



# MACEDONIA

## OVERVIEW

Macedonia is a small country, but one with a vibrant film industry. It has strong -production and service companies, along with skilled technicians. There are around 280 sunny days a year, low taxes, low operation costs and competitive labour costs. Striking landscapes and a stunning array of shooting locations mountain valleys, forests, a medieval fortress, rivers, lakes, waterfalls, an island, and small desert can all be found in Macedonia. Macedonia is one of the most attractive destinations for cultural tourism in Europe. There is a strong road and rail network. The country is compact, easy to get around, with mountains, rural locations, lakes and urban settings only one-hour drive from the cities of Skopje and Bitola. Macedonia is home to some 1,000 churches and monasteries and more than 4,200 archaeological sites.



## FINANCIAL INCENTIVES

A 20% cash rebate on qualifying Macedonian spend of at least \$113,000 (€100,000) for international producers was introduced in 2014. They need to work with a local production partner.

- low taxes
  - vat of 18% to all taxable sales and import, except to sales and import taxable with the preferential rate of 5%(ex. for hotel & catering the rate is 5%)
  - personal income tax of 10%
  - income from copyright and industrial property rights - depending on the type of the artwork (paintings, artistic work in music,

- low operational costs

Macedonia is one of the most cost-competitive locations in Europe.

- competitive labor cost advantage in Europe
- exceptional and skilled production companies and crew Macedonia with experience in international production.
- quality production service for films cgi, vfx, sfx

## INFRASTRUCTURE AND CREWS

There are many well-regarded service companies. Most technicians speak reasonable English. Macedonia is a member of Eurimages and an active co-producer, providing opportunities for local talent. The local industry can host three big international projects at the same time.

## QUALIFYING PRODUCTION FORMATS

- Feature films
- Documentaries
- Animation
- Television film and tv series

The Rebate does not apply to advertising audiovisual products, audiovisual commercial communication, soap operas, situational comedies, television shows and other television programs.

## REQUIREMENTS

The applicant must be a Macedonian producer, co-producer or production service provider that has made and publically-exhibited at least one feature film as a producer or co-producer. The complete application must be submitted to the Agency at least 15 days prior to the start of the shooting of the film/television project.

The applicant must provide proof that at least 100.000 EUR of the financing to cover Macedonian production costs has been secured.

Qualifying productions are issued a provisional certificate as well as provisional agreement and, upon completion of the production in

Macedonia and submission of audited accounts, a final agreement which guarantees payment.

The Macedonian partner provides the full range of production services including: location scouting, scheduling, budgeting, casting, crewing, and takes full responsibility for all production services carried out in Macedonia.

## EVALUATING THE APPLICATION

The Commission, comprising of 5 members, will evaluate the Application within 30 days of receipt of a valid Application. Members of the Incentive Committee are:

- three representatives of the Public Revenue Office,
- one representative of the Producers, and
- one representative of the Macedonian Film Agency

### **When will the benefit/incentive be received?**

The net benefit will be made available upon completion of production, submission of audited accounts, and evidence that all the requirements have been met.

### **Contacts**

For further information on the Film Production Incentive Programme - cash rebate, please visit: [www.filmagency.gov.mk](http://www.filmagency.gov.mk) or contact: [contact@filmagency.gov.mk](mailto:contact@filmagency.gov.mk)

# CO-PRODUCTION FUNDING

The Macedonian Film Agency provides public funding for development and production of Macedonian films. Among several support schemes is a Minority Co-production Scheme that provides funding for projects outside Macedonia, but with Macedonian participation.

This is a selective scheme, with projects assessed solely on their originality, authenticity and quality of the project.

Films supported through this scheme must be able to qualify as official co-productions under either bilateral treaties, or the European Convention on Cinematographic Co-production.

Macedonian co-producers, interested in applying for this support scheme, can apply for funding upon the Agency's Call for applications, which is an open annual call with 2 yearly submission deadlines in February and September and 2 yearly deadlines for decision in April and October.

**Annual Budget 2015: 6.500.000 EUR**

**Type of Funding:** Recoupable (50% recoupment of the box office and other sales Recoupment pro rata pari passu with other investors/ funding recouped intended for producer's next project)

## **CAP PER PROJECT:**

Of total production budget: max.70%

Of co-production share: max. 20%

## **CAP PER PROJECT FOR DEBUT FILM:**

Of total production budget: max. 90%

Of coproduction share: max. 20%

## **Eligibility criteria for selective co-production funding:**

- Fiction, documentary and animation, both feature length and shorts
- Macedonian producer is involved as a creative collaborator and provider of a minority of the finance needed
- Success of the film producer and film director with previous films
- 50% of the financing already in place
- Producer contribution in the budget at least 4% of the budget
- At least 65 % of the approved funding must be spent in Macedonia
- Macedonian share of financing must be at least 10% of the production's overall budget
- Participation of Macedonian artistic and technical staff
- An official co-production under either a bilateral treaty, or the European Convention on Cinematographic Co-production



# WHY MACEDONIA?

- **STRIKING LANDSCAPES AND A STUNNING ARRAY OF SHOOTING LOCATIONS**

Mountain valleys, forests, a medieval fortress, rivers, lakes, waterfalls, an island, and small desert can all be found in Macedonia. The country is home to 1,000 churches and monasteries, as well as over 4,200 archaeological sites. Macedonia is one of the most attractive destinations for cultural tourism in Europe.

- **280 SUNNY DAYS A YEAR**

With a Mediterranean climate, moderate winters, and plenty of sunny days, Macedonia is an ideal location for your next film shoot.

- **20% PRODUCTION INCENTIVE FOR INVESTMENTS IN FILM OR TELEVISION PROJECTS**

Macedonia with the new law will stimulate the investments for making a feature film, documentary, animation, television film or TV series up to **20%** of the gross expenditures made in Republic of Macedonia.

- **LOW TAXES**

- VAT of 18% to all taxable sales and import, except to sales and import taxable with the preferential rate of 5%(ex. for hotel & catering the rate is 5%)
- Personal income tax of 10%
- Income from copyright and industrial property rights - depending on the type of the artwork (paintings, artistic work in music, film etc.), the taxpayer is recognized the deduction expenses in the amount from 25% to 60% of the gross income.

- **LOW OPERATIONAL COSTS**

Macedonia is one of the most cost-competitive locations in Europe.

- **COMPETITIVE LABOR COST ADVANTAGE**

Macedonia has educated, highly-qualified, and ethical workforce and one of the most competitive labor costs in Europe

- **EXCEPTIONAL AND SKILLED PRODUCTION COMPANIES AND CREW**

There are a number of production companies in Macedonia with experience in international production. You will find Macedonian film technicians to be flexible, highly skilled and able to efficiently carry out even the most demanding production.

