



REASONS

TO VISIT

MACEDONIA



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Dear travelers, dear partners,

We are delighted to offer in this brochure a choice of 12 different routes in Macedonia, each one going deep into its theme of travel. They have all been developed to perfection due to our own passion for discovery and travel, and our long experience and exploration of Macedonia: on foot, on horseback and donkeys, from air, under water, by 4x4...

We have also shared our experiences with the best guides in Macedonia who lead our tours, not only for the famous sites, but also for the off the beaten track sites and traditions. It is something that has proved to be priceless for us, our guests and our partners, as well as the local communities, where we constantly work on improvement of the services they can offer. We are happy now that we can show you Macedonia the way we see it, with its local stories, traditions, food and hospitality, as well as all the comfort you would expect on your holiday.

Additionally on each of these themes you will find extensions to our basic tours. Some of these add-ons offer extra days and experience in Macedonia, and some of them will take you to the neighboring Balkan countries where you can experience and compare the varieties of the common Balkan story in different countries.

Looking forward to welcome you in Macedonia,
Sincerely,



Emilija Fildishevska
Founder and Managing Director





WALKING & GOURMET HIGHLIGHTS:

- Explore on foot early Bronze Age Kokino Observatory and the Valley of the Stone Dolls
- Hike to 13th century Treskavec monastery hidden between boulders and granite cliffs
- Walk in the pine woods and stream-laced valleys of Pelister National Park
- Cook together with the locals and taste their homemade beer and wine
- Discover Heraclea Lyncestis, the ancient city of Philip II of Macedon
- Take a guided tour of Ohrid old town (UNESCO world heritage site)
- Taste the traditional, sharp sheep cheese with a sip of rakiya at a sheep farm in the mountains
- Learn about Macedonian prestige wines over dinner with winetasting in a winery chateau
- Enjoy picnic in woods with live ethno music and learn how to play kaval flute





WALKING MACEDONIA

Explore Macedonia on foot! We've crafted this off-the-beaten track experience for nature lovers who will enjoy moderate hikes (3-5 hours a day) in the best nature reserves and national parks of Macedonia, and explore along the way the most attractive cultural and historical sites of this ancient country. You will also visit remote villages where you will meet locals and taste their mouthwatering traditional dishes at their table, paired with full-bodied, internationally awarded Macedonian wines. Enjoy.



INCLUDED IN PRICE:

- Accommodation: 5 x 3*, 1 x 4*, 1 x boutique hotel
- Meals: as per program / see pricing
- Full escort by professional tourist/ trekking guide
- Transport by air-conditioned vehicle
- Winetasting with dinner in winery hotel (for HB and FB meal plan)
- Boat excursion at St Naum and in Canyon Matka
- Full organization and logistic by Macedonia Travel

NOT INCLUDED IN PRICE:

- Drinks during meals
- All entrance fees for monuments visited (24 euro)
- Cable car excursion to Millennium cross (5 euro)
- Horse riding in National Park Mavrovo (40 euro)
- All personal expenses not included under "INCLUDED IN PRICE"

TOUR PRICE:

- Depends on number of participants.
- Group discounts available on request.

Please contact us at: info@macedoniatravel.com

- Special confidential prices apply for tour operators only.

DAY 1: Take a walking tour of the capital Skopje, from the Ottoman mosques and artcraft shops in the Old Town, over the Old Stone Bridge and the grand fountain Alexander the Great to Mother Teresa memorial house. If there is time, we'll take the cable car to the top of Vodno mountain rising from the city center, to experience the best view over the capital. O/N in Skopje.

DAY 2: Explore Kokino on foot, an Early Bronze Age Observatory declared by NASA as 4th oldest in the world. Visit the mysterious Valley of the Stone Dolls and taste the local pie pastmajlija in Kratovo, the town of medieval bridges and tunnels. Afternoon drive in the wine area for a guided tour of the vineyards and wine cellars of Popova Kula winery, and dinner with winetasting. O/N in winery chateau.

DAY 3: Hike from the medieval towers of King Marko to a remote 13th century Orthodox monastery hidden between the boulders of Treskavec. Afternoon drive to Bitola, a beautiful city with over 1600 years of urban tradition. After a guided walk of the city join the evening promenade on the main pedestrian street Shirok Sokak. O/N in Bitola.

DAY 4: Visit Heraclea Lyncestis, the ancient city founded by Philip II, the father of Alexander the Great, and continue for a hike in the pine woods of National Park Pelister. Spend the afternoon in a local countryhouse, and learn how to cook original Macedonian dishes with your hosts. O/N in Bitola.

DAY 5: Morning drive to Ohrid by the bird reserve at Prespa Lake. The city of Ohrid and Ohrid lake are both under UNESCO World Heritage protection. We'll take a guided tour of Ohrid Old Town and a picturesque boat ride by St Naum monastery. Lunch in a fishermen village by the lake. O/N in Ohrid.

DAY 6: Drive to Mavrovo National Park, for a moderate hike up to Galicnik – a remote mountain village at 1500m with typical architecture, famous for their sharp sheep cheese which you can taste over lunch with the shepherds. Optional: horse-back riding in the meadows around Galicnik. O/N in Mavrovo.

DAY 7: Transfer to Matka Canyon, nature reserve with over 130 different species of butterflies, few couples of Egyptian vultures and Bald Eagles. Back in the XII and XIII century the canyon was inhabited by Orthodox monks. We will visit some of the remaining Byzantine churches on our walk in the canyon, and take a boat to one of the deepest underwater caves in Europe: Vrelo Cave. Farewell dinner will be in traditional restaurant in the Bohemian district of Skopje. O/N in Skopje.

DAY 8: Transfer to Skopje airport for your flight home.

EXTEND YOUR TOUR: WALK IN SOUTH ALBANIA

DAY 5: Cross the Albanian border at lake Prespa and visit the remote fishing villages by the lake, home to one of the biggest colony of pelicans and cormorants in the Balkans. Taste their traditional fish & caviar dish and take a boat to visit a 14th century St Mary church on the island Mali Grad. Afternoon drive to Voskopje. O/N in Skopje.

DAY 6: Start your walk with tour of Voskopje's Byzantine heritage and continue hiking in the nature reserve to a small village on 1.200m. Afternoon drive to Korca, and to Morava mountain for dinner. Overnight in Korca.

DAY 7: Leave Korca in the morning to continue to DAY 5 of WALKING MACEDONIA tour.



HIKING HIGHLIGHTS:

Hike from 5-8 hours a day with Macedonia Travel expert guides;

We've selected the best hikes in Macedonia, Albania and Greece for this tour:

- Canyon Matka hidden monasteries and boat or kayak to the caves
- Tito's Peak on Sharr Mountains (alternative walk to Leshnica waterfalls)
- Pelister peak with swimming in the glacial lakes at 2500m
- Treskavec monastery. A true Byzantine age pearl hidden between boulders and high cliffs
- Boat excursion to "Golem Grad" island, home to cormorants, pelicans and ... Roman ruins
- Exploring UNESCO heritage sites Ohrid and Ohrid Lake
- Mount Bistra on a horseback (optional)
- Experience genuine Macedonian traditions and hospitality in the mountain villages
- Conquer Mount Olympus in Greece and enjoy Aegean beaches
- Hike to ancient Byzantine ruins in Albania, the land of eagles





MACEDONIAN HIKE

This hike will take in some of the best of the mountain scenery of Shar and Pelister ranges. These ranges are magical landscapes of snow-capped peaks, alpine meadows, glacial lakes, medieval villages and mature forests. The wildlife is rare with wolves, bears, boar, chamoix, golden eagles and lynx all still resident in the mountains. We won't walk the entire range, but we will select the best chunks and include monasteries, mountain villages and historic towns.



INCLUDED IN PRICE:

- Accommodation: 5 x hotel (3*), 2 x mountain hut, 1 x tents, 1 x monastery
- Meals: 9 x breakfast, 9 x lunch, 8 x dinner
- Transport by airconditioned van / minibus
- Full escort by professional hiking guide
- Boat in Matka and Prespa Lake
- Cheese tasting in sheepfold on Mt Bistra
- Life music on day 1 and 9
- Full organization and logistic by Macedonia Travel

NOT INCLUDED IN PRICE:

- Drinks during the meals
- Travel insurance
- Guided tour in Ohrid
- Discovery dive in the bay of Bones
- Any extra expenses not mentioned under „included in price“

TOUR PRICE:

- Depends on number of participants.
- Group discounts available on request.

Please contact us at: info@macedoniatravel.com

- Special confidential prices apply for tour operators only.

DAY 1: Welcome lunch at Pero's in the bohemian part of Skopje, where we'll discuss logistics and local customs while sampling Macedonian grilled cheese, peppers, and courgettes. Stay overnight in Canyon Matka in tents.

DAY 2: The walk begins along the Matka gorge, famous for its butterflies, taking in the monasteries of St. Nikola and St. Andrew, as well the deepest underwater cave in Europe- Vrelo Cave (4 hours) or you can extend it to St Nedela monastery (total 6-7 hours). Overnight in Popova Shapka.

DAY 3: Early morning departure to the Shar Planina Mountain Range, for hike to Tito Vrv (app. 8 hours) or to Leshnica waterfalls (5 hours) Overnight in Mavrovo.

DAY 4: Hike on Mt Bistra in National Park Mavrovo. We will pass mountain villages which are not inhabited in the winter and can only be reached when the snow melts. They are famous for their sharp cheese and traditional architecture. Hike the peaks of Bistra (6h), or enjoy a village style day and do 2h trekking to our next target. Overnight in Galicnik.

