

PA / 4 days /

ULTIMATE ADVENTURE FOR HEDONISTS

difficulty level:
choice of 2/5
and 3/5
activities



Macedonia is a small country between Greece, Albania and Bulgaria, which is rarely visited despite its rich culture and wonderful landscapes. A *macédoine* refers to a rich mix, which accurately reflects the many languages and cultures in this beautiful Balkan state.

We've crafted this off the beaten track experience in Macedonia and Albania for adventure lovers who can choose from different level of difficulty and adrenaline activities: from picturesque hikes, walks and biking in nature to adrenaline tandem jumps with our expert pilots. Rock climbing is also included where you can either do a serious climb at the Iron Gate, or, you may take it easy as a beginner and feel the rocks under your fingers together with our expert rock climbing trainer.

You will explore along the way ancient Roman cities and Byzantine Orthodox temples, and you will visit remote villages and nature reserves, where you will meet local people and taste their mouthwatering traditional dishes at their table, paired with full-bodied, internationally awarded Macedonian wines.

You will be in the hands of professional guides, some of them world champions (paragliding and rock climbing) and you will stay in combination of 5* spa hotel, a wine chateau and authentic boutique hotel. The food will be authentically Macedonian, end excellent!



Skopje Old Bazaar



Day 1 (06th May 2016 - Friday) WELCOME TO SKOPJE

Welcome by [Macedonia Travel](#) representative at Skopje Airport and private transfer to your hotel in Skopje. Depending on time available, we can take you on a cable car ride to the Millennium cross on Mount Vodno for the best view over Skopje and the surrounding mountains. Down in the city, we'll visit Mother Teresa memorial house, the grand fountain of Alexander the Great and take a walk into the narrow alleys of the Old Town lined with Ottoman mosques, inns and baths turned in art galleries. Dinner will be in a restored Ottoman Inn in the Old town where we'll discuss logistics and local customs while sampling Macedonian grilled cheese, peppers, and courgettes. Overnight in hotel in Skopje. (D)

Total drive: 52km (32mi) / 1h

Hotel: [Bushi Spa Resort](#) or similar



Homestead in Ciflik



Day 2 (07th May 2016 - Saturday)

After breakfast drive south to the Macedonian wine region. On our way, we'll visit ancient Stobi, the city founded at the sunset of the Ancient Macedonian Kingdom, where centuries later Ancient Roman traders travelling through Via Egnatia road were supplied with gold, white and pink marble, iron, and wine! From Stobi we continue by the sunny vineyards to Demir Kapija, a small town located by the Iron Gate, famous for their rich tradition and history of winemaking. We'll take a walk by the vineyards of chateau Popova Kula and down the River Doshnica to a village set in beautiful nature. Lunch will be in the gardens of a local household where you can taste the best rakiya in the region and traditional dishes made by the lovely hosts. Afternoon is free to choose from a bike tour around the vineyards (13,5km) or, to do some rock climbing at the Iron Gate, the rocks dividing the Mediterranean from Continental regions of Macedonia. Our excellent rock climbing trainer has a remarkable CV as professional rockclimber, a member of UIAA Youth board with over 30 years of experience in rock climbing and organizing Youth climbing camps and festivals all over the world. Dinner will be in Popova Kula winery where you can taste the local Stanushina, a full-bodied rosé, and the dry red Vranec, along with the Cabernet Sauvignon grown on the fertile Macedonia soil under the Macedonian sun. O/N in Demir Kapija. (B,L,D)

Hotel: [Popova Kula wine chateau](#)

Total drive: 114km / 1h 20min

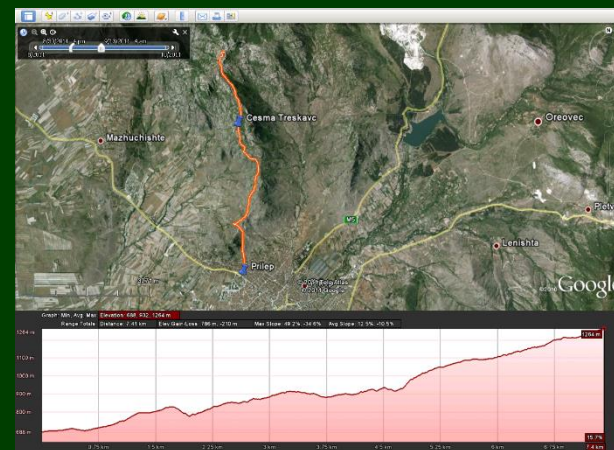
Total walk: 3,9km (1,8mi) / 2h

Start 178m (584ft); Finish: 117 (384ft)

