

**Macedonia** ([/ˌmæsɪˈdoʊniə/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/English" \o "Help:IPA/English) ([About this sound](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:En-us-Macedonia.ogg)[listen](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/50/En-us-Macedonia.ogg)); [Macedonian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macedonian_language" \o "Macedonian language): Македонија, [translit.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romanization_of_Macedonian" \o "Romanization of Macedonian) *Makedonija* [[makɛˈdɔnija]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/Bulgarian_and_Macedonian)), officially the **Republic of Macedonia** ([Macedonian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macedonian_language" \o "Macedonian language): Република Македонија, [translit.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romanization_of_Macedonian" \o "Romanization of Macedonian) *Republika Makedonija* [[rɛˈpublika ˌmakɛˈdɔnija]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/Bulgarian_and_Macedonian) ([About this sound](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Mk-Republika_Makedonija.ogg)[listen](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/ce/Mk-Republika_Makedonija.ogg))), is a country in the [Balkan Peninsula](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balkans" \o "Balkans) in [Southeast Europe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southeast_Europe" \o "Southeast Europe). It is one of the [successor states](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Succession_of_states" \o "Succession of states) of the former [Yugoslavia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialist_Federal_Republic_of_Yugoslavia" \o "Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia), from which it declared independence in 1991.

The country became a member of the [United Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations) in 1993, but, as a result of an ongoing [dispute with Greece](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macedonia_naming_dispute) over the use of the name *Macedonia*, was admitted under the provisional description **the former** **Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** (sometimes abbreviated as **FYROM** and **FYR Macedonia**), a term that is also used by international organizations such as the [European Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Union" \o "European Union), the [Council of Europe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Council_of_Europe" \o "Council of Europe), and [NATO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NATO).

The [Prespa agreement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prespa_agreement" \o "Prespa agreement), signed by Macedonia and Greece in June 2018, will see the country change its name to the **Republic of North Macedonia**. A non-binding [national referendum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macedonian_referendum,_2018" \o "Macedonian referendum, 2018) on the matter passed with 90% approval, although it did not reach the required 50% turnout due to a boycott, leaving the final decision with parliament to ratify the result. Parliament approved of the name change on 19 October, reaching the required two-thirds majority needed to enact constitutional changes. The vote to amend the constitution and change the name of the country passed on 11 January 2019 in favor of the amendment. The amendment will enter into force following the ratification of the Prespa agreement and the yet-to-be-signed Protocol on the Accession of Macedonia to NATO by the [Greek Parliament](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_Parliament).

A [landlocked country](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Landlocked_country" \o "Landlocked country), the Republic of Macedonia has borders with [Kosovo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kosovo) to the northwest, [Serbia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serbia" \o "Serbia) to the north, [Bulgaria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bulgaria" \o "Bulgaria) to the east, [Greece](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greece" \o "Greece) to the south, and [Albania](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albania) to the west. It constitutes approximately the northwestern third of the larger geographical region of [Macedonia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macedonia_(region)" \o "Macedonia (region)), which also comprises the neighbouring parts of northern Greece and smaller portions of southwestern Bulgaria and southeastern Albania. The country's geography is defined primarily by mountains, valleys, and rivers. The capital and largest city, [Skopje](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skopje), is home to roughly a quarter of the nation's 2.06 million inhabitants. The majority of the residents are ethnic [Macedonians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macedonians_(ethnic_group)" \o "Macedonians (ethnic group)), a [South Slavic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Slavs) [people](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People). [Albanians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albanians_in_the_Republic_of_Macedonia" \o "Albanians in the Republic of Macedonia) form a significant minority at around 25 percent, followed by [Turks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turks_in_the_Republic_of_Macedonia), [Romani](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romani_people_in_the_Republic_of_Macedonia), [Serbs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serbs_in_the_Republic_of_Macedonia" \o "Serbs in the Republic of Macedonia), [Bosniaks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bosniaks_in_the_Republic_of_Macedonia" \o "Bosniaks in the Republic of Macedonia), [Aromanians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aromanians_in_the_Republic_of_Macedonia" \o "Aromanians in the Republic of Macedonia), and [Bulgarians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bulgarians_in_the_Republic_of_Macedonia" \o "Bulgarians in the Republic of Macedonia).

