



# Scent

Rural Beauty



*Senses are gates of our souls*



# Brajchino





The locals believe that during his visit to Macedonia, St. Paul the Apostle passed by on the one of the hills close the village of Babino. Maybe that's why this area is unusually blessed with so much potable water. Natural springs flow into Bezernichka River almost all the way to Crna Reka, where the river stops.

Visitors are also invited to quench a different kind of thirst – the thirst for enlightenment, since the biggest private library in Macedonia is located there, with a collection spanning three centuries. The sheer number of titles (some 25,000) is incredible, including rare editions in Persian, ancient Turkish, and Arabic. The oldest edition is the Arabic dictionary from 1307. The library is in an old traditional house, with an ethno-room open for viewing, while promotions, poetic readings, music concerts, and other events are hosted in a private amphitheater located in the garden. About 162 teachers originally come from Babino, ready to spread literacy all over Macedonia, right after the Second World War.

There is also a fish-pond by Bezernichka River where you can taste local fish specialties as well as few other types of traditional Macedonian food. The locals are skilled in wood processing, weaving, textile art, embroidering and other traditional skills. The longevity of the local population speaks to the natural wonders of this place. Many of the local people maintain beautiful, full head of hair, even into old age, supporting the belief that they have a secret remedy against reducing and weakening of the hair.



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Babino







**T**he village Ljubojno is a place with a rich spirit, history, and tradition, first mentioned in one Charter in 1337. It is situated approximately 2 km east of Prespa Lake, 920 meters above sea level. It lies on the western slopes of the gorgeous Baba Mountain, and Brajchina River flows by the village.

It is said that love protects this village, because the word love – ljubov is hidden in the root of its name.

Ljubojno is a mountainous village. It is a compact village with 350 houses, built very close to each other, separated by narrow streets. Most houses are adorned with finely carved stone and colorful facades with spacious balconies; the gardens are surrounded by high fences and wide gates. Everyone who visits Ljubojno will tell you that this village has a power to revitalize you.

The Region is rich with fruit, such as the delicious locally-grown apples. Their way of preservation is very special. They are kept in the so-called “apple hay”.

Another interesting aspect of Ljubojno is that it used to be an education centre. The first school built in the village was in the first half of the nineteenth century. With increased migration into this area, people started building churches. Today there are nine churches around the village, and the local people believe that they keep the village safe. Near, there are numerous sites with archeological importance.

All those who pass through Ljubojno and witness its magic, will carry the village in their hearts forever.



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**T**wenty-five kilometers from Kumanovo, at the foot of Ruen Mountain, on the right bank of Pchinja, the village Staro Nagorichane is found. This place has historical significance because Via Egnatia passed nearby. The stone path can still be visited.

The most important spiritual centre of the village is the church “St. George” built in the eleventh century, which has enormous importance and represents a wonderful example of the Middle Age Byzantine architecture. The cave of the hermit St. Prohor Pchinski is located above the church.

In particular places of the village many abandoned houses can be seen, which is a testament to the long history as well as an example of the old architecture. On the other hand, a large number of residential houses have been renovated and decorated with beautiful gardens and grassy areas with a lot of flowers.

If you go above Staro Nagorichane you can enjoy a walk through the pine trees. Zebernjak is located near the village, a memorial of the Kumanovo battle that took place in this area during the First World War, when Serbian troops were victorious. Not far away you will find the Kostoperska Rock, a well-known archeological site, where rock art has been discovered.

A few kilometers from the village, there is the mystical place called Svet Dab (Holy Oak), which among locals is known as a sacred place. Visitors often come here to meditate and practice yoga, and their experience shows that this place offers a strong field of positive energy.



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A photograph of a rustic building with a wooden balcony and hanging dried peppers. The building has a weathered, light-colored wall and a dark wooden door. A wooden balcony with a railing made of vertical slats is in the foreground. Three long strings of dried, red and yellow peppers hang from the ceiling of the balcony. The text "Staro Nagorichane" is written in a red, cursive font across the lower part of the image.

