



MONDAY 16th – TUESDAY 24th

**PILGRIMAGE
TO**

**NORTH
MACEDONIA**

**SEPTEMBER
2024**

FRIENDS OF MOUNT ATHOS





***St Jovan
Bigorski
Monastery***

Following the highly successful pilgrimages to France, Greece, Romania, Finland, Turkey, Egypt, the Black Sea, The Holy Land, Russia, Armenia, Georgia, Serbia and Bulgaria, the society is now organising a pilgrimage to North Macedonia. Our itinerary will take us to old and new monasteries and aside from these magnificent Christian monuments, we shall have the opportunity to savour the fine cuisine and wines of these territories, experience something of their cultures, and marvel at the astonishingly beautiful landscapes and scenery.

If you wish to participate in this event, please notify Dimitri Conomos, our team leader, as soon as possible at 5 Moreton Road, Oxford OX2 7AX (dimitri2609@gmail.com) by completing the form below and posting it together with a deposit of **£500** (which is part of the commitment price mentioned below) per person by 1 July 2024. Cheques should be made payable to the FRIENDS OF MT ATHOS PILGRIMAGE ACCOUNT. With restricted numbers the selection will be made on a first-come basis. The deposit is non-refundable.

It is incumbent on all delegates to have their own up-to-date travel insurance, as FOMA cannot be held responsible for any claims arising from accidents or other mishaps occurring on the pilgrimage.

Please notify Dimitri by email or telephone (07958 319375) that you have sent the deposit.



***St Naum
Monastery***



Itinerary

Monday 16 September – Tuesday 24 September 2024 (9 Days / 8 Nights)

Day 1 / Monday to Skopje:

Late afternoon meet and greet at 4* hotel Best Western Tourist in Skopje, for 3 nights. Dinner at hotel (D)

Day 2 / Tuesday - Skopje:

Walking tour of Old & New Skopje, covering Gate Macedonia, the Main Square with grand fountain of Alexander the Great, Mother Theresa Memorial House, Old Railway Station, House of Parliament, Stone Bridge, the Old Bazaar with the Ottoman Hammams and Inns, St Holly Salvation church and the Fortress Kale. Lunch. (B, L, D)

Day 3 / Wednesday - Staro Nagorichane and Lesnovo:

Full day excursion to visit the church of St George in the village of Staro Nagorichane, then continue to the towers and bridges of Kratovo. Lunch. Then continue to Lesnovo Monastery. (B, L, D)

Day 4 / Thursday - Stobi and Bitola:

Drive towards Bitola with stop to visit archaeological site, Ancient city of Stobi. Continue to Demir Kapija for a wine tasting and lunch at winery. Continue to Bitola and visit Heraclea Lyncestis, the most vividly preserved city from the ancient Macedonian empire, and further continue to Ohrid. Dinner and overnight at 4* hotel for 3 nights. (B, L, D)

Day 5 / Friday - Ohrid:

Walking tour of Ohrid including visits to the church of Sveti Bogorodica Perivpleta, the Icon Museum, Samoil's Fortress, the amphitheatre, the churches of St Clement - Plaosnik, St Jovan - Kaneo and St Sofia. Lunch. Free afternoon. Dinner at hotel. (B,L,D)

Day 6 / Saturday - Ohrid Lake and St Naum:

Leave towards the south of Ohrid lake to visit Ancient settlement on water – Bay of Bones, then continue to St Naum Monastery at the very south of Ohrid Lake, near Albanian border. Visit the church and lunch at a restaurant at St Naum complex and small boats tour to see the sources that feed the Ohrid Lake. Back to Ohrid in the afternoon. Free time. Dinner at restaurant – Traditional Macedonian Evening with folk dance show. (B, L, D)

Day 7 / Sunday - Mavrovo & Skopje:

Divine Liturgy in the morning. Drive towards Skopje to the National Park Mavrovo, visiting St. George, women's monastery and then the monastery of St Jovan Bigorski. Lunch in a restaurant. Continue to Skopje. Dinner and overnight at 4* hotel Best Western Tourist in Skopje for 2 nights. (B, L, D)

Day 8 / Monday - Gorno Nerezi and Skopje:

Visit of Canyon Matka and St Andrew church, boat tour to Vrelo cave in the canyon, then continue to visit St Pantelejmon at Gorno Nerezi. Lunch and then further continue to Marko's Monastery. Return to Skopje. Free afternoon. Dinner at hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 9 / Tuesday:

(B) Departure

FRIENDS OF MOUNT ATHOS



NORTH MACEDONIA 2024

Name(s):

Address:

Telephone, fax, email:

Signature(s):

Commitment

Price of the entire cost of the pilgrimage is **£2000**. Price does **not** include flight tickets which must be purchased independently by each pilgrim.

Price will include:

- Five nights at Best Western Tourist Hotel in Skopie.
- Three nights BB at 4* hotel in Ohrid.
- Lunches provided each day except first (arrival) and last (departure) day.
- One wine tasting with lunch at winery.
- Eight dinners except last day.
- Traditional Macedonian evening dinner with folk dance + aperitif.
- English speaking guide.
- A/C minibus.
- Bottled water on board.
- Boat tour to Vrelo Cave at Canyon Matla and boat tour to sources of Ohrid Lake at St Naum.
- Entrance tickets as per programme.

All taxes and VAT are included.

