



# Tour Information



## Tirana to Corfu





## Passports

You may need to renew your British Passport if you are travelling to an EU country. **Please ensure your passport is less than 10 years old (even if it has 3 months or more left on it) and has at least 3 months validity remaining from the date of travel.**

For more information, please visit: [passport checker](#)

## Visas

If you're a tourist, you do not need a visa for short trips to most EU countries. You'll be able to stay for up to 90 days in any 180-day period.

As a tourist visiting from the UK, you do not need a visa for short trips to Albania. You'll be able to stay for up to 90 days in any 180-day period. For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

For further information, please check here: [travel to the EU](#)

Embassy of Albania: 33 St. George's Drive, Westminster, London SW1V 4DG.  
Tel: 020 7828 8897.

Greek Consulate: 1A Holland Park, London W11 3TP. Tel: 020 7221 6467



## Tickets

You will be sent an e-ticket, which shows your flight reference number, with your final departure documents.

### British Airways

You can check-in at the airport or online before travelling. Online check-in opens 24 hours prior to the scheduled departure time, you will also be able to book a seat free of charge at this point.

For more information, please visit: [www.britishairways.com](#)

### EasyJet

You **must** check-in online and print out your boarding passes or download them onto your phone before travelling. Checking in online also

provides the opportunity for you to pre-book seats, if you wish, at an additional cost.

For more information, please visit:

[www.easyjet.com](#)

Please check that the details on your documentation are accurate and that all names are spelt correctly and match the names on your passport. Your flight ticket is non-transferable and non-refundable. No refund can be given for non-used portions.



## Baggage Allowance

With British Airways your ticket includes one hold bag of up to 23kg plus one cabin bag no bigger than 56 x 45x 25cm including handles, pockets and wheels, and a personal bag (handbag or computer case) no bigger than 45 x 36 x 20cm including handles, pockets and wheels.

For more information, visit

[www.britishairways.com](#)

Your EasyJet ticket includes one hold bag of up to 23kg plus **one cabin bag that can fit under the seat in front of you**, (maximum size 45 x 36 x 20cm, including any handles or wheels).

<http://www.easyjet.com/en/planning/baggage>

## Transfers

On arrival at Tirana Airport exit the luggage hall and look for a Travel Editions sign.

## Special Requests

If you haven't done so already, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible.

## Border Control

At border control, you may need to show a return or onward ticket, show you have enough money for your stay, use separate lanes from EU, EEA when queuing.

## Taking food and drink into EU countries

You are not able to take meat, milk or products containing them into EU countries



## Accommodation

### Lot Boutique Hotel, Tirana

Centrally located in Tirana and just 14kms from Tirana Airport, the five-star Lot Boutique Hotel offers comfortable modern rooms as well as easy access on foot to the sites of Tirana. Rooms have private bathroom facilities with bath or shower, air-conditioning, TV, telephone and free wi-fi.

<https://lot-hotel-tirana.com/>

### Hotel Portik, Berat

The four-star Hotel Portik is well located and offers a modern design with comfortable spacious bedrooms, and private bathroom facilities with shower, air-conditioning, TV, wi-fi and telephone.

For more information, please visit:

<https://portikhotel.al/>

### Hotel Agimi, Saranda

Agimi Hotel features air-conditioned rooms, each with a furnished balcony and LCD satellite TV. An on-site bar and restaurant, serving Mediterranean and Albanian cuisine is set on a large terrace overlooking the sea. The Promenade, leading to the centre of Saranda, is 200 metres away.

For more information, please visit:

<https://hotelagimi.com/>

### Kontokali Bay Resort Hotel, Corfu

The five-star Kontokali Bay Spa Hotel, located on the lush Kontokali Peninsula, offers very comfortable rooms and a magnificent setting. Facilities include an indoor and outdoor pool, Spa and wellness centre, lobby Bar, beach Bar and a choice of restaurants. The rooms all include private bathroom facilities, safe, hairdryer, TV, free wi-fi, air-conditioning, telephone, minibar and tea/coffee making facilities. A free bottle of water is also provided daily.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.kontokalibay.gr/>



## Food and drink

### Albania

Albania's food is quite heavily meat based, particularly lamb and beef, cooked in a typically

Middle Eastern style. Among the most common dishes in Albania are romsteak (patties made of minced meat), qofte (meat balls) and shishqebap (sheesh kababs). A number of other meat-based dishes are also popular; these include rosto me salcë kosi (roast beef with sour cream), fërges (beef stew), and çonlek (a meat stew with onions). The country grows a lot of olives, citrus fruits and grapes, and all appear prominently in local menus.

