



**A SMALL BYZANTINE TOUR**  
BULGARIA, MACEDONIA & GREECE

**11 days from Sofia or Skopje**  
Tour Code 602

This is a draft program offered for closed groups and tour operators only. Further changes are possible according to the client's wishes and requirements

**Day 1 Welcome**

Arrival in Sofia, Bulgaria and departure to Macedonian border. Late afternoon arrival at the Monastery complex **St. Joakim Osogovski**. O/N in monastery rooms

**Day 2 History & Archeology**

**Kokino observatory** use to be a holy place and part of the culture of the people of Bronze age. Afternoon Skopje sightseeing, including the Monastery of **St. Panteleimon** (12th century). O/N in Skopje

**Day 3 Byzantine monasteries in Skopje area**

Visit to **two Byzantine monasteries** near Skopje with possible lunch break in **Matka gorge**, the unique Natural park. Optional boat trip to the entrance of one of the deepest underwater caves in Europe. Afternoon drive towards Mavrovo NP. O/N in hotel in Mavrovo national park.

**Day 4 West Macedonia**

Morning drive in Radika vally and visit to the biggest Macedonian monastery **St. John, Bigorski**. Upon arrival in Ohrid, walking tour in old Ohrid, including **visit to several churches** from Byzantine time. The city is well known as "Balkan Jerusalem" because of many churches with unique fresco paintings. Optional dinner with folklore show at restaurant. O/N in Ohrid.

**Day 5 Bitola and Prespa lake**

Morning departure to Bitola and visit to ancient site **Heraclea Lynkestis** with its unique mosaics. At the Greek side of Prespa lake, visit to a small fisherman village and **boat tour** on the lake where many monks have built their hermitages along the shore of Lake Prespa. Afternoon arrival in Kastoria for dinner and O/N.

**Day 6 The region of Ancient Macedonia**

Departure from Kastoria and after stop over by the **waterfalls in Edessa**, visit to the ruins of Ancient **Pella**. Afternoon arrival in Thessaloniki and visit to the Byzantine church **St. Demetrius**. O/N in Thessaloniki

**Day 7 Halkidiki peninsula**

Leaving Thessaloniki in the morning and arrival at Halikidiki peninsula. Day at leisure. O/N in Halkidiki area.

**Day 8 The Holy mountain**

Day for unforgettable **boat cruise** Known as "The Holy Mountain", it is a semi-autonomous region of monastic orders originally settled in the early years of the Byzantine Empire. At its peak there were said to be 40 monasteries on the peninsula, today the number has declined to half that. O/N in Halkidiki area

**Day 9 Back to mainland**

Before departure to Bulgaria, visit to the ancient site of **Philippi**. It was the first European city to accept Christianity in the 5th century. Arrival in Bansko ski resort late afternoon. O/N in Bansko

**Day 10 Rila monastery**

**Rila Monastery**, a Bulgarian 'icon' and also a UNESCO World Heritage is this morning's main sight. Arrival in Bulgarian capital Sofia in the afternoon. The city has several sights connected with Byzantine era. O/N in Sofia.

**Day 11 Departure**

Time at leisure in Sofia until transfer at the airport.



**TOUR INFORMATION:**

**Possible arrival / departure city / APT :**

Skopje (Macedonia) or Sofia (Bulgaria)

**What is included:**

- 10 nights accommodation at chosen by you hotels according the itinerary,
- Bed & breakfast base;
- English speaking local professional tour guide for all itinerary;
- All entrance fees according the program, marked in bold;
- "Visit Macedonia" organization and maps

**Not included:**

- Single room supplement;
- Half board supplement;
- transportation according the itinerary (coach, minibus, van - depending on the number of participants and further requirements);
- visits, meals and excursions described as optional
- Guide on other language than English (Supplement may apply)

**Tour price**

depends on the number of participants. Confidential prices apply only for tour operators and will be provided upon request.

Tour modifications (extension or reduction of tour duration, upgrade to higher class hotels, additional meals, visits and services) are possible.

For more information about this tour, exact prices for proposed services or tailor made tour according your requirements, please contact us on [booking@visitmacedonia.mk](mailto:booking@visitmacedonia.mk)



**Macedonia and Balkans Incoming Tour Operator**  
W: [visitmacedonia.mk](http://visitmacedonia.mk) | M: [info@visitmacedonia.mk](mailto:info@visitmacedonia.mk) TO license A No.555  
A: 3b, Angel Dinev 2, 1000 Skopje, MK | P +389 2 3098 314