



Welcome in Elbasan!



Dear all,

For everyone who is going to visit our city for the first time.

To make your stay in Elbasan even more enjoyable, find below some information about this city and its tradition, culture, accommodation and food.

Eda

WELCOME IN ELBASAN

Elbasan is one of the largest and most important Albanian cities located in the middle of Albania. It has a surface of almost 872km² and its population is about 142,000 habitants. Located at the Shkumbin River, where it crosses the famous Via Egnatia, the city of Elbasan – ancient Scampini – is just 33 km away from Tirana. In ancient times, Scampini was a Roman fortification, but in the 4th century it received a new administrative status and, with its new name Hiscampis, became one of the major cities of the new Epirus, home of the area's only Roman legion. According to the historian Tit Livi, King Pyrrhus of Epirus was the first to teach others how to construct a camp, which is why the city's fortification is in the form of a square. In the 6th century, the city broadened beyond the walls of the castle due to its needs as center of the episcopate, with several cathedrals and a large basilica on the hill of Tepe, near the castle.

In 1466, the Ottomans took control of the castle of Scampini and reconstructed it almost entirely. They renamed the city Elbasan and it became center of the sanjak (Ottoman administrative region) between the 17th and 18th centuries. This was a time of flourishing trade, both in and out of the country, which encouraged the significant development of handicrafts. In the documentation of the time, it is proved that in the middle of 17th century, Elbasan had 2000 houses, 900 shops, leather, wool, silk, metals and especially silver. The products of the city of Elbasan found sales market both at home and abroad. Also, Elbasan is known for organizing fairs. The first fair is the one of 1381 followed by others in later periods.

