

STUDY AND ANALYSIS REPORT ON POTENTIAL TOURIST RESOURCES COVERED BY STRANDJA REGION IN BULGARIA (BOURGAS DISTRICT)

PROJECT CB005.1.22.105

**THE BEAUTY OF STRANDJA – TO EXPLORE, DISCOVER AND SPREAD THE NATURAL AND CULTURAL
HERITAGE IN BULGARIA-TURKEY CROSS-BORDER REGION**

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Contents

INTRODUCTION	4
1. BOURGAS REGION	5
1. GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF BURGAS REGION	5
1.1. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF BURGAS REGION	5
1.2. RELIEF	6
1.3. CLIMATE.....	6
1.4. WATER RESOURCES.....	7
1.5. LANDING AND NATURAL LANDMARKS.....	8
1.6. TOURISM	10
2. STRANDJA	16
2.1. GENERAL INFORMATION	16
2.2. STRANDJA NATURAL PARK	18
2.2.1. THE RIVERS IN STRANDJA NATURAL PARK	19
2.2.2. HIGH PLANTS AND VEGETATIONS	21
2.2.3. FAUNA	21
2.2.4. RULES OF BEHAVIOR, SPECIFICATIONS OF HIKING TOURISM IN STRANDJA, HAZARDS.....	23
2.2.5 HOW TO GO TO STRANDJA NATURAL PARK.....	25
2.3. TRADITIONS	25
2.4. NATURAL AND CULTURAL-HISTORICAL LANDMARKS	28
2.5. REGISTERED TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN THE MUNICIPALITIES ON THE TERRITORY OF STRANDJA	31
2.6. TOURIST INFRASTRUCTURE.....	37
2.6.1. ACCOMMODATION PLACES IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF SOZOPOL, TSAREVO, PRIMORSKO, SREDETS AND MALKO TARNOVO	37
2.6.2. DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT FACILITIES	39
2.6.3. TOUR OPERATORS AND TOURAGENTS	43
2.6.4 TOURIST INFORMATION CENTERS	44

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2.6.5. BORDER CHECKPOINTS.....	44
2.7. TRANSPORTATION LINKS.....	44
2.8. BICYCLE ROUTES.....	47
3. TOURIST RESOURCES OF THE MUNICIPALITIES OF MALKO TARNOVO, SOZOPOL, PRIMORSKO, TSAREVO AND SREDETS.....	48
3.1. MUNICIPALITY OF MAKO TARNOVO	48
3.2. MUNICIPALITY OF SOZOPOL.....	58
3.3. MUNICIPALITY OF PRIMORSKO	67
3.4. MUNICIPALITY OF TSAREVO	76
3.5. MUNICIPALITY OF SREDETS.....	92
3.6 METHODOLOGY FOR THE EVALUATION OF TOURIST SITES.....	98
CONCLUSION	99
SOURCES OF INFORMATION:	100

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INTRODUCTION

The present report was prepared within the framework of Project CB005.1.22.105 "THE BEAUTY OF STRANDJA - TO STUDY, DISCOVER AND DISTRIBUTE THE NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE IN BULGARIA-TURKEY CROSS-BORDER REGION".

The project was developed under the Interreg-IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Bulgaria-Turkey, Priority Axis 2 "Sustainable Tourism", Specific Objective 2.2. "Increasing the cross-border tourism potential by developing common destinations".

Project partners are: the Association for Promotion of Lifelong Learning (Harmanli), Vocational High School of Agriculture and Economics "Hristo Botev" (Svilengrad) and Vocational and Technical Anatolian High School (Kirklareli).

The overall project objective is increasing the tourism potential by exploring, discovering and promoting the natural and cultural heritage in Bulgaria-Turkey region with focus on Strandja. The project specific objectives are: to create a successful model of cooperation, to provoke interest among young people in the field of cross-border tourism and to encourage tourism related operators to propose new tourist destinations.

The report includes studies and analysis of existing tourism resources in the cross-border region, with a focus on Strandja and its relationship with the Black Sea. It presents information on natural resources, sites of cultural and historical heritage, serving tourist infrastructure and transport infrastructure, text and photo materials. The sources used are official statistics, information and strategic documents from the Regional Administration of Bourgas and Municipal Administrations Malko Tarnovo, Sredets, Sozopol, Primorsko and Tsarevo, materials from Strandja Natural Park Directorate, tourist information centers, registers of the Ministry of Tourism, data from the National Statistical Institute, information from RIA, internet sources and others.

The structure of the report consists of several parts. The first part presents the characteristics and tourism resources of Bourgas region. The second part is focused on Strandja and the third one - the tourism resources in five municipalities on the territory of Bourgas region, included in a geographical area, conditionally called Strandja: Malko Tarnovo, Sredets, Sozopol, Primorsko and Tsarevo.

The purpose of the studies is to provide a database for the preparation of materials for the development of a tourist guide.

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1. BOURGAS REGION

1. GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF BURGAS REGION

1.1. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF BURGAS REGION

Burgas District is located in Southeastern Bulgaria on a territory of 7748.1 sq. Km (6.9% of the area of Bulgaria). To the east, the area has a wide outlet to the Black Sea (224 km), to the south borders to the Republic of Turkey, to the west to Yambol and Sliven regions and to the north to Varna and Shumen districts.

Burgas district has the longest Black Sea coast, compared to the other two areas - Varna and Dobrich. The area has the largest bay of the Black Sea - Burgas Bay, with a width of 10-12.5 km and a depth of 10-12 m. Near the sea shore are situated the limestone lakes Burgas Lake, Atanasovsko Lake and Mandra Lake, the latter being turned into a dam.

The outlet of the Black Sea area enhances its transport-geographic significance. The eastern border is a prerequisite for the development of port, fishing, tourism, foreign trade, concentration of production capacities and industries relying on imported raw materials. Due to the favorable natural and economic conditions, a significant part of the population and business potential are concentrated along the coast.

The northern border of the area passes along the Balkan Mountains. Through the low and convenient passes of the Balkan Mountains (Varbishki, Rishki, etc.) the connection of the region with the Northeast Planning Region is realized.

It is important for the maintenance of lively economic relations with the other administrative districts in the country: the road and railway routes to Sofia (through Plovdiv and Karlovo), Varna and Rousse, Harmanli and Kardjali (through Elhovo and Topolovgrad), the panoramic road Constanta - Varna - Burgas - Malko Tarnovo - Istanbul and others.

The geostrategic position of the area is a national factor that is widely recognized by various countries in Europe, Asia and Africa. Here are the traditional and newly-introduced axes of economic and political interest, as follows: Europe - Middle East - Asia; Europe - Middle East - Asia; Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Western Europe.

On the territory of the region are included 13 municipalities: Aitos, Bourgas, Kameno, Karnobat, Malko Tarnovo, Nessebar, Pomorie, Ruen, Sozopol, Sredets, Sungurlare, Primorsko and Tsarevo.

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1.2. RELIEF

The relief of the area is varied. Lowlands with an altitude of up to 200m and hilly lands predominate. The valley belt is represented mainly by the Bourgas lowland, Karnobat and Aytos field - suitable for mechanized cultivation of the earth. About one third of the territory is occupied by hilly heights that are convenient for growing vines and fruit trees. The northern parts of the region are occupied by shares of the Eastern Balkan Mountains, which slightly exceed 1000 m and do not represent a significant obstacle to the communications with the regions of Northeastern Bulgaria.

In the southern part of the region lies the Strandja Mountain with the highest peak Gradishte - 710 m height. The mountains are covered with deciduous forests and pastures and create conditions for the development of logging, pastoral livestock and tourism. The prevailing lowland-hill relief facilitates the construction of the urban network, the railway and road infrastructure.

The dismantled coastline creates good opportunities for harbour construction. The broad and long beach, small islands and peninsulas, lagoons and limans and sand dunes favor the development of marine recreational tourism, and within the area there is potential for the development of other specialized forms of tourism such as ecological, rural and others.

1.3. CLIMATE

The climate of Bourgas District is determined by the joint influence of the Black Sea, the Balkan Mountains and Strandja. The annual precipitation is from 500 l / m² for Sozopol to 927 l / m² for Malko Tarnovo. The maximum rainfall for the districts of Bourgas, Karnobat, Aitos, Sungurlare, Ruen and Kameno is in May and June and for the Strandja region in November and December. The minimum rainfall for the whole area is in August. Most rainfalls in Bourgas have fallen in 1931. - 962 l / m², and at least in 1945. - 285 l / m².

The average annual air temperature is 11.3 ° C for Ruen and Malko Tarnovo to 13.3 ° C for Sozopol. For the region of Burgas it is 12.7 ° C. The whole area is coldest in January - from 0.5 ° C in Karnobat to 3.2 ° C in Tsarevo. For Bourgas, the average monthly temperature in January is 1.8 ° C. The hottest for the whole area are July and August. The highest air temperature of 42.9 ° C was measured in Aitos and the lowest -30.2 ° C in Sredets. The winter in the area is comparatively softer, in the plains most of the snowy days, and in the Balkan Mountains and Strandja the snow cover is 20 to 46 days. Spring is cool and comes later. Summer is hot and autumn is hot and long.

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1.4. WATER RESOURCES

Strandja area is the most water in the entire Thracian-Strandja region. The river flow formed here has a modulus of 4 to 15dm³ / s per 1 km² and in the highest border parts of Strandja and above 15dm³ / s. In these places the maximum rainfall for the area is also around 1000mm per year. Both rainfall and river runoff patterns are typically Mediterranean - with a pronounced predominance of the winter outflow over spring and a clear February peak (19-22% of annual edema). For some rivers, the maximum is January - as a consequence of the December rainfall peak. In December - April 75 to 80% of the yearly volume of the runoff is concentrated, and only in December - February - from 5 to 55% of this volume.

Water shortages are long lasting, but the most stable is in July - October, with the minimum monthly outflow being in August. Despite the low rainfall, the rivers with few exceptions do not dry up due to their considerable feeding with soil water. The area has favorable conditions for accumulation of abundant groundwater.

The Southern Black Sea sub-region in hydrological terms is distinguished by some specific features determined by the orography and proximity of the sea. The northern slopes of the northern slopes are characterized by slight detours, although crossed by numerous rivers. Here, the drainage effect of rainwater is negligible. This effect is greater in the narrow coastline in the southern sub-region where rainfall is even more significant. Both rainfall and river flow patterns are typical of Mediterranean, due to the proximity to the sea, reinforcing the influence of the Mediterranean climate. A particular feature is the presence of significant, but shallow coastal lakes, which are limans or lagoons with different salinity of water and different economic purposes. The bottom of some of them is covered with a thick layer of dark healing mud - here are the largest peloid deposits in the country. The hydrogeological aspect of the sub-region is characterized by limited groundwater resources. Particularly unfavorable conditions for the formation of such waters occur in the north and the lowlands.

In this area are the largest seaside lakes: the limestone lakes Bourgas Lake, Atanasovsko Lake and Mandra Lake and the Pomorie lagoon. With the greatest salinity, Atanassovo Lake is the only saltwater. Its mode is regulated by artificially creating a connection with the sea. It is declared a reserve because of its rare fauna (mainly birds). Mandra Lake is turned into a dam and its refreshed water is used for irrigation. The lakes in the Bourgas region also connect the largest pelagic fields that provide mud products not only for the coastal mudhealing stations but also for the interior of the country. Balneological and recreational significance are the thermo-mineral springs in the villages of Medovo and Vetren (Bourgas Mineral Baths), which are of sedimentation type (fossil marine waters).

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The Mediterranean-Strandja coastal region, unlike Bourgas, is characterized by higher water content - from 2 to 4 dm³ / s per 1 km² and in the highest parts of the Copper Rid - up to 6 dm³ / s. In fact, the territory of the region is drained by the lower reaches of the Ropotamo, Dyavolska, Veleka and other smaller rivers, and to the extent that surface water is formed, they are poured either directly into the sea or through these water courses. The runoff regime is typically Mediterranean as well as in the Strandja region where these rivers form their runoff.

Because of their relationship to seawater, the water level in their portions has small fluctuations, and their relatively large depth makes them navigable at considerable stretches. Alluvial deposits are rich in ground water, which in places (under 17 clay covers) pass into pressure. The lakes here are lagoons, with a high water salinity and a specific vegetation.

1.5. LANDING AND NATURAL LANDMARKS

Of particular importance for the region are forests, which cover about 35% of the total area of the area. Of these, more than 70% are natural forests. The results of forests' conditions monitoring show that - the number of trees with moderate and severe defoliation increased from 11.5% to 24.9% and that of severely defoliated and dried decreased from 2.5% to 1.9%. The status of oak forests has been improved. Besides the wide variety of plant and animal species, the Bourgas region is also characterized by its presence in almost all major habitats in Europe. It has unique and representative communities and ecosystems that are extremely valuable in terms of their biodiversity, including meadows, marshes, peat bogs and lakes, old oak forests, Mediterranean and sub-Mediterranean vegetation communities, river shrubs and forest vegetation, important domestic and riparian wetlands, sand dunes and other unique habitats on the Black Sea coast, marine, maritime and benthic communities in the Black Sea itself.

The biodiversity of the Bourgas region includes species and a genetic resource that is widely used for business and non-profit purposes.

The following categories of protected areas are regulated under the Protected Areas Act:

- Reserve;
- National Park;
- Natural landmark;
- Maintained reserve;
- Natural Park;
- Protected area.

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Of these, reserves, maintained reserves, and national parks are state-owned, and others allow other types of property. On the territory of Bourgas District is the largest Natural park "Strandja" in the country with an area of 116 136 hectares, announced in the beginning of 1995.

The forests of the park are managed by the state forestries Malko Tarnovo, Zvezdetz, Kosti, Tsarevo and State Wildlife Farm (SWLF) Gramatikovo.

Within the park there are five nature reserves - Silkosia, Lopushna, Tisovitsa, Vitanovo, and Sredoka. (The Lopushna Biosphere Reserve is included in the UNESCO book).

In Strandja Park there are 12 protected areas and many natural landmarks (rock formations, centuries-old trees, etc.)

The exceptional natural features of the Ropotamo, Veleka and Rezovska rivers have preserved for the generations a picturesque landscape of virgin nature with diverse and rich flora and fauna.

The mountainous parts of the Eastern Balkan Mountains are overgrown with extensive mixed deciduous forests. In their woody composition predominates the oak (*Quercus frainetto*), (*Quercus cerris*), Sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*), common beech (*Fagus sylvatica*). In the plains there are still small dense forests of clear, elm and summer oak, with climbing shrubs, a stump, a hawthorn, a wild vine, a vine and hops.

The sand dunes, Kalinata locality and Emine Cape are protected sites of national importance. In the eastern part of the Balkan Mountains the protected plant species are represented by: marsh snowdrop, *Pyracantha coccinea* (the scarlet firethorn), red siren, sand lily /*Pancratium maritimum*/, *Tulipa urumoffii*, *A. aitosensis* and others.

Bourgas region covers extremely diverse natural resources, valuable archaeological treasures and cultural and historical monuments. It has bioclimatic and balneal resources, forest resources, sandy beaches and dunes for the development of recreational activities.

The millennial human culture has left invaluable architectural monuments: excavations of ancient cities, Thracian sanctuaries and tombs, dolmens, unique monuments of culture - churches and monasteries.

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1.6. TOURISM

Natural tourism resources

- ✓ Black Sea coast - resorts
- ✓ Coastal lakes - wetlands
- ✓ Mineral springs - Bourgas Mineral Baths
- ✓ Protected areas - Strandja Natural Park and many reserves
- ✓ Hunting fields

Cultural-historical heritage

- ✓ Temples, monasteries, religious and archaeological sites
- ✓ Cultural activities and events, festivals - traditions, crafts and customs
- ✓ Galleries, museums, historical sites, arts and crafts centers, cultural institutions
- ✓ Gastronomy
- ✓ Wineries

More than 40% of the mass tourism in the country takes place on the territory of Bourgas District. It is visited by the majority of foreign and Bulgarian tourists and borders with the Republic of Turkey, which is also a significant factor in international tourism.

The area offers a combination of mass sea-based recreation tourism, route-learning, rural, cultural and ecotourism in an area with an exceptional variety of natural and anthropogenic tourist resources.

The direct contact with the beautiful places, crossed by ancient roads and dotted with ruins of fortresses and monasteries, enables the development of cultural and ecotourism at a very good level. Resources for this type of tourism development are sites, such as: prehistoric settlement mounds, Thracian tombs, as well as archaeological finds from Roman and Byzantine times.

The Black Sea municipalities have the greatest potential for tourism development and, therefore, the specialized tourist infrastructure, which serves the visitors, is concentrated on their territory. In addition to the development of mass tourism during the active summer season, there are opportunities to extend the scope and extend the tourist season with the help of:

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The beauty of Strandja

- ✓ Congress and cultural tourism,
- ✓ Creative tourism,
- ✓ Religious tourism,
- ✓ Rural tourism,
- ✓ SPA-tourism,
- ✓ Tourist animation,
- ✓ Wine tourism,
- ✓ Mystical tourism,
- ✓ Medical tourism,
- ✓ Adventure tourism,
- ✓ Historical tourism,
- ✓ Eco-tourism and bird watching,
- ✓ Hobby tourism,
- ✓ Hunting and fishing tourism, etc.

In the peripheral small municipalities of Nessebar, Pomorie, Sozopol, Primorsko and Tsarevo, which have access to the sea, the emphasis in the priorities for development is in alternative forms of environmentally friendly tourism.



Traditional country houses with a yard are offered in a number of villages in Bourgas region. In recent years there has been an increased demand for such accommodation. The rural tourism is practiced

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both by Bulgarian tourists seeking tranquility away from the big city and by many foreign tourists living in countries with many different infrastructure, architecture and lifestyle.

Sea recreation



Cultural Tourism

- ***Ancient Nessebar***



- ***Old town of Sozopol and „St. John“ island***



- ***„St. Kirik“***



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- ***Roman town Deultum – Debelt vilolage***



„St. Anastasia“island



Mineral baths „Aqua kalide“- Bourgas



Thracian sanctuary Begliktash, Primorsko



The Customs of Vasiliko – Tsarevo



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- 1. Late Antiquity and Medieval Fortress - Ahtopol**
- 2. Thracian fortress Urdoviza - Kiten**
- 3. The house of a Thracian ruler - Sinemorets village**

Balneo, spa and wellness tourism

The main types of this type of tourism are in the region of Burgas and the mud baths in the town of Pomorie.



Hunting tourism



Hunting farm „Nessebar“

Hunting farm „Ropotamo“

Hunting farm „Gramatikovo“

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Rural tourism



Village of Brashlyan



Village of Balgari

The villages in Strandja - Balgari, Gramatikovo, Kosti, Brashlyan and others. are very attractive – with a donkey walk or cart, a visit to old mills, authentic dances on fire.

