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REPORT

SELECTION AND DESCRIPTION OF 30 SITES & MAP ELABORATION

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ABSTRACT

Burgas and Edirne have significant potential for the development of cultural tourism in the network of cultural and natural values. The project (Support for Promotion of Sustainable Tourism) is aimed at the development of common integrated tourist product combining various tangible and intangible components of the territory of Burgas&Edirne and including various elements of cultural tourism in the region.

In this study, “touristic attractions of Edirne and Burgas” and the evaluation of it regarding sustainable tourism is chosen as a topic.

On the basis of the conducted Study of “the tourists’ demand and needs of information” (Activity 1), Research of “good practices and tourist packages in the Cross – border region” (Activity 3) and Focus groups (Activity 4), at least 30 sites were selected and described. The sites are part of the following groups ethnographic & architectural sites & reserves; archaeological & historical; religious sites & events; art objects & events; cultural sites & events.

The minimum info about each site includes: name, interesting facts, contacts with the authority responsible for their management, working hour.

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BURGAS REGION

The region of Burgas is not only said to be a “crossroads of ancient civilizations” because of its invaluable archeological finds and rich cultural and historical background, but it is also unique for its tourist present. It is one of the leading regions in economic development in Bulgaria, and the main industry responsible for its prosperity is precisely tourism.

The region features beautiful beaches, easily accessible mountains with unique flora and fauna and one-of-a-kind historical monuments, traditions and customs.

Quick facts about District Bourgas

In Bulgarian (Native transliteration): Област Бургас

Other transliteration(s): Burgas, Bourgass

Region: South-Eastern planing region of Bulgaria

District: Bourgass district

Area Size: 7747 km²

Population: 412.684 (31.12.2016)



31.12.2016 Population

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Burgas | 412684 |
| Aytos | 28242 |
| Burgas | 209331 |
| Kameno | 10071 |
| Karnobat | 23830 |
| Malko Tarnovo | 3460 |
| Nesebar | 27273 |
| Pomorie | 27399 |
| Primorsko | 6234 |
| Ruen | 28170 |
| Sozopol | 12738 |
| Sredets | 14842 |
| Sungurlare | 11759 |
| Tsarevo | 9335 |

1- Location:

Burgas region is one of the biggest ones in Bulgaria - with square surface of about 7.750 sq.km and around 413.000 people populations. There are thirteen municipalities within Burgas region- Aytos, Burgas, Kameno, Karnobat, Malko Tarnova, Nesebar, Pomorie, Primorsko, Ruen, Sozopol, Sredets, Sungurlare, Tsarevo.

Burgas region differs from the other regions in Bulgaria with its location on the Black sea coast. The geography situation of Burgas region provides an opportunity for developing of tourism. The main tourists' season is during the summer period.

2- Marine Tourism:

The territory of Burgas are the most famous Bulgarian sea resorts - Sunny Beach, Primorsko, Ahtopol, St. Vlas and others. They offer luxury, comfort and excellent conditions for water sports.

Nesebar is one of the most popular sea resorts for vacation. It combines wonderful opportunities for sea tourism, rich cultural heritage.

The old town was declared a cultural monument of world significance in the protection of UNESCO. With such a historic charm is surrounded another old resort town as well - Sozopol.

Sandy beaches in Nesebar, Sozopol and river Ropotamo are spacious with large-grained sand and dunes. There are 5 small islands in this part of the coast- St. Anastasia, St. John, "Snake Island", St. Peter and St. Kirik.

There are thermal mineral springs in the region with varied temperature and chemical composition which are important for sea tourism and spa. Northwest of Burgas is one of the oldest mineral springs in Bulgaria- Burgas Mineral Baths, where springs of water at 41.5 degrees. There are salt production in Atanasovo and Pomorie lakes, and at the bottom parts near Burgas as well has rich deposits of mud.

3- Cultural and historical heritage:

Burgas region is endowed with rich cultural heritage. During the period of antiquity to develop four major economic, political and cultural centers along the coast - Messembria (Nesebar) Anhiolo (Nurses) Debel't and Apollonia (Sozopol). Today it is one of the most picturesque and well preserved historical places in Bulgaria.

4- Natural Resources:

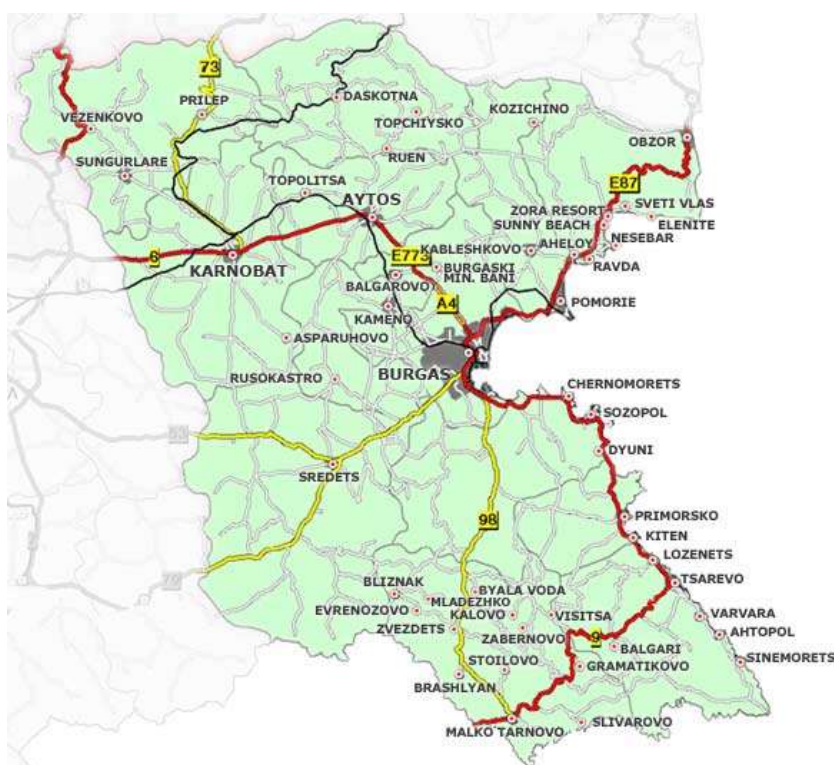
It has a spa and bioclimatic resources, forest resources, sandy beaches and dunes for development of recreational activities. Here are 4 nature reserves of international importance - Uzunbodzhak, Silkosia, Ropotamo and Atanasovsko lake. Among the attractions is a natural bay Alepu. Protected areas are defined estuary Veleka Vaya lake floor and which are points of bird watching. In architectural reserve situated in the village of Ivy and folklore reserve - Bulgari village. The place is interesting and remains of an ancient Roman settlement.

20 km north of Burgas is situated Pomorie lake which is surrounded by salt water-and sanatoriums. Atanasovo lake is north of town. It is home to many marsh and sea birds that migrate from Gibraltar and the Bosphorus. In Burgas lake does nesting pelicans, ibises and herons. 10 km south of Burgas is located Mandra lake - an ornithological reserve.

Along the river Ropotamo was created a picturesque reserve, which can be seen very interesting animal and plant species. In the area there are numerous monuments of interest - ancient church, which is located on the island of St. Anastasia, 3 nautical miles from Burgas, the fortress in the village of Pyrgos Kraitormie south of Bourgas and park Otmanli near Cape Chokalya.

5- Burgas Municipality

Burgas Municipality covers the area of 514.362 acres and is the biggest municipality in Southeastern Bulgaria. It is situated on the Black Sea Coast surrounding the largest bay area - the Bay of Burgas. To the North it borders with Pomorie Municipality, to the South – with Sozopol Municipality and to the West – with the municipalities of Aytos, Kameno and Sredets. Part of the municipal territory bordering with the Black Sea is covered by several lakes – Atanasovsko, Mandrensko and Burgasko (Vaya) that together with the Pomorie Lake make-up the biggest group of salt lakes in Bulgaria. The biodiversity in these lakes is impressive. Via Pontika – one of the main migratory routes for European migrating birds goes above them.



The total population of Burgas Municipality is 209.331 people. (31.12.2016) Burgas is important industrial, commercial, transportation and tourism centre. Some industries are characteristic for Burgas and are structural for the country like light and dark oil products manufacturing, chemical fibre, plastics and other chemical products production, ship-building, ventilation and climatic equipment, cargo carriages, fish processing.

The extended school network as well as the targeted educational policy to include all children and schoolchildren, who are subject to mandatory education, increasing the quality of

education at all stages and improving the facilities are an important prerequisite for increased access to education.

Significant efforts are being focused to improve healthcare and offer innovative social services that are major factors for increasing the quality of life in the municipality. The municipality has an active policy towards development of sports and sports culture of the citizens and improvement of the physical infrastructure. Burgas Municipality is the 3 most important cultural centre in Southeastern Bulgaria with long cultural traditions in the area of music, poetry, theatre and fine arts.

Burgas is the fourth largest city in Bulgaria, situated in the south-eastern part of the country, right at the Black sea coast. The Port of Burgas is the biggest sea port in the country and the Burgas Airport is the second largest airport where most of the international flights caring tourists are landing. Despite its location on the seaside, the city is not famous as a beach resort, but more as a turning point to the southern resorts like Sunny Beach, Pomorie, Sozopol, Elenite, Dyuni, etc.

Burgas is an important industrial center in Bulgaria, and the city also invests considerable resources in tourism. What attracts people here is mostly the sea. But the municipality supports multiple art and culture venues. One of the biggest is “The spirit of Burgas” 7-days music festival attracting some of the biggest local and international musicians.

