

TIRANA EUROPEAN  
YOUTH CAPITAL

2022



# STROLLING TIRANA



YOUTH  
EDITION





A SUSTAINABLE URBAN MOBILITY GUIDE

FOR TIRANA

# STROLLING TIRANA

EUROPEAN  
YOUTH CAPITAL

YOUTH  
EDITION





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# Introduction

Dear reader,

2022 is the European Year of Youth and Tirana is the European Youth Capital. This shines a light on the importance of European youth in building a better future – greener, more inclusive and digital.

This guide is intended to show visitors and residents alike numerous opportunities to learn, share their vision, meet on another and engage in activities.

In our first edition of the Strolling Tirana guide, we showed that sustainable transport modes such as walking, cycling and taking the bus are perfect to get around in Tirana. Also, this guide helps you discover Tirana and all its opportunities via sustainable modes.

The Sustainable Urban Transport in Tirana project of GIZ Albania is happy to publish this second edition together with the Municipality of Tirana.

A sustainable  
mobility guide  
for Tirana

2021



# STROLLING TIRANA



# A sustainable mobility guide for Tirana

Download and have a look at the guide [here](#):

Strolling Tirana - A sustainable mobility guide for Tirana | Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative (TUMI) ([transformative-mobility.org](https://transformative-mobility.org))

Inside, you will find:

- Sustainable mobility
- Beginner's guide to the Albanian language
- Seven different tours around the city: walking, cycling and using public transport: buses.

You can also find the printed version of the Strolling Tirana at the Tourist Information Office, at "Ded Gjo Luli" street.

# Foreword Mayor



*Erion Veliaj*  
*Mayor of the City of Tirana*



Welcome to Tirana!

I am happy to welcome you in the European Youth Capital 2022. Tirana uses this year to focus especially on the youth – our future. We are organizing more than 1,000 activities throughout the year to celebrate, create, discuss and progress.

We all know that our youth is the greatest asset of our city and even our country. Tirana is a young city – Albania has one of the youngest populations in Europe. Through this energy, we are moving quickly towards a prosperous and sustainable future within the EU.

Each one of you has the opportunity to change the world. This is our moment, our time, this is our year as a European Youth Capital.

Our program as the European Youth Capital 2022 is an ambitious one that focuses on the needs of young people of today and tomorrow, championing non-formal values and best practices. The whole program encourages positive activism by presenting eight interwind themes comprising dozens of projects and hundreds of wide-range activities. Its themes are: Youth makes creative economy & innovation; Youth creates culture, Youth develops capacity, Youth Participates; Youth is diversity; Youth are Europeans; Youth Eco-Health; Youth Spaces.

This Guide takes you on a journey around the city to discover all the great opportunities it offers to its youth. We show you our murals as well as co-working spaces. Have a look at the newly re-designed public spaces where children play and youngsters show-off their BMX skills.

Throughout the whole year, we collaborate with many actors. This guide is composed in collaboration with the Sustainable Urban Transport in Tirana Project of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. We are happy to work together towards a more livable and sustainable future.

Let's re-discover life together!



# Welcome to Tirana, Albania

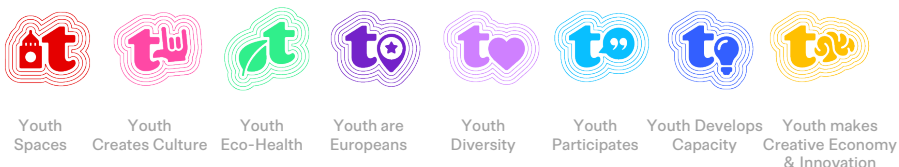
A city so old that it dates back to the Paleolithic era and with 100 years of history as the capital of Albania, Tirana nowadays is known as the largest and most vivid city in Albania, with about half of its population under 35 years old. Due to its role as the center of political, economic and cultural life of Albania and as home to the most prestigious public and private universities in the country, Tirana is becoming one of the most dynamic and forward-looking cities in the region.

The fast-paced transformation of the city can be seen not only in its urban appearance but also in the growing opportunities and incentives for youth, who are now shaping the city's economy, event scene, mobility trends, etc.

Other than sunny, warm weather, great hospitality and generosity, in our city you will find very friendly multilingual and curious citizens who will make you feel home and introduce you to our rich culture and traditions, great food and nightlife.

The number of youth-friendly spaces in the city has increased rapidly in the last years as well as the number of cultural and artistic events that promote youth talent, such as the Tirana Art Fest, yearly theatre and literature festivals, stand-up comedy shows, public speaking events and more. The young population has also been an important factor for the explosion of public and street art that can be found all over the city and that, in a way, have become an alternative but powerful voice of the younger generation. European Youth Capital Activ<sup>∞</sup> Tirana 2022 is the fruit of close collaboration among the National Youth Congress, which represents a broad network of local youth groups, and the Municipality of Tirana, a cooperation that will continue during its implementation and in the years to come.

Aiming the spirit of YOUTH ACTIVISM towards important matters of daily life, the program has been designed to bring into focus **8 intertwined and inclusive themes:**



Twelve flagship events will be organized throughout the year for each proposed theme, together with hundreds of activities that will take part during Tirana European Youth Capital 2022. The proposed activities are aimed at activating the youth of Tirana and the participating region into becoming more involved and proactive on issues that concern their generation, and especially help youngsters understand the true power of change that lies in their hands. Lastly, the carefully designed program aims to place the youth of Tirana at the center of the engine that will drive the sustainable development of the capital and the country in the near future.