Strandja and the Black sea



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2. STRANDJA

2.1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Strandja is a mountain in southeastern Bulgaria and European Turkey. It is located in the eastern part of the historical-geographic area of Thrace, between the Bourgas valley to the north, the Black Sea to the east, the east-Thracian plain to the west and the marble sea to the south. Over the years, it has been called Tratzozos, Salmidsides, Mons Asticus, Hemiomont (in translation "Red Mountain"), and Paroria.

Its length from the northwest to the southeast is about 125 km and its width reaches 65 km. The total area of the mountain is about 10 000 km², of which about 35% of the Bulgarian territory and 65% of the Turkish territory.

Strandja is a low mountain. Its relief is characterized by marshy hills, bounded by deep valleys between them. On our territory there are two main ridges oriented generally in the direction of the west-east: southern boundary with the highest point on the Bulgarian territory, Mount Gradishte (709.6 m) and northern Bosnia (Papia peak, 502 m).

To the south, on Turkish territory is the main ridge of the mountain, oriented from the northwest to the southeast. It is the highest peak of the mountain - Goliamahia, 1031 m high in Karamustafa Bair.

A stretch of the main watershed on the Balkan Peninsula between the Black and Aegean catchment areas extends to the southeast across the mountain from the northwest to the southeast.

The climate of Strandja is Mediterranean with a strong Black Sea influence on its northeastern slopes, which is confirmed not only by the high average January temperatures (from 2 to 3.2 °C) but also by the significant annual precipitation (from 500 to 1000 mm).

The rivers that originate from the mountains are characterized by predominantly rainy feeding (up to 80%) and negligible snow (up to 20%). The peak of the river runoff occurs in February and reflects the large rainfall during this period, the relatively low evaporation and rapid melting of the snow cover. On the other hand, the minimum runoff in September is the result of scarce rainfall and significant evaporation this month.

The largest southeastern part of the mountain is the largest Strandja River - Ergene.

The Black Sea water catchment area covers the rivers flowing east and north.

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These are: Kalandere, Napukedere, Bulanakdere and others. (on the Turkish territory) and Rezovska River, Veleka, Kiten River (Karaagach), Dyavolska River, Ropotamo, Izvorska River, Fakiiska River, Karakyutyuka Reka and others (on Bulgarian territory).

Characteristic of Strandja are the rounded forms, the steep, incised, in some places, gorge-like river valleys (Veleka River, Mladezhka River). Their deep cut is also affected by the last icing, during which the world's ocean level has fallen by a few tens of meters. The limestone of the Veleka River, for example, continues about 8 km inland. For geomorphological processes, non-tectonic movements are also important. The seaside sinks a few millimeters per year, while other parts of the region rise. The ridge of Strandja is hilly and low mountainous. About 38% of the Park's territory is high from 0 to 200m, about 60% - from 200 to 600m and about 2% more than 600m.

The specific climate and the geographical location of the mountain - a bridge between Europe and Asia – is the cause that Strandja is the only one in Europe to preserve after the last ice age a number of tertiary relict plant species and forests with evergreen shrubs characteristic of the Caucasus nature, Kolghida and the Black Sea coast of Turkey. They give exotic character to the Strandja forests, which are composed mainly of Quercus Petraea, oak and eastern beech.

For thousands of years, the mountain and the sea have built the community of the evolution of the population of Southeastern Europe and the southern Bulgarian Black Sea coast. Monuments from the Thracian, Hellenistic and Roman epochs, as well as the Byzantine and Bulgarian Middle Ages, make the region of Strandja and the southern Black Sea coast a complex cultural route that can enrich our vision of the path of European culture over time.

Strandja offers to all visitors and tourists opportunities for unforgettable experiences. The low-mountain hilly terrain and the network of maintained hiking trails are a good base for hiking. The hot summer, the warm and prolonged autumn, the relatively few cloudy days, the lack of significant temperature anomalies favor the development of tourism during the four seasons of the year.

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2.2. STRANDJA NATURAL PARK

Strandja Natural Park was declared in 1995 and is the largest protected area in Bulgaria. It covers an area of 1 161 sq. Km - 1% of the territory of the country. The natural park occupies the central part of the Bulgarian Strandja with access to the Black Sea coast. Its length from east to west is about 50 km, and the average width from north to south - about 25 km.

There are 5 nature reserves, 14 protected areas and 8 nature landmarks in the Park. About 350 km of marked tourist walking routes take visitors to the park. They are varied by type and difficulty. Information signs tell of amazing animal and plant species living in the park. Nearly 25 recreational areas provide opportunities for recreation among the beautiful scenery.

- ✚ Strandja NP is the only one that includes settlements on its territory (2 cities and 19 villages).
- ✚ On the territory of Strandja NP there are 5 reserves - Uzunbujak, Silkosia (the first reserve in Bulgaria), Vitanovo, Sredoka and Tisovitsa.
- ✚ The peak Gradishte (709 m) is the highest in the Bulgarian part of Strandja.
- ✚ The highest peak in the whole Strandja is Golyama Mahiada (1031 m) and is located in Turkey.
- ✚ 80% of Strandja is occupied by forest, 20% are pastures and meadows;
- ✚ 98% of the forests in Strandja are deciduous (beech and oak);
- ✚ 47 species of trees are met in Strandja;
- ✚ 1000 species of herbs can be found on the Strandja meadows;
- ✚ In Strandja there are more than 100 pistes, in which live 25 species of bats. A bat weighing 3 g eats about 1 day around 3,000 insects. And bats live in colonies. For one summer a colony of bats eats about 6 tons of insects.
- ✚ Rhododendron ponticum is a symbol of Strandja. Every year in May there is a Rhododendron ponticum Festival.
- ✚ In Strandja there are the five nestinar villages - Balgari, Kosti, Kondolovo, Gramatikovo and Slivarovo. Every year, on June 3 to June 4, in the village of Balgari, the ritual nestinarski dance is held.
- ✚ The village of Brashlyan is declared an architectural reserve and the village of Balgari - a folklore reserve.
- ✚ 5 km away from the village of Balgari you can visit an outdoor classroom - the eco-path Marina of the river is about a kilometer long and will meet you with tertiary vegetation.
- ✚ In Strandja there are archaeological and historical monuments from Thracian, Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman times.
- ✚ The Strandja NP has 3 information centers - Malko Tarnovo, Gramatikovo and Ahtopol.

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2.2.1. THE RIVERS IN STRANDJA NATURAL PARK

The Strandja is so stretched out of deeply cut streams, gorges and rivers that they create a dense net in its hills and make it not so easy to pass. In the Bulgarian part of the mountain the largest are Veleka and Rezovska.

Veleka is the largest and longest Strandja River (147 km). It emerges from Demircapu peak in Turkey and enters Bulgaria with beautiful gorges. In the upper stream it is very steep, with a rocky bottom, many rapids and thresholds. Here it crosses the karst. The shores are hills, with cliffs and chasms. This part of the river is accessible to tourists from Kovach and Petrova niva and Stoilovo. After the village of Zvezdets changed its appearance - it calms down, the river valley widens, its slope drops sharply, and beautiful meanders appear. Here it accepts its larger tributaries, Mladezhka River and Mechi Dol. After Kachul, the catchment is decreasing and the catchment, mainly in winter and spring, is from the valleys of Varley, Grahhalov, Kamenski, Yazmenski, Trionski, Vlahov and Elenitza.

In Veleka there are 32 species of fish - Balkan trout (*Salmo trutta fario*), lupine (*Rutilus frisii*), Leuciscus borysthenicus, Puntius, Gudgeon, Crimean barbell (*Barbus tauricus*), Chalcalburnus chalcoides, riffle minnow (*Alburnoides bipunctatus*), amur bitterling (*Rhodeus sericeus*), river eel, racer goby and others. Four species of the river's ryegrass are recorded in the Red Book of Bulgaria - *Rutilus frisii*, *Chalcalburnus chalcoides*, river eel and wild carp.

Downstream, forests and coastal lakes are seasonally flooded by spring waters, creating a damp, dense zone.

Veleka is a navigable 8 km from its mouth and in this area is interesting for the fans of water tourism.

Rezovska - originated from the highest part of Strandja on the Turkish territory, not far from the spring area of Veleka. According to one hypothesis, her name is associated with the Thracian king Rezos. In the past, it was called by that name only in the lower stream, and for the Little Quarters was the Grand River.

As a border between Bulgaria and Turkey, it is less well known and not yet well studied. Among its many tributaries are the Delisia and Tsargonska rivers, the Deep, Uchlenski, Lopushnitsa, Kamenski, Tserov valleys.

Near the Uzunbujak Biosphere Reserve, the river forms meanders, called by the local people "bujaci" (quiet, sheltered, surrounded by the river) - DyadoKirov Bujak, Golyam Bujak and others.

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The slopes to the Rezovska River are overgrown with dense oak and beech forests. On the rocky slopes are common Mediterranean beaches, rare species of orchids, ivy, devil, screech, asparagus, hornbeam, hops and wild vines.

The Bulgarian coast is a hill, with many rock formations, precipices and caves. Rezovska is faster, smoother and colder than Veleka, and trout is common in it. For the river valley, the snake, the dwarf smoker, also called the serpent, the lizard, which is the only poisonous fig in Europe, and the colorful fig ("starved"). It flows into the Black Sea in a small bay not far from the St. John /Sveti Ivan/ chapel in Rezovo.

Mechi Dol - right tributary of the Veleka River 26 km long. It leads from the merger of the Big and Little Mechi Dol, which take place through the Vitanovo Reserve. It runs in northeastern direction, in a deep and wooded valley. Wild and lush river with pools, rocks, waterfalls and numerous meanders in the lower part. It is famous for its Balkan trout. Prior to its influx into the Veleka River, it passes by the village of Stoilovo and serves as the border of the Sredoka Reserve.

Mladezhka River (old name - Karamluk, Dark River) - a left tributary of Veleka with a length of about 40 km. Its karst springs are about 1 km west of the village of Mladezhko, in the eponymous natural landmark. It runs in a forested valley south of the Bosnian ridge and flows into the Veleka River at a Thracian camp south of the village of Zabernovo. In large droughts, the river is partly dry at the bottom. Ichthyofauna is poorer than the Veleka River. In the upper stream, Balkan trout is found.

Delievska River - Border River, a left tributary of Rezovska, about 17 km long. It starts from the Driyovetz ridge along which the Bulgarian-Turkish border passes. In its upper reaches it is one of the coldest and driest Strandjan Rivers. The southern slopes - the highest part of Bulgarian Strandja - Golyamo Gradishte peak (709 m) and the western part of the Big Mound over the town of Malko Tarnovo. At the riverbank, in Delievo (today in Turkey), until the 20's of the twentieth century the Deliev Fair was still held - one of the most famous fairs in Strandja at that time.

Katun - a right tributary of the Veleka River, about 15 km long. Breeze and cold river, passing through the karst region around the village of Brashlyan. It flows into Veleka just below Kovach. Immediately above its mouth lies the only active fishpond in Strandja.

Tsarnogorovska River - left tributary of Rezovska. It collects the water currents from the southern half of the Malko Tarnovo valley. With its longest inflow, it reaches 8 km in length.

In the Tsarnogorovo area is still the famous fair, attracting people from all over Strandja and Eastern Thrace.

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Karaagach - about 36 km long. It is formed by the merger of the tributaries of the Bosnian Thracian Valley, the Oreshka River and the Uzunchair River. It flows into the Black Sea with a deep estuary south of Kiten.

The greatest wealth of Strandja is its unique flora and fauna.

2.2.2. HIGH PLANTS AND VEGETATIONS

The Strandja vegetation has a unique specificity. Typical of the beech and durmast forests is the relict evergreen underbelly of laurel shrubs. The total number of higher plants in Strandja is about 1500, which represents about 50% of the total number of higher plants in Bulgaria. Three of them are Bulgarian endemics, 7 - Balkan endemics, 32 are relict species, 56 are rare and 10 are endangered as Strandja bilberry, Crimean tea, Strandja oak. Over 70 of the 700 species included in the Red Data Book of Bulgaria are located only in Strandja and along the coast.



Rhododendron ponticum

2.2.3. FAUNA

Strandja Natural Park is the Bulgarian protected area with the most spine-like fauna - 404 species. There are 54 species of mammals such as wolves, wild boar, deer, jackals, wild cats, rabbits. The population of the otters in the Veleka River is the best preserved in Europe. 6 of the species are included in the Red Book of Bulgaria and 1 - the monk seal - in the World Red Book. The centuries-old Strandjan forests of oak, beech and cherry are the refuge of foxes, jackals, wild cats, badgers, deer and wild pigs.

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In the Red Book of Bulgaria are included the wolf, the colorful poison, the golden owl, the otter and the two-species bats. The forest is one of the last hideouts of the little spotted eagle and the Egyptian vulture, and the rock eagles here nest only on trees. Over the slopes are also hawks and falcons, and at night the silence is full of owls and owls. Within the boundaries of the Park 269 species of birds are found, representing two thirds of the whole Bulgarian ornithofauna.



Birds in Strandja Mountain are very numerous. Much of them are migrating birds, as one of the main bird migration routes in Europe - VIA PONTIC (Black Sea Route) passes over the Strandja Mountain. 17 species of birds are included in the Red Book of Bulgaria and 1 in the World Red Book.

In the complex "Ropotamo" can be found a gray duck, a green-legged and whitehead water hen, a small and red-brested grebe, a shining ibis, a reed blazer and others.

In Kiten (Karaagach) and Devil - Caspian and river gull, small cormorant, black kite, red kennel, white and black stork, common buzzard, etc. ;

In the area between the mouths of Veleka, Tsarsko kladenche, Silistar River depending on the season can be observed: a small white, gray and gray-haired heron, white and black stork, small hawk,

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stinging tinner, *Emberiza citinella*, terns (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*), common spoonbill, wild spotted woodpecker, buzzard, eagle, reed and meadowwort, kestrel.

During past observations, 40000 birds of prey, 240000 white storks, more than 30000 common pelicans, and black flocks of storks, Dalmatian pelicans, and gray cranes were spotted.

On the territory of the Natural Park are found 10 species of amphibians - more than half of the 16 Bulgarian species. Endangered in a global and European aspect are the tree, the endemic subspecies of the Syrian scallops and the southern crested triton.



2.2.4. RULES OF BEHAVIOR, SPECIFICATIONS OF HIKING TOURISM IN STRANDJA, HAZARDS

The fact that Strandja is a low mountain should not soothe and reduce the attention to traumas during the transitions. The relief is much dissected and the descent on the deep, heavily cut and steep Strandja valleys hides its surprises.

Due to the still low attendance, the majority of the routes are schematic; the paths are almost untouched and are poorly visible. In some places it passes through bushes, it is necessary to jump over fallen trees, and all this poses risks. The likelihood of meeting another group of tourists on which to rely when needed is very small. Due to the poor population of Strandja, the villages are quite distant not only from the routes but also from one another. Most often there is no possibility of medical care.

It is not always possible to rely on a mobile phone because in many places the networks either have no coverage or it is weak. In the areas near the border the Turkish operators prevail, so do not be surprised that you are on Bulgarian land with Turkish network services and roaming.

Strandja is a much wooded mountain with a very discrete relief, without large open spaces with clear landmarks and therefore almost all the routes inside it require a guide. For some of the routes it is

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necessary to agree with Border Police Malko Tarnovo or Bourgas. The reason is that their routes cross the border facilities near the border with Turkey.

Dangers related to the flora and fauna of the mountain have their specifics. All evergreen shrubs of the South Pontic flora are generally weak. In the old oak forests, especially on the hot spots, there are often hollow trees with horned nests. The entrances of the nests of the earth axes are hard to notice and can occur unintentionally. Biting from hornets or axes can be very dangerous. Due to climate and low altitude, ticks are common, especially in oak forests and hot spots.

Even in winter, in warmer weather and lack of snow, they are activated and ticking is not ruled out. In the mountain poison is poisonous. Despite the warmer climate, the danger of biting here is no bigger than in the other mountains.

BEHAVIOR IN STRANDJA NATURAL PARK

We expect you:

- ✓ Discover the mystery of Strandja, which has preserved the oldest forests of Europe.
- ✓ Do not hurt the forest or disturb forest occupants.
- ✓ Ask for additional clarification to the driver when All Your Companions have the opportunity to hear the answer.
- ✓ Do not leave "traces" of your visit.
- ✓ Make exciting pictures and drawings.
- ✓ Do not pick up wildflowers near the trail - many of them are rare and threatened with extinction.
- ✓ Enjoy the fresh air, the freshness of the forest and the voices of the birds.
- ✓ Leave the stones in the places that nature has chosen - there are shelters of many forest inhabitants under them.
- ✓ Stick to established trails - trampling unnecessarily damages the plant and animal world and permanently destroys the soil structure.
- ✓ Spatial proximity to the nearby villages famous with the bare-foot fire dancing shall raise a certain respect experienced by the fire-dancers towards nature.

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2.2.5 HOW TO GO TO STRANDJA NATURAL PARK

- ✓ By international road №98 Bourgas - Malko Tarnovo-border.
- ✓ By the national road Bourgas - Tsarevo - Malko Tarnovo - border.
- ✓ For the town of Malko Tarnovo and the villages - every day from the bus station "West", Bourgas
- ✓ For the town of Tsarevo, the town of Ahtopol and the villages - every day from the bus station "South", Bourgas.

BUS STATIONS

- ✓ Bus station "West" Bourgas - 056/831 427
- ✓ Bus station "South" Bourgas - 056/842 692
- ✓ Bus station Tsarevo - 0550/5 20 78



Visiting Information Center, Malko Tarnovo

2.3. TRADITIONS

The Strandja folklore and the ritual-ritual system are not just a beautiful symbol of the past. Even today, they maintain their regional specificity and continue to live, fill the Strandja's holidays with merriment and color and nurture their desire for spiritual preservation.

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In Strandja music folklore and ritual there is a part of the pre-Christian esoteric knowledge of the ancient inhabitants of these places. 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.

Holidays

Kukerovden & Palikosh (Masquerade Kuker Day and Basketburning) - marked seven weeks before Easter in the villages of Kosti, Brodilovo and Malko Tarnovo. Ritual performance of the most ancient cosmogonic myth preserved on the Bulgarian lands.

Fillek - spring youth games played only in Rupa Strandja on Sunday from Sirni Zagovezni to St Lazar's day (the period of the great fasts before Easter). The games are free of musical accompaniment. Restored in Malko Tarnovo and Brashlyan.

