

TOURIST GUIDE IN STRANDJA

(DISTRICT OF BOURGAS, PROVINCE OF KIRKLARELI)

**PROJECT CBO05.1.22.105 „THE BEAUTY OF STRANDJA -
TO EXPLORE, DISCOVER AND SPREAD THE NATURAL AND CULTURAL
HERITAGE IN BULGARIA-TURKEY CROSS-BORDER REGION“**

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INTRODUCTION

This guide presents tourist sites and itineraries in the Bulgarian and Turkish parts of the Strandja-Black Sea region.

The covered districts are Bourgas (Bulgaria) and the Province of Kırklareli (Turkey).

The objects presented are interesting for their uniqueness, cultural-historical or architectural significance, biodiversity and natural formations.

Entities have been selected after survey and evaluation, based on: their importance (spectacularness), attractiveness in terms of beauty, exoticness or uniqueness (dimensions, unusualness, rare resource, etc.); complex location (group of resources); degree of study and preservation (conservation and safety); accessibility (mainly transport) and favorable geographic location - combined with diverse landscapes, natural and cultural-historical features.

Recently, tourists are increasingly looking for relax places with clean and preserved scenery. Besides the well-known resorts with developed mass tourism along the coast, the routes include places and sites in the area of Strandja Natural Park, providing wonderful opportunities for recreation in the nature, away from urban noise. They have the potential to develop tourism but are not sufficiently popular, especially among foreign tourists.

Strandja is the most southeastern mountain on the Balkan Peninsula. The larger and higher part of the mountain is located in Turkey. The highest peak Mahiada (1031 m) is on Turkish territory. The highest peak on Bulgarian territory is Gradishte (710 m), southwest of Malko Tarnovo.

Typical for Strandja are the rounded ridges, deep coombs and large river valleys. The mountain has an extremely rich and diverse flora and fauna.

In Strandja there are archaeological and historical monuments from Thracian, Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman times. Objects of regional, national and world importance have been identified.

PART 1 TOURISM RESOURCES IN STRANDJA (BULGARIA)

"STRANDJA" NATURAL PARK

Strandja Natural Park is the largest protected site in Bulgaria - with an area of 1 161 sq. km. and outlet to the Black Sea coast. The territory of the Natural Park preserves unique and invaluable for Europe examples of the natural environment and cultural and historical heritage.

At national level, the Park has the largest species diversity in all biological groups. The identified 122 types of different natural habitats, including 34 protected under the Habitats Directive, place Strandja NP in the first place among the protected areas in Europe.

Strandja is the only home in Europe of communities spread on the continent a few million years ago and disappeared during the typical for the Quaternary icing. *Rhododendron ponticum*, the symbol of the mountain, was widespread during the Tertiary climate to the Scandinavian Peninsula, and has now been preserved only in Strandja and the Caucasus.

The total number of higher plants in Strandja is about 1500, which represents about 50% of the total number of higher plants in Bulgaria.

Strandja Natural Park is the Bulgarian protected area with the richest spinal fauna - 404 species. There are 54 species of mammals such as wolves, wild boars, deer, jackals, wild cats, rabbits and others. The population of the otters in the Veleka River is the best preserved in Europe. There are identified 10 amphibian species (out of 16 Bulgarian species), 269 bird species (2/3 of the Bulgarian ornithofauna).

On the territory of Strandja Natural Park there are 5 reserves - Vitanovo, Silkosiya (the first reserve in Bulgaria), Sredoka, Tisovitsa and Uzunbujak; 14 protected

areas and 8 natural landmarks. In the mountains there are over 100 caves, 47 species of trees and over 1000 species of herbs.

Approximately 350 km of tourist walking trails are marked in the natural park, information boards are placed, and 25 recreational areas are built.

Strandja Natural Park has 3 information centers - Malko Tarnovo, Gramatikovo and Ahtopol.

Almost all the routes inside the mountain require a guide. Some itineraries are necessary to be agreed with Border Police Malko Tarnovo or Burgas, as their routes cross the border facilities near the borderline with Turkey. The networks of mobile operators in Strandja area do not always have coverage or it is poor.

(Source: Strandja Natural Park Directorate - Strandja NP Guide, 2nd edition, 2013 Malko Tarnovo; www.strandja.bg)

STARTING POINTS - MAIN TRANSPORTATION ARTERIES

As a starting point of the proposed routes were chosen the city of Bourgas, towns of Tsarevo and Malko Tarnovo. In Burgas there are built international airport and port, bus and railway stations. From all Bourgas major cities in Bulgaria there is a bus transport to the South Black Sea resorts, which passes through Tsarevo. An international road crossing Bourgas, Tsarevo and Malko Tarnovo is the shortest one connecting the countries of Europe with those from the Middle East.

The town of Malko Tarnovo is 76 km away from the regional center Burgas - the fourth largest city in Bulgaria, an important and perspective transport center. From Malko Tarnovo to neighboring Turkey could be reached through the border checkpoint M. Tarnovo.

Sample Routes:

1. AUTO-ROUTES FROM BOURGAS
 - ✓ BOURGAS- SOZOPOL- PRIMORSKO- TSAREVO (E87, second class road II-99)
 - ✓ BOURGAS- DEBELT- SREDETS (second class road II-79)
 - ✓ BOURGAS- KRUSHEVETS- ZVEZDETS- MALKO TARNOVO (first class road I-9)
 - ✓ BOURGAS-TSAREVO-MALKO TARNOVO- BOURGAS (circular route, E87, second class road II-99, first class road I-9)
2. AUTO-ROUTES FROM TSAREVO
 - ✓ TSAREVO-AHTOPOL-SINEMORETS-REZOVO (third class road III-9901)
 - ✓ TSAREVO- BULGARI-KONDOLOVO- GRAMATIKOVO- MALKO TARNOVO (second class road II-99)
 - ✓ TSAREVO- KONDOLOVO- BULGARI- KOSTI- SILKOSIA- TSAREVO (second class road II-99, turnout to Kosti and Silkosia - municipal road)
 - ✓ TSAREVO-PRIMORSKO -SOZOPOL-BOURGAS (E87, second class road II-99)
3. AUTO-ROUTES FROM MALKO TARNOVO
 - ✓ MALKO TARNOVO- TSAREVO (second class road II-99)
 - ✓ MALKO TARNOVO -BOURGAS (first class road I-9)

- ✓ MALKO TARNOVO - SLIVAROVO - GRAMATIKOVO - VIZITSA - ZABERNOVO - MALKO TARNOVO (second class road II-99 Malko Tarnovo - Tsarevo, turnout to Slivarovo - municipal road, turnout to Vizitsa - third class road, turnout to Zabernovo - municipal road)
- ✓ MALKO TARNOVO - STOILOVO - BRASHLYAN - ZVEZDETS- EVRENOZOVO - BLIZNAK-MLADEZHKO (first class road I-9 from Malko Tarnovo to Zvezdets, turnouts on municipal roads to the villages of Stoilovo, Evrenozovo, Bliznak and Mladezhko)-MALKO TARNOVO / BOURGAS.



Map of Burgas region

(Source: en.journey.bg/bulgaria/map/php?region=12)

ITINERARY:

BOURGAS - SOZOPOL - PRIMORSKO - TSAREVO

The distance from Burgas to Tsarevo is 73 km. The travel is carried out on a second-class republican road. The advantages of this route are: well-built and accessible transport infrastructure, available tourist infrastructure, various opportunities for recreation, accommodation, food and entertainment, numerous attractions, water sports opportunities, seaside recreation, camping sites, unique natural resources, valuable cultural and historical landmarks.



Source: www.googlemaps.bg/dir

SOZOPOL

The route passes through Sozopol - one of the oldest settlements in Bulgaria. The city is attractive for many tourists with its authentic atmosphere. Here you can enjoy a boat trip, water sports, diving and beach, stroll along the cobbled streets of the Old Town, explore the typical Black Sea and National Revival architecture, taste delicious fish dishes, and attend the annual Arts Festival - Apolonia (in September).

In the town there is a Tourist Information Center located at the following address: Sozopol, Republikanska Street /the square/ tel. +359 (0)5514/3336.

Sozopol is rich in archaeological and cultural-historical landmarks: the **Old Town**, the **Archaeological Museum**, the **Art Gallery**, the **Ethnographic Museum**, the **South Fortress Wall and the Tower**, the **church "St. Virgin Mary"** and others.

In the Middle Ages, the city was surrounded by a **fortress wall**. Some of the remains reach 3 to 4 meters. The wall was accidentally found in the demolition of an old house. The subsequent archaeological excavations revealed a preserved section of the southern fortress wall, part of a tower with a protective function and unique huge grain storage - from the V-VI century. There are 12 huge pots and much other smaller crockery preserved. An ancient well of the IV-III century BC is also found in the complex.

The **archeological museum** has exhibited unique findings from the Vth to the XVII th century - vases, mosaics, statuettes and others: the largest collection of painted antique pottery in Bulgaria from the end of VI-II century BC, the largest collection of Ionian ceramics and plastic arts XII - XV century. The museum is located at: Sozopol, 2 Khan Krum Square. Opening hours: summer (June to October): 08.00-17.00; Winter (November-May): 08.00-12.00. Non-working days: winter - Sunday and Monday.

(Source: http://poseti.guide-bulgaria.com/a/353/archaeological_museum.htm)

The **Old Town** is declared an archaeological and architectural reserve - with about 180 old stone houses. Some of the more famous houses there are: Alexander Mutafov House, Marieta Stefanova House, Kreanoulu House, Todor Zagorov House, Kuritidi-Thracian Khan House, Dimitar Laskaridis House and others.

In the central part of the Old Town of Sozopol there are **remnants of a medieval church with a basilica** - the seat of the Sozopol Episcopate from the middle of the X-th to the XVII-th century. The church was built on the ruins of residential buildings from the classical and Hellenistic period of Apollonia (V century - II century BC). The temple was rich in architectural decoration and floor mosaics destroyed by a fire in the 9th century. At the end of the XI century, the church was reconstructed and decorated with frescoes, and around it - a monastery complex and a monk's ossuary were built.

The **Virgin Mary Church** is located in the old part of the town. It was built in the times of the Ottoman Empire in the 15th century on the ruins of a Christian temple. The church is half-buried in the earth so that it is no higher than the Muslim buildings around, as the Turkish laws were decreed at that time. **The site is included in the UNESCO World Heritage List**. The church is decorated with a remarkable iconostasis, icons and fine carvings by local masters (Debar School). (Source: http://poseti.guide-bulgaria.com/a/188/holy_virgin_church.htm)

In the area of Sozopol you can see plenty of **churches, chapels and temple complexes**, e.g. the churches "St. Zosim", "St. George the Victorious", "St. St. Cyril and Methodius", "St. Athanasius" chapel, Monastery "St. John the Baptist" on the island of St. John, Monastery complex "Holy Apostels" in Cape Skamnya etc.

"St. John" island is a natural and archaeological reserve. It is **the largest** of the five islands on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast (660 decares). In 2010, the relics of St. John the Baptist were discovered there - **a finding of world significance**.

Close to Sozopol are the reserves "Sandy Lily" and "Alepu".



*St. John Island /Sveti Ivan/
(Photos: BRTA)*



*Cape Skamnya Excavations:
Monastery complex „Holy Apostels“*



A house in the Old town, Sozopol



Fortress Wall, Sozopol



Sozopol (Photos: BRTA)

PRIMORSKO

In Primorsko tourists have the opportunity for diving, paragliding and other extreme and water sports, yachting and picnics, aqua park.

In the vicinity of Primorsko are situated the world famous natural reserves "Ropotamo" and "Water lilies", the protected areas "Arkutino", the Stamopolu marsh, the sand dunes "Perla", the rock formations "Lion Head", the fjords and the seal cave of "Maslen Nos" (Oily cape). Of particular interest is the ancient Via Pontica, which characterizes the area of Primorsko as extremely ecologically clean. Also interesting are the ruins of the ancient fortress Azine, the Thracian dolmen from the 6th century BC and the remains of the pre-Christian chapel "St. Paraskeva".

(Source: <http://bsregion.org/bg/index/static/64/>)

The Tourist Information Center is located at the following address: Primorsko, "Treti mart" str. / Square I, tel. +359 (0) 5561/3076.

The **Historical museum** in Primorsko presents to visitors the following expositions:

- ✓ Ethnographic collection about people's life and lifestyle;
- ✓ Thracian dolmens in the region of Ropotamo;
- ✓ Thracian sanctuary "Beglik tash";
- ✓ Fortress wall on Urdoviza Peninsula;
- ✓ Tombstone at the Chenger Site;
- ✓ Cultural values incl. private donations.

The museum is located at: Primorsko, 5 Albatros Street
(www.museumprimorsko.bg)

Working time: Every day from 10:00 to 13:00 and from 14:00 to 19:00.



*Historical Museum, Primorsko
(Photos: BRTA)*



Ethnographic collection of peoples' life and lifestyle

BGLIK TASH

In the area of Primorsko is located "Beglik Tash" - the most ancient Thracian sanctuary in Southeastern Thrace and the Black Sea. The place can be reached taking the road near the horse base in Primorsko. An indicative sign points to a dirt road through the forest, suitable for off-road vehicles.

It is believed that the sanctuary was founded around the XIV th century BC and functioned until IVc. The impressive megaliths are scattered around the ruins of the ancient city of Ranuli and occupy an area of about 6 acres. It is believed that the sanctuary performed both the functions of a temple, a rock calendar and a sundial. According to the experts, rituals related to the cult of the Sun God and the Mother Goddess have been performed here. A rock path leads to a stone marble bed. On both sides there are two sacrificial monoliths, with gutters for the outflow of ritual liquids: wine, milk, olive oil and water. They symbolize the four original constituents of the universe, according to the Thracians (land, air, fire and water). On the top of the highest rising stone (menhir) there is the "step of the Sun-god". On the opposite side of the sacred circle is the "divine step" of the Mother Goddess. Below the menhir is formed a stone throne. From the carved stone throne, the entire terrace of the sanctuary is revealed. Next to them is situated a sundial, composed of a main stone, curved in a specific way, and six smaller stones. The shadow of the main stone falls on the next stones that divide the day into six parts.

A labyrinth of monoliths has been built in the northeastern part of Beglik Tash. To reach the exits, it passes through a narrow cliff with a height of 6 m and a width of about 50 cm. It was believed that only people with a clean soul could pass through it.

