

No	CULTURAL SITE	LOCATION	SHORT DESCRIPTION
1	Museum of History	town of Dimitrovgrad	<p>The Historical Museum in Dimitrovgrad is a cultural and scientific institute established in 1951. It is the first museum in Bulgaria for contemporary history. According to its profile it is a comprehensive history museum and has the following departments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Modern and Most Recent History Department - Ethnography Department - Arts Department - Petko Churchuliev Arts Gallery; - Affiliate - Penyo Penev House Museum - Department of Archaeology. <p>Today it showcases artefacts from the Neolithic Age to modern times, displayed in four exhibition halls.</p> <p>The hall entitled "Youth-brigade movement in Bulgaria" is one of a kind in Bulgaria, focusing on a complicated and controversial period of the country's recent past – the time frame 1945-1990. Brigade members' uniforms, flags, awards, photos depicting the daily life of youth brigade members, and other items reveal the history of this movement and immerse visitors in the spirit of the times.</p> <p>The Dimitrovgrad Hall reveals the construction of one of Bulgaria's youngest cities, which became a symbol of Socialism in the 1950s.</p> <p>The Archaeology Hall showcases artefacts testifying to the life in the settlements in Dimitrovgrad Municipality, some of which have had a continuous development since the Neolithic period (6th century BC) to the present day. Part of the museum's fund is known as the "Neolithic man" discovered in 2009 during archaeological rescue excavations of the medieval settlement in the Kar Dere locality near the village of Krum close to Dimitrovgrad. The skeleton is part of a Neolithic cult burial complex which is the only one discovered so far in the territory of Bulgaria and its neighboring countries. This makes it unique in terms of its scientific and museum value.</p> <p><u>The exhibition space of the museum is a venue for various exhibitions, both of items from the museum fund and also from other museums and institutions.</u></p>
2	Penyo Penev House Museum in Dimitro	town of Dimitrovgrad	<p>The Penyo Penev House Museum in Dimitrovgrad is an expression of the love, gratefulness and appreciation of Bulgarians for one of the most dramatic and provocative personalities in Bulgarian poetry from the 1950s – Penyo Penev. The museum keeps the memory of him alive, telling the story of his life and popularizing his poems.</p> <p>In 1964, an exhibition entitled "Penyo Penev" was launched at the Museum of Socialist Construction in Dimitrovgrad, which grew into a permanent exhibition. In 1970 it was moved to a new address, 9 Dimitar Blagoev Blvd, in the home where the poet used to live. In 1980 the exhibition was renamed to Penyo Penev House Museum - Dimitrovgrad.</p> <p>It stores over 1,200 items in its museum fund. Among the more interesting exhibits are manuscripts of the poet's works and private notebooks, letters, personal belongings, a portrait of Penyo Penev drawn by his son - painter Vladimir Penev. The museum has an audiovisual system that allows visitors to hear original recordings of Penyo Penev's voice reading his own works. Visitors can also watch films dedicated to the poet's life and literary work.</p>
3	Arts gallery	town of Dimitrovgrad	<p>The Petko Churchuliev Art Gallery in Dimitrovgrad came to life in 1962 as an art collection. Essentially, it is an art museum storing over 2,250 works by nearly 400 artists. The works are divided into several sections: Painting, Graphics, Sculpture, Contemporary Art and Theatre Posters. Along with the works of distinguished Bulgarian masters, the gallery also showcases works of artists whose creative path is connected to Dimitrovgrad.</p> <p>The gallery's fund includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a significant collection of theatre stage posters painted by Bulgarian and foreign artists; - paintings by the participants in the plein air painting sessions - works from the Contemporary Art Symposium entitled "Dimitrovgrad in its own Context" and from the program "Names of the 1990s". - a work of the world-famous artist Christo Javacheff (Christo). <p>This is the only art gallery in the country where an item from the first conceptual exhibition in Bulgaria, Nedko Solakov's installation "Box of Index Cards" from 1988, is put on display.</p> <p>The gallery draws numerous admirers of the visual arts. Annually, more than 10 exhibitions are arranged in its halls. Exhibitions with artefacts from the gallery fund and visiting art museums alternate with visual shows of contemporary artists presented individually or as a group; various book launches and meetings with their authors, screenings of films, concerts and workshops are held.</p>
4	Apostol Karamitev Municipal Drama Theatre	town of Dimitrovgrad	<p>The Dimitrovgrad-based Municipal Drama Theatre named after Apostol Karamitev is a cultural institution with a 60-year-long history. It was established in 1953. It is the only state theatre located in a non-district city. The Dimitrovgrad-based theatre house experienced periods of both adversity and bloom, as in 1964 it was closed down and the building started to be used as a second stage of the Haskovo-based theatre. In 1972, it was again restored as a State Drama Theatre and in 1994 it was transformed into Apostol Karamitev State Open Theatre Stage - Dimitrovgrad. In 2011, following a decree, it was renamed to Apostol Karamitev Municipal Drama Theatre - Dimitrovgrad.</p> <p>In 2006, the theatre established the prize called "Lyubimets 13" to commemorate the theatre's patron, the great Bulgarian actor Apostol Karamitev. It was unique in that it was the only prize given by the audience to its favorite actor. It has been bestowed to seven actors - Valentin Tanev, Ivaylo Hristov, Kamen Donev, Hristo Mutafchiev, Assen Blatechki, Kalin Vrachanski and Gerasim Georgiev-Gero.</p>
5	Water tower	town of Dimitrovgrad	<p>The water tower is regarded as one of the symbols of Dimitrovgrad. The facility was built right after the launch of the Baron Hirsch Railroad (in June 1873) and is one of the town's oldest historical and architectural monuments.</p>
6	Architectural ensemble on Treti Mart Blvd.	Dimitrovgrad	<p>Dimitrovgrad is a town with a unique identity. Since April 2014, it has become part of the 27th Cultural Route to the Council of Europe. With its visual appearance, it is an example of the recognition of the value of the architectural heritage of 20th-century totalitarian regimes and its connection to certain periods of European history. The town's Treti Mart boulevard, the central square and the surrounding ensemble of buildings is an aesthetic solution for the style of the given era and an interesting sight for the connoisseurs of cultural tourism.</p>
7	Central Urban Area Ensemble	Dimitrovgrad	<p>Bulgaria Blvd. Dimitar Blagoev Blvd. - Maritsa Park and Square in front of Hristo Botev Community Centre Ensemble in Dimitrovgrad - these places have been declared an urban immovable cultural property with the preliminary category of "national significance".</p>
8	Bulgaria Square	Dimitrovgrad	<p>Dimitrovgrad is a town which knows precisely its birth date – 2 September 1947. Built with the enthusiasm of young people from 963 towns and villages across the country, today it can be perceived as a peculiar open-air museum, mirroring the spirit of an era which is an integral part of Bulgarian history. The townhall was erected in 1965. Its 14-storey-high main building is combined with a one-storey round-shaped structure - a rotunda. The rotunda is designed with an 80-metre-long moulded frieze, which is a figurative composition themed "Bulgarian history and the history of Dimitrovgrad".</p>

9	Church of Saint Demetrius	Dimitrovgrad	The Saint Demetrius Church in Dimitrovgrad is the oldest building in the town, dating back to 1884. A legend says that the yard of 8 decars assigned for the construction of a church and a school in the village of Kayadzhik (today's quarter of Rakovski in Dimitrovgrad) was donated by a Turkish bey. The church was erected by the residents of the village of Kayadzhik. The construction started in 1880 and was completed in 1884. The entire population participated with voluntary labour, money and donations in kind. The icons of the church, which were donated by the residents of the village of Kayadzhik, were painted by master iconographers and are older than the church itself by approximately 3 centuries. In the western part of the courtyard there is a chapel to the Resurrection of Christ. The peaceful atmosphere of the place is enhanced by lush, beautiful and well-maintained vegetation. In 1974, the church was declared a monument of culture.
10	Giordano Bruno National Astronomical Observatory and Planetarium	Dimitrovgrad	Created in 1962, this was the first planetarium that opened doors in Bulgaria. Its star dome hall is equipped with two telescopes and has a capacity of 60 seats.
11	Blesna Fortress	In the locality Kaleto/Durhana close to Dimitrovgrad	One of the most famous fortresses in the Middle Ages. Historians believe it identifies with an important medieval fortress known as Blissimos, Blissimon or Blesna. It flourished during the Byzantine rule in the 11th-13th century, when it became a vibrant spiritual and military centre. Currently, there is a chapel of Saint Mina on the site, keeping an icon of the Holy Martyr Mina, believed to possess a healing power.
12	Thracian sanctuary of the Nymphs and Aphrodite	village of Kasnakovo, Gyaur Bunar locality, 1 km southeast	The Sanctuary of the Nymphs and Aphrodite, the only one well-preserved in Bulgaria, is located about 500 m northeast of the village of Kasnakovo, in Dimitrovgrad Municipality. It is situated in a beautiful area. Built in the 2nd - 4th centuries, the sanctuary was just a small part from the large estate of Titus Flavius, a Roman citizen of Thracian descent. His name has survived till modern day thanks to the inscription above the central fountain, preserved to this day, which reads: "Good luck! Titus Flavius Beytyukent Esbenerios and his wife Claudia Montana built and dedicated this fountain to the nymphs and Aphrodite." The entire complex includes remains of cult buildings dating back to the 2nd century, a Roman villa from the 3rd century, an 4th-century amphitheatre and three architecturally shaped springs with basins arranged on an ellipse. The first archaeological excavations were made in the period 1945-1946. Now an information tourist centre operates on the spot. Legend has it that late at night the place turns into the dancing stage of the beautiful queens of nature - the nymphs. According to some beliefs, if a woman drinks water from the spring, she will conceive more easily and give birth to a beautiful boy. The supernatural healing properties of the spring water are well known. That's why, since time immemorial, every year at Spassovden (the day of the Ascension of Christ) people from near and far gather here to pray for health and fertility. In 1968, the Sanctuary was declared a cultural monument of national importance.
13	Fortress in Hissarya locality	village of Stalevo	The fortress near the village of Stalevo, Dimitrovgrad Municipality, is located in the Hissarya locality. It was built during the Thracian times, but became popular in the Middle Ages, as some researchers believing this was in fact the ancient city of Mileona. According to legend, it was here that on March 9, 1230 the Bulgarian Tsar Ivan Asen II observed and gave orders during the battle at Klokochnitsa. This was one of the greatest defeats the Byzantine Empire ever suffered, in which Despot Theodore Komnenos, the ruler of Epirus himself, was taken into captivity. In honor of the victory after the battle the Bulgarian ruler ordered that a chapel to the Holy Forty Martyrs be constructed in this place. Forty Martyrs. " Thanks to patriotic Bulgarians it still exists to this day. Below the top there is a large stone called "Kazancheto" or Krali Marko's step. There is a carved hole inside it resembling a cauldron which collects water even on a very hot day. Next to it, there is a huge imprint of a step as some believe it was where legendary hero Krali Marko set his foot hence the name Krali Marko's step.
14	Open-air arts gallery	village of Krepost	Unique wall paintings by the brothers Hristo and Pancho Panev (both painters) decorate all public buildings in the village of Krepost, Dimitrovgrad Municipality. That's why the village is known as an "Open-air art gallery" and local people have every reason to be proud of the works of the two brothers who painted the walls of the village school, the mayor's hall, the community centre, the health service, the chapel and the church. Their paintings can also be seen on the walls of their native house. Hristo and Pancho Panev painted their first mural in 1997 guided by their strong patriotic desire to revive and donate something to their birthplace. Their idea was warmly received by all locals and they worked zealously for years. Now the residents of the largest village in the municipality of Dimitrovgrad are studying the options for applying for the Guinness Book of Records.
15	Church of Saints Constantine and Helen	village of Krepost	The church was built in 1874 on the initiative of local residents filled with love of their home village. The church is a rectangular stone building with a double-sided roof, with three naves and an apse. The connoisseurs of Bulgarian antiquities and of Christian iconography can see here magnificent yet little-known works of master icon-painters. Most of the icons were painted by Nikola Danchov, they bear his signature and are dated from 1874. The icons and frescoes throughout the church produce an extremely strong effect on viewers.
16	Dyako Penev Ethnographic Museum Collection at Prosveta-1896 Cultural Community Centre	town of Merichleri	In commemoration of the 1300th anniversary of the foundation of the Bulgarian state, an ethnographic museum collection was unveiled in 1980 one of the halls of the community centre in the town of Merichleri. hosts an ethnographic museum exhibition. Over the years, it has turned into an exhibition showcasing the history of the town and the community centre and transmitting to posterity the entire cultural heritage of the village. All exhibits in the hall have been donated by patriotic residents of Merichleri.
17	Orthodox Church of Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker	town of Merichleri	Erected in 1858 on the site of a chapel of Saint Nicholas, the church was built by masons from Merichleri as the master builders Usta Manol and Usta Pastol from the village of Yugovo were employed to oversee the work. This was one of the first churches in the Haskovo region. In 1928, an earthquake partially destroyed the building but it was later restored and a rear extension was added. A tall and beautiful bell tower was built. The overall restoration was completed in 1930. The church constitutes a valuable historical monument. The icons were made by Dimitar Andov, a painter from the Late National Revival period born in the town of Chirpan. The building of the church still astonishes visitors with its architectural design and construction.
18	The Christian Cross	village of Krum	On May 5, 2014, a 15-metre Christian Cross was consecrated near the village of Krum, close to Dimitrovgrad. It is made of metal and lights are placed on it so it can shine at night. The idea of erecting the cross came from inhabitants of the village, whose goal is that it would unite people, protect them and make them better human beings. It is situated on the highest hill above the village of Krum, in the Gichata locality. This symbol of faith was built entirely with money from donations. The idea is to remind people that spirituality is more important than material possessions.
19	Monastery of the Holy Theotokos	village of Dobrich	In 1886 a resident of the village, after having a vision in his dream, discovered a holy spring in his field, which he donated for the construction of a chapel. The holy place underwent serious restoration after the year 2000. The old chapel was renovated and a two-storey building was made for accommodating the visitors. Every year, on the eve of the Feast of the Assumption of Virgin Mary, many people come here to praise the Lord's mother. Next to the outer gates of the monastery a beautiful fountain was built, where people can drink from the healing water of the holy spring.
20	Church of Saint Haralampius	village of Chernogorovo	It was built in 1863 by master builder Usta Kosta from the village of Ustovo. It was painted in 1864 by Alexiy Iconographer. A legend goes that the Chernogorovo locals chose the name of the church because each year, on the feast of Saint Haralampius, February 11, a large deer came out of the forest, which was killed as an animal sacrifice. The church to Saint Saint Haralampius Church has 38 icons, some with exact dating and the names of the icon-painters who worked in the 1860s. Apart from the Biblical stories, attention is drawn also by a scene painted by an unknown author depicting three chain gangs of slaves.
21	Church of Saint Demetrius	village of Yabalkovo	It was built in the remote 1842 during the Ottoman domination. The pretext for building it was that the village priest Kalin needed a new house. The big earthquake at Chirpan of 1928 destroyed the church. It was restored in 1930 with resources from the Deposé Fund (a state fund covering the damages caused by the earthquake) and donations from the whole village. In 1950 it was painted by iconographer Petar Dzhamdzhiiev from Plovdiv. The building of the church is massive, made of bricks, with a gable roof, and an open-air arcade on the west and south sides. The tower of the belfry is built in the northwest corner and is accessed from the patio on the west. There is also a holy spring near the church.
22	Church of Saint George the Victorious	village of Bodrovo	Erected in 1858, it came into existence thanks to the wealth and generosity of Hadji Georgi who was granted permission to build a church in 1856. The entire village participated with voluntary work in its construction. The church is made of stone, with an apse and a gable roof. The icons were created in 1859-1860 by iconographer Nikola Zograf. An octagonal belfry made of stone stands in the northeastern corner of the churchyard.
23	Church of Saint George the Victorious	village of Gorski Izvor	The oldest in the territory of Dimitrovgrad Municipality, the Church of Saint George the Victorious in the village of Gorski Izvor was built in 1854. Its frescoes are of high artistic value. It is known that the chief iconographer was Georgi Danchov Lukov (Popgeorgiev) from Chirpan. The church was designated a monument of culture of national importance in 1964.
24	Church of Saint Ivan of Rila Ivan	village of Dobrich	The village church of Saint Ivan of Rila was built in 1880.
25	Church of Saint George	village of Brod	The village church was built in 1938.
26	Church of Prophet Elijah	village of Malko Asenovovo	The village church was built in 1884.

N	NATURAL SITE	LOCATION	SHORT DESCRIPTION
1	Nikola Vaptsarov Park	town of Dimitrovgrad	The oldest park in Dimitrovgrad, it incorporates 821 decares of meadows and a 40-year-old oak forest. There are landscaped alleys in the forest and decorative shrubs and trees have been planted along the central promenade and in the grassland. The park was built within a very short time - for two years only, 1955 and 1956, mostly with voluntary work. The park boasts a small zoo corner which is a magnet for children. One can see different species there, ranging from exotic birds to bears. Sunny benches and shady lanes attract residents and guests of the town alike. The Giordano Bruno Astronomical Observatory and Planetarium is also located in the park. Opened in 1962, this was the first planetarium in Bulgaria. Its star dome hall is equipped with two telescopes and has a capacity for 60 visitors.
2	Penyo Penev Memorial Park	town of Dimitrovgrad	The Penyo Penev Memorial Park is one of Dimitrovgrad's emblematic sights. A park worth to be displayed in an exhibition - such is the Penyo Penev Park which was built under a project aimed at participating in the world expo in public park design in 1961. The park spreads over an area of 365 decares and is unique with its 92 species of trees, shrubs and flowers. The sculptures, plates with engraved verses of poetry, white-stone lanes with limestone curbs, picturesque footbridges and mosaic staircases, water cascades and fountains one can see here were innovations in landscape architecture of Bulgaria during the 1950s and 1960s. The park is located in the southern part of Dimitrovgrad. It offers a beautiful panoramic view of the town. It is pervaded by its own unique atmosphere. Over the years the park has turned into a major venue for various cultural events such as impromptu literary readings, concerts, recitals, as well as a must-see for all visitors and official delegations arriving in Dimitrovgrad.
3	Maritsa Park	town of Dimitrovgrad	Maritsa Park is situated on the right bank of the Maritsa River, on a splendid river terrace. Many trees and shrubs have been planted there. This is the largest of the three parks in the territory of Dimitrovgrad. Originally, it had a swimming pool, a restaurant, even an artificial canal where sailing on a small boat was possible. The park has numerous wide and long alleys.
4	Zlato Pole protected area	village of Zlato Pole, village of Brod, village of Raynovo	The largest natural wetland along the Maritsa River. The protected area covers a total of 84.79 ha. It encompasses parts of the lands of the villages of Nova Nadezhda (Haskovo municipality), Brod, Raynovo and Zlato pole (Dimitrovgrad Municipality). It includes a complex of interconnected water basins of different shapes, sizes and depths, reed and bulrush colonies, small islands and pastures. It is the natural habitat of many endangered and protected plant and animal species such as the European white water lily, the pygmy cormorant, the great bittern, the whooper swan, the mute swan and other water fowl, the European pond turtle, etc.
5	Propadnaloto biato (Propadnaloto Marsh) protected	village of Golyamo Asenovo	After numerous changes over time, this wetland has turned into a biotope attracting numerous animal species and boasting a rich plant diversity.
6	Nocturnal roosting place of the Pygmy Cormorant - Dimitrovgrad (Protected area)	town of Dimitrovgrad and village of Radievo	Conservation of part of the Maritsa River valley, remnants of riparian floodplain forests, representing a natural habitat, a roosting, resting and breeding place during the migration of the Pygmy Cormorant (Phalacrocorax pygmaeus) and other protected animal species, such as the horned grebe, the Eurasian bittern, the Levant sparrowhawk, the Eurasian hobby, the otter, etc.
7	Dyado Panyovata Dupka (Dyado Panyo's Hole) Cave	town of Dimitrovgrad	The name comes from the treasure hunter, Dyado Panyo from the village of Rakovski (now a neighborhood in Dimitrovgrad), who first entered the cave. The first map of the cave was made on July 26, 1964 by Boris Kolev from Aida Speleology Club based in Haskovo.
8	Popovitsa Cave	village of Krepost, Dimitrovgrad Municipality	A fissure (diacalse) cave with a length of 36 m.
9	Kirkovata Dupka (Kirko's Hole) Cave	Village of Kasnakovo, Dimitrovgrad Municipality	The name of the cave was given at the end of the past century when a boy named Kirko was hiding in it. Later, probably under the influence of history and literature textbooks, the name was rethought as "Kir Todorovata Dupka" (Kyrios Theodore's hole), connecting it to the Battle of Klokotnitsa in 1230. According to the more recent legend, Bulgarian Tsar Ivan Asen II defeated the Byzantine army and its leader, Kyrios Theodore Komnenos, hid himself in that hole and was captured there. That's why the cave attracts many treasure hunters and gives rise to legends. Yet its most common name is Kirkovata dupka (Kirko's hole). <u>Surveyed and mapped by Boris Kolev, V. Genchev and Vl. Metodiev from the Haskovo-based Aida Speleology Club in 1972 and 1983. The cave's entrance has been covered up and even people who know its</u>
10	Gabera Deep Cave	town of Dimitrovgrad	A fissure cave with a length of 49 m and a displacement of 21 m
This document has been created within the framework of the Project „Promotion and development of natural and cultural heritage of Bulgarian – Greek cross-border region through smart and digital tools“ (eTOURIST), financed under the INTERREG V-A Cooperation Program "Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020", Subsidy Contract No B2.6c.07/09.10.2017. The Project is co funded by the European Regional Development Fund and by national funds of the countries participating in the Interreg V-A "Greece - Bulgaria 2014-2020" Cooperation Programme."			

