

# A GUIDE TO THE FAMOUS PRODUCTS, PLACES, LANDMARKS AND EVENTS IN MACEDONIA



2016

**Edition:**

Nako Taskov, Nikola Dimitrov, Dejan Metodijeski

**Reviewers:**

Tanja Angelkova Petkova, PhD; Nikola Cuculeski, PhD

**Language editor:**

Zdravko Kjorveziroski

**Publisher:**

Agency for support and promotion of tourism in the Republic of Macedonia

**Translation:**

Kostadin Golakov, Tatjana Ulanska

**Photography:**

??

**Cartographic processing:**

??

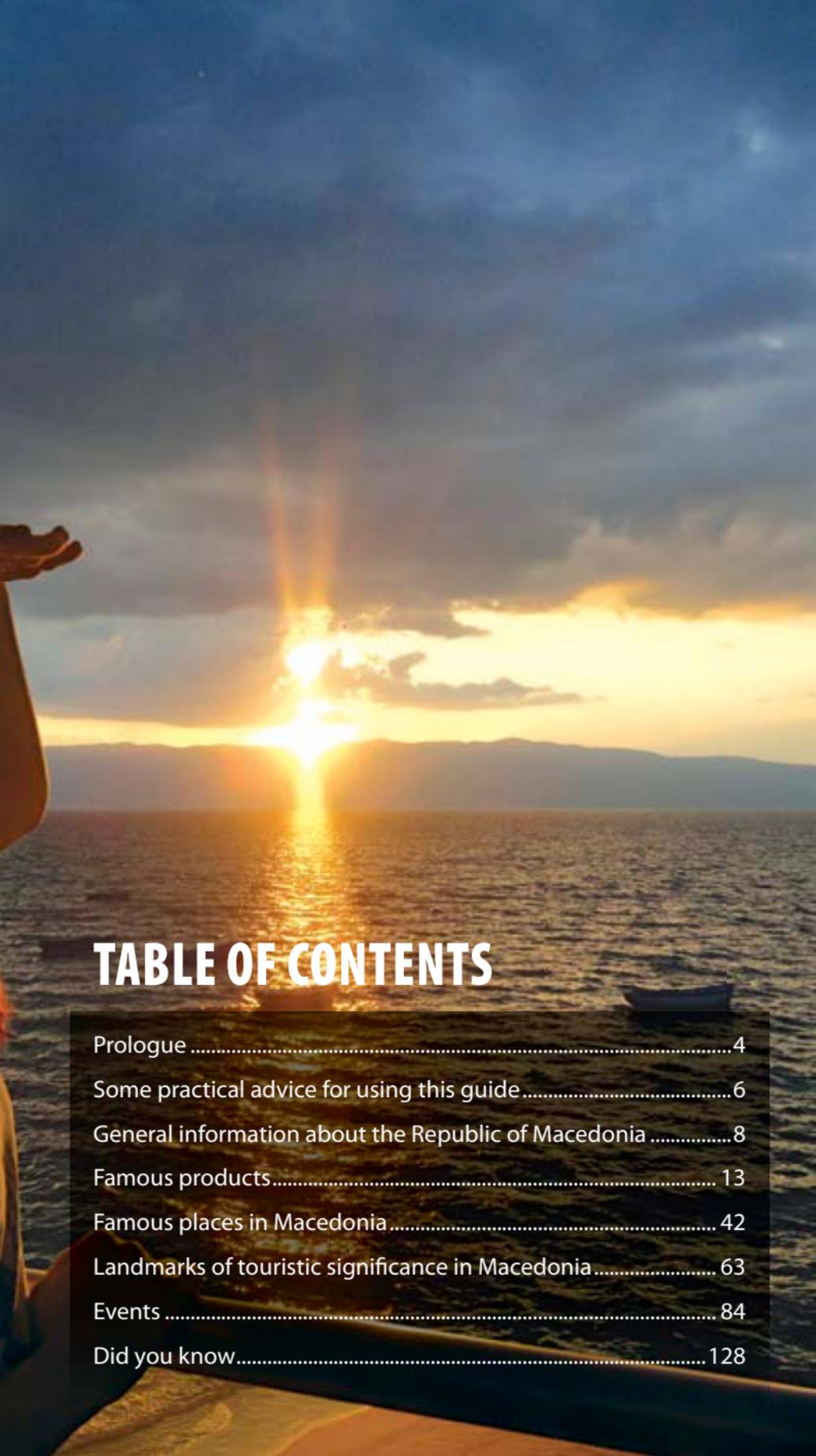
**Publisher:**

Evropa 92-Kocani

**Design:**

Agency for support and promotion of tourism in the Republic of Macedonia





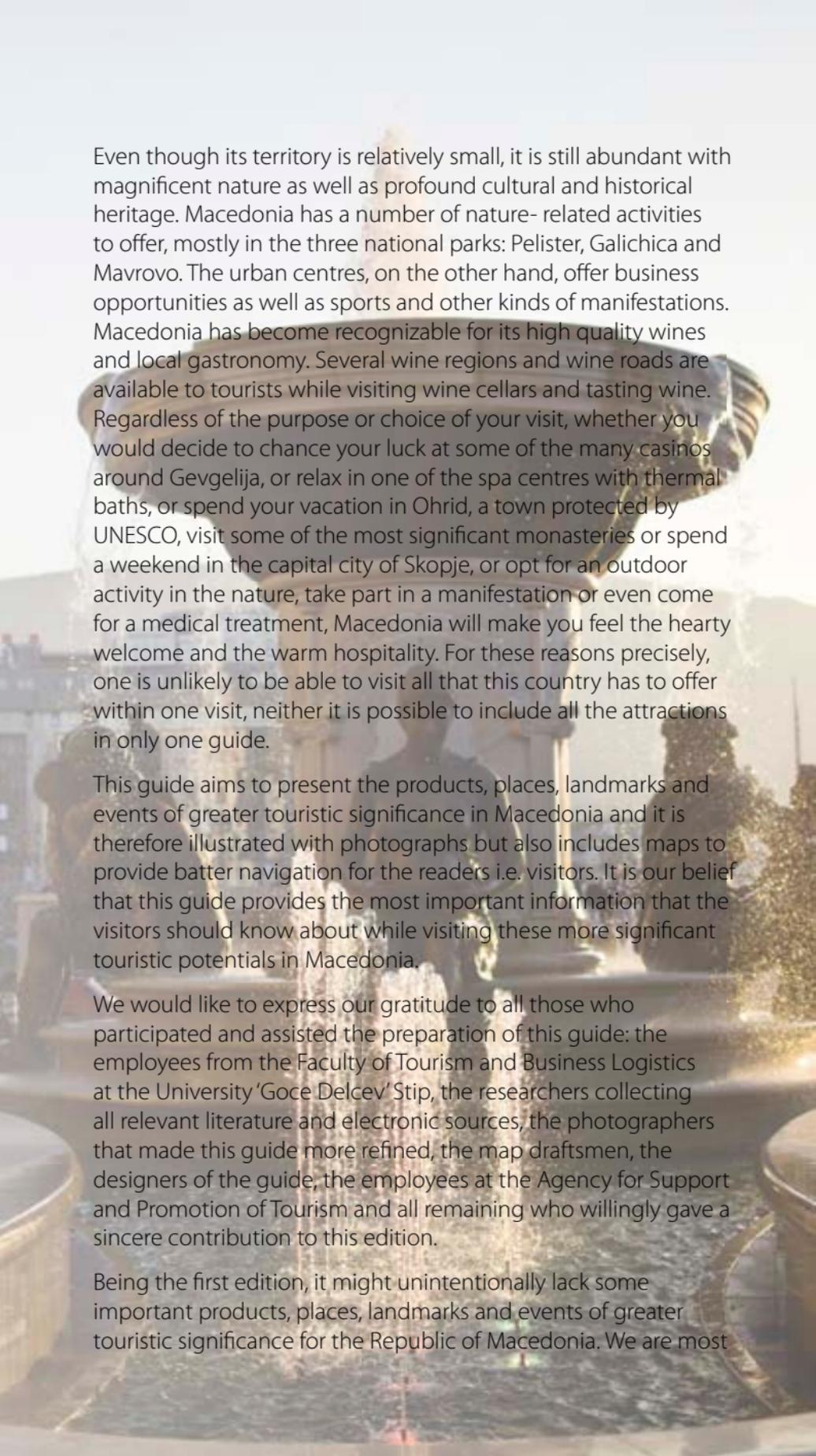
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prologue .....	4
Some practical advice for using this guide .....	6
General information about the Republic of Macedonia .....	8
Famous products .....	13
Famous places in Macedonia .....	42
Landmarks of touristic significance in Macedonia .....	63
Events .....	84
Did you know .....	128

# Prologue

Macedonia is a country with rich history and a great number of various products, places, landmarks and events of significance that have attracted interest and attention of visitors. This country has been the link between the eastern and western worlds for many centuries, not only geographically but also from political and cultural aspect.





Even though its territory is relatively small, it is still abundant with magnificent nature as well as profound cultural and historical heritage. Macedonia has a number of nature-related activities to offer, mostly in the three national parks: Pelister, Galichica and Mavrovo. The urban centres, on the other hand, offer business opportunities as well as sports and other kinds of manifestations. Macedonia has become recognizable for its high quality wines and local gastronomy. Several wine regions and wine roads are available to tourists while visiting wine cellars and tasting wine. Regardless of the purpose or choice of your visit, whether you would decide to chance your luck at some of the many casinos around Gevgelija, or relax in one of the spa centres with thermal baths, or spend your vacation in Ohrid, a town protected by UNESCO, visit some of the most significant monasteries or spend a weekend in the capital city of Skopje, or opt for an outdoor activity in the nature, take part in a manifestation or even come for a medical treatment, Macedonia will make you feel the hearty welcome and the warm hospitality. For these reasons precisely, one is unlikely to be able to visit all that this country has to offer within one visit, neither it is possible to include all the attractions in only one guide.

This guide aims to present the products, places, landmarks and events of greater touristic significance in Macedonia and it is therefore illustrated with photographs but also includes maps to provide better navigation for the readers i.e. visitors. It is our belief that this guide provides the most important information that the visitors should know about while visiting these more significant touristic potentials in Macedonia.

We would like to express our gratitude to all those who participated and assisted the preparation of this guide: the employees from the Faculty of Tourism and Business Logistics at the University 'Goce Delcev' Stip, the researchers collecting all relevant literature and electronic sources, the photographers that made this guide more refined, the map draftsmen, the designers of the guide, the employees at the Agency for Support and Promotion of Tourism and all remaining who willingly gave a sincere contribution to this edition.

Being the first edition, it might unintentionally lack some important products, places, landmarks and events of greater touristic significance for the Republic of Macedonia. We are most

certainly open for suggestions, for which we would be extremely grateful and take all into consideration for printing a second edition of this guide.

From the authors





# Some practical advice for using the guide

This guide has been planned and designed to provide visitors with inspiration and directions when planning a trip in Macedonia in order to organize a way to visit the products, places, landmarks and events of significance. This edition has been illustrated with high quality maps and photographs that would bring the included selected segments closer to you. The guide is divided into four parts which comprises all significant local products, places of touristic significance as well as some important events in Macedonia. Each part is marked with a particular icon and different colour to make the navigation through the guide easier to manage. After the four parts, there is a heading named 'did you know..' where you can find engaging and interesting facts and information about the text in the guide.



It is important to mention that for some of the information included in the guide are true for the time being but they might be subjected to changes. The authors and the publisher would not be held responsible for the experiences that the readers will have during their travels. The security of our readers is of great importance to us and for that reason we advise you to use our guide and be careful during your visit and travel.

This guide will assist you to choose from the wide variety of products, places, landmarks and events, what to visit or where to stay and get the opportunity to closely learn about the Macedonian history, nature, culture, art, religion and local traditions. We are convinced that this guide will assist you- our readers, to reach out for the most significant touristic attractions in Macedonia where we hope you would feel pleasant and comfortable by enjoying the Macedonian hospitality and the authentic lifestyle.



# General information about the Republic of Macedonia

Macedonia is bound by Serbia and Kosovo to the north, Bulgaria to the east, Greece to the south and Albania to the west. The capital city is Skopje with a population of over half a million. Other larger towns in the country are: Bitola, Kumanovo, Prilep, Tetovo, Veles, Shtip, Ohrid, Gostivar, Kichevo, Kavadarci and Kochani. Each of these towns has specific and authentic attractions to offer to the visitors, all recommended to be visited. Macedonia is situated on a total area of 25 713 km<sup>2</sup> with over two million inhabitants. The official language is Macedonian, although in the municipalities where minority communities are present with over 20%, the language of that ethnic group is a second official language. The currency of Macedonia is the Macedonian denar which is convertible to any foreign currency in the exchange offices or banks (1 euro is little over 60 denars).

Most accommodation and entertainment facilities, camps, restaurants, museums, theatres, cinemas and all related commercial objects accept credit card payments. Macedonia is abound with retail commercial stores and old crafts shops as well as modern shopping centres, indoor and outdoor markets, where one can find a wide offer of various goods and products. The largest number of state institutions and headquarters of the Ministries, the Parliament and the Government, the seat of the President of the country, as well as foreign embassies and consulates are located in Skopje. The Macedonian Army and the Ministry of Internal Affairs are responsible for the safety of the country. The relief structure of Macedonia is a predominantly mountainous with many valleys but also a great number of rivers, lakes, caves, canyons, ravines, etc. Over 80% of the entire area is mountainous, while the remaining 20% is flat low surface. The lowest altitude is 44 m near the town Gevgelija, close to the place where the river Vardar leaves the territory of the Republic of Macedonia, while the highest point is Golem Korab peak (2,764 m). Macedonia is a continental country but has a significant number of rivers, 16 mountains higher than 2000 m and more than 50 lakes, three of which have touristic value, Ohrid lake, Prespa lake and Dojran lake with nicely arranged and attractive beaches. Some of the mountains feature modern ski-centres open to visitors both for the winter and summer seasons. The average annual temperature is 11,5 °C, the warmest month of the year is July with an average temperature of 22,1°C while the coldest is January with the average annual temperature of 0,3°C. The climate provides favourable conditions for visits to the more significant places throughout the entire year. Macedonia has got very diverse flora and wild life. Some regions have outstanding vegetation, thick woods, endemic plants and insects, rare animals, birds, reptiles, various fish species, etc.

The following are the Macedonian national holidays:

- 1 January, New Year;
- 7 January, Christmas, first day of the Christmas holiday from the Christian Orthodox church;
- Easter, second day of Easter from the Christian Orthodox church, the date is changeable;
- 1 May, Labour Day;
- 24 May, Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Slavonic Enlighteners' Day;
- Ramazan Bayram, first day of Ramazan Bayram, the date is changeable;
- 2 August, the Day of the Republic;
- 8 September, the Independence Day;
- 11 October, Revolution Day;
- 23 October, Day of the Macedonian Revolution;
- 8 December, St. Clement of Ohrid.

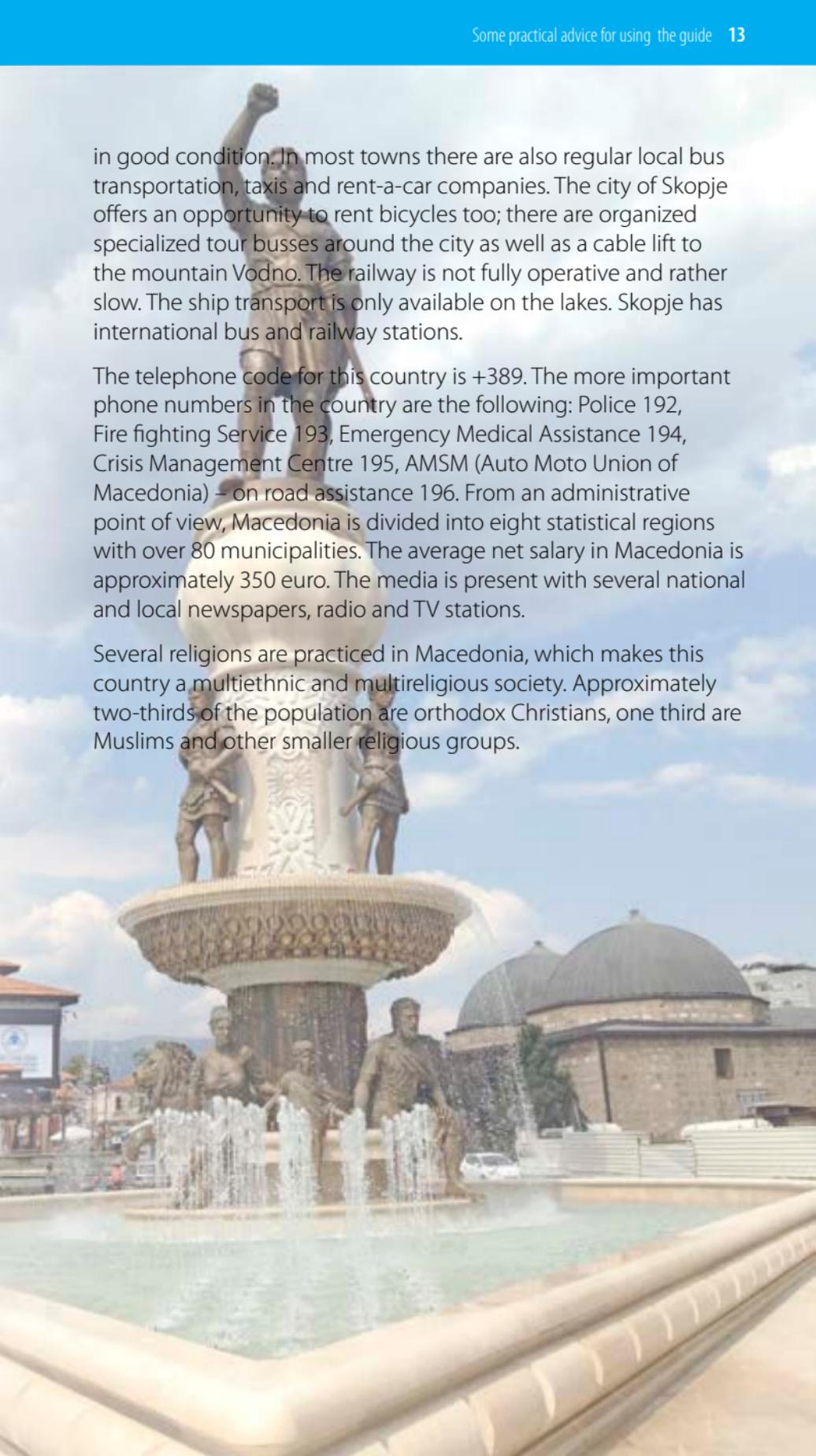
Both the urban and the rural environments in Macedonia offer a wide range of various cultural events and manifestations, museums, galleries and monuments of cultural and historic value. This country has a number of touristic potentials and we recommend that you visit the official web site of the Agency for support and promotion of tourism in the Republic of Macedonia:

**<http://www.tourismmacedonia.gov.mk/> ya da <http://macedonia-timeless.com/>**

There are a number of tourist information centres located in several towns, as well as many licenced tourist guides, over 400 registered tourist agencies that are all at disposal to foreign tourists.

There are 14 state borders to enter Macedonia and two airports, in Skopje and Ohrid. For most European countries, The Republic of Macedonia does not require a visa, neither for Japan, Canada, Australia, USA, etc. The visitors from all parts of the world can use their mobile phones or buy SIM card from some of the local telecommunication operators.

This country has right-hand side traffic with a maximum allowed speed of 50 km per hour in populated settlements, outside of the urban areas with 90 km/h, 110 km/h on the regional roads and 130 km/h on the highways, unless signalized differently with traffic signs. The standard voltage in Macedonia is 220 V. There are regular bus lines to and from all towns in Macedonia on roads



in good condition. In most towns there are also regular local bus transportation, taxis and rent-a-car companies. The city of Skopje offers an opportunity to rent bicycles too; there are organized specialized tour busses around the city as well as a cable lift to the mountain Vodno. The railway is not fully operative and rather slow. The ship transport is only available on the lakes. Skopje has international bus and railway stations.

The telephone code for this country is +389. The more important phone numbers in the country are the following: Police 192, Fire fighting Service 193, Emergency Medical Assistance 194, Crisis Management Centre 195, AMSM (Auto Moto Union of Macedonia) – on road assistance 196. From an administrative point of view, Macedonia is divided into eight statistical regions with over 80 municipalities. The average net salary in Macedonia is approximately 350 euro. The media is present with several national and local newspapers, radio and TV stations.

Several religions are practiced in Macedonia, which makes this country a multiethnic and multireligious society. Approximately two-thirds of the population are orthodox Christians, one third are Muslims and other smaller religious groups.



# Famous products

What to try,  
buy or see

This guide will start presenting the famous Macedonian products, which are in such great number that caused some difficulty to the authors in the process of selection which ones to be included here. The Macedonian products have renowned reputation when it comes to their quality and authenticity and this guide attempts to present the most significant ones to its readers. More than sixty products will be presented here, mostly gourmet specialties famous for their traditional taste and way of preparation, but also several animal and plant species, fruits and vegetables, minerals and artefacts. All of these famous products share one thing in common – they all proudly characterize Macedonia.



**Skopsko.(1)** Skopsko is a beer brewed by Skopska Pivara in Skopje, which dates back to 1922. Some of its famous slogans include: 'Skopsko - Our Best' and 'Skopsko, and everything is possible'. This brewery was founded in Skopje by two Czechs, the engineer Victor Zeiss and the banker Karel Husnik.



## The products from the factory

**Evropa. (2)** The beginning of the Evropa factory is dating back to 1882 as a candy-craft workroom for sweets, Turkish delight and other sugary products. Today it is a leading and contemporary factory for chocolate, waffles, jelly, choco-banana, assorted chocolates, choco Turkish delight, candy, etc.



### The Skopje kebaps. (3)

To make a high quality kebab one should have good meat from a good supplier but most importantly to use the recipe guarded by the cooks for many decades. The kebaps can be made from different kinds of meat i.e. they can be made solely of beef but often in a combination with other kinds of meat. This delicacy is best served with beer. The word 'kebab' and the first recipe here originate from the Arabic cuisine introduced and kept in Macedonia since the Ottoman reign. The most famous restaurants serving kebaps in Skopje are located in the Old Bazaar, such as 'Destan', 'Turist', 'Sarajevo', etc.



### Simit-pogacha. (4)

This loaf is one of the rare delicacies made and sold only in Skopje. If there is any other town in Macedonia selling simit-pogacha other than Skopje it would mean that the cook must be from Skopje or at least trained there. Even though the origin of the name of this delicacy is Turkish, this recipe is only found here. It is said that the old inhabitants of Skopje pronounced it as two separate words, as 'simit' and 'pogacha' (which might be more appropriate than the accepted compound word today). The children tried to pronounce it together as 'simit' and the conjunction 'and' which is 'i' in Macedonian, so it was often pronounced by them as 'simiti pogacha'.



**Boza. (5)** This traditional drink has a very specific and recognizable taste. It is a refreshing, fermented drink made by brewing flour, wheat or millet, sugar and yeast. This drink can be bought in most of the Macedonian candy shops and the person who produces this drink is called 'bozadjija'. This hundred-year old recipe



was brought into our country during the Ottoman Empire reign here. It can be found in many countries on the Balkans. The Macedonian boza is different from the others as it has lighter colour and it is sweeter than the others.

**Pivarki. (6)** These traditional delicacy –pivarki (pastry made with beer) has been prepared by our ancestors and has always had a significant place in our cuisine. This recipe and its name too, have a few possible variations of preparation. The name varies from pivki to pivarki. They are made of flour, beer, sugar, walnuts and water and at the end they are submerged in sugar syrup. Some recipes include a sprinkle of coconut flakes. This delicacy - pivarki are high in their energy value and two of these satisfy the need of sugar per day.



**Turli-tava. (7)** This dish is served in pottery plates. It is most often served with baked pieces of bread and mostly with yellowish-golden rakia (a fruit brandy coloured by some herbs or wooden barrel). This dish is prepared with beef, pork and lamb meat, onions, carrots, marrow, celery, string beans, okra, potatoes and tomatoes.



**Kumanovski meزالak. (8)**

In the past this dish was served with sheep's milk white cheese and tomatoes. Today there are no rules, it is served depending on the taste of the customer. The restaurants in Kumanovo make the best quality of this dish. The meزالak is served in earthenware pan and it is

made of lamb intestines, lamb meat, liver and lung. The internal organs of the lamb that are used for the preparation of this dish used to be washed in the rivers when they were clean and unpolluted. There are different types of meزالak, made with veal or lamb products, but there are ones that are made solely of tripe. These are most often made together with veal or beef.

**Kumanovsko zelyanche. (9)**

This dish is made with minced meat. The recipe includes minced beef meat, onions, peppers, garlic and seasoning. The mixture is shaped into a large burger and it is grilled.



**Saramsaklii. (10)** This dish is a puff pastry which is covered with a topping made of yogurt and garlic. Saramsaklii is made of flour, water, a pinch of salt, oil and yeast. The dough is cut into pieces, and then each part is rolled and spread with margarine to make it puff. These pieces are then formed into small bundles and put into a pan to bake. When these are almost

baked, they are topped with the grinded garlic and sour milk and they are put back into the oven to be fully baked. This recipe is best known in Kriva Palanka.



### Palanechki simit. (11)

The particular white simit is prepared solely in Kriva Palanka, where the mornings in this town are known for the smell of this originally shaped bread. The feature that makes this bread so special is actually the leaven made of chick-pea, which is carefully prepared. Firstly, the chick-peas are grinded, then submerged into hot water and left like that for a few hours. The dough has to be kneaded several times, and then it is left aside for some time in a specific temperature until finally it is ready to be baked in the early hours of the mornings.

