

“Joint Initiative for promotion of Bulgaria – Turkey cross-border region as an attractive tourism destination” JOINTTOUR, CB005.1.22.055

JOINT TOUR

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For Bulgarian and Turkish Local Tourists

1. DAY

Kırklareli -Vize- Demirköy- Kıyıköy (İğneada)

The tour will start at Kırklareli from the border gate of Dereköy. The first stop of trip is Vize.

Little Hagia Sophia Church (Gazi Suleiman Pasha Mosque) (Turkish: Küçük Ayasofya Kilisesi (Gazi Süleyman Paşa Camii) is a former Byzantine era Orthodox church built during Emperor Justinian I (reigned 527-565) times, which was converted later in the Ottoman era into a mosque.

Vize Fortress (Turkish: Vize Kalesi) is a fortification constructed in the Ancient Roman era. It is situated at the northwest of the town.

Amphitheatre (Turkish: Antik tiyatro) is an open-air theatre built in the 2nd century during the Late Roman era, the only known one in Thrace.

Second Step: Demirkoy

The Dupnisa Cave (Turkish: Dupnisa Mağarası), Dupnisa Caves, is a show cave located in Kırklareli Province.

The Demirköy Foundry (Turkish: Demirköy Dökümhanesi) It is known that the cannonballs fired during the conquest of Constantinople in 1453 by Ottoman Sultan Mehmed II (Fatih Sultan Mehmet, Mehmed the Conqueror) were manufactured here.

Third Step: Kıyıkoy -İğneada

St Nicholas Monastery (Aya Nikola Manastırı) is a quite small religious complex engraved into a rocky slope of a hill in the forest, about 15-30 minutes walk from town centre, near the

bank of the stream. is a Byzantine era Orthodox monastery, built during the time of Emperor Justinian I (reigned 527-565).

İn Kıyıkoy, lunch is taken and the tourists are taken towards Igneada. Accomadation will be in İgneada.

1. ATV tour
2. Trekking towards Longoz forest
3. Limanköy / Lighthouse trip

2.DAY

Kırklareli City Centre- Edirne

After Breakfast, check out of a hotel. The road is taken toward to the Kırklareli.

Kırklareli City Center

Hızır Bey Külliye: This külliye (religious complex) consists of the Hızır Bey Mosque, Hızır Bey Bath and Arasta (Bazaar.)

Hızır Bey Mosque: Located at the center of the city, it was built on a square plan by Köse Mihalzade Hızır Bey in 1383.

Hızır Bey Bath: Also located at the center of the city and built adjacent to Bath and Arasta by Köse Mihalzade Hızır Bey in 1383.

Arasta (Bedesten): Built adjacent to the Hızır Bey Bath in a "T" form, it has arch-type walls. The upper cover is a vault 15 m long. There were 12 shops inside formed by three beams. It was restored in 1704.

Kırklareli Museum (Turkish: Kırklareli Müzesi) The museum consists of three sections for "culture and nature", "ethnography", and "archaeology".

Ataturk House, It is similar to the house in Yayla dsitric, where Ataturk lived in Thessaloniki.

Asağı Pınar Tumulus , 3 km from the city center of Kırklareli. It is a mound located to the south.

Kanlıgeçit Hoyugu is a mound located 500 meters south of Kırklareli Provincial Center on both sides of the Haydar Dere.

Activity: Monitoring of the cheese making in local fabric or Hardaliye

After activity, we can take our lunch and then we take the road toward Edirne.

Lunch Menu : Special Kırklareli meatball.

After a little shopping trip, We continue on the road for accommodation in Edirne

3. DAY

Edirne – Karağaç- City Centre

After Breakfast in Hotel our First step in Edirne is Karaagaç district

Karağaç;

Historical Karağaç Neighborhood is one of the places that should be seen in Edirne with its colorful, single storey houses and wide streets.

The Treaty of Lausanne Monument and Museum (Lozan Anıtı ve Müzesi) are a monument and a museum dedicated to the Treaty of Lausanne of 1923.

Coffee break in Meriç Bridge in Protokol House, tourists who wish to take photograph on Meriç Bridge can have time. Meriç Bridge is a historical Ottoman bridge in Edirne.

