

SHORT STORY

The Municipality of Selenicë is one of the eight local government units in the Vlorë County. Its 561 km² territory borders six other administrative units: Vlorë, Fier, Mallakastër, Memaliaj, Tepelenë, and Himarë.
The town of Selenicë is as historic as it is unique, given that the extraction of bitumen from its subsoil dates back about two hundred years.
An oil deposit located in the eastern part of the territory represents another natural resource associated with this municipality.

While agriculture and livestock farming remain the primary drivers of development in this area, tourism is emerging as an additional avenue for growth.
The region boasts numerous cultural and historical heritage assets, including monuments, archaeological sites, and natural landmarks.
The Archaeological Park of Amantia, the Brati Bridge, the Illyrian city of Olympia, the Mesaplik Mosaic, the Velça Caves, and other traces of antiquity—complemented by the natural landscape and the area's organic local cuisine—serve as an open invitation to those seeking a multifaceted travel experience that encompasses cultural, historical, spiritual, and nature-based tourism. The area possesses a rich ethnographic heritage, with its intangible heritage—specifically traditional song—listed by UNESCO as a masterpiece of humanity's intangible cultural heritage.

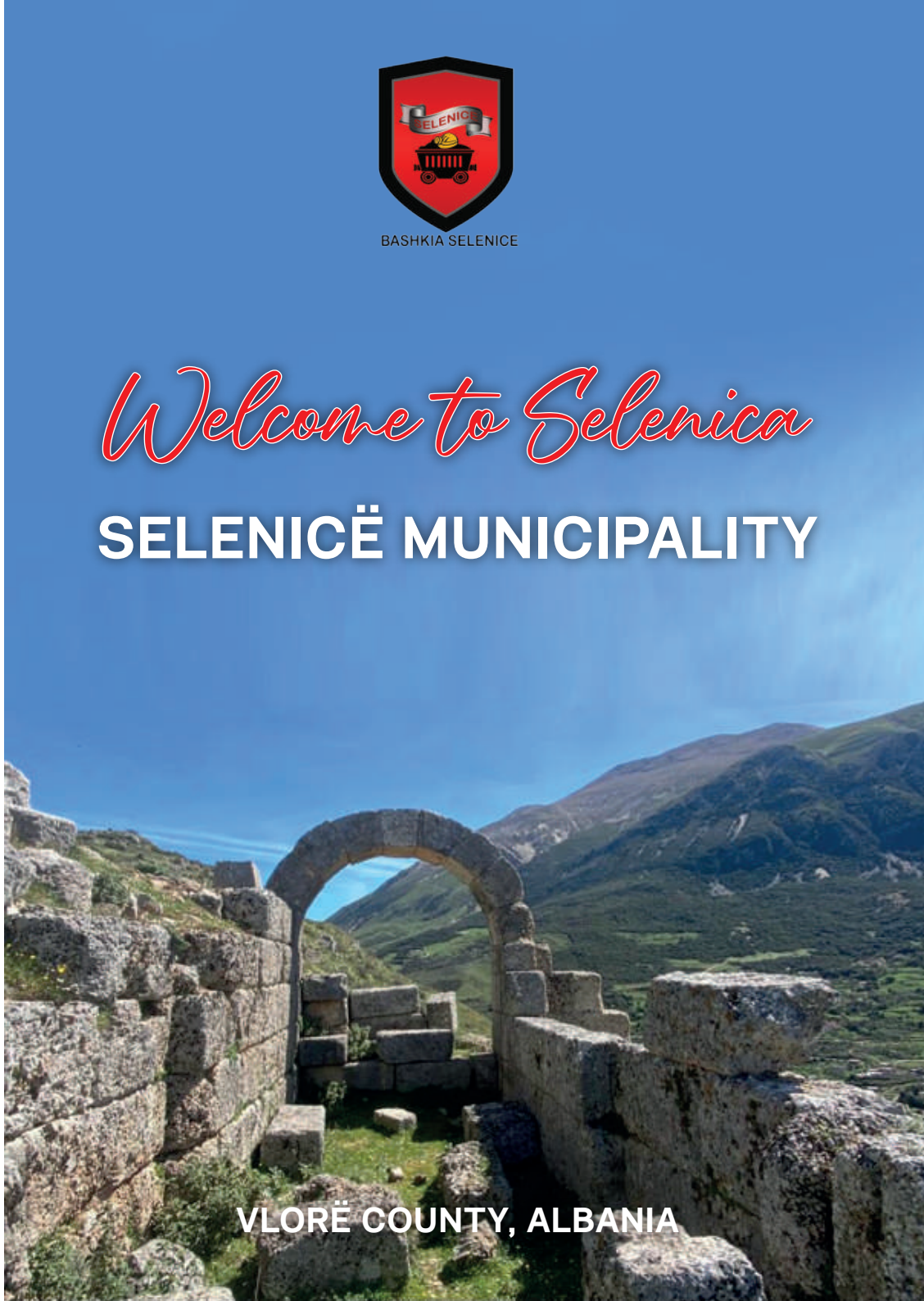
Address: bashkia.selenice@ gmail.com
Selenica.gov.al

