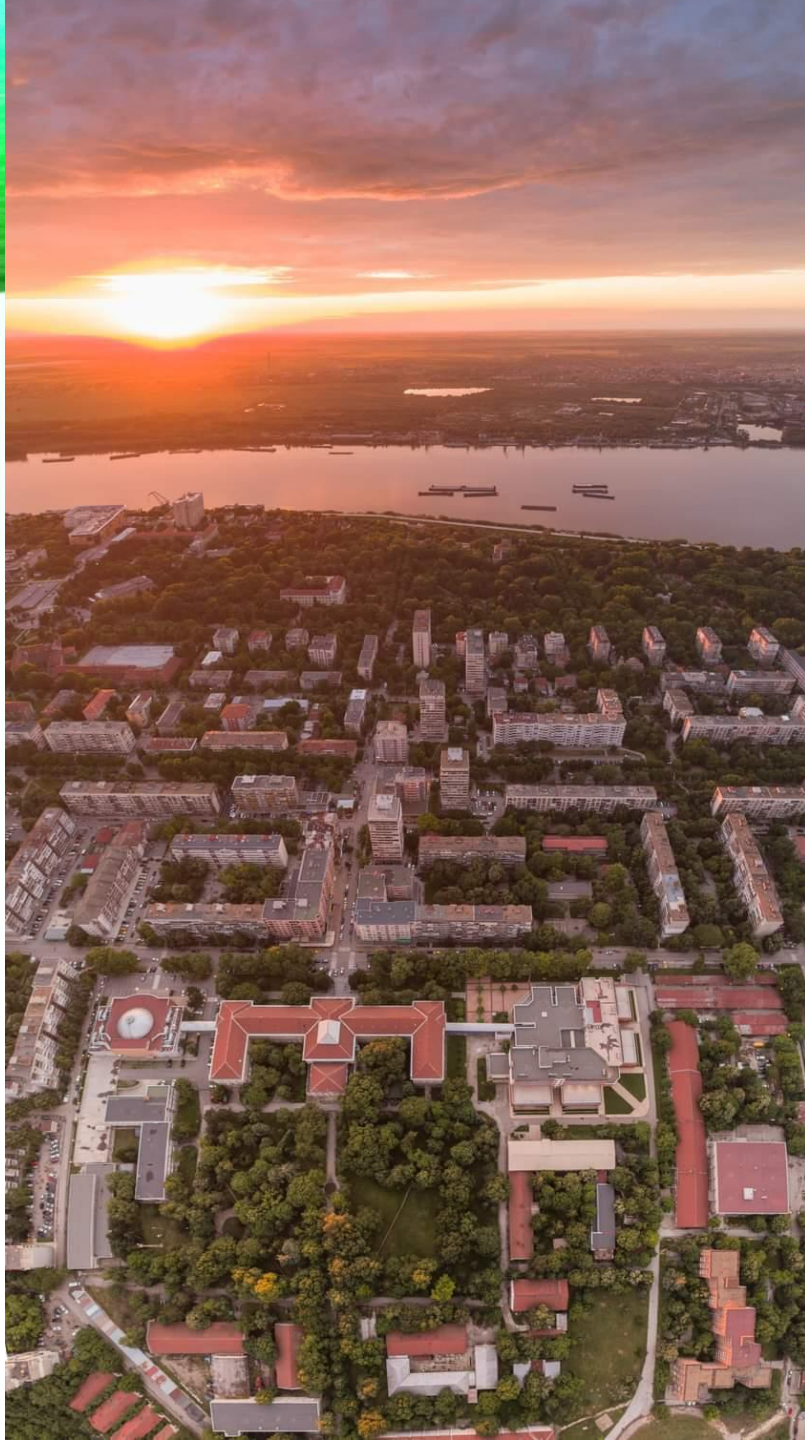




TRAVELING FROM NORTH TO SOUTH BULGARIA

Emilia Velikova - tour leader



Hello travelers!

MAIN POINTS

- 1) The River Danube
- 2) The Danube bridge/ Friendship Bridge
- 3) The TV tower of Ruse
- 4) “Leventa” Restaurant
- 5) St. Dimitar Basarbovski Monastery
- 6) Rock Monastery St. Michael, the Archangel
- 7) Orlova Chuka Cave
- 8) Veliko Tarnovo – the capital of the Second Bulgarian Empire

• 9. Gabrovo

- 9) The town of Gabrovo
- 10) *Shipka*
- 11) *The town of Kazanlak*
Thracian Tomb of Kazanlak
- 12) *The Petrified Wedding*
(the Stone Wedding)

Future information about?