Indipasha - worship in an ancient Thracian sanctuary five days after Easter. They offer sacrifices and the ritual is "washed" with water. Visits are all year round. The current ritual and faith are a reflection of the ancient notion of the need for spiritual and physical purity in contact with divine powers.

Rhododendron Ponticum Festival - May (the flowering period of the Strandja Rhododendron Ponticum), in different villages from the territory of Strandja NP.

Holidays of literature and art for children and adolescents - the last week of May, Tsarevo.

Holy Trinity - floating holiday, 50 days after Easter. The Holiday of Evrenozovo village.

Pilgrim procession of the five "bare-foot fire-dancing" Strandja villages to the Grand Ayazma, the mythological home of the fire-dancers, the last Sunday of May before June 3rd. Starting points - villages Gramatikovo, Slivarovo, Balgari, Kosti, Kondolovo.

Bare- foot Fire-dancing ritual - June 3, Balgari village

The direct cultural continuity in Strandja is the reason why this mysterious ritual, which dates back to Thracian times, still preserves its basic features today. More than two thousand years ago, the Thracians believed that immortality was attainable by going down to it through a system of rites following the solar calendar.

Today, in the village of Balgari, the amazing dance on the coals is just a beautiful magical memory of the ancient celebrations and rituals. Nevertheless, the great fiery mystery preserves its attraction and so far - when the sun-god falls into the sky, its fiery image rises in the village square.

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St. Constantine and Helena - May 21 (nst), June 3 (St. Festival of the town of Ahtopol, the village of Balgari and the village of Stoilovo.

The National Boarding Club "Strandja pee" - in 4 years, the village of Gramatikovo, in the beginning of June.

St. Ilia - July 20, feast of the villages of Byala Voda, Gramatikovo, Kosti, Stoilovo.

Pilgrim procession to the cave-sanctuary St. Marina - July 30 (Sts.), Village of Slivarovo. In the image of the saint is preserved the belief in the Thracian Great Goddess as a protector of wildlife and young people in pre-marriage age.

Week of the Sea - the first week of August, Tsarevo, Ahtopol.

St. Panteleimon - August 9, feast of the villages of Brashlyan, Brodilovo, Kalovo and Slivarovo.

National commemorative fair in the Pétrava field, in honor of the Ilinden rebellion (1903) - the penultimate week of August.

Cultural holidays in the town of Malko Tarnovo - seven-day cultural events in the last week of August.

Manic Honey Festival - the first ten days of August, the town of Tsarevo.

Traditional Ahtopol Evenings - the second week of August, Ahtopol.

International Folklore Festival "Eurofolk" - the last week of August, Tsarevo.

International swimming marathon - the last week of August, Tsarevo.

Apolonia - celebrations of culture and the arts, beginning of September, Sozopol.

Virgin Mary - August 28, the holiday of Malko Tarnovo (part of the Cultural Holidays of the town) and the village of Mladezhko.

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Strandjan tastes



Zelnik



Babini kolatsi



Fish on a tile



Trahuli (from belted bonito) Beans in a pot with bacon



2.4. NATURAL AND CULTURAL-HISTORICAL LANDMARKS

Landmarks

Waterfalls - Dokuzak waterfall (near Malko Tarnovo)

Protected area of Bosna, Protected area of Paryria, Protected area of Morayne, Protected area of Krivinizovo, Protected area of Marina river, Protected area of Dokuzak, Strandja protected landscape area, Protected area of Pirin, Protected area of Batak, Protected area of Kalkata, Blue junina, Protected area Veleka, Nature Monument Maharata, Lupusna (the Uzunbadzak Reserve), Silistar Protected Site.

Places - Big Ayazma, Tsarnogorovo and protected areas

Capes – Oily cape /Maslen nos/

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Caves - The Leyarnitsite Cave; Caves and springs of the Mladezhka River; Brezhanka Cave; Cave Sveta Marina; Nature Spot Maharata; Rusina Dupka cave

Reserves - Tissovitsa, Silkosia, Sredoka, Vitanovo, Lopushna

Rock Formations - The Lion Head, Thracian Sanctuary, The Stone

Other Natural - Indipascha (Thracian Rocks)

Routes and paths

- ✓ Ecopath - Caves and springs of the Mladejka River (Mladezhko)
- ✓ Ecopath "In the kingdom of the greenery" near the village of Kondolovo
- ✓ Eco-trail Marina river (in Strandja NP)
- ✓ Eco Route The Way of the Clear Month (connects the village of Brashlyan and Stoilovo)
- ✓ Strandja Forest Trail



Eco-path „Marina river“

Cultural and historical landmarks

Museums - Historical Museum - Malko Tarnovo, Museum of the Tolstoyist Colony, Archaeological Museum - Sozopol, Ethnographic Museum - Sozopol, Historical Museum - Tsarevo and others.

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Churches and Temples - Church of St. Atanas (village of Zvezdets), St. Luca (village of Zabernovo), Holy Trinity (Visitsa village), St. Dimitar (Brashlyan village), St. St. Konstantin and Helena (village of Balgari), Holy 40 martyrs (Gramatikovo village), St. Elijah (Stoilovo village), St. St. Cyril and Methodius (Kosti village), St. Panteleimon (village of Brodilovo), St. Panteleimon (village of Slivarovo), Assumption of Virgin Mary (Malko Tarnovo);

Koncheto - temple of the fire-dancers in the village of Balgari;

Chapels - St. Elijah (Visitsa village), St. Virgin Mary (village of Balgari), St. Petka (village of Brashlyan), St. Marina (the village of Brashlian), Sv. Pantaleimon (Brashlyan village),

Monasteries - Golyamobukovski monastery "St. Living Source "is also called St. Petka; Monastery "God's Name", Malko Tarnovo,

Architecture - Architectural Reserve Brashlyan Village, Brashlyan Village School, Baluva House, Ethnographic House-Museum - Malko Tarnovo

"**Petrova niva**" area; Megalithy - Mishkova level; Tombs - Early Thracian tomb, village of Brodilovo, Propada (dome tomb).

Others - Exposition "Forest Collection", Gramatikovo, Cheshma The Great Vris, Malko Tarnovo "Bozhura" area, Visitor Information Center "Sredets" and others

Community centers /Chitalishte/ - on the territory of the Municipality of Malko Tarnovo - 3, Primorsko municipality - 7 objects, Sozopol municipality - 10 objects , Sredets municipality - 13, Tsarevo municipality – 5 objects.

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2.5. REGISTERED TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN THE MUNICIPALITIES ON THE TERRITORY OF STRANDJA

Municipality of Malko Tarnovo

- Caves and springs in Mladezhka River – village of Mladezhko,
- Dolmens the village of Kalovo,
- Chapel Holy Trinity over a cave – the village of Vizitsa,
- Orthodox Temple Assumption – town of Malko Tarnovo,
- Fire Dancers' Sanctuary the Big Ayazma and plank beds in the locality of Vlahov Dol – the village of Gramatikovo,
- Cave Svetilishte (Sanctuary) – the village of Slivarovo,
- Cult Complex in the locality Mishkova Niva (Mouse Field) – next to Malko Tarnovo,
- Museum of History Professor Aleksandar Fol – Malko Tarnovo,
- Peak Golyamo Gradishte – next to Malko Tarnovo,
- Mound Necropolis in the locality of Propada – a complex of tomb facilities from various epochs – town of Malko Tarnovo,
- Rock sanctuary in the locality of Kamaka (the Stone) – town of Malko Tarnovo,
- Rock consecrated ground in the locality of Indipassha – a sanctuary with a spring – the village of Slivarovo,
- An architectural reserve village of Brashlyan – 76 houses are architectural monuments of culture – 9 of national significance, the rest – of local such,
- A church school - the village of Zabernovo,
- Church Saint Dimitar – the village of Brashlyan,
- Church school – the village of Brashlyan,
- Balyu's house - the village of Brashlyan,
- Bratan's cave - the village of Brashlyan,
- Dolmens and Roman sepulchre – the village of Evrenozovo,
- Centuries-Old Trees – the village of Zabernovo,
- Eastern Catholic Temple Holy Trinity – town of Malko Tarnovo,

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- Church Holy Forty Martyrs – the village of Gramatikovo,
- Church Saint Iliya – the village of Stoilovo,
- Church Saint Athanasius – the village of Zvezdets,
- Church Holy Trinity – the village of Vizitsa,
- Church Saint George – the village of Kalovo,
- Church Saint Luka – the village of Zabernovo,
- Church Saint Prophet Iliya – the village of Byala Voda,
- Church Saint Panteleymon – the village of Slivarovo;

Municipality of Primorsko

- Paragliding,
- Yacht trip and a picnic,
- Festival of the extreme sports,
- Aquapark,
- Thracian sanctuary Beglik tash,
- Permanent archeological exhibition Secrets from the Sea Bottom – town of Kiten,
- Museum Collection Bulgarian Yasna Polyana – town of Primorsko,
- Reserve Ropotamo,
- A boat trip along the Ropotamo River,
- Diving;

Municipality of Sozopol

- Temple Holy Martyr Mina – village of Atiya,
- Church Holy Virgin – town of Sozopol,
- Church Saint George the Victorious – town of Sozopol,

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- Church Saint Zosim – town of Sozopol,
- Church St. St. Cyril and Methodius – town of Sozopol,
- Church Saint Nicholas – town of Chernomorets,
- Temple Saint Iliya – the village of Indzhe Voyvoda,
- Archeological Museum – Sozopol,
- Art Gallery (building of the old school) – Sozopol,
- Ethnographic Collection – Sozopol,
- House-Museum Aleksandar Mutafov – Sozopol,
- Chapel Saint Athanasius – Sozopol,
- Chapel Saint Marina Sozopol,
- Museum Collection Southern Castle Wall and Tower,
- Late Antique Fortress in Cape Akin in the locality of Akra,
- Middle Ages Christian Complex – Sozopol,
- Museum Collection Saint Nicholas town of Chernomorets,
- Monastery Saint John the Baptist on the island of Saint John,
- Temple Complex island of St. St. Kirik and Yulita,
- Monastery Complex Holy Apostles in Cape Skamniy,
- Chapel Saint Nicholas – Sozopol,
- Chapel Saint Nicholas Wonder Worker – Sozopol,
- Chapel Saint Dimitar – Sozopol,
- Chapel St. St. Constantine and Helena - Sozopol,
- Chapel Holy Virgin Magriotisa – Sozopol,
- Chapel Christ Savior – Sozopol,
- Chapel Saint John the Baptist – Sozopol,
- Chapel Saint John of Rila – Sozopol,
- Chapel Sveta Nedelya (Holy Sunday) Sozopol,
- Chapel Saint Panteleymon – Chernomorets,
- House of Marieta Stefanova – Sozopol,

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- House of Kreanolou – Sozopol,
- House of Todor Zagorov – Sozopol,
- Chapel Saint George – Sozopol,
- House of Kurtidi – a Thracian Khan – Sozopol,
- House of Dimitar Laskaridis – Sozopol;

Municipality of Sredets

- National Archeological site Antique and Medieval Town of Deultum - village of Debelt,
- Ethnographic complex Karabunar's House – town of Sredets,
- Megalith Culture Strandja Thracian sanctuary the Big Stone (natural landmark of 1973) – between the village of Dolno Yabalkovo and the village of Belevren,
- Dolmen in the locality of Lozyata (the Vineyards) – next to the village of Belevren,
- Dolmen in the locality Kiryakstoyanov's winter sheep-fold – the village of Belevren,
- Dolmen in the locality of Kashli (winter sheep-folds) – the village of Belevren,
- Dolmen in the locality of Korubata, the village of Kirovo,
- A pair of dolmens in the locality of Kapatsite the village of Granichar,
- A museum site Bail's House – the town of Sredets;

Municipality of Tsarevo

- Orthodox temple Saint Marina the village of Izgrev,
- Fortress wall of Ahtopol,
- Greek school the town of Ahtopol,
- A monument the locality of Dalgata Polyana (the Long Meadow) - Tsarevo,
- Field of Caspian pond turtle – locality of Nakovo Kladenche next to Ahtopol,
- Private ethnographic collection – the village of Balgari,

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- Orthodox Temple Holy Ascension – Ahtopol,
- Museum History of the Anchor – Ahtopol,
- Museum of History – Tsarevo,
- Church Holy Assumption – district of Vasiliko, Tsarevo,
- The Statue Sea Lighthouse in the port of Tzarevo /Michurin/,
- Open Museum Ship Goryanin – Tsarevo,
- Church Saint Tsar Boris Michael – Tsarevo,
- Park Fountain – district of Vasiliko, Tsarevo,
- Monument Preobrazhentsi, town of Tsarevo,
- Church Saint Pantaleymon the village of Brodilovo,
- Thracian tomb locality of Holy Virgin, the village of Brodilovo,
- Archeological excavations House of a Thracian Ruler locality of Pevtich, The village of Brodilovo,
- Chapel Saint Pantaleymon, the village of Brodilovo,
- Chapel Holy Virgin – at 3 km to the south of the village of Brodilovo,
- Chapel Saint Petka – the village of Brodilovo,
- Chapel St. St. Constantine and Helena – the village of Brodilovo,
- Chapel Saint Yani – at about 1,5 km from the village of Brodilovo in the northern direction,
- Botanical Garden Serafimovs – the village of Velika,
- Museum of Fire Dancing – the village of Balgari,
- Reserve Silkosiya – between the villages of Balgari and Kosti,
- Protected locality and eco-pathway Marina Reka – between the villages of Izgrev and Balgari,
- Big Mound Tumbata – in the locality of Shumyaka, to the south of the village of Balgari,
- Church St. St. Constantine and Helena – the village of Balgari,
- Chapel Saint Helena – the village of Balgari,
- Chapel Saint Iliya – at 1,5 km to the east of the village of Balgari,
- Chapel Holy Virgin – at 3 km to the north of the village of Balgari,

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- Old Fortress Wall and ruins from basilica Gradishteto – at 4 km to the north of the village of Balgari,
- Waterfall Skokat (the Jump) – at 5 km from the village of Velika,
- Orthodox Temple Saint Prophet Iliya – the village of Velika,
- Church St. St. Cyril and Methodius, the village of Kosti,
- Biosphere Reserve Uzunbodzhak – next to the village of Kosti,
- Strandja Oak – locality of Saint Iliya the village of Kosti,
- Cave Maharata – next to the village of Kosti,
- Field of the plant heather – at 4 km to the northeast of the village of Kosti,
- Protected locality Kalkata – the village of Kosti, southeastern direction, beside the Veleka River (preservation of the nest of a couple of owls),
- Chapel Saint Petka – at 1 km to the north of the village of Kosti,
- Chapel Saint Kostadin – at about 1,5 km to the west of the village of Kosti,
- Chapel Saint Dimitar – at about 1 km to the west of the village of Kosti,
- Chapel Saint Iliya – at about 2 km to the west of the village of Kosti,
- Chapel Holy Virgin – at 3 km to the southeastern direction from the village of Kosti,
- The oldest beech tree in Strandja 800 years old – the village of Kosti, above the locality of Holy Virgin,
- Reserve Tisovitsa – next to the village of Kondolovo, ruins of fortress Marzovsko Kale – the village of Kondolovo,
- Chapel Saint Pantaleymon – at 1 km to the north of the village of Kondolovo,
- Chapel Saint Constantine – the village of Kondolovo,
- Rock formation the Sphinx – the village of Sinemorets,
- The mouth of the Veleka River,
- The biggest chapel in Strandja Sveta Petka – the village of Kondolovo,
- Orthodox Temple Saint George the village of Kondolovo,
- Orthodox Temple Saint John the Baptist, the village of Sinemorets,
- Protected locality mouth of the Veleka River – the village of Sinemorets,

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- Seaside humid zone Silistar – next to the village of Sinemorets,
- Archeological excavations Hellenistic grave - the village of Sinemorets,
- Treasure of late Hellenistic coins – the village of Sinemorets,
- Archeological excavations Thracian mound necropolis – locality of Selski Dol, the village of Rezovo,
- Remains of fortress Kastritsion in Cape Kastrich – the village of Rezovo, bay Kastrich,
- Orthodox Temple Saint John the Baptist – the village of Rezovo,
- remarkable geological sites Popova Skala (Popov's Rock) – the village of Fazanovo,
- Orthodox Temple Saint Marina – the village of Fazanovo,
- Sea beach Koral (Coral) – the village of Lozenets,
- Architectural landmark the Cross of the fishermen's port in the village of Lozenets,
- Orthodox Temple Saint George, the village of Lozenets,
- Orthodox Temple Saint Varvara, the village of Varvara.

2.6. TOURIST INFRASTRUCTURE

2.6.1. ACCOMMODATION PLACES IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF SOZOPOL, TSAREVO, PRIMORSKO, SREDETS AND MALKO TARNOVO

Registered according to the register of the Ministry of Tourism sites for accommodation by types and categories:

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

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MUNICIPALITY OF SOZOPOL:

- ✓ Guest Apartments: 1 * - 25 objects, 2 * - 100 objects, 3 * - 659 sites
- ✓ Apartment complex: 4 * - 2 facilities
- ✓ Bungalows: 1 * - 9 objects, 2 * - 1 object, 3 * - 1 object
- ✓ Hotels: 1 * - 5 objects, 2 * - 20 objects, 3 * - 49 objects, 4 * - 8 objects, 5 * - 3 objects
- ✓ Camping sites: 1 * - 6 sites
- ✓ Guest houses: 2 * - 4 objects, 3 * - 6 sites
- ✓ Pensions: 1 * - 1 objects, 2 * - 10 objects
- ✓ Holiday stations: 1 * - 5 objects, 2 * - 2 objects
- ✓ Family hotels: 2 * - 6 objects, 3 * - 37 objects
- ✓ Guest rooms: 1 * - 28 objects, 2 * - 294 sites, 3 * - 241 sites
- ✓ Villas: 3 * - 1 object

MUNICIPALITY OF PRIMORSKO:

- ✓ Guest Apartments: 1 * - 9 objects, 2 * - 34 objects, 3 * - 12 objects
- ✓ Bungalows: 1 * - 14 objects
- ✓ Hotels: 1 * - 22 objects, 2 * - 97 objects, 3 * - 39 objects, 4 * - 6 sites
- ✓ Camping sites: 1 * - 2 sites, 2 * - 2 sites
- ✓ Guest houses: 1 * - 22 objects, 2 * - 116 objects, 3 * - 14 objects
- ✓ Residential stations: 1 * - 26 objects, 2 * - 5 objects
- ✓ Family hotel: 1 * - 5 objects, 2 * - 69 objects, 3 * - 23 objects
- ✓ Guest rooms: 1 * - 102 objects, 2 * - 248 sites
- ✓ Villas: 2 * - 3 object

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TSAREVO MUNICIPALITY:

- ✓ Guest Apartments: 1 * - 7 objects, 2 * - 40 objects, 3 * - 27 objects
- ✓ Bungalows: 1 * - 61 objects, 2 * - 4 objects
- ✓ Hotels: 1 * - 28 objects, 2 * - 51 objects, 3 * - 30 objects, 4 * - 7 sites
- ✓ Camping sites: 1 * - 8 sites
- ✓ Guest houses: 1 * - 23 objects, 2 * - 39 objects, 3 * - 2 objects
- ✓ Pensions: 1 * - 2 objects, 3 * - 2 sites
- ✓ Residential stations: 1 * - 15 objects, 2 * - 2 objects
- ✓ Family hotels: 1 * - 4 objects, 2 * - 43 objects, 3 * - 27 objects
- ✓ Guest rooms: 1 * - 182 sites, 2 * - 353 sites, 3 * - 36 sites

MALKO TARNOVO MUNICIPALITY:

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

MUNICIPALITY OF SREDETS:

- ✓ Guest Rooms: 1 * - 1 object
- ✓ Tourist hut: 1 * - 1 object.

