

GENERAL INFORMATION:

ABOUT MACEDONIA

Republic of Macedonia is a small and beautiful country situated in the southeast of Europe. More precisely Macedonia is situated in the Balkan Peninsula and it is south of Serbia, west of Bulgaria, north of Greece and east of Albania.

Macedonia offers its visitors a unique blend of natural wonders, traditions and cultures. It is a natural paradise of mountains, lakes and rivers. Macedonians are proud of the great historical heritage and the fact that Philip II and his son Alexander the Great, legendary emperor of the 4th century B.C.E. were Macedonians.

Many old buildings attest this ancient heritage, in the sites of cities such as Heraclea, Stobi, Skupi, Ohrid amphitheater, Samoil fortress, old frescoes, churches, icons, mosaics that date from a few centuries B.C.E. to 9th, 10th, 11th century of the previous millennium.

Today Macedonia is modern country with happy and positive young people. It is for sure that Macedonian girls are among the most beautiful girls in Europe. You don't believe me? Come and see.

Macedonia on Internet:

macedonia.org - everything about Macedonia

macedoniataxi.com – taxi in Macedonia

faq.macedonia.org/travel/ - travel FAQ for Macedonia

<http://www.culture.in.mk/> - culture life of the Republic of Macedonia

www.macedonia.co.uk/mcic/ - The Macedonian Cultural & Information Centre (MCIC)

<http://www.mymacedonia.net/> - Macedonian history through periods, Macedonian culture and language, cultural monuments in Macedonia

Skopje on Internet:

www.skopje.gov.mk/ - official page of city of Skopje

<http://www.skopjeonline.com.mk/> - info about the happenings in city

<http://www.skopje2night.com.mk/> - information about the night life of Skopje

Ohrid on Internet:

www.ohrid.org.mk/eng/ - everything you need to know about Ohrid

<http://www.ohridonline.com.mk/> - useful information about Ohrid

OFFICIAL DATA:

Official name: Republic of Macedonia

Area: 25 713 km²

Population: 2.038.059 (census from 2002)

Capital: Skopje, about 600.000 citizens

Official language: Macedonian

Alphabet: Cyrillic

Ethnic structure: 65% Macedonian, 25% Albanian, Turks, Roma people, Serbs etc.

Religions: About 65% of the population are Orthodox Christians, then about 30% are Muslim, and the rest belong to Roman Catholic and other religions

Political structure: State with parliamentary democracy

Independence day: 8th of September

Localities under UNESCO protection: the town of Ohrid and Ohrid Lake

Currency: Macedonian Denar (MKD): 1 Denar

Time: GMT+1

Weights and measurements: SI

Electricity: 220 volts, 50 Hz

WEATHER

Climate – In the plains, continental (hot and dry summers and cold winters); In the highlands, mountainous (cool summers and cold winters with plenty of snow).

HEALTH

In all towns there are hospitals and pharmacies. The service is good and prices moderate. Foreign tourists don't pay for the health services if their native country signed the Health Convention with Republic of Macedonia (in case you only need a form from your native country).

THE PEOPLE IN MACEDONIA

The people in Macedonia are open and are the friendliest people in the world. They are communicative with everybody, and willing to party.

MONEY

The only legal tender in Macedonia is the Macedonian “Denar” (MKD).

Note bills: 10, 50, 100, 500, 1000 and 5000 MKD (you'll never see this note ☺)

Coins: 1, 2 and 5 MKD.

Money exchange

You can exchange money in private exchange offices or in a bank. DO NOT exchange money on the street.

Exchange offices are the places that you'll not have problem finding, they are everywhere and well marked. It's safe to change money in the exchange offices without being deceived.

Exchange rates:

1 EUR = 61,60 MKD

1 USD = 47,50 MKD

1 CHF = 39.00 MKD

1 GBP = 87,00 MKD

Credit cards

Credit cards: All major credit cards such as American Express, Visa, Diners club, MasterCard, Maestro, Cirrus and Eurocard are accepted, and many others. You can find cash machines everywhere throughout the city. Travelers checks can be exchanged in any major bank or office.