*Source: European Youth Capital winner - Amiens 2020 | European Youth Forum*

# tirana

E U R O P E A N  
Y O U T H  
C A P I T A L ' 2 2

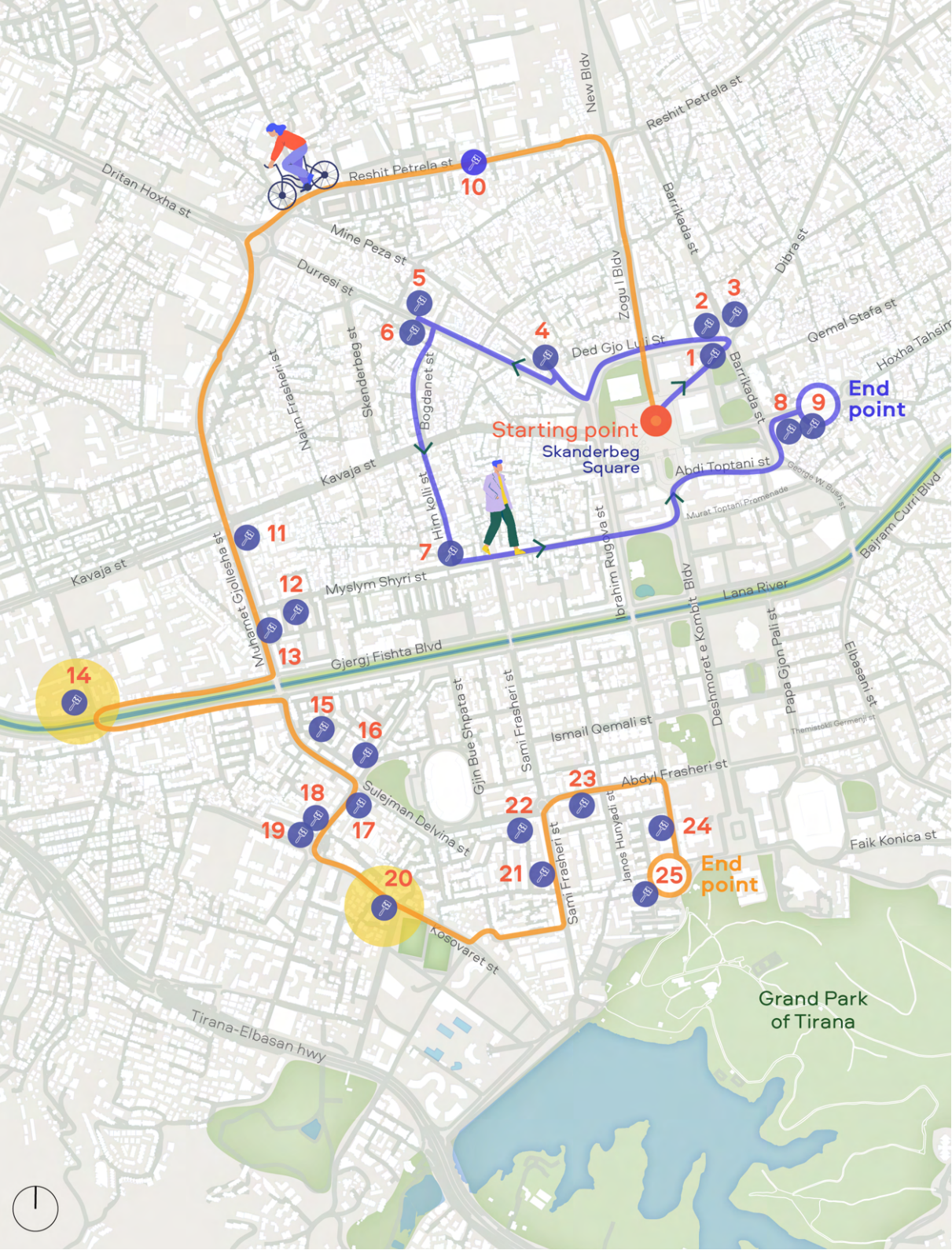
# Art and Architecture

In this chapter you can explore some of the spaces in  
Tirana for all who love art and architecture:

Walking Tour Length: 45 mins  
Cycling Tour Length: 60–70 mins

TOUR

# Murals around Tirana

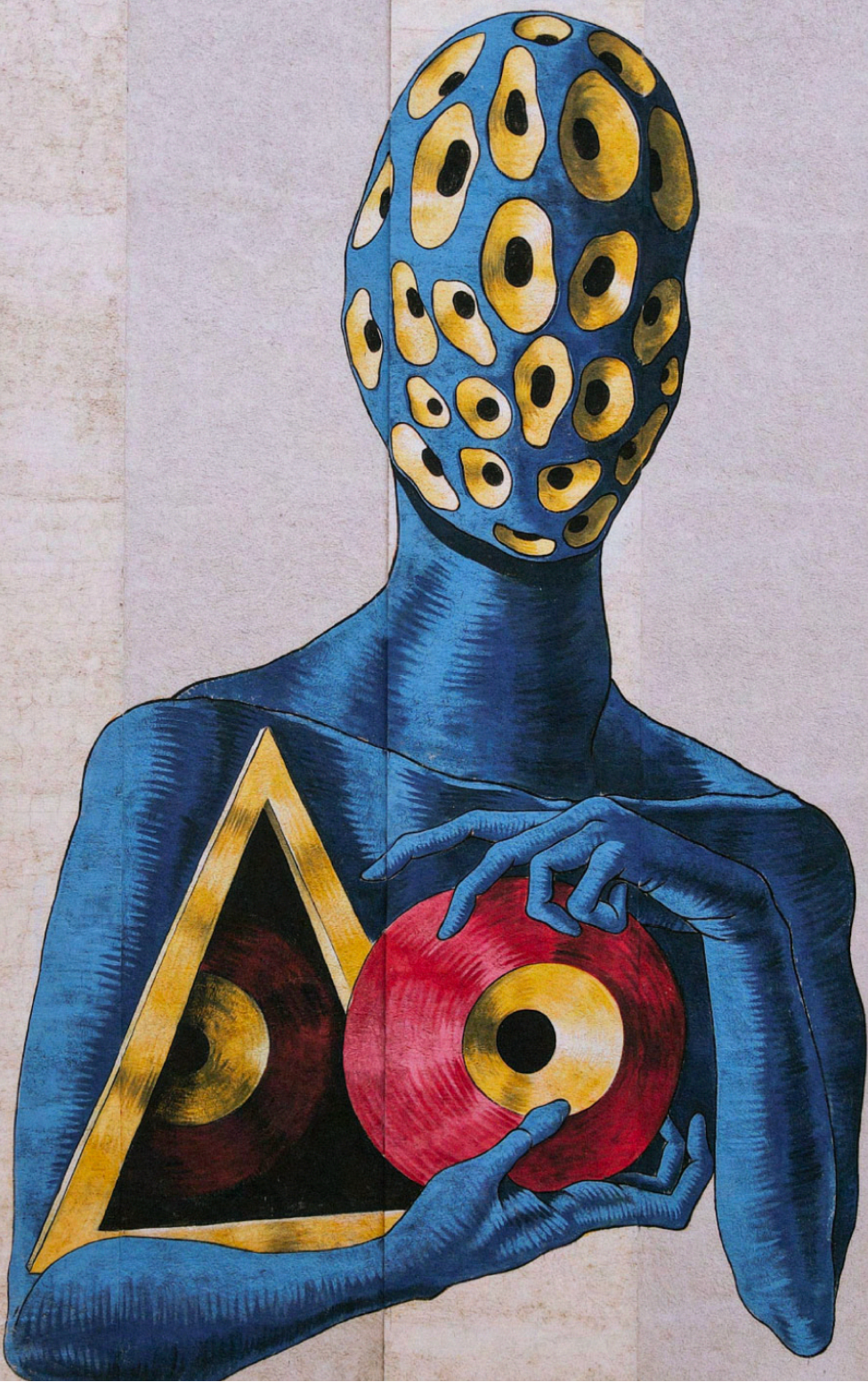




This tour gives you the opportunity to look at the city of Tirana in a colorful and artistic way. In 2018, the urban Arts festival, “MurAl Fest”, took place in Tirana. The initiative was a collaboration between the Lecce-based association 167/B Street and the Albanian capital, and it gathered 13 highly acclaimed international artists to transform the city’s neighborhoods into a colorful cultural oasis.

Large-scale murals are set to be a new attraction in the Albanian capital. After the success of the first MurAl fest in 2018, this festival repeated with MurAl fest 2019, 2020 and 2021. Most of the murals from the first MurAl Fest of 2018 remain, while some have been painted over due to the recoloring of the building’s façade.

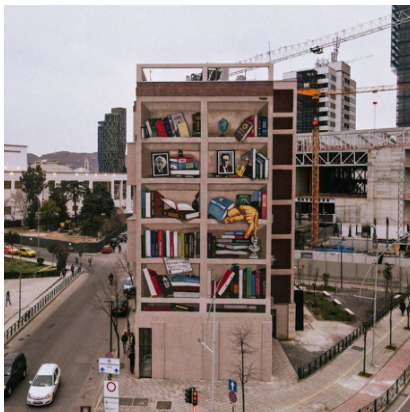
The murals are found in different parts of the city, and thus the tour is divided into two main routes. The starting point is at Skanderbeg Square, where you can follow them accordingly:



GODS  
IN  
LOVE

# First Route – Walking

Tour length: 30–40 mins



*Shtëpia Studio Kadare (GIZ/ Gledisa Golikja)*



*Mother's Care (GIZ/Gledisa Golikja)*

Starting the route from Skanderbeg Square, head out to the first mural:

**1. Shtëpia Studio Kadare** by Franko Dine, 2021. Then following the route on Urani Pano Street you will find two other murals:

**2. Mother's Care** by the German artist, Case Maclaim, as part of MurAl Fest 2021 and **3. Coca Cola** by SAME84, as part of MurAl Fest 2021. Then head to Mine Peza Street, where you will find mural:

**4. Gods in Love** by the Italian artist Alessandra Suzzi Daniele Bruno, part of MurAl Fest 2018.

Then turn back and follow the route on Durrresi Street to find mural no:

**5. The girl** by Franko Dine, 2018 and another abstract mural, no.6. by Nulo, part of MurAl Fest 2019.



Then walking inside the neighborhood, you should follow Bogdaneve Street and pass through Him Kolli street, which will lead you to the next mural:

**7. For the stray dogs of Tirana** by Mots from Portugal and Poland, part of MurAI Fest 2021, is located on the facade of an old building facing Myslym Shyri Street.

