

BALKAN HIKING ADVENTURE

Experience the hidden charm of the mountains of
Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo



MOUNTAIN

- SHAR PLANINA
- BISTRA
- DESHAT
- KRCHIN
- STOGOVO
- JABLANICA
- GALICHICA
- BABA



GUIDEBOOK

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Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo**

November, 2015

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INTRODUCTION – BALKAN HIKING ADVENTURE

The BALKAN HIKING ADVENTURE tourism product is a result of the project **Sustainable Tourism for Support of Regional Economic Development in Structurally Weak Regions** implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GIZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development BMZ over the course of 2015. The project's aim was to develop a new mountain tourism product as a means for generating income for the targeted local communities. The development of the product included: marking and signposting of 29 hiking trails on 7 mountain ranges in the western part of Macedonia and their connections through green passes to trails in Kosovo and Albania; identification, selection and inclusion of accommodation and catering services as well as points of interest linked to cultural and natural heritage. In order to improve the standard of of-



ferred services, the project supported the renovation and equipping of selected facilities along the trails and organized awareness-raising workshops and training for service providers and local stakeholders. Within the project, 15 young people from all targeted regions were trained to be professional mountain leaders in accordance with the IML standard.

During the implementation of the project a large network of actors active in adventure tourism from national, regional and local level was developed. In addition, the project facilitated cross border cooperation among mountain tourism experts from Macedonia, Kosovo and Albania as well as the creation of a cross border coordination group for the purpose of the Balkan Hiking Adventure product and future mountain tourism projects.

The Balkan Hiking Adventure product is presented and promoted in a guidebook, maps, website and android application.



REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

The Republic of Macedonia is a country located in the southern part of the Balkan Peninsula. It is one of the successor countries of the former Yugoslavia, which became an independent, sovereign and democratic state in 1991.

The tumultuous events which had been occurring on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia during the prehistoric period, Antiquity, the Roman period, the Middle Ages and in the Modern Age had left indelible marks on the material and spiritual culture, which led to the creation of numerous values such as: tourism localities, settlements, communications facilities, etc.

The Republic of Macedonia covers an area of 25.713 km² and has a population of approximately 2.114.550 (2009 estimate), of whom the majority are ethnic Macedonians (65%), followed by ethnic Albanians (25%), Turks (4%), Roma (3%), Serbs (2%) and 1% miscellaneous. The capital of the country is the city of Skopje with a population of 506.926 (2009 estimate). The official language is the Macedonian, and the official currency is the Macedonian denar.

Macedonia borders five countries: Serbia and Kosovo to the north, Bulgaria to the east, Greece to the south, and Albania to the west. The total length of its borders is 766 km.



Due to the relief characteristics, there are various climate types within the territory of Macedonia, ranging from typically mediterranean to typically continental climate. The specific topography and climate and the varying hydrography have enabled the development of diverse flora and fauna.

Macedonia has a well-developed air, rail and road transport infrastructure. The transport infrastructure is predominantly oriented along basins of the major rivers. In the direction north-south, the most important communications are those along the valley of the River Vardar, where Belgrade, Nis, Skopje, Thessalonica, and Athens are connected via highway and railway lines, followed by the Skopje – Kicevo – Ohrid – Albania route and the Kumanovo – Stip – Strumica – Greece, i.e. Bulgaria route.

The air transport in the Republic of Macedonia is carried out at two airports, "Alexander the Great" Airport in Skopje (used by 90% of the passengers) and "St. Paul the Apostle" Airport in Ohrid (used by 10% of the passengers).

Macedonia has a railway network with a total length of 699 km, out of which 234 km of the track is electrified. The main railway route traverses the country primarily along the valley of the River Vardar and connects the country with Kosovo and Serbia to the north and with Greece to the south. There are railway lines to the west and to the east branching out from this route.



The most important motorway passing through Macedonia is the international route E-75. It starts in Ostend, Belgium, and passes through Brussels, Nuremberg, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, and Thessalonica, and terminates in Athens, Greece. Its total length in Macedonia is 201 km. It traverses the central part of the country, along the route of the River Vardar, and presents the main artery of the country's road network.

The more important border crossing points are: Tabanovce (Serbia) – 12 km from Kumanovo, Blace (Serbia) – 20 km from Skopje, Jazine (Kosovo) – 27 km from Tetovo, Deve Bair (Bulgaria) – 16 km from Kriva Palanka, Bogorodica (Greece) – 5 km from Gevgelija, Medjitlija (Greece) – 15 km from Bitola, Kafasan (Albania) – 14 km from Struga.

There are three natural lakes in Macedonia: Lake Ohrid (358 km²), Lake Prespa (274 km²) and Lake Dojran (43 km²). They are situated in the southern cross-border region with Albania and Greece. There are developed tourism settlements around them: Ohrid, Struga, Oteshevo, Dojran, etc. There are also glacial lakes in the high mountains, the greatest number of which is located on Shar Mountain, Pelister, Jablanica, etc.

The territory of the Republic of Macedonia is characterized by many specific natural resources with the potential for tourism. Around 65% of the territory accounts for mountains, with altitudes ranging from 50 to 2.754 m. There are five mountain massifs each with an altitude above 2.500 m: Shar Mountain with its peak Titov Vrv (2.747 m), Korab with its peak Golem Korab (2.754 m), Jakupica with Solunska Glava (2.540 m), Baba Mountain with Pelister (2.601 m) and Nidje with its peak Kajmaktalan (2.521 m).

The main features of Macedonia tourism belong to the category of rural tourism, with pronounced mountain tourism.

Situated at the crossroads between the East and the West, several kilometres from the Mediterranean, on ancient and Byzantine remains, the site of the first Christian empires and the long-lasting Ottoman period, Macedonia is distinctive for its incredibly opulent cultural heritage.

The fostering of traditions and the legendary sense for hospitality will reveal to you a way of life that has become quite rare worldwide.

This guide book will help you become acquainted with the most secluded parts of Macedonia, with sites that will astonish you with their beauty, diverse plant, animal life and uniqueness.

INFORMATION FOR THE USERS OF THIS GUIDEBOOK

BALKAN HIKING ADVENTURE (BHA) is a platform for development of mountain tourism in the border area of Macedonia, Kosovo and Albania. Currently, the main product which has the same name Balkan hiking adventure consists of 37 one day hiking trails, of which 8 are transnational and make hiking from Macedonia to Kosovo and from Macedonia to Albania and vice versa possible, by using green passes. The main tourism product contains several components i.e. micro products, which can be used and combined as day or extended hiking tours.

BHA platform is established as partnership of several stakeholders from Macedonia. The main drivers of the activities are professional mountain leaders from Macedonia that are united in their own national association Macedonian Association of International Mountain Leaders (MAIML). In the implementation of the activities for marking and signposting of the hiking trails the association had active cooperation with mountain and alpine clubs in which professional mountain leaders are active as mountaineers or alpinists. The mountain clubs are: Ljuboten from Tetovo, Burimi Shar from Vranjovce, Bistra from Gostivar, Dibra from Debar, Cern Kamen from Vevcani, Dimitar Ilievski Murato from Bitola and the alpine club Patagonija from Ohrid.

This cooperation will continue also in the future for the purpose of upgrading the Balkan hiking adventure product with new content, all with the aim to present to the tourists undiscovered mountain highlands from the region, which offer excellent conditions for development of mountain tourism.

The present guide describes 37 mountain hiking trails located on 7 (seven) mountain massifs in the western part of Macedonia (Shar Mountain, Bistra, Deshat & Krchin, Stogovo, Jablanica, Galichica and Baba Mountain). Furthermore, the guide book also describes 4 trails located on the Kosovo side of the Shar Mountain and 4 trails located on the Albanian side of Krchin and Jablanica mountains.

The name of each trail starts with the acronym **BHA** (Balkan Hiking Adventure). This acronym is followed by the letter **M** for Macedonia, **A** for Albania or the letter **K** for Kosovo, and by enumeration with ordinal numbers from **1** to **29** for the trails on Macedonian territory, **1** to **4** for the trails on the Albanian territory and from **1** to **4** for the trails located on the territory of Kosovo. (e.g. the hiking trail from the village of Brezno, leading to Crn Vrv and ending in the village of Vejce has been designated **BHA M5**).

Information boards, containing a brief textual description of the trail and a topographic map thereof, are placed at the starting point of each hiking trail. In the vicinity of the information board there are signposts indicating the way, i.e. direction of the trail. The signposts are shaped as arrows with tips painted in white and red. The signposts, in line with the topographic toponyms, contain designations of the destinations, the time required to reach a specific location, in hours and minutes, and/or the distance to be travelled in kilometres.

The trails, along their entire length, i.e. from the information boards to the very end, are marked by horizontal white and red stripe marking. Within residential areas the markings are placed at the corners of houses and courtyards, at courtyard fences and on the wooden street lighting poles. Within the forest zones, the markings are placed along the trail, on the trees and at prominent boulders placed at the sides of the trail. Outside of the forests, in the pasture areas, the markings are placed on stepping-stones or on prominent boulders on the sides of the trail. Please note that some sequences are shared between different trails, hence, different markings may be seen on the same trail. In essence, the markings are always in a combination of red and white, with the surface stripe markings being most frequently used.

Outside of the forest zone, at the locations where there are no stones and boulders, marking posts, which are in fact 1.5 m high wooden posts buried in the ground, the upper part of the marking posts is painted (red – white – red).



Signposts (referred to above) are placed at the points where the trails divide, overlap or merge so as to verify the direction and provide information about the remaining time, i.e. distance to a particular location.

Some of these trails, via GREEN PASS border crossing points, can cross the administrative border of the Republic of Macedonia and terminate in Kosovo or Albania. The procedure for crossing the administrative border at such crossing points is currently being developed. You should mandatorily contact the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Macedonia to obtain more information about crossing the border at such GREEN PASSES.

Aside from the maps that are presented in the present guide, additional (hard copy) detailed maps of the trails have been made, to a scale of 1:25.000 to 1:40.000. We are speaking about 6 (six) different maps of trails located in specific regions (Shar Mountain – North-eastern segment; Shar Mountain - Central & Southern segment; Bistra & Stogovo; Deshat & Krchin; Jablanica and Galichica & Baba Mountain).

Android and iOS mobile apps named Balkan Hiking Adventure, which are available free of charge from the Apple Store and Google Play, have been developed as a digital support to this project.

Further information about the BALKAN HIKING ADVENTURE brand and the tourism products which have been developed under this project may be obtained at www.balkanhikingadventure.com



Name of the trail

Indication of the acronym of the trail and its ordinal number, and below the acronym there is an inscription of the name of the trail and the starting, middle or highest and ending point.

Description of the trail

A brief textual description of the trail. It describes the places and the environment along the trail, from the start to the end point.

Panoramas and landscapes

A brief textual description of the vantage points, spots that offer particular views on specific locations, as well as a description of the locations viewed.

Starting point altitude

The altitude at the start point of the trail, expressed in meters.

Highest point

The altitude at the highest point of the trail, expressed in meters.

Altitude at the end point

The altitude at the end point of the trail, expressed in meters.

Height Difference

The differences of the elevation from the lowest to the highest point of the trail.

Duration of the trail

The total time required to complete the described trail, expressed in hours and minutes.

Length of the trail

The length of the trail in one direction, expressed in kilometres.

Difficulty of the tour and required fitness level

The table below provides a graphic presentation of the trail difficulty and the required level of physical fitness, as defined by the colour of the stars.

TRAIL DIFFICULTY	TRAIL LENGTH/ DURATION	TOTAL ALTITUDE GAIN	REQUIRED LEVEL OF FITNESS	GRAPHIC PRESENTATION OF THE TRAIL DIFFICULTY AND THE REQUIRED LEVEL OF PHYSICAL FITNESS
EASY	1–5 km/0–3h	10–500m	LOW	●●○○○
MODERATE	5–10 km/3–6h	500–1,000m	MEDIUM	●●●○○
DIFFICULT	10–15km/6–10h	1,000–1,500m	HIGH	●●●●○
ADVANCED	More than 15km/10h	More than 1.500m	VERY HIGH	●●●●●

Biodiversity pinpoints

A description, using popular and Latin names of the specific plants that may be encountered along the trail, or a description of the flora and fauna of the region where the trail passes.

Cultural, historical and characteristic localities

A brief textual description of the cultural, historical or characteristic localities (if any) along the trail or in the vicinity of the trail's start or end point.

Accommodation and food

It lists the accommodation facilities, mountain huts, restaurants and private accommodation facilities offering B&B services that are operational at the time of publication of the guide.

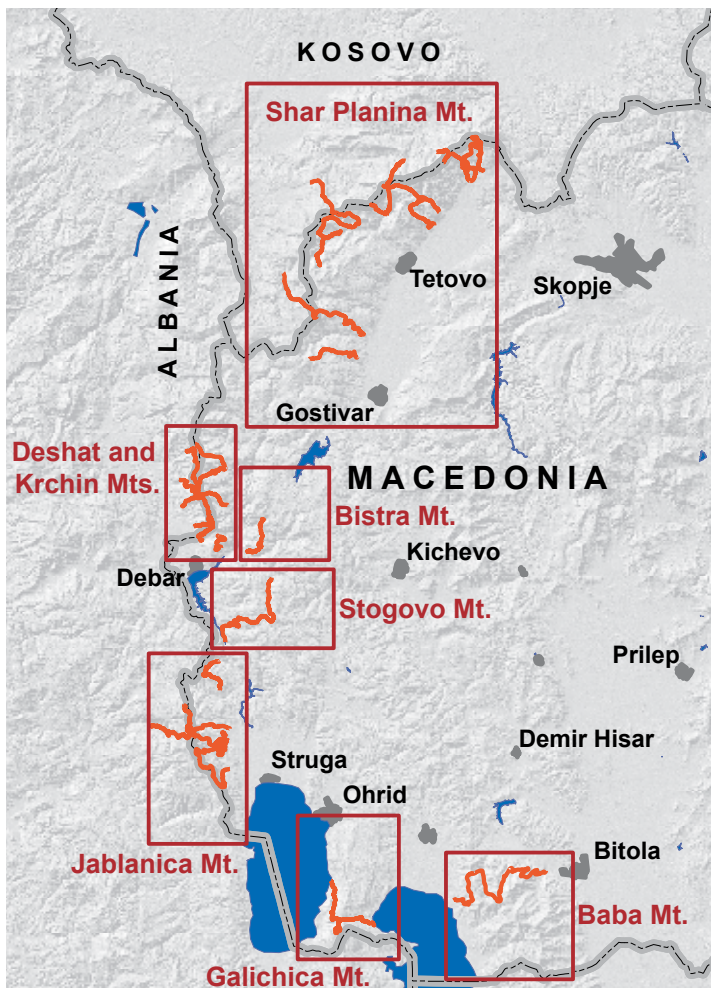
Access to the start and ending points

It indicates the regional or local roads to be used to access the start and ending points.

Advice

- Always be well informed and prepared for the trail that you are traversing (Professional Mountain Leaders; Guidebook; Map; mob.APP)
- If you do not have enough mountaineering experience, hire a professional mountain guide - www.maiml.mk
- Never hike alone
- Be informed about the weather conditions
- Always wear appropriate hiking clothes and equipment that is suitable for the actual weather conditions
- Always carry sufficient quantities of water and food
- Respect the environment
- Follow the existing signalling (markings and signposts)
- Do not make new obstacles on the trails (since it exposes the existing trails to erosion and destruction)
- Do not pick flowers
- Do not disturb wild animals and grazing livestock
- Beware of sheep-dogs. Do not attack them, remain calm and call for the shepherd
- Do not trespass on private properties and meadow grass fields
- Do not drop litter
- The best time for hiking on the trails listed in the guide book is the period from April to November

	Starting point		Hotel
	Ending point		Mountain hut
	Peak		Restaurant
	Info point		Bed and breakfast
	Information board		Coffee
	Drinking water		Shop / market
	Junction / crossroad		Church
	Saddle		Monastery
	Forest		Mosque
	Glacial Lake		Fortress
	Waterfall		Highway
	Panoramic viewpoint		Regional / Local road
	Point of interest		Dirt road
	Picnic area		Railway
	Green pass		Urban / Rural area
	Ski Center		Rivers
	Camping location		National border
	Sheepfold		Water body
	Off road parking		Mountain trail





Moving along the trails you traverse the western part of the Republic of Macedonia. You will pass through residential areas and villages populated individually, or in communities, by ethnic Macedonians, Albanians, Turks and Serbs. The majority of the population are Orthodox Christians and Muslims, and the languages spoken are Macedonian, Albanian and Turkish.

Each local resident would undoubtedly provide you a warm welcome and invite you in for a cup of traditional coffee. Do not miss the opportunity of chatting with each local resident that you encounter, in particular the wise elderly people, who will tell you anecdotes that will help you become better acquainted with the region's traditional values.

Furthermore, you can enrich the hikes through the mountains by visiting the monuments of culture, the ancient churches, monasteries, mosques and Dervish tekkies. Pay a visit to the local, family workshops, where the trades for manufacture of home-made products, handcrafts and fabrics that are specific for the region are being passed from one generation to the next.

Finally, do not forget to get a taste of all that you will experience. The taste of tradition represented through Macedonian or Albanian cuisine. Try the food made using produce from the unpolluted environment and the wine from the best Macedonian grape varieties.



SHAR MOUNTAIN

Shar Mountain is situated in the northwestern part of the Republic of Macedonia. The massif extends from the northeast to the southwest for 80 km with a total surface area of around 1.600 km², making it one of the largest massifs in the Balkans.

Shar Mountain can be divided into three segments (though heterogeneous), according to its geological composition and its common geographical characteristics:

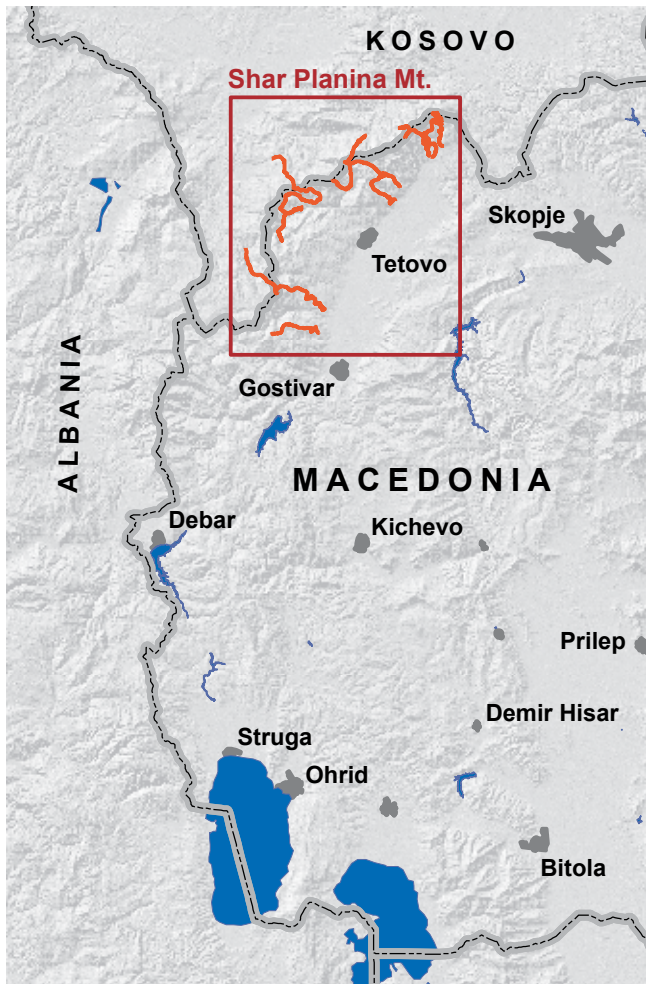
- Northeastern segment;
- Northwestern or central segment;
- Southern segment.

The approximate height of the mountain range is 2.200 m with Titov Vrv being the highest peak (2.747 m). It begins with the River Lepenec and with the peak of Ljuboten, 2.499 m. It ends with Morava summit, 2.147 m, and Lake Mavrovo. Shara Mountain massif belongs to a group of young mountain chains and is characterized by a mountainous climate with



cold winters and pleasant summers. At an elevation of 1.300 m the snow averages a depth of 1m and usually lasts for four months. The Eyes of Shar Mountain, as its glacial lakes are popularly known, are its special characteristic. There are 25 lakes that are constant, over 150 occasional lakes and as many smaller ponds. The water potential of this massif is huge and it has 200 springs of pure water. Among others, the mineral richness is represented by manganese, iron, chrome, molybdenum, and copper.

The massif is very rich with flora and fauna. It has an abundance of high-mountain pasture of about 45.000 hectares and high-trunk conifer woods. Fir and juniper trees are most common, and in the lower parts beech and chestnut forests are plentiful. Shar Mountain is a large massif that features a variety of habitats, home to around 2.000 different plant species. The total number of vascular plants in Macedonia is around 3.700 species; therefore Shar holds two-thirds of the national plant diversity. Additionally, with nearly 200 endemic and sub endemic plant taxa, this mountain is an important Balkan and European centre for floral endemism.



The flora of Shar Mountain is very diverse and interesting. Here, you can see species from arctic and sub-Mediterranean regions. The arctic species are unique, in that they originated from a former geological epoch – and are known as glacial relicts. Shar Mountain is a perfect home for some of these glacial relicts that adapted to survive in harsh weather conditions such as cold winds and snow throughout most of the year.

The fauna of Shar Mountain has over 44 species of wild animals, which are present on this mountain including the critically endangered Balkan lynx, bear, wolf and the Balkan chamois. Eagles, falcons, and hawks are also common on Shar Mountain. Although not as numerous as in the 1950s, the mountain pastures are still grazed by domestic breed of sheep. They are guarded by the widely known Sharplaninec, a shepherd dog which is a symbol of this mountain and is named after it.

Tourist sites to visit in the Shar Mountain Region

- Ski centre "Popova Shapka".
- "Sharena Dzamija" mosque, Tetovo.
- "Turkish Hammam", Tetovo.
- Gallery of icons in the church of "St. Cyril and Methodius", Tetovo.
- Dervish tekke or "Arabati Baba-tekke", Tetovo.
- Monastery complex of "St. Atanasij", the village of Leshok.
- "The Smallest Ethno Museum in the World", the village of Dzepchishte.
- Xylographer's workshop by Budimir Apostoloski, Tetovo.
- Traditional workshop for the production of stringed musical instruments (folk), the village of Vejce.
- Picnic area "Kalugjer", the village of Rogachevo.
- Picnic area "Petachko Vodiche", the village of Belovishte.
- Picnic area "Studenec", the village of Varvara.
- Lake Vratnica, the village of Vratnica.
- Lake Livadica, 3.30 hours walking distance from the mountain lodge "Ljuboten".
- Belovishte waterfalls, 2 hours walking distance from the village of Belovishte.
- River "Kadi na Krivoshiska", 3 hours walking distance from the village of Bozovce.
- Lake Bogovinje, 3 hours walking distance from the village of Novo Selo.