2.6.2. DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT FACILITIES

MALKO TARNOVO MUNICIPALITY:

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Categorized objects:

- 1 * - 3 sites - Malko Tarnovo
- 2 * - 1 object - the village of Brashlyan

MUNICIPALITY OF PRIMORSKO

Categorized objects - **Bars:**

- 1 * - 18 objects - 9 in the town of Primorsko and 9 in Kiten
- 2 * - 33 sites - 25 in the town of Primorsko and 8 in Kiten
- 3 * - 22 objects - 14 in the town of Primorsko and 8 in Kiten
- 4 * - 7 properties in the town of Primorsko
- 5 * - 2 properties in the town of Primorsko

Categorized objects - **Coffee shops:**

- 1 * - 24 objects - 11 in the town of Primorsko, 12 in Kiten, 1 in the village Yasna Polyana
- 2 * - 12 sites - 8 in the town of Primorsko and 4 in Kiten
- 4 * - 1 property in the town of Primorsko

Categorized sites – **Drinks & Beverages:**

- 1 * - 37 sites - 27 in the town of Primorsko, 9 in Kiten, 1 in the village of Novo Panicharevo
- 2 * - 22 objects - 18 in the town of Primorsko, 3 in Kiten, 1 in the village Yasna Polyana
- 3 * - 3 sites - 2 in the town of Primorsko and 1 in Kiten
- 4 * - 1 object in Kiten.

Categorized objects - **Restaurants:**

- 1 * - 22 sites - 13 in the town of Primorsko, 8 in Kiten, 1 in the village of Pismenovo
- 2 * - 56 objects - 32 in the town of Primorsko and 24 in Kiten
- 3 * - 18 objects - 7 in the town of Primorsko, 10 in Kiten, 1 in the village of Pismenovo

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4 * - 5 sites - 4 in the town of Primorsko and 1 in Kiten

Categorized objects - **Tourist dining room**

1 * - 2 sites - 1 in Primorsko and 1 in Kiten

Categorized objects - **Fast service restaurants**

1 * - 79 sites - 49 in Primorsko, 29 in Kiten, 1 in Yasna Polyana village

2 * - 54 sites - 47 in Primorsko and 7 in Kiten

3 * - 3 places in Primorsko

4 * - 1 object in Primorsko

MUNICIPALITY OF SOZOPOL

Categorized objects - **Bars:**

1 * - 32 sites - 23 in Sozopol and 9 in Chernomorets

2 * - 16 sites - 14 in Sozopol and 2 in Chernomorets

3 * - 12 sites - 11 in Sozopol and 1 in Chernomorets

4 * - 7 sites - 3 in Chernomorets, 2 in Sozopol, 1 - pp. Dune, 1 in the Aleppo area

5 * - 3 objects - SS Dune

Categorized objects - **Coffee shops:**

1 * - 22 sites - 15 in Sozopol, 5 in Chernomorets, 1 in Zidarovo, 1 in Ravadinovo

2 * - 11 sites - 8 in Sozopol and 3 in Chernomorets

3 * - 1 object in Sozopol

Categorized sites – **Drinks & Beverages:**

1 * - 42 sites - 27 in Sozopol, 11 in Chernomorets, 1 in Ravadinovo, 1 in Krushevets, 1 in Gabar, 1 in Rosen

2 * - 16 sites - 12 in Sozopol, 4 in Chernomorets

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- 3 * - 1 object in Sozopol
- 4 * - 1 object in Arkutino area

Categorized objects - Restaurants:

- 1 * - 21 sites - 13 in Sozopol, 7 in Chernomorets, 1 in the village of Gabar
- 2 * - 30 objects -23 in Sozopol, 7 in Chernomorets
- 3 * - 15 objects -13 in Sozopol, 2 in Chernomorets
- 4 * - 6 objects -5 per. Dune, 1 in Chernomorets
- 5 * - 3 sites in Sozopol

Categorized objects - Fast service restaurants

- 1 * - 97 sites - Sozopol, Chernomorets, 1 in Atia
- 2 * - 45 sites - 34 in Sozopol and 11 in Chernomorets
- 3 * - 3 sites - 1 in Sozopol and 2 in Chernomorets
- 4 * - 1 object in Chernomorets

TSAREVO MUNICIPALITY

Categorized objects - Bars:

- 1 * - 19 sites - 3 in Ahtopol, 10 in Lozenets, 4 in Tsarevo, 2 in Rezovo
- 2 * - 35 sites - 8 in Tsarevo, 6 in Ahtopol, 6 in Sinemorets, 14 in Lozenets, 1 in Varvara village
- 3 * - 9 sites - 6 in Tsarevo, 2 in Lozenets and 1 in Ahtopol
- 4 * -5 sites - 2 in Tsarevo and 3 in Sinemorets

Categorized objects - Coffee shops:

- 1 * - 60 sites - 3 in Rezovo, 3 in Varvara, 6 in Sinemorets, 11 in Ahtopol, 23 in Tsarevo, 14 in Lozenets
- 2 * - 22 sites - 8 in Tsarevo, 1 in Varvara, 9 in Lozenets, 4 in Ahtopol

Categorized sites – Drinks & Beverages:

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- 1 * - 82 sites / Tsarevo, Ahtopol, Varvara, Sinemorets, Lozenets, Rezovo, Velika, Brodilovo, Fazanovo, Bagari, Kondolovo,
2 * - 34 facilities / Tsarevo, Ahtopol, Varvara, Sinemorets, Lozenets /

Categorized sites **Restaurants:**

- 1 * - 21 sites -9 in Lozenets, 1 in Rezovo, 5 in Ahtopol, 6 in Tsarevo
2 * - 42 sites - / Lozenets, Tsarevo, Ahtopol, Sinemorets, Varvara /
3 * - 6 sites - 4 in Tsarevo and 2 in Lozenets
4 * - 3 sites - 2 in Sinemorets and 1 in Tsarevo

Categorized objects - **Fast food:**

- 1 * - 100 places - Lozenets, Ahtopol, Tsarevo, Varvara, Sinemorets, Rezovo
2 * - 61 places - Lozenets, Ahtopol, Tsarevo, Varvara, Sinemorets
3 * - 4 sites - 2 in Lozenets, 1 in Ahtopol, 1 in Tsarevo

2.6.3. TOUR OPERATORS AND TOURAGENTS

Municipality of Primorsko

- ✓ Tour operators: 3
- ✓ Touragents: 4
- ✓ Tour operators and touragents: 3

Sozopol Municipality

- ✓ Tour operators: 8
- ✓ Touragents: 14
- ✓ Tour operators and touragents: 9

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Tsarevo Municipality

- ✓ Tour operators: 3;
- ✓ Tour agents: 2.

2.6.4 TOURIST INFORMATION CENTERS

- ✓ Malko Tarnovo, "Preobrajenie" Square, tel. +359 (0) 5952/30 17; +359 (0) 886 647 201;
www.malkotarnovo.org
- ✓ Primorsko, "Treti mart" street / square /, tel. +359 (0) 5561/3076
- ✓ Sozopol, Republikanska Street / square, tel. 05514/3336
- ✓ Tsarevo, Kraymorska Street, www.tsarevo.info
- ✓ Chernomorets, "St. Nikola 6; +359 (0) 5510/2744

2.6.5. BORDER CHECKPOINTS

- ✓ Malko Tarnovo - Demerkyoy
- ✓ Bourgas Airport
- ✓ Port Bourgas and Tsarevo

2.7. TRANSPORTATION LINKS

The southeastern region has the lowest density of the Republican road network from all regions. Although the density of the high-class road network (0.035 km / km²) is higher than the average for the country (0.032 km / km²), the regional road network of the 2nd and 3rd class has a density of 0.125 km / km², low value of all areas.

Most important for the integration of the Southeastern region into the national and European road network is the completion of the Trakia highway, road I-7 (Silistra - Shumen - Yambol - Elhovo) and E 87 (Durankulak - Varna – Malko Tarnovo).

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Infrastructure rating is slightly above average for the country. Bourgas is an important transport center, which passes Pan-European Corridor №8.

The transport facilities to the main tourist sites in the area are fully provided by an international airport, harbors, railway station, road access, Trakia Motorway.

The area has an international port and airport in Bourgas, as well as five other ports - Ahtopol, Tsarevo, Sozopol, Nessebar, Pomorie.

Port Bourgas has a direct connection with the national road and railway network.

The main transport link of the area with Turkey is the road Bourgas - Malko Tarnovo.

Through Bourgas area passes the railway Sofia-Plovdiv-Bourgas and Sofia-Karlovo-Bourgas lines which serve national and international passenger flows.

Republic Road Network by road class:

1176 km Total roads in Burgas region / NSI data as of 31.12.2017 /

- ✓ 51 km - auto-roads
- ✓ 252 km - first-class roads
- ✓ 249 km - second-class roads
- ✓ 624 km - third-class roads and road connections at intersections and junctions

Republic Road Network according to the type of pavement

1176 km of roads in Bourgas region / NSI data as of 31.12.2017

- ✓ 1173 km - asphalt
- ✓ 3 km - paving.

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Road map of the Republic of Bulgaria



Republican Roadmap /RIA /

Nearly 40% of the roads in the area are of good quality of the pavement with average data for the country 40.7%.

<http://www.regionalprofiles.com/var/docs/Editions/Regional-Profiles-2016---EN.pdf>

Length of the railway lines / NSI data as at 31.12.2017 / 178 km 2 in Bourgas region

- ✓ 111 km - double railway lines
- ✓ 162 km - electrified railway lines.

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2.8. BICYCLE ROUTES

Route № 1: Burgas - Lugata (Atanasovsko lake) - Ancient and medieval port and fortress (Sarafovo) - Thracian tomb Heron (Europe). Total Duration: 5.5 hours;

Route № 2: Burgas - Lugata (Atanasovsko Lake) - Bird Watching Point (Atanasovsko Lake) - Thracian Sanctuary (Banevo District) - Antique and Medieval Town "Aqua Calyde - Thermopolis" (Vetren, Bourgas Mineral Baths) - Bird Watching Shelter (Atanasovsko Lake) - Burgas. Total duration: 8 am;

Route № 3: - Bourgas - Lake Vaya - Shiloto peak - Thracian sanctuary - Monastery of the Virgin Mary - Rusokastro fortress and Rusina dupka sanctuary (Rusokastro village) - Antiquity and Medieval town Deultum (village of Debelt) The mouth of the river Izvorska "- Burgas. Total duration: 10 am;

Route № 4: Bourgas - Debelt Lake - Vaya Lake - The Mouth of Izvorska River - the springs of the Mladezhka River - Kosti village - The Veleka mouth through the Veleka Protected Site - Parvomay - Stoilovo - Petrova niva - Kamenska hurina - Indipasha - Gramatikovo village - Vlahov dol - Balgari village - Marina reka - chapel "St. Elijah ". Total duration: 4 days;

Route № 5: Veleka River mouth - The mouth of the Rezovska River - Malko Tarnovo through the Silistra - Protected area - Kosti village - Chapel "St. Elijah "- sanctuary" St. Marina "- Vlahov dol - Slivarovo - Indipasha - Kamenska Burchina. Total Duration: 3 Days;

Route № 6: Malko Tarnovo - Brashlyan village - Stoilovo - Bakarlaka - Poda - Burgas via Propada - Mishkova niva - Dokuzak waterfall - Veleka - Petrova niva - ZM Paroria. Total duration: 4 days;

Route No. 7: Bourgas - Poda - Sozopol - Alepu - Arkutino - Velyov Vir - The mouth of the river Ropotamo - Begliktash - Tsarevo - Ahtopol - Veleka mouth - Silistar Protected Site - The mouth of the Rezovska River. Total duration: 4 days.

[https://bg.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bourgas_\(oblast\)](https://bg.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bourgas_(oblast))

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3. TOURIST RESOURCES OF THE MUNICIPALITIES OF MALKO TARNOVO, SOZOPOL, PRIMORSKO, TSAREVO AND SREDETS

3.1. MUNICIPALITY OF MALKO TARNOVO



Statistic data:

Area: 798,5 km²

Population (as of 15.07.2015): 3 340

Settlements: 13

Geographic location

The Municipality of Malko Tarnovo is located in Southeastern Bulgaria and is the third largest in the Burgas region. It is located in the heart of the Strandja Mountain in an area of 798.5 sq. Km, which represents 10.3% of the territory of Burgas region and 0.76% of the territory of Bulgaria. It falls entirely within the territory of Strandja Natural Park.

Relief

The relief of the municipality is hilly-mountainous, strongly affected by the valleys and tributaries of the rivers Veleka, Rezovska, Mladezhka and others. The highest point in the region is the "Gradishteto" peak, situated at 710 meters above sea level. Strandja Mountain is one of Europe's phyto-geographical sites. The municipality is located entirely on the territory of Strandja Natural Park.

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Water

The biggest spring is karst, located in the locality "Dokuzak", between M.Tarnovo and Stoilovo with a flow rate of 398 l / s. The hydrographic network on the territory of the municipality is formed by the water catchment areas of Veleka and the tributaries - the Mladejka, the Aidere and the Rezovska River.

Settlements

It consists of its administrative center - the town of Malko Tarnovo and another 12 villages, two of which are mayoralties - the village of Gramatikovo and the village of Zvezdets and the other mayor's offices.

There are 4,896 people in the municipality, an indicator that ranks it among the least populated areas in the country.

It borders the municipalities of Sredets, Sozopol, Primorsko and Tsarevo, to the south with the Republic of Turkey through the Malko Tarnovo border checkpoint.

An international road crosses the city, which is the shortest one connecting the countries of Europe with those of the Middle East.

The municipal center of Malko Tarnovo is 76 km away. from the regional center Burgas - the fourth largest city in Bulgaria, an important and promising transport center.

The main transport routes to Malko Tarnovo are:

- Main road: Burgas - Branch "Poda" - Marinka village - Krushevets village - Bosna locality - Zvezdets - Malko Tarnovo village;
- Burgas - Tsarevo - Balgari village - Gramatikovo village - Malko Tarnovo
- Harmanli - Topolovgrad - Elhovo - Bolyarovo - Tagarevsko Spas - Varovnik village - Bosna locality - Zvezdets village - Malko Tarnovo

The public transport is carried out by transport companies from Bourgas, Malko Tarnovo and Tsarevo. Of course, from Malko Tarnovo is reached to neighboring Turkey through the M. Tarnovo border checkpoint, while the metropolis Istanbul is only 290 km from the border.

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Distances from the municipal center Malko Tarnovo to other neighboring settlements:

- Tsarevo - 56 km
- Architectural and historical reserve Sozopol - 60 km
- border checkpoint and customs office - 9 km
- Kirkclareli (Turkey) - 45 km.

Distances to settlements in the municipality / on second and third class roads:

v. Stoilovo - 9 km	v. Bliznak - 41 km	v. Ewrenozovo - 28 km
v. Brashlyan - 15 km	v. Bosna – 37 km	v. Vizitsa - 35 km
v Zvezdets - 25 km	v. Byala voda - 43 km	v. Zabernovo - 44 km
v. Mladezhko - 32 km	v. Kalovo - 54 km	v. Gramatikovo - 24 km
v. Slivarovo - 16 km		

Tourism

The purity of the air, the waters and the soils, combined with the wonderful natural landscapes, favor the development of recreation and healing ecotourism.

Culture

Outstanding interest for both Bulgarian and foreign tourists is the Strandja cultural heritage, rich folk folklore, rituals and customs of the local population.

The preservation, preservation and dissemination of the Strandja life and culture are very much contributed by the three community centers on the territory of the municipality. There are also compositions for authentic folklore and old urban songs. With a lot of effort, the rituals of Kukerovden, Lazarovden, Yanyovden, Butterfly, Fillet / celebrated only in Strandja /, Koledovani and others were revived.

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Historical data

Numerous archaeological monuments - from Thracian and Roman times - show that these lands have been boiling intensive economic and cultural life since antiquity. Very impressive and monumental is the tomb in the Mishkova Niva area, 13 km. southwest of the city. It refers to V-III c. BC during the peak of the Thracian culture.

Another documented and published Thracian culture tomb is located in the "Propada" area, 5 km. northwest of the city. A strong Thracian presence can be found in the rock sanctuary located in the Kamaka locality.

Here on the rock are carved, etc. "solar circles". They relate to the solar cult and god Apollo. There are about 60 chapels on the territory of the municipality.

One of the most significant historical monuments in the municipality is the monument in the "Petrova niva" area, where in 1903 the historical decision for the lifting of the Ilinden rebellion in Eastern Thrace and Strandja takes place. In honor of the victims of the demolition, each year in this place, the Municipality of Malko Tarnovo organizes a National Commemorative Council.

The Municipality of Malko Tarnovo is fully included in the Strandja Natural Park.

- ✓ Vitanovo reserve;
- ✓ Reserve Sredoka;
- ✓ Veleka Protected Site;
- ✓ Rudinovo Protected Site;
- ✓ Dokuzak Protected Site;
- ✓ Paroria Protected Site;
- ✓ Krivinizovo Protected Site;
- ✓ Bosna Protected Site;
- ✓ Bratanova Cave;
- ✓ Nature Spot Gradishteto;
- ✓ Caves and springs in the valley of Mladezhka River;
- ✓ Kachul locality - in the valley of the River Veleka, 3-4 km south of the village of Gramatikovo;
- ✓ Kovac locality - in the valley of the river Veleka, south of the village of Zvezdec.

