LAKE OHRID REGION
BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY
This brochure was prepared in the framework of the project “Towards strengthened governance of the shared transboundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid region”, funded by the European Union and co-financed by the Government of Albania.”

For more information please visit whc.unesco.org/en/lake-ohrid-region.

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The Lake Ohrid region holds immense natural and cultural value. From the rugged mountains to the clear, cool waters, the entire region offers an enchanting escape, and the potential for unforgettable adventures.

Lake Ohrid is Europe’s oldest lake, formed by tectonic rifting over two million years ago. The lake’s deepest point reaches 288 meters. Much of Lake Ohrid’s water actually originates in Lake Prespa, a lake about 10 km to the southeast and 150 meters higher in altitude than Lake Ohrid. The mountain range of Galicica National Park divides the two lakes. Lake Prespa’s waters channel through underground rivers and streams before bubbling up in springs in and around Lake Ohrid. Notable underwater springs are located in Drilon Springs and near St. Naum Monastery.

Because the Lake Ohrid region existed in geographical isolation for millions of years, many unique flora and fauna have developed here, and continue to thrive. Some species are eagerly sought after, such as the famous Ohrid trout, while others, including a wide variety of molluscs and sponges, are only apparent on close inspection.

Civilizations have also thrived for millennia in the Lake Ohrid region. In fact, some of the European continent’s earliest settlements and heritage routes developed here. Through thousands of years, Illyrian, Greek, and Slavic tribes all called the Lake Ohrid region home. Many of their centuries-old traditions are reflected in modern culture through the distinctive food, drink, art, music and literature that all have a unique Lake Ohrid flavor.
Today, the transboundary Lake Ohrid is shared by two countries: approximately 56 km of shore length is on the side of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and 31.5 km on the Albanian side. Since 1979, the approximately two-thirds of Lake Ohrid on the side of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List as the mixed World Heritage property, Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region. Efforts are underway to extend World Heritage status to the remaining third of the lake on the Albanian side.

In the past few decades, the Lake Ohrid region has seen a dramatic increase in visitors. Everyone who visits can see that there is much to appreciate here, but it is also important to help preserve Lake Ohrid’s unique natural and cultural heritage for future generations. We encourage visitors to explore this fascinating region mindfully, maintaining awareness of sensitive ecosystems and local livelihoods.

After all, a region this rich and diverse is best explored slowly and deeply. Get ready to begin your Lake Ohrid region journey.

**Sustainable tourism**
*is tourism that does not have a negative influence on nature, culture, or local communities.*

**Lake Ohrid in a nutshell:**
- located at an altitude of 683 m
- bounded by high mountain chains to the east and west, reaching about 2,250 m in altitude
- maximum depth of 288.7 m and average depth of 155 m
- one of the most voluminous lakes in Europe
- total surface area of 358 km²
- immediate catchment area of 1.129 km², but the effective catchment extends into the Lake Prespa basin due to an underground karst connection
- over 1,400 native species, including around 300 species endemic to Lake Ohrid
POGRADEC
If you’re in Pogradec, you can’t miss the hill that towers above the western side of the city. The hill is the location of the former Castle of Pogradec. This early Illyrian-Albanian fortress was originally built in the 5th century, and over the course of history witnessed many battles. Pogradec was captured by a succession of medieval states between the 8th and 14th centuries, during which time the castle was destroyed and never rebuilt. However, if you look closely, you still find remains of the original castle walls on the hillside.

GALICICA NATIONAL PARK
Galicica National Park encompasses a spectacular mountain range, wedged between the ancient lakes of Ohrid and Prespa. The park was established in 1958 and covers an area of 241 km². Here you can experience secluded nature and take in breathtaking panoramas from the park’s many different summits. There are over 150 km of well-marked trails ranging from leisurely walks to more demanding multi-day hikes, as well as numerous trails designed for mountain biking.
A walking path to Pogradec Castle Hill, as it is known today, can be found on the western side of the town. The climb to the top of the hill is well worth the effort, rewarding hikers with sweeping views of the city of Pogradec, Lake Ohrid, and diverse landscapes. Do as the locals do, and bring a picnic to enjoy at the top.
Lake Ohrid has been a crossroads of culture for many generations, and its modern atmosphere is shaped by a diverse mix of historical traditions. Visitors to the Lake Ohrid region will note the constant interaction of new and old: while some pockets of the region seem untouched by time, others are brimming with modern convenience.