THE VILLAGE OF STARE SELO – LJUBOTEN PEAK – MOUNTAIN HUT "LJUBOTEN"

The trail starts from the information board at the upper part of the village of Stare Selo, just below the church, near the village fountain. Spatially, the trail can be divided into three parts. The first part of the trail is through the beech forest, on a wide dirt road, combined with the mountain path and ends at the mountain hut "Ljuboten". The second part of the trail starts from the "Ljuboten" hut and continues to the very top. In this part, the trail moves sharply uphill, and the ground is a combination of pasture and rocky terrain. The third part of the track is the descent from the top. The descending path is on the western ridge of the peak Ljuboten and is quite steep; the ground being covered with tiny limestone rocks. The descending path continues until the saddle on

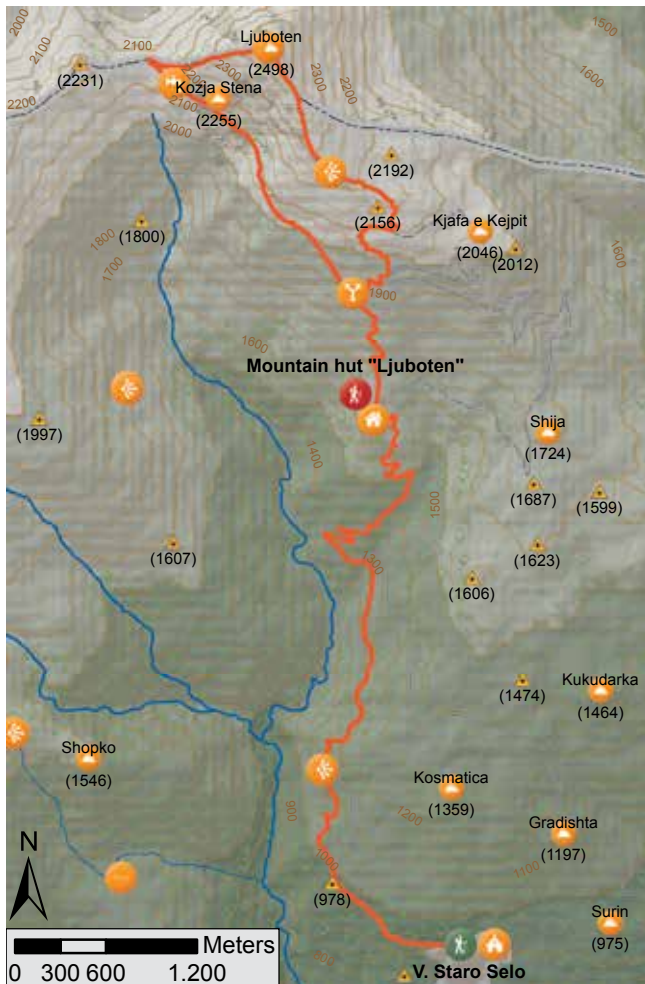


the top or the so called "Ljubotenska Shija", after which by a contour line the trail passes through the largest rocky area in Macedonia or under "Kozja Stena". Once you pass this area, the trail descends gently to the mountain hut.

Panoramas and landscapes:

- Along the first part of the trail you can enjoy the panoramic views to the River Vratnichka Falls and Ljuboten peak.
- Along the second part of trail, when you move along the ridge, there are viewpoints offering a panoramic view towards Kosovo (Kachanik, Lepenec and Uroshevac).
- From the very top you can enjoy the panoramic view towards the Pollog valley, ridge of Shar Mountain with Lake Livadichko and Sirinichka area in Kosovo (Brezovica and Shtrepce).

SHAR MOUNTAIN



NAME OF THE PATH / ACRONYM	BHA M1
STARTING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Stare Sello – 900 masl.
HIGHEST POINT	Peak Ljuboten – 2.499 masl.
ENDING POINT ALTITUDE	Mountain Hut "Ljuboten" – 1.635 masl.
HEIGHT DIFFERENCE	1.650 m.
DURATION OF THE TRAIL	7 h.
LENGTH OF THE TRAIL	14 km.
DIFFICULTY OF THE TRAIL	● ● ● ● ● ●
REQUIRED FITNESS LEVEL	● ● ● ● ● ●

BHA M1

SHAR MOUNTAIN

Biodiversity pinpoints:

The mountain peak Ljuboten is a typical limestone peak with significant limestone scree and stony sites, which provide for the development of specific vegetation. On the limestone slopes of the Ljuboten peak, in particular those to the west and southwest, you will come across the renowned Shar Mountain tea (*Sideritis scardica*), scientifically described for the first time by August Grisebach in 1846 with the plant specimen coming precisely from Ljuboten. On the limestone areas near the peak itself one may also encounter Grisebach's pansy (*Viola grisebachiana*), which is a rare mountain violet that usually grows on a limestone ground on the highest mountains in the central parts of the Balkan Peninsula.

Cultural and historical / characteristic sites:

A typical site on this pathway is the mountain hut "Ljuboten". This facility is the oldest mountain building, which was built in 1931 as the first mountain hut in Macedonia. According to its position, architecture and ambience, this building is a historic monument of mountaineering in Macedonia.

Accommodation and food:

- Mountain hut "Ljuboten" – at the foot of Ljuboten peak.
- Villa "Ljuboten" – at the foot of Ljuboten peak.

Access to starting and ending points:

- Highway Skopje – Tetovo, 43 km.
- Local road Tetovo – The village of Stare Sello, 25 km.
- Dirt road from the village of Stare Sello – Mountain hut "Ljuboten", 7 km (accessible for 4x4 vehicles).



MOUNTAIN HUT "LJUBOTEN" – THE VILLAGE OF VRATNICA – – THE VILLAGE OF BELOVISHTE

The trail starts from the information board placed in front of the mountain hut "Ljuboten" and it is again divided into two parts. The first part of the trail, at its start, passes across a small rocky terrain, then through a pasture. From the hut it continues to a place called "Dzhandarska Buka", from which the trail leads to the foot of the peak of Ljuboten. Crossing the River Ljubotenska the trail continues to the section of Livadica. This section traverses a height from 1.600 to 1.700 meters. The second part of the trail is the descent to village of Vratnica. The descending path passes



through a beech forest and the picnic area Senokos. In this area, in the forest we can find the mountain lake "Senokos". From this point, the trail leads to the village of Vratnica, and from there, by following the rural road we reach the village of Belovishte.



Panoramas and landscapes:

- At the first part of the trail, at shepherd Bekim's sheep-farm, there is a beautiful view towards Ljuboten peak and Kozja Stena.
- At the second part of the trail, in the place called Kamche, you can find a viewpoint offering beautiful panoramic view to the lower part of Pollog and Lake Vratnichko.

BHA M2

SHAR MOUNTAIN



NAME OF THE PATH / ACRONYM	BHA M2
STARTING POINT ALTITUDE	Mountain Hut "Ljuboten" – 1.635 masl.
HIGHEST POINT	Bekim's sheep-farm – 1700 masl.
ENDING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Bellovishte – 710 masl.
HEIGHT DIFFERENCE	925 m.
DURATION OF THE TRAIL	5.30 h.
LENGTH OF THE TRAIL	13.5 km.
DIFFICULTY OF THE TRAIL	
REQUIRED FITNESS LEVEL	

Biodiversity pinpoints:

The upper portion of the trail passes through an area of high mountain pastures on a silicate ground, where some endemic plants that bear the name of Shar Mountain (*Scardus*, in Latin) can be met, such as the Shar Mountain pink (*Dianthus scardicus*). The lower portions of the trail traverse vast forest complexes, with beech woods in the upper belt and oak and chestnut woods in the lower belt. Here, mostly in the clearings of the oak woods, one may find the Shar Mountain woundwort (*Stachys scardica*).

Cultural and historical / characteristic sites:

Locations that must be seen on this trail include the sheep-farm Gradska Livadica run by the head shepherd Bekim, where you will always be served with white, fresh cheese from Shara Mountain. At the end of the trail, in the village of Vratnica, it is interesting to visit the memorial placed in honor of dead American soldiers from a plane crash in World War II. The story is complete if, in the shadows near the monument, several older local folks are resting, and you can ask them to tell you the story how the US troops were rescued.

Accommodation and food:

- Mountain hut "Ljuboten" – at the foot of Ljuboten peak.
- Villa "Ljuboten" – at the foot of Ljuboten peak.
- Restaurant "Belovishki Biser" – The village of Belovishte.

Access to starting and ending points:

- Highway Skopje – Tetovo, 43 km.
- Dirt road from the village of Stare Sello – Mountain hut "Ljuboten", 7 km (accessible for 4x4 vehicles).
- Local road Tetovo – The village of Belovishte, 20 km.



THE VILLAGE OF BELOVISHTE – KUCHINAGLEDSKI VRV PEAK (PIRIBEG PASS)

The trail starts at the information board placed in the village of Belovishte. This path can be spatially divided into two parts. The first part of the trail moves into the forest belt, on an old unpaved forest road. Then it continues through the beech forest, which has large meadows overgrown with ferns. At the exit of the forest you pass along the remains of the buildings of the oldest sheep-farm on the Shar Mountain. The first part of the trail ends at the place called "Slabica"; the second part of the trail starts from this point. The second part of the trail moves through the pastures at a broad ridge at the top of Livadica. Before you climb the peak, the trail veers south and climbs the ridge of Shar Mountain. After another half hour, you climb the peak Piribeg or Kuchinagledski Vrv. The return trek is along the same path. This trail continues, ending on the



Kosovo side, through the green pass marked on the map. The instructions for passing along the green passes are given in the relevant chapter of this guidebook. The path from the Kosovo side, in this guidebook is given as the trail under the name BHA K1.



Panoramas and landscapes:

- On the first part of the trail, Slabica is a viewpoint with excellent panoramic view towards the lower part of Pollog and Lake Vratnichko.
- On the second part of the trail, moving along the ridge of Livadica, Ljuboten peak can be seen to the north and Piribeg peak to the south side.
- Piribeg peak gives a glimpse of the ski center Brezovica in Kosovo, and on the southwestern part a view over the whole Pollog valley, with the cities Tetovo and Gostivar.

BHA M3

SHAR MOUNTAIN



NAME OF THE PATH / ACRONYM	BHA M3
STARTING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Bellovishte – 710 masl.
HIGHEST POINT	Kuchinagledski Vrv – 2.524 masl.
ENDING POINT ALTITUDE	Village Bellovishte – 710 masl.
HEIGHT DIFFERENCE	1.814 m.
DURATION OF THE TRAIL	5 h.
LENGTH OF THE TRAIL	12.1 km.
DIFFICULTY OF THE TRAIL	
REQUIRED FITNESS LEVEL	

BHA M3

Biodiversity pinpoints:

This trail is characterized by dense beech woods in the lower sections, and high mountain pastures on a silicate ground in the upper sections. In the vicinity of the famous Beloviste Waterfall, in the beech forest on the rocky terrain, one may find the ancient (*relict*) Visiani's maple (*Acer heldreichii subsp. visianii*). The pastures have the same endemic plant species as the preceding trail (BHA M2).

Cultural and historical / characteristic sites:

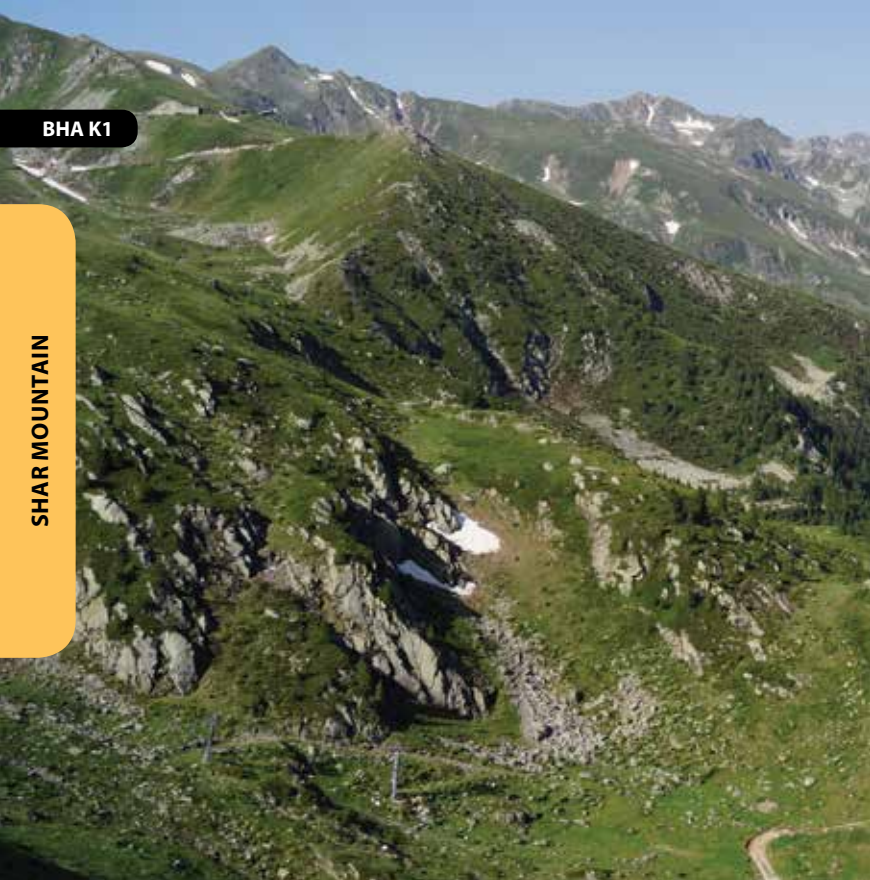
During a walk through the village of Belovishte, especially when you go through the narrow streets, you'll see the traditional construction of Macedonian houses. A large number of houses, some as old as 150 years give a unique picture of this village. When you continue from the village to "Petachko Vodiche", you will move along a path that passes through the River Belovishka area, an area which has several fish restaurants. A nice picnic spot, with a spring nearby, a spring that is said to have healing powers for those with visual impairments or eye problems. There is a church here, built in honor of "Sveta Petka". This place is unforgettably pleasant, and offers a fresh atmosphere on the warmest summer days.

Accommodation and food:

- Restaurant "Belovishki Biser" – The village of Belovishte.

Access to starting and ending points:

- Highway Skopje – Tetovo, 43 km.
- Local road Tetovo – The village of Belovishte, 20 km.



SKI CENTER "BREZOVICA" – KUCHINAGLEDSKI VRV PEAK (PIRI-BEG PASS) (KOSOVO)

The trail begins at Brezovica ski center and ends on Kucinagledski Vrv or Piribeg. It moves along a dirt road, on pasture on the northern slopes of Shar Mountain. From the dirt road, it continues along a mountain path that leads to the ridge of Shar Mountain, between the Livaditsa peak and Kuchinagledski peak. The exit path from the ridge is also the connection



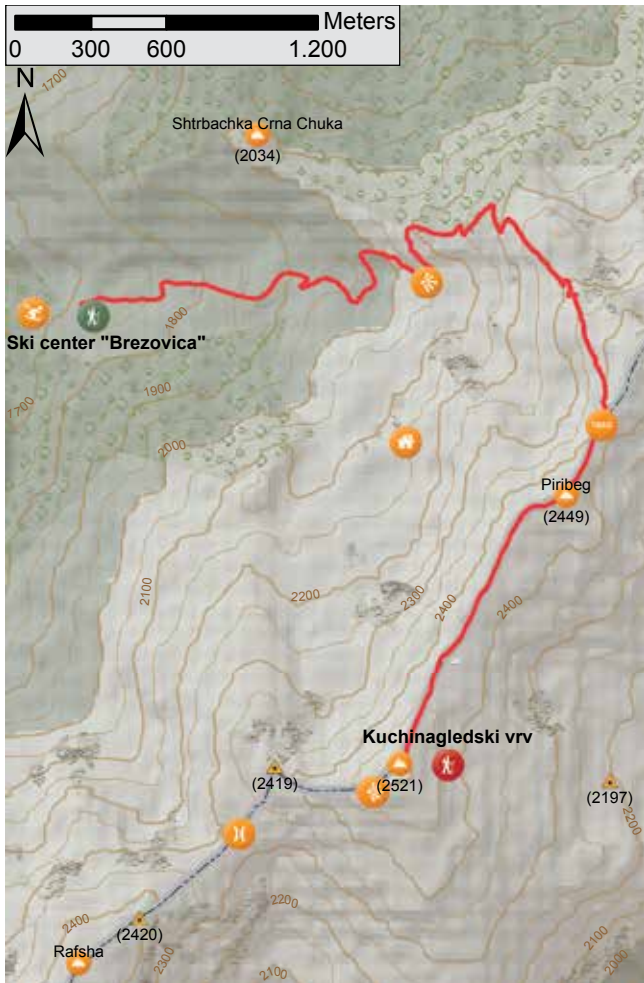
with the path that leads from the Macedonian side. From this position, you can climb the peak by heading south.



Panoramas and landscapes:

- From the Piribeg peak to the northwest, the view opens up overlooking the Brezovica ski resort in Kosovo, and on the southwestern side we have a view of the Polog valley cities of Tetovo and Gostivar.

BHA K1

SHAR MOUNTAIN



NAME OF THE PATH / ACRONYM	BHA K1
STARTING POINT ALTITUDE	Ski center Brezovica (Kosovo) 1.720 masl.
HIGHEST POINT	Kuchinagledski Peak 2.524 masl.
ENDING POINT ALTITUDE	Kuchinagledski Peak 2.524 masl.
HEIGHT DIFFERENCE	804 m.
DURATION OF THE TRAIL	3 h.
LENGTH OF THE TRAIL	5.5 km.
DIFFICULTY OF THE TRAIL	
REQUIRED FITNESS LEVEL	

BHA K1

SHAR MOUNTAIN

Biodiversity pinpoints:

Biodiversity, particularly vegetation, along the trail which crosses the western and north-western slopes of the Shar Mountain – Piribeg is different when compared with the vegetation on the opposite slopes (the Macedonian side of the mountain). Of particular interest for the upper part of the trail area are the relict plant species from the periods of glaciations: Creeping avens (*Geum reptans*), Dwarf primrose (*Primula minima*), Mossy saxifrage (*Saxifraga bryoides*) and other herb species, as well as the shrubs: Lapponian willow (*Salix lapponum*), Rusty-leaved alpenrose (*Rhododendron ferrugineum*) and four species of dwarf willows.

Accommodation and food:

- Hotel "Bucan" – Brezovica.
- Hotel "Molika" – Brezovica.
- Hotel "Breza" – Brezovica.
- Woodland Hotel – Brezovica.

Access to starting and ending points:

- Highway Pristina – Shtrpce, 62 km.
- Local road Shtrpce – Ski center Brezovica, 12 km.



THE VILLAGE OF LESHOK – THE VILLAGE OF VARVARA – "TRI VODE" – – THE VILLAGE OF BREZNO

The trail, that we spatially divide into three parts, starts at the information board in the village of Leshok. The first part of the trail starts from the village of Leshok, and after passing the village of Varvara it continues on a dirt road that passes through a beech forest. This part of the trail ends when we go out of the edge of the woods and along the trail line towards Brezjanski Kule. This is the second part of the trail. From here, the trail traverses to the saddle below the place called "Brezjanski Kule". From this saddle you can climb "Brezjanski Kule", which actually are silicate rock inclines limited on both sides. The third part of the trail starts



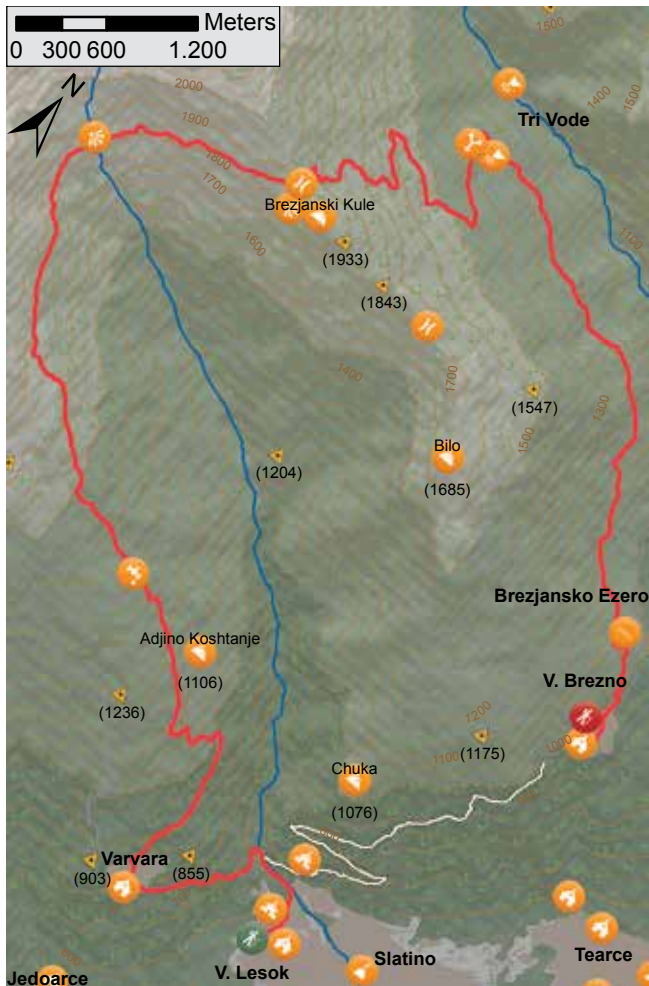
from the saddle, and it descends sharply to the picnic area of "Tri Vode", and from here, along a wide dirt road, the trail passes Lake Brezjansko and ends in the village of Brezno.

Panoramas and landscapes:

- Along the second part of the track, when you arrive at the springs of the River Leshok, there is a beautiful view of the valley of this river and the lower part of the Pollog valley.
- At the end of the second part of the trail, under the saddle of Brezjanski Kule there is a wonderful view of northern part of the Shar Mountain, the Chaushichki massif with the peaks Peskov, Ezerski Vrv and Gabrovnica, and at the bottom part the River Tearechka Bistrica.

BHA M4

SHAR MOUNTAIN



NAME OF THE PATH / ACRONYM	BHA M4
STARTING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Leshok – 620 masl.
HIGHEST POINT	Brezjanski Kule – 1.949 masl.
ENDING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Brezno 975 masl.
HEIGHT DIFFERENCE	1,329 m.
DURATION OF THE TRAIL	8 h.
LENGTH OF THE TRAIL	17.8 km.
DIFFICULTY OF THE TRAIL	
REQUIRED FITNESS LEVEL	

BHA M4

Biodiversity pinpoints:

Near the village of Brezno, as well as on the slopes down toward the village of Tearce, there are well preserved forest complexes dominated by sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*). This region holds a tradition of making various sweet chestnut specialties, and each year it organizes an event, the so-called 'chestnut days', where it promotes those specialties.

Cultural and historical / characteristic sites:

The village of Leshok is home to the monastery "St. Atanasij", dating from the 13th century. The frescoes in the church "St. Bogorodica" are part of the unique works of masters of that time. The stream "Studenec" is in the village of Varvara. According to legend, the water from this spring has healing powers. The third part of the trail brings us to "Tri Vode", a picnic area with many private holiday homes, taking its name from the fact that this place the three largest rivers in the valley merge. At the end of the trail we have the village of Brezno, one of the few villages in Macedonia where we still have traditional architecture. It is worth a stroll along the village streets, to soak up the atmosphere and to photograph the old buildings.

Accommodation and food:

- Complex of monasteries "St. Atanasij", the village of Leshok (inns and a restaurant).
- The inns of the church "St. Petka", the village of Varvara.

Access to starting and ending points:

- Highway Skopje – Tetovo, 43 km.
- Local road Tetovo – The village of Leshok, 9 km
- Local road Tetovo – The village of Brezno, 17 km.



THE VILLAGE OF BREZNO – CRN VRV PEAK – THE VILLAGE OF VEJCE

The trail starts at the information board in the village of Brezno. It is spatially divided into two parts. The first part starts from the village of Brezno to the peak of Crn Vrv. From the beginning of the village until Tri Vode, the trail is a wide dirt road. From Tri Vode onwards, the path continues for some time, and then turns into a mountain trail that passes through the well-preserved beech forest. Moving along the trail, you exit the forest belt and come across several sheep farms. At the last crossing of the river the trail goes into the top of Tearechka Bistrice, which is quite broad and widespread. From here on, the trail rises on the ridge that connects the peaks Suva Dupka and Crn Vrv. From this saddle, the trail continues west to the top of Crn Vrv and returns to the same point where we begin the descent to the village of Vejce.

The trail continues to end on the Kosovo side. One can continue by crossing the administrative border between Macedonia and Kosovo, through the green pass marked on the map. The instructions for going through the



green passes are given in the chapter of this guidebook. The path from the Kosovo side, in this guidebook is presented as a path under the name of BHA K2.

