorts and continues to be modified to reflect recent history. There are literary, musical, theatrical and dance aspects to this continually evolving art form. Storytelling is integral to this expression and takes the form of poetry, legends, tales, anecdotes, proverbs and folk sayings. Scores of volumes have been published over the years and are dedicated to preserving all aspects of this cultural phenomenon.



Folk-music

Folk songs and dances have marked significant events in Albanian daily life since antiquity. Songs and accompanying dances are performed at events ranging from weddings to funerals. These performances vary by region, but are an important aspect of cultural identity throughout the country.

Throughout the centuries, there have been several famous Albanian musicians, including medieval composer and singer John Kukuzelis, who is responsible for reforming all types of church music.

Albanian folk music is comprised of three distinct styles:



The **diatonic** music

of the north is characterized by solo male singers. Instrumentation consists of the çiftelia, lahuta, and gjajde. The sound produced is reminiscent of Celtic music.

Polyphonic or **pentatonic** music is traditional in the south. It is usually sung a capella, or with no instrumentation and the sound is enhanced by multiple singers. This style of singing usually recounts epic tales or historical events.

Urban folk music, or “muzika popullore qytetare,” encompasses a variety of styles and is more popular in the less traditional urban areas. Accompaniment ranges from a single instrument to a small orchestra.

National Festival of Folklore

This is the largest, most significant folklore festival occurring anywhere in Albania. It is held at Gjirokastra Castle every four years. All regions and varieties of Albanian folklore are represented. Albanians travel from countries all over the world, including Kosovo, Montenegro, Turkey, the United States and Greece to participate in this event. International guests also showcase examples of folklore from their country of origin.

National Typology Festival of Saze and Folk Orchestras-Korça

Saze (Albanian traditional clarinet) music is celebrated at this festival. Music of this variety is played throughout southern Albania, specifically in urban centers such as Korça, Vlora, Pogradec, Përmet, Berat, and Leskovik.



National Festival of Rhapsodists and Folk Instrument Players-Lezha

This festival, held in Lezha, showcases rhapsodists from Northern Albania. It is the only event that is wholly dedicated to rhapsodists and bards who enthusiastically interpret their songs with instruments such as lahuta, çifteli, and sharki.

National Festival of Urban Folk Songs- Elbasan

This traditional festival showcases urban folk songs and is held on the first day of summer.

National Typological Festival of Iso-Polyphony-Vlora

The National Typological Festival of Iso-Polyphony celebrates this unique subset of Albanian folk music. The immense significance of this style of folk singing is highlighted by UNESCO's declaration of Albanian Iso-Polyphony as a "Masterpiece of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity."



ALBANIAN TRADITIONS



National Festival of Folk Instruments- Gjirokastra

This multicultural festival is held in Gjirokastra and features both folk music and the musical instruments used to accompany folk singers.

International Festival "Multicultural Përmet"-Përmet

This is a festival of ethnic, cultural and linguistic minorities in Albania. It is sponsored by CIOFF, an international organization that promotes folklore performances and the preservation of folklore worldwide.

Folklore Festival "Sofra Dardane"-Tropoja

This festival seeks to preserve folklore and provide enrichment through folklore performances. It is held in Tropoja and specifically features Northern Albanian and Kosovar folklore and ethnography

Festival "Oda Dibrane"-Peshkopi

Oda Dibrane is a relatively new style of song and dance, first performed in 1994. It is humorous and popular, and has inspired this festival in Peshkopi.

Traditional “logu” dance



CULTURE

Literature and Arts

The earliest book written in Albanian is Gjon Buzuku's "Meshari," or Prayer Book, and dates from 1555. Literature from this period is comprised primarily of religious texts and volumes detailing the Albanian resistance to the Turkish invasion. Notable early Albanian authors include: Pjeter Budi, Fran Bardhi and Pjeter Bogdani.

The 19th century saw a resurgence of Albanian during what has been called a "national renaissance." Most works from this period are romantic in nature and recount Albania's history or focus on the struggle to preserve the culture and establish a national identity. The most distinguished authors from this period include Naim Frashëri, Andon Zako Çajupi, Sami Frashëri, Ndre Mjeda and De Rada. Following Independence, Albanian literature continued to emphasize patriotic themes which were popular during the renaissance period. There is also a notable

democratic character to many writings of this period. Several figures rose to prominence in this period, including publicist, poet and politician Fan Noli, Migjeni, Lasgush Poradeci, Gjergj Fishta, Ernest Koliqi and Faik Konica.

