



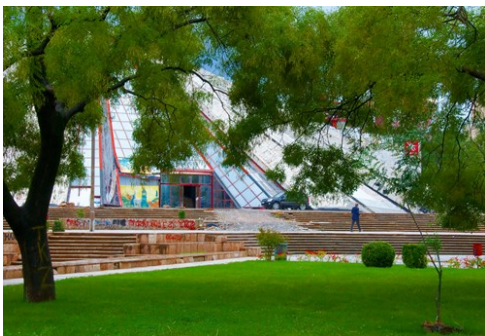
Tirana

Photo: Leonid Andronov/Shutterstock.com



RossHelen/Shutterstock.com

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.



Francesco Crippa



Francesco Crippa

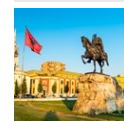
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ArrivalGuides

Foto: WhitefoxChen / Shutterstock

Top 5



Skanderbeg Square
Skanderbeg Square is the social and cultural center of Tirana, this is an ex...



Clock Tower
The tower is the symbol of Tirana and is nicely lit at night. You may climb ...



Et'hem Bey Mosque
This small, elegant mosque is one of the oldest buildings remaining in Tiran...



Tanners' Bridge
Tanners' Bridge is a newly restored, elegant Ottoman stone footbridge, with ...



National Museum of History
National Museum of History is the largest museum in Albania and holds most o...



THE CITY



Leonid Andronov/Shutterstock.com

The 1992 elections in Albania ended 47 years of communist rule. The shaking off of the restrictive weight of the communist regime is expressed in the attitudes of freedom and fun found in the Albanian people, and the untamed colour schemes of the newly redecorated buildings here are a visual demonstration of this energetic rebirth. The oppression that stifled life here for years has been discarded and a "new lease on life" attitude is evident in this city.

Tirana itself is an enticing mix of stern Soviet Bloc cement buildings, Ottoman minarets and 1930's Italian architecture, which juxtapose the wild colour schemes of newer buildings that have been redecorated by local artists. The religious buildings in Tirana are a wonderful mix of Christian and Muslim shrines, which speaks to its varied heritage and multi-cultural present. There is also a pulsing nightlife scene and Tirana is famous for its all night café culture.

DO & SEE



RossHelen/Shutterstock.com

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.

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.

Photo: Andrii Lutsyk/Shutterstock.com

Address: Sheshi Skenderbej, 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.

Photo: a.dombrowski (image cropped)

Address: Kulla e Sahatit, Sheshi Skenderbej, Tirana

More Info: Located next to Et'hem Bey Mosque

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.

Photo: ollirg/Shutterstock.com

Address: Sheshi Skenderbej, Tirana

Phone: +355 4 2 23 701

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.

Photo: Antidiskriminator (image cropped)

Address: Rr. Punetoret e Rilindjes, Tirana

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.

Photo: RossHelen/Shutterstock.com

Address: Sheshi Skenderbej, Tirana

Phone: +355 4 2 28 389

International Centre of Culture



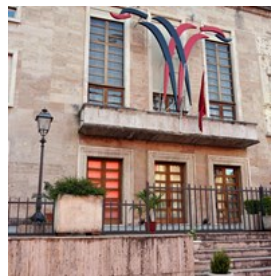
Popularly known as the Pyramid, this museum, opened in 1988, was a tribute to the Albanian dictator Enver Hoxha when it was erected.

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.

Photo: SarahTz (image cropped)

Address: Blvd. Deshmoret e 4 Shkurtit, Tirana

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.

Photo: Dennis Jarvis (image cropped)

Address: Blvd. Deshmoret e Kombit, Tirana

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.

Photo: Elzbieta Sekowska/Shutterstock.com

Address: Mount Dajti, Tirana

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.

Photo: Goran Bogicevic/Shutterstock.com

Address: Pazari I Ri, 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.

Photo: Fanny Schertzer (image cropped)

Address: Sheshi Nen Tereza, Tirana

Phone: +355 4 22 65 41

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.

Photo: Saranda (image cropped)

Address: Dëshmorët e Kombit Boulevard, Tirana

Opening hours: Wed-Sun 10am-6pm

Phone: +355 4 222 60 33

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.

Photo: Thomas Quine (image cropped)

Address: Sheshi Skenderbej, 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.

Photo: Gyorgy Barna/Shutterstock.com

Address: Rr. Murat Toptani, Tirana

Phone: +355 4 22 53 654

Internet: www.kinemamillennium.com

Email: info@kinemamillennium.com

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.