This region's history dates back to [antiquity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_history" \o "Ancient history), beginning with the [kingdom of Paeonia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paeonia_(kingdom)" \o "Paeonia (kingdom)), probably a mixed [Thraco](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thracians" \o "Thracians)-[Illyrian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illyrians) polity. In the late sixth century BC, the area was incorporated into the [Persian Achaemenid Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian_Achaemenid_Empire" \o "Persian Achaemenid Empire), then annexed by the [Kingdom of Macedonia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macedonia_(ancient_kingdom)" \o "Macedonia (ancient kingdom)) in the fourth century BC. The Romans conquered the region in the second century BC and made it part of the much larger province of [Macedonia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macedonia_(Roman_province)" \o "Macedonia (Roman province)). Τhe area remained part of the [Byzantine (Eastern Roman) Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzantine_Empire), and was often raided and settled by [Slavic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Early_Slavs" \o "Early Slavs) [tribes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tribe" \o "Tribe)beginning in the sixth century of the Christian era. Following [centuries of contention](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzantine-Bulgarian_Wars) between the Bulgarian, Byzantine and Serbian empires, it gradually came under [Ottoman dominion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) from the 14th until the early 20th century, when following the [Balkan Wars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balkan_Wars) of 1912 and 1913, the modern territory of Macedonia came under Serbian rule. In the aftermath of the [First World War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_World_War) (1914–1918), it became incorporated into the Serb-dominated [Kingdom of Yugoslavia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Yugoslavia" \o "Kingdom of Yugoslavia), which after the [Second World War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_World_War) was re-established as a republic (1945) and which became the [Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialist_Federal_Republic_of_Yugoslavia" \o "Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia) in 1963. Macedonia remained a [constituent socialist republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialist_Republic_of_Macedonia)within Yugoslavia until its peaceful secession in 1991.

The [sovereign state](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sovereign_state" \o "Sovereign state) of Macedonia is a [parliamentary republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliamentary_republic" \o "Parliamentary republic) and member of the UN and of the [Council of Europe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Council_of_Europe). Since 2005 it has also been a [candidate for joining the European Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Accession_of_Macedonia_to_the_European_Union) and has [applied for NATO membership](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Accession_of_Macedonia_to_NATO" \o "Accession of Macedonia to NATO). Although one of the poorest countries in Europe, Macedonia has made significant progress in developing an open, market-based economy.

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Ancientbitola.jpg)

[Heraclea Lyncestis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heraclea_Lyncestis), a city founded by [Philip II of Macedon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_II_of_Macedon" \o "Philip II of Macedon) in the 4th century BC: ruins of the Byzantine "Small Basilica"

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Iglesia_de_San_Pantale%C3%B3n,_Ohrid,_Macedonia,_2014-04-17,_DD_35_HDR.jpg)

The church of St. Clement and St. Panteleimon in [Ohrid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ohrid).

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Marko-Monastery-church.jpg)

[Marko's Monastery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marko%27s_Monastery) in [Markova Sušica](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Markova_Su%C5%A1ica" \o "Markova Sušica).

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Nikola_Karev.jpg)

[Nikola Karev](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nikola_Karev), head of the Provisional Government of the short-lived [Kruševo Republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kru%C5%A1evo_Republic" \o "Kruševo Republic) during the [Ilinden uprising](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ilinden_uprising" \o "Ilinden uprising)

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Liberation_of_Skopje.jpg)

[Dimitar Vlahov](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dimitar_Vlahov), [Mihajlo Apostolski](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mihajlo_Apostolski" \o "Mihajlo Apostolski), [Metodija Andonov-Čento](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metodija_Andonov-%C4%8Cento" \o "Metodija Andonov-Čento), [Lazar Kolishevski](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lazar_Kolishevski" \o "Lazar Kolishevski) and others, greeted in Skopje afer the capture of the city in November 1944.

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Mount_Korab,_Republic_of_Macedonia.jpg)

[Mount Korab](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Korab), the highest mountain in Macedonia

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Matka_Lake_-_Macedonia.jpg)

[Matka Canyon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matka_Canyon)

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Pelister_Molika.jpg)

[*Pinus peuce*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinus_peuce), the Macedonian Pine or Molika, one of Macedonia's most recognisable trees

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| [Ǵorge Ivanov 2012-04-27.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:%C7%B4orge_Ivanov_2012-04-27.jpg) | [Zaev.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Zaev.jpg) |
| [Gjorge Ivanov](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gjorge_Ivanov" \o "Gjorge Ivanov) [President](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_Macedonia) | [Zoran Zaev](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zoran_Zaev) [Prime Minister](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Macedonia) |