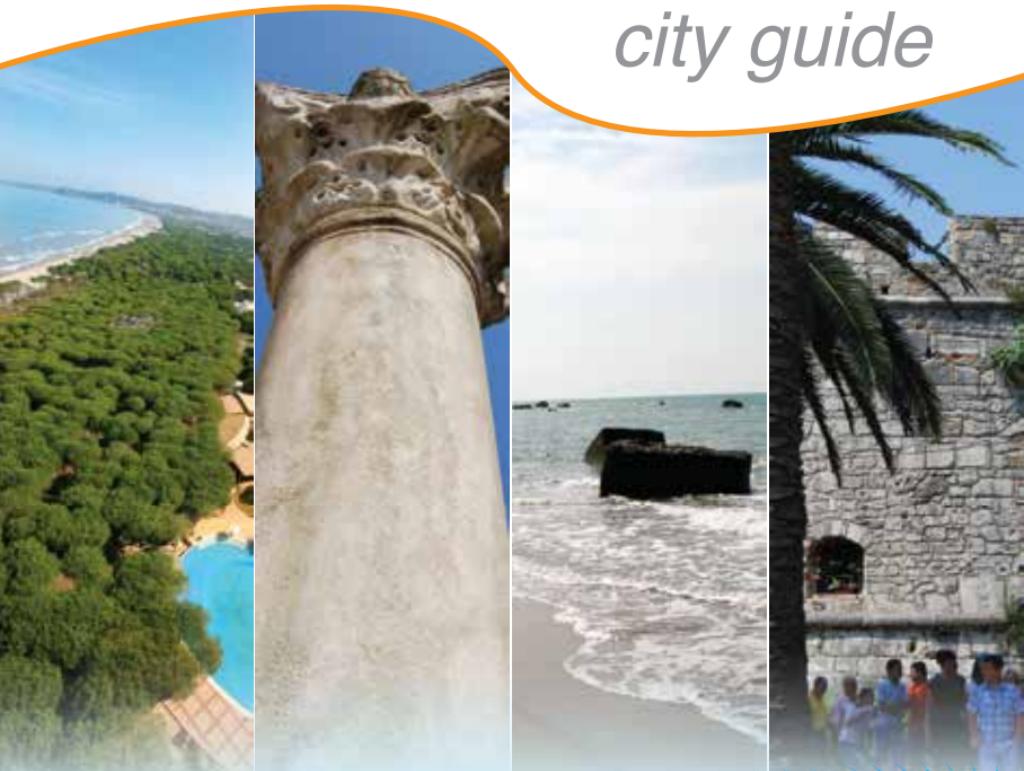


# Durrës

city guide



*Durrës, qyteti ku deti lag Antikitetin!*

*Durrës, the city where the sea bathes Antiquity!*



TUR.GRATE2 project "InteGRATED Actions to promote sustainable ToURist development"

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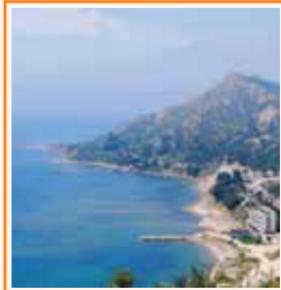
Projekti TUR.GRATE2 "Aksione të integruar për zhvillimin e turizmit të qendrueshëm"

është bashkëfinancuar nga Komuniteti Europian, Instrument i para aderimit IPA.



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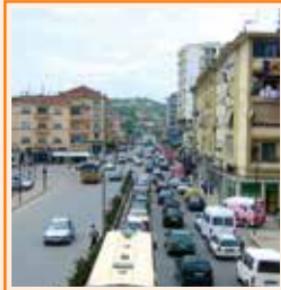


## Introducing Durres

Welcome to Durres, the city which nowadays is located exactly on the ancient ruins of the ancient Epidamnos.

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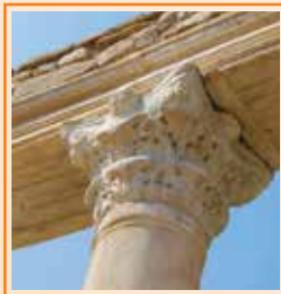


## Arriving in Durres

Durres is the biggest sea port city in Albania, only 30 minutes drive from the capital, Tirana and well connected with other major cities.

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## Archaeology

There is a joke for children in the city: "if you dig deep, you can get to any temple!".

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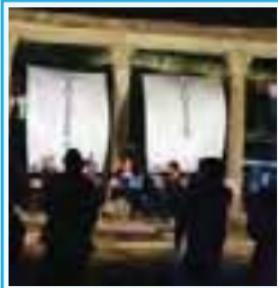


## The amphitheatre

The Amphitheatre of Durres, built in the 2nd century BC, figures amongst the largest monuments of the Antiquity.

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## cultural events



### Annual events

Two of the International recognized activities are The International Festival of Modern and Contemporary Dance & The International Film Festival of Durrës.

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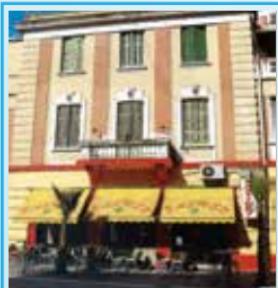


### Where to stay

Because of its heritage and mix of cultures, Durres is one of those exotic cities where impressive moments are all around you, even if you stay in all day.

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## Restaurant



### What to eat

The local Albanian cuisine has been mainly influenced by Turkish dishes, but what you would see everywhere is Italian styled and seafood restaurants.

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## Night life

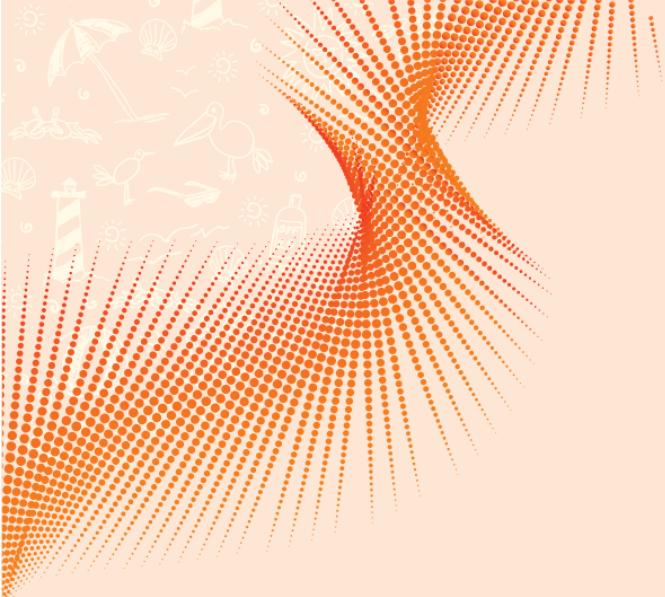


### Cafes and Clubs

You can enjoy live music in several pubs or clubs. The Pavarësia str. offers the best mixture of Durres entertainment.