On the northern side of Lake Ohrid lies the city of Ohrid, the largest and most visited city on the lakeshore. This city of over 42,000 residents is one of the most continuously inhabited cities in the world. Archaeological artifacts prove the first prehistoric settlers arrived as early as 5,000 years BC. Romans, Slavs, and Ottomans also shaped Ohrid, and the city was an influential center of culture and economy until the turn of the 19th century. The past is still very much a part of modern Ohrid, which boasts a lovingly preserved old town and a wide variety of religious landmarks. The city is sometimes called the “Jerusalem of the Balkans,” and is said to have once held 365 churches—one for every day of the year.

Pogradec, located on Lake Ohrid’s southern shore, is another launching point for a visit to the region. Historically known as a city of poets and artists, Pogradec claims over 20,000 inhabitants and offers both a thriving culinary scene and unrivaled natural beauty. While a small old town and a number of historical sites remain, the rich history of Pogradec is most apparent in the unique local cuisine. Visitors are treated to fresh fish and game dishes, along with homemade local wine for which Pogradec is renowned. As the locals often say, Ohrid trout are born in the lake and die in the wine!
Other gems around the lake await exploration. Just a few kilometers from Pogradec is Tushemisht, a picturesque village where canals of spring water pass around, under and through the houses. Twelve kilometers outside of Tushemisht is the traditional, charming mountain village of Peshkëpi. Here, you'll find an ancient church, surrounded by small streets shaded by canopies of grapevines. The way to Peshkëpi passes through a diverse landscape, past well-groomed local farms and friendly roadside produce stands (found seasonally near Gurras), making the journey half the fun.

Another paradise for history enthusiasts is the small village of Lin. Located on a hilly peninsula, Lin boasts a stunning coastline, rich cultural values and delicious local cuisine. Farther north along the lakeshore, on the other side of the state border, you will find the vibrant city of Struga, whose prosperity dates back to the 18th century. Known as the “City on Two Waters,” Struga is divided by the Drim River, which in turn flows out of the Lake Ohrid.

Cities, towns, and villages throughout the region are shaped by cultural values, apparent in local architecture, cuisine, and pastimes. Read on for an in-depth look at two of the area’s exceptional historical sites, Lin Peninsula and St. Naum.
Lin Peninsula, on the northwestern shores of Lake Ohrid, comprises the village of Lin, a ruggedly beautiful coastline, and a variety of notable historical relics. Based on archeological evidence, Lin Peninsula has been inhabited since at least the Iron Age, which ended in the 7th century BC. Once an important religious center, the peninsula still contains mosaics from a 6th-century Christian Byzantine church. Visitors can tour the grounds with a local guide, and admire the expert handiwork that took place nearly 1,500 years ago.

Beyond Lin’s religious history lies a natural attraction: a 5-km-long walking trail that circles the entire peninsula. The main trail hugs the shore and goes directly to the village, passing picturesque lakeshore gardens that represent traditional land use in the region.
Several smaller trails lead to the top of the peninsula, offering **360-degree views of the lake and mountains**. Each path leads to a different adventure—a hidden church, a derelict bunker, mountainside vineyards, and more.

Take your time to explore Lin Peninsula, one of the most authentic and impressive corners of the Lake Ohrid region; you’re sure to find more than initially meets the eye. For visitors with less time, a short hike to the Byzantine church, followed by a lakeside meal and a glass of local wine will do. For those interested in a more immersive travel experience, Lin Peninsula offers camping and a wide selection of bed and breakfast accommodations.
ST. NAUM

Many visitors drive by this intriguing site without ever knowing it’s there. Hidden from sight on the southern shore of Lake Ohrid, the Monastery of St. Naum is a place of culture, spiritual refuge, and natural beauty.

St. Naum was considered to be a healer and miracle worker, and he is recognized as one of the founders of the Slavic and Macedonian literacy and education tradition. The monastery was established in the year 905 by St. Naum himself, who is buried in the church. Worshippers from various religions come from far and wide to pay their respects to St. Naum, and local legend says that you can still hear the saint’s heartbeat if you press your ear to his stone coffin.
St. Naum chose this location for its tranquil, remote setting, perched on a rocky cliff over the lake, surrounded by deep forests and the crystal-clear waters of the Drim River. This is the place where the Drim River tumbles out of Lake Ohrid, forming a small lake where you can see one of the largest concentrations of underground springs sending their pristine, cool water into the lake.

