



ALBANIAN DREAMIN 2026



GUIDE FOR FOREIGNERS !



INTRODUCTION

Albania, officially known as the Republic of Albania, is a small country located in Southeast Europe on the Balkan Peninsula. It is bordered by Montenegro to the northwest, Kosovo to the northeast, North Macedonia to the east, and Greece to the south. To the west, Albania has a coastline along the Adriatic Sea, and to the southwest, it faces the Ionian Sea.

Albania has a population of approximately 2.7 million people and its capital city is Tirana. The official language is Albanian, one of the oldest and unique languages in Europe.



Geography: Albania boasts a diverse landscape characterized by rugged mountains, fertile plains, and picturesque coastline. The Albanian Alps in the north offer stunning scenery for outdoor enthusiasts, while the southern coastal region features pristine beaches and clear waters.

History: Albania has a rich historical heritage influenced by various civilizations, including Illyrians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Venetians, and Ottomans. It declared independence from the Ottoman Empire in 1912 and experienced turbulent periods during the 20th century, including occupation during World War II and communist rule under Enver Hoxha from 1944 to 1985.



Culture: Albanian culture is a blend of influences from its diverse history. The language, Albanian, is unique to the region and has its own distinct dialects. Traditional Albanian music, dance, and folk traditions are celebrated, often accompanied by instruments such as the çifteli and the lahuta. Albanian cuisine is characterized by fresh ingredients, grilled meats, and Mediterranean flavors.

Economy: Albania transitioned from a centrally planned economy to a market-oriented one after the fall of communism. Its economy has experienced growth in recent years, driven by sectors such as tourism, agriculture, energy, and services. Efforts to improve infrastructure and attract foreign investment continue to shape Albania's economic landscape.

Politics: Albania is a parliamentary democracy with a president as the head of state and a prime minister as the head of government. The country has made progress in democratic reforms since the end of communist rule, although challenges such as corruption and political polarization persist.

Tourism: Albania's natural beauty, historical sites, and cultural attractions make it an emerging tourist destination. Visitors can explore ancient cities like Butrint, UNESCO World Heritage sites like Gjirokastër and Berat, and stunning national parks such as Theth and Valbona. The Albanian Riviera along the Ionian coast is renowned for its pristine beaches and vibrant nightlife.

TIRANA



The history of Tirana, the capital city of Albania, is a fascinating journey spanning thousands of years.

The area where Tirana is located has been inhabited since ancient times. It was initially settled by Illyrian tribes around the 4th century BC. The region was later conquered by the Romans in the 2nd century BC and became part of the Roman province of Illyricum.

During the Middle Ages, Tirana remained a small settlement. It gained more prominence during the Ottoman period when it served as a trading center and administrative hub.

In the early 17th century, the Ottoman Empire built a mosque, the Et'hem Bey Mosque, which still stands as one of Tirana's most iconic landmarks.



Tirana began to expand and modernize in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. After Albania declared independence from the Ottoman Empire in 1912, Tirana was chosen as the capital of the newly formed Albanian state. The city experienced rapid urban development and infrastructure projects under the rule of King Zog I.

During World War II, Tirana was occupied by Italian and then German forces. After the war, Albania came under communist rule led by Enver Hoxha. Tirana underwent significant changes during this period, with the construction of large socialist-style buildings and the implementation of communist policies.

Following the fall of communism in 1991, Tirana underwent a period of transition and transformation. The city saw the emergence of a market economy, along with political and social reforms. This era also witnessed rapid urbanization, population growth, and the development of new industries.



In recent decades, Tirana has undergone significant revitalization and modernization efforts. The cityscape has been transformed with new infrastructure projects, modern buildings, and green spaces. The historic center has been restored, and efforts have been made to preserve the city's cultural heritage.

WHY TIRANA

• TRAILBLAZER COMMUNITY

Started on November 2017 in Tirana, Albania with the aim to foster Technology Innovation through Salesforce Powered Programs and Building Bridges by the Trailblazer Community Globally



CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE RATE

The Albanian monetary unit is called the **Lekë**.

It is issued in denominations of :

- 10000, 5000, 2000, 1000, 500, 200, 100 (paper)
- 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.

