



*Project CB005.1.22.166 “Development of common cultural tourism destination in the Strandzha (Yildiz)/ Sakar area based on archaeological and historical objects”*

# **REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STAGE 1**

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## **I. Analysis of the connection and accessibility to the anthropogenic and natural tourist sites in the Strandzha Mountain, the Derwent Heights and the Sakar Mountains with the main transport links.**

Along the whole territory of the Strandzha Mountain, the Derwent Heights and the Sakar Mountain are situated 152 settlements. The towns located in the interior of the mountains are 2 Malko Tarnovo and Topolovgrad, the other towns are located along the periphery and the Black Sea coast: Sozopol, Primorsko, Kiten, Tsarevo, Ahtopol, Sredets, Bolyarovo, Elhovo on the Tundzha river, in the rivers Maritsa - Svilengrad , Harmanli, Lyubimets and Simeonovgrad, and Sazliyka - Galabovo.

What you need to know when visiting the Strandzha Mountain, the Derwent Heights and the Sakar Mountains. The area is peripheral, border, with relatively poor transport infrastructure.

traveling by car - we recommend that most of the trip be done by car in order not to be dependent on public transport. It is good to charge the vehicle with more fuel. Petrol stations and gas stations are located in the municipal centers in Chernomorets, Kiten, Ahtopol and some of the bigger villages in the area - Obruchishte, Wise, Studena - only gas, Ustrem and others. If you do damage to your vehicle, do not rely on Traffic Assistance, but ask for local masters. In many places in the area there is little coverage of mobile operators, and somewhere there is *по.Границата с Република Турция – когато пътувате в граничен район на България, най-вече в южните погранични части на Странджа планина, Дервентските възвишения и Сакар планина - Тук регулярно и целогодишно се извършват проверки от гранична полиция, затова носете лични документи. При нужда можете да се обръщате към граничните полицаи за съдействие и помощ.*

The accommodation options are reduced by entering the Sakar Mountains. The hotels and sleeping quarters are concentrated mainly in the peripheral parts - the Black Sea coast, around Malko Tarnovo, Svilengrad, Harmanli, Elhovo, Topolovgrad, Lyubimets, Sredets, Simeonovgrad, Galabovo, Brashlyan, Gramatikovo, some of the villages in Strandzha, hotels along the Tundzha River.

But if you freeze in a village, do not hesitate to ask for shelter, the local people are hospitable. Camping. If you want to touch the wild nature of the Strandzha Mountain, the Derwent Lamentations and the Sakar Mountain, you can spend the night in a tent. For campings, choose places around fountains or springs, clean from shrubs and in open, comfortable places, as there are many in the area.

Local eating is not a problem. They will welcome you to the restaurants of the settlements, roadside restaurants, grocery stores. Often the atmosphere in the village pubs is

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quite interesting - a mixture of a shop, a pub and a meeting place at the same time. In many of the small villages of the Strandzha Mountain, the Erventa Heights and the Sakar Mountains, shops only work a few hours a day, usually before noon.

Walking on foot - We recommend walking on the higher parts and marked tourist routes in Strandzha Mountain and Sakar Mountain, where you expect wonderful views and the feeling of a mountain. It is a good idea to get help from local people (perhaps guides) before you leave.

It is good to bring with you enough water, especially in summer and autumn), raincoat and warm clothes (in the autumn there are periods of rain falling for a few days, sometimes falling hail and torrential rains), insect repellents - mandatory during the summer period, from the end of May to the end of August; some medications - against allergies, pain, wounds; high shoes - especially in the summer, equipment for eventual camping. Plan your transition so that you arrive at the end point 2-3 hours before dusk.

Intercity transport is relatively well organized, except for some of the remote settlements for which transport access is limited. The municipal centers are connected with bus lines with the regional centers, bigger cities in the region and Sofia. There are railway lines along the valley of the Maritsa River. Sofia - Svilengrad and Simeonovgrad - Galabovo - Nova Zagora in the valley of Sazliyka River.

The settlements in the area are electrified and water-supplied. Due to the reduction of the capacity of a considerable number of water sources in many of the villages during the summer season there is a problem with the water supply. In most of the area drinking water is of good quality.

There are telephone connections in all villages. Coverage of mobile operators exists everywhere, but in isolated areas - at the border, in low places the connection is weak or missing. Internet providers already have many of the villages in the area. Branches of Bulgarian Posts are located in the municipal centers and in the larger settlements. Healthcare is provided by emergency centers in municipalities and nearby hospitals. There are health services in the larger settlements in the area, and some bigger villages have pharmacies.

With the cultural and historical heritage of Sakar you can also visit the museums in the towns of Sozopol, Malko Tarnovo, Primorsko, Tsarevo, Elhovo, Sredets, Bolyarovo, Harmanli, Svilengrad, Topolovgrad, Simeonovgrad (Hadjibanava maaza) and Galabovo (Ethnographic museum - Family name).

Brief transport characteristics of the area and access to sightseeing to visit: The area under consideration is peripheral, borders both for Bulgaria and for the European Union. It is a border region between two world religions, Christianity and Muslims. Here, history and politics have artificially pushed through a dividing line, soaked with many blood,

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weighing in atrocities, sorrow, grief, destruction, memories and graves, through these three Bulgarian mountains the state border between Bulgaria and Turkey was pushed through.

The border region of the Strandja Mountain, the Derwent Heights and the Sakar Mountains is problematic and very backward in economic terms and with very bad demographic indicators for more than 50 years. The problems of the region have become horrific in the past 20 years, and in the next 10 years it can become a ghostly empty area, empty of human presence in the Bulgarian part of the area. Most of the settlements are extinct in the Strandja Mountain, the Derwent Heights and the Sakar Mountains. The exception is the Black Sea coast of the Strandja Mountain and the Maritsa River valley, which are radically different from the rest of the region.

The region has, in turn, considerable untapped resource potential for the development of cultural tourism based on monuments of anthropogenic culture. For the development of ecotourism, organic farming, livestock, beekeeping, light and food industry. Resource potential that is not used to be in favor of the state. Appropriate local and state policy is needed and concrete practical measures are needed to enable this rich and blessed Bulgarian region to occupy and acquire its proper place.

Today major Republican transport arteries pass into the periphery of the area. These are the main road A1 and the Maritza highway, which is part of the European road E 80, this important transport artery runs through the Maritsa River valley and connects Europe with Turkey, the Middle and the Middle East.

Another important transport artery for the region is the first-class road 9, which is part of the European corridor E 87 from Constanta / Romania / on the Black Sea coast via Varna, Burgas, Tsarevo, Malko Tarnovo, Turkey to Kirklareli. On this route you can feel the southern Bulgarian Black Sea coast, the soul of the mountain and the pearl of the Strandja mountain town of Malko Tarnovo.

The most important transport, economic and social significance for the region are the following.

In recent years, with the opening of the Lesovo - Hambazayli - Edirne border crossing, first - class road 7 has become important as a new North - European transport corridor. Through it can be reached and visited the municipal center Elhovo, and through its branches can be visited, a protected area and cave Dranci dupka near Melnitsa village, the Thracian rock sanctuary with Melnitsa and Lower Doljana Gorge near Lesovo village. The international road E87 and the second class road 98 Bourgas - Malko Tarnovo are the most important transport for Bulgarian Strandzha, which take over the traffic from the mountain and the coast. These two roads and their branching are the main transport arteries that lead to the significant monuments of human culture and building genius in the area. The main road 9 is the main transport artery to reach the monuments of human culture and the beauty of nature along the southern Black Sea coast. If you are traveling along this route, natural landmarks and monuments of anthropogenic culture can be visited in: Kraimorie, Atia, Chernomorets, Sozopol, Primorsko, Kiten, Lozenets and Tsarevo along the coast. And in the



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Strandja Mountain near Malko Tarnovo and the villages of Gramatikovo, Kondolovo and Bulgari. On this route you can touch the spirit and architecture preserved from the days of ancient Greece, Rome and Byzantium. Touching the grandeur and beauty of the Natural Magic of Strandja Mountain. Next to the enchantment and magic of the southern Bulgarian Black Sea coast with its sheltered bays and rocky shores. Close to the route there are sights that will entice you. The Ravadinovo Castle, the Ropotamo Nature Reserve, the Thracian Cult Complex Beglik Tash and Mishkova Level, the tomb of the locality. Falls, the ancient magic of Indipasha, the fire dance of the Nestinari and the beauties of Maslen Nosq, the valleys of the Veleka and Rezovska rivers, are unforgettable experiences.

From main road 9 you can take a trip to objects that will touch your senses and soul. Namely deviation from Tsarevo to the south to Rezovo. Here you will be impressed by Ahtopol, the mouth of the Veleka River and the beautiful sheltered bays like Silistar. An interest may be the deviation to the right of the road before Atia to the right to the village of Rosen - Veselie village - Yasna Polyana and from there to the town of Primorsko. The other main transport corridor for Bulgarian Strandja is a secondary road 98 from Burgas to Malko Tarnovo and from there to the Republic of Turkey. This time deviates from Kraimorie to Strandzha Mountain, passing through the villages of Marinka, Krushevets, Zvezdets, Malko Tarnovo and the border with Turkey. This way you will touch the tender and pure heart of Strandja Mountain. This is an incredible journey and experience in gentle beauty and enchanting the fresh and fresh nature. At Bosna junction it is possible to take a trip to the right to the village of Byala Voda, the village of Kalo Vidin and Kondolovo, and to the left you are immersed in the embrace of Strandja and along the small and beautiful Varovnik you reach the Tagarevo / Valchanov / secondary road 79. Other interesting detours can be made from a secondary road 98 from the village of Marinka to the village of Tvurditsa, the village of Dimchevo, the village of Prasad, the village of Zidarovo, the village of Gabar, the village of Vurshilo. Branches from the road are to the village of Izvor, the village of Novo Panicharevo, the village of Yasna Polyana and the town of Primorsko, as well as for the village of Indzhe voivoda the village of Byala voda and the village of Brashlyan. Along the way you can visit Ancient Thrace and its culture to visit ancient rock sanctuaries, megaliths, chapels, to touch the interesting Strandzha architecture and religious sites. To be one with a mountain and its tender breath and bewitch.

For the three mountains with the highest importance transport, economic and social are the second class roads 79 from Burgas - Sredets - Elhovo and second class road 76 from Elhovo - Topolovgrad - Harmanli. This is, of course, part of the shortest route from the White to the Black Sea. It starts from the city of Komotini / Greece / through the Makaza pass - Kardzhali - Harmanli - Elhovo - Burgas. This time is the main one for the Western Strandja, for the Dervent Heights as well as for the Sakar Mountains. This route is the largest passenger flow and freight transport for the region. On this route, tourists can get acquainted with anthropogenic building landmarks from antiquity to the present day and follow the development and achievements of human construction genius from antiquity to the present



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day. This time travelers can get to know a wide range of attractions built impressively long before the new era. These are the ancient megalithic monuments in the Sakar Mountains, the land of the village of Hlyabovo: the two-chamber Dolmen "Nachovi Chairi", the dugged Dolmens Evdjik, the two-chamber Dolmen "Gaidarova Cave", the two-chamber Dolmen "White Grass". Along the road southwest of the town of Topolovgrad, one of the peaks of the Sakar Mountains is situated the largest Thracian rock sanctuary of the Sun - Paleokastro Peak. With Knyazhevo along the road for 8 years, the study of a unique Thracian and Macedonian rulers' home from the age of Philip of Macedon, Alexander the Great and his followers took place. The site can be visited all year round, the Municipality of Topolovgrad will turn it into a suitable tourist attraction. Interesting fortification and urban construction facilities from the antiquity along the route can be seen and touched by Develt, namely the ancient Roman Colony Flavia Pacis Deultensium (Columna Flavia Pacis Deultensium, shortly Deultum) The colony was founded during the rule of the Flavian Dynasty in Rome, and more specifically in the years of Emperor Vespasian in the 1970s. The colony was founded near the already existing Thracian settlement Develt or Develt from where the name of the colony originates.

The colony emerged as a settlement of veterans of VIII Augustus legion, which under Roman law were probably landed in a rather large area between the lakes of Burgas and Mandrensko.

In the town of Sredets you can visit the ancient and medieval fortress of Potamukastel, located southwest of the town. There are interesting religious sites such as Sredets, Elhovo, Topolovgrad, Harmanli and other interesting places along the road. The museums in the mentioned cities. Ethnographic and architectural sites in Sredets and Bolyarovo. In Topolovgrad you can see the statue of the Blessed Christ ", this is the first stone monument of the Son of God in Bulgaria and 4th among the most famous in the world (after those in Rio de Janeiro, Cusco and Poland). Such a statue is a novelty for Orthodoxy, although it is an old tradition in Catholic countries. From these two important second-class roads to the region, there are many deviations to settlements to the border areas of the region and to the interior of the country, some of these deviations lead to interesting and remarkable natural and anthropogenic creations. We will mention the most interesting of them, and you can take advantage and visit them.

1. Deviation from Tagarevo / Vulchanovo / inn to c; Varonnik: By this detour you enter the enchantment of western Strandja, you can visit the Golyamo Bukovski Monastery, the only mountain in the Strandja mountain. If you wish you can visit megalithic monuments in the villages of Kirovo, Granichar and Belevren.
2. Departure to the village of Fakia and the villages of Momina church, Gorno and Dolno Yabalkovo - this is an interesting route that can immerse you in the magic of western Strandja, the warmth and coziness of the Bulgarian village. To touch and hear old heroic Strandjan stories about the Bibalov family in the village of Fakia, visit the largest village in Strandja Momina Church, beautiful and pure nature.

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3. After 3 km. Southwest from the town of Bolyarovo to the left of the road there are deviations to the village of Mamarchevo and to the villages of Malko Sharkovo, Voden, Strandja and Kraynovo. This route will immerse you in the breathtaking scenery of the Derwent Heights. You can visit Malko Sharkovo Dam The dam has the largest landfill wall in Bulgaria and has a maximum volume of 55 million cubic meters. The area of the Malko Sharkovo Dam is 3.9 km<sup>2</sup>. The fishermen here can rely on catches of bass, toothbrush, white fish, karaoke, perch, crocus, carp, clay, catfish, etc. A place for relaxation and short breaks. This route can also be visited by some of the most interesting anthropogenic monuments in the Derwent Heights, namely the medieval Christian monastery south of the village of Voden, near the villages of Strandja and Krainovo. Nature is splendid, the villages are beautiful but empty for regret.
4. 5 km. before the town of Elhovo to the left of the road there is a branch for the villages of Malomirovo, Slaveikovo, Lalkovo, Sitovo, Igljika, Chernozem, Razdel and Big Derwent. This is the last deviation from the road that is worth to be done because in the village of Goliam Derwent you will meet and touch some of the most interesting ancient constructions on our lands - Great Derwent.

When visiting Elhovo visit the Ethnographic and Archaeological Museum and the church "St. Dimitar

In Sakar Mountain, the most important transport artery, which has high traffic all year round, is the second class road 76 from Elhovo through Topolovgrad to Harmanli, where it flows into the A 1 road and the Maritza highway. If you are traveling along this main road to Sakar Mountain, you can find treasures of human genius, creations from the dawn of human culture that impress with its dimensions, building genius and power of thought. These are the ancient megalithic monuments in the Sakar Mountains, the land of the village of Hlyabovo: the two-chamber Dolmen "Nachovi Chairi", the dugged Dolmens Evdjik, the two-chamber Dolmen "Gaidarova Cave", the two-chamber Dolmen "White Grass". After Bogomil village you can reach the road 7604 and after 4 km. climbing and downhill you reach the village of Ovcharovo, along which is the menhira Chuchul stone. It is assumed that the site played an important role in the fertility cult for the local Thracian tribes inhabiting this region, who performed seasonal rituals around the stone. In a later period, there were folk gatherings at the Chuchul stone.

Along the road southwest of the town of Topolovgrad, one of the peaks of the Sakar Mountains is situated the largest Thracian rock sanctuary of the Sun - Paleokastro Peak. With Knyazhevo along the road for 8 years, the study of a unique Thracian and Macedonian rulers' home from the age of Philip of Macedon, Alexander the Great and his followers took place. The site can be visited all year round, the Municipality of Topolovgrad will turn it into a suitable tourist attraction. In Topolovgrad you can see the statue of the Blessed Christ ", this is the first stone monument of the Son of God in Bulgaria and 4th among the most famous in the world (after those in Rio de Janeiro, Cusco and Poland). Such a statue is a novelty for Orthodoxy, although it is an old tradition in Catholic countries. The city can see four

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churches, three of which are active, several interesting chapels and a municipal museum of history. From Topolovgrad you can take excursions to some interesting natural sites in the Sakar Mountains.

Interest will be a deviation from the road 76 to the left at the village of Knyazhevo to the village of Srem - the village of Ostrem with Radovets third class road 761. From the village of Radovets to the second class 55 the third-class road is numbered 5507 and passes through the village of Studena - Bulgaria - the village of Pastrogor - gr. Svilengrad. On this interesting route you can see ancient anthropogenic monuments that have no analogues not only in Bulgaria but also on the Balkan Peninsula. In the village of Knyazhevo, along the road, for 8 years, the study of a unique Thracian and Macedonian rulers' home from the age of Philip of Macedon, Alexander the Great and his followers took place. From the village of Knyazhevo to the village of Srem, the road moves scenic through the Srem gorge formed here by the Tundzha River.

Then you reach the largest village in the Sakar Mountains village of Ustrem where you can relax and visit the Church of St. Dimitar. 3.5 km. from the village is the only active monastery in Sakar Mountain - the female monastery "St. Trinity ". The monastery has a long history, starting from the rock cave church during the Second Bulgarian Kingdom, burned three times during the Ottoman rule, sheltered famous Bulgarian haidouts such as Indzhe voivoda, Kara Kolyu, Hristo voyvoda, Kara Thanas, Garapchi Georgi and others . and it is not accidentally called the Haidouk Monastery. A major event for southeastern Bulgaria is the annual fair held in the temple feast. There are interesting natural sites along the monastery. After the village Ustrem passes through the villages of Radovets and Studena and from the center of the village of Studena goes south to the villages of Sladun and Matochina. At the village of Matochina, on the very border with the Republic of Turkey, there is the ancient fortress Bukelon and the Dekiji kaya rock church.

The fortress is situated on a small hill above the village of Matochina, whose slopes are hard to reach, and in places completely inaccessible, except from the south, where the road leads from the village. The ridge of the hill is relatively flat and resembles a small plateau. The medieval tower of the 13th-14th century, a type of deposit, is well preserved. The height of the remains of the tower is about 18 meters and they represent a magnificent view, filling the panorama of the region.

The rock church at Loc. "Dekilikaya" near the village of Matochina. This rock church is excavated 2 km southwest of the village of Matochina in a rocky hill. The local population calls the object "Decili kaya". It dates back to the 10th century. It is shaped like a rectangular arched room that enters through a small, also arched corridor. The total length of the facility is 14.05 m, and only the corridor is 4.20 m. The height of the vault is 3 m. To the left of the entrance to the rock are visible cut steps that lead to the ridge of the hill where the church is located. There are traces of graves buried in the rock.

After exploring these forgotten glorious human creations, you return back through the dead

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village of Varnik in the village of Sladun and navigate along the third class road 5509 which leads to Svilengrad.

After 5 km it reaches the village of Michalic The church to the southeast of Mikhalich village (1km) is carved on the rocky terrace in the "Apanado" area, on the steep west slope. The rock church in the village of Michalic is the only one in Bulgaria with a unique trichonka form. The whole is cut / carved into a limestone rock. In plan, it represents a truly arched Tchernac church, as if it were made of ordinary building material. Its internal space is perceived as a cross-dome. Unseen architects have achieved a remarkable resemblance to classical cross-church Christian temples. Crosses have been carved in several places on the walls. The church is entered through stairs, monumentally cut into the rocks, with 14 steps. Remove deep-formed niches for putting gifts and icons. It seems that there was a wooden shed over the open staircase, showing the holes in the side rocks. The rock church at Mihalic is distinguished by all the rock churches in Bulgaria in its complex, trinocular form, which is found on the Balkan Peninsula only in the buildings built in the ancient period and in the churches in the Early Byzantine period. It was probably made in the restless years around the 10th century ... Then the road passes through the villages of Pashovo, Shiite and Raikova mogila and reaches the town of Svilengrad.

The road 5507 from Studena village can be continued on the hill of Dervis mogila and from there descends to the small valley where Levka is situated, from where it continues and soon reaches the lake Levka and second class road 55 through which The village of Pastrogor is reached to the town of Svilengrad.

From the junction you can take the big star to Lyubimets. On this route you can see megaliths near the village of Izvorovo and the excavations of the Roman road station and fortress Castra Rubra, and in the village of Jerusalemovo you can touch the beauties of the Bakrullia protected area.

## **II. Identified sites in the CB region of Bulgaria - Turkey**

The region of the Strandzha Mountain, the Dervents and the Sakar Mountain is both one of the most interesting and the least developed in terms of tourism in the whole of Bulgaria. This makes it a preferred destination for amateur tourists with more specific interests or for more adventurous and unpretentious visitors. The preserved material and immaterial cultural heritage, complemented by the beautiful nature, combines in the studied territory in a unique way. That is why the author believes that the region is extremely suitable for the development of cultural tourism.

### **2.1 Identified sites in Strandja Mountain**

#### **2.1.1. Religious beliefs and megalithic culture**

One of the most important features of the mountain and its coastline is the presence of megalithic culture. Since the time of the Thracians there have been scattered throughout

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Strandzha stone tombs-sanctuaries, known by the name of Dolmens. They are built entirely of huge multi-stone stone slabs. The dolmens studied in Strandzha date back to the 1st millennium BC.

The most famous monument of the ancient Thracian culture in Strandzha - the dome-sanctuary in the "Mishkova Niva" area is located 3 km southwest of the town of Tarnovo. It evolved over the centuries from a dolmen with a crepe and an earth embankment to a monumental sanctuary-mausoleum. Built in the Roman epoch (II - III c. AD) with huge marble blocks, it is also used as a place to honor mythical Hero of Heroes, and as a temple of god Apollo-Aulariok.

### **2.1.2 Megalithic monuments in the Strandzha Mountain**

If you step on the skirts of Strandzha you will not find strange stone megaliths, arranged in the form of miniature houses.

#### **DOLMEN REGIONS IN STRANDZHA**

If we take the geographic approach to the description from east to west, Strandzha (East - from the Black Sea coast at Maslen Nose to the village of Granichar - and the West - from there to the Tundzha river.

