

NORTH MACEDONIA - MIYAK TRIBE TRAIL

ITINERARY

Day 1

Transfer from the airport to Hotel Neda

Over dinner at Hotel Neda, a safety briefing will be given by your guide. 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 Mavrovo National Park, about two hours drive west of the capital Skopje.



Twin room at Hotel Neda

Overnight 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 with welcome drinks. On route, you will visit the museum of Gjorgjia Pulevski, a famous Miyak author and revolutionary.

After being allocated your horse, have fun with some ranch workshops - milking goats and the preparation of traditional cheese, whilst the horses are being prepared.



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

Today you will have an opportunity to visit the old Miyak villages and get closely acquainted with the culture of the Miyaks, as well as a ride through the old forest trails, which were originally used for transportation on horses.

From the ranch, you will 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.

On the way to the hunting village of Lazaropole, you will have a picnic lunch followed by cheese tasting. Continue your ride passing through the Miyak village of Tresonche and experience the Miyak folklore and the old Miyak architecture.

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

Approximately 5 hour forest ride, 27 km



Hotel Kalin is a cosy mountain hotel with a traditional design.



Double room at Hotel Kalin

Overnight Hotel Kalin

Day 3

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

An adrenaline filled ride which will take you to the oldest forest Miyak trail of Bistra Mountain, crossing up to Stogovo Mountain from the Miyak village of Osoj, with an incredible view of the Korab Massive (2,764 m/9,068 ft).

Today you 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.

At the sheep farm, you get acquainted with the shepherd's life, far away from the civilized world, and you will be shown the old traditional farming techniques. You have an opportunity to taste all of the milk products directly from the farm.

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

Fresh fish for dinner will be accompanied by a traditional Miyak music live performance.

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



Overnight Motel Topila

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, riding across a very old forest Miak trail. This ride takes you above the forest of Bistra Mountain, with an incredible view of the Korab Massive. This route will get you even closer to the shepherd's life, visiting a few sheep farms and tasting traditional white cheese and yogurt.



Having ridden out into the wildness, 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

While camping, the team will set up the sleeping tents, start the campfire and prepare all the meals. Chairs and tables are provided for meals and there is a toilet tent. However, there won't be any hot water for showering.



Overnight Korab Camp

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.

Today you visit a few Miyak sheep farms where you have lunch and experience different mountain scenery.

After lunch, your guides will take you to the Sandaktash Peak (2,011 m/6,597 ft) and bring you down to Mavrovo Lake and the village of Mavrovo.



View of Mavrovo Lake

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

Approximately 7 hour ride, 35 km

The Hotel Bistra is a 118 room hotel close to the lake shore, near the foot of the mountain. The hotel has a pool and spa.



Double room at Hotel Bistra

Overnight Hotel Bistra

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.



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

Dinner over the campfire and overnight in tents.

Approximately 6 hour ride, 30 km

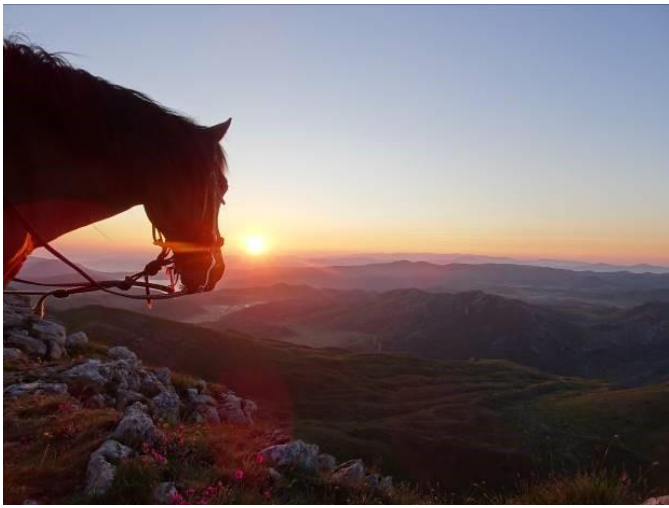
While camping, the team will set up the sleeping tents, start the campfire and prepare all the meals. Chairs and tables are provided for meals and there is a toilet tent. However, there won't be any hot water for showering.



Overnight Karbula Camp

Day 7

This morning will be something entirely different - waking up before dawn at around 03:00, prepare the horses and ride to the highest peak of Medenica to watch the sunrise.



On foot and leading the horses, you walk back down and remount again back to camp for breakfast. After the breakfast, ride along the uplands of the scenic Bistra Mountain with the fantastic open landscapes, making your way back to the ranch after this 202 km journey.

On returning to the riding centre there is a final lunch with the group and the Sherpa team.

Approximately 3 hours to see the sunrise, 15 km and a 4 hour ride home, 25 km.

Transfer to Skopje

After lunch the group transfer back to Skopje for the final night

Overnight Solun Hotel or similar.

The Solun is a modern 53 room centrally located city hotel.



Double room at the Hotel Solun

Overnight Hotel Solun

Day 8

Morning - Return transfer to Skopje Airport