



Macedonia

Includes ➔

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Stara Gradska Kuća (p246)
- ➔ Restaurant Antiko (p249)
- ➔ Letna Bavča Kaneo (p249)
- ➔ Kaj Pero (p245)
- ➔ Kebapčilnica Destan (p245)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Hotel Radika (p251)
- ➔ Villa Dihovo (p771)
- ➔ Sunny Lake Hostel (p249)
- ➔ Villa Jovan (p249)
- ➔ Hotel Solun (p245)

Why Go?

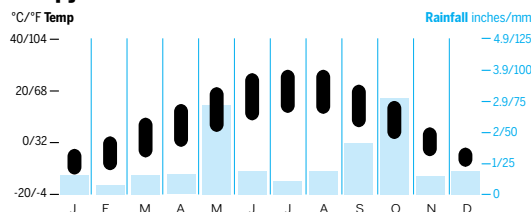
Macedonia (Македонија) is a small nation with a complex and fascinating history. Part Balkan, part Mediterranean and rich in Greek, Roman and Ottoman history, it offers impressive ancient sites along with buzzing modernity, managing to pack in more activity and natural beauty than would seem possible for a country its size.

Easygoing Skopje remains one of Europe's more unusual capitals, where constant urban renewal has made the city a bizarre jigsaw puzzle that never fails to surprise.

Elsewhere in the country hiking, mountain biking, wine tasting and climbing beckon, while the remote mountains conceal fascinating medieval monasteries, superb alpine trails and traditional Balkan villages. Ohrid, noted for its beaches, summer festival, sublime Byzantine churches and 34km-long lake, is the centre of the country's tourism industry, while in the winter months skiing at resorts such as Mavrovo become the main draw.

When to Go

Skopje



Jun–Aug Enjoy Ohrid's Summer Festival and dive into its 300m-deep lake.

Sep & Oct Partake in Skopje's Beer Fest, Jazz Festival and harvest celebrations.

Dec–Feb Ski Mavrovo and indulge in Macedonia's holiday carnivals.



Macedonia Highlights

- 1 Gaze out over Ohrid from the **Church of Sveti Jovan at Kaneo** (p248), immaculately set on a bluff above the lake.
- 2 Dive into historic but fast changing **Skopje**, a friendly,

- quintessentially Balkan capital.
- 3 Enjoy the old-world ambience of **Bitola** (p251) and hike nearby Pelister National Park.
- 4 Soak up the serenity

- at cliff-top **Zrze Monastery** (p772), with sweeping views of the Pelagonian Plain and priceless Byzantine artworks.
- 5 Ski **Mavrovo National Park** (p250), Macedonia's premier winter resort.

SKOPJE

② 02 / POP 670,000

Skopje is among Europe's most entertaining and eclectic small capital cities. While an expensive and rather kitschy government construction spree has sparked controversy in recent years, Skopje's new abundance of statuary, fountains, bridges, museums and other structures built to encourage a national identity has visitors' cameras snapping like never before and has

CKOPIJE

defined the ever-changing city for the 21st century.

Yet plenty survives from earlier times – Skopje's Ottoman- and Byzantine-era wonders include the 15th-century Kameni Most (Stone Bridge), the wonderful Čaršija (old Turkish bazaar) where you can get lost for hours, Sveti Spas Church, with its ornate, hand-carved iconostasis, and Tvrđina Kale Fortress, Skopje's guardian since the 5th century.