### Corfu

The standard of food in Greece and her islands is excellent and offers a remarkable variety of freshly prepared and very tasty dishes, many of which use locally grown products and locally produced olive oil. When eating out in Greece the locals nearly always eat 'Mezedes' style. This means ordering several dishes, starters and/or main plates, whatever takes your fancy, to put in the middle of the table for all to share. It's a very sociable way to eat and a great way of tasting lots of different dishes! When ordering fish in Greece you will find the price on the menu relates to a cost per kilo. Don't be put off by this, the fish you want will be weighed in front of you so you know what you will pay.



## Drink

### Albania

Albania produces, like every other Mediterranean land, lots of wine; white and reds, with the former usually better than the latter; in addition, there are fruit liqueurs of different types, uzo - an aniseed-flavoured liqueur, and brandies locally called konjak and raki.

### Corfu

Nearly all tavernas sell their own 'open' wine, known as village wine. Other local drinks are ouzo, tsipoura, and metaxa. Tsipoura is the local firewater, distilled from the residue of the grapes after making wine.

**Meals included in the price of your holiday are:**

**Breakfast** – daily.

**Dinner** – 3 dinners



## Destination

### Albania

Albania's stunning mountain scenery, crumbling castles, boisterous capital and dreamy beaches rival any in the Mediterranean and continue to enchant. Albania is bounded by Montenegro to the northwest, Kosovo to the northeast, North Macedonia to the east, Greece to the southeast and south, and the Adriatic and Ionian seas to the west and southwest, respectively. Albania's immediate western neighbour, Italy, lies some 50 miles (80 km) across the Adriatic Sea. Albania has a mountainous geography. About three-fourths of its territory consists of mountains and hills with elevations of more than 650 feet (200 metres) above sea level; the remainder consists of coastal and alluvial lowlands.

### Corfu

Corfu is the second largest of the Ionian Islands, and, including its small satellite islands, forms the northwesternmost part of Greece. Two high and well-defined mountain ranges divide the island into three districts, of which the northern is mountainous, the central undulating, and the southern low-lying. The earliest reference to Corfu is the Mycenaean Greek word ko-ro-ku-ra-i-jo ("man from Kerkyra") in 1300 BC. Christianity arrived in Corfu early; two disciples of Saint Paul, Jason of Tarsus and Sosipatrus of Patras, taught the Gospel, and according to tradition the city of Corfu and much of the island converted to Christianity. Their relics were housed in the old cathedral (at the site of the current Old Fortress, before a dedicated church was built for them c. 100.

#### Details of places of interest included in the tour:

### Tirana

Lively colourful Tirana is the beating heart of Albania, where this tiny nation's hopes and dreams coalesce into a vibrant whirl of traffic, brash consumerism, and unfettered fun. Having undergone a transformation of extraordinary proportions since awaking from its communist slumber in the early 1990s, Tirana's centre is now unrecognisable, with buildings painted in primary

colours, and public squares and pedestrianised streets that are a pleasure to wander.

### BunkArt 2

Bunk'art reconstructs the history of the Albanian Ministry of Internal Affairs from 1912 to 1991 and reveals the secrets of "Sigurimi", the political police that was the harsh persecution weapon used by the regime of Enver Hoxha. Bunk'art 2 is the first major video museum exhibition dedicated to the victims of communist terror.

### Apollonia

The ruins of the ancient Illyrian city of Apollonia sit on a remote hilltop location some 12km west of the city of Fier. While definitely one of Albania's most important ancient sites, the ruins have fairly minimal descriptions and can be quite hard to piece together, though the onsite Apollonia Museum complex is excellent, and does much to make up for the lack of context in the archaeological site itself.

