

A WALK THROUGH THE CITY OF LIGHT

OHRID



TOP 10

1 St. Jovan Kaneo

This church is on the rock of the Ohrid Lake and offers an incredibly wonderful view towards the lake. One can get there through many ground paths or by a water taxi.

2 Plaoshnik

Plaoshnik is famous as a religious locality ever since the beginnings of Christianity, and probably even before that. It was reconstructed several years ago, and it represents one of the must-see places to be visited in this city.

3 Galicica

The mountain that stretches over Ohrid Lake and one of the three national parks in Macedonia. There is a point on this mountain where you can see the two lakes at the same time, Ohrid and Prespa Lake.

4 Bazaar

This is a central pedestrianized street in town, which, during the summer months, is crowded with tourists, day and night, regardless. It is abounding with shops that work until late hours and those where you may purchase souvenirs of the city.

5 Trout

The Ohrid trout is an endemic species and it has got a protection status. For a couple of years now, it is a species unavailable in restaurants.

6 Bay of Bones

The Bay of the bones is an archeological locality of the pre-historic pile-dwelling settlement and a real attraction for home and foreign tourists. The complex also includes a closed museum with artifacts.

7 Ohrid Summer Festival

The festival is one of the greatest cultural events in the country, where many world famous music stars have taken part, for instance, Ennio Morricone, Jose Carreras and others. The opening ceremony is traditionally held in the Ancient Theatre.

8 Samuil's Fortress

The Samuil's Fortress is the city's symbol. This medieval fortress in the city of Ohrid was first built by King Filip II of Macedonia, and it was later named after Tsar Samuil.

9 Paragliding

All the lovers of extreme sports can enjoy paragliding flight from the Galicica Mountain. The flying is over the lake itself and it ends on the sandy beach of the auto-camp Ljubanishta as a final destination.

10 Ohrid Marathon

The marathon in Ohrid is an International swimming competition, 30 kilometres long, starting from St. Naum to Ohrid and it attracts a lot of marathon swimmers every year. It has been held since 1954.

A CITY of LIGHT

Macedonia – the most important crossroad in the heart of the Balkan Peninsula is a still undiscovered and mystique country which warmly welcomes all the travelers who want to reveal its secrets. Through the centuries, Macedonia has kept treasure of natural beauties, traditional values and different cultures. In the south-western part of the country, there is a city called Ohrid – one of the oldest and most authentic cities on the Balkan Peninsula. Its name is Lychnidos meaning “the city of light”. Ohrid is the cradle of the Orthodox spirituality and that is the very reason why it is called the Slavic Jerusalem.



NUMBERS and FACTS

Area:

389 km²

Population:

42.033

Elevation:

695 metres

Phone code:

+389 46

Closest airport:

St. Apostol Pavle, 9.8 kilometres

Average annual temperature:

13.5 °C

Old names of Skopje:

Lihnid

Web:

www.ohrid.gov.mk

Important historical dates:

6000 BC – It is supposed that the first settlements existed in the Neolith

500 BC – Ohrid is recognizable by the ancient name Lychnidos

VI century – mass Slavic colonization, mainly from the Berziti tribe, Lychnidos became Ohrid

886 – St. Clement, the creator of the Cyrillic alphabet, had established the Ohrid Literary School using the Glagolitic alphabet

XX- XI century – Ohrid became the centre of Tsar Samuil's Empire

XV century – the people start settling even outside the city walls

1767 – Abolition of the Archbishopric of Ohrid, which is thought to be established at the time of Justinianus I





SAMUIL'S
FORTRES



ANCIENT
THEATRE



ST. HOLY MARY
PERYBLEPTOS



EARLY
CHRISTIAN
BASILICA



PLAOSHNIK



ST. SOFIJA
CHURCH



ST. JOVAN KANEO

SARAIŠTE

ROBEV
FAMILY
HOUSE



MAIN
SQUARE



QUAY MACEDONIA

PORT



BRIDGE OF WISHES

CHINAR
1000 YEAR OLD TREE

LAKE
OHRID

This city is a top destination for a summer holiday in Macedonia for home and foreign tourists, respectively.



The bazaar is the main circulation of the city's citizens as well as the abundant number of tourists. That is also the most popular pedestrian area since it is full of small shops, cafés and restaurants.