No	CULTURAL SITE	LOCATION	SHORT DESCRIPTION
1	Ancient Roman Villa Armira 2nd-4th century	4 km west of Ivaylovgrad	The ancient Roman villa was erected in the valley of the Armira River, a right tributary of the Arda River, in the second half of the 1st century AD. AD Villa Armira is one of the earliest and most accurately dated villa complexes of the Roman period studied in Bulgaria. It is an outstanding architectural monument created 2000 years ago. This is the most sumptuous private mansion (palace) of the ancient Roman era, uncovered in the Bulgarian lands. The villa was the centre of an landed estate owned a wealthy Thracian aristocratic family. Its first owner was an heir to a Thracian king (basileus). He obtained the status of a Roman citizen for his merit before the Roman authorities, thus acquiring the right to establish a villa estate which he organized in the 50s-70s of the 1st century AD, which is only some twenty years after the final conquest of Thrace by Rome. Villa Armira was built on an area of 3600 square metres where the residential building of the owners, as well as a garden for recreation and walking were located. At the south-eastern end of the building a terrace was built, from which the inhabitants of the villa and their guests enjoyed the beautiful scenery and the view of the river. This ancient Roman architectural ensemble existed from the mid-1st century AD (year 50 to 70) until 378 AD when it was destroyed during the Gothic War. Then the villa was burnt down after the Battle of Hadrianopolis (modern-day Edirne in European Turkey) on August 9, 378. The Roman Emperor Valens himself died from his wounds at the battlefield somewhere near Hadrianopolis.
2	Aterenski Bridge	7 km southwest of Ladzha quarter, Ivaylovgrad	It has been declared an archaeological monument of culture of local importance. In its current form it dates back to the 16th century but some scholars suggest that it was part of an ancient Roman road leading to the Aegean and later the bridge was also connected to the fortified town - Lyutitsa fortress. Close to the bridge (1 km of dirt road along the Armira River) one can find one of the most attractive picnic spots in the municipality known as Golemyat gyol (or the Big Puddle). Suitable tourist infrastructure has been created close to the river (2 tables, benches and a fountain with cold water), with the possibility for holding larger events on the neighbouring field.
3	Lyutitsa Medieval Fortress	6 km west of Ladzha quarter, Ivaylovgrad	Archaeological excavations here began in the summer of 2002. According to experts, the fortress was a large and rich medieval town located on an area of 26 decares. The length of the exceptionally well-preserved fortress walls is about 600 meters, with 14 fortress towers. Archaeologists have discovered a church that existed from the 13th to 16th century, a vast necropolis, coins, and marble fragments from an ancient basilica.
4	Municipal Museum of History	town of Ivaylovgrad	Ivaylovgrad's History Museum has three expositions on display - Archeology, History of the town and the region before Bulgaria's Liberation, and History after 1878. Some of the museum exhibits include pottery vessels from the ancient Roman villa Armira, coins, fragments of a Thracian funeral chariot unearthed during the excavations of the mound near the village of Svirachi, artefacts found at Lyutitsa fortress, etc. In addition to archaeological finds, on display are also rifles and pistols from the Russo-Turkish War of Liberation, icons, and archival documents related to the life and work of voivodes Yani Popov and Stambol Dimitrov. Visitors can also get acquainted with Bulgaria's unique geographic and historical map of 1913, as well as with objects from the daily urban life.
5	Church of the Lord's Transfiguration	town of Ivaylovgrad	An extremely valuable representative of church architecture as well as fine and applied arts in Bulgaria from the National Revival Period, it has been declared an architectural and artistic monument of culture of national importance. The church was built in 1828 on the site of an older temple. Of special interest are the splendid wood-carved fretwork iconostasis in two tiers with plant and animal motifs, the royal doors, the bishop's throne, a small iconostasis and an iconostasis for kissing, the plastic decoration on the ceiling, columns and the sovereign tier of icons, all of high artistic value. The church feast of the Transfiguration of Jesus Christ (6 August) is celebrated with a solemn liturgy and a sacrificial kurban meal for health. The church is the main place of worship in the town, open every Sunday.
6	Revival Period House-museum of Mircho Paskalev (Paskaleva House)	town of Ivaylovgrad	One of the brightest examples of a traditional urban house of a silk-breeding family from the late 19th century, declared an architectural monument of culture. It has been restored and now houses the local ethnographic museum, presenting the traditional lifestyle and livelihood of people in the Ivaylovgrad region during the Bulgarian Renaissance period. The house has a stone foundation and was built with a mixture of adobe and clay and coated with lime plaster, as in the past, the ground floor was used for farming and economic purposes, and the two upper floors were of mixed use - they comprised the living premises and the large silk-making salon called "feyat" was used for the cultivation of silkworms and for welcoming guests when the busy silk-making season was over. Currently, the ethnographic exposition can be seen on the main two floors and includes: a traditional living room with a fireplace, the dining area of the family (a copper pot laid on top of a wooden four-legged low table surrounded by cushions for sitting on the floor) and the working corner of the hostess (a curry comb, a distaff, a spinning wheel and a loom), a parlour with all the necessary attributes demonstrating the welfare of the owners (a bronze brazier for heating with charcoal, wooden seats near the windows arranged with exquisite home-spun fabrics and covers with white lacing, a deep built-in closet for the trousseau, a low table for serving coffee with fig jam, a wood-carved iconostasis, a richly decorated lamp made of coloured glass from Edirne and a salon for silkworm cultivation and silk making. Exhibits on the second floor showcase the main stages in the production of silk cocoons and folk costumes typical for the region. After its renovation, the ethnographic collection today has 11 new expositions related to local livelihoods and craftsmanship from the mid-19th century - cartwright's trade and iron smithery, shoe-making, weaving, sericulture, tobacco growing and a number of other crafts.
7	Monastery of Saints Constantine and Helen	town of Ivaylovgrad	The Ivaylovgrad-based monastery of Saints Constantine and Helen was founded in the 12th century and reached its peak a century later when it was turned into a bishop's centre. During the Ottoman Yoke the monastery was destroyed twice only to rise back to life again in 1846. Since 1949 the Ivaylovgrad-based monastery has not been inhabited by the monastic brotherhood, but each year on September 8 an annual fair is held here, including an all-night vigil, a solemn liturgy and a sacrificial kurban meal for health. Nowadays the monastery is active in certain periods and consists of a church, a residential building and an old fountain from 1846. From the old monastery complex only the church has been preserved, which is a three-nave pseudo-basilica with an iconostasis which was painted later (end-19th century) and 8 built-in medallions in the altar from an earlier period. Other must-see objects are the carved candlesticks and chandeliers made of marble.
8	Church of Archangel Michael	village of Dolno Lukovo	It is a remarkable three-nave pseudo-basilica made of stone. On the marble pediments above the two entrances there are calligraphic inscriptions in Greek with the names of the church donors. Of particular interest is the wood-carved iconostasis, composed of larger elements.

9	Thracian vaulted-brickwork tomb	Ronkite locality, 3.5 km northwest of the village of Dolno Lukovo	<p>Near the village of Dolno Lukovo archaeologists have found several dolmens (sanctuaries) and a richly decorated tomb dating back to Thracian times. The tomb was built at the level of the ancient terrain and covered with a mound embankment with a height of 4 m. It consists of a burial chamber with a rectangular shape and an entrance from the south, a south-facing antechamber and an uncovered dromos (corridor).</p> <p>The walls of the burial chamber are covered with large marble and limestone slabs joined together by iron clamps and decorated with different figures hewn in the stones: discs, squares, rectangles, a five-pointed star, images of a horse's head and a fish. These figures together with the crescent moon hewn at the entrance constitute a visual composition with a strong aesthetic and somewhat mystical power, probably hiding encoded information associated with the ancient burial rites.</p> <p>The antechamber was built similarly to the burial chamber, but only limestone slabs were used. The dromos has walls made of crushed stones bound with mud and is partially preserved.</p> <p>The unearthed artefacts are relatively few due to the fact that the tomb had been robbed already in antiquity. Most of the finds were discovered in the antechamber (and in front of it), including: a stone relief image of a horse's head, fragments of earthenware, a bronze fibula, bronze ornaments, parts of a gilded funerary wreath, a silver coin and a pottery lamp</p> <p>The discovered artefacts and horse skeletons (the burial of the horses along with their masters was a sign of the Thracian aristocracy) indicate that, most likely, a local Thracian aristocrat was buried in the tomb close to the village of Gorno Lukovo, but so far little else is known.</p>
10	Church of Saints Constantine and Helen	village of Dolno Lukovo	<p>One of the most well-preserved old Bulgarian churches. It has been declared an architectural monument of culture of local importance. It dates back to 1806 when, as the legend goes, it was built secretly in the then-existing oak forest in only 7 nights. Defining the short construction time was an Ottoman law, according to which a building on which a roof was already laid could not be destroyed. There are two compartments - male and female. The interior was not fully completed until 1918. Of special interest is the wood-carved iconostasis with the so-called "shepherd's wood-carving" and the original icons from the early 19th century - the work of distinguished local masters.</p>
11	Megalithic tomb (dolmen)	village of Pelevun	<p>A megalithic burial structure (5th-1st century BC), designated an archaeological monument of culture of national importance. It is made of large, chopped, roughly shaped gneiss slabs placed vertically in a preliminary dug pit on a small natural elevation. The dolmen is the most recently discovered megalithic Thracian monument in Bulgaria and is unique in terms of its architecture because it combines both elements of the early Iron Age and also such reminiscent of the subsequent developments of Hellenism. The tomb at Pelevun has a design which was modern for its time, typical of the monumental tombs of the 5th to 3rd century BC. The site has an overall length of 7.5 metres and represents a rectangular two-chambered dolmen with a dromos oriented east-west. It has a complex structure consisting of 4 parts: a corridor, an ante-burial chamber, an antechamber and a large burial chamber. A façade made of two slabs vertically rounded on the top leads to the tomb entrance. The entrance most probably used to be closed with stones bound with mud and is partially preserved.</p> <p>The unearthed artefacts are relatively few due to the fact that the tomb had been robbed already in antiquity. Most of the finds were discovered in the antechamber (and in front of it), including: a stone relief image of a horse's head, fragments of earthenware, a bronze fibula, bronze ornaments, parts of a gilded funerary wreath, a silver coin and a pottery lamp</p> <p>The discovered artefacts and horse skeletons (the burial of the horses along with their masters was a sign of the Thracian aristocracy) indicate that, most likely, a local Thracian aristocrat was buried in the tomb close to the village of Gorno Lukovo, but so far little else is known. After its renovation, the ethnographic collection today has 11 new exhibitions related to local livelihoods and craftsmanship from the mid-19th century -</p>
12	Museum collection	village of Pelevun	<p>The building of the old monastic school, built in a neoclassical style, houses a permanent historical and ethnographic exhibition revealing the traditional lifestyle, culture and livelihood of Anatolian Bulgarians (Bulgarians of Asia Minor) with a photo exhibition dedicated to Captain Petko Voyvoda.</p>
13	Step-like stone construction at Golyamata Mogila (The Big Mound)	village of Svirachi	<p>Golyamata mogila (The Big Mound) is one of the most impressive burial structures in Bulgaria from the Roman period, consisting of an impressive dome-shaped tumulus (60 m diameter and original height of 18-20 m), surrounded tightly by a robust ring of a unique stonework called a crepis which was supposed to guard the sacred space from the outside world. Apart from its cult functions, the crepis also had a purely technical purpose - to keep the embankment in place. In this case, scholars perceive it not as an ordinary stone fence, but as an original creation of ancient architecture, comparable in terms of its construction to ancient Roman amphitheatres and stadiums, so for this reason it recently received the individual status of an archaeological monument of culture of national importance. This monumental facility, the only one of its kind in the Balkans, constitutes a complex terraced structure made of large stone slabs with a length of up to 3.70 m, cut in a curve along their outer side and connected with unshaped stones bound with mud and is partially preserved.</p> <p>The unearthed artefacts are relatively few due to the fact that the tomb had been robbed already in antiquity. Most of the finds were discovered in the antechamber (and in front of it), including: a stone relief image of a horse's head, fragments of earthenware, a bronze fibula, bronze ornaments, parts of a gilded funerary wreath, a silver coin and a pottery lamp</p>
14	Ilieva Niva Thracian Memorial	village of Glumovo	<p>The Ilieva Niva (Ilieva field) locality is situated on the outskirts of the village of Glumovo, Ivaylovgrad municipality. On this site on October 3, 1913, during the Second Balkan War, the Turkish army killed over 200 babies and children hidden on the southern bank of the Arda River. These were children of Bulgarians fleeing the Turkish army which was chasing them. In 1996, a memorial complex was erected on the spot in memory of more than 40,000 massacred Bulgarian refugees and their children. The memorial consists of a monument, a fountain and a chapel to Saint Petka of Bulgaria.</p>
15	Thracian dolmen	village of Zhelezino	<p>A megalithic tomb dating back to the end of 2nd millennium BC. The facility was made up of large roughly shaped vertical gneiss slabs dug into the ground inside a preliminarily made trench. The northern side slab and the western transverse slab are well-preserved, the southern slab is half-destroyed and the eastern slab and the capstone are missing.</p>

16	Fortress of Byalgrad	3.47 km East of the village of Gugutka	<p>It was built on a naturally protected, hard-to-reach rocky peak. The slopes of the peak descend steeply towards the Byala River, which surrounds it on both sides. The fortress walls follow the outline of the ridge and encircle an area of 13 decares. They are preserved almost entirely in their original form - they have a total length of about 550 m, a height of 7-8 m and are 2 m thick. In the eastern part, where the fortress is comparatively easier to access, a second wall, which delineates an irregular semicircle, was built in front of the main wall at a distance of 10-15 m. Double fortification walls known as proteichisma were rare in fortresses in the Eastern Rhodopes. This type of fortification was applied elsewhere only in the fortress near the village of Vodenicharsko, Dzhebel Municipality. Dzhebel</p> <p>The fortress name Byalgrad (White City) probably originated due to the fact that many pieces of marble were used for the construction of its walls. And there is another peculiarity - the level of the terrain inside the fortress is higher than the terrain outside the fortress walls by 4-5 m. This hampered their undermining and demolition during a siege. In the eastern part of the fortress archaeologists have unearthed the foundations of a single-nave, one-apse church, partially buried underground. It has a length of 8 m, a width of 6 m and a wall thickness of 1 m. Its floor was covered with equally-sized square stone slabs. The most interesting facility of this fortress that has survived to this day is the inner feudal residential tower. It belongs to the type of the so-called donjon (keep) and is one of the few relatively well-preserved defensive towers in Bulgaria. This was also one of the few free-standing donjons in Bulgarian lands. This is one of the big differences with Middle and Western Europe where such fortified towers are common. Its walls rise to a height of 9 m and their thickness is 1.5 m. It has a rectangular shape with dimensions of the base at 11x9 m. It had at least three floors.</p> <p>The lack of thorough archaeological excavations makes it difficult to determine the role of this fortress in the Middle Ages, but its large size and its unusual destiny give scholars reason to believe that it was an important urban-type settlement in which a feudal lord possessing adjacent lands and villages resided. This is confirmed indirectly by its name - Byalgrad or less often Gradishteto (from "grad" meaning town, city), while other fortresses in the vicinity were called by the local population with the word "kale", meaning a stronghold. The fate of Byalgrad Fortress after the fall of Bulgaria under Ottoman domination remains unclear. Probably the fortress was not destroyed, but temporarily used by an Ottoman feudal ruler who settled there.</p>
17	Saint Athanasius Church	village of Belopolyane	A remarkable example of National Revival Period church architecture from the first half of the 19th century, a monument of culture. Built in 1838, the church is a typical three-nave pseudo-basilica with a single apse, a pentagonal bell tower and richly embossed sculpture work on the outer walls. The interior is also original, distinguished by the only two-storey gallery in the municipality. The icons of the iconostasis are of high artistic value, as a great rarity for the area are two pilgrim icons brought from the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. Particular attention is also paid to the monstrance decorated with picturesque appliquéd ornaments. The church is active, open on all Christian holidays, but only on the church patron feast of Saint Athanasius (18 Jan, 2 May). In May, a sacrificial kurban meal for health is offered to the worshippers.
18	Ossuary Memorial	Cherni Rid Peak	The ossuary is a memorial built and unveiled in the remote 1937 in commemoration of the people from Ivaylovgrad region who died in the Balkan Wars (1912-1913) and the First World War (1915-1918). It was built entirely with donations from local residents who also lost relatives and loved ones in the wars.
No	NATURAL SITE	LOCATION	SHORT DESCRIPTION
1	Dupkite (The Holes) protected area	village of Svirachi, Ivaylovgrad Municipality	<p>One of the smallest protected areas in the municipality (6.5 hectares), which was given a special protected status for the purpose of preserving a habitat of rare and protected species of orchids and a habitat of bats in the Dupkata Cave. Here one can encounter 13 species of orchids, among them the protected species of the <i>Ophrys mammosa</i>, the woodcock bee-orchid, <i>Himantoglossum caprinum</i>, and the pyramidal orchid (<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>). Of special interest are also four bat species on the World Red Data List found in the Dupkata Cave - the greater horseshoe bat, the lesser horseshoe bat, the Mediterranean horseshoe bat and Schreiber's long-fingered bat. It is not uncommon to find also fossils.</p> <p>The protected site constitutes a large plateau-shaped rock whose base from the east is riddled with a number of cavernous corridors of varying depth. There are about 15 holes, as the shallowest ones have a depth of about half a metre and the two deepest holes go more than 10 metres inside. One of the holes has been turned into a bunker, its entrance has been covered by a stone wall as a place for putting a machine gun was left. The rock is covered holes and its foundation is surrounded by a fortification wall, from which only some remains have survived to this day. However, one can clearly see the perfect masonry work that surrounded the sanctuary. Obviously the place was a cult religious complex from which the ancient priests directed their prayers and spells to the deities.</p>
2	Likana protected area	village of Belopolyane, village of Svirachi	The smallest protected area in the municipality is the Likana locality (3 hectares). Declared protected for the purpose of preserving the only discovered habitat in Bulgaria of the wild-growing Hambar Dere is the most hard-to-reach protected zone in the municipality with an area of 101 hectares, given a special status in order to protect the complex of natural riparian forests, xerophytic oak forests and habitats of protected and rare species of fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. It covers the lower reaches of the Hambar Dere River before it flows into Byala Reka River (the lands of the villages of Kazak and Byal Gradets), whose banks are covered by an almost continuous strip of pristine oak forests more than 100 years old (Hungarian oak, the Austrian oak, the pubescent Oak), communities of willow trees, alder trees, lianas and floristic species of high conservation status. The conserved unique aquatic ecosystems contain 10 species of fish, including 4 Balkan endemics, as well as amphibian species, and on land one can encounter 11 species of reptiles, 43 species of birds, including 19 breeding species, as well as 5 bat species. Of particular value are the otter, Hermann's tortoise and the spur-thighed tortoise, the greater and the lesser horseshoe bats included in the World Red List. The area is also of great importance for the protection of the western Caspian turtle - a protected species enlisted in Bulgaria's Red Book.
3	Hambar Dere protected area	village of Kazak, village of Byalgradets and village of Gugutka	Hambar Dere is the most hard-to-reach protected zone in the municipality with an area of 101 hectares, given a special status in order to protect the complex of natural riparian forests, xerophytic oak forests and habitats of protected and rare species of fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. It covers the lower reaches of the Hambar Dere River before it flows into Byala Reka River (the lands of the villages of Kazak and Byal Gradets), whose banks are covered by an almost continuous strip of pristine oak forests more than 100 years old (Hungarian oak, the Austrian oak, the pubescent Oak), communities of willow trees, alder trees, lianas and floristic species of high conservation status. The conserved unique aquatic ecosystems contain 10 species of fish, including 4 Balkan endemics, as well as amphibian species, and on land one can encounter 11 species of reptiles, 43 species of birds, including 19 breeding species, as well as 5 bat species. Of particular value are the otter, Hermann's tortoise and the spur-thighed tortoise, the greater and the lesser horseshoe bats included in the World Red List. The area is also of great importance for the protection of the western Caspian turtle - a protected species enlisted in Bulgaria's Red Book.
4	Meanders of Byala Reka River (protected area)	village of Meden Buk, village of Zhelezari	It is the second largest protected area in the Eastern Rhodopes (1532 hectares), given this status for the purpose of preserving a unique landscape for Bulgaria, characterized with an exceptional variety of rare and endangered species of plants and animals. It encompasses the most attractive part of the middle reaches of Byala Reka river distinguished by a beautiful complex of meanders (part of the the lands of the villages of Zhelezari and Beden Buk), where one can see some of the few surviving natural forests of the Oriental plane enlisted in Bulgaria's Red Book as well as lianas. In terms of the variety of butterfly species (over 100) the region ranks second in Bulgaria. The aquatic ecosystems of Byala Reka River are unique to the Balkan Peninsula, as they are a habitat of 9 fish species, including 4 Balkan endemics, and of a previously unknown species of fish which was discovered there - <i>Cobitis rhodopenis</i> . This is also one of the richest places in the country in terms of herpetofauna with 7 amphibian and 19 reptile species. Of special value are the snake-eyed lizard (its only place of occurrence in Bulgaria), the European worm snake and the western Caspian turtle - species listed in Bulgaria's Red Book, as well as Hermann's tortoise and the spur-thighed tortoise put on the World's Red List. The protected area is part of the ornithologically important site Byala Reka with a global conservation significance. Out of the 94 bird species discovered in the area, 56 are of European importance, as one can observe here 6 of the 9 biome-restricted species in Bulgaria, typical of the Mediterranean area - the black-eared wheatear, the olive-tree warbler, the subalpine warbler, the Sardinian warbler, the masked shrike and the black-headed bunting. The area is a permanent feeding and resting place of the world-endangered black vulture and one of the most important nesting places in Bulgaria of the short-toed snake eagle, the Levant sparrowhawk, the booted eagle, the Eurasian scops owl, the woodlark, the olive-tree warbler and the masked shrike. Of special interest among mammals are the five species of bats, three of which are in the world's Red List (the lesser horseshoe bat, Daubenton's bat and greater noctule bat), and the otter - a protected species of worldwide significance.
5	Cave	village of Belopolyane, Kozha Kae locality	Natural landmark since 1978. It has a protected area of 80 ha.

6	Habitat of the Eriolobus trilobata - Daneva Cheshma Fountain (protected area)	village of Belopolyane	The protected area "Habitat of Eriolobus trilobata - Daneva Cheshma Fountain" aims at protecting the Eriolobus trilobata species and its habitat in the lands near the village of Belopolyane.
7	Habitat of Eriolobus trilobata - Livadite (the Meadows) (protected area)	village of Belopolyane	The protected area "Habitat of Eriolobus trilobata - Livadite" is aimed at protecting the Eriolobus trilobata species and its habitat in the lands near the village of Belopolyane.
8	Habitat of the common snowdrop (Galanthus nivalis) (protected area)	town of Ivaylovgrad, Petkov Bair locality	Natural monument with a total area of 0.1 ha.
9	Habitat of the peony (protected area)	village of Zhelezino, Halka Bair locality, Pobeda peak	Habitat of a protected species with a total area of 15 ha.
10	Habitat of the peony (protected area)	village of Huhla	Habitat of a protected species with a total area of 15 ha.
11	Habitat of the garden sage (Salvia officinalis) (protected area)	village of Gornoseltsi, Mareshnitsa River	Total area of 10 ha.
12	Habitat of the garden sage (Salvia officinalis) (protected area)	village of Gorno Lukovo, Luda Reka River	Total area of 80 ha.

This document has been created within the framework of the Project „Promotion and development of natural and cultural heritage of Bulgarian – Greek cross-border region through smart and digital tools“ (eTOURIST), financed under the INTERREG V-A Cooperation Program "Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020", Subsidy Contract No B2.6c.07/09.10.2017. The Project is co funded by the European Regional Development Fund and by national funds of the countries participating in the Interreg V-A "Greece - Bulgaria 2014-2020" Cooperation Programme."

