

A WALK THROUGH THE ETERNAL CITY

SKOPJE



TOP 10

1 Canyon Matka

On just around 20 kilometres from Skopje, visit the canyon or, more precisely, the home of the deepest underwater cave in Europe. The Canyon is the favourite place for lots of climbers, kayakers, alpinists, cyclists and all those who want to spend some time away from the city, in the local restaurant.

2 Millennium Cross

The city bus number 25 shall take you to Middle Vodno and by the ropeway you can get to the top of Vodno mountain, where not only will you see the highest cross in the world, but you will also enjoy the most beautiful view of the city.

3 Mother Teresa Memorial House

This House of humanity is built in honour of the saint, on the place where she was baptized. The object itself is attractive by its looks and it attracts a lot of tourists from all around the world every year.

4 Scupi

Near the city of Skopje, there are ruins of the old ancient city of Scupi, an important centre from the time of the Roman Empire, which you may visit. However, the most valuable artifacts of this city are placed in the Archeological museum of Macedonia.

5 The Old Bazaar

The kaldrma of the Old Bazaar in the centre of the city is going to take you to the most beautiful souvenirs, antiquities and handmade works of art, you will see the old architecture, the galleries and you will drink some Turkish tea in some of the tea houses.

6 Archaeological Museum of Macedonia

The Museum is like a time machine which follows the development from pre-historic times till today, and on these areas there are a lot of exceptionally valuable artifacts.

7 Skopje City Tour

There is a double-decker panoramic bus in Skopje which provides several tours around the biggest attractions in the city. Its tour starts from Porta Macedonia, near the Macedonia square.

8 Tauresium

This locality, near the village Taor, is the birth place of the great Emperor Justinianus I, who is famous for bringing the law reforms on which even the present Roman citizen law is based on.

9 Burek

The burek is a pie filled either with meat, cheese, spinach etc., which the Macedonians prefer to eat in the morning, and speaking of lunch, you can visit some of the local restaurants with traditional food.

10 Macedonian village

Built in the hills of Vodno, this complex is a tourist locality that represents the Macedonian authentic architecture, and there is also a restaurant in it. It can easily be reached by a city bus.



Macedonia – an undiscovered pearl in the heart of the Balkan peninsula, a crossroad of diverse cultures from the East and West, a regular stop of the Roman road that used to be the most important one, Via Egnatia. This country is an inevitable destination for each and every tourist who is keen on discovering the mixture of secular history and natural beauties. The Capital city of Skopje, hidden as if in a wreath in the midst of the surrounding mountains, with its energy and charm of a modern metropolis, has the power to leave you breathless. Skopje is a magic in all sorts of taste, colours and scents. The centre of all trends, traffic jams, vibrations and rushing.

NUMBERS and FACTS

Area:

571.46 km²

Population:

506,926

Elevation:

240 metres

Phone code:

+389 02

Closest airport:

Alexander the Great, 25 km

Average annual temperature:

13.5 °C

Old names of Skopje:

Scupi, Iskib

Web:

www.skopje.gov.mk

Important historical dates:

4000 BC – the region of Skopje is inhabited with the first citizens

13-11 BC – Skopje becomes the city of the Octavian August Era

518 – Skopje is completely destroyed by a devastating earthquake

1392 – Skopje is under the Ottoman Empire Rule

1689 – The Austrian General Piccolomini burns Skopje

1945 – Skopje is announced to be the capital city of Macedonia as a Federal State of Yugoslavia

1963 – Skopje is hit by a disastrous earthquake which destroyed almost all the city.





MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

MUSEUM OF MACEDONIA

KURSHUMLIAN

MUSEUM OF MACEDONIA

SULIAN

NATIONAL GALLERY CHIFTE AMAM

KALE FORTRESS

KAPAN AN

ENTRANCE TO OLD BAZAAR

NATIONAL THEATRE

MEMORIAL CENTRE OF THE MACEDONIAN JEWS HOLOCAUST

DAUT PASIN AMAM NATIONAL GALLERY

NATIONAL LIBRARY

MACEDONIAN SUPREME COURT

MACEDONIAN RADIO TELEVISION

SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

POST OFFICE

MUSEUM OF THE MACEDONIAN STRUGGLE

MACEDONIAN OPERA AND BALLET

SQUARE PHILIP II

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF MACEDONIA

MACEDONIA SQUARE

MACEDONIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND ARTS

YOUTH CULTURAL CENTER

KEJ 13 NOEMVRI

GTC CITY SHOPPING CENTRE

VARDAR RIVER

NATIONAL BANK OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

VERO CENTER SHOPPING MALL

MEMORIAL HOUSE OF MOTHER TERESA

DOM NA ARM

ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

CITY HOSPITAL

OLYMPIC SWIMMING POOL

RAILWAY STATION SKOPJE

CENTRAL BUS STATION SKOPJE

POST OFFICE

The **CITY** of the SEVEN GATES

You can in time hear this expression about Skopje, to be called “the city of the seven gates”. Due to the long history, which is depicted from ancient times, the city spreads different legends for its foundation and the origins of its name. The most incredible is the one for the Skopje valley which tells the story of a big, stone rock that was actually the head of an enchanted giant. The wizard that cast the spell on the giant was very evil, but a hero, enhanced by the injustice that was committed to the giant, provoked a fight with the wizard and won it. After the victory, he opened the eyes, ears, nose and mouth of the giant, stabbing him with a spear, giving him liberty. Today, it is said that those holes of the spear in the face of the giant’s head are the seven natural paths, entries in the city of Skopje and every stone that you would see in Skopje is part of that giant’s head.

The ancient name of Skopje is Scupi and it has always been an eminent geopolitical centre.





The heart of the city is the “Macedonia” square, a point which has always been a popular place for meetings and it is tightly connected to the everyday life of Skopje’s citizens, from all generations. It is easily recognizable due to the 22 metre bronze monument “Warrior on Horse” dedicated to the great leader Alexander the Great, which is surrounded with a fountain that during the evening hours, from spring to autumn, makes a majestic audiovisual show for the visitors in the rhythm of the classical music. On just a few steps, during the summer time, you can refresh yourself near the fountain with the small fountains that sprinkle from the tiles of the square and they are a real attraction that elicits many smiling faces and it is a different aqua fun for children.



The square is near the quay of the River Vardar which divides the city in two halves. This is the central city point which leads to all the main attractions in Skopje.