The sightseeing ought to be started from the city's square, and then through the narrow streets we set off towards the old town of the city. What strikes at first glance is the characteristic and recognizable architecture of Ohrid, and the most representative house is the one that belonged to the Robevci family where today the city's museum is placed. In the small workshop near the museum, you can enter and acknowledge the technique for making paper in such manner as it was made many centuries ago. Ohrid and Bled in Slovenia are the only places in Europe where you can find a copy from the Gutenberg printing press, and the original is to be found in Germany.

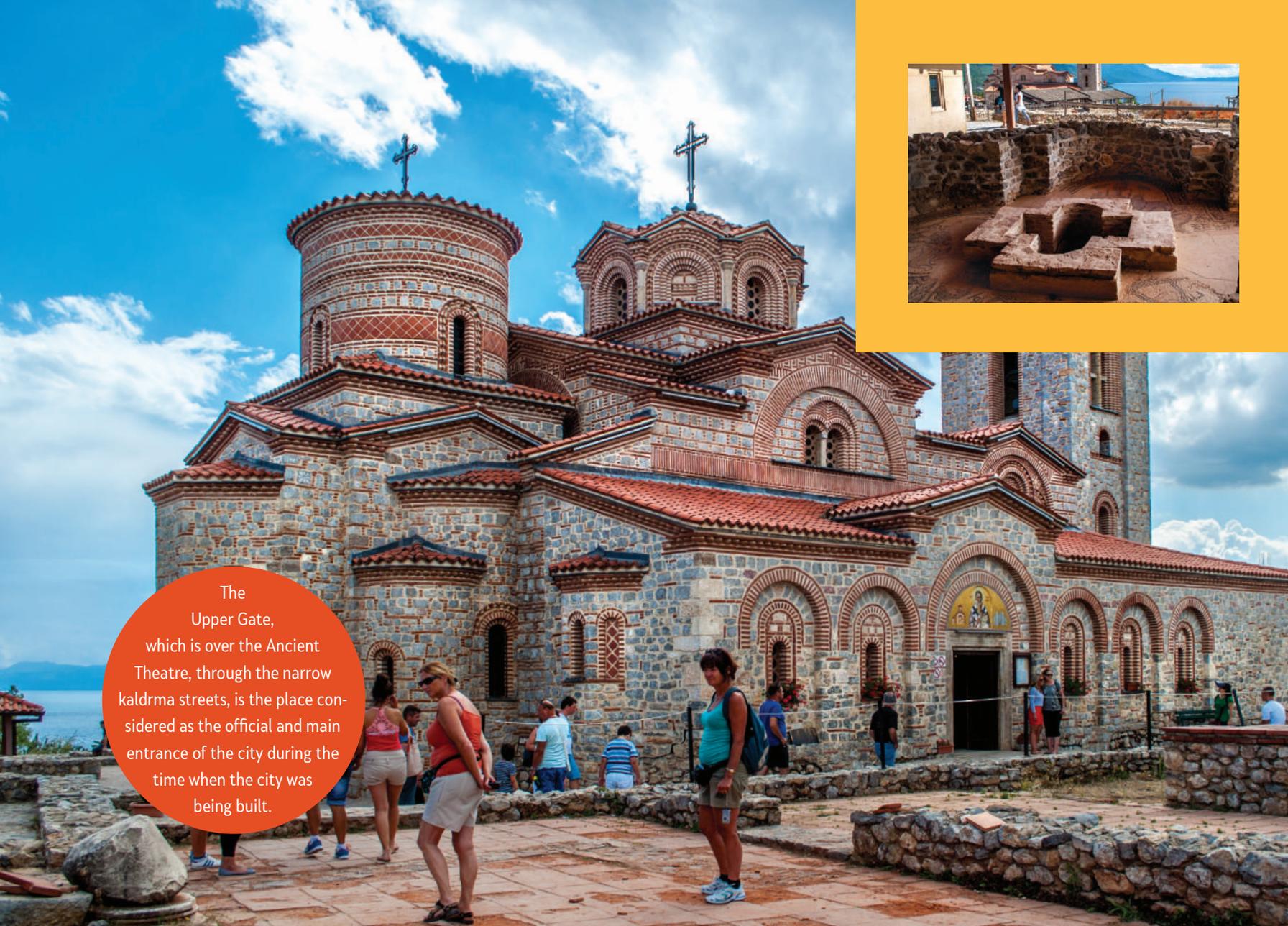


CULTURAL HERITAGE

Quite near the Lake, in the lower part of the town, you will see St. Sofija Church which was built in the 11th century by the Ohrid archbishop Leon. The church is in the shape of the letter T and is the only gallery of mid-European wall paintings. Church St. Sofija was used as a cathedral of the Archbishopric of Ohrid for a long time, as well as in the time of Tsar Samuil.

