

North Macedonia

Country name	North Macedonia
State title	Republic of North Macedonia
Name of citizen	Macedonian
Official languages	Macedonian (<i>mkd</i>); Albanian (<i>sqi</i>) ¹
Country name in official languages	Северна Македонија (Severna Makedonija) (<i>mkd</i>); Maqedonia e Veriut (<i>sqi</i>)
State title in official languages	Република Северна Македонија (Republika Severna Makedonija) (<i>mkd</i>); Republika e Maqedonisë së Veriut (<i>sqi</i>)
Scripts	Macedonian Cyrillic (<i>mkd</i>); Roman script (<i>sqi</i>)
Romanization System	BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Macedonian
ISO-3166 code (alpha-2/alpha-3)	MK/MKD
English conventional name for capital	Skopje
Local name of capital	Скопје (Skopje) (<i>mkd</i>); Shkup (<i>sqi</i>)
Population / area	2.1million (UN data) / 25,713km ²

Introduction

North Macedonia is a landlocked country in the Balkans sharing international boundaries with Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Kosovo and Serbia; it gained its independence from Yugoslavia in 1991. The name North Macedonia was ratified in 2019 (see *Country name*, p.2).

Geographical names policy

PCGN policy for geographical names in North Macedonia is to use official sources from North Macedonia written in Macedonian Cyrillic, romanizing these as required according to the agreed romanization system, or to use official sources from North Macedonia that have already been romanized according to this method.

The agreed [BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Macedonian](#) was adopted by BGN and PCGN in 2013, replacing the previous 1981 system. The 2013 agreement was an adoption of the system in widespread use in the country, the differences in the replacement system² also serving to reinforce the distinction from the Serbian language.

¹ ISO 639 codes are given for the languages mentioned in this Factfile.

² Specifically, the representation of /f/ as /ǧ/ and /k/ as /ǧ/ (rather than as /g/ or /d/ and /k/ or /c/, respectively).

Country name

The country gained independence from Yugoslavia in 1991 with the name Macedonia; however, Greece objected to the use of this name, stating it implied territorial aspirations to Greece's northern province of Macedonia. The country was eventually admitted to the UN in 1993 as "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" with an agreement to pursue UN-mediated negotiations on resolving the name dispute. In January 2019 both Macedonian and Greek parliaments ratified an agreement made in June 2018 on a new country name: North Macedonia.

Sources for geographical names

Official mapping is produced by North Macedonia's Agency for Real Estate Cadastre (formerly State Institute for Geodetic Affairs). This agency publishes data and mapping available to buy: <https://www.katastar.gov.mk/en/data/cartographic-products/>

The US Board on Geographic Names (BGN) [GEOnet Names Server](#) is a good source of names for North Macedonia, and the BGN-produced [Geographic Names Standardization Policy for North Macedonia](#) is also a useful resource.

Language and People

The primary official language of North Macedonia is Macedonian (*mkd*), spoken by some two thirds of the population as a mother tongue. Whilst the country name has been agreed as North Macedonia, the agreed name for the language and its people is Macedonian³. Additionally, in January 2018, the government adopted a new law on languages, which elevated the Albanian language (*sqi*) to a second nationally official language.

The Constitution states that in municipalities where ethnic minorities constitute at least 20% of the population, the languages of the minority groups are official at the local level: thus, Turkish (*tur*) is co-official in Centar Župa and Plasnica⁴, Romani (*rmn*)⁵ in Šuto Orizari⁶ and Serbian (*srp*) in Čučer-Sandevo. And, while not quite meeting the 20% level, Aromanian (*rup*)⁷ in Kruševo⁸. Additionally, Bosnian (*bos*) is a recognised minority language but doesn't have official status in any municipality. If the relevant minority names are available on official sources for these municipalities then they may be shown on HMG products alongside the Macedonian names.

According to the [census of 2002](#), the ethnic composition of the country was recorded as: 64% Macedonian; 25% Albanian; 4% Turkish; 3% Roma and 1.5% Serb. Other minorities constituted less than 1% (with Aromanians (sometimes termed Vlachs) about 0.5%).

³ For the people, either *Macedonian* or *Citizen of the Republic of North Macedonia* is acceptable.

⁴ Turkish forms: Merkez Jupa and Plasnitsa

⁵ Romani or Romy (rom) is considered a macro-language with divergent variations: the form spoken in North Macedonia is Balkan Romani (*rmn*) with some 600,000 speakers (SIL International estimate) across the Balkans.

