



“Sherpa” Mountain Horseback Riding & Working with the Locals in National Park Mavrovo

- **Main activities:**
 - Work with animals and prepare local traditional cheese,
 - Explore the mountains,
 - Go horseback riding on local (Balkan) mountain horses
 - Visit rural places without any sight of modern civilization, enjoy life as people used to live until not long ago

Brief description:

A Riding Expedition is a journey on horseback, which may entail a few hardships but reward you with an experience to remember and scenery which you might otherwise not have the opportunity to see.

Three days in Mavrovo National Park – spending time with Vasko, the founder of [Galicnik Horseback Riding Club](#). This tour is for those who want to enjoy the treasures of the mountain. Riding uphill along the valleys of Bistra mountain, you will enjoy the wide and never-ending open views of countless number of mountain peaks. On this trip you will get closer to the Sheppard’s life, visiting few sheep farms, experience the traditional way of cheese making and just enjoy the nature. This is a soul rewarding tour with breathtaking scenery.

Agenda:

6 May

- Arrival in Skopje
- A local guide from Skopje will be at your disposal to take you to some of the local secret places, take you for a drink and dinner at the traditional restaurant DUKAT
- You will have time to relax and adjust to Macedonia
- Overnight in hotel TCC GRAND PLAZA – Skopje

7 May

07.30 Breakfast

09.00 Departure to ranch of *Horse Club – Bistra Galicnik* – Galicnik

10.30 Arrival at the ranch. The guests will be welcomed with drinks

11.30 Milking goats and cheese preparation

13.00 Picnic lunch (fresh meat provided directly from the ranch) followed by wine and cheese tasting *

14.30 Safety equipment handout, Safety and Procedures briefing, Practical explanation of western style horseback riding (non-riders are also welcomed)

15.30 Departure to the hunting village of Lazaropole on a horseback (forest mountain ride)

- 3,5 hours forest ride

On this trek you will ride through the forest of Sushica and downhill riding to the village of Selce and Tresonce, with panoramic views of the north side of mountain Stogovo. On the way to Lazaropole you are passing through the village Tresonce experiencing the folklore and the old village architecture.

19.00 Arrival in Lazaropole and accommodation at hotel *KALIN* for a dinner and an overnight

19.30 Traditional dinner (fresh wild meat dish from the region)

** vegetarians are required to inform us prior to arrival*

8 May

07.30 Breakfast

09.00 Starting the preparations, which will include saddling and bridling of the horses



10.00 Departure to the base camp located deep in the mountain Bistra on a horseback

- 4,5 hours high level mountain ride

This is an adrenalin ride which is taking you around the highest peaks of the Bistra mountain, with incredible view of Korab massive (2,764 meters/ 9068ft).

12.30 Picnic lunch (Snacks and fruit)

13.30 Departure to the base camp

15.30 Arrival to the base camp

- group activities are planned such as: setting up the sleeping tents, starting a bonfire along with dinner preparation which includes a lamb, done in a traditional way

** vegetarians are required to inform us prior to arrival*

18.30 Dinner will be served next to the bonfire followed by live traditional music (overnight in tents).

9 May

08.00 Starting breakfast preparations

09.00 Breakfast

10.00 Departure to Mavrovo Lake on a horseback

13.00 Arrival to Mavrovo Lake

13.30 Lunch at the traditional restaurant *GLAMOUR* (Fresh fish from the lake)

14.30 Departure to the Hotel *TCC PLAZA-Mavrovo* on a horseback (ride along the lake shore)

15.30 Arrival at the Hotel *TCC PLAZA-Mavrovo* (coffee and snack break)

16.00 Departure with a minibus to Ohrid (2h 30 min drive)

18.30 Arrival in Ohrid

Cost per person: 400 euro

Difficulty level: 4 out of 5

THE PRICE INCLUDES:

- Full guidance by professional horse riding English speaking guide, Vasko from Horse-riding club Bistra Galicnik;
Vasko's been promoting horse-back riding tourism for 6 years now. Life enduring passion for the horse-riding sport and the aversion towards the cities

and their noisy environment makes Vasko spends most of his free time in the mountains of the Mavrovo National Park, namely the village of Galichnik, place of his family's origin. Besides managing his own company, he works as horse riding guide for 6 months in the summers, and free-ride ski guide is his passion in the winter months.

- Entrance fee for NP Mavrovo
- Picnic lunch at the ranch with drinks included
- Goat milking and cheese preparation activities
- All transfers as described
- Helmet for horse-riding activities
- Tents for the overnight camp
- Luggage transfer to and from the overnight camp

THE PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Air transfer and insurance
- Sleeping bag
- Back protectors for horse-riding activities in case you want to bring
- Drinks at the restaurants (All kinds of drinks, alcoholic and refreshments)

All personal expenses not mentioned under “Included in price”

Notes:

- On these rides you need to take a little more care to pack the appropriate clothing, as well sun & wind protective gear.
- Organization: Sherpa mountain horseback riding
- Tour guide: Vasko Velichkovski
- Contact: Vasko Velichkovski hcbistragalicnik@gmail.com
- Minimum pax 2, Maximum pax 8
- Starting location: Skopje
- Ending location: Ohrid







