B&B and Adventure Guidebook

Пътувания за гостоприемство и приключения

105 Charming B&B and small hotels
Къщи за гости и малки хотели
Използвани символи / Symbols used in the guide

За мястото за настаняване / Symbols Accommodation

- [ ] Брой стаи × брой легла
  Number of rooms × Number of beds
- [ ] Общи санитарни възли
  Rooms with shared bath and shower
- [ ] Собствени санитарни възли
  Rooms with private bath and shower
- [ ] Предела се храна
  Food can be served
- [ ] Може да се ползва интернет
  INTERNET available
- [ ] Климатик
  Air conditioned
- [ ] Има каминна или барбекю
  Fireplace / barbeque available
- [ ] Паркинг
  Parking available
- [ ] Може клиентите да си готвят
  Opportunity to cook your own meals
- [ ] Може да се ползва хладилник
  Refrigerator available
- [ ] Може да се ползва пералня
  Laundry service available
- [ ] Може да се ползва телефон
  Telephone available
- [ ] Може да се гледа телевизия
  TV / cable available

За обекти и дейности в района – с разстояние в километри
Interesting sites and activities in the area: distances in km

- [ ] Пещера
  Cave
- [ ] Минерален извор
  Mineral spring
- [ ] Маркирана пешеходна пътека/екопътека
  Marked eco trail/path
- [ ] Музей, къща-музей
  Museum, house museum
- [ ] Паметник
  Monument
- [ ] Информационен център
  Tourist information center
- [ ] Плаж
  Beach
- [ ] Басейн
  Swimming pool
- [ ] Възможности за риболов
  Fishing

Цена
Price

Нощувка на човек в двойна стая
Overnight stay p.p. in double room
Драги пътешественици

В месеците преди това натежало от мисли за кризата лято, събда бе отведе из четири краяща на нашата съвсем не малка за истински пътешественик страна. Паралелно с приключенската програма (колела, каяк, рафтинг, коне, парапланер, планински обувки, снегоходки, ски) като на кадри от стара лента пред мен изникнах долмените на Сакар, кромлехът в Източните Родопи, Добруджанската степ, килиите на монасите в Поломието, бубарските къщи в с. Мандрица, Белоградчишките скали и бай Тодор, чичко полицай и двамата му весели другари в ролята на овчари през свободното им време, майстор Енчо с възрожденските му мустаци, вълните на прибоя при Крапец и делтата на Велека, една ферма за миди, пейзажите на Западните Родопи, Великата рилска пустиня през зимата, варовиковите отвеси на Враца, мраморът на Вихрен, Карандила над Сливен, Ичера, хижа Рай, хижа Ехо, покривите на Ковачевица.

Виртуално и наистина. Имаш нужда от тези срещи. Имам нужда от такова зареждане, защото всяко нещо е част от пътя, който сами избирахме стъпвачка по стъпвачи. Аз и екипът на Българската асоциация за алтернативен туризъм вече повече от десетилетие следваме този път - да окуражаваме носителите на автентичната българска традиция в гостоприемството и кухнята, в правенето на органично вино, в създаването на програми, които да подчертаат българския духовен принос в европейската култура и да представят увлекателно най-доброто от българската природа. Един като цяло бутиков продукт, изпълнен в една далеч от идеална, доста хаотична и в известна степен дори отчайваща бизнес среда.

Пътеводителят, който сега държите в ръце, в този смисъл, макар и без да е изчерпателен, съдържа всички съставки и подправки, за да си забъркате сами една вкусна, а някои дори биха казали екзотична манджа от приключения. От нея биха се носили и мириси с ориенталски нотки и фини плодови аромати, както и дъхът на дим, защото пътуването в България и днес до голяма степен съдържа нещо магическо и непредвидимо. Това, което обичам и търся при всичките ми странствия по била и междуселски пътеки, е човека. А той в България, дори и да е крайно подозрителен, носи със себе си нещо от духа, от бита и от навиците на онези, старите народи и култури, срещаш с които е истинската причина да се пътува и да се ... живее.

Това е: 150 адреса на гостоприемството и приключенията, в които трябва да се приберат, ако искате да се случи европейското бъдеще на България. Малка извадка от колодата, но 100% успешни като екипи и бизнес хора от защитените територии и общинските администрации, къщи за гости и бутикови хотели, изби, ресторанти, туроператори, информационни, приключенски и природозащитни центрове.

На добър път!

Любомир Попйорданов
Председател на УС на БААТ, издател
Dear Traveller,

The past few months had kept me in contemplation about the global crisis, till fate brought me to the far ends of our still-unexplored country. Together with thrilling memories of various outdoor adventures like cycling, kayaking, rafting, horseback riding, paragliding, hiking, snowshoeing and skiing, several snapshots appeared in my mind: the dolmens of Sakar Mountain, the cromlech in the eastern Rodopi, the Dobrudja steppe, the monk cells in Polomieto, silkworm houses in the small village of Mandritsa, the natural wonders of the Belogradchik rocks, a policeman and his two colleagues working as shepherds in their free time, master Encho with his impressive Revival-era moustache, the crashing waves near Krapets, the delta of River Veleka, an oyster farm, the landscapes of the western Rhodope Mountains, the winter desert of Rila Mountain, the limestone cliffs of Vratsa, the marble of Vihren, the Karandila region near Sliven, the village of Ichera, Rai and Eho mountain lodges, the roofs of Kovachevitsa. At once a real and a virtual tour.

I needed such encounters. I needed this reviving energy, because everything is part of the path we chose to walk, step by step. The team at Bulgarian Association of Alternative Tourism and I have followed this path for more than a decade, in order to encourage owners of authentic, traditional guesthouses and restaurants, or those making organic wine, developing cultural programmes or offering exciting tours in the lush Bulgarian nature. BAAT is a boutique product, developed in an idealistic, rather chaotic and sometimes disappointing business environment.

The guidebook you are holding consists of all the necessary ingredients for an unforgettable, even exotic, experience. Travelling in Bulgaria still contains a magical and enigmatic essence, filled with oriental scents and the taste of fresh-cut wood. But what I most value and seek in our rural villages is humankind, and in Bulgaria, this is a humanity who, despite, being a bit suspicious, holds onto something in common with the spirit, lifestyle and character of the ancient societies and cultures that are the main driving force of our travel... and of life.

This is a listing of 150 accommodation and adventure providers that we need to support for the European future of Bulgaria. It represents only a fraction of the continued devotion of the country’s business teams, individuals, local authorities, guesthouses and boutique hotels, wineries, restaurants, tour operators, and visitor, adventure and nature-conservation centres.

Bon Voyage!

Lubomir Popiordanov
BAAT Chairman, Publisher
PRACTICAL INFORMATION for foreign visitors

Arrival Formalities

Citizens of EU-member countries enter Bulgaria with their Identity Card. EU and EEA citizens, as well as citizens from USA, Japan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Israel can stay in Bulgaria visa-free from 30 up to 90 days depending on the country of origin. All other citizens need a valid international passport and a visa to enter the country. Visas are not issued at the border, so nationals from other countries should contact the nearest Bulgarian embassy or consulate about specific visa requirements.

Border Checkpoints into and out Bulgaria by air and sea:

- Vidin (ferry from Kalafat, Romania), Orahovo (ferry from Beket, Romania), Rousse, Silistra, Kardam, Durankulak (from Romania);
- Malko Turnovo, Lesovo, Kapitan Andrevevo (from Turkey);
- Svilengrad, Kulata, Ilimdentsi (from Greece);
- Gueshevo, Stanke Lisichkovo, Strumeshnitsa (from the Republic of Macedonia);
- Calotina, Vrashka Chuka, Bregovo (from Serbia and Montenegro).

Border Checkpoints into and out Bulgaria by road:

- Airports of Sofia, Varna, Burgas (open all year around) and Plovdiv (open only for winter charter flights - Dec-Apr)
- Ports of Varna and Burgas.

Money

The national currency is the “Lev” (BGN). One Lev comprises of 100 Stotinki. Foreign currency is exchanged at banks or exchange offices. Banks are advisable since ex-change offices may charge commission or fees despite the signs to the contrary. Banks generally offer higher exchange rates but charge commission, while most foreign exchange offices don’t charge commission or fees. Read the terms and conditions for the exchange transaction very carefully and the final amount you will be offered before you actually exchange the money. The most common type of payment in Bulgaria is in cash (in the local currency). Foreign currencies are very rarely accepted and, if accepted, they will be restricted to the U.S. Dollar or Euro. Credit cards are accepted at top hotels and restaurants, big gas stations and supermarket chains. ATMs can be found in all cities and resorts.

Payment by cheque is generally not common in Bulgaria. Some exchange offices accept travellers’ cheques.

Languages

Bulgarian is a Slavic language. If you speak or have some knowledge of another Slavic language, you will find it easier to communicate with the locals.

English is the most common foreign language. Almost all young people in the cities speak English. French, German or Russian are also spoken. However, it is very difficult to find anyone who speaks foreign languages in rural areas. Generally, most people in resorts and other tourists areas speak foreign languages. You won’t find communication very difficult because Bulgarians are very hospitable, open and friendly and they will try to establish contact and help out even when they do not speak the language.

There are a few important tips to make your communication with Bulgarians more successful. The handshake is typical when someone is introduced or when one says “hello” and “good-bye”. Hugging and kissing are common only among people who are very close to one another. Remember that Bulgarians shake heads to say “yes” and nod to say “no”, that can be quite confusing for foreigners; We advise you to use simple words, if you know some, or body language to avoid misunderstandings.

Opening Hours

Government institutions and businesses generally work from 8.30 or 9.00. to 17.00 or 17.30 at weekdays (Mon – Fri). Opening hours of embassies may vary, but they usually accept visitors for two hours in the morning and in the afternoon.

Banking hours are generally from 9 a.m. to 17.00 – 18.00 p.m. at weekdays and all banks have at least one branch open on Saturday with a reduced working time (usually till 16.00)

Shops and exchange offices typically have longer opening hours, up to 18.00 or 20.00. Some may operate shorter at weekends, mostly on Sunday. There are 24 - hour pharmacies, exchange offices and grocery stores in most big cities and resorts.

Communications

Bulgaria has a well-developed telephone network. There are three mobile operators - Mtel, Globul and Vivatel, which offer good network coverage and services all around the country. All the operators offer pre-paid cards with a top-up system and can be bought at kiosks or shops selling mobile phones. You can also make phone calls with public pay phones which use coins or cards. Phone cards can be purchased at almost all kiosks around the city. Post offices are places not only for sending mail, but also for making phone calls.

A cheaper way to make international phone calls is to use internet phone booths which are found in internet clubs in most cities and especially the resorts. Internet clubs are widely spread and have long and convenient opening hours. Internet cafes are also common in city centers and popular tourist areas.

Getting Around

Bulgaria has a well-developed public transport network. The bus routes connect all cities and towns, even the small villages. Services are frequent, especially between major cities like Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna, Burgas, and there is plenty of companies that operate at a daily basis. Prices are very reasonable and tickets can be purchased at the bus stations or on the bus.

The railroad network is well developed, too. It serves all regional centres, except for Smolian. Trains for small railroads are not very frequent, typically once a day. Tickets are purchased only at the train stations, but if you get on the train without a ticket you can still buy one from the conductor at a higher price.

Hitch-hiking is an easy and accepted way to get around especially in the countryside. Cycling and hiking are also popular and pleasant way to get around within smaller distances.

Rent-a-car services are provided in all big cities and resorts. The prices depend on the car brand but a common practice is to pay deposit and some daily fee paid in advance. You will be asked to show a valid driving license (international driving license is accepted).

The deposit is refunded upon return of the car provided that no damage has been caused.

Bulgaria drives on the right. Speed limits for - cars and vehicles with up to eight seats are 50 kph within built-up areas, 90 kph on other roads, and 130 kph on highways. Safety belts are obligatory.
Taxis are quite sufficient in number in big cities but there may be shortage in some frequently visited tourist communities. Rates are paid per kilometre and differ widely. For this reason one should look at the price list on the sticker placed on the front window or the dashboard. It has been common for taxis at railway stations and airports to cheat tourists and ask for much higher price than stated. Although nowadays most big taxi companies are reliable, always insist on the meter being switched on and do not accept a bargain price set in advance.

The public transport inside most cities consists of buses and trolley buses. Sofia has also trams, underground and minibuses called "marshrutka" that seat up to 15 passengers and follow specific routes set in advance. The minibuses do not have exact stops, so you need to wave at one. Then you can inform the driver where you want to get off. The ticket is 1.50 Leva and it can be purchased from a kiosk, the driver or from the ticket machines inside the vehicle (only available in trams and trolley buses). The ticket needs to be punched upon boarding. It may seem easier in other cities in Bulgaria since you can buy your ticket from the conductor on the bus/trolley bus or buy it in advance from a kiosk.

Getting around in Sofia can be a bit frustrating for tourists because many signs are missing and there are generally no maps (except for the underground). Do not hesitate to ask anybody on the streets, but choose for younger people as they speak English better.

**Useful Numbers**

In order to dial a number in Bulgaria, first dial the country code (+359) and then the city code without the zero in front of it. Dialling within the country starts with the city code including zero and then the telephone number. For international calls, first dial "00" and then the respective country code.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>150</td>
<td>Ambulance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>156</td>
<td>Police/Traffic Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>112</td>
<td>Emergency Number*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Although the European emergency number 112 has been recently introduced in Bulgaria, it is still not so widely used and so it is recommended to try the other numbers first.

**The Cyrillic alphabet**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cyrillic</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Аа</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>father</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Бб</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>bath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Вв</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>vet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Гг</td>
<td>g</td>
<td>get</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Дд</td>
<td>d</td>
<td>dog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ее</td>
<td>e</td>
<td>pen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Жж</td>
<td>zh</td>
<td>in &quot;s&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Зз</td>
<td>z</td>
<td>in &quot;oo&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ии</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>big</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Йй</td>
<td>y, &quot;y&quot;</td>
<td>geese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Кк</td>
<td>k</td>
<td>in &quot;kit&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Лл</td>
<td>l</td>
<td>unlike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Мм</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>mouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Нн</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>not</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Оо</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>got</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Bulgarian words and Phrases**

**Basics**

- Do you speak English/German/French?  
  - Govorite li angliiski/ nemski/ frenski?
- Yes  - OK  
  - Da - dobre
- No/ not  
  - Ne
- I (don’t) understand  
  - (Ne) razbiram
- Please  
  - Molya -
- Excuse me  
  - Izninetе
- Thank you  
  - Blagodarya
- You’re welcome  
  - Nyama zashto
- My name is...  
  - Kazvam se...
- Please to meet you  
  - Priyatno mi e da se zapoznam
- I am from England/Germany/France  
  - Az sum ot Angliya/Germaniya/Frantsiya
- How are you?  
  - Kak ste?
- What’s up?  
  - Kakvo ima? Kakvo stava?
- Hi!  
  - Zdravei!
- Good morning!  
  - Dobro utro!
- Good afternoon/ evening!  
  - Dobur Den/ vecher!
- Good night!  
  - Leka nosht!
- Goodbye!  
  - Daite mi, molya!
- Bye!  
  - Chao!
- See you later!  
  - Do skoro!
- Come here  
  - Haide!
- Come on!  
  - That’s enough!

**Requests**

- Have you got?  
  - Imate li?
- A single/ double room  
  - Staya s edno leglo/ dve legla
- Where can I buy...?  
  - Kude moga da kupya ...
- The bill please!  
  - Smetkata, molya!
- How many/ how much?  
  - Kolko?
- It’s very expensive!  
  - Mnogo e skupo!
- Please give me...  
  - Daite mi ...
- Can I reserve?  
  - Mozhe li da rezerviram?

**Signs**

- Entrance/ Exit  
  - ВХОД/ ИЗХОД
- Open/ closed  
  - ОТВОРЕНО/ ЗАТВОРЕНО
- Vacant / occupied  
  - СВОБОДНО / ЗАЕТО
- Day off  
  - ПОЧИВЕН ДЕН
- Pause / lunch break  
  - ДОКУКЕ
- Attention / danger  
  - ВНИМАНИЕ / ОПАСНО
Getting about

Here

There

How can I get there?

Where is the nearest hospital/post office/pharmacy?

Which bus to the center?

Is this the bus for?

Is this the train for ...?

Where are you going?

Is it near?

Where do I get off for ...?

Stop!

Are there connections for?

Where do I change?

Which platform for the ... train?

Time and dates

What's the time?

When?

Today/ tomorrow

Yesterday

Numbers

1 edno, edin, edna
2 dve, dva
3 tri
4 chetiri
5 pet
6 shest
7 sedem
8 osem
9 devet
10 deset
11 edinadeset (edin-nadeset)
12 dvanadeset (dva-nadeset)
13 trinadeset (tri-nadeset)
14 chetirinadeset (chetiri-nadeset)
15 petnadeset (pet-nadeset)
16 shestnadeset (shest-nadeset)
17 sedemnadeset (seden-nadeset)
18 osemnadeset (osem-nadeset)
19 devetnadeset (devet-nadeset)
20 dvadeset
21, 22, ... dvadeset i edno, dvadeset i dve, ...
30 trideset
31, 32, ... trideset i edno, trideset i dve ...
40 chetirdeset
50 petdeset (pet-deset)
60 shestdeset (shest-deset)
70 sedemdeset (sedem-deset)
80 osemdeset (osem-deset)
90 devetdeset (devet-deset)
100 sto
101, 102, ... sto i edno, sto i dve, ...
110, ... sto i deset, ...
125, 135 sto dvaiset i pet, sto triiset i pet, ...
500 petstotin (pet-stotin)
1000 hilyada
Фестивали за класическа, джаз музика и рок
Мартенски музикални дни (Русе) – посл. две седмици на март (www.marchmusicsdays.eu)
София Джаз Пийк (София) - март/апril (www.sofiajazzpeak.org)
Международен Джаз-фест (Банскоско) - август
Фестивал на изкуствата Аполония (Созопол) - август
Международен фолклорен фестивал “Пирин Фолк” (Сандански) – юни/август
Национален фолклорен фестивал (Неделино) – септември
Фестивал на ромска култура “Огнени искри” (Сопот) – септември
Фестивал за стари градски песни “Дунавски спомени” (Силистра) – септември
Национални културни праздници (Албена) – септември
Празници на Смолян
Фолклорни Фестивали
Фолклорен събор Балканфолк (Банкя) – юли/август (www.balkanfolk.com)
Национален фолклорен събор „Рожен” (Рожен) – август (www.rozhen.info)
Традиционен събор на караачаните (Карандила) – юли
Празници на розата (Казанлък) – май/юни (www.kazanlak.com/rozefestival)
Нестинарски игри (България) – юни
Международен фолклорен фестивал (Еднолак) – юли/август
Фестивал на македонската песен “Пирин Фолк” (Сандански) – юли/август
Международен фолклорен фестивал (Пловдив) – юли/август
Фестивал на македонската песен “Пирин Фолк” (Сандански) – юли/август
Международен фолклорен фестивал на септември
Фестивал за стара музика и рок (Пловдив) – юли/август
Класически фестивали:
Фестивал на червено вино (Рожен) – юли/август
София Джаз Пийк – май/юни (www.sofiajazzpeak.org)
Фестивал на разновидности (Албена) – юли/август
Традиционен фолклорен фестивал на септември
Класически, JAZZ music and Rock Festivals
International Festival of Jazz and Rock Bands in Каварна – септември
Internatloneal Jazz Festival `Plovdiv Jazz Nights’ (Plovdiv) – October
National Jazz Meeting (Russe) – November/December
International Rock Festival “Balkrokk” (Berkovitsa) – July (www.berkrock.dir.bg)
Rila Rock Festival (Beli iskar) – August (kaliakra.rockfesct.com)
Plovdiv Rock-Fest (Plovdiv) – September
Kaliakra Rick Fest (Kavarna) – July (www.kaliakra.rockfest.com)
Folklore Festivals
Folklore Assembly Balkanfolk (Bankya) – July (www.balkanfolk.com)
National Folklore Assembly Rozhen (Rozhen) – August (www.rozhen.info/index.html)
Karachanli Traditional Festival (Karakandila) – July
Folklore Assembly Balkanfolk (Bankya) – July (www.balkanfolk.com)
National Folklore Assembly Rozhen (Rozhen) – August (www.rozhen.info/index.html)
Karachanli Traditional Festival (Karakandila) – July
Rose Carnival (Kazanluk) – May/June (www.rose-festival.com)
Fire Dancers Festival (Bulgari) – June
International Music Festival ‘Varna Summer’ (Varna) – July (www.varnasmmerfestival.org)
Gipsy Music Festival (Stara Zagora) – August
International Folklore Festival (Veliko Tarnovo) – July/August (www.d-soft.org/projects/iff/)
International Folklore Festival (Plovdiv) – July/August
Macedonian Songs Festival Pirin Folk (Sandanski) – September
National Folklore Festival (Nedelino) – September
Roma Festival “Ogneni Iskri” (Sopot) – September
International Old Fashion Songs Festival Danubes Memory (Silistra) – September
National Culture Celebration (Albena) – September 20-30
Smolian Town Celebration (Smolian) – June
Woodcarving Festival (Burzi) – October
International Roma Folklore Festival (Vidin) – October
Devin Town and Mineral Water Celebration (Devin) – October
Tran Town Celebration (Tran) – October
Christmas Festival (Russe) – December
Red Wine Celebration (Sandanski) – December

Specific Events
Trifon Zarezan – February 14
“Todorov den” Horse Racing – First Saturday after Long Lent
“Gergyovden” Sacrifices and Feasting (Ethnography Complex Etura, Gabrovo) – May
Traditional Festival Ilinden (Gela) – Early August
Traditional International Happening with participation of Germany, Poland, Serbia, Russian, Macedonia (Roten – August
Goljama Bogoroditsa (Parade of Icons at Trojan, Bachkovo and Rila Mon.) – August 15
International Traditional Celebration of Shiroka Laka (Shiroka Laka) – August 15

14

15
**Green Lodge**, a quality-accommodation standard for bed-and-breakfasts and guest-houses, distinguishes holiday facilities that place an emphasis on outstanding hospitality, care for the natural environment and a traditional representation of ethno-graphic diversity in their enterprise. The standard puts into practice the internationally recognised European Centre for Ecological and Agricultural Tourism (ECEAT) quality label in Bulgaria. It has two grades – Nomination and Certificate. Facilities that receive a Nomination meet the basic ECEAT criteria and demonstrate their efforts for sustainable development; the recognition is valid for a three-year period. The Green Lodge Certificate itself fulfils the ECEAT Special Criteria for significant contribution to nature conservation and sustainable development.