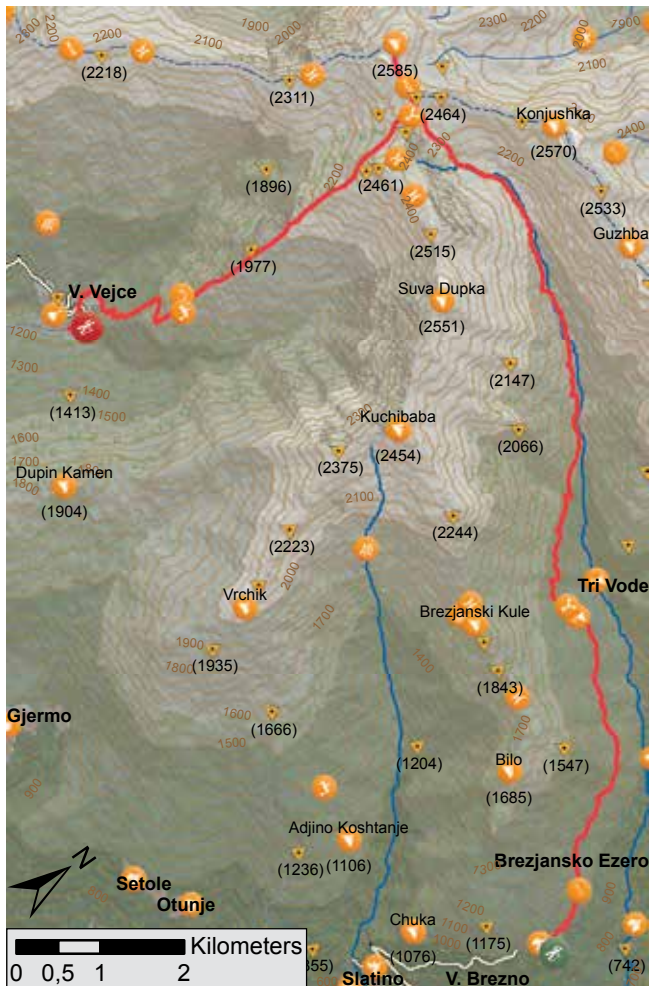
The descent towards the village of Vejce or the second part of the trail follows the ridge of the pastures, where we arrive at the village of Vejce. From the only sheep-farm located along this part of the trail, we move to the left and enter the beech forest above the village. After leaving the forest, the road leads through meadows and arable land which the locals cultivate - a rare example of an active mountain village in the Republic Macedonia. The trail ends in the village of Vejce.



Panoramas and landscapes:

- On the first part of the trail, there is a wonderful view of the top Chaushichka Valley with the peak of Ezerski Vrv, from Tri Vode.
- The second part of the trail, starting from the saddle until the village of Vejce offers an unforgettable view of the valley of the River Pena, The Leshnichki Karpi and peaks Titov Vrv and Kobilica on the right-hand side.

BHA M5

SHAR MOUNTAIN



NAME OF THE PATH / ACRONYM	BHA M5
STARTING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Brezno 975 masl.
HIGHEST POINT	Crn Vrv 2.585 masl.
ENDING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Vejce – 1.065 masl.
HEIGHT DIFFERENCE	1.610 m.
DURATION OF THE TRAIL	9 h.
LENGTH OF THE TRAIL	20.8 km.
DIFFICULTY OF THE TRAIL	
REQUIRED FITNESS LEVEL	

BHA M5

Biodiversity pinpoints:

Most likely the highest peat bogs in Macedonia are located under the Crn Vrv peak, above the cirque of the spring area of the River Bistrica. The highest peat bog is populated by the white cotton grass (*Eriophorum scheuchzeri*), a plant species that, until recently, was unknown to the Macedonian flora. This plant of circumpolar distribution (Alaska, Canada, the Arctic islands, Greenland, Siberia, as well as the Alps) can be found in our country only at this site.

Cultural and historical / characteristic sites:

In the village of Vejce, on the upper northern segment of the village there is a workshop that produces the traditional Albanian string instrument known as "Chiftelii". The family that produces these instruments has done so for many years. While visiting this house, you can see the process of making the instruments, and hear the music that comes from combining multiple types of instruments, as well as being able to buy souvenirs made in the shape of the instruments. Let's not forget the hospitality of the locals, and the coffee that will be offered to you by every local.

Accommodation and food:

- You can find food and beverages in the private local shops or local coffee houses through the villages.

Access to starting and ending points:

- Highway Skopje – Tetovo, 43 km.
- Local road Tetovo – The village of Brezno, 17 km.
- Local road Tetovo – The village of Vejce, 13 km.



PREVALLA – CRN VRV PEAK (KOSOVO)

The trail starts from Prevala, the place that divides the town and Sirinicka, and the mid area in Kosovo. Prevala is at an altitude of 1.527 meters, the local asphalt road from Shtrpce to Prizren passes through here and along this saddle crossing there are quite a few private holiday homes and parking places. The trail starts to follow a southeast direction. Uphill from passing the canyon of the River Bukoravachka we have Mala Planina and the entrance to the valley of the highest springs of the River Bistrica. The path continues on the northwestern slope of Konjuska peak.



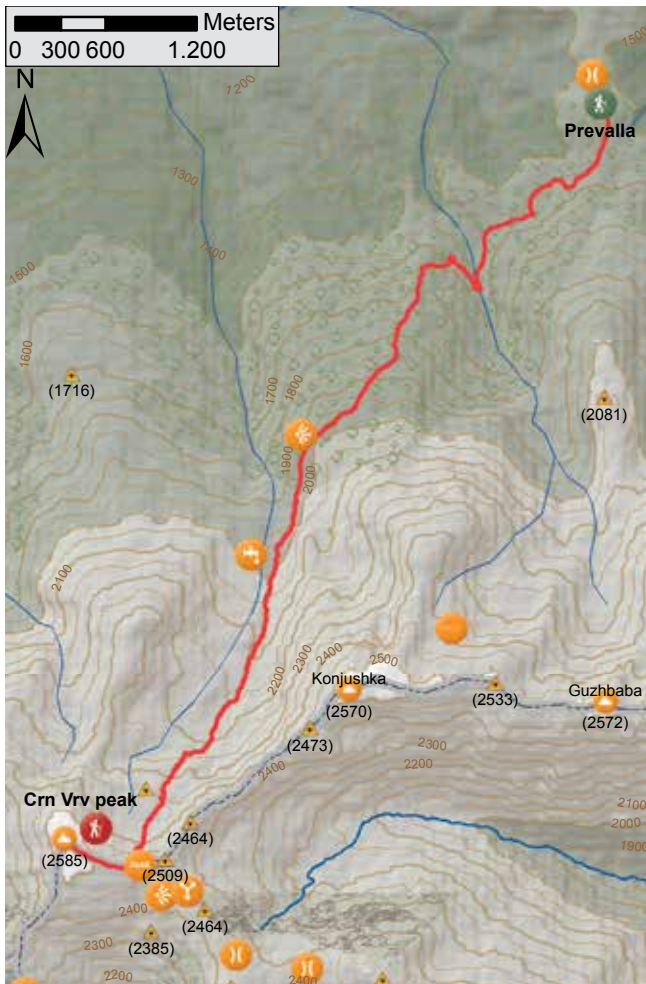
From this place through rocky terrain, the trail continues uphill along the ridge of Shar Mountain where the green pass is located. From here you can climb the Crn Vrv peak by moving westward.

Panoramas and landscapes:

- Looking south from the top, a wonderful view to the highest peaks of Shar and the valley of River Pena opens up, west you can see the city of Prizren and the mid area and to the north you can see the stoniest part of the ridge of Shar Mountain, Causica or Losata Strana with Bistrica peak visible, too.

BHA K2

SHAR MOUNTAIN



NAME OF THE PATH / ACRONYM	BHA K2
STARTING POINT ALTITUDE	Prevala– 1.527 masl.
HIGHEST POINT	Crn Vrv peak – 2.585 masl.
ENDING POINT ALTITUDE	Prevala– 1.527 masl.
HEIGHT DIFFERENCE	1.001 m.
DURATION OF THE TRAIL	6 h.
LENGTH OF THE TRAIL	8 km.
DIFFICULTY OF THE TRAIL	●●●○○
REQUIRED FITNESS LEVEL	●●●○○

BHA K2

SHAR MOUNTAIN

Biodiversity pinpoints:

The area around this trail is similar to that along the trail BHA K1 in terms of biodiversity. It is specific that large complexes of Macedonian (Molika) pine forest, well known on Pelister, are distributed on the slopes towards Brezovica and Prevalec.

Accommodation and food:

- Hotel "Sharri" - Prevala.

Access to starting and ending points:

- Highway Pristina – Shterpce, 62 km.
- Local road Shterpce – Prevala, 14 km.





THE VILLAGE OF VEJCE – KOBILICA PASS

The path starts from the village of Vejce and ends on the ridge of the Shar Mountain, specifically, on the trail leading to the village of Dolno Ljubinje in Kosovo. It starts from the information board placed at the entrance of the village of Vejce and the trail moves from the right hand side of the River Dojranska, under the peak Kobilica. The entrance is in the upper part of the village and from here on it continues as a dirt road, under rocks below Kobilica peak, where there is a fountain. From here, on the right, the trail bypasses the rock below Kobilica peak and begins



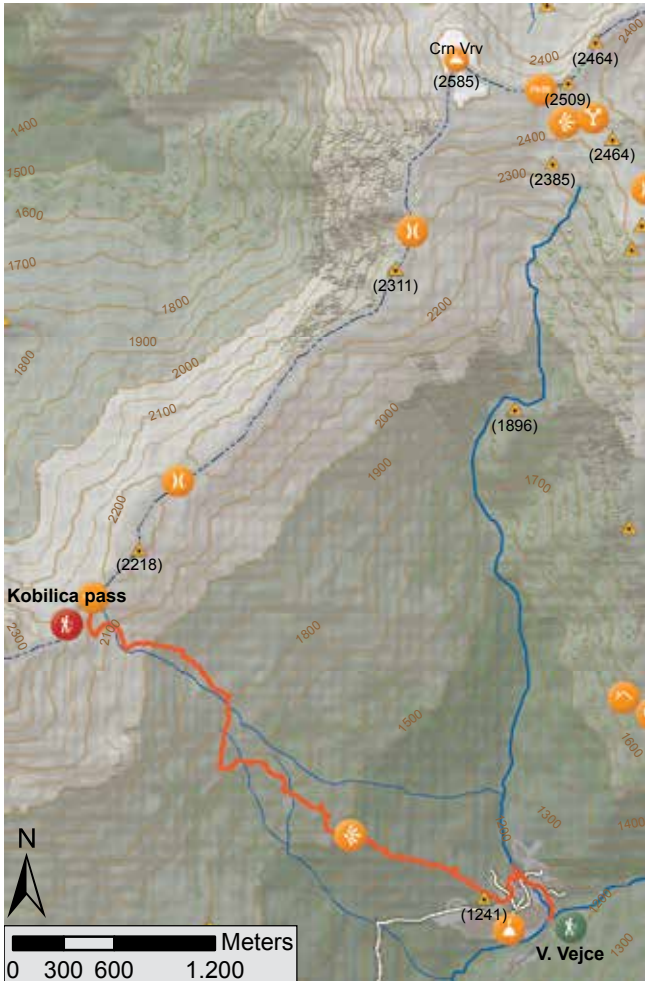
to move toward the lowest saddle between the peaks Kobilica and Crn Vrv. The trail ends at the saddle on the north side of Kobilica Peak and is a green pass. From here, the trail leads to the village of Dolno Ljubinje in Kosovo, this path is not covered in this guide. The return to the village of Vejce is along the same path.



Panoramas and landscapes:

- After climbing the first 300 meters above the village of Vejce, there is a magnificent view of the village, of the River Vejachka valley and the peaks Kobilica, Crn Vrv, Suva Dupka, Kuchibaba, Dupnat Kamen and Orloec.

BHA M6

SHAR MOUNTAIN



NAME OF THE PATH / ACRONYM	BHA M6
STARTING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Vejce 1.065 masl.
HIGHEST POINT	Kobilica passage – 2.182 masl.
ENDING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Vejce 1.065 masl.
HEIGHT DIFFERENCE	1.117 m.
DURATION OF THE TRAIL	3 h.
LENGTH OF THE TRAIL	4.7 km.
DIFFICULTY OF THE TRAIL	
REQUIRED FITNESS LEVEL	

BHA M6

SHAR MOUNTAIN

Biodiversity pinpoints:

The high sections of the trail above the village of Vejce are predominantly covered by high mountain pastures on a silicate ground, while the Kobilica peak itself (as well as the lower peak Golem Kamen) are composed of limestone rocks and stony sites with distinctly different vegetation. What is specific about this site is the fact that it was the exact site where, way back in 1892, Wettstein collected, at an altitude of around 2.400 m above sea level, and described a new species of pansies (*Viola latiseppala*).

Cultural and historical / characteristic sites:

The village of Vejce is a very characteristic village, situated at a height starting from 1.065 meters up to 1.250 meters, the composition of the Rivers Dojranska and Kupinica and just below the peaks Crn Vrv and Kobilica. This village is characteristic because it is a rare example of an active mountain village in Republic Macedonia. Vejce has potatoes, honey from the slopes above Vejce on Shar Mountain and Vejce white cheese brands that are distinctive and unique in flavor or as the locals like to say, and is quite true, "represent the taste of Shar Mountain".

Accommodation and food:

- You can find food and beverages in the private local shops or local coffee houses through the villages.

Access to starting and ending points:

- Highway Skopje – Tetovo, 43 km.
- Local road Tetovo – The village of Vejce, 13 km.



THE VILLAGE OF BOZOVCE – LESHNICA – KRIVOSHIJSKI VODOPAD

A trail that leads to the most picturesque part of the Shar Mountain. It starts with the information board placed before the entry in the village of Bozovce. The trail is spatially divided into two parts. The first part is from the village of Bozovce to Leshnica. The track moves from the right side, above the village of Bozovce and continues as a dirt road. The trail moves onto the southern slope of Sheremetnica and passes through meadows that were once cultivated by the villagers. Descending to Leshnica, the trail enters a belt of beech forest. Here the trail passes through Leshnica, located in the heart of the Shar Mountain and represents the most picturesque spot of Shar Mountain. The second part of the trail continues to Krivoshija or the valley between the second and third Leshnichka Karpa. After passing the River Krivoshiska and going deep into Krivoshija the



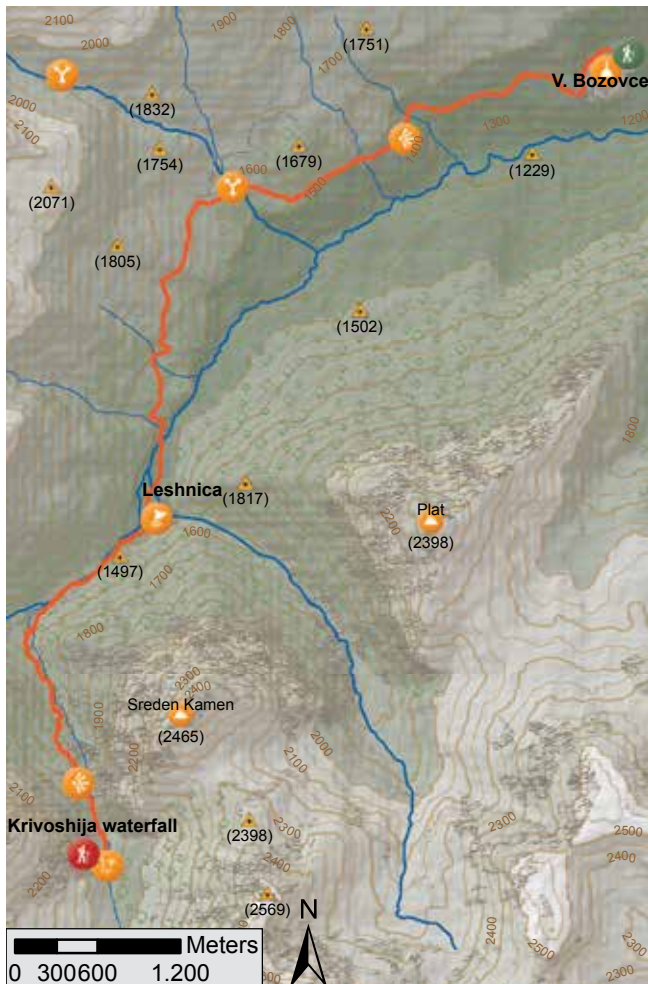
trail continues to the waterfall. Moving along this path, every step offers a new view of the Leshnichki Karpi and Titov Vrv. An ubiquitous part of this trail are the mountain goats. The trail ends at the Krivoshiski Falls. Visiting this place in the summer is wonderfully refreshing. The trail then continues back along the same road up to the village of Bozovce.

Panoramas and landscapes:

- This trail offers unforgettable landscape views from the very start. Every step reveals a new prospect. On the first part of the trail, you can see the three Leshnichki Karpi and the River Pena valley from the left side. In the background, we have the highest peak of the Shar Mountain range, Titov Vrv.
- The second part of the trail offers beautiful landscapes of Leshnichki Karpi and the River Krivoshija.

BHA M7

SHAR MOUNTAIN



NAME OF THE PATH / ACRONYM	BHA M7
STARTING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Bozovce – 1.325 masl.
HIGHEST POINT	Krivoshija waterfalls– 1.895 masl.
ENDING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Bozovce – 1.325 masl.
HEIGHT DIFFERENCE	570 m.
DURATION OF THE TRAIL	4 h.
LENGTH OF THE TRAIL	10.1 km.
DIFFICULTY OF THE TRAIL	
REQUIRED FITNESS LEVEL	

BHA M7

Biodiversity pinpoints:

The biggest limestone complexes on the Shar Mountain (which is otherwise predominantly a silicate mountain) are located in the region of Leshnica (together with the range Titov Vrv-Bakrdan and Ceripashina). The Leshnica rocks are most famous for the chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra balcanica*). Unfortunately, the population of the chamois today is severely threatened by excessive hunting and poaching. The serious man-induced disturbances of the wilderness in these parts of the Shar Mountain led to the extinction of the largest bird in the country - the bearded vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*) which used to nest here until twenty odd years ago.

Down the steep slopes of Plat, toward the valley of the River Pena, the only typical spruce woods in Macedonia (*Picea abies*) develop.

Cultural and historical / characteristic sites:

Leshnica is a place where if you go once, you will want to go back again! A breathtakingly beautiful place, set in the heart of the Shar Mountain range. It is a temple for climbers, a starting point for hiking for the whole middle section of the Shar Mountain range. In order to experience Leshnica in the right light, you need to stay for a few days, go camping, traverse all the mountain trails and see all the big and small hidden sights.

Accommodation and food:

- You can find food and beverages in the private local shops or local coffee houses through the villages.

Access to starting and ending points:

- Highway Skopje – Tetovo, 43 km.
- Local road Tetovo – The village of Bozovce, 22 km.



THE VILLAGE OF BOZOVCE – LAKE KARANIKOLICHKO EZERO – – THE VILLAGE OF VESHALA

The trail starts at the information board placed outside the village of Bozovce. Spatially, this trail can be divided into two parts. The first part of the trail passes on the right, upper side of the village and comes out on a dirt road moving towards Leshnica. Moving along the road, after you pass the River Skakalichka, the marking leads to right. The trail passes an active sheep-farm and continues on to Skakalo. The trail divides here. The trail leading to Lake Karanikolichko Ezero passes the River Skakalichka, and rises on the right to Sheremetnica, moving along the western ridge of Sheremetnica. Before the top of Sheremetnica, the trail moves



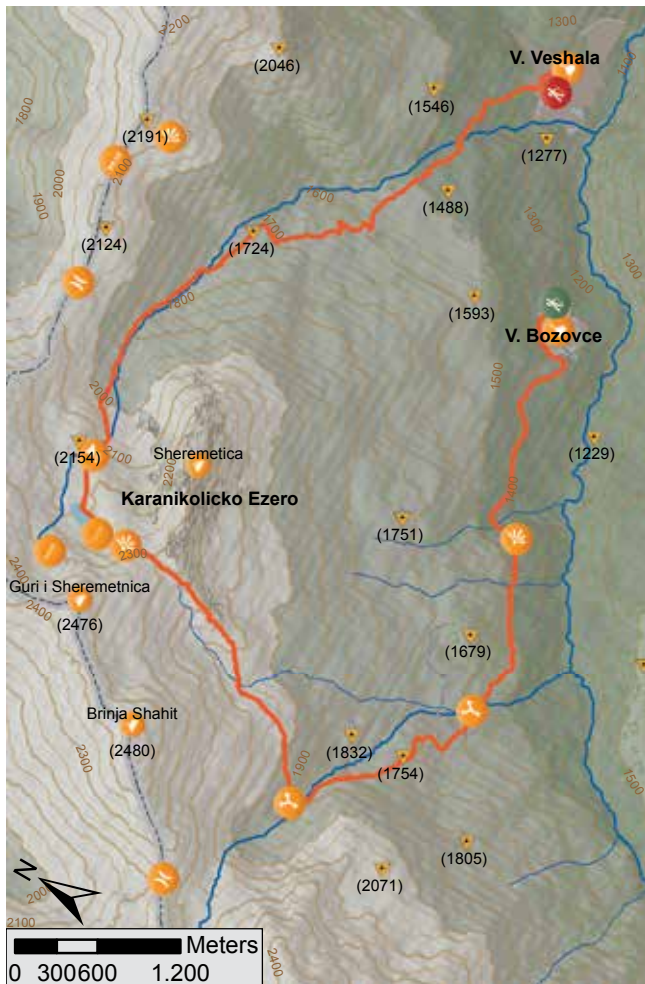
to the left by a broad saddle and descends to Lake Karanikolichko Ezero. The second part of the trail moves from the lake to the village of Veshalla, along the River Karanikolochka. The mountain trail before the village extends into a wide dirt road that ends in the village of Veshalla.



Panoramas and landscapes:

- The first part the trail offers beautiful landscape views towards Lesh-nichki Karpi, Titov Vrv and the midflow of the River Pena.
- The second part of the trail, specifically the place where the saddle of Sheremetnica is passed and descending towards the lake, offers a breathtaking view of the Shar Mountain ridge, with the peaks Karanikola, Vrtop, Shilidzhe and Kobilica. Of course, the view to Lake Karanikolichko Ezero only enriches this landscape.

BHA M8

SHAR MOUNTAIN



NAME OF THE PATH / ACRONYM	BHA M8
STARTING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Bozovce – 1,325 masl.
HIGHEST POINT	Lake Karanikolichko Ezero – 2.210 masl.
ENDING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Veshala – 1.245 masl.
HEIGHT DIFFERENCE	885 m.
DURATION OF THE TRAIL	6.30 h.
LENGTH OF THE TRAIL	14.3 km.
DIFFICULTY OF THE TRAIL	
REQUIRED FITNESS LEVEL	

BHA M8

Biodiversity pinpoints:

The trail passes through high mountain pastures on a silicate ground. The higher part toward the lake is the home of the endemic Shar Mountain mullein (*Verbascum scardicum*) – scientifically described by Bornmueller. The steepest section of the trail, ascending up the Sheremetica ridge, is a rocky limestone area where a specific flora develops. Here one may find the Balkan endemic Shar Mountain sainfoin (*Onobrychis scardica*).

Cultural and historical / characteristic sites:

Lake Kranikolichko Ezero, also known as "Golem Gjolj" is located at a height of 2.210 meters in the area of Karanikola. It is the third-largest lake in the Shar Mountain range, with an area of 26.240 m². The view of the lake when descending is breathtaking. The wind that moves the surface of the lake can steal the attention of the visitor and aim it towards the lake. The play of colors of the lake, from light blue to dark blue, through turquoise and violet are unique to the Shar Mountain range.

Accommodation and food:

- "The House of Veshala" – The village of Veshala.

Access to starting and ending points:

- Highway Skopje – Tetovo, 43 km.
- Local road Tetovo – The village of Bozovce, 22 km.
- Local road Tetovo – The village of Veshala, 20 km.



THE VILLAGE OF VESHALA – VRTOP PASS

The trail towards the passage Vrtop is very important because a part of the trail lies along the old road which used to connect the cities of Tetovo and Prizren. It starts on the right of the bend of the tarmac road just before the village of Veshala. From here, the trail gently climbs to the areas which once cultivated by the villagers. This trail offers beautiful landscape views of the peaks Kobilica, Shilidzhe and Vrtop. Once you come over the hill "Long Rock" or "Guri i Djat" the trail continues along an old unfinished route, which in the past used to connect the cities of Prizren and Tetovo. From this point on, the road leads to the crossing; essentially to the western saddle below the peak Vrtop, which is a few meters higher than the lowest passage to the Shar Mountains. The track ends at this passage and the descent is along the same trail. The trail may



be continued towards the Kosovo side through the green pass, which is marked on the map. The instructions for passing green areas are given in the relevant chapter of this guidebook. The trail from the Kosovo side, in this guidebook is explained as the following trail by the title BHA K3.