- **QUALITY POST-PRODUCTION SERVICE FOR FILMS CGI, VFX, SFX**



# MACEDONIA GENERAL OVERVIEW

## Facts for Macedonia

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**Political system:** Multi-party parliamentary

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**Population:** 2.02 million (latest census in 2002)

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**Area:** 25,713 sq km

**Land Area:** 25,236 sq km

**Water area:** 280 sq km

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Population per km2: 80.2 inhabitants per km2

### Largest city and their population

Capital city: Skopje	506.926 inhabitants	Area: 571,5 km <sup>2</sup>
Bitola	95.385 inhabitants	Area: 787,9 km <sup>2</sup>
Kumanovo	105.484 inhabitants	Area: 509,5 km <sup>2</sup>
Prilep	76.768 inhabitants	Area: 1.194,4 km <sup>2</sup>
Tetovo	86.580 inhabitants	Area: 261,9 km <sup>2</sup>

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### Languages:

The constitutional and most widely spoken language is Macedonian, a language of the south-Slavic language group (more precisely of the eastern sub-group, together with Bulgarian). Albanian is also an official language in some parts of the country

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### National Currency:

Macedonian Denar (MKD)

MKD pegged to euro €

Stable against DM/€ over 10 years

€1=MKD 61.3

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**Number of regions:** 8

**Number of municipalities:** 84

**Number of settlements:** 1.767

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**Annual Inflation Rate (2012):** 3,3%

**GDP Growth Rate(2012):** 0,3%

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**GDP (USA million) 2012:** 11.020

**Annual real GDP (2012):** 2,4

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**Time zone:** CET (UTC +1) / summer CEST (UTC +2)

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**Electricity / Voltage:** 50 Hz / 220 V

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**Telephone code:** 389

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**Internet:** mk

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**Weight & Measures:** Metric and Kilo System

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# Transport infrastructure

Macedonia is at the crossroads of South Eastern Europe, which makes it an ideal transit and distribution center for products for European markets. The developed road and railway infrastructure, in combination with the small area of the country enables access to every inhabited place in Macedonia in less than 3 hours.

## AIRPORTS

Macedonia has two international airports, in Skopje and Ohrid. Skopje Airport is only 15 km away from the city centre. There are regular and charter flights from every major European city to Skopje and Ohrid by domestic and foreign airlines.

More information on the web: <http://skp.airports.com.mk>

The neighboring airports in Belgrade, Sofia, Tirana, and Thessaloniki can also be used, as they are all within a few hours' drive from Macedonia.

## ROADS

The E-75 main international highway that crosses the country is the most common route for entering Macedonia. A network of well-maintained roads links the towns and popular tourist areas.

More information on the web: <http://makedonijapat.com.mk>

## ENTRY BY ROADS

### From Albania

Through Blato border crossing point in Debar, or Kjafasan in Struga, or Sveti Naum in Ohrid.

The first road leads to the city of Debar located in the southwest part of the county. The second road leads to the town of Struga and the Lake Ohrid. Similarly, the third road also comes out on the Lake Ohrid.

### From Serbia

Through Tabanovce leading to the city of Kumanovo.

### From Kosovo

Through Blace border crossing point, which leads to Skopje, and through Jazince which leads to the city of Tetovo.

### From Greece

Through Medzitlija leading to the city of Bitola.

Through Bogorodica leading to the city of Gevgelija.

**DISTANCES TO SKOPJE FROM OTHER URBAN AREAS OF MACEDONIA:**

<b>Kumanovo</b>	36 km	<b>Kocani</b>	118 km
<b>Bitola</b>	158 km	<b>Kicevo</b>	115 km
<b>Prilep</b>	117 km	<b>Struga</b>	174 km
<b>Tetovo</b>	51 km	<b>Radovis</b>	127 km
<b>Veles</b>	52 km	<b>Gevgelija</b>	157 km
<b>Stip</b>	92 km	<b>Debar</b>	142 km
<b>Ohrid</b>	178 km	<b>Kriva Palanka</b>	98 km
<b>Gostivar</b>	74 km	<b>Sveti Nikole</b>	76 km
<b>Strumica</b>	155 km	<b>Negotino</b>	93 km
<b>Kavadarci</b>	104 km		

**DISTANCES TO SKOPJE:**

<b>Amsterdam</b>	1696 km	<b>Graz</b>	737 km	<b>Munchen</b>	1031 km	<b>Singapore</b>	9289 km
<b>Athens</b>	488 km	<b>Helsinki</b>	2035 km	<b>New York</b>	7523 km	<b>Stockholm</b>	1942 km
<b>Beijing</b>	7542 km	<b>Hong Kong</b>	8602 km	<b>Oslo</b>	2123 km	<b>Tokyo</b>	9362 km
<b>Belgrade</b>	323 km	<b>Istanbul</b>	639 km	<b>Paris</b>	1671 km	<b>Tirana</b>	155 km
<b>Berlin</b>	1317 km	<b>Lisbon</b>	2608 km	<b>Pristina</b>	75 km	<b>Vienna</b>	797 km
<b>Budapest</b>	639 km	<b>Ljubljana</b>	714 km	<b>Podgorica</b>	1704 km	<b>Zurich</b>	1182 km
<b>Bruxelles</b>	1634 km	<b>London</b>	1945 km	<b>Praque</b>	1049 km	<b>Zagreb</b>	609 km
<b>Chicago</b>	8314 km	<b>Los Angeles</b>	10 636 km	<b>Rome</b>	742 km		
<b>Copenhagen</b>	1651 km	<b>Madrid</b>	2108 km	<b>Sarajevo</b>	321 km		
<b>Dublin</b>	2401 km	<b>Moscow</b>	1926 km	<b>Sofia</b>	174 km		



## GENERAL RULES OF ROAD USE IN MACEDONIA

- You must be at least 18 years old and have a full driving license that is valid in your country of residence
- Visitors are permitted to drive in Macedonia with their own driving license, but an international driving license is recommended. The international driving license must be obtained from local authorities in the country of origin. Also they must have a valid license, registration documents and insurance documents.
- Seatbelts are mandatory for the driver and all passengers.
- The use of a mobile phone while driving is prohibited, with the exception of a hands-free system.

