



beyond
Ohrid

villages culture nature

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The Ohrid Prespa Region of Macedonia





Welcome to Ohrid

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Things to do in Ohrid



Ohrid

It's hard to argue that Ohrid isn't the must see destination for visitors to Macedonia. Ohrid is the biggest tourist town in Macedonia, and it shows. From the moment you arrive, you'll know you are somewhere different. And once you make your way to the lake, you'll realize what all of the hype is about.

Ohrid is the biggest city in the Prespa-Ohrid region (which is named for the lakes, not the city) and is usually the first, if not only, place visitors to the region go. In itself, Ohrid is an unforgettable experience. From its amazing architecture, countless churches, and all night parties, a trip to Macedonia isn't complete without a visit to Ohrid.

Orientation.

Ohrid is located on the northeastern shore of Lake Ohrid. East of Ohrid is Galichica National Park and Lake Prespa. South of Ohrid are beaches, villages, and eventually the Albanian border. The monastery Sveti Naum is situated right before the border and is one of the regions most popular tourist attractions.

What to do

For a small city, there is a lot to see and do in Ohrid. **An easy walking tour** of the city takes you around most of the sights in 3 to 4 hours. Start in the center, walk into the old town, follow the cliffs to the fishing village Kaneo, up the hill to King Samuel's fortress, and down through the old town to the antique theater.

Ohrid is often called the Macedonian Jerusalem because at one point **the city was home to 365 churches**. While the number is now somewhat less, if you are interested in Orthodox architecture and want to see some beautifully preserved frescos, you'll be in for a treat. The highlights are Sveti Sofia, Sveti Jovan Kaneo and Sveti Bogorodica Perivlepta. There is usually an entrance fee for churches, 50-100 MKD.



The old bazaar, or stara charsija, is an interesting look back into Ohrid's Turkish past. A number of the remaining mosques in Ohrid are here as well as a famous 100-year-old tree. This is also where the green market is located, so if you want to pick up something to eat or some cheap souvenirs, check this area out.

The walking street that runs through Ohrid is called the **charsija** (as opposed to the stara charsija). When people in Ohrid go out for coffee, shopping or just for a stroll, they usually say they are going na charsija. One great way to spend an afternoon: browse the shops, drink a coffee, eat some ice cream and people watch in the charsija.

If you are in Ohrid in July or August, you might be able to get tickets to the **Ohrid Summer Festival**, an annual music and drama festival. Most performances are held in Ohrid's antique Roman theater, so the festival can be historical experience. Information about performers and tickets are available at small stands in the center during the summer.

By the lake, there are lots of boat drivers, and who will solicit **boat trips** in a kajche (small boat). This is a good opportunity to see the town from the lake, and some good photo opportunities are guaranteed. For a longer trip, larger boats leave for the Monastery Sveti Naum at 11:00 and return later in the afternoon for 400 MKD. Also, some of the boat companies offer night cruises for about 100 MKD.

To experience **Ohrid's nightlife**, there are lots of options. Young stylish Macedonians crowd the café bars Kadmo, Liquid and Jazz Inn, all located along the lake in the old town. A more mature crowd can be found in the Duck café or Irish pub, both located along the lake. After the bars close at one or two in the morning, most people head to Cuba Libre or take a taxi and to one the nightclubs at Hotel Park or Hotel Metropol.

Where to stay

It seems like everyone in Ohrid has a room to rent. Stop by Bilijana's office and we will help you book a room. Expect to pay around 10-15 Euro.



Ljubanista

The Prespa Ohrid region of Macedonia has many unique villages with many exciting opportunities for travelers, though few boast as much as Ljubanista, Beaches, mountains, traditional culture and architecture, Ljubanista has it all. And on top of all of that, Ljubanista is also home to Biljana Tourist Association's second tourist info center. Most of our tourist activities are based out of Ljubanista, so you if you want to enjoy village life to its fullest, Ljubanista should be on your list.