# Staro Nagorichane



One of the most unique places in Macedonia, especially for its location, is undoubtedly Lesnovo village. It is the only settlement in Macedonia that lies in an ancient volcanic crater. Lesnovo crater is a monument of nature and a geological rarity.

Lesnovo is one of the ancient villages of Macedonia. Through the centuries, this village has never changed its position. The population has been making mill stones of high-quality rocks for centuries. Due to its exceptional quality, these stones were delivered all over the Balkans. There are several cave churches in the area around the village.

Lesnovo was a place of refuge for the most important spiritual fathers of the Balkans in the Middle Ages, and four major hermits lived there (Jovan Rilski, Prohor Pehinski, Joakim Osogovski and Gavril Lesnovski). After reaching spiritual maturity, they left to spread their spirituality to other spaces. The works of the famous medieval Lesnovo Literary School are priceless and are on display in museums across Europe. This was the centre of the first monastic republic on the Balkans, between the tenth and fourteenth century.

Traditional houses in Lesnovo are built of stone and wood, with high balconies. It is said that Lesnovo has the tastiest lamb meat in the country, and the quality of yogurt and cheese is unsurpassed. Locally-produced mulberry and elderberry honey is yet another culinary attraction.

Climb up to one of the two observatories in Lesnovo and take in the wonderful view. Walking in this nature is one of the most beautiful experiences. A mystical force will always draw you to the magical Lesnovo, because one can rarely find such a blend of natural, cultural and spiritual values.

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Lesnovo







After the winding canyon of one of the most beautiful Macedonian rivers, Radika, one of the oldest villages is located in the region Miak - small, but incredibly picturesque village of Jance. The area of the village is only 4,8 km<sup>2</sup>, and rises at an altitude of 760 meters.

The parallel existence of the church and the mosque is just a proof of tolerance and coexistence through centuries for the villagers. The houses are cascadelly lined up and represent inextricably union with beautiful natural landscape. Their authentic appearance is due to the traditional architectural tradition nurtured hundreds of years.

The most meritorious person for the restoration of houses of this village is the expert and the Master Tefik Tefikoski with big experience, who except that retains the authentic look of the houses, in the restoration process uses only natural materials, mud, rock and wood, as were constructed Macedonian houses in the past.

The waterfall Dug, the monastery "St. John the Baptist", the small bridge Elen Skok, Tresonche River and glacial Lake Lokuv are nearby the village. Each year there is a festival of pie in the village, where skilled chefs gather from all the surrounding villages and compete to prepare the most delicious pie.

Even though you will be filled by the beauty of the nature and generously gifted nature and even though you will stare at the clear and fast Radika River, you must taste the tea, mountain herbs and the cheese of Mavrovo from unpasteurized milk. And, of course, to relax under the beautiful milkyway.

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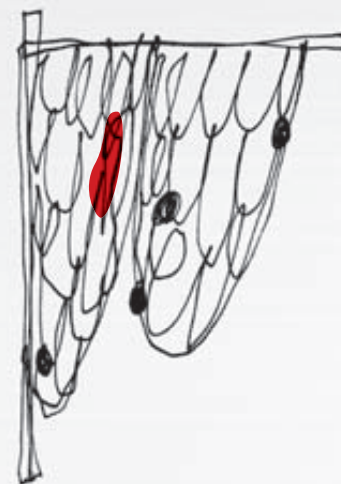






Janche





**T**rpejca is an old fishing village situated in a natural void between the rocks on the eastern shore of the stunning Lake Ohrid. This historical village is located on the road from Ohrid to the monastery of St. Naum.

You will especially love the intimacy that the village offers, in particular if you're a hiking enthusiast. You can appreciate the view from the surrounding mountains towards the pearly waters of Ohrid Lake.

