



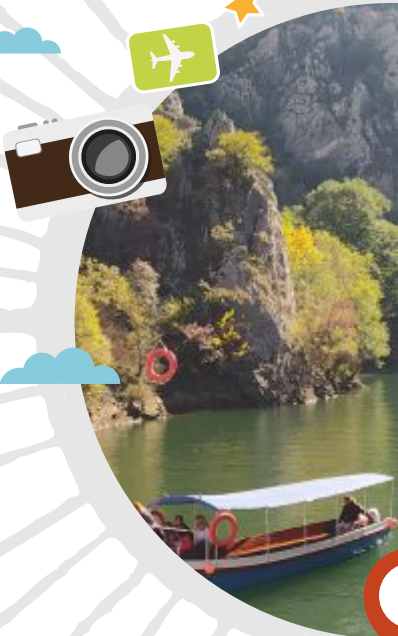
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SKOPJE

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Skopje

North Macedonia



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Old Bazaar

SKOPJE

The Old Bazaar in Skopje is a vibrant and historical part of the city, filled with cultural and commercial significance. Located in the area from “Stone Bridge” to “Bit-pazar” and from “Kale Fortress” to the river Serava, the bazaar is one of the biggest amenities of Skopje.

The area of the bazaar falls under the municipalities of Chair and Centar. It has a rich history dating back to the 12th century, when it was first documented as a shopping center. Today, the bazaar is known for its Ottoman architecture, with a mix of Byzantine and modernist architecture also present. Many of the buildings in the bazaar were originally used as lodgings for trade travelers or as baths for governors and governors in the city.



Today, these buildings have been repurposed and now serve as spaces for cultural and artistic events. The bazaar is an important cultural hub in Skopje, attracting locals and tourists alike.

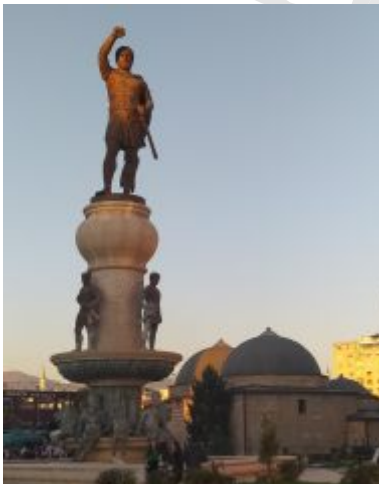
Visitors can explore the maze-like streets and alleys of the bazaar, filled with shops selling everything from traditional handicrafts and souvenirs to clothing and accessories. The bazaar is also home to many traditional restaurants and cafes, where visitors can enjoy authentic Macedonian cuisine and coffee.

One of the most famous landmarks in the bazaar is the Kapan Han. Built in the 15th century, it was originally used as a caravanserai for traveling merchants. Today, it has been restored and serves as a cultural center, hosting exhibitions, concerts, and other events.

The Old Bazaar also hosts several important religious sites. The Mustafa Pasha Mosque, built in the 15th century, is one of the oldest mosques in Skopje and is still in use today. The Daut Pasha Hamam, a Turkish bath built in the 15th century, has also been restored and now serves as an art gallery.



The Old Bazaar (in Macedonian, Stara Charshija) in Skopje is the largest bazaar in the Balkans outside Istanbul. It is situated on the eastern bank of the Vardar River, stretching from the Stone Bridge to the Bit-Pazar and from the Kale Fortress to the Serava River. Here you can drink a coffee prepared on hot sand and find the famous fresh squeezed pomegranate juice.