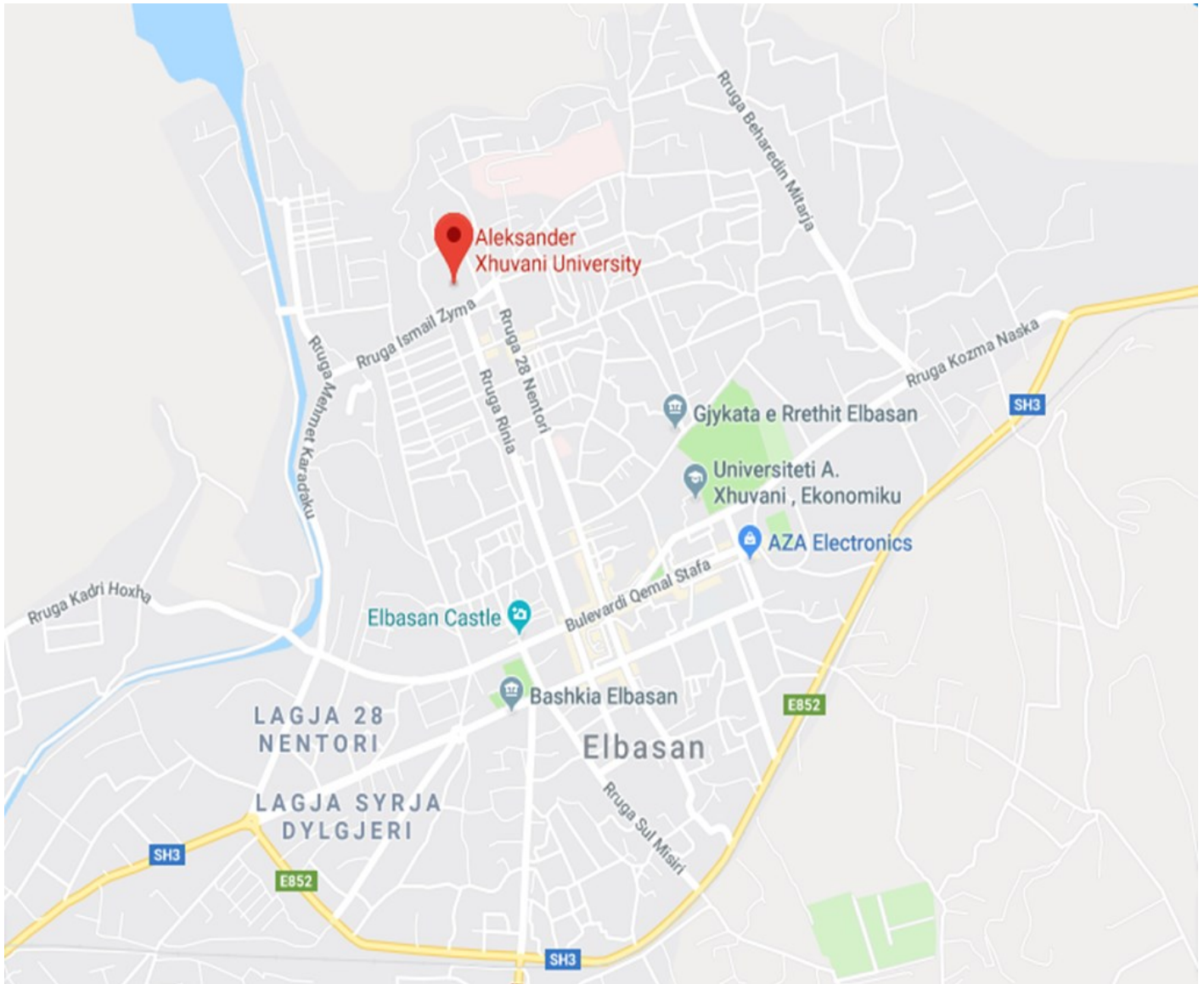


Elbasan is home to the Summer Day festivities, a pagan feast celebrating the end of winter and the coming of summer. Ballokume, cookies made from butter and corn wheat, is the traditional dessert served in this day. Since 2004, it has become a national holiday being celebrated nationwide, in all Albania.

Having such rich history, the city of Elbasan is bound to have a wide variety of historical monuments worth visiting, not to mention the many natural monuments or parks which attract thousands of tourists every year. We are going to mention some of them in this guide, but it is impossible for this guide to contain every single one of them. We hope you enjoy your stay in our lovely city.

NAVIGATING ELBASAN

Navigating Elbasan is simple, mainly due to its small size and simple urbanistic plan, but to facilitate it even more, this is a map of the city.



<https://goo.gl/maps/AfeNJFDVYDsZKMXg8>

REACHING ELBASAN

Reaching Elbasan is simple. You can use public transport or a personal car to travel in different cities in Albania. Elbasan is about 30 minutes far away from Tirana, reachable by car or public transport.

The nearest airport is Airport “Mother Thereza” in Tirana.



Airport “Mother Thereza” in Tirana.

REGIONAL BUS STATIONS AND TAXI STATIONS:

- To Tirana: <https://goo.gl/maps/51jJR8BXxS67BPws9>
- Other cities: <https://goo.gl/maps/j6AfDSxkhLRfLf89A>
- International bus station: <https://goo.gl/maps/j6AfDSxkhLRfLf89A>
- Taxi station: <https://goo.gl/maps/HHXfj4Ps1bHtHYLRA>

UNIVERSITY OF ELBASAN “ALEKSANDER XHUVANI”



University of Elbasan “Aleksandër Xhuvani”, is a higher education institution located in Elbasan, Albania. It is organized into five faculties: Natural Sciences, Human Sciences, Economics, Educational Sciences and Technical Medical Sciences. The Rector of the university is Prof. Dr. Skënder Topi.

This institution is the successor of the "Normal School of Elbasan" (Albanian: Shkolla Normale e Elbasanit), a teacher training institution that was founded on December 1, 1909. "Shkolla Normale" was a secondary school - the first to teach in the Albanian language.

The first establishment of an institution of higher education in Elbasan occurred in 1971 with the founding of Institut i Lartë Pedagogjik "Aleksandër Xhuvani" (Aleksandër Xhuvani Higher Educational Institute). This institution consisted of several teacher training departments (Albanian Language and Literature, Mathematics and Physics, History and Geography, Chemistry and Biology), as well as Engineering and Economics departments that were outposts of the University of Tirana. On November 12th, 1991, the Institute became University of Elbasan “Aleksandër Xhuvani”, named after Aleksandër Xhuvani, an Albanian philologist and educator.

