

SKOPJE

city walk



Explore Skopje
with 2 City Walks
INCLUDING MAP



With the fountain as the starting point, you will venture through past and present, visiting pubs, many statues, interesting museums and the Vardar River

www.skopjecitywalk.com

The Macedonian alphabet

Macedonian is written in the Cyrillic alphabet. Each letter is always pronounced the same way. There will almost never be two of the same letters next to each other.

А а	З з	Н н	У у
Б б	С с	Њ њ	Ф ф
В в	И и	О о	Х х
Г г	Ј ј	П п	Ц ц
Д д	К к	Р р	Ч ч
Ѓ гј	Л л	С с	Ѕ ѕ
Е е	Љ љ	Т т	Ш ш
Ж ж	М м	Ќ кј	



When you go to the toilet, and you see only strange characters on the door, remember the following:

Ж - women

М - men

The toilets are not always in a very good condition (no toilet paper, no lock), but you can always walk into every restaurant to make use of them.

Colophon

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Intro



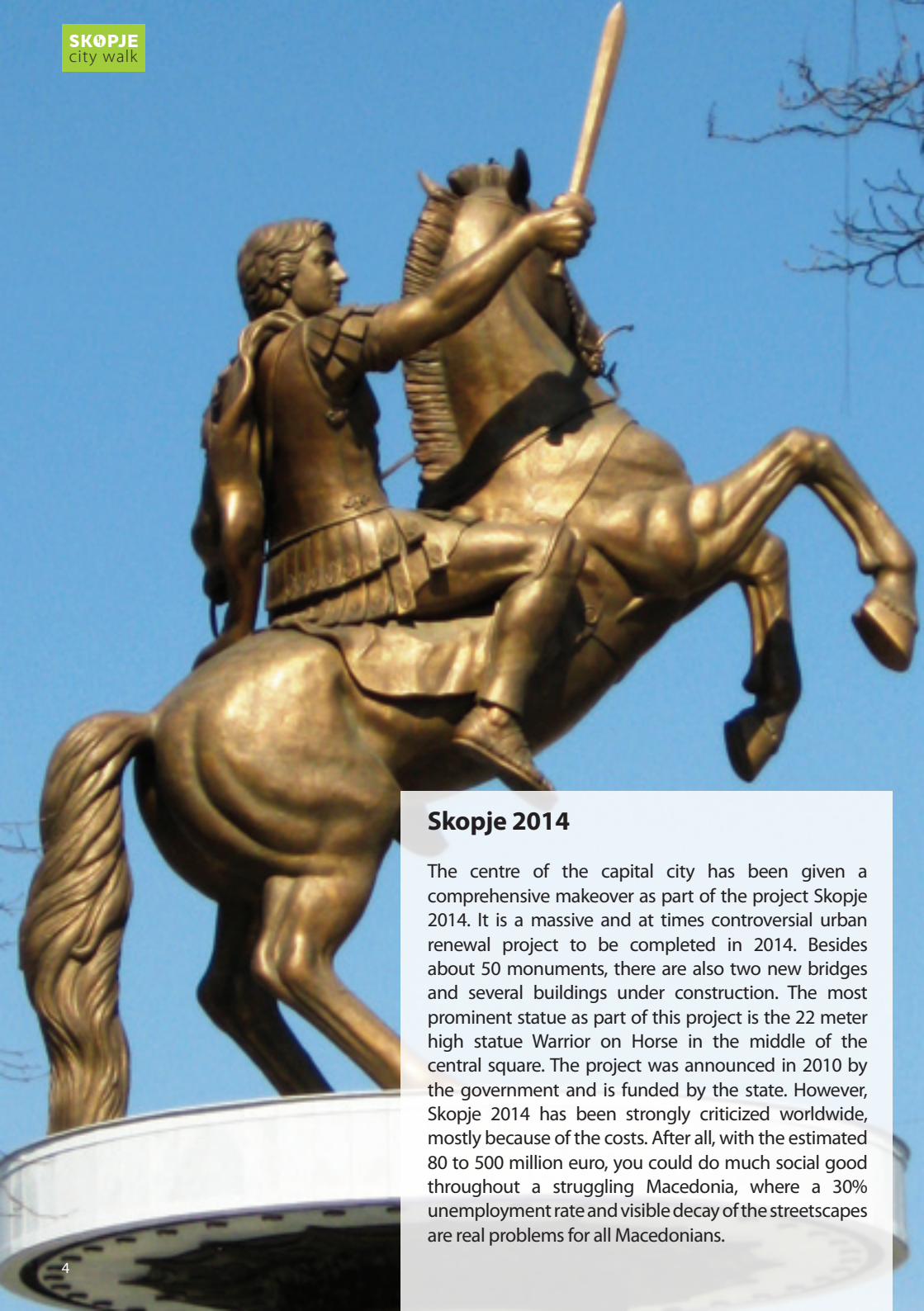
Welcome to Skopje, the capital and largest city of Macedonia, with a great variety of people and cultures. Over a quarter of the Macedonian population lives in Skopje. Apart from being a political and economic center, Skopje is also a modern city, compared to other Macedonian cities. There are many cultural activities to attend. The Vodno mountain, south of the city with the big cross on the top, may seem to dominate the city. But the real life unfolds on the streets.

The central square Ploštad Makedonija is a favorite meeting point for both young and old. The square is an important part of the social life of Skopje. In winter you can enjoy roasted chestnuts, while in summer the square is teeming with both local and foreign tourists. Under the current urban renewal plan Skopje

2014, the central square has received a major makeover. Construction will continue into 2013.