The Complex of Sultan Bayezid II Health Museum (Turkish: Sultan II Bayezid Külliyesi Sağlık Müzesi)

II. The Beyazit Külliyesi was built between 1484 and 1488 and is the largest social structure of the Ottoman Empire. It is also one of the most important historical treasures of Edirne. The museum is situated at the hospital (Darüşşifa) section of the Complex of Sultan Bayezid II.

Edirne Palace (Turkish: Edirne Sarayı), Saray-ı Cedid, known as Edirne New Palace, was built with Sultan II as being the second palace in this region.

Justice Pavilion (Kasr-ı Adalet), Erected in 1561 by Suleiman the Magnificent, who is called in Turkey as Suleiman the Lawmaker, the "Kasr-ı Adalet" (literally: Justice Pavilion) is the only structure as part of the palace complex, which remained intact.

Historic Kırkpınar Oil Wrestling Square, Oil wrestling (Turkish: Yağlı güreş), Across the grassy field come the quavering voices of *zurna* woodwind and the stick-beaten bass of the heavy *davul*.

Second Step is Edirne city center

Passing through the oldest historic bridge of Edirne, Gazimihal Bridge, we arrive the city center. The tour bus leaves the tourists on Saraçlar Street.

Saraclar Caddesi, A pedestrianized shopping street with pleasant cafés on sides. The old shop buildings on this street has a distinctively neoclassical architecture and the lively bazaars of "**Bedesten**" and "**Arasta**" make the province colorful and bring back the ancient times. Several bridges exist which have stood for centuries, adorning the land with their old but fine appearances.

Lunch break: Edirne Tava Ciğeri (Edirne is well-known with its tava ciğer) It is prepared in a unique local way (whole pieces, not puree, of liver, covered in flour, are deep fried inside a cauldron full of boiling vegetable oil) and served with an infernally hot dried and crunchy pepper.

After the lunch break and free time;

Walking to Grand Synagogue and passing through Ali Pasha Bazaar,

Grand Synagogue of Edirne (Edirne Büyük Sinagogu), is a historic Sephardi synagogue located in Maarif Street of Edirne.

Ali Pasha Bazaar: The Ali Pasha Bazaar in Edirne is a covered market designed by Mimar Sinan in 1569. Decorated with red and white stone arches, there's six different gates into the bazaar.

Üç Şerefeli Mosque (Üç Şerefeli Camii) (just north of Old Mosque, close to Selimiye). This mosque is easily recognizable, having four distinctive minarets that all have very different designs, uncommon during the 15th century, one of which has three balconies, giving it its name which literally means "three balconied".

Old Mosque (Eski Camii), (at the central square, across the street from Selimiye). The Old Mosque is the earliest monumental structure of Edirne reached from the Ottoman times.

Selimiye Mosque (Selimiye Camii) was built by Mimar Sinan between 1569-1575. A grandiose piece of art by Sinan, the Ottoman architect of 16th century, Selimiye is usually considered the zenith of Ottoman architecture and has been listed as a World Heritage site by UNESCO in 2011.

Edirne City Museum (Edirne Kent Müzesi)

Sveti Georgi Bulgarian Church (Bulgar Kilisesi);

A 15 minute walk from the city center to the north will get you to an old neighborhood of Edirne, named Kıyık, and in one of the alleys you'll come across with a brown little church, which was built in 1880.

At the end of the day we have a free time and shopping break can given for guests who want to buy Edirne's famous Deva-i Misk Tatlısı, Badem Ezmesi, Kavala Kurabiyesi, Edirne Cheese, Local fruit soaps etc.

We are moving to Macedonian Clock Tower and our hotel after free time. We are participating in "FASIL" night with the customers who are interested. We begin our tour the next morning in Bulgaria. [-Kapikule BorderGate-](#)

4. DAY

Svilengrad – Harmanli – Haskovo

"Kenana" park in Haskovo. Kenana is the largest park on the territory of Haskovo municipality. It is located northwest of the town. It occupies an area of 236.6 hectares. Kenana appears to be the city's own lobes and a natural barrier to harmful emissions from industrial plants.

