



Strandja- the mountain of festivals
STRANDJA-FEST, CB005.1.22.056

Project partners:

PP1 National community center Prosveta 1914 , Malko Tarnovo, district Burgas, Bulgaria

PP2 Kırklareli Culture and Tourism Directorate, Kırklareli province, Turkey

Schedule of festivals, events held on the territory of Strandja

FEBRUARY					
Event	When	Place	Time	Organizator & Contact information	Notes
<p>Ritual "White Mummer" and Palikosh</p> <p>Kukerovden in Strandzha is celebrated on Sirni zagovezni and has a carnival character. It is only in Strandja that it appears in its oldest form "white mummer", ie a kuker without a mask, with an open face. The ritual has rich sense and symbolism - providing fertility and abundance.</p> <p>The celebration of mummer without a mask is part of Strandja's living heritage. The white mummer entered the homes and the ancestral barracks, performed ancient practices of chasing evil, and wore prosperity, health, and prosperity. The ritual of the Strandja mummer is performed during the spring equinox. The mummer is identical with God, who in the ritual game dies and rises, thus playing the end and the beginning of community life</p>	<p>17.02</p> <p>18.02</p>	<p>Municipality Malko Tarnovo, Bulgaria</p>	<p>1 day</p>	<p>Community center "Vasil Levski" – 1925 – village of Kostinovo A.Georgieva 0590/ 6 9310</p> <p>Community center "Ekzarh Antim I" – 1928 – village of Brodilovo E. Ivanova 0590/ 68310</p> <p>Community center "Hristo Botev" – 1925 - Ahtopol E. Stoyanova 0878876810</p> <p>Community center "Iskra" – 1952 – village of Lozenets S. Todorova 0590/ 5 7281</p>	<p>Strandzha's "white mummer" is the oldest form of celebrating this holiday in Bulgaria. The mummer is wearing white whiting or sheep's. His face is red with soot of burned ruminant preserved by the last harvest. Along with him is his band: a mummer, a doctor, a guard who keeps the girl, a barber, a pop, and so on. At the end of the day, the mummies gather in the center of the city to present the ritual "Zaoravane". Then they perform the traditional ritual "Palicosh", which symbolizes the end of the winter and the coming of spring. The ritual is connected with the belief in the purifying power of fire and the eviction of the evil forces, with the provision of fertility, health and longevity. Men ascend to the high lighted basket full of straw. There is a great horo around it. When the basket falls, everyone tries to jump over it. The holiday continues with a Strandja chorus and fun.</p>

MARCH					
<p>Newroz (9th of March celebrations) Newroz is known in Kirklareli by the name of March 9th and is celebrated on March 22nd. It is believed that weather gets warmer with the March of the Ninth. Beliefs and practices related to the day, which is accepted as the beginning of spring and coincided with March 21st in today's calendar, It is known that this ritual also existed in the 3rd century. In this period, it is located in Chinese resources which include festivals are held with ready meals out to the countryside. The first known calendar of the Turks, "Twelve animal turkish calendar" is on the 21st of March as the beginning of the year. For the March Nine celebrations, cookies and pastries are made a few days in advance. On March 22, people gathered with cookies, pastries and other foods at the Çamlık district of the province center where young girls jump rope and play games like blind mans' bluff, rope pull, dodgeball and so on. This day in Kirklareli is celebrated with the concept of festivity.</p>	22th of March	Kirklareli/City Centre, Turkey	1 day	<p>City Council of Kirklareli Municipality</p> <p>Web: https://www.kirklarelikentkonseyi.org.tr</p> <p>Telefon: (0288) 214 10 03 genelsekreter@kirklarelikentkonseyi.org.tr kirklarelikentkonseyi@gmail.com</p>	A celebration based on the old origin, intense participation from all settlements in Kirklareli, a day of festive mood
MAY					
<p>Kaynarca Culture and Water Festival This is an event in Kaynarca, which has an old historical background, arising from a historical achievement. This event happened in BC. In 515 BC, before the Scythian expedition, the Persian Emperor Darius with the 700,000-strong army for three days, and during that time the army provided the water need of the army. This historic event was the starting point of the festival. Emperor Darius said his army that 'I am the ruler and sovereignty of this world, Tearos (Kaynarca) is the ruler of water' then he made his army built an inscription with this saying on it. This information is included in the sources of the historian Heredot. Providing the introduction of Kaynarca Town, which is the aim of festival, ensuring tourism development in the town and keeping traditional culture alive.</p>	May	<p>Kaynarca</p> <p>Kaynarca is a small town of Kirklareli province, Turkey</p>	2 days	<p>Municipality of Kaynarca</p> <p>Phone: +90 288 645 70 01</p> <p>http://www.kaynarca.bel.tr iletisim@kaynarca.bel.tr</p>	The festival has a regular activity program, hosts folkloric items, competitions are organized, artistic activities such as concerts and poetry performances take place and it can be said that the activities are very diverse.
<p>Festival of Periwinkle(Rhododendron Ponticum) in Strandja Nature park Festival of the Periwinkle(Rhododendron Ponticum) held in May (the flowering period of the Rhododendron ponticum), in different settlements on the territory of Strandja Nature Park. The Festival of the Periwinkle offers a rich and</p>	During May	In settlements on the territory of Strandja Nature park, Bulgaria	2 days	Directorate of Strandja Nature park	<p>Traditional - conducted annually for 14 years; attracts over 6,000 guests and tourists.</p> <p>Rich program, massive advertising and media interes park@strandja.bg</p>

