



## NORTH MACEDONIA IN DEPTH

12 days mono tour of North Macedonia is for everyone who wants to get to know all of Macedonia, because it visits all parts of the country.



### DAY 1 ARRIVE SKOPJE

Welcome to Macedonia. Depending on the time of your arrival you will start with sightseeing of the city already on this day... or just take a rest at your Skopje hotel and start sightseeing on the next day.

### DAY 2 SKOPJE

This morning we embark on a sightseeing tour of Skopje. First stop is a visit to the Museum of the City of Skopje, located in the former railway station. Continue to Macedonia Street, where we visit Mother Theresa Memorial House. Other highlights that we see include Stone Bridge (the symbol of Skopje); Daut Pasha Hammam (15<sup>th</sup> century Turkish bath). After lunch, we visit St. Saviour Church (tomb of national hero Goce Delcev) and then continue on to Kale Fortress.

### DAY 3 SKOPJE

After breakfast, we enjoy a drive to Matka canyon. Covering roughly 5000 hectares, Matka canyon is vast, magnificent and beautiful, where we take a boat ride to Vrelo Cave. Here you will also have the opportunity to visit St Andrews Monastery. This afternoon we visit The Macedonian Village on Vodno for a traditional dinner.

### DAY 4 SKOPJE – TETOVO-ST JOVAN BIGORSKI – OHRID

Transfer to Ohrid via Tetovo and Mavrovo National Park.

Upon arrival in Tetovo we will visit famous tourist spot Sharena Dzamija (Painted Mosque) located in heart of Tetovo. The Painted Mosque was built in the year of 1459 on the foundation of an older edifice. An example of early Constantinople style, this mosque is adorned with an elaborate painted facade and interior, making it unique for tourists. After the overview of the mosques we continue our tour to the



Mavrovo National Park. The tranquillity, the climate conditions, the hydrological and vegetative features enhanced together with the human creativity contributes in making this region a very special place. Here we will have a walk around the surroundings while enjoying in its natural beauties.

The tour continues towards the beautiful tourist location the Monastery of Saint John the Baptist with its distinctive architecture with priceless and rare wood carvings. Dating from the 11th century this Monastery presents an important cultural and historical place surrounded by legends for its mystical icon with healing powers. From there we will proceed towards Ohrid for dinner and overnight

#### **DAY 5      OHRID**

After breakfast, we start our tour of Ohrid. First stop is to visit the well preserved Upper Gate and King Samuil's Fortress. Other highlights include seeing the Ancient Theatre, the rich archaeological site of Plaošnik & St Clement of Ohrid. Next stop is a visit to the National Museum, located in the Robevci family home. After lunch we depart for Vevcani and visit the famous Vevcani Springs.

#### **DAY 6      OHRID – BITOLA**

After breakfast we tour Sveti Naum Monastery, a Byzantine-style church originally built in the 10<sup>th</sup> century. Next we take a boat tour on the crystal clear springs of the river Crn Drim, before continuing to the Bay of Bones (open air museum displaying a reconstruction of an ancient settlement). Next stop is Brajčino, known for its rural Macedonian architecture. Here we visit a local restaurant to learn about honey production. After our included lunch we depart for Bitola, where highlights include Sirok Sokak (long pedestrian street), the Clock Tower (built in 17<sup>th</sup> century) and Bezisten (impressive covered bazaar from the Ottoman Empire).

#### **DAY 7      BITOLA – KRUSEVO**

After breakfast we visit Heraclea Lyncestis, the most preserved ancient city in Macedonia. We then set off for Krusevo, where a sightseeing tour includes the old bazaar, the Makedonium & Meckin Kamen monuments (dedicated to the Ilinden uprising), and the Memorial House of Toshe Proeski.

#### **DAY 8      KRUSEVO – TIKVES WINERY – STRUMICA – GEVGELIJA**

After breakfast we start with a tour of the winery and have wine tasting and lunch before we continue for Strumica. we take a short sightseeing tour of Strumica and continue to visit to Veljusa Monastery, constructed in the 11<sup>th</sup> century and set in tranquil surroundings. After tour we check in to our spa and wellness hotel in Gevgelija. Here you will have free time to experience the spa facilities.

#### **DAY 9      GEVGELIJA-POPOVA KULA WINERY – STIP – KRATOVO**



After breakfast, before we depart for Stip we will visit Popova Kula winery to have wine tasting. Lunch is included in Stip where we sample the local specialty, pastrmajlija pie. After lunch we continue to Kratovo, famous for its bridges and medieval stone towers. We visit Kratovo Museum and the Clock Tower. Enjoy some free time before we enjoy a traditional dinner at a local restaurant.

#### **DAY 10 KRATOVO - ST. JOAKIM OSOGOVSKI**

After breakfast we take a walking tour of the old town centre and along the medieval bridges, including Radin Bridge. We then depart to visit the Stone Dolls of Kuklica, consisting of over 120 naturally formed stone pillars dating back millions of years. St Joakim Osogovski Monastery is our next stop, dating back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Here we have a tour of the monastery and after lunch, free time for optional activities and hiking.

#### **DAY 11 ST. JOAKIM OSOGOVSKI – KOKINO – SKOPJE**

After breakfast we depart for a visit to Kokino Megalithic Observatory (ranked 4<sup>th</sup> most significant astronomical heritage by NASA). We next visit a traditional ethno village complex near Kumanovo. Here we will have lunch and attend a traditional Macedonian food cooking class by a celebrity chef. In the afternoon we return to Skopje where we have free time before our Farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

#### **DAY 12 DEPART SKOPJE**

Our tour ends with breakfast this morning and then a departure transfer to Skopje airport.

