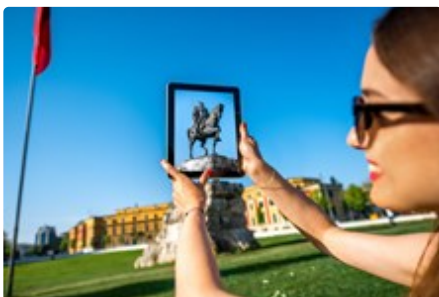
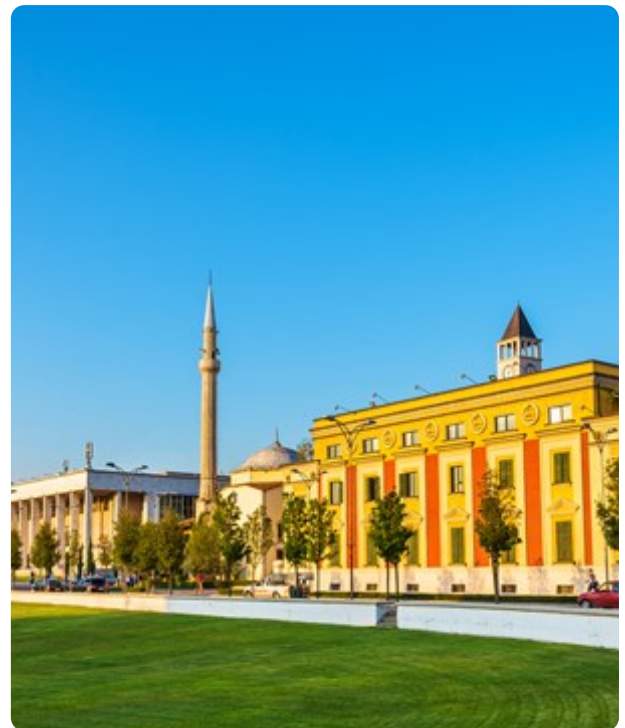




TIRANA

Tirana is a mixture of Western Europe and the old Russia, interspersed with influences of the Middle East. The city has overcome its recent troubled past and has stood up like a jewel in Eastern Europe. The modern Tirana is full of restaurants, nightlife and hotels and has rediscovered itself and become an energetic, vibrant and cosmopolitan city that it is worth exploring.



BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Have a drink at one of the bars in Tirana. As with the cafés and clubs, bars are open very late. There is wide variety of choices for nightlife in Tirana – from bars and clubs to live music and ballet. It is popular to put the word "Disko" in the title of a nightlife establishment, the "Disko" settings indicate DJ music and dancing.

MEDUZA'S IRISH PUB

Come here for breakfast, lunch or a good pint of Guinness. This is a proper Irish pub with live music, sports and party.

Rr. Mustafa Matohiti, Tirana
+355 69 335 1654
www.meduzairishpub.com

MUMJA CLUB

This is a club which plays music for the teens in town. If you want a good time out with dance and music then this is the place to visit.

Shëtitorja Murat Toptani, Tirana
+355 68 609 1668

BRAUHAUS PUB

Enjoy some really good beer with your friends at this venue with a restaurant, bar and brewery. Not only offering freshly brewed beers in a friendly atmosphere but also live music and sport games on TV are provided here.

38 Reshit Collaku str, Tirana
+355 4 223 79 55
www.brauhaus.al

Inside Shallvare Residential Homes

MOSCOW CLUB TIRANA

One of the biggest and most modern night clubs in Tirana with the latest in club technology and music, including live music and foreign DJs. With a capacity of 1500 persons the atmosphere gets electric and vibrant.

Rr.5 Maji, Tirana
+355 696 39 4189
www.moscowclub.al

PADAM BOUTIQUE HOTEL & RESTAURANT

Located at Padam Boutique Hotel, the bar offers their guests a wide variety of drinks, ranging from classic spirits to crafted cocktails in a modern setting. In the summer enjoy your refreshing drink in the beautiful outdoor garden and veranda while mingling with friends.

St Papa Gjon Pali II, Tirana
+355 44504913
www.padam.al

LIZARD CLUB TIRANA

Lizard Club Tirana is the place where you can enjoy live music. Since 2006 they have been presenting the best bands and successful singers. Every night different types of tunes are played, everything from Latin to rock.

Rruga, Tirana
+355 69 202 2792
Rruga "Pjeter Bogdani"

CAFÉS



Visiting cafés is one of the most popular pastime of many locals and all throughout the day and well into the evening people are sipping espresso and chatting with friends. The neighbourhood Blloku is currently the hub of café culture in Tirana and here you will see people often sit for hours drinking and gossiping. After a long day of sightseeing, grab a cup of coffee and relax with the locals at one of the many cosy cafés the city has on offer.