The Monument of the Holy Mother of God. The monument is dedicated to Mary, the mother of Jesus and was unveiled in 2003. Standing at a total height of 31 meters or 102 feet, the monument has been certified by the Guinness Book of World Records as the tallest statue of the Virgin Mary with the Infant Jesus in the world.

The Haskovo Regional History Museum of Haskovo treasures more than 120 000 pieces and artifacts of the historical cultural heritage, many of which have an exceptionally high value. Unique collections of prehistoric, antique and medieval artifacts made of ceramics, stone, iron and glass, contributing to part of the rich museum collection.

Museum Center "Thracian Art of Eastern Rhodopes". Important exponent in the exhibition hall is the exact duplicate of the original tomb.

5. DAY

Haskovo – Yambol – Topolovgrad – Elhovo - Sredets – Burgas

Depart Haskovo early in the morning and travel to Trakia motor way – arrive in Kabile. Visit National Archaeological Reserve Kabile.

National Kabile Archeological Reserve - 6 km north of the city. In it are the ruins of the ancient Thracian town of Kabile - economic, cultural and political center of ancient Thrace. The ruins are impressive. Since 1972 regular archeological excavations have been conducted there. The visitors to the reserve can see the ruins of Kabile one of the most significant antique Thracian cities on the territory of today's Bulgaria; it has a museum of area 960 sq.m showing a standing exhibition with exhibits representing the historical development of the antique city. There is a conference room with 60 seats at the museum, where scientific symposia, conferences and others are held.

Travel to Yambol – visit Historical museum in Yambol, Bezistena and Art Gallery in Yambol.

Historical Museum of Yambol (website: <http://www.yambolmuseum.com/>) - The museum was founded in 1952. It has the following specialized departments: Archeology, Bulgarian lands XV-XIX century, New and new history, Public relations and Restoration. Funds: prehistory - 4,000 exhibits; antiquity - 2,600 exhibits; Middle Ages - 1,600 exhibits; numismatics - 6,200 exhibits; Renaissance - 3 050 exhibits; ethnography - 4,500 exhibits; a new story - 15,000 exhibits; the most recent story - 15 000 exhibits. Expositions: 115 years of musical work and 50 years. Historical Museum - Yambol NAB "Kabile" - Architectural Exhibition

Art Gallery "George Papazov" - The gallery was founded in 1952. The gallery develops collections, research, exhibition, educational, methodological and popularizing activities. There are 20 collections in the Art Gallery, divided into 8 departments: Iconography, Painting, Graphics, Sculpture, Decorative, Child Art, Stefan Bachvarov Fund.

Bezistena in Yambol city was built in the second half of 15 c. in the center of today's Yambol city. It is the only building of this type in Bulgaria and is one of the most interesting and well preserved monuments of 15 c.

Lunch in Yambol. Travel to Elhovo. Visit Ethnographic Archaeological Museum in Elhovo.

Ethnographic Archaeological Museum - Elhovo (Elhovo Municipality) - The museum was established in 1958. Specialized departments: "Agriculture and Livestock", "Transport, Hunting and Fishing", "Clothing and Decorations", "Fabrics and Embroidery", "Housing and Housing", "Traditional Crafts", "spiritual culture, customs and folklore". Fonds: documentary and photoarchives, original documents and photographs related to the development of this end of the Liberation to this day - 8 000 exhibits.

Travel to Sredets. Coffee break at Bouzhura complex. Visit the Craft Centre in Bouzhura. On the way to Sredets the group may stop in the village of Voden and the archaeological excavations and medieval monastery close to the village. The group may stop in Bolyarovo and visit the Ethnographic museum collection. Another place for visit is Stefan Karadzovo village and the museum there.

Optional is the visit to ***Golyamo Bukovo monastery "St. Petka" - Life-giving source***, near the village of Golyamo Bukovo is the only one having survived and active monastery in Strandzha Mountain. Located in a preserved natural environment it was founded in XII c. on the foundations of an ancient temple. Later it was destroyed and rebuilt in the period 1873 - 1877, which is when today's church dates back from. The monastery was closed for many years but since 1990 it began to function again. The holy spring "Life-giving source" is located at the altar of the temple, which is believed to cure many diseases.

