

ANNEX 1. COLLECTED DATA

CULTURAL LANDMARKS

SECTION MUSEUMS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS

NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	ACCESSIBILITY	POSSIBILITIES OF CATERING AND ACCOMMODATION	INTERESTING FACTS
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.</p>	The site is accessible by car	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Dimitrovgrad	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.
The Petko Churchuliev	town of Dimitrovgrad	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	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in	This is the only art gallery in the country where an item from the first conceptual exhibition in

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Arts gallery		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. The gallery's fund includes: - 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).		the town of Dimitrovgrad	Bulgaria, Nedko Solakov's installation ""Box of Index Cards"" from 1988, is put on display.
Apostol Karamitev Municipal Drama Theatre	town of Dimitrovgrad	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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Dimitrovgrad	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 Mutaftchiev, Assen Blatechki, Kalin Vrachanski and Gerasim Georgiev-Gero.
Giordano Bruno National Astronomical Observatory and Planetarium	town of 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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Dimitrovgrad	In addition to circular activity and visits to the star room at NAOP "Giordano Bruno", night observations are organized for citizens when appropriate meteorological conditions and also in the presence of interesting astronomical events. The unit has the necessary technique to carry out the observations.
Municipal Museum of	town of Ivaylovgrad	Ivaylovgrad's History Museum has three expositions on display - Archeology, History of the town and the region before Bulgaria's	The site is accessible by	Good accommodation and	In addition to archaeological finds, on display are also rifles and pistols from the

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History		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.	car.	dining options in the town of Ivaylovgrad	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.
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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Ivaylovgrad	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

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					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.
Museum collection	village of Plevun	In 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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Ivaylovgrad	During the Russo-Turkish War of Liberation (1877-1878) Captain Petko Voivoda, heading a 10-men detachment, successfully defended the village of Plevun from an attack by the bashi-bazouk mercenaries led by Ottoman military officer Saint Clair.
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 site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Svilengrad	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.
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	The site is accessible by	Good accommodation and	The museum exhibition represents agriculture and livestock farming as the

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		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.	car.	dining options in Stambolovo	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.
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 Vlaikidis (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 site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Topolovgrad	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.
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. 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.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Harmanli	The building in which the museum is housed today was built after 1884 on a project by Italian architect Pietro Montani.
Regional	town of	The Regional Historical Museum in Haskovo preserves over 120,000	The site is	Good	In 2016, the Regional Historical Museum in

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Museum of History	Haskovo	<p>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>	acesible by car.	accommodation and dining options in the town of Haskovo	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 millenium BC) until the late Middle Ages.
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 ""alafranga"") complement the interior, imbuing it with unique sophistication.</p>	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Haskovo	Chorbadzhi Paskal was the father of Alexander Paskalev, the prominent book publisher from the 1920s and 1930s.

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		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.			
House of Chorbadzhi Dimitrak	town of Haskovo	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. 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 alafrauga 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.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Haskovo	The ethnographic exposition in the house reveals the treasures of the life of the people of Haskovo at that time.
Boyadzhi	town of	Splendor, unique style and Renaissance spirit - these words may well	The site is	Good	There is also a restaurant in Boyadzhi

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Oglu's House	Haskovo	characterize the house of Chorbadji Boyadzhi Oglu in Haskovo. It shines with its beautiful decorative and landscape plots, intertwining architecture, fine arts and the imagination. 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.	acesible by car.	accommodation and dining options in the town of Haskovo	Oglu's house, where visitors can enjoy delicious food.
Kirkovo School	town of Haskovo	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.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Haskovo	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.
Haskovo Art Gallery	town of Haskovo	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.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Haskovo	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.

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Ivan Dimov Theatre	town of Haskovo	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. 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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Haskovo	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.
Alexandrovo Tomb	village of Alexandrovo	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. 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	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Haskovo	May 2009 saw the official launch of a museum centre called "Thracian Art in the Eastern Rhodopes" where visitors can see a precise replica of the Alexandrovo tomb located in close proximity.

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		<p>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 would have to bend over in order to cross and all of a sudden find themselves inside a world of colours and shapes, floral and geometric patterns, images of foot soldiers and horsemen, domestic and wild animals. All images are depicted with unexpected realism and have an outstanding scientific and artistic value, coupled with a very powerful effect on viewers.</p> <p>The paintings cover the entire round and rectangular chambers and a small part of the corridor. Hunting and battle scenes as well as scenes of a burial feast alternate with monochrome tiers and such with ornamental decorations. The images in the first chamber are mostly monochrome or represent ornaments. Above the entrance to the central chamber there is an image of a horseman and a foot soldier painted opposite him, in a moment of duel.</p> <p>Various and rich are the frescoes in the round funeral chamber. It is decorated with six horizontal tiers, situated one above the other. Two of them have decorations depicting figures. Best-preserved is the tier with images of hunting scenes. Particularly important and scientifically valuable are the images of horsemen. They are depicted wearing tunics, some with trousers. They are armed with spears and swords. The shapes of the weapons shed further light on the knowledge of Thracian armaments.</p> <p>Impressive are the figures of the horses and the detailed depiction of the accoutrements which, according to the colours, were made of gold, silver and bronze appliques. Their positioning on the straps, saddles</p>			

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		and chest is important for the interpretation of already known armament. On the heads of the horses there are images of decorations in the shape of a labrys (a double-headed ax).			
Museum of Thracian Art	village of Alexandrovo	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."	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Haskovo	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. 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.
Ethnographic room	village of Knizhovnik	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, and different tools.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Haskovo	New items are being added to the collection repeatedly. Promotional materials telling about the origins of the village have been created, too.
Forum Arts Gallery	town of Haskovo	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	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Haskovo	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

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		antique, with a triangular pediment and Ionian columns, and harmonizes with the theatre façade. 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.			Christmas Exhibition of the Haskovo Artists' Association."

SECTION CULTURAL MONUMENTS AND OTHERS

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Water tower	town of Dimitrovgrad	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. The built-up area is 33 sq.m.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Dimitrovgrad	The tower was built to serve the water supply of steam locomotives along the Baron Hirsch railway line.
Architectural ensemble on Treti Mart Blvd.	town of Dimitrovgrad	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.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Dimitrovgrad	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.
Central	town of	Bulgaria Blvd. Dimitar Blagoev Blvd. - Maritsa Park and Square in front	The site is	Good	Since April 2014, it has become part of the

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Urban Area Ensemble	Dimitrovgrad	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".	accessible by car.	accommodation and dining options in the town of Dimitrovgrad	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.
Bulgaria Square	town of Dimitrovgrad	Bulgaria Square is located in front of the building of the Municipality of Dimitrovgrad, which itself is impressive with its 15 floors with administrative premises. It also includes a building - a rotunda in which civil marriages are concluded, and Grosseto Hall (named after the twin town of Dimitrovgrad, Grosseto, Italy), which hosts official events. Repeaters and TV transmitters are located on the roof of the building.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Dimitrovgrad	Various events are held in Bulgaria's Square: musical, culinary, Christmas and other.
Thracian sanctuary of the Nymphs and Aphrodite	village of Kasnakovo, Gyaur Bunar locality	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	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Dimitrovgrad	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.

