

## EVENT (OVER)TOURISM IN OHRID (NORTH MACEDONIA): CRITICAL THINKING

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### **Abstract**

Ohrid is the most famous summer tourism destination in North Macedonia attracting approximately twice as many tourists in the main season as there are residents. This study offers a critical thinking of the significant adverse effects of overtourism. More specifically, it openly discusses sustainability challenges from excessive visitation of cultural events, particularly live music concerts during summer peak season. The study concludes the importance of introducing a monitoring system along with strategic involvement in a comprehensive manner of all levels stakeholders to adequately prevent detrimental effects on the uniqueness of the destination. It also encourages the establishment of systems for assessing domestic visitors and day trippers as the largest challenge to effectively cope with overcrowding events. Finally, the results open a discussion on how sustainable tourism growth may be maintained in the face of serious issues brought up by cultural events.

Keywords: cultural events, overtourism, sustainability, Ohrid, tourism development

*JEL classification:* D61, H41, R11

### **INTRODUCTION**

Cultural events often serve as a trigger in provoking interest and attracting tourists, visitors and day trippers. Their large number increase tourism expenditure, thereby local economy benefits. On the other hand, mass visits may endanger environmental resources that represent a base for tourism development in a certain destination. So, being guided only by the economic impacts of tourism provokes severe changes to the destination in terms of other dimensions of sustainability, namely socio-cultural and environmental.

The phenomenon of overtourism, defined by the UNWTO (2018: 4) as "*the impact of tourism on a destination that excessively influences perceived quality of life of citizens and/or quality of visitor experiences in a negative way*", has been extensively researched (Gutierrez de Leon, 2019; Mihalič, 2020; Milano et al., 2019). In this regard, there is an increasing body of evidence that demonstrates the disruptive impact of overtourism, which is perceived negatively by residents generally expressing dissatisfaction, irritation, tourist rejection, or overcrowding (Dioko, 2017; Kuščer & Mihalič, 2019; Martín Martín et al., 2018; Petrevska & Mihalič, 2020).

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The impact of large-scale events on residents' quality of life is a significant concern for industry experts, festival organizers and public authorities, who must consider this when formulating strategies to mitigate the adverse effects of such events (Moisescu et al., 2019). The considerable pressure exerted on residents, particularly in the context of high visitor numbers, has led to the emergence of various forms of anti-tourism activism, including boycotts, which reflect the discomfort associated with the realities of mass tourism, touristification, and overtourism (Milano et al., 2024; Su et al., 2022). The "Tourism in balance" policy, introduced in 2021, saw the implementation of numerous governmental regulations aimed at regulating tourism. These included the introduction of a day-visitor fee in Venice to control crowd sizes, limits on the number of cruise ships permitted in Santorini and Mykonos to protect local resources, an increase in the tourist tax for luxury accommodation in the city center of Paris, an eco-tax in Tenerife, all as measures to support the implementation of stricter short-term tourism controls (Martiny, online).

Additionally, an increasing corpus of scholarly literature underscores the imperative for sustainable tourism development in North Macedonia, with a particular emphasis on the case of Ohrid (Petrevska et al., 2023; Petrevska & Mihalič, 2020; Petrevska et al., 2020a, 2020b). This study contributes to the existing body of knowledge on the impact of tourism on the sustainability of Ohrid and builds upon the findings of previous studies in this area. Furthermore, given the information-intensive nature of the tourism industry, it is evident that the dissemination of tourism-related information has been significantly impacted by the Internet and social media, which have fundamentally changed the way tourism-related information is distributed among visitors and tourists (Xiang et al., 2017). The Internet has become a platform that enables communication through various forms of information sharing (Leung et al., 2013; Park et al., 2020; Yan et al., 2020), thereby facilitating the exploration of the multifaceted nature of tourism. Accordingly, this exploratory study employs secondary data from internet web portals and advances the theoretical premise for tourism sustainability by offering critical insights into the sustainability challenges for tourism destinations. More specifically, it openly discusses sustainability challenges from excessive visitation to cultural events, particularly live music concerts during the summer peak season. The study uses a real case of Ohrid as the most famous summer tourism destination in North Macedonia as an excellent example for research since it attracts approximately twice as many tourists in the main season as there are residents.

