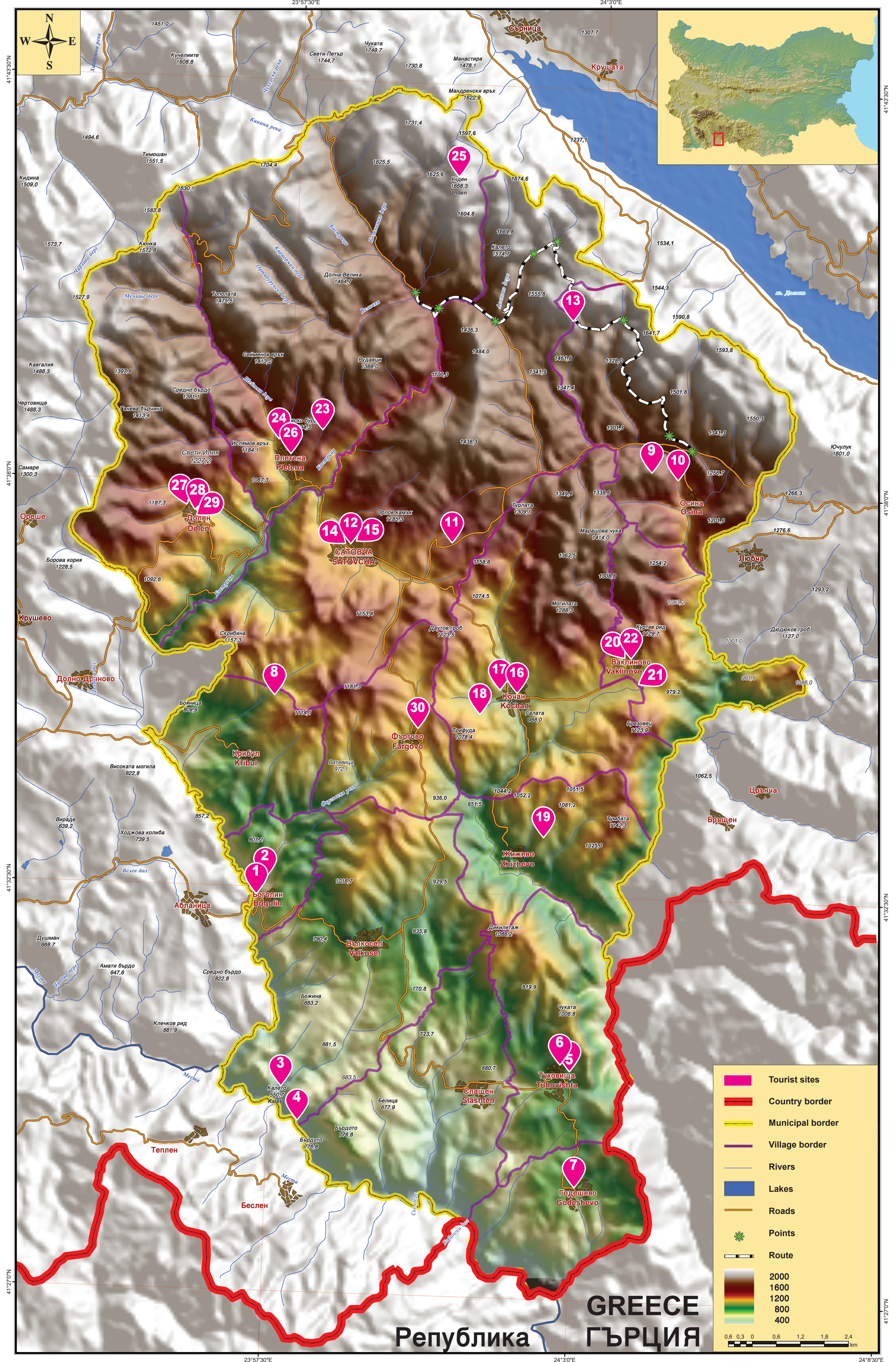


SATOVCHA MUNICIPALITY TOURIST SITES AND ATTRACTIONS





Bridge from Roman times in Ravnishteto locality close to Bogolin village. It was constructed with the specific for the region stone bridges technology.



