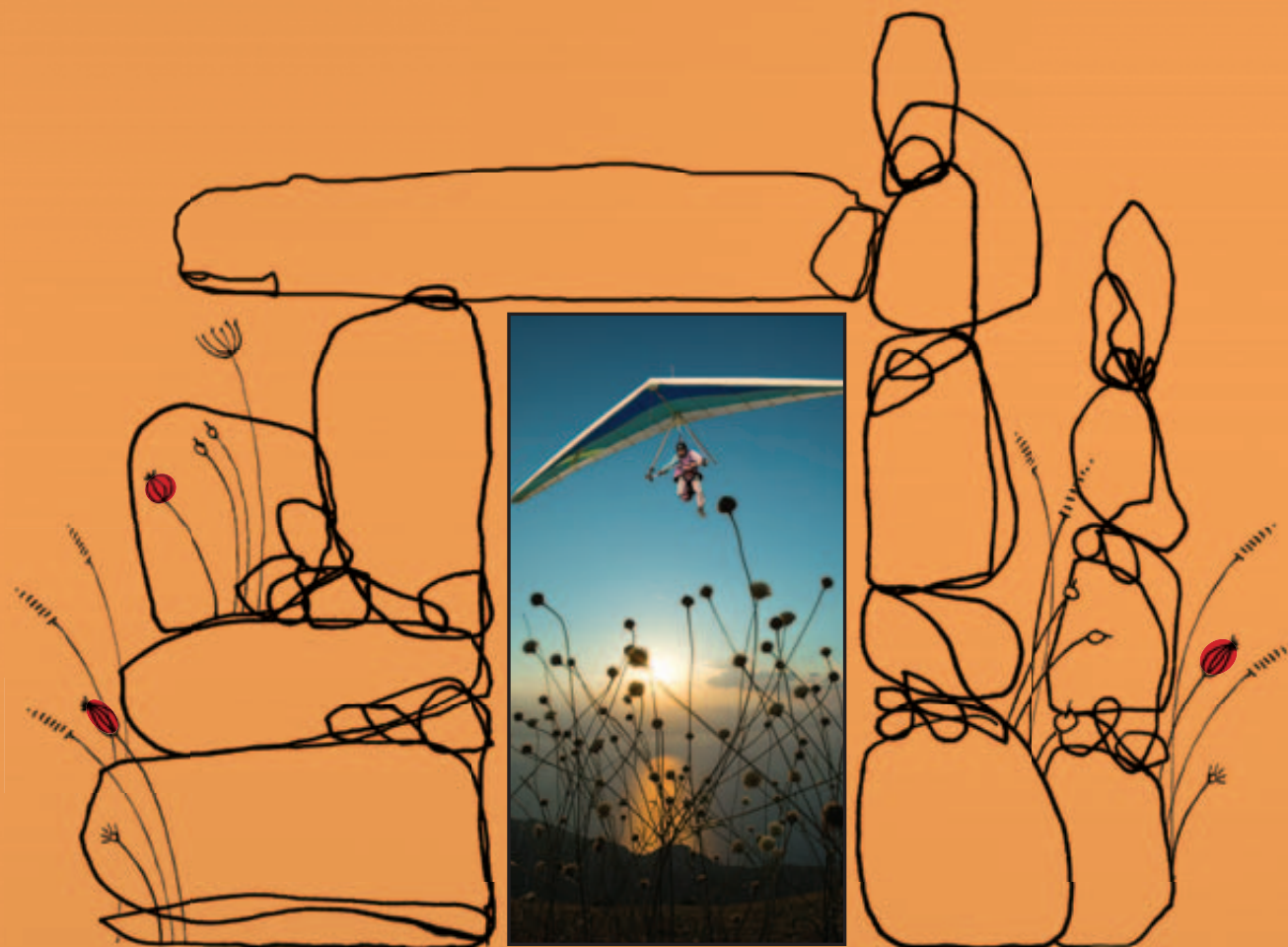




Sight

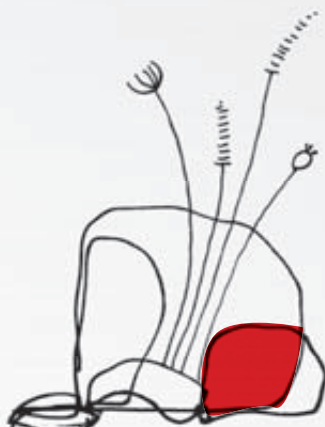
Nature and Adventure



Senses are gates of our souls

Kuklici





Canyon Matka is one of the most recognizable and magnificent areas in Macedonia. It is located just 15 kilometers from the capital and is a popular place for weekend recreation.