##### **1. STRANDZHA MOUNTAIN:**

The Strandzha dolmens are described first and most systematically by Karel Shkorpil (Shkorpil, 1925). They can be grouped into several outbreaks:

- (1) Oil nose
- (2) East region (from M. Turnovo to the village of Evrenozovo),
- (3) West region (from the village of Granichar to the village of Gorno Yabalkovo)
- (4) Dervent Heights (the villages of Kraynovo and Goliam Dervent).

1.1. Oil Nose Dolmen of the Oil Nose are marked by K. Shkorpil (Shkorpil, 1925); then the name of the nose was like today's, but in the Turkish variant Zehtin Burun (Drazheva et al., 2004). It is difficult to identify today's objects with the Shkorpil dances, but all who have survived to this day are in a relatively good condition. Probably the reason is that they have fallen into an area that has been turned into a reserve and carefully guarded at least in the second half of the 20th century. They are made of quality decorative plates, consist of 1-2 cameras and have very beautiful facial apertures with typical, dimensions and shape (rectangle with rounded tops). From the point of view of technical craftsmanship, construction and aesthetic proportions, we can assume that this group of dolmens are "conditionally synchronous", ie. created within a small period, say 1-2 centuries, no more. An impression is also made of their proximity to the Beglik-Tash sanctuary, and also to the sacred cliff of the Lion's head. Similar rock and rock-cut sacred objects are usually earlier than dolmens. On the terrain there are also large mysterious parallelepiped blocks of unclear purpose, which have been left unfinished in old times. In the territory of the sanctuary one can see an imposing stone structure: two parallel rows of enormous currencies (naturally protruding) are covered with stone slabs. This is probably the largest proto-moral in Thrace. It is one-chamber and has no face plate. On Maslen Nose we find dolmens, two rock sanctuaries and also abandoned

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blanks for any other megalithic constructions that have not been made for any reason. The focus on a relatively small area of numerous sacred objects of the same type (rock-oriented, ie megalithic and rock-cut), conjures up the idea of a long-established and used sacred complex. Three to four thousand years ago these facilities were actually designed and built as a complex of this type.

1.2. East region (from M. Turnovo to the village of Evrenozovo)  
This area falls within the borders of the Strandzha Nature Park. Unfortunately, it is here that practically all dolmens are so destroyed that they do not provide a good foundation for cultural tourism in the park, near the coast. But the objects are interesting from a scientific point of view, so it is worth considering carefully. The most common are unicameral dolmens without dromos, i. from the simplest and probably the earliest. Rarely seen preserved facial plates with an opening.

Half-broken dolmen can be seen near the road near the village of Vizitsa. One-chamber, long-awaited, and probably quite wounded, because there is no opening in the face plate. The most interesting thing about it is that there is a stone circle of white untreated quartzite pieces around. Here we can not talk about the crepe - the white debris obviously has aesthetic and symbolic purpose. They seem to have made a strong impression on the ancient people. Such lump (quartz) can still be seen today with many dolmens in Sakar and the Eastern Rhodopes, but in the village of Vizitsa the circular arrangement is best preserved. This circle can not be called and crumbled because the stones are small and simply placed on the ground rather than specially dashed. Besides, by definition there is no facility in the center of the cromelle, and there is a dolmen in the case. The white lump (quartz) is arranged in a circle around it, and the circle is a figure of the deepest antiquity.

Around the village of Kalovo there were a lot of dolmens, but today they are all very destroyed and even hard to recognize among the stones in the forest. They are not attractive for tourists but only for a purposeful march of specially interested people. Most likely, they were simple, unicameral and without facial plates or at least without a facial opening. In a better condition are the two neighboring dolmens on the hill west of the village of Zavernovo, although their plates are not smoothly smoothed and shaped. And they are made of soft material - from local marble. Marble in Strandzha is found in many places, especially around M. Tarnovo, but I do not know it is used elsewhere to create dolmens. Dolmen are 30 meters apart, but have their own bunkers to a level slightly inferior to the lid. Both are one-chamber with dromos and well-defined and preserved facades. One is none at all, and in the other one has been preserved one very rarely encountered in Thrace and very archaic as a facial plate. As a standard, the face is monolithic and the hole is drilled into it. But here the face plate is constitutive - it is formed by two separate plates. They are drilled across the camera so that they lie in the same vertical plane without touching. The front opening is actually formed by the curved (vertical) vertical gap that remains between them! The second dolmens with a similar structure on the front plate in our country is the "long dolmen" near Plevun village, Ivaylovgrad region. The Abyssinian dolmens were excavated and studied by D. Agreg in

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2002 (Agreg, 2005c, d). Inside were found human remains of many individuals and small bronze ornaments of Thracian and Phrygian origin, as well as typical funerary cracked ceramics. Funerals in dolmens are not a common find, especially the ungrateful. Note: the covers are out of place, and the funerals are not grafted. We have multiple burials here! We can assume that the robbery was not the purpose of the undoing. This feature will be discussed later. After the excavations, the two saber dolmen were abandoned in a defenseless state. One of the side walls of the dolmens with the front plate was highly inclined before the archaeological intervention, but it behaved due to the fact that the depleted dolmens were filled with earth and small stones.

In the area along the border between M. Turnovo and the village of Brashlyan there are 3-4 dolmens, quite dwindled, but romantic enough to give a unique glamor to the millennial historical-geographic landscape. There is something particularly ridiculous about this situation. The area is exposed: the ethnographic reserve - the village of Brashlyan, the necropolis in the Propada area and the heroon in the Mishkova niva area near M. Tarnovo. And instead of being happy to show the tourists an extra 3-4 dolmens, local authorities do not pay any attention to them and even hinder access to them on the pretext that they were in the border zone! Although in poor condition, dolmens would greatly add extraordinarily rich exposure potential.

Dolmen, located in close proximity (not more than 40 m) from the Veleka river, southwest of the village of Zvezdets. One-chamber, with dromos, the cover of the camera is made of two plates, which have been removed for a long time. Unlike the typographical situation, it was built neither on a hill nor on a slope, but was built on the low and flat bank of the river (no more than 2 m above the usual water level). There, apparently, it was poured thousands of times from the floodwaters of the river. Despite all other interpretations and explanations, this explanation is an obvious argument that such a dolmens can not be a tomb (I will discuss this subject separately later). The facial opening is very exquisite - like a trapeze with rounded corners at the top.

A little further north, in the Ashlamata area near the village of Mladezhko, there is a pretty destroyed large dolmens, one-chamber with dromos and a beautiful facial opening. Unfortunately, it was depleted, with quite aroused walls.

Next to the asphalt road from Zvezdets to Evrenozovo there is a dolmen recently excavated by the team of D. Agreg (Agreg, 2004). It had been a long time ago, the front plate was broken, now only the lower half is visible. One-chamber. It was left after the excavations in a defenseless state.

In the vicinity of the same village there are at least two more dolmens - in Raikov Chukar: it was big and beautiful, but not long ago it was so vandalized destroyed that its face plate in a strange way "blew" to the neighboring tree and now lies there tilted down with the head and half-broken!

1.3. West region (from the village of Granichar to the village of Gorno Yabalkovo) In the area, outlined by the villages of Goliamo Bukovo, Granichar, Belevren, Gorno Yabalkovo,

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Dolno Yabalkovo, Kirovo, today can be seen the most beautiful, imposing and still preserved dolmens in Strandzha. They are constructed technically the most skillful and skillful, albeit not always quality-smoothed plates. They have 1-2 chambers and dromos, and sometimes a facade. They appear to be relatively late and "conditionally synchronous". The dolmen near the village of Granichar, although one-chamber, probably has the most beautiful and dignified lid in Thrace. The plate is very thick and heavy and has a ribbon so that it has a triangular cross section, i.e., gives an illusion of a double-faced roof. Dolmen near the village of Golyamo Bukovo; At the time the researchers Vasil Mikov (Mikov, 1955) and D. Peev (Peev, 1974) mention it as one of the best preserved in Strandzha. Today it is not in good condition. There are at least 8 relatively large valleys near the village of Kirovo.

A magnificent dolmen near the village of Dolno Yabalkovo.

Four impressive and large valleys around the village of Belevren. From here, 30 years ago, a two-chamber dolmen was transported and exhibited at the museum in Burgas, unfortunately very

unfortunate.

During the excavation of the dolmen north of Belevren, D. Agreg's team revealed interesting finds (Agreg, 2005a, 2006, 2008). First of all, I will mark a bronze bracelet, which has a very modern design according to our present ideas, although it is characterized by classical simplicity. Bronze wire makes a few gentle and casual wrap around the wrist and ends an ancient symbol - a spiral. A strange jug of about 50 centimeters was found. It surprised the fact that there are not one, but three equally large spouts, which rise from the round body upwards parallel and adhered to one another. We can only guess what ritual is connected, but it technically demonstrates a trinity: by sliding it, three parallel and quite the same jets of the same liquid flow out of it! A similar pitcher, but with two spouts, was also found in the dolmens of the Turkish part of Strandzha. Finally, I will mark another find: a pair of small clay figures of a man and a woman like toys. For the total date of the dolmens (IX-VIII c. BC), they are strikingly rough, because 1-2 thousand years earlier, during the Eneolithic period, much more perfect ceramic figures were created on the Balkans - people and animals. Not so much the technical skills of local artists as ideology has changed a lot. The statuettes, which once wore the signs of realistic art, were later attributed to the most common markers designed only to mark the gender of a man for a ritual - one being female and the other - male. There is neither precision, nor decoration, nor the physiognomy. Obviously, they have acquired a purely formal, symbolic character, in which these characteristics were no longer essential. If you look like today's martenitsas. As far as I know, such very rough figures are found in mass burials since the first half of the first millennium BC. and in this case are not surprising.

1. Dolmen - in the locality. Beglik-tsh, north of Primorsko 45-42 18 40,0 C, 27 45 44,7 And,
2. Dolmen - in the place Beglik - tash, west of the sanctuary, north of Primorsko - C 42 18 32, 8, and 27 45 01, 7
3. Dolmen - north of the sanctuary Beglik-tash, C 42 18 59, 7, and 27 45 43, 7,

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4. Tsistov grave - near the road from Vizitsa, not far from the village of Vizitsa, towards Kondolovo and Gramatikovo
5. Tsistov grave - land of the village of Kalovo, "Chardaka", C 42 08 14.7, and 27 31 38.1,
6. Dolmen - land of Kalovo village, "Св.Дедея", C 42 07 57, 7, и 27 31 39, 5,
7. Dolmen - land of the village of Kalovo in locality. Rusty house near the meanders of Mladezhka River, C 42 07 02, 5, and 27 29 4814,
8. dolmen - village of Gorno Yabalkovo locality Pasha dere - C 42 06 20.8 And 27 07 14.0
9. Dolmen - Dolno Yabalkovo village C 42 06 44.1 И27 07 42 7
10. dolmen - village of Dolno Yabalkovo locality "Влахов дол" (Каракуш) C 42 07 05.4 И 27 07 47.3
11. dolmen - Dolno Yabalkovo locality "Vlahov Dol" (control) S I 42 07 05.2 27 07 47.3
12. dolmen - Belevren locality "Lozata" C 42 06 18.5 and 27 09 27.7
13. dolmen - Kirovo village in the cow-complex C 42 08 21.1 И 27 09 34.3
14. dolmen - Belevren mtn "Lozenski Dol" C 42 07 29.7 And 27 09 38.0
15. dolmen - Belevren village to the "Big Gem" site C 42 07 28.3 И 27 09 38.1
16. dolmen - along the road for the twins "Ashlamat" C 42 12 01.1 and 27 16 16.5
17. dolmen near the village of Evrenozovo, - loc. "Raikov Chakar 1" C 42 06 19.9 And 27 18 31.2
18. dolmen near the village of Evrenozovo - "Raikov chakar 2" locality C 42 06 15.2 and 27 18 36.0
19. dolmen near the village of Evrenozovo - locality "Laka" C 42 08 12.0 and 27 19 48.0
20. Dolmen near the village of Evrenozovo - locality "Bakara" C 42 07 45.9 and 27 21 57.2
21. dolmen at the village of Zvezdets to Veleka river - C 42 05 35.8 and 27 23 34.4
22. dolmen near the village of Brashlyan loc. "Mercury" (at the end of the Hambarcheto) - C 42 00 54.6 И27 26 03.4
23. dolmen near Brashlyan locality Hambarcheto (demolished) C 42 01 08.6 And 27 26 06.2
24. Dolmen near Brashlyan village. "Gogovo" (to the Hambarcheto) C 42 01 14.5 And 27 26 56.4
25. dolmen near Brashlian locality "Cera" C 42 02 27.5 and 27 27 02.5
26. dolmen near the town of Tarnovo loc. "Kakachina" (to the spring) C 42 00 22.5 И 27 27 25.4
27. dolmen near M. Tarnovo loc. "Stanko: right - E" C 41 59 22.1 and 27 27 58.1
28. dolmen at M. Tarnovo loc. "Stanko: left - W" C 41 59 22.1 and 27 27 58.1
29. dolmen near M. Tarnovo loc. "Stanko 2" C 41 59 18.7 and 27 28 00.4 211 12 215
- 30th century at Kalovo locality "Zmeiovi Houses" C 42 07 02.9 and 27 29 45.6
31. dolmen at Kalovo "-" C 42 07 02.5 И 27 29 48.4 197.75
- Dolmen at Kalovo Locality "Chardak" C 42 08 14.7 And 27 31 38.1
32. dolmen at Kalovo locality "St. Sunday "C 42 07 57.7 and 27 31 39.5
33. Dolmen near Zabernovo The Lagat in the Reserve Parorie C 42 06 25.1 And 27 32 27.1
34. Dolmen at Zabernovo "-" (double dolmen) C 42 06 25.1 И 27 32 27.1

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35. Dolmen at Primorsko locality "Kitkata" (Dyulmenite) C 42 18 32.8 And 27 45 01.7 197.5
36. dolmen in Primorsko "-" C 42 18 59.7 and 27 45 43.7
37. Dolmen in Primorsko "-" C 42 18 40.0 И 27 45 44.7
38. Dolmen at Primorsko "-" C 42 18 40.0 and 27 45 44.7
39. Dolmen in the "Zmeuvi houses" area near Golyamo Bukovo Found by Sv. Slavov - oct. 2008 C 42 10.40 4, And 27 09.45 0 4,
40. Dolmen to "Karakus" near D. Yabalkovo According to coordinates of Dim. Kolev C 42 07.08 7, And 27 07.78 8, 41. Dolmen on the road over the Almaic Kale On the coordinates of Dim. Kolev C 42 06.73 5, and 27 07.71 2,
41. Dolmen near the logs road in the "Lozenski dol" area near the village of Yabulkovo Slavov C42 07.47 2, I27 09.63 5,
42. Dolmen near the road to the stone Found by St. Slavov C 42 07.70 1, And 27 09.16 3,
43. Dolmen in "Pasha dere" area near G. Yabalkovo According to coordinates of Dim. Kolev C 42 06.34 7, and 27 07.23 3,
44. Dolmen on a hill on the road from G. Yabulkovo to Belevren, at the fork for Kirovo Found by St. George, Slavov N / A N / A
45. Dolmen at Belevren's northern exit By coordinates of Dim. Kolev C 42 05.93 5, and 27 10.87, 8
46. Dolmen in Kiriak Stoyanova kuchela near Belevren According to coordinates of Dim. Kolev C 42 06.09 8, and 27 11.89, 0
47. Dolmen in "Lozata" area near Belevren According to coordinates of Dim. Kolev C 42 06 30.8, and 27 09 46. 2
48. Dolmen in Ayazmoto between Kirovo and Belevren C 42 06.98 2, and 27 10.91 7
49. "Caps-1" near Granichar, C 42 07.98 5, and 27 13.82 0
50. "Capacities-2" near Granichar - C42 07.913, and 27 13.74 8
51. Dolmen in the "Korubata" area in the enclosure between D. Yabalkovo and Kirovo, C 42 08.352, and 27 09.57 2
52. Dolmen between Kirovo and Granichar, C 42 08.58 8, and 27 12.74 81

## State formations and political changes - antiquity and Middle Ages in Strandzha Mountain

Towards the middle of the 1st millennium BC. the mountain is inhabited by the Thracian tribes of munitions and ares, subordinate to the newly created Odrysian kingdom. The Tini were among the most militant of all tribes and the most experienced in night attacks. The name of Cape Tiniad (today Inadeada, Turkey) derives from their tribal name. More than 60 are the researched remains of ancient Thracian fortresses on the territory of Strandzha, witnessing the never-ending inter-war feuds, collisions and foreign invasions throughout the 1st millennium BC. They are built with solid brick walls without solder. Such are the "Big Kale" near the village of Mladezhko, the Gradishteto village near the village of

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Bulgari, three fortresses around the village of Brodilovo, the "Great Garden" southwest of Malko Tarnovo, the Slivarovo Kale and others. Some of the fortresses were used in the Middle Ages.

After the collapse of the Odrysian state in the last two centuries BC, the Austrians created their country - the Astessian kingdom with the capital of Bissia (today Vise, Turkey) In 45 AD, Rome finally devours the Astenean kingdom and includes its lands in the newly established Roman province of Thrace.

The Roman rule in Strandja is witnessed in hundreds of places by necropolises, road stations and antique buildings. In the "Propada" area, a large Thracian necropolis uniquely combines four different types of tombs dating back to the 2nd - 4th centuries AD. During the Roman era in Strandja mining and metallurgy are developing on a very large scale. In the "Sgriite" area near the village of Rezovo is the largest deposit in Bulgaria of ancient slag (sgur), with a volume of hundreds of thousands of tons.

On the rocky banks of the Veleka and Rezovska rivers are also the ruins of a number of small early Byzantine fortresses. They are part of the large defensive system of fortifications of the Roman Emperor Justinian the Great (AD 527-565) built against the Avar and Slav invasions. For the first time Strandzha was included in the Bulgarian state in 705 with Khan Tervel. A century ago the mountain was already inhabited by Slavs, mingling with the many surviving Thracian people.

After 705, the Proto-Bulgarian military colonists were probably settled in the mountain to guard the border. According to Prof. Bozhidar Dimitrov, the Strandja village of Bulgari was founded by their heirs.

In 971, at the beginning of the conquest of Bulgaria, Strandzha became a Byzantine province for two centuries, but retained its Bulgarian character. During the Second Bulgarian Kingdom the constant Bulgarian-Byzantine wars "transferred" it to Byzantine, and later to Bulgarian hands. The border moves to the north or south of the mountain, but most often passes along its central ridge. In 1308 the Catalans, Spanish mercenaries of the Byzantine Empire, who, after a revolt, devastated Byzantine eastern Thrace and along with Turkish allies invaded southern Bulgaria. Until their defeat by the Bulgarian troops they perform unheard of atrocities, the memory of which is preserved in folk traditions until today, 700 years after the events.

#### S. Fakia - Roman Road Station Sadame

##### Description and story

The Sadame / Sadame Roman Road Station is located about 4 km south of the village of Fakia, in the Kartalov Dol area, not far from the ruins of the Roman road in Drumat. It is very possible that the exact location of the Sadame Road Station was discovered by the Shkorpilov Brothers in the remains of the so- of them Han, south of Fakia, although the distance from Deultum to him is just over 18 Roman miles. The site is also documented as a settlement. It is located in the valley between a small creek and a hill. According to the Shkorpil brothers, the whole site was fortified on all sides with a wall, which at that time was tracked under the

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embankment. There was a cobblestone path from the site to the Phoca fortress. Plumbing pipes were also found.

Location

Altitude: ? m GPS coordinates: ? S.S. and ? ID

S. Fakia - fortress Phoka

Description and story

Late Antiquity and Medieval Fortress "Foka" / "Fakiysko Kale" is located 0.94 km west on a straight line from the center of the village of Fakia on a hill. She is from the Millennial Fortress group. The "Milies" is a group of seven fortresses that became known by the peace treaty between Bulgaria and Byzantium dating back to 717, with which the border is established in these strongholds. The origin of Milleon is Greek and means "Apple", which is translated into Turkish as "Almai". After 1934 the villages in the area of the fortresses were renamed Gorno and Dolno Yabalkovo. The fortress occupied an area of about 2 acres. The fortress is made of stone, bonded with white mortar and until about 10 years ago it was preserved. Now it's destroyed to the ground.

Location

It is situated on a high hill at 0.94 km northwest of the village of Fakia. Altitude: 247 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 11'34 "SS. and 27 ° 04'30 "ID

Rosenovo - fortress Kaleto

Description and story

The Thracian, ancient and medieval fortress "Kaleto" is located on the same name, at 1.43 km east in a straight line from the center of the village of Rosenovo. It is built on a conical hill with steep slopes. The fortress has an area of 10 decares. The fortress wall is made of stone, bonded with white mortar. There are remnants of trapezoidal tower and triangular bastion.

Location

Elevation: 251 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 17'32 "C.III. and 27 ° 14'43 "ID

S. Punchevo - Fortress in Sultan Bunar / "Tsarski kladenets"

Description and story

Ancient fortress is located in the area Sultan Bunar / Tsarski kladenets, 2.61 km northeast along a straight line from the center of the village of Punchevo. It is supposed to be the remains of a Roman presidium - a fortified camp. There are two Roman roads along the land of the village to the south - the Sredets - Fakia for Havsa, with a diversion to Edirne and Sredets - Kovchas to Bunarhisar.

Location

Altitude: 228 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 17'42 "SS and 27 ° 10'30 "N.

Momina church - fortress Kazashko kale

Description and story

Kazashko Kale Fortress is located to the north of the village Momina Carkva.

Location

Altitude: ? m GPS coordinates: ? S.S. and ? ID

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#### Kaleto

Dolno Yabalkovo - fortress Kaleto

#### Description and story

Late Antiquity and medieval fortress "Kaleto" is supposedly located in Drumma locality, Mechov Vrah, 4.37 km west on a straight line from the center of the village of Dolno Yabalkovo. Next to it was the road from Sredets to Havsa, which she guarded.

#### Location

Altitude: 359 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 07'47 "SS and 27 ° 03'43 "ID

S. Debelt - fortress Gorno gradishte

#### Description and story

The Fortress Upper Garden / Byzantine Develt is situated on a naturally protected, not very steep slope hill, 1.79 km southeast on a straight line from the center of the village of Debelt. From the west and north access to the hill is hampered by the passage of the Sredetzka river, and from the east stretched the swampy and impenetrable in the past, western shores of Mandren Lake. In 1885, the Shkorpil brothers registered the fortress under the name The Upper Garden. During the rescue studies in the 80s of the 20th century, the outer face of the eastern part of the north and south wall of the fortress was revealed. The thickness of the walls has not yet been established but has not been less than 2 m. On the eastern wall are two angular towers and one intermediate. The southeast tower is dripping in shape, and the intermediate tower and the northeast are rectangular. The thickness of the walls of the towers is over 1 m, and their building is made of limestone and river stones, bonded with white mortar mixed with crushed brick. The fortress was built in the 6th century. It has a military garrison, which left the fortress at the end of the 6th and the beginning of the 7th century. The second building period of the fortress is associated with the medieval city of Develt and according to numismatic data it can be placed within the XI-XIV century. The second building period of the fortress is connected with the conquest of these lands from Byzantium and the restoration of the Byzantine "Develt" - until the fall of Bulgaria under Ottoman rule. After the 14th century, life continued with the relocation of the settlement 5 km north of the medieval fortress.

