



# 225TH CSO MEETING

## Practical Information Guide

12-13 November 2025  
Tirana, Albania







# Welcome to Albania

**225th CSO Meeting - participation form**

Attendance link: [225th CSO Meeting, Tirana, Albania](#)



# Welcome to Albania

Albania is a vibrant and fast-developing country in Southeast Europe, known for its rich history, natural beauty, and warm hospitality. Strategically located on the Adriatic and Ionian Seas, Albania is becoming an increasingly important player in regional cooperation, tourism, agriculture, and renewable energy.

The country is recognized for its ancient heritage, including archaeological sites, Ottoman-era towns, and well-preserved traditions. Albania is also a candidate country for the European Union and has made significant strides in aligning its policies with EU standards.

Albania boasts some of Europe's most stunning natural landscapes — from the Albanian Alps to pristine beaches along the Riviera — and is one of the most biodiverse countries in the region.





# Population and Urban Life

Albania has a population of around 2.75 million. The capital city, Tirana, is home to approximately 900,000 people and serves as the country's political, economic, and cultural center. Other major cities include Durrës, Shkodër, Vlorë, and Elbasan.

Although many Albanians live in urban areas, a significant portion of the population still resides in smaller towns and rural villages, preserving traditional ways of life.

- **2.75 million inhabitants**
- **78.3 years average life expectancy (2022)**



# A Multilingual Heritage

The official language of Albania is Albanian, which has two main dialects: Gheg in the north and Tosk in the south. Although Albanian is spoken nationwide, the country also hosts linguistic minorities, including Greek, Aromanian, Macedonian, Romani, and Serbian speakers, in certain regions.

Albania's rich cultural diversity reflects centuries of interaction with Illyrian, Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman, and Western European civilizations— influences that are evident in its architecture, traditions, music, and cuisine.

## **Area**

28,748 km<sup>2</sup> (data as of 2022)

