Sarande Travel Guide

Sarande - The Riviera Gem

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Things to do in Sarande

Landmarks & Monuments

Iconic structures and monuments that define Sarande's character and heritage.



Must See

Sarande City Monument

20 minutes No Booking Needed

Map

The iconic **Sarande Monument** stands at the entrance to the city, a striking bronze sculpture symbolizing the city's identity. This landmark has become the most photographed symbol of Sarande, representing the city's pride and welcoming spirit to visitors from around the world.



Top Pick

Sarande Clock Tower

15 minutes No Booking Needed

Map

A distinctive **historic clock tower** located in the heart of the city center. This structure serves as a central landmark and meeting point for locals and tourists, offering views of the surrounding streets and harbourfront from its elevated position.

Tips for Landmarks & Monuments

- Best photographed at sunset for golden hour lighting
- The monument is illuminated at night
- Free access and great Instagram location

Beaches & Coastal Areas

Stunning coastal stretches and aquatic adventures along the crystal-clear Ionian Sea.



Must See

Sarande Main Beach

2-4 hours No Booking Needed

Map

The primary **urban beach** stretches along the waterfront, Featuring a predominantly stony and pebbly shoreline with clear turquoise water. Well-equipped with beach bars, water sports facilities, and sun loungers, it's perfect for swimming, sunbathing, and enjoying Mediterranean hospitality with family-friendly amenities throughout.



Must See Book Ahead

Ksamil Islands

3-5 hours Book Ahead

Map

A stunning group of **small sandy islands** Just offshore from Ksamil; short boat crossings start from Ksamil’s beaches. Crystal-clear waters perfect for snorkeling, these pristine islands offer secluded beaches, minimal crowds, and some of the most photographed seascapes in Albania.



Top Pick

Grama Beach

3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

A **hidden gem beach** accessible by scenic hiking trail, offering a secluded escape with dramatic cliff backdrops. The sandy beach at Grama Bay on the Karaburun Peninsula, usually reached by boat from Vlorë or Orikum.

Tips for Beaches & Coastal Areas

- Bring water shoes for rocky areas
- Peak beach season June-September with warmest water in August
- Many beaches have paid loungers and umbrellas
- Snorkeling gear available for rent at main beach

Ancient & Historical Sites

Ancient ruins and heritage locations revealing millennia of Mediterranean history.



Must See

Castle of Lëkurës

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

An imposing **Ottoman fortress built in 1537 under Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent.** Built in the 16th century with panoramic views, this well-preserved castle offers insights into the region's strategic importance. The hiking trail up provides spectacular photography opportunities and sunset views.



Must See

Butrint National Park

3-4 hours No Booking Needed

Map

A **UNESCO World Heritage Site** located 18km south featuring extraordinary archaeological remains spanning from Greek to Ottoman periods. Ancient theaters, temples, and fortifications emerge from dense vegetation, creating a mystical atmosphere and one of the Balkans' most important archaeological complexes.



Top Pick

Sarande Archaeological Museum

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

A **compact but significant museum** housing artifacts from the region's rich history, Preserving a late-antique mosaic discovered beneath the former post-office building. The exhibits tell the story of ancient Saranda from its Greek colonial origins through Byzantine times.

Tips for Ancient & Historical Sites

- Hire a guide at Butrint for detailed historical context
- Wear good hiking shoes for Lëkurës Castle ascent
- Bring sun protection and water when exploring ruins
- Visit Butrint early morning to avoid crowds

Religious Sites

Sacred spaces and spiritual landmarks showcasing the region's diverse religious heritage.



Top Pick

Holy Trinity Monastery

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

A **serene Orthodox monastery** nestled in the hills near Sarande, offering peaceful spiritual atmosphere and panoramic views. The whitewashed stone buildings and traditional Byzantine architecture provide insight into Orthodox Christian practices in the region.



Top Pick

Sarande Orthodox Cathedral

30 minutes No Booking Needed

Map

The main **Orthodox church** in the city center, featuring beautiful Byzantine iconography and ornate interior decorations. The cathedral serves as the spiritual heart of Sarande's Orthodox community and is particularly atmospheric during evening services.