ACCOMMODATION ESTABLISHMENTS BY STATISTICAL ZONES, STATISTICAL REGIONS AND BY DISTRICTS IN 2016 ^{1,2}

| Statistical zones Statistical regions Districts | Accommodation establishments - number | Bed- places - number | Available bed- nights - number | Nights spent - number | | Arrivals in accommodation establishments - number | | Revenues from nights spent-levs | |
|---|--|----------------------------|---|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | | | Total | Of which: by foreigners | Total | Of which: foreigners | Total | Of which: by foreigners |
| Total | 3331 | 328264 | 65169474 | 25185996 | 16150666 | 7196397 | 3386932 | 1229073306 | 891829042 |
| South-East region | 954 | 135091 | 19002418 | 9764030 | 7331191 | 1784434 | 1121474 | 463639113 | 382171140 |
| Burgas | 804 | 127076 | 16779661 | 9261486 | 7246331 | 1579150 | 1088150 | 444434233 | 377056873 |
| Sliven | 69 | 2264 | 684909 | 84259 | 14537 | 48850 | 6769 | 3162150 | 822332 |
| Stara Zagora | 58 | 4692 | 1285155 | 367388 | 57124 | 134272 | 22805 | 14074219 | 3659567 |
| Yambol | 23 | 1059 | 252693 | 50897 | 13199 | 22162 | 3750 | 1968511 | 632368 |

ACCOMMODATION ESTABLISHMENTS BY STATISTICAL ZONES, STATISTICAL REGIONS AND BY DISTRICTS IN JUNE 2017¹

| Statistical zones Statistical regions Districts | Accommodation establishments - number | Bed-places - number | Available bed-nights - number | Nights spent - number | | Arrivals in accommodation establishments - number | | Revenues from nights spent-levs | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---|----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | | | Total | Of which: by foreigners | Total | Of which: foreigners | Total | Of which: by foreigners |
| Burgas | 585 | 112013 | 3245750 | 1771803 | 1532073 | 291696 | 231132 | 84381317 | 76410628 |

| | Name: | Short Description | Web link |
|--------------|--------------------|--|---|
| Attraction 1 | Sunny Beach Resort | Sunny Beach is a seaside resort on the Black Sea coast of Bulgaria, located 35 km north of Burgas in Nessebar municipality. The biggest and most popular holiday resort in Bulgaria is home to over 800 hotels, 130 restaurants and numerous live music bars, pubs, nightclubs, discos, cafes. | http://www.sunnybeach-bulgaria.net/ |
| Attraction 2 | Nessebar Old Town | Nesebar is an ancient town and one of the major seaside resorts on the Bulgarian Black Sea Coast. Its abundance of historic buildings prompted UNESCO to include Nesebar in its list of World Heritage Sites in 1983. | http://www.visitnessebar.org/en/ |
| Attraction 3 | Sozopol Old Town | Sozopol is an ancient seaside town located on the southern Bulgarian Black Sea Coast. Today it is one of the major seaside resorts in the country, known for the Apollonia art and film festival. | http://www.sozopol.com/ |
| Attraction 4 | Strandzha Park | Strandzha is a mountain massif in southeastern Bulgaria and the European part of Turkey. Strandzha Natural Park, established in 1995 in the Bulgarian part of the massif, is the largest protected area in Bulgaria. | https://www.bg-guide.org/en/destinations/the-mystical-strandzha-mountain |

| | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|--|---|
| Attraction 5 | Pomorie balneo resort | Pomorie is a town and seaside resort, located on a narrow rocky peninsula in Burgas Bay on the southern Bulgarian Black Sea Coast. Pomorie is an ancient city and today an important tourist destination. The ultra saline lagoon Lake Pomorie is used for mud therapy all the year round. | http://pomorie.org/web |
|--------------|-----------------------|--|---|

| TOP 5 COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF INTERNATIONAL TOURISTS | Name of the country: | Number of tourists (2010): | Average stay of tourists (2010): | |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| Country 1 | Romania | 917 950 | | |
| Country 2 | Greece | 905 083 | | |
| Country 3 | Germany | 713 980 | | |
| Country 4 | Russia | 378 382 | | |
| Country 5 | FYR Macedonia | 309 906 | | |
| | | | | |
| MAIN TOURISTIC ACTORS OF THE REGION | Name of the organisation: | Role of the organisation: | Web link: | |
| Organisation 1 | BRTA | Regional tourist organisation | www.brta.eu | |
| Organisation 2 | Union of Hotel Owners Sunny Beach | Hotels owners branch organisation in Sunny Beach tourism resort | http://uhsb.net/ | |
| | | | | |
| EXTERNAL BORDER CROSSING POINTS OF THE REGION | Name of the border crossing point: | Type of border crossing point (international, bilateral): | Opening hours of the border crossing point: | Web link |
| Airport | Bourgas Airport | international | 24 h | http://www.bourgas-airport.com/ |
| External | Malko Tarnovo cross-border check point | bilateral | 24 h | |
| External | Bourgas Port | international | Upon request | http://www.port-burgas.com/index.html |

EDİRNE

Having been the capital city of many civilizations from the Ancient Greeks to the Romans and the Ottomans, Edirne, according to some historians, is also a strategic city that had faced many conquest attempts. It is also the birth place of Fatih Sultan Mehmet, conqueror of Constantinople.

Along with being one of the compulsory geographical passages for migrating civilizations, Edirne is a center of attraction with its fertile farmland, water springs and other natural resources. Especially its partly living history and culture inherited from Ottoman Empire (most important evidence for this is the production of the foods used in the imperial cuisine, and oil wrestling which have been held since 1362) are elements that increase the value of Edirne.

Edirne is a city of tourism with its history and cultural assets, and also an agricultural city with its vast arable lands. Although there is only one Organized Industrial Zone in Edirne, rate of occupancy is very low there. Agriculture-based industry, especially food industry has a significant share in the city's industry.

Edirne has important touristic advantages. For example, Edirne is the most settlement that attracts the most tourists in the Region. It is a unique center of tourism with its border gates with Bulgaria and Greece, an old Ottoman capital city, the host of one of the oldest sports organizations in the world, that is Kırkpınar Oil Wrestling, and foods from the imperial palace kitchen. The elimination of fundamental problems such as still having unearthed places including the palace and the city's lower level of national and international promotion compared to its competitors will contribute significantly in developing the tourism potential of the city.

In Edirne there is a successful tourism application, namely The Health Museum which draws the greatest number of visitors in Turkey. It is a fact that Edirne has recently deserved a treatment similar to that making Istanbul a city of history and culture. Edirne has historical and cultural assets at least as important as those of Istanbul.

Agricultural production in Edirne resembles the average agriculture structure in Thrace. Wheat and sunflowers are among the most produced products. Besides these and different from the other two provinces, there is intensive rice cultivation around Ipsala and the vicinity which have wetland areas. There is a group of farmers in the town of Havsa and the surrounding area involved in fruit growing; however, the amount of fruit and vegetables

produced in Thrace is less than 5% of the overall agricultural production. The fact that the agricultural and husbandry revenues constitute one third of the overall provincial revenues which is a relatively high rate emphasizes the importance of agriculture for Edirne.

As applicable in Thrace in general, Edirne is a province with a high population of immigrants from Greece and Bulgaria. Trakya University - the oldest university in the Region - adds a significant colorfulness to the demographic structure.

| POPULATION | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
| 396.46 2 | 394.64 4 | 395.46 3 | 390.42 8 | 399.31 6 | 399.70 8 | 398.58 2 | 400.28 0 | 402.53 7 | 401.70 1 |

Accommodation Establishments' Rooms and Beds by Types

| Ministry Licenced Establishments | Establishments | Room | Bed |
|---|-----------------------|-------------|------------|
| 5 ***** | 1 | 160 | 332 |
| 4 **** | 1 | 118 | 236 |
| 3 *** | 8 | 431 | 839 |
| 2 ** | 9 | 316 | 606 |
| 1 * | 1 | 49 | 88 |
| Other | 4 | 60 | 119 |
| Total | 24 | 1.134 | 2.220 |

| Municipality Licenced Establishments | Establishments | Room | Bed |
|---|-----------------------|-------------|------------|
| City center | 55 | 1.444 | 2.861 |
| District | 54 | 999 | 2.569 |
| Total | 109 | 2.443 | 5.430 |

15 SITES IN EDİRNE&KIRKLARELİ

1. SELIMIYE MOSQUE AND COMPLEX

Selimiye Mosque, which is known as the ‘crown of the city’, is the most important and the most famous historical monument of Edirne. Selimiye Mosque was constructed between 1566 and 1574, on the orders of Sultan Selim II. This Ottoman imperial mosque was designed by Mimar Sinan, the most famous of Ottoman architects in the 16th century, responsible for the erection of more than 300 buildings, including bridges, medreses, and mosques. Mimar Sinan referred to this building as his “masterpiece”.

Selimiye Mosque is considered to be Sinan's finest piece of work and the culmination of Islamic architecture in the Ottoman Empire. It was planned as a part of the entire architectural complex, known as külliye, consisting of the mosque, two medreses (theological schools, Dar-ül Kurra and Dar-ül Hadis), a covered bazaar (Selimiye Arastası), a clock tower, numerous courtyards and a library. In the year 2000 the whole complex was listed by UNESCO on its “Provisional World Heritage List” and in 2011 it was taken on to the “World Heritage List”.

As Edirne is a flat city, Selimiye Mosque was planned on a monumental scale, dominating the cityscape. It is visible from every corner of the city. Four minarets of the equal height emphasise this effect. On the other hand, the access ways to the mosque were planned in the way that allowed the visitors to see only a fraction of the building. The main entrance is through the covered market, and the back entrance leads the visitors through a narrow passageway. Because of this solution, there is an element of surprise and rediscovery of the mosque scale and grandiose as one enters its courtyard.

Things to see in Selimiye Complex:

- Selimiye Mosque
- Dar-ül Kurra Medrese (Selimiye Foundation Museum) and Dar-ül Hadis Medrese (Turkish and Islamic Art Museum),
- a covered bazaar (Selimiye Arastası),
- numerous courtyards
- Manuscript Library

Things to see in Selimiye Mosque:

- huge number of its windows (384) , enchanting light
- nine doors

- a single dome (diameter of 31.28 metres and a height of 15.86 metres) resting on eight pillars, of a style known as ‘elephants’ feet’
- four magnificent minarets
- reverse tulip” motif
- detailed marble craftsmanship, decorative tiles and stone and wood detail

GPS coordinates: 41.677898, 26.559299

Address: Mimar Sinan Str. Edirne/ TURKEY

Contact: <http://www.dmselimiyecamii.com>

Getting there: Selimiye Mosque is situated at the heart of the historical district of Edirne.