In the midst of the bustling square, you see a statue of a bronze warrior on his eternal prancing horse (1). It is generally known that the statue (beautifully lit with a fountain and water show in the summer) represents Alexander the Great, though it is officially called Warrior on Horse, with an eye on the dispute with Greece over the common Macedonian history.

In this guide, the square is the start and end point for both city walks. The walks take about 1.5 hours each, without museum visits and terraces. The walks are independent of each other and the order in which you follow them is up to you. Both the new and the old town of Skopje have much to offer, so we wish you a nice and informative route.



Skopje 2014

The centre of the capital city has been given a comprehensive makeover as part of the project Skopje 2014. It is a massive and at times controversial urban renewal project to be completed in 2014. Besides about 50 monuments, there are also two new bridges and several buildings under construction. The most prominent statue as part of this project is the 22 meter high statue Warrior on Horse in the middle of the central square. The project was announced in 2010 by the government and is funded by the state. However, Skopje 2014 has been strongly criticized worldwide, mostly because of the costs. After all, with the estimated 80 to 500 million euro, you could do much social good throughout a struggling Macedonia, where a 30% unemployment rate and visible decay of the streetscapes are real problems for all Macedonians.



The New Center of Skopje



in the Macedonian history and often include bronze reliefs depicting related historical events.

With this first walk, we invite you to discover the new center of Skopje. Here you will find all the major shopping malls and the central bus and train station. The majority of the statues that are part of the project Skopje 2014 are located in this part of town as well. But the new center has also history to offer, for instance the old railway station, which partly collapsed during the earthquake in 1963. The railway station still has a prominent place in the cityscape and in the collective memories of everyone who lived through the earthquake. We would like to invite you to this 'new' part of town. There is a lot to see!



Turn to the south of the central square, go towards the squared statue of Tzar Samoil and enter the street Ulica Makedonija

Like most of the monuments that can be found on the central square, the statue of Tzar Samoil (2) is part of the project Skopje 2014 as well. The statues generally represent important figures





The origin of the feudal tower behind the memorial house is not known. It probably served as a defense tower on the property of a Turkish Bey. The tower is now part of Dom na ARM, located in the building beyond, which houses the Macedonian Philharmonic (4). The building is old and in need of a facelift, but the orchestra will soon move into the new concert hall on the north side of the river.

For an overview of upcoming concerts:
<http://www.filharmonija.mk>



At the end of the pedestrian street, cross the intersecting road and continue straight to the old railway station

On your right, just after the street vendors with colorful jewelry that are often located next to the Sparkasse bank, stands Hotel Bristol (5). Hotel Bristol was the oldest still working hotel in Skopje. Built in the 20s, it stood the test of time until recently. Sadly, the hotel suddenly had to close its doors early November 2012, after almost 90 years of service, because of a conflict between the legitimate owners.

At the end of the street, straight ahead of you, are the remains of the old railway station (6).



Despite the major modernization of the center, the streets of Skopje do still reflect a touch of socialist idealism, with names like Leninova and Partizanski Odredi (the partisan resistance fighters). But what used to be called Marshal Tito Street, is now the Makedonija Street. As a tourist, it's not always easy to navigate through Skopje and that's not just because street names suddenly change. Although maps often specify street names, there are no visible street signs throughout most of the city. But you can always stop and ask a passerby for help. Macedonians are generally friendly, helpful, and enjoy talking with visitors.



Cross the street with traffic lights and continue walking south

About 100 meters on your left you will soon see the impressive memorial house of Mother Teresa (3). She was born in Skopje on 27 August 1910 as Gonxha Bojaxhiu. Mother Teresa was an Albanian Catholic. The memorial house, opened in 2009, is not a copy of her original home. A remembrance of that house can be found on the square Plostad Makedonija, where you will see four bronze corners in the asphalt between the donut stalls. The new memorial house was built on the spot where the Catholic Church used to be where Mother Teresa was baptized.

*Opening Times Memorial House Mother Teresa
Mon-Fri 09:00 - 20:00, Sat-Sun 09:00 - 14:00,
free admission*

It serves as a memorial to the catastrophic earthquake of 1963. The earthquake hit on 26 July 1963 and destroyed about 80% of the city, including a large portion of the train station. The clock stopped at 05:17, the time the earthquake struck, and has not been reset as a reminder of the city's devastation. The earthquake registered a magnitude of 6.9 on Richter scale and killed more than 1.000 people. There were more than 3.000 people injured and more than 200.000 people were left homeless.

The old railway station building now houses the City Museum of Skopje, where the history of the city through the ages is shown. There are also temporary exhibitions of local artists, architects and designers.

*Opening Times City Museum of Skopje
Tue-Sat 09:00 - 17:00, Sun 09:00 - 13:00,
free admission*



For a quick visit to Ramstore Mall, turn right (with your face to the museum) or continue the route

You can already see the mall on your left. Ramstore Mall (7) was the first modern shopping center in Skopje and was opened in 2005. In the hall on the ground floor you will find a large supermarket with international products, and across from it, a nice little open shop with traditional Macedonian souvenirs. The mall is open daily. The second major shopping center of Skopje, Vero Center, opened in 2010. You will pass this mall later on the route. In September 2012 a third mall opened, named Skopje City Mall, 3 km outside the city center to the west. There are many modern shops, a very large cinema, a bowling alley and several cafes in this great mall.

