

Albania

Continent: Europe

Languages Spoken: Albanian

Population: 2,800,000

Currency: Albanian lek (ALL)

Area: 28,748

Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Butrint National Park', 'writeup': 'An ancient city and UNESCO World Heritage site featuring ruins from Greek, Roman, Byzantine, and Venetian periods.'}
- {'name': 'Berat Castle', 'writeup': 'A historic fortress overlooking the town of Berat, known for its well-preserved Ottoman architecture.'}
- {'name': 'Rozafa Castle', 'writeup': 'A medieval castle near Shkodër with legends tied to its construction and panoramic views.'}
- {'name': 'Gjirokastër', 'writeup': 'A UNESCO-listed Ottoman town famous for its stone houses and historic castle.'}
- {'name': 'Ksamil Islands', 'writeup': 'A group of small islands in the Ionian Sea known for their clear waters and beaches.'}

Head of State / Government:

President Bajram Begaj

Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Dita e Verës (Summer Day)', 'writeup': 'A traditional festival celebrated on March 14th marking the end of winter and the arrival of spring.'}
- {'name': 'National Folk Festival', 'writeup': 'A biennial event showcasing Albanian folk music, dance, and costumes from various regions.'}
- {'name': 'Tirana International Film Festival', 'writeup': 'An annual event promoting Albanian and international cinema.'}

Food & Cuisine:

Albanian cuisine features Mediterranean influences with staples like fresh vegetables, lamb, seafood, and traditional dishes such as byrek (savory pastry), tavë kosi (baked lamb with yogurt), and fërgesë (pepper and cheese stew).

Brief History:

Albania has a history dating back to ancient Illyrian tribes. It was part of the Roman and Byzantine Empires, later under Ottoman rule for centuries. Albania declared independence in 1912 and experienced communist rule in the 20th century before transitioning to democracy in the 1990s.

Important People:

- Mother Teresa - Catholic nun and missionary of Albanian descent
- Ismail Kadare - Renowned Albanian novelist and poet

- Enver Hoxha - Communist leader of Albania from 1944 to 1985

Current Conflicts:

Albania is currently not involved in any active armed conflicts but faces challenges related to organized crime and political reforms.

Youtube Links:

- Discover Albania: Europe's Hidden Gem
- Top 10 Places to Visit in Albania
- Albanian Culture and Traditions Explained
- A Food Tour of Albania's Best Dishes
- History of Albania: From Ancient Times to Today