DAY 5: Moderate hike by the medieval ruins of King Marko and by the natural boulders of Gold Mountain to Treskavec monastery (5h). From here, you can try bouldering to the peak Zlatovrv (+ 1 hour) or enjoy a cup of tea with Father Kalist in the monastery. Overnight in Pelister.

DAY 6: We start early to hike to Pelister - the highest point on the Baba mountain range (7 hours). This is the oldest national park in Macedonia, famous for its ancient pine, lynx, and bearded eagle. Optional: night swim in the glacial lake „Golemo Ezero“. Overnight in mountain hut.

DAY 7: Descend from Golemo Ezero to the lovely old village of Brajcino: a quiet peaceful village, famous for its hospitality and homemade fruit liqueurs. Overnight in Brajcino.

DAY 8: We'll take a boat to the uninhabited island of Golem Grad, or 'Snake Island',- home to cormorants, pelicans, and sun-bathing water snakes. Afternoon free for swimming in the lake. Overnight in Ohrid.

DAY 9: After a boat ride in the lagoon at St Naum, we will explore Ohrid and Ohrid Lake, both UNESCO World Heritage sites, also birthplace of Cyrillic script and home to 365 orthodox churches. Overnight in Ohrid.

DAY 10: Transfer to Skopje airport for flight home.

EXTEND YOUR STAY: HIKE TO MOUNT OLYMPUS IN GREECE

DAY 10: Quick dip in Lake Ohrid and drive to the Greek coast by Mount Olympus. Overnight in Litohoro or Leptokaria in Greece.

DAY 11: Enjoy the beach in the morning, and hike up Mount Olympus – to the middle in afternoon. Stay in mountain hut.

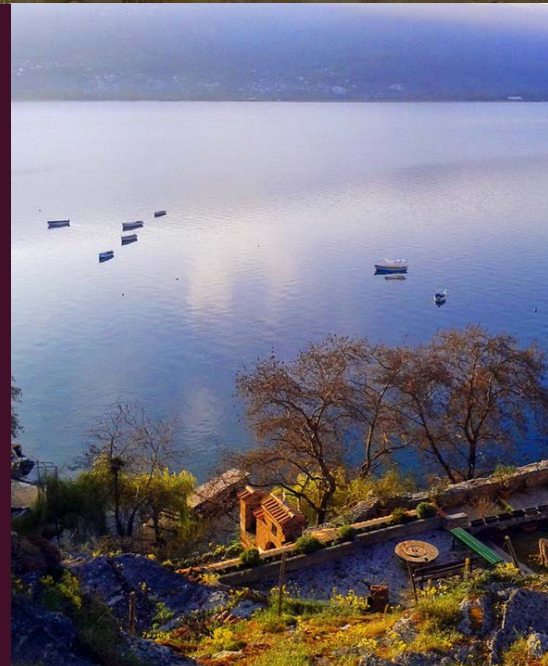
DAY 12: Hike to the Mytikas summit (4 hours) Note: Rock scrambling. Descend down to Litohoro (6 hours). Farewell dinner in Thessaloniki. Overnight in Thessaloniki.

DAY 13: Fly home from Thessaloniki, or stay another day or two on the beach



BIKING HIGHLIGHTS:

- Take a biking tour of Skopje highlights
- Ride on mountain roads to hidden medieval monasteries and villages and ... around UNESCO Ohrid Lake and by ancient Via Egnatia Roman road
- ... over the rocky paths and crystal clear rivers of remote Mariovo region
- ... to the highest town in the Balkans for the tasties lokum and meringues
- ... through the narrow cobblestoned streets of picturesque Krusevo
- ... by tobacco fields and vineyards in the wine region
- Hike between boulders to Treskavec monastery and meet welcoming Father Kalist
- Explore on foot Pelister – the oldest National Park in Macedonia
- Enjoy mouthwatering Macedonian dishes paired with rich, fullbodied Vranec wine



MACEDONIA ON 2 WHEELS

A complete biking holiday in Macedonia including not only the most popular cultural sites and rides inside the national parks, but also some of the best off-the-beaten track experiences where you will meet firsthand Macedonian traditions, their original lifestyle and mouthwatering cuisine.



INCLUDED IN PRICE:

- Accommodation: 9 x hotel (3*), 2 x guesthouse
- Meals: 11 x breakfast, 3 x lunch, 10 x dinner
- Transport of tour participants and their bikes
- Full escort by English speaking bike guide
- Full organization and logistic by Macedonia Travel

NOT INCLUDED IN PRICE:

- Drinks during the meals
- Rent of bike
- Travel insurance
- Any extra expenses not mentioned under „included in price“

TOUR PRICE:

- Depends on number of participants.
- Group discounts available on request.

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- Special confidential prices apply for tour operators only.

EXTEND YOUR STAY:

RIDE TO KAJMAKALAN PEAK (2521M)

DAY 9: Cycling tour (extreme) to Kajmakalan peak, the place of the main battles of Solun front during I World War. There is a church and a memorial monument to Dr Weis at the summit. The route goes continuously uphill for 35km (22miles) to the summit, and on the same route back to the starting point experiencing great downhill rode. Overnight in Bitola.

CYCLING TO MAJDAN (LORANDITE MINE)

DAY 10: Start cycling from village Vitoliste in Mariovo, following the former air field used in I World War to the mountain pass Tribor. Here we enter the dense forest and the road takes us to village Majden and the old mine of Alshar

DAY 1: The best sightseeing tour of Skopje on a bike: through the narrow cobblestone streets of the Old Bazaar, via picturesque bridges and squares, parks and districts with significant monuments, museums and baroque buildings. Overnight in Skopje.

DAY 2: Warm-up day to the Millennium Cross on Mount Vodno and St Panteleimon church. Afternoon walks in Nature reserve Matka, "the Mother of all species". Overnight in Mavrovo.

DAY 3: Ride in Mavrovo National Park, by the lake and up to the pastures on Bistra mountain for some cheese and delicious homemade bread. Visit Sharkova dupka cave on your way back. Overnight in Mavrovo.

DAY 4: Start the day with a ride around Mavrovo Lake, and then drive by the Albanian border to a traditional village by Ohrid Lake for overnight. Visit of the remarkable St Jovan Bigorski and Rajcica monasteries on the way. Overnight in Vecvani.

DAY 5: Early morning ride on the ridge of Galicica Mountain and down to a fishermen village by the lake for fresh trout for lunch. Explore Old town of Ohrid in the afternoon, the UNESCO World heritage town. Overnight in Ohrid.

DAY 6: Following the road by Ohrid Lake we'll make a circle around it, see the cave churches in Radozda, then ride on the Albanian side of the lake, and back in Macedonia to visit St Naum monastery and the Bay of Bones. Overnight in Pelister.

DAY 7: A day on foot in the National Park Pelister, famous for its endemic five-needled Molika-pine, lynx and bearded eagle. Stay in a guesthouse for lunch and learn how to cook Macedonian style. Overnight in Pelister.

DAY 8: Ride in most isolated part of Macedonia : Mariovo. The terrain is rather rocky in some parts with dirt roads, at some points you will need to carry your bike across one of the crystal clear rivers, and you will eat delicious homemade meals, prepared on wood stove or simply on fire.

DAY 9: Take a moderate hike by the medieval ruins of King Marko and by the natural boulders of Gold Mountain to Treskavec monastery. From here, you can try bouldering to peak Zlatovrv (+ 1hour) or enjoy a cup of tea with Father Kalist in the monastery. Overnight in Krusevo.

DAY 10: Enter into the picturesque history town of Krusevo, an open museum of history and typical architecture. We'll cycle through the narrow streets of Krusevo and into the woods by the surrounding villages. Overnight in the Macedonian wine area.

DAY 11: Choose your pace today: you can either take it active and climb on the rocks of the Iron Gate, or, you can relax with an hour or two of yoga session with our yoga instructor. Afternoon visit of ancient city of Stobi. Overnight in Skopje.

DAY 12:

Transfer to airport for your flight home.

protected for its unique ore Lorandite used for detection of solar neutrino. Ride back to Vitoliste. Overnight in Pilep.

RIDE TO SOLUNSKA GLAVA PEAK

DAY 12 – 14 (3 days): Mountbike tour from Skopje into one of the most beautiful mountain range in Central Macedonia: Jakupica, Jablanica and Dautica mountains. You will be riding into dense forests full of forest fruit, passing by colorful Muslim and Orthodox villages, you will taste original flie (multilayered Albanian pie specialty) and some natural acacia honey; up above 2000m the dirt road takes you through waste pastures where you will be served sheep cheese in the sheepfolds of Begovo pole – home to the rare ground squirrels. You will stay 2 nights in the mountain hut with the best view over the surrounding forests and mountain peaks.



FAMILY TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- Explore all history layers of Skopje on a guided tour
- Take a boat in canyon Matka to enter Vrelo Cave
- Bike around the lake in Mavrovo and join the shepherds in the mountains
- Discover Ohrid and Ohrid Lake (UNESCO) on a guided tour
- Enjoy the traditional tasty dishes with the locals
- Get on a donkey in National Park Galicica
- Admire the mosaics in the city of Philip II, father of Alexander the Great
- Become a rock climber with our expert guides
- Take a 2 days "Leave no trace" camping course in nature





FAMILY ADVENTURE

An inspiring, active and educative family adventure filled with diverse activities and adventures in nature to share with your family and to create longlife memories from your holiday in Macedonia.