Situated in the old town of Ohrid, the Ancient Theatre was functional during the Hellenic and Roman period. Excavated in a hill, rebuilt as much as possible in the late ancient time, up to what were known to be the past 30 rows of marble seats, now only 7-8 original ones are preserved. The theatre today is thoroughly refurbished, representing a sort of an archeological attraction and place where important events of the cultural life of Ohrid take place, especially during the summer period when in the city, the traditionally biggest cultural event, Ohrid Summer Festival, is held.





The Upper Gate, which is over the Ancient Theatre, through the narrow kaldrma streets, is the place considered as the official and main entrance of the city during the time when the city was being built.

365 CHURCHES for EVERY DAY of the YEAR

The church Holy Mary Perybleptos was raised by the Byzantium vicar Progon Zgur in 1295 at the time of the Archbishop Makarij. It is dedicated to the patron saint of the city, St. Clement of Ohrid, who arrived there in the 9th century and spread Christianity exactly from here and the Cyrillic alphabet as well. He established the Ohrid Literary School and set the seed of art which was later developed and accepted among the broad masses.

Plaoshnik is a place where once existed the First Slavic University of St. Clement, the creator of the Cyrillic alphabet and the place where even today the relics of this saint remain. It is located under the remains of the Samuil's Fortress. In the early Christian basilica, built in the shape of a four-leaved clover, you will be able to see the incredibly preserved baptistery in the shape of a trikonhos with exceptional mosaics where the four heavenly rivers are represented: Gihon, Pishon, Tigris and Euphrates.



Built on a high rock in the old town of Ohrid, on one of the most majestic places on the coast of Ohrid Lake, the church St. Jovan at Kaneo dates from the 13th century. It was even painted at the time, although the church's founder and the frescoes' painters have remained unknown. The architecture is quite important for studying the medieval monuments of Ohrid since it represents a successful combination of Byzantium and Armenian elements. This church is probably the most photographed object in the city of Ohrid.





When in Ohrid, the one thing that you mustn't do is miss a boat trip along the coast since it is an unforgettable enjoyment.

A MEDIEVAL CENTRE

The Ohrid Fortress, a symbol of the city, is one of the greatest medieval cities on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia. With its foundations and walls it is stretched on the whole Ohrid hill. From all sides, with an exception of the south side, which overlooks the lake, the hill part of the city was protected by high walls and towers, 3 kilometres in length, reaching the Ohrid coast. In the old town, one could enter through three gates, out of which only the Upper Gate still exists. During the reign of Tsar Samuil from 976 to 1014 and his successors till 1018, Ohrid was the centre of the first state of the Macedonian Slavs. The renovated fortress has kept its monumental urban skeleton even nowadays.



Ohrid Panorama





There are rigorously protected zones in Galicica due to the presence of endemic species. The highest peak is Magaro, 2254 metres high.



PARADISE between MOUNTAIN and a LAKE

Over the Ohrid Lake raises the national park Galicica, one of the three in Macedonia. The nature here is protected and there is a strong reason why. Galicica is a picnic destination for those who want to glance at the lake high from the mountain, for the lovers of mountain biking or for the adrenaline seekers that, undoubtedly, would try a parachute adventure. Of course, you can always try and organize tours by jeep through the astonishing nature.





When discussing summer holidays, Ohrid offers a lot – starting from big beaches with bars, cocktails and music, till small hidden sandy beaches for those who prefer to enjoy a little bit of more intimate atmosphere, sunbathing under the Ohrid sun, reading a book on the beach. There are a lot of wonderful beaches, and the average temperature in the summer period is 24°C, whereas on the coast areas it can even be 26°C. Sailing, swimming, diving or cruising...whatever you choose, the lake will provide a memorable experience and joy.



Trpejca is a special place due to the numerous small sandy beaches which could only be reached by boat. The pearly white beaches and the crystal clear water make Trpejca a real tourist paradise which is developing into an elite tourist centre. It is on a 20 km distance from Ohrid, in the heart of the National Park Galicica. The village is some 10 centuries old, and due to its exotic appeal it earned the nickname the Macedonian Sen Tropez.

The coast of Ohrid Lake is full of restaurants that are a compulsory break spot where you should taste the local specialties – the Ohrid trout and the famous Ohrid garlic dip or enjoy the taste of another fish, the Ohrid belvica. The freshness of the Ohrid nights, the local tastes and the smell of the water lake are an extraordinary combination that lures for a summer romantic dinner.