## **Capital**

Tirana

## **National Day**

28 November (Independence Day)

## **Official Language**

Albanian

## **Recognized Minority Languages**

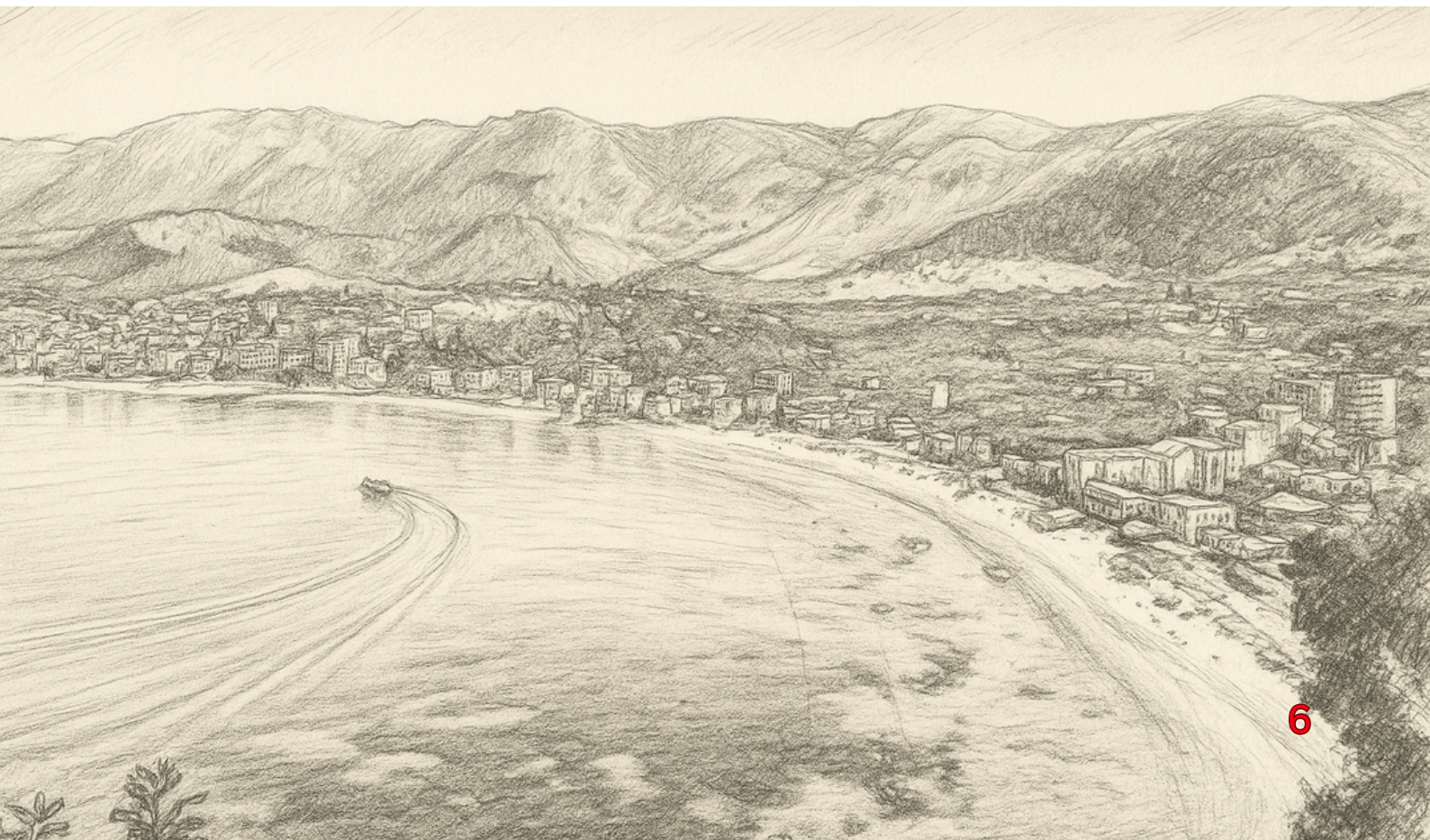
Greek, Aromanian, Macedonian, Romani, Serbian

# Between Mountains and the Sea

Albania is located in Southeastern Europe, on the western Balkan Peninsula, bordered by Montenegro, Kosovo, North Macedonia, and Greece, with a long coastline along the Adriatic and Ionian Seas.

With over 450 kilometers of coastline, Albania is known for its stunning beaches, crystal-clear waters, and growing reputation as a Mediterranean tourist destination. The country also features a mountainous interior, with Albanian Alps in the north and highlands in the southeast.

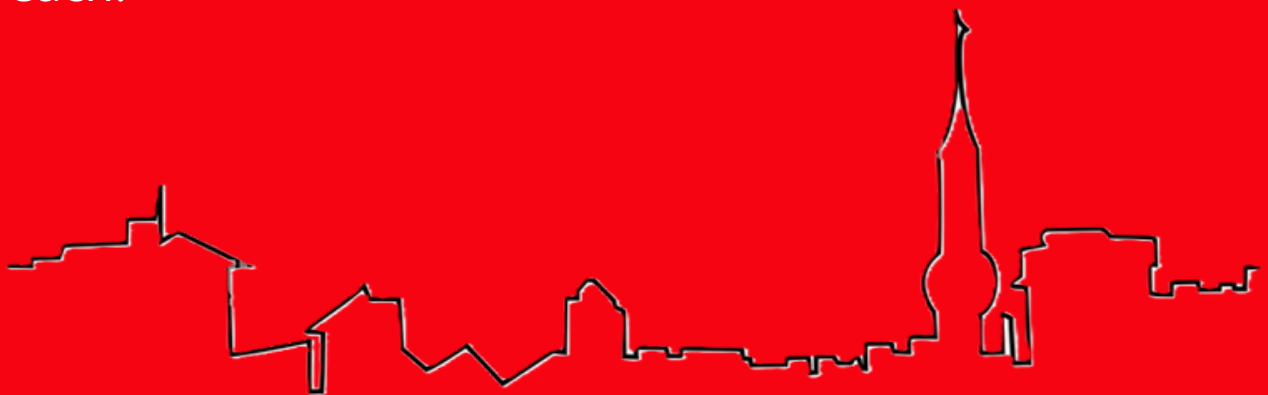
The average altitude is around 700 meters, and the highest peak is Mount Korab, standing at 2,764 meters, located on the border with North Macedonia.