Continuing straight until you reach Luigj Gurakuqi Street. Here you will find the last murals of the walking tour which are close to each other.

**8. From Tirana** with Love by Illuminaries and  
**9. Clothespin** by Sizmikazot, from France, part of MurAI Fest 2019

*Clothespin (GIZ/Gledisa Golikja)*



# Second Route – Cycling

Tour length: 60–70 mins

Starting the route from Skanderbeg Square, follow Zogu I Boulevard and then take a left on Reshit Petrela Street to find the first mural:

**10. The Doll Maker** by the Italian artist Francesco Frank Lucignolo Luceri, part of MurAl Fest 2018.

Continue cycling in the direction of Karl Topija Square and turn on Muhamet Gjollësja Street where you will find:

**11. The Dream** by Franko Dine, part of MurAl Fest 2018,

**12. Do not judge** by Artes, part of MurAl Fest 2018 and

**13. I have to go** by SOLO & Diamond, part of MurAl Fest 2019.

If you follow the route by the Lana River, at Gjergj Fishta Boulevard you will find mural:

**14. Wild Drawing**, part of MurAl Fest 2021. This mural and mural: **20. Serena** by Gera, part of MurAl Fest 2021, also on this route, are ranked among the best 100 street art work in the world.



*Wild Drawing (GIZ/Gledisa Golikja)*



*Serena (GIZ/Gledisa Golikja)*

Between these two murals,  
following the route you will find:

**15. Djali Mistrec** by Franko Dine,  
**16. Mother** by Theic Licuado  
from Uruguay, part of MurAl Fest  
2018,

**17. Animal Farm**, part of MurAl  
Fest 2021

**18. Overseas Stories** by Mattia  
Campo Dall'Orto, part of MurAl  
Fest 2021 and

**19. Mbwana by Manomatic**, part  
of MurAl Fest 2021.

Turn on Mehdi Frasheri Street  
and then Sami Frasheri Street to  
find the next murals:

**21. Change Perspective** by  
Chekos Art, part of MurAl Fest  
2018 and

**22. Portrait of a girl** by Stinkfish  
from Colombia, part of MurAl  
Fest 2019.

Follow the route on Abdyl  
Frasheri Street to find:

**23. Equitation by Bobalus**, and  
then take a right turn for the last  
murals of the cycling tour

**24. Gjurma Jonë**, a synonym of  
independence, emancipation,  
strong character and the triumph  
of women, and

**25. Unity & Diversity** by Lazoo.

*Animal Farm (GlZ/Gledisa Golikja)*







Gjurma Jonë  
(GIZ/Gledisa Golikja)

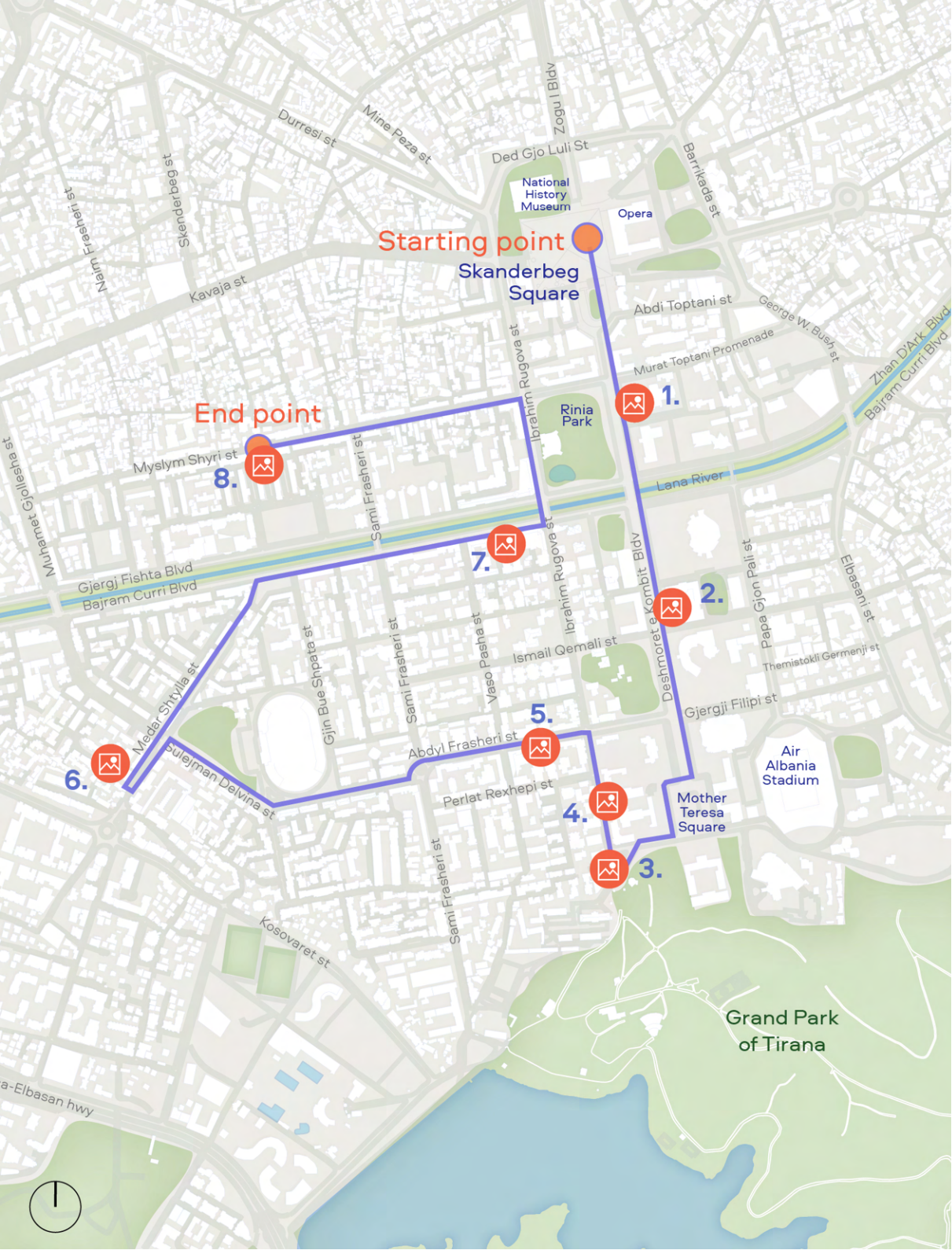


Unity & Diversity  
(GIZ/Gledisa Golikja)

TOUR

# Galleries around Tirana





Starting point

Skanderbeg Square

End point

8.

1.

7.

2.

5.

4.

3.

6.

National History Museum

Opera

Rinia Park

Lana River

Air Albania Stadium

Grand Park of Tirana

Mother Teresa Square

Perlat Rexhepi st

Abdyl Frashëri st

Sami Frashëri st

Vaso Pasha st

Ibrahim Rugova st

Deshmorë et e Kombit Blvd

Papa Gjon Pali st

Themistokli Gërmenji st

Gjergji Filipi st

Ded Gjo Luli St

Zogu I Blvd

Mine Peza st

Durrës st

Kavaja st

Skenderbeg st

Naim Frashëri st

Myslym Shyri st

Sami Frashëri st

Gjin Bue Shpata st

Medar Shylla st

Sulejman Delvina st

Elbasan hwy

The capital city of Tirana is a surprising destination with its well-developed cultural life and vibrant art scene, dominated primarily by prominent local artists. This tour gives you the opportunity to go through some of its top art galleries on foot.

