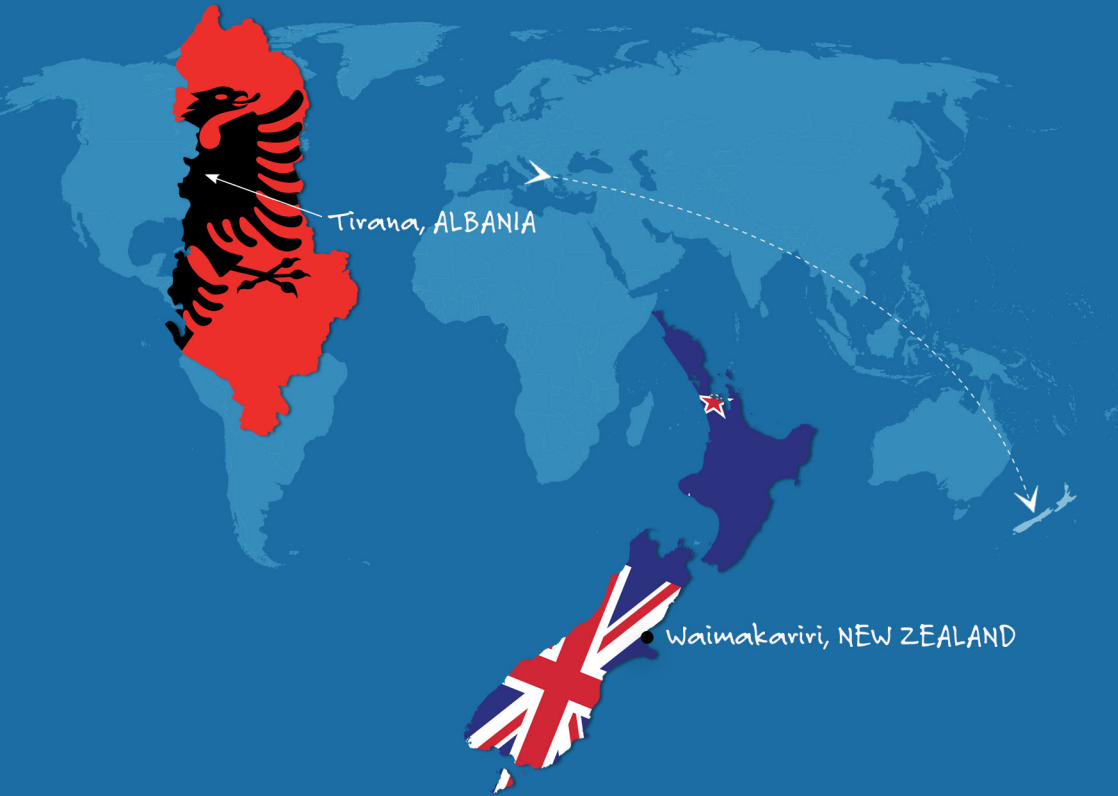


# PACKING for a new life



## Migrant Suitcase **Admira Connell**

Shqipëri or Shqipëria - Republic of  
Albania to New Zealand, year 200?

## The Story

This suitcase story: I met my husband back home during 2001-2005, right after the war in Bosnia and Kosovo and we have been living overseas since then. Having seen many countries and cultures and experiencing some horrible but also bright moments in my life, it was time to come over to New Zealand and settle down.

When I decided to leave my country I decided to carry with me part of my life, culture and history to keep reminding me always about my roots. You will be able to see some of these in my suitcase.

## Food

Albanian food is mixture between Mediterranean, Turkish, European such as Greek and a bit of Arabic taste to it.

## Clothing

Traditional costumes are very colourful and difficult to produce as they need time and lots of effort. They are all handmade and sometimes looms are used for table cloths crochet and socks. Runners as part of Kilims or carpets made on looms weaving them as part of girls' dowry.



## Religious items

Cup of blessed water with written parts of Koran, the blue eye as part of culture to protect you and family from the “bad eye or curse”.

## Music

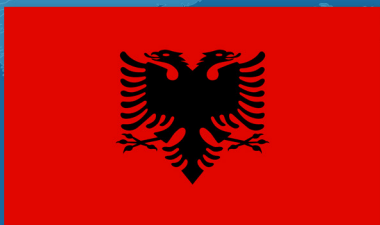
Albanian traditional folk music is amazing, very rhythmic with many songs. Specific ones are played during weddings or engagement parties.

## Books

Albanians and their story and The sworn virgin are representative.

## Country and its history:

**Shqipëri or Shqipëria, the Republic of Albania** is a country in Southeast part of Europe with an exceptionally rich and contrasting biodiversity defined in an area of 28,748 km. It shares the land borders with Kosovo, Montenegro, Macedonia & Greece and a maritime one with Italy. It is apportioned into 12 counties each with their own council and administration and a population of 2,886,026 inhabitants, of which nine minorities (Greek, Macedonian, Wallachian, Montenegrin, Serb, Roma, Egyptian, Bosnian and Bulgarian) are recognized. State without an official



The flag, used now days is the one created on the Independence Day 28 November 1912, is a red with a silhouetted black double-headed eagle in the centre. The red stands for bravery and the blood, while the eagle represents the Sovereignty.



religion, 58% of the population are Muslims and 17% Christians (including Catholics and orthodox) and the rest are non-believers or refuse to accept religion. Albanian is the official language.

Tirana is the capital together with Durrës (coastal town), constitute the economic and financial heart of Albania, due to their high population, modern infrastructure and strategic geographical location.

Agriculture in the country is based on small to medium-sized family-owned dispersed units which produce vegetables, fruits, sugar beets, tobacco, meat, honey, dairy products, and aromatic plants. The secondary sector is diversified, from electronics, textiles, to food, cement, mining, and energy. Tourism is an industry of national importance.

The first traces of human presence in Albania, dating to 50 000 BC. In ancient times, Illyrian tribes inhabited it. In 7th century BC, Greek city-states were established. The country became a part of the Roman Empire in 167 BC and of the Ottoman Empire in 1431. The independence from the Ottoman Empire was proclaimed on 28 November 1912. During the World War Two, it was occupied by Italian and Germans troops and after the war it became a satellite state of the Soviet Union and Albania was under communism dictatorship right until The Revolution of 1991 when the democracy took place. The country suffered a huge “leak of population”, many Albanians deserted the place running after a better life so they immigrated to neighbouring countries as well as Canada and America. In 1997, it was a period of civil disorder till the election.



***This Suitcase exhibit is prepared by Admira Connell***

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