



Macedonia Square

Touring the Balkans — Part 4

Macedonia

The next destination in my journey was to be Macedonia. I chose to take the night bus to Skopje and walked the 1½ miles to the bus station from my hostel under a clear, star-lit sky. After finding the right booth, I purchased a ticket to Skopje and sat down to wait for the 11:30 PM bus. Since only persons with tickets were allowed in the station, the station police were busy controlling/ejecting the many homeless individuals. The bus arrived on time and was only ⅓ full so I had plenty of room to stretch out and rest. The trip took approximately 6 hours, including three stops for coffee and a potty break. At the border between Bulgaria and Macedonia I was singled out to have my luggage searched and was also questioned about why I was coming to Macedonia. Finding nothing unusual, the

security guards returned my passport and I re-boarded the bus. In retrospect, I think security thought I was one of those (rich) Americans and wondered why I was traveling on an overnight bus when I could afford a pricy tour. At 6 AM the bus arrived in Skopje. A 15 minute walk took me to the Hostel Shanti where I rang the buzzer on the gate post. After 3 or 4 minutes the resident hostel manager arrived in his night clothes and showed me to my room. Not having slept very much on the bus, I elected to get a few hours of rest before going into town.

Shortly before noon I washed and shaved and then headed for the information center where I loaded up on pamphlets and a map of the city. In the center of the old town I found Macedonia Square (pictured above) which is dominated by a huge statue of Alexander the Great on his horse (2).

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IAPP e-Monitor

The IAPP e-Monitor was designed to give our membership a quick look at what is going on with the IAPP and with panoramic photography in general. It was originated to give our membership quicker information while they await the release of the PANORAMA.

We welcome any and all articles and photos from IAPP members for inclusion into the IAPP e-Monitor. This is a publication for the IAPP, by the IAPP, and about the IAPP.

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Alexander the Great



The square was overrun with school age children using their cell phones to take pictures of everything possible. Finding a vacant bench, I sat down and studied both the map and the pamphlets, one of which described a walking tour of the old bazaar and market. Being extremely fond of chestnuts, I couldn't leave the square until I purchased a bag of 30 to 40 roasted

chestnuts for 100 denar (approximately \$2). The man (3) selling the chestnuts was very friendly and agreed to have his photo taken.



From the square I crossed over the Old Stone Bridge (below) and tried to follow the walking tour route through the old bazaar (next page). I was doing fairly well until I came to a

fork in the road and couldn't decide which path to take. Since the signs were in Cyrillic they weren't much help, so I followed one path and ended up at the fortress which over looks the town. However, it was closed for renovations but the view from outside its walls was still nice.

I retraced my steps – sort of - to the fork. The road not taken led back into the bustle of the bazaar (P-4) which is made up of eateries of all kinds and hundreds of small shops selling everything imaginable. My favorite was a tin smith's shop where the smithy (next page) was working on what appeared to be parts of a stove. I asked if I could photograph him and he nodded in approval. I spent almost an hour watching and photographing his activities. I then continued my wanderings for the rest of the afternoon, enjoying the ambience and photographing sights in the bazaar. Before returning to the hostel I purchased some bananas, a sandwich, and a glass of grape juice in the market to hold me over until the next day.

In the morning I returned to Macedonia Square and bought some more roasted chestnuts. Then, with the walking tour book in hand, I made my way to the earthquake clock. The clock stopped at 5:17 July 26 during the 1963 earthquake and was never restarted. The book also pointed the way to the Mother Theresa Memorial House . Mother Theresa considered Skopje her home town and the memorial commemorates her life and works. Returning to Macedonia Square I again headed over the Old Stone Bridge into the old bazaar where



Old Stone Bridge



the old bazaar



the old bazaar, 2



tin smith



I encountered a vendor selling pants. The price was right, but all of the jeans were too long. He tried very hard to sell me the pants, but I had to decline his offer. Close by were a group of men involved in a shell game which I'm sure was rigged.