[Source: www.museumprimorsko.bg/landmark]



*Beglik Tash
(Photos: BRTA)*

Ropotamo Natural Reserve is one of the most attractive and picturesque protected areas in Bulgaria. It is located on an area over 1000 ha at the mouth of the Ropotamo River. It was proclaimed in 1940 to preserve forest communities of longoz type. The Reserve has a unique biodiversity. Its territory has 936 animal and 536 plant species. It is a habitat for over 50 species of mammals (red deer, deer, fox, bats, etc.) and 226 species of birds (herons, ducks, pelicans, cormorants, etc.). The reserve is renowned for its wildlife and rugged relief, a combination of dense forests, sand dunes and seashores.

In Ropotamo Reserve are included: the Arkutino marsh (620 decares), the Artemisia maritima locality (140 decares), the Snake Island (10 decares) and the remarkable rock formations - the "Lion Head" at 65-70 million years, cliffs, fjords and sea caves.

The region was inhabited in the Early Iron Age XI - X century BC, and later Thracians, Greeks, Romans, Slavs and Proto-Bulgarians settled here. Since then, the remains of the fortresses of Burhama, Valchanovo Kale, dolmens, the ancient harbors near the mouth of the Ropotamo River, the sacred stones "Apostol Tash", "Beglik tash" and the church "St. Paraskeva".

[Source: http://www.biodiversity.bg/files/File/Bourgas-programa_natura2000.pdf, p. 2]

TSAREVO



Tsarevo (Photo: Ivan Kamburov)

In the town of Tsarevo is the first and largest port south of Burgas.

In Tsarevo you can visit:

- ✓ "The Assumption of Virgin Mary" Church - Vasiliko neighborhood;
- ✓ Sea Lighthouse statue - port of Tsarevo;
- ✓ Open museum ship "Goryanin";
- ✓ Church "St. Tsar Boris Mihail";
- ✓ Park fountain - Vasiliko;
- ✓ Monument of the Ilinden-Preobrazhenie Uprising;
- ✓ Historical place in Dalgata polyana (Long meadow) area.

The Municipality of Tsarevo is rich in monuments of culture, some of which are of regional and national importance - the ancient "Ahtopol Wall" and the Greek School in Ahtopol, "the Holy Assumption" church - Tsarevo, "St. St. Cyril and Methodius" church in the village of Kosti, "St. Panteleimon" church in the village of Brodilovo, remnants of the megalith culture of the Thracians and others.

"The Holy Assumption" Church - one of the most beautiful on our Black Sea coast survives the great fire in Vasiliko at the end of the XIXth century. It is made of stone. The area around the Assumption Church is declared a historic reserve. A large building dating back to the XVI th-XVIIIth century is revealed to the east of the temple, probably of a military nature, which also played a of a customs point. They accepted the goods arriving by sea from other ports of the role Ottoman Empire.



The Holy Assumption Church and the Chapel (Monastery) St. George the Victorious, Tsarevo (Photos: Ivan Kamburov)



An old house (with skeletons), in "Vasiliko", Tsarevo (Photo: Ivan Kamburov)

On the territory of Tsarevo municipality are located the reserves Silkosiya, Tiso-vitsa and Uzunbujak. **The oldest reserve in the country - Silkosiya** was declared in 1933. It is located 2 km north of the village of Kosti and 1 km east of the village of Bulgari. There are 260 species of higher plants found there. It preserves the most typical and relict forests of beech and oak with evergreen bushes.

The unique Strandja Nature is protected through a network of protected areas, **the largest natural park in the country "Strandja"**, eight reserves and a number of natural landmarks. On the territory of Tsarevo Municipality are the protected areas: "Veleka River mouth", "Silistar", "Marina reka", "Kalkata", "Natural Pyrenean Field".

Tsarevo is one of the most attractive municipalities in Bourgas region. The unique combination of sea, mountain and rivers, exotic vegetation and variety of animal and plant species, along with the traditions and authentic Strandja culture and customs, provide a variety of opportunities for tourism development - exploratory, ecotourism, yacht tourism, photo and hobby tourism, hunting tourism and others.

Sightseeing on the territory of Tsarevo Municipality

Landmarks

- ✓ Natural landmark "Maharata";
- ✓ "Popova Skala" natural landmark - it is part of the village of Fazanovo, with an area of 30.8 ha, declared in order to preserve remarkable geological sites;
- ✓ Natural landmark "Strandja oak - St. Iliya area" is situated about 1 km west of the village of Kosti. It was declared for the purpose of preserving the deposit of a Strandja oak-fable. Represents a group of 14 oaks surrounding the chapel.
- ✓ Natural landmark "The deposit of a Caspian marsh turtle" - Nakovo kladenche - is located in the north direction near the town of Ahtopol and is declared for the purpose of preserving a caspian and plain marsh turtle deposit. Both are strictly protected in Bulgaria and Europe. On the

territory of the Park, apart from the "Nakovo kladenche" locality, they are met in Veleka and Rezovska rivers, as well as in some of the small rivers in the coastal part.

Cultural, historical and other landmarks

- ✓ Kastrich Fortress near Rezovo village;
- ✓ "Marzovsko kale" fortress;
- ✓ Fortress Agatopol;
- ✓ "St. Virgin Mary" chapel, village of Bulgari;
- ✓ "St. Petka" chapel in the village of Kondolovo;
- ✓ "St. Pantaleimon" church in the village of Brodilovo;
- ✓ "The Holy Assumption" church in the village of Tsarevo;
- ✓ Church in the fortress of Uguri, Bulgari village;
- ✓ Nestinarski konak (Fire-dancers temple) in the village of Bulgari;
- ✓ "St. St. Cyril and Methodius" church in the village of Kosti;
- ✓ Ships Locality near Sinemorets;
- ✓ The golden Thracian treasure discovered near Sinemorets in 2006;
- ✓ Coin treasure from Sinemorets;
- ✓ The Greek School in Ahtopol.

Tourist Information Center: Tsarevo, Kraymorska Str.

Sources:

Tsarevo Municipal Development plan for the period 2014-2020

Strandja Natural Park Directorate - Strandja NP Guide, 2 edition, 2013 Malko Tarnovo.

www.tsarevo.info;

www.tsarevo.net ; http://bsregion.org/bg/index/static/69/

ITINERARY: TSAREVO - AHTOPOL - SINEMORETS - REZOVO



Source: www.googlemaps.bg/dir

The distance from Tsarevo to Rezovo is 32 km.

AHTOPOL



Ahtopol (Photo: BRTA)

In the aquatory of the southernmost town on the Black sea coast were found stone, lead and iron anchors. The stone anchors are of Thracian antiquity and date from the beginning of the 1st millennium BC. Lead anchors are from the period of ancient Greek colonization, and the iron ones from the Roman epoch and the Middle Ages. Late Antiquity, and later the medieval - city, was at the highest point on the peninsula, where parts of the **fortress wall** (up to 8 m in height and 3.5 m in width) are still preserved.

Ahtopol was called the little "Holy Forest" - because of the dozens of temples built there. In 1918, however, a large fire burnt the town. It devoured churches, chapels, beautiful houses, shops, workshops and fishing huts. From the old Ahtopol remained only the church "The Holy Ascension" from 1796, and part of the monastery church "St. John", the earliest construction stage of which dates back to the 12th century.

In the **Information and Visitor Center "Primorska Strandja"**, tourists can watch a movie about the nature, history and livelihood of the region and the opportunities for the development of environmentally friendly tourism.

Anchor History Museum, Ahtopol - The exhibition is located on an area of 300 square meters in two halls - one dedicated entirely to the anchors and representing anchors of different ages, and the other - old sea maps and aerial photographs of the area south of "Maslen Nos". The museum has a free entrance.

Ahtopol Museum Collection - The exposition presents stone anchors, ceramics, bronze weapons, coins and other finds testifying to the ancient history of the village. It is housed in the building of the Greek school. For visits: tel .: 0550/6 22 80 (chitalishte) with prior request.

[Sources:<http://greencorridors.burgas.bg/bg/corridors/view/9>

Strandja Natural Park Directorate - Strandja NP Guide, 2 edition, 2013 Malko Tarnovo, p. 122.]

SINEMORETS

The village of Sinemorets is situated 5 km south of Ahtopol on a picturesque peninsula - on the right side of Veleka River.



Sinemorets (Photo: BRTA)

Landmarks:

- ✓ Sphinx stone formation - Sinemorets village,
- ✓ "St. John the Baptist" - village of Sinemorets,
- ✓ Protected area "Veleka River mouth" - Sinemorets,
- ✓ Coastal wetland Silistar - near the village of Sinemorets,
- ✓ Archaeological excavations Elenistic tomb - village of Sinemorets,
- ✓ Localization of late Hellenistic coins - Sinemorets village.

The village church is very old, dedicated to St. George. It keeps ancient icons, most notable of which are the icons of St. St Konstantin and Elena.

In 2006, on the outskirts of Sinemorets the archaeologists discovered numerous jewels (over 160 gold and silver ornaments) and ceramic crockery. According to experts, a grave of a Thracian priestess with a high public position was revealed. The finds are kept at the National Museum of History in Sofia and their replicas are in the Municipal Museum of History in Tsarevo.

In 2012 near the town of Sinemorets, during the archaeological excavations was

discovered the home of the rich Strandja ruler - Cordodynamus. A ceramic pot was found with about two hundred antique coins of the Lysimach, Antioch, Seleuc and Nikator coins. They are approximately from III century BC.

The whole territory from the south of Sinemorets to Rezovo is protected area "Silistar" with preserved dense forest, nesting protected birds.

Interesting for tourists is the boat trip along the Veleka River, where you can see the threatened by extinction yellow water lily-brute (Huphar-lutea).

There are 32 species of fish in Veleka River: wild carp, caraway, catfish, barbel, squirrel, crocus, lupa, eel, Balkan trout and others.

During the tour you will meet the dense vegetation, the river inhabitants, the tree species and the phenomenon of sandy hair at the mouth of the Veleka River.



Boat trip along Veleka



Veleka River

(Photos: BRTA)

Veleka is the longest river in Strandja - 147 km.

From Sinemorets - over the boats port- starts the eco path "Birds", about 4 km long, with observatories and information boards.



Eco path "Birds" near Veleka River (Photos: BRTA)

REZOVO

9 km from Sinemorets is the village of Rezovo: located on a high rocky coast over the Black Sea, on the border with the Republic of Turkey. The name of the village is associated with the name of the Thracian king Rezos, a participant in the Trojan War.

In the past, the settlement has often changed its location because of the constant attacks by the Caucasian pirates. Today's Rezovo was settled in 1903 and immediately the new church "St. St. Konstantin and Elena" was built. After the Balkan War in Rezovo, several families of refugees from the village of Yana and settlers from Malko Tarnovo came. The population has benefited from coal, agriculture and fishing.

In the area of the village are located:

- ✓ Archeological excavations of the Thracian mound necropolis - the village of Selski Dol, Rezovo village.
- ✓ Remains of castric fortress Kastrition on Cape Kastrich - 3 km north of Rezovo village.
- ✓ "St. John the Baptist" - Rezovo village.



Rezovo - Joint study visit of students from Bulgaria and Turkey
(Photo: Emil Rashev)

ITINERARY:

TSAREVO - KONDOLOVO - BULGARI - KOSTI - SILKOSIA - TSAREVO



Source: www.googlemaps.bg/dir

KONDOLOVO

The village of Kondolovo is located on the central Bosnian ridge, on a high and spotted spot, among centuries-old oak and beech forests with *Rhododendron ponticum*.

Northeast of the village, in the locality of Vlahovo, there are remnants of a small Thracian and late antique fortress - "Marzovsko kale", with an area of about 1 decare and a wall of loam without solder. Right next to it are the remains of a Thracian settlement. On the opposite southeast bank of the river are the ruins of another fortress.

On the territory of Kondolovo are known 3 mound necropolises in the places "Pisan kamak" (Figured stone), "Camilla" and an old, probably Roman, road in the

northeastern direction. Its first settlers are believed to be refugees from the Medieval fortress of Urdoviza (today Kiten); leaving it due to the constant raids of the Caucasian pirates (lazi) along the coast.

Kondolovo is one of the few villages with preserved **typical Strandja architecture** from the middle of the 19th century. The surrounding chapels are preserved: "St. Panteleimon" - 1 km north of the village; "St. Konstantin" - at the eastern end of the village; **"St. Petka" - the largest chapel in Strandja**, built on the foundations of an ancient church, 1 km southeast of the village.

Landmarks:

- ✓ Tissovitsa reserve - near the village of Kondolovo,
- ✓ Remains of fortress "Marzovsko Kale" - Kondolovo,
- ✓ "St. Pantaleimon" chapel - 1 km. north of the village of Kondolovo,
- ✓ "St. Konstantin" chapel - village of Kondolovo,
- ✓ "St. Petka" - the largest chapel in Strandja - the village of Kondolovo.

After a visit to the village of Kondolovo, you can go either towards Malko Tarnovo or return to Tsarevo, turn to the village of Bulgari, visit the Silkosiya Reserve and visit the village of Kosti.

BULGARI

The village of Bulgari is located in the eastern part of Strandja, 17 km from Tsarevo and 39 km from Malko Tarnovo. It is situated on the Bosnian ridge, between the coombs Yazmenski and Ugarsky dol. From the village is revealed an impressive panorama to the central Strandja and the highest Strandja peak Mahiada - 1031 m.

The vicinity of the village of Bulgari has been inhabited since ancient times, and that is why many traces of human activity are spoken. Thracian mounds are located in the locality Tsurkvistheto on the road to the Silkosiya Reserve (east of Bulgari) and in the areas of Echmite (east of Bulgari) and Byalata prast (3.5 km southwest of Bulgari). A large mound called "Tumba", with a diameter of 35 m, is located in the Shumiaka area (south of Bulgari).

To the north of the village of Bulgari, in the "Gradishteto" area, is the Thracian, late antique and medieval **fortress "Uguri"**. It is situated on a high hill with steep slopes descending to the Karaagach River and covers an area of about 11 acres. Around the large Uguri Fortress there are three smaller fortifications (each with an area of 1-2 decares): "Marzovsko Kale" - falling on the territory of the village of Kondolovo; the other two fortresses are situated above the villages of Gramatikovo and Pismenovo. Since the Byzantine period of the fortress is the one-apse early Christian basilica situated at its highest point. The fortress existed in the Middle Ages. Another intriguing old age place in the village is located in the area "Caldarama", a part of an ancient road between 50 and 100 m is preserved. The direction is from the sea to Malko Tarnovo.