Operating as of today mill at Bistritsa river in Ravnishteto locality close to Bogolin village.



The Fortress is situated five kilometers to the South of Valkosel village on a hill at the left shore of Mesta river. This was the main entrance of the fortress. The fortress wall is preserved at the height of two meters. It is dated of 11th – 12th century.



Medieval settlement to the South of Valkosel village – at the opposite shore of the river across the bridge remaining of a medieval settlement was discovered.



Early Bulgarian necropolis from X - XI century in "Ogradeto" locality. In the Museum of Blagoevgrad one can see exposed sacrificial tableware, earrings, necklaces, rings, bracelets can be seen.



Very well preserved renaissance houses from XIX and XX century in the Eastern part of the village Tuhovishta.



Located in the center of Godeshevo village. Aged more than 400 years, height 25 m and circumference 4.80 m. Declared as a protected site during 1985.



Between Satovcha and Kribul villages there is a rock with a big aperture, Proverachkata. People pass through it to get healed - Thracian cult. The meaning of this ritual is in the belief that the aperture in the rock is the Mother Earth's womb. Going into it and coming out of it and throwing away the old clothes, the visitor is already a new person, cleansed and healthy.



Northwest from Osina village, remnants of a settlement, which existed during the stone-copper age have been found.



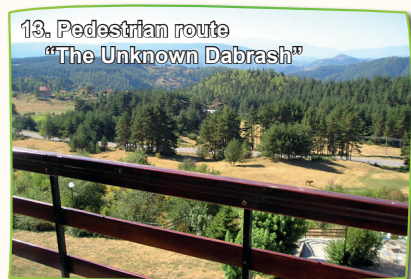
The river, which flows through Satovcha Municipality, is called Bistritsa. Its length is approx. 25 km. Along this river, there are five Roman bridges, which indicate how much loaded this road has been during the antiquity.



The biggest natural birch forested area in Bulgaria – 1150 decars of seeded wood



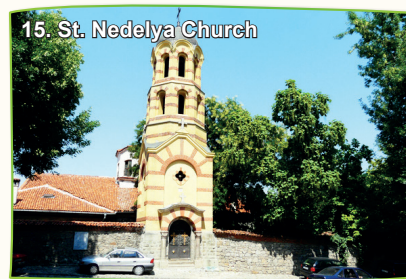
Located in the center of Satovcha village. Presents the history, ethnography, architecture and living style in the region of Satovcha Municipality. It was created by the initiative of the mayor and with the exhibits donated by the local people from the region.



From Dikchan Tourist Center to Dabrash Hotel the route passes through unique landmarks, which are presented on the information boards. There are several points for short relaxation along the route.



The Group for HIGH SINGING was created in 1950 in the Community cultural center. During 1988, the group was awarded the Herder prize for authentic folklore. The female singers are also winners of many prizes from the festivals "Pirin Sings", "Rozhen", Stara Planina Fair "Balkan Folk", "National meeting of the authentic folklore ensembles", holders of international awards "Stara Zagora-Dalboki", as well as of awards from the International Festival "Malashevo Sings and Dances".



The church was constructed in 1844 in Satovcha village, recognized as a monument of culture. The icons were painted by different artists in different years of 19th century. The icon of St Stilian is remarkable, painted by the Molerovs, from the Bansko painting school,



In the Cultural center there are women and men folklore groups - dancing group, folklore singing group, folklore instruments group and dancing group, as well as a library with 17 000 books. An ethnographic collection was opened as well.



Two ancient towns – the Roman town in Iztok (East) neighborhood and the one in Zaimova Chuka fall within the Kochan territory. The mounds and the cyst funeral chambers on Kochan territory may be counted using a three digit number.



