Offer 5: Ohrid - Struga - Korça-Pogradec

Time spent: 2 nights/3 days

**Day 1: Ohrid – Struga (Full day 8 hrs)**

* Arrival at Macedonia (Airport of Ohrid/ border crossing from Albania/ Greece)
* Visit the Old town of Ohrid (1)
* Lunch at a local restaurant
* Visit St. Naum Monastery (2)
* Sightseeing Struga (3)
* Dinner in Struga
* Overnight in Struga

1. **The Ohrid castle** dates back the III century B.C. In the X century it became the habitation of Cezar Samuel, and it was known as the Samuel castle. The antique theatre is found below the castle to the main center of the old bazaar. It was built in the II century B.C.
2. **Saint Naum Monastery**, Saint Sofie church, Saint John church, and Saint Klements church.

Most of St. Naum Monastery’s iconostases and frescoes date from the 16th and 17th century, earlier etchings in the Byzantine Greek vernacular also remain. The icons of St. Naum are some of the best religious painting achievements in the Balkans. They date from the first half of the 18th century.

1. **Sightseeing in Struga**

Among the more important cultural monuments is the church St. George, whose effigies date from the 13 to 19 centuries. In another church whit same name ("St. George") built in 1267, where the mosaic from the 5th century has been discovered. It is worth visiting the fisherman village Kalishta and the church St Bogorodica that is on the lake shores itself and the cave's church St. Atanasij. In Struga there is also old mosque architectural like Helveti teke mosque and the "Amam."

### Day 2: Ohrid - Pogradec - Korca (Full day 8 hrs)

* Breakfast at the hotel
* Departure to Pogradec, border crossing Tushemisht
* Visit the mosaic of Lin (3)
* Visit of the water springs of Drilon (4)
* Departure for Korca
* Lunch in a local restaurant in Voskopoja with traditional food
* Visit Voskopoja (5)
* Dinner in Korca
* Overnight in Korca

(3) **Lin Mosaic [Mozaiku i Linit]**

The paleochristian basilica on a hill by pretty Lin village, on a peninsula 20km north of Pogradec on the western lakeshore, may no longer have any roof or walls, it does retain some stunning mosaics dating to the 6th century. Similar in style to the early medieval mosaics in Ohrid, just across the lake, biblical scenes, flowers, animals, and many other things are depicted on the old

church floor, some in very good condition. Unfortunately, the whole complex is protected by a hideous modern concrete roof. Lin is along the road and railway between Pogradec and Elbasan.

1. **Drilon springs**

Near the border 5km east of Pogradec, Drilon is a lush and delightful park set around the ponds where crystal-clear water originating from Lake Prespa bubbles up from the side of *Mali i Thate* ('dry') mountain at an amazing 7 cubic metres per second. You can feed the ducks and swans and rent a boat for a quiet paddle around. The small village of Tushemist, a few hundred metres east of the park, is worth a visit for its 6th century St. Pantaleon church with its original floor mosaic.

### Day 3: Korca (Full day 8 hrs)

* Breakfast at the hotel
* Sightseeing tour of Korca (6)
* Visit the Museum of Medieval Arts (6)
* Lunch in one of Korca’s traditional restaurants
* Departure to Greece , Kapshtica border

(5) Sightseeing in **Korça**:

**Korça**, the city of serenades, situated in Southeastern part of Albania, is a charming and pristine city, with clean streets and many **typical stone lanes and sidewalks**. The most outstanding constructions are the magnificent **orthodox “Cathedral”** (the biggest in Albania), “**Mesonjtorja**” (the first Albanian school opened in 1887), and the **traditional bazaar**, lying in the western part of the city. Very interesting and appealing is the **Museum of Medieval Arts**, with **6000 icons** dating from 13th – 14th century. Another attractive building is the **Mosque of Ilyaz Bey Mirahori** (1484), the oldest city monument still in existence.

(6) **Korça's best museum of Medieval Arts** has an excellent collection of 6,500 medieval and modern icons from Southern Albania, as well as 1,500 other objects, of which some 200 icons and 50 metal objects are on display in this curious building. Starting with icons from the **14th century** and proceeding in chronological order, most icons in the museum are from the 16th-19th centuries. Many are from Voskopoja, which in the 17th was one of the main centres for iconography in the Balkans. Orthodox art was highly regulated, and all icons had to be painted following precise instructions, with a fixed position prescribed for each saint; Mary can only be depicted in nine poses. The museum's highlight is the collection of icons by the 16th century Albanian master Onufri, which stand out for their vivid colours and wonderful detail. Onufri started his career in Berat (where there is a smaller but equally interesting icon museum dedicated to him) but made his finest works later in Gjirokastra.