Kale Fortress

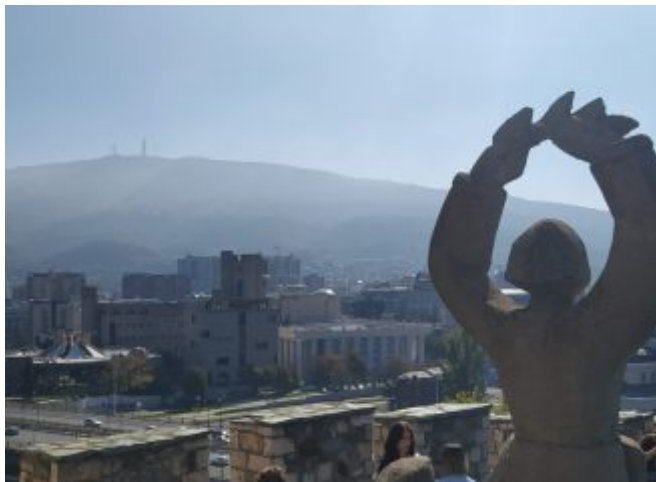
SKOPJE

Kale Fortress, also known as Skopje Fortress, is a historic landmark that has stood at the heart of Skopje, North Macedonia, for over 2,000 years. The fortress has played a vital role in the city's history, from ancient times to the present day.

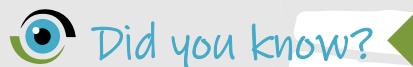
One of the most significant features of the fortress is its location on a hill that overlooks the Vardar River. This strategic position allowed the fortress to control the river and protect the city from invaders throughout its long history.

The fortress has undergone numerous transformations over the centuries, with each civilization that occupied it leaving its mark on the structure. The fortress's current appearance is largely the result of Ottoman-era renovations in the 17th century.





Today, the fortress is a popular tourist attraction, visitors from around the world come to explore its history and admire its architecture. The fortress' walls, ramparts, and towers offer stunning views of the city, making it a favorite spot for photographers and sightseers. Kale Fortress has undergone significant renovations in recent years, with the restoration of the fortress walls and the creation of new walking paths and public spaces. Kale Fortress is a testament to Skopje's rich history and enduring spirit.



The word "Kale" got origin from Turkish and it means "fortress" or "castle." Kale Fortress dates back to the 6th century, when it was built by the Byzantine Emperor Justinian I, which makes it the one of the oldest in the region of that kind.



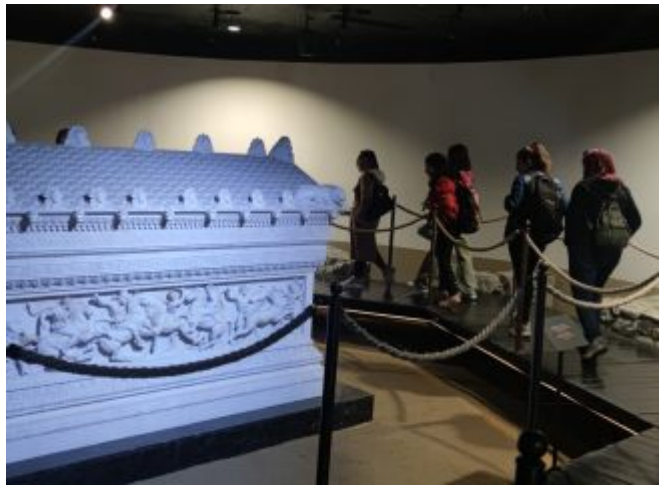
Archaeological Museum Skopje

SKOPJE

The Archaeological Museum of the Republic of North Macedonia sits directly along the River Vardar steps from the city's central square and the historic Stone Bridge. It displays over 7.000 valuable artifacts discovered through archaeological investigations throughout the entire territory of North Macedonia. Since 1924 this Museum is the most significant and the oldest museum institution in Macedonia.