# Tirana is the Host City

Tirana is the capital and largest city of Albania, located in the heart of the country at an elevation of approximately 110 meters above sea level. It has a population of around 900,000 inhabitants and enjoys a Mediterranean climate, with hot, dry summers and mild, rainy winters. Tirana serves as the main political, economic, and cultural hub of Albania and is well-connected to the rest of the country. Whether traveling to the Adriatic coast, the Albanian Alps, or UNESCO-listed towns like Berat and Gjirokastër, most destinations are within a few hours' reach.



# History

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# Attractions

Tirana offers a rich mix of attractions, ranging from historic landmarks and museums to vibrant street life, modern galleries, and natural escapes. The city is a cultural hub where Ottoman, Italian, and communist-era influences coexist with modern Albanian identity.

For history lovers, must-see sites include the Et'hem Bey Mosque, the Clock Tower, and the House of Leaves — a museum dedicated to Albania's secret surveillance history. Art enthusiasts can enjoy both classical and contemporary collections at the National Gallery of Arts and the Center for Openness and Dialogue (COD) at the Prime Minister's Office. Tirana is also home to BUNK'ART, a unique underground museum complex built in a Cold War-era nuclear bunker, showcasing Albania's recent past.

For those who enjoy nature and leisure, the Grand Park of Tirana offers expansive green spaces, a lake, and open-air cafes. Just 15 minutes from the city center, Mount Dajti National Park is accessible by cable car, offering hiking, biking, and panoramic views of the city and beyond.

# Attractions

Sports fans can attend matches by KF Tirana or Partizani, or explore recreational options like cycling routes, climbing, and seasonal skiing in Dajti during winter months.

Whether you're into culture, cuisine, nature, or nightlife, Tirana provides an engaging and unexpected blend of experiences for all visitors.


For food lovers, Tirana's culinary scene is a flavorful journey through Mediterranean, Balkan, and Ottoman traditions, with a growing presence of international cuisine. From lively street food spots serving byrek and qofte to elegant restaurants offering locally-sourced dishes and Albanian wines, the city is a delight for the palate.

Tirana's nightlife is vibrant and youthful, with lively bars, music venues, and late-night cafés concentrated around areas like Blloku, once a restricted zone for communist elites, now a trendy district for entertainment and dining.

With its welcoming atmosphere, walkable center, and dynamic blend of old and new, Tirana is more than just the political capital — it's the beating heart of modern Albania and a gateway to its cultural and natural treasures.



# Weather in November in Albania



November in Albania marks the transition from autumn to winter, bringing cooler temperatures and increased rainfall. Average daytime temperatures range from 10 to 18°C along the coast, while inland and mountainous areas can be significantly colder, sometimes dropping close to freezing at night. Rain showers are frequent, especially in the northern and central regions, making November one of the wettest months of the year. Despite the changing weather, the landscape remains beautiful, with autumn colors still visible in many areas before winter fully sets in.

**Visitors are advised to dress appropriately, and a raincoat or umbrella is recommended.**

# Meeting Dates and Associated Events

225th CSO Meeting dates : **12-13 November 2025** at the **Maritim Plaza Hotel, Tirana**, Jeronim De Rada Hall, 23rd Floor

*Address: Rruga Abdi Toptani 18, Tiranë 1001, Albania*

The Welcome Event will take place on **November 11, 2025**, at the **Maritim Plaza Hotel, Tirana**, 23rd Floor Lounge, starting at **19:00**.

*Address: Rruga Abdi Toptani 18, Tiranë 1001, Albania*

On **November 12, 2025**, the Cultural Event will feature a short guided tour of Tirana's historic city center.

