Macedonia

Country Dialling Code (Tel/Fax): +389
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Capital: Skopje Time: GMT +1

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 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

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

Ethnic Groups: Macedonian 66.6%, Albanian 22.7%, Turkish 4%, Roma 2.2% other 3%

Languages: Macedonian 70%, Albanian 21%, Turkish 3%, Serbo-Croatian 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 chromium, lead, zinc, ferronickel, textiles, wood products, tobacco

Currency: 1 Macedonian denar (MKD) = 100 deni

Railways: total: 8,684 km paved; 5,540 km (including 133 km of expressways) unpaved: 3,144 km (1997 est.)

Waterways: none, lake transport only

Ports and Harbors: none

Airports: 16 (1999 est.) Airports - with paved runways: total: 10 2,438 to 3,047 m: 2 under 914 m: 8 (1999 est.) Airports - with unpaved runways: total: 6 914 to 1,523 m: 3 under 914 m: 3 (1999 est.)

Visa: required by all except nationals of the EU

Duty Free: goods permitted: 1 box of cigarettes, 1 bottle of alcohol, gifts to the value of GDM

Health: poliomyelitis immunisation is advised, as there was an outbreak in 1996

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