NORTH MACEDONIA - MIYAK TRIBE TRAIL - MIYAK TRIBE TRAIL WITH GALICHNICK WEDDING CEREMONY

ITINERARY

Day 1

Return transfers are included from Skopje airport or from a hotel in Skopje (Hotel City Park recommended).

Guests arriving in the mid-morning, or who are already in Skopje, will be taken for lunch and later transferred to the start of the ride. Guests arriving in the afternoon will be transferred directly to the start of the ride. The journey from Skopje to your first night accommodation is about 2 hours.

The last night is at a hotel near to Skopje airport and so your flight can depart at any time.

During the summer the horses are based at Sherpa Horse Riding Centre

Overnight Hotel Neda. A safety briefing will be given by your guide over dinner at Hotel Neda. If your flight arrives after 19:00 you will have a safety briefing the following morning.

Neda is a small, comfortable hotel located in the village of Galichnik in the Mavrovo National Park, about 2 hours drive west of the capital Skopje. From the terrace you have a lovely view of the area you will be riding.

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A typical twin room at Hotel Neda

Day 2

The following is the proposed itinerary but please note that changes are possible due to weather, local conditions and the group's experience.

After breakfast at the hotel, you will be collected at 08:30 and transferred to the ranch where you meet the team over welcome drinks. On the way you visit the monument of Gjorgjia Pulevski, a famous Miyak author and revolutionary.

After being allocated your horse, you may have fun with some ranch workshops, such as milking goats whilst the horses are being prepared for the trail.

Your luggage is transported between your accommodation by truck throughout the journey.

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Today is an opportunity to visit the old Miyak villages and learn more about the culture of the Miyaks, as well as ride through old forest trails which were originally used for transportation on horses.

From the ranch you ride through the forest of Sushica (visiting Sushica, the oldest Miyak village, now mostly in ruins) and downhill to the Miyak villages of Selce and Tresonche, with panoramic views of the north side of Stogovo Mountain.

After a picnic lunch you continue riding through the Miyak village of Tresonche and learn more about the Miyak folklore and the old Miyak architecture.

You finish today's ride at Lazaropole (the second largest Miyak village) at around 17:30.

Approximately 5 hour forest ride (27 km).

Overnight Hotel Kalin. Hotel Kalin is a small mountain inn with a traditional design.

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Day 3

After breakfast at 08:00 you assist with tacking up the horses for today's ride.

This is an adrenaline filled ride. You cross up to Stogovo Mountain from the Miyak village of Osoj, with an incredible view of the Korab Massive (2,764 m/9,068 ft).

You also have an opportunity to go to one of the highest peaks on Stogovo Massive - Babin Srt (2,241 m/7,352 ft).

Arrive at the sheep farm at Stogovo Mountain for lunch - a typical shepherd's lunch including lamb and cheese, fresh from the farm.

Learn about the shepherd's life, far away from the civilized world, and about the old traditional farming techniques. You may be able to taste some of the milk products directly from the farm.

Continue riding down to the Miyak village of Gari for dinner and overnight in a small guesthouse by the main Gari creek.

Approximately 5 hour ride (35 km).

Overnight Motel Topila. Motel Topila is a small, rustic hotel in the mountains.

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Day 4

Today will be the longest day of this journey – 44 km is ahead of you.

You cross to the east side of Bistra Mountain on an old Miyak trail. The route takes you above the forest of Bistra Mountain, with an incredible view of the Korab Massive. You will pass through more sheep farms.

Tonight you will be staying at a camp deep in the mountains and far away from the civilized world. After setting up the tents and getting the campfire and dinner going you can look forward to a campfire party.

BBQ dinner over the campfire and overnight in tents.

Approximately 9 hour ride (44 km).

Overnight Korab Tented Camp. The support team prepares the overnight setup and helps with the practical arrangements, including the tents, campfire and

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meals. Sleeping bags, liners and mats are provided, along with chairs and tables for meals at camp. There is no running or hot water for showering while camping.

