

MACEDONIA

Main information:

The official name: Republic of Macedonia.

Capital city: Skopje

Area: 25,713 km²

Inhabitants: 2,072,086

Official Language: Macedonian

Currency: Macedonian Denar (1EUR= 61,59 Denar)

Government type: Parliamentary democracy

President : George Ivanov

Minority : Macedonians, Albanians(20%), Turks, Serbians, Croatsians etc.

Religion: the most common religion is Orthodox Christianity

Muslims are the second-largest religious group with almost one-third of the population

other religious groups are Catholicism, Protestantism, and Judaism.

Other languages: Albanian, Serbian, Croatian

Macedonian alphabet has 31 letters and is an adaption of the Cyrillic script

Големи букви																														
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
Мали букви																														
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

History:

The territory of the Republic of Macedonia has a proud history. Being under the Ottomans for 500 years caused legendary Macedonian revolutionaries such as Goce Delcev, Nikola Karev, and Pitu Guli. All of them contributed for free Macedonia. Macedonia has been part of many countries, but until its incorporation into Yugoslavia by Tito in 1945 it was never acknowledged as an administrative "state." Macedonia prospered under Tito's rule, especially when the capital Skopje was rebuilt after a severe earthquake in 1963 and the Yugoslav government invested heavily in the subsequent infrastructure rebuilding. This may explain why many Macedonians are nostalgic for Tito's Yugoslavia.

In Jan. 1991, Macedonia declared its independence from Yugoslavia and asked for recognition from the European Union nations. It became a member of the UN in 1993 under the provisional name of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) . In 2005 Macedonia became a candidate member in the European Union.

Geography:

The Republic of Macedonia is situated in southern Europe on the Balkans and is a landlocked country. It has borders with Serbia and Kosovo in the North (221 km), Bulgaria in the east (148 km), Greece in the South (246 km) and Albania in the west (151 km). The total border length is 766 km. Macedonia is a mountainous country. The highest mountains can be found at the Shar Planina (hill Korab 2764m).

The largest and the biggest river in Macedonia is Vardar (350 km long, of which 264 km flow through Macedonia). It has three natural lakes: *Lake Dojran*, *Lake Prespa* and *Lake Ohrid* which is the most famous lake.

Lake Ohrid is one of the oldest lakes on earth and the deepest lake on the Balkans. It has more than 200 endemic species. It has extraordinary beauty, rich history and a lot of archaeological sites. In 1980, Lake Ohrid was accepted as Cultural and Natural World Heritage Sites by UNESCO.

Lake Prespa is the second biggest lake in Macedonia. It has an area of 285km² and a depth of 54m. There are two islands: Big and Small City.

Climate: Warm, dry summers and autumns; relatively cold winters with heavy snowfall. Locally it can be very different.

Bigger cities:

Skopje is the capital and the largest city of the Republic of Macedonia. It is the country's political, cultural, economic, and academic center. It is located in North of Macedonia on the upper course of the Vardar river . It has an area of 571,46 km² and 507 000 inhabitants.

Ohrid is Macedonian's prime destination, and with its atmospheric old quarter, with more than 365 churches along a graceful hill, topped by a medieval castle overlooking Lake Ohrid, attracts a lot of tourists each year. Nearby the city is the National Park Galicica that offers pristine nature.

Ancient cities

Numerous ancient towns flourished on the territory of Macedonia. The town of Stobi was situated in the center of Macedonia. It was first mentioned as a settlement in the 4th century. It was a prosperous town with delicate mosaics, palaces, temples, baths and a theatre. The ancient town of Heraclea was built in south of Macedonia. The town

of Skupi near Skopje was found at the time when Macedonia was a Roman province and it was a religious and economic centre of that area for many years. *Stobi*, *Heraclea* and *Skupi* were highly urbanised towns with streets, theatres, baths and even villas with central heating.

Macedonian tradition:

Macedonian tradition that Macedonians inherit from their grandparents, is an priceless treasure of the country.

All the folklore elements, traditional clothes, Macedonian traditional dance, traditional musical instruments, the wood carving, knitting by traditional samples, traditional music, songs, are just small part of it.

Macedonian food:

The land of sun is the land of the tastes. Macedonia is the land of the gourmands and true fans of a good meal. From appetizers, main dishes, salads to desserts, Macedonian cuisine can offer numerous traditional dishes for every taste. The traditional Macedonian cuisine combines Balkan and Mediterranean characteristics. Traditional food is ajvar, musaka, peas, barbeque, sarma etc.

Key words:

Landlocked country: is a country that hasn't direct access to the sea. (vnutrozemska krajina),

Ajvar is tradition food made of peppers, mostly from the red ones.

Sarma is tradition food made of fresh cabbage, vine leaves stuufed with meat

Revolutionary is a person who either actively participates in, or advocates revolution

Mountainous country is a country that has many mountains (hornatá krajina)

References :

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_Macedonia

<http://balkan.fabian-vendrig.eu/yugoslavia/>

<http://www.macedonia-timeless.com/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabindex=0&tabid=205>

Sandra Kostova