You will also visit ancient Roman ruins and historic towns on your way, and you will dine with the locals and learn how to cook Balkan style as you explore their village property and pick fresh products for your meal.



INCLUDED IN PRICE:

- Accommodation: (8 nights):
4 x hotel 3*, 1 x hotel 4*, 1 x winery hotel,
1 x guesthouse, 1 x tents
- Meals: 8 x breakfast, 7 x lunch, 7 dinner
- Bike rent in Mavrovo (day 2)
- Excursion on donkeys (day 5)
- Cooking classes (day 6)
- Leave-No-Traces training (day 7)
- Rock climbing for beginners in the Iron Gate (day 8)
- Wine tasting with the dinner (day 8)
- Transport by air conditioned van / mini coach
- Full escort by professional guide
- Organization and logistic by Macedonia Travel

NOT INCLUDED IN PRICE:

- Drinks during the meals
- Boat ride in Canyon Matka (day 2)
- Kayak in Canyon Matka (day 2)
- Hiking guide in Galicnik (day 3)
- Horseriding in Galicnik (day 3)
- Zumba dance classes (day 8)
- Travel insurance
- Any extra expenses not mentioned under „included in price“

TOUR PRICE:

- Depends on number of participants.
 - Group discounts available on request.
- Please contact us at: info@macedoniatravel.com
- Special confidential prices apply for tour operators only.

DAY 1: Experience all layers of Balkan history on a walking tour of Skopje: a city that has been scoured and flattened by invaders over the centuries, burned to ground and built up into today busy Capital of Macedonia. Overnight in Skopje.

DAY 2: Morning walk and boat ride through canyon Matka, home to the Bold eagle and Egyptian vulture, and to over 200 different types of butterflies. Take the bikes around Mavrovo Lake in the afternoon, or visit the deer breeding center in the National Park. Overnight in Mavrovo.

DAY 3: Visit old mountain villages with typical architecture and stories, where you can join the shepherds for lunch and maybe milk a sheep or a goat, or take a ride in the mountains above 1500m on a trained mountain horse. Overnight in Vevcani.

DAY 4: Guided walking tour on the cobblestoned streets of the Old Town of Ohrid, a UNESCO World heritage site and the birthplace of Cyrillic script. Drive to St Naum monastery where you'll take a boat in the lagoons by the lake. Overnight in Ohrid.

DAY 5: Explore Galicica National Park: on foot and donkeys, and try some traditional homemade specialties with the locals in Elsani village. Overnight in Ohrid.

DAY 6: See the neoclassical architecture of Bitola, the city of consuls, and the ancient city Heraclea Lyncestis built by Philip II – the father of Alexander the Great. You will also make your lunch today and learn how to use Macedonian spices and herbs over cooking classes in a household in Dihovo. Overnight in Bitola.

DAY 7: Walking tour of Prilep including the old leaning clock tower and the monument of their famous storyteller. In Demir Kapija we'll set our camping, stay in tents overnight and learn how to protect the nature through the 7 principles of the "Leave No Trace" course. Overnight in tents in Demir Kapija.

DAY 8: Our professional rockclimber and member of UIAA Youth board with over 30 years experience will train you in rockclimbing on the rocks of the Iron Gate. Afternoon relax with yoga classes, or take a fun class in zumba dancing. Dinner in the cellars of a winery chateau with winetasting. Overnight in winery hotel in Demir Kapija.

DAY 9: Transfer to Skopje Airport for flight home.

EXTEND YOUR STAY:

DAY 9: Meet the rural side of Macedonia and the genuine hospitality of the people who live far from the busy Capital. Breath the fresh air coming from the surrounding mountains in the little river valley; You can pick up some eggs from the roost next-door for your breakfast, or, you can mess with our LaSoy expert in your "make-100%-natural cosmetics" course.

DAY 10: Wake up with the smell of freshly baked breakfast and coffee, and join the breakfast table in the beautiful garden of your household. Learn and taste the nature: what is lemon balm, mint, rosemary, chamomile, St Johns wort, marigold, thyme and basil, and how to use it in your kitchen, what are their medical benefits, how to make aromatic wines and liqueurs. Make-your-own-lunch with the locals: the tasty Balkan "Gibanitza", but in the original way: with hand-made dough layers. And enjoy it with pure homemade yoghurt.

DAY 11: Transfer to Skopje airport for your flight home



ADRENALINE HIGHLIGHTS:

- Take a boat / kayak deep in Matka Canyon
- Explore National Park Mavrovo on a horseback
- Caving under the medieval ruins of Deva
- Hike to a remote 14th century monastery and fly tandem where World champions do!
- Bike by UNESCO Ohrid Lake and ancient Roman roads
- Clay pigeon shooting and archery in the woods above Ohrid Lake
- Eat tasty and typical Macedonian food
- Rock climbing in the Iron Gate
- Explore remote Mariovo region on a jeep
- Yoga relax





ABSOLUTE ADVENTURE

Get your blood racing with this 10 days absolute adventure tour!

You will kayak and dive through bronze-age settlements underwater, hike and horse-ride by boulders and endless pastures, you will be paragliding where world champions do, and caving through hills under medieval ruins.



INCLUDED IN PRICE:

- Accommodation: 7 x hotel (3*), 2 x house
- Meals: 9 x breakfast, 8 x lunch, 7 x dinner
- Transport by airconditioned van / minibus
- Full escort by professional hiking guide
- Full organization and logistic by Macedonia Travel

NOT INCLUDED IN PRICE:

- Drinks during the meals
- Travel insurance
- All activities „by choice“:
- Kayak in Matka Lake
- Boat on Matka Lake
- Horse-riding (shepherds lunch included)
- Caving,
- Paragliding
- Biking tour (lunch pack included)
- Discovery diving
- Shooting clay pigeons
- Archery
- Any extra expenses not mentioned under „included in price“

TOUR PRICE:

- Depends on number of participants.
- Group discounts available on request.

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- Special confidential prices apply for tour operators only.

DAY 1: Start your journey with a walking tour of the Capital and get to know better your guide and your co-travelers over a cup of Turkish tea in the Old Bazaar. Spend the night in a hotel lodge in Canyon Matka.

DAY 2: TAKE A BOAT or KAYAK in the canyon of Matka – a beautiful fracture between the vertical rocks of nature reserve Jasen: home to the Bold eagle and Egyptian vulture, and to over 200 different types of butterflies. Than **WALK UP** to a XIV century monastery on the rocks for a picnic lunch with local musicians ... Overnight in Mavrovo.

DAY 3: Rise early and join the shepherds on Mount Bistra **ON A HORSEBACK**, and have a Balkan style branch: a shot of rakiya and some of their strong sheep cheese with freshly baked bread. Overnight in Mavrovo.

DAY 4: You will be **CAVING** inside the hills of Central Macedonia and through the natural cave passes under the medieval ruins. Optional: take the rops and try the vertical in cave Puralo – it is safe, and it's amazing! Overnight in Prilep.

DAY 5: Take a **HIKE** by the boulders of Golden Mountain to Treskavec monastery, the birthplace of renaissance in fresco painting. Optional: try **BOULDERING** on Zlatovrv peak, next to the monastery. Overnight in Krusevo.

DAY 6: FLY where world champions do! You don't need to be an expert: if you are not an experienced paraglider you can fly tandem with our professional instructors. Overnight in Ohrid.

DAY 7: Today you'll **BIKE** by the UNESCO world heritage Ohrid lake and parts of the ancient Via Egnatia road, to the cave churches close to the border with Albania. Rest of the day is free for swimming. Overnight in Ohrid.

DAY 8: DIVE in the prehistory settlement underwater "Bay of bones". Than visit some old villages in the area to taste their mouthwatering traditional dishes. Overnight in Vevcani.

DAY 9: Start of the day with good village breakfast and visit a sport-shooting range to try your reflex on **CLAY-PIGEON SHUTTING** or your **ARCHERY** skills with a bow and arch. Enjoy some game for lunch. Overnight in Skopje.

DAY 10: If you still have some time left to your flight home, we can take the cable car to the Millennium Cross up on Vodno mountain.

EXTEND YOUR STAY:

DAY 9 : Overnight in Bitola

DAY 10: JEEP RIDE to one of the most remote places in Macedonia: Mariovo. Try catching (**SPORT FISHING** only) some river crabs in its crystal clear rivers and explore the World War I trenches on the hills above them.

DAY 11: Drive to the Iron Gate by Demir Kapija for some **ROCK-CLIMBING** experience. Optional: afternoon **YOGA** retreat in the camp. Overnight in tents.

DAY 12: Enjoy outdoors responsibly! Take a day fun course of **LEAVE NO TRACE** in your camping. Dinner with wine tasting. Overnight in winery hotel.

DAY 13: Drive to Skopje airport for flight home.



IN THE COUNTRYSIDE HIGHLIGHTS:

- Explore the village: meet honey and tobacco producers, taste some goat cheese at a farm
- Full day La Soy course: make your 100% natural cosmetics
- Learn the herbs and spices, how to collect, store and use them in medicine, kitchen, cosmetic...
- Full day art carpenter workshop
- Cooking classes x 2 (seasonal traditional meals)
- Walking excursion to river Babuna springs with meditations and 'Water clean-up'
- Learn about the "Secret book" of the Bogomils in the village Bogomila where this movement started
- Volunteer with the locals to improve their community
- Aromatherapy day
- Explore Skopje on walking tour





COUNTRYSIDE DETOX

Wake up with the smell of freshly baked breakfast and coffee. Learn and taste the nature: what is lemon balm, rosemary, St Johns wort and how to use them in your kitchen and for medical treatments; Learn how to make your 100%-natural-cosmetics: face creams, soap and shampoo, body scrubs and deodorants. Eat healthy and join your lovely host Katerina in the kitchen. Connect with the locals and help them make this lovely village even more beautiful and to build their better tomorrow.