Germany

Poland

Czech Republic

Regensburg

Slovakia

Ulm

Passau

Wien

Bratislava

Ukraine

Donaueschingen

Austria

Budapest

Moldova

Switzerland

Hungary

Romania

N

Italy

Slovenia

Croatia

Novi Sad

Galati Izmail

Braila

Tulcea

Sulina

100 km

Bosnia

Beograd

Orsova

Drobeta-Turnu Severin

Bucuresti

Cernavoda

RUSE

Black Sea

Yugoslavia

Sofia Bulgaria

Albania

Rep. of Macedonia

Turkey

Greece

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Видин
Vidin

Монтана
Montana

Враца
Vratsa

СОФИЈА
SOFIA

Перник
Pernik

Кюстендил
Kjustendil

Благоевград
Blagoevgrad

Пазарджик
Pazardzhik

Пловдив
Plovdiv

Смолян
Smoljan

Кърджали
Kardjali

Плевен
Pleven

Ловеч
Lovech

Габрово
Gabrovo

Стара Загора
Stara Zagora

Хасково
Haskovo

Велико Търново
Veliko Tarnovo

Търговище
Targovishte

Сливен
Sliven

Ямбол
Jambol

Разград
Razgrad

Шумен
Shumen

Варна
Varna

Бургас
Burgas

Силистра
Silistra

Добрич
Dobrich

Русе
Ruse





BULGARIA
 0 km 20 40 60 km
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- National Capital (1,250,000 in 2007)
 - over 300,000
 - over 100,000
 - over 50,000
 - other main city
 - other city
 - Chief town of district (oblast)
- Bulgarian districts have the name of their capitals. Sofia is the National Capital, the chief town of Sofia district and the chief town of Sofia agglomeration district.

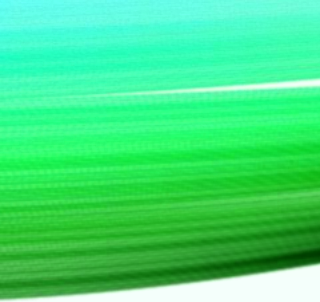
THE RIVER DANUBE

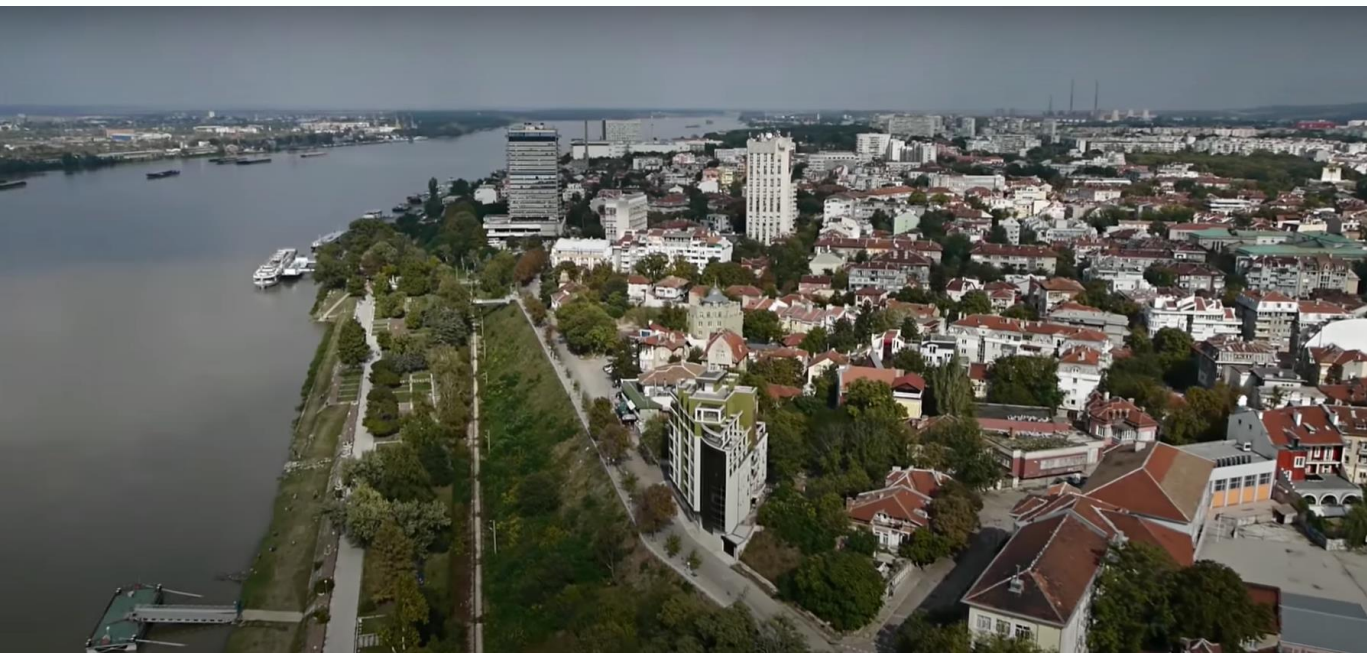
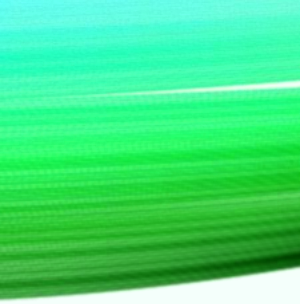
By the town of Ruse, the river Danube is 900 – 1000 m wide.

It is the border between Bulgaria and Romania that has a length of about 500 km.

The town of Ruse is 65 km far from the town of Bucharest.







