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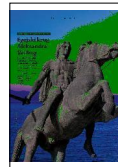
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Autori: Jelena Pantović

Teme: Air Serbia

Napomena:

Površina: 3237



Naslov: STOPAMA OSVAJAČA SVETA

Strana:

Kultura ➔ Culture

STOPAMA OSVAJAČA SVETA

Egejski krug Aleksandra Velikog

Spojili smo letnje
destinacije Er Srbije
sa mapom osvajanja
jednog od najvećih
vojskovođa u istoriji
čovečanstva, pa
dobili putopis koji
spaja tirkizne
talase Egeja i
večnu slavu
antike

FOTO: Profimedia / Yannis Papadimitrou / Alamy

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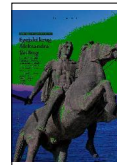
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Jul je mesec u kojem obično tražimo osveženje u moru, ali ove sezone vas pozivamo da, između dva skoka u vodu, zakoračite na stazu kojom je pre bezmalo dve i po hiljade godina koračao mladi kralj Makedonije Aleksandar Veliki. Od Solunskog zaliva i makedonskih obala, preko kulturnog srca Atine, pa sve do mitske Troje, Efesa i turskog Bodruma, plovimo i letimo rutom koja je promenila tok civilizacije.

Tamo gde je sve počelo

Naše egejsko putovanje prirodno počinje u Solunu. Iako je grad osnovao kralj Kasandar nekih dvadesetak godina nakon Aleksandrove smrti (i nazvao ga po Aleksandrovoj polusestri Tesaloniki), Solun je danas idealna polazna tačka za istraživanje same kolev-

ke antičke Makedonije.

Samo sat vremena vožnje od Aerodroma „Makedonija“ deli vas od Pele, mesta gde je Aleksandar rođen 356. godine pre nove ere. Danas se ovde, usred mirnih predela, nalazi impresivan arheološki lokalitet i muzej, koji vam omogućava da stojite na mestu gde je mladi princ učio da jaše svog vernog Bukefala. Nešto dalje je Vergina, prva prestonica kraljevstva, gde je u monumentalnoj podzemnoj grobnici sahranjen Aleksandrov otac, Filip II. Pogled na zlatni kovčeg i kraljevu krunu od zlatnog hrastovog lišća unutar tihe humke impresivan je podjednako kao i najlepši zalazak sunca na moru.

A za one koji bazu pronalaze na plažama Halkidikija istorija je pripremila poseban dragulj. Na istočnoj obali poluostrva, blizu popularnog leto-

vališta Olimpijada, nalazi se antička Stagira, rodno mesto Aristotela. Upravo je ovde, u obližnjem svetilištu Mijeza, Aristotel tri godine bio lični učitelj mladom Aleksandru, usadivši mu ljubav prema Homerovoj poeziji, medicini i filozofiji. Imajte to na umu dok se kupate na prelepim plažama Olimpijade: na ovim istim obalama, pod senkom maslina, najpametniji čovek antike oblikovao je um najmoćnijeg vladara sveta.

Od Amfipolisa do Kavale

Krećući se dalje na istok duž egejske obale ka Kavali i smaragdnom ostrvu Tasos, nailazimo na Amfipolis. Danas mirno primorsko mesto je u Aleksandrovo vreme bilo ključna mornarička baza. Upravo odavde je njegova flota isplovila u pohod na Aziju. Ovaj lokalitet je poslednjih go-



Tekst / Words: Jelena Pantović
Fotografije / Photography:
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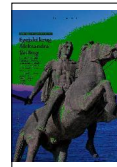
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dina u žiži svetske javnosti zbog otkrića monumentalne Kasta grobnice, najveće u Grčkoj, za koju arheolozi veruju da je bila namenjena Aleksandrovim najbližim saputnicima – generalu i najboljem prijatelju Hefestionu ili supruzi Roksani.

