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SKOPJE

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2006 - 2007

Pantelejmon

The mountain
monastery

Concrete fantasy

Skopje's wacky
buildings

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Skopje is positively bursting with magnificent nightlife. Find the city's best bars and clubs reviewed on page 24.



A trip to St. Pantelejmon Monastery offers a great view of Skopje, good food, a bed for the night and a glimpse inside the building that changed Byzantine art forever. Read all about it on page 33.

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Skopje remains a virtually unknown city with a charming name and a host of good things to see and do. Still almost untouched by both travellers and travel writers, Macedonia's quirky little capital has, as you can see, just received the In Your Pocket treatment. We bring you the very best and the very worst of what to expect whilst exploring the city, from hotels to bars to sights to shopping. We hope you enjoy all of it. All comments and suggestions gratefully received at skopje@inyourpocket.com.

About this guide

This first issue of Skopje In Your Pocket is the first dedicated English-language guidebook to Macedonia's capital city. In Your Pocket guides are written for foreign travellers and residents, and are not meant to increase tourism – merely to provide honest, critical information that makes getting around the city easier for newcomers. As a private and commercial initiative, Skopje In Your Pocket has been written and researched by a team of local and foreign travel guide experts. The opinions in the guide are those of the writers, and are not in any way meant to glorify or denigrate the city, merely to point out the merits and shortcomings that we think foreign travellers should know about. Every guidebook has its faults, so we appreciate any information that would lead to improving the next issue. Emails can be sent to skopje@inyourpocket.com.

Cover story



The Communist-era monument near the river in front of the parliament building is dedicated to the partisans who liberated Skopje on 13 November 1944 at great cost. Unlike many other Eastern European cities, Skopje has not discarded its old statues, leaving a wealth of Socialist-Realist art for visitors to see.

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Skopje In Your Pocket

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Communist-era statue, © Sco

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Editor's note

The editorial content of In Your Pocket guides is independent from paid-for advertising. Sponsored listings are clearly marked as such. We welcome all readers' comments and suggestions. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information at the time of going to press and assume no responsibility for changes and errors.

Europe In Your Pocket



There are now more *In Your Pockets* than ever before. We continue to expand, with new guides now available in **Łódź** (Poland), **Pristina** (Kosovo), **Shkodra** (Albania) and **Skopje** (Macedonia). All this in addition to the **eight** new guides now available in **Germany**. In all, *In Your Pocket* now publishes city guides in 40 cities in 18 countries. And more are on the way; watch out for *In Your Pocket* guides in **Serbia** and on the **Isle of Man** later this year. If you want to be a part of the Pocket group, publishing your own guide, contact us at publisher@inyourpocket.com for more details.

Arriving by plane

Some 22 kilometres east of the city, Skopje Airport is small and easy to use. After disembarking and entering the main terminal building follow the right-hand queue to the misleading sign that says Foreign Residents. That's you. In the arrivals hall there's an exchange office (with worse rates than that in the arrivals hall) but not much else – you'll immediately be ushered outside where there's a clutch of car rental kiosks and a pack of grinning, gold-toothed taxi drivers. Fight a way through and walk 20 metres to the right to find the departures hall, which has two ATMs accepting all cards, a post office selling phone cards that also is an exchange office with good rates (open 06:00 - 22:30), and a kiosk selling plenty of booze but no useful things like mobile phone SIM cards – you'll have to go into town for those. **Getting to town** – There are no public buses running into Skopje from the airport, so unless you're being picked up (a few hotels include this service), have a bicycle, or can bribe your way onto one of the staff buses, you'll need to rent a car or use a taxi. If you're collecting a rental car from the airport you'll need 35den cash before you leave to pay for the highway toll; this isn't necessary if you take a taxi. You won't be ripped off just so long as you agree the price before you leave. The going rate for a ride into the centre of Skopje is currently €15-20, which can be paid either in euros or denars.

Arriving by train

Skopje's train station is a disgrace, and does the worst possible public relations job for the city imaginable. For the full horror story of what to expect inside, see *Trains*. We suggest you head straight to the friendly adjacent bus station for ATMs and luggage storage. For information on getting to the centre, see *Arriving by bus*.



Arriving by bus

Boasting a reasonably central location just east of the centre on the southern side of the river, Skopje's modern bus station is easy to use. For more information about the multitude of facilities at the bus station, see the *Long-distance buses* text. Get to town with private bus N°23, which runs along Bul. Kuzman Josifovski Pitu. Jump on, pay the driver 20den and away you go. Taxis can be found outside the main entrance; a ride into the centre will cost 50den, slightly more if you're travelling further. You can walk to the centre in 15-20 minutes.

Arriving by car

Driving in Skopje can be a little confusing for first-timers. Although major signs are written in both Cyrillic and Latin script, there are few visual hints to what might be the city centre and the system of one-way streets can be confusing. Getting a detailed map of where you need to go before you arrive is a good idea. Make sure you have some cash dinars when you enter Macedonia from abroad or rent a car from the airport, or you'll get turned away from the highway toll booths that don't accept foreign cash or plastic.

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An alphabetical listing of seemingly random useful facts for the traveller.

Coffee

Walk along almost any street in the Balkans and you'll find cafés and bars full of people drinking coffee. Whereas the majority of the population in the rest of Eastern Europe consider consuming alcohol the height of sophistication, in this part of the world coffee is number one. If you want to invite a Macedonian to your place, or to meet them anywhere for that matter, the correct form is to invite them for coffee. Whether or not coffee is drunk is irrelevant, it's just the way things are done. The coffee in question is usually excellent. To date, Macedonia has been spared the indignity of an influx of Starbucks wannabes, with most coffee bars being either simple cafés where strong black Turkish coffee is served (be sure to warn them when you order if you'd rather not have sugar in your Turkish coffee), or pleasant bars complete with a good coffee machine. The so-called nescafé is a hugely popular drink. Not to everyone's taste, a nescafé is essentially a large mug or glass of instant coffee disguised as a cappuccino and topped with any number of glamorous garnishes from chocolate to fruit syrup.

Crime & Safety

Skopje is a safer place than many West European capitals, and violent crime is rare. Do keep your wits about as you would anywhere against pickpockets and bag-snatchers, and be careful who you hand your credit card to.

Electricity

Electricity in Macedonia is reliable, 200 volt and come out of standard European round pin sockets.

FYROM

While this country moves ahead, its name is unfortunately still stuck in a Yugoslav time-war. The ungainly abbreviation FYROM stands for the 'Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia', which has been the provisional official name for the country since 1993. After the disintegration of Yugoslavia, Greece strongly protested against the use of what it considers Greek names and symbols by the fledgling state, even imposing an economic blockade on the republic until it changed its evil ways. Greece points out that much of the ancient region of Macedonia lies within Greek borders and taking that name implicitly stakes a claim on Greek-owned territory. It also protested against the use of the Vergina Sun symbol on the original flag design, and certain passages of the new constitution, both of which were addressed by Macedonia to lift the embargo. The naming issue remains a problem with Macedonia insisting on using the word and Greece requiring the opposite, but in practice many countries have already officially recognised the country as the 'Republic of Macedonia', though the UN sticks to FYROM. Although the topic is always good for heated discussion and much waving about of hands, in practice the locals on both sides of the border are pragmatic, and Greece is one of Macedonia's most important trading partners and investors. Interestingly, the national symbol remains the Yugoslav-era one (a rising sun with a red star), as the Macedonian national symbol is a yellow lion on a red background. The Albanians of Macedonia however have a black eagle on a red background, and as there's no compromise on a communal symbol, the red star remains.

Language

Macedonian is a Slavic language close to Bulgarian, and written using the Cyrillic alphabet, which was developed by St. Clement of Ohrid. Albanian, Turkish and Serbian are also used locally. English, German and French are spoken as well. Although Latin script is increasingly seen, it's a very good idea to memorise the Cyrillic alphabet, as words are phonetically written and easy to figure out, and most letters occur in Russian, Serb, Bulgarian and other versions of Cyrillic.

Letter	sound	И и	и	С с	s
А а	a	Ј ј	y	Т т	t
Б б	b	К к	k	Ќ ќ	kj
В в	v	Л л	l	У у	u
Г г	g	Љ љ	lj	Ф ф	f
Д д	d	М м	m	Х х	x
Ѓ ѓ	gj	Н н	n	Ц ц	ts
Е е	je	Њ њ	nj	Ч ч	ch
Ж ж	zh	О о	o	Џ џ	dz
З з	ze	П п	p	Ш ш	sh
С с	dz	Р р	r		

Money

After ditching the Yugoslav dinar in 1992, Macedonia has used the denar (coded MKD, abbreviated as 'den' and subdivided in 100 deni) as its official currency. The currency is stable and, at time of writing, a euro is 61.41den, a pound is 91.24den and a dollar is 48.46den. Macedonia's great clunky coins have animal pictures: 50 deni has seagulls, 1 denar a Shar Planina shepherd dog, 2 denars an Ohrid trout and 5 denars a lynx. The colourful banknotes may seem a little garish at first, but look again for a pocket history lesson: 10 denars: the statue of the Egyptian Goddess Isis, and the Stobi Basilica mosaic of a peacock; 50 denars: a copper coin from 498AD, a stucco arch in St. Pantelejmon church and an 1191 fresco from St. Ghiorghi church; 100 denars: a wooden ceiling rosette of an Albanian house in Debar, and a 16th century Dutch engraving of Skopje; 500 denars: a 6th century BC golden death mask and a poppy; 1000 denars: the 14th century icon of the Madonna in St. Vrach-Mali church, and the exterior of St. Sofia in Ohrid; 5000 denars: the Tetovo Maenad bronze figurine, and the Heraklea basilique mosaic. Macedonia is mostly a cash society, and although debit and credit cards are on their way, at the moment only some hotels and restaurants accept them. There are plenty of banks and exchange offices for exchanging cash, but ATMs are widespread and generally the best way to get denars as the interbank rate is better than those for cash transactions. Macedonian banks do not charge for ATM transactions, but check if your home bank does.

Pet sounds

If ever a silence falls during dinnertime, or if there are bored kids around, bringing up animal sounds is always a good bet for some giggles. In Macedonia, a pig goes 'gro gro', a cat 'mjau', a dog 'av av', a horse 'iii', a duck 'kva kva', a cock 'kukuriku', a hen 'kokoda', a sheep 'beeh' a cow 'mu', a goat 'mee', a donkey 'i-a' and bees go 'bzzz'.

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www.goldenbook.com.mk - The local zlata kniga online, in English, Macedonian and Albanian. Find addresses, phone numbers and websites.
www.exploringmacedonia.com - The official Macedonian tourism website.

Smoking

Everyone in the Balkans was born smoking, and also here in Macedonia the habit is easy and cheap to sustain. There is hope - all restaurants and cafés now have non-smoking sections, and non-smoking rooms in hotels are beginning to appear.

Driving to Kosovo

It's just a short hop to Pristina in Kosovo, with two border crossings. On the main E65 road, the large General Jankovic border post can usually be passed in a matter of minutes. Note that in winter or rainy weather the gorge road beyond the border is subject to landslides that can block all traffic for months - though intrepid drivers can use a muddy road bypassing the problem area. During much of the winter of 2005/2006 the road was impassable; interestingly, in countries like India much worse landslides are cleared in a few hours. The border post remains open no matter the situation (allowing access to a Kosovar town south of the gorge) but do not count on the border guards to tell you about the road blockage - it's not their job and they don't care. Best check the situation before you set off with the Macedonian road alliance AMSM, tel. 15555. They can also tell you about waiting times at the borders.

There's an alternative crossing at Globocica/Jazince, which is along the winding mountain pass road from Tetovo to Prizren and Prishtina - snow chains are advisable here during snowfall. Take the highway to Tetovo, enter the city, and follow signs to Dobroste (or just follow any Kosovar license plate). Once in Kosovo, follow signs to Pishina though be sure to turn left (north) when you reach the main E65 Skopje-Pristina road; the signs there are confusing.

Basic data

Population: 2,034,000 (2005)
Skopje population: 507,000
Territory: 25,300km²

Macedonia's longest river is the Vardar, 301 kilometers long, and it's highest peak is Golem Korab, at 2,753 meters above sea level, one of 16 mountains over 2000 metres high. There are 53 lakes, the largest being Lake Ohrid. Macedonia is bordered by Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Serbia (partly Kosovo). The local time is GMT+1 (GMT+2 from last Sunday in March to Saturday before last Sunday in October).

Street names

Skopje's streets still reflect a hint of idealism with names such as Leninova and Partizanski Odredi (Partizan Battalions) remaining, though Marshall Tito street has been renamed to Makedonija. The word *ulica* for street usually is left away. Confusingly for foreigners, streets have both names and three-digit numbers, though sometimes small streets (like in the old bazaar area) only have a number to go by. Some addresses do not have a street number but are marked bb (*bez broj*, without number) - they are usually easily recognisable buildings.

Toilets

Thanks to the Cyrillic alphabet, women's toilets are often marked with the Ж (for zena), men with the М (for maz).

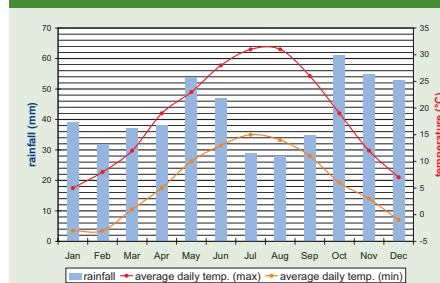
Visas & Borders

Citizens from most European countries, New Zealand and the USA and a handful of others do not need a visa for stays up to generally 90 days. All others, including Canadians and Australians, need to apply for a visa in advance at one of Macedonia's embassies abroad. Check the current situation at www.mfa.gov.mk. Travellers to Macedonia can take a maximum of €2000 worth of cash into the country. Those insane enough to import alcohol or cigarettes into this drinkers' and smokers' paradise can take in 200 cigarettes and one litre of spirits or two litres of wine. For more information, see www.customs.gov.mk. When driving into Macedonia, change some cash at the border or at the first town to be able to pay the highway toll fees.

Water

Macedonian tapwater is drinkable, due to clean sources, in some areas it's equivalent to mineral water. If you don't trust it, get bottled water, which is widely available at shops and kiosks.

Climate



The ancient Macedonians were a culturally, ethnically and linguistically distinct people whose modern history began in the 9th century BC with Caranus (808-778BC), the creator of the ancient Macedonian kingdom and the first known Macedonian king.

The first great empire

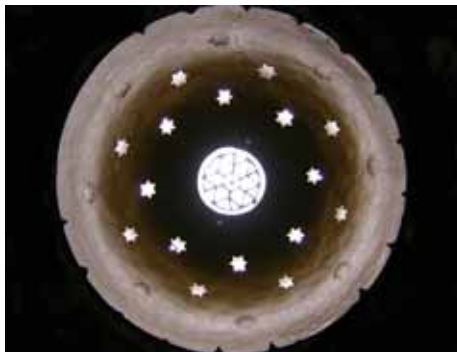
Philip II (359-336BC) unifies Macedonia, turning it into the most powerful state in Europe. On August 2, 338BC the Macedonians defeat the Greeks at the Battle of Chaeronea, marking the beginning of the so-called Macedonian Era. Philip's son, Alexander the Great (356-323BC), conquers the Persian Empire, and Macedonia subsequently becomes the world's largest empire stretching as far as Egypt in the south and India in the east. Alexander's death in 323BC brings about civil war, and by 300BC the Macedonian empire is divided between Alexander's generals, Antigonos I in Macedonia and Greece, Ptolemy I in Egypt and Seleucus I in Asia. Stability is secured under the rule of Antigonos II Gonatas (276-239), and Macedonia's occupation of Greece is strengthened. Philip V (222-179BC) clashes with an eastward-expanding Rome, sparking the first two Macedonian Wars, which end in the defeat of Philip V's armies and the loss of Greece. Macedonia is reduced to its original borders. Rome defeats the Macedonian army under Macedonia's last king, Philip's son Perseus (179-168BC) in the third Macedonian War. By 146BC Macedonia is a Roman province. The Roman defeat of Cleopatra VII in 30BC brings an end to the last of the Macedonian descendants (the Ptolemy dynasty) in Egypt. The last remains of the mighty Macedonian Empire disappear from the face of the earth.

1st Century

Christianity is preached for the first time in Europe by Paul (Pavel) and his epistles in the Macedonian towns Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea. A young Macedonian girl called Lydia becomes the first European to convert to Christianity in 51AD.

4th Century

395 The Roman Empire is divided into Western and Eastern regions. Macedonia falls to the Eastern (Byzantine) half. The first Byzantine Emperors are Roman, but in time Macedonians, Syrian, Armenian, Phrygian (Amorian), and other ethnic backgrounds become rulers.



6th Century

518 A huge earthquake destroys 24 ancient Macedonian cities including Skopje.

535 The Slavs overrun Macedonia, Greece, Illyria, and Thrace and mix into the Macedonians, Greeks, Illyrians, and Thracians. In the same year the Byzantine Emperor Justinian in honour of his birth place rebuilds Scupi on the site of present day Skopje and names it Justinijana Prima, giving great honours to the city.

9th Century

855-886 Two Macedonians, brothers Cyril and Methodius from Salonica (Greek, Thessaloniki), the 'great and the first city of the Macedonians' as described by Byzantine historians, create the first Slavonic alphabet, which is perfected by one of Cyril's students, St. Clement, who named it after his teacher, thus giving the world the Cyrillic alphabet.

13th Century

1282 The Serbian king Milutin conquers Skopje. King Dushan moves the capital of the Serbian Kingdom to the city.

14th-15th Century

1366-1395 King Vukashin and his son King Marko rule a powerful state with its capital in Prilep, and try to stop the Turks from invading the Balkans. In 1392 Skopje and the rest of Macedonia is conquered by the Ottomans. King Marko rules as an Ottoman vassal. Being an important religious and military centre, Skopje is burned to the ground by the Ottomans. Realising the strategic importance of Skopje the Turks station a huge army in the city, which attracts many merchants. Skopje becomes a large and important military, trading and cultural centre. Between 1382 and 1453 Skopje is the European base of the Ottoman Sultans.

17th Century

The Turkish travel writer Evlija Celebija (1611-1682) visits Skopje twice and records a city containing 70 hamams, 120 mosques, 110 fountains and a bazaar almost as big as the one in Istanbul with 2,150 stores and a bedesten. Of the bedesten he notes that the only one he's ever seen that is bigger was in Damascus. In 1689 Austria conquers Skopje. The General, Piccolomini, writes that on his conquests throughout European Turkey he's never seen a city as beautiful as Skopje. However, realising its strategic importance for the Turks he burns it to the ground. Bitola gradually becomes the new centre of Macedonian politics and culture. In the same year the so-called Karposh rebellion against the Ottoman Empire begins. Karposh is eventually caught and put to death on the Stone Bridge in Skopje.

19th Century

1893 The founding of VMRO (Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation) in Thessaloniki. Its aim to create an autonomous Macedonian state within the Ottoman Empire.

20th Century

In 1903 in Thessaloniki a group of students from Veles and Kratovo known as The Gemidzii carry out a series of bomb attacks on Turkish and Western European companies to draw the attention of Europe to the Macedonian problem. These attacks, considered to be the first ever instance of suicide bombers, were carefully planned so as to harm no bystanders and to only damage the buildings and ships they attacked. In the same year Krste Petkov Misirkov publishes the book, On Macedonian Matters, which discusses the need for the standardisation of the Macedonian language. On

August 2 the Ilinden Uprising begins in Krushevo. A large territory known as the Krushevo Republic is created (the first ever republic in the Balkans), but the republic lasts just for 10 days. The First and Second Balkan Wars in 1912 and 1913 finally liberate Macedonia from Turkish rule. Macedonia is carved up between Greece, Serbia and Bulgaria.

World War Two

1941 Macedonia is occupied by Bulgarian and Italian forces.

October 11, 1941 In Prilep resistance against the occupying forces begins.

2 August 1944 In the monastery of Prohor Pciniski the first session of the Antifascist Assembly for the Liberation of Macedonia takes place, in which an independent Macedonia as a part of the Federation of Yugoslavia is proclaimed.

Post-war Macedonia

1948-49 After the Greek Civil war large numbers of Greek Macedonians are forced out of their homes and/or thrown out of the country. Some 40,000 children are lost and separated from their parents and subsequently accommodated in orphanages in Yugoslavia and different countries of eastern Europe.

July 26, 1963 An earthquake shakes Skopje, destroying much of the city and killing 1100 people. The international community rushes to aid rebuilding the city.

1967 Renewal of the Ohrid archbishopcy.

Independence & Beyond

September 8, 1991 Over 95% of Macedonians vote in a referendum for declaring an independent state.

1993 Macedonia becomes a member of the UN. Under pressure from Greece, the country becomes officially known as the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

October 13, 1995 Greece lifts its trade embargo. In return, Macedonia changes its flag and constitution.

October 3, 1996 An unsuccessful (and unsolved) assassination attempt is made on president Kiro Gligorov.

1999 During the war in Kosovo, between 360,000 and 500,000 Kosovar Albanian refugees seek refuge in Macedonia.

March - June 2001 In what's believed to be a spillover from the recent conflict in Kosovo, Macedonia's Albanian minority, particularly those living along the border with Kosovo, begin fighting (sometimes literally) for their rights. The results, known as the Ohrid Agreement, have given substantial new rights to the Albanian community.

February 26, 2004 President Boris Trajkovski dies in a plane crash.

March 22, 2004 Macedonia submits an application for EU membership. Candidate country status is granted in December 2005.

The 1963 earthquake

In its long history, Skopje has been struck several times by devastating earthquakes, most recently on 26 July 1963. At 05:17 on that day, a 20-second tremor measuring 6.9 on the Richter scale shook the city, killing some 1100 people and making some 120,000 people homeless. About 80% of the city's buildings were destroyed or made uninhabitable. The quake is still very recent in memory and everyone in Skopje will have a story about it.

The pompous 1930s National Bank and the Army House from 1929 at the southern end of the stone bridge were destroyed, as was the large National Theatre from 1927 on the northern bank below the fortress. The large administrative buildings of the fortress and many of the old walls and towers collapsed. In the old bazaar area, many monuments including mosques, hans and hamams suffered damage. In the centre, the remaining half of the train station building was preserved as a memorial to those who died, with the clock stuck at the time of the quake.



