



MACEDONIA

Republic of Macedonia



- **REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA** is a country located in the central Balkan peninsula in Southeast Europe. A landlocked country, the Republic of Macedonia is bordered by Kosovo to the northwest, Serbia to the north, Bulgaria to the east, Greece to the south, and Albania to the west.



The country's capital is Skopje.

Other cities include Bitola, Kumanovo, Prilep, Tetovo, Ohrid, Veles, Štip, Kočani, Gostivar, Kavadarci, and Strumica.



History

- Located in the center of the Southern Balkans, north of Greece, and west of Thrace, the history of Macedonia tells how the Macedonians were a distinct nation, ethnically, linguistically, and culturally different from their neighbors. The name “Macedonia” is the oldest existing name of a country on the continent of Europe. The history of Macedonia gives us an over view from the time when that old European civilization flourished in Macedonia between 7000 and 3500 BC to the time of the Macedonian partition till they got their independence.



81. ΜΑΚΕΔΟΝΑΣ ΧΑΛΚΑ
ΤΗΣ ΔΥΝΑΣΤΕΙΑΣ
ΤΩΝ ΑΝΤΙΓΟΝΙΔΩΝ
(200 - 168 π.Χ.)
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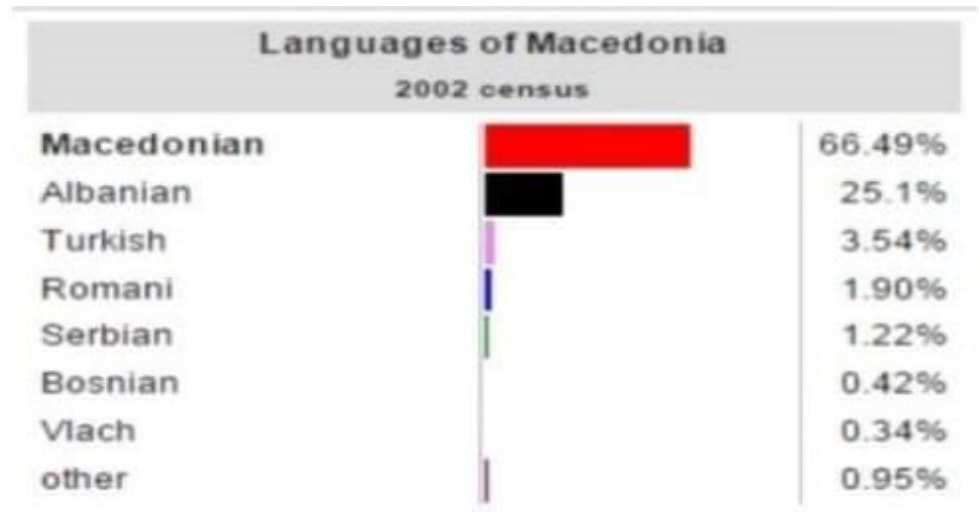
Religion

- Christians are a majority, with 64.7% of the population belonging to the Macedonian branch of Eastern Orthodoxy, while various Christian denominations occupy 0.37% of the population. Muslims comprise 33.3% of the population. Most Muslims are Albanian, Turkish, or Roma, although some are Macedonian Muslims. The remaining 1.63% is recorded as “unspecified” in the 2002 national census. Altogether, there are more than 1200 churches and 400 mosques in the country.



LANGUAGES

- The official and most widely spoken language is Macedonian. A wide variety of languages are spoken in Macedonia, reflecting its ethnic diversity. Besides the official national language Macedonian, minority languages are: Albanian, Romani, Turkish, Serbian/Bosnian.



Culture

- The Former Yugoslavian Republic Of Macedonia has a rich cultural heritage in art, architecture, poetry, and music. It has many ancient, protected religious sites. Poetry, cinema, and music festivals are held annually. The most important cultural events in the country the Ohrid Summer festival of classical music and drama, the Struga Poetry Evenings which gather poets from more than 50 countries in the world, International Camera Festival in Bitola, Open Youth Theatre and Skopje Jazz Festival in Skopje etc. The Macedonian Opera opened in 1947 with a performance of Cavalleria rusticana under the direction of Branko Pomorisac. Every year, the May Opera Evenings are held in Skopje for around 20 nights. The first May Opera performance was that of Kiril Makedonski's Tsar Samuil in May 1972.



CUISINE



- Macedonian cuisine is a representative of the Balkans reflecting Mediterranean (Greek) and Middle Eastern (Turkish) influences, and to a lesser extent Italian, German and Eastern European ones. Famous for its rich Šopska salad, an appetiser and side dish which accompanies almost every meal, Macedonian cuisine is also noted for the diversity and quality of its dairy products, wines, and local alcoholic beverages, such as rakija. Tavče Gravče and mastika are considered the national dish and drink of the Republic of Macedonia, respectively.



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Bitola



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- Bitola, shifting irresistibly away from the rest of Macedonia when it comes to tourism in urban cities, offers a wide spectrum of things to do while visiting. Second in size and population only to Skopje, and surrounded by the riches of the national park Pelister it is, so to speak, a perfect blend of several types of tourism.
 - Culture and commerce work, more or less in tandem, with administration, education and industry. Together, these help to create and maintain the hidden rhythm of Bitola- a modern, urban and progressive city where there is enough space for everything and almost everybody.



Places to visit

Sirok Sokak

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- Assuming that you would like to get to know the city right away, Sirok Sokak is as good a place to start as any. Have your coffee in one of the cafes and blend in with the pace at which people who live here move. Running from Magnolia square to the city park, it is the urban hearth of Bitola. Turkish coffee, a superior equivalent to black coffee, is what I will personally go for. All things being equal, it will give you a better boost to start your day.