No	CULTURAL SITE	LOCATION	SHORT DESCRIPTION
1	Rock cult complex Gluhite Kamani (The Deaf Stones)	village of Dabovets and village of Malko Gradishte	It is an elaborate complex of a religious cult character, with cultural layers starting from the early Iron Age until the 12th century AD. The great interest in the Gluhite Kamani complex is mainly due to the numerous niches cut on the sides of the 30-metre-high rocks. Most striking are the niches delved in the westernmost rock massif dominating over the surrounding rocks. A deep rectangular reservoir for collecting and storing water is cut into its flat top. A well-formed double staircase leads to it. In this spot a cave-shaped room with a rectangular plan and dome-shaped cover was hewn in the rock, gaining the popular name of a "rock tomb". South, under the array of these cuttings, there is a flat part on the rock where a church was built in the 5th or 6th century.
2	Thracian domed tomb	village of Valche Pole	The tomb is located under Sheinovets peak near the village of Valche Pole and was discovered in the 1990s by prof. Bogdan Filov under a mound with a diameter of about 30 m and a height of approximately 6 m. It consists of a rectangular anteroom and a circular dome-shaped chamber, fully corresponding in its form to the dome-shaped chamber of the Mezek Tomb. It was dated around 4th century BC. The tomb was robbed already in antiquity and has been excavated by treasure hunters in recent years. The roof structure of the antechamber and the entrance to it are destroyed. There is an initial stage of destruction of the site under the effect of atmospheric processes. So far no conservation and restoration work has been done. Besides this, there is evidence of two more Thracian tombs on the hill above the village, almost completely destroyed by time and treasure hunters.
3	Dolmen necropolis	village of Oryahovo and village of Vaskovo	Dolmens are among the most common types of megalithic monuments in Bulgaria. Their great concentration in Sakar Mountain is unusual. Such is the dolmen necropolis lying between the village of Oryahovo and the village of Vaskovo. It was first studied at the end of the 19th century by the Bulgarian brothers Stefan and Georgi Bonchev and the Czech brothers Herman and Karel Skorpil. Their total number then exceeded 70. In the Kapaklykata area near the village of Oryahovo there is a necropolis consisting of 4 dolmens. The name of the area probably comes from the dolmens, which the local population likened to "covered with a lid" ("kapak" meaning a lid in Bulgarian). Very interesting is the dolmen in the Eshmedzhika locality, where rare oval dents have been found on the inner walls of the stone. In Kerez Dere locality there is another dolmen and a mound necropolis consisting of 5 dolmens dated to the early Iron Age - 10th - 11th century BC.
4	Gospodeva Stapka (Lord's Step)	village of Oryahovo	Gospodeva Stapka is an extremely interesting natural and cultural site located in the Kerez Dere locality, in a riverbed. Archaeologists have marked a number of dolmens in the vicinity, some of which are in good condition. This is a natural hollow in the rock which, throughout the year, gets filled with water which drips through the rock. The ancient Thracians used to worship such places, as they venerated the water nymphs. So, along with the nearby dolmens, the area was probably an ancient sanctuary. After the adoption of Christianity, the religious significance of the site continued. A legend was born, according to which the Lord, disguised as a traveller, asked for water from a woman who was working in the fields but she would not give him. Then his horse stepped on the stone and water gushed out. That's why people call the spring "The Lord's Step".
5	An architectural monument - obelisk to the victims in the Balkan War (1912) - on top of Sheinovets peak	village of Valche Pole and Malko Gradishte, Lyubimets Municipality	At Sheinovets peak, in the area between the villages of Valche Pole and Malko Gradishte, an architectural monument was erected in 1941 - an obelisk to the victims of the Balkan war. The peak itself is connected to the beginning of the Balkan War in 1912. According to the Bulgarian intelligence, on October 4, 1912, there were about 100 soldiers in the Ottoman picket at Kurtkale peak, and two more small units of soldiers nearby. The Bulgarian military high command prepared an attack on the summit, whose main aim was to seize control of it as the valleys of the Arda, Maritsa and Edirne rivers can be seen from here. Access to the top was extremely difficult. The slopes from the south and northwest descend vertically and are inaccessible, and the slope to the east is rocky and steep. Climbing the peak was possible through one path only, winding between rocks and bushes.
6	Saint Athanasius Church	village of Malko Gradishte	On October 4, at 21:30 hours, the 30th Infantry Regiment of Sheinevo was ordered to begin seizure of the summit. On the early morning of October 5th, it is a three-nave church, with massive arches, and an open narthex from the west. Construction began in 1840 and it was consecrated on June 27, 1844. According to the inscription on the icon of the Holy Theotokos, the icons were painted in 1845. The eight sovereign and nineteen apostolic icons were painted in warm colours by a popular anonymous master. The image of Jesus Christ Pantocrator (Almighty) on canvas is laid in the highest point of the central vault. His name expresses the idea of the unity of all "heavenly hosts" of the universe obeying the hierarchical principle. The Biblical prophetic books contain the phrase "Lord of War" or "All-Powerful," "Ruler of All". The word "hosts" means the sun, the moon, and the stars that make up the heavenly hosts. It is believed that the icon-painter was from Edirne. He made the iconostasis, which consists of wooden planks, it is coloured in green and has a coronation tier with a wood-carved crucifix and griffons. There was also a monastic school at the church, which was opened around 1862 and existed until 1883. At first, the teacher in the school was Father Atanasii from Kavakli (present-day Topolovgrad) as he used to teach the children in Greek. After 1864-1865, priest Filyu from Hebichevo (present-day Lyubimets) taught the students in Church-Slavonic.
No	NATURAL SITE	LOCATION	SHORT DESCRIPTION
1	Kovan Kaya	village of Valche Pole	Thracian rock niches.
2	Bird's stone (Kush Kaya)	village of Valche Pole	It is a huge majestic rock resembling an eagle, located to the north of the village of Valche Pole. During recent archaeological excavations it was found that the rock was an ancient Thracian cult complex, probably linked to the other one, The Deaf Stones, lying several kilometres higher in the mountain.
3	Habitat of the summer snowflake (Leucocjum aestivum) - Dolnata ova (protected site)	town of Lyubimets	Conservation of a natural habitat of the summer snowflake.
4	Bakarlia (protected area)	village of Yerusalimovo	Long-term conservation of populations of world and European threatened species of amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals and plants as well as other habitats and landscapes typical for the Sakar Mountain as well as a part of the important ornithological site of Southern Sakar. Conservation of habitats, rocky landscapes and plants typical for Sakar Mountain.
5	Gospodeva Stapka (Lord's Step)	village of Oryahovo	Gospodeva Stapka is an extremely interesting natural and cultural site located in the Kerez Dere area, in a riverbed. Archaeologists have marked a number of dolmens in the vicinity, some of which are in good condition. This is a natural hollow in the rock which, throughout the year, gets filled with water which drips through the rock. The ancient Thracians used to worship such places, as they venerated the water nymphs. So, along with the nearby

This document has been created within the framework of the Project „Promotion and development of natural and cultural heritage of Bulgarian - Greek cross-border region through smart and digital tools“ (eTOURIST), financed under the INTERREG V-A Cooperation Program „Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020“, Subsidy Contract No B2.6c.07/09.10.2017. The Project is co funded by the European Regional Development Fund and by national funds of the countries participating in the Interreg V-A „Greece - Bulgaria 2014-2020“ Cooperation Programme.“

eTOURIST

No	CULTURAL SITE	LOCATION	SHORT DESCRIPTION
1	Thracian memorial complex. Chapel of Saint Petka of Bulgaria. Monument-symbol "Thrace without Borders"	town of Madzharovo - 2 km of asphalt road northeast of the town centre in close proximity to the Eastern Rhodopes Environmental Centre	Thracian memorial complex with pantheon-ossuary, chapel to Saint Petka of Bulgaria and a monument-symbol "Thrace without Borders", declared a historical monument of local culture. It is built in memory of the Bulgarian refugees who died near the village of Yatadzhik (present-day Madzharovo) in what was the biggest massacre of Bulgarians in Eastern Thrace in 1913. On the initiative of the local Thracian associations, in 1928 a pilgrimage was organized for the first time to the place of their death, which turned into a tradition that remains to this day, and then a search started for the remains of the bodies of the victims collected in a common grave. Later in 1948, a pantheon was built, where the found bones were laid. Its inauguration was attended personally by the voyvode Dimitar Madzharov, who turned back the wheel of time, telling his memories of an eyewitness and direct participant in the tragic events of 1913. The monument-symbol "Thrace without Borders" was subsequently built, and in 1995 the Chapel of Saint Petka of Bulgaria was erected.
2	Thracian cult-funeral complex and settlement. Okopa medieval fortress	town of Madzharovo - 2 hours' walk west of the town centre to Harman Kaya locality	Town of Madzharovo - 2 hours walk west of the town centre to the locality Harman kaya (2 Thracian tombs), including 1 km of asphalt road, 0.5 km of dirt road and a marked forest path, plus a 20-minute walk on a dirt road with tourist marking to the Okopa locality (Thracian sanctuary, Thracian settlement, medieval fortress) plus a 40-minute walk on an unmarked dirt road north to the locality Golemiya Burun near the abandoned village of Baldzha (sharapana). There are 2 direct routes leading from Madzharovo to the sharapana (rock winery): a one-hour walk along the marked path to Okopa locality and a 30-minute walk along the dirt road to Baldzha (the Baldzha path) or 3 km of asphalt road to the west of the town centre near the Arda River, then another 2 km of dirt road in direction of the village of Strandzevo and an hour's walk on a dirt forest road leading south (3 km). They are located within the borders of the Momina Skala protected area.
3	Roman road	village of Dolni Glavanak	The best-preserved section of an important Roman road in the Eastern Rhodopes in the valley of the Arda River, connecting present-day Edirne to the interior of the Rhodope Mountain. Many roads crossed the territory of the modern-day Haskovo region in Antiquity and the Middle Ages. One of them - the main road Via Singidunum connecting Serdica (Sofia) with Constantinople (Tsarigrad) had been used since the 5th century BC and was of high strategic importance. During the period of the Roman rule, it was laid out with a solid stone pavement and a number of road stations were built along it, the distances between which were marked with milestones (miliaria).
4	Megalithic cult structure - cromlech	locality of Bunaralta, village of Dolen Glavanak	It is a religious ritual structure of vertically erected stone slabs. The stones are placed directly on the rock without having any special places and holes for erecting them. The enclosed sacred space where rituals were held has a circular shape. In Western Europe similar cult places are usually described with the term "cromlech", as the most famous example is Stonehenge in South England.
5	Saint Demetrius Church	village of Dolni Glavanak	Built in the 1930s by the local population.
6	Rock Relief/Sanctuary	the vicinity of the village of Gorno Pole	The Thracian monument consists of an oval stone with a carved relief. The stone block on which the relief is cut, as a result of further processing, vaguely resembles a human figure. It is now fallen sideways on one of its long sides, but in the past it was standing upright. A rough frame is shaped in its upper part, in which two human figures are hewn next to each other, with raised hands, elongated bodies and marked legs; one figure is taller than the other. The monument is unique because it is unparalleled and is one of the oldest stone reliefs discovered in the Bulgarian lands.
7	Rock tomb	Funardzhika locality, village of Gorno Pole	It is cut into an eroded rock at the foot of a slope. It consists of an anteroom, an entrance and a chamber. The interesting thing about this tomb is that it has an opening also on top of the ceiling of the burial chamber.
8	Thracian Rock Niches - Hambarakaya	village of Gorno Pole - 7 km of asphalt road northwest of the town of Madzharovo in the direction of Haskovo (before the road fork to	It is located within the boundaries of the protected area Chernata skala (The Black Rock). Unique ancient Thracian monuments of culture with trapezoidal shape, found only in the Eastern Rhodopes.
9	Thracian fortress and sanctuary Sivri dikme	Sivri Dikme peak at 2.66 km northwest of the village of Gorno Pole	The Thracian fortress and the rock sanctuary are dated to the 1st century BC. There are preserved remains of fortress walls, stairs, and rocks with carved basins for religious rituals. The fortress is part of the defensive fortification system of the Arda River valley.
10	Sharapana (rock winery)	Golemiya Burun locality, on the territory of the village of Baldzha	The sharapana is situated on a hillside in the Golemiya burun locality, near the abandoned village of Baldzha. It consists of a shallow basin hewn into a single rock and drainage chutes connected to it. There are other similar monuments in the area of different shapes and sizes.
11	Church of Archangel Michael	village of Senoklas	The oldest church in the municipality, built in 1858 by master Georgi Borumsuza from the village of Ustovo, Smolyan Municipality. In 1913, the church was burned down and later restored in 1921.
12	Thracian cult complex. Thracian and medieval fortress Hisarya. Chapel of Saint Cyril and Methodius	village of Senoklas - 9 km of asphalt road southeast/east of the town of Madzharovo + 6 km of dirt road partially covered with macadam to the left of the road to the village of	A remarkable archaeological complex, including a Thracian cult centre with a rock sanctuary, rock niches and the rarely encountered rock suns, as a central place is occupied by the remnants of a large Thracian and medieval fortress. The chapel of Saints Cyril and Methodius is erected close by.
13	Church of the Great Martyr Demetrius of Thessaloniki	village of Borislavtsi	Built in 1936 with the volunteer work of the local Thracians who settled in the village in 1914.
14	Rock cult complex Gluhite kamani (The Deaf Stones)	village of Efrem	It is a complex structure of a religious cult character, with cultural layers starting from the early Iron Age until the 12th century AD. The great interest in the Gluhite Kamani complex is mainly due to the numerous niches cut on the sides of the 30-metre-high rocks. Most striking are the niches delved in the westernmost rock massif dominating over the surrounding rocks. A deep rectangular reservoir for collecting and storing water is cut into its flat top. A well-formed double staircase leads to it. In this spot a cave-shaped room with a rectangular plan and dome-shaped cover was hewn in the rock, more popular as a "rock tomb". South, under the array of these cuttings, there is a flat part on the rock where a church was built in the 5th or 6th century. The site lies in an area administratively belonging to the villages of Oreshets (Harmanli Municipality), Dabovets and Malko Gradishte (Lyubimets Municipality).
14	Saint Athanasius Church	village of Efrem	It was built in 1887 by the local population.

No	NATURAL SITE	LOCATION	SHORT DESCRIPTION
1	Nesting site of rare endangered diurnal raptors (Protected Site)	town of Madzharovo - 3 km of asphalt road north-east of the town centre in the direction of the village of Borislavtsi on the left bank of the Arda River, village of Gorno Pole, Kavan Kaya locality	It is located within the lands pertaining to the village of Gorno pole. The only protected area in the municipality with the status of a natural landmark, declared for the purpose of protecting the nesting sites of rare and endangered bird species. Of the species included in Bulgaria's Red Book, nesting on the volcanic rock niches here are the griffon vulture and the Egyptian vulture, two species unique to entire Bulgaria and Europe. One can also see the black vulture, known as the cinereous vulture. Here, bird lovers can observe other endangered and rare species, too, such as the black stork, the long-legged buzzard, the blue and common rock thrush and many more interesting birds.
2	Meanders of the Arda River	town of Madzharovo - 3 km of asphalt road north-east of the town centre on the way to the village of Borislavtsi	In its middle course, the Arda River forms many beautiful meanders. Some of the most impressive and easily accessible for lovers of natural phenomena are those at the entrance of Ivaylovo grad water reservoir between Madzharovo and Borislavtsi. The meanders of the Arda River with its sandy beaches, Ivaylovo grad reservoir, the impressive rock ring surrounding Madzharovo and the extremely rich geological and bio diversity form a unique natural complex with great potential for the development of eco-friendly and specialized tourism.
3	Patronka protected area	town of Madzharovo, village of Borislavtsi	Preservation of the natural habitats of protected and rare species of birds and plants included in the Red Data Book of the Republic of Bulgaria and the European Red List of Endangered Species.
4	Gyurgena protected area	town of Madzharovo - 4 km of asphalt road southeast of the town centre towards the village of Senoklas, including a detour of 0.5 km on the left	It is located to the south of the protected area Patronka in the land pertaining to the depopulated village of Gaberovo. The smallest protected area in the municipality, which is of national environmental significance. Conservation of habitats and populations of rare and endangered plant species, protected amphibian species, reptiles, birds and mammals. Conservation of Geoffroy's bat (<i>Myotis emarginatus</i>) included in the Red Book of Bulgaria. Preservation of an outstanding landscape.
5	Momina Skala (Maiden's Rock) protected area	town of Madzharovo - 15 minutes walk west of the town centre, including 1 km of asphalt + 0.5 km of dirt road, along the right bank of the Arda River	It is located to the south of the Black Rock protected area within a territory administratively pertaining to the town of Madzharovo and the village of Dryagovets (Krumovgrad Municipality). Conservation of protected and endangered plants and animals such as: <i>Anthemis auriculata</i> , <i>Bupleurum gerardi</i> , <i>Cleome ornithopoides</i> , <i>Fritillaria pontica</i> , <i>Micropirum tenelum</i> , <i>Orhis papilionacea</i> , the oriental plane, etc. as well as hundreds of butterfly species, tortoises, the sheltopusik, the golden eagle, the peregrine falcon. The protection of the populations and habitats of protected and endangered species of plants and animals, including <i>Orhis papilionacea</i> , the oriental plane, <i>Scandix australis</i> , <i>Steffanophia</i> .
6	Chernata Skala (The Black Rock) protected area	town of Madzharovo - 4 km of asphalt road northwest from the town centre in the direction of Gorno Pole on the left bank of the Arda River	It is located to the west of the Kovan Kaya natural landmark within the lands pertaining to the villages of Gorno Pole, Gorni Glavanak, Rumelia and Topolovo. The largest protected area in the municipality, declared in order to protect habitats and a significant diversity of animal and plant species, protected and endangered at a national and European level. Not far from here one can see the Thracian rock niches typical of the Eastern Rhodopes. Preservation of habitats and populations of protected and rare species of plants and animals, including <i>Anthemis auriculata</i> , <i>Fritillaria pontica</i> , <i>Carduus thracicus</i> , the sheltopusik, the spur-thighed tortoise and Hermann's tortoise, etc.
This document has been created within the framework of the Project „Promotion and development of natural and cultural heritage of Bulgarian – Greek cross-border region through smart and digital tools“ (eTOURIST), financed under the INTERREG V-A Cooperation Program "Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020", Subsidy Contract No B2.6c.07/09.10.2017. The Project is co funded by the European Regional Development Fund and by national funds of the countries participating in the Interreg V-A "Greece - Bulgaria 2014-2020" Cooperation Programme."			

No	CULTURAL SITE	LOCATION	SHORT DESCRIPTION
1	Thracian rock cult complex Altan Tepe and Late Antiquity fortress in the Hisarya locality	village of Angel Voivoda	Among the numerous megalithic monuments in the Mineralni Bani Municipality, the Thracian cult complex near the village of Angel Voivoda occupies a special place. One of the largest in Bulgaria, this ancient sanctuary has the status of a monument of culture of national importance. The complex is located on a rocky peak known as Asara. There are remains of a powerful fortress wall on the ridge and more than 50 (cult) niches have been cut into the rocks. In the
2	Golyamoto Gradishte Prehistoric Thracian Fortress	1.5 km north of the village of Gorno Bryastovo	Built of large cyclopean blocks without mortar. It has an oval shape and its walls, approximately 2.5 m thick, are in a state of ruin. It is 150 m long and 50 m wide, the built-up area is 5-6 decares and has two internal walls.
3	Stapkata na Bogoroditsa (Virgin Mary's Step)	village of Mineralni Bani	The vestige from the Roman era is the landmark that has survived to this day and is known as Virgin Mary's Step, which was cut into a natural rock. It is located 5 metres from the first mineral spring - in the centre of Mineralni Bani. It is 2 metres long, 1 metre deep and 0.75 m wide. According to historians this is an ancient sarcophagus, while the local population has given birth to a legend saying that this is the footstep left when the Mother of Jesus was running away
4	Sveti Duh (Holy Spirit) Roman fortress	village of Mineralni Bani	Historical data reveal that the so-called city Toplitsos (Toplika), which numbered about 12,000 inhabitants, was located in the territory of Mineralni Bani. It is believed that after battles the Roman soldiers used to come here to heal their wounds at the warm mineral springs. Thus, thanks to the unique curative properties of the mineral water, an ancient city called Toplitsos by the Romans came into being. Archaeological excavations give evidence that the area around the
5	Church of Saint George	village of Mineralni Bani	The newest and largest Christian temple in the village of Mineralni Bani built in 2006, the Church of Saint George attracts visitors with its beautiful architecture.
6	Fortress Peak Kupena/Varga/Latnitsata	village of Sarnitsa	Thracian, Late Antiquity and medieval fortress at peak Kupena Varga/Latnitsata is situated on the peak of the same name, at 2.67 km north-west in a straight line from the centre of the village of Sarnitsa. The walls of the fortress are made of crushed stones bonded with white mortar. Remains of the fortress wall are visible only in the northern part of the ridge.
7	Saint Nicholas Church	village of Sarnitsa	Around 1910, Sarnitsa was one of the large villages in that period. Its residents were bright and public-spirited people - Orthodox Christians. They started to nurture the idea of building a church that would satisfy their need for spirituality. People wanted it to be a special church - they found a master builder from as far as Kazanlak, who drew up a beautiful design. For two years the master was busy crafting the stones for the masonry and in the meantime the entire local
8	Sarnitsa Stronghold - walls of a Thracian, Late Antiquity and medieval fortress with a signalling tower	above the village of Sarnitsa to the Gidika mountain pass	The fortress wall is made of roughly worked stones without mortar, in places including the protruding rocks, structurally connected to the wall. The enclosed area is nearly 2 decares. At the lower north end of the fortress, the citadel is protected by an additional transverse wall. On the surface ceramic fragments were found from the beginning and the second half of the 1st millennium BC as well as the Roman and Middle Ages. A rare valuable document was discovered here - a military diploma by Roman emperor Elagabalus, dated 7 January 221. The diploma is now kept in a museum in Vienna.
9	Sharapanas (rock wineries)	village of Bryastovo	Sharapanas represent rock basins made by humans 2600-2800 years ago. Archaeological excavations date these finds around 8th-6th century BC. These are artificially made niches in the rocks with a depth of 20-70 cm and a diameter of 50-180 cm. Each sharapana consists of a smaller and a larger basin with a sloping bottom and an open or covered canal. The name "sharapana" comes from the Turkish word "sarap" meaning wine. It is supposed that the ancient inhabitants of these places used to process grapes for wine. Sharapanas are believed to be related to the cult of God Dionysus. Sharapanas can be seen in the areas of Karakaya, Garvanitsa, Pozharishteto, Avramov Kamak in the vicinity of the village of Mineralni Bani.
10	Saint Athanasius Church	village of Susam	It was built in 1898. Later, in 1925, a bell tower was attached to it. The church has been declared an artistic cultural monument/property because of the painting of the medallion of the arch, the Beautiful Gates and the Crest, the tier of the Despoticon icons (Sovereign Tier) and the tier with icons of the Twelve Great Feasts. The architecture of the building is also noted as a cultural property.
11	Mosque	village of Kolets	Interesting with its architecture and frescoes.
12	Mosque	village of Boyan Botevo	Interesting with its architecture and frescoes.
13	Mosque	village of Karamantsi	Interesting with its architecture and frescoes.
14	Thracian fortress of Orlovi Skali (Eagle's Rocks) Peak	in the Orlovi Skali locality, 3 km west in a straight line from the centre of the village of Sarnitsa	The Thracian Fortress of the New Iron Age is located in the Orlovi Skali (Eagle's Rocks) locality, 3 km west in a straight line from the centre of the village of Sarnitsa. The pottery on the surface dates back to the 2nd half of the 1st millennium BC
15	Sundial	village of Mineralni Bani	This dial is unique and it can count not only hours but also minutes, seconds, and days, so it also performs the function of a calendar. There is an identical one in Mexico with 5 steps while the one in Mineralni Bani has seven steps.
No	NATURAL SITE	LOCATION	SHORT DESCRIPTION
1	Aida protected area	the land pertaining to the village of Spahievo	The protected area covers a total of 3.5 ha. It consists of a natural, century-old beech high forest.
2	Habitat of lily-of-the-valley and peony natural monument (protected area)	Drenka locality, village of Spahievo	The natural site has an area of 3 hectares. It was given a special status in order to preserve the habitat of the lily-of-the-valley and the peony.
3	Dikilitash protected area	the land pertaining to the village of Sarnitsa	It spreads over 0.2 ha. It is given a special status in order to protect the waterfall on the Harmanliyska River.
4	Boraka Nature Reserve	the land pertaining to the village of Sarnitsa	The reserve has an area of 14.78 ha. It has been declared a nature reserve for the purpose of conservation of a century-old, natural, coppice black pine forest. The average age of the trees is between 120 and 150 years.