One of the highlights of the day was a late afternoon meal in a small eatery. The chef of this window-front restaurant was grilling chevapchichi which are small skinless hamburger-like franks made of veal and beef. I entered the restaurant and ordered four chevapchichi, fries, a casserole of baked lima beans and a Pepsi. I think it was really the baked lima beans that lured me inside. We got to

talking and the chef invited me to try my hand at cooking the chevapchichi. Since I was the only customer I took my time eating and enjoying the conversation. As usual I gave both the chef and waiter panoramic photographs of the USA.

The market, which I visited numerous times was also another joy of my trip to Skopje. All of the produce, condiments, meat and fish looked very appetizing. I can attest to the quality of the bananas since I purchased some every day I was there. The narrow aisles and overhead awnings made panoramic photography difficult. However, with the use of my tripod and a long exposure they turned out fairly well. Once the vendors knew I was from the USA they immediately responded that they liked Obama. After 3 full days I made arrangements to go to Ohrid which is a well known resort town situated on Lake Ohrid.

The ride from Skopje to Ohrid was very pleasant and uneventful. In fact, all of the long distance busses were very comfortable with lots of leg room and since they never more than half full, one could stretch out over 2 seats for a nice rest or sleep. The bus arrived in Ohrid in midmorning. My



the earthquake clock



Mother Theresa Memorial House



grilling chevapchichi



The market



The market, 2





The main walking street was very attractive and lined with pricey shops



twenty men sitting on a very long lakefront bench

destination, the Sunny Lake Hostel, was situated high on a hill, so I elected to take a cab. Taxi's are relatively cheap, so I treated myself and the driver quickly and easily found the hostel.

After checking in and stowing my gear, I walked down into town. The main walking street was very attractive and lined with pricey shops. Spotting a vendor selling roasted chestnuts, I of course, purchased a bag. However, they were not near as good as the ones I purchased in Skopje. I continued walking toward the lake and even though it was early November and really off-season, there were still a goodly number of shoppers and sightseers.

The walking street ended at Lake Ohrid, with a sculpture of St. Clement. Along the lake was a wide path and as I walked along it, I encountered a group of about twenty men sitting on a very long lakefront bench. They seemed to be divided into groups, conversing among themselves. I approached a group of six in the middle and asked if I could photograph them. I think they said it was okay so I proceeded to set up my camera, of course intending to include all the men in the picture. After positioning the Fuji 6x17, I got their attention and took the photo, even though the group on the right continued their conversations.

I followed the path (Marshal Tito Way) for a considerable distance and then retraced my steps back to the marina. Toward evening, while taking in the westward view, I couldn't resist photographing the setting sun which added a peaceful glow to Lake Ohrid.



The following day I explored more of the town and discovered two stone masons (P-14) carving tiles for a complex that was being renovated. I also visited the Ancient Theatre of Ohrid which is of Hellenistic origin. Back on the walking street it occurred to me that I needed to purchase some gifts; however, I was limited in time and I didn't want anything breakable. I chose a small shop that had some traditional dolls displayed and went in to look around. Little did I know that I would spend the next two and a half hours in the store while the proprietor filled me in on the history of Macedonia and even gave me some old photographs of her ancestors. To



Marshal Tito Way



two stone masons carving tiles for a complex



top it off, she outfitted me with a traditional hat and banner and then enlisted another customer to take our picture (left). I, of course, purchased the doll in the photograph.

Since I was catching an early bus to Albania, I regretfully said farewell to my new Macedonian friends and headed for the Sunny Lake Hostel and a good night's rest.

Offer to Membership

I have a few first edition copies of my book "Glacier Panorama" left in inventory, while the second edition is still selling quite well. [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) has used copies that often go for more than the original selling price of \$50.

I would like to donate autographed copies to any IAPP member contributing \$100 to the IAPP general fund as an assist in getting the next conference committed and scheduled.

