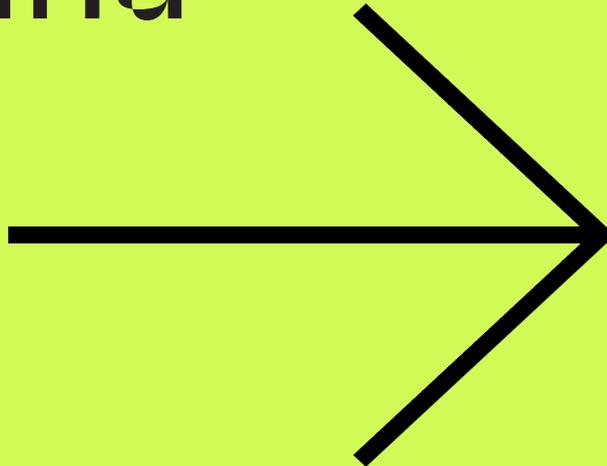


# A Digital Nomad's Guide to Tirana





# A Digital Nomad's Guide to Tirana

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# introduction

This year our city has been crowned as the European Youth Capital! We see this as a unique opportunity to connect young people from the region, Europe, and worldwide. The launch of the Digital Nomad Festival is part of our rich calendar of 1000 extraordinary events and activities. This three-day event will connect worldwide digital nomads, professionals, entrepreneurs, innovators, and all youth currently exploring the world of remote work or dreaming of a job with freedom of location. It will be a fantastic opportunity to share know-how, experience, and best practices that will help make this festival a tradition and fill our ambition to make Tirana the best city for the digital nomad in the world.

Despite many challenges endured during the Covid-19 outbreak, many people worldwide had the chance to participate in an unprecedented experiment while working from home. For some, it proved more efficient and practical, making them feel happier and satisfied, so they decided to hang onto these benefits even when the pandemic ended. This is why digital nomads have become the norm, and many organizations are offering more hybrid and remote work opportunities while cities are adjusting to embrace it, and Tirana couldn't make any exception!

Our mission is to transform Tirana into a free space where you can balance work with well-being. The city offers many coworking spaces in different locations, and next year we are so excited to open the doors of our largest coworking space, the Pyramid! What once was meant to become a mausoleum for the communist dictator will become the biggest center for innovation and creative technologies in the Western Balkans.

↓ Erion Veliqj, Mayor of Tirana



On the other hand, Tirana has plenty of other gems to offer with its beautiful weather, many public amenities such as public squares where you can enjoy your work in the open air and fast internet connection, and different parks to spend more time with your family or do outdoor sports. Commuting around the city is also accessible through public transport, electric taxis, bike lanes cycling, or walking on safe wider sidewalks. Tirana also provides a rich calendar of cultural and artistic events throughout the year, exciting nightlife, fabulous cafes where you can also work and grab something healthy to eat, and traditional or international-inspired restaurants with delicious foods.

Providing this sense of freedom for those longing for a remote and independent work environment is vital to improve their creativity and productivity at work and to mix profit with pleasure and a chance to expand their professional network. I will spare you too many details and allow you to discover Tirana yourself! I wish you a pleasant stay and three productive days in the First Edition of the Tirana Digital Nomad Festival.

## Innovation Ecosystem Representatives

"In the last year, I have seen the business climate in Albania grow rapidly. This has led to more startups and technological companies to develop. Given the nascent market and the vast pool of tech talent, investing in Albania is an absolute no-brainer."

**Manuel Koelman**  
CEO at **PIRATE.global**



"Tirana is home to an up-and-coming ecosystem of driven and talented youth, coworking spaces, and cool cafes. With its buzzing nightlife, great weather, awesome food, and vibrant lifestyle it hits just the right mix to get the creative juices flowing. Also, there are no strangers here, just friends you haven't met yet. :)"

**Elona Karafili**  
Vice Rector at **Polis University**



"In the last 10 years, Tirana has been discovered by travelers, remote workers, and digital nomads as an unexplored part of Europe. Tirana is the country's capital and has grown more cosmopolitan, with new bars, restaurants, shops, and activities happening every week. As one of the most affordable places to work and live in Europe including a surprising lifestyle, it is set to become a global hub for Remote Workers and Digital Nomads."

**Arlind Haxhijaj**  
Founder and Managing Director of **Coolab**



# Innovation Ecosystem Representatives



"As a digital nomad, you can enjoy Albania, the hidden gem of Europe where you will always feel welcomed. Albania is home to magical places, amazing food and rich cultural heritage. We, as a company are supporting digital nomads through our "soft landing" programs for their businesses and networking events we organize, so they can feel part of the local startup communities."

## **Aneida Bajraktari Bicja**

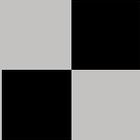
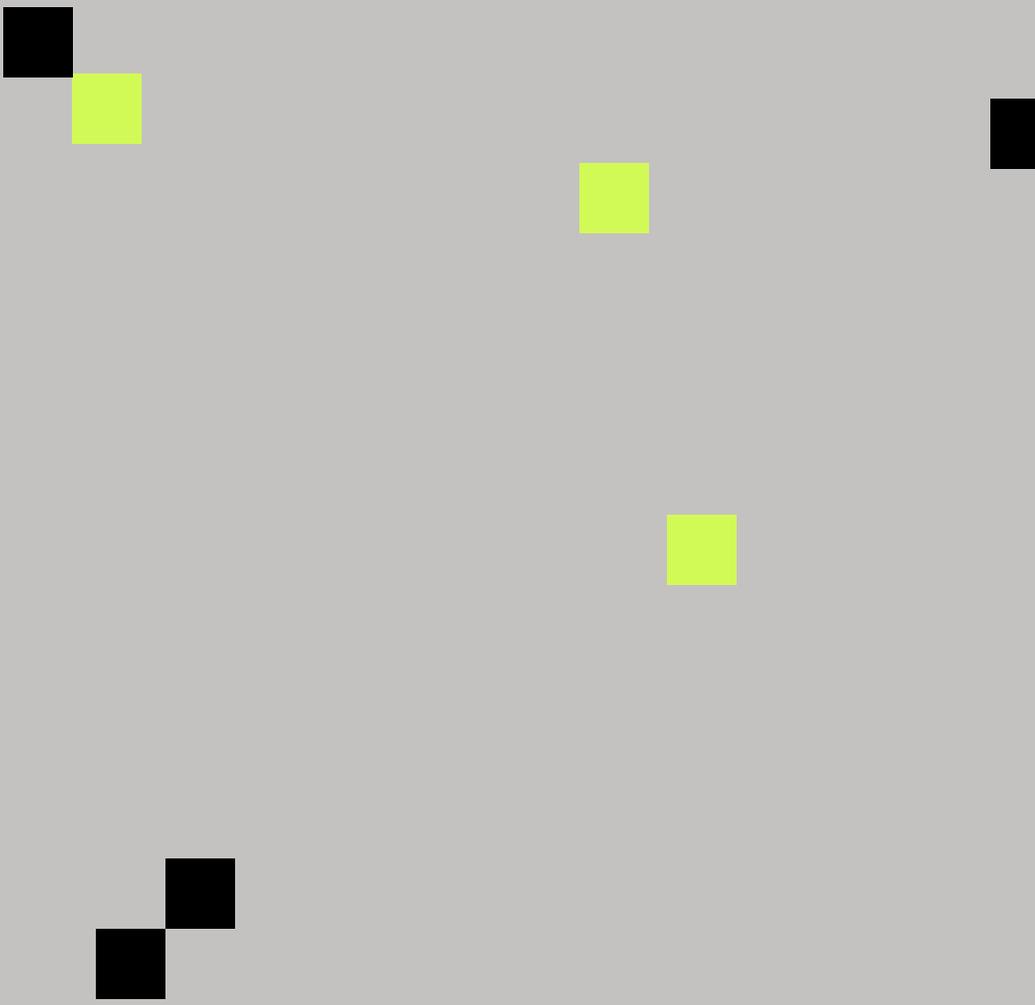
Managing Partner **"Balkans Capital – Financial Services"** & **"Startup Albania"** Foundation



In the recent years, Albania innovation ecosystem is unfolding its first success stories of startups playing the scale game. That's due to the "unfair advantages" it offers, like: Low taxes, special law in favour of the digital nomads, outstanding talent pool of youngsters, powerful internet, and more...which make Albania the ideal place for your next startup venture.

## **Gerti Boshnjaku**

Founder and CEO **"New Media Group"** & Portal Leader **"AlbaniaTech"**



# foreword

# Close your eyes and visualize a fast-moving paradise, that is what you will find here!

Albania is located in the Balkans, Southeastern Europe, situated between Montenegro, Kosovo, North Macedonia, and Greece. It possesses significant diversity with the landscape ranging from the snow-capped mountains in the Albanian Alps as well as the Korab, Skanderbeg, Pindus, and Ceraunian Mountains to the hot and sunny coasts of the Albanian Adriatic and the Ionian Sea along the Mediterranean Sea.

Tirana (Gheg Albanian: Tirona) is the capital and largest city of Albania. It is located in the center of the country, enclosed by mountains and hills with Dajti rising to the east and a slight valley to the northwest overlooking the Adriatic Sea in the distance.

Let's discover Tirana, the beating heart of innovations in Albania!



HOSPITAL+

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# 1. Arriving in Albania

# Before you enter the Albanian border there are some things you might want to know!

Travel and work in Albania are relatively easy to access. Road infrastructure in Albania has undergone significant investment within the last few decades and products can get anywhere in Europe within 3 days. The Mother Teresa International Airport in Tirana offers direct flights across Europe.

