



DENTAL VACATION
ALBANIA

TIRANA · THINGS TO DO · PATIENT GUIDE

Winter in Tirana

DECEMBER · JANUARY · FEBRUARY

Mild city winters, museum afternoons, mountain snow one cable car away and the cosiest café scene in the Balkans. Winter here is easier than you think.

Prepared for the patients of Dental Vacation Albania · dentalvacationalbania.com
Prices and information up to date as of August 2026.

01 Your free afternoons, planned

Tirana does winter gently. Snow dusts Mount Dajti, not the city, daytime temperatures usually sit around ten degrees and life moves into warm cafés, bunkers and museums. December adds lights and a festive market to Skanderbeg Square. Easy, unhurried afternoons, exactly what a treatment trip wants.

How your days flow

Clinic visits usually take the morning or early afternoon. The rest of the day is yours, and everything in this guide starts within a short walk or a cheap taxi ride of the city centre. Ask us any day and we will point you to the right pick for how you feel.

What to pack for winter

- A warm coat and a scarf
- An umbrella, showers come and go
- Comfortable shoes that handle wet pavement
- Gloves and a hat for a Dajti snow afternoon

DECEMBER

4 to 13°C

Festive lights and crisp days, around 12 rain days. Dark by about 4:10 pm, plan early.

JANUARY

2 to 13°C

The quietest month, some rain, great museum weather.

FEBRUARY

3 to 14°C

Mild spells hint at spring, and evenings stretch past 5 pm again.

Gentle day friendly marks the picks that suit the day of a procedure: flat, unhurried and close to a place to sit. On surgery days the doctor asks you to skip alcohol, saunas and anything strenuous, so save the climbs and long trips for your free days.

02 Afternoon picks

Two to five hours each, all in or near the centre.
Numbers are a menu, not an order.



01

Skanderbeg Square in lights

1 to 2 h

Free

Gentle day friendly

The great marble square is at its most photogenic under winter lights, ringed by the Opera, the clock tower and the Et'hem Bey Mosque. Wrap up, do a slow lap and duck into a café behind the square.

The winter village runs from early December to about 6 January: giant tree, Ferris wheel, mulled drinks for a couple hundred lek.

[Open in Google Maps ↗](#)



02

Bunk'Art 2

1 to 2 h

900 lek, cash

Gentle day friendly

A Cold War bunker under the government quarter, now a compact museum of Albania's surveillance state. Warm, dry, central and quietly unforgettable, a perfect winter hour.

Steps from the square, easy to pair with the lights walk.

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House of Leaves

03

1 to 2 h

700 lek, cash

Gentle day friendly

The Museum of Secret Surveillance in the old secret police headquarters, quiet rooms that explain modern Albania better than any book. In January you may have it nearly to yourself.

Closed Mondays in winter and shuts around 4 pm, make it an early-afternoon plan.

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Dajti snow afternoon

04

3 to 4 h

1,500 lek return

Gentle day friendly

See snow without driving anywhere: the cable car floats you from the mild city up to a white mountain terrace. Hot chocolate, mountain views, snowball optional, then back down for dinner.

Closed Tuesdays, last rides earlier in winter. Dress warm, the top runs several degrees colder.

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02 Afternoon picks, continued

Café and pastry afternoons 05

2 to 3 h

Coffee money

Gentle day friendly

Winter is when Tirana's café culture peaks. Order a salep or a mountain tea with honey, add a slice of trileçe, and settle into Blloku's warm rooms the way the locals do.

The gentlest possible plan for the day after a procedure.

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Bunk'Art 1, under Mount Dajti

2 to 3 h

900 lek, cash

Gentle day friendly

The vast five-floor atomic bunker in the mountainside, halls and period rooms from Albania's isolation years. Sheltered from any weather and genuinely epic in scale.

Closes around 4:30 pm in winter, reduced hours over New Year. The cable car next door skips Tuesdays.