LA VOGLIA

La Voglia serves various snacks, as well as an array of coffee drinks, in a comfortable setting. This place is popular among the young crowd of the city.

Rruga Ibrahim Rugova, Tirana
+355 69 993 8930

THE PIAZZA CAFÉ

The Piazza Café serves excellent food and late night snacks in a cosy setting. When you are here, try their lovely ice cream.

Ded Gjon Luli, Tirana
+355 4 23 07 06

PÂTISSERIE FRANÇAISE

Pâtisserie Française is one of the few breakfast spots in Tirana. This French-owned restaurant serves exceptional fare for a taste of Paris in Eastern Europe.

Rr. Ibrahim Rugova 1, Tirana
+355 68 903 3304
www.pasticeriafranceze.com

YOGURTERI TIRANA

Frozen yoghurt is not easy to find in Tirana but here is one place, and maybe the only place. There are several options of flavours and toppings and if you don't find a seat on the patio outside you can always grab one to go.

Ibrahim Rugova, Tirana
+355 696 737 945

D'ANGELO COFFE SHOP

D'Angelo is a coffee shop that brings you quality and yummy products, everything from sweet chocolate and ice cream to savoury crêpes and waffles. The service is friendly and the decor is fresh and bright, the perfect place to start your day and relax with friends.

Rugga Abdyl Frasher, Tirana
+355 69 977 9669
www.dangelo.al

DINING



Tirana has a number of versatile dining options. European cuisine, especially the Italian, has gained great influence because of Italy's relationship with Albania. There are many traditional Albanian food outlets to choose from, too.

PASTA DA PUCCI

When you step into the homelike diningroom at Pasta da Pucci you will be greeted with a familiar feeling. This restaurant is hidden in a cellar of an apartment at a side street and can be a bit difficult to find, but once inside you can enjoy delicious Italian dishes.

Mustafa Qosja, Tirana

GREEN HOUSE

Green House is a modern restaurant with an elegant atmosphere. The Albanian and Italian dishes are made from top quality products and are beautifully served together with a fine selection of wines at this centrally located restaurant.

Rr. "Jul Variboba" Nr. 6, Tirana

+355 4 222 2632

www.greenhouse.al

LA BOHEME ROOF GARDEN RESTAURANT

From this rooftop restaurant you have beautiful views over the Dajti and the city. The food served here is a fusion between Europe and Asia and you will among many other dishes find sushi on the menu.

Vesa Center, Rr. Abdyl Frasheri, Tirana

+355 69 4069 318

www.labohemeroofgarden.wordpress.com

VILA LOGORECI

Vila Logoreci is popular among both locals and tourists and it is often quite busy at lunchtime. They have a small garden with a few seats and this is a perfect place for a romantic dinner for two or just a relaxed lunch with friends. The pizza here is highly recommended.

Rr. Papa Gjon Pali II, nr. 9, Tirana

+355 4 247190

BASILICO RISTORANTE

If you long for Italian specialities, Basilico Ristorante is a good place to go. This small and cosy restaurant with Italian music played in the background serves delicious dishes, all of them of course from Italian cuisine.

Rr. Komuna e Parisit, Tirana

+355 04 560 5381

www.basilicotirana.it

FIORE

This restaurant is recommended for its fish and seafood dishes and they serve Albanian and Italian cuisine. It is located 15 minutes walk from the city centre but can easily be reached with public transport too.

St. Dervish Hima Nr.4, Tirana

+355 4 223 6394

www.fiorerestaurant.al

PADAM BOUTIQUE HOTEL & RESTAURANT

This elegant restaurant is located in the boutique hotel Padam and it is popular both for its exclusive cuisine but also for its good cocktails. The chef cooks contemporary influenced food and this venue stands out from other restaurants in the city.

Rruga Papa Gjon Pali II, Tirana

+355 44504913

www.padam.al

XHEKO IMPERIAL RESTAURANT (CARLSBERG)

Xheko Imperial Restaurant provides an exclusive dining option in Tirana. This restaurant has a continental atmosphere and the menu offers a wide array of Mediterranean and traditional Albanian courses. On the drink menu there are some really good local wines to choose from.

Str. 4 Shkurti, Tirana
+ 355 4 2259 574
www.xheko-imperial.com

Located inside the Xheko Imperial Hotel

AMOR

Amor is a small restaurant located close to the city centre. The food being served is Italian and French with pastas and beefs on the menu. They also offer a good array of wines.