**Tolls in Macedonia:** All the motorways in Macedonia are toll roads and use a ticket system.

### Speed limits:

- In built-up areas: 50 km/h
- Outside built-up areas: 80 km/h
- On dual carriageways: 100 km/h
- Motorways: 120km/h

**Fuel:** Unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane), diesel, Euro diesel and LPG are available. Petrol in a can permitted. Credit cards are accepted at some filling stations, check with your card issuer for usage in Macedonia before travel. Usually payment can only be made in local currency.





**Vehicle rental:** Renter must be at least 21 years of age, must have valid personal documents-passport and driver license, with driving practice of minimum 1 year. The rental car may be driven only by the persons entered in and authorized by the Rental Contract. Some agency in certain occasion can make exception for drivers below 20 years of age, but additional deposit will be needed.

**Taxi:** You can use taxi in Macedonia for quick and comfortable transport to your destination. Depending on where you are going you can either call and book a taxi or hail a taxi out on the street. A green light on a taxi's roof indicates the car is free. NOTE: You can pay only in cash.

## BUS

Macedonia is linked with its neighbors and with some west European countries by both regular and seasonal bus routes. Buses from Skopje operate to and from: Sofia, Belgrade, Zagreb, Pula, Ljubljana, Thessaloniki, Munich, Bonn, Dusseldorf, Stuttgart, Dortmund, Frankfurt, Bern, Essen, Vienna, Zurich, Malme, Gothenburg. More information on the web: <http://sas.com.mk/>

## RAILWAY

An international train, operating twice a day, connects Ljubljana, Slovenia and Thessaloniki, Greece by way of Macedonia. Stops include Tabanovce (the Macedonia-Serbia border crossing point), Kumanovo, Skopje, Veles, Gradsko, Negotino, Demir Kapija, and Gevgelija (Greek border crossing point), as well as a few small villages. An east-west railway to connect Bulgaria with Macedonia is under construction. More information on the web: <http://www.mzi.mk/>

## Communications

**Fixed-line communications:** The telephone system is modern and digitalized. The major provider of fixed-line communications is Makedonski Telekom owned through Matav by Deutsche Telekom. Other fixed-line operators include ONE (part of Telekom Slovenia Group), Neotel, Telecabel and Blizoo. The digitalized telephone service is available in most rural areas. Direct international dialing is available everywhere.

**Mobile communications:** Three mobile telephone operators currently provide services in Macedonia: T-Mobile (part of Deutsche Telekom Group) with more than 1 million users, VIP Operator (part of Telekom Austria Group) and ONE (part of Telekom Slovenije).

**Internet:** The largest internet provider in Macedonia is Makedonski Telekom, offering wireless, dial-up, ISDN, ADSL and optic internet connections. This is a vibrant market populated by numerous internet service providers (ISPs), whose rates and service quality vary widely.

Macedonia has various firms licensed to operate data-transfer services, among which ONE, Telecabel and Blizoo are the biggest players.

## Accommodation

There are many accommodation options in Macedonia for you and your film crews, around 70 hotels of all kinds, from hostels to 5-star luxury hotels. If you are shooting in rural areas, you will need to stay at the closest city, maybe 20 to 60 minutes away from the shooting location. For prolonged stays or when the time is crucial, houses and apartments can be rented near the location.

## Climate

In the Republic of the Macedonia dominate two types of climate: modified mediterranean and moderate continental. This results with two accented



seasons: cold and wet winter and dry hot summer, connected with the transitional seasons spring and autumn. On the high mountain areas in Republic of Macedonia exist mountain climate which characterizes with short and cold summers and cold and wet winters with frequent snow falls. The moderate continental climate in Macedonia (East European variation) distinguish itself with expressed cold winters with longer ice period and higher number of frozen days with mid month temperature of the coldest month beneath the zero and with low moderate minimal temperatures and low absolute minimums with less rain. Summers and the vegetation period compared to the mediterranean climate are shorter, with low relative humidity and less summer and tropical days. The transition from Summer to Winter and from Winter to Summer in Macedonia is relatively quick. The quantity of rain and the year rain fluctuations are smaller. There are more rainy days in the hotter part of the year (May and June). The mountain climate in Macedonia is especially expressed

in the highest (Alpine) zone and less in the sub-alpine belt. This climate is characterized with low average year temperatures around 0 degrees Celsius, and with expressed cold winters. The average month temperatures are below 0 degrees Celsius in the period of 5-6 months and also there is large number of frozen days 3-4 months. This climate is distinctive with not so low absolute minimums up to -24 degrees Celsius and with low mid below 20 C and absolute amplitudes (below 60 C). The high mountains in the south region of Macedonia (Baba, Nidze, Kozjak, Kozuf, Neretska Mountain and Belasica) are obstacle for the mediterranean climate which comes from the Thessaloniki gulf. It enters towards north trough the valley of Vardar river and the rivers Struma and Strumesnitca.

**Average year temp.:** 15 C / 59 F  
**Warmest month:** July (average 22 C / 71.6 F)  
**Coldest month:** January (average -3 C / 26.6 F)  
**Average year rain:** 742 mm2

Month	Average Sunlight (hours)	Temperature			
		Average		Record	
		Min	Max	Min	Max
Jan	2	-3	5	-21	20
Feb	4	-3	8	-22	24
March	4	1	12	-19	34
April	7	5	19	-3	30
May	7	10	23	-2	36
June	9	13	28	6	39
July	10	15	31	7	41
Aug	10	14	31	4	41
Sept	7	11	26	1	37
Oct	5	6	19	-4	34
Nov	2	3	12	-11	21
Dec	2	-1	7	-17	21







# USEFUL INFO

## FILMING & LOCATION PERMITS

No official filming and location permission is required for feature film shoots or any others type of production. We recommend teaming up with a local production company if you are planning to shoot in Macedonia, as the local know-how of the procedures and policies in will help you to reduce the time spent on preparing and executing your project. The Macedonian partner can support your project with funding from public and private sources, provide a full range of production services and share all important local knowledge and personal contacts.

## VISAS

To enter Macedonia, a passport must be valid for three months. Visas are not required by nationals of the US, EU countries and UK for tourist and business stays of up to three months. Citizens of the EU member states and citizens of the signatories to the Schengen Agreement may enter the territory of the Republic of Macedonia with a valid ID card issued by the competent authorities of the concerning countries.

Citizens of other countries who are subject to visa requirements are obliged to apply for a visa prior to their entry to the Republic of Macedonia.

If there is no Macedonian diplomatic mission or consular post in the applicant's country, a visa application may be submitted in the nearest Macedonian diplomatic mission/consular post.

