

To:

**JAN Tourism Consultancy**

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Netherlands

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Skopje, 16.05.2023

## **Via Egnatia - In the footsteps of the ancient Romans**

### **Day 1: Arrival Tirana - Durres**

Flight to Tirana. Bus and guide are already waiting for us here. Drive to Durres and check into our hotel.

### **Day 2: Durres - Tirana - Durres**

In the morning we will visit the old town and the Roman theater in Durres. Durres was already a Roman port and the starting point of the famous Via Egnatia. Afterwards drive to the Albanian capital for a detailed sightseeing tour. Return to Durres to our hotel.

### **Day 3: Durres - Apollonia - Berat - Durres**

In the morning drive to the excavations of Apollonia. More than 2,500 years ago the Greeks built a colony here in honor of Apollo. After the visit drive to Berat. The city of 1,000 windows - as Berat is also called - and its fortress, which is still inhabited today, are a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Return to our hotel in Durres.

### **Day 4: Durres - Elbasan - Struga - Ohrid**

In the morning we continue to Elbasan, also here the Romans have left their traces. We pass the border with Macedonia and reach Lake Ohrid. Sightseeing of Struga and continuation to our hotel in Ohrid.

### **Day 5: Ohrid**

Today is dedicated to the UNESCO city of Ohrid, located on the lake of the same name. The lake is the deepest lake in Europe, the second deepest in the world. The city is also called the Jerusalem of the Balkans, there are no less than 365 churches and monasteries in and around the city. A short boat ride on the lake will show us the beauty of this area. Afternoon at leisure. Overnight stay in Ohrid.

### **Day 6: Sv. Naum**

Today we will visit the monastery of Sv. Naum, nestled in unique nature. Here is located not only the monastery, but also the springs of the Ohrid Lake, which we will explore during a rowing boat trip. On the way back to the hotel we will visit the "Bay of Bones" museum. Hotel in Ohrid.

### **Day 7: Ohrid - Bitola - Kalampaka**

Drive from Ohrid to Bitola. Here we visit the city as well as the excavations of Heraklea Lincestis, once founded by Filip II of Macedonia, father of Alexander the Great. The city also developed into an important trading post in Roman and Byzantine times. Afterwards we cross the border with Greece and reach our hotel in Kalampaka, situated at the foot of the Meteora rocks.

### **Day 8: Kalampaka - Vergina - Thessaloniki**

Today we first visit the famous Meteora monasteries. We also see one of the we bird's nests built on the rocks monasteries from the inside. Afterwards we continue to the excavations of Vergina, where the burial mound of Filip II of Macedonia is located. In the evening we reach our hotel in the Thessaloniki area.

### **Day 9: Thessaloniki**

Today we will visit the city of Thessaloniki, also here the Romans have left clear traces. During a city tour you will get to know the sights of this city. You will see, among other things, the thick White Tower, which was once a powerful harbor bastion, the old city wall and some famous old Byzantine churches. From the highest point of the city you will have a magnificent view of the city and the Aegean Sea.

### **Day 10: Thessaloniki - Philippi - Kavalla**

In the morning we drive to the excavations of Philippi, which we visit in detail. In the afternoon we reach the city of Kavalla, after the sightseeing we move to our hotel.

### **Day 11: Kavalla - Avdira - Komotini - Alexandroupouli**

After breakfast we will visit the charming village of Avdira, where you can still admire well-preserved Thracian mansions and ancient Orthodox churches. Avdira is also the birthplace of the ancient philosophers Protagoras and Democritus. On the way to Xanthi we will stop at the beautiful marina of Porto Lagos, where two monastery churches stand on islands in the middle of a lagoon behind the sea. Via Komotini (sightseeing) to our hotel in Alexandroupouli.

### **Day 12: Alexandroupouli - Ipsala - Tekirdag - Istanbul**

We cross the Turkish border. First stop in Ipsala (sightseeing), further to Tekirdag (sightseeing). In the afternoon we reach Istanbul.

### **Day 13: Istanbul**

Today is dedicated to the Turkish metropolis Istanbul. You will be picked up from your hotel and we will have a full day Old City Tour. Among all the highlights, discover the spiritual side of Istanbul at the Blue Mosque, the only mosque with six minarets and one of the most beautiful Ottoman mosques in the country. Then there's the Hagia Sophia Museum. You will be impressed by its 1,500-year history and amazing architecture. It was built as a church, converted into a mosque and is now a museum for the world to explore and enjoy. After visiting the Grand Bazaar return to our hotel and overnight.

### **Day 14: Bosphorus**

This morning after breakfast our guide will take us to another nice tour starting with the famous spice market, then we will take a cruise on the Bosphorus. The Bosphorus is 32 km long, separating Europe from Asia and connecting the Sea of Marmara with the Black Sea. We will cruise along the Bosphorus and discover Istanbul's tourist attractions, magnificent palaces, ancient castles and other historical sites, as well as beautiful seaside residences and the Bosphorus Bridge. The rest of the day is at leisure.

### **Day 15: Transfer to the airport**

Transfer to Istanbul airport and return flight

### **Services:**

Accommodation in 4\* hotels on half board basis

Bus from Tirana airport/to Turkey border & Turkey border to Istanbul airport

Continuous English speaking tour guide from airport Tirana /to border Turkey & border Turkey to airport Istanbul  
Citytax

Included entrance fees:

- Lake Ohrid boat trip (approx. 20 minutes)
- Rowing boat trip Sveti Naum
- Boat trip on the Bosphorus
- Berat Fortress

- Excavations Apollonia
- Durres, Roman theater
- Ohrid, church Sv. Peribleptos
- Ohrid, Monastery Sv. Naum
- Bitola, Heraclea Lincestis
- Meteora (1 monastery)
- Vergina
- Philippi
- Blue Mosque
- Hagia Sophia

## Dates & Prices 2024

	31.03. – 14.04.2024 06.10. – 20.10.2024	28.04. – 12.05.2024 26.05. – 09.06.2024 08.09. – 22.09.2024
Price p.p. in double room	1.540,00 €	1.640,00 €
Single room supplement	286,00 €	306,00 €

Terms and Conditions for Guaranteed departure Tours:

Cancellation conditions:

Up to 31 days before departure free of charge

30-15 days before departure 25%

15-7 days before departure 50%

6-1 days before departure 80%

No show 100%

Terms of payment: 20% of the total amount at the time of booking, balance 10 days prior to arrival upon receipt of travel documents.

Minimum number of participants: The minimum number of participants is 2, the maximum number of participants is 30. The organiser reserves the right to cancel the tour at least 30 days before departure if the minimum number of participants is not reached.

Kind regards,

**Emilija Nikolovski**

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