Will Landon

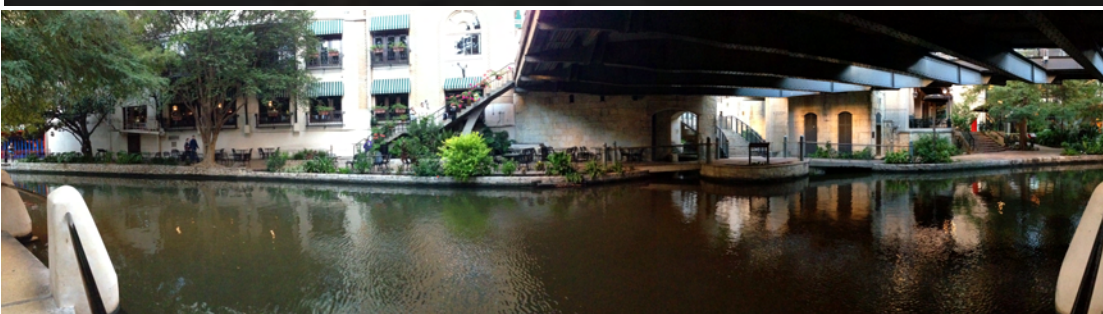
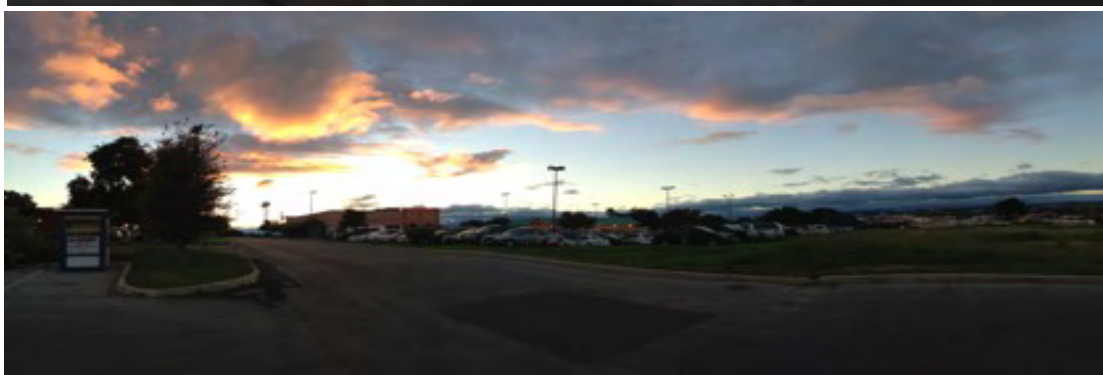
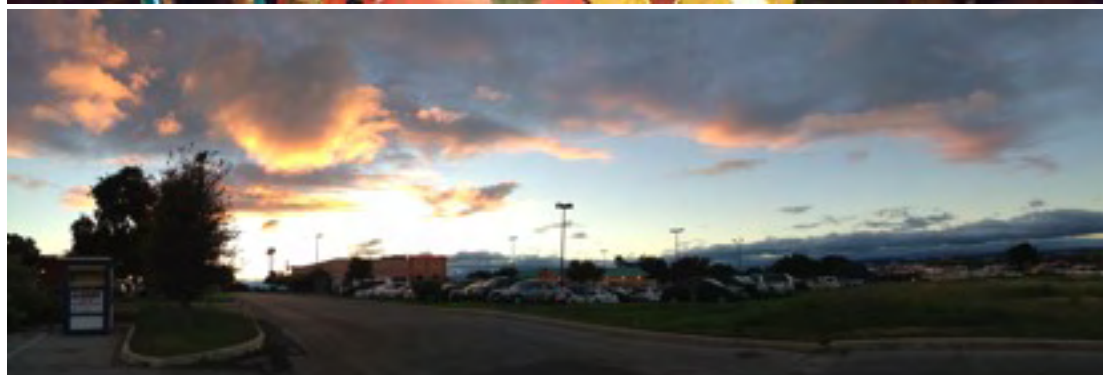
If interested contact the editor and I will contact Will and the IAPP Treasurer to make the deal.

iPhone 5 Panoramas

There are two types of people. One is the type who stands in line at 4:00 AM when the latest Apple product comes out in order to be one of the first to get the product; and the second is the rest of the world.