The paper is structured as follows. After the introduction, the literature on the general realm of tourism sustainability is reviewed, along with indicators of sustainability and (ir)responsible tourism development. This is followed by a concise overview of the case study of the city of Ohrid. The subsequent section delineates the research methodology, which is then followed by a section on the results, findings and discussion. The final section presents the main conclusion and recommendations.

## 1. LITERATURE REVIEW

There is an inevitable relationship between tourism and culture that has long been recognized and confirmed as cultural tourism. Such activities include, but are not limited to, visits to museums, attendance at festivals and other events, and exploration of historical sites. Each of these provides opportunities for meaningful engagement with local traditions and practices. The safeguarding of positive aspects necessitates

interconnectivity in a sustainable and responsible manner, respecting the limits of destinations. Primarily, the concept of sustainability addresses the responsible usage of resources by balancing three pillars of sustainability: economic, socio-cultural, and natural (Gössling et al., 2020; Nekmahmud et al., 2020).

Gössling et al. (2020) posit that even prior to the advent of two significant phenomena, namely the overtourism crises and the COVID-19 pandemic tourism policy makers must have been prepared to align their objectives with the goals set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (UN, 2015). This necessitates an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach to establish a coherent and integrated framework for the revitalization of the tourism sector. Similarly, Nekmahmud et al. (2020) investigate new approaches to increase the efficacy of sustainability initiatives by proposing tourism responsibility as a catalyst for implementing and maintaining sustainability.

On the other hand, there is no singular metric for gauging the sustainable development dimensions of tourism regarding the conservation of natural and cultural resources, economic viability, and social justice. Consequently, assessment is conducted through the utilization of sustainable tourism indicators (STI). These criteria are designed to facilitate the perception of long-term tourism impacts in a manner that is economically viable and socially equitable for residents. Academia agrees that STI must be applicable to a specific destination considering the objectives the destination seeks to achieve through tourism (EEA, 2004; EC, 2016; Tanguay et al., 2013; WTO, 2004).

Tanguay et al. (2013) examine a parsimonious list of 507 STI recognized by experts, and further reduce the list to 20 indicators to make them operational. The authors find that most STI affect at least two or three dimensions of sustainable development simultaneously. They apply the shortlisted STI and illustrate their adaptive modification to be applicable and compatible with the realities of the destination, considering environmental, socio-economic and tourism variables.

WTO (2004) proposes 768 general STIs, which are further refined and adapted to the specificities of the destination. For example, WTO (2004) proposes 141 STIs for Albufera de Valencia (Spain) to measure the capacity of an ecosystem of attractive but vulnerable natural landscapes, 50 STIs for the Balearic Islands where tourism is the main sector, 44 STIs for Kukijuca (Croatia) applicable to all types of destinations, 30 STIs for Cape Town Island (Canada) resulting from a participatory approach compatible with all types of destinations, 14 normative STIs for the Caribbean region where tourism is an important economic driver, and 9 STIs for the Canary Islands as a guide for a sustainable tourism planning process for a coastal destination.

EEA, (2004) identifies 11 STIs compatible with destinations in European countries and the West in general. It selects only key indicators that are in line with the destination's sustainable tourism policy and that can be validated by tourism decision-makers. As such, the list is operational and applicable.

EC (2016) proposes a European Tourism Indicator System (ETIS) as a standardized package that promotes and balances the asymmetries between economic and ecological environments. More specifically, the main objective of ETIS is to promote economic prosperity, social equity, cohesion and environmental protection.

In conclusion, the various proposed STIs have yet to reach a consensus on the optimal methodology for assessing the sustainability level of tourism. Besides the

numerous challenges that the proposed sets of indicators have, they enable smooth approach in developing indicator system for destination to guide sustainable management. Yet, it is agreed that the concept of sustainability must conform with the responsible implementation of a sustainable and responsible tourism (SRT) model. Furthermore, the current sustainability development goals must be reconsidered in light of healthy behaviors and the quality of life (Mihalič, 2016). This signifies the implementation of responsible tourism based on the sustainability concept (Goodwin, 2011; Mihalič, 2016, 2020 and 2022), which advocates for sustainability in the actions of numerous pillars and collaboration among all stakeholders. Furthermore, sustainable tourism product strategies are identified as a framework for addressing interrelated issues such as sustainability, climate change, the impact of overtourism, and the influence of social media on cultural tourism (Du Cros & McKercher, 2020).

