



HIKING MACEDONIA



& THE BALKANS

HIKING MACEDONIA WESTERN TRAIL RAPSODY

TOUR INFO :

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Included meals : | 8 Breakfast ; 3 lunches ; 3 dinners (picnic lunches ind.) |
| Accommodation : | 7 Nights in hotels & camping site |
| Transport : | minibus 29+1 seats |
| Group size : | up to 18 pax |
| Tour Staff : | Kompas mountain tour leader & driver |

ITINERARY:

Day1 SKOPJE (sightseeing)

Arrival in Skopje from Luton London in the afternoon. Sightseeing of Skopje including the fortress of Kale, old Turkish market, the new Skopje downtown and Holy Mother Teresa memorial house. Accommodate and dinner with briefing for the tour.

Day2 SKOPJE - CANYON MATKA - MOUNT SHAR

After breakfast where we will drive up to the chair lift on the mount of Vodno and climb to the top of the millennium cross. From here we continue hiking to the canyon of Matka, with stops at the St. Nikola monastery for unbelievable view of Canyon Matka. We will climb down to lake Matka for lunch, short hike around the lake and visit the cave Vrelo, one of the deepest world cave lakes, once and applicant for the 8th wonder of the world. From here we continue to Popova Shapka for overnight and dinner.

Day3 MOUNT SHAR - camping

Breakfast. Depart for hiking of Popova Shapka. Today we will hike to through the amazing views of mountain Shar to the place called Leshnica. We will pass some small sheep farms and local farmers on route and explore some local villages. Arriving to Leshnica, we will explore the natural mountains and lakes and set up camp for overnight. We will prepare b-bque and put up tents for an amazing evening in nature. Overnight.

Day4 MOUNT SHAR - MAVROVO NATIONAL PARK

Breakfast. After dismounting the camp site, we will continue hiking the on the top of Shar mountain visiting some small sheep farms and learn about the technology of producing local white sheep cheese in a short version. We will continue hiking to the village of Vrutok to visit the unique small village through which runs the springs of the biggest river in Macedonia, Vardar. Free time for late lunch to try some of the best river trout in the area. Bus transfer to Mavrovo within the National Park Mavrovo for overnight.

Day5 MAVROVO - GALICHNIK - JANCHE

After breakfast we go to the village of Nikiforovo where we climb to the top of mount Bistra. Here we will visit the sheep farm of Chafkarnik for rest for tea and coffee. From here we will hike the ski slopes of the National Park until we hit the asphalt road to the village of Galichnik, the unique small village famous for the legend of the french tribe "Gauls". We will climb the highest spot from where we have a unique view of the Radika Canyon. We will have lunch here. From here we continue an hour and half hike to the small village of Janche. In Janche we will learn about the first place where Eco tourism in Macedonia was developed and about the wonders of the natural herbs and teas that enrich this area. Overnight in Janche with traditional dinner.



INTRO :

When God created the world he created it by his own will, molding and carving it equally beautiful throughout. Then he stopped to rest on the 7th day and on that 7th day He created the BALKANS. A place united by its natural beauty but separated by its traditions and people. A place enriched by colorful surroundings, glorious mountains and lakes but still divided by its different national characters. A place where grand civilizations have been born and destroyed leaving a rich history & culture behind. So let us take to the top of the world, to uncharted magical places, some still untouched by civilization & experience the creativity of its creator.





Day 6 JANCHE - VEVCHANI - OHRID

After breakfast we will drive to our next destination, Ohrid. On route we will visit the village of Vevchani and the Vevchani waterfalls. We continue for Ohrid for walking sightseeing of Ohrid. We will visit the fortress of Tzar Samoil, the church of Kaneo and St. Sofia and enjoy a boat ride to have a lake view of the city, from here we will continue to St. Naum for sightseeing of the monastery, ride with a boat on the natural springs and lunch. Returning to the hotel for some free time in the city.

Day 7 OHRID- GALICHICA NATIONAL PARK -SKOPJE

today we spend most of the day in the National Park Galichica. We take the bus to the village of Velestovo. From where we will spend all day hiking the National park Galichica. We will explore its flora and fauna and see most amazing views of both lakes - Ohrid and Prespa. From here we will continue to the highest peak of the National park where we have a great view of the whole surrounding area including Greece and Albania. After our hiking trip, we continue a bus trip to Skopje for farewell dinner and overnight.

