

EXPERIENCE BALKAN

Your travel partner for the Balkans



THE GREAT MEDIÉVAL TSAR SAMUEL TOUR



Day - 1 Skopje airport – Ohrid (195 km) (D)

Welcoming you at Skopje airport. Transfer to Ohrid and accommodation in a hotel. After short rest, our local guide will take you for a brief orientation city walk. Tonight we have our first together's dinner in one of the national



Day - 2 Ohrid city tour (30 km) (B, D)

Breakfast at hotel. This morning we start our tour from the heart of the medieval Tsar Samuel's capital of Ohrid, today town of UNESCO, one of the oldest towns in Europe. Full of history with traces of four thousand years of civilization. The first stop will be fortress of Tsar Samuel, up in the hill of Ohrid. From here Tsar Samuel spread up his kingdom covering the present territories of The Republic of Macedonia, Northern Greece, two thirds of Bulgaria, Serbia, including Kosovo, Montenegro, Albania... In the medieval history, this kingdom remains the biggest one created on the Balkan Peninsula. We continue exploring Ohrid by visiting the ancient Macedonian-Roman theatre, the famous untouched medieval churches, than we take a sail with small boats on the way back to the centre. On the way, you get explanation of the history of the biggest open air museum of the Byzantium. Small break in the city centre. Later in the afternoon we take a boat to the unique prehistoric settlement on water from the bronze age. Explanation by the professional curator about the open-air reconstruction of a Neolithic lake dwelling based on artifacts found on the surrounding lake bed. Back to Ohrid. Dinner in a national restaurant, including traditional Macedonian folk songs and dances, a chance for you to learn few simple steps together with the folklore group.



Day - 3 Ohrid – Bitola - St. Achilles island (GRE) - Ohrid (310 km) (B, L)

After the breakfast, our bus will first take us to Bitola, an important diplomatic town in 19th century. The town it self was founded in 4th century B.C. by Philip the Second, the father of Alexander the Great. Due to these reasons, we will visit the the local archaeological site of Heraclea Lyncestis, an ancient Macedonian town with an important strategical position during the Hellenistic period. We continue to Greece down to Prespa Lakes, lakes shared among Greece, Albania and Macedonia. Here we visit one of the most important islands – St. Achilles island, an early capital of Samuel and a place where in 10th century was buried Tsar Samuel in the basilica of St. Achilles. We will take a walk around the island, being able to visit his grave and the ruined basilica. In the afternoon, we stop in a local fish restaurant in the neighboring village to taste the famous Prespa carp. After the short free time, we take the bus back to Ohrid. Dinner on your own. Overnight in Ohrid.



Day - 4 Ohrid – National Park Galichitsa - Island of Golem Grad – Prilep – Strumica (270 km) (B, L, D)

After the breakfast, we depart to Macedonian site of Lake Prespa. Driving via National Park Galichitsa, frequently we make stops to enjoy the magnificent views over the two lakes, Ohrid and Prespa. Down to Lake Prespa, we take a boat to the island of Golem Grad. Although today uninhabited, the island in the past was a part of the early capital of Tsar Samuel and beside the ruins from that period, we will see many other from the late antiquity. The island is also known as the island of snakes and birds. You can see pelicans and cormorants, sometimes in large groups. We

make a lunch break on the shore of the lake, tasting some traditional Macedonian meals. Later in the afternoon we continue to the town Prilep. It was here that Tsar Samuel died from a heart attack in 10th century, witnessing the sight of his 14.000 soldiers blinded by the Byzantines in the battle of Belasica. The town its self also was the capital of the last Christian king in Macedonia in the late 14th century, King Marko. Strolling through the central streets of the town, in a distance we will be able to see King Marko's fortress, the monument of Alexander the Great, the Leaning Tower from 19th century. Coffee break and driving to Strumica. Accommodation in a hotel and organized dinner.



Day - 5 Strumica – Belasica waterfalls – Samuel's Fortress in Petric (BUL) – Tsar's towers - Strumica (105 km) (B, L, D)

This morning we head to the mountain Belasica, first to experience the natural beauty of the area. After a short driving, we continue on foot to visit two local waterfalls, Smolare and Koleshino. We will also visit village of Mokrievo, where part of the battle was happened according some Macedonian historians. On the way back, we will have a chance to mingle with the local peasants from the villages around and to take our homemade lunch in some of the guest's houses in the area. Than we go on to the neighboring Bulgaria, close to the town Petric, to visit the me

morial place of the last battle of Tsar Samuel against Byzantines, in the Mountain Belasica. Today that place is known as Samuel's Fortress. The tsar himself participated in the battle, but 14.000 his soldiers were captured alive and later on all of them blinded. Each 100th of them was left with one eye to lead blinded soldiers in front of their king. Marching, they head to Prilep, where Tsar Samuel hid away. Not being able to stand this sight, the Tsar dies of a heart attack. We go back in Strumica and we will see city fortress called "Tsar's towers" and after that we will take you to the medieval monastery St. Leonthius – Vodocha, where local citizens believed that blinded of soldiers was happened and name of the village on Macedonian language is meaning "pulls eyes". We will visit also nearby monastery "Holy Mother Merciful" – Veljusa, dating back in 11th century. Organized dinner in a local restaurant called complex "Tsar's towers", near to city fortress.

Day - 6 Strumica - Skopje (152 km) (L, D)

Breakfast at hotel. In the morning we start our journey to the Macedonia's capital, Skopje. After the accommodation in a hotel and short break, we take you on a walking city tour starting from the centuries old Kale – Skopje fortress. We will continue to the Old Turkish Bazaar, mingling with the locals, meeting different cultures and religions, old forgotten crafts, as well. The second part of the afternoon we visit museums - Museum of Macedonian struggle, possibilities to visit the Archaeological museum of Macedonia with one of the biggest ancient coins collection in the world exclusively from the Macedonian territory. We walk across the Stone Bridge, the land mark of the city, and stop in front of the monument and fountain of Alexander the Great and monument of Tsar Samuel, who is seating on his throne. The next stop will be the memorial house of Mother Teresa. She was born in Skopje in 1910. The late afternoon is a time on your own to explore more of the capital. Tonight we have farewell dinner in a national restaurant.



Day - 7 Skopje – Airport Skopje (25 km) (B)

Breakfast at hotel. Today, before the flight, according to your wish and time, we may take you in some of the modern city malls, or the old city bazaar for shopping or simple for chatting with local people and founding more about their everyday's life and culture. Than we take you from the hotel to the Airport of Skopje, two and half hours before your flight. We hope that you truly Experience(d) Macedonia!

Our services for this tour:

- Accommodation in hotel 5* in Skopje on BB bases
- Meals in restaurants according the program
- Professional local tourist guide
- Transfer with our vehicle
- Entrance fees

• Rates of tour depend on the number of travelers and seasons of the year.

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