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		arranged on an ellipse. The first archaeological excavations were made in the period 1945-1946. Now an information tourist centre operates on the spot. In 1968, the Sanctuary was declared a cultural monument of national importance.			
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 Klokotnitsa. 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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Dimitrovgrad.	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.
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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Dimitrovgrad.	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.
Ancient Roman Villa	town 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	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation	The Roman Emperor Valens himself died from his wounds at the battlefield

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Armira 2nd-4th 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.		and dining options in the town of Ivaylovgrad.	somewhere near Hadrianopolis.
Aterenski Bridge	town of Ivaylovgrad	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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Ivaylovgrad.	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 Golemiyat 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

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					larger events on the neighbouring field.
Lyutitsa Medieval Fortress	town of Ivaylovgrad	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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Ivaylovgrad.	Where the fortress is, archaeologists have discovered a church that existed from the 13th to 16th century, a vast necropolis, coins, and marble fragments from an ancient basilica.
Megalithic tomb (dolmen)	village of Pelevun	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 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 a slab and leads to a 2.8-metre-long dromos with walls of long vertical stone blocks. Then one steps into a narrow and short anteroom leading into the burial chamber itself. Its longitudinal walls are made of slabs of a length of 2.75 m and its floor is covered with a large stone slab. A distinguishing feature of this site is that the antechamber is wider than both the dromos and the main chamber. In terms of its linear size this is the longest dolmen found in the Rhodope Mountain. In terms of its transverse dimensions the dolmen is relatively small and narrow, which is also unusual. It has an extremely sophisticated layout unknown among similar monuments so far explored in Bulgaria. The necropolis was used many times but it was pillaged already in Antiquity. During the archaeological excavations only pottery fragments and iron tools were found.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Ivaylovgrad.	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.

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Step-like stone construction at Golyamata Mogila (The Big Mound)	village of Svirachi	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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Ivaylovgrad.	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 one another by metal braces, thus forming a huge circle of precisely fitting elements on top of a massive foundation. The stone masonry of the mound was partially destroyed as early as Antiquity.
Thracian dolmen	village of Zhelezino	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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Ivaylovgrad.	Dolmens are remarkable monuments of Thracian culture and are spread only in the mountains of Strandzha and Sakar, with a few also in the Eastern Rhodopes.
Fortress of Byalgrad	village of Gugutka	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	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Ivaylovgrad.	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

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		<p>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>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>
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).	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Ivaylovgrad.	It was built entirely with donations from local residents who also lost relatives and loved ones in the wars.
Thracian	village of Val-	The tomb is located under Sheinovets peak near the village of Valche	The site is	Good	The tomb was robbed already in antiquity

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domed tomb	che Pole	Pole and was discovered in the 1930s 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.	acesible by car.	accommodation and dining options in the town of Lyubimets.	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.
Dolmen necropolis	village of Oryahovo and 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 Škorpil. 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.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Lyubimets.	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.
An architectural monument	village of Valche Pole and	At Sheinovets peak, in the area between the villages of Valche Pole and Malko Gradishte, an architectural monument was erected in 1941 - an	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation	According to the Bulgarian intelligence, on October 4, 1912, there were about 100

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ment - obelisk to the victims in the Balkan War (1912) - on top of Sheinovets peak	Malko Grad-ishte	obelisk to the victims of the Balkan war. The peak itself is connected to the beginning of the Balkan War in 1912.		and dining options in the town of Lyubimets.	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. On October 4, at 21:30 hours, the 30th Infantry Regiment of Sheinovo was ordered to begin seizure of the summit. On the early morning of October 5th, the Bulgarian military units conquered it. This was the first serious battle in the campaign of the Bulgarian Army towards Edirne. After it, the Bulgarian troops seized Mustafa Pasha (present-day Svilengrad), without any obstacles.
Rock cult complex Gluhite Kamani (The	village of Dabovets and village of Malko	This 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	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the towns of	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.

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Deaf Stones)	Gradishte/municipality Lyubimets, village of Efrem /municipality Madzharovo/ and village of Oreshets /municipality Harmanli/	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".		Lyubimets, Madzharovo and Harmanli.	
Roman road	village of Dolni Glavanak and village of Troyan	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). 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.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Madzharovo and the town of Simeonovgrad.	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.
Megalithic cult structure -	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	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options	In Western Europe similar cult places are usually described with the term "cromlech", as the most famous example is Stonehenge

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cromlech		rituals were held has a circular shape.		in the town of Madzharovo.	in South England.
Thracian memorial complex. Chapel of Saint Petka of Bulgaria. Monument-symbol "Thrace without Borders"	town of Madzharovo	<p>Той е изграден в памет на избитите край село Ятаджик (дн. Маджарово) бежанци от най-големия погром над българите в Източна Тракия през 1913 г. По инициатива на местните тракийски дружества през 1928 г. за първи път се организира поклонение на лобното място, превърнало се в традиция и до днес, и започва издирването на останки от загиналите, събрани в общ гроб. По-късно през 1948 г. е построен пантеонът, където са преместени намерените кости. На откриването му е присъствал лично войводата Димитър Маджаров, който връща назад колелото на историята и разказва спомените си на очевидец и пряк участник в трагичните събития от 1913 г. Впоследствие е изграден паметникът-символ "Тракия без граници", а през 1995 г. – и параклисът "Св. Петка Българска".</p> <p>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</p>	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Madzharovo.	Тракийски мемориален комплекс с пантеон-костница, параклис "Св. Петка Българска" и паметник-символ "Тракия без граници", е обявен за исторически паметник на културата с местно значение.

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		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.			
Rock Relief/Sanctuary	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 site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Madzharovo.	The monument is unique because it is unparalleled and is one of the oldest stone reliefs discovered in the Bulgarian lands.
Thracian cult complex	village of Senoklas	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 site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Madzharovo.	The chapel of Saints Cyril and Methodius is erected close by.
Rock tomb	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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Madzharovo.	This is probably the oldest rock relief dating back to the 6th-5th centuries BC.
Thracian Rock Niches - Hambarkaya	village of Gorno Pole	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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Madzharovo.	Most cult trapezoidal niches occur in the valley of the Arda River (sometimes several hundred), but they also occur to the south and north of it, such as several places along the upper stream of the Harmanliyska River.

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Golyamoto Gradishte Prehistoric Thracian Fortress	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.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in Mineralni bani.	The site is one of the comparatively well-preserved ancient Thracian fortresses in Southern Thrace.
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.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the village of Mineralni bani.	The exact location of the fortress entrance is yet to be established by archaeologists.
Sarnitsa Stronghold - walls of a Thracian, Late Antiquity and medieval fortress with a signalling tower	village of Sarnitsa	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 millenium BC as well as the Roman and Middle Ages.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the village of Mineralni bani.	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.
Thracian fortress of Orlovi Skali (Eagle's Rocks) Peak	in the Orlovi Skali locality, 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. This is a rock phenomenon resembling a medieval castle with strong fortification towers.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the village of Mineralni bani.	The rock complex consists of a group of peculiar-shaped majestic rocks, some rising to a height of 30 to 40 metres.

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Thracian cult-funeral complex and settlement. Okopa medieval fortress	town of Madzharovo, Harman Kaya locality	It consists of 3 tombs found in 1938, and the fortress was part of the Ada security system, which consisted of 5 strongholds. They are located within the borders of the "Molina Skala" protected area.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the village of Madzharovo.	The site has the status of cultural monument of national importance.
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 approach to the hill a rock basin with trapezoidal shape and rounded corners has been formed - probably it was used as an altar. In the highest part, ritual facilities have been cut on three crags. A grave has been shaped on the easternmost one, with five steps leading to it.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the village of Mineralni bani.	Regarding the later Roman and ancient period, scholars have evidence to suggest that the fortress of Hisarya above the village of Angel Voivoda in the municipality of Mineralni Bani was built sometime in the late 4th and early 5th century. It was most flourishing during the intense activities of Emperor Justinian, well-documented in the historical records. He ruled the Eastern Roman Empire in the 6th century and was one of the greatest emperors. It was during his rule that a very strong fortification system was built in the boundaries of modern-day Bulgaria, which started from the Danube, the second line of defense was in the Balkan Mountains, and the third one was precisely here, in the Rhodopes."
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	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the village of	People believe that her "miraculous footprint" possesses healing power, brings good luck and can make wishes come true. This is why both Christians and Muslims