Tips for Religious Sites

- Dress respectfully (shoulders and knees covered)
- Ask permission before photography inside churches
- Visit during quiet hours for peaceful experience
- Women may be offered head coverings at some sites

Tours & Activities

Guided experiences and adventure activities exploring Sarande's natural and cultural attractions.



Must See Book Ahead

Island Hopping Boat Tours

4-8 hours Book Ahead

Half-day and full-day boat tours visiting Ksamil Islands, Corfu (Greece), and nearby coves with swimming stops. Professional skippers provide local knowledge, snorkeling equipment, and waterside meals, making these ideal for families and adventure seekers.



Must See Book Ahead

Snorkeling & Diving

2-4 hours Book Ahead

Professional diving operators offer certified dives and beginner snorkeling in crystal-clear waters. Sites include underwater caves, reefs, and historical artifacts, with equipment rental and instruction available for all skill levels.



Top Pick

Guided Hiking Excursions

3-5 hours No Booking Needed

Nature walks to Lëkurës Castle, Grama Beach, and mountain trails offering panoramic coastal vistas. Local guides share botanical knowledge, historical context, and lead to hidden viewpoints accessible only by foot.

Tips for Tours & Activities

- Book boat tours day before during peak season
- Bring waterproof phone cases for water activities
- Wear reef-safe sunscreen for water sports
- Early morning departures avoid afternoon crowds

Day Trips & Excursions

Exciting excursions to nearby attractions within easy reach of Sarande.



Must See Book Ahead

Corfu, Greece

1 day Book Ahead

Map

The Greek island of **Corfu** lies just 15km across the Ionian Sea, accessible by ferry. Home to Ottoman fortress built in 1537 under Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent.es, charming Old Town with Baroque architecture, lush vegetation, and excellent seafood restaurants, it's a perfect day trip offering cultural contrast and Mediterranean beauty.



Must See

Blue Eye Spring (Syri i Kalter)

3-4 hours No Booking Needed

Map

A spectacular **natural freshwater spring** 20km inland where brilliant blue water emerges from limestone caves. The mesmerizing color creates an otherworldly landscape, With opportunities for walking and photography; swimming in the spring itself is prohibited.



Top Pick

Gjirokaster

1 day No Booking Needed

Map

A **UNESCO-listed fortress town** about 60km away featuring Ottoman architecture, a stunning hillside castle, traditional stone houses, and museums. The mountain setting, craftsmanship tradition, and authentic atmosphere make it essential for cultural enthusiasts seeking mountain contrast to coastal Sarande.

Tips for Day Trips & Excursions

- Corfu ferries run daily in season (30–45 minutes by hydrofoil; 55–70 minutes by passenger/car ferry. Check the vessel when booking.)
- Bring passports for Greek island visits
- Blue Eye is best visited early for minimal crowds
- Gjirokaster worth overnight stay to experience night atmosphere

Shopping & Markets

Shopping districts and local markets offering souvenirs, crafts, and everyday goods.



Top Pick

Main Street Bazaar

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

The **bustling commercial heart** of Sarande features shops selling traditional Albanian crafts, textiles, olive oil, wine, and souvenirs. Narrow pedestrian streets with family-run boutiques create an authentic shopping atmosphere where haggling is welcomed.



Top Pick

Fish Market

1 hour No Booking Needed

Map

The early-morning **waterfront fish market** displays fresh Mediterranean catches and local produce. An authentic slice of daily life where fishermen sell directly to locals and restaurants, offering excellent photo opportunities and fresh seafood for cooking.

Tips for Shopping & Markets

- Haggling is customary at markets
- Visit fish market early morning for best selection
- Shop for olive oil and wine as authentic souvenirs
- Most shops close 1-5pm for siesta

Neighborhoods & Districts

Distinct areas of Sarande with unique character and local flavor.



Must See

Waterfront Promenade (Lungomare)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

The scenic **seaside walkway** The main renovated Naim Frashëri waterfront promenade extends approximately 1.2 km. Perfect for evening strolls, sunset watching, and people-watching, it captures the essence of Mediterranean leisurely living with fresh sea breezes.