Total bike ride: 13,5km

Start: 178m (584ft); Finish: 390m (1.280ft)

Rock climbing: choice from beginner to expert route



Popova Kula winetasting



Treskavec monastery



Day 3 (08th May 2016 - Sunday)

After breakfast drive by the vineyards and the tobacco fields of Prilep to the medieval walls and towers of King Marko rising above the city. From here we start hiking up to the 13th century remote monastery Treskavec, hidden between the boulders of the Golden Mountain. Built on a vertical granite cliff and more than 1,400 meters above sea level, the monastery offers stunning view of Pelagonija plane, and the mountains Baba, Babuna and Kajmakcalan. We'll meet here father Kalist and hear the story of the great Byzantine heritage hidden in the frescoes of Treskavec. After our picnic lunch in the monastery we'll descend down the mountain, and continue driving to Krushevo, the highest town in the Balkans. This picturesque town with authentic colorful houses and narrow alleys represents an open museum town set in beautiful nature on 1.350m height. Your guided tour of Krushevo is opportunity to take original photos not only of the town, but also of the traditional manufacturers: the blacksmith, the coppersmith, the barrel maker and gunsmith with his original collection of old weapons. BBQ dinner in the woods by Krushevo. O/N in Krushevo. (B,L,D)

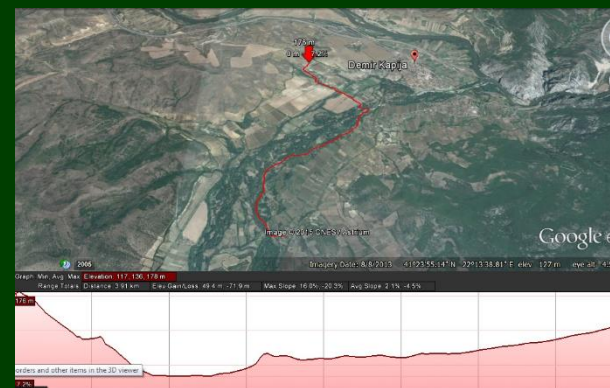
Hotel boutique: [Medusa Temple](#)

Total drive: 126km / 2h 5min

Total hike: 15km (9,3mi) / 5h

Start: 723 m (2372ft); Highest point: 1256m (4120ft);

Finnish: 723m (2372ft)





Your pilot Igor



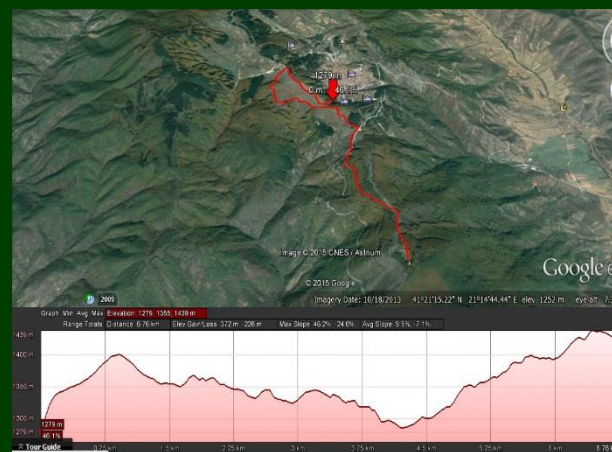
Day 4 (09th May 2016 - Monday)

Krushevo is one of the most attractive paragliding spots in the World, and it has been host to many World Cups of Paragliding in the recent years. After breakfast you can fly tandem here where you will be in the hands of our certified UCPV paragliding instructor pilot with over 5000 paragliding and 450 sailplane flying hours! Those who prefer to stay on ground can take a moderate hike passing by the ski slopes of Krusevo and up to Meckin Kamen monument with introduction to medical and eatable herbs and plants. From Krushevo we'll continue to Prespa Lake where we'll cross the border to Albania and visit the remote fishing villages by the Lake, home to most of the Macedonian minority in Albania who leave mainly from fishing and from building stone houses. The nature and the lake here are totally unpolluted and clean, thus the big flocks of pelicans and cormorants in the bay, and on the little island that we'll visit by simple wooden boats. Lunch will be their traditional meal made of fish from the lake and caviar in mushroom sauce. Afternoon drive to Ohrid Lake, over the border at St Naum, and to Ohrid. (B,L)

Total drive: 202km / 3h 30min

Total hike: 7km (4,4mi) / 2,5 h

Start: 1.280m (4200ft); Finish: 1440m (4725ft)