*Opening Times Ramstore Mall Open daily,
hypermarket 09:00 - 22:00, food court 09:00 - 22:00, shops 10:00 - 22:00, bars 10:00 - 24:00*



Turn left (with your face to the museum) to continue the route. You will be walking east for about 200 meters. Take the first street on the left, just before the white МАКПЕТРОЛ building. Walk across the parking lot to the green fence and enter through the first gate on your right

This is the green market, the Zelen Pazar (8). Not only will you find all kinds of fresh fruit, vegetables,





eggs, nuts and other foods, but also items such as socks, toys, rope and parts to repair your car or faucet. This market is not aimed at tourists, so you will need to speak with your hands (and your feet, if necessary). Most vendors are there from early morning (06:00 is not uncommon) until early afternoon. Usually the number of vendors thins out at 14:00 and around 16:00 the market day is over, especially on hot summer days.

Opening Times Zelen Pazar
Open daily from +/- 06:00 to +/- 16:00

Make sure that after exploring the market, you exit the market on the same side. (You enter on the north-east side and leave the market on the north-west side, see map.) Once outside the gates of the market, walk north on the footpath between the vendors under the buildings, to the right towards the high street

You will arrive at a busy bus stop on the street 11-ti Oktomvri, named after the Macedonian uprising of the partisans against the fascists on 11 October 1941 in Prilep. Although the first partisan uprising was modest, it represented the first outbreak of the battle against fascism. It was an important turning point in Macedonian history and therefore a national holiday celebrated annually.

Go left on the busy street, walk to the traffic lights and cross the street, towards the park

You are now in the Women's Park, Zhena Park (9), dedicated to all the women who participated in the anti-fascist struggle. It is a popular park, frequently visited by mothers with children playing in the grass and old men playing chess together. Under the guise of the project Skopje 2014, many new monuments have been added to the park, overshadowing the attention for the women.

The most prominent among the new monuments in the park is the one honoring the fallen heroes of Macedonia. It is the white monument with large columns, which is very popular among couples as a location for their wedding pictures. The figure in front of the monument represents Prometheus, from the Greek mythology, depicted as a symbol of self-sacrifice. Interestingly, Prometheus was originally naked, however, after several complaints a bronze loin cloth has been welded to the statue. The angel goddess on top of the monument symbolizes victory.

Walk to the Porta Makedonija, also called the Triumphal Gate

This triumphal gate (10) was opened in January 2012. The gate is 21 meters high and dedicated to 20 years of Macedonian independence. The exterior of the building is covered with 193 m² marble reliefs with scenes from the history of Macedonia. The space in the 'left leg' contains a souvenir shop and a water tap. In the 'right leg' you will find a lift and stairs to the roof. From there, you can look out over the surrounding area. Although at the time of writing, the top floor is not always accessible to the public. It is said that a bar will be opened at the top of the gate in the summer of 2013.

Opening Times Porta Makedonija
Gift Shop: Open daily, 09:00 - 21:00.
Entrance tower: Open daily, 10:00 - 18:00,
30 MKD entrance fee.
The Porta Makedonija is closed in winter.

On the right behind the triumphal gate you see a row of food stalls. In НИНО, the rightmost, you

will find the best veggie burgers in the city, for only 65 denar (€1). Ask for a sandwich modar patlidjan (eggplant) and mėsjana (mixed) when asked which salads you want to add. Do not forget the napkins!

Enter the old shopping center between НИНО and the white spiral staircase and go right

The shopping centre Gradski Trgovski Centar (11) is locally known as GTC (pronounced as Guh Tuh Tzuh). It was built in the 70s and has an old-fashioned feel to it, with large, semi-covered galleries. Besides a lot of small boutiques, there are also a large number of clothes shops, a cinema, and a few restaurants. The transparent elevators were only added in 2012 and do not visually fit in, but they are a welcome addition for anyone with a stroller, walking cane or hands filled with shopping bags.



Welcome to the world of wine magic!



Set in the heart of Macedonia, Stobi Winery offers you a unique opportunity to taste the drink of Gods made with state-of-the-art technology, while immersing yourselves in the culture of ancient civilizations found in the nearby archeological site Stobi. Less than an hour away from the capital Skopje, the Winery can easily be reached by taking the exit to Gradsko from the Corridor 10 Highway. Visit the Winery for an exquisite wine-and-dine experience, an individual or a corporate tour of the spectacular barrique hall, have a private tasting or a class in food and wine pairing...

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visit@stobiwinery.mk or +389 (0) 78 221 687.
www.stobiwinery.mk





After exploring the mall, turn north, weaving between the shops, to exit the building (diagonally on the map) and arrive at the river Vardar

On this boulevard, the Kej, you can have a nice lunch at any of the restaurants. The stone bridge (A) used to be the only pedestrian bridge over the River Vardar, but there are two new pedestrian bridges being built, which are already partly open for the public. The Art Bridge, Most na Umetnostta (B) features 29 statues of noted Macedonian artists and musicians. The other bridge, the Eye Bridge, Most Oko (C), more to the west, features 28 statues.

Across the river, behind the two new bridges, you can see a number of large buildings. They are a part of Skopje 2014 and have been built in the past two years or are still partly under construction. From left to right, these are the Archaeological Museum, the Agency for Electronic Communications, the Public Prosecution Office / Financial Police, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. On the far left, beyond the old bridge, are the new National Theatre, the Holocaust Museum and the Museum of the Macedonian Struggle. You can read more about some of these museums in the walk through the old town of Skopje.



