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THE MACEDONIAN HERITAGE

5 days / 4 nights

*Come and explore Europe's last undiscovered destination –
Macedonia*

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience the feeling of stepping back in time to Ottoman Empire in Old Bazaar in Skopje
- Explore the magnificent greenery surrounded by the springs of the Crn Drim River, the spacious sand beach and the monastery complex of St. Naum
- Visit one of the oldest human settlements in Europe, Macedonian Ohrid



GENERAL INFORMATION

MACEDONIA

Landlocked in the heart of the Balkans, The Republic of Macedonia is one of Europe's youngest, smallest countries, but is simultaneously one of its oldest nations. Mountainous Macedonia still has an air of mystery to it. Simultaneously ancient and brand new, it's struggling to find its place in the post-communist world. Black-clad Orthodox monks are just as much a part of this renewal as the hordes of teenagers, bedecked in the latest Italian fashions, sipping coffee in the stylish bars of the capital.

For outdoors types Macedonia is a paradise. Its extensive wilderness allows ample opportunities for hikers, mountain climbers and skiers. Meanwhile, ancient ruins and monasteries will fascinate anyone with even a smidgen of interest in history. In short, for a little place it's crammed with something for just about everyone.

Quite apart from Macedonia's spectacular peaks, lakes and rivers, it's the hospitality of the people of this most southern of Slavic nations that will make your visit truly memorable.



SUGGESTED ITINERARY

DAY 1

Arrival to Skopje airport
Meet and greet at the airport and transfer to a hotel
Check-in
Dinner at a local restaurant
Overnight in Skopje

SKOPJE – the capital and largest city of the Republic of Macedonia

In its 2,500 years of existence, Macedonia's welcoming capital city has had many different embodiments. All of them – from Roman to Byzantine, from Ottoman to Yugoslav – have left permanent traces on the city as is evidenced by Skopje's varied architecture and its mix of cultures. Yet in addition to its strong historical associations, Skopje is a forward-looking city offering an abundance of modern amenities and attractions.

Here one can find sleek modern hotels above the cobblestoned Ottoman streets, outstanding neoclassical homes right around the corner from grand old Yugoslav-era buildings, red-bricked Byzantine churches and rounded Turkish mosques, chic cafés, shopping malls and brightly-coloured new offices.



DAY 2

Breakfast in the hotel
Full day visit of Skopje
Lunch at a local restaurant
Free afternoon
Dinner at a local restaurant
Overnight in Skopje

DAY 3

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out
Drive to Tetovo (52km) for a visit
Continue to Mavrovo (53km)
Lunch at a local restaurant
Continue to Ohrid (115km) with a visit of the canyon of the river Radika on the way
Check-in to a hotel
Dinner at a local restaurant
Overnight in Ohrid

TETOVO

Tetovo is a city in the north-western part of Macedonia, lying at the foothills of the Sar Planina (Mountain). Town was founded, as an orthodox settlement, around the Sveta Bogorodica church in the 14th century. Today Tetovo is a modern city with around 50%-55% ethnic Albanians, while the rest 50%-45% are Macedonians, Turks and Gypsies. Tetovo is also a major economic, industrial and commercial centre. The comparative advantages of the Polog valley have been well used for the development of agriculture, especially market-gardening and fruit growing. In recent years, Tetovo has become a center of private businesses and trade.



MAVROVO NATIONAL PARK

Mavrovo National Park features deep canyons, snowy peaks and blue lakes combine with dense forests that abound with diverse wildlife and it is one of the leading tourist areas in the country. Perhaps one of the features that make the Mavrovo National Park so attractive to visitors is its vivid topography. The relief of the park contains three Alpine mountain systems: the Shar, Korab and Bistra mountains. Between the three mountains extends what some call the most beautiful canyon in Europe: the Radika gorge. More than 24 km long, it displays spectacular landscapes.