The mosque complex stands on a square delimited by Mimar Sinan Street, Talat Paşa Street, Kıyık Street and Hatip Street.

Admission: The entrance to the mosque is free of charge.

Selimiye Foundation Museum

Selimiye Foundation Museum is the place worth visiting if you want to learn more about Selimiye Mosque complex and see historical objects from the Ottoman era, including clocks, furniture, metalwork, and famous Iznik tiles.

Address: Meydan Str. Selimiye Mosque, Dar'ül Kurra Medrese Edirne/ Turkey

Contact: 0090 284 2121133, <http://www.edirnekulturturizm.gov.tr>

Getting there: The museum is located in the Dar'ül Kurra Medrese, at the southern corner of the Selimiye Mosque complex.

Opening hours: Everyday, 9:00-17.30

Admission: The entrance to the museum is free of charge. The museum has very detailed descriptions of its exhibitions, both in Turkish and English.

Turkish and Islamic Art Museum

The small rooms of the elegant Dar-ül Hadis (Hadith school) in the northeastern corner of the Selimiye Mosque's courtyard house an eclectic collection of Ottoman-era artefacts, including calligraphy, weaponry, glass, woodwork, ceramics, costumes and jewellery. Room of Wrestlers, Socks Room, Gun Room I – II, Balkan War Room, Encaustic tile and ceramic Room, In - Palace Room, Edirne Guest Room, Kitchen Tools Room, Measurement tools Room, Wood Works Room I – II, Gallery.

Address: Meydan Str.Selimiye Mosque Edirne/Turkey

Contact: 0090 284 2251625, <http://www.edirnemuzesi.gov.tr>

Getting there: Turkish and Islamic Art Museum housed in the Dar-ül Hadis Medrese, located in the eastern corner of this vast area.

Opening hours: : Everyday, November-March 09:00- 17:00 / April- October 09: 00- 19:00

Admission: 5 TL, children under 18 and citizens over 65 is free.

2. SULTAN II. BAYEZID MOSQUE COMPLEX AND HEALTH MUSEUM

Sultan Bayezid II Mosque Complex is the most famous example of külliye in Edirne. The phrase külliye means some buildings associated with Ottoman architecture, centred around a mosque, erected for various charitable services for the community. Beyazid II architectural complex built by architect Hayrettin between 1484-1488.

Health Museum is a unique venue, situated in the area of Sultan Bayezid II Mosque Complex. It houses recreated rooms of a hospital from the Ottoman period. The museum is the second most visited historical site in Edirne, after the Selimiye Mosque.

The hospital was called Darüßşifa in old Turkish, from the Arabic word Dar al-Shifa. It was opened in Sultan Bayezid II külliye in 1488. It treated the patients for over 400 years, until 1909. Just next to the hospital, there was a medical school that trained doctors for the Ottoman Empire, until the end of the 19th century. The hospital and the school formed one of the most important medical centres of the Middle East.

Trakya University has rearranged the Hospital and Medical School that bear original features of Ottoman architecture as part of the efforts to revive the Sultan Beyazıt II Complex and converted it into a Health Museum so as to render a continuity to the complex. The interiors that used to serve medical students, including a library, a classroom, a study room, a teachers' room and students' room have been recreated in the area of the medrese. These rooms display not only the original equipment, but also the natural size mannequins dressed in historical costumes. They demonstrate the course of medical education.

The interior of the former hospital also features the reconstructed rooms. They are located in a hexagonal building with an indoor courtyard, with a fountain in the centre. Visitors to the museum can take a look at a pharmacy, a doctor's room, and a lab. Mannequins have also been used in this section to show how patients with various mental disorders were treated.

The rooms with exhibitions explaining different aspects of medicine, from the earliest times to the 20th century are situated along a rectangular outdoor courtyard. The individual

rooms are devoted to the following subjects: medicine development over the centuries, music therapy, Ottoman surgery in the 15th century, pharmaceuticals, and herbalism. You can also look into the hospital kitchen.

Things to see in Sultan II. Bayezid Mosque Complex;

1. Health Museum (Hospital and Medical School (Basic Sciences Faculty))
2. Mosque
3. Exhibition depicting Edirne on old postcards
4. Small souvenir shop.

GPS coordinates: 41.685398, 26.544500

Address: Yeniimaret, Edirne/TURKEY

Contact: 0090 284 2240922, <http://saglikmuzesi.trakya.edu.tr>, kulliye@trakya.edu.tr

Getting there: Sultan Bayezid II Complex is picturesquely situated near the banks of the Tunca River, to the north-west of the historical centre of Edirne. The distance from the heart of the city - the Selimiye Mosque - is 1.5 km. There are two historical bridges over two forks of the river - Yalnızgöz Bridge and Beyazid II Bridge.

Opening hours: Everyday, 09:00- 17:30

Admission: The entry to the mosque is free of charge. It is necessary to buy a ticket to visit the Health Museum next door, housed in the medrese and hospital of the mosque complex. (5 TL, children under 18 and citizens over 65 is free.)

3. OLD MOSQUE, ÜÇ ŞEREFELİ MOSQUE, MURADIYE MOSQUE

Old Mosque in Edirne

The first monumental architectural structure built in Edirne is the Old Mosque. Its construction was started in 1403 and completed in 1414. The mosque is perfect square of 50 metres covered by nine domes of equal size.

Things to see in Old Mosque:

- Nine domes
- Huge calligraphies
- Marble mihrab and mimbar
- Small black stone is known as Rukn-u Yemani
- The preacher's bench known as maqam of Hacı Bayram-ı Veli

GPS coordinates: 41.676498, 26.555901

Getting there: Old Mosque is located in the historical centre of Edirne, next to two other famous mosques: Selimiye and Üç Şerefeli, on Talatpaşa Street, just off the Bedesten Bazaar.

Üç Şerefeli Mosque in Edirne

The splendid example of Ottoman architecture in the city, namely: Üç Şerefeli Mosque. The name of this building means 'the Mosque with Three Balconies'. It reflects one of the most characteristic features of the mosque - one of its four minarets is adorned with three small balconies.

Built in the city centre by Murad II between 1437-1448, the mosque puts its indelible stamp on the city skyline with its extraordinary proportions, and four minarets all designed differently. The construction is based on a central plan whereby the 24.10 meter diameter large dome rests on six columns and there are also two small domes on the sides. Minaret with three galleries from which the mosque takes its name is 67.62 meters tall and is known as the tallets minaret after Selimiye Mosque also in Edirne.

Things to see in Üç Şerefeli Mosque:

- Four minarets,
- Its courtyard,
- There is a high portico with five verd-antique columns divided from the revaks by side gates.
- The wood workmanship in the window shutters
- The arched doors with interlacing polychrome marbles carry

GPS coordinates: 41.677900, 26.553600

Getting there: Üç Şerefeli Mosque is situated in the centre of Edirne, on Hükümet street, opposite historical Sokollu Mehmet Paşa Hamam (Turkish Bath), also designed by Mimar Sinan. The Old Mosque stands 400 meters to the south-east, and Selimiye Mosque is located 700 meters to the east.

Muradiye Mosque in Edirne

Muradiye Mosque was erected in the years 1426 - 1436, on the orders of the Sultan Murad II, who gave the building its name. This mosque is distinguished from other mosques of Edirne because of the tiles that decorate the mihrab and the walls of the prayer hall.

Muradiye Mosque was erected on a T-shaped plan. It is preceded by a five-bay portico in front and two entrance halls (eyvans) covered with domes on both sides. The dome is separated from the entrance hall by a solid arch.

Things to see in Muradiye Mosque:

- The tiled mihrab is one of the best example of tiled mihrabs in Turkish tile art.
- The main hall of the mosque is lined with glazed tiles and decorated with frescoes.
- Most of the tiles visible on the walls are hexagonal, decorated with unique patterns in white and blue. They are interwoven with triangular tiles in turquoise colour.

GPS coordinates: 41.682400, 26.564800

Getting there: Muradiye Mosque is located on a hill on the north-eastern side of Edirne. It can be reached by a 15-minute walk from Selimiye Mosque along Mimar Sinan street.

4. EDIRNE ARCHEOLOGY and ETHNOGRAPHY MUSEUM

Opened in 1925 in the Dar'ül Kurra Medrese within the Selimiye Complex, the Edirne Museum has been further enlarged by the Ethnography Museum opened in 1936 in the Dar'ül Tedris Medrese also within the complex. Developed into a modern museum in 1971.

The museum is divided into two main sections - archaeological and ethnographical. Collections are presented in a variety of ways: chronologically, geographically, and thematically.

Objects in the Archaeology Section:

- Cavalry steles depicting the Thracian cavalry,
- Sculptures of the Roman period
- Fossil parts belonging to various animals that are dated to the periods starting from one million years ago and going back to 30-35 million years ago,
- Among the prehistoric works belonging to Odrisia, the first city residence of Odrisses located 5 km north-west of Edirne, stone axes, handmade, rough-dough notch-ornamented earthenware pot parts, hand mill are exhibited.
- The grave gifts obtained in the Hacilar Dolmen, Arpalık Dolmen and Taşlıca Bayır Tumulus excavations are exhibited in the showcases called with their names.
- The Thracian coins belonging to the Hellenistic kings, The Roman and Byzantine coins

Objects in the Ethnography Section:

- Collection consisting of silver works with a sultan's signature and other house tools,

- Gördes-type carpet prayer rug, laid in the niche of Selimiye Mosque, and Şarköy kilims belonging to the 19th century,
- The coins belonging to the Ottoman Sultans' periods, the treasures,
- The part reflecting the ritual circumcision and bride rooms,
- The "Edirnekari" large board door,
- The style cover used in the palace, spoons made of the covers of sea turtles, long-spouted ewers, water pipe sets made of crystal, and the 19th century male and female clothes,
- The sitting room, money drawers, writing drawers and chests made with Edirnekari technique,
- The hand works section, embroidered handkerchiefs having different motifs, the blanket, which was used by Atatürk and the map he used during the Balkan War,
- In the handworks part, there are a village kitchen, a carpet, a kilim, rush mat weaving looms, tools used in shoe manufacture, agricultural tools, instruments used in farming and a phaeton.