Banks and post offices

Banks and post offices open:

7 AM – 5 PM during the week

7 AM – 1 PM Saturdays

Sundays closed

<http://www.kb.com.mk/>- Komercijalna Banka - Skopje

<http://www.stb.com.mk/>- Stopanska Banka - Skopje

<http://www.tb.com.mk/> - Tutunska Banka - Skopje

<http://www.unibank.com.mk/> - UNIBank – Skopje

<http://www.procreditbank.com.mk/> - ProCredit Bank - Skopje

<http://www.nbrm.gov.mk/>- Macedonian National Bank

FOOD

Prices of products in Macedonia:

Product	MKD	EUR
Bread (600 grams)	20 -30	0.32 – 0.48
Milk (1 l)	40 - 45	0.65 – 1.14
Cigarettes (20 in a package)	30 – 70	0.48 – 1.14
Marlboro cigarettes (20 in a package)	100	1.62
Chewing gum (10 pcs Orbit)	20 - 30	0.32 – 0.48
Hamburger (in a fast food restaurant)	60 - 100	0.97 – 1.62
Pizza slice (in a fast food restaurant)	60	0.97
Pizza (whole in a restaurant)	180 - 250	2.92 – 4,05
Coca cola, Fanta, Sprite 0,5 l (in a store)	30	0.48
Coca cola, Fanta, Sprite 2 l (in a store)	70	1.14
Milka/Nestle chocolate (in a store)	50	0.81
Juice 1 l (in a store)	60	0.97
Juice 1 l (in a disco)	100	1.62
Beer 0.5 l (in a store)	30	0.48
Beer 0.33 l (in bars)	80 - 100	1.3 – 1.62
Beer (in a disco)	120 - 150	1.95 – 2.43
Water*	0	Free of charge
Mineral water 1 l	20-30	0.32 – 0.48

Water in Macedonia is drinkable from a tap or from a public fountain.

TELEPHONY:

International call number of Macedonia is 389.

There is one fixed telephone operator at the moment, Makedonski telekomunikacii - www.mt.com.mk/eng/.

You can find public phones in most of the places. You can buy smart cards for these phones in most of the shops.

Mobile (gsm) operators

There are 2 mobile (gsm) operators in Macedonia. Mobimak, Cosmofon and VIP

Mobimak - www.mobimak.com.mk/english/. -codes for this operator are 070 and 071.

Cosmofon - www.cosmofon.com.mk/eng/. -code for this operator is 075 and 076

Vip – www.vip.com.mk code for this operator is 077 and 078

Both mobile operators can provide you roaming service. Check if your gsm operator has roaming in Macedonia.

you can also buy a sim card, during your stay in macedonia.

- sim card from Mobimak will cost you 590 mkd with credit of 500 MKD.

- sim card from cosmofon will cost you 600 mkd with credit of 508 MKD.

SMS from both operator cards will cost you around 5 MKD.

Useful telephone numbers

Police 192

Fire brigade 193

Ambulance 194

Road assistance 987

Information 188

Transportation

Transfer by shuttle principle

Siki exclusive transport

+38970216765

Bus

In Skopje regular bus transport starts around 5am and finishes around 11:30pm. There are no night buses. Bus ticket costs 30 den. (50 cent) for any destination.

In Ohrid there are local busses that go to all the places near the lake Ohrid and the price depends of destination - from 20 to 100 den. (0,30 - 1,70 euro).

Taxi

In Skopje taxi service is easy to get and not too expensive. Starting fares are 50 den. For the first 2km, and 15 den for every next kilometer. In Ohrid taxi is almost the same price or a little cheaper. There is no additional charge reflecting the number of passengers.

Taxi company numbers in Skopje:

15191, 15192, 15193, 15183, 15188, 15195, 15197,15156 ,15165

HOW TO GET TO MACEDONIA AND TO SKOPJE

By plane

There are two international airports in Macedonia – one in Skopje and the other in Ohrid. Ohrid airport is not much used out of the summer season.

Skopje airport

Skopje airport "Petrovec" (phone: +389 2 3 148 333) is only 25 km away from the city center. There are regular and charter flights from many major European cities to Skopje and Ohrid by domestic and foreign air companies MAT, Adria Airlines, Austrian Airlines, Croatia Airlines, KLM, Malev, Turkish Airlines, JAT, Czech airlines etc.

There are no bus lines from the airport to Skopje center. If you decide to come alone with a taxi don't accept price which is more than 15 – 20 €(900 - 1200 MKD). Taxi drivers

when they see that you are a foreigner will definitely try to charge more and you can spend more than 25 euros at the end.