This natural canyon of the Treska River is characterized by specific shapes, different reliefs, steep slopes and vertical rocky massifs. Canyon Matka has always attracted a large number of nature lovers and researchers, because it is a natural reserve of rare animal species (such as white-headed eagles and 15 species of butterflies that live only on this site) and endemic species of plants and herbs.

The Speleological Park is one of the most fascinating in Europe. Dozens of caves are located in this area in length from 20 to 176 meters. The most remarkable is the underground cave Vrelo that is rich in stalactites, where we can find two lakes. A huge cone-shaped stalagmite dominates, after accruing for 2700 years. At 212 meters deep, Vrelo Cave is the deepest underwater cave in the Balkans, and second deepest in Europe. The depth is still not fully discovered and remains subject to examination.

All fans of extreme sports have an opportunity to enjoy climbing and alpinism or kayaking in the wild waters. Right here on the path of Treska River, the World Cup in kayak on wild water took place in 1975. Everybody, without exception, can enjoy a tour on a small rowboat on the oldest artificial lake in Macedonia, admiring the four churches and monasteries.

In Canyon Matka a lot of paths intertwine and are connected, so it's easy to reach your desired destination. At Matka, you can only get lost in dreams, fantasies and breath.



find more at www.macedonia-timeless.com

Matka





The most beautiful piece of nature in Macedonia is located forty kilometers from Skopje - the natural reserve Jasen. These several thousand acres of untouched nature are characterized by a heterogeneous landscape.

Jasen represents a multipurpose area that was established for the protection of flora and fauna. A diversity of nature exists in mountain peaks, high hills and deep steep downhill. A wonderful view opens from every area. This natural rarity is a gift for photographers, hikers, cyclists and paragliders.

The artificial lake Kozjak extends in the area of Jasen on the river Treska, rich in fish and the environment is distinguished by beautiful natural areas perfect for relaxation.

If are lucky and careful, you can find deer. The river Ocha, which flows into Lake Kozjak, is a daily watering place for many wild animals. Do not forget to visit the place Urnat Kamen (Crushed Stone), which opens to a wonderful horizon. The mountain path which leads to this place is named as one of the most beautiful in Macedonia.

The exclusivity of Jasen speaks to the fact that in the past this place has been only for privileged senior officials. Today it is available for everyone. You can visit with an organized tour or accompanied by the rangers, just for a one-day trip or for a multi-day vacation.

find more at www.macedonia-timeless.com

A high-angle, wide shot of a deep mountain valley. In the center, a large, calm lake reflects the light from a sky filled with heavy, dark clouds. Sunbeams (crepuscular rays) break through the clouds, illuminating the lake and the surrounding green, forested slopes. The foreground shows steep, rocky hillsides with patches of green and brown vegetation. A winding road is visible on the left, and another path or road is on the right. The overall mood is majestic and somewhat somber due to the stormy weather.

Jasen



The tourist center Popova Shapka is situated in the heart of Shara massif, at an average altitude of 1700 meters.

It is characterized by a large number of sunny days in summer. That's why it is a starting place for several mountain climbs and walks in picturesque landscapes and is also ideal terrain for cyclists. Every summer the mountain bike marathon "Sharski Vodi" is held here. Popova Shapka has an abundance of berries, blueberries, wild strawberries and mushrooms, and in its surroundings there are several glacial lakes.

The most characteristic feature of Popova Shapka is that half of the year it is covered with snow. Here the snow falls from November to May and with its calming beauty invites all winter sports lovers to come.

Beautiful ski terrains with 35 km² surface decorate this oldest and most famous winter sports and recreation center in Macedonia. Popova Shapka has several ski trails, three homogenized paths according to the standards of FIS, two funiculars and nine ski lifts with a capacity of 8000 skiers per hour. Lately, more and more fans of snowboarding and extreme skiing are visiting Shapka. On these trails the traditional Sharplaninski Cup in giant slalom and slalom is held.

Whether you are a professional or just a visitor, ski trails with length of about 10 km will be a real reason for enjoying the snow.



find more at www.macedonia-timeless.com

Popova Shapka





Apollo butterfly - one of the most beautiful butterflies that we can find in Macedonia. Member of the family Papilionidae, and often found in high mountain areas.