For a quick visit to Vero Center, turn right (with your back to GTC) or continue the route

Keep the river on your left and cross the street at the first bridge. Walk along the river to the next bridge. From there you will already see the big shopping center on your right across the street. Vero Mall (12) has a very American feel to it, with its large, open spaces. The food from the food court, although not bad and low priced, is no comparison to the good food you can get in the many restaurants in town. But for the real sweet tooth a stuffed pancake from Amatti is a delicacy for sure.

Opening Times Vero Center Mall
Open daily, hypermarket 08:00 - 22:00,
cafés 09:00 - 24:00, other shops 09:00 - 22:00



Turn left (with your back to GTC) to continue the route. Walk back to the square with the river on your right.

Cross the square, but keep following the river on the cycle-/footpath. In the summer there is a small tourist train that runs here

Continue walking along the river. Beyond the stone bridge you see a metal ship (13) in the river. At the time of writing, this ship is under construction. Allegedly, it will house a luxurious restaurant upon completion. As part of Skopje

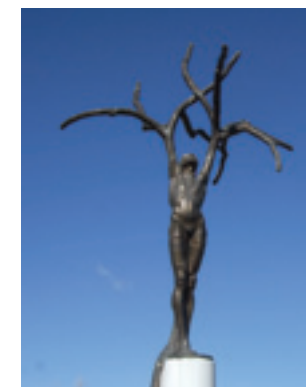


<http://www.facebook.com/peacockindian.loungebar>

The only Indian food in Skopje

PEACOCK
Cafe + Lounge
INDIAN CUISINE

Ulica Mihail Cokov nr.6



2014 more of such ships are planned to be built, scattered along the banks of the river Vardar.

Just before the next bridge, on the left hidden behind the trees, stands a round, concrete building that represents a lotus. This is the post office (14). The interesting shape is easier to spot later on the route, when you walk down the Partizanska Street. It is also well visible from the fortress (at the moment unfortunately not accessible) and from the top of the mountain Vodno at the large, metal cross.

A bit further on the other side of the river, you can see, beyond a number of new buildings, a sagging building, which has been standing there for ages. Like many other buildings in Skopje, also this one was never completed when it became clear that the builder had no valid license.

Just past the pedestrian bridge, go left with the small park on your right. Walk between the parked cars straight towards the intersection with traffic lights

To your left is the Government Building (15). Macedonia used to be part of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Upon the disintegration of Yugoslavia, the Macedonian people decided in September 1991 in a referendum to become independent. The Yugoslav army had its hands full with the wars in Bosnia and Croatia and let go of Macedonia without problems.

In the 2006 elections, the center-right party VMRO-DPMNE emerged as the winner. The same party was reelected in 2008 and 2011. In front of the government building are several sculptures, many of which without a head. Unlike the statues that are currently erected throughout the city, these sculptures stem from ancient times.

Cross the large intersection with traffic lights. Walk straight ahead until you arrive at the church with the big clock tower on your left (at Orthodox churches the clock is always separate from the church). Enter the church grounds through the gate

The large, round Church of Saint Clement of Ohrid (16) is the only cathedral of the Macedonian Orthodox Church. Construction began in 1972 and was completed on 12 August 1990, the birthday of the patron saint. The round church covers an area of 36 by 36 meters and is one of the most interesting architectural examples from recent Macedonian history. The central dome covers an area of 650 m² and the frescoes are the work of painter Jovan Petrov. Light a candle just like the Macedonian visitors do, which you can buy at the little shop in the vestibule.

Opening Times Church St Clement of Ohrid
Open daily, 06:00 - 18:30, free admission



Exit the church grounds through the other gate and turn left towards the east

You are now standing at the beginning of the 5 kilometer long Partizanska Street. The partisans were the Yugoslav resistance during the Second World War and have a real hero status in the Balkans. They fought from 1941 to 1945 under the leadership of Josip Broz Tito against Nazi Germany and fascist Italy and Bulgaria. It is not surprising that the longest street in the city is therefore named Bulevar Partizanski Odredi (the partisan resistance fighters).

This part of the city walk shows the modern daily life of Skopje. The bustle, the many cars, the instant honking when the traffic lights turn green and the stationary cars on the rightmost lane are good examples of the busy city life. When approaching the end of the street, you can see the lotus shape of the post office ahead of you.



Continue walking to the end of the street and cross the intersection. Walk across the small parking lot and turn right

On your left you will see the yellow Hotel Jadran (17). In 1938, the year of construction, this building with arches and ornaments was a real

sensation for the residents of Skopje. Because of its appearance, the building is also called the Arab House. The hotel is in a somewhat dilapidated condition, but you can still spend the night here. Beyond the small intersection, at the end of the street on the corner, stands a fun statue of a number of musicians (18). This is a modern version of an earlier statue that stood here and of which the musicians were stolen one by one.



Turn left and you're back on the square. If you still have some energy left, you can immediately start the city walk through the old center



Sweet & Healthy minute for you!



Vitalia Premium muesli bars. Your new healthy habit!

Vitalia cereal bars are healthy on-the-go snack that will bring you real enjoyment at any time of day. This irresistible and delicious mix of whole grain cereals together with dried fruits and nuts, coated with dark chocolate or yogurt, is the right formula for good health.

Antioxidant bar - Vitamins attack

Amazing healthy muesli bars enriched with A+C+E vitamins, natural antioxidants, necessary for your body to achieve the ideal balance.

Choco & Nuts bar - Chocolate energy

Crispy & tasty mixture of cereal and hazelnuts coated with dark chocolate, enriched with powerful proteins for instant energy at any part of day.