<p>attractive programme - performances of folklore groups from Strandja villages, contest of bagpipers from the whole country, tasting various homemade specialties, contest for ritual bread making, demonstration of various crafts, sport activities and many others attractions. The bravest can climb on rope gardens installed between ancient oaks - a special attraction for young and old participants.</p> <p>Participants can take part in the various tourist routes. During the festival days, the guests have possibilities to visit museums, the ethnographic collections and other objects of cultural and ethnographic heritage of Strandja.</p> <p>Over 6000 people from all over the world attended the fourteen-th edition of the Festival of Periwinkle, which took place on 13and 14 May in Gramatikovo village, Strandja Nature Park.</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RL3hbbgpHPQ</p>					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •15 years history •Presentation of nature, culture and historic treasure •Local food •The periwinkle is the symbol of Strandja
<p>Karagöz Culture Art and KAKAVA Fest</p> <p>Kakava tradition which is one of the oldest traditions of the Romany cultures and is described as "sacred day". The festival, which starts with the marching of cortege and setting about a ton of wood on fire which is called as the "Kakava Fire" . After the fire event, kakava rice is distributed.</p> <p>Theater, concerts and dance of different nations, folk dances are also part of the ground activities.</p>	May	Kirklareli/City Centre, Turkey	7 days	<p>City Council of Kirklareli Municipality</p> <p>Web: https://www.kirklarelikentkonseyi.org.tr</p> <p>Phone: (0288) 214 10 03 genelsekreter@kirklarelikentkonseyi.org.tr / kirklarelikentkonseyi@gmail.com</p>	<p>Artists and media also shows interest in this international festival.</p> <p>Festival events have been celebrated for a few days in Kirklareli's central districts.</p>
<p>Ataköy Keskek Festivity</p> <p>Ataköy Village is the sister village of Ustrem in Bulgaria. Participants will be served keskek with local music concert in this festival.</p>	May	Ataköy/Kirklareli, Turkey	1 day	<p>Management of Ataköy Village Phone: 0 288 675 9004</p> <p>Ataköylüler Sosyal Yardımlaşma ve Dayanışma Derneği</p> <p>-</p>	<p>It is a festival organized to bring people who live outside Ataköy and Ataköy together, to make old customs and traditions alive and to convey them to younger generations.</p>
<p>Hidrellez Spring Festivity</p> <p>Hidrellez is one of the seasonal festivals known throughout the Turkish world. The day of Hidrellez, which is called Ruz-ı Hızır (Hızır Day), is celebrated</p>	May	Kirklareli/City Centre, Turkey	2 days	-	

<p>because of the day that the Prophet of Hızir and Elijah meet on the earth.</p> <p>According to the reinforcement used by the people, the year is divided into two years: the period from May 6 to November 8 is the summer season in the name of Hızir Days and the period from November 8 to May 6 is the winter season in the name of November Days. So 6 May Day means that the winter season is over and the hot summer days are starting, which is a celebration to celebrate. On 6th of May and following day "Hidrellez" is celebrated throughout Kirklareli.</p>					
<p>Erikler Hidrellez Event</p> <p>It is an activity like a "picnic" in the wooded area accompanied by drums and zurna. Hidrellez is celebrated every year with the participation of approximately 10 thousand people.</p>	May	Erikler Village/Kirklareli , Turkey	2 days	<p>Management of Erikler Village</p> <p>Phone: 0288 283 61 25</p>	One of the most important celebration areas that comes to mind when you think of Hidrellez in Kirklareli is picnic area at Erikler Village.
<p>National Strandja - Thracian Fair Folklore Wreath – Bozhura in Sredets</p> <p>The National Strandja - Thracian Fair Folklore Wreath – Bozhura in Sredets aims to continue the tradition of the Strandzha-Thracian region, to stimulate the interest and the love for the rich folklore heritage. It features young performers and instrumentalists spread across four groups and representatives of music schools and classes. The award winners will be awarded the Prize "Folk Wreath Bozhura and Grandma's Chest "Prize.</p> <p>http://www.sabori.bg/scene-arts/view.html?oid=2499</p>	Last Saturday and Sunday of May	Sredets, Bozhura, Bulgaria	2 days	<p>Municipality of Sredets, Community center, NGOs</p> <p>05551 31-40, 77-08, .</p> <p>info@sredets.bg</p> <p>probuda.sred@gmail.com</p>	With a 22 - year tradition; attracts many guests National culture calendar
<p>National Folklore Festival Horo in Strandja in Malko Tarnovo</p> <p>An attractive event in the heart of Strandja mountain the spring. The program includes: conference, presentation of the groups, parade - defile of the folklore clubs, schools and amateur groups, Nestinarsko Horo - a common choro with the participation of all groups under the accompaniment of Strandzha orchestra. All groups play simultaneously, each of their horo, 6 people from the following ethnographic regions - Thracian, Dobrudzhan, Pirin, North- or so called Severnyashka, Rodophes and so called Shoppska.</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1a0s8bs1aC4</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/%D0%A5%D0%BE%D1%80%D0%BE-%D0%B2-</p>	End of May	Malko Tarnovo, Bulgaria	2 days	<p>Municipality of Malko Tarnovo, Prosveta 1914</p> <p>05952 3021</p> <p>Mayor</p> <p>0885446812 -</p> <p>Mariya Patronova</p> <p>05952 3105 – Drencheva</p> <p>mt_kmet@mail.bg</p> <p>mpatronova@malkotarnovo.org</p>	In national cultural calendar, an event with potential, attracts a large number of participants