In the museum garden, Ionian, Aiol, Korinth, Byzantine column heads and various architectural parts are exhibited. Besides them, the altar having an Eros relief on it, which belongs to the Roman period and the dolmens and menhirs brought from Lalapaşa Hacılar Village are interesting works.

GPS Coordinats: 41.67889; 26.56056

Adress: Meydan Mahallesi, Kadir Paşa Mektep Sk., 22020 Edirne/Turkey

Contact: 0090 284 2251120, <http://www.edirnemuzesi.gov.tr>

Getting there: The museum is in the centre of Edirne on Kadirpaşa Mektep street. It is easy to find at the back of the Selimiye Mosque, opposite the exhibition of the Janissaries' tombstones.

Opening hours: Everyday, 09:00- 17:00

Admission: 5 TL, children under 18 and citizens over 65 is free.

5. EDIRNE GREAT SYNAGOGUE

Grand Synagogue of Edirne was erected after the great fire of 1905. During this disaster, all the 13 synagogues of Edirne were burned to the ground. Grand Synagogue of Edirne was designed by the French architect France Depré in the architectural style of Moorish Revival. The synagogue was opened to service on the eve of Pesach (Passover) in April 1909.

Due to the emigration of the Jewish community, the synagogue ceased to operate in 1983. In 1997, its roof and one of the walls collapsed. In 2008, the mayor of Edirne Mustafa Büyük announced a plan to rebuild the synagogue building and restore its former splendour. In 2011-2012, there was a stagnation of repair work.

The reconstruction of the synagogue lasted five years and cost 5,75 million Turkish lira, i.e. approximately US\$2.5 million. The investment repaired the lead-clad domes, the collapsed roof and walls. The foundations were fortified, and the floor inside was restored to its original patterns and colours, as well as the Torah inscriptions. The restoration was overseen by Turkey's General Directorate of Foundations. The restored synagogue is claimed to be the largest one in the Balkans and the third largest in Europe. Finally, the synagogue was reopened on March 26, 2015.

GPS coordinates: 41.671600, 26.551600

Address: Dilaverbey Mahallesi, Maarif Str. No:75, Edirne /TURKEY

Getting there: Grand Synagogue of Edirne is situated in Kaleiçi District, near the southern end of Maarif Street. The distance from Selimiye Mosque is 1300 meters, and the easiest way to get there is by walking along pedestrianised Saraçlar Street.

Opening hours: except Tuesday, 08:00- 17:00

Admission: The entrance to the synagogue is free of charge.

6. SARAYICI- KIRKPINAR OIL WRESTLING AREA, JUSTICE HALL, BALKAN WAR MEMORIAL

The stadium called Er Meydanı is one of the most unusual tourist attractions of Edirne. The venue, situated on the island of Sarayıçi, hosts an annual tournament of one of the most famous Turkish sports disciplines - oil wrestling. The area where the modern stadium stands today, there were once private hunting grounds of the Sultans, conveniently located near the Saray-ı Cedid-i Amire palace complex.

The Kırkpınar Oil Wrestling Festival is one of the most significant symbols of Edirne. It is believed that the festival started in 1361 when Edirne was conquered by the Turks.

The Sarayıçi Balkan War Memorial have been built in the memory of the thousands of war heroes who heroically resisted the invasion during the Balkan War and the soldiers who were taken prisoner and left to die of hunger in Sarayıçi in 1913.

Things to see in Sarayıçi:

- Near the stadium, which is flanked by bronze sculptures of wrestling başpehlivan (champions),
- Adalet Kasrı (Justice Hall; 1561) is a stone tower with a conical roof that dates from the time of Süleyman the Magnificent. In front of it are two square columns: on the Seng-i Hürmet (Stone of Respect) to the right, people would place petitions to the sultan, while the Seng-i İbret (Stone of Warning) on the left displayed the heads of high-court officers who had managed to anger the sultan.
- Behind the Adalet Kasrı is the small Fatih Köprüsü (Conqueror Bridge; 1452).
- Balkan Wars memorial;
- The scattered ruins of the Old Palace.

GPS Coordinats: 41.689648, 26.558819

Contact: 0090 284 2134100, <http://www.edirnekirkpinar.com>, info@edirnekirkpinar.com

Getting there: Kırkpınar Stadium is located on the northern side of Edirne. From the city centre, you can walk on foot, starting from the Selimiye Mosque. From there, head northeast, down Mimar Sinan Street, and then to the north along the Saray Yolu (Palace Road). It leads to Suleiman Bridge (*Kanuni Köprüsü*), where you can cross Tunca River to get to the island where the stadium is located. The total distance the Selimiye Mosque is about 1.5 km.

An alternative walking route leads to the stadium from the Sultan Bayezid II Mosque Complex along the Tunca River (1 km hike). It can also be started at the mosque of Gazi Mihal,

to take you along the river bank to the Sultan Bayezid II Mosque Complex and further on to the stadium (2 km hike).

7. MAKEDONIAN TOWER AND ADRIANAPOLIS CASTLE WALLS

In the place where the city of Edirne stands today, in the ancient period there was a Roman town. It was refounded by Emperor Hadrian at the site of a previous Thracian settlement had previously settled. Hadrian developed the city, made it the capital of the Roman province of Thrace, and gave it his name - Hadrianopolis. The most visible traces of this period of Edirne's history are the walls of a Roman fortress, erected during Hadrian's reign. They are now a part of a small archaeo-park, situated at the foot of the Macedonian Tower, in the very centre of the city.

The tower, which was built on one of the four big bastions of the Edirne Fortress that was near the Üç Şerefli Mosque, named the Macedonian Tower, Fire Tower, Clock Tower, was built in wooden structure by Governor Hacı İzzet Pasha in 1884. The Clock Tower having been destroyed by the fire, was rebuilt in bricks and stone this time (1887-1893) The height of the tower was 48 meters with an octagonal plan. It was damaged in the earthquake of 1953.

GPS coordinates: 41.677399, 26.552200

Getting there: Macedonian Tower is located in the city centre of Edirne, in the side street called Mumcular Sokak, next to the Üç Şerefeli Mosque and Sokollu Mehmet Paşa Hamam. The entrance to the ancient ruins of Hadrianopolis is just behind the tower, from Mumcular Sokak Street. The distance from Selimiye Mosque is just 500 meters.

Admission: The entry to the ruins of Hadrianopolis is free of charge. There is no access to Macedonian Tower, so it is only possible to see it from the outside.

8. MERİÇ (MARITSA) BRIDGE

Among the biggest bridges in Edirne is the Meriç Bridge built on the Meriç River. It was built during the reign of Sultan Abdulmecit between 1842-1847. It used to be called the

New Bridge and the Mecidiye Bridge after Sultan Abdülmecid I, is a historic Ottoman bridge in Edirne, Turkey. The Meriç Bridge is 263 m. of length, 7 m. of width, positioned on 13 abutments. In the abutments of the bridge with 12 lancet arches are drainage units.

Things to see:

- Seyir Köşkü (marble kiosk),
- The pendant of the kiosk is ornamented in the neoclassical empire style.
- Tassaled finials with star and crescent, arrows, flags and groups of swords are among the figures on the pendant.
- Traces of the Sultan's signature inside a circular medallion in the middle of the pendant.

GPS coordinates: 41.66326, 26.55210

Getting there: Meriç Bridge situated to the south of Edirne's historical centre. Take a walk along the main pedestrianised alley of the city - Saraçlar Street - to the south and turn into Lozan Street. If you continue the walk after crossing the bridges, Lozan Street will take you to Karaağaç district.

9. KARAAGAC and KARAAGAC OLD RAILWAY STATION, TREATY OF LAUSANNE MONUMENT AND MUSEUM- EDİRNE

Karaağaç is connected to Edirne with four kilometer road of history and natural beauty. It used to be a favourite location of minorities and the rich in Edirne. Karaağaç houses in this area connect the past to the present. The historical Karaağaç Train Station, the Lausanne Memorial and the Lausanne Museum are in the same square.

The Karaağaç Railway Station or before 1971 Edirne Railway Station was the name of the former railway station in Edirne, located 4km south-west of the city. Currently, it houses Trakya University's Faculty of Fine Arts.

History in 1868, the Compagnie des Chemins de Fer Orientaux (CO), Orient Railway Company, started building their main line between İstanbul and Vienna during the Ottoman Empire, they built the line to also service Edirne. However this line didn't enter the city, instead the railway built a station in the town of Karaağaç. The beautiful Karaağaç Railway Station opened with a grand main building. After the Turkish Independence War and the Treaty of

Lausanne signed, stating Turkey's borders, the rail line exited Turkey into Greece at Uzunköprü and came back into Turkey at Edirne, then went back into Greece. This became a problem for Greek and Turkish rail service, so in 1971, the Turkish State Railways built a cut off line known as the Edirne Cut-off from Pehlivan köy up the Turkish Greek border to Edirne and built the line through the city and further northwest to Bulgaria. This however led to the abandonment of the Karaağaç station.

Lousanne Monument, Square and Museum were built at the historical area in the Karaağaç district with the cooperation of Trakya University, Governorship of Edirne, Edirne Municipality, İstanbul Technical University, Mimar Sinan University and the İnönü Foundation in 1998.

The reinforced concrete monument is formed by columns positioned on raft foundation with 3 independent corbels with 45 degrees of angle. The first column is 36,45 m. tall, symbolizing Anatolia, the second column is 31,95 m. tall, symbolizing Thrace and the third column is 17,45 m. tall, symbolizing Karaağaç. The ring that connects the columns symbolizes solidarity and the young girl figure, which is 4,20 m. tall, symbolizes esthetics, elegance and democracy, and the document in her other hand symbolizes the Treaty of Lausanne.

Especially historical documents and books are related to the Treaty of Lausanne, belongings and caricatures of İsmet İnönü, the second president who signed the Treaty of Lausanne, are exhibited in the museum.

Things to see in Karaagac;

- Trakya University Faculty of Fine Arts (before Karaağaç Train Station)
- Lausanne Memorial, Museum of National Struggle and Lausanne
- Black train and railway
- İlhan Koman Sculpture and Painting Museum
- Osman İnci Museum
- Small street cafes.