Panoramas and landscapes:

- Going along the first third of the trail there are viewpoints from which you can see the middle flow of the River Pena and the first Leshnica Karpa (Plat).
- The second third offers a remarkable view over the peaks of Kobilica, Silidzhe and Vrtop.
- The third part, where the trail goes towards the old road, opens up a view towards the Jelacki Crn Vrv, Leshnici Karpi, the flow of the River Pena, the areas of Skakalo and Karanikola.

BHA M9

SHAR MOUNTAIN



NAME OF THE PATH / ACRONYM	BHA M9
STARTING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Veshala – 1245 masl.
HIGHEST POINT	Passage Vrtop PASS – 2.110 masl.
ENDING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Veshala – 1,245 masl.
HEIGHT DIFFERENCE	865 m.
DURATION OF THE TRAIL	3 h.
LENGTH OF THE TRAIL	8 km.
DIFFICULTY OF THE TRAIL	
REQUIRED FITNESS LEVEL	

BHA M9

SHAR MOUNTAIN

Biodiversity pinpoints:

Similar to most of the trails in this guide (BHA M2, 3, 5, 6, and 8) the specific vegetation is represented by high mountain pastures on a silicate ground, which include several endemic plant species, such as the Shar Mountain alyssum (*Alyssum scardicum*).

Cultural and historical / characteristic sites:

A typical place to visit while you are in the village of Veshala is the first section of the River Karanikolichka, specifically, right after the lake, the river dives into a deep rocky landscape. Since nature gives us everything, and it really does in this place, just above where the water dives down there is a natural stone bridge which makes the view to this place unforgettable. Another place to visit is "Dolg Kamen" or "Guri i Djat", which actually presents a high cliff located just above the village and from which we get a wonderful view towards Leshnica.

Accommodation and food:

- "House of Veshala" – The village of Veshala.

Access to starting and ending points:

- Highway Skopje – Tetovo, 43 km
- Local road Tetovo – The village of Veshala, 20 km.



THE VILLAGE OF ZAPLLUZH – "KARAULLA BUILDING" – – VRTOP PASS (KOSOVO)

The trail starts from "Karaula Building" located on the ridge that separates the villages Struzje and Zapluzha. Up to this point you have access via a dirt road from both villages. From here on, the trail leads to the Vrtop pass crossing. From the very beginning, the track heads south and continues slightly uphill to the ridge of Shar Mountain where it merges with the trail on the Macedonian side.

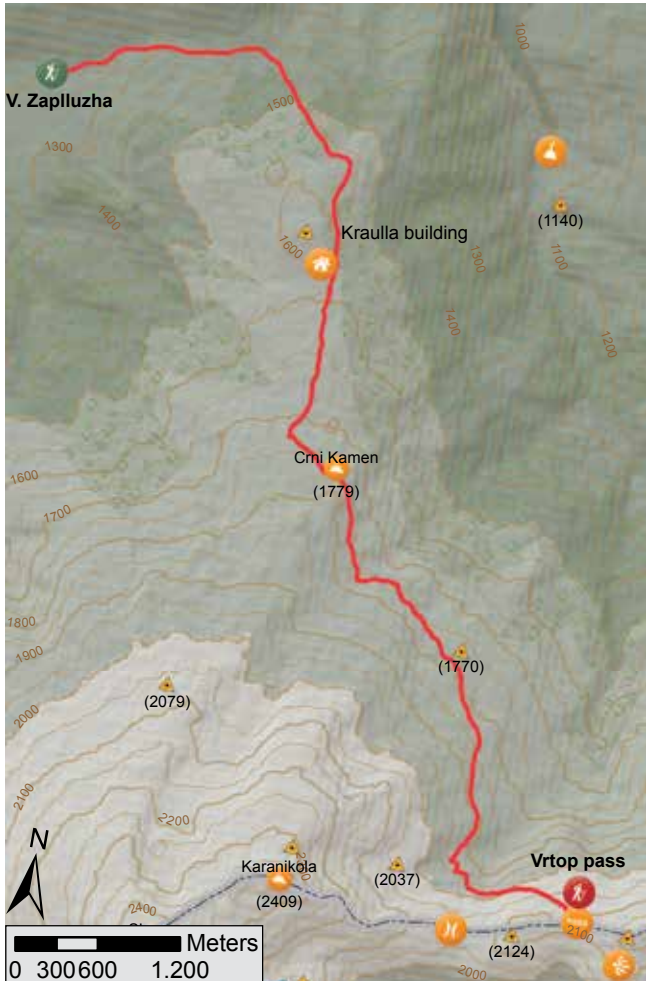




Panoramas and landscapes:

- From the very start, your sight is drawn to the Vrtop peak, which is on the right side of the trail for the duration of the trek. The panoramic views of the villages Manastiritsa and Struzje with the background of the town of Prizren are simply beautiful.

BHA K3

SHAR MOUNTAIN



NAME OF THE PATH / ACRONYM	BHA K3
STARTING POINT ALTITUDE	"Karaula Building" – 1.602 masl.
HIGHEST POINT	Vtrop PASS crossing – 2.110 masl.
ENDING POINT ALTITUDE	"Karaula Building" – 1.602 masl.
HEIGHT DIFFERENCE	508 m.
DURATION OF THE TRAIL	3 h.
LENGTH OF THE TRAIL	10 km.
DIFFICULTY OF THE TRAIL	
REQUIRED FITNESS LEVEL	

BHA K3

SHAR MOUNTAIN

Biodiversity pinpoints:

The flora and vegetation that grows on limestone rocks and stony grounds on Vrtop and Kobilica is specific and different to flora on the larger silicate part of Shar Mountain. One can find here one of the most specific glacial relict plants – white dryad (*Dryas octopetala*). It is characterized by very unique leaves with finely crenate leaf edges, so it can be easily recognized in fossil deposits.

Accommodation and food:

- Accommodation and food can be found in Karaula Building, in three bungalows with 15 beds in total. It is advisable to make a reservation in advance.

Access to starting and ending points:

- Highway Pristina – Prizren, 82 km.
- Local road Prizren – The village of Zapluzha, 18 km.
- Village of Zapluzha – Karaula Building, 22 km (off road).



THE VILLAGE OF GURGEVISTE – LAKE CRNO EZERO – RUDOKA PEAK

The trail starts at the information board, which is placed in front of the village of Gurgeviste, at the place where a dirt road splits off and leads to the channel "Sharski Vodi". Moving along the wide dirt road, we go through a forest belt. The trail goes on the southern slope of the Bristavec peak. The villages of Gurgeviste and Lomnica remain on the left-hand side of the trail. Once you climb to a height of 400 meters, you exit the channel "Sharski Vodi". Along the channel there is a wide dirt road. From this place, the trail continues along an old dirt road that leads to the foot of Bristavec. Leaving the forest, we go onto a dirt road that starts climbing slightly to the foot of the peak. You can also get to this point by using an off-road vehicle. At an altitude of 2.000 meters, the trail moves along a mountain path that bypasses the Bristavec peak and leads to Lake Crno Ezero. Bypassing the right hand side of Lake Crno Ezero, we move towards the Rudoka peak. It passes the rocky cirque from the lake and reaches a plateau below the peak where there are more non-permanent lakes. From this place, it reaches the ridge of the Sar Mountain



where moving left in an arc toward the south, we arrive at Rudoka peak, the highest peak in Kosovo. The return to route follows the same path. The trail may be continued towards the Kosovo side through the green pass which is marked on the map. The instructions for passing the green areas are given in the relevant chapter of this guidebook. The trail on the Kosovo side is explained as the following trail with the title BHA K4.



Panoramas and landscapes:

- The first panorama of this trail is at the foot of the Bristavec peak, where towards the southeast you have a beautiful view of the part of the Polog area including the city of Gostivar.
- Climbing over Lake Crno Ezero, you'll find the landscape to be remarkable. A dark lake surrounded by steep dark rocks, which display the wilderness of the mountain.
- The reef of the Sar is a view towards the Kosovo part of the mountain. The view towards the Sutmanska plateau is enriched by Lakes Chelepinski and Ginivoda.
- An absolute must is the view from the top.

BHA M10

SHAR MOUNTAIN



NAME OF THE PATH / ACRONYM	BHA M10
STARTING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Gurgeviste – 890 masl.
HIGHEST POINT	Rudoka peak – 2,658 masl.
ENDING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Gurgeviste – 890 masl.
HEIGHT DIFFERENCE	1.768 m.
DURATION OF THE TRAIL	5 h.
LENGTH OF THE TRAIL	18.7 km.
DIFFICULTY OF THE TRAIL	
REQUIRED FITNESS LEVEL	

BHA M10

Biodiversity pinpoints:

In addition to the high mountain pastures, this trail is characterized by the large areas made up of silicate rocks and stony sites with specific vegetation and a few small chamois herds (*Rupicapra rupicapra balcanica*). At Lake Crno Ezero one may see the local Shar Mountain endemic plant – Doerfler's cinquefoil (*Potentilla doerfleri*). At Rudoka, according to one German botanist, one may also find the sub-Arctic and Alpine azalea (*Loiseleuria procumbens*), which, unfortunately, has not been observed by any Macedonian botanists since 1954.

Cultural and historical / characteristic sites:

The characteristics of this trail are the channel "Sharski Vodi" and Lake Crno Ezero. The channel is actually a system of channels that gather water from the rivers of southern Shar Mountain and lead to the reservoir, known as Lake Mavrovo. The system was built between 1969 to 1977, and is still active today. The dirt road that runs around it, is about 80 km in length. In recent years it has been used for mountain biking and off-road tours with 4x4 vehicles. Lake Crno Ezero, at an altitude of 2.170 meters, is the second largest lake in the Shar Mountain range, and has an area of 33.030 m², and is 11 meters deep.

Accommodation and food:

- Mountain lodge "Vila Negotino" – at the foot of Lake Crno Ezero.

Access to starting and ending points:

- Highway Skopje – Tetovo, 43 km.
- Local road Tetovo – The village of Gurgeviste, 26 km.



THE VILLAGE OF BROD – RUDOKA PEAK (KOSOVO)

The trail starts behind the Arxhena Hotel and its nearby cable car. After 2.2 km, the trail is in the front of the cable car and the restaurant, which is open only in wintertime. 420 m from the restaurant on the right hand side of the trail there is a spring called "Kroni i mbretit". The trail continues along a mountain ridge called "Zlipotok Mountains" where we have beautiful panoramic views. After walking for about 3 hours and 40 min the path veers to the east, downhill and afterwards uphill towards Rudoka Peak. At an altitude of 2.310 m we come cross the last source of water.



After the water source, the trail continues uphill, which is difficult to pass, at an altitude 2.635 m to "First Peak". The distance between the First Peak and Rudoka Peak is 1.33 km.

Panoramas and landscapes:

- Westward along the trail a beautiful view of the Shutman Plateau and Lake Chelepinskite opens up.
- Looking eastward from the top, a view to the upper Polog valley opens up, and just below the peak you can see Lake Crno.

BHA K4

SHAR MOUNTAIN



NAME OF THE PATH / ACRONYM	BHA K4
STARTING POINT ALTITUDE	"Argjena ski center" – 1502 masl.
HIGHEST POINT	Rudoka peak – 2,658 masl.
ENDING POINT ALTITUDE	"Argjena ski center" – 1502 masl.
HEIGHT DIFFERENCE	1.156 m.
DURATION OF THE TRAIL	4 h.
LENGTH OF THE TRAIL	12.4 km.
DIFFICULTY OF THE TRAIL	● ● ● ● ○
REQUIRED FITNESS LEVEL	● ● ● ● ○

BHA K4

SHAR MOUNTAIN

Biodiversity pinpoints:

Below Rudoka, in the direction towards Brod (Prizren), vast grasslands (pastures) spread over gently sloping ground at the locality Shutman. Several streams are formed here which, further downstream, create the River Brod (Brodská Reka). Many extensive mires, peat-bogs and mountain lakes have been created at and around their source areas, which are typical for their specific biodiversity. One can find a least ten peat-moss species here (*Sphagnum spp.*).



Accommodation and food:

- Hotel "Argjena" and private houses.

Access to starting and ending points:

- Regional road Pristina – Prizren, 82 km.
- Local road Prizren – "Argjena ski center" – 50 km.



THE VILLAGE OF POZARANE – "KUCI BABA" – "BUDIMOV GROB"

The trail starts at the information board, which is placed in front of the village of Pozarane. Moving to the left, the trail bypasses the village and climbs over the village. The trail is a dirt road and after you reach an altitude of 400 meters, you exit the channel "Sarski Vodi". The road continues to the plateau Kuci Baba. From here, the trail continues southward moving in the vast pastures which from the west are intercepted by the river flow of River Mzdraca where in the heights there are the characteristic peaks Vratsa (large, medium, small). The slight climb leads to "Budimov Grob" which is an intersection between the paths coming from the valley Mzdraca and the valley of Gorno Jelovce. If you climb a hundred meters to the mild slope located to your right you will enjoy the landscape views of the Mzdraca river valley and the steep sections of



big and little Vratsa. This place, which is at an altitude of 2.209 meters is called "Bugarski Kolibi." The return is along the same path to the village of Pozarane.



Panoramas and landscapes:

- Once you climb to the plateau Kucibaba, you will be constantly looking all around you so as to take in the spectacular views. To the north you will see the peaks of Rudoka and Bristavec and also Ljuboten and the middle flow of the River Mzdraca. To the south-east you will see the bountiful fields of the upper Polog valley and to the west the peaks of Vratsa.
- Starting from the destination, a wonderful view of the cirque River Jelovska and Gorno Jelovce can be seen and in the valley, the town of Gostivar.

BHA M11

SHAR MOUNTAIN



NAME OF THE PATH / ACRONYM	BHA M11
STARTING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Pozarane – 906 masl.
HIGHEST POINT	Budimov Grob – 2.093 masl.
ENDING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Pozarane – 906 masl.
HEIGHT DIFFERENCE	1.190 m.
DURATION OF THE TRAIL	3 h.
LENGTH OF THE TRAIL	14 km.
DIFFICULTY OF THE TRAIL	
REQUIRED FITNESS LEVEL	

BHA M11

Biodiversity pinpoints:

The southern parts of Shar Mountain (Morava, Lera, Nichpur Mountain, Bogdevo Mountain, Fudan, Mengulova Kula, Kuchi Baba, etc.) are characterized by vast high mountain pastures, which develop mostly on a silicate ground on mild slopes. In late spring and early summer the pastures are covered by the yellow or purple flowers of the local endemic pansy species - (*Viola ivonis*), discovered and described by Erben in 1985 as a new species.

Cultural and historical / characteristic sites:

The village of Pozarane is first mentioned in the written documents dating back to 1461 or 1462. But the village is an older settlement related to the existence of three cities, which from the plateau of 900 meters above sea level, stretched even to the left bank of the River Vardar, as neighboring to the village Tenovo. The Mehmed Bey waqfs, mentions a "road that leads to the mills of Pozaran" and another "from Kaliste to Pozharan" vineyards from Pozaran, a road "from Pozaran to the ruined tower" and forests of Pozaran. Some of the written sources of Pozaran are stored in waqfs mosque Kebir Mehmed Celebi in Skopje. These places exist even today in the vicinity of the village of Pozarane.

Accommodation and food:

- Mountain lodge "Kaj Rexho" – The village of Vranjovce.

Access to starting and ending points:

- Highway Skopje – Tetovo, 43 km.
- Local road Tetovo – The village of Pozarane, 28 km.



BISTRA MOUNTAIN

A mountain range in the central part of western Macedonia. Thanks to its abundant plant and animal life, as well as the pleasant and salubrious mountainous climate, Bistra is a very attractive mountain and offers favourable conditions for the development of summer and winter tourism. It rises in the Kicevo valley to the east, the deep valleys of Rivers Mavrovo and Radika to the west, which separates it from the mountains of Korab and Deshat, the Mavrovo valley to the north, and the Rivers Mala, Garska, and Jamska and the tectonic saddle Jama (1.100 m) to the south.

Bistra, as a mountain, together with the southernmost parts of Shar Mountain and Korab, falls within the territory of the "Mavrovo" National Park.

As a clearly pronounced morphostructural entity, Bistra covers an area of 572.8 km² and has eight peaks higher than 2.000 m. It's highest peak is Medenica (2.163 m), while the other more prominent peaks are: Trebishka Dupka (2.154 m), Kjurkov dol (2.110 m), and Govedarnik (2.018 m). Bis-



tra has a complex geotectonic structure. Its lower parts are dominated by old Paleozoic shale - philitoids, while its highest part is covered by Triassic limestone with a thickness of 400 m. The clean Triassic limestone had allowed for an intensive karstification and the presence of nearly all surface and ground karst forms. The most prominent among the surface karst forms are the small karst fields: Toni Voda, Suvo Pole, Govedarnik, Lazaropole, etc. Some locations, such as Suvo Pole and Sultanica, have seen the development of depressions, often up to 50 per 1 km², so that the landscape resembles a pockmarked karst.

The most prominent of the ground karst forms is the cave system Alilica, which consists of the caves Upper and Lower Alilica, Kalina Dupka, and Sharkoa Dupka. Bistra also exhibits fossil glacial relief and glacial cirques in particular. The lower parts of the mountain are covered by forest complexes, while the higher parts are characteristic for the vast mountain pasture lands suitable for livestock husbandry.



Tourist sites to visit in the Region of Bistra

- Monastery of "St. Jovan Bigorski" – trunk road Skopje – Debar.
- Monastery of "St. Gjorgi Pobedonosiec", the village of Rajchica.
- "Inkjar mosque", Debar.
- Spa centre and thermal spas "Capa", the village of Banishte and the village of Dolno Kosovrasti.
- Ski centre "Zare Lazareski", the village of Mavrovo.
- The village of Galichnik.
- Museum of the Village of Galichnik.
- Museum of Old Stuff, the village of Selce.
- Tourist Information Point of the Mavrovo National Park, the village of Mavrovi Anovi.
- Museum of "Partisan Printing House", the village of Bitushe.
- Duf waterfalls, above the village of Rostushe.
- "Elen Skok" bridge, close to the village of Janche.
- Sveti Grad or Skanderbeg's fortress, the village of Kodzadzik.
- Memorial House of the father of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the village of Kodzadzik.



Elen Skok is a stone bridge built over the River Mala Reka. It was built in the middle of the 18th century from a processed stone set in the shape of a bow, according to the plans of Mimar Hajrudin who was also the architect of the old bridge Neretva in Mostar.



THE VILLAGE OF GALICNIK – STARCI PEAK – – THE VILLAGE OF SUSICA – "ELEN SKOK"

The trail starts in Galicnik, the heart of the Miyak region, a village at an altitude from 1.270 to 1.450 meters surrounded by pastures. From Galicnik, it passes through the most picturesque landscape of Mount Bistra and the "Mavrovo" National Park. The information board is set before Galicnik and the trail is just on the right of the asphalt road. The trail begins on a dirt road and immediately continues along a mountain path that passes through the forest belt. It then leads up to pasture ground from where it climbs the top of the Starci peak. The peak is not steep, but nonetheless offers beautiful landscape vistas. After that, the trail descends gently to the village of Susica, which has a large fountain, a place to rest and a view



of the mountain Stogovo. The trail moves through a dense forest belt, continuing to "Elen Skok" where it ends.



Panoramas and landscapes:

- Architecture is one of the main features of Galicnik. The steep, almost natural amphitheater-like terrain is used for the construction of stone houses on the contour lines on the ground. The houses are cube shaped with gently sloping pyramidal roofs. The houses have two and three stories.
- Starci peak, on the west-northwest belt offers a wonderful view of the peaks of Bistra Mountain, Deshat and Krchin, and the canyon of the River Radika with a large number of villages that are on the bases of these massifs. In the south we see the gentle slopes of the mountain Stogovo.

BHA M12

BISTRA MOUNTAIN



NAME OF THE PATH / ACRONYM	BHA M12
STARTING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Galicnik – 1.430 masl.
HIGHEST POINT	Starci peak – 1.709 masl.
ENDING POINT ALTITUDE	"Elen Skok" – 780 masl.
HEIGHT DIFFERENCE	929 m.
DURATION OF THE TRAIL	6 h.
LENGTH OF THE TRAIL	15 km.
DIFFICULTY OF THE TRAIL	
REQUIRED FITNESS LEVEL	

BHA M12

Biodiversity pinpoints:

The region of the now no-longer-existing village of Sushica (depopulated more than 50 years ago) is one of the most important regions for the survival of the Balkan lynx (*Lynx lynx balcanicus*), a subspecies of the Eurasian lynx, which has, sadly, recently found its way onto the global IUCN red list of threatened species as Critically endangered (CR). The area where the trail traverses is characterized by various dense woods: xero-thermophilous oak and hornbeam woods (downy oak - *Quercus pubescens* and oriental hornbeam - *Carpinus orientalis*) near Elen Skok and thermophilous oak woods (Italian oak - *Quercus frainetto*) toward Sushica. This area is also a refuge of a larger number of brown bear specimens (*Ursus arctos*).

Cultural and historical / characteristic sites:

Galicnik is a tourist attraction because of its authentic architecture, rich cultural heritage and amazing landscapes. It is known for the "Galicnik wedding", a traditional public wedding, held annually on the village celebration day – Petrovdan mid. of July. During the wedding, the dance "Tesko Oro" is performed - which symbolizes overcoming difficulties in life.

Accommodation and food:

- Hotel "Neda" – The village of Galicnik.
- Rooms "Baba i dede" – The village of Galicnik.
- Hotel "Tuto" – The village of Jance.

Access to starting and ending points:

- Highway Skopje – Mavrovi Anovi, 88 km.
- Local road Mavrovi Anovi – The village of Galicnik, 22 km.
- Local road Mavrovi Anovi – The village of Mogorje, 40 km.



DESHAT MOUNTAIN

A mountain on the border between Macedonia and Albania, part of the Shar – Korab – Deshat – Krchin – Stogovo - Karaorman Mountain range. The highest peak of Deshat mountain is Velivar (Veli-Vrv) with an altitude of 2.375 m. There are several small glacial lakes on the mountain, the most popular one being Lake Lokuv, covering an area of 4.000 m², situated on the north-eastern part of the mountain at an altitude of 1.560 m, which makes it the lowest glacial lake in Macedonia. The River Radika, which separates Deshat from Bistra and Stogovo, runs on the eastern slopes of the mountain.

The Deshat mountain ridge encompasses the middle section of the Korab mountain massif (range), stretching from the eponymous high mountain col Deshat (1.976 m) and the valley of the River Zirovnica (Valavica), which also separates it from the Korab mountain to the north, to the high mountain col of Suva Bara (2.080 m) and the valley of River Trebiska, which separates it from Krchin mountain to the south. The total length of the mountain ridge is 7 km. To the east this mountain stretches to the valley basin of the River Radika, and to the west, to the eastern edges of the Peshkopi valley, in the neighbouring Republic of Albania. The border between Macedonia and Albania runs along the highest points of the ridge, with the entire eastern side of Deshat belonging to the territory of Macedonia, and the western side belonging to Albania. The total area within the territory of Macedonia amounts to 53 km².