### Berat

This historic UNESCO city, the pride of Albanian architecture, is located 120 KM from Tirana. The city forms a wonderful combination of eastern and western cultures, costumes, traditions and is a testament to the country's tradition of religious harmony.

### Gjirokaster

The city of Gjirokaster is part of the UNESCO World Heritage List and is one of the most attractive tourist sites of the country. Perched on the eastern side of the Wide Mountain, the city began as a fourth century castle, which is today the greatest castle in the whole country. Inside the fortress is the Museum of Weapons, where weapons of different periods up until the Second World War are displayed. Gjirokastra is known as 'The City of Stone'.

### Gjirokaster Castle

The fort sits on top of a hill that towers over the surrounding town making it a striking monument to the grandeur of the past. The site continued to operate as a prison until 1968, and now the castle complex is operated as a historical site,

including an arms museum devoted to the weapons of Albania's independence. Even outside of the museum proper the castles halls are sprinkled with abandoned World War II tanks, and there is even an American fighter plane that was shot down during the war that sits next to one of the towers as a reminder of the struggle against Western influence.

### **Butrint, Albania**

The ancient ruins Butrint, a Greek Roman site and a listed UNESCO World Heritage Centre, and its surrounds are famed for its size, beauty and tranquillity. It has a fantastic natural setting which is part of a 29-sq-km national park. The remains – one of Albania's finest – are a microcosm of Mediterranean history. The earliest archaeological evidence of settled occupation here dates to between the 10th and 8th centuries BC, although some claim that there is earlier evidence of habitation dating from the 12th century BC.

### **Lekursi Castle**

Lekursi Castle was built in the early 16th century by Sultan Suleymani and is located on the top of a hill in Lëkurës looking directly over Saranda. It's located about 3-4km away from the centre of Sarande. The castle was initially built to protect the city from invaders accessing the coastline by boat. From the castle you have great views of Corfu and Ksamil islands.

### **Corfu Town**

Corfu Town is the capital of Corfu, one of the most beautiful and elegant towns in Greece. It is the principal port of the island and one of the largest and most populated towns of the Ionian Islands. Built on a promontory, the town displays a unique architecture which is strongly influenced by the different dominations; Sicilian, Venetian, French and English. From those times, Corfu Town has kept many of its imposing buildings, elegant mansions, superb palaces, French-style flowered squares and beautiful fortresses. Many interesting monuments adorn Corfu Town, such as the Old and the New Venetian Fortresses, the Town Hall Square, the Square of the Saints, the

Ionian Academy and the Palace of Saint Michael and Saint Georges. The town is filled with beautiful Venetian neighbourhoods such as the Kanoni area where the ruins of the Ancient city are, or the beautiful area of Mandouki.

For more information about Corfu Town, please visit:

<https://www.greeka.com/ionian/corfu/corfu-villages/corfu-town.htm>

### **Tour manager**

Your Tour Manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operates according to plan. If you have any problems or questions, please see him/her immediately and they will do their utmost to resolve any issues



## The Basics

**Climate** – The weather in both Albania and Greece at this time of year is likely to be pleasant but can still be cool at times and there might be the chance of the odd shower. Our best advice is to come prepared. Layers are useful.

**Time** – Summer or winter, Greece is 2 hours ahead of the UK. Albania is 1 hour ahead of the UK.

**Language** – Albanian/Greek

**Religion** – The most practised religion in Albania is Islam and in Greece, Greek Orthodox.

### Currency

**Albania** currency is Leke (LEK) £1 = 145 Leke. Notes are in denominations of LEK 5000, 2000, 1000, 500, 200. Coins are in denominations of LEK 100, 50, 20, 10, 5, 1. The import and export of local currency is prohibited. Currency can be very easily exchanged in Albania at Bureau de Change and Banks with competitive rates of exchange. The euro is widely accepted in Albania.

### Albania

In Albania credit cards are accepted only by top-of-the-range hotels and restaurants.

**Greece** currency is Euro. €1 = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

**Credit cards** – Credit cards are accepted in most places in Greece, but it is best to check first in restaurants and shops that they do accept credit cards, if you wish to pay by card. Varying amounts of commission can be charged for credit card payments and you may like to check these with your credit card supplier before travel.