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# introducing durrës



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for Pre-Accession Assistance



## Dear Guests,

Welcome to Durres, the city which nowadays is located exactly on the ancient ruins of the ancient Epidamnos. There is even a joke told to children in the city: "if you dig deep, you can get to any temple". This is Durres: the most ancient and one of the most strategically important cities of Albania. It is at the heart of the county, 33 km (20 miles) west of the capital, Tirana. Geographically it is at the Adriatic's shallowest point, opposite the Italian ports of Bari (300 km away) and Brindisi (200 km away).

Some recognized buildings in Durrës for their architecture and design are the city Library Hall, the Cultural Center which includes the Aleksander Moisiu theater, the Estrada Theater, the Puppets theater, the Philharmonic Orchestra Hall, etc. There are also two main museums. The Archaeological Museum and the Museum of History.

The city's sea beaches are also a popular destination for many foreign and local tourists, with an estimated 600,000 tourists visiting annually. Many Albanians from Tirana spend their summer vacations and weekends on the blue waters of Durrës. One way you can travel from Tirana is train, for a ticket charge of 50 leke (about US\$ 0.40). There are roughly ten round trips a day on various timeframes.

As in other parts of Albania, numerous



- **Fishing at Vollga**

concrete bunkers built under the old dictatorship are situated in and around Durrës. They can be found every 100 to 150 meters along the city's seaside attractions. They were built to defend the country from a supposed foreign attack from either the West or the Warsaw Pact which never happened; Albania now has an estimated 700,000 bunkers.

The largest ancient amphitheatre in the Balkans is located in the city center close to the harbour.

Don't worry much about rain! It doesn't happen here often. Durrës has a generally Mediterranean climate. The average temperature varies from a low of 5°C in January to a high of 28°C in July and

August. The driest months are June, July and August, each with less than 1cm of precipitation on average, while the rest of the year sees monthly precipitation over 2cm.

For you who want to sail to Durres, its coordinates are 41.33°N, 19.45°E. It has a population of around 195,000 inhabitants. The city and its harbor is located on the eastern side of the Adriatic Sea. The beaches of Durrës are local hotspots for many Albanians and are an important part of tourism in Albania.

In ancient times it was known by the Illyrian name Epidamnos, then with the Greek name Dyrrachion, in Roman times as Dyrrachium or Dyrrhachium, and to the Italians as Durazzo. In Slavic languages, the city is named Drac.

Durres was founded around 627 BC as Epidamnos by Corcyrean (inhabitants of Corfu) and Corinthian (inhabitants of Corinth) colonists on the settlement of the Illyrian Taulant tribe. Epidamnos first appears on coins of the 5th century BC, and it was part of the kingdoms of Cassander and Pyrrhus. In 229 BC, the

Romans seized the city and changed its name to Dyrrachium. However, the city maintained a semi-autonomy and was turned into a Roman colony. The Romans made use of it as a base for forces in Greece and the Balkans; the Via Egnatia had a terminus here. In 48 BC Pompey was based at Dyrrachium and beat off an attack by Julius Caesar. Around 20 BC, the Illyrians gained a higher political status with several rising to the position of emperor.

Durrës was a critical city in the Albanian national liberation movement during the 1878-1881 and 1910-1912. Ismail Qemali raised the Albanian flag on November 26, 1912 but the city was captured by Serbian armies three days later. The Serbs stayed in Durrës until 1913. On March 7, 1913, Durrës became the capital of Albania, until 1920 when the capital was changed to Tirana.

During the rule of king Zog, the city experienced an economic boom due to Italian foreign capital investments. An earthquake in 1926 damaged some of the infrastructure which had to be



• **Durres**

- **Founded 627 BC - Number of Population 195,000 - Ancient name Epidamnos**

rebuilt. It was during this restructuring that the city gained its more modern appearance.

After World War II the city experienced another period of growth and became more industrialized.

Today the city is an important link to

Western Europe due to its strategic seaport and short distance to main Italian port cities, such as Bari. (Please see for more information at the pages 'How to arrive in Durres').

The city's beaches are also very vibrant attractions for many foreign

and local tourists. Many Albanians from Tirana spend their summer vacations on the beaches of Durrës. Due to the recent construction of a highway linking Tirana and Durrës, the travel time is approximately only 30 minutes.

## POPULATION

### ► Last registration

31 July 2007

### ► Position within the country

The second biggest city

On December 2013 the city of Durres had a population of over 208,026, so it officially become the second biggest city in the country after Tirana.

The population in the city and its environs has continuously changed origin many times. The city proper and its old quartiers are inhabited by native people, who are the direct descendants of old families from Durres. After 1990, the city of Durres attracted many people coming mainly from the northern and north-eastern parts of the country. This phenomenon contributed not only to the increase of the population but also to the urbanization of its surrounding areas.



- *Old men playing cards beside the castle*

# Albania's second biggest city

## LANGUAGE

Old native people: Gheg dialect of Central Albania

The old native population of Durres speaks the Gheg dialect of Central Albania. However, in the wake of the new people's ar-

rivals after 1990, many dialects and sub-dialects of the Gheg spoken in the North and north-east of the country are used in the city now. Even Tosk dialects are used in the city, although somewhat less than Gheg.

## RELIGION

Most of the present day population of Durres is Muslim. The believers of this religion pertain to the Sunni section, and some are Bektashi, the latter coming from south of Albania. Historically speaking, there has always been an important Christian Community in the city. This has been augmented by the orthodox community coming from dif-

ferent areas. The Catholic Christians of the city have a peculiar and long history. They are descendants of the Arberia forefathers from the times of Scanderbeg.



• *The Archaeological Museum*

## ECONOMY

The economy of Durres has been oriented towards tourism, especially in the past ten years. Many luxurious hotels have been built and they are available to tourist and holiday-makers from Albania and the region, especially from Kosovo and Macedonia. Lately, souvenir manufacturing has started to develop as a result of the tourist market. The city port plays a very important part in the city's economy with its great goods processing capacity.

## INDUSTRY

The gigantic plants and factories of the former communist regime were superseded by the light food industry, especially the agro-processing industry for daily consumption products. In order to meet the demands of the population growth and the increasing number of the tourists and holiday-makers who flood the city in the summer, the flour, meat and cooking oil processing industry and the one producing finished and semi-finished food products have developed.







# arriving in durrës



# Arriving in durrës

The TUR.GRATE2 project is co-funded by the European Union, Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance



## All roads lead to Durrës

It is often said that “all roads lead to Rome,” and in fact, they once did. But at the moment that you are in Albania, it is for sure that all roads will lead you to Durres!

Durres is the biggest port city in Albania, just 30 minutes by car from the capital, Tirana. Durres is well connected by a highway with the major cities of South-West Albania like Vlore, Fier and with Elbasan.



- Map of Albania; Durrës, Albania's Westcoast

## BY AIR

Tirana International Airport Nënë Tereza is Albania's only functional international airport. It is commonly known as Rinas International Airport, as it is located about 35 kilometres southeast of Durres in the village of Rinas.

