



## If you plan to travel to the European Union do not forget some of the basic rules of the visa free travel!

### To which countries can you now travel without a visa?

The visa free travel rules apply to all EU member states except the UK and Ireland, as well as to Iceland, Norway and Switzerland.

#### *List of countries*

<i>Austria</i>	<i>Estonia</i>	<i>Iceland</i>	<i>Netherlands</i>	<i>Slovenia</i>
<i>Belgium</i>	<i>Finland</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>Norway</i>	<i>Spain</i>
<i>Bulgaria</i>	<i>France</i>	<i>Latvia</i>	<i>Poland</i>	<i>Sweden</i>
<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>Germany</i>	<i>Lithuania</i>	<i>Portugal</i>	<i>Switzerland</i>
<i>Czech Republic</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>Luxembourg</i>	<i>Romania</i>	
<i>Denmark</i>	<i>Hungary</i>	<i>Malta</i>	<i>Slovakia</i>	

### How long can travellers stay in the Schengen area?

Biometric passport holders from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia can remain in the Schengen area for a maximum period of 90 days from the date of entry within a period of six months (180 days). The period starts when you enter the territory for the first time within six month period. For example, if you first enter the Schengen area on 1 February, the next six month period starts on 1 August. If you often travel to the Schengen area you are responsible for counting what the remaining number of days is within the six month period.

Hence, you may undertake several short term trips, provided that their duration does not exceed 90 days in total within a 6 months period.

### Can I live and work in Schengen countries?

The visa free rules apply to travel only. They do not grant citizens of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia the right to reside for more than 3 months or take up employment in the Schengen area.

Please note that if you intend to stay longer than three months, to take up an employment or undertake studies exceeding 90 days, you must apply for a long term visa, residence or working permit at the Embassy or Consulate of the country which is your destination before undertaking your travel.

Working or living in the Schengen area without the relevant national residence or working permit is illegal.

# Other important information

## Biometric passports

Biometric passports have been issued in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia since April 2007. Check whether your passport has this symbol on the front.



If it does, it is biometric and you can travel without a visa to the Schengen area.

If you do not yet have a biometric passport, you will need to obtain one from the passport issuing authorities in order to be able to travel to the countries concerned without a visa.

As non-biometric passports do not qualify for visa free travel, you can travel only if you have a valid Schengen visa. For further information please contact your country's authorities or the Consular representations of the Schengen countries.

## Other requirements for entry into the Schengen area

There are no extra financial or administrative requirements for biometric passport holders to fulfil in order to travel freely to the Schengen countries. However, the normal entry conditions for all third country nationals travelling to the Schengen area apply. At the border, travellers may thus be asked to demonstrate the means of their travel and show means of subsistence during their stay in the Schengen area. Travellers can also be asked to specify the place they will stay (e.g. to show a hotel reservation or address at which they will be staying). In addition, the persons must not be considered to be a threat to public order, public health or internal security and they must not be persons for whom an alert has been issued for the purpose of refusing entry. The Member State border authorities have the right to refuse entry if these requirements are not met and have the final decision on entry (Article 5 of the Schengen Convention).

A special procedure is applied at the border with Greece. The Greek authorities do not put entry or exit stamps in passports issued by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Instead, the Greek authorities proceed by stamping a separate sheet that will be given to the traveller.

## Recommendations to Travellers

- Travel with reliable travel agencies
- Check if you need to obtain health insurance and under which conditions (document/confirmation from the main health office). Taking out health insurance is recommended.
- If driving to the Schengen area, visitors must have a valid international driving license and international car insurance (green card).
- If travelling under private arrangements, check the address, town, telephone and name of hotel or other accommodation in the Schengen countries on an Internet browser

Please note that the European emergency number is 112 and is applicable in all EU countries (for police, ambulance or the fire department).

*For any additional information visit our website:*

*<http://www.delmkd.ec.europa.eu/>*

*or contact the Embassy or Consulate of the country which is your destination.*