

The Journey of a Lifetime Awaits You



Experience Macedonia: Enjoy Europe as it used to be

“Imame vreme - We have time,” is a favorite Macedonian saying and also how Patrice Koerper designs her cultural tours of [Macedonia](#). You’ll not only see the beauty and history of this ancient, mountainous country, you’ll *Experience Macedonia*.

[Macedonia a top pick from CNN in 2011.](#)

[Patrice Koerper](#) lived in Macedonia, which was ruled by the Ottoman Turks for 500 years and was the last country to leave Yugoslavia, as a 50+ Peace Corps Volunteer from 2006-2009. She learned first-hand the charm and mystery [Macedonia](#) offers. Each year she invites a small group of adventurous travelers to join her as she revisits the people and places she loves in this small southeastern European country.

This year a new group of guests will gather for two to four weeks in September or early October for a unique blend of sightseeing and *being* Macedonian.

If you are a seasoned traveler looking for something new, or a new traveler looking for an adventure, contact Patrice Koerper at 813-719-0769 or by email at patricekoerper@gmail.com

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Places we will go . . .

- ◆ *Bitola, our home base*
- ◆ *Dihovo, a quaint rural village*
- ◆ *Heraclea, an ancient settlement*
- ◆ *Ohrid, a must see vacation spot*
- ◆ *Elshani, a mountain top B&B*

Depending on how long you stay. . .

- ◆ *Skopje, the capital*
- ◆ *Central Macedonia, for Wine Tours*
- ◆ *Vevchani, a traditional village*
- ◆ *Struga, for the best fish soup*
- ◆ *Greece, Albania, Kosovo*

Discover your dreams in this ancient land

Stroll ancient stone streets. Sip local wines. Meander through markets. Mingle with Macedonians. Relax by the lake. Sleep in rural villages. Visit monasteries. Hike mountain paths. Explore ancient ruins. Retrace the steps of Romans along the Via Egnatia. Savor traditional foods and drinks: avjar, burek, chorba, sirenje, and boza, Turkish coffee, rakija. Move at a slower richer pace.

Experience Macedonia lets you absorb a different way of life.

Experience Macedonia's small group size allows tours to be customized based on length of stay; requested style of accommodations - upscale or laid-back; travel style - early risers or night owls; and personal interests of group members.

Your stay will include a relaxing blend of organized sightseeing, impromptu side trips, afternoons in street cafes, museum visits, Macedonian music events, and star-filled skies.

You will enjoy the freshest vegetables and the most delicious "slow food" (made from scratch the old-fashioned way) in restaurants and B &Bs. You can indulge your sweet tooth with Turkish-style treats and enjoy the teeny-tiny ice cream and gelato cones that Macedonians favor at bakeries and shops.

Experience Macedonia:

Enjoy Europe as it used to be

***Experience Macedonia** is a unique cultural adventure developed by Patrice Koerper an American, who lived in Macedonia for three years. You will **Experience Macedonia** from an informed insider's perspective, up-close and personal. Your journey will be interesting, educational, exciting and surprisingly inexpensive.*

Two – Three Week Stay Highlights

- Meet and mingle with Macedonians daily. Enjoy historic tours with Macedonian guides. Step off the well-worn European tourist path.
- Enjoy Bitola's historic market, churches, and famous pedestrian avenue the Shirok Sokak. Dine where the locals do, enjoy music, educational events and museums, and European makeovers and massages, if you like. Relive ancient history at Heraclea Lyncestis, a settlement originally built by Phillip II, father of Alexander the Great.
- Visit and stay in rural villages, where the lives of the people are slow and easy, the food is fresh and homemade, and history is interlaced with the daily life of villagers.
- Journey to Ohrid, Macedonia's must see vacation spot to visit [Tzar Samuils Fortress](#), [St. Clement's monastery "St. Pantheleimon"](#), the oldest Slavic monument of culture; [St. Jovan Kanoë](#), one of the most photographed churches in Macedonia with original frescoes intact; and shop and dine in this ancient city on Lake Ohrid.
- Travel along Lake Ohrid and the surrounding mountains to [St. Naum](#) a 1,000 year old Eastern Orthodox Monastery, spend a night in Elshani, a mountain village on the way. Depending on our schedule and pace, there may be time for coffee in Albania, just across the border.
- Based on individual and group interests, we may also visit University classrooms, businesses, musical events, lectures, artists, craftspeople, mountain and hiking areas, and more. (Nominal fees may be involved.) Special photographic tours can also be arranged for a fee.

Program Notes:

Daily Dining: Breakfast is generally on your own or is included European-style with your lodgings. All but 3 (14 day stay)/ 5 (21day stay) suppers will be included. We will generally follow the traditional Macedonian way of dining, enjoying our largest meal family-style between 2:30 - 5 p.m. with a light supper later in the evening. Also Macedonian style, one traditional alcoholic drink (rakija or house wine) is included per dinner and supper.

Activity notes: Participants must be able to carry and handle their luggage; climb a few flights of stairs; walk on uneven surfaces up to one mile over the course of the day.

14 Days from \$2,000/21 Days from \$3,000

For more information, contact Patrice Koerper

patricekoerper@gmail.com . 813-719-0769

Additional options available:

Skopje

Two- night stay in Skopje, Macedonia's large and evolving capital where we will check-out ancient monuments; the old Turkish markets; sip coffee or wine along the River Vardar; and dine at traditional Macedonia restaurants.

(Two night/2.5 day stay an additional cost of \$250 per person includes: travel, lodging, 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners and 2 light suppers.)

Greece

A day visit to Edessa and walking tours of Thessaloniki, Greece during your overnight stay. (Two night stay an additional cost of \$300 per person includes: travel, lodging, 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 1 dinner.)

3-4 weeks stays may allow for additional customized side trips each at a TBD additional cost.

Dates & Flights

In order to create the best experience for individual travelers, dates of stays are somewhat flexible beginning after September 6 and ending by October 20.

Flights will be arranged by participants. Airport pick-up and drop off at Skopje, Macedonia or Thessaloniki, Greece airports will be arranged and will be included in tour price, if dates, times and locations are confirmed with Patrice Koerper prior to booking of tickets.

Thank you!