TOURISM IN ELBASAN

Tourism is an important part of Elbasan as it has a lot to offer, in culture, history, nature and food. Below we are presenting you some of the most known attractions our city has to offer, but leaving some unmentioned for the adventurous spirited and explorers.

Historical and natural monuments

The Castle (1.2 km from the University of Elbasan)

The castle of Elbasan lies in the center of the city. Originally was a roman fort, then rebuilt from the ottomans. As many ancient roman forts it has an octagonal structure. The clock tower stands nearby the castle. On the south arch of the gate it is carved "Sultan of the world, Abdyl Hamiti, generous under his cinders the graceful clock raises. Honored men of Elbasan in their kindness revive this beautiful time-teller.



The Ethnographic Museum (1.3 km from the University of Elbasan)

Build in 1986, the ethnographic museum of Elbasan has considerable architectural and historical values within its walls. It has 80 types of crafts inside. It serves as an historical documentation of the lifestyle throughout the history, through the objects, like furniture, dresses etc. It has the appearance of a traditional Elbasan house. The current building of the museum used to be the house of the Sejdin family, a well-known family in Elbasan throughout the history, which is protected as a cultural monument. Build with a unique tent it looks alike with typical houses of Berati and Shkodra but with unique elements within.



The Normal School of Elbasan and the Museum (1.4 km from the University of Elbasan)

The Convention of Elbasan, held in 2-9 September 1909, decided the opening of the first national Albanian high school. The Normal school (Pedagogy) opened on 1st December 1909 and enrolled about 140 students from all over Albania. The Museum has 5000 original and copied documents. There are 500 pictures representing the generation of teachers. In the show cases can be seen many files, photo albums, different relics and manuscripts of the past.



The Basilica in Tepe (1.7 km from the University of Elbasan)

The Basilica in Tepe in Elbasan is found in the olive hill nearby the city. Found in the graveyard of Scampa, its position makes clear the relation with the old town. It directs the east with marble columns of iconostas and with decoration of lions and dears in its tiles. The building dates in the V-th century and changes in the VI-th. This monument was discovered by excavations made in 1968-69, it occupies an area of 600m² and is a *paleo Christian* basilica oriented as usual with the apse from the east. It retains some construction phases.



Basilica of Bezistan (1.2 km from the University of Elbasan)

In the south of the castle is placed the Basilica of Bezistanit. It was discovered in 2007 and it is of the V e.s. It is a monumental grave, and over it lies a mosaic. With the findings so far here are 25 m mosaic, in which, apart from the two human figures, in its composition there are other elements that show the scheme of eternity and are realized with a rare workmanship. Its name is related to the closed market, called Bezistan, an important trading nucleus built in the 17th century, which included a considerable number of shops.



The Saint Mary Church (1.0 km from the University of Elbasan)

The church's building started in 1483, but it ended almost a century later: the church had its first religious services only in 1556. It was built entirely in stone in a completely particular way, with stones carved in the shape of a cross, which can still be seen today. The church was frescoed by Onufri and restaured by David Selenica. In the 18th century it was entirely burned by a fire, so it was rebuilt in the beginning of the 19th century. Some of the most famous preachers in the church have been Fan Noli and Visarion Xhuvani. Nearby the church is the grave of Konstandin Kristoforidhi, a great Albanian linguist.



The King Mosque (1.0 km from the University of Elbasan)

The King Mosque stands well persevered inside the castle nearby the central gate. Historians believe that its building dates in the XV century from Turkish sultan Bajazit II. It has an interesting architecture and is preserved as a cultural monument. It is considered one of the oldest mosques built in Albania.



Via Egnatia

Standing in the Egnatia way, not too far from Elbasan, it dates in the II-IV ad . Its ruins are found in the village of Bradashesh across the highway Elbasan-Peqin. It was a road constructed by the Romans in the 2nd century BC. It crossed Illyricum, Macedonia, and Thrace, running through territory that is now part of modern Albania, North Macedonia, Greece and European Turkey as a continuation of Via Appia.



