



Albania

CAPITAL

Tirana

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Albanian

CURRENCY

the Albanian lek (ALL)

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This Country Guide reflects information believed to be correct at the time of publication. Regulations, procedures and charges are subject to change. IAM does not accept liability for errors, omissions, inaccuracies or misinterpretations in this guide. The information provided should not be considered as having been provided or sanctioned by the customs authorities of the country or territory concerned.

Overview

Customs Clearance

Not specifically published. Allow several weeks for the e-Albania authorisation process plus physical clearance. Documents must be received by the agent prior to import.

Duty-Free Eligibility

Duty-free conditions: Personal property imported by persons transferring their normal place of residence to Albania is admitted free of import duties, provided the goods have been in the person's possession and used at their former residence for a minimum of 6 months before the date they ceased to reside in the country of departure. Returning Albanian citizens must have resided abroad for more than 12 months to qualify. The exemption does not cover alcohol, tobacco, commercial means of transport, or articles for use in the exercise of a trade or profession (other than portable instruments of the applied or liberal arts).

VAT: Albania applies a standard VAT rate of 20% on imports. For duty-free personal effects under the transfer of residence exemption, VAT is typically waived alongside customs duty. For non-exempt imports, VAT is calculated on the CIF value plus any applicable customs duty.

Documents

For Returning Albanian Citizens

- Request for duty exclusions, including list of goods in reasonable quantities for personal or family use, signed by the person changing residence
- Original birth certificate
- Notarised photocopy of passport
- Family certificate
- Certificate of change of residence from the administrative entity where the person lived before or where they intend to live in Albania
- Certificate of deregistration from the municipality or relevant authority in the country of origin
- Residence permit from the country where they stayed abroad, translated and notarised, valid for the period they resided abroad
- Documents certifying continuous residence abroad for at least 1 year (e.g., lease contract, municipal certificate, police declaration), all translated and notarised
- Certificate from the administrative centre where the person is registered in Albania ("Vërtetim Banimi"), or a lease contract for their Albanian residence

For Foreign Citizens (Duty-Free — Excluded from Duties by Agreement)

- Inventory list in Albanian, valued, dated, and signed by the owner (items listed per category: furniture, clothes, books, etc.)
- For electrical appliances, include make, model, and serial number
- Notarised copy of passport
- Work certificate from the owner's employer (original, on letterhead, with company stamp; work period must be specified and exceed 12 months)
- Job contract, translated and notarised (work period must be specified and exceed 12 months)
- Work permit
- Residence permit (temporary residence permits are NOT accepted by customs authorities)
- Notarised lease contract of the owner's apartment in Albania

- **Letter of authorisation to handle customs formalities**
- **Copy of employer's NIPT (Identification Number of Taxable Person)**

For Foreign Citizens (Paying Duties and Taxes Option)

- **Packing list translated into Albanian**
- **Proforma invoice for the goods**
- **Declaration from the owner or their employer detailing the reasons for immigration to Albania**
- **Copy of passport**

For Diplomats

- **Inventory list in Albanian, valued, dated, and signed by the owner, stamped by the Embassy**
- **Copy of diplomatic passport**
- **Copy of diplomatic ID**
- **Diplomatic note from the relevant embassy in Tirana, stamped (directed to Tirana Customs for sea shipments or Rinas Customs for air shipments)**
- **Copy of NIPT (Identification Number of Taxable Person of the Embassy)**

Household Goods — Specific Information

Authorisation process: The duty exclusion authorisation must be applied for through the e-Albania portal. Once approved, the authorisation is emailed to the applicant by the General Directorate of Customs. It is typically issued with a one-month validity period, so the application should be submitted close to the expected arrival date of the goods. The authorisation must be forwarded to the destination agent for further clearance procedures. Customs has the right to request additional supporting documents or to deny the exemption.

Non-qualifying imports: If the foreign citizen cannot provide the documents listed above for the duty-free category, the alternative is to import by paying duties and taxes of approximately 38% of the declared value (proforma invoice plus freight cost).

ISPM 15 (wood packaging): Not specifically addressed in Albanian customs regulations for personal effects. ISPM 15-compliant wood packaging is recommended as Albania aligns its customs procedures with EU standards.

Resale / disposal restrictions: No specific published restriction period, but goods imported duty-free under the transfer of residence exemption should be for personal/family use only and not for commercial purposes.

Scanning fee: Customs declarations with a value exceeding €1,000 are subject to a scanning fee of €22. Declarations under €1,000 incur a €5 scanning fee.