On September 21st, at 4:00 AM, I arranged my fold-up chair in the line that had formed before me as I awaited the opening of the store where I was to get my Apple's iPhone 5. Ok, I don't always await the debut of Apple products but my iPhone 3G was 3 1/2 years old and the ancient operating system would not run the upgraded apps that I had grown accustomed to. Nor could I purchase new apps because they would not work on the iOS 4.2 operating system (the last and latest that my old phone could use). So I had been waiting for a year for the iPhone 5 to come out before I used my every-two-year-get-an-upgrade from AT&T. I had a shoot scheduled at Mt. Wilson, Mt. Palomar, and Kitt Peak Observatories scheduled in two weeks and I wanted to have the upgraded phone and its associated apps before I left for the trip.

One of the features on the newest iPhone that I was anxious to test out was the 8 megapixel camera and its panoramic feature. These photos are some of the first I shot to test out this feature and I hope to have more from the trip next month.



Large Format Photography — Part IV

I began this experiment in large format photography not only to learn the vagaries of this type and style of image capture but also to help slow down my photographic workflow in the hope that, working step by step, I could prevent mistakes that had begun to creep into my digital imaging.

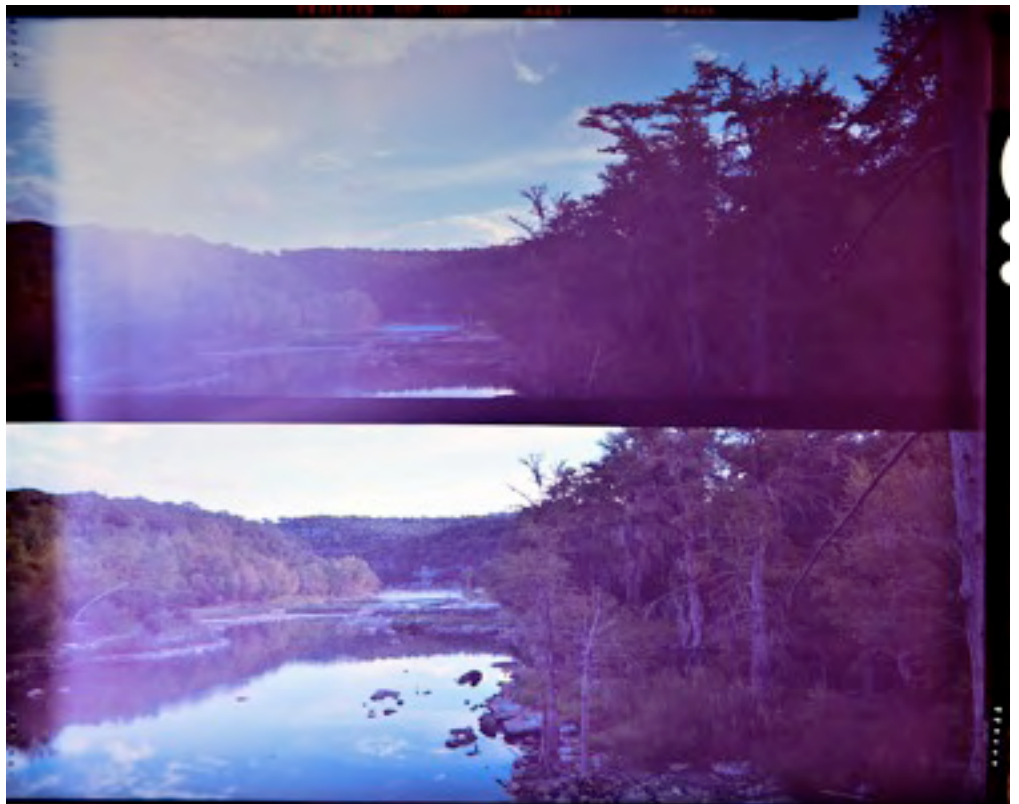
My results were mixed to say the least. I was able to teach myself the operation of LF lenses. I read and (for the most part) understood the operation of the manipulation of the front and rear standards and the change in image through rise/fall/tilt/shift and the various combinations of each. I was able to see the image in a whole new way by projecting it upside down onto the ground glass while crouched under a dark, hot, cloth. I could better vision the composition of the image as to line, shape, form, pattern, texture, and color rather than just seeing trees, water, grass and sky. I had full control of every aspect of the image, not just the ISO, color balance, shutter speed, and aperture. I could even cut the 4X5 frame into two horizontal images with a custom dark slide that allowed me to create panoramas with an aspect ratio of 1:2.5 in the camera. All of this should have led me to the conclusion that Large Format photography is the be-all and end-all of photography and that I should give up my digital and all other film cameras and spend the rest of my days climbing the Tetons with 35 pounds of photographic gear strapped on my back. But, alas, it did not.