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Sofia
the insider's guide

spring 2009

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Photo: L. Popiordanov

СЕВЕРОЗАПАДНА
България

NORTH-WESTERN
Bulgaria
To the west of Iskar Gorge, between the Balkan Range and the Danube, one can find carpets and wine, caves and monasteries, fortresses and nature reserves. Start by going through Petrohan Pass or taking a diversion via Botevgrad – everything else is a matter of choice. On the highway from Sofia to Varna, travellers can turn off at the Botevgrad exit and choose a destination of their choice.

Vrachanski Balkan Nature Park is interesting with its limestone formations and Ledenika Cave, as well as its four educational trails revealing the biodiversity in this part of the Balkan Range.

Old fortresses are located in the western-most part of the region: Baba Vida Fortress on the Danube River, and Belogradchik and Kula fortresses. Their builders were remarkable masters in blending the forms of the natural landscape with the fortifications’ walls, thus creating a sense of both security and beauty.

Several monasteries, each beautiful and interesting in its own way, are huddled in the outskirts of the Balkan Range. The monasteries of Cherepish, Osenovlag, Klisura, Lopushna, Dobri Dol, Rabisha and Chiprovtsi reveal fresh perspectives on the religion and history of Bulgaria. Accommodation is available in the monasteries of Lopushna, Dobri Dol, Klisura and Osenovlag.

Thrill-seekers can test their climbing skills at Vratsata, where the impressive cliffs offer some of the most impressive climbing sites in Europe, or at Lakatnik and Karlukovo, where rock climbing can be combined with potholing in dark caves. Near Mount Vola, in the Vratsa ridges of the Balkan Range, there are two runs for flying delta- and paragliders. Iskar River is a traditional place for whitewater rafting in the gorge (above Mezdra), and for kayaking from Karlukovo to the Danube or rowing where the river broadens.

More relaxed holidaymakers can walk underground in the caves of Ledenika and Magurata or follow the eco-trails across the Belogradchik rocks. Vurshts is regaining its old glory as one of the best climatic and spa resorts in the country.

The carpets from Chiprovtsi are uniquely Bulgarian. Many houses in the town and the surrounding villages keep looms in operation, where one can try to learn weaving or buy a ready-made carpet that is a genuine piece of art. Local handicrafts can be viewed in the village of Pavolche, Vratsa region, at the Centre for Handicrafts.

A place not to be missed is the Museum of History in Vratsa, where exhibited Thracian treasures of both Rogozen and Vulchitrun are breathtaking in their exquisiteness.

The picture would be incomplete without a visit to the home of the Bulgarian wine grape variety called gamza, from Novo Selo. Here visitors can see the pre-historic wall paintings in Magurata Cave, which also serves to house sparkling wine from the region. Another option is hiking to the highest peaks of western part of the Balkan Range – Midjir (2166 m), Kom (2016 m.) and Todorini kukli (1785 m.).

In the wintertime, Berkovitsa offers outstanding skiing at affordable prices, whilst at the end of July, the Berkrock music festival takes place.

The region has three visitor centres: Vratsa, Berkovitsa and Belogradchik, where tourists can obtain further information.
Историческият музей

Видин/Vidin - 49 км
София/Sofia - 212 км

За улеснение на посетителите, за резервация в хотели и къщи за гости, както и за допълнителна информация и услуги, в града функционира Туристически информационен център Белоградчик

Ул. “Поручик Дворянов” 1A
Тел.: 0936 532 91
e-mail: ticbelogradchik@gmail.com

Белоградчик е град с хилядолетна история и център на община в Северозападна България. Белоградчишките скали, пещерата Магурата и бутиковите винарски изби превръщат малкото китно градче в истински магнит за ценителите на природните красоти и виното.

Природният феномен Белоградчишки скали е едно от 77-те природни чудеса на света, които участват в световната класификация “Новите 7 чудеса на природата”. Обявени са за защитена местност през 1949 г. Дело на силата на вятъра и вода, скалният феномен има над 230 млн. години история. Тази скална приказка се простира на 30 км дължина и 6-7 ширина. Условно тази територия се разделя на три групи: Фалковска, Централна и Збеговска. Неповторимите „огромни червени скали” наподобяват гигантски скулптурни фигури, митични същества и хора, които, покрай безлюдността, имитират животни и птици, за които през вековете се разказва множество легенди. Най-дълбоките и непознати зверове и птици, за които през вековете се разказва множество легенди.

Най-известният паметник на културата в града е Белоградчишката крепост. Тази твърдина е била изградена сред непристижимите скали още преди образуването на българската държава, когато Балканският полуостров е бил в пределите на Римската империя (I-III в. сл. Хр.), на мястото на древно тракийско светилище. Крепостта е обявена за паметник на културата с национално значение през 1985 г. Други значими паметници на културата в града са: Пановата къща, строена около 1810 г., ярък образец на западнобалканския Възрожденски стил в архитектурата. В нея се помещава Историческият музей. Експозицията му отразява бита, поминъка и борбите на населението от този край през XVIII и XIX в.

Пановата къща, строена около 1810 г., ярък образец на западнобалканския Възрожденски стил в архитектурата. В нея се помещава Историческият музей. Експозицията му отразява бита, поминъка и борбите на населението от този край през XVIII и XIX в.

Джамията „Хаджи Хюсеин” (1751 г.) е единствената в страната с таван от българска дърворезба.

Пещерата „Козарника” обитавана от първия заселник в Европа през преди 1,6 млн. години.

“Перлата” в короната от пещери в района е Магурата. Тя се намира до село Рабиша, на 25 км северозападно от град Белоградчик и на 35 км от град Видин. Паметник на културата и национален туристически обект, тя е една от най-големите в България. Изпълнена е през 2007 г. от момичета и момчета, които през вековете са се разказва за такива легенди и митове, за които през вековете се разказва за такива легенди и митове, за които през вековете се разказва за такива легенди и митове.

През 2008 г. община Белоградчик спечели първо място на национално ниво в конкурса EDEN-2007-2008 (Опипа европейска туристическа дестинация). Общината бе отличена с наградата за България и ще се състезава с още 19 страни от ЕС.

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Ул."Поручик Дворянов” 1A
Тел.: 0936 532 91
e-mail: ticbelogradchik@gmail.com
NEITHER THE FAMOUS OLIVIÈLES GORGES IN PROVENCE, THE PINCARBO DÉFILÉ IN SPAIN, THE ALPS, THE PYRÉNÉES, NOR THE MOST ANCIENT MOUNTAINS OF TIROL AND SWITZERLAND POSSESS ANYTHING THAT COULD BE COMPARED TO WHAT I HAVE SEEN IN BELOGRADCHIK.

Jérôme-Adolphe Blanqui, 1841, French Traveller and Diplomat

NEITHER THE FAMOUS OLIVIÈLES GORGES IN PROVENCE, THE PINCARBO DÉFILÉ IN SPAIN, THE ALPS, THE PYRÉNÉES, NOR THE MOST ANCIENT MOUNTAINS OF TIROL AND SWITZERLAND POSSESS ANYTHING THAT COULD BE COMPARED TO WHAT I HAVE SEEN IN BELOGRADCHIK.

Belogradchik, a town with a thousand-year-old history, is a municipal centre in north-western Bulgaria. The Belogradchik rocks, Magura Cave and the boutique wineries turn the small picturesque town into a real magnet for nature- and wine-lovers.

The natural phenomenon of the Belogradchik rocks has been a designated protected zone since 1949; it covers an area 30 kilometres long and 3 to 6 kilometres wide. Created by the power of wind and water, the fairytale-like rocks have more than 200 million years of history. The bizarre formations resemble giant figures, mythical creatures and people, thus serving as the inspiration for many legends in past centuries. The territory can be divided into three groups: Falkovska, Tsentralna (Central) and Zbegovska. The most majestic and famous of all are the pillars of the Central group, which are named after the shapes they take: the Madonna, the Monks, the Horse Rider, the Schoolgirl, the Bear, the Shepherd, Adam and Eve, the Mushrooms, Orpheus, etc.

The most significant historical site in the town itself is the Belogradchik Fortress, tucked into the inaccessible rocks at the location of an old Thracian sanctuary. Older than the Bulgarian state, the fortress dates back to the times when the Roman Empire ruled over the Balkan Peninsula (AD 1st to 3rd c). The site was listed as a monument of culture of national significance in 1985.

Other significant monuments of culture include:
- **The Panova House**, built in about 1810, which is a great example of the western Balkan architectural style. Today, it houses the history museum with an exhibition of the lifestyle, work and battles of the local population during the 18th and 19th centuries.
- **Hadji Hussein Mosque** (1751), the only mosque in the country with a Bulgarian wooden-carved ceiling.
- **Kozarnika Cave**, which was inhabited by the first settlers of Europe some 1.4 million years ago.

Near the village of Rabisha, 25 kilometres north-west of Belogradchik and 35 kilometres from the city of Vidin, hides the pearl of the caves — Magura Cave. A monument of culture and a national tourist site, it is one of the largest and most important historical caves in Bulgaria.

Magura Cave is home to unique rock paintings, some of which are more than 12,000 years old, and considered some of the oldest in Europe. Painted with bat excrement, they portray religious and hunting scenes, notes of numeric information, dancing females and males, hunters, animals, plants, stars and tools. Of particular interest to visitors is the 5500-year-old annual solar calendar from the late Æneolithic (Copper Age) and early Bronze Age.

For additional visitor information, reservations for hotels and guesthouses, and other tourism services, contact:

**Visitor Centre Belogradchik**

1a, Poruchik Dvoryanov Str.
Tel: 0936/532 91

ticbelogradchik@gmail.com

Contact person: Radoslav Mitov — 088/443 62 57

In 2008 Belogradchik Municipality have won the 1st place in the national level of the competition EDEN 07/08 (European Destination of Excellence). The municipality will compete with 19 other countries in EU.
Belogradchik
Hotel-tavern Madona

To wake up and get a glimpse of the red rock fairy tale! The family hotel located in a small quiet street at the upper end of Belogradchik is the good place to view the fortress and the surrounding miracles of nature at leisure. Madona offers warm hospitality of the hosts, a cozy dining room and a yard lush with flowers and interesting wood and ceramic decorations. You can visit nearest fortress, Belogradchishkite rocks and Magurata cave.

Phone: 0936 55 546; Fax: 0936 55 646
E-mail: madonainn@yahoo.com
www.madonainn-bg.com

Радослав Младенов / Radoslav Mladenov
26, Hristo Botev Str., Belogradchik

Falkovets
Madona Inn

Falkovets is a hamlet formed around an inn where people used to take a rest on the road to the former market in Ruzhintsi. For this reason, the Mladenovi family decided to expand its business with the Madona Inn in Belogradchik by building a small hotel. The investment is worth it — they use energy-saving technologies, solar panels and a small reed plantation for purification of waste waters. In the yard there is space for camping and caravaning — in general, they take thought for the future.

Phone: 0894 774746
Fax: 0936 55646
E-mail: info@hanmadona.com
www.hanmadona.com

Радослав Младенов / Radoslav Mladenov
**Vidin**

**The Old Town Hotel**

Old Town Hotel is a small boutique hotel, located in a restored early 20th-century building where a rich trader from Vidin lived. The original collection of works by famous Vidin artists, silk wallpapers and splendid greenery are only a small part of the hotel’s charm. It is located right in across from Stambol Kapiya — one of the preserved gates of the medieval fortress Kaleto. Vidin’s centre and the Danube riverside park are in immediate proximity. Be welcome!

**Price**

30-60 Leva

Phone: 094 600 023
E-mail: oldtown_vd@abv.bg
www.oldtownhotel.dir.bg

Irena Aleksandrova / irena.aleksandrova
2, Knyaz Boris I Str.

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**CHUPRENE**

**Municipality**

Priest community Chuprene præminava part of the footpath Zapaden Balkan (“Western Balkan”) goes through Chuprene, on its way from Kom Peak to Belogradchik. Visitor centres offer guided tours to the limestone formations Glavite (“The Heads”), the caves Levi and Desni Suhi Pech and the biosphere reserve Chuprene (prior reservations are necessary). The most challenging experience is climbing Midzhur Peak (2168 m) — the highest in western Stara Planina. Visitors can also visit the crafts workshops and traditional farms, spend the night in local guesthouses and enjoy traditional food.

**Visitor Centre Chuprene**

Tel: 09327/ 254, 0885 343937
tic_chuprene@abv.bg

**Visitor Centre Gorni Lom**

Tel: 09326/ 385, 0885 244862
tic_gornilom@abv.bg;
www.westbalkan.com
Chiprovtsi is a small, quiet town dating back to the early Thracian period, renowned in Europe for its ancient goldsmithing, old literature, Christian roots and picturesque natural landscapes.

What definitely makes the locals proudest is the carpet industry. Colourful, beautifully woven and crafted only with natural materials, the carpets (called “kilim”) from Chiprovtsi have attracted the attention of experts and enthusiasts from all continents. In addition to the aesthetic pleasure they give, Chiprovtsi carpets are believed to bring health and luck in an owner’s house.

Master goldsmiths in the past, followed by the secret production of the Chiprovtsi carpets, today, the local population most values the untouched and stunning natural environment around the town.

Chiprovtsi Monastery, the Holy Ascension Church and the remains of Glushovo Monastery are astonishing tributes to the Chiprovtsi riot in 1688. The authenticity of the village is reinforced by the cozy guesthouses, the history museum and hospitable people who welcome anyone who wants to be submerged in the local culture and traditions of the Balkan region.
**Chiprovtsi**  
**Pavlova kashta**

Built in the Bulgarian national revival style, with stone outer walls and wooden shutters, the house preserves the old architecture of Chiprovtsi while at the same time providing modern facilities. Together with its mehana and the inner garden, it is a wonderful place for any family occasion, where you will be warmly welcomed by your hosts. They will tell you about the consecrated crosses in the region, about the carpet-weaving, and if you wish — take you outside the town along the beautiful ecotrail.

Phone: 09554 2242, 0885 922 787  
E-mail: office_gl@videx.bg  
videx_hotel@abv.bg  
Мая Ангелова / Maya Angelova  
17, Pavleto Str.
В РАЧАНСКИ БАЛКАН е вторият по големина природен парк в България. Обявен е през 1989 г. с цел опазване на биологичното разнообразие. Територията на парка включва по-голямата част от Врачанска планина и масива на Лакатнишките скали.

**ПЕТЯТКА ЕКОПЪТКА**

Пътеката се изказва сред изцяло съхранена природа по теченето на р. Лева, която образува живописна ждреловидна долина. По целя маршрут могат да се наблюдават изключителни гледки - съчетание на атрактивни елементи на живота и неживата природа.

**ТУРИСТИЧЕСКИ МАРШУТ „ПЛАНИНАРСТВО ЗА НАЧИНАЕЩИ“**

Маршрутът е изграден в местността „Леденика“ и по него на подходящо оформени табла са обхванати основни теми, които дават знания за приятното и безопасно пребиваване в планината.

**ПОЗНАВАТЕЛЕН МАРШУТ „КАРСТ И БИОЛОГИЧНО РАЗНООБРАЗИЕ“**

Маршрутът е изграден в непосредствена близост до пещера „Леденика“. При преминаването му може да се запознаете с повърхностите карстови форми, характерната флора и фауна и връзката помежду им.

**ОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЕН МАРШУТ „В СВЕТА НА ЕКОЛОГИЯТА“**

Маршрутът е изграден в комплекс „Горски дом“ и минава през участъци с различни типове гора и красиви местности.

**ГОРСКА ПЪТЕКА НА ПРИКАЗКИТЕ**

Маршрутът е изграден в комплекс „Горски дом“ и минава през участъци с различни типове гора и красиви местности.

**ГОРАТА — МЯСТО ЗА ЖИВОТ И ПРИЕМ**

Маршрутът е изграден в непосредствена близост до село Горно Озирово; той научава всичко за живота в гората, включително каква е ползата от нея за водите, почвите, животните и хората.

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<tr>
<th>Маршурт</th>
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<tr>
<td>Образователен маршрут „В света на екологията“</td>
<td>Маршрутът е изграден в комплекс „Горски дом“ и минава през участъци с различни типове гора и красиви местности.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Горска пътека на Приказките</td>
<td>Маршрутът е изграден в комплекс „Горски дом“ и минава през участъци с различни типове гора и красиви местности.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Гора — място за живот и прием</td>
<td>Маршрутът е изграден в непосредствена близост до село Горно Озирово; той научава всичко за живота в гората, включително каква е ползата от нея за водите, почвите, животните и хората.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**NATURAL – VRAČA**

The centre is in the building known as Eski (Old) Mosque, providing tourist information and an exhibition and seminar hall. It offers:

- Additional tourist services — tourist equipment, bike rental, guided tours, interpretation;
- Educational programmes, nature-conservation workshops for children and students — interactive meetings, video materials, open lectures and more;
- Hosting of specialised and temporary exhibitions;
- Information about protected areas and zones in the territory of north-western Bulgaria; and
- Promotional materials, souvenirs and guidebooks.

**LEDENIKA Cave**

Ledeniika ("The Ice Cave") is the most visited and best maintained cave in Bulgaria. It is named after the amazing ice formations — ice stalagmite and stalactite — that take shape at its entrances in the winter. The numerous twisting and hanging formations make it one of the most attractive caves in Bulgaria.

The cave is only 16 kilometres from Vratsa and is open for visits year-round. Nearby is the visitor centre Prilepa ("The Bat") and the mountain lodge Ledenika.
Vratsa began as a rich Thracian village and it has continued to be an important centre for trade and crafts for many centuries.

Vratsa’s main lures for visitors are natural sites like Ledenika Cave, the memorial site Botev Put (“Botev Path”), the natural rock bridge Bozhiy Most near the village of Liliyache, and the waterfalls Skaklya and Borov Kamuk. Vratsata, a mountain pass whose rock cliffs are some of the highest on the Balkans, is a challenge for alpinists and climbers. For adventure lovers, the town offers great opportunities for caving, paragliding and skiing around the chalet Purshevitsa. Numerous eco-paths and hiking trails begin from the town centre itself or the villages of Zgorigrad, Pavolche and Lyutibrod (also famous for a good number of guesthouses) and lead visitors to lush mountainous landscapes and adventures.

The tower of Meshchiyte, the Kurtipashova Tower, the monument at Peak Okolchitsa and the internationally significant Rogozensko treasure still preserve Vratsa’s ancient history. Other cultural sites in the area include the Regional History Museum, the Ethnographic-National Revival Centre Sveti Sofroniy Vrachanski, the art gallery, the Drama-Puppet Theatre, Razvitie chitalishte (community centre), the Palace of Culture, and Vratitsa, which is one of the oldest Bulgarian fortresses. The renovated monastery Sveti Ivan Pust i also draws worshippers and visitors to old Vratsa.

Due to its various, stirring attributes, Vratsa was noted as a unique tourist destination at the International Holiday Exhibition of Lugano, in Switzerland.

6, Stefanski Savoyov Str, Vratsa
Tel: 092/ 624 581
obshtinavr@b-trust.org,
www.vratza.com
Парк ПРИКАЗКАТА

Увеселително-приключенски парк „Приказката” е изграден на площ от 17 дка борова гора в близост до Враца. Атракционните съоръжения позволяват използването им от различни възрастови групи. Освен за свободно посещение, паркът е подходящ за провеждане на тимбилдинг и организирани училищни групи. Предлагат се и атракции като рафтинг по р. Искър, спускане в неосветени пещери, спускане с въже по 70-метров водопад, походи по екопътеки, конна езда и др., както и семейни уикенд пакети с нощуване в селски къщи.

Tel: 088/ 800 44 66;
prikazkata_vratza@abv.bg
www.prikazkata.com

Згориград  РУМИ

Къщата е идеална за почивка през всички сезоции. Място, където да се отпуснете и усетите духа на Балкана. Насладете се на чаровна и неповторима атмосфера на Стара планина. Тук ще откритете тишина, спокойствие, уют и дискретност.

Цена

20 Лева
Контакти: Тел.: 0894 779 078, 0896 783 434 bendida@bendida.org; www.bendida.org

20 - 35 Лева
Контакти: Тел. 092/662 299, 0896 111 165 www.hotelflamingo.org

Враца  ФЛАМИНГО

Хотелът предлага удобно и естетично настаняване в градска среда. В него ще намерите уют, комфорт и дискретност в неповторима атмосфера. Местоположението на хотела осигурява удобни транспортни връзки с администрацията и търговския център на град Враца.

Цена

20 Лева
Контакти: Тел.: 0894 779 078, 0896 783 434 bendida@bendida.org; www.bendida.org

20 - 35 Лева
Контакти: Тел. 092/662 299, 0896 111 165 www.hotelflamingo.org

Zgorigrad  RUMI Guesthouse

The house is perfect for holiday in all seasons. This is the place where you can relax and feel the spirit of the Balkans. Enjoy the charm and eternity of the Bulgarian customs, the hospitality and the unforgettable atmosphere of Stara Planina. Here you will find silence, tranquility, coziness and discretion.

Vratsa  FLAMINGO Hotel

The hotel offers comfortable and aesthetic accommodation in an urban environment. You will find coziness, comfort and discretion in unique atmosphere. The hotel is in a strategic position with good transport connections to the centre of Vratsa.

PRIKAZKATA Park
(The Fairytale Park)

Entertainment park Prikazkata is built in 17 decares of pine forest near the city of Vratsa. Its attractive facilities are suitable for people of all ages. In addition to leisure visits, the park offers team-building activities, guided tours for schools and family weekend packages in rural guesthouses. Attractions include rafting on the Iskar River, descending into dark caves, rope descents on a 70 m waterfall, hiking on eco-paths, horseback riding and more.
Градешница
Градешки манастир
Градешкият манастир е чудесен пример за туризъм в равнината. Встрани от утъпканите туристически пътеки, спокойствието и тишината предполагат пъленъчен отдых и творческа атмосфера. В манастира е организирана музейна сбирка с експонати от XVI-XVII в., която представлява бита от онова време.