INCLUDED IN PRICE:

- Accommodation: 6 x homestead
- Meals: 6 x breakfast, 5 x lunch, 6 x dinner
- Local tourist guide in Skopje (Day 1)
- Full escort and animation by the host family and local guides
- Transport by air-conditioned vehicle
- Traditional welcome in the homestead
- Guided walk in the village with meeting local manufacturers
- Art workshop
- Presentation and course use of natural herbs in medicine and cooking
- Course: make yourself 100% natural cosmetics
- Hiking to river Babuna springs
- Meditation and water clean-up meditation
- Organization and logistic for voluntary activities
- Cooking classes as described
- Full organization and logistic by Macedonia Travel

NOT INCLUDED IN PRICE:

- Drinks during meals
- All personal expenses not included under "INCLUDED IN PRICE"

TOUR PRICE:

- Depends on number of participants.
 - Group discounts available on request.
- Please contact us at: info@macedoniatravel.com
- Special confidential prices apply for tour operators only.

DAY 1 - WELCOME: As you arrive at Skopje airport your guide will take you for a brief walking tour of the capital Skopje to visit its main landmarks: Mother Teresa memorial house, Alexander the Great fountain, and into the narrow streets of the Old town lined with art-craft shops, Byzantine time temples and Ottoman mosques and baths turned into art galleries. Afternoon drive to the homestead in the countryside where you will meet your hosts over a tasty welcome dinner in their gardens. O/N in the homestead.

DAY 2 - MEET THE COUNTRYSIDE: After a hearty village breakfast take a walk and a donkey cart around the village and visit the local people to get introduced in their slow countryside lifestyle. You will see how they still thread the tobacco leaves manually and how they extract honey the old fashioned way. On your way back to the house you can collect some fresh eggs right from the roost nextdoor and goat cheese from a small goat farm nearby for your afternoon cooking classes: make Balkan "Gibanitz" in the original way - with hand-made dough layers. O/N in the homestead.

DAY 3 - ART DAY: A day for creative workshop where your lovely host Katerina will guide you through carpenter work. You will be creating a decorative wooden plate which is used by the local women in everyday cooking and kneading work. You will be cutting wooden parts, sanding, gluing, painting and decorating all day... and take your breaks by the pool. This little piece of furniture will be the souvenir from Macedonia that you will proudly take home. O/N in the homestead.

DAY 4 - DETOX: THE WORLD OF HERBS AND SPICES: Today you will learn how to find and collect herbs from nature, how to store them and use them in medicine (tea, tinctures, oils). You will learn all about lemon balm, thyme, St Johns wort and many more, and you will make yourself the herbal therapies for the following days of detox and aromatherapy! Later you can start using your new skills in dinner preparation, and make a healthy seeds spread to pair your fresh salad and Turlitava casserole. O/N in the homestead.

DAY 5 - DETOX 2 - AROMATHERAPY: Learn how to make your 100% natural cosmetics that you will take home with you! You will be using only natural ingredients in the preparation of your face cream, face & body scrub, deodorant, toothpaste and hair revival. You will learn how to experiment with the aromatic herbs in creation of your own scent in future. BBQ evening by the fire. O/N in the homestead.

DAY 6 - DETOX 3 - IN THE MOUNTAINS: A spiritual detox day. After a morning meditation under the 600 years old maple tree, take a relaxing hike in the mountains to the springs of river Babuna, one of the cleanest rivers in the Balkans that comes out from the rocks as a beautiful waterfall. We'll have our picnic lunch here and a "Water clean-up" meditation. On the way back visit the village where Bogomil's movement started and hear the mystical story of their "Secret book". O/N in the homestead.

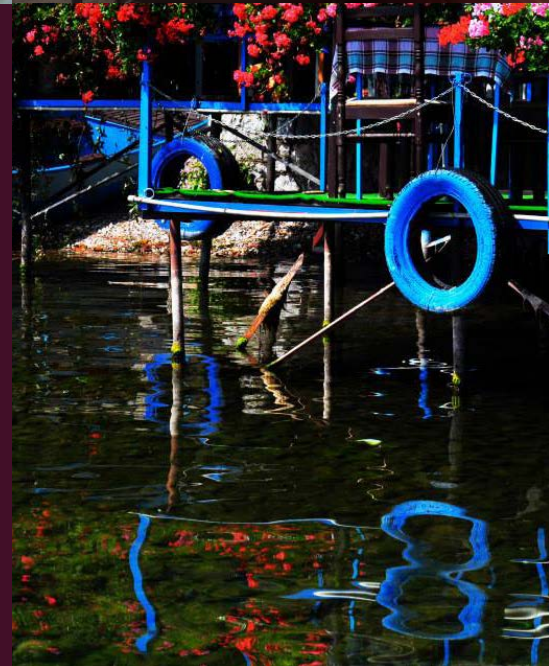
DAY 7: LEAVE YOUR MARK: As much as you enjoy your countryside experience in Macedonia, we believe that leaving your positive impact on this place and its people will be inspirational and fulfilling both for you and the local inhabitants. Whether it is about protecting their natural sources, or about making this village a better place for living and receiving guests in future, they will certainly appreciate your positive energy. We have developed few volunteering activities for this last day that will depend on your physical condition and the period of stay. Farewell dinner by the pool. O/N in the homestead.

DAY 8: After breakfast transfer to Skopje airport for flight home



GOURMET HIGHLIGHTS:

- Guided shopping with the chef at the green market in Skopje
- Cooking classes with Slowfood expert chef
- Bohemian experience in Skopje
- Oriental meals in the Old town of Skopje,
- Shepherd's breakfast at sheep farm on Mount Bistra
- Tasting of natural, homemade jams and dishes in Galicnik village
- Welcome and presentation by women artissans in Mavrovo village
- Shopping Mariovo "beaten" cheese at the cheese market
- Explore Ohrid, city and Ohrid lake of UNESCO
- Painted Mosque and Dervish convent in Tetovo
- Taste homemade beer and wine in Dihovo village
- 2 x winetasting in with tour of cellars in the wine region





ALL TASTES OF MACEDONIA

The land of sun is the land of the tastes. This biblical country still preserves the aromas and flavorings that you may very well remember from your childhood, from the times when fruit and vegetables didn't come neatly packaged in boxes, with same size and color. Delve into the secrets of the Macedonian cuisine; into the endless variety of fresh salads, cheeses and the unique, mouthwatering mix of traditional recipes of the many cultures and religions who live in this beautiful Balkan state.



INCLUDED IN PRICE:

- Accommodation: 2 x hotel 5*, 2 x hotel (4*), 1 x guesthouse, 1 x boutique hotel, 1 x winery chateau
- Meals: 7 x breakfast, 6 x lunch, 6 x dinner
- Transport by airconditioned van / minibus
- Full escort by professional tourist guide
- Cooking classes
- Boat ride in Matka and in Ohrid
- Cheese farm visit in National Park Mavrovo
- Tasting of homemade products in Galicnik
- Traditional welcome by the women artisans in Mavrovo
- Hiking guide in Mavrovo
- Entrance fees for cultural sites
- Organization and logistic by Macedonia Travel

NOT INCLUDED IN PRICE:

- Drinks during the meals
- Travel insurance
- Any extra expenses not mentioned under „included in price“

TOUR PRICE:

- Depends on number of participants.
- Group discounts available on request.

Please contact us at: info@macedoniatravel.com

- Special confidential prices apply for tour operators only.

DAY 1: Meet your guide over a dinner in the Bohemian district of Skopje, and discuss the tour logistics and Macedonian customs while sampling grilled cheese, peppers, and courgettes. Overnight in Skopje.

DAY 2: Rise early so you can buy the best ingredients on the green market! Your chef will guide you through the colorful booths with fruits and spices, and he will teach you how to use them in your make-your-Balkan-style-lunch classes. Afternoon walks in Canyon Matka nature reserve. Overnight in Skopje.

DAY 3: Explore Skopje on foot: from the Mother Teresa monument in the busy center, to the maze of narrow cobblestoned streets of the Old Bazaar, lined with art-craft shops and oriental restaurants. Visit the Painted mosque and the Dervish convent in Tetovo and stay overnight in Mavrovo.

DAY 4: Join the shepherds on Mt Bistra and learn how they produce their sharp sheep cheese. We'll spend the day walking in the National Park with few stops in old mountain villages to taste and learn the recipes of their natural homemade products. Dinner on the balcony with best view over river Radika valley. Overnight in Jance.

DAY 5: Morning coffee with the local women at their home, where we'll learn about their traditional lifestyle and their colorful handmade accessories. On our way to Ohrid, we'll visit the cave churches and the monk cells carved in the rocks above Ohrid Lake. Afternoon guided tour of Ohrid old town - the cultural capital of Macedonia protected by UNESCO and the birthplace of the Cyrillic script. Overnight in Ohrid.