If the principles of sustainability are not meet to a critical point of responsible usage, tourism negative impacts arise. As a phenomenon that has a markedly negative impact on the quality of life of residents and the experiences of visitors (UNWTO, 2018), overtourism is a topic of academic interest (Becker, 2016; Gijsbers & Gonzalez Gutierrez de Leon, 2019; Koens et al., 2018; Mihalič, 2020; Milano et al., 2019).

In their study, Milano et al. (2019) examine the historical context of overtourism, linking current issues with longstanding challenges in tourism management. They analyze how destinations have historically managed high visitor volumes, and the resulting social conflicts. In the same context, Koens et al., (2018) contend the multidimensional nature of overtourism and its impacts within the context of societal developments. The authors conclude that it is necessary to apply deeper understanding and analysis to evidence immense pressures that mass tourism brings to tourism destinations.

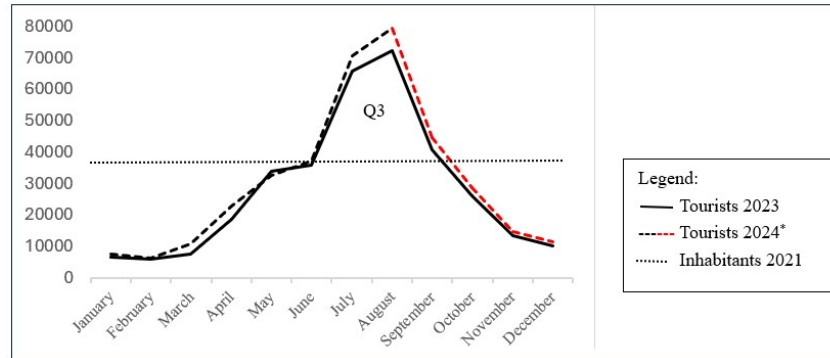
Becker (2016) also offers a critical examination of overtourism highlighting the rapid growth of global tourism and its unanticipated consequences for destinations. The focus is on unsustainable practices and their impact on local communities. The same conclusion for critical need for sustainable tourism practices to address the global challenges faced by industry stakeholders and consumers, is in the focus of Gijsbers and Gonzalez Gutierrez de Leon (2019).

In summary, one may conclude that it is very important to understand tourism impacts on destination's development based on sustainable and responsible patterns.

## **2. BACKGROUND MATERIAL**

### **Brief overview of the case study of Ohrid (North Macedonia)**

Ohrid is a well-known tourist destination in North Macedonia, with the highest number of visitors during the summer season. The city of Ohrid, without the neighboring villages has a population of 38,818 (State Statistical Office, online), and attracts over a third of all tourist arrivals in the country (337,138) and overnights (1,114,000) in 2023 (State Statistical Office, online). Since the city and the surrounding region of Lake Ohrid were designated transboundary mixed World Heritage (WH) property (UNESCO, 1979, 1980), it has attracted many visitors gradually affecting destination's sustainability. The number of tourists particularly rises during the main season, from July to September, when the third quarter (Q3) encompasses approximately twice as many tourists as there are residents (Figure 1).



**Figure 1** Number of tourists 2023 vs. 2024\*

Source: State Statistical office (online)

Note: \*Authors' estimations for Sept-Dec 2024

Figure 1 provides a visual representation of the high season tourism demand. During the third quarter the demand is particularly high, when Ohrid reaches a critical point for its physical and social carrying capabilities (UNESCO, 2019a). Petrevska and Collins-Kreiner (2019) examine the urban transformation of the destination because of physical and environmental pressures, including heavy traffic, congestion, coastal exploitation, and excessive urban development. This has a significant impact on the quality of life of residents, leading to sustainability imbalance (Petrevska et al., 2023; Petrevska & Mihalič, 2020; Petrevska et al., 2020a, 2020b). Due to the occurrence of persistent and significant disruptions over the years, UNESCO (2019b) identifies numerous concerns that threaten the sustainability values of the site, prompting a strong recommendation to place it on the 'List of WH in Danger' and potentially result in the loss of WH status. These challenges are largely attributed to the absence of comprehensive management and tourism plans, including analyses of visitor capacity and tourism impact (Korunovski & Risteski, 2021).