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- ✓ Thracian domed tomb from V-III c. in the area of Propada - about 3 km west of the town of Malko Tarnovo. It includes a necropolis and two tombs with a rectangular plan from the Roman period;
- ✓ Thracian religious tomb from V-III c. in the Mishkova niva locality - about 3 km southwest of the town of Malko Tarnovo. In addition to the sanctuary, the complex includes a Roman villa, a necropolis and remains of a fortress;
- ✓ The Thracian rock sanctuary Kamaka, dedicated to the god of the Sun (2500 BC) - about 10 km northeast of the town of Malko Tarnovo;
- ✓ Roman tomb from III-IV c., 1.5 Km southeast of the village of Evrenozovo;
- ✓ Many remains of Roman roads, fortresses and mines.

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.

Historic landmarks

The territory of the municipality is the Petrova Niva area, where a historic congress is convened, which draws up a plan for the actions and elects the headquarters of Ilinden rebellion in Edirne Thrace.



Cult complex in the Mishkova Niva area (Mouse field)

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"The complex is part of a large necropolis. Around this dolmens are built two tombs, one from the 4th century BC, the other from the Roman epoch. There are two stages of building a circular sacred space. " - Valeria Fol.

The tomb of the Egyptian goddess Bastet in Gradishte area near Malko Tarnovo



The site "Goddess Basten's Sanctuary" is located in Gradishteto area. The idea that the sanctuary is the goddess Bastet belongs to Krastyo Mutafchiev - one of the members of the expedition, which in 1981 began excavations in the region. The reason for the studies at the foot of Gradishte peak is the emergence of an old map with still un-developed drawings, geometric figures and hieroglyphs.

The Historical Museum of Malko Tarnovo presents six expositions - in the first are arranged archeological objects, discovered in the last decades in the objects around and in the city. The majority of the archaeological sites were discovered during the Strandja-Sakar program, led by Professor Alexander Fol. The epigraphic monuments are arranged in a lapidarium in the courtyard of the museum. Iconic painting is presented in a separate exposition with samples of Strandja masters.

Tourist Information Center Malko Tarnovo / to the Transfiguration Square / provides information about:

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

tel .: 05952/30 17; 0886 / 647,201; email: tic_mtarnovo@mail.bg

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TOURS

- ✓ Organized routes
- ✓ In the home of the juice - the Harlequin Forest
- ✓ Walking routes from Malko Tarnovo
- ✓ Antiquities of Malko Tarnovo - memory and emblem of the town
- ✓ M. Tarnovo - Dokuzak - Stoilovo village - Petrova niva / 25 km /
- ✓ The surroundings of Brashlyan
- ✓ Transit with an off-road car
- ✓ Walking tours in Stoilovo
- ✓ Village of Stoilovo - Petrova niva
- ✓ village of Stoilovo - Dokuzak
- ✓ Walking tours in the area of the village of Gramatikovo
- ✓ Transition by car Gramatikovo - Kacul - Mavrova niva

The Tourist Information Center of Malko Tarnovo Municipality organizes routes to:

- ✓ Cult complex in the Mishkova Niva area - with prior request at the TIC
- ✓ Mound necropolis in the Propada area
- ✓ Rock sanctuary and mushroom - a natural phenomenon in the Kamenska Burchina area

Lighter transitions, suitable for any age

- ✓ Malko Tarnovo – Voditsata
- ✓ Malko Tarnovo – Dyadogyorgovoto vrisle / a small river near Malko Tarnovo/
- ✓ Malko Tarnovo - The Monastery
- ✓ Malko Tarnovo - The hut.

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Longer transitions with larger loads:

- ✓ Malko Tarnovo - Monastery - Thracian domed tomb in Mishkova niva
- ✓ Malko Tarnovo - Mound necropolis in the town of Propada

The itinerary is only possible with the permission of the Border Police and a guide from the Tourist Center in the city.

Transits with an off-road car

- ✓ Malko Tarnovo - Mishkova niva / cult complex /
(you need an off-road car and a TIC driver)
- ✓ Malko Tarnovo - Golyamo Gradishte peak / the highest peak in Bulgarian Strandja - 710 m /
(you need an off-road car and a TIC driver)
- ✓ Malko Tarnovo - Kachul place - Indipasha / rocky outpost /
- ✓ Malko Tarnovo - Kamenska Burchina area /solar circles and mushroom - natural phenomenon/
- ✓ Mladezhko village - the springs of the Mladezhka river - Kovach village - the village of Brashlyan.

Pedestrian walks in Stoilovo, suitable for children as well

- ✓ Stoilovo village - St. Ilia Chapel - 1 km
- ✓ Stoilovo village - St. Peter's Monastery - 500 m
- ✓ Stoilovo village - St. Constantine and Elena Monastery - 1 km.

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Village of Stoilovo - area of Petrova niva

Duration: 2 hours. The transition can take place on two trails. One trail starts from the eastern part of the village, descends on a bare mountain slope and enters an oak forest. To the right of the path is the chapel "Holy Trinity". The Veleka River passes through an interesting rope bridge. Then the trail amounts to a steep slope to the Petrova niva through a centuries-old oak forest.



The other path passes parallel to the mountain Razdol through a dense oak-beech forest. It crosses the Veleka River in Konchov Vir. Here you can see Strandja oak-liars. The transition to Petrova niva continues on a steep slope and lasts for an hour.

Transitions on both paths are very pleasant. Time passes imperceptibly because tourists can pick mushrooms and wild fruits, pick herbs, relax and cool in the clean and cool waters of the Veleka River. There are suitable places for catching barbell, trout, kutum.

Stoilovo village - Dokuzak village

The route allows fishing and bathing in the Aidere River, watching birds - eagles, hawks, vultures, and with more luck and otter. In the area there is a waterfall with a bar, near which is built a shelter with a fireplace. The place is preferred by local people and their guests for relaxation and picnic. The transition is suitable for children.



Dokuzak area

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Pedestrian crossings in the area of Gramatikovo village

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

Passage by car Gramatikovo - Kacul - Mavrova niva

The river Veleka crosses, where there is fishing and bathing. It passes through old oak forests and forest meadows with beautiful panoramas along the Mavrov hills and protected area Kamenska Burchina. Interest in tourists is the visit of a Thracian rock sanctuary with solar circles and rock phenomenon "Stone mushroom".



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

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3.2. MUNICIPALITY OF SOZOPOL



Statistical data

Area: 517,834 acres

Population (as of 15.07.2015): 13 450 e.

Average annual temperatures: 13.3 ° C

Settlements: 12

Geographical factors

Location

Sozopol Municipality is located in the central eastern part of Burgas. Its area is characterized by its two constituent territories - the coastline, which covers the section between Atia and Oily Cape /Maslen nos/ and a plain which gradually passes in the southern direction into the hills of Strandja. The territory of the Municipality of Sozopol covers 517,834 decares. Of the total 51-kilometer coastline - 17.1 km are occupied by sandy beaches.

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Relief

The territory of the municipality belongs to the main Mediorid-Strandja geomorphological region and in particular to two of its sub-regions - Mediocri and Bosnian. Structurally, the area is characterized by a complex of sea terraces, a highly disembodied coast and numerous limans, with the alternation of a beautiful sloping shoreline with medium-sized and small beaches. The territory inside the municipality is characterized by eastern and northeast slopes dismembered by deep mountains. The coastal zone has a slight vertical dissection, no clear ridges and mountain chains.

The exception is the Copper Rid with Bakarula peak, 376 m high, which divides the municipality into two parts - coastal and inner. The coastline is remarkable with the greatest dismemberment of the coastline and is characterized by the peninsulas that have been flooded up to 2 km into the sea and bordered inland. The peninsula has beautiful and hard-to-reach nodes, with many underwater and underwater rocks.

Water

The underground waters in the municipality are small and are mainly used by the capping of springs with a low flow rate - from 0.1 to 5 l / sec. The strip to the northeast of the villages of Rosen and Ravadinovo, as well as to the west of the village of Varshilo and to the northwest of the village of Prasad, is completely devoid of groundwater. The richest in this respect are the terraces of the Ropotamo River, the area south of the village of Chernomorets and north of the Rosen mine, as well as around Alepu Lake.

There are many rivers flowing through the territory of the municipality - the density of the river network is over 1.62 km / sq. Km for the Fakiyska water catchment and up to 2-3 km / sq. Km for the Dyavolska water catchment.

The largest river - Fakiiska, springs from Strandja, west of Mount Kervansaray.

Infrastructure

Settlements

As an administrative structure, the municipality covers 12 settlements - the town of Sozopol and the villages of Chernomorets, Ravadinovo, Rosen, Atia, Ravna gora, Indje voyvoda, Varshilo, Gabar, Zidarovo, Krushevets and Prasad. In each of these villages there is a town hall. In the 5-kilometer strip are situated the town of Sozopol and the villages of Ravadinovo, Atia and Chernomorets. There are 1/3 of the municipalities in the active coastal area, which is half the permanent population.

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Transport

The Republican road network on the territory of the municipality consists of a first-class road I-9, which is part of the European road network and in particular of the E-87 road. Its length in the municipality is 24 km. The third-class road III-908 (Бургас - Росен - Веселие) is 31 km long. Fourth class roads with a total length of 109.9 km pass on the territory of the municipality.

On the territory of the municipality is the port of Sozopol, which has regional significance. It is used exclusively for passenger transport, leisure and travel trips as well as freight. There are a total of seven shipyards and a seaport station with BCP and DIC. There are built marinas and harbor boats in the town of Sozopol, Chernomorets village, in the Atia Bay, in the holiday village Dyuni.

Public transport is provided to all the municipalities.

Culture

Chr. Sozopol is one of the cultural centers of national importance. The annual Apollonia Arts Feasts are a special festival of Bulgarian contemporary art from all genres and forms and are important for their development. The Neptune holidays are also traditional for seaside settlements.

13 community centers operate on the territory of the municipality.

An archaeological museum has been built in the town of Sozopol, the restoration and preservation of its collection being one of the strategic objectives for the development of the municipality of Sozopol. There is also a South Wall fortress museum, as well as an ethnographic exhibition. Four private companies in the municipality are active in the field of culture - galleries and art workshops.

Historical data

The ancient and romantic municipal center of Sozopol is situated on a small rocky peninsula on the southern end of the Bourgas Bay. Occurred as a Thracian settlement in XIII - XII century BC, it is settled by Miletus Greeks and is called Apollonia - in honor of their most respected god and patron. The city quickly became a thriving city with highly developed art and rich material and spiritual life. Thanks to its location, Apollonia has been experiencing bloom many times and has carried through the ages the weight of no defeat. The "City of Salvation" keeps track of the millennial history of the Black Sea coast - numerous archaeological finds and monuments.

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Remains of fortress walls were found in the village of Varshilo - late antique and Thracian - Roman fortress; the medieval fortress Kaleto in the village of Krushevets, as well as many remnants of fortresses near the coastal strip and along it. Prehistoric tombs were also found in the village of Rosen, the village of Sadakovo Kladenche and southwest of Bakarlaka.

The Archaeological Museum houses rare Greek vessels from the 4th to the 6th century BC, stone boilers from the 2nd millennium BC, a collection of 120 whole amphorae and others.

There is also rich heritage of cult buildings - churches, monasteries, chapels: the church of St. Bogorodica from the 7th century under the protection of UNESCO, the chapel of St. Sosim from the 19th century, the narrow streets and the picturesque bay houses from the Renaissance bear the scars and character of our Black Sea architecture.

Against the old town, to the north and west of the sea, there are three islands - Ivan, St. Peter and St. Cyril, who give it a special beauty.

On the islands of St. Ivan and St. Peter is the remains of the monastery of St. John the Baptist, destroyed in the 14th and 15th centuries, an ancient Greek temple of Apollo, an ancient lighthouse and ovens of antique times for ironmongery.

Landmarks

"Sand Lily" Reserve - is located to the south of Sozopol, in the Kavatsite resort. It keeps one of the largest deposits of sand lily.

Protected area "Kolokita" - is located about 3 km southeast of Sozopol, between "Paradise Bay", "Kavatsite" and Black Sea. It is characterized by the combination of natural resources, rocky banks and fjords, seaside and arable land.

"Alepu swamp" protected area is located next to Alepu Bay. The swamp is a lagoon separated from the sea by a beach with dune formations. The swamp is inhabited by dozens of species of aquatic crustaceans and over 100 species of algae. The following types of birds are found: large grub, small gormat, red heron, mute swan, small water bull, mallard duck, gray duck, white-eyed dagger, eagle, small spotted eagle and others.

"Sand dunes Alepu" is one of the largest dune complexes on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast. In the area of the beach and the dunes are found representatives of the pseudo-phytophilous vegetation: sand, clown, shrimp, mica, sand lily etc.

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"Sand dunes Kavatsite" - about 3 km. south of Sozopol, with an area of 24 ha. Dune formations reach 5-6 m height. The purpose of the protection is to preserve the characteristic psamofite vegetation with which they are overgrown. The following types of birds are found: large grub, small gormat, red heron, mute swan, small water bull, mallard duck, gray duck, white-eyed dagger, eagle, small spotted eagle and others.

Cape Agalina - about 5 km south of Sozopol, with an area of 31 ha. The natural features - inaccessible rocky shores, fjords and biodiversity - are exceptional. The Ropotamo complex includes the Ropotamo Reserves, St Thomas Island (Snake Island), Alepu swamps, Stamopolu, Arkutino, and Maslen Nose.

In addition to nature, the municipality has valuable anthropogenic resources (cultural and historical heritage), the most significant of which are:

- ✓ Reserve "Ancient Sozopol";
- ✓ St. John island (where the coffin was found with the relics of St. John the Baptist) Natural and archaeological reserve - the largest of the five islands on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast. Here are traces of a Thracian sanctuary from the 7th century BC, an ancient Greek temple probably dedicated to Apollo Healer (V century BC), remains of the monastery "St. John the Precursor, an ancient lighthouse, a Russian military cemetery; (According to a project implemented by the Sozopol Foundation, the harbors have been restored to the island to facilitate access for tourists and sheds for monitoring the biodiversity of the island);
- ✓ Architectural and historical complex "South fortress wall and tower" - it combines elements of different epochs - an ancient well (IV - III c. BC); part of an Early Byzantine economic building from V-VI century, where a museum collection is presented; a medieval fortress wall and tower and adjoining outbuildings; exhibition hall for contemporary painting, sculpture and chamber concerts; restored traditional house - architectural monument from 18th - 19th century.
- ✓ Art gallery;
- ✓ Necropolises of the ancient Apollonia Pontica;
- ✓ Medieval Christian complex;
- ✓ Natural and archaeological reserve of Saint John Island (since 1993);

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- ✓ remains of the fortress of Cape Akra - Chernomorets;
- ✓ remains of Thalaska Fortress (on Chervenka Pole, about 2 km southeast of the town);
- ✓ Prehistoric settlement in Gradina Camping;
- ✓ Architectural ensemble of 62 old houses in the village of Indje voivoda, declared as monuments of culture;
- ✓ remains of the late antique and medieval fortress "Crimea" in the village of Rosen;
- ✓ Churches: "The Virgin Mary ", " St. Zosim ".



Archeological museum



Art gallery



Old town street



Old town

Sozopol is the oldest town in this area. In 610 BC in the place of present-day Sozopol was founded a Hellenic colony ("polis") of Miletus Greeks under the name of Apolonia Pontica. The name of the city comes from the god Apollo, considered to be the protector of the colonies.

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In the Middle Ages, the city was surrounded by a fortress wall and towers on it. They have been built over the years, but today only parts of the wall are preserved. Some of the remains reach 3 to 4 meters.

The old town is also declared an archaeological and architectural reserve - with about 180 old stone houses. Some of the more famous houses are the "house of the Kurds", "the house of Todor Zagorov" and others.

The archaeological museum of Sozopol presents unique archaeological finds from the 5th to the 17th century - vases, mosaics, statuettes, etc. found in the Apollonia necropolis, on the Harmanite beach as well as Christian art from the 17th to 19th centuries century. There are also a number of documents, maps, photographs and drawings. The museum is housed in the building of the St. Cyril and Methodius Church, provided by the Holy Synod (1961) at the disposal of the municipality for the needs of the museum, as well as in several halls (1978) provided by the cultural center of Sozopol.

Highlights: the largest collection of painted antique pottery in Bulgaria since the end of VI-II c. Christ. The largest collection of Ionic ceramics and plastic arts, ceramics XII - XV.

Opening hours: summer (June to October): 08.00-17.00; Winter (November-May): 08.00-12.00. Holiday days: winter - Sunday and Monday. Address: Khan Krum Square No2, Sozopol.

The Church of Holy Virgin is one of the many sights and monuments of culture in the town of Sozopol. It is located in the old part of the city and was built during the Ottoman rule in the 15th century on the ruins of a previously existing 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 required at that time.

The church has a wooden structure and is decorated with a remarkable iconostasis, icons and fine carvings by local masters. Visitors are most interested in two of the icons: "Jesus Christ" and "The Virgin Mary". The churchyard is beautiful and well maintained, and there is a huge tree planted on it. The Church of Our Lady in Sozopol is listed on the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

In the central part of the Old Town of Sozopol there are remnants of a medieval church with a basilica. It was the seat of the Sozopol Episcopate from the middle of the Xth to the 17th century.

The church was built on the ruins of residential buildings from the classical and Hellenistic periods Apollonia (V century - II century BC). The temple was rich in architectural decoration and floor mosaics that were destroyed by a fire in the 9th century.

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Remains of a medieval church with a basilica in the Old Town of Sozopol

At the end of the XI century, the church was rebuilt and decorated with frescoes and around it was built a monastery complex and a monk's ossuary.

Malko Kale is an ancient fortress lying on a hill of the same name, the highest of the Meden Rid mountain range. The fortress is located near the town of Sozopol, south of the Lobodovo Kale fortress. Archaeological excavations on the hill show that there has been a settlement since the early Iron Age. This settlement and the fortress were built by the Thracians Skrimiani in the period XIII-XII c. At the end of the V-beginning of the 4th century BC it was enclosed with a fortress wall made of unblemished stone, with its huge stone valleys with a height of 7-8 m in its walls. The fenced area was 4 acres. The entrance of the fortress was in a narrow passage between two large stone valleys with a height of 6 m. The principle of its protection is the same as the fortress Valchanovo Kale (Ranuli) - protected by both sides, the left is concealed with a wide- and the right - a high stone currency. This way of building defense facilities was first known in the Eastern Mediterranean by the Troy VI and Mycenae.

On the surface of the fortress grounds were found fragments of roof tiles similar to those that were produced in Apollonia in IV-II century BC.