5	Orlovi Skali (Eagle's Rocks) protected area	the land pertaining to the village of Sarnitsa	This is a unique rock formation of peculiar-shaped majestic rocks, some of which reach as high as 30-40 metres. The rock phenomenon resembles a medieval castle with solid towers. Ritual niches have been cut in many of the rocks. The majority of them have a trapezoidal shape, but some are also cylindrically arched. Two vertical cliffs between the rocks (Dogan Kaya - Eagle's Rocks) naturally protect a space of about 1.5 decares, further framed by a wall made of large loose stones without mortar. The rock complex is a protected natural site. There was an old Thracian settlement here, as the remains of a fortress from the New Iron Age are still visible to this day.
6	Pobiatia kamak (The Standing Stone) protected area	the land pertaining to the village of Sarnitsa	The natural landmark spreads over an area of 1 ha. It is a complex of interesting rock formations. The rock is 4 metres high and its width exceeds 12 metres. It resembles the Chudnite Mostove (Wonderful Bridges) rock formation at Erkupria River, with the difference that it is located on a ridge rather than in a river valley. Apart from the opening, there is also a large covered cave.
7	The Mirror Rock natural monument	the land pertaining to the village of Bryastovo	The natural landmark covers an area of 1.5 ha. It has been declared a protected area for the purpose of preserving the
8	Golyamata Ev Kaya Cave	village of Spahievo, municipality of Mineralni Bani	A fissure (diacalse) cave with a length of 18 metres and a displacement of 3 metres.
9	Lipovitsa Cave	village of Sarnitsa, municipality of Mineralni Bani	A fissure cave with a length of 11 metres.
10	Ivanov Kamak Cave	village of Sarnitsa, municipality of Mineralni Bani	At this cave, above the south entrance, on the smooth wall of the rock painted in a red-brown colour, there are 7 trapezoidal cult niches carved - remnants of the old customs of the Old Thracians. Perhaps the cave was used by them for a sanctuary or for some cult customs. On the surrounding rocks in the entire region there are many trapezoidal niches and traces of Thracian culture. Surveyed on June 22, 1980 by Boris Kolev and Zhecho Staykov from Aida Spahievova Club based in Haskovo
11	Dushkovitsa Cave	village of Sarnitsa, municipality of Mineralni Bani	A fissure (diacalse) cave with a length of 14 metres and a displacement of 3 metres.
12	Peshurata Cave	village of Sarnitsa, municipality of Mineralni Bani	A fissure (diacalse) cave with a length of 28 metres.
13	Kaleto 1 and Kaleto 2 Caves	village of Sarnitsa, municipality of Mineralni Bani	A fissure (diacalse) caves with a length of 18 metres.
This document has been created within the framework of the Project „Promotion and development of natural and cultural heritage of Bulgarian – Greek cross-border region through smart and digital tools” (eTOURIST), financed under the INTERREG V-A Cooperation Program “Greece- Bulgaria 2014-2020”, Subsidy Contract No B2.6c.07/09.10.2017. The Project is co funded by the European Regional Development Fund and by national funds of the countries participating in the Interreg V-A “Greece - Bulgaria 2014-2020” Cooperation Programme.”			

eTOURIST

No	CULTURAL SITE	LOCATION	SHORT DESCRIPTION
1	Mustafa Pasha Bridge	town of Svilengrad	The bridge is the only fully preserved part of a former complex consisting of a caravansary, a mosque, a charskia (open-air bazaar) and a hammam. It was built on the orders of Mustafa Pasha, a vizier of Sultan Suleiman I the Magnificent (Kanuni Sultan Süleyman). The year of construction 1529 is indicated via the numerical meanings of the Arabic letters in the last two words of the inscription on the bridge: "Hassana Abadie", or an eternal good deed. Along with being the initiator for the construction of the bridge, Mustafa Pasha was perceived also as the founder of the new settlement called Mustafa Pasha, present-day Svilengrad, and the bridge was known with its Turkish name, "Mustafa Pasha köprüsü", i.e. the bridge of Mustafa Pasha. Its length is 295 m, width 6 m. Paved with finely dressed stones, in the past it boasted 20 beautiful arches. The handrails are made of large blocks of stone. The number of all handrail stone slabs on the bridge is 706, with 353 on each side. The inscription for the construction of the bridge is carved in a relief on a marble slab placed on a 6-metre railing erected in the middle of the bridge. The slab with the inscription is called by the local people "tareha, tarih" meaning history. The translation of the inscription reads: "This bridge was built in the time when kalif was one of the greatest of sultans, Sultan Suleiman Khan, son of Sultan Selim Khan, as a successor of his safety and security his vizier Mustafa Pasha - may God protect him for what he created. And the construction of the bridge was his longest-lasting good work during the year, on a date when it turned into an eternal good deed."
2	Museum of History	town of Svilengrad	The Svilengrad Museum of History was established in 2007, on the basis of an existing museum exhibition created in the late 1960s. It contained mainly photographic material, ancient and medieval coins, archaeological and ethnographic artefacts. In the 1970's the exhibits were officially registered as part of the Haskovo Museum of History. In the 1990s, the restored house of Doctor Tsurkovski, located in the town centre and interesting for its typical early-20th century architecture, was provided for the needs of the museum collection. The Svilengrad Museum of History aims at safeguarding and preserving the intangible and tangible immovable and movable cultural heritage of the population in the lower reaches of the Maritsa River, the Eastern Rhodopes and Sakar Mountain. The museum has three exhibitions - on history, archaeology and ethnography, showcasing artefacts with important historical, cultural and scientific importance, such as documents, photos, manuscripts, military decorations, medals, tools, clothing and objects from the urban lifestyle, appliances related to the production of silk, cotton and wool, bladed weapons and firearms, personal belongings, etc.
3	Ancient and medieval settlement	town of Svilengrad, Hisarya locality near Kanakliyska neighbourhood	During the Bronze and Iron Age, lands around today's town of Svilengrad were inhabited by the Thracian tribe of the Odrysians. Remnants of settlements, burial mounds, sanctuaries, dolmens and other artefacts have survived to this day from the time of the ancient Thracians. In the old neighborhood of Kanakliya there was a place called "The Mound" after the name of a big mound in the vicinity where remnants of Thracian chariots had been found. Late Antiquity writer Procopius of Caesarea wrote that under the rule of Emperor Justinian (483-565 AD) a fortification called Bourdepto (from Greek, Βουρδέπτο) was either built or strengthened. Many historians believe it used to be where actually are now the old ruins in Hisarya locality near the old Kanaklia neighborhood of Svilengrad.
4	Dolmen	village of Studena, Kapaklia locality, 12 km northeast	The dolmen in the village of Studena, Svilengrad Municipality, is located in the Kapaklia locality near the village. It is part of the so-called "megalithic culture" on the Bulgarian lands, in particular in the region of Strandja and Sakar Mountains. It consists of two vertically positioned stone slabs, stuck in the ground and forming a chamber, and a third horizontal one which covers them. Megalithic monuments are known in their three varieties - menhir, cromlech and dolmen. The megaliths are ancient objects originating from the New Stone, Bronze and Early Iron Age. The working of the stone is relatively imperfect, rough. Unlike the standard building technique of masonry, megalithic structures were assembled from elements touching each other only on their edges. Typically, they consisted of the minimum possible number of building blocks (slabs, pillars).
5	Monument to War Heroes	town of Svilengrad	Located at Svilena Square. It was built in memory of the heroes from Svilengrad and the municipality who died in the wars. On its granite walls one can read the names of more than 100 people who sacrificed their lives for Bulgaria's freedom.
6	Church of the Life-Receiving Source	town of Svilengrad	The church was built around 1860, mainly with donations from the residents of Gebran neighbourhood. During the Second Balkan War (1913), the church was razed to the ground, and after the end of the wars, its restoration began, which continued until 1924. The church now lies amidst a richly landscaped, beautiful park spreading over an area of nearly 4,000 square metres. Fully reconstructed is the network of park lanes where the main places for recreation of the residents in the neighborhood are located. The lanes are covered with coloured concrete slabs. The vegetation consists of deciduous and coniferous trees, large groups of flowering and evergreen shrubs and also climbing plants and shrubs. There are also several low deciduous exotic species. The lush wood and shrub vegetation is maintained via an automated irrigation system. In place of the previously existing playground, a new one was designed and built, featuring modern children's playground equipment and benches. It is enclosed by an open-work fence with three entrances, which are connected with the main approaches to the church. New lamps have been installed along the alleys. The impressive building of the church is highlighted with night lighting.
7	Church of the Holy Trinity	town of Svilengrad	The church was built with voluntary donations in 1834 at the place which was probably the cultural centre of the Bulgarian population at that time. The construction of the church was carried out by the Bulgarians from the three neighbourhoods of the town - Bayandar (meaning "nobleman", Kanakli (meaning "suburb") and Gebran (meaning an "infidel", i.e. a Christian) and that's why it was probably named after the Holy Trinity. Upon the burning of the town in 1913, the church was also burned, but its original shape was preserved during its restoration. In 1847-48, the first secular school opened doors in a building attached to the church. Today it bears the name of one of its founders and chief teacher Hristo Popmarkov.
8	Prehistoric and Protohistoric Pit Complex	village of Kapitan Andreevo, Hauza locality	This complex dating back to the period 5,200-4,800 BC is unseen anywhere else in South-East Europe and provides an important contribution to the knowledge of the first European civilization which thrived in present-day Bulgarian lands. The second stage in the use of the studied area is the Middle Bronze Age - around 1800-1700 BC. Several ritual pits have been discovered, which are a rarity in Bulgarian lands. The third stage of using the area dates to the early and late Iron Age - 1st millennium BC. Archaeologists have studied dozens of Thracian ritual pits, some of which of a very large size. Chronologically, last on the list are two medieval dug-outs and at least three ritual pits for human sacrificial rites from the 8th-9th century.
9	Remains of the ancient Roman road Via Diagonalis	village of Kapitan Andreevo, Hauza locality	The finds discovered in the section with a length of 130 m reveal that it was used from the 2nd to the 6th century. It was built of coarse river gravel and had a width of 18 metres. The sections of this military road registered so far along its route from Middle Europe to Constantinople are some 6 to 8 metres wide. Remnants of Via Diagonalis have been discovered in Bulgaria so far in the vicinity of Harmanli and Kostinbrod. The preserved section of road is so long only in the vicinity of Kapitan Andreevo. The find in the Hauza locality drew astonishment from all experts in Bulgarian Antiquity also because of the big width of the road of 18 metres, resembling present-day highways.
10	Rock church	village of Matochina, locality of Deli Kaya, 2 km southwest	The rock church near Matochina is cut in a limestone rock and is located 2 km southwest of the village in the Dekli kaya (the pierced stone) locality. The face of the rock is finely dressed and along a dozen wide carved steps located on both sides of the entrance, one can go down to a small vaulted corridor, 4.40 m long, 3 m wide and 3.5 metres high. The interior of the church is rectangular, vaulted over the top. It has a size of 7 x 9.85 m, as current height of the vault is 5 m. On the eastern wall of the church, which has no apse, there are three niches located 2 m from the floor, which were probably used to place the icons. There are two square niches on both sides of the entrance passageway, close to the exit. Further inside, on the left side, there is a similar niche at the same height. Several graves carved in the rock and oriented east-west were found above the church. The largest concentration of rock-been temples in the world is found in the region of the Rusenki Lom River in Central Northern Bulgaria and in Asia Minor - in Amasya and Lake Van. The rock church at the village of Matochina and the one at the village of Mihalich were made by monks who lived as hermits around the 10th century. Churches and monasteries were carved out in the rocks also by the followers of various heresies that were numerous in that period. In 1968, the rock church near the village of Matochina was declared a monument of culture of national importance.

11	Medieval tower Bukelon Fortress	village of Matochina, Kulata locality, 200 m north	<p>The village of Matochina is situated near the Bulgarian-Turkish border, on the right bank of the Tundzha River. A steep hill rises at its northern end, accessible only from the village. A partition wall existed here from which only some vestiges have remained. Some 50 metres away from it, up the hill, lay the Bukelon fortress, the nearest defensive structure of Adrianople from the north. It is one of the best-preserved military fortifications in Bulgaria.</p> <p>The fortress which covers the crest of the hill is about 65 metres wide and 150 metres long. Best-preserved is the protective tower and part of the double fortress wall at the gate. The tower and the walls are made of large roughly worked stones and girdles of 4 rows of bricks soldered with white mortar. It consisted of three large floors. The last floor with a semi-cylindrical shape served as a small chapel where the besieged defenders of the fortress used to pray. The battlements are located on all sides and one could reach them via wooden stairs.</p> <p>The fortress was built during the Roman era. In 387, there was a great battle near Bukelon between the armies of Emperor Valens and the Goths. It ended with the complete defeat of the Roman army, and the Emperor died in the battle. The fortress has been repeatedly used and rebuilt over the centuries. The construction technique used, i.e. mixed masonry with decorative brick layers and white mortar, suggests the fortress came into existence between the 12th and 14th century. A cross-shaped brick monogram was embedded at the side of the front gate, testifying to the fortress ruler from the 14th century. The letters signify the name Mikhal. It is known that by the year 1328 the Bulgarian Tsar Mihail, fighting against the Byzantine emperor Andronikos III, reached as far as Dimotika (present-day Didymoteicho). It is possible that during this military campaign the Bulgarian Tsar restored the fortress in haste.</p> <p>It was near this fortress that on 14 April 1205 the Bulgarian soldiers led by Tsar Kaloyan defeated the army of the Latin Knights and captured their emperor Baldwin of Flanders. The prisoner was taken to the capital Turnovo, where he died in 1206. During the Turkish rule, the fortress lost its importance and was left desolate. In 1664, Sultan Mohammed IV used to come here to hunt and from his diary historians learnt that the fortress and the village beneath it were now called Fikla.</p>	
12	Medieval fortress	village of Mezek, Kaleto locality, 300 m to the west	<p>In the vicinity of the village of Mezek (Svilengrad Municipality), on the Kaleto peak rise the ruins of a medieval Byzantine fortress from the end of the 11th century. It is the best-preserved defensive facility in the Rhodope Mountains. The fortress performed the role of a border guard fortress. It protected territories lying between the rivers Maritsa and Arda. It is located on the outskirts of the village of Mezek, 6 km southwest of Svilengrad and only 1 km from the Greek border.</p> <p>Some historians believe that this was the fortress of Neouzikon mentioned in written sources, and other scholars are of the opinion that this was the location of Versinikia Fortress, in whose vicinity Bulgaria's Khan Krum defeated the Byzantine armies and conquered Thrace in 813.</p> <p>Several archaeological excavations have revealed artefacts from the 11th century. The construction of the fortress dates back to the rule of the Byzantine Emperor Alexios I Komnenos (1081-1117). The fortress walls enclose an area of about 7 decares with the shape of an irregular quadrangle and dimensions of 110/60 m. They are built of large loose stones bound together by white mortar, decorated with three layers of bricks on the outside. The fortress wall ended with ridges which were preserved until 1900.</p> <p>The defence of the fortress was reinforced by nine towers with a rounded shape and a height of over 10 m. Five of the towers are located on the southern fortress wall (two at the corners and three at the front side), two on the western wall (in the middle and at the main entrance) and one on both the northern and eastern walls. The fortress was functioning until the Ottoman invasion at the end of the 14th century. Conceived as a solid fortification unit, it was bustling with life. Several granaries with charred wheat grains were uncovered, where the food supplies were stored. Numerous iron tips of arrows, spurs, and horseshoes have been found, testifying to the daily routine of the garrison soldiers. Stone mills, metal implements and similar objects reveal details about the life of ordinary people.</p> <p>The fortress near the village of Mezek was well-preserved until the beginning of the 20th century. Part of it was destroyed around 1900, when stones were taken from there for the construction of Turkish barracks in Svilengrad. The northern fortress wall is most severely damaged. It is preserved to the level of the terrain on the inside. The southern, western, and eastern sides have been preserved to the height of the platform over which their pinnacles rose.</p>	
13	Thracian beehive tomb	village of Mezek, 600 m southwest	<p>It belongs to one of the most monumental facilities of this type found in the lands of ancient Thrace. The tomb is an impressive east-west-oriented structure with an entrance from the east. It was built of large, finely dressed stone blocks. The building technique was dry masonry, without mortar. The blocks are connected to each other with iron and oak braces. Its total length is 29.95 m. The dromos /corridor/ is 20.65 metres long, 1.55 m wide and 2.40-2.60 m high. From it one enters consecutively two chambers (antechambers) with a rectangular shape, followed by a circular chamber with a beehive-shaped dome. The tomb was used repeatedly, as at least four funerals were conducted here. The people buried here were members of the Thracian aristocracy. Many gold, silver, bronze, iron, glass, pottery and clay objects have been found inside. They date back to 4th-3rd century BC.</p>	
14	Rock church	village of Mihalich, 3 km east	<p>The rock church in the village of Mihalich is the only one in Bulgaria with a unique triconch shape (with three apses). The whole church is carved into a limestone rock. By design it represents a true domed triconch church, as if it were made of ordinary building material. Its internal space is perceived as a cross-shaped dome. The three conchs have almost identical dimensions: the two side ones are 4 metres deep and 3.60 metres wide, while the eastern one is 4x4 m. The right side of the latter conch was extended</p>	
15	Thracian domed tomb	Sheinovets Peak	<p>Under the Sheinovets Peak (704 m altitude) there is another Thracian beehive (tholos) tomb. Its anteroom is small and almost destroyed, the domed chamber is preserved for now, but the flooring has been completely smashed by treasure hunters.</p>	
No		NATURAL SITE	LOCATION	SHORT DESCRIPTION
1	Habitat of the summer snowflake (<i>Leucojum aestivum</i>) - Lozen road (protected area)	town of Svilengrad	Habitat of the summer snowflake.	
2	Habitat of the scarlet peony (<i>Paeonia peregrina</i>) (protected area)	village of Kostur, Taushan Bair locality	Habitat of the scarlet peony.	
3	Habitat of <i>Veronica multifida</i> (protected area)	village of Shtit	Conservation of the plant species <i>Veronica multifida</i> L. and its habitat.	
4	Dervish Mound (protected area)	village of Dervishka Mogila	Rock formations.	
5	Kaleto protected area	village of Mezek	Rock formation around a medieval fortress.	
6	Sheinovets Peak	south-west of the village of Mezek	<p>Its height is 703.6 meters. The peak is known to the local population also with its Turkish name Kurt Kale - translated as "the wolf's fortress". Here on October 5, 1912 the first battle in the Balkan War took place. In it, 14 soldiers of the 30th Sheinovets regiment guarding the peak lost their lives. At the very top a monument has been erected in memory of the soldiers killed. Today, a television tower with a height of more than 100 metres rises at the top and is noticeable from a long distance. On a good and clear day, one can see from the top as far as the Aegean Sea in Greece as well as part of Iztovgrad reservoir. The peak itself can be reached by car, passing through the village of Mezek. The road is in good condition, its only disadvantage is that in some places it is steep and quite narrow.</p>	

This document has been created within the framework of the Project „Promotion and development of natural and cultural heritage of Bulgarian - Greek cross-border region through smart and digital tools“ (eTOURIST), financed under the INTERREG V-A Cooperation Program "Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020", Subsidy Contract No B2.6c.07/09.10.2017. The Project is co funded by the European Regional Development Fund and by national funds of the countries participating in the Interreg V-A "Greece - Bulgaria 2014-2020" Cooperation Programme."

eTOURIST

N	CULTURAL SITE	LOCATION	SHORT DESCRIPTION
1	Medieval necropolis	town of Simeonovgrad, Belana locality, 2 km east	Declared an architectural and construction site from Antiquity and the Middle Ages of national importance.
2	Constantia Fortress	town of Simeonovgrad	The late Antiquity and medieval town of Constantia was located at the Asara hill, north of the Zlati Dol quarter, on the right bank of the Maritsa River, at 2.46 km east in a straight line from the centre of the town of Simeonovgrad. The medieval city from the 11th-12th century was located on the left bank of the Maritsa River in Gradishteto locality, just opposite the fortress. This fortress evolved as one of the largest and oldest cities in Northern Thrace, existing from the 4th to the early 13th century. One can still clearly see the strong fortress walls here, about three metres thick. The entrance of the fortress was from the north. Underground tunnels with branching were found during excavations of the fortress.
3	Church of the Holy Theotokos	riect of Zlati Dol quarter, town of Simeonovgrad	What has remained from the Church of the Holy Theotokos are only parts of the outer walls. It was built in the early 1950s.
4	Church of Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker	town of Simeonovgrad	The church was built in the 1940s. Its patron saint was not chosen by accident. Situated along the Maritsa River, Simeonovgrad is famous for its well-developed river-borne transportation of goods on rafts and the protector of sailors and rafters is Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker. According to the chronicle, in 1856 another church was built in its yard, which was demolished around 1866-1867, being too small for the growing settlement. The new one was erected in 1868. Almost all the icons made by Georgi Danchov Zografina (the Icon-painter) have been preserved. The names of the church donors are inscribed on each of the icons. The church patron icon of Saint Nicholas was painted in 1868 by master Ruka V. St. K. Moskov. K. Moskov 1868.
5	Roman road	village of Troyan	An old Roman road passes through the village of Troyan and at a distance of 1.5 km from the village and in the village itself large milestones without inscriptions have been discovered. In the Manastircheto area, near the village, ancient Roman buildings have been preserved. Part of the Roman road Via Singidunum or Via Militaris used to pass from the village of Kalugerovo to the village of Tyanevo, as it connected Central Europe with the Balkan peninsula and Asia Minor. In this stretch of the road, archaeologists have discovered six milestones, three of which are now kept in the historical museum in the town of Haskovo.
N	NATURAL SITE	LOCATION	SHORT DESCRIPTION
1	-	-	-

This document has been created within the framework of the Project „Promotion and development of natural and cultural heritage of Bulgarian - Greek cross-border region through smart and digital tools“ (eTOURIST), financed under the INTERREG V-A Cooperation Program “Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020”, Subsidy Contract No B2.6c.07/09.10.2017. The Project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund and by national funds of the countries participating in the Interreg V-A “Greece - Bulgaria 2014-2020” Cooperation Programme.

