

The Itinerary of Museums

12 Bunk' Art 1

BUNK'ART



It was opened to the public in November 2014. In June 1978, the anti-nuclear bunker built by the then communist government was inaugurated by the dictator Enver Hoxha. The museum is a five-storey underground flat, consisting of 106 rooms and an assembly hall, now transformed into a historical and artistic centre called BunkArt 1.

Bunk'Art 1 includes the following: the Historical Exhibition, the Museum Exhibition and the Artistic Installations. The Historical Exhibition presents the historical periods Albania went through from 1939 to 1990.

The Museum Exhibition consists of the following: 1) Enver Hoxha Room, 2) Mehmet Shehu Room, 3) The Officer Room, 4) The Socialist House, 5) Sport in Albania (1945 – 1990), 6) the Museum of the Military Liaison, 7) The Chief of Staff Room, 8) Education in Albania (1945 – 1990), 9) the Bunkerization of Albania (1975 – 1983). Bunk'Art 1 has now been transformed into a unique tourist point in the region that presents the life of Albanians during the 45 years of the communist dictatorship.

Opening Hours:

Winter Season from the last week of October till March:

Wednesday – Sunday: 09:00 – 16:00; (Monday & Tuesday: Closed).

Summer Season from April till the week before last in October:

Monday – Thursday: 09:00 – 17:00; Friday-Sunday: 09:00- 18:00

Address: Fadil Deliu Street (near the Cable Car Dajti Express Station)

Mobile: +355 67 207 2905; **E-mail:** info@bunkart.al;

Web: www.bunkart.al/1; **Facebook:** Bunk'art 1

Instagram: bunkart1



1 The National Historical Museum

The National Historical Museum was inaugurated on October 28, 1981. It currently constitutes the largest museum institution in Albania. The museum's general area is 27.000 m² and the exhibition area is 18.000 m². The museum building conveys a taste of hermeticism and tendentious monumentalism that was in harmony with the aesthetic taste and the general climate of the Hoxha regime.

The facade mosaic is a giant mosaic measuring 10 x 40 m that overlooks the Scanderbeg Square. The general area of the mosaic is 400 m². The mosaic was completed in 1981. There are 13 figures represented into a few groups in the mosaic. On the left side it is the group of Illyrian fighters, swordsmen and archers that of the Albanians of the Anti-Ottoman rule. The National Renaissance is represented with figures and then it is the figure of the partisan. The two symbolic figures, that of the worker and the female peasant are at the centre. On the right side there are 5 figures symbolizing the National Liberation War.

There are around 5000 artefacts that are exhibited in the museum's facilities that belong to a rather long time period, beginning with the IV millennium B.C. and up until the second half of the XX century. At the museum you may visit the Antiquity Pavilion, the Middle Ages Pavilion, the Albanian National Renaissance Pavilion, the Independence Pavilion, the Icons Pavilion, the Antifascist National Liberation War Pavilion, the Communist Terror Pavilion and the Mother Teresa Pavilion.



Opening Hours:

Spring – Summer Season (May 1st – October 15th):

Monday-Sunday: 09.00 – 19.00

Autumn – Winter Season (October 15th – May 1st): Tuesday

- Saturday: 09.00 – 16.00; Sunday: 10.00 – 15.00; Monday:

Closed.

Address: Scanderbeg Square

Tel: +355 4 222 3977

E-mail: muzeuhistorikkombetar@mhk.gov.al

Web: www.mhk.gov.al

Facebook Account: Muzeu Historik Kombetar

Instagram: muzeukombetar

2 Kadare Study House

Kadare Study House is the place where one might get an idea of Kadare's work. It is organized into 6 rooms and represents an authentic space where everyone receives a good feeling and an almost complete idea on the work of the renowned writer.

This flat where Kadare lived between 1974–1989 is located on the third floor of a block of flats at the Dibra Road and was designed by the architect Maks Velo in 1972. The flat was designated a Cultural Monument of the II Category in 2015. The building block or as it knows 'the building with cubes' represents in itself the aspirations of the Albanian architecture to be on the same step with the times and especially with the West. It is for this reason that this building was at the centre of the accusations of the time by being labelled as modernist and cubist. Its architect and designer was imprisoned to 10 years.

Apart from the personal perspective Kadare Study House operates as a study space with its original publications, with the library dedicated to Kadare as well as the personal library of the writer. The fourth room is the centre dedicated to studying that aims to provide a space for each researcher of knowledge admirer.