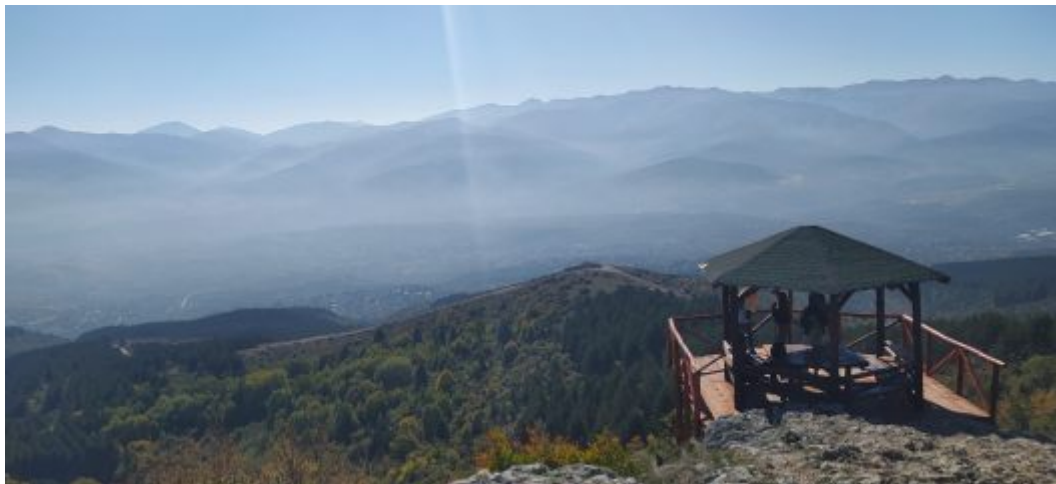
The visitors can enjoy the artifacts exhibited in the departments of: Prehistoric Archaeology, Antiquity, Medieval Archaeology, Numismatics, Anthropology and the Lapidarium. Large number of the displayed artifacts in this institution are exclusive worldwide.



The existing Culture and Cultural Heritage Laws register the largest part of this fund as a cultural heritage of particular importance. In 2015, the Archaeological Museum of the Republic of North Macedonia was placed among the 15 best museums in Europe, winning seventh place, according to the European Museum Academy.




Don't miss the guided tour in Skopje Archaeological Museum, you can learn a lot of interesting things. For example how important women were during the Neolithic, stories about the little female anthropomorphic figurines offered in the Medieval sanctuaries, what means rhombus in Albanian or how useful Coca Cola can be in case of poisoning or stomach problems.

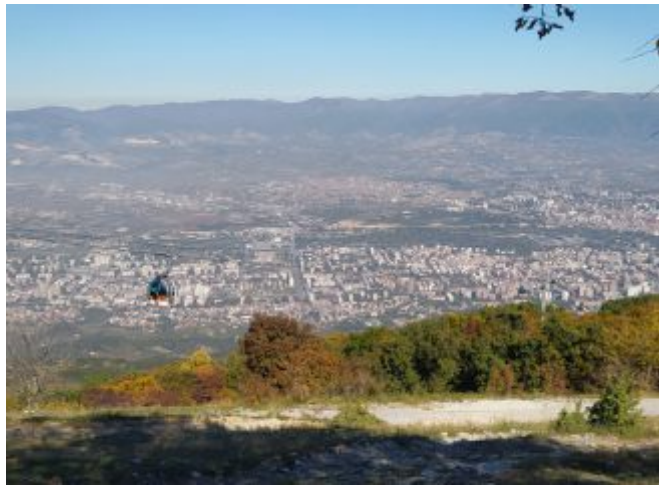


Skopje millennium cross

SKOPJE

One of the advantages of visiting Skopje is that it takes only several minutes to leave the urban jungle with all its malls, traffic jams, and crowded streets and get lost into the nature of the Vodno mountain forests. Vodno is a mountain located in the southwest part of the capital which could be reached in 30 minutes from the square in the city center by walking. 

The highest point of the mountain is the peak called “Krstovar” and it rises 1.066 meters above sea level. The Millennium Cross was built in 2002 to commemorate the 2,000th anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ. The cross stands at a height of 66 meters (216 feet), and is the tallest cross in Europe.




With a height that not only offers a magnificent panoramic view of Skopje but also makes the cross visible from all sides of the city, today the Millennium Cross is the symbol of the Macedonian capital. Entirely covered with lights, at night the cross is a true spectacle to behold. No cars are permitted after Sredno Vodno, so in order to reach the Skopje Millennium cross one should get the Vodno cable car or start a somewhat more demanding hike.

Needless to say, the view from the top of mount Vodno is mesmerizing, as it allows you a clear panoramic view of the entire city. Standing at the base of the Millennium cross, the view upwards is just as humbling as the panoramic postcard stretching from the left to right down below.



