

## OHRID & MAVROVO TOUR (ST. JOVAN BIGORSKI)



If you want to experience the overall achievement of this area - the Monastery of St. Jovan Bigorski is an example of the supreme achievements of builders, painters and carvers from this region.

Start the tour in the morning. The group will lead the professional tourist guide.

Mijak region in Macedonia known for its natural beauties, national park Mavrovo, canyon along the river Radika is best known for mansion builders, wood carving and icon painting.

At the beginning of this tour, we pass through Struga on our way to St Jovan Bigorski. You are given information about the town and the lake. During the journey, we follow the course of the Crni Drim River which is famous for its spectacular scenery. This is by far the most beautiful tour in western Macedonia which leaves even the choosiest tourists breathless with admiration. Following the course of the river, you can see the artificial lake Globochica and the Globochica hydroelectric power station as well as the artificial lake Debar and the hydroelectric power station near the Albanian border. We pass through the town of Debar known for the factory that produces plaster and the well-known Debar Spa. We continue our journey and pass by Kosovrasti Spa and head for the tranquil Monastery of Sveti Jovan Bigorski (St John the Baptist or also known as St John the Forerunner) which was built in the 19th century. We follow the road along the River Radika with its magnificent views of the surrounding countryside. In the monastery you can see an icon of St John the Baptist dating from the 11th century as well as the final and most stunning one of only three iconostases carved (into walnut) by the famous Makarije Frchovski from Galichnik and the Filipovski brothers from Gari in the period of 1830-1840. Fortunately a group of monks have revived the monastery. Otherwise, the monastery complex consists of the monastery church, ossuary, located next to the church, the defensive tower, monastery complex shelters, and newly built guest quarters. Bigorski Monastery in 2009 suffered from fire and now is renewed.

After this, a journey to Mavrovo National Park follows. . Possibility for organized lunch in Mavrovo.

We travel along the coastal road around the artificial lake Mavrovo and we visit several villages and beautiful weekend retreats. Then we go back to Ohrid through Kichevo.