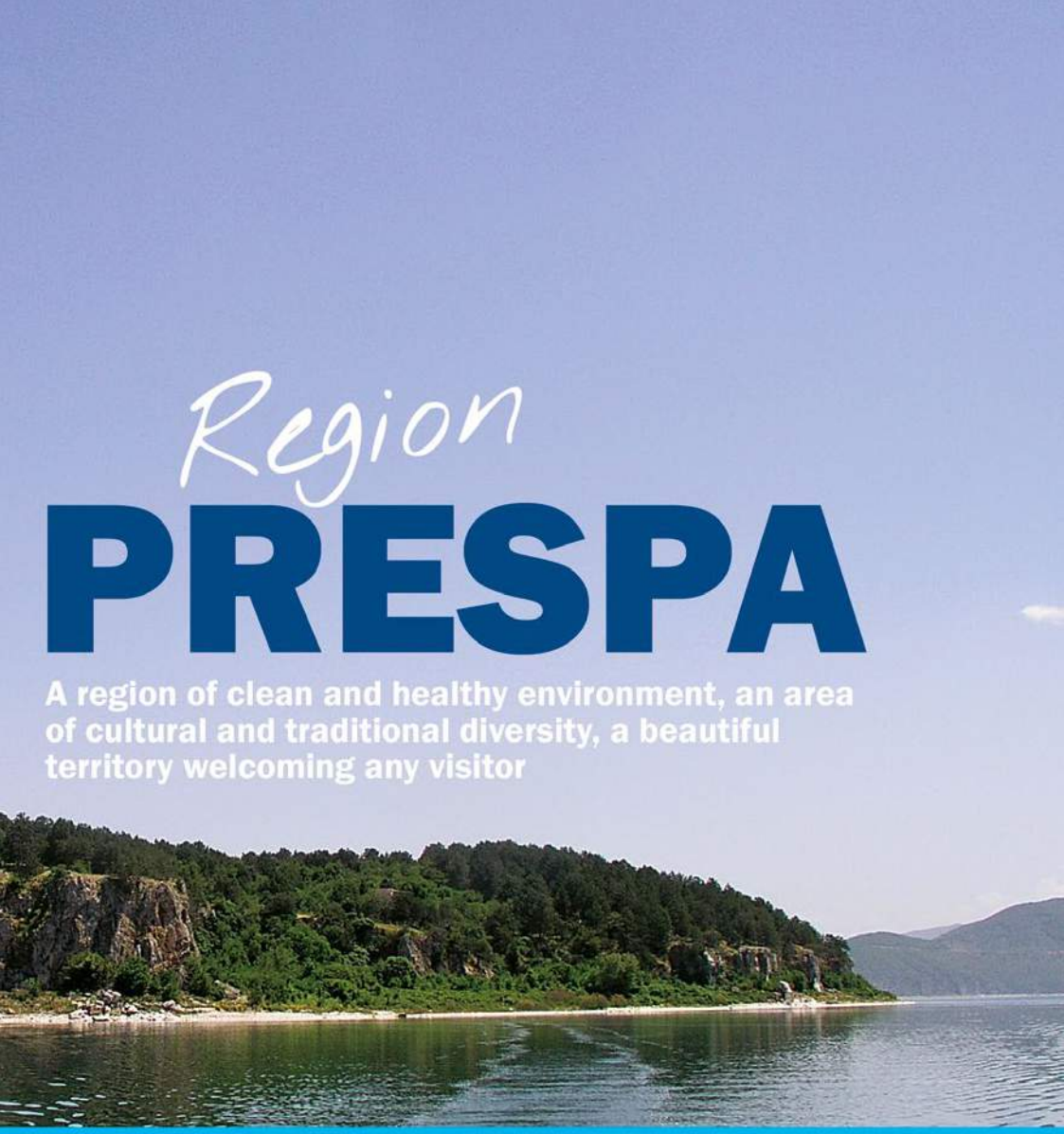

Region PRESPA

A region of clean and healthy environment, an area of cultural and traditional diversity, a beautiful territory welcoming any visitor

South Eastern Europe
SWG RRD
Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group

ABD PROGRAMME
Area Based Development Programme in the Western Balkan countries

PRESPA
CROSS-BORDER REGION

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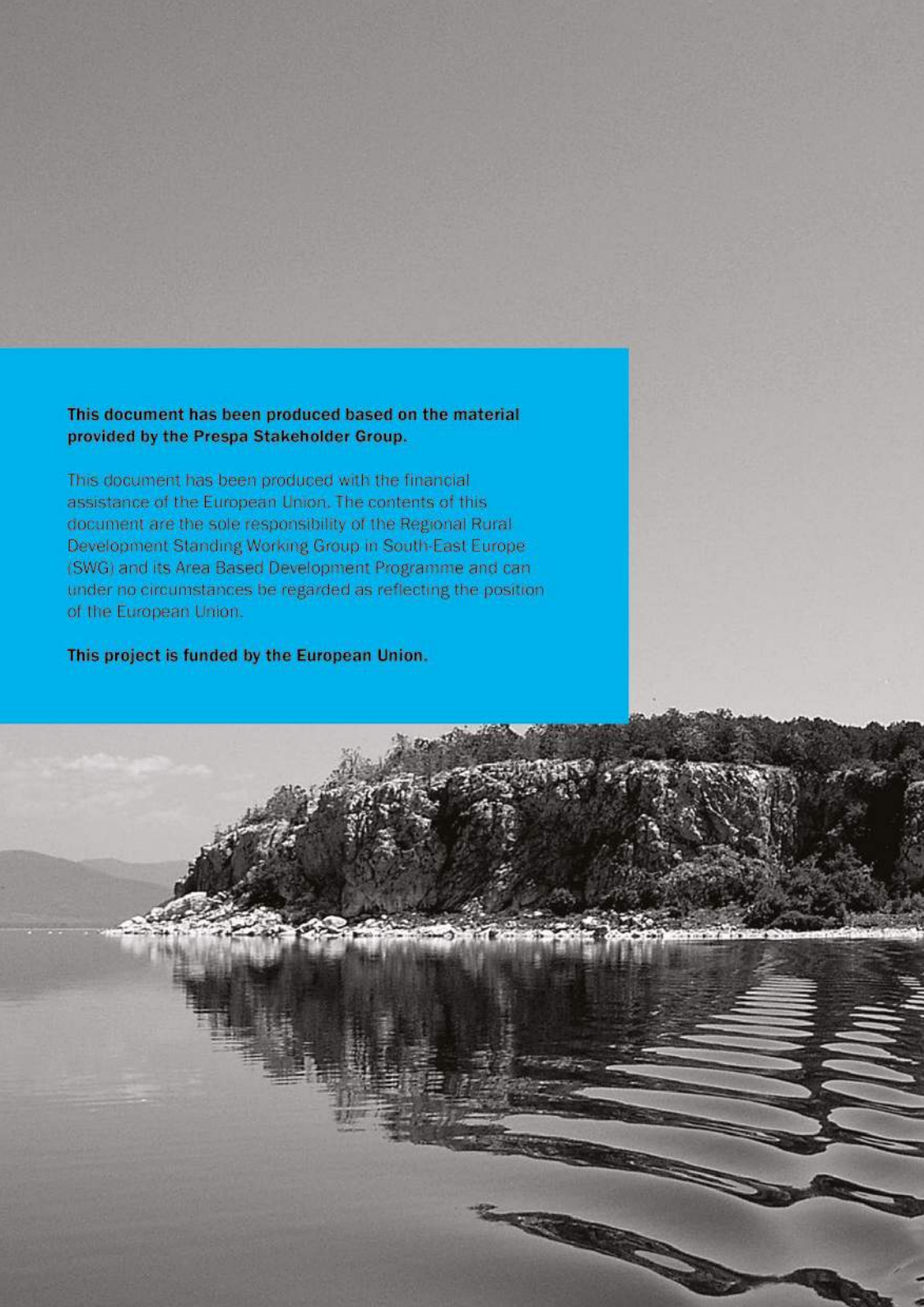

PRESPA

A region of clean and healthy environment, an area of cultural and traditional diversity, a beautiful territory welcoming any visitor

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GETTING FAMILIAR WITH THE REGION

Position

Prespa region is situated in the southwest part of the Republic of Macedonia and southeast part of Albania and includes Prespa, Ohrid and Korca valleys. The region borders with Greece on its southeast side. On its southwest side in Albania it shares the boundaries with Gjirokaster County, and shares the boundaries with Berat and Elbasan Counties on the west side, while in Macedonia it borders the Municiplaty of Bitola on the west, the Municiplaty of Struga on the east and the Municiplities of Debarca and Demir Hisar on its north.

Countries and municipalities

The region includes two municipalities in Macedonia, Resen and Ohrid, and the whole Korca region in Albania. Korca County includes the districts of Devolli (Bilisht), Kolonja (Erseke), Korca and Pogradec. Administrative division of Korca comprises four districts, 6 cities, 31 communes and 344 villages. The largest city is Korca which is the centre of the County.

People and their diversity

The total number of people living in this area is 328.390 (70.840 in Macedonia and 257.576 in Albania). A specific combination of ethnicities (Macedonians, Albanians, Roma, Vlachs, etc.) and religions (Orthodox and Catholic Christian, Muslim, etc.) gives a special beauty of varieties of cultures and traditions to the region. The diversity of the cultures and communities contributes to the overall impression of the area, that tourists will take after visiting this cross-border territory.

Geography
This area combines spacey valleys and wild mountains and this beautiful mosaic is sprinkled with glacis lakes and intersected with clear rivers.

The area includes the mountains Baba, Galicica, Istok, Gramoz which are homes for four national parks, and its three big valleys are Prespa Valley, Ohrid Valley and Korca Valley. The rivers of the region are the Golema Reka, Grashnica in Macedonia and the rivers Shkumbin, Devoll and Osum in Albania.

The region is famous for its three lakes it can pride with: Prespa Lake, Small Prespa Lake and Ohrid Lake. The area around the Lakes is biosphere protected area by UNESCO.

Climate
The climate varies from continental and Mediterranean in certain parts of the region to mountain climate. Such a range of different conditions provide for a uniqueness of every part of the region in every part of the year.

All the seasons are lovely here. The springs are sunny and full of colours, the summers are sunny and pleasant at each spot, autumns are as colourful as the springs and the winters are either white with snow or pleasantly cool, depending on the place you find yourself in.

Nature
The Prespa region's nature is its incontestable value, and its preserved natural wealth, combined with the diversity of flora and fauna with many protected species, make it especially attractive for nature lovers. This mountainous area is rich in waters; it has its natural lakes, Prespa Lake, Ohrid Lake, small part of Prespa Minor Lake and several clean rivers. The region is a cradle of natural resources that are protected within the natural parks of Pelister, Galicica, Prespa, and Drenova Fir.

History

The region's history is very rich starting from the ancient times. Based on the findings from Ohrid Lake, this area has had a developed life since neolith times. It flourished in ancient times and Roman era, possessing many important localities, being connected with the rest of the Empire with the ancient Via Egnatia road.

The region is a cradle of Christianity and Cyrillic Alphabet, a place where the first University on the Balkans was founded by St Naum and St Kliment Ohridski. It is a region known as the residence of the Emperor Samoil, Byzantine arts and churches frescoes, a place where one of the founders of the idea for Young Turk Revolution against Otoman Empire Nijazi Bey lived.

This area is also known as a place where revolutionary Ilinden Upraisal preparations happened, and a place where the first congress of Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization took place. It is a homeland of many anti-fascistic heroes and important modern history events.

Culture

Rich and long regional history has resulted in immense cultural heritage in the whole Prespa region. Material and intangible cultural heritage and the traditions, specific customs and common festivities characterise the area. This is a place where frescoes from the pre renaissance period can be found and a place where modern artistic expression can be experienced.

The area is also rich in cultural monuments and is unique for the number of churches. Ohrid is the centre of regional literacy, and this town of Holy Clement and Naum is famous worldwide for its cultural background. Prespa cultural wealth is recognised by international institutions and it is characterized with the UNESCO International Ceramic Academy member- Resen Ceramic Colony.

Architecture
Different historical and cultural influences in the Prespa region have caused the existence of a diversity of architectural styles along this area.

The Prespa valley architecture is characterized with specific stone houses built on both sides of Prespa Lake, while wattle houses can be found on its western part. There are baroque houses in the town of Resen, and Ohrid area is characterized with the typical oriental and Byzantine urban architecture form XVIII, XIX and the beginning of XX century.

The visitors of this region have a chance to compare traditional and modern architecture, search for the remains of the Roman Empire, investigate numerous churches from medieval and modern times, and visit the monuments from the Ottoman Empire while constantly enjoying the architecture of nature which has created the most beautiful works of art.

Tradition
Traditions that preserve common identity of different communities are best expressed through various festivities in the region. They have many common characteristics in both countries and they vary from religious celebrations to secular gatherings - from celebrating St John Baptist day - Vodici in Lake Ohrid and Prespa Lake to Ohrid Summer Festival, Apple Picking Day in Resen or Easter Celebrations in Korca.

Gastronomy
It is not difficult to conclude that typical gastronomic delights in the region rich with waters are mainly fish specialties. The Ohrid trout, Prespa carp and Ohrid eel are the dishes one must taste when visiting the region, while it is also famous for the dried fish dish named cironki.