The city centre was hit badly, though it would go too far saying the earthquake dramatically changed the way the city looked – until that time, Skopje's centre still was mostly filled with small and unremarkable houses, and local authorities were already cleared old neighbourhoods away to make place for 1950s high-rise buildings – the ugly blocks lining Bitpazarska for instance all date back from well before the earthquake. The rebuilding of the city after the disaster continued along the same lines – modern, large apartment blocks along wide new roads.

After the earthquake, a massive international relief effort helped the rebuilding of Skopje and many countries from both east and west gave generous donations; the Romanians built a hospital, the Poles built the contemporary art museum (which was filled with works donated by the artists), etcetera.

The Japanese architect Kenzo Tange won the UN competition for replanning Skopje, with a masterplan that envisioned a 'city wall' of highrise blocks surrounding the centre, mirroring the fortress walls. His original designs were completely out of this world (see pictures at www.ktaweb.com/works/en_skopje.html) and were never executed, but they did build a depressing grey wall ring around the southern part of the centre which has actually changed the microclimate, stopping cold wind descending from the mountains. Look for the ring when viewing the city from the fortress or Mount Vodno.

Cinemas

All foreign movies are shown in the original language with subtitles. Tickets usually cost 120-150den. For more information about Macedonian films, see www.maccinema.com.

Five Star Cinema B-2, Mito Hadzivasilev Jasmin, Ramstore Mall, tel. 329 01 53. The cinema on the top floor of the mall has Hollywood flicks at 120-150den per ticket; last screening at 24:00.

Frosina Kej 13 Noemvri bb, tel. 311 58 05. The cinema inside the MKC cultural centre predominantly shows art movies.

Kultura & Paradiso B-2, Luj Paster 3, tel. 316 65 78. A small, dingy and fun cinema in a building from 1923 along Makedonija (originally one of three hotels in a row) that survived the earthquake. Screenings between 15:00 and 22:00. Tickets 90-120den.

Millennium Kino C-2, Kej 13 Noemvri, City Shopping Center, tel. 312 03 89. In a desolate corner at the top of the complex. Several screenings of Hollywood favourites daily between 15:00 and 22:30. Tickets 150den.

Concerts

The Kale sports hall, MKC and the Skopje fair are also occasionally used for events such as rock concerts.

Macedonian Philharmonic Orchestra B-2, Makedonija bb, tel. 311 84 50, www.macedonianphilharmonic.org.mk. The MPO performs at the Army Hall every Thursday at 20:00. The box office (open 08:00-15:00, closed Sat, Sun) can be found in the side entrance. Tickets 200den.

Universalna Sala A-1, Partizanski Odredi bb, tel. 323 66 64. A popular venue for pop and folk concerts, children festivals and Christmas shows. The main venue for the Skopje Jazz Festival.

Cultural centres

American Corner B-2, Bul. Partizanski Odredi 22, tel. 322 49 70, acmsk1@mt.net.mk. Library and cultural information. ▶ Open 10:00 - 20:00, Sat 11:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun.

British Council C-1, Goce Delcev 6, tel. 313 50 35, info@britishcouncil.org.mk, www.britishcouncil.org/macedonia. Library, newspapers, courses and cultural programmes. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00, Sat 10:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun.

French Centre Gradski Zid, block 5 PP388, tel. 311 85 03, ccfskopje@ccfskopje.edu.mk, www.ccfskopje.edu.mk. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Sat 10:00 - 13:00. Closed Sun.

Italian Library B-2, Partizanski Odredi 22, tel. 312 63 81. Inside the Braka Miladinovci City Library. ▶ Open 08:00-12:00, 16:00-18:00, Sat 08:00-12:00, Sun closed.

Japanese Library Ilinden 9, tel. 311 80 63. ▶ Open 09:00 - 15:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Mala Stanica B-2/3, Zeleznicka 18, tel. 311 51 03, artgall@mol.com.mk, www.mng.com.mk. An art gallery housed in a former railway warehouse (hence the name 'small station'), with changing exhibitions, a good book shop and DVD rental (with art and cult films), and the excellent Mala Stanica café. ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00. Closed Mon.

€1 = 61,5den, \$1 = 49,1den
(18-10-2006)

MKC (Youth Cultural Centre) B-2, Kej Dimitar Vlahov bb, tel. 311 55 08, www.mkc.com.mk/en/index.html. Organises concerts, music and dancing lessons, exhibitions and the MOT Young Open Theatre festival. Home of the Frosina cinema. It was built in 1972 with earthquake aid from Algeria and the Soviet Union.

Tocka Ilindenska 38, tel. 322 14 39, www.kontrapunkt-mk.org/eng/index.htm. A cultural centre which organises exhibitions, poetry readings, concerts and debates for young artists. There's a bookshop and publishing house too.

Theatre

The origins of Macedonian theatre date back to the Dionysian *Bacchanalia* of Ancient Macedonia, when Dionysus would walk among the people disguised as a goat or bull and liberate them from their earthly woes. Modern Macedonian theatre is no less strange and beguiling.

Children & Youth Theatre B-2, Dimitrie Cupovski 4, tel. 313 61 85, contact@puppet.com.mk, www.puppet.com.mk. Founded in 1990 this superb theatre provides a stage for children's, youth and puppet theatre. ▶ Box office open 10:00-12:00, on show days also from 17:00. Tickets 100den.

Drama Theatre Shekspirova 15, tel. 306 34 53. Plays are hosted in this building that was renovated after the 1963 earthquake with British donations. ▶ Box office open 10:00-14:00, 17:00-20:00, closed Sun, Mon. Tickets 200-250den.

Macedonian National Theatre (MNT) C-2, Kej Dimitar Vlahov bb, tel. 311 54 29, www.mnt.com.mk. This massive, white, windowless riverside building from 1977 is a wonderful showcase for the very best in Macedonian opera and ballet. MNT Theatre productions are usually staged in the separate theatre building on Bul. Kliment Ohridski bb, tel. 316 46 67. ▶ Box office open 13:30-20:30.

Nationalities Theatre C-1, Nikola Martinovski 47, tel. 312 42 07. Another white concrete building plunked in the old bazaar - this one with shows by the Albanian and Turkish theatre companies. Every Sunday the Turkish theatre puts on a free children's show. ▶ Box office open 11:00-13:00, 18:00-19:30. Tickets 100-200den.

Events

November

9-16 Cinedays, European Days of Film, Frosina cinema
13 Zlatno slavejce (Golden Nightingale) children's song festival
Autumn Musical Celebrations

December

2 Taksirat rock festival, with Iggy Pop
Zimski Salon, contemporary Macedonian art exhibition

March

Days of Macedonian Music
Skomrahi international theatre festival
Skopje Film Festival

April

International Book Fair, Skopje Fair

May

Opera evenings festival
International Children's Folklore Festival

Skopje's hotel scene is surprisingly sophisticated, with a wide range of hotels at reasonable prices, and with generally high levels of service. Most hotels quote their prices in euros, though the bill needs to be settled in denars. The categories are determined by the price of the cheapest standard double room. Breakfast is included in the price unless mentioned otherwise.

Cream of the crop

Skopje's top hotels, charging over €140 per night for a double room.

Aleksandar Palace Bul. 8-mi Septemvri bb, tel. 309 23 92, fax 309 21 52, info@aleksandarpalace.com.mk, www.aleksandarpalace.com.mk. A massive five-star cube of concrete plunked a ten-minute drive west of the centre. By far Skopje's most expensive place to sleep, the Palace is the top business hotel in town, and the vast marble floors are well-suited to host conferences and banquets, but it does rather lack in character. Rooms are kept simple and pleasant in that bland international style we've somehow come to expect everywhere. Still, you'll meet all the right people over breakfast here. ▶ 135 rooms (singles €124, doubles €187, suites €198 - 454). ★★★★★

Arka C-1, Bitpazarska 90/2, tel. 323 06 03, fax 323 87 83, info@hotel-arka.com.mk, www.hotel-arka.com.mk. An incongruous steel-and-glass high-rise building right next to the old bazaar houses good deluxe rooms and suites and small doubles. The furnishings and facilities are top-notch as you'd expect from a five-star. Highlight of the hotel is the combined breakfast and swimming pool area on the top floor - the small pool looks directly out over the rooftops. ▶ 26 rooms (singles €88 - 138, doubles €118 - 158, suites €178). ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞

Symbol key

☞ Air conditioning	☞ Credit cards accepted
☞ Conference facilities	☞ Facilities for the disabled
☞ Dataport	☞ Guarded parking
☞ Fitness centre	☞ Non-smoking rooms
☞ Restaurant	☞ Swimming pool
★ Stars	☞ Wi-Fi

Best Western Turist B-2, Guro Strugar 11, tel. 328 91 11, fax 328 91 00, bestwestern@hotelturist.com.mk, www.bestwestern-ce.com/turist. Expect to see more of this in the region soon - an international hotel chain like Best Western snaps up a crumbling commie-era hotel and updates it into a pleasant, modern business hotel. The Turist has quite spacious rooms decked out in fresh green and orange with standard tea/coffee makers in the rooms. Some rooms have balconies and the suites have bathtubs too. The location is as good as it gets in Skopje - right on Makedonija, the main pedestrian street, with ample parking space at the back. ▶ (singles €84 - 126, doubles €116 - 158, suites €106 - 158). ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞

Continental D-2, Aleksandar Makedonski bb, tel. 313 33 33, fax 322 22 21, info@continimak.com, www.continimak.com. Although some spoilsport sneaked in and renovated all the rooms, the Continental remains in its heart the type of behemoth facsimile of an imagined Western hotel that sprang up throughout the communist world in the early 1980s. Featuring enough staff to maintain an aircraft





Budget

For the skint businessman or traveller on a budget, rooms priced from €40-60 per night.

903-ta B-2, Nikola Trimpare 9, tel. 321 13 45/075 42 22 54, hotel903ta@yahoo.com. A new small hotel named after the number of the street it's on, and housing five nicely furnished rooms with cable TV and en-suite bathrooms, and a larger apartment. The '903th' is a short walk from the centre and has a pleasant café in the basement where breakfast is available on request. ▶ 6 rooms (singles €35, doubles €50, suites €50). [P] [B] [B]

Bimbo A-2, 29-ti Noemvri 63, tel. 321 45 17, fax 321 76 63. Just down the street near the Catholic Cathedral, this strangely named hotel (we were assured it's a local nickname and nothing raunchy) has decent budget rooms. Not bad, not memorable, just Bimbo. ▶ 11 rooms (singles €35, doubles €50, triples €60). [P] [B]

Bristol B-2, Makedonija 1, tel. 311 48 83, fax 316 65 56. A Skopje classic, the Bristol is only hotel that survived the great earthquake - though unfortunately it did not survive the passing of time since, with sagging beds and musty rooms. The reception staff were the first to admit that it's not a hotel that most foreigners like to spend time in. Still, the location is great and it's unbeatable for whiff of true 1970s Yugoslav varnished-dark-wood-and-orange-lamps hotel charm. ▶ (singles €39, doubles €60, triples €85). [B] [B] [P] [B]

Denis C-1, ul. Evlija Chelebija 7, tel. 311 67 92. A total of just three rooms in the heart of Old Bazaar, run by (and full of) suspicious-looking characters. What viewing opportunities that were allowed during research offered a glimpse inside one room that would frighten the most resilient of backpackers, and the communal bathroom, with its collection of interesting smells and thoroughly unwelcoming appearance, was even worse. But hey, you get what you pay for in this life. Welcome to the monkey house.

Hotel 7 A-3, Vodnjanska 28, tel. 317 69 05, fax 317 69 08, contact@hotel7.com.mk, www.hotel7.com.mk. Named after the sadly limited number of rooms found under its roof Hotel 7 has bright, modern rooms, huge double beds, cute wooden floors, showers only in the bathrooms and food left in the corridor for guests due to the absence of a restaurant. Although edging towards a clinical approach to bed and board, the place has a spacious and almost luxurious feel to it, which can be just what the doctor ordered after a busy day scrabbling around the crumbling nooks and crannies of the metropolis. One drawback is the location, being right on the edge of a busy road, but all in all it's a cheery place, and is well worth further investigation. ▶ (singles €30, doubles €45, triples €60, suites €70). [B] [P] [B]

Kanet B-1, Jordan Hadzikonstantinov Dzinot 20, tel./fax 323 83 53, contact@hotelkanet.com.mk, www.hotelkanet.com.mk. Looking a little like a wooden Swiss bungalow, Kanet has comfy and clean small rooms with shuttered windows and en-suite facilities. Breakfast is served on the porch directly overlooking the city park. Note that light sleepers in parkview rooms may grow to hate the geese and the drunk youths in summer. Ten minutes walk from the centre. ▶ (singles €45, doubles €60). [B] [P] [B]

Kapistec Mile Pop Jordanov 3, tel./fax 308 14 24, kapystec@mol.com.mk, www.hotel-kapistec.com.mk. Glam, kitschy rooms at friendly prices in one of three similar small, pension-style hotels (this one named after the residential area they're all in) on a quiet road a few minutes by taxi or bus 57 west of the centre. ▶ 11 rooms (singles €30 - 50, doubles €40 - 60, triples €70, suites €70). [P] [B] [B]

Square B-2, Nikola Vapcarov 2, tel. 322 50 90, fax 322 50 77, hotelsquare@mt.net.mk, www.hotelsquare.com.mk. Although the entrance and corridor may look dodgy, but once you arrive on the top floor the reception is jovial. The eight rooms of this building are newly renovated and very neat. Although most only have bland views of neighbouring buildings, Square does have an open terrace at the front overlooking the main square, with a bar for guests in summer. Breakfast costs €5 extra and is served in a café downstairs. To find Square, take the elevator to the fifth floor and walk up one more flight of stairs. ▶ 8 rooms (singles €40 - 45, doubles €50, triples €65) Breakfast €5.

Tasino Češmiče B-3, ul. Belgradska 28, tel. 317 73 33, fax 317 67 36, tasino@tasino.com.mk, www.tasino.com.mk. One of the city's quirkier hotels this sprawling throwback to a bygone age struggles to present an air of sophistication whilst really being little more than a blue collar business hotel for Macedonia's plethora of travelling salesmen. Not that it's not fun of course. The rooms, which are all very much alike, are small, brown and unrenovated, coming with cable television, showers in the most basic rooms, cheap nylon carpets, refrigerators and ghastly views. The rather eccentric suites continue with the brown theme and feature baths, meeting rooms and single beds stuck unceremoniously in the connecting corridors. Larger meeting rooms are available, plus there's a rather funky 1960s-style restaurant and ballroom to keep one amused for hours. ▶ (singles €43, doubles €53, triples €74, quads €82, suites €50 - 63). [B] [B] [P] [B] [B]

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(18-10-2006)

Turena Slavejko Arsov 2/24b, tel. 317 81 72. Lots of cool white marble and outstanding views of Skopje await those bold enough to want to sleep well away from the action. Rooms come in a wide variety of choices for all tastes and budgets, from some excellent albeit basic doubles complete with cable television and a spare bed option for three people wanting to save a few denars to a couple of apartments that are simply larger versions of the doubles with a refrigerator, living room and kitchen thrown in for good measure. The dark basement comes crammed with simple rooms with shared bathrooms that can be rented by the hour for Skopje's more saucy traveller. ▶ (singles €30, doubles €50 - 60, suites €130 - 150). [B] [P] [B]

Vuk Mile Pop Jordanov 1, tel. 308 14 26, tpvuk@mt.net.mk. One of three similar small, pension-style hotels on a quiet road a few minutes by taxi or bus 57 west of the centre, Vuk is the one with the friendly motorbike-loving owner with his massive Honda parked outside. Rooms are simple and a tad dingy. ▶ (singles €30, doubles €40, triples €50). [B] [B] [P] [B]

Dirt cheap

Skopje's cheapest (and in some cases dirtiest) hotels have double rooms for under €20 per night. As with life, you get what you pay for, so don't expect very clean facilities or thick walls. Some are housed in quaint old buildings in the bazaar area, good options for backpackers with earplugs.

Ani B-2, Borka Taleski 5, tel. 322 21 93, fax 322 21 94, hotel_ani@yahoo.com. Comfortable lodgings in a small hotel on a quiet street opposite the Greek liaison office (an embassy, really), which is very well-placed for the city centre, nightlife options and campaigning for the end to all the silly arguments about Macedonia's name. Cosy small singles and decent-sized double rooms line the pink halls. There's a pleasant café-restaurant with terrace on the ground floor. ▶ (singles €30, doubles €35 - 40, triples €50, suites €50). [P] [B]

Laki B-2, Leninova 79, tel. 311 68 36/070 22 89 69. Tiny, dingy rooms in a central setting near the Netherlands embassy - but it's cheap as chips, and there's a free pick-up/drop-off service to the train and bus stations too. Rooms have TVs and en-suite bathrooms. ▶ (singles €13, doubles €25 - 55). [P] [B]



Nikem Mile Pop Jordanov 3a, tel./fax 308 11 99. Tiny small rooms with thin walls in one of three similar small, pension-style hotels on a quiet road a few minutes by taxi or bus 57 west of the centre. ▶ 8 rooms (singles €20 - 40, doubles €25 - 50). [P] [B] [B]

RM C-1, Jorgandziska 12-14, tel. 313 12 88, fax 313 12 39. Once, the bazaar was the main place for travellers to look for a safe place to sleep and now it hosts Skopje's cheapest sleep. Dingy and small, the hotel has scruffy rooms that are clean enough for the price, the cheaper ones with clean shared bathrooms. The gruff owner knows a handful of English words. ▶ 7 rooms (singles €15 - 20, doubles €30 - 40).

Sar C-1, Gradiste 9, tel. 313 01 58. The cheapest place to sleep in town (street 108 in the heart of the bazaar area) - simple, grotty and cheap cheap cheap. ▶ 8 rooms (singles €10, doubles €16, triples €25).

ZN-AN D-2, Belasica bb, tel. 071 57 29 63. Eight malodorous rooms with jumble sale furniture, tatty bed linen and frightening bathrooms. ZN-AN is a hotel that mostly deals with people renting rooms at 500den per hour - and probably not to sleep. But let's be honest, it's pretty cheap. The gentleman who runs the establishment will happily shuffle around in his slippers showing you every inch of the place, rubbing his hands vigorously, so at least somebody likes it here. Find it tucked away behind the VIP hotel in the backyard of a car repair workshop. Nip up the green steps and bang on the door to be let in. ▶ (singles €10, doubles €20).

Hostels

Ferijalen Dom (Youth Hostel) C-2, Prolet 25, tel. 311 48 49, fax 316 50 29. Twenty-six rooms including fairly decent doubles and a couple of apartments in what is in actual fact a hotel that gives discounts to holders of YHA cards. The doubles are pretty good, each coming with air conditioning, clean showers and cable television. The apartments a bit bigger and have baths. It must have been pretty nice when it opened, but time has taken its toll, and the place is slowly and graciously falling to pieces. Breakfast is served in the adjoining restaurant, which must be the only youth hostel restaurant on the planet featuring a good wine list and waiters in bow ties. Not the cheapest sleep in town, but it is a fairly good budget option just around the corner from the bus and train stations. ▶ (singles €26, doubles €42). [B] [P]

Apartment rental

Finding a place to live in Skopje, large or small, is reasonably straightforward just so long as you're prepared to put in the legwork. Unless you're particularly unlucky (or just too fussy), finding an apartment should never take more than a couple of days. Prices for one-bedroom apartments in the centre of the city start at around €150/month, rising to considerably for a large luxury place with all the trimmings. Real estate company Astoria (075 42 18 20, astoria@realestate.com.mk, www.realestate.com.mk) rent apartments from €250/month and upwards. Find their regularly published free brochure around town, including the St. Patrick Irish pub (see *By night*). See below for short-term rentals in the city.

Exclusive Apartments Todor Panica 1, tel. 070 22 76 31, imirkovski@gmail.com, apartments.xmkd.com. Luxury serviced apartments for short- and long-term rent in the centre of Skopje.

Eating out in Skopje is generally good, cheap and varied, with a growing number of international restaurants.

Chinese

Shanghai B-1/2, Leninova 38, tel. 322 81 00, zhangwei814@hotmail.com. The kitsch interior with cheap furniture, Bhuddist depictions and lanterns indicate you're in an authentic Chinese restaurant. The two chefs from Shanghai and South China can cook a variety of pork, chicken, seafood and vegetarian meals, and don't rely too heavily on MSG. A large table with rotating glass top allows for easy Chinese-style sharing of dishes. Chopsticks optional. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00, Sat, Sun 12:00 - 24:00.

Fast food

McDonald's B-2, Dimitria Cupovski 13, tel. 313 01 31. ▶ Open 09:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 09:00 - 01:00.

Fish

Kvarner A-1, Andon Dukov 27, tel. 309 07 52, www.skopskimerak.com.mk. The seaside is closer than you think - this Croatian restaurant inside the Skopski Merak hotel is the best place to eat fish in Skopje, flown in fresh daily. Seated in the smart interior you can order seafood risottos, and various fish dishes including sea-bass (at €42 per kilo); have the two-person 'symphony' dish for a mix of the catch of the day (2600den). For something else, there are also fish salads and home made pasta. Finish it all off with a Dalmatian 'rozata' (cream caramel) dessert. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00, Sat, Sun 11:00 - 24:00.

Indian








Bombay A-1, Ilindenska 94, tel. 306 73 73, www.bombay.com.mk. Foreigners based in Kosovo are known to drive to Skopje just to get a taste of the food at Bombay - that's how good it is. Hidden down an alley off Ilindenska near the US embassy, it has an Indian in the kitchen, cooking up North Indian dishes including bhaji, pakora, tandoori chicken, thalis, korma and vindaloo curries. Visit on Thursdays and Sundays for good-value buffet meals. Service is attentive, and it's one of the only places in town that heats up plates before serving your food. The decoration is not too kitschy and the music is Bollywood. All veg meals are prepared with different utensils and completely separate from non-veg meals, making it acceptable for Hindus and Muslims. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00, Sun 12:00 - 18:00.