В манастирската магерница можете да се насладите на традиционни български ястия и напитки, а също така и на гозби, приготвени по стари манастирски рецепти. За нас ще бъде удоволствие да организираме вашата сватба, кръщане, семейни и фирмени празници.

За любителите на риболова на разположение е спокойната в тази си част р. Огоста. В нея можете да уловите шаран, клен, мрена, а след това нашият майстор готвач ще ви я приготви по местна рецепта. За риболов може да отидете и на язовира, намиращ се на около 2 км. Относно екотуризъм, в близката гора вие ще намерите крайно разнообразие от флора и фауна, което ще ви позволи да разходите по еко-пътеките, за пикници и активна почивка.

На 700 м южно от манастира се намира местността Калето, където до началото на XI в. е съществувала средновековна крепост. В резултат на археологически разкопки са разкрити множество останки от византийска крепост, паметници на античната култура, глинена плоча с най-старата писменост в Европа от преди 4 000 години, куптови бронзови масички, стрели, монети и др.

Градешнита
Gradeshki monastery
Gradeshnitsa Monastery is an excellent example of tourism opportunities to be had in the plain area. Removed from touristic routes, this tranquil and quiet place creates an atmosphere for recreation and creativity.

A small historic and ethnographic exhibition in the monastery shows everyday life during 16th and 17th centuries. The monastery kitchen offers traditional Bulgarian meals as well as dishes prepared according to old monastery recipes. Weddings, christenings, family and corporate celebrations can be organised here by local staff.

At Ogosta River, 2.5 kilometres away from the monastery, fishermen will enjoy hooking a catch; species include carp, dace and barbel. After that, the monastery's chef can cook the fish according to monastery recipes. Another place for fishing is Ogosta Dam, some 2 kilometres away. The woods close to the monastery attracts tourists and photographers with diverse wildlife, relaxing trails and picnic sites.

Assen Hadjiiska / Vesela Hadjiiska
4, Milin kamak Str.

Phone: 0887 790 706
Fax: 02 961 16 41
www.gradeshmonastery.com

About 700 m from the monastery are the remains of a medieval fortress from 9th century. Archaeological excavations have revealed many artifacts from the Middle Ages, Antiquity and Prehistoric times in the surroundings, one of which is a clay plate with the oldest script in Europe, estimated to be from 4000 years ago.
BERKOVITSA Municipality

Berkovitsa Municipality is nestled in the foothills of western Stara Planina at an elevation of 405m, at the foot of Kom Peak (2016m). Berkovitsa is an old historic village dating to the 7th to 9th centuries. The town became an attractive tourist destination at the beginning of the 20th century, due to its favourable climate, healing mineral springs in the surrounding area, and the raspberry and strawberry wines and liqueurs. Berkovitsa is a place of hospitality and peace, preserved traditions and crafts, and old monasteries, churches and museums, as well as being a centre for international cultural festivals and events, and a starting point for outdoor adventures and mountain hikes.

Lacheni Obuvki International Children’s Festival of Arts (end of March). The Lucheni Obuvki (“shiny shoes”) festival started in 1992 as a singing festival; today it is a place for children to express their creativity and talent in the arts: theatre, music, dancing, drawing.

Berkrock – Rock pod Kom (end of July) took place for a third time in 2008 with the participation of the legendary Graham Bonet and Alcatrazz. The festival took its inspiration from Berkstock Festival; it has recently given priority to young rock groups.

The international folklore festival Balkanut Peet i Tantsuva (“The Balkan Sings and Dances”) (beginning of September) is one of the oldest in Bulgaria. It started as a singing assembly in 1936 and in 2005 it began to attract foreign participants.

Berkovitsa also hosts the painting workshop Berkovitsa Prolet (“Berkovitsa Springtime”) in May, whilst a wood-carving workshop takes place in October.

Visitor Centre Berkovitsa
Tel: 0953/ 88 404, 88682
4, Yordan Radichkov sq.
tic_bercovitsa@abv.bg; www.berkovitsa.com
Barziya
Docov Guesthouse

Barziya is a village in the Stara Planina range close to the town of Berkovitsa; it has a magnificent view to the peaks Kom (2016 m) and Todorini Kukli (1785 m). Near to the village is Klisurski Monastery. Dotsov Guesthouse has a big garden and nice terrace where you can enjoy playing chess, backgammon and cards. If you want to have a walk, a local guide can show you easy trails with places for berry picking or a picnic. A more challenging experience is hiking to one of the peaks.

Bistriлица - Eco-complex
Stari Bistrilishki kъщи

Only 100 km away from busy Sofia, the Western Balkan Range offers wonderful weekend opportunities. Here you can find silence, solitude, a cozy home, discretion and reasonable prices. The three separate houses can be rented and offer altogether 30 beds. The complex also offers volleyball, basketball, and badminton courts, a football pitch - and a fishpond. If you come here for a family celebration or for a business occasion, the hosts will greet you in “Bistrilitsa Saloon”. During warm summers, the small swimming pool is very inviting. Pets are welcome too! thought for the future.
**Varshets Guesthouse**

A Railway Station for Two, the famous Russian movie from 1982, gave its name to this guesthouse in the Vurshets balneotherapy resort. When you enter in the house, you will be delighted with the romantic atmosphere of the villa. The town of Vurshets is a starting point for many paths that will take you up the mountain. Also, in town, there is a big park for where you can stroll. But wherever you go, you will be breathing the Vurshets air, which is famous for its healing properties.

Phone: 0888 421 106
E-mail: rol@mail.bg

Petrica Stoycheva / Petrina Stoycheva 19A, Stefan Stambolov Str.

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**Balove shuma Guesthouse**

It is a perfect place to be on your own, with your beloved one or with loud cheerful friends. Balova shuma guesthouse is hidden in oak forest turned into a park. Choose whether you prefer to stay in a big house or in separated bungalows that offer coolness, silence and diskretion. Some old monasteries could be visited in the area, some museums and Belogradchishka Fortress. Get away from the summer heat and walk through Koprensa ecopath or even try a longer trip from Lopushanski Monastery to Jeliazna Village.

Phone: 0887 397 301 09558 2578
www.lopushanski-monastery.domino.bg

Alexandr Milanov / Aleksandar Milanov


“ВИДИНСКА ГЪМЗА” АД Е СПЕЦИАЛИЗИРАНА В ПРОИЗВОДСТВОТО НА ЧЕРВЕНИ И БЕЛИ ВИНА В ЛИМИТИРАНИ СЕРИИ ПОД ТЪРГОВСКАТА МАРКА МЕТЕРИЗ. ФИРМАТА Е ОСНОВАНА ОТ СОБСТВЕНИЦИ НА ВИНЕНИ ЛОЗЯ В РАЙОНА НАНОВО СЕЛО. ПРЕВЪДВАЩА Е НАЙ-ДОБРИТЕ ТРАДИЦИИ НА КУСОВСКИТЕ ВИНАРИ, ПРОИЗВАЖДАЩИ СЕ ПО ЮЖНИЯ БРЯГ НА Р. ДУНАЕВ С ПРОИЗВОДСТВОТО НА ВИСОКОКАЧЕСТВЕНО ВИНО. ОТГЛЕЖДАМЕ НАД 600 ДКА ЛОЗЯ, ОТНАСЯЙКИ СЕ С ВНИМАНИЕ КЪМ ВСЕКИ ДЕТАЙЛ НА ПРОИЗВОДСТВЕНЯ ПРОЦЕС - ОТ ОТГЛЕЖДАНИЕТО НА ЛОЗЯТА, ПРЕЗ БЕРИТБАТА НА ПРОЗОДЕТО, ДО БУТИЛИРАНЕТО НА ГОТОВОТО ВИНО.

НИС, ОТ “ВИДИНСКА ГЪМЗА” АД, ЦЕНИМ СИЛАТА НА ТРАДИЦИЯТА, ЗА ЖИВОТНИТЕ НА ВИНОТО ВИНО. ПРЕДЛАГАМЕ ВИСОКОКАЧЕСТВЕНИ ВИНА ОТ ТРАДИЦИОННИЯ БЪЛГАРСКИ СОРТ НОВОСЕЛСКА ГЪМЗА, КАКТО И ОТ ДОБИТИТЕ СВЕТОВНИ ПОПУЛЯРНОСТИ “ГЪМЗА”, “МЕРОЛТ”, “КАБЕРНЕ САУВИНОН”, “МУСКАТ ОТОНЕЛ”, И “ШАРДОНЕ”. ЧРЕЗ ПРИЛАГАНЕ НА УНИКАЛНИТЕ ТЕХНОЛОГИЧНИ РЕШЕНИЯ СЪЗДАВАМЕ ВИНА С НЕПОВТОРИМ ВКУС И АРОМАТ, ПРЕДНАЗНАЧИТИ ДА ЗАДОВОЛЯТ И НАЙ-ВИСОКИТЕ ОЧАКВАНИЯ СА ДОБЪРЯНИТЕ НИ КЛИЕНТИ И ПАРТНЕРИ.

“ВИДИНСКА ГЪМЗА” АД - ВИДИН, УЛ. БАБА ВИДА - 9Б;
GSM: 0898 44 88 49, 0899 923 839; e-mail: vidinska_gamza@abv.bg
Възрожденски традиции и занаяти

Етрополе, Тетевен, Троян, Gabrovo, Tryavna, Dryanovo, Elena и the numerous neighbouring villages have preserved traces of their Bulgarian Revival-period charm and romantic spirit by transforming – into living museums. The old high streets host artisan workshops, where one can serve as an apprentice or simply buy a unique souvenir. The small cafés and restaurants exude the atmosphere of the turn of the 20th century. The most interesting museums in the region are the National Exhibition of Traditional Handicrafts in Oreshak (close to Troyan Monastery), the Museum of Kolyo Ficheto in Dryanovo, the Daskalova House (for wood-carvings) and the Museum of Icons in Tryavna, the House of Humour and Satire in Gabrovo and Samovodska Charshiya in Veliko Turnovo. Also worth visiting is Etara, a unique open-air re-enactment museum of handicrafts.

The major regional centres of Lovech and Veliko Turnovo are very interesting to visitors. Both cities have well-preserved medieval fortresses dating back to the Second Bulgarian Kingdom (1185–1396). Close to the fortifications are National Revival neighbourhoods, shopping streets and museums. Arbanasi and Bozhentsi are close to the capital of the Second Kingdom – Veliko Turnovo – and have preserved their authentic Revival style. The stone houses and churches from the 17th and 18th centuries are real jewels for connoisseurs of architecture.

To the north of the Balkan Range, one can find numerous monasteries with interesting architecture, atmospheres and history. Amongst the rock monasteries in the Rusenski Lom Valley, it is worth visiting Ivanovo Rock Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the one near Besarbovo, which is the only rock monastery that still functions. The old river port Ruse has well-preserved its architectural heritage of restored Roco and Baroque buildings. The other major city in the Danube plain, Pleven, has the Panorama, an interesting three-dimensional exhibition dedicated to the battle for Pleven during the Russo-Turkish War of Liberation in 1877–1878. This region is famous for its wineries, with the wine cellars in Svishtov, Lyaskovets and Ruse holding numerous awards. Recently, a wine museum was opened in Pleven.

The fringes of the Balkan Range and the Danube Plain offer numerous and easily accessible walking and cycling routes. Visitors can enjoy the illuminated cave of Sueva Dupka (village of Brestnitsa), and the caves of Bacho Kiro (Dryanovo) and Orlova Chuka (Ruse). Those who prefer more active holidays can try backpacking in the Balkan Range, where lots of lodges, shelters and more difficult walking routes provide options.

The plain offers the great biodiversity of Persina Nature Park, along the coast and on the islands of the Danube, and in Rusenski Lom Nature Park. The exceptional diversity of bird species is combined with interesting vegetation and rock formations. Those who opt for a more relaxed holiday can enjoy the natural hot spas in Shipkovo, Chiflik and Voneshta Voda, where they can find modern hotels and guesthouses. There are also climbing sites in the gorge of Yantra (surrounding Veliko Turnovo), and in the canyon of Rusenski Lom and its tributaries, whilst Devetashka Cave is a true challenge for speleologists.
Central Balkan National Park

The central part of Stara Planina is within the sight of more than half of the Bulgarian population every day. Rich in history, legends and traditions, it is most of all a majestic natural wonder and a unique ecosystem. Situated in the heart of Bulgaria, the park impresses with stunning landscapes, venerable oak forests, vast hilly pastures and harsh peaks, amongst which is the highest in the Balkans — Peak Botev (2376m).

Central Balkan National Park is wildlife paradise, whilst at the same time an attractive tourist destination. Park management has created good conditions for development of sustainable tourism. Information about the protected area and the visitor code of conduct are available at the entrance to the park. There are 470 kilometres of well-marked and maintained hiking trails, more than 20 mountain lodges and shelters, numerous water fountains, rest spots, fire pits and observation points. In order to experience the natural surroundings in an authentic and exciting way, several eco-paths and interpretative routes have been created. The park offers great opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, bird and wildlife-watching.

In 2003, it became a candidate for membership in PAN Parks for well-preserved and managed European wildlife area, open for sustainable tourism. Since 2006, the park has also been part of the EUROPARK Federation. Due to its preserved habitats and rich biodiversity, it is a protected area included in the Natura 2000 environmental network.

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Riding Base Balkan

29, Subevska Str., Ostrets borough, Apriltsi
Tel: 088/ 722 05 13; 088/ 512 16 36
info@ridingbasebalkan.com
www.ridingbasebalkan.com

Just outside the village of Ostrets, part of the city of Apriltsi in the very heart of Bulgaria, you’ll find Riding Base Balkan. The base is on the northern side of the Balkan Range and has the most fantastic panorama to the highest peak, Botev, at 2376m. Central Balkan National Park is our nearest neighbour.

In our stables we have more than 40 well-trained horses of different breeds, mainly Shagya-Arabian, East Bulgarian and American Quarter Horses. Here can be found a combination between the wonderful natural environment and the ideal couple: The rider and the horse. And the ultimate riding adventure is, for us, an achievement. It is our aim to give you the chance to meet this fantastic harmony of nature, horse and rider.

From April to November, we ride on trails high in the mountains: Balkan Trail is our classic trail ride over two mountains and through the Valley of the Roses. We also ride to the Singing Rocks Reserve and to Mt Botev. These trails provide views of a lot of untouched nature and of old culture from horseback.

В спънчева котловина в сърцето на Стара планина, сгущено под северната стена на връх Ботев се намира красивото планинско градче Априлци. В това прекрасн кътче на България само на 800 м от центъра на кв. Острец е разположена и конна база Riding Base Balkan.

Базата разполага с повече от 40 ездитни коня (собственна селекция), които се тренират от дипломирани инструктори и са оборудвани за уестърн езда и преходи в планината. Нашето желание е да ви разкрием хармонията между човек, кон и природа за да изпитате заедно с нас прелестите на ездата.

На вас, любителите на природата и конете, предлагаме незабравими преживявания от „Първа стъпка в ездата“ (обучение) и еднонедневни преходи до седемдневни приключения из Национален парк „Централен Балкан“, Долината на розите и Средна гора.

Riding Base Balkan

Ride with us – and make your own adventure

Докосни магията на природата – язди с нас
Beli Osam
Complex Stomnite

Stomnite comprises two historic houses restored in a traditional style and a spacious, stone-paved yard and dining room. One of the houses was built by the adventurer Kalyo Nenov after his return from North America. As a youth, he decided to emigrate, and bought a ticket for the Titanic. But, selling the ticket when its value increased, he took another ship. Now you can see Kalyo’s suitcase, documents and some letters to his relatives in Bulgaria.

Balkanets
Milena Guesthouse

Balkanets village is very close to the mineral pools of Chiflika village. Fishermen can go fishing in Sopot Dam. During hunting season hunters will be interested in visiting “Byalka” Reserve. You can have a look at the workshops for pottery, woodcarving or traditional embroidery and knitting stitch. During wintertime, skiing is an option at Beklemeto – ski centre at the saddle of Troyan Pass.

Северна централна БЪЛГАРИЯ

Балканец
Къща за гости Милена

Село Балканец е близо до балнеологично селище Чифлика. Любителите на риболов имат на разположение язовир Сопот. През ловния сезон ловците могат да посетят резервата Бялка. Може да надзърнете в занаятчийските работилници по грънчарство и резбарство или да се запознаете с традиционния начин за изработване на шевици и плетиво. През зимата могат да се карат ски в местността Beklemeto.
**София/Sofia - 171 km (Vitinya)**

**North-central BULGARIA**

**Драшкова поляна**  
Къща за гости Еко Арт

Among the verdancy of Drashkova Poljana you will discover small cozy guesthouse with a beautiful flower garden. The hosts Velichka and Encho Gankowksi are hospitable and artistic persons, true mountain lovers, who will take care of your spare time – walks, picnics, fishing, picking mushrooms, pictures shooting and barbecue. The pleasure of making a ceramic souvenir by your own, train traditional and modern ceramic or photo shooting is a unique experience. Do not miss to taste homemade garden fruits and vegetables. In 2003 the guesthouse had been awarded with sign for quality by RTA “Stara planina”.

**Горно Трапе**  
Вила Колор

If you dream of a quiet and calm place for all four seasons your dreams will come true in the foot of Stara planina Mountains. Wonderful flower garden and a neat village house catch your eye while walking in the street. Entertainments such as swimming in the pool, horse riding, biking and guide walking fulfill your vacation. Here you will have a possibility to cook by yourself favorite meals or taste the traditional Bulgarian cuisine. The house had been awarded as “The best guesthouse” for 2002, 2003 and 2006.

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**Дяково въртяще**  
Вила Колор

If you dream of a quiet and calm place for all four seasons your dreams will come true in the foot of Stara planina Mountains. Wonderful flower garden and a neat village house catch your eye while walking in the street. Entertainments such as swimming in the pool, horse riding, biking and guide walking fulfill your vacation. Here you will have a possibility to cook by yourself favorite meals or taste the traditional Bulgarian cuisine. The house had been awarded as “The best guesthouse” for 2002, 2003 and 2006.
Lovech – Guesthouse
Tinkovata kashta

The house of the Tinkovi family is a monument of culture, located on one small street in the old town of Lovech – the town of lilacs. Stefka and Stanimir will give you a warm welcome in their cosy house. Just above Varosh (this is the name of the old town) is the medieval fortress with a stunning view to Osum Valley and Lovech. Stroll the Bash Bunar allée, which will guide you to the Byala Anastya fountain, whilst listening the song of the nightingale.

Phone: 0899812747
E-mail: stefists@abv.bg; prof_i@mail.bg
www.tinch07.narod.ru

Stefka and Stanimir Tinkovi
9, Todor Stratiev Str.

Цена
Price
25-35 Leva

енGLISH
German
Russian

Тинковата къща

Северна централна България

North-central BULGARIA

София / Sofia - 120 km
Varna / Varna - 370 km

София / Sofia - 155 km
Varna / Varna - 307 km

Riбaritsа
Комплекс Арго

This is the right place if your interests are different. You may just do nothing or take sunbath beside the swimming pool, have a rest in the Jacuzzi drinking coffee and contemplating green hills. Take a walk to nearest monument or even go further to Vejen chalet in Tsarichina Reserve. If you do that you will be rewarded. In the evening all of you will gather around the barbecue and cold Bulgarian rakija.

Phone: 06902 21 81; 0899 88 76 23
Fax: 06902 21 91
E-mail: z_argo@abv.bg
www.hotelargobg.com

Пламен Конов / Plamen Konov
2, Prosvena Str.

енGLISH

5 × 1; 16 × 2
13 × спалня
4 × 3; 9 × 5

Цена
Price
30-50 Leva
Skandaloto – Family hotel Skandaloto – 1896

The family hotel is located in a lovely village at the foot of the Troyan Balkan Mountains. It consists of restored Bulgarian revival houses from the XIX century, which blend in perfectly with the rural nature of the region. A small river murmurs around the house, which is perfect for paddling in and fishing. The surrounding hills are covered with ancient forests and in the far distance are the peaks of the highest part of the Central Balkan National Park — a region rich in marked hiking trails. Special places of interest in the vicinity are Troyan and Batoshevo Monasteries.

Phone: 06964 243, 0898 703 360; 0887 814 995
E-mail: skandalo@abv.bg, videx_hotel@abv.bg

Price: 20 Leva

Shipkovo Hotel - restaurant Bacchus

The road from Troyan to Teteven goes through the village of Shipkovo in a region of beautiful nature and numerous mineral springs. Not long ago Diyana and her husband Dimitar have returned home from USA and opened a small boutique hotel with excellent cuisine and elegant decoration with accent to their own pottery artwork and stone elements. Both of them are professional ceramists and willing to share their experience with the guests while they browse the little shop or decide to try their own skills.

Phone: 0887 229 182, 0878 229 182; Fax: 06966 385
dimetradb@abv.bg; etdemetra@europe.com
www.hotelbakhus.com; www.hotelbacchus.com

Price: 50-70 Leva

Диана Бояджиева / Diana Boyadjieva
1, Georgi Dimitrov Str.
София / Sofia - 143 km
**Gostilitsa**
**Complex Bella Terra**

Gostilitsa is close to Yantra River and 11 kilometres from the town of Dryanovo. Its location provides a picturesque view to the village and the ridges of Stara Planina. The complex's houses are next to a pine forest, whilst in the yard, there is a 120-year-old fountain. During your stay, you will have a lot of options for leisure activities. Check out the following two pages.
**Bella Terra Complex**

The village of Gostilitsa, Dryanovo Municipality

The **Bella Terra Complex** is only 21 km away from Dryanovo, 24 km away from the Dryanovo Monastery and the famous Bacho Kiro Cave, 18 km away from Borhentsi, 25 km away from Gabrove and Etara, 21 km away from Tryavna, 30 km away from Veliko Tarnovo and Arbanasi.

+359 2 887 37 08
+359 878 511 606

www.bellaterra-bg.com

**Family Holidays, Team-building Programs, Seminars, Educational Courses.**

- There are three houses on the complex property. Two of them have a triple and two double rooms accommodating up to 11 people. Each room has a private bathroom, air conditioner, cable TV and Internet, and spacious balconies with a panorama view of the Balkan mountain. There is also a common kitchen and a dining room, fully equipped and furnished.