Ljubanista is a traditional yet active village and tourist destination wrapped into one package. Ljubanista consists of the village Ljubanista is located on the slope of Galichica National Park and down the slope on the shore of Lake Ohrid is one of the most popular campsites and beaches.

Ljubanista a good starting point for hiking, has arguably the best of the Ohrid beaches, lots of traditional culture and the opportunity to take advantage of many activities.

What to do?

Most Macedonians know Ljubanista for its sandy beach and campsite, and many swear that it's the best beach on Lake Ohrid. The campsite and beach is a 10-minute walk down the hill from the village.

While there are plenty of trails into the mountain from Ljubanista, this is the ideal spot to start your trek to the highest point on Mount Galichica. It's a long and difficult hike, so you might want to hire a guide.

Sveti Naum monastery, one of the most important Orthodox monasteries in Macedonia most popular tourist destinations, is located 2 km from the village. A tourist complex with beaches and restaurants that are open in the summer surrounds the monastery.

During the summer, Biljana operates a tourism information office on the main road through Ljubanista. If you travel through the village, you can't miss it. Stop by and we can arrange activities such as donkey or



horse treks, mountain and rock climbing, diving, and other tours. You can even just stop by the office for a coffee and some advice from our friendly staff. (See pages 20-21 for more details.)

What to eat

There aren't any restaurants in Ljubanista, but a traditional meal can be arranged at one of the many guesthouses in the village. There is no lack of places in the nearby tourist destination Sveti Naum for skara (grilled meat) and there is also a well stocked store/café in the center of the village.

Where to stay

There are plenty of private rooms in the village and Bilijana will gladly help you book one. If you are in the mood for camping, the campsite on the lakeshore offers. . .

How to get there

Take the bus to Sveti Naum from Ohrid for 90 MKD. A taxi from Ohrid will cost upwards of 600 MKD. By car, take the road south from Ohrid toward Sveti Naum.



Elsani

If you have some time to spend, and want to get away from the summer heat and crowds, Elsani, a small village on the western slope of Galicia National Park, is a good choice. It's close to Ohrid (just 10 km, a quick taxi or bus trip) but is more traditional than tourist, unlike some of the other villages in the region. Elsani is a good representation of traditional Macedonian life, but has just enough in the way of organized accommodations and activities to make the trip worthwhile.

One thing that separates Elsani from most of the other villages in the region is that it is alive and vibrant. More than 600 people live in this village year-round and on any given morning, the residents of Elsani will be baking bread in their outdoor furna (stove) or going about their daily routines. They are all very friendly and willing to help a confused looking tourist. And best of all, Elsani has the spectacular view of Lake Ohrid that is only available from this point on the mountain.

What to do?

Elsani is the perfect place to relax and recharge. Just sitting on the terrace of a guesthouse, drinking a coffee and enjoying the view of the lake is an experience in itself, but when you feel like you need to get up and stretch your legs, you'll find plenty to do.

This village is a great place to enjoy walking in the mountain, and it's a perfect starting point for a number of trails for all ages and skill levels. While any guesthouse can point you in the right direction or even arrange a guide for longer hikes, trails on either the north or south end of the village can be followed to the nearby villages Konsjko or Pestani. However, the windy, hilly streets in the village can provide an unforgettable exploration.

Risto Stojoski's Guesthouse can also arrange other traditional activities such as bread baking or tours of the village and nearby churches. Visitors that are lucky enough to come in the fall, can arrange to experience the preparation of ajvar, rakija and other agricultural activities. (See Where to Stay).



Where to Stay?