Top Pick

Old Quarter

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

The **historic core** features narrow winding streets, traditional stone buildings, and local tavernas. This authentic neighborhood offers a glimpse into traditional Albanian life, with family-run shops, hidden courtyards, and genuine local atmosphere away from main tourist zones.

Tips for Neighborhoods & Districts

- Waterfront best visited at sunset for magical lighting
- Old Quarter ideal for discovering family-run restaurants
- Narrow streets are pedestrian-only
- Get lost intentionally to find hidden gems

Food & Dining

Real, highly-rated Restaurants in Sarande, sourced from Google Places (rating above 4★).



Alnes Restaurant★★★★★ 5 (369)

1-2 hours

Map

Alnes Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Sarande, rated 5★ from 369 reviews. Located at 3rd Km Sarande - Butrint, Sarandë 9701, Albania.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM



Flame House★★★★★ 5 (119)

1-2 hours

Map

Flame House is a highly-rated restaurant in Sarande, rated 5★ from 119 reviews. Located at Rruga Ismail Qemali, Saranda 9701, Albania.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 7:30 AM – 2:30 AM
- Tuesday: 7:30 AM – 2:30 AM
- Wednesday: 7:30 AM – 2:30 AM
- Thursday: 7:30 AM – 2:30 AM
- Friday: 7:30 AM – 2:30 AM
- Saturday: 7:30 AM – 2:30 AM
- Sunday: 7:30 AM – 2:30 AM



Bonsai Restaurant★★★★★ 4.9 (256)

1-2 hours

Map

Bonsai Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Sarande, rated 4.9★ from 256 reviews. Located at V2C8+VGM, Rruga Gjergj Araniti, Saranda 9701, Albania.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 8:00 AM – 12:30 AM
- Tuesday: 8:00 AM – 12:30 AM
- Wednesday: 8:00 AM – 12:30 AM
- Thursday: 8:00 AM – 12:30 AM
- Friday: 8:00 AM – 12:30 AM
- Saturday: 8:00 AM – 12:30 AM
- Sunday: 8:00 AM – 12:30 AM



Traditional Restaurant Argjiro★★★★★ 4.9 (1,215)

1-2 hours

Map

Traditional Restaurant Argjiro is a highly-rated restaurant in Sarande, rated 4.9★ from 1215 reviews. Located at Rruga Butrinti, Saranda 9701, Albania.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 – 11:30 PM
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 11:30 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 11:30 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 11:30 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 11:30 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 11:30 PM
- Sunday: 12:00 – 11:30 PM



SIROCCO RESTAURANT★★★★★ 4.9 (461)

1-2 hours

Map

SIROCCO RESTAURANT is a highly-rated restaurant in Sarande, rated 4.9★ from 461 reviews. Located at Rruga Flamurit 34, Saranda 9701, Albania.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 1:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 1:00 – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 1:00 – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 1:00 – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 1:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 1:00 – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 1:00 – 11:00 PM



NENI Fish&Grill - Sarande★★★★★ 4.9 (341)

1-2 hours

Map

NENI Fish&Grill - Sarande is a highly-rated restaurant in Sarande, rated 4.9★ from 341 reviews. Located at Rruga Butrinti godina nr 1, Saranda 9701, Albania.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM



Haxhi★★★★★ 4.9 (8,747)

1-2 hours

Map

Haxhi is a highly-rated restaurant in Sarande, rated 4.9★ from 8747 reviews. Located at V2F6+FW2, Rruga 40 Shenjtorët, Saranda, Albania.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 – 11:30 PM
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 11:30 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 11:30 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 11:30 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 11:30 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 11:30 PM
- Sunday: 12:00 – 11:30 PM



Sunset Grill Traditional★★★★★ 4.9 (461)

1-2 hours

Map

Sunset Grill Traditional is a highly-rated restaurant in Sarande, rated 4.9★ from 461 reviews. Located at Rruga Butrinti Mbi Santa Quaranten 9701, Sarandë, Albania.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM



Blue Pearl Restaurant Sarandë★★★★★ 4.9 (251)

1-2 hours

Map

Blue Pearl Restaurant Sarandë is a highly-rated restaurant in Sarande, rated 4.9★ from 251 reviews. Located at Rruga Mitat Hoxha, Saranda 9071, Albania.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 8:30 AM – 11:30 PM
- Tuesday: 8:30 AM – 11:30 PM
- Wednesday: 8:30 AM – 11:30 PM
- Thursday: 8:30 AM – 11:30 PM
- Friday: 8:30 AM – 11:30 PM
- Saturday: 8:30 AM – 11:30 PM
- Sunday: 8:30 AM – 11:30 PM



Taverna Ulson★★★★★ 4.9 (591)

1-2 hours

Map

Taverna Ulson is a highly-rated restaurant in Sarande, rated 4.9★ from 591 reviews. Located at Lagjja nr.4, Rruga Idriz Alidhima godina nr 108, Saranda 9701, Albania.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 9:00 AM – 11:30 PM
- Tuesday: 9:00 AM – 11:30 PM
- Wednesday: 9:00 AM – 11:30 PM
- Thursday: 9:00 AM – 11:30 PM
- Friday: 9:00 AM – 11:30 PM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 11:30 PM
- Sunday: 9:00 AM – 11:30 PM



Taverna Joan★★★★★ 4.8 (2,992)

1-2 hours

Map

Taverna Joan is a highly-rated restaurant in Sarande, rated 4.8★ from 2992 reviews. Located at Rruga Mitat Hoxha 4, Saranda, Albania.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 8:00 AM – 11:30 PM
- Tuesday: 8:00 AM – 11:30 PM
- Wednesday: 8:00 AM – 11:30 PM
- Thursday: 8:00 AM – 11:30 PM
- Friday: 8:00 AM – 11:30 PM
- Saturday: 8:00 AM – 11:30 PM
- Sunday: 8:00 AM – 11:30 PM



Taverna Del Mare★★★★★ 4.8 (2,003)

1-2 hours

Map

Taverna Del Mare is a highly-rated restaurant in Sarande, rated 4.8★ from 2003 reviews. Located at Rruga Peshkatari, Saranda 9701, Albania.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 – 11:30 PM
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 11:30 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 11:30 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 11:30 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 11:30 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 11:30 PM
- Sunday: 12:00 – 11:30 PM



Traditional Table Sarande★★★★★ 4.8 (139)

1-2 hours

Map

Traditional Table Sarande is a highly-rated restaurant in Sarande, rated 4.8★ from 139 reviews. Located at Ismail Qemali, Saranda 9701, Albania.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 9:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 9:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 9:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 9:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 9:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 9:00 AM – 11:00 PM



Restaurant Isufi★★★★★ 4.8 (1,029)

1-2 hours

Map

Restaurant Isufi is a highly-rated restaurant in Sarande, rated 4.8★ from 1029 reviews. Located at Road, Saranda 9701, Albania.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 1:00 – 11:30 PM
- Tuesday: 1:00 – 11:30 PM
- Wednesday: 1:00 – 11:30 PM
- Thursday: 1:00 – 11:30 PM
- Friday: 1:00 – 11:30 PM
- Saturday: 1:00 – 11:30 PM
- Sunday: 1:00 – 11:30 PM



Hera Restaurant★★★★★ 4.8 (981)

1-2 hours

Map

Hera Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Sarande, rated 4.8★ from 981 reviews. Located at Rruga Butrinti, Saranda, Albania.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 AM

Beach Bars

Real, highly-rated Beach Bars in Sarande, sourced from Google Places (rating above 4★).