For detailed information on the visa regime, visit the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website:

<http://www.mfa.gov.mk/?q=node/319&language=en-gb>

## WORKING PERMITS

Foreign nationals shooting in Macedonia on the temporary basis do not need a working permit. Foreign nationals staying in hotels or other type of accommodation through a local service provider or co-producer are automatically registered by the hotelier or the Macedonian partner.

Foreign citizens who intend to stay in Macedonia longer than 90 days must apply for a temporary residence permit.

Macedonian partner can assist you with obtaining all the necessary paperwork for a foreign crew member.

Additional details: Law on Foreigners, (Official Gazette of RM 35/06; 66/07; 117/08 and 92/09) and the Law on Employment and Work of Foreigners, (Official Gazette of RM 70/07; 05/09 and 35/10) and their respective by-laws.





## CUSTOMS REGULATIONS

The customs legislation of Macedonia was revised and updated by the Customs Act 2006, which became effective on January 1, 2006. The law brings Macedonian customs regulations further in line with the EU standards. The value of non-commercial items that can be brought into the country for personal use and are exempt from customs duty or VAT, is limited to only 2.000 EUR in foreign currency and checks and up to 20.000 MKD per person. If the foreign and local currency exceed the total amount of 2.000 EUR they must be declared to a customs official. Valuable professional equipment and other technical devices must also be declared to a customs official at the border crossing.

For additional information, please contact the Customs Administration:

<http://www.customs.gov.mk/>

## TEMPORARY IMPORT OF PROFESSIONAL EQUIPMENT

The procedure of temporary admission is regulated under the Customs Law of the Republic of Macedonia. In the temporary admission procedure, foreign goods may be used on the customs territory of the Republic of Macedonia, with full or partial exemption from payment of import duties and exemption from trading measures, when the foreign goods are intended to be re-exported in the same state as they were in at import, except for impairment loss resulting from the use of these goods. Goods may remain in temporary admission procedure for up to 24 months, with the option for determination of special deadlines. Goods can be imported into the Republic of Macedonia on the basis of an ATA Carnet.

An ATA Carnet is a simple international customs document used for simplifying temporary admission to a foreign country with a validity date of one year. This document provides temporary admission of certain categories of goods in the customs territory of any country that has adopted the Convention on temporary admission without using national customs documents, customs duties or deposits, which is part of the regular procedure for temporary import or export.

For additional information, please contact the Customs Administration:

<http://www.customs.gov.mk/>









# LOCATION GUIDE

The country offers a wide variety of geographical and cultural locations. It is divided into eight statistical regions.

## Skopje Region

The Skopje region comprises the northernmost part of the Republic of Macedonia and extends across the Skopje basin. This region is the smallest and covers only 7.3% of the total land area of the country, but with 334.2 people per km<sup>2</sup> and 29.4% of the country's total population (2011), Skopje is the most populous region in the Republic of Macedonia.

<b>Number of Municipalities</b>	17
<b>Capital city</b>	Skopje
<b>Rivers</b>	Vardar, Treska, Lepenec, Pchinja, Markova, Kadina
<b>Lakes</b>	Matka, Treska (artificial lake)
<b>Warm Thermal Waters</b>	Katlanovo
<b>Mountains</b>	Vodno, Skopska Crna Gora
<b>Region Attractions</b>	Old Skopje Bazaar; Clock Tower; Stone Bridge; Skopje Fortress Kale; Millennium Cross; Mustafa-pasha- Pasha Mosque; Mother Teresa Memorial House; Aqueduct; The Orthodox Cathedral





## Polog Region

The Polog region comprises the northwest part of the Republic of Macedonia, the Polog basin, and the valley of the river Radika. It covers 9.7% of the country's total land area.

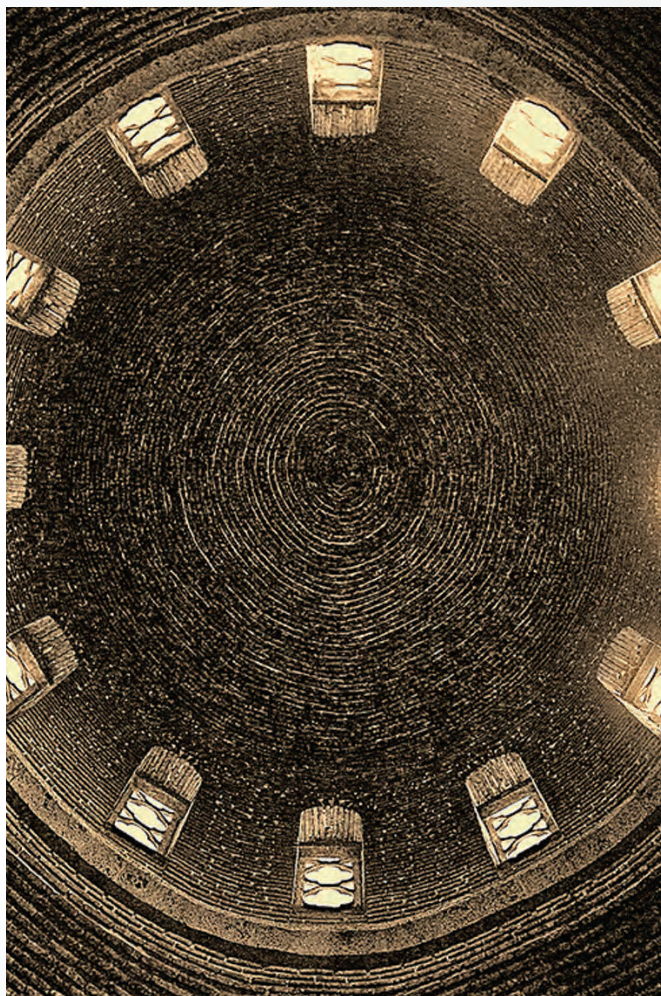
<b>Number of Municipalities</b>	9
<b>Capital city</b>	Tetovo
<b>Rivers</b>	Vardar, Pena, Radika
<b>Lakes</b>	Mavrov o
<b>Warm Thermal Waters</b>	
<b>Mountains</b>	Bistra, Shar Mountain
<b>Region Attractions</b>	Mavrovo National Park; Leshok Monastery; Monastery of St. Jovan Bigorski; Colorful Mosque

## Northeastern Region

The Northeast region comprises the extreme northeast part of the Republic of Macedonia, and spreads along the rivers Pchinja and Kriva Reka. It is one of the smallest regions, covering only 9.3% of the country's total land area.

