Background: International recognition of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's (FYROM) independence from Yugoslavia in 1991 was delayed by Greece's objection to the new state's use of what it considered a Hellenic name and symbols. Greece finally lifted its trade blockade in 1995, and the two countries agreed to normalize relations. FYROM's large Albanian minority and the de facto independence of neighboring Kosovo continue to be sources of ethnic tension.

Location: Southeastern Europe, north of Greece

Map References: Europe

Area: total: 25,333 sq km land: 24,856 sq km water: 477 sq km

Climate: warm, dry summers and autumns and relatively cold winters with heavy snowfall

Terrain: mountainous territory covered with deep basins and valleys; three large lakes, each divided by a frontier line; country bisected by the Vardar River

Natural Resources: chromium, lead, zinc, manganese, tungsten, nickel, low-grade iron ore, asbestos, sulfur, timber, arable land

Population: 2,041,467 (July 2000 est.)

Nationality: noun: Macedonian(s) adjective: Macedonian

Religious Groups: Macedonian Orthodox 67%, Muslim 30%, other 3%

Languages: Macedonian 70%, Albanian 21%, Turkish 3%, Serbo-Croatian 3%, other 3%

Economy: The breakup of Yugoslavia in 1991 deprived Macedonia, then its poorest republic, of key protected markets and large transfer payments from the center. Worker remittances and foreign aid have softened the subsequent volatile recovery period. Continued recovery depends on Macedonia's ability to attract investment, to redevelop trade ties with Greece and Serbia and Montenegro, and to maintain its commitment to economic liberalization. The economy can meet its basic food needs but depends on outside sources for all of its oil and gas and most of its modern machinery and parts. Growth in 1999 was held down by the severe regional economic dislocations caused by the Kosovo conflict.

Industries: coal, metallic chromite, lead, zinc, ferronickel, textiles, wood products, tobacco

Currency: 1 Macedonian denar (MKD) = 100 deni

Tourist Association of Skopje: Dame Gruze blok 3, PO Box 933 91000 Skopje
Tel: 91-118486 Fax: 91-230903

Country Dialling Code (Tel/Fax): ++389

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Tel: 91-118486 Fax: 91-230903

Capital: Skopje Time: GMT + 1

Airports: - with paved runways: total: 10 2,438 to 3,047 m: 2

Waterways: none

Ports and Harbors: none

Visa: required by all except nationals of the EU

Health: poliomyelitis immunisation is advised, as there was an outbreak in 1996
**RESTAURANT OSTROVO**, Skopje, Macedonia, Tel: 389 2 6092650, cuisines: Cafe, public room.

**VILLA ST. SOFIA**, Ohrid, Macedonia, Tel: 072210906, cuisines: European.

**PIZNICA AN**, Skopje, Macedonia, Tel: 02 3296 415, cuisines: European Bar.

**SKARA BAR SKOPJE**, phone: 389 2 3256337.

**PIZZERIA SARAISHTE**, Ohrid, Macedonia, Tel: 046 254370, email: saraishte@gmail.com.

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