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Fortress Malko Kale

Another interesting attraction near Sozopol is the Castle in Ravadinovo. It is situated on an area of about 30 decares and is made of stone. There is plenty of greenery around, and the building itself is covered in ivy. In front of the castle there is an artificial lake with an area of about 4-5 acres. In the castle itself there is a picture gallery, cellar and huge halls. The castle has exceptionally beautiful night lighting, making the place fabulous.



The Castle in Ravadinovo

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3.3. MUNICIPALITY OF PRIMORSKO



Statistical data

Area: 350,1 km²

Population (as of 15.07.2015): 6 578

Density of the population:

Average annual temperatures:

Places: 6

Geographical factors

Location

The town of Primorsko is picturesquely situated on a small peninsula between the beautiful bay of Stamopolu and the Devil's Bay. It is 50 km. south of Burgas. A coastal panoramic road connects the town with all Black Sea villages - Kiten, Dune, Sozopol, Burgas, Nessebar, Varna and others.

Relief

The relief of Primorsko is unique with its diversity and beauty. The two spacious beaches with clean and fine sands are surrounded by picturesque dunes. The beaches have a total area of 1045 thousand square meters.

Demographic data

Settlements

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The municipality has 6 settlements with a total population of 6 578 inhabitants (as of 15.07.2015). Primorsko, Pismenovo, Yasna polyana, village of Novo Panicharevo, village of Kiten and village of Veselie.

Economy

Tourism

Tourism and the service sector are the most dynamically developed in the structure of the municipal economy. There are conditions for different types of tourism - not just mainly recreational, but also cultural, ecotourism, rural, fishing, hunting, sports, etc. Due to the attractiveness of the resorts there is an increased investment procipe and development of the construction industry.

Nature has donated the resorts with diverse and unique natural resources. Crucial for the development of tourism are the beaches with a total area of 1045 thousand square meters, including protected dunes and beaches are 523 thousand square meters.

Social activities

Culture

Traditionally, every spring in the village of Yasna Polyana organizes mummer games. Furdled with fur, masks, and khaka kukeri drive away the evil of the homes and the village and dance for health and fertility. In August, an international symposium on the sculptor in "Alan Kayryak" tree was held. Participants are prominent Bulgarian and foreign artists. The St. Trinity Church in the village of Novo Panicharevo is a starting point for the celebration of the festival of St. Constantine and Elena

Sports entertainment

Sports complex - tennis courts, tennis hall, stadium, volleyball and handball playgrounds, sauna, etc.

Historical data

Its historical roots are of much more ancient time, as the amphorae and vessels found dating back to the sixth century BC speak. One of the hypotheses is that this is the last blocked port that exported supplies to Troy, which led to its collapse.

The remains of the ancient Urdoviza fortress still appear on the peninsula. The first name of Kiten is Urdoviza in memory of Stana Urdoviza - a beautiful Bulgarian woman, wanted by the Turkish Padishah, freeing the whole Strandja from the Ottoman rule. The horse and herself find their death on the North Beach, named Atliman, a beautiful evergreen bay.

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Landmarks

In the vicinity of Primorsko are the world famous and preserved natural reserves "Ropotamo" and "Water lilies", protected areas "Arkutino", the Stamopolu marsh, sand dunes "Perla", the rocky formations "Lion head", the fjords and the seal cave in Maslin Cape. Of particular interest is the ancient path of the birds, Via Pontica, which characterizes the area of Primorsko as extremely ecologically clean. These natural landmarks are endowed with unique flora and fauna that give color and exotics.

Interesting for the tourists are the ruins of the ancient fortress Azine, the **Thracian dolmen** from the 6th century BC and the remnants of the pre-Christian **chapel "St. Paraskeva"**.

Museum Collection "The Bulgarian Yasna Polyana" in the village of Yasna Polyana

Chapel of the Holy Trinity in the village of Novo Panicharevo.

The rock sanctuary Beglik tash is located in Ropotamo reserve, about 7 km from Primorsko. The location of the light is strategic and it opens a beautiful panoramic view of the sea and surroundings. The light was opened in 2003 after archaeological excavations.

Begliktash was a sacred place, and sacred rituals have been performed here since II BC until the beginning of the IV century of the new era. At that time these lands were inhabited by the Thracian tribe "Skirmiani". Pottery, coins, cannons, weapons, etc. were found in the area. The rocky elements of the sanctuary are of natural origin, but part of them were further grouped in different ensembles (the "astronomical clock", "the rock bed", the "sacred cave", etc.), according to the rituals that were performed on them. In many of the rocks there are carved pits that have been used to place liquids or to collect rainwater. Some of the stones have carved ritual signs.

Highlights:

- the "throne" in the central part of which the Thracian King-priest guided the ceremonies
- "astronomical clock";
- "marriage bed" - a central stone in the form of a bed surrounded by stones in which there are carved chutes for liquids used during rituals;
- The "sacred cave" - consists of two columns for columns and a horizontal slab. It symbolizes the womb of Mother Nature
- "Apostle Tash" (rectangular shaped rock), etc.

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The **Ropotamo complex** includes the following wetlands:

1. "Ropotamo River mouth" - the last 7 km from the river before it flows into the Black Sea;
2. "Swamp Arkutino";
3. "Swamp Alepu" separated by the sea of sandy hair. The average depth is 1 m, the catchment area is 10-12 km². The connection between the swamp and the sea is through a small gateway;
4. "Swamp Stomopolu", located 50-100 m west of the seashore, separated from the sea by sand and dunes. The open water area is about 0.6 km². The watershed has an area of 6 km². A channel with a gateway connects the swamp with the sea. Dyga divides the swamp into two parts - north and south, but when rising, the two parts can be connected.

The Ropotamo Reserve is situated on an area of 1000.7 ha, at the mouth of the Ropotamo River. It is one of the most attractive and picturesque protected areas in Bulgaria. It is famous for its unspoiled wildlife, a combination of diverse natural features, rugged relief, rocky shores, vast sandy strip and sand dunes, dunes and seashores.



The reserve was declared in 1940 for the purpose of preserving forest-type communities of the ligno-type, located along the river of the same name, which crosses the large sand dunes and flows into the Black Sea. The region was inhabited in the Early Iron Age XI - X century BC, and later Thracians, Greeks, Romans, Slavs and Proto-Bulgarians settled here.

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Since then, the remains of the fortresses "Burhama", "Valchanovo Kale", the dolmens, the ancient harbors near the mouth of the Ropotamo River, the sacrificial stones "Apostol Tash", "Beglik tash" and the church "St. Paraskeva ". In the Ropotamo reserve are included the Arkutino marsh (620 decares), the sea worm (140 decares), the Snake Island (10 decares) and the remarkable rock formations - the Lion Head, the Merry Rock, fjords and sea caves.



The Ropotamo Reserve has a unique biodiversity. Its territory has 936 animal and 536 plant species.

The reserve is a habitat of rare animal species. This is the second largest bird way from Europe to Africa - the Via Pontica. He gathers the birds of Northern, Eastern Europe and Siberia.

The large number of wetlands in this area provides an excellent nesting environment for many birds and a food base for wintering and migratory birds. There are 280 bird species on the territory of the reserve, of which 69 are included in the Red Book of Bulgaria.

Ropotamo is one of the most important places in the country as a nest of a group of species strongly attached to the diverse habitat types in its territory - the Mediterranean hut (*Puffinus yelkouan*), the Porzana porzana, the Porzana parva, the red heron (*Ardea purpurea*), *Ardeola ralloides* and *Ficedula semitorquata*.

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During the breeding season, during migration or wintering, 10 globally threatened species have been identified here: *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, *Pelecanus crispus*, *Marmaronetta angustirostris*, *Aythya nyroca*, *Haliaeetus eagle albicilla*, *Circus macrourus*, *Aquila clanga*, *Aquila heliaca*, *Falco naumanni* and *Crex crex*.

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The reserve is inhabited by many mammals (there are 51 species, 19 of which are bats). Here you can see red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) and deer dama (*Dama dama*), deer, mouflon, fox, jackal, otter (*Lutra lutra*), bats colonies of rock caves. Missing mammal species are the bear (*Ursus arctos*), *Lynx lynx* and *monachus monachus*.

536 species of higher plants are found within the reserve, which are about 18% of the entire flora of the country.



The Red Data Book of the Republic of Bulgaria includes 46 species: "Critically Endangered" - 8, "Endangered" - 36, "Vulnerable" - 2.

Around the two banks of the Ropotamo River, the Arkutino and Velyov Vir marshes, there are the magnificent dense forests typical of Ropotamo reserve. They are composed of Polish ash, Polish elm, limited black alder. Creeping wild vines, an ordinary vine, an ivy, a hops, a humpback, and a stump are crawling along them.

The Longong Forest has a multi-storey structure with a different composition of plant species, similar to equatorial forests. Its most characteristic feature is the presence of lianas - climbing plants.

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On the territory of the Ropotamo Reserve is also the popular medicinal plant Blatno kokiche. It contains in large quantities the alkaloid galantamine, on the basis of which is produced the unique Bulgarian medicine for the treatment of child paralysis. On the sand dunes in the Reserve are preserved the South Black Sea sand lily, sea wormwood, wild fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*) and others.

The Reservoir has a Visitors Center. It was built in 2003 and features a demonstration and information hall for tourists and groups of visitors. The center hosts seminars, conservation activities, ecological and educational activities, which contribute to the development of ecotourism in the reserve and preserve its unique nature.

The visits of tourists to the Ropotamo Reserve are carried out according to an order by the Minister of Environment and Waters. It is forbidden to divert the visitors from the paths and the entry of motor vehicles into the territory of the reserve.

In the Ropotamo reserve you can see unique natural sites: Ropotamo River, coastal marshes and wetlands, dense forests, terraced mountain ridges with deciduous forests and splendid rock phenomena such as the rock lion and small caves, a sandy beach with dunes, a rocky sea coast, beautiful bay and a little rocky island - Lake Island.

The famous Ropotamo limestone starts from the Dolap ghechite and ends at the mouth of the Black Sea's river, near Cape St. Dimitar. Here the river is calm and deep. Its shores are overgrown with thick dense forests, lined with lianas. The low wetlands of the limana and the old lakes are covered with marshy reed and magnificent water lilies.

On the right bank of the river is preserved one of the largest deposits of sea wormwood (valuable medical plant) in Bulgaria. Near the sea the road of Ropotamo is blocked by broad sandy hair, which

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grows with sand lilies. More than 100 of the plant species in the reserve are included in the Red Book of Bulgaria.

To the estuary, the salinity of the river water (up to 15 perches) is increased due to the invasion of water, which promotes great fish diversity (both river and sea species). There are 257 species of birds in the Ropotamo Reserve, eight of them - globally threatened. Of the birds included in the Red Book of Bulgaria, there are 71 species. The reserve is a winter haven for very rare birds and an important stop on the Black Sea coastline Via Pontica. From the mouth of the Ropotamo River around the cliffs, a boat is reached by the Nose Oil, which is in the buffer zone of the Reserve.



Oily Cape /Maslen nos/



The Snake Island /Zmiyskiat ostrov/

The Snake Island is an incredibly interesting natural site, included in the territory of Ropotamo Reserve. It is located to the north of the mouth of the Ropotamo River, just 200 m away from the Black Sea coast. In the past, it was known as Fidonias and St Thomas.

The Snake Island is a small (barely one hectare), almost circular, uninhabitable rocky island with a unique animal world. Here are very rare seabirds. Especially numerous are the seagulls, which built their nests on the rocky shores early spring. In the spring and autumn, when there is the mass transit of the birds on the Via Pontica, the Snake Island becomes a real bird kingdom. Thousands of birds stay here for a short break and food.

The island is also remarkable with the large population of the mysterious rodent Günther's Flush - an extremely rare species for the Bulgarian fauna. Coastal island rocks are inhabited by multiple water snakes. It is assumed that the name of the island is also associated with them.

In the past, the Snake Island has often been the subject of invasions by treasure hunters seeking buried gold treasures. Indiscriminate excavations have become a real scourge for the island's wild wilderness. To save it, in 1932 the prominent Bulgarian zoologist, academician Ivan Buresh,

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transferred to the island cacti of the genus *Opincia*. Here they found very favorable living conditions and quickly spread throughout the island.

Arkutino - The Bear mule near Primorsko

The Swamp Lagoon of Arkitino (Mechezco Marsh) and its associated dense forest is a wetland area subject to the Ramsar Convention. Located on the territory of the Ropotamo Reserve, 2.5 km north of the mouth of the river. It was declared a reserve in 1940.



The swamp is small, shallow about 0.5 m with oval shape. Its length is about 250 m and the width is 150 m. The bottom is muddy and the water is very sweet. A wide (540-meter) beach with dunes separates it from the sea. In very large droughts, it almost dries up. Only one-quarter of Arkutino's water surface is open, the rest is covered with dense water and marsh vegetation, represented by different types of water lens, marsh snowdrop, orchard grass, frog waterfowl, *Potamogeton perfoliatus*, etc.

Here is one of the richest deposits of white and yellow water rose in Bulgaria. The coastal areas are occupied by reeds - mostly clean arrays, somewhere mixed with a chocolate barrage. The marsh inhabits the rare mosquitofish, which destroys the mosquito larvae. Arcoutino is the main intermediate stop of the birds on Via Pontica. Here are nesting very rare bird species, protected by the law or included in the Red Book of Bulgaria - eggplant, mute swan, owl.

In the dunes around Arkutino there is the sea cricket (sand lily) - a representative of the rare dune vegetation in Bulgaria and an endangered species included in the Red Book. The plant survives among the warm, dry sands thanks to its special roots, which penetrate to depths more than a meter, until they reach the aquifers. And in the hottest days the sand lily enchants with its fragrant exquisite colors and juicy leaves.

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Lobodovo Kale fortress is situated on a hill of the same name - part of the Meden Rid chain, 7 km south of the Bakarlaka locality, between the villages of Ravadinovo and Veselie. On the high points of the ridge were found remnants of fortress walls, built in XIII-XII century BC. of the Thracians-Skirmians. Nowadays the place is overgrown with shrubs and trees and is hardly accessible, and the fortress itself is mainly under a layer about 1-2 meters thick.



Lobodovo kale

3.4. MUNICIPALITY OF TSAREVO



Statistical data

Area: 5132 ha

Population (as of 15.07.2015): 9 511 e.

Settlements: 13

Geographical factors

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Location

Tsarevo Municipality occupies the southeastern part of Bulgaria. It is 65 km. South of Bourgas, on the E-87 highway. To the east the municipality borders with the Black Sea, to the west with the Municipality of Malko Tarnovo, to the south with the Republic of Turkey, to the north with Primorsko Municipality

Relief

A specific land resource with which the Tsarevo municipality is rumored and used for the realization of its tourist functions is the beach strip. Along the coast of the municipality 16 beach stripes have been formed with a total length of 9184 m and the municipal center - Tsarevo is situated on 3 bays.

Water

Through the territory of the municipality passes the largest Strandja River - Veleka River, which in the lower stream (the last 10 km) is floating.

The Municipality of Tsarevo owns 1 dam and 1 micro dam - a public municipal property.

Settlements

The territory of the municipality is 5132 ha with a population of 9 511 inhabitants. The municipal center of Tsarevo has a population of 6,378 inhabitants.

The settlement network of the municipality includes 13 settlements, including two towns - Tsarevo and Ahtopol and 11 villages - Sinemorets, Rezovo village, Varvara village, Brodilovo village, Balgari village, Kondolovo village, Izgrev, village of Lozenets, village of Velika and village of Fazanovo.

Tourism

With a variety of sights of a different nature (natural, historical, architectural, etc.), Tsarevo Municipality emerges as one of the most attractive municipalities in the Bourgas region. The unique combination of sea, mountain and rivers, exotic vegetation and variety of animal and plant species, together with the traditions and authentic Strandja culture and customs, provide a variety of opportunities for tourism development - cognitive, ecotourism, yacht tourism, photo and hobby tourism, hunting tourism and others.

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Transport links

On the territory of the municipality there are no roads of 1st class. From the Republican road network (RCP) through the territory of Tsarevo pass: Second class road - II-99 class road Bourgas - Tsarevo - Malko Tarnovo from km 49 + 0 to km and third class road - 84 + 0 and III-9901 Tsarevo - Ahtopol - Rezovo from km 0 + 0 to km 30 + 0. The overall state of roads in the WFP is good. The total length of the municipal road network is 42.7 km. and needs rehabilitation. For roads BGS - 3284 - connection of the village of Balgari with second-class road II-99 Bourgas-Malko Tarnovo and BGS - 2283 - connection of Kosti village with second-class road II-99 Bourgas-Malko Tarnovo has approved projects and funding for repairs and rehabilitation is expected.

Culture and historical data

Only at the foot of Strandja Mountain, in the Bulgarian villages are preserved the roots of unique pagan customs, merged in time with Orthodox traditions - the fire-dancing games on fire in honor of St. Constantine and Helena.

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 churches "St Uszenie Bogorodichno" - Tsarevo, St. Cyril and Methodius "in the village of Kosti," St. Panteleimon "in the village of Brodilovo, remnants of the megalith culture of the Thracians and others.

Landmarks

Of the reserves in the Strandja Natural Park on the territory of Tsarevo municipality fall "Silkosiya", "Tisovitsa" and "Uzunbujak". Silkosia Reserve is the first reserve in Bulgaria, declared in 1933. It is located 2 km north of the village of Kosti and 1 km east of the village of Balgari. There are 260 species of higher plants found there. It preserves the most typical and relict forests of beech and oak with evergreen bushes.

Landmarks

- ✓ Natural landmark "Bratanova Cave";
- ✓ Natural landmark "Caves and springs of the Mladezhka river";
- ✓ 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;

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The beauty of Strandja

- ✓ Natural landmark "Elenina Dupka cave";
- ✓ Natural landmark "Strandja oak - area Sv. Elias" 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.
- ✓ "Kamenska marchina" - 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.
- ✓ Natural landmark "The deposit of a Caspian marsh turtle - Nakov kladenche locality" - 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 meet in the rivers Veleka and Rezovska, as well as some of the small rivers in the coastal part.
- ✓ Natural landmark "Thracian rock sanctuary Kamaka". It covers an area of 0.2 ha. It is 10 km away from the town, along the road Malko Tarnovo - Gramatikovo.

On the territory of the Municipality of Tsarevo are the **protected areas**:

- ✓ "Veleka River mouth", which covers part of the land of Ahtopol and the villages of Sinemorets and Brodilovo, with an area of 1511.2 ha and Silistar Protected Site which covers part of the territory of Rezovo village with an area of 773.3 ha. Designed to: Maintain a characteristic coastal landscape, rock formations, fjords; Conservation of specific xerothermic vegetation and rich animal world.
- ✓ "Marina River" covers a part of the village of Kosti, with an area of 47.3 ha, declared for the purpose of preservation of natural forest communities of oak, bourgeois, eastern beech with Strandja rhododendron and Strandja bilberry, as well as habitats of rare and endangered plant and animal species.

