

An aerial photograph of the city of Bitola, North Macedonia. The image shows a dense urban landscape with numerous buildings, many featuring red-tiled roofs. A central square is visible, surrounded by a mix of older and newer structures. The text 'A WALK THROUGH THE CITY OF CONSULS' is overlaid on a yellow banner at the top, and 'BITOLA' is written in large white letters on a red banner in the center.

A WALK THROUGH THE CITY OF CONSULS

BITOLA

TOP 10

1 **Shirok Sokak**

The Bitola korzo is the centre of happenings in the city. Everyone who has visited Bitola, has walked through this lovely street, a kind of a city's symbol, full of cafés and shops.

2 **“Manaki Brothers” Festival**

One of the rare festivals in the world that celebrates the achievements of the directors of cinematography. It is held every year in September, starting from 1979, and the name is given due to the first film cameramen on the Balkans, Milton and Yanaki Manaki, who came from Bitola.

3 **Cheese in oven**

The Bitola cheese in oven is famous for its great taste and a portion of one such delicatessen should not be missed in a combination with cold beer.

4 **Clock Tower**

Symbol of the city of Bitola. The tower is in the park where young people constantly surround it, gathering together. It is also the place where the citizens during the Christmas Eve wait for Christmas. The Clock Tower was built at the time of the Ottoman Rule.

5 **Heraclea**

The remains of this ancient city impress with their beauty. In this archeological locality, you shall see wonderful sculptures, preserved mosaics, buildings with exceptional beauty. It is a paradise for those in love with history and art.

6 **Ski centre Kopanki**

This ski centre is on higher areas of Baba Mountain, not far from Bitola, and it is a lovely place for visiting during the winter period for those that love winter sports and clean air.

7 **Bitola institute and museum**

NI Institute and Museum Bitola is situated in the former Bitola Military School where the first president of Turkey studied – Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. In his honour, one of the rooms was exactly dedicated to him and the uniforms he wore as well as you may get acquainted with the love story of him and Eleni.

8 **Yeni Mosque**

The name in Turkish means New Mosque. The base is in the shape of a square, with a dome on top. Today, the chambers of the mosque are used for exhibitions. Some recent archeological excavations discovered that it was built over an old church.

