

## Useful information

### HOW TO GET TO MACEDONIA

#### By plane

Skopje Airport (phone: +389 2 148333) 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 air companies (Adria Airlines, Austrian Airlines, Olympic Airways, Turkish Airlines, JAT, MAT, etc.).

Other airports near Skopje are: in Sofia (Bulgaria), which is 250 km away from Skopje and Thessaloniki (Greece) 260 km.

There are regular bus connections from Sofia to Skopje twice a day. The airports in Ljubljana (Slovenia), Zagreb (Croatia) and Belgrade (Serbia and Montenegro) can also be used for connection. (*Note: Some countries' citizens may need transit visas for Bulgaria, Serbia and Montenegro.*)

Typical taxi fare from the airport to the Skopje City centre is between 600 and 1000 denars (10-20 euro) depend of traffic...

#### By bus

If you choose to travel by bus, connections are available from several cities in Europe (Brussels, Vienna, Sofia, Istanbul, Belgrade). Those who will travel from, or through Germany can contact the travel agency Deutsche Touring, found in most cities, which have buses to Macedonia twice a week; those from Austria can contact Europe travel agency. (*Note: If you travel through Serbia and Montenegro check whether you need a visa!*)

#### By train

You can use the connections from Vienna, Budapest, Ljubljana, Zagreb, Belgrade, Thessaloniki or Athens. They arrive at Central Railway Station in Skopje (phone: +389 2 164255) every day.

#### How to get here:

[www.mz.com.mk](http://www.mz.com.mk) - Macedonian railways

[www.airports.com.mk](http://www.airports.com.mk) - Macedonian airports

#### Visa information

For citizen of EU is no need visa for entering in Macedonia. Some country need visa. More information you could found on following link:

[www.mfa.gov.mk](http://www.mfa.gov.mk) or

<http://www.mfa.gov.mk/Upload/ContentManagement/Files/MFA-VisaRegime.doc>

### MONEY/PAYMENT

Denar is official money currency in Macedonia. 1 euro is approx. 61,5 denars. Money can be changed in all banks and specialized exchange offices that will change money without provision...

There is also possibility for paying in Euros but changing money is recommended to avoid small losses. A lot of cash machines are located in all City areas, hotels, shopping centres

**Credit cards:** American Express, Visa, Diners club MasterCard and Eurocard are accepted. Travellers' cheques can be exchanged in any major bank office.

**Banks open:**

7 AM – 7 PM during the week

7 AM – 1 PM Saturdays

Sundays closed

**Post Offices open:**

7 AM – 6 PM during the week

7 AM – 1 PM Saturdays

Sundays closed

**Banks:**

[www.kb.com.mk](http://www.kb.com.mk) - "Komercijalna Banka"

[www.stb.com.mk](http://www.stb.com.mk) - "Stopanska Banka"

[www.bbs.com.mk](http://www.bbs.com.mk) - "Balkanska Banka"

[www.nbrm.gov.mk](http://www.nbrm.gov.mk) - Macedonian National Bank

## PHONE NETWORKS

There are 3 mobile phone networks in Macedonia.

**VIP** (partner of Vodafone) network is official partner of Macedonian Handball Federation and it's recommended.

Biggest mobile phone network is **T-Mobile** and also **Cosmofon** network is available.

There are lots of mobile phone stores in down town area where mobile phones can be bought.

There is possibility to buy prepaid packages for all mobile networks. For recharging the bill voucher can be found in almost every newspaper story.

## INTERNET

Almost every hotels, cafe bars and restaurants offers Wi-Fi free of charge. Ask for password! A lot of internet cafes are available in cities, for a price of 1 euro per hour.

In press centres will be internet, cable and Wi-Fi free of charge.

## BARS AND RESTAURANTS

After very rigorous law and high money penalties for bars that works after midnight, Skopje starts to live at daylight and "coffee culture" became one of most important part of everyday living of the youth.

There are a very big number of coffee bars especially in GTC (Main City shopping centre) area that are full crowded during day. Traditional Irish Pub,

branded Cuban restaurant, specialized Italian restaurant can also be found in GTC.

Most of the bars are closed after 24:00, but there are specialized bars, discotheques and casinos that work until morning.

GTC and 100 meters away street "Macedonia" are most recommended during day time.

Free wireless internet is also available in some of the bars.

Almost every waiter speaks English!