Why? The answer to that question involves two diverse aspects — the camera and me.

First, the camera! Large format cameras are big and, compared to digital cameras, heavy. Granted, folding cameras are lighter than many monorail cameras, and are usually the preferred large format cameras

for the field, but I chose a monorail and, despite the warnings, I carried it and its tripod on my shoulders over hills and dales in search of the ideal large format image. Mistake #1. That was an aspect of the camera that caused me to believe that I might do better with light weight digital cameras or at least medium format film cameras; especially if my targets were quite far from my Jeep. While I write this I am picturing Will and Pat Landon carting 8X10 cameras and plate holders, and lenses on their backs as they wander up and down mountain ranges and I feel really embarrassed in my admission of weakness.

The second aspect of the camera that caused me to wonder whether or not LF photography was my bailiwick has to do with the glacially slow workflow that comes with working with LF cameras. I know — this was the exact reason that I began experimenting with LF photography — to slow down my digital workflow so that I could quit making the silly mistakes I was making while shooting digital. After all, photography should be about the journey not the destination. Actually, this was not that much of a problem. The problem was that I made a critical



mistake and that mistake was not the fault of the camera or LF photography, it was me (diverse aspect #2 and Mistake #2).

I coupled the desire to shoot panoramic photography with LF photography. This was my mistake. From the onset I was thinking about perverting the entire concept of LF photography into how to shoot pans with this equipment. I came up with the wonderful idea to alter the dark slide in the film holder to capture two panoramic images on one piece of film. I patted myself on the back when I came up with that idea (although I'm sure it has been done in the past by many other people). Unfortunately, I didn't do it correctly. Under Part III of this series I detailed the construction of the panoramic film holder but the result was a disaster. Light leaks ruined the resulting image and, as I sought to determine the reason, I might have mistakenly blamed the film holder for being old and worn out. Subsequent tests have determined that

the light leaks continued with other film holders. The only common aspect was the use of the "cut-in-half" panoramic dark slide that I had constructed to make the panoramic adapter for the Large Format camera. To determine the cause of the light leaks I will need to examine several possibilities, including light leaks in the bellows, the used film holders, and, not the least of the possibilities, the cut-in-half dark slide. I plan on attacking this problem as I get time, but for now, my experiment with panoramic large format photography must be deemed a failure. Well, perhaps not completely. I did get a greater appreciation of the slower workflow and plan to incorporate it into my photography with digital and medium format film.

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