Start the tour from the Skanderbeg Square, and head out to the first art gallery:

### 1. National Arts Gallery

The current building of the National Gallery of Art, located on Dëshmorët e Kombit Boulevard, was inaugurated on November 29, 1974. It was designed as a complete program for a genuine art gallery for exhibitions, restoration and study of the fund as well as organizing national and international conferences and lectures.

The National Gallery of Art contains a diverse collection, including about 4500 works by

Albanian and foreign artists. The works date from the 1800s, a period which marks the first constellation of Albanian artists following the school of the Italian Academy of Arts.

Organized in large halls, the two-story building bears the shape of T, where on the first floor hosts the gallery library, together with two exhibition halls. It hosts a permanent exhibition in addition to temporary exhibitions of Albanian and foreign artists.

#### Opening hours:

Winter: Wednesday to Sunday (closed Monday and Tuesday): 10:00–18:00

Summer: every day: 10:00–18:00



Front façade of National Gallery of Art (GIZ/Esta Hasa)

Continuing straight on Dëshmorët e Kombit Boulevard, you will find:

## 2. COD

COD (Center for Openness and Dialogue) is set up inside the premises of the Prime Minister's Office in order to convey the message of openness, transparency and transformation, giving citizens, scholars and other stakeholders full access to any decision, document or material that relates to government decisions and policies.

It consists of three spaces: a library, where study spaces are located; a digital hall, where projections and presentations are displayed; and the Meet the Artist exhibition hall.

Each of these spaces operates on an integrated calendar, which contains thematic exhibitions and individual artists, always organized around open calls with public interest as their theme.

[Opening hours for the public:](#)

Every day: 09:30–14:00 and  
17:30– 20:30.



*Entrance to the Prime Minister's Office (GLZ/Esta Hasa)*



### 3. Gallery Kalo

Gallery Kalo is located close to Mother Theresa Square, a few steps away from the entrance of the Grand Park of the Artificial Lake.

This gallery exhibits works by Albanian and foreign painters, contributing to the promotion of Albania through art. Some of the artists who exhibit in this gallery are well known in Albania and abroad.

The gallery particularly seeks to particularly support young artists and disabled artists, as well as those with Down syndrome.

#### Opening hours:

Tuesday to Sunday: 10:00–18:00  
Monday: closed



*Entrance to Gallery Kalo (GIZ/Gledisa Golikja)*

### 4. The FAB Gallery

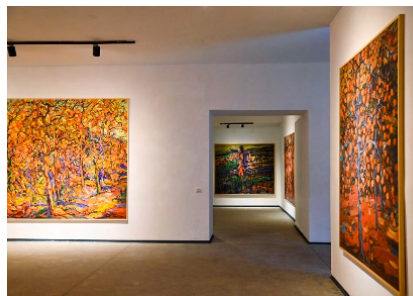
FAB Gallery, on the premises of the Faculty of Fine Arts, is one of the most attractive exhibition spaces in Tirana.

FAB Gallery is positioned at the back of the University of the Arts, giving easy access to all passers-by as well as art lovers. It mostly exhibits and promotes students of the Arts Academy and young artists, whose work needs the most support.

A different event is hosted nearly every week, mostly paintings or photo exhibition in addition to the occasional short films.

#### Opening hours:

The gallery is open for everyone and most of the time the entry is free.



*Interior of FAB Gallery (GIZ/Gledisa Golikja)*

## 5. Gallery ZETA

ZETA Center for Contemporary Art is a non-profit exhibition space founded in 2007 by Valentina Koça.

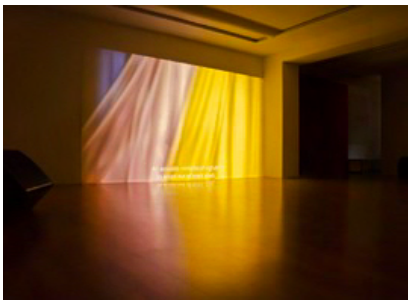
With its 150m<sup>2</sup> on the second floor of a mixed residential and commercial building, ZETA functions as an autonomous cultural venue for multidisciplinary approaches to visual arts, including painting, sculpture, photography, video, installation, sound and performance.

### Opening hours:

Monday to Friday: 11:00–18:00.

Saturday: 11:00–14:00.

Sunday: closed.



*Turbomondi (Melodia) exhibition by Andrea Martinucci (Zeta Gallery)*

To reach the next destination, follow Sulejman Delvina Street and make a left turn to Medar Shtylla Street until you see:

## 6. Tulla Cultural Center

Tulla Cultural Center is dedicated to cultural activities, education, and art management.

It hosts round tables about art criticism, artistic curation, seminars and various artistic-cultural activities of every genre as well as concerts and exhibitions.

### Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday: 09:00–17:00

Saturday: 11:00–15:00



*Exterior of Tulla Cultural Center (GIZ/Gledisa Golikja)*

Find your way back into Komuna Parisit Street and walk straight until you reach Bajram Curri Boulevard.

The next gallery in the tour is smaller, but has unique paintings by various authors of modern and contemporary art exhibited in it's premises:

### 7. Zenit Gallery

Provides you with study facilities, a bookstore on the ground floor, and a gallery on the second floor.

#### Opening hours:

Monday to Saturday: 8:00–22:00

Sunday: closed



*Entrance of Zenit Gallery (GlZ/Gledisa Golikja)*

The old structure was radically transformed, turning it into a multifunctional center for youth in order to give them the opportunity to socialize in European conditions and standards.

The central hall is designed for 130 people and hosts films, documentaries, didactic materials, presentations, theater pieces, performances, rehearsals, classical music concerts, official receptions, meetings, community forums, celebrations, etc.

#### Opening hours:

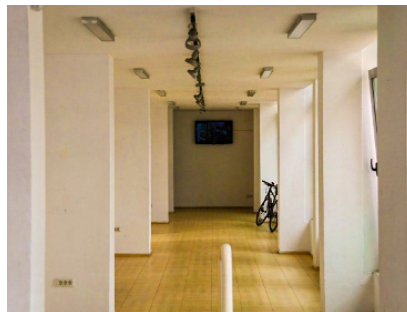
Monday to Friday: 8:00–16:00

Sunday and Sunday: closed

The final stop on the tour is:

### 8. Ten Multifunctional Center

This center was established on the premises of the former Dajti cinema in September 2010. It was created through several years of work by the Municipality of Tirana.