#### Location

Altitude: 30 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 22'49 "SS and 27 ° 16'31 "IR

S. Debelt - Bulgarian Debelt

#### Description and story

The Bulgarian Debelt. In 813 the troops of the Bulgarian Khan Krum took over Debelt. According to the Byzantine chroniclers, its inhabitants were displaced in distant lands, and in their place were brought Bulgarians. The important significance that the Bulgarian ruler attributes to this point can be seen from the text of the famous Suleimankyo inscription. In it, Debelt is defined as the center of the "left wing of my country". Under the 815 peace treaty, between Khan Tervel and Justinian II, the border between the two countries began in Debelt, as the lands north of the Mandren Lake remained in Bulgaria. Although systematic studies

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have not yet been undertaken in the field of archaeological excavations, interesting materials have been accumulated in the region that shed light on the development of the city's life after its transition to Bulgaria. From aerial photographs, the highest terrace from the territory of the ancient city was further strengthened. The finds of Proto-Bulgarian and Medieval pottery in the top cultural layers in the northern part of the territory of the ancient city show that there actually existed in the 9th-10th century a settlement. Of particular interest is the Proto-Bulgarian engineering facility, which defended the country from the invasion of Byzantine troops. Known as Erkesia, it consists of a ditch with a width of up to four and a depth of two and a half meters behind which a shaft, about four meters high, is erected. It started at the seashore and continued west to the Maritsa River. Its total length is over one hundred and sixty kilometers, and the best-preserved areas are in the area of the modern village of Debelt. Here the facility branches and forms wide enclosed spaces, obviously necessary for the needs of the Bulgarian garrison. In the 13th and 14th centuries, the main settlement in the area was the fortress on the southern bank of the river. It was annexed to Bulgaria just after the Battle of Edirne in 1205. Although only explored by drilling, the materials found around the eastern and southern wall walls show that the claim continued to play the role not only of military but also of economic, mostly shopping center. For the last time in the sources, the name Debelt is mentioned in connection with the march of the Byzantine commander Mihail Glava Tarhajat in 1261. The changes in the level of the Black Sea and the related complex geological processes towards the end of the 13th and the beginning of the 14th century led to the closure the fairway to Debelt and the formation of large swamps in the surrounding plains. This has led to the relocation of the main port to the east, originally in the city of Skafida and then in the modern Bourgas. The study of the remains of the Bulgarian settlements and fortresses in the area of the archaeological reserve have a high value not only for elucidation of important problems from the medieval history of Bulgaria and its relations with Byzantium. Their results will be indicative of the overall development of Middle Ages life in Southeast Thrace, characterized by an organic combination of elements of different cultural influences.

#### Location

Altitude: 30 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 23'30 "SS. and 27 ° 16'50 & quot;

S. Debelt - Vale Erkesia

#### Description and story

Erkesia border shaft. The largest old Bulgarian fortress on the south of the Balkan, built in the 9th century for the protection of the Bulgarian border. It is 130 km long, starting north-east of the village of Debelt and reaching the Maritsa River to the south. The construction and functioning of the border trench is related to the Bulgarian-Byzantine Wars at the time of Khan Krum 812-813. It consists of a ditch with a width of up to four and a depth of up to two and a half meters, behind which is a shaft raised about four meters high . It started at the seashore and continued west to the Maritsa River. The best preserved areas are in the area of the modern village of Debelt. Here the facility branches and forms wide enclosed spaces, obviously necessary for the needs of the Bulgarian garrison. Coordinates at Debelt:

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Location

Altitude: 42 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 23'44 "SS. and 27 ° 16'24 "IR

C. Debelt - Ancient Deultum

Description and story

The ancient Deultum is located 1.47 km southeast in a straight line from the center of the village of Debelt. At the time of Emperor Vespasian (69-79), Colonia Flavia Pacis Deultensium was established on the northern bank of the lower Sredetzka River. In it were settled military veterans of the VIII August Legion, distinguished during the suppression of the great uprising in Judea and in the course of the civil war to establish the power of the new emperor. It is the only colony of this kind on the territory of our country. For the thirtieth anniversary of his founding, during the reign of Emperor Trajan, he has cut a jubilee issue of bronze coins. There is reason to believe that in the 1930s and 1950s Deultum suffered seriously, probably as a result of an enemy invasion. During Emperor Mark Aurelius, his provincial territory was fortified with burgs and presidencies. Two points of its borders are marked by inscriptions: the southern suburbs of Burgas and the ancient fortress over the village of Golyamo Bukovo. The great flowering of Deultum began during the Nordic dynasty at the end of the 2nd and 3rd centuries. It then covered more than 250 acres, had a well-developed infrastructure and a street-oriented network oriented towards the world. The temple of Asclepius and Cybele was erected in its central part, the Thracian God Rider and Heracles were worshiped. In the second half of the 3rd century the city was destroyed by the Goths. Immediately afterwards, however, it was once again built and fortified. Architectural elements of older buildings have often been used in new buildings. At that time, a large bathroom was built in the center. The sections revealed so far suggest that it was one of the largest buildings in Europe of its own time. The building had a perfect water supply and sewerage system. Great areas of the hippocampus (air-space and water heating system), basins of marble-tiled pools, some walls with a height of more than 2 m are well preserved. Probably, when he visited Deultum in November 296, he was Emperor Diocletian. In the first decades of the next century, the city, now called Develt, became an important site for the supply and defense of the new capital of the empire, Constantinople. The results of the archaeological surveys show that large-scale reconstruction of the street network and its defense system has taken place. In the 70s of the 4th century, during the great invasion of the Goths, accompanied by slave uprisings, a great battle was taking place in the immediate vicinity of the city. After defeating an elite part of the capital guard, the barbarians devastated and burned Develt. Upon its restoration, the new fortress walls cover a much smaller area and pass on the ruins of the eastern part of the ancient bath. Nonetheless, it remains a primary economic center. In the 5th century it was already the center of the episcopate.

ocation

Altitude: 21 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 23'13 "SS and 27 ° 17'03 "IR

S. Granichar – fortress

Description and story

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A fortress is situated on the border, at 3.34 km south of a straight line from the center of the village of Granichar.

**Location**

Altitude: 524 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 06'18 "SS. and 27 ° 14'25 "N.

S. Gorno Yabalkovo - fortress Chauvo Kale

**Description and story**

Shaw Kale is an ancient and medieval fortress of the Millennial Fortress Group. The "Milies" is a group of seven fortresses that became known by the peace treaty between Bulgaria and Byzantium dating back to 717, with which the border is established in these strongholds. The origin of Milleon is Greek and means "Apple", which is translated into Turkish as "Almai". After 1934 the villages in the area of the fortresses were renamed Gorno and Dolno Yabalkovo. The fort has occupied an area of 2 to 2.5 acres, but is now completely destroyed. Among the local population it is known as the Shaw Kale.

**Location**

The remains of Shaw Kale are located on the border just 3.5 km southwest of the village of Gorno Yabalkovo on Mount Kervansaray. Altitude: 610 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 05'35 "SS and 27 ° 03'57 "ID.

S. Golyamo Bukovo - fortress and sanctuary of Osman Bair peak

**Description and story**

A Thracian fortress and sanctuary is located on the peak Osman Bair, 1 km east on a straight line from the Golyamobukov Monastery and 4.54 km east on a straight line from the center of the village of Golyamo Bukovo.

**Location**

Altitude: 482 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 10'51 "SS and 27 ° 14'15 "N.

S. Golyamo Bukovo - fortress Golyamobukovsko kale

**Description and story**

Late Antiquity and Medieval Fortress "Golyamobukovsko Kale" is located 1.48 km north along a straight line from the center of the village of Golyamo Bukovo. The fortress is one of the largest of the Milesion fortresses group. It is built on a high and steep hill above the village, surrounded by three sides of the Faqi River and its flowing Sarpasan dere. The small plateau at the top has an approximate size of 150 to 150 m. about 15 decares of area with irregular elliptical shape is surrounded by a wide to 1.8-2 m wall. In some places it is about 3 m high. It is made of oblong, uneven blocks in irregular rows, bonded with pink mortar. The wall is preserved at a height of 5-6 m, the two faces are well formed and the filling between them is made of small stone. The entrance is located on the accessible west side and is flanked by a rectangular tower.

**Location**

It is situated on a high and steep peak over the village of Golyamo Bukovo, Sredets municipality, surrounded by three sides of the Faqiiska River and the river Sarpasan dere, which flows into it. Altitude: 211 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 12'09 "SS and 27 ° 10'33 "IR

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S. Varovnik - fortress of Bliznatska Kale

Description and story

The Late Antiquity and Medieval Fortress of Bliznatska Kale is situated on the top of the Small Twin, at 2.68 km southeast on a straight line from the center of the village of Varovnik. The fortress is one of the Milenes fortresses. It had two entrances on the northwest and southeast side, the second one flanked by two quadrangular towers. The walls of the fortress are destroyed to the foundations. The fortress wall is made of stone, bonded with white mortar. The fortress wall is more than 1 m wide. The total area of the fortress is about 8 decares.

Location

Altitude: 482 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 12'09 "SS. and 27 ° 15'30 "N.

S. Bogdanovo - Kaleto Fortress / Alagunsko Gradishte

Description and story

Late Antique Fortress Kaleto / Alegyansko gradishte is situated 4 km northwest in a straight line from the center of the village of Bogdanovo, near the road to the village of Rosenovo. The fortress has an area of about 5 decares. It has guarded the fjord of the Fakiyska River, as well as the Roman road from Sredets to Bunarhisar. The fortress wall is made of mortar, bonded with mortar.

Location

Assumed coordinates: Altitude: 126 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 15'36 "SS. and 27 ° 13'44 "IR

S. Bogdanovo - fortress Sazladza kale

Description and story

Late Antiquity Fortress Sazladza Kale is located about 3 km east of the village of Rosenets and 6 km north of the village of Bogdanovo, over the right bank of Faqiiska river and to the left of Bogdanovo-Rakov dol road. The area in which it is built represents a very rugged place. In it the roads coming from Drachevo, Rosenovo, Rakov dol and Bogdanovo are collected. The fortress is made of mortar, bonded with mortar.

Location

Approximate Coordinates: Altitude: 126 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 16'55 "SS and 27 ° 16'15 "N.

S. Belevren – fortress

Description and story

The fortress is 3.57 km south-west in a straight line from the center of the village of Belevren, on the border itself at 135 border pyramids.

Location

Altitude: 600 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 04'09 "C. and 27 ° 08'52 "IR

Coordinates:

Chr. Sredets - fortress Patamukastel

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### Description and story

The Late Antiquity and Medieval Fortress of Potamukastel / Kaletoshe is situated at 2.36 km south-west in a straight line from the center of Sredets. The fortress is situated on the equal ridge of a medium hill of the Strandzha mountain range. On all sides, the hill is surrounded by steep slopes, just southwest, by a narrow saddle connecting to the rest of the massif. At the northern foot of the hill was the Sredetzka River, whose bed in the middle of the 20th century was displaced by 400 m to the north. The fortress wall followed the configuration of the terrain along the ridge of the hill, closing an area of 5 acres of elliptical form. Until now the fortress has been studied southwest wall with main gate and two rectangular towers. Also, parts of the northern wall with a small porter in it and part of the southern wall, as well as a light building that served the needs of the soldiers at the southwest gate, were also explored. The shape of the discovered towers is an irregular trapeze with the dimensions of the southwest tower - 4.7x6.1x6.7m and the southeast tower - 6.75x6x4.6m. The walls of the fortress are built with façade blocks and blocked by local lomb and river stone, bonded with mortar and kept to a height of 1.2 m. Their thickness varies between 1.5 and 2 m. After the transfer of the capital of the Roman Empire from Rome to Constantinople in the 4th century, the lands of today's Sredets fall into the lands of the Eastern Roman Empire. At the end of the early 6th century to respond to the increasing barbaric pressure from the north, the empire began building strongholds in the hope of stopping raids. At that time, the fortress of Potamukastel was established, and it was founded during the time of Emperor Anastasia (491-518) and was completed at Justin I (518-527). The fortification was within the third barrier line, formed on the slopes of the Strandja Mountain, which line was one of the essential elements in the defense of the Empire. The good visibility of the Bakardzhika array, as well as its simultaneous existence with the Markelly and Develt fortresses, give reason to assume that it is one of the posts to receive light signaling in case of danger from the north. The fortress marks a second bloom in the IX-X century, destroyed in the 11th century. It was rebuilt in the 12th century as a fortified settlement. Today, the site is deeply neglected, and even excavated by archeologists in 1995 has once again sunk into thick bushes and trees.

### Местоположение

Надморска височина: 86 m GPS координати: 42°20'24" С.Ш. и 27°09'12" И.Д.

С. Сливарово - крепост Кладара

### Описание и история

Тракийска, късноантична и средновековна крепост Кладара се намира на 1.13 km югоизточно по права линия от центъра на село Сливарово. Изградена е на скално възвишение заобиколено от три страни от меандрите на река Резовска. Върхът е обграден от двойна крепостна стена. Външната е изградена от големи ломени камъни без спойка, характерна за крепостното строителство на траките. На около 50 m по-

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високо от първата се издига втора крепостна стена, изградена вероятно, както предполага Божидар Димитров през IV-VI век. Тя е дебела 2.5 m. Изсидана от ломени камъни, споени с розово- бял хоросан с примес от счукани тухли. Стените са запазени на височина 3-4 m. На самия връх се намира цитаделата на крепостта, която има четириъгълна форма и заема площ от около 1 декар. Запазена е на височина от 5-6 m. Възможно е вътрешното укрепление да е представлявало феодален замък, изграден през VII-XIII век.

Location

Altitude: 233 m GPS coordinates: 41 ° 57'32 "SS and 27 ° 40'17 "IR

S. Mladezhko - fortress Golyamo Kale

Description and story

Thracian and Late Antique Fortress Golyamo Kale is located 1.42 km west in a straight line from the center of Mladezhko village. It is one of the largest Thracian and late antique fortresses in Strandzha. In the center there is the Kaleto cave, where ceramics from the late Middle Ages (XII-XIV century) were discovered. The place is picturesquely enclosed by the canyons of the Bliznatska and Evrenozovska rivers. It is located at the eastern end of a high plateau-like tongue, surrounded by the north, east and south of the valleys of the Bliznatska and Evrenozovska rivers, which merge at the foot of the valley and start the Mladezhka river. The actual fortress has an irregular oval shape and is enclosed to the east, south and west with a wall of fortress. To the north it is naturally protected by the vertical rock bank over the Bliznashka River. The total area occupied by the fortress is 41.5 decares. The fortress wall is made up of large stones that form the two faces and a filling of small stones. Thickness and everywhere is the same - about 0.9 m. Nowhere is it used to be mortar. At a distance of 40 to 85 m from each other on the fortress wall are built rectangular towers, which are protruding outwards. There are traces of a total of 10 towers. The fortress has two opposing entrances - one to the east and the other to the west, both representing a simple wall break flanked on one side by a rectangular tower. Throughout the wall, the wall is heavily demolished but clearly outlined. Above the current level of terrain there are one or two rows of stones buried in the stone embankment. In the eastern corner of the fortress, a second face from an earlier building period or some substructure is seen in front of the wall. The way of construction is identical to that of the main fortress wall. To the west, where there is a natural access to the fortress on the ridge, the wall is double, with another, obviously weaker, now completely destroyed. In the same direction, the ridge is intersected in two more places with partition walls. The total area of the fortress thus reaches 80 acres. At the western foot of the fortress, along the Evrenozovska River, about 1 km on the surface there is a fragmented late antique pottery, testifying to the existence of an open-air settlement of considerable size. Above it, at the base of the slope, there are obscure small mounds and stone circles, which in all likelihood indicate the presence of a necropolis. There are a significant number of caves in the area of Golyamoto Kale fortress, most of which are also archaeological finds. The entrance of one of them is

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located in the enclosed area of the fortress, outside the inner fortress. Traces of the foundations of buildings are visible on the surface of the terrain in the enclosed by the fortress walls. The culture layer is saturated with an extremely large number of ceramic fragments. The ceramics are mostly red, worked on a bicycle. Ceramic from the whole layer is homogeneous and refers to late antiquity. In addition to household ceramics, there are numerous fragments of building ceramics - bricks, tiles that clearly show the character of the building. There are a large number of small iron objects, among which the nails of different shapes and sizes are the most numerous. The number of fragments of glass vessels and glass melts is also low. The most characteristic are the glass bracelet fragments, usually dark blue, in some cases ornamented with white paste. Among the small finds, the most interesting are a miniature bronze statue, a rosette-shaped bronze applique and a piece of a thin bronze bracelet ending with a stylized snake head. There were also three rather corroded and erased bronze coins, one of which was by Constantine the Great or his receivers, the second by Theodosius I and the third, probably also from the end of the 4th century, with personification of the Byzantine throne on the reverse. It can be concluded that the Great Kale in the village of Mladejko was inhabited in the late antiquity and mainly in the 4th century. The vast area of the fortress, the complex fortification system, the neighboring synchronic open-air settlement and the abundance of finds show that it is not an ordinary mountain guarding fortress, but a significantly late-fortified village, developed for a short period of turbulent construction and economic activity. the time of the Balkan wars and after them in the village are settled refugees from Eastern Thrace. Here are still preserved specimens of the so-called "Sharon houses" (built by the state for refugees from Edirne Thrace).

#### Location

Altitude: 291 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 09'01 "SS. and 27 ° 21'18 "N.

Kalovo - fortress Koundjovo Kale

#### Description and story

Late-Ancient Fortress Koundjovo Kale is located on the right bank of the Mladejka River, west of the village of Kalovo.

#### Location

Altitude: ? m GPS coordinates: ? S.S. and ? ID

S. Kalovo – fortress

#### Description and story

Another fortress is located in the village of Kalovo northwest of it.

#### Location

Altitude: ? m GPS coordinates: ? S.S. and ? ID

S. Zvezdetz - fortress of "Selska Bair" peak / "Goktepe"

#### Description and story

The fortress of the peak "Selska Bair" / "Goktepe" was according to G. Ayanov, mentioned in his book Strandzha from 1938. The peak is situated 1.72 km west in a straight line from the center of the village of Zvezdec. Nowadays the fortress is likely to be completely destroyed.

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Location

Altitude: 466 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 06'53 "SS. and 27 ° 23'54 "IR

S. Zvezdets - fortress Mahmoudkhovo kale

Description and story

Medieval fortress Mahmoudkhovo kale is located 8.33 km southeast in a straight line from the center of the village of Zvezdec. It is built at a height with very steep slopes, surrounded by three sides of the Veleka River. The height has a conical shape. It is accessible only from the northeast, where it is connected by a saddle to the other hills. The fortress has the shape of a rectangle with rounded corners and an area of about 5 acres. The fortress wall is made of stone, bonded with mortar. Inside there were buildings. One of them is perhaps a medieval church.

Location

Altitude: 234 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 03'55 "SS and 27 ° 29'58 "N.

S. Zabernovo - Kaleto fortress

Description and story

Thracian and Late Antique Fortress Kaleto is located on the top of the same name, at 3.81 km southeast on a straight line from the center of the village of Zabernovo. The fortress was built on a turn of the river Stremnitza (Strumnitsa), next to the Kokorovski Dol. The fortress is inaccessible from three sides. Traces of metallurgical activity have been discovered.

Location

Altitude: 223 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 04'19 "SS. and 27 ° 35'04 "IR

S. Zabernovo - a fortress in the "Rupite"

Description and story

A fortress is located in the "Rupite" area on the territory of the village of Zabernovo.

Location

Altitude: ? m GPS coordinates: ? S.S. and ? ID

S. Gramatikovo - fortress Tower of the Kuruv peak

Description and story

The Kulata fortress is located on the summit of Kuruv, 7.8 km southeast in a straight line from the center of the village of Gramatikovo. The fortress is situated on the right bank of the river Veleka.

Location

Altitude: 195 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 01'23 "SS. and 27 ° 44'02 "IS.

Gramatikovo village - Gradishte fortress

Description and story

The Thracian, antique and medieval fortress Gradishte is located 1.53 km northeast in a straight line from the center of the village of Gramatikovo.

Location

Altitude: 284 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 03'57 "SS and 27 ° 40'21 "IR

S. Gramatikovo – fortress

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Description and story

Fortress 5.68 km south along a straight line from the center of the village of Gramatikovo. The fortress has a circular shape with a diameter of 80-90 m.

Location

Altitude: 183 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 00'39 "SS. and 27 ° 39'39 "IR

S. Vizitsa - Kaleto fortress

Description and story

Thracian fortress Kaleto is situated 2.35 km north-west in a straight line from the center of the village of Vizitsa. It is built on a height above the surrounding area, and the fortress wall covers an area of about 80 decares. Inside, there are remains of constructions.

Location

Altitude: 331 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 08'36 "SS. and 27 ° 35'25 "IR

S. Vizitsa – fortress

Description and story

A Thracian fortress is 4,22 km northeast in a straight line from the center of the village of Vizitsa.

Location

Altitude: 386 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 09'33 "SS and 27 ° 37'23 "IR

S. White water - a fortress in the "Kungyov grave" area 2

Description and story

Late Antiquity Fortress is located on the left bank of the Mladezhka River in the Kungyov Grave area. The fortress is situated on a high ridge of the Strandja mountain, southeast of the village of Byala Voda.

Location

Altitude: ? m GPS coordinates: ? S.S. and ? ID

White Water - Bosna Fortress

Description and story

Thracian fortress Bosna is located on the same name, at 2.42 km north along a straight line from the center of the village of Byala voda.

Location

Altitude: 453 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 11'12 "SS. and 27 ° 27'00 "IS.

S. Brashlian - Gradishte fortress

Description and story

Gradishte fortress is located at the bridge over the Adare River, approximately 4.32 km southeast in a straight line from the center of the village of Brashlyan. The fortress is mentioned in the book "Strandzha" by G. Ayanov, issued in 1938. Probably it served as a guard at the place where the road crossed the river. Located within a radius of 500 m from the following coordinates:

Location

Altitude: ? m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 01'39 "SS and 27 ° 28'24 "IR

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S. Bliznak - fortress Kaleto

Description and story

Late Antiquity Fortress Kaleto is situated on the hill of the same name, 4.66 km north of a straight line from the center of the village of Bliznak. Probably completely destroyed.