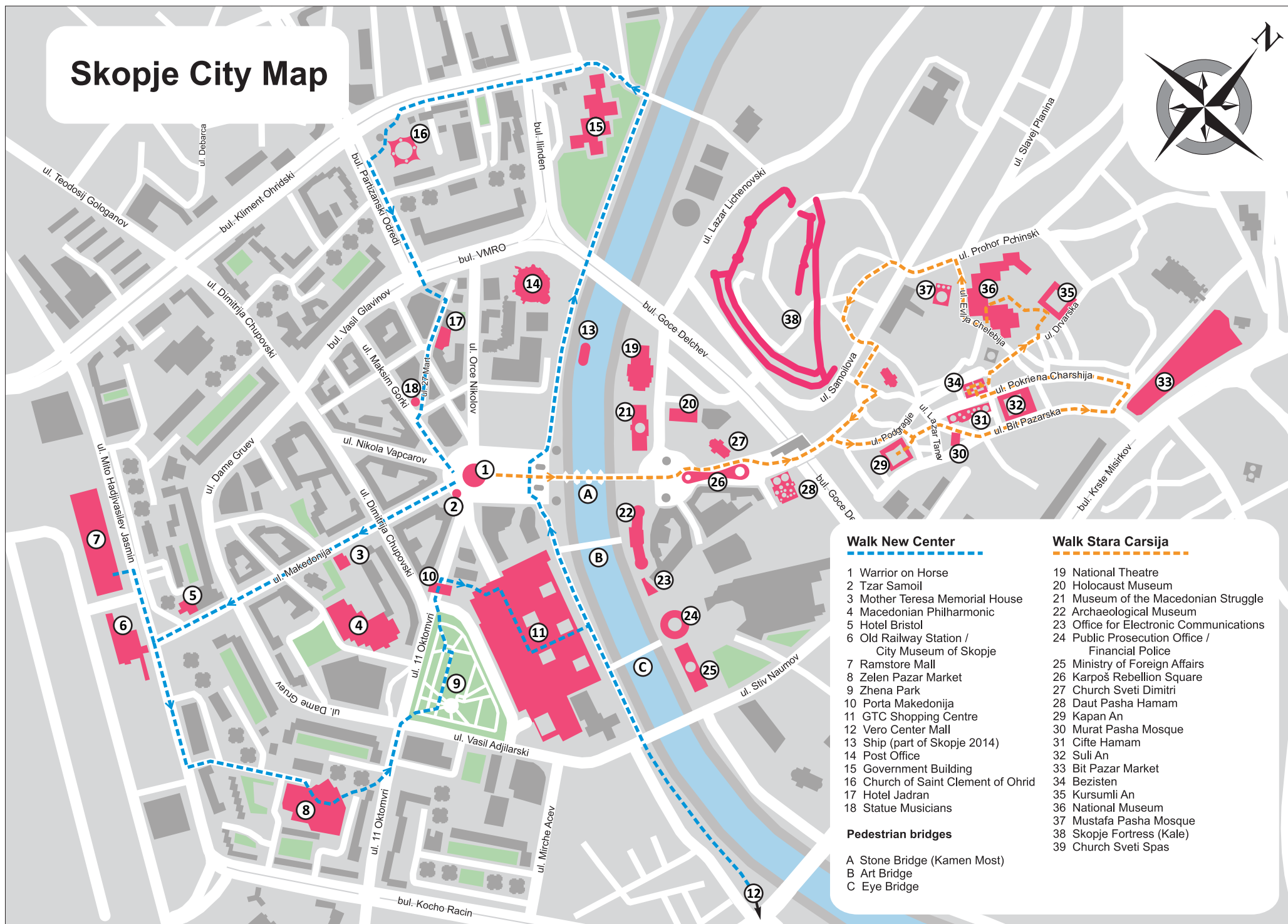
Slim&Beauty bar - The taste of beauty

Perfect mix of wholegrain cereals, apricots and plums enrobed with yogurt and enriched with coenzyme Q10 and L-Carnitine for ideal body weight.

Red Fruit bar - Red fusion

100% natural mix of crunchy cereals and red fruits, enriched with vitamin B coated with yogurt. Amazingly tasty snack that provides you the energy you need the most.

Skopje City Map



Walk New Center

- 1 Warrior on Horse
- 2 Tzar Samoil
- 3 Mother Teresa Memorial House
- 4 Macedonian Philharmonic
- 5 Hotel Bristol
- 6 Old Railway Station / City Museum of Skopje
- 7 Ramstore Mall
- 8 Zelen Pazar Market
- 9 Zhena Park
- 10 Porta Makedonija
- 11 GTC Shopping Centre
- 12 Vero Center Mall
- 13 Ship (part of Skopje 2014)
- 14 Post Office
- 15 Government Building
- 16 Church of Saint Clement of Ohrid
- 17 Hotel Jadran
- 18 Statue Musicians

Pedestrian bridges

- A Stone Bridge (Kamen Most)
- B Art Bridge
- C Eye Bridge

Walk Stara Carsija

- 19 National Theatre
- 20 Holocaust Museum
- 21 Museum of the Macedonian Struggle
- 22 Archaeological Museum
- 23 Office for Electronic Communications
- 24 Public Prosecution Office / Financial Police
- 25 Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 26 Karpoš Rebellion Square
- 27 Church Sveti Dimitri
- 28 Daut Pasha Hamam
- 29 Kapan An
- 30 Murat Pasha Mosque
- 31 Cifte Hamam
- 32 Suli An
- 33 Bit Pazar Market
- 34 Bezisten
- 35 Kursumli An
- 36 National Museum
- 37 Mustafa Pasha Mosque
- 38 Skopje Fortress (Kale)
- 39 Church Sveti Spas



The Old Center of Skopje



This second city walk takes you to the old town, also called Stara Carsija, the most picturesque part of Skopje. With its narrow streets, small shops, bathhouses and mosques, the old center breathes an oriental atmosphere. Here you will still find many craftsmen, such as copper workers, tanners, shoemakers and goldsmiths.

