



Welcome to Macedonia - Struga

Dear guests,

Welcome to Macedonia, place where foreigners feel like home. Situated in a corner of Southeast Europe, Macedonia is a country with idyllic natural surroundings.

We have chosen Struga as a venue of the 9th ELTAM Conference in 2016. Struga is renowned as a city of poetry and lies on the shore of Ohrid Lake. The well-known saying: "There is no other place like Struga" exists from the past as many old writers of traveling guides have noted that Struga was a very vivid city, with developed trade, great markets and the houses of the wealthy citizens have always been beautiful and decorative. As good hosts we invite you to visit the following landmarks.

The Crn Drim River



Is there something more beautiful and more majestic of the flow of Crn Drim out of the lake? That natural phenomenon obsesses and ennobles the soul with the best feelings. The river flows gently through the town, as it does not want to disturb the visitors walking along its banks, thrilled by its crystal clear waters. In the evening when many lights are turned on, the river has even a better view by the reflection of light from its waters. On its way to the Adriatic Sea, the Crn Drim forms two man-made lakes Globochitsa and Shpilje, which are surrounded by magnificent landscapes.

Struga Old Bazaar



Stroll down the Bazaar full of bustling cafes and colorful shops, and note the scattered examples of traditional architecture.

Struga Poetry Evenings - The "Poetry Bridge"



Struga is also a place of important cultural significance in the Republic of Macedonia, as it is the birthplace of the poets Konstantin and Dimitar Miladinov. The main event of the cultural life in Struga is the world's largest poetry gathering, **Struga Poetry Evenings**, whose laureates have included several Nobel Prize for Literature winners such as Joseph Brodsky, Eugenio Montale, Pablo Neruda, Seamus Heaney, Fazıl Hüsni Dağlarca and many others since 1966. Every August the Struga Poetry Evenings (SPE) are held at the "Poetry Bridge" and are attended by poets, writers and artists from across the world.

Miladinovci House Struga - interesting examples of traditional architecture, in which the brothers were born and lived. Today it serves as a museum dedicated to them.

There are several cultural monuments in Struga and in its vicinity, such as the Monastery of Kališta, a few kilometers away from the town center on the shore of Lake Ohrid. It is believed that it dates from the 16th century, with frescoes from the 14th and the 15th century. Another rock church is present in the neighbouring village of Radožda with frescoes from the 13th and 14th century. The Church of Sveta Bogorodica (St Mary) in Vraništa is believed to be the place where Tsar Samuel was crowned.

The most representative temples of the Islamic religion in Struga are the mosques and a teke: the Mosque of Suleiman Arap built in 1583, near the river Crn Drim, the Mosque of Mustafa Celebi near the city centre, built in the late XV century, the Teke of Helveti, built by Baba Hasan in the XVIII century and the Hamam of Mustafa are representatives of the rarest Turkish monuments built in the years when the Ottomans came to Struga.

The Natural Scientific Museum "Dr. Nikola Nežlobinski" in Struga is one of the oldest institutions in Macedonia and comprises several departments: the Biological Department, Preparatory Lab, Department of Archeology and Figurative Art and the Department of History and Ethnology. In the Museum there is an exhibition of 9,381 specimens of flora and fauna found in the shores of the Lake Ohrid, about 2,576 items that originate from pre-history, the ancientness, medieval era and items from the contemporary period.

A very important part of the Museum is the art gallery "Vangel Kodzoman" consisted of 35 paintings, a true collection of this artist from Struga. His paintings reflect the dynamic of life in Struga, together with motives from the old city architecture.

At night you can walk by the lake, by the river, or go at the most popular discos like Oaza, Biser, Tullamur beach. There are also very beautiful bars and pubs located by the lake, by the river

and in the center of Struga such as Grifon, Tullamore Dew, Plivalishte, Ženska Plaža Cinema, Admiral, Album, Street, Sweet Cafe, Aquarius and many others.

Getting to Struga

By plane

Via St. Paul the Apostle airport in Ohrid. There are taxi services transporting passengers.

<http://ohd.airports.com.mk/default.aspx?ItemID=358>

Taxi to Struga from Ohrid costs around 5-7euros, or minibuses leave the Ohrid bus station for Struga approximately every 20 minutes, tickets for these cost only 50 MKD. Alternatively you can use a shared taxi for the same price. Make sure to arrange the price before departure.

By bus

<https://getbybus.com/en/bus-from-struga>

Time zone, weather and climate in October/November

Timezone: CET, or UTC/GMT + 2 hrs

Humid continental climate. Colder weather in October, cloudy with expected precipitations, although autumns can be very sunny. Temperature: around 15 °C.

Currency

Macedonian denar – MKD. 1 Euro is approximately 61.60 MKD, 1 UDS – 55.22 MKD and 1 GBP – 71.85 MKD. You can easily exchange your foreign currency in the exchange offices or the banks around the city.

Food and Drink

Macedonian cuisine is just another symbol of Macedonia's rich tradition. A large number of dishes that were eaten in Macedonia in the past, are still consumed today, a little changed, but still delicious. And the best of Macedonia can be seen through Macedonian cuisine. It is an inherent part of tradition. Macedonian food is one of the most delicious in the world. The secret of its irreplaceable flavor is that it's been prepared the same way for centuries: **with lots of love**. Some recipes have been restored and adapted to the present day. Here is the link of the 10 best restaurants in Struga

https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurants-g676334-Struga_Southwestern_Region.html

The Venue

The venue for the Pre Conference and the Conference is Hotel Drim, one of the most beautiful and monumental buildings in Struga. Lying on the lips of Crn Drim, it is sincerely offering Struga's warmest welcome to our conference participants.