2

DANUBE BRIDGE/ FRIENDSHIP BRIDGE

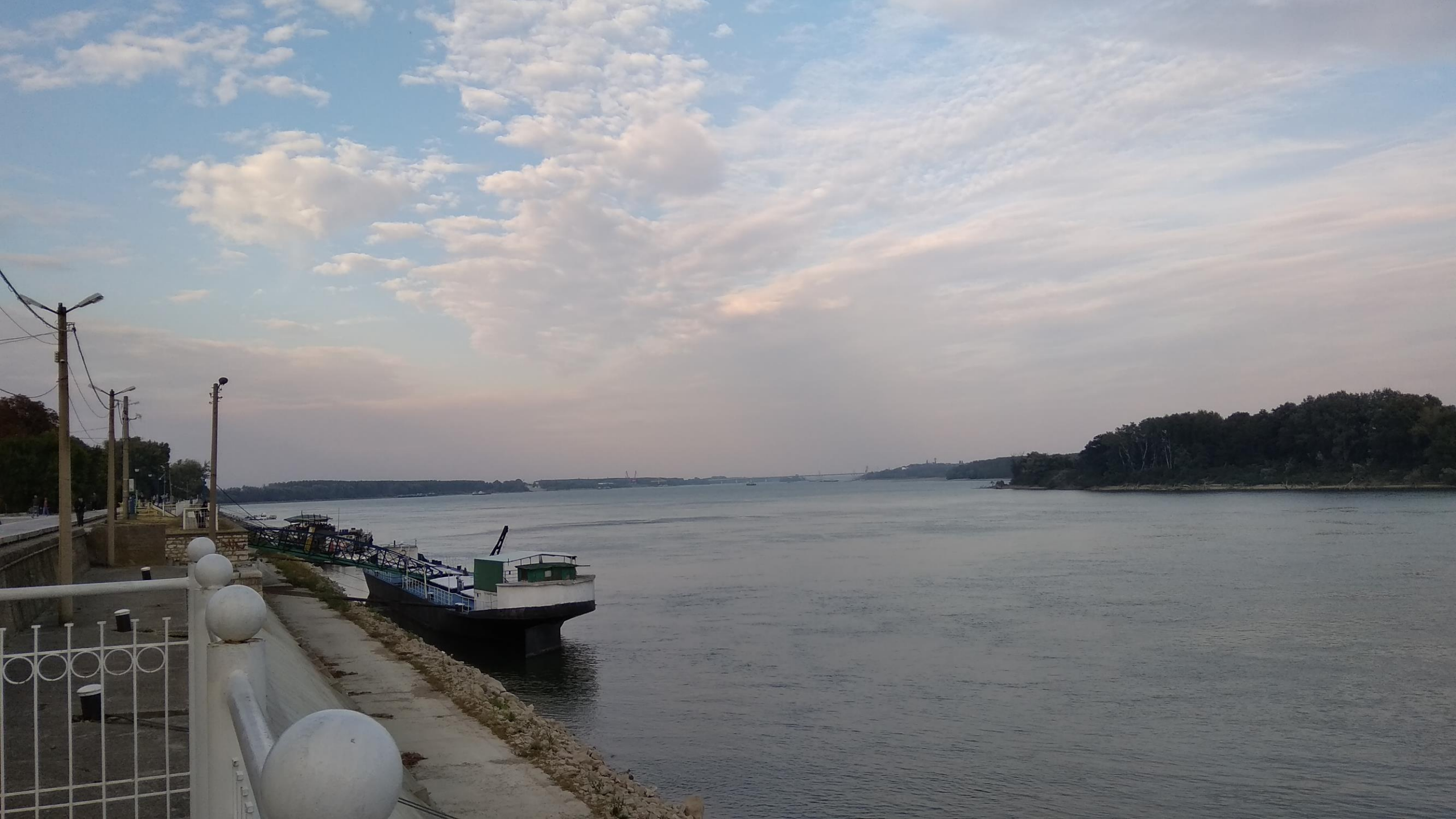




- The Danube bridge that is also called the Friendship Bridge. It was opened on 20 June 1954. The designers were the Soviet engineers V. Andreev and N. Rudomazin. The bridge is a steel truss bridge over the river between the cities of Ruse (Bulgaria) and Giurgiu (Romania).
- Its length is 2.80 km and passes at an altitude of 30 meters above the water. Built on two levels – for trains and cars. The uncial part of the bridge is its middle part that can be raised for passing big oceans ships.



The second Bulgarian bridge over the Danube river is the New Europe Bridge between the cities of Vidin (BG) and Calafat (RO).





THE TV TOWER OF RUSE

The TV tower of Ruse was built by a very big team. My father, as electrical engineer, was a member of this team in the 1970's.

It had to be the second tallest tower on the Balkans. But there was an order from the Communist party and the techniques was taken from Sofia.

The tower is a private place now.

“LEVENTA” RESTAURANT



In the building where the ammunitions of Ruschuk garrison were kept back in the 1980's now a beautiful restaurant is housed. The owners have also made a wine cellar in it and you can taste their delicious wines.

The restaurant has several rooms where you can see the Bulgarian history in pictures and a lovely garden.