Every season has its own fairytale in National Park Mavrovo. That's why it is a perfect destination in the summer and winter.

The park area is 73,088 hectares and it is rich in endemic plant species and 82 protected animal species. The terrain offers a wonderful opportunity to explore while riding a horse or bicycle on mountain trails. The slopes of surrounding mountains offer the possibility for camping and long walks.

Natural treasures call you at every step. Mavrovo has 30 picturesque caves, including the cave Sharkova Dupka near Rostushe. Lokuv, the highest glacial lake in Macedonia is located in Mavrovo. The colorful canyon of the magnificent river Radika gives a special beauty to the park. Many gorges, steep sections, different shaped rocks and waterfalls make the landscape of Mavrovo very different and specific.

The trademark of the region is the inundated Church of St. Nicholas in the artificial Mavrovo Lake. Mavrovo Lake is convenient for visitors throughout the entire year - in summer for swimming and in winter, when it freezes, for skating.

The winter in Mavrovo is magical. You can visit Bunec, the city of snow and go skiing. All wonderful paths on Mt. Bistra will wake up the sport spirit in you and the field will offer a unique opportunity for night skiing.

Once you visit Mavrovo, it will capture your heart, just like a fairytale.

find more at www.macedonia-timeless.com



Mavrovo





You need only to take a look at the mountain range Korab to feel the challenge to climb and tame his grandiose appearance. The highest point in Macedonia is on Mt. Korab – the peak Golem Korab (2,764 meters). Climbing this or other peaks represents a unique adventure where you have the feeling that you can touch the sky.

According to many people, Mt. Korab is the most beautiful relief in Macedonia; therefore, it is also part of the Mavrovo National Park. Korab is also the highest mountain on this territory, rich in alpine flora, but there are also an additional 52 peaks higher than 2,000 meters.

The hills on Korab are very steep, and in some places there are vertical cliffs hundreds of meters high. One third of the mountain is rich with deciduous forest, and half of the alpine zone is composed of pastures.

It is rich in fast flowing streams and rivers that weave through canyons and valleys. The highest and most attractive river is the Dlaboka River (Deep River), which features a waterfall that is 130 meters high, making it the highest in the Balkans. The waterfall can be seen clearly from a distance in spring and summer, but in winter it is frozen.

The glacial lakes give additional beauty to the mountain. Mt. Korab is decorated with eight permanent lakes. The biggest is Korab Lake, located at an altitude of 2,470 meters, which is the highest water surface in Macedonia - a real mountain pearl.

find more at www.macedonia-timeless.com



Korab





One of nature's most beautiful gifts in Europe is Ohrid Lake and its surroundings. From a distance you can see how calm it is, hear its waves and stare at the endless blue color. It is easy to fall in love with Ohrid Lake.

Ohrid Lake is between 4 and 10 million years old, making it the oldest on our continent. At first sight you may be confused by its size, thinking it's a sea. The surface is 358.2 km².

The lake is characterized by underwater springs and sources along the east and south coast, which is why the water is incredibly clear. The underwater visibility in some places is 22 meters. Most of the springs on the surface are at the St. Naum Monastery; very close to the city of Ohrid are the most famous springs at Studenchishta, known as Biljanini Izvori.

More than 200 endemic species live in the lake and some of them haven't changed from the Tertiary time. These endemic species include four types of sponges, including the famous round sponge, relict species of snails, relict species of algae, and the unique underwater plant called "hara".

Ohrid Lake is in fact the biggest sport field in Macedonia. It is an ideal place to organize swimming competitions and regattas. Sailing is one of the oldest sports on the lake and the first glider was made in 1940.

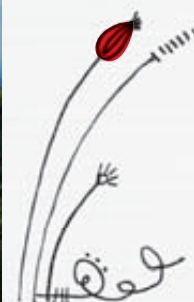
Join together with the wind and let it be your guide and driving force through the waves of one of the oldest and most beautiful lakes in the world.

find more at www.macedonia-timeless.com



Orinid Lake





In the southwest part of Macedonia, the wonderful Mt. Galichica is situated between Ohrid and Prespa lakes. One part of the mountain is a national park, and along with the city of Ohrid and Ohrid Lake is protected by UNESCO.

It is interesting that Galichica is craggy mountain and that's why it has very little surface water, but it receives a large quantity of annual rainfall. This results in a lot of relict plants, 11 species of endemic flora and 26 species of endemic animals. The number of butterflies is especially surprising and is truly enormous for such a small area.