**Electricity** – 220 volt, two-pin continental plug in Greece and in Albania 230 volt, two-pin continental plug.

**Drinking water** – **Albanian** tap water is treated and is safe for brushing teeth or cooking and in some places good for drinking. Nevertheless, most of the Albanians drink bottled water so we advise you do the same. Bottled water is reasonably priced and available everywhere.

**In Greece** you can drink the tap water in most places, but this is not drinkable at the hotel, but

you will be supplied with a bottle of water daily. Like Albania water is readily available to buy in all the local shops and very reasonable priced.

**Plumbing** - Unless there is information to the contrary, **please do not put toilet paper down the toilet** in either country. This is common practice due to the narrowness of the waste pipes. Please dispose of the paper in the bins provided, which will be regularly emptied by the hotel.

**Telephones/mobiles** – You should be able to use your mobile phone in both Albania and Greece, depending on your operator and contract. **Please note, using a UK mobile in Albania is expensive. Check costs with your provider before travel, you may be able to buy a cheap add on package specifically for Albania.** If you are calling the UK from either Albania or Greece, you will need to prefix the number with the international dialling code 0044. Check with your phone operator to find out about roaming charges levied by your provider on your specific phone package.

**Walking shoes** – for visits to archaeological sites, which can be a little rocky underfoot, we recommend that you take good shoes/trainers which have good gripping soles.



## Health

### Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a doctor.

**Keep any receipts for insurance claims.**



## Hospital

Your Tour Manager/hotel reception will assist if you need to visit a hospital during your stay.

**Keep any receipts for insurance claims.**

### General Health Advice

We suggest you take a good supply of your own individual medicines with you and always keep some in your hand luggage in case you get delayed, or your luggage goes astray. General-purpose supplies for bites, stings, or scratches, and your usual medication for headaches, or stomach upsets are always recommended. Oral re-hydration sachets are excellent for topping up salt and glucose levels.

Visit the NHS Fit for Travel website for more generally information specific to the country you are visiting – [www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk)

### Sun Protection

Always ensure you take sufficient sun protection and moisturiser. A sun hat and sunglasses are also advisable.

### Inoculations

No compulsory vaccinations are required for travel in Albania or Greece.



## Insurance

### European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

Before you travel, make sure you've got a valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or travel insurance with health cover. The EHIC is not valid in Albania, it is in Greece.

You may not have access to free emergency medical treatment and could be charged for your healthcare if you do not have an EHIC or GHIC when visiting an EU country medical facility, or travel insurance with full healthcare cover for Albania. If you have an EHIC it will still be valid while it remains in date.

Your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) will be valid if you're travelling to an EU country.

For more information about the EHIC please visit:

<https://www.ehic.org.uk>

### Travel Insurance

**As the EHIC card is not valid in Albania, we strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad.**

We strongly recommend that you take out an If you require medical assistance whilst abroad it is essential that you contact the emergency number of your insurance company to advise them of the situation. You will **NOT** be covered for any claim unless this procedure is carried out. Your insurance company will then decide on the best course of action whilst in resort.



## Emergencies

**Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:**

00 44 20 7251 0045 (Mon-Fri 1000 - 1600),

Outside the above hours please telephone our emergency staff on:

00 44 7841 023807 or 00 44 7714 216664 or 00 44 7952 2371566

**PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.**

**If you are calling a Greek number from a UK mobile, you should prefix the number with the Greek international dialling code 0030.**

If you find that you need consular assistance during your holiday:

British Embassy Albania

Rruga Skenderbeg 12

Tirana

Albania

Tel: +355 4 2 34973

Email: [british.embassytirana@fco.gov.uk](mailto:british.embassytirana@fco.gov.uk)

Open to the public - by appointment only

British Vice-Consulate Corfu

Mantzarou 18,

491 00,

Corfu

Greece

Tel: +30 26610 30055

Fax: +30 26610 37995

Monday to Friday 0800-1500

In an emergency outside these hours please call the British Embassy Athens switchboard number: +30 210 7272600.

Open to the public by appointment Tuesday to Thursday 0900-1300.

Please note that an appointment is not necessary for emergency cases requiring consular assistance.

Travel Editions

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