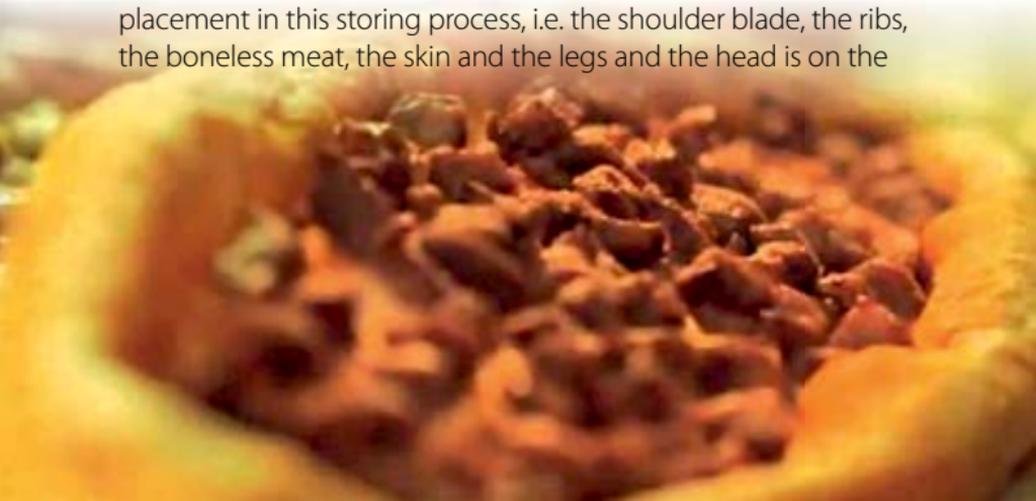


### Kratovska pastrmajlija.

(12) This dish is probably one of the most famous dishes of the Macedonian cuisine prepared with smoked pork meat, dough made of selected Macedonian flour, an optional egg as a topping and always served with hot pickled peppers. Serving this traditional speciality along



with the traditional red wine of the Kumanovo region guarantees a true gourmand's satisfaction. The recipe is very precise; the pastrmajlija is oven baked and the pork meat is preserved by salting the meat, pressing it down with a large plate and stored in a wooden keg. The different pieces of meat have a specific order of placement in this storing process, i.e. the shoulder blade, the ribs, the boneless meat, the skin and the legs and the head is on the





top. After the religious holiday the Forgiveness Sunday the meat is placed for the process of smoking.

### **The Independent Republic of Vevcani. (13)**

This Republic has its own anthem, flag, passport, central bank and money. The currency is named after the religious patron of the village Saint Spas (the Ascension of Jesus), which is also called 'lichnik' in Vevcani (which has the meaning of 'beautiful' in Macedonian). The paper money of the lichnik can be bought today as a souvenir with the value of 1, 2, 5, 10, 50, 100, 500 and 1000 lichniks. The bill of 5 lichniks has the face of Mihajlo Pupin printed on them, due to the fact that his parents lived in Vevcani for a certain period of time.



**Ohrid trout.(14)** Ohrid trout has always lived in the lake Ohrid. During the day it is usually found quite far from the coast of the lake swimming in the depths of the lake, whereas during the night it reaches the surface to feed with insects. It can be occasionally found near



the coast in the shallow waters of the lake looking for food from the underwater plants. There are three subspecies known: letnica (*Salmo letnica Balcanicus*); Struga trout (*Salmo letnica Typicus*), which spawns during the winter, and finally the Ohrid belvica (*Salmo letnica Aestivalis*), which spawns in the summer in the period between May and June and it can only be found in the greatest depths of the lake (up to 200 m). Ohrid trout can be distinguished from the other species of trout, the ones that live in springs, by its flattened body, small head and grey star-shaped spots on the body. The colour of the meat is white but it can also be pink. Its length is from 25 up to 60 cm and it weighs up to maximum 15,8 kg. Ohrid trout is one of Macedonia's most famous symbols and precisely for that reason it is placed on a few bills of the Macedonian denar.

**Ohrid pearl. (15)** The secret to produce this famous pearl is known only to two families in Ohrid, the family Filevi and the family Talevi. These two families have been nourishing the tradition of the Ohrid



pearl for over eighty years. Its production is solely manual. The pearl is not found in a shell, but it is made of the inner part of the shell by grinding it and shaping the pearl in various shapes (ball, teardrop, etc.) and sizes. The second process of making this pearl is the laying over the grain with emulsion which is derived from the scales of the endemic Ohrid Lake Plasica fish. This emulsion is the most specific part of the process. It is laid down with brushes made of natural hair from the tail of a squirrel. It is applied several times depending on the size of the pearl. It is then left to dry and the procedure is repeated. This manual production of this pearl is gradual and in several phases.

**Gomleze. (16)** Gomleze is one of the specialties of Ohrid that has to be on the list while staying in Ohrid. The process of making this dish, from making the dough until it is baked takes whole five hours. It is slightly oriental, made of crusts from both wheat and corn flour and baked in a very traditional manner, covered with a large metal or ceramic lid like a shallow bell with which the dough is covered while ashes and live coals are placed over it to be baked.



**Fish stew. (17)** This very traditional dish in Ohrid is prepared by cooking the fresh fish with salt, black pepper in grain, bay leaves and some lemon. When the fish is well cooked it is taken out from the saucepan to be deboned and the large chunks of meat are put back into the stew. The next step is to fry the roux, made of oil and flour together with

the onions and after the mixture gets a golden colour, one spoon of tomato salca is added and all returned back into the stew. It is seasoned with salt, pepper, vegeta (a season made of mixed vegetables), shredded and fried carrots. If the fish has spawn, it is mashed and put back into the stew.

### **Ohrid boiled bagel. (18)**

This traditional product from Ohrid is a true pleasure with exceptional taste. It is a kind of pastry, ring shaped, usually sprinkled with sesame seeds.



**Macedonian ajvar. (19)** This is a type of salad made of red bell peppers. Ajvar is one of the most famous and delicious specialties from the Balkan's cuisine, originally from Macedonia. It is still prepared in a traditional way (the red bell peppers are roasted on a stove of wood, out in the open) which is a very demanding manual work. It is usually made at the end of the summer or the beginning of the autumn. The red bell peppers (which can be sweet or chilli) are roasted first, then stored in plastic



bags to allow the flesh to separate from the skin. Next, the skin is carefully peeled off and the seeds are removed, then the peeled peers are put into net bags to drain during the night. The next day, they are cut into small pieces, grounded in a mill and finally stewed and fried on low heat. The best ajvar is made in the households since only manual preparation guarantees that the skin is carefully peeled and all the seeds are removed; the most important things to succeed in reaching its ultimate flavour. It is part of the traditional winter supplies in this region. It can easily be preserved for a long period of time.

**Pindjur. (20)** Pindjur is a spicy relish salad and it is usually made during the summer. Pindjur is commonly prepared in Bosnia and Hercegovina, Serbia and Macedonia. The traditional ingredients include: aubergines, tomatoes, peppers, onion, garlic, black pepper,



vegetable oil, sugar and salt, which proves that this region, where ecologically clean vegetables are grown, is suitable for preparation of many recipes, specialties and dishes made with vegetables. Pindjur is similar to ajvar with the main difference that in this specialty is normally made with aubergines. The preparation of this traditional relish is a rather long process which involves baking some of the ingredients for hours, as well as roasting and peeling the peppers.

**Strumka (21)** is a non-alcoholic beverage, a soda that has the longest tradition in this region. Its specific and recognizable flavour of pear makes it unique compared to the other beverages. This non-alcoholic drink has been very popular in the country and the region but it is now slowly but surely entering the European market too.



**Strumica Mastika (22)** is a traditional Macedonian alcoholic drink which is used with pleasure for more than almost 300 years. The best and probably the most original product of Mastika is produced by 'Grozd' from Strumica. The rich flavour of this drink is made from a natural vinegar distillate and the unique flavour of anise. When the traditional Mastika from Strumica, made from the original recipe, when mixed with some



water it turns into a drink with white-silver colour.

### **Figs preserve. (23)**

Traditionally, this particular preserve ('slatko' in Macedonian) is produced in Valandovo, Dojran, and the region around Gevgelja, where this fruit is grown in large quantities. It is prepared as follows: the water and the sugar are placed in a large saucepan until brought to boiling. The figs are carefully placed in the saucepan and cooked on low heat for around 2 hours. The best preparation includes placing the figs in only one layer hence the need of a large saucepan. It should not be stirred but the saucepan should occasionally be shaken. The lemon is well washed and cut into thin rounds. The lemon is added afterwards into the saucepan and boiled for additional half an hour. The slatko is then put in warm jars. After the jars are well closed they are stored in dark and cold place.



**Fish on Reed. (24)** The main food for the old population of Dojran had been fish (fried, grilled, fish on reed, cooked, baked, fish janija (type of mixed vegetables stew), fish stew, fish pie, etc). The best specialty of all has always been the grilled fish on reed or 'riba na trska' in

Macedonian (stuffed with fried onions, parsley and pepper). The preparation requires a normal sized good quality fish (usually a dace or a perch), and reeds that are used for baking the fish should be previously soaked in water. The onion is fried, then the finely-cut parsley and the black pepper are added. The fish is cut in the stomach, from the head to the tail, salted and coated with oil and then put on the prepared reeds on one side to be grilled (the reed prevents the fish to be overcooked) and then the reeds are



attached on the other side and return to the grill. After the fish is fully cooked (the preparation usually includes several fish on reed) it is served on the table.



**Pastramajlija (25)** is a Macedonian dish which is a specific pie made of dough and meat usually made in Sveti Nikole, Veles, Kratovo, Radovish and Shtip. The

traditional **Stipska**

**pastramajlija (26)**

has a long shape with cut pieces of meat in the middle. The name is derived from the word 'pastrma' which means salted and dried sheep or lamb meat.



**Maleshevski zelnik (pie). (27)**

This dish originates from the Malesheviya region hence its name. It prepares as follows: the yeast is dissolved in some water and then you add some salt and sugar. The flour is put in a basin and the yeast is added to make soft dough. The dough is kneaded until it no longer sticks to the hands and it is then left to rise until it doubles its size. It is divided into 10 dough balls, but one of the dough balls needs to be slightly bigger than the others because the first rolled



crust should be bigger than the size of the baking pan. Smaller crusts are rolled from the remaining dough balls. Every second crust is sprinkled with oil and the next crust is laid over. One bigger crust is rolled from two of such prepared crusts. The first and biggest rolled crust is laid first in a greased baking pan, while the remaining ones are as big as the bottom of the pan.



Each crust is sprinkled with oil and crumbled white cheese is added. The crusts are then torn one by one and placed by the walls of the pan. The largest crust is then fitted in the pan by folding the over-laid part of it. The foldings of this crust should cover the torn parts of the other crusts by leaving a hole in the middle of the pan. In this hole you put the previously fried greens with some white cheese, leaving it to rise for a while and it is then baked in preheated oven on 200°C. When it gets some colour the temperature is decreased to 150°C. After it is baked, two spoons of preheated oil and some water are sprinkled on top of it and it is covered with a foil to soften. After 10 minutes it is ready to be served.

**Madjun. (28)** This is a traditional product of the Tikvesh region,

a Tikvesh grape honey preserve – madjun. The younger generations of this part of the country tell a story of how their ancestors lived a long and healthy life due to this recipe of madjun. It is said that madjun not only has a regenerative influence on the liver



and the bladder but also immune-simulative effect which has been proven over the years. It gives energy, improves health and the blood in particular as well as many other positive effects.

**Tikvesh Lozova Rakija (Tikvesh Yellow Grape Brandy). (29)** This spirit is made of grapes with alcohol percentage of 40 promilles (‰). This brandy is aged in oak barrels in special conditions, having the epithet Macedonia's finest aperitif.

**The grape (30)** is a very delicious and healthy fruit, mostly grown in the Tikvesh region in Macedonia. Not only it is refreshing, but it is also a natural source for regulation of the blood, the digestion, reducing the fats, treatment of inflammations in the digestion tract, as well as reducing the rheumatic diseases and skin allergies. The freshly made juice of grapes is rich in vitamin A, B and C as well as many minerals. It is a natural tonic for the body in addition to being very nutritious. It is an energetic product since it contains around 20% sugar. Grapes are a very important bioflavonoids source protecting the body from the harmful effects of the free radicals, which can be the cause for many diseases, including cancer. Hence, we can freely conclude that the grapes have anti-cancer effect. Due to the great number of antioxidants, this fruit has a very powerful effect against bacteria, viruses, inflammations and allergies.



### The Violins from Veles. (31)

The painter Svetozar Bogdanovski from Veles and his family are the unique violin makers in the country and a rarity in the Balkans. Their masterpieces are used by both students and professional artists. The violins are made of maple and from acoustic spruce. The makers make their own gloss paint with specifically prepared ethereal oils and resins.



### The pitcher from Veles.(32)

Pottery and the production of pitchers are the spirit of the town of Veles. This traditional craft has succeeded to survive over the years regardless of the many challenges of time it had to face.



And still remains the symbol of the town. The poor families in the past were the ones who worked with pottery. Koco Racin, who is one of the greatest Macedonian poets, used to be a potter and considered pottery as one of the oldest arts. Pottery requires special skills for moulding with the hands as well as a sense of aesthetics. The clay is shaped manually with the use of the moulding stilts and objects like pitchers, jugs, pans, pipkins are made and then baked in special ovens. Finally, they are decorated with paintings.

**Gozleme. (33)** This dish is quite rich in calories and therefore usually prepared in winter. In Macedonia it originates from Veles. It is made of crusts with a topping of pork meat. It goes quite well with red wine but for those who do not prefer alcohol, it is usually consumed with yogurt or sour milk. The preparation begins with the dough, made with some salt and yeast and then follows a short period when it has to be left aside to rise. Then it is divided into pieces and 10 to 12 crusts are made whose size should depend on

the size of the baking pan. Following personal preferences, finely chopped meat is laid on every third or fifth crust. Melted pork lard is sprinkled on every crust which gives an original and unique taste, but margarine or oil can also be used instead of the lard. Then gozleme is cut into little squares and then topped with finely chopped pork meat and finally baked in heated oven until it is fully baked.



**The Peach from Rosoman. (34)** This fruit is excessively used raw, in smoothies, as a preserve or jam. In the country of Macedonia, it is grown in the area of Rosoman. The peaches from Rosoman are not only sold on the domestic market but also in Romania, Croatia, Russia, Belarus, Ukraina, etc.



**Jajcharnik (Egg Pie). (35)** This traditional dish from Veles is made with stale bread, eggs, onions, milk and sour cream. The bread is cut into flat pieces and the crusts are removed; the baking pan is then buttered and the pieces of bread are laid. The onions



should be finely cut, the cheese is grinded and laid on the pieces of bread. The eggs are whisked in a larger container and then the sour cream and the milk are added, whisked all together. This mixture is poured on the bread in the baking pan and baked in a preheated oven.

### Sunflower oil 'Kristal'. (36)

This edible oil is produced using state-of-the-art technology for processing and refining oils made of the high quality sunflower seeds from the Macedonian fields. This oil has a distinctive flavour, a recognizable appearance and smell. The oil has preserved its quality over the years and has received many recognitions, golden medals and cups. The brand itself is the guaranty of the top quality of this product. It has been offered as a product by the industry 'Blagoj Gorev' from Veles since 1923.



### Sesame Tahini Halva from

**Veles.(37)** The sesame tahini halva from Veles is a product that is recognized with the well-known brand 'Kristal'. It is made of high quality tahini (processed sesame seeds) and glucose syrup and with addition of active substances (oil of sesame seeds). The long tradition and the preserved quality over the years are due to the persistence in following the instructions of the best men in the confectionery business. There is an additional product with an addition of cocoa, and it is called a cocoa halva, as opposed of the basic white halva.



### Potbelly stew from Bitola.

**(38)** In the Balkan region these recipes date back to the Ottoman Empire. This traditional recipe has been passed on for many generations in the region around Bitola. The belly is put into a large container filled with cold water



together with a veal leg. It is boiled on a medium temperature and the foam is gradually removed from the pot in the process of cooking. Carrots, pepper and salt are added in the pot only when the foam is completely removed from the surface. The belly is boiled until is soft, which is around 2 to 3 hours with a slightly opened lid. If the belly is young enough it can get soft in a shorter period of time. The belly is then removed from the stew but the bone if left to cook until the meat can be removed from the bone easily. Next, the contents are poured through a sieve and the belly is cut into squares 3x3 cm and put back into the stew. Then some flour and some salt are added into the soup and it is put to boil for 10 more minutes. Grinded garlic with salt and vinegar is usually served with this stew. This mixture is left aside for the people to add according to their personal preferences.

**Traditional dip.(39)** The Macedonian traditional dip is prepared in the following way: The peeled garlic is put into a mortar, salt is added and it is mashed until it turns into a paste. One spoon of oil is added and the mashing continues with a wooden pestle. Then some warm water is added



and all is mashed together. A whitish liquid floats on the surface and then the cold water and vinegar is added. At the very end, the raw chilly green peppers are added. It is of great importance, for this specialty the garlic to be fresh, which makes the dip richer in flavour and colour.



**Burek (pie). (40)** Burek is a type of pastry introduced into this region during the Ottoman Empire. This pie can be made with white cheese, minced meat or vegetable filling. It is prepared in a larger round or square baking pan and it is cut into quarters or eights and sold in such pieces. It naturally goes well with yogurt or sour milk. The burek makers nowadays continue to make further filling experiments, such as with cold meats, cheese, ketchup, mushrooms, cream, etc.

**The white cheese from Bitola. (41)** The white cheese from Bitola is similar to feta cheese but it is a type of cheese made in Macedonia which is normally kept in salt preserve. This type of cheese is highly valued in the cuisines of the region and it plays



an important role in the traditional diet in Macedonia for many centuries now. The white cheese can be made from sheep's, goat's or cow's milk but it can quite often be made of a combination of two of these. The cheese is crumbly with an average 40-45% fat. It is made in moulds with granular composition and fresh and lemon like flavour. It is consumed as a separate product or as an addition to salads or other roasted dishes. The Bitolska Dairy company is the best known producer of white cheese, cheese and dairy products.

**Beer Bitolsko. (42)**

The Bitolsko beer is a pale leger beer, brewed by German technology for beer production. It is produced and bottled in glass and plastic bottles of 0,5 l, 0,33 l and 1,5 litres.

**Prilep's Shirden.**

**(43)** The shirden is the lining of the stomach of a young lamb. The preparation of this dish takes about two hours and many ingredients are needed. It is prepared in the following way:

one finely chopped onion is first fried in a pan and then chopped pork and beef meat in small pieces is added. It needs a fine stirring in the process. Then finely chopped smoked bacon is added last into the pan. Finely chopped garlic is put aside. We add water in a pan together with dried peppers. In the content of the pan we add salt and pepper and stir all together. After a few moments, we remove the pan from fire and replace its content into a bigger saucepan. Rice is added into it. The prepared garlic is also added. Then we add paprika and some seasoning. We cut the dried peppers and they are added into the saucepan. 250 ml of beer is put afterwards and all contents are well stirred. We add some more salt and pepper.

Then the mixture is put into the shirdens with a spoon. Each shirden is closed with a toothpick. The shirdens are arranged in an earthenware pot. Each shirden is pierced



with a toothpick couple of times so they won't crack during baking. Then we add some water into the pot where the meat was fried and we add it in the baking pot. Some more beer is added too. It should be covered with a lid and baked in an oven at 180°C for 90 min.

**Gazoza. (44)** This soda-like soft drink is a beverage with a pear flavour. The producer is Prilepska Brewery, founded in 1924.



**Zlaten dab. (45)**

This high quality beer has a golden yellow colour. It offers pleasant bitterness and pure taste, produced with of 11% malt and a content of 4, 5% volume alcohol. The producer is Prilepska Brewery and it is made of the following ingredients: water, barley malt, hop and brewer's yeast.



**The apples from Resen. (46)**

Apples are greatly cultivated in Europe, North America and Australia today, in large farms using modern agricultural technologies. The apples from Resen, as our Macedonian pride, are available on the world markets. All consumers of these apples worldwide have instantly fallen for their freshness and red colour. The apple orchards from Resen and Prespa, which produce from 80 to 100 thousand tons annually, are exported mainly in Serbia, Russia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria and Iraq.



### The apples from Tetovo. (47)

The apples grown around Tetovo have many synonyms, such as Demirka, Mirisavka, Kandile, Belo kandile, etc. It is an old domestic sort originating from Tetovo. It has been spread throughout

Macedonia, but also in Serbia, Kosovo, Bosnia, Albania and Bulgaria. The tree has a lush crown and lives for over 100 years. The flowering is quite late and avoids the spring frosts. The fruit is large with an average weight of 170 g. and usually symmetric. The fruit skin is thin, smooth



and waxed with greenish colour but turns yellow when ripe with flushes of red colour on the sun side. The fruit flesh is white, coarse, medium juicy, sweet and not too sour and very aromatic. It is easy for transportation and its shelf life is until May. It fully ripens in October but it can be consumed in November.

**Cironka. (48)** This dish is prepared with the fish *Salmo ohridanus* (the local name is Belvica) and exclusively with fresh fish. Right after the fish is brought from the lake, they are washed and are heavily salted until the fish turns white with salt. They are laid down in a pan and left like that for



six to seven days. Nothing else but possibly some nettle can be added into the pan. After the week, the fish are threaded just like peppers are traditionally dried in Macedonia and left to be dried. The threading is always done on the head of the fish. They're left to dry on sunny weather for several days and can be used throughout the winter period. Cironka is baked well on both sides and put in hot water. The water should be changed at least two times for the salt to dissolve and not to be too salty. They are put in a 'pajncá' (a

local dialect word for a dish) and it is served with some peppermint, pepper and possibly with oil and vinegar. Some prefer to add garlic too. After the final preparation, it should be left for a while to absorb the liquids as they turn soft and are the perfect 'meze' (local word for a selection of small dishes served to accompany alcoholic drinks). They can be served with makalo too.

### The pie from

**Krushevo. (49)** This traditional dough specialty originates from Krushevo. The dough is divided into 14 small balls. Then these balls are grouped in two parts of seven balls. Each ball is made into a crust and some margarine is spread on each. These



seven crusts are laid one above the other and then one big crust is made. On the top the filling is added, which can vary based on the taste. On the top of the filling, the second big crust is laid made in the same manner as the first one with the remaining seven balls. The pie is baked in a heated oven on 200 to 250 °C for about fifteen minutes. This pie is usually served with yogurt or sour milk.

### The sausage from

**Krushevo. (50)** The traditional and well known sausage from Krushevo is prepared in a standard procedure but, according to the locals from Krushevo, the secret of the specific taste is the specific manner of preparation and



the seasoning. It is made with pork and veal meat and a lot of seasoning which makes its specific spicy taste. Apart from the meat, that should be finely chopped or coarsely minced, this sausage also includes leeks, bukovec (a mixture of a variety of grounded dried spicy peppers), pepper, salt, dried seasoning and herbs.

### Lokum from Krushevo (Turkish delight). (51)

This well-known Turkish delight was first produced over a century ago, and since then nothing has been changed in the process of production as well as the ingredients, the recipe and the taste.

Gorgi Tagas is the person who brought in the secret of this recognition of Krushevo. This man learned about the craft

of making sweets in Thessaloniki a century ago and eventually brought the recipe in Krushevo. When he returned to Krushevo and started producing this lokum, the news about this delicacy reached even to the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. Ever since Tagas, the recipe has remained unchanged since the recipe was carefully transferred first to his son Kiro and later to his son-in-law.



**The beans from Tetovo. (52)** The beans from Tetovo is a high quality product with a specific taste and rich protein value. The Tetovo beans is characterized with 9 to 12 millimetres length, white colour and thin skin which does not separate from the bean,



and it is cooked in a short period of time. The beans in Dolni Polog are always planted together with corn, and present in the country on approximately 5,000 hectares. The average yield is from 1,500 to 2,000 kilograms, or in optimal conditions even to 2,500 kilograms per hectare i.e. the average annual yeast is over 7,000 tons. Together with Gorni Polog these numbers are doubled. The needs of our country have been estimated from 6,000 to 7,000 thousand tons. Therefore, the area in Polog can produce over 10,000 tons of beans and completely eliminate the export.

**Tavche gravche (baked beans). (53)** This traditional dish is prepared in the following way: first the beans are thoroughly washed and soaked in plenty of water for some time and then put to boil. After the first boiling, you should drain the beans and start again with fresh warm water and leave them to cook just to the point to which the bean remains whole. Then after some onions are fried in a separate pan, red pepper is added in it, stirred and the content is added in the saucepan with the beans. One whole dried pepper is added in the saucepan to cook with the beans. Pepper, garlic and salt are optional depending on personal taste. Before the beans are fully cooked, some flour, oil, mint herbs and parsley are added in the saucepan. When the beans are cooked the content is put into an earthenware pan and the dish is baked carefully in an oven so that they do not become dry.





**Sharplaninec (54)** is a dog breed of livestock guardian type. It is a Macedonian national breed named after the Shar Mountain. This breed was first registered and recognized by the World Kinology Federation in 1939 as an Illyrian shepherd dog. The sharplaninec features great skills and resilience to low temperatures, geographical isolation, livestock guarding as well as managing well with wild animals. Several scientists used to claim that this breed originated from Asia, but it has been proven that its origin is from the Balkans, precisely from the Macedonian mountains Shar Mountain, Bistra, Stogovo. The sharplaninec has shown endurance to the severe conditions of the Macedonian mountains, where they have lived for many centuries. According to historical data, the ancestor of the sharplaninec comes from Tibet, the foot of the Himalayas. The sharplaninec is found here today as they set out to an endless trip following their masters. The sharplaninec finally reached the Balkans together with the army of the Alexander the Great. The name derives from the Shar Mountain, where it prevails today. It was first shown in Ljubljana in 1926. In 1939 the sharplaninec was registered under the record number 41 in the list of all dog breeds compiled by the International Kinology Federation.

### Carnivorous plant - *Drosera rotundifolia*.

(55) This plant is popularly known as 'muvolovka', it feeds on insects and it is found in the vicinity of Pehchevo. The insects are usually attracted by its red colour and the luminous drops of gelatinous matter that is extracted from the plant. This plant uses its enzymes to dissolve the attached insects and feeds on the nutrients from their bodies.



The plant **Ramonda Nathaliae** (56) is found in the territory around the canyon Matka. The special features of Ramonda Nathaliae is that even if this plant dries out it has a change to revive by watering. There are only two flower plant species of this kind that possess this feature using anabiosis.



**The cheese from Galichnik.** (57) Galichnik is highly appreciated by its good quality local yellow cheese (the local name is 'kashkaval') that is produced in the foot of the mountain Bistra as well as the local salt brine white cheese (the local name is 'belo sirenje'). It is still



produced in a traditional manner, with a unique quality and fragrance but also more expensive than the other brands. The locals in Galichnik process the milk in teleme, which is a mixture that further is divided in parts for production of yellow cheese, white cheese, whey, etc. The

teleme is brought in a storage house early in the morning and the production of the yellow cheese begins. To preserve the quality and taste of this cheese takes a lot of time and complicated procedure. The salting process is two to three times a day, for 40 to 50 days. Then the salt dissolves slowly. The cheese is then washed and dried for 5 to 6 days. The next step is placing it on decks exposed to sun directly so it would release its natural fat and it wouldn't go rancid. After this step, the cheese is stored well in a warehouse, one above the other so it ages well without going bad.

