

ABOUT ALBANIA

A PLACE WHERE EVERYONE FINDS WHAT IS LOOKING FOR. From the pure, white snow of the mountains to the red fields of spring poppies, Albania's landscape is ever changing with the seasons, offering visitors a warm summer beach holiday or a challenging mountain trek during the fall. Although small, Albania offers a diverse range of nature to explore. There are many wonderful beaches, spectacular mountains, river valleys, large canyons, forests rich with flora and fauna, large and small lakes, and many other surprises for visitors. The culture and history are also impressive and have much to offer to tourists. Butrint, located in the south of Albania, is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Program and is apprized as one of the most wondrous places on earth, full of mythology and mystic atmosphere. The site lies in the center of a Mediterranean "jungle" and was built by in an ancient Trojan style. Two other Albanian cities are on the UNESCO World Heritage List, prominent for their specific architectural style: Berat and Gjirokastra. Albania is proud to host a wide range of archaeological sites. Myrian castles, medieval fortifications, Byzantine churches and monasteries of the post-Byzantine period. Albania's living connection to its rich cultural heritage is also complemented by its commitment to keep in pace with a highly vibrant and contemporary life, echoing its spirituality and presence in the European cultural environment. On the most important assets of the country is its coastline, with a length of 450 km including lagoons and its two Adriatic and Ionian Seas. Albania is a land to be loved. In this small Mediterranean country, virgin nature and cultural mysteries come together to create a unique sense of place. In Albania, visitors are welcomed as guests as part of the country's rich cultural traditions and heritage. Come to Albania! We welcome you as our guest!

TRAVELLING IN ALBANIA

BY ROAD

There are about 18,000 km of road in Albania, including about 3,700 km of National Main Streets and 11,000 km of district and municipal roads. The primary road network is about 1,200 km with nine main links. The government continues to make substantial investments in road improvements, and there are new highways in process of construction. In any case if you drive in Albania, please exercise caution and regard carefully the traffic laws. Better avoid travelling at night outside the main urban areas as road hazards are more difficult to see. It is illegal to drive under the influence of alcohol and drugs and to use a cell phone while driving.

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 the National Streets.

WEB TOURIST INFORMATION

Information about tourism in Albania

www.albania.al
Source of the Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism, Trade and Entrepreneurship
www.turizmi.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

TOURISM INSTITUTIONS

Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism, Trade and Entrepreneurship
+355 42 232488
www.turizmi.gov.al
National Tourism Agency
Phone/Fax: +355 42 260224
info@akt.gov.al
www.akt.gov.al
www.albania.al

Other useful information

BRIEF COUNTRY DESCRIPTION

Albania is a parliamentary democracy with European aspirations and a market-oriented economic system. Albania is one of the smallest countries on earth with 28,700 square kilometers (11,000 sq mi) of area, ranking 143rd. In 2014, Albania has an estimated population of 3.1 million, an increase from 2013's 3.02 million, and is the 132nd most populous country in the world. The Albanian people are very tolerant, hospitable and their attitude to western countries is overwhelmingly positive. Public security is generally good, particularly in Tirana. Foreign embassies advice generally to apply normal security precautions. Tourist facilities are steadily improving and hotel accommodation is plentiful in Tirana and in other major cities. In smaller towns and villages out of tourist centers the accommodation offer is limited and often at a simple standard. Most Albanians speak Italian and English is widely spoken in the cities.

MONETARY SYSTEM

The Albanian monetary unit is called Lek (plural Lekë). Banknotes come in denominations of 5000, 2000, 1000, 500, 200, Lekë. The currency floats freely but is quite stable. The exchange rates for foreign currencies are available in newspapers and at exchange bureaus; As in September 2014: 1000 Albanian Lekë = 7,20 euro = 9.30 US dollar = 5.70 Pound
Major credit and debit cards are accepted in most banks, large supermarkets and international hotels. Smaller businesses often only accept cash. There are numerous ATMs in Tirana and the main towns, as well as bureaux de change where US Dollars, Sterling Pounds and Euros are widely accepted. Although street money-changers operate openly, they do so illegally. Only use banks or established bureaux de change. Traveler's cheques are not widely used but can be changed at banks in larger towns or cities. Be aware when talking prices in Albania, specifically at markets, that many people still continue to refer to the "old Lekë" system, with one more zero at the end. So a kilo of apples may well cost 100 or 200 Lekë but not 1000!

BANKING HOURS: Monday to Friday: 08.30 to 15.00.