⁶ The Balkan Romani form is believed to be Shuto Orizari. (Note that Šuto Orizari is one of the 10 municipalities comprising the City of Skopje, see *Administrative structure*, below).

⁷ Aromanian is a Romance language, similar to Romanian.

⁸ The Aromanian form is believed to be Crushuva.

Inventory of characters (and their Unicode encodings⁹):

The BGN/PCGN Romanization system for Macedonian Cyrillic contains the following letter-diacritic combinations in addition to the unmodified letters of the basic Roman script:

Upper-case character	Unicode encoding	Lower-case character	Unicode encoding
Ć	01F4	ć	01F5
Ž	017D	ž	017E
Dz *	01F2	dz *	01F3
Lj *	01C8	lj *	01C9
Nj *	01CB	Nj *	01CC
Ć	IE30	ć	IE31
Č	010C	č	010D
Dž *	01C5	dž *	01C6
Š	0160	š	0161

*Note that these characters can also be reproduced with individual letters (e.g. l+j).

⁹ See www.unicode.org

Administrative structure

North Macedonia is composed of 70 *opštini* (municipalities), singular *opština* (*mkd*); *komunat*; singular: *komuna* (*sqi*), and one *grad* (city) (*mkd*); *qytet* (*sqi*): Grad Skopje; Qyteti i Shkupit (City of Skopje). Additionally, 10 municipalities constitute the City of Skopje; these municipalities enjoy a high level of autonomy but remain somewhat subordinate to the overarching City of Skopje, and as stipulated in North Macedonia's Law of Territorial Organisation of 2004, the centre of each of these is the City of Skopje. The categorisation of the 10 municipalities is sometimes included at the first-order level (so the country as a whole comprises 80 municipalities in such lists). These 10 municipalities with their ISO 3166-2 codes are shown below the main table.

Although Albanian is now considered a second official language across the country, Macedonian sources use predominantly Macedonian-only geographical names, and only these forms have been shown in the list below. For information on Albanian names, please contact PCGN.

ADM1 Macedonian	ADM1 romanization	ISO 3166-2 code	Administrative centre Macedonian	Administrative centre romanization	Centre location
Арачиново	Aračinovo	MK-802	Арачиново	Aračinovo	42°01'35"N 21°33'43"E
Берово	Berovo	MK-201	Берово	Berovo	41°18'10"N 20°49'49"E
Битола	Bitola	MK-501	Битола	Bitola	41°42'11"N 22°51'28"E
Богданци	Bogdanci	MK-401	Богданци	Bogdanci	41°01'53"N 21°20'05"E
Боговиње	Bogovinje	MK-601	Боговиње	Bogovinje	41°12'11"N 22°34'32"E
Босилово	Bosilovo	MK-402	Босилово	Bosilovo	41°55'25"N 20°54'49"E
Брвеница	Brvenica	MK-602	Брвеница	Brvenica	41°26'26"N 22°43'40"E
Чашка	Čaška	MK-109	Чашка	Čaška	41°38'55"N 21°41'32"E
Центар Жупа	Centar Župa	MK-313	Центар Жупа	Centar Župa	41°28'44"N 20°33'31"E
Чешиново-Облешево	Češinovo-Obleševo	MK-210	Облешево	Obleševo	41°53'00"N 22°20'02"E
Чучер Сандево	Čučer Sandevo	MK-816	Чучер Сандево	Čučer Sandevo	42°06'07"N 21°23'04"E
Дебар	Debar	MK-303	Дебар	Debar	41°31'28"N 20°31'27"E
Дебарца	Debarca	MK-304	Белчишта	Belčišta	41°18'10"N 20°49'49"E
Делчево	Delčevo	MK-203	Делчево	Delčevo	41°57'55"N 22°46'35"E
Демир Хисар	Demir Hisar	MK-502	Демир Хисар	Demir Hisar	41°13'15"N 21°12'11"E