→ Durres Port (1992), © Jutta Benzenberg



## Visas and paperwork

Travel and work in Albania are relatively easy to access. Citizens of the EU, Australia, Canada, United Kingdom, Iceland, Norway, San Marino, Switzerland, USA, and holders of a valid Schengen visa can enter Albania without an entry visa document at the border. They are allowed to stay within the Albanian territory for up to 90 days within a 180-day period. Otherwise, they need to apply for a residence permit. The duration of a residence permit may be for several years or permanent.

Foreigners who come to Albania for work purposes need to obtain a work permit with the Albanian Labor Inspectorate unless they come to the country on business trips, i.e. the duration of stay is less than 30 days in a six-month period. Residence and work permits are regulated in accordance with the Law on Foreigners No. 108/2013 dated 28 March 2013 and the respective sub-legal acts.

A residence permit can be issued for a period of:

- A three-month, six-month, one-year term and can be renewed not more than five consecutive times;
- A two-year term which can be renewed not more than once;
- A five-year term; Permanently, if the foreign citizen has legally resided in Albania for five consecutive years and has stable activities or relationships in the country.

## Language

Albanian's native language is the Albanian language, an Indo-European language spoken not only in Albania but also by smaller numbers of ethnic Albanians in other parts of the southern Balkans, along the east coast of Italy and in Sicily, in southern Greece, and in Germany, Sweden, the United States, Ukraine, and Belgium. Albanian is the only modern representative of a distinct branch of the Indo-European language family. However Albanians are mostly multilingual, so you may find many people who speak languages as: Italian, English, Greek, and Russian.

Tip: If you want to salute Albanians you can simply say: "Çkemi!", the equivalent of "Hi!".

## Currency

Lek is the official currency of Albania (code: ALL). You can buy everywhere in exchange for Lek in Albania. However, other currencies are accepted. In more rural areas, the exchange rate may vary as the native currency is more appreciated. As a referral for currency exchange, you can always visit the official site of the Bank of Albania:



Tip: Albania has still a long way to go fully digitalized and many places may not have a card payment system, thus we advise you to keep hard cash.

## Best areas to live or stay in Tirana

Tirana has a great selection of neighborhoods, which means you can choose the perfect place to live or stay. Whether you want to be located in the city center, or a little outside, there are plenty of options and most are very affordable.

**City Center** - the place to be if you want to be immersed in the heart and soul of Tirana.

**Biloku** - It is one of the most famous districts in Tirana as it once was closed off to anyone who was not part of the Albanian communist party. It is considered an up-market area with a great selection of shops, restaurants, and nightclubs. It is a safe and friendly area to be based, and everything is on your doorstep or within walking distance.

**21 Dhjetori** - If you like delicious coffee and cafe culture, then 21 Dhjetori is the place to be based. It has a reputation for being the coffee lover's paradise and has a great selection of chilled coffee shops on the doorstep. Although many areas of the city have coffee shops, this one is known for its luxurious Turkish cafes with great atmospheres.

**Komuna e Parisit** - A large neighborhood located just outside the city center to the southwest. This area is excellent for families or those looking to be based just outside the city while still

having excellent access to most essentials. It is also just a short walk from the artificial Lake of Tirana.

**Ali Demi** - Ali Demi is one of the oldest neighborhoods in Tirana, and it is full of character and history. It is located a fair distance from the city center, so rental prices tend to be a lot cheaper here.

## Accommodation

Are you ready to book your new home, for a short or hopefully long-stay? Here's the way:

Finding an apartment in Tirana can be a little challenging, but there are many platforms and ways of finding the perfect place for your stay. There are a few options for finding accommodation; there are the usual websites such as Airbnb, booking.com, Tripadvisor, and using forums on platforms such as Facebook.

### Airbnb

Airbnb is a great place to find reliable accommodation, and although it tends to be a little more expensive than some other options, it can be the most reliable. Airbnb offers a variety of accommodation options, and you can find a one-bedroom apartment for as little as **\$808 USD** per month. It is also possible to find apartments with a few more amenities that are anywhere up to **\$1,040 USD** per month.



- ↑ City Center © gamintraveler
- The Mustafa Matohiti Street in Blloku © wikiwand
- Wilson Square © magicaleuropa.blog.hu
- ↓ Milingona City Centre © milingonahostel



## Facebook Forums

A great way to find accommodation is to search on Facebook for local groups, where landlords may advertise accommodation. This is a great way to get around paying agency fees and will allow you to get directly in contact with the landlord. A good group to look at is ex-pats in Tirana and try searching Facebook for housing or apartments in Tirana. These are great places to start as you can get a rough idea of what is available, and it is often a more relaxed way of finding a rental.

## Hometogo

If you are looking for somewhere a little bigger for a family or group, then hometogo is a great place to start. You can find apartments for around **\$1,000 USD** in the city center, but there are also some cheaper rentals if you are willing to have a room in someone's home. You can find small studios or rooms for around **\$600 USD** per month.

## Cheap Places to stay in Tirana

For a lower budget, your best bet might be to stay in a hostel or shared accommodation. You will also find that accommodation further from the city center can be just as nice but a lot better value for your money. Here are some of the best cheap accommodation options for Tirana.

## Dorms in Hostels

Finding a bed in a dorm room for as little as **\$211 USD** per month is possible. BUFF Hostel Tirana, The Golden Rooster, Homestay Albania, Milingona City Centre are around **\$9.40 USD** per night for a bed in a dorm, which will cost around **\$282 USD** per month. For a slightly higher-rated hostel such as Trip'n Hostel, Condesa, and Vanilla Sky Boutique Hostel, you can expect to pay around **\$17.50 USD** per night, which would be around **\$529 USD** per month.

### 1. BUFF Hostel Tirana

Located at Ndërtesa 4, Rruga Johan Fon Han 1002, Tiranë

Contact: +355 67 401 1810

Rate: 4.2/5

Commodities: Free Wi-Fi, Free breakfast, Air-conditioned, Kid-friendly, Airport shuttle, Smoke-free.



### 2. The Golden Rooster

Located at Rruga e Barrikadave, Tiranë

Contact: +355 68 205 2279

Rate: 4.5/5

Commodities: Free Wi-Fi, Garden, Smoke-free.



### 3. Homestay Albania

Located at Kat.5, Rruga e Kavajës Nr.80, Tiranë

Contact: +355 69 388 5359

Rate: 4.4/5

Commodities: Free Wi-Fi, Free breakfast, Air-conditioned, Laundry service, Airport shuttle, Smoke-free.



#### 4. Milingona City Centre

Located at Villa Nr.11, Rruga Vehbi Agolli, Tiranë

Contact: +355 69 207 0076

Rate: 4.5/5

Commodities: Free Wi-Fi, Free breakfast, Laundry service, Kid-friendly, Airport shuttle.



#### 5. Trip'n Hostel

Located at Rruga Musa Maci 1, Tiranë

Contact: +355 68 304 8905

Rate: 4.7/5

Commodities: Free Wi-Fi, Free breakfast, Air-conditioned, Laundry service, Kid-friendly, Kitchen in all rooms.



#### 6. Condesa

Located at Qemal stafa 85, Tiranë

Contact: +355 69 357 8044

Rate: 5/5

#### 7. Vanilla Sky Boutique Hostel

Rruga Pjeter Bogdani, Godina Nr. 5, Tiranë

Contact: +355 67 677 0770

Rate: 4.7/5

Commodities: Free Wi-Fi, Paid breakfast, Air-conditioned, Room service, Airport shuttle.



↓ Hostel Interior at Vanilla Sky © vanilaskyboutiquehostel



↓ Hostel Interior at Condesa © mountainview-stay.com



### Privates in Hostels

Hostels are a great option if you are happy to compromise on your living space and share communal kitchens and hangout areas but still want your own room. Not all hostels offer privates, but there is a good selection of hostels in Tirana that do. "BUFF Hostel Tirana" provides private rooms for around **\$41 USD** per night, Condesa offers them for **\$52 USD** per night, and All Stars Hostel for **\$22.50 USD** per night.

#### 1. BUFF Hostel Tirana

Located at Ndërtesa 4, Rruga Johan Fon Han 1002, Tiranë

Contact: +355 67 401 1810

Rate: 4.2/5

Commodities: Free Wi-Fi, Free breakfast, Air-conditioned, Kid-friendly, Airport shuttle, Smoke-free.



#### 2. Condesa

Located at Qemal stafa 85, Tiranë

Contact: +355 69 357 8044

Rate: 5/5

#### 3. All Stars Hostel

Located at St, Rruga Him Kolli nr.35, Tiranë

Contact: +355 67 377 4235

Rate: 3.5/5



## Health and safety

Tirana itself is relatively safe. The night-life is active and visitors can feel safe exploring the area. However, in cases of emergencies, it is always wise to be cautious and the numbers below will be your ticket for safety. Here's what a Solo Woman Traveller, [Sabina Rehusova](#) recounted regarding her visit in Albania:

"I travel a lot on my own and traveling alone as a woman represents several dangers. But I saw this traveling to Albania, as a chance to prove that the world is not as threatening as we are told and women can travel without fear, even to those countries that are seen negatively regarding security. There are some negative perspectives coming from the media and I have to say, I was traveling for 14 days and I didn't have a single negative experience."

Call the number 129 free of charge: for disturbing public order and peace, for quick help, when your life is threatened, or if you are the victim of a crime, if you witness a crime, if you are a victim of domestic violence, for any suspicious person who may be wanted by the police, for road accidents, etc. The police will immediately come to your aid!



**State Police/Tirana, Durrës: 112**

**State Police: 129**

**Fire Service: 128**

**Traffic Police Service: 126**

**Emergency Service: 127**

Meanwhile, in case of a sudden problem with your health the list below will help you find the public hospital suitable for your needs.