Hidden Lounge★★★★★ 5 (115)

1-2 hours

Map

Hidden Lounge is a highly-rated beach bar in Sarande, rated 5★ from 115 reviews. Located at Guri Nazifi 00, Sarandë 9701, Albania.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 7:30 AM – 2:00 AM
- Tuesday: 7:30 AM – 2:00 AM
- Wednesday: 7:30 AM – 2:00 AM
- Thursday: 7:30 AM – 2:00 AM
- Friday: 7:30 AM – 2:00 AM
- Saturday: 7:30 AM – 2:00 AM
- Sunday: 7:30 AM – 2:00 AM



Boulevard 40★★★★★ 4.9 (573)

1-2 hours

Map

Boulevard 40 is a highly-rated beach bar in Sarande, rated 4.9★ from 573 reviews. Located at Rruga Flamurit 21, Saranda, Albania.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 8:00 AM – 3:00 AM
- Tuesday: 8:00 AM – 3:00 AM
- Wednesday: 8:00 AM – 3:00 AM
- Thursday: 8:00 AM – 3:00 AM
- Friday: 8:00 AM – 3:00 AM
- Saturday: 8:00 AM – 3:00 AM
- Sunday: 8:00 AM – 3:00 AM



SOL y MAR Cocktails Bar★★★★★ 4.9 (25)

1-2 hours

Map

SOL y MAR Cocktails Bar is a highly-rated beach bar in Sarande, rated 4.9★ from 25 reviews. Located at Rruga Skënderbeu, Saranda 9701, Albania.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 7:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Tuesday: 7:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Wednesday: 7:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Thursday: 7:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Friday: 7:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Saturday: 7:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Sunday: 7:00 AM – 2:00 AM



Tipsy drinks and more★★★★★ 4.9 (1,128)

1-2 hours

Map

Tipsy drinks and more is a highly-rated beach bar in Sarande, rated 4.9★ from 1128 reviews. Located at Rruga Jonianet 38, Saranda, Albania.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 5:30 PM – 3:00 AM
- Tuesday: 5:30 PM – 3:00 AM
- Wednesday: 5:30 PM – 3:00 AM
- Thursday: 5:30 PM – 3:00 AM
- Friday: 5:30 PM – 3:00 AM
- Saturday: 5:30 PM – 3:00 AM
- Sunday: 5:30 PM – 2:30 AM



View bar terrace★★★★★ 4.9 (145)

1-2 hours

Map

View bar terrace is a highly-rated beach bar in Sarande, rated 4.9★ from 145 reviews. Located at Rruga Gjergj Araniti, Saranda, Albania.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 6:30 AM – 2:00 AM
- Tuesday: 6:30 AM – 2:00 AM
- Wednesday: 6:30 AM – 2:00 AM
- Thursday: 6:30 AM – 2:00 AM
- Friday: 6:30 AM – 2:00 AM
- Saturday: 6:30 AM – 2:00 AM
- Sunday: 6:30 AM – 2:00 AM



Medusa Lounge Terrace★★★★★ 4.9 (423)

1-2 hours

Map

Medusa Lounge Terrace is a highly-rated beach bar in Sarande, rated 4.9★ from 423 reviews. Located at Rruga Jonianet, Saranda 9701, Albania.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 7:00 PM – 3:00 AM
- Tuesday: 7:00 PM – 3:00 AM
- Wednesday: 7:00 PM – 3:00 AM
- Thursday: 7:00 PM – 3:00 AM
- Friday: 7:00 PM – 3:00 AM
- Saturday: 7:00 PM – 3:00 AM
- Sunday: 7:00 PM – 3:00 AM



Naluū Beach Bar Pizzeria & Restaurant★★★★★ 4.8 (768)

1-2 hours

Map

Naluū Beach Bar Pizzeria & Restaurant is a highly-rated beach bar in Sarande, rated 4.8★ from 768 reviews. Located at Rruga Idriz Alidhima 72, Saranda 9701, Albania.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 8:00 AM – 11:30 PM
- Tuesday: 8:00 AM – 11:30 PM
- Wednesday: 8:00 AM – 11:30 PM
- Thursday: 8:00 AM – 11:30 PM
- Friday: 8:00 AM – 11:30 PM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 11:30 PM
- Sunday: 9:00 AM – 11:30 PM



Vibe 360º Saranda – Cocktails & Food★★★★★ 4.8 (1,161)