Today, Bulgari is the only nestinar settlement in Bulgaria. On the day of St. St. Konstantin and Elena - on 3 June to 4 June (in old style), the nestinar ritual and the fire-dancing are performed under the sounds of the bagpipe and the "sacred" drum. Only the "devotees" can play in the fire. The cultural continuity in Strandja is the reason why this ritual, functioning since the Thracian times, has retained its main traits even today.

Directly connected with the fire-dancing ritual is **Konacheto** - a temple of the fire-dancers. In Konacheto usually is performed the "capture" of the fire-dancers before their play in the fire, the "dressing" of the fire-dancing icons, and hence the fire-dancing procession towards St. Kostadin. On the day of the saints a sacrifice is offered - a lamb for the nestinar kurban.

Konacheto is located in the center of the village and can be visited after a preliminary request in the information center for fire-dancing.

The fire-dancing museum is located in the building of the town hall (on the second floor) and provides information on the history of the fire-dancing ritual. In the projection hall can be seen the archive film of Bulgarian cinematography from 1964, shot the ritual with the participation of the last real fire-dancer - grandmother Zlata.

The village of Bulgari is declared a **folklore reserve**.



v. Bulgari - "St. St. Konstantin and Elena"
Church and the townhall (Photo: BRTA)



"St. St. Konstantin and Elena" Church
(Photo: Ivan /kamburov)

"St. St. Konstantin and Elena" church is located in the center of the village. The stone church was built in the second half of the 19th century. In 1903, during the Ilinden-Preobrazhenie uprising, it was burned together with the whole village. It was restored in 1910. Today it is a monument of culture.

The village of Bulgari is surrounded by chapels from all sides protecting its sacred space. These are: "St. Kostadin" - 1 km from the village in the west direction; "St. Elena" - renovated iconostasis at the western end of the village; "St. Iliya" - 1.5 km east of the Bulgarians; "St. Virgin Mary" - about 3 km north of the village - one of the biggest chapels in Strandja with two holy watersprings. The inhabitants of the village of Bulgari gather here on 28 August to celebrate the second most important holiday of the village after the fire-dancing. Next to "St. Virgin Mary" is the "St. Trinity" chapel.



v. Bulgari - „St. Kostadin“ Chapel



Fire-dancers Konak (Photos: Ivan Kamburov)

Attractions for both the village of Bulgari and the Strandja region is the private ethnographic collection, located in an old Strandja house. It acquaints you with the residential system from the end of the XIXth and the beginning of the XXth century, with the livelihood of the big rural families, traditional clothing, authentic handmade fabrics and many of the primitive tools used at the time.

To the east of the village of Bulgari is the oldest Bulgarian reserve "Silkosiya", and 7 km northeast is the protected area "Marina reka", in the past part of Silkosiya.

KOSTI

Distance Bulgari - Kosti: 8 km

Kosti is an old village, which inherited an earlier Thracian antique and medieval settlement. To the south of it there is a large mound necropolis, as well as several separate Thracian mounds.

In the vicinity of the village there are many chapels: "St. Petka" - 1 km north of the village; "St. Kostadin" - about 1.5 km west of the village; "St. George" - 4 km south of the village; "St. Dimitar" - 1 km west of the village; "St. Iliya" - about 2 km west of the village; "St. Virgin Mary" - 3 km in the southeast direction. To the southeast of Kosti, beyond "St. Virgin Mary" area, is **the oldest beech in Strandja, about 800 years old.**

Still in Kosti can be seen some of the old wooden houses of its previous inhabitants, which make it so attractive for the tourists. This style of residential architecture is known only in the three Greek villages of Kosti, Brodilovo and today's Sinemorets. The buildings are spacious, two-storied - underneath with a barn, overlaid with rough oak planks, with broad vents, but without windows. Scarce lighting is provided by the roof with a "moving tile".

The most beautiful village church in Strandja is "St. St. Cyril and Methodius" church- with a remarkable wood-carved iconostasis. It was built in the nineteenth century - a trilobal tribasic pseudobasilica.

In the village of Kosti is located the biggest village church in Strandja. Tourists

have the opportunity to visit the **St. Iliya chapel with the centuries-old Strandja oak** and the rope bridge on Veleka River.

Close by is the oldest Bulgarian **reserve "Silkosiya"** and the **reserve "Uzunbujak" (Lopushna)**, where rare, endangered species have been found.

Tourists can walk along the educational eco-path **"Marina River - the Living Museum of Tertiary Europe"** (former part of the first Bulgarian nature reserve - the strictly guarded state forest "Gorna Elenitza - Silkosiya").

The route starts from the sign "Marina River" 3.5 km from the village of Bulgari, in the direction of Tsarevo, on the right. It enters the forest path into an oak wood, overcomes the ridge, descends to the south and reaches the deep wet valley of the Marina River. Eleven thematic boards present the typical plant and animal species for "Marina River" Protected Site, ecological interconnections and nature conservation. Five modules inform about the relict plants, amphibians and reptiles, birds and mammals and the traces they leave.

The route allows for a fairly small area to observe almost all evergreen Kolkid shrubs and Tertiary relicts, spread several million years ago in almost all of Europe and after the last icefall survived only in Strandja.

Sources::

- ✓ *Tsarevo Municipal Development plan for the period 2014-2020*
- ✓ *Strandja Natural Park Directorate - Strandja NP Guide, 2 edition, 2013 Malko Tarnovo.*
- ✓ *www.tsarevo.info; www.tsarevo.net;*

ITINERARY:

BOURGAS - DEBELT - SREDETS

The distance from Burgas to Sredets is 32 km. The travel is carried out on a second-class republican road. To the left of the Burgas-Debelt section, tourists can see the Burgas Lakes "Mandrensko" and "Vaya".



Source: www.googlemaps.bg/dir

DEBELT

The village of Debelt is located about 20 km from Burgas.

Debelt is part of the Deultum Antique Colony, founded in the late 70s of the 1st century. It was founded by the August VIII Legion of Emperor Vespasian. It was formed as an economic, cultural, commercial and administrative center in the II and III centuries. In 812 the town became part of Bulgaria and existed until the X century. The Debelt fortress, built in the 5th century, protected the region and the ancient city of Deultum. Here is the only studied medieval Balkan customs complex with a church. It is supposed that Boris I accepts Christianity in it. Today there is a distinct National Archaeological Reserve "Ancient and Medieval City Deultum - Debelt".



National archeological Reserve „Deultum-Debelt“

(Source: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/>)



Deultum Museum

(Photo: Pl. Penchev)

The town of **Sredets** is an old settlement that originated at the end of the 5th century as a military-strategic fortress. Today the fortress Kaleto is located 2 km southwest of the center of Sredets. During the Ottoman period, the life of the fortress is drawn to the east and the settlement Karabunar / Black Well is being built in the place of the modern city.

Sredets is an important transport center for the settlements in the middle part of Strandja Mountain. Important transport routes of regional and international importance pass through the Municipality: Bourgas - Sredets - Yambol, Bourgas - Sredets - Elhovo, transport links with Malko Tarnovo - Istanbul, Bosnia - Tsarevo / Southern Black Sea/.

The shortest route from southeastern Bulgaria to the southern Black Sea coast and Turkey passes through the city. The relative share of 2nd class roads to the total road network is 17.5%, there are no motorways and 1st class roads.

The municipality is one of the largest in Bulgaria - occupies 1% of the territory of the country. The territories in the southeastern part of the municipality fall into the buffer zone of Strandja Natural Park. **“Bozhura” area** is a recreation zone. These are the most promising places for tourism development in the municipality.

There is also an opportunity for bird watching. Some of the rare birds recorded in the Red Book of Bulgaria, such as the Black Stork, the Small Eagle and the Rock Eagle, nest in the area.

In the mountain part of the Municipality passes the Fakiyska River, which offers suitable conditions for camping and fishing. There is an opportunity to practice sport fishing on the dams in Sredets, Momina Tsarkva and others. The richness of game provides great opportunities for hunting tourism development.

On the territory of the municipality there are many chapels and churches:

The Assumption Chapel in the Bozhura place, the Chapels in the villages of Rose-novo, Punchevo and Belevren, The “All Saints” Church in the town of Sredets, the Church “St. Paraskeva” in the village of Momina church, which is famous for its rich frescoes, Churches in the villages of Fakia, Drachevo, Slivovo, Zornitsa, Suh-odol, Slivovo, Dyulevo, Bogdanovo etc.

Other landmarks in the area are:

- ✓ Protected area "Beliat kamak" (The white stone) (451 ha), in the valley of Fakiyska river,
- ✓ Medieval fortress "Bliznashko Kale", 2,7 km southeast of the village of Varovnik,
- ✓ Megalithic Thracian sanctuary "Golemiat kamak"(The big stone) - a natural landmark from 1973 - between the villages of Dolno Yabalkovo and Belevren village,
- ✓ Dolmen in the Lozata area - near the village of Belevren,
- ✓ Dolmen in Kiriakstoyanova kashla locality - Belevren village,
- ✓ Dolmen in the locality of Korubata - Kirovo village,
- ✓ Couple of dolmens in Kapatsite locality - Granichar village,
- ✓ Nature Conservation Center "Poda".

In the villages of Goliamo Bukovo, Dolno Yabalkovo, Kirovo and Fakia there are preserved specimens of Strandjan architecture.

In Sredets you can visit:

- ✓ The Historical Museum;
- ✓ The Ethnographic complex Karabunar`s House - a type of natural museum, presenting the life of the population of the ethnographic group of Zagortsi in Strandja in the XVIII-XIX century;
- ✓ The museum Baylova House;
- ✓ The Church of All Saints, built in 1858;
- ✓ The Monument of Sofroniy Vrachanski.

Regular events

- ✓ National Strandja-Thracian Fest "Folk Wreath Bozhura" - the last week of May;
- ✓ Feast day of the town - 23rd September;
- ✓ Sredets Rally Cross - September 25th;
- ✓ Kuker day, Sredets - the last Sunday of February.

The Folklore Wreath Bozhura is a National Strandja-Thracian Youth Fair for preserving the traditions and continuity between the generations. Every year the customs are carried out: "Peperuga" - a tradition typical of the villages of Fakia, Momina Tsarkva and Dolno Yabalkovo - a typical custom for rain and fertility; "Kukeri" - masquerade spring games, to expel the evil spirits and berets; "Traditional folk contests" - a compulsory element in the folk reunions, preserved only in Sredets Municipality.

Possibilities for accommodation on the territory of Sredets Municipality:

(Registered, according to the Ministry of Tourism register, accommodation sites by types and categories: <https://ntr.tourism.government.bg/CategorizationAll.nsf/mn.xsp>)

- ✓ Guest house: 1* - 1 object in Sredets
- ✓ Guest rooms: 1* - 2 objects in Drachevo
- ✓ Tourist hut: 1* - 1 object in Bozhura locality.

Sources:

Sredets Municipal Development plan for the period 2014-2020

www.obshtinasredets.bg ; <http://bsregion.org/bg/index/static/67/>

ITINERARY:

MALKO TARNOVO - ZABERNOVO - VIZITSA - GRAMATIKOVO - SLIVAROVO - MALKO TARNOVO



Source: www.googlemaps.bg/dir

Malko Tarnovo is the only town in the heart of Bulgarian Strandja. It is situated in the valley between the rivers Rezovska and Mechi Dol (Aidare).

The surroundings of Malko Tarnovo offer unique places for recreation in the nature - natural forests with numerous springs, chapels and century-old trees. 5 km southwest of the town is the highest peak in the Bulgarian Strandja - Golyamo gradishte peak (710 m), from where a splendid view of Strandja hills is revealed. The Black Sea can be seen at nice weather.

Malko Tarnovo is the only settlement in the interior of the mountain, where there are pharmacies, a hospital and emergency room.

Clean air and water, combined with favorable natural conditions contribute to the development of recreation and healing ecotourism.



Malko Tarnovo (Photos: Ivan Kamburov)



Churches and museums in Malko Tarnovo (Photos: Ivan Kamburov)

In the area of Malko Tarnovo you can visit:

- ✓ **The Municipal Museum "Prof. Alexander Fol"** - Malko Tarnovo, with four exposition buildings - Archeology, History, Natural Science and Ethnography;
- ✓ "The Holy Assumption" orthodox church - Malko Tarnovo;
- ✓ "Holy Trinity" - east catholic cathedral - Malko Tarnovo;
- ✓ Cult Complex in **Mishkova Niva** area - near Malko Tarnovo, ancient necropolis and dome tomb;
- ✓ Stone sanctuary in **Kamaka** locality - Malko Tarnovo;
- ✓ Mogul Necropolis in the area of **Propada** - a complex of tombstones from different epochs - to Malko Tarnovo;

- ✓ **Dokuzak** Waterfall - near Malko Tarnovo;
- ✓ Object - a **sanctuary of the goddess Bastet** in the locality of Gradishteto;
- ✓ The **Big Ayazma** and the plank beds in Vlahov Dol;
- ✓ Historical site **Petrova niva**, where a historic congress was organized for the preparation of the Ilinden-Preobrazhenie uprising in Edirne Thrace.

From Petrova niva there is a unique panorama to the winding at the foothills Veleka River - suitable place for observation of rare and protected birds - black stork, small eagle, small spotted eagle, rock eagle and others.

- ✓ Golyamo Gradishte peak- near Malko Tarnovo;
- ✓ Eco-paths.



Ethnographic exposition at the Municipal museum of Malko Tarnovo
(Photo: Ivan Kamburov)



(Photo: BRTA)

The Municipality of Malko Tarnovo is fully included in the Strandja NP. On the territory there are:

- ✓ Vitanovo reserve;
- ✓ Sredoka reserve;
- ✓ Veleka Protected Site;
- ✓ Rudinovo Protected Site;
- ✓ Dokuzak Protected Site;

- ✓ Paroria Protected Site;
- ✓ Krivinizovo Protected Site;
- ✓ Bosna Protected Site;
- ✓ Natural landmark Bratanova cave;
- ✓ Natural landmark "Caves and springs of the Mladezhka River";
- ✓ Nature Spot Gradishteto;
- ✓ Natural landmark "Thracian rock sanctuary Kamaka" (The stone). It covers an area of 0.2 ha. It is 10 km away from the town, along the road Malko Tarnovo - Gramatikovo.
- ✓ "Kamenska barchina" - is located about 6.5 km northeast of Malko Tarnovo, near the road to Tsarevo. It was declared in 1981 for the purpose of preserving remarkable rock formations. It is an ancient Thracian sanctuary, where 2500 years ago the Thracians welcomed the sunrise of the Sun God and performed their rituals.
- ✓ Kachul locality - in the valley of the Veleka River, 3-4 km south of the village of Gramatikovo. From the town of Kachul marked trails lead to two of the most sacred places in Strandja - Indipasha and Big Ayasma. The rocks in the area are a natural landmark.
- ✓ Kovach locality - in the valley of the Veleka River, south of the village of Zvezdets.