DAY 6: Boat ride along the lake shore, with few stops to visit the Bay of Bones, the monastery complex St Naum and for swim on a hidden beach by St Zaum. After the lunch in a fishermen village we'll drive to Dihovo, for relaxing evening with our lovely hosts over a delicious dinner paired with their home-made beer and wine. Overnight in Dihovo or Bitola.

DAY 7: Morning walk and coffee in one of the cafes on the main pedestrian street of Bitola. Visit of the lively old town and bazaar in Prilep to taste the best "bieno" (beaten) cheese made by Mariovo farmers. Afternoon drive through the wine area with visit of the Royal winery and to a small communist style winery - the main supplier of wine to the great Marshall Tito. Dinner with wine-tasting and tour of the cellars of chateau Popova Kula. Overnight in Popova Kula hotel.

DAY 8:

After breakfast visit of the wine museum in Demir Kapija, and continue to Skopje Airport for flight home, or to extend your tour at a rural household, or in Serbia. If time allows, we'll visit Stobi on our way - the ancient trading city built at the sunset of the great Macedonian kingdom. (B)

EXTEND YOUR STAY:

DAY 9: Meet the rural side of Macedonia and the genuine hospitality of the people who live far from the busy Capital. Breathe the fresh air coming from the surrounding mountains in the little river valley; You can pick up some eggs from the roost next-door for your breakfast, or, you can mess with our LaSoy expert in your "make-100%-natural cosmetics" course.

DAY 10: Wake up with the smell of freshly baked breakfast and coffee, and join the breakfast table in the beautiful garden of your household. Learn and taste the nature: what is lemon balm, mint, rosemary, chamomile, St Johns wort, marigold, thyme and basil, and how to use it in your kitchen, what are their medical benefits, how to make aromatic wines and liqueurs. Make-your-own-lunch with the locals: the tasty Balkan "Gibanitza", but in the original way: with hand-made dough layers. And enjoy it with pure homemade yoghurt.

DAY 11: Transfer to Skopje airport for your flight home.



GOURMET EXTENSION IN SERBIA HIGHLIGHTS:

- Gourmet picnic by Vlasina Lake
- Herbal production presentation in Sukovo monastery
- Cheese production and tasting in Stara planina sheepfarm
- Production of famous Pirot pressed sausage; Ponisavlje museum
- Visit of rural household in Stara Planina
- Tasting of home-made paprika dishes in village by Leskovac and Sicevo wine
- Explore St George monastery in Temska, Ponisavlje museum, Nis fortress and Cele kula
- Rugs and pottery manufacture in Pirot



SERBIA

Serbian unbeatable and irresistible cuisine is spectacularly savory, tremendously flavorful and tastefully stimulating to the appetite. Serbian gastronomy is derived from mixed traditions mostly influenced by the neighboring Mediterranean (especially Greek), Hungarian, Turkish, Bulgarian and Austrian cuisines. Meat (especially grilled, baked or roasted), herbs (basil, horse radish, dill) and vegetables are used in abundance in the Serbian delicious, nourishing and spicy dishes.



Day 11: Drive to Serbia into the intact nature of Surdulica to the beautiful Vlasina Lake located at 1200 meters. Welcome by local producers and outdoor picnic – roasted lamb. Afternoon walk around Vlasina lake and through thick beech forest with introduction of the rare herbs used in medicine. Big traditional dinner – famous rostilj /grilled minced meat specialties/ with brass orchestra music. Overnight in private rooms/apartments.

Day 12: Walk through the breathtaking intact scenery of the Temstica River Canyon, and visit the St George Monastery in Temska village or the Sukovo Monastery in Jerma River Gorge with introduction on the Stara Planina Mountain medicinal herbal substances and herbal preparation products performed by nuns/monks. Here you can taste natural honey and rakija with herbs. We'll also visit a small dairy in a remote village of Stara Planina Mountain National Park which produces famous sheep kachkaval cheese and the producer of the renown pressed Pirot sausage, made by finest goat, sheep and beef meat and special spices. In Pirot we will visit the Ponisavlje Museum, and we will prepare the well-known belmuz (original East Serbia dish) for dinner. Overnight in Pirot.

Day 13: Full day hikes in Stara Planina Mountain with picnic lunch. Visit to the organic farm and rural household which produces homemade slatko and pickled salad. Back in Pirot we'll visit the famous Pirot rug and the Pirot pottery manufacture workshops. Big traditional dinner and overnight in Pirot.

Day 14: Driving to Nis along the Sicevo Gorge we'll make a break for a tour of Sicevo hydroelectric power station, built a century ago according to Nikola Tesla principles! Refreshment at the Saint Petka church – famous Sicevo wine, or, optional visit to the Bela Palanka workshop of the banitzsa-cheese pie. Walk along the Nis Fortress and tour of the Cele kula – Scull Tower. Traditional lunch. Continue to Leskovac with break in the tiny village world-known for production and export of the highest quality paprika and related products – tasty ayvar /relish/ and its variations. Tasting of the homemade products. Farewell dinner – delicious Leskovacki voz rostilj /grilled meat. Overnight in Leskovac.

Day 15: Transfer to Skopje airport for your flight home.

INCLUDED IN PRICE:

- Accommodation : 1 x guesthouse, 2 x hotel 2/3*, 1 x hotel 4*
- Meals: 4 x breakfast, 4 x lunch, 4 x dinner
- Monastic refreshment
- Presentation of slatko and pickled vegetables preparation, of belmuz preparation
- Tasting of kachkaval and Pirot pressed sausage
- Entrance fees for the Pirot rug and the pottery manufacture workshops
- Wine with traditional brunch refreshment in Sicevo Gorge
- Ayvar and paprika products tasting
- Full escort by professional guide
- Organisation and logistic by Panacomp - Macedonia Travel

NOT INCLUDED IN PRICE:

- Drinks during the meals
- Travel insurance
- Any extra expenses not mentioned under „included in price“

TOUR PRICE:

- Depends on number of participants.
 - Group discounts available on request.
- Please contact us at: info@macedoniatravel.com
- Special confidential prices apply for tour operators only.



THE WINE HIGHLIGHTS:

- Tour of the wine cellars of 7 Macedonian wineries
- 7 x winetasting paired with traditional mouthwatering dishes
- Picnic with winemaking activities in Tikvesh vineyards
- Explore Kokino Megalythic observatory and Staro Nagoricane temple
- Discover ancient city of Stobi;
- Visit the fairy springs by St George
- Walk in the narrow cobblestoned streets of Skopje Old town





THE WINE

- EARTH'S ANSWER TO MACEDONIAN 300 SUNNY DAYS

Placed in the heart of Macedonia, before the Iron Gates on river Vardar, this site has been the center for winemaking since the times of Alexander the Great. With its 300 sunny days per year, rich fertile soil and exceptional mix of Mediterranean and North-West mountains climate, it gives perfect conditions for breeding and creating premium wines with typical intensive flavors and fragrance.



INCLUDED IN PRICE:

- Accommodation: 4 x 4*, 3 x boutique
- Meals: 5 x breakfast, 4 x lunch, 5 x dinner
- Transport by air-conditioned tourist van
- Wine tasting x 6
- Full escort by professional English/ French /Italian speaking tourist guide
- All entrance fees for monuments visited en-route
- Full organization and logistic by Macedonia Travel

NOT INCLUDED IN PRICE:

- Drinks during the meals where not mentioned
- Travel insurance
- Any extra expenses not mentioned under „included in price“

TOUR PRICE:

- Depends on number of participants.
- Group discounts available on request.

Please contact us at: info@macedoniatravel.com

- Special confidential prices apply for tour operators only.

DAY 1: Welcome to Skopje! Walk from the busy center and the city square with over 100 monuments and grand baroque buildings, over the Stone Bridge into the cobblestoned narrow streets of the Old Town... Taste their traditional dishes in an old Ottoman inn, and enjoy your night out in the wine club in the Old Town.

DAY 2: See Kokino, the 4th oldest Megalythic observatory in the world! Continue to the jewel of Byzantine art from XI century up in the Staro Nagoricane village. Take a tour of King Alexander's winery, a living museum of winemaking since 1924! Lunch in the gardens of Villa Marija paired with the king's best wine. See how winemaking started in Macedonia over 2000 years ago in the Wine museum. Enjoy your winetasting and dinner and the 360 degrees view from tower over the surrounding vineyards and the rocky Iron Gate.

DAY 3: Taste the rich, intensive Vranec that was exclusively served at the Marshal Tito's table in Brionii! Continue to Bovin winery in Negotino region, and learn all about wine making "secrets" on a private tour of their cellars with their passionate enologist. Lunch with winetasting of 8 premium wines. Later, hear the story of the fairy springs and their miraculous powers by the sacred springs at St George monastery.

DAY 4: Enjoy September sun on a picnic in the vineyards. Roll up your sleeves, and start picking and crushing those sunny grapes and turn them into wine! BBQ lunch with selection of Tikvesh premium wines – a gigantic winery with over 20 million liters production per year, extensive cellar hallways, and the amazing wine archive locked underground. Afternoon visit of Tikves winery and the Museum of tastes.

DAY 5: Visit Stobi, the ancient city where traders travelling through Via Egnatia road were supplied with gold, white and pink marble, iron, and – WINE! Compare the story in contemporary Stobi winery over lunch and sharp sheep Galichnik cheese paired with their best wines. Last evening in Macedonia for the best: the Kamnik winery! A blind wine-tasting of a real rainbow of colors, shades, flavors, aromas and fragrances bottled together under the brand of Chateau Kamnik, gold and silver winner of Decanter, Vins du Monde, and many international prestige competitions.