Conception and realization: Sejmen Gjokoli
Studio Sai designer October 2026

BASHKIA SELENICE

Welcome to Selenica

SELENICË MUNICIPALITY



VLORË COUNTY, ALBANIA



The Municipality of Selenicë encompasses a territory with one of the most intriguing ethno-cultural compositions in southern Albania.

Many of its settlements contain not merely traces, but substantial remains of ancient cities, cultural monuments, and a wealth of cultural and natural treasures.

Furthermore, this area-an integral part of the Labëria region-possesses a rich ethnographic and intangible heritage; notably, its traditional singing style has been recognized by UNESCO as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

As Mayor, I invite you to explore these historical, cultural, natural, and intangible assets, as well as the local agritourism establishments, all of which represent a significant contribution to Albania's tourism offering.

I can assure you that wherever you go, you will be met with open hearts and the traditional hospitality of the people of this region—a land that holds a distinguished place in the nation's history.

Nertil Bellaj
Mayor

The City of Amantia

Located in the Sevaster Administrative Unit, in the village of Ploce, it lies 35 km from the city of Vlora at an elevation of 613 meters above sea level. Since 2005, the Fortress of Amantia has functioned as a National Park.

The name "Amantia" is first mentioned in the 4th century BC. The city is founded at the end of the 5th century BC; it is situated on a hill in the Labëria region and is enclosed by fortified walls. In the 3rd century BC, the city experienced economic strengthening and began minting its own coinage-specifically, it issued its own currency in 268 BC. Traces of the Temple of Aphrodite, the theater, and the stadium can still be seen today. It is an Illyrian city.

The ancient stadium of Amantia is the only monument of its kind preserved within the country, making it a unique attraction to visit.



Mavrovë Fortress – The Illyrian City of Olympia

Located in the village of Mavrovë, within the Kotë Administrative Unit, approximately 20 km from Vlora, this is a fortified settlement enclosed by stone walls, dating back to the 6th–5th centuries BC. It has been designated a Category I Cultural Monument. Olympia was situated on a hill covering an area of 13 hectares and featured an acropolis. The city's institutions were

organized according to the Epirote model. It is believed that the city was named Olympia after Olympia, the daughter of King Pyrrhus.

Olympia reached its peak development between 229 and 148 BC, a period during which it minted its own coinage. These coins were used exclusively within the city's local economy and featured symbols similar to those found on the currency of Apollonia, Amantia, and Byllis.





Brati Bridge

Designated as a Cultural Monument, it is located 37 km from the city of Vlora, near the village of Brataj (ëithin the Brataj Administrative Unit). It measures 50 meters in length and reaches a maximum height of 12 meters. The Brati Bridge dates back to the 16th century.

Situated about 100 meters from the main road, it can be reached via a path paved ëith stone slabs—designed specifically to alloë visitors of all ages to access this remarkable attraction.



The Inscribed Cave of Lepenicë

Declared a Cultural Monument in 2015. It is located along the middle course of the Shushicë River, in the village of Lepenicë (within the Brataj Administrative Unit), at an elevation of 800 meters above sea level. It lies on the eastern slope of Mount Shashicë, 34 km south-east of the city of Vlorë.



The Caves of Velçë

Located in the Brataj Administrative Unit, in the village of Velçë-33 km from the city of Vlorë and at an elevation of 700 m above sea level. Designated as Natural Monuments.



The Mesaplik Mosaic

It is located in the village of Mesaplik, within the Brataj Administrative Unit, 41 km from the city of Vlorë and at an elevation of 300 m above sea level. It has been designated a Category I Cultural Monument.



The Monastery Waterfall

It is located between the villages of Bashaj and Vermik, within the Brataj Administrative Unit. It lies approximately 50 km from the city of Vlora at an elevation of 600 meters above sea level.
The point where the water-originating from Mount Çipin-emerges is also known as "Destila." Nearby, there is also a "Salty Water" spring flowing from the rock face; the site also shows signs indicating the presence of thermal water springs.