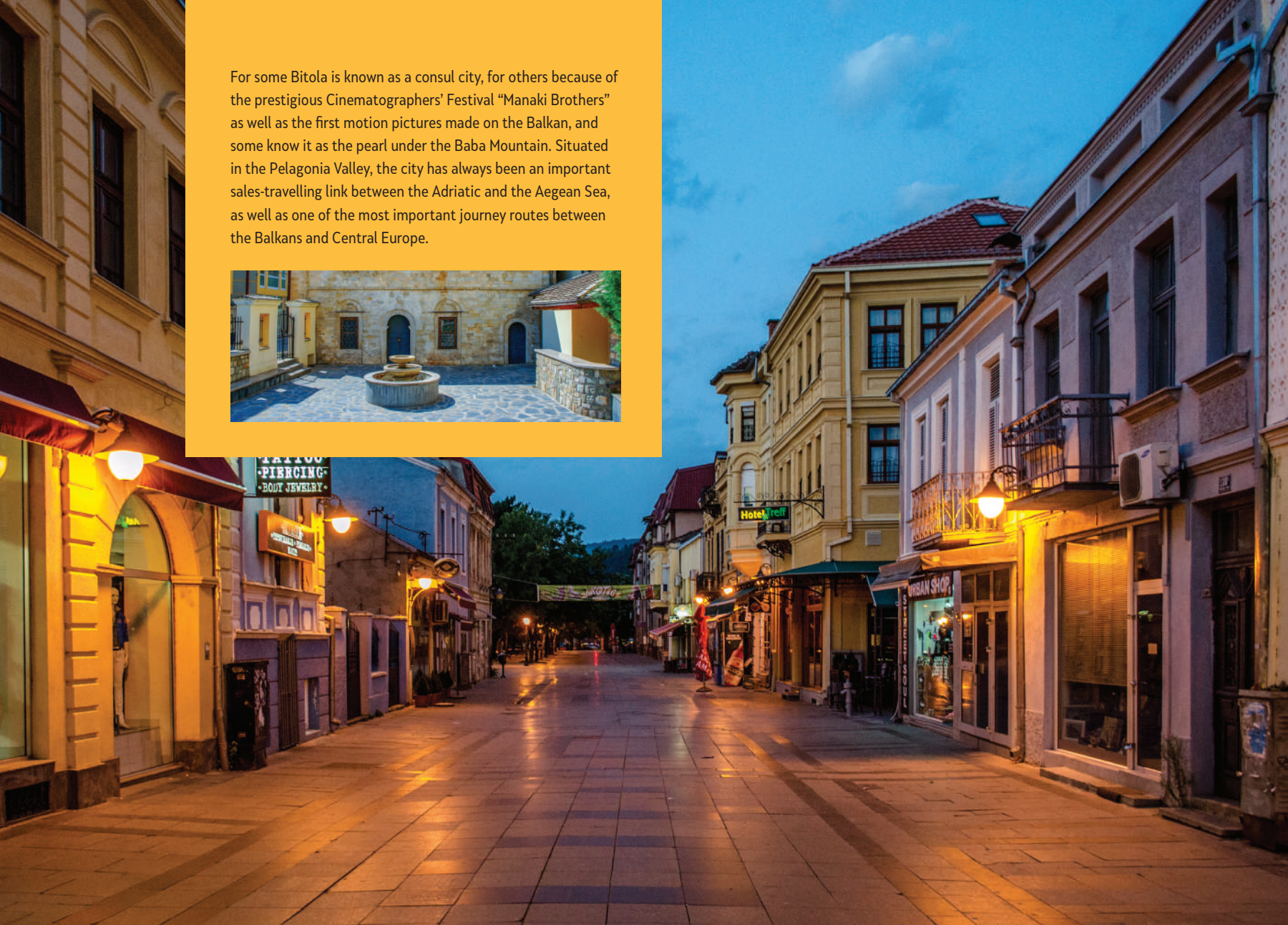
9 **Bitola Zoo**

The Bitola zoo garden is situated in the lovely nature on the hill of Tumbe Kafe and due to the characteristics of its terrain, the garden has got an original and untypical “hill-mountain” look.

10 **Pelister Eyes**

The two glacial lakes are known after this name and they are near the peak Pelister on a sea level of 2000 metres.

For some Bitola is known as a consul city, for others because of the prestigious Cinematographers' Festival "Manaki Brothers" as well as the first motion pictures made on the Balkan, and some know it as the pearl under the Baba Mountain. Situated in the Pelagonia Valley, the city has always been an important sales-travelling link between the Adriatic and the Aegean Sea, as well as one of the most important journey routes between the Balkans and Central Europe.



NUMBERS and FACTS

Area:

422.39 km²

Population:

74,550

Elevation:

576 metres

Phone code:

+389 47

Closest airport:

St. Apostol Pavle, Ohrid, 81 km

Average annual temperature:

11.1 °C

Postal code

7000

Web:

www.bitola.gov.mk

Important historical dates:

II BC – Heraclea becomes an important centre of the Roman Empire.

16-17 century – the Ottomans named the city Monastery, yet the name Bitola remained to be used in everyday speech between the Christian population.

1830 – Bitola became the political centre of the Rumelia Vilayet.

1905 – Milton and Yanaki Manaki made the first motion picture on the Balkan, exactly in Bitola.

1943 – the whole Jewish population was abruptly deported in the gas chambers in Treblinka, Poland.

EVENTS' CALENDAR

MAY

- Small Bitola Montmartre

SEPTEMBER

- “Manaki Brothers” International Cinematography Festival

JUNE

- “Bit-fest”
- Day of culture
- Bitola Shakespeare Festival

OCTOBER

- Interfest (International festival of classical music)

AUGUST

- AKTO (Festival of modern art)
- “Bitola Open City”
- Ilinden days (folk festival)



ROAD TO PELSITER
UNIVERSITY
ST CLEMENT
OF OHRID



CITY HALL



ISAK CELEBI
MOSQUE



BEZISTEN

CLOCK
TOWER



YENI
MOSQUE

STIV
NAUMOV
PARK

CULTURAL
CENTER - BITOLA



NATIONAL
THEATRE



SHIROK SOKAK

NI INSTITUTE
AND MUSEUM BITOLA



CITY PARK

BUS STATION

TRAIN
STATION

SPORT
STADIUM



ROAD TO
HERACLEA
LYNKESTIS



The legends about Bitola say that the name comes from the old Slavic word “obitel” meaning lots of monasteries, monks, priests. Bitola, honestly has always been a city abundant in monasteries, and therefore it had the Greek term for this city – Monastiri. According to the saga by Marko Cepenkov, the name is given by the landlord Toljo who lived in a fortress nearby, close to the today’s village Bukovo. When the Ottomans got near this region to invade it, they called him to come to the battle with the words “Bi Toljo, bi Toljo”! and that is where the name came from.