Nature lovers and mountaineers can admire the impressive glacial cirques, the caves of Volja, Naum and Samotska Dupka, the latter being the biggest with a canal of 279 meters. The most attractive path you can choose is the one that goes over the mountain, connecting the Ohrid and Prespa regions. If you take a walk or ride a bicycle on the asphalt road, you will reach the central part at a height of 1,550 meters. Here you will discover the most beautiful view because the two lakes, Ohrid Lake and Prespa Lake are just in front of you. For brave mountaineers, the real challenge is Magaro Peak, and for brave paragliders, Mt. Galichica is the real destination.

find more at www.macedonia-timeless.com



A silhouette of a person stands on a dark, rocky hillside, looking out over a body of water at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright reflection on the water and a lens flare effect. A hang glider is visible in the sky, flying towards the right. The sky is filled with scattered white clouds. In the distance, a small flag is visible on a pole. The word "Galichica" is written in a white, cursive font across the lower part of the image.

Galichica



Prespa Lake, which was created in the time of Pliocene, is one of the clearest lakes in the world. Its surface is 276.7 km² and it sits at an altitude of 853 meters. It is interesting that the level of the water oscillates. The lake is losing its water because of the limestone structure of Mt. Galichica and it flows into Ohrid Lake at St. Naum and Biljanini Izvori. The lake gets water from underwater sources and several rivers that flow into it.

The environment is rich with endemic bird species. There are herons, gulls and the little grebe in its shallow waters.

The only island in Macedonia – the Island of Golem Grad, is in Prespa Lake. It is 750 meters long and 450 meters wide. It represents a natural rarity and is a reserve of rare plants and unique flora and animal species. It is known as Zmiski Ostrov (the Island of Snakes) because there are a lot of water snakes, grass snakes, and the toxic *Vipera ammodytes*, which can be found on the upper side of the island. The island can be reached from two sides, where there are cracks in the rocks. Pelicans live there for six months of the year, but cormorants are most numerous as the island is an ideal place for breeding. Foya (a kind of pine tree) grows on the island, and its semi-dry stems are older than a thousand years. In the past, traditional boats were made of this tree.

Prespa region is characterized by many sunny days and on the coast of Prespa Lake there are several beautiful sand beaches. Here you are surrounded with mountains lush with rich vegetation. The mountains combined with the clear lake will move you, continuously inviting you to swim and relax.

find more at www.macedonia-timeless.com





Prespa Lake



Macedonian ruby — a significant national jewel, which has a unique range of colors and shades. It has a specific raspberry-pink color and on the scale of precious stones stands at the top of its importance. It is often incorporated into the handmade filigree.

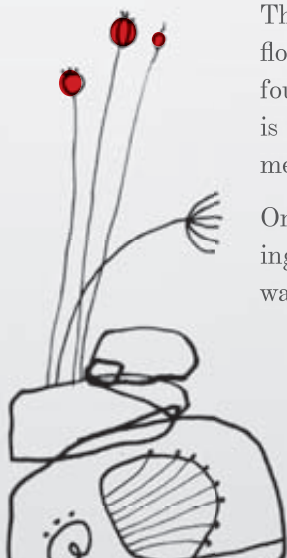
Pelister National Park is the oldest in Macedonia. The 12,500 hectare park is located in the southwestern part of the country, on the north side of Mt. Baba. The park got its name from the highest peak of the mountain, Pelister, which has an altitude of 2,601 meters. Baba is the southernmost alpine mountain in the Balkans.

This mountain is considered to be the most docile and calm mountain in Macedonia and offers unique pleasures and relaxation for everyone. The surrounding area is wonderful for mountain climbing, alpinism and sports. It is a challenge to get to know the mountain during every season. The field is rich in natural phenomena, unusual structural characteristics and specific geological constructions such as rivers and lakes filled with stones, sharp rocky reefs, stone rings and grassy terraces.

Two glacial lakes, the Big and the Small Lake, known as Pelister Eyes, are two kilometers apart and are the perfect place for resting. The endemic Pelister trout (*Salmo trutta peristericus*) and Pelagonian trout (*Salmo trutta pelagicus*) live in Pelister lakes.

The mountain vegetation is extraordinary and extremely rich and the flora is diverse. Twenty-nine percent of Macedonia's total flora can be found in Pelister. The most valued tree is the unique Molika tree, which is an autochthonous pine from the Tertiary age that grows up to 40 meters. There are Molika pines that are older than 230 years.