### **Honey from Kriva Palanka.**

**(58)** The honey originating from this region is of several kinds: mountain, meadow and locust honey. The purity of the honey is high due to its origin of pristine mountainous surroundings.



**Sharska burger. (59)** This dish is very traditional and made with minced meat. The preparation is as follows: the meat is mixed well with finely chopped onions, salt, pepper and all ingredients are kneaded together as dough and the content is left aside for 15 minutes. Cheese is then added to the mixture,



either chopped in small squares or grinded, and all is mixed again by adding some oil. When the final mixture is done, the grill is prepared, the burgers are made, weighing from 180 to 200 grams, and they are grilled (these can also be fried).

**Crushed salt. (60)** This product (the local name is k'cana sol) originates from Kratovo and the surrounding region. It is made with many herbs, usually more than 10. It is consumed with bread and as a side dish with



various dishes. The secret of kcana salt is in the autochthonous seeds of herbs used here for many centuries and also in their harvest. Each herb is cut with special knives, with blades made of wood to preserve their chemical content. The very unique bread called the peta is made with kcana salt. This bread is baked in wood, made with oil and a sprinkle of kcana sol.

### **Ohrid cherry. (61)**

The uniqueness and the specific taste of this fruit is precisely founded in the Ohrid region where it originates.



### **Kochani rice. (62)**

Rice is mainly produced in the region around Kochani in Macedonia, where rice is cultivated at around 3,000 hectares (the greatest production ever recorded was at 6,000 hectares). The average yield is around 5,500 kg per hectare. The best known rice types of the Kochani valley are: Monticeli, P76/6, San Andrea, Prima riska and Montesa.



**Sunflower oil 'Brilijant. (63)** This oil is produced using state-of-the-art technology by its company that has created a well-known, innovative and competitive brand in the food industry. It is refined sunflower oil with a distinctive flavour. The great number of medals and recognitions serve as a proof of the outstanding quality of the Brilijant company.



**The leek** is a vegetable that belongs to the vegetable family called the Allium vegetables. In the village Zrnovci, near Kochani, the well-known **Leeks from Zrnovci**, are cultivated, with an exceptional taste due to the very favourable conditions of the region. In the village **Gradoshorci (65)**, near Strumica, around 20 tons of leeks are cultivated here, which makes this location the greatest producer of leeks in Macedonia.



**Klisi with leeks. (66)** This dish is prepared with chopped pork meat. The meat is first salted and left aside for about half an hour. The meat is then placed in a medium sized pan with a lid. Then some olive oil, lemon, pepper, chopped peppers, a few bay leaves and white wine is added in the pan.



Some lard is melted and put on top of all ingredients. The pan is then closed with the lid, strongly shaken so all ingredients are well mixed. This procedure is repeated several times, every half an hour. During this process of marinating, the pan is placed in a saucepan with warm water so the lard does not become solid. A few drops of olive oil are put in a frying pan. The meat is taken out of the pan and fried in the frying pan on medium heat. In the meantime, the

leeks are finely chopped and put to marinate. When the meat is well fried, the leek with the rest of the marinade is added and fried for about 5 minutes. It is usually served in the frying pan directly on the serving table, served with fresh bread and wine.

**Maleshevsko sirenje (white cheese).**(67)

The recipe of the famous white cheese from the Maleshevija region is as old as the region itself. The shepherders from Berovo jealously keep the secret of this product. The cheese has a remarkable taste, mostly due to the meadows of this region, characterized with



greenery, wide valleys and clean air. The milk from these sheep, cows and goats is used to produce the most famous specialties of the Maleshevija region: Maleshevsko (Berovsko) white cheese, hard cheese, white brined cheese, cheese (kashkaval), bulamach (a kind of cheese spread), curd cheese, buttermilk, etc.

**Kachamak.** (68) Kachamak is an original and traditional dish from the Balkans and it has a few names throughout this region: kachamak, bakardan or palenta. The main ingredients for the preparation of this dish are: corn flour, water and salt. It is served with cheese, sour milk, yogurt or kaymak (a creamy dairy product) as an ideal and tasty breakfast, side dish or dinner.



# Famous places in Macedonia

## What to visit and not to miss



As a country with rich natural and cultural heritage, Macedonia has gained affirmation and popularization. A great number of its landmarks have been protected by law in the country, but also internationally, by placing some of the sites on the UNESCO list. This guide includes around forty significant natural and cultural-historical places that we consider should be visited during a stay in Macedonia.

**Jasen (1)** is a nature reserve in the north-western part of Macedonia, proclaimed a reserve in 1958 only in the part of the mountain Karadjica, while in 1960 this protected area reached to Suva Gora. This reserve stretches across



the canyon over the river Treska, the canyon Matka, Katlanovsko Blato, the reservoirs: lakes Kozjak, Matka and Sveta Petka. The entire area is inhabited by diverse vegetation and wildlife, including species such as mountain goats, bears, lynx, etc. and it is also home to various bird species such as hazel grouse, griffon vulture, owl, etc. The Jasen reserve, which stretches across 32,000 m<sup>2</sup> area, is mainly covered with woods and roads with a large number of shorter mountain tracks. Apart from being famous for its hunting expeditions, Jasen is focused on the development of the natural resources and eco-tourism. The main activities are hiking, off-road cycling, camping around the lakes Matka and Kozjak, parachuting, fishing, speleology, mountain climbing.



The mountain **Vodno (2)** is located in the Skopje valley, in the northern part of Macedonia and it is a popular destination for recreation for the citizens and visitors of Skopje. The highest point of the mountain is at Krstovar peak, on 1066 meters, where the Millennium Cross is located. There is an availability of cable transport with the same name. This mountain has a rich vegetation and wildlife. Regarding the vegetation on Vodno mountain, you can find deciduous and evergreen plants. The deciduous vegetation on Vodno offers wild chestnut, elm trees, lime tree, oak, hornbeam tree etc. From the evergreen plants here, the pine prevails, on the both sides of the mountain Vodno.

**Matka (3)** is the canyon on the river Treska, which is the right tributary to Vardar and occupies an area of around 5,000 ha, located 17 kilometres south-west from Skopje. By its morphogenetic characteristic, it is a breakthrough gorge. The krastic forms here deserve special attention, the ten caves with their length ranging between 20 and 176 meters and the two vertical chasms with a depth up to 35 meters. From the total number of 1000 species, 20% are endemic or relic species. Two new species of real spiders and 5 false scorpions have been discovered in the area of Matka. This canyon has been registered to be the home to 119 of day and 140 night species of butterflies. It is also important to mention



that in area of Matka Canyon there are 77 species of Balkan endemic small butterflies, while an additional 18 other species are still new to the science. The peculiarities of the terrain and the difficult accessibility, which signified better security in the past, resulted in the building of many churches and monasteries, making Matka gain the name of Little Mount Athos.

**Vrutok (4)** is the gorge, the water streams of the biggest and the longest river in Macedonia, Vardar. The gorge, named after the village Vrutok, is located in the municipality of Gostivar, in the southwest part of the Polog Valley, at an altitude of 683 meters.

The name itself, Vrutok, means 'stream' which is the origin of the name of the place where Vardar rises. There are a few fish ponds and traditional restaurants in this region, where local food is served.



**Demir Kapija Canyon (5)** on the river Vardar is named after the town Demir Kapija. This canyon is 31,5 kilometres long, from

the point where river Boshava flows into the Vardar River up to the village Udovo. The Demir Kapija Canyon is a mountainous one, from the east side separated with parts of the mountains Serta and Gradeshka, while from the west side it is enclosed by the



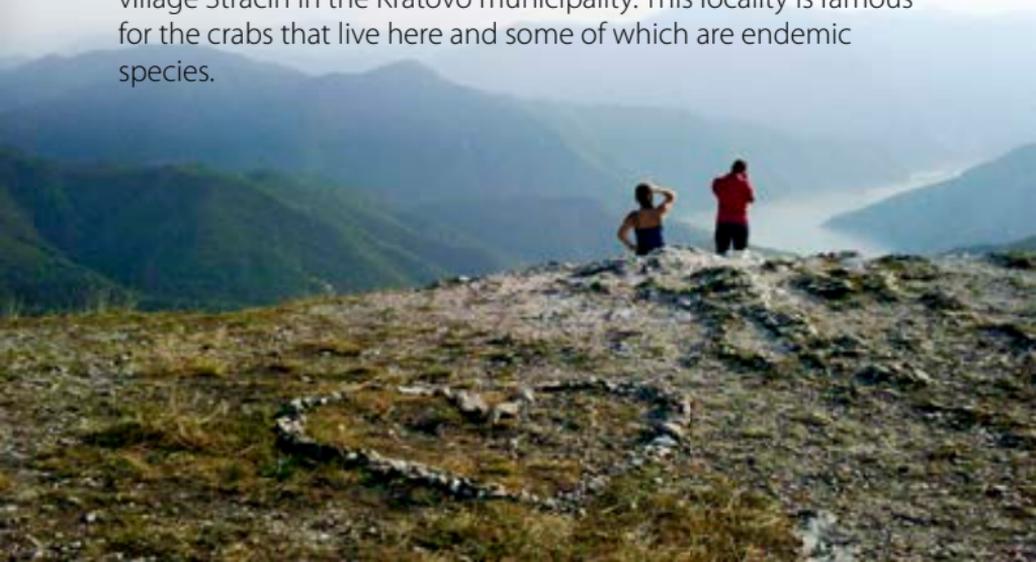
mountains Krastavec and Kozuv. The Demir Kapija Canyon is made of lime from the Mesozoic era from the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods. The lime is characterized with grey to light blue colour and it almost vertically goes up the river Vardar with 85 degrees on the entrance of the canyon. The Demir Kapija canyon features influence of the Mediterranean climate. As a result of this climate, this region



is characterised with vegetation particular for this climate type. There are various wild animals such as roe deer, rabbit, fox, badger, wolf, partridge, etc. Apart from these, in this part of Vardar lives the most remarkable sheatfish, a legendary biggest fish that can reach up to 100 kg. There are 13 caves in this canyon, the most famous being Bela Voda (White Water Cave) and Zmejovec.

**Nature reserves (6)** There are four nature reserves in Macedonia, all protected by law. **Ezerani (7)** is a reserve located on the north cost of the Prespa lake, in the proximity of the village with the same name as the lake. This reserve is the oldest, proclaimed as such in 1996. The reserve **Tikvesh (8)** is located on the south cost of the Tikvesh lake and its surroundings and it is characterised with 39 species of predatory birds. The reserve **Lokvi (9)** is located in the proximity of the village Golemo Konjari, in the Prilep municipality and it represents the last remnant of a once enormous swamp where the endemic Pelagonia dragon crab lives, the worldwide endemic species found in this area only.

**Ploce Litotelmi (10)** is a reserve located two kilometres from the village Stracin in the Kratovo municipality. This locality is famous for the crabs that live here and some of which are endemic species.



### Gradski Park (City Park) (11)

is a public park in Skopje and it is the largest one in the country. Its beginnings started in XIX century. The culture of garden arrangements and cultivation of flowers in Macedonia dates back to the existence



of the nation itself, but greenery of public character in Skopje started at the end of the XIX century and the beginning of the XX century together with the first existing data of this city park.

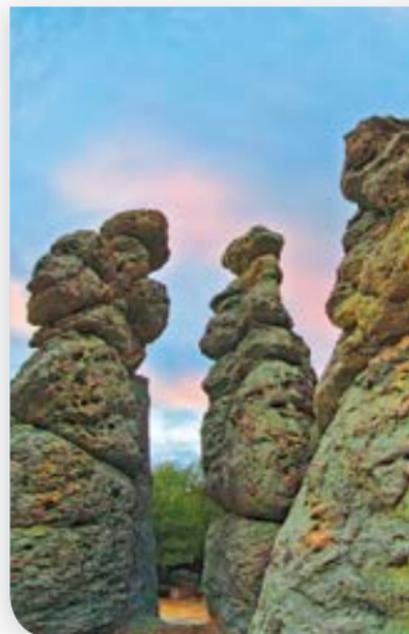
**National Parks. (12)** In the south-western part of the Republic of Macedonia, on an area of 12 500 hectares, the **National Park Pelister (13)** is located. The highest peak is Pelister which is 2,601 meters high. It abounds with various types of relief shapes, but certainly the most remarkable ones are the so-called stone rivers. Regarding the hydrographical properties, the two glacial lakes are of special attraction - Big and Small Lake on Pelister called 'Pelister Eyes'. Speaking of the vegetation of Pelister we may freely say that it is quite diverse therefore it has specific botanical significance.





**National Park Mavrovo (14)** occupies an area of 73 088 hectares which makes it the largest one among the three national parks in Macedonia. The boundaries of the National Park Mavrovo include the mountains: Korab, Deshat, south-western slopes of the Shar Mountain, most of the Bistra mountain and the northern parts of Krchin. The central part of the National Park Mavrovo occupies the valley and the flow of the river Radika. **The National Park Galichica** is located in the south-western part of the country dividing the Ohrid lake and the Prespa Lake.

**Kameni Kukli (Stone Dolls) (16)** is an outstanding natural phenomenon which occurred in combination of erosion and climate impacts in the area. They are located in the village Kuklica, in the proximity of the Kratovo municipality. The interesting resemblance of these large earthen pillars to human figures, ordered together as 'stoned wedding guests', there is a legend among the locals called 'the happy wedding'. An occurrence of such 'wedding' is a world rarity of its kind. The creation of this kind of terrestrial pyramids or stone dolls, typical for Kuklica, implies a rare combination of geological, geomorphologic, climatic and vegetation (growing) conditions. Therefore, this locality is protected as a natural rarity.



## Berovsko Lake

**(17)** or Ratevsko Lake is a man-made lake located in the Maleshevija region in the vicinity of the village Ratevo i.e. the town Berovo, hence the existing living names of the lake. Many touristic accommodation



capacities have been built near the lake due to the favourable location and the clean and pristine nature. Among the attractive holiday and excursion places here, we can mention Ablanica and Suvi Laki with many private villas and cottages.

**Tectonic lakes in Macedonia (18)** The biggest and the lake of greatest significance in Macedonia, one of Europe's deepest and oldest lakes, is the Ohrid Lake. It is characterized with rich history, culture, archaeological findings and natural beauty. Due to these characteristics, in 1980 the Ohrid Lake and the town Ohrid were declared World cultural heritage, under the protection of UNESCO. The lake's total surface area is 358,2 km<sup>2</sup>, it is 30,8 km long, with 14,8 km wide at its maximum extent. The shoreline length is 87,5 km. The maximum depth is up to 289 m. The lake is located in a deep and closed valley with mountain Galichica (2,288 m) on the east and the Jablanica (2,257 m) on the west side. The surface elevation of the lake is 695 m. The shores of Ohrid Lake have been inhabited since prehistoric times and the oldest archaeological settlements date back to the Neolithic period, around 6,000 years BC.





**Prespa Lake's (19)** surface area is 284 km<sup>2</sup>, with an elevation of 853 m and the maximum depth is 54 m and it is regarded as the cleanest lakes in the world. From the total surface of the lake, 65% belong to the Republic of Macedonia, 18% to Albania and 17% to Greece. There are two islands in the Great Prespa Lake: Golem Grad – Large Town (Sv. Petar) with a total surface area of 1 km<sup>2</sup>, located very close to the tripoint state borders and it belongs to Macedonia. The island is characterized by its century-old juniper trees (*Juniperus foetidissima*) as well as by the abundance of archaeological findings and it is protected by law as a natural rarity. There is also a smaller island in Albania, called Mal Grad - Small Town (St. Paul).

The smallest tectonic lake in Macedonia is the **Dojran Lake (20)** located in the south-eastern part of the country with an area of 43.1 km<sup>2</sup>. The lake stands at an elevation of 148 m. It is not characterized with a great depth, the



maximum one being only 10 m. while the average is 6,7 m. The Dojran Lake is a eutrophic lake due its high biological productivity. The living species here include spineless (protozoa, or unicellular organisms, sponges, worms, valves, arthropods, insects, etc.) as well as vertebrates (fish, amphibian, reptiles, birds and mammals). 12 endemic species of fauna are registered in Dojran Lake. Out of the 15 fish species, one is registered as local endemic type.



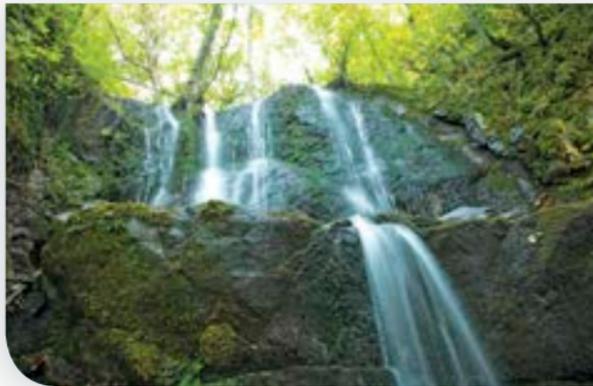
### The Waterfalls in the mountain Belasica. (21) Smolari

bölgesinde, Smolar nehrinin aşağısında ve Sturma nehrinin sağ tarafında deniz seviyesinden 600 metre yüksekliğinde **Koleshino waterfall (22)** is located in the lower course of the Baba River, at an altitude of 500 meters. The total height is 15 meters, with the fall width of



about 6 meters. It is a tectonic waterfall, formed of granite stones. Towards Kolehsino waterfall, at a distance of about 100 meters, there are several smaller waterfalls located in a row, with a height

from two to four meters and belong to its central basin. In the vicinity of the **Koleshino and Smolare Waterfalls, (23)** in the underarms of the Belasica Mountain, hidden from the public eyes the **Gabrovo Waterfall (24)** is situated. The location



of the waterfall is right above the village Gabrovo, after which the name of the waterfall was given. In a distance of one kilometre, there are three smaller waterfalls, with height from 4 to 8 metres, and their clean ice cold water flows out through the large and spread beech trees. The slap of the highest waterfall flows into the middle waterfall, and the middle flows in to the smallest one and together the water flows through the last house in the village Gabrovo. The crossing of the waterfall and the fall



of the water from one to another is the reason that makes these waterfalls so interesting and different from the other two famous waterfalls in the region.

**Carev Vrv (Tsar's Peak) (25)** As a natural massif that extends into two countries, the Osogovo Mountain range covers a total area of 1,535 km<sup>2</sup>, most of which belongs to Macedonia. By its area, it is the second mountain in Macedonia, right after the mountain massif Jakupica (Mokra Planina). The signalisation of the hiking trail starts from the monastery and leads through the village Varovishte, a hunting house and Kalin Kamen. From the hunting house to the mountain top the path goes through meadows. The mountaineering path is approximately 25 meters long in one direction, so it takes five hours to get there. Along the path, there are many springs and fountains, even though the route is considered to be average difficult. From the Kochani side, the signalisation of the path starts at the end of the town and, if walking, it takes about five hours to get to Ponikva, although one can reach it by asphalted road. From Ponikva, the path for Carev Vrv continues on a wide terrestrial road, then over meadows. The trail is well marked, but one should be alert in the second part, because of the large number of intersections. This part of the trail takes about five hours. You can stay overnight in Ponikva in the children's resort facility or in the accommodation facilities of the forest industry company.



**Vevcani Springs (26)** are monument of nature and ecological zone with a high degree of protection. The springs are located on the eastern slopes of the mountain Jablanica, on an elevation of 940 meters. The main spring is located at the opening of a cave. The springs are siphon hot springs, with a rate of water flow of 1,500 litres per second. The springs provide an abundance of water, which varies from 450 litres per second in October and November up to 4,000 litres in May. Beautifully decorated in harmony with nature and with night illumination, the Vevcani springs are among the most visited tourist locations in this region both by domestic and foreign guests.



**Tumba Madjari (27)** is an archaeological locality in the Skopje settlement Madjari. The locality is a Neolithic settlement. In an archaeological excavations area of 1,400 m<sup>2</sup>, evidence of settlements have been discovered, ruins and seven objects, six of which being dwellings and one sanctuary.



These are all above the ground, with a square or four sided base, built with massive wooden material and mud. Remains of fireplaces have been found in almost every construction and many objects of material culture.

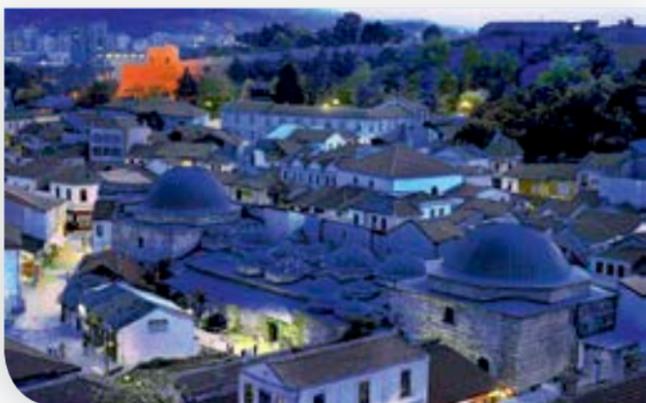
**Skupi (28)** is an ancient settlement and an archaeological site from the Roman and Late Antiquity period. It is located 5 kilometres north-west from Skopje. The excavations, some completely and some partially explored, include: the bulwarks,



the theatre, the large basilica, the town villa, the public bath, a street, the Christian Basilica, parts of the east and west necropolises.

### Skopje Old Bazaar

**(29)** is a trade and cultural-historical part of Skopje and one of the city's greatest landmarks. It is stretching from the Stone Bridge to the Bit-Pazar and from the Skopje Fortress to the Serava river. The earliest known evidence that



proves the existence of a merchant quarter on the bazaar's territory dates back to the XII century. During Ottoman rule of Skopje, this place rapidly developed into the city's main centre of commerce, with roughly thirty mosques, numerous caravanserais and hans, as well as other Turkish monuments.

**Shirok Sokak (30).** is the main street in Bitola. This street dates back to the XIX century.

In the beginning it was 'Sultanie' or 'Hamdie', then 'Kral Petar' (King Peter) and during the period of former Yugoslavia, it was called 'Marshal Tito' until finally today it is known as Shirok Sokak (meaning: wide alley).



This is the busiest and the best known street in Bitola with many shops and cafés. Today it is only a pedestrian street. This street is a home to the biggest stores, restaurants, galleries, opera and theatre house, many cafés, clubs as well as the town's oldest architectural buildings dating back to the time of the Ottoman rule. The sports centre Mladost is at the end of this street which further leads to the zoo, the stadium Tumba kafe and the archaeological site Heraclea Lyncestis. There is a Photo Atelier of the Brothers Manaki which was founded in 1905.



The megalithic observatory **Kokino (31)** is located in the municipality of Staro Nagorichane , 75 kilometers from Skopje and 35 kilometers from Kumanovo. It is situated right beneath the mountain pick Tatikjev Kamen on 1,030 meters above sea level and the name takes after the same called village. The observatory was discovered by chance by a group of archaeologists and dates back date from 1,800 BC. i.e. corresponding to the early Bronze Age, located on an area of 5,000 m<sup>2</sup>. This locality has a type of a throne, where the headmen or the leaders most likely sat. Among the many findings in this locality numerous artefacts were discovered (ceramic plates, amorphous dishes, stone axes, etc.)

**Kalin Kamen (Kalin Stone). (32)** One of the most beautiful peaks of the Osogovo Mountains is located at an altitude of 1,800 meters with beautiful ski trails, an amusement park and hunter's house with a total capacity of 300 beds. In its vicinity, one can



enjoy the numerous pleasant places for rest and recreation and a small sports field, while in 2009 the first four-wheel vehicles rally was organized for the first time. The place is famous for the picturesque walks to other popular places in the vicinity of the pick Kalin Kamen, such as the Kalin Kamen's lakes and the locality Vlach cottages and sheepfold. To get to the Kalin Kamen locality one can use the ascent above the monastery of St. Joakim Osogovski. The

vlachs in the region every year, on 28 August, traditionally grant 200 sheep and lambs to the Monastery of St. Joakim Osogovski for the celebration of the saint's day holiday of this monastery.

25 kilometers west from the town of Kratovo, in the immediate vicinity of the village Shopsko Rudari, the locality **Cocev Kamen (Coce Stone)** is situated.

This locality is a Neolithic settlement, where the inhabitants were mainly occupied with agriculture and hunting. The rock itself is a spiritual sanctuary proved by the numerous remains and objects found in its surroundings. Looked from a distance, the locality Cocev Kamen looks just like any other rock, but if approached, the view opens up to this grandiose locality. The cavities of the rock, in a form of caves are placed in floors, with plateaus in between them, as well as pools for ritual bathing, remains of stairs, stone throne, seats. To get to the caves, one needs to use the stairs that lead from the bottom of the rock to its peak. There is a small and a large water bed in the rock itself. There are two pools on the very top of the rock. Two thrones and several seats can also be found



here. These seats are placed in a position to observe the sun, moon and the stars. East from these stone seats, the megaliths are located i.e. the orients that determine the position of the sun. Close to the main megalith, there is an engraved half-moon and on the ground a large sun disk. There is some type of an alphabet on the walls in one of the caves, and the symbols are painted in red. Painted orant dominates in the middle which is a type of a divinity, characteristic for the late Bronze and Classical period. From the Stone Age on, Cocev Kamen continued to perform its

observatory function into the Neolith and the Bronze Age. This sanctuary was abandoned after only a few centuries in AD.

The locality Zhegligovski Kamen (Zhegligovski Stone) or more popularly known as **Kostoperska Karpa (Kostoperska Stone) (34)** is located 9 km east from Kumanovo. It is an impressive basaltic rock, which is a volcanic outcrop, with an evidence of a settlement dating back to the Bronze age (Eneolite age IV – III millennium BC), placed on the plateau of the rock. The archaeological excavations of the Eneolite settlement gave a number of archaeological materials, especially ceramics in various forms of dishes. There are Roman graves that stand as evidence as well as the early Christian basilica that followed, placed on the top of the plateau, probably from the V century.