Day 8 SKOPJE depart

early morning departure for airport for flight to London (if flying with Wizzair) free morning and transfer to airport.



Selective Accommodations:

- * Skopje - hotel Centar 3*** (www.hotelcentar.com.mk)
- * Mount Shar - hotel Scarus 4****(www.hotelscardus.com)
- * Mount Shar - camping site Leshnica
- * Mavrovo - hotel Alpina 3*** (www.hotelalpinamavrovo.net)
- * Janche - hotel Tutto Eco hotel (www.tutto.com.mk)
- * Ohrid - Hotel Lebed - (www.hotellebed.com.mk)

“ WE ARE IN THE BUSINESS OF CREATING MEMORIES THOROUGH TRAVEL “



OVERVIEW :

This tour was created especially for you to escape from the everyday concrete and asphalt, mobiles & telephones and to truly experience this magical place. You will hike the mountain roads into a place enriched with spacious grassing fields & forests, crossing creeks and small rivers into places that will leave you breathless. Take a chance and explore the shepherd hiking trails or even experience the stories of the local shepherds. You will have a chance to hear local legends and tales, to mingle with the local households and to enjoy our open hospitality. You will get in touch with the untouched wilderness of the western Macedonia and discover the uncharted boundaries of vast mountain terrains and pastures. Have a taste of homemade cheese and wine, take a deep breath of the endless fields of wild flowers and teas that decorate our vast lands. Enjoy the music of our traditional pipes and drums as you sip slowly our homemade Grappa. Listen and learn about our culture and traditions, about our lifestyle and religion. From every place visited you will encounter an unbelievable selection of knowledge, stories and adventures.



HIKING MACEDONIA TRAILS TO TELL TAILS TOUR

TOUR INFO :

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Included meals : | 8 Breakfast ; 3 lunches ; 2 dinners (picnic lunches ind.) |
| Accommodation : | 7 Nights in local houses & camping site |
| Transport : | minibus 29+1 seats |
| Group size : | up to 20 pax |
| Tour Staff : | Kompas mountain tour leader & driver |

ITINERARY:

Day 1 Arrival in Ohrid from London Luton in the afternoon. If time permitted short sightseeing of Ohrid, and transfer to hotel for dinner and briefing.

Day 2 After breakfast we head off for sightseeing of Ohrid (if not time permitted on the first day), town known as the second Jerusalem of the Balkans. (1 hour walking). From there we continue with bus to the village of Velestovo from where we will spend all day hiking the National park Galichica. We will explore its flora and fauna and see most amazing views of both lakes - Ohrid and Prespa. From here we will continue to the highest peak of the National park where we have a great view of the whole surrounding area including Greece and Albania. Continue to monastery of St. Naum for sightseeing and boat ride through the springs. From there we continue to Vevchani for lunch and exploring the waterfalls of Vevchani. Continue to the village of Lazaropole for overnight and dinner.

Day 3 Breakfast. today we will be hiking the surrounding area of the National Park Mavrovo. from Lazaropole we will head out to the village of Tresonche and Selce and arrive for lunch to the great village of Galichnik. It is famous for the legend of the french tribe "Gauls" and its traditional Galichnik wedding. After lunch we will climb the highest spot from where we have a unique view of the Radika Canyon. We will have optional possibility (needs reservation in advance) horseback riding to the camping spot. Upon arrival we will accommodate in tents and begin our night camping in the mountain. We will have a cookout with warm stew, b-beque and local salads and vegetables. Overnight.

Day 4 Breakfast. Today we will hike the mountain range of Bistra. We will start hiking and visit small sheep farms and learn about the technology of producing local white sheep cheese in a short version. We will continue hiking to the village of Leunovo. From there we will take the bus to the Other side of the mountain range to the village of Vrben where we will have homemade lunch by the local people and enjoy the old village atmosphere with all the animals, cattle and people that still live there. After lunch we will hike the other side of the mountain through forests and creeks enjoying the natural riches of the park. Possible sightings of animals on the hiking route. Returning to the camp & preparation for dinner and b-bque on the camp site. Enjoy the stars of the evening sky with the stories and legends of the surrounding area.