Nearby village, you will notice the rural and peaceful life. The view of the lake opens before you after descending the innumerable stairs, almost as in a fairytale. As you finally descend to the beach – you come to realize that the stories were all true; Trpejca is an incredible place to visit.

The village is a mix of modern homes and traditional dwellings. Trpejca has a special spirit, and people are very hospitable. Do not forget to taste some of the specialties such as gjomleze, komat, trout, belvica, or fish stew. The Church of the Holy Mother of God of Zaum, the monastery of St. Naum, and the Bay of Bones, which is a museum and a prehistoric settlement, are very near Trpejca.

Several houses are located on the shore of the lake. The small village beach is sprinkled with small white stones and it's only 200 feet long. The water is perfectly clear and pleasant for swimming. There you will feel a certain special atmosphere and a different type of climate. The amazing view of the lake in the late afternoon will immediately clarify why the locals and their guests celebrate the arrival of summer every year with the unique Festival of the Sunset.

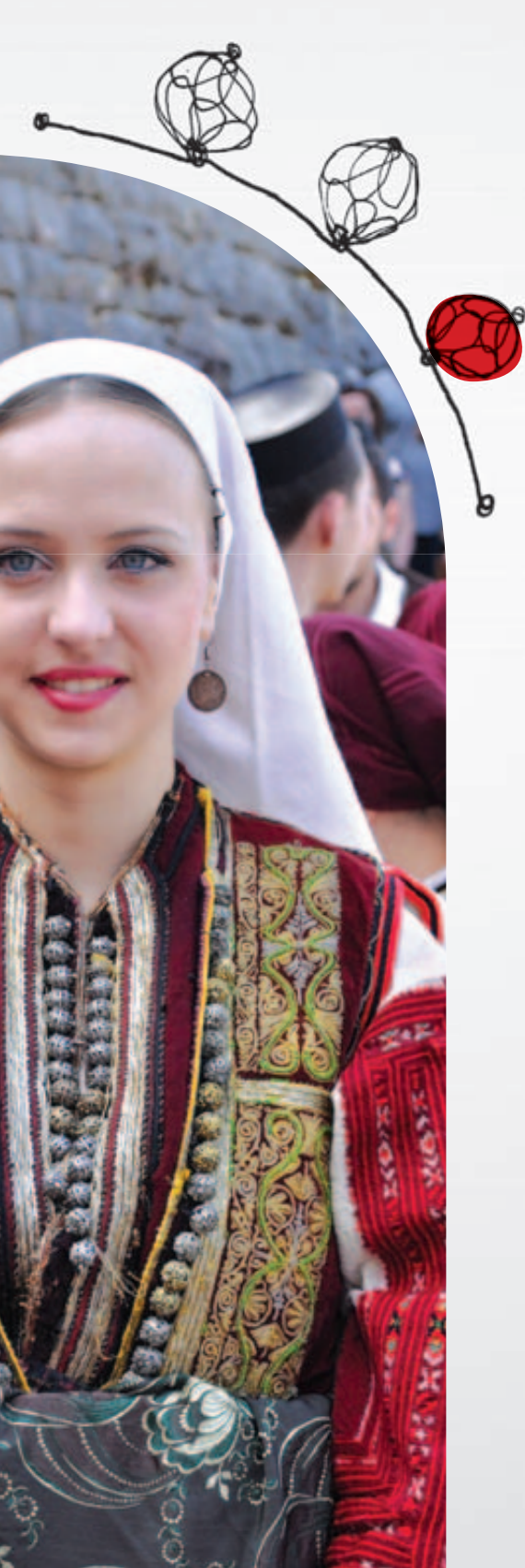
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Impeica





*The Buckle of Galichnik — an ornament that even today, as in the past, is worn as a part of the popular bridal dress at Galichnik wedding.*



One of the most beautiful mountain villages, widely famous for its lush pastures, beautiful white and yellow cheese, as well as the excellent masons and builders, is located on the slopes of Bistra, in the heart of the Miyak area. The interesting location of Galichnik at an altitude of about 1400 meters above sea level is complemented by the authentic look of the houses.