Buffet express

If you've just read the entire restaurant chapter of this guidebook and you still haven't been served, stay calm, collect your belongings and pop into this place, where the food is served piping hot and straight from metal containers.

DM (Domasna Mandza) A-2, Vasil Gorgov 23, tel. 322 03 32. Point, pay, eat. Delicious home cooking served lightning fast, and at rock bottom prices (from 50den). There's a selection of meats in sauce, potatoes, rice and vegetables. We highly recommend the stuffed eggplant. ▶ Open 08:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 24:00. Closed Sun.

Symbol key

 Air conditioning	 Outside seating
 Credit cards accepted	 Guarded parking
 Occasional live music	 Take away
 No smoking	

International

Den i Nok (Day & Night) Skupi 66, tel. 309 29 22, www.deninok.com.mk. Inside what looks like a warehouse, this large, swank restaurant serves a mix of cuisines in its spacious lobby-like interior. There's French onion soup and lamb flavoured with rosemary; Italian pasta and pizza and several Chinese and international dishes. Well out of town - worth popping by if you're marooned in the Alexander Palace hotel or on your way from Kosovo.

Marakana

B-1, Gradski Park bb, tel. 322 32 26. A swanky restaurant for a slightly older crowd on top of the sports hall just west of the stadium, the food features good stuffed peppers and a speciality fish menu. Yet another Skopje restaurant with live music, Marakana also own the eponymous jazz club next door, and many of the people here use it as a pre-club venue. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 01:00.

Pivnica

B-2, Maksim Gorki 1, tel. 322 11 73. Looking like a cross between a Czech beer hall and a supermarket, Pivnica has a wooden ceiling, seating on two levels and a counter with cheeses and strung-up legs of ham. The wood-fired oven turns out great pizzas though the Macedonian fish dishes are more authentic; try the lake Ohrid trout (2000den/kg). The walls are decorated with old photos of Skopje - look closely at the bird's-eye view of the main square and you'll see a double-decker London bus. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 01:00.



Communist

See also the listing for the Broz café.

Kaj Marshalot B-2, Guro Gakovik 8, tel. 322 38 29. Walt Disney meets Ostalgje in a classic Yugoslav lodge-style restaurant complete with Tito posters, Lenin busts, Tito posters, communist books and hapless student waiters dressed as red-scarfed Young Pioneers. There's live music, a menu that reads like any other in the country, and house special kebabs delivered to your table in industrial quantities and hung on a large device best described as a sort of kebab gallows. Popular with large groups, Kaj Marshalot is hardly a dining revolution, but it's bags of fun all the same. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 01:00. Closed Mon.

Gino C-2, City Shopping Centre, tel. 312 11 09. A large, classic-looking Italian restaurant, on the third floor of the City Shopping Centre, with a small terrace overlooking the centre. Good renditions of pasta, meat dishes and pizzas are available. ▶ Open 09:00 - 24:00, Sat, Sun 09:00 - 01:00.

Toscana A-2, Ivo Lola Ribar 72, tel. 307 99 94. Believed by many to be the best Italian restaurant in Macedonia, Toscana is a small and exceedingly friendly place, bursting with delicious smells and decorated in a tasteful dark red style. There's a changing daily specials menu plus a standard range of quality dishes made homemade pasta. The Caesar salad is particular good, and there's a fine wine list too. At just seven tables, Toscana fills up pretty quick, so if you're planning on eating here (and you should) then it's critical to book a table in advance. ▶ Open 09:00 - 24:00.



Poveke Ljubov (More Love) B-2, Bul. Partizanski Odredi 17, tel. 313 27 02, www.povekeljubov.com.mk. One of our favourites - a small, cosy bistro serving excellent meals. Huge salads, bread and meat dishes (200-280den) are all served fresh and with a smile. Find More Love amidst a clutch of bars diagonally opposite the Sveti Kliment Church. If you're wondering about the name - it's the sister of Love, a bar around the corner. ▶ Open 11:00 - 24:00.

Tvrđina Kale B/C-1, Skopje Fortress, tel. 312 90 49. On top of the fortress overlooking the river and the city beyond, the fortress restaurant serves up standard international food but is well worth looking up on a sunny day for drinks on the terrace. ▶ Open 08:00 - 22:00.

Uranija B-1, Gradski Park bb, tel. 312 10 14. One of Skopje's many identikit restaurants, this one being part of the tennis club inside Gradski Park and specialising in a mix of Macedonian and international dishes. Although there's plainly nothing wrong with the place it's not really worth a visit unless you're playing tennis on one of the courts here. For more information about that, see the Sports section of this guide. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 01:00.

Italian

Amatti B-2, Vasil Glavinov 3, tel. 312 44 65. A simple Italian restaurant that's popular with students for both the low prices. Under the low ceiling there's booth seating, Italian kitsch decoration, young clients and staff, and very decent pizza for eating in or taking out. Also in the Ramstor mall. ▶ Open 07:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 07:00 - 01:00.

Dal Met Fu B-2, Ploshtad Makedonija, tel. 323 95 84, www.dalmetfu.com.mk. The large and high-ceilinged Dal Met Fu restaurant overlooks the central square, and is perhaps the best meeting place in town. Inside, diners sit beneath huge spiky chandeliers (hopefully attached well) to eat good quality Italian and international food; the menu lists salads, pizzas, meat as well as sweet and hearty pancakes. You can kill your pizza like the locals do by drowning it in tomato sauce. Free wifi available. ▶ Open 08:30 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 08:30 - 01:00.

Burek

Burek, a flaky pastry containing cheese, spinach or meat, is the universal and ubiquitous Balkan snack that simply has to be tried when you're in the region. Variations on the burek theme can be found as far and wide as Israel, where they have the *burekas*, and even in Lithuania where they eat something not unlike burek that they call a *čeburekas*. In fact, burek is so popular in the Balkans that the biggest internet forum in the former republic of Serbia and Montenegro is called the Burek Forum. From the Turkish *bur*, meaning to twist, burek comes in all manner of shapes and sizes but are essentially a baked filo pastry snack filled with savoury fillings, usually flavoured minced beef, goats' cheese and/or spinach. Found in bakeries all over Skopje, the most popular outlet is the Zito Luks chain.

Zito Luks B-2, Makedonija bb. Wonderful name. A chain of bakeries (recognised by the name written in unintelligible lower case Cyrillic letters) serving excellent and cheap burek and other pastry delights since 1947. There's always one nearby. ▶ Open 07:00 - 23:00, Sun 07:00 - 20:00.

Macedonian

Beerhouse An C-1, Bitpazarska, Kapan Han, tel. 321 21 11, www.pivnica.mk. Impeccable service and sumptuous surroundings with a magnificent summer terrace, although it brands itself as a beer house Beerhouse An is in actual fact a fine Macedonian restaurant. Superbly decorated with touches of the original walls left bare inside, weapons, plates and icons, the menu is stuffed with good things including 16 traditional daily specials, a great shopska salad, Serbian salad, pasha meatballs and stuffed vine leaves. There's a fairly respectable wine list too, and the beer comes courtesy of Skopsko and Dab. If you're only in town for a few hours, make sure you stick a visit here on your list of things to do. ▶ Open 11:00 - 24:00.

Destan C-1, Ul. 106, nr. 4, tel. 312 73 24. A famed and authentic kebab shop on the first corner you see in the bazaar (street 106) coming from the bridge. Set on two floors, it's a modern and cleaner-than-average place with pictures of old Skopje gracing the walls. Get 5 pieces of kebab for 75den, 20 for 230den; they're best eaten with fresh bread and onions. ▶ Open 08:00 - 22:00. Closed Sun.

Ezerce B-1, Gradski Park bb, tel. 312 23 89. A large pavilion-style restaurant next to a small lake inside the Gradski Park featuring a large Macedonian and international menu, a good wine list and extremely friendly waiters. A great place to visit during the warmer months when they open up a couple of outdoor terraces, there's live traditional music and cabaret every evening, which like most Skopje live music venues can get extremely lively as well as being enormous fun. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 01:00.



Idadija-M B-1, Rade Konchar 1, tel. 312 42 52. A wholly unremarkable restaurant catering to the local beer-drinking community, with a range of indigenous dishes including the local speciality Ohrid trout, Idadija-M does like most Macedonian restaurants feature smiling and helpful staff. Of note is a fascinating collection of old black and white photographs on the walls of Skopje in its pre-earthquake heyday, including an extraordinary double take-inducing picture of the city in the 1950s complete with an old London double-decker bus. ▶ Open 07:30 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 07:30 - 01:00.



Jana A-1, Orce Nikolov 505/1, tel. 306 75 85. Clean tablecloths, dried flowers and large groups of chattering Macedonians are what you'll find here. Bordering on fusion food, the menu includes pages and pages of Macedonian dishes, an extensive wine list, plus a few variations on such old-time favourites as veal, octopus and pumpkin. Cheerful, chain-smoking waiters fuss around the bar like overweight Space Invaders, waiting to pounce the minute anything is required, and the whole set up is remarkable polished. Drop in during the weekend and you'll find live music in the form of soppy ballads, or better still drop in every morning and fill your face with a range of excellent value Macedonian and English breakfasts, served right up until a very reasonable 13:00. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 01:00.

Lira A-1, Nikola Tesla 11, tel. 306 17 26, contact@lira.net.mk. Near the US embassy, Lira is an unpretentious traditional restaurant, decorated rural-style with wooden beams, brick walls and tiled floors. Come here for a candle-lit dinner near the fireplace, accompanied by live string music every night. The food is good Macedonian home cooking. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 01:00. [f]

Old House (Stara Kuka) C-2, Pajko Maalo 14, tel. 313 13 76. A traditional merchant's *konak* house from 1838 like many across the Balkans, this is where the locals drag foreigners to experience real Macedonian cooking. The pretty house has beautifully carved wooden ceilings and a pleasant sheltered garden. Dig into regional food including grilled meat, fish, fresh salads, stuffed peppers or courgettes, and sweet, sticky *baclava* pastry for dessert. For something local, try the *Tavche Gravche* - a bean dish with mint and peppers. ▶ Open 09:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 09:00 - 01:00. [f] [t] [p]

Olimpik-AS B-2, Teodosij Gologanov, tel. 310 99 74. Perhaps an unlikely restaurant for foreigners to head, but this simple shack of a place does serve the city's best *pastrmajija* (pie made with quality pork meat) and *pingur* (paprika laced with garlic). A variety of other grilled meats complements the short menu. Cheap and authentic, the open-fronted hut has framed leaves, a stuffed weasel and traditional clothes on the walls as decoration. Near the Nova Makedonija building.



Sofra C-1, Bitpazarska, Kapan Han, tel. 321 29 23. Located inside Kapan Han's former sleeping quarters this superb restaurant is large enough for groups and yet still comfortably small for more intimate encounters. The walls are decorated with some really nice line drawings of the old bazaar and the menu reads like a dream. Fried *kashkaval* cheese, oysters in curry sauce, pasta, great steaks and even a special children's menu. In fact, kids are well catered for here, it being the only restaurant found in the city to be in possession of a high chair. The service is superb as well, making this place a highly recommended place to visit when walking around the old bazaar. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:00. [f]

Turkish

Kaj Serdarot C-1, Kazandziska 5, tel. 322 15 38. A compact kebab house on two floors at the southern end of the Old Bazaar, complete with the usual ethnic trimmings and lots of meat dishes sizzling away in the window, you can feast here on exceptionally good food for next to nothing. The spicy sausages are homemade and come highly recommended. ▶ Open 08:00 - 23:00.

Vegetarian

Pastis B-2, Dame Gruev bb, tel. 323 29 56. Pastis serves healthy 'green cuisine' and is one of the few vegetarian options in town... sort of. The vegetarian food is listed separately from the dishes with fish and chicken so you can decide how green you are today. The pleasant small restaurant is decked out in fresh eco-colours and has a little summer terrace. Near the TCC Plaza. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 01:00. Closed Sun. [f]

Anja C-2, Kej 18 Noemvri bb, tel. 316 13 77. The best of all the riverside cafés. The music here is not too loud, the waiters are plump and friendly, there's a ginger cat making love to your legs, and there's a strict door policy keeping young riff-raff out. There's a lounge atmosphere with wicker chairs and white sofa seating spread around, while indoors the two-storey restaurant section does good pizzas and pancakes. In winter a heated tent covers the terrace.

Broz A-1, Crvena Voda 4. Unique in town; a Red Starbucks. Taking the coffee house culture into the realm of nostalgic absurdity, Broz is a bright and friendly Communist-themed café named after Josip Tito's original family name. Staff wear purple pioneer scarves and the walls are decorated with photos from the good old Yugoslav days and motifs from banknotes. The coffee isn't bad either - there are seven kinds, and sandwiches are served too. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 01:00, Sun 10:00 - 24:00.

Deus B-1, Leninova 22, tel. 313 54 15. A quiet corner café with newspapers, coffee and other drinks. ▶ Open 09:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 09:00 - 24:00, Sun 10:00 - 23:00.

Elitte C-2, City Shopping Centre. A high-ceilinged café decorated with dozens of photos and pictures and the radio turned on loud, this may be the best place for ice-cream in Skopje, with daily fresh-made ice-cream creations going at 100-150den. Elitte also serves sandwiches and a variety of drinks. On the ground floor of the complex. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Sat, Sun 08:00 - 01:00.

Fashion Café C-2, City Shopping Centre, tel. 312 10 21. The gaudy red plush seats appropriately placed between a few clothes shops on the second floor of the City Shopping Centre are a good place to rest during a buying spree. Although the radio is loud, we're spared the agony of having to watch that annoying Fashion TV channel usually played in cafés with this name. ▶ Open 09:00 - 21:00, Sat 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sun.

Lezet Aia B-2, Nikola Trimpare 8a, tel. 322 50 03. A quirky Oriental-style den of a café. The cobbled-together building on a quiet residential street is dark, features quiet background music and has a fountain gurgling away in the front room. Occasionally there is live music to listen to, otherwise it's just the perfect place to hide away with a lover. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 09:00 - 01:00. Closed Sun. ☞

Li B-2, Ankarska 23, lok. 7, tel. 307 45 69, cafell@yahoo.com. Coffee, ice-cream and fruit salads are served at Li, a small, relaxed café with bamboo chairs and curtained-off windows. Try their speciality: cold coffee with ice, caramel and chocolate. ▶ Open 08:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 24:00.

Ljubov B-2, Bul. Partizanski Odredi 5. An excellent little café in the sad concrete cluster diagonally opposite the St. Clement Cathedral. Named after that crazy little thing called love, Ljubov is quiet during the day but comes alive when DJs play, with rock music on Tuesdays, Latino on Wednesdays house on Thursdays and Fridays and a bit of everything on Saturdays. Only drinks are served, but next door is the wonderful Poveke Ljubov ('more love') bistro. ▶ Open 09:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 09:00 - 01:00, Sun 11:00 - 24:00.

Magor Book Café B-2, Bul. Partizanski Odredi 21, Porta Bunjakovec building, tel. 312 10 27, magor@mt.net.mk. A small book café known for its poetry and book readings and fantastic little jazz concerts. Phone or email ahead for the programme. ▶ ☞

Mala Stanica B-2/3, Zeleznicka 18. South of the Ramstore mall but well worth a detour, this unpretentious alternative café shares a former railway warehouse with an art gallery and cultural centre. The two-level space is furnished with comfy wide garden chairs, and serves coffee and light snacks to a discerning international crowd. ▶ Open 09:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat, Sun 09:00 - 01:00.

Museum Café B-2, Mito Hadzivasilev Jasmin bb. Overlooking the Ramstore mall, a tiny art café has been inserted into the wall of the City Museum. It's long but not much wider than a table, and is crammed with contemporary art - and taking the sad state of the City Museum in account, it has more art on show than the whole of the rest of the building. A good place for coffee and cigarettes. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Sat 09:00 - 01:00, Sun 16:00 - 24:00.

New Age B-2, Kosta Sahov 9, tel. 311 75 59. Hidden down an unlikely dead-end street behind the Kuzman Josifovski Pitu student dormitory (street number 224), this wooden hut at the end of a small garden is Skopje's strangest café. The dimly lit warren of rooms seems fit for a hobbit, furnished with wobbly tables and cushions and with chess and other games to while away the ages. A tea-loving hobbit, that is, with 32 varieties of black tea, 15 green, 38 herbal and 23 fruit teas (all 70den). There's also hot choc (14 kinds, including 'Turkish viagra'), milk shakes and salep, a Turkish drink with cinnamon. New Age has teacups and home-made tea-flavoured soap for sale, and is gay-friendly.

New York C-2, Kej 13 Noemvri bb. Horribly loud music, booth seating, a vague attempt at an Art Deco interior, blinds on the windows to create an exclusive effect (note this place is no good for people-watching) and an antique telephone mark New York out as an exceedingly post-modern venture aiming for the more aristocratic punter. Exotic coffees are available during the day, and there's karaoke Saturday nights too. ▶ Open 09:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 09:00 - 01:00.

Old Time C-1, Bezisten, tel. 070 73 71 52. A delightfully peculiar café hidden away in the heart of the Old Bazaar, brimming with knickknacks, an old television set and loud Western music. Beverages are limited to tea, coffee, spirits and soft drinks, the former two being at the mercy of a hot water machine that was broken at the time of writing. Popular with grungy local teenagers, at the top of the rickety stairs find a further space dedicated to the art of bad graffiti and chilling out. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 01:00.

Pasha B-1/2, Naum N. Borce 61, tel. 075 77 77 72. Below the Mayday rock club there's a completely different scene - a bar decked out as an Ottoman harem, with carpets and cushions on the ground. Near Bul. Partizanski Odredi. ▶ Open 10:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 01:00.

Play Café B-2, Makedonija 6, tel. 312 70 20. Near the end of the pedestrianised stretch of the street, Play Café has large windows and a pleasant interior from which to observe life traipsing by. ▶ Open 07:30 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 07:30 - 01:00.

Plaza de Toros C-2, Kej 13 Noemvri bb. Making the most of the high ceilings hereabouts this is yet another magnificent mezzanine tavern, with a nice wooden rustic feel, complimented by a wall lined with learned books. Popular with the local 30-something crowd, this is the place to be seen in (preferably by the window), chomping on a pizza and polishing off several carafes of bull's blood. The bovine theme is strong here, down to the bullhorn handles on the entrance.

Skopje's strict new opening hour licensing regime has forced many bars and clubs to shut down around midnight, taking much of the fun out of it, and placing the city well behind more party-minded capitals in the region. You'll see places starting to empty out before closing time, and at midnight the city is usually as lively as it was in 1958.

Bars

5th Element C-2, Kej 13 Noemvri, City Shopping Center, tel. 070 27 48 25. A rather kinky little bar/café, on the third floor of the City Shopping Centre. Every day there's a different party here, with love songs on Monday, a student night on Wednesday, Yugoslav retro music on Thursday and house and retro on Friday. It's named after the elements you see in each corner of the café: fire, water, earth and air. The fifth element, we were told, is love and can be found in the toilets. ▶ Open 09:00 - 24:00, Sat 09:00 - 01:00.

Alo Alo C-2, Kej 13 Noemvri, tel. 322 09 76. One of the better-looking café-bars along the Kej, usually filled with better-looking people. Window blinds keep the interior a surprise till you enter; inside there's a large screen for projections during the daily DJ parties, which usually feature smooth Cuban or Brazilian music styles. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 01:00.

Bar Celona B-2, Makedonija 27, tel. 070 27 60 71. A two-floor bar on corner of the pedestrianised street, Celona is a bright, pleasant place with DJ music every night. The usual selection includes Cuban, techno and retro music - everything a Catalan needs. ▶ Open 07:30 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 07:30 - 01:00.

Barista Trampolina B-2, Makedonija 29, tel. 311 35 23. A great little café bar in the pedestrianised zone with wacky decorations (plates on the walls, light bulbs above) and a logo nicked from Starbucks. Barista regularly features live music performances, notably by Kili who plays piano and Ana Kostovska who sings. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 01:00. ☞



Bastion B-2, Pirinska 43. Pass the Ambassador hotel and you'll soon see the unmarked Bastion bar, run by the crew that brought you Barista. A bar with a welcoming neighbourhood feel to it, Bastion has lounge music and light jazz on the decks and Macedonian film posters on the walls. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 01:00, Sun 10:00 - 24:00.

Ganza B-1, Gorgi Peskov 4, tel. 311 18 76. A better than average local beer bar with lots of rustic trimmings, strings of tobacco leaves on the walls, ethnic rugs and food if you're hungry. The latter is in fact well worth mentioning as the menu caters for vegetarians. True it's only in the form of grilled mushrooms, but you have to remember that this is the Balkans. Also, the refrigerator often carries a few bottles of the local Nikšičko beer, a fabulous and fruity 5% brew that knocks spots of the favoured beers of choice in the country, and completely impossible to say after a couple of litres of the stuff. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 01:00.

Insomnia C-2, Kej 13 Noemvri bb. Lots of designer chrome and angular furniture in one of the multitude of split-level bars sprinkled along the river, this one being nothing to write home about but pleasant enough for a drink or two if you're doing a crawl along the entire street. Purveyors of quality whiskey, note that fearsome-looking gentlemen operate a strict face-control policy here most evenings. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 01:00.

Laika B-1, M. Cokov bb. Once upon a time every other bar in Europe was like this one. With a carefree disregard for pub-chain trimmings, a happy-go-lucky bunch of mostly young student types pour into Laika every evening to sink large quantities of booze and listen to quirky music amid degenerate art and jumble sale furniture in their jumble sale clothes. One of the great treasures of Skopje that hopefully will stick around for a long time to come.

Living Room B-2, Makedonija 29, tel. 070 30 39 40. So trendy it hurts your eyes: a bright green and brown interior complemented with homey-looking lamps and sofas... a room made for living it up. You can do just that on Thursdays and Fridays when the DJs spin house, and Saturdays when it's retro music time. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 01:00, Sun 09:00 - 24:00.