### 1. University Medical Center of Tirana "Mother Teresa"

Telephone: +355 4 234 9209  
Address: Dibra Street 372 Tirana  
Website: [gsut.gov.al](http://gsut.gov.al)



### 2. Gynecological Obstetric University Hospital "Koço Gliozheni"

Telephone: +355 4 237 0687  
Address: Bajram Curri Blvd, Tirana 1000  
Website: [suogj-kqgliozheni.gov.al](http://suogj-kqgliozheni.gov.al)



### 3. Maternity "Queen Geraldine"

Telephone: +355 42 222 609  
+355 42 225 516  
Address: Zogu I Blvd, 40 Tirana  
Website: [suogjgeraldine.gov.al/](http://suogjgeraldine.gov.al/)



### 4. University Hospital "Shefqet Ndroqi"

Telephone: +355 68 804 6405  
Address: Street Dr. Shefqet Ndroqi, Tirana  
Website: [sushefqetndroqi.gov.al](http://sushefqetndroqi.gov.al)



### 5. Central Military Hospital

Telephone: +355 4 430 5501  
Address: Street Lord Bajron, 1000 Tirana  
Website: [mod.gov.al](http://mod.gov.al)



### 6. National Center for Child Development

Telephone: +355 4 23 51 893  
Address: Street Haki Stërmilli, Kombinat, Tirana

## Communication

Whether you plan on coming to Albania for work or travel you will most certainly need the internet to have some long calls, show your friends your surroundings and send a few emails here and there. That is when a phone number will come in handy, here are some of the telecommunication companies operating in Albania:

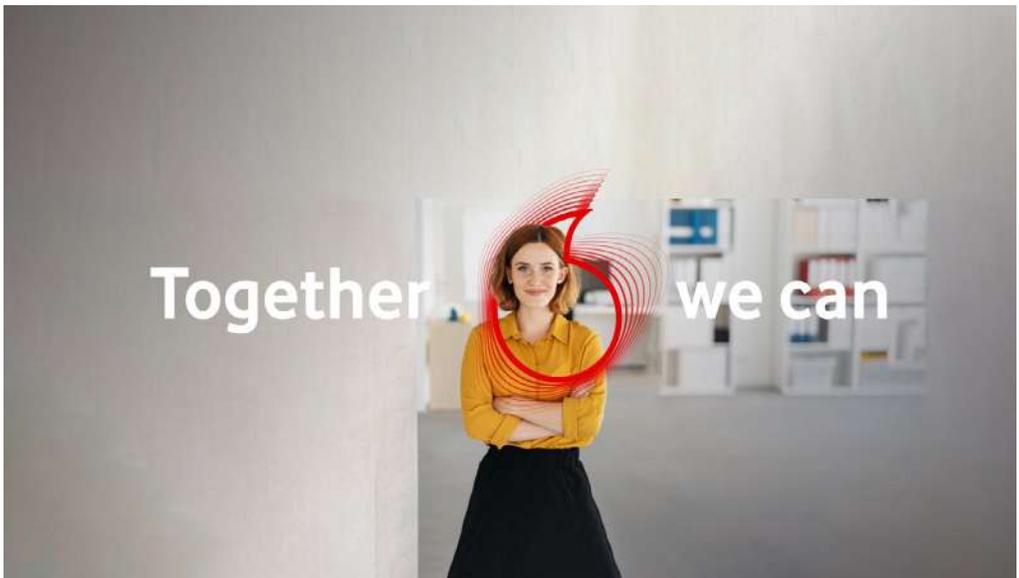
### 1. Vodafone



### 2. One Telecommunications



### 3. ALBtelecom





← Vodafone AD © Vodafone Albania

↑ ONE store in Tirana © One Albania

↑ ALBtelecom headquarters © ALBtelecom Albania



OPERA

OPERA BALLET

BAR

# 2. Living in Tirana: Mobility, recreation & culture

## Climate

Albania experiences predominantly a Mediterranean and continental climate, with four distinct seasons, and about 300 days of sun throughout the year.

It is a great place to visit as a digital nomad or traveler due to its warm climate and its convenient landscape for taking one-day trips to other parts of the country. Monthly temperatures range from  $-1\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $30\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) in winter to  $21.8\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $71.2\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) in summer.

Due to its location, Tirana is particularly influenced by a Mediterranean seasonal climate. It is among the wettest and sunniest cities in Europe, with 2,544 hours of sun per year.

## Air quality

Air quality can be very volatile and is liable to change very quickly as it is affected by many variables such as meteorological and atmospheric influences. Looking back at the 2020 figures published by IQAir.com, the best quality air was enjoyed during May and June with respective figures of  $8.8$  and  $8.9\text{ }\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . October provided "Good" quality air with a reading of  $10.4\text{ }\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  whilst for the rest of the year, the level was "Moderate" with readings between  $12.1$  and  $35.4\text{ }\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . The cleanest month is July with a  $12.9\text{ }\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  figure. The worst was January with a  $35.2\text{ }\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  reading. There were no records kept pertaining

to air pollution before 2020 when the recorded level was  $16\text{ }\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , which classifies as being "Moderate". This reading may have been affected by the COVID-19 situation as many vehicles were no longer in daily use in an attempt to halt the spread of the virus. Many factories and non-essential production units were also required to close which removed their emissions from the atmosphere.

## Urban transport

Tirana is a very busy city and has more than 20 bus lines. All bus stations are located around Tirana Center, from Kulla Sahatit to Piazza, behind the Cultural Palace, behind the National Museum, close to Tirana's National Bank, and close to Rruga e Kavajes and Rruga e Elbasanit. The ticket costs **40 Lekë**.

You can find public buses from 6 AM-11 PM. It takes from 3-10 minutes for buses to arrive at the bus stop, but in rush hours it may also take a bit longer. Here are the urban bus lines. For further information just scan the QR at the end of the list.

1) Kombinat-Kinostudio, 2) Uzina Dinamo-Sharrë, 3) Porcelan, 4) Sauk, 5) Lapraka, 6) Uzina e Traktorëve, 7) Institut, 8) Tirana e Re, 9) Unaza, 10) Kristal, 11) Tirana Zoo, 12) Kamëz, 13) Vorë, 14) Bërzhitë, 15) Sharrë, 16) Kashar, 17) Babrrujë, 18) Ndroq, 19) Linzë, 20) Mjull-Bathore.



Scan to  
download  
"Tirana ime"  
App



- ↑ Skanderbeg Square © visualbania
- ↗ Bus line serving Institut area in Tirana © Chris GBNL
- ← Heavy traffic in Tirana © Armando Babani

## Renting cars

Renting a car in Albania is one of the best ways to get around the country and see some of the more remote attractions. However, driving isn't always the best, so be cautious and prepared if you decide to rent a car. The roads are improving, but they can still be in bad shape in some more remote areas.

Renting a car can be pretty expensive, but sometimes it is an excellent option if you are with a group. You will find rental cars from most major providers for around **\$40 USD** per day, sometimes less if you book for a more extended time. If you do get a rental car, take into consideration that traffic gets a little heavy during rush hours.

Below are some car agencies that can be helpful:

### 1. Select Rent a Car

Telephone: +355 69 409 6000  
Address: Street Sulejman Delvina,  
Tirana, 1022, Albania  
Website: [selectcar.al](http://selectcar.al)



### 2. Easy Rent

Telephone: +355 67 20 41 614  
+355 4 2 270 594  
Address: Street Dritan Hoxha, Zogu i Zi, Building  
Teknoprojekt, 2 nd Floor nearby Ring Center  
Website: [easyrent.al](http://easyrent.al)



### 3. Eurocar

Telephone 1: +355 67 600 7766  
Telephone 2: +355 67 600 7060  
Address 1: Tirana International Airport "Mother  
Teresa" Terminal, 1039, Tirana, Albania  
Address 2: Rruga Ibrahim Rugova 29 Tirana,  
1001, Albania  
Website: [eurocar.al](http://eurocar.al)



### 4. First Car Rent

Telephone: +355 69 4033377  
+355 69 2066644  
Address 1: Ismail Qemali Street, No 2, Tirana,  
Albania  
Website: [booking.first.al](http://booking.first.al)



### 5. Europcar Albania HQ

Telephone: +355 4 580 0600  
Address: Street 29 Nëntori, Tirana

### 6. Rental cars Tirana

Telephone: +355 69 588 0047  
Address: Street Komuna e Parisit 1/3, Tirana  
Website: [rental-cars-tirana.business.site](http://rental-cars-tirana.business.site)



### 7. ALBARENT

Telephone: +355 4 226 7660  
Address: Rruga Ismail Qemali 34, Tirana 1019  
Ismail Qemali 34, Tirana 1019  
Website: [albarent.al](http://albarent.al)



### 8. City Rent Albania

Telephone: +355 69 708 2828  
Address: Kompleksi Kika 2, Rruga Tish Dahia  
Website: [cityrent.al](http://cityrent.al)



### 9. Easy Rent

Telephone: +355 67 204 1614  
Address: Zogu i Zi, Rruga Dritan Hoxha, Tirana  
Website: [easyrent.al](http://easyrent.al)



### 10. Sixt Tirana

Telephone: +355 68 206 8500  
Address: Kavaja St 50, Tirana  
Website: [sixt.global/car-rental/albania](http://sixt.global/car-rental/albania)



### 11. GLOBAL Rent A Car - Tirana City Center HQ

Telephone: +355 68 201 1000  
Address: Rruga Haxhi Hysen Dalliu 7, Tirana 1001  
Website: [global-rent-a-car.com/en\\_de](http://global-rent-a-car.com/en_de)



### 12. Tirana Car Rentals

Telephone: +355 69 408 0100  
Address: Pallatet Agimi, Bajram Curri Blvd, Tirana  
Website: [tiranacarrentals.com](http://tiranacarrentals.com)



### 13. Eagle Car Rental

Telephone: +355 69 916 3388  
Address: Njësia Bashkiake Nr.10, Rruga Reshit Çollaku Pallatet Shallvare, Shkalla 5, Ap.58, Kati 1, Tirana 1010  
Website: [eaglerent.al/en](http://eaglerent.al/en)



### 14. Albania Rental Car

Telephone: +355 69 586 5190  
Address: Street Sali Butka, Tirana 1001  
Website: [arv.com.al](http://arv.com.al)



### 15. Easydrive Albania

Telephone: +355 69 331 8553  
Address: Street Hoxha Tahsim, Tirana 1001  
Website: [easydrivealbania.com](http://easydrivealbania.com)



### 16. Rental Cars Albania

Telephone: +355 68 204 0441  
Address: Rruga Sami Frashëri, Tirana 1001

### 17. The Lada Guys - Albania 4x4 Rentals

Telephone: +355 69 603 0775  
Address: Street Ramazan Dema, Tirana  
Website: [albania4x4rentals.com](http://albania4x4rentals.com)



## Parking

Being a small capital does not favor Tirana regarding parking spots, that is why finding free parking might be a little difficult, however, this is how you can notice a no-cost parking spot when you see one: the white parking lines on the street indicate a no-cost parking place. Meanwhile, the blue parking lines indicate a parking spot with a fee.