Malo dalje je Kavala, u antici poznata kao Neapolis, glavna luka za obližnji Filipi, veličanstveni grad koji je osnovao Aleksandrov otac. Putnici koji danas uživaju u dugim peščanim plažama Keramotiji ili istražuju skrivene uvale Tasosa, zapravo plove istom onom morskom rutom kojom su se kretali makedonski ratni brodovi. Sam Tasos, poznat po svom belom mermeru, bio je strateški važna tačka čije su resurse Aleksandrov general pažljivo obezbedili pre nego što su krenuli na istok.

Poštovanje podno Akropolja

Sljedeća nezaobilazna stanica je Atina. Odnos Aleksandra i Atine bio je kompleksan, mešavina dubokog kulturnog poštovanja i političkog rivaliteta. Aleksandar je sebe smatrao

naslednikom i promoterom helenske kulture, a Atina je za njega bila njen najsajjniji svetionik.

Nakon što je učvrstio svoju vlast nad Grčkom, Aleksandar je posetio Atinu i Partenonu ukazao najveće poštovanje. Kasnije, nakon svoje prve velike pobede nad Persijancima na reci Granik, Aleksandar je poslao u Atinu 300 persijskih oklopa kao dar boginji Atini, sa natpisom: „Aleksandar, sin Filipov, i svi Grci, osim Lakemonjani (Spartanaca), od varvara koji žive u Aziji“. Ti oklopi su ponosno visili na stubovima Partenona kao dokaz trijumfa.

Kada danas posetite Akropolj pod toplim julskim suncem, pokušajte da zamislite taj prizor. Prošetajte se i do ostataka Aristotelovog Liceja u centru Atine, škole koju je Aleksandrov učitelj osnovao uz finansijsku pomoć svog najpoznatijeg učenika. Nakon toga spustite se do atinske rivijere, u Glifadu ili Vuljagmeni, gde se istorijski utisci savršeno stapaju sa luksuznim letnjim opuštanjem na moru.

Aleksandrov mitski koraci u Aziji

Pre nego što se spustimo do juga turske rivijere, letovi ka Istanbulu ili Izmiru otvaraju nam vrata ka mestima gde je Aleksandar počeo da piše svoju azijsku legendu. Prva stanica na azijskom tlu za mladog kralja bila je mitska Troja (blizu današnjeg Čanakkale). Aleksandar je bio opsednut Homerovom „Ilijadom“. Smatrao je sebe potomkom Ahila, pa je odmah po prelasku Helesponta otrčao do Ahilovog groba, prineo žrtve, a zatim iz Hrama boginje Atine u Troji uzeo sveti štiti, koji je navodno poticao iz Trojanskog rata. Taj štiti su njegovi telohranitelji nosili ispred njega u svim sudbonosnim bitkama.

Spuštajući se niže ka turskim letovalištima, stižemo do Efesa, jednog od najlepše očuvanih antičkih gradova na svetu, smeštenog nadomak Izmira i Kušadasija. Sa Efesom je Aleksandar imao fascinantnu, gotovo kosmičku vezu. Naime, u noći kada je rođen u Peli, izgorio je veličanstveni Artemidin hram u Efesu, jedno od sedam ču-

U samom centru Atine, na uglu avenija Vasilisis Amalias i Vasilisis

Sofijas, nalazi se bronzana statua Aleksandra Velikog

In the very centre of Athens, on the corner of Vasilisis Amalias and Vasilisis Sofias avenues, stands a bronze statue of Alexander the Great





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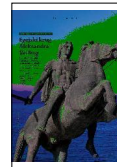
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Prema hrišćanskom predanju, nakon smrti Isusa Hrista njegova majka Marija je sa apostolom Jovanom posetila Efes, gde je i okončala svoj ovozemaljski život
According to Christian tradition, after the death of Jesus Christ, his mother Mary visited Ephesus with the apostle John, where she lived out the remainder of her earthly life

da antičkog sveta. Legenda kaže da je hram izgoreo zato što je boginja Artemida bila previše zauzeta na porođaju Aleksandrove majke Olimpijade.