On some parts of this mountain snow can stay until July. If you love skiing and enjoy magnificent winter landscapes, come to Pelister and get warm with the tea that grows on this mountain.



find more at www.macedonia-timeless.com



Relister





Krushevo, the only mountain town in Macedonia, is situated in western Pelagonija, on Mt. Busheva. The town's average altitude is 1,350 meters and that's why Krushevo is considered to be the highest town in the Balkans.

On your arrival, the first thing that you'll admire is the exceptional atmosphere of the town and its incredible amphitheatric position. Houses of wonderful architecture line the small stone streets; the cobbled pavement was constructed at the end of the 18th and beginning of the 19th centuries. The town has an astonishing surrounding, great climate and incredible natural sources so it's suitable to visit any time of the year. A special attraction of the city is the beech and oak forest. Krushevo Lake, which is very near the town, is rich in carp and is a real challenge for fishermen.

During the winter season, covered in snow, Krushevo is like fairytale. The winter is relatively long with a lot of snow, but mild and sunny. Very close to the town, there is a ski area for Alpine skiing that 1.2 km long, paths for Nordic skiing and a biathlon trail that is 4,5 km long. There is a funicular that starts from the center of the city and two ski lifts at the ski hill.

Krushevo has 6 km of trails for mountain biking, and the peak Crn Vrv (Black Peak) is a popular place for paragliders and hang gliders to take off from. Here annual world and state cups are held in paragliding. Crn Vrv has favorable air currents and that is why it is one of the best terrains for flying.

find more at www.macedonia-timeless.com



Krushchevo





Lorandite (Tl₂Si₂) - Thallium mineral, discovered for the first time in Alshar mine in 1894, which has a possible application as a detector of solar neutrinos and has been examined by NASA scientists.



The newest ski center in Macedonia, which is one of the most elite in Southeast Europe, is situated on Mt. Kozhuf. The surface of the center is 2,000 hectares, and it is equipped with the most modern equipment and offers excellent skiing conditions in terrain without forests.

The Kozhuf mountain range is located on the southern border of Macedonia, close to the Aegean Sea, so the climate is Continental-Mediterranean and ideal for every part of the year. If you stop by in warmer days, you will breathe clean air and smell the sea while enjoying the natural beauty and resources. Kozhuf is ideal for mountain biking, riding horses, paragliding, walking, hunting and fishing, and kayaking on the Tochinca River.

The gentle mountain has a big reserve of coniferous forests with white and black pine, fir and juniper trees. You can enjoy the beech and oak forest in the lower areas where the road is crossed by beautiful mountain rivers. A specific tree, known among locals as “naked man” (*Arbutus andrachne*), adorns Kozhuf and you can only find it by the river Crna Reka (Black River). It doesn't have bark and the stem changes color. There are two sources of mineral water in Kozhuf. The highest area has sub-alpine pastures and on the sheepfolds you can taste the natural products made from goat's and sheep's milk.

The biggest mystery associated with Kozhuf is one of the largest finds of the mineral thallium in the world at the Alshar mine. It is situated at 40 km south of Kavadarci and occupies the eastern slopes of Kozhuf. The Alshar area is an important terrain for flora where you can find endemic species of the Alshar and Arsen violet.

find more at www.macedonia-timeless.com



Kozhuf





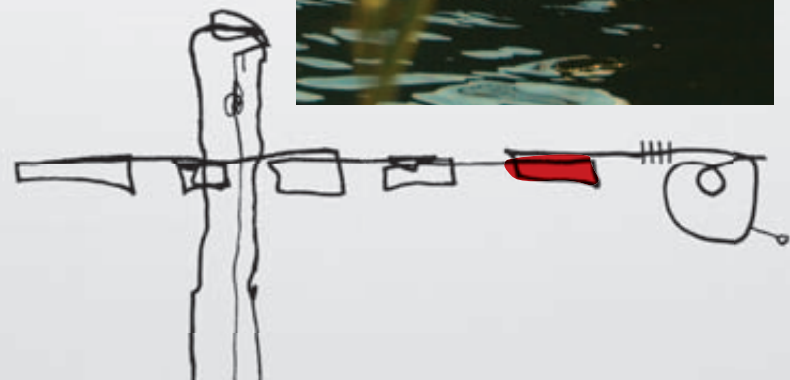
The area of Dojran Lake in the southeastern part of Macedonia is a place where you can feel the influence of the Mediterranean on the climate. The southern opening and the low altitude (148 meters) cause average temperature of the water to be around 14-18 degrees in the winter and during the summer between 25-27 degrees. You may think that you are in some tropical lake.