Typical gastronomic specialties are also pastry products like gjomleze, kukumishe, mlechnik and petulici. The region preserves the national specialties like tavce gravce, pindzur, ajvar, turlitava, and many other dishes that combine healthy vegetables and delicious meat.

Apple is the main product of the region and there is a variety of specialties made of this fruit, so apple desserts are something you will also remember the region for.

Agriculture
A combination of diverse types of land in the Prespa region provides for the growth of various plants and animals, and a whole series of products made from the region's agricultural raw material.

Orchards take the biggest part of the area, especially in the area of Resen. The main agriculture activity is apple growing. Prespa apples from the Prespa Valley are a well known brand around the whole Balkans. Two other famous regional agriculture products are Ohrid cherry and prespa beans.

Production of nuts and almonds is present in the areas around Ohrid and Resen. The region also produces cereals and forage crops. Livestock production is predominantly developed on the Albanian side of the region, while beekeeping is one of the attractive activities in the whole region due to the richness of nature and various flora species. There are many individual farmers, small and medium agro-business enterprises.

Economy
The economy in the region has a long tradition and relies on agriculture, with special focus on apple production, and tourism.

Food processing industry is characterized by production of flour, meat, salami, dairy and drink production. Beer production is linked with Korca, while the production of wine and some non-alcoholic beverages is typical for Ohrid. Resen is characterized by food processing industry related to various cookies like well known 'Resana', chocolate products, apple juices and apple puree.

One peculiarity of the Prespa region industry is snail canning, a quite frequent activity in this area.

Wood processing industry, construction industry and textile industry are quite developed here, which altogether lead to the developed trade of the Prespa region.

Tourism is one of the main economy drivers and a growing industry in the Prespa cross-border area. Rich natural resources as well historical and cultural heritage have contributed to the development of tourism.

Tourism
It is no wonder that tourism is one of the two main economic activities in Prespa and Ohrid valleys. There are more than 500 sites in the region and more than 100 activities that can be enjoyed while spending time in this area.

The activities you can undertake here range from atypical summer holidays, to hiking, cycling, paragliding, swimming, food and drink tasting, visiting cultural events and cultural heritage sites, enjoying traditional festivals and events, international festivals like Ohrid Summer Festival, monodrama and poetry festivals, folklore festivals, and many more.

The sights tell the stories about rich history of the region and overlapping cultural influences present here, but also speak about immense natural capital and wonderful nature this area hosts. Some of the sites you should not miss are the Samoil Fortress, The Angel from St George Church in Kurbinovo, Slivnica Monastery, Golem Grad and Mal Grad Island, St Clement University, Resen Saray Natural Park Pelister and Pelister glacier lakes, magnificent sight of the two lakes from Galicica routes, Prespa Lake cormorants, Ohrid Lake and its swans, etc.

Interesting facts

The world famous **Ohrid pearl** is produced in this region from the scales of fish plasica. This is a typical traditional activity of two Ohrid families.

The **filigree ornament work** is typical for the area which is well known for this kind of art and craft.

Resen and Korca pottery is well established tradition due to the good quality of the clay. Today Resen and the area around Prespa is one of the biggest producers of construction material from clay.

Ohrid woodcarvings are typical for the town of Ohrid and they are famous worldwide due to their quality and uniqueness.

Coppersmiths in Ohrid Bazaar preserve the tradition of copper artefact production, and they should definitely not to be missed when visiting the region.

PUTTING THE REGION ON THE MAP

The Prespa cross-border region is positioned along the border between Macedonia and Albania, and it is bound by the natural setting dominated by mountains and lakes. The mountains of Galicica, Pelister, Drenove and Prespa and Ohrid Lakes are surrounded bv Prespa Valley, Ohrid Lake Valley (consisting of Ohrid Valley in Macedonia and Pogradec Valley in Albania) and Korca Valley (consisting of River Devol Valley and Erseke Valley).

The region borders with Greece in the south, in Albania it borders with Gjirokastër County in the south-west, Berat County in the west and Elbasan County in the north-west, while in Macedonia it shares the borders with the Municipality of Bitola in the east, the Municipality of Struga in the west and the Municipalities of Debarca and Demir Hisar in the north.

The region is well connected with the surrounding territories and other destinations around the world. You can reach it by plane and continue exploring it by car, bus or train. If you enter from Macedonia, you can use the motorways A1, A2 and A3, going to Resen and Ohrid. The motorway M5 Ohrid- Resen- Bitola- Skopje is 235km long in this part and is one of key links of this region. Regional **road network** in the region is good and includes

R501 Ohrid - St Naum - 29km (border crossing in the Prespa cross border region Albania and Macedonia)
R505 Makazi - Greek Border - 25km (no border crossing)
R503 Makazi – Carina - Stenje – Mac/Alb Border - 24km (border crossing in the Prespa cross border region)
R504 Carina - NP Galicica – Ohrid - 29km
R420 Ohrid - Struga - 14km
E65 Resen- Ohrid - 33km

All villages in Prespa and Ohrid Valley are connected with asphalt roads (Prespa Valley only has 145 km in total but only the road to Village Konjsko in Prespa Lake is not asphalted and the total length is 8km)

If you approach the region from Albania, and decide to drive your car, there are several options.

If you enter Albania from Greece, you will go through the Kapshtica border check-point and Treurat. If you travel from Saranda, in the south, take the route from Saranda-Gjirokastra-Permet-Leskovik-Erseke-Korca. Distances to know include: Saranda-Korca 247 km, Gjirokastra-Korca 195 km.

If you approach the region from the Republic of Greece to Macedonia by car you can use the following border crossing: Medzitlija / Niki which is 45 Km far from from Resen and 78 km from Ohrid.

If you move within the region from Albania to Macedonia you can cross the border at the crossing of Stenje which is 23km away from Resen and 56km from Ohrid, or the border crossing of St Naum/ Tushemisht, which is 42 km away from Resen (when using R504) or 61km away from Resen (when using E65 and R501), 49 km from Korca.

Do mind the following distances: Kapshtica-Korca 37 km, Thana Pass-Korca 57 km, Ohrid-Korca 70 km, Resen- Korca 75 km, Thessaloniki-Korca 270 km, Skopje-Korca 280 km.
You can reach the region by means of public transportation, including buses and minibuses. They cover the distance to and from the region all day long. Buses and minivans bound to Korca depart from the Qemal Stafa Stadium, in Tirana. The buses and minivans to Resen and Ohrid depart regularly from all bus stations in Macedonia. Please note that the only transportation you can use as public in the region is the boat Ohrid – Pogradec.

If you decide to travel by **air**, you can reach the region directly to St Paul the Apostle Airport in Ohrid which is the airport situated in the region, 9km from Ohrid, 55km from Resen and 90 km from Korca. You can also reach the region through Alexander the Great Airport in Skopje which is 3 to 4 hours drive from the region, but has more frequent flights. If you decide to experience the region travelling through Albania you can reach it through Rinas Airport (30 km away from Tirana), and then drive along the Tirana-Korca road.

You may choose to reach the region from neighbouring Greece through the Kostur Airport or the Thessaloniki Airport. The distance between Korca and Kostur is 70 km, and between Korca and Thessaloniki is 270 km.

You can also travel by **sea** to reach Prespa, in which case you will have to go through the Durrës Sea-port, and, then, drive along the Durrës -Korca road, distance between two towns being 209 km.

The most important **train** station in the surroundings is situated in Bitola, 40km from Resen and 75 km from Ohrid.

THE REGION BETWEEN HYSTORY AND MYTH

The Prespa region can pride itself not only for grand historical heritage, but also for legends that have become a part of collective memory, thus becoming a part of reality which merges facts and imagination. The following pages present some crucial historical facts, but also the myths that intertwine with everyday life of Prespa inhabitants. This specific mixture will make any visitor's stay in the region more interesting, and let them take specific memories and experiences back home.

HISTORY

B.C. Time

Prespa history dates from ancient times. Evidences are brought up from archaeological findings from neolith in the locality of Kremenica. The traces of active life from the copper age present in area of Village Asamati at the coast of Prespa Lake. Pile-dwelling settlements were found and existing in Village Nakolec at Prespa Lake coast and Gradiste Peninsula in the Bay of Bones at Lake Ohrid Coast. Oldest findings in Ohrid lake basin date back to 6000 years B.C. There are 170 archaeological sites on the Macedonian side of the Ohrid Lake only.

Greek civilization
Hellenistic era remains are found on the island Golem Grad in Prespa Lake where a necropolis with different objects- from coins to jewellery and glass, was found. In the villages of Krani, Dolno Dupeni and Ezerani wooden boats from this period have been found and nowadays preserved in the Saray in Resen.

Roman civilization
The Roman civilization left many remains in the region. One of the most important traces of the era is the ancient road Via Egnatia that passes throughout the whole region. Lychnidos or today's Ohrid was located by the Via Egnatia, the oldest and the most important Roman roadway in the Balkans. It started with two routes from Apollonia and Dyrachia and reached to Lychnidos through Candavian Mountains. Long before the Romans came into the region this route had been used as a communicational link between the coast and the internal parts of Illyria and Macedonia. Via Egnatia was the shortest route from Rome to the Eastern Empire.

The Romans have also built the settlement named Scritania which is place where modern town Resen lies. Roman civilization remains are found on Island Golem Grad, Pretor, Otesevo and Pokrvenik by Prespa Lake and Valley of Prespa. During the Roman conquests, towards the end of the 3rd and the beginning of the 2nd century B.C, Desaretes and the region Desaretia were mentioned, as well as the town of Lychnidos -nowadays Ohrid, Lychnidus and the region Lychnis. After the Roman conquest, the name Desarets appeared as the joint name of all tribes that lived in the mountainous region inside the area of Macedonia and south Illyria, stretching from the border with Epirus in the south to the Parthynes and Phenestes in the north and Lynkestes in the east. Lychnidos then became the capital of Desaretia.

University of St Clement and Slavic Literacy
Clement of Ohrid was sent to Kutmicevica as a teacher. This region covered southwest Macedonia and southern Albania, with their respective capitals of Ohrid and Devol. Both towns were religious centres with significant cathedrals. During his teaching activity Clement had numerous students - there were approximately 3,500 'chosen' students. By developing so many clergymen in a short period, Clement succeeded to introduce religious service in the reconstructed and newly built churches throughout Ohrid region and Macedonia.

The activity of his student, St Naum, was mainly centered in Ohrid. The teacher and Bishop Clement, together with the student Naum, were the founders of the so-called Ohrid Glagolitic Literary School. Clement also wrote or translated about 50 works, thus enhancing the bases of the Macedonian and pan-Slavic literature and culture.
The pursuits of Clement and Naum in the second half of IX century lead to Ohrid becoming one of the most developed and most famous medieval centres of culture. The solid bonds of Clement and Naum with this region are evident from the fact that both were buried in the Monasteries built by them on the shore of Lake Ohrid. St Naum died in 910 and St Clement in 916.

Medieval ages

During the VI and VII century the Slavic hordes Beresi Brsjaci have settled the area of Prespa Region. There are many monuments that witness this era's active life, especially the necropolises in Kurbinovo and Island Golem Grad. Other important monuments are the fortresses that were building by Vasilij Byzantine warrior who was fighting with Tzar (Car) Samoil. This period is characterized by the cave churches in the area- St Peter and Paul, St Petka and St George.

In X and XI century during the rule of the Car Samoil, the city of Prespa was built by the Prespa Lake. The ancient scripts are mentioning the city of Prespa as a capital of the first Macedonian middle age state founded by the count Nikola and the four sons David, Aron, Mojsej and Samoil. The city was also the centre of the Macedonian church founded by the Roman church representatives sent from Pope Grigori V (996-999) which later on was transferred to Ohrid. After the lost in the battle of Belasica, Samoil retreated in Prespa and build the temple of St Ahil – now in Greece. The kingdom of Car Samoil was named Skalvinija.

Ottoman time

The first congress of the Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation was held on August 27, 1894 in Resen. The event of opening the Church of St Kiril and Methodius was used to undercover the congress. Main Macedonian revolutionaries against Ottoman Empire like Dame Gruev, Pere Toshev, etc were present on this event. The Ilinden Upraisal period was also characterized with many battles in the region including Prespa and Ohrid valley villages lead by Slavejko Arsov.

Resen was a home of Ahmet Niyazi Bey, 1873—1913 one of the initiators and organizers of the Young Turkish Revolution and close friend and associate of Kemal Pasha Ataturk, the leader and founder of Modern Turkey. His house - Saray is now a Culture Centre of the Municipality of Resen and a site to be visited.

MYTHS AND LEGENDS

Prespa Lake Legend

At the place where Prespa Lake is today, there was a huge rich valley with seven springs' taps which never got frozen. They were the pride for the whole population in the valley and were supposed to be closed during the night time only.

At that time two tribes were constantly fighting. The daughter of one of the counts- the leader of the tribes, was beautiful Prespa. Every evening she went to the springs to get water, and there she met the son of the other tribe leader. They immediately fell in love and since that evening they were meeting at the springs every night. One of the evenings Labid, the son of the opposite tribe leader, was waiting for Prespa. She arrived to fill water but being so happy to see him she kissed him and left the springs' taps open, so water stared to burst over and over. In the meantime the two young lovers went uphill and got seduced by the game of love. Enjoying the noise of the water, they fell asleep. When they woke up in the morning they saw a big grey- green lake.