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JUNE

<p>Nestinarstvo (a dedicated fire-dance) Nestinarsko shestvie (procession) . Nestinarski obred (Rite) in 5 villages in Strandja- Balgari, Kondolovo, Kosti, Slivarovo, Gramatikovo</p> <p>Nestinarstvo is a fire ritual originally performed in several Bulgarian villages in the Strandja Mountains close to the Black Sea coast in the very southeast of Bulgaria. It involves a barefoot dance on smouldering embers (zharava) performed by nestinari. It is usually performed at the square of the village in front of the whole population on the day of Sts. Constantine and Helen or the day of the village's patron saint. The ritual is a unique mixture of Eastern Orthodox beliefs and older pagan traditions from the Strandzha Mountains. In 2009, the ritual was entered in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Lists and the National Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage "Living Human Treasures - Bulgaria".</p> <p>Even today, where the Black Sea washes the shores of the warm Strandja Mountains, the old traditions connected with the magical folk rites are still living. They continue to be practiced by the local communities with the same admiration and faith in the theurgy power of the Sun and the Fire. Preserved only in this part of Bulgaria, those phenomena of sacral culture have been defined by explorers as traces of the old Thracian and Bulgarian shamanism.</p> <p>Nestinarstvo is among the oldest and most mysterious rites, practiced even today by the population of Strandja Mountain in its authentic form. In the ancient village of Bulgari, every year on the 3rd of June, takes place a celebration dedicated to St. St. Constantine and Helena also known as nestinarski igri (nestinar games). In the early morning, the priest blesses the offering dishes – a boiled mutton inside the stolnina (a small building for preservation of the icons, usually found next to or inside the house of the chief of the fire-dancers) dedicated to St. St. Constantine and Helena. After the liturgy is celebrated, the churchwarden, who is a strongly respected man - heir of an old nestinar family, and the boys caring the icons set off from the</p>	<p>On the day of Sts. Constantine and Helen</p> <p>3-4 June 2017</p>	<p>Balgari, Kondolovo, Kosti, Slivarovo, Gramatikovo Villages, Bulgaria</p>	<p>2 days</p>	<p>Village of Bulgari 059069 414 Nedka Lapcheva - mayor City Hall 059069 327 Anton Angelov - mayor NSA "Vasil Levski 1925" - Atanaska Georgieva - 059069 310 City Hall 059068 218 Ilia Iliev - mayor</p> <p>tsarevo@dir.bg atanaska.kosti@abv.bg, veleka_gr@abv.bg</p>	<p>In 2009, the ritual was entered in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Lists and the National Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage "Living Human Treasures – Bulgaria."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Ancient tradition •Non-material reassurance of UNESCO Authentic, it is kept only in Strandja
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stolnina under the accompaniment of drummers and gaida (a type of Bulgarian bagpipe).

Next, the procession goes to the stolnina located at the house of the chief-nestinarka (a woman). Here the icons are “dressed” in ritual shirts covered with silver coins and adornment. With the blessing of the chief-nestinarka, all attendants of the celebrations head towards the holy spring of St. Constantine. Shortly after their arrival there, the icons are placed to “rest” at the ritual wooden seat guarded by the chief-nestinarka. The churchwarden uses water from the holy spring to “wash” the icons and bless the attendants with it; follows the chain dance – horo, as the entire group of nestinars dances on the last horo. By noontime, everybody is going back to the village.

Six cars with wood are used for the preparation of the festive fire that is burning on the central square in front of the church during the day. In the late afternoon, the ritual ground is formed from embers spread in a circle of about 8 - 10m diameter. At nightfall, begin the incessant horos round the glow. To the heavy clipped sound of the ritual drum, the nestinars get into a peculiar trance and walk barefoot into the hot embers. Shouting loudly and abruptly, they are traversing the embers in the sign of a cross and then dance a few minutes with the sacred icons in hands, without having any burns.

Men and women, usually from the same families become nestinars. They hand down from generation to generation the secrets of the magic dance, as the chief-nestinar has the most important part in their society. She has that place in the hierarchy for her exceptional religious devotion and abilities of a medium. Therefore, people honour her as a magic mediator between them and the saint-patrons, delivering predictions about fertility, health, wars or family's fortune.

The traditional faith in magical rites and spells is bound to the will of taming the fearful force of nature. They are performed with the intention to help people and Nature in their co-existence, therefore the most significant is the symbolic of the Sun and Fire as essential life sources.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7hZfU2qF3BE>

<p>National Folklore Festival "Horo by the Sea" in Tsarevo</p> <p>Tsarevo municipality, National Community center George Kondolov and folk dance club Igljika are the organizers of the National Folk Festival, named Horo by the sea. It has been held for several years and in 2017 it will be held on the 10th and 11th of June. The festival is held under the patronage of the mayor of Tsarevo. The festival aims to give an audience to amateur art folk clubs and promote the folk heritage of our country. Participation attracts many lovers of folk dances. One of the conditions for the participants is to be non-professionals. There is no age limit. Participants can dress as they wish. The festival is not of a competitive nature.</p> <p>http://www.tsarevo.net/index.php/novini/obyavi-i-saobshteniya/item/1387-nff-horo-krai-moreto-tzarevo-2017</p>	<p>First week of June</p>	<p>Tzarevo, Bulgaria</p>	<p>2 days</p>	<p>Municipality of Tsarevo "G.Kondolov - 1914"; Folklore Dance Club "Igljika" - Damyan Damyanov - 0888304319</p> <p>tsarevo@dir.bg kondolov@abv.bg</p>	<p>5 y. tradition, annual, in national cultural calendar, media interes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Not for professional dance groups •Magic of the Bulgarian folklore dances
<p>National folklore fair - singing "Strandzha pee"</p> <p>The "Strandzha Pee" Concert, held for the first time on 28, 29 and 30 May 1960 in the village of Gramatikovo, with the decision of the then Ministry of Culture, is the first national cultural event that gives a new breath to Bulgarian folklore. The talents of Kalinka Zgurova, Petranka Todorova, Georgi Pavlov, Raina Mavrova and Kalinka Zgurova, Petra Todorova, and Raina Mavrova, and Komnia Stoyanova, Magda Pushkarova, Sava Popsavov, Rayna Petrova and many others. The discovery of the title is Yanka Rupkina. In 1995 the second national fair "Strandzha pee" was held, restored by the municipality of Malko Tarnovo. In 2000, he celebrated his 40th anniversary and decided that the folklore event should take place every four years. In the competition with a competitive character, individual and group performers of Strandzha folk songs and dances, customs reproduction, instrumental performers of kaval, bagpipe, gadulka take part.</p>	<p>In 4 years, early June</p>	<p>Village of Gramatikovo, Bulgaria</p>	<p>2 days</p>	<p>05952 3021 Ilian Yanchev - mayor; Town Hall - Stefan Stoyanov - 05958 22 66, community center - Ekaterina Boradjieva - 0885507257</p>	<p>The aim is to continue the popularization of the rich song production from Strandzha, with the search for and the establishment of new talents. Participants in the competition's program may be performers from all over the country (singers, groups, instrumentalists) of the folklore from the region of Strandzha. There are also performances of songs from the region of Sakar and Eastern Thrace. The ranking of the participants is in four age groups: up to 7 years old, first age group 7 to 14 years, second age group 15 to 25 years old and third age group over 25 years old. In the same order of the age groups, the competition also took place for instrumentalists. Authentic folklore groups and customs performers should also present a folklore culture from the following regions: Strandzha, Sakar and Eastern Thrace</p>