eTOURIST

No	CULTURAL SITE	LOCATION	SHORT DESCRIPTION
1	Burial mound (tumulus)	village of Madzhari	This site has been partially explored. The iron sword and ceramic fragments originating from the embankments dug out by treasure hunters belong to the Late Iron Age.
2	An archaeological complex including the following monuments: 1. Thracian settlement; 2. Thracian cult place; 3. Rock niches; 4. Rock tombs.	village of Dolno Cherkovishte	<p>The most remarkable are the rock niches ("Kavantsi", "Kovan Kaya"), in which the ashes of the deceased were most probably laid. Here is the famous Popmartinova dupka (the Hole of Priest Martin) - an ancient Thracian royal tomb. Its entrance is found under a row of 12 trapezoidal niches, at a height of 3.8 m from the base of a rock shed. There are also several rock graves nearby. The Popmartinova hole has a rectangular shape, it is 2.75 m long, 1.50 m wide and 1.80 m high. The axis is pointed north-south. On the southern side, just outside the entrance, a niche has been carved out. The entrance has a trapezoidal shape with a height of 1 m and a width of 90 and 65 cm. In its front part - at the upper and lower side of the opening - a rectangular recess for closing the opening with a stone slab is carved.</p> <p>There are many burial mounds in the area, most of which have unfortunately been robbed by treasure hunters. Another typical reminder of the Thracian heritage in this region are the remnants of their religious sanctuaries, such as the sanctuary found at Aul Kaya area located at the foot of the so-called Lion's Rock. Along with fragments from pottery vessels and figurines, archaeologists have also discovered here remains of a hearth and ashes where the sacrificial animals were burned. There are traces of a two-row stone fence made of dry masonry.</p> <p>The necropolis at the village of Dolno Cherkovishte is one of the largest in the Eastern Rhodopes. Here the rock-hewn trapezoidal niches (over 80) are clustered at the Kovan Kaya rock and on the opposite Sarakaya rock. The tomb itself lies within the lands pertaining to the village of Oreshari, on the right bank of the Arda River.</p> <p>During the construction of the Studen Kladenets dam, a Thracian settlement from the time of the Roman era was found near the village next to an ancient Roman road.</p> <p>Near the Arda River there are remnants of two fortresses, one on the peak of Kartal kaya (Saint George), the other one Sarlaka (Hisarlaka).</p> <p>The fortress of Hisarluka is located 500 m east of the village and was erected on the rocky peak of St. Elijah, on the left bank of the Arda River. The fortress has a trapezoidal shape and encloses an area slightly larger than 1 deca. The walls are 2 m thick and are made of local crushed stones bonded with white mortar. The platform on which the fortress is built is strongly inclined to the north. The fortress walls were constructed with masonry from the north, west and part of the eastern side. On the south and east side vertical and inaccessible rocks rise up to 30 metres, serving as natural protection. The walls have been razed to the level of the terrain; only on the southwestern side they are preserved up to 3 metres above the ground level. In this part the square tower with dimensions 5x5 m is still visible.</p> <p>Fragments of medieval clay vessels were found in the fortress and on the slopes of the peak. Outside the fortress, from the west, one can see the foundations of a small quadrangular building, oriented east-west - probably a church. At 100 metres east of the fortress, after the saddleback, local people excavated Christian graves shaped with stone slabs. Glass and bronze bracelets were discovered in the graves (according to eyewitness accounts - 10th-11th century).</p> <p>At the foot of the fortress, east of the village, there are vestiges of a relatively well-preserved old cobbled road that comes from the Edime field, goes through the village of Dolni Glavanak and the village of Topolovo, all along the left bank of the Arda River to the fortress of the village of Rabovo, then continues to the dam of Studen Kladenets Reservoir in the area of which the road probably crossed the river, changing its direction to the south.</p>
3	Ethnographic Museum	village of Zhalti Bryag	It reveals the culture and lifestyle of the local population from this region. Created in 1980, the ethnographic museum in the village of Zhalti Bryag showcases a rich exposition, associated primarily with the cultural tradition of the population in the village of Stambolovo, Thrace and the Rhodope Mountains, its cultural and economic development during the years of the National Revival Period. The museum exhibition represents agriculture and livestock farming as the main livelihoods of the region's population. On display are also popular folk costumes, carpets, copper vessels, pottery, antique weapons, woodcarvings, jewellery and church plate, sewn and knitted lace.
4	Church of Saint Demetrius of Thessaloniki Dimitar	village of Zhalti Bryag	The construction of the church to Saint Demetrius of Thessaloniki took four years. It was consecrated on May 3, 1859, which is evidenced by a text on the throne plate. A legend says that the whole population gathered to witness the start of the building of the church. The master builder, with a pick in hand, told the people to stand around the fence. He went round the circle of people three times and finally turned the first sod in front of a young maiden, Donna, of the Georgidchev's family. Covered in tears, the girl ran away to her home. Forty days later she passed away. This legend is associated with the belief that in order for a building or a bridge to be solid and sound, a "human shadow" had to be engraved in it.
5	Rock tomb	village of Popovets, locality of Hambar tash, 2 km north-east	Scholars believe that it was made by the Thracian tribe of the Odrisians at the end of the 1st millennium BC.
6	Burial mound (tumulus)	village of Popovets	Monument of culture of national importance.
7	Hambarlak Telesi Thracian Fortress	village of Popovets	Monument of culture of local importance. An asphalt road passes at 1.50 km from the site and the foot of the rock can be reached via a dirt road.
8	Settlement mound (tell)	village of Stambolovo, Beshkova and Maschkova River locality, 1.5 km south of the village	Prehistoric settlement from the late Neolithic and the Stone Age (5th-6th millennium BC).
9	Mound necropolis	village of Stambolovo, Dvete Chuki locality, 1.2 km east of the village	In 1966, in the Dvete Chuki locality, opposite Gledka dam, during deep digging of the earth for planting a vineyard, a Thracian chariot from the 2nd century was unearthed a few metres from one of the mounds. The carriage and the yoke are decorated with bronze open-work engravings and small bronze figurines of pegasi, heads of wild boars and actor's masks. On the back of the chariot, positioned in the middle between two small bronze Ionic columns coated with ivy and vine sprouts and decorated with red stones, we see the statue of Apollo, playing the lyre. In 1985, the neighboring mound was also excavated and scholars discovered some 30 clay pots dating to the same period and placed in the grave of the deceased during the funerary burning ritual. In the vicinity of Gledka Reservoir one can see remains of Roman and medieval settlements.
10	Mound necropolis	village of Stambolovo, locality of Hyarska forest, 2.5 km north of the village	The site was registered in July 2008 based on reports of treasure hunters. It dates back to the early Iron Age. The mounds are raised on top of low natural elevations, at the ridge of an almost indistinct watershed overgrown with a broad-leaved forest. The embankments are mainly made of stones - pieces of local volcanic rocks, limestone and sandstone, and a few river stones. Archaeologists have discovered six graves.
11	Church of Saints Peter and Paul	village of Stambolovo	The church in Stambolovo is one of the first Christian temples in the Haskovo region - it was built in 1849. It bears the name of the holy apostles Peter and Paul.
12	Church of Saints Constantine and Helen	village of Tankovo	The church was built in 1874 by patriotic peasants. The place was donated by Lenko Karaivanov. The icons were drawn by a Russian iconographer. The consecration of the church took place in 1874 and it was named after Saints Constantine and Helen.
13	Archaeological complex including 3 rock tombs	village of Pchelari, 2.5 km south-east from the village, locality of Hambar kaya	The surroundings of the village of Pchelari are dotted with monuments of culture from Antiquity and the Middle Ages. Such are the tombs hewn in eroded rocks in the areas of Hambar Kaya, Ak Kaya, Kara In, Mal Kazan, Hodzhas. In the Hambar kaya area there are traces of 6 tombs vertically dug into the upper part of the rock massif and covered with large stone slabs.
14	Rock tomb	village of Pchelari, Kara In locality, 2.5 km south-southeast	<p>At about 2 km south of the village of Pchelari in the valley of the Arda River, on its left bank, there are a number of albescent weathered rocks bearing the names of Akkaya, Hambarkaya, Mal Kazan, Haodzhas, and others. Many groups of trapezoidal cult niches can be seen on the walls of these rocks. On the Akkaya rock, about 10 metres below its highest point, one can see the trapezoidal opening of the Kara In rock tomb. Its aperture (entrance) is trapezoidal and is located to the southwest at 700-800 m north of the Arda River, just opposite the mouth of Kremovitsa River. The tomb constitutes a chamber with an almost trapezoidal form, 2.40 m long and with a width of the sides of 1.80 and 2.30 m. Its height is 1.80 m, reaching as high as 1.95 m at the entrance. A shallow dome has been carved in the middle of the ceiling. The tomb floor is flat and the corners are rounded.</p> <p>At about 70 metres west of the tomb, at the foot of Akkaya rock, there is another rock-hewn tomb with an arched entrance. It consists of a chamber with a width and depth of 2.10 m and a height of 1.50 m. The floor is flat and curved like an apse at the rear end and the ceiling is vaulted. The entrance is arched, facing south. The walls and ceiling of the tomb are covered with graffiti - numerous later drawings: circles (symbolizing the Sun), rays, circles of dots, crosses, lozenges, quadrangles, and other symbols and signs. The Christian symbol of the cross is carved in the rocks more than ten times.</p>
15	Medieval fortress	village of Rabovo, locality of Kaleto /Asara/, 1.5 km west	At 2 km west of the village of Rabovo, not far from the dam of Studen Kladenets water reservoir, there are remnants of a medieval fortress known as Asara. The fortress impresses with its strategic location and with the skill of its builders who masterfully embedded it among the inaccessible cliffs, from where its residents has excellent visibility of the whole region. Asara Fortress played a leading role for Byzantium in the control and protection of its lands in the Eastern Rhodopes. The fortification walls were 6 metres high and 2 metres thick, made of stone blocks bonded with mortar. There were also four huge rock towers surrounding it. A small cave with graves next to it was found in one of these towers. An additional wall divided the inside of the fortress into two parts. The upper part was smaller in size and had watchtowers. Nowadays, parts of the fortress wall have fallen, but have remained intact on the ground. In the lower part well-preserved foundations of an edifice built with large rectangular stones were found.
16	Sharapana (rock winery)	village of Kravevo, Kayryaka locality /Karietara/, 1 km south	In the direction of the vicinity of the village of Botovo, a well-shaped sharapana with two round troughs was found, dating back to the end of the 2nd and the beginning of the 1st millennium BC.

17	Mound necropolis	village of Krалеvo, Kayryaka locality (Karierata), 0.5-1 km south of the village	These are two rock-hewn Thracian tombs. The first one known as "The Cave" has a furnace shape with an elliptic entrance facing south, 1.85 m high and 2.5 metres wide. On the inside, the chamber expands and reaches a diameter of up to 4 m and a height of 1.70 m. The traces of the hammering of the ceiling and walls of the tomb are still clearly visible. The floor was made level. On its western side a circular hole was dug, with a diameter of 17 cm, probably used to place a ritual vessel. In the eastern part there is another hole of natural origin (a rock crack), with traces of additional shaping and remains of a niche. The size of the tomb and the opening at the eastern end indicate that it was used as a natural cave. The second tomb is called "The Small Cave" - a fully artificially made tomb with an opening of about 1 m, which is now half-destroyed.
18	Thracian fortress "Krалеv peak"	village of Krалеvo	Scattered and poorly preserved remnants of fortress walls. The fortress has a circular shape with a diameter of about 70 metres. A second fortress wall (or a rampart) that surrounds the place is partially noticeable. Completely deprived of authentic character. No pottery artifacts were found. There are theories that this was a fortified Thracian settlement. The peak is low with very low-grade slopes. It is virtually situated on absolutely flat terrain.
19	Thracian complex at Chala Ridge in the Eastern Rhodopes	village of Krалеvo	The religious cult complex of Thracian monuments (a fortress, a sanctuary, a necropolis) at the great Eastern Rhodopean Ridge called Chala draws strong interest. Explorations have found that at the highest part of the Chala ridge, at about 2 km east of Krалеvo, there are remains of three rows of a Thracian fortress, which represent stone belts (fences) of dry masonry (construction without soldering). Iron heads of ancient and medieval arrows were found near the fortress. A Thracian sanctuary dating to the Roman and pre-Roman times existed here. Remnants of the Roman era date back to the 3rd century - several lead mirrors were found, some of them with inscriptions glorifying beauty. About 1 km southeast of Krалеvo, at Ai Bunar, on the western slopes of the Chala Ridge, there are several groups of picturesque rocks buried in lush greenery and very difficult to access. The rocks are soft and loose, and the niches carved in them are largely washed away. In the southernmost rock group there are 12 niches facing south and southwest. The best-preserved ones are 60 cm high, 35 cm wide 15 cm deep. Remains of an unfinished rock tomb were found nearby. About 100 m to the north, in the other group of rocks, apart from the now almost non-existent trapezoidal niches, two Thracian rock tombs were carved out. The first one known as "The Cave" has a furnace shape with an elliptic entrance facing south, 1.85 m high and 2.5 metres wide. On the inside the room expands and reaches a diameter of up to 4 m and a height of 1.70 m. The traces of the hammering of the ceiling and walls of the tomb are still clearly visible. The floor was made level. On its western side a circular hole was dug, with a diameter of 17 cm, probably used to place a ritual vessel. In the eastern part there is another hole of natural origin (a rock crack), with traces of additional shaping and remains of a niche. The size of the tomb and the opening at the eastern end indicate that it was used as a natural cave. In addition to the generally difficult accessibility of the rocks, the entrance of the tomb was placed on an elevated rock and a threshold cut in the rock and about 1.5 metres high - i.e. the vertically cut rock separates the tomb from the rest of the steep slope. Around the entrance one can still see the cuts made to hold the stone door (slate). Some 4-5 metres away from "The Cave" one comes across the remains of "The Small Cave" - a fully artificial tomb with an aperture of about 1 m, which is now half-destroyed. In the area of Ai Bunar one can see fragments of early-Thracian (late 2nd - early 1st millennium BC) and medieval clay vessels.
20	Burial mound (tumulus)	village of Dolno Botevo, 2.5 km northwest of the village centre, Tokmaki locality	There is a Roman settlement dating back to the Roman Age (1st-3rd century) in Tokmaki locality. The ceramics discovered here is of two types: one is fine and decorated with red lacquer, the other one is crude, local made. Ancient Roman pottery was found also on the surface of Akmara locality, 1 km north of the village, where in 1958 a well-preserved Roman water catchment reservoir was found in the ground, around which Roman, late-Roman, and also medieval pottery was found - apparently the water spring and its catchment restored in 1958 were used in all historical periods.
21	Thracian sharapanas	village of Dolno Botevo	At the foot of Chala Ridge from the side of the village of Dolno Botevo Thracian sharapanas (wineries) have been found, and at the karst spring in the Akmara area - a completely preserved water catchment reservoir from the 4th century. Another peculiarity here is the large-scale discovery of Thracian imitations of ancient Greek silver coins (tetradrachms) from Thassos Island dating to the 1st century BC. In Terfilika locality, at a distance of about 2.5 km from the village of Dolno Botevo, in the direction of the village of Kladenets, the silver breastplate of an armour from the 5th century BC was discovered.
22	Chala Late Roman and medieval fortress	Village of Golyam Izvor	The fortress is one of the major fortifications between Harnanlyjska River and Arda River, with remnants of fortress walls and household pottery from the Neolithic (5th millennium BC), the early Iron Age (1st millennium BC), the Roman period (1st-4th century), the early-Byzantine period (5th-6th century) and the Middle Ages (9th-14th century). Part of the fortress walls were made of large stone blocks, and others - of larger undressed stones bonded with white mortar. Archaeologists have found in the medieval iron heads of bows and arrows (9th to 14th century), as well as knives, interesting belt applications, friezes and buckles, fibulae, gold coins from the period of Byzantine Emperor Andronikos I (1282-1328), a copper coin of Byzantine Emperor Michael IV (1034-1041), a ring with monograms and a few lead seals of Basilius Agapit, an 11th-century patrician, Alexios I Komnenos, also from the 11th century, and Staffan Vatatzis, sebastos of the 12th-13th century. Other finds include coins from the 6th-7th century, ancient coins from Maroneia and of Philip II of Macedonia etc.
23	Demir Baba Türbe	village of Lyaskovets	The Demir Baba Türbe (an Ottoman tomb or mausoleum) is located in the area of the medieval settlement just below the medieval necropolis, next to a fountain regarded as a sacred spring. This fact gives reason to assume that it was the successor of an earlier Christian consecrated ground.
24	Mound necropolis	village of Tsareva Polyana, 0.3 km east-northeast of the village centre	This is a poorly explored archaeological site dating back to Antiquity.
25	Church of Saint Elijah	village of Tsareva Polyana	The church in the village of Tsareva Polyana was built in 1858. The Sultan's permission for the construction was obtained on condition that it should be erected in a low-lying place and within a very short time. Therefore, the whole population took part in the construction. The legend says it was built on the foundations of an earlier church.
26	Chapel of Saint George	village of Tsareva Polyana	In the Gyorgidenya locality, on the road between the villages of Tsareva Polyana and Stambolovo, there is a healing spring and a chapel of Saint George. It is a four-walled stone structure built above the spring with an earthen floor (460-360 cm) and an open porch to the west. On the eastern wall there is a semi-circular niche with a protruding ledge and a semicircular window above. There is one small window with a rectangular shape on both the southern and northern wall. The entrance is at the western wall where there is also a rectangular window. The roof structure and the porch are made of wood. There is no ceiling. Three steps lead to a large stone slab in front of the holy spring. A small hemispherical arched niche has been made at the spring, with a hole (90-60 cm) to the west. In each stone wall to the north, east and south there is a niche (30-35 cm). Until recently, there was also a stone cross here.
27	Chapel of the Holy Trinity	village of Zhalti Bryag	At the southeastern end of the village, under the two hills, is the Jazmichkata fountain. A legend says that, about 150 years ago, a girl named Bozhka Kavrakova had a vision in her dream on the eve of Pentecost Monday. In her dream she saw a man who told her to go to Yamacha locality near the village, under the two rocky peaks, and to start digging with a hoe - water healing for the eyes would gush out. The frightened girl did nothing but also told no one. The following year at the same time, the dream was repeated, but with words of warning: "If you do not tell anyone and do nothing, you will go blind." The girl told Grandpa Gurko who went to the place, made a dig into the ground and water spouted out. He put up a small stone fountain and later a chapel was built by the soldiers returning from the two Balkan wars. The chapel is erected above the healing spring. It consists of one room with icons and murals on the walls. Under it a domed well for the healing water was built. Its chapel feast is celebrated on the day of the Holy Spirit, marked on the fifty-first day after Easter. In the village of Zhalti Bryag the chapel is known as "Sta Truitsa". Every year an all-village fair is organized at the healing spring, with a public prayer service and a kurban meal. People in need come all year round, not only from the village, but also from the entire region. They wash their eyes and tie a thread from their garment to a bush in front of the entrance to the healing fountain. After the 1960s this holy place was abandoned and left in neglect. The icons were plundered, the frescoes destroyed, and the walls pulled down. In 1977, for a short time, the hunting company turned the chapel into a hut - with a fireplace, tables, chairs. In 2000, it was restored and renovated with funds donated by the locals. It was consecrated on the day of the Holy Spirit. Not only residents from the village took part but also people from Zhalti Bryag living in Haskovo. Now the chapel and the place around it are maintained by the church board. It is visited by the needy and by believers in the power of the healing water.
No	NATURAL SITE	LOCATION	SHORT DESCRIPTION
1	Studen Kladenets protected area	village of Byal Kladenets, village of Rabovo, village of Svetoslav	This is a specially protected area accepted for inclusion in the European ecological network NATURA 2000. The area encompasses the Studen Kladenets water reservoir located in the rocky gorge of the Arda river, surrounded by vertical cliffs, steep shores with scarce vegetation and adjacent mountain ridges. Part of the territory of Stambolovo municipality falls within the bounds of the protected area. Its total area is 159,956 decares. This is one of the key places for the conservation of endangered bird species encountered in the Eastern Rhodopes. The majority of the mountain slopes around Studen Kladenets reservoir are covered with mixed deciduous forests composed of the Oriental hornbeam (Carpinus orientalis), the South European flowering ash (Fraxinus ornus), the Hungarian oak (Quercus frainetto) and the Dalechamps oak (Quercus dalechampii). Less common in the area are the forests of Dalechamps oak only or those mixed with the common hornbeam (Carpinus betulus). There are also quite a few places around the artificial lake covered with forests and shrubs of the Oriental hornbeam, Christ's thorn (Paliurus spinacristi) and the prickly juniper (Juniperus oxycedrus). Interesting are also the rock complexes occupying a significant part of the protected area. The view of the rock complexes alternating with single rocks and stone-screens is breath-taking. Scattered throughout the area are open spaces occupied by agricultural land and meadows overgrown with grassland, where species such as the yellow bluestem (Dichanthium ischaemum) and the bulbous bluegrass (Poa bulbosa) are predominant. A total of 219 bird species have been registered in Studen Kladenets protected area. Of these, 91 are included in Bulgaria's Red Book. Of the species encountered there, 103 are of European conservation importance and 12 are threatened by global extinction. The site covering areas around the Studen Kladenets reservoir is also of global importance as a representative area for the Mediterranean region. Here one can observe 7 out of a total of 9 biome-restricted species found in Bulgaria. These are the black-eared wheatear (Oenanthe hispanica), olive-tree warbler (Hippolais olivetorum), a the subalpine warbler (Sylvia cantillans), the Sardinian warbler (Sylvia melanocephala), the rock nuthatch (Sitta neumayer), the masked shrike (Lanius nubicus), and the black-headed bunting (Emberiza melanocephala). The area of the dam is of utmost importance for the conservation of the habitats of 69 bird species breeding here and 21 species of migratory or wintering waterfowl. The place is also unique with the fact that one of the only two colonies of griffon vultures in Bulgaria nests on the rocky shores of the lake. Also, the black vultures nesting in Dadia-Lefkimi-Soufli Forest National Park in neighbouring Greece, regularly come here, looking for food. The area of Studen Kladenets reservoir is one of the most important habitats in Bulgaria of the species breeding here, such as the black stork (Ciconia nigra), the Egyptian vulture, the owl, the stone curlew, the eagle owl, the olive-tree warbler and the masked shrike. The site also maintains a breeding population of the blue rock thrush of European significance.