Opening Hours:

Spring – Summer Season (May 1st-October 15th): Tuesday – Saturday:

09:00-19:00; Sunday: 10:00 – 17:00; Monday: Closed.

Autumn – Winter Season (October 15th-May 1st): Tuesday – Saturday: 10:00 –

17:00; Sunday: 10:00 - 15:00; Monday: Closed.

Address: Dibra Street, Building 85, Palace of Cubes, 3th Floor, Tirana

Email: shtepiakadare@tirana.al

Web: www.shtepiakadare.tirana.al; **Facebook:** Shtëpia Studio Kadare

Instagram: shtepia_studio_kadare

3 The Museum of the Bank of Albania

This museum is located within the symbolic building of the main square of the capital city, the main offices of the Central Bank. This museum was inaugurated on October 30, 2015.

The museum consists of two floors where each one of them is designed as an independent space from the other. The first floor contains an exhibitions trajectory that culminates with the Treasury Room or as it is otherwise known 'Rondo'. The rich numismatic collection of the Bank of Albania from antiquity to date is presented here.

The second floor of the museum presents the history of the institution of the Central Bank of Albania, its role in preserving the prices stability as well as guaranteeing the financial stability of the country, together with its constitutional functions.

Entry into the building is via the Ibrahim Rugova Street. To enter into the Museum of the Bank of Albania one must book the visit ahead and present an identification document.

Opening Hours:

Every Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 09:00; 11:00 and 14:00.

Free Entry

Address: Ibrahim Rugova Street

Tel: +355 4 241 93 01; **E-mail:** muzeu@bankofalbania.org;

Web: www.bankofalbania.org/Muzeu_dhe_Edukimi

Facebook: Muzeu i Bankës së Shqipërisë

4 The Mezuraj Museum



This museum is located at the Kavaja Street quite close to the centre of the capital city and consists of a few collections. The archaeological collection of the Mezuraj Museum is of a character that meets almost all the dimensions of a representative collection.

Another art genre that is represented into the Mezuraj Museum is the sculpture collection. A different collection is that of the wooden sculptures where there are approximately 20 wooden sculptures with anthropomorphic figures, mainly a single figure or two intertwined ones according to the abstract memetic concept.

The Mezuraj painting collection includes over 3500 categories. But the fundamental fund of the Mezuraj collection has over 500 selected categories of a high and original quality. This collection begins with a coloured engraving of Scanderbeg on his horse, without identified authors dating back to the XVIII century and includes paintings of the beginning of the XX century of the great masters of tradition, such as, Kolë Idromeno, Simon Rrota, etc.

Opening Hours:

Monday - Friday: 08:00 – 16:00; Saturday & Sunday: Closed.

Address: Kavaja Street

Mob: +355 693861706; **E-mail:** museummezuraj@gmail.com;

Facebook: MEZURAJ MUZEUM; **Instagram:** mezurajmuseum

5 The National Museum of Secret Surveillance 'House of Leaves'



The building known as 'The House of Leaves' (called like this due to the climbing vegetation covering its façade) has now been transformed into the National Museum of Secret Surveillance. It is one of the most special museums in Albania that tries to tell the young people and the foreigners about one of the darkest periods of the history of the country. This is the building that turned for a while into the Gestapo House during the occupation of the country during World War II and that later on functioned as the Main Headquarters of the Secret Surveillance between 1944 - 1991.

The House of Leaves Museum manages to tell about the important repressive, scary and controlling role of the political police through a rich and authentic collection of the surveillance equipment that were amongst the more modern ones for the time, through the large number of the archival documents, film evidence and statistics or researches thus turning the political police into the most efficient instrument of the party-state that influenced the longevity and the 45 year old rule of the communist regime in Albania.

The museum presents a unique form of the representation of the communist regime period due to the preservation of the authenticity of the building spaces and the intertwining of the visual with the auditory

Opening Hours:

Spring – Summer Season (May 1st – October 15th): Monday – Sunday: 09:00-19:00

Autumn – Winter Season (October 15th – May 1st): Tuesday - Saturday: 09:00 – 16:00;

Sunday: 10:00 – 15:00; Monday: Closed.

