Laurieras



Crveni Steni (Red Rocks) on Baba Mountain

West of <u>Bitola</u>, near the town, is the Baba (meaning Grandma) Mountain with the magnificent Mount Pelister (2601 meters, or 8533 feet). Pelister is the third highest peak inthe Republic of Macedonia after Korab and Titov Vrv. Other peaks besides Pelister are Dva Groba (2514 meters), Veternica (2420 meters), Muza (2350 meters), Rzana (2334 meters), Shiroka (2218 meters), Kozji Kamen (2199 meters), Griva (2198 meters), Golema Chuka (2188 meters), Skrkovo (2140 meters), Babin Zab (1850 meters), and many more. The Baba massif splits up the rivers in the region, so that they either flow towards the Adriatic, or the Aegean sea.

Pelister National Park is filled with exquisite flora and fauna. Among flora elements, the presence is especially significant of the five-needle pine molica (Pinus peuce)- a unique species of tertiary age being present on only a few mountains in the Balkan Peninsula. The beauty of the landscape is enhanced by the diversified wildlife: bears, roe deer, wolves, chamois, deer, wild boars,



rabbits, several species of eagles, partridges, redbilled jackdaws, and the endemic

Macedonian Pelagonia trout.

Pelister is the oldest and second largest national park in Macedonia after <u>Mavrovo</u>. It is one of the leading tourist areas in the country, since it is a well-known ski resort, along with <u>Ohrid</u>, <u>Prespa</u>, <u>Dojran</u>, <u>Popova Shapka</u>, and <u>Krushevo</u>.

From Pelister you can see the Pelagonia valley, Prespa lake, mountains Nidzhe, Galichica, Jakupica, and Bitola. Interestingly, Pelister is the most southern mountain in Balkans that has alpine character.



The Molika woods on Baba Mountain



Pelister in the spring



Pelister in winter

Pelister is also known for its two mountain lakes, which are called Pelister's Eyes. The Big lake is 2,218 meters above the sea level while the Small lake is 2,180 meters high. Here are the sources of many rivers. The climate in the Pelister National Park is diverse.

On the peaks, there is snow even in July, and on some places the new snow meets the old one from the previous year.





The two glacial lakes called Pelister's Eyes





Pelister River and a molika forrest on Pelister

The best way to reach Pelister would be from Bitola, across the villages of Trnovo and Magarevo. Pelister is situated 14 km. from Bitola, 75 km. from Ohrid's Airport or 170 km. from Skopje's Airport. You can be sleep over in many hotels, or in 3 mountain houses.

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