Prohibited / Restricted Items

Prohibited Items

- **Illegal drugs and narcotics** — Strictly prohibited; Albanian law also prohibits import/export of narcotic medications and psychotropic substances
- **Radioactive items** — Prohibited
- **Weapons, explosives, and ammunition** `PERMIT REQUIRED` — Requires police permit
- **Knives and deadly weapons** — Prohibited
- **Meat products** — Prohibited
- **Plant and plant material** — Prohibited without appropriate phytosanitary certification
- **Animals without permission** `PERMIT REQUIRED` — Import of animals requires permission from Albanian authorities
- **Counterfeit money and goods** — Prohibited
- **Pornographic material** — Prohibited
- **Subversive materials** — Materials "jeopardising the protection of public order and social society"
- **Toxic materials** — Prohibited
- **Used refrigerators** — Prohibited
- **AC cooling devices using prohibited gases** — Prohibited
- **Used tyres** — Prohibited
- **Propane tanks, gasoline, oil, lighter fluid, kerosene** — Prohibited
- **Ivory products** `CITES` — Prohibited
- **Endangered wild fauna and flora** `CITES` — Restricted; see Albanian customs CITES page
- **Military goods and dual-use goods and technology** `PERMIT REQUIRED` — Restricted

Restricted / Dutiable Items

Duty-Free Allowances (Persons 18 Years or Older)

The following may be imported duty-free in personal luggage:

- **Tobacco:** 200 cigarettes, or 100 cigarillos, or 50 cigars, or 250g of tobacco
- **Spirits:** 1 litre of spirits over 22% ABV
- **Wine/beverages:** 2 litres of distilled wines and beverages, plus 2 litres of still wine
- **Perfume:** 50g of perfume
- **Alcohol within household shipments:** Up to 12 bottles

Untaxable limits for accompanied personal luggage:

- By land: goods up to €300 per person
- By air or sea: goods up to €430 per person
- Children under 15: €150 per person

For amounts exceeding the permitted limits, duties and taxes must be paid. The amount is determined by customs authorities after inspecting the shipment.

Goods Requiring Licences or Permits

- Guns, ammunition, and explosives (police permit required)
- Insecticides, pesticides, and pharmaceuticals (licence and registration required)
- Weapons, munitions, and dual-use items (special import provisions)
- Film cameras and camera film (confirm current status with destination agent)

Trade Agreements

Albania has preferential trade arrangements under the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) with the EU, CEFTA (Western Balkans), and FTAs with Turkey and EFTA. Most goods of EU origin enter at 0% or reduced duty with a valid EUR.1 certificate. Without the certificate, MFN rates of 5–15% apply. Albania's customs duty rates are: 0%, 2%, 5%, 6.5%, 10%, and 15%.

Vehicles

Vehicle Documents

- **Circulation card (vehicle registration document)**
- **Title of ownership**

- **Original vehicle title and bill of sale or invoice**
- **Certificate of Conformity (COC) to European emission standards**
- **Technical inspection report**
- **Valid passport or ID card**
- **Proof of insurance**
- **Customs declaration (registration in the Asycuda World system required)**
- **All documents listed above, plus**
For duty-free import under transfer of residence:
- **Proof the person has been the registered owner for at least 12 months before moving to Albania**
For duty-free import under transfer of residence:
- **Evidence of transfer of normal residence to Albania**
For duty-free import under transfer of residence:

Specific Information

Prior authorisation: Vehicle import is processed through the Albanian Customs Asycuda World system. Each individual must register their Personal ID in the system prior to customs clearance.

Duty-free eligibility: Individuals transferring their normal place of residence to Albania may import one personal motor vehicle duty-free, provided the vehicle has belonged to and been registered in their name for at least 12 months before entering Albania. A customs security (bond/deposit) must be lodged, which is released after 2 years upon evidence of continued registered ownership. The vehicle may not be transferred, sold, or lent during the 2-year period without first paying the customs duties that were relieved.

Vehicle age and emission restrictions: Albania prohibits the import of used vehicles older than 10 years for private use (15 years for commercial vehicles). Vehicles must meet at least Euro 4 emission standards (used vehicles) or Euro 5/6 (new vehicles). Non-compliant vehicles will not pass technical inspection.

Duties and taxes (non-exempt imports): Customs duty on vehicles is 0%. VAT is charged at 20% on the customs value (CIF or minimum tariff value, whichever is higher). Excise tax applies depending on engine size and fuel type. A road tax certificate is issued by customs.

Technical inspection: Imported vehicles must pass Albanian technical inspection (conformity with European technical standards) before registration. US-spec vehicles may require modifications such as headlight adjustments.

Registration: Vehicles are registered through the Directory of Road Transport Service (DSHTRR), located in Tirana and Vorë. The service fee for registering a used vehicle is approximately ALL 7,500 (~€75). Licence plates are issued during registration.