In recent years, this part of the city has been revived. It was once a popular nightlife district, but after the inter-ethnic conflict in 2001, Stara Carsija was more or less deserted for a long time. Nowadays, the old town is thriving again and filled with cafes and terraces. A visit to this little corner of history, both during the day and in the evening, should be on everyone's itinerary.



Cross the old stone bridge

The old stone bridge, the Kamen Most, is the official symbol of Skopje, also found in

the coat of arms of the city. The stone bridge was the only connection between the north and south side of Skopje for years and is also seen as a symbolic connection between the predominantly Muslim area to the north and the predominantly Christian Orthodox area on the south side.

With foundations dating back to the 6th century, the bridge has been rebuilt by the Ottoman Sultan Murat II the Conqueror in the 15th century. Less attractive are the public executions which took place on the bridge in the Ottoman period. The Macedonian warrior Karpos, who rebelled against the Ottomans, was executed here. A plaque on the highest point on the bridge is a reminder of this.

Besides via the stone bridge, the Vardar river can soon also be crossed by foot using two new bridges, which are currently still under construction. The Art Bridge and the Eye Bridge are described in more detail in the walk through the new center of Skopje.

A new border around old city life

All the large buildings on the northern bank of the river Vardar are erected in the past few years as part of the project Skopje 2014. They are (from left to right): the National Theatre (18), behind it the Holocaust Museum (19), then the Museum of the Macedonian Struggle (20) and to the right of the stone bridge, the Archaeological Museum (21), the Office for Electronic Communications (22), the Public Prosecution Office / Financial Police (23) and finally the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (24). The three museums do not officially belong to the old town, but because of their position on this side of the bridge, we will describe them briefly.

Holocaust Museum

Opening hours: Tue-Fri 09:00 - 17:00,
Sat-Sun 09:00 - 15:00, free admission

The Holocaust Memorial Center for the Jews of Macedonia now stands on the site of the old Jewish quarter. This center in Skopje is the fourth largest Holocaust memorial in the world after Washington, Jerusalem and

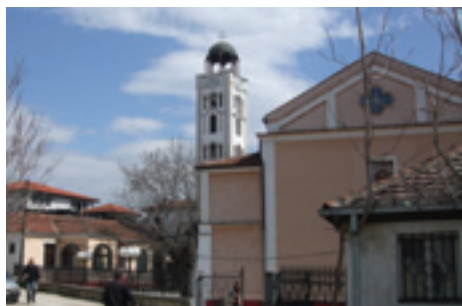
Berlin. Given the huge losses that the Jewish population in Macedonia suffered during the Second World War, this is understandable. More than 98% of the Jews in Macedonia were transported by the Bulgarian occupiers to the Treblinka concentration camp in Poland in March 1943.

Museum of the Macedonian Struggle
Opening hours: Tue-Sun 10:00 - 18:00,
300 MKD entrance fee

This museum depicts the struggle for independence of the Macedonian people, from the Ottoman era to final independence from Yugoslavia in September 1991. The exhibit includes over 100 wax figures of historical figures. The museum can only be visited accompanied by a Macedonian and English speaking guide and the tour lasts about an hour and a half.

Archaeological Museum
Still under construction

In addition to the archaeological museum, this building will also house the Court of Justice and the National Archives.



Continue walking straight across the new square, which at the time of writing is still under construction

The square at the other end of the stone bridge provides a spacious entry to the old part of town. The square is named Karpoš' Rebellion Square (25) and its main centerpiece is the statue and fountain at the far end of the square. This statue is officially named 'Warrior', though it is widely believed that it depicts Philip II, the father of Alexander the Great.

On the left side of the square, you see the church of Sveti Dimitri (26), a simple white church with dark frescoes that once served as a cathedral after the old cathedral was destroyed in WWII. Although there has been a church on this site since the 14th century, the present church is relatively new, dating from the late 19th century. In April 2012, the church appeared in the news worldwide when there was word of a divine intervention. One morning, the gold color on the icons had spontaneously started

to gleam. Whether this was true or not, it was welcome publicity for both Macedonia and the church of Sveti Dimitri.

Opening Times Sveti Dimitri
Mon-Sun 06:00 - 19:00, free admission

Continuing toward the old town you will see the Daut Pasha Hamam (27), just before taking the stairs. It sits a bit lower to your right. This is one of the largest and most impressive bathhouses from the Ottoman era which can still be visited. The bathhouse was presumably built for the harem of Vizier Daut Pasha and consisted of several rooms with hot and cold baths. The roof domes have small, round windows which provide a brilliant illumination inside. The beautiful restoration of the ceiling makes for a worthy visit of this Hamam. Currently the building serves as a museum of the National Art Gallery, with both permanent and temporary exhibitions. To enter, walk around the building to the other side.

