



# Ohrid tourism opportunities and connectivity

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Due to positive changes in the legislative, within the past 7 years, the numbers of foreign tourists and overnights in Macedonia have been doubled

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of foreign tourists</b>	<b>Number of overnights of foreign tourists</b>
<b>2006</b>	<b>202.357</b>	<b>442.845</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>230.080</b>	<b>518.088</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>254.957</b>	<b>587.447</b>
<b>2009</b>	<b>259.204</b>	<b>583.796</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>261.696</b>	<b>559.032</b>
<b>2011</b>	<b>327.471</b>	<b>755.166</b>
<b>2012</b>	<b>351.359</b>	<b>811.746</b>
<b>2013</b>	<b>399.680</b>	<b>881.375</b>
<b>Jan.-Aug.2014</b>	<b>294.143</b>	<b>652.144</b>

## **One of the major reasons for this were the subsidies offered for foreign tourism turnover**

- Groups of minimum 10 passengers
- Staying minimum 3 nights in officially categorized accommodation facilities
- Using minimum BB service
- The amount depends on the transportation type and country of origin
- There are 13 countries with preferential subsidies (from 2015 will be 19)

## Low-cost carrier subsidies

- The Government will pay off 5 million Euros in a period of 3 years
  - The low-cost carrier has to:
    - minimum 7 destinations,
    - with minimum 2 weekly rotations
    - set up a technical base in Macedonia and
    - register one plane under Macedonian flag
- Till September this year there have been over 1 million passengers*

## **Better competitiveness on the market by lowering VAT for BB, HB and FB**

- The new VAT rate for the 3 basic hotel services: BB, HB and FB is 5%
- Hotels can offer lower prices of these services
- The tourist packages offered on the international market are with very acceptable prices

# Seasonality

- Tourism season lasts close to 6 months
- In addition to that approximately 30 days of winter season on 3 winter sports centers
- 2 more ski centers near Ohrid Lake are in project stages which would offer wire-transporters that would provide access to the mountain peaks all year round



# Ohrid can be reached by:

- Airplane – There are 2 international airports (Skopje and Ohrid)
- Bus – There are regular daily bus lines to Skopje and Bitola with interconnections to many European destinations, as well as regular international lines
- Car, Motorbike, Bike – European route E-75 passes through Macedonia. Macedonia is a country of mountains and the road to Ohrid will give the passenger a chance to enjoy beautiful sceneries



# Road infrastructure improvements

- Construction of the corridor 8 and corridor 10 highways
- Reconstructing approximately 400 km of local and national roads
- Better access roads to the tourism sites

# A variety of programs are offered for tourists:

- Walking trails all over the country
- Mountain biking
- Paragliding
- Diving in the oldest lake of Europe
- Wine routes
- Historical and cultural heritage trails

# A variety of programs are offered for tourists:

- City-break possibilities in Skopje:
  - The Museum of the Macedonian fight for freedom
  - the Archaeological museum
  - many other tourist attractions
- The Balkan as one tourism destination by cross border cooperation
- A boat-line from Ohrid to Pogradec (Albania)

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