The cultural and historical area of Lake Ohrid region is seriously jeopardized with mass events particularly concentrated in Q3 (Figure1). This provokes a critical point for physical carrying capability of the destination (Russo, 2001; Weber et al., 2017). This argument is already discussed by Petrevska et al., (2023) who present a list of factors that affect the outstanding universal value of Ohrid poses as a WH destination (UNESCO, 2015) underlining that the deterioration of the local physical fabric (secondary factor) is caused by human activities (primary factor). The pressure of mass visitation to cultural events driven by purely economic motif, strongly disrupts the carrying capacity of Ohrid urging the need to achieve a balance between the three pillars of sustainability (Bramwell et al., 2017).

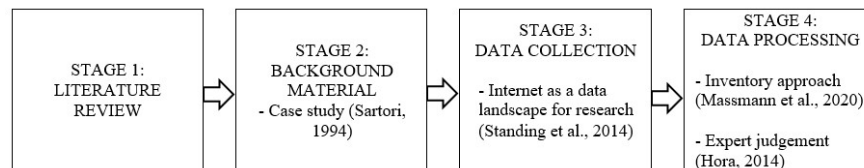
Appendix 1, Table A presents an inventory list of over 50 miscellaneous cultural events that took place in Ohrid between January and November 2024. The list includes variety of events, such as gastronomic events, anniversary celebrations, theater performances, music festivals (national and international), various thematic festivals (wine, film, bazaar, and exhibitions) and multidisciplinary events (sport and educational), being dispersed all-year round. Those held out of the summer season (except for events during the fest period between 6<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> January) are generally of

local significance. All other events held during the main season attract numerous domestic and foreign visitors and take place in various locations, including hospitality facilities (hotels, restaurants, clubs, wineries, and bistros), municipal facilities (city cultural center, celebration hall in the municipal building, and the youth center), religious facilities (churches and ancient theater), as well as outdoor sites (promenade, beaches, boats, main streets, squares, trails, village locations, and city stadium).

### 3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research investigates the following research issues:

- 1) It critically examines the carrying capacity in the context of event tourism. This question focuses on understanding the limits of a destination's ability to host events without negatively impacting the environment, infrastructure, and local community.
- 2) It proposes a conceptual framework for assessing overtourism due to excessive visitation to cultural events. This question aims to develop a systematic approach to identify, assess and interpret overtourism in the context of cultural events.
- 3) It investigates and theorizes impacts of irresponsible tourism development on sustainability. This question explores the detrimental effects of poorly planned tourism development on the environment and social fabric of a destination.



**Figure 2.** Research methodology

To address the research topic, the study employs a multistage combined methodological framework (Sharpley, 2014) (Fig. 2). It applies a case study approach (Sartori, 1994) to analyze Ohrid (North Macedonia). Secondary data is collected from the Internet as a common source for tourism research (Standing et al., 2014). This includes media articles, online documents, festival programs, and policy papers from the web portals and festival webpages. Collected data is processed with the data inventory approach (Massmann et al., 2020) which is particularly useful when planning heterogeneous events within tight timelines. Data is organized, refined and structured into a comprehensive inventory list (Appendix 1, Table A). This list is further refined with only cultural events that took place from July 31 - August 5, 2024 (Table 1). Table 1 presents a summary with brief unformalized descriptions of the main cultural events that took place in the peak summer season and estimates on their number of visitors. Finally, the research applies expert judgement assessment (Hora, 2014) and projects physical impact on the destination (Figure 3) upon which discusses tourism sustainability challenges for further development.

#### 4. RESULTS, FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Results are presented in two parts. The first part proposes a conceptual framework for assessing overtourism caused by excessive visitation at cultural events. It presents results from a judgement assessment on the physical capacity of Ohrid to carry out strong impacts of mass musical events that negatively affect the environment, infrastructure, and local community. This section examines how cultural tourism has gradually transformed into event (over)tourism. The second part theorizes the impacts of irresponsible tourism development resulting from poorly planned tourism development and a lack of strategy for implementing plans to maintain the destination's sustainability.