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		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 from her Jewish pursuers.		Mineralni bani.	worship this holy place and leave a thread or a piece of their garments here for health and happiness.
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 mineral springs was bustling with life during various historical periods.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the village of Mineralni bani.	The Sveti Duh Fortress is the best-preserved historical landmark in the resort. Its name originated from the chapel of the Holy Spirit (Sveti Duh in Bulgarian) which once existed there. It was built in Roman times using large rusticated stone blocks and served as a fortification for the settlement. Another fact testifying to its Roman origin are the various building techniques and materials used. The fortress has the shape of an irregular polygon with two entrances from the south and two small gates on the west and east sides. The historical annals say that during the Middle Ages they were walled up. Scholars believe the fortress existed from the 2nd century until the 14th century. During this period, it was repeatedly destroyed and rebuilt.
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	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the village of Mineralni bani.	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. There are other similar monuments in the

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		""şarap"" meaning wine. It is supposed that the ancient inhabitants of these places used to process grapes for wine.			area of varying shapes and sizes. Two major theories exist on the use of these fascinating inventions: one claims these were wineries (for crushing of the grapes for making wine), and another theory suggests they were used in ore mining to purify the finely crushed ore with water. According to some authors, şarapanas coexisted with the megalithic monuments (from the 1st millennium BC) and were used for a long time. More than 200 şarapanas have been found in the vicinity of the village of Bryastovo alone, located at high and hard-to-reach places. An ancient gold mine was also found nearby.
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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Svilengrad.	According to archaeologists, there was a pagan ritual sanctuary of an ancient civilization inhabiting the Balkan Peninsula. Traces of it are found in Varna, in the Durankulak culture, and later in the construction of sanctuaries, temples, megalithic facilities.

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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 charshia (open-air bazaar) and a hammam. It was built on the orders of Mustafa Pasha, a vizier of Sultan Suleiman I the Magnificent (Kanunî 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 koprûsû"", 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 site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Svilengrad.	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."
Roman road	Kapitan Andreevo village, Hausa locality, Izvorovo village, Caldarama locality, village of Ovcharovo, Gerena locality, Turkish grave, Kovulakla and	According to discoveries this site has a length of 130 m and was used in the 2nd to the 6th century. Built from the big rocks and ima shipina okolo 18 m. Registered till now parts of this road form Middle Europe to Konstantinopol are with weight 6-8 m. 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 site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Svilengrad and the town of Harmanli.	The find in the Hausa 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.

NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	ACCESSIBILITY	POSSIBILITIES OF CATERING AND ACCOMMODATION	INTERESTING FACTS
	Yurushki kladenets				
Rock church	village of Matochina, locality of Deli Kaya	The rock church near Matochina is cut in a limestone rock and is located 2 km southwest of the village in the Dekili 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-hewn temples in the world is found in the region of the Rusenski 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.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Svilengrad.	In 1968, the rock church near the village of Matochina was declared a monument of culture of national importance.
Medieval tower Bukelon Fortress"	village of Matochina, Kulata locality	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 defense structure of	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Svilengrad.	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

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		<p>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, t.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 Mikhail. 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 Didymóteicho). It is possible that during this military campaign the Bulgarian tsar restored the fortress in haste.</p>			<p>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>
Medieval fortress	village of Mezek, Kaletó locality	Some historians believe that this was the fortress of Neoutzikon 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	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of	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

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		<p>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>		Svilengrad.	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.
Thracian beehive tomb	village of Mezek	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	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Svilengrad.	Many gold, silver, bronze, iron, glass, pottery and clay objects have been found inside. They date back to 4th-3rd century BC.

NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	ACCESSIBILITY	POSSIBILITIES OF CATERING AND ACCOMMODATION	INTERESTING FACTS
		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.			
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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Svilengrad.	It was built in 2008.
Rock church	village of Mihalich	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 due to the rock breaking off, as it remains unclear whether it happened during the making of the church or later. The space of the missing rock is now filled with a wall made of crushed stones. At the bottom of the eastern conch an altar is made - a wall of plate stones, 0.80 m high and 0.85 m wide in the middle. The desire of the builders to make a church resembling one built by masonry work was so strong that they carved a central dome in its middle with a diameter of 5.5 m and a height of 6 m. The church has also other architectural elements typical for masonry structures. Instead of squinches or pendentives which would make more rounded the square space between the conchs above which the dome rises, here on both sides of the eastern conch at 2.60 m from the floor there are	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Svilengrad.	All efforts to find evidence of more accurate dating have proven to be futile. Outside the church, on the surface there are insignificant fragments of early medieval pottery, and in the nearby area - traces of old settlements of different ages. The rock church at the village of Mihalich stands apart from all other rock-hewn churches found in Bulgaria with its complex, triconch shape which, in the Balkan peninsula, is present only in masonry buildings known since ancient times and in the churches of Early Byzantine architecture. It was probably made in the restless years around the 10th century AD. Churches, monasteries and other religious sketes were carved in the rocks by monks and hermits who were followers of various religious heresies that proliferated at the time."

NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	ACCESSIBILITY	POSSIBILITIES OF CATERING AND ACCOMMODATION	INTERESTING FACTS
		column capitals. They rise at some 30 cm and are placed in the corner cut between the eastern and side conchs. This corner is formed by the two walls, each 90 cm wide. Thus an illusion is created that the dome is carried by columns. In the corner between the eastern and the left conch, a cross has been carved with a width of 0.30 cm and arms enlarging to the inside. There are no other images or wall paintings. The floor is made above the rock on which a thin layer of earth is accumulated (up to 10 cm).			
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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Simeonovgrad.	Legend tells us that this was the residence of the last Roman emperors. In the dungeons of the fortress, they hid their riches. When the barbarians invaded the fortress for a while. Here all the values of the province were gathered, but not long after the fortress fell. The Romans ran, and the treasures remained in the dungeons of the fortress.
An archaeological complex	village of Dolno Cherkovishte	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	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the village of Stambolovo.	"The most remarkable are the rock niches ("Kavanlatsi", "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

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		<p>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). 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 decare. 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</p>			<p>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>

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		slabs. Glass and bronze bracelets were discovered in the graves (according to eyewitness accounts - 10th-11th century). 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 Edirne 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 Kladents Reservoir in the area of which the road probably crossed the river, changing its direction to the south."			
Archaeological complex	village of Pchelari	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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the village of Stambolovo.	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 Krumovitsa 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. 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

NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	ACCESSIBILITY	POSSIBILITIES OF CATERING AND ACCOMMODATION	INTERESTING FACTS
					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.
Medieval fortress	village of Rabovo, locality of Kaleto /Asara/	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 site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the village of Stambolovo.	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.
Thracian complex at Chala Ridge in the Eastern	village of Kralevo	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 Kraljevo, there are remains of three rows of walls of a Thracian fortress, which represent	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the village of Stambolovo.	About 1 km southeast of Kralevo, 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. In the area of Ai

NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	ACCESSIBILITY	POSSIBILITIES OF CATERING AND ACCOMMODATION	INTERESTING FACTS
Rhodopes		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.			Bunar one can see fragments of early-Thracian (late 2nd - early 1st millennium BC) and medieval clay vessels.
Mound necropolis	village of Stambolovo, localities Dvete Chuki and Ilyarska forest	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. The site in the locality Ilyarska forest 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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the village of Stambolovo.	A characteristic feature of aristocratic Thracian funerary ceremonies encountered at some Thracian mound necropolises was the burial of a horse.
Group of dolmens	village of Sakartsi	These are: a two-chamber dolmen in a poorly preserved condition. One of the dolmens, located in an oak forest, has a well-preserved rear	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation	Nearby one can visit the localities of Redenite Kamani, Garvanov Kamak,

NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	ACCESSIBILITY	POSSIBILITIES OF CATERING AND ACCOMMODATION	INTERESTING FACTS
		chamber. Only a small part from the front chamber has survived. 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. The other is a 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. There is also another dolmen with two chambers and a dromos, practically without a façade and mound, with finely worked slabs, but missing capstone. There is also another two-chamber half-ruined dolmen. The front chamber is largely destroyed. The capstone of the structure is missing.		and dining options in the town of Topolovgrad.	Mangara, Golyamata Reka, Haidut Bunar, Sedemte Gabara, Bogovets.
Kamenna mogila (Stone Mound) rock sanctuary	village of Hlyabovo	It is situated on the ridge, which separates the catchment areas of the Sokolitsa and Sinapovska rivers. It has good visibility to the north and to the central ridge of the Sakar Mountains. 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. 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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Topolovgrad.	The site is still little-known and poorly explored, yet a fascinating place to visit. Close by are also some of the well-known dolmens - Byalata Treva (the White Grass), Evdzhika, Kraveva Saya and others.
Group of dolmens	village of Hlyabovo, Byalata treva locality Nachovi Chairi locality, Evdzika	The most popular is the so-called Royal Dolmen that lies in the locality of Byalata Treva, a few kilometres south of the village of Hlyabovo. 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	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Topolovgrad.	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

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	locality, Gaidarova Cave locality)	size 0.80m x 0.65m. Well-preserved is the two-chamber dolmen in Nachovi chairi locality. 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. A comparatively well-preserved is the two-chamber dolmen in Gaidarovi forest locality. 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. 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 in Evdzika locality with the two short sides missing. Dimensions: length 2.80m, width 0.80m, height - 1m.			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.
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 decares. 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.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Topolovgrad.	In terms of terrain, the fortress was built in a strategically well-chosen location.
Paleocastro	town of	An interesting cult object of Thracian times of regional and national	The site is	Good	To the north of the fortress archaeologists

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Thracian Religious Complex and Fortress	Topolovgrad	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 gate stood, and the other at the northeast end. The internal part of the fortress was 200 m long and 20 to 60 m wide.	acesible by car.	accommodation and dining options in the town of Topolovgrad.	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 Mesembria, 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, Diocletian, 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 12th century.
Fortified ruler's house	village of Knyazhevo,	Tatar Masha is an area in South Bulgaria located in close proximity to the village of Knyazhevo, Topolovgrad Municipality, Haskovo district.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation	Recent archaeological excavations led by Daniela Agre uncovered artefacts indicating

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from the Hellenistic era	Tatar Masha locality	There is a hypothesis that this was the site of the ancient Thracian city Drongilon. 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. 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.		and dining options in the town of Topolovgrad.	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.
Izvora na belonogata (The Spring of the White-legged Girl)	town of Harmanli	"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."" 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	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Harmanli.	""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

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		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."			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.
The Humpback Bridge	town of Harmanli	Built in 1585 over the river Olu dere (Harmanliyska River).	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Harmanli.	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.
Archaeological complex Castra Rubra	village of Izvorovo, Kaleto locality	The Late Antiquity and Medieval fortress Castra Rubra is located in the Kaleto locality, 6 km southwest of the village of Izvorovo. The locality cakked 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 Anasthassius 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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Harmanli.	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

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					fortress survived until the beginning of the 7th century when it was burned down during the invasions of the Slavs and Avars.
Chuchul Kamak menhir	village of Ovcharovo	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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Harmanli.	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. 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".
Kervan Saray	town of Harmanli	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 site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Harmanli.	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.
Dolmen	village of Cherepovo	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	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Harmanli.	"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,

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		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, embedded in the ground as the groove for the aperture is visible.			cromlechs. 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.
Dolmen	the village of Ostar Kamuk, Sivri Kaya locality	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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Harmanli.	Dolmens are remarkable monuments of ancient Thracian culture and can be seen only in the mountains of Strandja and Sakar, with several also in the Eastern Rhodopes.
Monument of the Holy Mother of God	town of Haskovo	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. 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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Haskovo.	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 Municipal Council September 8th was also designated the Day of Haskovo.
Monument "1000 years of Haskovo"	town of Haskovo	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	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Haskovo.	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

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		Old Clock Tower, first discovered during the construction of Aida Hotel in the 1960s. 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.			West.
Bell tower	town of Haskovo	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. Eight bells of different sizes are placed at its top.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Haskovo.	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.
The Old Clock Tower	town of Haskovo	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. On September 8, 2012 the Haskovo municipal administration turned	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of	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

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		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. The restored clock tower rises at a height of 23 metres and is made of dressed stones from Uzudzhovo. There are three dials and electronic equipment with GPS time adjustment placed on its top, as a chime strikes the hours gone by.		Haskovo.	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. The old clock tower of Haskovo has been restored entirely with donations.
The Sundial	town of Haskovo	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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Haskovo.	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.
Monument of Envy	town of Haskovo	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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Haskovo.	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.

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		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.			
Marsa Fortress	town of Haskovo	Marsa Fortress is located in Hisarya quarter, at 0.96 km south in a straight line from Haskovo town centre. It lies on the higher parts of a limestone hill, at the bend of a small river. A Bulgarian settlement emerged here as early as the 9 th century, and in the 10 th century a fortress was built on top of the ruins of an earlier existing Thracian stronghold.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Haskovo.	The fortress offers direct view of the fortresses at the village of Teketo and the village of Tatarevo. With its central location this town-fortress was the centre of the entire system of fortresses built along the rivers of Maritsa, Klokotnitsa and Harmanliyska. Most probably the fortress was destroyed when the Byzantines captured it at the end of the 10th century. It was later restored and subsequently abandoned.
Venue of the Uzundzhovo Fair from the 16th to the 19th century	the village of Uzundzhovo	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. 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). 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	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Haskovo.	The Uzundzhovo Fair was the biggest within the borders of the Ottoman Empire

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		<p>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>			
Medieval fortress	village of Klokotnitsa, Asenova Mahala quarter	<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>	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Haskovo.	This is the second fortress of Tsar Assen, which is located near the village of Klokotnitsa, 5 km from Haskovo.

SECTION CHURCHES, MONASTERIES AND OTHERS

NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	ACCESSIBILITY	POSSIBILITIES OF CATERING AND ACCOMMODATION	INTERESTING FACTS
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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Dimitrovgrad	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.
Church of Saint Demetrius	Dimitrovgrad	The Saint Demetrius Church in Dimitrovgrad is the oldest building in the town, dating back to 1884.. 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 luscious, beautiful and well-maintained vegetation. In 1974, the church was declared a monument of culture.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Dimitrovgrad	A legend says that the yard of 8 decares 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.
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 site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Dimitrovgrad	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.
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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Dimitrovgrad	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.
Monastery of the Holy	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	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Dimitrov-	Every year, on the eve of the Feast of the Assumption of Virgin Mary, many people come

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Theotokos		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.		grad	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.
Church of Saint Haralampus	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 Haralampus, February 11, a large deer came out of the forest, which was killed as an animal sacrifice. The church to Saint Saint Haralampus Church has 38 icons, some with exact dating and the names of the icon-painters who worked in the 1860s.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Dimitrovgrad	Apart from the Biblical stories, attention is drawn also by a scene painted by an unknown author depicting three chain gangs of slaves.
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 Dzhamdzhiev 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.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Dimitrovgrad	There is also a holy spring near the church.
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.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Dimitrovgrad	An octagonal belfry made of stone stands in the northeastern corner of the churchyard.
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 site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Dimitrovgrad	The church was designated a monument of culture of national importance in 1964.
Church of the	town of	An extremely valuable representative of church architecture as well as fine and	The site is accesible	Good accommodation	The church feast of the Transfiguration of Jesus Christ (6 August) is celebrated with a solemn

NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	ACCESSIBILITY	POSSIBILITIES OF CATERING AND ACCOMMODATION	INTERESTING FACTS
Lord's Transfiguration	Ivaylovgrad	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.	by car.	and dining options in the town of Ivaylovgrad	liturgy and a sacrificial kurban meal for health. The church is the main place of worship in the town, open every Sunday.
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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Ivaylovgrad	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.
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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Ivaylovgrad	Of particular interest is the wood-carved iconostasis, composed of larger elements.
Church of Saints Constantine and Helen	village of Dolno Lukovo	One of the most well-preserved old Bulgarian churches. It has been declared an architectural monument of culture of local importance. 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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Ivaylovgrad	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.
Ilieva Niva Thracian	village of Glumovo	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	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Ivaylovgrad	On this site on October 3, 1913, during the Second Balkan War, the Turkish army killed over 200

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Memorial		of a monument, a fountain and a chapel to Saint Petka of Bulgaria.		grad	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.
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 monsternace decorated with picturesque appliqué ornaments.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Ivaylovgrad	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.
Saint Athanasius Church	village of Malko Gradishte	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. 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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Lyubimets	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.
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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Madzharovo	In 1913, the church was burned down and later restored in 1921.

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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 Despot icons (Sovereign Tier) and the tier with icons of the Twelve Great Feasts.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the village of Mineralni bani	The architecture of the building is also noted as a cultural property.
Church of the Life-Receiving Source	town of Svilengrad	The church was built around 1860, mainly with donations from the residents of Gebran neighbourhood. 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 luscious 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.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Svilengrad	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.
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.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Svilengrad	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.
Church of the Holy Theotokos	district of Zlati Dol quarter, town of Simeonovgrad	More than a century old, the church was built in 1825.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the 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.

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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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Simeonovgrad	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.
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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the village of Stambolovo	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 Georgidelchev'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.
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. It was named after St. Elijah and was consecrated on Ilinden, the feast day of the saint. This is also the day of the village fair. Every year local people perform the ritual of serving a kurban meal, a tradition interrupted during Socialism and later revived. Everybody gathers in the churchyard where, after the liturgy, the kurban meal is consecrated. A story goes that once, on the feast of Saint Elijah, a person from the village kept working and then the river overthrew its banks, which was seen as a sign of punishment for the whole village because no work should be done on this day."	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the village of Stambolovo	A legend says it was built on the foundations of an earlier church
Chapel of Saint	village of Tsareva	In the Gyorgidenya locality, on the road between the villages of Tsareva Polyana	The site is accessible	Good accommodation	Until recently, there was also a stone cross here.

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George	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).	by car.	and dining options bin the village of Stambolovo	
Chapel of the Holy Trinity	village of Zhalti Bryag	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, and 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 Brayg 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."	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options bin the village of Stambolovo	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.
Church of Saints Peter	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	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options bin	The holy chief apostles Peter and Paul were actually completely different. The first one was a

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and Paul		Paul.		the village of Stambolovo	devout follower of Jesus from the very first days of His teaching while the second one was opposing the Lord by all possible means until an apparent miracle – an encounter with the Pursued one Himself, completely transformed his life.
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.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options bin the village of Stambolovo	It is assumed that Demir Baba Türbe was the successor of an earlier Christian consecrated ground.
Church of the Holy Theotokos, Memorial to Christ the Savior"	town of Topolovgrad	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 citizen decided to build a new church, larger and more beautiful, in the place of the old one. Under the leadership of Father Yani Pophristov 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 Pophristov, 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 Popyanchev). In recent years, local artists and craftsmen restored the murals and made a new wood-carved bishop's throne.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options bin the town of Topolovgrad	It is the largest and most imposing Eastern Orthodox church in the area.
Monastery of the Holy	town of Topolovgrad	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.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options bin	This is one of the biggest spiritual centres in this part of the country, which is still active.

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Trinity		<p>It was probably devastated in 1373 by the Turkish hordes invading from the north led by Timurtash 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.</p>		the town of Topolovgrad	

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Church of Saint Athanasius the Great	town of Harmanli	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. The iconostasis was made by an anonymous chair maker and is poor in terms of woodcarving detail.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options bin the town of Harmanli	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.
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.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options bin the town of Haskovo	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.
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. In terms of architectural design, it is a nave basilica with a gable roof, without a	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options bin the town of Haskovo	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.

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		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.			
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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Haskovo	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.
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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Haskovo	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.
Eski Mosque	town of Haskovo	Eski Mosque claims to be one of the oldest mosques in Bulgarian lands.	The site is accessible	Good accommodation	Eski Mosque is the main active place of worship of

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(Camı Jadid)		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 şerefe (the balcony of the minaret).	by car.	and dining options bin the town of Haskovo	the Muslims in the town.
Charshijska Mosque (Çarşı Camı)	town of Haskovo	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. 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.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options bin the town of Haskovo	On the southern wall there is a plaque with Arabic writing, still undeciphered by scholars.
Church of the Assumption of the Most Holy Mother of God (Uzundzhovo Church)	village of Uzundzhovo	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	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options bin the town of Haskovo.	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 Uzundjovo was declared a monument of culture.

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NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	ACCESSIBILITY	POSSIBILITIES OF CATERING AND ACCOMMODATION	INTERESTING FACTS
		Turkey returned the property to Bulgaria and then the reconstruction of the mosque into a church started. 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.			
Holy Spring and Chapel of Saint Anna	village of Trakiets	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. In 2009, to mark the holy place, the mayor of Trakiets, Krasimir Boychev, with his own funds, raised a 13-metre-tall metal cross. 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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Haskovo.	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.
Osman Baba's Türbe	village of Teketo	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.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Haskovo.	Osman Baba near the village of Teketo, Haskovo Municipality, is one of the four oldest, biggest and most famous tekkes in Bulgaria, alongside with the Demir Bebe tekke near the village of Sveshtari, Isperih Municipality; the tekke of Akyazili Baba in the village of Obrochishte, Dobrich Municipality, and the tekke of Kademli Baba near the village of

NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	ACCESSIBILITY	POSSIBILITIES OF CATERING AND ACCOMMODATION	INTERESTING FACTS
					Sokol, Nova Zagora Municipality.

NATURAL LANDMARKS

SECTION PROTECTED TERRITORY - NATURAL MONUMENTS/RESERVE

NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	ACCESSIBILITY	POSSIBILITIES OF CATERING AND ACCOMMODATION	INTERESTING FACTS
Habitat of the peony	village of Huhla	Habitat of a protected species with a total area of 15 ha.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Ivaylovgrad.	There is a belief that the peony is a sign of prosperity and if people grow it in their garden, it will bring them wealth.
Habitat of the garden sage (Salvia officinalis)	village of Gorno Lukovo, Luda Reka River, village of Gornoseltsi, Mareshnitsa River	Total area of 90 ha, of which 10 ha are in Gornoseltsi village, Mareshnitsa river.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Ivaylovgrad.	Protected species under Bulgaria's Biodiversity Act.
Habitat of the common snowdrop (Galanthus nivalis)	town of Ivaylovgrad, Petkov Bair locality and village of Garvanovo, Asenova Fortress	Natural landmark with a total area of 0.1 ha in the municipality of Ivaylovgrad and 10.4 ha in Haskovo municipality.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Ivaylovgrad and the town of Haskovo.	Protected species under Bulgaria's Biodiversity Act.
Habitat of the	village Huhla and	Protected species with a total area of 15.5 ha, of which 0.5 ha are	The site is accesible by	Good accommodation and dining	Protected species under Bulgaria's

NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	ACCESSIBILITY	POSSIBILITIES OF CATERING AND ACCOMMODATION	INTERESTING FACTS
peony	village of Zhelezino, Halka Bair locality, Pobeda peak	in the village of Huhla.	car.	options in the town of Ivaylovgrad.	Biodiversity Act.
Nesting site of rare endangered diurnal raptors	town of Madzharovo	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.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Madzharovo.	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.
Orlovi Skali (Eagle's Rocks)	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.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the village of Mineralni bani.	There was an old Thracian settlement here, as the remains of a fortress from the New Iron Age are still visible to this day. The Thracian fortress from the Neolithic 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 ceramics on the surface dates back to the 2nd half of the 1st millennium BC."
Habitat of lily-of-the-valley and peony natural monument	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.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the village of Mineralni bani.	As of this year (2018), the lily-of-the-valley is one of 24 medicinal plants banned for picking in their natural habitats across the country.
Dikilitash	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.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the village of Mineralni bani.	A total of 149 bird species have been registered in the area of Harmanliyska River, with 28 of them included in Bulgaria's Red Book (1985)
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 rock formations.	Обектът е достъпен с кола	Good accommodation and dining options in the village of Mineralni bani.	Before being designated as a natural monument it had the status of a historical site.

NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	ACCESSIBILITY	POSSIBILITIES OF CATERING AND ACCOMMODATION	INTERESTING FACTS
Pobiatia kamak (The Standing Stone)	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.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the village of Mineralni bani.	There is also a large covered cave here.
Boraka 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 site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the village of Mineralni bani.	The average age of the trees is between 120 and 150 years.
Habitat of the scarlet peony (Paeonia peregrina)	village of Kostur, Taushan Bair locality	Habitat of the scarlet peony.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Svilengrad.	Ever since the time of Hippocrates the so-called Balkan peony (Paeonia peregrine) has been well-known for its curative properties.
Dervish Mound	village of Dervishka Mogila	Rock formations.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Svilengrad.	There are remains of an ancient Thracian fortress.
Kaleto	village of Mezek	Rock formation around a medieval fortress.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Svilengrad.	The fortress near the village of Mezek was very 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 walls have been preserved up to the height of the platform over which their pinnacles rose.
Habitat of Astracantha thracica	village of Vodentsi	Habitat of Astracantha thracica. The species and its habitats are protected under Bulgaria's Biodiversity Act.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the village of Stambolovo.	Some of its populations are within the boundaries of Sinite Kamani (The Blue Stones) Nature Park.
Habitat of the Orpheus flower	village of Rabovo, locality of	Habitat of the Orpheus flower Famous its prolonged anabiotic	The site is accesible by	Good accommodation and dining	The name Orpheus flower or the Flower of

NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	ACCESSIBILITY	POSSIBILITIES OF CATERING AND ACCOMMODATION	INTERESTING FACTS
(Haberlea Rhodopensis)	Sheytan Kyupris	drought resistance, also known as the "regenerating plant" or the flower of Orpheus.	car.	options in the village of Stambolovo.	Orpheus comes from a legend saying the wherever the drops of blood fell from the wounded body of Orpheus, there small blue-violet flowers grew. Another legend goes that a blue-white flower grew wherever a tear fell from the weeping eyes of Orpheus mourning the loss of his beloved Euridyce.
"The Devil's Bridge	village of Rabovo	Here one can see 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.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the village of Stambolovo.	A legend says that during the Ottoman Domination one of the Turkish rulers in the region fell in love with a Bulgarian maiden and wanted to make her part of his harem. Learning about his intentions, the girl ran away to seek refuge in the mountain. Running up the Arda River, she reached the bridge intending to jump from it and drown herself in the high waters of the river. The Turks were swiftly coming after her on their horses. Approaching the bridge, however, they suddenly stopped struck by fear. Right in the middle under the central arch of the bridge, in the waters of the river, they saw a ghastly reflection – the face and horns of the devil. Frightened, the Turks went away and the girl survived. Satan saved this Bulgarian maiden from certain death, appearing as a vision to her pursuers on horseback. Since then, the bridge bears the name 'The Devil's Bridge, and hence the name of the entire area.
Arda Bridge	village of Stambolovo	This protected area spreading over 150 224 decare 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,	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the village of Stambolovo.	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.

NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	ACCESSIBILITY	POSSIBILITIES OF CATERING AND ACCOMMODATION	INTERESTING FACTS
		<p>surrounded by wooded mountain slopes and rock massifs. 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>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>
Eastern Rhodopes	village of Stambolovo	<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</p>	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the village of Stambolovo.	<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</p>

NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	ACCESSIBILITY	POSSIBILITIES OF CATERING AND ACCOMMODATION	INTERESTING FACTS
		<p>2,173,530 decares. The two highest ridges in the Eastern Rhodope Mountain fall within its boundaries - Gumyurdzhinski Snezhnik 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>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> <p>The Berne Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats</p> <p>The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora</p> <p>The European Union Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora. 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</p>			<p>tortoise species occurring in Bulgaria. These are the spur-thighed tortoise (<i>Testudo graeca</i>) and Hermann's tortoise (<i>Testudo hermanni</i>).</p>

NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	ACCESSIBILITY	POSSIBILITIES OF CATERING AND ACCOMMODATION	INTERESTING FACTS
		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>). Forests along the Greek border are visited by wandering brown bears. In the water basins on the territory of the protected area one can observe also the common otter - a species globally threatened with extinction."			
Brasnarskiat Stol (Barber's Chair)	town of Topolovgrad	This protected site spreading over 5 ha was created with the aim of preserving the rock formation.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Topolovgrad.	-
Karakolyovota Dupka	village of Ustrem and village of Mramor	The cave and the forest around it.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Topolovgrad.	There is also the so-called Old church.
State forest around the Holy Trinity Monastery	village of Ustrem and village of Mramor	Acentury-old forest around the Holy Trinity Monastery and rocky slopes.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Topolovgrad.	-
Habitat of the summer snowflake (<i>Leucojum aestivum</i>)	village of Biser, Sazlaka locality	The summer snowflake is a rare perennial species with a limited distribution.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Harmanli.	The summer snowflake is not only a plant of highly healing properties but also a beautiful and gentle flower with dainty pendant white bells resembling those of the lilly-of-the-valley, only a little larger.
Boaza	village of Garvanovo	Boaza is the official name of the gorge of the Banska River between the villages of Garvanovo and Tatarevo, Haskovo	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Haskovo	The river is rich in fish - chub, barbel, the Danube bleak, carassius, the common nase

NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	ACCESSIBILITY	POSSIBILITIES OF CATERING AND ACCOMMODATION	INTERESTING FACTS
		district. Boaza fascinates visitors with its numerous rock formations, the most famous among them called Rogata, and with a waterfall. Banska River takes its source west of Sofidzhik Peak in the Eastern Rhodopes and it flows into Maritsa River close to Dimitrovgrad.			and the vimba bream, whereas the Boaza Area is well-known as a gold-yielding zone.
Habitat of the common oak (Quercus robur)	village of Uzundzhovo, locality of Palamudche	Habitat of the common oak.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Haskovo.	In the village of Granit, Stara Zagora District, one can see a common oak (Quercus robur species) considered to be the oldest tree in Bulgaria and one of the oldest trees in the world.