5

ST. DIMITAR BASARBOVSKI ROCK MONASTERY

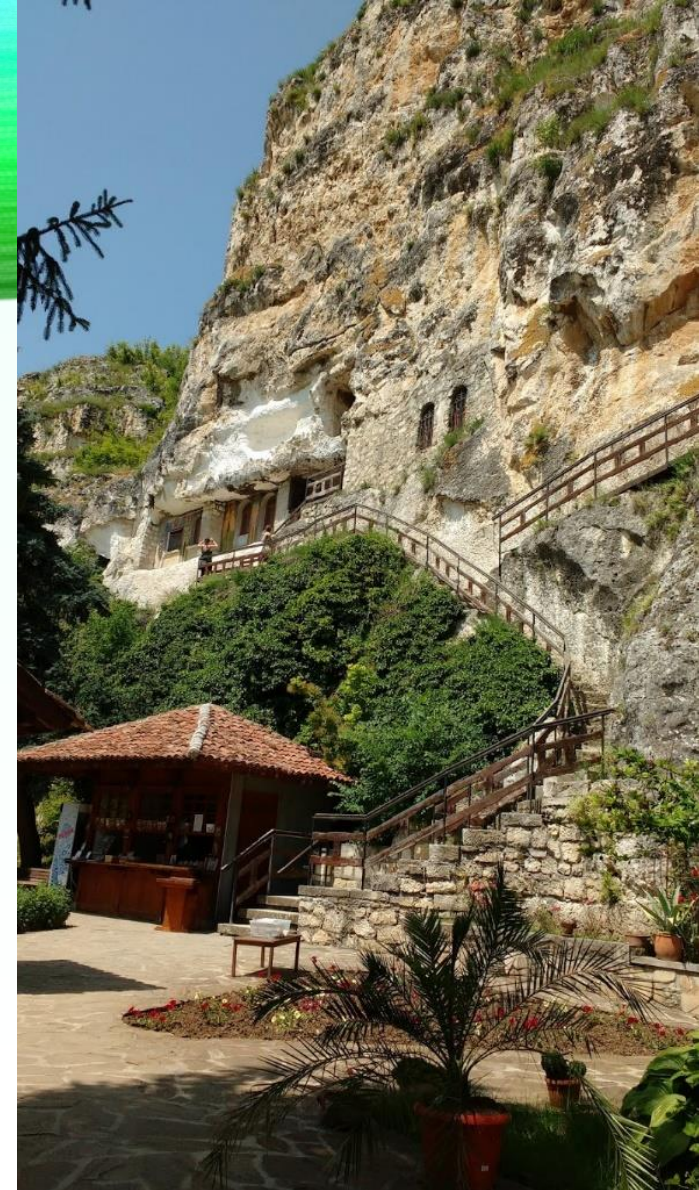




For the first time his name was mentioned in Ottoman tax register from 1431. The most famous inhabitant of the monastery is St. Dimitar Basarbovski. He was born in 1685 in the village Basarbovo that is a part of the town of Ruse. He spent his entire life in the monastery.

Once he inadvertently stepped on a bird's nest with the birds. As punishment, he did not wear the guilty leg for three years - both winter and summer.

The imperishable body of St. Dimitar Basarbovski is considered miraculous and is very revered in Bulgaria and Romania. Initially, the relics were illuminated in the monastery, but the ruler of Wallachia sent a group to steal them. The relics were loaded on a wagon, but no matter how they tried to drive the horses the animals refuse to step ahead. They changed the horses but these animals again refused to walk and the relics stayed in the monastery.



- Later, during the Russo-Turkish War, they were loaded to be transferred to Russia. The road, however, passed through Bucharest in which people at that time died from the terrible plague. Once the relics entered the town, the disease escaped from there. Therefore the Romanians begged for the relics and they remained in Bucharest.





