



PRESENTS

CAT RIDE MACEDONIA



I) INTRO

EXTREME SPORTS CLUB XMKD PRESENTS: Discover the hidden treasure on Europe's doorstep! **Macedonian Shar Mountain with its respectful 1.600 square km area, rising up to 2.747 m "Tito's peak" creates a European one of the largest high elevation pasture.** 550 square km above 1.700 m creates a perfect playground to enjoy! Wide open areas for you and 18 buddies only. Couloirs, cliffs, banks and tree rides create just as delicious freeride menu as great Macedonian cuisine. More to explore in Macedonia!

Being vegetarian or meat lover you'll love homemade dishes still made of non-industrially grown ingredients accompanied by opulent local wines and tasteful beer. Before heading back you'll get to know great night life of capital Skopje...

A helicopter can fly only about 50% of the time due to weather difficulties (wind, snow) while we run 95% of the time. Also our pricing is very affordable, taking you down to 30% of the heli price! This is your chance for a very special freeriding trip in former Yugoslavia!

II) CONDITIONS

Shar mountain's snow conditions, weather and temperature are very similar to central European, occasionally with more snow dumps. Snow season starts in December and lasts till mid April. Typically, January has stable snow cover and most sunny days, February has more snowfall and lower temperatures and March has good snowfall and variation of temperatures.

While the high altitude guarantees snow between January and March, Popova Shapka's location, only 200km north of the Aegean Sea and 150km east from Adriatic sea, means it is also at the meeting point between northern European winter storms and Mediterranean sunshine. The result is plentiful sun, which may be the envy of the Canadian competition - but the cost is exposure to the turbulence that typifies junctions between different weather systems.

Mountain shape is different from European Alps offering wide open areas and pipe-like water drainages you would not see in Alps, but also having nice couloirs and cliffs to ride.



XMKD freeride covers around 30 square kilometers above 1600 m with highest peak 2747 m, offering wide choice of lines from easy 30 degree and tree runs to demanding 45 degree.



Terrain offers all kinds of exposures from north to south which gives wide choice of conditions at the same moment; colder north and east faces keep cold and store powder nicely, while south and west offers nicer riding when snow is hard on the north face.

Combination of Shar mountain shape and wind create unique conditions where even with no fresh snowfall new wide tracks of deep snow are created overnight. Our guides are expert in finding such spots so you can get the best conditions possible.

III) ACCOMODATION HOTELS

Accommodation is located on 1.650 m altitude on outskirts of small village just on the border of terrain used. Back to the hotel is ski-in, so there's no transfer time to waste and the snowcat parks just in front of hotel.

Since hotel rating is not much implemented in Macedonia, we would call them 3 star hotels. Smaller hotel, Slavija, is newly renovated with nice restaurant and bar, and there is a hang out room for us. Bigger hotel, Popova Sapka, remaining from former communism era, has bar, restaurant, swimming pool, hang out area, hall with table tennis, darts, soccer table, internet connection. If you want to experience flavor of former times, and you don't mind the luxury, then you can choose Popova Sapka, but if you rather want cosyness go for Slavia. Both hotels go for the same price in a package.





Often we eat dinner in local restaurants with excellent traditional food. One of them is an Army owned restaurant, where local generals are served, and the other, D Haus is privately owned that serves home bread meat.



Day before departure you will move to Skopje where you will fill the extra nightlife in Macedonia Capital. The night starts with special dinner at restaurant „Dukat“ to try the whole „spectrum“ of traditional dishes, wines and beer, and listen to traditional music. After good food, pub and clubs are scheduled till morning for as long as you can take it. You'll be surprised of the excellent night life Skopje can offer, whichever style you prefer – from live rock concerts to house music and clubbing

IV) PACKAGE XMKD FREERIDE

Running our first independent season, but working with several Cat Rides around the World, our operation was born and raised by well experienced local riders of this most southern ex-Yugoslavian country, backed by experts from US and Canada. **With a specially fitted German-made Pisten Bully 300 Polar we can take up to 19 riders to the peaks of the Shar Mountain offering amazing scenery and great freeriding of up to 1.000 m verticals.** Our guides will take you trough the powder lines and discover with you the unique secrets these mountains offer.





What is Snowcat freeriding?

This freeriding option, new to most of Europeans, was born in Canada and now for first time available in Europe - Macedonia. It's based on specially fitted snowcat / groomer / ratic / pistenraupen as called in different languages, with cabins built on it's "back". Cabin can fit 20 persons. Driver + 1 fit in driver's cabin. Usually lead guide sits in front with the driver and tail guide joins 19 riders in back cabin. Snowcat can climb slopes of around 35 degrees, and for freeriding operation snow roads are built and maintained to allow access to different untouched terrains. To reach steeper terrain then that, snow roads with less inclination are built like mountain car roads are built.

