

## Hagia Sofia, Ohrid, North Makadonia

Built on the foundations of a metropolitan cathedral that was demolished by Barbarians in the sixth century, Hagia Sofia in Ohrid was constructed in the late first millennium after the Bulgarian Empire converted officially to Christianity. Perhaps it was built under the rule of King Boris in the late ninth century, but that is unknown. However in the late tenth century it is known that Hagia Sofia was rebuilt under the reign of Czar Samuil becoming the seat of the Bulgarian Patriarchate. Later it became the seat of the Archbishopric of Ohrid until the 18th century under the Patriarchate of Constantinople.

Like many churches during the Ottoman Empire, Hagia Sofia was converted to a mosque in the mid 14th century and remained under their rule until 1912. Luckily, frescoes from the 11th to 13th century were preserved, a record of some of the most significant examples of Byzantine art of the era.

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