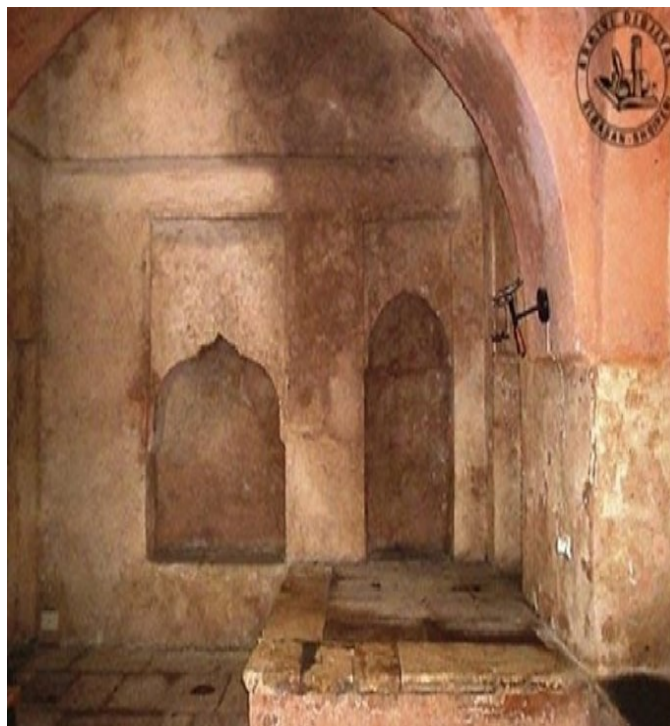
The Church of Shelcan (6.8 km from the University of Elbasan)

Across the road from Elbasan to Gjinar stands the church of Shelcan. In this church are found the famous mural paintings of Onufri who is famous for the use of vivid red and inimitable colors in his art. The mural painting date from 1554. As far as dating is concerned, starting from two and three horizontal brick construction techniques, it is supposed to meet the end of the XVI century.



The Hamam (1.1km from the University of Elbasan)

With a rectangular plan and a field of 130 m square, there are found different rooms like; a dressing room, a warm bath, hot bath and cold bath. It has been announced a cultural monument in 1972. Its bedrock belong to byzantine style and then it was adopted during ottoman period. This hammam was built at the end of the 2nd century AD. In this spa there were staffs who served for massage, cleaning of the helpless, maintenance, and maintain the fire of purity. During the second half of the twentieth century during the communist regime, these baths were closed, and in the last years of the twentieth century, those which were in good condition were preserved as historical objects and monuments of culture.



Gjinar (25.4km from the University of Elbasan)

This village is considered as one of the most beautiful touristic areas in Elbasan. It is situated in the middle of mountains and stands on the area of Shpati. The mountain is 1200m above sea level and is covered with a forest of pine trees. Upon Gjinar stands the mountain of Bukanik, 1831m above the sea level. It is well known for its amazing view, fresh air and climate, good restaurants and cafés. It has always something to offer to every tourist during any season.



Byshek (11.7 km from the University of Elbasan)

Stands in the south of the valley of the Shkumbin River, 9 km from Elbasan, near Shushice village and it is full of ancient trees. It is a touristic destination where you can find several natural water sources and a typical source of flowing water at 70 gallons coming from a giant rock.



The “Self - cleaning well” (0.8 km from the University of Elbasan)

Initially was called Hasan Dylgjer, named after the neighborhood in the honor of the two brothers who built the Mosque and open the well. But never called and never recognized from the residents with that name. Every morning they watching the water flowing alongside the well and cleaning the impurity around it. So they always called it the self-cleaning well.



The Bezistan Plane Tree (1 km from the University of Elbasan)

Standing in the center of the city, The Bezistan Plane Tree, is a centuries old plane tree. It is known as one of the most famous natural monuments in Elbasan. Its name comes from an old market that was found there in the XVII-th century. Historically it served as a referring point for historical, cultural and educational events.