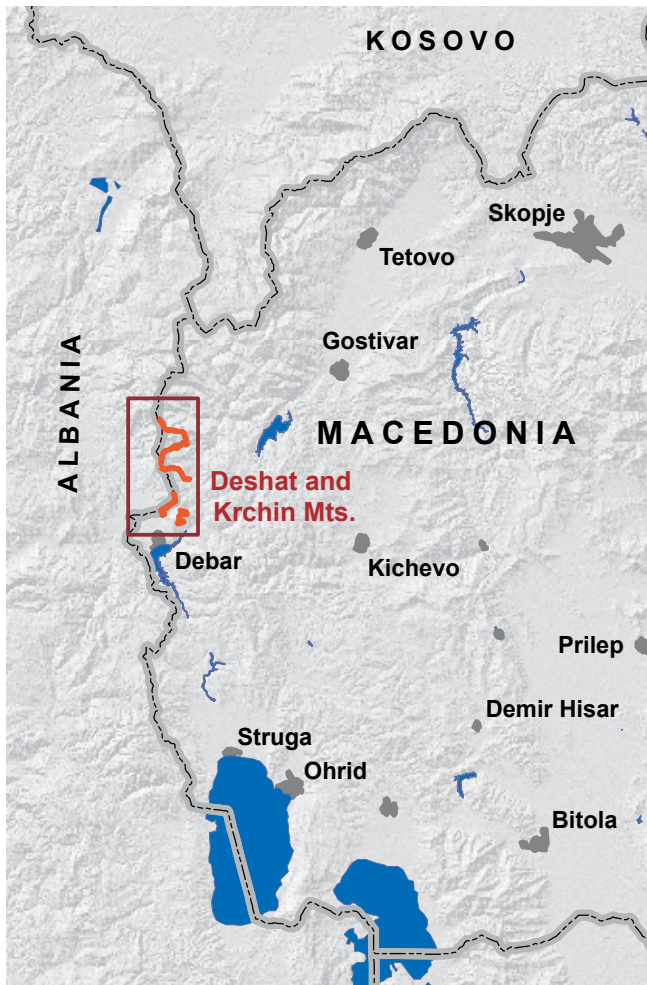


The mountain is well covered in forests. The most dominant tree species is the beech, and there are many old, centennial beech trees present. Other tree species that are present to a lesser extent are pine, spruce, aspen, mountain maple and birch. Other widespread plants and forest fruits are cranberries, raspberries, blueberries, rose hip, mountain tea, yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), common sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), and fern is also widespread and covers entire meadows.

The herbivorous mammals are represented by the deer, wild boars, and the mountain goats, while the carnivorous ones present are bears, wolves, lynxes, and foxes. It is also the habitat of several bird species.

KRCHIN MOUNTAIN

A high mountain in western Macedonia which presents a continuation of the Deshat Mountain to the north. It is 13 km long and stretches along the meridian from Suva Bara (2.080 m) to the north, to the bottom of the Debar Valley to the south. The mountain crest is clearly pronounced, with several peaks higher than 2.000 m rising above it. The highest peaks are Golem Krchin (2.341 m), Rudoka (2.238 m) and Crvena Ploca (2.107 m). In geotectonic terms, the mountain is made of flysch deposits. Within the area of the Kosovrasti spa, the limestone is replaced by gypsum, anhydrite, and sulphurous deposits, while white and grey limestone with a thickness of between 300-400 m feature in the vicinity of the Banjiste spa. A gypsum processing plant was built in the region due to the great deposits of gypsum (the largest deposits on the Balkan Peninsula).



Tourist sites to visit in the Region of Deshat and Krchin

- Monastery of "St. Jovan Bigorski" – trunk road Skopje – Debar.
- Monastery of "St. Gjorgi Pobedonosiec", the village of Rajchica.
- "Inkjar mosque", Debar.
- Spa centre and thermal spas "Capa", the village of Banishte and the village of Dolno Kosovrasti.
- Ski centre "Zare Lazareski", the village of Mavrovo.
- The village of Galichnik.
- Museum of the Village of Galichnik.
- Museum of Old Stuff, the village of Selce.
- Tourist Information Point of the Mavrovo National Park, the village of Mavrovi Anovi.
- Museum of "Partisan Printing House", the village of Bitushe.
- Duf waterfalls, above the village of Rostushe.
- "Elen Skok" bridge, close to the village of Janche.
- Sveti Grad or Skanderbeg's fortress, the village of Kodzadzik.
- Memorial House of the father of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the village of Kodzadzik.





THE VILLAGE OF ZHIROVNICA – SHKRTEC PASS

The route starts in the village of Zhirovnica, to be precise, the so called "Gorno maalo" (the upper neighborhood) of the village. This route is very interesting and significant because it used to be the trail for commercial exchange between the village of Zhirovnica and the neighboring villages from Albania. The route goes to the most hidden part of the Republic of Macedonia. Just 2 km outside the village is the spring "Medoshnica", which is believed by the locals to have healing powers. From the spring, along the basin of River Tairovska, the route continues westward to the foothill of the area called "Mala Planina" (Small Mountain), and then north-



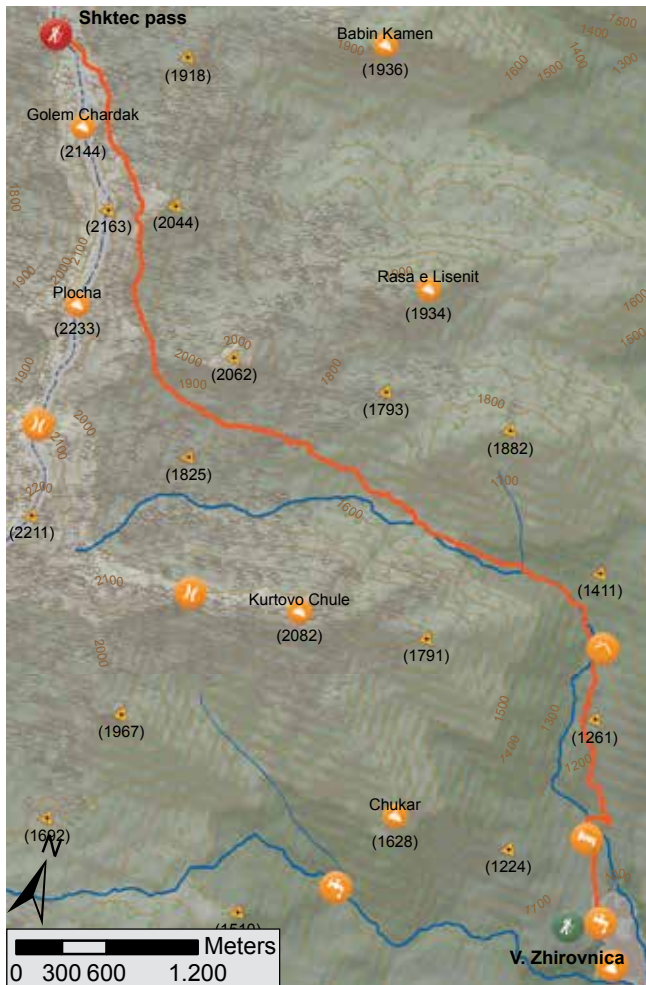
west passing through the area called "Tri Sinora" under the peak Plocha. 2 km from Plocha in the northwest is the crossing Shkrtec, the end of the route. The way back is along the same route.



Panoramas and landscapes:

- In the north and northwest you see the highest parts of the Korab massif.
- In the east and southeast you see the upper estuaries of the River Radika, i.e. the River Gorna region with Mount Bistra in the background.

BHA M13

DESHAT & KRCHIN MOUNTAINS



NAME OF THE PATH / ACRONYM	BHA M13
STARTING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Zhirovnica – 1.000 masl.
HIGHEST POINT	Shkrtec Pass – 2.030 masl.
ENDING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Zhirovnica – 1.000 masl.
HEIGHT DIFFERENCE	700 m.
DURATION OF THE TRAIL	3 h.
LENGTH OF THE TRAIL	8.8 km.
DIFFICULTY OF THE TRAIL	
REQUIRED FITNESS LEVEL	

BHA M13

Biodiversity pinpoints:

High mountain marsh habitats of several types may be found at the Shkrtec pass: peat moss (several species of *Sphagnum* – peat moss), unstable ponds with *Eleocharis palustris* (marsh spike-rush), acid marshes with black (or common) – *Carex nigra* and Macedonian sedge (*Carex bigelowii* subsp. *dacica*), marshes with *Carex rostrata* (bottle sedge), moss peat bogs, etc. The marsh habitats do not cover big areas, but are common and well preserved.

Cultural and historical / characteristic sites:

Zhirovnica is a village with the greatest number of inhabitants in "Mavrovo" National Park. The traditional architecture is still visible in parts of the houses, and some of them have been built in a modern style. This village has been known in the region by many migrants, fortune seekers, and the specific cultural customs, which may be seen during the village wedding ceremonies and big traditional festivities in spring and summer.

A characteristic of this area is the finish, the pass "Shkrtec". It is at the very border between Macedonia and Albania, where there are still remnants of a former military fortification from the period of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia.

Accommodation and food:

- Hotel "Tutto" – The village of Janche.
- Mountain hut and camping Govedarica – The village of Zirovnica.


Access to starting and ending points:

- Regional road Skopje – Mavrovi anovi, 88 km.
- Local road Mavrovi anovi – The village of Zhirovnica, 22 km.



THE VILLAGE OF ZHIROVNICA – VELIVAR PEAK

The route starts in the village of Zhirovnica, to be precise, from the information billboard placed in "Gorno Maalo". The mountain trail leads to the foothill in the area of "Golema Planina" and the highest parts of the mountain ridge Deshat. In the area of "Skala" and "Staro bachilo" the trail continues to the borderline ridge between the Republic of Macedonia and Albania. From this point along the ridge, the path continues to Peak Velivar. The return to route follows the same path. The trail may be continued towards the Albanian side through the greenpassage, which



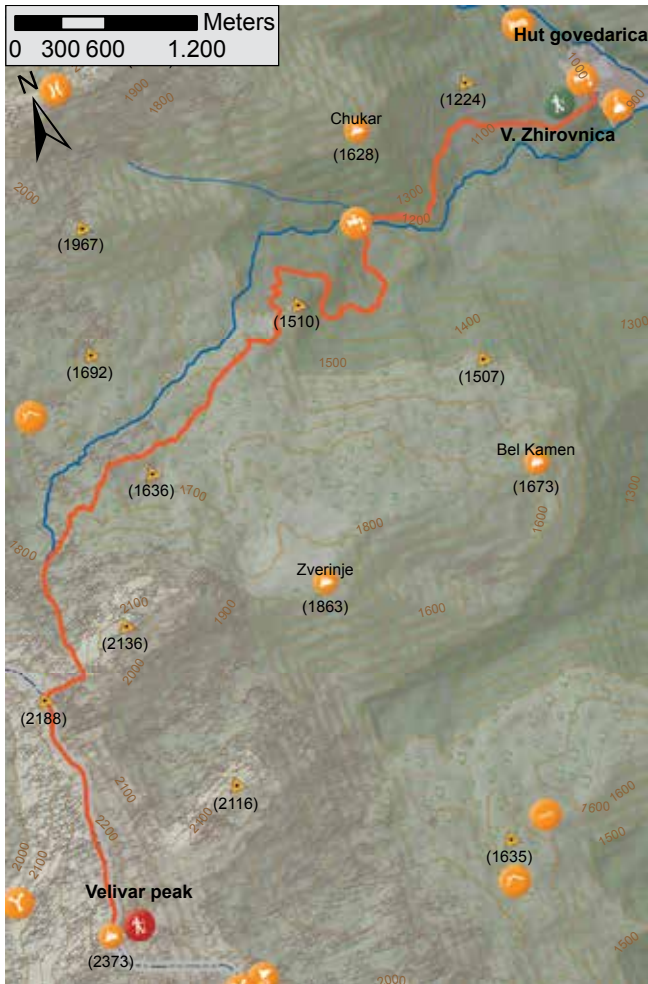
is marked on the map. The instructions for passing the green areas are given in the relevant chapter of this guidebook. The trails on the Albanian side are explained as the following trails with the title BHA A1 and BHA A2.

Panoramas and landscapes:

- When you reach the mountain ridge of Deshat, you will see the highest parts of Korab in the north, the River Dolna region in the east, and Mount Bistra and Stogovo in the background, and the peaks of Mount Krchin to the south.

BHA M14

DESHAT & KRCHIN MOUNTAINS



NAME OF THE PATH / ACRONYM	BHA M14
STARTING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Zhirovnica – 1.000 masl.
HIGHEST POINT	Peak Velivar – 2.,373 masl.
ENDING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Zhirovnica – 1.000 masl.
HEIGHT DIFFERENCE	1.373 m.
DURATION OF THE TRAIL	4 h.
LENGTH OF THE TRAIL	10.2 km.
DIFFICULTY OF THE TRAIL	
REQUIRED FITNESS LEVEL	

BHA M14

Biodiversity pinpoints:

A large section of the trail above the village of Zhirovnica passes through intensively exploited beech woods, but at the section between Zhirovnica and the villages of Trebishte and Bitushe (trail BHA M15) one may find beech forest complexes, which possess the character of a primeval forest (in particular in the ravine between the villages of Vidushe and Trebishte). The mountain peak Velivar is characterized by extensive high mountain pastures on a silicate ground and smaller areas under silicate rocky sites. During the summer this area is characterized by the widespread Koshanin's houseleek (*Sempervivum kosaninii*) with its dark red flowers.

Cultural and historical / characteristic sites:

Zhirovnica is a village with the greatest number of inhabitants in "Mavrovo" National Park. The traditional architecture is still visible in parts of the houses, and some of them have been built in a modern style. This village has been known in the region by many migrants, fortune seekers, and the specific cultural customs, which may be seen during the village wedding ceremonies and big traditional festivities in spring and summer.

Accommodation and food:

- Hotel "Tutto" – The village of Janche.
- Mountain hut and camping Govedarica – The village of Zirovnica.

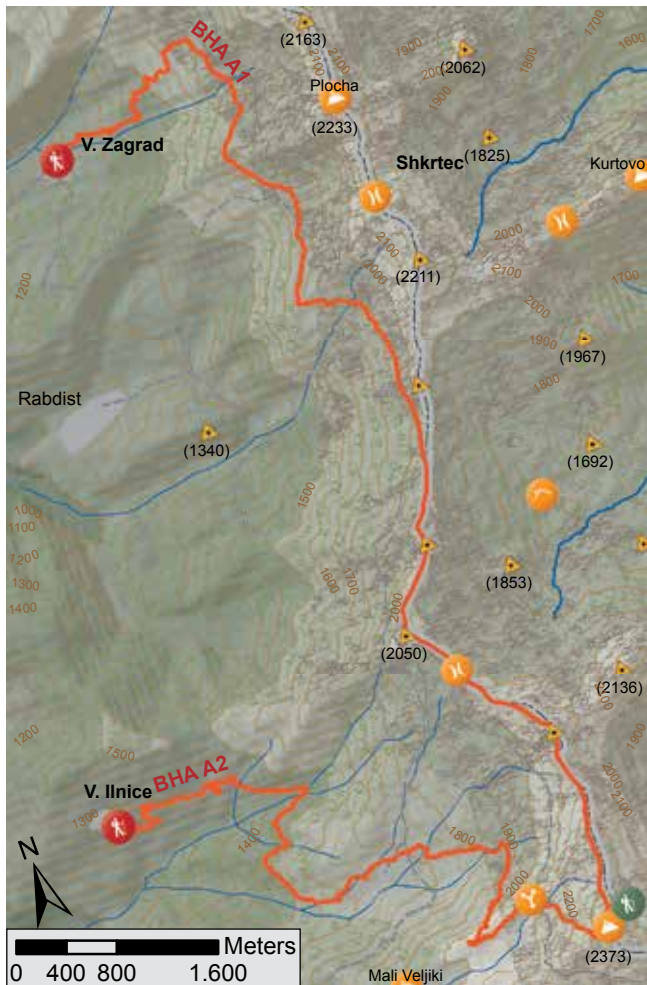
Access to starting and ending points:

- Regional road Skopje – Mavrovi anovi, 88 km.
- Local road Mavrovi anovi – The village of Zhirovnica, 22 km.

BHA A1

DESHAT & KRCHIN MOUNTAINS

BHA A2



VELIVAR PEAK (MACEDONIA) TO THE VILLAGE OF ZAGRAD (ALBANIA)**BHA A1**

The previously explained trail BHA M14 can be extended from Macedonian to Albanian territory towards green pass and can be finished in the village of Zagrad. The instructions for passing the green areas are given in the relevant chapter of this guidebook.

From the top of the Velivar Peak climb down and continue to the north in next 5 km to connect with the trail leading to the village of Zagrad in Albania.

**VELIVAR PEAK (MACEDONIA) TO THE VILLAGE OF ILNICE (ALBANIA)****BHA A2**

The trail BHA 14 from Velivar peak except towards the village of Zagrad can be extended towards green pass to the village of Ilnice (Explained as BHA A2 trail). The instructions for passing the green areas are given in the relevant chapter of this guidebook. From the top of the Velivar Peak climb down to the west joining the trail leading to the village of Ilnice in Albania.



THE VILLAGE OF BITUSHE – VELIVAR PEAK

The route starts in the highest village in this region, the village of Bitushe. The trail is mild at the beginning and continues along thick beech woodland until it reaches Lake Lokuv. From here, the route passes by a mount small dairy and in the northwest, continuing to pastures. Along the route, over the woodland there are another two smaller lakes. From here the route becomes steeper up to the ridge between the Republic of Macedonia and Albania, northbound to Peak Velivar. The way back is along the same route, or it can be in combination with the described route from this guidebook (BHA M14).

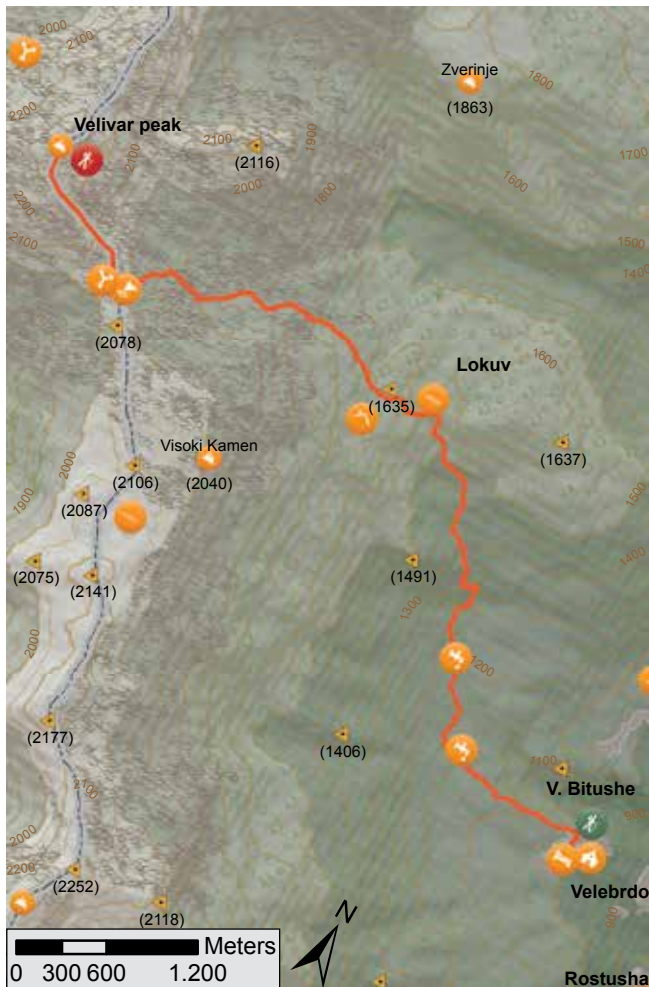




Panoramas and landscapes:

- When you get past the woodland you can see the beautiful scenery of Mount Bistra, with St. Jovan Bigorski Monastery and the canyon of the River Radika in its foothills.
- From the ridge, i.e. the borderline with Albania, you can see the city of Peshkopi from the Albanian side, and many of the Albanian villages.
- You can see the villages of Rostushe, Velebrdo, Trebishte, Selce, and others from the peak, and if the weather is good, you can even see the mountain massif Prokletije.

BHA M15

DESHAT & KRCHIN MOUNTAINS



NAME OF THE PATH / ACRONYM	BHA M15
STARTING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Bitushe – 1.030 masl.
HIGHEST POINT	Peak Velivar – 2.373 masl.
ENDING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Bitushe – 1.030 masl.
HEIGHT DIFFERENCE	1.343 m.
DURATION OF THE TRAIL	4 h.
LENGTH OF THE TRAIL	8 km.
DIFFICULTY OF THE TRAIL	
REQUIRED FITNESS LEVEL	

BHA M15

Biodiversity pinpoints:

The dominant vegetation along the lower half of the trail is the beech wood, similar to the case of the BHA M14 trail. Near the clearings in the forest, slightly below Lokuf, the wonder violet (*Viola mirabilis*) grows, and this is the only site of this Eurasian violet species in Macedonia (this finding has not been scientifically verified yet).

Cultural and historical / characteristic sites:

The village of Bitushe is a village of many stories. The village is densely populated, and the steep terrain and limited space for building, allowed the construction masters of this village to express their creativity to the maximum in the use and shaping of the space, using stone as the main construction material. The houses in Bitushe have been built with two or three floors, and only three houses in the village have four floors. There is a lot more to say about history and tradition, so we recommend you visit the village, talk to the locals.

Accommodation and food:

- Hotel "Tutto" – The village of Janche.
- Mountain hut and camping Govedarica – The village of Zirovnica.
- Rooms at Fuad – The village of Rostushe.

Access to starting and ending points:

- Regional road Skopje – Mavrovi anovi, 88 km.
- Local road Mavrovi anovi – The village of Bitushe, 30 km.



THE VILLAGE OF GORNO KOSOVRASTI – CRVENA PLOCHA PEAK

The route starts from the information board in the village of Kosovrasti. The general direction of the route is northbound. Starting from the village, the route goes to the right and then left towards Peak Bajrak, where it arrives at the foothill of Peak Crvena Plocha. After climbing Peak Crvena Plocha, the route may end there, or connect with the route coming from the village of Skudrinje. That route continues northbound, in a northwest direction passing under Peak Rudina until the area of Vrtok,



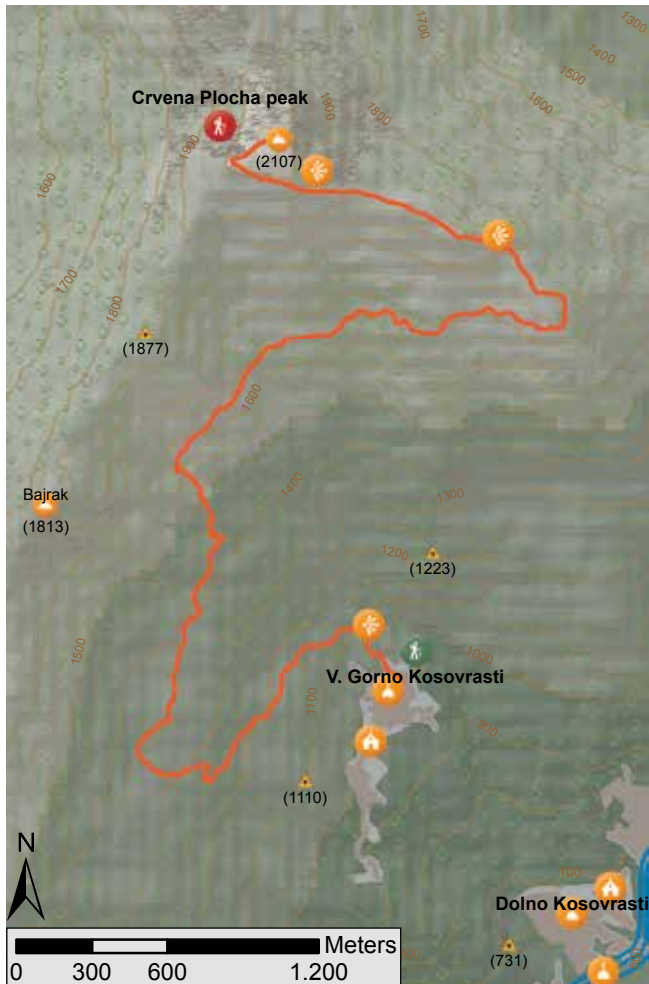
at an altitude of 1.900 m. From there, it is possible to climb Peak Krchin or continue northeast and descend to the village of Bitushe.



Panoramas and landscapes:

- From the route to the south there is a beautiful view of the town Debar and Lake Debar.
- After climbing the ridge, under Peak Crvena Plocha, you can see the peaks Rudina and Krchin, the basin of the River Radika and Mounts Bistra and Stogovo.

BHA M16

DESHAT & KRCHIN MOUNTAINS



NAME OF THE PATH / ACRONYM	BHA M16
STARTING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of G. Kosovrasti – 8.20 masl.
HIGHEST POINT	Crvena Plocha – 2.107 masl.
ENDING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of G. Kosovrasti – 820 masl.
HEIGHT DIFFERENCE	1.287 m.
DURATION OF THE TRAIL	3 h.
LENGTH OF THE TRAIL	7.1 km.
DIFFICULTY OF THE TRAIL	
REQUIRED FITNESS LEVEL	

BHA M16

Biodiversity pinpoints:

The area above the village of Kosovrasti is populated mostly by under-developed beech woods on steep slopes, while the peak Crvena Plocha is under high mountain pastures on rocky ground. It is also the site of a specific violet which resembles the most the aetolic violet (*Viola aetolica*), which is characteristic for the southern mountains of the Pindus range, and can be found only on Galichica in our country.