While some of the promotional materials for this village say that there are accommodations in 30 private houses, your best bet is Risto Stojoski's Guesthouse. The guesthouse has clean and tidy single and double rooms (15/20 euros). All rooms include shared bathrooms and have a terrace. If the guesthouse is booked, the owners will happily help you find a private room in another house in the village. This guesthouse is located on the southern end of the village, so getting out of a taxi or bus in the center facing the lake, walk to your left about 5 minutes, and you'll see a big white house with a blue "sobi/rooms/zimmer" sign. Contact Risto or Anita Stokoski at 046-285-464 or 075-977-930 (both speak excellent English.) They also have a website at www.ristosguesthouse.4t.com, and you can reach them by email at elshani@mt.net.mk.

What to eat?

The closest restaurants are outside the village, closer to the lake, but staying here in Elsani, visitors should experience some traditional Macedonian food. Risto's Guesthouse will have a full menu of items, and will happily prepare a traditional breakfast, lunch or dinner. However, this isn't fast food, so be sure to tell the owners that you would like to eat as early as possible.

There are a few well-stocked stores in Elsani where you can find basic supplies.

How to get there?

Elsani is only 10 km from Ohrid City. Buses run regularly from Ohrid in the summer, about every hour from the main boulevard in Ohrid, and a one-way ticket costs 40 MKD. A taxi from Ohrid will take you there for 200-300 MKD.



Otesevo and Stenje

On the eastern side of Galicia National Park along the shores of lake Prespa, there are plenty of places that Macedonians come to kick back during the hot summer. However, these places can be less crowded than the Ohrid beaches during the summer, and offer some gorgeous scenery. If you are in the mood for a day trip outside of Ohrid, this is a decent alternative to some of the beaches on the lake Ohrid beaches.

Otesevo, isn't a village, but rather a string of campsites, hotels and resorts that are usually less crowded and cleaner than the busier Ohrid beaches. A can't miss for a trip to this side of the lake is the Fisherman Village Restaurant. Not only is this a traditional summer kafana style restaurant, but it's also a beach with old-style wooden docks, which are ideal for laying out or diving off into the lake.

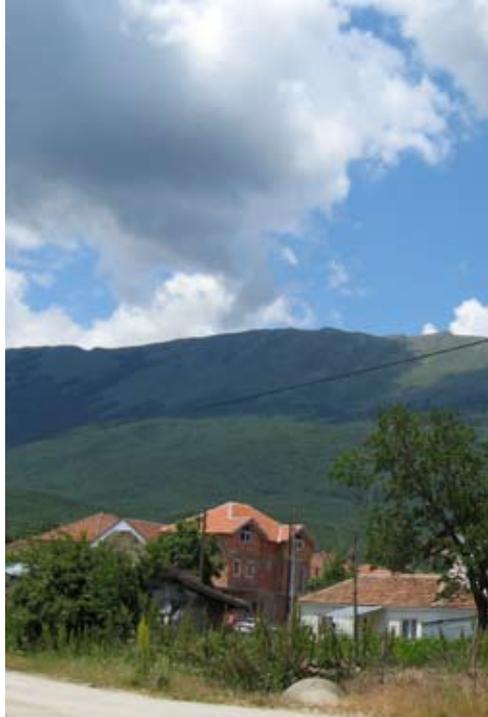
To spend more than a day in this part of the region, the village Stenje (where people live year-round) is just a few kilometers down the road. In Stenje, there are find private accommodations and other rural activities.

Also, for those traveling to Albania after their visit to this region, there is a border crossing a few kilometers from Stenje, so a quick stop here for a swim is an option on your way to Albania.

What to do

The beaches are the main attraction around here, but there are some interesting places to explore.

The only island in Macedonia, called Golem Grad, is located in Lake Prespa and is accessible from this side of the lake. Golem Grad is a small island with remnants of Neolithic, Hellenic and Roman cultures. While the island is uninhabited today, it's full of nature and history. In the summer, boat drivers in the area or the owners at the Fisherman Village Restaurant can arrange transportation and tours of the island. Prices vary, are negotiable, and can be higher in the summer, but expect to pay around 50 Euros for a boat there and back. And that price will also probably include a tour.