DAY 6: Transfer to airport for flight home, or **extend your tour in the countryside.**

EXTEND YOUR STAY:

DAY 6: Meet the rural side of Macedonia! The genuine hospitality of the Macedonians who live far from the busy capital; breath the fresh air coming from the surrounding mountains and the little river valley; get-together with your family and friends in nature (evening by the fire is a must!). You may pick up the eggs for your breakfast from the roost nextdoor, and meet the locals and their little home farms. Or, you are welcome to mess with our **LaSoy** expert in your "make-100%-natural-cosmetics" course.

DAY 7: Wake up with the smell of freshly baked breakfast and coffee, and join the breakfast table in the beautiful garden of your household. Learn and taste the nature: what is lemon balm, mint, rosemary, chamomile, St Johns wort, marigold, thyme and basil, and how to use it in your kitchen, what are their medical benefits, how to make aromatic wines and liqueurs. Make-your-own-lunch with the locals: the tasty Balkan "Gibanitz", but in the original way: with hand-made dough layers. And enjoy it with pure homemade yoghurt.



ORTHODOX HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS:

- Learn all about Byzantine heritage and art with expert guide for history of arts
- Start a day with divine morning liturgy in the church of the Holly Mother of God
- See the first beginnings of renaissance in fresco painting in St Panteleimon
- Explore history layers and art in the Museum of Macedonia
- See St Marko and St Andrew original frescoes, reminders of the last Macedonian king
- Admire the world famous iconostasis masterpiece in St Jovan Bigorski and Lesnovo monastery
- Get your holly amulet in Rajcica monastery, home to the relics of St George
- Take a tour of Ohrid, the spiritual center under UNESCO protection
- See the ancient monk cells carved in the rocks above Ohrid Lake
- Visit father Kalist in Treskavec monastery, perched up a high granite cliff above Prilep
- Discover one of the oldest typikons in the history of Orthodox monasticism in Veljusa monastery
- Visit four UNESCO heritage monasteries in Kosovo in 2 days





ORTHODOX HERITAGE

According to the Acts, Saint Paul began spreading Christianity in Macedonia during the 1st century AD. Due to the early Christianization, Macedonian Christians had an organized church already at the beginning of 4th century, with established ecclesiastical hierarchy. Visit the most important temples of Orthodox Christianity with our expert Byzantine heritage guide and explore their amazing artistic and cultural values; you will start a day with a morning liturgy in a sacred temple by Ohrid Lake and you will have the opportunity to share your thoughts with the friendly priests.



INCLUDED IN PRICE:

- Accommodation: 4 x 4* hotel, 3 x boutique hotel, 1 x Ethno village hotel
- Meals: 8 x breakfast, 7 x lunch, 8 x dinner
- Transport by air-conditioned tourist van / coach
- Full escort by professional tourist guide
- All entrance fees for churches / monuments visited
- Winetasting with dinner (Day 6)
- Visit of clay pottery producers
- Boat ride in Ohrid
- Full organization and logistic by Macedonia Travel

NOT INCLUDED IN PRICE:

- Drinks during the meals
- Any personal expenses not mentioned under "INCLUDED IN PRICE"

TOUR PRICE:

- Depends on number of participants.
 - Group discounts available on request.
- Please contact us at: info@macedoniatravel.com
- Special confidential prices apply for tour operators only.

DAY 1: Welcome at the airport Alexander the Great and transfer to your hotel in Skopje. Meet your guide over traditional dinner in Skopje and learn all about the tour and Macedonian customs and traditions.

DAY 2: Visit the most important Byzantine temples in the mountains around the Capital: see the early beginning of the renaissance in St Panteleimon frescoes; the amazing decorations on the facades of St Archangel Michael; the masterpiece of narration in the fresco-art by the medieval artists in St Nikita. Dive into the history layers of the archaeological, ethnological, history of art and icons departments of the Museum of Macedonia.

DAY 3: Visit the best preserved iconostasis from XIV century in Marko's monastery, and in his brother's Andrea church set between the rocks of an amazing canyon - today nature reserve with hundreds of different life species. You will find here many churches from XIII an XIV century, and also the Bogorodica church where you can visit the nuns' embroidery workshop. On the way to Ohrid Lake, visit the famous iconostasis of St Jovan Bigorski, and the relics of St George in Rajcica.

DAY 4: Start the day with a divine morning liturgy in the church of Holly Mother of God. See the miraculous icon of Holly Mother of God, painted in black, and the cave churches and monk cells carved in the rocks above Ohrid Lake. Take a tour of Ohrid old town, the "Jerusalem of the Balkans" with 365 churches, a Roman amphitheatre, the medieval towers of Tsar Samoil and the priceless Gallery of icons.

DAY 5: See the remains of the Glagolitic and Cyrillic inscriptions on the pillars of St Naum monastery, the birthplace of Cyrillic script. After a relaxing boat ride in the lagoon by Ohrid Lake continue to visit St George of Kurbino, a little church with modest outside appearance which hides a real wealth from XII century inside its walls. Late afternoon tour of Heraclea Lyncestis, the ancient city founded by Philip II, the father of Alexander the Great.

DAY 6: Visit Prilep, the city under King Marko's medieval walls and center of Byzantine art during his reign: St Archangel Michael church purchased a massive granite rock above the city; the architecture of St Nikola church, the conservative frescoes of St Dimitrija church, and up between the boulders of Gold Mountain: Treskavec monastery. Late afternoon drive to the wine area for dinner with winetasting and overnight in winery chateau.

DAY 7: We drive into Eastern Macedonia to visit the most important Byzantine sites in the region: monasteries of Vodocha and Veljusa, with paintings from X century, and also one of the oldest typikons in the history of Orthodox monasticism. Afternoon visit of church of 15 Tiberiopolian Martyrs, where several temples have been excavated dating back to pre-Christianity period, and the Early-Christian basilica.

DAY 8: Visit Lesnovo monastery, one of the largest libraries in the Balkans during the Middle Ages. Following a path between the rocks, we come to a small cave church and few monk cells carved in the rocks. Afternoon drive North to St George church in Staro Nagoricane, famous for the rare fresco of Jesus Christ giving communion to the apostles. Watch the sunset at Kokino Megalythic observatory, according to NASA the 4th oldest observatory in the world, after the Stonehenge in England, Angkor Wat in Cambodia and Abu Simbel in Egypt.

DAY 9: After breakfast, transfer to Skopje airport for flight home.

EXTEND YOUR STAY: KOSOVO UNESCO HERITAGE

DAY 9: The four UNESCO sites in Kosovo represent the highest points of Byzantine-Romanesque ecclesiastical culture, with its distinct style of wall painting characteristic for the period between XIII and XVII century. Visit Gracanica monastery famous for its church devoted to Annunciation of the Holly Mother of God. View the greatest battlefield of Kosovo history from a 25m high tower, and visit Kosovo capital Pristina, with the monuments of Mother Teresa and Skanderbeg

DAY 10: Visit the spiritual seat and mausoleum of the Serbian archbishops and patriarchs in Pec Patriarchate, which had continuous life for over seven centuries. See the frescoes in monastery Visoki Decani declared as "one of the most valued examples of the so-called Palaeologan Renaissance in Byzantine painting". Continue for walking tour of Prizren and see why this ancient city is named "The Open City Museum".

DAY 11: After breakfast transfer to airport for your flight home.



THE BEST OF MACEDONIA HIGHLIGHTS:

- Take a cable car to view Skopje from Mt. Vodno and continue for a walking tour down in the city
- Walk inside nature reserve Matka to discover the medieval churches hidden in the canyon
- See the 2 religions of the west: colorful Alaya mosque and world famous Bigorski monastery
- Discover Ohrid and Ohrid Lake UNESCO heritage sites on a guided tour, on foot and by boat
- Explore National parks Galicica and Pelister, and the bird reserve by Prespa lake
- Join the folklore dancers on a show in Ohrid
- Visit the medieval towers of King Marko and Treskavec monastery built on the rocks above Prilep
- Take a tour of the ancient Macedonian and Roman cities Heraclea and Stobi
- Enjoy the delicious authentic dishes in Krushevo, the highest town in the Balkans
- Taste Macedonian full bodied Vranec and Stanushina wines in a tower with 360° view of the wine region



MACEDONIA HIGHLIGHTS

Experience the best of Macedonia in a week! Start from Mother Teresa's birthplace in the capital Skopje with over 6000 years history of existence; take a boat in the magnificent canyon Matka to cave Vrelo; see the colorful Alaya mosque from Ottoman times and visit Ohrid, the UNESCO city with 365 churches and the birthplace of Slavic literacy; walk by the ancient mosaics in the city of Philip II, the father of Alexander the Great. Taste the best of Macedonia: their intense, full bodied wines grown under the 300 sunny days per year, paired with the mouthwatering Macedonian dishes.



INCLUDED IN PRICE:

- Accommodation: 3 x 3* hotel, 2 x 4* hotel, 1 x boutique hotel
- Meals: 6 x breakfast, 6 x dinner
- Transport with air-conditioned tourist van / minivan
- Full escort by professional tourist guide
- Cable car on Mount Vodno
- Local deli tasting in Krusevo
- Boat ride in Canyon Matka
- Boat ride in the lagoon at St. Naum monastery
- Folklore performance with dinner on DAY 3
- Winetasting with dinner on DAY 6
- Full organization & logistic by Macedonia Travel

NOT INCLUDED IN PRICE:

- Drinks during the meals
- Entrance fees for monuments en-route (26 euro)
- Winetasting in Tikvesh winery on DAY 6
- Winetasting in Stobi winery on DAY 7
- Any extra expenses not mentioned under "INCLUDED IN PRICE"

TOUR PRICE:

- Depends on number of participants.
 - Group discounts available on request.
- Please contact us at: info@macedoniatravel.com
- Special confidential prices apply for tour operators only.