The art of building in this region is known throughout many European capitals. The architecture of Galichnik is preserved, old stone houses are restored, and new houses are built in a traditional spirit. The houses consist of two and three levels, and their present appearance dates from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Galichnik dates from the tenth century. It is considered that in the past it was a settlement for rangers. Stockbreeding was the main activity in the village, but today Galichnik is full of people only in summer, when displaced residents return to the village to avoid the summer heat. In July, the traditional Galichnik wedding customs are maintained.

Besides the authentic architecture and the rich cultural heritage, Galichnik represents an unforgettable experience where you can still find herds wild horses running on the slopes. The Mediterranean climate gives this place a special richness; winters can be very sharp and the snow can last until May. During the spring and summer, the view of the surroundings is breathtaking and makes you admire the masterpieces of nature and of skilled builders' hands.



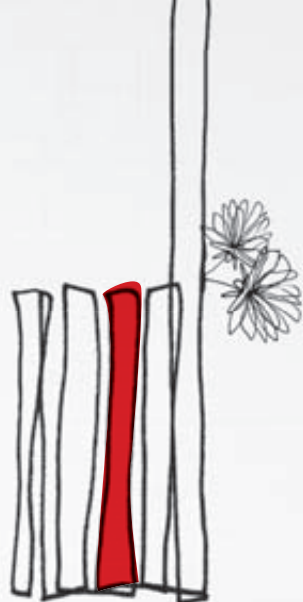
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# Galichnik





In Vevchani almost everything is built around water. The village has so much water that you may think that you've found yourself in rural Venice. Vevchani is mentioned as a rural settlement since the end of the 9th century, when it was first developed.

It is located at the foot of Jablanica, at a distance of 14 kilometers from Struga. This field is divided into Gorno and Dolno Maalo (Upper and Lower neighborhood), with an altitude that ranges from 830 to 960 meters above sea level, with surroundings that cover an area of about 35 km<sup>2</sup>.

Vevchani abounds with charm and the feel of a quaint city and, as always, exists as a symbol of independence and equality for all its citizens. Even nowadays it declares itself as a state within a state.

When you visit Vevchani, you must visit the so-called Vevchani Springs, which represents a monument of nature. The main spring is found in the mouth of a cave, and others are located below that merge with the main source deep under the ground. This spiritual place is characterized by the Church of St. Nicholas where Easter and Christmas holidays are celebrated. Vevchani claims the memorial house of the physicist Michael Pupin, who once lived here.

During the walk to the springs via the arranged tracks and bridges, in addition to numerous chapels, you will feel the spirit of the place, which you will truly experience when you decide to become a part of the traditional pagan Vevchani Carnival, which is believed to have existed for 1400 years.

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Nevchani





*Filigree technique - art craft with a long tradition in Macedonia, considered as one of the most sophisticated and oldest techniques of metal processing. Successful filigree requires a thousand carats silver and processed precious stones are incorporated in it.*



**I**n the western part of Pelagonija, some 5 km from Bitola, is the village Krklino. Flatlands extend to the east, and Mt. Oblakovska rises to the west.

If you are a fan of equestrian sports, you can visit the Hippodrome in the village, where there is a paddock of racehorses. This resort offers beautiful conditions for the timeless pleasure of riding in nature.

Krklino is the only village in Macedonia that possesses an “Auto Salon” or a collection of repaired vehicles and engines. It is an Auto-Ethno Museum, which consists of two floors. On the first floor there are several old models, as well as a collection of motorcycles. The oldest car is a Citroën from 1925.

On the top floor of the museum there are rooms in various styles including rural, urban, and Jewish rooms and a shop offering antiques such as everyday household items, weapons including the Austrian short rifle, swords and knives, as well as musical instruments, like an organ that is over 200 years old, and folk costumes from Bitola.