1-2 hours

Map

Vibe 360º Saranda – Cocktails & Food is a highly-rated beach bar in Sarande, rated 4.8★ from 1161 reviews. Located at Rruga Naim Frashëri, Saranda, Sarande 9701, Albania.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 8:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Tuesday: 8:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Wednesday: 8:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Thursday: 8:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Friday: 8:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Saturday: 8:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Sunday: 8:00 AM – 2:00 AM



Poseidoni Beach-Bar&Restaurant★★★★★ 4.7 (118)

1-2 hours

Map

Poseidoni Beach-Bar&Restaurant is a highly-rated beach bar in Sarande, rated 4.7★ from 118 reviews. Located at Rruga Idriz Alidhima, Saranda 9701, Albania.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Open 24 hours
- Tuesday: Open 24 hours
- Wednesday: Open 24 hours
- Thursday: Open 24 hours
- Friday: Open 24 hours
- Saturday: Open 24 hours
- Sunday: Open 24 hours



Jungle Rooftop Lounge★★★★★ 4.7 (509)

1-2 hours

Map

Jungle Rooftop Lounge is a highly-rated beach bar in Sarande, rated 4.7★ from 509 reviews. Located at Rruga Flamurit, Saranda, Albania.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 7:00 PM – 2:00 AM
- Tuesday: 7:00 PM – 2:00 AM
- Wednesday: 7:00 PM – 2:00 AM
- Thursday: 7:00 PM – 2:00 AM
- Friday: 7:00 PM – 2:00 AM
- Saturday: 7:00 PM – 2:00 AM
- Sunday: 7:00 PM – 2:00 AM



Marina Aperitiv Bar★★★★★ 4.6 (59)

1-2 hours

Map

Marina Aperitiv Bar is a highly-rated beach bar in Sarande, rated 4.6★ from 59 reviews. Located at Rruga Ionianet, Saranda 9701, Albania.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 8:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Tuesday: 8:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Wednesday: 8:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Thursday: 8:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Friday: 8:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Saturday: 8:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Sunday: 8:00 PM – 1:00 AM



Crystal Island★★★★★ 4.5 (324)

1-2 hours

Map

Crystal Island is a highly-rated beach bar in Sarande, rated 4.5★ from 324 reviews. Located at Sarandë, Albania.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 8:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Tuesday: 8:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Wednesday: 8:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Thursday: 8:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Friday: 8:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Saturday: 8:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Sunday: 8:00 AM – 1:00 AM



Escape Beach lounge★★★★★ 4.5 (102)

1-2 hours

Map

Escape Beach lounge is a highly-rated beach bar in Sarande, rated 4.5★ from 102 reviews. Located at V297+RFJ, Rruga Butrinti, Saranda, Albania.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Open 24 hours
- Tuesday: Open 24 hours
- Wednesday: Open 24 hours
- Thursday: Open 24 hours
- Friday: Open 24 hours
- Saturday: Open 24 hours
- Sunday: Open 24 hours



RoofTop Saranda★★★★★ 4.5 (638)

1-2 hours

Map

RoofTop Saranda is a highly-rated beach bar in Sarande, rated 4.5★ from 638 reviews. Located at Sheshi Nene Tereza No: 2, Sarandë, Rruga Flamurit, Sarande 9701, Albania.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 6:00 PM – 4:00 AM
- Tuesday: 6:00 PM – 4:00 AM
- Wednesday: 6:00 PM – 4:00 AM
- Thursday: 6:00 PM – 4:00 AM
- Friday: 6:00 PM – 4:00 AM
- Saturday: 6:00 PM – 4:00 AM
- Sunday: 6:00 PM – 4:00 AM



COCKTAIL DREAMS★★★★★ 4.5 (327)

1-2 hours

Map

COCKTAIL DREAMS is a highly-rated beach bar in Sarande, rated 4.5★ from 327 reviews. Located at Rruga e Arbrit, Saranda 9701, Albania.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 8:00 AM – 11:30 PM
- Tuesday: 8:00 AM – 11:30 PM
- Wednesday: 8:00 AM – 11:30 PM
- Thursday: 8:00 AM – 11:30 PM
- Friday: 8:00 AM – 11:30 PM
- Saturday: 8:00 AM – 11:30 PM
- Sunday: 8:00 AM – 11:30 PM

Practical Information

Best Times to Visit

Peak Season (June-September): Warmest weather (25-30°C), perfect for beach activities and swimming. August is hottest but also most crowded with international tourists.