Address: Dëshmorët e 4 shkurtit Street

Mobile: +355 69 967 6116/ 68 268 6566

E-mail: info.gjethi@muzeugjethi.gov.al; **Web:** muzeugjethi.gov.al

Facebook: Muzeu Kombetar "Shtepia me gjethe"

6 The Women Museum



This museum is a narrative of the history of the Albanian women through the known and unknown events. In this museum the women travel in time from the antiquity and are seen through the artefacts, documents and photos towards the aim the museum has, which is to discover as best as it can the role of the Albanian woman in the society, family, in the monologue with herself and the dialogue with the man.

The clothing items, the personal artefacts, bags and hats are a nice discovery for those who do not know Albania back during the 1920s-1930s, while different documents and publications indicate that the story of the true female intellectuals began even before the story of the creation of the Albanian state.

The Women Museum (WM) is an individual initiative of Elsa Ballauri, a journalist, human rights activist and collector.

Opening Hours

(for the Summer Season): Monday – Saturday: 10:00 – 19:00; Sunday: Closed.

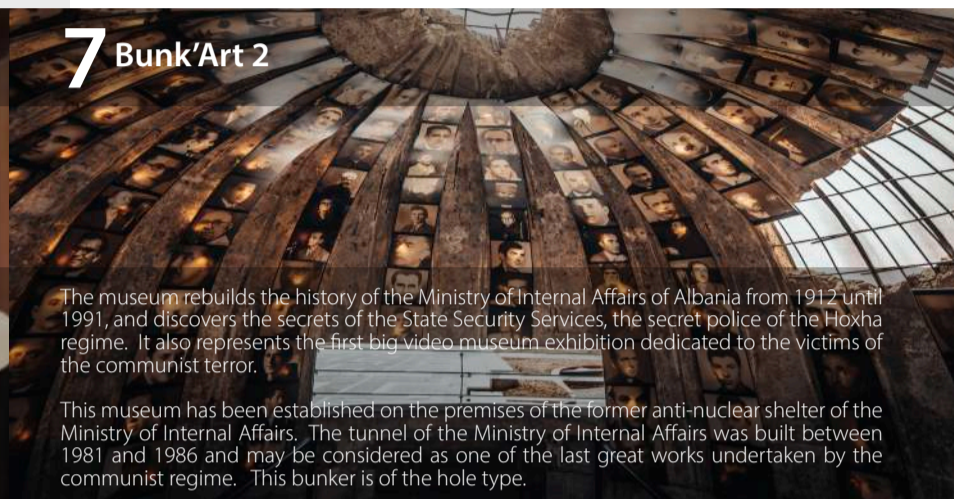
(for the Winter Season): Monday – Saturday: 10:00 – 17:00; Sunday: Closed. (Call in advance for your visit)

Address: Myslym Shyri Street, Pall. 44, Shk. 4/37, Tirana.

Mob: +355 68 202 3950; **E-mail:** el.ballauri@gmail.com;

Instagram: mig_albania **Web:** www.mig-al.org

7 Bunk'Art 2



The museum rebuilds the history of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Albania from 1912 until 1991, and discovers the secrets of the State Security Services, the secret police of the Hoxha regime. It also represents the first big video museum exhibition dedicated to the victims of the communist terror.

This museum has been established on the premises of the former anti-nuclear shelter of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The tunnel of the Ministry of Internal Affairs was built between 1981 and 1986 and may be considered as one of the last great works undertaken by the communist regime. This bunker is of the hole type.

Using the code language of the time this bunker was 'The Pillar Object' and was composed of 24 rooms, one flat reserved for the Minister of Interior as well as a large room that was dedicated to the intercommunications. Just like in many other bunkers of this size this bunker was also built to withstand a possible chemical and nuclear attack.

In reality the bunker was not even used for training purposes. The Premier of the time, Mr. Mehmet Shehu and even the former dictator Hoxha who ordered the building of the bunker never lived to see it completed since both of them passed away before the construction works came to an end.

The entrance and exit parts of the bunker were completed only lately since the original project foresaw the entry into the tunnel only via the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Opening Hours: Winter Season from the last week of October till March: Opening Hours:

Every Day Monday – Sunday: 09:00-18:00

Summer Season from April till the week before last in October:

Opening Hours: Monday-Thursday: 09:00 – 18:00; Friday-Sunday: 09:00- 21:00

Address: Abdi Toptani Street **Mob:** +355 67 207 2905

E-mail: info@bunkart.al; **Web:** www.bunkart.al/2; **Instagram:** bunkart2

8 The Archaeological Museum of Tirana



The Archaeological Museum of Tirana was the first museum established post World War II, since the last museum institutions were destroyed during this war.