Banks operating in Albania include:
Alpha Bank: www.alphabank.al
Intesa San Paolo: www.intesa-sanpaolobank.al
Credins Bank: www.bankcredins.com
Societe Generale: www.societegenerale.al
Banka Kombetare Tregtare (BKT): www.bkt.com.al
Credit Agricole: www.credit-agricole.al
First Investment Bank: www.fibank.al
NBG Bank: www.nbgbank.al
Pro Credit Bank: www.procreditbank.com.al
Rai-eisen Bank: www.raiffeisen.al
Tirana Bank: www.tiranabank.al
UBA: www.uba.com.al
Union Bank: www.unionbank.com
World Bank: www.worldbank.org.al
Bank of Albania: www.bankofalbania.org

GAS STATIONS & CAR REPAIR

Gas stations are plentiful and available in both rural and urban areas. Those located on major roads often offer automobile repair services and restaurants. Car repair services are available mainly throughout the country as well as in rural areas.

SELECTED GAS AND SERVICE STATIONS

IN TIRANA
Anas Fiat
Rruga Durrësit, Nr.61, Laprakë.
Phone: +355 4227888
E-mail: sales@fiat.com.al
www.fiat.com.al

BMW Group Albania
Autostrada Tiranë-Durrës, Km 2, Mëzez.
Phone: +355 42356526
E-mail: info@bmw.com.al
www.bmw.com.al

Kadiu
Autostrada Tiranë-Durrës, Km 3.
Phone: +355 42407282
E-mail: kadiu@albmail.com
www.kadiu.al

Mercedes Benz
Autostrada Tiranë-Durrës, Km-7, Kashar.
Phone: +355 44500335
Fax: +355 44500336
E-mail: info@autostar.com.al
www.autostar-albania.com

Opel Noshi
Autostrada Tiranë-Durrës Km7, Kashar
Phone: +355 4820099
E-mail: info@opel-noshi.com
www.noshi.al

Porsche Albania
Autostrada Tiranë-Durrës, Km 3, Mëzez
Phone: +355 42407430
E-mail: office@porsche.al
www.porsche.al

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. The approximately fare costs are between 1000 and 1200 for long distances as Tirana to Saranda. Many travelers looking for public transport prefer to use privately owned vans, which function as an alternate system of bus routes. From Tirana the main routes are:

SOUTHBOUND: Tirana-Berati; Tirana-Vlora; Tirana-Gjirokastra; Tirana-Saranda.

Southbound buses depart from "Kavaja" Street at the "Tirana Beer" Factory.

NORTHBOUND:

Buses to Kukesi and Peshkopia depart from opposite the Sports Center.

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

Tirana-Shkodra; Tirana-Kruja; Tirana-Lozha.

Mini-buses to Bajram Curri depart from "Murat Toptani" Street.

SOUTHEAST:

Tirana-Korca. Buses depart from "Qemal Stafa" stadium.

Tirana-Pogradec. Buses depart from the Elbasani Street, near the Economic Faculty.

WEST:

Tirana-Durres; Tirana-Golem.

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

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.

TRAINS IN ALBANIA

Durrës - Elbasan
Elbasan - Durrës
Durrës - Librazhd
Librazhd - Durrës
Durrës - Shkodër
Shkodër - Durrës
Vlorë - Durrës
Durrës - Vlorë
Vlorë - Librazhd
Librazhd - Vlorë

HEADQUARTERS OF RAILWAY AUTHORITY

Rr. Skenderbeu, Lagjia, Nr. 3, Durrës.
Phone: +355 52 222037
Fax: +355 52 222037
E-mail: info@hsh.com.al
Web: www.hsh.com.al

LOCAL TIME

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

ELECTRIC CURRENT

220 V and AC 50 Hz
European compatible network

WEIGHT & MEASURES
Metric system

HOW TO COME TO ALBANIA?

BY AIR:

The airport in Albania is "Mother Theresa International Airport" which is located in Rinas, 17 km northwest of Tirana. The journey from Tirana to the airport takes twenty to thirty minutes, depending on traffic, and costs about 2,500 Lekë, or 20 € each way. The Rinas Express airport bus (tel. +355 69 2098908 / +355 69 2054002) departs every two hours between 07:00 and 19:00 from beside the National Museum on Skenderbeg Square; tickets cost 250 Lek and the trip takes 30-45 minutes.

Buses from the airport to the centre depart every hour between 06:00 and 18:00.