Exchange rates : 1 EUR = 96.34 ALL (albanian leke)

1 USD = 81.76 ALL

1 GBP = 110.44 ALL

Banking hours: Monday to Friday: 08.30 to 15.00.

Banks operating in Albania include:

(country code 00355 + Phone No.)

- **OTP Bank**

Phone : 08004848

Mobile : +355 68 4012121 / +355 69 4012121

Email: info@otpbank.al

Website : <https://otpbank.al/>

Address: Bulevardi "Bajram Curri", Godina "Down Town", kt.8 Tiranë, Shqipëri

- **INTESA SAN PAOLO Bank**

Phone : +355 4 2276000

Mobile : +355 68 7573 000

Email : info@intesasanpaolobank.al

Website : <https://www.intesasanpaolobank.al/>

Address : Rr. Ismail Qemali, Nr. 27, Tiranë, 1001

- **CREDINS Bank**

Phone : +355 46 700 777 / +355 4 53 53 000

Email : info@bankacredins.com

Website : <https://bankacredins.com/>

Address : Vaso Pasha Street, Nr.8, Tirana, Albania

- **RAIFFEISEN Bank**

Phone : 00355 4 2381 381 / 00355 4 2227 262

Email : info@raiffeisen.al

Website : <https://www.raiffeisen.al/>

Address : "Rruga Tish Daija", Kompleksi Kika 2, Tiranë Shqipëri



TRANSPORTATION IN TIRANA

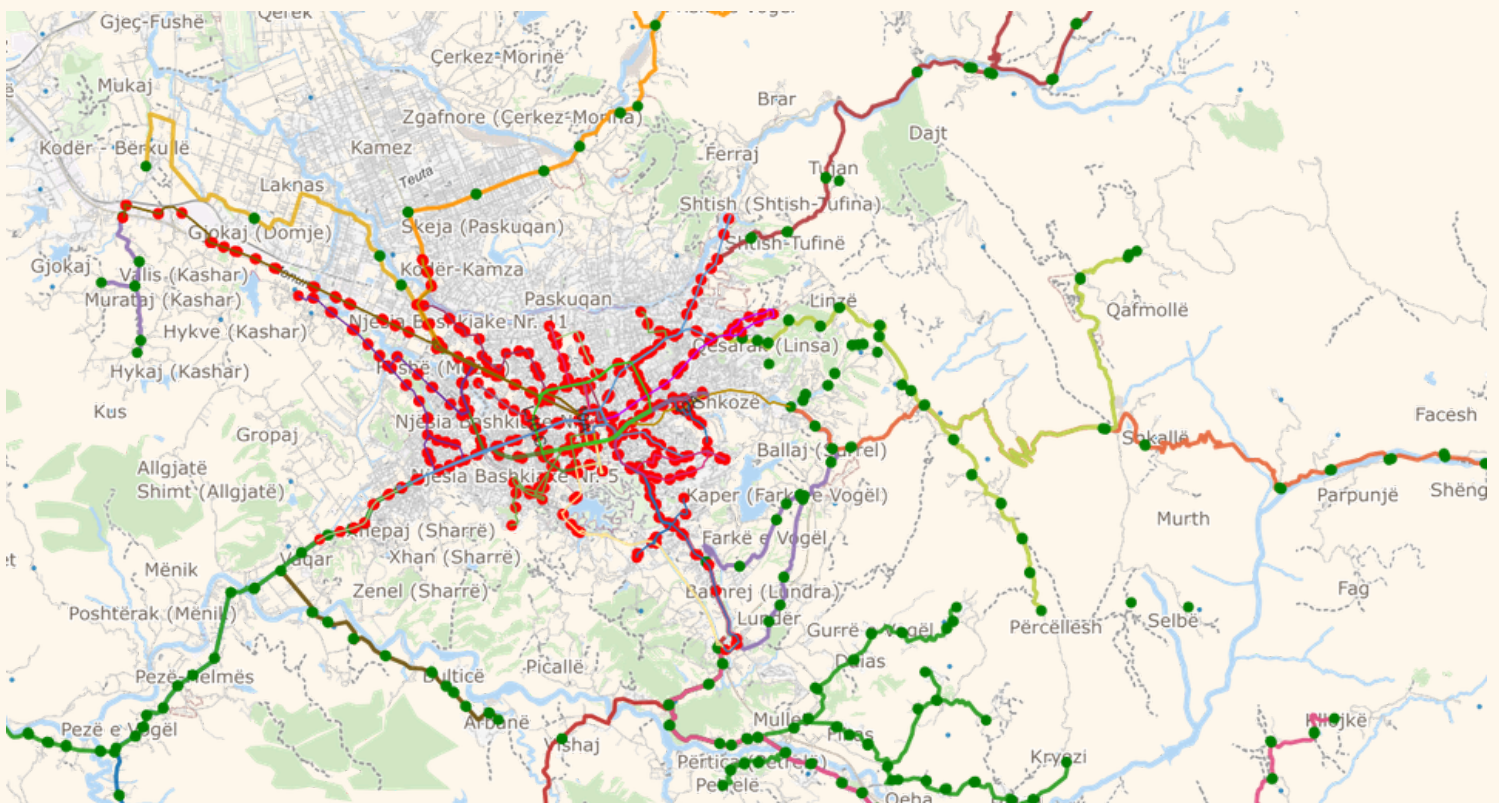
Here you find key information on city and intercity urban transport lines including the route of the respective lines, timetables and terminal locations.