<b>Number of Municipalities</b>	6
<b>Capital city</b>	Kumanovo
<b>Rivers</b>	Pchinja, Kriva Reka, Lipkova
<b>Lakes</b>	Lipkovsko
<b>Warm Thermal Waters</b>	Projevci
<b>Mountains</b>	Osogovo
<b>Region Attractions</b>	Kokino Monolithic Observatory; Kuklica (Stone Dolls); Tsar's Peak; Kalin Stone; Kratovo Bridges; Coce Stone





## Eastern Region

The East region is mainly a mountainous region and comprises the extreme east of the Republic of Macedonia. It spreads along the Bregalnica River, over the basins of Stip, Maleshevo, Pijanec, and the field of Kochani. The region comprises 14.2% of the total area of the Republic of Macedonia, with 8.7% of the total population in 2011.

<b>Number of Municipalities</b>	11
<b>Capital city</b>	Stip
<b>Rivers</b>	Bregalnica, Orazarska
<b>Lakes</b>	Berovsko, Kalimanci, Gradce
<b>Warm Thermal Waters</b>	Istibanja, Kezovica
<b>Mountains</b>	Osogovo
<b>Region Attractions</b>	The tourist recreation center Golak; Park of nature "Judovi Livadi"; Tourist site Ablanica; Pehcevo Waterfalls; Picnic area Baraki-Pehcevo; Monastery of Presveta Bogorodica-Berovo

## Southeastern Region

The Southwest region comprises the extreme southwest part of the Republic of Macedonia. The region comprises 13.4% of the total area of the country, with 10.8% of the total population in 2011.

<b>Number of Municipalities</b>	13
<b>Capital city</b>	Strumica
<b>Rivers</b>	Vardar, Strumica, Trkanja, Kriva Reka
<b>Lakes</b>	Dojran
<b>Warm Thermal Waters</b>	Negorci, Bansko
<b>Mountains</b>	Belasica, Ograzden, Plackovica, Srta, Kozuf
<b>Region Attractions</b>	Monastery Sv. Bogorodica Eleusa; Rimska terma; Ski Center Kozuf

## Vardar Region

The Vardar Region comprises the central part of the Republic of Macedonia and spreads along the Vardar River and Ovchepole basin. This region had the smallest number of citizens, 7.5% of the total population, in 2011, and covers 16.2% of the area of the Republic of Macedonia.

<b>Number of Municipalities</b>	9
<b>Capital city</b>	Veles
<b>Rivers</b>	Vardar, Crna Reka, Bregalnica, Topolka, Otovica
<b>Lakes</b>	Velesko
<b>Warm Thermal Waters</b>	
<b>Mountains</b>	Kožuv
<b>Region Attractions</b>	Natural Reserve "Lake Tikves", Demirkapiska Klisura, Stobi

## Pelagonia Region

The Pelagonia region is located in the south of the Republic of Macedonia and comprises the Pelagonia basin and the Prespa Lake basin. This region is the largest, covering 18.9% of the total land area of the country, but also one of the most sparsely populated, having a population density of 49.5 people per km<sup>2</sup>

<b>Number of Municipalities</b>	9
<b>Capital city</b>	Bitola
<b>Rivers</b>	
<b>Lakes</b>	Prespa
<b>Warm Thermal Waters</b>	
<b>Mountains</b>	Pelister
<b>Region Attractions</b>	Lake Prespa; National Park Pelister; Ski Center Krusevo









## Southwestern Region

The southwest region comprises the extreme southwest part of the Republic of Macedonia. According to the 2011 population estimates, 10.08% of the total population in the country lived in this region. It takes up 13.4% of the total area of the country.

<b>Number of Municipalities</b>	13
<b>Capital city</b>	Ohrid
<b>Rivers</b>	Treska, Crn Drim
<b>Lakes</b>	Ohrid
<b>Warm Thermal Waters</b>	Galicica, Jablanica, Bistra
<b>Mountains</b>	
<b>Region Attractions</b>	National park Galicica; City of UNESCO-Ohrid; Biljanini izvori



## Urban Areas

Macedonian cities are a timeless land of culture, where the ancient is inextricably blended with the modern, where every city or town echoes the past amidst the sounds of contemporary life.

The blend of Slavic, Albanian, Turkish, and Mediterranean influences is reflected in every facet of the country's fabric.

**SKOPJE**, the capital city, is the administrative center of the Republic of Macedonia, and an important diplomatic center in the Balkans. It is a modern city with a rich history that dates back to ancient times. During the Roman period it was known by the name Skupi. It was attacked by barbarian tribes, and eventually destroyed in an earthquake. After the earthquake, another town was erected a few kilometers away from the old location. This town, on the banks of the River Vardar, received the name of Skopje. The city is located in the Valley of the River Vardar and has 506,000 citizens. Skopje is a crossroad to the Balkan routes, located almost exactly midway between the capital cities of its neighboring countries: Tirana (Albania) is 299km from Skopje; Sofia (Bulgaria) is 220km from Skopje; Athens (Greece) is 691km from Skopje; Belgrade (Serbia) is 425km from Skopje; Pristina (Kosovo) is 85km from Skopje.

**BITOLA** is an old, beautiful settlement with a rich cultural tradition, which can be seen from the remains at the archaeological locality – Heraclea Linkestis. Heraclea is the oldest archaeological locality in Macedonia dating from the period of the reign of Phillip II. It existed for almost one millennium. The archaeological ruins speak about the existence of several civilizations in this place. Bitola is also known by its promenade Shirok Sokak, the Old Bitola Bazaar, the city tradition, the period when it was the main administrative center and home of numerous foreign consular offices, the Clock tower, churches and mosques, the mountain peak Pelister and the five-spine Molika tree. Pelister is 2601m high. It has a unique landscape and was declared as national park.

**OHRID** is the oldest human settlement in Europe, continually inhabited for 6 millennia. There you can find a Neolithic archaeological site from the Bronze Age and also archaeological sites and ruins from the Hellenistic and Roman

period. Built mainly between the 7th and 19th centuries, it has the oldest Slav monastery (St. Pantelejmon) and more than 800 Byzantine-style icons dating from the 11th to the end of the 14th century. Within the very heart of the present city of Ohrid lies the antique city of Lichnid, significant and rich, as is its successor. The metamorphosis of ancient Lichnid into medieval Ohrid took place from the 6th to the 9th century, creating one of the most significant medieval cities in the Balkans. The Ohrid saga reveals memories of the birth of Slavic literacy and culture in the works of St. Clement and St. Naum. In the old part of the town lying on the hillside below the double ridge of Lake Ohrid, which came into existence in a remote geological period as a result of tectonic shifts, remains of ancient temples and basilicas as well as numerous churches and chapels can be found, built between the 9th and 14th century.