Funar (39.2 km from the University of Elbasan)

Almost deserted, nearby Elbasan is found Funar. It is a very relaxing area full of attractive and wonderful landscapes, fresh air and other several beauties. Here are two deep lakes with cristal water. In this area are built 4 catchments occupying a space of 46 acres with capacity till 5 million and 100 thousand m³ of water. The fish that grow in the lake are cooked in the local restaurants. The water of the lake is blue in the center and green to the side.



TRADITIONAL FOOD

Bugaçe

Bugaçe, a traditional Elbanan breakfast roll found nowhere else in Albania. Smothered in butter and with a dash of salt, this roll is delicious but very fatty.



Bollokume

Bollokume another Elbanan specialty rarely found elsewhere in Albania. It is essentially a large sugar cookie. It is cooked only with eggs, flour and sugar. Even though they are very difficult to cook they taste delicious.



Tavë Kosi

This yummy dish was first cooked in Elbanan but is now served all over the country! One of the secrets of *Tavë Kosi* is that it is cooked only with the meat of young livestock, generally lamb.



Qull me arra

The tables of Elbanan are rich in poultry or cattle-based meals all the year-round. Qull me arra, an old traditional dish of the area, is usually reserved for the year's most special occasions. It is cooked with chicken.



Tavë me pistil

Especially during the cold, long winter days, Elbasan's traditional cuisine serves up the delightful Tavë me pistil, a typical winter food that has been inherited from generation to generation during the last two centuries.



Mysnik me Kalastre

Its name origin comes from Ottoman period and refers to dishes that use poultry as a main ingredient. What is most important is that you have to boil the fresh turkey meat and the broth is used to cook the mysnik with the fresh poultry, butter and aromatic species.



ACCOMMODATION IN ELBASAN

1. Hotel Vila Imperial (1.1 km from the University of Elbasan)

<http://hotel-vila-imperial.elbasan.hotels-al.com/en/> **40 € per night**

Featuring free Wi-Fi, Hotel Vila Imperial is set in Elbasan. Boasting luggage storage space, this property also provides guests with a terrace. Guests can enjoy city views. At the hotel, the rooms include a desk, a flat-screen TV and a private bathroom. Rooms come with air conditioning, and certain rooms are fitted with a balcony. All rooms include a wardrobe. The nearest airport is Tirana International Mother Teresa Airport, 71 km from Hotel Vila Imperial.

2. Hotel Monarch (1.1 km from the University of Elbasan)

https://www.tripadvisor.co.nz/ShowUserReviews-g774870-d6673980-r220458107-Hotel_Monarch-Elbasan_Elbasan_County.html **35 € per night**

Hotel Monarch is located in Elbasan. Free Wi-Fi access is available. Each room here will provide you with a flat-screen TV, air conditioning and a mini-bar. Featuring a shower, private bathroom also comes with a hairdryer. Extras include cable channels. At Hotel Monarch you will find a 24-hour front desk, a terrace and a bar. Other facilities offered at the property include shops (on site). The property offers free parking. This property also has one of the top-rated locations in Elbasan! Guests are happier about it compared to other properties in the area.

3. Real Scampis Hotel (1.1 km from the University of Elbasan)

<https://www.booking.com/hotel/al/real-scampis.html> **27 € per night**

Located in Elbasan, Real Scampis Hotel has 3 accommodations with private balconies. The property has a garden, as well as a terrace. The property provides a 24-hour front desk, and currency exchange for guests. At the hotel, rooms come with a closet. Rooms have a private bathroom, while some feature a garden view. The rooms at Real Scampis Hotel are equipped with a flat-screen TV with satellite channels. The accommodation has a playground. The nearest airport is Tirana International Mother Teresa Airport, 70.8 km from Real Scampis Hotel. This property also has one of the top-rated locations in Elbasan! Guests are happier about it compared to other properties in the area. We speak your language!