- The third building on the property has the company office, two rooms for seminars and team-building activities, and the restaurant which offers traditional cuisine and wines from the Dryanovo region. Also, there is a 120 years old fountain in the vicinity.

- Against extra-payment transport to the complex is provided from Sofia airport or any other place in the country in luxurious 15-seats air-conditioned shuttles.

- If extra beds needed, we can provide accommodation in nearby partner houses.

- Architectural and cultural sights
- Eco-tourism
- Horse-riding
- Fishing
- Team-building

www.bellaterra-bg.com

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- Horse-riding
- Fishing
- Team-building
**Gabrovo – Lyulyatsite**

**Complex Lyulyatsite**

Lyulyatsite is a climate resort of local importance. It is situated in a pretty mountain area, 15 km away from Gabrovo, at 840 m height. It suits a beautiful three-floored building with an architecture in late Baroque Style. The Resort offers to its clients modern and well-equipped hotel rooms. A day bar, restaurant with 180 spaces, a summer garden with 60 spaces, lobby bar, night bar, and a SPA centre are also available. There is a ski slope with a tow lift and well-equipped ski rent near the resort for all winter sports lovers.

**Kmetovtsi Complex Fenerite**

At Fenerite (The Lanterns), pamper yourself with aromatherapy procedures, a sauna and a steam bath. One of the buildings in the complex is a renovated inn from 1865. A single day is not enough to experience the variety of activities that the area offers – hiking, horseback riding, traditional weaving workshops, an herbalist house and the many cultural landmarks in the region. In the evening, take a walk in the village — stone-paved streets, old houses and the scent of geraniums.
Регионална туристическа асоциация „Стара планина“ е сдружение и туроператор, който предлага програми и продукти в областта на културния, еко- и селски туризъм, обединени под името „По пътя на сълцето“.

Програмите са съсредоточени в Централна Стара планина с акцент върху уникалното природно наследство на Национален парк „Централен Балкан“ и Природен парк „Българка“ в комбинация с историята, традициите, бита и гостоприемството на хората от Балкана.

Тръгнете по Пътя на сълцето.
Усетете духа на България.

Regional Tourist Association Stara Planina

The Regional Tourist Association Stara Planina is an association and tour operator offering programmes and products in the field of cultural, eco and rural tourism under the motto “Following the Path of the Sun”.

Programmes are based in the region of central Stara Planina and focus on the unique natural heritage of National Park Central Balkan and Nature Park Bulgarka, together with the history, traditions, culture and hospitality of the Balkan people.

Follow the path of the Sun to experience the spirit of Bulgaria.
**Veliko Tarnovo**

**Kashtata Guesthouse**

In the town of Veliko Tarnovo, between its old and new parts, there is a very nice place, suitable start point for dashing around in Bulgaria’s former capital. Your hosts Diana and Emil Hristov are very shiny people who have furnished the house with contemporary style and taste. If you are sport active person you may try rock climbing, mountain biking or bus tour to the cultural cities Arbanasi, Bojentsi, Etura.

София/Sofia – 215 км  
Варна/Varna – 220 км

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**Nomads Hostel**

The house is at the heart of the old town of Veliko Tarnovo – on the beautiful Gurko Street famous for its authentic 19th-century houses. Nomads Hostel itself is a memorial house dating back to the revival period in the Bulgarian history and has been renovated to meet the needs of contemporary life. Here you can enjoy the panoramic view revealed from the balcony and savour the charm and quiet of the old times. Or you can walk around the beautiful town and explore. The hosts will help you to live through an unforgettable holiday. And remember their slogan - “Come as a guest, leave as a friend”!
**Hotel Trapezitsa**

The hotel is situated in the very centre of Veliko Tarnovo, not far from the museums and the old monuments and places of interest. The hotel offers 73 beds, which are situated in 2 suites, 18 double rooms, 7 rooms with 3 beds each and 3 rooms with 4 beds per room. There is also a hall for conferences and meetings. A beautiful scenery can be seen from the terrace.

**Hotel-restaurant Momina Krepost**

It has a hotel part for 156 places in rooms for 2 and 3 beds, and 4 suites. The restaurant offers a cozy atmosphere for 150 people, with rich menu with traditional European and Bulgarian food. There is a coffee shop and disco. For seminars, conferences, trainings and congresses we offer 3 conference halls (with 20, 40 and 100 places) with a necessary equipment. A summer terrace with a small lake is situated in immediate closeness.

The complex is situated at about 4 km from Veliko Tarnovo (with a bus at about 10 km) in the neighbourhood of Ksilifor in the near town tourist sport area.

In further 3 km is the Historical and architectural reserve Arbanasi, with its typical houses of the Bulgarian national revival, churches and monasteries. The place of the hotel-restaurant, the climate in the area, the magnificent nature, silence and solitude are good conditions for rest and relaxation.

**ПРЕДЛАГАМЕ ВИ:**

- Резервации в туристически хижи и хотели
- През всички сезони отдых сред природата
- Планински лагери, бели и зелени училища
- Екскурзии по лятните и зимни сезони
- Альтернативни форми на туризъм
- Преминаване по еко-пътеки и пешеходни туристически маршрути
- Карти и полигонали за спортно ориентиране
- Маркирани маршрути за планинско копеездене и крос кънтри
- Маркирани маршрути за планинско колоездене и крос кънтри
- За екипировка и оборудване
- Болкони за планинско копелездене
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- За екипирова
Established in 1921, the wine factory Vinprom Liaskovets Ltd. is well-known for its wines, and huge wine casks tell of centuries old traditions. Wine tasting here with Iordanka Golakova is something special with her love and enthusiasm for singing Bulgarian folksongs and telling stories about wine traditions. Fascinated by the journey into the mysteries of Bulgarian wine culture visitors usually end up having a great time and joining in with the singing. Connoisseurs can browse through the wine collection, or reserve bottles in advance from the next harvest. Here you can even see an old Roman's wine-press (III century) founded in the vineyard. The keys for the guestrooms at Laskovski monastery are held at the wine cellar.

Phone: 052 636651; 06151 5516; Fax: 052 636662
E-mail: elenahouse@mail.bg
www.yovchevatakashta.com

Elena Yovchevata kasahta

Is there any better way to experience old Bulgarian traditions than the stay in an authentic old house from the XVIII century? The house was restored in 2003 and combines typical architecture, ancient furniture and an ethnography collection. Located among picturesque mountains you can spend a wonderful holiday here in every season. There is no time for boredom with picnics, barbecues, fishing, picking mushrooms, or a photo safari to choose from. There are a lot of cultural and historic places in the area, and if it is winter you can go skiing nearby.

Phone/fax: 0619 23 007
Mobile: 0878 13 69 77
Mail: vinarna@mbox.contact.bg

Елена Йовчевата къща

Какъв по-добър начин да почувствате традициите от това да отседнете в къща от края на XVIII век? Архитектурата, старинните мебели и етнографската сбирка, реставрирана през 2003 г., съчетават прекрасно със съвременни сервизни помещения. Разположена сред живописната Еленски Балкан, на брега на река Килъжка, тя е идеално място за семейни ваканции през всеки сезон, пикник, барбекю, риболов, гъбарство, фотография. Наблизо има много културни и исторически забележителности, а през зимата на 14 км любителите на ски могат да карат на воля.

Phone: 052 636651; 06151 5516; Fax: 052 636662
E-mail: elenahouse@mail.bg
www.yovchevatakashta.com

Мая Кожухарова / Maya Kojuharova
10, Kilajevtsi Str.
Elena – Complex
Kostadinovite kashti

Elena – a name that makes you dream! Located in the Balkan Mountains, this small attractive town gives you the right answer to the question – where to find a rural atmosphere combined with the Bulgarian revival spirit, refinement and 21st century comfort – in the Kostadinovite kashti Complex for rural and ecotourism. The majestic scenery towards the mountains is difficult to describe. In the vicinity there are plenty of opportunities: to go on hiking, fishing, sunburn on the meadows and have picnics. For those who are keen on adventures, rock climbing and mountain biking can be also organised. Stop dreaming and go to Elena!

Sredni kolibi
Complex Elenski riton

Sredni Kolibi is close the town of Elena in the Stara Planina range, where you will be delighted by the wild nature and great biodiversity. The Elenski Riton complex was built adhering to the Bulgarian Revival style of architecture, with its wide terrace giving guest a picturesque view towards the mountain. Guests can choose from a variety of activities or just relax near the pool. In the restaurant, the traditional meals and cozy atmosphere will please your senses, let you forget about stress and enjoy the moment.
PLEVEN Municipality

Pleven Municipality is in the heart of the Danube Plain, 30 kilometres from both the Danube River and Stara Planina. Due to its centralised location, Pleven has been a noted communication and strategic centre for centuries.

With a population of 137 000 inhabitants, Pleven is the seventh-largest city in Bulgaria. It has positioned itself as an important tourist destination for military history museums, all of which feature different exhibitions: Chapel Museum Sveti Georgi Pobedonosets, Panorama Plevenska Epopeya – 1877, the monument of General Skobelev, the eponymous park, house-museum Tsar Osvoboditel Alexander II and the Regional History Museum.

Pleven is also famous for its drama and puppet theatre, the Severnyashki national philharmonic ensemble for folk dance and song, galleries and a great number of chitalishte (community centres) and libraries. Pleven is also a place for various entertainment with its clubs, bars and restaurants that create a young and appealing atmosphere.

Nearby, the beautiful park Kayluka offers great opportunities for relaxation, cycling, climbing and water sports. It is situated in a scenic canyon with rich vegetation, natural pools and sites of valuable historical heritage. The first in Bulgaria and on the Balkans, the Wine museum can be found in one of the many natural caves in the central part of Kayluka, only 5 kilometres from Pleven. The winery and the museum preserve 30- to 90-year-old vintages. Its collection also includes more than 6000 bottles of contemporary wines from all brands and wine regions in the country, drawing draws connoisseurs and collectors from Bulgaria and abroad.

Visitor Centre Pleven
Vuzrazhdane Sq
Tel: 064/ 824 004
tourpleven@abv.bg;
www.tourinfo.pleven.bg
Природен парк ПЕРСИНА

Природен парк „Персина” е единственият парк по поречието на р. Дунав. Разположен е в Свищовско-Беленската низина. Паркът обхваща множество острови и територии, заети с естествени заливни гори, вътрешни блатата и крайдунавски влажни зони. Уникалността и големата значимост на островите превръща парка в най-голямото по площ Рамсарско място* в България. За да се съхранят и опазят тези уникални екосистеми, на територията на парка са обявени редица защитени местности – „Персин-изток”, „Плавала”, „Кайкуша”.

Най-голямото богатство на Природния парк са птиците, а един от символите му е морският орел. За неговото опазване са обявени два резервата – о. Мила и о. Китка. В ПП „Персина” е заложена първата влажна зона по българското поречие на р. Дунав, с цел запазване на типични дунавски блатата и характерната блатна растителност, заедно с населяващите ги колонии от диви патици, гъски и др.

За туристите и посетителите на парка, по поречието на реката са изградени кътове за отдих, място за барбекю и места за наблюдение на птици, до които се достига по обособени велосипедни и пешеходни маршрути. Най-атрактивен е водният маршрут „В обятията на Дунав”, който дава възможност по вода да се обиколят част от островите, влизащи в границите на парка.

Административната сграда на Дирекцията на парка е обособена и като посетителски център, в него често са изложени експозиции и изложби от цялата страна, предимно на екологична тематика. Тук може да намерите необходимата ви информация и рекламни материали за Природния парк.

Посещението на ПП „Персина”, наблюдението на птиците, разходката сред природата и обиколката по маршрути са голямо приключение за всички гости и посетители.

* Рамсарската конвенция е международно споразумение за опазване на местообитания на водолюбиви птици.

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PERSINA Nature Park

The park is the sole in Bulgaria to be located along the Danube River, in the Svishtov-Belene lowlands. It consists of numerous islands, marshlands and riverine wetlands. The uniqueness and great importance of the park turns it into the largest Ramsar convention site in Bulgaria. Several protected areas serve to preserve these unique ecosystems — Persin-iztok, Plavala and Kaykusha.

Varied bird life is a key feature of the park and two of the islands — Milka and Kitka — are designated reserves to protect the park’s symbol, the White-tailed Eagle. The wetland region of Persina Nature Park has been revived in order to preserve the distinct Danubian marshland ecosystems, including the wild ducks, geese and other bird populations.

Cycling and hiking routes along the riverbanks lead to a number of rest and observation points. Perhaps the most appealing is the eco-route V Obyatiyata na Dunav (“In the Lap of the Danube”), which offers the possibility to visit several islands within park boundaries via motorboat.

The administrative building of the park directorate accommodates a visitor centre, often hosting travelling exhibitions on environmental themes. Information and promotional materials about the park are also available here.

Visits to the park, bird-watching and walking the routes are a great experience for all guests.

www.persina.bg

Visitor Centre Persina
5 Persina Str., Belene-5930
Tel: 0658/326 84
e-mail: persina@abv.bg
THE EAGLE OF THE DANUBE

Festival of Ancient Rome Orel na Dunava took place for the first time in 2008, near the riverside city of Svishtov. It recreates the military lifestyle and conflicts of imperial Rome and the enemy tribes and peoples. The Roman legion camp and the early-Byzantine town Novae were situated 2 kilometres east of Svishtov.

The city itself was established in about AD 48, but its historical importance comes from the choice of Theodoric the Great, king of the Ostrogoths, to establish it as his nation’s capital in 483. Theodoric’s attack on Rome at the end of 5th century lead to the fall of the Western Roman Empire.

The festival begins at the end of September at Golemiya Zavoy, the point furthest south of the Danube. It continues on at the local stadium, which hosts a wooden castrum with authentic defense towers, a stockade and an inaccessible entrance. The tents of the legionaries are positioned along the two sides of the camp entrance. An altar is erected in the centre and behind it is a tent with statues of the Pantheon. Soldiers demonstrate the efficiency of the ancient Roman artillery by shooting with carroballista, onager and catapult. The barbarian camp is much simpler — tents are arranged in half-circle like in a Gaelic village, and surrounded by wooden fences and piles of straw. In the centre is the sanctuary, with stones arranged in circular shape on a small mound. In the afternoon, gladiator fights take place, followed by battles between the legion and the barbarians.

The festival wraps up with dancing and classical theatre troupes acting out plays by the ancient Roman poet Martialis.

Tourism Committee — Svishtov
Dimitar Hadjiev Str 2
Tel: 0631/603 71
info@visitsvishtov.com; www.visitsvishtov.com
RUSENSKI LOM Nature Park

Along the Cherni Lom River by kayak

Rusenski Lom was designated a nature park in 1970. As a protected area, it brings together diverse and preserved natural habitats, valuable cultural and historical heritage, and hospitable people.

The water route Along the Cherni Lom River by Kayak starts at the village of Cherven, 35 kilometres south of the city of Ruse. Here, the rock hill surrounded by the Cherni Lom River reveals outstanding ruins of a fortress from the 12th century. Today, the remains are preserved within the medieval town of Cherven, an archaeological reserve.

The town was an important military, economic and cultural centre during the Second Bulgarian Empire (1185-1396). Remains preserve the notion of an urban-planned structure, including an inner consolidated part on a small plateau, curved out by one of the meanders of Rusensi Lom River, and an outer area surrounding it. The strategic site, sound structure, well-developed crafts, iron- and goldworking, and the numerous rock monasteries along the Rusenski Lom contributed to the great prosperity of the town.

The start of the water route is next to the old mill. Mastering kayaks requires skills and knowledge, but the crew is trained in advance by experienced guides. The lack of dangerous rapids or falls along the river, which passes through a bird-watching station near the village of Koshov, makes it an easy and pleasant experience for the tourist. The final stop is in the vicinity of the archaeological reserve of Ivanovo Rock Churches, a UNESCO site.

There are a number of facilities at the end of the water route, such as a pontoon for the boats and a nearby shelter with a hearth. The shelter is the starting point of the eco-path Gramovets, which leads the visitors to a medieval rock monastery built into intriguing shallow caves.
Nisovo
Hotel Black Stork

This hotel offers a modern, cosy atmosphere – separate houses, a tavern, swimming pool and sport centre. A walk to a century-old elm tree will bring before your eyes the cliffs rising above the meanders of the Rusenski Lom River, the local vineyards and a Templar burial ground. The hosts at The Black Stork can prepare a picnic basket for your walk. The village of Nisovo has well preserved its traditions and still performs the “Lazarki” custom – eight days before Easter, young girls go about the houses and sing songs. They do not miss visiting the hotel either.

Rue/Rouse - 27 km

Цена

| Price | 40-60 Leva |

Phone: 0886 006 401, 0884 605 825; Fax: 08196 233
E-mail: black_stork@yahoo.com
www.black-stork.com

Росица Василева / Rositsa Vasileva
12, Tsar Osvoboditel Str.

Nisovo, tel. 0889 519 925
hed2000@abv.bg
www.raynoff.com

София/Sofia - 365 km

RAYNOV AND SONS WINERY offers a great mixture of experiences: admiring the beauty of the region of Polomieto and degustation of good wines. The two degustation halls are open for visitors all-year round.

The wine cellar is suitable for the production of a small quantity of boutique wines. A closed cycle of production is guaranteed – from growing grapes to bottling the wines. Aging of the wines is done in French oak barrels which delicately soften and add to the wine scent and flavour. The grape yards are filled with fine selection of French sorts like Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. They are planted in south-facing terrain and concentrated limy soils in the river canyon of Rusenski Lom, where the sun gently embraces each grape cluster.

Nisovo, tel. 0889 519 925
hed2000@abv.bg
www.raynoff.com
### Complex Leventa

With its remarkable interior, Complex Leventa is a must-see site in the town of Ruse. Levent Tabia is the name of the 200-year-old building where Restaurant Leventa and Winery House Ruse are located. Wall-paintings in the hallways of the complex recreate scenes from Bulgarian history.

### Restaurant Leventa

We know that good wine and good food should be properly combined in order to be appreciated. Our guests can enjoy the unique wines with trademark Levent, which determine the overall culinary style of the restaurant. Typical Bulgarian cuisine and international dishes are part of the harmony of real pleasure for visitors.

### Winery House Ruse

The contemporary wine cellar with up-to-date equipment produces boutique red and white high quality wines with the trademark Levent. They combine the Bulgarian traditions and the modern trends in winemaking technology. Wine ages in French and American oak barrels behind the ancient 2,30 m thick stone walls that guarantee constant temperature.
Mountains are not the only scenic destination for holiday-making in Bulgaria. Dobrudzha has been inhabited since ancient times and offers unique opportunities for tourists to get in touch with Thracian culture, to visit the Thracian tomb at Sveshtari (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), to walk along the solitary rocky coast of Yailata or see the Aliani sanctuary of Demir Baba Tekkesi.

The old Bulgarian capitals of Pliska and Preslav are also worth visiting. Another well-known fortress is Kaliakra at the coast, still whispering the legend of the 40 maidens who preferred to die rather than abandon their faith and, so, they braided their hair together and jumped from the cliffs into the sea. Equally impressive is the ancient relief carved out of rock called the Madara Horseman, another UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The north-east is also famous for its rock monasteries, like Aladja near Varna and those on the Shumen Plateau. The palace in Balchik, built at the turn of the 20th century, combines Renaissance and oriental styles of architecture. It has a magnificent botanical garden with cacti brought from various parts of the world.

Museums offer a fresh perspective on history. Varna exhibits the oldest worked gold in the world (4200 BC) and artefacts from the largest neolithic mound at Durankulak. The museum in Kavarna keeps interesting exhibits from ancient and medieval times, which were discovered during aquatic archaeological excavations. There is a lot to be seen in Turgovishte, Tutrakan and Razgrad as well.

The wealth of nature here is as generous as the history. The two nature parks, Shumen and Tuzlata, attract visitors with their dolphinarium, aquarium, the ancient Roman baths and its seaside garden, which is perfect for strolling.

Fishing enthusiasts will discover numerous places along the River Kamchiya and at the dams in the region, on the lakes of Varna and Beloslav, and along the northern coast.

As to cuisine, one should not miss tasting the Smyadovo sausage, which gourmets can try with the unique wormwood wine from Osmar, called “pešen”. Connoisseurs of white wine can enjoy the vintages of the wineries in Shumen, Rosse and Veliki Preslav or go wine tasting at the specialised restaurant in Varna.
SHUMENSKO PLATEAU

Shumen Plateau is in the eastern Danube Plain, close to the city of Shumen. Designated a nature park in 1980 in order to preserve the diverse natural habitat of the region, it is rich in subterranean and surface karst formations.

Mixed broadleaf forests cover 90 per cent of the park's territory, where tree species such as hornbeam, beech, oak, maple, ash and linden grow. Other important plant species include 14 types of orchids, more than 250 varieties of herbs and 64 types of rare, protected plants. Animal life is presented by over 200 species.

Numerous ancient, Thracian and medieval villages and fortresses have occupied these lands throughout the ages. Rock monasteries tucked in steep cliffs served as important religious and cultural centres during the 12th to 14th centuries. The park includes an archaeological site, Shumenskata Krepost (The Shumen Fortress) and the monument Suzdatei na Bulgarskata Durzhava (Founders of the Bulgarian State), erected in honour of the 1300-year anniversary of the Bulgarian state.

A visitor centre hosts an interactive exhibition and provides visitors with maps, information, guided tours and bike rentals. The Forest School, situated near the centre, is an interactive building for youth environmental activities and includes the Forest Maze, A Path of Fairytales and an outdoors study room.

Shumensko Plateau Nature Park offers great possibilities for hiking, cycling, rock climbing, caving, paragliding and more. Many events are hosted here, such as Forest Week in April, the National Day of Nature Parks in May and the Green Stars Festival on 24 June.