Architectural landmarks

- ✓ Brashlyan village - architectural reserve;
- ✓ Town of Malko Tarnovo - Strandja houses from the late 19th century;
- ✓ Stoilovo village - typical Strandja houses and rugs washing bars;
- ✓ The villages of Zabernovo, Slivarovo, Visitsa, Byala Voda, Kalovo and Zvezdets - Strandja village houses from the late 19th and the beginning of the 20th century.

Possibilities for accommodation on the territory of the Municipality of Malko Tarnovo

Registered accommodation sites by type and category

[Source: Register of Places for Accommodation and Catering and Entertainment, National Tourist Register, Ministry of Tourism

<https://ntr.tourism.government.bg/CategorizationAll.nsf/mn.xsp>

- ✓ Hotels: 2 * - 2 objects;
- ✓ Guest houses: 1 * - 2 objects, 2 * - 12 objects;
- ✓ Guest rooms: 1 * - 75 objects, 2 * - 13 objects.

Registered dining and entertainment establishments

[Source: Register of Places for Accommodation and Catering and Entertainment, National Tourist Register, Ministry of Tourism

<http://ntr.tourism.government.bg/CategorizationAll.nsf/zhr.xsp>

Categorized objects: dining and entertainment

- ✓ 1 * - 3 objects - Malko Tarnovo;
- ✓ 2 * - 1 object - restaurant - in the village of Brashlyan.

Visitor Information Center, Malko Tarnovo /Preobrazhenie Square/ tel .: 05952/ 30 17; 0886 / 647,201; email: tic_mtarnovo@mail.bg/ provides information about:

- ✓ natural, historical and architectural landmarks;
- ✓ transport links;
- ✓ tourist attractions;
- ✓ accommodation;
- ✓ guides;
- ✓ promotional materials;
- ✓ computer services and the Internet.

Sources:

- ✓ *Malko Tarnovo Municipal Development plan for the period 2014-2020*
- ✓ *Strandja Natural Park Directorate - Strandja NP Guide, 2 edition, 2013 Malko Tarnovo.*
- ✓ *www.malkotarnovo.org*

ZABERNOVO

The village of Zabernovo is located 4 km south of the main road Bosna - Vizitsa - Gramatikovo, 44 km away from the town of Malko Tarnovo. In the vicinity of the village there are many Thracian and antique monuments - dolmens and mounds.

From here starts a route to the Protected Area "Paroria", which preserves the oldest forests in Strandja Mountain.

The patron of the village is the Virgin Mary.

In Zabernovo you can see:

- ✓ Centuries-old trees;
- ✓ Church school - museum;
- ✓ "St. Luka" church - the oldest church in the interior of Strandja survived from the Turkish fire-raising, half buried in the ground.

Before visiting the church and the cell school, the mayor's deputy or the local man who cares for it should be contacted.

About 2 km south of the village is the chapel "**St. George**". On the altar, instead of the icon of the saint, there is a votive plate with an image of the Thracian horseman. The round plate was found after a dream-sign of a local woman.

Century trees - In the place Tumbata is probably the oldest tree in Strandja (about 1000 years old) - oak blagun with a circumference of over 6 m; century oak in the area of Tulpan, with a circumference of 5.30 m and a height of 24 m; century eastern beech in the Razklona area, north of the village of Zabernovo.

In the village there are two guest houses (one with 16 seats, the other with 9 rooms), with taverns.

VIZITSA

The village of Vizitsa is 35 km away from Malko Tarnovo, situated on a viewing area known as Vizichko Bardo. The village is situated near centuries-old oak forests, including Thracian mounds and remains of fortresses.

The patron saint of the village is St. Iliya

- ✓ "St. Iliya" Chapel was built on a sacred place used by the inhabitants of the Strandja Mountain for several millennia - there are remnants of dolmen and Thracian mounds.
- ✓ "Holy Trinity" church- Vizitsa village - It was restored in 1914 at the site of a church burnt during the Ilinden-Preobrazhenie Uprising (1903).

"Holy Trinity" chapel - Between the villages of Vizitsa and Gramatikovo, in "Malka Kotvina" locality is situated the "Holy Trinity". It is built over an ancient Thracian sanctuary-cave. The cave enters the chapel on stone steps. There are two galleries: the left is collapsed and dangerous. In the other gallery is the sanctuary - the purifying water is dripping from the walls. Near the "Holy Trinity" are the ruins of a medieval church, and further away from it was the hunting village of Kotvini.

A 800-year-old oak-lord keeps the Chapel. Here is built a relaxation place.

The shortest route from the Strandja to the Black Sea coast - from the village of Pismenovo to Primorsko and Kiten - starts from the village of Vizitsa. Some parts of the track are not asphalted and therefore suitable for off-road cars or bicycle tours. This is one of the ways in which the Caucasian pirates invaded the Strandja Sea during the Middle Ages, devastated the villages and abducted the population into slavery.

GRAMATIKOVO

Gramatikovo is one of the largest villages on the territory of Strandja Natural Park. It is located 25 km from the town of Malko Tarnovo. It is situated high above the valley of Veleka River. From here, beautiful panoramic views of the Rezovo ridge and the Turkish part of Strandja are revealed.

The patron of the village is St. Iliya.

In the area of the village you can visit:

- ✓ "Holy 40 Martyrs" Church - Gramatikovo village - built in XVIII century and restored after the burning in the 19th century - a monument of culture.
- ✓ Fire-dancers sanctuary **Big Ayasma** and plank beds in Vlahov Dol-Gramatikovo village,
- ✓ **"St. Iliya" chapel** - It is located 2.5 km south of the village, 500 m east of the road Tsarevo - Malko Tarnovo. Built on the foundations of an ancient Thracian sanctuary. There are remnants of a Thracian necropolis next door. Underneath the century-old oak trees next to the chapel there is a relaxation area.

To the north of Gramatikovo are preserved ancient oak-beech forests. In the vicinity of the village you can see Strandjan Rhododendron ponticum.

A Visitor Information Center with an exhibition for the rare and protected plants in Strandzha has been set up in Gramatiko, which was created under a project under OP "Environment".

The village can accommodate about 30 tourists. There are restaurants and well-stocked grocery stores. In the vicinity are built relax zones, which offer the opportunity for different adventures.

Trekking routes in the area of Gramatikovo village

- ✓ Gramatikovo village - Yazmitsata - 1 km from the village; wooden tables and benches, plank bed;
- ✓ Gramatikovo village - Dimov Vris (Ayazmo) - 2 km from the village, wooden tables and benches;
- ✓ Gramatikovo village - Kalin Vriss village - 1 km from the village, wooden tables and benches.

Car route: Gramatikovo - Kachul - Mavrova niva

Veleka river is crossed where there is the opportunity for fishing and bathing. It passes through old oak forests and forest meadows with beautiful panoramas along the Mavrova niva and protected area Kamenska Barchina. Interesting for tourists is the visit of a Thracian rock sanctuary with solar circles and rock phenomenon "Stone mushroom".

SLIVAROVO

Slivarovo is the smallest village in Strandja. It is located 12 km east of the main road M. Tarnovo - Tsarevo, 17 km from the town of Malko Tarnovo. The present village was founded in the 17th century by incomers from Malko Tarnovo. There are still preserved houses, with Strandja's typical Revival architecture.

Chapels and wooden iconostases:

- ✓ St. Panteleimon - at the southern end of the village;
- ✓ "St. George" - 1 km southeast of the village;
- ✓ "The Virgin Mary" - at the northern end of the village.

From Slivarovo go paths to the sacred places in Strandja - the cave-sanctuary **St. Marina, the Big Ayasma and Indipasha**. The patron of Slivarovo is St. Panteleimon.

The rural shop has limited working hours and offers only the most needed groceries. Accommodation places are not available yet. Slivarovo and its surroundings are mostly covered only by Turkish mobile operators. During the visits to the village and its surroundings you can expect personal documents checks from the Border Police –as it is located behind the border facility.

Cave Sanctuary "St. Marina"- It is located about 12 km from Slivarovo in the eastern direction. The sanctuary was the largest cult center of the Saints in Southeastern Thrace. People from nearby and distant villages came here on pilgrimage and heal-washing.

Rock consecrated ground in the locality Indipasha – **a sanctuary with a spring** - in the village of Slivarovo, Yazmenski dol. Five days after Easter (Pesah) the people give kurban, ritual breads with dyed red eggs washed with spring water and some people spent the night there for health. This ritual is also associated with the name of the sanctuary Indipasha - after Easter. Faith and hope gather here Christian and pagan rites. Hundreds of people seek purification and healing.

Sources:

- ✓ *Malko Tarnovo Municipal Development plan for the period 2014-2020*
- ✓ *Strandja Natural Park Directorate - Strandja NP Guide, 2 edition, 2013 Malko Tarnovo.*
- ✓ www.malkotarnovo.org
- ✓ www.svetimesta.com

ITINERARY:

MALKO TARNOVO - STOILOVO - BRASHLYAN - ZVEZDETS - EVRENOZOVO - BLIZNAK - MLADEZHKO - MALKO TARNOVO



Source: www.googlemaps.bg/dir

STOILOVO

The village of Stoilovo is 9 km away from Malko Tarnovo. It is located on a high ridge above the valleys of the Mechi Dol (Aideres) and Veleka. From the village there are beautiful panoramic views of the Bosnian ridge, to the area of Petrova niva, to the Sredoka reserve with centuries-old beech forests.

In Stoilovo are preserved old houses, built in the 18th-19th centuries.

Chapels around Stoilovo:

- ✓ "St. Iliya" - at the end of the village in the eastern direction (Here are preserved some of the oldest sanctuary doors in Strandja);
- ✓ "St. George" - 4 km west of the village in the town of Nivishte;

- ✓ "St. St. Constantine and Helena" - to the north of the village;
- ✓ "Holy Trinity" - about 3 km northeast of the village,
- ✓ Cave-sanctuary "St. Marina" - about 5 km southeast of the village.

The patrons of the village are St. St. Constantine and Elena.

The village has a shop offering the most needed groceries.

Strandja forest path: Waterfall in Dokuzak - Mechi Dol (Aidere) -v. Stoilovo.

Duration - about 2 hours.

The name of the locality translated from Turkish means "nine springs". In the area there is a waterfall with a splash and a shelter with fireplace built nearby. The place is preferred by local people and their guests for relaxation and picnic. The path is suitable for children. The route allows fishing and bathing in the Aidere River, watching birds - eagles, hawks, vultures, and luckily - the otter.

The trail starts about 200 meters before the waterfall in Dokuzak, to the right of the road M. Tarnovo - Stoilovo village. It climbs to the ridge along an old forest road through an oak-pine forest. From the ridge there is a panorama to the east towards the Sredoka Reserve, the Mechi Dol valley, the village of Gramatikovo, the village of Stoilovo, the Primorska Strandja and the villages in the Bosnian part of the mountain. On the route there are information boards and modules describing the forest and its inhabitants. The trail crosses Mechi Dol River. A rope trolley is built over the river. On a steep slope it climbs up to the asphalt road to the village of Stoilovo.



Dokuzak waterfall (Photo: BRTA)



Dokuzak locality (Photo: BRTA)

The protected area was created in order to protect the natural locality of Strandjan (Crimean) tea (*Sideritis syriaca*).

Source: Strandja Natural Park Directorate - Strandja NP Guide, 2nd edition, 2013 Malko Tarnovo, p.30.

BRASHLYAN

The village of Brashlyan is located 14 km away from the town of Malko Tarnovo.

In 1982, Brashlyan was declared an **architectural reserve**. In it 76 houses are monuments of culture - 9 of national significance, the rest of them - of local significance. Some of the houses were built in the XVII century.

In the village you can get acquainted with the typical architecture of the Strandja house, with the history of the village, the economic livelihood and the lifestyle, you can taste "zelnik", honeydew honey and other traditional Strandja dishes.

The village can accommodate up to 100 guests. There is a restaurant.

In the areas Dvata vrisa, Boriloto, Kubarelovata vodenitsa, St. Pantaleymon and St. Petka are built relax zones, which offer the opportunity for different adventures.

The local association organizes a school for Strandjan choirs and songs, meetings, tasting of traditional specialties, interesting routes with local guides.

St. Dimitar Church - Brashlyan village

It was built at the end of the 18th century. At the same place in antiquity was situated a Thracian sanctuary of god Dionysus. The presbytery is an ancient marble altar of Dionysus-Zeus, with the dedicatory inscription of Ancient Greek. The temple was dug into the ground like most Strandjan churches from the times of Ottoman Empire and was surrounded by a high wall.

The St. Dimitar Church is a typical representative of the local revival cult construction. It is declared an architectural monument of national importance, restored with the participation of local people.

Church School - Brashlyan village

It is located in a room built next to the church. Only 12-13-year-old boys were taught at the school in Bulgarian reading and writing, arithmetics and chant singing during the church service. Today, the small room was restored to that original appearance when the children were sitting not on a desk, but on the ground and instead of a blackboard, they were writing with sticks on sand and waxed boards.



"St. Dimitar" church and the church school,
v. Brashlyan



"St. Petka" Chapel
(Photos: Ivan Kamburov)

Balyu`s House - the village of Brashlyan - a typical example of a Strandja village house from the middle of the XIX century, an architectural and historical monument.

Ethnographic House Museum - The 150-year old building is preserved in an authentic style. Its architecture is a Renaissance two-storey house with a stone ground and a wooden floor. The museum gives an idea of the peculiarities of everyday life and crafts in the village of Brashlyan from the second half of the 19th century to the first half of the 20th century. In the large room on the second floor there is a typical fireplace made of stone to the wall ("badja"). The ground floor ("dam") in the past served as a barn for domestic animals. Today it is turned into a craft room where every visitor can see an authentic loft and try to weave.

Agricultural Museum of Traditional farming - The museum exhibits old agricultural tools and tools used by the Strandjans until the middle of the 20th century.

"St. Marina" Chapel is located in the eastern end of Brashlyan. The local people call it "The little church".

"St. Pantaleimon" Chapel is 1 km from Brashlyan. Next to the chapel there is a recreation area surrounded by centuries-old trees.

"St. Petka" Chapel is located about 2 km from the village of Brashlyan. Next to the chapel is a marked tourist trail, which starts from the village and leads to Vujievo. Saint Petka is honored as a healer.