You can take a taxi from the Airport, to go to Durres.

Tirana Airport taxi service is provided by ATEx shpk. The service is profes-

sional, courteous and personal, and at affordable prices, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

### ► Note ✉

We would recommend that passengers use only licensed taxis, which are grey with a red ATEx logo and the airport logo on both sides of the vehicle. At the

- Tirana International Airport Nënë Tereza



airport, these taxis park in front of the terminal.

## ① Contact

Phone: +355 4 2256 344, +355 4 2233 419  
Mobile: +355 68 20 49598, +355 69 40 00030,  
+355 67 20 75588

Or you can use the Rinas Express which operates 12 hours (6 am to 6 pm) as an hourly bus service between the Airport and the National Museum in the centre of Tirana. The single fare is 250 Albanian Lek. From Tirana you can easily get a public transportation bus, located in front of the Train Station at "Zogu I" Blv.

## ➲ BY ROAD ON YOUR OWN CAR

Durres is well-connected by motorway to Tirana and all the other cities in the country.

Distances:

- Tirana-Durres (35 km) – It takes about 30 minutes to arrive in Durres
- Shkodra-Durres (140 km) – It takes about 1 and half an hour
- Kukes-Durres (222 km) – It takes now, at least 6 hours. The Albanian Government is constructing one of the biggest and most important highways for Albania, to connect Durres with Kukes (the closest Albanian city with Kosovo). This highway is now under construction, and it will be available within 2009. Driving throughout this highway, it will not take more than 3 hours to arrive in Durres.
- Korca-Durres (209 km)
- Pogradec-Durres (168 km)



• A ferry coming in Durrës

- Gjirokastra-Durres (202 km)

## ➲ BY ROAD ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Regular bus and mini-bus lines are available from early morning to late hours of night for travelers who want to go to Durres from Tirana, Fier, Gjirokastra, Korca, Vlora, Saranda, Shkodra. The main bus station is located in front of the Train Station on the city's entrance.

## ➲ BY TRAIN

(From London to Durres/From Paris to Durres/From each European capital to Durres)

Travel from London to Paris by Eurostar, leaving London St Pancras at 13:37 and arriving in Paris Gare du Nord at 17:08. By all means take an earlier Eurostar if it has cheaper seats available or if you'd like to spend some time in Paris. Cross Paris by métro to the Gare de Bercy. Travel from Paris to Bologna overnight on the 'Palatino', leaving Paris at 18:52

# Arriving in durrës



• One of the many beaches of Durrës

and arriving in Bologna at 05:58 next morning. The Palatino has sleeping-cars with 1, 2 & 3-bed rooms, modern 4-berth 'comfort' couchette and standard 6-berth couchettes.

If you are traveling from any other capital of Europe, please check for all details at [www.eurostar.com](http://www.eurostar.com).

Your first destination should be Bologna Centrale.

(Today, "Bologna Centrale, or "Bologna Central Station" is the fifth-largest passengers traffic in Italy (about 58,000,000 passengers per year) and one of the most important transit stations in Italy, if you are entering in this country by train.

It is, however, one of the first for traffic volume, being tied with Rome Termini Station for train traffic (about 800 trains/day) because it is the principal railway junction of Italy).

At the time you are there, please follow the information below:

- Travel from Bologna to Bari on a modern, air-conditioned Eurostar City train, leaving Bologna at 08:56 and arriving in Bari at 14:51. In Bari, it's a reasonable 25 minutes walk across town to the ferry terminal near the old city, or you can take a taxi. Bari's old town is well worth a wander, it was the birthplace of St Nicholas (Santa Claus, no less!).

## ► Note ✉

Book the Bologna to Bari train at [www.trenitalia.com](http://www.trenitalia.com). You pay by credit card and simply quote your reservation reference to the conductor on the train.

- Sail from Bari to Durrës in Albania on the overnight Tirrenia Line (formerly Adriatica Line) passenger ship. The ship sails daily from Bari ferry terminal at 23:00, arriving in Durrës at 08:00 next morning. A range of comfortable cabins is available. 🚢
- Alternatively, other smaller companies also sail overnight Bari-Durrës 3-5 times per week, to a similar schedule. Another option is [www.venezialines.com](http://www.venezialines.com), who operate fast ferries from Bari to Durrës in only 3 hours 30 minutes, but these may leave too early for train connections, or get you to Durrës late at night, so see what's available.

## ► Note ✉

If you prefer to spend your travelling hours by ship, instead of train, we recommend you to take the first train

from Bologna to Ancona. You can take any ship from Ancona, to Durres (From Ancona to Durres, 3 weekly departure (Tue – Thu – Sat at 19.00 hrs). For more information please visit: Ferries to Albania 2009 <http://209.85.129.132>

## From Tirana, to Durres 🚅

There are eight trains a day from Durres to Tiranë (Tirana), see the timetable below. The 09:50 from Durres will get you to Tirana at 10:49.

## Tiranë - Durrës 🚅

Tiranë	depart	05:55	07:25	08:30	
		14:10	14:45	16:20	20:00
Durrës	arrive		06:53	08:20	09:28
		15:08	15:42	17:17	20:57



- “Dëshmorët” Str, one of the Durrës main entries





# culture & events

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by the European Union, Instrument  
for Pre-Accession Assistance





- Built in the 2nd century BC, the amphitheatre is the biggest in the Balkan Peninsula



## Archaeology in Durrës

There is even a joke told to children in the city: "if you dig deep, you can get to any temple".

Durres is as much a cultural hub as it is a tourist destination. While the city presents ample opportunity for enjoying the dazzling combination of sun and sand, its archaeological treasures offer a glimpse into the city's rich history. The city nowadays is located exactly on the ancient ruins.

### THE ROMAN AMPHITHEATRE

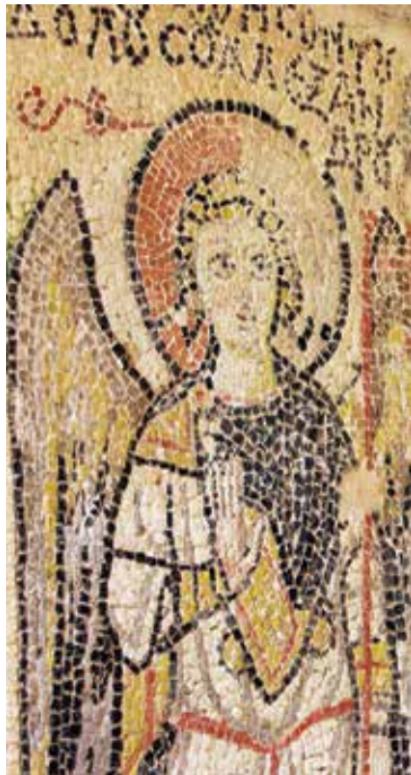
Time for visits: Mon-Fri, from 9 am – 16.00 p.m  
Ticket's Price: 3 Euros

The Amphitheatre of Durres, built in the 2nd century BC, figures amongst the largest monuments of the Antiquity.