It will begin at **18:30**, starting from the **Ground Floor – Reception Lounge of the Maritim Plaza Hotel Tirana**.

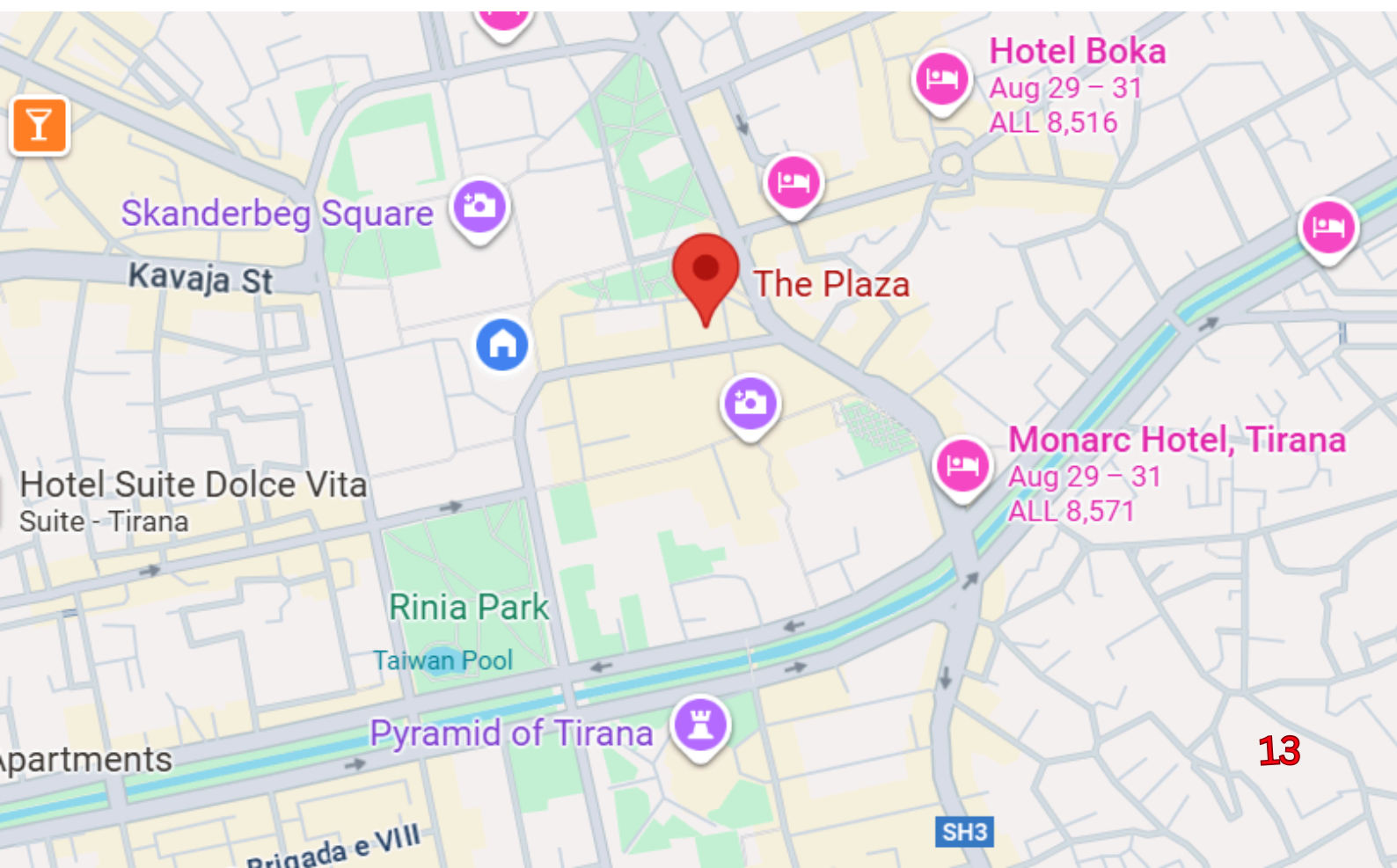
The Social Dinner will take place on **November 12, 2025** at **20:00** in the **Rooftop Restaurant of Xheko Imperial Hotel**.