After the end of World War II, a theme of politicized socialist realism dominated many novels. Several other genres began to gain prominence, though, including poetry and drama. A movement of dissident writers openly defied Communist restrictions and further advanced literary development in Albania. Many significant authors emerged during this period, including Mitrush Kuteli and Dritëro Agolli. Ismail Kadare, probably Albania's most famous author, was awarded the inaugural Man Booker International prize in 2005, and his 15 books have been translated into 40 languages. Kadare is frequently mentioned as a contender for the Nobel Prize for Literature.





Cinematography

Albanian cinematography began to develop in 1947, after the Second World War. The New Albania Film Studio (known today as Alba Film) was created in 1952 and it produced Albania's first full-length feature film, entitled "Tana," in 1958. As time passed, the studio became prolific and produced as many as 14 feature films annually. Filmmaking decreased dramatically under Communist rule, but production resumed in the 1990's following Enver Hoxha's death. Although Albanian cinema lacks a global following, some films have been popular in Europe and the industry has been repeatedly recognized for many films at a variety of festivals worldwide.

Theatre

Theatre performance in Albania is a long-standing tradition. Evidence of centuries-old performances can be seen in the excavated theatres and amphitheatres dating back to the 4th century B.C. There was a resurgence of amateur theatre during the national renaissance of the 19th century, specifically in the cities of Shkodra, Korça, Gjirokastra and Elbasan. The famous actor Aleksander Moisiu is Albanian. Professional theatrical and variety-show troupes frequently perform in larger cities. Notably, the National Theatre and Opera and Ballet Theatre hold regular performances in Tirana.



Monuments of Culture

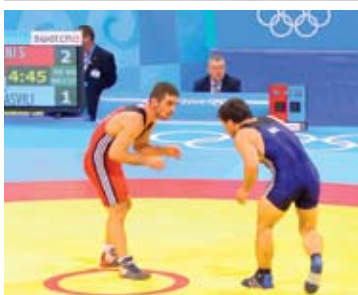
Albania is a country with a unique and colorful history. There are distinctly Albanian artifacts, but other civilizations have left traces here, as well. Ruins exist from Illyrian, Roman, Greek and Byzantine civilizations, adding to the mystique and rich history of this land.



Handicrafts

The history of handicrafts in Albania is extensive and dates back at least to the Illyrians. The Arbëresh people of early medieval times are known to have developed a high level of artistic expression in the form of crafts. Many quality items are still produced today and feature folk designs or patriotic motifs such as Albania's double-headed eagle emblem. It is common for artisans to work in a variety of media including wood, cooper, alabaster, bone, and ceramic. Also noteworthy are textiles, leather goods, and delicate silver jewelry found throughout the country.





Traditional sports

Ancient, excavated stadiums hint at the long history of athletics in Albania. Today, spectator sports, specifically soccer, play an integral role in the culture. Basketball, volleyball, boxing and wrestling are also popular, but soccer consistently draws many fans. Most of the larger cities in Albania have a soccer stadium. Enthusiasts come to matches by the thousands to socialize and cheer on their team.



MEDIA

Newspapers

A diverse range of newspapers is printed in Tirana. The Albanian Daily News is published in English and a variety of foreign newspapers and magazines are available in most major hotel lobbies and larger book shops



Radio

Tirana has a number of radio stations that broadcast news, talk, and a variety of music. Most of the broadcasts are in Albanian, but the BBC can be found at 103.9 FM and the Voice of America broadcasts at 107.3 FM.





Internet

Most towns offer internet cafes, in which the user pays an hourly rate for internet access.

These are generally affordable, around 150 lekë/hour and the internet speed is generally very good.



TV

There are many TV channels available in Albania. Broadcasts are primarily in Italian or Albanian, but satellites can pick up some English channels.



The sunset, Vlora beach



OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

Monetary system

The Albanian monetary unit is called the Lekë. It is issued in denominations of 5000, 2000, 1000, 500, 200, 100 (paper) and 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5 (coins). The currency floats freely but is quite stable. The exchange rates for foreign currencies are available in newspapers and at exchange bureaus. Cash point machines, or ATMs, which issue Albanian Lekë, can be found in all major cities in Albania. Credit cards like American Express, Diners Club, Visa, and Maestro (by Pro Credit Bank) are accepted by banks, major hotels and many restaurants. Travelers Checks may be cashed at any bank. Payment for most goods and services is generally made in cash.

Banking hours:

Monday to Friday: 08.30 to 15.00.

Banks operating in Albania include:

(country code 00355 + Phone No.)