The surface of Dojran Lake is 43.1 km², making it the smallest tectonic lake in the country. It is also the shallowest with a maximum depth of 10 meters and it represents a relict remnant from a Pleistocene Peon Lake. It is rich with phytoplankton (most common are blue-green alga Cyanophyceae) and zooplankton (most common are 23 types of crabs and numerous shells). The abundance of plankton means that the lake is rich with 15 species of fish.

The summer in Dojran is hot and dry and the winter is mild and humid. The richness of endemic algae offers a unique opportunity to breathe iodine. Do not miss the chance to put a little bit of the curative mud on yourself. If you are looking for a place to rest and relax in the hug of the Mediterranean atmosphere while surrounded by unique nature, Dojran is the place for you.

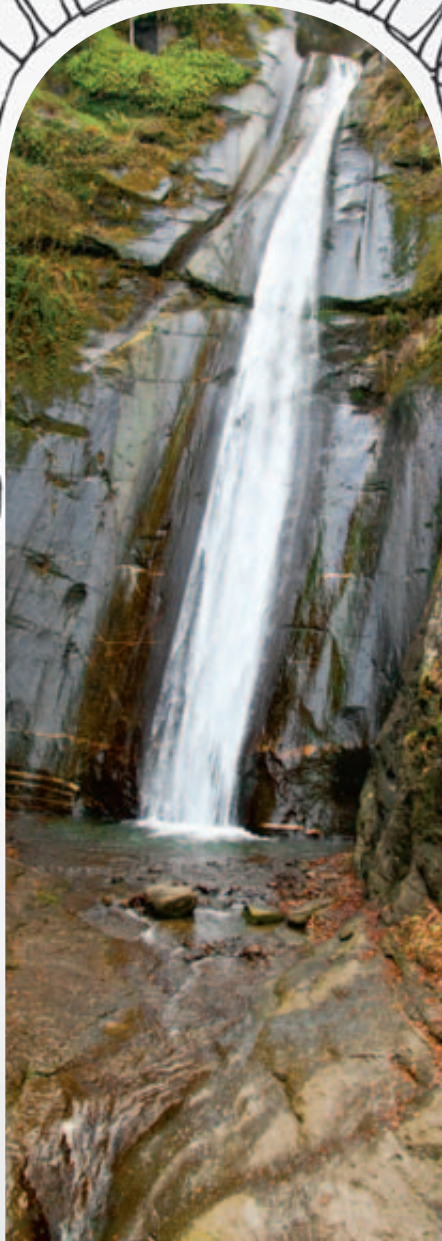


find more at www.macedonia-timeless.com





Dojran Lake



Mt. Belasica hides a lot of beauty just waiting to be seen. Some of the many beauties are certainly the waterfalls in Smolare and Koleshino.

Koleshino Falls, one of Macedonia's biggest waterfalls, is situated on the slopes of Mt. Belasica, on the Baba River near the village of Koleshino. It is a tectonic waterfall, rushing between granite stones. It is 15 meters high and 6 meters wide. The waterfall is nestled among maple trees and stone reefs. A few smaller waterfalls are also a hundred meters from this one.