SECTION PROTECTED TERRITORY - PROTECTED SITES

NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	ACCESSIBILITY	POSSIBILITIES OF CATERING AND ACCOMMODATION	INTERESTING FACTS
Zlato Pole	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).	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Dimitrovgrad.	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.
Propadnaloto Blato	village of Golyamo Asenovovo	After numerous changes over time, this wetland has turned into a biotope attracting numerous animal species and boasting a rich plant diversity.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Dimitrovgrad.	A place that has been inhabited by an otter family for several years. Beard is one of the few mammals in Bulgaria included in the World Red List.
Nocturnal roosting place of the Pygmy Cormorant - Dimitrovgrad	town of Dimitrovgrad and village of Radievo	The Protected site covers the Maritsa River valley on the territory of the District: Haskovo, Municipality: Dimitrovgrad, Dimitrovgrad, Radievo and has an area of 128.24 ha. This is a resting place and migratory stop of the globally endangered and protected species of the pygmy cormorant.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Dimitrovgrad.	The pygmy cormorant is a water-loving bird, also known in Bulgaria under the names of "the little devil" or "karabatak".

NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	ACCESSIBILITY	POSSIBILITIES OF CATERING AND ACCOMMODATION	INTERESTING FACTS
Dupkite (The Holes)	village of Svirachi	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 Ophrys mammosa, the woodcock bee-orchid, Himantoglossum caprinum, and the pyramidal orchid (Anacamptis pyramidalis). 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 Schreibers' long-fingered bat. It is not uncommon to find also fossils.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Ivaylovgrad.	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.
Meanders of Byala Reka River	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	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Ivaylovgrad.	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

NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	ACCESSIBILITY	POSSIBILITIES OF CATERING AND ACCOMMODATION	INTERESTING FACTS
		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 otter – a protected species of worldwide significance.
Likana	village of Belopolyane, village of Svirachi	Known as the kingdom of the orchids, Likana attracts visitors with its impressive wealth of rare plants, including 15 orchid species. Along with the Spurred Helleborine, of special interest are the species <i>Ophrys mammosa</i> , the woodcock bee-orchid and the ordinary bee-orchid, <i>Himantoglossum caprinum</i> , the violet limodore, the butterfly orchid (<i>Anacamptis papilionacea</i>) and the pyramidal orchid (<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>), which are of national and European importance.	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Ivaylovgrad.	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 orchid species Spurred Helleborine (<i>Cephalanthera epipactoides</i>).
Hambar Dere	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	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Ivaylovgrad.	The area is also of great importance for the protection of the western Caspian turtle - a protected species enlisted in Bulgaria's Red Book.

NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	ACCESSIBILITY	POSSIBILITIES OF CATERING AND ACCOMMODATION	INTERESTING FACTS
		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.			
Habitat of the Eriolobus trilobata - Daneva Cheshma Fountain	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.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Ivaylovgrad.	Eriolobus Trilobata is included in the World List of Threatened Trees as a rare species.
Habitat of the summer snowflake (Leucojum aestivum) - Lozen road	town of Lyubimets and town of Svilengrad	Habitat of the summer snowflake.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Lyubimets ad the town of Svilengrad.	The species is not protected under Bulgaria's Biodiversity Act but is under a special regime of use according to an order of the Minister of Environment and Waters. It is included in Bulgaria's Red Data Book, Volume 1 - category "Endangered".
Bakarlia	village of Yerusolimovo (Lyubimets) and village of Izvorovo (Harmanli)	The Bakarlia Protected Area is located on the territory of Haskovo Municipality and encompasses the Baker Dere river and the slopes of Sakar Mountain - low rocky massifs with many reptiles, including: the javelin sand boa, the sheltopusik, the blotched snake, the two terrestrial tortoises and others. From the amphibians, one can encounter the Eastern spadefoot toad which is included in the Red Book.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Lyubimets and the town of Harmanli.	An important site for the conservation of the long-legged buzzard, the black stork, and the lesser spotted eagle. Regarding mammals, one can see here the European ground squirrel, the red deer, and the European roe deer.
Patronka	town of	The smallest protected area in the municipality, which has a	The site is accesible by	Good accommodation and dining	Presence of natural habitats of protected and

NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	ACCESSIBILITY	POSSIBILITIES OF CATERING AND ACCOMMODATION	INTERESTING FACTS
	Madzharovo, village of Borislavtsi	national significance for the conservation of nature. Conservation of habitats and populations of rare and endangered plant species, protected species of packing, reptiles, birds and mothers. Preservation of the inclusions in the Red Book of Bulgaria - three-color baton.	car.	options in the town of Madzharovo.	rare species of birds and plants included in Bulgaria's Red Book and the European Red List of Endangered Species.
Momina Skala (Maiden's Rock)	town of Madzharovo	Conservation of protected and endangered plants and animals such as: Anthemis auriculata, Bupleurum gerardi, Cleome ornithopoides, Fritillaria pontica, Micropirum tenelum, Orhis papilionacea, 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 Orhis papilionacea, the oriental plane, Scandix australis, Steffanophia daucoides, Verbascum humile; conservation of unique rock landscapes.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Madzharovo.	Not far from here one can see the unique rocky landscapes typical for the Eastern Rhodopes.
Chernata Skala (The Black Rock)	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. Preservation of habitats and populations of protected and rare species of plants and animals, including Anthemis auriculata, Fritillaria pontica, Carduus thracicus, thesheltopusik, the spur-thighed tortoise and Hermann's tortoise, etc.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Madzharovo.	Not far from here one can see the Thracian rock niches typical of the Eastern Rhodopes.
Aida	the village of Spahievo	The protected area covers a total of 3.5 ha. It consists of a natural, century-old beech high forest.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the village of Mineralni bani.	-
Golemyat Sipey (The Big Scree)	village of Byal Kladenets, village of Rabovo	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 653.9 ha. It covers a hard-to-reach area of rugged terrain, located between the dam of Studen Kladenets Reservoir and Kachlubuyuk	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the village of Stambolovo.	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

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		<p>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 spinachristii</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>Crysopogon 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>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>Neophron percnopterus</i>), the short-toed snake eagle (<i>Circus gallicus</i>), the booted eagle (<i>Aquila pennata</i>) and the common kestrel (<i>Nyctalus apivorus</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>
Studen Kladenets protected area	village of Byal Kladenets, village of Rabovo, village of Svetoslav	<p>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</p>	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the village of Stambolovo.	<p>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,</p>

NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	ACCESSIBILITY	POSSIBILITIES OF CATERING AND ACCOMMODATION	INTERESTING FACTS
		<p>bounds of the protected area. Its total area is 159,956 decarees. This is one of the key places for the conservation of endangered bird species encountered in the Eastern Rhodopes.</p> <p>The majority of the mountain slopes around Studen Kladenets reservoir are covered with mixed deciduous forests composed of the Oriental hornbeam (<i>carpinus orientalis</i>), the South European flowering ash (<i>Fraxinus ornus</i>), the Hungarian oak (<i>Quercus frainetto</i>) and the Dalechamps oak (<i>Quercus dalechampii</i>). Less common in the area are the forests of Dalechamps oak only or those mixed with the common hornbeam (<i>Carpinus betulus</i>). There are also quite a few places around the artificial lake covered with forests and shrubs of the Oriental hornbeam, Christ's thorn (<i>Paliurus spina-cristi</i>) and the prickly juniper (<i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i>). 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-screes is breath-taking.</p> <p>Scattered throughout the area are open spaces occupied by agricultural land and meadows overgrown with grassland, where species such as the yellow bluestem (<i>Dichanthium ischaemum</i>) and the bulbous bluegrass (<i>Poa bulbosa</i>) are predominant.</p> <p>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 (<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>), olive-tree warbler (<i>Hippolais olivetorum</i>), a the subalpine warbler (<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>), the Sardinian warbler (<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>), the rock nuthatch (<i>Sitta neumayer</i>), the masked shrike (<i>Lanius nubicus</i>), and the black-headed bunting (<i>Emberiza</i></p>			<p>looking for food.</p> <p>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 (<i>Ciconia nigra</i>), 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.</p>