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- ✓ "Kulata" covers a part of the village of Kosti, with an area of 18.9 ha, declared for the purpose of preserving a breeding ground of a pair of owls.
- ✓ "Naturally occurring deposit of Pirin" occupies part of the land of the village of Kosti, with an area of 223.9 ha.

Cultural and historical, etc. landmarks

- ✓ Kastrich Fortress near Rezovo village
- ✓ Mersovsko kale fortress
- ✓ Fortress Agatopol
- ✓ The Heros of Prevlaka
- ✓ Chapel St. Virgin Mary, village of Bulgari
- ✓ Chapel "St. Petka "in the village of Kondolovo
- ✓ Church "St. Pantaleimon "in the village of Brodilovo
- ✓ Church of the Assumption in the village of Tsarevo
- ✓ Church in the fortress of Uguri, Bulgari village
- ✓ Nestinarski konak in the village of Bulgari
- ✓ The Church of St. St. Cyril and Methodius 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
- ✓ The Grand Ayazma in Vlahov Dol.

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Historical characteristics and cultural heritage

The elements of the cultural heritage are the territories with cultural and historical sites and values, determined according to the Cultural Heritage Act - ground, underground and underwater archaeological sites and reserves, historical, ethnographic and architectural complexes, parks and landscape architecture, industrial heritage in .ch. cultural corridors and territories with a combination of cultural and natural heritage.

The millennial human civilization on these lands has left many original cultural monuments here: Dolmen, Thracian sanctuaries and altars, tombstones and mound necropolises, numerous chapels and sacred springs.

The Strandja architecture, preserved in the villages of Kosti, Balgari, Kondolovo and other settlements in the municipality, is also interesting. The rich singing folklore, the customary rituals and customs of the local population have preserved in themselves pagan elements from the deepest antiquity, such as the nestinar ritual playing on the embers in the villages of Balgari and Brodilovo.

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 churches "St. Uszenie Bogorodichno" - Tsarevo," St. Cyril and Methodius "in the village of Kosti," St. Panteleimon "in the village of Brodilovo, remnants of the megalith culture of the Thracians and others.

The influences of many cultures and folklore traditions spring up today in the temperamental folk dances and music, in the picturesque folk costumes and customs, entwined in a unique contemporary architecture of the small settlements along the Black Sea coast.

Ecotourism opportunities:

Bicycle routes

- ✓ Sinemorets-Brodilovo-Sinemorets
- ✓ Climb Mount Golesh over Tsarevo
- ✓ Eco-path in the Kingdom of Rhododenrdon Ponticum
- ✓ Natural landmark Strandja oak - "St. Elias"

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Tourist routes

- ✓ Village of Kondolovo- village of Kosti
- ✓ village of Balgari- village of Velika
- ✓ village of Balgari- village of Kosti

Strandja NP

- ✓ Protected Site "Silistar"
- ✓ Protected area "Nakovo kladenche"
- ✓ Protected area "Kalkata"
- ✓ Protected area "Veleka River mouth"
- ✓ Protected area "Pirin"
- ✓ "Marina Reka" Protected Site
- ✓ Reserve Tisovitsa, Silkosiya, Uzunbudzak
- ✓ Waterfall "Skokat"
- ✓ The sand lily.

Real cultural values - archaeological sites

The territory of the Municipality of Tsarevo is full of cultural values dating back to Prehistory, Antiquity and the Middle Ages. A significant part of them are located outside the boundaries of the settlements. Within the territory of the outlying territories, the most significant are the archaeological sites near Brodilovo, Sinemorets and the temple "St. Uspenie Bogorodichno ", Vasiliko, Tsarevo, which have great scientific and tourist potential.

Real cultural values in the settlements:

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Ahtopol

Town of Ahtopol: Ahtopol is the southernmost town on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast. The name of the city is associated with the legend of the goddess of love Agatha, who came here to rest on his divine duties. That's why the place was called Agatopol, a city of love.

In the waters of its convenient bay are found stone (from the Thracian antiquity and dating from the beginning of the 1st millennium BC), lead (from the period of the ancient Greek colonization) and iron (from the Roman epoch and the Middle Ages) anchors.

Late Antiquity, and later the medieval city, was at the highest point of the peninsula, where parts of the fortress wall are still preserved (in places reaching 8 m height and 3.5 m wide).

In Ahtopol there is the church Ascension of the Lord built on the eastern outskirts of the city, at the height of the seashore. It is a one-nave, stone-built stone with wide, plaster-plated joints. There is no exact information about the year of construction except the date marked on the altar - 1796. On the coast, near the fishing port is the ancient fortress wall, whose remains are preserved to this day. The stone, lead and iron anchors found in the Gulf of Ahtopol testify to active seagoing from the time of the Thracians. Historical data testify that in antiquity there was a monetary union here. They called Ahtopol the Little World Forest - because of the dozens of temples built there. In 1918, however, a great fire burned the city. He devoured churches, chapels, beautiful houses, shops, workshops and fishing huts. From old Ahtopol only the church "Ascension of the Lord" from 1796, and part of the monastery church "St. John", the earliest construction stage of which dates back to the 12th century.

Village of Balgari: The village of Balgari is located in the eastern part of Strandja mountain. To the east of the village of Balgari is the oldest Bulgarian reserve "Silkosiya", and 7 km northeast is the protected area "Marina reka", in the past part of Silkosiya. The vicinity of the village of Balgari 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 Balgari) and in the areas of Echmite (east of Balgari) and White Finger (3.5 km southwest of Balgari). A large mound called "Tumba", with a diameter of 35 m, is located in the Shumika area (south of Balgari). To the north of the village of Balgari, 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. The enclosed area occupies about 11 acres. The fortress is almost rectangular. It is made of rough stones, somewhat whitewashed and somewhat unbonded.

Around the big fortress "**Uguri**" there are three smaller fortifications (each with an area of 1-2 acres): "Lazy Kale" - falling on the territory of the village of Kondolovo; the other two kalets are situated above the villages of Gramatikovo and Pismenovo. The Byzantine period of the fortress is the one-

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apse early Christian basilica situated at its highest point. The fortress also existed during the Middle Ages. Another intriguing old age in the village is located in the area "Caldera", a section of an ancient road between 50 and 100 m is preserved. The direction is from the sea to Malko Tarnovo.

Today, Balgari is the only nestinar settlement in Bulgaria. It observes the old-fashioned date of execution of the whole ritual and the dance in the embers - 3 to 4 June, the day of Sts. St. Constantine and Elena in old style. The special ceremony is performed under the sounds of a nestinarian melody performed on the bagpipe under the accompaniment of the "sacred" drum. Only the "devotees" can play in the fire. The ancient ritual transmitted from ancient times is interwoven with Christianity through the legend of the two saints. The direct cultural continuity in Stranja is the reason for this ritual, which is still active since the Thracian times, to keep its main traits even today.

Directly connected with the fire-dancing ritual is the horse-temple of the fire-dancers. The church "St. St. Konstantin and Elena" 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 is a monument of culture. The village of Balgari 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 dining room 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 hills. The inhabitants of the village of Balgari gather here on 28 August to celebrate the second most important celebration of the village after the fire-dancing. Immediately to "St. Virgin Mary" is the chapel "St. Trinity". Attractions for both the village of Balgari and the Strandja region are the private ethnographic collection. It is located in an old Strandja house, owned by Mara Shenkova. He acquainted with the housing system from the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century, with the bits of the big rural families, traditional clothing, authentic handmade fabrics and many of the primitive tools used at the time.

The **village of Brodilovo** is nestled in the southeast foothills of Strandja peak - Golyama Papiya peak (502 m above sea level) - an ancient volcano. Its proximity to the river to the river Veleka gives its very name. In the vicinity of Brodilovo there are remnants of three fortresses - in the places Pevtich, Kaleto and Plaka, three mound necropolises and traces of metallurgical activity. To the southeast of the village are the ruins of an old church, which gave the name Paleoklion (old church). In ancient times and the Middle Ages, Mount Gialia Papiya was surrounded by kale (fortress wall). The church "St. Panteleimon" was built in 1911. Today it is a monument of culture. Currently is closed due to poor conditions. There is one of the last carved iconostases in Strandja, masterpiece of the local carver, teacher Yannis. In the vicinity of Brodilovo are preserved the chapels: "St. Panteleimon" (at the northern end of the village); "St. Virgin Mary" (in a wooded area 3 km south of the village); "St. Petka" - striding with the sunrise, 1 km west of the village; "St. Konstantin" - a stool on a high hill at

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the end of Brodilovo, in the west direction; "St. Yani "- plowed with a holy spring in a forest, about 1.5 km from the village to the north.

Varvara village: It is situated on the Black Sea coast at the foot of Mount Papua. According to an ancient legend, in the antiquity, the nearby, populated with Greeks, town of Agapolis (today Ahtopol) was often attacked and burned by the neighboring Thracian tribe, which was considered barbarous. Accordingly, their settlement was called Varvara. By the middle of the 19th century on the place where the village is located today, there was only a small chapel "St. Varvara ", honored by the inhabitants of Tsarevo (then Vasiliko), Ahtopol, Kosti and Brodilovo. The new village accepts the name of the patron saint of the chapel.

Kondolovo village: Kondolovo is located on the central Bosnian ridge, in a high and spotted place, amidst centuries-old oak and beech forests with greenish. To the northeast of the village, in the Vlahovo area, there are remains of a small Thracian and late antique fortress - "Mrazovsko kale", with an area of about 1 decare and a wall of loam stone without solder. Immediately next to it are the remains of a Thracian settlement. On the opposite southeast bank of the river are the ruins of another fortress.

In the **Rupite** area there are traces of ancient metallurgical activity. On the territory of Kondolovo are known 3 mound necropolises (in the places Pisan stone and 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 her due to the constant raids of the Caucasian pirates (lazy) along the coast. This 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.

Village of Kosti: Kosti is an old village, inherited earlier Thracian antiquity and medieval settlement. At the end of the 1940s and the beginning of the 1950s, the village was the final station of the Ahtopol - Brodilovo - Kosti railway line (600 mm) carrying timber to the seashore which connected Kosti with Ahtopol. It was dismantled in the 1950s because it was ineffective. Restoration is still under discussion and, above all, as a tourist attraction that will connect the beaches with the interior of the mountain. There are traces of metallurgical activity in the vicinity of Kosti. To the south of it is a large mound necropolis, as well as several independent Thracian mounds.

In the past the village is one of the stops along the road Malko Tarnovo - Vasiliko (Tsarevo) - Ahtopol. In the vicinity of the village there are many chapels: "St. Petka "- striding with the holy spring 1 km north of the village; "St. Kostadin "- about 1.5 km west of the village; "St. Georgi "- a renewed

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wooden chapel with a yard 4 km south of the village, in Odereto; "St. Dimitar" - 1 km west of the village; "St. Ilia" - about 2 km west of the village; "St. Virgin Mary" - 3 km in the southeast direction. To the southeast of Kosti, above Sv. Virgin Mary, 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 - with a barn underneath, covered with rough oak planks, with broad vents, but without windows, so they are dark and unhygienic. Scarce lighting is provided by the roof with a "moving tile".

The most beautiful village church in Strandja is the church "St. St. Cyril and Methodius", located a little off the square. It was built by master Yani in the 19th century. It was called "St. St. Constantine and Elena" until the Greeks emigrated from the village. Almost destroyed during the Transfiguration Uprising, in 1909 it was restored and sanctified. Remarkable are the wood-carved iconostasis, produced by one of the last Strandja woodcutters – Pandil.

The church "St. Kiril and Methodius" is a three-nave, tri-apsed pseudobasilica with a narthex coming out in the sides of the overall width of the building. The wooden bell tower rises above the southern part of the narthex (1918). The building is built of cut stone and mortar. Inside the central vault and the side ceilings are wooden. The iconostasis is richly decorated with openwork, applied on a lighter background. The throne, the pulpit and the railing are also threaded.

In the area around the village of Kosti there are interesting natural resources and rare plant species: Protected Site "Natural Pine (*Erica arborea*)" (22.39 ha), declared for the purpose of protecting the locality of the species. Natural landmark "**Maharata**" - 2.0 ha declared for protection of a natural cave with many karst formations. The 14-year-old oak tree (lime) is located near the chapel of St. Elias in the area of the same name. Protected area "Kalkata" - 18.6 ha was declared for the protection of the nests of rare nocturnal raptors - owl, strix, etc. Protected area "Marina Reka" - 37.0 ha declared for the protection of rare and protected plant species such as common yew, Caucasian jelly, healing laurel and others.

Very close is the oldest Bulgarian **reserve "Silkosiya"** and the "**Uzunbujak**" (Lopushna) reserve. They have found protection in rare, endangered species. More common are: Red Piragant, Common Hawk, Pyrenean, Pontic Furious Darwin, curative laurel, Cupid beetle, Eastern lemon, Strandja biloba, Caucasian jel and others. In the Veleka River there are 24 species of fish: carp, caraway, catfish, bream, raspberries, barbell, squash, crocus, taranka, kutum, sabita, roach, eel, and Balkan trout.

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Rezovo Village: The village is situated on a high rocky coast over the Black Sea. The name of the village is associated with the name of the Thracian king Rezos, a participant in the Trojan War. There are traces of metallurgical activity in its vicinity. About 5 km west of Rezovo, in the locality "Zguriite", is the biggest deposit of ancient slag in Bulgaria. Its quantity is estimated at several hundred thousand tons. In the village of Selski Dol, 3-4 km west of the village, there is a Thracian mound necropolis besides ore mining. On the Kastrich cape, 3 km north of Rezovo, there are the remains of a small fortress with a rectangular plan (20 to 30 m). Probably this is the famous medieval fortress Castrition. There are tombstones in this area. In the past, the settlement has often changed its location because of the constant attacks by the Caucasian pirates.

Present-day Rezovo was settled in 1903 and immediately the new church "St. St. Konstantin and Elena" was built. This is depicted by the icon "All Saints" by late iconographer G. Polixoidou, dated back to 1909. After the Balkan War, in Rezovo several refugee families came from the village of Yana and settlers from Malko Tarnovo. The population was exploiting coal, agriculture and fishing.

To the north of Rezovo is protected area "Silistar", interesting with its rich flora and fauna.

The town of Tsarevo: The settlement was founded by migrants from Edirne Thrace. Its historical roots are from a much earlier time, as the remains of ancient buildings on the southern peninsula of the village are spoken. The town of Tsarevo is the first and largest port to the south of Burgas. 3 km. to the north of Tsarevo, the archaeological remains of Late Antiquity have been found in the aquapark of Arapya Camping. Submarine studies have found amphorae from IV-VI century and imported red-black ceramics from North Africa, Syria, Constantinople.

In the town itself, on the southern peninsula, there are remnants of a medieval fortress - Late Antiquity and medieval fortress is also on the nearby Strandjan peak "Papia". The name Vassilikou is mentioned earlier by the Arab geographer Idrissi in the 12th century. Vasilikos port is also mentioned in XV - XVI century. For the small fortress of the southern nose of Tsarevo more data is given by the Turkish traveler Evlia Chelebi, which he calls "Vasilikos Burgas ". During the first years after the middle of the 19th century, a Greek school was founded in Vasiliko. There are also children from nearby Strandja villages. The town is famous for its fishing, but its wider shipbuilding has become even more popular.

It was facilitated by the sandy coast near the peninsula and the abundance of timber produced in Strandja. In the last century, every Black Sea shipbuilding company built specific craft. The mark of the Vasilikos vessels was the heavily protruding, sharp wave, which the Greeks called the "carina", from where the nickname of the inhabitants of Vasiliko came from. The shipyard made small and

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medium-sized ships. In the early eighties of the nineteenth century, the city was severely damaged by an elemental fire, so now it is divided into an old and a new part.

Village of Sinemorets: The village of Sinemorets is situated on a picturesque peninsula on the right bank of the big and deep Veleka River. The whole territory to the south of Sinemorets to Rezovo is protected area "Silistar" with preserved dense forest, nesting protected birds. Not far in the bay of Potamia, located north of Sinemorets, underwater studies have found ceramic fragments from V-IV c. For the history of Sinemoretz the anchors found in the same bay, lead shells from an ancient ship and other archaeological finds from the Middle Ages are testified. On the peninsula itself there is a small fortress. At the end of August 2006, archaeologists found a multitude of jewels (over 160 gold and silver ornaments) and ceramic vessels in a mound on the outskirts of the village. 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 at the Municipal Historical Museum in Tsarevo.

In 2012, near the town of Sinemorets, as a result of archaeological excavations, the home of the rich ruler of Strandja Kordodzuntos was found, a ceramic vessel with about two hundred antique coins of the Lizimal, Antioch, Selevact, and Nikator was found. They are approximately from III century BC. The church of the village is very old. It is dedicated to St. George and it houses ancient icons. The most notable of these are the icons of St. Constantine and St. Elena and that of St. Modest. The Protector of the Farmers and Shepherds St. George is depicted between two trees over a plowed-owl, a shepherd with a herd, horse and buffalo. The presence of household scenes is associated with the entry of realism into iconography at the end of the nineteenth century.

Cultural life in the municipality of Tsarevo is diverse and colorful - organizing gatherings devoted to "Saint Panteleimon", "St. Constantine and Helena ", " St. Elijah ", St. Marina, St. Georgi, St. Spirit, St. Petka, St. Virgin Mary. Traditional feasts, festivals and customs are celebrated. Run the Week of the Sea, a review of amateur art, international folk festival "Strandja my cradle" fetish of honey dew in the town Tsarevo in August.

Last Resort at the foot of mountain in the **village of Balgari** preserved unique pagan customs merged over time with orthodox traditions - Nestinari games on fire in honor of "St. Konstantin and Elena "on 3rd to 4th June.

Only in Strandja and nowhere else after the sacred dishes is celebrated the custom of "white kuker". The Strandja white kuker / s. is a mask without a mask, open face / is the oldest form of celebration of this holiday in Bulgaria. The ritual is rich in meaning and symbolism - ensuring fertility and abundance. The mummy is dressed in white yoghurt or sheepskin. His face is red with soot of burned

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rhinestone, preserved by the last harvest. Along with him his company goes: a mummer, a mummer, a doctor, a guard who keeps the maid, a barber, a pop, and so on. All the characters from the mumbari are parodic.