Location

Altitude: 386 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 12'07 "C. and 27 ° 18'43 "ID.

S. Bliznak - Karaevrensko kale

Description and story

Late Antiquity and Medieval Fortress Karaevren Kale is located on the hill of the same name, 0.72 km south of a straight line from the center of the village of Bliznak. Part of the Millennial Fortress Complex - seven fortresses located in the western part of Strandzha, standing between Thrace and Aegean Sea, guarding the road from the plain to Constantinople. The area is about 2 acres. The walls are made of stone and are bonded with mortar. They are down to the ground. The fortress has not been explored. It was certainly used in late antiquity and the Middle Ages. There is no evidence of antiquity.

Location

Altitude: 457 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 09'16 "SS and 27 ° 18'04 & quot;

S. Bliznak - Karaevren Tower

Description and story

The Karaevren Tower is located next to the village itself. It is erected for protection from the Kardzhali hordes by the local Ottoman ruler Yumer Draza. It is linked to events called the "Karaevren catastrophe" in 1803, where hundreds of people are burned alive.

Location

Altitude: ? m GPS coordinates: ? S.S. and ? ID

Chr. Malko Tarnovo - road station Utsusgara

Description and story

Roman road station Utzurgas / Ut surgas was located in the ancient settlement of the same name, located in the center of the town of Malko Tarnovo. It is located on the road coming from the Roman road station Pudizo, located at the outflow of Mandren Lake, passing by the village of Vizitsa and going to ancient Heraclea.

Location

Altitude: 339 m GPS coordinates: 41 ° 58'50 "SS and 27 ° 31'27 "IR

Chr. Malko Tarnovo - fortress at the Kanarite peak

Description and story

A Thracian fortress is situated on the southern slope of the Kanarite Peak, 2.22 km south on a straight line from the center of the town of Malko Tarnovo. The fortress is of irregular square shape with approximate dimensions 120/140/80/100 m.

Location

Altitude: 590 m GPS coordinates: 41 ° 57'35 "SS and 27 ° 31'10 "N.

Chr. Malko Tarnovo - Golyamo Gradishte fortress

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#### Description and story

Thracian fortress Golyamo Gradishte is located on the highest point of the Bulgarian Strandzha - peak "Goliamo Gradishte", located just off the Mishkova Niva area, 3.39 km west on a straight line from the center of the town of Malko Tarnovo. The citadel of the fortress is circular in shape. The fortress wall is built of different size and shape stones, tightly laid without solder. Its bases are 2.5 m thick and the wall's diameter is 100 m. At its center was a sanctuary of god Apollo Aulariok, witnessed by the altar of this god found there. About 30 m southwest of the highest point of the peak in the gravel rock are saved rock cuttings. The traces of rock cuttings at the top in the form of pits suggest that during a very early period, probably in the II - beginning of the first millennium BC, a rock sanctuary functioned in this place and it began to function as a fortress during later periods. For centuries, the site has not been studied archaeologically.

#### Location

Altitude: 709 m GPS coordinates: 41 ° 57'56 "SS. and 27 ° 29'22 "IR

Chr. Malko Tarnovo - fortress Valchan kale

#### Description and story

Late Antiquity and Medieval Fortress Valchan Kale is located in the valchanovo bridge, on the border with Turkey, at 7.17 km southeast on a straight line from the center of the town of Malko Tarnovo. The fortress is built on a rock nose, surrounded by the northwest, southwest and southeast of the river Rezovska. Most accessible from the northeast. The northwestern slope of the hill is curved and the southwest and southeast are rather steep. The fortress has a strongly elongated elongated shape with approximate dimensions of 260/80 m. From the northeast, where the fortress is most accessible, a deep moat is carved. On the same northeastern side you can see the citadel of the fortress.

#### Location

Altitude: 316 m GPS coordinates: 41 ° 56'02 "SS and 27 ° 35'18 "IR

S. Yasna Polyana - fortified village Kaleto

#### Description and story

Thracian fortified settlement Kaleto is located on the hill of the same name, 2.87 km southeast on a straight line from the center of the village Yasna Polyana. It is built on an independent elevation dominating over the surrounding valley with sloping slopes. North of the hill passes the river Dudenska and southeast the river Zelenikovska. The two rivers flow into each other east of the hill, making only access to the fortification from the southwest. The village has an irregular triangular shape with an east-facing angle. Its maximum dimensions are approximately 130x85 m with an area of 7 decares. The walls of the fortress are heavily depopulated, and the whole site has been the subject of economic activity over the years. Nevertheless, low stone shafts from sprawling walls are seen on the ridge of the hill. The main part of the settlement is situated on the northwestern sloping slope. Various ceramic fragments are observed throughout the site. The village is situated in the middle of a fertile and watered valley, where several important road arteries have been crossed to and from the

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sea.

Location

Altitude: 40 m GPS coordinates 42 ° 16'15 "SS. and 27 ° 38'44 "IR

S. Yasna Polyana - fortress of Hissarluka

Description and story

The fortress of Hissarluka is situated on the same name hill, 2.31 km north-west in a straight line from the center of the village Yasna Polyana. The hill is surrounded by three sides of the Ropotamo River.

Location

Altitude: 98 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 18'01 "SS and 27 ° 36'08 "IR

S. Yasna Polyana - fortress Kaleto 2

Description and story

Fortress Kaleto is located on the hill of the same name, 8.81 km south on a straight line from the center of the village Yasna Polyana.

Location

Altitude: 296 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 12'14 "SS and 27 ° 35'15 "IR

S. Novo Panicharevo - fortress Malevsko gradishte

Description and story

Late Antiquity and Medieval Fortress Malevsko Gradishte / Kaleto is located 2.25 km southwest in a straight line from the center of the village of Novo Panicharevo. The fortress wall is made of stone, bonded with white mortar.

Location

Altitude: 178 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 15'57 "SS. and 27 ° 32'35 "IR

S. Novo Panicharevo - fortress Kaleto

Description and story

Late Antiquity and Medieval Fortress Kaleto is situated on the same name, 7.03 km southwest in a straight line from the center of the village of Novo Panicharevo. The fortress wall is made of stone, bonded with white mortar.

Location

Altitude: 301 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 13'40 "SS and 27 ° 30'56 "N.

S. Novo Panicharevo - fortress of Delayshevsko Kale

Description and story

Thracian fortress Delilashska Kale is located on the same peak, 6.06 km south on a straight line from the center of the village of Novo Panicharevo. The fortress is heavily destroyed. It has an area of about 2 acres. The fortress wall is made of unbleked stone.

Location

Altitude: 208 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 13'50 "SS and 27 ° 33'23 "IR

S. Veselie - fortress Lobodovo kale

Description and story

The Thracian fortress Lobidovo Kale is situated on the same name, 3,61 km northeast along a

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straight line from the center of Veselie village. The fortress covers an area of 1.5 acres and is built of unbleked stones. East of the fortress, the slope and the saddle there is a necropolis of dozens of small stone mounds.

**Location**

Altitude: 313 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 21'07 "SS. and 27 ° 39'00 "N.

Chr. Primorsko - Roman Terra Road Station

**Description and story**

Terra / Thera Roman Road Station was located at the mouth of the Ropotamo River. It is situated on the West-Pontian Road, which connects the Danube Delta with Constantinople. Before it is the Apollonia road station near Sozopol, followed by the station "Boatikum" in the town of Ahtopol.

**Location**

Altitude: -2 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 19'51 "SS. and 27 ° 45'23 "IR

Chr. Primorsko - fortress Chyrdjik

**Description and story**

Ancient fortress Chyrdjikka is situated on the same name, 8,44 km northwest in a straight line from the center of the town of Primorsko. The fortress is registered by K. Panayotova and D. Nedev. Its area is 0.45 acres. It has a rectangular plan and a fortress wall made of unbleked stone. The fortress had a refugee status in the face of an attack on the population of a local settlement.

**Location**

Altitude: 142 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 18'44 "SS. and 27 ° 40'25 "IR

Chr. Primorsko - Fortress of Farmakida

**Description and story**

Thracian fortress Farmakida is located in the region of the same name, 3.9 km north-west in a straight line from the center of the town of Primorsko and 120 m south of the river Ropotamo river. Built on a naturally fortified, low elevation, only accessible from the southwest. The site occupies a central location among three mound necropolises, including 30 tombstones. At the south-western foot of the fortress is a localized Thracian settlement, occupying an area of about 2 decares. To the north of the fortification there were three decks over the river through which the ancient roads to Byzantine had passed. The alley is small, rectangular and occupies an area of only 0.865 acres. It is oriented southwest-northeast and has a maximum size of 23x33 m. The fortress walls are 2.4 m thick and are built of medium-sized stones bridged with mud. Along the middle of the southwest wall, which is 23 m long, is a rectangular tower. This tower is unique to the fortification and is external to the tower. It has a rectangular plan with dimensions of 5.2x3.5 m and wall thickness from 1.2 to 1.7 m. From the inside of its southwest wall is a stone staircase to climb the upper floors. Due to the steep terrain to the south of the tower, a 1.4 m wide stone platform has been adhered to, which further strengthened the walls of the tower. In the studies of the tower, under a distinctly burning layer, a collective coin finds of 50 bronze coins were discovered, among which are identified

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the "Hellenistic rulers of Mostis" (113-85 / 79 BC), coined in Apolonia Pontica, and Kotis (57-48 BC) The second period in the use of the tower, and hence probably the entire site, dates back to the Republican denar of Lucius Plancus from 47 BC. and a bronze coin of the king of Galatias Deiotarus (62-40 BC), found at a higher level above the burning layer marking the burning of the tower. Inside the building are found buildings made of single-faced processed stones that have been covered with tiles. Many fragments of Thracian household ceramics have been found by hand and by bike. Three silver and one bronze coin were also found. The silver coins are tetradrames, two minted in Maronea after 146 BC, one in Byzantium around 200 BC. and bronze in Odessos in 80-70 BC. From previous studies on the site, it is apparent that it has been operating in a relatively short period of time since the end of the second and first half of the first century BC. As a working hypothesis, the fortress is considered as the residence of a local Thracian aristocrat.

#### Location

Altitude: 24 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 17'36 "SS. and 27 ° 43'11 "IR

Chr. Primorsko - fortress Terra

#### Description and story

Thracian, antique, late antique and medieval fortress Hersonisos / Terra / Oryospotamo / Padama / Sveti Dimitar is located at the sea front, at the mouth of the Ropotamo River, at 7.14 km northwards in a straight line from the center of Primorsko. The remnants and traces of the great centuries-old harbor that lay just before the mouth of the Ropotamo River are now found all along the line of thought from the end of the bridge to the mouth to the end of the rocks in the sea which are actually the most protruding part of the cape St. Dimitar. The whole space around this mental axis is filled with finds. While the rocks of the nose can be perceived for their eastern frontier, the west remains obscure and its refinement is the subject of future research. The finds continue on land near the former border division and monument to the dead soldier. A wall wall can be expected here. At the end of the last century, archaeologist Karel Shkorpil noticed a rectangular pit, 2.5 m long. In 1982, it had collapsed into the sea and shrunk to 1 m, and now it has completely failed, and the waves blur the last scars. The first findings from the harbor were discovered in 1976 in dredging works with the floating crane "Giant". Then dozens of clay vessels from the late antiquity and the Middle Ages came to the collections of the museums in Bourgas and Varna. In the view of the bottom, stone anchors and lead stock were discovered many times, and from 1982 to 1989 "Maritime Society" - Bourgas, conducted extensive archaeological research under the direction of Assoc. Ivan Karaiotov. It has to be concluded that the sinking of this ancient and medieval harbor is due to complex reasons - increasing the sea level, the impact of the surf and the coast and the slipping of the volcanic rock layers. In underwater archaeological research, the relatively precise stratigraphy of the sunken harbor was established at the mouth of the Ropotamo River. At 3.5-4 m below the underwater ground in one of the studied squares were arranged pairs of wooden stakes. They were coated with clay and hundreds of fragments of it were found. The ceramic material in this layer dates back to the early phase of the Bronze Age, that is between

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2000 and 1750 BC. Above this juvenile layer, approximately 0.50 m thick, there follows a layer of pebbles and mussels, among which are discovered entire vessels and fragments of the Greek colonization of the Black Sea coasts. The layers of 3 m to the bottom surface are saturated with materials from the Roman era, late antiquity, the Middle Ages and the late Middle Ages. In the early epoch, the harbor at the mouth of Ropotamo was called Hersonisos, and this is probably due to its location in the northern curve of the large peninsula, ending with Maslin Cape. During the Roman era, the complex of ports and a road station around the large peninsula were called Terra. This word means "game", "monster". Its impact can not be ruled out when the new toponym "The Lion Head" arises. Terra indirectly speaks that, in the distant past, the area around the mouth of Ropotamo was a blessed place for hunting and fishing. In the Middle Ages, the name Oriospotamo, meaning "Border River", emerged. The name of the Ropotamo River itself was derived from "Oryospotamo" through meta-meta. In the late Middle Ages there was the settlement of St. Dimitar, surviving through the name of the nose. It is mentioned in the Ottoman documents of 1493 together with the nearby village of Chenger, located a little further on the peninsula.

#### Location

Altitude: -2 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 19'51 "SS. and 27 ° 45'23 "IR

Chr. Primorsko - Elya fortress

#### Description and story

Thracian, antique and medieval fortress Elya / Terra / Sirase is located on Cape "Maslen Cape", 5.43 km northeast in a straight line from the center of Primorsko. The fortress at Maslen Nose is not excavated. A huge wall barbs the nose in the narrowest part, traces of walls on the shores of the nose are not noticed. They are either drowned by erosion, or the shore that is tall and almost vertical is not fortified. The wall is 2.80 m wide and is made of unbleked stone. In the leeward aquatic area, dozens of anchors and many fragments of amphorae from the ancient, early-medieval and late medieval epochs have been found - a testimony of the particularly intensive use of the port basin. Medieval and later sources refer to the nose of the Greek "Elia" and the Turkish "Oliven Borun". French geographer Jean Bélen in 1738 notes that the Greeks call it the "Syra", which is par excellence derived from the ancient "terra", meaning "game", "animal", "animal monster" and sometimes used with meaning "lion", which reminds us of the toponym "Lion Head" reached to us. The Thracian mogul necropolis, which can be connected to the fortress "Maslen Cape", is situated on the slope of Kale Bair and consists of about 30 mounds with stone crepes. They are a monument of national importance, without being announced yet. The port of the Maslen Nos fortress is located in the southern area of the island and is well protected by the northeast and northeast winds. Numerous years ago, dozens of stone and lead anchors, ancient amphorae from the period of colonization and medieval ceramics were discovered here. In this aquatory in 1969 Prof. Ivan Galabov conducted the first Bulgarian underwater archaeological expedition (now there is a memorial plaque reflecting this fact). In later years, underwater intelligence was carried out here by the Shields-South expeditions and the underwater exploration group of the

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Apolonia-Strandzha expedition. Hence, stone anchors from the early Iron Age, lead-like columns of antiquity and iron anchors from the Roman era, the Middle Ages and the late Middle Ages. The materials are kept in the Burgas and Sozopol Museums.

Location

Altitude: 36 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 18'27 "SS and 27 ° 47'26 "IR

Chr. Primorsko - fortress Burhama

Description and story

Thracian fortress Burma is part of the fortification system fortress on Meden Rid Ranuli-Burhama-Malko Kale-Lobidovo Kale-Krimna-Atia. It is situated at the peak of Burma in Ropotamo Reserve, 7.5 km northwest of Primorsko, to the left of the Primorsko-Sozopol road, at a maximum distance of one kilometer from the road, opposite the Ranuli fortress, which is to the right of the road.

Location

Altitude: 264 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 19'09 "C. and 27 ° 41'52 "IR

Chr. Kiten - Urdoviza fortress

Description and story

The Thracian, antique and medieval fortress Urdoviza is located on the same name, 0.7 km east on a straight line from the center of Kiten. It has existed since the Trojan War of the 12th century BC. It has been proven that there was a harbor here, both in antiquity and in the Middle Ages, when the fortress was an important Bulgarian stronghold and naval base. It is an old Thracian settlement which finds confirmation in the abundant finds of antique stone anchors and ceramics from the end of the Bronze Age, archaic, classical and Hellenistic pottery (mainly fragments of amphorae) and fragments of redfire Roman vessels found in the two bays around the peninsula. The peninsula, on which the fortress was located, is about 120 m long and 60 to 80 m wide, the crate connecting it to the mainland is about 40 m wide. The coasts of the peninsula are steep and 10 to 15 m high, making it inaccessible from the sea. The Shkorpil Brothers have discovered the remains of a 68m-long fortified wall, 1.8 to 2.5m thick, made of stone, bonded with white mortar with broken tiles. The wall was crowned with two battle towers. A deep moat was excavated in front of her. Now, here is the fortress wall that has bordered the peninsula from the land. At the end of the XIX century, Urdoviza's wall was well preserved. One of the hypotheses is that this is the last blocked port that exported supplies to Troy, which led to its collapse. Excavations of the Udoviza fortress wall, one of the most preserved on the Black Sea coast, have revealed 12 steps, two observation towers, a fireplace, and a clearly defined door. According to an ancient legend written by the Shkorpil brothers, south of Urdoviza, it was passed through the bay of a stone wall to the opposite nose that kept the harbor from the storms. The ships entered through an opening that was blocked by an iron chain. Above the mouth of the nearby Karaagach River there are villages dating back to the Roman epoch, so there is a church measuring 16 m to 32 m. The mounds in the region are typical of Strandzha, about two feet high. The coins were also exhibited from the end of the 3rd to the beginning of the 13th century. Forty coins from the days of Mauricius,

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Theodosius, Anastasios, John II and others were found in the region of Kiten. The fortress wall of the Urdoviza fortress has long been known to archaeologists, but so far no studies have been made. It is a unique monument of culture, with authentic ancient facilities preserved - military stairs for climbing to the higher part of the fortress, where were the security peaks, patrols, unique walls.

**Location**

Located in the town of Kiten Primorsko municipality. Altitude: 15 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 14'08 "SS and 27 ° 46'59 & quot;

Sinemorets - a fortress or fortified settlement

**Description and story**

Fortress or fortified settlement is on Cape "Sinemorets", 1.2 km eastwards in a straight line from the center of Sinemorets village. It is erected on a peninsula surrounded north, east and south by sheer rocks and the sea that crashes into them. The only access to the peninsula is from the west, from where the main defense of the fort was erected. It is a shaft or a wall that is raised in a straight line north-south from slope to slope. The barrier facility is currently tracked in the form of a 2 m high embankment and 5-6 m wide. In front of it was a large and wide ditch carved with a depth of 2-3 m and a width of more than 8 m. The rest of the countries have no protection devices. There the steep rocky slopes there were enough reliable protection. In the second half of the 20th century, the nose was settled by the military, whose activity almost completely depopulated the object. On the terrain, which is currently quite overgrown with high grass vegetation, individual fragments of ceramics are observed. North of the nose and the fortress is a comfortable bay, a small rocky bay. It is surrounded by sheer rocks, which show remnants of rock cut stone steps. Probably this bay was the main port of the fort and today it is still used by the local fishermen. South of the fortress is the beach and estuary of the Butamya River. This is probably the main reason for the emergence of the fortification that has begun its existence for the purpose of storing merchandise and trading with the peoples of the sea. Today, the site on which the site is located has been sold by the military to a private company and access to the nose is only possible with a great deal of ingenuity, luck and physical effort.

**Location**

Altitude: 20 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 03'34 "SS and 27 ° 59'30 "IR

Sinemorets - tower in Butyama area

**Description and story**

Late Antiquity and Medieval Warning Tower Peggy is located on the hill of the same name at 1.25 km southeast along a straight line from the center of the village of Sinemorets, on the south bank of the Butamya River. The elevation to which it is erected has dominant positions with very good visibility to the river. The tower is erected at the highest point of the hill and has a circular shape about 5 m in diameter. Today her remains do not exceed 1 m in height and are traced under the spill. Around the tower of the terrain it makes an inconvenient sinking, which may be a trace of ditch for extra protection. Ceramics on the terrain are not

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observed, but the site is in a forest and the ground is covered with a thick layer of dry and rotting leaves. The tower has visualized the downstream of the Butamyra River and has signaled the fortified village of Cape Sinemorets and the fortress of Mount Papia near the village of Varvara.

#### Location

Altitude: 26 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 03'10 "SS and 27 ° 59'10 "N.

Sinemorets - fortress in the "Golata Niva"

#### Description and story

Ancient fortress is located in the "Golata Niva" area on the right bank of the Veleka River, 0.59 km northwest in a straight line from the center of the village of Sinemorets. It is erected on a hillside with steep slopes from the southwest, northwest and northeast. It is most accessible from the southeast through a wide saddle that separates the elevation from the surrounding plateau terrain. The fortress occupies the leveled ridge on the hill, having an irregular, elliptical shape dictated by the peculiarities of the terrain. The fortress is oriented to the southeast-northwest with a maximum size of 63x44 m and an area of 2.1 decares. The walls of the fortress are made of unformed, loose stones on the face of the wall, filled with stone, all of which are bonded with mud. The thickness of the walls varies from 1.1 to 1.4 m from the most accessible southeast side. It is from this side that the only fortress tower. It is built in the middle of the southeast wall and is external to the wall. It has a rectangular shape with maximum dimensions of 6.7x5.75 m. It was found that it had 2 floors and a battleground, the first one was built of stone, and the second and the battlefield probably from the brick. Inside, archaeologists have uncovered the foundations of several buildings, including the remains of a church built with stones bridged with white mortar. The church and the several graves around it date back to the 18th and 19th centuries. The ceramics found on the terrain are from two periods from the 2nd century BC to the 1st century and from the 18th-19th century. The fortress was built in the 2nd century AD as an urban villa of Greek heavens with a distinctly Hellenistic origin. Almost all the artifacts found in the site speak of the main and only Hellenic habitation associated with the Greek colonies nearby. The site ceases to exist after the 1st century BC, which is related to the Roman conquest of this part of the Black Sea. In the eighteenth century a church and service buildings were built on the hill, which existed until the middle of the 19th century when they were destroyed.

#### Location

Altitude: 11 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 03'51 "SS and 27 ° 58'19 "IR

S. Rezovo - security tower

#### Description and story

Signal-guard tower is 4 km north-west in a straight line from the center of Rezovo village and 0.36 km southeast of Silistar beach. The nose on which it is erected is rocky, with steep and inaccessible slopes from the north and east, washed by the waves of the sea. The tower is erected on the highest part of the nose and is now overgrown and almost inaccessible. The

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remains of it are tracked under the embankment. For additional protection from the northwest to the west and south is carved a huge ditch with retained depth of 2-3 m and width to 10-12 m. The dyke is shaped by connecting two natural and deep fjords from the south and north. Ceramics on the terrain are not observed, but it grows grapes, figs and lilacs, which are living evidence of human presence. The tower served to guard and monitor the only convenient bay for mooring in the area - the Silistar beach. From the tower there is a direct visual connection with the fortress of Kastrica and the fortified village north of the beach.