Some of the main parking spots are located in:

- Skanderbeg Square Underground
- Nearby the Plaza Hotel Tirana
- Toptani Shopping Center
- Air Albania Stadium - Arena Center Underground Parking



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## Bicycle lanes

Cycling has been an important means of transport in the past – like in many cities around the world before the rise of the automobile. However, only in recent years has cycling gained popularity once again. The city supports this development with the creation of a network of (protected) bike lanes. This network grew steadily over the years and is planned to be expanded further. A recent survey revealed that one-quarter of citizens cycle, of which 9% cycle regularly (always and very often), 6% sometimes, and 10% rarely.

EcoTirana – the city's agency responsible for waste management – is using cargo bikes to collect waste from the trash in the city. When strolling through Tirana, you will likely see one emptying the dustbin and picking up garbage. This is a cost-effective, low-emission best practice that should inspire other cities. If you want to discover safe bicycle lanes around Tirana you can download the app "Tirana Ime" on App Store and Play Store.



Scan to  
download  
"Tirana ime"  
App

- ↓ Cycling in Tirana © Andrew Milligan/wikipedia
- Tirana Gay(P)Ride 2016 © wikipedia
- Bikers by the lake © en.ata.gov.al
- Eco Bicycle Shop by Ecovollis © wikipedia





Also, you can check out these bicycle rental service in Tirana:

#### 1. Gear Bike Albania

Located at Liqeni Artificial, Tirana

Contact: +355 69 576 6109

Instagram: gear\_bike\_albania



#### 2. Evergreen

Located at Rruga Ibrahim Rugova, Tirana

Contact: +355 69 738 6949

Instagram: bicikleta\_me\_qera\_evergreen



#### 3. LikSad e-Bike

Located at Rruga Margarita Tutulani, Tirana

Contact: +355 68 349 0195

Instagram: liksad\_ebike



#### 4. Bike Point Albania

Located at Rruga Myslym Shyri, Ndertesa 4+3/3,

Hyrja 1, Ap. 1 Tirane

Contact: +355 68 860 0060

Instagram: bikepointalbania



#### 5. Eco Bicycle Shop

Located at Rruga Abdyl Frashëri, Tirana

Contact: +355 67 204 9164

Instagram: ecobicycleshop.al



#### 6. Cycle Albania

Located at Rr.Bardhok Biba Pl.Trema, Tiranë

Contact: +355 67 308 0000



## Nightlife

If you always look for some cocktail bars before hitting the dance floor Tirana is the place for you, with its vibrant nightlife and busy lounges and bars all around the city.

Here's a list of some of the most popular bars in Tirana that you don't want to miss:

### 1. Colonial Tirana

Located at Rruga Pjetër Bogdani 3, Tiranë  
Contact: +355 69 580 8447  
Open at: 8 AM - 2 AM  
Menu: [colonialtirana.com](http://colonialtirana.com)



### 2. New Irish Pub

Located at Pjetër Bogdani 36/1, Tirana  
Contact: +355 69 223 3324  
Open at: 5 PM - 1 AM



### 3. Radio Bar Tirana

Located at Rruga Ismail Qemali P. 29 Ap. 1, Tirana  
Open at: 10 AM - 12 AM  
Menu: [radiobar.al](http://radiobar.al)



### 4. Hemingway Tirana

Located at Rruga Kont Urani, Tirana  
Contact: +355 69 208 8121  
Open at: 7 PM - 2 AM



### 5. Duff

Located at Rruga Brigada e VIII, Tirana  
Contact: +355 69 314 4661  
Open at: 7 AM - 2 AM



### 6. City Art

Located at Rruga Mustafa Matohiti, Tiranë  
Open at: 7 AM - 1 AM



### 7. Illyrian Salon

Located at Rruga Perlat Rexhepi, Tiranë  
Contact: +355 69 211 6800  
Open at: 4 PM - 2 AM



### 8. Planet Bar

Located at Rruga Brigada e VIII, Tirana  
Contact: +355 69 824 5278  
Open at: 7 AM - 3 AM



### 9. Naga Lounge

Located at Rruga Mustafa Matohiti, Tiranë  
Contact: +355 69 333 3434  
Open at: 8 AM - 2 AM



### 10. Sense Resto Lounge

Located at Rruga Mustafa Matohiti, Tiranë  
Contact: +355 69 657 6666  
Menu: [sense.al](http://sense.al)  
Open at: 24h





- ↑ Planet Bar © tripadvisor
- ← Sense Resto Lounge © Sense Resto Lounge
- ↓ Radio Bar Tirana © intoalbania



## Museums

The most unusual museums are to be found in Tirana: a huge bunker used by the communist government as a shelter of last resort in a time of war has been turned into a museum; a once infamous house covered with leaves was the one-time spy HQ from where hundreds of thousands of Albanians were persecuted during the dictatorship; it has been turned into a museum, the House of Leaves houses thousands of files and espionage devices; the National Museum, the largest in the country, hosts objects and stories from pre-historic times up until the period of communism, with photos, videos, and stories from one of the longest-lasting and most repressive regime in Europe.

### National Museum of History



Located at  
Sheshi Skënderbej 7  
Opening hours  
9 AM – 7 PM  
Contact  
04 222 3977

If you are keen to know the turbulent history of the Albanians, this is the place to visit. The National History Museum is the most important museum in Albania and contains a well-documented history of the country. The museum is divided into eight pavilions: Antiquity, Middle Ages, Renaissance, Independence, Iconography, National Liberation Anti-fascism War, Communist Terror, and Mother Teresa.



The Pavilion of Communist Terror hosts images, documents, and videos of the persecution suffered by the Albanians during the communist regime.

A visit here can take up to three hours, so pace yourself!

Price: 500 Lek/person since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

- 400 leke/person for groups more than 12 persons
- Free entry for children under 12 years old
- Reduced prize for students who have student card



← Personification of the Vjosa river from Apollonia, 3rd century BC, NMH © wikipedia

↑ Mosaic "The Beauty of Durrës" © wikipedia

← Iconographic Exhibit - National Historical Museum © wikipedia

- Reduced prize for children from 12-18 years old
- Reduced prize for orphans, disabled and retired people

Free entry days for all:

- 18 April, International Days of Monuments and Culture Heritage
- 18 May, International Days of Museums
- 21 May, World Day for cultural diversity for Dialogue and Development
- 29 September, National Day of Heritage/European Days of Cultural Heritage
- 28 November, Independence Day (only for Albanian citizens);
- 29 November, Liberation Day (only for Albanian citizens);
- The last Sunday of each month (only for Albanian citizens)

## House of Leaves

Located at  
**Rruga Ibrahim Rugova, Tirana**  
Opening hours  
**09 AM - 7 PM**  
Contact  
**04 222 2612**



House of Leaves is one of the most unusual museums in Albania. It is considered to be the equivalent of the Stasi headquarters of former East Germany. The leaves have a double meaning: things hidden in woods, but also the leave of books and files, on people.

Those curious to see what was hidden in the HQ of the notorious National Intelligence Service, also known as the House of Spies, this place will leave you speechless. Inside the house, you will understand the worst side of the dictatorial regime in Albania, the story of thousands of prosecuted people who were against the regime.

It is situated right in the heart of the city, in front of Tirana's Orthodox Cathedral, and close to the National Bank of Albania. The museum was open to the public since 23 May 2017.

Entry ticket: 700 ALL

Free entrance for:

- Official statedelegations.
- Members of the ICOM – ICOMOS
- Museums' professional staff
- Journalists.
- Tour Guides
- Children ÷ 8 years.