## Rural Areas

Macedonia is a land with many rural areas each with authentic architecture, warmth and a different custom developed throughout the years. The most attractive villages besides those near the Prespa Lake and Ohrid Lake are located in the mountains of Bistra, Korab, Karaorman, Maleshevo or Osogovo. The eco-tourism in the picturesque village Brajcin and the village tourism in Ljubojno, Stenje, Dolno Dupeni, Trpejca, Peshtani, Bukovo, Modric, Drenok, Galichnik, Lazaropole, the areas of Malesija and Azot are the main assets for the development of the village tourism in Macedonia. The village of Lazaropole is located at an altitude of 1,350m, on a plateau at Mount Bistra. It is one of the most quiet and peaceful places and offers a great view of the peaks of Krchin, Korab and Stogovo. There you can find the gratifying church of St. Gjorgji built in 1838, as well as couple of smaller churches in the forest near the village. Along with Lazaropole there is another village located on the slopes of Mount Bistra, surrounded by a beautiful countryside, the mountain village Galicnik. It has a traditional architecture. There is also an old amphitheater at the village square. Here you can taste the locally produced white cheese. The village of Brajcin is situated near Resen, 6km from the Prespa Lake, at the foot of Mount Baba. Here you hike along the mountain trails with beautiful landscapes that lead you from the village to the Mountain Baba. In this small village, you can find 5 churches and a monastery.







## Lakes

Macedonia has three large tectonic lakes, fifteen artificial lakes and twenty-five glacial lakes located in the highest areas of the mountain ranges dating from the Ice Age. Each lake is significant because of its beauty, flora, fauna, and unique life forms, especially the natural lakes.

### TECTONIC

**Ohrid Lake** is one of the oldest lakes in the World, from the Tertiary Period (2-4 million years old). The lake covers an area of 358km<sup>2</sup>, has a depth of 288m and is 695m above sea level, which separates the Ohrid basin from Prespa. The Lake is 30km long and its width varies for a maximum of 14.5km to an average of 11km. Its basin is surrounded on all sides by mountains with peaks of over 2,000 meters. To the east are Mount Petrino and Mount Galichica with the Tomoros peak (2,255m), which separates the Ohrid basin from that of Prespa. To the south are the hills and lower mountains of Albania. The water temperature in the deepest layers of the lake is approximately 6° C, whereas the surface layers may warm up to 24°C and even to 26°C closer to the shore. The Lake has unique flora and fauna and has life forms that no longer exist in other places. Its unique natural conditions have made possible the survival of life forms from the Tertiary Period, owing

to which Lake Ohrid has often been called a museum of living fossils. In 1980 the Lake was proclaimed by UNESCO as the World's Natural and Cultural Heritage.

**Prespa Lake** is separated from Lake Ohrid with the mountain Galicica and located at an altitude of 853m above the sea level. The Lake has a total area of 274km<sup>2</sup> out of which 208km<sup>2</sup> are in Macedonia, 49.4 km<sup>2</sup> in Albania and 15.6km<sup>2</sup> in Greece. The lake is 28.6km long, from 9.9 to 16.9km wide and 54m deep. The water temperature ranges between 18°C in June and 24°C in July and August. The climate in the Prespa area is Mediterranean, with sunny springs, warm to hot summers, chilly autumns and moderately cold and snowy winters. Some 11 types of fish exist in the lake, of which 82% are of the type carp.

**Dojran Lake** is the smallest tectonic lake in the country located in southeastern Macedonia. At an altitude of 148m, it covers an area of 42.7 km<sup>2</sup>; of which 27.1 km<sup>2</sup> belong to Macedonia, and 15.6 km<sup>2</sup> to Greece. The average depth of Dojran Lake is 3 to 5 meters and the water temperature reaches up to 27°C.

### ARTIFICIAL

The biggest one is the Lake Kozjak on the River Treska. It is located in the Western part of the country, in the municipality of Makedonski Brod, 30km from the capital, Skopje. The Lake Kozjak is 32 km long and has a maximum depth of 130 meters. One of the most beautiful



artificial lakes in the country is the Lake Matka. It is located west of Skopje, deep into the canyon of Matka and with its emerald green color and clear water it simply takes your breath away. In the canyon of Matka there are also ten caves, one of them being Vrelo which is between the top 77 natural sites in the world, and there are two vertical pits, both about 35 meters in depth. St. Andrew's Monastery is also located in this canyon. It was built in 1389 and is rich with fresco paintings. St. Nikola Sisovski Monastery is located on the other side of the lake. It was built of the highest cliff above Matka, giving you a stunning view of the lake. The artificial Lake Mavrovo is another breathtaking spot in the country. It is 10km long and 5km wide with a maximum depth of 50m. Situated in the Mavrovo region, it is a great place for swimming and boating during the summer. One of the most specific and rare things that it holds, is the half-submerged church in the lake. Tikvesh Lake is another artificial lake in Macedonia. It is located 12km southwest from Kavadarci on the River Treska and it covers an area of 14 km<sup>2</sup> and has a maximum depth of 105m. Other artificial lakes in Macedonia are: Lake Debar, Mladost, Kalimanci, Stresvevo, Mantovo and Suvodol.

### GLACIAL

The glacial lakes in Macedonia are located in the highest parts of Macedonia, at altitudes of 1,500 meters and 2,300 meters above sea level. The glacial lakes are usually small,

circular in form, and contain clear, clean blue-green water. That's why they are known as "Gorski Oci" - Mountain Eyes.

**Shar Mountain** - There are 39 glacial lakes on Shar Mountain, of which 27 belong to Macedonia. Of those 27.8 are temporary and 19 are always filled with water. The largest and most important are: Bogovinsko, Crno, Belo, Golem Gjol, Mal Gjol, Krivoshinsko Lake, Golemo Dedelbeshko, Malo Dedelbeshko, Gorno Dobroshko, and Dolno Dobroshko.

The Bogovinsko Lake is the largest one and covers an area of 67,000 sq. meters, with depth of 2.2 meters, length of 452 meters, and width of 225 meters. It is located on 1,960 meters above the sea level.

**Baba Mountain** - On Baba Mountain, near the highest peak, Pelister, 2,600 meters above sea level, there are two glacial lakes: Golemo Lake and Malo Lake. Lake Golemo, is settled at an altitude of 2,218 meters above sea level. Its length is 223 meters, width 162 meters, and depth 14.6 meters. It is the deepest glacial lake in Macedonia, and the water is derived from the rain.

**Jablanica Mountain** - Jablanica Mountain is located on the eastern part of Lake Ohrid, and has 4 glacial lakes: Podgorsko, Vevchansko, Gorno Labunishko, and Dolno Labunishko. The largest lake is Podgorsko.