GPS coordinates: 41.65182 26.52191

Museum of National Struggle and Lausanne

Address: Karaağaç Str. No:50 Edirne/TURKEY

Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 08:30- 17:00

Admission: The entrance to the museum is free of charge.

Ilhan Koman Sculpture and Painting Museum

Address: Karaağaç Str. No:50 Edirne/TURKEY

Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 09:00-12:00/ 13:00- 17:00

Admission: The entrance to the museum is free of charge.

10. THE WATER CONVEYANCE SYSTEM OF SINANKOY/EDIRNE

The 45 km. long Edirne Water Conveyance System, also constructed by Mimar Sinan, is attributed to Hurrem Haseki, the wife of Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent. The Sary bridge in Edirne, constructed by Sinan in 1553-54 over the Tunca tributary of Meric river, served also to further convey the water of Taslimusellim waters, controlled there by a water tower equipped with a special sightseeing room (Terazi Kasri), as well as at the Fatih Bridge (Adalet Kasri).

GPS coordinates: 41.8155, 26.700278

Address: Sinan Village, Edirne/ TURKEY

Contact: <http://sinankoy.com>

11. ENEZ CASTLE, HAGHIA SOPHIA CHURCH/ FATIH MOSQUE

The Antique Ainos (Enez) that has had an uninterrupted human settlement since prehistoric times has developed as a city state since the 7th century B.C. In the acropolis where the antique city was established, there is the Enez Castle dating back to the middle ages. There is also a chapel in the castle and the remains of a church in the Gazi Ömer Bey district.

Inside the castle are Enez Hagia Sophia which is a symbol for Enez, a small mosaic-tiled church, and a cave used as a chapel. A relief found here depicting Pan and dancing water nymphs was taken to Edirne Museum. There is also the depiction of a Thracian cavalry made of white marble on the wall next to the monumental entrance gate.

One of the most significant structures in Enez is the Fatih Mosque (Enez Hagia Sophia) in the castle. The structure dating back to the Byzantine era was used as a mosque until 1962.

The castle's main entrance is in the north while the castle itself lies towards the east-west direction, merging with the fortification wall to the south. There are two polygonal towers on the side facing the sea. The one on the right was demolished and therefore has not survived to our day. The fortification wall extending from the west slopes inwardly and merges with the wall coming from the south. It gives this section of the castle a half-dome shape, reinforcing defense against danger from Meriç River.

GPS Coordinates: 40.724106, 26.080652

Address: Kale Str. 22700 Enez/Edirne/TURKEY

Contact: 0090 284 2253029, <http://www.edirnekulturturizm.gov.tr>

12. UZUNKOPRU (LONGBRIDGE)

Uzunköprü, supposedly the 1st longest stone bridge in the world, continues to bear traffic load in its 500 years of history. Its length is 1392 m, its width – 6,80 – 6,90 m and it has 174 arches made of stone. The piers of the bridge are different in shape. Some of them are rounded, the others – angle-shaped. It was built during the reign of Sultan Murad II by the architect Muslihiddin, across Ergene River between 1426-1444.

The name Uzunkopru means “Long bridge” in translation. This is where the name of the town comes from. The bridge is its symbol and its main landmark. In the year 2015 the bridge was taken on to the “UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List”.

GPS Coordinats: 41.274444, 26.678333

Address: Town of Uzunköprü/Edirne/Turkey

13. KIYIKOY and ST. NICHOLAS MONASTRY- KIRKLARELİ

The village of Kıyıköy today is a fisherman and a resort village with developing seaside tourism at the Black Sea Coast. The oldest name of the village from the time of the

Thracian dynasties is “Salmydessos”. The place of the village on a small peninsular, between two river estuaries both at North and South.

The thick oak forests and the two rivers- Pabuçdere to the North and Kazandere to the South, flowing into the sea provide conditions for for firth ports.

Nowadays the north and south beaches of Kıyıköy offer pleasant conditions for sunbathing and sea swimming. The temperature of the sea water in summer varies between 20-26 degrees. Kıyıköy offers to the tourists the oppotunity to try freshly caught fish in the small restaurants, to make a boat trip along the banks of Pabuçdere and Kazandere, to catch fish or visit sites which offer the opportunity to touch the spirit of ancient peoples and enjoy beatiful landscapes.

Thousands of years back in time the Thracians built here a town of their own. In 2nd century A.D. the town was demolished and rebuilt, after which it turned into one of the most important towns at Black Sea coast during the Byzantium period. Near the village on emay visit one of the most beatiful rock monasteries from the Byzantium period- the monastery St. Nicholas”.

The Monastery St. Nicholas is one of the most interesting tourist sites in the region. It is situated at half a kilometer to the northwest of Kıyıköy. It represents premises, cut in the rocks from the VI century. In the rock complex there is a spring, which probably was the source of the water, filling the lowest dug part of the naos, forming a baptistery- the basin for baptizing. There is a premises for funeral rituals in the complex.

Things to see and do in Kıyıköy;

- The Monastery St. Nicholas
- The coasts, Selvez, Polıçe and Panayır Harbour, are also the favourite places of campers, camp-caravan lovers and cyclists,
- Pabuç Stream: You can fishing and do boating.
- Kıyıköy Harbour and Kazan Stream
- The “Kastro Coast” is also a very famous and popular place of the region. This coast is defined as the only aged elm forest.
- Kıyıköy Fortress: It is a fortress in town belonging to the Byzantine period (6th century) and built in Justinian era.

GPS coordinates: 41.634077, 28.084456

Contact: 0090 288 2143177/ <http://www.kirklarelikulturturizm.gov.tr>

Getting there: Kıyıköy is located 74 km. far from Kırklareli and 136 km. far from Edirne.

14. ASAGI PINAR and KANLIGECIT ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS

Neolithic village Aşağı Pınar and open air museum is at 3 km to the southeast of the center of Kırklareli.

Aşağı Pınar is considered to be a settlement of the first farming people coming from Asia to Thrace. These ancient people were bearers of a way of life, known to science as “neolithic revolution”. The settled farming having started about 10.000 B.C. in the Anadol reached Thrace about 6400 B.C. and then underwent a process of addaptive changes to the temperature and flora of this region before spreading further to Europe. That is why the culture born in Aşağı Pınar developed the process of laying the foundations of the European civilization. Nine cultural levels were discovered in Aşağı Pınar, which population lived here until 4800 B.C. without a break.

The site was recovered by M. Özdoğan in 1980. The excavations began in 1993 as a joint Project of İstanbul University and the German Archaeological Institute; since than extensive areas have been exposed revealing an uninterrupted sequence from Early Neolithic, ca. 6400 BC to Middle Neolithic ca. 4800 BC.

The open air museum in Aşağı Pınar at the moment consists of three exhibition halls which have been designed and created with the aim to attract the attention of the visitors by creating authentic atmospher, similar to that of ancient times. They are reconstructed wooden buildings, where the life style of the Neolithic people is demonstrated. In addition there is an open barn with models of animals, inhabiting these lands thousands of years ago.

Kanlıgeçit, 300 m. west of Aşağı Pınar, is an Early Bronze Age settlement with no other specimens in the Balkans with its architectural texture and finds. Kanlıgeçit is excavated from 1994 to 2006 by a joint project of İstanbul University and the German Archaeological Institute. The settlement was established ca. 3200 BC as a small Thracian village but transformed and redesigned in ca. 2400 BC as a citadel imitating Anatolian town model comprising of megaron type of buildings. The site is being redesigned as an open-air museum by modelling the megaron phase of the settlement.

Things to see in Aşağıpınar;

- The open air museum in Aşağı Pınar
- wooden buildings, where the life style of the Neolithic people
- open barn with models of animals

GPS Coordinats: 41.721356, 27.225966

Address: Pınar Quarter, Kırklareli- Turkey

Contact: Provincial Culture and Tourism Directorate of Kırklareli: 0090 288 2141662-0090 288 2143177- <http://www.kirklarelikulturturizm.gov.tr>

Tourism Information Center: 0090 288 2141662- 0090 288 2141522

Getting there: Aşağı Pınar is a Neolithic site in Eastern Thrace located in the town of Kırklareli 3 km south of the main bus centre on the road to Asilbeyli village.

15. YAYLA QUARTER CIVIL ARCHITECTURE-KIRKLARELİ

Kırklareli is a very important civil architecture center. Specially decorated wooden pavilions and mansions have been up to date from the past. Yayla neighborhood is a historic district with its narrow streets and old houses. They are examples of the neoclassicism in architecture from 19 th-20 th century.

Things to see in Yayla Quarter:

- Culture and Art House
- Ataturk House
- Ali Rıza Efendi Culture House

GPS coordinates: 41.742844, 27.223728

Contact: Provincial Culture and Tourism Directorate of Kırklareli: 0090 288 2141662-0090 288 2143177- <http://www.kirklarelikulturturizm.gov.tr>

Tourism Information Center: 0090 288 2141662- 0090 288 2141522

Getting there: The quarter is located in the city center.

Admission: Cultural houses organized with the new generation museum. It can be visit every day of the week except Mondays during working hours.

15 SITES IN BURGAS

1- NESEBAR OLD TOWN

Nesebar Old Town is located 30 km north of Burgas, on a small peninsula in the Black Sea which is linked with the mainland (the New Nessebar Town) with a narrow causeway. Nessebar is one of the most ancient towns in Europe, arising more than 3200 years ago. The ancient town is only 850 m. long and 350 m. wide.

During Antiquity the town was called Mesembria, in the Middle Ages it was known as Mesemvria, and it was later renamed to Nesebar. Numerous archaeological finds provide evidence of the centuries-old history of Old Nesebar. Many of them can be seen at the Archaeological Museum which is located at the very beginning of the peninsula. The different museum halls provide information about the town's existence under the control of the Thracians, the Roman Empire, the Byzantine Empire, and the Bulgarian State.

The town is one of the main tourists attractions on the Southern Black sea coast and especially for the tourists who spend their holiday in the sea resort of Sunny beach which borders from north of town of Nesebar.

The Old Town was declared an architectural-historical reserve of national importance by virtue of Ordinance No 243 of the Council of Ministers of 18 July 1956. Because of its unique natural situation and well preserved monuments from different ages in 1983 the old town of Nessebar was included in UNESCO's list of World Heritage.

