

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU ENTER ALBANIA



The Border and Migration Police of Albania will interview you within 24 hours and assist you with your immediate needs. They are entitled to require from you any travel documents and proof of identity.



The interview will be done in a language you understand and have identified in the List of Languages placed at the Border Checking Point office.



You have the right to ask for asylum in Albania. The question is asked during the interview. You can also declare your intention to seek asylum/protection at any time, to any border police guard before the interview. If you decide / wish, border and migration police will refer your case to the Directorate of Asylum in Tirana. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) will also be informed. If you ask for asylum, you have the right to ask to speak to a UNHCR officer.



After you ask for asylum, the migration authorities will have to transfer you to Tirana, where you may be accommodated in the national Reception Center for Asylum Seekers. Refugee status determination procedures will then start from Asylum Authorities.



If you do not choose to ask for asylum in Albania and are not in possession of the necessary visa/documents, you will be considered an irregular migrant. It is very likely that border and migration police will ask you to voluntarily return to the country from which you just came (most often Greece). This will take place within 24 hours. If you refuse to return, you will be sent to a closed reception facility in Karrec, close to Tirana, pending such return.

WELCOME TO ALBANIA

Country: **Albania (Shqipëria)**

Capital: **Tirana**

Language: **Albanian**

Area of the country: **28,748 km sq**

Currency: **Albanian Lek (ALL)**

Approximately 1 EUR = 135 ALL

Population: **2.9 million**

BORDERING COUNTRIES:

- Greece – South
- Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) – East
- Kosovo UNSCR 1244 – Northeast
- Montenegro – Northwest.
- Italy— West



DEFINITIONS



Asylum seeker is any foreigner or stateless person, who expresses in any possible way his/her wish to seek asylum in the country in which he/ she finds himself due to fear for his life, physical safety or degrading treatment. Border and Migration Police receive the asylum requests but do not take a decision on whether the request is well-founded or not.



A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Because of this fear, that his/ her fundamental rights i.e life, physical integrity, freedom, etc, will be violated and because he cannot enjoy the protection of his own country a refugee cannot return home or is afraid to do so.



Irregular migrant is a person that moves from his/her place, outside the regulatory norms of the sending, transit and receiving countries. If a person crosses the international boundaries of a country without a valid passport or travel document or does not fulfill the administrative requirements for leaving his/her country is considered an irregular migrant. For a receiving country the irregular migrant enters, stays and works in that country without the authorization or documents required under the immigration regulations.

RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS AND ASYLUM SEEKERS UPON ENTRY IN ALBANIA



Migrants and asylum seekers are entitled to be treated with respect and dignity. Their basic needs for food, water and basic facilities must be met. Every person has the right to request an individual and confidential interview.



Interview should be conducted in a language that is understood by the migrant/ asylum seeker.



At the moment the asylum request is made, an asylum seeker shall not be returned to the country of origin or to any other country in which would be threatened on account of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion;

Contact at any time with UNHCR



Make sure to comprehend in your mother tongue or in a language you understand every paper is given you for signature. Ask for this right the Police authorities.

Vulnerable individuals, in particular unaccompanied children, single women, disabled persons, the sick and the elderly, should make themselves known to the authorities and ask for separate interviews as well as specialized care.

There are specific mechanisms for such categories, particularly in providing suitable accommodation and medical treatment if needed.

SPECIAL NOTE



If you are a victim of trafficking and/ or if you fear you will be forced to work or perform sexual acts against your will, border and migration police have specialized officers trained to assist you. You can ask for a separate interview or another safe way to communicate your needs to them.

