

## **Ohrid Lake**

Ohrid Lake is one of the largest lakes in the Balkans Peninsula and is considered as one of the oldest in the world. It is located in an altitude of 695 meters above the sea level, and has an area of 349 km<sup>2</sup>, with a volume of about 55.4 km<sup>3</sup> water. Its deepest point is in 289 meters depth. Most of the lake belongs to FYROM, while the rest of it is part of Albania. In the coast around the lake, large cities flourish: Ohrid and Struga in FYROM, and Pogradec in Albania. In the lake live about 40 different fish species, among the best known and the most important is *Salmo Letnica*, also known as the Ohrid trout (or "korani" in Albanian).



## **The Castle of Pogradec**

The Castle of Pogradec is located on the hilltop overlooking the city from the west, in an altitude of 205 meters above the lake level. It has been inhabited since the V century BC and in the IV BC the walls of the castle were built. The castle it has been inhabited continuously since 1400 years, as being an early Illyric castle. One of its best features is that the current position of the castle is a very good viewpoint to enjoy the panorama of the lake.

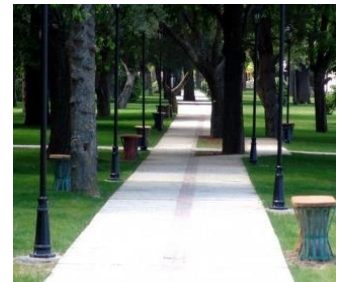
## **The Beach of Pogradec**

The Beach of Pogradec is located in the city along the "May 1st" pedestrian street. It is a sandy beach, with clean water and with entertainment possibilities. In Pogradec are also located other small private and public beaches, sandy and with pebbles as well. Outside the city are the renowned crystal water beaches of Lin and Tushemisht.



## **The Park of the City**

Pogradec since ages has been known as the city of flowers and of greenery, tradition that is well preserved even in modern days. The Park of Pogradec is located along the coast of the lake in a pedestrian street about 1.5 kilometers for the citizens and visitors to take a stroll. Most of the park has a heavy shadow from the high trees, lots of benches to sit and any stroll in the park will be pleasant.



## **The Square of Monuments**

There are two bronze monuments of the well known writers from this town, Lasgush Poradeci and Mitrush Kuteli, standing in front of each other and surrounded by a park, which makes this spot ideal for a visit.

### **Lasgush Poradeci**

Llazar Sotir Gusho, most known with his nickname Lasgush Poradeci as an Albanian writer and poet, was born in Pogradec on December 27th 1899 and he passed away on November 12th 1987. At the age of 10, he was sent to Manastir, FYROM, and later on to Athens, Greece, to pursue his studies. In 1921 he continued studying in Romania. Lasgush is one of our most beloved poets, writing long pages to Albania and to love.



### **Mitrush Kuteli**

Dhimiter Pasko, using his nickname Mitrush Kuteli, was born on September 13th 1907 in Pogradec and died in Tirana on May 4th 1967. He was a distinguished Albanian writer, translator and economist. He graduated high school in Thessaloniki, and further on he studied in Bucharest, where he graduated and received the title "Doctor of Economic Sciences". Mitrush Kuteli is one of the best known writers of Albanian literature. Along with Ernest Koliqi, they are the founders of the modern Albanian prose and he is one of the most famous writers of the Albanian modernism.



### **Topleci Quarter**

Topleci is known as the oldest quarter of the town, still preserving the old traditions, the cobbled streets and the great architectural values. The area reflects the culture and tradition of the town, and there are located buildings such as the old church of the city, the houses of Mitrush Kuteli and Lasgush Poradeci, and also of other well known families from Pogradec.

### **The Church of Pogradec**

One of the landmarks of Pogradec is the orthodox church, the Church of Saint Maria. It was built in 1872 with the funds of the people of Pogradec and is located in the old quarter of the town. The new church, Church of Resurrection, was built in 1996 and has a unique architecture.



### **Saint Marena Manastir**

The Church and Monastery of Saint Marena are located in the north of the village Llëngë, on a hilltop overlooking the river Shkumbin. The church is a small building, about 8-12 meters. The altar is divided from the central part by an iconostasis of wood, 6 meters wide and 4 meters tall. The iconostasis has been engraved with prayer motifs. All the inner part of the church is covered with frescoes made by the master of these areas, Kostandin Shpataraku.