<p>International Folklore Festival “Strandja, moya lyulchina (my swing)” in Tsarevo International folklore festival "Strandja moya, lulchina" is held annually in June on the summer scenes in the town of Tsarevo. The festival aims to present the folklore music and dance of Bulgaria and other countries and ethno-cultural diversity of participants-dancing groups and choirs for folk songs, orchestras, authentic folklore groups, singers and instrumentalists. https://www.tsarevo.info/calendar-event/strandzha-moya-lyulchina-2017/</p>	June	Tsarevo, Bulgaria	3 days	Community center Georgi Kondolov 1914” tsarevo@dir.bg kondolov@abv.bg	18-year tradition; sustainability; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different folklore traditions
<p>XIV INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE FESTIVAL "EURO FOLK - BLACK SEA 2018" The Euro Folk - Black Sea Folklore Festival is held within the "Euro Folk" Musical Feasts - The World is Television. The musical feasts are held in various European cities and countries throughout the year 2018. The Euro Folk musical feasts consist of forty-five musical festivals and are held under the auspices of the European Association of Folklore Festivals - EAFF. The main event of Musical Feasts "Euro Folk" is Festival №1 in the Europe of traditional folk arts - Stara Planina Fest "Balkan Folk". There are 9,000 to 15,000 musicians, singers and dancers every year. Under the auspices of: European Association of Folklore Festivals - EAFF</p>	15 - 25 June 2018	Tsarevo – Kiten, Bulgaria	10 days	Euro Folk Academy, Event Vacation, Municipality Tsarevo, Municipality Primorsko, Municipality Kiten Director: Kaloyan Nikolov	A characteristic feature of the Euro Folk Musical Feasts is that all performances are recorded with professional audio and television equipment and the best of them are broadcasted on more than 20 cable televisions in Bulgaria, on the national TV channels Travel TV and Rodina TV "as well as Internet TV" EuroFolkTV ". With these activities, the main goal of the "Euro Folk" Musical Feasts - The World is TV "for popularizing traditional folk arts through the massive possibilities of the mass media.
<p>Art Festival "Fire and Sea" in Tsarevo Names among the most prominent artists of Bulgarian modern art, together with famous personalities from the sphere of music, cinema, media and politics, give a start to an unique project Art Festival "Fire and Sea" in Tsarevo. The artists draw inspiration from the sea, the sun and the natural elements to create works on the theme "Fire and the sea" which, after the end of the festival, donate to the newly created Museum of Contemporary Art in Tsarevo. The first year "Fire and Sea" is organized by the initiative of Evgeni Yonov and the mayor of Tsarevo, Georgi Lapchev, but the festival becomes an annual event that collects new and new projects and donates them to the Museum of Contemporary Bulgarian Art. The public figures present the finished works on the last day of the festival, the Tsarevo Municipality provides workshops for the artists in Lozenets, Tsarevo, Varvara and Ahtopol, while "Vilate" in Lozenets provides space for creativity, discussions, art screenings and happenings. The finale</p>	June	Tsarevo, Varvara and Ahtopol, Lozenets, Bulgaria	3 days	Municipality Tsarevo tsarevo@dir.bg	annually; it attracts a large number of tourists, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire-dancing

<p>of the art plein is celebrated by a mass event on the square in the village of Bulgari, where the traditional fire-dancing feast with fire and dancing takes place, a musical concert and an open-air barbecue.</p> <p>http://www.tzarevo.net/index.php/kultura-obrazovanie-sport-i-sotzialni-deinosti/kultura/item/612-festival-ogan-i-more</p>					
<p>Children's folklore fair "Varbova svirka sviri (whistle plays)" in Bolyarovo</p> <p>The children's folklore fair "VORBOVA SVIRKA SVIRI" in Bolyarovo is organized for the twentieth time. It is dedicated to the popular Thracian singer Elena Gramatikova and to the richness and beauty of Strandzha's folklore. The aims of the event are: To preserve and promote the Strandja folklore heritage, to involve the young generation in the treasury of Bulgarian folklore; to enhance the individual artists and to promote young talents; to achieve continuity between the generations. Conditions for participation: Performance of songs of Elena Gramatikova. In the competition program the participants can also participate with the songs of Kalinka Zgurova, Donka Bumbalova and Manol Mihailov, who are among the founders of this fair</p> <p>Participants can participate in the concert with instrumental / individual and collective / dance performances, rituals and customs.</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/ndfs.varbovasvirkasviri http://bolyarovo.eu/bg/page/68</p>	June	Bolyarovo, Bulgaria	1 day	<p>Municipality of Bolyarovo 04741 60-44 ; 61-54 boliarovokmet@abv.bg</p>	In national cultural calendar 20-year tradition; has a facebook – page.
<p>International Folklore Festival Atlimanska ogarlitsa (Atliman Necklace) in Kiten</p> <p>The aim of the festival is to preserve, develop and disseminate Bulgarian and international cultural traditions. The director of the festival is Strandja folk singer Zlatka Stavreva. The magic of antiquity and the beauty of folklore from Bulgaria and the world show singing groups, ensembles, dance groups, individual performers and musicians from different countries.</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/AtlimansNecklace/</p>	June	Kiten , Primorsko, Bulgaria	5 days	<p>Municipality of Primorsko, Kiten NGO "Atlimanska ogarlitsa" Zlatka Stavreva 0899 394 5889</p> <p>kmetstvo_kiten@abv.bg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Folklore festival Competition nature 	6 years tradition; annual ,media inters
<p>Yanitsa plainer in Elhovo</p> <p>The painer Yanitsa aims at promoting the unique</p>	June	Elhovo, Bulgaria	5 days	<p>Municipality of Elhovo, Community center 0478/ 88 025 Dragoeva</p>	12 year tradition, in national cultural calendar

