

You have the opportunity to impact the Turkey/Balkans . Are you up for the challenge?

Balkan Albanians



*"It is **too small a thing** for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the **nations**, that my salvation may **reach to the ends of the earth.**"*
— Isaiah 49:6—

Map of Albanian population in the Balkans



Albanians are spread across the western Balkans in Montenegro, Kosovo, North Macedonia, and Albania. The Albanians are believed to be descendants of the Illyrians, who were the original inhabitants of the western Balkan Peninsula. In the sixth century, migrating Slavs began to settle on Illyrian territory and pushed the Illyrians into what is present-day Albania.

The Albanians are divided into two major groups, the Gheg and the Tosk, according to which Albanian dialect they speak.

Quick Facts

Population: 4,423,000

Global Population: 5,179,400

Progress: Unreached

Language: Albanian



Opportunities to Engage

Centuries ago, many Albanians were converted to Islam by the Ottoman Turks. However, they practiced a type of folk Islam, which embraced occult practices such as praying to the dead, seeking cures for sickness, and praying for protection from spirits and curses.

In 1967, Albania declared itself as "the world's first atheistic state," closing its borders to any influence from the outside world. Before this time, religion was mostly based on folk beliefs. With the fall of the Communist regime in 1990, the crime rate in Albania began to soar. Since that time, religious practices have not only been allowed, but also encouraged as an antidote to the crime wave. Muslims from the Middle East are now attempting to re-evangelize all Albanians throughout the Balkans by sending missionaries, supplying financial aid, and building mosques. Today, the Muslims, along with the Catholics of northern Albania and the Orthodox of southern Albania, are pressing for restrictive legislation to keep out other religions, such as Christianity, that are considered non-Albanian.

We have opportunities to engage with Albanians in Kosovo, North Macedonia, and Albania through business, prayer houses, social media, farming, evangelism, and DMM.

"After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them." Acts 16:10

Prayer Points

- Ask the Lord to raise up additional long-term laborers to go to the Albanian people and share the Good News.
- Pray that God will grant His wisdom and favor to the agencies that are currently focusing on the Balkan Albanians.
- Ask God to use the small number of Albanian believers to share Christ's love with their own people.
- The Albanian culture of trust is anemic, and the practice of blood feuds still exists today. Pray that God would bring healing to these people's relationships with one another so that He can bring healing to their relationship with Him.



Is God calling you to live among the Muslim peoples of the Turkey/Balkans?