## **FOOD AND DRINKS**

Eating time in Skopje is the same with the rest of Europe. Meals tend to be long, drawn-out affairs where the food and drink are usually secondary to conversation and company.

Food is based on meat and vegetables. Various restaurants serve traditional Macedonian specialties. There are a lot of places in down town area where people can enjoy in Macedonian food.

There are also a lot of traditional and western fast food restaurants (McDonald included) where customers can pick up their food in a minute.

Macedonia is famous country in region for quality wines. There are several types of red wine that are highly recommended (Bovin-wines; T'ga za Jug ect...)

Most famous Macedonian beer is "Skopsko". It can be found in 0.33 l and 0,5l packages.

Prices for the beer in bar is between 1, 5 and 3 euro.

For a bottle of red wine (0,75l), price is between 10 and 15 euro.

Other prices:

Pizza - maximum 5 Euros

Café - 1-2 Euros

Non-alcoholic drinks - 1-2 Euros

Sandwich - 1-2 Euros

Meat - 1-3 Euros per pieces

Lunch meal - max 5 Euros (per person) without drinks

**Note: Ask for fiscal bill in all restaurants.**

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **BUSES**

Skopje has two bus networks, both serving the City and the surrounding villages.

Probably the best way to recognize the bus network is by its color - the red busses are part of the state-owned "JSP" and all other buses are privately owned. Most of the bus lines are frequent, but rarely on time. Although the bus service is well maintained, it is not recommended to use it during rush hours.

Bus fares are based on a zone system for each bus network. The inner City is zone 1 with ticket price 30 denars (aprox.0, 5 euro) in the JSP buses and 25 denars in the private buses. Tickets are available to buy from the driver.

JSP web site: [www.jsp.com.mk](http://www.jsp.com.mk) (English version available)

## **TAXI**

The taxi service has been regulated by the City to provide fair service and equal fares. Be careful when hailing a taxi. Note that start price is 50 denars with 25 denars for 1 km.

There are at least 30 "taxi" companies that work in Skopje.

Taxi Company "Nashe Taksi" is partner of Macedonian Handball Federation and it's highly recommended. They can easily be recognized by the colour. The drive yellow cars with big reclaim board on top.

### **Taxi fares:**

Typical taxi fare from the airport to the Skopje City centre is between 600 and 1000 denars (10-20 euro) depend of traffic...

Typical fare from City Centre to sport hall "Boris Trajkovski" is between 90 and 150 den. (1,5-2,5 euro).

Typical fare from hotel "Continental" to sport hall "Boris Trajkovski" is between 120-200 den. (2-3 euro)

Phone number of Nashe Taxy Company is 15152.

## **Rent a Car**

All major and popular Rent a Car agency are present in Skopje and Ohrid. You could rent a car for a period of your stay in Macedonia. Check your local partners for more information's and prices

## **Transportation Skopje - Ohrid**

**Bus** is most used transport between Skopje and Ohrid. Distance id 180 km, and duration of travel is 3-4 hours

Information e-mail: [info@sas.com.mk](mailto:info@sas.com.mk)

More information regarding the time table and ticket price visit:

<http://www.sas.com.mk> (English version available)

**Taxi** is second used way of transportation. Price is "negotiable" and depends how many persons are in car.

## **SHOPPING**

There several shopping centres in Skopje. Three of them in the centre near the City square.

City Shopping Centre (GTC) is biggest and most famous in Skopje. It's located on the main square altogether with two smaller centers "City Gallery" and "Soravia". There are more than 100 boutiques for all types of clothes, jewelry and accessories. Respectable number of world famous brand names can be find here.

There can be found newest collections from companies like Benetton, Bitsiani, Donovan, Quick Silver, Paul and Shark, Mango and others.

For classic type, there are boutique like Pal Zileri, Boss, Pierre Carden for man and Max Mara and Donna Caran for woman

"Ramstore" is also well known shopping centre and its located 1 km from City square. "Paloma Bianca" is also in centre 200 meters from GTC.

In other parts of town more shopping centers can be found. "Biser" and "Mavrovka" are between biggest in the city. There also possibility for shopping in the Old District Area. Merchandise with lower prices and lower quality.

### **How to get to sports hall "Boris Trajkovski"**

Sports hall "Boris Trajkovski" is located near hotel Aleksandar Palas, few kilometers' from the center.

**Walking:** Using the pedestrian zone near river Vardar from city center to sports hall "Boris Trajkovski" will arrive for 20-30 minutes.

