

Traffic regulations and fines in Albania

The traffic regulations in Albania are mostly similar to those of other European countries, yet there are some peculiarities. The country has many mountain roads, not all roads have good pavement, and local drivers often ignore traffic rules.

So, how should a foreigner behave on Albanian roads? Of course, learn the local peculiarities, stay calm, and follow the official traffic regulations to avoid paying fines.

Payment of fines for traffic offences is the responsibility of the renter.

Basic traffic regulations and fines

Albania uses **right-hand traffic**, as many other European countries.

Speed limits:

- 110 km/h on expressways
- 90 km/h on major intercity roads
- 80 km/h on minor intercity roads
- 40 km/h in the city.

If you encounter a 40-50 km/h speed limit sign on a highway outside the city, make sure to obey the sign. There are often cameras or traffic patrol in such areas.

Fines:

Speeding	Penalty
up to 10 km/h	1,000-3,000 Lek (€9.50-28)
10-30 km/h	2,000-4,000 Lek (€19-38)
20-40 km/h within towns	5,000-15,000 Lek (€47-141), licence suspension for 3 months

Speeding	Penalty
30-50 km/h outside towns	
more than 40 km/h within towns	10,000-20,000 Lek (€94-188), licence suspension for 3-6 months
more than 50 km/h outside towns	

All car occupants must wear **seat belts**, in both the front and rear seats.

According to the traffic regulations, **children** under 3 years of age can only ride in special restraint systems. Children over 3 years of age are not allowed to ride in the front seats if they are under 150 cm tall. For your safety, we recommend transporting children under 12 years of age or under 150 cm in a restraint system.

The penalty for riding without seat belts and transporting children incorrectly is a fine of 5,000 to 15,000 Lek (~€47-141), and in case of repeated offence, your licence can be suspended.

Be sure to switch on **low beam** in low visibility conditions - 500-2,500 Lek (~€5-23).

Give way to pedestrians on a **zebra** crossing - 500-2000 ALL (~€5-19).

Use your **mobile phone** while driving only with a hand-free system - 5,000-15,000 ALL (~€47-141).

Passing through **red traffic lights** - 5,000-20,000 Lek (~€50-188) and/or imprisonment from 6 to 12 months.

Don't drive under the influence of **alcohol, drugs or other illegal substances**.

Drink driving penalties:

- Less than 0.3‰ - 5,000 to 15,000 ALL (~€47-141)
- 0.3-0.5‰ - 10,000 to 20,000 ALL (~€94-188), licence suspension for 3-6 months
- 0.5-0.8‰ - 10,000 to 20,000 ALL (~€94-188), licence suspension for 1-2 years

- 0.8-1.5‰ - 20,000 to 40,000 ALL (~€188-376), licence suspension for 1-2 years

If the offence is committed at night (between 22:00 and 07:00), the fine is increased by two thirds.

How to talk to the police

If you are stopped by the traffic police, keep calm and be polite.

Show the officer your driver's licence, vehicle registration certificate, insurance, and car rental agreement.

Most police officers don't speak English well. If you can't understand each other, use a translation app on your phone.

If you have committed a traffic offence, don't be aggressive not to make things worse. It's best to admit fault and apologise. For a minor offence, you may be let off without a fine.

If a police officer starts writing a ticket, don't argue. Fines in Albania vary greatly, and the exact amount is determined by the officer.

It is not a good idea to bribe a police officer because this can result in serious penalties. Sometimes it's cheaper to pay the ticket.

How to pay the fine

You can pay the ticket issued by a police officer at the nearest police station, bank, Western Union office or post office.

You can get a 50% discount if you pay the fine within 15 days of receipt or final ruling.

Fines from cameras are sent via the e-albania.al online system within a few days. Your rental company notify you of the debt, provide proof of the offence with the exact date, and offer available payment options.

Local driving style

The Albanian driving style may surprise, irritate or even scare the foreign tourist at first. Indeed, locals often violate traffic regulations, rush, overtake where it's prohibited to do so, and rarely switch on their turn signals. But it's not as scary as it may seem at first glance. You just need to know about the local driving style, be careful, and keep calm.

- Local drivers rarely use turn signals. At junctions and roundabouts, watch out for the cars in the adjacent lanes.
- Some drivers don't respect the right of way. Even at junctions with traffic lights, look to your sides carefully.
- If someone tries to overtake you in the wrong place, it is better to take to the right and let the reckless driver pass.
- Pedestrians often cross the road in the wrong places. Slow down in advance.
- Albania has numerous mountain serpentines with steep turns and narrow sections. Be very careful and take your time on such roads.
- The roads can be slippery in wet weather. Be careful.
- Slow down when exiting onto minor roads in remote areas. Some of them may be in poor condition.
- Fuel consumption increases in the mountains where [petrol stations](#) aren't frequent. Be sure to fill up with plenty of fuel.
- Locals often stop right in the middle of the road to talk to other drivers or pedestrians. If you're in a hurry, just honk at them.

Consider the local traffic style as a peculiarity of the country, try to adapt to it, and don't forget to obey the traffic regulations.

Have a nice trip!