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Kalaja, dinner in the castle 07

2 h

Dinner money

Gentle day friendly

The lane inside the old Toptani castle walls is winter-perfect: sheltered, lantern-lit and lined with artisan shops and traditional restaurants serving the season's baked dishes.

Book a table for an early dinner, the lane is loveliest after dark.

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A rainy-day shopping stroll 08

2 h

Free to browse

Gentle day friendly

When the showers set in, do what locals do: the covered Toptani centre in the heart of town, then the small shops of Rruga Myslym Shyri, with espresso stops built in.

Zero weather risk, endless coffee. The reliable plan B.

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03 Eat like a local this winter

Winter menus are the heartiest of the year: slow-baked dishes, bean stews, warm drinks and desserts built for cold evenings. What to order.

Tavë kosi	The national dish, baked lamb under yogurt custard, made for cold evenings in a warm oda.
Jani me fasule	Slow-cooked white bean stew, humble and perfect. Order it with cornbread if you see it.
Flija	A layered mountain pancake baked slowly and served with honey or yogurt, a northern winter treasure.
Trileçe	The Balkans' beloved three-milk cake, Tirana's favourite dessert in any season, but best with winter coffee.
Çaj mali	Mountain tea with honey, the local answer to a cold day, and the kindest drink for recovery afternoons.

04 If you have a full free day

Mount Dajti

Half day

The easiest snow day in the Balkans: cable car up, lunch with a view, a walk in the white forest, and back in the mild city by evening.

Kruja

Full day

The mountain town is cosy and quiet in winter, the bazaar lane crowd-free (some stalls close for the season) and the castle in dramatic low cloud. We will arrange a driver.

Durrës on a mild day

Half day

Forty minutes to the coast for the Roman amphitheatre (300 lek, closes around 4 pm in winter), an empty promenade and a long seafood lunch watching the winter sea. The Venetian Tower is shut for the season.

Check before you go

Prices and opening hours verified August 2026. They do change, so treat these as the latest known and ask us to confirm.

- Dajti Ekspres cable car: closed every Tuesday, 1,500 lek return, tickets only at the lower station. Winter last rides come earlier and storms can pause it, check the same day.
- Bunk'Art 1 and 2: 900 lek each, cash only, no ATM at Bunk'Art 1. Winter closing is around 4:30 pm, with reduced hours on 31 December and 1 January.
- House of Leaves: 700 lek, cash. Closed Mondays in winter and shuts around 4 pm.
- The National History Museum on Skanderbeg Square is closed for renovation until around 2028. The restored facade mosaic is still worth a photo from the square.
- Any opening time in this guide can shift. Message us on WhatsApp and we will confirm same-day.

05 Month by month

DECEMBER

The winter village runs on Skanderbeg Square from early December. New Year's Eve brings a free open-air concert and fireworks, Tirana's biggest party.

JANUARY

The market lingers to about 6 January, then the quietest weeks of the year: museums nearly to yourself. Many shops close on 1 and 2 January.

FEBRUARY

Mild spells return, the first blossom appears by the end of the month and terraces reopen on sunny days.

06 Good to know

Money

The lek is the currency and cards are widely accepted in restaurants, but museums, markets and most taxis are cash only. Keep lek on you.

Taxis and apps

Uber and Bolt do not work in Albania. Use the Clust app (English, takes cards) or Patoko, or ask us to call a trusted driver. Short city rides run 500 to 700 lek.

Rain

Showers come and go all winter. Bunkers, museums and covered markets make wet afternoons easy to fill.

Language

Albanian, but English is common in cafés and with younger people. A friendly faleminderit, thank you, goes a long way.

Emergencies

Dial 112 anywhere in Albania. For anything about your treatment, message us first, any hour.

Prices and information up to date as of August 2026.

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We are one message away

Questions about an afternoon plan, a booking or how you are feeling after a visit? Write to us on WhatsApp at wa.me/355682000955 or call +355 68 200 0955.
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