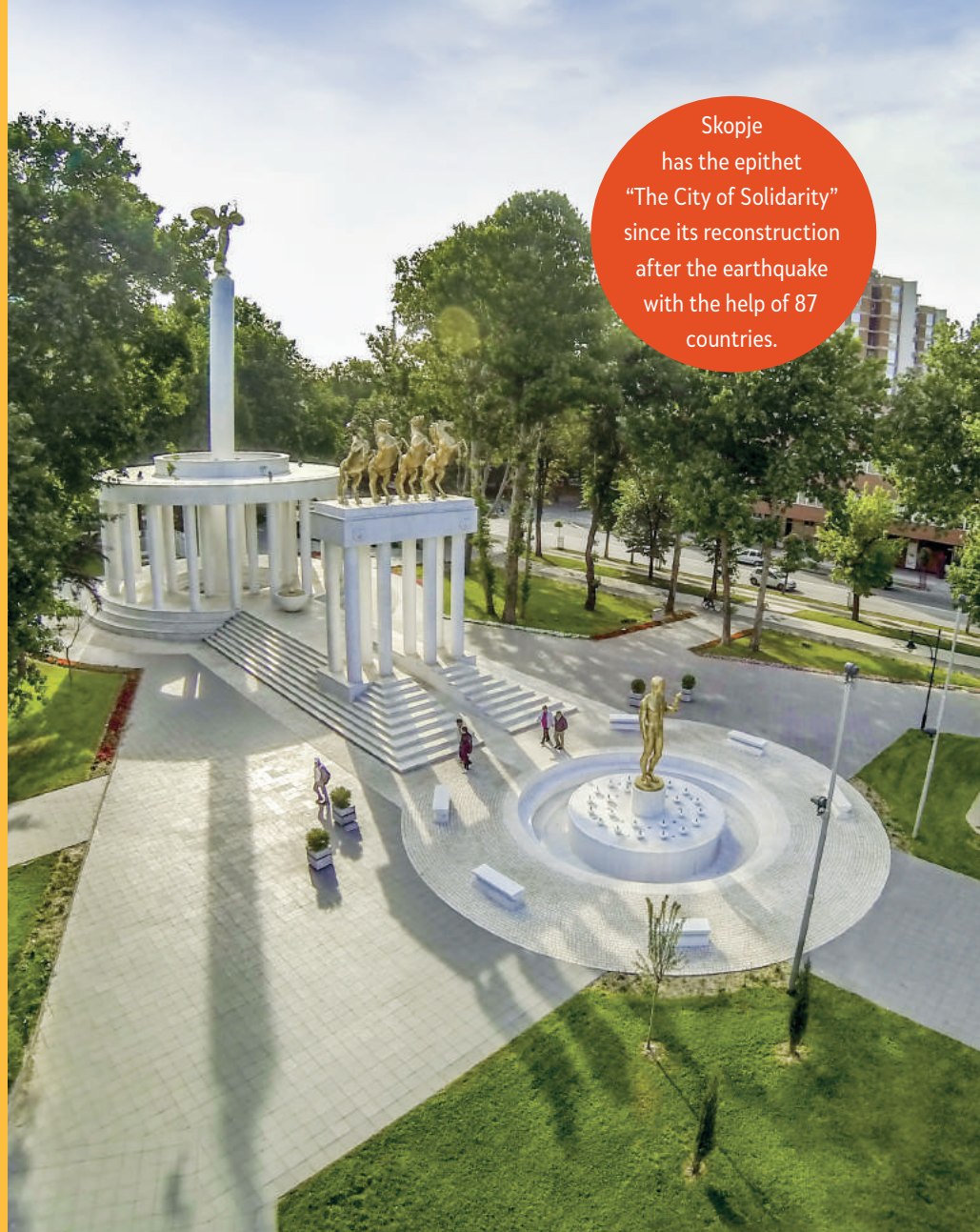


CULTURAL and ART TREASURE

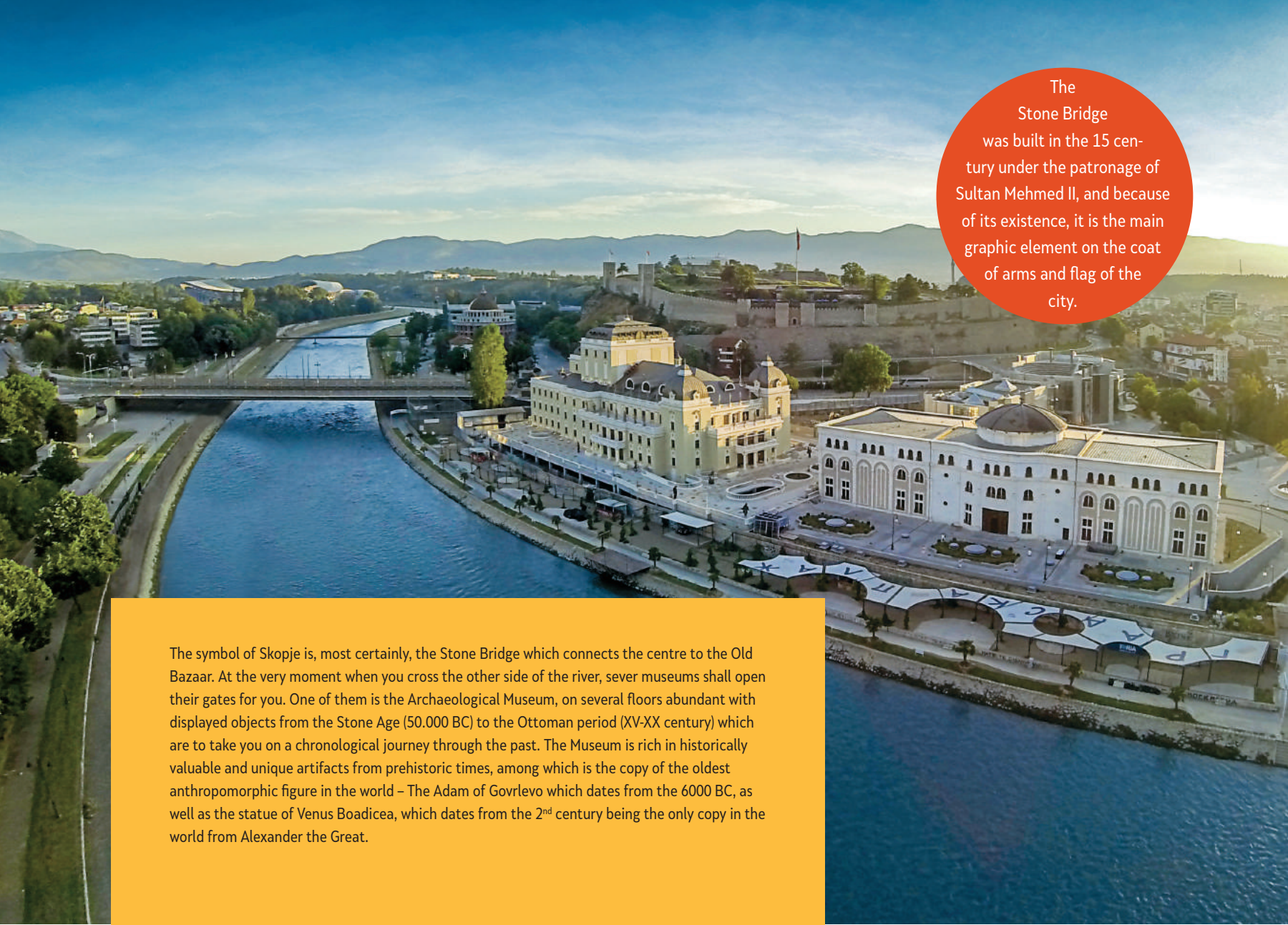
Several smaller streets divide from the “Macedonia” square on different sides, but the most important of them is the pedestrianized street “Macedonia”, a promenade with shops, coffee bars and restaurants where you can drink coffee with hours, where couples meet, just as friends, business partners and cooperators... Having a coffee in Skopje is a way of living and it is deeply rooted into the everyday habits of the citizens, so these coffee bars are not to be seen empty in no part of the day. Strolling down the same street, during the day you will find yourselves lost among people, and perhaps you will not even be able to notice the Memorial House of Mother Teresa, which due to its architectural look and façade made of stone and glass stands out of the surrounding buildings. The greatest humanitarian and Nobel prize winner, Gondza Bojadziu, who has become a saint since recently, was born in Skopje, in a house that used to be on the place of the today’s square “Macedonia”. Today, there is a memorial tablet placed on that area.



On the other side of the street "Macedonia" are the remains of the Old Railway station on which the stakes on the tower clock always show 5:17, the time when the disastrous earthquake hit Skopje on July 26th, 1963. This historical day when 80% of the city was turned into ruins, is indeed the start of a new era of renewal after which the city gets the look it has today. The Old Railway station is not just a monument of the earthquake, but also a location of the today's Museum of Skopje which possesses almost 22 000 museum exhibits from the field of archeology, history, ethnology and art from the Skopje area. As opposed to some other city museums in the world, this is one of the rare where you can even find relics from pre-historic times because Skopje is a city inhabited since the Neolith.



Skopje has the epithet "The City of Solidarity" since its reconstruction after the earthquake with the help of 87 countries.



The Stone Bridge was built in the 15th century under the patronage of Sultan Mehmed II, and because of its existence, it is the main graphic element on the coat of arms and flag of the city.