The Auto-Ethno Museum is a rare treasure in a traditional rural setting – an unusual contrast that you must experience.



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# Krkolino





*The iconostasis in the church "St. Spas" - the ultimate achievement of woodcarving art from the early 19th century, with rich content, which interweaves several artistic styles.*

Lazaropole is the second largest village in the Mala Reka area and also one of the highest settlements in this region. It is located among the natural surroundings of the Bistra plateau at an altitude of 1350 meters, secluded from the rest of the world.

This village has particularly skilled carvers, icon painters, and masons-builders, many of whom went to work abroad. Lazaropole is home to the first church built in Mala Reka during the Ottoman occupation. The Church of "St. George" was consecrated in 1841. Its interior is the first independent work of the famous Dicho Zograf.

This village is the only place in Macedonia where the wild rose of Lazaropole grows. Lazaropole is a great area for mountain biking, horse riding, paragliding or simply enjoying nature and the unique architecture. For the bravest and most capable, there is an opportunity to visit the famous cave Kalina Dupka (Kalina Hole). One must climb carefully, and if you want to go inside, adequate equipment and company is necessary.

The most beautiful period to visit Lazaropole is in late spring when the colors of nature will fill you with peace, and the aroma of local herbs will entice you for a walk in the nearby woods or on the plateau that leads to the mountain heights of Bistra. Summers are fresh and winters are temperate, but the view is always magical - so it is impossible to choose the wrong time to visit Lazaropole.



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Lazaropole





**K**oleshino is located in the foot of Mt. Belasica, in the south east part of Macedonia, near the city of Strumica. This village fascinates, especially with its aquatic splendor.

The past and present live together in Koleshino. This area still keeps the distant memory of the battle of Belasica in 1014. There is a legend that the village got its name from the slaughter (kolenje) in which many of Tsar Samuil's soldiers were lost.

Villagers here are known as good farmers. This region is famous for its melons and peanuts, but there are also excellent conditions for growing kiwi and blueberries.

Koleshino has always been inspiring for itinerary writers and other travelers. This place is an interesting destination because it is a testament of coexistence. It is widely known that there are four temples of different religions in Koleshino. In this small area, the main mark is the religious diversity that exists in the peaceful, friendly community, and some holidays, like Christmas, are celebrated together. This is a testament to the fact that in this village, besides the natural beauty, there is also a real interpersonal harmony.



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# Koleshino





The fishing village of Radozhda is located in the south-western part of Macedonia, characterized by tranquility, peaceful life, and gentle people. This beautiful village with a long history and rich spiritual life will provide pleasurable moments and complete comfort. All you need to do is surrender to the sounds of nature and smooth waves of Ohrid Lake which lies alongside Radozhda.

Situated at the foot of the rocky reef, the village has several cultural and natural landmarks, and seven holy temples are located in its surroundings. The cave church of the Holy Archangel Michael is located deep in the rocks, at the entrance to the village.

A stay in the village will open your appetite, especially after you try the locally prepared fish.

As soon as you enter and absorb the beauty of Radozhda, where the sunset and the sunrise have special colour and offer a peaceful and calming experience, a special sense of intimacy will find a place in your soul; you may want to keep the village just for yourself, as a secret that will live forever in your memories so that you may always return to the stunning turquoise blue of the lake.



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Radosthla





**M**ariovo is a historical, cultural and naturally rich region. It is one of the most vivid regions in Macedonia, with incredible landscapes of a priceless, natural beauty. The villages Manastir and Vitolishta are part of the Mariovo region.

Manastir is in the central part of Mariovo, down the valley of the river Crna Reka. The village is hilly and at a height of 690 meters above sea level. The biggest part of the area is characterized by pastures, and barely any woodland. Near the picturesque canyons of Crna Reka is the monastery of St. Nicholas which dates from the 11th century.