Mr. Jack B-2, Dimitrie Cupovski bb, tel. 323 19 99. Loud and fun - the way a whiskey bar should be. Head for one of the comfortable sofas, as the bar stools are only high enough for you to nibble the edge of the bar. Dedicated fans of the good selection of Scottish whiskey here may not notice that, however. DJs play on most nights, with the good vibes going on until everyone is kicked out on time. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 01:00.

Pasha B-2, Makedonija 41, tel. 312 09 46. Our favourite along Makedonija, Pasha is a tiny drawer of a café with the bar practically filling half the interior. With a classy brown look, it manages to squeeze DJ parties in on every Friday and Saturday. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 01:00.

Strip Café B-2, Dimtirje Chupovski 26, tel. 075 43 70 85. Lurking somewhere in the uncharted world between café and bar, Strip Café is a classic two-floor Skopje affair with a comic strip twist. Lining the walls are a series of brilliantly executed black and white murals inspired by the film Sin City, giving the place a cartoon ambience that sets off the disparate bunch of DJ aficionados who choose to frequent the place very nicely indeed. Petite to the point that you almost cuddle the place, the ground floor bar is fairly run of the mill, whereas the hardcore scene where the hippest of the hip



hang out next to the decks (DJs perform on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights) is where the real action takes place. Positively inspired and well worth a visit. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 01:00.

T-Club B-2, Makedonija 17, tel. 311 21 93. A dimly lit bar with large windows, screens showing strutting anorexics on Fashion TV, bar stools around high tables and a lounge corner. A fashionista's fishtank. ▶ Open 09:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 09:00 - 01:00.

Van Gogh B-1, ul. M. Cokov bb, tel. 312 18 76. A Skopje institution that's been going for 20 years, Van Gogh is the quintessential good time bar featuring lots of quirky additions and a cheerful arty crowd. There's live music every Monday evening, salsa lessons on Wednesdays, Thursdays is Beerfest night with 20dn off every beer, Techno arrives on Fridays and Saturdays and Sundays are given over to hip-hop. So, if you drop in on a Tuesday you've got nobody to blame but yourself. Super. ▶ Open 09:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 09:00 - 01:00.

Pubs

St Patrick C-2, Kej 13 Noemvri, tel. 322 04 31, www.irishpub.com.mk. Also known as simply the Irish Pub, St. Patrick's does a great job at looking exactly like what you expect it to look like, filled as it is with loud expats, Victorian-style wooden panelling, bar stools and booth seating and beer signs. There's Kilkeny, Strongbow and Guinness (200dn) and the usual range of bar food and steaks at 150-400den and hilariously lists Chicken Nazi Goring. The homesick can be reminded of what they ran away from with the full Irish breakfast. Bands play on Thursday to Saturday nights. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 01:00. [A]

Live music

Ludnica B-1, Georgi Peshkov 6. Liking itself to such legendary clubs as New York's CBGB's, Ludnice (Madhouse) is a low-budget affair with lots of tiny rooms full of scatter cushions, tables made from washing machine drums, old sofas and a refrigerator. As well as a drinking hole of some worth to those who aspire to this kind of living, the club is most famous as a live music venue, attracting the cream of Macedonia's underground bands and the occasional group from further away. ▶ Open 10:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 01:00.

Marakana B-1, Gradski Park bb, tel. 322 32 26. A long thin venue with a large bar specialising in live music every night, mostly in the form of jazz and blues. The set-up at Marakana is rudimentary with mostly standing room only, a wooden floor to drop your cigarettes on, and a small stage. ▶ Open 21:00 - 03:00.

Clubs

Colosseum B-2, Vasil Glavinov bb. Closed for refurbishing and probably reopening in December 2006, this club is popular with schoolkids and students. The modern second-floor club has plenty of metal beams and lights and plays thumping house and techno music to a happy crowd. ▶ Admission 100-200den.

Jukebox B-1, Orce Nikolov 99, tel. 322 72 94. The 1950s Belgian jukebox that gave this late night 40-something hangout its name hasn't twirled a disc in years, but it doesn't seem to bother the locals who pack the place to bursting at the weekends. Amidst the old upright piano and walls piled high with iconic photographs you can sit and get thoroughly inebriated with a range of local artists and professionals, take in a bit of cabaret and cough your lungs onto the table, cursing the inefficiency of the extractor fans. Somewhat strangely Juke Box doesn't serve coffee, which does make you wonder what the punters here are using to keep themselves awake. Pure speculation of course. ▶ Open 20:00 - 03:00.

Mayday B-1/2, Naum N. Borce 61, tel. 322 05 73. Come weekend nights, this place is crammed with people enjoying the ear-burstingly loud rock and metal music party nights. With no concessions made to house or techno, this is where the long-haired guys hang out. Downstairs, find the oriental Pasha café. Near Bul. Partizanski Odredi.

MCM B-1, Naum N. Borce 80. This dingy club looking like a strip club is actually just a normal dingy club. Adjacent to the city park, it has late opening hours and live music on Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday. The themed disco nights include Greek on Thursday, karaoke on Friday and house on Saturday. Good dingy fun. ▶ Open 21:00 - 04:00.

Papaya B-2, Vasil Glavino bb. A relatively new basement nightclub catering to an audience of young souls of 25 and older, Papaya plays house, R&B, techno and whatever the crowd wants. In the same building as Colosseum. ▶ Open 22:00 - 03:00.

Wacky bars

Piano Galerija A-1, Orce Nikolov 155, tel. 308 29 36. Skopje's quirkier bar. Tiny and filled with artsy decorations that make you duck as you walk in, it has a few places to sit around a piano which is used daily for mini concerts. Owner Sasha Vucidolov has manned the bar here since 1984 and creates beautiful little paintings on cardboard squares when not pouring drinks - these are for sale for a small fee. ▶ Open 09:00 - 24:00, Sun 12:00 - 24:00. [A]

Piazza Liberta B-2, Dimitrie Cupovski bb, tel. 322 48 07. A mostly educated crowd gather here upstairs in the smoking saloon most evenings to chatter, watch a bit of sport, and throw peanut shells over their trousers. You get complimentary peanuts with every drink, and on a good night going to the toilet here is not unlike shuffling your way across a huge hamster cage. The bar is named after Sloboda (peace) Square, the pretty oval square that was here until the 1963 earthquake ruined nearly all surrounding buildings. Highly recommended. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 01:00.

Debar maalo

Debar maalo is the area around Orce Nikolov and Radnjanska (A/B-1), a tame-looking, semi-suburban district full of embassies and badly parked cars. Walk past most of the cafés and bars around here and you wouldn't think much at all. And then out of nowhere comes the weekend. What were during the week rather dismal-looking establishments, empty with the exception of the occasional waitress asleep on a table, suddenly transform themselves on Friday and Saturday nights into dens of hedonism and delicious delinquency. Stumble into any number of places here during the weekend and find battalions of teary-eyed 20-something Macedonian boys doing smoochie Balkan karaoke on the tables, usually conservative shop girls snogging anything they can find in a pair of trousers, and endless, endless, endless (and we mean endless) amounts of alcohol. Here are a couple of favourites. When in Skopje, do as the FYROMans do.

Kaj Pero B-1, Orce Nikolov 109, tel. 323 28 98. Popular with miscellaneous bohemians and other talented types throughout the week, come Friday night this small cellar bar ignites. Peer through the smoke and what you'll find in here is a claustrophobic space with a pot-bellied stove rumbling to the rhythms of what appears to be close on a million tipsy students. Swigging beer and giving each other bear hugs, this is the bonding session to end all bonding sessions.

Park B-1, Rade Konchar 3, tel. 323 76 35. Featuring some of the world's cheekiest barmaids and amiable waiters, Park positively thumps on Friday and Saturday nights. With holes in the tablecloths and Turkish coffee bubbling away on a tiny camping stove, large groups of young men and women come here to let their hair down and drink the night away with the help of a serious-looking synthesiser player and his sidekick crooning singer. As with all Macedonian get-togethers, the emphasis is on having a good time, and not a gram of animosity can be found in anyone here. A thoroughly enjoyable evening that can't come highly recommended enough. ▶ Open 07:30 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 07:30 - 01:00.



Process C-2, Kej 13 Noemvri, City Shopping Center, tel. 321 54 76, www.process.com.mk. A large modern club with regular guest DJs playing house to an exhilarated and sometimes very young crowd. ▶ Open 23:00 - 04:00, Fri, Sat 23:00 - 05:00. Closed Mon. Admission 100den.

Trend B-2, Nikola Vapcarov 2/4, tel. 313 24 25. Facing the main square, Trend is a club, bar, lounge and restaurant in one. It serves nicely priced food during the day including breakfast between 08:00 and 12:00 and hot meals from a photo menu (the shashliks look particularly good). The club starts up at 22:00 and closes at 04:00; one of the few places to go on beyond the midnight hour. Each Monday, Gjoko Tanevski plays live rock music, while other nights come themed. Happy hour is until 23:00. ▶ Open 08:00 - 04:00. [A]

Casinos

Aleksandar Palace Casino Bul. 8-mi Septemvri bb, tel. 309 21 79. Black Jack, roulette, poker and slot machines. ▶ Open 16:00 - 08:00.

City Club Casino B-2, Makedonija 11a, tel. 323 51 26. Slot machines in seven locations around Skopje. ▶ Open 24hrs.

Le Grand C-2, Vasil Agilarski 2, Holiday Inn, tel. 311 45 62. ▶ Open 24hrs.

Mega Casino B-2, Partizanski Odredi bb, tel. 311 61 60. ▶ Open 24hrs.



Unlike many other Balkan capital cities such as Belgrade, Sofia and Zagreb which only grew important in the 19th century, Skopje is an ancient city, dating back 2000 years. It has seen plenty of action over the millennia: earthquakes, fires, floods and wars, and as a result has a reputation among travellers for being grey and dull. This is unfair, as there is a great deal to see in Skopje, if you are willing to poke around between the concrete. Most of Skopje's sights are in and around the Stara Carsija, the Old Town, which is the dense network of alleys below the Kale fortress. Across the Stone Bridge lies the modern centre, with its concentration of restaurants, bars and hotels.

Main sights

Kale Fortress B/C-1. People have been camping out on the strategically placed hill above what is now the bazaar area since before the bronze age. A town was first started here in the early Byzantine era (6th-7th century), the big blocks dragged here from Scupi, the nearby town that was destroyed in the 518AD earthquake. This was the great town of Justinia Prima, founded by emperor Justinian, the second city in the Byzantine empire and location of the archbishopric, the first independent church in Europe (which was later transferred to Ohrid). From the 14th to 20th centuries, the Ottomans used the fortress as a military barracks, expanding the number of towers to seventy - only three remain today. The 1963 earthquake flattened much of the fortress, including many of the walls, some of which are being rebuilt. Near the Mustafa Pasha mosque, the eastern gate (from 1446) to the fortress gives access to a high field surrounded by the ruins of the walls, of which the 120-metre-long cyclopic wall is the oldest. There's not much to see except for the walls and the great views over central Skopje. ▶ Open 24hrs.

Makedonija Square B-2. Dramatically widened by the destruction of the massive neoclassical National Bank and Army House during the 1963 earthquake and now surrounded mostly by nondescript architecture, Makedonija Square feels a bit large and empty nowadays. The most remarkable building is the Risticheva Palata, crowned with the Skopsko beer ad, at the southern end. However, the focus of the pedestrianised square is still the stone bridge, and it's a pleasant place to hang out in good weather.



Stone Bridge C-2. Skopje's landmark construction is the old stone bridge spanning the river Vardar with 13 arches. The city was founded on the left bank of the Vardar river at the confluence with the Serava river after an earthquake destroyed nearby ancient Skupi in 518AD, and it's probable that a first bridge was built then, which in the late 15th century formed the foundation of the Stone Bridge. The current 214 metre-long structure was built by the Ottomans just after 1450. Floods, earthquakes and an endless line of local dignitaries (including the previous mayor) have changed the look of the bridge. The metal pedestrian paths that used to line the bridge were taken off in 1992, and currently the stone railing and watchtower are being rebuilt. The bridge is an important pedestrian link between the bazaar area and the modern part of town, and there are usually some makeshift stalls selling things like batteries and car accessories along it.

Museums

For the National Art gallery, see the Daut Pasha Hamam review in *Ottoman Skopje*.

Bazaar Museum C-1, Suli Han. On the first floor of this 15th-century inn, the small Bazaar Museum is an essential stop for insight into Skopje's importance as a trade town. Using old photos and maps it shows the extent of the old bazaar, which once stretched all the way to the river Vardar, and the many objects on display show the wealth of products that were manufactured or passed through the bazaar. It's surprising to see how similar the modern-day bazaar looks compared to the old photos; the buildings, workshops and people wandering around have not changed as much as you'd think, meaning that Skopje's bazaar is a great deal more original than the touristy versions found in cities like Istanbul and Sarajevo. The museum is one of the few places showing photos of the city's earthquake damage. The curator will be happy to give you a whirlwind English-language tour of the exhibition. ▶ Open 08:00 - 14:00. Closed Sat, Sun. Admission free.

Tourist information

Tourist Information Centre C-1, Old bazaar, tel. 311 68 54, info@skopjetourism.org, www.skopje-tourism.org. Brochures, maps, events information and sightseeing tips. The tourist information office is housed in the otherwise empty Shopping Mall Most complex spanning the busy road between the old bazaar and the Daut Pasha bath house. ▶ Open 08:00 - 19:00, Sat 09:00 - 17:00. Closed Sun.

City Museum B-3, Mito Hadzivasilev Jasmin bb, tel. 311 47 42. Located inside what's left of the old train station and worth popping inside for this fact alone, Skopje's decidedly lacklustre City Museum currently features two small collections on two floors. At ground level find a hotchpotch of glass cases offering the briefest of insights into life in the city before WWII. Exhibits include costumes, photographs and personal possessions from a number of Macedonian minorities including Jews, Albanians, Gypsies, Serbs and Vlachs. Down the stairs find a few dimly lit cases showcasing some fine examples of ancient bits and bobs dug up in the vicinity.

Mother Teresa

Skopje's most famous daughter is undoubtedly Agnesë Gonxhe Bojaxhiu, better known as Mother Teresa. She was born on 26 August 1910 in a house that was later demolished to make way for the City Shopping Center (C-2); a small bilingual plaque marks the spot where the house stood. At the time Skopje was part of the Ottoman Empire, the state of Macedonia didn't exist and Agnes' family was Catholic ethnic Albanian, so there's no saying what her nationality exactly was – but she always considered herself a daughter of Skopje and a citizen of the world. She spent 18 years in Skopje, vowing to go to India after hearing letters from missionaries read out during church meetings. She joined the Sisters of Loretto in 1927 taking the name Teresa, and a year later started teaching geography in Kolkata (Calcutta). After becoming a nurse she took charge of a pilgrims hostel, became an Indian citizen and founded her own order in 1948 which was dedicated to helping the poorest of the poor. She won many awards over the years, including the Nobel peace prize in 1979. She returned to Skopje four times before her death in 1997 at the age of 87. Since then, the Catholic church is in the process of making her a saint. Although there was some controversy about her views on abortion, the missionary zeal of her order and her dealings with certain politicians, Mother Teresa was regarded by many as a living saint, and Catholics across the world now refer to her as the Blessed Teresa. At Makedonija 6 there is a statue of Mother Teresa (with her toes curiously crossed - apparently because of wearing small shoes as a child), and there's a small museum dedicated to her in the Feudal Tower, just behind the statue.



The pride of the museum is the 6000-year-old, 15cm-high clay "Adam from Govrlevo" statue, which was discovered in 2000 and put on display here in later 2006. The statue is ranked among the world's top 10 Neolithic artefacts, as it is perhaps the earliest representation of a human figure - with ribs, spine, belly button and a regrettably chopped-off erection. With nothing marked in English and the aforementioned lack of light, it's highly recommended that visitors take a torch and a local along. ▶ Open 09:00 - 17:00, Sun 09:00 - 13:00. Closed Mon. Admission free.

Contemporary Art Museum B-1, Samoilova bb, tel. 311 77 34, www.msuskopje.org.mk. Housed inside a large, Polish-designed box, the fabulous Contemporary Art Museum, like so many good things in Skopje, owes its existence to the 1963 earthquake. Established the following year and opened in 1970, the 5,428 square metre interior is positively stuffed with fine examples of world art. The permanent collection features some 3,000 pieces by artists from over 60 countries, and includes painting, graphic art and sculpture by names such as Picasso, LeWitt and Hockney. ▶ Open 10:00 - 17:00, Sun 09:00 - 13:00. Admission free, special exhibitions 50den.

Mother Teresa Museum B-2, Makedonija bb. More of a shrine than a museum, the one-room memorial dedicated to Skopje-born Mother Teresa has photos, paintings, a model of her birth house and a prayer corner. Find it on the ground floor of the Feudal Tower, 100 metres behind Mother Teresa's statue. ▶ Open 10:00 - 20:00, Sat 10:00 - 15:00. Closed Sun.

National Museum C-1, Curciska bb, tel. 311 60 44, www.musmk.org.mk. The large white building just below the Mustafa Pasha mosque houses the rambling and under-appreciated National Museum; find the main entrance is hidden in the courtyard. The ethnographic section houses a stunning collection of instruments and traditional costumes, arranged by the region of origin in Macedonia and surrounding territories. The women's bridal costumes are especially beautiful, some hung with dozens of coins symbolising the wealth of the family - and making the dresses weigh up to 40 kilograms. The coins are in themselves an indication of trade relations within the area - many are of Ottoman and Arabic origin, but there's also a coin from the USA on the Kriva Palanka region dress. Across the courtyard in the archaeological section you may have to ask them to switch on the lights of the endless rooms with pottery, jewellery, and statues. Interestingly, Macedonia's first stone age artefacts were dug up accidentally by soldiers digging trenches in World War I, and it's been good digging ever since - don't miss the peculiar clay fertility statue at the end and the unique 6th century terracotta icons - only ever found in Macedonia and Tunisia. Unfortunately many exhibits have been spirited off to Belgrade and Sofia over the years and not returned. Upstairs is the museum's best room, housing a priceless collection of icons, some dating back to the 11th century. The famous Bogorodica Pelagionitsa icon from 1422 was painted for the icon screen of Zrze monastery and depicts a playful Jesus in the hands of his mother, who is looking sad while pressing her lips to his cheek while looking at the viewer. Ask the friendly English-speaking curator for explanations. Opposite the courtyard stands the old Kursumli Han which holds the lapidarium, though the building is more interesting than the few statues on display. The museum is in a bad state, with old-fashioned exhibition techniques, bad lighting and buckets positioned to catch leaking rain water, but renovations are underway. There's a museum shop, with a city centre outlet inside the Bey's Tower. ▶ Open 09:00 - 17:00, Sat 09:00 - 15:00, Sun 09:00 - 13:00. Closed Mon. Admission 50den.



Churches

More information about the Macedonian Orthodox Church can be found at www.mpc.org.mk. Professional photographers should apply in advance at the secretary of the bishop of the relevant eparchy to get permission to take pictures of most church interiors - but you'll invariably need permission from the Ministry of Culture (see Officials, takes 5-7 days) first, after which the eparchy usually issues permits within a day or two (except for the particularly grumpy Debarsko Kicevska eparchy, so forget about taking photos in Ohrid churches).

Church of the Holy Saviour (Sveti Spas) C-1, Makarie Frckovski 8. This small church can easily be overlooked by the careless tourist as it huddles behind a massive wall with just the wooden bell tower sticking out. The courtyard has steps leading down to the tiny church which was built here in the early 19th century on the ruins of an earlier church which fell victim to the fire of 1689 - there are still some old frescoes visible. The current structure is most famous for its wood carvings however. The icon screen displays some of the best Macedonian carving craft around; made by Petre Filipovski Garkata and Marko and Makarie Frckovski between 1819 and 1824. The deep wood carving has biblical depictions as well as regional flora and fauna, and even has a little self portrait of the artists at work on the screen. Inside the compound there's also the grave of Macedonian revolutionary Goce Delcev (1872-1903), for whom there is a small museum too. ▶ Open 09:00 - 17:00, Sat, Sun 09:00 - 15:00. Closed Mon.

St. Dimitri C-2, Crvena S. Opstina bb, tel. 316 29 19. During Ottoman rule, Skopje's original cathedral was located near this spot, and although the present St. Dimitri church is from 1886 and relatively new, it remains important, as it became the temporary cathedral after the Bulgarians burnt down the Virgin Mary Cathedral at the end of World War II. The otherwise unremarkable interior has benches lining the walls and an elegant staircase winding up around a pillar.

St. Kliment Cathedral B-2, Blvd. St. Kliment Ohridski bb, tel. 322 74 50. Just west of the centre stands Skopje's modern Orthodox Cathedral building, also known as the Ministry Temple, with Saint Clement of Ohrid as its patron. Built in 1972 by architect Slavko Brezovski and consecrated in 1992, the building consists solely of arches and domes. It has a massive chandelier hanging from the roof, which features a 70 square metre Jesus Pantocrator painting - with just one eye measuring 1.5 metres. The stall at the entrance sells candles and saint keyrings. Services are held daily at 07:30 and 16:00, Sundays at 08:00 and 17:00.

Ottoman Skopje

Hundreds of years of Ottoman domination have left Skopje with a distinct oriental feel and look, and many monuments from the period remain. You are welcome to visit the mosques free of charge outside prayer times - ask around for the caretaker if the doors happen to be locked. To enter a mosque, you should take off your shoes outside and be modestly dressed - shorts and bare shoulders are not appropriate.

Bey's Tower B-2, Makedonija. A 14-metre high residential tower from the 17th century, this is the oldest building in central Skopje. Built for defense, with 1.5-metre thick walls, a high door and small windows on the lower floors, the tower would protect the family living here against all attackers. In the tower are the Mother Teresa memorial and the National Museum shop. The square in front of the tower was the location of the small catholic Church, which was destroyed in 1963.

Bezisten C-1, Lebledziska bb. A feature found in all Ottoman bazaar areas, a bezisten is a gated part of the market that housed the shops selling silk, jewellery, spices and perfume. Skopje's mid-15th century bezisten was destroyed in the 1689 fire and was rebuilt in a modern style around 1900. The original building was a single space with 2.5m-thick walls and 12 arches supported by two massive pillars. The bezisten now has four gates and five tiny streets and is half empty, with some workshops and a friendly café.