Community centers /Chitalishte/

1. "Georgi Kondolov 1914" Tsarevo was founded in 1914. The following amateur groups and groups are functioning: 1. Children's dance ensemble "Iglika"; 2. Children's folklore group "Nestinarche"; 3. Theater composition; 4. Men's folk group "Georgi Kondolov"; 5. Female household group; 6. Women's household group "Sinemorets"; All of them have won many awards / winnings for medals, medals, cups / from international, national and regional festivals. Participants in amateur groups and groups are aged between 5 and 50 years.
2. Chitalishte "Hristo Botev 1925" Ahtopol was founded in 1925. The following amateur groups and groups are functioning: 1. Women's folklore group; 2. Female dance ensemble; 3. Artistic Club; 4. Children's folklore group; 5. Children's formation - modern dances / 5-7 years /; 6. Children's formation - sports dances / 8-12 years /. They have won awards / medals for winning place, medals, cups / from international, national and regional festivals. They include people between the ages of 5 and 60.
3. "Iskra 1952" s. Lozenets was founded in 1952 to operate it these amateur groups and groups: 1. Female domestic group; 2. Children's dance group; 3. Study group for folk dances (15-25 years). They have won many awards / certificates for winning a place medals, cups / international, national and regional festivals. Participants in amateur bands and groups are between the ages of 9 and 50 years.
4. "Exarch Antim 1928" s. Brodilovo was established in 1928 to operate his female consumer group with many won prizes / certificates for winning spot gold and silver medals, diplomiot international, national and regional festivals.
5. "Vasil Levski 1925" Chitalishte "Kosti" was founded in 1925. There is a female household group with prizes / prizes for winning place / from regional festivals. The building fund is granted to the Chitalishte Board of Trustees for management and management, but as a result of the limited financial subsidy and poor economic activity, it is out of date and needs major overhaul.

Community centers` activity and, in particular, amateur art are assessed as one of the factors for the unity and self-organization of the communities, respectively for the sustainability of the settlements. At the local level, the amateur ensembles find their appearance at festivals, festivals, celebrations of the settlements and popularize the preserved and honed Strandja traditions and dances. Every year there are the Fire and Sea Art Festival, Fish Fest, National Festival of Dance Clubs "Horo by the Sea".

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The Municipality is the organizer of the International Strandja Moya Folklore Festival, the International Jazz Festival in Lozenets, the IFFI "The Journeys of the Muses" in Tsarevo, Ahtopol and Lozenets, as well as the International Festival of Arts "Nestia".

According to the strategies at national, regional and district level, Tsarevo municipality falls into the area of peripheral territory for purposeful support. The municipality does not have a geographical position that favors self-development. In the municipal development plan the following conclusions are made:

- ✓ The municipality has invaluable natural and cultural heritage, which fosters the expansion of tourism and the introduction of new tourism services;
- ✓ The municipality has low infrastructure;
- ✓ The transport infrastructure is not sufficiently developed;
- ✓ Natural landmarks and tourist sites need a strategy and development plan that includes measures to valorise them;
- ✓ There is potential for the development of crafts;
- ✓ The municipality is a tourist-agrarian type and has opportunities for development of ecological agriculture, beekeeping, fishery and primary processing of products.

Within the boundaries of the municipality are included 13 settlements, of which two cities - Tsarevo and Ahtopol and 11 villages - Sinemorets, Rezovo village, Varvara village, Brodilovo village, Balgari village, Kondolovo village Izgrev, village of Lozenets, village of Velika and village of Fazanovo. The town of Tsarevo is a municipal center.

The rural character of the area can be a good basis for the development of alternative rural tourism. Such can be developed in most of the settlements in the municipality, but especially attractive for the purpose are the settlements in Strandja Park. These villages can also be considered as host and starting points of fishing / hunting tourism, and the village of Brodilovo for ecological tourism.

In order to realize these opportunities, it is necessary to overcome the unsatisfactory level of infrastructure and public amenities. The cultural and historical heritage, considered as part of a significant resource on a regional scale, complements the range of tourist attractions. Elements of immovable material heritage simultaneously form the environment and constitute an object of cognitive interest. The intangible heritage is diverse - folklore, festivals, preserved traditions and customs.

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Favorable Prerequisites:

- ✓ Passenger ports in the towns of Tsarevo and Ahtopol;
- ✓ Possibilities for construction of a yacht port in Tsarevo;
- ✓ Restoration of the port of Michurin in the town of Tsarevo and expansion of the boat-lodge in the village of Lozenets;
- ✓ The territory of the municipality is a unique combination of sea, mountain and rivers with exotic vegetation and variety of animal species as part of Strandja Natural Park;
- ✓ Proximity to main roads, river and sea ports, respectively to the resort complexes, with their huge recreational and tourist potential;
- ✓ Favorable ecological situation;
- ✓ Presence of clean nature and organic food;
- ✓ Territory filled with cultural values; saturated with natural landmarks and protected areas territory;
- ✓ Protected local traditions;
- ✓ Diverse and distinctive atmosphere of the settlements, entangled in ethnic and religious diversity, which coexist in harmony and tolerance;
- ✓ An international cycling system is developed along the Black Sea coast, which crosses the territory of the municipality;
- ✓ Preserved parts of Roman and antique roads.

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3.5. MUNICIPALITY OF SREDETS



Statistical data

Area: 1146 km²

Population (as of 15.07.2015): 14 268 e.

Population density: 13.46 p / km²

Average annual temperatures: 12 ° C

Settlements: 33

Geographical factors

Location

Sredets municipality is situated in southeastern Bulgaria and is one of the biggest in the municipality municipalities in Bulgaria - it occupies territory 1146 sq. Km - 1% of the territory of the country. It is an important crossroads of three regions: the southern Black Sea coast, the South Central region, the Republic of Turkey. Sredets municipality borders with the municipalities of: east with Sozopol and Malko Tarnovo, south with Turkey, southwest - Bolyarovo, west - Elhovo, Yambol, Straldzha and north with Kameno.

The crossroads of the roads for Elhovo, Yambol, Karnobat and Bourgas, Sredets is an important transport center for the settlements in the middle part of Strandja Mountain.

Relief

The territories in the southeastern part of the municipality fall into the buffer zone of the Strandja Natural Park, the Bozhura area is designated as a recreation area - these are the most promising places for development of tourism in the municipality. The municipality has a varied relief, in the southern part of the municipality it is semi-mountainous and mountainous - it includes the northern

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branches of the Strandja Mountain and in the north-plain it covers parts of the Bourgas plain. The altitude is 30 to 700 meters.

Water

Hydrographic network is unevenly developed - denser in the south, rivers have variable water regime. The upper and middle streams of the Sredetska and Fakiyska rivers have been formed on the territory of the Sredets Municipality.

Settlements

Sredets Municipality is one of the largest territorial administrative units in the country. It includes 33 settlements with a population of 14,268 people (15 July 2015). The municipality has 1 town, 6 mayoralties and 26 mayoralties. Out of all 33 settlements, 15 have a population of less than 100 people. 90% of the population in the municipality is Bulgarian and 10% is Roma. The majority of the population is predominant. In 9 of the settlements there are no children under the age of 7, 10 are the settlements without children from 7 to 14 years old, in 10 of the villages there is no population between 15 and 18 years old.

Transport

The relative share of 2nd class roads to the total road network is 17.5%, there are no motorways and 1st class roads. Important transport routes of regional and international importance pass through the Municipality: Bourgas - Sredets - Yambol, Bourgas - Sredets - Elhovo, transport links with Malko Tarnovo - Istanbul, Bosna - Tsarevo / Southern Black Sea /.

The economy of Sredets is mainly concentrated in Sredets and Debelt. In this case the town of Sredetz as a municipal center plays the role of a center of a zone of local economic gravity. The majority of the active population is employed in agriculture and forestry.

Tourism

Sredets Municipality is situated near the most developed tourist region in Bulgaria - the Bulgarian Black Sea coast. The town of Sredets is situated only 30 km away from Bourgas - the biggest port city of Bulgaria, with an international airport, a railway station. The shortest road from southeastern Bulgaria to the southern Black Sea coast and Turkey passes through the town.

The richness of game provides great opportunities for hunting tourism development. There is an opportunity for bird watching. There are nests of some of the rarest birds recorded in the Red Book of Bulgaria such as the Black Stork, the Small Eagle and the Rock Eagle.

In the mountain part of the Municipality passes the Faqiiska River, which offers suitable conditions for camping and fishing. For lovers of sport fishing there is an opportunity to practice it on the dams

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in the town of Sredets, Momina Tsarkva and others.

Besides the natural resources, anthropogenic resources are an important factor for the development of tourism in the municipality. These include cultural and historical monuments and sites, museums and museum expositions, episodic and periodical events and events.

Sredets is an old settlement, originated at the end of V century. As a military-strategic fortress, Strandja region is rich in historical landmarks, which are of tourist interest - dolmens, Thracian mounds, sanctuaries and tombs, etc.

Culture

On the territory of Sredets Municipality there are 14 chitalishte centers. One of their main activities is the library. In 2006, the library in Sredets was expanded and equipped with modern library furniture, computer equipment, internet, a new program for automation of library processes. Chitalishte is the center of the spiritual life in the Municipality. Their most significant appearances are related to the traditional calendar of the Bulgarian - Kukerov day, Easter, breaks, Christmas celebrations and others.

Groups and groups of them take part in all major events at regional and national level. It is already a culmination of their tradition of participating in the Month of Culture and the presentation of National Councils.

The youth formations from Sredets and Debelt have several tournaments in Turkey, Macedonia, Serbia and Ukraine. The Municipality of Sredets and Probuda National Cultural Center are the main organizers of the National Strandja-Thracian Fest "Folklore Wreath - Bozhura", which was held for the fourteenth time in 2006. This large-scale cultural forum affirms the position of the Municipality as an attractive center for the expression of young talents, preservation of the traditions and continuity between the generations.

In the field of cultural and historical heritage and museum work, work on preservation and preservation of museum units continues. Archeological excavations were conducted in the fortress "Kaleto" near Sredets.

The renovation and upgrading of the exposition in Bailey's House is forthcoming. The Sredets Historical Museum works in harmony with the regulations in the field of museum work.

The only monastery in the Strandja Mountain, the southern part of the Bourgas region - the monastery "Life-saving source" is situated on the territory of the Municipality near the village of Golyamo Bukovo.

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Historical data

The town of Sredets has an ancient history. It is an old Bulgarian settlement, which originated near an ancient settlement. The good climatic conditions, the strategic location and the fertile lands have attracted the sight of the Thracian tribes inhabiting these lands - Odryes, Nipses, Skirmians. The territory of the modern municipality is part of the Roman province of Hememont, which is said by many fortresses. Already in Roman times, one of the most important roads for Byzantium-Constantinople-Constantinople has passed here, which preserves its significance in the following epochs. During the Turkish slavery, the settlement was called Karabunar and was named in Turkish records from 1676-1731. This name is also reported by many travelers from the 17th and 18th centuries who crossed Strandja on the way to Constantinople or vice versa. In 1792 - 1794 the village was taught by Sophronius Vrachanski / Pop Stoyko Vladislavov /. Indie voivoda was also here.

It gradually emerged as a market settlement, and this characteristic continued after the Liberation in 1878 from 1925 is a town center, and the city was declared in 1960.

Landmarks

The municipality is rich in historical, archaeological and ethnographic monuments: the ancient city of Deultum, late antique and medieval fortresses at Debrett, Sredets, Fakia, Rosenovo, Bogdanovo, Bukovo, Kirovo, Yabulkovo, Momina Church, etc., Dolomi and Thracian mounds at Kirovo , Yabalkovo-Gorno and Dolno, Bogdanovo, Fakia and others, ethnographic houses in Momina Tsarkva, Bukovski Monastery. Presence of a temporary exhibition of archaeological materials and ethnographic exposition in the town of Sredets, national archaeological site "Deultum - Develt" - Debelt. On the territory of the municipality there is the only monastery in the southern part of the Bourgas region - the monastery "Life-saving source".

- ✓ National archaeological complex of the ancient Roman town of Deultum, located south of the village of Debelt;
- ✓ Protected area "White stone" (451 ha), in the valley of Faqiiska river;
- ✓ Medieval fortress "Bliznatsko Kale", 2,7 km southeast of the village of Varovnik;
- ✓ The Golyamobukovski Monastery "Life-saving source", 4 km east of the village of Golyamo Bukovo;
- ✓ Ethnographic Museum
- ✓ House-museum "Baylova house"
- ✓ Church "All Saints"
- ✓ Monument of Sofroniy Vrachanski
- ✓ Bojura Tourist Complex, 7 km south of Sredets.
- ✓ Folklore Festival "Bozhura"

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Deultum



Sredets is an old settlement, which 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. Bloom is marketed under the name of Potamukastel in IX-X century, destroyed in the 11th century and restored in the 12th century. During the Ottoman period, the life of the fortress was pulled to the east and the village of Karabunar / Black Well was built in place of the modern city.

The **village of Debelt** is 8 km away. east of the town of Sredets and is part of the ancient colony Deultum. It was founded in the late 70s of the 1st century AD. It was founded in the August VIII Legion of Emperor Vespasian. It forms 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 Balkan, studied medieval customs complex with a church. It is supposed that Boris I accepts Christianity in her. Today there is a distinct National Archaeological Reserve "Ancient and Medieval City Deultum - Debelt". The Strandja region is rich in cultural and historical sites. In addition, the cultural heritage of the municipality includes a series of cult buildings and places (churches, monasteries, voices, architectural sites such as school buildings and community centers).

On the territory of the municipality there are many monasteries, chapels and churches / St. Yavopriemniy Source Monastery - near the village of Golyamo Bukovo, the Chapel of the Assumption in Bozhura, the Chapels in the villages of Rosenovo, Panchevo and Belevren, The All Saints Church the town of Sredets, the church "St. Paraskeva "in the village Momina carkva, which is famous for its rich frescoes, Church in the villages of Fakia, Drachevo, Slivovo, Zornitsa, Suhodol, Slivovo, Dyulevo, Bogdanovo etc. /. The rich spiritual and material culture of the population is presented in the expositions of the Historical Museum - Sredets, Ethnographic Complex, Karabunarska House and

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Baylova House. There are preserved samples of Strandja architecture in the villages of Golyamo Bukovo, Dolno Yabalkovo, Kirovo and Fakia.

The **National Strandja-Thracian Fair for young talents** "Folklore Wreath-Bozhura" is held in the municipality. Every year, the tradition of the villages of Fakia, Momina tsarkva and Dolno Yabalkovo - a typical custom for rain and fertility, Kukeri - masquerade games of spring, for the expulsion of the evil spirits and berets, are preserved and held every year, Traditional folk struggles - a compulsory element in the folk reunions preserved only in the Sredets municipality.

In the area of the cultural and historical heritage and the museum work continues the preservation and preservation of the museum cultural values. Archeological excavations were carried out at the Kaleto fortress near the town of Sredets. Active excavations are taking place on the territory of the archaeological reserve in the village of Debelt. In the territorial structure of the municipality is the ethnographic complex - "Karabunarska kashta", the renovation of the museum exposition in Baylova house is to be renovated and updated.

The **Sredets Historical Museum** works in harmony with the regulations in the field of museum work. Megalithic culture, including the Dolmen, is located in the villages of Belevren, Kirovo, Granichar, Dolno and Gorno Yabalkovo and the Thracian sanctuary "Golemiat kamak" near the village of Dolno Yabalkovo with category "national significance". It is necessary to study, preserve, restore and adapt the Dolmens and the Thracian sanctuary.

They are a potential that can be used to develop comprehensive tourism in the municipality, but it is also necessary to build tourist infrastructure in the mountain and foothills of the mountain / hiking trails, shelters, guides and information boards.

The only monastery in the Strandja Mountain, the southern part of the Bourgas region - the monastery "Life-saving source" is located on the territory of the municipality, near the village of **Golyamo Bukovo**.

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Sredets Visitos` Information Center - The purpose of the center is to serve as a year-round base for nature conservation purposes (including for disabled people) - to conduct ecological activities in the border mountain area; green schools across borders; joint exhibitions "among nature"; eco-information events; joint seminars on risk prevention; joint training in crafts related to nature and sustainable use of resources, etc.



"Sredets" Visitors` Information Center

The visitor center and the studios are a replica of the two-storey / one-storey Strandja house.

3.6 METHODOLOGY FOR THE EVALUATION OF TOURIST SITES

In order to facilitate the process of collecting, analyzing and evaluating the data, circumstances and facts necessary for exploring the resources for development of tourism in Strandja, a methodology has been developed for the assessment of the tourist sites with the following supporting points:

- Overview of local resources for tourism development
- Overview of tourism development infrastructure
- Overview of human resources for tourism development
- Scope (content) of the analysis
- Search Rating
- SWOT analysis
- Scope of the tourist package
- Requirements / Criteria, Properties and Procedure for Evaluating Travel Resources

The methodology is presented as an Annex to this report.

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CONCLUSION

In the Bourgas region there is a very large difference in the development between coastal municipalities and those from the interior. Favorable development opportunities provide the rich cultural and historical heritage and nature that create the conditions for the development of alternative forms of tourism and new tourist products to be popularized.

The Black Sea coast, the beaches with fine golden sand and the thermal springs offer favorable conditions for recreation and the development of balneological and sea tourism.

The long-lived riparian forests along the Ropotamo and Veleka rivers, the beautiful Dyavolska and Fakliyska rivers, the diversity of game in the Strandja Mountains and the natural reserves are a prerequisite for the development of eco and hunting tourism.

Nature is preserved in many reserves and parks such as Silkosia (the oldest reserve in Bulgaria - 1933), Ropotamo and Strandja National Parks, the Duni Reserves and the Water Lilies, etc.

To the south of Burgas are many settlements and holiday complexes, which offer wonderful conditions for rest - Dyuni, Sozopol, Primorsko, Tsarevo and Ahtopol. All of them are connected with a panoramic sea-road.

The archaeological, architectural and historical monuments in the area are favorable for the development of cultural tourism. In Strandja you can see some of the oldest buildings built by people - dolmen. There are remains of Thracian mounds, ancient Greek cities and medieval fortresses.

You can immerse yourself in the unique atmosphere of the old houses in Sozopol and the preserved samples of Strandja houses in the villages of Fakia, Brashlyan, Balgari, Kostî, Brodilovo and others.

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

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SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

- + Bourgas 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
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- + Web-site of Strandja NP Directorate www.strandja.bg
- + Web-site of the Regional Infrastructure Agency www.api.bg
- + Web-site of the National Statistics Institute www.nsi.bg
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- + Web-site of the Ministry of Agriculture, Foods and Forests: www.mzh.bg

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-  <http://www.regionalprofiles.bg/var/docs/Editions/Regional-Profiles-2016---EN.pdf>
-  www.tsarevo.info

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