In addition to enjoying the atmosphere, you can swim at a nearby beach, take a boat ride, and order a meal at a number of restaurants situated along the water.
The Lake Ohrid region’s unique natural characteristics make this destination a favorite among nature lovers, hikers, photographers, and biologists. From rolling hills to jagged cliffs, from surface springs to deep waters, and from friendly tortoises to endemic sponges, nature in the Lake Ohrid region is undeniably exceptional.

Lake Ohrid is located in a basin, and surrounded on all sides by mountains with peaks of over 2,000 meters. There are also two other lakes in the watershed—Great Prespa and Small Prespa—which supply much of the water that feeds Lake Ohrid. About 40 tributaries cross through the surrounding high mountains. This **unique combination of geology and climatic conditions** nourishes an ecosystem with high biological diversity.

For nature lovers, there is no shortage of outdoor activities in the Lake Ohrid region. You can appreciate one of the area’s unique geological characteristics at Drilon Springs, once home to a summer residence of Albania’s late dictator, Enver Hoxha. Today, Drilon Springs offers well-groomed trails through the spring-fed wetlands behind Tushemisht.

If you’re looking for adventure, you’ll find plenty of **hiking and biking trails** throughout the region, along with a vast network of scenic roads to explore, and panoramic views for as far as the eye can see.

Despite its rich natural beauty, it must be admitted that Lake Ohrid has a waste management problem. There are efforts underway to deal with the region’s growing population and ensure that tourism will grow in a sustainable way; as a conscientious visitor, you can help minimize impact by disposing of your waste properly.

**Leave nothing but footprints; take nothing but photos; kill nothing but time!**
For a unique perspective on Lake Ohrid, explore the hinterland destinations that surround the lake. There are few better ways to experience the unique nature and culture of the region in depth than by visiting the farms, orchards, and villages that dot the rolling hills.

Just southeast of Tushemisht, you’ll find a looping road that connects a string of villages through terraced hills, deep ravines, and rolling valleys. Alarup, the largest and easternmost village on this route, is the starting point to hike Mali i Thate Mountain (Dry Mountain); both Lakes Ohrid and Prespa can be seen from its summit. To reach Alarup, head toward Grabovice and then turn east to reach Blace and Bletas. Also notable destinations, the villages along this route have a lot to offer, from idyllic landscapes to traditional, earthquake-resistant architecture.

Further outside the concentrated settlements near Lake Ohrid sits a distinct natural phenomenon called Guri i Kamjes. This unusual rock formation is perched atop a ridge deep in the hinterland, between the villages of Dardhas and Osnat. Guri i Kamjes offers panoramic views that reach as far as Lake Ohrid, and even farther in the other direction. The journey is as rewarding as the destination itself, taking you through a wide variety of farmland, villages, and natural landscapes. Many high perches and secluded trails are within walking distance of the region’s urban centers, while others require a short car or bicycle trip. While Lake Ohrid’s hinterland offers endless opportunities for exploration, many trails and roads are still unmarked. Be prepared to ask for advice from locals, and be sure to bring enough food and water.
Do you want to sleep under the stars, or walk for kilometers through pristine nature? You won’t want to miss Galicica National Park, a protected area that stretches over 241 km² between Lake Ohrid and the Prespa Lakes. Just outside the bustling city of Ohrid, the Park is a favorite destination for adventure seekers and nature lovers alike.

The national park is situated on Mount Galicica, which is part of the Sara-Pind mountain range. This mountain range has peaks soaring to 2,254 meters, with the Prespa Lakes located at 850 meters above sea level and Lake Ohrid at 683 meters above sea level. These mountains host a cornucopia of life. Thousands of species call Galicica home, including 171 species of vertebrates, 124 species of birds, 19 mammals, 18 reptiles, and 10 amphibians. Its most famous resident—the “spirit of the mountains”—is the Balkan lynx, a critically endangered subspecies of the Eurasian lynx.
Due to its exceptional natural beauty and high biological diversity, the area was designated as a national park in 1958. Today, you’ll find over 150 km of clearly marked hiking and biking trails that will take you through forested areas, rolling pastures, and villages with rich cultural values. Weather can be very different at the top of the mountain; anticipate the unexpected and pack appropriate clothes for rain, wind, and cold if you plan to reach the summit.
A DAY AT
THE BEACH

Many visitors venture to Lake Ohrid to enjoy the beaches surrounding the lake. The peak of the beach season is June, July, and August, and during this time the lakeshore is alive with a vibrant mix of young and old, locals and visitors.