*Address: Rruga Ibrahim Rugova Nr. 56/H2, Tiranë 1019, Albania*



# Meeting Venue

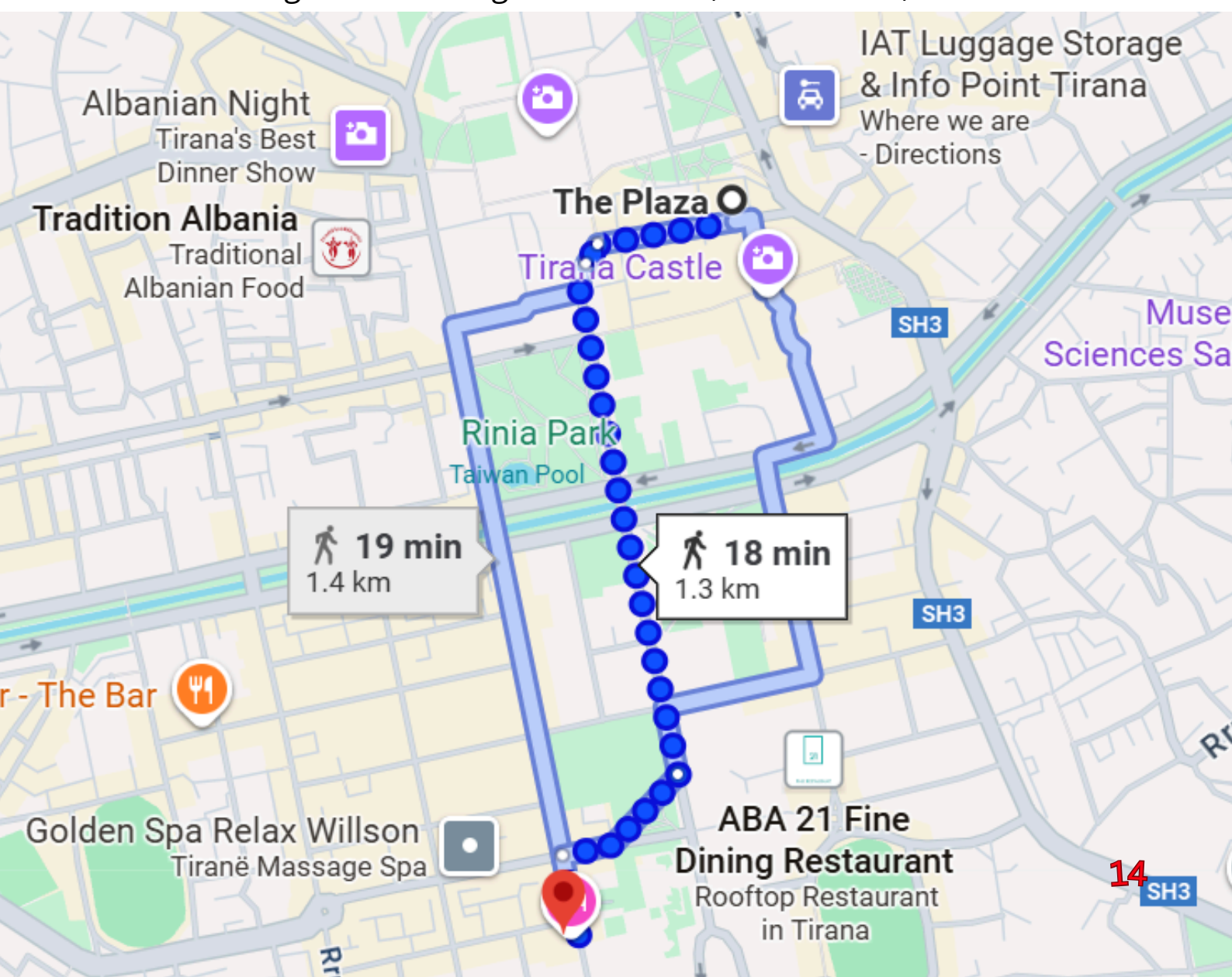
The main venue for the CSO meeting will be **Plaza Hotel Tirana**, Jeronim De Rada Hall, 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
*Address: Rruga Abdi Toptani 18, Tiranë 1001, Albania*



# Social Dinner

The Social Dinner will take place on **November 12, 2025**, at **20:00** in the **Rooftop Restaurant of Xheko Imperial Hotel**.