Shoulder Season (April-May, October-November): Pleasant temperatures (18-25°C), fewer crowds, and lower prices. Ideal for hiking and exploring without excessive heat.

Winter (December-February): Mild temperatures (8-15°C) with occasional rainfall. Fewer tourists, but some facilities may close. Good for cultural exploration and avoiding crowds.

Recommendation: Visit May or September for perfect balance of weather, manageable crowds, and reasonable prices.

Getting Around Sarande

Local Buses: Affordable mini-buses (furgons) connect Sarande with nearby towns. Routes are frequent but schedules are informal.

Taxis: Readily available at main square. Negotiate fares beforehand as meters are uncommon. Agree the fare before you ride.

Rental Cars & Scooters: Available from numerous agencies near waterfront. Driving is on the right; roads are generally good but sometimes narrow and winding.

Ferries to Corfu: Daily departures in season (30–45 minutes by hydrofoil; 55–70 minutes by passenger/car ferry. Check the vessel when booking.). Book ahead during summer. EU citizens may use a valid national identity card or passport; other travellers need appropriate passport/visa documentation.

Walking: The city center is highly walkable with most attractions within 2km of main square.

Inter-city Transport: Long-distance buses to Tirana (6 hours), Gjirokastër: approximately one hour on currently listed direct buses; allow for delays, and Vlorë: approximately 2h20–4h20, depending on the operator and route.

✈ Airport Transfer

Tirana International Airport Nënë Tereza (TIA) to city center:

- **Private Transfer:** Door-to-door minivan direct to Sarande in about 3.5 to 4 hours, (agree the price in advance)
- **Shared Furgon (minibus):** Budget shared minibus connecting via Fier and Vlore in about 4.5 to 5 hours, (ask the driver for the fare)
- **Intercity Bus:** Scheduled coach service to Sarande bus station in roughly 5 to 6 hours with a transfer, (check the operator for the fare)
- **Taxi:** Fixed-rate taxi direct to Sarande hotels in about 3.5 to 4 hours, (agree the fare first)

Shopping Guide

What to Buy: Olive oil from local producers, traditional woven rugs and textiles, Albanian wine and raki (brandy), handcrafted jewelry with sea-themes, traditional clothing, and locally-made cheeses.

Main Shopping Areas: Waterfront promenade has modern shops and international brands. Main street bazaar offers traditional crafts and souvenirs. Side streets harbor family-run boutiques with authentic goods.

Markets: Fish market operates early mornings (6-10am). Produce markets scattered throughout city. Sunday morning markets in surrounding areas.

Prices: Albania is very affordable. Budget 5-15 EUR for quality souvenirs. Haggling expected at markets and small shops, especially for multiple items or cash payments.

Opening Hours: Most shops close 1-5pm for siesta. Evening shopping 7-11pm common. Sundays have reduced hours or closures.

Annual Events & Festivals

Sarande Summer Festival (June-August): Monthly beach parties, live music, dance performances, and cultural events along the waterfront attracting both locals and tourists.

Orthodox Easter: Significant religious celebrations with processions, traditional foods, and family gatherings (dates vary, typically April-May).

Independence Day (November 28): National celebrations with parades, music, traditional costumes, and fireworks honoring Albanian independence.

International Diving Festival (September): Underwater sports competitions, marine exhibitions, and diving master classes attracting enthusiasts from across Europe.

Jazz Festival (Various dates): International jazz performances in waterfront venues during summer months.

Local Feast Days: Celebrate patron saints throughout the year with traditional music, food, and community gatherings in neighborhoods.