Meanwhile the guards informed the counts about the upcoming water so one of the tribes left to south and the other one to north. Labid kissed Prespa and told her: Now there is nothing our tribes to fight for! The young couple got married, the lake was named Prespa Lake and the valley Prespa Valley after beautiful Prespa.

Prespa Legend

In the town there was a rich trader who had only one daughter, aged 15. She had beautiful eyes, blonde long silky hair and was very pretty. Her dresses and jewellery were making her even more beautiful and attractive. She was pride of the parents and of the whole city. However, when her parents got richest and happiest, she suddenly died. Her funeral was organized by all the citizens and she was covered in silk, silver and gold shining over her dead body.

After the funeral, two of the grave men decided to open the grave and take out the gold and silver. The same evening they started digging, took out the jewellery and hid everything in the church. When they went to sleep, she showed up in their dreams asking and begging them to give back her gold and silver. In spite of the dreams, they went into the church next day to get out only the remaining golden chain from her neck. As they could not pull it off, they decided to cut the girl's neck. In that attempt she woke up and scared the grave men who ran away. The older one said that they should go back and kill her. When they went back she was begging them not to kill her, so the young man said that they would not, but that she will be named Prespa (sleep over) because she was not dead, if she promised not to tell anyone what had happened. She was sold as a slave and from that time the place and the valley was called Prespa.

Ohrid Legend
The city of Ohrid got its name at the time when the Car Samoil Soldiers were coming back from a battle and had to climb the hill where the old city and fortress is today. They were climbing tired, saying 'Oh ride, oh ride' (meaning oh hill, oh hill). By that saying the settlement got the name Ohrid.

Vithkuq Legend
Vithkuq is the transformed version of the name Bythëkuq (meaning red buttocks). You will also notice that the land around the village is almost entirely red. Exhausted from hard labour in the fields, the locals from Vikthuq would sometimes sit on the red ground. In this case, the behind of their trousers made of homespun wool flannel absorbed quite a large amount of the red colour. When they would go shopping in the Korca Old Bazaar, this colour earned the people from Vithkuq the current name of the village. Do not hesitate to ask questions about the name of the village - the locals have fun telling the story!

The Mountain Outlaw's Tomb
The Church of St. Michael has the old cemetery in the village. A cross, which is much bigger than those of other tombs, catches the eye. The locals call it the Mountain Outlaw's Tomb.

According to a legend, somewhere around the mid-19th century, the first son was born to a local man. Carried away by joy, he ran to this church to baptise his new son. However, the priest spoke Greek, a language he did not understand. The man argued with the priest, and then ended up in a heated quarrel. The priest not only disagreed to baptise the boy, but he uttered severe curses against him.

Some time went by and the only one son to the man passed away. The furious man took to the mountains, and became a mountain outlaw. Everybody feared him until he was killed in an ambush in a village. Nevertheless, they buried the ill-fortuned man in the church cemetery. This huge and heavy stone cross was dedicated to his peculiar story.

THE REGION THROUGH THE YEAR

The climate of the Prespa region is favourable because of various influences merging into pleasant general atmosphere. It is also interesting because each sub-region has its own micro climate which is influenced by the surrounding nature, thus being unique.

The climate of Prespa Valley is regulated by Prespa Lake that is situated on 850 metres above sea level. Its climate is predominantly continental with the Mediterranean climate influence from southwest part of the Small Prespa Lake and Mala Prespa in Albania. The winters are mild and summers are pleasantly warm with fresh nights. Average annual temperature here is 10,2 °C, and the number of sunny hours ranges from 1.400 to 2.600. Winds are present in the region and fog is not usual around the lake.

Ohrid Valley has an average annual temperature of 11°C. Climate around Ohrid Lake, situated at 693 metres above the level, is very similar to the Prespa Valley weather conditions so all the seasons are lovely in their own ways. Rainfalls occur at springs and autumns, but snow persists only for couple a days.

Korca climate is quite different from the climate in the above mentioned valleys. Mediterranean mountainous influences mix with continental climate, so the region is known for its cold winters and hot and dry summers. The average annual temperature reaches 10.6º C. The heaviest rainfalls are registered in November (around 104 mm), with average annual rainfall being 900 mm. This territory is swept by a number of local winds, including the Voskopojarja (wind originates in the south-west), Goren of Gjonci (wind originates in the south-east of Erseka) - Morava (wind originates on the Morava Mountain), and Devollka (wind originates in Devoll).

Vivid and fresh springs, sunny and hot summers, colourful and rainy autumns and cool or cold winters get even more beautiful when a visitor feels the spirit of this area at its events. Here is a list of a small part of these festivities, fairs, festivals and gatherings that will definitely serve if you intend to visit this area.

SPRING

Resen Easter Happening
April / May, depending on the Easter date
Resen Square
This event where all schools from the municipality of Resen participate is known for small lively fairs of coloured eggs, dancing and singing performances on the square.
Municipality Resen, Plostad Marsal Tito 20,
7130 Resen Macedonia
+ 389 47 551 901
www.resen.gov.mk

Great Easter Week
April / May depending on the Easter date
Korca
A fair for the Great Easter Week is organised at the Cathedral Square for the time of the holidays.
Municipality Korca, Bul F. Noli, Korca Albania
+355 82 245 755,
info@bashkiakorce.gov.al
http://www.bashkiakorce.gov.al

April Fool's Day event
April 01st
Resen, Main Square
Parade of students in masks walk around the city while concerts of young talents and a central party at the city square are organised.
Municipality Resen, Plostad Marsal Tito 20,
7130 Resen Macedonia
+ 389 47 551 901
www.resen.gov.mk

Spring Fair Korca
April 06th-20th
Korca
The event is organised in the pedestrian walkway of the city and includes the activities for children, exhibitions, and various concerts performed by music and dance groups. Pottery fair is a part of diverse activities that take place during two weeks.
Municipality Korca, Bul F. Noli, Korca Albania
+355 82 245 755,
info@bashkiakorce.gov.al
http://www.bashkiakorce.gov.al

Earth Day
April 21st
Pogradec
Celebration of the earth day is traditional celebration of the spring in Pogradec
Municipality Pogradec, Bul. Rreshit Çollaku Lgj. 2,
Pogradec, Albania
+355 83 222 222
+355 83 222 441
bashkia@bashkiapogradec.gov.al
http://bashkiapogradec.gov.al/

Saint George, Religious Fest
April 23rd
Pojan,Polenë and Ersekë
This is a traditional event with performances in the centres of the villages.
Municipality Erseka, Erseka. Albania
+355 66 200 0027,
bashkiaerseka@yahoo.com
Municipality Pojan, Pojan Albania
+355 06 720 44 155

SUMMER

International Ohrid Summer Festival
July- September
Ohrid
Ohrid Summer Festival is a traditional music and theatre cultural event held each year in Ohrid since 1960. This festivity brings famous artists from classical music to rock music, well-known musicians and DJs, as well as theaters from all around the world and famous exhibitions.
Ohrid Summer Festival Head Office,
Makedonski Prosvetiteli 4, Ohrid 6000, Macedonia
+389 (0)46 261 304,
+389 (0)46 262 304
contact@ohridskoleto.com.mk
http://www.ohridskoleto.com.mk

Korca Food Festival
June -September
Korca
The event promotes traditional gastronomy and the revival of traditional values and life in the city Korce. The event opens with a fair and continues with the promotion of traditional dishes as a part of the Food Festival.
Municipality Korca, Bul F. Noli, Korca, Albania
+355 82 245 755,
info@bashkiakorce.gov.al
http://www.bashkiakorce.gov.al

Korca Carnival
June
Korca
Korca is well known for its famous Carnival. It has revitalised this tradition, creating one of the most sensational activities of the city.
Municipality Korca, Bul F. Noli, Korca, Albania
+355 82 245 755
info@bashkiakorce.gov.al
http://www.bashkiakorce.gov.al

International Theatre Monodrama Festival *Actor of Europe*
July 06th-11th
Resen and Otesevo
This is a traditional festival where artist from all over the world have monodrama performances every day in the Saray yard in Resen, or by the lake at Otesevo. The festival offers unique experience of many plays performed by renowned drama artists. The festival also offers workshops and discussions for the participants.
Municipality Resen, Plostad Marsal Tito 20,
7130 Resen Macedonia
+ 389 47 551 901
www.resen.gov.mk

Warm Culture Wave Prespa
June - August
Municipality Resen and all inhabited places and tourist settlements
Art events, including exhibitions, art performances, open cinemas, variety of concerts of folk dances, concerts of rock and pop musicians as well and many workshops, literature readings make this colourful festival.
Municipality Resen, Plostad Marsal Tito 20,
7130 Resen Macedonia
+ 389 47 551 901
www.resen.gov.mk

International Symposium *Sculpture Park*
June - July
Korca
Sculptors from different countries of the world come to Korca and make carvings in stone. All their sculptures are donated to the city. Annual organization of this symposium aims to restore the park Youth in the city to open a museum of contemporary art.
Municipality Korca, Bul F. Noli, Korca, Albania
+355 82 245 755
info@bashkiakorce.gov.al
http://www.bashkiakorce.gov.al

Ohrid Eco Festival
June 10th
Ohrid
International festival of ecology and cultural tourism is organised to celebrate the unique bio characteristics of the region.
Municipality Ohrid, Dimitar Vlahov 57,
6000, Ohrid, Macedonia
+389 46 262 492
www.ohrid.gov.mk

Day of the Lake
June 21st
Ohrid, Pogradec
This event's key happening is a cycling tour around the lake organized by the cycling club Ecodrome from Ohrid in cooperation with the tourism cluster EDEN.
Biking Club Ecodrome Ohrid, Jane Sandanski 84, Ohrid
ecodrome@t-home.mk
www.ecodrome.mk
www.eden.mk

St Naum Holiday
July 03rd
Ohrid, St Naum Church
Traditional celebration of the saint happens in the St Naum Locality by the Lake Ohrid.
Macedonian Church

The Balkan Festival of Folk Songs and Dances
July 05th-10th
Ohrid
The Balkan Festival of folk songs and dances is an international folklore event established in 1962 that was originally titled as the Ohrid Festival of Amateur Folk Songs and Folk Bands. In 1967 the Festival was restructured and ever since it has been hosting vocal and instrumental bands and solo singers presenting their authentic folk creations and traditional culture through horal, songs, rites, traditional clothes, local costumes, traditional musical instruments, and handicrafts. For more than twenty years the Balkan Festival of Folk Songs and Dances has been a member of the UNESCO Associations of CIOFF (the International Council of the Organizations of Folklore Festivals and Folklore Art), and IOFA (the International Organization for Folklore Art).
NU Cultural Center Grigor Prlicev Ohrid,
Makedonski prosvetiteli 4, Ohrid, Macedonia
+389 46 261 063
contact@centarzakulturaohrid.com.mk
www.centarzakulturaohrid.com.mk

Resen Ceramic Colony
August 01st - 20th
Resen
This event aims at promotion and preservation of pottery. It gathers artists and sculptors from all around the world who turn clay into significant pieces of art.
Municipality Resen, Plostad Marsal Tito 20,
7130 Resen, Macedonia
+ 389 47 551 901
www.resen.gov.mk

Ljubanski Diaspora Meetings - Ilinden Macedonian National Uprisal day and St Ilija
August 02nd
Village Ljubojno
This is one of the most famous gatherings of diasporas people in the Prespa valley. Immigrants to USA, Australia, and Europe, South America gather on this specific day from all around the world in this village. Anthropologists love this event and regularly visit it.
Village Ljubojno Village Council
Municipality Resen, Plostad Marsal Tito 20,
7130 Resen, Macedonia
+ 389 47 551 901
www.resen.gov.mk

International Ohrid Sailing Regatta
July 31st - August 02nd
Ohrid Lake, Ohrid
World sailing registered event is held on Ilinden, the national and state holiday, is organised by the sailing club Ohrid. International participation on the regatta with competitive character is characteristic for this event.
Macedonia Sailing Association, Kej Marshall Tito bb,
6000 Ohrid, Macedonia
+ 389 46 262 697
office@efm.org.mk
www.efm.org.mk

International Seminar for Macedonian Language
August 15th
Ohrid
This is a gathering of different linguists from all around the world who study and promote Macedonian language.
University St Kiril and Metodij, Skopje, Macedonia
www.ukim.edu.mk

International Ohrid Swimming Marathon
August 23rd
Ohrid
This is an international FINA Open Water Swimming Grand Prix competition that was held for the first time in 1962. It takes place in the waters of Ohrid Lake in Macedonia. The

swimmers are supposed to swim 30 km from Saint Naum to the Ohrid harbour.

Swimming Federation of the Republic of Macedonia http://www.pfm.org.mk

Chorus Festival

August 23rd -28th

Ohrid

Ohrid Chorus Festival is a true choral holiday. Ohrid is the spot where the joy of singing together is celebrated. All the people who want to feel the power of choral music should visit tis biggest choral event in South East Europe.

Ohrid Choir Festival, Pitu Guli 152,
6000 Ohrid, Macedonia
+389 70 836 696,
ohridchoirfestival@yahoo.com

http://www.ohridchoirfestival.com/

Beer Fest Korca

August 13th - 17th

Korca

Five nights of cold beer, the traditional products of Korca, the best music, entertainment and swing until the early hours of the morning make this event memorable.

