



Travelling in Albania

General info:

Population: 3m

Area: 28,748 sq. km

Currency: Albanian lek (100 qindarka) - ALL

Top 10 popular attractions: Skanderbeg Fortress
Skanderbeg Square
Korcza cathedral
Ancient Ottoman bridge
Xhamia e Muradi mosque
Durrës Fortress
Elbasan Castle Remains
Rozafa Castle
Sarandë
Roman, Greek, Byzantine Ruins

Are you covered?

Don't forget to buy your RAC European Breakdown cover & Travel Insurance before you leave. Call RAC European Breakdown Sales on: 0800 015 6000. Call RAC Travel Insurance on: 0870 333 2784

Useful Numbers:

Emergency Services: 112 (SMS 114)
RAC Breakdown Europe: 00 33 472 43 52 44

Useful Links:

- <http://www.rac.co.uk/breakdown-cover/european-breakdown-cover/>
- <http://www.rac.co.uk/insurance/travel-insurance/>
- <http://www.racshop.co.uk/driving-in-europe.html>

The Essentials:

Driving licence:

Visitors riding or driving in Albania must have reached the minimum age required to drive/ride a vehicle of equivalent category even if they are qualified to drive at a lower age in their country of residence. You must be 18 or over to drive a private vehicle in Albania.

Driving licences issued in EU and EEA countries are accepted.

You will need an International Driving Permit, IDP 1949 to drive in Albania.

Important documents:

Vehicles from the UK may be imported into Albania for up to 6 months in any period of 12 months. When driving in Albania the following documents should be carried:

- Full, valid driving licence* (with paper counterpart)
- Proof of Insurance (third party or above)
- Proof of ID (Passport)
- Proof of ownership (V5C Certificate)
- International Driving Permit, IDP 1949

While driving in Albania you are required by law to carry the following items. Hefty on-the-spot fines can be issued for failing to carry specific items:

- Headlamp beam deflectors (Depending on your car, you will either need deflector stickers or have to adjust the beam manually)
- First aid kits are compulsory when travelling in Albania
- Motorcyclists (Safety helmets are compulsory for drivers and passengers of mopeds and motorcycles)

Rules of the road & regulations:

Rules of the road:

- **Overtaking & passing**
Overtake on the left. The rules are in accordance with the Convention on Road Traffic 1968.
- **Priority**
The rules are in accordance with the Convention on Road Traffic 1968. Vehicles approaching from the right have priority at intersections, unless a traffic light, traffic sign or police directing the traffic says otherwise.

Emergency vehicles (police, ambulance, army vehicles, etc.) have priority over other road users when using flashing lights and a siren.
- **Warning of approach**
The use of the horn is only allowed in case of emergency, in order to avoid an accident. Outside built-up areas, it may be used before overtaking another road user.

Towing:

Caravans, camper vans, luggage and boat trailers may be temporarily imported into Albania without formality.

It is recommended that an inventory of the contents of caravans, camper vans or luggage trailers is shown to the customs on arrival, in order to avoid any problems when leaving the country.

Snow chains:

In winter, mountain roads are snowy and icy and driving can be very hazardous. It is recommended that cars be adequately equipped.

Seat belts:

The use of seat belts in the front seats is compulsory on all vehicles manufactured after January 1978. They are also compulsory in the rear seats of all vehicles manufactured after May 1990.

Travelling with children:

Children under the age of 12 travelling in the front passenger seat must use an appropriate child restraint. Children under the age of 4 travelling in the rear seat must also use a child restraint.

Speed limits:

There are strict speed limits applying to the various categories of roads and the type of vehicle driven.

Motorways	Main Intercity roads	Secondary Intercity Roads & Local Roads	Built-up Areas
110 km/h	90 km/h	80 km/h	40 km/h

Mopeds must not exceed a speed of 30km/h in or outside built-up areas.

Penalties:

- **On-the-spot fines**
The police are empowered to impose fines of up to 5,000 ALL.

Traffic police pay particular attention to drivers of vehicles bearing foreign registration plates. Visitors should therefore adhere to road traffic law at all times since the most minor of offences may result in a fine

Parking:

- **Parking Regulations**
Parking regulations conform with those in the Convention on Road Traffic (Vienna, 1968).

Prohibited parking zones are marked with signs. Parking meters and discs are not in use.

- **Enforcement of parking regulations**

In Tirana, vehicles parked in prohibited areas are towed away. Wheel clamps are not used in Albania.

Parking fines are 500 ALL minimum (+ 4,000 ALL if towed away).

- **Disabled parking access**

In public parking areas, spaces reserved for disabled drivers are marked.

Traffic lights:

- **Traffic lights**

The international three-colour system of traffic lights is used.

Drink/drug driving:

- **Legal limit**

The maximum level of alcohol in the blood is 0.01%.

- **Alcohol**

If a person who drives or takes charge of a vehicle is suspected of being under the influence of alcohol he must undergo a breath test.

A driver refusing to undergo an alcohol test may incur a fine of 5,000 to 20,000 ALL and his driving licence may be suspended.

Roads & fuel

Only major roads (or sections of roads) have lighting and driving by night should be avoided. Street lighting in urban areas is subject to power cuts.

Availability of fuel

Petrol stations are generally located in urban areas. They are normally open 24 hours a day.

- **Price of fuel**

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Unleaded petrol 95 octane	188 ALL per litre
Diesel	188 ALL per litre
LPG	96 ALL per litre

- **Means of payment**

Payment of petrol is generally made in cash and in Albanian leks. Credit cards are accepted at some petrol stations.

- **Automatic petrol pumps**

There are no automatic petrol pumps.

Emergencies

In case of breakdown or accident, drivers must use a warning triangle or hazard warning lights.

What RAC can do for you

RAC offers great value, flexible RAC European breakdown (<http://www.rac.co.uk/breakdown-cover/european-breakdown-cover/>) cover tailored to meet your needs. We also offer comprehensive travel insurance (<http://www.rac.co.uk/insurance/travel-insurance/>), including cover for medical expenses, baggage, personal money and belongings *. Whilst away, use our Route Planner (<http://www.rac.co.uk/route-planner>) for all your driving directions.

RAC can cover you against vehicle break down in Europe, with options available to suit your travelling requirements.

RAC European breakdown cover Basic and Comprehensive cover provides you with a wide range of benefits.

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