This area is also at the foot of Galicia national park, so there are plenty of opportunities for hiking and walking in the mountain. Guides are easy to find, just ask at a restaurant or a guesthouse.

What to eat

It is worth coming to this part of the region to visit the Ribarsko Selo (Fisherman Village) restaurant. Not only to enjoy some local delicacies and fresh fish straight from the lake, but also to chill out on the piers in the style of an old fishing settlement. The owners can also arrange tours into the national park and boat trips to Golem Grad. This is a one of a kind place in Macedonia, and if you coming to this side of Lake Prespa, this is a must see. If you take a bus here from Resen, just ask the driver to let you out at the restaurant, there is a bus stop right in front of it. And from there, you can catch a bus to Stenje.

In Stenje, there are a few more restaurants, and most guesthouses are willing to prepare meals for you. There is also a store where you can stock up on supplies.

Where to stay

There is a campsite in Otesevo, though its not clear whether it is or is not working. If you are looking for a place to camp, this might not be a bad bet, as it is in the national park. For those looking for a room, there are a number of guesthouses with private rooms in the area. However, since most of the proprietors of guesthouses in Stenje don't speak English, contact Biljana and we will help you reserve a room.

How to get there

By bus, you need to go to Resen first and then take a bus from there. Buses from Resen to Stenje run frequently and relatively late in the afternoon. See page 22 for bus schedules. A taxi from Resen costs between 300 and 500 MKD depending on the destination.



Ljubojno and Dolno Dupeni

If you really want to get a taste of old Macedonia and to take a break from the places that Macedonians go to party and relax during the summer, visit the villages on the Eastern side of lake Prespa. These villages offer plenty of old time charm, architecture and living. They also represent what is probably Macedonia's best go at developing rural tourism, so history and culture are on display.

Of all of the villages in the region, perhaps none have a better grasp on its history than Ljubojno. This village definitely has a story, and the people who live here are eager to tell it to you. Guided tours of the villages are available, which are recommended to really get a grasp of the history of the village and its people.

This was obviously once a fairly rich village, and its location places it at the center of many of the most important events in the history of the region. All of this makes for some exciting and romantic stories. Combine that with the scenery in the town, and you'll have a memorable experience.

What to do

This is one of the few villages where you can take a tour and really get immersed in the history of the place. Local tour guide Meri Stojanova can arrange tours for groups or individuals, that turn the amazing architecture into vivid stories that you will never forget. Meri will show you the village for 30 Euros and the whole Prespa region (including surrounding villages) for 50 Euros. Call 075- 653-221 for reservations.

Agricultural activities are offered by a number of the families in Dolno Dupeni. While this is a tourism area that is not developed to its potential and chances are prices and actual activities will need to be negotiated, it's still an opportunity you don't want to miss. If you happen to be in the region in the fall, you are in for a real treat and shouldn't leave without helping to make some rakija (brandy), wine or ajvar (red pepper spread), or helping pick apples. For these activities, ask the owners of your guesthouse or contact Biljana for assistance



The lake is a short walk from either of the villages, and nearby beaches are very pleasant as they don't tend to get very crowded in the busy summer season.

What to Eat

Most of the guesthouses in these villages will happily prepare meals and some will even allow access to the kitchen (make sure to ask first). But it's certainly worth it to treat yourself to a traditional Macedonian meal, which can be arranged at a guesthouse. This will need to be arranged in advance, so be sure to ask about the price.

For larger groups, a traditional lunch or dinner can be arranged in a charming dining room near the local mill. This is an excellent opportunity to get a feel for traditional Macedonian food and customs. And the local women who cook will be on hand to talk about the dishes and give a glimpse of traditional life. Contact Bilijana to arrange.

There is also a small, yet well-stocked store in the center of Ljubojno. This is a great place to stock up on supplies or sit outside and enjoy a drink with the locals. There is a small bar (kafana) with a nice outdoor terrace in the village center as well.