The symbol of Skopje is, most certainly, the Stone Bridge which connects the centre to the Old Bazaar. At the very moment when you cross the other side of the river, several museums shall open their gates for you. One of them is the Archaeological Museum, on several floors abundant with displayed objects from the Stone Age (50.000 BC) to the Ottoman period (XV-XX century) which are to take you on a chronological journey through the past. The Museum is rich in historically valuable and unique artifacts from prehistoric times, among which is the copy of the oldest anthropomorphic figure in the world – The Adam of Govrlevo which dates from the 6000 BC, as well as the statue of Venus Boadicea, which dates from the 2nd century being the only copy in the world from Alexander the Great.

Skopje by night







Close to this is also the Museum of the Macedonian Struggle for Sovereignty and Independence where you may hear very interesting stories by the curators for the many people of the later history in Macedonia which are represented as wax figures or battle scenes painted in the art paintings on the walls. Opposite the museum, you will immediately see the Holocaust Museum, built in the shape of the David's Star, in memoriam of the Jewish victims. This centre is one of the four such in the whole world and as part of the exhibited objects you may see the original train that served as transport vehicle for the Macedonian Jews to the gas chambers. On just a few minutes distance from these museums, comes the Skopje Kale – a fortress from which you may enjoy in the lovely view and landscape of the centre, and in its arms is yet another museum - The Museum of Contemporary Art. In the permanent display, this museums shows works of art by Picasso, Vasarely, Calder. Despite museums, those in love with art are obliged to visit some of the spectacles in the Macedonian Opera and Ballet where eminent artist from the world have taken part.



The Declaration of Independence is exhibited in the hall of the Museum of the Macedonian Struggle for Sovereignty and Independence.

The ORIENT in SKOPJE

The Stone Bridge is the busiest entrance to the old part of the city of Skopje – The Old Bazaar that has kept the authenticity of the architecture from the Ottoman period. Here, diverse civilizations, cultures, traditions and centuries mix. Walking on the kaldrma, it will awaken a feeling as if you have passed through the space-time portal which transfers an excitement five centuries old. Here you may find an embroidery of patterns and colours that retell old stories and lay rugs for you on which you would like to step naked. In the bazaar streets you can easily find a place to drink Turkish tea or coffee served with Turkish delight in an old copper coffee pot, to try lahmadzun, baklava, kadaif or Bazaar kebabs.



Full
of small
shops, the Bazaar
is abundant in diverse
souvenirs, post cards and
unique handmade
crafts.

The kaldrma shall take you to the world of filigrees, golden jewelry, cloths and antiquities shops or you may have a look behind the gates of the old Turkish hans (Suli Han, Kapan Han, Kurshumli Han) which hold a history and valuables from many centuries ago or the few hammams, the old Turkish baths, like Daut Pashin hammam and Cifte hammam which are now used as national galleries where people can see art exhibitions. In some part of the day, you may get surprised by melodies coming from the mosques, which are to be found in and around the Bazaar, as well as the bell towers of the St.Spas Church, the home of the ten metres iconostasis, made by the woodcarver Petre Garkata, which represents one of the most beautiful and most precious Mijak woodcarving works of art.



The Macedonian filigree is well-known abroad for its quality and the Macedonian jewelry masters are one of the most skillful in the world.



Of course, while you are here, you have to try the sweets of the old chefs – orasnica, macaroons or a ball of homemade ice-cream.

As the day is coming to an end, the old storekeepers turn off the lights in their shops and the Old Bazaar disguises in a new costume – the sounds of the rich night life of rock, jazz and blues gigs, the DJs and the chalgiyas and after a short calm before the storm, the kaldrma is again welcoming the new visitors in search of fun.