2	Golemiyat Sipey (The Big Scree) protected area	village of Byal Kladenets, village of Rabovo	<p>The Big Scree Protected Site is located on the northern shore of Studen Kladenets Reservoir and falls within the land pertaining to the villages of Rabovo and Byal Kladenets. It covers an area of 633.9 ha. It covers a hard-to-reach area of rugged terrain, located between the dam of Studen Kladenets Reservoir and Kachtubuyuk dere ravine. It includes remarkable rock complexes, scree, shrubs and woods. It is due to be included in the Pan-European NATURA 2000 Protected Areas Network. The region is characterized by extremely high biodiversity and has been declared an important ornithological site of world significance. Diverse vegetation, drought-loving (xerophilous) forests composed mainly of the Hungarian oak (<i>Quercus frainetto</i>), the pubescent oak (<i>Quercus pubescens</i>) and the Austrian oak (<i>Quercus cerris</i>). The shrubbery is made of the Oriental hornbeam (<i>Carpinus orientalis</i>), Christ's thorn (<i>Paliurus spina-christi</i>), the prickly juniper (<i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i>), the common hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>), and the dog rose (<i>Rosa sp. div.</i>). Large areas are occupied by drought-loving grasslands with a predominance of the yellow bluestem (<i>Dichanthium ischaemum</i>), the bulbous bluegrass (<i>Poa bulbosa</i>) and the perennial bunchgrass of the species <i>Crysopsogon gryllus</i>.</p> <p>The region has become an important ornithological site, which might also be included in the NATURA 2000 network in the future. The Big Scree Protected Area is one of the two most important nesting sites of the griffon vulture (<i>Gyps fulvus</i>) in Bulgaria. Between 9 and 14 pairs out of a total of 30 pairs of griffon vultures in the country nest here. Qualified specialists take care of the nourishment of the vultures and the protection of the newly-hatched birds. The observation of vultures in natural conditions is attractive for lovers of ornithological diversity.</p> <p>The presence of a total of about 87 species of birds makes the area particularly rich and appealing for nature lovers. Of these, 38 species have an unfavourable conservation status in Europe. Of the species included in Bulgaria's Red Book, here is the nesting site of between 6 and 9 pairs of the black stork (<i>Ciconia nigra</i>), 1-2 pairs of the golden eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>), 3-4 pairs of the Egyptian vulture (<i>Nephron percnopterus</i>), the short-toed snake eagle (<i>Circusus gallicus</i>), the booted eagle (<i>Aquila pennata</i>) and the common kestrel (<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>). Other species in the area include the booted eagle, the lesser spotted eagle (<i>Aquila pomarina</i>) and the black kite (<i>Milvus migrans</i>).</p> <p>One can also find here Bulgaria's only colony of the grey heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>) located on rocks. Interestingly, this region is also a nesting site of 7 of the 9 biome-restricted bird species encountered in Bulgaria typical for the Mediterranean zone: black-eared wheatear (<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>), olive-tree warbler (<i>Hippolais olivetorum</i>), Sardinian warbler (<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>), subalpine warbler (<i>S. cantillans</i>), masked shrike (<i>Lanius nubicus</i>), the rock nuthatch (<i>Sitta neumayer</i>), the black-headed bunting (<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>), and other rare birds. Under a conservation and regulated use status are a considerable number of wildlife species which are listed in the Appendices of Bulgaria's Biodiversity Act.</p>
3	Habitat of <i>Astracantha thracica</i> (protected area)	village of Vodentsi	Habitat of <i>Astracantha thracica</i> .
4	Habitat of the Orpheus flower (<i>Haberlea Rhodopensis</i>) (protected area)	village of Rabovo, locality of Sheytan Kyupris	Habitat of the Orpheus flower.
5	The Devil's Bridge Protected area	village of Rabovo	The protected area is located in the vicinity of the village of Rabovo, Stambolovo municipality. Other natural landmarks such as this one in Bulgaria include typical or remarkable sites of inanimate nature, such as rock formations, earth pyramids, caves, ponors, waterfalls, deposits of fossils and minerals, sand dunes and others.
6	Eastern Rhodopes	-	<p>Part of Stambolovo Municipality falls into the Eastern Rhodopes Protected Area, proposed to be declared part of the European ecological network NATURA 2000. This is an area that is to be declared a protected zone under the EU Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, or, as is briefly known, the Habitats Directive. This protected area encompasses most of the Eastern Rhodopes. It spreads over 2,173,330 decares. The two highest ridges in the Eastern Rhodope Mountain fall within its boundaries - Gumurdzhinski Suezhanik with a height of 1,463 m above sea level and Maglenik ridge with a height of 1,266 m.</p> <p>Within the protected area there are pristine forests of the Balkan endemic species European ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>) still untouched by human hand. The zone is also important for the conservation of several types of riparian forests composed of the alder, the Oriental plane, the white poplar and willow trees.</p> <p>Other important habitats are those of mixed-oak forests. They are composed of the Austrian oak (<i>Quercus cerris</i>), the Hungarian oak (<i>Quercus frainetto</i>), and the pubescent oak (<i>Quercus pubescens</i>). Here they occupy a considerable area.</p> <p>The Eastern Rhodopes protected area is one of the four zones in Bulgaria, on the territory of which grows the endemic Bulgarian fir tree, also known as Tsar Boris's fir (<i>Abies borisii-regis</i>).</p> <p>It is also the most important zone for the conservation of the populations of the two tortoise species occurring in Bulgaria. These are the spur-thighed tortoise (<i>Testudo graeca</i>) and Hermann's tortoise (<i>Testudo hermanni</i>).</p> <p>In the past, both species were widespread. Today, however, they are threatened with extinction worldwide and are included on the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).</p> <p>Both species are of priority for conservation according to a number of international conservation documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Berne Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora The European Union Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora <p>In Bulgarian legislation, tortoises fall under the protection of the Biodiversity Act, according to which offenders are punished with a fine of up to BGN 10,000 and compensation for each killed specimen, and under also the Penal Code of the Republic of Bulgaria, according to which poachers are punished with a fine of up to BGN 5,000, imprisonment of up to 5 years and payment of compensation for each destroyed specimen.</p> <p>Regarding the reptiles encountered here, interesting are also the habitats of the western Caspian turtle (<i>Mauremys rivulata</i>). The place is of utmost importance for its conservation. In the water basins in the area one can observe also the other freshwater turtle species - the European pond turtle (<i>Emys orbicularis</i>). Of the 30 species of bats occurring in Bulgaria, 19 have been registered in the Eastern Rhodopes protected area. The caves along the valley of Arda River and near the village of Ribino provide shelter to tens of thousands of these flying mammals. Among them are the species included on the World Red List, namely Mehely's horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus mehelyi</i>), Blasius's horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus blasii</i>), the greater horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>), the lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>), the long-fingered bat (<i>Myotis capaccinii</i>), the greater mouse-eared bat (<i>Myotis myotis</i>) and Geoffroy's bat (<i>Myotis emarginatus</i>).</p>
7	Arda Bridge	-	<p>This is an area approved for inclusion in the European NATURA 2000 Protected Areas Network. This protected area spreading over 150 224 decares includes territories of Stambolovo Municipality. Arda Bridge Protected Area is located in the southeastern part of Bulgaria, in the Eastern Rhodopes. The place is part of the valley of the Arda River between the Studen Kladenets and Ivaylovgrad reservoirs, surrounded by wooded mountain slopes and rock massifs.</p> <p>The majority of the area is occupied by mixed deciduous forests, consisting of the Austrian oak, the Hungarian oak, and the pubescent oak. They also contain Mediterranean elements such as the prickly juniper and the bladder-senna (<i>Colutea arborescens</i>). Individual plots in the protected area are covered with hawthorn and jasmine. Forests along the valley of the Arda River within the protected zone alternate with huge open plots with drought-loving grass formations and moisture-loving grass close to the river itself. Agricultural lands also constitute a large part of the zone, as they are located around the river valley itself and on the slopes and flattened ridges. The Arda River course in this area offers spectacular views, with the river bed covered in sand and stone and its banks overgrown with willows.</p> <p>A total of 142 species of birds have been found in the protected area, as 31 of them are included in Bulgaria's Red book and 65 are of European conservation significance. Here one can also observe 5 species threatened with extinction across the planet. The Arda Bridge protected area is a place of global significance for the conservation of some bird species typical of the Mediterranean biome. Seven of the 9 biome-restricted species occurring in Bulgaria typical of the Mediterranean biome can be seen here. These are the black-eared wheatear, the olive-tree warbler, the subalpine warbler (<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>), the Sardinian warbler (<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>), the masked shrike (<i>Lanius nubicus</i>), the rock nuthatch (<i>Sitta neumayer</i>) and the black-headed bunting (<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>).</p> <p>The place is unique also for being one of the few places in Bulgaria of global significance for the conservation of the black vulture, as this species regularly visits the region in search of food.</p> <p>Here one can also observe the world-threatened imperial eagle. The Arda Bridge protected area is one of the most important in Bulgaria and of significant role for the European Union regarding the conservation of species such as the stone curlew, the black stork, the Egyptian vulture, the scops owl (<i>Otus scops</i>) and the blue rock thrush. Other species of representative populations in the area are the ortolan bunting and the barred warbler.</p>



eTOURIST

No	CULTURAL SITE	LOCATION	SHORT DESCRIPTION
1	Municipal Historical Museum	town of Topolovgrad	A museum collection existed in Topolovgrad already in the 1930s. It was founded by the Topolovgrad-based Scientific and Archaeological Society "Dolmen" which ceased its existence in 1943. In 1970, another museum collection was set up in the local community centre, which in 1982 was moved to its current building - one of the most beautiful in the town. It came into existence in the early 20th century by as the home of the rich local family of Vlatkiddis (currently emigrants in Thessaloniki, Greece). After the deportation of the Greeks from the region in the period of 1923-1926, the building hosted the representative body of the Bulgarian Agricultural and Cooperative Bank and of the Bulgarian National Bank. The modern museum exhibition is displayed on two floors and showcases valuable objects, documents and photographs, testifying to the historical development of the area. The region's history from ancient times to the present day is presented on the upper floor. The lower floor features an ethnographic collection.
2	Church of the Holy Theotokos, Memorial to Christ the Savior	town of Topolovgrad, central urban area	It is the largest and most imposing Eastern Orthodox church in the area. The present-day church rises on a place where an Orthodox chapel existed as early as the 18th century. With the permission of the Turkish authorities, in 1800 the inhabitants of Kavakli (Topolovgrad's former name) built a larger church to satisfy their religious needs. The old church was dug a few metres into the ground. In 1934, the church board together with the municipal council and the local citizens decided to build a new church, larger and more beautiful, in the place of the old one. Under the leadership of Father Yani Pophristorov and the master builder Bozhin Penchev, within two years 1936-1937 the church was built, covered, plastered inside and furnished so that public worship could be carried out. The Church of the Holy Theotokos was also the place where the well-respected priest throughout the region, Father Yani Pophristorov, served the liturgies from 1934 till 1987. After his death in 1987, Father Ivan Yanchev Mihalev, a vicar of the diocese, was appointed as the church priest. Under his leadership, the church was renovated, a fence was built, and a yard with a fountain was created. The impressive interior of the church is mainly due to the beautiful carved iconostasis (made in 1966 by Petar Kushlev and local carpenters) and the walls richly painted with icons (the work of Angel Malyaev and Toma Poppyanchev). In recent years, local artists and craftsmen restored the murals and made a new wood-carved bishop's throne.
3	Monastery of the Holy Trinity	12 km southeast of the town of Topolovgrad 4 km from the village of Mramor and 6 km from the village of Ustrem (deviation of 1.5 km from the road from Topolovgrad to village of Ustrem)	Active female monastic community - one of the largest spiritual centres in this part of the country. It is believed that a monastery emerged here as early as the 14th century at the time of Tsar Ivan Alexander under the name of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul. It was probably devastated in 1373 by the Turkish hordes invading from the north led by Timurkash Bey. It was restored again in the 17th century. The monastery's history is closely related to the hajduk movement (rebel movement for freedom), for this reason it is still known as the "Haidushki Monastery". Legendary rebel leaders took refuge behind the monastery doors such as Valchan Voivoda, Indzhe Voivoda, Kara Kolju, Hristo Voivoda, Dagli Stoyan, Kara Dobri, Garabchi Georgi and others. After he withdrew from the life of a hajduk in 1812, Hristo Voivoda took the holy orders and was appointed abbot of the monastery with the monastic name Hrisant. He carried out a large-scale construction work for the renovation of the holy cloister. In 1818, due to the widespread plague epidemic, many people from the area found shelter and salvation in the monastery quarters. As a token of gratitude, they donated a lot of funds which were used to make new buildings (the barn, the refectory and the lower rooms of the monastery). In 1870, in connection with religious struggles, the monastery began to be governed by Greek clerics and by the Greek bishop from Edirne. This led to a strong reaction of the Bulgarian population from the Sakar Mountain, which resulted in a struggle for reclaiming the monastery as a Bulgarian spiritual centre. This struggle reached a successful result in 1898 when the monastery was transferred to the authority of the Sliven Diocese. In 1909, the monastery was transformed into a female convent and about 50 nuns from Saint Theodore the Studite Monastery (close to present-day village of Studena) settled there. Today it is inhabited by only two nuns and several workers. A central place in today's monastery complex is occupied by the Holy Trinity Church built in 1836. It rises on the place of the old monastery church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul which was embedded in the new construction. The new iconostasis was also made using the earlier one as a basis. The church of the Holy Trinity is a three-nave, one-apse stone basilica without a dome. Its size (12m X 18m) makes it one of the most spacious monastery churches in Bulgaria. Its architectural design and construction are characterized by simple and pure forms. Eight cylindrical columns via arches support the wooden vault, the walls are smoothly plastered, without frescoes. The icons in the church date back to the 18th, 19th and 20th century.
4	Rock church	The church is located 500 m above the Holy Trinity Monastery. It is located on the northern slope of a limestone plateau that starts from the monastery itself and rises steeply upwards.	Consisting of cave of irregular shape and numerous hollows and niches on the walls and vaults, the old church was used for religious worship in the 10th century. Its approximate dimensions are 8m x 6m. The church was not further shaped as the natural outlines of the rocks were preserved and the images in almost all the niches and planes were painted directly on the bare stone. Images of saints and, in some places, Greek inscriptions can be seen in the vaults and tall niches. Unfortunately, as a result of penetrating water and erosion, many images and inscriptions are now barely visible and only a small part is well-preserved. Among them are the three images of saints on one of the vaults. The image of Saint Parascheva is located in the middle and on the right - of a young saint. These two images are the best-preserved in artistic terms. To the right of them, under a different gradient, there is an image of Virgin Mary depicted half-length, called Theotokos Oranta (Praying). The image of Archangel Michael is located at the top to the right, against the cave entrance. All images are made with a brush, with ochre, in one tone, in some places denser and in other places lighter and transparent (eg. the halos surrounding the heads of the saints). With careful viewing, traces of other images (only faces and figures, no Biblical scenes) can be found. Many hypotheses exist about the history and fate of the Old Church. Perhaps the cave had been inhabited since ancient times, and also during the earliest Christianity, similar to the monastic cells of Aladzha cave monastery in Northeastern Bulgaria. Water was dripping down like falling tears from the vaults of the church, as in the past it was considered to be holy and healing. During the great Christian feasts of the Ascension of Christ, Saint George's Day, the Day of the Holy Trinity, and of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul people from near and far would come here to wash their sick bodies and pray for healing.
5	Paleocastro Thracian Religious Complex and Fortress	town of Topolovgrad, 3 km west	An interesting cult object of Thracian times of regional and national significance. It is located on Paleocastro Peak which offers good visibility in all directions and which is naturally protected from the south by a steep slope and vertical rocks up to 14 m high. This good strategic location was not overlooked by the ancient Thracians. They built a sanctuary here and later added a fortress and a settlement. On the rocks of the two adjacent peaks and at their foot there are over 150 concave and convex circles resembling the sun disk. It is assumed that the rock sanctuary of the sun existed from the 10th to the 5th century BC. The fortress itself resembles the shape of a spear pointed to the southeast. From the east, north and west, the fortress was protected by a high and solid wall, about 350 m long. The crags on the south side were also connected with a fortification wall. The stone masonry of the wall was bonded with mortar. On the north wall of the fortress, which was most accessible for attack, two defensive towers were built. One was in the northwest corner of the fortress, where the gale stood, and the other at the northeast end. The internal part of the fortress was 200 m long and 20 to 60 m wide. To the north of the fortress archaeologists have found the remains of a large settlement - foundations of buildings, ceramic fragments, construction materials, blades of arrows and spears, accoutrements, everyday objects and ornamentation, bronze coins from Mesebria, of Alexander III of Macedon, and others. Discovered were also ancient Roman coins of Septimius Severus, Julia Domna, Caracalla, Philip the Arab, Gordian III, Severus Alexander, Maximinus Daza, Diocetian, Geta, Marcus Aurelius, etc. Other finds include Early Byzantine coins of Theodosius II, Anastasius I, Justinian I, and the latest ones date to the time of Manuel I Komnenos (1143-1180) - cup-shaped copper coins. In terms of the coins found here the earliest of which date to the 5th century BC and the latest to the 12th century, it can be concluded that this settlement was bustling with life for about 1,600 years. Originally built by the Thracians, the fortress was used by the Romans, Byzantines and Bulgarians. Perhaps it was conquered and destroyed during the invasions of the Cumans and Pechenegs in the 13th century.
6	Remains of Vishegrad fortress	town of Topolovgrad, 6-7 km south	The fortress of Vishegrad (or Paparimsko Kale) is located on the highest peak of Sakar Mountain, at 10.28 km southwest in a straight line from the centre of the town of Topolovgrad. The fortress is accessible via an asphalt road starting from the main road between Topolovgrad and
7	Dolmens (two-chamber) and Megalithic circle - remains	village of Bulgarska Poliana, Slavovka Korja locality, 5.5 km east-northeast and Mangara locality	The megalithic circle is located near Topolovgrad in the Sakar Mountain. Scientists suggest this was a Thracian tomb. It is believed to date back to the Bronze Age. The stone slabs have a thickness of 25-40 cm and were only roughly worked. Today, the megalithic circle is half-buried in the

8	Fortified ruler's house from the Hellenistic era	village of Knyazhevo, Tatar Masha locality	Tatar Masha is an area in South Bulgaria located in close proximity to the village of Knyazhevo, Topolovgrad Municipality, Haskovo district. There is a hypothesis that this was the site of the ancient Thracian city Dronglon. Centuries ago, on top of the natural elevation in Tatar Masha, in the vicinity of the present-day village of Knyazhevo, there was a palace that was later burnt down, proof of which are the discovered charred wooden beams. Recent archaeological excavations led by Daniela Agre uncovered artefacts indicating that probably important guests and delegations were received here and political, business and commercial contracts were concluded. Archaeologists also have evidence of the existence of a tower on the eastern side, whose foundations were 6.20 x 6.20m in size. The ancient builders took advantage of the natural protection of the hill and erected the residence on its crest. Its foundations are made of large worked stones, on which adobe walls were erected, some of them 2.40 m thick. Archaeologists were surprised to find a deep and wide ditch just outside the fortification wall. Also, a large double defensive wall was found on the west side of the palace. The latest coins found on the site are of Antiochus II from the middle of the 3rd century, and the earliest ones date to the third quarter of the 4th century BC. Archaeologists have also found a large amount of Greek pottery consisting of plates for serving fish, wine-drinking vessels and many amphorae carrying the seal of their manufacturer.
9	Dolmen (two-chamber)	The dolmen is located about 3 km south of the village of Sakartsi amidst an oak forest. There are many springs and beautiful places for rest in the area.	A two-chamber dolmen with a well-preserved rear chamber. Only a small part of the front chamber has been preserved. The dolmen is oriented along its longitudinal axis north-south, with an entrance from the south. The dimensions of the rear chamber are: width and length 2m x 2m; height 1.5m; aperture 0.60m x 0.40m. Nearby one can visit the localities of Redenite kamani, Garvanov kamak, Mangara, the Big River.
10	Dolmen (two-chamber)	It is located about 3 km south of the village of Sakartsi on a meadow in a thin oak forest.	Two-chamber half-ruined dolmen. The front chamber is largely destroyed. The capstone of the structure is missing. The entrance of the dolmen is from the south. From here one can go to the localities of Garvanov Kamak, Haidut Bunar, Sedemte Gabara, Bogovets.
11	Dolmen (two-chamber) - remains	4 km southeast of the village of Sakartsi	A two-chamber dolmen with a dromos, practically without a façade and mound. Finely worked slabs. Roofless, the capstone is missing.
12	Dolmen (two-chamber)	village of Sakartsi, Yugakov Igrek locality, 3 km south	A two-chamber half-destroyed dolmen. The front chamber is largely destroyed. The entire roof of the structure is missing. The entrance of the dolmen faces south.
13	Kamenna mogila (Stone Mound) rock sanctuary	The sanctuary is situated 9 km southwest of Topolovgrad and 3 km south of the village of Hlyabovo. It lies on the ridge which separates the catchment areas of the Sokolitsa and Sinapovska rivers. It offers good visibility to the north and to the central ridge of Sakar Mountain.	The site is still little-known and poorly explored, yet a fascinating place to visit. It is believed that an ancient sanctuary existed on the summit called Kamenna Mogila (Stone Mound). Close to the sanctuary a large number of Thracian, Macedonian, Celtic and Roman coins and fragments of household pottery have been found. Close by are also some of the well-known dolmens - Byalata Treva (the White Grass), Evdzhika, Kraleva Sava and others. The peak constitutes an enormous stone mass of chaotically scattered, peculiar-shaped granite blocks. Some of them have carved signs that have remained unexplored to this day.
14	Two-chamber dolmen - remains	4.5 km south of the village of Hlyabovo, Byalata Treva locality	The so-called Royal Dolmen lies in the locality of Byalata Treva, a few kilometres south of the village of Hlyabovo. They are part of an ancient Thracian necropolis. These dolmens are the first representatives of the monumental tomb architecture in the Bulgarian lands. The ancient Thracians used to lay the bodies of the dead inside them. Similar burial facilities were used in these lands during the period between the 12th and 14th century BC. The dolmen is situated among a beautiful oak forest, 4 km south of the village of Hlyabovo, and 9 km southwest of the town of Topolovgrad. Nearby is the Karamanovo Dam and the Kamenna Mogila (Stone Mound) locality believed to have been the site of a rock sanctuary. The best-preserved three-chamber dolmen in the region of Sakar Mountain. The dolmen is oriented north-south with an entrance from the south. Dimensions of the two well-preserved chambers: front chamber - 1.60m x 1.40m and height of 1.60m, aperture size 0.70m x 0.80m; rear chamber: 2.50m x 1.85m and height of 2.15m; aperture size 0.80m x 0.65m.
15	Dolmen (two-chamber)	village of Hlyabovo, locality of Mangara, land plot No 151002 according to the Map of Restored Properties	A two-chamber dolmen. The front chamber is almost shattered. The capstone of the rear chamber has fallen outside of the structure. Dimensions: front chamber 1.30 x 1.70 x 1.80 m and apertures 0.65 x 0.50 m. On its longitudinal axis the dolmen is oriented north-south with an entrance from the south.
16	Dolmen (two-chamber)	In the vicinity of village of Hlyabovo. Situated on the road from Topolovgrad to Harmanli, about 3 km southwest of village of Hlyabovo, at 200 m from the road leading to the village of Bulgarska Poliana (Nachovi Chairi locality)	Well-preserved two-chamber dolmen. Its eastern part is partially destroyed. Dimensions - front chamber: length and width 1.40 x 1.40 m; height of 1.25 m; rear chamber: length 2 m, width 1.40 m, height 1.50 m; openings: 0.55 - 0.65 m. It is oriented along its longitudinal axis in a north-south direction with an entrance from the south.
17	Dolmen (two-chamber)	2 km southwest of village of Hlyabovo, situated in an almond garden, near Sokolitsa River (Caidarova Cave locality)	A comparatively well-preserved two-chamber dolmen. Missing are only the capstones that have been knocked down inside the dolmen. Around it there are large standing stones dug in the ground - the crepis.
18	Dolmen (group)	1.0 - 1.5 km south of village of Hlyabovo among mixed deciduous forest (Evdzhika locality)	A rock-hewn dolmen stuck into the ground - the dolmen has been hewn into a monolithic rock slab measuring 1.40 x 1.40m. Inside it there are numerous artificially carved holes, probably for decoration. One-chamber dolmen with the two short sides missing. Dimensions: length 2.80m, width 0.80m, height - 1m. Consecrated ground.
19	Dolmen (group)	village of Hlyabovo, localities of Stoeva krusha and Bekir sovat, 1.5 km south	The archaeological site is situated to the south of the village of Hlyabovo, in Stoeva Krusha locality, lying southwest of the Avdzhika locality. The remains of a large destroyed megalithic object (probably a dolmen) can be seen on the spot. Above the ground one can also see the peaks of vertically standing slabs with rounded edges, typical of local dolmens, but can also be elements of a crepis (crepidoma).
20	Dolmen Group - remains of 4 double-chamber dolmens and one cromlech	2 km to the northeast of the village of Planinovo, locality of Pyasitsite (The Sands)	This dolmen was found in a cromlech, without a mound cover.
21	Dolmens - remains	The dolmens are found at 3-4 km east and northeast of the village of Radovets in Kapaklia and Chervenite Varushki localities.	In Kapaklia locality there are remains of 17 dolmens (mostly one-chamber), but none of them is completely preserved. Mostly the standing stones have survived and not of all dolmens.
22	Museum collection	village of Radovets	The collection is put on display at Vasil Levski 1934 Community Centre.
23	Kaleto Medieval Fortress	village of Orlov Dol	The medieval fortress Kaleto is located 1.89 km northwest in a straight line from the centre of the village of Orlov Dol. It covers an area of approximately 8-9 decars. Steep cliffs descend from the east, west and south. It is most accessible from the north. The remains of the fortress wall and other buildings are almost buried under an embankment. The south wall of the fortress was destroyed almost completely (for the construction of houses and buildings by the local people). The fortress wall was made of large roughly dressed stones bonded with white mortar and was 2 m wide. A road used to pass along the west and south wall of the fortress. In terms of terrain, the fortress was built in a strategically well-chosen location.
No	NATURAL SITE	LOCATION	SHORT DESCRIPTION
1	Kazankite locality	village of Orlov Dol	The Kazankite locality can be reached via two roads. The first one is shorter and easier - one must take the road from Topolovgrad to Vishegrad, after Kartalka peak turnleft along the forest road to the village of Planinovo, then begin to descend to the Zdravchevsko ridge, then turn again to the left along a forest road. Kazankite can also be reached from the village of Mramor. It is situated on the Zdravchevsko Dere river. Here, the river has carved its way into the Sakar Mountain granite, forming several beautiful small waterfalls and rapids. In spring and early summer the scenery is breathtaking - an ideal place for relaxation and escape from the daily stress. Unfortunately, in July, August, September and October the river runs dry.
2	Babini Boski Cave	village of Mramor, Topolovgrad Municipality	It is 324 m long. The cave has not been electrified and urbanized for tourists. If one decides to go inside, a good lighting device and a pair of boots are mandatory. In the beginning, the cave corridor is very narrow, but soon expands and one can enjoy the cave halls. There are not plenty of cave formations inside. A small river passes through it as local people say its waters go on the surface at the fountains of the Holy Trinity Monastery.
3	Brasnarskiat Stol (Barber's Chair) (protected area)	town of Topolovgrad	Rock formation.
4	Karakolyovota Dupka (protected area)	village of Ustrem and village of Mramor	The cave and the forest around it. There is also the so-called Old church.
5	State forest around the Holy Trinity Monastery (protected area)	village of Ustrem and village of Mramor	A century-old forest around the Holy Trinity Monastery and rocky slopes.
6	Gorge of the Tundzha River (protected area)	village of Radovets	Protection of important habitats of 149 species of birds, 8 species of amphibians, 21 species of reptiles, also of other protected, rare and vulnerable plant and animal species, their communities, as well as a characteristic landscape.