**By car:** Follow signs for hotel Aleksandar Palas and sports hall "Boris Trajkovski". Use main street "Partizanska" od "Ilindenska".

**By bus:** Direct line No.8 from centre of the city to sports hall. Check for time table on [www.jsp.com.mk](http://www.jsp.com.mk)

**By taxi:** Most popular and used way of transportation. Typical fare from City Centre to sport hall "Boris Trajkovski" is between 90 and 150 den. (1,5-2,5 euro).

## **Useful information - Ohrid**

### **TRANSPORTATION**

The easiest way to get to Ohrid is from Skopje. Buses run every few hours. A bus from Skopje takes about 3 and half hours and costs 10 Euros one-way.

The Ohrid bus station is a few kilometres outside the centre (about 30 minutes of walk). A taxi from the bus station to the centre costs around one euro.

Ohrid also has an international airport, "St Paul the Apostle", about 7 km from the city centre. The airport is opened during the whole year but most airlines only fly during the summer.

The city centre and the old town are compact and best seen by foot.

Transport in Ohrid is inexpensive and covers all areas of the city. The taxi service is regulated by the City and the typical fare to the more distant hotels is not higher than five Euros. There are also regular but not so frequent minibuses and privately owned transport to the more distant places like Peshtani and St. Naum. 10 kilometres from Ohrid is the city of Struga, lying on the shore of the Lake Ohrid too. There is a regular taxi and bus service between two towns.

### **How to get to sports hall "Biljanini Izvori"**

From Struga: Distance is 15 km. from sports hall. There are bus lines from Struga to Ohrid on every 30 minutes. Price is 60 denars in one way.

Using car you'll need 15 minutes driving. Just follow signs Ohrid - Sveti Naum (St.Naum).

From Ohrid:

Walking: Maximum 15 minutes walking from Ohrid down town to sports hall. Follow signs for sports hall or petrol station "Makpetrol" which is near the hall.

By taxi: Depends on traffics and distance. But no more that 2 Euros.

### **WHERE TO EAT?**

Restaurants and hotels are opened not only during the touristic season, but during the whole year. They proudly display **Ohrid trout (Ohridska pastrmka)** on their menus, an ancient endemic species of fish, which is illegal for fishing in the Lake. Another famous trout species is **Belvica**. Some popular restaurants in Ohrid known to most people in town simply by the name are:

**Momir** - in the city centre;

**Gino Italian Restaurant** - in the city centre;

**Dalga** - with a terrace over the lake in the old part of town;

**St. Sofia** - in the old part of town overlooking the cathedral church St. Sofia;

**Galeo Fish Restaurant** - in the city centre;

**Biljanini Izvori** - 5 km away from the city centre at the famous Biljana Springs;

**The Big Blue** - in the city centre.

### **Other must try meals**

**Ribna corba:** A traditional fish soup served in most restaurants, mostly as a starter.

**Burek:** A layered pastry inherited from Ottoman times and popular for breakfast. Choose with meat, white cheese, spinach/white cheese or pizza burek and take a cup of traditional Macedonian yogurt.

**Makalo:** A starter spread made with garlic and yogurt.

**Gjomleze:** A baked layered pancakes cut in a rhomboid shape, and usually served with white cheese.

The traditional Macedonian alcoholic beverages are **rakija** and **mastika**.

### **WHERE TO GO?**

Aside of the Lake, Ohrid is most famous for its ancient churches, basilicas, and monasteries. Most of these churches charge an entry. There is also a wonderful ancient walled fortress at the top of the city.

Although Ohrid is a touristic centre, its colourful nightlife is subject to the law restrictions too, as in the other parts of the country. Bars and restaurants, most of them located in the old part of the city, are opened only till midnight but Fridays and Saturdays till 01 o'clock. On the other side, nightclubs, discotheques and casinos are opened till the morning hours and most of them are located in hotels at the lake shore. Still, most of the discotheques are closed during the autumn and winter months.

Free wireless internet is available in some of the bars.

## **SHOPPING**

There are no typical shopping centres in Ohrid like in Skopje. There are only few supermarkets in the centre. The Old Bazaar, consisting of just one street in the very centre of the town, is full of small and traditional stores and it is the busiest place in the city, with people circulating whole day.

**Credit cards:** American Express, Visa, Diners club MasterCard and Eurocard are accepted. Travellers cheques can be exchanged in any major bank office.

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Sundays closed

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