Day 5 After breakfast we head off to the Shar mountain with a hour drive to the location. We will start hiking from the Popova Shapka ski center to Leshnica where we will have a picnic. From there we continue to the village of Veshala where we will stop for coffee and tea and meet the locals. From there we continue to Skopje where we will stop in Matka to visit the canyon and lake of Matka. Here we will have a choice of boat ride or hike the canyon before we arrive in hotel and get ready for dinner.

Day 6 After breakfast and a short sightseeing of the city, we continue to the central part of Macedonia, to the winery region. We will accommodate in the winery of Popova Kula and have lunch. From here we will start hiking the area of the winery and have a selection of several hiking tour. A hike to the village of Klisura or to the Doshnica river warm pools. Return to winery for wine tasting and dinner.

Day 7 After breakfast we continue to the town of Bitola. We arrive after 1:40 min drive and start hiking the trails of the WWI trenches which were build on the mountain of Pelister by the French Army. We will hike and visit the trenches where were the defense lines during the WWI. We will have a picnic lunch on the top of the mountain where we will see the glacier lakes. today's day will be full in the mountains. we will return to the hotel Molika in the afternoon for pick up and transfer to Ohrid. (1 hour drive). Accommodate in hotel.

Day 8 Free morning until departure for London Luton. If time applicable we will visit the monastery of St. Naum and the natural springs of the Drim river.

Selective Accommodations:

- * Ohrid - Hotel Lebed - <http://www.hotellebed.com.mk/>
- * Lazaropole - Hotel Kalin - <http://www.kalinhotel.mk/>
- * Mavrovo - camping site - <http://npmavrovo.org.mk/>
- * Skopje - Hotel OK - www.okhotel.mk
- * Demir Kapija - Hotel Popova Kula - www.popovakula.com.mk

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BALKAN TREKKING TRAIL TREKKING WITH THE GREEK GODS

TOUR OVERVIEW:

An extraordinary hiking tour combining three countries with remarkable sceneries from the vast mountain regions of the Macedonian mountains, to the agricultural landscape of the Northern Greek territories, from the tranquillity of the scenery of the Ohrid lake to the vast mountains and spectacular rock scenes of the Meteora hanging monastery. Hike with the Greek Gods on mount Olympus, or explore the slopes of the best Bulgarian national parks, Rila and Bansko where world renowned skiers compete.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

Ohrid - a ancient city, the city of the birth of Cyrillic writing, a city of 365 churches also known as the second Jerusalem - **National Park Mavrovo** - the biggest in Macedonia, filled with wild natural flowers, mountain tees, wild berries and unbelievable nature. Where in on time over 500,000 sheep grazed its beautiful fields.

Mount Olympus - the sanctuary of the Greek Gods, hike where Zeus, Poseidon, Athena & Apollo roamed the fields. Enjoy the views of the Aegean Sea.

Meteora monasteries- known as the hanging monasteries enriched by the surrounding nature and made famous by no other than Indiana Jones with his quests.

Bansko - the ski & spa resort known for holding the world ski downhill.

TOUR ESSENTIALS:

- **Accommodation:** 13 nights in standard hotels & village houses, 2 nights camping
- **Transportation:** support minibus with throughout tour leader
- **Tour Staff:** Explore tour hiking leader and local guide(s)
- **Meals:** 15 breakfasts, 3 lunches and dinners





ITINERARY:

DAY 1 SKOPJE

Arrival in Skopje from Luton London in the afternoon. Sightseeing of Skopje including the fortress of Kale, old Turkish market, the new Skopje downtown and Holy Mother Teresa memorial house. Accommodate and dinner with briefing for the tour.

DAY 2 SKOPJE - MATKA CANYON - MAVROVO

After breakfast where we will drive up to the chair lift on the mount of Vodno and climb to the top of the millennium cross. From here we continue hiking to the canyon of Matka, with stops at the St. Nikola monastery for unbelievable view of Canyon Matka. We will climb down to lake Matka for lunch, short hike around the lake and visit the cave Vrelo, one of the deepest world cave lakes, once and applicant for the 8th wonder of the world. From here we continue to Mavrovo for overnight and dinner.

DAY 3 MAVROVO-KORAB (2730m)-JANCHE

After breakfast we depart to the village of Strezimir at 1440 m we will climb to the highest mountain top in Macedonia, Korab at 2730m. the trekking time will be aprox. 9 hours to and from the same location. We will enjoy the remarkable views from the highest mountain and have a chance to take a peek at Albania, which is right on the other side. We will stop for small rests and lunch break on the way and after returning continue to the village Janche for well earned rest and dinner.