The Satovcha region is among the alleged birth places of Orpheus. The only locality in Bulgaria, bearing the name of Orpheus, is in this region – the Orfenskoto locality. The indirect proofs that the birth place of Orpheus is in this region are to be found in "Veda Slovena" – a literary work, which has provoked a lot of admiration in Europe and a strong denial in Bulgaria.



In the locality Tumbata, Northeast from Zhizhevo village, a calibrated with lead niche was found in 1995, having dimensions 170 cm x 70 cm. It is supposed that in this area an Acropolis from Roman times exists.



In the park of Vaklinovo village there are monuments of the border guard Vergil Vaklinov with the dog Vihar, created in 1973 by the sculptor Georgi Filin, as well as a monument of the first teacher and founder of the school Stefka Sabcheva



In the Rata neighborhood, south from Vaklinovo village, there is a group of four small caves. They are horizontal or descending with a length between 5 and 17 m. The entrances are strongly protracted and the galleries are narrow and difficult. The multiple quartz veins have shaped rock bridges and moldings.



Built in 1400 /or 1255 according to Hidzhra/ in Vachinovo village, under the leadership of Ahmed Gazi Abdurahman.



Located northeast from Pletena village and has East-Southeast exposition. Its area is 34.7 ha. Its highest peak is 1265 m and its lowest peak - 965 m. It covers a mixed forest of fir, spruce and beech. Some trees in the reserve are about 55 m high. The flora in the reserve is represented by 83 plant species, 41 of which are medicinal, and the fauna - by 63 bird species and 33 mammal species.



From the found nine Thracian shields in the territory of Bulgaria, five are found in the area of Pletena village. The ornaments and decorations of the last found shield are extremely fine and accurate. It is unique with the fact that a lock of hair was found in it. The shield dates back to IV- III century BC.



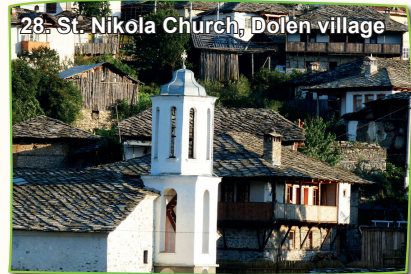
One of the most beautiful mountain peaks in the Rhodope Mountains is named after Prof. Uden upon a request of the local population during 1936 and with the approval of the relevant state institutions. The peak is 1668 m high. On a granite rock there is a bronze plate, made by the sculptor Petar Balabanov, decorated with the Swedish and the Bulgarian coat of arms with the inscription: „In 1936 this peak was named „Professor Uden“ to always remind about the fair and philanthropic verdict pronounced by the Swedish Professor Uden, appointed as judge by the Council of the League of Nations. Thanks to this verdict a part of the South Rhodope Mountains was declared property of Bulgaria". (Östen Uden, 1896-1974 – Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Sweden)



A Folklore School was established in the Community Cultural Center Prosveta 1937 in Pletena village. It offers trainings in local dances and songs, language, cuisine and customs for groups or for individual visitors.



The village was founded during XVI century. The Renaissance architectural flourishing, preserved until present, through the 70 houses - cultural monuments turns it during 1977 into Cultural Historical Reserve "Dolen". Most interesting as Renaissance typical street ensembles are the crossings "Kavalite", "Nikolovskata Cheshma" and the Market street. In the past, the village was famous for its well-developed goldsmith's trade and carter services.



Built during 1834 within a complex, which included a school at the church. On the iconostasis of this church there are icons, painted by Georgi Filipov, icon-painter from Dobarsko.



The ossuary in Dolen village is famous for the fact that it has stored the bones of secular persons as well as of monks – a custom, which is typical for this region of the Rhodope Mountains.



There are more than 1300 water fountains in the region of Dabrash. All of them are built by volunteers among the local population. Many of them are built in memory of a deceased relative and are maintained throughout the centuries by the successors of the genus. Others are made simply for the purpose of inviting the traveler to take time for rest and reflection.