Cultural and historical / characteristic sites:

Gorno Kosovrasti is a village on the border between the areas of Dolna Reka, i.e. the Mijak ethnographic region and the region of Debar (the Brsjak ethnographic region). It is surrounded by dense oak, poplar and aspen woods, and many other varieties of deciduous trees and due to the composition of the soil, rocks and limestone, the village and the surrounding area is rich in water springs with fresh mineral water, feeding the well-known spas of Debar – "Kosovrasti".

Accommodation and food:

- Hotel "Tutto" – The village of Janche.
- Hotel spa "Capa" – The village of Kosovrasti.
- Rooms in the village of Kosovrasti.

Access to starting and ending points:

- Regional road Skopje – Debar, 132 km.
- Local road Debar – The village of Gorno Kosovrasti, 11 km.



THE VILLAGE OF BANISHTE – KRCHIN PEAK

The route starts from the information board placed in the village of Banishte. The route may be divided into two sections. The first section has a northeast line of direction. From the village, the route begins steeply to the west slopes of Peak Rudina, and continues to the ridge between the peaks Rudina and Golem Krchin. Here, the route continues through the Mavrovo National Park. That is the second section of the route. The direction of this section is northbound. The route leads to the foothill of Peak Golem Krchin, where it continues along the steep path to the peak. This guidebook presents the route that returns to the village of



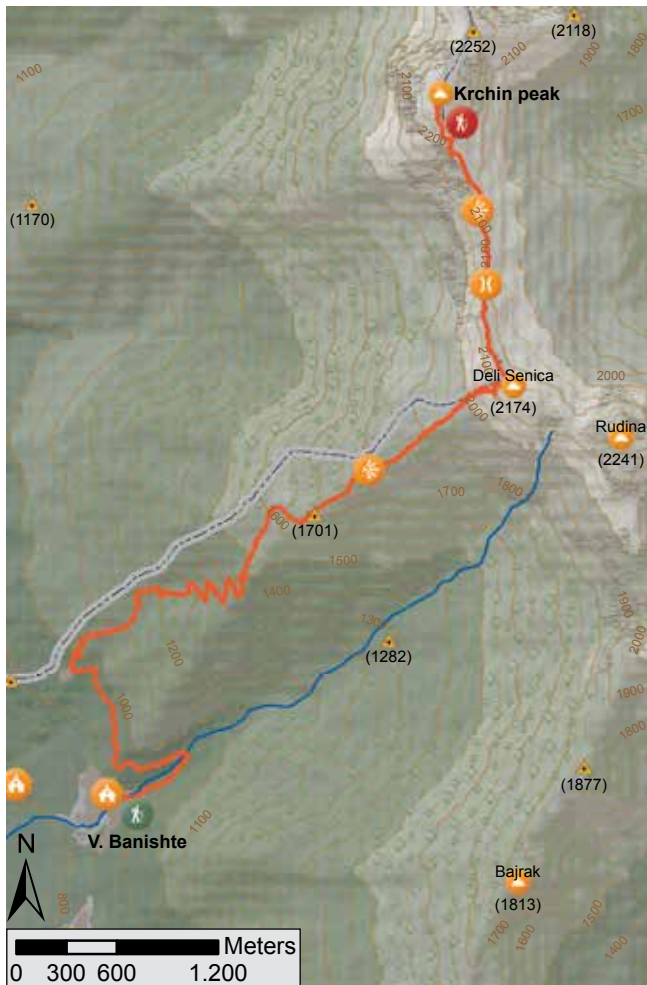
Banjishte, however, there is an option to finish in the villages of Bitushe, Skudrinje and Gorno Kosovrasti (previously described routes). The trail may be continued towards the Albanian side through the green pass which is marked on the map. The instructions for passing the green areas are given in the relevant chapter of this guidebook. The trail on the Albanian side is explained as the following trail with the title BHA A3.



Panoramas and landscapes:

- When you pass the ridge of Mount Krchin, to the east there is an unforgettable view to mounts Bistra and Stogovo, and to the west, the valley of Black Drin from the side of Albania.

BHA M17

DESHAT & KRCHIN MOUNTAINS



NAME OF THE PATH / ACRONYM	BHA M17
STARTING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Banjishte – 860 masl.
HIGHEST POINT	Peak Golem Krchin – 2.342 masl.
ENDING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Banjishte – 860 masl.
HEIGHT DIFFERENCE	1.482 m.
DURATION OF THE TRAIL	4 h.
LENGTH OF THE TRAIL	8.7 km.
DIFFICULTY OF THE TRAIL	
REQUIRED FITNESS LEVEL	

BHA M17

Biodiversity pinpoints:

In the area from the village of Banishte to the base of the peak Golem Krchin, almost all types of sylvan vegetation present in our country alternate - from xero-thermophilic oak and hornbeam woods (downy oak - *Quercus pubescens* and oriental hornbeam - *Carpinus orientalis*), through thermophilic oak woods (Italian oak - *Quercus frainetto* and Turkey oak *Q. cerris*), mesophilic oak woods (sessile oak - *Quercus petraea*), and the forest belt ends in a beech wood (*Fagus sylvatica*), as in the case of the BHA M12 trail.

Cultural and historical / characteristic sites:

The landmark of this region is the Debar spa. A popular rehabilitation, recreation, and relaxation center, situated in Debar. The water in this spa center is thermo-mineral, with an optimum temperature for the body, 38 degrees Celsius. According to research from the 1970's, the water springs near the Debar spas, have been placed first in Europe and third in the world according to their healing qualities and mineral content. The springs are located in the villages of Banjishte and Kosovrasti.

Accommodation and food:

- Hotel spa "Capa" – The village of Banishte.
- Hotel "Venec" – The city of Debar.

Access to starting and ending points:

- Regional road Skopje – Debar, 132 km.
- Local road Debar – The village of Banjishte, 6 km.

KRCHIN PEAK (MACEDONIA) TO THE VILLAGE OF KERCHISHT I SIPERIM (ALBANIA)**BHA A3**

The previously explained trail BHA M17 can be extended from Macedonian to Albanian territory towards green pass and can be finished in the village of Kerchisht i Siperim. The instructions for passing the green areas are given in the relevant chapter of this guidebook.

From the top of the Krchin Peak you can continue to the north, and after 1.6 km on altitude of 2100 m turn left (west) then south and join the trail leading to the village of Kerchisht i Siperim in Albania.





STOGOVO MOUNTAIN

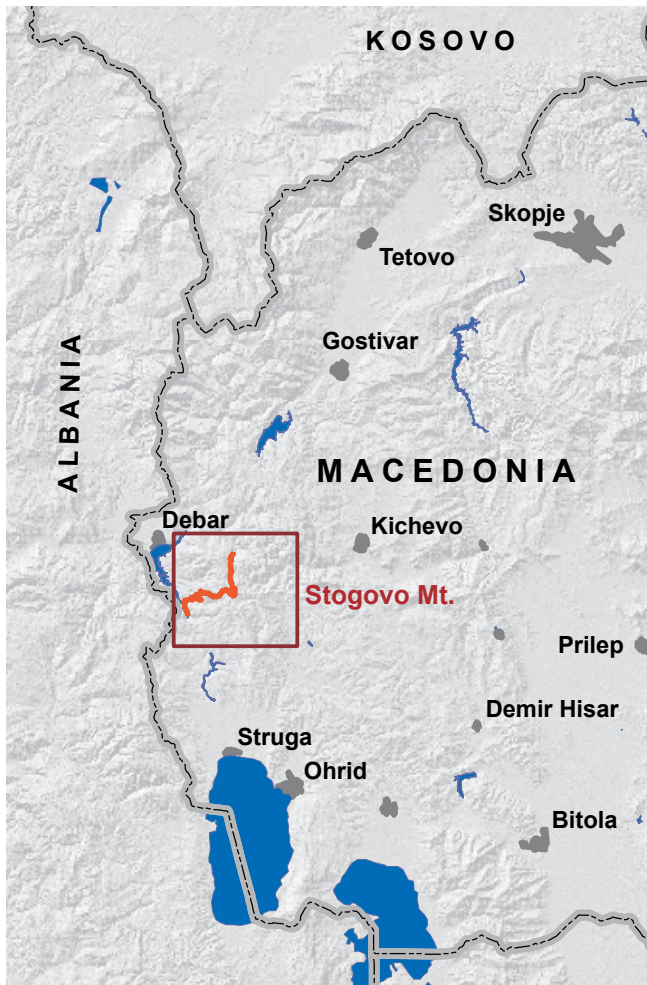
The Stogovo Mountain is situated between the valley of the River Black Drin to the west and the River Sateska to the east. To the north and to the east Stogovo connects to Bistra Mountain, and to the south, via the peak Babin Srt (2.240 m.) it connects with the Karaorman mountain. To the north it is bounded by the Rivers Mala, Garska, and Jamska and the col Jama, and to south, through Karaorman, it reaches the Ohrid and Struga valley. To the west and southwest, the slopes of Stogovo Mountain enclose the Debar field and the valley of the River Black Drin, i.e. the Drimkol and Malesija regions, while to the east and southeast, it borders with the Kicevo valley and the northern part of the Debarca region.

It stretches along the northwest-southeast direction. It is a young sharp-ridged fold mountain. The ridge is clearly pronounced along its entire length - in some places it is rounded, while in others it is sharp and less articulated. The mountainside to the north at first descends mildly, and then it falls steeply toward the valley or River Mala and its tributaries, the Rivers



Garska and Jamska. The highest peaks are Stogovo (2.318 m) and Golem Rid (2.273 m), and it has ten other peaks higher than 2.000 m.

Stogovo is a young fold mountain that formed during the Alpine orogeny. Its geological structure includes philitoids, green shale, carbonates, clays, chert, etc. During the Pleistocene, the Stogovo Mountain was subjected to glaciation; hence today there is a presence of glacial relief expressed in cirques, troughs and moraines. There are three glacial lakes in the cirques: Upper and Lower lakes and Lake Marusha. The flora is present "by stories", that is, the base of the mountain is predominated by deciduous beech and oak forests, while moving upward they are replaced by evergreen pine forests, and the rocky peaks themselves are surrounded by high grass pastures known as "Alpine pastures". There are a number of pastures and pens on the mountain's flattened plateaus called Major and Minor Megdanica, which are surrounded by the Golem Rid to the west, Babin Srt to the south and Stogovo peak to the east. In 2012, individual lynx were detected on two occasions on the eastern slopes of Stogovo, in the Kicevo area, within the framework of the study on the lynx in Macedonia.



Tourist sites to visit in the Region of Stogovo

- Monastery of "St. Jovan Bigorski" – trunk road Skopje – Debar.
- Monastery of "St. Gjorgi Pobedonosiec", the village of Rajchica.
- "Inkjar mosque", Debar.
- Spa centre and thermal spas "Capa", the village of Banishte and the village of Dolno Kosovrasti.
- Ski centre "Zare Lazareski", the village of Mavrovo.
- The village of Galichnik.
- Museum of the Village of Galichnik.
- Museum of Old Stuff, the village of Selce.
- Tourist Information Point of the Mavrovo National Park, the village of Mavrovi Anovi.
- Museum of "Partisan Printing House", the village of Bitushe.
- Duf waterfalls, above the village of Rostushe.
- "Elen Skok" bridge, close to the village of Janche.
- Sveti Grad or Skanderbeg's fortress, the village of Kodzadzik.
- Memorial House of the father of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the village of Kodzadzik.





**THE VILLAGE OF GARI – BABIN SRT PEAK –
– THE VILLAGE OF KODZHADZHIC – THE VILLAGE OF DOLGASH –
– "HEC GLOBOCHICA"**

The route starts from the information board located at the end of the village of Gari, on the south side of the village. The route leads through the woodland to the beginning of the pastures passing several small, active dairies. Up to the last dairy the route continues to the south, then veers



slightly to the southeast, and southwest leading to the Babin Srt peak. From this point it heads north, descending to the village of Novak. From the village of Novak, the road leads to the village Kojajik where there is a path to Svetigrad or Skenderbeg Kale. The path returns along the same route in the village of Novak, from where it descends to the village of Dolgash and ends at the River Black Drin, precisely, the Hudropower plant "Globochica".



NAME OF THE PATH / ACRONYM	BHA M18
STARTING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Gari – 1.108 masl.
HIGHEST POINT	Babin Srt peak – 2.242 masl.
ENDING POINT ALTITUDE	HPP Crn Drim – 510 masl.
HEIGHT DIFFERENCE	1.732 m.
DURATION OF THE TRAIL	9 h.
LENGTH OF THE TRAIL	15 km.
DIFFICULTY OF THE TRAIL	
REQUIRED FITNESS LEVEL	

BHA M18

Biodiversity pinpoints:

Stogovo is characterized by vast areas under high mountain pastures on a silicate ground, and only a small part of it is limestone bedrock (mostly the Bik Doruk peak). There is one local endemic species described from the upper parts of the mountain – the liveforever (*Sempervivum tompsonianum*).

Cultural and historical / characteristic sites:

Gari is a beautiful traditional village in the Municipality of Debar, located under the woodland called Kanesh. The River Garska passes through the village, and it is a protected natural treasure. The village is very well known for its iconostasis and the woodcarving in the church "Assumption of Holy Mother of God", made by the group of the renowned master Petre Filipovski - Garkata. Kodjajik is a village in the area of Zhupa. This village is known because it is the birthplace of the father of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, Ali Riza. There is a family museum at the place where their family house used to be. A location worth visiting is also Skenderbeg Kale or Svetigrad. It is known for the "Siege of Svetigrad" from 1449. After so many defeats, the Ottoman Empire decided to gather a great army to defeat Skenderbeg. The main goal of the Sultan was to win over the fortress Svetigrad (today in ruins). Skenderbeg tried to resist the assault by the Sultan, but, still, after a two-months battle, Skenderbeg was forced to release the fortress to the Turks.

Accommodation and food:

- Hotel "Kalin" – The village of Lazoropole.
- Rooms in the village of Gari.
- Hotel "Venec" – City of Debar.

Access to starting and ending points:

- Regional road Skopje – Debar, 132 km.
- Local road Debar – The village of Dolgash, 23 km.



JABLANICA MOUNTAIN

A high mountain in the southwestern part of the Republic of Macedonia. It is situated between the Ohrid-Struga Valley and the Debar Valley, to the west of the River Black Drin (Valley and the shore-line of Lake Ohrid. The eastern side of the mountain belongs to the Republic of Macedonia, while the western side belongs to the Republic of Albania. It stretches in a meridian direction with a length of 35 km, and its greatest width in our country is 7.5 km. The part of the mountain on Macedonian territory covers an area of 255 km². Jablanica is a fold mountain formed by the Oligo-Miocene tectonic movements. Its geological structure is represented by Paleozoic



shale on the mountain slopes, covered by Triassic limestone. The topography of Jablanica is dominated by high mountain peaks, wide expanses, deep river gorges, and by karts and glacial landforms. Its highest peak is Crn Kamen (2.257 m.), and it has several other peaks higher than 2.000 m, such as: Strizak (2.233 m), Krstec (2.186 m), and Cumin Vrv (2.125 m).

The fossil glacial features are represented by five cirques that enclose the four glacial lakes: Vevcani, Podgorje, Upper and Lower Labuniste. The mountain abounds in water, and the most famous springs are the ones in Vevcani, which are a tourism attraction in their own right. In terms of mineral resources, there is a coalmine near the village of Piskupstina.



Tourist sites to visit in the Region of Jablanica

- Monastery "St. Kliment", located in the micro-space between the settlements of Vevchani, Oktisi and Gorna Belica.
- Vevchani springs, Vevchani.
- Watermill on the Vevchani springs, Vevchani.
- Chapel "St. Nedela", Vevchani.
- Chapel "St. Sreda", Vevchani.
- Church of "St. Jovan", Vevchani.
- Church of "St. Nikola", Vevchani.
- Church of "St. Prechista", Vevchani.
- Church of "St. Spas", Vevchani.
- Monastery of "St. Petar and Pavle", Vevchani.
- Memorial House of Mihajlo Pupin – Pupin's House, Vevchani.
- Antique objects – Gallery, Vevchani.
- Exhibition of Traditional dresses, Vevchani.
- Picnic area Tishkinec or Samabuka, Podgorci.
- Chapel of "St. Petka", Podgorci.
- Church of "St. Paraskeva" (Saint Petka), Gorna Belica.
- Church of "Holy Trinity" (Parumba), at 2.000 masl. 3.5km from Gorna Belica.
- Church of St. Atanasij, Vishni.
- Church of St. Spasa, Vishni.





THE VILLAGE OF MODRICH – STRMNICA PEAK – – THE VILLAGE OF JABLANICA

The route starts at the end of the village of Jablanica, before getting off from the local asphalt road and going along the gravel road leading to St. Ilija Monastery. There is a stone village fountain and next to it there is an information board marking the start of the route. The route leads along the gravel pathway to the football pitch and continues to the walking path through a beech woodland, which goes through Golema Livada to the ridge leading to Peak Strmnica. From the peak, the route continues along the ridge of the mountain to the trough Slepcharen



and the spring Devojkina voda, passing by the small dairy and following the basin of the river it descends to the village of Modrich, to the village fountain. One may take the route in the opposite direction, starting from the village of Modrich. Along most of the route's length, there is beech woodland, and in the higher parts, above 1.700 masl. it leaves the forest and continues along the mountain ridge along the vast pastures



Panoramas and landscapes:

- Almost any point on the mountain ridge, at 1.600 masl. offers beautiful panoramic views of the horizon over Lake Ohrid and Debar, as well as the mountains surrounding this region.

BHA M19

JABLANICA MOUNTAIN



NAME OF THE PATH / ACRONYM	BHA M19
STARTING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Jablanica – 1.130 masl.
HIGHEST POINT	Strmnica peak – 1.904 masl.
ENDING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Modrich – 860 masl.
HEIGHT DIFFERENCE	1.044 m.
DURATION OF THE TRAIL	6 h.
LENGTH OF THE TRAIL	12.3 km.
DIFFICULTY OF THE TRAIL	
REQUIRED FITNESS LEVEL	

BHA M19

Biodiversity pinpoints:

Above the village of Modrich there are great expanses under beech woods, with high mountain pastures at a silicate base at the Raduch peak and high mountain pastures at a limestone base and rocky limestone grounds at the Strmnica peak above the forest belt. This is the habitat of a flora that is typical for the limestone ground, including the Shar Mountain tea (*Sideritis scardica*). The village of Jablanica is a village of a dispersed settlement type, with several groups of houses (districts). The area is characterized by rural aspects of the landscape - forest lots intersected by cut meadows - it is a type of landscape that is gradually disappearing in Macedonia.

Cultural and historical / characteristic sites:

The village of Jablanica is a place worth visiting. The name of the village was for the first time mentioned in the period from 1342-1345, in the Charter of Dushan for the Monastery St. Mother of God-Perivlepta in Ohrid. Actually, the fact that this village was part of one of the roads of the Via Ignacia connecting the towns Ohrid (*Lychnidus*) and Struga (*Enhalon*) with Elbasan (*Mansio Scampa*) and Durres (*Dyrrhachium*), the items that were found made of ceramic, metal and items of jewelry and toponyms related to the Roman period are evidence that there had been a settlement here in ancient times. The village is rich in distinctive, but modest and highly functional architecture, adequate for the climate of this mountain village.

Accommodation and food:

- Rooms in the village of Modrich and accommodation in Vevchani.

Access to starting and ending points:

- Regional road Skopje – Struga, 172 km.
- Local road Struga – The village of Modrich, 31 km.
- Local road Struga – The village of Jablanica 24 km.



**THE VILLAGE OF PODGORCI – PODGORECHKO LAKE –
– CRN KAMEN PEAK – "VEVCHANSKA LOKVA" – VEVCHANI**

The trail starts from the village of Podgorci. The trail goes on a dirt road that leads through a beech forest and reaches to Podgorecki Bacila. Moving along this path, on three occasions, a broad grassy area or meadow is passed.

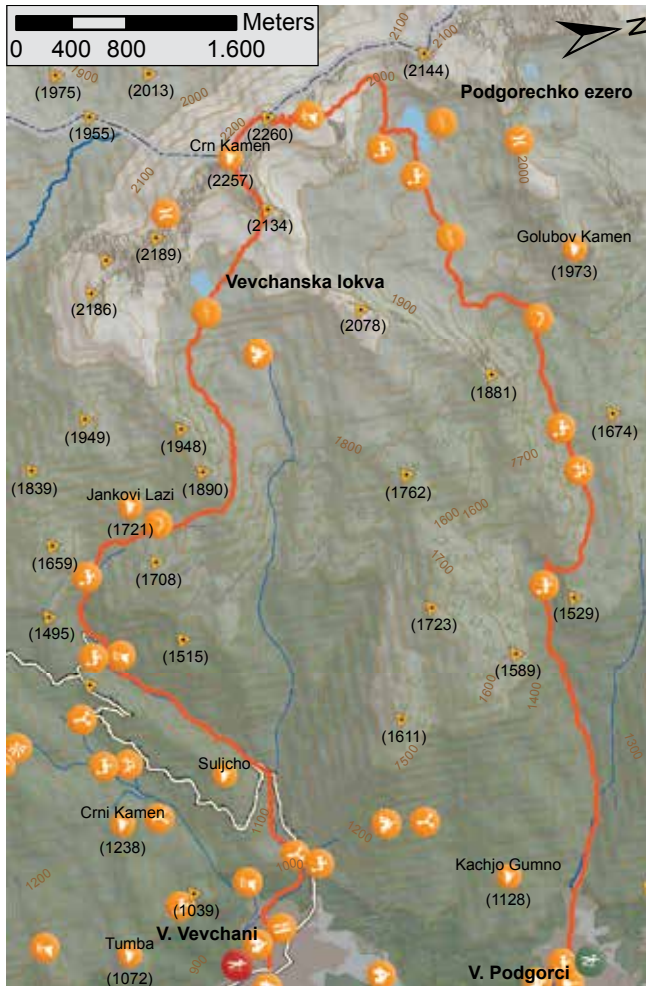
Shortly after the sheep farms, crossing the so-called "golinska skala" vast grasslands are reached. From this point, moving along a better regulated mountain path will lead to, initially, the small Lake Podgorecko and shortly after the large Lake Podgorecko. Passing the lake, a detour on the left is made on a steep trail to reach to the top of Crn Kamen. From the top the trail descends to a rocky grass area to Vevchanska Lokva where it continues through sheep farms in Vevcani. From the sheep farms, on





a dirt road through the beech forest, the trail goes along the banks of the River Crven Kladenec and the dry area Esejnca, where by descending, it ends at Vevcani Springs. The trail may be continued towards the Albanian side through the green pass, which is marked on the map. The instructions for passing the green areas are given in the relevant chapter of this guidebook. The trail on the Albanian side is explained as the following trail with the title BHA A4.

Panoramas and landscapes:

- While climbing to the top, immediately passing the forest towards the east there is an overlook of the Drimkol region and Lake Globocica.
- From the top section of the decent, there is a wonderful and unforgettable view of Vevcani, Struga Field, Lake Ohrid and Galicica Mountain.



NAME OF THE PATH / ACRONYM	BHA M20
STARTING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Podgorci – 940 masl.
HIGHEST POINT	Crn Kamen Peak – 2.257 masl.
ENDING POINT ALTITUDE	Vevchani Springs – 910 masl.
HEIGHT DIFFERENCE	1.347 m.
DURATION OF THE TRAIL	10 h.
LENGTH OF THE TRAIL	18.8 km.
DIFFICULTY OF THE TRAIL	
REQUIRED FITNESS LEVEL	

BHA M20

Biodiversity pinpoints:

Above the beech wood timberline, high above the village of Podgorci, the vast area of high mountain pastures on conglomerate ground is situated. In these parts of the Crn Kamen range one may find well-preserved populations of the typical subspecies of great yellow gentian (*Gentiana lutea*), which is not the case with the other mountains where it can be found (on Korab and Shar Mountain the gentian is nearly extinct).