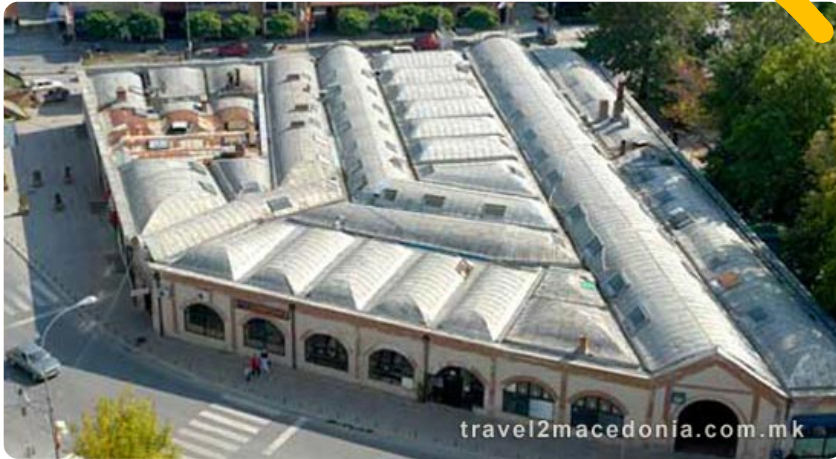
Clock Tower

- The clock tower is an interesting site, and the story behind it is less than coherent. The actual date of origin is vague, and though some believe that it originates from the 16 century, others say it was built during the period of 1830. The legend goes that the ottomans collected 60,000 eggs from nearby villages, and mixed them into the mortar in order to make the walls stronger.

St. Demetrius

- The Church of Saint Demetrius will certainly appeal to those who seek cultural thrill, and surprise them with the obvious discrepancy between a pale-looking outside, as all churches during the ottoman period had to be, and a gorgeous, lavishly decorated insides. Decorated with chandeliers, a carved bishop throne and an engraved iconostasis, this church represents rather important cultural heritage. According to some theories, the iconostasis is a work of the Mijak engravers. Its most impressive feature is the arc above the imperial quarters with modeled figures of Jesus and the apostles.





Covered Bazar

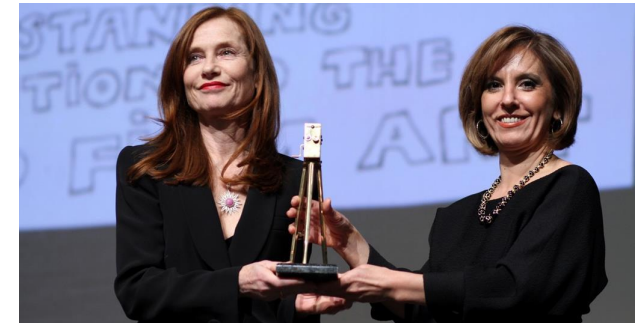
- The Covered Bazar, a true rarity in itself, is another place you ought to visit. Situated near the city center, the covered bazaar is one of the most impressive and oldest buildings in Bitola from the Turkish period. With its numerous cupolas that look like a fortress, with its tree-branch-like inner streets and four big metal doors it is one of the biggest covered markets in the region.
- You can enter the flow and start spending money as soon as you lay eyes on old workshops and stores, selling merchandise quite unique you won't be able to find in branded shops. The stores changed along the years and now they appeal to contemporary styles. But no matter what the internal transformations, the outer appearance stayed unchanged



Things to do

In affluence of places to visit, a single day in Bitola can make for a memorable experience. You can relax and enjoy some coffee, eat in traditional Macedonian restaurants, take a tour and visit all the places described above. And then some. Since there is always something considered fairly unimportant that might catch your eye. Predictably, people fall in love with this city right away.





- In terms of art, if you are into movies, you ought to sit down while reading this- Bitola hosts the Manaki Film Festival- a well-known movie festival where many important people from the movie industry use to pay a visit

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- A more Macedonian experience offers 'Serenade on Sirok Sokak', where you get to see the town filled with performers and musicians, literally occupying every corner in a nice and somewhat relaxed atmosphere.





- If you are interested in Macedonian music, Bitola is the place where Karolina Goceva comes from. Probably the most famous female vocal in Macedonia, who after years of producing great pop music finally decided to dedicate her time on taking old Macedonian songs and transforming them in excellent jazz or pop versions. If you want to take away a blend of Macedonian traditional music and a more urban sound, I urge you to buy her latest albums.

- Bitola has a lot going on for a city you never heard before. Though the frosting on the cake is yet to come, since after exploring the city you ought to see the ancient site Heraclea, and of course take a trip to the national park of Pelister.
- Heraclea, a rarity in the region, was an important ancient settlement from the Hellenistic period till the early Middle Ages. It was founded by Philip II of Macedon by the middle of the 4th century BC. Today, its ruins fall in the southern part of Bitola, 2 km (1 mi) from the city center. For those who enjoy this type of tourist attractions, well, it is really something that deserves attention.





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- The national park of Pelister offers an incredibly wide spectrum of exquisite flora and fauna, among which the rarest species of pine, and a ski-resort worth visiting regardless whether you are into winter sports or not. Through summer it has many picturesque hiking trails, mountain biking trails, and some of the most scenic mountain lakes.

*MUNICIPAL SECONDARY
SCHOOL of Economics "Jane
Sandanski" - Bitola*



- The first year of the school year is 1922/23. which help to work as an excellent tool. It started working led by the program of the University of Belgrade after which was transformed to a secondary education. This is the first step in acquiring gymnastics and gymnastics class classes.
- Now the school has 19 classes with about 600 students and 40 teachers. It is a secondary school of Economics. Students who finished the school are prepared for the labor market, but many of them go on to college.