- ← Old movie posters framed © muzeugjethi
- ← Spying equipments © muzeugjethi
- ← Interior of the Museum © muzeugjethi
- ↑ One of the spying rooms at the Museum © muzeugjethi
- ← The House of Leaves, view from the outside © muzeugjethi

## Ismail Kadare House Museum

Located at

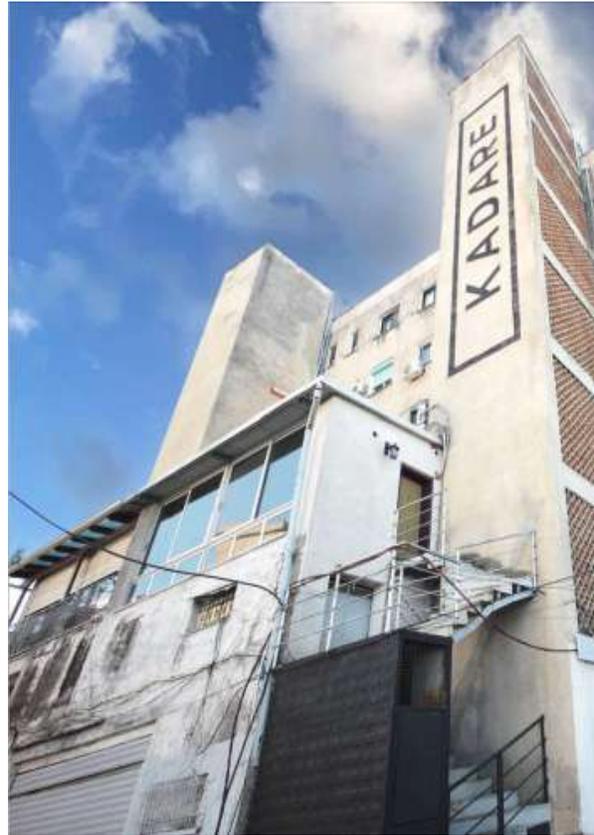
Rruga e Dibrës, Pll. 85, Pallati me kuba  
karshi Hotel Tirana, Shk. 1, Kati 3, Tiranë

Opening hours

10 AM – 5 PM

Contact

04 222 2612



# To live means to leave traces.

The famous novelist Ismail Kadare is one of the few Albanian writers who has left behind a legacy for many generations. In 2019 his house in Tirana, where he lived and wrote most of his books, turned into a museum and opened to the public. The old building has typical communist architecture. It is situated some meters behind the Palace of Culture or Tirana International Hotel, in the former Broadway Street, or Rruga e Dibres.

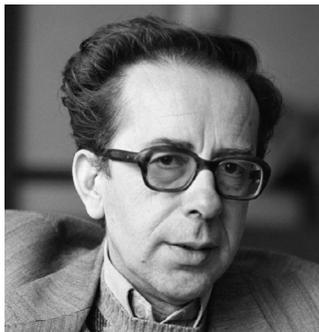
The building has not been painted; it is grey like old times with electric wires hanging everywhere.

On top of it, one can see the symbol K (Kadare- StudioHouse). The apartment is on the 4th floor. The door is so old, painted in white like all doors of that time.

This building serves as a symbol for all people who want to know how intellectuals lived and worked during the communist regime.



- ← Interior House Studio Kadare © Ismail Kadare House Museum
- ↑ House Studio Kadare © area-ach
- Pelican Family, Museum of Natural Sciences, Tirana © Into Albania
- ↓ Ismail Kadare © thedailybeast



## Natural Sciences Museum of Albania

Located at  
**Rruga Petro Nini Luarasi**  
**Ndertesa 76-1, nr. 2, Tiranë**  
Contact  
**+355 68 69 46 691**  
Opening hours  
**9 AM - 3 PM**



The Natural Sciences Museum is a rare national asset and of much scientific and cultural value. By visiting the seven pavilions you will quickly get to know the rich diversity of animals and plants to be found in the country: mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, insects, aquatic invertebrates, and plants. Visit duration: 1.5 hours

### Tickets:

- Individual ticket 500 ALL
- Group Ticket (more than 10 persons) 100- 300 ALL
- Family Ticket (2 more persons) 250 ALL
- Discount ticket (invalids, veterans, retired people etc) 100 ALL
- Students 80 ALL

## National Archaeological Museum

Located at  
Sheshi Nënë Tereza  
Opening hours  
9 AM – 2 PM  
Contact  
04 224 0711



The National Archaeological Museum is situated in Mother Teresa Square. It was the first museum to open in Albania after WW2. Inaugurated in 1948, located in the same building as the Institute of Archaeology of the Academy of Sciences, the museum houses exhibit from prehistory, through historical times to the Middle Ages.

It is responsible for the many archaeological digs and research conducted in the country and is the parent institution of several other museums, including the Durrës Archaeological Museum. It has a library of some 7,200 volumes.



## Bunk'Art 1

Located at  
Rr. Fadil Deliu (afër Teleferiku)  
Opening hours  
9 AM – 6 PM  
Contact  
+355 67 207 2905



BunkArt 1 Museum provides a great journey through a strange and obsessive mind of a dictator. A symbol of political paranoia during the Enver Hoxha rule, this is a 'must see' for all people visiting Tirana and who are interested in the history of the country.

Difficult to get there by foot, we recommend you take a taxi, or bus from the

city center at the clock tower, or the main road bus stop to catch a bus to Linze.

[Tip: It's 16°C inside the bunker, so wear something warm.](#)

The entrance fee is from 500 leke (normal ticket) to 200 leke. Private guide costs 2500 leke.



- ← Sculptures pavillon © National Archaeological Museum
- ← Portrait of Hadrian, National Museum of Archaeology in Tirana © wikipedia
- ↑ Bunk'Art 1 Entrance © bunkart
- ← A bust of Albania's former dictator, Enver Hoxha © Alessio Mamo NG
- ↓ Bunk'Art 1 Interior © bunkart



## Bunk'Art 2

Located at  
**Rruga Abdi Toptani**  
Opening hours  
**9:30 AM – 8 PM**  
Contact  
**+355 67 207 2905**



Bunkart 2 is the latest museum that opened in Tirana on 17 November, in the framework of the National Day of Tirana Liberation. This top-secret nuclear bunker now is a new museum in the very center of Tirana, behind the Public Order Ministry, with the aim to show visitors how Communist-era police persecuted the regime's opponents.

The 1,000-square-meter (1,077-square-foot) bunker with reinforced concrete walls up to 2.4 meters (8-feet) thick was built between 1981 and 1986 to shelter elite police and interior ministry staff in the event of a nuclear attack. The museum holds photographs and equipment that illustrate the political persecution of some 100,000 Albanians from 1945 until 1991.

Bunkart1 and Bunkart2 were part of hundreds of bunkers built over the country as fortifications for Enver Hoxha's dictatorial regime since he feared invasion by the "imperialist United States and the social-imperialist Soviet Union.

Price: 500 Lek  
Duration: 1 hour and 30 minutes



## Women's Museum in Tirana (MiG)

Located at

RRUGA Myslym Shyri, p. 44, shk. 4/37.

Opening hours

10 AM – 5 PM

Contact

+355 68 202 3950



The Women's Museum is a story of Albanian women through well-known and unknown events. The woman in this museum travels in time through objects, documents and photos towards the goal of the museum: to better discover the role of women in society, family, in monologue with herself and dialogue with the man.

Clothing, personal belongings, bags, and hats are a pleasant discovery for those who do not know the Albania of the '20s and '30s, while various documents and publications show that the

history of true intellectuals began before the creation of the Albanian state.

On the small surface of an apartment built in the 1960s, visitors will discover a vast world of passion, creativity, and women's strength.

The Women's Museum (MiG) is an individual initiative of Elsa Ballauri, a journalist, human rights activist, and a collector.

- ↓ MiG (Muzeu i Grave) © ilawm.international
- Entrance at Bunk'Art 2 © Into Albania
- Interior of Bunk'Art 2 © albania.al
- Bunk'Art 2 Museum © thetripgoeson.com



## The Museum of the Bank of Albania

Located at

Sheshi Austria 1

Opening hours

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday during  
the hours 9 AM, 11 AM, 2PM

Contact

+355 4 22419301



The Museum of the Bank of Albania was inaugurated on 30 October 2015, combining elements of museum and didactics. It is situated within the headquarters of the central bank in the main square of the capital. Each of the two floors is conceived as an independent space from the other.

The Museum of the Bank of Albania contains a rich collection, like hoards, coins, banknotes, cheques, bonds, securities, lek bills, medals, as well as ethnographic objects, part of Albania's cultural heritage.

Entrance at the museum is free, but you need to reserve your visit in advance, or visit the reception area at the Bank of Albania.



Scan to  
reserve  
your ticket  
online



↑ Bank of Albania Museum © Bank of Albania

↓ Bank of Albania © Bashkia Tiranë



→ National Art Gallery © Into Albania

→ Fab Gallery © spottedbylocals

## Art Galleries

The capital city is a surprising destination with a well-developed cultural life and vibrant art scene, dominated primarily by prominent local artists. Uncover the list of the top five art galleries to visit in the capital of Albania.

### National Art Gallery

Located at  
**Shëtitorja Murat Toptani 2**  
Opening hours  
**Temporarily closed**  
Contact  
**+355 4 222 6033**



The most famous art gallery in Tirana is the National Art Gallery. It is a huge building situated in the center of the town, just a few steps from the Pedonalja of Tirana, a beautiful pedestrian street full of cafés and restaurants, where some of the most important artworks in Albania are shown.

The National Art Gallery is home to many works realized by some of the most famous Albanian artists of all times, such as Kolë Idromeno, Edi Hila, and Fatmir Haxhiu – just to name a few. The gallery often hosts temporary exhibitions as well. Outside the museum, you can find The Cloud pavilion, a contemporary art installation created by the Japanese artist Sou Fujimoto.



### Fab Art Gallery

Located at  
**University of Arts, Bulevardi Dëshmorët e Kombit**  
Opening hours  
**10 AM - 8 PM**  
Contact  
**+355 68 6047 899**



FAB Gallery is one of the most famous art galleries in Albania, part of the University of Arts of Tirana situated in Mother Teresa Square. FAB Gallery, located in the Blloku district, the liveliest area of the capital, mostly hosts painting and photo exhibitions and promotes students of the university as well as young local artists.



## ZETA Contemporary Art Center

Located at  
Hekla Center, Abdyl Frashëri Street, 7,  
P31, A/4, 2nd floor  
Opening hours  
11 AM – 6 PM  
Contact  
+355 68 213 0180



Zeta Gallery is a contemporary art center focused on visual arts that promotes the contemporary art scene in Tirana and throughout Albania.

The gallery is located inside an immense space in the heart of Blloku, so it is the perfect place to start visiting this cool area, and every month it hosts exhibitions, presentations, workshops, and projects, as well as other cultural activities.