4. Grand Hotel (1.8 km from the University of Elbasan)

<http://hotelgrand-elbasan.al/> **25 € per night**

Grand Hotel is located in Elbasan. Featuring luggage storage space, this property also has a restaurant and a terrace. Rooms are equipped with a balcony with city views. All rooms in the hotel are equipped with a TV with cable channels. Rooms contain a private bathroom. The rooms include a desk. A continental breakfast is served every morning at the property. Grand Hotel provides a laundry service, as well as business facilities like fax and photocopying.

5. Imperial Hotel IH (2.0km from the University of Elbasan)

<https://www.booking.com/hotel/al/imperial-ih.en-gb.html> **20 € per night**

Located in Elbasan, Imperial Hotel IH has a garden and terrace. The property features a shared lounge, as well as a bar. Both free WiFi and private parking are available at the hotel. A continental, Asian or halal breakfast is served at the property. You can play pool at Imperial Hotel IH. The reception can offer helpful tips for getting around the area.

6. Hotel Univers (2.3km from the University of Elbasan)

<http://www.univershotel.eu/> **30 € per night**

Set in Elbasan, in a building dating from 1990, Univers Resort features a garden and guestrooms with free WiFi. This 4-star hotel offers a 24-hour front desk and a shared lounge. The hotel features an outdoor swimming pool and room service. At the hotel, all rooms are equipped with a desk and a flat-screen TV. Each room is equipped with a private bathroom with a hot tub and free toiletries. Guest rooms at Hotel Univers feature air conditioning and a wardrobe. A continental breakfast can be enjoyed at the property. The restaurant at the accommodation serves Italian cuisine. Univers Resort offers a terrace.

7. Hotel Colombo (11 km from the University of Elbasan)

<https://www.hotel-colombo.net> **45€ per night**

Located on the 5th km on the National road from Elbasan to Librazhd, Colombo Hotel offers an outdoor pool and an a-la-caret restaurant. Free Wi-Fi access is provided. All the rooms are air-conditioned and come with a flat-screen cable TV and a minibar. Featuring a shower, private bathrooms also come with free toiletries and towels. Breakfast is included in the room rate. Hotel Colombo runs a 24-hour front desk and offers an on-site bar. A children's playground and free private parking are also available. The centre of Elbasan is located at a distance of 5 km. Shebenik-Jablanice National Park is 30 km away and Lake Ohrid is approximately 50 km from the Colombo.

8. Hotel le olive(1.5 km from the University of Elbasan)

<http://hotel-bar-restorant-le-olive.elbasan.hotels-al.com/en/> **40€ per night**

Offering a terrace and views of the city, Hotel Bar Restorant Le Olive is situated in Elbasan. Guests can enjoy the on-site bar. Free WiFi is offered throughout the property and free private parking is available on site. Rooms come with a flat-screen TV. Certain units include a seating area for your convenience. The rooms include a private bathroom. For your comfort, you will find free toiletries and a hair dryer. This hotel has ski storage space and car hire is available. The nearest airport is Tirana Airport, 46 km from Hotel Bar Restorant Olive.

9. Hotel Guri (1 km from the University of Elbasan)

<http://hotel-guri.elbasan.hotels-al.com/en/> **35 € per night**

Situated in Elbasan, Hotel Guri offers accommodation with private balconies. Among the various facilities are a terrace and a bar. The accommodation provides a 24-hour front desk. All units in the hotel are equipped with a TV with satellite channels. The rooms at Hotel Guri feature air conditioning and a desk. An Italian breakfast is served every morning at the property. The nearest airport is Tirana International Mother Teresa Airport, 71 km from the accommodation.

*Prices may vary, and are subject of change from the businesses.

RESTAURANTS IN ELBASAN

In Elbasan you can choose to have a good time from restaurants offering a lot of traditional, Mediterranean, and other types of cuisine, including vegan. Below is a list of the most known restaurants of the city.