CITY OF CONSULS

The Parisian Champs Elysees in Bitola is called Shirok Sokak or "The Bitola Korzo" which is the main pedestrian circulation. Most probably, that is the first thing that comes to mind when mentioning this city. That's where all citizens meet daily, just as the friends, business partners, casual passengers, and love couples, that's where the word for some novelties is spread. This street is full of coffee bars, shops, also the theatre with the opera, as well as numerous old architectural works of art.

The city of Bitola is known after the nickname "City of Consuls", because it was Bitola where most of the consulates of many countries were situated. The first consulate in Bitola was opened in 1851 by the former Austro-Hungarian Empire, exactly on Sirok Sokak. Later, more consulates were opened, for example, from Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania. Until the beginning of the Second World War, more than 100 consuls worked in Bitola.

Bitola
has for a
long time been a
cosmopolitan city with a
European architecture, a
city which welcomed the XX
century with carriages
and 3000 pianos.



The
Clock Tower in
its base has the shape
of a square and it is around
30 metres high. There are
terraces with wrought
fences on the top
of it.

That first consuls' period was an inspiration for lots of artists who drew and sang for the consuls, the carriages, the pianos, and the popular tripe soup, as well as for the Vlachs neighbourhoods and yellow houses, and for love. Even the well-known collector of folk songs and stories, Ilija Alushevski, stated that more than 600 songs were sang in honour of Bitola, which is hardly done for any other city in the world.

While walking down Sirok Sokak, it is inevitable to see the most spectacular symbol of the city, the Clock tower, which, according to the legend, was built of a texture that consisted of 60.000 eggs and stones which Ottomans ordered to be collected from the people of the villages and that texture may be the reason why the object has still remained the same.



The BALKAN ROMEO and JULIET

The street Shirok Sokak has also preserved one very intriguing love story which has been handed over from generation to generation, being also immortalized in a film, songs and theatre play. Actually, Shirok Sokak is the very place where even today one can see the old, but well-preserved, yellow house, the house of Eleni Karinte, the girl who was said to be the love of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the father of Modern Turkey and its first president, who came to study military high school in Bitola, which is the building of the today's Bitola museum. Today, there is also a memorial room in his honour, abundant with exhibited photos, objects, a wax figure, facsimiles and, most importantly, the love letter by the pretty Eleni, who he saw standing on the balcony while he was walking on Shirok Sokak. Nevertheless, their love was forbidden due to religious matters, and most against it was Eleni's father, a wealthy Bitola merchant who terminated this relationship by sending his daughter to Lerin. Today, the Bitola museum keeps the letter of Eleni for Mustafa, for the love that never saw the light of day, but it neither died until their own death.

The house where Eleni Karinte's family lived and the balcony where she was waiting for Ataturk is one of the most photographed attractions in Bitola.

Two marble statues of female figures in classical attire stand on rectangular pedestals. They are positioned in front of a low stone wall. The background features a large green tree and a white building with a window.

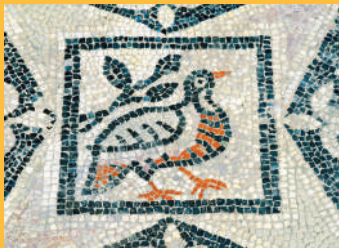
CITY of KING PHILLIP II

The park also leads to the ancient locality and city, dating from the Roman period, Heraclea Lyncestis, VI century BC, founded by the Macedonian king Filip II. The city was strategically war centre of the north-western Macedonian region Lyncestida (today Bitola field). Taken into consideration the fact that the most frequent road in the region, Via Egnatia passed through it, Heraclea became its most important station. The Small Basilica with its modest dimensions is just one of the Christian temples that takes you to the Great Basilica, near the Baptistery, but also to the other outstanding rooms in this remarkable building. The floor mosaics in the basilicas are linked to those of the Episcopal residence, fulfilled with myriads of tiny stones, embroidered in a perfect harmony. The representations of the underground and heavenly world could be felt by the theatrical complex. Following the terrain configuration, its architect completely managed to incorporate the twelve rows with seats, the honourable lodge, and the orchestra, bringing this monumental building to perfection. Heraclea Lyncestis is a true cultural treasury on the Balkan.