DAY 1: Take the cable car to the Millennium Cross on Mount Vodno for the best view over the capital, and continue down on a walking tour of Skopje: the memorial house of Mother Teresa, the grand fountain of Alexander the Great, and over the old Stone Bridge in the cobblestoned alleys of the old bazaar lined with Ottoman mosques and baths. End the tour with dinner under the medieval city walls. O/N in Skopje.

DAY 2: Morning walk in Matka Canyon, a place to a wonderful smaragd green lake. Take a boat along the river to visit the cave Vrelo, and to a XIV century Byzantine church built in the rocks above the lake. Drive to Ohrid in the afternoon, with stops on the way to visit the Painted Alaya mosque in Tetovo, and the famous iconostasis of St Jovan Bigorski carved in wood by the Myak masters. O/N in Ohrid.

DAY 3: On a guided tour of Ohrid old town (city of UNESCO) visit the most remarkable Orthodox Byzantine churches, the Roman Amphitheatre, the medieval fortress of Tsar Samoil and the gallery of icons, with some 30 masterpieces dating back to 11th century. Afternoon drive by the lake to visit the Bay of Bones, and to St Naum monastery, the birthplace of Slavic literacy, where we'll take a boat ride in the lagoon under the walls of the monastery. Back to Ohrid for dinner with ethno music and folklore. O/N in Ohrid.

DAY 4: Drive in the woods of Galicica National Park to Prespa Lake, a nature reserve of white pelicans, cormorants, herons, cranes and swans; it is home to a beautiful ethno museum of national dresses, and to a small 12th century church St George in Kurbinovo. We'll also visit the home of the welcoming villagers for a tasty homemade lunch, and we'll continue to Bitola, the former city of consulates and embassies. O/N in Bitola.

DAY 5: Visit Prilep, the city of medieval towers of King Marko, the grand St Archangel Michael monastery perched on the rocks below the towers, the tobacco museum, the leaning clock tower and the colorful old market. Continue to Heraclea Lyncestis, the ancient city founded by Philip II (father of Alexander the Great), and back in Bitola for a walk in this city with 1.600 years urban tradition and beautiful examples of architecture from different periods. Evening is free to join the promenade on Shirok Sokak (Wide alley). O/N in Bitola.

DAY 6: Leave Bitola in the morning and head to Krushevo, the highest town in the Balkans, known as the center of the most important battles in the Macedonian history, but also for the rich Vlach traditions and art crafts, and for their mouthwatering dishes, including Krushevo spiced sausage and their sweet, soft lokum. Continue to the wine area of Macedonia. Optional: tour with winetasting in the cellars of Tikvesh, a gigantic winery built in 1885. Evening tour of the cellars of Popova Kula winery where we'll have our farewell dinner with winetasting. O/N in Demir Kapija.

DAY 7: Drive to the airport for your flight back home. If time allows visit Stobi, the eternal city founded at the sunset of the ancient Macedonian kingdom. Hear the story of ancient winemaking traditions in the cellars of Stobi winery. Optional: lunch with winetasting in Stobi winery.

EXTEND YOUR TOUR: KOSOVO UNESCO HERITAGE

DAY 7: Continue from Stobi to Kokino Megalythic observatory, and to a lovely ethno village hotel-spa for traditional dinner and overnight.

DAY 8: The four UNESCO sites in Kosovo represent the highest points of Byzantine-Romanesque ecclesiastical culture, with its distinct style of wall painting characteristic for the period between XIII and XVII century. Visit Gracanica monastery famous for its church devoted to Annunciation of the Holy Mother of God. View the greatest battlefield of Kosovo history from a 25m high tower, and visit Kosovo capital Pristina, with the monuments of Mother Teresa and Skanderbeg.

DAY 9: Visit the spiritual seat and mausoleum of the Serbian archbishops and patriarchs in Pec Patriarchate, which had continuous life for over seven centuries. See the frescoes in monastery Visoki Decani declared as "one of the most valued examples of the so-called Palaeologan Renaissance in Byzantine painting". Continue for walking tour of Prizren and see why this ancient city is named "The Open City Museum".

DAY 10: After breakfast transfer to airport for your flight home.



GRAND MACEDONIAN TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- Explore Kokino Megalithic Observatory, the 4th oldest in the world by NASA
- Learn how local people crush aromatic spices taste them over slow-food experience
- Walk in the lush forests by river Bregalnica and enjoy forest honey by Berovo Lake
- See the colorful clothes and accessories embroidered by the Yuruk women in the mountains
- Explore Ottoman mosques and Dervish convents in West Macedonia
- Visit the best Macedonian Orthodox heritage temples: Vodocha and Veljusa in the East, St Archangel Michael in Prilep and Kurbinovo by lake Prespa
- Take a tour of Ohrid and Ohrid Lake UNESCO heritage sites on foot, and by boat
- Walk by the ancient mosaics and Roman theatres in Heraclea Lyncestis and Stobi
- Taste the best Macedonian wines over winetasting in the wine region
- Ride on a cable car to Mt Vodno for the best view of Skopje and continue for a walking tour of the city





GRAND TOUR OF MACEDONIA

Exploring Macedonia is like time travel through all great civilizations that lived on this crossroad between Europe and Asia through history. Alexander the Great, the Romans, Byzantines, the Ottomans, Nazis and the Communists have all been here, and left a mark on the land and its people, leaving behind rich historical attractions. Today, it is a land of as many different religions, cultures and languages, the land of fantastic mountain landscapes and lakes, and the best place to pair the mouthwatering Mediterranean – Oriental - mix dishes with the premium wines grown under the 300 sunny days in Macedonia.



INCLUDED IN PRICE:

- Accommodation: 4 x 4* , 1 x boutique, 4 x 3* , 1 x Ethno village hotel
- Meals: all meals included
- Winetasting (4 wines) with dinner in Popova Kula winery
- Winetasting (4 wines) with lunch in Stobi winery
- Transport with air-conditioned tourist van / minivan
- Full escort by professional tourist guide
- Crushed salt demonstration and tasting in ethno museum
- Poppy seeds specialties tasting
- Boat ride in the lagoon at St. Naum monastery
- Cable car on Mount Vodno
- All entrance fees
- Full organization & logistic by Macedonia Travel

NOT INCLUDED IN PRICE:

- Drinks with the meals
- Any extra expenses not mentioned under "INCLUDED IN PRICE"

TOUR PRICE:

- Depends on number of participants.
- Group discounts available on request.

Please contact us at: info@macedoniatravel.com

- Special confidential prices apply for tour operators only.

DAY 1 - DAY 3: Walk back to Early Bronze age and beyond in North Macedonia: visit Kokino, the 4th oldest megalithic observatory in the world by NASA, and the Valley of the Stone dolls; take a relaxing spa break in a village setting and see how they crush the tasty local spice "K'cana sol" in the small ethno museum. Take a walk by the smaragd green lake up in Maleshevo Mountains and get some of their local pure pine honey and forest fruit jams. Visit the local manufacturers: the weaver, the blacksmith and the woodcarver! Enjoy a picnic by the waterfalls of river Bregalnica deep in the nature far from industry and pollution.

DAY 4 - DAY 5: Take a tour of the most valuable Byzantine temples of East Macedonia: Vodocha and Veljusa. Up in the mountains, visit the colorful Yuruk tribes who lived isolated there for the last six centuries and taste the unique, traditionally prepared poppy-seed specialty. Continue to the wine area for a history tour of winemaking starting from the wine museum and the ancient city of Stobi, to the wine cellars of some of the best Macedonian wineries. You will taste Macedonian original rosé Stanushina, and the full-bodied red Vranec, along with the premium Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot grown under the Macedonian sun!

DAY 6 - DAY 7: Drive by the tobacco fields by Prilep and visit the tobacco museum, the leaning clock tower, the grand Orthodox temple St Archangel Michael perched up on the rocks by the medieval city walls of King Marko. Take a tour of the ancient city Heraclea built by Philip II, the father of Alexander the Great. Walk in the nature reserve of cormorants, pelicans, herons, cranes and swans and taste the fishermen dishes in a village by Prespa Lake. You will visit here the small church of Kurbinovo and see the preserved frescoes from 12th century that made this Orthodox jewel one of the most important places in the World treasury of cultural heritage.

DAY 8 - DAY 9: Take a tour of Ohrid - the place with 365 Orthodox churches, a Roman amphitheatre, the medieval Tsar Samoil city walls and world famous gallery of icons. Both Ohrid and Ohrid Lake have been put under UNESCO protection: the first for its great cultural value, and the lake for being the oldest lake in Europe with extreme biodiversity. You will visit the monk cells carved in the rocks above Ohrid Lake and drive along the border with Albania for a tour of the greatest Muslim and Bekteshi heritage sites in Macedonia.