nature, architectural and historical landmarks, life and culture of the Elhovo region. The idea is to allow artists with a proven creative personality to appear. Each author himself determines and provides the materials with which to work without limitation in the form and technique of performing the works. For the past 12 years, the Elhovo Municipality has nearly 90 paintings by prominent artists. http://www.sabori.bg/liter_fest/view.html?oid=2104				Kmet.elhovo@infotel.bg	
Commemoration events of Topçu Baba This event, organized to commemorate the important "Bektashi baba", "Alevi baba", draws attention as an activity reflecting the Alevi and Bektashi traditions. Events include in sacrifices of beefs, visits to the tomb of Topçu Baba, picnic and semah under the giant trees. At the end of event, beef meats are served to participants.	June	Topçular Village /Kofcaz, Turkey	1 day	Association of Commemoration of Topcu Baba and Culture Art Topçu baba Village/Kırklareli Phone: 0535 382 55 45	More than 4000 participant from different cities of Turkey, this event aims to introduce bektashi culture to the young people and integrate local people
JULY					
Malko Tarnovo Festival - From the Spring of Strandja Annually , for 6 years For many years, the people of Malko Tarnovo have kept their heritage. The Craft Festival is an attractive event promoting the traditions and crafts of Malko Tarnovo. The festival also aims at promotion of Strandja folklore and culture, and it aims to return the traditions that have already disappeared. The festival presents unique crafts, traditions and other elements of the intangible cultural heritage of Strandja. The festival returns to the traditions and customs typical of this unique region in Bulgaria. During two days, old traditional crafts and restoration of festive rituals are shown to people and tourists. Participants in workshops are the local craftsmen who are working with textile, carpentry, carving, basketry, fine arts. Folklore groups from Malko Tarnovo and the surrounding villages presents traditional dances and songs. Other attractive activities included in the festival are: demonstration of crafts: carpet-demonstration and presentation of finished Strandzha trails and mahogany mats; carpentry, basketry, a full cycle of wave	July	Malko Tarnovo, Bulgaria	2 days	Community center Prosveta 1914 chitalishte.mt@abv.bg	The event is included in national cultural calendar, Intense advertising attracts hundreds of participants; it is held annually for 6 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Authentic Strandja Folklore •Presentation of crafts, local cuisine, local products

<p>processing and trekking, presentation of folklore performances of songs, dressing up, training in Strandja people; presentation of local products: honey bee, sweet and pulses, baked basil, roasted, pumpkin, etc .; natural goat and buffalo cheese, milk, cheese, butter; knitwear, slippers, hats, etc .; training and making of souvenir figures made of lemon rods; Workshop with stones; literary reading in the museum; screening of films for M. Tarnovo.</p> <p>The organizers hope the initiative will contribute to the economic development of the region, to increase the citizens' trust in the community center and to promote its activities as well as to attract more tourists, specialists, experts, connoisseurs and fans of authentic Strandjan culture.</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/festivalmalkotarnovo/?ref=ts</p>					
<p>International Youth Festival of Arts- The Muses in Sozopol</p> <p>International youth festival of arts "Muzite" ("The Muses") is a traditional art forum that gathers thousands of competitors from all over the world in Bulgaria.</p> <p>The festival goes with the support of the Vice President of the Republic of Bulgaria. It is part of the cultural programme of the town of Sozopol and the cultural calendar of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria.</p> <p>The international youth festival "Muzite" is organized by the "Muzite" Association and the Municipality of Sozopol with a generous contribution of the Mayor of the Municipality of Sozopol.</p> <p>The festival takes place from 5th to 15th July in two five-day sessions, divided in different types of arts. It is an excellent combination of a summer holiday by the sea and active creativity.</p> <p>The international youth festival of the arts "Muzite" is a multi-genre festival-contest and presents all arts.</p> <p>The participants in the contest are ensembles and soloists from the schools of arts, academies, art clubs, studios, children and youth centres. Participants can be children and adolescents aged 5-35.</p> <p>The contest jury is international - scholars from the Bulgarian Academy of Science and prestigious international universities, acclaimed artists, directors of</p>	<p>In the beginning of July</p>	<p>Sozopol, Bulgaria</p>	<p>10 days</p>	<p>Municipality - Mayor Panayot Reyzi - 0550 2 57 01; Muzite Association - 02 981 01 06 obshtina@sozopol.bg chitsz@mail.bg</p>	<p>12 years tradition; international participation; active ad - with a great site - http://www.muzite.org/</p> <p>http://www.muzite.org/</p>

<p>international festivals, managers of art associations, holders of the Grand Prize in different arts from previous editions of the festival.</p> <p>Groups and soloists over the age of 35 take part in the non-competitive programme and all the accompanying events.</p> <p>The unforgettable atmosphere and creative energy of the competitors turned the "Muzite" festival into an emblem of Sozopol and a major cultural event , symbol of friendship and multiculturalism and a stable bridge for sharing traditions and values.</p> <p>http://www.muzite.org</p>					
<p>1 July Maritime and Cabotage Festival</p> <p>Cabotage is the privilege that a state recognizes in its ports for maritime trade. Since only the citizens of this privilege can make a significant contribution to the national economy, the states have gone to the prohibition of cabotage by foreign flagged ships. Some international conventions also contain provisions on the power to ban cabotage. The cabotage privilege granted to foreign vessels by the Ottoman State under the capitulations was abolished in 1923 by the Lausanne Peace Treaty. It was also accepted on April 20, 1926. Cabotage Law entered into force on 1 July 1926. According to this law; keeping vehicles moving by machinery, sailing and shovels in rivers, lakes, sea of Marmara and straits, all land waters and in the gulfs, harbors, coves and similar places in them; and the right to transport goods and passengers was granted to Turkish citizens. In other words, these rights are achieved every year in marine and cabotage holidays and various competitions and activities are held at sea.</p>	1 July	<p>Kıyıköy Limanı /Vize, Turkey</p> <p>Kıyıköy is a calm coastal area where the people mostly provide their living from fishing.</p>	1 day	<p>Kıyıköy Municipality Tel: (0288) 388 61 60</p> <p>Kıyıköy Fishermen Cooperative Kiyikoybelediyesi@hotmail.com</p>	Extensive participation from outside the city, swimming races, flag catching, etc. an event with a lot of interest from the local press , event hosts the contests related to the sea
<p>Paragliding Festival</p> <p>This festival, which has been held for two years, caters to people who like paragliding. In 2017, 40 paragliding pilots performed a show on the hillside that is suitable for paragliding, so because of its appropriate conditions for paraglidingit is carried out in Elmacık village of Kofçaz.</p>	July	Elmacık Village/Kofcaz, Turkey	1 day	<p>T.C. Kırklareli Governorship</p> <p>Phone: 0288 214 51 55</p>	
<p>Strawberry Festival</p> <p>Strawberry farming is very important for the public in Demirköy which is in the foreground with its nature. In addition, the strawberries grown there are quite small in size, but quite tasty.</p> <p>This festival, organized by Demirköy Municipality, contains a contest in which the most beautiful</p>	July	Demirköy/Kırklareli, Turkey	1 day	<p>Municipality of Demirköy</p> <p>Phone: (288) 681 66 07 baskan@demirkoy.bel.tr</p> <p>bilgi@demirkoy.bel.tr</p>	