Municipality Korca, Bul F. Noli, KorcaAlbania
+355 82 245 755
info@bashkiakorce.gov.al
http://www.bashkiakorce.gov.al

www.festaebirres.com

Ohrid Troubadour Festival

August

Ohrid

The international festival of pop music is a competition and a gathering of the best pop and folk music artists from the South East Europe and wider.

www.ohridfest.org.mk

Wine and Cheese Festival

August

Ohrid

Wine and Cheese Festival promotes the production of wine and cheese in the municipality Ohrid and wider area.

Municipality Ohrid, Dimitar Vlahov 57,
6000 Ohrid, Macedonia
+389 46 262 492

www.ohrid.gov.mk

There are many other independent events that are organized during the summer period in the lakes' regions

AUTUMN

Prespanski Jabolkober - Prespa Apple Harvest Day
September 26th - 27th
Resen
International event with scientific character is marked with exchange and cultural fairs, traditional food and international folk dance. This festivity is hosted by the Resen Municipality and the Folk Dance Club in Resen.
Municipality Resen, Plostad Marsal Tito 20,
7130 Resen, Macedonia.
+ 389 47 551 901
www.resen.gov.mk

Korca Cultural Heritage Day
September 29th
Korca
This events enables a free entry to all Korca city museums and the provision of free explanations about the exibitions inside the museums.
Municipality Korca, Bul F. Noli, Korca Albania
+355 82 245 755
info@bashkiakorce.gov.al
http://www.bashkiakorce.gov.al

International Colony of Painters - Days of Mio
October
Korca
The colony of painters, held for the sixth consecutive year in the city is named after the famous painter of Korca Vangjush Mio. Painters from Albania and abroad are already a part of this colony. For painters, Korca remains a major studio with opportunities to explore and exercise their talents. The activity aims not only establishing communication bridges between artists, but especially to promote of the city. Painters from different countries of the world are part of this colony, which has already occupied an important place in the cultural activities in the city and the region.
Municipality Korca, Bul F. Noli, Korca Albania
+355 82 245 755
info@bashkiakorce.gov.al
http://www.bashkiakorce.gov.al

Day of Francophone Tradition of Korca
November 10th - 11th
Korca
Korca has a special relation with France and the francophone society Alliance Française is very strong since old times. This is an happening with many events, readings and performances in French.
Alliance Française, Korca, Bulevardi Republka,
Mediateka Thoma Turtulli Korca
+355 822 522 47
afkorca@yahoo.fr

WINTER

Fair Season
December
Korca
Under the wondeful decorations that cover the city in December, Korca organises its end year holiday fair, the only one in Albania. The festive atmosphere is enhaced with wooden houses, toys sweets, traditional drinks (hot wine), baked apples, music and open exhibitions.
Municipality Korca, Bul F. Noli, Korca, Albania
+355 82 245 755,
info@bashkiakorce.gov.al,
http://www.bashkiakorce.gov.al

Kolede
January 05th
Resen Square and Prespa villages
Night before orthodox Christmass is reserved for the event of lightning fires in the main square and the whole town of Resen. People gather around the fires, taste local drinks and food. The tradition is hooked up to the pagan beliefs. Kolede Kolede is the song that the young and kids sing the next day while collecting sweets from each house.
Municipality Resen, Plostad Marsal Tito br 20,
7130 Resen, Macedonia
+ 389 47 551 901,
www.resen.gov.mk

Vasilica - Orthodox New Year celebration
January 14th
Resen Main Square
The event is known for hot rakija and traditional food served ti the people who enjoy folk dances and music on the main square during the night.
Municipality Resen, Plostad Marsal Tito br 20,
7130 Resen, Macedonia
389 47 551 901,
www.resen.gov.mk

Epiphany - Bogojavlenie Vodici

January 19th

Ohrid

This is one of the most important and biggest winter events in Ohrid. The cross is thrown in the lake and people dive to find it. Followed by food serving and dances in the main square, where students from secondary school of hospitality and catering Vanco Pitosheski prepare two tones of fish stew and fish plashica and 1000 beautiful packages of traditional food specialty – trotters are prepared by the students of Faculty for tourism and catering. A Day of Fisherman is also included in this celebration, where traditionally five barrels of wine are thrown at the lake and people swim to reach the barrel.

Municipality Ohrid, Dimitar Vlahov 57,
6000 Ohrid, Macedonia
+38946 262492

www.ohrid.gov.mk

Vodici , St John Baptiser celebration

January 19th

Prespa Lake Otesevo

Traditional manifestation for holly ceremony for the lake waters following the celebration of Municipality Resen.

Municipality Resen, Plostad Marsal Tito br 20,
7130 Resen Macedonia
Phone + 389 47 551 901,
www.resen.gov.mk

TASTES OF THE REGION

Besides natural, historical and cultural wealth of this area, the tastes of the Prespa region will additionally lure and keep the visitors to this area. Regional cuisine is rich in most diverse delicious specialties.

Typical gastronomic specialties in the region rich with waters are mainly fish dishes. The Ohrid trout, Prespa carp and Ohrid eel must be tasted when in the region, while it is also famous for the dried fish from Prespa Lake named cironki.

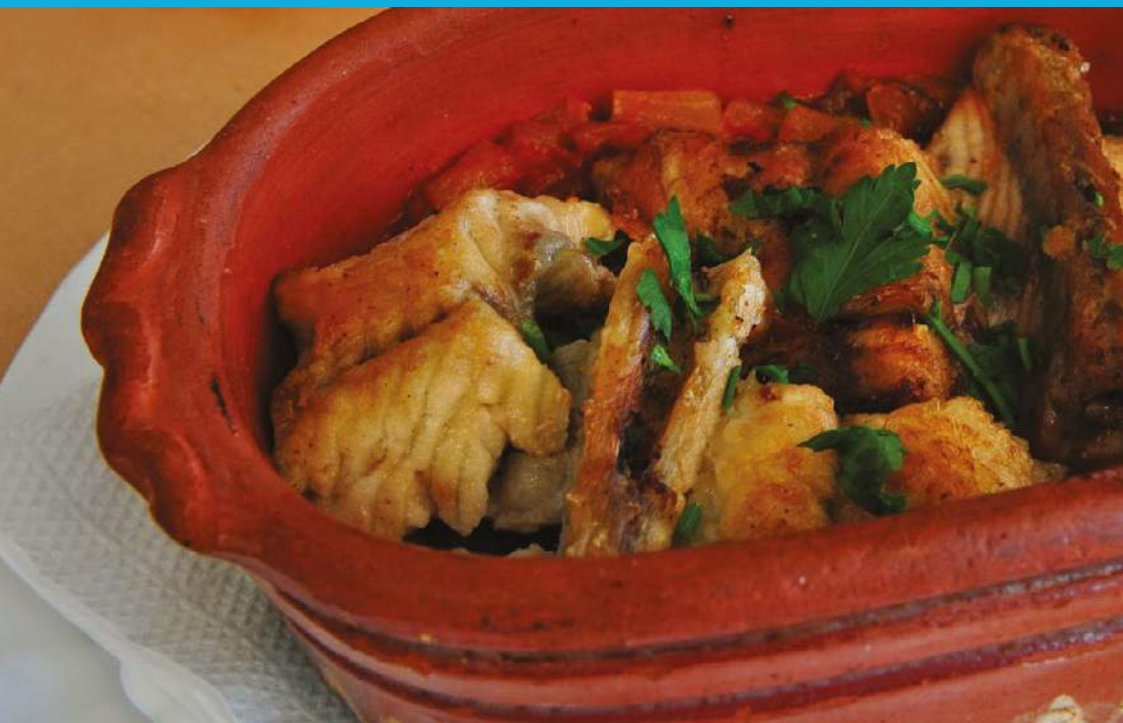
The region is famous for wild animal and bird-based dishes and tasty juicy grilled meat. It preserves the national specialties like tavce gravce, pindzur, ajvar, turlitava, and many other dishes that combine healthy vegetables and delicious meat.

Typical gastronomic specialties are also pastry products like gjomleze, kukumishe, mlechnik, petulici, and Korca is especially famous for its multi-layered pie, the lakror, cooked on the baking dome.

Apple is the main product of the region and there is a variety of specialties made of this fruit, so apple desserts are something you will also remember the region for. Vithkuq is famous for its nuts and tea, while Dardha is known for mushrooms and quite a unique specialty - snails.

The list of some of the regions' most famous products and specialties is accompanied with several recipes.

Cironki – fish from Prespa Lake salted and dried in a traditional way
Prespa Carp – specialty prepared in different ways in all the villages around the lake
Ohrid Trout – famous fish dish promoted all around the world as a delicious specialty made from unique species of trout
Eel- specialty specific for Ohrid Lake due to its natural potential, delicious when prepared in a traditional way
Gjomleze - very typical food for the region, cooked in many different ways with or without yogurt pastry dish
Petulici - pastry dish made with garlic and nuts or cheese, the sweet version including honey and nuts
Baked apples with honey and nuts - tasty desert cooked in almost every Prespa home
Petanik - typical pie for Korca region made in a traditional way
Lakror - traditionally prepared pie of Korca region cooked with different green vegetables but also with cheese and yogurt, baked in a way which is centuries old
Pervelak - traditional food prepared with butter, maize flour and very hot water
Dardha rakia - a very typical alcoholic drink produced from wild plums
Korca beer- local beer produced since 1828
Mulberry rakia - traditional spirit produced at Boboshtica, made from mulberries grown in the area



Traditional
RECIPES
ETS
CAKES
VEAL
MEATS
BEEF

Prespa cironki

Ingredients:
300g cironki,
100 g of oil,
Mint,
Garlic,
Bukovska pepper,
Water

Preparation: The cironki are grilled on the plot and left for some time in hot water to swell and desalinate. After swelling, cironki are cleaned from the internal organs and shells. They can be served with oil, parsley, mint, garlic, red pepper or thyme which gives an excellent flavour to this specialty or just desalinated and slightly fried.

Cironki can be served as a main course, and they are inevitable part of the table during the winter Lenten fast, but also as an appetizer with a little rakija or wine. Cironki has always been a winter supplies on the table for the entire fast and saint's days.

Resen baked apples

Ingredients:
4 apples (800gr),
40 g of sugar,
1 vanilla,
½ tsp of cinnamon,
40 g of butter,
100ml of water

Preparation: The apples' inside is taken out and they are placed in a previously oiled pot. In the middle of each apple sugar, vanilla and cinnamon are added. They are then covered with water and melted butter and baked in the oven for 30 minutes at 200 degrees. They are served with the sauce left in the pot.

Eel

Ingredients:
One fresh eel (2kg),
500g of tomatoes,
Garlic,
Parsley,
Salt,
Pepper,
White wine,
Lemon juice.

Preparation: The eel is cleaned from the skin, thoroughly washed, and the head is separated and thrown away. The eel is cut on several spots and salt and whole garlic cloves are placed inside each of the cuts.

Chopped tomatoes, garlic, onions, parsley, salt and pepper are put in a clay pan. The eel is placed in the pan in the shape of a spiral circle and poured with white wine and a tablespoon of vinegar.

It is baked in oven for 2 or 2, 5 hours at low temperature.

Trout (Tresena pastrmka)

Ingredients:
500g of trout,
1 onion,
Parsley,
Salt,
Pepper,
1 lemon,
Oil

Preparation: The trout is baked on the grill and after being grilled, it is cleaned from the bones. The onion is chopped with the parsley and mixed with the fish. The mixture is salted, peppered and lemon and oil are added. After the mixture is ready, the fish is served.

Lakror sprinkled with milk

Ingredients:
For the dough:
Flour,
2 glasses of water

For the cream:
4 glasses of milk
4 spoonfuls of maize flour
2 eggs
5-6 spoonfuls of sugar
3-4 spoonfuls of butter

Preparation: The dough is prepared, covered with a cloth and left for 10-15 minutes to rise.
In the meantime, the milk is brought to boil. Eggs are scrambled, mixed up with sugar, maize flour, and some water. Boiled milk is poured on to the mix and the mass is cooked until thickened. After removed from oven it is covered so to avoid crust-forming and left it to cool for a while.
The dough is rolled out to form thin layers as those intended for the pie. The baking pan is oiled and the layers are laid down letting them fall over the baking pan edge, sprinkling them with butter.
The mix (mash) is poured, sprinkled with butter, and the layers are rolled up, forming wrinkles and leaving the middle part empty. All is sprinkled with butter and put into oven to cook.

Petanik with white beans

Ingredients:
3-4 water glasses of flour
Half a water glass of oil
1 tea cup of white beans
1 average onion
3 spoonfuls of olive oil
Half a tea cup of starch

Preparation: After the white beans are put in a pot, finely sliced opinion, olive oil and salt are added and left to boil on the oven.
The dough for the pie is prepared by rolling out fine layers, leaving 3-4 of them aside, and baking the rest.
Two baked layers are laid down and covered with a layer of white beans which is again covered with two baked layers. 1-2 unbaked layers are put on the top. The pie is sprinkled with fat and put into the oven to cook.

