

The Heart of Macedonia

8 days – 7 nights

**Skopje, Gorno Nerezi, Matka Canyon, Mavrovo National Park, Ohrid, Prespa Lake, Bitola, Stobi
Prilep**

Discovery, Culture, History

**This program may be operated for individuals or for groups
This is a suggested itinerary**

Located between the West and the East, very close to the Mediterranean, on the vestiges of the Antiquity of the first Christian kingdoms and the great Ottoman period, Macedonia represents a country where the cultural heritage is incredibly dense and complex. You will discover its ancient history through its well-preserved archaeological sites and its incredibly beautiful religious monuments.

Day 1: Skopje

On arrival at Skopje International Airport you'll be met by our representative and transferred to your hotel. Rest of the day free. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. [D]

Day 2: Skopje (Gorno Nerezi, Matka Canyon)

Stroll through its new city center to discover its famous fortress "Tvrđina Kale" and its stone bridge "Kameni Most" which divides the city into two parts with the old Ottoman bazaar "Čaršija". Then a short drive to Gorno Nerezi to visit this charming typical and traditional village. Discover St. Panteleimon orthodox church dating from the 12th century. Lunch in a restaurant in Gorno Nerezi. In the afternoon another short drive to Canyon Matka, a must-see place in Macedonia. Take a boat ride to explore the Vrelo Caves, considered among the deepest underwater caves in the world. Return to Skopje at the end of the day. Dinner and overnight in Skopje. [B/L/D]

Day 3: Skopje, Mavrovo National Park, Ohrid

After breakfast, leave for Mavrovo National Park. The gorges, pine forests, karst fields and waterfalls of this park offer a breath of fresh air to visitors traveling between Skopje and Ohrid. Appreciate sumptuous landscapes across the lake of Mavrovo and the canyon of Radika. Stop at the Monastery of Saint Jovan Bigorski, located on the heights of the canyon and one of the most beautiful monasteries in Macedonia. Another stop in the small village of Janche, with houses built by a local resident using materials of olden times. Lunch in his restaurant. After lunch, we head to the Duf waterfall for a short hike of about 20 minutes. A last drive to Ohrid, the Cradle of Orthodoxy, for dinner and overnight. [B/L/D]

Day 4: Ohrid

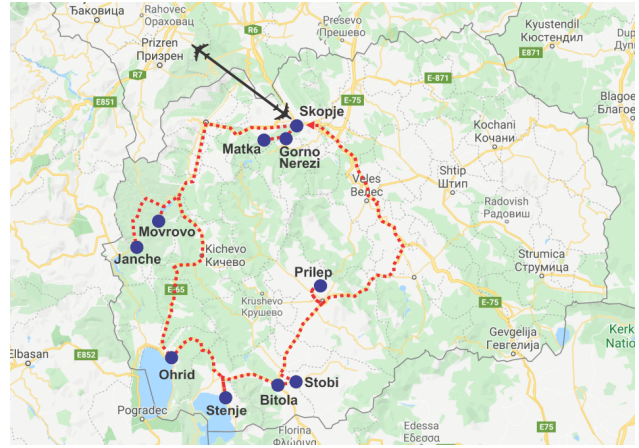
After breakfast, take a boat ride for a day trip to discover the wonders of Lake Ohrid. Visit the museum "Bay of bones", authentic reconstruction of part of a colony, dating from 1200 to 700 BC. Visit the Monastery of St. Naum built in the 10th century. In the middle of the lush greenery, a refuge of tranquility on the border between Albania and Macedonia. Lunch at Saint Naum. Visit the Orthodox Church of Saint Marie Zaum, a 14th century church accessible only by boat. Dinner with traditional Macedonian dances and music (subject to availability). Overnight in Ohrid. [B/L/D]

Day 5: Ohrid

Early morning, start a guided tour of Ohrid, a sublime city listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage site. The city by the lake represents, for many, the culmination of the Macedonian experience, a kingdom of light and water documented by the ancient ruins from the traditional kingdom of Macedonia. Discover the well-preserved Church of St Jovan and the ancient theater dating from the Roman Empire. You will also have the opportunity to visit the Ohrid Fortress overlooking the city. Lunch in town and free afternoon. Dinner and overnight in Ohrid. [B/L/D]