There are several international and national car rental agencies at the airport.

"MOTHER TERESA" AIRPORTTirana International Airport

Administration Building, Rinas, Tirana
Phone: +355 42 381600
Fax: +355 42 381545
E-mail: info@tirana-airport.com
Web: www.tirana-airport.com
LOST & FOUND:
Phone: +355 42 381681
Mob: +355 69 2066626
E-mail: tia-lost&found@tirana-airport.com
CALL CENTER:
Phone: +355 42 381800
The airport has a duty free shop. Customs operates 24 hours a day.

AIRLINES OPERATING AT TIRANA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT:

ADRIA AIRWAYS European Trade Centre ETC Bldv. "Bajram Curri" Nr. 19 Tirana.
City Office Phone: +355 42 274866, City Office Fax: +355 42 272666
Airport Office: +355 42 381911
E-mail: adr.tirana@adria.si, Web: www.adria.si, Working hours: MON-FRI, 09.00 - 18.00; SAT, 08.00 -13.00

OLIMPIC AIRWAYS VEVE Centre, 2nd floor Bldv. "Zogu I", Tirana.
Phone: +355 42 228960 /1 Fax: +355 42 228959
E-mail: tiaops@olympicair.com
Web: www.olympicair.com

BRITISH AIRWAYS +355 42381991
Fax: +355 42381998
Web: www.britisshairways.com

TURKISH AIRLINES Sheshi Wilson, Pallati i ri, Kati i 3-te, Tirana.
Phone: +355 42 258459
Phone Call Center: +355 42 240985
Fax: +355 42 240 965
E-mail: tkkamgsa@ccc.al.org
Web: www.turkishairlines.com
Airport Office: +355 42 381901
Fax: +355 42 381972
Working Hours: MON-FRI 09:00-17:00

LUFTHANSA Hotel Rogner "Europapark", Bldv. "Dëshmorët e Kombit", Tirana
Phone:+355 42 235028/ 9
+355 42 258010
Fax: +355 42 235026
Airport Office: +355 42 381926
Web: www.lufthansa.com

ALITALIA Hotel Rogner "Europapark", Bldv. "Dëshmorët e Kombit", Tirana.
City Office: +355 42 230023 / 57252
Fax: +355 4 2257061
Mob: +355 69 4000 220 / 1
Airport Office: +355 42 381919
Mob: +355 69 407626 / 18
E-mail: reservations@alitalia.it
Web: www.alitalia.it
Working hours: MON-FRI 09.00-17.30; SAT 09.00-13.30

AUSTRIAN AIRLINES Hotel Rogner "Europapark", Bldv. "Dëshmorët e Kombit", Tirana.
Phone: +355 42 235029 / 8
Fax: +355 42 235026
E-mail: tirana.office@austrian.com
Web: www.austrian.com/al

BY SEA

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

PORT OF DURRËS Rr. Tregtare, Lagjia Nr 1, Durrës
Phone: +355 52222028
Web: www.apdurres.com.al
Connects to the Italian ports of Bari, Ancona, Trieste in Italy and Koper in Slovenia. Customs operate 24 hours a day.

PORT OF SARANDA Rr. Mitat Hoxha, Sarandë
Phone: +355 85224475
Fax: +355 85225542
Web: www.portisara-nde.com.al
Daily trips are made to the Greek island of Corfu. Customs operate until 22.00 pm.

PORT OF VLORA Lagjia. "Pavarësia", Skelë, Vlorë.
Phone: +355 33409700
Fax: +355 33409700
E-mail: info@port-vlore.com
Web: www.portvlore.com
Connects to Brindisi and Otranto in Italy. Customs operate until 22.00pm.

PORT OF SHËNGJIN Rruga e Porrit, Shëngjin
Phone: +355 28122201
Fax: +355 28122201
E-mail: port_shengjin@yahoo.com
Web: www.portshengjin.com
For commodities only. Customs operates until 22.00.

FERRY LINES from Durrës:
Ferry Lines
Ferries Agency
Phone / Web (www.)
Linee Ferry Ferries Agenzie Telefono / Web (www.)