DAY 4

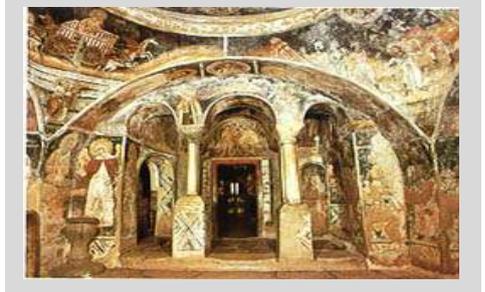
Breakfast in the hotel
Whole day tour of Ohrid and its surrounding
Lunch at a local restaurant
In the afternoon visit of the St. Naum monastery
Dinner at a local restaurant
Overnight in Ohrid

OHRID – the jewel in the crown of Macedonia

The city of the immortal Ohrid is the sublime lakeside point that for many represents the culmination of the Macedonian experience, a kingdom of light and water, a repository of ancient ruins from Macedonia's earlier kingdoms. Ohrid's major attractions are all located within a remarkably concentrated and eminently walkable area, among and above the narrow streets of the Old Town lined with restaurants and cafés perfectly suited for relaxing in the cool summer evenings. Ohrid's many café bars and nightclubs also make for a vibrant nightlife. As for the lake itself, it is so large and so deep that one might mistake it for a small sea. Full range of water sports, fishing and boating is available, and numerous churches alongside Ohrid's lake shores make for fascinating side trips and walks. The wooded ridge above the lake's eastern shore is largely taken up by the National Park of Galichica, an unspoiled wilderness ideally suitable for nature enthusiasts. The uniqueness of Lake Ohrid and the city's historical architecture has been attested by UNESCO, honouring it with an official designation as one of the few places on the cultural institution's list "World Inheritance".

ST. NAUM MONASTERY – the baroque-styled icons and frescoes holder

The Monastery of Saint Naum is an Eastern Orthodox monastery, named after the medieval Saint Naum who founded it. Saint Naum, also known as Naum of Ohrid was a medieval Bulgarian scholar and missionary among the Slavs. He is venerated as a saint in the Orthodox Church and was buried in the Church at the Monastery. The monastery is located only 1km from the Albanian border and sits on the Southern shores of Lake Ohrid.



DAY 5

Breakfast in the hotel and check-out
Drive to Bitola (68km) for a visit
Continue to Skopje (176km) via Prilep
Lunch on the way
Arrival to Skopje airport for your departure flight



BITOLA

Bitola is the second largest city in Macedonia located in the south-western part of the country and also one of the oldest cities in Macedonia dating from the 4th century B.C. The city still bears the marks of the diplomacy and is well known as “the city of the consuls”. Bitola is located on an important strategic and trade point near the Greek boarder at the base of Pelister Mountain which presents one of the three National Parks in Macedonia. As all of the cities in Macedonia it has combined its architecture and monuments adding parts of the many cultures that were present thousands of years ago. Still the ottoman rule has left the biggest mark on the city and its present look leaving many buildings to testify for their ruling such as the covered bazaar, the old bazaar, many mosques, the Turkish bath Deboj and so on.



SERVICES

SERVICES INCLUDED:

TRANSFERS:

Air conditioned comfortable vehicle through the whole tour

ACCOMMODATION (in DBL or SGL room, breakfast included):

2 nights in 3*/4* hotel in Skopje, 2 nights in 4*/5* hotel in Ohrid

GUIDES:

English speaking guide through the whole tour including meals and accommodation

ENTRANCE FEES:

Daut Pasha hammamin, Cifte Amam – National Art Gallery and church of St. Spas in Skopje, Mavrovo National Park, St Naum monastery, St. Jovan Bigorski Monastery, Samoil's Fortress and St. Sofia Church in Ohrid, Heraklea Lyncestis site and National Museum Bitola

MEALS:

As per program

OTHER:

Organization of the tour and VAT

SERVICES EXCLUDED:

- Services not mentioned in the program
- Porterage
- Drinks during the meals
- Tips