Bratanova Peshtera - the biggest cave in the region of Strandja. It is located in the Vitanovo Reserve, 13 km northwest of Malko Tarnovo, in the area of "Trite Dereta" (the Three gullies). There are discovered findings from the late Bronze Age, Antiquity and the Middle Ages. Access to the cave is granted only with the permission and attendance of the Border Police, as well as with the permission of the Ministry of Environment and Waters.

(Source: Strandja Natural Park Directorate - Strandja NP Guide, 2nd edition, 2013 Malko Tarnovo, p. 24, 40, 42)

ZVEZDETS

The village of Zvezdets is located 53 km away from Burgas and 21 km away from the town of Tarnovo.

A number of Thracian mounds, dolmens and a sanctuary were found on the land of Zvezdets.

Interesting to visit are the chapels "St. Petka", "The God's Monastery", "The Holy Assumption".

In Zvezdets ten houses have been declared as architectural monuments.

The village is surrounded by many fountains and springs.

In the village there are grocery stores, village pubs and cafes, a guest house.

At 4 km south, in Kovach, there are two bases available with accommodation and food services.

The Kovach area offers plenty of opportunities for fishing, horse riding, and hiking on marked trails.

"St. Atanas" church

In its present form it was built in 1910. The building of the temple used a solution rarely found in Strandja. The semicircular apse continues to the roof, thus not looking as an adjoining one, but as organically connected to the church's body.

The old church was probably built at the end of the 18th century. In 1903 while the Ilinden uprising was suppressed, the entire village and temple was burned.

Workshop for wool in the village of Zvezdets

The dyeing of wool and yarn with natural plant tinctures is part of the cultural heritage in Strandja. In the workshop you can get acquainted with the full cycle of wool processing and enjoy the wonderful Strandjan songs, taste the honeydew honey and herbal tea.



Workshop for wool, v. Zvezdets

v. Zvezdets

(Photos: Ivan Kamburov)

Natural landmark "Century oak-blagun" - "Tonchov pazlak" area

It is located 2 km east of the village of Zvezdets. The century-old tree is about 700 years old, with a circumference of 5.50 meters, height about 20 meters and is in very good condition.

(Source: Strandja Natural Park Directorate - Strandja NP Guide, 2nd edition, 2013 Malko Tarnovo, p. 86,88)

EVRENOZOVO

The village of Evrenozovo is located 28 km from Malko Tarnovo. Its name is associated with the large number of dolmens in the vicinity, called by the local population "dragons' houses".

Today's inhabitants of the village are the descendants of refugees from Eastern Thrace who settled here after the Balkan War from the villages of Dereköy, Karakoch and Pirog.

A large number of **megalithic monuments** are preserved in its surroundings.

Old oak forests are preserved in the area of the village.

The village is a starting point for a visit to the Great Kale and Protected Site "**The Springs of Mladezhka River**".

The patron of the village is the Holy Trinity.

The rural shop has limited working hours and offers only the most needed goods. In the village there is a guest house with a capacity of 11 beds.

BLIZNAK

The village is located 3 km away from Malko Tarnovo, situated below the highest peaks in the region - Dvata Bliznaka (the Twins). A settlement of this place existed from the time of the Thracian kings and later of the Roman emperors. Here are found: marble relief of the three nymphs of II century AD, a treasure of 499 folisi (silver coins) of the Roman emperors of the 4th century.

In its vicinity there are still preserved dolmens from the time of the Thracians.

Part of the inhabitants of Bliznak village is descendants of refugees from Eastern Thrace who settled here after 1913.

Near the village are two large karst springs and preserved old oak forests.

The **monastery of Golyamo Bukovo** is located 12 km northwest of the village of Bliznak, 4 km from the village of Golyamo Bukovo. It was founded in the 12th century. It is believed that in the fourteenth century, it was Gregory Sinait's "school of hesychasts". In its modern form it was built in the late 19th century. Today is **the only active monastery in Strandja**, a monument of culture. On the altar of the temple is the holy spring "Lifegiving source". (www.svetimesta.com)

The monastery can be accessed by an off-road car.

The village of Bliznak is a starting point for visiting **the springs of Mladezhka River** and the archeological sights near the village of Evrenozovo.

The patron of the village is St. Virgin Mary.

The rural shop has limited working hours and offers only the most needed groceries. In the village there is a guest house with a capacity of 14 beds.

Protected area "Bataka" - 4 km from the village of Bliznak (It is declared for the purpose of preserving the natural mixed forests, among which is the Strandja oak - a fern, oak forests with striking dimensions, overgrown with ivy).

[Source: Strandja Natural Park Directorate - Strandja NP Guide, 2nd edition, 2013 Malko Tarnovo, p. 34, 76]

MLADEZHKO



Ecopath - v. Mladezhko (Photo: Ivan Kamburov)

The village of Mladezhko is located 7 km west of the main road Bourgas - Malko Tarnovo, 50 km from Bourgas and 32 km from the town of Malko Tarnovo.

The village is situated in the gorge of the Mladezhka River, near its springs. 1 km west of the village is "Golyamoto Kale" (the big fortress) locality with remains of the biggest early Byzantine fortress in the Bulgarian Strandja. The place is surrounded by the picturesque gorges of the Bliznashka and Evrenozovska rivers.

There are about 20 caves inhabited by numerous colonies of bats in the area. Kaleto Cave is one of the few caves in Europe inhabited by the five species of bats *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*.

Near the village, in "Virat" area are built swimming pools with cold spring water, which is believed to cure diseases of the nervous and cardiovascular system.

The patron of the village of Mladezhko is the Virgin Mary.

Part of the inhabitants of Mladezhko village is descendants of refugees from Eastern Thrace who settled here after 1913, most of them from the town of Kovchaz.

The rural shop has limited working hours and offers only the most needed goods. In the village there is a family hotel with a restaurant - with a capacity of 70 people.

Natural landmark "Caves and springs of Mladezhka River"

It is declared for the protection of the rock formations, the caves and the remains of the Early Byzantine fortress. The locality impresses with the karst landscape - the overflowing trees, steep rocks, gushing springs of clear water and numerous caves.

[Source: Strandja Natural Park Directorate - Strandja NP Guide, 2nd edition, 2013 Malko Tarnovo, p. 96]

The trail of the eco-path near the Mladezhka River is easily accessible and picturesque. Direction signs are placed; some sections are secured with wooden railings. There are shelter with a fireplace, exotic benches and wooden tables.

From the village to the springs of the river there is a light trekking route - about 1 km, walking along the valley. Above the springs are the remains of the biggest early Byzantine fortress in Strandja - the Great Kale.

There is an attractive circular route in the village of Mladezhko - the springs of Mladezhka - Kaleto - Evrenozovo - Mladezhko village, with a length of 15 km. There is a large shelter, bridges over the river, observation tower, platform and others.



Eco-path near Mladezhka River (Photo: Emil Rashev)

STRANDJA TASTES AND TRADITIONS

In the villages of Strandja you can try typical regional dishes traditional for the region, e.g. "zelnik", beans in a pot, fish on a tile, etc.



Zelnik



Babini kolatsi



Fish on a tile



Trahuli (from belted bonito)



Beans in a pot

[Source: Strandja NP Guide, 2 edition., Malko Tarnovo 2013, p.204-205, Strandja NP Directorate].

The Strandja cultural heritage, the rich folklore, rituals and customs of the local population, are of great interest to tourists.

Some of the rituals and related music and songs have a sacred character, connected with beliefs and a worldview whose roots are in ancient times. In Strandja are located the five **Nestinar villages** - Bulgari, Gramatikovo, Kosti, Kondolovo and Slivarovo.

Only in Strandja after Sirni Zagovezni is held the custom "**White Kuker**" - to ensure fertility and abundance. The Kuker has unmasked face, painted with black soot; he is dressed in white goatling or sheep leather. He is accompanied by the maid, grandmother, doctor, guard who keep the girl, barber, pope, etc. They walk around the village and the kuker march is in the evening. They play "Pali košh" (basket burning). This is a ritual in which men uplift a burning basket full of straw.

There was a great "horo" (folklore dance) around him. When the basket falls, everyone tries to jump over it for health.

Every year in the Municipality of Tsarevo, there is an art festival "Fire and Sea", a fish fest, a national festival of dance clubs "Horo by the sea". The International Folklore Festival "Strandja moya, lyulchina", International jazz festival in the village of Lozenets, International Festival of the Films Art "Priests of the Muses" in Tsarevo, Ahtopol and Lozenets, as well as the International Art Festival "Nestya" are organized. There is a week of the sea, a festival of honeydew honey in the town of Tsarevo in August and others.

The **Folklore Wreath - Bozhura** is traditionally organized in Sredets municipality.

In the municipality of Malko Tarnovo are held spring games - **Fillets**. The National **Folklore Festival** "Horo in Strandja" is organized. There are summer cultural festivities, organizing breaks down.

The cultural life in Strandja is rich and colorful. Every year in May in the villages of Strandja, **Rhododendron ponticum Festival** is held. The festivals are organized by Strandja Natural Park Directorate in order to present and promote the tourist opportunities in the region and to inspire local people to believe that tourism is possible in their village too.

CONCLUSION

Strandja is unique in many ways and therefore the interest in it is growing. The mountain is suitable for the development of various forms of tourism - rural, hunting, hobby trips, specialized scientific, ethno, green tourism, etc.

The favorable combination of transcontinental, Mediterranean and Black Sea climate; the presence of rivers, dams, hunting grounds, reserves, rare representatives of flora and fauna; the cultural and historical monuments of many ages, combined with the livelihood and folklore of the local population, make Strandja an attractive destination for recreation and tourism.

SOURCES (PART 1)

Burgas Regional Development Strategy for the period 2014-2020

Tsarevo Municipal Development plan for the period 2014-2020

Sozopol Municipal Development plan for the period 2014-2020

Primorsko Municipal Development plan for the period 2014-2020

Malko Tarnovo Municipal Development plan for the period 2014-2020

Sredets Municipal Development plan for the period 2014-2020

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PART 2: TOURISM RESOURCES IN STRANDJA (TURKEY)

NATURE ROUTE

1. Duphnisa Cave
2. Iğneada
3. Limanköy
4. Longoz Forests National Park
5. Demirköy
6. Kıyıköy
7. Beğendik Village
8. Hamdi Bey Village
9. Kofçaz Paragliding
10. Strandja (Yıldız Mountains)
11. Trekking Routes

1. DUPHNISA CAVE

Dupnisa Cave is located in the District of Demirköy in Kırklareli. With a length of **3150 metres**, the cave is the only one that is open to tourist activities in Thrace. Distinguished with its underground passage, Dupnisa Cave owes its name to the Bulgarian word for “black hole” and can be entered through 3 different gates. The titles of the caves to Dupnisa Cave are named Dupnisa Dolin, Dry Cave, ve Kız Cave. Dupnisa Cave becomes quite scary with its dense population of bats.

Dupnisa Cave is a must-see for tourists visiting Strandja Region and attracts great attention from tourists with its appearance and features. The lakes within Dupnisa Cave and fringes on cave walls above lakes lend Dupnisa Cave quite an interesting appearance.



Dupnisa Cave - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-doga-rotasi/>)

2. İĞNEADA

Situated within Demirköy District of Kırklareli, İğneada is located along the Black Sea coastal strip. Hosting its visitors with a coastline extending along 20 kilometres starting from the Western tip of the Black Sea, the area is located at a distance of 100 km to the provincial centre.

İğneada is a nice little town that is worth a visit with its protected lakes, various forests, rare scenery, and delicious fish. As a union of ecosystems, İğneada is home to saltwater lakes, swamps, and coastal dunes together. İğneada stands out as one of the rare towns that have been able to preserve its natural beauties as a touristic centre that warrants a visit by reason of its floodplain forests, lakes and sea coast, and rich history. This nice little holiday town is in high demand among tourists who find a number of opportunities here in terms of camping and various other activities in nature notably including nature photography.



İğneada District - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-doga-rotasi/>)



[Source: <https://www.google.com.tr/maps/search>]

3. LIMANKÖY

As the home of the lighthouse at the Westernmost tip of the Black Sea, Limanköy is situated at a distance of 50-60 metres from the sea level and at a distance of 4 km to Iğneada. Known among the locals as the French Lighthouse, the structure was commissioned to the French during the reign of Abdulmejid I. It consists of an administrative building on a rectangular setting and a cylindrical lighthouse tower. Today, the Lighthouse is visible even at a distance of 20 miles owing to the use of 100W halogen bulbs and plastic reflectors, while it used to illuminate the sea with gas oil managed with a lever.

Limanköy is a town ornamented with impressive nature, a history of 150 years, and an interesting foundation story. Limanköy is said to have been founded by a person living in the lighthouse persuading a group of Romanian emigrants to settle down here 150 years ago.

Iğneada Floodplain Forests, one of the 3 remaining floodplain forests around the world, is at quite a close distance to Limanköy.



Limanköy Village- (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-doga-rotasi/>)



(Source: <https://www.google.com.tr/maps/search/>)

4. LONGOZ (FLOODPLAIN) FORESTS NATIONAL PARK

Iğneada Floodplain Forest situated along the border between Turkey and Bulgaria on the Black Sea coast is one of the rare ecosystems that accommodate seasonal floodplain forests, swamps, freshwater lakes, and coastal dunes together. An area of 3,155 square kilometres at the border of Kırklareli was proclaimed as a national park in 2007. Floodplain forests are rare at the international level, as well. Despite the presence of such forests in certain parts of Turkey, this national park is distinct from the other areas by reason of both its size and its characteristics.

Therefore, these forests are “internationally rare”. There are floodplain forests in 3 separate regions in Iğneada, namely Lake Saka, Lake Erikli, and Lake Mert Floodplain Forests.



Longoz Forests National Park -
(<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-doga-rotasi/>)

The coastal dunes in Iğneada represent the most sensitive ecosystems in the area along with the floodplain forests. Iğneada is among the rare dune ecosystems that have maintained their natural characteristics without significant effects from environmental conditions. The coastal dunes in the area provide habitats for a large number of rare and endemic plants varieties. Therefore, the coastal dunes are prominent among the areas to be preserved.

Iğneada floodplain forests are home to a large number of mammals (deer, roe deer, wild boars, wolves, foxes, jackals, wildcats, weasels, badgers, bats, and sea otters, etc.); 194 bird species (lesser kestrels and grey-headed woodpeckers, etc.); reptiles and amphibians (southern crested newt, green toad, European legless lizard, green lizard, European copper skink, snakes, and tortoises, etc.); insects (Capricorn beetle and small copper, etc.); and fish species (narrow-snouted pipefish, monkey goby, wolffish, spirin, bitterling, spined loach, and common nase, etc.).

