

# NORTH MACEDONIA - PRODUCER'S BRIEFING FOR FIRST CONTACT

PSE



**Introduction:** North Macedonia gained its independence peacefully from Yugoslavia in 1991 under the name "Macedonia." In 2018, Macedonia signed the Prespa Accord with Greece, agreeing to change its name to the Republic of North Macedonia. The agreement went into force on 12 February 2019. The country became an official candidate for EU membership in 2005.

**Cultural Practices:** It is expected that people behave more formally and respectfully around their elders. For example, one would refrain from swearing or telling rude jokes. North Macedonians value respect, hospitality, and personal connections. Punctuality is generally appreciated in business interactions, though social interactions can be more relaxed.

**Tipping Guidelines:** Common practice in restaurants is to round up the bill for a tip, but in finer dining establishments a 10-15% tip is appreciated. For taxis and hotel services, rounding up the bill or leaving a small tip is common practice.

**Climate:** North Macedonia has a continental climate with hot, dry summers and cold, snowy winters, particularly in the mountainous areas. The western and southwestern parts of the country experience a Mediterranean influence, with milder winters.

**Religion:** Macedonian Orthodox 64.8%, Muslim 33.3%, other 1.9%

**US Embassy Contact Information:** Samoilova 21, 1000 Skopje, North Macedonia; +389 2 310 2000; <https://mk.usembassy.gov/>; Email: [ConsularSkopje@state.gov](mailto:ConsularSkopje@state.gov)

## General Facts:

Regional Division	Southeastern Europe
Capital	Skopje
Airport Code / Airport Name	SKP / Skopje International Airport
Country Code 2 digits / 3 digits	MK / MKD
Population	2,135,622
Language (Major Languages)	Macedonian, Albanian

## Travel Facts:

Telephone Code / Code Dial	389
Local Emergency Phone	112 + 94
International Driving Permit	Recommended
Road Driving Side	Right
Time Zone / Time Difference	UTC +01:00
Currency Code / Exchange Rate \$-> MKD	Macedonian Denar (MKD) / 1\$ : 56 MKD
Electricity / Voltage / Plug Type(s)	230 V / 50 Hz / C, F
Passport / Visa Requirements	Yes / 90 days in 180 days
Working Permits for US Citizens	Necessary

## Filming incentives:

Film Commission National	20% cash rebate
Film Commission Federal	No
VFX Grant	No

## Working conditions:

Working hours per day	11 + break
Working hours per week	55
Working days per week	5
Overtime	+50%
Breaks	60 min after 5 <sup>th</sup> hour
Turnaround	11 hours
Fringes / self-employed	+10% social benefits
Unions	common but not mandatory

## Filming infrastructure:

Crews	internationally experienced, English speaking
Equipment	essential equipment available
Studios in the following cities	-
Themed backlot sets include	-
Specials	-

**Landscape & Architecture:** Balkan, Historic, Landscape, Lakes, Mountains, Ottoman Structures, Byzantine Churches, crystal-clear Lakes. Architectural influences include Byzantine, Ottoman, and modernist styles.