It is the only monument of this type on Albanian territory. The amphitheatre is situated in the center of the city of Durres, the main port of Albania, at 35 km distance from the Capital. Founding of Durres, a city mentioned by writers and historians, dates back to 627 BC. The monument has the shape of an ellipse with the 132.4 m x 113.2 m dimensions. The size of the arena is 61.4 m x 42.2 m, and it is 20 m high. Only one third of the amphitheatre was excavated during the archaeological research in the 1960s. The major part of the monument is built upon a footprint in the hill. Another part, excavated in the 1960s, is supported by annular and radial galleries on various levels. In the 5th century AD, the amphitheatre ceased to be used in accordance with its main function (that is, gladiators' combats). In the 6th century a mortuary chapel, dedicated to Saint Asti, the first Bishop and martyr of Durres,

was built on top of the amphitheatre. The chapel, famous for its mosaics, is significant as a testimony to the origins of Christianity in the city of Durres. The amphitheatre suffered from looting. Today, a part of the arena is occupied by contemporary houses. However, restoration and rehabilitation projects have been prepared in order to integrate this significant landmark in the overall city development. Being surrounded by other important archaeological sites of the city, situated near the Archaeological Museum which displays a large number of valuable archaeological findings, the amphitheatre will play a major role in the future of cultural tourism in Albania.

- ▶ The monument has the shape of an ellipse with the 132.4 m x 113.2 m dimensions
- ▶ The size of the arena is 61.4 m x 42.2 m, and it is 20 m high.
- ▶ Only one third of the amphitheatre is discovered, excavated during the archaeological research in the '60s



• *The unique chapel inside the amphitheatre*

## THE AMPHITHEATER CHAPEL

There is a very unique chapel inside the famous amphitheater of Durres. Most of the archaeologists think that this chapel was built in the 5th century, and some think that it might have been built during the reign of the Byzantine emperor Heraclius (610-641). Once you go through the amphitheater main gate and descend down the first entry of the gallery, you can see the chapel. You can find inside it some mosaics and parts of a fresco, on the southern and western

part. They are really impressive! Researchers believe that they were made in the 10th – 11th centuries.

## “THE BEAUTY OF DURRES”

The Beauty of Durres is a famous mosaic that was discovered beneath a dwelling in a residential area of town and measures 17 by 10 feet. It is considered the most polychromatic mosaic ever to be found in the country. The mosaic is elliptical in shape and depicts a woman's head surrounded by flowers. In fact, the



- *The Beauty of Durres is now exhibited in Tirana*

mosaic is now exhibited in Tirana, at the National Historical Museum. It is worth to pay a visit at the Museum to see this unique mosaic. It will just take half an hour drive taking the Durres – Tirana

highway! The mosaic was initially studied by Praschniker, an archaeologist mobilized in the Austro-Hungarian army. The mosaic is compiled using small colorful river pebbles.

## FATIH MOSQUE

The Mosque overlooks the main square in the city, at one end of the High Street. It was built on the ruins of a medieval basilica, which is composed of a prayer room and quadrangular room covered with a wooden roof, which follows the side lines of the basilica walls. The portico and the minaret date to a later period. This is also called the Small Mosque. It is thought to have been built in 1502-1503, as one of the first buildings after the Ottoman invasion.



- *Fatih mosque in Durrës, the majority of the population are of Muslim beliefs.*

## ROMAN BATHS

You can notice the Thermae (Roman Baths) from the Roman Period, nearby "Alexander Moisiu" Theatre. It is still preserved from this monument the "caldarium" (hot water hall) and "piscine" (swimming pool) which is covered in black and white tiles, like on a chessboard. The Baths included other place, too, such as: the "Apodyterium" (the changing room), the "Tepidarium" and the "Frigidarium" (cold water hall).



- *The map of several archaeological expeditions*

## THE MOSAIC OF ORPHEUS

This mosaic was discovered in the basement of a private house in Quarter 9 of the city in 1988. In the center of it is figured Orpheus, and scholars think that the mosaic is characteristic of the 3rd century BC. Some scholars think that the figure of Orpheus is a covert way to represent Jesus Christ.

## THE AQUEDUCT

It is located nearby the Industrial School. You can now find there just the traces of what was many years ago the Aqueduct of Durres. These traces go as far away as Romanat village in the place called "Gjoka's brook". The Aqueduct was built during the same period as the Amphitheater, under the reign of the Roman Emperor Hadrian (117-138).

## ARAPAJ BASILICA

To reach there, you will first have to take the old Durres-Tirana road, and head for the Shkozeti city-quarter. Once arriving at the rotunda, take right, and ride briefly along the road linking Shkozeti with the

fly-over at the "Plepat" (Poplar Trees). Half-way to the place, you will have to turn left, and in a few minutes you will make it at the village of Arapaj. It is home to the ruins of a 6th-century old basilica. It used to be a famous church until the 11th century.

## UNDISCOVERED, YET...

### ► SPITALLE – A new chapter of the archaeology in Durres

Spitale is located at the north-west part of Durres

Several archaeological expeditions have pointed out that this is a very important reach archaeological part of Durres 29 sites were defined

In the spring of 2001 the hilly uplands immediately northwest of the modern city of Durrës (Spitale) were for the first time investigated using the techniques of intensive surface survey. In total, an area of six square kilometers was explored and twenty-nine sites were defined, most of them new. Remains of Greek antiquity were plentiful and include unpublished inscriptions and graves. One site may be the location of a previously unknown archaic temple.



## Cultural events in Durrës

### THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY DANCE



The International Festival of Modern and Contemporary Dance is intended to familiarize albanian audience with various dance theatres and companies or independent dancers from abroad who develop professional modern and contemporary dance techniques and innovative forms of dance expression. This event is an opportunity for its participants to exchange ideas and experiences of dance, which have been developed worldwide, as well as get acquainted with the development of contemporary dance in Eastern Europe.

It is a great event not only for the spectators and dance professionals but also for the arts lovers from the whole country.

For more information please visit  
[www.dancealbfest.com](http://www.dancealbfest.com)

### POETEKA

#### ► International Poetry Festival

POETEKA began as a cultural initiative in Durres on Sept. 2004 under the symbol of a Liburne (Illyrian boat) decorated with sails full of written poems and mosaics, as a mark of the potential of Albania to export cultural values. Our approach aimed to promote the new perception of authorial reading of poetry instead of the routine actors' declamation. This valuable tradition has paved the way towards the first International Poetry Festival – (POETEKA- A home for Poetry, April, 2005) based not only in the successful impact and support it had into

the cultural circles of the region and beyond, but also as a call for a larger approach into the cultural and artistic life and the values it transmits, values which are admitted to bring an colourful variety within the human dimensions.