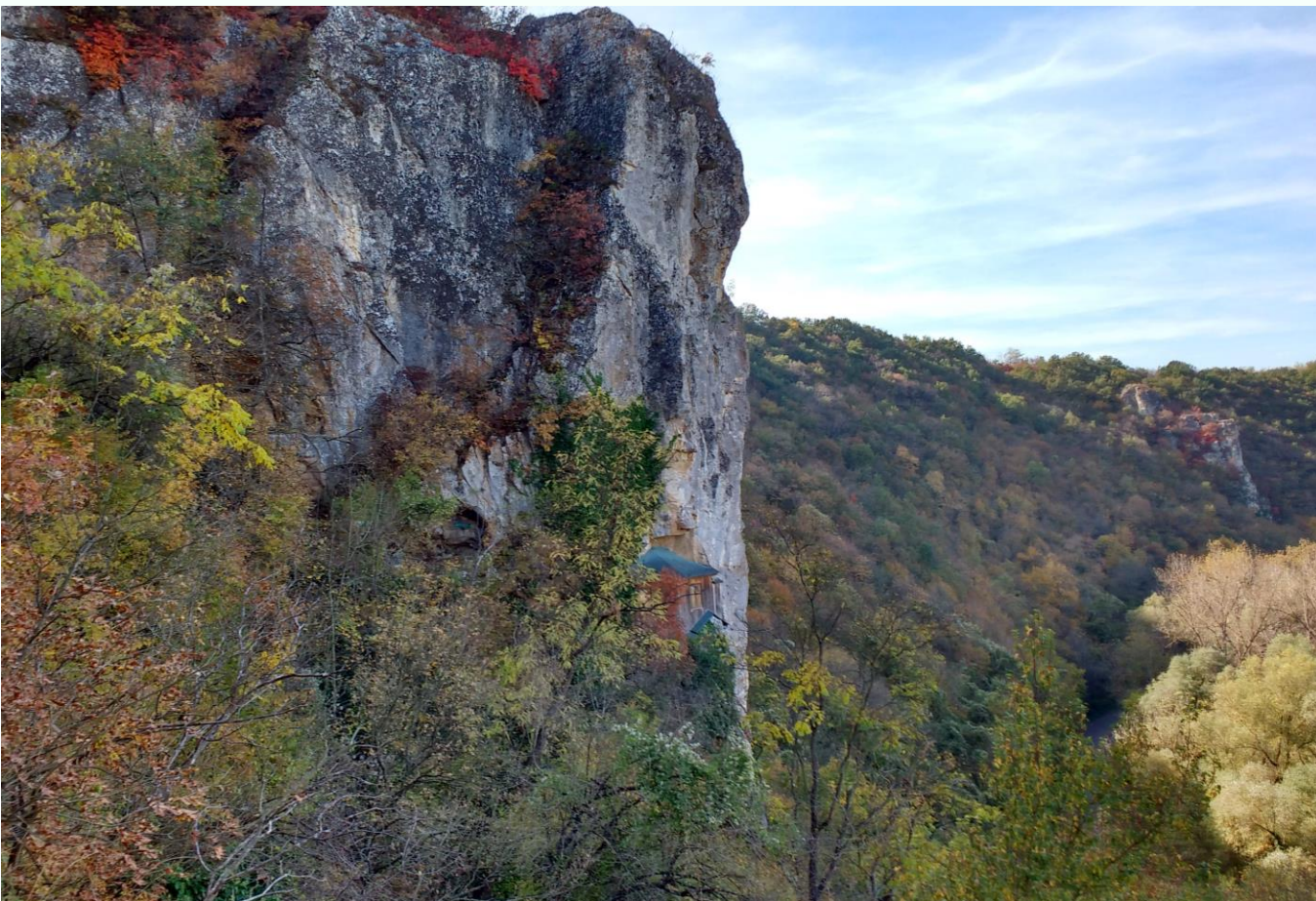




Today everyone can worship them in the Patriarchal Cathedral "Constantine and Helena". St. Dimitar Basarbovski officially is the protector of Bucharest and is celebrated on October 27th.

6

ROCK MONASTERY ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL



- The Holly Mother church is a part of the Rock Monastery St. Michael which was listed by UNESCO as a world cultural heritage property in 1979.
- The frescoes in it bear the signs of Renaissance painting.
- The paints are organic and have been preserved in their brightness.







- This is the icon The Last Supper which was painted a 130 years before the picture of Leonardo da Vinci.





ORLOVA CHUKA CAVE

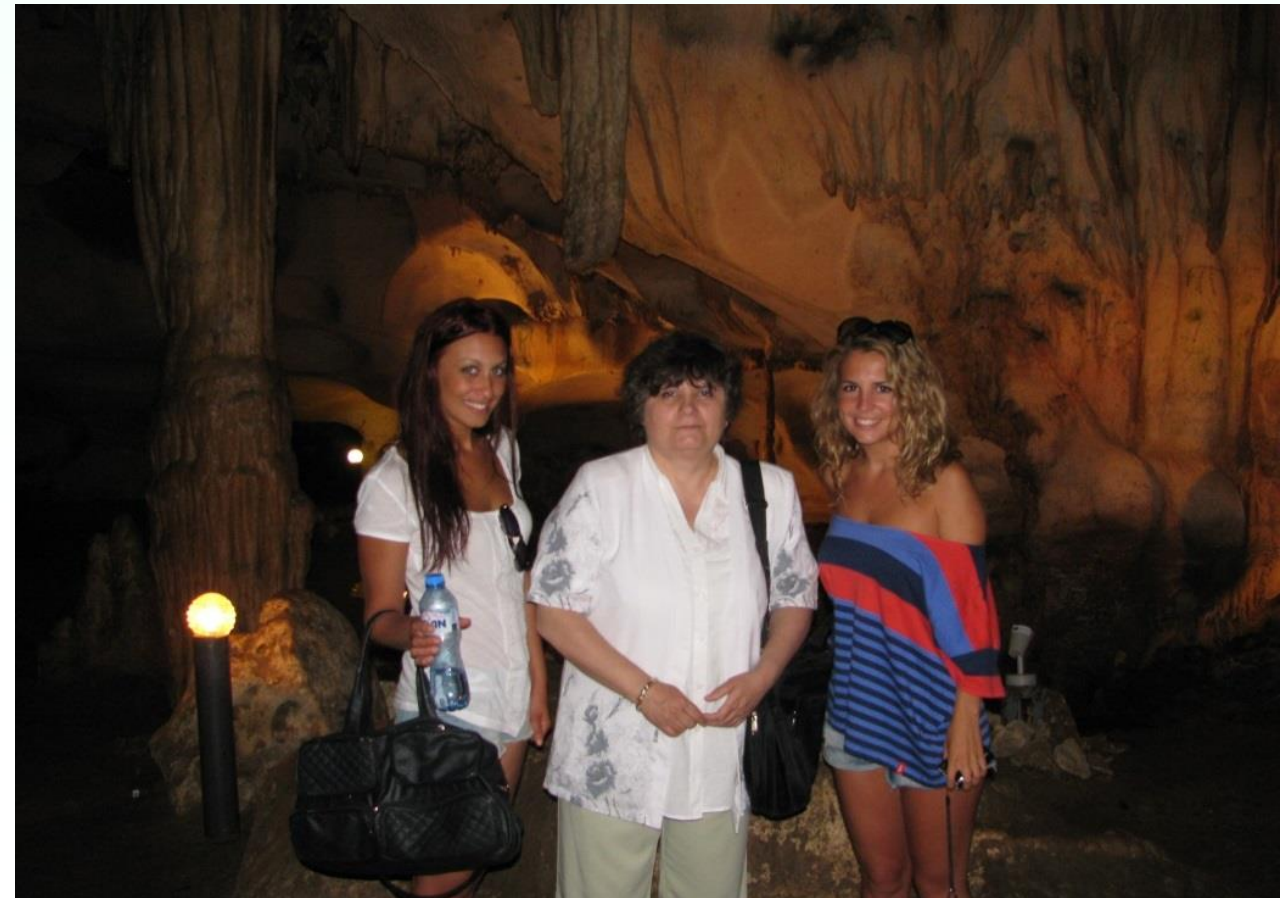
With a total length of 13,437 m, Orlova Chuka is the second longest cave in the country.