The people of Trpejca, together with those from Peshtani, were famous fishermen. At the time, there was no house in the village without at least one fisherman in it.

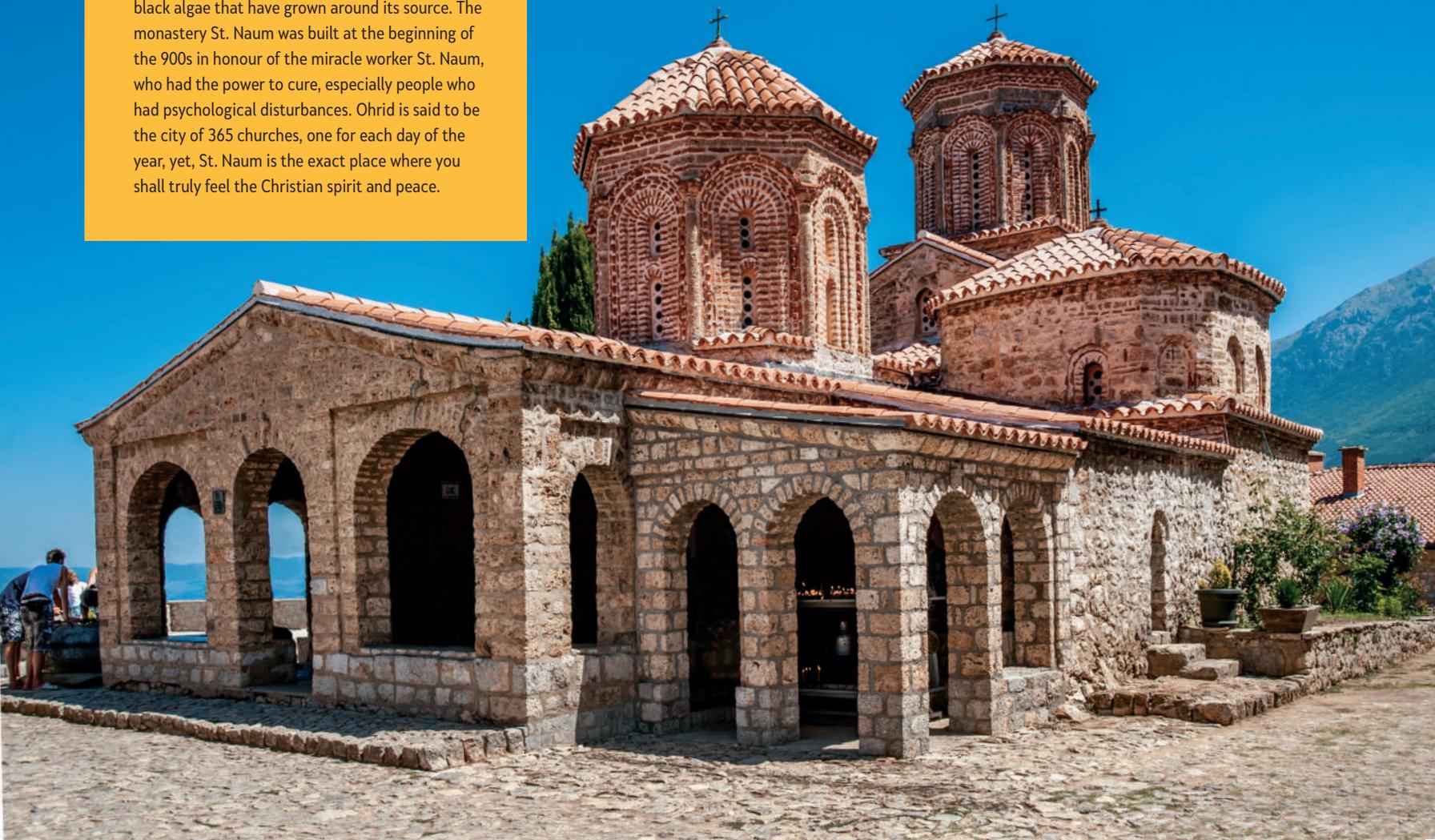


The closest discovered pile was on 12 metres from the coast, and it is thought that the settlement consisted of approximately 60 habitats.

A JOURNEY through the PAST

A special attraction, discovered few years ago is the so called "Bay of the Bones". This museum consists of a reconstructed pile-dwelling settlement from the 12th to the 7th century BC, which is to be found on water, i.e., on a platform placed on wooden piles. In this museum object, there are some findings of remains under water in the settlement, a diving base and reconstructed fortresses from a Roman camp from the 2nd century.