## Kalo Gallery

Located at  
Rruga Ibrahim Rugova  
Opening hours  
3:30 AM – 7:30 PM  
Contact  
+355 69 202 0005



Galeria Kalo, or Kalo Gallery, is a contemporary art gallery that promotes visual arts and emerging artists from Albania and all over the world. It is situated in a modern building near Mother Teresa Square, one of the main squares of the capital, just few steps from the entrance of the Grand Park of Tirana. Every month, Galeria Kalo hosts exhibitions of Albanian and international artists and contributes to increasing knowledge about Albania through works realized by local artists.

## Art Gallery E. Rira

Located at  
**Rruga Medar Shtylla**  
Opening hours  
**9 AM – 10 PM**  
Contact  
**+355 68 209 4154**



Founded as an art studio in 1997 by the artist Edmond Rira, today Art Gallery E. Rira is one of the most prominent art galleries in Tirana and Albania. The gallery promotes the values of Albanian arts and hosts temporary exhibitions as well as collections of contemporary artists, sculptors, ceramists, and painters.

## COD (Center for Openness and Dialogue)

Located at  
**Kryeministria, Bulevardi Dëshmorët e Kombit**  
Opening hours  
**9:30 AM – 2 PM, 5:30 – 8:30 PM**  
Contact  
**+355 4 227 7546**



The Center for Openness and Dialogue comes as a result of the personal initiative of Prime Minister Edi Rama. The objective was simple: to transform a part of the headquarters of the Council of Ministers into a space in the service of citizens, to convey the message of openness, transparency and transformation. Translating this goal into a concrete project has been, without doubt, a work far more challenging.

COD is open to the public for free every day of the week, except on Sundays.

← Interior at Zeta Gallery © Hubert Lobnig

↓ Sculpture © Art Gallery E. Rira





## Parks

Let's go on  
a tour to  
discover  
some relaxing  
spots around  
Tirana!

↑ View from the park at Skanderbeg Square © wikipedia

### **Skanderbeg Square**

The Skanderbeg Square is the main plaza in the center of Tirana, Albania. The square is named after the Albanian national hero Gjergj Kastrioti Skënderbeu. The total area is about 40,000 square meters of open space. Nearby the square you will find the Opera, surrounded by cafes and a few benches. A few meters away from the main statue is located the Municipality of Tirana and just in front of it lies a nature park.

### **Taiwan Center**

Opposite Hotel Dajti, you will face the Taiwan Center and the Rinia (Youth)

Park. It is one of the most well-known and entertaining places in Tirana. With a surface of 10,000 square meters and positioned in the center of the city, it includes restaurants, bars, a bowling alley, arcade games, a club, a casino, and a park with a dedicated playground for children as well as one for dogs and cats. There are several urban legends about why the building is called Taiwan and you might try and come up with one yourself!

## **Blloku**

The most famous area in Tirana – Blloku (the Block) is also the most vibrant. Previously where only the communist elites lived, now the current ruling class calls it home, becoming a popular destination with numerous bars, cafes and restaurants. In Blloku you can still find the residence of Albania's former communist leader Enver Hoxha.

Areas with small benches down the streets of Blloku cross each other. The area is easily accessible from different parts of Tirana via the main public transport route, called the Unaza (the Ring).

## **The Grand Park of Tirana**

The Grand Park of Tirana continues to be one of the most popular and frequented spots of the capital by locals and tourists alike. The weekend is peak time in which the

park warmly welcomes a multitude of park goers, those of whom seek recreation in the area's many open green spaces, promenades, playgrounds, and eateries. The open-air theater is another great spot where regular stage shows featuring talented artists take place. The Grand Park of Tirana also boasts many multi-functional spaces for various sports and leisure activities.

## **Castle of Tirana**

Within the walls of the castle of Tirana, a new pedestrian area has recently been created, transformed into a recreational space serving as an environment where artisans and local traditions, cuisine, and art are promoted.

## **Student quarter**

The student quarter of Tirana, called Student City (Qytet Studenti), sits atop a low hill in the southeast of the capital. In 1990, the squat beige-and-gray dormitories surrounded an open area consisting of concrete and grass.

The communist elite controlled most aspects of Albania's political shift, but that autumn the students took charge of that drab hilltop and rattled the regime. Democracy Square (Sheshi Demokracia) now invites guests to sit down at one of the many cafés and enjoy the youthful vibe.



← The Entrance - Grand Lake of Tirana © wikipedia

↓ View of the Grand Lake of Tirana © wikipedia





↑ Grand Lake of Tirana © wikipedia

↓ Children's Park at the Grand Lake of Tirana © skyscrapercity

↘ View from up - Youth Park at Taiwan Center © wikipedia



## Beaches and mountains

If the weekend escape is getting closer and you got nothing planned there is a quick destination named Durres, just about 40 minutes away from Tirana by car. There are also bus lines that can get you there, located at: [Tiranë - Durrës, km 0, Kamza Overpass, Kashar 1050, Tirana.](#)



## Durrës



Scan for the location of the city of Durres

Durrës is a wide beach of about 400 km<sup>2</sup>, resting along the Adriatic Sea, and is home to the biggest port in Albania. Some parts of the beach are public but many are private and belong to the beachfront hotels. Obviously, the public stretches get much busier than the private sections, however even if you're not staying at one of the hotels you can pay for use of their beach and deck chairs.

If you're more of an active person than a sunbathing person, Durres also has you covered. There are plenty of water-sports on offer, from pedal boats to jet skis!



Besides resting and sunbathing if you are up to hiking your way to beautiful cultural and religious destinations this list will help you:

## Dajti Mountain



## Sari Salltik



## Shpella e Pëllumbasit



- ← Durres, view of the city center © wikipedia
- ↑ Dajti Mountain express cable © adrift aesthetic
- ↑ Sari Salltik Tekke © tropter.com

- ✓ Shpella e Pellumbasit © Bess Roci photography
- ↓ Shengjergji © our trip albania
- ↓ Kanionet e Erzenit © tripadvisor
- ↓ Syri i Ciklopit © dritare.net

## Shëngjergj



## Kanionet e Erzenit



## Syri i Ciklopit



## Fitness

The main attraction to going running and working out in Tirana is definitely the Artificial Lake, a huge space of woods with a few small spaces packed with gym equipment here and there. The sun hits the trees early in the morning and the night has a light breeze, especially in summer.

Grab a bottle of water and go walking or running on the different paths that overlap on the lakeside.

Meanwhile enjoying life in Tirana, you might stop and consider staying in shape and we got just the place for that!

Otherwise, if you prefer heavy workouts and gym environments you have a wide range of choices all around Tirana, just google “gyms in Tirana” and find what suits you.



## Cost of Living

The expected cost of living can vary dramatically depending on your personal needs and wants. Below is an average low cost of living, living frugally and on basics, and another estimate based on a more luxurious lifestyle.

On a low-end budget, you should expect to be paying around **\$874 USD**

per month. That is broken down into food, accommodation, coworking, and leisure. So you should expect to pay around \$282 USD for accommodation for one month in the form of a bed in a dorm room. Food can be cheap if you are happy with street food and eating from markets, so a budget of around \$10 USD per day, which is \$300 USD per month, should be enough.

Then if you were to walk around the city or rent a bike and combine exercise with transport, you can budget around \$50 USD for the month, which includes renting a bicycle for a few days, a few bus rides, and walking most of the time. For a good coworking space, it will cost around \$142 USD per month, and finally, you should allocate approximately \$100 USD for entertainment.

On a higher-end budget with more luxuries, you should expect to be paying around **\$1864 USD** per month. This is broken down into \$810 USD per month on accommodation in the form of a private apartment, and \$20 USD per day on food, which is \$600 USD a month, which means eating out most days at cafes and restaurants most evenings.

You should expect to pay around \$154 USD for a coworking space, \$100 USD for transport, and \$70 USD should cover some forms of exercise combined with running and hiking, which can be free. Finally, you should allocate around \$200 USD for leisure, which would include some day excursions.

## Culture and Food

Albania is known for its traditional Balkan cuisine, and it can vary dramatically from region to region. Along the coastline, you will find a lot of seafood, and high in the mountains, the food becomes more hearty and meat-based.

When you visit Tirana, you might want to explore some traditional dishes, and here are some of the best.



← Core Pilates & Yoga Studio © pikark

← Repeat Fitness & Wellness Club © repeat.al

↑ Pazar i Ri Tirane © pikark

**Byrek** is one of the most popular pastries sold in Albania, and it is often stuffed with spinach, but you can sometimes find some with just cheese or meat. It is a staple in the country, and you can buy them from most corner shops or bakeries for less than \$1 USD.

Other traditional dishes include **Tavë Kosi**, which is like a quiche, grilled meats, **Specia me gjizë**, which are stuffed peppers, and **kaçkavall**, which is a special cheese of the Balkans and can be fried.

If you are looking to try some sweet treats, then make sure to get some **Baklava**, a popular dessert in the region. **Trilece** is another typical dessert that translates to “three milk” and is a cake-like delight.



## Traditional Restaurants

The traditional restaurants in Albania tend to be grill houses. Depending on what you want to eat, you will find a variety of hearty meals in both types of venues. Some of the best restaurants in

- ✓ Albanian Cheese Byrek © kingarthurbaking
- Trilece © Harry Cooper
- Traditional Tave Kosi (baked lamb and rice with yoghurt) © thebalkanista

Tirana selling traditional food are **Nona**, **Oda**, **Kalaja e Tiranës**, which is more of a tourist restaurant, and **Tek Zgara Tirones**, to name a few. You will see many dotted around the cities, so it is best to wander around first to find somewhere that looks inviting to you.