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		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.			
Habitat of Veronica multifida	village of Shtit	Conservation of the plant species Veronica multifida L. and its habitat.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Svilengrad.	It inhabits dry rocky and sandy low-lying terrains. Its population is fragmentary, consisting of sparse individual specimens.
Gorge of the Tundzha River	village of Radovets	Designated a protected area with the aim of preserving the habitats of 149 bird species, 8 amphibian species, 21 reptile species, also of other protected and rare plant and animal species.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Topolovgrad.	Some of the species encountered here include the otter, the leopard snake, the common newt, and the four-lined snake
Habitat of Verbascum purpureum	village of Bulgarska Poliana, Topolovgrad and village of Branitsa, Harmanli	Conservation of the plant species Verbascum purpureum and its habitat.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Topolovgrad and the town of Harmanli.	In Bulgaria's Red Book the plant is listed under the category Endangered species.
Kazankite	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.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Topolovgrad.	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.
Olu-dere Gorge	town of Harmanli, village of Ostar Kamak, village of	The protected area was designated with the purpose of preserving the followingthermophilic and sub-Mediterranean oak forests, riparian formations of willows (Salix spp.), mixed common ash-alder tree formations near rivers (Fraxinus	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Harmanli.	The area offers excellent conditions for a refreshing, uplifting and unforgettable outing in nature. One can also take the eco-trail which starts from the Rowing Canal and leads

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	Polyanovo	excelsior-Alnus glutinosa) as well as the protected animal species: the European tree frog (Hyla arborea), the eastern spadefoot (Pelobates syriacus balcanicus), sheltopusik (Pseudopus apodus), the European worm snake (Typhlops vermicularis), the aesculapian Snake (Zamenis longissimus), the spotted Snake (Elaphe sauromates), the Turkish Boa (Eryx jaculus), the pond turtle (Emys orbicularis), Hermann's tortoise (Testudo hermanni), the spur-thighed tortoise (Testudo graeca), the Black Stork (Ciconia nigra), the Levant sparrowhawk (Accipiter brevipes), the Eurasian sparrowhawk (Accipiter nisus), the northern goshawk (Accipiter gentiles), the short-toed snake eagle (Circaetus gallicus), the booted eagle (Hieraaetus pennatus), the lesser spotted eagle (Aquila pomarina), the long-legged buzzard (Buteo rufinus), the European honey buzzard (Pernis apivorus), the black kite (Milvus migrans), the peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus), the Eurasian hobby (Falco subbuteo), the Eurasian eagle-owl (Bubo bubo), the stone curlew (Burhinus oedicnemus), the European ground squirrel (Spermophilus citellus), the marbled polecat (Vormela peregusna), the Eurasian otter (Lutra lutra) and others."			to the fountain known as Dyadotodorovata cheshma.
Zlato Pole	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	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Haskovo.	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).

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		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.			

SECTION CAVES, WATERFALLS, MOUNTAIN PEAKS, OTHERS

NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	ACCESSIBILITY	POSSIBILITIES OF CATERING AND ACCOMMODATION	INTERESTING FACTS
Nikola Vaptsarov Park	town of Dimitrovgrad	The oldest park in Dimitrovgrad, it incorporates 821 decare 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 site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Dimitrovgrad.	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."
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 decare 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	The site is accessible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Dimitrovgrad.	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.

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		cascades and fountains one can see here were innovations in landscape architecture of Bulgaria during the 1950s and 1960s.			
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.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Dimitrovgrad.	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.
Cave	village of Belopolyane, Kozha Kae locality	Natural landmark since 1978. It has a protected area of 80 ha.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Ivaylovgrad.	The cave is part of the hunting habitat of the Blasius's horseshoe bat.
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 site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Lyubimets.	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".
Kovan Kaya	village of Valche Pole	These are famous Thracian rock-hewn niches. The Kovan Kaya natural landmark has been given a special status with	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town	Here one can encounter also the globally endangered tortoises.

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		the aim of preserving rare and endangered plant and animal species. This is one of only a few places in Bulgaria where the rock volcanic niches have become a nesting site of the griffon vulture, the Egyptian vulture, the black stork, as well as of numerous typically southern species such as the rock thrush and the rock nuthatch.		of Lyubimets.	
Bird's stone (Kush Kaya)	village of Valche Pole	Представява огромна величествена скала наподобяваща орел, намираща се на север от село Вълче поле. It is a huge majestic rock resembling an eagle, located to the north of the village of Valche Pole.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Lyubimets.	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.
Meanders of the Arda River	town of Madzharovo	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 Ivailovgrad water reservoir between Madzharovo and Borislavtsi.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Madzharovo.	The meanders of the Arda River with its sandy beaches, Ivaylovgrad 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..
Sheinovets Peak	village of Mezek	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 Sheinovo 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.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Svilengrad.	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 Ivaylovgrad 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.

NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	ACCESSIBILITY	POSSIBILITIES OF CATERING AND ACCOMMODATION	INTERESTING FACTS
Babini Boski Cave	village of Mramor	It is 324 m long. 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.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Topolovgrad.	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.
Sakar Mountain	municipality of Topolovgrad and municipality of Svilengrad	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. 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. 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. In terms of eco-tourism, Sakar Mountain boasts numerous eco-trails suitable for adventurous mountain trekking combined with an unparalleled scenery of pristine nature.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Topolovgrad and the town of Svilengrad.	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. 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.
Bexrata	town of	The old church is a cave of irregular shape and numerous	The site is accesible by	Good accommodation and	There are many different hypotheses

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черква	Topolovgrad	hollows and niches on the walls and vaults that was used for a church in the 10th century. Its approximate dimensions are 8m x 6m. The church has not been shaped further, the natural configuration of the rocks has been preserved, almost all the niches and planes being written directly on the bare stone. Images of saints and, in some places, Greek inscriptions stand out in the vaults and tall niches. Unfortunately, as a result of penetrating water and erosion, many images and inscriptions barely appear, only a small part is better preserved. Among them are the three saints of one of the vaults. In the middle is located St. Parashkeva, and on the right is a young saint. These two images are most preserved in artistic terms. To the right of them, under a different gradient, there is an imitation of the Virgin Mary Oranta (the Soldier and the Protector). The icon of Arahangel Michael is located at the top of the cave at the entrance of the cave. All images are made with a brush, with earth ocher, in one tone, in some places denser and in places lighter and transparent (eg nibs around the heads). With careful viewing, other traces of images (just images, nowhere) can be found.	car.	dining options in the town of Topolovgrad.	about the history and fate of the Old Church. Perhaps the cave has been inhabited since ancient times, and also during the earliest Christianity, similar to the monastic cells of Aladzha Monastery. From the vaults of the Old Church there was water, which in the past was considered to be holy and healing. During the great holidays Spasovden, St. George, Trinity, St. Apostles Peter and Paul and others here come people from near and far to wash their sick bodies and receive healing.
Babini Boski Cave	village of Mramor	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.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Topolovgrad.	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.
Kyumyurluk	town of Harmanli	The natural waterfall is at Kyumyurluka Reservoir which	The site is accesible by	Good accommodation and	The Defileto protected area is also

NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	ACCESSIBILITY	POSSIBILITIES OF CATERING AND ACCOMMODATION	INTERESTING FACTS
a Waterfall		has very well-developed tourist facilities and can be reached via the road to Madjarovo, 4 km from the town of Harmanli.	car.	dining options in the town of Harmanli.	located nearby.
Kuru-Dere Waterfall	town of Harmanli	Natural waterfall in the Kuru-Dere locality.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Harmanli.	The Defileto protected area is also located nearby.
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.	The site is accesible by car.	Good accommodation and dining options in the town of Haskovo.	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.