Temporary admission: Non-resident visitors may bring a foreign-registered vehicle into Albania for up to 6 months within a 12-month period without paying import duty. The vehicle must have permanent registration outside Albania, cannot be used by persons other than the owner's family members, cannot be sold or have ownership transferred, and must leave the country at the end of the period. A road tax must be paid upon entry, and a certificate is issued which must be returned to customs upon departure. Failure to declare the vehicle constitutes smuggling.

Driving: Driving is on the right-hand side. Foreign driving licences are generally accepted for short stays; longer-term residents should obtain an Albanian licence.

Pets

Requirements

- **ISO 15-digit microchip (compliant with ISO 11784/11785), implanted before rabies vaccination**
From All Countries
- **Current rabies vaccination certificate (administered at least 21 days before travel for pets over 12 weeks of age; must not have expired per the vaccine manufacturer's specifications)**
From All Countries
- **Veterinary health certificate issued by a licensed veterinarian within 10 days of travel**
From All Countries
- **Government endorsement of the health certificate (e.g., USDA endorsement for US-origin pets, CFIA for Canadian pets)**
From All Countries
- **Vaccination history**
From All Countries
- **Copy of the owner's passport**
From All Countries
- **Microchip or tattoo number documented on all paperwork**
From All Countries

- **Letter of employment by the Albanian employing company (may be required for customs processing of pet clearance)**

From All Countries

Specific Information

Identification: Pets must be identified with a 15-digit ISO 11784/11785-compliant microchip. The microchip must be implanted before the rabies vaccination is administered. If the microchip is not ISO-compliant, the owner must provide a compatible scanner.

Minimum age: Puppies and kittens may not be vaccinated for rabies until 12 weeks (3 months) of age. Unvaccinated puppies and kittens are not permitted to enter Albania. After vaccination, pets must wait 21 days before travel, making the effective minimum import age approximately 15–16 weeks.

Rabies vaccination timing: Pets must be vaccinated for rabies at least 21 days prior to entry but before the vaccine's expiration date. If the pet was vaccinated before being microchipped, it must be re-vaccinated after microchipping and then wait 21 days.

Other vaccinations: Standard vaccinations for dogs (distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, parvovirus) and cats (feline viral rhinotracheitis, panleukopenia, feline leukemia) are recommended but not mandatory for entry.

Rabies titer test: Albania does not require a rabies titer test for pets entering from rabies-free or rabies-controlled countries. However, pets originating from countries classified as high risk for rabies should carry a titer test, particularly if they may later be re-exported to the EU or US.

Health certificate: Must be issued within 10 days of travel by a licensed veterinarian. For US-origin pets, the bilingual health certificate for Albania must be endorsed by the USDA. An EU Pet Passport cannot be used in place of the health certificate (Albania is not an EU member state).

Import permit: An import permit is not required for personal pet dogs and cats entering Albania with their owners. Commercial imports require a permit.

Quarantine: Albania does not require quarantine for dogs, cats, or ferrets that meet the documentation requirements.

Entry method: Pets must enter Albania through Tirana International Airport Nënë Tereza (Rinas). Advance notice should be given to veterinary officials at the airport so they are available to inspect the pet upon landing, especially for arrivals outside normal business hours.

Veterinary inspection at arrival: All pets must be checked at the airport upon arrival by the customs veterinarian. The health check fee is approximately €50 per pet. It takes approximately 24 hours to clear a pet arriving in Albania.

Banned breeds: Albania does not officially publish a list of banned breeds according to most sources. However, one expat source indicates Albania may restrict certain breeds considered dangerous (e.g., Pit Bulls, Rottweilers, Dobermans). Confirm current breed restrictions with the destination agent before shipping.

CITES: Animals other than dogs, cats, or ferrets — particularly birds, reptiles, and exotic species — may require additional permits if protected under CITES.

Tick and tapeworm treatment: Not mandatory for entry into Albania but recommended.

Common mistakes: Not having the microchip implanted before the rabies vaccination (requires re-vaccination and a new 21-day wait). Attempting to use an EU Pet Passport instead of the required health certificate. Not providing advance notice to veterinary officials at Tirana airport. Arriving with incomplete or improperly endorsed health certificates.

Consignment Instructions

Recommended: Contact the destination agent to ensure all requirements have been met prior to import, especially for differences regarding air / sea shipments.

Inventory requirements: A detailed inventory list must be prepared in Albanian, valued, dated, and signed by the owner of the goods. Items should be listed by category (furniture, clothes, books, etc.). Electrical appliances must include make, model, and serial number. All foreign-language documents must be translated into Albanian and notarised.