DURRËS-TRIESTE

Adria Ferries AF Francesca Adria Ferries +355 52 220105 adriaferries.com
Halkidon Shipping Corporation Filippos Kad +355 52 225154 kad.al
Adria Ferries AF Marina Adria Ferries +355 52 220105 adriaferries.com

DURRËS-BARI

Anek Lines Lato +355 52 220106 adriaticatraghetti.com
Adriatica Traghetti Adriatica I Adriatika +355 52 220106 adriaticatraghetti.com
Adria Ferries AF Francesca Adria Ferries +355 52 220105 adriaferries.com
Adria Ferries AF Michela Adria Ferries +355 52 220105 adriaferries.com
Adria Ferries AF Claudia Prima Adria Ferries +355 52 220105 adriaferries.com
Wavelord Navigation Co Ltd Rigel IDuni +355 52 230200 ventourisferries.it
Wavelord Navigation Co Ltd BariDuni +355 52 230200 europeanseaways.com
European Seaways Ionis Ionian Island +355 52 27234 european-ferries.com
Red Star Ferries Red Star I Euro Ferries +355 52 906448 kad.al
Albanian Ferries Adriatica King Kad +355 52 225154 kad.al
European Seaways Bridge Ionian Island +355 52 27234 europeanseaways.com
Adria Ferries AF Marina Adria Ferries +355 52 220105 anekitalia.com
Anek Lines Ierapetra L Altea +355 52 200269 anekitalia.com
Adria Ferries Aurelia Adria Ferries +355 52 220105 adriaferries.com

DURRËS-ANCONA

Adria Ferries AF Francesca Adria Ferries +355 52 220105 adriaferries.com
Adria Ferries AF Michela Adria Ferries +355 52 220105 adriaferries.com
Adria Ferries AF Claudia Prima Adria Ferries +355 52 220105 adriaferries.com
Adria Ferries AF Marina Adria Ferries +355 52 220105 adriaferries.com
Adria Ferries Aurelia Adria Ferries +355 52 220105 adriaferries.com

DURRËS-TRIESTE-ANCONA

Adria Ferries AF Marina Adria Ferries +355 52 220105 adriaferries.com
DURRËS-BRINDISI
Red Star Ferries Red Star I Euro Ferries +355 52 906448 european-ferries.com
Red Star Ferries Euro Ferries +355 52 906448 european-ferries.com

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

January 1 & 2 New Year's Day
March 14 Summer Day
March 22 Novruz Day (Bektashi celebration)
May 1 Labor Day
October 19 Beatification 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
Aid Al-Fitr (Bajram i Madh) - End of Ramadan
Aid Al-Adha (Bajram i Vogël) -End of Hajj

OPENING HOURS

Commercial opening hours are very liberal in Albania. Most shops in bigger cities and tourist centers are open 7 days a week and at least from 9.00 to 20.00. In villages shops may be closed on Sundays but usually there is always an open grocery store to be found. Governmental agencies, post and banks are closed on Saturdays and Sundays.

HEALTH ISSUES

Pharmacies ("farmaci" with a green cross sign) can be found in all towns, most of them modern and well equipped. Their staff is well trained and usually speaks good English. Doctors and dentists can easily be found throughout Albania, both in hospitals and in private practice.

POSTAL SYSTEM AND PHONE CALLS

Albanian post offices are recognized by their yellow and blue colour signs which read "PTT" and can be found all over the country. They deliver reliable postal services all over the world. The central post office operates from 7:30 to 20.00, Monday to Saturday. The free phone number for information and services is: +355 800 4141. In addition to regular services, they offer an express delivery option called EMS Express. To use this service, contact the post office via the free phone given above or:
Phone: +355 42 455749
Fax: +355 42 455750

OTHER POSTAL PRIVATE COMPANIES THAT OPERATE IN ALBANIA:

DHL
Tel.: +355 42 406666
Web: www.dhl.com
UPS
Tel.: +355 42 259742
Web: www.ups.com


FEDEX
Tel.: + 355 42253203
Web: www.fedex.com
TNT
Tel.: +355 42234914
Web: www.tnt.com

MOBILE PHONES AND INTERNET

Currently there are four mobile phone companies that operate in Albania, such as: T-Mobile, Vodafone, Plus, and Eagle. In Tirana and major cities, internet is widespread and many bars and restaurants offer WIFI access.

