

#notitle

Why does every essay or book need a title? Personally, I do not like them, they stress me out. That is exactly why I decided that this essay will not have a title. I think that now it is enough about it, so let's talk about business (just kidding). My writing style is different, I jump from subject to subject all the time, so get used to that while reading this. Actually, it may look like that, since I want to tell as much as possible in this short essay. It is simply too short to tell about all the beauties of my country. I will try to express my thoughts on my culture, the gestures, the language and last, but not least, on the interesting sights of my country.

I am from Macedonia and besides the culture and the sights, I will also write about some interesting history (do not worry, you will not be bored). Here it goes, first with some basic facts...

Macedonia is in Europe, bordered by Kosovo, Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece and Albania. Macedonia has its own currency and language. The money is called "denar" and the language is Macedonian. We don't write in Latin, but in Cyrillic letters. I like our language and the Cyrillic, too, although it was hard for me to learn it, because I learnt to write in Latin first, due to the fact that I live in Slovenia since I was 3,5 years old. I like Macedonian language, it is similar to Russian, Bulgarian, Serbian and Croatian, so I understand those languages as well. I like Cyrillic, too, since I think it is very unique. Also, knowing Latin and Cyrillic makes me able to read different languages.

The flag is a yellow sun on a red background, this is how it looks:



Let's write about some interesting facts and sights.

The best monument, in my opinion at least, is called Kokino. Kokino is located in the northern part of Macedonia, 6km from the border with Serbia. It is an observatory, similar to Stonehenge. According to NASA, Kokino is the fourth oldest astronomic observatory in the world. I really like it, it is hard to climb up the mountain, but it is worth it! Trust me, it is so beautiful and I was surprised how awesome it looks and also how advanced in knowledge people were at that time. This is Kokino, how it looks like:



Another interesting fact about my country is that it has more number of mountains and mountain peaks than any other country in the world. The country has as many as 34 mountain peaks, each with a height of more than 2,000 meters above the sea-level with Mount Golem Korab being the highest at 2,753 m above the sea-level. Most peaks in Macedonia have never been visited by people.

Ohrid is a very popular place for teens and partying in Macedonia. Besides the partying, it is very well known by the pearls that are made only by 2 families living in Ohrid, who have the recipe. It has a very popular lake, that is one of the oldest and deepest lakes in the world. It is a mountain lake, 4 million years old and has 200 endemic species that have not been discovered yet. I love Ohrid, because it is a small town, yet it is so beautiful. I still want to get real pearls from there, since my name does mean "Pearl" in Macedonian. My mom said that I got my name by the pearls from Ohrid. One very interesting fact about Ohrid lake is that it has 365 churches all around the lake, one for each day of the year. Can you imagine to visit them all? Not around the country, just around the Ohrid lake!

I love the river Vardar especially because of the banks which are a great place to spend quality time with friends and family. They are very nicely done with different paths for various purposes: to walk, to ride a bike, rollers or to run.

The Vodno mountain is another place I like a lot, because from the part where I live in Skopje you can see it and reach it easily. It is a good workout spot for hiking and for people that like workout, so... not me 😊. At the top it is very pretty. For older people and me (you got it, I am very lazy 😊), there is a funicular to take them to the top. Our country is very proud of the big cross at the top of the mountain. It is called The Millennium Cross and it is a 66 m high. It was constructed to serve as a memorial of 2,000 years of Christianity in Macedonia and in the world.

Last year I really started to explore my country's history and I discover really awesome monuments. I was surprised how much I didn't know about Macedonia and everything we have.

Did you know that Mother Theresa was born in Skopje, the capital of Macedonia? If you visit Skopje, you can stop by her memorial in the center of the city.

Ahhhh! I almost forgot! Alexander the Great! During his time, the Kingdom of Macedonia was the most powerful state in the world. All of the Macedonians are very proud of him, but honestly I am really confused. Some people say that he was Greek and some say he was Macedonian. I do not know what he was anymore. The Government even built a big sculpture of him in the city center some time ago, but I am keep thinking if that was the right thing to do or was it just a waste of money. They also built a lot of, according to me, other unuseful sculptures, but if you look at the kids, they have fun around all these new monuments. Maybe it is good anyway. The funny thing is that the tourists think that these sculptures are really old 😊.

I love the weather there, the flag matches it. In Macedonia we have a lots of sun and very hot summers. But, I do not like that the temperatures get too high sometimes and we can not go out during the day. On the other side, it is great that we go out very late, when it gets better and we stay late in the night. Macedonia has very cold winters with a lot of snow. Although my country is on the south of Europe, still since it is mainly mountain country, we have cold and snowy winters. There are also some ski resorts where we can enjoy the snow sports.

There were a lot of earthquakes in Macedonia, and few of them were major ones. The biggest one, that my grandparents remembered and still tell me stories was the one from the year 1963 that destroyed almost the whole city of Skopje. Many people died and almost all of them have lost their homes. Luckily, it was a summer time and a lot of countries in the world has given their support in building the city as quick as possible, before the winter has come. It was excellent human support which still today is visible looking at the buildings in Skopje, built in 1963.

I would also like to tell you some fun facts that will make you lough and relax...

One fun fact is that my grandma was one of the leads in the construction of the Macedonian Television and Radio building. When I was little, she told me stories about the elevators, that took you to the top of the building, while construction was still ongoing. It was scary, because it was the tallest building in Skopje, 24 floors.

Another fun fact is that Macedonian sidewalks are not used for walking, but for parking 😊. Lately, the Government is trying to make some order, but it takes time.

The thing I like most about Skopje, is that pupils go to school in 2 shifts, either in the morning or in the afternoon. There are too many kids, so they split them in groups. If the classes are in the afternoon, my friends usually watch movies, or go shopping and then go to school. If they have classes in the morning, they do that after school. If the weather is warm enough, they also go for a drink (or coffee) before or after school. Drinking coffee outside is a tradition in Macedonia. Everybody does that!

It's funny how we are a very loud population and everyone talks so loud and loughs very loud, too 😊.

Another reason why I love Skopje, is because it is a fun city for teens, it is more relaxed and fun then some other cities I've been. We can hang out later in the night, it is safe and fun.

In conclusion, my country is very nice. I want to say that I like Macedonia and I am proud of it, even though I will say I was embarrassed about dancing the national dance, which I was learning some years ago. I thought it was an old fashion way to express yourself and I was afraid that my classmates would think I am lame. Now I realise, that it was a good thing to

do, because it helped me to get to know my culture and my people much better, especially that I do not live in Macedonia.

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