General Information Note num. 2

A. Airport formalities

1. The Government of the Republic of Albania, through its Ministry of Tourism and Environment, will receive all registered participants of the 70th meeting of the UN Tourism Commission for Europe and its side conference on Tourism Investments and Economic Development in Europe, through the authorities lounge of the Tirana International Airport.

2. Airport personnel will escort all registered participants from the airplane. Delegations with high-level authorities will be taken to the authorities’ lounge. Other delegations will have access to Fast Track Border Control.

B. Airport transfers

3. The Government of the Republic of Albania, through its Ministry of Tourism and Environment, will provide private cars for the transfer from the airport to their respective hotels, and vice versa.

4. Members are kindly requested to inform their liaison officers in case their embassies shall provide transfers for their delegations.

C. Liaison Officers

5. By 5 April 2024, your designated liaison officer should have proactively reached out to your delegation to introduce themselves and provide relevant information. Please ensure to check your email for this communication.

6. If you have not received any correspondence from your liaison officer, kindly contact the Regional Department for Europe, and we will promptly provide you with the contact details of your designated liaison.

D. Venue transfers

7. Considering the short distances between the official hotels and the conference venue, we recommend walking to the meeting venue and social activity locations. Walking may also result in more time-efficient due to heavy traffic. Your liaison officer will be available to assist you with navigating the city.

8. Complimentary transfers from all official hotels to the meeting venue and social activities, can be arranged upon special request through your liaison officers.
E. Welcome cocktail

9. A Welcome cocktail, hosted by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment of Albania, will be held on 7 April 2023 at 19:00 at the Maritim Hotel Plaza Tirana, the View Bar (23rd floor).
10. The dress code for the occasion is semiformal.

F. Tour of Tirana for accompanying persons

11. A tour of Tirana for accompanying persons will be organized on 8 April 2024 and will include the following sights: National Archaeological Museum of Tirana, Orthodox Cathedral 'Resurrection of Christ', National Museum of Eavesdropping: "House with Leaves", Bunk'art.
12. The tour will start and finish at Maritim Hotel Plaza Tirana, with departure at 15:00 and an approximate length of 2-3 hours. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable footwear.
13. Registrations for the tour shall be made by 7 April 2024 at the following address: alina.starova@akt.gov.al (+355 69 484 4184) and jonida.marini@akt.gov.al (+355 69 220 6572).

G. Gala dinner

14. A Gala Dinner for all participants, hosted by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment of Albania, will be held on 8 April 2024 at 20:00 at MAK Hotel, Room: Llyria 1.

H. Guided tour for delegations

15. All participants are invited to attend the tour, offered by the National Tourism Agency of Albania on 9 April 2024, which will provide an opportunity for all participants to get acquainted with the rich historical, cultural, and gastronomical heritage of Albania.
16. A general tour of Tirana will be offered on 9 April. The tour will start and finish at Maritim Hotel Plaza Tirana at 15:00, with an approximate length of 2-3 hours. It will include 8 locations: Et'Hem Bey Mosque, Clock Tower; The National Museum; Bunk'Art; Tirana Castle; “Pazari I ri”; Blllok district; Sky Tower; Pyramid of Tirana.
17. The dress code for the occasion is casual. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable footwear.
18. Registrations for the tour shall be made by 8 April 2024 at the following address: alina.starova@akt.gov.al (+355 69 484 4184) and jonida.marini@akt.gov.al (+355 69 220 6572).
Annex I: Summary of the social programme

Sunday, 7 April 2024

19:00 – 21:00  Welcome Cocktail
   Location: Maritim Hotel Plaza Tirana, the View Bar (23rd floor)
   Dress code: semiformal

Monday, 8 April 2024

13:00 – 14:30  Lunch
   Location: Maritim Hotel Plaza Tirana, Savor Restaurant (3rd floor)

20:00 – 22:00  Gala Dinner
   Location: MAK Hotel, Room: Llyria 1
   Dress code: formal / optional black tie

Tuesday, 9 April 2024

13:00 – 14:30  Lunch
   Location: Maritim Hotel Plaza Tirana, Savor Restaurant (3rd floor)

15:00 – 18:00  Guided tour of Tirana
   Start and finish location: Maritim Hotel Plaza Tirana
Annex II: Detailed information about the city tour

Et’Hem Bey Mosque, Clock Tower

Your own journey might begin by visiting the museums and the key spots such as Sheshi Skenderbej, where you will be able to see the Mosque of Et’Hem Bey (built between 1798 and 1812) and the 35 m high Kulla e Sahatit (the Clock Tower), built in 1822 with a San Marco style cupola. Next, you can visit the famous Mosaic uncovered on the floor of an old Roman lodge. The monumental Tomb of Kapllan Pasha and the Ura e Tabakeve (a bridge constructed in the beginning of the 19th century, located on Bulevardi Zhan D’Ark).

The National Museum

To get to know the history of the Albanians, this is the place to visit. The National History Museum is the most important museum in Albania and contains a well-documented history of the country. The museum is divided into eight pavilions: Antiquity, Middle Ages, Renaissance, Independence, Iconography, National Liberation Anti-Fascism War, Communist Terror, and Mother Teresa. The Pavilion of Communist Terror hosts images, documents and videos of the persecution suffered by the Albanians during the communist regime. A visit here can take up to three hours, so pace yourself!

Bunk’Art2

Phase of a project aiming at preserving the memory of the communist era, built by Enver Hoxha during the communist period, now a museum and tourist attraction. Bunk’Art2 consists of 24 rooms that extend for a total of over 1,000 square meters. Some rooms recreate the ambiance of that period in history, while others house art installations inspired by this era.

Tirana Castle

The Castle of Tirana is located in the city center, owned by the Toptani family, one of the richest families in Albania and the Balkans. The “Old Bazaar” of the castle is the newest jewel added in Tirana, where modern and tradition meets together. This area serves as a culinary environment for traditional food, but also as an area of culture and art.

“Pazari i ri”

The New Bazaar is a neighborhood in Tirana, Albania. The name of the neighborhood stems from the groceries marketplace, which is situated in the area. It is located east of the central boulevard. Along with Mujos i t forms part of the Old Town of Tirana and is one of the oldest areas of the city.

“Bllok district”

The former Block known as Bloku is the most famous and expensive area in Tirana. It became frequented by local youth after the fall of communism in Albania because during communism it used to be the area where only the communist elites lived. In Blloku you can still find the residence of the Albania’s communist leader Enver Hoxha. You might not believe it but for the locals Blloku is the most
popular and expensive than the city center of Tirana, for that reasons even for all tourists that visit Tirana is a must spot to visit, for the history that has even to enjoy the restaurants and clubs on the area.

**Sky Tower**
It is a place where you can enjoy a drink with a panoramic view, which overlooks the whole city.

**Pyramid of Tirana**
As a symbol of a notorious communism, it resisted some attempts to be destroyed by previous governments. Today, it is officially known as the Pjeter Arbnori International Cultural Centre and stands out as a remarkable piece of architecture and legacy from communism. You can walk around outside it any time of day or night. You can even climb to the top of it.