Things to see in Nesebar;

- The Archaeological Museum
- Ethnographic Museum
- The St. Stephen Church
- The St. Spass Church
- The Christ Pantokrator Church
- The St. Paraskeva Church
- The St. John The Baptist Church
- The St. John Aliturgetus Church
- The St. Archangels Gabriel and Michael Church
- Basilica St. Sofia
- The St. Demetrius Church
- The St. Theodor Church
- Basilica Holy Mother Eleusa
- The Windmills

- Early Byzantine terms remnants of fortress walls from Roman times and the Middle Ages
- Antique 18th and 19th century houses: two-storeyed houses with stone-built ground levels and wooden upper floors,
- Narrow cobbled streets, tiny squares,
- The little shops offering hand crafted souvenirs– pottery, crocheting and jewelry-,
- Cafes, restaurants, pubs, tavern and lovely flower gardens
- Southern Black Sea coast

GPS Coordinates: 42.658707, 27.736273

Website: <http://www.ancient-nessebar.com>

Admission: The entrance to the old town is free of charge.

| | | St. Stephen church | The Christ Pantokrator church | St. Spass St. Paraskeva St. John the baptist | Ethnographic museum |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Date / Church | Archaeological Museum | | | | |
| from 02.01. to 31.03. 2018 | Monday – Sunday: 9.00–17.00 | on request | on request | on request | on request |
| from 01.04. to 27.04. 2018 | Monday – Sunday: 9.00–17.00 | Monday – Sunday: 10.30–17.00 | on request | on request | on request |
| from 28.04. to 31.05. 2018 | Monday – Sunday: 9.00–18.00 | Monday – Sunday: 9.00–18.00 | Monday – Sunday: 10.30–14.00 14.30–18.00 | Monday – Sunday: 10.30–14.00 14.30–18.00 | on request |
| from 01.06. to 08.07. 2018 | Monday – Sunday: 9.00–19.00 | Monday – Sunday: 9.00–19.00 | Monday – Sunday: 10.30–14.00 14.30–18.00 | Monday – Sunday: 10.30–14.00 14.30–18.00 | Monday – Sunday: 10.30–14.00 14.30–18.00 |
| from 09.07. to 26.08. 2018 | Monday – Sunday: 9.00–20.00 | Monday – Sunday: 9.00–20.00 | Monday – Sunday: 9.00–20.00 | Monday – Sunday: 10.30–14.00 14.30–19.00 | Monday – Sunday: 10.30–14.00 14.30–19.00 |
| from 27.08. to 24.09. 2018 | Monday – Sunday: 9.00–19.00 | Monday – Sunday: 9.00–19.00 | Monday – Sunday: 9.00–19.00 | Monday – Sunday: 10.30–14.00 14.30–19.00 | Monday – Sunday: 10.30–14.00 14.30–19.00 |
| from 25.09. | Monday – | Monday – | Monday – | Monday – | on request |

| | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
| to 31.10. 2018 | Sunday: 9.00–18.00 | Sunday: 9.00–18.00 | Sunday: 10.30–14.00 14.30–18.00 | Sunday: 10.30–14.00 14.30–18.00 | |
| | Monday – | | | | |
| from 01.11. to 31.12. 2018 | Sunday: 9.00–17.00 | on request | on request | on request | on request |

- **Entrance tickets for the Archaeological Museum:** 6 BGN for adult, 3 BGN for children
- **Entrance tickets for the church "St. Stephen":** 6 BGN for adult, 3 BGN for children
- **Entrance tickets for the church St. Spas, The Christ Pantokrator church, Church St. Paraskeva, the St. John the Baptist Church and Ethnographic Museum:** 3 BGN for adult, 2 BGN for children

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER - NESEBAR – Old Town

Contacts: +359 554 42611 / +359 554 29346

E-mail: visitnessebar@abv.bg, **Website:** www.visitnessebar.org

Adress: 10 Mesambria Str., Town of Nesebar, Burgas/ BULGARIA

2- BURGAS CITY ICONIC LANDMARKS

Things to see in Burgas;

- The Pier
- The Largo
- The Clock
- The Compass
- The Gramophone

2.1. THE PIER

The Pier is the most emblematic and favorite place for citizens and guests of Burgas. Built in 1936, the bridge was with a steel structure, and the platform was built with wooden joists. In the middle 80s of the 20th century old bridge was reconstructed with a massive concrete structure.

The Pier is also connected to two of the biggest Bulgarian holidays – St. Jordan's Day (Epiphany) and St. Nicholas Day. Every year, on Epiphany (6th January), there is a

solemn service and following tradition, the Bishop throws the Christian cross into the sea; brave swimmers dive into the minus temperature January sea to see who will find it first. The winner, who first caught the cross, enjoys health and prosperity throughout the year. On St. Nikolay's Day (6th December) sailors throw wreaths from the Bridge into the sea to commemorate perished sailors and fishermen.

Coordinates: 42.49461365, 27.48641968

2.2. THE LARGO

Alexandrovska Street has earned the title of Largo (High Street) and is the most visited and busiest street in Burgas. Alexandrovska St. is attractive and has a modern European look with its rest areas, shops, pubs, restaurants and cafes. You can often find street artists and musicians in there.

Another symbol of Burgas, Troykata Square is located on the Largo. Many cultural and sporting events, concerts and performances contribute to the vivid atmosphere of the square.

Coordinates: 42.49378967, 27.47059631

Address: "Aleksandrovska" Str., Burgas, Bulgaria

2.3. THE CLOCK

The Clock at the corner of Alexandrovska St. And Bogoridi St. built in the beginning of 20th century. It is one of the undoubted symbols of Burgas. It is the favourite place for meeting up with friends for generations of Burgas citizens.

Coordinates: 42.49351501, 27.47253609

Address: 39 "Aleksandrovska" Str., Burgas, Bulgaria

2.4. THE COMPASS

The Compass is located on the high street – Alexandrovska St. The Compass marks the zero kilometre of Burgas (elevation 0) and is a bronze art piece – a stylish decorative plate with relief images.

Coordinates: 42.49432755, 27.47042465

Address: 46 "Aleksandrovska" Str., Burgas, Bulgaria

2.5. THE GRAMOPHONE

The Gramophone is one of the city symbols, located at the oldest largo of Burgas – Bogoridi St. It is an architectural monument of culture. The Gramophone is quite imposing, standing at around 2 meters tall. It is designed by the talented artist Rusi Stoyanov.

Address: ul. "Sofroniy" 29, 8000 Burgas Center, Burgas, Bulgaria

Coordinates: 42.49423599, 27.48011017

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER - BURGAS

Contacts: +359 56 825772 / +359 56 841542

E-mail: tic_burgas@burgas.bg, **Website:** www.tic.burgas.bg

Address: Hristo Botev Str, Burgas/Bulgaria

Tourist Services Opening Hours: June 1 – September 30: 8.30 am – 6.00 pm, Every day

October 1 – May 31: 8.30 am – 12.30 pm/ 1.30 pm – 5.00 pm, closed Saturday and Sunday

3. BURGAS MUSEUMS

REGIONAL BURGAS MUSEUM - HEADQUARTER

Address: 8000 Burgas, Slavianska St. 69

Tel: +359 56 82 03 44, +359 56 84 25 82

E-mail: main@burgasmuseums.bg

Location: Center of Burgas

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPOSITION

Address: 8000 Burgas, blvd. Aleko Bogoridi 21

Tel: +359 56 84 35 41

E-mail: archeo@burgasmuseums.bg

Location: Southern part of Burgas

ETHNOGRAPHIC EXPOSITION

Address: 8000 Burgas, Slavyanska St. 69

Tel: +359 56 84 25 87

E-mail: ethno@burgasmuseums.bg

Location: Center of Burgas

HISTORICAL EXPOSITION

Address: 8000 Burgas, Lermontov St. 31

Tel: +359 56 84 18 15

E-mail: history@burgasmuseums.bg

NATURAL HISTORY EXPOSITION

Address: 8000 Burgas, Fotinov St. 30

Tel: +359 56 84 32 39

E-mail: priroda@burgasmuseums.bg

PETYA DOUBAROVA MEMORIAL

Address: 8000 Burgas, Gladstone St. 68

Tel: +359 56 81 41 10

E-mail: office@dubarovamuseum.com

Web: www.dubarovamuseum.com

Location: South-West part of Burgas

ART GALLERY, BURGAS

Address: 8000 Burgas, Mitropolit Simeon St. 24

Tel: +359 56 84 21 69 ; +359 56 82 28 03

Summer Opening Hours for Visitors (1 June - 30 September):

Monday to Sunday: 10:00-18:00

Winter Opening Hours for Visitors (1 October - 31 May):

Tuesday to Saturday: 9:00-17:00

Sunday and Monday: upon request

Admissions: Includes Museum's fixed expositions and all guest exhibitions:

Adult: 5,00 BGN, Senior and Student: 2,00 BGN, Family: 8,00 BGN

Children (under 7) and disabled persons: Free

Guided tours and talks in English and Russian: 20,00 BGN

Thematic guided tours and talks: 30,00 BGN

Visit for free: 3rd of March - National holiday, 18th of May - International Night at the Museum, 6th of December - Day of Burgas

4. SOZOPOL OLD TOWN (APOLLONIA PONTICA)

Ancient Apollonia Pontica (present-day Sozopol, Bulgaria) is an architectural reserve and the most popular tourist destination on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast. The old town Sozopol is located at the Black-sea coast, around 30 km south of Burgas on a picturesque rocky peninsula. The city founded by Greek settlers from Miletus around 610 B.C. was named Antheia (soon renamed to Apollonia) in honor of the patron deity of Miletus-Apollo. It became an autonomous and strong democratic polis and important trade center between Ancient Greece and Thrace. Thank to its strong navy and naturally protected harbors, Apollonia kept control of the major merchant road along the Western Black Sea Coast, called Via Pontica, for several centuries. The city preserved its independence during the campaigns of Phillip II of Macedon (342-339 BC) and Alexander the Great (335 BC) but in 72 BC was conquered, pillaged and burned by the Roman legions of Marcus Lucullus. The city succeeded in restoring its former glory and was known in the Roman World as Apollonia Magna (Great Apollonia). Following the Christian mainstream tradition, its name was changed to Sozopol, town of salvation, in 4th century AD. Despite the damage, it survived the period of the Great Migration of People (4-7 century AD) and entered the Middle Ages as a focal point of long-lasting Byzantine-Bulgarian conflicts.