Location

Altitude: 8 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 01'12 "SS. and 28 ° 00'59 "IR

S. Rezovo - fortress Kastritsa

Description and story

Late Antiquity and Medieval Fortress Kastritsa / Kastrich / Castro is located on Kastrich Cape, 160 m long, 2,87 km north-west along a straight line from the center of the village of Rezovo. The foundations of the fortress, which was built with mortar, bonded with mortar, have a rectangular shape with sides approximately 20 by 60 m. The archaeological findings found prove that the fortress existed from the late antiquity to the Ottoman invasion.

Location

Altitude: 28 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 00'31 "SS. and 28 ° 01'11 & quot;

S. Lozenets – Turizis

Description and story

Antique turquoise or fortified ancient settlement is on the right bank of the Karaagach River, 2.85 km northwest in a straight line from the center of the village of Lozenets and 150 m from the coast. According to Eve. Karyotov, here was the Apollonian emporion "Perinthos" .Turzis is accessible from anywhere, with only the eastern slope of the hill being steeper and easier to defend. The walls and buildings are now visible under the embankment and due to the dense terrain of the terrain, the dimensions of the fortress can not be accurately determined.

Location

Altitude: 25 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 13'27 "SS. and 27 ° 46'44 "ID

S. Kondolovo - Mrazovsko kale fortress

Description and story

Thracian fortress "Mrazovsko kale" is located 5.88 km northeast in a straight line from the center of the village of Kondolovo. It is a small fortress with an area of about 1 decare and a masonry wall without solder. Immediately next to it is a Thracian settlement. On the opposite eastern bank of the river is the Uguri Fortress. Here in the area called "Rupite" there are traces of ancient metallurgical activity. In the land of Kondolovo are known 3 mound necropolises, one located in the Pisan stone locality northeast of the village, on the right bank of the river Tisovitsa, including 40 small mounds with a circle of stone circles, 0.5 km northeast of it there is a second necropolis with approximately 100 small mounds The third necropolis is in the Kamila locality and includes about 50 mounds The monastery St. George is located in the area of Trunat.

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Location

Altitude: 288 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 08'08 "C. and 27 ° 43'28 "IR

Velika - fortress Kaleto

Description and story

Kaleto fortress is located on the peak "Golyamoto Tepe", 3.53 km northwest in a straight line from the center of the village of Velika.

It has a rectangular shape measuring 80x140 m.

Location

Altitude: 79 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 12'40 "SS and 27 ° 45'32 "IR

Varvara - fortress of Papia peak

Description and story

A Thracian fortress has a peak at Papia, at 4.47 km west on a straight line from the center of the village of Varvara. At the moment there is a military unit and access is impossible. The fortress wall is made of unbleked stone.

Location

Altitude: 501 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 06'43 "C. and 27 ° 50'48 "IR

S. Bulgari - Uguri Fortress

Description and story

North of the village of Bulgari Tsarevo, in the "Gradishteto" place 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. Almost at the center of the fortress on an area of approximately 1 decare is built a second fortification of unrefined stone with a solder of white mortar mixed with pieces of bricks. Around the large Ugurri fortress are located in a radius of 5-6 km three smaller fortifications, each with an area of 1 to 2 decares. The first of them, the Lazy Kale, is situated on a peak on the other side of the river, which runs from north and east to Uguri. It falls into the land of the village of Kondolovo. The other two kalets are located above the villages of Gramatikovo and Pismenovo. The walls of all three fortresses have been demolished. Bozhidar Dimitrov - "I think that the excavations of the fortress near the village of Bulgari should be continued." It is a beautiful Bulgarian fortress, about 100 m away from the fortress wall, the fortress is Thracian because it was made with dry masonry. in the Middle Ages, and it is not accidental, and it is known that there was a military garrison (Proto-Bulgarian), which is why the village has received the cognate name of Bulgari and the data we have about it indicate that Bulgari was a city, - Ahtopol, sometime in the first Turkish records described with 206 families, while in Ahtopol there were 139. At that time, Sofia, Vidin, Turnovo had 220 families, and compare how big was the village of Bulgari, even Goro Gorov admits that the settlement was inhabited by peculiar Bulgarians - sturdy and healthy, and was a powerful displacement center in Strandzha, imagine 206 families and each with 7-8 children, so Bulgarians have to dig themselves, and given that the surrounding nature is virgin, the village would become a



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wonderful tourist destination. Attention should also be paid to these strange chapels, which are very old. Fortunately, valuable information about science can be extracted from the fortress's research." After more than 20 years of interruption in the territory of the Tsarevo Municipality in 2003, archaeological research led by a representative of the Archeological Institute at BAS-Sofia began. The scientific program has a duration of 5 years and includes the study of fortresses, settlements and necropolises from the Thracian and Roman epochs on the territory of the Municipality. This year's surveys focused on two sites located on the territory of the village of Bulgari, the fortress Gradishte and a mound located in the Shumaka area. Excavations took place between July and August. They included masters, PhD students and students of archeology from Sofia, as well as workers from the village of Kosti. For the first time on the territory of the Strandja Mountain the study of a fortress began. It has an area of about 11 acres. The investigations have cleared about 120 meters from the fortress wall, which is made of limestone, without solder, its thickness is 3 m and the preserved height is about 1.20-1.50 m. In some places the substructure has a one-stage banquet, which is issued in front of the superstructure. The chosen terrain for the construction of the fortification has had a strong influence on its outline and layout. The fortress wall follows the ridge of the hill. A secret entrance is built from the northern, most inaccessible country. At the highest point of the fortress, with a wide panorama around it, a one-nave, one-apse basilica was built without a narthex. It dominates the rest of the building inside the fortress. The walls are low-pitched, stepping on an earlier cultural layer (possibly a Roman-era sanctuary) from which large fragments of folk are preserved. The altar in the church is higher than the level of the naos, a feature that is more common in early Christian churches in Greece. It is covered with ceramic tiles. Two column bases were found at the entrance. The church, as well as the fortress wall, have been repeatedly damaged, the largest being in the 1970s, when the walls were destroyed by powerful machines. The discovered finds, among which a lead medallion with an inscribed cross in the region (an extremely rare subject on the territory of Bulgaria), iron lithic cross, "pontian type" amphora, clay lamps and numerous fragments of glass vessels allow us to assume that the construction of the fortress dates from the end of the V-beginning of the 6th century, ie from the time of Emperor Anastasius (491-518). The fortress had entered the system of the Third Barrier Strandja, which was one of the essential elements in the Byzantine defense. The population that built the fortress has been dealing with ore and metalworking (we have found a great deal of metal slag) and used the fortification only in case of a severe threat. About 150 m west of the western wall is a necropolis consisting of about 20 mounds. In one of the mounds a cemetery grave was found, to which were placed as a gift, a clay dish and an amphora pot. These finds also date back to the late V-beginning of the 6th century. The necropolis was most probably used by the first builders of the fortress. The study of the fortress will continue in the coming seasons.

#### Location

The Uguri Fortress is located 4.69 km north of a straight line from the center of Bulgari village. Tsarevo, in the area of Gradishteto. Altitude: 251 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 07'47 "SS.

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and 27 ° 44'05 "IR

S. Brodilovo - fortified residence

Description and story

Thracian, fortified residence is 2 km south-west in a straight line from the center of the village of Brodilovo. It is situated on a low hill, surrounded by the north and the south with deep gullies. From the east, the hill descends steeply to the valley of the Veleka River. The site is most accessible from the west, where the narrow saddle of the hill separates it from the main massif. From the solid there is very good visibility to the valley of the Veleka River in this area. It has a rectangular plan, elongated east-west, with a long side about 45 m. In this residence, a local parishioner who lived in this area of Strandja Mountain probably lived. The fortress was destroyed by fire, with more than 100 ceramic vessels, weapons, ornaments and treasures of silver tetradramas from Maroneia, Odessos and Thassos surviving in the ruins. The residence dates back to the 2nd century BC.

Location

Altitude: 50 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 05'02 "SS and 27 ° 50'02" ID

S. Brodilovo - fortress St. Virgin Mary

Description and story

Ancient fortress St. The Virgin Mary is situated on a hill in the same place at 1.34 km southwest in a straight line from the center of the village of Brodilovo. The fortress is situated on a low hill dominating the surrounding terrain. From the east is surrounded by a deep gully, and west of the Veleka River. From the north the hill descends steeply to the valley of the Veleka River and the village of Brodilovo. Hardwood is most accessible from the south where a narrow saddle on the hill separates it from the main massif. From the fortification there is very good visibility along the whole river bank of this stretch and controlled the road passing along its valley, as well as the fertile agricultural lands in the area.

Location

Altitude: 55 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 04'50 "SS and 27 ° 50'39" ID

S. Brodilovo - fortress Kaleto in "Peftich" / "Pastich"

Description and story

Thracian fortress "Kaleto" is situated in the area "Peftich" / "Pastich", presumably 2.29 km southwest in a straight line from the center of the village of Brodilovo. The fortress wall is made of brazed stones without solder and is strongly destroyed. The fortress has the shape of a wrong circle.

Location

Altitude: 76 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 04'30 "SS and 27 ° 50'09 "IR

S. Brodilovo - fortress Kaleto 2

Description and story

Thracian fortress "Kaleto" is located 10.44 km southeast in a straight line from the center of the village of Brodilovo. It is built on a dominating peak, with a height of 248 m. The fortress has a elongated elliptical form from the northwest to the southeast. The fortress wall is

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heavily destroyed. In the interior space there are stones.

Location

Altitude: 248 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 00'00 "SS. and 27 ° 54'09 "IR

S. Brodilovo - fortress Kaleto

Description and story

Thracian fortress "Kaleto" is situated on the same name, at 8.99 km south on a straight line from the center of the village of Brodilovo. The fortress is located on the border itself. It is easiest to reach the border road from Rezovo to the west. There is a pile of stones in the shape of an elliptical circle (tower). Southwest of the site is a trail of a deep earth excavation around which many stones are scattered.

Location

Altitude: 201 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 00'27 "SS. and 27 ° 52'10 "IR

S. Brodilovo - Drencheto fortress

Description and story

Drencheto Fortress is located on a steep hill in the same name, at 4.95 km southeast on a straight line from the center of the village of Brodilovo. The fortress is situated on a waterfall on a high and steep hill north over the Veleka River, opposite the Plaka fortress. An old road leads from the sea near the village of Sinemorets to the Papi fortress near the village of Varvara. The shape of the fortress is triangular, with the walls following the configuration of the terrain. The Drencheto has a very good visibility along the whole road and on the entire Veleka riverbank from the village of Brodilovo to the village of Sinemorets. It has direct visibility with the fortress near the village of Sinemorets to the mouth of Veleka river.

Location

Altitude: 147 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 03'29 "SS and 27 ° 54'10" ID

S. Brodilovo - fortress in Plakata area

Description and story

A medieval fortress is located in Plaka area, 5.15 km southeast in a straight line from the center of the village of Brodilovo. The fortress is located on the right bank of the Veleka River, on a hill most accessible from the south. The fortress was surrounded by a ditch.

Location

Altitude: 122 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 02'54 "SS. and 27 ° 53'25 "N.

S. Brodilovo - fortress Budjaka

Description and story

Late Antiquity and Medieval Fortress "Budjaka" is located on the hill of the same name, 10.3 km south of a straight line from the center of the village of Brodilovo. It is built on a hill, surrounded by the River Rezovska, which leaves a narrow neck in the north

Location

Altitude: 91 m GPS coordinates: 41 ° 59'43 "SS and 27 ° 51'23 "IR

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Chr. Tsarevo - fortress Vasiliko

Description and story

Ancient, late antique and medieval fortress Vasiliko is located on Cape Castro, 1.05 km southeast on a straight line from the center of the town of Tsarevo. The fortress is not large and only covers the northernmost part of the peninsula. The fortress walls were probably in two fortification lines and were largely depopulated, under the embankments further shaped by heavy machinery when repairing the "Uspenie Bogorodichno" church. The very church was built probably on the foundations of a late antique and medieval temple. Southwest of the church, archaeological research has been carried out, excavating a building and an underground facility reminiscent of the catacombs. Through the entire surface of the peninsula there are pieces of construction and household ceramics as well as buried remnants of the walls of buildings. To the north of the church on the east coast of the peninsula is a trench, most probably for the construction of a room, but the excavation works are stopped, most probably due to lack of money and rented because the entire excavation is full of scorched remains of ceramics and human bones!

Location

Altitude: 6 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 09'53 "SS. and 27 ° 51'41 "N.

Chr. Ahtopol - fortified town of Agatopol

Description and story

Thracian, Antique, Late Antiquity and Medieval Town of Abletehios / Tirah / Perontikon / Agapi Polis / Agathopolis / Agathopolis / Gastopli / Ahbol is located on a rocky peninsula 0.2 km east of the center of Ahtopol. The town is situated on today's Ahtopol Peninsula (about 300 m long, about 150 m wide and 20 m high) on the Black Sea coast at the foot of the Strandzha Mountains. It is the southernmost town on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast. The legend tells that the city was home to Dolphin-son of Poseidon and Agatha-daughter of Zeus. Their love was great, but Zeus was angry and sent an army to disfigure the Agatha, but the owl awakened them and saved the lovers. Dolphin killed his enemies and founded a town on the shore of the Black Sea called Agapi-pols (the city of love), where they happily lived the two lovers. His older names are Avuteuyhohos, Thirah, Perontikon, Agapipolis, Agathopolis, Gastopli, Ahbol. Symbol of Ahtopol is the owl Agua, this image originates from the existing several bronze coins with a profile of Apollo on the avers and owl on the reverse with inscriptions AGA, AGAT, AGATO. The Akuo owl is a symbol of happiness, and the Agat stone, perhaps associated with the name, is a stone of longevity and health. According to authoritative opinions, the coins are minted in Stratzha's Agatopolis. The newly discovered inscriptions and finds are another proof that a monetary has functioned here even in antiquity. Information about the initial settlement in the area derives from the open archaeological materials in the region - coins, anchors, ceramics from the 6th-5th c. In Adrian (1996) periplus (travel), there is a reference to the existence of the Port of Ableuteyhos - 250 stadia (43.5 km) from "Hersonis". Because of its geographical isolation from the devastating

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barbarian invasions, the city remains relatively out of the hot spots and is rarely mentioned in documents and travel books of that time.

Most probably, under Emperor Anastasius, the city, again after Thracian times, was defended by the fortress wall, stopping the invasions of the Slavs, built in the 4th century. In 812 Krum's army conquered Agathopolis and the name of the city was cut on one of the columns in Pliska. During the rule of Omurtag three years later (815) when concluding a peace treaty with Byzantium, he refused the expulsion of the Slavs from our lands and thus changed the ethnic composition in Strandzha and Agatopol became an entirely Bulgarian city. In the Diocese of Leo Muddri (886-912), Agathopolis was designated as an episcopate, subordinate to the Adrianopolitan Bishop, and there are calm times of progress and prosperity. It was again his capture in 864 to 894 by Byzantium and the fall under Byzantine rule in the whole of Bulgaria - 970. However, the city continued its development despite the often changing power, as confirmed by the Arab geographer Idrisi (1150) mentioned it as a "significant city". The name of Agathopolis is also mentioned in the so-called "New Eparchial List" from the end of the X<sup>th</sup> century in the 11th century. During the revolt of Asen and Peter, according to information by Nikita Honiat, the invaders cross the Danube and the eastern passes and camp near Agathopolis, which speaks of the active participation of the local population in the liberation movements. Although the city was relatively isolated from the fighting, its dissatisfaction was dictated by the continuous gathering of large quantities of food (mainly meat for the Byzantine ruler) (for example, for the wedding of Isaac II Angel).

Two years later, after the conclusion of a peace treaty between Bulgaria and Byzantium, the Strandzha area remains within our borders. For the later events in the city, Nikitas Honiat recounts the devastation of the area around the city by the Emperor Henry Flanders in 1206, but the city itself is not captured. For the 62 years (1201-1263) the south-Black Sea towns and fortresses Agatopol, Sozopol, Debelt, Kantristion, Skifida, Pirgos, Rosokastro, Crimea, Anhialo "and" Mesembria "are continuously within the borders of the Bulgarian state. In 1263, it was reported that Constantine Assen joined him without resistance and along with a number of Black Sea towns again to Bulgaria. In 1304 in the Battle of the Skafida River - "Mesemvria", "Anhialo", "Sozopol" and Agathopolis were joined to the Bulgarian state. In the spring of 1307, a Bulgarian Byzantine peace treaty validated the conquests of Tsar Todor Svetoslav, and he married Teodora, the daughter of Michael IX Paleologus. In 1315, the patriarch of Constantinople banned the bishop of Agathopolis from becoming a metropolitan, and in 1381 Patriarch Nile restricted the rights of the Metropolitan of Adrianople to the Agathopolis Episcopate. This speaks of the importance and relative independence of the Episcopate, which has not even been annexed to the Bulgarian Patriarchate, even though it is within the bounds of Bulgaria. Until the capture of Agathopolis by the Ottomans in 1453, a number of passages followed the Byzantine and back under Bulgarian rule. In 1322, after the death of George II Terter, the contender for the throne, Voisil, cut off the Thracian region, but the throne occupied Mihail Shishman and the traitor passed the cities of Byzantium. A few



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years later the region voluntarily joined Bulgaria. In 1330, after the Battle of Velbuzhd, the Southern Black Sea region was joined to Byzantium. In 1331-1337, Ivan Alexander accepted voluntarily the acceded Black Sea cities after the Battle of Rusokastro between the three-thousandth Bulgarian and five-thousandth Byzantine army. According to a correspondence from the Old Bulgarian Code of 1337, the peace treaty gave Bulgaria "Nessebar, the whole of Pomorie (the Black Sea area to Agathopolis) together with Romania" (Upper Thracian Lowland). In 1336, on October 3rd, after a siege of two weeks, the knights of the Amazed Amphade captured Agathopolis and followed a five-month occupation. In 1367 Amadei handed the towns along the Bulgarian southern coast to Byzantium. In 1389 the metropolitan of Adrianopol moved his seat in Agatopol under the pressure of the Ottomans. In 1396, the whole of the Black Sea region falls under a dwarf yoke. In 1413, Byzantium signed a contract with Mehmed I for the accession of the Black Sea cities to the Empire. In 1453 Mehmed II Conqueror captured Agathopolis and expelled a large part of the population of Constantinople, but the city retained its role as a significant port. The Turkish traveler Evlia Chelebi Ahubuli is called a "ruined fortress". In the following centuries, it was applied to all the Black Sea maps and continues to be the seat of a bishop. In 1829, the bishopric of Agathopolis merged with the Sozopol Church Center and was later called the Sazoatagopol Bishopric. According to the Ottoman documents of the 15th century, Agatopol had 135 complete and 23 widow Christian houses. The population is detailed in neighborhoods with the names of Bulgarian priests - Popov Todor Tridjko, Pop Georgi Slav, Pop Vlad, which speaks about the relatively preserved religious independence of the population during this period. After the Balkan wars (1912-1913) the town was joined to Bulgaria. The displacement of the Greek population and settlement of Bulgarian refugees from Eastern Thrace began. At that time, the city had 45 ships, including 10-15 tonne sailing boats and three ships with a displacement of 1000 to 3000 tons. In 1918 and 1935, when a fire burned almost the entire city, the old cathedral "Assumption" and the modern town was built entirely again. The refugees from Ahtopol founded the village of Nea Agatupoli (Nova Ahtopol) in Nom Pieria, Greece. Today we can see only the church "Ascension of the Lord" built in 1776, remains of the 12th century St. John's Monastery and parts of the fortress wall. The founding of the city dates back to the 6th-5th centuries BC, and these lands have been populated since the New Stone Age and the Iron Age. Most probably the Thracian Thracians first settled here in the 10th century BC, as evidenced by the discovered stone ax and ceramic fragments. The Thracians were well-known for shipping, hunting and fishing, mining, many crafts, trade, and well-known pirates. An interesting find is the Heros of Prevlaka - the votive plate with the image of a Thracian horseman. It is a trapezoidal marble slab, top left and bottom right, height 0.215 m, width 0.18 m and thickness 0.045 m. A galloping right horseman is shown, throwing a copy with his right hand. He was dressed in a short chiton, and behind the chlamide. The right forefoot of the horse steps on an altar. On the upper frame (uppercase letters 0.008 m) and the lower frame there is an inscription (uppercase of the letters 0,01 m), which reads: "On Heros Stomianos. Manis brought a vow for his son Aristobulus. "The findings from the

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amphorae of the 5th century and decorative tiles from the IV century, decorated with an egg-shaped ornament (Ionian nymph), are indicative. The excavations revealed the Hellenistic fortress wall, Italian amphorae, produced in the Western Mediterranean during the first half of the 1st century BC. Stone anchors and pots, ceramics from the late Bronze and Early Iron Age, coins and inscriptions from V-IV c. from the area and from the city, collected by a space expedition led by Professor V. Velkov, testify that there was an active life throughout the first millennium BC. Two fragmented inscriptions in ancient Greek language have been found in Ahtopol which speak of the significance of the city during this period. According to one of the two inscriptions - fragmented decrees of IV century BC A "messenger" from the "city" whose name is not mentioned should go to Odessos (Varna). This means that the settlement is called a "city", which speaks of a developed urban setting, ie it is a city-state. The monuments revealed that by the end of the 5th c. the Athenian colony already existed here (kleruchia). Recent finds testify that Agapolis is not only the medieval but also the ancient name of the city. Agathopolis was founded around 430 BC. by Greek colonists from Athens, assuming that its foundation is related to Pericles' actions in the Black Sea regions, and in the 2nd century the city was colonized by the Romans, who gave it the name Peronticus. Because of the strategic location it occupies - far from the main points of attacks and battles, due to the distance from the main roads and a convenient port area, the city developed rapidly during the period V-XI c. In the V-VII century the town was affected by the barbaric invasions, but was quickly restored by the Byzantine commander, Agaton, who calls him Agathopolis. The foundations of the fortress can be traced along the entire coastline of the peninsula. Today you can see parts of the wall preserved up to 3-4 m. The fortress was erected on the tall, rocky peninsula, and the fortress wall was wrapping the city and separating it from the land. The walls of the beams are 2.80 m wide and 1.50 to 2 m wide in the steep north-east. The masonry is a mixed-faced stone with two faces and a filling of mortar and smaller stones mixed with crushed tiles and bricks. The way of construction allows the fortress to be dated around V-VI c. A drilling study near the wall also revealed a Thracian fortress wall of larger stones with mud solder and cultural layers from the beginning of the 1st century BC . In some places, three to five lanes of bricks, alternating with stone rows of initial thickness of 1.95-3 m and height of 7-8 m, can still be traced. On the southwest side was the main gate with two battle towers. Which were about 12-14 m high. The southwestern fortress wall has also had towers that have not yet been revealed. For the time being, there are certainly 7-8 towers. Four of them are on the southwest wall, three on the north and one on the narrow west side. The profile of the wreck on the western wall makes an unusual bump in the most westerly stretch of the fort. For future archaeological excavations in this area, it is likely to be the presence of a western gate and a large tower that guarded it from the south. The northern gate is revealed in 2014, as it is located in the western part of the northern wall. Its size is about 1.5 m and is flanked by two rectangular towers. During the Middle Ages the Bulgarians built two more towers on the inside of the painting. The new towers mirror the late antiquities and strengthen the defense of the northern entrance. Thus the plan of the towers resembles that of the "Great