DAY 10 - DAY 11: Back in the capital we'll take the cable car to the top of Mount Vodno for fantastic view over the capital and the surrounding mountains. Down in the city, continue with a guided tour of Mother Teresa memorial house, the Macedonia square with the grand fountain Alexander the Great and many monuments and baroque buildings and bridges; cross river Vardar over the old Stone Bridge and walk into the oriental Old bazaar in the maze of narrow cobblestoned alleys lined with high mosques, Turkish baths turned into art galleries, and many art craft, carpet and jewelry shops. Farewell dinner will be in a restored Ottoman Inn in the Old Town. Leave Skopje on Day 11.

EXTENSION NO. 1 (FROM BITOLA):

DAY 7: Visit Krushevo, the highest town in the Balkans, known as the center of the most important battles in the Macedonian history, but also for the rich Vlach traditions and art crafts, and for the mouthwatering dishes, including the Krushevo spiced sausage and their sweet, soft lokum deli. Take a tour of this picturesque town where nature and architecture are intertwined in perfect harmony and color. Afternoon drive back to Bitola in time to join the evening promenade in the old town.

EXTENSION NO. 2 (FROM OHRID):

DAY 9: We'll cross the Albanian border by Prespa Lake and drive to the fishing villages of "Little Prespa" region, home to most of the Macedonian minority in Albania who leave mainly from fishing and from building - they are among the best masters in building stone houses. The nature and the lake are totally unpolluted and clean, thus the big flocks of pelicans and cormorants in the bay, and on the little island that we'll visit by simple wooden boats. Lunch will be their traditional meal made of fish from the lake and caviar in mushroom sauce. Afternoon drive back to Ohrid.

WHO WE ARE

Macedonia Travel was launched in 2004 by professionals with over 10 years of know-how in the travel business, dedicated to tailor truly memorable holidays for our clients, according to their travel style and accommodation choice.

Our idea is **LUXURY IN THE EXPERIENCE**: our tours are planned by passionate and committed travel experts who continuously visit the sights, stay with the locals and explore the opportunities beyond the itinerary, thus giving that extra experience to every trip.

Our principle is **HIGHEST QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICE**: we make all arrangements well in advance, we choose carefully our suppliers and guides and we take care of all the details, from our traditional welcome to the farewell dinner for each group or individual guest. Our support agents are available 24/7 for any travel plan changes, any extra services or to provide rescue team in any place in Macedonia.

RESPONSIBILITY: Staying with the locals at some points of your tour will not only contribute to their better living standard and prosperity, but it will also make your experience more authentic and memorable. Their warmest welcome and hospitality are original. We add to it our training for better service and benefit from their new skills.

LEAVE NO TRACE – As the initial supporter of Leave No Trace in Macedonia, we train our guides and the municipalities to practice and to teach the basic principles and skills of this movement. This training is implemented partly, or as complete camping experience in the tours we arrange.

AWARDS: Award for Best Macedonian Inbound Tour operator in 2013 by the Macedonian Ministry for economy for our unique off-the-beaten track tours and for the highest quality in our service.



Emilija Fildishevska
Founder & MD
(EN)



Marjana Gjorgjioska
Associate Partner
(EN)



Emilija Nichevska
Corporate Travel
(EN)



Simon Simonovski
Hike & Bike
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E-Marketing
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Meri Angeleska
Culture & trekking
(DE & EN)



Zoran Tanevski
Culture & wine
(EN)



Vasko Georgievski
Hike & Rural



Vasko Velickovski
Horse-riding
(EN)



Jovan Sekuloski
Diving
(EN)



Stojan Mishev
Caving
(EN)



**AWARD FOR BEST INCOMING
MACEDONIAN TOUROPERATOR
IN 2013**



GENERAL CONDITIONS & INFORMATION

GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. LIABILITY & INSURANCE

Macedonia Travel has the "A" license (No. 529) issued by the Ministry of economy of R. Macedonia, for performing the highest level of tourism activity, according to the Tourism Activity Law of R. Macedonia. The liability of Macedonia Travel as travel organizer in respect of travelers and their property is governed by the above law, and insured accordingly with specific insurance policy with "Winner Insurance Group" (policy No: 314059000001).

2. BOOKINGS & PAYMENTS

Bookings will be accepted until all available places are filled. They will be considered valid only if confirmation is followed immediately by advance payment of 25% of the total cost. The balance of all monies due, including any surcharges applicable at that time, must be received by Macedonia Travel not later than 28 days before departure. In case of non-payment of the balance by the due date Macedonia Travel will treat the booking as cancelled by the client and apply the appropriate cancellation charges.

3. COMPLIMENTARIES

One free person on every 25 paying participants.

4. CHANGES

While Macedonia Travel will do its best to operate all components as advertised, it may prove necessary or advisable to vary or modify a component itinerary or its contents due to unforeseen circumstances. Holidaymakers have the right to withdraw from the contract without penalties in the following circumstances:

- increase in price of already booked package greater than 10%
- significant changes in the contract requested by Macedonia Travel;
- changes of accommodation / localities by Macedonia Travel

In such case holidaymakers must inform Macedonia Travel in writing of acceptance or withdrawal from the modified contract not later than 2(two) working days from receipt of modification.

5. CANCELLATION

The client may cancel the booking at any time provided that the cancellation is made to Macedonia Travel in writing. Cancellation charges will be applied as shown below calculated from the day written notification is received by Macedonia Travel:

- 60 days or more = Forfeit of all deposits*;
- 59 – 14 days = 50% of total cost;
- 13 – 04 days = 75 % of total cost;
- 3 days or less = 100% of total cost

In addition to the charges shown below airlines may impose 100% cancellation charges and the cost of a new ticket.

6. COMPLAINTS

If the client has a complaint about any of the component arrangements the client must bring it to the attention of the tour leader or other representative of Macedonia Travel at the time so that they may use their best endeavors to rectify the situation. It is only if Macedonia Travel is made aware of any problems that there will be the opportunity to give solutions. Failure to complain on the spot will result in the client's ability to claim compensation from Macedonia Travel being extinguished or at least reduced. Should the problem remain unsolved a complaint must be made in writing to Macedonia Travel within 7 days of the completion of the component or all claims for compensation will be forfeit.

7. OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

Some of the components operated or supplied by Macedonia Travel have been designed to provide participants with an exposure to the true nature of the environment visited and therefore involve an element of personal risk and exposure to potential hazards over those associated with normal "package travel". All bookings are accepted on the understanding that such risks and hazards are accepted by the client and that they undertake all activities at their own will and at their own risk.

a) Where the client does not suffer personal injury, Macedonian Travel accepts liability should any part of the component arrangements booked with Macedonia Travel not be supplied as described and not be of a reasonable standard. In such a case, Macedonia Travel will pay reasonable compensation if the component arrangements had been adversely affected but will pay no compensation if there has been no fault on the part of Macedonia Travel and the reason for the failure in the component arrangements was due to force majeure, the client's fault, the actions of someone not employed in Macedonia Travel or could not have been foreseen or avoided by Macedonia Travel even if all due care had been exercised.

b) Where the client suffers personal injury as a result of an activity forming part of the component arrangements booked with Macedonia Travel, Macedonia Travel accepts responsibility unless there has been no fault on Macedonia Travel's part and the cause was due to force majeure, the client's fault, the actions of someone not employed in Macedonia Travel, or factors which Macedonia Travel could not have anticipated or avoided even if all due care had been exercised.

8. PARTICIPANTS' RESPONSIBILITIES & LOCAL LAWS

It is the responsibility of the client to be in possession of a valid passport, visa permits, vaccinations and travel insurance as may be required for the duration of the component. All participants in components operated by Macedonia Travel are expected to obey the laws and regulations of the countries visited and any failure to do so will relieve Macedonian Travel of all obligations that they may otherwise have under these booking conditions.

9. FLIGHT BOOKINGS

Macedonia Travel will use its best endeavors to ensure that all flight prices and pre-paid taxes are correct at the time that they are quoted. Airlines reserve the right to amend or withdraw fares without prior notice. The fare can only be guaranteed when the flight booking has been paid for in full by Macedonia Travel and a ticket has been issued. Flight bookings cannot be transferred.

10. GENERAL

This agreement is governed by the laws of the Republic of Macedonia. You hereby consent to the exclusive jurisdiction and venue of courts in Skopje, Republic of Macedonia, in all disputes arising out of or relating to the use of Macedonia Travel services.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. MACEDONIA TRAVEL OFFICE OPENING HOURS

Monday to Friday 09:00 – 17:00

24/7 EMERGENCY NUMBER :

Air tickets department: + 389 78 337335

Incoming tours & services department: + 389 78 337336

2. HOW TO BOOK

All bookings should be made in written on the following email:

info@macedoniatravel.com

You will receive your booking confirmation in max 1 working day; it should be considered as definite only upon receipt of written confirmation by Macedonia Travel.

3. PAYMENT INFORMATION

Payments should be done by SWIFT transfer to our bank.

DTPUTU MAKEDONIJA TRAVEL DOOEL

Registered Office: Orce Nikolov Street 109/1-3 , 1 000 Skopje , Macedonia

Company registration number: 5918332

VAT number: 4030004525320

Bank: Komercijalna Banka – Skopje

International account no. 0270100219589

Swift: KOB5MK2X

IBAN MK07300701002195853

Flying time from Skopje to:

■ BEIJING	12h
■ NEW YORK	9h 10"
■ LONDON	3h 15"
■ AMSTERDAM	3h 20"
■ MOSCOW	4h 15"
■ MILAN	1h 55"
■ DUBAI	5h 45"
■ MUNICH	2h 45"



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+389 (0) 2 3112372 +389 (0) 78 337 335 **SUPPORT**

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