Please visit for more information

[www.poeteka.org](http://www.poeteka.org)



## INTERNATIONAL SUMMER- FEST FILM OF DURRES

International Summerfest Film of Durres was first launched from 23 to 31-st of august 2008. The participant films were nominated for 5 prizes. Grand Prix "Gold Gladiator" went to the best fiction film of the czech director Jiri Menzel "I Served the king of England". Durres, was overwhelmed by the magic of cinema for 9 days in succession the mistery and great pleasure of the cinema at the



• International  
Summerfest Film of  
Durres, first edition,  
August 2008

ancient roman amphitheatre brought a special pleasure to the audience.

For more information please visit

[www.isfdurres.com](http://www.isfdurres.com)

## WHITE NIGHT, DURRES

► August, 14th

The White night of Durres is a special occasion for the citizen, with an all night long party in the center of the city.

The White Night will offer participants the opportunity to enjoy various shows on different stages all around the city until early morning.







# where to stay





## The city of all the people

Durres is one of the Albanian cities with the most various, sometimes strange, unique and special architecture, especially of the hotels and resorts, some of which remind you, for example, images and structures of a ship! You will find the best accommodation offers across the coast. But remind yourself about the prices: some of the prices of these hotels are almost like the prices of European cities located at the non-Albanian Mediterranean Coast. The difference of Durres is that even when you are in front of a fully five-star hotel, you can easily find another very cheaper accommodation just in front of it!

Durres hotels are not far from the Albanian International Airport and can be used as a base for short trips to Tirana, Kruja, Berat etc. as well as or for longer seaside holidays.

### ADRIATIK HOTEL

"Adriatic Hotel" represents a modern-style five-star complex open for everyone inclined to taste the impeccable service in a perfect place. Only 25 min. away from the capital and Rinas Airport, overlooking the sea, with two restau-



rants, bars and other facilities Adriatic Hotel is the ideal place for vacation as well as for business. Surrounded by a wonderful palm-garden the hotel offers a neat and peaceful atmosphere for visitors. The rooms have mini-bars, safes, direct phone-line, TV-set with satellite, air-conditioning, Jacuzzi and bathtub. Internet Wireless is available in the area of the hotel. The hotel is in possession of 70 rooms viewing the sea or the palm-garden, some of them have even a balcony or access to the terrace (25 standard rooms, 13 executive rooms, 6 business or marriage apartments).

#### ① contact

Address: Lagjja 13, Plazh, Durrës

Telephone number: 05 260 851

Fax number: 05 260 855

E-mail: [info@adriatikhotel.com](mailto:info@adriatikhotel.com)

Website: [www.adriatikhotel.com](http://www.adriatikhotel.com)

Location: Durrës, Albania (Take the highway to Durrës, 1 km away from the flyover (knot Durrës - harbor - beach) along the beach road to Kavaja).

Classification: 5 stars



### VILLA BELVEDERE

The hotel has 30 rooms, from which 3 are twin, 12 are double, 11 triple, 4 suites. There are Standard rooms with basic equipments, shower, air conditioners, telephone and TV. While Belvedere rooms have antique furniture, personal direct phone lines, TV with independent satellite connection, and mini-bar. It also offers Junior Suites with balcony, safe box and Jacuzzi for those who prefer slightly more luxurious settings. The conference hall hosts up to 100 persons with separated room for translators and offers audio and conference service

- You will find the best accommodation offers across the coast of Durrës



along with multi-media demonstration equipment. There is also free internet, a bar and a very good restaurant.

#### ⌚ contact

Address: National highway Durrës-Kavaje, close to the place known as "Shkembi i Kavajes"

Telephone number:

+355 52 261151/ 152

Fax number: +355 52 261153

Mobile phone: +355 682034995/ 682063020



#### APOLLONIA

With a breathtaking view unfolding in front of it, The Apollonia Hotel-Bar-Restaurant offers tranquility and fresh air. With a menu rich in sea food, it serves traditional cooking.

#### ⌚ contact

Address: Lgj. 13, Rr. "3 vellezerit Thanasi", Durrës

Tel: +355 52 262 499/501



#### DYRRAHU

An Ideal venue both for your relax, and working meetings. Live music is played until late in the evening.

#### ⌚ contact

"Iliria" Beach

Tel: +355 52 260761 - Fax: +355 52 260044

Email: [infohotel\\_dyrrah@yahoo.com](mailto:infohotel_dyrrah@yahoo.com)



#### TITANIC

It houses 50 comfortable rooms, a restaurant and a bar.

#### ⌚ contact

Address: Lgj. 13, Rr. "3 vellezerit Thanasi", Durrës

Tel: +355 52 261 787 - Tel/Fax: +355 52 261 788

E-mail: [info@hoteltitanik.com](mailto:info@hoteltitanik.com)



#### ROMANA

With a total of 84 rooms furnished in the latest styles, it is the perfect accommodation. Its restaurant serves Albanian and Italian traditional cooking. Its private beach with a private bar it's 100 meters away from the hotel. Live music mingles well into the characteristic setting. The convenient supermarket offers everything.

#### ⌚ contact

"Iliria" Beach - Tel: + 355 52 262072







# restaurants





## Where to eat



Local restaurants in Durres mainly serve Italian and Albanian cuisines. Nightlife in Durres is active during the summer months, with bars, cafés and nightclubs. English and Italian are among foreign languages spoken in Durres. Many resort hotels have their own restaurants. The local Albanian cuisine has been mainly influenced by Turkish cuisine, but the Italian one remains the most popular

among others. Locally grown, fruits, wine and vegetables are available.

### **ARAGOSTA**

#### ► **Italian cuisine**

Taulantia Street, Currila, Durres

Tel: +355 52 26477

Fax: +355 52 233261

Email: aragosta@albmail.com

### **BELVEDERE**

#### ► **Seafood**

“Taulantia” Boulevard, Durres

Tel: +355 52 226930

Mob: +355 69 2096123/+355 69 2106123

- *CUSINE - Turkish and italian influence*

## GIARDINO MAMINAS

### ► Pizzeria

Maminas, 300 m away from the highway that connect Durres with Tirana

Tel: + 355 575 280001

Web-site: [www.turisalba.com/giardinomaminas](http://www.turisalba.com/giardinomaminas)

## PIAZZA

### ► Italian Cuisine

"Taulantia" Boulevard, Durres

Tel: +355 52 237601

Mob: +355 69 2094887/886

E-mail: [turisalb@piazza.com](mailto:turisalb@piazza.com)

## STELLA D'ALBA

### ► Italian Cuisine

Quarter 1, Close to the Amphitheater, Durres

Tel: +355 52 234684

Mob: +355 683424113

Email: [stelladalba@gmail.com](mailto:stelladalba@gmail.com)

## OSLO

### ► Italian Cuisine

### ► Seafood

"Taulantia" Boulevard, Durres

Tel: +355 52 238393

Mob: +355 684000486

## "2 KITAR-RAT"

"Taulantia" Boulevard, Currilat, Durres

Tel: +355 52 235802

Fax: +355 52 224230

Mob: +355

682066888

## ALBA PARK

"Currila" Str., Durres

Mob: +355

682524289

## ALI BABA

"Taulantia" Boulevard, Durres

Mob: +355 692063807

## ANI

"Taulantia" Boulevard, Durres

Tel: +355 52 224228

Mob: +355 682742459

E-mail: [anihoteldurres@abcom-al.com](mailto:anihoteldurres@abcom-al.com)

## REID

Taulantia Boulevard

Durres

+355 52 2 36780 Mob.0682062526

## HOTEL RESTAURANT MALVINA

Golem -Durres

Tel.+355 682133241

## TEIDE

Taulantia Boulevard, Durres

+355 69 2967431

## "ANE DETI"

Golem - Kavaje -Durres

+355 579 22142, 0579 22143



• Delicious Durres





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# Cafés & Nightlife





## Enjoy the Night life in Durrës



You can enjoy live music in several clubs of Durres. Across "Pavarësia" Street, you will find different Albanian clubs, bars and restaurant where traditional music is played. If you want a quite place where to drink a cocktail try to walk across the "Taulantia Boulevard" and you will be amazed by the various enjoyable bars & lounges.