CITY URBAN TRANSPORT TICKET COSTS 40 LEK (0.4 EUR (40 cent))

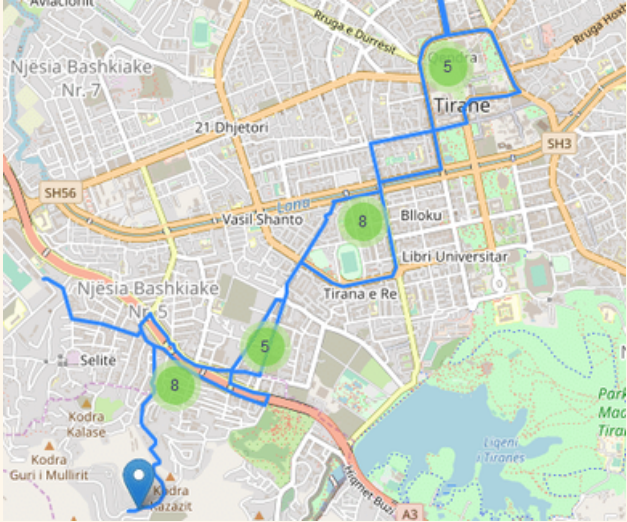
except for Kamëz–Tiranë and Paskuqan–Tiranë lines, where the ticket costs 50 LEK (0.50 EUR)

The main lines of urban transport in the city (here you can find map with all lines at the same time and routes <https://shorturl.at/RBkMv>) :

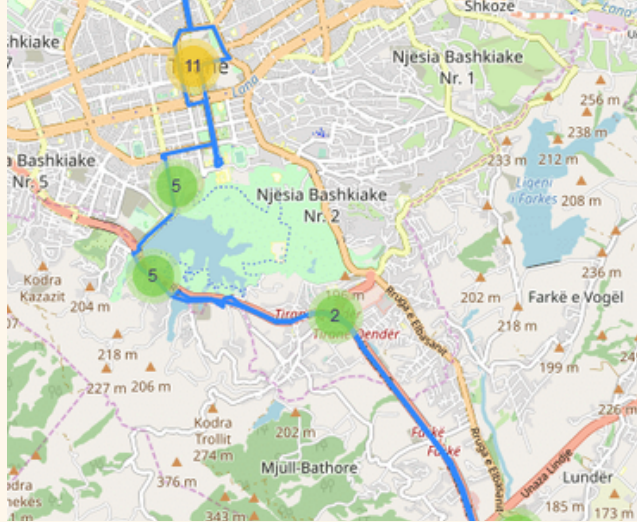
- L1 – Kodra e Diellit 2 – Selitë – Qendër – Ish Stacioni i Trenit – Allias
- L2 – TEG – Sauk i Vjetër – Kopshti Zoologjik – Ish Stacioni i Trenit
- L3 – Kashari
- L4 – Qendër – QTU – Megatek – City Park
- L5A – Ish Kombinati i Autotraktorëve – Qendër
- L5B – Instituti Bujqësor – Qendër
- L6 – Lapraka
- L8A – Qendër – Sauk i Ri
- L8B – Qendër – Sanatorium
- L8C – Qendër – Sauk i Vjetër
- L9 – Qyteti Studenti – Jordan Misja
- L10A – Materniteti i Ri – Qendër
- L10B – Mihal Grameno – Qendër
- L11 – Porcelani
- L12 – Uzina Dinamo – Sharrë
- L13 – Tirana e Re
- L15 – Kombinat – Kinostudio – Tufinë
- L16 – Linja e Gjelbër