The village Vitolishta is located 46 kilometers from the town Prilep. It is at a height of 830 meters above sea level. This village was described by one of the best known Macedonian writers, Stale Popov, who has origins in this village.

Vitolishta is on Mt. Kozjak. It has numerous cultural and historical monuments, churches, and monasteries with impressive frescoes and a rich tradition. The village is also known for the Mariovo hard white cheese.

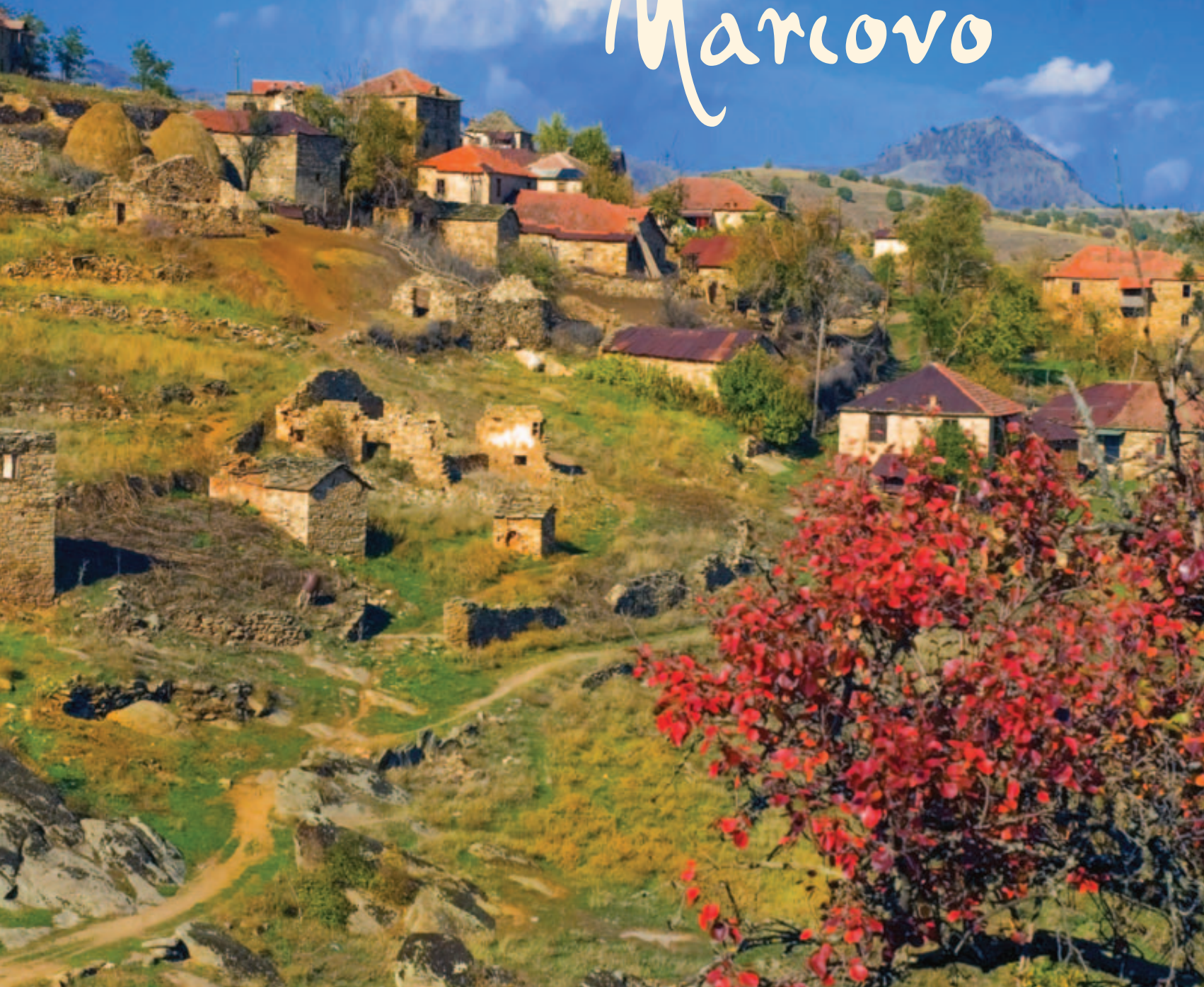
The rural region of Mariovo is one of the most unique areas in the country – it surely deserves a visit so you can start appreciating it.