Salt Water

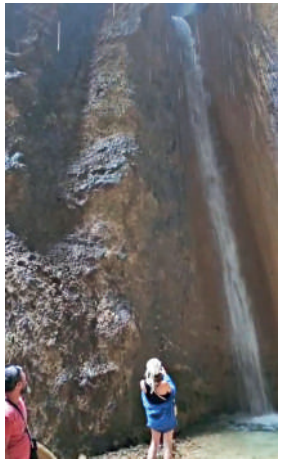
The salt water spring is located betëeen the villages of Bashaj and Vërmik, in the Smokthina region. This spring is one of the area's distinct attractions-a unique site and a tourist destination where visitors can enjoy warm-water baths amidst mountains and lush, green landscapes.





Rasali Waterfall

Rasali Waterfall is a natural wonder located very close to the main road leading to the village of Velçë. Water springs from the mountain and cascades doën from a height of over 50 meters, creating an oasis of cold water where one can swim and cool off.
Surrounded by lush greenery and picturesque natural landscapes, this waterfall is becoming a popular destination for both local and international tourists.



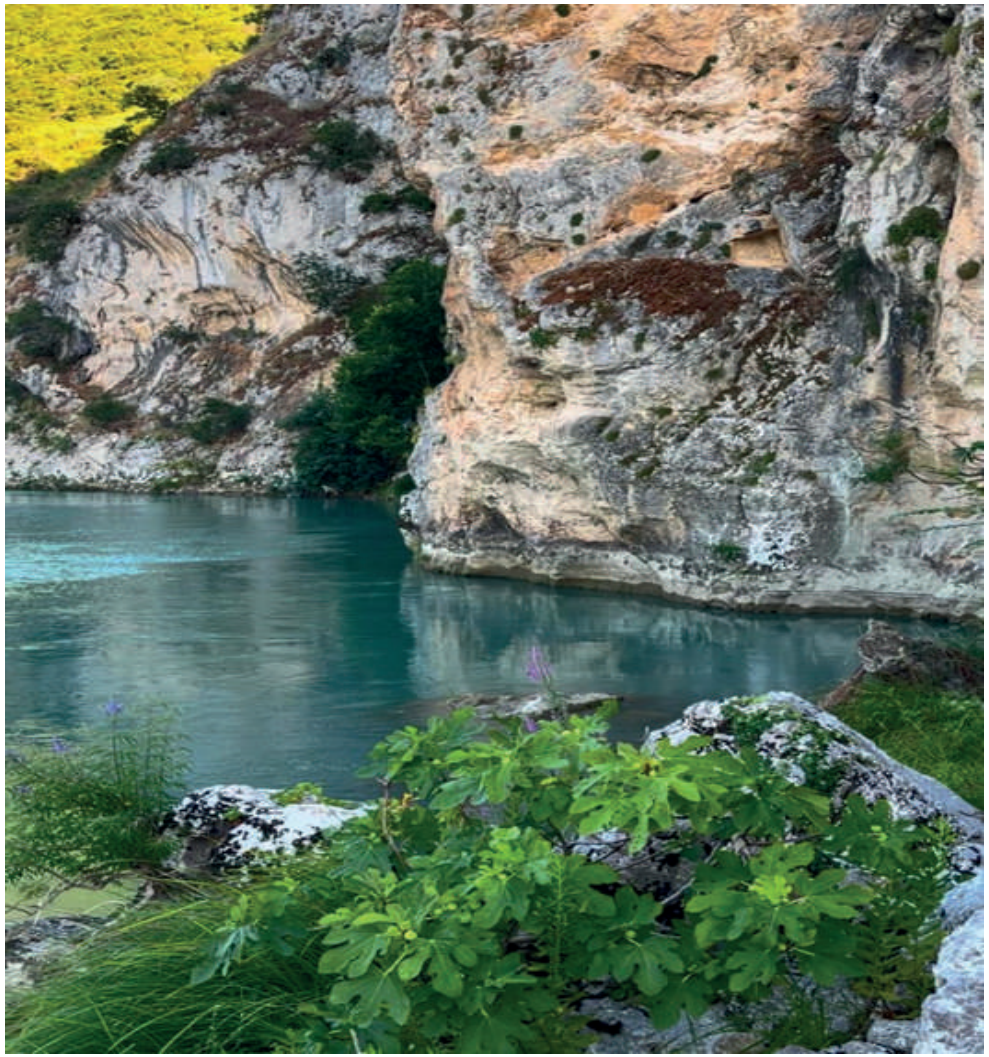


RIVER TOURISM

The Stone of Luneci

This is one of the stunning attractions along the Vjosa River, located within the territory of the Municipality of Selenicë.
It lies just 2 km from the center of Shkozë village, in the Sevaster region, and serves as one of the pristine and attractive river beaches in this area.