The Bulgarian National Revival period left its own vivid marks on the appearance of Sozopol. Today the preserved architecture of the Renaissance houses in the old Sozopol and the restored ancient archaeological sites lend special charm to the town and attract many tourists.

The biggest events in Sozopol are The Apollonia Festival (September 1-10) and the July Celebration (June30-July1).

Things to see in Sozopol;

- The town features narrow stone laid streets, with tiny or no sidewalks, churches, antique houses and plenty of small hotels, galleries, restaurants, shops and street vendors and performers.
- Sozopol has two beaches – the central beach and the Harmani Beach, and two other beaches in the immediate vicinity – The Golden Fish Campground and Kavatsi Beach.

Coordinats: 42.4166718, 27.7000008

Contact: + 359 (0) 550 2 57 60, + 359 (0) 550 2 57 23, <http://www.sozopol.bg>

Admission: The entrance to the town is free of charge.

The Sozopol Archeological Museum

Address: 2 Han Krum Street, Sozopol

Tel: +359 550 22226, **E-mail:** am_sozopol@abv.bg

Website: www.sozopol.bg

Opening Hours: June 1 – September 30: 8.30 am – 6.00 pm, every day

October 1 – May 31: 8.30 am – 12.30 pm 1.30 pm – 5.00 pm (closed Saturday and Sunday)

Admission: Adults – 4 BGN, students, children, and seniors – 1 BGN, persons with disabled – no admission cost, Tours in Bulgarian – 10 BGN

5. ST.ANASTASIA ISLAND

St. Anastasia Island is located in the Burgas Bay in the Black Sea. It is a volcanic rock island, 12 meters high, at some places up to 17 meters high, and its area is almost 9 decres. Between 1959 and 1990 it was known as Bolshevik Island. It is surrounded by mystery and there are hundreds of legends and stories about treasures and sea pirates.

St. Anastasia Island is the only Bulgarian Island which has a church – “Ascension”, which is part of the monastery, which once existed there. The earliest information on the existence of the sanctuary dates from 15th century. Throughout the years the monastery was burnt down a few times and raided by pirates.

Today, after the restoration and reconstruction the island looks like an ethnographic complex. The monastery is open as a museum and a hotel complex. The church of the island (12th-14th c.) is the oldest building. It is worth visiting because of the beautiful frescoes. Another interesting place of the complex is the Healing Place - a small garden on the roof where you can pick up some herbs yourself, from which your tea to be prepared afterwards in the restaurant of the island.

The island lighthouse was built by a French company in 1889. It was mounted on an iron pole and raised to 40 meters above sea level and in fair weather its light was visible at 10 miles. The island can be reached by ship departing from the Bridge in the Sea Garden of Bourgas.

In 2001, the island of St Anastasia was declared an natural- archaeological reserve.

Things to see in St. Anastasia Island;

- Museum: On the second floor of the large monastery building you can find interactive museum exhibition, which represents the rich history of Saint Anastasia Island.
- Lekarna (healing house)
- Church
- Restaurant
- Guest House
- Conference Room

GPS Coordinats : 42.46833420, 27.55305672

Contact: +359 882 004 124, <http://anastasia-island.com>

Getting there: Ship “Anastasia” contacts: +359 882 004 124,

e-mail: reservations@gotoburgas.com

6. POMORIE ANCIENT CITY

Pomorie is located in the southern part of the Bulgarian Black Sea Coast, 22 km away from Burgas. Varna, Burgas, Sozopol and Nesebar can be reached via Pomorie Port. The town lies in close proximity to the international airport of Burgas.

Ancient Thracian tomb from the Roman Era is located 4 km away from the town of Pomorie, which is itself a successor of the Ancient Greek colony of Anchialos.

The Thracian Tomb near Pomorie, which might have also been a mausoleum and/or a heroon (a shrine dedicated to a deceased Ancient Thracian, Greek, or Roman hero), dates back to the 2nd-3rd century AD. It is believed that it served as a Heroon (mausoleum) of Anhialo rich family, which is performed religious pagan rituals.

The Pomorie Tomb is best known for its mixed Thracian and Roman architecture and construction techniques, for its size (with its main chamber being 11.6 meters in diameter, and 5.5 meters tall), and especially for the large hollow supportive column in its middle which used to have a spiral staircase inside it. Because of that, the column has been compared to a

giant mushroom, and the local residents of Pomorie call the Thracian tomb “the hollow mound”.

The tomb is unique in the Balkans. Architecture and buildings and it still impresses with perfect execution. Many architects from around the world studying the tomb to unravel the mystery of gaboobrazniya dome. It was declared an architectural monument.

GPS Coordinats: 42.5557365, 27.6448631

Contact: Pomorie Municipality, 5 Solna St., Pomorie, Tel: +359 596 22 004,
Website: www.pomorie.org

History Museum, 33 a Knyaz Boris I St., Pomorie, Tel: +359 596 2 20 08
e-mail: pomoriemuseum@abv.bg

Museum of Salt, on the shore of Lake Pomorie, Tel: +359 596 2 53 44
e-mail: alas@unacs.bg

Opening Hours:

History Museum – Pomorie: Monday to Friday - 8.00 am - 12.00 m and 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm; closed on Saturdays and Sundays

Admission: Adults – BGN 2, Children, Pupils, University Students, Senior Citizens, and People with disabilities – BGN 1

Museum of Salt: 1 October – 31 May: 8.00 am - 4.00 pm – Monday to Friday, closed on Saturdays and Sundays.

1 June – 30 September: 8.00 am - 6.00 pm – Monday to Friday, Saturday - 10.00 am - 6.00 pm, closed on Sundays

Admission: Adults – BGN 2, Students, Senior Citizens and People with disabilities – BGN 1,

Ancient Beehive Tomb: June - September: Tuesday to Sunday - 9.00 am - 5.00 pm; closed on Mondays

October - May: the tomb opens from Monday to Friday for groups of more than 10 people upon request in advance.

Admission: Adults – BGN 2, Children, Students, Senior Citizens and People with disabilities – BGN 1.

7. BRASHLIAN VILLAGE

The village of Brashlian is located in South-East Bulgaria (Burgas district) in the northeast part of the Strandja Mountain at 11 km. to the northwest of Malko Tarnovo (municipal center). Brashlian village was pronounced architectural and historical reserve in 1982. Included in the reserve are 76 houses listed as architectural monuments of culture, of which 9 remain from the original settlement and are of great national importance. The traditional houses of Brashlian are typical representations of Strandja architecture during the 18th and 19th centuries. Many of the houses are open for tours, and offer both rooms and traditional regional meals to guests.

The village of Brashlian is nestled among the picturesque and wild nature, among ivies and century old trees. The village is located in a beautiful hollow, overgrown with dense oak and beech forests. In the area surrounding the village there is extensive karst terrain with a rich floral diversity.

The old name of the village is Surmashik. The new name of the village means Ivy and it is a literal translation of the old name.

The present day settlement was formed at end of the 17th and beginning of the 18th centuries, after residents from three hamlets Yourta, Selishte and Zhivak settled in Dolnata Mahala (The Lower Quarter), the oldest part of today's village.

Things to see in Brashlian Village;

- St. Dimitar Church with the Monastery School
- In close proximity to the village are dolmens, burial mounds and ruins of an ancient settlement
- Strandja folklore
- Balyuvata Kashta (House) - an architectural and historical monument. It was built in the 19th century. The ground floor of the house is constructed of stone and mud, and with two layers of wooden beams. The second, residential floor of the house is constructed of planks of wood
- Chapels: St. Panteleymon – located 1 km south of Brashlian, along a tributary of the Katun River; St. Petka - located about 2 km south of the village of Brashlian; St. Marina - located at the south end of the village of Brashlian;
- Agricultural Museum of Traditional Farming

- Ethnographic House-Museum
- The Vitanovo Reserve - located 9 km from Malko Tarnovo and 5 km from Brashlian, near the northern slopes of the main Resovsko Ridge along the border with Turkey
- Natural Monument Bratanova Peshtera (Cave) - the biggest cave in the region of Bulgarian Strandja, it is located 9 km northwest from Malko Tarnovo in the locality of Trite Dereta. Being behind the border fence, in the Vitanovo Reserve, access to the cave is allowed only with a permit and guide from the Border Police and written permission from the Ministry of Environment and Waters
- Rare orchid species in the area of Gogovo
- From the village of Brashlian available for tours are: the village of Stoilovo (9 km); the Dokuzak Waterfall near the same village; hiking trails and jeep safari routes to the areas of Dvata Vriza, Stoyanova Chuka, St. Panteleymon, Boriloto, Kovach (Blacksmith) - a beautiful area close to the Veleka River.

Coordinats: 42.0499992, 27.4330006

Contact: TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER – MALKO TARNOVO

Tel/Fax: +359 5952 3017, **e-mail:** tic_mtarnovo@mail.bg

Getting there: Village of Brashlian (district Bourgas district) is located in South- Eastern Planing region of Bulgaria. It is part of Malko Turnovo municipality.

8. MARKELI FORTRESS

The Early Byzantine and medieval fortress of Markeli is located at the Hissar hill in East part of Stara Planina mountain, 7.5 km west of town of Karnobat. The castle was an important military center and has played a major role in the Bulgarian-Byzantine relationships. It was built by the Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantium) at the end of the 5th and the beginning of the 6th century AD. From 812 the castle is a Bulgarian possession and Khan Krum made it the largest Bulgarian stronghold in the south of Stara Planina mountain. The total area of the citadel was 460 acres and the length of the walls - 530 m.

Things to see in Markeli Fortress;

- Medieval basilica from VI century,
- Old Bulgarian Church from the X century,
- a Byzantine church from the XI century
- many artifacts such as bronze coins from VI-XIII century,
- fragments of graphite drawings, ceramic mosaics and bronze medieval seals.