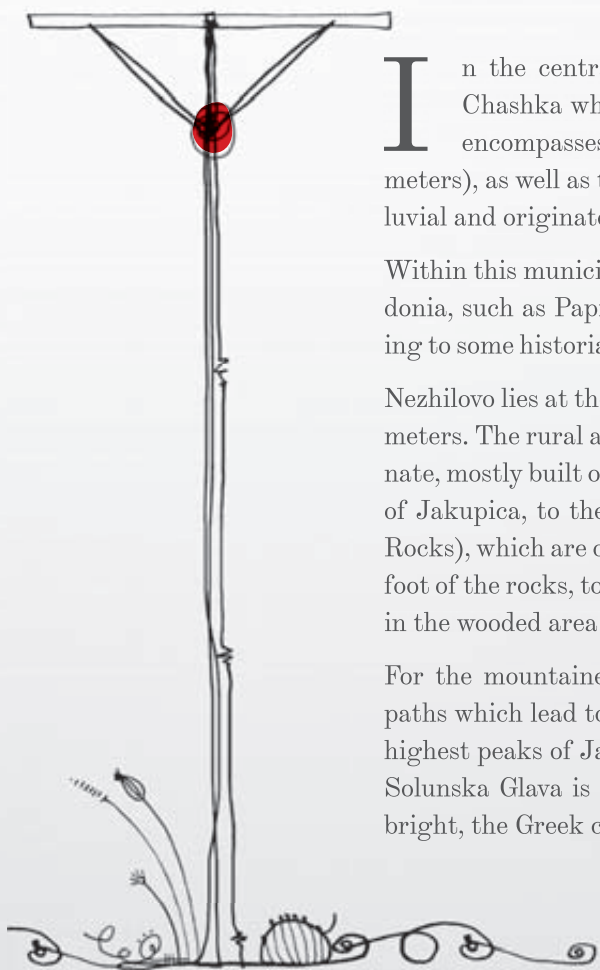
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# Mariovo







In the central part of Macedonia there is a rural municipality called Chashka which has an excellent geographic position. This municipality encompasses the highest peak of Mt. Jakupica, Solunska Glava (2,450 meters), as well as the attractive Babuna and Topolka rivers. The valleys are alluvial and originate from the rivers' drifts.

Within this municipality there are some of the most beautiful villages in Macedonia, such as Papradishta, Nezhilovo, Teovo, Vranovci and Bogomila; according to some historians, the "Bogomil movement" has its origins in these villages.

Nezhilovo lies at the foot of Jakupica, in the valley of Babuna, at a height of 700 meters. The rural architecture will thrill you, where houses made of rocks dominate, mostly built on two levels, and you may also admire the huge rocky sections of Jakupica, to the North of the village, named Nezhilovski Karpi (Nezhilovo Rocks), which are over hundred meters in height. One may choose to walk at the foot of the rocks, to the spring of Babuna and the most delightful falls, or to rest in the wooded area covered in oak and beech trees.

For the mountaineers, the biggest joy is the mountain and the recreational paths which lead to "Cheples" Mountain House, the spring of Babuna, and the highest peaks of Jakupica. For the most physically prepared visitors, hiking to Solunska Glava is an inevitable must, because, as the story goes, if the day is bright, the Greek city of Thessaloniki can be seen from there.

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Chashka





Near the village of Gorno Nerezi, on the hills of Vodno, the estate known as “Macedonian Village” can be found. There, several authentic houses constructed consistent with the old architecture from several regions in the country can be found. This unique ethno-cultural presentation of Macedonia is only 7 kilometers from Skopje.