Alpha Bank

Phone: 04/2240 478
Fax: 04/2232 102
E-mail: tiranabranchdep@alpha.gr
Address: Blv. "Zogu I" Nr. 47 - Tirana

Intesa San Paolo

Phone: 04/2276 000 & 276222
Fax: 04/2248 762
E-mail: americanbank@ambankalb.com
Web site: www.ambankalb.com
Address: "Ismail Qemali" Str. Nr. 27 - Tirana

Credins Bank

Phone: 04/ 2234 096
04/ 2233 912
Fax: 04/ 2222 916
E-mail: info@bankacredins.com
Web site: www.bankacredins.com
Address: "Ismail Qemali" Str. Nr. 21 - Tirana

Popular Bank

Phone: 04/ 2280442/3
Fax: 04/ 2280441
Mobile phone: 0682060974
E-mail: info@bpopullore.com
Web site: bpopullore.com
Address: Blv. "Dëshmorët e Kombit"
Twin Towers - Tirana

Bis Bank

Phone: 04/ 2280 555
Fax: 04/ 2280 356
E-mail: info@bisbanca.com
Web site: www.bisbanca.com
Address: Blv. "Dëshmorët e Kombit"
Twin Towers - Tirana

NCBank (BKT)

Phone: 04/ 2266 276
Fax: 04/ 2266 282
Web site: www.bkt.com.al
Address: Blv. "Zhan D'Ark" - Tirana

CBA

Phone: 04/ 2272 168
Fax: 04/ 2271 262
E-mail: creditbkalb@icc-al.org
creditcba@icc-al.org

OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

Emporiki Bank

Phone: 04/2 258755
04/2 2258760
Fax: 04/ 2258752
E-mail: credit@emporiki.com.al

First Investment Bank

Phone: 04/ 2276702
Fax: 04/ 2280210
E-mail: fibanktr@abcom.al
Address: Blv. "Dëshmorët e Kombit"
Twin Towers, 2nd floor - Tirana

NBG Bank

Phone: 04/ 2233621
Fax: 04/ 2233613
E-mail: nbgalbانيا@icc-al.org
Address: "Durrësi" Str.
Godona Comfort - Tirana

Pro Credit Bank

Phone: 04/ 2271275
04/ 2240777
Fax: 04/ 2220774
E-mail: info@procreditbank.com.al
Web site: www.procreditbank.com.al

Raiffeisen Bank

Phone: 04/ 2274 910
Fax: 04/ 2227 262
04/ 2147 912
Web site: www.raiffeisen.al
Address: Blv. "Bajram Curri"
ETC - Tirana

Tirana Bank

Phone: 04/ 2277700
Fax: 04/ 2263022
E-mail: info@tiranabank.net
Web site: www.tiranabank.al
Address: "Dëshmorët e 4 Shkurtit" Str.
P.O. Box: 2400/1



UBA

Phone: 04/2 227 408
04/2 228 873
Fax: 04/2 228 460
E-mail: info@ubaa.al
Address: Blv. "Dëshmorët e Kombit"
Nr. 8 - Tirana

Union Bank

Phone: 04/ 2 258 081
Fax: 04/ 2273880
E-mail: info@unionbank.al
Address: Blv. "Zogu I" - Tirana

World Bank

Phone: 04/ 2 280 650/1
Fax: 04/ 2 240 590
Web site: www.worldbank.org.al

BIA

Phone: 04/ 2 233 965
Fax: 04/ 2 235 700
E-mail: biatia@adanet.com.al
Web site: www.bia.com.al
Address: "Barrikadave" Str. Nr. 3 - Tirana

Bank of Albania

PPhone: 04/ 2 222 230
04/ 2 222 752
04/ 2 222 152
Address: "Skanderbeg" Square – Tirana

OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

Official Holidays

January 1 & 2	New Year's Day
March 14	Summer Day
March 22	Nevrouz day
May 1	Labor Day
October 19	Day of Beautification of Mother Teresa
November 28	Independence Day
November 29	Liberation Day
December 8	National Youth Day
December 25	Christmas Day

**The following are also public holidays
that do not occur on the same date
every year:**

Catholic Easter	March/April/May
Orthodox Easter	March/April/May
Bajram i Madh	End of Ramadan
Bajram i Vogel	Around December



Local Time:

GMT +1 hour
GMT + 2 hours between
end of April and of October

Electric Current:

220 v and AC 50 Hz European
compatible network.

Weight and measures:

Metric system.

Guides and Interpreters:

Travel agents provide professional
interpreters for most inclusive tours.

Doctors and Dentists:

Doctors and dentists can easily be found
throughout Albania, both in hospitals
and in private practice.