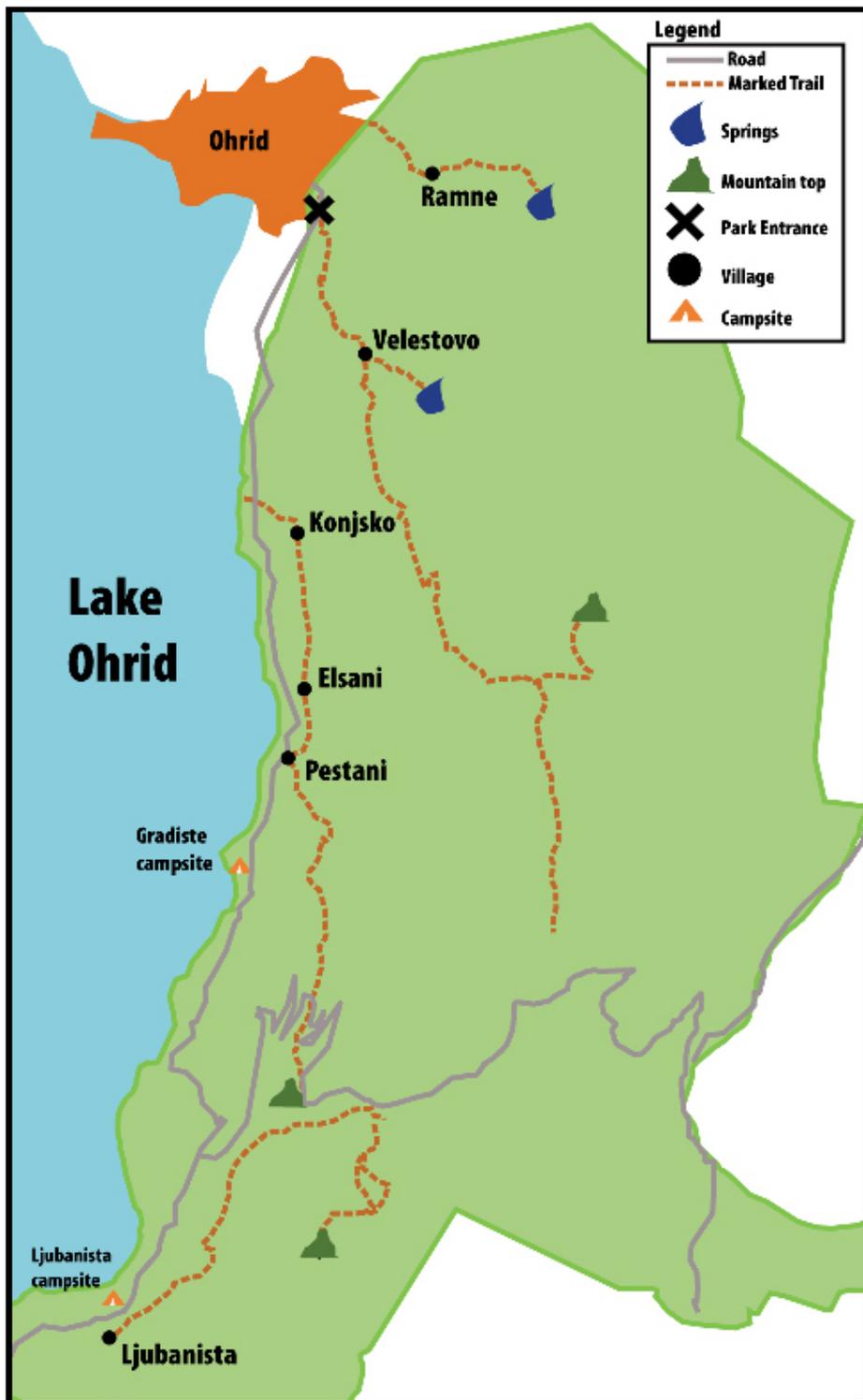
Where to stay

For visitors spending the night in Ljubonjo, there are a number of guesthouses to serve you. Prices range from 5-15 Euros, and it is available to call in advance to ensure accommodations. Contact Meri Stojanova at 075- 653-221 or Bilijana to arrange accommodations

How to get there

If you want to come to the eastern side of Lake Prespa, you will have to pass through Resen. A bus to any of the villages costs about 90 MKD, and they run frequently (see schedule on page 21). Taxis to either of these villages from Resen will cost about 600 MKD.