Some tour operators may organize wine tasting in a winery

Travel to Debelt. Visit to the National Archaeological Reserve Deultum.

The Roman city of ***Deultum*** (village of Debelt, Sredets Municipality) emerged as a Thracian settlement. Debelt was also the residence of Philip II of Macedonia for some time, and in Roman times it became a colony of veterans of VIIIth Augustus Legion. Today it is a declared in 1988 archaeological reserve "Deultum - Debelt" with total area of 85.3 hectares.

Travel to Burgas. Accommodation in the selected hotel. Dinner in Burgas.

6. DAY

Burgas – Nesebar – Ruen – Aytos – Karnobat – Burgas

In the morning – sightseeing of Burgas

Archaeological Museum of Burgas - Collections of archeological finds related to ancient Thrace, the Greek colonies along the Black Sea and the time of the Roman Empire are exhibited in the archeological exposition.

Ethnographical Museum of Burgas - The ethnographic exposition to the Regional Museum of History in Burgas offers the richest ethnographic collection in Southeastern Bulgaria. The exposition is located in the known in Burgas Brakalov's house.

Seaside Garden of Burgas - The first trees in the area of today's seaside garden were planted by the soldiers of the 24th Black Sea Regiment (established in 1889). Hundreds of plants are present in the garden, from all continents, and the old part of the Seaside Garden (nearly a quarter of it) has been declared a monument of garden art.

Optional is the visit to the **Antique mineral baths Aquae Khalid** (Burgas Municipality), that are 15 km away from Burgas. The bath of Suleyman the Magnificent (XVI c.) is fully renovated preserving its original vision during its restoration, decorated with marble and typical oriental ceramics.

Travel to Nesebar. Stop at Pomorie Thracian Tomb. Sightseeing bus tour of Sunny beach and lunch in Nesebar. Guided tour of the Old Town and visit to the Archaeological Museum.

The **Cupola Thracian tomb** near Pomorie is from the Roman period and in its construction the Thracian domed vault model was applied. It is an architectural monument of culture of national significance since 1965.

Sunny beach - Sunny beach is the largest and most popular beach resort in Bulgaria. With its hundreds of hotels, numerous bars and restaurants, multiple entertainment and shops and its developed infrastructure, the resort attracts thousands of tourists from around the world.

Old Nesebar - The Historical and Architectural Reserve Nesebar is located in the Old Town of Nesebar on a small peninsula. The old town was declared an architectural and historical reserve in 1956. In 1983 it was encribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The **Archeological Museum** in **Nesebar** was created in 1956 to present the history of antique Mesambriya and Nessebar of the Middle Ages.

Travel to Ruen

In the **Municipality of Ruen** the optional attractions include the rock formations “The pig’s head”, “The turtle”, “The wonderful rocks” and “The professor”, as well as the ethnographic museum collections in the villages of Lyulyakovo and Dobra Polyana. Another option is to visit a **folk wrestling tournament** if the trip coincides with the event.

Travel to Aytos

Genger Architectural and Ethnographic Complex - The Genger architectural and ethnographic complex in Aytos is an open-air ethnographic exhibition presenting the most typical for the Aytos region folk artistic crafts.

Travel to Karnobat

Markeli Fortress - Situated 7.5 km west of the present town of Karnobat the fortress is one of the most impressive medieval monuments throughout South Bulgaria.

Travel to Burgas. Overnight in the selected hotel. Dinner in Burgas.

7. DAY

Burgas – Sozopol – Primorsko – Tsarevo – Malko Tarnovo

Travel to Sozopol. On the way – stops at Poda Nature Conservation Centre and Foros.

Poda Nature Conservation Centre (Burgas Municipality) is located on the main road E 87 Burgas – Sozopol, between Burgas and Mandra Lakes and close to the link of Mandra Lake with the Black sea. Facilities are provided for bird watching and for observation and preservation of bird diversity within the region.

The *ancient and medieval fortress and port Poros/Foros* (Kraimorie, Burgas Municipality) was founded in the middle of II c. by Roman emperor Antoninus Pius. Initially, the tower on the Foros peninsula by the streit was built (in Latin "Burg"), which had directional functions, helping boats and small ships to enter the Mandra Lake. The fortress of Burgos (Poros) is the predecessor of modern Burgas.