Lake Ohrid is a freshwater lake and is famous for beautiful, clear water and panoramic waterscapes. Underwater springs continuously pump cool, oxygen-rich water that originates from Lake Prespa, another freshwater lake located 10 km to the southeast and 150 meters higher in elevation than Lake Ohrid. This continuous aquatic cycle between the two lakes helps Ohrid’s ability to renew itself and stay clean and clear.

Lake Ohrid has 87.53 km of shoreline and many different beaches, but some are better for swimming than others. The most popular beaches are located at Ohrid, Ljubanista (close to St. Naum), Tushemisht, Pogradec, and Struga. All of these beaches are great for swimming or dining in one of the many cafes and restaurants along the shore. While many of Lake Ohrid’s beaches consist of pebbles, Ljubanista, Pogradec, and Struga have sandy coastlines and the water...
is shallow. During the summer season, the water is refreshing but not cold. You can see tiny fish swimming all around. Stand still, and you can watch them curiously exploring your feet! Note that on some beaches you will see new constructions being built near the shoreline, unfortunate piles of garbage, and algae buildup. Please be a good example for others by cleaning up your trash.
The crystal clear water of Lake Ohrid is just one of the region’s many treasures. Take your eyes away from the lakeshore and you’ll see dense forests, mountain peaks, and endless valleys just waiting to be explored. **Whether you prefer to travel on foot, by bicycle, or even underwater, Lake Ohrid offers boundless opportunities for active visitors.**

Urban adventure enthusiasts can get happily lost in the maze of small streets and paths that crisscross Lake Ohrid’s towns and villages. Ascend along one of the many dirt paths that climb up the mountains, and you may encounter agricultural terracing, a friendly shepherd, or a curious tortoise.
If you have a real recreational appetite, head to the mountains for an easy and memorable walk through valleys and mountain ridges, or the countless long trails—some paved, others rustic—ideal for trekking, mountain biking, or horseback riding. If you want to get closer to the underwater world of Lake Ohrid, there are many opportunities for diving in the lake.

Whatever your adventure, the ways to discover Lake Ohrid are endless if you explore slowly and with purpose.
Many parts of the Lake Ohrid region can be best appreciated on foot. The flat areas near Lake Ohrid offer a wide network of walking paths and trails that can be enjoyed by all levels of ability and age groups. Many lakeshore paths continue into the mountains, passing through small villages. These heritage trails allow you to observe rural life in the Lake Ohrid region, which, in some places, has remained unchanged for hundreds of years.

Head deeper into the mountains to discover the rich natural heritage of the region. **Galicica National Park offers an endless network of marked trails**, providing outstanding opportunities for both short hikes and extended backpacking trips. Many trails begin as asphalt roads and pass through villages, before gradually transforming into rolling, gentle slopes. The **highest peak of Galicica is Magaro Peak**, at 2,254 meters above sea level, which offers a breathtaking view of Ohrid and Prespa lakes.

In Pogradec, you can hike to the small Byzantine-style Shën e Djeta church, commonly called Kabashi church by local residents. The **church is hidden in a chestnut tree forest in the mountains, and the trail offers expansive views of Lake Ohrid and beyond**. Surrounded by thick forest and natural water sources, the church is a popular destination for excursions and picnics. It is located about 3 km from a quarry on the western side of Pogradec; the church is only accessible on foot.

Less known, but equally exciting are the hiking trails near the village of **Alarup**. At 2,287 meters above sea level, **Mali i Thatë** also offers rewarding views of the two lakes, as well as the larger settlements of Pogradec and Ohrid.

**Urban exploration** is based on the idea that the city can be as exciting a place to go for a walk as hills or mountains. Turn sidewalks into trails by exploring Ohrid’s boardwalk and numerous well-marked heritage walks, which make it easy to dive into the city’s rich history. Pogradec, too, offers a dynamic mix of historical and modern architecture, with ancient sites interspersed throughout the city. The promenade and historical downtown are alive with restaurants, cafes, and street vendors, whereas the trail to the top of Castle Hill winds through quiet neighborhoods and undisturbed nature. You’ll also find a lively market area where you can buy everything from Albanian hard cheese to bicycles. In Tushemisht village and Drilon Springs you can traverse wooden bridges, creeks and ponds, and admire private vineyards that produce the fruit for the region’s famous wine.
Did you know that Lake Ohrid is the largest natural reservoir of drinking water in the world, and that it boasts an **underwater visibility of over 20 meters**? With magnificently clear water, calm currents, and a pleasant temperature, an entire underwater world awaits for those who dive deeper into the lake’s million years history.