Photo: Ppictures/Shutterstock.com
Address: Rr. e Kavajes 151, Tirana
Phone: +355 4 23 50 95

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.

Photo: Anita Hart (image cropped)
Address: Parku i Madh, Tirana

DINING



Krzysztof Slusarczyk/Shutterstock.com

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.

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.

Address: Street Abdi Toptani, Tirana
Phone: +355 22 43 038
More Info: 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.

Address: Rr. "Papa Gjon Pali II", Vila 11, Tirana
Phone: +355 4 2255 000
Internet: www.era.al
Email: info@era.al
More Info: Near "Qemal Stafa" stadium

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.

Address: Rr. Elbasanit Nd.54 H.1 Njësia Bashkiake Nr.2, Tirana
Phone: +355 42 303 030
Internet: www.sofraeariut.com
Email: info@sofraeariut.com
More Info: info@sofraeariut.com

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.

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

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.

Address: Rruga Sami Frasheri, Tirana
Phone: +355 422 466 24

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.

Address: Rruga Komuna e Parisit, Tirana
Phone: +355 4 224 1573

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.

Address: St. Dervish Hima Nr.4, Tirana
Phone: +355 4 223 6394
Internet: www.fiorerestaurant.al

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.

Address: Rr. "Jul Variboba" Nr. 6, Tirana
Phone: +355 4 222 2632
Internet: www.greenhouse.al
Email: info@greenhouse.al

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.

Address: Rr. Komuna e Parisit, Tirana
Phone: +355 04 560 5381
Internet: www.basilicotirana.it
Email: info@basilicotirana.it

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.

Address: Rr. Papa Gjon Pali II, nr. 9, Tirana
Phone: +355 4 247190

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.

Address: Vesa Center, Rr. Abdyl Frasheri, Tirana
Phone: +355 69 4069 318
Internet: www.labohemeroofgarden.wordpress.com

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.

Address: Mustafa Qosja, Tirana

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.

Address: Str. 4 Shkurti, Tirana

Phone: + 355 4 2259 574

Internet: www.xheko-imperial.com

More Info: Located inside the Xheko Imperial Hotel

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.

Address: Rruga Papa Gjon Pali II, Tirana

Phone: +355 44504913

Internet: www.padam.al

Email: info@padam.al

CAFÉS



quinn.anya (image cropped)

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.

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.

Address: Rugga Abdyl Frasheri, Tirana

Phone: +355 69 977 9669

Internet: www.dangelo.al

Email: service@dangelo.al

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.

Address: Rr. Ibrahim Rugova 1, Tirana

Phone: +355 68 903 3304

Internet: www.pasticeriafranceze.com

Email: bukafranceze@gmail.com

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.

Address: Ded Gjon Luli, Tirana

Phone: +355 4 23 07 06

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.

Address: Rruga Ibrahim Rugova, Tirana

Phone: +355 69 993 8930

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.

Address: Ibrahim Rugova, Tirana
Phone: +355 696 737 945

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Francesco Crippa (image cropped)

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.

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.

Photo: Jag_cz/Shutterstock.com
Address: St Papa Gjon Pali II, Tirana
Phone: +355 44504913
Internet: www.padam.al
Email: info@padam.al

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.

Photo: Jag_cz/Shutterstock.com
Address: 38 Reshit Collaku str, Tirana
Phone: +355 4 223 79 55
Internet: www.brauhaus.al
Email: info@brauhaus.al
More Info: 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.

Photo: chasdesign/Shutterstock.com
Address: Rr.5 Maji, Tirana
Phone: +355 696 39 4189
Internet: www.moscowclub.al
Email: info@moscowclub.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.

Photo: iraua/Shutterstock.com

Address: Rruga, Tirana
Phone: +355 69 202 2792
More Info: Rruga "Pjeter Bogdani"

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.

Photo: Syda Productions/Shutterstock.com
Address: Shëtitörja Murat Toptani, Tirana
Phone: +355 68 609 1668

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.

Photo: g-stockstudio/Shutterstock.com
Address: Rr. Mustafa Matohiti, Tirana
Phone: +355 69 335 1654
Internet: www.meduzairishpub.com
Email: info@meduzairishpub.com

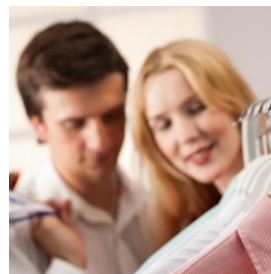
SHOPPING



Thomas Quine (image cropped)

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.

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.

Photo: Valeriy Velikov/Shutterstock.com
Address: Rruga Industriale, Tirana
Phone: +355 42 380 100
Internet: www.qtu.al
Email: info@qtu.al

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.