##### 4.1 Mass events impacts

Table 1 posts stylized data on the physical abilities of destination when hosting mass cultural events. It extracts only data for the period July 31 to August 5, as the peak season when the concentration of mass music live concerts is held in Ohrid. The international multi-disciplinary cultural festival "Ohrid Summer Festival" is a prestigious art event dating back to 1961. It encompasses around 40 different events held between July 12th and August 20th, each event attracting approximately 500 to 2,000 visitors. The large number of visitors places significant physical pressure on important cultural and historical landmarks that serve as event venues. These events are held in various locations within the old town, the city's core, and in important sites such as the 11th-century St. Sophia Cathedral, which is a primary venue for classical music concerts.

"Ohrid Calling 2024" is a festival of electronic dance music particularly popular among youngsters. Despite being held 2.2 km outside the city center, it leaves negative footage on the environment in those couple of days. Over 5,000 young visitors aged 15-18 literally occupy the city provoking overcrowding. This type of visitor opts for minimal spending, favoring budget-friendly bakeries over local restaurants. Many choose to sleep in cars or on park benches, leaving behind early-morning litter such as plastic bottles, food wrappers, and cigarette butts in the lake, beaches, squares, streets, and parks.

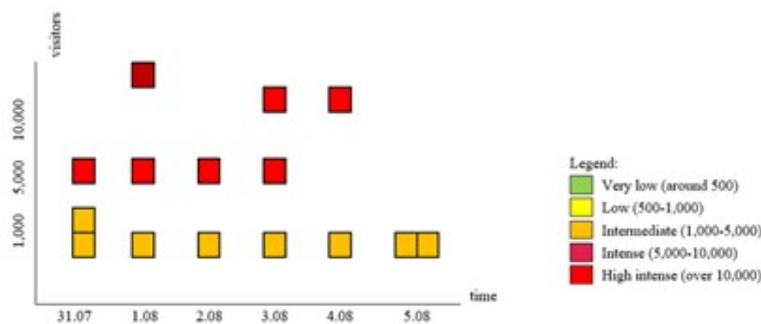
**Table 1.** Summary of cultural events in Ohrid, from July 31 to August 5, 2024

Time	Event	Venue	Number of visitors*
12.07–20.08	International multi-disciplinary cultural festival "Ohrid Summer Festival"	Various venues, generally in the old town	2,000 (for each around 40 different events)
31.07–03.08	Music festival of electronic dance music "Ohrid Calling"	2.2 km from city center	5,500
31.07	Music concert (Regional folk singer Zeljko Samargjik)	City Stadium	3,500
01.08	Music concert (Regional folk singer Aleksandra Prijovik)	City Stadium	12,000
03.08	Music concert (Regional folk singer Aco Pejovik)	City Stadium	5,000 – 10,000
04.08	Music concert (International pop singer Lenny Kravitz)	City Stadium	5,000 – 10,000
05.08	Music concert	Old town	1,000 – 1,500

Source: Authors upon Internet webpages Ohridnews (online), Musicfestivalwizard (online), Ohrid summer festival. (online), and Biljanini izvori (online). Note: \*Judgmental assessment

The biggest challenge to the destination's capacity is the series of live music concerts held consecutively every day for one week at the city stadium. The stadium is located within the broader natural area (known as "Biljanini Izvori") renowned for its exceptional natural beauty and recognized for its highest tourism potential (Jankuloski et al., 2016). These concerts attract between 5,000 and 10,000 visitors per event, with some reaching even higher numbers. For example, on August 1, 2024, the regional folk singer Aleksandra Prijovik held a concert that drew 12,000 visitors, setting a record for Ohrid. This kind of high-attendance event leads to serious strain of excessive visitation overwhelming destination's capacity to manage sustainability. Due to inadequate city infrastructure to manage such massiveness, Ohrid suffers with unsustainable practices, like illegal parking on green spaces, significant waste issues etc. This influx of visitors places significant strain on the destination's capacity to manage sustainability. Due to inadequate city infrastructure, Ohrid faces unsustainable practices like illegal parking on green spaces and significant waste issues. It is clear that Ohrid is experiencing negative tourism impacts on its natural authenticity and resources due to economic interests that prioritize rapid visitor expansion in both time and space