The cave was discovered by chance by a young shepherd in 1941.



It is furnished with colorful lighting under an European project and reveals views of magical figures that nurture the imagination.

It is easy to walk in the cave because there are not places up or down.













VELIKO TARNOVO

THE CAPITAL OF THE SECOND BULGARIAN EMPIRE

Veliko Tarnovo is a city of many sights and one of the most popular tourist centres in Bulgaria. Its name means "greate strong town". It was often referred as the "City of the Tsars".

The Uprising of Asen and Peter began on 26 October 1185 and ended with the restoration of Bulgaria with the creation of the Second Bulgarian Empire, ruled by the Asen dynasty. The town of Veliko Tarnovo became the capital of the Empire from 1204 until 1393 - the invasion of the Ottomans in Europe. Bulgaria was occupied by the Turkish Empire for 500 years.

Its unique location on the four hills Tsarevets, Trapezitsa, Sveta Gora, and Devingrad makes the town one of the most beautiful in Bulgaria and also adds special charm to the city's appearance and its own identity.

On Tsarevets are the palaces of the Bulgarian emperors and the Patriarchate, the Patriarchal Cathedral, and also a number of administrative and residential edifices surrounded by thick walls.

Trapezitsa is known for its many churches and as the former main residence of the nobility.

Sveta Gora was the place of people in service of the emperors' families. Devingrad was place for all other citizens.





ОПАСНОСТ
DANGER

ВЕЛИКО ТЪРНОВО
QR code



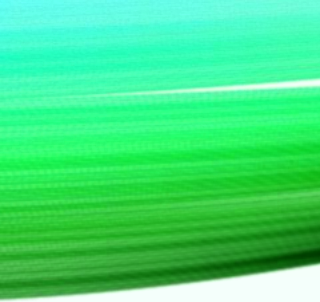















Veliko Tarnovo is a city of 1689 historical and cultural sights to visit. For example, the church "40 Martyrs", the building of the Grand National Assembly, the Monkey's house built by famous builders Usta Kolyo Ficheto, the show "Sound and Light", art galleries with icons of members of the famous Tarnovo Artistic School, and many others.

On 10 February 1879 was held the fateful Constituent assembly. The Tarnovo Constitution was accepted then and it was one of the most democratic European constitutions back then. This historic act laid the foundations of the new Bulgarian state. On 17 April 1879 was the transfer of Parliament from Tarnovgrad to Sofia, which today remains the Bulgarian capital.







<https://soundandlight.bg/bg/galeria/item/10-galeria-zvuk-i-svetlina>

THE TOWN OF GABROVO



The town of Gabrovo is famous with:

- A) Aprilov National High School – the first modern school in Bulgaria in the time of Turkish occupation 1835
- B) the unique sense of humour possessed by its citizens. Local humour centres on the alleged stinginess of its citizens. Gabrovo prides itself on being a centre for humour and to have the House of Humour and Satire that promote humour both locally and internationally. For example:
 - cut the tails off their cats so they can close the door faster when they let the cat out, in order to save heat. (A black cat with a cut-off tail is one of Gabrovo's symbols.)
 - run after a taxi car (a cab) to save more money than if they ran after a public bus
- A) the annual Carnival of Humor and Satire "Let`s go nuts from laughter" on 17th May





Габрово

S W

СВЕТЪТ Е
ОЦЕНЯЛ,
ЗАЩОТО
СЕ Е СМЯЛ

ББИРА С ТРИСТА
ИЗКАРАШ,
СТИШ, МЪКА
Ш."

Хаджи Рачков
THAT'S ABOUT FOUR TO A MASS
HEALTHY, IT'S AN URBAN JOB TO
I TUNE. AN URBAN JOB TO
ME ET. IT'S AN URBAN JOB TO
AVE IT.