Cifte Hamam (Contemporary Arts Centre) C-1, Kurciska bb, tel. 313 35 41, www.scca.org.mk. The mid-15th century Cifte or Double Hamam in the heart of the bazaar was in use as a bath house until 1915. Reconstructed after the 1963 earthquake, it now houses the Contemporary Art Gallery. The layout of the hamam is symmetrical, with the heating room at the centre and separate bathing areas for men and women, each with their own entrance at either ends of the building. There was a barber for the men, depilation for the ladies, and massage rooms, rooms for relaxing and steam rooms for both. Interestingly, Skopje's Jews used this bath house for ritual bathing too during Ottoman times; a marble pool was installed for them.



Jewish Skopje

Jews are believed to have first arrived in the area now known as Macedonia in the 6th century BC. The first Jewish settlers came in what was then part of the Roman Empire seeking sanctuary from persecution faced in other Roman-occupied areas, and remained a small community right up until the Ottoman period. During the 15th century, large numbers of Jews arrived in Macedonia, again seeking sanctuary, this time in the form of Sephardic Jews from Spain and Portugal. Invited by Sultan Bayezid II (circa 1447-1512), Jews under the Ottomans were granted a number of rights and privileges including permission to buy property, build synagogues, and to trade freely throughout the Ottoman Empire. As in most large cities in Eastern Europe, many of the Jews of Macedonia prospered, notably in the cities of Skopje, Bitola and Štip, the three main Jewish areas in the region, and many Jews attained high positions in such areas as banking, medicine and law (ie. the three traditional Jewish professions). The Macedonian Jews, who were almost exclusively Ladino-speaking (the now obsolete Ladino was a mixture of old Spanish and Hebrew), lived more or less in harmony with their neighbours, and thanks to the liberal attitude of the Ottomans attracted more Jews from around Europe to settle in the country. Immediately prior to WWII and the Holocaust, Macedonia's Jewish population numbered some 12,000. In April 1941

the Bulgarians, who always had and who mostly still do consider Macedonia to belong to them, invaded Macedonia. Allied to Nazi Germany, from October that year Bulgaria introduced the same laws and treatment of the Jews as the Nazis were doing throughout Europe. Property was confiscated, ghettos were created, and finally in 1943 the Macedonian Jews were sent to the death camps in Poland. Of the 3,276 Jews from Bitola who were sent to Treblinka, not one survived. In total it's believed that Macedonia lost 98% of its Jewish population during WWII, the highest rate of any country during the conflict. Today there are about 200 Jews living in Macedonia, most of them in Skopje. What little of the Jewish part of Skopje that was left after WWII was finished off by the earthquake and practically nothing remains to be seen. Some efforts are being made to revive at least some of the Jewish past in Skopje. With donations from abroad a Jewish cultural centre is currently being built near the Stone Bridge in the former Jewish part of the city. The tobacco factory at 11-ti Oktomvri 125, which was used as an improvised concentration camp during WWII features a small memorial, and there are plans to build a Jewish museum on the site. Watch this space.

Synagogue Borka Taleski 24, tel. 323 75 43. ▶ Open 08:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Daut Pasha Hamam (National Art Gallery) C-1/2, Kruševska 1a, tel. 313 31 02. Skopje's extraordinary 15th-century Daut Pasha Hamam (bath house) holds the National Art Gallery - though the building is far more interesting than any of the art inside. Daut Pasha was the grand vezir of East Rumelia in the second half of the 15th century who according to legend built the hamam for his harem. The 13-domed building was designed for separate male and female bathing. The two large domes at the front covered the two dressing rooms and originally contained fountains. The remaining smaller domes covered individual bathing rooms. The building now houses a modest collection of modern art as well as a few paintings from the 18th and 19th centuries. The hamam sits somewhat forlorn next to the decrepit bridge building south of the bazaar. ▶ Admission 50den.

Ishak Bey Mosque C-1, Bitpazarska. Ishak Bey, the conqueror of Macedonia who settled in Skopje after retiring had this small, pretty mosque built just north of the Bit Pazar in 1439, and it is still used by the merchants manning the stalls there. Also known as the Aladja (decorated) mosque, it is one of the oldest in Skopje and was famous for its floral decorations, inscriptions and coloured tiles that unfortunately didn't survive the big fire and earthquake. The mosque's slender 30-metre-high minaret leans a metre to the side. Behind the mosque is a small graveyard including a lovely blue-tiled turbe (mausoleum) that seems to be used as a garden shed nowadays.

Kapan Han C-1, Bitpazarska. A beautiful building indeed, the 15th century Kapan Han is one of the three remaining medieval inns still standing in the old bazaar. Originally constructed as a hotel for visiting merchants, the ground floor was used as a stable and storeroom, with the upper floor given over to a series of rooms for the merchants to sleep in. Today Kapan Han houses two fine restaurants, Beerhouse An and Sofra.

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Kursumli Han C-1, Kurchiska. The beautiful Kursumli Han is a bit tricky to get to but well worth visiting. Reached via the courtyard or parking lot of the National Museum, it is the best of the three surviving caravanserais, or inn complexes in Skopje. Called the 'lead inn' for the lead on its roof, it was built in 1550 by Mula Musledin Hodza, who was the son of Abdul Gani, a scientist at Sultan Selim II's court. Merchants arriving in Skopje with their goods and animals used the han as their base during market days. The first courtyard would have been for the merchants, with the goods and animals in the second courtyard (only visible from the first floor windows). The complex suffered during the fire and earthquake; left of the entrance are the remains of a hamam (bath house), while there are no traces left of the mosque next to the han. After serving time as a prison and an armoury, the han has now been restored and is home to the National Museum's statue collection. The grassy courtyard has a tinkling fountain and is surrounded by two tiers of high arches, behind which are the dusty rooms that once housed the merchants. ▶ Admission free.

Mustafa Pasha Mosque C-1, Prohor Pcinski bb. Towering above the old bazaar area with its 16-metre-wide dome and thin 42-metre-high minaret, the elegant Mustafa Pasha Mosque was built in 1492 and incredibly survived all disasters that befell the city intact. Next to the mosque stands a *turbe* (mausoleum) holding Mustafa Pasha and one of his daughters. The mosque courtyard is filled with roses and offers great views of the bazaar.

Suli Han C-1, Bitpazarska bb. The Suli Han inn which houses the Bazaar museum used to have dozens of rooms for travellers to sleep and store goods, plus stables. It was damaged during the 1669 fire and the 1963 earthquake, and was rebuilt using modern materials. It also houses the arts faculty of the University of Skopje - you're free to wander around the ateliers to see students at work.

Sultan Murat Mosque C-1, Ul. 156. A huge and quite simple structure with no dome but a normal roof, the Sultan Murat or Hunkar Mosque is Skopje's oldest, from 1436. It stands beside the clock tower on the hill just east of the bazaar on the location of Skopje's main monastery before the Ottoman takeover, St. George Gorga. The monastery's fortifications can still be seen around the hill. The three naves of the former church can be recognised in the mosque's simple interior. Outside the mosque are two mausoleums, or turbes. The sultan in Istanbul was responsible for its upkeep and donations were regularly made after fire and earthquake damage.

Parks & Zoo

Gradski Park B-1. Laid out at the end of the 19th century, Gradski (City) Park to the north and northwest of the city is a large and extremely popular place during the warmer months of the year, especially in the spring and autumn. Several columns of a mosque that used to stand on Makedonija square can be seen in the park. Of particular interest is the statue of national hero Goce Delcev (see Monuments) close to the Kanet hotel, a rather dilapidated and forlorn fairground, and the city's only outdoor disco. Good for walking or picnicking, the northern edge of the park runs alongside the Vardar, which has a long path popular with the city's cyclists and roller-bladers. There's a large sports hall and tennis courts, and a small stage close to the zoo putting on a varied programme of performances during the summer weekends. For more information about racquet sports as well as cycling in the city and beyond, see the Sports section of this guide.

Zoo A-1, Ilindenska 88, tel. 322 05 78. In 2004, the British tabloid Daily Mirror newspaper ran a feature on the appalling conditions at Skopje zoo, sparking a lot of activity including an offer from the UK-based animal welfare and conservation charity Born Free Foundation, who offered to help improve conditions at the zoo and co-devise a more humane strategy. It fell on deaf ears, and the zoo continues to be a disgraceful embarrassment that does nothing good for Macedonia's image whatsoever. Curious to see what the situation was for ourselves, In Your Pocket visited Skopje Zoo in February 2006 and can only confirm what others have said before them. If your idea of a good day out is peeking over fences at depressed lion cubs and deer wallowing in filthy mud then Skopje Zoo won't disappoint. But, if like most sane people on the planet, you find zoos tasteless freak shows at the best of times you'd do well to steer clear of the place. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00. Admission 50den.

Wacky Skopje

Perhaps more than any other former Yugoslav city except Belgrade, Skopje has a terrific set of crazy concrete buildings from the 1960s to 1980s. Characterised by the ample use of rough concrete and a blatant disregard of human-scale landscaping, these molochs originally fitted in the socialist city concept as open urban meeting centres - but somehow never turned out as the impressible artist's impressions drawings. Skopje's prime example is the 1979 main post office (see Sightseeing) with its upturned concrete legs, but from the same architect there's the 1973 medical university and the 1969 Nikola Karev high school. Elsewhere, look out for the 1968 Historical Archives building and the 1975 Goce Delcev student dorms by Gorgi Konstantinovski, the 1974 National Bank bu Olga Pepesh and Radomir Lalovik. Crowning a hill along the road to old Skupi the 1975 State Hydrometeorological Institute building by Krsto Todorovski is a weird constellation of concrete pillars and slabs.

Sutka

Suto Orizari. The Roma (gypsy) town of Suto Orizari, Sutka (pronounced shutka) for short, is five kilometres north of Skopje and makes for a great, eye-opening excursion. The town of perhaps 50,000 people (much more in summer when those working abroad come home) was founded after the 1963 earthquake between Skopje's prison and the cemetery, and became an independent municipality in 1996. It's the only town in Europe with a Roma mayor and with Roma as an official language. Sutka's streets are the closest you'll come to India in Europe - full of life, friendly curious locals, playing children, colourful clothes, boys tinkering with bikes, and garbage. Some of the small houses lining the paved main streets are proud small palaces, with ornate balconies and decorations. But Sutka is also Macedonia's poorest town, and many people also live in simple shacks made of wood and metal. Sutka's main attraction for residents of Skopje is the daily flea market, held in the centre of town every morning, where all manner of authentic and pirated goods are sold, including fashion, and mobile phones. A good souvenir is a CD with Roma music - go local and ask for anything by Esma, a famous Macedonian Roma singer. Walking around Sutka is perfectly safe - you're bound to be met with smiles - but it's a good idea to use one of the guarded car parks (turn right up any street near the market), to keep your valuables hidden while walking around and to ask before taking pictures of people. You can easily reach Sutka by bus №19 from the main post office or bus №20 from the train station and old bazaar.

Central Post Office (Glavna Posta) C-2, Orce Nikolov bb, tel. 312 21 62, www.posta.com.mk. The unique combination of the terrible 1963 earthquake and communism created an environment in Skopje for some extraordinary building projects from the mid-1960s onwards. Among the many mind-boggling examples of modern architecture in the Macedonian capital, arguably the most astonishing is the city's central post office. Built in three stages in 1974, 1982 and 1989, by far the most interesting are the first two, both the work of the Macedonian architect Janko Konstantinov. Born in Bitola in 1926, Konstantinov gained his credentials working on projects in Finland (where he worked with the legendary Finnish architect Alvar Aalto), Sweden and the USA. Immediately after the tragic events of 1963, Konstantinov returned to Skopje to help rebuild the city. In 1974 the first phase of the new post office building was complete, with the opening of the interesting but far from breathtaking block and tower, inspired by the towers of the fortress across the river and built using reinforced (or as they like to call it in Macedonia, raw) concrete. By far the most interesting of the three sections is the round, spaceship-like section dating from 1982. A purely abstract creation also made from reinforced concrete, it's not known what inspired him to design such an inspirational piece of work, but thank God he did. This second section forms the main public part of the building, and is equally extraordinary inside. The walls have been covered in brightly coloured, typically communist and quite delightful murals designed by the Macedonian artist Borko Lazecski (1917-1993), who also painted similar murals for the central post office in Konstantinov's hometown, Bitola. As mentioned elsewhere in this guide, taking photographs inside the building without permission is a guaranteed way of getting yourself shouted at by young and aggressive male security guards who know nothing about architecture and even less about good manners. You have been warned. The final section, the bland 1989 work of Zoran Staklev, is a typically modern construction worthy of little attention. ► Open 07:00 - 19:30, Sun 08:00 - 14:00.

Tour guides

Bojan Stankovski, tel. 070 62 68 66, b.stankovski@gmail.com. Supplementing the lagging tourist facilities in his home town, Bojan is a voluntary city tour guide who is happy to give information by email and walk tourists around town, pointing out what makes Skopje special. He's also an expert on Ohrid and Orthodox religious art and architecture.

Out of town

Aquaduct. North of town and visible from the road to Kosovo, a large stone and brick aquaduct with 55 arches crosses a grassy valley near an army base. Nobody is certain of the origins of the aquaduct, but the fact that it's pointing at Skopje's old bazaar (rather than the ruined ancient city of Scupi) indicates it was built in Byzantine times, and later used by the Ottomans for the bath houses. Visit the aquaduct by turning right directly after passing under the railway bridge on the Kosovo road; then turn right again and drive on until you see a stream and the army base gates; the bridge is 300 metres left up the road beside the stream. When taking pictures be aware you don't point your camera at the barracks - though probably nobody cares.

Lake Matka & Treska Gorge. Just a short bus or taxi trip out of town, the Treska Gorge reminds you of how close the mountains always are in Macedonia. Situated 15 kilometres southwest of the city, massive stone walls rear up from the Lake Matka here, while the small 14th century St. Andrew's church with the adjacent restaurant forms a focal point for visitors. The valley is popular for visiting caves, canoeing and rock climbing.

Mount Vodno. Towering over Skopje and topped with the huge Millennium cross that caused considerable controversy when it was built in 2000, mount Vodno is 1066 metres high and is criss-crossed by marked hiking paths. Fit travellers can walk up from the city to the peak in a few hours and see the 66-metre high cross up close.



Perched 770 metres high up the 1,066-metre Mount Vodno, immediately to the southwest of Skopje, lies the small settlement of Gorno Nerezi. Reachable by car (a taxi ride costs around 250den each way) or for the more adventurous by scrambling up the mountain track, Gorno Nerezi really is worth the journey, partly for the superb view of the city below but mostly for what lies inside the infamous 12th-century St. Panteleimon Monastery. Ideal as a mini break away from the capital, the monastery has quite rightly cashed in on its notoriety and features a restaurant and small hotel as well. **St. Panteleimon Monastery** Gorno Nerezi, open 11:00-17:00, closed Mon. Admission 80den. Built in 1164 by Alexis Comnène (Aleksij Komnen), the grandson of Emperor Alexis the First, the humble looking Orthodox St. Panteleimon Monastery hides within its walls a treat beyond comparison for anyone with even a passing interest in Byzantine art. Inside the small stone and brick building lies some truly glo-



rious frescos, many of them dating back to the building of the monastery. Famous for breaking the rules of what was up until then a very strict style of religious painting, the frescos depict the usual Orthodox themes including the Lamentation of Christ, Dormition of Holy Mother of God and others, but what sets these paintings apart from everything that went before them is that the artists have breathed life into the figures.

Where to stay

Panteleimon hotel

Plonked above the superb Panteleimon restaurant, accommodation is available in two wonderful villa-style apartments should you wish to turn your day trip into something a little more adventurous and/or romantic. Beautifully renovated, each apartment contains large wooden double beds, satellite television, hifi and spacious bathrooms with a shower and bath. Perched half way up a mountain this certainly isn't the most central location, but if you're planning on getting away from it all for the night, want good food, stunning views, groundbreaking Byzantine art and a good place to rest your bones, you couldn't find a better place if you tried. Booking in advance, possibly by months, is highly recommended. Tel. 308 12 55.

Where to eat

Panteleimon restaurant

A spacious hunting lodge-style restaurant next to St. Panteleimon Monastery complete with large wooden benches and traditional Macedonian costumes on the walls, this hugely popular place high up overlooking the city serves traditional Macedonian food including a superb selsko meso, a host of wonderful meat dishes cooked on an open fire and, best of all, the delicious pita kiselo mleko, a strange dish of goats' cheese-filled pipes of pastry that have to be tasted to be believed. In the summer they open up a further restaurant with a large mountainside terrace, boasting stunning views of Skopje below. Tel. 308 12 55. Open 08:00 - 24:00, Sat 08:00 - 01:00.

Before Panteleimon, the rules never allowed any characters to show emotion, making such pictures as the extraordinary fresco of Mary holding her dead son in her arms, complete with an anguished face and tears in her eyes, utterly extraordinary. Surviving several earthquakes, the artwork inside St. Panteleimon Monastery is generally regarded as one of the three main examples of Byzantine art in the world, opening the doors for Giotto and the Renaissance a century and a half later. Excellent guided tours are available courtesy of the charming and exceedingly well-informed Bojan Stankovski. Give him a call on tel. +389 70 62 68 66.



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Getting around Skopje is relatively easy; the city is compact enough to walk through and public transport, when necessary, is good.

Airport & Airlines

Skopje's small international airport (code SKP, tel. 314 83 00, www.airports.com.mk) is 22 kilometres east of the city, along the Belgrade/Athens highway. The airport has a dozen airlines flying to some 16 international destinations, and handles about 50,000 passengers a year, which is still just half the amount that passed through in 2000 right after the Kosovo crisis. No wonder the place looks worn. There's no public bus service to the airport, so if your hotel doesn't have a drop-off service getting there by taxi (€15-20, payable in denars or euros) is your only option. If you are renting a car, remember to take out some cash denars to pay the highway toll. When walking in, security staff insist on scanning every piece of luggage at the main entrance, even if nobody is watching the screen. You can change your denars into other currencies, gifts or booze in the main hall. After passing customs you enter the tiny departures area which has a tax free shop (a carton of Marlboro's is €12) and a bar. To remind you of what you're leaving behind, the baggage carts are pulled to the plane by a tractor. It's touching to see the airport fire brigade staff sitting ready for action in their fire engines while your plane taxis to the runway.

Adria Airways Dame Gruiev 11, Gradski Zid blok 4 lok 8, tel. 311 70 09, adr.skopje@adria.si, www.adria-airways.com. Airport desk open one hour before departure. ▶ Open 09:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Aeroflot, Alitalia & Bulgaria Air (Orfej) 11 Oktomvri 2, tel. 311 86 02, orfej@orfej.com.mk. The agent for Aeroflot (www.aeroflot.com), Alitalia (www.alitalia.com) & Bulgaria Air (www.air.bg). Airport desk open on flight days from 15:00-19:00. ▶ Open 09:00 - 20:00, Sat 09:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun.

Austrian Airlines & Lufthansa (Inex) 11 Oktomvri 5, tel. 321 61 20, inex1@mt.net.mk, www.inex.com.mk. Agent for Austrian Airlines (www.aua.com/mk) and Lufthansa (www.lufthansa.com). Airport desk open 11:00-17:00. ▶ Open 08:00 - 17:00, Sat 10:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

Croatian Airlines Dame Gruiev 3, tel. 311 58 58, skpto@croatairlines.hr. Airport desk open 2 hours before flights. ▶ Open 08:00 - 17:00, Sat 08:00 - 12:00. Closed Sun.

Czech Airlines (CSA) Makedonija 15a, tel. 329 05 72, skp@czechairlines.com, www.czechairlines.com/mk. Airport desk open Tue, Wed, Fri 10:30-15:00, Sun, Mon 06:00-09:00, Thu, Sat closed. ▶ Open 09:00 - 17:00, Sat 09:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

Helvetic, www.helvetic.com. Flights to and from Zurich. Online booking only.

Flight schedule

From Skopje			City	To Skopje		
Days	Dep.	Arr.		Days	Dep.	Arr.
—4—	06:40	09:40	AMSTERDAM (IN)	—4—	10:40	13:30
1234567	06:00	06:50	BELGRADE (JU)	1234567	21:30	22:25
—5—	16:45	19:30	BELGRADE (JU)	—5—	14:55	16:05
—7	13:10	15:30	BERLIN (IN)	—7	16:10	18:30
1-3-5—	05:40	06:55	BUDAPEST (MA)	-2-4-7	23:10	00:30
1234567	15:30	16:50	BUDAPEST (MA)	1234567	13:25	14:45
—3-6—	13:00	15:40	DUSSELDORF (IN)	—3-6—	16:20	19:00
—6—	18:00	20:40	DUSSELDORF (DI)	—6—	14:40	17:20
—5—	14:30	16:50	HAMBURG (IN)	—5—	17:50	20:30
-2—	11:35	14:00	ISTANBUL (TK)	-2—	10:15	10:35
—5-7	18:00	20:25	ISTANBUL (TK)	—5-7	16:40	17:00
1234567	15:50	17:20	LIUBLJANA (JP,LH)	1234567	13:25	15:00
—67	12:15	14:25	MILAN (AZ)	—67	09:35	11:30
1234567	17:20	19:30	MILAN (AZ)	1234567	14:40	16:45
1—7	08:15	10:15	PRAGUE (OK,AF)	—67	19:30	21:25
-2-45—	14:10	16:05	PRAGUE (OK)	-2-45—	11:30	13:25
—5-7	13:30	15:10	ROME (IN)	—5-7	16:10	17:50
-2-4—	08:00	09:40	ROME (IN)	-2-4—	10:40	12:20
1-3-7	07:30	09:10	VIENNA (IN,OS)	—7	04:10	05:50
—5—	07:40	09:20	VIENNA (IN,OS)	—5—	11:00	12:40
1234567	16:55	18:40	VIENNA (OS,IN,LH)	1234567	13:50	15:30
			VIENNA (IN,OS)	—3—	10:40	12:20
			VIENNA (IN,OS)	1—7	10:50	12:30
1-345—	06:15	07:30	ZAGREB (OU)	-23—	20:55	22:10
—5—	15:15	16:30	ZAGREB (OU)	—4—	21:20	22:35
1—	14:55	16:10	ZAGREB (OU)	1—	13:00	14:15
			ZAGREB (OU)	—5—	13:15	14:30
			ZAGREB (OU)	—7	21:20	23:15
1234567	06:30	08:40	ZURICH (IN,LX)	1234567	10:00	12:30
—3-567	09:50	12:10	ZURICH (2L)	—3-567	06:50	08:55

Airline codes: 2L = Helvetic Airways, AF = Air France, AZ = Alitalia, C9 = Cirrus Airlines, DI = DBA Luftfahrtgesellschaft, DU = Hemus Air, IN = Macedonian Airlines, JP = Adria Airways, JU = Jat Airways, LH = Lufthansa, LX = Swiss, MA = Malev Hungarian Airlines, OU = Croatian Airlines, OS = Austrian Airlines, OK = Czech Airlines, TK = Turkish Airlines, ZY = Ada Air.