EMBASSIES

Country	Address in Tirana	Phone number
Austria	Rr. "Frederik Shiroka" Nr.3	+355 4 22 74 855/6
Bosnia Hercegovina	Rr. "Themistokli Germerjii" Nr.5	+355 4 22 30 454
Bulgaria	Rr. "Skanderbeg" Nr.12	+355 4 22 33 155
Czech Republic	Rr. "Skanderbeg" Nr.10	+355 4 22 34 004
Peoples Republic of China	Rr. "Skanderbeg" Nr.57	+355 4 22 32 385
Croatia	Rr. "Abdi Toptani" Torre "Drin"	+355 4 22 28 390
Denmark	Rr. "Nikolla Tupo" Nr.1	+355 4 22 80 600
Egypt	Rr. "Skanderbeg" Nr.43	+355 4 22 33 022
France	Rr. "Skanderbeg" Nr. 14	+355 4 22 34 250
Germany	Rr. "Skanderbeg" Nr.8	+355 4 22 74 505/6/7/8/9
Greece	Rr. "Frederik Shiroka" Nr.3	+355 4 22 74 644
Kindom of Nerthelands	Rr. "Asim Zeneli" Nr.10	+355 4 22 40 828
Hungary	Rr. "Skanderbeg" Nr.16	+355 4 22 32 238
Islamic Republic of Iran	Rr. "Mustafa Matohiti" Nr.20	+355 4 22 27 698
Italy	Rr. "Papa Gjon Pali" Nr.2	+355 4 22 75 900
Kosovo	Rr. "Donika Kastrioti"	+3554 261 650
Libya	Rr. "Arben Broci" Nr.6	+355 4 23 79 114
FYR Macedonia	Rr. "Kavaja" Nr.116	+355 4 22 30 909+35542 261 650
Norway	Bldv. "Deshmorët e 4 Shkurtit"	+355 4 22 21 666
Palestian Territories	Rr. "Skanderbeg" Nr.6/1/1	+355 4 22 65 804
Poland	Rr. "Durrësi" Nr.123	+355 4 22 34 190
Rumania	Rr. "Themistokli Germerjii"	+355 4 22 56 072
Russia	Rr. "Asim Zeneli" Nr.5	+355 4 22 56 040
Saudi Arabia	Rr. "Abdi Toptani" Torre "Drin", 5 piano	+355 4 22 48 306/7/8
Republic of Serbia	Rr. "Donika Kastrioti" Nr.9/1	+355 4 22 23 209
Spain	Rr. "Skanderbeg" Nr.43	+355 4 22 74 961
Sweden	Rr. "Qamil Guranjaku" Pll.12, Shk.1, Ap.3	+355 4 23 47 524
Switzerland	Rr. "Ibrahim Rugova"	+355 4 223 48 88
Turkey	Rr. "Elbasan" Nr.65	+355 4 22 80 350
Vatican	Rr. "Durrësi" Nr.13	+355 4 22 33 516
United Kingdom	Rr. "Skanderbeg" Nr.12	+355 4 22 34 973/4/5
USA	Rr. "Elbasan" Nr.103	+355 4 22 47 285

	EMERGENCY NUMBERS:		GREEN NUMBER:
	Police: 129		0800 13 13
	"Shqiponja" (Eagle): 126		
	Fire Brigade: 127		
	Medical Emergency: 128		

BY ROAD:

KOSOVO

• From Kosova, the primary route crosses the border near Qafe Morin~ (Albania) and connects Prishtina with Kukësi. The other entry points are Morin~, connects Tropoja with Gjakova and Qafe Prush, connects Hasi with Gjakova. Contact E-mail:

Morinë: PKK.Morine@ASP.gov.al

Qafe Morinë: PKK.QafeMorine@ASP.gov.al

Qafe Prush: PKK.QafePush@ASP.gov.al

GREECE:

• From Greece through Kapshtica leading to Korça. Customs operates 24 hours.

e-mail: PKK.Kapshtice@ASP.gov.al

• From Greece through Kavajia leading to Gjirokastra.

Customs operates 24 hours.

e-mail: PKK.Kavajie@ASP.gov.al

• From Greece through Qafë Bote (Konispol) leading to Filat.

Customs operates until 22.00.

e-mail: PKK.Qafebote@ASP.gov.al

• From Greece through Tre Urat, connecting Përmet with Konica.

Customs operates until 22.00.

e-mail: PKK.TreUrat@ASP.gov.al

MONTENEGRO:

• From Montenegro through Hani i Hotit, leading to Shkodra and Shkodra Lake. Customs operates until 22.00.

e-mail: PKK.HaniHotit@ASP.gov.al

• From Montenegro through Murriqan- Sukobina, connecting Shkodra with Ulqin (Montenegro). Customs operates until 22.00.

e-mail: PKK.Murriqan@ASP.gov.al