Kada je Aleksandar godinama kasnije umarširao u Efes, ponudio je građanima da kompletno finansira ponovnu izgradnju ovog kolosalnog hrama, pod jednim uslovom: da njegovo ime bude uklesano na posveti. Ponosni, ali diplomatski mudri Efežani odbili su ga rečima koje su ušle u istoriju: „Ne priliči jednom bogu da podiže hramove drugim bogovima“. Aleksandar se na to samo nasmejao, a hram je ipak obnovljen i bez njegovog imena.

Tamo gde se lomila sudbina carstva

Svega nekoliko kilometara južnije od Efesa nalaze se ostaci Prijene, prelepog antičkog grada smeštenog na strmim padinama planine Mikale. Građani Prijene su oberučke prihvatili Aleksandrov novac za završetak svog hrama Atine Polijas. Ako danas posetite ovaj magični, borovom šumom okruženi lokalitet koji gleda na egejsku ravnicu, na jednom od masivnih stubova i dalje možete videti repliku natpisa (original se čuva u Britanskom muzeju): „Kralj Aleksandar je posvetio ovaj hram Atini Polijas“.

Naša egejska odiseja dostiže svoj vrhunac tamo gde se danas nalaze naj-

luksuzniji rizorti, bele kućice sa plavim prozorima i spektakularan noćni život – u Bodrumu. U antici ovaj kosmopolitski grad nosio je ime Halikarnas i bio je poprište jedne od najdramatičnijih epizoda u Aleksandrovom životu.

Godine 334. pre nove ere Aleksandar je stigao pred zidine Halikarnasa. Grad je bio ključno persijsko uporište na Egeju, branjeno moćnim bedemima koje je podigao čuveni satrap Mauzol (tvorac Mauzoleja u Halikarnasu, još jednog od sedam čuda antičkog sveta). Bila je to opsada nad opsadama. Aleksandar se ovde suočio sa genijalnim grčkim vojskovođom Memnomom, koji je komandovao odbranom u službi Persije. Borbe su bile surove, grad je na kraju zapaljen i osvojen nakon što su srušene njegove neprobojne zidine, čime je persijska flota izgubila svoju glavnu bazu na Egejskom moru.

Kada danas posetite Bodrum, istorija vas bukvalno vuče za rukav. Možete posetiti ostatke samog Mauzoleja, kao i impresivnu kapiju Mindos, mesto gde su se vodile najkrvavije bitke tokom Aleksandrove opsade. Nakon što dodirnete to antičko kamenje, prošetajte se do čuvene bodrumske marine i srednjovekovne tvrđave Svetog Petra (koja je, kakva slučajnost, delom izgrađena od kamena srušenog Mauzoleja).

Spakujte kofere za večnost

Aleksandar Veliki je patio od fenomena koji su stari Grci zvali „penthos“ – neizdrživa čežnja za nepoznatim, žudnja da se vidi šta je iza sledećeg brda, iza sledećeg mora. Ta ista čežnja nas svake godine vodi na aerodrome, sa koferima punim letnjih šešira i kupaćih kostima. Er Srbija vas ovog jula vodi na mesta gde se prepliću mit, istorija i najlepše morske obale Mediterana. Bilo da izaberete kafu pod solunskim suncem, filozofsku šetnju Halkidikijem, kulturni zanos Atine ili kosmopolitski šarm i antičke tajne turske rivijere, znajte da ne pratite samo turističke vodiče. Prati te stope čoveka koji je sa samo trideset godina osvojio svet, a čiji duh i dalje živi u svakom talasu Egejskog mora. Želimo vam miran let i divno leto!