Web tourist information

Information about tourism in Albania
www.albaniantourism.com

National Tourism Agency source
www.akt.gov.al

Source of the Ministry of Tourism,
Culture, Youth and Sports
www.mtkrs.gov.al

Source of the Ministry
of International Affairs.
www.mfa.gov.al

Information about the hotels in Albania
www.albania-hotel.com
www.albania-holidays.com
www.inyourpocket.com/albania
www.outdooralbania.com

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Outdoor Activities

A wide variety of outdoor activities and adventures is available throughout Albania. Contact any of the agencies below for more information:

Albanian Aeronautics (Aeronautika shqiptare)

President: **Alket Islami**
Aerial Photographer and Travel Instructor
Fax: 00355 4/2367071
Mobile phone: 00355 692042222
E-mail: albaniaopen@yahoo.com
Web site: www.flyzone.com
www.albanianairsports.com

Outdoor Albania (Profesionistë të aventurës)

Trekking, hiking, rafting, kayaking,
off-roading
Executive Director: **Gent Mati**
Specialised Outdoor Guide
Phone/Fax: 00 355 4/2227121
Mobile phone: 00 355 69 21 888 45
E-mail: info@outdooralbania.com
Web site: www.outdooralbania.com

Albanian Horse Riding Federation (Federata shqiptare e ipizmit)

President of Honour: **Ali Ohri**
Mobile phone: 00 355 69 20 650 74

Amateur Hunters and Fishermen Society (Shoqata e gjuetarëve dhe peshkatarëve amatore)

President: **Bujar Hyka**
General Secretary: **Jorgo Lako**
Phone: 00 355 4/ 2232884
Mobile phone: 00 355 68 20 659 59



OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Albanian Volleyball Federation (Federata shqiptare e volejbollit)

President: **Gjergj Liqeja**
General Secretary: **Leonard Tase**
Phone: 00 355 4/ 2228196
Mobile phone: 00 355 69 21 431 26



Albanian Ski Federation (Federata shqiptare e skive)

President: **Shkëlqim Mema**
General Secretary: **Astrit Hutka**
Phone: 00 355 4/ 2228499
Mobile phone: 00 355 68 24 267 79



Albanian Mountain Hiking Federation (Federata shqiptare e alpinizmit)

President: **Koço Jani**
General Secretary: **Ilir Cule**
Mobile phone: 00 355 4/ 2228499



The Dive Club

President: **Idit Riza**
Mobile phone: 00355 6926408 52
E-mail: idit_riza@live.com
Web site: www.albaniadive.com

Blue Sub

Chairman: **Igli Pustina**
General Secretary: **Arian Gace**
Mobile phone: 00 355 69 20 796 63





The beautiful nature

POSTAL SYSTEM AND PHONE CALLS

Albanian post offices are recognized by their signs which read "PTT".
The central post office operates from 07.30 to 20.00, Monday through Friday.
The phone number is 0355 4 222315.
In addition to regular services, they offer an express delivery option called EMS Express.
To use this service, contact the post office via phone at 0800 4141 or /2245308.

Private companies such as DHL, UPS, FEDEX and TNT also operate in Albania.

DHL service

Address: "Ded Gjo Luli" Str. No. 6 - Tirana.
Open: 08.00-18.00 Monday to Friday,
08.00-12.00 Saturday,
Closed: Sunday
Phone: 04 2233932
Fax: 04 2257294
E-mail: al.customet@dhl.com
Web site: www.dhl.com

EMS service

Address: "Çamëria" Str.
Central Post Office
Open: 08.00-13.00
Phone: 04 2245309



UPS service

Address: "Pjeter Bogdani" Str.
Teuta building - Tirana.
Open: 08.30-17.30 Monday to Friday,
08.30-14.00 Saturday
Closed: Sunday
Phone: 04 2259742
Fax: 04 2259743
Mobile phone: 068209000
E-mail: uadvisors@albmil.com
Web site: www.ups.com

FedEx service

Address: "Zhan D'Ark" Blv.
Second "Kulla" - Tirana
Open: 08.30 -16.00 Monday to Friday
09.00-12.00 Saturday
Closed: Sunday
Phone: 04 2253203
Fax: 04 2253630
E-mail: fedex@icc-al.eu.org
Web site: www.fedex.com

TNT service

Address: "Mine Peza" Str. Nr. 2 - Tirana
Open: 08.00-17.00
Closed: Sunday
Phone: 042234914
Fax: 042235489
E-mail: Ilirjan@icc.al.eu.org
Web site: www.tnt.com



POSTAL SYSTEM AND PHONE CALLS

Post restante

Post restante letters should be labeled "post rest ante". These are routed through the central post office and are used for sending and receiving documents from other countries.