5-Day Sample Itineraries

Day 1 - City Orientation: Arrive and settle into accommodation. Explore waterfront promenade and Sarande Monument at sunset. Dinner at beachfront restaurant. Evening stroll through Old Quarter. (Estimated cost: 30-50 EUR)

Day 2 - Beach Day: Morning swimming and sunbathing at main beach. Afternoon boat tour to Ksamil Islands with snorkeling. Sunset from island. Evening seafood dinner at harbor. (Estimated cost: 45-65 EUR)

Day 3 - History & Hiking: Early start hiking to Lëkurës Castle with panoramic views. Picnic lunch with fortress backdrop. Afternoon visit to Archaeological Museum. Evening relaxation at spa or cafe. (Estimated cost: 35-55 EUR)

Day 4 - Day Trip to Corfu: Morning ferry to Corfu. Explore Old Town's Venetian architecture and Spianada Square. Lunch at Greek taverna. Afternoon museum or shopping. Return ferry at sunset. (Estimated cost: 55-75 EUR)

Day 5 - Nature & Exploration: Guided excursion to Blue Eye Spring or Butrint National Park. Swimming in crystal waters or exploring ancient ruins. Sunset beach picnic. Pack a light dinner from local delis before departure. (Estimated cost: 40-60 EUR)

Best Photography Locations

Sarande Monument at Sunset: Golden hour magic with sea backdrop. Best time: 7-8pm in summer. Captures the spirit of Sarande beautifully.

Ksamil Islands Aerial View: From boat or drone perspective. Best time: midday for clearest turquoise waters. Absolutely stunning for landscape photography.

Lëkurës Castle Panorama: Panoramic views of city, coast, and Greek islands. Best time: late afternoon for warm light and long shadows. Brings out architectural details.

Waterfront Promenade Evening: Illuminated waterfront with reflections in calm water. Best time: 7-9pm after sunset when lights activate. Captures Mediterranean atmosphere.

Fish Market at Dawn: Authentic local activity with colorful catches. Best time: 6-8am. Provides cultural and documentary photography opportunities.

Old Quarter Narrow Streets: Traditional architecture and spontaneous local life. Best time: morning light (7-10am) for warm shadows in alleyways. Perfect for street photography.

Corfu View from Sarande: Island outline visible from waterfront on clear days. Best time: early morning for clear atmospheric conditions. Captures Mediterranean geography.

Electricity & Power

Voltage: Albania operates on 230V, 50Hz AC electrical system, standard for Europe.

Plug Types: European two-pin plugs (Type C) and Grounded two-pin Type F plugs with earth contacts. Some older buildings may have Type C only.

Adapter Requirements: Travelers from UK, Ireland, Australia, USA, and Canada will need adapters. Universal adapters recommended for flexibility.

Power Reliability: Generally reliable in city areas, though occasional outages occur during summer peak demand or storms. Hotels have backup generators.

Charging Options: All hotels provide charging facilities. Cafes and restaurants increasingly offer USB charging ports. Beach areas have power stations.

Voltage Converters: Not needed as most modern devices (phones, laptops, cameras) are dual-voltage (110-240V). Check device specifications before travel.

Food & Dining Guide

Must-Try Dishes: *Frikase* (stewed chicken with yogurt), *Byrek* (pastry with cheese or meat), *Tavë Kosi* (lamb with yogurt sauce), fresh grilled fish, *Qofte* (meatballs), traditional seafood risotto, and *Shopska* salad with local cheese.

Seafood Specialties: Fresh grilled octopus, whole fish, shrimp saganaki (fried shrimp), mussels, and daily fish catches prepared simply with lemon and olive oil.

Local Drinks: Excellent Albanian wines (especially reds from Vlorë), *Raki* (strong brandy served as digestif), Greek or Albanian coffee, and fresh lemon juice.

Dining Tips: Lunch is main meal (1-3pm). Dinner starts late (8-10pm). Tipping 5-10% appreciated but not mandatory. Restaurants concentrated at waterfront and Old Quarter offer best atmosphere.

Budget Dining: Street food and casual eateries cost 3-8 EUR. Mid-range restaurants 10-20 EUR. Fine dining along waterfront 20-40 EUR per person.

Dietary Options: Growing awareness of vegetarian needs. Salads, pasta, cheese plates readily available. Traditional meat-heavy but seafood options abundant for pescatarians.