



DAY OF ADVENTURE - MACEDONIA VISION -

PARKS AND MONASTERIES HIKING IN THE VILLAGES

Mavrovo National Park, located in Western Macedonia, is the country's largest national park. The tallest mountain peaks in Macedonia are found here. These peaks, which include Sara, Desat, and Bistra, are topped by the imposing Great Korab Mountain (2,764 meters or 9,069 feet high), the highest mountain in the country located on the border with Albania.

The park's great diversity of flora and fauna is due to various climatic influences and large differences in altitude. The area boasts more than 1000 species of herbaceous plants and trees. As a result of its long geological history, several of these are endemic or relicts from the tertiary and glacial epochs. Complementing the diverse plant life are many species of birds, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals. Bear, lynx, chamois and wild cat are the most significant mammals present.

Mavrovo National Park also contains numerous traditional villages (Galichnik, Rostushe, Bitushe, Lazaropole, Tresonche), caves (Alilica, Kalin Dupka), and cultural and historical monuments, such as churches and monasteries (St. Jovan Bigorski, St. Gjorgji).

Tour Operator: Macedonia Vision

Adventure name: Parks and Monasteries - Hiking in the villages

Type of adventure: Hiking, monastery visit

Difficulty: 2/5

Group size: 4-11 pax

Tour date: 10 May 2016

Proposed tour leader/ guide: Sofija Bojkovksa

Contact name, phone number & e-mail :

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On this Day of Adventure, we visit one of the most beautiful national parks in Macedonia, Mavrovo, comprised of pine and birch forests, karst fields, gorges, and waterfalls. From Ohrid, we take a scenic road through forest, alongside the flowing Black Drin, and past sparkling blue-green lakes to our first stop, the Monastery of St. Jovan Bigorski, located in the heart of the park. This Orthodox monastery, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, is famous for its intricately wood carved iconostasis. From here, we continue to the remote mountain village of Lazaropole, situated on a plateau at Mount Bistra. At ~1,350 m/4,429' in altitude, it is one of the highest settlements in the country. From the village, we hike to a scenic picnic spot at ~1,600m/5,249', from where we enjoy a sweeping view of the surrounding mountains and the town below. Our picnic will include traditional dishes made in the kitchen of the famous Kalin House.

Hiking elevation gain and loss: ~244m/800'
Total driving time: ~4 hours

Schedule

9:00 am: Departure from Inex Gorica, Ohrid
10:45 am: Arrive at Monastery of Jovan Bigoriski (~20-30 minute visit)
11:15 am: Drive to the village of Lazaropole
11:50 am: Arrive in Lazaropole and begin hiking
12:50 pm: Arrive at picnic spot
13:30 pm: Begin hiking back to Lazaropole
14:15 pm: Arrive back in Lazaropole and begin drive back to Ohrid.
16:00 pm: Arrive back at Inex Gorica Hotel

PRICE :50 EUR

The price includes :

- Transfer according the itinerary
- Sightseeing according the itinerary
- Snacks, lunch, and beverage
- Activities and local activity guides
- Entrance tickets
- Tour leader and assistance

The price does't include:

- Insurance

Gear List:

- Day pack containing:
 - Bottle of water
 - Sunglasses
 - Sunscreen
 - Waterproof/windproof jacket
 - Insulating layer (fleece jacket or similar)
- Hiking pants/shorts
- Short or long sleeve shirt (quick drying/wicking material)
- Hiking socks and shoes