TOPONYMIC FACTFILE

ADM1 Macedonian	ADM1 romanization	ISO 3166-2 code	Administrative centre Macedonian	Administrative centre romanization	Centre location
Демир Капија	Demir Kapija	MK-103	Демир Капија	Demir Kapija	41°24'22"N 22°14'47"E
Дојран	Dojran	MK-406	Стар Дојран	Star Dojran	41°11'11"N 22°43'13"E
Долнени	Dolneni	MK-503	Долнени	Dolneni	41°25'33"N 21°27'14"E
Гевгелија	Gevgelija	MK-405	Гевгелија	Gevgelija	41°08'30"N 22°30'05"E
Гостивар	Gostivar	MK-604	Гостивар	Gostivar	41°47'46"N 20°54'29"E
Градско	Gradsko	MK-102	Градско	Gradsko	41°34'39"N 21°56'34"E
Илинден	Ilinden	MK-807	Илинден	Ilinden	41°59'40"N 21°34'48"E
Јегуновце	Jegunovce	MK-606	Јегуновце	Jegunovce	42°04'21"N 21°07'25"E
Карбинци	Karbinci	MK-205	Карбинци	Karbinci	41°49'03"N 22°14'07"E
Кавадарци	Kavadarci	MK-104	Кавадарци	Kavadarci	41°25'59"N 22°00'43"E
Кичево	Kičevo	MK-307	Кичево	Kičevo	41°54'59"N 22°24'46"E
Кочани	Kočani	MK-206	Кочани	Kočani	41°29'42"N 22°23'01"E
Конче	Konče	MK-407	Конче	Konče	42°04'42"N 22°10'51"E
Кратово	Kratovo	MK-701	Кратово	Kratovo	42°12'03"N 22°19'57"E
Крива Паланка	Kriva Palanka	MK-702	Крива Паланка	Kriva Palanka	41°30'46"N 20°57'32"E
Кривогаштани	Krivogaštani	MK-504	Кривогаштани	Krivogaštani	41°20'13"N 21°19'52"E
Крушево	Kruševo	MK-505	Крушево	Kruševo	41°22'10"N 21°14'54"E
Куманово	Kumanovo	MK-703	Куманово	Kumanovo	42°07'56"N 21°42'52"E
Липково	Lipkovo	MK-704	Липково	Lipkovo	42°09'23"N 21°35'07"E
Лозово	Lozovo	MK-105	Лозово	Lozovo	41°47'02"N 21°54'20"E
Македонска Каменица	Makedonska Kamenica	MK-207	Македонска Каменица	Makedonska Kamenica	42°01'15"N 22°35'15"E
Македонски Брод	Makedonski Brod	MK-308	Македонски Брод	Makedonski Brod	41°30'49"N 21°12'55"E
Маврово и Ростуша	Mavrovo i Rostuša	MK-607	Ростуша	Rostuša	41°36'36"N 20°36'00"E
Могила	Mogila	MK-506	Могила	Mogila	41°06'30"N 21°22'43"E

TOPONYMIC FACTFILE

ADM1 Macedonian	ADM1 romanization	ISO 3166-2 code	Administrative centre Macedonian	Administrative centre romanization	Centre location
Неготино	Negotino	MK-106	Неготино	Negotino	41°29'04"N 22°05'26"E
Новаци	Novaci	MK-507	Новаци	Novaci	41°02'31"N 21°27'31"E
Ново Село	Novo Selo	MK-408	Ново Село	Novo Selo	41°24'53"N 22°52'54"E
Охрид	Ohrid	MK-310	Охрид	Ohrid	41°07'02"N 20°48'07"E
Пехчево	Pehčevo	MK-208	Пехчево	Pehčevo	41°45'44"N 22°53'21"E
Петровец	Petrovec	MK-810	Петровец	Petrovec	41°56'20"N 21°36'54"E
Пласница	Plasnica	MK-311	Пласница	Plasnica	41°28'02"N 21°07'23"E
Прилеп	Prilep	MK-508	Прилеп	Prilep	41°20'43"N 21°33'18"E
Пробиштип	Probištip	MK-209	Пробиштип	Probištip	42°00'07"N 22°10'22"E
Радовиш	Radoviš	MK-409	Радовиш	Radoviš	41°38'18"N 22°27'53"E
Ранковце	Rankovce	MK-705	Ранковце	Rankovce	42°10'07"N 22°07'00"E
Ресен	Resen	MK-509	Ресен	Resen	41°05'22"N 21°00'39"E
Росоман	Rosoman	MK-107	Росоман	Rosoman	41°31'00"N 21°56'45"E
Скопје	Skopje	¹⁰	Скопје	Skopje	41°59'47"N 21°25'53"E
Сопиште	Sopište	MK-812	Сопиште	Sopište	41°57'17"N 21°25'39"E
Старо Нагоричане	Staro Nagoričane	MK-706	Старо Нагоричане	Staro Nagoričane	42°11'53"N 21°49'43"E
Штип	Štip	MK-211	Штип	Štip	41°44'32"N 22°11'53"E
Струга	Struga	MK-312	Струга	Struga	41°10'41"N 20°40'40"E
Струмица	Strumica	MK-410	Струмица	Strumica	41°26'15"N 22°38'36"E
Студеничани	Studeničani	MK-813	Студеничани	Studeničani	41°54'57"N 21°31'50"E
Свети Николе	Sveti Nikole	MK-108	Свети Николе	Sveti Nikole	41°52'00"N 21°56'28"E
Теарце	Tearce	MK-608	Теарце	Tearce	42°04'36"N 21°03'11"E
Тетово	Tetovo	MK-609	Тетово	Tetovo	42°00'35"N 20°58'18"E