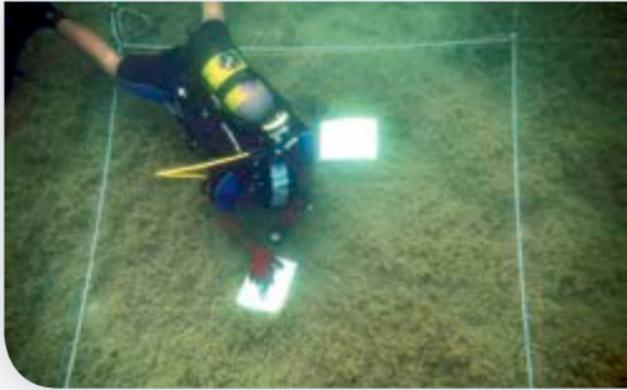


**Ohrid Bazaar. (35)** According to the notes of the Turkish traveller Evliya Chelebi from the XVII century, the Ohrid Bazaar occupied a large area in the outskirts of the town. There were seven inns there and it used to be the place where educated people met. The inns were located on the hilly part of the town, the neighbourhood where the Christians lived. Most of the shops in the old bazaar were made of chopped stone during the XIX century. Most of the shops, at least from the ones that have been preserved, were owned by merchants from Ohrid (Macedonians) because of the Macedonian names engraved in the upper part of the façade. Apart from the merchants' names and last names, the years and the months of the shops were also engraved.



Apart from the site 'Mikov Grad' and the springs near St. Naum, the **underwater site**

'**Vrbnik**' (36) is the paradise for the fans of the underwater world. It is located on the Ohrid Lake, on the part of the Struga municipality. This site is a pile dwelling settlement, and one of the very few underwater findings in the Ohrid Lake. This is a bit specific one because it is a



completely underwater archaeological site and not approachable for the public. This site has been discovered completely by chance in the 80's when a pile of ceramic and stone objects were discovered on the bottom of the lake. A research paper has been made about this site and many underwater archaeological excavations have been done by the Museum of the Republic of Macedonia together with the Museum from Struga 'Dr. Nikola Nezlobinski'. From the gathered material so far, it can be concluded that this is a prehistoric site i.e. dating from the Bronze and Iron Age.

**Vinicko Kale** (37) is a settlement from the Neolith and the late ancient period with remains surrounded by defence walls that are completely preserved. It is located south-western of the town Vinica, along the road from Vinica to Leski. There is an early Christian basilica, several houses and trade objects discovered here, with remarkable and famous terra-cotta icons.



**Crkvishte** is an archeological site, located in the centre of the village **Morodvis (38)**, in the municipality of Zrnovci, in the vicinity of the town Kochani. This site was part of the mediaeval town of Morobisdon. There are written preserved documents from the XI and XII century that mention its major importance as a big centre of the eparchy of the Bregalnica region. The oldest data of Morobisdon is provided by the Byzantine writer John Skylitzes in his major work, the 'Synopsis of Histories' where it is stated that representatives from the city of Pelagonia and Morobisdon visited the Byzantine king Basil II. Later, in 1019, Basil issued a deed appointing Morobisdon to be an Episcopal centre. The first archaeological research in Crkvishte was in July 1980 and since then remains of four churches have been discovered. The oldest one dates back somewhere between V and VI century and the later one from the VI century. The other two churches are from the XI and the XIII century. In 1998 a true treasure of valuable artefacts were discovered that belong to different cultures, even since the time of Justinian I.



**Bargala (39)** is an ancient city in Macedonia, located in the vicinity of Gorni Kozjak, along Kozjachka river, north-east from Shtip in the foot of the mountain Plachkovica. There is a road that leads to the site, which can be visited at night too as it is fully lighted. Bargala



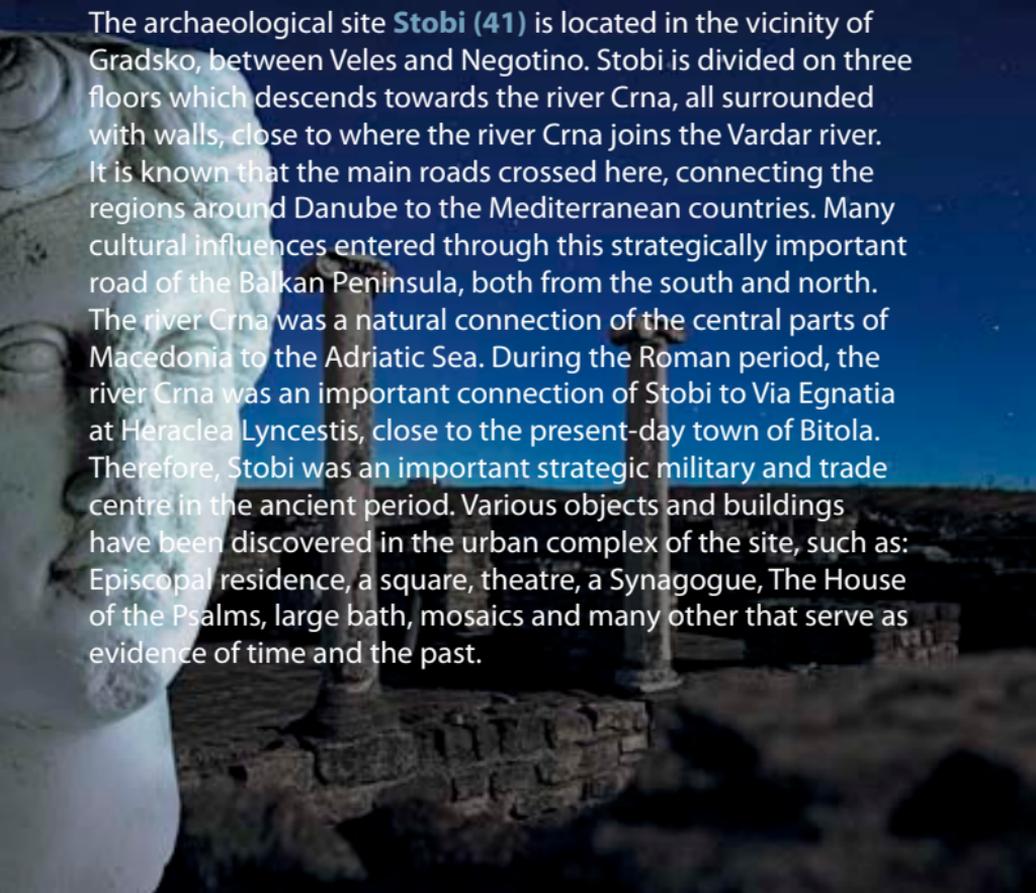
has a Thracian origin, and the name's etymological origin is the river Bregalnica. In the seventies of the XX century an Episcopal basilica was discovered but only one tenth of the entire site has been archeologically researched, since the total area of this site is five hectares.

**Isar Fortress (40)** is a special landmark of the town Shtip. It is located 150 meters above the river Bregalnica. In 2009 a group of archaeologists discovered a 30 meter tunnel that leads from the river to the top of the fortress Isar. This discovery confirmed the most



famous Shtip legend about the way how Shtip was conquered through a secret tunnel under the fortress Isar, a story also told by the Turkish traveller Evliya Çelebi in XVII century. The research conducted lately has only proved the history in this region.

The archaeological site **Stobi (41)** is located in the vicinity of Gradsko, between Veles and Negotino. Stobi is divided on three floors which descends towards the river Crna, all surrounded with walls, close to where the river Crna joins the Vardar river. It is known that the main roads crossed here, connecting the regions around Danube to the Mediterranean countries. Many cultural influences entered through this strategically important road of the Balkan Peninsula, both from the south and north. The river Crna was a natural connection of the central parts of Macedonia to the Adriatic Sea. During the Roman period, the river Crna was an important connection of Stobi to Via Egnatia at Heraclea Lyncestis, close to the present-day town of Bitola. Therefore, Stobi was an important strategic military and trade centre in the ancient period. Various objects and buildings have been discovered in the urban complex of the site, such as: Episcopal residence, a square, theatre, a Synagogue, The House of the Psalms, large bath, mosaics and many other that serve as evidence of time and the past.

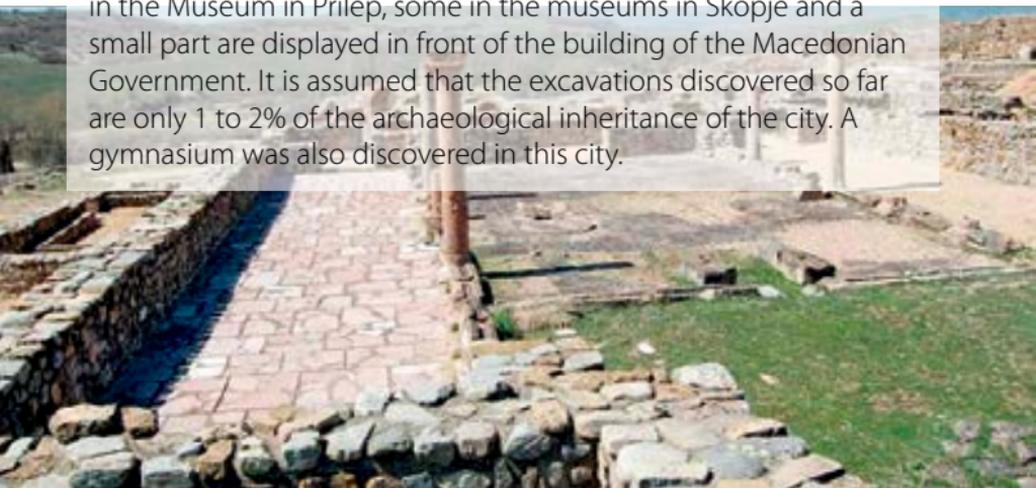




**Heraclea Lyncestis (42)** is a city settlement from the Ancient Macedonian time until the Middle Ages. It was founded by Philip II of Macedon in the middle of the IV century BC, and served as an important strategic town. The excavated remains that date to the ancient Macedonian period of life have not been fully researched. Heraclea Lyncestis is located in the southern outskirts of Bitola, in the foot of the mountain Baba. In the fields in Heraclea many interesting excavations have been discovered, such as remains of several sacramental objects, a bath, amphitheatre, objects that are characterized with striking beauty, especially the decorated floor mosaics laid in the techniques of 'opus sectile' and 'opus tessellatum', all of which are masterpieces of the early Christian art from the I-VI century.

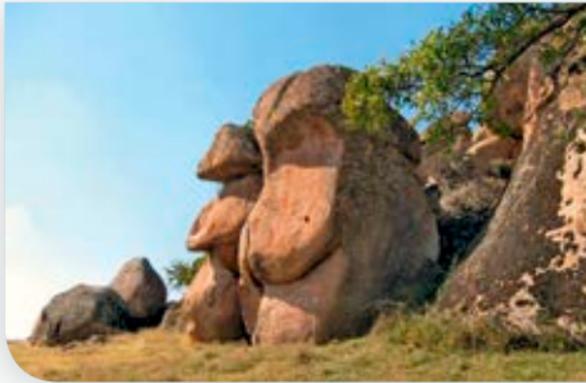


The ancient city of **Stibera (43)** in Pelagonia, in the vicinity of the village Chepigovo, existed from the III century BC to the III century AD. It is believed that more than 20,000 people inhabited this city in the time of its greatest prominence. Many sculptures dedicated to the goddess of fortune Tyche that were placed in a temple were discovered here in Stibera. Part of these statues are housed in the Museum in Prilep, some in the museums in Skopje and a small part are displayed in front of the building of the Macedonian Government. It is assumed that the excavations discovered so far are only 1 to 2% of the archaeological inheritance of the city. A gymnasium was also discovered in this city.



### **Markovi Kuli (Marko's Towers) (44)** is a locality declared as a

Monument of Nature, situated in the central part of Macedonia, in the vicinity of the town Prilep. The rocky mass is composed of numerous denudation forms representing exceptionally fine sculpture of the relief. This phenomenal wealth of



shapes is mainly due to the geological composition of the terrain, the climate, the relief and the plant cover. An interestingly shaped figure of an Elephant can be spotted here, which is formed by two naturally attached rocks. The Elephant is 8 meters high and it offers an exceptional view to the town Prilep. It is believed that the Elephant has been used to perform religious rituals by the ancestors, which is supported by the surrounding graveyards and some visible remains of frescoes that are quite ruined.

### **Pehchevo Waterfalls.**

**(45)** In about ten kilometres from the town Pehchevo, in the pristine woods of the Maleshevski mountains: Bukovik and Kadiica, in the upper flow of the river Bregalnica, the tourist settlement Ravna Reka is located. It is surrounded with large



and deep pine forest, cold streams and clean mountain air. The place of interest here are the well-known Pehchevo Waterfalls. There is a well-marked path to the waterfall with picnic tables and benches along the path that leads up to the waterfalls, at an altitude of 1,600 meters, offering an extraordinary view.

**Man-made lake Gradche (46)** is located in the foot of the Osogovski mountains, only 6 kilometres from the town Kochani. It was built in 1959, near the village Dolno Gradche. The dam is made of concrete, 46 meters high, with length of 150 meters of the barrier and located at an altitude of 467 meters. The lake is



3,5 kilometres long and 0,2 kilometres wide with a maximum depth of 29 meters. The water is used for industrial needs and also for irrigation of the fields in the Kochani valley. There are two catering facilities and a hotel located on the shore of the lake. The archaeological locality Dolno Gradishte is located north of the lake at the place where Mala and Golema rivers join.

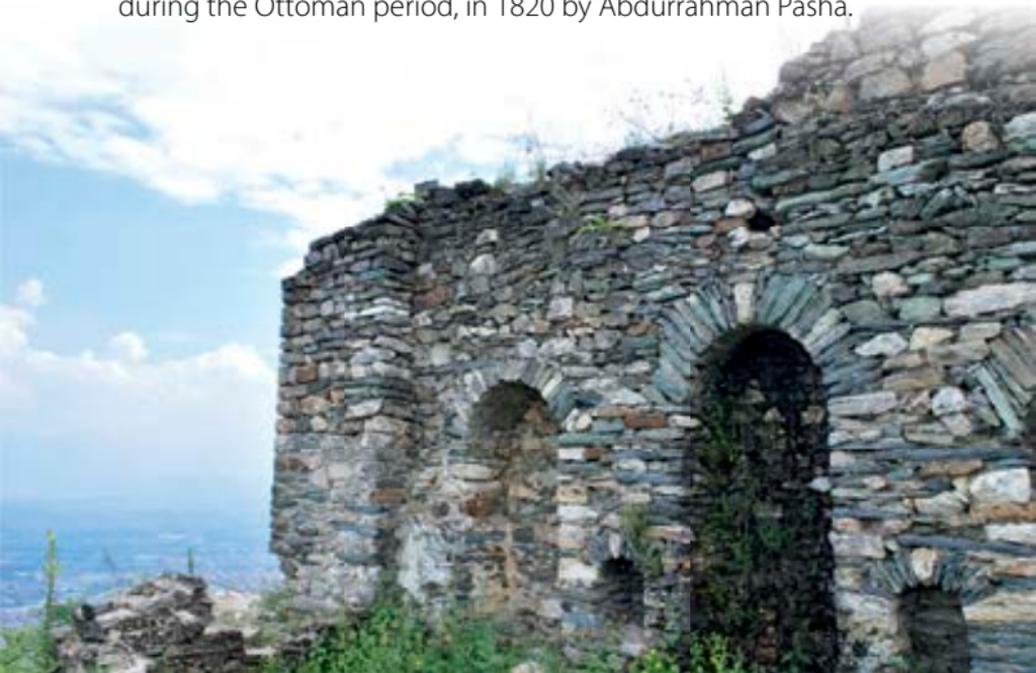
**Ponikva (47)** is a tourist centre and holiday settlement in the Osogovski mountains. It is located 20 kilometres north from Kochani, at an altitude of 1,560 m in breech forest with diverse vegetation. The urban space includes two ski lifts, mountain houses, an auto camp, bungalows, facilities for daily supplies, multipurpose facilities, sports and recreation fields, hotels, hostels, catering facilities, children's hostel and service for skiing equipment. The natural beauties, the ecological clean environment and the favourable climate are the perfect prerequisites for tourism.



**Marble lake. (48)** 12 kilometres from the town Prilep, in the vicinity of the village Belovodica, a small turquoise-coloured lake is located in an abandoned marble mine. The lake has been formed in the mine itself as a consequence of the groundwater and it has a maximum depth of 15 meters. The lake got its name after the attractive surrounding of large white marble blocks.



**Tetovo Kale. (49)** This fortress and an important archaeological locality are located on the top of Beltepe, immediately above Tetovo, only 2 kilometres from the town centre. Archeologically, this locality is a city settlement dating back to the Late Antique period and the Middle Ages. It rises from a hill with a flattened plateau with steep sides above the right shore of the river Pena. The oldest preserved remains from the walls of the fortress are large blocks of limestone, precisely shaped, removed by digging and originating from the IV-III century BC. It is believed that on the foundation of these walls, later on, in the late Antique period new walls were made that were firmly built with crushed stones and plaster. The fortress was redecorated once in The Middle Ages and later again during the Ottoman period, in 1820 by Abdurrahman Pasha.



# Landmarks of touristic significance in Macedonia

## What to visit

This guide recommends around fifty more significant places for a visit in Macedonia. All the places offered to our readers are selected due to their cultural-historic value and important touristic reputation and, therefore, a visit to these places would ensure a better understanding of Macedonia.

**Bay of Bones (1)** is a bay in Ohrid Lake and an archaeological locality of a prehistoric pile-dwelling settlement located on a peninsula and the auto camp Gradishte. It is 3 to 5 meters deep. The place is called 'Plocha Mikov Grad'. There is a complete reconstruction of the pile-dwellings (The Water Museum 'Bay of Bones') with platforms and also a guest visit centre. There is a Roman military fortification has been reconstructed from that period. Of the total number of 6,000 wooden piles discovered so far, the closest found one is 12 meters in the lake which imposes a theory that it may be a pile of a bridge that connected the



settlement. The settlement is assumed to have been spread on a total surface of 8,500 m<sup>2</sup>, with about 60 dwellings. There are many pieces of tools discovered, some pieces of ceramics, wood and stone, as well as parts of animals, such as antlers. The pile-settlements were cities on platforms, standing on wooden piles stuck in the bottom of the lake. The dwellings of the prehistoric people were standing on the pile-platforms, which were connected to the shore with a movable bridge. The inhabitants of this settlement were fishermen, but also farmers and hunters.



The church **Saint John the Theologian Kaneo (2)** was built and painted at the end of the XIII century. The man who built it and the painters of the frescoes are unknown. The church's architecture is of great relevance to a study of Ohrid's mediaeval monuments because this church is a successful combination of Byzantine and Armenian architectural elements. The church is located on one of the most exceptional spots on the shore of the Ohrid Lake. It is built on a steep rock rising up from lake Ohrid, right above a small fishing settlement Kaneo (Latin word which in Macedonian means: bleech or sparkle). This mediaeval church Saint John the Theologian from the XIII century is commonly known after the name of the settlement Kaneo.



### Samuel's Fortress (3)

is considered to be the largest preserved mediaeval fortifications in the Republic of Macedonia. The oldest historical records of the Ohrid Fortress are mentioned by the historian Titus Livy in the III century BC when it was the fortress of the town of Lychnidos. Ohrid has been mentioned by Roman historians in the V century AD as the city with fortresses, which like all other Roman towns in the Balkans, served the function of defence against enemies and wandering tribes during the Great Migration of Peoples in the IV and V century. The fortress is still the highest point in Ohrid, standing on 100 meters above the Ohrid Lake. There had been many reconstructions throughout history, visible on the Upper Gate where many marble Greek and Roman inscriptions can be seen, which originate from the antique and Roman buildings that can be found on this site. The latest archaeological excavations done on the Samuel's fortress are focused towards the cultural research from its interior and a great number of valuable information have been gathered along with the renovation of the walls.

Situated in the old part of Ohrid, **the ancient theatre of Ohrid**

**(4)** worked both in the Hellenic and the Roman period. It is built in the foot of a hill, rebuilt several times during the late Antique period and from the total number of 30 rows, only 7 to 8 rows are preserved today. The theatre is now completely redecorated and it is an archaeological attraction and the place where many cultural





events from Ohrid and Macedonia take place.

**Elen Skok (Deer Leap Bridge) (5)** is an arched stone bridge in the vicinity of the village Mogorche on the Mala River, in the region Reka in western Macedonia. It was built in the middle of the XVIII century from chopped stone, with a single arch, as planned by Mimar Hayruddin, the same architect that designed the old bridge over the Neretva River in Mostar, a student and apprentice of the famous architect Mimar Sinan.



**Pupin House. (6)** Mihailo Pupin was a scientist and an inventor, a professor at the Columbia University, president of the American Institute of Radio Engineers and president of the AIEE (American Institute of Electrical Engineers), the head of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the New York Academy of Sciences, a member of the French and Serbian Academy of Sciences, who comes from Vevchani. He is the person after whom a crater on the Moon was



named. The family house is turned into a museum, with an inn located in the ground floor where the specialties from Vevchani are served.

### **Memorial house of the Ataturk's family in Kodzadzik. (7)**

The memorial house of Ali Rıza Efendi, the father of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk is located in the village Kodzadzik, in the Centar Zupa Municipality.

According to several Macedonian and Turkish historians and

archaeologists, Atatürk's family lived in Kodzadzik in the second half of XIX century. Towards the end of this century, Ali Rıza moved to Thessaloniki where he married Zübeyde Hanım. Their son Mustafa Kemal was born there. Ali Rıza, driven by the desire to keep his roots in his homeland, sent his son in a military school in Bitola.



### **House of Art (8)**

is located near the monastery complex St. George, in the vicinity of the village Knezino,

four kilometres from Kichevo. An International Art Colony is traditionally held

in the House of Art every year, visited by a great number of artists from the country and abroad. The artists have the opportunity to paint in an exceptional natural environment and it is a place of pride of all citizens of Kichevo. All paintings made during the two-week stay at the House of Art and after the Art Colony is finished can be visited and seen by all admirers of art.



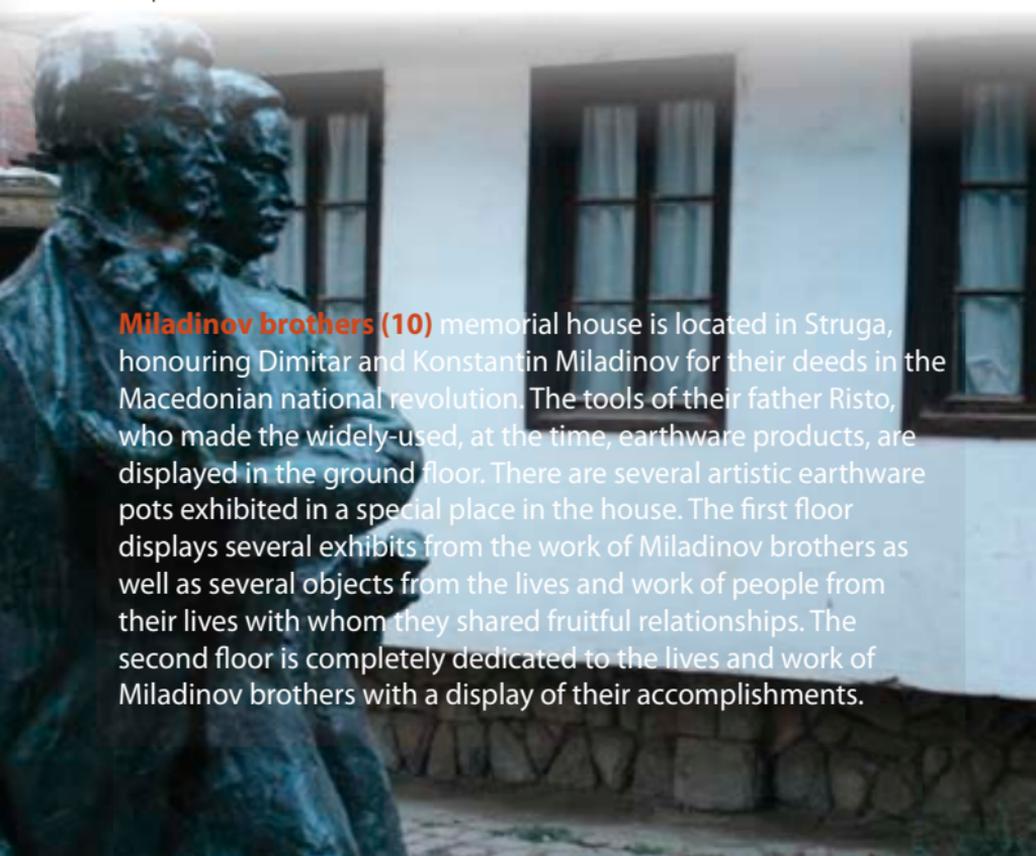
### **Museum of Natural Sciences. (9)**

The museum was founded in 1928 in Struga and initially it was a display of the private collection of records of Dr. Nikola Nezlobinski. Today, besides the department of natural science and biology, there are also other departments: a



department of botany and zoology with 9,381 exhibits and the history and archaeology department with 2,576 exhibits. Among all exhibits presented in the museum, 17 species of fish from Lake Ohrid are also on display, including a unique sample of the sea fish known as kubla. Two separate premises display the historic and archaeological exhibits from the past of the Struga region. The collection offers prehistoric exhibits from the old and new age, as well as some of the Revolution. The museum is a complex modern institution with archaeological, ethnological, history and artistic departments.

**Miladinov brothers (10)** memorial house is located in Struga, honouring Dimitar and Konstantin Miladinov for their deeds in the Macedonian national revolution. The tools of their father Risto, who made the widely-used, at the time, earthenware products, are displayed in the ground floor. There are several artistic earthenware pots exhibited in a special place in the house. The first floor displays several exhibits from the work of Miladinov brothers as well as several objects from the lives and work of people from their lives with whom they shared fruitful relationships. The second floor is completely dedicated to the lives and work of Miladinov brothers with a display of their accomplishments.





**Orthodox Cathedral Church 'St. Clement of Ohrid' (11)** is a church in Skopje and the largest cathedral of the Macedonian Orthodox Church today. The construction of the Orthodox Cathedral church began on 23 April 1972. This rotunda type church, with 36x36 m dimension, is composed only of domes and arches and occupies a total area of 1,000 m<sup>2</sup>. The total area of the church can gather up to 6,000 believers. The main church is dedicated to St. Clement of Ohrid, and the church below to the Holy Mother. One of the chapels is dedicated to Emperor Constantine and Empress Helena, and the other to St. Mina, the martyr. The oak wood-carved iconostasis is the first thing that attracts one's attention upon entering the church. The main motif of the woodcarving is wildlife – vine leaves, poppy heads, oak apples. The dimensions of the iconostasis are 19,5 length and 12,5 meters height. The icons in the iconostasis were painted by Gjorgji Danevski and Spase Spirovski. The fountain in front of the church was a gift from the Islamic religious community.