### **ALBRILA BRUKLIN**

Rushbull, Durres

Tel/Fax: +355 52 222209

Mob: +355 682040547

### **BUBTEN**

Popular Quarter, at the Bridge of Shijak, Durres

Mob: +355 692162755

### **CANAL GRANDE**

"Apollonia Beach", Durres

Tel: +355 52 260461

Fax: +355 52 260670

Mob: +355 692077468

### **"2 KITARRAT"**

"Taulantia" Boulevard, Durres

Tel: +355 52 235802

Mob: +355 682066888



## PUB NIGHT

"Commercial Street", Quarter 1, Durres

## TEQUILA

"Commercial Street", Quarter 1, Durres

## "ILIRIA"

"Iliria Beach", Quarter 13

Tel: +355 52 260031

## ZAPPING

The Public Beach, Durres

Mob: +355 692071009

## VIRGIN

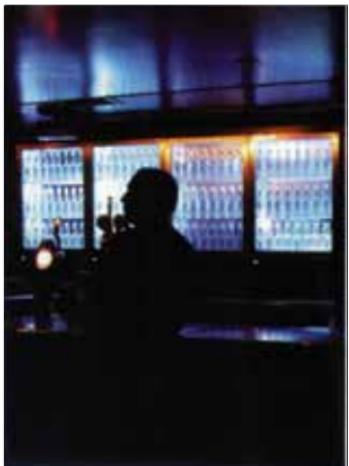
Taulantia Boulevard, Durres

Mob: +355 692071009

## NIKOLE K

"Migjeni" Street, Quarter 3, Durres

Tel.+355 52 2 26194



• *Nightlife events in Durrës*

## ORIENT

"Mujo Ulqinaku" Street

Durres

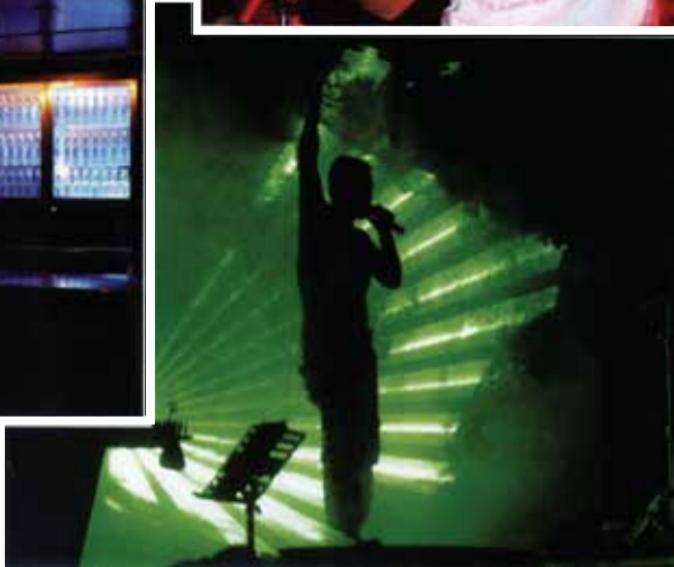
Tel.+355 682038254

## KEESI

Quarter 4

Durres

Tel.+355 52 2 37303





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# what to do





## What to do in Durrës

### ► Shopping Centers and Supermarkets

#### **FLAGSHIP CENTER**

"Skenderbej" Str., Quarter 4, Durres

Tel/Fax: +355 52 238 493

Email: info@flegshipcenter.com

Blue star

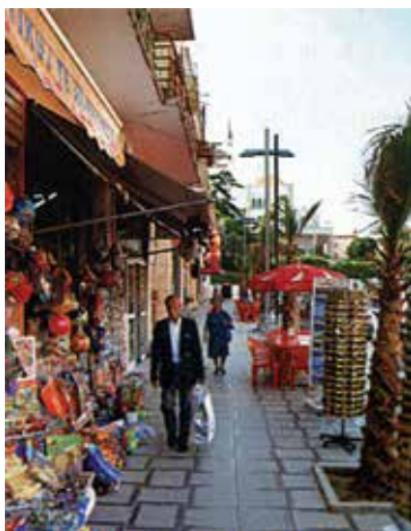
"Skenderbej" Str., Quarter 4, Durres

Tel: +355 52 239 460

Galaktik Shopping Center

Close to the Bridge of Dajlani, Durres

Tel: +355 52 235 384



#### **MONUN**

### ► Business Center

Quarter 4, Durres

#### **SUPERMARKET DURRES**

Close to "Titanic" Hotel, Durres

Mob: +355 692094855

#### **CONAD SUPERSTORE**

### ► Galaktik Shopping Center

"Gjoka" Complex

National Road Shijak-Durres

[www.komgjoka.com](http://www.komgjoka.com)

#### **THE BAR TORRA!**

Housed inside a Venetian tower at the base of the Byzantine walls, the Bar Torra has a prime location, and the views of the sea from its open-air turret are worth a coffee. The cafe was the first private establishment in the city, but it still retains all the old communist eastern European charm.

Address: Mujo Ulqinaku Square

Directions: On the waterfront at the bottom of the Byzantine Walls.

- **DURRËS BEACH,**  
*the largest in Albania,*  
*a linear length of 4*  
*kilometres*



# Shopping and swimming

## THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

Situated near the sea. It gives a view on the ancient Dyrrachium. There are many objects excavated in Durres and this museum being small can not reveal all of them. There are currently plans to construct and extension to the existing museum.



## BEACHES IN DURRES AND SURROUNDINGS

- Durres Beach
- The biggest one

With a linear length of 4 kilometres Durres Beach is the biggest national beach with a linear length of 4 kilometres from the Dajlan Bridge to the Kavaja Rock. It is popular for its soft sand and the greatest exploitable sand belt at a width of 150-180 meters. The main characteristic of this beach is the gradual increase of the seawater depth, which makes this sandy beach ideal for sunbathing and swimming.

gradual increase of seawater depth. The luxurious hotels and the holiday resorts, which have recently been built there, the improved infrastructure and various services, have made this beach popular and the main attraction for many people from Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia and other places.