The houses have stylish features from the regions of Berovo, Delchevo, Kratovo, Kumanovo, Skopje, Strumica, Galichnik, Reka, Polog, Veles, Prilep and Bitola, and are authentically constructed according to traditional plans. Their interior is furnished according to the old way of living.

The estate houses an old-fashioned inn, an amphitheatre, a watermill with an old-fashioned fountain, a rolling mill, a pen, a barn with a fish pond close by, as well as a cobblestone path that winds through the village. Here, visitors can see tobacco machines, forges, weaving mills, pottery, some filigree art, a wine cellar, and barrel shops. If they want to sleep over, visitors will be accommodated in the old-fashioned houses which have sound and thermal isolation. And of course, guests can enjoy the taste of authentic food.

If one does not have sufficient time to explore the entire territory and history of Macedonia, then this estate is a must-see place.



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Estate  
“Macedonian Village”





# Caption

1. STARO NAGORICHANE \*
2. THE ESTATE „MACEDONIAN VILLAGE“ (Gorno Ner-ezi, Skopje)\*
3. IZVOR (Veles)  
Known for the natural spring, which in winter flows with hot water and cold water in summer
4. CHASHKA\*
5. LESHOK (Tetovo)  
A village in the Polog valley, known for its picturesque nature and Leshok Monastery,
6. JELOVJANE (Tetovo)  
Situated on the eastern slopes of Mt. Shara at 1,210 meters above sea level.
7. JANCE (Mavrovo-Rostushe)\*
8. GALICHNIK (Mavrovo-Rostushe)\*
9. TRESONCHE (Mavrovo-Rostushe)  
One of the oldest villages in Macedonia, situated in the heart of Mt. Bistra.
10. LAZAROPOLE (Mavrovo-Rostushe)\*
11. GARI (Debar)  
A village in Mala Reka with beautiful mountain landscape and clean air. Known for woodcarvers.
12. VEVCHANI\*
13. TRPEJCA (Ohrid)\*
14. RADOZHDA (Struga)\*
15. KALISHTA (Struga)  
A village by Ohrid Lake known for the cave church dedicated to the Nativity of the Holy Mother of God..
16. LJUBOJNO (Prespa)\*
17. BRAJCHINO (Prespa)\*
18. KRKLINO (Bitola)\*
19. MANASTIR AND VITOLISHTA (Mariovo)\*
20. BABINO (Demir Hisar)\*
21. MONOSPITOVO (Strumica)  
A village in the southeastern part of Macedonia, with beautiful natural beauty known for the Monospitovo swamp.
22. KOLESHINO (Strumica)\*
23. ZRNOVCI (Kochani)  
A village with fertile cultivated land, favorable climate and a rich history, where apparently Alexander the Great and his phalanx prepared for further conquests.
24. SPANCHEVO (Kochani)  
A picturesque village where an Eneolithic settlement from 4000 year B.C can be found nearby.
25. GORNO GRATCHE (Kochani)  
A hilly and mountainous village near Kochani Lake.
26. MORODVIZ (Kochani)  
The village where Cyril and Methodius stayed during the Bregalnica mission, with an archaeological site nearby.
27. PALJURCI (Bogdanci)  
The village that St. Paul the Apostle passed through during his journey in Macedonia.
28. MARVINCI (Valandovo)  
A beautiful village, known for the archaeological site Sred Selo.
29. KONOPISHTE (Kavadarci)  
A village known for the plant div konop (Wild Hemp), intact nature and its water quality.
30. KLISURA (Demir Kapija)
31. LESNOVO (Probishtip)\*

\*Find more on these sites in the brochure.





We are all human,  
and our senses are  
quicker to prompt  
us than our reason. Every man  
gives off a scent, and that scent  
tells you how to act before your  
head does.

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn





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