Iğneada Floodplain Forests National Park is home to a variety of oak varieties with white alders and ash trees in the wateriest sections and by various varieties of oaks notably including common oaks in relatively dry parts. Climbing plant varieties represent the most distinctive characteristics of the forest. The National Park is of great importance by reason of its rich flora including plant varieties protected by international conventions. The National Park offers a habitat for numerous endemic and rare plant varieties designated to be under a threat at the global and European dimensions.

5. DEMIRKÖY

Demirköy; It is a town of Kırklareli and is located at a height of 400 metres in the mountains of Yıldız Mountains. Demirköy, situated among the Strandja Forests, is a district considered to be a centre of attraction as it draws attention to its natural beauty with its unique landscape, nature photographers are frequented every season. Fatih Dökümhane, which was built during the Ottoman period and used for the conquest of Istanbul, is located here. It once hosted the Thracian Tribes in ancient times. Mountain truffles, trout and jungle bean are also famous and delicious products to visit.



Demirköy Town - (www.bosnakmedya.com/kirklarelinin-bosnak-koyu-balaban-velika/)



(Source: <https://www.google.com.tr/maps/search>)

6. KIYIKÖY

This small coastal town standing out with its natural beauties is located at a distance of 40 kilometres from the Vize district of Kırklareli. This town lies along the Black Sea Coast and is surrounded by forests. It is a charming holiday village with its pristine nature, unique view and delicious fish. It was founded by the Lydians in 500 BC. Throughout history, Thracians have hosted civilizations such as Persians, Scythians, Medlar and Genoese. Hagia Nicola Monastery, one of the oldest stone-carved monasteries around the world, is also located here. The people living in Kıyıköy, which resembles a peninsula between Pabuçdere and Kazandere and is located on a high hill, provide its subsistence from fishing, agriculture, animal husbandry and forestry. Kıyıköy offers its visitors myriad beauties with its natural richness, sea and coasts, and largely untouched natural fibre.



Kıyıköy District- (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-doga-rotasi/>)

7. BEĞENDİK VILLAGE

Beğendik Village is located in Demirköy district of Kırklareli. Located in the westernmost part of Turkey, on the border with Bulgaria, this village has a very clean and almost uncontaminated sea. It is a rare sea that can be left undisturbed and

uncontaminated today. As a result of the sea being clean, we can show that this village is not known much. It is not possible to have overnight vacations in this village that does not have accommodation facilities, but it is suitable for daily trips. There is also a lighthouse that is worth a visit in Beğendik Village.



Beğendik Village- (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-doga-rotasi/>)

8. HAMDİ BEY VILLAGE

Hamdi Bey Village is a village connected to Demirköy district of Kırklareli. Hamdi Bey Village located in Demirköy which is located within Istoranca Forests attracts attention with its natural beauties. Its unique landscape attracts great interest from photographers.



Hamdi Bey Village- (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-doga-rotasi/>)

9. KOFÇAZ PARAGLIDING

The area in the Elmacık Village of the Kofcaz district is provided with suitable land structure for parachute sports. The project was designed to be a paragliding center of the Kofcaz district and to improve the tourism and economy of the region. Every year national and international competitions are aimed.



Kofcaz Paragliding- (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-doga-rotasi/>)

10. STRANDJA (YILDIZ MOUNTAINS)

Strandja (Yıldız) Mountains consists of a range of mountains extending in parallel to the Black Sea coastline of Thrace over a distance of around 300 kilometres from Bulgaria to Istanbul. The highest point on this range of mountains is represented by the peak of Mahya Mountain at 1.031 metres situated within the provincial borders of Kırklareli. It is a significant nature protection zone by reason of its rich biodiversity. Strandja Mountains is examined in a large number of natural research studies and by interested scientists for its flora and natural structure. Water resources feeding Ergene River are situated in this region which is endowed with quite rich water springs. Its unparalleled natural beauties render this area quite favourable to nature walks and camping, as well as nature photography.



Strandja Mountains - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-doga-rotasi/>)

11. TREKKING ROUTES

Referring to long and difficult walks, trekking represents a form of nature tourism that requires stamina. There are numerous spots in Kırklareli that lend themselves to trekking with the most intensive diversity observed in nature. As a complete wonder of the nature with its sea, floodplain forests, lakes, streams, and oxygen-rich atmosphere, İğneada Floodplain Forests National Park stands out as a suitable spot for trekking along with Kasatura Bay Natural Reserve, Kavaklı Oak Grove Natural Park, Dupnisa Cave, Balaban (Velika) Stream, Vize Panayır Stream, Vize Tekkaya, and Mutlu (Rezve) Stream.

A few of the commonly used trekking routes are specified below:

1. Trekking route of approximately 9 km between Beypınar Village and Dupnisa Cave (rich in butterflies and flora);
2. Trekking route of approximately 7 km between Beypınar Village and Fatma Rock Spot (different varieties of trees);
3. Trekking route of approximately 13 km between Beypınar Village and Balaban Village (flora, butterflies, and water resources);
4. Trekking route of approximately 7 km between İğneada Road Çavdar Spot and Balaban Village (rich in mushrooms and flora, ample oxygen);

5. Trekking route of approximately 7 km between Çiftekaynaklar Spot and Cehennem Falls (a walk among the sounds of the falls and birds; a route that can give you all colours of autumn); and
6. Trekking route of approximately 15 km between Çiftekaynaklar Spot, Giant Beech - Monopetra (Single Rock) and Demirköy Fatih Iron Foundry (a walking track rich in history and the largest beech in Sergen Basin, an amazing scenery of Ergene Plains from Monopetra).

HISTORY ROUTE

1. Kırklareli Museum
2. Atatürk's House
3. Ali Rıza Efendi Cultural Center
4. Iğneada Sea Lighthouse
5. Demirköy Historical Fatih Iron Foundry
6. Old Kırklareli Houses
7. Vize Castle
8. Kıyıköy Castle
9. Pınarhisar Castle ve Wall Remains
10. Vize Ancient Theatre
11. Babaeski Bridge
12. Akarca Bridge
13. Alpullu (Sinanlı) Bridge
14. Hızırbey Bath
15. Kırklar Martyrs' Cemetry

16. Kırklareli Station
17. Seyfioğlu Fort and Stone Fort
18. Aşağı Pınar Village Mound
19. Kanlıgeçit Mound
20. Local Tekstile

1. KIRKLARELI MUSEUM

The building, which was visited by the Great Leader Atatürk on December 20, 1930, was built in 1894 during the time of Mutasarrıf Neşet Pasha and Hacı Mestan Efendi, the mayor of that period. Until 1962, it was actually used as a municipal building. Restoration works started in 1983 and continued at various intervals were completed in 1993. It is two storeys except the basement and there are bay windows that sit in four columns at the entrance. The Archeology and Ethnography sections are located on the upper floor and the Culture and Nature Exhibition Hall is located on the entrance floor.



Kırklareli Museum - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-tarih-rotasi/>)

2. ATATÜRK'S HOUSE

Kırklareli Municipality had the replica of the house where Great Leader Atatürk had been born and raised in Thessaloniki constructed in Yayla Neighbourhood with the material and immaterial support of the local people. The three-storey house was constructed on an area of 960 square metres with an indoor space of 317.74 square metres in Yayla Neighbourhood, which was the initial settlement of the city and it features statues of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, his mother Zübeyde Hanım, and his father Ali Rıza Efendi. The house is also home to a large number of tools used by Atatürk during his time in Kırklareli such as cutlery and ceramics. The house is ornamented with a garden featuring Atatürk's signature in flowers and exhibits a replica of the iron-wheeled tractor used by Atatürk personally.



Atatürk House -

(<http://www.turkiyeturizm.com/ataturk-evini-6-ayda-100-bin-kisi-ziyaret-etti-56368h.htm>)



*Atatürk House - Joint study visit of students from Bulgaria and Turkey.
(The picture is provided by Project partner 3).*

3. ALI RIZA EFENDI CULTURAL CENTRE

Ali Rıza Efendi Cultural Centre, situated in Yayla Neighbourhood designated as an "Urban Site", was commissioned by Kırklareli Municipality with the support of Thrace Development Agency. The Urban Cultural Centre, where the common cultural values of Turkey, Greece, Montenegro, and Bulgaria, was named after Ali Rıza Efendi, Great Leader Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's father. One room each is allocated within the Cultural Centre to Bulgaria, Greece, and Montenegro and these rooms were equipped with materials that reflect the culture of these countries. The other sections within the house reflects Turkish culture. Such parts as the Kitchen Room, Fatma Efe Room, Bedroom, and Sitting Room feature materials that represent the daily life of Turkish people.



Ali Rıza Efendi Culture House -

(<https://kirkklareli.bel.tr/2018/01/02/ali-riza-efendi-kent-kultur-evi-acildi/>)

4. İĞNEADA SEA LIGHTHOUSE

As the home of the lighthouse at the Westernmost tip of the Black Sea, Limanköy is situated at a distance of 50-60 metres from the sea level and at a distance of 4 km to İğneada. Known among the locals as the French Lighthouse, the structure was commissioned to the French during the reign of Abdulmejid I. It consists of an administrative building on a rectangular setting and a cylindrical lighthouse tower. Today, the Lighthouse is visible even at a distance of 20 miles owing to the use of 100W halogen bulbs and plastic reflectors, while it used to illuminate the sea with gas oil managed with a lever.



İğneada Lighthouse -
(<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-tarih-rotasi/>)

5. DEMIRKÖY HISTORICAL FATİH IRON FOUNDRY

The structure is situated at a distance of 3.800 metres along the south-eastern direction towards Demirköy District in Kırklareli. Considered to be the most modern foundry of its time and referred to as Demirköy State Armoury Enterprises, Demirköy Foundry used to produce certain war materials for Ottoman armies and some of the iron sections utilised in the manufacture of cannons and weapons. Specifically, some of the cannons and shells used by Mehmet the Conqueror to conquer Istanbul in 1453 had been cast here. Another point worthy of consideration is the fact

that the energy needed for his foundry from the Ottoman Period was generated with water. Identified to have been quite significant for mining during the Iron Age, Demirköy and its surroundings are observed to have become even more important along with the development process of the Ottoman State. This complex cast iron with the state-of-the-art technology of the time and is estimated to have been in sustained production from mid-15th Century to late 19th Century.



Demirköy Fatih Foundry -
(<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-tarih-rotasi/>)

6. OLD KIRKLARELI HOUSES

The architectural examples situated around the city with a gravity observed in Yayla Neighbourhood in the Central District mostly date back to early 19th and 20th Centuries. Some of them were constructed by Greek masters in the neo-classical style and are still used as residential buildings.



Yayla Neighbourhood and Historical Houses -
(<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-tarih-rotasi/>)

7. VIZE CASTLE

The walls situated in Kale Neighbourhood in Vize surround the northern and western sides of the city. The initial construction is estimated to date 72 - 76 B.C. Then, the structure were repaired again in 527 - 565. The construction was completed with coarse cut Stones placed on top of each other and bound with robust mortar. The old walls were constructed with soft, yellowish stone blocks, while uniformly cut, bluish rocks were used in the body of walls situated to the North of the city. The castle is understood to have been reconstructed during Late Byzantine Period. The castle consists of two sections, i.e. a bailey and a keep. The western and southern parts of the walls surrounding old Vize Town are still intact. There are a few bastions on the walls situated on the western side and one more bastion in front of them constructed to protect aqueducts. The southern walls of large stone blocks have been preserved for up to 3-4 metres in height.



Vize Castle - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-tarih-rotasi/>)

8. KIYIKÖY CASTLE

Kıyıköy Castle surrounds a significant part of Kıyıköy Town in Vize District and was constructed during the reign of Justinianus in the Byzantine Period (6th Century). The mortar on the structure indicates that it has been repaired in 9th and

10th Centuries. The castle is established on a mountain side extending towards the sea between Kazandere to the south and Pabuçdere to the north. The western façade of the castle rests on a flat land, while its eastern façade has been destroyed to the ground. The currently intact parts show that the walls were covered with uniformly cut stones with rubble filling inside. Here, the wall thickness is 2.20 metres and its height 2.50 metres. The height of the walls situated next to the second gate goes up to 5 metres. The second bastion no longer exists today. The walls here go as high as 6 metres. A secret gate is situated to the south of the southern walls and the gate can be reached from the castle after a descent of 180 steps. The Palace Gate has been preserved well until today. The cut block on brick is coated with stones. There is a defence ditch with a width of 12 metres from the third to the sixth bastion. Vize Gate was covered with stone and brick beams and was restored in 1991.



Kıyıköy Castle -
(<http://duygusalrotalar.blogspot.com/2017/06/kiyikoy.html>)

9. PINARHISAR CASTLE AND WALL REMAINS

Pınarhisar Castle is one of the historical structures that have maintained its integrity and situated in central Pınarhisar District in the Province of Kırklareli. Even though the exact date concerning the construction of the respective castle and walls is not known, the structure is agreed to have acted as a group of

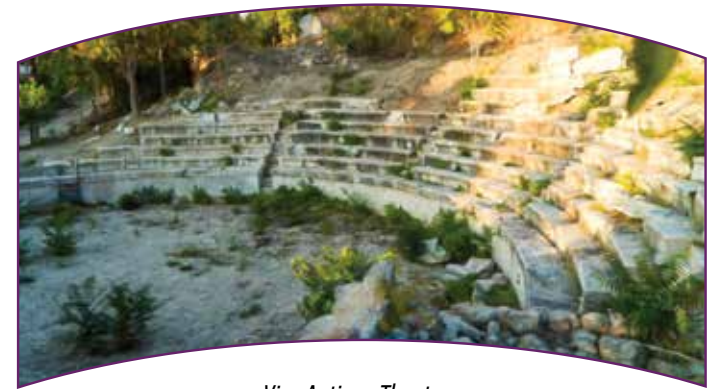
structures from the 5th Century Byzantium. Having been used as an outpost, Pınarhisar Castle was constructed in general with good workmanship with the use of filling rubble.