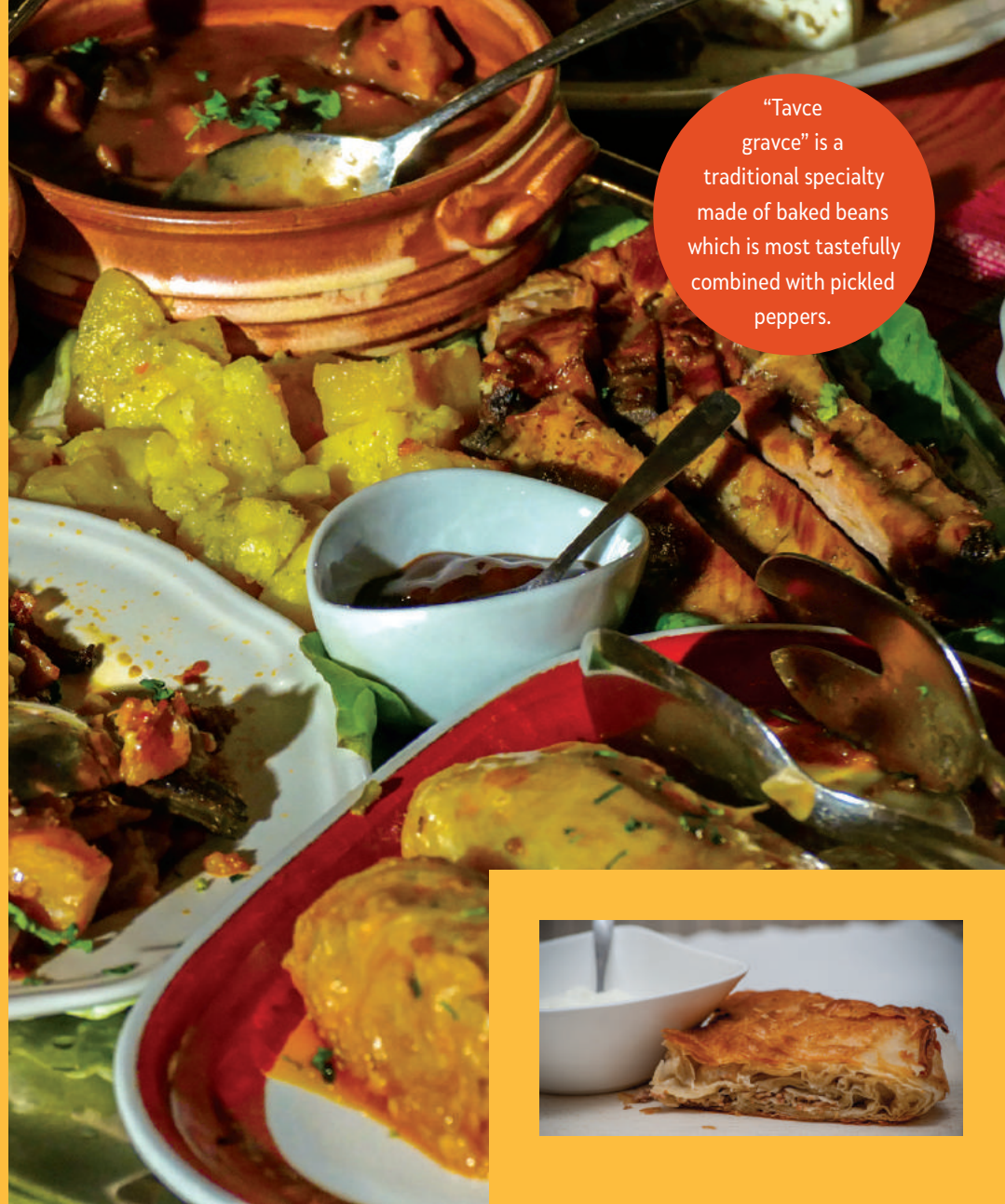


A MAGIC of TRADITIONAL TASTES

As soon as you feel hunger from the long walks and excitement of all the oriental magic, the real pleasure that you must not miss are the Bazaar's kebab restaurants where you have to order the well-known dish of 10 kebabs with onion and chilly paprika with cold served beer. Towards the highest peak in the Old Bazaar, there is a micro-pub with a wide range of keg beers always served cold.



"Tavce gravce" is a traditional specialty made of baked beans which is most tastefully combined with pickled peppers.





