Routes and Tours

DISCOVERING THE PRESPA REGION
This document has been produced based on the material provided by the Prespa Stakeholder Group.

This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in South-East Europe (SWG) and its Area Based Development Programme and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.

This project is funded by the European Union.
Beautiful Prespa region will be best discovered if you take dome of the trails, routes and tours and experience it in a specific way, fit for your tastes and demands.

The trails will enable you to embark on a personal discovery of the natural and cultural heritage of this region. They will help you discover the Neolith, Roman and ancient sights, sources of Slavic literacy and culture and the richness of Byzantine art among the world’s most highly prized religious frescos and icons. Before diving into the clear waters of the region’s lakes and enjoying the unique tastes of the Ohrid trout or Prespa carp, you will have an opportunity to walk amid the peaceful and ancient hills and savoir the breathtaking scenery, breathe in the fresh air and drink from the cool mountain springs.

This brochure provides a list of some of the region’s routes and tours.
Galicica National Park is intersected with numerous routes that will enable you to enjoy it. Here you can get familiar with the routes and the rules of using them, and when you arrive to the park, you can search for its staff to provide you with the necessary details and printed maps.

**Biking route Galicica**

Mountain bike route is a wonderful place for biking which suits both beginners and professionals. The route offers a spectacular view of Ohrid and Prespa Lake. The trail continues along a flat area with grass. All along the trail there is a variety of flora and fauna and views that will contribute to the pleasure of bike ride.

**Technical Characteristics of the route**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Start</strong></th>
<th>Ohrid - 697 metres above sea level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Target</strong></td>
<td>Ohrid (over Dva Javori – 1500 masl)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Length</strong></td>
<td>55.2 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Highest Point</strong></td>
<td>Krstec 1555 masl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Height difference</strong></td>
<td>858 masl</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Walking routes of the National Park Galicica

1. Walking recreational route Trpejca - Cokolsko
   This is a recreational route 1,5 km long. The time required for crossing it is 30 minutes and the route is considered to be easy.

2. Walking route to the Magaro Peak
   The trail starts at Baba and goes by regional road Ohrid- Trpejca -Carina –Resen. By the trail you can see the wonderful criqk – geomorphologic phenomena which are witnessing the ice age. The trails offer sights of genuine flora and fauna. Both lakes Prespa Lake and Ohrid Lake can be seen from the top if weather allows it, as if they were on your palm.

3. Walking Route Dva Javori – Asan Dzura – Goga
   This trail is going through rocky area and field named Suvo Pole and to the house of Asan Dzura. There is trail leading from this spot to the Goga Peak where you can see Ohrid and Prespa lakes.
4. Walking route Dva Javori – Asan Dzura – Samatska Dupka
The trail leads to the cave Samatska dupka. Seeing the cave is possible only with official guide and previous booking through contacting the Galicica National Park.

5. Walking route Pestani- Korita
The trail is going close to the regional road Ohrid- Trpejca- Carina – Resen.

6. Magaro - Stenje
This is a picturesque walk with view on Prespa Lake, with lush flora and fauna surrounding the route.

7. Island Golem Grad Prespa Lake
The island in the lake is a locality of unique beauty. The visit includes a boat ride from villages around the lake.

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**Rules for visitors to the Galicica National Park**

1. Going in the park is allowed only on pedestrian and bicycle paths
2. Visiting strictly protected areas of the park is accompanied by a guide of the National Park Galicica
3. The installed infrastructure (picnic areas, viewpoints, trails) is used according to the regulations
4. It is not allowed to remove parts of nature
5. It is not allowed to leave the waste
6. It is not allowed to ignite fire
7. Protect the National Park Galicica for you and those who come after you

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Contact organization and relevant info:
National Park Galicica,  
Velestovski Pat bb, Ohrid Macedonia  
Phone/ Fax ++389 (0)46 261 473  
Email: galicica@galicica.org.mk  
www.galicica.org.mk
Pelister National Park Routes
National Park Pelister also offers numerous walking trails and has a network of thematic routes that distinguish its offer by inventiveness and quality. The list with a brief description of each route, with contact information and rules and regulations for using them follows, while the park’s staff will be available for providing detailed information and printed maps.
Walking routes National Park Pelister