IV) PACKAGE DESCRIPTION

Package / Itinerary Description

Arrival to the mountain is scheduled day before first day on snow. Bus trip from Alexander the great airport near Skopje to the Mountain base usually takes around one hour. If you arrive earlier, you can go for a drink or two around Skopje.

Dinner is served on the mountain where you have briefing with guides.

Basic safety procedures can be preformed in afternoon, or otherwise it is organized in the morning before hitting the slopes.

Length of avalanche safety briefing depends on group skills and experience. You're ready for the mountain after equipment check.

Typical schedule on the mountain is following, but also we can adopt it to group preference:

7.30 Wake up, open buffet breakfast and preparation for the day, Safety briefing, beacon check, preparation

8.30 Hit the mountain. Depending on weather, snow pack conditions, group skills and aspirations we choose different locations.

12.00 Lunch brake. If we stay close to the village we take a lunch at Slavija hotel or D Haus restaurant or we make a pick-nick in "Jelak" woods area.

16.30 back at the base, shower, relax, massage, check footage from the day, few drinks or avalanche safety lessons.

19.30 Dinner in hotel or local restaurants, drinks and fun...

Last day...

18.00 transfer to Skopje, accommodation in one of the new Skopje's hotels

20.30 Dinner in 'Dukat restaurant'

23.00 Pub crawl

01.00 Club crawl

04.00 After-hour club till morning light

..... Departure

V) PRICES

PRICE & HOW IT WORKS

Package is made with promotional price and terms, to promote catskiing in Europe. Other than good price it is flexible in length of stay, so you're able to book per day, not week.

Price for day/night on the mountain 200 Euro / day-night / person

Price for last night in Skopje 60€ / day / person

Package includes

Accommodation
All food (breakfast, lunch, dinner)
Snowcat rides
2 guides
basic safety gear – transceiver, shovel and probe

Package does not include

Transfers
Drinks
Insurance
Personal spending and rental equipment
Single room surcharge 10 EUR per night

Last day in Skopje for 60€ includes

Dinner in Dukat Restoran
Accommodation in Skopje
Guide to show Skopje's night life

Transfer between Skopje airport and Mountain base costs average 15 Euro per direction, depending on a group size

You are responsible to have valid insurance to cover cancellation or medical fee.

VI) FOOD

MACEDONIA CUISINE

Macedonia is one of the last world's corners where you can still eat nonindustrial, pesticide free, home-made food. We're sure you'll love Macedonian dishes weather you're vegetarian or you love meet.

Some of the local specialties, and must tries are:

"Ajvar" and "Pindjur" – local thick red peppers / paprika, tomatoes and aubergine mix.

Sirenje - white brine sheep cheese made on Shar Mountain.

Gravce tavce – Macedonian beans boiled and mixed with onion, peppers, tomato, oil, flour and various spices baked in a pottery saucepan.

Sopska salata – salad of local tomatoes like you never tasted before mixed with cucumber and topped with “sirenje” cheese. Often served as oeuvre, with cabbage, lettuce and other vegetables
Polneti Piperki - stuffed capsicum filled with rice or rice with meat.

Since Macedonian food has a lot of Turkish influence you will find a lot of Burek, a pie made mostly with cheese, potato or meet. Sarma is rice with or without meet wrapped in cabbage or grape leaf. If you eat meet you shouldn't miss the Lamb that actually runs around this mountain on 2.000 m elevation. Another must is Selska tava (Village plate) - oven baked mixture of all kinds of meat flavored with plenty of local spices made in traditional clay serving. Everyday mixed meat plata with Chevapchichi, Pljeskavica and kajmak, (mixture of lamb and beef, grilled with onions), Raznjci and Vesalica is so good you can't miss putting a few pounds on during you're stay.

MACEDONIA WINE

Due to good land and weather condition Macedonia has excellent wines with rich flavor. Actually many European vines are made of Macedonian grapes. Well known vines come from Tikves and Skovin vinery, and also there are several extraordinary small private vineries. Best Macedonian beers are Skopsko and Dab and everyone who tried it just asked for more...

Don't worry if you drink too much at night, as special hangover medicine is known on this mountain. In the morning, get out of hotel for inhaling session of extraordinary Shar mountain fresh air. In 15 minutes, you're good as new, cost free!