**Kapan An (Kapan Han) (12)** is a trade and catering place and in the past it was a lodging too for guests and traders and a road-side inn (caravansera) located in the Old Bazaar of Skopje. It was built by Isa-Beg in the second half of XV century, and served as a han until the World War II. It was redecorated in 1974 and it still works as a café and a restaurant.



**Kurshumli An (Kurshumli Han) (13)** is a former inn located in the Old Bazaar of Skopje. It was built in the first half of XIV century and today the Kurshumli inn is the site of numerous cultural events. Kurshumli Han is located on the left coast of the Vardar River in the former zelezarska bazaar in Skopje, located in the yard of the Museum of Macedonia.



**Suli An (14)** is a former han and a road-side inn (caravansera) located in the middle of the Old Bazaar of Skopje. It is located near the Cifte Hammam and the Murat Pasha Mosque and all these three Islamic objects signify the codex of three in Islam, and they are the only ones of this kind in the Bazaar and in Skopje, too. Suli An houses the Museum of the Old Skopje Bazaar and the Art Academy.



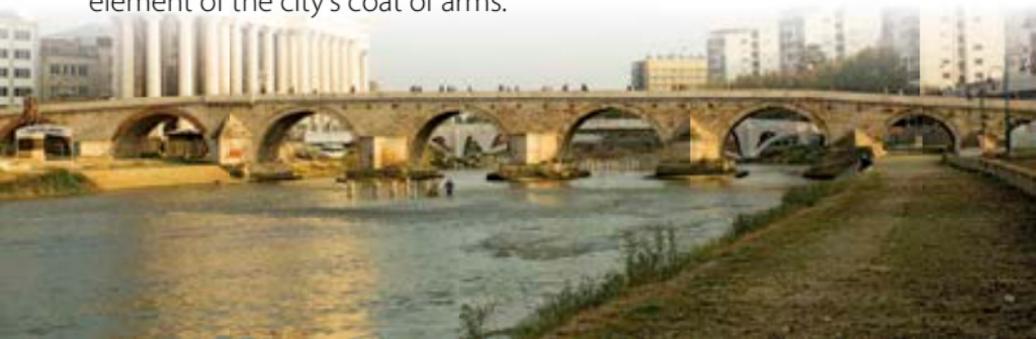
**Daut Pasha Hamam (15)** is an old hamam and holds the Art Gallery of Skopje, located in the entrance of the Old Bazaar of Skopje, standing close of the St. Demetrius church. It was built at the end of XV century and it is a legacy from Daut Pasha, hence the name. Today, the hamam is used as the seat of the National Art Gallery of Macedonia.





Skopje's **Kale Fortress (16)** is situated on the highest hill Gradishte above the city Skopje, overlooking the Vardar River. The fortress Kale had strategic importance for this important city for centuries. As the highest point of the city, the fortress has always been appreciated by the locals. There were settlements here, even before the walls were built. The earliest known inhabitants of this place lived in the Neolith and the early Bronze ages, 4,000 years BC. The fortress, as we see it today, was first built during the Byzantine times (VI century), with stone walls, 121 meters long. Kale is one of the most popular sites in Skopje. The fortress offers a fantastic view of the city, as well as an opportunity to walk to the Old Bazaar of Skopje in just several minutes. During the summer, many concerts and theatre plays are performed here.

**Stone Bridge (17)** in Skopje is one of the most significant sights of the city. It is situated in the city centre, connecting the Square Macedonia to the Old Skopje Bazaar. There are two assumptions regarding the dating of the bridge. According to the first one, supported by archaeological data, it was built in VI century right after the catastrophic earthquake in 518, made during the great constructions and restorations during the reign of Emperor Justinian I. According to the second assumption, supported by historical sources, the bridge was built by Sultan Mehmet II the Conqueror, between 1451 and 1469. The bridge today is considered a symbol of the city of Skopje and it is the main element of the city's coat of arms.



**Millennium Cross (18)** is located on the Krstovar peak on the Vodno mountain, right above the city of Skopje. With the height of 66 meters, it is one of the highest constructions in Macedonia. The architects that designed it were Jovan Stefanovski – Zan and Oliver Petrovski. It was built in honour of two thousand years of Christianity in Macedonia and the coming of the new millennium.



**Skopje Aqueduct (19)** is located in Vizbegovo, in the vicinity of the city Skopje. The date of its construction was questionable until recently. It was considered that it dated back to the time of the Roman Empire or in the time of the Byzantine Empire, during the reign of Emperor Justinian I (527 – 554) hence called Justinian Aqueduct. Due to these claims it was related to the city Skupi. It is believed that through the aqueduct shipped water from the spring Lavovec from the village Gluvo in Skopska Grna Gora to the city. The water was shipped with pipes heading from west to east.



**Square Macedonia (20)** is the main square in the city of Skopje, the capital of Macedonia. The square was constructed in the period between 1920 and 1940. There are a number of objects of significance on the square, like: Narodna Banka Building with marble façade, the monumental Army Hall (Oficerski Dom), the Ristik Palace, the Palace Mazura, etc. The square gained a new appearance with the project 'Skopje 2014' with a number of new sculptures and monuments of important activists and people from the Macedonian history like: Alexander the Great, Tsar Samuel, the Statue of Gemidzii, Dame Gruev, Justinian I, Goce Delchev.



### The Towers in Kratovo (21)

Zlatko's Tower is the oldest one, built in 1365. The name was after its last owner Gorgi Zlatkov who bought it from Asan Efendija called after his name until then. It was built with thick stone walls, six meters high. It has three floors and one can enter there by using the movable stairs.

On the south-east wall there is a cavity that used to be a bath with a sanitary knot.



**Emin Bey Tower (22)** is 13 meters high and 6 meters wide.

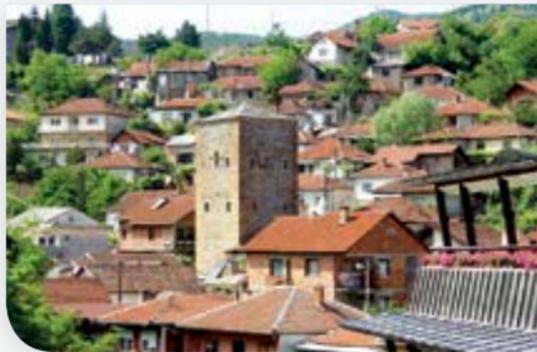
The door is made of hewed stone. On the right side of the entrance, there is a pyramid shaped as a horn, which was constructed as a separate object. That used to be a bath with a toilet. The tower has three floors divided with wooden construction.

The thickness of the doors is greater than the other towers and they are opened by turning around thick axes supported by stone flute. There is a fire place, buffet, shelves and closets for the household on the third floor.



**Simic Tower (23)** is the most significant, highest and the most beautiful tower in Kratovo. It was built in 1370 under the patronage of the ruler Kostadin Dejanov, the father of the town Kratovo. The interior is divided in floors, the forth being the most beautiful, offering a spectacular view of the town. There were tunnel-like stone stairs to get

to the upper floors, placed on the south wall and the visitor gets the impression that is going through a tunnel. The tower has a total of 69 stairs, lighted with three small holes, one of which is a watch place on the north wall protected with a stone shield.





**Strumicko Kale (24)** or Carevi Kuli (Tzar's Towers) is a XI century fortress located above the town of Strumica. Tzar's Towers are rising above the south-western periphery of Strumica, where significant ancient roads intersected. The fortress is situated at an altitude of 445 m and hence possible visibility and control over the entire Strumica valley. The fortress could be easy to defend even without its fortifications, because it is surrounded with slopes from all sides. Such location of the fortress enables simultaneous control of the three entrances to the city.

**Skopje Zoo (25)** was founded in 1926 by a three-member commission, which was headed by Dr. Stanko Karaman. At that time the current location was proposed, which would occupy 4 hectares by the end

of 1965. Then, the Zoo had a small number of animals. Over the years, the Zoo expanded and the number of animals grew. Today the garden is located on an area of 12 hectares and has a collection of 495 animals from 96 species (mammals, birds,

reptiles). It has economic section, workshop, veterinary clinic, an amusement park for children and educational centre.



**The monument to the Jews (26)** in Stip is located near the Museum. It was built in 1985 in memory of deported Jews to Nazi concentration camps. The monument is the work of the artist Metodi Andonov.



The **Clock tower (27)** in Veles was built in the first half of the XVIII century. The Tower in the downtown area of Veles served as an observation post for the Ottoman authorities. At the end of the XVIII century, during the period of revival in Veles, the tower was converted into a town clock. Since then, the clock tower is a constant reminder of the time for the citizens of Veles. With its specific architecture, this stone building with ornate top today is an unavoidable symbol of Veles, present even in the coat of arms and the flag of the city. The Tower provides a nice view of the downtown area. The interior, an expression of the ancient game of wood and stone, makes this tourist attraction even more interesting.



The **Clock Tower (28)** in Bitola is the most recognizable monument of this city. According to some insufficiently substantiated data, it is considered that the Clock tower was built during the Turkish rule in 1830, when the Church of St. Demetrius was built. The town clock with its height, dominating the space and the clock mechanism, which plays popular music while announcing the hours, draws attention and is constantly working for the citizens, viewers and listeners who need to know the exact time. Today, even in the accelerated pace of modern life, the citizens of Bitola cannot imagine their town without the good old City clock, because it promptly and accurately informs them.



**Bezisten (29)** in Bitola is one of the most valuable and most preserved old buildings with distinctive architectural, aesthetic and other values. Formerly, the Bezisten was a covered oriental market, intended mainly for sale and for storage of precious goods, textile, money and other valuables. There was no traveller who passed through Bitola without mentioning this such a prominent building, described mostly as a place where one could buy expensive sterling silver, linen, cotton, silk, gold. As for the exterior of the building, it is a longitudinal basilica construction with an irregular



rectangular shape. The Bezisten would not be what it is, if not given the overall architectural ensemble that existed around it: up and down along the river of Dragor, there were hundreds of tiny shops in a row, each representing a separate world of trade fantasy, making this part of Bitola

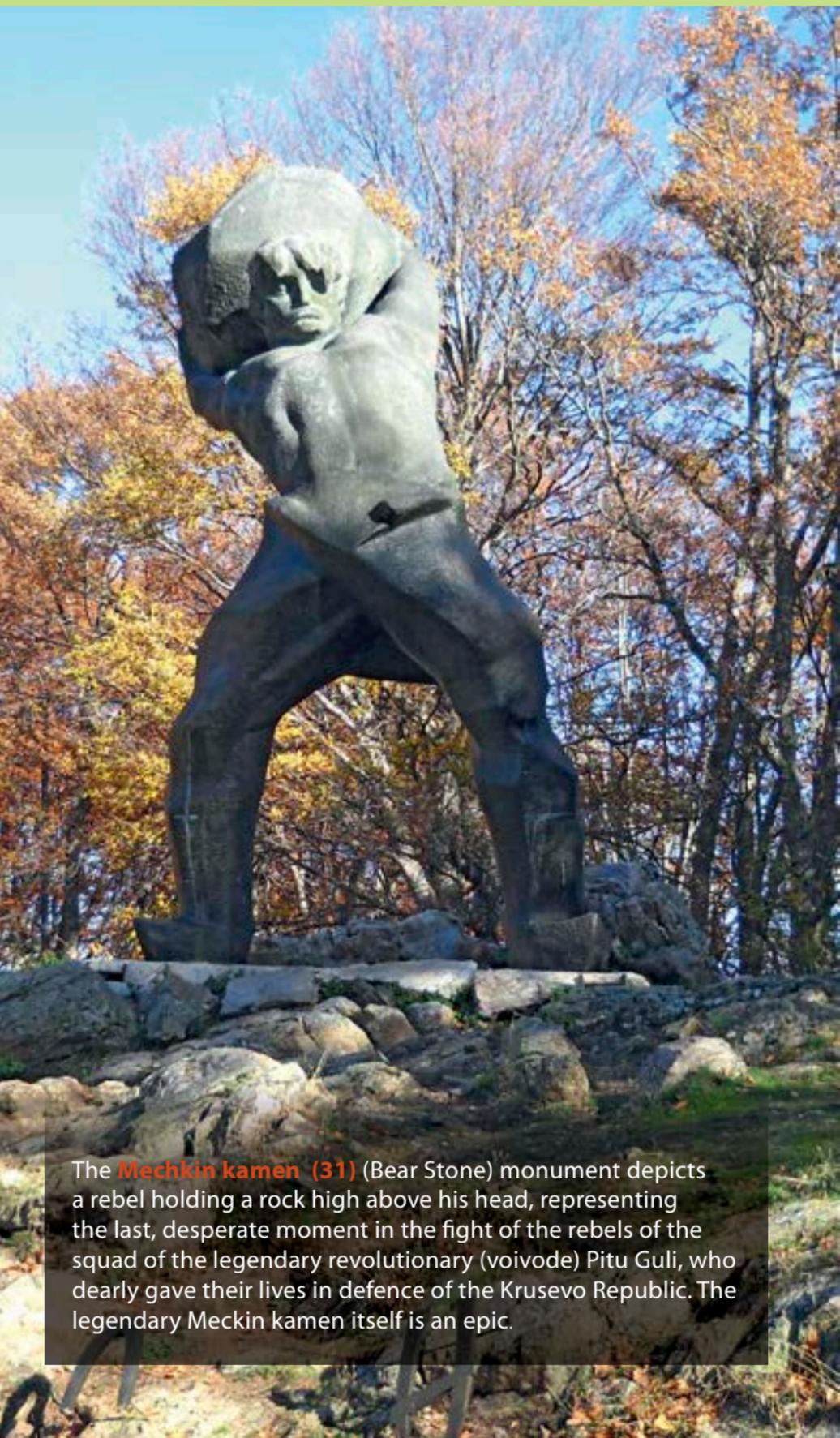


seem like an unique urban and architectural whole that breathed Mediterranean breath in this sunny area of many civilizations.

**Memorial Room of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. (30)** The first presentation in Bitola's Museum connected to the famous statesman, the father of modern Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, dating from 1978. That year was the first exhibition of photographs, documents and facsimiles depicting the life and work of the great reformer of Turkey, who in 1899 finished high school (Manastir Askeri İdadisi) situated in the building of the Bitola Museum, Old Bitola barracks. The first museum exhibition was set in 1994, in an area of 40 m<sup>2</sup>, with existing materials enriched with certain



objects-copies placed in two additional cabinets and a memorial statue of Kemal Ataturk. In 1998, with a contractual investment venture between the governments of Macedonia and Turkey, a space of about 120 m<sup>2</sup> was adapted, in which staff of Bitola Museum and staff from the Republic of Turkey are in charge of today's exhibition depicting Kemal Ataturk.



The **Mechkin kamen (31)** (Bear Stone) monument depicts a rebel holding a rock high above his head, representing the last, desperate moment in the fight of the rebels of the squad of the legendary revolutionary (voivode) Pitu Guli, who dearly gave their lives in defence of the Krusevo Republic. The legendary Meckin kamen itself is an epic.

The **Museum of the Ilinden Uprising and the Krusevo Republic (32)** is

located in XIX century old city house, where the Krusevo Republic in 1903 was declared. It exhibits original weapons, maps, photos ... which chronologically presents the events related to the Ilinden Uprising.



**Todor Proeski Memorial House (33)** in Krusevo is a spectacular and unique project with

a specific purpose and reason for construction. It represents a monument to a man who was, is, and will remain a moral beacon and guide to all people. It is a building that provides the visitor with a view to the life of the icon of the Macedonian music scene. The displayed exhibits show Tose's life, his musical beginnings and finally the way how he won everyone's hearts.



**The smallest ethnological museum in the world (34)** is the name of the Ethnological Museum in Dzepcishte village, located 5 km northwest of Tetovo in the Shar Mountains, near the Lesok monastery. The museum is under the protection of all residents of Dzepcishte - Macedonians, Albanians, Turks and Roma. The smallest ethnological museum in the world is a private property of the architect Simeon Zlatev - Mone. The museum meets all the standards for such an institution. It has additional facilities: space for restoration



and recording of exhibits, depot and exhibition gallery. At the exit there is a book of impressions, signed by several thousands of visitors, including celebrities from Macedonian scene, cultural and political life, diplomats and foreign delegations. At the entrance there is a flag of the Days of European cultural heritage, in which this museum took part of. The museum occupies an area of only 7.2 m<sup>2</sup> and houses 1,500 exhibits chronologically ranging from VIII and V century BC up to the beginning of the last century. The smallest exhibit is a rubber voting marble from the first half of the last century, whose cross section is smaller than one centimetre, and the biggest is the copper table, originally from Dojran, with a diameter of more than one meter. The heaviest exhibit is the hand stone mill for couscous (special flour for cult purposes) weighing 58 kg. Entrance to the museum is free, and so far it was visited by over 7,000 visitors from the country and abroad.

The **Memorial House of Mother Teresa (35)** was built to honour the life and work of the only Nobel Prize winner from Macedonia. The location is not selected by chance, because on the site once stood a church where Mother Teresa was baptized. The museum displays paintings and exhibits from the most famous humanitarian, and the top floor is a chapel where the faithful can attend Mass.





The **Museum of Macedonia (36)** is a museum institution

consisting of several museums: Archaeological, Ethnological, History Department and the Department of Art. It is located at the end of the Old Bazaar, nearby the Skopje Kale. Main activities of the Museum are: research, collection, documentation, presentation and publication of museum material from these areas. In addition, the museum has numismatics study, anthropological study, conservation laboratory, education sector, as well as marketing department, and their activities are production and distribution of copies of the most important museum exhibits. The museum also features a well-equipped library museum.

The **Museum of the Macedonian Struggle (37)** is located in Skopje, on the left bank of the river Vardar. The museum was officially opened in 2011, marking twenty years of independence of the Republic of Macedonia. The museum consists of thirteen sections, and each of them presents the history of the Macedonian people from multiple periods. The first room presents the early period of the Macedonian Struggle, when hajduks (hero figures) were still without a defined political platform. All other facilities are connected chronologically, until the period of communism. The



museum has 109 wax figures of personalities from Macedonian history. Besides wax figures, the Museum displays a wide range of original weapons, original furniture, mass scenes, documents and other exhibits.



**The Macedonian National Theatre (38)** was founded in 1945 as a drama theatre in the same building of pre-war National Theatre "King Alexander I". During the first two seasons, MNT functioned as a play theatre, and over the next four years, the theatre became bigger: the Opera ensemble was constituted in 1947, and the Ballet ensemble in 1949. MNT worked in the same building until the earthquake in 1963, when it was badly damaged and later demolished. After this, MNT worked in the temporary facility of the Theatre Centre until the construction of the new building of the MNT in the 1980s. The building now is used by the Macedonian Opera and Ballet (MOB), and since 2013, MNT moves into a re-built old building on the embankment of the river Vardar.





The **Sharena Djamija (39)** (Decorated Mosque) is a well-known picturesque mosque in Tetovo, on the right bank of the river Pena. It was built in the XV century. The mosque is significant for its interior and exterior painting decorations, especially the painted south side that is visible from the main road that leads to Gostivar. Within this facility there is also a preserved hammam, which is now an art gallery. The conservation and restoration work of painters inside and outside the mosque restored its facade to former appearance and beauty.

The **Mustafa Pasha Mosque (40)** in Skopje is located between Kurshumli Inn, the church of Sveti Spas and the Kale. The mosque was built in 1492 as a legacy of the vizier Mustafa Pasha, and the name is given in his honour. Historically, the complex included a mausoleum, a fountain, an imaret and a madrasa, but only the mausoleum of Mustafa Pasha, the sarcophagus of his daughter Umi and fountain in the shadravan of the mosque are preserved today, as well as remains of grave ornaments, the imaret and the madrasa.



Near the town of Probishtip, in the vast natural area at the foot of the Osogovo Mountains, in area of 18,000 m<sup>2</sup> the fun and recreation complex **Aqua Park (41)** is located. A wide range of attractions on water are available along with terrain for volleyball, entertainment for



children, restaurants and bars for every taste, souvenir shop and additional facilities that makes it a modern themed Aqua Park.

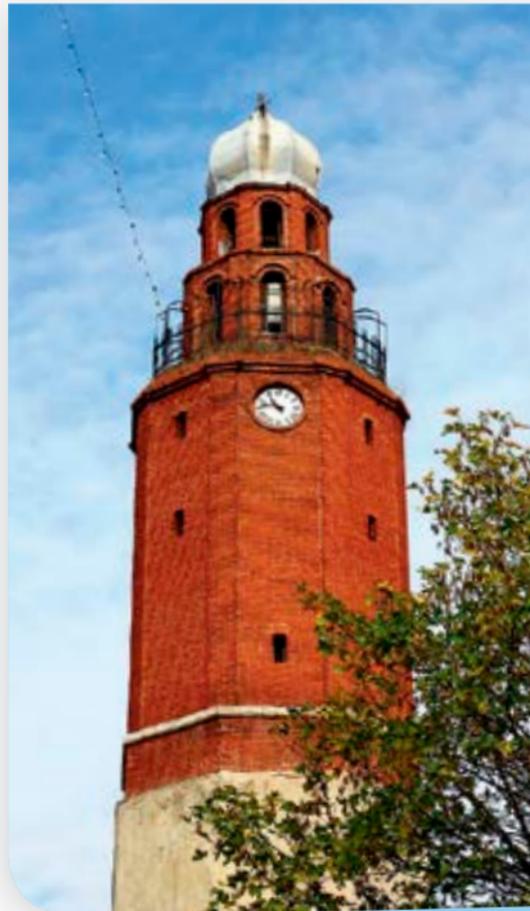
**Sundial. (42)** This clock is located in the central square in the town of Bitola, on the facade wall of the building. This sundial is vertically located, on a wall that faces east under an angle slightly smaller than 10 degrees. The dimensions



of the clock are 12 meters high and 5 meters wide, making it one of the biggest ones on the Balkan Peninsula. Because of its large dimensions, the time can be read at a distance of about 30 meters. Several proverbs in Latin are written on the wall as well as their translations in Macedonian, reflecting the clock function. There is also a legend about which scale is used to read and also the way how to read the seasons.

### **Sultan Murat Mosque.**

**(43)** Located in Skopje, east from the Old Skopje Bazaar. Sultan Murat II built this mosque as his legacy in 1436. Throughout history, the mosque was exposed to fires twice. In 1537 its upper part and the minaret were burnt, and the Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent restored it. The second fire was a result of arson of the city in 1689, when the mosque suffered massive damage. Again it was restored in 1712, by order of the Sultan Ahmed III. The last significant rearrangements were made in 1912. The second name of the mosque is *Hjunki-ar* (tzar's, sultan's) or Clock mosque because of the clock tower, located in its backyard, built from 1566 to 1572, as one of the first clock towers in the Ottoman Empire. The clock tower is 40 meters high and has three parts. There are two *türbe* mausoleums in the courtyard of the mosque – the one of Bejhan Sultan's and the family tomb of Ali Pasha of Dagestan.





**Macedonian ethno village. (44)** It represents a complex of 12 ethno houses from various regions of Macedonia (Berovo, Struga, Tetovo, Gostivar, Bitola, Prilep, etc.), which offers the possibility to accommodate guests and other supporting facilities and elements (farmyard, mill, barn, fountain and museum, amphitheatre, souvenir shop, tavern, etc.). It represents a museum displaying artisan workshops, pottery, smithy, weaving workshop, all typical of the region the appearance of a certain house comes from. It is located in the village of Gorno Nerezi near Skopje, next to the monastery of St. Panteleimon.

**Church of St. Spas. (45)** (The Church of the Ascension of Jesus). The church is one of the most important cultural monuments in Skopje, located east of the Kale fortress. The entrance to the courtyard is through the heavy and wrought oak gate. The yard is dominated by a simple stone sarcophagus where the remains of the great revolutionary and freedom fighter Goce Delchev (1872-1903) lay. The church has remains of frescoes on the south wall dating back to the XVII century. The restoration of the church occurred after the burning of the city in 1689, together with the restoration of the previous old church. The church got its final appearance in the early XIX century. It is known for its impressive iconostasis (10 meters wide, 6 meters high), product of the group of Makarie Frchkovski from Galichnik, who designed it from 1819 to 1824. The iconostasis is made of walnut and it depicts scenes from the Old and New Testament. The church is important due to its extremely beautiful artistic carving of the iconostasis, bishop's throne, sermon area, the kliros and the stand for kissing the icons.





## Events

### You should attend



The guide provides a review of the more important events and manifestations organized in Macedonia. Some of them are with millennial tradition, and some symbolizing and resulting from a new way of living. Most events in Macedonia are organized in summer, and this guide offers hundreds of events that will attract your attention and curiosity and we hope that you would take part in some of them.

**Bull-fighting (1)** in the village of Drvosh, located near Strumica. The site 'Tenovi topoli' is a place that hosts bull-fighting since 1984. In the beginning, this ritual started as a bet between two neighbours who wanted to see whose bull is stronger, but over the years, the act became a great event with participants from Skopje, Tetovo, Gostivar, Berovo and Radovis. The natural arena gathers thousands of visitors to see the struggle of Drvosh bulls. There are about 30 pairs of bulls that compete in the arena, and the bull that flees first the arena, loses the fight.



**Gajdijada Dolneni. (2)** Two days each year echo with bagpipes, drums, flutes and gaidas, sounds of the mandolin, pearly original song from the throats of hundreds of participants at the site Rudina, in the village of Dolneni near Prilep. It is the place where the traditional festival of folk instruments and songs "Pece Atanasovski" is held. Dolneni village each year is occupied by 200 people who cherish the traditional folk music. The festival was posthumously named after Pece Atanasovski, the doyen of Macedonian folk song, famous piper. There is a museum in the village, with a bust of Atanasovski in the courtyard. Among the exhibits is the collection of prizes and gifts that Atanasovski received during his mission to promote and preserve the original folk music.



**Gemidzii. (3)** Four days from Veles to Gevgelija around hundred participants sail in the traditional Vardar regatta. With ten boats and a wooden raft-ship they pass 120 km as Veles traders did during the early XX century. But instead in Thessaloniki, the regatta ends in Gevgelija. The ceremonial starts in the morning from the Monument of Gemidzii nearby the Small Bridge, then the regatta continues towards the Krivolak military range, to the site Strela 1, where they spend the night. The second day regatta sails on Vardar to Demir Kapija, the third day it is in Marvinci, and the fourth day it reaches its final destination in Gevgelija. The Municipality of Veles is the patron of the event, and the Citizens' Association "Vardar regatta Gemidzii" from Veles is the delegated authority that organizes it. The high water level of the river Vardar allows the boats to sail fast, despite the strong south wind "Povardarec".