Day 6: Ohrid, Prespa Lake, Bitola

Breakfast at the hotel before heading towards Stenje and embark on a boat on Lake Prespa, the second lake in the south of Macedonia, at the borders of Macedonia, Albania and Greece. Discover Golem Grad, "the island of the Pelicans" with a large fauna of turtles, great cormorants, snakes and pelicans. The ruins, the birds and the paradisiacal beauty make it an essential place to explore. Return to Stenje after the excursion and have lunch with local people to enjoy a traditional Macedonian meal including carp from Lake Prespa. After lunch, leave for Bitola, the second largest city in northern Macedonia. During the guided tour, find a Mediterranean-style city with its churches, mosques, old Ottoman bazaar and its beautiful neoclassical houses. Then visit Heraclea Lyncestis, located roughly 1 mile from Bitola and discover the remains of this ancient city of the Kingdom of Macedonia whose foundations date back to the 4th century BC. Dinner and overnight in Bitola. [B/L/D]



Day 7: Bitola, Stobi, Prilep, Skopje

After breakfast, drive to Stobi, the largest archaeological site in Macedonia. Discover the ruins of an ancient city established in the 4th century BC. AD and learn more about the history of the Romans in the ancient territory of Macedonia. Then, continue to the Treskavets Monastery overlooking the city of Prilep, for a short stop. Arrive at the Popova Kula vineyard to discover the wine culture of a small Macedonian vineyard located on the heights of a hill and offering a magnificent panoramic view of the region. Enjoy lunch in the charming house while tasting several locally produced wines. After lunch last leg to reach Skopje at the end of the day. Dinner and overnight in Skopje. [B/L/T/D]

Day 8: Skopje, USA

After breakfast you may have some time to relax. At the appointed time you'll be met and transferred to Skopje airport to board your connecting flight back home. [B]

[B] = Breakfast | [D] = Dinner | [B/L/D] = Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner | [B/L/T/D] = Breakfast, Lunch, Tasting and Dinner

Your Tour includes:

- Round-trip airfare USA-Skopje
- Arrival and departure transfers
- 7 nights' accommodation:
 - Skopje 3 nights
 - Ohrid 3 nights
 - Bitola 1 night
- Meals:
 - Breakfast daily
 - 6 lunches
 - 7 dinners
- Skopje Fortress
- Ottoman Bazaar
- Gorno Nerezi
- Matka Canyon
- Mavrovo National Park
- Fortified city of Ohrid
- Janche village
- Island of Pelicans

- Roman ruins of Heraclea
- Roman Ruins of Stobi
- Treskavets Monastery
- Transport by A/C vehicle
- English-speaking guide/driver throughout the tour
- Entrances fees for sites visited
- Local taxes

Tour does not include:

- Any taxes related to airfares or airports
- Meals not mentioned under inclusions
- Travel Insurance
- Visas
- Tips to guides or drivers
- Expenses of a personal nature
- Any item not mentioned as "Included"

Hotels in your Tour:

City	Hotel Name	Tripadvisor
First Class		
Skopje	Skopje Marriott Hotel	4.5
Ohrid	Villa Varosh	5
Bitola	Hotel Millenium Palace	4

Hotels will be confirmed at time of booking

Tour Prices:

From: \$1,725 including airfare

Add-ons available from all US gateways.

Prices are per person and may change without notice

These programs can be customized for individuals and for groups

Changes to this program may be requested by phone (1855-55-TOURS) or using the web FIT Quote Request

• **Airfare**

We also be glad to add the necessary airfare from your gateway so you take advantage of our special discounted leisure fares

• **Program**

You may add or remove;

- o Trip days
- o Cities and sites
- o Meals

• **Other options**

- o The program was designed with private services, however, we may substitute shared sight-seeing where available
- o If you prefer deluxe services we may operate this program including private driver, private guide and concierge service.

• **Quotation**

Once we have designed the program the way you want we'll give you a quote within 2 business days.

Tour Code: MK01SKP21VT

Options:

- Lunches and dinners can be arranged for individuals, families and groups at top restaurants or any restaurant requested by you.
- We can revise the itinerary to spend more time and provide more depth in those areas that you are interested on.
- Any other changes to the itinerary will be accommodated depending on the facilities available in the area.

Group Quotations

- If you wish to use these programs for your group or as the basis for a customized journey please either call us (1-855-55-TOURS or use the web Group Quote Request.
- In either case our specialists will work with to refine all the details and they will get you a quote with 2 business days. Quotes may be obtained for the air and land portions of just for the land journey.
- Booking both air and land with us will represent savings for you because of our buying power and longtime relationship with the airlines.

We will also may have the choice between regular fares and special leisure fares not available to the public.