WHAT TO VISIT IN THE REGION

The region's natural attractiveness is enough for visiting Prespa area, but when combined with a range of men-made sites and facilities, history monuments, cultural heritage and excellent gastronomic offer, it provides a complete impression. Any spot of this region is worth seeing, but there are several sites that should not be missed. The list of such sites follows.

TZAR SAMUEL'S FORTRESS, OHRID, MACEDONIA

Until 1018, Ohrid was the capital of the first state of the Macedonian Slavs and where Tsar Samuel (976 - 1014) built his fortress. Three kilometres of towers and high walls were originally built to protect the town on the three sides not facing the lake. The fortress now dominates the town and provides an excellent vantage point of the lake and the mountains. It is used as an open-air theatre stage during the Ohrid Summer Festival.

THE GALLERY OF OHRID ICONS, OHRID, MACEDONIA

Neither a summary of the icon painting, nor any anthological exhibition could be imagined without the presence of icons from the Ohrid collection. They are a remarkable and an indivisible segment of the rich cultural and historical heritage of Ohrid, the city where the Slavic literacy and culture have sprouted.

Created in the workshops of Constantinople and Salonika, or in the local workshops in Ohrid, these icons have been an inseparable part of the iconostasis in the churches

they have been ordered and painted for. Now, they are assembled in one place, the Icon Gallery in Ohrid, and are accessible to the senses of the numerous experts and passers-by. The different epochs have left their chronological and stylistic notes upon the icon painting in Ohrid that can be followed through a period of almost a millennium, from the middle of 11th till the end of 19th century.

NATIONAL MUSEUM, OHRID, MACEDONIA

In 1516, more than two centuries before the Louvre or the British Museum, the archbishopric museum was established in the church of St. Clement, making it one of the oldest museums of its kind in Europe.

At present, the museum is housed in several premises. The house of the Robev family, an architectural beauty built in 1863, stores the archaeological heritage of the region of Ohrid and Struga from prehistory to present. The ethnographic collection of the material and spiritual culture of the people from this area is displayed in the Urania house. The Museum of the Slavic Literacy houses photographs, copies, and originals of the main documents written in Church Slavic language in both the Glagolitic and Cyrillic alphabets that illustrate the overall development of the Slavic Literacy from its inception to the present.

THE CLASSICAL THEATRE, OHRID, MACEDONIA

The first recorded mentions of the existence of the theatre were made at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries. Judging by the records, the Classical Theatre was built about 2.000 years ago, either in the Late Hellenistic period or shortly after the Roman conquest.

THE WATER MUSEUM, GRADISHTE PESHTANI, OHRID, MACEDONIA

The Museum is situated at the site Gradishte in the village Peshtani, at the south-east coast of Lake Ohrid. This is the first museum of this kind in wider surroundings. The Museum on Water represents a reconstruction of a settlement from the Iron and Bronze ages, and it will be a true tourist attraction for domestic tourists, but also for many visitors from abroad.

On the south coast of the Gradishte peninsula in the Bay of Bones, there used to be a prehistoric (palafitte) settlement which, according to the investigations, spread on a surface of about 8500 m2. The reconstruction of a part of the pile-dwelling settlement was carried out, identical to the remains of the underwater archaeological site Plocha Michov Grad, chronologically belonging to Bronze Age and the beginning of Iron Age, between 1200 and 700 B.C.

SARAY- CULTURE CENTRE, RESEN, MACEDONIA

The Saray (saraj - palace in Turkish) is a historic neoclassical estate in Resen, Macedonia, built in the early 20th century by the local Ottoman bey, Ahmed Niyazi Bey who desired to have a French-style mansion and never lived to see his estate completed.

The Saray's architectural style makes it unique in Macedonia. The building's exterior contains rich sculptural details, particularly on the façade. The roof was originally made of wood but, during renovation in 1982, it was replaced with steel profiles.

The Saray today houses the Dragi Tozija House of Culture, the Resen Ceramic Colony, the Keraca Visulčeva Gallery, and a library. The Dragi Tozija House of Culture is a branch of the Museum of Macedonia in Skopje. The House of Culture is also home to plays, literary readings, and other cultural events. The Resen Ceramic Colony, also situated in the Saray, is a member of the International Academy of Ceramics of UNESCO. A permanent gallery containing many of the works of the painter Keraca Visulčeva is also found in the building. A city library has existed in the Saray since the 1940s. Today, it contains over 31.000 books.

VILLAGE TRPEJCA, OHRID, MACEDONIA

Trpejca village is a typical example of a fishermen settlement on the shores of Lake Ohrid, with houses that are built on the slopes of a steep hill. The village boasts a beautiful pebble beach. Here you can experience the real taste of the fresh rainbow trout as well as other homemade local specialities. Nearby the village is the church of the Mother of God Zahumska, erected in 1361. The church stands at the foot of Mountain Galicica and can be reached only by boat.

VILLAGE BRAJCINO, RESEN, MACEDONIA

Brajcino is a type of village where the houses, both old and new, are gathered together. All houses have floors that are built of stone, the newer ones with block-brick, covered with tiles. Around the houses there are yards, and in some there are vegetable and fruit gardens. White facade houses draw the village out of the greyness of the natural environment. Based on the grouping of the houses and families, the village is divided into four major neighbourhoods: Upper neighbourhood – upper eastern part of the village, Lower neighbourhood – lower west village, Chorolovska Neighbourhood – south-west part of the village, and Kamejnche (Rocky) Neighborhood - southern part of the village. The neighbourhoods are each linked by two concrete bridges over the Brajcinska River and several steep, narrow but paved streets. In addition to the Brajcinska River, the river Breznica flows through the village as its left tributary.

VILLAGE LJUBOJNO, RESEN, MACEDONIA
Ljubojno is a village situated some 2 km from Prespa Lake at 920 m above sea level. The population of Ljubojno is 186 and there are 8 Orthodox churches in the village. Ljubojno was voted Favourite Macedonian Village of 2007 by MakLink, with a vote of 62% to 38% over Krusevo in the finals of the Selo Survivor 2007 tournament.

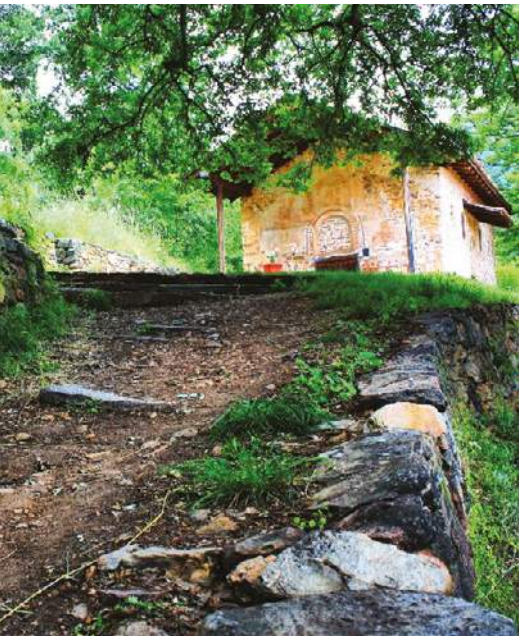
VILLAGE ELSHANI, OHRID, MACEDONIA
Elshani is a vibrant village whose inhabitants of all generations are enjoying the comforts of the 21st century, still surrounded by the smell of homemade bread, brandy, wine, and traditions that never fade. Elsani is a perfect place for a pleasant stay between the green heights of Mount Galicica and the blue waters of Lake Ohrid. Most hosts will provide cooking facilities, and will be happy to serve home-cooked food. The people of Elsani welcome visitors and will be happy to introduce you to their style of living. For those who wish to make a change, the nearest restaurants are located outside the village, by the lakeside.

VILLAGE PESHTANI, OHRID, MACEDONIA
This once quiet fishing village has become very successful in tourism industry, with many restaurants and cafes, and almost every house renting rooms. The surrounding facilities and activities organised nearby additionally influence the flow of tourists. Desaret hotel has a well-organised beach so you can even enjoy parties made in the vicinity. The Museum of the Prehistoric Settlement in the Bay of Bones is a walking distance away from the village. Peshatni Village is a vibrant place where young families and young people can enjoy summer holidays.

VILLAGE KURATICA, OHRID, MACEDONIA
The village of Kuratica is situated at 1,100 meters above sea level, on the slopes of Mount Plakenska about 20km from Ohrid. The natural trail of Kuratica goes around the slopes of the mountains Mazatar and Plakenska, giving the nature lovers a chance to learn more about the traditional life in the mountain villages. While enjoying the superb view of the lakes, birch and oak forests, meadows, herbs, the fields of hazelnut and walnut trees and berries, you have a chance to hear the local stories and legends from the past.

VILLAGE VELESTOVO, OHRID, MACEDONIA
The village is located high on the hillside of Galicica mountain. Wandering along the grass and stone paths of this almost deserted village one can find all kinds of treasures. Spend some time in the little 15th century church with stunning frescoes and enjoy the breathtaking panoramic view over the lake and the old town of Ohrid. What you simply mustn't miss here is the eco-food with exceptional taste, as well as walking on the slopes of Galicica, whose beauties are protected by UNESCO.

VILLAGE VELGOSTI, OHRID, MACEDONIA
Once a separate village, Velgosti is now one of the suburbs of Ohrid. However, it can still offer a unique experience of traditional way of living in this region. Positioned at the foot of Istok Mountain, this village provides an opportunity to explore the mountain area, and savour the rural life of its inhabitants such as shepherds, their cuisine and the beauty of the typical rural way of life cultivated for many years. Above the village, the monastery of St. Petka provides accommodation all year round in a tranquil environment with a beautiful view. Further up the mountain are the churches of St. Ilija and St. Nikola.



ST. GJORGI, KURBINOVO, RESEN, MACEDONIA
Near the picturesque village of Kurbinovo, embraced by the mountain Pelister, there is a church dedicated to St. George. According to the time of its fresco-decoration, it is supposed that the church was built in the year 1191. The church was renovated and adapted in the course of the 19th and 20th centuries.
What impresses and amazes in this church is its fresco-painting, which, coupled with the one in the church of Saint Panteleimon near Skopje, represents an original and a peak of the artistic mastery in the times of the art of Komnens in Macedonia. The fresco-painting in the temple of St. George is a synthesis of infusible into a single entity, a junction of its pinnacle elegance and the high expressiveness.

ST PETKA MONASTERY, BRAJCINO, RESEN MACEDONIA
The Monastery of Saint Petka (Saint Parascheva of the Balkans also known as Petka) is approximately 0.5 km east from the village of Brajcino. It was erected on a meadow plateau and its complex constitutes of the church of St. Petka (with paintings of the Greek alphabet) and building shelters. Regarding the period of construction, there is no reliable documentation that verifies the date it was built. The south-western side of the church

contained lodgings which were destroyed in a fire in 1903. On the initiative and assistance of the local population, the lodgings were restored in 1911, only to be destroyed again. Today, the dormitories have been rebuilt and are fully functional.

ST MOTHER OF GOD (BOGORODICA), SLIVNICA, RESEN, MACEDONIA

The Monastery was built from 1607 to 1645 in three phases. The frescos and the internalities of the church originate from that period. The Monastery was renovated in 1994 when the dormitory was adapted.

The Monastery has housed the library of the archbishop and school where the teachers-priests were teaching the children from the neighbouring villages. Its yard has a spring that is believed to heal fertility. It is believed that St Mary has appeared several times in the Monastery's church, last appearance being registered in 2006 on a photography developed by photojournalist.

THE EARLY CHRISTIAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH, OHRID, MACEDONIA

In the hilly part of Ohrid, near the site known as Plaosnik, there is a monumental early Christian church. Its systematic excavation began in 1961 and was completed in 1964. The shrine was built and decorated in the 5th century at a time when the town of Lychnidos was an important Early Christian Episcopal centre. Polyconched and built in the form of a trefoil, it was erected on the foundations of an older classical structure. Magnificent mosaic compositions with figurative floral and zoomorphic motives, made by unknown artists, have been unearthed in the central part and in the baptistery of this Early Christian church. The presence of such splendour points to this as being the seat of the Bishopric of Lychnidos.

ST. CLEMENT (KLIMENT) MONASTERY AT PLAOSNIK, OHRID, MACEDONIA

On August 11, 2002 in the vicinity of the early Christian Episcopal Basilica at Plaosnik, the newly constructed temple of Saint Climent and Panteleimon was sanctified. The first Slavic Bishop from 893 A.D. and the founder of the Macedonian Orthodox Church were returned back in this temple. It was here that the Ohrid School, a centre of Slavonic literary and cultural activity, was situated. The complex is a newly constructed Monastery church Sts. Climent and Panteleimon, project done by the Institute of Conservation and Restoration and Museum of Ohrid. The archaeologists of the Institute plan to continue the excavations at Plaoshnik during the 21st century. They consider it to be one of the most significant archaeological locations in Ohrid and in Macedonia.

ST. NAUM MONASTERY OF THE HOLY ARCHANGELS, OHRID, MACEDONIA
St. Naum's monastery and the Church of the Holy Archangels and St. Clement's monastery and the Church of St. Panteleimon in Ohrid were the first monuments of ecclesiastical architecture in the Ohrid region.

The original church was destroyed in the Turkish period. The excavations revealed many interesting new data about the alterations and additions to the church in past centuries. These were found to be of such scope as to have completely changed the original appearance of the monastery. The excavated remains of the original church, after being conserved, were covered up again, and a new floor was laid over them.