Figure 3 visualizes the impact of concentrated mass events over six days. It shows a high concentration of 15 live music concerts, leading to high pressure and overtourism. Figure 3 enables understanding the destination's ability to host events with different levels of impact: intermediate (1,000-5,000 visitors), intense (5,000-10,000 visitors), and high intensity (over 10,000 visitors). These events jeopardize the destination's sustainability by overwhelming its physical capacity.



**Figure 3.** Impact on destination's physical capacity (July 31 – August 5, 2024)  
Source: Authors

#### 4.2 Irresponsible tourism development

The main challenges of managing the impacts of excessive tourism stem largely from the absence of strategic documents on local and national level. A draft Strategy for tourism development in the municipality of Ohrid (Andreiski et al., 2020) was never adopted by the city council. Similarly, a draft National tourism strategy was prepared in 2016 (Ministry of economy, online) but has not been adopted. No new tourism strategic documents have been created since then.

Ohrid lacks an overall destination management plan that is necessary for development and implementation of responsible tourism development to maintain its site's relevance and long-term viability and sustainability. In this line, events



management plans are also missing which are essential for controlling tourism pressure particularly arising from high-scale cultural events. These plans should outline procedures and protocols detailing objectives, logistics, and local sustainability guidelines. While the municipality prepares an annual event calendar, high-impact events like commercial music concerts at the city stadium are unregistered. Lack of management practices and coordination is evident resulting in negative effects on residents and visible destruction of the environment.

With irresponsible behavior of stakeholders when organizing and logistically supporting mass commercial events, Ohrid is in danger of losing its uniqueness and authenticity. Such findings are already highlighted in previous research (Petrevska et al., 2023; Petrevska & Mihalič, 2020; Petrevska et al., 2020a, 2020b).

## **CONCLUSION**

The study examines the transformation of cultural tourism to event (over)tourism by elaborating the case of Ohrid, the most famous summer destination in North Macedonia. It underlines the high concentration of live music concerts, art festivals and other large-scale cultural events during the peak summer season. These events often harm the destination by exceeding its capacity and damaging its natural and cultural assets, rather than providing substantial benefits to the destination. The trend of uncontrolled event organization is continuously growing provoking strong physical pressure that destroys destination's uniqueness and negatively impacting the environment, infrastructure, and local community.

The study recommends recognizing the problem on local, regional, and national levels along with introducing sustainable event management practices, as already discussed in academia (Jones, 2017; Van der Wagen, 2010). The focus may be put on a structured approach by addressing specific challenges and opportunities of various aspects such as communication, venue selection, greenhouse gas emissions, waste management, and water usage. This situation is largely driven and perpetuated by the lack of key strategic tourism documents at both local and national levels. The absence of effective regulations allows for exploitative practices, such as poorly organized mass events. These events prioritize short-term profits over sustainability and the destination's cultural and natural values.

Addressing the impacts of over-events requires a mix of proactive planning, regulation, and stakeholder collaboration. The first and the most point is to develop and enforce a strategic tourism plan including guidelines for event frequency, size, and timing. Carrying capacity assessments are also crucial to regulate event approvals and protect the destination's environment, culture, and infrastructure. It is also very important to gain residents' support for developing tourism in a sustainable manner. This includes improving local awareness and engagement in sustainable tourism initiatives. More specifically, Ohrid needs to improve destination management towards efficient governance, strategic leadership, and effective implementation, with all elements revolving around maintaining and sustaining the status of a WH destination. Namely, the fact that Ohrid's cultural and ecological values are of exceptional significance and importance for present and future generations of humanity are not only an (economic) opportunity, but also a great responsibility for residents and policymakers.

The findings may support developing solutions to reshape the tourism planning process and improve governance efficacy for more sustainable and responsible tourism development primarily from a policy perspective. This study advocates for incorporating sustainable tourism indicators into tourism planning. Monitoring these indicators may assist in promoting sustainable tourism.