Inspection: Shipments are subject to customs inspection. Customs authorities reserve the right to request additional supporting documents.

Timing / shipment arrival: The e-Albania authorisation for duty exclusion is typically valid for one month, so it should be requested close to the expected arrival date of the goods. Documents must be received by the agent prior to import.

Owner presence: The owner does not need to be present for customs clearance, but all documentation must be in order and the authorisation must have been obtained in advance.

Routing / transit: Albania has one main commercial seaport at Durrës and the main international airport at Tirana (Rinas). Sea shipments are directed to Tirana Customs; air shipments are directed to Rinas Customs. Diplomatic notes must specify the correct customs office.

Port of entry: Port of Durrës for sea freight. Tirana International Airport Nënë Tereza (Rinas) for air freight.

Antiques, artefacts, carpets, and paintings: The importation of such items does not require registration upon arrival. However, it is recommended to bring certificates of origin. When

exporting artwork and antiques from Albania, the original paperwork showing the items were originally brought into the country is needed to facilitate the process.

Currency: Cash declarations are required when entering or exiting Albania with more than €10,000 or equivalent. Import of local currency (Albanian Lek) is prohibited. Foreign currencies have no import restrictions.

Special territories: Albania has no overseas territories or autonomous regions with separate customs regimes.

Cultural & Other Information

- **OpenFactBook (replaces CIA World Factbook):** <https://www.openfactbook.org/countries/albania/>
- **Wikipedia:** <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albania>
- **General Directorate of Customs (DPD):** <https://dogana.gov.al/english>
- **Customs — Transfer of Residence page:** <https://dogana.gov.al/english/c/168/196/240/transferring-of-residence>
- **Customs — Vehicle Clearance page:** <https://dogana.gov.al/english/c/168/179/customs-clearance-of-vehicles>
- **Customs — Travellers (Untaxable Limits):** <https://dogana.gov.al/english/c/168/174/186/untaxable-limit>
- **e-Albania Portal (for duty exclusion applications):** <https://e-albania.al/>
- **Ministry of Finance and Economy:** <https://financa.gov.al/>
- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Visa Information):** <https://punetejashtme.gov.al/en/regjimi-i-vizave-per-te-huajt/>
- **USDA APHIS — Pet Travel to Albania:** <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/pet-travel/us-to-another-country-export/pet-travel-us-albania>

Key country facts: Albania is located in Southeastern Europe on the Balkan Peninsula, bordered by Montenegro, Kosovo, North Macedonia, and Greece, with coastline on the Adriatic and Ionian Seas. The capital is Tirana. The official language is Albanian. The currency is the Albanian lek (ALL). Albania is an EU candidate country; its customs system is progressively aligned with the EU Customs Union under the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA), but it is not yet part of the EU Customs Union. Driving is on the right-hand side.

Regulatory Updates

- **January 2026:** The e-Albania portal is now the required channel for uploading duty exclusion documents for both non-diplomats and returning Albanian citizens. Temporary residence permits are not accepted by customs authorities for duty-free import purposes.
- **2024:** Albanian Customs Code updated to further align with EU customs procedures.
- **2022 onwards:** Progressive tightening of vehicle import emission standards — vehicles must meet at least Euro 4 (used) or Euro 5/6 (new). Vehicles manufactured before 2007 were no longer eligible for first-time registration as of December 31, 2022.

Quick Links & Resources

- [Find Movers in Albania](https://iamovers.mobilityex.com/index.html#/search?loc=Albania&lat=41.3275&lng=19.8187&range=50&assoc_s=800&fvw=c&ctry=Albania)
https://iamovers.mobilityex.com/index.html#/search?loc=Albania&lat=41.3275&lng=19.8187&range=50&assoc_s=800&fvw=c&ctry=Albania
- [Foreign Embassies in Albania](https://www.embassypages.com/albania)
<https://www.embassypages.com/albania>
- [Albania's Embassies Abroad](https://punetejashtme.gov.al/en/missions/)
<https://punetejashtme.gov.al/en/missions/>
- [OpenFactBook \(replaces CIA World Factbook\)](https://www.openfactbook.org/countries/albania/)
<https://www.openfactbook.org/countries/albania/>
- [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albania)
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albania>
- [General Directorate of Customs \(DPD\)](https://dogana.gov.al/english)
<https://dogana.gov.al/english>
- [Ministry of Finance and Economy](https://financa.gov.al/)
<https://financa.gov.al/>
- [Directory of Road Transport Service \(DSHTRR\)](https://www.dpshttr.al/)
<https://www.dpshttr.al/>
- [National Food Authority \(AKU\)](https://aku.gov.al/)
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