## Rivers

There about 35 rivers in Macedonia located throughout three regions: the Aegean, Adriatic and Black Sea. The Aegean is the largest and comprises 87% of the total territory of the Republic of Macedonia. Vardar is the longest and most important river in the country, draining 80 percent of its territory. Within Macedonia, the River Vardar has thirty-seven tributaries, including Bregalnica and Crna. River Strumica in the southeast is the only other river of note flowing into the Aegean. River Crni Drim drains the westernmost 13 percent of Macedonia. It flows north out of Lake Ohrid and into Albania before turning west and draining into the Adriatic Sea. Less than 0.2 percent of the country is drained by the River Binacka Morava, with springs located in Macedonia. Other rivers that run through Macedonia are: Treska, Radika, Crna Reka, Bregalnica, Pchinja, Lepenec etc.

## Waterfalls

There are several renowned waterfalls in Macedonia:

**Smolare waterfall** - the largest permanent waterfall in Macedonia, located deep into Mount Belasica above the village of Smolare, is 19 meters high, with a waterfall of over 38 meters. Smolare waterfall, cascading over the cliffs, is a sight to behold throughout every season of the year. Depending on the temperature, its streams may freeze during the winter.

**Koleshino waterfall** - located on the river Baba, above the Village of Koleshino, in the mountain of Belasica, near the city of Strumica, 21 meters high, with a waterfall of about 16 meters. Koleshino waterfall is beautiful in every season and continually changes to reflect the nature which surrounds it. During the winter, these fragile streams can freeze, and in the spring, strengthened by recent rainfalls, the streams rush powerfully over the cliff.

**Korab waterfall** - is a waterfall in the upper course of the River Dlaboka on Korab Mountain. It forms during the spring from melting snow on the east side of Kepi Berd peak. The waterfall differs in height and intensity, depending on the season. The highest water levels are in late May and early June, with a drop throughout the summer. During very dry summers, the waterfall may dry out in late August and September.

## Mountains & National Parks

The Republic of Macedonia is a predominantly mountainous country. Approximately 50% of the territory of Macedonia is a typical mountainous area, which consists of hills and mountains. Mountains are divided into two basic groups: Shar Mountains, mountain range that continues to the West, Vardar/Pelagonia mountain range (also known as Dinaric range), and the Osogovo-Belasica mountain chain (also known as Rhodope range). Shar Mountains and West Vardar/Pelagonia mountain range are a continuation between the Dinaric Alps and Pindus mountain ranges, whereas the Osogovo-Belasica mountain chain is a continuation of the Rila-Rhodopes mountain massif. The shapes of mountains in the Republic of Macedonia are very different, ranging from mildly round in the eastern part, to fully Alpine in the western.

SHAR MOUNTAINS MOUNTAIN RANGE	WEST VARDAR/PELAGONIA MOUNTAIN RANGE	OSOGOVO-BELASICA MOUNTAIN RANGE
Shar Mountain	Baba Mountain	Osogovo
Mount Korab	Jakupica	Belasica
Mount Bistra	Nidze	Vlahina
Stogovo	Kozuf	Maleshevo
Galichica		Plachkovica
Deshat		Ograzden
Jablanica		

### Mountains (Highest Peak)

Mount Korab	2764 m
Shar Mountain	2747 m
Baba Mountain- Pelister	2601 m
Jakupica	2540 m
Nidze	2521 m
Deshat	2373 m
Krchin	2341 m
Galichica	2288 m
Stogovo	2273 m
Jablanica	2257 m
Osogovo	2252 m
Kozhuf	2166 m
Bistra	2163 m
Belasica	2029 m

## National parks

In Macedonia there are three National parks and 74 protected natural areas. They cover 7.30% of the national territory, or precisely 187.9ha, which is characterized by unique flora and fauna.

**National Park Mavrovo** - established in 1949 with a special bill, calling for the “protection of the exceptional natural beauty, and scientifically and historically important forest around Mavrovo valley”. <http://npmavrovo.org.mk>

**National Park Pelister** - located in the southwestern part of the Republic of Macedonia, encompassing an area of 17.150 ha on the northern side of the Baba massif at altitudes between 900 meters and 2601 meters. Pelister National Park was established on November 30, 1948 by a law endorsed by the Presidium of the People's Republic of Macedonia (First proclaimed National park in the Former Yugoslavia). <http://www.park-pelister.com>

**National Park Galichica** - encompasses an area of 25,000 ha. The lowest elevation in the park is Lake Ohrid (695 meters above sea level), next is Lake Prespa (850 meters above sea level), and the highest point is the summit Magaro (2,255 meters above sea level). <http://www.galichica.org.mk>

## Spa Resorts

In addition to wondrous beauty and unique landscapes, nature has endowed Macedonia with therapeutic springs. Macedonia has a vast amount of geothermal waters, and the spas are part of Macedonia's national wealth. The therapeutic properties of these natural springs have been known since ancient times. Inexhaustible underground lakes of this wealth of natural energy are located throughout Macedonia. There are over 60 thermo-mineral springs in Macedonia. These spas offer facilities for treatment, rehabilitation, recreation, as well as accommodation.

Spa Resorts in Macedonia	City	Temp. of Spring
Katlanovo Spa	Skopje	40.5°C
Banjsko	Strumica	73°C
Negorci Spa	Gevgelija	38°C
Istibanja	Kocani	55°C
Kezovica	Stip	54°C
Banjiste Spa	Debar	38.6°C
Kosovrasti Spa	Debar	38.6°C
Proevce	Kumanovo	31°C

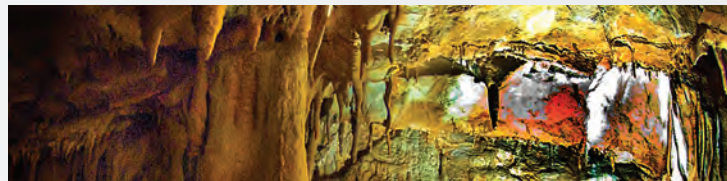




## Caves

There are 346 officially registered caves in Macedonia, although the total number of actual caves is probably 400 to 500. Only four caves are protected: Peshna, Ubavica, Mlechnik, and Gorna Slatinska. Some of the caves have underwater rivers, lakes, multiple caverns, stalagmites, and stalactites. Many are home to rare underground life forms, as well as prehistoric fossils.