Finally, the study emphasizes the importance of daily tourist flow forecasting, combining stylized frameworks that explore socio-cultural sustainability and forecasting models (Bi et al, 2020 and 2022; Li et al., 2024; Zhang et al., 2020). This approach demonstrates strong potential for meeting critical points of carrying capacity of the destination and being steadily ready for sustainability challenges.

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## APPENDIX 1

Table A. Inventory list of cultural events in Ohrid in 2024

Time	Event	Type of event	Venue	Source
07-11 Oct	"Gastromak and Friends"	Gastronomic	Various locations (restaurants and hotels)	<a href="https://ftu.uklo.edu.mk">https://ftu.uklo.edu.mk</a>
06-09 Nov	"80 years of free Ohrid"	Series of events	Various locations	<a href="https://ohrid.gov.mk/calendar">https://ohrid.gov.mk/calendar</a>
March- Nov	"Sex, Lies and Jealousy"	Theater	City theater	<a href="https://ohridnews.com">https://ohridnews.com</a>
20-31 Oct	"The Godfathers"	Theater	City theater	<a href="https://ohridnews.com">https://ohridnews.com</a>
Jan- Aug	Comedy Jam	Series of shows	Club	<a href="https://ohridnews.com">https://ohridnews.com</a>
31 Aug	Concert	Live music	Club	<a href="https://ohridnews.com">https://ohridnews.com</a>
23-31 Aug	"Ohrid Troubadours"	Live music	Old town	<a href="https://ohridskitrubaduri.mk">https://ohridskitrubaduri.mk</a>
24 Aug	"Ohrid wine salon"	Wine exhibition	Old town	<a href="https://ohridnews.com">https://ohridnews.com</a>
23- 24 Aug	"Ohrid jazz festival"	Live music	Old town	<a href="https://ohridnews.com">https://ohridnews.com</a>
23-31 Aug	"Ohrid water festival"	Sport	Various location	<a href="https://ohridwaterfestival.mk">https://ohridwaterfestival.mk</a>
22- 26 Aug	International Choir Festival	Live music	Various locations	<a href="https://kanal5.com.mk">https://kanal5.com.mk</a>
17 Aug	"Absolut" party	Live music	Club	<a href="https://ohridnews.com">https://ohridnews.com</a>
16-18 Aug	Poetry night in Velestovo.	Multidisciplinary	Village	<a href="https://inpress.mk">https://inpress.mk</a>
12 Aug	Youth Week	Educational	2.2 km from city center	<a href="https://ohrid.gov.mk/calendar">https://ohrid.gov.mk/calendar</a>
08 Aug	Group performance Hungary	Folklore	Old town	<a href="https://ohrid.gov.mk/calendar">https://ohrid.gov.mk/calendar</a>
07 Aug	Soloist concert	Live music	Old town	<a href="https://ohrid.gov.mk/calendar">https://ohrid.gov.mk/calendar</a>
05 Aug	Concert	Live music	Old town	<a href="https://ohridnews.com">https://ohridnews.com</a>
04-08 Aug	Educational week in national park Galicica	Educational	Schools and various outdoor locations	<a href="https://ohrid.gov.mk/calendar">https://ohrid.gov.mk/calendar</a>
04 Aug	Pop singer L. Kravitz	Live music	City stadium	<a href="https://biljaninizvori.mk">https://biljaninizvori.mk</a>
03 Aug	Folk singer A. Pejovik	Live music	City stadium	<a href="https://biljaninizvori.mk">https://biljaninizvori.mk</a>
01 Aug	Folk singer A. Prijovik	Live music	City stadium	<a href="https://biljaninizvori.mk">https://biljaninizvori.mk</a>
31 July	Folk singer Z. Samargjik	Live music	City stadium	<a href="https://biljaninizvori.mk">https://biljaninizvori.mk</a>
31 July- 03 Aug	"Ohrid Calling"	Live music	2.2 km from city center	<a href="https://www.musicfestivalwizard.com">https://www.musicfestivalwizard.com</a>
22 July	UEFA Europa League	Sport	City stadium	<a href="https://biljaninizvori.mk">https://biljaninizvori.mk</a>
12 July- 20 Aug	"Ohrid Summer Festival"	Multidisciplinary	37 various events old town	<a href="https://ohridskoletu.com.mk">https://ohridskoletu.com.mk</a>