Camp with the support vehicle

Day 5

Wake up to fantastic views of the high mountain peaks. Prepare breakfast in the wild, enjoy the fresh mountain air and get ready for the next part of your journey.

Ride through more Miyak sheep farms and enjoy this varied mountain scenery.

After lunch you continue to the Sandaktash Peak (2,011 m/6,597 ft) and then to Mavrovo Lake and the village of Mavrovo.

View of Mavrovo Lake

You finish today's trail with a ride along the lake shore.

Approximately 7 hour ride (35 km).

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Overnight Mia's Favorite Hotel. This comfortable hotel and restaurant in Mavrovo is situated at the edge of Mavrovo Lake. There is a garden to enjoy, as well as a spa with hot tub and sauna.

One of the bedrooms at Mia's Favorite Hotel

Day 6

After a good night's sleep you will have plenty of energy to climb high into the hills again today on your horse.

Your guides will take you deep into the forest to the very old Miyak village of Kichinica. After lunch, you will be climbing again around the highest peak of Medenica to set up camp next to the Karbula Peak (2,100 m above sea level). This is located at the west end of Bistra Mountain with an incredible view of Krchin Peak.

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Enjoy the sunset over the unbroken horizon while preparing dinner next to the campfire. Dinner might be fresh lamb directly from the nearby sheep farms, cooked in a very traditional way.

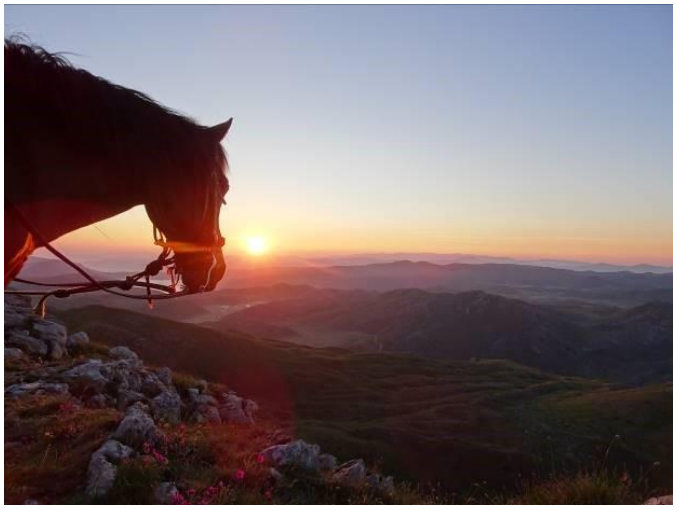
Dinner around the campfire and overnight in tents.

Approximately 6 hour ride (30 km).

Overnight Karbula Tented Camp. During the day the support crew move the camp to Karbula.

Day 7

This morning will be something completely different. You wake up at 03:00 before dawn, prepare the horses and ride to the highest peak of Medenica to watch the sunrise.



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With the sun now up you initially walk and lead your horse and then remount to ride back to camp for breakfast. After breakfast you ride along the uplands of the scenic Bistra Mountain, with fantastic open views. Continue to make your way back to the ranch and the end of your journey of over 200 km.

Enjoy lunch with the fantastic Sherpa team.

Approximately 3 hours riding to see the sunrise (15 km) and a 4 hour ride back to the ranch (25 km).

The guests who aren't staying on for the Galichnik Wedding Ceremony will be taken back to Skopje.

You will be transferred to your hotel in Galichnik. The Galichnik wedding ceremony starts at 18:30 and you will be seated in the lobby to watch the event. Following the ceremony you have dinner and later you have the option to attend the ranch party with traditional music.

Overnight Hotel Neda.

Day 8

The morning breakfast is between 08:00 and 09:00. The ceremony starts again at 09:00 and you will be seated in the lobby to watch the entire event until 13:00.

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After lunch you will be transferred to Skopje by vehicle (approximately two hours).

Overnight Hotel City Park. This modern centrally located hotel has 20 rooms and is within walking distance of many of Skopje's attractions.

A typical bedroom at City Park Hotel

Day 9

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You will be transferred to Skopje airport.

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