Valuable Dispatch

This service is used to send valuable belongings or important documents.

Mobile Phones

Currently, three mobile phone companies (AMC, Vodafone, and Eagle) operate in Albania. Roaming costs for users based in other countries can be extraordinarily high in Albania. Often, it is worthwhile and more affordable to purchase a local SIM card to make and receive local calls while in Albania.

Public Service numbers

Phone Numbers of 12 Police Districts

Police Directorates:

"Shqiponja"	126/129
Directorate of Shkodra:	022 423 23
Directorate of Velipoja:	026 7802 07
Directorate of Durrësi:	052 2231 51 052 2221 51
Directorate of Vlora:	033 2239 10 033 2229 50
Directorate of Orikum:	039 2123 33
Directorate of Himara:	039 2323 44
Directorate of Korça:	082 2426 96
Directorate of Saranda:	085 2222 05
Directorate of Ksamil:	089 2321 56
Directorate of Gjirokaster:	084 2636 82 084 2623 33
Directorate of Pogradec:	083 2223 59
Directorate of Shengjin:	028 2123 99 028 2123 98

Emergency numbers:

Police:	129
Fire:	128
Hospital emergency:	127
Night pharmacy:	04/22 222 41

Emergency hospitals

127 is the emergency contact number throughout Albania and should always work to summon medical assistance.

Emergency telephone for city hospitals:

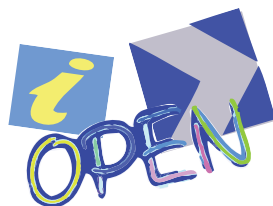
Tirana	04/2222235
Durrësi	052/222222
Kavaja	055/242828
Berati	032/234222
Korça	082/222552
Pogradeci	083/224444
Vlora	033/224151
Gjirokastra	084/262222
Saranda	085/222312
Fieri	034/222021
Kukësi	024/222308
Shkodra	022/247289



POSTAL SYSTEM AND PHONE CALLS

Telephone country code	00 355
City Name	Area Code
Ballshi	0313
Libohova	0881
Bajram Curri	0213
Lushnja	035
Berati	032
Rrësheni	0216
Burreli	0217
Rrogozhina	0577
Bulqiza	0219
Maliqi	0861
Bilishti	0811
Memaliaj	0885
Cërriku	0581
Orikumi	0391
Delvina	0815
Patosi	0381
Durrësi	052
Përmeti	0813
Elbasani	054
Poliçani	0368
Erseka	0812
Përrenjasi	0512
Fieri	034
Puka	0212
Gramshi	0513
Pogradeci	0832
Gjirokastra	084
Peqini	0512
Himara	0393
Peshkopia	0218
Kavaja	0554
Saranda	085
Kruja	0511
Selenica	0392
Kopliku	0211
Skrapari	0312
Korça	082
Shijaku	0571
Kuçova	0311

Shkodra	022
Kukësi	0242
Tepelena	0814
Laçi	053
Vlora	033
Lezha	0215
Librazhdi	0514



Government Offices

Hours of Operation: 08.00-16.30
Closed: Saturday and Sunday

Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports

Phone: 00 355 4 2232488
Web site: www.mtkrs.gov.al

National Tourism Organization

Phone/Fax: 00 355 4 2273281
E-mail: info@albaniantourism.com
info@akt.gov.al
Web site: www.albaniantourism.com
www.akt.gov.al

Marketing Promotion Department

Phone: 00 355 4 2273425

Banks

Operating Hours: 08.30-15.00
Closed: Saturday and Sunday

Shops

Operating Hours: 09.00- 20.00
Closed: Sunday

Ambasada Amerikane**American Embassy**

"Elbasan" Str. Nr. 103

Phone: 04/ 2247285

Fax: 04/ 2232222

E-mail: ujkajv@state.gov**Ambasada Angleze****British Embassy**

"Skanderbeg" Str. Nr. 12

Phone & Fax: 04/ 2234973/4/5

E-mail: consular.tiran@fco.gov.uk**Ambasada e Arabisë Saudite****Saudi Arabia Embassy**

"Abdi Toptani" Str.