Office - Tel: 054/ 800 765
Stara Planina Str 2, Shumen 9700
Visitor Centre - Tel: 054/ 800 137
e-mail: sh-plato@mbox.contact.bg
www.shumenskoplate.com

The Green Stars Festival

The Shumen Fortress

The Forest School
Sveshtarovi kashti

This region is the centre of the bitter wine of pleasure and love, called pelin. The Sveshtarovi houses fit perfectly into the alternative tourism concept, with ivy mantling the entrance, a vine-covered trellis in the yard and abundant flowers. Its hospitable hosts welcome visitors from all around the world, offering you the cosiness of their houses with pleasure. Guests can also prepare their own food in the well-equipped summer kitchen. Activities include tastings of the local wine and demonstrations of handicrafts and the traditional way of life, which have been preserved for more than two centuries. Ecologically sound, the region offers nice paths for herb and berry gathering. Many marked trails lead through the woods of the plateau. Take a walk and visit the Osmarski rock monasteries. After the short stay, guests and hosts part good friends.
Aydemir Hotel Queen

The Dobrudja region is known for its warm climate, beautiful nature and ancient history. Aydemir is a big village in the wide plain, very close to the blue Danube River and the city of Silistra. The view of this colourful locality is inspiring when seen from above — the motley patterns created by the roofs resemble an Impressionist painting. Modern, interesting and fascinating, the hotel brings to life the provincial spirit through the prism of a modern atmosphere and services. Everything comes together to keep you enthralled and to ensure a relaxing holiday.

Phone: 08675 3111
E-mail: hotel_queen@abv.bg
www.hotelqueen.silistra.eu

Иван Нарлев / Ivan Narlev
6, Sofia Str.

Bezmer Maria Nevena Guesthouse

Bezmer would not probably make you an impression on the Bulgarian map, but once you have visited this guesthouse, the experience will be unforgettable. The accommodation is made of an independent villa and two of the rooms in the authentic owner’s house. You can taste the home-grown fruits and vegetables from the backyard garden. There is also a wildlife station in the region and possibilities for great walks and hikes in the picturesque surrounding area.

Phone: 0887390313; Fax: 05751/2484
E-mail: nevena_deneva@abv.bg
www.maria-nevena.com

Къща за гости Bezmer — Мария — Невена

Безмер надали ще ви направи впечатление на картата, но след като посетите тази къща за гости със сигурност ще го запомнете. Настаняването е в малка самостоятелна вила и в две от стаите на автентичната добруджанска къщата на стопаните. В обширна градина се отлеждат различни плодове и зеленчуци, които можете да опитате. В района има дивечовъдна станция, а разходката наоколо впечатлява с характерните за Лудогорието суходолия.

Phone: 08675 3111
E-mail: hotel_queen@abv.bg
www.hotelqueen.silistra.eu

Иван Нарлев / Ivan Narlev
6, Sofia Str.

Безмер – Къща за гости Мария – Невена

Безмер надали ще ви направи впечатление на картата, но след като посетите тази къща за гости със сигурност ще го запомнете. Настаняването е в малка самостоятелна вила и в две от стаите на автентичната добруджанска къщата на стопаните. В обширна градина се отлеждат различни плодове и зеленчуци, които можете да опитате. В района има дивечовъдна станция, а разходката наоколо впечатлява с характерните за Лудогорието суходолия.

Phone: 0887390313; Fax: 05751/2484
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www.maria-nevena.com

Иван Нарлев / Ivan Narlev
6, Sofia Str.

**Ветрен**

**Къща за гости Пеликан**

Къщата е разположена в непосредствена близост до световно известния природен резерват Сребърна. Можете да се насла- дите на местните специалитети от прясна дунавска риба и превъзходната кайсиева ракия. За природолюбителите има възможности за наблюдение на птици, насекоми, бозайници, ботанически екскурзии, фотография, колоездене сред природата. В селото има местен самодеен фолклорен състав, който представя Добруженски песни и танци, традиции и обичаи.

**Pelican Birding Lodge**

Pelican Guesthouse is next to the UNESCO-listed Srebarna Nature Reserve. Take pleasure in tasting the local Danube fish specialities and the fantastic local apricot brandy (“kay-sieva rakiya”). Nature lovers will can partake in the watching of birds, insects and mam-mal, as well as in botanical trips, photography and biking tours. There is also a local folklore group presenting Dobrudja’s songs and danc-es, tradition and customs.

** Цена**

20 Лева

**Phone/Fax:** 02 963 04 36; 08676 278
**E-mail:** pelicanbirding@abv.bg, pandion@einet.bg
**www.pelican-birding-lodge.com**

Никола Дилчев / Nikolai Dilchev
16, Dunav str.

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**Варна**

**Къща за гости Делфини**

Ако търсите екологично чисто място на морето, с приятелска и уютна атмосфера и същевременно да не сте далеч от цивилизацията, къща за гости “Делфини” е подходящото за вас място. Уникалната комбинация между плаж, море, планина и гора позволява упражняването на редица атрактивни спортове, които да разнообразят деня ви. Почитателите на културния туризъм могат да се докоснат до културното наследство на Варна и региона в многото му музеи и паметници на културата в града и околността.

**Varna Delfini Guesthouse**

If your are looking for a beautiful place to unwind or to arrange a business meeting, Delfini Guesthouse will fulfil to your require-ments. The unique combination of sea, sandy shore, mountain and forest allows for a variety of activities during your stay. The region has many interesting landmarks – natural wonders, ancient temples, rock monasteries and museums.

** Цена**

15 - 20 Лева

**Phone:** 052 343 031; **Fax:** 052 341 015
**Mobil:** 0887554454
**E-mail:** boyanak@abv.bg
**www.rentdelfiniroom.com**

Боян Янакиев / Boyan Yanakiev; 8 Delfini Str.
Балчик е разположен на тих залив на северния черноморски бряг. Градът има живописно амфитеатрално разположение. Допълнителна романтика му придават белите скали, зелените кипариси и тихите улички с китни дворове на къщите.

Белият град притежава над 2500-годишна история, като имената му се променят от Круни, Дионисополис, Балик, и сега - Балчик.

Перлата на Белия град са дворецът на румънската кралица Мария, ботаническата градина като част от парка и балнеоложкия център “Тузлата”.

Културният живот на Балчик се подхранва от духа на многолетни традиции. Всяка година расте интересът към многоцветната палитра от културни прояви и фестивали, в които са вплетени живите традиции, бит, обичаи и гостоприемство на хората от този край.

Балчик се разполага на 40 км от гр. Варна и 18 км от гр. Созопол.

**Visitor Centre Bachik**
Tel: 0579/ 76951
tic_balchik@balchikinfo.org

**Visitor Centre Kranevo**
Tel: 0579/ 66810
tic_kranevo@balchikinfo.org

**Balchik Ethnographical Museum**

**BALCHIK Municipality**

Balchik sits on the shore of a quiet bay on the northern Black Sea coast. Laid out in an amphitheatre formation, the picturesque town is known for its romantic white limestone, green cypresses and quiet streets with tidy yards.

Established on the site of an old Thracian village, previous names of what is now Balchik have been Kruni, Dionisopolis and Balik. The town’s long history can be witnessed with the ancient temple of the Mother Goddess Cybele, in the ancient region of Pontus. The cult to Cybele was brought from Malaysia; she was worshipped by the Thracians, Phrygians, Egyptians, Greeks and Romans. The temple in Bachik was built in 260 BC and existed till the end of the 4th century AD. Fine sculptures, writings, bone needles, clay lamps and other objects have been found at the ruins.

The so-called pearl of Balchik is the architectural compound Dvoretsa (“The Palace”), constructed on initiative of the Romanian Queen Marie as her summer residence in the early 20th century. The queen’s interest in the Baha’i faith contributed to the oriental architectural style of the palace. The palace’s surrounding park has been turned into a university botanical garden, which draws visitors with its impressive cactus collection and quaint villas where tourists can stay.

Another symbol of Balchik is Tulzata — a seaside lake rich in healing mud and home to a functioning mud treatment centre. Other important attractions are the history museum, the ethnographic museum and the art gallery.

A great number of hotels and restaurants scattered along the coastline of the town’s blue-watered bay provide opportunities to relax. There are also several fishing harbours and beaches of golden sand.

The visitor centres in Balchik and the nearby Kranevo are open year-round. Balchik is a good starting point for exploring the entire northern Black Sea coast.
Dalboka Bay is between the town of Kavarna and the village of Bulgarevo, on the northern Black Sea coast. This place is famous for its mussels. Something of a legendary roadside stop-off, people keep talking about the marvellous isolated bay and the first farm for mussels in Bulgaria – Mussel Farm Dalboka. (“Dalboka” means “profound”). The aroma of seafood specialities captivates anyone who travels down the road to the farm, not to mention the view. It is really worth it!

This cliff-sheltered restaurant is one of the most interesting on the Black Sea, where locally raised, freshly harvested mussels are prepared in a number of ways; the tomatoes, too, are grown on-site, in the garden. The menu offers up a fantastic experience: mussel-stuffed cabbage or grapevine leaves, mussel croquettes and skewers, fish stew and various grilled fishes, and Burgas-, Greek- and Italian-style mussels… It is like taking a dive into the sea. Famous restaurants rely on this farm for their daily supplies of seafood, having put their trust in the name Dalboka and quality of its products.

Breezes make the white tablecloths flutter during the day, and when the darkness falls, hundreds of small lights shine. The fresh products direct from the source and the beauty of the site combine to make everybody fall in love with and tell stories about this place. Come relish the charm and romance – as much as you want.
Горун – Вила Елла
Each detail of the house and garden of Elka is characterized by her magnificent sense for esthetics and style. Although typical for the old capital Veliko Turnovo, the architecture also hides sea elements. Nearby, there are 10 sand beaches and untouched dunes. The landscape passes from sand to rocks with underwater and rock caves, with magnificent bays where you can swim and dive. On the border between Dobrudja and the remarkable rocky coast of Yalita and Tyulenovo, this guesthouse is the perfect starting point for exploring the whole North Black Sea Coast, while at the same time its atmosphere guarantees true relaxation.

Крапец – Вила Кибела
The architecture of this retro villa was inspired by the tales of the renowned Bulgarian author Yordan Yovkov, in which he tells of a club-like inn in Dobrudja. Today, Villa Kibela focuses on organic food and ancient civilisations – barbeques on the shore with fish and mussels, fishing, ethnic evenings, stories and games. The cuisine is phenomenal – the fish and mussels come fresh each day; the meat is delivered from local farmers without being frozen; juices, jam, vegetables and fruits are from the garden. And the recipes... One of them is 3000 years old.
Тюленово
Хотел Делфина

“Делфина” е хотел, обзаведен в съвременен стил, който създава уют и приятната атмосфера на гостите си. Повечето стаи имат тераса с изглед към прекрасно заливче. Към хотела работи и ресторант с 40 места на закрито и лятна тераса с изглед към морето - 60 места. Предлага се традиционна национална кухня и морски специалитети. В комбинация с ресторанта, хотел “Делфина” е идеално място за почивка и възстановяване. Подходящ е и за семейни тържества, детски парти, фирмени събирации и тим билдинг.

Tyulenovo
Hotel Delfina

Delfina (means the Dolphin) is a hotel, furnished in modern style that creates a cozy and pleasant atmosphere for its guests. Almost all rooms have a terrace overlooking the beautiful cove. There is also a restaurant with 40 seats indoors and outdoor terrace overlooking the sea - for 60 people. Here you can taste traditional cuisine and fresh Black Sea fish. In combination with the restaurant Dolphin hotel is an ideal place for rest and recovery. Suitable for family celebrations, kids parties, corporate gatherings and team building.

Цена
Price
28 - 33 Leva

Phone: 05743 4221
E-mail: mihaylov_sinove@abv.bg
http://shabla.be/hotels/delfina/
Николай Михайлов / Nikolay Mihaylov

Варна/Varna - 90 km
София/Sofia - 520 km

Photo: M. Katrandjiev
Покривът на Балканите, вино и богато наследство

Въпреки близостта си до София, и в тази част на България има слабо познати и твърде интересни места. Макар и наричана Сърбежкият манастир е една от най-старите у нас (XIV в.), като паметник на културата значението й е създавано с тона на Боянска сцена. Слабо известна е старинната църква в гробищния парк на Банско, църквата с К. Николаев (Огражден плана), църквата „Св. Димитър“ в Бобошево (1481 г.). На другия полюс славна знаменитата Роженски манастир, основан още през 1220 г. от Алексий Слав и храмът в с. Добърско (Разложо), съхранява великолепни сте- нописи и иконостас. Познат за всички е Рилският манастир, основан в Рилската пустиня през Х в. от духовния патрон на българите св. Иван Рилски. Днес това е най-големият български манастир, обявен за световно културно наследство на ЮНЕСКО, а пейзажът наоколо прави въз- можност за световно културно наследство на

южния край на региона, между Пирин, винни лоза. Същността на Струма - Земен, Бобошевски и Красенски. Резерват- тът Тисата пази единственото в страната национално природно парк на дървовидна хвойна, а по скалите в пролома се изстрелят за кратко много птици, мигриращи между Европа и Африка по известната птична магистра- ла Via Aristotelis. Двете големи български планини Рила и Пирин се издигат като истински испо- лини. От високите им почти 3000 метра върхове се откриват фактурични гледки. Спици триметри маркирани пътеки и десетки хълмове дават възможност за пре- ходи и приключения с различна трудност и тема и през лятото, и през зимата. Кар- стовото било на Рила и Малновишкияята на Рила са предлагаем етически уникален израз на българската природа. Земен една от най-значимите защитени територии в България: национални паркове Рила и Пирин, природни паркове Витоша, Рилски манастир, Беласица и резерватът Алъбото (Славянова). Удила шоил на уникална растителност и животинство. Югоизточна България е освен с лековитите минерални извори: Невестино, Катунци, Санданска, Сапарева баня, Рупите, Баня, Момин проход. Изложението на планината е ски-центровете, като сезонът в Рила и Пирин често про- должава до месец май. Пистите на Боро- вец и Банско не се нуждаят от реклама. Хубавото е, че близо до тях се намира нова възможност за настаняване, апартаменти на големите хотели.

The Top of the Balkans, Wine and Rich Heritage

Despite its closeness to Sofia, the region hides are rarely visited sites that are worth checking out. Not many people know that the church of Zemen Monastery dates back to the 14th century and, as a monu- ment of culture, is comparable to Boyana Church. To the south, above Melnik, is Ro- zhen Monastery, founded by Alexius Slav back in 1220. The monastery founded by St Ivan Rilski in Rila Mountain is today the big- gest in Bulgaria and figures on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Bansko, Kovachevitsa, Melnik, Delchevo and Dolen are famous historical communi- ties with vernacular architecture typical of the Revival and Ottoman eras. Each has its unique charm and atmosphere, its secrets and glorious past. An old Turkish stone bridge, Kadin Most, from the 15th century, can be seen at Nevestino. Contemporary stone-carvers gather each year for work- shops at the marble quarries of the village of Illintsi.

In the most southern part of the region, be- tween Pirin, Belasitsa and Ograzhdene, there is one of the most famous wine-growing ar- eas in the country, home to the native grape variety Melnik. The sandstone pyramids at Melnik and Stob are spectacular and attract much attention. Their ever-changing shapes generate new figures and tales, provoking the imagination of photographers, artists and travellers. Equally interesting is the contiguity be- tween river and rocks in the gorges of Struma – Zemen, Boboshevo and Kresna. Tisata Reserve is the country’s only habi- tat of a rare species of juniper, whilst its rocks give temporary shelter to numerous birds migrating between Europe and Africa along Via Aristotelis. The two Bulgarian mountain ranges of Rila and Pirin tower at the top of the Balkans. Their peaks reach almost 3000m, with stu- pendous views unfolding in all directions. Hundreds of kilometres of marked paths and numerous lodges create conditions for hikes of different durations and difficulties, both in the summer and winter. The Malovitsa region in Rila Mountain and the karst ridge of Pirin challenge alpinists.
For thousands of years the livelihood of people at the foot of Vitosha has been connected with the mountain. Old records reveal that a few centuries ago Vitosha was covered with remnants of the impenetrable Magna silva bulgarorum (the Great Forest of Bulgarians). Today, part of this ancient forest have remained only in a few places in the park. In 1934 due to the active involvement of the Bulgarian conservation community, part of the Vitosha mountain (6 600 ha) was declared a Park. This is the first park not only in Bulgaria, but on the Balkan peninsula as well. Park boundaries have been changed numerous times and today they enclose the whole of the mountain covering an area of 27 079 ha. Two of the first nature reserves in Bulgaria have been declared along with the establishment of the park Bistrishko branishte reserve and the Torfeno branishte (peat bog) reserve.

Nature Protection Information Center - Vitosha is the first from the chain of information and education centres at protected areas in Bulgaria situated near the Dragalevtsi monastery.

The Bear Museum is situated close to the Dendrarium locality. It represents life, ecology and biology of the biggest European predator - the Brown Bear. You can visit also the Owl Museum and the Dragonfly Museum in the Belite brezi locality (close to the Dendrarium). The museums are open for visitors from 1 May to 30 October.

Dragalevtsi Assumption monastery is part of the group of monasteries that appeared towards the end of XIV century around Sofia and were called Little Mount Athos.

Kladnitsa St. Nikolas monastery is situated east of Kladnitsa village. The church is in the yard of the monastery. It was reconstructed upon old foundation in 1841.

Boyana St. Panteleymon church (X-XI c.) is situated at the border with the park. It is a unique monument of Bulgarian spirit, an exceptional example of medieval Bulgarian iconpainting and architecture. As a landmark of world importance it was listed as a world heritage UNESCO site.
“Since I can remember, I have been interested in horses. A decade spent in the United States shaped and changed my attitude towards horses. I gained experience in riding, dressage, training of horses, work with injured horses and livestock and lasso throwing. I lived and worked with professional cowboys. I visited the learning centre of Monty Roberts. I've had the possibility to learn and practice natural horsemanship and see, over a period of time, what unexpected results I can reach. Coming back to Bulgaria, my main goal is to promote natural horsemanship in our country.”

Alexander Penev, Instructor

Adgor is the name for the year of the horse in the ancient Bulgarian calendar, with the horse symbolising the celestial origin and the sun, the freedom and the unabated will of the Bulgarians. Horse Riding Base Adgor is a good starting point for horseback riding in the foothills of Vitosha, Verila, Rila and Stara Planina. Only 25 kilometres from Sofia, the southern slope of Vitosha offers fresh air, tranquillity, mountain views and a relaxing atmosphere. During the tours, you have the possibility to get to know the horses and their behaviour, as well as to develop your practical skills in horseback riding. For more advanced riders, there is the possibility to ride in groups of 10 people simultaneously. You can ride for an hour, or two or three, or participate in a one- or two-day tour. Routes are selected according to your skills and endurance. To ensure the rider’s safety, tours are always led by a professional riding instructor.

The riding base offers courses of different durations, as well as training of riders and horses in the Western style.
Sofia, Centre
Hostel Sofia Guesthouse

Situated in the city centre, the well-designed and modern hostel is the ideal base from which to explore, offering secure, clean and affordable lodging in newly renovated rooms. The 24-hour reception allows you the freedom to come and go as you like. Also, there is a fully equipped kitchen and free wireless internet access. If cooking is not your thing, the city has a wide range of excellent restaurants and cafés, but before you head out, start your day in Sofia with the hostel’s great value all-you-can-eat breakfast.

Sofia, Vladaya
Hotel-rest Club Vladaya

70 years ago, in the time of Tsar Boris III, due to its unique microclimate and location, the region between the Vitosha and Lyulin mountains was famous for being one of the best medical centers. Since then exotic trees have grown here, some of which have become real giants. The medical center with its original curved facade is nowadays a modern hotel. The owners are experienced mountaineers and can organize hiking or mountain-biking in the region and in winter show you their professional ski techniques. The hotel is an excellent place top to run team building activities and seminars.
Sofia, Dragalevtsi district
Hotel-Tavern Bansko

Hotel Bansko is located in the foothills of Vitosha Mountain, a few minutes away from the lift and the numerous hiking trails. Built in a traditional Bulgarian style, the hotel offers tranquility in a quiet and pleasant atmosphere. For your free time there are possibilities for various activities such as tennis, football, swimming, winter sports and alpinism. In the evenings you can admire the captivating mountain views and try out the traditional dishes made with lots of love and devotion in the tavern.

Sofia, Knyajevo district
Raideia Guesthouse

Situated in the greenest borough of the capital, Raideia presents the ideal combination of retreat and convenience. The hosts will welcome you with great enthusiasm and make your stay a real pleasure. There are many trails up Vitosha Mountain and at the base point you can fill your bottle with natural mineral water from Knyazhevo’s famous springs. The guesthouse is perfect for those who want to relax in nature and be in Bulgaria’s capital at the same time.
Sofia, Simeonovo
Hotel Kitka

At the foot of Vitosha Mountains, away from noisy and overcrowded Sofia, amidst a fresh pine forest, the hotel is a nice and beloved place for rest and business meetings. After an exhausting day, drinking a cool and fresh drink in the greenery of this house can be the nicest thing. Modern furnished and fully equipped bedrooms offer real comfort. It is a starting point for lots of hiking trails in the mountain and if you take the gondola lift in less than half an hour you will be in the heart of Vitosha, watching the whole city of Sofia beneath your feet.

City Sightseeing Sofia представя чудесна разходка в столицата на България – София. Вашият hop on - hop off (хоп горе - хоп долу) билет е валиден 24 часа от момента, в който се качите за първи път в автобуса! Можете да спирайте и да се качвате на определени за целта спирки в рамките на едно денонощие. Туристическият двуетажен автобус преминава край най-атрактивните паметници на културата и административните сгради на София с професионален аудио гид на 6 езици - български, руски, английски, испански, италиански и немски.

Запазвайки Вашия билет можете да получите 10% отстъпка навсякъде по света, където се предлагат услугите на City Sightseeing Sofia.
Troyantsite Restaurant is situated in the centre of Sofia, not far away from Sofia University. It welcomes you with a cool garden and cozy two-floor interior. You can try out a wide variety of Bulgarian and European dishes, as well as daily specialty soups prepared by the chef. The godfather of the restaurant is Andrey Slabakov, and other Sofia art stars are often among the guests.