strawberries are selected. Musical events such as concerts are also held in the festival.					
<p>Ertuğrul Village Keşkek Festivity</p> <p>Participants can participate in keşkek making process in this festivity. Event continues with the mini concert of Ertuğrul Village Republican women's choir and keskek tasting.</p>	July	Ertuğrul Village/Kırklareli , Turkey	1 day	<p>Management of Ertuğrul Village</p> <p>Phone: 0 (288) 483 74 66</p> <p>-</p>	
<p>Alpullu Culture and Music Festival</p> <p>During the festival held for 14 years for 3 days; There are many activities such as Turkish Art Music, Turkish Folk Music concerts, folk dances show, exhibition of local products on stands, concerts of well-known artists.</p>	July	Alpullu / Babaeski /Kırklareli, Turkey	2 day	<p>Alpullu Belediyesi</p> <p>http://www.alpullu.bel.tr/</p> <p>Phone: (288) 523-1281</p> <p>alpullubelediyesi@gmail.com</p>	The festival, which has a lot of local participation, is held every year with various activities in order to introduce and survive the traditional culture of the region.
<p>Commemoration Events of Gul Baba</p> <p>Gul Baba's original tomb is located at Hungary. A replica of this tomb is located at the village of Ahmetler in the Kofçaz district. Gul Baba, who is said to be "Cafer", whose birth place is Ulugbey village bounded to Serinkent district of Isparta, participated in some wars in the time of Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror and died in the city of Budin of Hungary on September 11, 1541 (H.948). The tomb was buried here.</p> <p>The event begins with the delivery of sacrificial steers(calves) and cutting of the steers in the morning hours, then visit of Topçu Baba, followed by a chat in the picnic under the big trees and returning to semah and meats of calves which were cooked delivered to participants at the evening.</p>	July	Ahmetler Village/Kofçaz/Kırklareli, Turkey	1 day	<p>Management of Ahmetler Village</p> <p>Phone: (0288) 762 21 00</p> <p>-</p>	This event aims to introduce bektashi culture to the young people and integrate local people
<p>Festival of creative crafts and arts</p> <p>The program activities of the festival are: Organizing exhibitions of arts, applied crafts and arts; Trade in handmade goods - souvenirs, toys, paintings, jewelery, etc .; Handicrafts for souvenirs, jewelery, toys, etc .; Music and show program. Temple celebration of the chapel "St. Bogoroditsa"</p>	At the end of July	Tsarevo, Bulgaria	2 days	<p>Municipality Tsarevo</p> <p>0590 55010</p>	

AUGUST

<p>A week of the sea in Ahtopol Ahtopol is a town and seaside resort on the southern Bulgarian Black Sea Coast. It is located on a headland in the southeastern part of Burgas Province and is close to the border with European Turkey. It is the southernmost town on the Bulgarian coast. Ahtopol lies within Strandzha Nature Park. The Ahtopol Town Hall and the Community center Hristo Botev-1925 organize an annual Week of the Sea in Ahtopol during the first week of August. The program for 2017 provokes the creative and artistic talents of the youth and includes Neptune's evening, asphalt paintings, a show for children -sand modeling on the beach, recitation - sea poet contest.</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/events/663979546964961/?acontext=%7B%22source%22%3A5%2C%22page_id%22%3A227217947349685%2C%22action_history%22%3A[%7B%22surface%22%3A%22page%22%2C%22mechanism%22%3A%22main_list%22%2C%22extra_data%22%3A%227B%5C%22page_id%5C%22%3A227217947349685%2C%5C%22tour_id%5C%22%3Anull%7D%22%7D]%2C%22has_source%22%3Atrue%7D</p>	1 week of August	Ahtopol, Bulgaria	1 week	Community center Mariya Yankova 0590/99293 0899 84 19 16 tsarevo@dir.bg chit_hristobotev@abv.bg	Annual event, attracts youth; in the national cultural calendar
<p>Traditional Ahtopol Evenings Art and craft workshops. Presentation of the food of Ahtopol and Strandzha - festive kurban and culinary surprises . Performances of children's and adult folklore compositions- traditional folklore dances and songs.</p>	The second week of August	Ahtopol, Bulgaria	1 week	Municipality Ahtopol 0590 63701 – Stanislav Dimitorv	
<p>Babaeski Farm Festival This festival is one of the oldest events in Thrace region. At first, the name of this festival was Babaeski Watermelon Festival. Then its name was changed to Babaeski Farm Festival. It is widely known that it is known that this festival led to the export of the first watermelon from Turkey to Europe. The festival was held at a closed concert area with a fee, and later it was made free by open-air concerts.</p>	First week of August	Babaeski/Kirklar eli	3 days	Municipality of Babaeski info@babaeski-bld.gov.tr	History of this festival dates back to 1971. In 2017, 45 th of this Festival was celebrated.
<p>Festival of Manna Honey (honey dew) in Tsarevo Festival of Manna Honey (honey dew) in Tsarevo is a traditional festival of this local product. It has been held annually since 2004 in the first ten days of August in the town of Tsarevo. At the exhibition, manufacturers</p>	First 10 days of August	Tsarevo	10 days	Municipality of Tzraevo 0895433782 Manol Todorov tsarevo@dir.bg	Annually, for 13 years, active advertising, media interest, high attendance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional product