## ROB MOUNTAIN BEACH

- An elite area

It lies immediately next to that at Golem. Its whole length is dotted by elite tourist resorts and villages.

## GOLEM BEACH

- An extension of Durres Beach

Golem Beach lies as an extensive of Durres Beach. Just like the latter, it has soft sand, sandy seabed and

## SPILLE BEACH

- One of the cleanest in Albania
- Nestled among pine-trees

To reach out here, stick to the itinerary Golem – Rob Mountain – Kavaja – Luz Turn, and then, carry on further to Spille. Nestled among pine-trees, the Spille Beach is one of the cleanest beaches in Albania. Except for a few hotels and several restaurants, this area is lacking in the tourist facilities you have come across with at the above mentioned beaches.

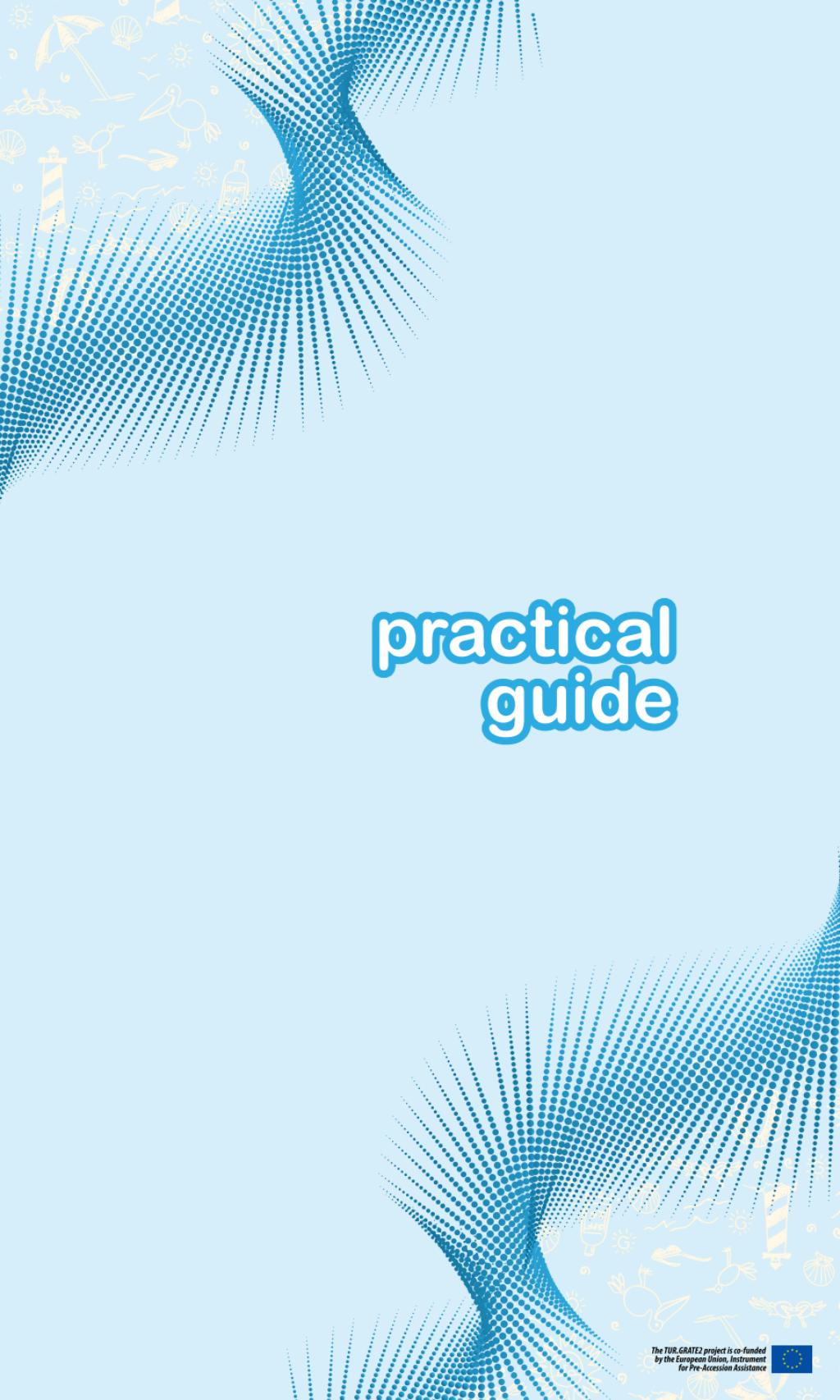


## THE GENERAL'S BEACH

400 m long and 50 m wide

This beach is 400 m long and 50 m wide. It is the most beautiful in the whole Riviera of Kryevidhi in Kavaja.





# practical guide





## Honourable friends wherever you are.

In the course of its 3000-year long history, our city has received numerous visitors and people who have been here in passing. Poets, historians, geographers and travellers have written about Durrës, the city initially known as Epidamnos, and then, as Dyrrachium.

This city extends an invitation for you to come and visit here. Nowhere in Albania will you find several specific features offered all in a package as here.

Durrës was founded 27 centuries ago. The ancient city succeeded in surviving tens of wars and destructive earthquakes. Our predecessors rebuilt

it at the same place, never abandoning Durrës, the most ancient city on the eastern Adriatic shores, starting from Vlora as high up as Trieste.

### ► Why is Durrës an inescapable tourist destination for all those arriving in Albania?

The city is home to the biggest sea-port in the country. It facilitates the movement of around 800,000 people and 3 million tons of goods and commodities heading for western sea-ports, on a yearly basis. Durrës is found 30 km only away from the Mother Theresa Airport, and almost that far from the capital city, Tirana.

And the saying "All the roads go to Durrës," a paraphrasing of the Latin saying, applies to road and railway transport. Roads will

## Few words from the Mayor

surely take all those coming from Montenegro, Kosova, Macedonia or Greece to our city, which is located at a junction of roads running north, south and towards the central part of Albania.

Durrës holds in store numerous surprises. The biggest beach in Albania, 6 km long, is close to the city, with the nearly virgin bays north of it being open to new visitors.

The multi-storied buildings that have gone up recently, blend nicely with the thousand-year long archaeological monuments, including the ancient Amphitheatre, the biggest of its kind across the Balkans. The Archaeological and Ethnographic Museum, the mediaeval encircling walls of the city, the ancient springs and the mediaeval bath are only a small part of the cultural heritage, which in recent years has attracted tourists arriving from different countries of the world on board cruises.

The city's calendar of festivities and

cultural events is being enriched annually. The International Festival of Poetry and Modern and Contemporary Dancing, the Classical and Jazz music events, the city's festivities and concerts held in squares, as well as the infinite bars and restaurants along the coast, add to the special feel of evenings in Durrës.