Specialties according to recipes made from famous Kriva Palanka potato can be seen and tasted during the traditional **Palanechka kompirijada (4)**, held at the City Square in Kriva Palanka. The event coincides with the Day of the city church of St. Demetrius and it is dedicated to promoting Osogovo region potato, which is among the finest in Macedonia.



Under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Macedonia, each year during the summer a series of cultural events across Macedonia within the project **Warm cultural wave** are held. Municipality of Vevcani continuously participates in this project by organizing several cultural events that aim to contribute to enriching the cultural life of the citizens of Vevcani, but also to enrich the tourist offer of Vevcani in summer, which results in a number of domestic and foreign tourists visiting the village.





**Vevcani Carnival (6)** is a traditional event held for 14 centuries. Many people attend this Carnival. The carnival is as old as the village of Vevcani (1,400 years) and it is considered a cultural and tourist attraction. Vevcani Carnival is essentially a custom with masks, called "Saint Vasilja" (Vasilica). It is celebrated on 13 and 14 January each year and it is dedicated to St. Basil the Great. It is the day of the New Christian Orthodox year. Otherwise, it is a pagan tradition, preserved until the present day. Its participants are called Vasilicars. The place of the carnival events is the village of Vevcani. The people of Vevcani perceive the carnival as a forty-eight-hour absolute freedom of spirit and body, celebrating creativity, improvisation, mocking and the sense of stigmatization of negative social phenomena and personalities.



**Struga Poetry Evenings (7)** as a manifestation that started in 1962, with a series of readings of Macedonian poets in the honour of the brothers Konstantin and Dimitar Miladinov, great

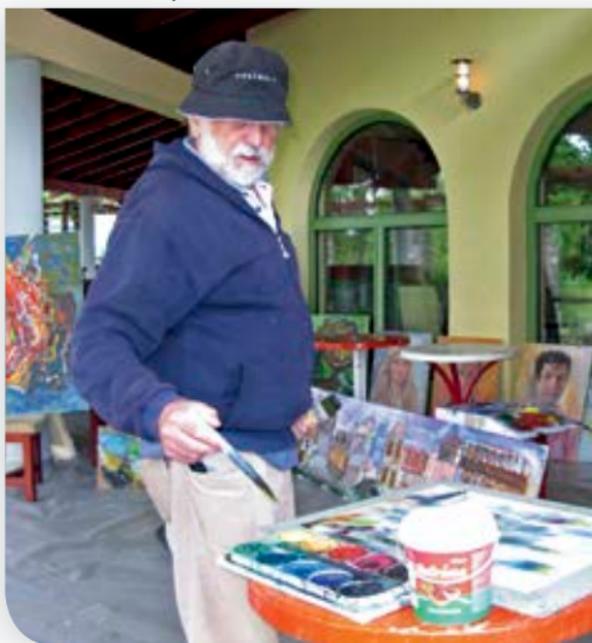


intellectuals, teachers and writers, born in Struga in the early XIX century. Konstantin Miladinov is considered the originator of modern Macedonian poetry and each year the festival officially begins with his memorable poem



"Longing for the South", written during his student residence in Moscow. Since 1963, when many poets from all former Yugoslav republics joined the festival, an award "Miladinovci Brothers" was established for best poetry book published in the Republic of Macedonia between the two festivals. In 1966, Struga Poetry Evenings became an international poetry event, and consequently an international poetry award called "Golden Wreath" was established, which is awarded to world renowned living poet for their poetic oeuvre or life achievement in the field of poetry.

**International Kicevo art colony. (9)** It takes place in the House of Arts in the village of Knezino, Kicevo municipality. The event lasts two weeks and is attended by more than 25 eminent painters, academics and professors from Macedonia and another 15 countries: Russia, France, Malaysia, Pakistan, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Albania, Kosovo, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Serbia, Cyprus and others. The purpose of the event is to stimulate, encourage, develop and promote artistic creation, as well as to enrich the existing art funds with new contemporary art works.



Residents of Rastesh, Samokov and the surrounding villages of Makedonski Brod, as well as artisans from other regions in Macedonia present their craftsmanship during the traditional, **Porechki panagjur (10)** (Poreche Fair). The event represents and promotes the natural and cultural characteristics of the ethnic region Poreche, as well as cultural characteristics of other parts of the Republic of Macedonia. The purpose of the event is to preserve and revive traditional cultural values of old customs and crafts and to create a basis for further promotion and development of the ethnic region Poreche.



**Ohrid Summer Festival (11)** is held every year from 12 July to 20 August in Ohrid.

The festival brings together artists from all around the world, offering events for every taste. In the magical atmosphere of this



ancient city a number of concerts, theatrical plays, poetry readings and dance performances are held. With its long tradition of performances with an exceptionally rich artistic value, the "Ohrid Summer" Festival each year offers an exceptionally rich artistic program, with events that are expected to cause huge interest among the public and especially with the lovers of music, theatres and other arts.



**Poetry Night in Velestovo (12)** is the top event of its kind in Macedonia, founded in 1989 as a chamber presentation of works by renowned Macedonian poet and painter. Since its first edition, it hosted the most important Macedonian poets and painters. In a way, Poetry Night in Velestovo represents a small, but valuable anthology of artistic events in Macedonia in the last decade of XX and the first decade of the XXI century. In order to follow the current global presentations, it promotes new multimedia approach to the interpretation of poetry and promotes new quality, which dispels stereotypes of events of its kind, not only in Macedonia but also beyond.

**Review of traditional costumes (13)** is a cultural manifestation that was held for the first time in 1971 in Struga and aims to present



the heritage of folk costumes and embroidery of the Macedonian people and the ethnic minorities in the country. The review is a tourist event of traditional character and takes place every year in the first half of August. The Review is of a competitive and fun-musical character. The defile through the streets and the embankments of the River Drim is a special experience for guests. During the parade, traditional costumes are displayed: bachelor's, girl's, bridal's, groom's, children's, old people's and other costumes of all nationalities living in the Republic of Macedonia.



Festival of stylized folk songs and dances „**Këngë jeho**“ (14) (Albanian: song echoes) started in 1992. The headquarters of the festival is in the town of Struga. According to the program and its status, it is held every year in late July or early August. Each year this festival features cultural associations from Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo and other countries in Europe and the USA that cherish stylized folk songs and dances.





The first gourmet beer weekend **Pivolend (15)** was held in 2008 and in four days it was visited by nearly 60,000 fans of this ancient beverage. Along with the varied gastronomic and beer offer, there is an entertainment program, with a large number of artists representing different musical genres. It is held every year in Skopje in September.

**Skopje Jazz Festival (16)** is one of the leading cultural events in Macedonia, with a long tradition and great reputation in Europe and worldwide. It is one of the leading jazz festivals in Europe. The festival began in 1982, and in its history there are inscribed performances of the most famous names of American and European jazz, Latino and African-American music, as well as the best Macedonian musicians.



**OFF-Fest. (17)** The festival takes place between the second half of May and the first half of June. Despite the relatively short tradition of this event, the list of participants who have performed at OFF-Fest is impressive, including the world's most famous representatives of world music.



**Street festival (18)** was established in 2013 as a platform of urban street art, which gathered more than 30 music and street artists, who through creativity, interaction and music transformed the city of Skopje in an ultra-urban environment. This is the only outdoor festival that talks about street culture and motivates urban awakening. The festival includes 6 stages: graffiti, music, skate/blade/biking, Street ball, dance and igloo workshops.



The first edition of **Taksirat (19)** took place in 1999 and since then this unique festival still takes place every year and still has an extremely important role in the construction of "new" and better



Skopje through various aspects and approaches to counter-culture. Despite the fact that Taksirat featured major world and regional music stars, the festival still manages not to turn into a classic commercial mainstream event and manages to maintain its original image by being still firmly based on the foundation of its beginnings, i.e. the ideals and belief in the importance of counter-culture.

**Zlatno Slavejche (Golden Nightingale) (20)** is a Macedonian music festival for children, organized by the Council for care and upbringing of children of the city of Skopje. The festival takes place in the "Universal Hall" in Skopje. It was founded in 1970. Since the Republic of Macedonia gained its independence, it is held under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Macedonia. Moreover, as patrons, all Macedonian presidents have attended the festival as guests and the festival's children choir is invited to visit them too. In 2010, upon its 40th anniversary, the Festival was awarded the "Charter of the Republic of Macedonia" by President Gjorgje Ivanov. The festival is non-competitive and without any rewards.



сојуз за грижи  
и воспитување  
на децата на  
град Скопје

ЗЛАТНО  
СЛАВЕЈЧЕ



**Skopje Festival (21)** is a Macedonian music event held in Skopje. Most often, this festival elects the representative of Macedonia for the International Music Festival "Eurovision".

The festival **Days of Macedonian Music (22)** is an event with a long tradition dedicated to the promotion of contemporary Macedonian music and is held in Skopje. The organizer of the festival, the Composers' Association of Macedonia - SOCOM was established in 1947 and has since been a major promoter of the world and Macedonian artistic music in the country, thus contributing to increasing the interest and knowledge about new ways of musical expression and creation. Besides presentation of Macedonian music

works, one of the necessary aspects of the festival is the presentation of world ensembles promoting its music, and also the culture or the context of origin. In this way, the Festival encourages meaningful



intercultural exchange and creates an inspiring basis for all participants, musicians and composers of the country and abroad, as well as for the Macedonian audience.





**Baskerfest (23)** is the first international and multicultural street festival in Macedonia, recognized as the largest event of its kind in the region. The debut of "Baskerfest" occurred in 2006 and proved as successful completion, with a program that included more than 50 artists, acrobats, dancers, magicians, musicians, jugglers. This tradition continues every year with more and more participants from different countries, such as Australia, Canada, Argentina, Poland, Italy, New Zealand, USA, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Colombia, Bolivia and other countries. Each year more than 100,000 visitors come to attend this event in Skopje.

In 2007, for the first time the International Wine Festival **Vino-Skop (24)** was held in Skopje. The event was organized on the embankment "13 November" and it presented 20 Macedonian wineries. During the festival there was a professional wine-tasting where wines from Macedonian wineries were evaluated by three foreign and two domestic judges. Since then, each year, traditionally, the event is held in two periods: summer and winter.





At the beginning of October each year, the festival **White Night (25)** is traditionally held when all the cafes and restaurants in Skopje are open until early in the morning. Also, this event features various celebrations of Macedonian and foreign artists at various locations in Skopje. During the festival, public transport is free.

**Young Open Theatre (26)** is an International Theatre Festival held in Skopje. In 2015 its 40th edition of the YOT was opened with a performance of the theatre "Alias" from Geneva. During the festival 15 plays were performed, including "The Other Side" written by Dejan Dukovski and performed by the dance theatre "Lydia Litos" from Athens, the play "Thessaloniki-ghost town" by Rusomir Bogdanovski, directed by Slobodan Unkovski and performed by the "Theatre of Cvetko the Navigator".





Each year, starting from June 21, the first day of summer and the "World Music Day", **Skopje Summer (27)** begins at thirty different sites - scenes. The event lasts until 31 July, and during that period, the rhythm of spirituality can be felt at the outdoor scenes: Skopje Fortress, the Old Bazaar, Kurshumli An, Suli An, Vardar Embankment, City Park, the halls of the Skopje theatres and art galleries.

The **International Art Colony "Kumanovo" (28)** is one of the oldest art events in the country.

International in nature, the Colony started in 1974 in various locations, ranging from the Prohor Pcinjski monastery, the monastery in Matejche and in recent years - the Pelince complex. It is organized by the Museum of Kumanovo and Municipality of Kumanovo.

The traditional International festival **Days of Comedy (29)** is organized by the Cultural Center "Trajko Prokopiev" from

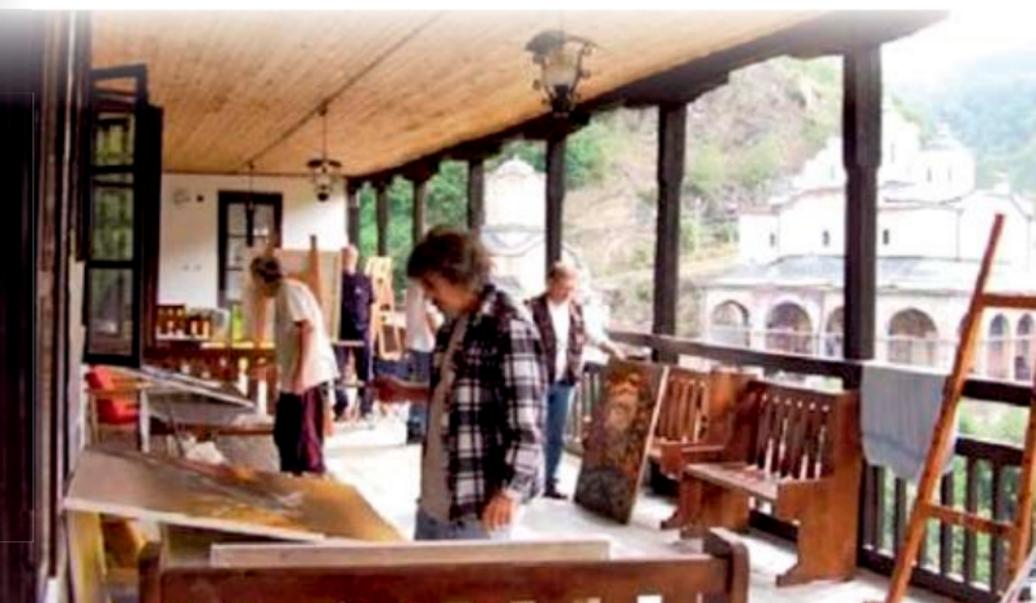


Kumanovo, supported by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Macedonia. Comedy lovers have the opportunity to attend performances during the festival which has revue character, held from 1-18 October.

The village of Rezanovce, Kumanovo municipality is a host to the **Prazijada, (30)** that promotes leek as vegetable culture of this region. The event "Prazijada" is organized by the local community of Rezanovce in collaboration with the network for rural development of Macedonia "Eco guard", with the support of the Municipality of Kumanovo. This event encourages leek producers and promotes the crop, as well as healthy diet.



**Art Colony "St. Joachim Osogovski" (31)** was first held on September 5, 1987. The colony is organized every year from 5-20 September and with the support of His Eminence, Metropolitan of Polog and Kumanovo, the Metropolitan Cyril. In 1993 the colony gained international character and was attended by artists from different countries.





International **Woodcarving colony (32)** is organized by the Association of wood carvers of Macedonia and it's held at the monastery of St. Joachim Osogovski in Kriva Palanka. Macedonia has the privilege to be a home of carving art, from which the carving artistic elite emerged, headed by protomaster Petre Filipovski Garkata. The International woodcarving colony takes place in June, and the works created at the Colony are presented at an exhibition before Kriva Palanka public.

**AsterFest (33)** is an international film festival that was founded in 2005 in Strumica. The festival has a competitive character. Program categories comprise film selections: "Star Documents", "Global Fiction", "Animotion", "Movieland" "Dedications," "Mari-Dions" and others. The festival awards prizes: Gold, Silver and Bronze horseshoe, Olg golden projector, the Award for Best Macedonian author "Aco Aleksov", best screenplay award "Georgi Abadzhiev" and other awards and certificates for the best films.



**Strumica Carnival (34)** is an annual carnival held in Strumica and is one of the most important customs and traditions of its kind in Macedonia that probably went the farthest in its transformation among all the traditional dances under masks, both in timing and in its goal and function. Strumica Carnival is traditionally held each year within Trimeri days, i.e. at the beginning of the Great Lent. The beginning of Lent, or the first three days are called Trimeri days and they always begin on Sunday Eve of Forgiveness and last until Wednesday, and during that period, i.e. in the evening on Tuesday is the traditional carnival night, when masked groups walk through the city and go to the





homes of couples who are engaged to be married, girls that have promised to marry someone and stay there until dawn. However, in regards to the relation of the timing of the Carnival with Trimeri days, one should make a difference, i.e. one should bear in mind that the connection is only in the period of occurrence, i.e. these two events only happen at the same time but are different in all essential aspects, since Trimeri is essentially Christian tradition, while the Carnival represents remnant from a cult from pagan times. The Carnival in Strumica is considered to have a very long tradition. It was once mentioned by the famous Ottoman traveller Evliya Çelebi back in 1670. Strumica Carnival is an international festival and it is recognized by the FECC - European Federation of Carnival Cities.

The **Festival of chamber theatre "Risto Shishkov" (35)** is being held since 1992 in honour of the great Macedonian actor Risto Shishkov in Strumica, from whom it takes its name. Since 2005, the Festival has an international character. The festival traditionally begins on 8 September, and the number of theatre performances and the duration of the festival changes every

year. Its primary objective is to value the mastery of acting only and not the other components that comprise the theatre in general. The event opens with an exhibition of photographs by the actor Risto Shishkov. The festival awards a unique award for great acting achievement. The award is a gold medallion with the portrait of Risto Shishkov.



### The **Art Colony in Strumica (36)** has

its beginnings in August 1964. So far it has hosted over 1,200 authors from all over the world, and it has rich art fund of over 2,500 works, including important works from the classics of

Macedonian art works. The International Strumica Art Colony is under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Macedonia and the Municipality of Strumica. Made in different techniques: oil on canvas, acrylic on canvas, wood in various combinations, linocut prints and colour works, the works reveal the genuine inspiration of the artists from the country and abroad that participate in the Colony.





**Strumica Open Festival. (37)** Each year, in summer, Strumica celebrates this wonderful event which lasts for ten days. The participants in this program are from the Balkans and Macedonia. The festival includes art colony, poetry and aphorisms evenings, theatre and film evenings, waiter race, state bartending cup, hip-hop concert, promotion of books and concert of folk ensembles.

**The International Festival of aphorisms and caricature (38)**

is an event held every year during the carnival festivities in Strumica. In the past 15 years, since the beginning of the festival, several hundred aphorists and cartoonists from Macedonia and around the world participate in it with their works



on "Erotica and carnival", and the authors of the most successful cartoons and aphorisms receive awards and certificates.

**Ajverijada (39)** is an event held in the September/October and aims to present, promote and popularize the local Strumica ajver, which is an original specialty, made of famous Strumica red pepper "Kurtova gate". In a fun and relaxed atmosphere with songs, dances and humour, visitors taste bread and ajver, while the best masters receive awards.



International Festival **Samun em tatlija (40)** held at the beginning of November each year in Radovich is based on promoting the unique and recognizable traditional local specialties offered by the old and the



new catering facilities in the municipality, followed with culturally-entertaining program. The purpose of this international event is to promote local gastronomic specialties with a possibility to taste and sell them.

Cultural - entertainment program of the three-day event is enriched with performances of entertainers, domestic and foreign performers and bands, folk ensembles and is



held in many locations such as square "St. Spaso Radovichki", "Aco Karamanov" Cultural Center, Summer terrace of the Ethnological collection, "Brothers Miladinovci" library, the "Oraovicho monastery" complex and other.

Every year on August 30th in Radovich is held **Yörük Festival. (41)**, The purpose of the event is to mark the long tradition of Yörük population in Radovich. It is held in the village of Topolnica by the regional road Radovich – Stip. It is traditionally enriched with pelivan wrestling with participants from all over Macedonia. It also has rich cultural - entertaining program with musicians and folklore ensembles from the Republic of Macedonia and other countries in the region including Turkey.



**Smokvijada (42)** is a traditional event held every year in late August or early September, organized by the Civic Association Terra Gevgelija. The venue of Smokvijada is the City Stadium, where many teams compete in preparing sweet ripe figs preserve. The event begins with a parade of folk groups and participants, and while the participants prepare the preserves, a rich cultural and artistic program takes place on the scene. The preserves are eventually assessed and the best ones are rewarded.



**Folk Fest Valandovo (43)** is a festival held in May each year, in continuity with its rich and long musical tradition in the region. It began in 1985 and it has become a manifestation of a new tradition in the country and the Balkans throughout the years.

Folk Fest Valandovo have produced many hits and famous singers on the Macedonian music scene. In 1989, a hall was built with 1,200 seats, and every year there is a live broadcast by the national Macedonian Television. The festival is popular not only with the domestic audience, but also in the diaspora.



**Hid-Bah Shen Fest (44)** is an event that has existed since 1992 and continuously held every year in the village of Chalakli, Valandovo, in early May. The Festival is a celebration of spring holidays as part of the tradition of the Turkish population, but it is also a promotion of Turkish culture and tradition, represented in many forms. Hidrellez is a holiday that marks the beginning of a new cycle in nature, its restoration, because it represents the apotheosis (rite of elevation) from which the motto of the festival originated. It lasts four days and includes the following: folklore, exhibition of artefacts and photographs, concerts, theatre performances, traditional pelivan wrestling and football tournament.





**Rakijada (45)** is an event held in Valandovo since 2000. From 2005 it takes place at the swimming pool in Valandovo under the auspices of the Mayor and the Council of the Municipality of Valandovo. Rakijada has primarily social, as well as a competitive character. Rakijada participants compete in the traditional brewing of rakija. Each year it involves participants from Valandovo Municipality and other municipalities, and there are plans to invite competitors from other countries, which would make the festival international. From year to year Rakijada gains more cultural significance in the region and beyond.

Cultural event **Dojranski rakuvanja (46)** (Dojran handshakes) began in 1976. The first years passed in the spirit of the poetic written word, with eminent writers from the Republic of Macedonia who read their literary works. Along with the presentation of existing achievements, symposia were held on the person and work of our renaissance and cultural figures of the turbulent history of the Macedonian people. Natural beauty, Mediterranean climate, mainly hot and healing water, the attractive



fishing with mandras (fisherman's cabin) with cormorants and many other priorities of Dojran, contributed to the intensive construction of tourist and catering facilities, camps and many holiday homes which have increased the number of visitors.

The purpose of the event **Pomegranate Day (47)** is to raise awareness of healthy food consumption among children and students. The campaign is implemented in nursery schools and schools as part of the program "Integration of environmental education in the Macedonian educational system" in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science and Association for education, communication and consulting "OHO". The campaign is conducted through fun and friendship of students and adults during the harvest of pomegranates in the Valandovo fields.



On January 20, in the village of Ratevo, the **Ratevo Carnival "Bamburci" (48)**, is held – a cultural event that is directly related to the religious holiday "Council of St. John the Baptist" - Jovanden. Besides the traditional performance of "Ratevski Bamburci", the Carnival is enriched with the presentation of other activities related to traditional customs in Maleshevija region in winter.





In order to promote and bring closer the traditional crafts and products of Berovo to its consumers, 27 and 28 August, an international fair of traditional products **Maleshevija at hand (49)** is held. The Fair consists of three sectors: health food, deft hands and souvenirs and carvings. The event offers the visitors to taste and buy famous Malesh dairy products (cheese, hard cheese, cottage cheese, cow cheese, goat cheese, buttermilk, etc.), honey and bee products - different types of honey with various added ingredients in it (walnuts, almonds, hazelnuts), as well as medicinal bee products (propolis, beeswax, royal jelly, etc.), wild berries (blackberries, raspberries, strawberries, cranberries, rose hip) and products (juice, preserves, compote), and processed plum, cherry, cherry, aronia, etc., as well as potatoes, beans, squash, corn and other local products, and homemade plum brandy (rakija).

**Potato Day (50)** in Maleshevija. This event has an exhibition-sale character. It presents varieties of potatoes and the visitors can taste local specialties made of potatoes, combined with the famous Maleshevsko cheese and plum brandy. Berovo potato is known both in our country and abroad, thus becoming one of the recognizable features of Berovo.



The village of Razlovci marks the anniversary of the **Razlog Uprising (51)** in 1876. It is organized by the Municipality of Delchevo, with a series of activities marking the anniversary of the uprising against the Turkish government. The celebration begins early in the morning with a mountain march "Following the tracks of Razlog insurgents", which includes mountaineering associations from Delchevo and all over Macedonia. The march starts at the village fountain in the village of Trabotivishte and mountaineers walk a route 13 km long, until they reach the village of Razlovci. Before the memorial plaque of Razlog Uprising, delegations from the Municipality of Delchevo, representatives of mountaineering associations and organizations lay fresh flowers, followed by memorial church service held for participants in the uprising.



**Kolede (52)** (the day before Orthodox Christmas Eve) is an old pagan custom with a long tradition, embraced by Christianity. Regularly, bonfires are lit in all neighbourhoods around which people play, sing and give blessings. The whole ceremony is followed by folklore elements. Kolede is the day before the birthday of Jesus Christ - Christmas. Orthodox Christmas Eve falls on 6 January each year. Early in the morning of Christmas Eve, the children sing and go to people's homes where they receive gifts such as money, walnuts, chestnuts, apples, oranges, etc.





**Makfest (53)** - the largest pop music festival in the Republic of Macedonia is held in Shtip. Starting from 1986 and until 2015, it was held every second weekend in October. The festival has produced more than 1,000 songs; most of its hits became evergreens. Many singers had their stellar moments exactly at this event. The Festival is a member of the International Federation of Festival Organizations (FIDOF) based in Los Angeles, which represents over 1,600 festivals from 102 countries. Thanks to its good results, the festival was awarded twice with recognition from FIDOF, and in 1997 it became Festival of the year. Makfest scene continues to launch new music stars.

The Municipality of Stip appears as the organizer of the traditional **Pastramalijada, (54)** an event held annually 8 November, the Liberation Day of Stip. During the Pastramalijada, hotel accommodations are full of guests from the country and abroad. It is a unique event which presents traditional and best specialties of Shtip, including the most famous dish pastramalija.



### The **Drama Amateur Festival (55)** is an

annual event which features the best amateur theatres and theatre groups from the Republic of Macedonia. The town of Kochani hosts this festival. The festival had its beginnings in 1961, when 1-10



December the Workers' Centre in Skopje held the First amateur theatre show. Its host was the Club of theatre-goers, and the first show featured five theatre groups from Skopje, Delchevo, Probishtip, Gostivar and Ohrid. The Amateur Drama Festival usually takes place every year in the last week of May and lasts 5 days, with two to three performances a day. The festival is open to amateur theatre groups, drama sections, studies, experimental scenes and other forms of self-expression and scenic organization in the Republic of Macedonia, as well as to foreign amateur theatre ensembles.