Archaeological investigations have shown that the present church was built in several phases between the 16th and 17th centuries on the foundation of the earlier one. The dome of the narthex was built in the late 18th century, and the last significant reconstruction took place in 1799, when a little chapel was erected above Naum's tomb.

THE CHURCH OF ST.SOPHIA, OHRID, MACEDONIA
The church is dedicated to St. Sophia, that is, to Christ as divine wisdom. It was built on the foundations of an ancient sacral construction in the time after the great mission of St. Cyril and St. Metodij, when the Macedonians accepted the Christianity on Slavic language. The church St. Sophia most probably served as a cathedral in the time of Car Samoil, who, by the end of the 10th century, transferred his throne from Prespa to Ohrid.

The external appearance of St. Sophia which was for a long time the cathedral church of the Archbishopric of Ohrid is in a shape of the letter T with a two - side steep and transversely joined roof. The church originally had a main cupola, side galleries and a large bell - tower, above the west facade, all of which were later destroyed. The two little domes above the outer narthex as well as the narthex itself and the first - floor gallery were built at the beginning of the 14th century.

Today the church is three - nave basilica with a triangular altar apse and semi – circular apses in the diaconicon and the prothesis. It is built with baked bricks and mortar and stone and mortar. Above the diaconicon and the prothesis there are two small chapels from the Comnenus period in the 12th century. Later the upper section of the narthex was built and at the same time in the middle of the 14th century the Chapel of the St. John the Forerunner was built. The external narthex with its gallery on the west facade of the church was built in 1313 at the time of Archbishop Gregorius as is stated in an inscription in the bricks running the length of the facade. It is considered to be a masterpiece of medieval architecture.

THE CHURCH OF ST. BOGORODICA PERIVLEPTA, OHRID, MACEDONIA

According to an inscription on the inner wall of the narthex above the main entrance, the church was built under the name of the Holy Mother of God Most Glorious (Perivleptos) in 1295 by the Byzantine military commander, Progon Zgur, a relative of the Emperor Andronicus II Palalogus. After the church of St. Sophia had been converted into a mosque, the church of the Holy Mother of God Perivleptos became the cathedral church of the Archbishopric of Ohrid. The paintings in the church of the Holy Mother of God Perivleptos mark a new chapter in mediaeval paintings. They ushered in a new trend in Byzantine art which came to be known as the Palaeologus Renaissance. They are also the earliest known works of Michael and Eutychius, distinguished mediaeval fresco painters, whose creations can be followed through nearly three decades. The church is cruciform in shape and surmounted by an octagonal - based dome decorated on the outside with cylindrical friezes. The narthex and the central part were built at the same time. It is built of brick and travertine in a masterly combination producing an extraordinarily decorative effect

and at the same time an impression of perfect harmony. Indeed, the church of the St. Bogorodica Perivlepta ranks among the most outstanding achievements of medieval architecture.

THE CHURCH OF ST. JOVAN BOGOSLOV AT KANEO, OHRID, MACEDONIA

Built and decorated towards the end of the end of 13th century, the donor of the church and the painter of its frescoes are unknown. The church's architecture is of great relevance to a study of Ohrid's mediaeval monuments as it is a highly successful combination of Byzantine and Armenian elements. The church stands on one of the finest spots on the lake shore, on a high cliff over – looking the one - time fishing settlements of Kaneo (a latin word wich means in macedonian bleech or sparkle) in the old part of Ohrid. St. Jovan at Kaneo, one of the landmarks of old Ohrid, was restored to its original form in the course of 1963 and 1964 when the belfry and the porch - both 19th century additions – were removed. It was on that occasion that the frescoes in the dome were uncovered. The frescoes in the dome and in the altar space have been preserved although they are considerably damaged. The reason for this is that for a lengthy period between the 17th century and 19th century the church was partially ruined and was abandoned, and a large number of the frescoes were then destroyed and lost forever.

SULTAN'S MOSQUE, OHRID, MACEDONIA

Ohrid keeps the remains of the Sultan's Mosque built in late 15th century. As a border between the newly constructed and original walls a plumb line was found during the construction from the inner and outer side of the walls. In the vicinity of the newly rebuilt monastery church of St. Kliment and Pantelejmon there is a tomb where Sinan (Jusuf) Chelebi was buried in 1493. This mosque is the best indicator of merging and common holly grounds of Ohrid.

AYDAR-PASHA MOSQUE, OHRID, MACEDONIA

Aydar Pasha (Ajdar-Paša) Mosque which is situated on the old road from Ohrid to Struga is the oldest Ohrid mosque. In 1490 Aydar Pasha built it as his memorial, and this mosque, where we was buried, was named after him. In the 19th century here used to be medresa - Muslim religious school.

TEKE, OHRID, MACEDONIA

Teke of the Ohrid Dervishes from the Halvets was situated at the intersection at the Chinar. In 1590 a mosque was built at this place by Zejnelk Abedin-Pasha as his dedication, and it carries his name. The first Sheh (ruler) of the Ohrid Dervishes was Hadji Muhamed Hajati, with an origin from Persia. His grave is at the front in the turbeto, which is a part of the contemporary teke.

ETNO MUSEUM PODMOCANI, RESEN, MACEDONIA

One of the richest ethnological collections in Macedonia is found in the house of a local farmer Jone Eftimoski in Village Podmocani. It contains wonderful examples of jewellery, weaponry, old coins and over 160 national costumes from the whole Republic of Macedonia. The museum also has more than 2000 artistic pieces including armoury,

coins, household items, etc.
Jone is delighted to welcome visitors and explain the origins of his colourful artefacts. The house also offers traditional food.

CERAMICS COLONY, RESEN, MACEDONIA
The Ceramics Colony of Resen is a typical example of preservation of traditions and accepting international recognitions. Resen was a centre of the pottery in the region. The archaeological findings show that the pottery was present here from the ancient times until the modern times, but nowadays the art crafts and the use of ceramics has been suppressed by the industries.
In order to maintain the tradition the Colony tries to integrate the clay work into the artistic frame in order to preserve the importance and traditions in the region. From 1973, with hard work and support from the local government, the Resen Ceramics Colony has managed to become an internationally recognized institution which is a part of the Ceramics Academy in UNESCO.

More than 200 artists from all around the world have participated in its workshops, creating their works of art. There is a fund of 800 pieces in the Colony, out of which 300 are exhibited in the Museum in the Saray building.

NATURE PARK EZERENI, RESEN, MACEDONIA
On the northern shores of Prespa Lake is the Ezereni ornithological park. It is a home for over 200 different bird species, out of which 62 are protected according to the Bern Convention and three species are on the European Red List. The typical representative is pelican (Pelecanus crispus), as one of the biggest birds living on the water. The unique colony of the white pelican (Pelecanus onocrotalus) within the Europe is living In Prespa Lake.

The park has a surface of 1917 ha out of which 1066 ha is land and 851 is water area. The correlation of the area is relative due to the fluctuations of the Lake Prespa water level.

It is rich with natural shores of moors and reeds covered with willow trees. The park is protected and is under the patronage of various international organisations including EURONATUR.

PELISTER NATIONAL PARK, MACEDONIA

The Pelister National Park is located in the south-western part of the Republic of Macedonia. Bordering Greece on the South, it encompasses the area of 17.150 ha on the Northern side of the Baba massif at altitudes between 900 and 2601m. To the east of the Park are the Pelagonija Valley and the city of Bitola, and to the west are the Prespa Valley and the city of Resen.

The Park abounds with unique natural resources and is home of rare and endemic animal and plant species. It has numerous hiking trails: Children, Historical, Stone Trail, etc. which offer the possibility to see and experience all the beauty of Baba and Pelister Mountains. What is more, for that pleasure you don't need special physical condition, just good will. The trademark of Pelister are clear spring water and rivers where you can see Pelister and Pelagonia trout, waterfalls and glacial mountain lakes - Big and Small one, also known as Pelister's Eyes.

GALICICA NATIONAL PARK, MACEDONIA

The National Park Galicica, situated in the furthest South-Eastern part of the Republic of Macedonia, is characteristic for its positioning between the two lakes - Ohrid and Prespa Lakes, for the involved orthography and the interesting geomorphologic shapes (deep valleys, various types of karst forms, and glacial relief forms).

The National Park Galicica is especially distinguished for the abundance of flora wealth. Some of the plant species on Galicica are unique at the territory of Macedonia. There are 37 plant communities present on the territory of the Park, 20 of which are forest ones, 12 of which are endemic only for the mountain Galicica and the Ohrid and Prespa Lake coastal areas, representing local endemic species.

The Park is famous worldwide for its numerous representations of butterflies - 1644 species, which is an enormous concentration on such a small space. According to the representation of amphibian and reptile species, the National Park Galicica is close to the level of presence of the herpethofauna on the entire territory of certain central European countries (Germany, Switzerland, Austria, etc.). The class of birds on Galicica is represented with 266 species, making 84% of the total Macedonian ornithofauna, while the mammals, with 51 species, represent 62% of the total mammalian fauna in Macedonia.

ISLAND GOLEM GRAD, GALICICA NATIONAL PARK, PRESPA LAKE

The Island Golem Grad is one of the three islands in Prespa Lake. The island is archaeological locality from Roman and Byzantine Times. Roman cisterns are still present on the Island. There are three churches from the early Christianity which are one of the oldest on the Balkans. The island was a summer residence of Car Samoil.

Island Fauna is represented by rare and endemic species of birds like cormorants, harmless water snakes and harmful poisonous land snakes during the hot months. The tree Euphorbia which can be found also in Caucasus, Iraq, Lebanon, and Asia Minor grows on the island.

The length of the island is 750 m, and it is 450 m wide, with the highest altitude of 50 m above the lake level. Its access to water is over high rocks and the cliffs 20-30 metres high. The island is protected under the highest level of nature protection within the NP Galicica.

NATIONAL MEDIEVAL ART MUSEUM, KORCA, ALBANIA

The Museum was inaugurated in the year 1980. Its rich archives include historical, cultural and artistic exhibits from the medieval period, which concern mainly the Christian Byzantine and, later on, the Byzantine heritage. The icons, stone exhibits, collection of precious metals, carved wood, textile and paper point to a variety of invaluable values.

The museum's iconographic collection is one of the richest, with 6,500 icons being registered. This preserved treasure has been protected and studied, and has become of one of the most culturally important acts undertaken by those who facilitated its safety, and helped create the National Medieval Art Museum. The main objectives of the Museum performance include public exhibiting and promotion, protection, conservation and restoration of the objects, study and research, and international activities.

FIRST ALBANIAN SCHOOL, EDUCATION MUSEUM, KORCA, ALBANIA

The Museum is housed in the building where the first Albanian school, Mësonjëtorja, was opened on March 7, 1887. This building was a donation by the patriot from Korca Diamanti Tërpo, to be used as a school. The Museum display stands hold a photocopy of the first Albanian reading primer written by Naum Veqilharxhi, and the second Albanian reading primer written by Kostandin Kristoforidhi. Photographs of the illustrious patriots, who contributed to the opening of this school, include Pandeli Sotiri, Petro Nini Luarasi, Nuçi Naçi. Outstanding education personalities, including Qiriazi sisters, are also shown at this Museum.

KAMENICA TUMULUS, KORCA, ALBANIA
The Kamenica Illyrian Tumulus in the city of Korca is one of the most attractive burial places in the Balkans. The skeleton of an Illyrian woman carrying a child's skeleton in her womb (3 thousand years B.C.) and the skeleton of a man in advanced age, have been unearthed there, adding to the value of this archaeological site. The tumulus (74 x 40 metres) was dug out at the foot of a hill, around 3 kilometres from Korca. After three years of the digging, around 210 tumuli were excavated. This archaeological monument provides interesting data, as light is shed on the Illyrian inhabitants' spiritual and material life, customs and rituals between the 10th and 8th centuries B.C.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM, KORCA, ALBANIA
The Archaeological Museum was inaugurated in 1985, and was renovated in 1990. The Museum is situated in two characteristic Korca early 19th-century dwellings. These dwellings, on account of their architectural values, are declared the Monuments of Culture.

The Archaeological Museum is focused on the pre-history of the south-eastern Albanian territories, starting from the Neolithic Age down to an advanced stage of the Iron Age. It contains exhibits representing important pre-historic settlements, including Maliq, Podgoria, Dunavec and Trajan, and devotes a small section to post pre-historic periods. The Museum is home to around 1,200 exhibits, with their majority being from the Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Ages.

BRATKO ORIENTAL ART MUSEUM, KORCA, ALBANIA
This museum was founded in June 2003. With its creation, the dream of Xhorxh Dhimitër Boria (1903-1990), artist, photographer and Asian art and antiquity collector from Korca, became a reality. The art works housed in this Museum, around 430, include mainly Chinese altars, Japanese women's clothes, Chinese skirts and belts, Indonesian spade, European medals, Japanese painters, and different photos.