7	Habitat of <i>Verbascum purpureum</i> (protected area)	village of Bulgarska Poliana	Conservation of the plant species <i>Verbascum purpureum</i> and its habitat.
8	Sakar Mountain	.	<p>Sakar is a bowl-shaped border mountain in southeast Bulgaria near the rivers Maritsa, Tundzha, Sokolitsa and Sazliyka. Its highest point is Mount Vishegrad. The road from Topolovgrad to Svilengrad goes through Sakar Mountain.</p> <p>With its abundant flora and fauna, this mountain is of great interest for scientists and environmentalists. Here is the largest variety of raptors in Bulgaria that are threatened with extinction.</p> <p>For many years, the area of Sakar Mountain was closed for visitors because it lies at the Bulgarian-Turkish border. Tourist infrastructure is not well-developed but has a huge potential. Recently, hunting and fishing tourism has gained popularity. For this purpose, specially designed hunting lodges have been created, and for those wishing to learn to hunt, lodge keepers offer specialized training.</p> <p>In terms of eco-tourism, Sakar Mountain boasts numerous eco-trails suitable for adventurous mountain trekking combined with an unparalleled scenery of pristine nature.</p> <p>Apart from its tourist and natural features, the mountain is also distinguished by the fact that it keeps valuable traces of Bulgarian history. There are remains from the Thracian time until the Middle Ages - there are dozens of dolmens, sanctuaries and fortresses from different historical eras. Here is also the biggest landmark in the region of Sakar Mountain - the Holy Trinity Monastery near the village of Ustrem.</p> <p>Sakar Mountain has much more to offer - there are 7 protected areas and 6 natural landmarks here, including a number of rock formations and sites of historical importance.</p>

This document has been created within the framework of the Project „Promotion and development of natural and cultural heritage of Bulgarian - Greek cross-border region through smart and digital tools“ (eTOURIST), financed under the INTERREG V-A Cooperation Program "Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020", Subsidy Contract No B2.6c.07/09.10.2017. The Project is co funded by the European Regional Development Fund and by national funds of the countries participating in the Interreg V-A "Greece - Bulgaria 2014-2020" Cooperation Programme."

eTOURIST

No	CULTURAL SITE	LOCATION	SHORT DESCRIPTION
1	Izvora na belonogata (The Spring of the White-legged Girl)	town of Harmanli	<p>"On the road between Ibincha and Harmanli a fountain stands bearing the name of "Aka baldara cheshmesi..." This is the opening line of one of the most famous poems in Bulgarian literature entitled "Izvora na belonogata" (The Spring of the White-legged Girl). In the remote 1873, Petko Slaveykov wrote this work, praising the power of the spirit of the Bulgarian woman and the beauty of the Bulgarian village. A story goes that Slaveykov spent a period of his life in Harmanli and had the opportunity to explore the region. He was very keen to find out where King Vukašin of Serbia, the father of the legendary hero Krali Marco (Prince Marco), was buried. It was this desire that led him to the fountain which would later become so famous thanks to him.</p> <p>"Ak baldır çeşmesi" or "The Spring of the White-Legged Girl" as the fountain is known today was built at the end of the 16th century by Siyavuş Pasha. A statue was erected of the white-legged Gergana, the female protagonist in Slaveykov's poem, whose dignified conduct earned the admiration of the great vizier. People say that in the past there were three inscriptions on marble close to the fountain, of which only one has survived to this day: "Thanks to the water, every little thing is alive. The Charitable Honorable Siyavuş Pasha. 1585."</p> <p>During excavations conducted in 1960 by the Archaeological Institute of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences it was confirmed that the fountain near Harmanli was built at the end of the 16th century along with the famous bridge at Olu dere (the river crossing the town of Harmanli) and with the already demolished caravanserai, mosque, and hammam. The excavations also revealed Thracian pottery from the pre-Roman era, testifying to the existence of a settlement 2,500 years ago. Or, in other words, there was always life around the spring.</p>
2	The Humpback Bridge	town of Harmanli	Built in 1585 over the river Olu dere (Harmanliyska River). Near the bridge a caravansarai was built on top of the remains from the Byzantine era, which lie below today's level of the parking lot of Hebros Hotel.
3	Church of Saint Athanasius the Great	town of Harmanli	<p>The church was built in 1834. Later a wooden bell tower was erected in the courtyard, which was replaced in 1931 with a new massive belfry attached to the western façade of the church. In the same year, the church was largely repaired, as it almost completely lost its original appearance.</p> <p>Probably in 1834, the church was a three-nave basilica without a dome and with a narthex incorporated in the main body of the building. Today the place of the narthex is replaced by the body of the bell tower. The columns separating the naves are wooden and the ceilings are flat and covered with wooden planks. The emporium in the western part was also heavily modified in 1931.</p> <p>The iconostasis was made by an anonymous chair maker and is poor in terms of woodcarving detail.</p>
4	Museum of History	town of Harmanli	The idea of creating an institution involved in collecting, studying, preserving and promoting historical artefacts was born in the local cultural community centre in the late 1950s. The first museum collection was put on display on January 18, 1968. Initially, it was arranged in the first school building in the town dating back to 1835. In 2002, it was transformed into a historical museum proper. The building in which the museum is housed today was built after 1884 on a project by Italian architect Pietro Montani. It has 350 sq.m. of exhibition space, there are lots of storage facilities, administrative offices and a library room with more than 1,000 volumes of literature. The museum is divided into three departments - archaeology, ethnography and modern and most recent history.
5	Gluhite Kamani (The Deaf Stones) rock cult complex	village of Oreshets	<p>It is a complex structure of a religious cult character, with cultural layers starting from the early Iron Age until the 12th century AD. The great interest in the Deaf Stones complex is mainly due to the numerous niches cut on the sides of the 30-metre-high rocks. Most striking are the niches delved in the westernmost rock massif dominating over the surrounding rocks. A deep rectangular reservoir for collecting and storing water is cut into its flat top. A well-formed double staircase leads to it. In this spot a cave-resembling room with a rectangular plan and a dome-shaped cover was hewn in the rock, gaining the popular name of a "rock tomb". South, under the array of these cuttings, there is a flat part on the rock where a church was built in the 5th or 6th century.</p> <p>It extends to the villages of Oreshets (Harmanli Municipality), Dabovets and Malko Gradishte (Lyubimets Municipality), village of Efrem (Madzharovo Municipality).</p>

6	Roman road	village of Izvorovo, Kaldarama locality, 2 km south	<p>This was part of the route of Via Diagonalis - the most important road of the Roman Empire connecting Rome with Constantinople.</p> <p>In the territory of Harmanli Municipality one can still see not only traces but also whole sections of the road preserved in several places. The ancient Romans used to build their roads abiding by strict rules - they used to put several well-trampled layers with different composition of earth and stones for water drainage, and then cover the top surface with stone slabs, which would make them long-lasting and strong - so much so that they have survived to this day.</p> <p>The bottom layer consisted of earth, gravel and lime and was called pavimentum. The second layer was the stone foundation known as statumen. The third layer was made of stones and construction debris - rudus. The fourth, upper layer which was the road itself, was called sumum dorsum. At both sides ditches were built known as fossa.</p> <p>Throughout the Roman era, road stations were located all along the roads - some serving only for changing the horses and taking a rest, others also for spending the night. Most often there was also a fortification, often with a military garrison, which served to protect the road station and the passengers. At about 7 km from the village lay the important road station Castra Rubra built in the 2nd century and serving the travelers on the Roman road as a place where they changed their horses, rested or stayed the night. Later, it developed as a fortress within Byzantium. Before reaching it, one can see on spot how a Roman road used to be built.</p>
7	Archaeological complex Castra Rubra	village of Izvorovo, Kaleto locality	<p>The Late Antiquity and Medieval fortress Castra Rubra is located in the Kaleto locality, 6 km southwest of the village of Izvorovo. The locality cacked Kaleto (The Stronghold) is a huge complex that was inhabited since the Neolithic Age. Archaeologists have so far unearthed part of the fortress wall, two towers and the entrance gate. At least two historical periods are clearly pronounced in the fortress. One is the Early Byzantine period, evidenced by the discovered coins of Emperor Anasthasius I (491-518), and the tower dates back to the Middle Ages. The fortress probably existed until the time of Emperor Heraclius (610-641). A medieval water reservoir was found within the fortress. The fate of the complex is still unclear.</p> <p>The fortress was very stable facility, unique of this type in southern Bulgaria and one of the last to survive on the Balkans in the early Byzantine period. Castra Rubra or "The Red Castle" had an elongated irregular trapezoidal shape. The fortress walls surrounded an area of about 11 decares and were made of large irregular roughly worked blocks soldered with a mixture of mortar and crushed bricks. There was a rectangular tower at each corner. The entrance to the fortress passed through a massive rectangular tower. The tower had two gates - external and internal. The fortress was built at the very end of the 5th or the beginning of the 6th century. The fortress survived until the beginning of the 7th century when it was burned down during the invasions of the Slavs and Avars.</p>
8	Chuchul Kamak menhir	village of Ovcharovo	<p>The menhir called Chuchul Kamak near the village of Ovcharovo is the only surviving Thracian monument of its kind in the world. It is a roughly cut, conical trachyte column, resembling a phallus. It is 2.10 m high and its diameter in its widest part is approximately 1 m. The term "menhir" comes from Breton ("men" - stone and "hir" - long). This type of construction belongs to the so-called megaliths, which in Bulgarian lands date back to the early Iron Age (12th-6th century BC) and are connected with the ancient Thracian civilization.</p> <p>The name "megalith" translated from Greek means literally a very large stone. Constructions cut into natural rocks or built of large stones of impressive size and weight are usually categorized as megaliths. They include sites such as Thracian fortresses, dolmens, rock tombs, rock basins and niches, cromlechs and others.</p> <p>Menhirs were usually sites of ancient religious ceremonies. Their phallic shape is associated with the widespread cult for fertility and ever-renewing nature widespread among the Thracian tribes</p>
9	Roman Road	village of Ovcharovo, localities of Gerena, Turskoto grobe, Kovanlaka and Yurushki Kladenets	<p>This was part of the route of Via Diagonalis - the most important road of the Roman Empire connecting Rome with Constantinople.</p>
10	Dolmen	village of Cherepovo	<p>The village of Cherepovo is situated in a small trough on the western slopes of the Sakar Mountain. In the area close to the village there are traces revealing the existence of active life for millennia. There are a number of megalithic monuments, most of them dolmens, mound tombs, cromlechs.</p> <p>In 1903 there were over 28 dolmens and cromlechs in this area. Some of them were located in the village itself. Today, around 18 dolmens have survived.</p> <p>The dolmen necropolis is located south of the village in the Byalata Prast (The White Earth) area. At least 3 dolmens are visible, but they are heavily destroyed. Although they had only one chamber and no dromos or façade, they had a rather complex technical design. Probably all of them had sloping front and rear walls, i.e. the longitudinal walls were composed of two stone slabs, as the lower one was stuck vertically in the ground and the upper one was slightly inclined inward. Probably all had façade slabs with nice openings with a decorative groove: at dolmen 1 the front panel is preserved but it was pulled down and broken in two; with dolmen 3 only the lower part of the front plate is preserved.</p>
11	Dolmen	the village of Ostar Kamuk, Sivri Kaya locality	<p>One of the most important and interesting sites here is the dolmen called Kamennata Kashta (The Stone House), which is located on the right side of the road to the village, about 500-700 metres from Ostar Kamak peak. Only three of the walls of the dolmen have survived, as the front slab was already missing in the 1950s. Dolmens are remarkable monuments of Thracian culture and are distributed only in the mountains of Strandzha and Sakar and to a lesser extent in the Eastern Rhodopes in the region of the Hujlata ridge, in the villages of Ostar Kamak, Ivanovo and Bryagovo.</p>
12	Kervan Saray	town of Harmanli	<p>Built around 1510 to accommodate the passengers on their way from and to Constantinople, it soon transformed into a village and a "harman" - a threshing floor. The people working at the "harman" were called "harmanlii", and that's how the name of the town originated. Currently, only one wall from this complex is preserved.</p>
No	NATURAL SITE	LOCATION	SHORT DESCRIPTION
1	Kyumyurluka Waterfall	town of Harmanli	The natural waterfall is at Kyumyurluka Reservoir which has very well-developed tourist facilities and can be reached via the road to
2	Kuru-Dere Waterfall	town of Harmanli	Natural waterfall in the Kuru-Dere locality.

3	Hajdushkata Dupka cave	village of Dripchevo, locality of Shirokia alchak	This is a fissure (diacalse) cave. The rock is composed of marbled limestone.
	Stankova Kashta Cave	village of Dositeevo, Harmanli Municipality	This is a fissure (diacalse) cave. The rock is composed of marbled limestone. The cave is connected with Bulgaria's National Liberation movement.
4	Habitat of the summer snowflake (<i>Leucojum aestivum</i>) (Protected area)	village of Biser, Sazlaka locality	Habitat of the summer snowflake.
5	Olu-dere Gorge (Protected Site)	town of Harmanli, village of Ostar Kamak, village of Polyanovo	Conservation of the following species: thermophilic and sub-Mediterranean oak forests, riparian formations of willows (<i>Salix</i> spp.), mixed common ash-alder tree formations near rivers (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> - <i>Alnus glutinosa</i>) as well as the protected animal species: the European tree frog (<i>Hyla arborea</i>), the eastern spadefoot (<i>Pelobates syriacus balcanicus</i>), sheltopusik (<i>Pseudopus apodus</i>), the European worm snake (<i>Typhlops vermicularis</i>), the aesculapian Snake (<i>Zamenis longissimus</i>), the spotted Snake (<i>Elaphe sauromates</i>), the Turkish Boa (<i>Eryx jaculus</i>), the pond turtle (<i>Emys orbicularis</i>), Hermann's tortoise (<i>Testudo hermanni</i>), the spur-thighed tortoise (<i>Testudo graeca</i>), the Black Stork (<i>Ciconia nigra</i>), the Levant sparrowhawk (<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>), the Eurasian sparrowhawk (<i>Accipiter nisus</i>), the northern goshawk (<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>), the short-toed snake eagle (<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>), the booted eagle (<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>), the lesser spotted eagle (<i>Aquila pomarina</i>), the long-legged buzzard (<i>Buteo rufinus</i>), the European honey buzzard (<i>Pernis apivorus</i>), the black kite (<i>Milvus migrans</i>), the peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>), the Eurasian hobby (<i>Falco subbuteo</i>), the Eurasian eagle-owl (<i>Bubo bubo</i>), the stone curlew (<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>), the European ground squirrel (<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>), the marbled polecat (<i>Vormela peregusna</i>), the Eurasian otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) and others.
6	Bakarlia protected area	village of Izvorovo	Long-term conservation of populations of world and European threatened species of amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals and plants as well as other habitats and landscapes typical for the Sakar Mountain as well as a part of the important ornithological site of Southern Sakar. Conservation of habitats, rocky landscapes and plants typical for Sakar Mountain.
7	Habitat of <i>Verbascum purpureum</i> (protected area)	village of Branitsa	Conservation of the plant species <i>Verbascum purpureum</i> and its habitat.

This document has been created within the framework of the Project „Promotion and development of natural and cultural heritage of Bulgarian – Greek cross-border region through smart and digital tools“ (eTOURIST), financed under the INTERREG V-A Cooperation Program “Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020”, Subsidy Contract No B2.6c.07/09.10.2017. The Project is co funded by the European Regional Development Fund and by national funds of the countries participating in the Interreg V-A “Greece - Bulgaria 2014-2020” Cooperation Programme.”

No	CULTURAL SITE	LOCATION	SHORT DESCRIPTION
1	Church of Archangels Michael and Gabriel, murals and woodcarving	town of Haskovo	The church of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel was built in 1861 by Bulgarians who used to follow the Greek way of life. It was the second church built in the town and was known as the Greek church or the church of the rich. It is a three-nave basilica with a large, relatively low semi-circular apse and a wide U-shaped narthex. Many of the icons in the church have inscriptions in Greek with the name of the ktitor (church donor) and the year of creation is also mentioned. The most impressive among them are: the icon depicting the scene Synaxis of the Holy Angels - the church patron icon made in 1866, the icon of Saint John the Baptist from 1872, the icon of the Presentation of the Holy Virgin into the Temple, and the icon of the Nativity of Christ. The rich woodcarving of the iconostasis, the bishop's throne and the small iconostasis (proskynetarion) were made by the famous master Yane Spirov. The Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel Church has fascinating murals, especially at the church vault. They were undoubtedly the work of a highly experienced artist. The compositional distribution of the figures in the scenes depicting in the domes and the icons depicting the patron saints is very carefully planned. Few people know that in 1877-1878, during the Russo-Turkish War of Liberation, the largest of the seven gallows in Haskovo was erected in front of this church. In 1972, the church was designated a monument of culture. The dome of the church bell tower was plated in gold in 2003.
2	Church of the Assumption of the Theotokos and woodcarvings	town of Haskovo	The Assumption of the Theotokos Church is the oldest and most revered church in the town. The residents of Haskovo invested a lot of faith, effort and courage, united and determined to obtain permission to build a church of their own in the years of the Ottoman domination. The consecration ceremony took place in an extremely solemn setting on August 15, 1837 - the day of the Assumption of the Most Holy Mother of God, one of the greatest Christian feasts. The church was built on the site of an ancient chapel, in a vast courtyard with a stone wall more than 4 metres high, erected to protect God's house from abomination. For unknown reasons, the church is almost fully oriented to the southeast-northwest. In terms of architectural design, it is a nave basilica with a gable roof, without a dome. Internally, it has three altar apses. The iconostasis was made by a master from the Debar Artistic School and is notable for its elaborate woodcarving. Most remarkable among the frescoes is the image of the "blessing God". It is painted in the middle of the vault in a huge size and gives the impression of a depiction of God Almighty (Pantocrator), which was probably the main idea of the icon-painter conveyed in this image as if placed in the heavens.
3	Saint Demetrius Church	town of Haskovo	On July 14, 1896, the foundations of the Saint Demetrius Church in Haskovo were laid. The construction continued for two years and in the autumn of 1898, on the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross (14 September), the church was consecrated by the Metropolitan of the Plovdiv Diocese, Nathanael. The church of Saint Demetrius was built of large stone blocks and lime. It has a gable roof. Initially it also had a dome but in 1956, due to its lack of maintenance and impossibility to be repaired, it was pulled down. All church windows and doors are crowned by arches. In its highest part above the royal gates the iconostasis is 6.32 m high and its length is as much as the entire width of the temple - 10 m. Every Sunday at 10.30 am the Saint Demetrius Church hosts the classes of the only Sunday school in Haskovo. The purpose of the priests is to educate the children in the values of the Orthodox Christian faith.
4	Armenian Church Surp Stepannos (St. Stephan)	town of Haskovo	In the first decades of the 20th century the Haskovo-based Armenian community gradually developed and strengthened. Their main goal now was to have their own place of worship. At a gathering it was decided that the two rooms located in a yard purchased by the community would be transformed into a chapel. Busy work started - the middle wall was pulled down and the two rooms were connected, turning them into a chapel. In one corner was the altar with the Virgin Mary icon on the wall and two large burning candles on both sides. In the middle they placed a Vem Kar, a consecrated piece of stone brought from the church in Hay-Quih. In 1923, they celebrated Easter here for the first time. The first service of worship was carried out. The entire Armenian community based in Haskovo attended this momentous event. February 24, 1924 was a memorable date. All assembled Armenians chose the church board members. The Arax Society was also set up, whose members were tirelessly contributing to accomplishing the goals of the Haskovo-based Armenian community. Their zeal and yearning for a faster completion of the building intended for a church and a school were crowned with success. On 15 August 1925, the building of the church of the Assumption of the Most Holy Mother of God was handed over to the church board of trustees. The first floor was designated for the church named "Surp Stepanos" and the upper floor - for a school.
5	Eski Mosque (Camu Jadid)	town of Haskovo	Eski Mosque claims to be one of the oldest mosques in Bulgarian lands. According to the stone slab with an Arabic inscription walled in above its entrance, it was built in 1394. At present, it is significantly dug into the ground (perhaps due to the elevated level of the surrounding streets). The building has a rectangular shape and its entrance on the northern façade lies gently withdrawn from the street into a small courtyard. The prayer hall, with a slightly underlined longitudinal axis and a centrally located mihrab (prayer niche) in the opposite wall, is illuminated by two rows of windows. The walls of the main body (without the workshops and the farming premises) are 1.00 m thick. In the farming premises, from which the minaret is accessible, an old wooden trellis has been preserved. There are also traces of external paintings (on a thick wall of the main body). The minaret is plastered in white, with a four-row stalactite motif under the serefe (the balcony of the minaret). Eski Mosque is the main active place of worship of the Muslims in the town. The building was registered in 1967 in Issue 68 of the State Gazette as a monument of culture of local importance.

