

EUD Delegation Tirana

FAQ on the visa-free regime

1. What documents are needed in order to enjoy visa-free travel to the Schengen area?

A valid biometric passport is required.

2. When is Visa Liberalisation entering into force?

Visa Liberalisation shall enter into force on 15 December 2010.

3. Will the old Albanian passport be valid after the new process?

Yes, but holders of old non biometric passports will still need a Schengen visa. The provisions of Visa Facilitation will apply.

4. Can I enter the Schengen area more than one time during the six month period?

Yes, you can. However you must carefully calculate your days of stay as you must not exceed the overall total of 90 (ninety) days of stay within a six month period (180 days).

5. Are there any changes in the new visa-free regime related to the travel of minors?

No

6. What are the specific requirements and/or questions that can be asked at the border to the Albanian citizens before they can enter the Schengen area?

The normal entry conditions for all third country national travellers to the Schengen area apply. At the border, travellers can be asked to demonstrate the means of their travel and show means of subsistence during their stay in the Schengen area. In addition, travellers can be asked to specify the place of their stay.

7. How much money do I need to have with me in order to travel as a tourist to the Schengen area?

According to Article 5(3) of the Schengen Border Code; "*means of subsistence shall be assessed in accordance with the duration and the purpose of the stay and by reference to average prices in the Member State(s)¹ concerned for board and lodging in budget accommodation, multiplied by the number of days stayed.*

How the verification can be done:

¹

* Some MS have set reference amounts - which are notified and published by DG Home/C1 (http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/doc_centre/borders/borders_rights_en.htm#notifications)

- The verification that the third-country national concerned has sufficient means of subsistence for the duration and purpose of the intended stay, for his/her return to the country of origin or transit to a third country or that he/she can obtain these means legally. In order to assess the means of subsistence, the reference amounts set by each Schengen State must be taken into account;
- The verification of sufficient means of subsistence may be based on the cash, travellers' cheques and credit cards in the third-country national's possession. Declarations of sponsorships, where such declarations are provided for by national legislation and letters of guarantee/invitation from hosts, as defined by national legislation, in case the third-country national is staying with a host, may also constitute evidence of sufficient means of subsistence;
- The validity of a credit card can be verified by contacting the issuing company or by using other facilities available at the border crossing point (e.g. exchange offices);
- Invitation from hosts can be verified by contacting the host directly or by verifying the host's good faith through the national contact points of the MS of residence of the host;

8. If I plan to visit a friend or relative living in the Schengen area will I need to provide any specific information on this person at the border?

You can be asked to provide detailed information on this person. It is recommended to have at least the address and contact number in that specific country.

9. Is it always necessary to have a return ticket before leaving Albania?

It is recommended when travelling by air to have a return ticket.

10. Being an Albanian citizen married to a foreign citizen of a third country (not an EU member state) that needs a visa in order to enter the Schengen area will she/he be able to enter the Schengen area without a visa if she/he has a regular Albanian residence permit document?

The Albanian residence permit document does not give him/her the right to travel to the Schengen area without a visa.

11. Will I need to apply for a visa if I plan to travel to the Schengen area for short-term studies?

You will need to apply for a visa only in case you intend to undertake studies exceeding 90 days of stay in the Schengen area, within a six months period (180 days).

12. Will I be able to travel to the Schengen area with my biometric passport if one of the EU Member States Embassies has refused to issue a visa in the past?

It depends on the reasons of the refusal.

If the visa application was not completed or the documents provided were not valid (lack of health insurance, fake travel agency arrangements etc etc), the refusal does not automatically translate into a ban of entry under visa liberalisation.

If the visa was refused because the person has an entry ban from Schengen the entry will be refused.

13. Will a person with deportation papers from any Schengen countries be able to profit from the new visa free-regime?

No.

14. After the visa free travel are there any restrictions related to travel from one Schengen country into another country?

There is no border control between Schengen countries.

15. Is insurance always necessary in order to travel in Schengen area?

Travel insurance is not obligatory. Nonetheless, it is highly recommended to get one in case of travel to the Schengen countries.