### 1. Nona

Located at Rruga Asdreni, Tirana  
Contact: +355 69 692 2232  
Open at: 8 AM - 7 PM



### 2. Oda

Located at Rruga Luigj Gurakuqi 3, Tirana  
Contact: +355 69 966 8881  
Open at: 12 PM - 11 PM



### 3. Restaurant Piceri Era

Located at Rruga Ismail Qemali, Tirana 1000  
Contact: +355 67 206 5000  
Open at: 11 AM - 11:45 PM



### 4. Tek Zgara Tirones

Located at Kavaja St, Tirana  
Contact: +355 69 451 8888  
Open at: 9 AM - 1 AM





## Street Food

Tirana has some of the best street food in the country, from take-out kebab spots to small bakeries. As well as street food, Tirana is home to some popular fast-food chains such as KFC and Burger King, but the choice is limited. This means you are more likely to experience local fast food rather than popular chain-based food. Some highly-rated local fast-food restaurants are:

### 1. Fast Food Piceri Hallall

Located at Rruga Sandër Prosi, Tirana  
Contact: +355 69 632 2220  
Open at: 8 AM - 12 AM



### 2. Mr. Chicken

Located at Rruga Abdyl Frashëri, Tirana  
Contact: 04 225 7708  
Open at: 10:30 AM - 2 AM



### 3. Fast Food Gustoso

Located at Rruga Sulejman Delvina, sheshi Wilson, prane postes nr8 Tirane 1019  
Contact: +355 69 826 6662  
Open at: 10 AM - 12 AM



### 4. Gjiro Kamara Fast Food

Located at Rruga Abdyl Frashëri, Tirana  
Contact: +355 69 319 4235  
Open at: 9 AM - 3 AM



### 5. Fast Food Albania

Located at Kavaja St, Tirana  
Contact: +355 69 668 2222  
Open at: 8 AM - 2 AM



### 6. Burger King

Located at Rruga Sami Frashëri 15, Tirana  
Contact: +355 69 707 7776  
Open at: 9:53 AM - 11:43 PM



### 7. KFC

Located at Rruga Ibrahim Rugova, Tirana  
Contact: +355 69 463 6341  
Open at: 10 AM - 1 AM



## Vegetarian food

There is an excellent selection of vegetarian and vegan restaurants in Tirana, so having dietary needs shouldn't be too difficult. Although traditional local cuisine can contain a lot of meat and dairy products, being in the capital city will give you more flexibility with your diet, but you may find it more challenging when visiting rural or surrounding areas.

Some of the best vegetarian restaurants are Veggies, Happy Belly, Almont Bar & Lounger, ejona, The Rooms Restaurant, MORSI Tirana, Falafel House, Çoko, Gjelber, and Green and Protein. The best way to find vegan options is by using the **"Happy Cow" app**, which has many tags for Tirana.



Scan to  
download  
"Happy  
Cow" app

### 1. Veggies

Located at Rruga Perlat Rexhepi 9, Tiranë  
Contact: +355 69 207 7726  
Open at: 8 AM – 11 PM



### 2. Happy Belly

Located at Rruga Ibrahim Rugova, Tirana  
Contact: +355 69 545 0082



### 3. Almont Bar & Lounge

Located at Rruga Medar Shtylla 23, Tirana  
Open at: 24h



### 4. The rooms restaurant

Located at Rruga Sami Frashëri, Tirana  
Contact: +355 69 330 0030  
Open at: 6 AM – 11:30 PM  
Menu: [therooms-restaurant.com](http://therooms-restaurant.com)



### 5. MORSI Tirana

Located at Rruga Abdyl Frashëri, Tirana 1017  
Contact: +355 69 444 4230  
Open at: 8 AM – 12 AM



### 6. Falafel House

Located at Rruga " Ibrahim Rugova " Sh.4 Nr.9  
Contact: +355 67 714 0996  
Open at: 10 AM – 9 PM



### 7. Coko

Located at Rruga Pjetër Bogdani Nr 7, Tiranë  
Contact: 04 225 8411  
Open at: 8 AM – 12 AM



### 8. Gjelber Tirana Healthy Vegetarian Vegan

Located at Rruga Brigada e VIII, Tirana  
Contact: +355 69 513 3116  
Open at: 9 AM – 10 PM



### 9. Green & Protein

Located at Rruga Nikolla Tupe, Tirana  
Contact: +355 69 777 7997  
Open at: 7 AM – 11 PM  
Menu: [greenandprotein.al](http://greenandprotein.al)







# 3. Working and doing business in Tirana

## Culture and People

Albania is located in the Balkans, in southeastern Europe, and has had a mixed past, influencing the local traditions and culture. It is a warm country with hard-working and caring people. The capital, Tirana, is becoming one of Europe's creative hubs and is attracting youth from across Europe.

Lately, more Albanian immigrants are heading back to their homeland to open businesses or learn old crafts. This shift is becoming visible in Tirana and it is turning into this buzzing youthful hub. It still has a way to go, but it is on the up and could become a hotspot for digital nomads in the years to come.

The people of Albania are very traditional and religious, although there is no official religion in Albania. Due to its varied past of being part of the Ottoman empire with Muslim influence and its history of Christian orthodox, there is a diverse mix in the country, with mosques and monasteries dotted around. In the capital, the difference in religion is less important in daily life when compared to smaller towns and villages.

The LGBTQ+ community is not publicly supported mostly by the older generation in rural areas, however, the annual pride festival takes place in Tirana. The younger generation is more open-minded and accepting when compared with the older.

More rural regions are stricter as they can sometimes be less affected by the fast pace of Tirana. The communist rule has shaped many older generations' points of view, and this is still visible.

Overall, Albanians are very welcoming and hospitable; they welcome anyone into their homes and villages and are very pleasant. Albanians also love to party and are very social.

## Business Registration

Albanian legislation provides that a business entity can be established as a legal person or a legal entity.

Registering a business as a legal person is the simplest form of economic organization. The enterprise can be registered under the name of the person or of the selected trade name, in QKB offices, or electronically through the e-Albania portal. The electronic application reduces costs and time as the registration fee of 100 ALL becomes 0 ALL.

### **Necessary documentation for the registration process:**

- Application form for the initial registration of a legal person
- Identification document of the registrant
- Authorization of the representative (if the application is not made by the founder himself)



- Identification document of the representative (if there is a representative)
- Relevant signatures

Establishment as a “trader” and Limited liability company has registration and administration facilities. Usually, commercial companies are founded by 2 or more natural and/or legal persons, that agree on the achievement of common economic objectives, making contributions to the company, according to the settings in its statute. In the case of limited liability companies, they can also be established by only 1 legal person.

However, for a more detailed perspective of the registration process, we would suggest you direct your searches to [albaniatech.org](http://albaniatech.org) and the team will help you further in the process.

## Startup Ecosystem

Albania is currently home to 168 operating startups in a variety of sectors, from Hospitality and Edtech to IoT, Blockchain, and Fintech. Additionally, the local startup community pays special attention to the energy sector – Albania is the only country in Europe that has inland petroleum deposits, over 290+ days of sunshine a year, and generates 96% of its power from hydro resources. There’s no better place for Energy startups than this Balkan country.

Albania has the necessary foundations for a global success story to emerge in the near future. The local startup community is full of enthusiasm, the country provides various support systems, and there are stakeholders like GIZ and EBRD that support and guide startups with the necessary know-how while facilitating access to international markets and investment networks.

At the same time, investing in Albanian startups is still comparatively cheap – with the same amount of funds, you may be able to buy twice as many shares in an Albanian startup as in one from a more mature startup ecosystem. For investors, that’s an untapped potential.

Although Albania might seem like somewhat of a latecomer to Europe’s startup scene, its early-stage ecosystem has grown rapidly over the past five years. The country has introduced a series of measures to enable startups to thrive and has supported investments, as well as multi-year projects funded by various international organizations.

At the same time, the barriers to entry are comparatively lower than in other European countries. This, combined with the enthusiasm of a young, multilingual population, eager to explore entrepreneurship as a viable career option, has created a ripe terrain for blossoming startups.

The first accelerator for digital startups is Oficina, brought into the country in 2016 when the first acceleration program was held. Since then, Oficina has evaluated more than 400 startups in the selection process and accelerated 72 of them.

In 2019, another era of acceleration was brought by Uplift Albania, currently named Uplift Western Balkans because of the spread of its operations into startups from the Western Balkans, parallel to Albanian startups. Uplift's program consists of a 4-months acceleration program, workshops, networking sessions, dedicated business coaching, and 1-on-1 mentoring.

At the moment, over 15 startup accelerators and incubators operate in Albania, which are listed below:

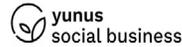
## Oficina

Oficina runs yearly incubation and acceleration programs in partnership with various international support organizations and private sector companies.



## Yunus Social Business

Growing and supporting social businesses to solve the world's pressing problems.



## IDEA-Challenge

The IDEA-Challenge offers a unique opportunity for 2000 innovative startups, to scale up their entrepreneurial competencies and business skills, by helping them to develop the necessary set of skills for generating ideas and delivering a final, convincing business plan.



## Metropolitan Incubator

Metropolitan Incubator is the first "On Campus" incubator in the district of Albanian universities. Its mission is to support the successful development of businesses, influencing regional economic development.



## Hapide Combinator

This acceleration program is part of the “Hapide Impact Combinator” program and aims to contribute to increasing the skills of young entrepreneurs and women, to reorganize, restructure and recover their businesses as soon as possible from the consequences of the earthquake and/or the situation. created by Covid-19.



## B4Students

B4Students is a dynamic program, entirely tailored-fit and fully dedicated to students, purposely contributing to their needs in relation to the linkage of studies, practical experience, social initiatives, as well as the development of their potential and entrepreneurial ideas, powered by BALFIN Group.



## Barleti Hub

“Marin Barleti University” constantly offers courses and programs for young people who want to be an active part of the BARLETI Hub.



