



Country Profile: Albania

Albania is a parliamentary democracy that is transforming its economy into a market-oriented system. Albania's per capita income is among the lowest in Europe, but economic conditions in the country are steadily improving. Tourist facilities are not highly developed in much of the country, and though Albania's economic integration into European Union markets is slowly underway, many of the goods and services taken for granted in other European countries are not yet available. Hotel accommodations are limited outside of major cities. Read the Department of State [Background Notes](#) on Albania for additional information.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Name:	Albania
Continent:	Europe
Capital City:	Tirana
Boundary Countries:	Montenegro, Kosovo, Macedonia, Greece
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	ABC Family Health Center, Orthodox Diagnostic Center, UFO Dental Clinic
Main Cities:	Tirana, Shkoder, Durrës, Elbasan, Korce, Vlore, Sarandë, Shengjin
Country Size:	28,748 sq km
Population:	3,581,655

COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	Albanian (official - derived from Tosk dialect), Greek, Vlach, Romani, Slavic dialects
Currency:	lek (ALL) note: the plural of lek is leke
Predominant Religions:	Muslim 70%, Albanian Orthodox 20%, Roman Catholic 10%. Note: percentages are estimates; there are no available current statistics on religious affiliation; all mosques and churches were closed in 1967 and religious observances prohibited; in November 1990, Albania began allowing private religious practice
National Holidays:	Independence Day, 28 November (1912)
Economic Status:	Lagging behind its Balkan neighbors, Albania is making the difficult transition to a more modern open-market economy.
Security:	General Staff Headquarters, Land Forces Command (Army), Naval Forces Command, Air Defense Command, Logistics Command, Training and Doctrine Command
US Presence:	U.S. Embassy Tirana Rruga Elbasanit 103 Tirana, Albania Telephone: (355)(4) 2247285 Facsimile: (355)(4) 2232222 The U.S. Embassy web site is http://tirana.usembassy.gov/ .
Major Airports:	Airports: 11, Airports w/paved runways: 3

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