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Preslav". From the northern entrance was access to the northern port of the city. For additional protection in the northernmost part of the peninsula, an earth shaft with a palisade was erected 100 m in front of the northern wall. This shaft has protected access to the peninsula from the north to the sea. On this side there is a relatively sloping and accessible stretch. This area is protected by the shaft. Thus, the only access to the northern gate was through the northern port on a narrow rocky path. The western, main port has not yet been excavated and precisely localized. It is judged only by recorded memories of old residents and guests of the city. There was probably another gate from southeast or east that had direct access to the southern port of the city. With the exception of the southwest naturally accessible wall, the south-eastern and eastern walls were also relatively accessible. The slopes are steep but not inaccessible. There are probably several towers that have strengthened the defense. For additional defense on this side, the southwest main wall descends to the seashore and ends with a rugged rectangular tower. This was how the natural approach to the southeast and eastern slopes was protected, and in order to attack the city from these countries, a marine landing had to be hit. In all likelihood, a large ditch was formed in front of the southwest main wall, which reached a thickness of 3.5 m. Traces of it today differ at the foot of the fortress, from where it is seen that the displacement to the wall was 8-10 m. The fortress walls of the city were destroyed in 1632 after a powerful earthquake that spills out much of the surrounding settlements. Ascension Church is located in the eastern part of the city by the seafront, which steeply descends to the sea. There is no precise information about the year of construction, apart from the date marked on the altar - 1796. It is planted with brick walls with wide, plastered mortar joints, about 0.9 m thick. The two-rowed wooden girdles surrounding the building and a quadruped roof with overhanging eaves give the church a residential character. Both small windows and four pyramidal holes on the roof that illuminate the church. This upper lighting (typical of some old Strandzha houses) is the first time here as well preserved as a structural and architectural form. The remains of the St. John's Monastery (St. John the Baptist) are located on the southern Ahtopol nose, in its highest part, over the steep seashore. Only the apse part, which was original with its asymmetrical position, is described in the literature. The Saint Panteleimon Church was built in 1911 after the Preobrazhenie Uprising with an outside narthex. It can be seen one of the last carved iconostases in Strandzha, made by a local carver - Yanis. The church "St. St. Konstantin and Elena is also built after the Uprising of Preobrazhenie and is a monument of culture related to the fire-dancing. A mound necropolis was discovered in the Silkosiya Reserve located to the east of the village and containing about 100 small mounds. The St. Cyril and Methodius Church was destroyed during the Transfiguration Uprising and in 1909 it was restored the most iconic iconostasis of the painter Pandil, the icons of the older building period of the church are preserved: two of the most precious ones of St. George Yaninski's icon painter Kosta Polyxido from 1883 and 1901. On the western Black Sea coast a Roman road was preserved, The road starts from the mouth of the Danube and connects the Black Sea strongholds of Tomi (Constanta), Odessos, Mesemvria, Anhiolo , Sozopol, Agatopol, Thynias

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(Stanieri) and Midia, and from the last two places it deviates towards the interior and it is included in the main road to Chorlou and Constantinople. The coastal road is often mentioned by the Byzantine chroniclers about the battles between Bulgarians and Romans in VIII. At the time, the Bulgarian troops entered the Byzantine territory in 712 and 812. It was used during the campaigns against Bulgaria of Constantine V and Leov Foka in 763 and 917. The expedition of Mikhail Chapter against Agathopolis, Sozopolis and Messembria passed during 1265. In Anagotopol, the ancient road passes through the "Calderwood" area, north of the village and west of the fortress, heading northeast to Kiten. Today paved parts of roughly cut stone blocks are preserved.

#### Location

Altitude: 21 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 06'05 "SS and 27 ° 56'42 "IR

Chr. Ahtopol - Roman road station Boatiacum

#### Description and story

The Roman Road Station "Boatikum" / "Buatikum" was located in the area of Agatopolis. It is situated on the West-Pontian Road, which connects the Danube Delta with Constantinople. Before it is the Terra road station at the mouth of the Ropotamo River, and the next road station is on the territory of the Republic of Turkey.

#### Situatede

Altitude: ? m GPS coordinates: ? S.S. and ? ID

Rosen - Krimna Fortress

#### Description and story

A Thracian, late-medieval and medieval fortress, Krimna, was built on the peak of Bakarlaka, 376 meters high, with steep rocky slopes and a flat top, west of Sozopol on Meden Rid, at 3.55 km along a straight line from the village center Rosen. It is built of large old, loose stones arranged one above the other without the use of any solder. It is part of the Thracian fortress on the ridge "Ranuli" - "Burhama" - "Malko Kale" - "Lobidovo kale" - Crimea - "Atia". K. Shkorpil has discovered at the top traces of an irregularly shaped fortress and a stone ladder cut into the rock. On the slopes of the altitude there are layers of copper and hematite, as well as old rupees and snakes. Konstantin Irechek suggests copper has been extracted here, from which the cities of Apollonia, Deultum, Anhialo and Mesembria are coins. The fortress was the main support point of a fortified node, including the numerous fortresses on the Meden Rid and the Black Sea. Nowadays, the walls of the fortification are tracked along their entire perimeter in the form of an embankment high about 1 m high. An exception is made by the southwestern part of the fort, where the remains are depolitized when building a relay station. In the northern part of the fortress there are no walls, there for protection was relied on the vertical rocks. In the southeastern part of the fortress there is a large gathering of stones, probably from a tower. In all likelihood, the tower was also the entrance to the fort. The fortification has a maximum size of 116x119 m and an area of 9 decares. The natural access to the fortification is from the south and on this side, a second wall is erected 90 m from the main wall. This second wall, except for additional protection of

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the main fortress, served to protect a suburb located in front of the fortress's gate. There are no remnants of ceramics on the site, but there are foundations of buildings, mainly in the eastern suburbs. From the fortification without any problems, visual control of the Greek polis on the Black Sea coast was carried out. All the Greek colonies in the vicinity are seen as a palm of Krimna. In the fortress of Crimea met in 1328 the Bulgarian Tsar Mihail III Shishman and the Byzantine Emperor Andronik Jounski in order to renew the mutual agreements between the two countries. Despite this fact, it is difficult to assume that the fortress survived until the Middle Ages. There are no traces of antelope and medieval habitation on the terrain. It is very likely that the medieval fortress, if any, would have been a small fort that was later destroyed in the construction of the relay station. Another option may be that the two rulers met in the remains of the old Thracian fortress. The truth will come to light when large-scale archaeological excavations are not planned yet.

**Location**

Altitude: 376 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 23'49 "SS. and 27 ° 36'26 "IR

S. Ravadinovo - Fortress of the "Sharl-bay" peak

**Description and story**

A Thracian fortress is located at "Sharlan Bair", 2 km northeast in a straight line from the center of the village of Ravadinovo. The height dominates the surrounding area and has excellent visibility in all directions. Kr. Panayotova and D. Nedev suggest that the fortress served mainly as an observation point.

**Location**

Altitude: 129 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 23'26 "SS and 27 ° 41'19 "IR

S. Ravadinovo - small fortress

**Description and story**

Thracian, antique and late antique fortress "Malko Kale" occupies the ridge of a small peak on the Meden Rid, 5.1 km south of a straight line from the center of the village of Ravadinovo and about 5 km from Ranuli. The fortress wall runs along the edge of the natural rock wreath. The total area does not exceed 4 acres. The fortress is only accessible from the south or south. The wall is made of local limestone with a mud of sol and without a pronounced tendency to row masonry. It is 1.6 to 1.9 meters thick and follows the outline of the bee leveledness, including a wreath of large stone figures and whole rocks. The enclosed area is about 4 acres and there are traces of buildings. On the surface of the terrain in the fortress are fragments of roof tiles of the types produced in Apollonia in 4- 2 nd c. Probably the entrance of the fortress was in the narrow passage between two large stone valleys with a height of about 6 meters. As a result of the archaeological excavations in the northern part of Malko Kala, two building periods on the fortress wall were established. Originally, it was built in the 8th century BC. and was restored at the end of the 4th century BC. and has survived throughout the ancient epoch until the 6th century. Many fragments of gray and coarse red ceramics, clay lamps, human and animal figures made of clay, several clay vessels, stone battle balls, bronze and iron objects, bronze coins from 4- 3 century BC were found. and others. They give valuable

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insight into the Thracian population that has built and occupied the fortress for a millennium.

Location

Altitude: 285 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 20'18 "SS. and 27 ° 40'52 "IR

S. Ravadinovo – fortress

Description and story

A Thracian fortress is located east of the "Propadnala voda" area, 300 m north of the new landfill of Sozopol and 3.74 km west in a straight line from the center of the village of Ravadinovo. The alley is elevated to the summit of a sloping hill, with very good visibility to the east coast and the Ropotamo river valley to the west. The fortress is almost square in size 90x95 m and area of 8,5 decares. The northeastern corner of the site has an inner fortress of approximately rectangular shape, with a maximum size of 27x24 m and an area of 0.6 decares. The northern and eastern walls of the citadel are common to the walls of the main fortification. They are about 1.5 m wide and are made of indigenous loam without solder. They are kept at a height of 1.5 m. Most of them are traced under a spill with a height of 2-3 m. The preserved areas are observed in the excavations of the archaeologists. Various ceramic fragments are visible on the terrain, and in archaeological excavations they are collected in separate stacks divided into building and household ceramics. In the interior of the citadel are found remnants of secondary baked wall plaster. The fortification is generally dated in the second half of the first millenium BC. The main entrance to the fortress was in the northwest corner, with an old path climbing from the south. To the west of the road to the fortress passes another path that continues northwest to the Crimea fortress.

Location

Altitude: 215 m GPS coordinates 42 ° 23'01 "SS and 27 ° 37'17" ID

S. Krushevets - Kaleto fortress

Description and story

The medieval fortress "Kaleto" is located on the hill of the same name, at 1.77 km northwest in a straight line from the center of the village of Krushevets.

Location

Altitude: 163 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 17'05 "SS and 27 ° 28'11 "IR

S. Indje voivoda - fortress Gradishka Kale

Description and story

The fortress "Gradishko kale" is located on the same name, at 3.67 km north of the straight line from the center of the village of Indje Voyvoda.

Location

Altitude: 236 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 15'21 "SS. and 27 ° 24'53 "IR

Zidarovo - fortress of the Rock

Description and story

The Thracian fortress "Kandarata" is situated on the same name, at 2.34 km north of a straight line from the center of the village of Zidarovo.

Location

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Altitude: 72 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 20'59 "SS and 27 ° 24'30 "N.

S. Zidarovo - fortress Kaleto

Description and story

The medieval fortress "Kaleto" is situated on the same name, 3,88 km south on a straight line from the center of the village of Zidarovo.

Location

Altitude: 243 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 17'45 "SS. and 27 ° 25'04 "N.

S. Gabar - fortress Demetersko kale

Description and story

Late Antiquity Fortress "Dzherensko Kale" is located 0.43 km south of the village of Gabur.

Location

Altitude: 118 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 18'27 "SS and 27 ° 21'23 "N.

S. Gabriel – fortress

Description and story

A fortress is situated to the northwest of the village of Gabar, in the direction of the village of Drachevo, between the two villages.

Location

Altitude: ? m GPS coordinates: ? S.S. and ? ID

S. Varshilo - fortress Kaleto

Description and story

Thracian, antique and late antique fortress "Kaleto" is located in the area of Kanritsa, at 4.35 km southwest in a straight line from the center of the village of Varshilo.

Location

Altitude: 328 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 14'21 "SS. and 27 ° 19'58 "IR

S. Atia - fortress Anteya

Description and story

Thracian and ancient fortress "Anteya" was located at Budjaka peak near the Atia peninsula (today is a naval base). The fortress is built of unbroken stones, which is characteristic of the Thracian tribes. Probably after the 7th century BC there were also Greek settlers living here, because during excavation works around the fortress were discovered arrow-coins (premonetary form of money) and archaic sculpture of young man - materials dating back to the 6th century BC.

Location

Altitude: 108 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 27'18 "SS. and 27 ° 35'09 "IR

Chr. Chernomoretz - fortress Talaskara

Description and story

Late Antique fortress "Talaskara" is located on Cape Chervenka, 1.95 km southeast on a straight line from the center of Chernomorets.

Location

Altitude: 6 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 25'51 "SS and 27 ° 39'15 "IR

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Chr. Chernomorets - Akin / Accra Fortress

Description and story

Late Antiquity and Medieval fortress Akin / Akra is located on the same name, at 1.79 km northwest in a straight line from the center of the town of Chernomorets. The fortress originated in late antiquity and was abandoned at the end of the 6th century without even a battle being held in front of the walls and walls. Up to this point, the archaeologists have signaled that they have not found a single peak of a spear or arrow, and no sling stone in front of and behind the fortress wall. Most likely, the fortress was abandoned as a result of the fear of its inhabitants, learning the fate of the more northern Black Sea fortresses after being captured by the Avars and Slavs. In the 11th century, the walls were again used for a short while, as evidenced by a slight cosmetic redevelopment in the western part of the wall and a lead seal. The fortress wall crosses the nose from the Bay of St. Nicholas to the Vromos Gulf in the east-west direction. To date, about 50 m from it has been preserved up to 4 m high. The wall is made up of medium-sized lobes and stones richly adhering to a white-colored, highly friable mortar. The front sides of the wall are well formed with plastered joints. The thickness of the wall in most places is 2.4 m, as in the western part it grows to 2.5 m and even to 3.6 m in the end-flooded parts of the Vromos bay. The fortress wall has been reinforced by a rectangular tower, pilaster and bastion on the inside of the wall. The rectangular tower is on the western side of the wall and is mostly in the water. It measures 5.8x3.7 m. The tower has been moved out of the wall and the wall thickness is 1 m. The pilaster is located on the steep west stretch and has a size of 2x2m. The Pilaster had a 5-row brick belt on which the soldiers were serving the fortification wall. On the right side of the fortress wall, just before the eastern end, an inner bastion of 5x4 m was built. It is an integral part of the wall. It is built of well-emphasized facial stones, and the interior is filled with fine stones that are well covered with mortar-blocking. Archaeological studies did not find the gate of the fortress. Probably it was located in the eastern part of the wall, where, unfortunately, large landslide processes were recorded. It is believed that about 10 m from the fortress wall along with another dense tower flanking the gate and the gate itself along with about 2 acres of the nose have fallen into the sea. No traces of the moat were found in front of the fortress wall. The port of the fortress was located in the Vromos Bay, where archaeologists took hundreds of amphorae and other artifacts.

Location

It is located on Cape Akra, 1.7 km northwest of Chernomorets village. Sozopol  
Altitude: 27 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 27'29 "SS and 27 ° 37'40 "ID

Chr. Sozopol - a fortified sanctuary

Description and story

A reinforced ancient sanctuary of Apollo is on the island of "St. Ivan ", 1.81 km north of a straight line from the center of the old town of Sozopol. On the south coast of St. Ivan, a team of the National Museum of History, opened a large cult complex. At the earliest is the Thracian sanctuary from VII-IV BC. Later, the enormous sanctuary of Apollo was built in the

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immediate vicinity, believing that there was the famous bronze statue of the god Apollo, made by Kalamis. The height of 13.2 m and the glittering gilding of the sun made it possible to see it constantly from the city. A huge complex of buildings, sheltered by a stone wall, occupying the entire southeast quarter of the island, emerges around the sanctuary. Probably, as in other similar cases, healing clinics, inns, farm buildings for worshipers were built. After the establishment of Christianity in Byzantium, at the end of the IV-beginning of the 5th century, on the ruins of the ancient pagan temple was built the basilica "St. Virgin Mary Caleaus".

Location

Altitude: 19 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 26'16 "SS and 27 ° 41'37 "IR

Chr. Sozopol - Fortified Mann. "St. John the Baptist"

Description and story

Medieval fortified monastery "St. John Drake" is located on the biggest Bulgarian island "St. Ivan". The island is 910 m from the northernmost point of the Stolets Peninsula (old Sozopol). The monastery "St. John the Forerunner" was fortified with a stone wall, the outline of which had a rectangular shape. The main monastery church is built in the most prominent place, in the northeast corner of the courtyard, on a small terrace. The planned composition of the building is quite original, it is a three-legged, one-nave dome church with a narrow cross, expressed in the most impressive form, it is close to the church "St. Archangels Michael and Gavril" in Nessebar. The church has dimensions of 18.8x11.8 m, from the east it has three apses, and from the west with a narthex (with three entrances) and with one horse on the northern and southern walls hidden in its hull. The altar of the church was tricky, with a self-preloaded space, shaped by a quaint pattern. There are one niche in the longitudinal outer walls of the prothesis and diaconicon. The semi-cylindrical arcades in the naos held a multi-bay, brute drum. On the middle of the narthex there was probably a tower-tower. The walls of the congregational church, which today rise to a height of 3.8 m, were built in mixed masonry with rhythmically changing belts of well-worked stone blocks and bricks, and in the core of the walls are placed cross-beams and longitudinal beams. For soldering, white mortar was used with a light admixture of crushed brick and shell shells. The church was covered with tiles. Far away before the church "St. John the Baptist," at the dawn of Christianity here was built an early Christian basilica, now known as "St. Virgin Mary Caleaus". This is the church in which the relics of St. John the Baptist were discovered. Under the floor cover of the temple and beyond (on its eastern side) there are tombs and skeletons believed to be supreme clergymen, even a patriarch of the Ecumenical Patriarch is likely to be buried here, as long as it is known to reside one on the island.

Location

Altitude: 15 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 26'13 "SS and 27 ° 41'31 "IR

Chr. Sozopol - the fortified town of Apollonia / Sozopolis

Description and story

Thracian, antique and medieval town of Apollonia / Sozopolis town of Sozopol. Sozopol is the oldest town on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast. The first settlement here arose at the end of



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IV-III millennium BC. Underwater surveys in the Sozopol port area reveal remains of dwellings, ceramic vessels, stone and bone cannons from the Bronze Age. The Gulf of Sozopol has also discovered numerous stone anchors and columns dating back to the second millennium BC. They have testified for active navigation since the deepest antiquity. In 610 BC, in the place of present-day Sozopol, a Hellenic colony ("polis") was founded by Miletus Greeks from the ancient Greek city of Miletus on the Greek coast of Greece. Legend has it that Phoenician sailors have recommended the place as the most sheltered harbor on the shores of the western Black Sea coast. The town is close to the territories of the Thracian tribes of Skirmiades and Nipses, under the name Apollonia Pontica. Since many cities with this name existed in antiquity, they also had an explanatory epithet. Apollonia on the western Black Sea coast was called "Apollonia Pontica" (Greek: Apollonia or Pontica). The name comes from the god Apollo (protector of the emigrants), who is dedicated to a temple in the city, famous for the 13-meter-long statue of the god Kalamis sculpture. The statue was taken to the Capitol in Rome in 72 BC, when the Roman Empire joined the Western Black Sea coast to its territory. The temples of the city were on the peninsula, which was a naval base for a long time, which is why the ancient monuments are irretrievably destroyed. For decades, excavations of the ancient necropolis in Sozopol have been carried out, each year discovering many ancient vases, precious metal objects and other important finds for ancient archeology. There are also underwater excavations in Sozopol. The city grew as an important commercial and port center. Maintains active links with the major centers of Greece: Miletus, Athens, Corinth, Herakleia Pontica, Rhodes, Chios, Lesbos and others. His commercial influence in Thrace is based on an alliance with the rulers of the Odrysian kingdom, which originated in the 5th century BC. Apollonia Pontica competes with Mesembria, a colony of about a century ago. The Megarians want to have business contacts with the Thracians through the bay of Burgas. In response, Apollonia created its own colony - Anhiolo on the south side of Mesembria. The new colony, besides keeping access to the bay of Burgas, was also rich in underwater salt deposits. For active salt extraction in Antiquity, there are changes in the seabed in the bay. The anchor becomes an emblem of Apollonia and an unmistakable sign on the coins that it has cut since the late sixth century AD. The rich city becomes a center of highly developed art. His contemporaries call it Apollonia Magna (Great Apollonia). There was a great Temple of Apollo in the city. The exact location is not known, probably on the island of Kirik. In 72 BC the city was conquered and robbed by the Romans, and its fortress wall was destroyed. Procurator-colonel Mark Lucull, who conquers the city, carries a famous statue of Apollo from the sanctuary and places it on the Capitol Hill in Rome. A few years later, one of the surviving local citizens named Metro Tarul Dekm restored the fortress walls in their own right as a gift to their hometown. It seems to have been too prosperous because it is a wall 2 km long, 10 meters high and 2.2 meters thick. Meruck is a royal Thracian name, Tarul - his father's name indicates that he comes from one of the most ancient Roman families, and the Dekum family is Greek. In 378, the city was captured and the wall was again crushed - this time by the Goths. Due to the intensified Bulgarian attacks, Emperor Anastasius

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(491-518) undertook a powerful fortress construction on the Black Sea coast. So Sozopol was once again surrounded by a two-kilometer stronghold, reinforced with dozens of towers. As a result, in the 4th - 5th centuries the city is again on the rise, now known as Sozopolis - the "city of salvation". The town became Bulgarian without a battle in 705, when Emperor Justinian II relinquished the southern Black Sea region of Bulgaria for the rewards of Khan Tervel for his return to the throne. From here on, the history of the most powerful Bulgarian fortress in the southeast of the country begins. In 812, Khan Krum appointed Kavhan Irtai, the second man in the state hierarchy of medieval Bulgaria. Particularly important is the role of the Sozopol fortress in the Second Bulgarian State when, due to the expanding maritime trade, the fortress with the only great and naturally protected harbor becomes an enticing target of Byzantine, Venetian and Genoese invaders. Thus, in 1304, Tsar Svetoslav Terter made Sozopol the center of his personal feud and probably the base of a small Bulgarian military fleet to observe the "black" Genoese merchants. Probably because of this, the Genoese Senate banned in 1316 with a special decree the trade with Bulgaria through the Sozopol fortress. On the other hand, the Byzantine Emperor still gives privileges to merchants importing food through Sozopol the following year. The value of Sozopol for Bulgaria is indicative of the fact that when a Byzantine fleet conquered it in 1328, King Michael Shishman captured the summer imperial palaces in Sakar and exchanged them for Sozopol. Three years later, after his death, the Byzantines fought Sozopol without a fight. But with the news that at the Rusokastro the Byzantines were broken by the new Bulgarian Tsar Ivan Alexander, the population raised an uprising and thrown the Byzantines from the fortress walls into the sea. The self-esteem of the Sozopol garrison was so great that in 1352 his commander, Krivich, refused assistance during a war with Genoa. After a three-day battle, the Italians managed to overcome the fortress walls. Citizens paid a huge ransom in order not to be sold into slavery. In 1366, again, Western warriors - the knights of Count Amadeus VI of Savoy, after two days of fighting captured the city. After this, Tsar Ivan Alexander sold Sozopol, Ahtopol, Nessebar and Anhalo (Pomorie) for 180,000 golden florins of Byzantium. Thanks to the sale Sozopol remains for almost a century under Christian rule. It was captured by the Turks only in 1453 - the year when Constantinople itself fell.

