



Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Tirana (Albania), Demonstrations

Travel Health and Safety

Europe > Albania > Tirana

11/27/2012

The U.S. Embassy has learned that the Red and Black Alliance (RBA) intends to hold a protest to support Albanian unification tomorrow, Wednesday, November 28, at the Morine border-crossing point on the Albania-Kosovo border. A Kosovar nationalist group will concurrently organize a protest on the Kosovo side of the border. The Embassy does not have specific information on the time of the protest; participants could number around 2400.

U.S. Embassy personnel have been advised to avoid the area around the Morine border-crossing point and the protest. Protests significantly affect traffic in the locations in which they occur.

The U.S. Embassy in Tirana reminds you that all public gatherings and demonstrations have the potential to turn confrontational and escalate into violence. You should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations. Large public gatherings can affect all major incoming arteries to the city in which they occur. Demonstrations in one city have the potential to lead to additional public rallies or demonstrations in other locations around the city and country. Review your personal security plans; remain aware of your surroundings, including local events; and monitor local news stations for updates. Maintain a high level of vigilance and take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Albania enroll in the Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S.

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consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the State Department's website, where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the Country Specific Information for Albania. For additional information, refer to "A Safe Trip Abroad" on the State Department's website.

Contact the U.S. Embassy in Tirana for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on Twitter and Facebook, and download our free Smart Traveler iPhone App to have travel information at your fingertips.

The U.S. Embassy is located at Rruga Elbasanit, Nr. 103 in Tirana, Albania and is open to the public by appointment on Monday through Thursday from 13:15 to 15:15. You can schedule a non-emergency appointment by visiting our American Citizen Services website. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, the emergency number for the U.S. Embassy is +355-(0)4-224-7285.

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