Cultural and historical / characteristic sites:

In Podgorci, at the start of the trail, you can visit the monasteries "St. Jovan Vladimir" and "St. Precista". In this section, there are also the churches "St. Nikola" and the mosque, which were built in the early 19th century. On the other hand, in Vevchani, there is a cathedral church "St. Nikola" and five smaller, but no less important churches that you can visit. Do not leave before you visit the traditional mill, which is close to the Vevchani Springs where the wheat is ground and processed in the old traditional way.

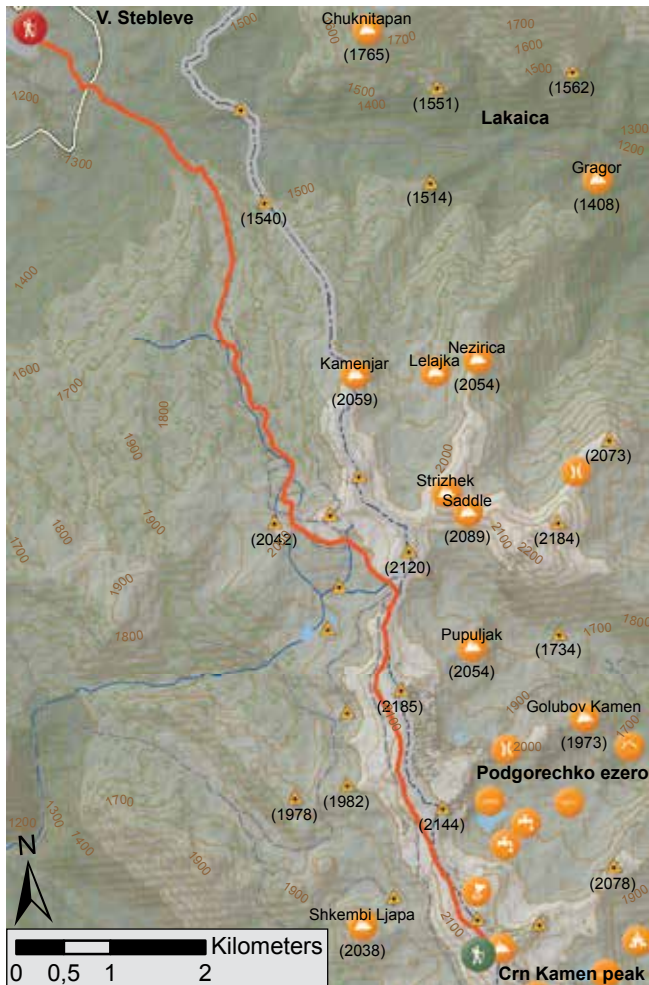
Accommodation and food:

- No accommodation is available in the village of Podgorci while food can be bought in local shops.
- Guest houses and restaurants in Vevchani: "Kutmicevica", Vila "Alula", "Vo Izvor", "Domakinska kuka", "Pupin's house", "Sutinoski" and "Via Ignatia".
- Rooms in Vevchani.

Access to starting and ending points:

- Highway Skopje - Struga, 172 km.
- Local road Struga – The village of Podgorci, 13 km.
- Local road Struga – Vevchani, 14 km.

BHA A4



CRN KAMEN PEAK (MACEDONIA) TO VILLAGE OF STEBLEVE (ALBANIA)**BHA A4**

The previously explained trail BHA M17 can be extended from Macedonian to Albanian territory towards green pass and can be finished in the village of Stebleve. The instructions for passing the green areas are given in the relevant chapter of this guidebook.

From the top of the Crn Kamen Peak follow the crest to the north in 1.5 km, then turn slightly to the left (west) in Albania, on the trail that will lead you to the village of Stebleve in Albania.





VEVCHANI SPRINGS – CRVEN KLDENEC – JANKOV KAMEN – – VEVCHANI SPRINGS

This trail starts in front of the Vevchani Springs close to the traditional mill, moving westward. The trail initially is sandy and then with dirt, until the area where it leads to the asphalt road that leads to Jankov Kamen. From there, the path leads along over a small creek to the place known as Crven Kladenec. From this point the trail continues up through the beech forest, until it arrives at the asphalt road leading to the village of Gorna Belica and goes



down to Jankov Kamen. Then the trail leads down to the Vevchani Springs. It passes through a beech forest and grassland just before reaching the end of the trail. The path descends through a pine forest to Vevchani Springs.



Panoramas and landscapes:

- From Jankov Kamen and along the track, there are various landscapes which are particularly interesting in the autumn when the leaves change color in a variety of the hues of yellow, red and gold.

BHA M21

JABLANICA MOUNTAIN



NAME OF THE PATH / ACRONYM	BHA M21
STARTING POINT ALTITUDE	Vevchani Springs – 910 masl.
HIGHEST POINT	Jankov Kamen – 1.344 masl.
ENDING POINT ALTITUDE	Vevchani Springs – 910 masl.
HEIGHT DIFFERENCE	434 m.
DURATION OF THE TRAIL	3 h.
LENGTH OF THE TRAIL	6.6 km.
DIFFICULTY OF THE TRAIL	
REQUIRED FITNESS LEVEL	

BHA M21

Biodiversity pinpoints:

This part of Jablanica is characterized by spacious beech woods. Near Jankov Kamen one may also find an interesting and rare tree species – the guelder-rose (*Viburnum opulus*).

Cultural and historical / characteristic sites:

The characteristics of this trail are the clear waters of the mountain spring Crven Kladenec. The natural beauties in the area of Jankov Kamen and the famous Vevchani Springs; a natural rarity, with its specific structure, flora and fauna. The church "St. Prechista" is a historic site that was demolished, but recently the foundations of the church from the 19th century with significantly larger dimensions were discovered. According to studies, construction began at the end of the 19th century, but for reasons unknown, construction ceased because it was assumed that the church was being built on the foundations of an older church dating back to the St. Clement period.

Accommodation and food:

- Guest houses and restaurants in Vevchani: "Kutmichevica", Vila "Alula", "Vo Izvor", "Domakinska kuka", "Pupin's house", "Shutinoski" and "Via Ignatia".
- Rooms in Vevchani.

Access to starting and ending points:

- Highway Skopje – Struga, 172 km.
- Local road Struga – Vevchani, 14 km.



**VEVCHANI – VAJTOS – ST. CLEMENT – PISANIK PEAK –
– JANKOV KAMEN – VEVCHANI SPRINGS**

The trail starts from Vevchani Springs, continuing along the asphalt road through a settlement to the bridge on the river, from where a dirt road begins along a forest of chestnut trees. From this point, the trail continues through a chestnut and beech forest on a dirt road that leads to the ancient site of Vajtos. Through a mixed area of beech and oak forest spread



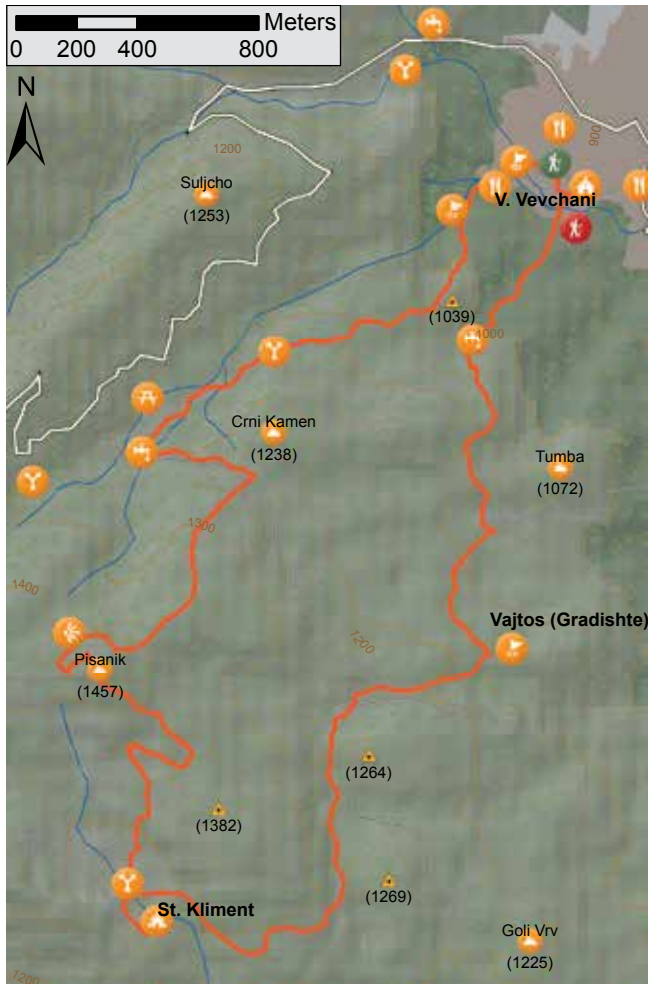
with open meadow areas, the trail passes via the Planinska Kuca and the Monastery of St. Clement and the trail continues to the top Pisanik. At the top there is a wonderful panoramic area. From the top, the trail descends through beech forest down a forest road leading to the picnic spot Jankov Kamen. From here, the return is via a mountain path until Vevchani Springs.



Panoramas and landscapes:

- Panoramic view towards Vevchani and Lake Ohrid.

BHA M22

JABLANICA MOUNTAIN



NAME OF THE PATH / ACRONYM	BHA M22
STARTING POINT ALTITUDE	Vevchani Springs – 910 masl.
HIGHEST POINT	Pisanik Peak – 1457 masl.
ENDING POINT ALTITUDE	Vevchani Springs – 910 masl.
HEIGHT DIFFERENCE	547 m.
DURATION OF THE TRAIL	5 h.
LENGTH OF THE TRAIL	9.6 km.
DIFFICULTY OF THE TRAIL	
REQUIRED FITNESS LEVEL	

BHA M22

Biodiversity pinpoints:

This part of Jablanica is characterized by large beech wood complexes.

Cultural and historical / characteristic sites:

Vajtos is an archaeological site near the village of Oktisi. The site is a confirmed settlement from early antiquity and Roman times. It is situated 3 km west of the village, and extends to a great height, with steep slopes, which dominate the Struga area. At the top, there is a confirmed settlement with dimensions of 680 m × 80 m. On the north side there are the remains of the bulwark wall from the Hellenic period, 2.20 meters wide, dry laid with blocks of stone up to 1.30 m long. In the western area, the construction area is enlarged and expanded with walls dating from Roman times.

Accommodation and food:

- Guest houses and restaurants in Vevchani: "Kutmichevica", Vila "Alula", "Vo Izvor", "Domakinska kuka", "Pupin's house", "Shutinoski" and "Via Ignatia".
- Rooms in Vevchani.

Access to starting and ending points:

- Highway Skopje – Struga, 172 km.
- Local road Struga – Vevchani, 14 km.



VEVCHANI – ST. SPAS – VEVCHANI

The starting point of the trail is Vevchani Springs. The trail moves along a forest dirt road through the forest. For a short period of time the trail moves along an asphalt road from where the trail continues on well-processed bed-rock. Then the trail continues on the dirt road through an ancient beech for-





est and leads to the monastery St. Spas. The descent from the monastery is through a pleasant trail in the forest belt and ends at Vevchani Springs.

Panoramas and landscapes:

- Panoramic view towards the upper Drimkol region and Lake Globochica.

JABLANICA MOUNTAIN



NAME OF THE PATH / ACRONYM	BHA M23
STARTING POINT ALTITUDE	Vevchani Springs – 910 masl.
HIGHEST POINT	Monastery "St. Spas" – 1.300 masl.
ENDING POINT ALTITUDE	Vevchani Springs – 910 masl.
HEIGHT DIFFERENCE	390 m.
DURATION OF THE TRAIL	2.30 h.
LENGTH OF THE TRAIL	6.8 km.
DIFFICULTY OF THE TRAIL	
REQUIRED FITNESS LEVEL	

BHA M23

Biodiversity pinpoints:

Next to the monastery Sv. Spas, one can find an ancient beech forest with typical features of a primeval forest.

Cultural and historical / characteristic sites:

St. Spas monastery from the 19th century is located on this trail and is 1.300 masl.

Accommodation and food:

- Guest houses and restaurants in Vevchani: "Kutmichevica", Vila "Alula", "Vo Izvor", "Domakinska kuka", "Pupin's house", "Shutinoski" and "Via Ignatia".
- Rooms in Vevchani.

Access to starting and ending points:

- Highway Skopje – Struga, 172 km.
- Local road Struga – Vevchani, 14 km.



**VEVCHANI – THE VILLAGE OF GORNA BELICA – CHUMIN VRV –
– TRI SHILKA – THE VILLAGE OF VISHNI**

The trail starts from Vevchani Springs. Through a pine forest, to Jankov Kamen, it leads to the village of Gorna Belica. It passes the village and follows a sandy trail through a beech forest. After a slight incline, there is an area under the Chumin Vrv. At this place there is a mountain church "Sveta Troica", commonly known as Parumba. From this point, the trail climbs steeply to the Chumin Vrv. From this position, on the left, the trail moves on pasture



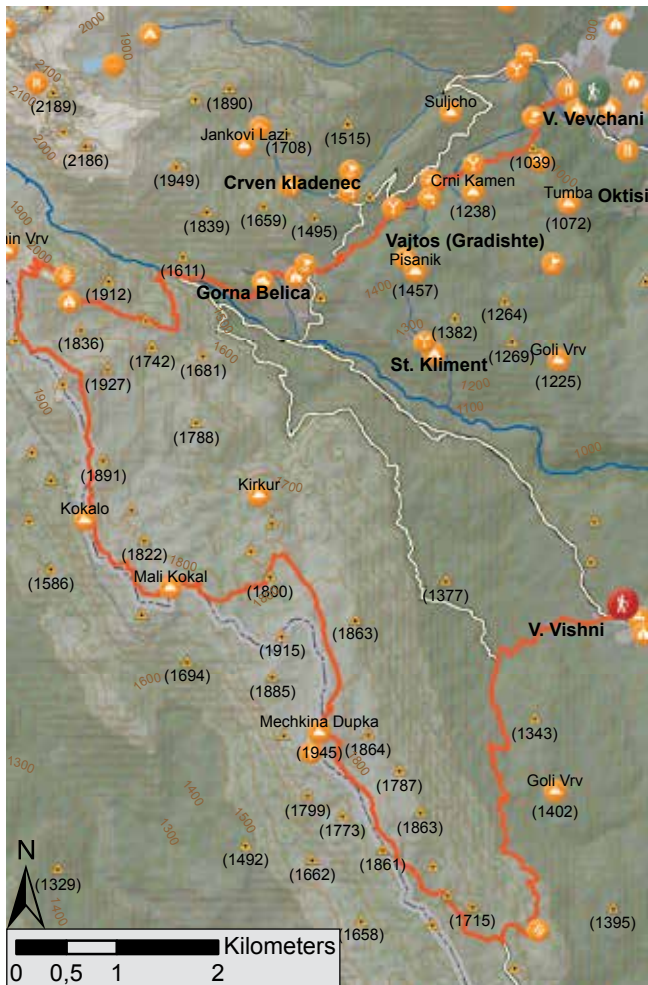
fields to the top of Tri Shilka. From the peak of Tri Shilka, the trail, while crossing the beech forest, passes near the starting position where paragliders take off. On the lower part, via a wide forest road, the trail descends into the village of Vishni.



Panoramas and landscapes:

- Panoramic view of the village. Gorna Belica, Struga Field and Lake Ohrid.
- Offering a special panoramic vista, the starting point for paragliders is considered an attraction where you have a view across the entire region.

BHA M24

JABLANICA MOUNTAIN



NAME OF THE PATH / ACRONYM	BHA M24
STARTING POINT ALTITUDE	Vevchani Springs – 910 masl.
HIGHEST POINT	Chumin Vrv peak – 2.125 masl.
ENDING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Vishni – 1.075 masl.
HEIGHT DIFFERENCE	1.215 m.
DURATION OF THE TRAIL	12 h.
LENGTH OF THE TRAIL	26.3 km.
DIFFICULTY OF THE TRAIL	
REQUIRED FITNESS LEVEL	

BHA M24

Biodiversity pinpoints:

The southern part of Jablanica (Chuma – Tri Shiljka – Vishni) is entirely a limestone massif. Above the beech woods there are widespread pastures on limestone ground and rocky limestone grounds with specific vegetation. Below Chumin Vrv, at the lowest point of the Krstec valley, a large populations of crocuses (*Saffron*) develop each June, of which the white-flowered one are distinct from the rest. Recently these plants have been described as a new endemic Jablanica crocus species (*Crocus jablanicensis*).

Cultural and historical / characteristic sites:

In the village of Gorna Belica there is a central church, "St. Paraskeva", which dates from the 19th century where in its vicinity there are the remains of a Roman cemetery. At the Macedonian-Albanian border under Chumin Vrv, there is the church of "St. Troica".

In the village of Vishni is located the central church "St. Atanasij", and in close proximity to the village, along the route of the River Sushica, is the cave church, "St. Spas".

Accommodation and food:

- Hotels, apartments and rooms in Vevchani.
- Mountain hut in the village of Gorna Belica.

Access to starting and ending points:

- Highway Skopje – Struga, 172 km.
- Local road Struga – Vevchani, 14 km.
- Local road Struga – The village of Vishni, 9 km.



GALICHICA MOUNTAIN

A mountain situated in the outermost southwest part of the Republic of Macedonia, which, in the form of a typical horst, rises in between the Ohrid Valley to the west and the Prespa Valley to the east. To the north it is continued by the mountains of Petrino and Istok, and by the Bukovo col (1.207 m) it is morphologically separated from the Plaken Mountain.

It stretches 50 km along the meridian, and its smallest width is between the village of Trpejca and the village of Leskoec (10 km). Only the southernmost parts of Galichica rise above 2.000 m. Its part south of Zli Dol is called Old Galichica. It is the highest part of the national park with the most remarkable relief. Its sides cut steeply toward the lakes and are furrowed with dry ravines, which give the mountain an inaccessible look. Its lowest points are at the level of Lake Ohrid (695 m.) and the level of Lake Prespa (850 m), with its highest peak being Magaro (2.255 m), and there is another peak at an altitude of 2.275 m situated on the very border with Albania.



The main geological surface on the greatest part of Mount Galichica are Paleozoic metamorphic silicates, covered by a 500-550m thick layer of horizons of massive spongy limestone. Such a geological structure and the presence of the karst geomorphological forms make the mountain resemble the mountains from the Dinara system. On Galichica one may encounter slopes, dolines, uvalas, and karst fields (surface karst features) and caves and sinkholes (ground karst features).

The water permeability of the limestone layer has turned Galichica into one of the driest mountains in Macedonia. Only a few continuously-flowing water springs can be found in its mountainous parts, but those have a very low yield. Compared to the mountainous part, the Lake Ohrid shoreline is rich in water springs. The springs near the St. Naum monastery complex are the most characteristic ones. They represent a typical karst hydrological feature in the form of a spring.



Apart from their geological and hydrological features, the springs are characterized by a wealth of plant and animal life that inflate its ambient value.

Due to the exceptional natural beauty and the distinctive flora and fauna of the forest areas on the Galichica Mountain, a great portion of the mountain, covering an area of 22.750 hectares, was proclaimed a National Park in 1958. The Galichica National Park, which is located in the outermost southwest parts of the Republic of Macedonia, is characteristic for its positioning between the two lakes – Lake Ohrid and Lake Prespa - as well as for its articulated orography and the interesting geomorphological features (deep ravines, different types of karst and glacial landforms).

Tourist sites to visit in the Region of Galichica

- The city of Ohrid, with many cultural and historical monuments, archaeological sites, museums, galleries and memorial houses of eminent people from the history of Ohrid and Macedonia.
- "Museum on Water", Gradishte, the village of Peshtani.
- Cave churches from the period between the 12th and 14th century at the foreshore of Lake Ohrid, between Peshtani and auto-camping site Ljubanishta.
- Monastery of "St. Naum" and the impressive springs of the River Crni Drim, which is a part of the protected area of Galichica National Park.
- The Golem Grad Island, which is a part of the protected areas of Galichica National Park, due to its rich biodiversity, specific geomorphological composition, as well as the numerous archaeological sites dating from antiquity and the Middle Ages.
- Fisherman's village Konjsko and the tourist settlement Stenje, well-known for its fish specialties.





THE VILLAGE OF PESHTANI – MAGARO PEAK

The trail starts from the asphalt road Ohrid – St. Naum in the center of the village of Pestani. It runs across the plateau Trpejko field and St. Spas church. It moves on to the picnic place Korita, to the mountain road slope, Lipova meadow, at 1.630 masl. This point makes the path available in many varieties and for the needs of different target groups. In most of the length, the trail runs through beech forest, while in its upper parts the trail moves through pasture. The ground is generally combined dirt and rock. From this position moving to the south, the first part the trail rises steeply and then gently



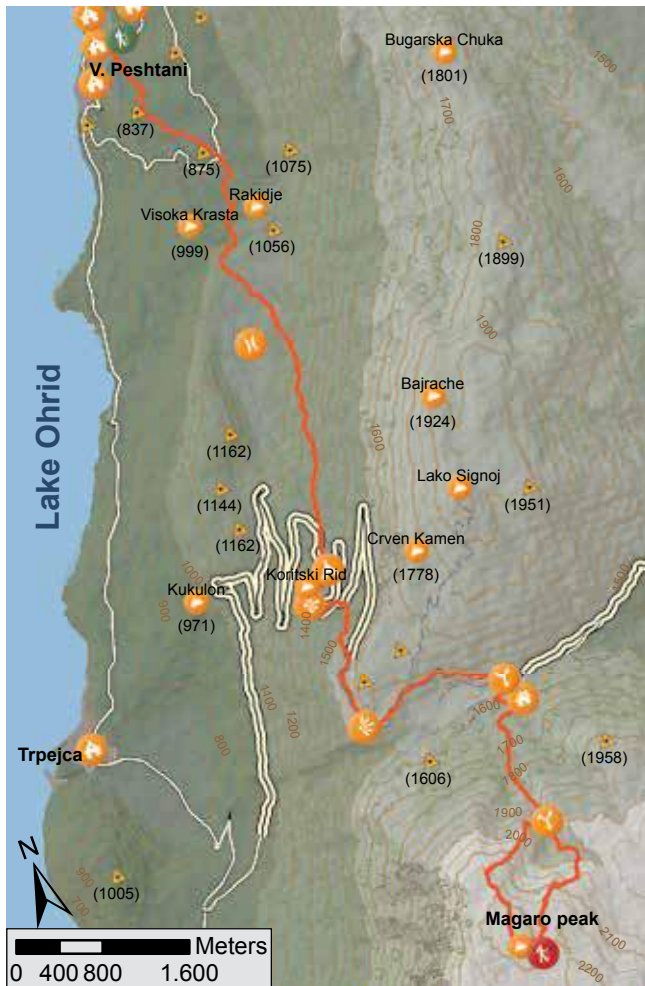
passes through the ridge Galicica and after that it reaches the Magaro peak. Following the same path the tour ends in the village of Pestani. The tour can be adjusted using asphalt road to the picnic area Korita or to the mountain road slope Lipova meadow which makes the hike easy to moderate.



Panoramas and landscapes:

- From almost every point of the mountain ridge, which stretches out at over 1.900 masl. beautiful panoramic views over the horizons of both lakes and mountains that surround it can be seen. Surely this is the only view in Macedonia of its two largest lakes.

BHA M25

GALICHICA MOUNTAIN



NAME OF THE PATH / ACRONYM	BHA M25
STARTING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Peshtani – 710 masl.
HIGHEST POINT	Magaro peak – 2.255 masl.
ENDING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Peshtani – 710 masl.
HEIGHT DIFFERENCE	1.545 m.
DURATION OF THE TRAIL	6 h.
LENGTH OF THE TRAIL	13.8 km.
DIFFICULTY OF THE TRAIL	
REQUIRED FITNESS LEVEL	

BHA M25

Biodiversity pinpoints:

The mountain of Galichica is exceptionally abundant in terms of plant diversity. It is the habitat of numerous endemic species. Galichica is predominantly a limestone mountain and it features the most typical karst landforms in our country. In terms of vegetation, the most featured are the dry mountain pastures at a limestone base, limestone rocks and boulders, as well as a large number of forest communities. Some of the endemic species are: the Galichica houseleek (*Sempervivum galicum*, which forms a part of the *S. ciliatum* complex including non-glandular taxa), eternal flower (*Helichrysum zivojinii*), Mayer's catmint (*Nepeta ernesti-mayeri*), Mayer's milk-vetch (*Astragalus mayeri*), Cvijic's crocus (*Crocus cvijicii*), Horvat's rockbell (*Edraianthus horvatii*), several knapweeds species (*Centaurea spp.*), etc.