И НА ЕДНА
СТРУНА
ХОРО СЕ
СВИРИ...

А СЪЩО ТАКА НА ГАБРОВЦИ
ДВАЖИМ ОТКРИВАНЕТО НА
БЕЗМОТОРНИЯ АВТОМОБИЛ
IT IS GABROVANS WHO ARE
INDUCTED TO FOR THE INVENTION
OF ENGINELESS CARS.



СИРОМАХ ЧОВЕК -
ЖИВ ДЯВОЛ

HEM IS A BOB, DEAF, OF A MAN,
A BOB IN HIS NET.



A LOCAL ECONOMIC MECHANISM:
WHATEVER THE PROBLEMS, THE PAIR
SHOULD BEG, WIFE!! AT THE PAIR.

ГАБРОВСКИ СТОПАНСКИ МЕХАНИЗМА:
КАКВОТО ПРОИЗВЕДЕШ - СЪМ АА ГО ПРОДАДЕШ НА ПАВИЦА.

ЗНАЕШ ЛИ КАКО
ЩЕ МЕРНЕШ
КАПТАРА СЪМ ОТ КЪРСТА
НЕ СЪЛАЖАМ...

ТОВА ДОНЕКА
ОТ КИ КАМКА



I NEVER TAKE THE SCALDS OFF MY HAIR
FOR I HAVE. KNOW I MAY SAY MYSELF

THEY BETTER
GABROV, TOWN, GABROV

С ЕА
И КЪР
РАСЪН
КОИ
НА В
СЪМ







Etar Architectural-ethnographic Complex that contains a total of 50 objects, including water installations and houses with craftsmen's workshops attached. The main goal is to illustrate Bulgarian architecture, customs, culture, craftsmanship, way of life, economy of Gabrovo and the region during the Bulgarian national revival.







During the Russo-Turkish War (1877–1878), the Battle of Shipka Pass of the Balkan Mountains consisted of four battles in August-September 1877 that were fought between: the Russian Army (including Lithuanians, Estonians, Latvians, Finns, Russians, etc.) with 2500 members at the beginning and 14 217 at the end with the support of General Radetski, 7000 Bulgarian volunteers and nearly 40,000 members of the strong Ottoman army. The defensive victory at the Shipka Pass had strategic importance for the progress of the war for Bulgarian freedom. Had the Ottomans been able to take the pass then the war would be only in North Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire would have a major advantage. The last not successful attempt of Sulejman pasha was in the period 5-17 September. This success of the Russian Empire and Bulgaria was the main condition for the freedom of Bulgaria.

3 March – the Liberation Day of Bulgaria



Volunteers guarded Shipka until 9 January 1878 in the very called winter. This war was occupation for the Russia Empire. Bulgaria had to pay a big amount for its freedom. The war was spiritually supported by Austro-Hungarian Empire and England as a results of murdering of many men, women and children in April 1876.



Soldier in the snow/ Войник на снега, Snow trenches/ Снежни траншеи, authroL V. Vereshchagin



THE TOWN OF KAZANLAK

- Kazanlak is the center of the Valley of the Roses, the home of the Thracian kings, and an attractive tourist destination. The country's largest and best-preserved Thracian tombs are found here, and they are included among the UNESCO World Heritage Sites, along with the Museum of Roses. There are two nature reserves and five protected areas in the vicinity of Kazanlak, preserving natural wonders and age-old forests. The town neighbors on the largest and stunningly beautiful reserve in the Stara Planina mountain range, Dzhendema, which is part of the Central Balkans National Park.
- The Rosa Damascena, known as the Damask or Castile rose, was imported into Bulgaria centuries ago, and today it is one of the nation's symbols. Under the influence of the country's unique climate and soil, this rose gradually developed into a Bulgarian strain distinct from Damask roses elsewhere.
- This rose was named the Kazanlak Damask rose and the valley is known as the Valley of the Roses.
- The rose oil is the base for the most famous perfumes everywhere.
- The festival has become an international attraction and the city is glad to host thousands of guests.