Torre "Drin", 5-th floor

Phone: 04/ 2248306/7/8

Fax: 04/ 2229982

E-mail: embsaudarab@albaniaonline.net**Ambasada Austriake****Austrian Embassy**

"Frederik Shiroka" Nr. 3

Phone: 04/ 2233144

Fax: 04/ 2233140

E-mail: tirana-ob@bmaa.gv.at
austemb@adanet.com.al**Ambasada Boshnjake****Bosnja-Hercegovina Embassy**

"Themistokli Germenji" Str. Nr. 5

Phone: 04/ 2230454

Fax: 04/ 2234848

Ambasada Bullgare**Bulgarian Embassy**

"Skanderbeg" Str. Nr. 12

Phone: 04/ 2233155

Fax: 04/ 2232272

E-mail: bgemb-alb@interalb.net**Ambasada Çeke****Czech Embassy**

"Skanderbeg" Str. Nr. 10

Phone: 04/ 2234004

Fax: 04/ 2232159

E-mail: tirana@embassy.cz**Ambasada Daneze****Danish Embassy**

"Nikolla Tupe" Str. Nr. 1

Phone: 04/ 2280600

Fax: 04/ 2280630

E-mail: tiaamb@um.dkWeb site: www.ambtiran.um.dk**Ambasada Egjiptiane****Egyptian Embassy**

"Skanderbeg" Str. Nr. 43

Phone: 04/ 2233022

Fax: 04/ 2232295

E-mail: egyemb@albaniaonline.net**Ambasada Franceze****French Embassy**

"Skanderbeg" Str. Nr. 14

Phone: 04/ 2234250

Fax: 04/ 2234442

Web site: www.ambafrance-al.org**Ambasada Gjermane****German Embassy**

"Skanderbeg" Str. Nr. 8

Phone: 04/ 2274505/6/7/8/9

Fax: 04/ 2233497

E-mail: german.embassy@icc.eu.orgWeb site: www.tirana.diplo.de

EMBASSIES

Ambasada Greke

Greek Embassy

"Frederik Shiroka" Str. Nr. 3

Phone: 04/ 2274644

Fax: 04/ 2234140

E-mail: gremb.tir@mfa.gr

Web site: www.greekembassy.al

Consular Section

Tel: 04/ 2234291

Fax: 04/ 2234443

Consulates in Korça and Gjirokastra

Ambasada Hollandeze

Royal Netherlands Embassy

"Asim Zeneli" Str. Nr. 10

Phone: 04/ 2240828

Fax: 04/ 2232723

E-mail: tir@minbuza.nl

tir-ca@minbuza.nl

Web site: wwwmfa.nl/tir

Ambasada Hungareze

Hungarian Embassy

"Skanderbeg" Str. Nr. 16

Phone: 04/ 2232238

Fax: 04/ 2233211

E-mail: mission.tia@kum.hu

Ambasada Iraniane

Iranian Embassy

"Mustafa Matohiti" Str. Nr. 20

Phone: 04/ 2272698

04/ 2255038

Fax: 04/ 2230409

Ambasada Italiane

Italian Embassy

"Papa Gjon Pali" Str. Nr. 2

Phone: 04/ 2275900

Fax: 04/ 2274900

E-mail:

segretariaambasciatia.tirana@estreri.it

Web site: ambtirana.esteri.it

Consulates in Shkodra and Vlora

Ambasada Kineze

Chinese Embassy

"Skanderbeg" Str. Nr. 57

Phone: 04/ 2232385

Fax: 04/ 2233159

E-mail: chinaemb_al@mfa.gov.cn

Ambasada Kroatie

Croatian Embassy

"Abdi Toptani" Str.

