

## ***Photography, Wine, and Architecture*** ***Time Travel Day of Adventure***

***Time travel with us and look through the camera lens with the eye of the photography pioneers; sense the spirit of the centuries flowing around you in Bitola's city museum; join the unique traditional custom "Gradska Vizita;" taste ancient adventure – Roman lunch in an authentic arena! And...enjoy a GOOD wine!***

**Date:** 10 May 2016

**Locations included:** Bitola

**Activities included:** Photography, Cultural sights, lunch, wine tasting

**Difficulty:** 1/5 (easy)

**Min/Max pax:** 4-12

**Cost per pax:** 98 €

**Guide:** Mr. Sime Alusevski, licensed national guide, English speaking

**Starting/Ending location:** INEX Gorica Hotel, Ohrid

**Starting/Ending time:** 09:00 h – 16:00 h

Included:	Not Included:	What to bring:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transportation by minivan</li> <li>• Professional, English speaking tour guide</li> <li>• Museum and site entrance fees</li> <li>• Roman culture expert</li> <li>• Adventure photographer</li> <li>• Lunch and wine tasting in Bitola</li> <li>• Detailed maps and photos</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal gear and equipment</li> <li>• Alcoholic drinks, unless they are served by the hosts for sampling</li> <li>• Non mentioned services or activities, personal expenses and tips</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Camera</li> <li>• Daypack: water bottle, sunscreen, sunglasses, waterproof / windproof jacket</li> <li>• Comfortable walking shoes</li> </ul>

Bitola has always been one of the most significant towns in the Balkans, noted for its cultural and historical sites, unique traditions and lifestyle of the locals. Today, the remnants of the ancient Heraclea Lyncestis show the importance of this city founded by King Philip of Macedon in the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC. A well preserved Roman theater and numerous areas paved with colorful mosaics are its main attributes. Many cultural events are still performed in its authentic ancient ambience, a proof of over 2 millenniums living culture.

Once an ineluctable point on Via Ignacia road, Bitola later became the diplomatic and cultural center of the Ottoman Empire in the Balkans. It was a seat of consuls in the 19th century and with them they brought the European culture and influenced the local aristocracy, who started living in European fashion and building their houses in mixed neo-classical styles. Their inherited sense for aesthetics turned to an everlasting architectural beauty contest. Walking through the most atmospheric street in the country, Shirok Sokak, we will hear some romantic stories that reflect the "good old bohemia" times. One story is of the Manaki brothers, regarded as the pioneers of cinematography in the Balkans, who brought to Bitola the first film camera and created the first motion pictures on the Balkan Peninsula and in the Ottoman Empire.



### Detailed Itinerary:

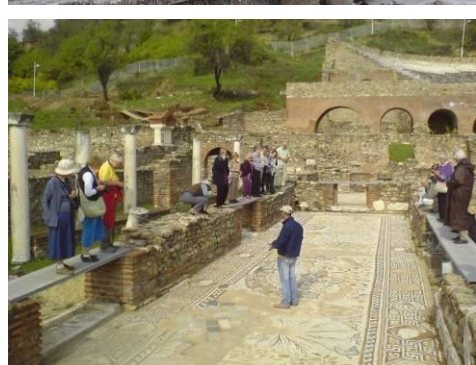
**09:00** The adventure begins with a pick up from the Conference site – Inex Gorica Hotel and transfer to Bitola. At start, guests will be provided with printed materials and instructions, followed with on board video presentation and tour description by our guide.

**10:30** Arriving Bitola, we start with a visit to a home wine cellar, where an excellent barrique wine is produced. Our host, who is an international qualified wine expert, will explain the millenniums long tradition of wine production and consumption. We also test his wine and have exclusive chance to buy a bottle for our collection. Simultaneously, our expert photographer will highlight the elements of quality adventure photography.

**11:00** The group will be initially divided in two teams and start to explore the town on their own. They will have to use the provided maps and old photos from different locations, to find the captured building, comparing the old with the today's look. The task is to make photos of those buildings, trying to capture the same frame as in the old ones (as close possible). This will be a challenge, since some of the old photos are taken 60, 70 or even 100 years before, and things have changed. On each of these locations, our narrators will tell part of the town's historical and cultural tradition, as well as, facts and tales connected to that place.

**12:45** After rejoining at the Dome of Culture, the group will continue with a visit of the City museum. This building, almost two hundred years old, was previously the Ottoman military academy where Qemal Attaturk graduated before he became the first President of modern Turkey. One can still sense the romantic spirit of the past ages in his memorial room. The museum curator will take us on a blitz time travel through the town's history and at the end we attend to one old social custom: "Gradska Vizita", a form of reception at home – when someone from the family celebrates his name, in the honor of the Saint. The event will take place at the "Old town room", followed with homemade snacks, sweets, liquor and coffee.

**13:30** Visit of the archaeological site Heraclea Lyncestis (4<sup>th</sup>BC – 6<sup>th</sup>AD). In the suburbs of today's Bitola, lies the Ancient town, founded in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century BC, by Phillip of Macedon. The site curator will take us on a sightseeing tour, which will end at the Roman Arena (2<sup>nd</sup> AD). Lunch will be served here, on the platform overlooking the site. We enjoy a meal, prepared according to Ancient Roman recipes.





***In the Ancient Roman culture, lunch was...an Adventure!*** Besides providing hedonistic pleasure, a good host was expected to entertain, or even surprise, the guests by inventing interesting activities. Therefore, it was always carefully organized as an important social and cultural event. Guests were encouraged to take active role in the discussions, the cultural, and the entertainment activities.

*We will follow the same principles and protocols to recreate the Ancient living style...and time travel.*

**14:30** Transfer by the mini-van to Ohrid, to arrive there by 16.00 h.

**16:00** Our tour ends around 16:00 h, by dropping you at your hotel in Ohrid.

## DOA-Photo, Wine & Architecture