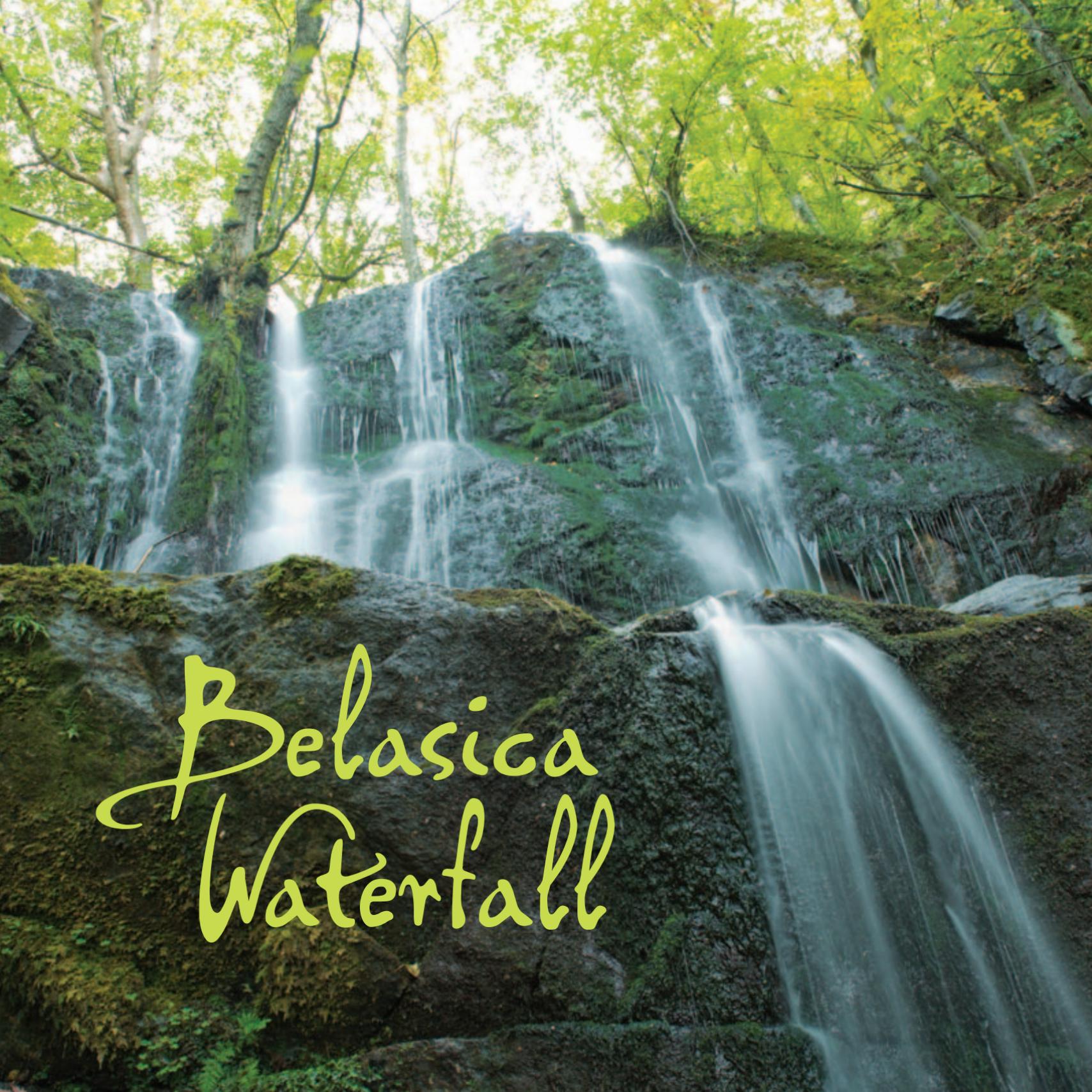
The waterfall of Smolare is hidden amongst 100-year-old oak trees above the village Smolare, on the lower flow of the Lomnica River, also known as Smolare River. This is the only permanent waterfall in Macedonia. The road that leads to the waterfall passes through several villages, and the walk to the waterfall features a wonderful view of the Strumica valley.

At 39.5 meters high, Smolare waterfall is the highest in the country. It is geomorphologically and hydrologically unique. The mountain path that leads to the waterfall also provides a unique opportunity to witness the miraculous natural beauty around you.

If you are an experienced lover of extreme sports like canyoneering, then with special alpine equipment you can experience the challenge of abseiling down the waterfall.



find more at www.macedonia-timeless.com

A photograph of a multi-tiered waterfall cascading over dark, moss-covered rocks in a dense forest. The water is captured with a long exposure, creating a soft, white, silky texture. The surrounding trees have vibrant green foliage, and the scene is bathed in natural light. The text "Belasica Waterfall" is overlaid in a yellow, cursive font on the lower-left portion of the image.

Belasica
Waterfall



At the very eastern part of Macedonia, in the Maleshevo region, nature has created an idyllic picture that you can see and experience. The calm and gentle landscapes of the Mt. Maleshevo are equally wonderful in every season of the year, from winter's snow to spring's aromas of mountain tea.

Berovo Lake is the pearl of Mt. Maleshevo. At 1,000 meters high, this artificial lake spreads between high pine trees, close to the village of Ratevo and 6 km from the city of Berovo.

There are great places for excursions and picnics, recreation and sports around the lake. In May you can see the pines bloom and in July and August you can swim in the lake. There are five paths for walking but on some of them you can also ride a bike. There is also a 45km long transversal path that connects the south and the north part of Maleshevo. At an altitude of 730 meters, it is a real challenge for the greatest enthusiasts.