The restaurant can seat 45 people on 2 floors, while the sunny summer garden has a capacity of 35 people.

www.troyancite.com
Vaska Emanouilova Gallery

a branch of Sofia City Art Gallery, is a museum and a project space. It has a permanent collection of works by the prominent Bulgarian sculptor Vaska Emanouilova, as well as an exhibition space for temporary expositions, where take place various research-based and curatorial projects, related with the museum collection and with the two programs for contemporary art, which the gallery maintains. These are: Sculpture Program, which aims at developing an interest in and a better understanding of contemporary sculpture and Meeting Point Platform for contemporary art and young artists, which main goal is to develop a stage for young contemporary art through exhibitions, discussions, meetings and projects, providing an environment for constant debate and experimenting.
Янякиев family strives to provide their guests with coziness, hospitable atmosphere and good facilities in both of their accommodations. Whether you desire swimming in a green environment or holiday celebration with your friends or relatives, you can always do it in the cherry garden in summertime, or in cold winter days – around the fireplace in the “Black Cat” Resort. The Hotel-Club Янякиев in Borovets offers great possibilities for skiing combined with stunning natural landscapes, excellent SPA centre, relaxing piano bar and spacious, well-equipped bedrooms.

For reservations: Phone.: 0750 32830, 0750 3286, 0895 55 87 70; Fax: 0750 32840
e-mail: office@hotel-yanakiev.com, reservations@hotel-yanakiev.com;
http://hotel-yanakiev.com

Говедарци
Къща за гости Джамбазки

Sauna, mountain-biking, delicious meals and a vacation in the heart of Maljovishka Rila! Guesthouse Djambazki open its gates to offer you moments of silence and contemplation. The summer house and benches are covered with flowers. In winter all ski runs are suitable for beginners and advanced skiers. In summer choose some of the routes and they will lead you to Sedemte Rilski ezera (Seven Rila’s Lakes), Maljavitsa peak, Urudini lakes.

Phone: 07125 23 61; Fax: 02 961 16 41
E-mail: info@house-djambazki.com
www.new.govedartsi.com
Николай Джамбазки / Nikolay Djambazki
53, Iskar Str.

София / Sofia – 70 км
Говедарци

Хотел Калина

Къщата е неочаквано и много приятно съчетание на алпийски и възрожденски стил. Собственикът Краси Джамбазов е почитател на хубавата музика: при него можете да послушате както класика, така и автентичен фолклор, и съвременна латиномузика. Можете да се насадите и на колекцията му с картини на Злато Бойджиев. На двора има ново барбекю, а ако искате да се раздвижите – в планината над Говедарци има достатъчно пътеки, водещи до истински находища на гъби, диви малини и боровинки. През зимата изборът е между пистите на Мальовица, Боровец и Говедарци.

Говедарци

Вилла Явор

На подстъпите на северна Рила напоследък село Говедарци се утвърди като цялоденшен курорт. Вилата предлага уют на един традиционен планински дом, камината и гъбата. Домакините не само ще ви настанят и нагостят, но и ще ви изведат на излет в планината, в търсене на горски плодове, билки и гъби. Говедарци е изходен пункт за много преходи в Рила. Вечерта може да чуете автентичен фолклор и да тропнете хоре. Само попитайте как! Отличен адрес за selfcatering в планина Рила.
Sonata Family Hotel is in the town of Samokov – just 8 kilometres from the Borovets ski resort and 60 kilometres from Sofia. The hotel has nine rooms and two apartments, each decorated differently. Three of the bathrooms have hydro-massage tubs. Other facilities include a restaurant with a beautiful summer garden, a conference hall, fitness centre, sauna, steam bath, table tennis, a children’s play area and secure parking.

Samokov itself has a Bulgarian Revival neighbourhood, with a large part of its rich cultural and historical heritage displayed at the History Museum. The Sarafskaya House, the Metropolitan church, the convent, the Bayrakli Mosque, the Big Fountain and other sites bring the city's past to life. The biggest treasure of Samokov is its nature: Iskar River with all the parks along it, Iskar Dam and, of course, Rila National Park. It is possible to hike to the highest point on the Balkans – Mount Musala (2925m) – in just one day, starting at Borovets. Seven Rila Lakes is the most visited lake group in Bulgaria, because... It is best to find out for yourself. These are only two of hundreds of hiking routes in Rila Mountain, and one can also try many routes for sport and traditional climbing in the Malyovitsa part of the mountain. Other summer activities are horseback riding and mountain biking, and in the winter, along with the pistes of Borovets, you can try freeriding and snowshoeing.
Gurgulyat – Guesthouse
Aleksievata kashta

Very close to the Bulgarian capital, but still far enough away from the crowds of the big city, the village of Gurgulyat has a romantic atmosphere. The settlement dates back to Thracian times; and not far away from the Aleksieva Guesthouse is located the Petlyuchi Kamak, a place where a long fortification wall dating back to the reigns of Assen and Petar (XII c.) still stands pointing at the sky. The smiling hostess will welcome you at the door; and if learning how to cook Bulgarian dishes appeals to you, the local experts can give you some clues about this extremely important craft.

Phone: 0727 452 20, 0888 846 790
Fax: 076 603 880
E-mail: rezervacia@alexhouse-bg.com

Ribaritsa, Etropole
The grandmother’s house

Sunny days and warm evenings filled with birds’ songs, river’s chatter and scents of fresh hay make up the atmosphere of Ribaritsa village. “The Grandmother’s house” is the family house of Galya who welcomes the guests into her home and her child memories. If you desire the freedom of dreaming, relaxing, or want to taste home-made food and drinks, stay in this charming house full of good memories.

Phone: 0884864727
E-mail: g_boncheva@abv.bg
www.kashtatanababa.webs.com
Yamna
Camping Vodenitsata

You will not regret crossing the small bridge leading to the 100-year-old water-mill. With the whisper of the river and the deep shade you will leave all your worries behind. Your charming hostess, Katia, will keep you lingering at the table with her homemade meals such as rabbit in hotchpotch or rooster in a pot. Do not refuse to try beans with seven herbs and don’t miss the Bulgarian white cheese and Bulgarian “banitsa”. Well worth trying!
Pernik, 30 kilometres south-west of Sofia, is known as the festival capital of Bulgaria. The city has also received acclaim for its developed industry and very exciting and unique kukeri (masked dances) traditions.

The Surva International Festival of Masked Games takes place the last weekend of January. Kukeri celebrations date back to pagan times and today, the festival is one of the major events for masked traditions in Europe. In an atmosphere overflowing with music and rhythm, visitors are captivated by the lavish and dreadful masks. Each year, more than 90 groups and 6000 foreign and Bulgarian performers take part in the event.

The medieval Krakra Fortress is on the eastern side of Pernik. Its preserved ruins form a majestic fortress with an area of 45 decares. Byzantine chronologists recorded two unsuccessful sieges of Pernik by the armies of Emperor Basil II, in 1004 and 1016. The fortress helped the town maintain its strong strategic position of an administrative centre during the Second Bulgarian Empire. Nowadays, visitors can buy small-scaled models of the fortress in most bookstores in Pernik.

Pernik is also a centre for coal production. The Underground Mine Museum is housed in an authentic, 630m-long mine gallery in the first developed pit in Pernik (1891) – Starite Rudnitsi (“The Old Pits”).

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The hotel suits the building of the former quarryman’s school in the village, from where splendid views of the highest mountain in the region – Ruy, can be seen. There are many possibilities for tourism in the area: hiking the eco-trails of the Tran gorge, climbing peak Ruy, fishing in Yarlovtzi dam, visiting the yoghurt museum, the museum of ceramics, or the rock chapel of St Petka which hosts prints from the hands and feet of the saint.

Your holiday in hotel-restaurant Yarlovtzi will be an unforgettable experience. After a short sauna therapy and a cold shower you will feel like all your everyday problems have gone away. The wine-cellar offers a nice wine selection. The restaurant has a traditional menu with variety of dishes prepared with local products. The garden is the perfect place to have your private time with your partner or just be with yourself reading a book or a magazine. Here, you will feel the slow rhythm of time. After your stay at Yarlovtzi you will be fully relaxed.

Phone: 0887 88 99 96, 0884 611 867
E-mail: info@yarlovtzi.com
www.yarlovtzi.com

Петър Георгиев, Хари Петров / Peter Georgiev, Hari Petrov
Град Кюстендил се намира в подножието на Осоговската планина, на двата бряга на река Банщица, приток на една от емблематичните реки на Балканите – Струма. Дълго време известен като овошната градина на България, днес градът на титана на четката – Владимир Димитров – Майстора, печели сърцето на посетителя с минералните си извори и многобройните паметници на културата, тишината и спокойствието на своя център и съхранената си природа.

Основан от траките и превърнат от римляните в балнеоложки център, античният и средновековен град-резерват “Пауталия – Велбъжд” дължи успеха си на лечебния характер на тукашната вода – слабо минерализирана с температура 73°С, която в съчетание с лечебния торф, в добре оборудваните река култови центрове се използва за балнео и калолечение, SPA и Wellness.

Лесопарк Хисарълъка с пътека на здравето е най-достъпната част от зеленото богатство на Кюстендил. Осоговската планина с нейните вековни буки и иглолистни съобщества, резерват Църна река, торфено бранище с алпийски тритон, европейски рис, ендемични и редки растителни видове, е магнит за туристите, както през горещите летни дни, така и през зимата. Маркират са туристически маршрути до връх Руен (2251 м), има вело пътеки и ски писти, оборудвани със ски влек.

Кюстендил предоставя голям брой хотели и гостжилища, както и множество възможности за развлечения като коне, верболет, парапланеризъм, велосипедизъм, планински туризъм, наблюдение за диви птици и бозайници, сбор на билки и сероносни плодове, риболов на тръстика и лова.

КЮСТЕНДИЛ

Кюстендил, Пл. “Велбъжд” №1 / Velbuzhd Sq 1
Tel: 078/ 551 166
e-mail: tourism@kustendil.bg
www.kustendil.bg

KYUSTENDIL Municipality

The town of Kyustendil is at the foot of Osogovska Mountain on the banks of the River Banishitsa, affluent of the River Struma. Long known for its vast orchards, Kyustendil is also the birthplace of the brilliant painter Vladimir Dimitrov – “the Master”. Today it draws visitors with its mineral springs, numerous historic monuments, tranquility and preserved natural beauty.

The healing power of the mineral springs lead to the establishment of the ancient Roman settlement of Pautalia, now the Velbuzhd medieval reserve. The low mineral content of the water together with its 73° C temperature and the healing peat provide good conditions for the development of healing centres for soaking and mud treatments, spa and wellness.

Hisaruka Park is in the most accessible part of the Kyustendil region. The diverse woods of Osogovska Mountain, the Tsarna Reka Reserve, the Alpine newt, the European lynx and the native, rare vegetation are particularly attractive for visitors in both summertime and wintertime. Well-marked hiking trails – two of them heading to Peak Ruen (2251 m) – cycling paths and ski runs with ski lifts are also present.

Kyustendil offers a good number of hotels and guesthouses, as well as possibilities for a wide range of activities such as horseback riding, paragliding, cycling, mountaineering, skiing, bird and wildlife observation, herb gathering, forest fruits and mushroom picking, trout fishing, and hunting.
Bogoslov
Orlovo gnezdo

Located on the slopes of Osogovo Mountain in the locality of Hisarluka, the hotel has a view to the city of Kyustendil. The mountain’s highest peak, Ruen (2251m), was a closed frontier area, but is now accessible with permission of the border police. There is a ski piste at the locality of Tri Buki. Orlovo Gnezdo is a welcoming hotel with a good restaurant, where you can organise family or corporate parties.

Price
15 Leva

Phone: 078 554 388, 0898 647 256, 0899 167 9 27
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www.vita.vibs-bg.com

Росен Васев / Rosen Vasev

Местност Предел – Биохотел Моравско село

Moravsko Selo is a “biohotel” – part of an agriculture enterprise producing certified organic products. The assortment includes homemade cheeses with herbs, yoghurt, butter, milk, herbal teas, honey, a variety of jams, fruit juices, fresh vegetables and fruits. Before you sit down for dinner, though, take a hike, bike or horseback ride in Pirin Mountain, or, in the spring, head to Struma River for great rafting and kayaking opportunities; in the winter, you can try out the skiing in Bansko.

Price
20-25 Leva

Phone: 0898 621765
E-mail: 2@biohotel-bg.com
www.biohotel-bg.com

Свилен Смиленов / Svilen Smilenov
Bansko Hotel Martin

Martin Hotel is located on a quiet street of the quaint old town. Newly built, it offers to its guests the great experience of Bansko. Skiing is a favourite activity in the winter, whilst in the summer, you can also explore the mountain — just be sure to check out the cultural programme in town as well. At the hotel, try the variety of spa procedures. A ski locker, a welcoming lobby and a good restaurant make your stay more comfortable. Your experience will make you recommend the hotel and await a return to its unique atmosphere.

Bansko Hotel Sema

Notwithstanding the fast modernization appearance of the old town, local traditions still live on. Located quite close to the town center, hotel Sema will energize you with the warmth of traditional hospitable Bulgarian home. The food is prepared only from tasty homemade and organic produce; the atmosphere is comforting and relaxing, especially when sitting in front of the fire. In the summer you can enjoy the beauty of the high mountains and in winter to go skiing and snowboarding. Once you cross the threshold of this house, you will never want to leave it.

Phone: 0898 450 083, 0897 888 412
Fax: 02 961 16 41
E-mail: hotelmartin@abv.bg
www.martin-bansko.com

Phone: 0749 855 80, 0888 88 14 24
E-mail: hotel.sema@mail.bg
www.hotelsema.com

Янка Рахова / Yanka Rahova; 28, Neofit Rilski Str.
**Bansko Guesthouse**

**Hadjipopova kashta**

In the centre of Bansko, far away from the noise and, at the same time, at a five-minute walk from the main street, Hadjipopova Kashta welcomes guests all the year round. The rooms are spacious and have large balconies. The hosts are exceptionally hospitable and kind — whatever you may need in Bansko, ask them. The cuisine is superb and competes with the famous Bansko wine restaurants. This is the good choice on the edge of the Pirin Mountains.

**Price**

18-22 Leva

Phone: 0749 821 31; 0898 808 549

E-mail: hadjipopov@yahoo.com

www.bansko.bg

Ivan Hadjipopov / Ivan Hadjipopov
3, Tsar Boris III Str.

See also the map on page 158.
Bansko
Family hotel Chichin

Hotel and Tavern Chichin is located on a quiet street in Bansko, just 200 m away from the center and the old part of town, and 1 km away from the starting station of the cabin lift. You can enjoy the comfortable family atmosphere. Each room is equipped with mini bar, telephone, TV with cable television, Internet, hairdryer. The tavern (60 seats) has a garden where you can enjoy the traditional Bulgarian cuisine and folklore. There is a SPA center with swimming pool with Jacuzzi, sauna, steam bath, fitness room, massage room, and a play room with pool table and table tennis. Transportation to the hotel is provided.

Dobarsko
Guesthouse Vasil

Legend has it that the first settlers in Dobursko were warriors of the king Samuil of Bulgaria, whose eyes were put out by the Byzantine emperor Basil II after his victory. Here they found the holy spring that is now in the yard of marvellous church Sveti Teodor Tiron and Teodor Stratilat. Nowadays, Guesthouse Vasil offers tasty local cuisine, great views to Rila, Pirin and Rhodope mountains and the songs of the folklore group Grannies of Dobarsko. Walks to a small waterfall, a centuries-old pine tree or the higher parts of Rila Mountain are also enticing.
**Gorno Draglishte - Guesthouse Deshka**

Guesthouse "Deshka" is nestled in the village of Gorno Dragalishte. The coziness and hospitality of the house come from the open-hearted hosts and their desire to welcome the guests and help them merge in the rural lifestyle and traditions of the region. Deshka will host her guests with delicious dishes, while the winter garden is the perfect place for a morning coffee, games, a gardening lesson, or just admiring the tranquility and beauty of the landscape. The love fills in the atmosphere of the house and it can be felt in the way they welcome, host and care for their guests — everything is done with genuine desire and from the heart.

**Delchevo - Guesthouse Yancheva kasha**

The village of Delchevo was designated an architectural and historical reserve in 1977. Today it remains attractive because of the architecture of its buildings, the quietness and good location. Yancheva Guesthouse was built with respect to the traditions of old master-builders. From the terraces of its charmingly decorated rooms unfurl beautiful scenes of the Mesta River Valley, and the Rhodope and Slavyanka mountains. This southern part of Pirin Mountain has many marked routes offering tourists an intriguing experience during all four seasons. The menu at the guesthouse's restaurant contains delicious dishes as well.
Gotse Delchev
Hotel Malamova kashta

During the XIX century the Malamovata Kashta has been the most popular inn in the whole region and Valeri, the current hotel-keeper, can tell lots of stories about the town and his origin. The preserved architecture of the hotel, the mehana and the fireplace, the furniture made of missing wood give an instant impression of the past times. Interesting and picturesque villages in Southern Pirin and Rodopi Mountains, mineral springs and even the coast of Aegean Sea (100 km southwards) will make your stay unforgettable.

Leshten
Leshten Ecovillage

Leshten was an almost depopulated village before half of the houses were restored and adapted for receiving guests. The local pub, formerly a school, is the centre of the complex, where you can taste original dishes prepared with the products of the few remaining villagers. Said to be the most attractive is the clay house with a straw roof. All throughout the facilities, various handmade gadgets will entertain and and make your stay more comfortable.
Ковачевица

Byalata kushta

In the village of Kovachevitsa, time follows its natural rhythm, calming the soul and making it feel at home. The hosts of Byalata Kushtha ("The White House") recognise that. The house was built by traditional masters, who constructed it using natural materials, whilst making sure to include all the modern amenities desired. The interior has been designed in an authentic style that provides a sense of harmony, just as do venerable pines, streams and birds songs. Outstanding vista!

Ковачевица

Kapsazovi kushti

Quality os the hallmark of everything at the Kapsazovi kushti: starting with jas of pickles, jams and other preserves arranged like pieces of art, going through the typical local architecture, and ending with the immaculate garden. For activities there's a wide choice: a course at Sonya Kapsazova's cookery school, picking mushrooms and herbs on the slopes of the Rodopes, walking whether in the village, or to the magical Sin Vir of the river Kanina. If you get to Ossikovo, you will have a stunning view of Kovachevitsa, looking like something out of movie about freedom fighters...
Marchevo – Hotel Nicopolis ad Nestum

Thousand of years ago, the Romans chose this site to build one of the first balneotherapy centres in the Balkans. Today, the region still attracts with its warm mineral springs. Besides mineral pools you can go to the Rhodopean villages of Dolen, Leshten and Kovachevitsa, as well as to Pirin's southern slopes and Orelyak Peak. The hosts have a notion for art: they often organise artist workshops, and works by Rumen Stankov decorate the restaurant.

Мелник – Guesthouse Uzunova kashta

In the center of the smallest town in Bulgaria Ivan Uzunov will welcome you with a smile. The house was a prison during the centuries of Turkish occupation but has now been painstakingly renovated and turned into a guesthouse. The stone garden with its fountain and trellis vine are hidden behind high wooden gates and surrounded by high balconies. On hot summer days you can keep cool in the tavern, where the taste and smell of homemade meals served with local wine will make your day. There is a lot to see in the area, especially the fantastic sand pyramids of Melnik.
Located in the western foothills of Pirin Mountain, a few kilometres from Krasna George, Vlahi can be called, for many reasons, a village at the end of the world. Eight residents, about ten houses, one church (from 1750), bizarre rock formations, Mediterranean vegetation and climate and 360 degrees of mountain views.

Horseback riding on Karakachan horses

The Karakachan horses are a mountain breed particularly suitable for rugged terrain. Calm and friendly, they are ideal for first-timers. The beginners’ route lasts three hours, and for the more experienced, there are five-hour tours and one- or two-day tours. In the summertime, riders explore the high parts of Pirin Mountain (more than 1200m above sea level), whilst during the winter, the trails usually go around the village.

Visit the farm for rare and endangered livestock

The only true flock of Karakachan sheep, and the biggest flock of Kalofer goats, are successfully protected by the Karakachan dogs (the breed is a descendant of the dogs of the Thracians). At the farm, the host presents the different breeds and how they are raised and protected. There is the possibility to taste and purchase products made on the farm. Reservations need to be made at least five days in advance.

Meet the wolves and bears at the centre for big predators

The educational centre provides wide information for big predators that can be found in the territory of Bulgaria – wolf, bear, lynx and jackal. This is the place to learn more about their habits and lifestyle, and their role in the ecosystems. Visitors can also observe a bear and two wolves, kept in wide open spaces above the village.

0888 268414, Elena and Sider Sedefchevi
BALKANI Wildlife Society
BBPS – Semperviva

se.sedefchevi@gmail.com;
www.sedef-ecotours.org
Borovichene – Guesthouse
Ograjdenska kashta

Borovichene is a quiet village on the southern slope of Ograzhdem Mountain with a beautiful view to Belasitsa Mountain (designated a nature park in 2007), which rises like a wall on the border with Greece. Ograzhdenska House is a traditional home adapted for hosting guests. You can hike to Markovi Kladentsi Peak (1523m) or visit the monastery of Churilo. Thirty-five kilometres away is Rupite – a mineral springs area in the crater of a former volcano where the prophetess Vanga lived before her death in 1996.

Price

15 - 20 Leva

Phone: 0745 642 22; 0885 111 413
Fax: 0745 621 26
E-mail: ograjdenska_kashta@dir.bg

Andon Cholakov / Andon Chorakov
The Valley of Roses, Thracian Kings and Wine

The Valley of the Roses should be visited at the end of May. The aroma of blossoming attar roses and lavender intoxicates the air, and the countryside is rich with all colors and hues. This is rose-harvest season. All the people from the villages and towns, all the way from Klisura to Kazanluk, migrate to the fields, where rose petals are picked at dawn. Almost every community has its local festival, and the Queen of Roses is selected in Kazanluk every year.

Karlovo, Sopot, Kalofer, Kilsura, Koprivshitsa and Panagyurishte occupy a special place in Bulgarian history. On the date when the 1876 April Uprising burst out and on the dates of birth of Vasil Levski, Ivan Vazov and Hristo Botev, major celebrations and festivities are organised with elements of both history and traditional folklore.

The homes of the national heroes have been transformed into ethnographic and history museums. Koprivshitsa – the hometown of Georgi Benkovski and Lyuben Karavelov – is an architectural reserve, where walking is a journey back in time and a feast for the senses.

