

The Millennium Cross of Mount Vodno

Stretched out along the Vardar River, Skopje is a long and narrow city whose expansion to the south is hindered by the presence of Mount Vodno. We took a cable car to the mountain's summit for a close-up look of the Millennium Cross, and for a birds-eye view over the region.



Erected to commemorate 2000 years of Christianity in Macedonia, the Millennium Cross is among the largest religious monuments in the world, measuring in at 66 meters (217 feet). By comparison, Rio de Janeiro's famous Cristo Redentor reaches just 30 meters. The Millennium Cross is visible for miles around, particularly at night, when it's illuminated by bright yellow lights.

The cross is impressive, but it was bound to be controversial in multi-ethnic Macedonia. The prominent hilltop location was seen by the country's significant Muslim population as a provocation, especially since the project was partially funded by the Macedonian government.