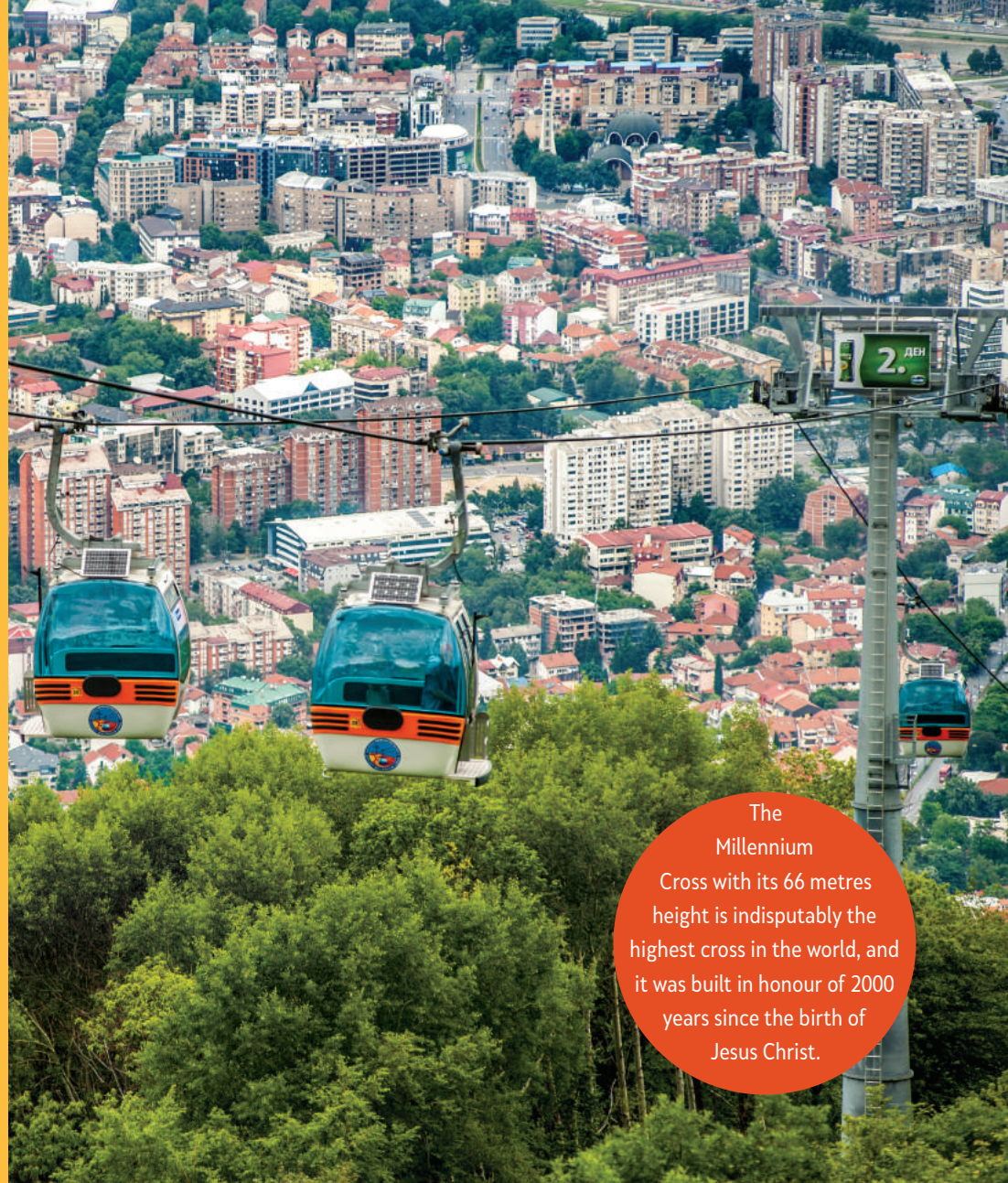
With
270 sunny days
per year, Macedonia
is rich in horticulture
products and wine grapes
with high quality.