<b>Vrelo Cave</b>	Located in the Canyon of Matka, Vrelo is a system of two caves, one above and one underneath the water, and a lake. The highlight of Vrelo Cave is the three meter high stalagmite, called the "Pine Cone" at the top of the cave.
<b>Gonovica and Ubavica Caves</b>	The longest cave in Macedonia at 1.2km is Gonovica, south of Gostivar. It has an underground river and the highest underground waterfall of 7m. Ubavica Cave is nearby, almost one kilometer long, with a beautiful underground waterfall.
<b>Slatina Cave</b>	The largest Macedonian cave "Slatina Spring" is located in the area of Slatina village, fifteen miles away from Makedonski Brod. The cave consists of a long channel, which branches out in several longer and shorter canals. So far 800 meters of length of the cave have been examined, 705 meters of which belong to the main cave channel. In separate locations of the main channel, the cave pillars and stalactites dominate, and in the biggest cave hall (20x15m) larger stalagmites have been built.



<b>Solunska Glava</b>	Located right under the Solunska Glava peak in central Macedonia, this is one of the deepest caves in the Balkans - 450 meters.
<b>Bela Voda</b>	This longest horizontal speleological object in Macedonia is located in the vicinity of Demir Kapija in southern Macedonia. It is 955 meters long with a stunningly beautiful lake at the end of the cave.
<b>Spela Bozguni</b>	An accessible cave that is frequently visited by alpinists. It is located near Patishka Reka Village, some 30 km southwest of Skopje, in the foothills of Mount Jakupica.
<b>Peshna</b>	Located in western Macedonia, near Makedonski Brod and River Treska, it has a magnificent arched entrance. It has been used as a shelter in times of war and crisis.
<b>Zmejovec Cave</b>	Found near the village of Krapa, Kumanovo. According to a legend, recorded by folk tales collector Marko Cepenkov, the water gushing out of the cave's springs has healing powers.



## Golem Grad – Big City Island

Golem Grad, meaning Big City, also known as Snake Island, is located off the western coast of Lake Prespa near the triangle of the Macedonian, Albanian, and Greek border. It covers an area of 18 hectares, and it is 600 meters long and 350 meters wide. The Big City Island has been protected by a special law and belongs to the national park “Galichica”. There are remains from the Neolithic era, Hellenic period, Roman period, middle ages, and of six churches and basilicas. The island is a home to an abundance of white, yellow, and black rabbits, turtles, and other animals as well as hundreds of colonies of cormorants, pelicans, and freshwater birds. The Island is currently uninhabited and has been so since the mid-20th century, when a small monastic community left the island. The island can only be reached by boat.



## Archeological Sites

Macedonia is a land where many undiscovered truths of history lie hidden. The mysterious land represents a museum under the sky, a cultural heritage which is sown in each part of the great Mediterranean civilizations, archaeology on every step. The Republic of Macedonia is terra incognita due to the enormous archaeological potential that goes almost completely unexamined. There are around 4,800 archaeological sites officially, but the unofficial number might be as high as 10,000. The continuance of civilization begins with the Paleolithic period, but the true birth of a great civilization is actually the Neolithic period.

### CHRONOLOGY OF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES

#### Late Paleolithic period, 30,000 years BC

No sites have been registered so far, but numerous objects from this period have been discovered.

#### Old Neolithic period, 6,000 years BC

The most famous sites that have been recorded and partly explored are Govrlevo and Madzari Tumba near Skopje and Amzabegovo in the Sveti Nikole and Stip area.

#### Hellenic period

Trebenishte, Prentov Most (Ohrid area)

#### Roman period

Heraklea and Stibera (Bitola area), Stobi (Veles area), Astibo (Stip), Skupi (Skopje).

#### Roman roads

**Via Egnacia** (linked the Adriatic and the Aegean Sea) - Dirahion-Struga-Ohrid-Bitola-Gradsko-Demir Kapija-Idomene.

**Via Aksija** (Via Militaris) – a military road that connected Kumanovo-Pchinja area with Gevgelija and linked on to Via Egnacia.

**Via Dijagonalis** – a diagonal road between Kicevo and Skupi

## ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The Megalithic Observatory Kokino
The Municipium Stobensium-Stobi
The ancient town of Heraclea Lynkestis
Vinica Fortress - Vinica Terracotta Icons from the 4 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> century - Vinica
King Marko's Towers - Prilep
Ohrid, the ancient Lychnidus
Bargala - Stip
Skopje fortress - Skopsko kale
Bay of Bones - Museum on water – Ohrid
Isar Fortress – Stip

## Churches & Monasteries

Macedonia is home to 992 churches and monasteries, featuring 150,000 sq. m of fresco paintings, 23,000 icons, 240 iconostases, and other church items carved in wood. Through the centuries, Macedonia's borders and ethnic composition often changed, but the people managed to preserve most of these Macedonian treasures, regardless of the different emperors and religions that passed through. It is believed that the city of Ohrid holds most of these treasures because it once had 365 churches - one for each day of the year.

## CHURCHES AND OTHER CHRISTIAN OBJECT

The Assembly of St. Kliment Ohridski	Skopje
The Church St. Spas	Skopje
Markov Monastery - Church St. Dimitrija	Skopje
The Church of St. Cyril and Methodius	Tetovo
Leshok Monastery	Tetovo
Monastery of St. John Bigorski	near Debar
Monastery "Nativity of Holy Mary, Mother of God"	Makedonski Brod
The Church St Sofia	Ohrid
Monastery St. Pantelejmon at Plaoshnik	Ohrid

Monastery St. Jovan Bogoslov Kaneo	Ohrid
Monastery St. Naum of Ohrid	Near Ohrid
Church St. Holy Mother of God Perivlepta	Ohrid
Cave Church St. Erasmus	near Ohrid
Complex of Churches Kalishta	near Struga
Holy Mary, Mother of God	Krushevo
St. Pantelejmon Church	Veles
The Church of the Holy Mother of God of Eleusa (Merciful)	near Strumica in the village of Veljusa
The Church Complex of Saint Leontius	near Strumica in the village of Vodocha
St. Nicholas	Shtip
Monastery of St. Pantelejmon	near Kochani
The Church of St. Joachim of Osogovo	Vinica
The Church of St. Archangel Michael	Berovo
Monastery of St. Joachim of Osogovo	near Kriva Palanka

## MOSQUES AND OTHER ISLAMIC BUILDINGS

Mustapha Pasha Mosque	Skopje
Sultan-Muratova Mosque	Skopje
Jahja - Pasha mosque	Skopje
Daut Pasha Hamam	Skopje
Chifte Hamam	Skopje
The Painted Mosque	Tetovo
Arabati-Baba Teke	Tetovo
Jeni mosque	Bitola
Orta Mosque	Strumica





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