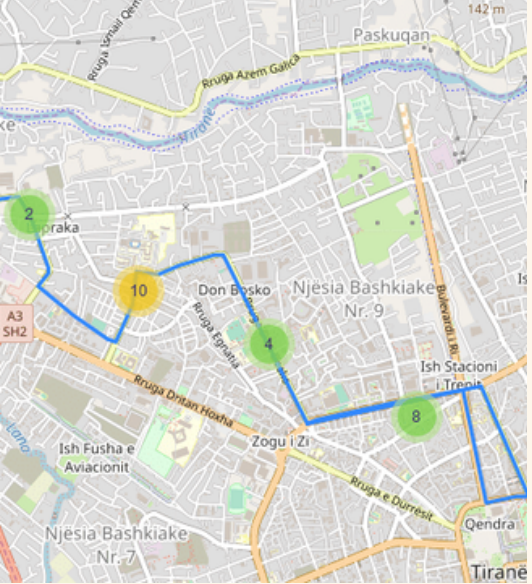
Selite – Kristal – Qender – St. Trenit – Allias



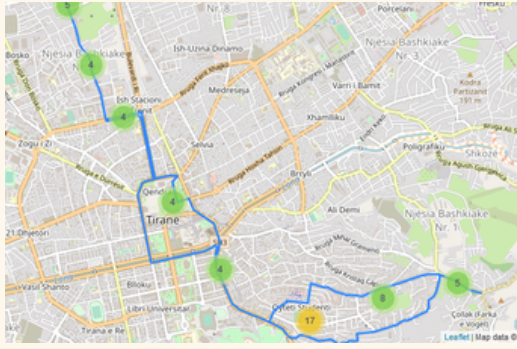
TEG – Sauk i Vjetër – Kopshti Zoologjik – Ish St. Trenit