What renders this city so very special is the local population's hospitality. No doubt, they are holders of the most ancient passport in the Balkans, from the Taulantis, their Illyrians predecessors, down to the first years of the new century. You could become an eye witness, like me, if you come to visit this city, which offers 280 sunny days around the year.

The Guide in your hand will open the door to our city, which wishes you: Welcome. Far from being disappointed, you will instead say: See you again!

**Vangjush Dako**



# Practical map

1

## Legend

- 0 Sports and Cultural Events Halls
- 1 Mail Office
- 2 Church
- 3 Mosque
- 4 Museums
- 5 Taxi
- 6 Bus stop
- 7 Monument
- 8 Gas station
- 9 Pharmacy

2

3

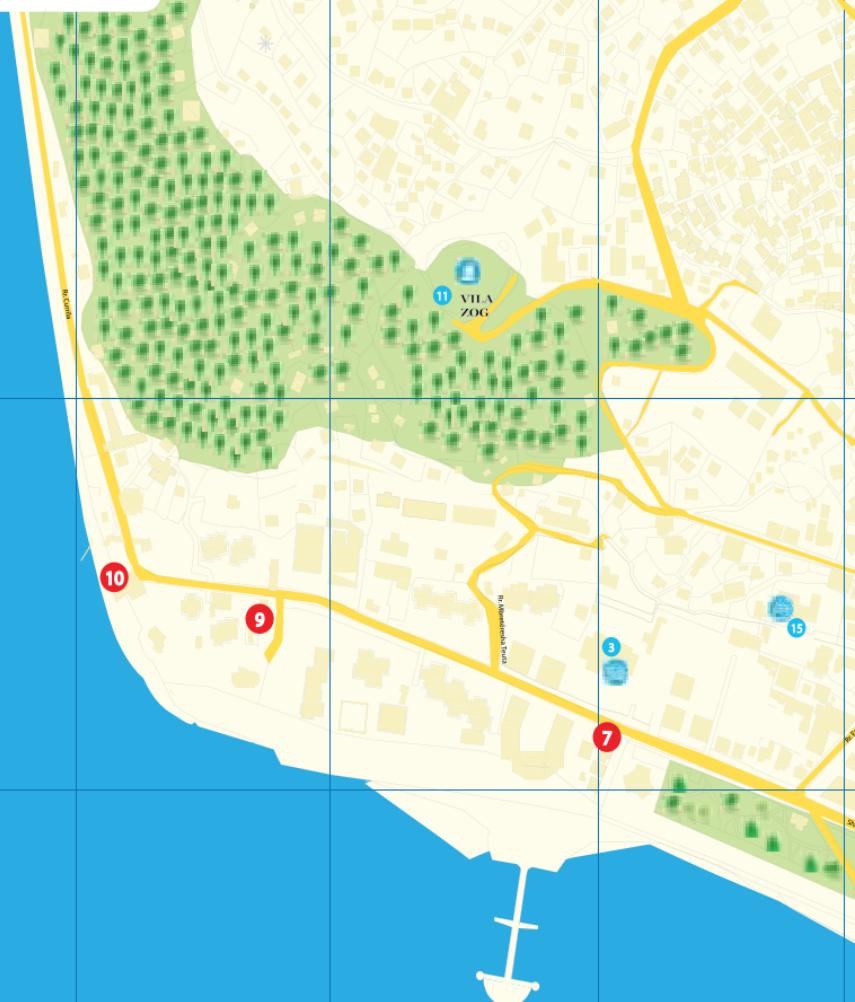
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A

B

C

D



**DETI ADRIATIK**



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# City center map



# Practical Map



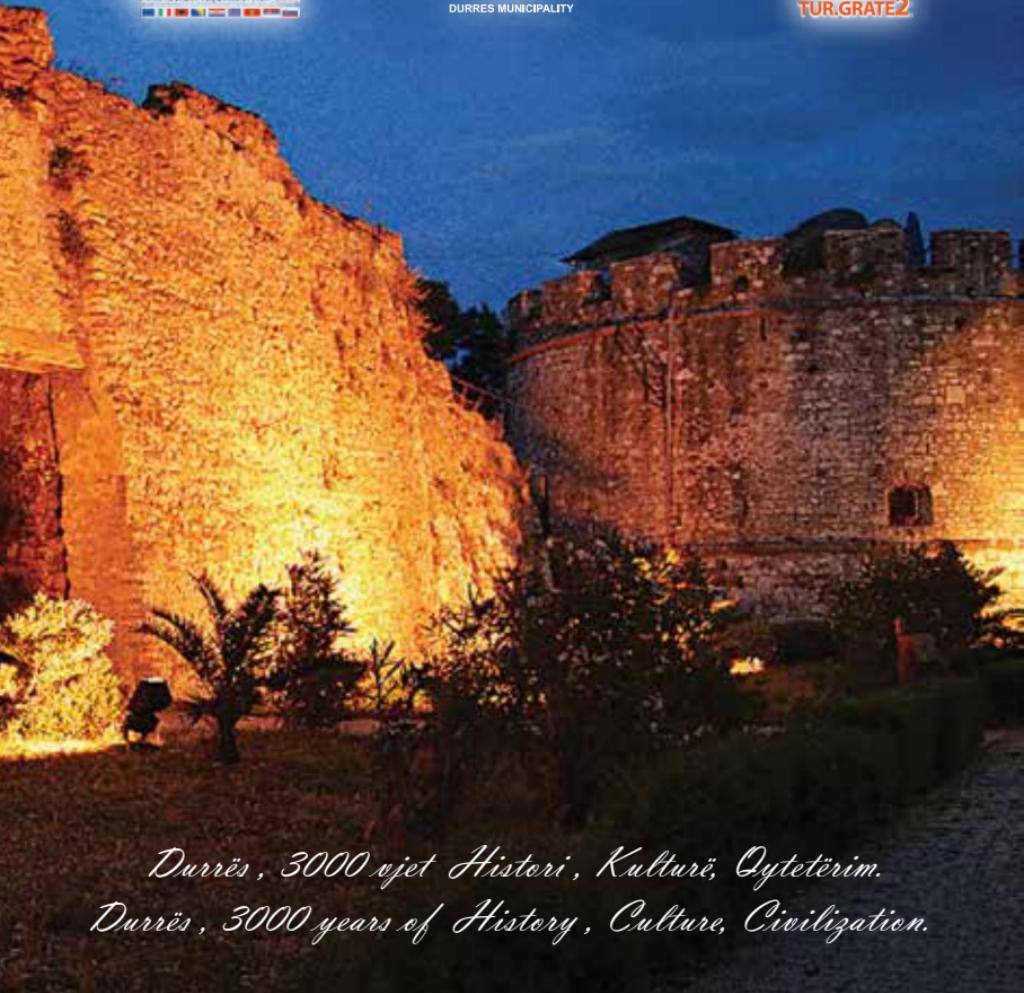
Bari



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# Albania and roads map





Durrës, 3000 vjet Histori, Kulturë, Qytetërim.

Durrës, 3000 years of History, Culture, Civilization.

Durrës

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