The best option is to use transportation provided by us and in that way you will pay 15 euros if 3 people travel in the car. That way you will pay less and be safer.

The best company for transport is ;SIKI EXCLUSIVE TAXI mob +389(0)70 216765

Other near airports

Other airports near Skopje which can be used for connection are:

Sofia (Bulgaria) - 250 km away from Skopje

Thessaloniki (Greece) - 260 km

Belgrade (Serbia) - 440 km can also be used for connection.

<http://www.airports.com.mk/> - Macedonian airports

By train

From Belgrade or from Thessaloniki you can come by train to Skopje.

Skopje railway station

All trains arrive at Railway Station in Skopje (phone: +389 2 3164 255). The Main Bus Station and the Railway Station are next to each other. There are NO train lines from Sofia (Bulgaria) and Tirana (Albania). To come to Skopje you can use one of the everyday international train lines:

- Ljubljana 21:05, Zagreb 0:12, Belgrade 7:00, Nis 11:23, Skopje 15:44
- Thessaloniki 9:05, Skopje 12:30
- Thessaloniki 18:00, Skopje 21:31
- Belgrade 14:00, Nis 18:20, Skopje 22:41
- Belgrade 18:05, Nis 22:20, Skopje 03:04
- Belgrade 21:10, Nis 1:42, Skopje 06:10

<http://www.mz.com.mk/> - Macedonian railways

By Bus

Skopje bus station

The Main Bus station in Skopje (phone: +389 2 2466 011) serves buses from Tirana (Albania), Sofia (Bulgaria), Belgrade (Serbia), Zagreb (Croatia), Ljubljana (Slovenia) and Istanbul (Turkey), which run daily, and buses from some European countries (Germany), which can run twice, three times a week and are not very expensive. There are no direct busses from Thessaloniki (Greece).

Most of the busses arrive at the Main Bus Station, but there are some that don't. The Main Bus Station and the Railway Station are next to each other.

VISA ARRANGMENTS

First you need a passport to come to Macedonia. If you are a citizen of one of the following countries no visa is required for you (for a period of 3 months):

No visa needed: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Italy, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Malta, The Netherlands, Norway, Turkey, Slovenia, Spain, Serbia, Montenegro, Sweden and United Kingdom.

The citizens of the following countries can obtain a visa at our embassies in their countries or in the nearest country where we have one - visas are NOT issued on the Macedonian border:

Need visa: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Russia and Romania.

For more information regarding the visa matters visit the Web site of the Macedonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs: http://www.mfa.gov.mk/default_en.asp

Note: If you travel through Serbia, Montenegro or Bulgaria check whether you need a transit visa!

MACEDONIAN LANGUAGE

А Б В Г Д Ѓ Е Ж З С И Ј К Л Љ М Н Њ О П Р С Т Ќ У Ф Х Ц Ч Џ Ш
 A B V G D Gj E Zh Z Dz I J K L Lj M N Nj O P R S T Kj U F H C Ch Dj Sh

Most of the young people in Macedonia speak English, but in case you run on some that don't here are some most frequently used Macedonian words:

ENGLISH	MACEDONIAN
Hello,Hi	Zdravo
How are you?	Kako si?
I am	Jas sum
My name is	Jas se viikam
Nice to meet you	Milo mi e sto te zapoznav
Bye	Chao (like the Italian Ciao)
Yes	Da
No	Ne
Thank you	Blagodaram or Fala
I don't know	Ne znam
I don't understand Macedonian	Ne razbiram Makedonski
I need help	Mi treba pomosh
Please	Ve molam
Cheers!	Na zdravje!
How much does it cost?	Kolku chini? or Kolku koshta?
Train	Voz
Bus	Avtobus
Taxi	Taksi
How much is it?	Kolku e?
What time is it?	Kolku e saat? or Kolku e chasot?
Beer	Pivo
Coffee	Kafe
I am sorry	Izvini

One	Eden
Two	Dva
Three	Tri
Four	Chetiri
Five	Pet
Six	Shest
Seven	Sedum
Eight	Osum
Nine	Devet
Ten	Deset
I love you	Te sakam
I like you	Mi se dopagjash
You are beautiful	Ubava si (male to female); Ubav si (female to male)
OK	Vo red or OK
Where can I change money ?	Kade mozam da smenam pari?