Cultural and historical / characteristic sites:

To describe the characteristics and cultural and historical sites in this area, it is necessary to design an addition to this guidebook. The wealth of historic and cultural monuments in the Ohrid region is of great importance for the country. Here we will mention the Museum, "Bay of Bones", which is a reconstruction of prehistoric palafitte settlement from the late Bronze and early Iron Age. Along the trail on the ridge of the mountain near the Magaro peak, the remains of trenches and buildings, dating from the period of the First World War can be seen.

Accommodation and food:

- Accommodation and food is available in both the city of Ohrid and the village of Peshtani.

Access to starting and ending points:

- Highway Skopje – Ohrid, 172 km.
- Local road Ohrid – The village of Peshtani, 13 km.



THE VILLAGE OF STENJE – MAGARO PEAK

The trail starts from the asphalt road Otesevo - Stenje, just before the entrance to the village of Stenje where there is a clearly visible information panel that marks the beginning of the trail. The trail passes through the village of Leskoec and the slope of the mountain Lipova Livada. For the majority of its length, the trail runs through an oak forest. Over the oak belt a beech forest starts, while the upper track moves over pasture. The trail is generally of combination dirt and rock. From this position moving to the south, in the first part, the trail rises steeply and then gently passes the ridge



Galichica where it reaches the Magaro peak. Following the same path the tour ends in the village of Stenje. The tour can be adjusted using asphalt road to the village of Leskoec or to the mountain road slope Lipova meadow which makes the hike moderate to easy.

Panoramas and landscapes:

- From almost every point along the mountain ridge, which stretches out at 1.900 masl. beautiful panoramic views of Lakes Ohrid and Prespa, and the surrounding mountains are visible. In fact, this is the only view in Macedonia towards both of the country's biggest lakes.

BHA M26

GALICHICA MOUNTAIN



NAME OF THE PATH / ACRONYM	BHA M26
STARTING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Stenje – 860 masl.
HIGHEST POINT	Magaro peak – 2.255 masl.
ENDING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Stenje – 860 masl.
HEIGHT DIFFERENCE	1.395 m.
DURATION OF THE TRAIL	5 h.
LENGTH OF THE TRAIL	10.8 km.
DIFFICULTY OF THE TRAIL	
REQUIRED FITNESS LEVEL	

BHA M26

Biodiversity pinpoints:

The slopes of Galichica in the direction of the village of Stenje are covered by thermophilous oak woods (Italian oak - *Quercus frainetto* and Turkey oak *Q. cerris*), but the most important woods from a conservation aspect are the Macedonian oak (*Quercus trojana*) and the Greek juniper woods (*Juniperus excelsa* and *J. foetidissima*). The presence of some endemic knapweed species (*Centaurea galicicae* and *C. soskai*) is also worth noting. Above the oak wood belt there are beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and mixed beech and fir woods (*Abies borisii-regis*), with several individual specimens of Bosnian pine (*Pinus heldreichii*). At the fringes of the woods, along the trail, one may find the very rare species of the Rayed broom - *Genista radiata*.

Cultural and historical / characteristic sites:

Near the village of Stenje there is the island Golem Grad, which belongs to the strictly protected areas in the "Galichica" National Park due to the presence of endemic species, the large population of pelicans and the large number of reptiles (snakes), hence the name of the island on Lake Prespa - Snake Island. The island is located at an archeologic locality, in the area Naselba, which dates from the 4th century BC and survived until the 6th century AD. On the island there are remains of a medieval monastic settlement, which existed until the early 20th century. From this period there are the remains of the famous churches "St. Petar", "St. Dimitrija" and "St. Nichola Vlaia" all of which are dated from the 14th century.

Accommodation and food:

- Accommodation in hotels and bed & breakfast facilities in Stenje and Oteshevo.

Access to starting and ending points:

- Highway Skopje – Resen, 206 km.
- Local road Resen – The village of Stenje, 22 km.



BABA MOUNTAIN

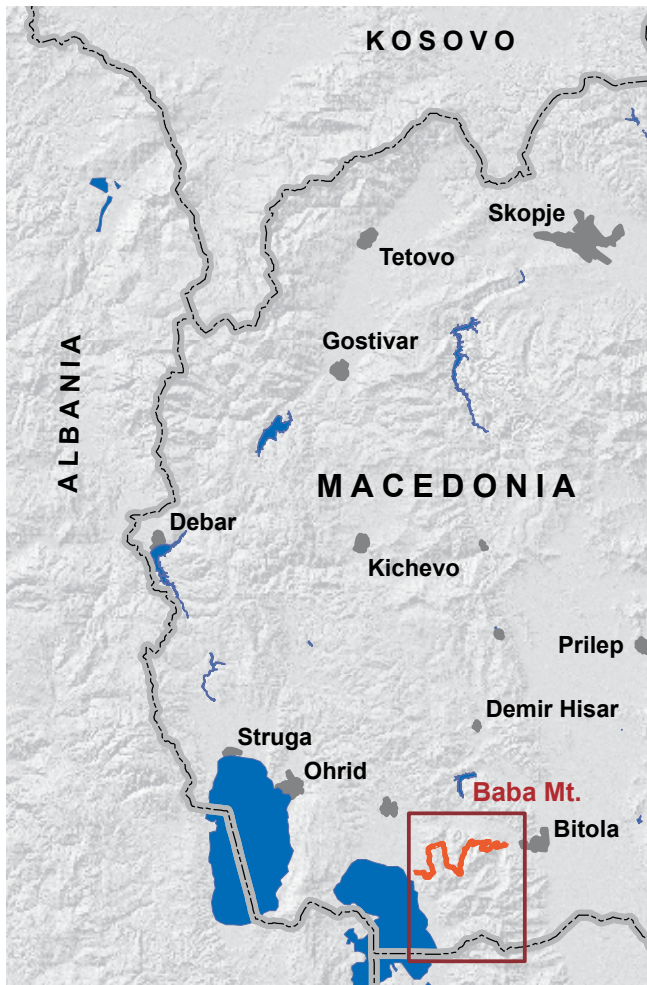
A mountain massif located in the southwest of the Republic of Macedonia, with Pelister as its highest peak (2.601 m). By virtue of the multi-staged tectonic activities, the mountain rises in a typical horst between the Pelagonia Valley to the east and the Prespa Valley to the west. To the north, via the mountain pass Gjavato (1.167 m) and Capari field, it is morphologically separated from the Bigla Mountain (1.656 m), while to the south it continues in Greece, all the way up to the mountain pass Vigla (1.505 m), along the Florina - Kastoria road. It stretches along the meridian to a total length of 35 km. The border between Macedonia and Greece passes through its southern parts. Within the territory of our country it covers an area of 436 km². The dominant geomorphologic form of the high mountain area is the main ridge of the mountain, which also serves as a water divide between the Adriatic and the Aegean basins. Apart from Pelister, there are several other mountain peaks rising above 2.000 m from the ridge. Those are the following: Stiv (2.468 m), Visoka Cuka (2.182 m), Vrteska (2.010 m), Ilinden (2.542 m), Golemo Stapalo and (2.415 m).



The Pleistocene glaciation resulted in the occurrence of fossil cirques which accommodated the big and the small glacial lakes, or the so-called "Pelister's Eyes".

Of plant life, the greatest area of the mountain is covered by molica forests, of which 1.174 hectares are under purely molica forests, while the rest is covered by combined molica-fir, molica-beech, molica-beech-fir, beech and oak-beech forests. As regards the elements of the flora, the most important is the presence of the five needle molica pine (*Pinus peuce*) - a unique species dating back to the Tertiary age, that grows only on few mountains in the Balkan Peninsula, and reaches the ecological optimum of its development on Baba mountain, spreading across the altitude range from 1.000 to 2.200 m and above.

In 1948, due to the exceptional natural beauty and the historic and scientific significance of the forests and the forest ecosystems of the Baba Mountain, a portion of the mountain covering an area of 12.500 hectares was proclaimed a national park.



Tourist sites to visit in the Region of Baba

- Ancient locality "Heraclea", Bitola.
- Saat Kula (Clock Tower), Bitola.
- Church of "St. Dimitrija", Bitola.
- Isak mosque, Bitola.
- Jeni mosque, Bitola.
- Museum of the town of Bitola, Bitola.
- Museum dedicated to the Jews from Bitola, Bitola.
- German Cemetery, Bitola.
- French Cemetery, Bitola.
- Ski centre Kopanki.
- Information center of the Pelister National Park.
- Monument of D. I. Murato, Kopanki.
- "St. Atanas", the village of Dihovo.
- Church of "St. Petka", the village of Malovishta.
- Church of "St. Spas", the village of Malovishta.
- Monastery of "St. Ana", the village of Malovishta.
- Nativity Monastery "St. Bogorodica", the village of Slivnica.
- Church of "St. Gjorgji", the village of Kurbinovo.





THE VILLAGE OF DIHOVO – "JORGOV KAMEN" – HOTEL "MOLIKA"

The trail begins in the village of Dihovo, near "Villa Dihovo". The first part of the trail passes through the village then follows the paved road (Bitola – Nizepole) from where the trail continues on a mountain path leading to the monastery "St. Atanas". The ground on this part of the trail is covered with sand and soft grass. The trail continues through the forest belt with mixed beech, pine and birch forest. The second part of the trail starts from the church "St. Atanas" to "Jorgov Kamen" at 1.744 masl.



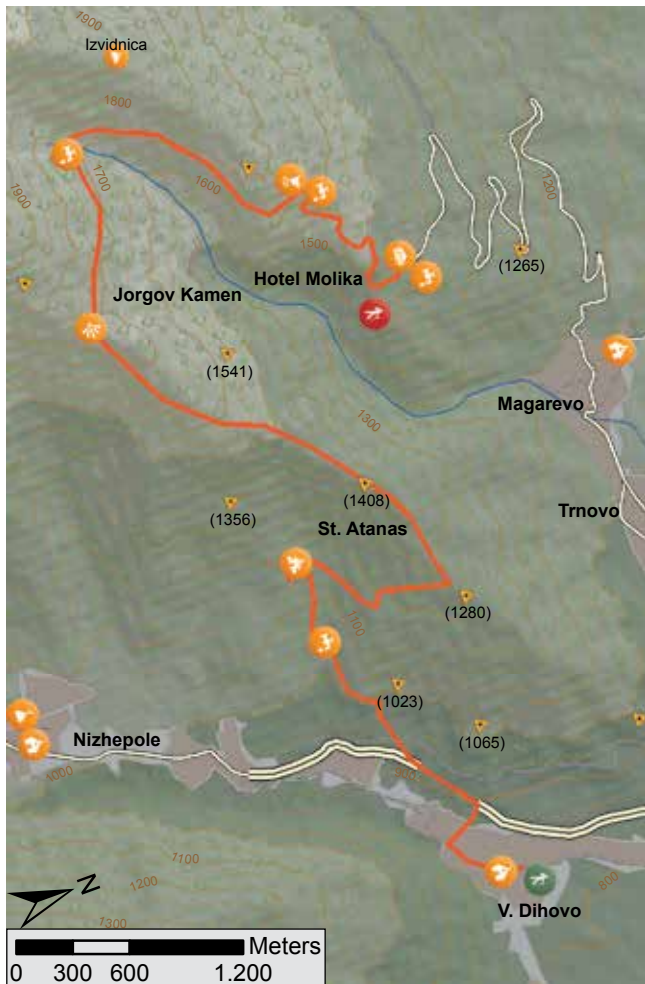
The mountain trail from "Jorgov Kamen" gently descends to the mountain lodge Kopanki, from here it descends to the Hotel "Molika" where it eventually ends. This part of the trail is in the "Pelister" National Park, and it moves through Molika forest.



Panoramas and landscapes:

- Looking towards the northwest from Jorgov Kamen, a view towards the Pelagonija valley opens in front of you. To the southeast you can see Nizepole.

BHA M27

BABA MOUNTAIN



NAME OF THE PATH / ACRONYM	BHA M27
STARTING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Dihovo – 830 masl.
HIGHEST POINT	Jorgov Kamen – 1.744 masl.
ENDING POINT ALTITUDE	Hotel "Molika" – 1.420 masl.
HEIGHT DIFFERENCE	914 m.
DURATION OF THE TRAIL	4 h.
LENGTH OF THE TRAIL	9.6 km.
DIFFICULTY OF THE TRAIL	
REQUIRED FITNESS LEVEL	

BHA M27

Biodiversity pinpoints:

The most distinctive vegetation for this trail is the molika woods (*Pinus peuce* – also called Macedonian pine), which has very beautiful communities near Jorgov Kamen and on the way to Hotel Molika. Owing to these woods, a part of the Pelister mountain was proclaimed a national park in 1948 (the first one in Macedonia and in former Yugoslavia). This five-needle pine was presented to the scientific community for the first time by the botanist August Grisebach in 1846, and there is a memorial plaque dedicated to him at Lastojchin Kamen in the vicinity of Hotel Molika.

Cultural and historical / characteristic sites:

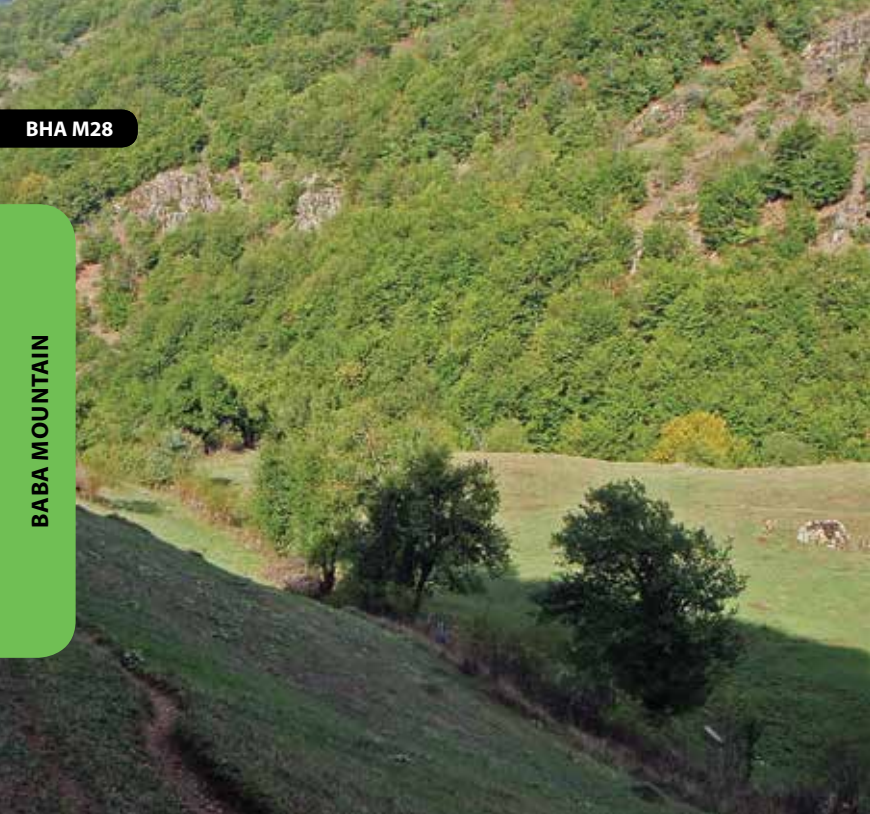
A typical site is the church "St. Atanas" in the foothills of Pelister. The building dates from the 19th century with authentic iconostasis, a small inn and room for resting. Nearby is a fountain with spring water with a beautiful view of the Pelagonija valley.

Accommodation and food:

- Accommodation in the village of Dihovo: Villa "Dihovo", Villa "Ilinden" and Villa "Patrice".
- Vila "Pajo" and Vila "Damaja" – The village of Nizo Pole.
- Hotel Molika.

Access to starting and ending points:

- Local road Bitola – The village of Dihovo, 6 km.
- Regional road Skopje – Bitola, 175 km.
- Local road Bitola – Hotel "Molika", 14 km.



HOTEL "MOLIKA" – THE VILLAGE OF MALOVISHTE – MONASTERY "ST. ANA"

The trail starts from the Hotel "Molika" and continues on the path that leads to the mountain lodge "Kopanki." From here the trail leads to Palisnopje and down the wide dirt road at an altitude of 1.500 m. This part of the trail leads through a dense molika (pine) forest all the way to the hunting lodge at 1.950 masl. from where a small part, which leads to Pelister peak, goes along the winter demarcation. At the place called Siroka, the trail turns west and leads to a junction of paths. From the junction the trail continues to the springs of the River Semnica and descends along the valley of the River Semnica. Above the valley the peaks



Golema Chuka and Kozji Kamen are located. Walking through the beech forest you reach the village of Maloviste and from here the path leads to the lodgings of the monastery "St. Ana".



Panoramas and landscapes:

- In the first part of the trail while moving through the molika forest, you will feel relaxed just by the smell and the view. A distinguishing characteristic are the stone rivers - dry ravines filled with shattered rock from denudation and mechanical disintegration of rocks, made up by a large quantity of broken rocks and blocks of different sizes, chaotically turned over.

BHA M28

BABA MOUNTAIN



NAME OF THE PATH / ACRONYM	BHA M28
STARTING POINT ALTITUDE	Hotel "Molika" – 1.420masl.
HIGHEST POINT	Junction – 2.150 masl.
ENDING POINT ALTITUDE	Monastery "St. Ana" – 1.400masl.
HEIGHT DIFFERENCE	750 m.
DURATION OF THE TRAIL	5.30 h.
LENGTH OF THE TRAIL	20.7 km.
DIFFICULTY OF THE TRAIL	
REQUIRED FITNESS LEVEL	

BHA M28

Biodiversity pinpoints:

In the area between Hotel Molika and the village of Malovishte there develops a thick and diverse forest vegetation featuring molika woods (*Pinus peuce*), fir woods (*Abies borisii-regis*), mixed molika and fir woods, beech woods (*Fagus sylvatica*) and, to a lesser extent, mesophilic oak woods. Some of the woods have developed on the stone runs descending the Pelister peak to the north.

Cultural and historical / characteristic sites:

A place that is attractive and worth describing is the village of Malovishte. This is a mountain village, at the foot of Baba Mountain and it is the only settlement within the Pelister National Park. Maloviste which captivates with its interesting and authentic architecture, large houses built of stone through which the old cobbled streets and stone bridges pass. Just above the village is the monastery "St. Ana". In the vicinity of the monastery there is healing water that springs from the root of an oak tree and has been there since time immemorial. Visit the monastery complex of St. Ana in Malovishte and feel the peace that will lift and rest your spirit.

Accommodation and food:

- Hotel "Molika" – N.P. Pelister
- Hotel "Shumski Feneri" and Hotel "Shator" – The village of Trnovo.
- Monastery "St. Ana" above the village of Malovishte.

Access to starting and ending points:

- Highway Skopje – Bitola, 175 km.
- Local road Bitola – The village of Maloviste, 21 km.
- Local road Bitola – Hotel Molika, 15 km.



MONASTERY "ST. ANA" – THE VILLAGE OF KURBINOVO

The trail starts from the inns at the monastery "St. Ana" and continues to the passage Kodra. In this section, the trail moves through a beech forest with soft ground of sand and leaves. From the Kodra passage along a wide dirt forest road, the trail continues to descend to 1.350 masl. From this point, to the left it continues to move along a mountain path that goes through a beech and oak forest. The trail leads to the monastery "St. Bogo-



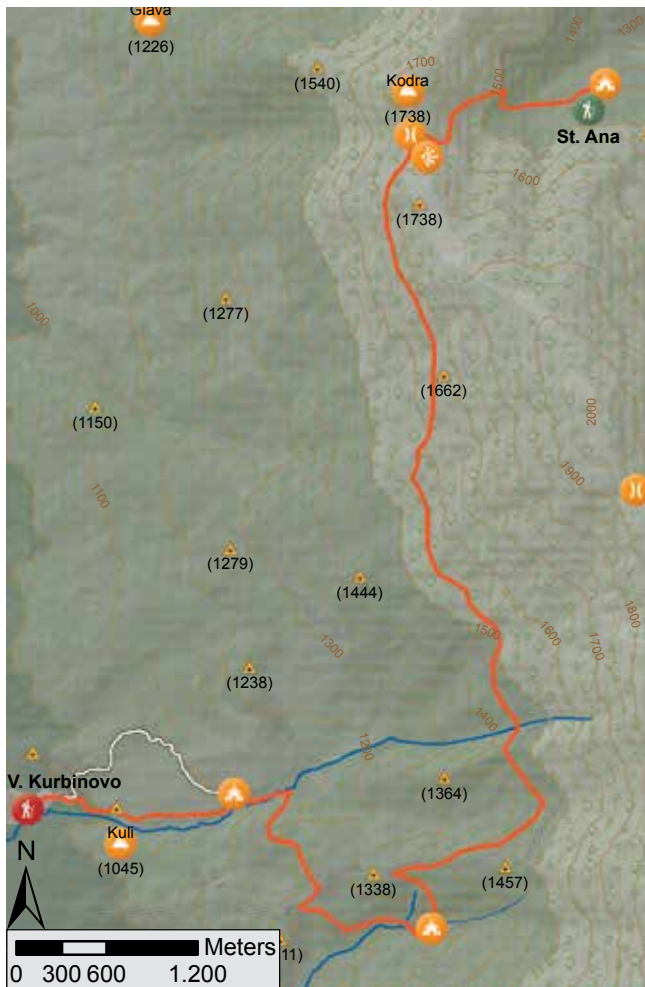
rodica" – Slivnitsa. The trail continues along a light dirt path, through a thin forest and ends in the parking lot at the monastery "St. Giorgija" in the village of Kurbinovo.



Panoramas and landscapes:

- After the Kodra passage, on the southwest slopes of Baba Mountain, there is a beautiful view of Lake Prespa and Galichica mountain.

BHA M29

BABA MOUNTAIN



NAME OF THE PATH / ACRONYM	BHA M29
STARTING POINT ALTITUDE	Monastery "St. Ana" – 1.400 masl.
HIGHEST POINT	Kodra passage – 1.739 masl.
ENDING POINT ALTITUDE	The village of Kurbinovo – 1.080 masl.
HEIGHT DIFFERENCE	659 m.
DURATION OF THE TRAIL	4 h.
LENGTH OF THE TRAIL	12.1 km.
DIFFICULTY OF THE TRAIL	
REQUIRED FITNESS LEVEL	

BHA M29

Biodiversity pinpoints:

The trail leads mostly on the Prespa side of the mountain, which is characterized by spacious beech and oak woods (mesophilic sessile oak – *Quercus petraea*) and thermophilic (Italian oak - *Quercus frainetto* and Turkey oak *Q. ceris*) woods. The Pelister Mountain, in particular on the Prespa side, is also known for its numerous and stable population of brown bears (*Ursus arctos*) - the symbol of our western mountains.

Cultural and historical / characteristic sites:

A historically important monument to visit is the church dedicated to St. Giorgija which is located about three kilometers above the village of Kurbinovo. The church was built in 1191 (12th century), as shown by the inscription above the altar, being built as a single nave building with a semicircular apse. The building is 17 meters long and 7 meters wide. This is the biggest single nave church in Macedonia. The painting of the frescoes in the church date from 25th of April, 1191. The frescoes are among the most beautiful, most original and most completely preserved frescoes from that period.

Accommodation and food:

- Monastery "St. Ana" above the village of Malovishte.
- Rooms in the villages of: Kurbinovo and Brajchino.
- Accommodation on Prespa Lake.

Access to starting and ending points:

- Highway Skopje – Bitola, 175 km.
- Local road Bitola – The village of Malovishte, 21 km.
- Highway Skopje – Resen, 206 km.
- Local road Resen – The village of Kurbinovo, 14 km.





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