Diving in Lake Ohrid offers a unique way to encounter natural, and even cultural, mysteries. Divers are attracted to Lake Ohrid because it’s one of the deepest and most ancient lakes in Europe: **a dramatic drop-off at its tectonic shelf proves inspiring to even the most experienced divers.** On a scientific level, Lake Ohrid is the most biodiverse lake in the world by volume: **thousands of animal and plant species live within its waters,** hundreds of which are endemic and unique to Lake Ohrid. Most of them are difficult to be observed without specialized equipment due to microscopic size. The most famous among special residents are two types of Ohrid trout. Unfortunately, their numbers are decreasing due to overfishing, but divers can still spot both species in the clear, deep water.

For history enthusiasts, the tectonic edges of Lake Ohrid hold a wealth of unique treasures. Thousands of years of civilizations have left countless artifacts. Ancient ceramics, bones, tools, and even jewelry can be found from **prehistoric settlements dating back 3,200 years.** Past discoveries can be appreciated at the Museum on Water, located on the southwestern shore of Lake Ohrid.

Even if you are a novice diver, Lake Ohrid makes an ideal setting for your first dive. Without many of the dangers of ocean diving, your first underwater adventure could be exploring Neolithic stilt villages and prehistoric settlements. **Several professional diving centers can teach you how to dive** and help you explore this exhilarating underwater world.
Spring and autumn, with cooler temperatures and lake breezes, are perfect for cycling. Lake Ohrid’s entire circumference is only 97 km, and there are many places that are perfect for pedalling. Whether you prefer leisurely rides down the promenade, or an adrenaline rush in the mountains, the Lake Ohrid region is a cyclist’s paradise.

**Bike around Lake Ohrid.** The main route is integrated into a wider network linked to existing bike trails. You can stay in one area, or take a longer journey and hop between villages, towns, and cities along the lakeshore. Make sure you bring your passport!

**Pedal 20 km between Pogradec and Lin village.** The flat path hugs the shoreline and passes heritage sites including Memelisht industrial site, numerous villages, and the ancient basilica. Bring an appetite, because Lin is one of the best places to eat in the region!

**The 6 km ride from Pogradec to Tushemisht** is a perfect way to spend the morning. Surrounding Tushemisht are gentle hills from which you can enjoy beautiful lake vistas, and the center of Tushemisht is perfect for dining and relaxing.

**The 34 km cross-border route between Ohrid and Pogradec** is surrounded by beautiful hills and picturesque villages. You’ll pass some of the region’s very best beaches, scenic roads, and campgrounds, so you can easily break up your journey into several days. Beware of car traffic on narrow roads.
**Galicica National Park** has an extensive network (over 150 km) of signed road and mountain bike trails as far as the eye can see. Bring food and water if you plan a long ride, and warm clothes if you plan to ascend to the summit.

One of the finest mountain bike rides is the **full-day 32 km Tushemisht - Blace - Alarup - Tushemisht loop**. This ride takes you through dense forests, open pastures, and tiny hamlets where the daily life has remained unchanged for hundreds of years. In Blace you'll find a bar and minimarket, but to be safe, pack a picnic and bring enough water.

The **4 km ride from downtown Pogradec to the top of Castle Hill** is short but steep, and makes for some of the best views over the lake. Head over in the early morning or evening to beat the heat. **(Mountain Bike only)**

Those seeking solitude in the mountains and constant lake views will enjoy the **20 km tour from Qafë Thanë to Memelisht industrial site**. Varied terrain and unforgettable sites along the way make this trip worth the effort. Bring a picnic and plenty of water.