Всекуго,
егаме
рогноет.
B. Ahtin

КО
PE







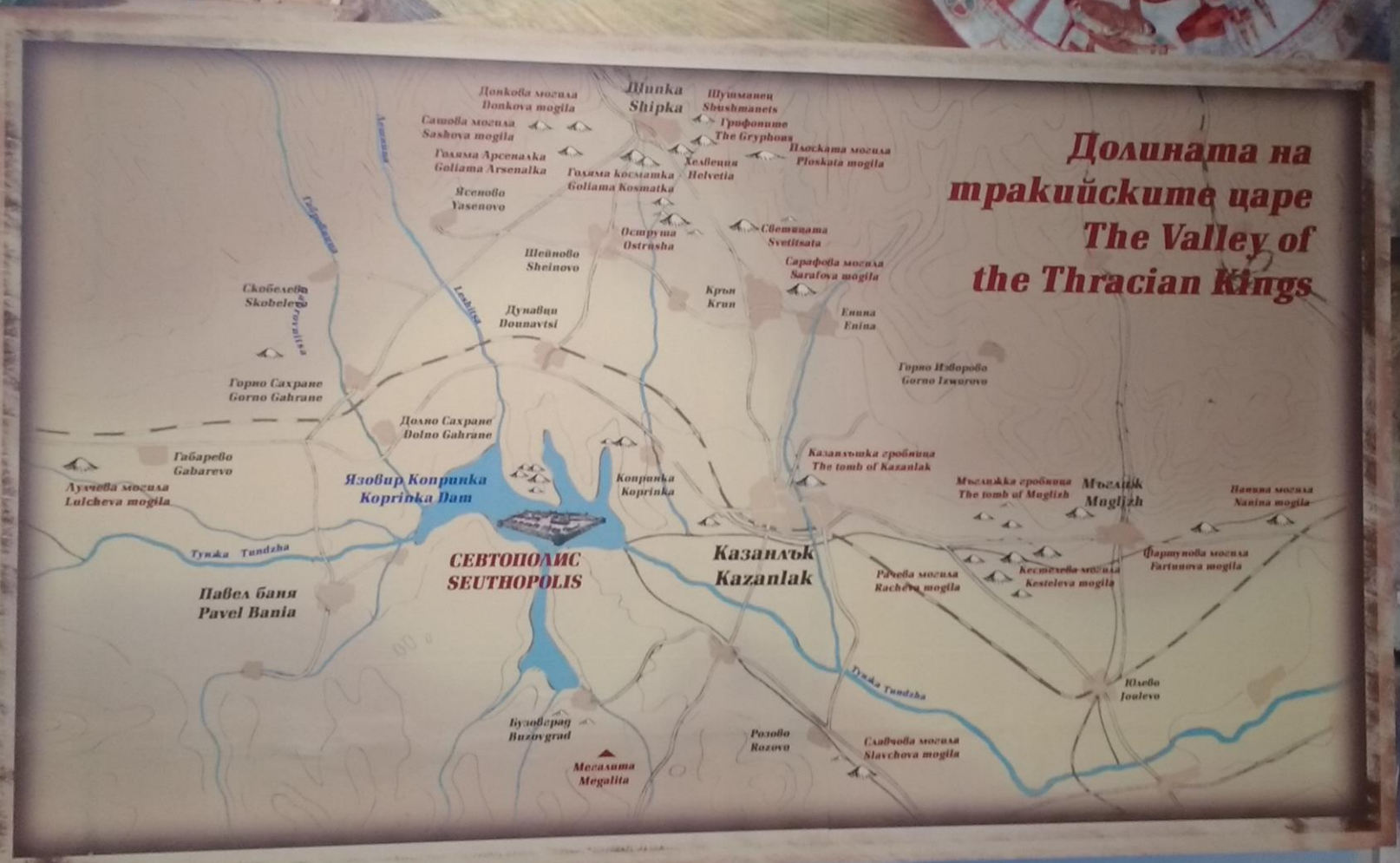
Discovered in 1944, this tomb dates from the Hellenistic period, around the end of the 4th century BC. It is located near Seutopolis, the capital city of the Thracian king Seutes III, and is part of a large Thracian necropolis.

Its duplicate, constructed in scale 1:1, which presents the architecture, the archaeological materials and the wall-paintings of the Kazanlak Tomb, is situated next to it. This Tomb is one of the most significant monuments of the Thracian culture in the Bulgarian lands, included in the list of the global cultural inheritance of UNESCO in 1979.

The monument owes its global fame to the remarkable wall-paintings in the corridor and the dome premise – one of the best-preserved products of the antique painting from the early Hellenistic age. The unknown painter had worked in four basic colors: black, red, yellow and white.

The tomb is a part of the **Valley of the Thracian Kings**, which also includes the temples and the tombs found in the mounds Golyama Kosmatka, Golyama Arsenalka, Shushmanets, Helvetsia, Gryphons, Svetitsa (Female Saint) and Ostrusha.

**Долината на
тракийските царе
The Valley of
the Thracian Kings**









THE PETRIFIED WEDDING (THE STONE WEDDING)



- The natural landmark called The Petrified Wedding (the Stone Wedding) is located near the village of Zimzelen and the town of Kardzhali. It is one of the most interesting rock formations in the eastern Rhodope mountain. The rock formations reach 10 meters in height and lie on an area of 50 dca.
- According to the scientific hypotheses, the Petrified Wedding started forming 40 billion years ago, due to underwater volcanic activity. Later, after the sea receded, the rocks were exposed to rain, wind and sun, which formed them to their current shape. Various minerals in the rock are the reason for the diversity of colors and shades of the rocks.



The name of the phenomenon was given since the rock formations look like people, gathered in one place. According to the legend, a young man from the village of Zimzelen fell in love with a girl from a nearby village. During the wedding, on the way to the village of Zimzelen, a strong wind blew off the veil of the bride. Her indescribable beauty made the guests speechless, and the father-in-law felt jealous of his son.



The natural forces petrified everyone for the impure thoughts of the father-in-law. Only the groom lived, crying bitter tears, begging the wind to petrify him too. The elements fulfilled his request and the phenomenon The Petrified Wedding stands to the present day near a puddle, which is believed to be made of the tears of the unfortunate groom.



Bulgarian gold and the oldest gold in Europe

Perperikon

Black sea and tourism

Sofia and the Vitosha mountains, etc.