Brajchino Village – Big Lake – Small Lake – Peak Pelister
Brajchino Village – Eagle Ponds – Nizhopole Village
Magarevo Village - Fountain Colonel Ilija - George Stone - Red Rocks - Rocky Trail - Peak Pelister
Magarevo Village - Lastojchin Stone (Swallow) - Hotel Molika - Kopanki - Rocky Trail – Peak Pelister
Magarevo Village - Information Centre - Hotel Molika - Kopanki - Rocky Trail – Peak Pelister
Magarevo Village - Big Meadow - Capari Intersection - Rocky Trail – Peak Pelister
Magarevo Village - Small Meadow - Children’s Resort – Information Centre
Information Center - Historical Trail - Hotel Molika – Kopanki – Rocky Trail – Peak Pelister
Information Center – Palisnopje – Capari Intersection - Rocky Trail – Peak Pelister
Nizhopole Village - Sheepfold - Small Lake
Nizhopole Village - Sheepfold - Small Lake - Big Lake - Peak Pelister
Nizhopole Village - Churdaki - Shelters - Peak Pelister
Nizhopole Village - Fountain Durmish - Eagles Ponds - Big Lake – Small Lake – Peak Pelister
Malovishta Village - St. Spas (Salvation) - Vrteshka
Malovishta Village - St. Spas (Salvation) - Kodra – Small Chuka - Big Chuka - Two Graves - Small Lake - Peak Pelister
Malovishta Village - St. Spas (Salvation) - Kodra – Small Chuka - Big Chuka - Two Graves - Small Lake – Big Lake
Malovishta Village - St. Ana - Kodra - Small Chuka - Big Chuka - Two Graves - Small Lake - Peak Pelister
Malovishta Village - St. Ana - Kodra - Small Chuka - Big Chuka - Two Graves - Small Lake - Big Lake

Additional trails include:

Great Meadow - Information Center (Time of passage 30-40 minutes)
Magarevo - Great Meadow (Time of passage 30-40 minutes)
Trail: Palisnopje – Kopanki (Time of passage 40 minutes)
Magarevo - Lastojcin Kamen (Time of passage 60 minutes)
Kopanki - Jorgov Kamen - Crveni Steni (Time of passage 60-90 minutes)
Magarevo - Polkovnik Ilija (Time of passage 60-80 minutes)
Thematic routes of the National Park Pelister

1. Historical trail
   This is a trail which crosses reconstructed trenches, bridges and cannon positions and has a set of educational boards, with plenty of information about the First World War, which has left a significant trace in this area. The time required to pass the trail is 45-60 minutes, depending on the direction from which you come.

2. Kids Trail or Children Trail
   Along the trail that leads from the Children Resort to the locality of Big Meadow, the educational boards describe the basic characteristics of flora and fauna of Pelister. The trail is intended primarily for children.
3. Rocky Trail
Following this trail that starts from the parking lot outside the Hotel Molika you can reach the peak Pelister (about 5 hours of walking), and then move towards the Big and Little Lake.

4. Trail through the Hospitals
This trail that leads from the Caparska Preseka to the peak Pelister, and the time it requires is 4 hours.

5. Churches and Monsteries in the Pelister National Park
This route takes you along and to the churches and monasteries situated within the territory of the park and introduces you to historical and religious background of the area.

Rules and regulations for the visitors of the Pelister National Park

1. Movement within the Pelister National Park (Protected Area further in the text) is supposed to be done on marked paths, trails or mountain tracks.
2. Driving of motor vehicles outside of settlements and marked paths and trails within the Protected Area is prohibited.
3. Collecting and keeping of specimens of wild species or their parts is prohibited. Be careful not to endanger their future survival in Nature.
4. Do not disturb the wild animals; they can be very dangerous for your life.
5. Destroying of cave ornaments, rare minerals and fossils is strictly forbidden. Preserve them for the benefit of future generations.
6. Building dams on the water flows is prohibited. It can cause decreasing of the biological minimum and further disturbances of the natural balance.
7. Before you leave collect all the waste you have generated. In Nature there is no place for waste disposal.
8. Camping and fire growing within the Protected Area is prohibited. Be attentive to the danger of forest fires.
9. When you are in Protected Area be sure that you keep your pets (cat, dogs) on a short leash;
10. Report all the damages you have seen within the Protected Area to the ranger’s service or to the Administration of the Protected Area.

Contact organization and relevant info:
National Park Pelister
Main Office:
Phone: +389 47 233 464
Fax: +38947 233 668
Email: np.pelister@yahoo.com;
http://park-pelister.com

Info Centre:
Phone: +38 947 237 010
Email: np.pelister@yahoo.com; infocentarpelister@yahoo.com
Info Centre Operating Hours:
Summer 09:00-15:30 (April - September)
Fall (October) 09:00-15:00
Winter (November - March) 09:00-15:00
Trails on
BABA MONUTAIN
Monastery trails
The monastery trails connect the monasteries on Baba Mountain, thus providing a unique experience of this region and its centres of religion, literacy and culture of the past. There are visited along the following routes:

• Village Brajcino – Village Nizo Pole Monasteries
• Village Slivnica – Village Malovista- St Bogorodica Slivnica, St Gjorgi Slivnica, St Ana Malovishta - St Petka Malovista

Accommodation is provided in the Monastery St Petka Brajcino.