Opening Times Daut Pasha Hamam
Tue-Sun 10:00 - 18:00, 50 MKD entrance fee



Continue straight, across the square, which simultaneously functions as a viaduct. Welcome to the old town! Make your way right at the Y-junction

The ancient city of Skopje was a flourishing trading center in the Ottoman period. The evidence is found in the many mosques, bathhouses and inns which are located here. Most of these historic buildings now serve as museums or galleries.

The best kebapi in town can be eaten at Destan, just on the right corner after the Y-junction. Kebapi are small meat balls in the shape of a finger, served with fresh, chopped onions and bread. You can spice them according to your own taste with a mix of salt and red pepper called bukovec. At Destan they only serve kebapi and drinks, so if you are in for other food or a fresh salad, you better choose another restaurant.



Next, take the second street to your right. You will end up in a square surrounded by terraces, with a water fountain and a tree in the middle

On the right side of this square you will find the inn Kapan An (28), where you can still taste the



old atmosphere in one of the cafes or restaurants that are located there. To enter Kapan An, you pass through the little gate on your right, down the stairs. These will take you to the courtyard on the ground floor where stables for the horses were once located. Upstairs were the lodgings for the travelers, naturally heated by the heat that radiated from the animals. The Kapan An has been used by caravans of travelers for decades. Both the square and Kapan An are good locations for a coffee break or a fresh salad with some local rakija.





double Hamam, so named because of the separate sections for men and women. This bathhouse was in use until 1915. In its time, there were also a hairdresser for men, a hair removal salon for women, masseurs and steam baths. It is noteworthy that the bathhouse was also used by Jews for ritual bathing. For this purpose, a special marble bath was installed. Nowadays the Cifte Hamam is part of the National Art Gallery, where both Macedonian and foreign artists exhibit their works.

Opening Times Cifte Hamam
Tue-Sun 09:00 - 18:00, 50 MKD entrance fee,
20 MKD for students

Follow the stone road straight ahead while enjoying the little shops and interesting streets. You will soon see a large gate with a fence on your left. Behind the gate lies the spacious courtyard of Suli An

On the ground floor of Suli An (31) is the Art Academy. You can see art students at work on weekdays. There are also works exhibited in the rooms around the courtyard.

On the first floor of this 15th-century inn is the small Bazaar Museum. This museum has recently been renovated and gives a good overview of the importance of the old city for the history of Skopje. Through the old photos you will get an impression of the bustling old town which has lost little of its charm over the years. All crafts that were once thriving in the old city are showcased and explained, which makes this museum definitely worthwhile for young and old. There is also a set of pictures depicting the devastation wrought by the earthquake that struck Skopje in 1963.

Opening Times Suli An and Museum
Mon-Fri 08:00 - 14:00, free admission

Follow the street until you come to a gate at the end, behind it you'll see the first market stands

Standing on the square with your back to Kapan An, continue the route ahead. Go straight on the intersection. Soon you will arrive to another square, with small souvenir shops on your left

Behind you is the Murat Pasha Mosque (29), which mainly attracts attention because of the large fountain where worshipers wash themselves before entering the mosque. This building dates from 1802, but a mosque has stood at the same site since the 15th century. It went up in flames when the Italian General Piccolomini set Skopje on fire in 1689 to prevent the outbreak of a cholera epidemic (although other sources say he started the fire to avenge the Siege of Vienna).

On your left, somewhat hidden behind the shops, is the Cifte Hamam (30), again a beautiful renovated bathhouse. Cifte Hamam stands for

In front of you, you can see the stands of the largest and oldest market in Skopje, the Bit Pazar (32). It is worth a venture between the stalls – you will be amazed by the items you can buy. Not only the fruits and vegetables of the season, but also herbs, tobacco, meat, fish, tea, fabrics, hardware and all kinds of plastic knickknacks. Don't be surprised when people speak to you in German or English, the vendors like to start a conversation. After you've explored the market, continue the walk through the old town.

Opening Times Bit Pazar
Open daily from +/- 06:00 to +/- 16:00

Seen from the street that you just exited, turn left-left to take the next street on your left hand, parallel to the street you were on before, back into the old town (see map)

Historically, all craftsmen in the old city were grouped by craft and settled in one location. This is still especially noticeable among the



goldsmiths. The street you are walking through right now is also known as the 'goldsmiths' street'. Especially in the summer, when most weddings take place, there is a great demand for gold jewelry that serves as a gift for the bride.

Follow the road a long way, past 3 crossings. The old 'shopping center' on your right, the Bezisten, is easy to miss. It is located at number 37b, identified by a small gate of white stone that lies a bit further from the street. Step through the gate and you find



yourself in the even narrower alleys of the old, walled shopping center

Nowadays there are two cafes and some offices located in the Bezisten (33). With a little imagination you can see that this walled part of the old city once offered luxury shops with silk, jewelry and perfume. In the evening, the four gates were closed so that these shops were protected.

Walk three quarters clockwise (left-right-right) through the Bezisten and exit through the opening on the right (see map). Follow this road straight ahead. It is not very clear, but if you bear left / straight, you will arrive at a blue fence. Step onto the square

On the site you will see the entrance of Kursumli An (34) on your right. This inn was built in the 16th century and is probably the most impressive inn of that time. You can step inside through the small opening/door. In its heydays the inn offered sleeping places to 100 horsemen and their horses. Both the ground floor and the first floor are built of stone, and some rooms have their own fireplaces, which was considered very luxurious for those times.

The roofs are covered with lead, which lends the inn its name. Kursumli comes from the Turkish word 'lead', or 'bullet'. Behind the inn once stood a bathhouse and a mosque, of which only ruins are left. In Ottoman times, the Kursumli An served as a prison and for weapon storage. Today it is part of the National Museum. In the rooms on the ground floor, archaeological finds are exhibited.