Come to Berovo Lake and its surroundings to experience colors of nature like you have never seen and an abundance of wild fruits and herbs. If you have the energy you can also climb to the Klepalo sheepfold at 1,350 meters altitude, where you can get rest and try traditional food, eco-products and some of authentic specialties from Maleshevo.

find more at www.macedonia-timeless.com



A scenic view of Berovo Lake. The foreground shows the calm, blue water of the lake. In the background, a dense, lush green forest covers a hillside. The text "Berovo Lake" is written in a white, cursive script across the middle of the image.

Berovo Lake



Ponikva is located at an altitude of 1,560 meters, in the beautiful Mt. Osogovo, and is one of the most famous winter tourist centers and weekend places in Macedonia. It is close to the city of Kochani, in an area rich in dense beech forest.

The clear air during the summer and winter is a real elixir. Natural beauty and a clean atmosphere are waiting to be discovered and visited any time of the year.

If you are a mountaineer, then you will be delighted to enjoy the numerous walking paths surrounding the mountain. You should also know that you can walk 16 km to get to the mountain peak Carev Vrv. If you like biathlons, snowboarding, Nordic walking or skiing, then this winter heaven is made just for you.

Winter days in Osogovo are characterized by a thick covering of snow so you can enjoy the blessings of the mountain. Ponikva provides an excellent opportunity to discover Mt. Osogovo and to enjoy winter in a way different than any other you have ever experienced.



find more at www.macedonia-timeless.com

Ponikva

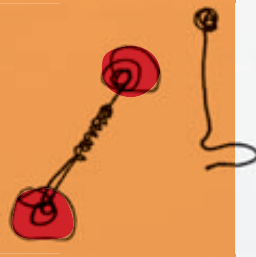




Caption

1. KUKLICI*
2. COCEV KAMEN (kRATOVO)
Volcanic rock used as megalithic Observatory in prehistory.
3. MATKA*
4. JASEN*
5. POPOVA SHAPKA*
6. DUFSKI WATERFALL (village of Rostusha, Mavrovo-Rostushe). One of the most beautiful waterfalls in Macedonia. Natural landmark along the Rostusha River ca. 28 meters high.
7. MAVROVO*
8. KORAB*
9. VEVCANI SOURCES (Vevcani)
Tourist attraction and a favorite place to visit. Believed to be a sacred site. The source of the springs is inside a cave.
10. OHRID*
11. CHINAROT- PLANE TREE (Ohrid)
Monument of nature. Believed to be six centuries old.
12. GALICHICA*
13. PRESPA LAKE*
14. PESHNA (Makedonski Brod)
Natural monument, Cave with the biggest opening in the Balkans.
15. SLATINA SOURCES (Makedonski Brod)
The biggest cave in Macedonia. Its explored length is 800 m., although it is known that its total length is over 4 Km.
16. LOKVI (village Golemo Konjari, Prilep)
Natural monument with a number of natural rarities and endemic species such as the fairy shrimp
17. SOLUNSKA GLAVA (Jakupica Mountain)
Mountain peak with an altitude of 2,539 m, part of the largest Macedonian mountain range.
18. PELISTER*
19. KRUSHEVO*
20. ORLOVO BRDO (Negotino)
One of the richest floristic sites in Macedonia with a wealth of flora and endemic and rare plants.
21. KOZUF*
22. ALSHAR (Village Majden, Konopishte)
Mine on Mt. Kozhuf where thallium mineral lorandite was discovered for the first time.
23. DEMIRKAPIJA CANYON (Demir Kapija)
Mountain canyon of Vardar River 31.5 kilometers long, with cliffs up to 1,000 m high.
24. DOJRAN*
25. SMOLARE AND KOLESHINO WATERFALLS*
26. BEROVO LAKE*
27. PONIKVA*
28. MONOSPITOVO BLATO (Strumica)
Natural monument near the village of Monospitovo characterized by outstanding biodiversity.
29. PEHCHEVO WATERFALL (Pehchevo)
Four big waterfalls and numerous smaller cascades along the flow of Bregalnica River
30. BELA VODA (Demir Kapija)
Cave on the right bank of Vardar River whose opening is extremely narrow and can be accessed only by crawling.

*Find more on these sites in the brochure.



For my part I know nothing with any certainty, but the sight of the stars makes me dream.

Vincent Van Gogh



macedonia
www.macedonia-timeless.com