This museum was opened on 01.11.1948 as an Archaeological-Ethnographic Museum and remained as such until 1976 when the Ethnographic Pavilion was separated and the museum was organized as a profiled archaeological museum. The museum represents the archaeological researches and discoveries in the whole territory of Albania.

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday: 10:00 -15:00 during all seasons of the year. Saturday & Sunday: Closed.

Address: Mother Teresa Square

Mob: +355 69 6472420

E-mail: info@asa.edu.al

Web: www.asa.edu.al

9 'Sabiha Kasimati' Museum of Natural Sciences



'Sabiha Kasimati' Museum of Natural Sciences is the only one of its kind in our country providing a wonderful journey towards the discovery of nature and species.

It was established in 1948 upon a history of exhibits dating back to 1900. The museum represents a rare national asset and natural heritage.

All its seven pavilions have been displayed in such a way as to show the direction of the evolution of the living world. There are over 3000 exhibits that have been displayed here and there is a scientific fund of over 100 thousand exhibits of the Albanian fauna. There are thousands of representations from the terrestrial, marine, river, and salt water fauna, animals ranging from the wonderful multi-coloured fixed and immobile corals, different types of mollusk, insects with an amazing view and colours, different types of fish, impressive amphibians and reptiles from the snakes to the large marine turtles, amazing poultry, where surely the curly pelican remains a unique species of its kind, as well as the skeleton of the sperm whale measuring 8m in length.

Based on the above the museum represents a scientific, teaching, educational, and cultural complex as well as the only biodiversity research centre and of the Albanian environment.

Opening Hours: Monday – Friday: 09.00 – 15.00; Saturday & Sunday: Closed

Address: Todi Shkurti Street, Tirana

Mob: +355 68 69 46 691; +355 68 20 97 893;

E-mail: julian.shehu@shn.edu.al; jshehu2000@gmail.com;

Facebook: Muzeu I Shkencave Të Natyrës

Instagram: muzeuishkencavetenatyres

10 The Museum of Bektashism



The museum is located at the Odeon's facilities (The Great Shrine) at the Bektashi World Headquarters and it was inaugurated on September 7, 2015 together with the Odeon.

The Museum of Bektashism presents the history of Bektashism at the global range and specifically that of the Albanian Bektashism seen through the documents, photographs and the original artefacts. There are 12 stands and 12 showcases, thus respecting the 12 Imams. A very important quarter is dedicated to the religious tolerance and harmony, for which the Bektashi World Headquarters have provided a great contribution.

This museum is composed of three main parts: Chimney-Coffee, 'Ashurja' and Pilgrimage. An important place at the museum is dedicated to the relationship between the Bektashism in Albania and the Albanian National Renaissance. Apart from the activities of the patriot clergy a special stand is also dedicated to the Frashëri brothers, where Naim Frashëri's contribution is noted.

Free Entry

Opening Hours: Monday – Saturday: 09:00 – 20:00; Sunday: 09:00 – 14:00

Address: Dhimitër Kamarda Street, Nr. 10, Tirana

Mob: +355 682374137;

E-mail: shabantufa.al@gmail.com; seliaeshenjte@kryegjyshatabotorebektashiane.org;

Web: www.kryegjyshatabotorebektashiane.org/muzeu-i-bektashizmit

11 The Museum of the Armed Forces (The Army Museum)



The Historical Museum of the Armed Forces or as otherwise known 'The Weaponry Museum' is located on the premises of the Doctrine and Training Command (the former United School).

There are over a thousand museum artefacts displayed. The main pavilions are: The Historical Period 1470-1939 Pavilion, the Antifascist National Liberation War Pavilion 1939- 1945, and the 1945-1990 Pavilion. The second floor of the museum displays parts from the military uniforms used by the Armed Forces over the years to date.

The local visitors must have an ID Card. While the foreign visitors must book the visit to the AF Museum 2-3 weeks in advance, by sending a request accompanied by a scanned copy of their ID Card. The request needs to be sent to the following e-mail address: asllanzemani@yahoo.com

Free Entry

Opening Hours: Monday-Thursday: 09:00 – 16:00; Friday: 09:00 – 13:00; Saturday & Sunday: Closed

Address: Dibra Street, Scanderbeg Garrison;

Mob: +355 692179230;

E-mail: asllanzemani@yahoo.com;

Web: https://www.mod.gov.al/index.php/muzeu-i-fa-2