Figures indicate days of departure: 1 is Monday, 2 is Tuesday, etc. This schedule is correct at time of printing, but may change over time – always contact the airlines or the airport for the most up-to-date information.

Jat Airways Partizanski Odredi 17, tel. 322 90 78, jatskp@on.net.mk, www.jat.com. The Former Yugoslav Airlines of Jat, reinvented as a budget airline. Airport desk open from 05:00-07:00 before flights. ▶ Open 09:00 - 17:00, Sat 09:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

Macedonian Airlines (MAT) Vasil Glavinov 3, tel. 329 23 33, mathq@mat.com.mk, www.mat.com.mk. Also on Makedonija 41, tel. 321 80 77. Airport desk open 2 hours before flights. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00, Sat 09:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

Malev (Delfino) Ilinden 9, tel. 311 12 14, del-finoreservation@yahoo.com. Agent for Malev (www.malev.com). Airport desk opens 90 minutes before flights. ▶ Open 08:00 - 17:00, Sat 09:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

Olimpic Airways Ilindenska 3, tel. 312 71 27, olimpicreservation@yahoo.com. ▶ Open 08:00 - 17:00, Sat 09:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

Swiss Air Dame Gruiev, Gradski Zid Blok 4 lok 8, tel. 311 80 09, skptsix@swiss.com, www.swiss.com. Airport desk open 1 hour before flights. ▶ Open 09:00 - 17:00, Sat 09:00 - 13:00. Closed Sun.

Turkish Airlines Dame Gruiev 3/2, tel. 311 72 14, thyskpsales@gmail.com, www.turkishairlines.com. Airport desk open 2 hours before flights. ▶ Open 08:30 - 17:00, Sat 09:00 - 13:00. Closed Sun.

www.inyourpocket.com

Trains

Trains in Macedonia are usually not the best way to get around, with buses providing faster, more frequent and equally cheap services. Using trains in Macedonia also means you'll have to use Skopje's horrible train station. The Skopje-Veles-Prilep-Bitola train is highly recommended for those who enjoy shunting around, as it passes through magnificent landscapes - first through the Vardar Gorge, and then through untouched nature.

Train station D-2, Bul. Kuzman Josifovski Pitu bb, tel. 316 42 55, www.mz.com.mk. Skopje's gorgeous central train station was put out of business by the 1963 earthquake. It was replaced by a revolting concrete box designed by the Japanese Kenzo Tange (of City Wall fame) next to the bus station. Complete with vagrants and cobwebs, this dingy monstrosity should by no means be taken as a fair representation of the city. The ticket office is hidden away at the back of the building on the ground floor, selling tickets to both domestic and international destinations. The ladies working here (and that goes for everybody else working on the station, plus the website) speak not one word of English. International trains arrive from and depart to Belgrade, Ljubljana, Pristina, Thessaloniki and Zagreb as well as a number of other destinations in the region. An information kiosk can be found directly on the left as you walk in from the main street, but nobody here speaks English. Left luggage (25den/day/bag) is immediately behind, and usually locked. Apart from an antique hairdressers and a 24-hour internet café (tel. 246 88 79) on the second floor there's little excitement to be found. Toilets are on the ground and second floors. Use the ones in the bus station next door if you value your health. In fact, use the bus station for everything. ▶ Open 24hrs.



Train schedule

All trains listed here run daily. Between mid-June and early September there are additional trains to Podgorica, Bar and Vienna. Always check times and prices in advance.

From Skopje			City	To Skopje		
Dep.	Arr.			Dep.	Arr.	Price
07:15	16:10		BELGRADE	07:00	15:39	1207den
11:50	21:55		BELGRADE	14:00	22:36	1207den
22:50	07:57		BELGRADE	18:00	02:52	1207den
			BELGRADE	21:00	06:10	1207den
03:20	06:51		BITOLA	03:53	07:13	229den
06:34	10:32		BITOLA	07:10	10:40	229den
14:30	18:00		BITOLA	15:05	18:16	229den
19:20	22:44		BITOLA	18:20	21:51	229den
03:10	05:50		GEVGELIJA	05:05	08:00	208den
06:17	09:05		GEVGELIJA	09:13	11:30	208den
16:00	18:55		GEVGELIJA	16:00	18:44	208den
18:18	21:15		GEVGELIJA	20:10	22:26	208den
03:00	04:26		GOSTIVAR	06:20	07:56	130den
06:20	07:47		GOSTIVAR	12:45	14:12	130den
16:30	17:57		GOSTIVAR	19:46	21:10	130den
03:00	05:05		KICEVO	05:40	07:56	175den
06:20	08:26		KICEVO	12:05	14:12	175den
03:50	04:31		KUMANOVO	02:20	02:52	72den
07:15	07:59		KUMANOVO	05:17	06:00	72den
09:55	10:39		KUMANOVO	08:52	09:33	72den
11:50	12:29		KUMANOVO	11:53	12:32	72den
15:45	16:29		KUMANOVO	15:07	15:39	72den
18:55	19:38		KUMANOVO	17:12	17:55	72den
22:50	23:10		KUMANOVO	20:22	21:05	72den
			KUMANOVO	22:04	22:36	72den
11:50	08:32		LIUBLJANA	21:05	15:39	2911den
07:15	12:05		NIS	01:33	06:10	597den
11:50	16:40		NIS	08:05	12:32	597den
15:45	20:40		NIS	11:20	15:39	597den
22:50	03:50		NIS	18:15	22:36	597den
			NIS	22:30	02:52	597den
03:20	06:07		PRILEP	04:31	07:13	170den
06:34	09:46		PRILEP	08:00	10:40	170den
14:30	17:24		PRILEP	15:39	18:16	170den
19:20	22:07		PRILEP	19:11	21:51	170den
09:38	12:12		PRISTINA	06:28	09:01	100den*
16:13	18:46		PRISTINA	13:38	15:38	100den*
03:00	04:04		TETOVO	06:43	07:56	100den
06:20	07:25		TETOVO	13:09	14:12	100den
16:30	17:35		TETOVO	20:08	21:10	100den
16:30	18:37		KICEVO	19:05	21:10	175den
03:10	08:17		THESSALONIKI	08:21	11:30	684den
16:00	21:32		THESSALONIKI	19:10	22:26	684den
03:10	03:52		VELES	05:27	06:16	80den
03:20	04:05		VELES	06:13	07:13	80den
06:17	07:12		VELES	07:10	08:00	80den
06:34	07:33		VELES	09:51	10:40	80den
10:55	11:48		VELES	10:48	11:30	80den
13:15	14:05		VELES	14:25	15:19	80den
14:30	15:22		VELES	12:06	12:56	80den
15:41	16:29		VELES	17:27	18:16	80den
16:00	16:43		VELES	17:53	18:44	80den
18:18	19:17		VELES	19:25	20:19	80den
19:20	20:12		VELES	21:00	21:51	80den
22:40	23:29		VELES	21:45	22:26	80den
11:50	05:53		ZAGREB	00:10	15:39	2221den

* Price valid until the border station at General Jankovic, after which passengers can purchase a ticket on board for the remainder of the trip to Pristina.

Public transport

Skopje's public transport system is composed entirely of old buses which have colour-coded roofs. The ones with red roofs are state-owned JSP buses, while the white-roofed ones are the slightly cheaper private buses (ignore whatever colours are on the sides). Day and evening services run approximately 05:00 - 23:00 with a limited service throughout the night on all of the major routes. Tickets are based on a zone system, with the city centre as zone 1. A ride within zone 1 on a JSP bus will set you back 30den if bought on the bus or 25den if you buy the ticket in a kiosk. You can travel even cheaper by buying a 10-ride card for 225den. The price for the same trip in a private bus is 20den, with tickets sold only on the bus. There is no public transport information centre, though the kiosks at the end of the lines have the schedules posted. For more information see JSP's website at www.jsp.com.mk. **Useful bus routes** are bus N°20 from the train station past the bazaar to Sutka; bus N°22 from the train station to the west side of the centre; bus N°57 from the city centre to the bazaar; bus N°9 from behind the Ramstore mall to the bazaar; buses N°5, 15 and 24 along the main east-to-west streets; bus N°23 looping around the east part of the centre; bus N°19 from the main post office via the bazaar to Sutka.

Long-distance buses

Tickets can only be purchased at the bus station where nearly all bus companies have ticket offices. International destinations from Skopje include Belgrade, Istanbul, Ljubljana, Peja, Pristina, Sofia, Tirana and Zagreb.

Bus station D-2, Nikola Karev 20, tel. 246 60 11, www.sas.com.mk. Taking the running of Skopje's central bus station out of the hands of the state has led to some much needed improvements, making both arriving and leaving the city by bus almost something to look forward to. The clean and modern facilities include good quality toilets for 10den, ATMs, shops and cafés. Eight ticket windows staffed by a surprisingly high proportion of English-speakers sell tickets for destinations inside Macedonia and abroad. Information, currency exchange and left luggage (50den/bag/day) are also taken care of by the ticket staff. If you need to top up your Macedonian prepaid mobile phone card, several of the shops here sell cards. There are a few card phones, and the small Godar shop also has a telephone which can be used to make local and international calls from 11den - 21den/min. ▶ Open 24hrs.

Taxis

Skopje's taxis are regulated by the city council, and with the exception of the occasional scallywag the capital's cabbies are the most honest in the world - a startling and delightful fact that only adds to the pleasure and mystique of the city. The starting rate is 50den, which is valid for the first two kilometres; after that you pay an additional 20den per kilometre. The rates are the same at night, and waiting is

Bus schedule

Always check departure times and ticket prices in advance. The price refers to a standard one-way ticket. There are also regular bus connections to towns in Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Scandinavian cities.

From Skopje			To Skopje			Days
Dep.	Arr.	City	Dep.	Arr.	Price	
00:00	07:30	BELGRADE	00:45	09:00	1400den	daily
02:00	09:30	BELGRADE	13:30	21:00	1400den	daily
04:00	10:30	BELGRADE	15:30	22:15	1400den	123456-
10:30	18:10	BELGRADE	16:00	21:30	1400den	daily
13:00	20:20	BELGRADE	16:00	22:15	1400den	daily
21:15	04:50	BELGRADE	17:30	23:15	1400den	daily
21:30	04:50	BELGRADE	20:30	04:50	1400den	daily
23:30	06:00	BELGRADE	21:30	05:30	1400den	daily
06:00	*	BOSILEGRAD	*	*	680den	daily
15:00	06:00	BURSA			2250den	—5—
16:00	07:00	BURSA			2600den	—6—
		BURSA	14:00	05:00	2250den	—4—
		BURSA	14:30	05:30	2600den	—5—
16:00	05:00	ISTANBUL	17:00	06:00	1600den	daily
17:00	06:00	ISTANBUL	18:00	06:30	1600den	daily
18:00	07:00	ISTANBUL	18:00	07:00	1600den	daily
19:00	08:00	ISTANBUL	18:30	07:30	1600den	daily
17:00	13:30	KOPER	11:00	07:00	3460den	daily
17:30	*	MITROVICA	*	*	390den	daily
13:00	08:00	LJUBLJANA	16:00	09:35	3200den	—23—567
17:00	09:55	LJUBLJANA	17:00	12:00	3200den	—2—5—
18:00	10:00	LJUBLJANA			3200den	—4—
08:00	*	NOVI PAZAR	*	10:20	580den	daily
15:30	*	NOVI PAZAR	*	18:00	620den	daily
09:00	17:30	PODGORICA			1910den	—3—
		PODGORICA	10:00	18:30	1910den	—4—
09:00	10:30	PRISTINA	05:30	07:00	330den	12345—
11:00	12:30	PRISTINA	06:30	08:00	330den	daily
11:30	13:00	PRISTINA	07:50	09:20	330den	daily
15:00	16:30	PRISTINA	08:05	09:35	330den	daily
16:30	18:00	PRISTINA	10:30	12:00	330den	123456—
17:00	18:30	PRISTINA	14:30	16:00	330den	123456—
11:30	*	PRIZREN	*	08:40	520den	123456—
16:00	*	PRIZREN	*	12:40	520den	daily
20:00	11:30	SARAJEVO			2860den	—3—7
		SARAJEVO	18:30	10:00	2860den	—2—5—
00:00	05:00	SOFIA	24:00	05:00	800den	daily
06:30	11:30	SOFIA	07:30	12:30	800den	daily
08:30	13:30	SOFIA	09:30	14:30	800den	daily
15:00	20:00	SOFIA	13:00	18:00	800den	daily
22:00	03:00	SOFIA	16:00	21:00	800den	daily
23:00	04:00	SOFIA	19:00	00:00	800den	daily
07:00	10:30	THESSALONIKI	16:30	20:00	1000den	1-3-5—
08:00	19:00	UZICE	08:00	18:30	1320den	daily
13:00	24:00	ZAGREB			2700den	—2—6—
18:00	05:00	ZAGREB			2700den	—4—
		ZAGREB	18:00	05:00	2700den	—3—7
		ZAGREB	18:00	05:00	2700den	—5—

*Unknown; there is a bus on the route but the times are unsure.

charged at 300den/hr. Make sure the meter is running before you set off. Taxis can be hailed from the street, but phoning (or having the restaurant or hotel phone one) is an option too; operators speak English. Put +389-2 in front of the four-digit numbers below if you're calling from your mobile.

Bel Mercedes, tel. 9183.
Komak Komerc, tel. 9193.
Plava Laguna, tel. 9192.
Pulsar, tel. 9197.



Driving & Car rental

Driving around Macedonia is relatively fast and easy. It has good roads, Western-standard highways, reasonable signposting in both the Cyrillic and Latin alphabets, and petrol is slightly cheaper than in Western Europe. Bringing a detailed map is always a good idea, and make sure to have cash at hand to pay for the highway toll, usually 20-30den. Between Tetovo and Skopje you'll have to pay a number of times, on the way to the airport just once. **Car rental** in Macedonia is cheap and reliable - we've heard of people saving costs by travelling from Greece to rent a car here. The rental rates for the cheapest cars listed below are including taxes but may involve limited mileage.

Avis Mito Hadzivasilev Jasmin, Ramstore Mall, tel. 322 20 46, fax 322 11 32, avismak@mt.net.mk, www.avis.com.mk. Cars from €24 per day. Also at the airport (tel. 256 18 47/070 26 29 74, open 24 hours). ▶ Open 08:00 - 18:00, Sat 09:00 - 15:00. Closed Sun.



Budget Mito Hadzivasilev Jasmin bb, tel. 329 02 22, fax 329 02 24, budget@on.net.mk, www.budget.com. Cars from €50 per day. ▶ Open 08:00 - 19:00, Sat 08:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

Europcar Bul. 8-mi Septemvri bb (Hotel Aleksandar Palace), tel. 309 11 41/070 20 55 46, reservation@europcar.com.mk, www.europcar.com.mk. Cars from €29/day. Also at the airport (tel. 070 205546, open 24hrs). ▶ Open 07:00 - 20:00, Sat, Sun 09:00 - 16:00. 📧

Hertz Ilindenska bb, tel. 313 34 80, hertz2@mt.net.mk. Cars from €35 per day. Also at the airport (tel. 256 13 00, open 08:00-12:00, 18:00-20:00). ▶ Open 07:00 - 20:00, Sat 08:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

Mi-Da Vasil Adzilarski 2 (Holiday Inn), tel. 329 28 88, fax 313 94 91, mida_rentacar@mt.net.mk. Cars from €50 per day.

Sixt Ilindenska 9, tel. 311 22 22, sixtmk@yahoo.com, www.sixt.com. Cars from €38 per day. Also at the Alexander Palace hotel (tel. 306 46 66, open 08:00-16:00, closed Sat, Sun) and at the airport (tel. 258 12 06, open 11:30-17:30). ▶ Open 08:00 - 17:00, Sat 09:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

Travel Agents

The following travel agents can all book flight tickets, hotels and offer other travel services.

City Travel B-2, DTC Paloma Bjanka 7-8, tel. 321 22 03, city@mt.net.mk. On the corner of Dimitrie Cupovski and Dame Grujev.

Kompas C-2, Kej 18 Noemvri, City Shopping Center, tel. 329 68 80, komphol@mt.net.mk. The usual services plus a daily bus to Thessaloniki. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00, Sat 08:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun.

Orfej 11-ti Oktomvri, tel. 311 86 02, orfej@orfej.com.mk, www.orfej.com.mk.

Savana 27-mi Mart 7, tel. 311 58 26, info@savana.com.mk, www.savana.com.mk.

Travel Club Pirinska 43-45 lok.8, tel. 322 89 95, travelclub@mt.net.mk.



Post

Central Post Office (Glavna Posta) C-2, Orce Nikolov bb, tel. 312 21 62, www.posta.com.mk. With everything thoughtfully labelled in French and Macedonian and staff only capable of communicating in the latter, Skopje's spaceship-style reinforced concrete central post office features an astonishing 26 windows, most of them closed, through which to try and communicate. EMS services are handled at windows N°2 and N°3, faxes can be sent from window N°4, and photocopies if you need them can be made courtesy of window N°12. General things like stamps, postcards and first-day covers are available behind windows N°15 and N°16. International telephone calls can be made from the room on the right as you enter. Take a ticket, pay, and wait for your number to come up. And for God's sake don't even think about taking a photograph in here - the thugs who masquerade as security guards will be down on you like a ton of bricks. ► Open 07:00 - 19:30, Sun 08:00 - 14:00.

Express mail

DHL 15-ti Korpus 3, tel. 312 11 11, mkgeneral@dhl.com, www.dhl.com.mk. ► Open 07:30 - 17:00, Sat 08:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.
EMS Nikola Karev bb, Main Post Office, tel. 150 00, www.posta.com.mk. EMS at windows N°2 and N°3, faxes from window N°4 and photocopies courtesy of window N°12. Find stamps, postcards and first-day covers at windows N°15 and N°16. Make international calls from the room on the right as you enter. Take a ticket, pay, and wait for your number to come up. ► Open 07:30 - 19:00, Sat 08:00 - 18:00. Closed Sun.
FedEx Bul. Partizanski Odredi 17, tel. 313 70 44, fedexmak@mt.net.mk, www.fedex.com. ► Open 08:00 - 18:00, Sat 09:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.
TNT Vangel Todorovski 5, tel. 246 90 07, www.tnt.com. ► Open 08:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat, Sun.
UPS Miroslav Krleza 39/1-1, tel. 313 22 22, drago_ups@mt.net.mk, www.ups.com. ► Open 08:00 - 16:30. Closed Sat, Sun.

Telephone

All **public telephones** in Macedonia are card-operated and have English instructions. Post offices also have telephones where you can pay in cash after you finish your call. Telephone cards worth 150, 250 and 500den are for sale at post offices and kiosks. Getting a **landline** installed in your home takes 5-7 working days; you need to request the line in person at one of the Macedonian telecommunication shops. For information in English dial tel. 171. To make a call within Macedonia, dial the two- or three-digit city code if you are not in that city, or the mobile phone code, followed by the 7-digit subscriber's number. From mobile phones, the city code always needs to be dialled. To call abroad from any phone, dial 00 followed by the country code 389, the city code and the subscriber's number.