The glorious floor mosaics in Heraclea are excellent preserved, and on them one can see the zoomorphic and floral elements.





MIX

MATCH

NLB

TRGNIK GAST
2011

Coca-Cola



STUDIO
NAUMOVSKI

SABOTAZH

ROBERTA
ASTIBO
Astibo
boutique SAEO

GOLDEN GATE

TEXAS 2



The Bitola Museum has many exhibited artifacts from the region, and part of it is also dedicated to Kemal Ataturk, father of Modern Turkey who studied high school in Bitola.

CELEBRATING CINEMATOGRAPHY

Nowadays, Bitola is recognizable after two significant cultural manifestations, the Small Bitola Montmartre, which is a traditional international children's art colony that has been held since 1982 from May 23rd to May 30th. Each year, children, aged 5 to 14, from all over Europe and the world come and draw pictures on a free topic and with diverse technique. The second, even more significant event is the International Cinematographers Film Festival "Manaki Brothers" which is under the auspice of the President of Macedonia and the Ministry of Culture. It has been held ever since 1980 in the memory of the brothers Milton and Yanaki Manaki, the first film cinematographers in Macedonia and the Balkans. This is the reason why it gives a Golden, Silver and Bronze "Camera 300" award for best feature film in a competition of European and world cinematographers. Part of the awarded names and directors until now are: Jerzi Vojcik, Vittorio Storaro, Raoul Cuter, Walter Carvalho, Jose Luis Alcaine and others, while there are also other jury members and honoured guests, meaning, famous people in the film world like Robby Muller, Victoria Abril, Deryl Hannah, Miki Manojlovic, Catherine Deneuve, Juliette Binoche, and others.





A CALL of NATURE

Overlooking the city of Bitola proudly perches the mountain beauty Pelister, which is the highest of the 24 peaks on the Baba Mountain, and the third highest in Macedonia, 2600 metres above the sea level. It is also a national park where the pectoral species of winter pine – molika, the river Pelister trout and the two glacial lakes, Pelister Eyes are protected. The lakes retell a legend for their creation, a legend that tells the story of Pelister, a handsome boy, the two sisters who fell in love with him and their mother, who, being furious on their love and infatuation, chased them in the mountain and cursed them to be close to one another, but still unable to see each other. The sisters ran in the mountain, but tired of running and disappointed of their misfortunate love and their mother's curse, they started crying and had been crying for so long that their tears formed the two astonishing blue lakes, the today's Pelister Eyes.



Despite the national park, Pelister is also known for having more ski centres on its disposal, one of which is Kopanki, equipped with a ropeway, a mountain house and a hotel nearby. Nevertheless, the winter as well as the summer period are both pleasant for long walks, hiking and enjoying the natural beauties it offers.





Bitola hides numerous tales and beauties that have been spread round the world, and it is a real enjoyment if you let the curiosity lead your pleasure. It can take you to places you have never known exist, places you shall discover and fall in love with. At the end of the long walk, you may sit in some restaurant and try the delicious Bitola tripe soup or the most wonderful cheese in oven.

Near Bitola, despite Kopanki there is also another ski centre - Nize Pole. On the way, before you reach it, you shall pass along the village Dihovo, a real tourist paradise for those people that love rural tourism and wild nature, a village where you will come across the home, traditional Macedonian atmosphere, and you may stay in a villa, neatly decorated in a unique charming style with handmade eco-furniture, where you receive an offer of delicious homemade dishes from the organic garden of the hosts or freshen up on the benches in the lively environment with cold homemade beer by a Belgian recipe. So, how much is this pleasure? Just as much as the guests would like to pay. At the end, there are beauties and experiences you will have on your journey in the Bitola region that are simply priceless.





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