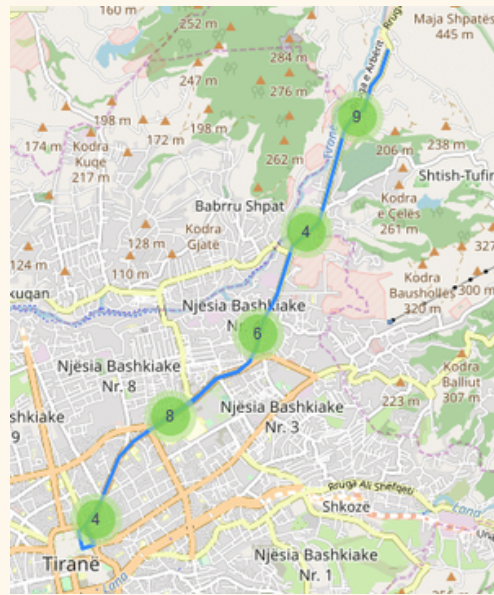
Laprake – Qender



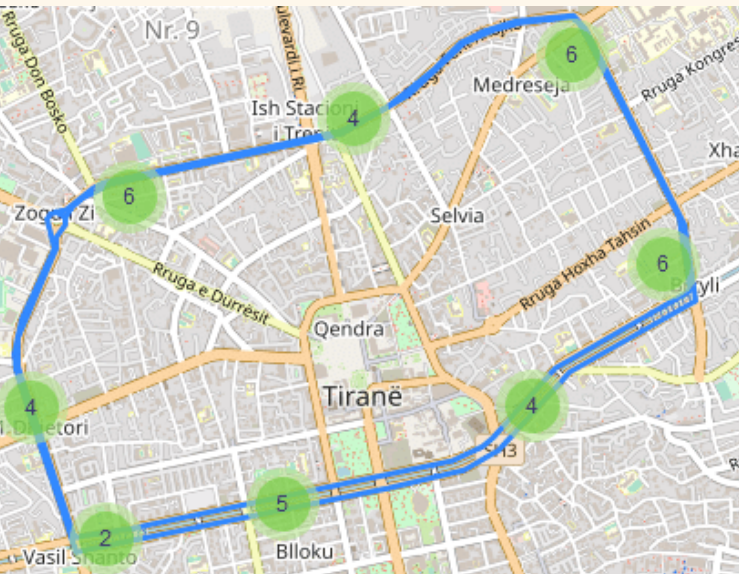
Qyteti Studenti – Jordan Misja



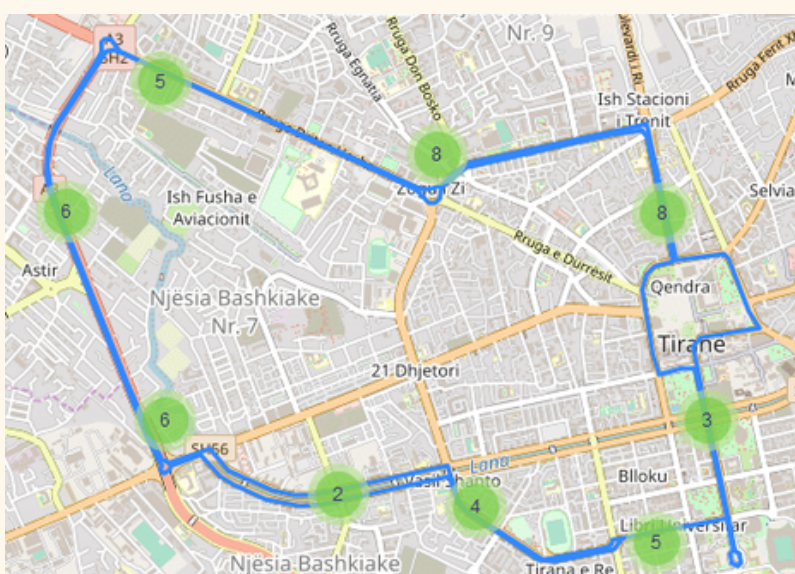
Tufine – Qender



Unaza



Tirana e Re

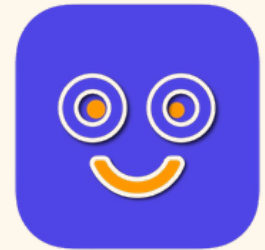


TAXI SERVICES

Popular App-Based Taxi Services:

- Patoko App

One of the most trusted taxi apps in Albania. Learn more about it [here](#). Available for download on both Play Store and App Store.



- Speed Taxi Albania

You can download the app or can call them directly without the need to download an app at 04 222 2555.

Popular Call-In Taxi Services:

- SmartTaxiTirana–Call at [+355697020003](tel:+355697020003)
- BlueTaxiTirana–Call at [+355 69 444 4444](tel:+355694444444)
- GreenTaxi–Call at [+355698002000](tel:+355698002000)
- TaxiLux–Call at [04 562 0333](tel:045620333)
- MerrTaxi–Call at [0800 5555](tel:08005555)



CAR RENTAL

To find car rental options in Tirana, Albania, you can try the following:

1. Online Rental Platforms:

Websites like Rentalcars.com, Kayak.com, or Expedia.com allow you to search for car rental options in Tirana. You can compare prices, vehicle types, and rental conditions.

2. Local Rental Agencies:

Look for local car rental agencies in Tirana. You can search online or check for listings in local directories. Some examples include Europcar, Enterprise, Sixt, Kegal Rental Cars, Rent Cars Tirana, Rent Go Albania, etc.