#### Location

The Thracian, ancient and medieval town of Apollonia / Sozopolis is located in the town of Sozopol. Altitude: 21 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 25'20 "SS and 27 ° 41'36 "IR

Chr. Sozopol - Roman road station Apollonia

#### Description and story

Apollonia Roman Road Station / Apollonia was located in the ancient city of Apollonia. It is situated on the West-Pontian Road, which connects the Danube Delta with Constantinople. Before it, there is a Pudizo road station at the mouth of Mandren Lake, followed by a Terra road station at the mouth of Ropotamo.

#### Location

Altitude: 21 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 25'20 "SS and 27 ° 41'36 "IR

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Chr. Sozopol - fortress Sozopol

Description and story

Russian and Ottoman fortress Sozopol. A Russian fortress with three defensive lines was built in 1828-1829 during the Russo-Turkish War. On February 15, 1829, a Russian squadron, commanded by Admiral Kumanis, captured Sozopol after a short shot of the tiny Ottoman battalion guarding the city. In the following days, the entire Black Sea Fleet flew anchored in the bay, and Sozopol was declared by the Emperor to be the Main Base of the Black Sea Fleet. In the city, several Russian combat regiments and logistics support units with a total of 10,000 fighters and officers commanded by General Roth were disarmed. Two defensive lines were built outside the city. A bastion and a line of stone redundances were set up on the "Dubia" hill, blocking the roads to the isthmus. A second stone redoubt was erected on the main courtyard of today's buildings on the disco, the building of the Town Hall, in order to defend the only major source of fresh water - the big well, which is still present at the entrance of the Teodora disco. The third defensive line went along the cleaned and restored old fortress walls. On the island of St. Ivan near the ruins of the monastery St. Ivan the Precursor a field hospital was set up. About 600 Russian soldiers and sailors were buried around the hospital. At that time, the Russians picked up against payment all the ancient reliefs they noticed built in the walls of the houses, antique painted vases and Apollo coins owned by Sozopol citizens. Returned to Hermitage, they are today among the most valuable assets of the great Russian Museum. An Ottoman fortress consisting of the construction of 5 taboos - quadrangle planes located on the islands of St. Ivan (Bukuk hell), the Admiralty (Kyuchuk hell), on the hill over the isthmus and at the height above today's central beach. The fortress was built in the first quarter of the nineteenth century, after the withdrawal of the Russians, in all likelihood to prevent their return.

Location

Altitude: 21 m GPS coordinates: 42 ° 25'20 "SS and 27 ° 41'36 "IR

The history and the rise of the chapels, as well as the rituals performed around them, have a lot of local folklore. They are very interesting and their presentation by the colleagues-ethnologists will complement the knowledge of the society about these important monuments from Strandzha:

Chapel "St. Panteleimon "is located at the northern end of Brodilovo  
Chapel "St. Virgin Mary "in the locality. Tsargonovo - near Malko Tarnovo - 4 km. southeast  
Chapel "St. Ilia "- village of Kosti weston village and near Veleka river.  
Chapel "St. Marina "- the village of Kosti 2 km southwest of the village  
Chapel of Sts. Konstantin and Elena "- Ahtopol, 2 km southwest of the town.  
Chapel "St. Virgin Mary "- village of Kosti 3 km. southeast of the village.  
Chapel "St. Marina "- town of Malko Tarnovo 6 km. southeast of the city  
Chapel - nestinarsko konche "St. Kostadin "- village of Kosti. It is located near the church "St. V. Cyril and Methodius "

The chapel called the monastery "St. Trinity " - Malko Tarnovo, 2 km southwest of the town.

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Chapel "St. Virgin Mary "with a holy village - Brodilovo 3 km. southwest of the village. Remains of the Ahtopol Monastery "St. Yani "- Ahtopol Monastery" St. John the Precursor "is located on the same name south of the harbor.

Голямобуковски манастир "Живоприемний източник" - active monastery

Chapel "St. Petka "- the village of Zabernovo - situated in a protected area. A parody.

Chapel "St. Elias "- Visitsa village - 1.5 km. southeast of the village.

Remains of the medieval monastery "St. Stefan "- town of Ahtopol.

Remains of a monastery complex on the island of St. Thomas

Chapel "God's Name" - Zabernovo village - 5 km. south of the village.

Chapel "St. Ilia "- the village of Byala Voda - is located 4 km. north of the village.

Chapel "St. Petka "- Kondolovo village - located 1 km. southeast of the village.

Chapel "St. Trinity" - Gramatikovo village - 5 km. northwest of the village.

Remains of the medieval monastery "St. Apostles "- Sozopol - is situated on Cape Skamni.

Remains of the medieval monastery "St. John the Baptist "- town of Sozopol - located on the island of St. Ivan.

Remains of the medieval monastery "St. Nikolay Miracle Worker "- Sozopol - situated in immediate proximity to the southern gate of Old Sozopol and the church of St. St. Cyril and Methodius".

Remains of the medieval monastery "St. St. Kirik and Julita "- is located on the northwest. Kirik.

Chapel with holy spring "St. Petka "- Brodilovo village - situated in the northwestern part of the village.

Chapel with holy spring "St. Marina "- village of Brodilovo - located to the northwest of the village.

Chapel / Stool / with holy spring "St. Konstantin "- located 2 km. northwest of the village.

Chapel with holy spring "St. Konstantin and Elena "- Stoilovo village - situated in the northwestern part of the village.

A chapel with a holy and a chapel / "St. Konstantin "- Stoilovo village - located 1 km. northwest of. village.

Chapel with holy spring "St. Konstantin "- Kondolovo village - situated next to the cemetery of the village.

Chapel and holy spring "St. Panteleimon "- Kondolovo village - located 1 km. northwest of the village.

Remains of a medieval church in the Urruri fortress - 5 km. northeast of the Bulgarian village. The villages of Strandzha are to the Sliven spiritual diocese. And they fall into two spiritual districts, Bourgas and Malko Tarnovska, who, according to their power, faith and ability, care for clergy, prayer places and church properties.

## BURGAS SPIRITUAL ENVIRONMENT

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Settlement temple

St. Veselie temple "St. Elijah "  
St. Yasna Polyana Temple "St. Virgin Mary "  
Chr. Primorsko temple "St. St. Cyril and Methodius"  
St. Debelt Temple "St. Trinity "  
St. Zidarovo temple St. Georgi "  
St. Gabriel Temple St. Trinity "  
S. Izvor Temple "St. Trinity "  
S. Novo Panicharevo Temple St. Trinity "  
Chr. Chernomorets temple St. Nikolay "  
Chr. Sozopol temple "St. Georgi "  
St. Ravadinovo Church "St. Trinity "  
Chr. Sredets temple "St. Всех Святых "  
Chr. Sredets temple "St. Virgin Mary "  
St. Bogdanovo Church "St. Konstantin and Elena "  
St. Varovnik church St. Ascension of the Lord "  
St. Rosenovo Temple "St. St. Cyril and Methodius"  
St. Panchevo's temple "St. Trinity "  
C; Great Bukovo Temple "St. Virgin Mary "  
St. Drachevo temple "St. Virgin Mary "  
St. Kirovo temple "St. Dimitar "  
St. Belevren church "St. Trinity "  
S. Granichar temple "St. St. Cyril and Methodius"  
St. Dolno Yabulkovo Temple "St. Virgin Mary "  
St. Gorno Yabulkovo Temple "St. Elijah "  
St. Momina church temple "St. Petka "  
St. Fakia temple "St. Dimitar "  
St. Vulchanovo temple "St. Virgin Mary "  
St. Kraimorie church "St. Pimen Zografski "  
S. Atia temple "St. Mina "  
Chr. Sozopol temple "St. St. Cyril and Methodius"  
Chr. Sozopol temple "St. Zosim "  
St. Sozopol temple "St. Virgin Mary "  
SMALL TOWAN SPIRITUAL ENVIRONMENT  
Settlement temple  
Chr. Ahtopol temple "St. Ascension of the Lord "  
Sinemorets church "St. John the Forerunner "  
St. Rezovo Temple "St. John the Baptist "  
St. Brodil's temple "St. Panteleymon "  
St. Varvara Church "St. Varvara "  
St. Kosty Church "St. Cyril and Methodius"  
St. Bulgari temple St. Kostadin and Elena "  
The Great Temple "St. Elijah "  
S. Pismenovo temple "St. Virgin Mary "  
S. Fazanovo Temple "St. Marina "  
Chr. Kiten temple "St. Ascension of the Lord "

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St. Lozenets temple "St. Georgi "  
St. Izgrev temple "St. Marina "  
St. Gramatikovo Temple "St. 40 martyrs "  
St. Vitosza temple "St. Trinity"  
St. Kondolovo temple "St. Georgi "  
St. Zvezdets temple "St. Atanasii "  
St. Brashlyan temple "St. Dimitar "  
St. White Water Temple "St. Elijah "  
St. Evrenozovo temple "St. Trinity "  
S. Youth Church "St. Virgin Mary "  
St. Stoilovo temple "St. Elijah "  
S. Zabernovo temple "St. Luca "  
St. Kaloy Temple "St. Georgi "  
St. Slivar's Church "St. Panteleymon "  
St. Bliznak Chapel "St. Virgin Mary "  
Chr. M. Turnovo temple "St. Virgin Mary "  
Chr. Tsarevo temple "St. Tsar Boris "  
Chr. Tsarevo temple "St. Virgin Mary "

#### Ethnography of Strandja Mountain

The Strandzha region is inhabited by three ethnographic groups - rups, thrones, and stooges. For centuries, they have been in direct contact with culture.

Fairs and festivals in the Strandja Mountain:

Kukerovden and Palikos - marked seven weeks before Easter in the villages of Kosti, Brodilovo and Malko Tarnovo.

Fillek - a folk ritual, performed only in Ruppian Strandja. Spring Youth Games performed one week before Easter. Restored in the town of Tarnovo and the village of Brashlyan. Indipasha - worship in an ancient Thracian sanctuary five days after Easter. They offer sacrifices and the ritual is "washed" with water. Visits all year round.

Greenpeace Festival - May (the flowering period of the Strandzha Greenland), in different villages from the territory of Strandja NP.

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

St. Trinity - floating holiday, 50 days after Easter. Holiday of the village of Evrenozovo. Pilgrim procession of the five Strandzha Nestinar villages to the Grand Ayazma - the last Sunday of May before June 3rd. Starting points - villages Gramatikovo, Slivarovo, Bulgari, Kosti, Kondolovo.

Fire-dancing ritual - June 3, Bulgari village

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

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

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

Pilgrim procession to the cave-sanctuary St. Marina - July 30 (SST), village of Slivarovo.

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 Pétrova field, in honor of the Ilinden-Preobrazhenie

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uprising (1903) - the penultimate week of August.

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

Festival of Manna Honey - the first ten days of August, 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

The Big Mother of God - August 28, a holiday of Malko Tarnovo (part of the Cultural Holidays of the town) and the village of Mladezhko.

## **2.2 Identified sites in Dervent Heights**

In the northern part of the Dervent Heights, dolmens are found in the lands of the village of Goliam Dervent / Municipality of Elhovo / and Krainovo / Bolyarovo Municipality /

- Dolmen south of the village of Kraynovo, Burgas region (N 41 ° 59 '05.8 "E 26 ° 50' 02.1") - situated in the village of Trialchaka in the immediate vicinity of the border.

- Dolmen east of the village of Goliam Dervent, Bourgas region (N 41 ° 58 '58.0 "E 26 ° 45' 07.3") - located in the cemetery of the village behind the clone. The monument is located east of the village, on the territory of the cemetery park, which is beyond the border colony. The dolmen are one-chamber and the roof tiles are not preserved - they are probably used secondarily for other constructions. Granite slabs on the walls of the monument are very well worked and parallel aligned. A rectangular opening with rounded tops is observed on the face plate, which is partially overwhelmed. The camera is a tree.

- Dolmen south of the village of Goliam Dervent, Bourgas region (N 41 ° 58 '15.3 "E 26 ° 44' 25.6") - located south of the village, in the cave area, very close to the border. (The megalithic monument is of great interest to the researchers because it is the only dolmens at present, which has a bas-relief with royal symbolism from the Odrys pictorial tradition (two-pointed horn-labris) and other ornaments (snakes, meanders). archaeologist Daniela Agre The monument is located south of the village, in the Peshterite area, next to the border grove, and the dolmen is one-chamber with a dromos, only the roof of the chamber is intact, the walls of the dromos are damaged. it is unique with the decorative motifs made on the front of the camera, where there are embossed images of labris, two mutually biting snakes and a labyrinth - a symbolic characteristic of the Odrysian traditions of painting, and a similar relief with royal symbols is first revealed for dolmen. archaeologist Georgi Kitov believes that the symbols of the labris and the snakes are a sure sign that it is a royal tomb of a great ruler .Kitov emphasizes that a painting of labris is found on pots, ceramics and applications of horse sb ruzo at archaeological sites near Starosel, but such a picture was first discovered on a stone carved. The bas-reliefs were destroyed as a result of the crushing of the façade roof with a kink. The surviving fragments of the reliefs are stored in NAIM at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in Sofia. The threshold lower portion of the face plate can still be seen in the place

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where the incision is visible for the facial opening. On the entrance plate of a neighboring dolmens (already demolished), studied by the Agreg team in 2005, where a frieze of geometric decoration was also discovered. According to archaeologists, the two dolmen have undoubtedly served as tombs of a very powerful native ruler-priest family in the period from the end of the IX - the beginning of the 8th century BC. The tomb was crushed in the early twentieth century by treasure hunters. Part of the finds from the archaeological excavations of the dolmens can be seen in the "Ethnographic-archaeological museum", Elhovo.

Remains of Thracian settlements are found in the villages of Melnik, Lalkovo, Razdel, Goliam Dervent, Granitovo, Krainovo, Igluka, Popovo, Dennitsa, Kamen peak and others. The traces of ancient copperworks are well-known - in the area of "Trophishthitekite dupki" and others. The many monuments of the Roman and Byzantine epochs witness the intense settlement life.

Through the territory of the Dervent Heights passes some of the ancient roads that connect the Danube and the Black Sea with Thrace, the Aegean Sea and the Sea of Marmara. In order to guard this road, a chain of fortresses was built.

One of them - "Kaletó": - CIII 42 11 2945 / ID 26 48 28 93 is located about 3 km north of Bolyarovo, high on the left bank of the river Popovska. The fortification has a rectangular plan and towers on the four corners. Today, on the terrain occupied by the fortress are found the outlines of building, fragments of construction and domestic keranica.

Sanctuary of the Sun: - CIII 42 01 27 48 / ID 26 34 09 09 which is located about 3.5 km south of the village of Melnitsa / Elhovo municipality /. The sanctuary is situated on a tranquil hilly terrain of the Dervent Heights at a height of about 245 m in the "Mochukovi Kamani" and "Drunchi Dupka" area, near the village of Melnitsa. The site came into circulation in 1990, but was first published by Professor Valeria Fol and the Bulgarian archaeologists Stefan Bakardzhiev (RIM Yambol) and Ivan Iliev in 2007.

During Late Antiquity (IV-VI c.) There is a great spiritual center in the area. The present-day village of Voden reveals an early Christian cult complex with a basilica and a tomb: - CIII 42 03 05 87 / ID 26 54 45 58

The Bolyarovo Municipality in the eastern part of the Dervent Heights is a crossroads of ancient civilizations where ethno-cultural processes from the northwest (Balkan Peninsula, Middle and Western Europe) to the southeast (Asia Minor and the Middle East) and vice versa take place. This determines the specificity and richness of the cultural and historical heritage of this region, which is a reflection and result of centuries-old history, bearing the stamp of turbulent events and incredible vicissitudes. 14 discovered archaeological sites, 5 ancient churches and 5 fortresses testify to a rich and ancient past with which the inhabitants

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of the municipality are proudly proud. First of all, they are the monuments of the unique Thracian culture:

- Medieval settlement and medieval fortress Kaleto (V-VI century). As a defense facility near the border with Byzantium, they have been important for the preservation and strengthening of the Bulgarians in these lands. Partially researched.
- Ancient settlement from XIV-XVI century and remains of a church on the banks of the river Popovska. Examined through non-standard methods.
- A large Thracian settlement with remnants of two tombstones. Area 30-40 acres. Unchecked.
- Roman settlement. Rivers on the river bank. Unchecked.
- Fortress of V-VI c. With ridge ornament and thin-walled ceramics from XI-XII century and medieval Bulgarian ceramics, remains of construction during the time of Emperor Justinian. Unchecked.
- Tomb with a church from V-VI c., Two fortresses - The Great and Little Garden. Near the Little Garden there is the church with murals imitating marble lining and fresco plaster. Partially researched.
- Three churches, the archaeological excavations of which are of great scientific value. Partially researched.
- Medieval fortress Gradishteto. Area 12 acres. Unchecked.
- A chain of fortresses guarding the road to the Byzantine capital. Partially researched.
- A small part of these sights are revealed through the archaeological research of the Strandzha-Sakar Complex Research Program (1985-1988). Archaeologists date the oldest remains of V century BC. - Thracian finds.

A major landmark and symbol of Bolyarovo is the 22-meter metal cross on its outskirts, erected in 2011. It towers majestically, it protects the inhabitants of the city and reminds those passing through the area that the Orthodox faith is alive in the hearts of the inhabitants of this

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borderline. One of the regular cultural events in Bolyarovo is the folklore concert "Vrbova whistle playing" which takes place every year in the first week of June. More than 500 participants from all over Bulgaria, as well as from neighboring Greece and Turkey, present some of their national folklore.

### **2.3 Identified sites in the Sakar Mountains**

The geographical location of Sakar and the convenient roads along the valleys of the Maritsa and Tundja rivers make it an important crossroads for the European Southeast. The mountain, inhabited by Thracians and Celts, Romans and Ottomans, Slavs and Bulgarians, keeps memories and artifacts for conquering military campaigns, raids, robberies and destructions.

The first Thracian state unification - the Odrysian kingdom, was created by the Odrisi tribe at the beginning of the 5th century BC. It stretches from the Danube River to the Aegean Sea and from the Struma to the Black Sea and is the largest at that time in Europe. The Sakar region has developed industrial and cultural relations with Thrace, the Black Sea and the North Aegean coast, mainly due to the roads and the two floating rivers, Tonzos (Tundja) and Hebar (Maritsa). The multitude of rock shrines, dolmens, altars, remains of fortresses and settlements testify to the material and spiritual culture of the Thracians.

#### **DOWNLOAD IN SAKAR MOUNTAIN**

- Dolmen south of the village of Sakartsi, district of Haskovo (Location: N 42° 01 '39.0 "E 26° 17' 53.3") - located in the area of Zhelyov göl.
- Dolmen south of the village of Sakarci, Haskovo region (Location: N 42° 01 '42.93 "E 26° 179' 18.14") - located in the Cliftinova niva area.
- Dolmen south of the village of Sakartsi, district of Haskovo (Location: N 42° 01 '41.14 "E 26° 179' 17.34") - located in Kapallikka area
- Dolmen south of the village of Sakartsi, district Haskovo (Location: N 42° 01 '40.54 "E 26° 179' 16.54") - located to the north of the village overlooking the river, highly fragmented

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- Dolmen south of the village of Hlyabovo, district of Haskovo (Location: N 42 ° 02 '37.30 "E 26 ° 15' 32.81") - located in the Evdjica / Avdjica locality.
- Dolmen south of the village of Hlyabovo, district of Haskovo (Location: N 42 ° 00 '10.35 "E 26 ° 16' 23.83") - located in the Manger area along the Western Sakar ridge.
- One-chamber Dolmen south of the village of Hlyabovo, Haskovo district (Location: N 42 ° 02 '37.36 ", E 26 ° 15' 32. 85") - located in the Evdjica / Avdikka area.
- Dolmen southeast of Balgarska polyana, Haskovo region (N 42 ° 00 '10.43 "E 26 ° 16' 24, 23") - situated in the Manger area on the Western Sakar ridge.
- Dolmen south of the village of Hlyabovo, district of Haskovo (Location: N 42 ° 02 '20.79 "E 26 ° 15' 04.85") - located in Evdjka / Avdjica. The Only Cut Dolmen on the Balkans.
- Strongly fragmented dolmens south of the village of Hlyabovo, Haskovo district (N 42 ° 02 '21. 60 "E 26 ° 15' 04.12") - located in the locality of Stoeva krusha, southwest of Evdjka / Avdjik.
- Dolmen south of the village of Hlyabovo, district of Haskovo (Location: N 42 ° 01 '29.43 "E 26 ° 15' 05.51") - located in the area of White grass (the "King's Dolmen" the largest and most preserved dolmens on the territory of Bulgaria. The most impressive megalith in the Balkans.
- Dolmen south of the village of Hlyabovo, district of Haskovo (Location: N 42 ° 01 '20.46 "E 26 ° 15' 05.54") - located in the White Grass area, near the "Royal Dolmen" destroyed.
- Dolmen south of the village of Hlyabovo, district of Haskovo (Location: N 42 ° 01 '15.35 "E 26 ° 15' 17.86") - located in the White Grass area (the Farfalova Saya) east of the "King's Dolmen".
- Dolmen south of the village of Hlyabovo, district of Haskovo (Location: N 42 ° 01 '07.19 "E 26 ° 14' 26.77") - located in Slavova koriya area (Gypsy cemetery).