Contact organization and relevant info:
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Phone: +389 47 233 464
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Walking trail Village Grncari – Village Dolno Dupeni
The route includes the monasteries St Gjorgi Kurbinovo, St Bogorodica Slivnica, St Petka Brajcino, St Petar and Paul and St Anastas in village Brajcino.

Contact organization and relevant info:
Rubin Nikolovski, rubin@pelagonijaregion.mk
Apart from the region’s routes and trails you can take individually or in a group, there are several tours offered to the visitors for experiencing the Prespa cross-border area. They are organized on land and on water and will provide you a full impression of this charming corner of the Balkans. Some of the tours that do not necessarily require certified guides or boat rides can also be organized individually and crossed as walking routes.
St Naum Boat Tour to the springs of Ohrid Lake
The tour is organized with a small boat that passes by the wonderful nature of the Ohrid Lake springs. The boats are taking the tourists at the small island in the location below the monastery. While touring, the guides provide information about the flora and fauna and the history and legend of the springs.
The tours are organized on the spot during summer period.
Old city of Ohrid (free walk)
The tour starts at the city center close to the harbor, with the first point being the House of Robevci. After the point one, the tour passes through the old part of the city heading to Gorna Porta, and stopping at the Antique Theatre as the point two. From Gorna Porta - point three, the tour goes to the Church of St. Bogorodica Perivplevta as the point four and heads to the Samoil Fortress as point five. On the way back it stops at Plaosnik- point six and heads to the Church of St Jovan Kaneo as point seven where the visitors enjoy the most beautiful sights of Ohrid. The tour finishes at the church St Sophia as the final point.
The route can vary according to the interest of the visitors to the city. On the route you can smell the city, feel the breeze of the lake and hear locals in their backyards cooking, relaxing, and working. It is easy to organize the tour individually because all the relevant information is provided on the Tourism Information Points where the Register of Certified Tourist Guides in the Municipality of Ohrid is available.

Map of the tour area:
Photographs of locations included in the tour

The tour can be organised with official guide from the Municipality of Ohrid or individually. All the sights have guides of the sites or custos that will present the inner side of the spot.
Donkey Safari
Village Kuratica is situated 20km from Ohrid. The village is a unique settlement in the rural area with 100 houses whose inhabitants are cattle breeders and forest fruit and medical herb pickers. It is specific that the donkeys are domestic animals kept in every house.

The tour is going through the mountains and the tourists can enjoy fresh air and taste homemade food and drinks, rakija being the favorite one. The tour starts from the village and goes up to the mountain where the camping place is situated. The visitors eat food prepared on camp fire and have local drinks served while overlooking wonderful mountains that provide a magnificent view.

The tour is organized from May to October and by request during the whole year.

Contact organization and relevant info:
Fibula Travel Ohrid
Makedonski Prosvetiteli Street 14A, Ohrid
+389 46 250 745
fibulaohrid@t-home.mk
Prespa Lake tours

**Boat tour Otesevo- Stenje- Konjsko – Golem Grad**

This boat tour starts at Otesevo, stops in the Village of Stenje for a short sightseeing, and continues to the famous fishing village of Prespa Lake - Konjsko, and ends at the Island Golem Grad. The total time of the one way trip is 120 minutes. The route might change in line with the wishes of the passengers. The tour includes lunch and the tasting of typical Prespa products.

**Jankovec- Resen – Kurbinovo – Slivnica tour**

The tour includes visits of different monasteries and churches in Resen Area and Prespa Valley.

**Resen- Podmocani- Ezerani- Brajcino tour**

This tour presents the ceramic colony of art in Resen, the museum of traditional clothes in Podmocani, Ezerani Nature Reserve for Birds and Brajcino village.

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Impressum

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The Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in South Eastern Europe (SWG RRD) is an International Intergovernmental Organization consisting of members from governmental institutions in South Eastern Europe (SEE) responsible for agriculture and rural development in respective member countries and territories. The SWG is a platform for networking and regional cooperation in SEE in the field of agriculture and rural development.

The SWG is carrying out the project Preparation for Implementation of the Area Based Development (ABD) Approach in the Western Balkans - 2nd phase which works on building the capacities and structures within the SWG and selected regions in order to be able to implement the forthcoming ABD programmes. The project’s objective is the contribution to sustainable economic growth of the target regions: Drina- Sava (cross-border region between B&H, HR, SRB), Drina- Tara (cross-border region between B&H, SRB, MNE), Prespa (cross-border region between ALB and MK) and Sharrë (cross-border region between ALB, MK and KOS*) by strengthening the cooperation of public administrations and other public bodies, the private sector and NGOs in the fields of local development and regional cooperation by building-up local and regional cross-border capacities. The project will create framework conditions within the SWG as organization and the SWG member countries for implementation of the area based development approach and in that way contribute to the sustainable growth of the rural cross-border areas of the SEE region.

This document has been prepared and published with the aim to present the region and its attractions, thus contributing to attracting visitors to the Prespa cross-border area.

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*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

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