On the occasion of Petrovden (St. Peter's Day), the holiday of the city of Kochani, the Cultural Centre "White Dawns" from Kochani, in cooperation and with the support of the Municipality of Kochani, began to organize the **Petrovden lodgings. (56)** The beginnings of this event were in 2007 when citizens of Kochani were presented with many cultural events during the celebration.

The purpose was to remind the population of the attendance of the town during the Orthodox feast of Petrovden, when the city used to be full with people, noise, movement, and the citizens of Kochani, as good hosts, used to treat their guests. Nowadays, when these



habits slowly die out, through cultural events the idea is to restore at least part of the long gone days of Kochani when each part of the city echoed the spirit of the Macedonian tradition. Within this event, beginning from 2010, Theological Academy celebrating Petrovden is held, organized by the church of St. Great Martyr George from Kochani, the Municipality of Kochani and Elementary Musical School "Risto Jurukov".



**Days of Kochani Rice (57)** is a cultural event which is held every year in the first half of September and is dedicated to rice - a symbol of Kochani region. Organized by the Local self-government of the Municipality of Kochani, held for the first time in 1992 with a decision of the then Assembly of the Municipality of Kochani, when its Organization Board was formed. The event was conceived as a blend of tradition and contemporary artistic expression and a display of the story of rice - from a seed to the ready meal. It attempts to preserve the tradition of the production of rice. An integral part of the event is the Rice Crop Beauty



contest. The event Days of Kochani Rice with its international prefix is an occasion for new friendships through official tours of municipal, commercial and cultural



delegations at the time of the harvest of rice. The purpose of the event is to remind of the widely renowned quality of the Kochani rice and to support its placement within and outside the borders of the Republic of Macedonia.

In order to preserve the material and spiritual wealth associated with the Gjurgjovden feast (St. George Day), Folk Ensemble "Ljupco Santov" from Orizari organizes the festival **Gjurgjovden customs, songs and dances, (58)** which in 2015 was supported by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Macedonia. Participants of the festival compete in a tug of war, jumping in sack, egg-and-spoon race, which refreshes the tradition of St. George and celebrates the feast of the renewal of nature and life in general.

International cultural event **Racin meetings. (59)** Since 1964, Velez hosts poets from the Balkans who in the hometown of the founder of modern



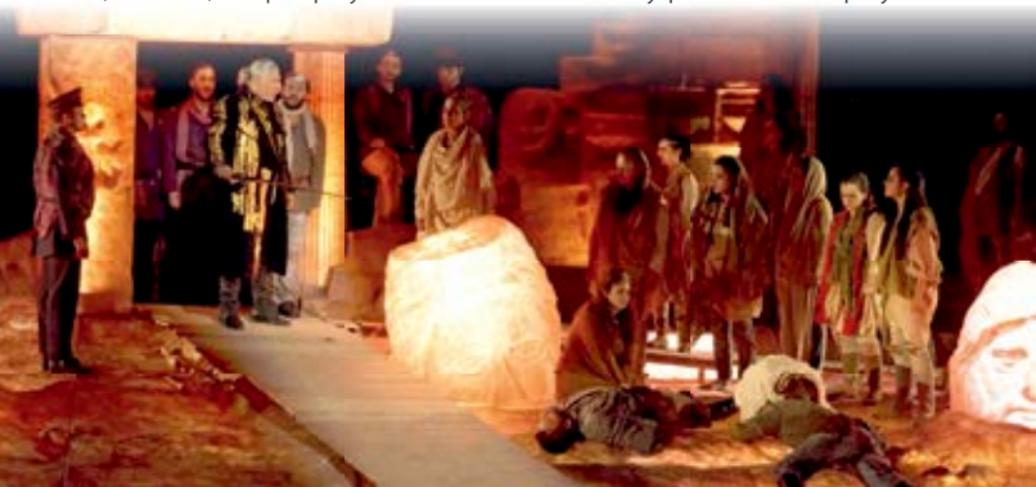
Macedonian poetry and literature Koco Racin celebrate the essence of the poetic word. Apart from the presentation of the poetry within the Racin Meetings, there are also scientific meetings dedicated to the life and work of Racin. The event traditionally presents the Racin award for most successful literary achievement between the two events, as well as Honorary Racin's Award, which is awarded for scientific works, translations

and other works dedicated to the work of Racin. Each year, the event is enriched with various types of contents, such as performances of musical artists, exhibitions, book fairs with musicians and groups from Macedonia and the neighbouring countries.



Painting and woodcarving colony **Papradishki Masters, (60)** formerly held at the village of Papradishte, has been moved to Veles and takes place in the memorial houses of Yordan Hadzhikonstantinov-Dzhinot and Kasapov family, which were completely renovated. The purpose of the colony is promotion of Veles as a place of culture with tradition and values. It is important that the greatest builder Andreja Damjanov, who worked with his group not only in Veles, but also in the Balkans, originates from Papradishte. The first and last fresco painter Dimitar Andonov Papradishki was born there, as well as the famous Zografski family.

**Antique Drama Festival Stobi. (61)** In order to preserve the tradition of the ancient theatre with performances of ancient texts on the ancient theatre scene in Stobi, since 1992, following the initiative of the actors from the Veles Theatre, there are performances in the ancient amphitheatre during the summer. Since 2001, this tradition has grown into International Antique Drama Festival, which every year attracts a growing number of theatre artists from the world. The festival is an attraction not only for the citizens of Veles, but for theatre-goers from around the country, as evidenced by the huge number of visitors, ranging from 2,500 to 3,000 per play. The festival traditionally presents: best play



award, best director award and best actor awards. Stobi ancient scene is particularly attractive for visitors and for theatre artists because of the possibility to create real spectacles in the ancient authentic surroundings of the amphitheatre and to revive old texts.

**Tikvesh grozdober (62)** (Tikvesh vintage). This event is a continuation of a long and rich tradition, which in this region is maintained since the time of ancient Macedonia, when in honour of the God of wine Dionysus, the "Dionysian days" were held. These festivities lasted for several days and were attended by the entire population (the free citizens and slaves). Ancient Macedonians skilfully and lovingly cultivated and nurtured this culture, as evidenced by numerous grave steles, mosaics and reliefs of archaeological sites in the Tikvesh region. Viticulture was nurtured in this region during the Middle Ages and the main centres were the estates that belonged to the churches and the monasteries, where the best wine was made. After the arrival of the Turks, its production has stagnated, because the Koran bans the use of alcoholic beverages. Municipal leadership of Kavadarci in 1964 organized the first "Tikvesh vintage", an event which has economic, cultural and touristic character. The first board of this manifestation consisted of 60 members, but the number later increased.



Since 1998, at the initiative of the Culture House in Veles, in the picturesque scenery of the village of Gorno Vranovci, **International art colony "Eco Art"** is traditionally held. This international art event is driven by the desire of artists to help solve environmental problems of Veles. Colony participants have the opportunity in characteristic natural environments to create works with profound ecological message, embodying elements of the immediate urban and natural environment of the town.



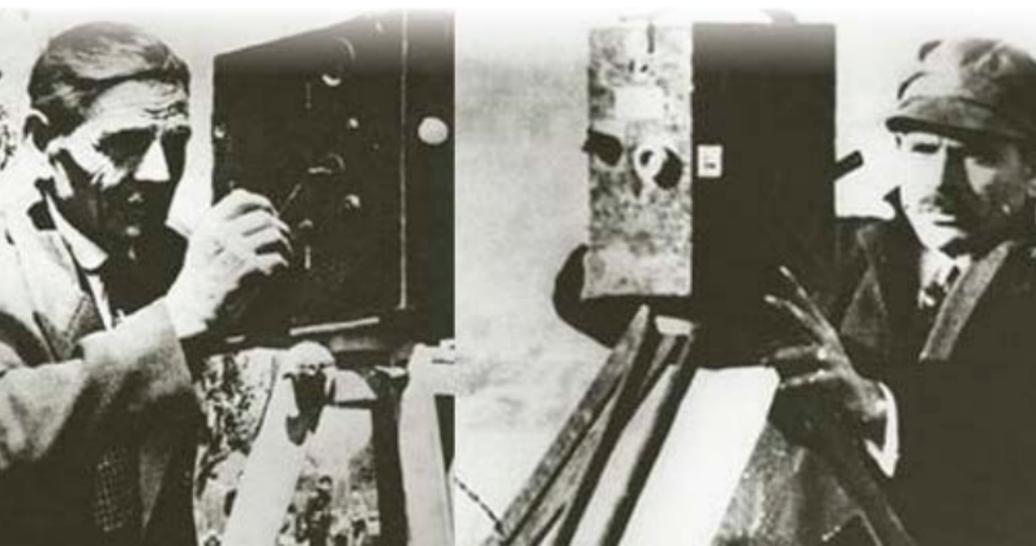
For more than 100 years, in honour of the religious holiday Nativity of Mary on 21 September, the town of Negotino holds the famous **Negotinski Panagjur (64)** (Negotino Fair). In the last couple of years the celebrations began on 19 September, when the famous "Negotino Evening" was held. This is an evening of traditional urban songs, music and friendship for all generations, an evening when the old bazaar and town square in Negotino become too small to gather all visitors entertained by famous and renowned musicians from the Macedonian scene.



The program is enriched with performances of acrobats and jugglers, as well as the theatrical performance of smaller theatre groups. Otherwise, "Negotino Evening" is the successor of the famous "Bohemian Evening", which, among other things, presented the "Bohemian of the year" award. The festivities continue on 20 September with the famous "Monastery Evening", when citizens traditionally and massively visit the monastery of St. George, located near Negotino. Over the next three days (21-23 September) the economic part of the event is the main one, when the downtown area is turned into a huge fair, where traders come from all parts of the Republic of Macedonia to offer a wide range of products and goods.



The tradition of the International Cinematographer's Film Festival **Manaki Brothers (65)** began in 1979. Founded in honour and inspired by the overwhelming photographic-film opus of Manaki brothers - Janaki (1878-1954) and Milton (1880-1964) in Bitola, where the brothers owned a photography studio and cinema. Initially named as "Manaki meetings", and then continued to exist as the Cinematographers of ex-Yugoslav cinematographer's festival, as it grew with great potential and since the independence of Macedonia, it became an international festival for world cinematographers where the films that participate are in competition for three awards of the festival: Gold, Silver and Bronze camera 300.





Children Art Studio "Ss. Cyril and Methodius" in Bitola was established in 1981 in order to gather and improve young talents. The biggest success of the Studio is the organization of the International Children's Colony in Bitola, known as the **Small Bitola Montmartre. (66)** The most important dimension of this event is the respect towards the artistic heritage, while comparing activities of children from different cultures and traditions. During the meetings of different cultures, the spirit of multiculturalism and tolerance is developed. So far over 8,000 primary schools and nurseries with more than 500,000 children's drawings from more than 45 countries worldwide have participated. The event is organized in May.



Bitola Cultural Summer **Bit Fest (67)** is a festival that is known with many renowned artists from the Republic of Macedonia and abroad. It is actually a musical and stage event (theatre, ballet, opera, classical music concerts, art exhibitions, various performances, rock, pop, jazz concerts) and it is as good as and equal to Skopje and Ohrid summer Festival. Since 2005 it is organised and financially supported by the Municipality of Bitola, and is held during the summer months of June, July and August.



**Lokum Fest (68)** is festival of music and tradition, taking place in the Old Bitola Bazaar since 2007, with a clear mission to revive the old Bazaar, to preserve the living cultural heritage and tradition through modern chalgija, to promote the traditional handicrafts and to perform other presentations in the spirit of the cultural tradition. It takes place in July.



The main objective of the International Festival of Folk Songs and Dances **Ilinden days (69)** in Bitola is encouraging, facilitating and stimulating our people in the homeland or anywhere across the world meridians to research, breed, value



and present the autochthonous, original content and expressions in the rich folk cultural treasure and pass these priceless cultural values to the future generations. This festival was attended by more than 1,000 folk companies and folk singing groups with about 30,000 performers. Its main function is to cherish the original folklore. The festival is traditionally held from 27 July to 2 August.

**The Festival Solstice (70)** Feast of Music is an old francophone tradition which is typical of the francophone and Mediterranean countries. It is held on 21 of June, the first day of summer, on the international World Music Day. On that day in the streets and squares in France, as well as in hundreds of francophone cities in the world, people go out and sing, play music and have fun, celebrating the coming of the summer. The Festival is organized by the Centre for Cultural Decontamination and the French Alliance from Bitola.



**St. Nectarios of Bitola, (71)** the patron of Bitola is celebrated every year on 18 December, in cooperation with the Diocese of Prespa and Pelagonija. On the occasion of this feast, a procession is organized that walks through the centre of town, followed by rich musical program featuring choirs, ensembles and artists from Bitola. The citizens are addressed by the archbishop of the Diocese of Prespa and Pelagonija.





**Forgiveness Day Carnival (72)** The traditional custom of masking on Forgiveness Day in Prilep reflects the ethno-cultural identity of Macedonia and represents a unique phenomenon in the Balkans, Europe, even worldwide. This centuries-old celebration of Forgiveness Day, since 2001 grew into an organized cultural manifestation "Prilep Carnival" with an international character, and on 21 May 2006 became a member of the European Federation of Carnival Cities (FECC). Each year Prilep hosts over 300 guests from several European countries. There is a downtown parade of around 1,000 interesting group and individual masks, and the most beautiful masks are presented with an award. Apart from the parade of the masks, the event is enriched with concerts, club parties, performances of cultural associations, exhibition of masks, as well as presentations of traditional Macedonian food. Prilep in 2012 hosted the 32 Convention of FECC.

Among the events that represent traditional cultural feature of the town of Prilep are the **Days of King Marko, (73)** held from 15 to 17 May, on the anniversary of the death of the Macedonian national hero. The Days promote Prilep as a city where the legendary King Marko lived, as a place that is an inevitable destination for tourists visiting our country.





Macedonian **Theatre festival "Vojdan Chernodrinski" (74)** was established in 1965 at the initiative of the Association of drama artists from the Republic of Macedonia. The festival is named after the founder of the Macedonian drama Vojdan Chernodrinski, playwright, actor and director. It is held every year in early June. This renowned festival presents the best drama performances of the entire Macedonian theatre production.

**Festival of folk instruments and songs "Pece Atanasovski" (75)** is held in early July in Prilep. It exists since 1974, and its founder - Pece Atanasovski - was the most famous Macedonian folk piper and educator who, as a lover of folklore and tradition, left behind a great number of works, one of which is the Festival of bagpipes. It is the only one of its kind in the country and in the Balkans and it has one main goal - to save the ancient and valuable skills of the traditional instruments' players and the singers of the original folk songs from extinction. The festival has an international character and so far around 9,000 instrumentalists and singers from the Republic of Macedonia and around the world have taken part in it.





**Beer festival (76)** is held in mid-July. Each year the town of Prilep hosts thousands of visitors during the four days of the festival. With an exhibition area of 3,000 m<sup>2</sup>, on a total of 25 locations in the city centre, it provides an opportunity for a great number of breweries and authorized distributors of beer, as well as renowned restaurants and caterers, to represent beer brands such as Zlaten dab, Tuborg, Skopsko, Heineken, Amstel, Kamenitza, Staro Pramen, Budweiser and others. The festival also offers cultural and entertainment program, which takes place on two stages, with performances of major music stars. During the four days of the event, several hundred tons of beer and barbecue are consumed by the visitors.

**Mariovo-Meglen meetings, (77)** are held in the centre of the village of Vitolishte for more than 30 years, primarily as a meeting of Macedonians from Meglen and Mariovo. Organized by the Local self-government of the municipality of Prilep, every year the meetings are enriched with cultural performances by many folklore groups, ethnic bands and music schools from all parts of the Republic of Macedonia.



Many guests from the country and abroad go to Prespa and Resen, where by symbolically splitting the first apple in the orchards, the company "Agroplod" begins the annual picking of apples in Prespa. This solemn beginning of picking apples is part of the event, **Prespa Apple Harvest. (78)** This event, aiming to promote Prespa apple and its manufacturers, agro-tourism, economic and cultural achievements, is organized by the Local self-government of the municipality of Resen. For many decades now, the people of Prespa, starting on the religious holiday Holy Cross Day, practically move to their orchards to collect the annual yield of apples.



**Krushevo - Ethno Town, (79)** is one of the biggest tourist attractions in Macedonia. The festival is held every summer (July-August), and its main objectives are to promote the city with all its historical and cultural landmarks, to activate and motivate local people and the business community to revive the hospitality business, to improve tourist capacities and to decorate the streets and facades of Krushevo. This event also represents a historical timeline of the town of Krushevo, which goes back to the beginning of the XX century, as a large number of people dress in traditional clothing and mirror the time of the Krushevo Republic from 1903.





**Galichnik Wedding Festival, (80)** is an event held every year on St. Peter's Day (12 July) in the village of Galichnik, on the slopes of the Bistra Mountain. It offers a chance to see a number of unique wedding customs and rituals. During the days of the wedding, the sound of the zurnas and the drums of the traditional dance "Teshkoto" echo all over the Bistra Mountain. Attendants of local people that work abroad are the ones that always announce the Galichnik wedding – a wedding with the greatest number



of wedding guests. The existence of the Galichnik wedding contributes to fostering the unique wedding customs and rituals of the inhabitants of this region, to preserving folk songs and dances and the famous Galichnik folk costume, made with filigree precision and accuracy of the tailors. Each year a special committee selects two young people who will get married during the Galichnik wedding. One of the prerequisites is that at least one of the spouses must be from a Galichnik family. During the wedding, many customs are observed: the beating of drums, mother-in-law's dance, taking the bride to bring water, setting the wedding banner, inviting the dead relatives, shaving the groom, going to the bride's home to formally ask for her hand in marriage, preparing the bread for baking, getting married in the church of Ss. Peter and Paul and other customs that are slowly dying but contain and hide many details of the life of Galichnik people in the past.

**Sharplaninski Cup (81)** is a sporting ski event which is held annually at the ski centre Popova Shapka on Shar Mountain. The first Sharplaninski cup was held in 1947 and is the oldest international skiing competition in the Balkan region. In 1954 it became part of the FIS B matches, while from 1969 to 1986 is part of the European Ski Cup. Due to the loss of status in 1986, it was nominated again in 1999 for the European Ski Cup. Slalom skiing is performed on the slope Ezerino, which is 685 meters long, and height difference that ranges up to 198 m, whereas the giant

slalom slope Orlova is 1,140 m long, with a height difference of 390 m. The competitors compete for cash prizes, for the first, second and third place and the first place winner also receives a dog of the Sharplaninec breed, the symbol and mascot of the cup. The patron of the competition is the President of the Republic of Macedonia.



Galichnik **Art Colony (82)** is organized every year in August. The first colony there was organized in 1990, thanks to the efforts of the painter Nove Frangovski. The colony is

traditionally held in the Hotel "Neda", and it is financially supported by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Macedonia. Artists from Macedonia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece, Albania, Romania, Britain, Japan, Italy, Hungary, Germany and many other



countries have participated in this colony in the past. Works of art, paintings and sculptures, are displayed in appropriate shows every two years.

Each year a day or two before St. Peter's Day or the Galichnik wedding, at a location called "Smrdlivi vodi" (Stinking waters) the **Day of sheep and goat**

**breeders. (83)** is held. In the frame of this event different contests are organized in shearing and milking, cheese tasting and its evaluation, pelivan wrestling, promotions of Sharplaninec dog, etc. The event also offers a rich cultural and artistic program.



**Reka Cultural Summer (84)**

manifestation is organized in order to present and to promote the cultural values, ethnology, traditional crafts and traditions of the local population, as well as to improve the quality of its cultural life. The main event which Reka Cultural Summer is recognized by is the day of the traditional Reka pie - Pitijada, where women of all the villages show their cooking skills by preparing various Reka specialties. The programme of the event includes exhibitions of paintings, photographs and ethnological exhibits, film screenings, rural cinemas, theatre performances, music events, sporting, etc.



**Illyrian carnivals. (85)** This traditional holiday, with a long history of 3,000 years, dating from Illyrian times and succeeded by new generations has successfully been preserved by the villagers of Bozovce. Dressed in sheep's fur, from 13-21 March they believe that they will drive out all bad things and bad spirits so the latter can stay as far away from the village in order not



to harm the resources for existence of the residents of this village. Earlier, this holiday was identically performed in other villages of the Shar mountainous areas - Lisec, Veshala and Shipkovicva, but this event nowadays is only organized in Bozovce near Tetovo.

**Traditional folk games. (86)** Residents of the village of Selce have brought back the old tradition of traditional games that have been part of the everyday life of the Shar villages in the past. This event, organized by the Non-governmental organization for sports, art and culture "Fiss", supported by the Municipality of Tetovo, with the help of the residents of the Shar villages gathers many people from everywhere to present games and competitions that were part of their past. Traditional folk games in Selce represent the old tradition of the villagers, aimed at fostering

a tradition in Shar areas and creating feelings of tradition among those residents. During this manifestation there are games like tug of war, shot-put and running a relay. This event is followed by a rich cultural and artistic program.



### **Karamanov Poetic Meetings.**

**(87)** On 6-8 November each year "Karamanov Poetic Meetings"

are traditionally held. It is the most important cultural event in Radovich with a tradition of over 40 years. It is organized in honour of the poet Aco Karamanov who lived and worked in Radovich, who is the author of more than 2,000 verses and an unfinished novel, who was evaluated by Macedonian literary criticism and history as the first modernist poet in the Republic of Macedonia.

**Shtip cultural summer. (88)** A cultural and entertaining event traditionally held in mid-June and aims to animate the citizens of Shtip and to attract tourists with its extensive program. This event is a combination of 30 different cultural events such as exhibitions, concerts, promotions and performances.



**Istibanjsko zdravozivo.**

**(89)** This event, which has a 30 year long tradition, is held every year in September, on the summer stage in front of the House of Culture in the village of Istibanja, Vinica region. The festival, which nurtures the original tradition, customs, songs, dances and music, offered folk ensembles from Armenia, Moldova, Slovenia, Nigeria, Bulgaria, Russia, Romania, Georgia, India, Serbia, Turkey and other countries. Almost all folklore ensembles from the Republic of Macedonia have performed here. The festival begins with a folklore parade of participants in the streets of Istibanja, followed by throwing flower wreaths in the Bregalnica River, which is a traditional custom of the residents of Istibanja. This custom has been cherished to this day. The event provides evening concerts of folk ensembles and the final performance is always a kind of gala-concert on the square in Vinica.



**Golden gong. (90)** Traditional international boxing tournament is one of the largest and oldest competitions in Europe, held in Skopje. Since the first "Golden Gong" in 1969, most of the former Yugoslav boxers ranging from Mate Parlov, the first winner Zvonko Vuin, up to the legend of the Macedonian box - Redzep



Redzepovski, Muhamed Alija, Azis Salihu, Ace Rusevski, Veli Mumin, Primislav Dimovski and a plethora of excellent boxers and winners of the "gong" of the world's superpowers Cuba, Russia, Bulgaria, Serbia, Italy and others fought in its rings. The event is organized by the Boxing Federation under the auspices of the Agency for Youth and Sports of the Republic of Macedonia.



**Book Fair (91)** is one of the most important cultural events in the country. It provides the highest concentration of works by local and foreign authors, contemporary and classical literary works, professional scientific and fiction books, textbooks and school manuals, encyclopaedias and works of culture and art. The Book Fair is held in Skopje and it is undoubtedly a place of literary readings and speeches of eminent authors who again emphasize the power of literary works as an essential factor for the cultural heritage of each nation. The Book Fair brings together the largest domestic publishers and publishers from the region, making the fair one of the most attractive events with around 40,000 visitors annually.



## Did you know



This section of the guide presents important information and data concerning the Macedonian nature, history, culture, traditions and modern life, which we hope will attract your attention and will result in a visit or expand your knowledge about the Republic of Macedonia.

**Manaki brothers** – Janaki and Milton are the first film makers in the Balkan Peninsula. In 1905, in Bitola, they opened the famous "Studio for art photography".

**Skopje aqueduct**, has 62 columns, each of which is 6 meters high, 5 meters long and 4 meters wide. Its length is 385 meters. Korab Mountain is with the highest point in the Republic of Macedonia –Golem Korab peak, with a height of 2,764 meters.



In the village of Sarchievo near Shtip, in a pot specially made for this purpose, in 2012 was prepared a **bean stew with a quantity of 5,600 litres.**

The **Amphitheatre in Skupi** was built in the first half of the II century AD. It is one of the

most important objects from Roman times in the Republic of Macedonia and one of the biggest in the Balkan Peninsula, with an original audience capacity of 10,000.

One of the lakes on **Titan**, the largest natural satellite (moon) of Saturn, is called Ohrid Lake, in honour of the eponymous lake in Macedonia.

In December 2014, Pivara Skopje began to produce the long-awaited Skopsko **dark beer.**

The legend of **candy canes** ("Evropa" is the only factory in the Balkan Peninsula making such type of candy) says that the shape of the cane symbolizes the first letter "J" of the name Jesus, the white basis is the immaculate conception and innocence of his life, and the red lines on the candy cane represent the blood spilt during his crucifixion. This is the reason why the candy canes are very popular and sold for Christmas (especially in Catholic countries).



The cake shop **Apche** (Macedonian for 'pill') in Skopje was opened in 1934 by Isman Kadri. Because of the good boza, often called a cure for all diseases, in 1940 the owner named the cake shop Apche, still bearing its name.



Macedonia annually produces 13 thousand tons of **peaches**, two-thirds produced in Rosoman.

In the **City Park** in Skopje there is a giant sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*), which is said to be the largest living organism on the planet. It can reach 90 meters in height and 11 meters in diameter.



One of the archaeological findings at the site Tumba Madzari is the **Great Mother Goddess**, considered the patroness of fertility.

**Kokino** as a world attraction is megalithic observatory, one of the most valuable of its kind in the world. Therefore, in 2005, the US space agency NASA ranked Kokino fourth among 15 observatories in the world.

**Korab waterfall** in the upper stream of Dlaboka River on Mount Korab is the highest waterfall in Macedonia, with a height of over 130 meters.

**Terracotta icons** found in Vinica Fortress dating from the V century, represent a world rarity from the early Christian archaeology.



**Stipska pastramalija (15)** is a branded name. The municipality of Stip has protected the original recipe of the so-called Big Stip pastramalija, weighing 350 grams of dough and the stuffing of about 220 grams, exclusively with pork meat.