The Old Town of Sozopol and the islands "St. Ivan" and "St. Peter" are declared reserves, the old town of Sozopol being an architectural and historical reserve since 1974, while the islands are declared as archaeological reserves in 2001. Sozopol was founded in 610 BC by a migrant group of Ionian Greeks. In the Middle Ages "St. Ivan" island hosted a big monastery dedicated to St. John the Baptist, among the ruins of which archaeologists discovered a small box (reliquary) with particles from the bones of St. John the Baptist. Today the precious relic is kept in the church "St. St. Cyril and Methodius" in the town of Sozopol.

The *Archeological Museum of Sozopol* is located in the old part of the town. It presents the history and the thousand-year old cultural tradition of the town of Sozopol from the end of the 6th millennium before Christ to the 17th century after Christ.

Travel to Primorsko. Lunch in Primorsko.

The *Thracian megalithic sanctuary "Beglik Tash"* (Primorsko Municipality) is located 5 km north of the town of Primorsko, at the foot of Strandzha Mountain. It is associated with the cult to fertility, the goddess - mother and the Orphic dedication and immortalization of the Hero.

The *Thracian fortress Urdoviza* near Kiten (Primorsko Municipality) has existed since the time of the Trojan War - 12 c. BC. It has been proven that there had been a harbour here, both in antiquity and in the Middle Ages.

The *Municipal Museum of History in Primorsko* is located in the central part of the town. It welcomes tourists from the summer of 2015, presenting exhibits of the archaeological excavations carried out on the territory of the municipality of Primorsko.

A permanent *archeological exhibition – "Secrets from the Sea Bottom"*, in the town of *Kiten* was opened in 2006, containing finds from a sunken pre-historical settlement, a sunken ship and anchors.

Travel to Tsarevo

The ***Municipal Museum of History*** in the town of ***Tsarevo*** was opened in 2012. The mission of the cultural institution is to preserve and popularize the heritage of Strandzha Black Sea coast. It is active on the territory of all 13 settlements in the municipality.

The ***Customs of Vasiliko - town of Tsarevo*** (Tsarevo Municipality) was uncovered in 2012 during an archaeological research in the area of the church “St. Assumption” in the old town.

Optional is the visit to the ***Late Antiquity and Medieval fortress in the town of Ahtopol*** (Tsarevo Municipality), located on a small peninsula with an area of 5-6 decares. The area of the fortress is largely covered by modern buildings.

Also **optional** is the visit to the ***fortified Ruler’s house*** (in the village of Sinemorets, Tsarevo Municipality), situated on a natural hill, next to the estuary of Veleka River. It is a Thracian ruler's house, protected by a fence wall and a tower, built in the manner, described by Xenophon and probably occupied during the Late Hellenistic era - II c. BC.

Travel to Malko Turnovo.

Village of Bulgari - This small village, 17 km west of Tsarevo and within the boundaries of Strandzha Nature Park, is the only one in Strandzha with the status of folklore reserve. In the village of Bulgari the fire-dancing, which is on the UNESCO list of intangible heritage, is preserved in its authentic form.

Historical Museum of Malko Turnovo - The region of Malko Turnovo has been populated since antiquity. Many legends are told about Thracian kings, fortresses and hidden treasures. The historical and ethnographic wealth of the town and the region is well presented in the Historical Museum in Malko Tarnovo, comprising six expositions.

Strandzha Nature Park visitor centre - With its area of 1160 km² Strandzha Nature Park is the largest protected area in the country. It has no analogue in the country by the number of natural habitats (120).

Upon request visits could be organized to Mishkova niva locality and Propada tombstone.

Mishkova niva is the oldest sanctuary of the Thracians in Strandzha. According to scientists, it dates back to 5-3 c. BC and was initially a dolmen, and later changed into a sanctuary-tomb of the Sun God.

The ***Propada Tombstone*** is a magnificent specimen of the Thracian cult architecture. It is located 3 km northwest of Malko Tarnovo, on the top of a high hill, and is part of a necropolis of 40 mounds.

Trip to Malko Tarnovo cross-border check point.