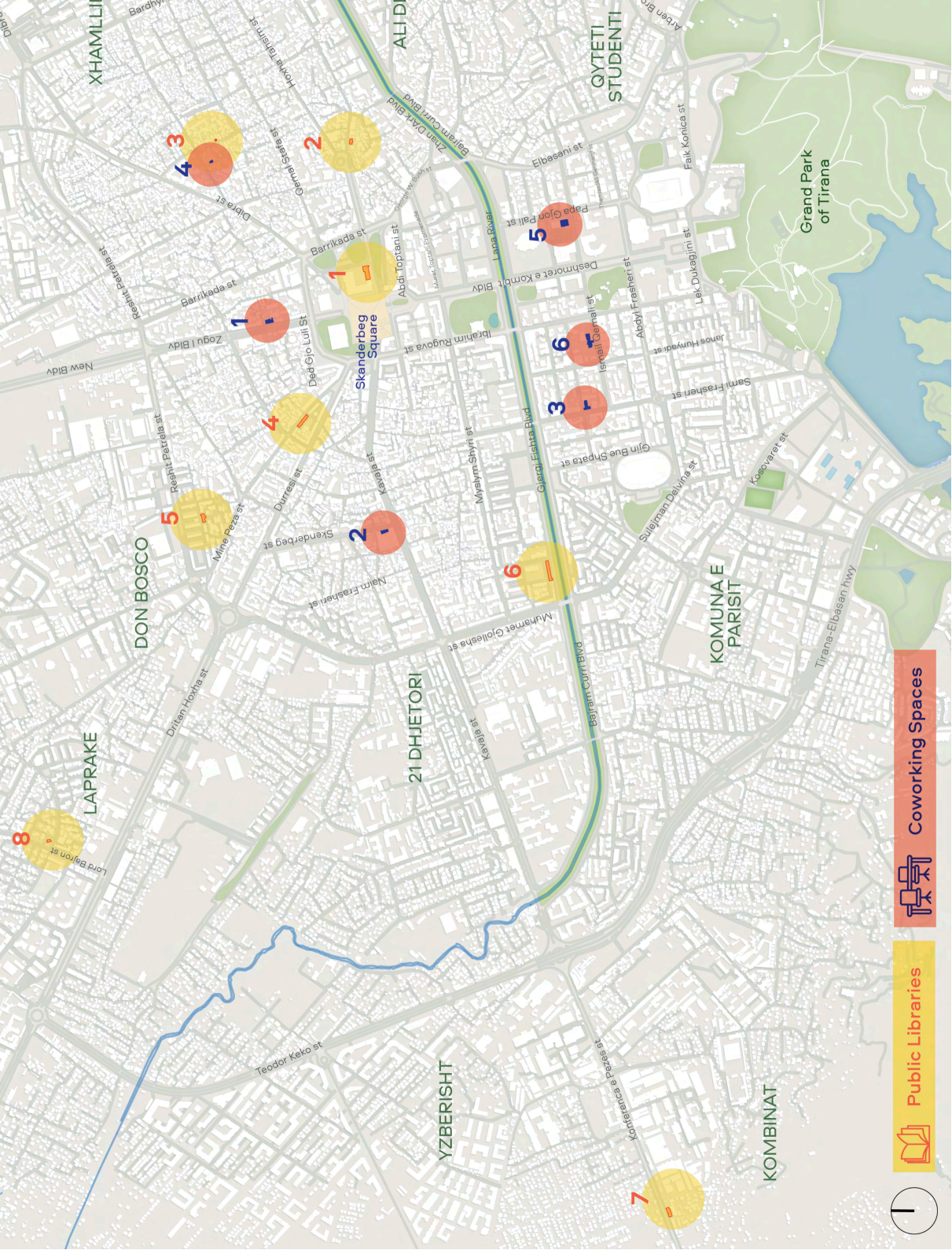


*Interior of Ten Multifunctional Center (GlZ/Gledisa Golikja)*

# Learning and working

In this chapter you can explore some of the spaces in Tirana for all who love to learn, work and study:





Public Libraries




Coworking Spaces

# Public Libraries

The Municipality of Tirana has begun Neighborhood Libraries as a Multifunctional Center project, allowing non-profit organizations to use the premises of neighborhood libraries in order to develop ideas and youth projects.





## The Neighborhood Libraries as a Multifunctional Center project

New centers and multifunctional spaces for  
the youth of the capital

Development of creative and innovative  
ideas of young people

Encouraging young generations to read more

Assistance in the development of  
educational, social, cultural qualities of  
young people

Good upbringing by removing them from  
negative phenomena such as smoking,  
drugs, bullying

Promoting cooperation between non-profit  
organizations and the Municipality of Tirana

The aim of the project is to influence and increase of the capacities of the youth of the capital, thus increasing the attendance and attention of the citizens towards the libraries and the culture of reading.

### 1. National Library of Albania

The National Library of Albania (NLA) is the main national cultural institution and the oldest in Albania. It occupies two buildings and is organized and functions under the authority of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports. The NLA, located on Skanderbeg Square, in same building as the Opera, is charged with maintaining national heritage through collecting, processing, restoring, preserving and making available to the public the written cultural heritage of the Albanian people.

### 2. Moikom Zeqo Library

Located at Tefta Tashko-Koco Street.

The library, named after the famous Albanian writer, Moikom Zeqo, has been transformed to a modern reading space for youngsters.

It also serves as a space for the community, where residents can develop various cultural and social activities.



Entrance to National Library of Albania  
(GlZ/Esta Hasa)



Exterior of Moikom Zeqo Library  
(GlZ/Esta Hasa)

### 3. Hamit Beqja Library

Located at 57 Thanas Ziko Street.

The library is one of the largest and most active in organizing book-based activities. It is near the “Red School” and was once an additional reading room of the National Library.

It is divided into **three zones**:

The large activity room hosting works by Albanian authors, a room with foreign authors translated into Albanian and a room with children's books and those in foreign languages.

This library's collection is rich with old publications, among them rare copies such as the translation of Hamlet in Albanian, from 1943.



*Exterior of Hamit Beqja Library  
(GLZ/Esta Hasa)*



*Interior of Hamit Beqja Library  
(GLZ/Esta Hasa)*

#### 4. Misto Treska Library

Located on Mine Peza Street behind one of the most famous cafes in the city, Flora Café. Reconstructed in 2018, the library has returned the attention of young people to books; the space itself is not only a reading center, but also a facility where various social and cultural activities are organized.



Exterior of Misto Treska Library  
(GIZ/Esta Hasa)



Interior of Misto Treska Library (GIZ/Esta Hasa)

#### 5. Petro Zheji Library

Located on Petro Marko Street. It used to be a dilapidated building, surrounded by bushes, which the residents of unit 9 had forgotten that once it had been a library.

But thanks to the investment of the Municipality of Tirana, the library now bearing the name of the famous Albanian linguist and translator, Petro Zheji, has been transformed into a beautiful hearth of reading and a modern space for the community.

In addition to the total reconstruction of the building and the interior, the library has been enriched with a new collection of more than **600 books**.



Petro Zheji Library (GIZ/Esta Hasa)



## 6. Musine Kokalari Library

On the 100th anniversary of the birth of Musine Kokalari, the “first woman” of Albanian literature, who fought for the democratization and emancipation of Albanian society, one of the city’s libraries was named after her.



*Exterior of Musine Kokalari Library  
(GLZ/Gledisa Golikja)*



*Interior of Musine Kokalari Library  
(GLZ/Gledisa Golikja)*

## 7. Kombinat Library

Located at 159 Llazi Miho Street

## 8. Library no. 7

Located on Lord Byron Street



# Coworking Spaces

Lately, coworking spaces in Tirana have been used and designed as community centers, collaboration hubs, and social spaces where workers from different backgrounds can come together to share expertise and explore new ideas.

## 1. Destil Creative Hub Tirana

Located on Zogu I Boulevard, Destil is a multi-functional co-working & co-living center focused on social, cultural and artistic events. It's a hub designed for creative people to work on their projects, exchange local & international practices and exhibit their creations. It supports artists & startups establish themselves and has created a movement with its inspiring community.

[Check out their page for the latest updates, information and events;](#)  
[Destil Creative Hub | Facebook](#)

*Interior spaces (Destil Creative Hub Tirana)*



## 2. Coolab

Located at 50 Kavaja Street, Coolab is the place for entrepreneurs, freelancers, business professionals and techies who want to be part of an active community.

Coolab is a modern coworking space and community hub that seeks to promote the power of collaboration as the key to long-term business success, competitiveness and productivity. It is the perfect place to get things done, meet other people and also be able to hang out and enjoy yourself.

Check out their page for the membership plans and other information:  
[Coolab - Coworking and Caffè](#)



*Coworking and café (Coolab)*

## 3. Dutch Hub

Located on Brigada VIII Street, in the TeknoProjekt building, first apartment, Dutch Hub is the largest co-working space in Albania.

