**Following in the footsteps of Constantine The Great**

**6 days**

Constantine I or Constantine the Great, Roman emperor, born in Niš, Serbia in 280, reigned from 306 to 337. In 306 he was acclaimed emperor by the British army , but only after defeating Maxentius in the battle of the Milvian bridge (312) the title was recognized by the Senate of Rome. In 313, in Milan, he issued the edict of tolerance towards the Christian religion, playing an influential role for Christianity in the empire. After the victory over Licinius (324) he decided to transfer the capital of the empire to Byzantium, refounded in 326 with the name of Constantinople and inaugurated in 330.

**1° Day: Skopje**

Arrival at Skopje airport and meeting with the tour leader. City tour of Skopje, the capital of Macedonia with local guide. Visiting the Old city of Skupi, where were found the Roman military camps of the 2nd century BC; the fortress of Kale (the highest point of the city); the Mustapha Pasha mosque dating back to the Ottoman Empire, one of the most fascinating mosques in Macedonia; the old bazaar, second in size only after the bazaar of Istanbul in the Balkan territory; the Stone Bridge which is the symbol of the city and finally ending the visit in the pedestrian area where is located the Memorial House of Mother Teresa. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

**2° Day: Justiniana Prima – Niš (220 km)**

Departure for Serbia after breakfast, arrival in Lebane in Serbia and visit of the ancient city of Justiniana Prima. The city has existed since the beginning of the 6th century and was founded by Emperor Justinian I as the seat of the archbishopric of the Central Balkans. Then continue to Niš, one of the 3 largest Serbian cities along with Belgrade and Novi Sad, the largest in southern Serbia and the birthplace of the first Christian emperor, Constantine the Great. We will visit the Mediana, a Roman imperial villa, now an archaeological site. After that, the fortress, the most important monument of the city, to continue to the square of King Milan at Obrenoviceva Street and "Kazandzisko Sokace", the ancient Turkish streets of the 17th and 18th century. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

**3° Day: Prohor Pcinski – Staro Negoricane – Skopje (260 km)**

After breakfast departure to visit the second largest Serbian Orthodox Monastery “Prohor Pcinski”. After a couple of hours we return to Macedonia to visit the St. George Church built in the 11th century, interesting for its architecture and for the beautiful frescoes still preserved. In the late afternoon we return to Skopje for dinner and overnight.

**4° Day: Stobi – Bitola – Ohrid (280 km)**

After breakfast going to Ohrid through Bitola. En route we will stop to visit the ancient city of Stobi, which is located in the main road that connects the Danube River to the Aegean Sea, and is considered the most famous archaeological site in Macedonia. The journey continues in the direction of the second largest city of Macedonia, Bitola, also known as the "City of the Consuls". We will visit the archaeological area, the ancient city of Heraclea Lyncestis from the 4th century BC built by Philip II of Macedonia that was one of the last Roman governors. We will walk along the longest pedestrian street in the nation, where overlooks the clock tower, the Bezisten shopping center born in the 15th century, the Museum of Kemal Ataturk, father of modern Turkey. Proceeding to Ohrid in the afternoon, dinner and overnight at the hotel.

**5° Day: Ohrid – Saint Naum (50 km)**

After breakfast, half day visit to Saint Naum, located in the southern part of Lake Ohrid, inside the Galichica National Park. In this enchanting place we will enjoy the natural beauty of the sources of the Black Drim River, the largest sources of Lake Ohrid which together with the 9th century Monastery make this tourist area the most visited in Macedonia. Return to Ohrid, in the afternoon guided walking tour of the city, a World Heritage Site, where we will be able to admire the Icon Gallery, the Church of the Mother of God, the fortress, the Ancient Theater, the churches of San Giovanni and San Clemente. In the evening a typical dinner with a show of local folkloristic music and dances. Overnight at Hotel.

**6° Day: National Park Mavrovo – Skopje**

After breakfast, departure for Skopje airport through the Mavrovo National Park. Before arriving at the airport we will pay a visit to the Monastery of St. John Bigorski, built in 1020 and restored in 1743. The church is dedicated to St. John the Baptist. One of the treasures of the monastery is the iconostasis, considered as one of the most beautiful and rich in value, in carved wood. After the visit, transfer to the airport.