Photo: Tatiana Chekryzhova/Shutterstock.com
Address: Pazari I Ri, Tirana

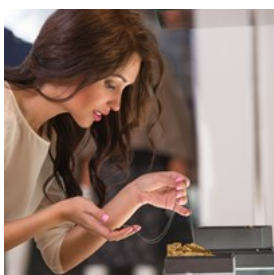
Sheraton Shopping Centre



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.

Photo: nenetus/Shutterstock.com
Address: Sheshi Italia, Tirana
Phone: +355 4 227 4707
Internet: www.sheratontiranahotel.com

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.

Photo: Milles Studio/Shutterstock.com
Address: Bulevardi Gjergj Fishta, Tirana

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.

Photo: Daniel Precht/Shutterstock.com
Address: Sheshi Skënderbej, Tirana
Phone: +355 4 222 62 56

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION



cameron lucida (image cropped)

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 Rinasi.

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.

Photo: Juan Garces

Address: Tirana International Airport, Tirana

Phone: +355 4 2381 600

Internet: 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.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair

Internet: www.tiranabuses.com

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.

Post



The main post office in Tirana is located at:

Photo: Andy Fuchs

Address: Rr. "Reshit Çollaku", Nr. 4, Tirana

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:

Photo: Gemma Garner

Address: Rruga Kongresi i Manastirit, Tirana

Phone: +355 4 234 2089

Telephone



Country code: +355 Area code: 04

Photo: Jardson Almeida

Electricity



220 volts, 50HZ AC

Photo: Stirling Tschan

Population

City: 610,070

Municipality: 800,986

Currency

1 Lek = 100 qindarka

Opening hours

Opening hours vary, but shops are generally open between 9am and 6pm. Some shops are closed on Saturdays while others are closed on Sundays.

Newspapers

Tirana Times

Albanian Daily News

Monitor

Albanian Mail

Emergency numbers

Police: 129

Ambulance: 127

Tourist information

Tourist Information Centre

Rr. Ded Gjo Luli 4, Tirana

Opening Hours:

11am-5pm, Sat 9am-2pm

infotourism@tirana.gov.al



Ali Guçia	C1 D1 D2	Ruga Bardhyl	D1	Ruga Mine Peza	A1 A2 B1 B2
Ali Visha	D3	Ruga Budi	D3	Ruga Muhamet Gjollështa	A3
Bulevardi Dëshmoet e Kombit	B1 C2 C3	Ruga Dervish Hekall	D1	Ruga Myslym Shyri	B3
Bulevardi Shqipëria e Re	B3 D3	Ruga e Barrikadave	C1 C2	Ruga N Erasheti	A2
Bulevardi Zhan d'Ark	A3 B3 D2 D3	Ruga e Fabrikës së Këpucëve	A1	Ruga O Mima	C4 D4
Deshmoret e 4 Shkurtit	C3 C4	Ruga e Kavajës	A2 A3	Ruga Pjeter Bogdani	B3
Gj Buzuku	C1	Ruga Ferit Xhajko	C1	Ruga Qemal Stafa	D2
Islam Alla	B2 B3	Ruga Gjon Muzaka	A2 B2	Ruga Qyteti i Studentave	D3 D4
K Dreni	B2	Ruga Hoxha Tasim	D2	Ruga Sami Frasheri	B4
K Topia	D4	Ruga Hysni Dalliu	B1	Ruga Siri Kodra	C1
L Gurakuqi	C2	Ruga Ismail Qemali	B4 C4	Ruga Skënderbeut	A2
M Bjocal	B2	Ruga Jordan Misja	B1	Ruga Tefta Tashko	D2
M Duri	B2	Ruga Komuna e Parisit	A4 B3	Ruga Vaso Pasha	B4
M Ulqinaku	A2 B3	Ruga Kongresi i Përmrtit	A2 B2	S Pasha	B2
N Lena	A3	Ruga L Dukaglini	C3	Sh Ishml	D3
Punëtorët e Rilindjes	C2 D3	Ruga Labinoti	D3 D4	Sheshi Skenderbej	C2
Ruga 4 Dëshmorët	C1 D1	Ruga M Muco	B2	Shygyri Berxolli	B2 B3
Ruga Ali Demi	D3	Ruga Margarita Tutulani	B4	Sotir Kolea	D4
Ruga Asim Vokshi	B2	Ruga Migësia	B4 C4	Thepas Ziko	D1
Ruga Bajram Curri	C1 C2	Ruga Mihal Grameno	D3		