With 1000 m2 in the heart of Tirana, Dutch Hub has offered a unique space that meets the needs of businesses in an affordable format since 2018. The environment has everything you need, from printing services to a seminar room and a large outside area to welcome customers or work in peace.

Check out their page for the membership plans and other information:  
[dutchhub.al](#)



*Coworking space (Dutch Hub)*

#### 4. Hotspot Tirana

Located on Xhemal Tafaj Street, near Partizani High School (the entrance is a little Blue door). HotSpot is a space for small business owners, entrepreneurs, freelancers and for those who get things done.

It provides an alternative coworking space and designated rooms that are suitable for team activities, training sessions, meetings, teaching conferences and workshops.

Check out their page for the membership plans and other information:  
[The Hotspot Tirana! - Flexible coworking space in Tirana!](#)



*Coworking space (Hotspot Tirana)*

#### 5. TechSpace

Located on Papa Gjon Pali II Street, in the Innovation Building. The National Information Society Agency (NAIS), as the primary institution charged with digitalizing public administration and public services for citizens and businesses, based on its wide scope and the existing expertise of available human capacities, inaugurated the TechSpace technological center. This space is responsible for offering creative space environments its design of programs in support and development of startups, as well as the promotion of consolidated businesses within the center in expanding their activity.

Check out their page for the latest updates, information and events:  
[TechSpace](#)



*Interior space (TechSpace)*

## 6. Innospace

Located at 10 Pjetër Bogdani Street, entrance 5, 7th floor, apartment 28. Innospace Tirana offers a total of 560 m2 of space composed of an open coworking space, private offices with balconies, training rooms, a kitchen, video conference room, meeting areas, lockers, and a stunning veranda. Located in the Blloku, the heart of entertainment district, where you'll be steps away from great lunch locations, fancy coffee places and cool cocktail bars.

Check out their page for membership plans and other information:  
[innospacetirana.com](https://innospacetirana.com)

*Coworking space (Innospace)*







# Parks and Leisure

In this chapter you can explore some of the spaces in  
Tirana for nature lovers:



Youth Park

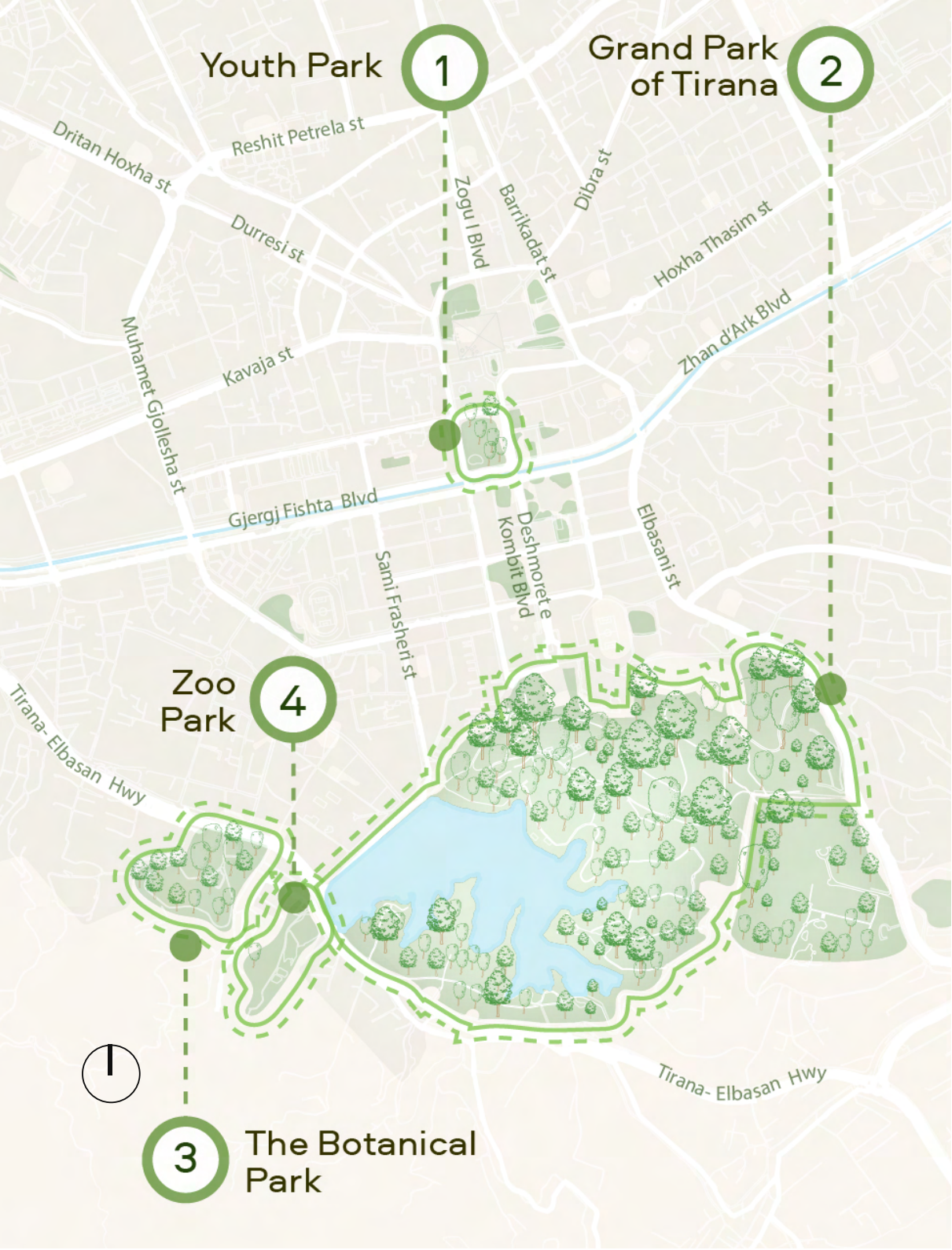
2. Grand Park of Tirana

3. The Botanical Park

4. Zoo Park

5. Helen Park

Clean, green and accessible parks and open spaces improve the quality of life in Tirana. They invite to relax and play while improving air quality and lower ambient temperatures in summer.