City codes			
Bitola	047	Stip	032
Ohrid	046	Strumica	034
Kumanovo	031	Tetovo	044
Prilep	048	Veles	043
Skopje	02		

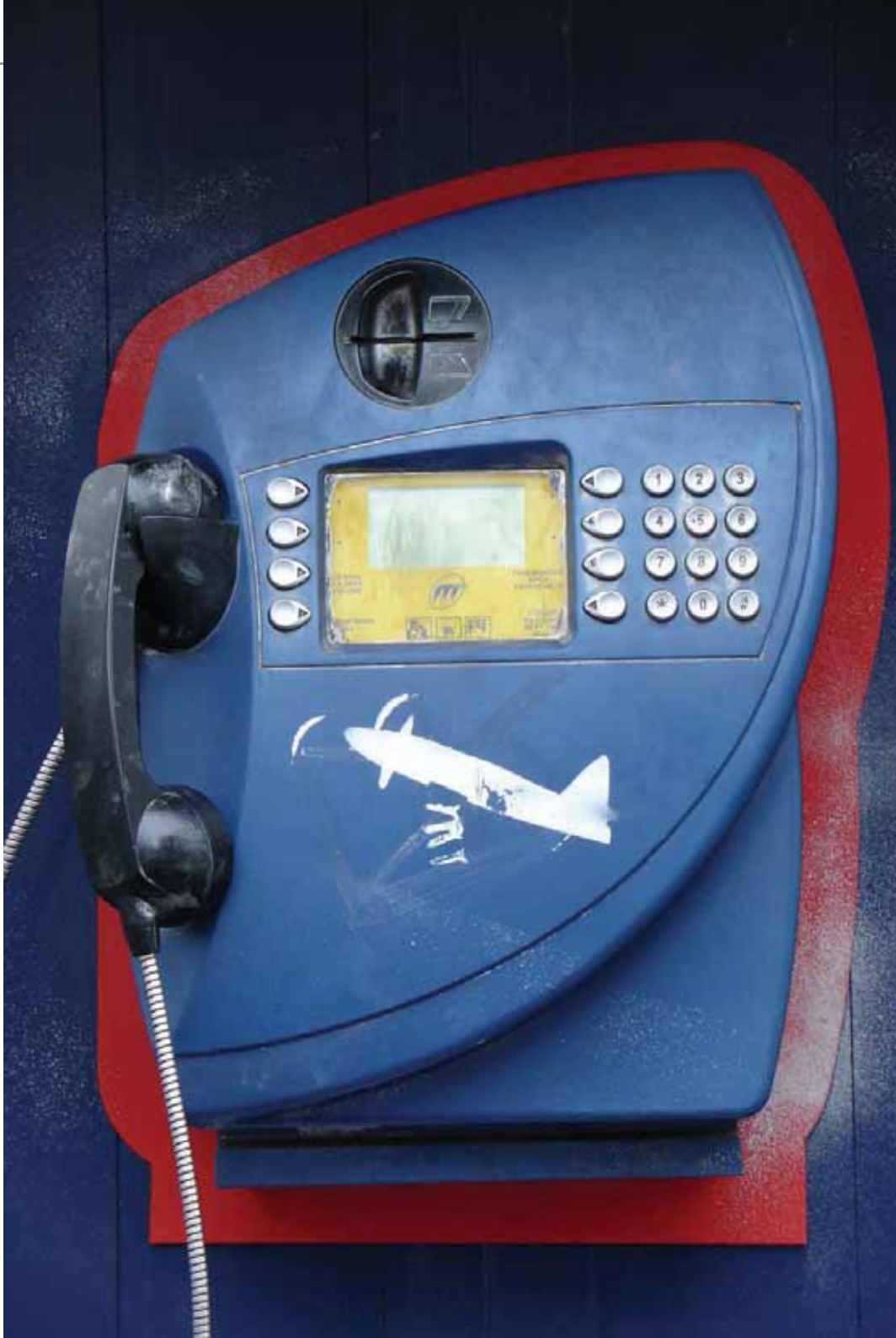
Mobile phones

There are two mobile phone networks in Macedonia, Cosmofon and T-Mobile (renamed from Mobimak), which are similar in price, quality and coverage. To avoid roaming costs from their home provider or to have a handy local telephone number, foreign travellers can purchase a prepaid SIM card to use in a GSM handset. SIM cards are for sale from the many T-Mobile and Cosmofon shops and from some other shops. The start-up costs for both companies are 690den, of which 600den is phoning credit. After getting the SIM card you can top up the card balance with vouchers that are sold in nearly every kiosk. Bring ID along when purchasing a SIM card.

Wi-Fi

Macedonia was the first country in the world to offer 100% Wi-Fi (wadsli) coverage, and going online is easy. **On.net** (Partizanski Odredi 70/5, tel. 310 08 00, <http://biz.on.net.mk>) offers both Wi-Fi and wadsli connections. You can buy prepaid Wi-Fi cards for using On.net's 512Kbps network (check the website for coverage) at any Germanos shop. A 1GB card costs 590den, 2GB is 990den. A setup packet with a 2GB card, a wireless USB network device and a cable is 2395den, or 9995den with a 24GB card. Serious surfers can sign up for the nationwide wadsli network from 1090den per month (available for longer contract periods only). **HotSpot** is T-Mobile's voucher-based Wi-Fi service allowing easy internet wireless access in many locations throughout Skopje. Vouchers can be bought wherever you see the HotSpot sign and are valid for anything from one hour to a week. When you buy a voucher a username and password are sent to your mobile phone which are then used to access the service. Prices start at 300den for one hour through to 2500den for a week. For more information see www.t-mobile.com.mk. Without a wireless or broadband connection you can also use **Makedonski Telekomunikacii's dialup service** (www.mt.com.mk). Have your laptop dial into tel. 055 857 857 and enter 'surfer' as both the user name and password and away you go. Connection speeds are erratic, varying between surprisingly fast connections during the day and often painfully slow during the evenings. The service is charged directly to the telephone line you're using and the per minute rates are 1.6den from 06:00-18:00, 0.8den from 18:00-24:00 and 0.35den from 24:00-06:00. The service includes a free mailbox and 24-hour technical support (tel. 0800 123 45).

Country codes			
Albania	355	Greece	30
Australia	61	Hungary	36
Austria	43	Ireland	353
Belarus	375	Israel	972
Belgium	32	Italy	39
Bulgaria	359	Japan	81
Croatia	385	Latvia	371
Czech Rep.	420	Lithuania	370
Denmark	45	Moldova	373
Estonia	372	Montenegro	381
Finland	358	Netherlands	31
France	33	Norway	47
Germany	49	Poland	48
		Portugal	351
		Romania	40
		Russia	7
		Serbia	381
		Slovakia	421
		Slovenia	386
		Spain	34
		Sweden	46
		Switzerland	41
		Turkey	90
		UK	44
		Ukraine	380
		USA	1





Books & Press

Skopje has plenty of bookshops but very few with a decent selection of English-language books. See the Ramstore Mall and Lumiste Global souvenir shop reviews for foreign newspapers.

Egyptian Dreamer B-2, Makedonija 23, tel. 321 71 10. A bookshop with maps, postcards and a handful of English-language books. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00, Sat 09:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun.

Ikona Books B-2, Ramstore Mall, Mito Hadzivasilev Jasmin, tel. 322 25 43, info@ikona.com.mk. Excellent bookshop in the mall, with plenty of English-language books, travel guides and maps. ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00.

Matica Makedonska B-2, Bul. Sveti Kliment Ohridski 23, tel. 322 11 38. A bookshop with a small English section, also selling guides, books on Macedonian cultural heritage, maps and postcards. ▶ Open 08:00 - 21:00, Sat 08:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun.

Skali (German bookshop) C-2, Kej Dimitar Vlahov 3, tel. 329 89 95. A small shop specialising in German-language books and teaching materials. Near the northern end of the old bridge. ▶ Open 10:00 - 17:00, Sat 10:00 - 13:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Sun.

Gifts & Souvenirs

Ikona B-2, Ramstore Mall, Mito Hadzivasilev Jasmin, tel. 321 53 30, ikona@mail.net.mk. Skopje's best souvenir shop; handmade copies of icons, colourful pottery from Galecna, quirky fridge magnets, T-shirts and mugs. The second outlet (B-2, Lug Paster) is open 09:00-21:00, closed Sat, Sun. ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00.



Jambaz C-1, ul. 106 nr. 34, tel. 322 25 38. Meaning 'crooked businessman' in bazaar-speak, Jambaz is the shop recognisable by the huge bunch of *Makedonki* shoes hanging from the awning. These traditional leather shoes, priced between €8-16, are only made by three or four craftsmen in Skopje nowadays. Even if you don't buy, the friendly owner is happy to have an excuse to pour you a brandy. ▶ Open 08:00 - 19:00, Sat 08:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

Lumiste Global Bul. 8-mi Septemvri bb. The shop inside the Hotel Aleksandar Palace sells icon souvenirs as well as a selection of international newspapers and magazines - today's papers arrive daily at about 20:00. ▶ Open 08:00 - 21:00. Closed Sun.

Ornament B-2, Maksim Gorki 20, tel. 322 34 54. A small basement shop selling traditional Macedonian clothes and souvenir Galecna pottery. ▶ Open 10:00 - 20:00, Sat 10:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun.

Souvenir kiosk C-1/2, Crvena S. Opstina. Macedonia flags, T-shirts and fridge magnets for sale from the kiosk near hamam complex.

Markets

As well as the markets listed here you'll also find stalls set up around the city selling everything from sunglasses to second-hand books to miscellaneous leftover communist-era debris, especially around Square Macedonia and the outside areas to the west of the City Shopping Centre. A large percentage of the fruit and vegetables grown in Macedonia is organic, making a trip to the Green Market especially rewarding.

Bit Pazar C-1, Old Bazaar. At the far northern end of the Old Bazaar area, find Skopje's largest and oldest marketplace, brimming with fruit, vegetables, tobacco, herbs and plenty of Chinese rubbish that falls to pieces the moment you switch it/put it on.

Flower Market (Cveten Pazar) B-3, Mito Hadzivasilev Jasmin bb. Found just east of the old train station (City Museum), Skopje's flower market offers a few kiosks selling flowers and plants for all occasions. Opening times vary from stall to stall, but you're guaranteed to find something open between 08:00 and 23:00 every day.

Green Market B-2. A fine bunch of stalls selling mostly edible products including fresh fruit and vegetables, dried beans, spices, cheese and the usual quota of Chinese rubbish, all of it found in a maze of concrete apartments immediately northeast of the old train station (City Museum). The green market also has a few cafés where you can stop and drink a coffee and generally watch the world go by.

Shopping centres

Beverli Hills A-2, Naroden Front bb. With toys, fashion, home appliances, wedding dresses, an art gallery as well as cafés and fast food, this new and wonderfully-named mall is popular with youngsters. ▶ Open 09:00 - 21:00, Sat 09:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun.

Biser Bul. Jane Sandanski 82, tel. 245 09 44. A popular mall with mobile phones, home appliances, female & male fashion, baby and children clothes, bars and fast food. East of the centre; get there by bus №3, 5, 15, or 23. ▶ Open 09:00 - 21:00, Sat 09:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun.

Bunjakovec A-2, Bul. Partizanski Odredi bb. A shopping centre with cosmetics and perfumes, shoes, fashion, baby clothes and toys. ▶ Open 09:00 - 21:00, Sat 09:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun.



City Shopping Centre (GTC) C-2, Kej 13 Noemvri. Skopje's old shopping mall is a monstrous slab of concrete plonked in the city centre. Filled with shops, cafés, restaurants and clubs, it's certainly a lively place. Facing the river along the Kej is Skopje's premier strolling stretch, with a dozen bustling terrace cafés. Not pretty, but it's central and you can probably find what you're looking for. Shops have different opening times, but all most are closed on Saturdays after 16:00 and on Sundays.

Ramstore Mall B-2, Mito Hadzivasilev Jasmin, tel. 317 80 30, www.ramstore.com.mk. The most exciting thing to come to Skopje since Alexander the Great, this glitzy, curiously named mall is the first of its kind in Macedonia. Decorated with plastic palm trees, there's a deafening din and everyone smokes. There's a good supermarket, ATM, exchange office, cinema, pharmacy, bookshop and a dry cleaner's. There are several cafés, of which the Diamond Bar, Stage Café and Mambo are the best. The food court lacks a McDonald's but has a Smiley's, City Grill, Aladin and a kebab stall. The Camarade news agent next to the western exit has a good selection of foreign newspapers - today's papers arrive daily between 16:00 and 18:00. ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00.

Vero A-2, Mitropolit Teodosija Gologanov 76, tel. 306 99 16. A large supermarket with a good supply of food and household goods including fresh fruit, vegetables and nuts. As well as stocking Barilla pasta, there's a small café, a good press kiosk selling a range of international newspapers and magazines, key cut and a photo service counter. ▶ Open 08:00 - 22:00, Sun 08:00 - 16:00.

Sports

Salomon C-2, City Shopping Centre bb, tel. 323 96 90. A limited range of club and designer sportswear, including a large supply of rollerblades in the summer and skis/snowboards during the winter. ▶ Open 09:00 - 21:00, Sat 09:00 - 15:30. Closed Sun.

Business

Accountants & Lawyers

Ernst & Young Makedonija 19, tel. 311 33 10, eysko-pje@mt.net.mk, www.ey.com.
Infos D K.J.Pitu 26 lok12, tel. 246 31 40, joanidis@infosd.com.mk, www.infosd.com.mk.
KPMG Dame Gruev 28, tel. 313 52 20, kpmg@kpmg.com.mk, www.kpmg.com.mk.
Makedonski Revizorski Centar Mito Hadzi Vasilev Jasmin 20, tel. 321 47 06, mrcetoni@unet.com.mk.
PricewaterhouseCoopers Makedonija 12, tel. 311 66 38, office@mk.pwc.com, www.pwc.com/mk.

Banks

Banka Komercijalna and Stopanska are Macedonia's biggest banks, with outlets and ATMs everywhere.

Eurostandard Bank Vasil Glavinov 12/2, tel. 322 84 44, info@eurostandard.com.mk, www.eurostandard.com.mk. ▶ Open 08:00 - 19:00, Sat 09:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.
IK Bank Bul. Partizanski Odredi 3-11, tel. 312 22 07, ikb@ikbanka.com.mk, www.ikbanka.com.mk. ▶ Open 08:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat, Sun.
Komercijalna Banka Kej 13 Noemvri, City Shopping Center, tel. 316 59 06, contact@kbnet.com.mk, www.kb.com.mk. ▶ Open 07:00 - 19:00, Sat 07:30 - 15:00. Closed Sun.
Makedonska Banka Kej 13 Noemvri, City Shopping Center, tel. 311 45 50, info@makbanka.com.mk, www.makbanka.com.mk. ▶ Open 07:00 - 19:00, Sat 08:00 - 17:00, Sun 08:00 - 13:00.
National Bank Kompleks banki bb, tel. 310 81 08, www.nbrm.gov.mk. The national bank of Macedonia.
ProCredit Bank Jane Sandanski 109a, tel. 321 99 00, info@procreditbank.com.mk, www.procredit.com.mk. ▶ Open 08:30 - 19:00, Sat 09:00 - 13:00. Closed Sun.
Stopanska Banka Kej 13 Noemvri bb, tel. 329 53 44, sbank@stb.com.mk, www.stb.com.mk. ▶ Open 08:15 - 18:00, Sat 08:15 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

Tutunska Banka Kej 13 Noemvri 3, tel. 329 75 80, tbanka1@tb.com.mk, www.tb.com.mk. ▶ Open 08:00 - 18:00, Sat 08:30 - 14:00. Closed Sun.
Ziraat Bank Zeleznicka 8, tel. 311 13 37, zb@ziraat-bank.com.mk, www.ziraatbank.com.mk. ▶ Open 08:00 - 15:30. Closed Sat, Sun.

Business information

Agency for Investments and Development Nikola Parapunov 31, tel. 307 96 01, adi@adi.gov.mk, www.adi.gov.mk.
American Chamber of Commerce Dimitrija Cupovski 2, tel. 321 67 14, info@amcham.com, www.amcham.com.mk.
Economic Chamber of Macedonia Dimitrie Cupovski 13, tel. 324 40 00, www.mchamber.org.mk.
European Business Association Belasica 2, tel. 321 83 97, eba@eba.com.mk, www.eba.com.mk.
Foreign Investments Agency Nikola Vapcarov 7, tel. 311 75 64, contact@macinvest.org.mk, www.macinvest.org.mk.
German Chamber of Commerce (AHK DIHK) Guro Gakovik 65, tel. 322 88 24, dihk.skopje@mt.net.mk, www.ahk.de.
Italian Trade Commission (ICE) Makedonija 33, Risticheva Palata 4/6, tel. 329 62 56, skopje.skopje@ice.it, www.ice.it.
Macedonian-Russian Chamber of Commerce Dimitrie Cupovski 13, tel. 323 33 70, maruko@mt.net.mk, www.maruko.com.mk.
Statistical Office Gradski park baraka br.8, tel. 310 95 13, info@stat.gov.mk, www.stat.gov.mk.
Swiss Import Promotion Programme Maksim Gorki 19, tel. 310 33 50, sippo.skopje@sdcc.net, www.sippo.ch.

Congress services

Congress Service Center Maksim Gorki 14/4, tel. 323 09 67, fax 312 54 77, office.sk@kscnet.com, www.congressservicecenter.com. Full conference support: room bookings, equipment, accommodation, transport, translations and interpreting.

Money transfer

Money transfer, at a price, is available at these central outlets of the IK bank as well as in most other banks.

Western Union (IK bank) C-2, 11-ti oktombri 8, tel. 313 18 89. ▶ Open 08:00 - 19:00, Sat 08:00 - 13:00. Closed Sun. Also at Partizanski Odredi 3, tel. 312 22 07, open 08:00-16:00, closed Sat, Sun.

Real estate

The following companies can help you buy, sell or rent property.

Bastion Bul. Kliment Ohridski 66-1/3, tel. 312 41 27, info@bastion.com.mk, www.bastion.com.mk. ▶ Open 09:00 - 21:00, Sat 09:00 - 17:00. Closed Sun.
Dom Dizajn Nikola Trimpare 15, tel. 311 15 44, contact@dom-design.com.mk, www.dom-design.com.mk. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00, Sat 08:00 - 15:00. Closed Sun.
Renesans Lermontova 3/2, tel. 312 83 44, renesans@mt.net.mk, www.renesans.com.mk. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:30, Sat 08:00 - 14:30. Closed Sun.



Translators & Interpreters

Ad Verbum Mitropolit Teodosij Gologanov 42b 1/2, tel. 324 62 92, ad_verbum@mt.net.mk.
Gorazd Smilevski Jane Sandanski 67/2, tel. 245 57 54/070 31 74 87, gorazd@detra.edu.mk.
Milan Damjanoski, tel. 070 37 90 36, mdamian@yahoo.com.

Health

Dentists

For dental emergencies, see also the State & University Clinic listing.

Dr Vasko Karakamchev Partizanski Odredi 21-1/2, tel. 322 67 33. Excellent English spoken.
Kruna MS City Shopping Mall, Tower Building 2, 2nd Floor, tel. 316 69 19, krunams@mt.net.mk, www.krunams.com.mk. Recommended private practice.

Hospitals & Clinics

As a foreigner, it's best to head for the Re-Medika Hospital or one of the polyclinics. These are open 24 hours for emergencies.

Mala Bogorodica (Sistina hospital) Londonska 19, Olimpiko Mall, tel. 307 33 35, medical@mbogorodica.com.mk, www.malabogorodica.com.mk. Private obstetrics and gynecological hospital. ▶ Open 24 hours.
Polyclinic Bukurest Partizanski Odredi bb, tel. 306 40 88. To the west of the centre, this was Romania's donation to Skopje after the 1963 earthquake. ▶ Open 07:00 - 19:00.
Polyclinic Idadija Mitropolit Teodosija Gologanov bb, tel. 313 30 33. The city centre clinic. ▶ Open 07:00 - 19:00. Closed Sat, Sun.
Polyclinic Jane Sandanski Kosta Novakovik 38, tel. 246 32 77. To the east of the centre. ▶ Open 07:00 - 19:00. Closed Sat, Sun.
Re-Medika Hospital 16-ta Makedonska Brigada 18, tel. 260 31 00, info@remedika.com.mk, www.remedika.com.mk. A private general hospital with a walk-in GP practice. ▶ Open 08:00 - 21:00. Emergency services open 24 hours.
State & University Clinic Vodnjanska bb, tel. 314 71 47. A large complex of clinics, with a 24hr dentist clinic for midnight toothaches. ▶ Open 24 hours.

Opticians

Far-sighted shoppers will be glad to hear that getting quality new glasses made here is much cheaper than in Western Europe.

Getaldus B-2, Makedonija 56, tel. 311 56 07. ▶ Open 08:00 - 19:00, Sat 08:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.
Salmoraghi & Viganò C-2, Kej 13 Noemvri, City Shopping Center, tel. 322 66 31. ▶ Open 09:00 - 21:00, Sat 09:00 - 17:00. Closed Sun.

Pharmacies

Pharmacy is *apteka* in Macedonian.

Replek B-2, Dimitrie Cupovski 13, tel. 313 01 70, www.replek.com.mk. ▶ Open 24 hours.
Zegin C-2, Bitpazarska bb, tel. 313 62 80, www.zegin.com.mk. Pharmacy in the basement of Macedonian National Theatre. ▶ Open 24 hours.



Zegin C-2, Kej 13 Noemvri, City Shopping Center, tel. 329 89 80, www.zegin.com.mk. In the basement of the shopping centre. ▶ Open 07:00 - 22:00, Sun 08:00 - 21:00.

Officials

Embassies

Unless mentioned otherwise, all embassies and consulates are closed on weekends.

Albania Hristijan Todorovski Karposh 94/a, tel. 261 46 36, fax 261 42 00, ambshqip@mt.net.mk. ▶ Open 10:00 - 11:00, Fri 14:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon, Tue.
Australia Londonska 11b, tel. 306 11 14, fax 306 18 34.
Austria Mile Pop Jordanov 8, tel. 308 34 00, skopje_ob@bmaa.gv.at. ▶ Open 08:00 - 12:15.
Belgium (Consulate) Koruska 9, tel./fax 204 33 14. The Belgians simply switch their number through to the Dutch embassy when they're in the bar.
Bosna & Herzegovina Mile Pop Jordanov 56b, tel. 308 62 16, fax 308 62 21, ba-emb-mk-sko@on.net.mk. ▶ Open 10:00 - 13:00. Closed Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun.
Bulgaria Zlatko Shneider 3, tel. 322 94 44, bgemb@mol.com.mk. ▶ Open 10:00 - 12:00.
Canada (Consulate) Bul. Partizanski Odredi 17a, tel. 322 56 30, fax 322 05 96, honcon@unet.com.mk. ▶ Open 09:00 - 16:00.
China Ul. 474, nr. 20, tel. 321 31 63, fax 321 25 00. ▶ Open 09:00 - 11:00. Closed Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun.
Croatia M.T. Gologanov 44, tel. 312 73 82, croemb.skopje@mvp.hr. ▶ Open 10:00 - 12:00.
Denmark (Consulate) Bul. Aleksandar Makedonski 12, tel. 310 40 67. The Danes have difficulty picking up the phone.

France Salvador Aljende 73, tel. 324 43 00, franamba@net.mk, www.ambafrance-mk.org. ▶ Open 09:30 - 12:00.

Germany Lerinska 59, tel. 309 38 01, dtboskop@mol.com.mk. ▶ Open 08:00 - 11:00.

Greece Borka Talevski 6, tel. 321 92 60/058 05 80 00. Phoning the Greeks is a useless exercise - they don't pick up and if they do, they don't know a thing.

Hungary Mile Pop Jordanov 12, tel. 309 08 58, consulate@hunconsskp.org.mk. ▶ Open 09:00 - 11:00. Closed Tue, Fri, Sat, Sun.