Galicica National Park





Hiking

Walking in the Ohrid city can be fun, but if you are up for a change of pace or something a little more challenging, there are plenty of opportunities to stretch your legs in Galichica national park.

Galichica is located just south of Ohrid, and separates Lakes Ohrid and Prespa. It is easily accessible from Ohrid,, has some of the most beautiful views in Macedonia and vast natural beauty with literally hundreds of floral species. All of this makes it one of the most popular hiking destinations in Ohrid.

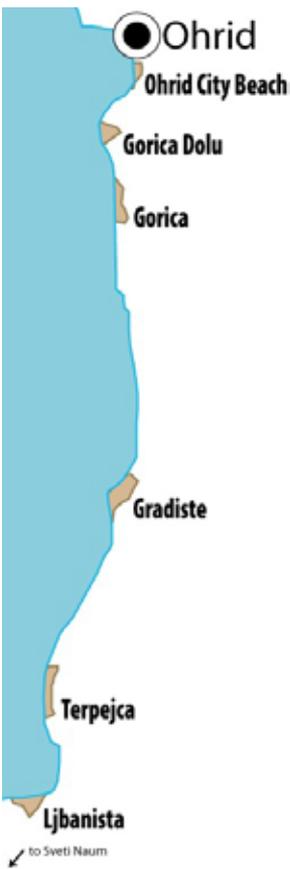
The park has an entrance on the south end of Ohrid located across from the city sports arena. Walk down the main boulevard that runs through Ohrid, about 15 minutes and you'll find it there on your left. At this entrance point, you will find an information board about the park, and from this point you can follow the marked trail up to the village Velestovo. There are also a number of smaller unmarked that will take you to other villages such as Ramne and churches in the region. From this point to the village Velestovo takes about 2 hours and since you are always in sight of the lake, it's hard to get lost. This makes this trail your best chance to get into the park on a short trip from Ohrid.

There are also trails from just about every village in the park, though sometimes they can be hard to find, so you might need to ask someone.

If you want to get higher into the mountains or go on a longer trip, you will probably want to hire a guide. One of the most beautiful points in Magaro, the highest point on the mountain where you can see both Lake Prespa and Ohrid. It's a great hike but you'll need a guide. Biljana can arrange a guide and itinerary for you. So stop by the office or call if you are interested.

Camping. Camping is allowed in the non-restricted areas of the park, which are mainly located near the Albanian border. However, you're best bet for camping are the campsites at Gradiste and Ljubanista.

Please try to leave the park in as good or better condition when you leave. Its natural beauty doesn't need to be compromised by people leaving a mess. Also, if you are hiking in the southern part of the park, be mindful of where you are in relation to the Albanian border.



Ohrid Beaches

Along the shore of Lake Ohrid, there are plenty of places to relax, get some sun, party and swim. The beaches run from the city of Ohrid south to the Albanian border.

Ohrid City Beach. The closest beach to Ohrid is located less than 2 km from the city center. The beach here is sandy and in spite of its close proximity to the city, doesn't get too crowded in the summer. However, that may change as the beach has been renovated for the 2008 season and includes a café and additional facilities.

How to get there. Walk left along the lake, about 2 km from the city center. The beach is located right after the small bridge.