¹⁰ The ISO 3166-2 Standard includes codes for the 10 municipalities within the city, so the City of Skopje itself is not included.

TOPONYMIC FACTFILE

ADM1 Macedonian	ADM1 romanization	ISO 3166-2 code	Administrative centre Macedonian	Administrative centre romanization	Centre location
Валандово	Valandovo	MK-403	Валандово	Valandovo	41°19'03"N 22°33'36"E
Василево	Vasilevo	MK-404	Василево	Vasilevo	41°28'27"N 22°38'35"E
Велес	Veles	MK-101	Велес	Veles	41°42'56"N 21°46'32"E
Вевчани	Vevčani	MK-301	Вевчани	Vevčani	41°14'26"N 20°35'36"E
Виница	Vinica	MK-202	Виница	Vinica	41°52'58"N 22°30'33"E
Врапчиште	Vrapčište	MK-603	Врапчиште	Vrapčište	41°50'04"N 20°53'08"E
Зелениково	Zelenikovo	MK-806	Зелениково	Zelenikovo	41°53'03"N 21°35'19"E
Желино	Želino	MK-605	Желино	Želino	41°58'57"N 21°03'45"E
Зрновци	Zrnovci	MK-204	Зрновци	Zrnovci	41°51'15"N 22°26'40"E

10 municipalities within Skopje (each recorded with their centre as being Skopje)

Macedonian	Romanization	ISO 3166-2 code
Аеродром	Aerodrom	MK-801
Бутел	Butel	MK-803
Чаир	Čair	MK-815
Центар	Centar	MK-814
Гази Баба	Gazi Baba	MK-804
Ѓорче Петров	Ġorče Petrov	MK-805
Карпош	Karpoš	MK-808
Кисела Вода	Kisela Voda	MK-809
Сарај	Saraj	MK-811
Шуто Оризари	Šuto Orizari	MK-817

Other significant locations

PCGN Approved name ¹¹	Macedonian name (PCGN Romanization)	Feature Type	Location
Golem Korab (in North Macedonia) or Maja e Korabit (Albania)	Голем Кораб (Golem Korab)	Mountain [North Macedonia/Albania] (high point in North Macedonia, 2764m)	41°47'24"N 20°32'49"E
Lake Doiran	Дојранско Езеро (Dojransko Ezero)	Lake [North Macedonia/Greece]	41°12'51"N 22°44'44"E
Lake Ohrid	Охридско Езеро (Ohridsko Ezero)	Lake [North Macedonia/Albania]	41°00'00"N 20°45'00"E
Lake Prespa	Преспанско Езеро (Prespansko Ezero)	Lake [North Macedonia/Albania/Greece]	40°54'08"N 21°01'56"E
Vardar or Vardar River	Вардар (Vardar)	River [North Macedonia/Greece]	40°30'08"N 22°43'17"E

Useful references

- BBC country profile: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17550407>
- BGN/PCGN Romanization Agreement for Macedonian: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/811514/ROMANIZATION_OF_MACEDONIAN.pdf
- CIA World Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/north-macedonia/>
- FCDO Geographical Names & Information: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/geographical-names-and-information>
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO): <http://www.iso.org>
- ISO Online Browsing Platform (OBP): <https://www.iso.org/obp/ui>
- North Macedonia's Agency for Real Estate Cadastre cartographic products: <https://www.katastar.gov.mk/en/data/cartographic-products/>
- PCGN Country Names list: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/country-names>
- Unicode www.unicode.org
- US Board on Geographic Names GEOnet Names Server: <https://geonames.nga.mil/namesgaz/>
- US Board on Geographic Names Country Policy for North Macedonia: https://geonames.nga.mil/gns/html/Policies/North_Macedonia_Country_Policy_webversion_Sept_2019.pdf

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¹¹ PCGN recommends use of conventional names for international features where they exist. If there is no conventional name, then the relevant name can be shown on the appropriate side of the international boundary on cartographic products.