The houses of several other prominent Bulgarian Revival figures are well-preserved and transformed into ethnographic and history museums. Koprivshtitsa – the hometown of Georgi Benkovski and Lyuben Karavelov – is an architectural reserve, where walking is a journey back in time and a feast for the senses.

The region hosts some of the largest and best-known spa resorts in Bulgaria – in Hisarya, Pavel Banya and Stara Zagora. Good swimming pools, mineral-water baths and hotels can be found also in Banya, in the Karlovo area, and in Strelcha. Most of the towns and villages are starting points for hiking in the Balkan Range and Sredna Gora. Although the latter is not a protected territory, its nature is very well preserved. The huge deciduous forests, where beechn trees prevail, offer blissful shade and keep you cool in the summertime, and hide fields of wild raspberries, strawberries and hazelnuts, as well as incredibly cold water springs.

Those who prefer the more severe and, yet, more varied, face of nature can go north to Central Balkan National Park, where many marked trails and lodges are situated. Even more thrilling is the flying of delta- or paragliders above Sopot. The lift, which has recently been extended to Nezabrvka lodge, will take you up to the very top of the mountain, where views are breathtaking...
Ancient Plovdiv was established on three of the seven hills of Plovdiv — Nebet Tepe, Dzhambaz Tepe and Taksim Tepe. Situated on a crossroads of early civilisations, Plovdiv has been the link between the East and Europe, the Baltic and the Mediterranean, the Black Sea and the Adriatic. The city’s appeal comes from its rich historical and cultural heritage that encompasses the heritage of the Thracian (3000 BC), Hellenistic (4th to 2nd c BC), Roman (AD 1st to 4th c), Medieval (7th to 14th c), Ottoman (14th to 17th c) and National Revival eras (13th to 18th c). The Romans named it Trimontium (the town of three hills) due to its unique, scenic location on the three hills. On top of Nebet Tepe, visitors can find remains from the first prehistoric village, dating to 6000 BC.

In 1956, Old Plovdiv was noted as an architectural and historical reserve, and in 1979 it received a European gold medal for preservation of historic monuments. Archaeological expeditions around the city reveal remains of remarkable ancient buildings: a huge forum, an impressive Roman stadium, a fascinating amphitheatre that still draws live music and performance lovers, majestic fortress walls, pagan temples, aqueducts and pretty aristocratic houses.

The spirit of Plovdiv can also be experienced in the wide town centre, great for walking about, the tree-lined cobbled streets, the mixture of buildings of diverse architectural styles and eras, and the superb works of the great number of artists born here.

Nowadays, Plovdiv is deserved its names of ”The pearl of Thrace”, “The town of the seven hills”, “The city of artists” and “A crossroad of civilisations”.

Tourist Information Centre Plovdiv
Tsentralen Sq 1
Tel: 032/656 794
tic@plovdiv.bg ; www.plovdiv-tour.info
Hostel Plovdiv Guest

The hostel is at the centre of Old Town Plovdiv and keeps the spirit of older times. The building has an authentic city architectural style and offers cosiness and hospitality to its guests. Close to the hostel are the landmarks of Plovdiv – the Antique Theatre, Roman stadium, galleries and museums, archaeological excavations and a fortress, along with churches from the First Bulgarian Kingdom (632-1018). The pedestrian zone of the city centre is five minutes away and railroad and bus stations are 5 kilometres away.

Price 30-40 Leva

Phone: 032 622 432; Fax: 032 631 150
E-mail: info@plovdivguest.com
www.plovdivguest.com
20, Saborna Str.
was established in 1999 with lots of love and desire to provide its customers with the coziness and tranquility of the countryside. It is situated right in the centre of the small town of Hisar, next to the Municipality and the Cultural House. Nearby there is a mineral spring called “Momina Banya”, guesthouses and hotels. The restaurant has room for 50 places indoors and 120 places in the pretty garden.

The key to success for the owners – the Ivanovi family, is simple: offering tasty food from organic bioproducts together with fast and high-quality service. They trust the good taste of their guests and devote themselves to the traditional Bulgarian cuisine.

Mrs Ivanova says: “We have always wanted our guests to feel like home. We try our best that they enjoy the food and drinks and at the same time are able to escape from the stress of everyday life, and even for a while feel content.”

Oryahovitsa
Cultural centre

Minko Balkanski, a world-known physician, is the creator of the Minyu Balkanski Foundation. After years of living in France, he decided to return and revitalise his father’s village. Thereby the general store was turned into an educational centre, and the former pub and town hall into an ethnographic exhibition. In the yard of his father’s house, he established a library with 6000 volumes of French literature. Three houses now receive guests.
Located in the foothills of Stara Planina and the heart of the Rose Valley, Karlovo holds a special place in the historical life of the Bulgarians. This mountain town is the birthplace of the so-called Apostle of the National Revival movement, Vasil Levski. His birth house (General Kartsov Str 75, tel: 0335/934 89) was turned into a museum in 1937. The old town consists of more than 115 preserved houses listed as cultural monuments, as well as peaceful cobblestone streets and pretty green yards, all of them maintaining the charm of one of the most romantic eras of Bulgarian history — the Revival Era. There is a history museum (Vuzrozhdenska Str 4, tel: 0335/947 28), several antiquated churches and even a mosque.

Hiking trails start from the town itself, and only a kilometre away from the town centre is the waterfall Suchurum (15m); up on the mountain there are several lodges — Hubavets, Balkanski Rosi, Ravnets and Vasil Levski (Tourist Information Vasil Levski, tel: 0335/934 36).

Roses and wines are the focus of local traditions. When the attar roses bloom in May and June, the valley becomes a vast, sweet-scented garden. The Rose Festival takes place the last week of May, when the rose gardens and the entire city are full of national songs and kukeri (masked) dances, folklore bands and a lavish parade lead by the Rose Queen. Tourists can try rose liqueur and jam, or get to know the process of rose distillation in one of the most architecturally impressive buildings — Buhalovya Han (“The Owl Inn”).

The pretty little town of Sopot, nearby Karlovo, boasts a museum to the patriarch of Bulgarian literature, the writer Ivan Vazov, an old nunnery and several guesthouses in a traditional style.
**Kalofer — Guesthouse Tsutsova kashta**

The house was built back in 1878 during the War of Liberation. The original architecture has been preserved as much as possible, although a dining hall with a fireplace and an oven has been added on to the outside of the house. “Tsustova kashta” is located right in the centre of this Bulgarian Revival town, close to the Museum of History at the school of Daskal Botyo. One of the best known hiking routes in the Balkan Range starts here to Rai lodge, Rai waterfall and the Mt Botev. The rose and rose rakija traditions are kept alive here- try them!

**Kalofer Guesthouse**

Located right in the centre of this Bulgarian Revival town, close to the Museum of History at the school of Daskal Botyo. One of the best known hiking routes in the Balkan Range starts here to Rai lodge, Rai waterfall and the Mt Botev. The rose and rose rakija traditions are kept alive here- try them!

**Kalofer — Guesthouse Chardaka**

Chardaka Guesthouse lives up to its name with its wide-open terrace, giving you an outstanding view to south slopes of Kalofer, towards Djendema and Botev peaks. The house was built in the traditional Revival style, and is surrounded by a small, pretty yard. You will have a warm welcome — the hostess Ina will cook a dinner of local specialties and Raycho will open a bottle of Kalofer brandy (“kaloferska rakiya”) or go to the cellar for a carafe of sparkling wine.
Wine cellar Copsa 2005 is specialised in production of limited series of high quality white and red wines with a unique character. Wine cellar Copsa is one of the few new created family wineries in Bulgaria that fits to the word ESTATE - the enterprise which is entirely involved in the process of wine-making - growing of the grapes, producing and bottling the wine in the own winery. That means control and responsibility through all stages of wine production.

Chateau Copsa is impressive stone building on a hill with inhabitable oval towers. The fine interior contrasts with the rough stone facade. Chateau Copsa has 4 double rooms, 1 apartment and a restaurant (60 places).

The winery is dug into a natural hill and has optimal temperature conditions for ageing of the selected wines Zeyla. The true tasters can drink wines from the different casks.

The name of our wine series Zeyla came in the antiquity. The Thracians have drunk the wine with enchant herbs and having been rapt, they have led talks with the Gods... That sacral drink they have called Zeyla.
**Koprivshtitsa**
**Dora Guesthouse**

There are many good accommodation places but some are better. Tsonka Toromanova is the spark of the hospitality, the cuisine is impressive in terms of both quality and quantity. The specially built new house is used to accommodate guests, while a small building in the vernacular style features the indispensable eating place with a fireplace, red table-clothes and lamb hides. When the weather is warm, the best place to taste the culinary specialties outside on the green lawn under the thick shade of the old pear tree. And the boundless mountain forest is just next door.

Price: 15-20 Leva
Phone: 07184 25 16, 0888 558 847
Fax: 07184 20 44

Цонка Тороманова / Tsonka Toromanova
4, Nikola Belchev Str.

Sofia - 100 km
Burgas - 306 km
Plovdiv - 80 km
SkyNomad Paragliding School is based in the old town of Sopot, in the central Balkan range. Training is led by inspiring instructors, with quality equipment in a multinational atmosphere. SkyNomad Club pilots do panoramic and cross-country tandem flights for everyone, all over Bulgaria: Sofia, Vratsa, Kyustendil, Bansko, Borovets, Plovdiv, Shumen, Sliven, Varna, Burgas...
**Sopot**

**Krebs Guesthouse**

Opening the gate, you will find yourself in a spacious yard full of flowers, with a cozy house in the back. Bai Georgi will welcome you with pleasure and invite you for a coffee in the shade in the garden. He can also show you Sopot's interesting sites or guide you to the starting points of the Stara Planina hiking trails.

**Sofia / Sofia - 133 km**  
**Plovdiv / Plovdiv - 70 km**

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**Sopot**

**Family hotel Rodeo**

Stone-paved street, singing fountains, a nun-nerly — these are some of the characteristics describing Sopot. Many houses here were built just after the Liberation. One of them now holds Guesthouse Rodeo. In 1877, the house was fully destroyed, with it being totally rebuilt by rose oil traders in 1881. It was designated a Monument of Culture of National Significance in 1970.

**Sofia / Sofia - 130 km**  
**Plovdiv / Plovdiv - 68 km**

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E-mail: krebs@krebs-bg.com  
Georgi Krastev / Georgi Krastev
3, Yordan Voivoda Str.

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**Phone:** 0889 358 636  
E-mail: sopot_rodeo@abv.bg  
www.sopot-rodeo.com  
Dimitar Gatev / Dimitar Gatev
11, Vasil Levski Str.
Разположена само на няколко часа път от космополитния Истанбул и от слънчевите плажове на Гърция, Katarzyna Estate успешно съчетава насладата от разходките в лозята, дегустирането на забележителни винени еликсири, както и посещението на многобройните културни паметници, с които регионът е известен. Впечатляващият ресторант на Katarzyna Estate, подходящ за провеждането на събития от различно естество, очаква всички гости на имениеето. Избата приема посетители целогодишно от 10 до 17 часа, с изключение на официалните за България празници.

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www.katarzyna.bg
The Land of Orpheus, Sanctuaries and Vultures

The Devil’s Throat Cave is the most probable place to have served as inspiration for the legend about Orpheus’ descent to the underworld. There are also the stunning caves of Yagodinska, Uholvitsa and Snezhanka, as well as open-air karst sites, and the gorges near Trigrad, Buinovo and Teshel. On Chernahtitsa Ridge, one can take in the rock formation called Chudnite Mostove (“The Marvellous Bridges”), a series of huge natural arches and caves that are impressive both to the eye and the ear.

The Rodopi have been inhabited for centuries. Even today, one can see the ancient Roman postal tracks from ages past, bridges, fortress ruins, and abandoned or functioning chapels tucked into the mountains.

Bachkovo Monastery, founded in 1083, is one of the largest and most important religious and historical sites on the Balkans. The northern edges of the Rodopi are the location of some other enjoyable and significant monasteries, all accessible by road: Kuklen, Arapovo, Gorni Voden, Belashititsa, Muldava and Byala Cherkva.

Asenova Fortress, along the road from Asenovgrad to Smolyan, is amongst the historical symbols of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom. The well-preserved two-storey church is situated at an elevation that offers a beautiful view to the mountain and to the valley of the Chaya River.

Shiroka Luca’s and Sokolovtsite’s houses date to the 19th century, built of stone and covered with tiles typical of the region. The old neighbourhood in Smolyan has been transformed into an architectural reserve, whilst the city’s planetarium, the largest on the Balkans, offers unique opportunities for observing celestial bodies and the night sky. Local events to have gained popularity are the SunMoon festival for alternative and traditional activities for a holiday in the Rhodope Mountains in the summertime. And in winter, the fabulous snow cover in the western Rodopi turns the area into a noteworthy skiing destination. The natural hot spa resorts in Narechenski Bani, Velingrad, Devin and Banite are also well-known.

The landscape in the eastern Rodopi is entirely different from that in the western. Rivers run through wide valleys surrounded by cliffs of the most incredible shapes and hues. One can come across traces of early settlements, medieval and ancient Roman fortresses, Thracian sanctuaries, pre-historic altars and places of worship. The sanctuaries Perperikon and Tatal have gained much acclaim. Dolmens and cramelecs can be seen on almost every peak around Madjarovo, Kamilski Dol and Momchilgrad. Most of the archaeological and historical artefacts from the region have been gathered up and exhibited in the unique Museum of History in Kurdjali. A fantastic ethnographic exhibition is on display in Zlatograd.

Some great Bulgarian wineries are located in the region around the towns of Haskovo, Harmanli, Lyubimets and Ivailovgrad. The numerous dams in the area offer excellent conditions for bird-watching, bear-watching and other tours that let you observe the animal species typical of Bulgaria. The area of Madjarovo is one of the few in Europe where one can see the habitat of vultures and eagles. The largest pack of wolves in the country lives in Vulchi Dol Reserve. A lot of places offer wonderful conditions for bird-watching, bear-watching and other tours that let you observe the animals in their natural environment.

Fishing and camping are traditional activities for a holiday in the Rhodope Mountains in the summertime. And in winter, the fabulous snow cover in the western Rodopi turns the area into a noteworthy skiing destination. The natural hot spa resorts in Narechenski Bani, Velingrad, Devin and Banite are also well-known.

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Shiroka Luca’s and Sokolovtsite’s houses date to the 19th century, built of stone and covered with tiles typical of the region. The old neighbourhood in Smolyan has been transformed into an architectural reserve, whilst the city’s planetarium, the largest on the Balkans, offers unique opportunities for observing celestial bodies and the night sky. Local events to have gained popularity are the SunMoon festival for alternative and folk art (in Devin and Trigrad) and the Summer Jazz Festival in Smolyan.

Fishing and camping are traditional activities for a holiday in the Rhodope Mountains in the summertime. And in winter, the fabulous snow cover in the western Rodopi turns the area into a noteworthy skiing destination. The natural hot spa resorts in Narechenski Bani, Velingrad, Devin and Banite are also well-known.

The landscape in the eastern Rodopi is entirely different from that in the western. Rivers run through wide valleys surrounded by cliffs of the most incredible shapes and hues. One can come across traces of early settlements, medieval and ancient Roman fortresses, Thracian sanctuaries, pre-historic altars and places of worship. The sanctuaries Perperikon and Tatal have gained much acclaim. Dolmens and cramelecs can be seen on almost every peak around Madjarovo, Kamilski Dol and Momchilgrad. Most of the archaeological and historical artefacts from the region have been gathered up and exhibited in the unique Museum of History in Kurdjali. A fantastic ethnographic exhibition is on display in Zlatograd.

Some great Bulgarian wineries are located in the region around the towns of Haskovo, Harmanli, Lyubimets and Ivailovgrad. The numerous dams in the area offer excellent conditions for bird-watching, bear-watching and other tours that let you observe the animal species typical of Bulgaria. The area of Madjarovo is one of the few in Europe where one can see the habitat of vultures and eagles. The largest pack of wolves in the country lives in Vulchi Dol Reserve. A lot of places offer wonderful conditions for bird-watching, bear-watching and other tours that let you observe the animals in their natural environment.
**Arda – Argirovi къщи**

To the south of Smolyan, amidst an old beech forest, close to the source of the River Arda lies the small village of Arda. Not a village but a dream! And in the home of Argirovi family dreams come true. The home consists of two houses and their yards, vegetable and orchard gardens, a greenhouse and a village farm. The one-day walk to the source of the Arda is well worth it. Alternatively, you could go there on horseback, on mountain bikes, in a cart or by jeep. On the way, there are wonderful places to have a rest and to enjoy the scenery, or to have picnic.

**Price**

20-25 Leva

Phone: 03028 466; 0889 651 232; 0887 226 161
Email: argirovi@abv.bg
www.kyshti-argirovi.com

Федя Аргиrow / Fedia Argirov

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**Beglika – Ловен дом Синия залив**

The hunting Lodge is located in close proximity to the shore of the dam “Golyam Beglik” at a turn-off of the road between Batak and Dospat. The wildlife station provides controlled hunting of Red Deer, Wild-Boar, Doe, Capercaillie etc. In addition to the hunting and fishing activities, there is a possibility for climbing the Rodopi Peak “Golyama Syutka” (2186 m) or visiting the historical church of “St. Nedelya” and the Ethnographic Museum in Batak.

**Price**

17 - 20 Leva

Phone: 03553 20 48, 0884 330 233;
Fax: 03553 21 43
E-mail: ddsbeglica@dag.bg; ddsbeglika@yahoo.com
www.beglika.dag.bg

Стефка Тренова / Stefka Trenova
**Borino**

**Family hotel Royal**

A small family house in the past, this has now been extended and refurbished in order to accommodate visitors from all over the world. Outside you can find an outdoor oven and a barbecue. The two covered balconies offer a scenic view over Borino, the neighbouring community of Chala and the spruce and pine trees on the hills around. From Borino you can visit the Orpheus lodge, the well-known caves of Yagodinska and the Devil’s Throat, and the gorges at Teshel, Trigrad and the Haiduk glen. This region is also famous for herbs and mushrooms.

**Velingrad**

**Villa Bor – 15**

Situated on the banks of Chepinska River, amidst the heavenly nature of the Rodopi Mountains, Velingard has been a health resort for over a century. The numerous mineral springs and the huge woods, along with the lively traditions of the Rodopi, contribute to its appeal. The guestrooms in the family house of Topevi have been arranged with a lot of love and each of them has a balcony with a wonderful view. The hosts will be delighted to show you the hiking trails; and for a swim afterwards, you have plenty of choice of local mineral swimming-pools. Welcome!
The village of Gela and its eponymous hotel invite you to immerse yourself in legend: here is where the “father of songs”, Orpheus, is said to have been born. The region offers tourist activities year-round: hiking, mountain biking, skiing (at Pamporovo, 18 kilometres away) and snowshoeing. The hotel itself provides plenty of other services – a sauna, steam room, aromatherapy bath, table tennis, billiards and more. The intimate restaurant serves dishes prepared from organic products. Delicious cuisine and marvellous views will fill your memory with an unforgettable story that will make you restless to return and again feel the special attention and atmosphere of the complex, together with Gela and the region!

Phone: +359 0886 881188, +359/0/30302308
Fax: +359 02 9586636
E-mail: office@hotelgela.com
www.hotelgela.com

English

family hotel

Gela

Семеен хотел

Gela

The village of Gela and its eponymous hotel invite you to immerse yourself in legend: here is where the “father of songs”, Orpheus, is said to have been born. The region offers tourist activities year-round: hiking, mountain biking, skiing (at Pamporovo, 18 kilometres away) and snowshoeing. The hotel itself provides plenty of other services – a sauna, steam room, aromatherapy bath, table tennis, billiards and more. The intimate restaurant serves dishes prepared from organic products. Delicious cuisine and marvellous views will fill your memory with an unforgettable story that will make you restless to return and again feel the special attention and atmosphere of the complex, together with Gela and the region!

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English

family hotel

Gela
Bikearea consults on and organises:

- Mountain-biking trips
- Kayaking
- Spelaeology trips
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- Botanical trips
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089/ 878 81 59 – Vasil Todev
bikearea@gmail.com

Златоград – Комплекс Александрови къщи

The complex consists of two houses restored according to the style typical of Zlatograd Revival architecture. Well-combined tradition and modernity gives you the cosiness and comfort desirable for recreation and creative activities. Alternative-tourism lovers can discover local trails and landmarks or take a trip back to the olden days in the ethnographic complex, and see a variety of artisan workshops.

Цена/Price 27 Leva

Phone: 03071/41 66; 44 74; 0888 59 51 59
E-mail: office@eac-zlatograd.com; eac@abv.bg
www.eac-zlatograd.com; www.eac-bg.com

Бисера Хаджиева, Елка Гиева / Bisera Hadjieva, Elka Gieva
40, Stefan Stambolov Str.

www.bikearea.org
www.beglika.org
www.rudopia.org
Ivaylovgrad Municipality is in the furthest east and most unknown part of the Rhodope Mountains. The warm Mediterranean breeze and distinctive geological formations contribute to the great variety of Mediterranean species. The valley, with a canyon formed Byala River, is noted as an ornithologically important location, where the threatened black vulture can be observed. The protected areas of Dupkarta, Likanya and Mandrite at Byala Reka are home to a great number of species of orchids. The area's natural beauty and pleasant climate have been valued since Roman times and, today, impressive remains can be seen from Villa Armira — a model of Roman architecture and art on the Balkans, with its original mosaics in which geometrical, vegetation, zoomorphic and anthropomorphic motives are combined.

Ivaylovgrad was established at the end of 16th century in close proximity to the ruined medieval town and metropolitan centre Lyutitsa. The antiquated citadel is the largest preserved fortress in the Rhodopes. The white-marbled walls reach 8m in height. The boom time for Ivaylovgrad came at the end of 19th century, when it was an important spiritual, cultural and economic centre with about 2000 residents living from trade and craftsmanship. The most important industry was sericulture. Houses in the village of Mandritsa that were used for silkworm breeding can still be seen, whilst at the Paskaleva Kushta Ethnographic Museum, the entire production process is reproduced. Particularly interesting is the church Sv Sv Konstantin i Elena in Dolno Lukovo, along with the local wines, which have gained much popularity in recent years.