Torre "Drin" Pallati 4/1

Phone: 04/ 2228390

Fax: 04/ 2230578

E-mail: croembassy@albaniaonline.net

Ambasada Libiane

Libyan Embassy

"Arben Broci" Str. Nr. 6

Phone: 04/ 2379114

Fax: 04/ 2379117

E-mail: amblibi@albaniaonline.net

Ambasada Maqedonase

Macedonian Embassy

"Kavaja" Str. Nr. 116

Phone: 04/ 2230909

Fax: 04/ 2232514

E-mail: makambas@albnet.net



Ambasada Palestineze

Palestine Embassy

"Skanderbeg" Str. Nr. 6/1/1

Phone & Fax: 04/ 2265804

E-mail: palembalb@yahoo.com

Ambasada Polake

Polish Embassy

"Durrësi" Str. Nr.123

Phone: 04/ 2234190

Fax: 04/ 2233364

E-mail: polemb@albaniaonline.net

Ambasada Rumune

Rumanian Embassy

"Themistokli Ghermënj" Str. Nr.1

Phone & Fax: 04/ 2256072

Fax: 04/ 2256072

E-mail: roemb@adanet.com.al

Ambasada Ruse

Rusian Embassy

"Asim Zeneli" Str. Nr. 5

Phone: 04/ 2256040

Fax: 04/ 2256046

E-mail: rusemb@icc.eu.org

Ambasada e Republikës Serbe

Serbian Republic Embassy

"Donika Kastrioti" Str. Nr. 9/1

Phone: 04/ 223209

Fax: 04/ 2232089

E-mail: ambatira@icc-al.org

Ambasada Spanjolle

Spanish Embassy

"Skanderbeg" Str. Nr. 43

Phone: 04/ 2274961

Fax: 04/ 2225383

E-mail: emb.tirana@mae.es





Ambasada Suedeze

Swedish Embassy

"Qamil Guranjaku" Str.

Pallati 12, shk 1, 3 H,

Phone: 04/ 2347524

Fax: 04/ 2347525

E-mail: altascopco@icc-al.org

Ambasada Turke

Turkish Embassy

"Elbasan" Str. Nr. 65

Phone: 04/ 380350

Fax: 04/ 347767

E-mail:

turkishembassy@albaniaonline.net

Ambasada e Republikës së Kosovës

Kosova Embassy

"Scanderbeg" Str.

Ambasada e Vatikanit

Vatican Embassy

"Durrësi" Str. Nr. 13

Phone: 04/ 2233516

Fax: 04/ 2232001

E-mail: nunapal@icc-al.org



Ambasada Zviceriane

Swiss Embassy

"Elbasan" Str. Nr. 81

Phone: 04/ 2234888

Fax: 04/ 2234889

E-mail: tir.vertretung@eda.admin.ch

Konsullata e Kanadasë

Honorary Consulate of Canada

"Dervish Hima" Str.

Tour Nr. 2, Ap. 22

Phone: 04/ 2257274/5

Fax: 04/ 2234889

E-mail: canadalb@canada.gov.al

Ambasada e Urdhrit Sovran të Maltës

Embassy of the Malta

Military Sovereign Order

Hotel "Rogner Europapark"

"Dëshmorët e Kombit" Blv.

Phone & Fax: 04/ 2223636

E-mail: amb.smom.alb@rogner.com

Ambasada e Norvegjisë

Norway Embassy

Blv. "Dëshmorët e 4 Shkurtit"

Sky Tower

Phone: 04/ 2221666

Fax: 04/ 2221507

E-mail: emb.tirana@mfa.no



Afternoon in Tirana

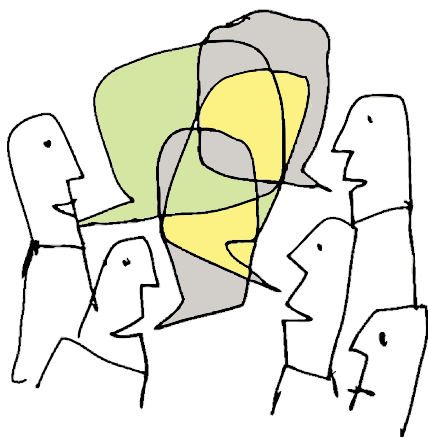
DICTIONARY

The letters are pronounced similarly

a	as farm
b	as big
c	as pizza
ç	as church
d	as dog
dh	as this
e	as tell
ë	as nurse
g	as gold
gj	as during
i	as ship
xh	as joy
j	as yellow
y	as you
k	as cat
l	as long
ll	as allow
m	as man
n	as no
nj	as new
o	as top
p	as pink
q	as mature
r	as road
rr	as arrangement
s	as see
sh	as english
t	as tour
u	as put
v	as vote
x	as zip
z	as zero
zh	as pleasure

Essentials

yes / no	po / jo
hello	tungjatjeta
of course	patjetër
OK	në rregull
good	mirë
big	i / e madh
bad	i / e keq
small	i / e vogël
entrance	hyrja
closed	i / e mbyllur
exit	dalje
open	i / e hapur
today	sot
tomorrow	nesër
this evening	sonte
now	tani
yesterday	dje
later	më vonë
who?	kush
why?	përse
when	kur?
how?	si?
where?	ku?
how much?	sa?