In the summer, concerts and film festivals are sporadically being held here, which is a very unique experience thanks to the special acoustics.

Opening Times Kursumli An

Open during working hours of the National Museum. In case the gate is closed, contact the ward at the museum entrance to open it for you, free admission

Outside Kursumli An, but on the same terrain (where children often play soccer) you will also find the National Museum. Go up the stairs

In the ethnographic section of the National Museum (35), you will find an extensive collection of traditional instruments, tools and costumes. The wedding dresses decorated with many coins symbolizing the wealth of the family are noteworthy - a dress like that can weigh up to 40 kilos. The archaeological part of the museum is accessible through the door on the other side of the museum shop. Interestingly, the first excavations from the Stone Age were discovered here by accident. Soldiers in the trenches of WWI unearthed them. Unfortunately, this museum is in a depleted

condition, with poor lighting, descriptions only in Macedonian and there are even a few buckets collecting leaking rainwater. A visit to this museum is a special experience.

Opening Times National Museum

Tue-Sun 09:00 - 17:00, 100 MKD entrance fee, 50 MKD for students

To the left of the museum store is a covered passageway. Walk through the passageway to the other side. At the red fence, turn right and follow the road up to the right. You will see the large Mustafa Pasha Mosque on your left hand. If the fence in front of the steep stairs is open, you can enter to take a look on the grounds

The elegant Mustafa Pasha Mosque (36) dominates the old town with its slim, 42-meter high minaret. The location of the mosque on top of the hill brings a beautiful silhouette to the cityscape. The mausoleum of Mustafa Pasha is located in the garden of the mosque, as well as the sarcophagus of one of his daughters. The interior of the mosque is beautifully decorated with marble and paintings on the wall. Strangely enough, this mosque has withstood all disasters

through the history of Skopje without any major damage and has been in use since 1492.

Opening Times Mustafa Pasha Mosque

Mon-Sat 09:00 - 17:00, free admission

If the fence on the other side of the terrain is open, you can follow the route by exiting there. If not, walk back to the entrance you came from and walk up to the end of the street, up the stairs and through the park to the main street. In both cases, cross the main street and walk through the sloping park to the fortress

The site of the Skopje fortress (37) has been inhabited since the Bronze Age. Strategically situated at the highest point of the city, this place has been the site of frequent battles. Once the city had grown far beyond the walls of the fortress, the place was still used as a military base, well into Yugoslavian times. Until the earthquake of 1963 destroyed a large part of the fortress, it was surrounded by seventy towers. The soldiers left after this destruction and the fortress became a park and amphitheater with panoramic city views. Unfortunately, the fortress itself is currently not opened to the public.

Take the right path down through the park. Turn back towards the old city by crossing the street and walk through the little park down to the right, to the small square with a café and terrace

At the left end of the square is a stone wall with a small gate which provides access to the churchyard of Sveti Spas (38). This church was built in the 17th century on the remains of an even older church from the 14th century. At that time churches were not allowed to be higher than mosques, so that is why this church was built half underground. The church is famous for its wooden iconostasis of at least 10 meters wide. The iconostasis includes biblical motifs, flora and fauna of the region, and even a small self-portrait of the makers.



In the churchyard you will find the tomb of the founder of the Macedonian liberation movement, Goce Delcev. His famous statement, "I see the world as a field for cultural competition amongst nations" is indicative of his view of society. The small museum about Goce Delcev on the church grounds has recently been renovated.

Opening Times Sveti Spas

Tue-Fri 09:00 - 17:00, Sat-Sun 09:00 - 15:00, free admission to grounds, church and museum entrance fee 120 MKD, 50 MKD for students

Once outside the walled churchyard, cross the square in the direction of the street. Turn left behind the fountain and terrace and take the stairs down. Turn right between the bars and terraces and follow the road cascading down. You are now back at the beginning of the old city center. Give your legs a rest and enjoy a drink in one of the many cafes around.

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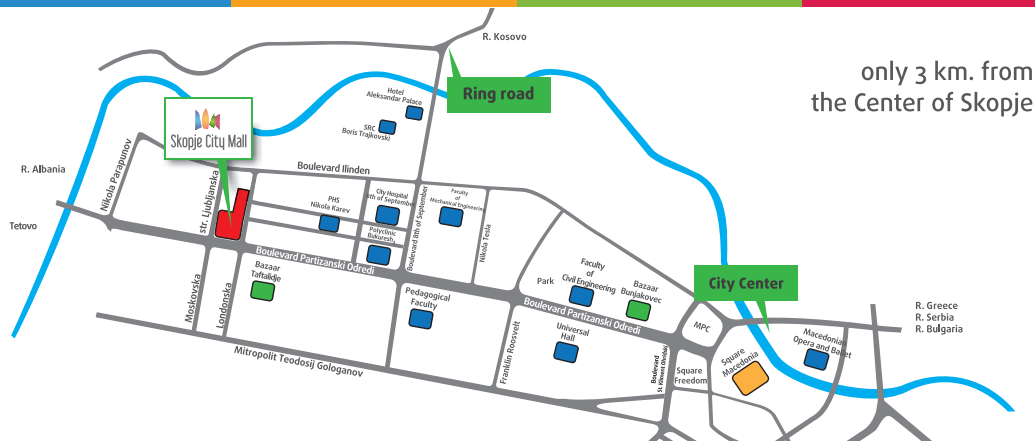


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