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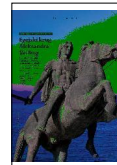
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IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF
THE WORLD'S CONQUEROR

Alexander the Great's Aegean circle

We've combined Air Serbia's summer destinations with the map of the conquest of one of history's greatest military leaders to create a travelogue combining the turquoise waves of the Aegean and the eternal glory of antiquity



FOTO: Depositphotos

July is when we usually seek to reinvigorate in the sea, but this season we invite you, between dips in the drink, to follow the route taken almost two and a half thousand years ago by the young Macedonian king we know today as Alexander the Great. From the Gulf of Thessaloniki and the shores of Macedonia, through the cultural heart of Athens, all the way to the mythical Troy, Ephesus and Turkey's Bodrum, we sail and fly along this route that forever changed the course of civilisation.

Where it all began

Our Aegean journey naturally begins in Thessaloniki. Despite the city having been founded by King Cassander around 20 years after Alexander's death (and named after Alexander's half-sister, Thessalonike), it is today the ideal springboard to explore the cradle of ancient Macedonia.

Just an hour's drive from Thessaloniki's Macedonia Airport is Pella, the birthplace of Alexander the Great, where he was born in 356 BC. The tranquil countryside of this area is today home to an

impressive archaeological site and museum, where you can stand on the very spot where the young prince learned to ride his trusty Bucephalus. Not far from there is Vergina, the first capital of the ancient kingdom of Macedonia and the site where Alexander's father, King Philip II, is buried in a monumental tomb in a subterranean burial complex. The golden casket and the king's crown of golden oak leaves inside the peaceful mound is as breathtaking a sight to behold as the most beautiful sunset over the sea.

History has also prepared a special gem for Halkidiki beachgoers. On the east coast of the peninsula, near the popular resort of Olympiada, is ancient Stagira, birthplace of Aristotle. It was here, in the nearby Sanctuary of Mieza, that Aristotle taught the young Alexander as his personal tutor for three years, instilling in him a love for Homeric poetry, medicine and philosophy. You can imagine that while sunbathing on the beautiful beaches of Olympiada: on the same shores, under the shade of olive trees, where antiquity's wisest man shaped the mind of the world's most powerful ruler.

From Amphipolis to Kavala

Advancing eastwards along the Aegean coast towards Kavala and the emerald island of Thasos, we reach Amphipolis. Today a serene coastal town, it represented a key naval base in the time of Alexander. It was from here that his fleet set sail for Asia. This site has been in the world spotlight over recent years due to the discovery of the monumental Kasta Tomb, the largest burial mound ever discovered in Greece, which archaeologists believe was intended for Alexander's closest companions: his closest friend and army general Hephaestion; or his wife, Roxana.

A little further on is Kavala, which was known as Neapolis in ancient times and represents the main maritime gateway to the magnificent city of Philippi that was founded by King Philip II. Holidaymakers who today enjoy the long sand beaches of Keramoti or explore the hidden coves of Thasos actually navigate the same naval route as ancient Macedonian warships. Thasos itself, which is famous for its white marble, was a strategically important point with resources that were secured by Alexander's generals before heading further eastwards.





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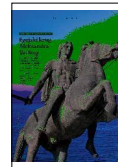
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Aleksandar Veliki i Hefestion love lava - mozaik sa ostataka kraljevske palate u Peli

Alexander the Great and Hephæstion hunting lion - mosaic from the remains of the royal palace at Pella



FOTO: Profimedia / Ann Roven Pictures / Heritage Images

Reverence at the foot of the Acropolis

Athens is inevitably the next stop. The relationship between Alexander and Athens was complex, representing a mixture of deep cultural respect and political rivalry. Alexander considered himself the heir and promoter of Hellenic culture, and he saw Athens as its brightest beacon.

After consolidating his rule over Greece, Alexander visited Athens and the Parthenon, showing the greatest respect. Later, following his first major victory over the Persians at the Granicus River, Alexander had 300 suits of Persian armour sent to Athens as a gift to the goddess Athena, with the inscription: "Alexander, son of Philip, and all the Greeks (except the Lacedaemonians (Spartans)) present this offering from the spoils taken from the barbarians who inhabit Asia". The armour was hung proudly on the columns of the Parthenon as evidence of his triumph.