Rruga Komuna e Parisit, Tirana
+355 4 224 1573

SKY CLUB

Sky Club is a revolving restaurant on the top floor of Tirana's tallest building. It offers a spectacular view of the city and is perfect for an evening cocktail.

Dëshmorët e 4 Shkurtit, Nr .5/1 Sky Tower, Tirana
+355 4 2415995
www.skyhotel-al.com

SARAJET

Sarajet serves traditional home-cooked food in an inspiring environment that gives you the feeling of having travelled back in time. There is always a fire in the open fireplace to give you a warm and homely feel.

Street Abdi Toptani, Tirana
+355 22 43 038
Near Torre Drini.

ERA

This restaurant, "Era", meaning "wind", is located in the popular area Blloku. The menu consists of traditional Albanian cuisine and some international dishes.

Rr. "Papa Gjon Pali II", Vila 11, Tirana
+355 4 2255 000
www.era.al
Near "Qemal Stafa" stadium

MAMMA ROSA

Mamma Rosa is a restaurant with high quality, serving excellent Italian cuisine. The venue gives you a homely atmosphere both inside the dining room or outside on the patio.

Rruga Sami Frasheri, Tirana
+355 422 466 24

SOFRA E ARIUT

This is a good choice if you want a peaceful setting and a beautiful scenery. Modern style is combined with green surroundings and outstanding service. The cuisine is mainly Albanian.

Rr. Elbasanit Nd.54 H.1 Njësia Bashkiake Nr.2,
Tirana
+355 42 303 030
www.sofraeariut.com
info@sofraeariut.com

DO & SEE



Old Communist Regime relics have become popular tourist attractions and are a severe reminder of the recent past. Street signs are still up and coming as tourism develops here. If you ask a local for directions they are given in terms of landmarks. The addresses listed in this guide are often street names only – building numbers do not exist universally here.

RESURRECTION OF CHRIST ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

This grand church is located close to the city centre and is as beautiful on the inside as its amazing façades on the outside. It is well visited by the locals of Tirana.

Rr. e Kavajes 151, Tirana
+355 4 23 50 95

SKANDERBEG SQUARE

Skanderbeg Square is the social and cultural center of Tirana, this is an excellent place for people watching and absorbing the daily life of the denizens of this city. The famous Equestrian Statue is located on the Southern Side of the Square.

Sheshi Skenderbej, Tirana

SKANDERBEG STATUE

Right in the heart of the city, on Skanderbeg Square, the statue of the National hero, George Kastrioti Skanderbeg, rises. It is almost impossible to miss and it is one of the landmarks of the city. If you are a good photographer you will be able to catch it together with the Et'hem Bey Mosque and the Clock Tower, all in one photo.

Sheshi Skenderbej, Tirana

GRAND PARK (PARKU I MADH)

This 230-hectare public park is the city's lung. Here you can relax in the green grass by the artificial lake or stroll in the Botanical Garden of Tirana and watch all the beautiful plants and flowers.

Parku i Madh, Tirana

KINEMA MILLENNIUM

Kinema Millennium is a lush garden area, that today offer both relaxation and fun. Once upon a time it was the residence of King Zogu I of Albania and some parts of the garden are kept as it was back then. The other part offer restaurants, bars and a modern cinema.

Rr. Murat Toptani, Tirana
+355 4 22 53 654

www.kinemamillennium.com

PRIME MINISTER'S RESIDENCE

This was once the Communist Party headquarters. During official parades and demonstrations, this is where Enver Hoxha would stand to wave to the masses below.

Blvd. Deshmoret e Kombit, Tirana

TANNERS' BRIDGE

Tanners' Bridge is a newly restored, elegant Ottoman stone footbridge, with colourful Soviet style housing serving as a backdrop. The bridge is a standing testimony to Tirana's development during the 18th century and is considered one of the most important cultural heritage monuments.

Rr. Punetoret e Rilindjes, Tirana

NATIONAL GALLERY OF FIGURATIVE ARTS OF ALBANIA

Even if this is considered a small museum, the many different objects give the visitors a real history lesson of Albania. Several of the paintings are from the communist period and are eye-catching with their bright colours and overwhelming sizes.

Deshmorët e Kombit Boulevard, Tirana
+355 4 222 60 33
Wed-Sun 10am-6pm

ET'HEM BEY MOSQUE

This small, elegant mosque is one of the oldest buildings remaining in Tirana. Many of the various religious shrines were destroyed in the atheism campaign and demonstrations of the late 1960's.

Sheshi Skenderbej, Tirana
+355 4 2 23 701

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE OF CULTURE

Popularly known as the Pyramid, this museum, opened in 1988, was a tribute to the Albanian dictator Enver Hoxha when it was erected. After the regime collapsed, the memorial was converted into a disco and conference center. It is no longer an official museum, but is well worth a look.

