

North Macedonia

Continent: Europe

Languages Spoken: Macedonian, Albanian

Population: 2,080,000

Currency: Macedonian denar (MKD)

Area: 25,713

Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Lake Ohrid', 'writeup': "One of Europe's oldest and deepest lakes, known for its biodiversity and UNESCO World Heritage status."}
- {'name': 'Skopje Fortress (Kale)', 'writeup': 'Historic fortress overlooking the capital city, dating back to the 6th century.'}
- {'name': 'St. Jovan Bigorski Monastery', 'writeup': 'An important Orthodox monastery renowned for its woodcarvings and religious significance.'}
- {'name': 'Stone Bridge', 'writeup': 'Iconic Ottoman-era bridge connecting the old and new parts of Skopje.'}
- {'name': 'Mavrovo National Park', 'writeup': 'A large national park known for its mountains, forests, and winter sports facilities.'}

Head of State / Government:

Stevo Pendarovski (President)

Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Ohrid Summer Festival', 'writeup': 'Annual cultural festival featuring music, theater, and dance performances in the historic town of Ohrid.'}
- {'name': 'Skopje Jazz Festival', 'writeup': 'International jazz festival attracting artists from around the world.'}
- {'name': 'Vevchani Carnival', 'writeup': 'Traditional pre-Lenten carnival known for its colorful masks and costumes.'}

Food & Cuisine:

North Macedonian cuisine blends Mediterranean and Balkan influences, featuring dishes like tavče gravče (baked beans), ajvar (pepper spread), and various grilled meats.

Brief History:

North Macedonia declared independence from Yugoslavia in 1991. It resolved a long-standing name dispute with Greece in 2019, adopting the name North Macedonia. The country has a rich history influenced by Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman, and Slavic cultures.

Important People:

- Mother Teresa (born in Skopje)
- Kiro Gligorov (first President of independent Macedonia)
- Goran Pandev (footballer)

- Kole Racin (poet and revolutionary)

Current Conflicts:

No active armed conflicts; ongoing political and ethnic tensions occasionally arise between Macedonian and Albanian communities.

Youtube Links:

- Discover North Macedonia: A Balkan Gem
- Top 10 Places to Visit in North Macedonia
- History of North Macedonia Explained
- North Macedonian Cuisine: Traditional Dishes
- Cultural Festivals of North Macedonia