## Oficina Hub

OFICINA HUB part of the Harry Fultz Institute is an innovation and co-working hub that seeks to build an ecosystem of innovators and social changemakers working on technology, accountability, and social change.



## UK-Albania Tech Hub

UK-Albania Tech Hub is a program that supports collaboration between Albania and the UK in the area of technology.



## Uplift Western Balkans

Uplift is an early-stage Start Up accelerator program focused on growing business and increasing valuation. It aims to support dozens of the most innovative and promising startups from the Balkans region. Through Uplift, Startups will learn how to pitch to investors, pro-

protect their intellectual property, improve their business models and apply the lean methodology.



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## Tirana Inc.

Tirana Inc. is an initiative by Albanian universities and the City of Tirana to kick off a brand-new student incubation program.



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## RISE

The RISE project helps young purpose-driven people.



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## Growpreneur

Growth Accelerator and Flexible support provider for startups.



## Elevator Lab Challenge by Raiffeisen Bank International

Elevator Lab is a leading fintech partnership program, powered by Raiffeisen Bank International (RBI), looking for innovative fintech solutions, in order to jointly develop tomorrow's banking business. Once selected for Elevator Lab, you get the chance to scale your business across the CEE Region.



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## Albanian Innovation Accelerator

AIA's mission is to help businesses innovate and thrive through a program of training, mentoring, coaching, and networks.



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## Women Founders Network Albania

First Accelerator for Women Founders in the Western Balkans. Based in Tirana, Albania.



## Co-working Spaces

Albania is known for having high cafe density, and most of them have specifically structured their environment to fulfill the needs of digital nomads and remote workers. Although co-working spaces are not missing!

The first co-working Space in Albania is My Office'Al, established in 2014. Since then, many co-working spaces have opened their doors to the public. Below you can find the list of co-working spaces in Albania:

### Coolab

This is the place for entrepreneurs, freelancers, business professionals, and technologists who want to be part of an active community.

Located at  
Rruga e Kavajës 50 Ish Volksvagen  
Opening hours  
7 AM – 10 PM



↑ Coolab spaces © coolab.al

### Innospace Tirana

Innospace Tirana has built a state-of-the-art co-working space, where you can focus on your next big project. From coffee machines to high-speed internet - they've thought about everything you might need.

Located at  
Rr. Pjetër Bogdani Nd 10, H 5, Apt  
28, 7th Floor  
Opening hours  
24 hours



↑ Innospace office © innospace

### Destil Creative Hub

Destil is a co-working & co-living multi-functional center focused on social, cultural & artistic events. It's a hub designed for creative people to work on their projects, exchange local & international practices and exhibit their creations.

Located at  
Zogu I Blvd.  
Contact  
+355 69 756 5237



## Dutch Hub

Dutch Hub is the largest co-working in Albania. Since 2018 and with 1000 square meters in the heart of Tirana, Dutch Hub offers endless opportunities for professionals and local and foreign companies. Their offers range from hourly and daily plans to long-term ones, accompanied by 20 professional services, networking opportunities, and other facilities. Dutch Hub offers individual jobs, workspaces for groups and companies in open spaces or shared offices, and private offices in various formats.

Located at  
**Rruga Brigada e VIII**  
Opening hours  
**8 AM - 8 PM**



## MyOffice'Al

Coworking space in Tirana with open workplaces equipped with modern infrastructure and amenities. Located in the center of Tirana, next to the central train station and only footsteps away from the main square.



## Tech Space

"TechSpace" is responsible for creating creative environments of its space, designing programs in support and development of startups, as well as promoting consolidated businesses within the Center.

Located at  
**Godina e Inovacionit,**  
**Rruga Papa Gjon Pali II**



## Tirana Business Park

Tirana Business Park has established a business park and an economic center of European standards, and gives the area a real potential for economic and social development. Tirana Business Park stands for a new, excellent working location a little further from the noise of the crowded city.

Located at  
**Rinas Road, Building 07, Core 2,**  
**Unit 1**  
Opening hours  
**7 AM - 5 PM**



← MyOffice'Al interior © myofficeal

↑ Tech Space © techspace

## Protik

Protik's major goal is the promotion of Entrepreneurship and Innovation. The center intends to provide education in innovation, entrepreneurship, technical subjects, and soft skills, topics for instruction and activities will continue to focus on idea generation, as well as a working space in the heart of Tirana.

Located at  
Rruga Papa Gjon Pali II  
Opening hours  
9 AM - 6 PM



## Cowork Zone

Fully furnished office space for freelancers, and early-stage companies.



## Head Office Tirana

Head office is the newest hourly rented office in Tirana, where freelancers can

Located at  
Rruga Brigada e VIII  
Opening hours  
9 AM - 8 PM



## Where you can find other digital nomads/travelers

We told you all about the co-working spaces and tourist attractions but there is still one definite place where digital nomads gather and that is events and festivals. During the spring and summer nights many street festivals take place in Tirana and you can meet a lot of new people from different countries, festivals such as: Color Day Festival, Sunny Hill Festival, Tirana International Film Festival, Peza'n Fest, etc.

In the chilly seasons, more activities and events focused on business, marketing, personal development, and startups take place. You can check their dates online at: [albaniatech.org/calendar/](http://albaniatech.org/calendar/) and most of them are free for the public to attend.



You are now wandering around Tirana thinking of where you can find other people who can share their experience with you as well and maybe learn a thing, or two.

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← Tirana International Film Festival © balkanculture

↑ Sunny Hill Festival © Sunny Hill Foundation





# 4. Tips

## Useful Apps

Before you start exploring Tirana there are a few apps that you might consider downloading to facilitate your experience:

### 1. Airbnb or Booking.com

To find and book hotels and apartments online.



Scan for the website of Airbnb



Scan for the website of Booking.com

### 2. Udhe

Carpooling platform that connects drivers with commuters for a joint ride.



Scan for the application of Udhe

### 3. Tirana ime

Tirana's Official App includes a variety of services such as: paying for parking, finding events, finding bicycle routes and public transport, finding recreation parks, checking on traffic, etc.



Scan for the application of Tirana ime

### 4. Baboon

Food delivery app



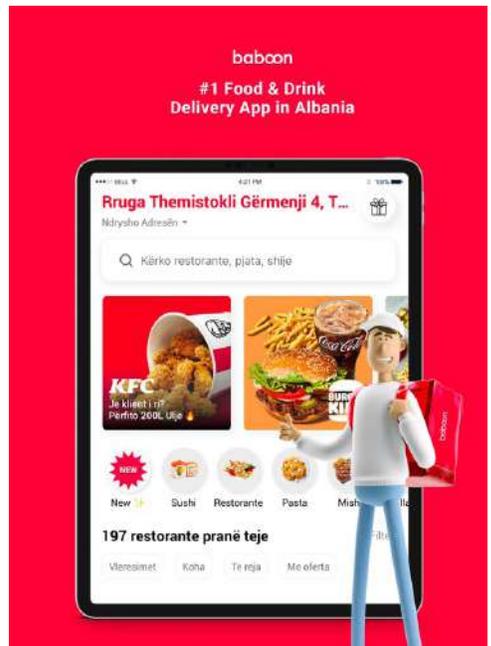
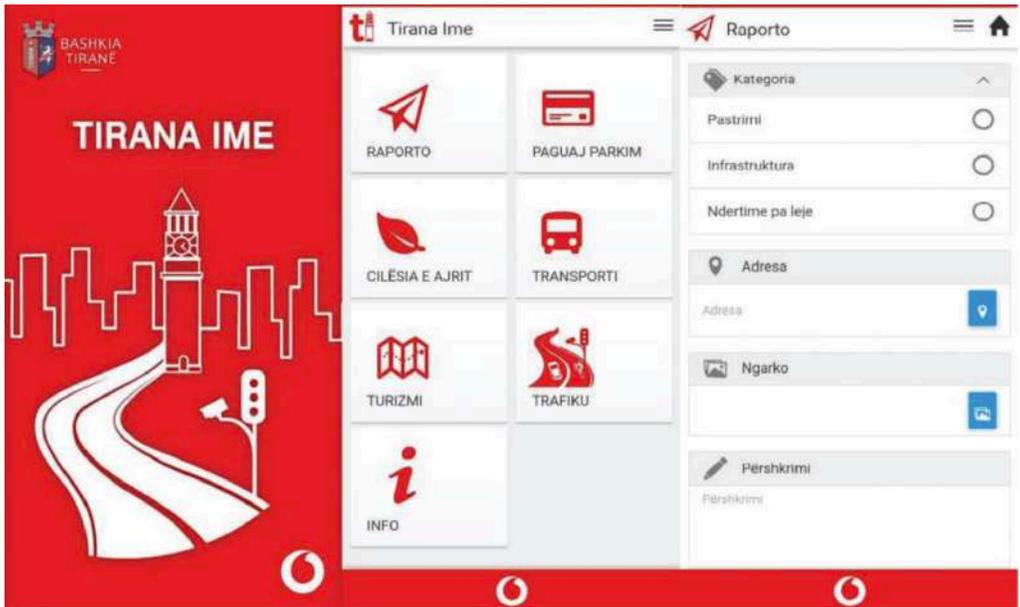
Scan for the application of Baboon

### 5. e-Albania

This app is equipped with legal documents for Albanian citizens and businesses. If you are thinking of opening up a business in Albania you will have to register here. If you are working in Albania, you can also check your work papers here.



Scan for the application of e-Albania



- ↑ Tirana Ime app © opendata.tirana.al
- ↑ Udhe app © PCWorld Albania
- Baboon app © Baboon Albania



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GIZ Office Albania  
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E [giz-albanien@giz.de](mailto:giz-albanien@giz.de)  
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## Author:

Prishila Gjoka, Content Lead  
at Albania Tech

## Design/layout:

Nikol Likja, Graphic Designer  
at AlbaniaTech

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Gea Madhi

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