1. Real Scampis **(1.2 km from the University of Elbasan)**
<https://goo.gl/maps/q7VpCHkgeZUxfyaG8>
2. Basilico Pizzeria **(1.2 km from the University of Elbasan)**
<https://goo.gl/maps/wtZNVJ27iJPCEMMM6>
3. Taverna Attika **(2.0 km from the University of Elbasan)**
<https://goo.gl/maps/LfayQ9xDP6QDww3s9>
4. Il Marchese **(1.5 km from the University of Elbasan)**
<https://goo.gl/maps/ubWXnK2rwKScQBjb8>
5. Restorant Vila Benvenuto **(2.2 km from the University of Elbasan)**
<https://goo.gl/maps/nTR6RhbJyRJvyRc57>
6. Don Camilo **(1.8 km from the University of Elbasan)**
<https://goo.gl/maps/v3opHkhMom4ruwDq8>
7. Restaurant Kondor 1 **(2.0 km from the University of Elbasan)**
<https://goo.gl/maps/GZAUy5w7ruZnmjDJ9>
8. Restorant Piceri Jurevi **(2.0 km from the University of Elbasan)**
<https://goo.gl/maps/LAJzh9RAhEGJoMj4A>
9. Taverna Kala **(1.1km from the University of Elbasan)**
https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant_Review-g774870-d14311523-Reviews-Taverna_Kala-Elbasan_Elbasan_County.html
10. Rozafa Fish City **(7.9 km from the University of Elbasan)**
<https://fish-city-restaurant.business.site/>
11. Restorant Gjahtari 2 **(1.4 km from the University of Elbasan)**
<http://al.near-place.com/restorant-gjahtari-2-rruga-dhimiter-xhuvani-elbasan>
12. Restorant Ambassador **(4.1 km from the University of Elbasan)**
<https://goo.gl/maps/cAwWqFuQ77KtrgYY6>
13. Kasem Hida Restorant **(5.6 km from the University of Elbasan)**
<https://Goo.Gl/Maps/18u1pdxjvfcuk2xo7>

14. **Il Gusto del Mare (1.8 km from the University of Elbasan)**

https://www.google.com/search?ei=6wSOXdu5DMSRkwXAob_IDw&q=Il+Gusto+del+Mare+&og=Il+Gusto+del+Mare+&gs_l=psyab.12..0j0i22i30i9.100682.103515..105246...0.0..1.170.2074.4j15.....0....1j2..gws-wiz.....0..33i160.BQcqGBYqEro&ved=0ahUKEwib27fUHPHkAhXEyKQKHcDQD_kQ4dU

15. N'Fole Restorant & Cocktails

https://www.google.com/search?ei=QASOXbXuKo2asAe9r5uoBg&q=N%27Fole+Restorant+%26+Cocktails&og=N%27Fole+Restorant+%26+Cocktails&gs_l=psyab.12..33i160.133473.136675..139236...0.2..0.228.2250.17j5j1.....0....1j2..gws-wiz.....0..0i71j38j0i67j0i131j0j0i131i273j0i273.Cmud84-IQUo&ved=0ahUKEwi1jpGDhPHkAhUNDewKHb3XBmUQ4dUDCAs

16. Bar Restorant Bace Mbret

https://www.google.com/search?ei=0wOOXbytApHSsAe675m4Dg&q=Bar+Restorant+Bace+Mbret&og=Bar+Restorant+Bace+Mbret&gs_l=psyab.3..38.82925.85347..87114...0.0..0.125.1858.16j4.....0....1j2..gws-wiz.....0.8RluWm0KitY&ved=0ahUKEwj84uvOg_HkAhURKewKHbp3BucQ4dUDCAs&uact=5

17. Koral Fish Restorant

<https://www.google.com/search?q=Koral+Fish+Restorant&og=Koral+Fish+Restorant&aqs=chrome..69i57j0l2.2879j0j9&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>

18. Bistro Italiano Elbasan

https://www.google.com/search?ei=VQWOXcmeF4qQkwXsu5so&q=.+Bistro+Italiano+Elbasan&og=.+Bistro+Italiano+Elbasan&gs_l=psyab.3..0i22i30j38.282221.284793..286077...0.2..0.118.1589.14j3.....0....1j2..gws-wiz.....0..0i71j0.ylI6Rcz4BRs&ved=0ahUKEwiJnYiHhfHkAhUKyKQKHezdBgUQ4dUDCAs&uact=5