Youth Park

1

Grand Park of Tirana

2

Zoo Park

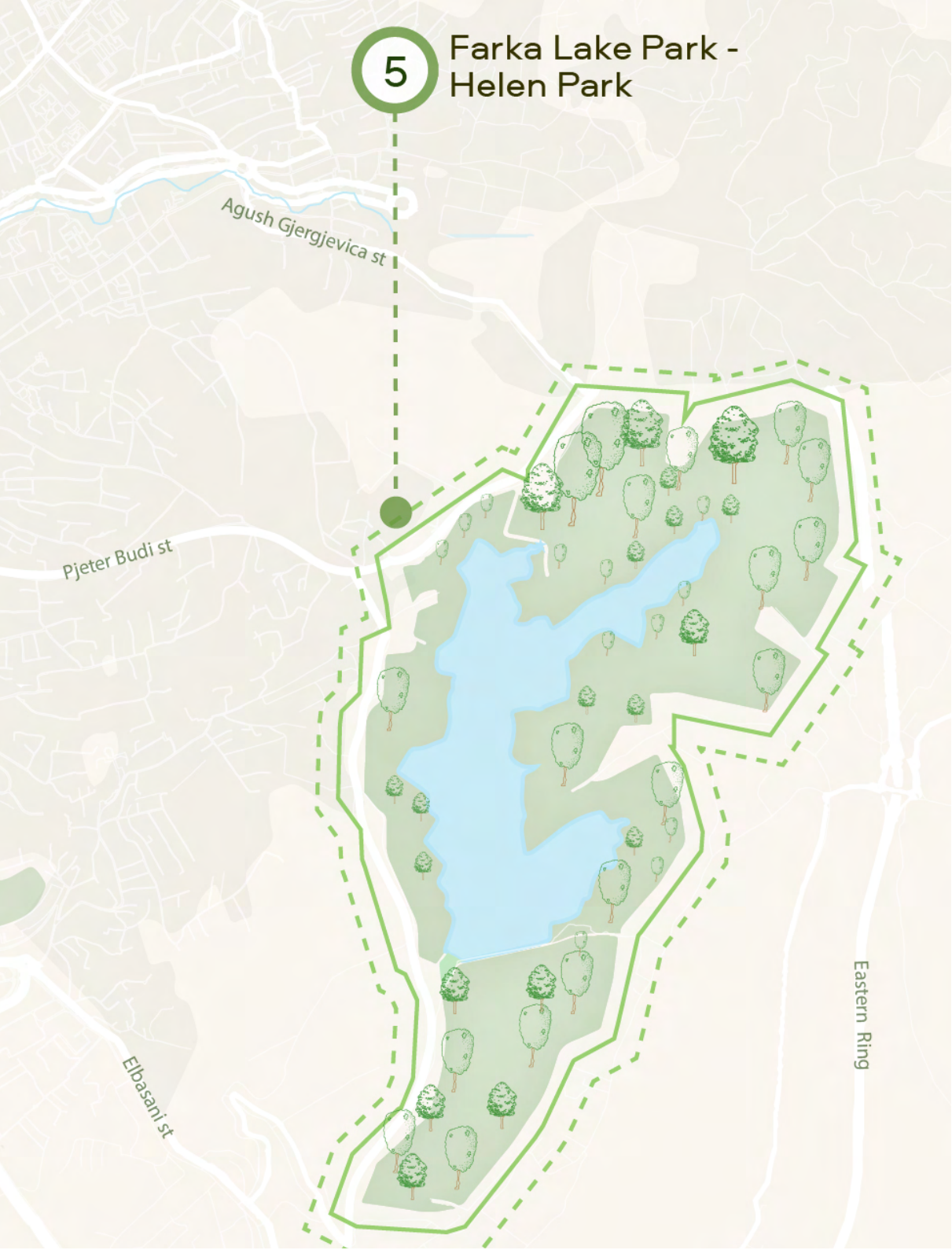
4

3

The Botanical Park

5

## Farka Lake Park - Helen Park



# <sup>1</sup> Youth Park

1. 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Independence Monument
2. Event square
3. Dog park
4. Labyrinth
5. Taiwan Cmplx
6. Taiwan Fountain
7. Children's playground
8. Playground, chess and board games
9. Stream
10. Lawn





Murat Toptani Promenade

National Arts Gallery

"Myslym Shyri" St.

"Ibrahim rugova" St.

"Dëshmoret e Kombit" Blv.

"Gjergj Fishta" Blv.

Lana River

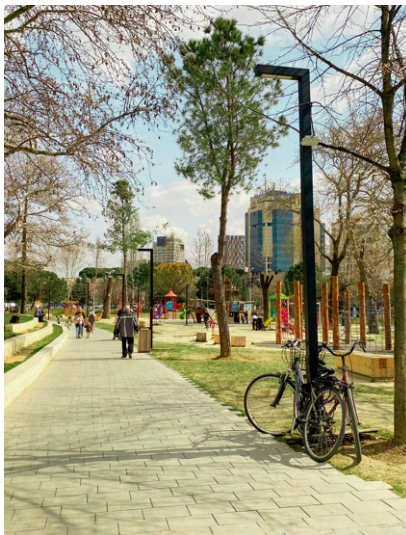
"Bajram Curri" Blv.



Youth Park is the central public park of the capital, built in 1949, covering an area of 29.81 ha. The park was built follow the plan of Italian architects Brasini and De Fausto, in addition to the complex of ministries, the Municipality of Tirana, the National Bank, the garden of this central complex, and the central square with the fountain.

Today Youth Park (Parku Rinia) has a variety of green spaces spread out a changing relief, serving not only as an acoustic wall, but also promoting physical activity for children. In addition to a special space dedicated to those who want to play with animals, mini-squares have been created for children to play and the elderly.

Youth Park's main landmark is a white, terraced building on its western edge, which houses cafés, restaurants, the Regency Casino (one of only a few legally operating in Tirana) and fountains. The park is often referred to by an nickname, Taivani (Taiwan), shared by the Taivani Bar & Grill as well as the entire commercial center (Taivani Center).



*Playground at Youth Park  
(GIZ/Esta Hasa)*



*Youth Park  
(GIZ/Esta Hasa)*

March 14 marks Summer Day, a pagan holiday celebrating the end of winter. Although the epicenter of this festival is in Shkumbin (Elbasan), the festival is widely celebrated in Tirana as well, as in the Youth Park, a circus show is put on the evenings and is packed with circus performers, acrobats, magicians and festival goers.

The Tirana Independence Monument, designed by Visar Obrija and Kai Roman Kiklas, is also found here. The monument has a doubled meaning: a sign of perpetual natality (the possibility of the “rebirth” of national consciousness) and as a ruin with a spectral pseudo-presence (as an object that continually reminds us of the disjuncture that divorces the present from its historicity).



*Youth Park  
(GIZ/Esta Hasa)*



*Tirana Independence Monument  
(GIZ/Esta Hasa)*



# <sup>2</sup> Grand Park of Tirana

- a. Info-point/Japanese Path
- b. Multifunctional field
- c. Amphitheater
- d. Children's Playground/Chinese Pagoda
- e. Info-point
- f. Cycling Academy
- g. Tika Corner
- h. Wilson School
- i. Presidential Palace

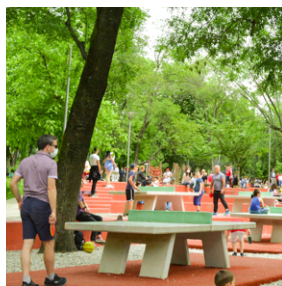
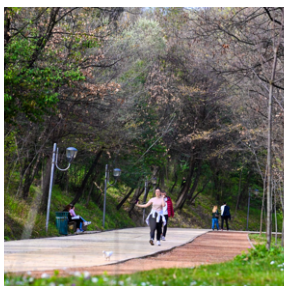


The Grand Park of the Artificial Lake of Tirana in its current form dates back to 1957–1958 and includes the story of agronomists, architects, landscape workers and especially its avid visitors.

The current surface of the Grand Park is 157 hectares, while that of the Artificial Lake is 45 hectares. PMLAT is the largest green area in the city, influencing its landscape and microclimate.

- It contains the Amphitheatre of Tirana, surrounded by the greenery and placed on a slope. The amphitheater was inaugurated in the spring of 1974. The amphitheater has a stage, podium, artists' dressing rooms, as well as the technical hall from where images are projected on stage.
- The Perlat Voshtina tennis courts, are the newest sports fields in the park. With an area of 3600 m<sup>2</sup>, they include two courts, two ping-pong tables, some deck chairs overlooking the lake, and a pier to relax on after a match or a walk around the lake.
- The Henry Dunant pier refurbishment project near the Tirana Artificial Lake dam was designed as a need to turn the area into a multifunctional recreational space. Here could be found the bust of the First Nobel Peace Prize winner Henry Dunant.
- A boat wharf has a fleet of 10 boats, including 3 sailboats and 14 canoes, which can be rented out to visitors.
- The Japanese Cherry Tree Path, along one of the entrances path to the park, has a central square decorated with stone benches, provides a relaxing environment for visitors.
- The second largest children's playground (7000 m<sup>2</sup>) is in the southern part of the park.
- The fountain inside the Artificial Lake, is the first floating fountain (21 m high) of its kind in Albania and the Balkans.
- There is fresh drinking water available at locations throughout the park.