### **The Mosques of Pogradec**

The city of Pogradec has two mosques. One is located in the center of the city and the other one in the Goricë quarter. The Gorica Mosque is called "Bilal" and was built in XIX century, but damaged during the communism, to be restored again in the democratic times. The second mosque is "Ebu-Bekr Mosque" and it was meant to be a cinema, but was latter on given to the Musliman Community to be turned into a mosque.



### **The Pogradec Museum**

The local museum has mainly an archaeological, ethnographic and historical character. The objects in the museum represent all the areas around Pogradec and are from different ages, starting from 6000 BC. They are grouped on the criteria of type and time of the material. The ethnographic part is represented by objects found all around Pogradec that come from the Middle Ages. Meanwhile, the history part of the museum is represented by photography from the Second World War, showing different moments from that time, since the invasion from Italy, to the partizan groups and up to the military actions that resulted in the liberation of Pogradec.



### **Lin**

Lin is a small penninsula in the west coasts of Ohrid Lake, where a picturesque village with the same name is located. The houses are build by rock and bricks and the narrow streets are with pergola. South of Lin, close to the coast, in about 2-3 meters depth, palaphites are located. The Paleochristian basilika of Lin is located in the west part of the Cape of Lin representing one of the most important monuments of the Albanian culture. The structure is decorated with colorful mosaics, flowery motifs and geometric shapes. The archaeological diggings and other studies have concluded that the mosaic was build in V-VI century. The polychrome mosaic and the rich archaeological material make the church one of the most interesting monuments in Albania.



### **The Lower Selca**

The castle, located in a position where the whole Vally of Shkumbin is well visible, has had an important role in the wars of Rome agains Illyria and Macedonia. Close by, Via Egnatia passes. What makes this



place well known are the five monumental tombs which are carved in the massive rock of Gradishta. The archaeologists have found that the area has been a highly developed economic-cultural center of VI-III centuries BC.

### **The Golik Bridge**

Along the picturesque Vally of Shkumbin, close to Golik village, is located the ancient Roman bridge, known now as the Golik Bridge. This three arch elegant bridge has been built with a very unique architecture and is quite attractive for both visitors and locals.



### **Via Egnatia**

In the area of Pogradec there are a few branches of the famous Via Egnatia, which connected Rome to Constantinople in antiquity. There are a few bridges and remains of this important road, such as Golik Bridge, Tërziu Bridge in Proptisht, the bridge in the valley of Llënga and the Niça Bridge. The road is easily distinguished from the large rocks that are in Llënga, close to the Valley of Shkumbin. Once, Cezar passed in this road and it was also the route that Paul the disciple followed on his way to Rome.



### **Drilon**

Drilon, or Voloreka as the locals call it, is one of the wonders of nature which gives pride to Pogradec. It is located 5 km east of the city, close to the touristic village of Tushemisht. Drilon has a carstic spring from where flow three streams of water, streaming only for a few tens of meters to drain in the lake. The main of them, creates a large water basin, where people sail in small boats or stroll around it. The trees around it clean the water and the air creating a green cool atmosphere. The bars, the wooden bridges, the swans and other animals and plants make Drilon one of the most preferred destinations for both locals and tourists.



### **Tushemisht**

It was first mentioned in IX century, when Saint Naum visited the village and blessed the cows of the village. In the modern days, Tushemisht is not only mentioned for the dairy products, but also for the grow of the Ohrid trout, the fruits and the tourism, which in the latest years has been developed greatly. The streets, the houses and other parts of the village are embedded forever from the famous Albanian



movie "Zonja nga Qyteti" (The Lady from the City) and "Shoqja nga Fshati" (The Friend from the Village). Because of this, still today is well preserved the house of the star of these movies, Ollga, which now even has a statue placed in the central square of Tushemisht, also called Ollga Square.

### **Kamja Rock**

The Rock of Kamje is a natural monument in the area of Mokra, close to the village of Dardha in an altitude of 1461 meters. It has a structure resembling a ship, with lines as a gift from nature. The most supported thought is that the wind caused its look of today. The rock is a block of 100 meters longitude, 80 meters width and 70 meters height. The Kamja Rock is one of the places that has seen growth in visits in the last couple of years.