*Address: Rruga Ibrahim Rugova Nr. 56/H2, Tiranë 1019, Albania*





# How to Get to the Meeting Venue

## From Tirana International Airport (TIA)

By taxi or hotel shuttle (EUR35 round trip; approx. 13km, ~30 min).

Alternatively, take a taxi directly to Skanderbeg Square—tell the driver “Maritim Plaza Hotel Tirana”.

## From Train or Bus Station

It's a 5-minute walk to Skanderbeg Square.

Exit stations toward the city center and head for the square; the hotel is located right on the main plaza.

Public Transport – Nearby Bus Lines

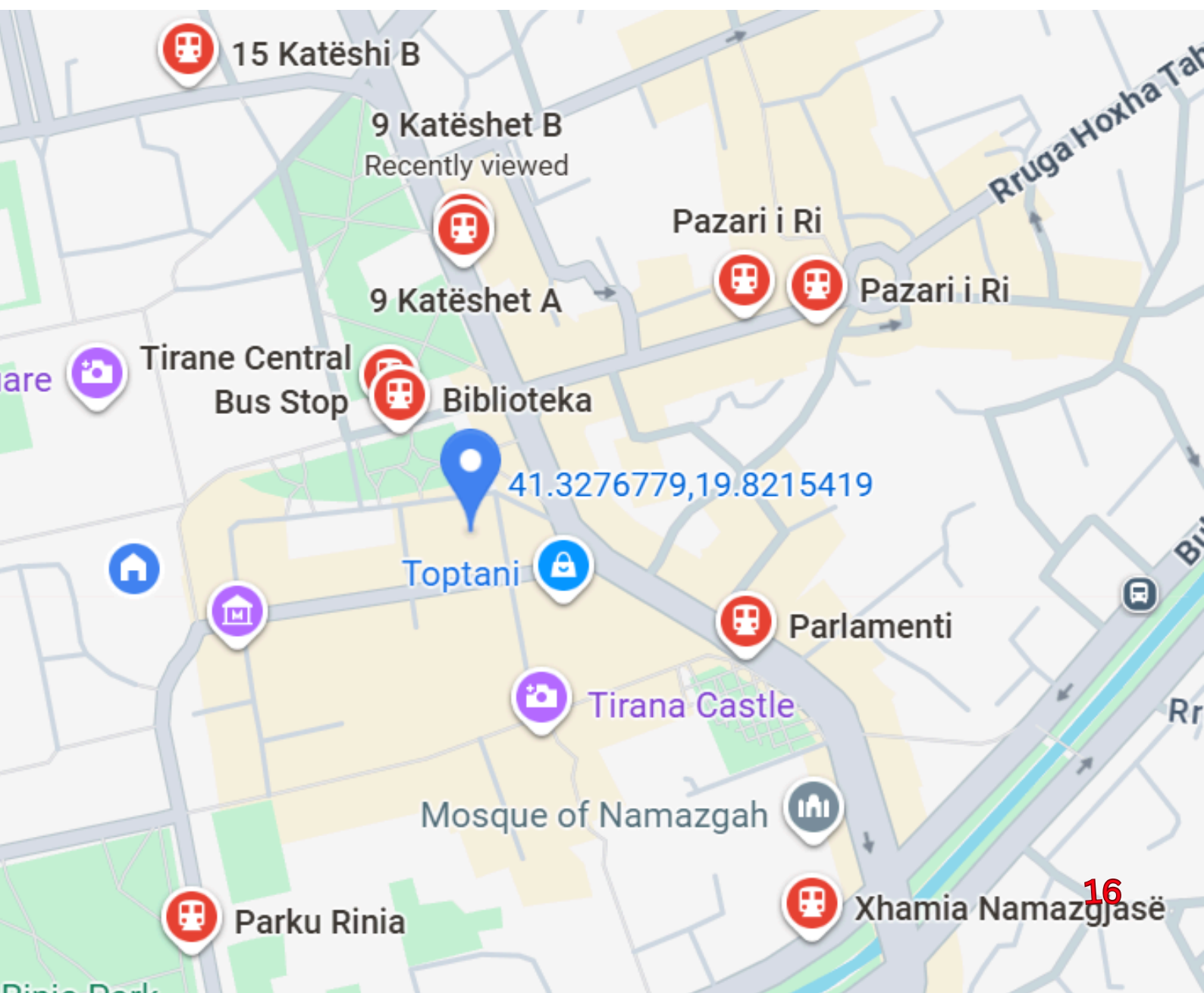
Several local bus routes stop near Skanderbeg Square:

Bus T2 (Airport ↔ City Center)

Bus 4, 5, 6, 7, 10 (various city lines) stop within a few minutes' walk.

# How to Get to the Meeting Venue

Bus stops near **Plaza Hotel Tirana**.





# Accommodation

## Maritim Hotel Plaza Tirana

Rruga Abdi Toptani 18, Tiranë  
1001, Albania

Business Room Single Use -  
140.00€/night  
Business Room Double Use -  
165.00€/night

(Buffet breakfast, City Tax,  
water on arrival, Wi-Fi and  
cable internet, parking, Spa  
and gym access included)

Tel: +355 4 210 8000

Email:

[booking@plazatirana.com](mailto:booking@plazatirana.com)

Use Promo Code:

CSOTIRANA25 (valid until  
15.09.2025)

## Rogner Hotel Tirana

Bulevardi "Dëshmorët e Kombit"  
9, Tirana 1010 – AL

Standard room (single use) -  
118€/night

Standard room (double use) -  
143€/night

(Breakfast, water on arrival,  
high-speed Wi-Fi internet,  
access to "Business centre",  
gym and sauna, pool, hammam  
included)

City Tax ALL 350 (3,54 Euro) per  
person/night excluded

Tel: +355 4 22 35 035

Email:

[reservation.tirana@rogner.com](mailto:reservation.tirana@rogner.com)

Use Promo Code: CSOTIRANA25

# Accommodation

## Tirana Marriott Hotel

Sheshi Italia, Tirana, Albania,  
1000

Deluxe Single Room - 164.30  
€/night

(Breakfast and internet  
included)

VAT 6% and City Tax excluded

Tel: +355 44 500500

Email:

[desara.lika@marriott.com](mailto:desara.lika@marriott.com)

Use link to book directly:

[CSOTIRANA25](#) (valid until  
30.09.2025)

## Hotel Opera

Rruga Urani Pano,  
1016 Tirana, Albania

Single Room - 80 €/night

Double Room - 90 €/night

Tel: +355 44 500 383

Email:

[reservation@hotelopera.al](mailto:reservation@hotelopera.al)



# Accommodation

## Hotel Arber

Rruga Bardhok Biba 1001,  
Tirana

Single Room - 53 €/night  
Double Room - 57 €/night  
(Continental breakfast  
included)

Tel: +355 692052232

Email:  
reservation@hotelarber.com

## Hotel Colosseo Tirana

Rruga e Durrësit 76, Tirana  
92€/night (breakfast included)  
Tel: +355 4 225 5555 Email:  
info@colosseotirana.com

*Please mention “**CSO Meeting – Ministry of Education and Sports**” when booking to receive the discounted rate.*

***Booking deadline** for special rates: **10 October 2025** – After this date, standard hotel rates may apply.*

# Contact Persons

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CSO for Albania

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