*Views of the lake at Grand Park of the Artificial Lake of Tirana (APR)*

# <sup>3</sup> The Botanical Park

## <sup>4</sup> Zoo Park

Animals in the Zoo:

Zone 1: Peacock, Fox, Horse

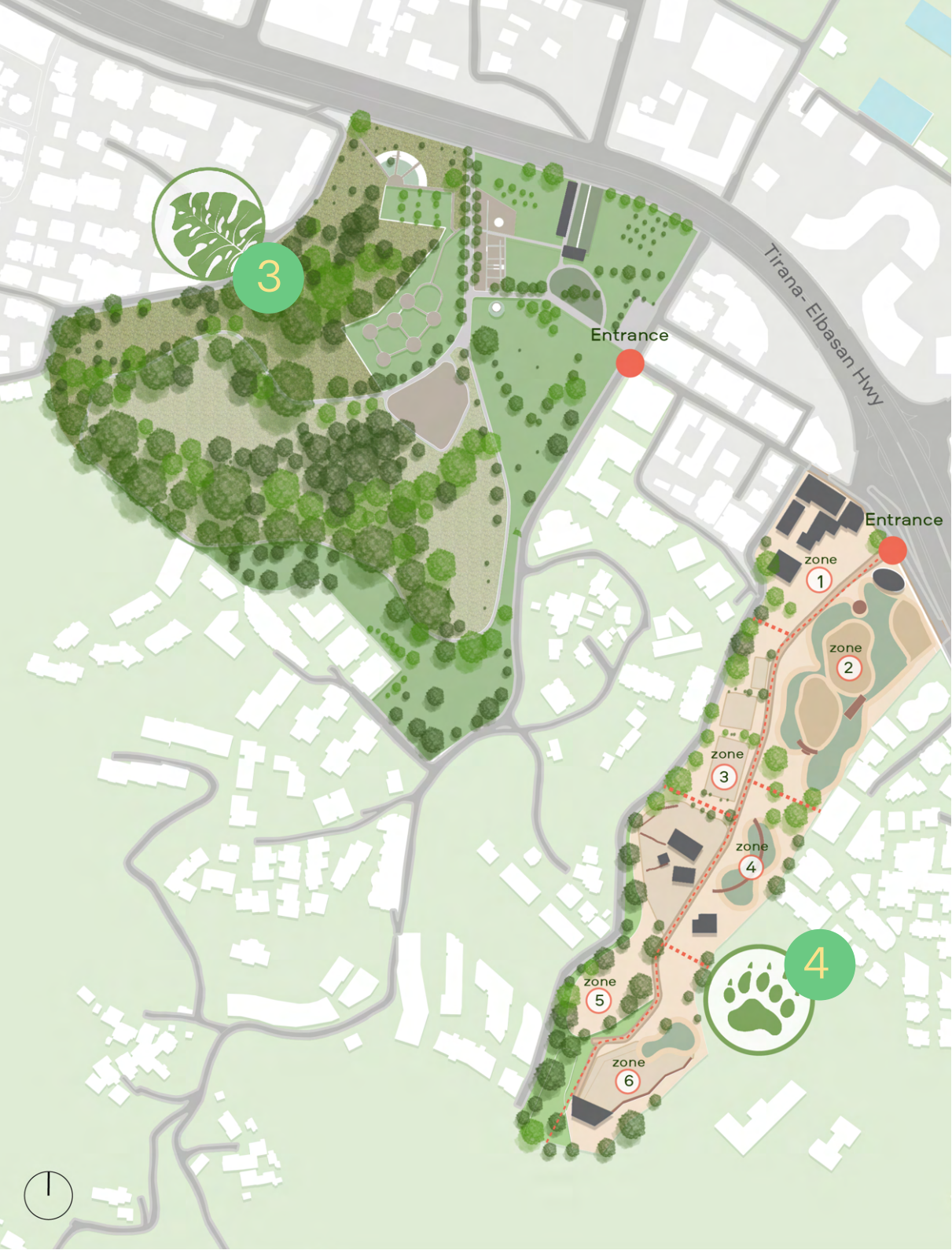
Zone 2: Swan, Flying Duck, Pigeon

Zone 3: Falcon, Indian Peafowl, Eagle,  
Monkey, Wolf, Rabbit, Roe Deer, Gazelle

Zone 4: Duck, Goose, Chicken

Zone 5: Turtle, Buffalo, Llama, Bear

Zone 6: Donkey /Sheep /Ostrich



Tirana-Elbasan Hwy

Entrance

Entrance

zone 1

zone 2

zone 3

zone 4

zone 5

zone 6

3

4





## The Botanical Garden of Tirana

The Botanical Garden of Tirana dates back to 1971 and covers an area of about 15 ha. It hosts about 1,400 species and subspecies of plants, mainly from Albania. Nearly 2,000 exotic species are also found here.

It serves as a center for relaxation and education, especially in relation to problems facing Albanian flora and vegetation and nature in general, especially related to the identification of values and its preservation.

The Botanical Garden is also used to educate youth being part of the University of Tirana, and it serves schools throughout the country. A seed index is regularly published and the garden has relationships with around 160 botanical gardens worldwide.



*Aerial photo of the Botanical Park  
(GIZ/Gledisa Golikja)*



*Aerial photo of the Botanical Park  
(GIZ/Gledisa Golikja)*



## Zoological Park

The zoo, the only public one in Albania, was built in 1960 to 1961. It has a total area of 6.09 ha, of which 1.3 ha is occupied by water and about 1 ha houses the animals are housed. The zoo has been home to different animals over the years (some are listed in the map).

More recently, small lakes were constructed where birds such as swans and wild ducks stay and goldfish and carp have been raised.

In 2020, the project The transformation of the Tirana Zoo, reconceptualized the Zoo to suit

different visitors and the animals that live there, as well as improving working conditions for the caretakers.

These are divided into several categories where the reorganization of spaces for animals and employees is foreseen, the installation of street lighting and the network of backup lines for internet telephony, sewage networks, treatment of green spaces and the filling with elements of urban furniture (benches, small baskets), as well as the creation of spaces for rest, entertainment and picnicking.



*Aerial photo of the Zoo Park  
(GIZ/Gledisa Golikja)*



*Renders of the project for the new Zoo Park  
(APR)*

# <sup>5</sup> Farka Lake Park

## Helen Park

- a. Helen Park, APR Tirana
- b. Mixed area: bars and restaurants
- c. Mixed area: bars and restaurants
- d. Suburban area; fields



Farka Lake

“Diga e Liqenit” st.

Walking track

## Farka Lake Park

Farka Lake Park is easily accessed by visitors, located only 9.6 km from the center of Tirana.

This area is distinguished for its biodiversity and attractive hilly landscape. The park's heritage includes ecosystems, special habitats, historical relics, and endemic and endangered species. As such, it is of great ecological, scientific, cultural, teaching and tourist importance.

Farka Lake, with 75 hectares of clean water surface, hosts several indigenous fish species, such as carp, ballgjer and catfish, making the lake one of the main assets of this recreational park. The absence of underwater grass allows various water sports such as sport fishing, rowing and swimming competitions. There is a 760-meter-long water-side promenade on the eastern side of the lake.



*Rowing boats in the Farka Lake (APR)*



*View of Farka Lake (APR)*



## Helen Park

Considered a comprehensive park to stand in front of Puglias Park and the Turkish one, Helen Park is taking full shape. A nice oasis very close to Tirana, this park is conceived as a theme park, comprising of a cultural and sports part.



*Activity in Helen Park (APR)*



*Wooden pathway in Helen Park (APR)*



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## Imprint

Published by the  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)  
GmbH

GIZ Office Albania  
Rr. Asim Zeneli, Nd. 6/10  
giz-albanien@giz.de

As of  
June 2022

Printed by: Name, Tirana  
Design: Gea Madhi

Text  
Ariela Hajdarmataj  
Martin Schaefer  
Esta Hasa

On behalf of the  
German Federal Ministry for Economic  
Cooperation and Development (BMZ)



Implemented by  
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