Bldv. Deshmoret e 4 Shkurtit, Tirana

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

The Archaeological Museum houses an extensive collection of interesting archaeological artefacts from various historic periods. There is also a large exhibition that shows the history of Albania.

Sheshi Nen Tereza, Tirana
+355 4 22 65 41

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY

National Museum of History is the largest museum in Albania and holds most of the country's treasures. There is a gallery on the top floor dedicated to the severe miseries of the communist era.

Sheshi Skenderbej, Tirana
+355 4 2 28 389

MOUNT DAJTI

Mount Dajti towers proudly over Tirana, with its beautiful national park, green forests and amazing views. You can either take the cable car up to the summit, or drive. There are several restaurants up at the top, as well as that special feeling of having the world at your finger tips.

Mount Dajti, Tirana

CLOCK TOWER

The tower is the symbol of Tirana and is nicely lit at night. You may climb the stairs for an excellent view of the bustling life in the square below.

Kulla e Sahatit, Sheshi Skenderbej, Tirana
Located next to Et'hem Bey Mosque

CENTRAL MARKET

The central market is a gourmet food haven, which captures the spirit of the culture. Local cheese, meat, fruit, honey and homemade raki can be found here. This is a spectacular place to stroll, nibble local food and absorb the vitality of Albanian life.

Pazari I Ri, Tirana

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION



AIRPORT

Nend Tereza (Mother Theresa) airport, also known as Rinas Airport or International Tirana Airport, lies 26 km northwest of the city in the town of Rinas.

Between 6am and 6pm there is a bus from the airport to the national Museum in the city centre of Tirana. It leaves every hour.

A taxi from the airport to the city centre takes about 20-25 minutes. Be certain to fix a price before you get into the taxi.

Tirana International Airport, Tirana
+355 4 2381 600

www.tirana-airport.com

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The heart of the city is not too big to explore by foot, but if your feet are sore and you are tired there are a number of intra-city bus lines both going round the city and to and from the shopping centres. The tickets are cheap but keep in mind that the buses don't go fast.

For longer bus journeys there are shared buses/mini-vans called "furgons" that depart for a destination once they are filled with passengers. Because of the ongoing construction in Tirana the bus and furgon depots change regularly, so it is very important to check the locations with your hotel.

www.tiranabuses.com

POST

The main post office in Tirana is located at:
Rr. "Reshit Çollaku", Nr. 4, Tirana

TAXI

There are taxi stands scattered across the city. There is a fixed price for a ride anywhere inside Tirana so discuss the price before entering the car.

PHARMACY

Some shops tend to sell fake brands so be a bit careful when you buy sunscreen or other kind of pharmacy products. You find one of the city's pharmacies at:

Rruga Kongresi i Manastirit, Tirana
+355 4 234 2089

TELEPHONE

Country code: +355

Area code: 04

ELECTRICITY

220 volts, 50HZ AC

SHOPPING



As Albania recovers economically from the disputes of the 1990's, its shopping areas are growing. Tourism is expanding in Tirana, and upscale shops have started to spring up in order to compete with other chic tourist destination. Local ceramics, crafts, jewellery and food items continue to offer an experience of the native cultural flair.

CENTRAL MARKET

Central Market is a gourmet food paradise, which captures the spirit of the culture. Local cheese, meat, fruit, honey and home-made raki can be found here. It is worth having a look around at the lively exchange, even if you are not in the market to purchase food.

Pazari I Ri, Tirana

UNIVERSE SHOPPING CENTRE

Universe Shopping Centre (QTU) is a brand new spectacular shopping extravaganza, located just west of the city centre. 13,600 square meters makes it one of the Balkan's largest shopping centres. A free shuttle runs daily between the National Museum and Universe every 20-30 minutes from 8am-10pm.

Rruga Industriale, Tirana
+355 42 380 100

www.qtu.al

BULEVARDI GJERGJ FISHTA

For ceramic and jewellery go to the Bulevardi Gjergj Fishta area, which consists of several blocks of excellent ceramic and jewellery stores.

Bulevardi Gjergj Fishta, Tirana

SHERATON SHOPPING CENTRE

The Sheraton Shopping Centre is a small mall connected to the Sheraton Hotel. There is a popular café and restaurants on site, along with several up market shops.

Sheshi Italia, Tirana
+355 4 227 4707

www.sheratontiranahotel.com

ADRION INTERNATIONAL BOOKS

Adrion International Books has one of the best selections of books in the country, including a decent English language selection, with guidebooks and literature.

Sheshi Skënderbej, Tirana
+355 4 222 62 56