Gorica. The next beaches that are in walking distance of the city center are the Gorica beaches, named for the hotel that sits above them. However, while these beaches share the same name, they are very different in character and are probably the best beaches close to the city. The first beach after the city beach, is the first Gorica beach in front of Hotel Park. The second and smallest of the three beaches is after this. While it can get busy during the summer, early in the morning or later in the afternoon "Gorica 2" can seem like a secluded hideaway. The third and last Gorica beach is where Macedonians come to party in the summer, and is usually pretty crowded.

How to get there: These three beaches are about a 30-40 minute walk from the city center. Just follow the path along the lake to Hotel Park, then walk around and up the hill. Otherwise, take a taxi to Hotel Inex Gorica for a few hundred MKD.



Gradiste. This beach has a campsite, and it's probably regarded as one of the nicest beaches by the locals. Not only does it have a nice pebbly beach, but also three cafes that are separated from the main beach by rock walls (you need to walk along a walkway built into the walls to get there). Gradiste gives you the best of all worlds, with a nice relaxing beach and a great party scene.

How to get there. In the summer there are buses for 50 MKD. Or take any of the buses to Sveti Naum and ask the driver for Gradiste. A taxi will cost about 500 MKD.

Terpecija. Terpecija is a village nuzzled into the rocks on the shore of Lake Ohrid. There is a nice, clean beach here and you can ask local boat drivers to take you to some isolated beaches that can only be reached by boat. There are also a number of nice fish and grill restaurants on the lake here.

How to get there: Take the bus to Sveti Naum for 70 MKD and tell the driver Terpecija. Or a taxi will cost about 600 MKD.

Ljbanista. Under the village of Ljbanista is a very nice beach that many Macedonians swear is the best. There is a campsite, and a nice sandy shore.

How to get there: You can take any bus that goes to Sveti Naum for 80 MKD. Alternatively, a taxi will cost 500 MKD.

Beach tips. All of the Ohrid lakeshore is available for public use, so visitors can take a swim just about anywhere. But that doesn't stop some of the hotels and other entrepreneurs from setting up beach chairs for rent, which cost around 100 MKD. In the summer, the beaches can get very crowded, so you will want to get there early in the mo



Tourist Association of Ohrid Bilijana





Transportation

It is pretty easy to get around the Ohrid Prespa region. Buses and taxis are frequent, comfortable and relatively cheap.

How to get to Ohrid? The easiest way is from Skopje, where buses run every few hours. A bus from Skopje takes about 3 and a half hours and costs 450 MKD one way. If you are in Albania, you can take a bus from Tirana to the town of Struga, just North of Ohrid, and take a taxi for about 300 MKD. It's a little bit trickier to get to Ohrid from Greece. If you are in Thessaloniki, the easiest thing to do is take a train to Skopje and then hop on a bus to Ohrid. If you are in Greece and are a little more adventurous, you can take a taxi across the border at Florina and then take a bus from Bitola to Ohrid.

Buses. The Ohrid bus station is a few km outside of the center of town (about a 30 min walk). A taxi from the bus station to the center will cost between 40 and 80 MKD. In the summer, if you are traveling to Skopje from Ohrid, you will want to buy your ticket a day or two in advance.

Ohrid – Skopje. 05:00, 05:30, 07:30, 10:45, 12:15, 15:00, 17:45, 19:00

Skopje – Ohrid. 06:00, 08:00, 10:00, 14:00, 14:45, 15:30, 16:00, 16:30, 18:30

Ohrid - Sveti Naum 6:15, 8:30, 11:30, 13:30, 15:30, 18:30

Sveti Naum – Ohrid 7:00, 9:15, 12:15, 14:15, 16:15, 19:15

Tip: You must pick this bus up on the main boulevard through Ohrid across from the Maxi D or Tim Market supermarkets.