Essential phrases

good morning
good afternoon
good evening
good night
hello
thank you
goodbye
please
how are you?
don't mention it
excuse me
my name is
do you understand?
pleased to meet you

I (don't) understand.
Unë (nuk) kuptoj

what is your name?
si e keni emrin?

do you speak English?
a flisni anglisht?

mirëmëngjes
mirëdita
mirëmbërma
natën e mirë
përkshëndetje
faleminderit
mirupafshim
ju lutem
si jeni?
s'ka gjë
më falni
emri im është
a kupton?
gëzohem

Chatting

Mr.
Mrs.
Miss.
How are you?
My name is ...
Here is my address
What's your occupation?
I'm a ...
Businessperson
Student
Where are you from?
I'm from ...
How old are you?
I'm ... years old

Fine Thanks
Mirë faleminderit

I'm pleased to meet you
Gëzohem që u njohëm

Here is my phone number
Ja numri im i telefonit

What's your phone number?
Cili është numri juaj i telefonit?

Zotëri
Zonjë
Zonjushë
Si jeni?
Unë quhem...
Ja adresa ime
Ç'punë bëni?
Jam ...
Biznesmen
Student
Nga jeni?
Jam nga ...
Sa vjeç jeni?
Jam ... vjeç



DICTIONARY

Eating & Drinking

a table for ...	një tavolinë për ...
bring to me ...	më sillni ...
cheers!	gëzuar!
Please	Ju lutem
bill / menu	faturën / menunë
drink list	listën e pijeve
cup of coffee /tea	filxhan kafe / çaj
mineral water	ujë mineral
a bottle of beer	një shishe birra
a glass of wine	një gotë verë
breakfast	mëngjes
lunch	drekë
dinner	darkë

I'd like please ...
Do të dëshiroja të lutem ...

the non smoking section
një vend ku ndalohet duhani

Do you have vegetarian food?
A keni ushqim vegjetarian?

What would you recommended?
Çfarë më rekomandoni?

I'll buy you a drink.
Do t'ju qeras me një pije.



Emergencies

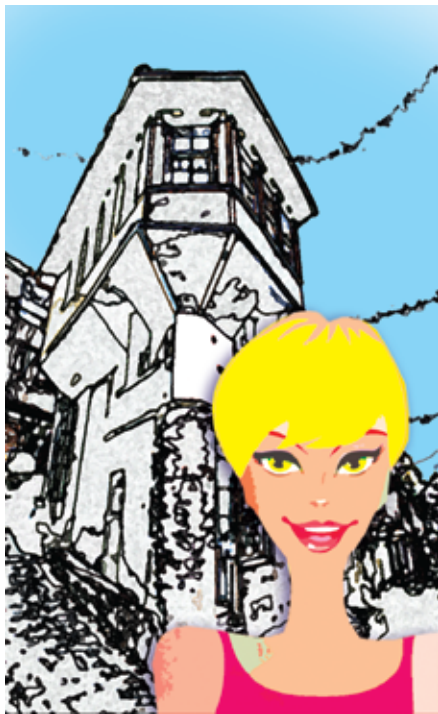
help!	ndihmë!
stop!	ndal!
go away!	largohu!
fire!	zjarr!
an ambulance	ambulancë
a doctor	doktor
the police	policia

call ...!
thërrisni ose telefononi!

Could you help me please?
A mund të më ndihmoni ju lutem?

I'm lost
Kam humbur rrugën

Where are the toilettes?
Ku ndodhen tualetet?



Exploring

Where's the ...?

Bank

Hotel

Post office

Ku është ...?

Banka

Hoteli

Posta

Please stop here.

Ju lutem ndaloni këtu.

Where can I find ...?

Ku mund të gjej ...?

Where can I buy a ticket?

Ku mund të blejë një biletë?

Is this the ... to Durrës?

Është ... për në Durrës?

boat / train / bus

anije / tren / autobus

I would like a taxi at 9 a.m.

Doja një taksi në ora 9 paradite.

How much is it to ...?

Sa kushton për të vajtur në ...?

Please take to (this address).

Ju lutem më çoni te (kjo adresë).

Can you show me on the map ...?

A mund të më tregoni në hartë ...?

What time does it open/close?

Në çfarë ore hapet/mbyllet?

What is the admission charge?

Sa kushton bileta?

When is the next tour?

Kur është udhëtimi tjetër turistik?

Numbers

1

Një

2

Dy

3

Tre

4

Katër

5

Pesë

6

Gjashtë

7

Shtatë

8

Tetë

9

Nëntë

10

Dhjetë

11

Njëmbëdhjetë

20

Njëzet

30

Tridhjetë

40

Dyzetë

50

Pesëdhjetë

60

Gjashtëdhjetë

70

Shtatëdhjetë

80

Tetëdhjetë

90

Nëntëdhjetë

100

Njëqind

101

Njëqin e një

200

Dyqind

300

Treqind

1000

Një mijë



Characteristic House
in Shkodra



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