3. Airport Rental Services:

If you're arriving at Tirana International Airport Nënë Tereza (TIA), there are usually car rental services available right at the airport. Many major rental companies have desks at the airport.

4. Hotels and Travel Agencies:

Some hotels and travel agencies in Tirana may offer car rental services or have partnerships with local rental agencies. You can inquire with them during your stay or while planning your trip.



WHAT TO SEE IN TIRANA

1) Enjoy the most beautiful views of Tirana from Dajti mountain

Mount Dajti offers stunning panoramic views of Tirana and the surrounding landscape. Here's an overview of what makes Mount Dajti an enticing destination:

Scenic Cable Car Ride: One of the most popular ways to reach the summit of Mount Dajti is by taking the Dajti Ekspres cable car. The cable car ride provides visitors with breathtaking views of the lush forests, rugged terrain, and the city of Tirana below.

Dajti National Park: Mount Dajti is part of the Dajti National Park, a protected area that spans over 29,384 hectares. The park is home to a wide array of wildlife, including deer, wild boar, foxes, and various bird species.



2) Enjoy the harmony of cultural monuments in "Skënderbej" square

Here's a glimpse into the harmony of cultural monuments that adorn Skanderbeg Square:

- **Skanderbeg Statue:** At the center of the square stands a majestic equestrian statue of Skanderbeg, the revered Albanian nobleman and military commander who led the resistance against the Ottoman Empire in the 15th century.
- **Et'hem Bey Mosque:** Adjacent to Skanderbeg Square is the beautiful Et'hem Bey Mosque, a cultural and architectural gem dating back to the 18th century.
- **Clock Tower of Tirana:** Rising gracefully near the mosque is the iconic Clock Tower of Tirana, a symbol of the city's past and present.
- **National History Museum:** Dominating one side of Skanderbeg Square is the imposing National History Museum, housed in a grandiose communist-era building.



3) Learn secrets from the "House of Leaves" museum

The "House of Leaves" museum, holds a fascinating yet somber history as it was formerly the headquarters of the Sigurimi, the notorious secret police during the communist era.

Here are some secrets and insights you might uncover when exploring this intriguing museum:

- 1) Spying Techniques
- 2) Interrogation Methods
- 3) Secret Prisons and Torture Chambers
- 4) Informant Networks
- 5) Resistance and Survival Stories
- 6) Legacy of Trauma



4) A stop at the Pyramid of Tirana

The Pyramid of Tirana is a distinctive and controversial architectural landmark located in the heart of Tirana.

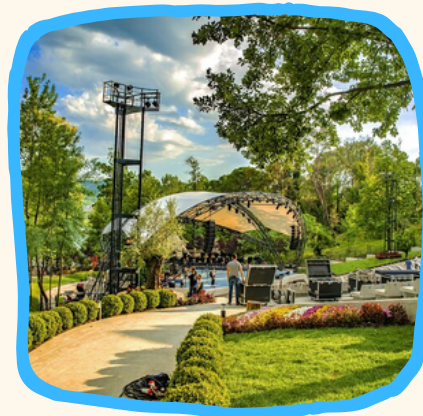
It was originally built as a museum dedicated to the communist dictator Enver Hoxha, and it has now been dramatically transformed into a new kind of cultural hub. Reusing its concrete structure, the Pyramid is now an open sculpture within a new park.

5) Relax in the Botanical Garden

Relaxing in the Botanical Garden in Tirana offers a serene escape from the hustle and bustle of the city.

Here's what you can expect when you visit:

- Tranquil Oasis
- Biodiversity
- Scenic Beauty



6) Enjoy recreational activities in the Artificial Lake of Farka

The Artificial Lake of Farka, located near Tirana, Albania, offers a picturesque setting for a variety of recreational activities.

Here are six ways to enjoy your time at this beautiful destination:

- 1) Boating and Kayaking
- 2) Fishing
- 3) Cycling and Walking Trails
- 4) Picnicking and Barbecuing
- 5) Birdwatching
- 6) Relaxing and Enjoying Nature



ALBANIAN CUISINE

Albanian cuisine is a delightful fusion of Mediterranean, Balkan, and Turkish influences, characterized by its fresh ingredients, bold flavors, and hearty dishes. Here are some key elements and popular dishes of Albanian cuisine: Meats, Dairy Products, Breads and Pastries, Vegetarian Dishes, Traditional Dishes etc.