11 July	Jazz concert	Live music	Club	<a href="https://ohridnews.com">https://ohridnews.com</a>
07 July	Jazz-soul-funk concert	Live music	Club	<a href="https://ohridnews.com">https://ohridnews.com</a>
03-07 July	Beach Film Festival	Film festival	Beaches, Boats, old town, outside city center	<a href="https://ohridnews.com">https://ohridnews.com</a>
02-05 July	“Balkan festival of folk songs and dances”	Dance-music	Old town	<a href="https://ohridnet.com">https://ohridnet.com</a>
26 June	"The Voice of Ohrid"	Live music	Old town	<a href="https://ohridpress.com.mk">https://ohridpress.com.mk</a>
22-30 June	“Debrca 2024”	Multidisciplinary	Village	<a href="https://ohridnews.com">https://ohridnews.com</a>
27-29 June	“Ohrid Wine Festival”	Wine exhibition	Promenade	<a href="https://ohridnews.com">https://ohridnews.com</a>
12 June	Live Dance Music Event	Dance-music	Club	<a href="https://ohridnews.com">https://ohridnews.com</a>
April, June	"Madame Minister"	Theater	City cultural center	<a href="https://ohridnews.com">https://ohridnews.com</a>
26 May	"Little Red Riding Hood"	Theater	City cultural center	<a href="https://ohridnews.com">https://ohridnews.com</a>
15 May	"Riedel Glass" and "Kamnik winery"	Wine exhibition	Restaurant	<a href="https://ohridnews.com">https://ohridnews.com</a>
Feb-May	"Waiting for Godot"	Theater	City cultural center	<a href="https://ohrid.gov.mk/calendar">https://ohrid.gov.mk/calendar</a>
31 May-02 June	“Ohrid Running”	Sport	City streets, promenade	<a href="https://www.ohridreat.mk">https://www.ohridreat.mk</a>
14 May	UEFA Europa League	Sport	City stadium	<a href="https://biljaniniizvori.mk">https://biljaniniizvori.mk</a>
05 May	Velgosti event for Easter	Multidisciplinary	Village	<a href="https://ohrid.gov.mk/calendar">https://ohrid.gov.mk/calendar</a>
30 April	Easter concert	Live music	Church St. Sofija	<a href="https://ohrid.gov.mk/calendar">https://ohrid.gov.mk/calendar</a>
30 April	Easter bazaar	Bazaar	City Square	<a href="https://ohrid.gov.mk/calendar">https://ohrid.gov.mk/calendar</a>
25 April	Group exhibition	Art exhibition	City cultural center	<a href="https://ohrid.gov.mk/calendar">https://ohrid.gov.mk/calendar</a>
Feb, April	"The Labyrinth"	Theater	City cultural center	<a href="https://ohridnews.com">https://ohridnews.com</a>
Feb, March	"The Misunderstood Civilization"	Theater	City cultural center	<a href="https://ohridnews.com">https://ohridnews.com</a>
08 March	Tenor Federico Serra	Live music	Old town	<a href="https://ohridskoletto.com.mk">https://ohridskoletto.com.mk</a>
10 Feb	"Leaf, Rock and Scissors"	Theater	City cultural center	<a href="https://ohridnews.com">https://ohridnews.com</a>
14 Jan	Vasilicarski Carnival in Kuratica	Masquerade	Village	<a href="https://ohrid.gov.mk/calendar">https://ohrid.gov.mk/calendar</a>
20 Jan	Fishermen's Day	Gastronomic	Lake Ohrid	
06 Jan	Procession to herald the birth of Christ	Religious	Old town	<a href="https://ohrid.gov.mk/calendar">https://ohrid.gov.mk/calendar</a>

Source: Authors upon Internet webpages: FTU (online), Ohrid (online), Ohrid news (online), Ohridski trubaduri (online), Kanal 5 (online), Inpress (online), Biljanini izvori (online), Ohrid summer festival (online), Ohridnet (online), Ohridpress (online), Ohrid water festival (online), and Musicfestivalwizard (online).