6	Charshijska Mosque (Çarşı Camı)	town of Haskovo	<p>The name of the building is related to its location - both in the past and now - in the midst of the town's commercial core. Now it is almost completely enclosed by one-storey and two-storey commercial buildings and shops attached to it, which largely hide it from the view of the passers-by.</p> <p>In the past, there were no other buildings in such close proximity to it as of special interest were the two large-scale fountains lying at some distance on both sides of the mosque outside its courtyard. One feature of the prayer hall is that its long axis is transverse to the direction of entry. The ceiling cover is two-dimensional. In the middle of the counter-wall there is the mihrab niche shaped with a relief frame. Overall, the interior is poor, largely upgraded and modernized (the wooden ceilings were removed, the walls were plastered, etc). A characteristic fresco with landscape motifs has been well-preserved in the niche. The external architecture (except for the minaret) is uncharacteristic and devoid of expressive power. On the southern wall there is a plaque with Arabic writing, still undeciphered by scholars.</p>
7	Monument of the Holy Mother of God	town of Haskovo	<p>The world's tallest statue of the Most Holy Virgin Mary with the Child is erected with reverence, love and gratitude to God's mother. The monument was opened in 2003 with a ceremony of the blessing of the waters by Metropolitan Arsenius. In 2005, it was listed in the Guinness Book of World Records and since 2009 is also on the list of Bulgaria's 100 National Tourist Sites.</p> <p>The authors of the statue are Petyo Alexandrov and Nikola Stoyanov assisted by a team. It was made of polymer-concrete and weighs 120 tonnes. The total height of the monument is 32.8 m, and its attractiveness is complemented by the chapel of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary built inside its foundation. The Yamacha hill, on which the statue towers, reveals a fascinating panorama of the entire town.</p> <p>The idea for the construction of the Monument of the Holy Mother of God was given by Haskovo Municipality and was implemented entirely with donations from the Haskovo community. The symbol was not chosen by chance - the Mother of God has always been considered the patron saint of the town. In its millennial history, the day of the Nativity of Virgin Mary has always been celebrated as one of the greatest feasts and with a decision of the <u>Municipal Council September 8th was also designated the Day of Haskovo</u>.</p>
8	Monument "1000 years of Haskovo"	town of Haskovo	<p>The 1000 Years of Haskovo Monument was built in 1985 on the occasion of the 1000th anniversary of the town's foundation. The project was made by sculptor Krum Damyanov and architect Simeon Borissov. The monument rises on top of the foundations of Haskovo's Old Clock Tower, first discovered during the construction of Aida Hotel in the 1960s.</p> <p>The monument "1000 Years of Haskovo" is a modern clock tower with a height of 26.5 m. It consists of three equal parts, connected in one composition. The first part is made of granite tiles with ornaments, with a ritual stone marking the event in the middle. The second part is a complex of four sculptures of gray granite figures with a height of 6 m, placed on round steel columns. The third part is a clock with four dials with a diameter of 1.6 m and two bells driven by weights based on the principle of old clockwork mechanisms. The clockwork mechanism was produced in Leipzig, Germany.</p> <p>The monument symbolizes the four directions on the globe, the transition to the new millennium and Haskovo as a place at the crossroads between the East and the West.</p>
9	Bell tower	town of Haskovo	<p>A belfry of impressive size and unforgettable views rises over the town of Haskovo. The nearly 30-metre-high bell tower was erected in 2010 in close proximity to the Monument of the Holy Mother of God and quickly became an integral part of the resulting architectural ensemble.</p> <p>Eight bells of different sizes are placed at its top. A curious fact is that some of them were manufactured at the Veleganov Bell Foundry based in Plovdiv. The bell foundry was established in 1872 and its initial period of operation coincided with the pre-Liberation period in Bulgaria. The Veleganov brothers took part in the preparation of the April Uprising by casting bullets and small lion emblems for the rebels.</p>
10	The Old Clock Tower	town of Haskovo	<p>Haskovo's clock tower was built in the early 19th century as a symbol of the town and its economic upsurge. For some reason, in 1913, the town council adopted a decision to demolish it.</p> <p>On September 8, 2012 the Haskovo municipal administration turned the first sod for the restoration of the old clock tower. A year later, again at the feast of the town - the Nativity of the Most Holy Mother of God, Haskovo regained one of its symbols.</p> <p>The restored clock tower rises at a height of 23 metres and is made of dressed stones from Uzudzovo. There are three dials and electronic equipment with GPS time adjustment placed on its top, as a chime strikes the hours gone by. An interesting fact is that the tower's bell was made in the Whitechapel foundry that manufactured the Big Ben bell, the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, the bells of the London Olympics, and the bells for the jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. The Whitechapel Bell Foundry (formally established in 1570) is listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the oldest in the United Kingdom.</p> <p>The old clock tower of Haskovo has been restored entirely with donations.</p>
11	The Sundial	town of Haskovo	<p>In ancient times, when people did not have clocks, calendars, and compasses, the sun was a basic reference for time and space. Then the peoples of Mesopotamia, India, Egypt, and Hellas invented sundials. Though consisting of only one vertical rod stuck in the ground or a ritual obelisk, they helped our ancestors to measure time. Over the years, sundials would become ever larger, more diverse, more beautiful, more sophisticated and more advanced.</p> <p>Besides measuring time, the sundial in Haskovo also shows the "Compass Rose". For centuries on end, the symbol of the rose was connected with reading maps and it used to guide people into the right direction. Painted on almost every map, the compass rose pointed north and south, east and west. Originally known as "The Rose of the Winds", it would point to the thirty-two different winds blowing from the directions of the eight principal winds, the eight half-winds and the 16 quarter-winds. When delineated in a circle, these thirty-two compass points perfectly matched the thirty-two petals of the rose.</p>

12	Monument of Envy	town of Haskovo	<p>The world's first and only Monument of Envy aka "The Bulgarian Icarus" was unveiled on September 8, 2014 in the town of Haskovo. It represents the sculpture of a man who has spread his arms bearing wings of feathers in an excited effort to take flight, but two hands of a human skeleton hold his wings in a grip, pulling them down and trying to break them.</p> <p>The idea for making a monument of envy materialized into a sculpture in the hands of Gospodin Tenev aka Guspata, the author of a number of other art installations in Haskovo: the sculpture of the folktale witch Baba Yaga, the owl in front of the townhall, the sculptures on the Orange bridge, the monument to the painter Litso.</p> <p>The unique work is cast in bronze, it is 3 metres high and weighs 1 tonne. It is placed in the centre of Haskovo on top of a massive granite pedestal.</p> <p><u>The Monument of Envy or The Bulgarian Icarus was erected entirely with donations.</u></p>
13	Marsa Fortress	town of Haskovo	<p>Haskovo is a town of a rich millennial history. The site of today's town occupying an important strategic location on the road from Central Europe to Constantinople was inhabited by various tribes as early as Antiquity. Some of them disappeared, others merged with the local population only to see new tribes coming and settling for good, as were the ancient Thracians. The archaeological excavations have revealed the existence of an ancient Thracian settlement in the Hisarya locality.</p> <p>Towards the end of the 8th century, a new settlement emerged at the Hisarya elevation (now the town quarter of Hisarya), south of the Haskovo River. Fenced with a thick fortress wall, it gradually expanded and a second fortification wall was built at the beginning of the 10th century. Thus, ten centuries ago, the early medieval Haskovo came to life as a typical Bulgarian town with well-developed crafts, a military garrison and a considerable population.</p> <p>In an effort to wipe out the young Bulgarian state from the face of the Balkan Peninsula, in the 11th century the Byzantine conquerors razed the town walls to the ground and destroyed the settlement. Despite these devastating blows, the population did not leave their native ground and settled on the other bank of the river and later also around today's Yamacha Park.</p>
14	Regional Museum of History	town of Haskovo	<p>The Regional Historical Museum in Haskovo preserves over 120,000 thousand movable cultural and historical monuments, many of which are of exceptional value. Unique collections of prehistoric, antique and medieval artefacts made of pottery, stone, iron and glass are part of the rich museum fund. Among the most interesting exhibits are two two-handed cups from Troy, rarely encountered in the Bulgarian lands and dating back to the 1st century BC, one of which is also the museum emblem.</p> <p>An extremely valuable collection of antique and medieval coins counting more than 22,000 pieces can be seen here. Over the years, the Regional Museum of History has been actively involved in collection and exploration activities on the territory of the 11 municipalities of today's Haskovo administrative district. The museum experts have restored over 30 monuments of culture. The museum has one of the best ethnographic collections. The department's funds have nearly 15,000 units. Here are collections of copper vessels, folk costumes, fabrics, jewellery, agricultural and crafts equipment, objects of folk art, ritual artefacts and many others.</p> <p>In 2016, the Regional Historical Museum in Haskovo launched its renovated archaeological exhibition. It is put on display in a new modern hall on two floors and showcases material testimonies to the history of the region from the New Stone Age (7th-5th millennium BC) until the late Middle Ages.</p>
15	House of Chorbadzhi Pascal (Paskalevata House)	town of Haskovo	<p>Undoubtedly, Chorbadzhi Pascal's house is a true architectural masterpiece. It is declared a monument of culture of national importance. It is an example of the transition from the traditional rural to the urban and European way of life of the local population after Bulgaria's Liberation.</p> <p>Paskalevata House is a two-storey, asymmetrical edifice with a magnificent functional layout. The semi-circular bay window creates a light and aristocratic feel, the beautifully carved ceilings, doors and built-in cupboards lend coziness and warmth, and the decorative niches (the so-called "alafanga") complement the interior, imbuing it with unique sophistication.</p> <p>The ethnographic exposition in the house showcases valuable artefacts from the lifestyle of Haskovo locals of that period. The first floor introduces visitors to the everyday life of the Haskovo family, and the second one impresses with its elegance and spaciousness. One gets a weird sensation in Paskalevata House - a blend of curiosity, aesthetic pleasure, sense of safety and surprise - wooden couches in the living room coexist with furniture from Vienna, a Russian samovar is placed next to European silver cutlery, and all of this seems to come together in an integral whole united by the typical Haskovo carpets and rugs, with their amazing colourful streaks and patterns in which Haskovo women weaved their sense of beauty and aestheticism.</p>
16	House of Chorbadzhi Dimitrak	town of Haskovo	<p>The house of Chorbadzhi Dimitrak is one of the oldest in Haskovo. Built in the first decades of the 19th century, it boldly shows the aesthetic demands and aspirations of the well-to-do Haskovo artisans and merchants. It is impressive with its masterful construction, exquisite artistic woodcarvings and original elements.</p> <p>Chorbadzhi Dimitraki's house is interesting with its asymmetrical forms and the L-shaped layout of the rooms. From the large space underneath the big verandah (called chardak), one can enter three rooms - a large lower living room, a kitchen with a hearth and in-built closets. The guest room, with its magnificently carved wooden two-colour ceiling and with alafanga flanked by cupboards, reveals one of the most beautiful and well-preserved old interiors in Haskovo. One of the smaller rooms has a similar interior. The ceiling of the salon is also wooden, with decorative diamond-shaped applications. The windows are adorned with beautiful woodcarving - the only one of its kind in the whole town.</p>
17	Boyadzhi Oglu's House	town of Haskovo	<p>Splendor, unique style and Renaissance spirit - these words may well characterize the house of Chorbadzhi Boyadzhi Oglu in Haskovo. It shines with its beautiful decorative and landscape plots, intertwining architecture, fine arts and the imagination.</p> <p>Built in the mid-19th century, the house is L-shaped, with two floors. A remarkable feature of the interior layout are the different, individually designed carved wooden ceilings. They create the sensation of elevation of the space in the rooms and impart airiness. The impressive salon provides a functional link with the rest of the rooms, making it one of the most representative rooms. The highlights in the overall mural decoration of the interior are the ornamental niches richly painted with colourful motifs (the so-called alafanga). The end result is a symphony of colours, delightfulness and finesse.</p>

18	Kirkovo School	town of Haskovo	<p>The Kirkovo School is a wonderful example of the Renaissance architecture in the town of Haskovo and a national monument of culture. The building impresses with its extremely rich mural and plastic decoration. The four-column portico and the staircase railing lend a special solemnity and prove the aesthetic class of architecture during the National Revival period in Bulgaria. A natural continuation of the Kirkovo School is the exceptionally beautiful garden in front. It enchants visitors with its green trellis vines, the deep well, the exquisitely crafted boxwood tress and a myriad of flowers.</p> <p>After it was attended by students for a long time, in 1952 Kirkovo school became the seat of the regional Museum of History, and by 1993 it hosted the exposition dedicated to the life and work of Haskovo-born world-famous scientist Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov. Currently, the Kirkovo School houses a museum exhibition entitled Haskovo-born National Enlightenment Leaders, which sheds more light on the most prominent public figures who contributed to the spiritual development of the town from the Renaissance to the present day.</p> <p>Kirkovo School works with visitors on a preliminary request.</p>
19	Ivan Dimov Theatre	town of Haskovo	<p>Ivan Dimov Theatre is deservedly famous for being one of the most beautiful and contemporary theatres in Bulgaria. The Haskovo-based temple of Melpomene was built in the remote 1926 and underwent a major renovation in 2004 initiated by the municipality of Haskovo. During its years of existence it has always played a leading role in the town's cultural life.</p> <p>The Ivan Dimov Theatre in Haskovo has two halls: a large theatre hall with 260 seats and a small puppet theatre hall with 110 seats. Unobstructed access for disabled people is provided. The theatre has a warehouse, an actor's studio, a carpenter's studio, an iron workshop, excellent wardrobe and props.</p> <p>The two lobbies of the Ivan Dimov Theatre in Haskovo also operate as a permanent art gallery. A Fairy Tales Room is provided for the viewers who have no one to leave their children with during their shows. Before the beginning of each show, a professional pianist contributes to the special atmosphere that has already become emblematic for the place.</p>
20	Haskovo Art Gallery	town of Haskovo	<p>The Art Gallery in Haskovo was founded in 1962. Initially, it was housed in the former Septemvri movie theatre and its fund consisted of about 550 works, mostly by local artists Dimitar Ivanov - Litso, Petar Tolchev and others. In 1998, the gallery moved to the newly-restored buildings, monuments of culture from the beginning of the 19th century, at No. 1 Episkop Sofroniy Str., where it is found until this day. At present the gallery stores 1,500 works of painting, graphics and sculpture of artists from different generations. The works of the most prominent authors are arranged in a permanent exhibition, open daily for visitors.</p>
21	Forum Arts Gallery	town of Haskovo	<p>e Forum Arts Gallery was established by Haskovo Municipality and operates as a gallery for contemporary art since September 5, 2007. It is located in the heart of the town, next to the theatre, and has an exhibition area of 130 m2, spread over two floors. The façade is antique, with a triangular pediment and Ionian columns, and harmonizes with the theatre façade.</p> <p>The ground floor houses the seat of the Association of the Haskovo Artists and a permanent bazaar of their works. On the ground floor visitors can see solo and group exhibitions of artists from the town, the country and abroad. On display are works by artists such as Vezhdi Rashidov, Georgi Papazov, Svetlin Rusev, as well as works by artists connected with the town. Exhibitions in the Forum Gallery change every 20 days as the culminating points are the South Spring literary days, the Day of Haskovo on 8 September, and the annual Christmas Exhibition of the Haskovo Artists' Association.</p>
22	Prehistoric settlement	town of Haskovo, 2 km SW	<p>Architectural monument from Antiquity and the Middle Ages. This is a site of national significance.</p>
23	Alexandrovo Tomb (Thracian tomb with frescoes)	village of Alexandrovo	<p>Many traces of prehistoric, Thracian, Thracian-Roman, late antique and medieval settlements have been preserved in the vicinity and within the borders of the town of Haskovo. In December 2000, in the Roshavata Chuka mound near the village of Alexandrovo, a team of archaeologists led by Dr. Georgi Kitov (1943-2008) made one of the most significant discoveries in Bulgarian archaeology.</p> <p>By penetrating through an opening made by treasure hunters, the scientists came across a Thracian tomb from the 4th century BC with incredibly well-preserved frescoes. The very first inspection in situ showed that the artistic decoration is unique, unparalleled among previously discovered structures of this type. Impressive is also the architecture of the tomb, which in its size rivals the most monumental tombs unearthed in Bulgarian lands. The burial mound is located in the immediate vicinity of the village and stands out against the background as a beautiful hill. The height of the mound is around 15 m and its diameter exceeds 70 m. At its eastern periphery starts a corridor with a length of more than 14 metres, passing successively through a rectangular and a circular room.</p> <p>The building used to perform the function of a heroon (shrine over a tomb). The small height of the hallway and the two entrances required that visitors</p>
24	Museum of Thracian Art	village of Alexandrovo	<p>The Museum Centre called "Thracian art in the Eastern Rhodopes" near the village of Alexandrovo was built within the framework of the program of the Japanese Government for grants in the field of culture.</p> <p>The construction of the museum started in February 2008 and it was officially opened on May 15, 2009 by Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Akishino (Fumihito and Noriko Akishino-no-miya) and the President of the Republic of Bulgaria Georgi Parvanov.</p> <p>The newly-constructed Thracian Art Centre in the Eastern Rhodopes has a total area of 834 sq.m. and is located in the immediate vicinity of the mound with the original tomb. One part of the building is designed for a rich museum exposition and a replica of the tomb. The other part hosts a modern scientific research laboratory centre furnished with the most modern equipment for restoration and conservation. The museum has a repository and an audiovisual hall for conferences, round tables and thematic meetings related to the study of Thracian culture.</p>

25	Venue of the Uzundzhovo Fair from the 16th to the 19th century	the village of Uzundzhovo, the square in front of the church	<p>The fair in the village of Uzundzhovo gained wide popularity and established itself as the best among other fairs not only in the Bulgarian lands but also in the territory of the whole Ottoman Empire.</p> <p>The development of the fair was favoured by a number of factors. Since ancient times, an ancient Roman road passed through Uzundzhovo. Its proximity to the Maritsa River, which was at that time navigable, also contributed to the development of the region. No less important is the fact that Uzundzhovo is located on the road linking Europe and Asia, the East and the West (the current E80 international road).</p> <p>Over time, the Uzundzhovo Fair became a hub of commercial activity. It attracts not only Bulgarian traders, but also merchants from Europe and Asia, significant capitals get accumulated and huge turnover is realized.</p> <p>The Uzundzhovo Fair lasted for nearly two centuries. With the onset of the Russian-Turkish War of Liberation, this vibrant merchant hub of many cultures ceased its existence.</p> <p>After the Liberation and the division of the Bulgarian lands into two parts, Plovdiv became the capital of the autonomous province of Eastern Rumelia. Gradually the city of Plovdiv developed in economic and cultural terms. On August 15, 1892, during the term of Stefan Stambolov as Prime Minister of Bulgaria, the Plovdiv Fair was opened, which is the successor of the Uzundzhovo Fair.</p>
26	Church of the Assumption of the Most Holy Mother of God (Uzundzhovo Church)	village of Uzundzhovo	<p>The Church of the Assumption of the Most Holy Mother of God is the largest village church in Bulgaria. It is an fascinating example of elements of Christianity and Islam merged together. Originally built as a Christian church, it was destroyed in 1593 by the Ottoman Empire. In its place a mosque was erected - part of a huge caravan seray resembling a fortress according to the chroniclers, whose central entrance is still preserved. At the beginning of the 20th century Turkey returned the property to Bulgaria and then the reconstruction of the mosque into a church started.</p> <p>In 2007 the church was restored mainly by the Haskovo municipal authorities. During the restoration, two medieval inscriptions in Arabic were found, on religious and philosophical themes, which are not yet dated. All icons and frescoes have been renovated. The master builder from Tryavna, Usta Darin Bozhkov, carved a new iconostasis, which ranks among the three most impressive in the country with its size. The windows bear exquisite stained glasses depicting scenes from the life of God's mother.</p> <p>The Uzundzhovo church also stores one of the miraculous icons of the Virgin Mary. In the past century, the Church of the Assumption of the Most Holy Mother of God in the village of Uzundzhovo was declared a monument of culture.</p>
27	Medieval fortress	village of Klokochnitsa, Asenova Mahala quarter, 2 km southwest	<p>Few people know about the second fortress of Tsar Assen, which is located near the village of Klokochnitsa, 5 km from Haskovo.</p> <p>It was here, however, that on 9 March 1230 Tsar Ivan Asen II defeated the armies of the Byzantine Emperor Theodore Komnenos. This victory played a key role in the expansion of Bulgaria and its access to three seas - the Black Sea, the Aegean Sea and the Adriatic.</p> <p>This fortress rose on a sharp hill with a height of 387 m, precisely at the intersection of the two tributaries of the rivers, i.e. the place where the battle is believed to have taken place. Unfortunately, almost nothing has survived from the wall, only the medieval walls are quite visible.</p> <p>However, the view from the hill is beautiful, there are 2 gazebos and fountains along the eco trail leading to the fortress, and the place is of great importance for Bulgaria's history.</p>
28	Holy Spring and Chapel of Saint Anna	village of Trakiets	<p>The history of this holy place began almost two centuries ago. A legend goes that there was a woman who was born blind. On the eve of the Assumption of Saint Anna - July 25, the Lord appeared to her and told her, "You will go to Elechcha (the old name of the village of Trakiets). There, in the woods, there is a stone from which water is gushing out. You'll take from this water, wash your eyes and will be able to see." The woman went there and found the spring. She spent there the whole night, washing her eyes. On the following day she opened her eyes and she could see. This was when the construction of the chapel began, which the locals named St. Anna, the patron saint of women and children, a healer and mother of Virgin Mary.</p> <p>The Chapel of Saint Anna near the village of Trakiets is built entirely with donations and volunteer work from people who found a remedy in the healing water of the spring. Faithful people from all over Bulgaria come crowding to the holy place, seeking salvation. The living water from the holy spring helps not only with impaired sight - many childless couples conceive and have a child after visiting the chapel. Hundreds of people suffering from various ailments receive a cure from Saint Anna.</p> <p>In 2009, to mark the holy place, the mayor of Trakiets, Krasimir Boychev, with his own funds, raised a 13-metre-tall metal cross.</p> <p>Every year, on the day of the Assumption of Saint Anna (July 25), thankful people from all over the country gather together at the holy spring of the chapel, a water-blessing ceremony is served and a sacrificial kurban meal is offered.</p>
29	Ethnographic room	village of Knizhovnik	<p>An ethnographic room with more than 100 ethnographic exhibits was opened in March 2015 in the village of Knizhovnik, near Haskovo. The idea came from the mayor Zorka Daskalova and the secretary of the Izgrev 1900 community centre in the village, Vanya Petkova. The ethnographic room is arranged in the community centre and the exhibits on display were collected by people from the village who donated their traditional household items - costumes, musical instruments, gas lamps, vessels, a weaving loom, different tools. New items are being added to the collection repeatedly. Promotional materials telling about the origins of the village have been created, too.</p>
30	Osman Baba's Türbe	village of Teketo	<p>A tekke (from Turkish) is a word used to denote a Muslim monastic community, a monastery, usually a ritual complex of buildings, in which the central place is occupied by a seven-corner building called türbe - a tomb or a mausoleum (usually a symbolic one) of a Saint.</p> <p>The oldest tekkes found in Bulgaria, which are also the biggest and most famous, are four: the tekke of Demir Baba near the village of Sveshtari, near the town of Ispirih; of Akyazili Baba in the village of Obrochishte, Dobrich Municipality; of Kademli Baba near the village of Sokol, Nova Zagora</p>
No	NATURAL SITE	LOCATION	SHORT DESCRIPTION
1	Ivanova Dupka Cave	village of Klokochnitsa	A fissure cave (diacalse) with a length of 10 m and a displacement of 6 m. The rock is composed of limestone.
2	Dyado Dulyova Dupka Cave	village of Nova Nadezhda	Discovered by an old man, grandfather Dulio, while he was searching for the entrance to a Roman mint. It is a fissure (diacalse) cave with a length of 134 m and a displacement of 27 m.
3	Murchaluka Cave	village of Nova Nadezhda, Haskovo Municipality	It is a fissure (diacalse) cave with a length of 77 m and a displacement of 13 m.

4	Kenana Forest Park	town of Haskovo	Kenana is the largest park on the territory of Haskovo Municipality (236.6 ha), located northeast of the town. Its main part is wooded. It boasts a variety of tree species. Interesting in dendrological terms are the "small and large ground floor", the rosarium, the dendrarium and the "dry river". A wide promenade, 2.5 km long, passes through the park. It leads to the centre of the park composition - an artificial lake and a restaurant. There are many pubs, hotels, swimming pools, an open-air cinema, a children's playground and sports facilities in the park. Here are the Haskovo tennis courts whose 8 equipped playgrounds and professional coaches offer excellent conditions for playing tennis and squash. Kenana is also the place where the zoo of the town of Haskovo is located. It spreads over 9 decare and has a huge number of different animal species. The Sivata Voda water reservoir is also located here.
5	Zlato Pole protected area	village of Nova Nadezhda	Zlato Pole was declared a protected site in 2001. It covers the former bed of the Maritsa River, which was cut off from the river in the 1950s. The Zlato Pole protected area includes several water basins with a varying size and depth, plots of reed and bulrush, islands and pastures. This is the largest natural wetland along the Maritsa River. Zlato Pole protected area is most distinguished with its feathered inhabitants, mostly water-loving species. In the protected area one can see the little grebe, the common moorhen, the little bittern, the common kingfisher and many others. The Zlato Pole protected area is an important wintering and resting site during migration for a number of species. Up to 2000 specimens of the globally threatened pygmy cormorant have been registered to spend the night here and this defines the protected area as a Ramsar site. Other such species are the ferruginous duck and the corncrake. Of interest for ornithologists are the Eurasian bittern and the ferruginous duck. Years ago, the European white water lily included in Bulgaria's Red Book was transferred here a natural habitat at Popovitsa (also an old bed of the Maritsa River). Planting lilies is part of the comprehensive biodiversity restoration program. It encompasses parts of the lands of the villages of Nova Nadezhda (Haskovo Municipality), Brod, Raynovo and Zlato Pole (Dimitrovgrad Municipality).
6	Boaza (Protected Territory)	village of Garvanovo	Waterfall of the Banska River
7	Habitat of the common snowdrop (<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>) (protected area)	village of Garvanovo, Asenova Fortress	Habitat of the common snowdrop.
8	Habitat of the common oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>) (protected area)	village of Uzundzhovo, locality of Palamudche	Habitat of the common oak.

This document has been created within the framework of the Project „Promotion and development of natural and cultural heritage of Bulgarian - Greek cross-border region through smart and digital tools“ (eTOURIST), financed under the INTERREG V-A Cooperation Program "Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020", Subsidy Contract No B2.6c.07/09.10.2017. The Project is co funded by the European Regional Development Fund and by national funds of the countries participating in the Interreg V-A "Greece - Bulgaria 2014-2020" Cooperation Programme."