Try to imagine that scene when you visit the Acropolis under the baking July sun. Then walk to central Athens and visit the ruins of Aristotle's Lyceum, a school founded by Alexander's teacher with the help of his most famous student. Next, head down to the Athenian Riviera, in Glyfada or Vouliagmeni, where historical impressions blend perfectly with luxurious seaside relaxation.

Alexander's mythical strides into Asia

Before we head south to the Turkish Riviera, flights to Istanbul or Izmir open the way for us to visit the places where Alexander's Asian legend began. The young king's first stop on Asian soil was Troy (near present-day Çanakkale). Alexander was obsessed with Homer's Iliad and considered himself a descendant of Achilles, which is why he rushed to the tomb of Achilles immediately after crossing the Hellespont and left sacrifices there, before taking a sacred shield from the temple of the goddess Athena that was believed to date back to the Trojan War. That shield was carried by his personal bodyguards in all of his fateful battles.

Descending towards the Turkish resorts, we reach Ephesus, located close to Izmir and Kuşadası and considered one of the world's most beautifully preserved ancient cities. Alexander had an almost cosmic relationship with Ephesus. Specifically, on the night of his birth in Pella, Ephesus's magnificent Temple of Artemis, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, burned down. Legend has it that the temple burned down because the goddess Artemis was too busy helping Olympias give birth to Alexander.

When Alexander marched on Ephesus years later, he offered to fully finance the rebuilding of this colossal temple, on condition that his name be engraved



on the dedication. The proud but diplomatically wise Ephesians rejected him with words that have gone down in history: "It is not fitting for one god to build a temple for another god". Alexander merely laughed at that, but the temple was nonetheless rebuilt, without his name.

Where the fate of an empire broke

Just a few kilometres south of Ephesus are the remains of Priene, a beautiful ancient city on the steep slopes of Mount Mycale. Its citizens eagerly accepted Alexander's funds to complete their Temple of Athena Polias. Visit this magical site today and see a replica of the inscription on one of the massive pillars (the original is held in the British Muse-





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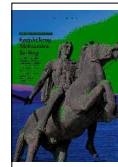
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um), which reads: "King Alexander dedicated this temple to Athena Polias".

Our Aegean odyssey reaches its climax where today's most luxurious Turkish resorts are located: in Bodrum. This cosmopolitan city was called Halicarnassus in ancient times and was the scene of one of the most dramatic episodes in Alexander's life.

Alexander arrived at the walls of Halicarnassus in 334 BC. Then a key Persian stronghold in the Aegean, the city was defended by mighty ramparts built by the famous satrap Mausolus (creator of the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus, another of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World). It was the siege of all sieges. Here Alexander faced off against brilliant Greek general Memnon, who commanded the city's defence in the ser-

vice of Persia. The fighting was fierce, but the city was ultimately burnt to the ground and conquered after its impenetrable walls were demolished, thus depriving the Persian fleet of its main base on the Aegean.

When you visit Bodrum today, it's as though history tugs at your sleeve. You can visit the remains of the Mausoleum itself, but also the impressive Myndos Gate, site of the bloodiest battles of Alexander's siege. After touching those ancient stones, walk to the famous Bodrum Marina and the medieval Castle of St. Peter (which, ironically, was partly built using stone from the razed Mausoleum).

Pack your bags for eternity

Alexander the Great suffered from what the ancient Greeks called pothos,

an unbearable yearning for the unknown; a passionate longing for something just out of reach. It is that same desire that leads us to airports each year, carrying suitcases packed with summer hats and bathing suits. Air Serbia will take you this July to places where myth, history and the Mediterranean's most beautiful shores intertwine. Whether you choose a coffee under the Thessaloniki sun, a philosophical stroll in Halkidiki, the cultural fervour of Athens or the cosmopolitan charm and ancient secrets of the Turkish Riviera, be aware that you aren't just following tourist guides. You're following in the footsteps of a man who conquered the world by the age of 30, and whose spirit lives on in every wave of the Aegean. We wish you pleasant flights and a wonderful summer!