Ohrid – Resen 6:00, 7:00, 10:00, 12:20, 13:15, 15:30, 18:00

Resen – Ohrid. 7:20, 9:40, 10:30, 11:15, 14:00, 15:40, 16:40, 19:30, 20:00

Resen – Ljb 6:00, 9:00, 11:30, 14:30, 15:30

Ljubino – Resen 6:45, 9:45, 15:15, 16:15

Resen – Stenje/Otesevo. 6:20, 10:45, 15:00, 16:00

Stenje/Otesevo – Resen 6:50, 11:15, 15:30, 16:30

Taxis. Taxis are everywhere in Ohrid. When you get in for a short trip within the city, the meter should start at 30 MKD. However, prices do go up in the summer, so if you are going on a longer trip, be sure to negotiate the price before you go.



Macedonia and the Prespa Ohrid Region

Macedonia is a small land locked country in the hear of the Balkans. It borders, Albania, Kosovo, Serbia, Bulgaria and Greece, so any trip to south eastern Europe should take you through Macedonia. And if you are visiting Macedonia, Ohrid is the must see destination. Ohrid city, is located in the Prespa Ohrid region border both Greece and Albania and is very easy to get around.

Money. While in Macedonia, you will be spending the Macedonian Denar (MKD). 1 Euro = 61 MKD. There are many change office in Ohrid.

Phone. The country extension for Macedonia is ++389. In Macedonia, mobile phone numbers start with 07-something, and fixed lines have a different extension based on your location. In and around Ohrid, it will be 046 or 047. You can buy a sim card for around 200 MKD from local carriers.

Food. If you go to a restaurant you are likely to find fish, grilled meat, and various salads. There is a surprising variety of those items. If you are a vegetarian, *tavche gravche* is a bean dish that is usually meatless. *Ajvar* (red pepper spread) and *sirenje* (soft white cheese) are some Macedonians specialities you shouldn't miss. Like everyone where else in the Balkans, you can get *burek* (meat of cheese filled flaky pasty) for a cheap and quick meal, and in the summer there are outside grilled meat stands where you can grab something quick. If you are thirsty, there are two main Macedonian beers, *Skopsko* and *Dab*. While *Skopsko* is more popular, but many people think *Dab* is better.

Language. Most people in this part of Macedonia speak Macedonian, however you might run into some Albanian or Turkish as well. That said, you will be surprised how many people speak English. A lot of people also speak German. However, the further you get away from Ohrid city, the fewer people you will run into that potentially speak a language you know, so here is a quick lesson in Macedonian.

Hello - <i>Zdravo</i>	May I have... - <i>Mojhe...</i>	1 - <i>eden</i>	11 - <i>edenaecet</i>
How are you? - <i>Kako ste?</i>	coffe/one kilo of.../a ticket to... -	2 - <i>dve</i>	12 - <i>dvenaecet</i>
Thank you! - <i>Fala!</i>	<i>cafe/endo kilo.../karta za...</i>	3 - <i>tri</i>	20 - <i>dvaecet</i>
Yes - <i>Da</i> No - <i>Ne</i>	Do you have rooms? - <i>Dali imate sobi?</i>	4 - <i>chetri</i>	30 - <i>Triecet</i>
Where is the... - <i>Kade e...</i>	I want to go to - <i>Sakam da odam vo</i>	5 - <i>pet</i>	35 - <i>Triecet i pet</i>
bus station/store/restuarant -	I want to rent a room for ___ nights -	6 - <i>shes</i>	100 - <i>sto</i>
<i>avtobuska/prodavnica/restauran</i>	<i>Sakam da izdavam soba za ___ noka</i>	7 - <i>sedum</i>	200 - <i>dvesta</i>
When is the bus to...? -	I want to eat... - <i>Sakam da jadam...</i>	8 - <i>nedela</i>	300 - <i>tresta</i>
<i>Koga e avtobusot za</i>	I don't eat meat/dairy/fish -	9 - <i>devet</i>	400 - <i>chetersto</i>
How much is... - <i>Kolku e...</i>	<i>Ne jadam meso/melko/riba -</i>	10 - <i>deset</i>	500 - <i>Petsto</i>

more information at

www.beyondohrid.com