On some 2 kilometres before getting to the Albanian border, you can visit the monastery St. Naum, a place where the River Crn Drim flows out of the Ohrid Lake. It got its name by the long black algae that have grown around its source. The monastery St. Naum was built at the beginning of the 900s in honour of the miracle worker St. Naum, who had the power to cure, especially people who had psychological disturbances. Ohrid is said to be the city of 365 churches, one for each day of the year, yet, St. Naum is the exact place where you shall truly feel the Christian spirit and peace.



The water at the St. Naum's springs is cold and its temperature is 10-12 degrees. The springs obtain 25% of the total amount of water in the lake.



The place itself will enchant you with its impeccable beauty. The water sources urge you to go on a stroll or a boat ride so as to see the bottom of the lake through the crystal clear and cold water, and to lose yourselves in the silence and exotically wild view that reminds of the Amazon. The monastery St. Naum guards the relics of this scholar of the first Slavonic missionaries, and the legend says that when you kneel on his tomb and put your ear on it, you can listen to his heartbeat. Even the most restless souls shall find their peace and quiet amongst the flowery plants and peacocks in the church's yard.



PROTECTED BEAUTY

Ohrid Lake belongs to the group of the oldest and deepest lakes in the world, and due to its size it is among the bigger ones in Europe. It exists for more than 3 million years. By its unique flora and fauna, the Lake is represented as one of the greatest biological reservoirs in Europe. Ohrid Lake covers an area of 352 km² out of which $\frac{2}{3}$ belong to Macedonia and $\frac{1}{3}$ to Albania. The water is crystal clear and one could see its depth up to 22 metres, yet its measured depth is 286 metres. The lake is the habitat of 17 types of fish and as most famous ones are the Ohrid trout and the small fish - the bleak (Plashica)...



The
Ohrid Lake
and the City of Ohrid
are proclaimed as a world
cultural heritage under
UNESCO protection in
1980.





The Lake attracts tourists, not just by its beauty, but also due to the cultural, religious and sport character that is linked to it. The Ohrid swimming marathon is a regular open water race from the Grand Prix series of the International Swimming Federation, held annually in August on the route known as “Klime Savin” from the monastery complex “St. Naum” to the city harbor in Ohrid, covering a total length of 30 kilometres.

Each year, on the January, 19th, Ohrid hosts one of the greatest religious and touristic events, Epiphany (Vodici). Hundreds of boys from all over the Balkans jump into the cold waters of the lake to catch the holy cross. It is believed that the one that catches it, will be blessed with good health, happiness and luck all year round. This big Christian event in Ohrid is regularly visited by more than 30.000 tourists from the country and abroad.

When leaving Ohrid, visit the authentic souvenir shops in the city and purchase some beautiful Macedonian handmade artifact to have it as a memory since the city is full of small pieces of unique art. One of the most recognizable symbols of the city is the Ohrid pearl, made of the bleak's scales. The families Talevi and Filevi are the only ones that know the secret and nourish the tradition for handmade practice of the Ohrid pearl and for more than 80 years it has been handed from generation to generation. The Ohrid pearls have beautified Queen Elizabeth II, Princess Diana, the actress Juliette Binoche and other famous ladies, and if you are keen on wearing this jewelry, it may as well become part of your collection.

Peace and quiet, mountain, lake, art and culture – Ohrid offers everything for everyone. Due to the number of sights, this city can never be boring, you would simply wish to stay a day plus and afford yourself joy in the warmth and beauty of this hospitable place.



EVENTS' CALENDAR

JANUARY

- Epiphany (Vodici)

JUNE

- Ohrid Film Festival

APRIL

- Feelmotion – film festival

JULY

- Ohrid Summer Festival
- Balkan festival of folk dances
- Summer Beach Festival
- Green Beach Festival

MAY

- Children festival “Folk fairytale”

AUGUST

- Ohrid swimming marathon
- Ohrid troubadours





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CIP - Каталогизација во публикација
Национална и универзитетска библиотека "Св. Климент Охридски", Скопје

338.48(497.781)(036)

OHRID : a walk through the city of light. - Skopje : Agency of
promotion and support of tourism of Republic Macedonia, 2017. - 24
стр. : илустр. : 24 см

ISBN 978-608-66032-6-7

а) Туризам - Охрид - Водичи
COBISS.MK-ID 103219978

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