Pınarhisar Castle -
(<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-tarih-rotasi/>)

10. VIZE ANCIENT THEATRE

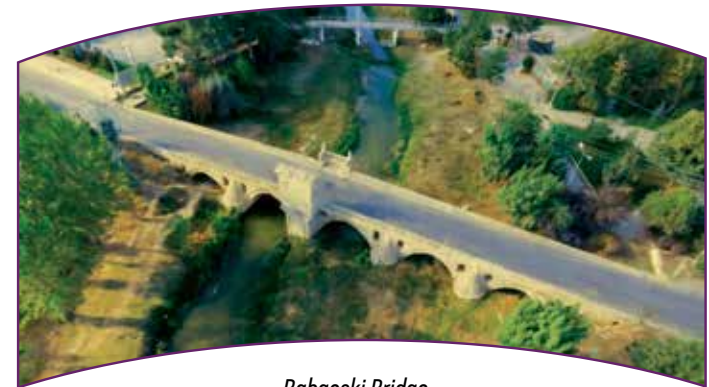
Vize Ancient Theatre is situated in the District of Vize in Kırklareli. Uncovered through excavations conducted in three seasons between 1995 and 1998, the structure is considered to belong to the Roman times and was revealed with its caveas, paradoses between such caveas, skene, and orchestral chamber. The findings obtained from the relevant studies include stage reliefs and statues depicting embossed scenes from Dionysos on marble in addition to glass, metal, and ceramic pieces belonging to Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman periods, as well as coins belonging to emperors and 4 reliefs of scenes and a woman statute. These are complemented with the identification of a large number of coins belonging to emperors. Efforts are on-going to uncover the entirety of the theatre and transform the area into an archaeological site. The structures revealed here as a result of excavations are on display at Kırklareli Museum.



Vize Antique Theater -
(<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-tarih-rotasi/>)

11. BABAESKI BRIDGE

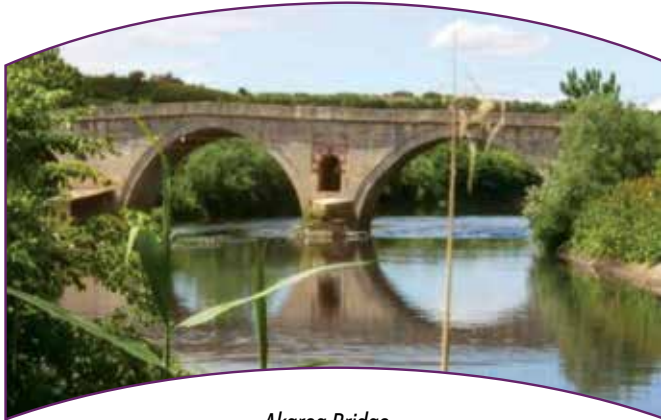
Babaeski Bridge is located in the province of Babaeski in the province of Kırklareli. The bridge, between 1633 and 1634, it was built during the Murat 4 period. Babaeski Bridge, 72 metres long and 5.85 metres wide, was built on one of the arms of the Ergene River. The bridge, which was built with 7 holes using cut stone, is located on the caravan roads from Istanbul to Rumelia.



Babaeski Bridge -
(<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-tarih-rotasi/>)

12. AKARCA BRIDGE

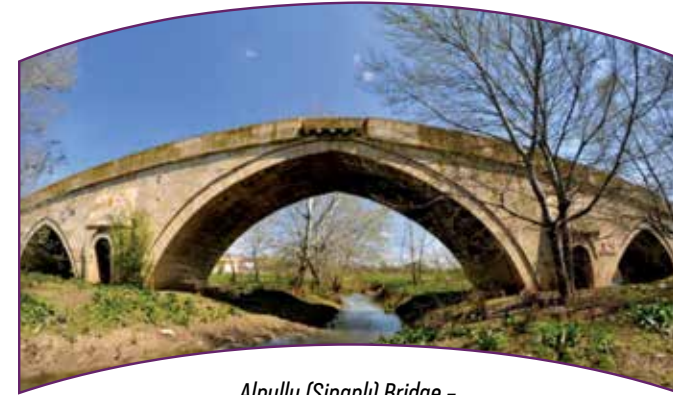
Estimated to have been constructed during the Ottoman period, Akarca Bridge is situated along Ergene River at the entrance to Pehlivan köy from Uzunköprü on the road between Uzunköprü and Edirne. With 7 arches in total including the round arches placed around the large arch in the middle, the bridge is still in use. The top half of its undated inscription has been broken off and thus does not provide a specific date for the construction of the bridge; but its construction style, materials, and purpose of use indicate the bridge to have been constructed in the 16th Century during the Ottoman Period.



Akarca Bridge -
(<http://www.tgdturkey.com/tr/kirklareli/foto-galeri/pehlivankoy-akarca-koprusu/pehlivankoy-akarca-koprusu-1.html>)

13. ALPULLU (SINANLI) BRIDGE

Alpullu (Sinanlı) Bridge with a pointed arch was constructed during the time of Sokollu in the 16th Century as the most magnificent monumental bridge by Sinan the Architect, who used the surrounding stones of 76 cm as monoliths. Its arch stone of 76 cm consists of a single stone. No other bridge features an arch stone with a width reaching 2.5 metres.



Alpullu (Sinanlı) Bridge -
(<https://tr.pinterest.com/pin/157837161922330706/>)

14. HIZIRBEY HAMMAM

Hızırbey Hammam, also known as Double Bath, is a part of Hızırbey Complex and is located in Kırklareli Center. Because there is a double entrance for men and women in the hammam, it is called "Double Bath". It was built adjacent to the archetype, another part of the mausoleum. In 1383 Köse Mihalzade was built by Hızırbey according to traditional Ottoman architecture. The outer surface of the walls and the dome lanterns consist of smooth top covering.



Hızırbey Turkish Bath -
(<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-tarih-rotasi/>)

15. KIRKLAR MARTYRS' CEMETREY

Паметникът на 40-те мъченици е построен за четиридесетте нападатели, The Monument of Forty Martyrs was constructed for Forty Raiders who fell martyrs during the retrieval of Kırklareli by Turkish armies commanded by Demirtaş Pasha (during the reign of Murad I) from Byzantium occupation. Surrounded by marble columns, the cemetrey has two more graves with marble edges, soil at the centre, and planted flowers on both sides of the rectangular monument which also features a marble tomb displaying the names of the forty martyrs.



Forty Martyrs Abide -

(www.kulturportali.gov.tr/turkiye/kirklareli/gezilecekler/kirk-sehitler-aniti)

16. KIRKLARELI STATION

The Istasyon Station and the train line were built by an Australian construction company in order to reach the Edirne-Istanbul line in 1873 in Alpulu and to connect Kırklareli to Istanbul. It was once operated by a French company, as well. The station is currently unavailable and has become one of the most beautiful recreational areas in the city with its various recreational areas.



Kırklareli Train Station -

(<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-tarih-rotasi/>)

17. SEYFIOĞLU FORT AND STONE FORT

Seyfioğlu Fort is situated 3 kilometres in the northeast and Stone Fort 3 kilometres in the northwest of the provincial centre of Kırklareli. Seyfioğlu Fort and Stone Fort were constructed for the purposes of security after the Russo-Ottoman War of 1877-1878. Seyfioğlu Fort and Stone Fort are similar to Edirne Forts in terms of construction style, but different with their purpose of defence.



Seyfioğlu Fort and Stone Fort -

(<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-tarih-rotasi/>)

18. AŞAĞI PINAR VILLAGE MOUND

The Aşağı Pınar Village Mound is 3 km away from the center of Kırklareli. The mound, which had a very old age, was first noticed in 1980. When it was discovered, it went to record with the name "Salhana". Thanks to the excavations made in 1993, excavations were carried out and it was learned that the region was used as a settlement in the Neolithic Age. Lower Pınar Höyüğü is the oldest farmer-village settlement in Trakya. The Lower Pınar Mound, located on an area of 3000 square metres, is the largest archeological excavation site in Kırklareli.



Lower Spring Tumulus -

(<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-tarih-rotasi/>)

19. KANLI GEÇİT MOUND

Kanlıgeçit Mound is located to the south of the province center of Kırklareli. Kanlıgeçit Mound, which is a historical mound, is located at a distance of 300 metres from the Aşağı Pınar Village Mound, another historical area of the city. History BC It is based on 3000 years. It is the oldest urban settlement known in the Balkans and is the settlement of the Anatolian colony belonging to the first and only Bronze Age in Thrace. Kanlıgeçit, which first began to form in the Bronze Age,

is the oldest example of the caravan routes there. The mound; North, east and south. Various excavations are being carried out in Kanlıgeçit Höyüğü and the first archaeological excavations were carried out in 1994.

20. LOCAL TEKSTİLES

Kırklareli Handicrafts are very valuable thanks to the motifs unique to the region. Especially the hand weavings belonging to the village of Poyral of Kırklareli are famous. Due to the widespread animal breeding in and around Kırklareli, there is no problem with the raw material, and in this case it provides widespread weaving. B.C. Kırklareli weaving, which has a history dating back to 8000 years, still continues today with the prayer rugs, saddlebags, bags and runway weaving made of wool yarn in horizontal wooden countertops.



Local Textiles -

(<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-tarih-rotasi/>)

FAITH ROUTE

1. Sokollu Mehmet Pasha Complex
2. Hızırbey Komplex ve Hızırbey Mosque
3. Cedit Ali Paşa Mosque
4. Small Hagia Sofia (Gazi Süleyman Pasha Mosque)
5. Hagia Nicola Monastery
6. Cave Monasteries

1. SOKOLLU MEHMET PASHA COMPLEX

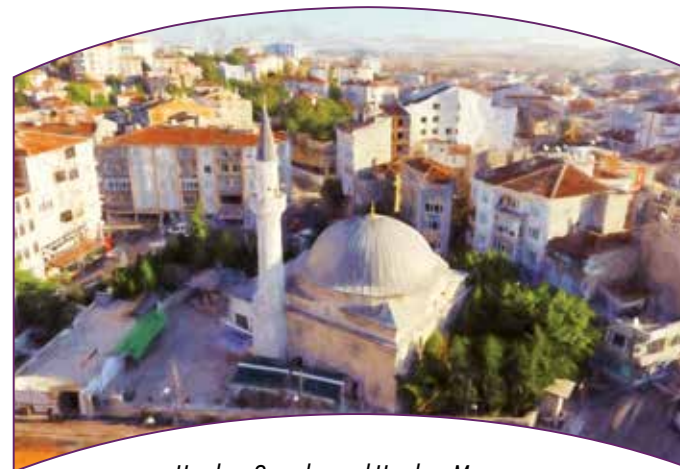
Situated in Lüleburgaz District in the province of Kırklareli, Sokollu Mehmet Pasha Complex is located on the range extending along the former Istanbul-Edirne highway. The complex was commissioned by Sokollu Mehmet Pasha to the chief architect of the time, Sinan the Architect, and his team, Association of Royal Architects, in the year 1569. The complex consists of a mosque, a madrasah, a caravanserai, a guesthouse, a soup-kitchen, a bazaar, a prayer dome, burial grounds, a primary school, a double hammam, a bridge, fountains, aqueducts, and a cistern. Among these structures, the only ones still standing are the mosque, the bazaar, and the hammam. The complex was constructed with a specific design that set an example to later complexes. The most important structure within the complex stands out as Sokollu Mehmet Pasha Mosque. Seated on a square setting, the mosque is ornamented with simply designed external architecture and domes that are relatively larger than those in other mosques. Its minarets are conventional in appearance. As it is one of the most important mosques in Lüleburgaz, it is open for prayers throughout the day.



Sokollu Mehmet Pasha Complex -
(<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-inanc-rotasi/>)

2. HIZIRBEY COMPLEX AND MOSQUE (GRAND MOSQUE)

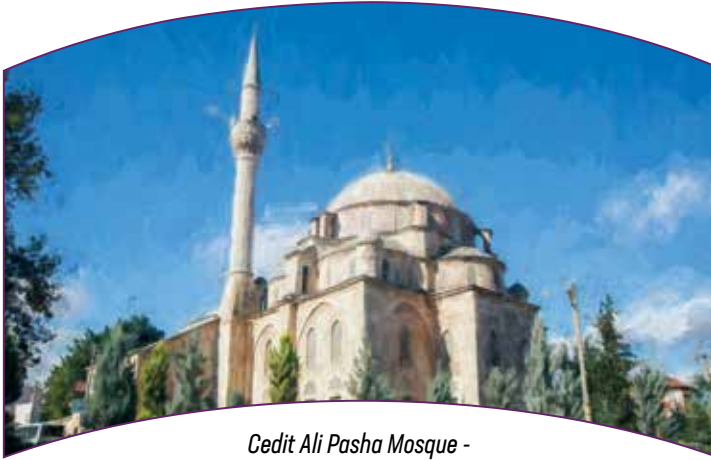
Situated at the centre of the province, this Mosque was constructed by Mihalzade Hızır Bey in 1383 and has since then hosted a large number of civilisations. In fact, it is known as the first mosque to have been constructed in Anatolia. Resting on a 1470 square metres with a size of 15 x 15 m, this mosque has religious service grounds sufficient for 1000 people. The mosque collapsed as a result of an earthquake and was rebuilt in rectangular form. Half of its minaret was destroyed by Bulgarians during the Balkan War, but the minaret was repaired again after the war. Atatürk is said to have visited here and instructed for its restoration in 1930. Repaired for a number of times, the mosque was last restored to its original form by the Directorate-General of Foundations in 2007. The mosque comes to life with hand carvings by Calligraph Tevik Pasha of Kastamonu. Its structure bears the impressions of early Ottoman architecture. There is also a rumour that Hızır Bey's tomb is also located within the mosque complex.



Hızırbey Complex and Hızırbey Mosque -
(<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-inanc-rotasi/>)

3. CEDID ALI PAŞA MOSQUE

Also known as “Grand Mosque” among the people of Babaeski, this mosque was commissioned by Grand Vizier Semiz “Cedit” Ali Pasha in 1560 with Sinan as its architect. Thoroughly repaired in 1832, the mosque is still in modern use. Seated on a square setting, the mosque was constructed with the use of cut sandstone. The dome covering the mosque is lead-coated. It features two narthexes annexed to each other. It has a minaret with a single balcony. Its construction and repair inscriptions are still intact. Cedit Ali Pasha Mosque is a smaller model of Selimiye Mosque in Edirne.



Cedit Ali Pasha Mosque -
(<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-inanc-rotasi/>)

4. SMALL HAGIA SOFIA (GAZI SÜLEYMAN PASHA MOSQUE)

The mosque, also known as Gazi Suleyman Mosque, lies between the keep and bailey in Kale Neighbourhood in Vize District. It was constructed as a church during the reign of Justinian in the 6th Century. With a rectangular setting that resem-

bles a square, the church features a dome seated on a drum of sixteen edges. The structure is dominated by the atmosphere of a church, even though it has been converted into a mosque. The structure was subject to various alterations in time. Finally, it was restored to its original form by the Directorate-General of Foundations in the year 2007.