Italy 8-ma Udarina Brigada 22, tel. 323 65 00, visti@ambascata.org.mk, www.amboskopje.esteri.it. ▶ Open 11:00 - 12:15. Closed Mon.

Japan (Consulate) Bul. Ilinden 9, tel. 311 87 31, fax 311 80 63. ▶ Open 09:00 - 15:00.

Netherlands Leninova 69-71, tel. 312 93 19, nethemb@mt.net.mk. ▶ Open 08:00 - 16:30.

Norway M.T. Gologanov 59/2a, tel. 312 91 65/323 85 25. The Norwegians are unreachable by phone - the first number is not picked up; the second one has a recording saying you should dial the first one. Try waving with a whale.

Poland Guro Gakovik 50, tel. 311 97 44, ambpol@on.net.com.mk. ▶ Open 10:00 - 14:00.

Romania Rajko Zinzifov 42, tel. 322 80 55, romanamb@cadiz.net.mk. ▶ Open 09:00 - 11:00. Closed Fri.

Russia Pirinska 44, tel. 311 71 60, rusembas@mol.com.mk, www.russia.org.mk. ▶ Open 08:00 - 17:30.

Serbia & Montenegro Pitu Guli 8, tel. 312 92 98, yuamb@unet.com.mk, www.scgembassy.org.mk. ▶ Open 09:00 - 12:00.

Slovakia (Consulate) Skopska Crvena Opstina 1/8, tel. 313 70 95, markoni@mt.net.mk. ▶ Open 07:30 - 15:00.

Slovenia Vodnjanska 42, tel. 317 87 34, vsk@gov.si. ▶ Open 09:00 - 12:00.

Spain (Consulate) Dame Gruev 3/8-2, tel. 322 02 05, jasnadiva@yahoo.com. ▶ Open 16:00 - 18:00.

Sweden 8-ma Udarina Brigada 2, tel. 329 78 80, fax 311 20 65, swedensk@mt.net.mk, www.swedenabroad.se/skopje. ▶ Open 08:00 - 16:30, Fri 08:00 - 14:30.

Switzerland Maksim Gorki 19, tel. 310 33 10, www.eda.admin.ch/skopje. ▶ Open 08:30 - 12:30.

Turkey Slavej Planina bb, tel. 311 32 70, turkish@mk.net.mk. ▶ Open 09:00-12:30; 14:00-18:00.

Ukraine Pitu Guli 3, tel. 317 81 20, ukrambas@mt.net.mk, www.ukremb.org.mk. ▶ Open 08:30 - 11:30.

United Kingdom Salvador Aljende 73, tel. 329 92 99, beskopje@mt.net.mk, www.britishembassy.gov.uk/macedonia. ▶ Open 08:00 - 10:30. Closed Fri, Sat, Sun.

United States Ilindenska bb, tel. 311 61 80, fax 311 71 03, amemboskopje@mt.net.mk, http://skopje.usembassy.gov. US citizens can dial extension 2105 or 3179; or tel. 070 205 687 for emergencies. The opening hours are for US citizens only; others need to phone ahead. ▶ Open 14:00 - 16:00. Closed Tue, Sat, Sun.

International organisations

Council of Europe Hadzivasilev Jasmin bb, City Museum, tel. 312 36 16, locoesk.g@mt.net.mk, www.iocoe.org.mk.

EAR (European Agency for Reconstruction) Makedonija 11, tel. 328 67 00, www.ear.eu.int.

EBRD (European Bank for Reconstruction and

Development) Dame Gruev 14/2, tel. 329 78 00, www.ebrd.com.

EU (European Union) Makedonija 12, tel. 312 20 32, delegationfymacedonia@cec.eu.int, www.delmkd.cec.eu.int.

GTZ (German Association for Technical Development) 11 Oktomvri 9, tel. 310 98 62, gtz.tz@mt.net.mk, www.gtz.de.

IMF (International Monetary Fund) Kompleks Banki bb, tel. 312 10 34, imfmkd@unet.com.mk, www.imf.org.

International Red Cross Kairska 6, tel. 307 19 51, icrc@unet.com.mk, www.icrc.org.

OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe) 11-ti Oktomvri 25, QBE Building, tel. 323 40 00, info-mk@osce.org, www.osce.org/skopje/.

UN (United Nations) 8-ma Udarina Brigada 2, tel. 324 95 02, rc.mk@undp.org, www.un.org.mk.

UNDP (UN Development Programme) 8-ma Udarina Brigada 2, tel. 324 95 00, registry.mk@undp.org, www.undp.org.mk.

UNESCO (UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) Gjur Gjakovik 61, tel. 324 05 75, topuzovska@kultura.gov.mk, www.kultura.gov.mk.

USAID Jurij Gagarin 15/III, tel. 308 04 46, www.usaid.org.mk.

World Bank Leninova 34, tel. 311 71 59, dboskovski@worldbank.org, www.worldbank.org.mk.

Macedonian officials

The website www.uslugi.gov.mk is useful for researching which ministry can do what, who to contact, where to apply for something with exactly which documents, and also has printable PDF forms - it's in Macedonian only though.

Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia (311 22 55) 11-ti Oktomvri bb, sobranie@sobranie.mk, www.sobranie.mk.

Government of the Republic of Macedonia Ilindenska bb, tel. 311 80 22, www.vlada.mk. The Prime Minister is Nikola Gruevski, the vice-president for European integration is Gabriela Konevska-Trajkovska, for economic affairs: Zoran Stavrevski; for agriculture and education: Zivko Jankulovski. Ministers without portfolio are Gligor Taskovic, Vele Samak and Adnan Cahil.

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Supply Leninova 2, tel. 313 44 77, www.mzsv.gov.mk. Minister: Aco Spasenovski.

Ministry of Culture Guro Gakovik 61, tel. 324 06 00, www.kultura.gov.mk. Minister: Ilirjan Bekiri.

Ministry of Defense Orce Nikolov bb, tel. 311 95 77, www.morm.gov.mk. Minister: Lazar Elenovski.

Ministry of Economy Jurij Gagarin 15, tel. 308 44 70, www.economy.gov.mk. Minister: Vera Rafajlovska.

Ministry of Education and Science Dimitrie Cupovski 9, tel. 311 78 96, www.mon.gov.mk. Minister: Sulejman Rushiti.

Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning Drezdenska 52, tel. 233 69 30, www.moe.gov.mk. Minister: Imer Aliu.

Ministry of Finance Dame Gruev 14, tel. 311 72 88, www.finance.gov.mk. Minister: Trajko Slavevski.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dame Gruev 6, tel. 311 52 66, www.mfa.gov.mk. Minister: Antonio Miloshevski.

Ministry of Health Vodnjanska bb, tel. 314 71 47, www.zdravstvo.gov.mk. Minister: Imer Selmani.

Ministry of Interior Dimce Mircev bb, tel. 311 72 22, www.mvr.gov.mk. Minister: Gordana Jankulovska.

Ministry of Justice Dimitrie Cupovski 9, tel. 311 72 77, www.pravda.gov.mk. Minister: Mihajlo Manevski.

Ministry of Labor and Social Policy Dame Gruev 14, tel. 311 72 88, www.mtsp.gov.mk. Minister: Ljubco Meshkov.

Ministry of Local Self-Government Dame Gruev 14, tel. 321 18 29, www.mls.gov.mk. Minister: Zoran Konjanovski.

Ministry of Transport and Communications Pl. Crvena Skopska Opstina 4, tel. 312 32 92, www.mtc.gov.mk. Minister: Mile Janakievski.

Municipality

Town Hall A-1, Ilindenska bb, tel. 311 00 53, gragjani@skopje.gov.mk, www.skopje.gov.mk. Skopje's lord mayor is Mr. Trifun Kostovski.

Useful addresses

Key cut

Baze B-3, Zeleznicka 6, tel. 323 85 44. ▶ Open 08:00-15:00, 17:00-20:00, Sat 09:00-14:00, Sun closed.

Titan-Is B-2, Mito Hadzivasilev Jasmin, Ramstore Mall, tel. 070 24 55 52. ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00. Also inside the Vero supermarket.

Libraries

City Library (Braka Miladinovci) A-1, Partizanski Odredi 22, tel. 316 25 44, www.gbiblsk.edu.mk. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00, Sat 08:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun.



National and University Library (St. Klement Ohridski) Goce Delcev 6, tel. 313 34 18, kliment@nubsk.edu.mk, www.nubsk.edu.mk. Lending only until 17:00, and 13:00 on Saturdays. ▶ Open 07:30 - 19:30. Closed Sun.

Photography

These photo shops can all develop pictures, and sell film rolls and memory cards.

Bimbo C-2, Kej 13 Noemvri, City Shopping Center, tel. 311 06 40. A small shop selling a big selection of analogue and digital cameras, plus accessories of all kinds, a passport photograph service, digital and traditional printing, and a handy service for emptying your memory cards onto a compact disc. And yes, it's called Bimbo. ▶ Open 08:00 - 22:00, Sat 09:00 - 21:00, Sun 11:00 - 19:00.

Deso B-2, Bul. Partizanski Odredi 17, tel. 312 83 86. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00, Sat 08:30 - 20:00. Closed Sun.

Shoe repair

The best and cheapest option is to head for any cobbler's shop in the old bazaar area, where they'll whack your shoes back into shape in no time, and you'll help support the dwindling crafts industry.

Dile B-2, Dame Gruev 1/5, tel. 313 30 77. ▶ Open 08:00 - 18:00, Sat 08:00 - 15:00. Closed Sun.

Ekspres cevli A-2, Mitropolit Teodosij Gologanov 76, tel. 070 26 58 30. Inside the Vero supermarket. ▶ Open 08:00 - 21:00, Sun 08:00 - 16:00.

Dial to Skopje
+389-2-XXX XX XX

Street register for the Skopje city centre map. Most streets have both names and numbers (broj), but some streets only have numbers.

11 Mart	310	C-2
11 Oktomri	281	C-2/3
20 Oktomri	281	A-2
27 Mart	239	B-2
50 Devizla	250	B-3
8 Mart	237	B-1
8 Udarne Brigada	73	B-2
9 Maj	289	A-2
Anastas Mitrov	713	D-3
Albert Svajcer	263	A-3
Albert Ajnstan	298	A-1
Ante Hadzimitrov	70	C/D-2
Albert Stanic	123	C-1
Adem Milosajevic	251	A-3
Kusopina	136	C-1
Albanska Brigada	151	D-1
Anton Popov	456	A-3
Anton Popov	475	C-3
Antonie Grubisic	232	B-1
Apostol Gustarov	221	A-2
Arhiepiskop Angelar	106	C-1
Artemedova	545	D-1
Atanas Babata	133	C-1
Atanas Karatoso	354	A-3
Avram Pisevski	159	D-1
Blago Davkov	294	A-1
Blagoj Strackov	247	B-1
Bogdanska	528	A-1/2
Bajram Sabani	125	C-1
Balkanska	554	C-3
Batzakova	305	C-3
Bel Kamen	346	B-2
Belasica	403	D-2
Belgradska	551	A-3/3
Bezidin Smetana	505	A-1
Bigla	352	A-3
Bihacka	254	B-3
Bitolska	38	C-2
Bitpauzarska	394	C-1
Blagoj Despotovski Sovi	46	C-2
Bojadiska	183	C-1
Bojnja	568	D-3
Boris Kidric	1845	B/D-3
Borka Talevski	227	A-2/2
Boro Petrushevski	261	A-3
Bozidar Adija	721	C-1
Braka Kosulcivi	61	D-2
Bul. Makedonija	1451	B-3
Bul. Aleksandar Makedonski	1482	C-1
Bul. Goce Delcev	1454	C-1
Bul. Koto Racin	35	C-2/3
Bul. Kristo Misirkov	386	C-2
Bul. Kreskova Republika	1452	C-2/3
Bul. Kuzma Josifovski Ptu 1483		C-2

Bul. Partizanski Odrzi	231	B-2
Bul. 3 Makedonska Brigada		
Bul. Linden	715	D-3
Bul. K. J. Pitu	336	B-1
Bul. Partizanski Odrzi	1483	D-3
Bul. St. Kliment Ohridski	231	A-1
Bul. St. Kliment Ohridski	216	B-2
Bul. Vmro	1492	B-2
Bul. Vodovanska	249	A-3
C. Voda	292	A-1
Cerska	738	B-3
Coko Popovic	708	C-3
Crnice	437	B-3
Crvena S. Opstina	94	C-2
Cedomir Minderovic	233	B-1
Carska	150	C-1
Cede Filipovski	25	C-2
Celopek	158	D-1
Cudimir Kantardiev	742	B-3
Dimitar Berovski	743	B-3
Dragan Gakovski Spato	502	A-1
Dame Gruiev	1467	B-2
Dame Kracev	291	A-1
Daskal Kamce	759	A-1
Debarca	230	A-1/2
Dimce Mircev	252	B-3
Dime Ancin	285	A-2
Dimitar Pandlov	953	A-3
Dimitrij Cupovski	7	B-2
Draga Stojanovska	307	C-3
Dramska	432	A-3
Drenska	304	C-3
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Egejska	24	C-2
Eske Popovski Marko	265	A-3
Emil Zola	460	C-3
Enide Vardarski	659	B-3
Franjo Kluz	572	D-3
Franklin Ruzvelt	557	A-1/2
Frederik Sopen	253	B-3
Gilgor Prilcev	1481	C-2
Ganko Hadjipanzov	955	A-2
Georgi Skrzjevski	736	A-3/3
German	257	B-3
Gigo Mihajlovski	755	A-1
Gorgi Pulevski	598	A-1
Gorgi Abaciev	355	A-3
Gorgi Peskov	308	B-1
Gradiste	108	C-1
Galer	178	C-1
Hristo Cernopeev	433	B-3
Hristo Sminevski	288	A-2
Hristo Uzunov	658	B-3
Husein Bajram	162	D-1/2
Istarska	36	C-2
Ivan Agovski	761	A-1
J. H. Dinot	334	B-1
Joskim Krčovski	127	C-1
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Josif Josifovski Svestarov	41	C-3

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Kaj Vlahov	375	C-2
Kari Pejcinovic	1486	C-1
Kiro Gavrilov	451	A-2
Kiro Krstevski Patnik	220	A-2/2
Kiro Krstevski Patnik	461	C-3
Kojundiska	139	C-1
Kosta Sahov	224	B-2
Kosta Kirkov	360	B-2
Kosturski Herj	280	A-1
Kovacka	120	C-1
Kozara	274	A-2
Kragujevska	501	A-1
Kristo Balc	245	B-1
Kukulska	246	B-1
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Laza Tanec	110	C-1
Lazar Ljubenovski	87	B-1
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Mihal Cokov	219	A-1/1
Mirce Drovcanec	310	A-1/2
Mirko Terzija	289	A-1/2
Marko Cepenkov	481	C-3
Miladin Popovic	503	A-1
Modermaalo	58	D-2
Majakovski	293	A-1
Makedonija	100	B-2
Marija Bursak	63	D-2
Mendeleva	389	D-1
Mesta	203	C-1
Misko Mihajlovski	463	C-3
Milan Zechar	674	D-3
Mirce Macan	30	C-2
Mirko Ginova	504	A-1
Miroslav Kretza	219	B-2
Mito Hadj Vasiljev Jasmin	1	B-2
Mutavidska	411	C-1
Naroden Front	976	A-2
Naum N. Borche	235	B-1
Nevena Georgieva Dunja	306	C-3
Nevrokopska	724	B-3
Nikola Karev	1478	B-2
Nikola Karev	1478	C-3
Nikola Tesla	762	A-1
Nikola Trnpare	222	A-2/2
Nikola Vapcarov	333	B-2
Ohridska	57	D-2
Ognjarska	181	C-1
Orce Nikolv	78	A-1
Orce Nikolv	78	B-2

Ordan Copela	160	D-1
Otokar Kenšovani	177	C-1
Oton Zupanec	229	A-1
P. Arsovi	44	C-2
Pandil Siskov	673	D-3
Papuleska	115	C-1
Partenij Zogranski	744	B-3
Pavle Satov	286	A-2
Petar Acev	712	D-3
Petar Minov	117	C-1
Petar Poparsov	282	A-2
Petre Georgiev	155	D-1
Petricksa	66	C-2/D-2
Plinska	234	B-1/2
Pitu Guli	952	A-3
Podgragje	107	C-1
Pokriena Carsja	111	C-1
Prespanska	56	D-2
Prilepska	62	D-2
R. J. Korjagin	55	C-2
Rampo Levkata	704	A-1/2
Rozza Luksenburg	283	A-2
R. Ravanovski	529	A-2
Rajko Zinzlov	278	A-1/2
Rilski Kongres	441	B-3
Risto Siskov	335	B-1
Rosa Plaveva	244	B-1
Rudi Cajevec	671	D-3
Slave Delovski	450	A-2/3
Svetozar Markovic	43	C-2
Slavka Nedici	488	A-1
Samardiska	116	C-1
Samolova	1465	C-1
Saračka	182	C-1
Senska	741	B-3
Simeon Kavrakirov	711	D-3
Slave Georgievski Snajder	457	C-3
Slavoj Planina	118	C-1
Slavojko Arsov	436	B-3
Stale Popov	707	C-2/3
Stefan J. Dedev	496	A-2
Stif Naumov	1493	C-2
Sv. Kliment Ohridski	1480	C-2
Sv. Prohor Pinski	125	C-1
Sveti Nikolai	59	D-2
Sarski Odrzi	272	A-2
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Sumadiska	311	A-2
Tasino Cesmice	731	A-3
Teodosij Golovanov	322	A-2/2
Tetovska	97	C-3
Titozeleska	50	D-2
Tome Arsovi	359	B-3
V. Todorovski	672	D-3
Vardarska	60	D-2
Vasi Dorgov	275	A-2
Vasi Adelsarski	156	C-1
Vasi Adelsarski	1490	C-2
Vasi Antevski	284	A-2
Vasi Levski	350	A-3

Veleška	37	D-2
Venjamin Mačukovski	714	D-3
Vergino	148	D-1
Viktor Igo	347	C-3
Vladimir Komarov	670	D-2/3
Vojdan Černodinski	124	C-1
Vostanicka	650	B-3
Zagrebska	550	A-2/3
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Unnamed streets by number		
Broj	19	C-3
Broj	23	C-3
Broj	26	C-2
Broj	31	C-2
Broj	34	C-2
Broj	42	C-2
Broj	47	C-2
Broj	58	C-2
Broj	65	D-2
Broj	83	C-2
Broj	122	C-1
Broj	157	D-1
Broj	164	D-2
Broj	165	D-1
Broj	166	D-2
Broj	171	D-1/2
Broj	172	D-1
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Broj	191	C-1
Broj	193	C-1
Broj	196	D-1
Broj	198	C-1
Broj	225	B-2
Broj	236	B-1
Broj	248	B-1
Broj	262	A-3
Broj	331	B-2
Broj	343	C-2
Broj	348	B-1
Broj	397	C-1
Broj	402	C-3
Broj	404	C-1
Broj	407	D-2
Broj	494	C-2
Broj	507	A-1
Broj	512	D-2
Broj	514	D-2
Broj	515	D-2
Broj	516	D-2
Broj	520	D-2
Broj	521	D-2
Broj	537	D-2
Broj	553	C-3
Broj	706	C-2



5th Element	23	Denis	16	Living Room	23	RM	17
903-ta	16	Destan	20	Ljubov	22	Rose Diplomatique	14
Aleksandar Palace	11	Deus	22	Ludnica	24	Sar	17
Aleksandar Palace Casino	25	DM	18	Magor Book Café	22	Shanghai	18
Alo Alo	23	Eitite	22	Makedonja Square	27	Skopski Merak	12
Amatti	19	Exclusive Apartments	17	Mala Stanica	22	Sofra	21
Ambasador	15	Ezerce	20	Marakana	18, 24	Square	16
Ani	17	Fashion Café	22	Mayday	24	St. Dimitri	29
Anja	22	Ferjalen Dom	17	McDonald's	18	St. Kliment Cathedral	29
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Arka	11	Gino	19	Mega Casino	25	St Patrick	24
Bar Celona	23	Glam	12	Mother Teresa Museum	28	Strip Café	23
Barista Trampolina	23	Gradski Park	31	Mount Vodno	32	Suli Han	31
Bastion	23	Holiday Inn	12	Mr. Jack	23	Sultan Murat Mosque	31
Bazaar Museum	27	Hotel 7	16	Mramor	15	Synagogue	30
Beerhouse An	20	Idadija-M	20	Museum Café	22	T-Club	24
Best Western Turist	11	Insomnia	23	Mustafa Pasha Mosque	31	Tasino Česmiče	16
Bey's Tower	29	Ishak Bey Mosque	30	National Museum	28	TCC Plaza	14
Bezisten	29	Jana	21	New Age	22	Tim's	14
Bimbo	16	Jukebox	24	New York	22	Tomce Sofka	15
Bojan Stankovski	32	Kaj Marshalot	19	Nikem	17	Toscana	19
Bombay	18	Kaj Pero	25	Old House	21	Tourist Information Centre	27
Bristol	16	Kaj Serdarot	21	Old Time	22	Trend	25
Broz	22	Kale Fortress	27	Olimpik-AS	21	Turena	17
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Central Post Office	32	Kapan Han	30	Park	15, 25	Uranja	19
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Cifte Hamam	29	Karpos	12	Pastis	21	Vergina	15
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City Museum	28	Kvarner	18	Piazza Liberta	24	Villa Vodno	14
Clock tower	30	Laika	23	Pivnica	18	VIP	15
Colosseum	24	Lake Matka & Treska Gorge	32	Play Café	22	Vuk	17
Contemporary Art Museum	28	Laki	17	Plaza de Toros	22	Zito Luks	19
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Dal Met Fu	15, 19	Lezet Alia	22	Process	25	Zoo	31
Daut Pasha Hamam	30	Li	22	Residence Inn	15		
Den i Nok	18	Lira	21	Residence	15		



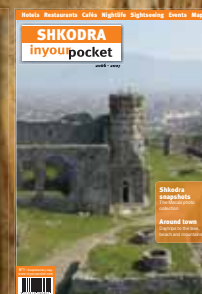
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