<p>present a variety of bee products. In this part of Bulgaria the production of manna honey is a tradition. The festival includes beekeepers from all over the country, presenting their bee products to the residents and tourists.</p> <p>http://fest-bg.com/?event=%D1%84%D0%B5%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8%D0%B2%D0%B0%D0%BB-%D1%86%D0%B0%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B2%D0%BE-%D1%86%D0%B0%D1%80%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B2%D0%BE%D1%82%D0%BE-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%BC%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%BE</p>					
<p>International Youth Art Festival "Priests to the Muses"</p> <p>The Municipalities, Culture community centers of the Southern Black Sea Coast and a NGO "Temp" have organized for 15 years an attractive festival, which gathers hundreds of children and young people for participation in the International Youth Festival of Arts "The Jews of the Muses". The festival takes place during 10 days with concerts in different scenes situated in towns on the seaside. In 2017 there were 12 compositions and the audience saw contemporary dances, latino, hip hop, break dance, folk dances, vocal and instrumental performances, body art, humor and theater.</p> <p>In its first 2 years, the festival was called the Muses.</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/PriestsToTheMuses/</p>	<p>Second week of august</p>	<p>Tsarevo, Primorsko, Kiten, Ahtopol, Lozenets, Sinemorets, Bulgaria</p>	<p>10 Days</p>	<p>Tsarevo Municipality Temple Art Association St. Cherneva 0590 / 98,037 tsarevo@dir.bg</p>	<p>15 years tradition National Cultural Calendar Advertising from the Cultere Centers and the Town Halls,</p>
<p>Cultural Holidays in the town of Malko Tarnovo.</p> <p>The program consists of various cultural manifestations, folklore dances and songs, as well as exhibitions, craft workshops, art workshops for children, culinary exhibitions, culture and nature trekking routs, and meetings with famous artistic personalities, sport activities, and a car rally.</p> <p>http://www.malkotarnovo.org/new/index.php/2011-03-31-04-23-33</p>	<p>Last week of August</p>	<p>Malko Tarnovo, Bulgaria</p>	<p>4 days</p>	<p>Malko Tarnovo Municipality 05952 3021 mt_kmet@mail.bg</p>	<p>Annually, for 25 years, active advertising, media interest, high attendance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • folklore, spring folklore and modern music • meeting of different types of art

<p>Cevizköy Spring Culture Festivity In Cevizköy, a village with nature, it is the activity of the village people celebrating the arrival of spring. A variety of dishes are prepared from the ingenious hands of the local woman and presented to the participants. In this event the participants dance folkloric music accompanied.</p>	August	Cevizköy/Pınarhisar/Kırklareli, Turkey	1 day	<p>Management of Cevizköy Village</p> <p>Phone: 0(288) 625 50 48</p> <p>Cep: 0(542)561 11 82</p>	-
<p>Vize History and Culture Festival The ninth event, organized in 2017, is at the forefront of musical events. Folk music, rock, pop etc. concerts are held in many musical genres. In the meantime, local products are sold from the stands in the festival area.</p>	August	Vize/Kırklareli, Turkey	3 days	<p>Municipality of Vize</p> <p>Phone: 0 288 318 10 21 belediye@vize.bel.tr</p>	-
<p>Pınarhisar Culture, Art and Youth Festival The Eighth is at the Pınarhisar Culture, Art and Youth Festival held in 2017 animation events for children and sales stands, concerts taking place during the evening are the main theme of the event.</p>	August	Pınarhisar/Kırklareli, Turkey	5 days	<p>Municipality of Pınarhisar</p> <p>www.pınarhisar.bel.tr pınarhisarbelediyesi@hotmail.com Phone: 0288 615 10 27</p>	-
SEPTEMBER					
<p>Apollonia - Festival of Culture and Arts in Sozopol From August 26th to September 5th all connoisseurs of art and culture enjoyed the 33rd edition of the Arts Feasts: Apolonia! This year's festival was 11 DAYS long presented over 70 events which include participation from some of the most famous artists on the Bulgarian and international stages and their most recent works, plays, spectacles, and performances. Art Festival Apolonia 2017 aims to promote the achievements of Bulgarian artists, authors, and performers, as well as to preserve traditions and support new experimental and original ideas in the field of all arts. History of Apolonia In 1984 Sozopol hosts the first Apollonia Arts Festival. The purpose of this unique phenomenon in our contemporary culture is to show the achievements of Bulgarian artists, authors, and performers, to preserve tradition, and to support new ideas, experimental and non-standard solutions in the field of all arts. The festival includes theater, music, literature, cinema, ballet, plastic arts, architecture, and a children's program.</p>	In the beginning of September	Sozopol, Bulgaria	10 days	<p>Municipality of Sozopol Fondation Sozopol Denka Todorova – 0879422308 obshtina@sozopol.bg chitsz@mail.bg</p>	<p>With a 33 - year tradition; sustainability; a large number of initiatives, guests and tourists; active advertising, high media interes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Folklore, spring folklore and modern music • Meeting of different types of art

<p>In 1991 was established Apollonia Foundation, the main organizer of the festival. For over ten days, over 70 cultural events are featured on the festival stages, involving hundreds of performers. Many of the works performed are world and national premieres. In 2014 was the 30th anniversary of the Arts Festivals. Every evening, the festival halls are full to their capacity. The numerous and versatile audience of Apollonia does not stop searching for and discovering great art.</p> <p>https://www.apollonia.bg/</p>					
<p>International Summer Art Academy in Ahtopol IX International Summer Academy and Symposium - Ahtopol 2017 was held in the Art center of the National Art Academy, Greek School, Ahtopol, Tsarevo Municipality</p> <p>The International Summer Academy in Ahtopol, includes the production of sculptures made out of wood, stone, metal, and mosaic. On September 10th, the exhibition in the Summer Academy and Symposium was opened. The lecturers and students participating in the Academy received certificates for their participation.</p> <p>The created works will be added to the existing exhibition in the Art Center of the National Art Academy (Hellenic School) in Ahtopol, which contributes to the aesthetic value of the city and the development of cultural tourism. The International Summer Academy in Ahtopol is supported by the Municipality of Tsarevo and the Ahtopol Town Hall.</p>	September	Ahtopol Bulgaria	10 days	Municipality of Tsarevo and the Ahtopol Town Hall tsarevo@dir.bg	Annual, 9 year tradition, international participation, attracts public
<p>Municipal Folklore fest "Voden is Singing and Dancing" in Voden, Bolyarovo municipality Objective: To preserve and promote the folklore dance, verbal and musical-song richness in the contemporary world. The festival aims to encourage the amateur groups and individual performers to present the folklore as a treasure trove of moral values preserved from our ancestors.</p> <p>Amateur teams and individual performers represent folk art in all its variety. Participants are over 18 years of age.</p> <p>http://www.sabori.bg/folk_fest_sub/view.html?oid=65800</p>	In September	Voden, Bolyarovo Municipality, Bulgaria	1 day	Municipality of Bolyarovo, community center 04748-2221 boliarovokmet@abv.bg	4 years tradition, attracts over 400 participants, included in national cultural calendar
<p>Fish Festival in Tsarevo In 2017 it is held for 7 consecutive times - the program</p>	September	Tsarevo, Bulgaria	1 day	Municipality of Tsarevo tsarevo@dir.bg	A culinary festival with traditions attracts many tourists, media interest