If you are willing to meet the real old Bohème Skopje, then you should visit the restaurants on the so called “Bohème streets” in Debar Maalo settlement, which shall welcome you with the sounds of the folk music, the specific $7/8$ rhythm of Macedonia. Here, you shall meet some old Skopje citizens that will open their souls for you, accompanied by a good song, Shopska salad, yellow rakija and delicious Skopje barbecue or the traditional musaka. Do not forget to ask for and taste the recognizable Macedonian wines from the Tikvesh and Skopje region which are regularly awarded for their quality on the wine world fairs. The selection of wines is big, they are made of eminent foreign grapes varieties, as well as wines produced by autochthonous, local sorts.

Away from the CITY JAM

Citizens of Skopje have that privilege of being on a few kilometres of the city and have localities that enable a real sinking into the arms of nature. As an eternal guard, the Vodno Mountain is highly stretched on the south side. The adventurers are used to going on foot or by bike to the base of the peak, but for those who are less in the mood for walking, they can choose a city bus that takes people to the parking lot of Middle Vodno, and, from there by purchasing a cheap ticket for the ropeway and for not more than 10 minutes you will be up on the top where the great enlightened Millennium Cross made of metal construction is erected. By elevator, you can go on the sides where you may glance at the phenomenal landscape of the metropolis.



The
Millennium
Cross with its 66 metres
height is indisputably the
highest cross in the world, and
it was built in honour of 2000
years since the birth of
Jesus Christ.



Yet, did you know that the deepest underwater cave in Europe and, maybe even in the world, is exactly near Skopje? This natural pride with calculated 212 metres depth (the bottom has not been reached yet) goes to the cave Vrelo in the speleological park which is part of the Canyon Matka that can be easily reached by bus or taxi. You can even go to the cave itself by a boat and accompanied by some of the guides who will tell you everything about this mystery that has attracted many well-known speleologists-divers. And the canyon is also a special story. It is a paradise for sport climbers and alpinists, hikers, kayakers, but some regular tourists and nature lovers, this place simply has a beauty impossible to compare with.





Skopje is a city to fall easily in love with. You shall create your own story which will always bring you wonderful memories of interesting places, new people and it will bring you back, since you will no longer have another reason but this to clarify the wish for spending just one more day in this charming and vivid city.



EVENTS' CALENDAR

JANUARY

- Christmas Concert of the Macedonian Philharmonic Orchestra
- Vasilica Concert in MOB

APRIL

- Dance Fest (international festival of modern dance)
- Skopje Film Festival
- Faces Without Masks (theatre festival)

JULY

- Skopje Summer Festival
- Skopje Street Festival (multimedia event)

OCTOBER

- White Night
- Skopje Design week
- Skopje Fashion week
- Skopje Jazz Festival
- EHO (mountain film festival)
- Skopje Fashion Week
- Kinenova (film festival)

FEBRUARY

- Skopje Cinema City
- Golden ladybug of popularity

MAY

- May Opera Evenings
- OffFest (music festival)
- Bob Marley - One Love festival
- Spring wine festival
- Skopje Flower Festival
- Skopje marathon

AUGUST

- Makedox (documentary film festival)
- Beer Fest

NOVEMBER

- Festival of European film – Cinedays
- Fotomedia (photography exhibition)
- Autumn musical celebrations
- Skopje poster festival
- Skopje Fest (music festival)
- Skomrahi

MARCH

- First and female (Women's day multimedia event)

JUNE

- Hello youth (music festival)
- Multimedia event: See music! Hear a painting! Get a book!
- Skopje Creativa

SEPTEMBER

- Blues and soul festival
- Vinoskop
- Young Open Theatre (international theatre festival)

DECEMBER

- New Year's Bazaar
- Taksirat (music festival)
- Animaks (animated film fest)
- Skopje Guitar Festival



**AGENCY FOR PROMOTION
AND SUPPORT OF TOURISM**

www.tourismmacedonia.gov.mk
www.macedonia-timeless.com
www.skopje.gov.mk
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