VANGJUSH MIO'S MUSEUM HOUSE, KORCA, ALBANIA
The museum-house of the impressionist painter from Korca, Vangjush Mio, is found at Spiro Ballkameni Street, behind the Ringjallja e Krishtit Cathedral. It is declared a Monument of Culture. Around 40 oil paintings, including landscape and still nature, as well as a great amount of drawings in a very particular style, are found there. Around 40 other paintings are found in Tirana. Vangjush Mio is an outstanding landscape painter. His works include Dimri në Korçë (Winter in Korca), Aspekte nga Drenova (Views of Drenova), Boboshtica, and Vithkuq. Autoportreti (Self-portrait), Cigani (The Gipsy), and Njeriu me gajde (Man with Bagpipe). He is the first Albanian painter to open the first exhibition in Tirana in 1920, and in Bari, Italy in 1942.

ILJAZ MIRAHORI'S MOSQUE, KORCA, ALBANIA
Built in1484, this mosque is reputedly the most ancient monument in the city, and stands out for its historical, cultural, religious and architectural values. It is situated south-west of the Fan Noli Boulvard and the Kiço Greço Boulevard. The Mirahori's Mosque is the first

domed mosque constructed in Albania. Its interiors are painted white and a number of paintings of Mecca and Medina are hung on the walls. The minaret was damaged in an earthquake reported in the 18th century.

OLD BAZAAR, KORCA, ALBANIA

The Old Bazaar is an area of ancient historical, cultural and architectural values. Two-storey buildings and narrow alleys characterize this place and its construction style is noteworthy. For the past few centuries, the Old Bazaar has been a place where in merchandise brought from Turkey, Greece, Trieste and Venice was exchanged. It was reputed for its successive inns, with the Elbasan Inn and the Manastir Inn being the most well-known. They hosted people arriving from outside of the city. The market, with around 1,000 shops, reached its peak development towards late 19th century and early 20th century. The Old Bazaar formed an ensemble on its own against the urban structure of the city in the background. Wooden bridges connected both parts of the Old Bazaar, which were divided by the river. A stone arched bridge, with shops lining up on both sides, ensured continuity across the river of the main road coming from the city. On three occasions, the Old Bazaar burned down, but it was rebuilt each time. The Old Bazaar is actually still in use and retains its historical and monumental values.

CHRIST'S REVIVAL CATHEDRAL, KORCA, ALBANIA

Built in 1992, the size of this cathedral ranks it as the most important in Korca and the largest across Albania. The Ringjallja e Krishtit Cathedral is a three-story establishment, occupying a surface area of 1800 square metres. It epitomizes the return of religious practices in a country where all religions were banned between 1967 and 1991.

THE LIFE GIVING SOURCE (BURIMI JETËDHËNËS) CATHEDRAL, KORCA, ALBANIA

The Burimi Jetëdhënës Cathedral is considered as the protective church of the city. Its construction started as early as 1926, and ended in 1936. It is a church in the Byzantine style. Holidays are celebrated on Great Holy Friday, five days after the Orthodox Easter.

VOSKOPOJA VILLAGE, ALBANIA

Until the late 18th century, Voskopoja used to be a very important urban settlement. It started to develop into a town as early as the 17th century, and flourished in the 18th century. Researchers share the opinion that the economic boom the town experienced is attributable to the existence of guilds. Voskopoja maintained close trade relationships with Venice, Budapest, Vienna, and Thessaloniki. According to possibly some sources, in the 18th century the town registered around 30 thousand inhabitants, and was home to 21 churches.

It seems that Voskopoja's fame came more from the existence of a prestigious school of the time than on its high economic growth. In 1744, the New Academy was founded precisely here. Along with basic knowledge, Greek language and literature, philosophy and mathematics were also taught in this school. The local guilds provided the largest amount of money for the construction and maintenance of the school.

In February 1769, the town was assaulted, plundered and burned down by a category of people who in the chronicles were called by the enigmatic name of mportziledes, which in Albanian means the debtors. The majority of wealthy inhabitants left for the places where they had their connections, including Vienna, Budapest, and Venice; the rest left for important cities in the Balkans. 'Not a single dog was left alive', the chronicles reported. Five months later, the bravest of them came back home.

Ever since that time, neighbouring Korca has played a greater economic role. A distance of around 20 kilometres lies between Voskopoja and Korca. A village registering around 1,000 inhabitants sits 1,200 metres above sea level. Bear this in mind when you decide what to wear since summers are cool and winters are often cold, though not unbearable. The village is known as an early settlement of the Wallachian population, which, at home, still speak an old dialect of Romanian. Many Albanian households, mostly Orthodox, have also settled in the village.

CHURCHES AT VOSKOPOJA, ALBANIA

From the 22 former churches, five churches and one monastery, not very far from the current village, have survived in Voskopoja. The churches, all of them the basilica type, suffered damage through plundering and vandalism, and from the two World Wars, when they were turned into ammunition depots. A powerful earthquake, which struck the area in 1960, added further damage. In recent years, the churches and the monastery at Voskopoja were renovated.

The surviving churches in Voskopoja include:

St. Nicholas Church
It is situated at the centre of the village. It was constructed between 1721 and 1722. Frescoes showing around 1000 biblical figures are preserved in the church. Inside walls of the church were painted by one of the most well-known artists of that time, David Selenica.

St. Mary Church
This church is also located at the centre of the village. It is considered the cathedral of the old town. It was constructed in 1712. The bell tower standing over the entrance was built in 1887, with contributions from the local community. The World Wars, and in particular, the 1960 earthquake, brought damage to the church. However, it has been subject to important renovation work.

St. Thomas Church
It is situated west of the village, in the vicinity of the cemetery. It has also been renovated. It was constructed in 1724, and painted by the famous Zografi brothers in 1751.

Church of Prophet Ilias
It is a small church located south-east of the town. It was constructed in 1751.

Trinity Church
The Trinity Church was constructed after the town developed into a flourishing place. A very beautiful two-storey bell tower is found in front of it. The church is under renovation.

St. John the Baptist Monastery
The Monastery is the oldest ecclesiastical building at Voskopoja. The church was constructed in 1632, and was painted in 1659. All the land and forests down the road from the Monastery used to be its property.The Monastery was damaged following religious ban in the country in 1967. Its buildings were transformed into a military detachment, with deterioration setting in gradually. Recent years have seen renovation work intended to recover its initial appearance.

VITHKUQ VILLAGE, ALBANIA
Vithkuq is one of the three oldest and most important villages in the Korca area. The village of Vithkuq has a rich history. Like Voskopoja, it used to be at the junction between the West and the East. As early as the 18th century, it saw a considerable development. When it used to be a thriving place, it had 24 neighbourhoods, of which only three and 18 churches have survived. Intensive cultural and educational activity took place in St. Peter's Monastery.

However, Vithkuq had the same tragic fate as Voskopoja, its more famous 'sister'. It was plundered, burned down and ruined by the thieving gangs. Ever since, the village derived

their livelihood from agriculture and livestock, with a good part of the households living on remittances from immigrants. The founding of the 1st Partisan Brigade, led by Mehmet Shehu (1913-1981) was a major event for Vithkuq. Shehu was later the Prime Minister and the number two figure during the communist regime in Albania, who met tragic end. During the years of Second World War, the Anglo-American missionaries operated for a long time in the area in between Voskopoja and Vithkuq. The elderly still have memories of stories from that time.

Nowadays, when visiting the village you should not miss the village brewery which utilises the water from the nearby sources and it produces beer in sufficient amounts for wedding-parties and other celebrations. You can hardly find a similar brewery elsewhere. A pint of freshly made beer costs very little, but it may be the thing you will enjoy most during this visit. Many bars and restaurants are there to serve you and the local population knows how to treat their guests.

PRESPA NATIONAL PARK

The Park is situated 45 kilometres north-east of Korca, and accounts for a total surface area of 27,750 hectares, including mountains, woods, pastures, and water resources. With a unique flora and fauna, the Park registers 56 types of plants. The Dalmatian pelican (Pelicanus Crispus), which is found in this area and at Karavasta only, is one of the rare species. Eight fish species and endemic plants are found here. The lake shores feature a combination of patches of sand beaches and high rocks. Fish, including carp, eel and bleak, grow in the lakes at Prespa.

Fishing in the lakes at Prespa is both a hobby and a way of living. Professional fishermen are still found in this tourist area. They help the restaurants at Prespa and the city of Korca meet the demand for fish.

MALI GRAD ISLAND

The island is located in Prespa Lake, 900 metres above sea level. Constituted of calcareous rocks, it has survived the large-scale submergence of the Prespa. Its western shores host the church cave, which, on account of its distinct shape, was called a holy ground. A 14th century church is situated here.

The island is around 800 metres long and 200 metres wide. Except for the western part, it is encircled by very steep slopes. Natural vegetation, scarce shrubs, as well as karst caves and hollows are found on the Island. For a long time now, the Prespa inhabitants have been attending religious services on the island, reaching it by using sail boats. The Island is rich in scientific, cultural and religious values.

ZAVER CAVE AT PRESPA

The cave is located on the western shores of Small Prespa Lake, near the village of Gorica e Vogël, Mala Gorica. It is a big karst cave containing one of the numerous underground waterways from Prespa Lake to Lake Ohrid. It is the product of the karst process at the junction of two tectonic fissures. It offers scientific, and particularly, geologic and geo-morphologic, didactic and tourist values.

TREN CAVE, PRESPA

This cave is situated at the south-eastern spot of Prespa Lake, only a few metres from the shoreline. This karst cave is a two-storey structure tens of metres long. It used to be a pre-historic settlement of ancient human population (from early Neolithic Age to Iron Age). This place is a home to a huge colony of night bats.

LENIE LAKES

The lakes are situated in the Lenie Mountain, 2000 metres above sea level, close to the village of Lenie (Shën e Premte). Several originally glacial lakes form a large complex circus. The lakes are primarily fed by snow-melted water and the lake surfaces freeze during the winter.

CUT STONE, GURRAZEZ

The rock is situated near the village of Gurrazez, on the Pass with the same name. Sixteen metres high, it is placed 1300 metres above sea-level. It is white and rather circular in shape, and the surrounding landscape makes it unique.

DRENOVA NATIONAL PARK, MORAVA MOUNTAIN, ALBANIA

The Park lies on the Morava Mountain range. The forest located at the Drenova National Park is known as the Bredhi i Drenovës (Drenova Fir) which is rich in fir, beech and black pine. The hazelnut trees prevail in the lower part of the Park. Its fauna is rich, including the famous Bozdovec Bear, which is declared a Monument of Nature. The forest is also abundant in wild boars and pheasants. Other attractions of the Park include Bozdovec, Guri i Capit, and Çardak.

GURI I CAPIT (STONE AT CAP), BOZDOVEC PARK, DRENOVA, ALBANIA

This site is located inside the Bozdovec Park, in the Commune of Drenova, Korca District. It consists of a conglomeratic and sand rock massive of a specific shape: it resembles a camel on its knees. It is named after a billy goat, which fell off of this rock. The stone, shaped by wind and erosion, is 20-25 metres long, 5-10 metres wide, and nearly as high as wide.

SELCA TOMBS, SELCA, ALBANIA
Five ancient monumental tombs dating from the fourth century BC found in Selca are a part of the ancient colony Pelionit. The objects dating from the Bronze ages and the 6th century treasures including Ionian, bronze and ceramic objects, weapons and gold objects, have been found here. You will feel that you have discovered a lost treasure when visiting Selca.

GOLIK BRIDGE, GOLIUT, ALBANIA
This bridge is an old stone structure dating from the seventeenth century and it is a part of the Via Egnatia in its part near the village of Goliut. On the way to this place, you will enjoy breathtaking views of waterfalls and beautiful landscapes of mountains from the bottom of valleys. Taking this route, you will walk along the footsteps of ancient peoples who over the centuries have travelled through this region

KAMJE STONE, POGRADEC, ALBANIA
Kamje stone natural rock formation created by erosion and winds is the right spot for an excursion since the visitor will have the opportunity to explore the cave with drawings of hunting scenes and join the scholars' debate on whether they date from prehistory, the Middle Ages or some other period of history.

TUSHEMISHT / DRILON, POGRADEC, ALBANIA
Just 4 miles from Pogradec, in Tushemisht, you can visit the tourist point of Drilon which has received the name of river flowing through the place. Numerous decorative trees and various plants are in full harmony with the crystal waters of the river Drilon, its hiking paths and wooden bridges. At this special place you can visit the building where the leaders of the country used to spend their time, which is now turned into a hotel and restaurant with excellent local cuisine.

WHAT TO EXPERIENCE IN THE REGION

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.

This publication will give you a hint about the trails which will enable you to embark on a personal discovery of the natural and cultural heritage of this region. They will help you discover the source of Slav 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 savour the breathtaking scenery, breathe in the fresh air and drink from the cool mountain springs.

Galicica National Park Routes

Biking route Galicica

Mountain bike route is wonderful place for mount biking which suits both beginners and professionals. The route offers a spectacular view of Ohrid and Prespa Lake, especially in part three. 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:

Start: Ohrid - 697 metres above sea level
Target: Ohrid (over Dva Javori – 1500 masl)
Lenght: 55.2 km
Highest point: Krstec 1555 masl
Height difference: 858 masl

Walking routes of the National Park Galicica

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 easy.

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.

Walking Route Dva Javori – Asan Dzura – Goga
This trail is going through rocky area and field named Suvo Pole and to the house Asan Dzura. There is trail leading from this spot to the Goga Peak where you can see Ohrid and Prespa lakes.

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.