The maximum capacity of the multipurpose stadium National Arena **Philip II of Macedon** in Skopje is 36,400 spectators. This arena is usually used for football matches, and in 2017 it will host the European Super Cup among the teams that will compete in the Champions League and Europa League.



Paleontological site in the vicinity of the village of Kalaslari near Veles is a **fossil deposit**, with a wide variety of discovered fossil mammals (horses, gazelles, giraffes, pigs, dogs, etc.), that makes it one of the most famous sites ever discovered in the world.

Wooden boats used for sailing in the swamp **Monospitovsko blato** near Strumica are called chaika. The swamp is a large marsh with rich flora and fauna. It has paths and places for observation of birds.



Because of the iodine released by the algae during the flowering period in July and August, the waters of **Lake Dojran** are healing, particularly for treating sinus problems, bronchitis, colds, healing of wounds and cuts.



More than 200 species of **butterflies** can be found in the Republic of Macedonia.

**Coce Stone** was discovered in 1971, and some researchers consider it to be a unique site in the world with a sanctuary, an altar and an observatory in one place.

**Pine syrup**, originally from ecologically clean Malesh region, is preventively used as a cure for asthma, bronchitis and colds.



**Volcanic bombs** with a diameter up to 80 centimetres and weighing up to 200 kilograms, near Kratovo, were created some 20-30 million years ago, when the eruptive magma came to the surface. The heated lava, with a temperature of 1,000°C, during its movement through the air, cooled off and turned into balls with perfect shape known as lapilli.



The oldest school in Macedonia is the **Ohrid Literary School**, founded in 886 by St. Klement of Ohrid.

**Lorandite** mineral was first discovered in the mine Alshar in Kavadarci in 1894.

In the **rolling mill** in Demir Hisar village of Virovo, when the waters come, it creates a strong vortex which in 20 minutes may wash out 30 blankets or material weighing up to 70 kg.



Vardar from Skopje is the **first** registered football club in Macedonia in 1912.

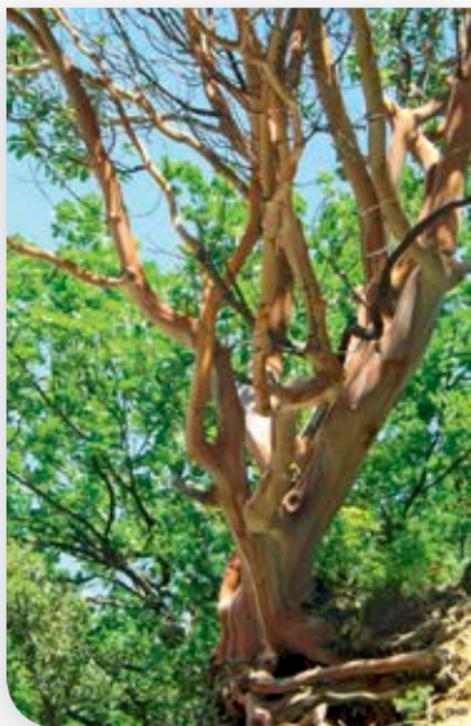


**Bald eagles** are found on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia nearby Demir Kapija, Tikvesh Lake and the Mariovo region. Skopje Zoo is the only zoo in the Balkans that manages to reproduce such species.

At the site Smrdлива voda, near Gevgelija, a „**Naked man**“ tree (*Arbutus andrachne*) can be found – the only evergreen tree that changes its reddish and scaly bark twice a year.

**Pablo Picasso**, famous Spanish painter and founder of Cubism, donated his painting "Head of a Woman" in 1965 to the City of Skopje (after the devastating earthquake of 1963), as a token of solidarity. The painting was stolen in 1971, but the thieves were caught by Interpol in Germany. Today the painting is in the Museum of Contemporary Art.

In Lipkovo region in 1957 several **mummies** were discovered, dating from the IV century BC.





Nobel Peace Prize winner and a holy person in the Catholic world **Mother Teresa**, was born on August 26, 1910 in Skopje.

In the Natural History Museum of the City of Skopje there is a **Universal vertical sundial**, the only of its kind in the world. The feature of this universal timekeeper is that it can be set to any latitude and longitude, and still shows the correct time. One may read the actual physical time with an accuracy of plus/minus 15 minutes.

The nuns of the monastery of St. George the Victorious in Debar village of Rajcica create the most beautiful **mitres**.

In Konjska Reka and its tributaries there has been a presence of **gold**, i.e. the gold-bearing sand.

Nearby Lake Matka is the underwater **Vrelo Cave**, one of the deepest underwater caves in Europe, which has a depth of over 200 meters.



In Tauresium, today village of Taor, near Skopje, **Justinian I** was born, who was a Byzantine ruler and emperor of the Eastern Roman Empire (527-565 AD), Christian and Orthodox theologian.



In the church of St. Sophia in Ohrid, besides the painted portraits of 60 bishops from different churches, there are also portraits of **six Roman popes**, which is a rarity in the Byzantine art in the period of their creation (1035-1056 AD).

**Ohrid Lake** is one of the oldest and deepest lakes in Europe.



**Diatreta** the glass, dating from IV century AD, was found in a late Roman grave site Taranesh in the village of Selokukja, in the municipality of Debar. The glass is a rare finding (so far there are only 7 such stored cups found around the world). These types of glasses are luxurious products that were used for ceremonial drinking.

In the village of Lesnovo, near Probishtip, the best **millers stones** were made, transported on horses and carts and sold by Lesnovo handicraftsman in the markets in Thessaloniki and Istanbul.



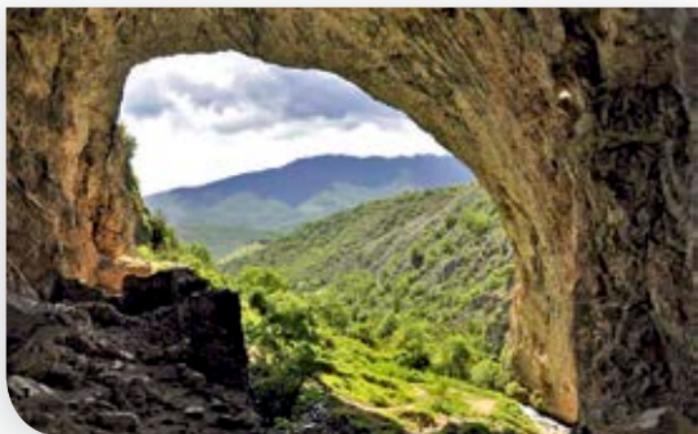
**Peshna Cave** has the largest entrance on the Balkan Peninsula. The ceiling of the entrance is with a height of 30 meters. Its entry is 16,8 x 52,4 m. In 2007,

**"I see the world as a field for cultural competition among nations"** is a famous quote of Goce Delchev, who was a teacher, ideologue, national hero and activist of the Macedonian revolutionary organization.





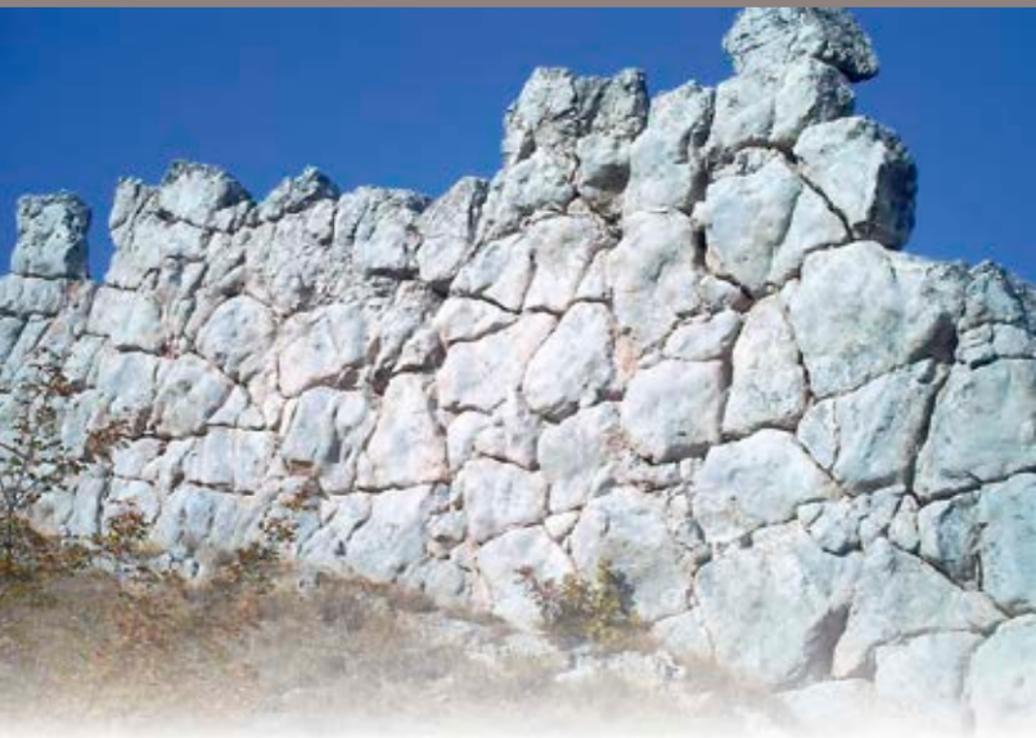
the newspaper "New York Times" described it as identical to the fictional caves in the "Lord of the Rings." The castle built in the cave looks like Helms Deep from the "Lord of the Rings."



**"I see the world as a field for cultural competition among nations"** is a famous quote of Goce Delchev, who was a teacher, ideologue, national hero and activist of the Macedonian revolutionary organization.

The island Golem Grad, located in the Prespa Lake, is also called **Serpents' Island**, because of the large number of reptiles that can be found there.

In the village of Slatino, near Makedonski Brod, there is a spring of **salt water**.



Natural rarity called **Devil's Wall** located on the Bogoslovec hill near Sveti Nikole is a 500 meters long, 2 meters wide and 12 meters high and with a unique appearance.

The bronze statue **Maenada**, found in Tetovo, dates back to the VI century BC. Maenads were companions of the wine god Dionysus and during celebrations in his honour they would serve the attendees.

In the waters of the Treska River, near Skopje, a **mass baptism** takes place every year.

**Macedonian ruby**, a rare gem, found near Prilep, features specific raspberry-pink colour. This endemic mineral is used for production of jewellery, mainly for handmade and silver work, and it is accepted as a synonym for true and unconditional love. On the scale of mineral hardness it is marked with "9", right after the diamond as the hardest natural mineral with hardness "10".





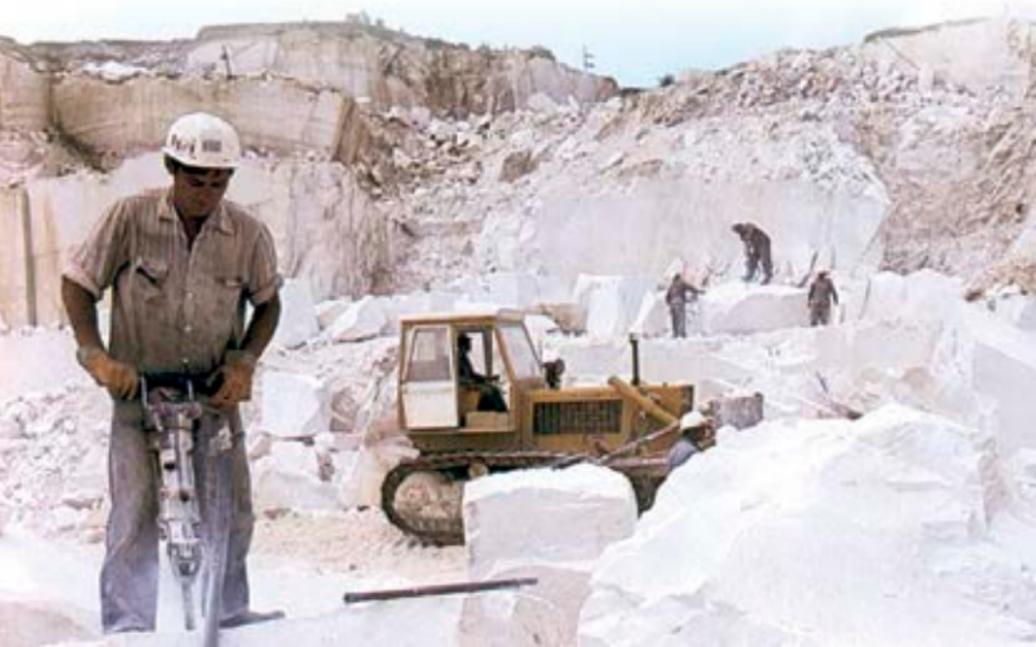
The **Museum of Tobacco**, in Prilep, the only one in the Balkan Peninsula, stores more than 2,600 exhibits from five continents around the world. The most significant are the smoking pipe of the Russian imperial dynasty Romanov and a cigarette holder from the second expedition of Christopher Columbus.



**Mountain tea** is highly appreciated herb in traditional medicine. It is used as a universal remedy against colds, flu, also for overall strengthening of the immune system. It grows at higher altitudes, in dry areas, on sandy soil, rock or rock crevices. It blooms from June to August, depending on the region and altitude. It can be found on the higher mountains in the Republic of Macedonia. The company Alkaloid is the only producer of certified organic teas in Macedonia.

Dojran Lake is famous for its traditional way of **fishing with cormorant birds** in reed fences, which are called mandras.

**Prilep marble** is milky-white granite, known as "Bianco Sivec". The deposit of Sivec marble is among the most famous in the world. This deposit of marble was used by ancient Assyrians, Mesopotamians, Egyptians, Romans, Byzantines, and many of



the old ancient cities were built with Prilep marble. Significant buildings with Prilep marble throughout Europe are: the palaces of Versace and Coco Chanel in Tokyo, Japan, the presidential palace in Angola, the royal residence in Saudi



Arabia and the presidential house in Egypt. There are marble tiles in the US White house, the former residence of Saddam Hussein in Baghdad and other places.

Many of the world's major cigarette makers use **Prilep tobacco** after it is processed in their local factories. Prilep's Institute for Tobacco was founded with the purpose of creating new types of tobacco and it is the first example of application of genetics in agriculture in the Balkan Peninsula.

Famous clairvoyant Vangelija Pandeva Dimitrova, commonly known as **Grandmother Vanga**, was born in Strumica in 1911.



More than 60,000 eggs were used to render the construction of the **Clock tower** in Bitola, one of the symbols of the city.





**The highest memorial ossuary** in Europe since World War I is located on the Kajmakchalan peak, Mount Nidze, at 2521 meters altitude. It stores the bones of hundreds of soldiers who died during fierce battles between Serbian and French army, on one hand, and Bulgarian forces on the other side. An interesting fact is associated with this monument and St. Peter's Church, built in memory of the fallen soldiers. There is an urn with the heart of Archibald Rice, as his last wish before he died in 1929. Rice was a Swiss forensic, publicist and professor at the University of Lausanne, who had lived in Serbia for a long time.

**Kopachka** is Macedonian male folk dance oro, which originates from the village of Dramche, in Pijanec region near Delchevo. During the dance, the dancers hold each other's belts with crossed hands, to ensure stability as their movements become



quicker. The dance starts with a slow walking movement, and then changes to swift and short steps, followed by quicker steps and foot stamping, hence the name of the dance.

There are **over 400 events** held annually in the Republic of Macedonia, mostly linked to the traditions of the population.

The tradition of wine production in Macedonia and the Tikvesh region is many centuries old. Since the times of the Roman Empire, it is written that great wines with powerful aroma of the south are made in Macedonia, song flavour and smiles of the people living in this region. Since 1885, the **Tikvesh** winery is a symbol of centuries-old wine-making tradition in Macedonia. The famous Tikvesh wine **T'ga za jug** (Longing for the South) was made for the celebration of the Struga Poetry Evenings more than 40 years ago. The name bears the title of the familiar poem of the poet Konstantin Miladinov.





**Glasoecho** is a male two-part singing from Dolni Polog. It is a traditional form of vocal music which is a feature of this region. This characteristic polyphonic singing, which has been orally transmitted for generations, is recognized as a symbol of the cultural identity of the Macedonian people from this region, which precisely embedded its history, mythology, tradition and culture in Glasoec songs.

Unique and centuries-old **ritual Chetrse**, (Forty), is practiced during the Feast of St. 40 Martyrs every 22 March in Shtip, when people of all ages climb the steep Isar hill and greet at least 40 people. Young people collect 40 stones, 39 of them are thrown in the Bregalnica river, and the last one is left under a pillow because, according to the local belief, one can dream of who their future living companion will be.



In the Republic of Macedonia there are over **160 lakes**, - 50 of them are natural, and the rest are artificial reservoirs.

In Berovo village of Ratevo there are eight **mills**, two of which are active. One of the mills on the Ratevska River is related to the



story of the kidnapping of American Protestant missionary Ellen Stone by guerrillas from the squad of Jane Sandanski in 1901, where she was detained for six months before being released on ransom.

The Turkish TV series **Farewell Rumelia** was shot in Ohrid in 2007 and also in the Bitola surroundings, in Mariovo villages Makovo, Oreovo and Orle. Apart from the renowned Turkish team of actors, actors from the Republic of Macedonia also acted in it.



The school in the village Podvis in the municipality of Kichevo is the **first school in Macedonian language**. It was founded on 23 September 1943, just six days after the liberation of Kichevo, when the teacher Vasilko Lazarevski held the first class in Macedonian on the free territory of Macedonia.







There are over **5,000** known archaeological sites in the Republic of Macedonia.

There were two **river ports** in the territory of today's Macedonia that existed during the Ottoman Empire; the first one was on the Crna River in Rosoman and the other on the Vardar River in Veles. The importance of the ports began to decline with the opening of the railroad Skopje-Thessaloniki in 1873.

**Pelister National Park**, is the first declared protected natural resource in the country from 1948.

The house of the heroine **Kalesh Angja**, whose name is Macedonian synonym of the defiance against Islamisation, is located in Mariovo village of Staravina. The name of the Mariovo girl Kalesh Angja has been mentioned in many songs, in Stale Popov's novel and in the traditional song "Listen, now, listen, Kalesh Angja".



It is considered that the Romans brought plaster and fresco-decoration of walls to this region. Research in **Bilazora** near Sveti Nikole has revealed that there was mortar used here in the V century BC. The locals made mortar foundation on which they painted frescoes. Also, it was believed that engineers learned the architectural skills that characterised the antiquity after the period of Alexander the Great mostly from the expeditions that were headed towards east. This is the evidence that such skills were present in this region two centuries earlier.



**Old Skopje Bazaar**, is among the "complex bazaars" with medieval-oriental character that used to have one or two main streets and several alleys with craft clusters all attached to them.





The bronze figure of **Daedalus** or Man with wings is priceless and so far the only such figure found in the Balkans and the wider Mediterranean archaeological complex. It is well preserved from the ravages of time largely due to the type of ground (red soil that is conducive to preserving bronze) where the ancient object was found. It was discovered during archaeological excavations at Plaoshnik in Ohrid under the basilica dating back to the V century AD.



**Madzun**, produced in the Tikvesh region is a natural remedy with 2,000-year-old tradition, which tends to enter the global catalogue of flavours.





During the archaeological excavations, conservation and restoration of Samuel's Fortress in Ohrid, next to the north wall in 2002, a tomb was discovered with seventy grave contributions from various materials (ceramics, amber, glass paste, iron, bronze, silver and gold), and among all these, the most significant and most exclusive ones are the two artefacts: **golden funeral mask** and a **golden glove** with a golden ring. This breakthrough for the Macedonian, Balkan and European archaeology sheds additional scientific light to clarify the widely known necropolis "Trebenishta", located near the village of Gorenci near Ohrid. In the first half of the XX century, in 1918 and 1934 widely known four gold masks also were found (two of them are in Belgrade and two in Sofia). This tomb and all findings are dating back to the beginning of V century BC, and it is the oldest burial in the necropolis Lychnidos.



Slatinski Izvor (Slatino Spring) is the **largest cave** in the Republic of Macedonia. The known length of the cave is 800 m, but it is thought to be over 4 km long. It is located near the village of Slatina, municipality of Makedonski Brod. Cave pillars and stalactites passages prevail in the main channel, and there are larger stalagmites in the biggest cave hall.



Vardar is the **longest river** in the Republic of Macedonia with a length of 388 kilometres. Its springs are in the village of Vrutok in the northwest part of Macedonia.

### **Adam of Macedonia**

is a small ceramic figure of a male torso in a sitting position, discovered in 2000, during the archaeological excavation of the site Govrlevo (near Skopje). The figurine is dated between IV and III millennium BC and is one of the ten unique archaeological findings in the world. Right after it was discovered it



was called a millennial discovery. Adam has an unusual artistic development. It represents an imperfectly preserved attempt to present a man caught in a moment of physical or spiritual activity. This male body, placed in a seated position, has a specific anatomy, deeply indented stomach, prominent navel, well-defined muscles, visible spine, and even a broken phallus.



In 1839, the famous botanist August Grisebach, discovered **Macedonian Pine** on the slopes of Pelister and classified it as a specific plant species, a characteristic of the Balkans, mostly present on Pelister.

In 1928 in Demir Kapija a winery of Yugoslav King Alexander and his wife Maria was established. The royal family has chosen this place because of the soil rich in carbonates and minerals, as well as for the 280 sunny days per year and the constant wind.



The winery was built with French assistance with the latest technology of the time. The royal family also built a villa with a beautiful view of the entire property, which was named **Villa Maria**.

In the St. Archangel Michael Monastery in Berovo beautiful **mosaics** in all sizes and colours can be found. The various mosaic characters and patterns are made of pebbles from natural materials and colours as created by the nature.



In Macedonia there is a unique musical instrument ball-shaped flute - **ocarina with three holes**. It dates back to the Neolithic period and it is about 6,000 years old. It is made of terracotta, and was found in 1989 on the archaeological site Mramor in municipality of Chashka near Veles. It is the only such instrument found in Europe. The ocarina, despite the age, is still functional and it is still played as it can be witnessed at the concert performances of the musician Dragan Dautovski.

Near the town of Debar a **Crystal cave** is located with the cleanest gypsum in the world. Situated in the Knauf gypsum factory, the purity of crystal in the cave is 99.99 percentage.





In the premises of the Ohrid School "St. Klement of Ohrid" is a copy of the **Gutenberg printing press**, made in 1937. The first such machine was created in 1440 by Johann Gutenberg and it represents a revolutionary discovery in the process of printing.

**Glagolitic** is the oldest known Slavic alphabet. It was created by Ss. Cyril and Methodius in 855 and contained 41 letters. **Cyrillic** alphabet was made by their students St. Klement and St. Naum, who transformed and simplified the former Glagolitic alphabet. The new modified alphabet was named Cyrillic, honouring St. Cyril.

A a    Ц ц    B б    T t    D d    F f  
 E e    M м    Z z    S s    U u    J j  
 K к    A а    B б    M м    H h    H h  
 O o    T t    P p    C c    M m    K k  
 Y y    P p    X x    U u    M m    Y y  
 U u



First director of the **Skopje Theatre** in 1913 was Branislav Nusic, a prominent Serbian comedian, satirist, critic, journalist and diplomat.



**Ohrid eel** spawns in the Sargasso Sea between Bermuda Islands and Puerto Rico. Exploiting sea currents and proper motion, the journey of the eel from Lake Ohrid to the hatchery lasts more than a year, covering distance of more than 7,000 kilometres.

National women's costume from **Galichnik** weighs no less than 30 kg.

**The oldest pine trees** that can be found in the Republic of Macedonia are the two thick and tall pines located in Kratovo, and dating from the 14th century.



The particular feature of the traditional Macedonian music is the use of **Make7/8** (seven eights) time signatures.



**The biggest tree** in the Republic of Macedonia is the maple tree in the village Teovo in Veles. The width of the maple tree is around 10 meters, and its height is about 40 meters.

An indispensable part of life for the residents at the Ohrid Lake in the past was the **Ohrid boat**. Besides for fishing, it served for transportation of passengers, goods, mail, etc. Also it was used for celebrations and parties when a type of porch was added to the boat where people played instruments and sang and enjoyed their time on the lake.

In the past, **poppy** was cultivated in Macedonia, and opium was received from it. The highest percentage of morphine had the opium that was grown near Kavadarci, Strumica, Veles, and slightly poorer was from the region of Prilep and Kochani. Besides opium, poppy was used to produce cooking oil, half of which was made of poppy seeds.



## Longing for the South (T'ga za jug)

If I had an eagle's wings  
I would rise and fly on them  
To our shores, to our own parts,  
To See Stambol, to see Kukus,  
And to watch the sunrise: is it  
dim there too, as it is here?

If the sun still rises dimly,  
If it meets me there as here,  
I'll prepare for further travels,  
I shall flee to other shores  
Where the sunrise greets me brightly  
And the sky is sewn with the stars.

It is dark here, dark surrounds me,  
Dark covers all the earth,  
Here are frost and snow and ashes,  
Blizzards and harsh winds abound,  
Fogs all around, the earth is ice,  
And in the breast are cold, dark thoughts.

No, I cannot stay here, no;  
I cannot sit upon this frost.  
Give me wings and I will don them;  
I will fly to our own shores,  
Go once more to our own places,  
Go to Ohrid and to Struga.

There the sunrise warms the soul,  
The sun gets bright in mountain woods:  
Yonder gifts in great profusion  
Richly spread by nature's power.  
See the clear lake stretching white  
Or blueely darkened by the wind,  
Look at the plains or mountains:  
Beauty everywhere divine.

To pipe there to my heart's content.  
Ah! Let the sun set, let me die.

Konstantin Miladinov

Author: Laura McGough, Source:Reality Macedonia

























CIP - Каталогизација во публикација

Национална и универзитетска библиотека "Св. Климент Охридски",  
Скопје

338.48:39(497.7)(036)

TAŠKOV, Nako

Makedonya'da taninmiş yapılar, yerler, ürünler ve etkinlikler  
rehberi / [metin düzenleme Nako Taşkov, Nikola Dimitrov, Deyan  
Methodieski ; çeviri Mahmut Çelik, Ümit Süleymani ; fotoğrafçı İrena  
Yovanovska]. - Üsküp : Makedonya cumhuriyeti turizm teşvik ve  
destekleme ajansı, 2016. - 192 str. : ilustr. ; 17 см

ISBN 978-608-66032-1-2

1. Dimitrov, Nikola [автор] 2. Methodieski, Deyan [автор]

а) Културен туризам - Македонија - Водичи

COBISS.MK-ID 102293514