Little Hagia Sophia Church (Gazi Süleyman Pasha Mosque) -
(<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-inanc-rotasi/>)

5. KIYIKÖY HAGIA NICOLA MONASTERY

Hagia Nicola Monastery is situated in Kıyıköy Town of Vize District in the Province of Kırklareli. Situated on the southern hill along the Papuçdere road, the Monastery is at a distance of 700 metres to Kıyıköy. It is considered to be one of the most beautiful examples of rock monasteries dating back to 6th-9th Centuries. The upper part of Hagia Nicola Monastery features sections allocated for monks, its lower part a holy spring and its ground floor the church itself. The fountain is accessible through stairs from the northern side. In addition, the Monastery was constructed with cells carved in stone. The church has a second entrance from the eastern side.



Aya Nikola Monastery -
(<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-inanc-rotasi/>)

6. VIZE CAVE MONASTERIES

The monasteries are located in Asmakaya in Vize District in Kırklareli. It is a work from the Byzantine Period. The structure was formed with certain adjacent natural caves shaped by stonemasons.



Cave Monastery -
(<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-inanc-rotasi/>)

GASTRONOMY ROUTE

1. Hardaliye
2. Poyralı Molasses
3. Turbot
4. Demirköy Honey
5. Kırklareli Cheese
6. Pumpkin Sweet in Lime
7. Kırklareli Meatball
8. Goat Turn
9. Thrace Curly Sheep
10. Boza
11. Mandate Yoghurt
12. Kırklareli Cherry
13. Strawberry
14. Seasonal Fish Variety
15. Vineyard Products

1. HARDALIYE

Hardaliye is a non-alcoholic refreshing drink indicated with the cuisine of Kırklareli on the local tastes map of Turkey and produced from local grapes through traditional methods. Prepared with the use of vine leaves, mustard seeds, and grapes, Hardaliye is specific to Thrace and has beneficial effects for strength, appetite, fever, blood pressure, and regulation of circulatory and immune systems. It is consumed as a depository of vitamins in this regard. Papazkarası grapes (local grapes of bluish hue) are selected with care to obtain a dark coloured drink and then, pressed just hard enough to break their peel. Mustard seeds are crushed just so as to break their crust in order to avoid wine or vinegar. Both ingredients

are then placed into barrels coated with vine leaves. Once it has reached the necessary consistency, the mixture is filtered to be ready to drink.



Hardaliye -

(<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-lezzet-rotasi/>)

2. POYRALI MOLASSES

This product is a type of beet molasses specific to Kırklareli. Beet molasses is commonly produced in Kırklareli, while Tekirdağ and Edirne prefer the production of grape molasses. Kırklareli has a favourable climate and soil structure for the cultivation of sugar beet. Beet molasses produced through traditional methods in Poyralı Village has become nationally renowned. Poyralı Molasses has a thicker consistency and a sharper aroma than other types of molasses.



Poyralı Molasses -

(<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-lezzet-rotasi/>)

3. TURBOT

Turbot is a fish species living at depths of 20 to 70 metres in the Mediterranean, Aegean, Marmara, and Black Sea. These small-sized fish living at the bottom of the sea feed on small marine animals and crabs. They are commonly consumed in the town of Kıyıköy, situated along the Black Sea coast of Thrace. Kıyıköy is famous for its turbot and visited frequently by tourists from neighbouring provinces specifically to taste the fish. Turbot is generally fried on pan and the buttons on the fish should be removed before consumption. The fish is quite popular owing to its less fatty meat.



Turbot -

(<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-lezzet-rotasi/>)

4. DEMIRKÖY HONEY

Demirköy Honey is produced by Trakya Arısı, a special breed. Tracey Arisia has recently been protected in order to preserve its pure breed. Demirköy Honey; Is produced by these bears in Istrian forests in Kırklareli. This honey has a sharp aroma and a dark color. Demirköy Honey, which differs from tastes and colors with other flowers, has become a brand of Kırklareli. It is popular because of healing of many diseases.

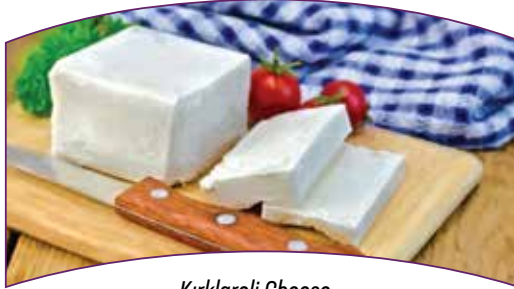


Demirköy Honey -

(<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-lezzet-rotasi/>)

5. KIRKLARELI CHEESE

The specific cheese is produced from the milk of animals bred in Kırklareli. Kırklareli is famous for its cheese like Edirne and Tekirdağ in Thrace. A wide variety of cheese is produced with natural yeast by reason of the ovine and bovine husbandry activities common in the area.



Kırklareli Cheese -

(<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-lezzet-rotasi/>)

6. THE PUMPKIN DESERT IN LIME

The famous pumpkin dessert cooked all around Anatolia is complemented with a sauce prepared with lime, which adds crunchiness to the outer crust of the dessert and results in a pumpkin dessert with a crunchy peel, but a soft core. With its refreshing taste, the pumpkin dessert in lime can be consumed more commonly after the start of the pumpkin season at the end of October every year.



Pumpkin Sweet in Lime -

(<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-lezzet-rotasi/>)

7. KIRKLARELI MEATBALL

This dish ranks the first among the local delicacies of the province. The meatball dishes offered in Edirne and Tekirdağ as the other provinces in Thrace are also famous, but each one of these dishes has a specific taste of its own. These meatballs are prepared with the meat of animals bred on Strandja Mountains in Kırklareli. The meatballs owe their taste to the meat of animals raised with natural feed and in their natural habitat. Grilled meatballs are served with roasted green peppers and tomatoes and pepper sauce on a separate plate and, if preferred, sheep yoghurt.



Kırklareli Meatballs

8. GOAT TURN

This is a specific dish for Kırklareli and is available in April and May. Famous kid roasters are only open for service during April and May as these mark the kid season. Roasted kid is prepared with a slaughtered kid tied from its front and hind legs to a tree on both sides with coarse salt inside and cooked in tandoori for approximately three hours. The dish is served with yoghurt, fresh garlic, and onions on wax paper instead of a plate.



Goat Turn -

(<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-lezzet-rotasi/>)

9. THRACE CURLY SHEEP

The curly breed of sheep is kept pure under the “Curly Sheep Breed Gene Bank” and “Public Improvement for Kirklareli Curly Sheep Breed” projects implemented in Thrace by the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Livestock and therefore, the meat products from this breed are preferred by reason of their meat quality and taste.



Thrace Curly Sheep -

(<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-lezzet-rotasi/>)

10. BOZA

Boza is a commonly produced and consumed winter drink that offers protection and energy during cold days in Thrace and especially in Kirklareli. It is produced with polenta, sugar, and water and contains a high quantity of minerals and vitamins. Categorised as a nutritious and healthy drink, boza is rich in physically necessary nutrients including iron, phosphor, zinc, calcium, and Vitamin A. It can be served with such food as dried chickpeas, cinnamon, or crushed hazelnuts. Boza has become a brand with Kirklareli.



Boza -

(<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-lezzet-rotasi/>)

11. BUFFALO YOGHURT

This yoghurt is quite famous in the town of Kuyuköy in Kirklareli. Buffalo yoghurt is prepared with the milk of water buffaloes. Mandate breeding used to be quite common in the past around the province but has been undertaken only in the north-eastern part of Thrace in recent years. Mandate breeding is mostly observed in the District of Saray in Tekirdağ and in Kirklareli. The milk obtained from water buffaloes raised here is used to produce buffalo yoghurt and cream

(kaymak). The most natural form of yoghurt can be tasted in Kiyıköy as a hot-spot for buffalo breeding.



Mandate Yoghurt -

(<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-lezzet-rotasi/>)

12. KIRKLARELI CHERRY

Kirklareli Black Cherries have become a symbol for Kirklareli, which has come to be known as the “City of Black Cherries” in recent times. Black cherry festivals have been organised with the most beautiful black cherries displayed during “Karahıdır Festival of Black Cherries” and a variety of competitions held every year since 2013. Kirklareli black cherries have become a brand in time and are quite popular by reason of their taste.



Kirklareli Cherry -

(<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-lezzet-rotasi/>)

13. STRAWBERRY

The strawberries cultivated in Kirklareli has a special place in Thrace and have become a brand with their quality. Kirklareli has the most favourable natural conditions for strawberries and the best fields for strawberries by reason of soil pH. Having been organised since 1982, the Strawberry Festival promotes the famous strawberries with cultivation and tasting activities.



Strawberry -

(<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-lezzet-rotasi/>)

14. SEASONAL FISH VARIETY

İğneada, which is located in Demirköy district of Kirklareli, is a very rich town in terms of fish variety of Kirklareli. Thanks to seven protected planes; Carp, red beetle, sea bass and mullet. İğneada, which has a fishermen’s harbor, can find the freshest fish of the season at very economic prices. In İğneada where delicious fish can be enjoyed every season; no visitor should return from İğneada, a source of fresh fish in all seasons, without tasting grilled and pan mullets, steam red gumard, and mussel pan.



Seasonal Fish Variety -
(<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-lezzet-rotasi/>)

15. VINEYARD PRODUCTS

Throughout history, Kirklareli has been known for its vineyards and beverages derived from its vineyard products. Trakya Region; Especially in the Tekirdağ and Kirklareli Worlds, which are favorable for viticulture. Kirklareli is one of the most important regions of Turkey for grape production and consequently for the production of beverage products. The grapes grown in Kirklareli are fermented to produce beverage products. These drinks, which have become a culture of Thrace, are exported to many countries in the world.



Vineyard Products -
(<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-lezzet-rotasi/>)

CONCLUSION

With this guide we presented part of the rich natural and cultural heritage in the cross-border region Bulgaria - Turkey.

The beauty of Strandja and its connection with the Black Sea provides an opportunity for various forms of tourism and has a huge potential for development of new tourist products and joint destinations to be promoted.

The visit to Strandja will touch you to past epochs, familiarize you with the local traditions, and walks in the nature will make you feel the magic of the mountain.

SOURCES (PART 2)

Links to photos

NATURE ROUTE

1. Dupnisa Cave - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-doga-rotasi/>)
2. İğneada District - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-doga-rotasi/>)
3. Limanköy Village- (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-doga-rotasi/>)
4. Longoz Forests National Park- (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-doga-rotasi/>)
5. Demirköy Town- (www.bosnakmedya.com/kirklarelinin-bosnak-koyu-balan-velika/)
6. Kiyıköy District- (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-doga-rotasi/>)
7. Beğendik Village- (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-doga-rotasi/>)
8. Hamdi Bey Village- (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-doga-rotasi/>)
9. Kofçaz Paragliding- (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-doga-rotasi/>)
10. Strandja Mountains- (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-doga-rotasi/>)
11. Trekking Routes

HISTORY ROUTE

1. Kırklareli Museum - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-tarih-rotasi/>)
2. Atatürk House - (<http://www.turkiyeturizm.com/ataturk-evini-6-ayda-100-bin-kisi-ziyaret-etti-56368h.htm>)

3. Ali Rıza Efendi Culture House- (<https://kirklareli.bel.tr/2018/01/02/ali-riza-efendi-kent-kultur-evi-acildi/>)
4. İğneada Lighthouse- (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-tarih-rotasi/>)
5. Demirköy Fatih Foundry - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-tarih-rotasi/>)
6. Yayla Neighborhood and Historical Houses- (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-tarih-rotasi/>)
7. Vize Castle - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-tarih-rotasi/>)
8. Kiyıköy Castle - (<http://duygusalrotalar.blogspot.com/2017/06/kiyikoy.html>)
9. Pınarhisar Castle - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-tarih-rotasi/>)
10. Visa Antique Theater- (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-tarih-rotasi/>)
11. Babaeski Bridge - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-tarih-rotasi/>)
12. Akarca Bridge - (<http://www.tgdturkey.com/tr/kirklareli/foto-galeri/pehlivankoy-akarca-koprusu/pehlivankoy-akarca-koprusu-1.html>)
13. Alpullu (Sinanlı) Bridge - (<https://tr.pinterest.com/pin/157837161922330706/>)
14. Hızırbey Turkish Bath - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-tarih-rotasi/>)
15. Forty Martyrs Abide- (www.kulturportali.gov.tr/turkiye/kirklareli/gezilecek-yerler/kirk-sehitler-aniti)
16. Kırklareli Train Station - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-tarih-rotasi/>)
17. Seyfioğlu Bastion ve Rock Bastion - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-tarih-rotasi/>)
18. Lower Spring Tumulus - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-tarih-rotasi/>)
19. Kanlıgeçit Tumulus - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-tarih-rotasi/>)

20. Local Textiles - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-tarih-rotasi/>)

FAITH ROUTE

1. Sokollu Mehmet Pasha Complex - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-inanc-rotasi/>)
2. Hızırbey Complex and Hızırbey Mosque - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-inanc-rotasi/>)
3. Cedit Ali Pasha Mosque - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-inanc-rotasi/>)
4. Little Haqia Sophia Church (Gazi Süleyman Pasha Mosque) - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-inanc-rotasi/>)
5. Aya Nikola Monastery - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-inanc-rotasi/>)
6. Cave Monastery - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-inanc-rotasi/>)

GASTRONOMY ROUTE

1. Hardaliye - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-lezzet-rotasi/>)
2. Poyralı Molasses - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-lezzet-rotasi/>)
3. Turbot - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-lezzet-rotasi/>)
4. Demirköy Honey - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-lezzet-rotasi/>)
5. Kırklareli Cheese - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-lezzet-rotasi/>)
6. Pumpkin Sweet in Lime - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-lezzet-rotasi/>)
7. Kırklareli Meatball
8. Goat Turn - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-lezzet-rotasi/>)

9. Thrace Curly Sheep - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-lezzet-rotasi/>)

10. Boza - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-lezzet-rotasi/>)

11. Mandate Yoghurt - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-lezzet-rotasi/>)

12. Kırklareli Cherry - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-lezzet-rotasi/>)

13. Strawberry - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-lezzet-rotasi/>)

14. Seasonal Fish Variety - (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-lezzet-rotasi/>)

15. Vineyard Products- (<http://trakyaturizmrotasi.com/tr/kirklareli-lezzet-rotasi/>)