Prespa Lake





PRICE: 698 euro/pp (min 4 / max 8 participants)

INCLUDED IN PRICE:

Accommodation: 1 x hotel 5*, 2 x hotel boutique

All meals as described: 3 x breakfast, 3 x lunch, 3 x dinner

1 non-alcohol drink during meals

Transport with air-conditioned minivan

Private transfers from Alexander the Great airport to Skopje

Full guidance by Macedonia Travel professional tourist guide

Local guidance by Macedonia Travel hiking, biking, rock climbing, paragliding professional guides

Cable car excursion to Millennium Cross

All activities included as described

Wine tasting (3 wines) with dinner in Popova Kula winery

Boat excursion to Mali Grad island in Albania

Entrance fees for all monuments visited

Full organization and logistic by Macedonia Travel

Certificate of Reforestation for one tree planted in your name in Macedonia

NOT INCLUDED IN PRICE:

Alcoholic drinks during the meals

Single stay supplement

Personal travel and health insurance

All personal expenses not mentioned under "INCLUDED IN PRICE"

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

DEPOSIT:

An initial deposit of 30% of the trip cost should be payed upon reservation confirmation.

FINAL PAYMENT:

The balance of the trip cost is due 60 days before the trip start. In case your booking is made less than 60 days before trip start, it will be considered as last minute booking and full trip costs (100%) must be paid at the time of reservation confirmation.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS:

Cancellation charges will be applied as shown bellow calculated from the day written cancellation request is sent and received by Macedonia Travel. The following amounts will be refunded depending on cancellation date:

60 days and over= 100% (minus deposit)

59-28 days prior to trip start = 50% of the trip cost

27days or less = no refund

In addition to the charges above, please note that airlines may impose 100% cancellation charges of the air ticket fare, while some of the airport taxes are subject to refund.

Cancellation and/or compensation payments do not apply due to "Force Majeure". Force majeure is war, threat of war, riot, civil strife, industrial dispute, terrorist activity, natural or nuclear disaster, disease, fire or adverse weather conditions, changes imposed by airlines, or other similar events beyond the control of Macedonia Travel.

Macedonia Travel is entitled to cancel services up to 60 days in advance prior to trip start date if:

- Minimum number of full paying participants is not met (a full refund of trip cost including deposit fee will be provided)

INSURANCE:

Macedonia Travel do not provide travel or health insurance, therefore we require all our clients to carry their own health, accident and liability insurance. Please check that there are no exclusions clauses limiting the types of activities included in your trip. While Macedonia Travel will take all necessary actions in case of emergency situation, we cannot assume responsibility for medical and/or evacuation costs during or after your trip.

DETAILS & TIMINGS

Day 1 (06 th May 2016 - Friday)	
???	transfer Apt Skopje - h. Bushi Spa Resort (25min)
17:30	transfer h. Bushi Spa Resort - Sredno Vodno
18:00	Cable car visit to Millenium Cross on Mount Vodno
19:30	walking tour of Skopje Mother Teresa memorial, Alexander the Great fountain, City square, Stone Bridge, Old Bazaar
21:30	dinner in restaurant in Old Town

Day 3 (08 th May 2016 - Sunday)	
09:00	transfer to King Marko towers above Prilep
10:20	Hike to Treskavec Monastery with picnic lunch with Father Kalist
16:30	transfer to Krushevo and accommodation in hotel
17:45	tour of Krushevo Old town, St Nicholas church, the traditional manufacturers: barrel maker, copper smith, black smith and Makedonium monument
19:15	BBQ dinner by fire

Day 2 (07 th May 2016 - Saturday)	
09:00	transfer to Stobi Archeological site
10:00	tour of Stobi archeological site
10:40	transfer to Demir Kapija and accommodation in hotel
11:30	walking tour from Popova Kula vineyards, and by Doshnica River to village Ciflik or lunch in homestead
14:30	free time in the wine hotel
16:00	ROCK CLIMBING at Iron Gate or BIKE tour around the vineyards
18:30	tour of the wine cellars and the tower of h. Popova Kula followed by dinner with wine tasting

Day 4 (09 th May 2016 - Monday)	
09:00	Group I: transfer to Meckin Kamen and tandem flights
09:00	Group II: botanical hike on Bushava mountain
12:00	transfer to Pustec (Albania)
13:20	lunch in traditional restaurant in Pustec
14:20	excursion by boat and tour of Mali Grad island
15:40	transfer to Ohrid
17:00	Arrival in Ohrid. END OF SERVICE

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