GPS Coordinates: 42.6359107897 26.8912431017

Getting there: The fortress is easily accessible by car from the highway of Trakia and there is a sign to Markeli.

9. ROMAN TOWN OF DEULTUM, DEBELT

The ruins of the Ancient Thracian settlement of Debelt (Develt) and the Ancient Roman city of Deultum (Colonia Flavia Pacis Deultensium), which was also a medieval Byzantine and Bulgarian fortress, are located near today's town of Debelt, Sredets Municipality, Burgas District (17 km east of the city of Burgas), near the Black Sea coast of Southeast Bulgaria.

The Roman Colony of Deultum was established here in the beginning of the 70s of the 1st century, during the ruling of emperor Tit Flavius Vespasian, by the veterans of the 8th Augustan Legion. This is the only colony of free Roman citizens on the present Bulgarian territory. The fortress was declared an architectural and constructional monument in Issue 65 of the State Gazette of 1965.

Things to see in Debelt;

- a number of large coin treasures,
- statues, inscriptions, ceramics and small finds
- Archaeological Base in the village of Debelt.
- Information materials and souvenirs.

GPS Coordinats: 42.3887,27.2809

Address: Archaeological Base, 3 Georgi Dimitrov Str. Debelt, Sredets/Bulgaria

Contact: Phone: +359 056 915799, e-mail: deultum@mail.bg

Getting there: One can reach the village of Debelt by second-grade road A-77 from Burgas to Sredets.

Opening hours: from Monday to Friday – 8.00 am – 5.00 pm,
on Saturday and Sunday – upon a preliminary request

Admission: adults- 3 BGN; students, seniors, disabled people- 1 BGN

10. St. IVAN (St. John) ISLAND

The island St. Ivan is the largest Black Sea island on the water territory of Bulgaria. Its area is 660 dca, and its highest point is 33 meters above sea level. It is located at a distance of one kilometer from Sozopol.

The island is a natural and archaeological reservation placed under the protection of the state by decree promulgated in issue 35 of the State Gazette, 1965.

Around the 7th-4th century BC, the island was populated by Thracians. After Sozopol (Apollonia) was conquered by the Romans in 72 BC. and the conversion to Christianity, a monastical complex was built in the 5th-6th century on top of the ruins of the old Roman temple, including the Basilica of the Mother of God.

The Monastery grew into an important centre of Christianity in the region; the buildings of the monastery and the church were reconstructed in 1262-1310. Sozopol was conquered by the Ottomans in 1453 and the monastery was completely destroyed, but later reconstructed in 1467-1471. In the 1620s it was a refuge for Cossack pirates raiding the western Black Sea coast. The Ottomans destroyed the remaining buildings on St. Ivan Island in July 1629 in order not to be used by the pirates.

Things to see in St. Ivan Island;

- Lighthouse: A lighthouse structure existed on the island since antiquity. The lighthouse in its present appearance was built in 1911 by "Barbiev Benards Turenne-Paris". It represents a white round tower of reinforced concrete with height of 9.20 meters. The light is visible from 18 miles.
- Nature: Apart from its historical significance, the island is also a nature reserve since 1993, with 72 species of birds nesting on the rocks and around the coast, 3 of which are endangered in the world and 15 in Europe. St. Ivan Island is also inhabited by other rare species, such as Mediterranean Monk Seals.

There are no organized tourist visits to the island. However, it is accessible for tourists. It can be reached by boat from the Sozopol Bay.

GPS Coordinates: 42.436498254 27.688997244

11. MALKO TARNOVA CITY

The town of Malko Tarnovo is 470 km south-east of Sofia, 83 km south of Bourgas, 58 km south-west of Tsarevo, and 9 km north-east of the checkpoint of the same name at the border with Turkey.

Malko Tarnovo is overrun with Bulgarian, Romanian and Ukrainian tourists on the way to Istanbul.

A small collection of National Revival buildings huddles above the main square, four of which together serve as a town museum, including ethnographic and icon collections.

Things to see in Malko Tarnovo;

- Thracian Sanctuary in Mishkova Niva area,
- Thracian mound necropolis in Propada area,
- Church of the Assumption,
- Holy Trinity Catholic Church,
- History Museum,
- Thracian stone sanctuary in Kamenska Barchina area,
- Monument of the Volunteers of 1877-1878 war,
- Fountains The big and The small Vris,
- Chapel of Holly Virgin, area of Chernogorovo,
- Chapel of Holy Virgin, area of Peykovo

GPS Coordinats: 41.9830017, 27.5330009

Contact: Tourist Information Center – Malko Tarnova, +359 5952 3017, tic_mtarnovo@mail.bg

12. RUSOCASTRON FORTRESS- KAMENO/BULGARIA

Medieval fortress Rusocastro is located Kameno Municipality, Burgas District, in today's Southeast Bulgaria. The Rusocastro Fortress had a territory of 52 decares.

The Rusocastro Fortress is best known for the Battle of Rusocastro in 1332 AD. It was the last big military victory of the medieval Bulgarian Empire before it was conquered by the Ottoman Turks at the end of the 14th century.

It was also the last major battle of the seven-century-long Bulgarian-Byzantine Wars for domination of the Balkan Peninsula (lasting from the 7th until the 14th century), which ended when, weakened by their hostilities against one another, among other factors, Bulgaria and Byzantium were both conquered by the Ottoman Turkish at the end of the 14th and the beginning of the 15th century.

Things to see in Rusocastron Fortress;

- The main gate
- fully preserved cobblestone road from the 14th century
- a huge water cistern plastered on the inside with pink waterproof mortar in the fortress
- parts of the western fortress wall,
- the foundations of a medieval church with a necropolis,
- several residential buildings from the 6th and the 11th century.
- The Monument of the Battle of Rusocastro located near the ruins of the medieval city and fortress

GPS Coordinats: 42.5830002, 27.2999992

Adress: Municipality Kameno, Bulgaria

Contact: Burgas Regional Museum of History, +359 56 84 18 15
history@burgasmuseums.bg

13. AQUA CALIDAE- VETREN/BULGARIA

The Aquae Calidae antique settlement near Burgas /the mineral baths of Burgas/ is one attractive spot for both Bulgarians and foreign guests.

Aqua Calidae Thermopolis was one of the most distinguished spa centers in ancient times. The first baths here were built by the Roman conquerors in the middle of the 1st century. The town went on to develop rapidly with the Byzantines as well. The miraculous waters offered healing to emperors, kings and sultans through the centuries.

The turbulent history of the antique town with the hot mineral springs continued over the centuries. Sultan Suleiman II arrived here in 1562. He ordered the construction of a new bath on the ruins of the burnt Roman baths, feeling grateful for the curing of his gout. Today the bath of the sultan, or as the locals call it - the Turkish bath, has been fully restored. It is decorated with marble and ceramics, typical of Oriental culture.

Things to see in Aqua Calidae;

- Archaeological Exposition: The fortress walls of the ancient city of Terme (Thermopolis), the Roman baths of the 1st century AD. with a warm and cold pool, Thracian tomb and other monuments.
- The restored bathroom of Suleiman the Magnificent (museum)
- Café, souvenir shop and playground

Coordinats: 42.60263062, 27.39435196

Adress: Vetren Quartes, Burgas/Bulgaria

Contact: <http://www.aquae-calidae.com>, akvekalide@gotoburgas.com, +359 882 00 41 26

Working Hours: Museum- Monday to Sunday: 10:00-17:00

Aquae Calidae- Monday to Sunday: 08:30-17:30

Admissions: October 1-May 31: Adults 4 BGN, students and seniors: 2 BGN

June 1-September 30: Adults 6 BGN, students and seniors: 3 BGN

Getting There: 15 km from Burgas, between districts Vetren and Banevo.

14. ST. STEPHEN CHURCH- NESEBAR/BULGARIA

St. Stephen's Church, located within the UNESCO World Heritage boundary, was built in the period 11th - 13th century. In 16th century the church was elongated and in the 18th century a narthex was added. The church is a three-nave basilica.

In the beginning the church was dedicated to the Holy Mother. That why the wall paintings represent scenes from the Holy Mother's life.

The interior mural paintings, completed in 1599, depict over 1,000 figures from the New Testament.

Things to see in Church St. Stephen;

- architectural style, iconostasis and remarkable mural paintings,
- 258 mural paintings and more than 1000 figures.

GPS Coordinates: 42.658707, 27.736273

Address: ul. "Ribarska" 117, 8231 Staria Grad, Old Nessebar, Bulgaria

Contact: <http://www.ancient-nessebar.com>, clio_nes@abv.bg, +359 0554 46019

Entrance tickets for the church "St. Stephen": 6 BGN for adult, 3 BGN for children

Working Hours:

02.01.2018- 31.03.2018 on request

01.04.2018- 27.04.2018 Monday-Sunday, 10:30-17:00

28.04.2018- 31.05.2018 Monday-Sunday, 09:00-18:00

01.06.2018- 08.07.2018 Monday-Sunday, 09:00-19:00

09.07.2018-26.08.2018 Monday-Sunday, 09:00-20:00

27.08.2018- 24.09.2018 Monday-Sunday, 09:00-19:00

25.09.2018- 31.10.2018 Monday-Sunday, 09:00-18:00

01.11.2018- 31.12.2018 on request

15. BASILICA ST. SOFIA- NESEBAR/BULGARIA

Basilica St. Sofia (The Old Bishopric Church) is situated on the place supposed to be the old Nessebar of the settlement.

The basilica was built at the end of 5th century and the beginning of 6th century. There were two periods in its construction, rebuilt subsequently in the beginning of the 9th century. It was an important part of the Nessebar bishop's residence.

It is a three-nave basilica with a semicircular apse, a three-part nartex and an atrium (an inner yard). It is of 25,50 meter length. The central nave is separated from the two side aisles with orthogonal stone columns and brick arches. Above there is a second arcade. There are three arch windows over the apse at the East Side and a two slopes roof structure, not preserved. The apse possesses a synthronon, which can be seen today. Inside the church is plastered up and covered with frescoes.

GPS Coordinates: 42.658707, 27.736273

Adress: 8230 Staria Grad, Old Nessebar, Bulgaria

Contact: <http://www.ancient-nessebar.com>, clio_nes@abv.bg, +359 0554 46019