Regional Historical Museum
Tel: 03661/ 6026
tic_ivaylovgrad@abv.bg; www.ivaylovgrad.org

Ivaylovgrad Municipality is in the furthest east and most unknown part of the Rhodope Mountains. The warm Mediterranean breeze and distinctive geological formations contribute to the great variety of Mediterranean species. The valley, with a canyon formed Byala River, is noted as an ornithologically important location, where the threatened black vulture can be observed. The protected areas of Dupkarta, Likanya and Mandrite at Byala Reka are home to a great number of species of orchids. The area's natural beauty and pleasant climate have been valued since Roman times and, today, impressive remains can be seen from Villa Armira — a model of Roman architecture and art on the Balkans, with its original mosaics in which geometrical, vegetation, zoomorphic and anthropomorphic motives are combined.
Kosovo — Complex Kosovski kushti

Kosovo is one of the few villages that has preserved its appearance from the 18th century. The Kosovski Kushti complex consists of three of the most emblematic homes in the village. Built in 1853 by the master-builder Hadji Georgi Stanchovski, in 2005, the facility was renovated and turned into a guesthouse with a wine cellar. The Gavatovska and Elinovska houses greeted their first guests in 2008. An authentic Rodopean atmosphere, fantastic restored houses with modern amenities, a warm welcome, perfect service and delicious cuisine with preference given to local products – this is the guaranteed experience.

Kardjali — Monastery Uspenie Bogorodichno

Situated in Gledka district the monastery is a real oasis of beauty, tranquillity and Christendom… The Monastery of the Assumption is an operating monastery, where one can attend regular service and, at the same time, a wonderful place to relax. The buildings are new but they follow the style of the ecclesiastical architecture dating back to the end of the 19th c. The walls were painted in 2002-2003 following the canons. One can leave from the monastery for the Monastery of St. John the Precursor or to Perperikon or to Zlatograd – da se provervii sprqmo izdadenoto...
**Mostovo**
**Belintash Guesthouse**
The house, built in the authentic Rodopian architectural style with wood and stone, is the villa of a family from Plovdiv. It offers everything needed for a sufficient getaway from the sound of the city. This is the starting point for hikes to the rock phenomena Karadzov Kamuk; the Thracian sanctuary Belintash, devoted to Sabazios, the nomadic horseman and sky father god of the Phrygians and Thracians; or to the Christian monastery complex Krustova Gora.

**Orechovo**
**Raya Guesthouse**
Stefka, the hostess of Raya Eco-House, creatively adapts traditional food specialities of Rodopi Mountain. For example, she does not put oil in the baking tin when preparing banitsa, so that the dish sticks to the bottom. When cooked, she lets it cool upside-down, so that the flaky pastry stays puffed-up. She calls it “hanging banitsa.” Orechovo is a starting point for trails to Golyam Persenk Peak, The Marvellous Bridges, the Roman road and the hamlet of Kabata.
Pavelsko
Guesthouse

Pavelsko is the oldest village in the historical region of Rupchoses. The guesthouse will treat you to a panoramic view of the surroundings, whilst the traditionally decorated interior holds a fireplace. In the garden, there is a swimming pool surrounded by greenery. In the village, you can visit the impressive church Sveti Spas, which was built during the Ottoman rule in 40 days, due to conditions set down by the overlords. Every year on the sixth Thursday after Ascension, the day of Saint Spas, the local people organise cultural festivities, where traditions come back to life.

Phone: 0885 893 838
E-mail: boriana_home@abv.bg

Боряна Калайджиева / Boriana Kalaydjieva

Plovdiv/Plovdiv - 50 km; Sofia/Sofia - 199 km

Uniquo Guesthouse

When you enter the hotel you will be mostly surprised by...the space. The living room, bedrooms, and even the bathrooms are really spacious. As the hosts Rumi and Niki say, the guests need to have enough room for their true convenience in the Rodopi Mountains. Each room is uniquely designed and decorated with hand-made carpets. You can also enjoy a massage or aroma bath in the small SPA center of the house.

Phone: 0888 748 721; Fax: 03053 3465
E-mail: uniquo@abv.bg; www.uniquo.info

Румяна Христова / Rumiana Hristova

Plovdiv/Plovdiv - 53 km; Sofia/Sofia - 200 km

Pavelsko
Guesthouse

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Phone: 0885 893 838
E-mail: boriana_home@abv.bg

Боряна Калайджиева / Boriana Kalaydjieva

Plovdiv/Plovdiv - 50 km; Sofia/Sofia - 199 km
Западните Родопи изумяват с великолепието на своите пейзажи и с един неповторим микс на традиции и вярвания, които са способни да накарат всеки любител на автентичното и дивата природа да потръпне. Община Ракитово, с нейните три предкрасни селища — Ракитово, Костандово и Дорково, щирни се по северните скатове на връх Сютка (2186 м) и южните склонове на дяловете Алабак и Каркария, е важна част от тази приказна. Зимата тук е мека, лятото е прохладно, въздухът е балсам за белодробните заболявания, а фантастичната природа създава условия за пълен почивка по всяко време на годината.

Тук е красивият Баташки язовир — трети по големина в България. На юг се намира биосферен резерват Mantaritsa (UNESCO), под егидата на ЮНЕСКО, обиталище на глухари и на родопското лале. В горите може да се срещне и кафявата мечка. В пещерата Лепеница са открити чудни образувания, сред които седем редки бисера.

В Дорково се намира средновековната твърдина Цепина (13 в.), седалище на родопския владетел Деспот Слав. Днес от нея могат да се видят останки от крепостните стени, цитадела и няколко водохранилища. Реминициите и язовирът са в центъра на няколко маркирани маршрута за пешеходен и колотуризъм.

В Ракитово се намира 18-метрова часовникова кула и църквата „Св. Неделя“, построена от християни и мюсюлмани с иконостас, дело на Банска-та иконописна школа.

RAKITOVO Municipality

The western Rodopi Mountains impress history and nature lovers with their stunning natural landscapes and a unique combination of ancient traditions and beliefs. Rakitovo Municipality consists of the three charming villages: Rakitovo, Kostandinovo and Dorkovo, which are nestled in the northern slopes of Syutka Peak (2186m) and the southern slopes of Albak and Kirkariya. The mild winters, cool summers, fresh mountain air and gorgeous natural environment provide great conditions for memorable holidays throughout the year.

The third-largest dam in Bulgaria, Batak, is also here. To the south lies the biosphere reserve Mantaritsa (UNESCO), which is an important habitat for the wood grouse and the Rodopi tulip. The brown bear can also be seen in the surroundings. Bizarre formations, including seven rare pearls, have been discovered in Lepenitsa Cave.

The medieval fortress of Tsepina (13th c), a former residence of Despot Slav, is near the village of Dorkovo. Remains from the fortress walls, the citadel and several reservoirs can still be seen today.

Dorkovo is also famous for its rich palaeontological find of mastodon bones — ancestors of the elephant from 3 to 4.5 million years ago. Most of them are in the Natural History Museum of Sofia, but some of them are also on display in the museum of Rakitovo.

Very few people are aware that the carpet factory in Kostandovo produces, adhering to traditional methods, some of the biggest and most expensive carpets in Europe. Dorkovo and Kostandovo are also places for international folklore events.

Rakitovo also has a 18-metre-high clock tower and the church Sveta Nedelya, built by Christians and Muslims together.
Смолян, кв. Езерово
Пампоровата къща

A contemporary house furnished with taste. One of the most spectacular views can be seen from the spacious terrace. It will be a pleasure for your hosts Joro and Tony to cook various meals and to be your guides. From here you can easily reach to peak Snejanka, The Red rock and Sokolista, the rocks of Orfeus and even walk ecopath Kaniona na vodopadite.

Смолян, кв. Езерово
Хотел Смilen

Hotel Smilen is an elegant place providing interesting activities for all seasons. The winter is great for skiing, while the rest of the year is suitable for hiking, cycling or sightseeing in the Rodopi Mountains. The restaurant offers European cuisine, Rodopi dishes and a carefully selected collection of about 60 wines. Picnics in the pretty natural surroundings of the hotel can be organized especially for you.
Solishta – The Red Doors House

Solishta is one of the small pretty villages in the Rodopi Mountains really close to the Architectural reserve Shiroka Luka and “Pamporovo Resort.” “The house with the red doors” is a family villa, built with an elegant taste for space and esthetics. You can either relax in the sauna, or walk to the peak Tulata, the village of Shiroka Luka, or the chapel St Iliya near Gela where bagpipe events take place.

Sarnitsa

Iva Vacation Village

On the picturesque shore of Dospat dam one can find a real holiday oasis. Guests are welcomed in Kashtata na ribaria (Fishery house) where under the sun umbrellas you will see a spectacular view. Deep in the forest verdancy wooden bungalows offer the coziness of a mountain chalet with the comfort of a luxury home. Go there and find for yourself which season is perfect for you!!!
**Trigrad Silivriak Guesthouse**

Silivryak is one of the symbols of Rodopi alternative tourism. The house opens every season with new facilities in order to better accommodate its guests. There is an outdoor barbeque and a fireplace in the wine cellar while the halls of the house are decorated with cave finds and the host Kostas Hadjiiski’s pictures. The house is well-known for its hospitality and while the local attractions are really diverse, from exploring dark caves through riding, going to the famous cave. The Devil’s Throat by boat, fishing and more. You certainly won’t forget your stay here.

**Trigrad Deni Guesthouse**

Quietness and fresh air, fascinating natural spots – that’s what you will find in this cozy and tidy nook of the marvellous Rodopi Mountain. The newly built hotel Deni was constructed with a lot of love and offers a blessed privilege for its guests – a unique co-siness that shines with cleanliness. If you love hiking, pack your rucksack to go to Trigrad Gorge, the caves Devil’s Throat and Yagodinska, the Chaira Lakes and further along. You will have a stunning experience.

Phone: 03040 220, 0899 983 542, 0889 052 208
(Information about caves)

Phone: 0885 25 22 23; 03040 223
E-mail: bonsai_park@yahoo.com

Румяна Ашкова / Rumyana Ashkova
**Chepelare**

**Family hotel Tourist**

It is quite obvious that hotel “Tourist” is architects’ place – both the exterior and the interior blend extremely well to the scenery and the atmosphere of the beautiful Rodopian town Chepelare. The wooden decorations and furnishing bring calmness and coziness that compliment the extras like billiards and a steam room. Skiing is not the only option for activities in Chepelare, you can also pick mushrooms, herbs and strawberries that grow in the wild on the surrounding mountain slopes or you can simply walk through the endless spruce forest.

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**Chepelare**

**Family hotel Shoki**

A romantic view and balconies covered with flowers. If you want to eat outside a barbecue can be organized especially for you. When the first snow comes the ski school will be ready and waiting for you, but when the snow has melted it’s time for a biking tour. Whaterver your sport, after a tiring day you’ll be able to just relax in a hot bath or beside the fireplace.
Shiroka Laka
Maria Guesthouse

The village is an architectural heritage centre, with its school for folk music which produced the famous ensemble “100 kaba gaidi”. The house is located in steep slope, from which there is an impressive view toward tiled houses of the Bulgarian national revival. The hostess Maria will prepare you a tasty breakfast, and while you are enjoying it, she will help you to choose your itinerary for the day. If you are here in the beginning of March, you will be able to hear jingling of cowbells and the slap of wooden swords, when mummers celebrate the local holiday Pesonedelnik.
Списание 8
Първото българско научнопопулярно списание

Всеки месец можете да научите:

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• за невероятните истории, които никой до сега не ни е разказвал
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Fire Dances, Dolmens, Birds and Sea

The Black Sea coast reveals one of the most impressive bird sights in Europe. Every year, hundreds of thousands of birds of more than three hundred species migrate via Bulgaria in all directions. This is the major migratory route Via Pontica. It crosses Bulgaria over the lakes of Mandren, Atanasovo, Burgas, Pomorie, Varna, Shabla, Durankulak and Srebarna. At the locality of Poda, near Burgas, there is a birdwatching centre that operates year-round.

The exceptional diversity of the flora and fauna on Strandja Mountain was the reason for the Silkosiya Reserve to be declared the first protected territory in Bulgaria. Today, the entire mountain is a nature park, blending together the riches of nature, local culture and historical monuments of national significance.

Another nature park in the region is Sinite Kamuni (“The Blue Rocks”). Part of the Balkan Range, it is an area of incredible beauty. The park includes several viewing sites, paths for blind and handicapped people, and special informational routes.

The sea coast shelters several reserves of biodiversity unique to Bulgaria. The estuaries of the rivers Ropotamo and Veleka are covered with lians and other climbing plants, which come together to resemble a real jungle. The entire coastline of the Black Sea to the south of the Balkan Range is full of countless little bays that still have wonderfully clean and peaceful beaches. The cliffs and rocky capes interspersing them attract divers and enthusiasts of aquatic archaeology and rock climbing.

The southern part of the region, where the Strandja Mountain reaches the Black Sea, maintains the old pagan tradition of fire dancing. To date, several villages in Strandja continue the tradition, in which Christian and pagan themes are interwoven. Old legends are revived over the coals every year in the beginning of June.

History is lives on in the ancient towns of Sozopol and Nesebar, with their churches, fortresses, ports and preserved ambience of ancient Greek commercial ports from more than 2000 years ago. The combination of ancient monuments and Bulgarian Revival architecture turns these towns into genuine picture dictionaries of human civilization, and also into wonderful themes for painters, musicians and other artists. The eastern part of the Balkan Range shelters the memories of the Bulgarian National Revival and the Liberation Movement. There is almost no village or town without a link to some freedom fighter or enlightenment figure from the 18th and the 19th centuries. The cities and towns of Medven, Zheravna, Kotel and Sliven are all names that have left their imprint, together with those of the figures Zahari Stoyanov, Georgi Rakovsky and Yordan Yovkov. These towns are interesting also for their vernacular architecture, which has been preserved for more than two centuries. Local museums provide details on the livelihood of the population in the past. Certain accommodation facilities enable visitors to immerse themselves in a Revival-period atmosphere without sacrificing comfort. More of the magic of this region lives in the Sakar Mountains, where tens of dolmens and mediaval fortresses are waiting to be discovered.
Кафенето на Димично Кехая

с Жеравна във Сливенския край
Уют от XIX, комфорт от XXI век

Изгледът Всичко къщо в Жеравна, най-честа е това. Отдалечено се бягъл си, високо, блестящо, надясно. Постави ли си, както и да сегашан. От бръмбара има така посрещнал усмихнат и с велики думи - благ да в гостите ти. Ще те напомня, че тук е изключително, и докато си мога да се слегна на бунтовето, дълго време да почивам. Открия си простория, с твоя номер, почиствам си къща. А цената - това е в къща!

За резервации:
088 9695 333
Координати GPS:
42°38'38.23"N 26°45'67.46"E
www.dkcafe.eu
The goKotel guesthouses are in the beautiful Kotel Mountains, the birthplace of many great persons of the Bulgarian Revival period. Along with the diverse natural surroundings, the Revival style of the houses and interior, guests have the possibility to taste the best of Bulgarian cuisine, learn some Bulgarian songs or dances, walk in the Balkan Range or just enjoy the silence of the pretty garden. The hosts offer trips on foot, with horse or with carriage through the mountains and woods of the Kotel region. They can also organise ethnic programmes for the guests — Bulgarian, Gypsy, Turkish and Karakachani — with each culture’s cuisine, traditions, music and dance. The guesthouses and furniture have been restored with respect for authenticity, but with today’s comforts for the guests. The garden with (fruit) trees and flowers is a sanctuary for rest and peace.
### Ichera Complex Ichera

Long ago, Ichera was called “The King’s Hall” by the bolyars and voivode from the town of Sliven. Marvellous mountains, pure air and a refreshing climate make your stay here in the heart of the Sliven Balkan in a true experience, filled with active recreation, fishing and an authentic atmosphere. The Bulgarian Revival architectural style of Ichera Complex creates the cosiness of a Bulgarian home and a dose of comfort that let you idle next to the pool in the summer, or the fireplace in the winter, and dream for a while. All this is accompanied by outstanding cuisine.

**Price**

75 - 95 Leva

**Phone:** 04517/268,366; 056/821654; 0888564791

**Fax:** 056 821654

**E-mail:** info@ichera.com

www.ichera.com

Juliana Georgieva / Juliana Georgieva

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**Location:**

- Sofia/Sofia - 320 km
- Sliven/Sliven - 25 km
- Varna/Varna - 190 km

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**Map:**

- Sofia/Sofia
- Sliven/Sliven
- Varna/Varna

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**Directions:**

- Sofia/Sofia - 320 km
- Sliven/Sliven - 25 km
- Varna/Varna - 190 km
Sliven
Hotel Toma

Michał Czajkowski was a Polish patriot and writer who, in 1853, created and commanded an Ottoman-Turkish military unit constituted of Bulgarians and Polish. He was popularly known as Saduk Pasha, and from 1866 to 1873 he lived in a beautiful house in the centre of Sliven. Today, this house has been restored and is now famous around town for its cuisine. The hotel took BAAT’s Green Lodge award in 2008 for most environmentally friendly way of operating.

Ichera
Tsarska Odaya Hut

We, the team of Hotel Toma in Sliven, decided to combine our experience with the warmth of a village house and the magical atmosphere of one of the most beautiful villages in the Bulgarian Balkan mountain - Ichera. In our restaurant you can taste genuine bio products, prepared from fresh vegetables and meat, home-made cheese and bread, fresh Balkan trout. We offer Mongolian bow shooting, and bike rent. Very soon you will be able to ride on horseback through the magnificent woods of Ichera!
Strandja is a mountain of the Thracians; it is a land of dolmens and tombs, Thracian sanctuaries and mediaeval fortified walls, and Christian temples. Strandja is a repository of mystical spirit, beautiful nature and pastoral landscape where customs and traditions exist which date back to pagan times. It is also the birthplace of people who keep little parts of fire-dancing in their heart.

We may call it The Oak Mountain, where forests of eastern durmast and moss-capped oaks make up a richly colored green sea. The rounded folds of mountain ridges spread out lightly to the picturesque shores of the Black Sea. Strandja is so suave and soft that you cannot but open your senses to the rhythm of nature and to its warmhearted people.

The Strandja Nature Park was created in 1995 and it is the largest protected territory in Bulgaria (1161 square kilometers). Its aim is to preserve the unique natural and cultural landmarks, including traditions and ways of life.

The administrative body of the Strandja Nature Park offers ecological attractions, birdwatching, sports, plus cultural heritage trails. It also provides tourist guides and has information on how to find room and where to eat. You can stay overnight at guesthouses on the mountain or you can sleep in cozy flats, hotels or at campsites nearby on the coast.

Your visit here wont just be a natural adventure, but a spiritual experience too, bringing the joy that getting in touch with wilderness induces.

8162 Malko Tarnovo
ул. Янко Маслинков 1
тел./факс 05952/ 36 35
тел. 0550/ 5-28-58 (офис Царево)
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park@strandja.bg; www.strandja.bg
The Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds, at Poda, is a few kilometres from Burgas on the road to Sozopol.

Some direct conservation, educational, touristic and information service are present. It has been estimated that more than 270 different species of birds are found in only one square kilometre. Here you can get to know the biodiversity of the lakes and birds’ migratory patterns. You will also understand why the heron colony is so unique and how everybody can contribute to nature protection.

PODA  Nature Conservation Centre

The Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds, at Poda, is a few kilometres from Burgas on the road to Sozopol.

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Extreme Adventure G&P organizes water tours on all Bulgarian rivers, lakes and the southern coast of the Black Sea, as well as hiking tours in the Strandja and Sakar mountains, outdoor and adventure activities, and teambuilding. A favourite place for kayak tours is the central part of Tundja, in the scenic woodlands of the nature reserves Gorna Topchiya, Dolna Topchiya and Balabana.

Tel: 088/ 607 14 88 — Angel Angelov
www.adventuresbg.com
Products inspired by NATURE

We would like to present you with “TRONKA” - a brand that stands for the best biological products grown in the region of Strandja and Sakar, a land that has been famous for ages for its rich herbal diversity and impressive healing power. We are positive that it is possible to achieve good health and spirit only when we are in harmony with the nature. Hence, our “TRONKA” bio products are produced with a technology that aims at keeping the ecosystem balance by avoiding the use of fertilizers and pesticides. Hand-made, with lots of care and love for the earth, they have the advantage of a true natural product.

“Ostrova”, the biological farm for herbs and spices used for growing plants, is open for visitors almost all around the year. You can have a look at our field for demonstration that has more than 30 types of herbs and spices, as well as taste the various scented teas or get a pot plant. It’s a place that brings you pleasant sweet-scented memories.
Подкрепа за устойчив туризъм

Българска асоциация за алтернативен туризъм (БААТ) е създадена в обществена полза, основана през 1998 г. Обединява над 110 члена, сред които национални и регионални дружества в областта на туризма и екологията, природни паркове, туроператори, къщи за гости и семейни хотели. БААТ се стреми да направи България значима и интригуваща дестинация за алтернативен туризъм като същевременно се съхранява природата!

Нашата дейност
В БААТ постигаме целите си, като:

- Обучаваме представители на къщи за гости, семейни хотели и общински администрации;
- Консултираме как се старира или развива успешно малък бизнес в туризма;
- Разработваме проекти, свързани с алтернативния туризъм, регионалното развитие и стандартизаците за качество в туризма;
- Информираме нашите членове и заинтересованите страни за актуални новини, тенденции и нововъведения, свързани с алтернативните форми на туризма;
- Популяризираме дейността на нашите членове;
- Организираме журналистически пътувания, участия в туристически борси;
- Поддържаме актуален SWOT анализ за туризма.

Сред нашите най-важни постижения са:

- Бъждания на стандарт за качество на местата за настаняване „Зелена къща“ (2008);
- 25 обучения в сферата на селския и екотуризма, 12 обучения за планински водачи;
- 9 журналистически и туроператорски тура и 3 обмени на опит за представители на туристическия бизнес;
- 5 издания на пътеводители за места за настаняване (2003-2009);
- Наръчник „Алтернативния туризъм в България – перспективен семеен бизнес.“ (2003);
- 200 журналистически материали във водещи медии, споменаващи нашите дейности и стандарти за качество в туризма;
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Belina Kostadinova

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