You can make a bigger adventure by pedaling the **additional 10 km from Qafë Policës to Qafë Thanë**. This is a connection trail from Shebenik National Park to the Lake Ohrid area. **(Mountain Bike only)**

For a full-day journey of lake to mountain, and mountain to lake, you won’t want to miss the **36 km Pogradec - Guri i Kamjes - Pogradec tour**. At the turnaround of the tour, you’ll find “Guri i Kamjes,” an iconic monolithic rock that overlooks Lake Ohrid and the surrounding mountains. Guri i Kamjes makes an impressive natural landmark, a great viewpoint, and an amazing picnic spot. **(Mountain Bike only)**

You can rent bikes at numerous locations in Ohrid, Pogradec, and Struga. Local organizations are also doing an excellent job of expanding the Lake Ohrid region's mountain biking options.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WHC.UNESCO.ORG/EN/LAKE-OHRID-REGION/**
The unique biological, cultural, scientific and socio-economic values of the Region have been recognized both by national governments and international conventions. It all has led to the establishment of several protected areas and recognition by the international community in order to safeguard these distinctive values for future generations of local inhabitants and visitors. From the mountaintops between the two lakes one can experience glorious views and visit and explore further destinations.
Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region is the mixed World Heritage property that covers 83,350 ha on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia side of Lake Ohrid. The region was inscribed for its natural values in 1979 and for its cultural values in 1980. Efforts are currently ongoing to extend the World Heritage status to the Albanian side of the lake.

Prespa is the name of two freshwater lakes—Great Prespa and Small Prespa—that straddle the Albanian, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Greek borders. The lakes and surrounding area are known for their dense vegetation, high levels of biodiversity, and rich cultural traditions. Prespa is considered a paradise for migratory birds, and in all three countries is declared a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar convention.

Prespa National Park in Albania encompasses the entire Albanian portion of Great Prespa and Small Prespa Lakes, along with surrounding areas reaching to the mountain ridge of Mali i Thate. The Albanian territory in the basin is included in the Ohrid-Prespa Transboundary Biosphere Reserve.

Prespa Lake Natural Monument covers the side of the Prespa Lakes and surrounding areas situated in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Parts of Galicica National Park and Pelister National Park fall within the Prespa Basin. This part of the basin is included in the Ohrid-Prespa Transboundary Biosphere Reserve.

Prespa National Park in Greece encompasses the Greek portion of Great Prespa and Small Prespa Lakes and surrounding areas. The Greek territory in the basin is a haven for rare water birds of global and European importance, including the Dalmatian Pelican and the Great White Pelican.

Ramsar sites are found in all three countries where the Prespa lakes are located. A Ramsar site is a wetland site designated of international importance: the Prespa lakes and surrounding wetlands are considered a paradise for migratory birds. Hundreds of bird species nest and breed here, including the Dalmatian Pelican, Great White Pelican, Pygmy Cormorant, Glossy Ibis, and several types of heron.

Pelister National Park, located on the Baba Mountain in the municipality of Bitola, in the southern part of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,
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Galicica National Park is a protected area located on Galicica Mountain of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, between Ohrid and Prespa Lakes. The national park hosts a great number of endemic flora and is designated as an Internationally Recognized Plant Area.

Pogradec Protected Landscape is an integrated and collaborative approach to co-manage the proposed extension of the transboundary World Heritage property “Natural and Cultural Heritage in the Lake Ohrid region” to the Albanian side.

Lake Ohrid Monument of Nature refers to the tranboundary part of the lake in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The entire region was inscribed as a mixed UNESCO World Heritage property for its natural values in 1979, and for its cultural values a year later.

Shebenik- Jabllanicë National Park is an Albanian protected area located northwest of Lake Ohrid, distinguished by rich, diverse flora and mountain scenery. The main entrances to the national park are well connected to cities around Lake Ohrid, and are accessible by hiking and biking through the “Qafe Polices to Qafe Thane” mountain bike trail.

Ohrid-Prespa Transboundary Reserve is an ecological system that traverses Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, between Ohrid and Prespa lakes. The ecological characteristics vary significantly, ranging from mountain areas around the three lakes to temperate, sub-tropical forests at lower altitudes around the water basin. The region is also very rich in terms of cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity.
The Lake Ohrid region offers beautiful landscapes, unique cultural experiences, and a plethora of options for relaxing, adventuring, and everything in between. While this guide contains hints, ideas, and an overview of the possibilities, the region is very dynamic. Where you find a garden one month, a cafe might stand the next. Likewise, the networks of trails, accommodations, and cultural attractions are always growing and changing.

You can choose to stay in lakeside hotels and visit well-marked, well-traveled destinations—or you can explore the side roads, travel without an itinerary, and ask locals for advice on what to do, see, and eat. If you visit with an open mind, imagination, and respect for your hosts, your journey in the Lake Ohrid region will be both rewarding and unforgettable.