The crystal-clear water, along with the surrounding environment, offers opportunities to enjoy daytime beach outings as well as riverside picnics.



River Hiking

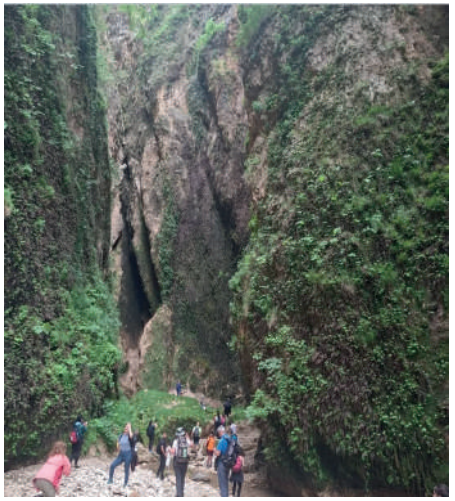
The territory of the Selenicë Municipality is traversed by the Shushica River, which flows from its mountain sources toward the sea, cutting through some of the most beautiful terrain in the Labëria region. For much of its course, the river runs nearly parallel to the Drashovicë-Qeparo national road. Along many stretches, there are ideal spots for swimming, as well as for enjoying various water-based activities, such as rafting and other aquatic adventures.
Furthermore, the municipality's territory features extensive hilly and mountainous landscapes, along with forests and rocky outcrops-perfect for enthusiasts of outdoor hiking or mountaineering to experience the wonders of nature and breathe in the fresh, clean air.
Along the Shushica River





Mouting Hiking





AGROTOURISM

“Vajzë Cave” Tavern

Located in the village of Vajzë, within the Kotë Administrative Unit, it lies 36 km from the city of Vlorë at an altitude of 550 meters above sea level. It is renowned for its traditional cuisine, as well as for the production and processing of dairy products.
The processing of milk inside the rock, combined with the presence of water flowing from the mountain, gives its products a truly unique quality and flavor.



“Si Era” Villa, Brataj

This is an accommodation and leisure facility located in the village of Brataj, along the main road.
It features a distinctive architectural style, with every element rooted in the use of local stone and the area’s traditional craftsmanship.
The property boasts a unique aesthetic, where comfort blends seamlessly with the surrounding environment and the broader landscape.
It is an ideal destination for groups seeking not only a relaxing getaway and a taste of local cuisine, but also an active holiday—offering games, a swimming pool, and access to nearby attractions, such as the Brati Bridge, located just 100 meters away.



“Miri Farm”

Located in the village of Sevaster, 36 km from the city of Vlora and at an altitude of 400 meters above sea level, this establishment serves as a guesthouse and is renowned for its traditional, organic local cuisine.
Horse-riding enthusiasts have the opportunity to pursue their passion using the farm’s horses, set against a landscape that is among the most ideal for this type of sport.







Bashaj Village – Guest House

Located in the village of Bashaj, in the Smokthina region, it is situated approximately 27 km from the Kotë–Qeparo national road, or 50 km from Vlora.

A guesthouse nestled amidst nature and mountains, it has become a tourist destination for both local and international visitors.

It offers an opportunity to explore the area's natural wonders and enjoy traditional, organic cuisine, all accompanied by unforgettable Albanian hospitality



Aulona" Winery

The "Aulona" winery was established in 1998, processing grape varieties from Vezhdanisht and the surrounding hills in the Administrative Unit of Vllahinë.



Lepenica "Restaurant"

One of the most traditional restaurants along the Vlorë River.

It is located just 50 meters from the Drashovicë–Sarandë national road.

Everything served is organic, sourced from local agriculture and livestock farming. It also serves as a relaxing retreat, nestled amidst greenery and natural flowers.



KULTURË - TRASHËGIMI

The Municipality of Selenicë encompasses a territory comprising 47 villages. Throughout these settlements, a traditional style of singing is preserved and cultivated- a cultural expression deeply rooted in the spirit of the local inhabitants. The Labëria region is renowned for its distinct singing tradition, which forms part of the broader Albanian polyphonic musical heritage.

In 2005, Albanian polyphony was proclaimed by UNESCO as a "Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity."

This style of singing stands as one of the most significant intangible treasures belonging to the people of this region.

For international visitors, it remains a rare and unique attraction.



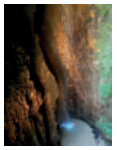


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