DAY 4 JANECE - OHRID

Today is da day of rest. after breakfast, we will continue to the village of Vevchani for short hike trough the Vevchani waterfalls park and continue to Ohrid. In Ohrid we will have a sightseeing tour fo the city. We will visit the fortress of Tzar Samoil, the church of Kaneo and St. Sofia and enjoy a boat ride to have a lake view of the city. From here we will continue to St. Naum for sightseeing of the monastery, ride with a boat on the natural springs and lunch. Returning to the hotel for son free time in the city.

DAY 5 OHRID - BRAJCHINO

Today's day is dedicated to climbing the highest part of the National Park Galichica. After breakfast we will be transported to the bottom of the Magaro peak. We will pass some amazing views of the lake Ohrid with stops for pictures. We will climb to Magaro 2250m. From here we continue hiking to the village of Stenje for fish lunch and rest. With local boats we will visit the Island of the Pelicans and continue to the village of Brajchino for dinner and overnight.

DAY 6 BRAJCHINO - PELISTER - METEORA

Today we will hike to the top of the National Park Pelister to the big glacier lake, know as Pelister eyes. The hike to the top is 17 km. and will take us through beautiful streams and creaks, mountain views of the surrounding lake Prespa and the National Park. (duration 9 hours). After returning to the asphalt we continue driving to Greece to Kalambaka for overnight.

DAY 7 METEORA - LITOCHORO (mount Olympus)

After breakfast we depart by bus to Meteora. We will climb up to the monastery to witness the unique lifestyle of the local monks. We will spend time enjoying the views and relaxing in the tranquillity of this holy place. After lunch transfer to the city of Litochoro for accommodation and preparation for the next day.

DAY 8 MOUNT OLYMPUS (climbing with the Gods)

Today we have a full trekking transfer to the small village of Prionina, under the great mount Olympus. From here we will start climbing up to the place called Spilios Agapitos at 2060 m for rest and filling up water. from here we continue onwards to the two peaks Skolio at 2904 m and Mytikas 2918 m. On route we will stop for some rest and picnic and upon return we drive to Thessaloniki for overnight and dinner.

DAY 9 TESSALONIKI - BANSKO

After breakfast we have sightseeing of Thessaloniki. We will visit the old city and the defending walls, the famous White Tower and the promenade of the city. After the sightseeing some free time for lunch and exploration on your own. We continue driving to Bansko in the afternoon. Arrival and accommodate.

DAY 10 BANSKO

Today we will enjoy the greatness on the Bansko Ski resort and Bansko National Park. We will be transferred to Banderica from where we will start climbing to the top of Pirin mountain. Our starting point is at Vihren Hut at 1950 m and we will be climbing for 3 hours to the top Vihren 2914m. Upon return we will have lunch in one of the small villages and continue driving Maljovica to the Rila mountains. On route we will visit the Rila monastery. Overnight.

DAY 11 RILA MOUNTAINS - camping

Morning departure to the Rila mountains. We will hike the remarkable trail to the top of the mountain for visit of the seven lakes located on the top of the Rila mountain. Enjoy the nature, spectacular views and crystal clear waters of these natural lakes. Set up camp and enjoy b-bque cooked meals and home made stew. Overnight in the camping.

DAY 12 RILA MOUNTAINS - BOROVEC

After breakfast and clearing camp, continue hiking the trail and further exploring the lakes and nature surroundings. We will arrive to the village of Panchiste and transfer to the ski resort Borovec fo dinner and overnight.

DAY 13 BOROVEC - MUSALA

After breakfast we will take the gondola transfer to the top at 2100 m and from there continue climbing to the Musala (second highest top in the Balkans.) As we arrive at the location Jastrebec at 2215 m we continue a 4 hour hike to the top 2913 m above sea level. We will witness the best ski terrains in the Balkans where some of the Europe's best skiers have skied. After climbing down we will rest and relax in Borovec enjoying the local cuisine and music. Overnight in Borovec.

DAY 14 BOROVEC - SKOPJE

After breakfast we will have depart for Skopje. On route we will stop in the city of Sofia for short tour with possible shopping for home and some free time for lunch. Continuing to Skopje following the route crossing at Deve Bair. Arriving in Skopje for overnight and some free evening time.

DAY 15 SKOPJE depart

Morning departure for airport.