The Stone Bridge

SKOPJE

The Stone Bridge (Kamen most) is a historic and iconic bridge located in the city of Skopje, the capital of North Macedonia. It spans the Vardar River, connecting the old part of the city, known as the Old Bazaar, to the newer and more modern part of Skopje. The bridge serves as an important symbol of the city and is frequently featured in photographs and promotional materials. 

The Stone Bridge was constructed in the 15th century, during the reign of Sultan Mehmed II, also known as Mehmed the Conqueror. The exact date of its construction is not known, but it is believed to have been built between 1451 and 1469. The bridge is made up of 13 arches and is approximately 214 meters long and 6 meters wide.



It is primarily built of limestone blocks, giving it its characteristic appearance.

Throughout its history, the Stone Bridge has undergone several reconstructions and repairs due to natural disasters, such as floods and earthquakes, as well as human interventions. Despite this, the bridge remains an important piece of the city's cultural heritage and serves as a prominent landmark in Skopje.



The current visual look of the Stone Bridge is very close to the Ottoman architecture style, but, Stone Bridge was actually built on Roman foundations under the patronage of Sultan Mehmed II the Conqueror between 1451 and 1469.



City square / Warrior on a Horse

SKOPJE

Macedonia Square is the heart of Skopje. This vast square is located in the city center and is surrounded by several important buildings and landmarks that make it a popular gathering place for locals and tourists alike.




One of the most striking features in the Macedonian square is The Warrior statue, officially known as the "Warrior on a Horse". It is a massive equestrian statue depicting Alexander the Great, a famous historical figure in Macedonian history, riding a horse and wielding a sword. Standing at 22 meters (72 feet) tall, the statue is one of the largest statues in the world. The statue's cultural significance extends beyond North Macedonia, as it has become a symbol of the country's identity



and heritage. The Warrior statue is also illuminated at night, creating a dramatic and impressive sight that can be seen from many parts of the city.

In addition to the "Warrior on a Horse" monument, Macedonia Square is also home to several other impressive landmarks. One of these is the large fountain located at the center of the square - a popular spot for tourists to take photos and for locals to relax and enjoy the scenery.

 Did you know? 

Another landmark very near to Macedonia Square is the statue of Mother Teresa and the Memorial House dedicated to her life and work. Mother Teresa was born in Skopje in 1910 and she was baptized in this place one day after her birth.



Matka Canyon

SKOPJE

Vodno Matka Canyon is undoubtedly one of the most stunning natural attractions in North Macedonia. The canyon is located approximately 15 kilometers southwest of Skopje, and it stretches over 50 kilometers. This area boasts a beautiful mix of natural wonders, including the Treska River, lush vegetation, and beautiful waterfalls.

The Treska River flows through the canyon, carving a path through the rocky terrain and creating numerous waterfalls. One of the most famous waterfalls is the 15-meter high "Matka" waterfall, located at the entrance of the canyon. At the entrance you will see also Vodno Matka Dam, built-in 1938, a significant source of hydroelectric power for all the region.



Vodno Matka Canyon is home to over 77 species of birds, including golden eagles, peregrine falcons, and griffon vultures. Visitors to the canyon can observe these birds in their natural habitats, making it a popular spot for birdwatchers.

Hiking is one of the popular outdoor activities in the canyon, with numerous trails leading to different parts of the canyon. The hiking trails range from easy to challenging and offer stunning views of the canyon and the surrounding areas. There are also rock climbing routes that cater to both beginner and experienced climbers.

For those who love water activities, kayaking is a popular activity in the canyon. The Treska River has some rapids that are suitable for kayaking, providing visitors with an exhilarating experience.

One of the most significant attractions in the canyon is the Monastery of St. Andrew, which is built into the cliffs of the canyon and dates back to the 14th century. The monastery is a popular tourist attraction and is an excellent place to enjoy panoramic views of the canyon.

Vodno Matka Canyon is also known for its cave systems, including Vrelo Cave, which is considered one of the deepest underwater caves in the world. Visitors can take boat rides inside the cave and explore its depths.

The North Macedonian government has designated Vodno Matka Canyon as a protected area. In 2021, National Geographic named Vodno Matka Canyon as one of the top 25 must-see places in the world.

