



General	1
Buoyage System	1
Currency	1
Government	1
Holidays	1
Industries	1
Languages	1
Mined Areas	1
Regulations	2
Time Zone	2
U.S. Embassy	2

General

Albania is located in SE Europe between Greece, Serbia and Montenegro. The country borders the Adriatic and Ionian Seas.

The climate is mild temperate with the winters being cool, cloudy and wet and the summers being hot and clear.

The terrain is mostly mountainous with hills and small plains along the coast.

Because hydrographic information for the coast of Albania may be inadequate, charts and publications covering these waters may not be up-to-date. Prudent navigation is advisable.

Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Currency

The official unit of currency is the lek, consisting of 100 quintars.

Government

A democratic government was elected in 1992. A draft constitution was rejected by popular referendum in 1994 and a new draft is pending. The capital is Tirane.

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

Jan. 1, New Year's Day; Jan. 11, Proclamation of the Republic; May 1, Labor Day; Nov. 8, Party's Foundation Day; Nov. 28, Independence Day; and Nov. 29, Liberation Day.

Industries

The main industries include food processing, textiles and clothing, lumber, oil, cement, chemicals, mining, basic metals, and hydropower.

Languages

The languages of the country are Albanian (Tosk is the official dialect) and Greek.

Mined Areas

A large area, formerly declared dangerous due to mines, exists off the Albanian coast and lies within the area delimited by the following positions:

- A position on the shore at 41°30'N.
- 41°30'N, 19°00'E.
- then E to a position on the shore at 40°15'N.
- 40°30'N, 19°00'E.
- 40°15'N, 19°10'E.

The area is now considered to be safe for surface navigation, but could still present a hazard for vessels anchoring, fishing, or engaged in submarine or sea bed activity.

It is reported that measures have been taken to clear the coastline exposed to mined waters.

Vessels should enter Gji i Vlores and Gji i Duresit during daylight only, and should follow the recommended track shown on the charts.

Caution.—Explosives dumping areas have been reported (1999) in the Adriatic Sea off the coast of Albania. See Italy for further information

Regulations

Foreign vessels require authorization to enter the territorial waters of Albania. Approach to the open ports is permitted only through authorized routes.

See Pub. 132, Sailing Directions (Enroute) Eastern Mediterranean for further information. Vessels are subject to port regulations, a copy of which should be obtained on arrival.

Regulations concerning the emigration of Albanian citizens to Italian territory have been issued and apply to vessels of all flags in Albanian territorial waters. All merchant ships entering or leaving Albanian territorial waters will be contacted by Italian warships or Italian coast guard vessels, which will carry out inspection procedures.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is ALPHA (-1).

U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Embassy is situated at Rrug Elbansanit 103, Tirana. The mailing address is American Embassy, Tirana, Department of State, Washington, DC 20521-9510.