Contact organization and relevant info:
National Park Galicica,
Velestovski Pat bb, Ohrid Macedonia
Phone/ Fax +389 46 261 473
Email: galicica@galicica.org.mk
www.galicica.org.mk

Pelister National Park Routes

The Pelister National Park 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.

Thematic routes of the National Park Pelister

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.

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 significant trace in this area. The time required to pass the trail is 45-60 minutes, depending on the direction from which you come.

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.

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.

Trail through the Hospitals

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

Contact organization and relevant info:
National Park Pelister
Main Office:
Phone: +389 47 233 464
Fax: +389 47 233 668
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

WHERE TO EAT AND STAY IN THE REGION

Thanks to the existence of the lakes in the region, there are numerous accommodation facilities that can serve many different tastes and needs. There are possibilities for rural accommodation in the villages, urban apartment accommodation, hotels that vary from one to five stars, B&B, apartments and rooms for rent.

Ohrid/ Ohrid Lake:
Due to a very large number of the accommodation facilities and apartments, the Municipality of Ohrid have prepared detailed web site with all the necessary data concerning all registered and official accommodation facilities at **www.ohrid.com.mk** and online reservation is possible in English at: **http://www.ohrid-apartments.info/**.

Hotel Flamengo, Turisticka 92
Contact details: +389 46 262 610, http://www.hotelflamengo.mk/mk

Vila Jovan, Car Samoil 44
Contact details: +389 77 722 497

Smakoski Apartments, Kej Marshal Tito 96
Contact details: + 389 78 449 236

Hotel Belvedere, St Stephan
Contact Details: +389 46 277 720, +389 46 265 628, hotelbelvedere@t-home.mk, www.hotelbelvedere.com.mk

Hotel Inex Gorica, Naum Ohridski 5/7
Contact Details: +389 46 277 520

Hotel Millenium Palace, Kej Marshal Tito bb
Contact Details: +389 46 263 361

Pogradec

Hotel Enkelana , Rruga Reshit Collaku
Contact details: +355 69 209 4646, +355 69 405 2956, +355 83 222 010

Hotel Perla, Rruga Deshmoret e Pojskes, Lagja1
Contact details: +355 83 226 688; +355 68 401 9494, perlahotel@yahoo.com

Maji Hotel, Lulishtja 1 Maji
Contact details: + 355 83 224 600, +355 69 208 0394,
http://www.hotel1maji.com

HOTEL Kalaja, Shetitorja i Maji
Contact details: +355 69 209 6542, +355 69 432 799, http://www.hotelkalaja.al

Hotel Euro Korca, Shëtitorja 1 Maji
Contact details: +355 69 440 2406, +355 69 425 0749, +355 83 222 213

Prespa Lake

Hotel Lake View, Otesevo
Contact Details: +389 76 214 847, lakeview.otesevo@gmail.com,
http://lakeviewotesevo.com

Hotel Riva, Stenje
Contact Details: +389 47 484 165, +389 71 333 157,
+389 75421 145, +389 71 333 311, emilija_stojanovska91@hotmail.com

Hotel Royal L, Carev Dvor
Contact Details: +389 47 488 500

Hotel Aleksander, Zaroshke Liqenas
Contact Details: +355 68 254 9759, hotel-restorant_aleksander@hotmail.com

Hotel Restoran Ilo, Zaroshke Liqenas
Contact Details: +355 68 260 4383, ilo_todor@outlook.com

Hotel Restaurant Vasil, Village Gorica, Liqenas
Contact Details: +355 68 396 2373, anikolla@yahoo.com

Rural households that provide accommodation:

- Valentina Vurmo, Village Gorica, Liqenas; Contact Telephone: +389 75 844 711
- Dragi Kostovski, Village Stenje; Contact Telephone: +389 76 434 880
- Blaze Naumov, Village Stenje; Contact Telephone: +389 76 434 880

- Vasko Nestorovski , Village Stenje; Contact Telephone: +389 70 558 870
- Danche Tasevski, Village Stenje; Contact Telephone: +389 71 225 484
- Goce Kadinski, Village Stenje; Contact Telephone: +389 76 406 033
- Dancho Kadinski Village Stenje Contact Telephone: +389 75 292 454
- Mile Tanovski, Village Dolno Dupeni;
  Contact Telephone: +389 70 824 977, +389 71 343 807
- Josif Dimitrovski , Village Dolno Dupeni;
  Contact Telephone: +389 70 266 968, +389 2 2458 443
- Vasil Sukovski, Village Brajcino; Contact Telephone: +389 70 499 182
- Elida Stankovska Stara Cesma, Village Ljubojno;
  Contact Telephone: +389 70 822 642, +389 47 482 422

Resen

- Hotel Dior, St Josif Josifovski
  Contact Details: +389 47 454 550, +389 76 431 432

- Hotel Holiday, St Josif Josifovski
  Contact Details: +389 70 588 355, +389 47 452 904

Korca

- George , Rruga Korce-Mborje
  Contact Details: +355 82 243 794, +355 69 208 3112

- Gold, Rr. Kiço Golniku 5
  Contact Details: +355 82 24 6894, +355 69 236 4350

- Grand, Blv. Gjergj Kastrioti
  Contact Details: +355 82 24 3168, +355 82 24 2677, grandhotelko@hotmail.com

- Koçibelli (Turizem), Blv. Gjergj Kastrioti
  Contact Details: +355 82 24 3794, +355 69 207 5539, lobitv@hotmail.com

- Konti, Rruga Korca-Pogradec
  Contact Details: +355 82 24 4927, hotelkont@yahoo.com,
  hotelkontiko@albmail.com

- Kristal, Ish Kampi i Punetoreve
  Contact Details: +355 82 24 8992, +355 69 209 8321, rezearkote@ yahoo.com

- Regency, Rr. Ismail Qemali 7
  Contact Details: +355 82 24 3868, +355 69 230 4748,
  hregencyko@hotmail.com, www.regencyalbania.com

- Smerald Rr. Viktimat e Pojanit 1
  Contact Details: +355 82 24 5093, hotelsmerald@ yahoo.com

- Vila Sidheri , Rr. Mbledhja e Beratit
  Contact Details: +355 82 24 5814, +355 68 205 6445

- Life Gallery Hotel, Korca, Bulevardi Republika Nr 55, 7004 Korce, Albania
  Contact Details: info@lifegallery.al

Voskopoja

- Hotel Akademia Voskopoja Village, Korca
  Contact Details: +355 69 363 6243

Erseka

- Hotel Bar Taverna Zisi Rr. near the Erseka football stadium
  Contact Details: ++355 69 577 7373, ++355 81 222 779, info@tavernazisi.al

- Hotel bar restotrant Inxhunjo, Rr.Ahmet bektashi Blloku Nr 2
  Contact Details: ++355 81 222 474, ++355 68 245 2274

- Sofra Kolonjare, Komuna mollas
  Contact Details: ++355 69 362 3108

- Farma Sotira, Radanj Lekovik
  Contact Details: ++355 69 234 2529

The region of Prespa offers various types of places to eat local specialties and delicacies, but there are also the places that serve international food. Grilled meat, salads and soups are probably on the menu on every place you set your foot in. Typical food and domestic national drinks produced in the countries are also available in most restaurants, while rural households serve only traditional homemade and home cooked food.

The places by Prespa Lake offer various dishes typical for the Prespa Valley including fish specialties, pies, and fresh salads, grilled and cooked meat. Most of the restaurants are situated in Resen and around the lake, the last offering wonderful view apart from delicious food.

Ohrid Lake area can pride with a variety of restaurants, barbeque-specialized and traditional cuisine places. As the most visited region by tourists, it offers varieties of national, traditional but also international food. Still, the food is predominantly local and the drinks offered vary from national and domestic to high quality internationally produced wines and spirits.

Korca Valley is well known for different varieties of the taverns, slow diners and good locally produced food. The tradition of quality food in Korca region is characterized with fresh meat and salads, and good cheese. All restaurants prepare food by traditional recipes, but also apply international ones. The drinks served here are mostly national and domestic, but international wines and drinks are also available.

Here is a list with contact details of some of the numerous places to dine in the Prespa region.

Prespa Lake

- Prespa Lake Restaurant Galaxy, TS Pretor
  Contact Details +389 47 551 703, +389 70 482 105

- Coca Resort Beach, Slivnica
  Contact Details: +389 47 454 776

- Hotel Lake View, Otesevo
  Contact Details: +389 76 214 847, lakeview.otesevo@gmail.com,
  http://lakeviewotesevo.com

- Hotel Riva, Stenje
  Contact Details: +389 47 484 165, +389 71 333 157,
  +389 75421 145, +389 71 333 311, emilija_stojanovska91@hotmail.com

- Stara Cesma, Village Ljubojno
  Contact Details: +389 70 822 642, +389 47 482 422, lisaljubojno@yahoo.com

- Hotel Aleksander, Zaroshke Liqenas
  Contact Details: +355 68 254 9759, hotel-restorant_aleksander@hotmail.com

- Hotel Restoran Ilo, Zaroshke Liqenas
  Contact Details: +355 68 260 4383, ilo_todor@outlook.com

- Hotel Restaurant Vasil, Village Gorica, Liqenas
  Contact Details: +355 68 396 2373; anikolla@yahoo.com

- Restaurant Dzona, Gorica, Liqenas
  Contact details: +355 68 851 74926, +389 76 616 548

Resen

- Parlament Resen St Korculanska bb
  Contact Details: +389 47 451 946

- Restaurant Manastir , Village Jankovec,
  Contact Details: +389 47 452 758, +389 75 570 077

- Restaurant Vito, Resen
  Contact Details: +389 47 551 035, +389 47 551 005

- Star Sokak, pedestrian zone, Resen;
  Contact Details: +389 47 520 524

- Restaurant Gerdan, Korculanska, Resen;
  Contact Details: +389 47 525 559

- Victoria, Main Square, Resen;
  Contact Details: +389 47 454 990

- Lemokompani Josif Josifovski, Resen;
  Contact Details: +389 47 451 823

- Jumbo, Ivo Lola Ribar, Resen;
  Contact Details: +389 47 451 085

- Polno Mese, Trade Center, Resen;
  Contact Details: +389 70 630 073

Ohrid and Ohrid Lake

- Restaurant CUN, Kosta Abras
  Contact Details: +389 46 255 603, +389 76 236 606

- Biljanini izvori, Naum Ohridski b.b
  Contact Details: +389 46 266 816

- Hotel Inex Gorica, Naum Ohridski 5/7;
  Contact Details: +389 46 277 520

- Hotel Millenium Palace, Kej Marshal Tito bb
  Contact Details: +389 46 263 361 +389 46 267 010

- Fontana, Partizasnka kej 1/24
  Contact Details: +389 46 551 043

- Makedonska Kuka, St Stefan, Ohrid
  Contact Details: +389 46 277 270, +389 70 208 519,
  contact@makedonskakuka.com, http://www.makedonskakuka.com/en/index.php#

- ANTIKO, Car Samoil 30
  Contact Details: +389 46 265 523; +389 75 397 908

- Dalga, Kosta Abras 3
  Contact Details: +389 46 255 999

- DAMAR, Kosta Abrash,
  Contact Details: +389 46255-554

- Orfej, Partizanska CC
  Contact Details: +389 46 250 005, +389 75 463 445

- Potpesh, Koco Racin bb
  Contact Details: 389 71 231 022

- Sv SOFIJA Car Samoil 88
  Contact Details: +389 46 267 403

Pogradec

- Hotel Enkelana Rruga Reshit Collaku, Pogradec
  Contact Details: +355 69 209 4646; +355 69 405 2956, +355 83 222 010

- Maji Hotel, Lulishtja 1 Maji
  Contact Details: ++ 355 83 224 600, +355 69 208 0394, http://www.hotel1maji.com

- Hotel Vila ART, Drilon, Pogradec
  Contact Details: +355 86 820 220, +355 68 225 3245

Korca

- Shtëpia Voskopojare, Rr. Gaqo Koroveshi,
  Contact Details: +355 82 242 784, +355 68 205 4488

- Taverna Qilari, C-5, Rr. Bardhyl Pojani 8,
  Contact Details: +355 69 248 9693, qilari_03@hotmail.com

- Taverna Vasili C-3, Rr. Kostadina Gaçe,
  Contact Details: +355 8 224 6610, +355 69 214 8583

- Vila Themistokli C-5, Blv. Themistokli Germenji
  Contact Details: +355 82 248 799

- Valbona C-4, Blv. Republika,
  Contact Details: +355 82 253 174

- Vila Melko, Boboshtice
  Contact Details: vilamelko@hotmail.com ; +355 69 236 832

- Taverna Antoneta, Boboshtice
  Contact Details: +355 68 2264 963

- Konti National road Korca-Tirane, first km
  Contact Details: +355 82 244 927, info@hotelkonti.com, www.hotelkonti.com

Erseka

- Bar/Restaurant Taverna Zisi, near Erseka Stadium
  Contact details: +355 69 577 7373, +355 81 222 779, info@tavernazisi.al

- Sofra Kolonjare, Komuna Mollas
  Contact details: +355 69 362 3108

- Farma Sotira, Sotire Lekovik
  Contact details: +355 69 234 2529, info@farmasotira.al

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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 Sharra (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.

The publication 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 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

South Eastern Europe SWG RRD Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group

ABD PROGRAMME Area Based Development Programme in the Western Balkan countries

PRESPA CROSS-BORDER REGION

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