Some restaurants in Tirana:

1) Mullixhiu, offers a contemporary twist on traditional Albanian cuisine.

The restaurant focuses on using locally sourced ingredients to create innovative dishes that showcase the flavors of the region.

Address: Lasgush Poradeci Promenade Park Entrance to the Artificial Lake Dam Tirana, 1019

Website: <https://www.mullixhiu.al/menu>



2) Oda Garden, is renowned for its cozy atmosphere and delicious Albanian cuisine. The menu features a variety of traditional dishes, including grilled meats, stews, and homemade pastries, all served in a charming setting reminiscent of a traditional Albanian house.

Address: Rruga Shenasi Dishnica, Tirana

Website: <https://me-qr.com/mobile/pdf/11727820>



3) Artigiano

For authentic Italian cuisine in Tirana, Artigiano is a popular choice. This upscale restaurant offers a diverse menu of Italian dishes, including homemade pastas, wood-fired pizzas, and gourmet seafood, all prepared with high-quality ingredients and expert culinary techniques.

Address: Rruga Papa Gjon Pali II 9, Tirana 1001

Website: <https://artigiano.al/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/VILA-ANG-2021-KORRIK.pdf>



4) Juvenilja Castle, offers Mediterranean cuisine of the highest quality. Each dish is delicately prepared by our experienced chef and staff, where attention to detail is essential.

Address: Rruga Skerdilajd Llagami 1010, Tiranë

Website: <https://www.juvenilja.com/>



5) Sky Tower Restaurant

Situated atop the iconic Sky Tower in Tirana, this revolving restaurant offers panoramic views of the city skyline while you dine. The menu features a mix of international and Albanian dishes, making it a popular choice for special occasions and romantic dinners.

Address: 8RC9+X58, Rruga Ibrahim Rugova, Tirana

Website: <https://www.skyhoteltirana.com/>



6) Tirana Castle is located near the city center, offering a variety of restaurants and cuisines to enjoy. It's a peaceful spot where you can savor your meal or simply find places to have a drink. It is one of the most beloved parts of the city.

Address: 8RGC+HV Tiranë, Albania

Website: <https://kalajaetiranes.al/>



FOOD DELIVERY

Popular Delivery Services:

- Wolt
- Baboon Delivery
- Foodini

How to Order:

- Visit the website or download the app from the Play Store or App Store.
- Create an account, browse restaurants, and select your meals.
- Enter your delivery address and choose a payment method (credit card, PayPal, or cash, if available).

Convenience:

- Available in multiple languages, making it easy for foreigners to order.
- Quick and easy payment options with international card support.



BASIC ALBANIAN PHRASES

Essential phrases

good morning	mirëmëngjes
good afternoon	mirëdita
good evening	mirëmbrema
good night	natën e mirë
hello	përsëndetje
thank you	faleminderit
goodbye	mirupafshim
please	ju lutem
how are you?	si jeni?
don't mention it	s'ka gjë
excuse me	më falni
my name is	emri im është

do you understand?	a kupton?
pleased to meet you	gëzohem
I (don't) understand.	Unë (nuk) kuptoj
what is your name?	si e keni emrin?
do you speak English?	a flisni anglisht?

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
I'm pleased to meet you
Here is my phone number
What's your phone number?

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
Mirë faleminderit
Gëzohem që u njohëm
Ja numri im i telefonit
Cili është numri juaj i telefonit?

Emergences

help!	ndihmë!
stop!	ndal!
go away!	largohu!
fire!	zjarr!
an ambulance	ambulancë
a doctor	doktor
the police	policia
call ...!	thërrisni ose telefononi!
I have an emergency!	Kam një urgjencë!
Could you help me please?	A mund të më ndihmoni ju lutem?
I need a doctor	Kam nevojë për një mjek.
I'm lost	Kam humbur rrugën





Leadership Development Association
EUROPE



SEE YOU SOON!