<p>is changing and diversifying every year and attracts many tourists. An attractive event, which facilitates the extension of the tourist season in the town of Tsarevo.</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xNZETNSppps</p>					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Famous chefs, competition
<p>National folclor fest Primorsko's pearl, Primorsko 3-rd annual edition in 2017 Competitions: Folclor music singing , competition folclor virtuosos instruments ; traditional orchestra competition, folklore dance competition http://primorsko.bg/%D1%84%D0%B5%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8%D0%B2%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%B8-%D0%B8-%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%BA%D1%83%D1%80%D1%81%D0%B8/%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%B8%D0%BC%D0%BE%D1%80%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%BF%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%BB%D0%B0/ https://www.facebook.com/FolkFestivalPrimorskoPerl/</p>	1-4 of September	Primorsko, Bulgaria	4 days	Municipality Primorsko stoykov55@abv.bg	<p>Traditional folklore competition</p> <p>Media interes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National festival Traditional folklore – singing and dances Competition character with bug prices
<p>XV BLACK SEA COLLEGE "EURO FOLK - 2018" The Black Sea Fest "Euro Folk" is held within the "Euro Folk" Musical Feasts - The World is Television. Music festivals take place in different European cities and countries. Musical Feasts Euro Folk consist of forty music festivals and are held under the auspices of the European Association of Folklore Festivals - EAFF.</p>	5-10 September 2018	Tsarevo, Kiten		Euro Folk Academy, Event Vacation, Municipality Primorsko, Municipality Kiten	<p>The festival has a quality certificate issued by EAFF</p> <p>Live TV on the Internet at all concerts.</p>
<p>Feast of the Thracian banitsa in Elhovo Presentation of varieties of the traditional pastry banitsa. Each settlement in the region presents 2 products. The Feast has a competitive character, awards are given to the best participants. On September 16th 2017 in Elhovo for the seventh consecutive year was held a holiday of the Thracian banitsa under the title "Banitsa Vita - Twisted Twice" The feast of traditional Thracian banitza (pie/pastry) "Banitsa vita – dva pati previta" in the town of Elhovo is organized by the municipality of Elhovo and the Community Center "Razvitie - 1893". The celebration has been organized since 2010 and aims to promote and preserve Bulgarian traditions. The event is a competition and it is open to different participants (no age restrictions) from Elhovo or neighboring settlements. Each participant is allowed to submit from one to three products (it is mandatory to</p>	In September	Elhovo, Bulgaria	1 day	Hall town Community Center Razvitie- Elhovo Kmet.elhovo@infotel.bg	<p>Annual, traditional, culinary festival,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Culinary Traditional festiva Interesting programme

<p>be banitsa/pies). Participants are free to decide what kind of pie to present, which is traditional for its living place. It is allowed for the pie to be sweet, salty, bymade of pre-made or home-made pastries, with or without stuffing pies, etc. The works must be accompanied by detailed recipes. Participants receive special awards from a jury.</p>					
<p>National Folklore Dance Competition "Rhythms and Dances in Strandja" Competition. The rights to participate includes amateur groups, amateur schools and clubs from all over the country, presenting Bulgarian folk dances. The compositions are presented with 2 dances, one of which is the choice of the participants while the other is from the Strandzha region. http://strandja-fest.info/event_show.php?id=35</p>	21 of September	Sredets, Bulgaria	1 day	Municipality of Sredets Community Center, Museum 05551 31-40, 77-08, info@sredets.bg probuda.sred@gmail.com	Annual, traditional, in national cultural calendar
<p>Yayla Abundance, Fertility, Harvest and Vineyard Festival It is a festival realized with the concept of the the harvest time celebration and wishes about a fertile the grape harvest to the present. All attendees are provided with grapes. Local products produced by local people throughout the year in the festival are sold by the producers.</p>	September	Yayla Street /Kırklareli, Turkey Yayla Street is one of the old and historical settlements of Kırklareli. It is known for its cute and colorful houses in its original architecture.	2 days	City Council of Kırklareli Municipality Web: https://www.kirklarelikentkonseyi.org.tr Phone: (0288) 214 10 03 genelsekreter@kirklarelikentkonseyi.org.tr / kirklarelikentkonseyi@gmail.com	The festival has a regular program, the festival area is very colorful and vibrant, this festival brings local food producers together. Handcraft stands, poetry and music concerts are also included. Delicious grapes are provided to all attendees.
<p>Pehlivanköy Sonbahar Hayvan ve Emtia Panayırı It has been traditionally carried out every year since 1910. The event, which is more than 100 years old, enable people to shop, meet each other and take part in various cultural activities. During the event, activities such as folk dances, band concerts, outdoor concerts, livestock-related panels, etc. are held and at the stands local people sells local products.</p>	September	Pehlivanköy/Kırklareli, Turkey	6 days	Pehlivanköy Belediyesi Phone: (288) 714 11 40 info@pehlivankoy.bel.tr	Even though it has a long history, this event which has been intensively participated by people from nearby settlements, is a fair that has preserved its originality more than hundred year

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