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- Dolmen south of the village of Hlyabovo, district Haskovo (Location: N 42° 01 '24.35 "E 26° 14' 27. 95) - located in Slavova koriya area (Gypsy cemetery).
- Dolmen south of the village of Hlyabovo, Haskovo district (N 42° 01 '51.16 "E 26° 14' 24.11") - one-storey flooded dolmen located in the Gerena area.
- Dolmen south-west of the village of Hlyabovo, Haskovo district (N 42 ° 02 '47.90 "E 26° 14' 22.31") - a two-chamber dolm with dromos located in the Gaidarova cave area.
- Dolmen west of the village of Hlyabovo, district of Haskovo (Location: N 42° 01 '29.4 "E 26° 15' 05.5") double adjacent two-chamber dolmens - large and small, in the locality Nucheve Chairi, 150 m south of the road between the villages of Bulgarska poliana and Hlyabovo. The most well-preserved dolmen on the territory of the Balkan Peninsula
- Dolmen east of the village of Radevets, Haskovo region (N 41 ° 56 '27 - 32 "E 26° 31' 50 - 51") - located in Kapaklia area, a special place that together with the Red Spruce before p; Tundja where a lion has a group of sixteen small one-chamber dolmens and about twenty-six cyst graves, many of which are highly fragmented in the prolonged human activity. Otherwise, their concentration is amazing and difficult to explain because of the rugged and poor area, but the remoteness lies in time.
- Dolmen near the village of Plininovo, Haskovo region (Location: ... ..) - located in the region of the village, The sands.
- Dolmen near the village of Plininovo, Haskovo region (Location: ... ..) - located in the region of the village, Zaikovec.

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- Dolmen near the village of Plininovo, Haskovo region (Location: ... ..) - located in the region of the village, Above the village in the direction of Dervishka Mogila.
- Dolmen near the village of Plininovo, Haskovo region (Location: ... ..) The witch 3 km northwest.
- Dolmen near the village of Studena, Haskovo region (Location: ...) - located in the village area, near the border between the village of Studena and the village of Ustrem.
- A pair of dolmens east of the village of Oryahovo, district of Haskovo (Location: N 42° 56 '22.0 "E 26° 11' 24.2") - situated in the Eshmedjik locality, a great degree of destruction.
- Dolmen on the territory of the village of Oryahovo, Haskovo district (Location: ... ..) - located in the area of Eshmedik.
- Dolmen necropolis on the territory of the village of Vaskovo, Haskovo district (Location: ..... ) - located in the land of the village.
- Dolmen on the territory of the village of Vaskovo, Haskovo District (Location: ...) - located in the Bayamlaka area.
- Dolmen on the territory of the village of Dripchevo, Haskovo region (Location: ... ..) - located on the southeastern foothills of the Gurova Chuka.
- Dolmen near the village of Izvorovo, Haskovo region (N 41 ° 57 '43.8 "E 26 ° 08' 13.7") - situated on the land of the village itself.
- Dolmen necropolis on the territory of the village of Cherepovo, Haskovo region (Location: N 41 ° 58 '10.3 "E 26 ° 06' 17.1") - in the White earth, there are three highly fragmented dolmen; in Alieva Koriya is registered dolmen with preserved partial cromleeh.
- Dolmen on the territory of the Bulgarian village of Haskovo (Location: ... ..) - on the land of the village itself.
- Dolmen to the museum in the town of Haskovo - transported from South Sakar and assembled on the lawns next to RIM Haskovo together with its adjacent cromleeh.
- Dolmen on the territory of the village of Vaskovo, Haskovo district (Location: ... ..) - strongly destroyed. ]

#### Sights of old times

Sakar Mountain, inhabited since ancient times until today, has hidden many interesting monuments of human culture / activity. Sakar keeps many treasures of human hands and mind, hiding many secrets from long past times. This end of Bulgaria is home to interesting

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cultural and historical landmarks from different ages. They are wealth for Bulgaria, visit them, see them, touch them. Feel the breath of old times, immerse yourself in the past, and feel the power, spirit, grief, and aspirations of the people who lived before us.

#### Monuments of Antiquity and Middle Ages \

Because of the favorable natural conditions and the low altitude, the entire territory of the mountain has been inhabited since antiquity to the present day.

The oldest and mysterious works of the human hand in Sakar Mountain are the megalithic monuments. Centuries before the new era in Sakar, a unique megalith culture developed, monuments of which have been preserved to this day. These structures of giant stones are called "megaliths" (from Greek: mega - big and lithos - stone). Archaeologists refer them to the period XII-VII c. There are three types of megaliths: dolmens, menhirs, and cromlechs.

All this gives grounds for Sakar Mountain to be called a megalithic park. Preserved dolmens and remains of them are located in the lands of the villages of Hlyabovo / Nuchevi cherry, White grass, Gaidarov Douplap, Manger, Stoeva krusha, Bekir owat, Gerdimsko kuli, Kraljeva Saya /, Bulgarska poliana / Slavova koriya, Caves, Terzi Kaya, west of Kartal kaya /, Sakartzi / Kapallijka area, Clifinova niva, Jelyov gol, Bakalov Kladenets /, Radovets / Kapaklia, Ayvalaka /, Planinovo / Solishta, Peshterite, Manda gol, Trankata / Izvorovo / Shellers, Cappuccino, Mania, Mash, Kokoshi Bair, Cherepovo / Maneva Saya Locations, Settlement, Bereket Bay, Golyam Bair /, Drapchevo / localities. The Chairite (Gynovi Chairi), Gozdim Mesar and Kavatsite /, Vasilovo / Bayamlaka /, Branitsa / Chefitka /, Mladinovo / Kerez tepe, Kacha okush, Tachova niva, Oryahovo /, Kapakliika, Kerez Dere /, Dervis mogila, Studena / Kapaklia area /, Glavan, Lisovo / Dalak buinar / etc.

A special kind of Dolmen called "Evdjik" (house) is located south of the village of Hlyabovo. It is carved in granite rocks. The Dolmen consists of a chamber that enters through a properly arched entrance - high and wide about 1.5 m. The room is trapezoidal in a transverse and longitudinal section, is hollowed inwards in the rock about 2 m. There is a deep cut frame along the edge of the hole - a groove in which a stone neckstone was probably placed. The interior of the walls are decorated with worn circles engraved with a lot of holes. Ten pits of different shapes and sizes, whose purpose is unknown, are carved on the rock wall at the front.

#### DOLMENS IN SAKAR MOUNTAIN

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Menhirs are secluded bitten stones, probably associated with religious rites, but their exact purpose is still unknown. In the area of Sakar Mountain, menhir is situated near the village of Ovcharovo. Known to the local population as Chuckul Stone, it is a roughly shaped stone column high 2.20, dug into the ground. . Until 50-70 years ago, a fair of Dimitroven was held around the stone, here people played during the fasting from Zagovesi to Easter. Menhir is a remarkable cult monument from the Thracian times and is the only preserved not only in Bulgaria, but perhaps also in the whole of Southeastern Europe.

An interesting cult site of Thracian times in the region is the rock sanctuary at Peak Castro peak (Stara Krepost) - 424 m .: - CIII 42 04 43 09 / ID 26 16 15 08 This is a secluded peak that rises above the whole area and which has good strategic visibility at a great distance. To the south you can see the entire massif of the Sakar Mountain, to the east, while the Derwent Heights, the Monastery Heights to the north, and the hill Sakar Mountains on the west are visible in the clear. On the rocks of its peak and its foot parts there are carved over 180 concave and protruding circles, resembling the sun disk, it is supposed that here was a rock sanctuary of the sun that existed around the X-V c. BC. built and fortress existed in antiquity and the Middle Ages. To the north of the fortress are found many remains of a large settlement - foundations of old buildings, large bricks, many ceramic fragments, arrows of arrows and spears, accessories for decorating martial arts, ornaments, coins. The earliest coin found near Paleokastro dates back to the 5th century BC, and the earliest coin was from the 13th century AD, from which it can be concluded that this place was inhabited almost 1500 Built by the Thracians, it was consecutively used by Romans, Byzantines, Bulgarians, and

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was probably conquered and destroyed by the invasions of the Cumans and Pecheneans in the 13th century.

Another interesting cult site of Thracian times in Sakar is situated northwest of the village Dositeevo. Where the Balachka river flows along large canals, here is the Thracian sanctuary Hasarcheto or Koncheto: - CIII 42 55 38 92 / ID 26 00 27 28. The sanctuary is high up, covering a rock bunch hanging over the river. the sanctuary existed during the early Iron Age, perhaps earlier, through the Bronze Age.

Cult sites also used the rock grounds beyond the river. The specificity of the sanctuary suggests an active cult life in the area where people have honored the rocks from which they have made their prayers and sacrifices to the deified deities.

Ancient rock sanctuaries are situated at the peak of Kamenna mogila: - CIII 42 01 55 34 / ID 26 15 32 69 south of the village of Hlyabovo, at the peak of Kazlarkaia north of the village of Lisovo, at the Big Stone northwest of the village Cherepovo, southeast of Izvorovo and elsewhere.

More than 70 strongholds and settlements are located within Sakar. They have been built in strategic locations, comfortable for habitation, near springs and rivers. On the main roads, road stations were also built. Most of the settlements and fortresses have their origins since Thracian times, but they had their own life during the Roman and Byzantine eras, and some of them continued their lives and functions during the first and the second Bulgarian kingdoms. The vast majority of settlements and fortresses have been destroyed and almost completely destroyed. But there are still remnants of several fortress facilities and villages that are of interest to visit.

Bukelon - the ancient guardian of the Tundzha Valley: - CIII 41 51 13 17 / ID 25 22 48 89

Bukelon / Vukelon fortress / near Matochina village is one of the most preserved military buildings in Bulgaria. This solitary guard is towering over the village of Matochina and the valley of the Tundja river, to the very border with the Republic of Turkey (38 km southeast of Topolovgrad, 40 km northeast of Svilengrad). Already in the late antiquity, the Romans rated the key location of the hill over the shortest road in the valley of Tundja leading to Adrianople and Constantinople. The remnants of the fortress are a magnificent spectacle even for the lovers who are not fond of history.

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The fortress that surrounds the crest of the hill is about 65 meters wide and 150 meters long. To date, it has survived an impressive 18-meter tower, one of the few well-preserved monuments of that time. The walls of the tower are made of loam stones and four-row brick belts, bonded with white mortar. It was erected on three large floors, which were reached by wooden stairs. The retained fortress belongs to the so-called inner towers or donions - self-fortified buildings within the outlines of the great fortresses that served as observation and last protection, and in peacetime used to house the feudal lord and his family. It covers three parts - a rectangular tower, a semi-cylindrical body from the east and a narrow corridor to the west.

The bare hills of the hill barely show the remnants of a fortified wall, and the narrow saddle that connects the hill with the surrounding terrain was dug through a ditch over which a bridge was probably built. According to the peculiarity of the tower, it was probably built in the 13th - 14th centuries on the ruins of an older fortress, on which the remains of the fortress wall belong.

The fortress was the closest guards to Edirne from the north.

The first evidence of the fortress was given by Amian Marcellin in the description of the defeat of the Roman army in the Battle of Adrianople (Edirne) by the rebellious Goths led by Fregegren in 378. Then Emperor Valentin (364-378) was injured and later dying of his wounds. It is believed that the fighting was in the vicinity of the fortress, only 15 km from Edirne.

In the Middle Ages, because of its proximity to the Roman capital and Adrianople, the fortress was more often owned by Byzantium than by Bulgaria.

Vukelon was captured and destroyed during the reigns of Khan Krum in 813 and his name was written on a triumphal column of Pliska. Near the fortress on February 14, 1205 the Bulgarian troops, led by Tsar Kaloyan, defeated the Knights' army of the Latins and captured their emperor Baldwin Flanders. According to a legend after King Kaloyan's memorable victory, the captured Flemish Count and Latin King Baldouen de Flandre spent several days confined to the Bukelon Tower, which since then the locals call Balduinova. From here he was taken to the capital of Turnovo, where he died.

In 1328, during the advance of the army of Tsar Michael III Shishman in the valley of the river Tundzha in the Byzantine outskirts, the garrison himself betrayed the fortress of the Bulgarians. There the Bulgarian Tsar stayed for a month, waiting for the Roman army. Emperor Andronicus III sent messengers to the Bulgarian camp, which began long negotiations. King Michael-Shishman's request to replace Vuckelon for Sozopol remained without consequences, but an agreement was reached, and he returned the fortress of Byzantium against a large ransom.

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At the end of its existence, the fortress probably served as defense of the Ottoman conquerors, which was subsequently destroyed. According to a message from 1664, the fortress near the village of Matochina has already been abandoned and the area has been covered with centuries-old forests.

In Sakar Mountain, a large number of fortress facilities were built as an important strategic area in the antiquity and the Middle Ages, but the history of events, people and time did not pity these stone strongholds. Today they are pathetic remains, overgrown with grasses and shrubs, and here are bells of bells, explosions are shouts of war, dying people. The wheel of time is indescribably spinning where and when.

Remains of a medieval fortress have up to the highest peak of Sakar - Vishegrad - 856 m .: - CIII 41 59 39 89 / ID 26 19 38 66. It covers an area of 3 hectares. There are parts of the fortress wall with a thickness of 2.5 m as well as the foundations of buildings. The fortress is Thracian, but it also functions during the Middle Ages. An archaeological research finds a stone Thracian tomb of a warrior oriented east-west direction. The architectural and plan resemble a tombstone in the shape of a Greek temple. There is no access to the fortress because it is located in a military unit of the Bulgarian army

Near the village of Bulgarska poliana, in the locality of Kaleto, 3.5 km southeast of the village, there are remnants of ancient and medieval fortress. Ceramic fragments of Thracian times and the Middle Ages, the IX-XI and XII-XII c.

Remains of the medieval Episcopal city of Skutareon (small shield) are located north of the village of Shiht in the area of Birgo.

About 2 km south of the village of Glavan, on the ridge of one of the northern hills of the Sakar Mountain are remnants of the fortress "Balzena" / Kaleto, Gradishteto /. The fortress was located on the ridge of a heavily elongated hill at an altitude of 538 m, from which a wide view of the south and east is revealed. It is believed that the fortress was built in the 5th century on the site of Thracian fortification.

Remains of the medieval Episcopal town of Agatniki were found near the village of Oryahovo.

On the hill of Hisarlaka near the Kanapliya neighborhood in the northern part of Svilengrad, there are remnants of the ancient fortress Bourdenius / Buridito /.

The Stara Levka fortress is situated on a steep coastline formed on one of the turns of the Lefcenskaya River, south of the present village of Levka.

Remains of medieval fortresses are located near the village of Sladun in the village of Mihalich in the area of Hissarya north of the town of Lyubimets, Tekebair, between the

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villages of Ovcharovo and Bogomil, in the Bahchitsa area south of the village of Izvorovo, on the left bank of the Maritsa river from the village of Bulgarin.

Interesting religious monuments from the early Middle Ages in Sakar represent the rock churches of the 10th century near the villages of Matochina, Michalic and the monastery "St. Trinity" near the village of Ustrem.

The rock church next to the village of Michalic: - CIII 41 51 00 89 / ID 26 25 29 62, is one of the best examples of the Christian rock architecture on the territory of Bulgaria: It is a kilometer south of the village on the steep west slope of a rocky hill . It is carved into a limestone rock. The builders have tried to give it the shape of an elegant cross-schooned temple with a semicircular altar and two lateral semi-circular cones (abss). The interior space is 12 m in 11 m. On top of the rock is a beautiful dome. It has a diameter of 5.5 m and a height of 6 m. The entrance of the church is a monumental rocky staircase of 14 steps. Probably, over the open staircase there was a wooden shed, the holes visible in the adjacent rocks. It is believed that the church was built in the X-XI century. Local people have preserved the name of the temple, calling it the "Pandolimon" area. It is not a coincidence, and now there is an audience. On holidays people from nearby villages visit the ancient temple, perform Christian rituals and leave gifts. From a rock crack in the interior flows water, considered healing. Its flow is volatile and its appearance is considered a divine sign.

Rock Church in the village of Matochina: - CIII 41 56 16 82 / ID 26 05 39 91. It is situated near the very border of Bulgaria with Turkey, 2 km. southwest of the village of Matochina. The local population calls it "Decili kaya". It is carved in the northwest steep limestone slopes of a hillside. The church is entered through an arched corridor, 14 m long, and it itself is shaped as a rectangular room. To the left of the entrance there are several steps cut into the rocks that lead to the ridge of the hill. From there there are beautiful views to the north towards Sakar and to the south to the Tundja River and the Edirne plain.

The old church: 42 01 59 01 / ID 26 25 41 74 is a cave situated about 400 m west of the Holy Trinity Monastery near the village of Ustrem on the western slope of a limestone plateau above the Manastirska River. The room has a length of 8 m and a width of about 6 m, with numerous dents and niches on the walls and arches. The church is not shaped further, the natural configuration of the rocks is preserved. Almost all niches and planes are written directly on the bare stone. From the vaults of the Old Church there are tears of water, which in the past were considered holy and healing. During major holidays such as Spasovden, St. George, Trinity, Holy Apostles Peter and Paul and others. here came people from near and far to wash and receive healing. Later the local population called the cave Caracol's hole because it had the glory of the hideout of the famous haidutine.

The architectural monuments preserved in Sakar since the Ottoman rule were Christian churches and chapels, schools and houses, built mainly in the period between the 18th and

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19th centuries, monumental constructions along the main road along the valley of the Maritsa river at Harmanli and Svilengrad from the XVI century and the Muslim Teke at Bogomil village.

The bridge of the Maritsa river at Svilengrad was built in 1529 by order of Mustafa Pasha, a bishop of Sultan Suleiman I Magnificent. It is a significant 295 m long 5.5 m wide facility. The Mustafa Pasha village, which in the second half of the 16th century became a town, emerged around it. The canvas of the bridge is made of stone slabs, placed on edged masonry stones, between which there are 20 vaulted openings for the waters of the Maritsa River. The handrails are also made of stone blocks, 353 pieces on each side. In the middle of the facility there is an inscription for its construction. Today the bridge connects both parts of Svilengrad. It is a monument of national importance and is under UNESCO protection.

Among the architectural masterpieces from the time of the Turkish slavery in the town of Harmanli stands out the Horseradish Bridge over the old bed of the Harmanliyska River (Oludere). Now there is no river running beneath it because it is weaned away. It is among the major road facilities built in the Ottoman Empire in the 16th century. It is built of stones and has paved flooring. Old travelers typically report six arches, but today there are mainly three bays on the bridge, the largest of which is the average, more than 20 meters wide. The rails are about a meter high. A marble slab with a Turkish inscription is placed in a special place: "The world is a bridge where the way of the king and the poor man passes. He who walks in the just and just way finds salvation with God. When I saw the end of the bridge, I prayed to God, I myself said the inscription. In the time of Siavyusha, this magnificent bridge was built, nine hundred and ninety-three (1585). " The gorse bridge is a mute witness and symbol of an irrevocably passed epoch, today it is a cultural and historical landmark of the town of Harmanli (declared a monument of culture).

In the center of Harmanli there are the remains of the so-called. caravanserai - the first large building in Harmanli (1510) For its construction the whole Bulgarian population was mobilized from Edirne to Haskovo. All villages were obliged to give an engagement with cars, livestock and humans. Masons and masters were also Bulgarians. It is believed that the building of the caravansera was lifted at the command of Mustafa pasha, and was later completed and renewed by Siouvish pasha. The solid monumental building of the caravanserraya also hit the foreign travelers passing through Harmanli and is mentioned in many travel books. In its former appearance, the caravan was kept until 1866, and finally he served for the autumn Carabay Fair. Due to the loss of its functions, the building began to collapse. The demolition of the building continued after the Liberation, when the hospital, the school and the military barracks in Harmanli were built with materials from the caravansera. Today only one wall is preserved with the gate in the middle, built of stones, bricks and mortar.

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The architectural landmarks mentioned here from the XVI century are built mainly on the main European course of the Ottoman Empire, on the most important route in its European part. In the interior of the mountain, alone, lonely, somewhere near the place stands the text near the village of Bogomil: - CIII 41 59 22 18/26 01 32 51. According to the scarce data available, the text was built in 1541 by Hazer her grandmother, who was later buried in him

**CULTURAL CHRISTIAN SANCTUARY FOR SACAR AND SOUTHEAST BULGARIA**

From the Renaissance to the present day is the Holy Trinity Monastery: -SJ 42 01 58 83 / ID 26 25 52 48. It is located 11 km southeast of Topolovgrad in the land of the village of Ustrem.

The church "St. Trinity "in Svilengrad (1834), built with voluntary sacrifices of the Bulgarians from the three neighborhoods of the town and probably because of this is called" St. Trinity ".

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Religious centers of the revival are also the churches in the villages Shit - "St. Virgin Mary ", built in 1792, the church" St. Dimitar "in the village of Jerusalem built in 1836, the church" Assumption of the Virgin "in the village of Michalic, the church" St. Ivan Bogoslov "in the village of Dervis mogila, the church" St. Dimitar "in the village of Levka, the church" St. Atanas "in the village of Dimitrovche, the church" St. Petka "in the village of Oryahovo, the Church of the Holy ascension in the village of Momkovo, the church" St. Apostles Peter and Paul "in the village of Georgi Dobrevo.

In the town of Harmanli the temple "St. Atanasii "was built in 1835 with funds and donations from the local population. Interest in the region are the churches "St. Ivan Rilski "in the village of Dositeevo, built in 1836, the church" St. Georgi "in the village of Dripchevo, built in 1848, the church" St. Dimitar "in the village of Ovcharovo, built in 1867, the church" St. Virgin Mary "in the village of Bulgarin, built in 1875, the church" St. Sunday "in the village of Cherepovo, built in 1874, the church" St. Archangel Michael "in the village of Glavan, the church" St. Virgin Mary "in the village of Branitsa, the church" St. Archangel Michael "in the village of Izvorovo, the church" St. Georgi "in the village of Rogozinovo.

#### TOPOLOVGRADICAL SPIRITUAL ENVIRONMENT

##### Settlement temple

GR; Bolyar Temple "St. Dimitar "

St. Ruzhitsa Church "St. Konstantin and Elena "

C. "St. Georgi "

St. Valcha Polyana Temple "St. Dimitar "

St. Golyamo Krushevo temple "St. Virgin Mary "

St. Gorska Polyana temple "St. Elijah "

St. Strandja church "St. Virgin Mary "

St. Granit's temple "St. Arch. Michael "

St. Dobrich temple "St. Dimitar "

St. Zlatinitsa "St. Konstantin and Elena "

Chr. Elhovo temple "St. Dimitar "

St. Radovets temple "St. Konstantin and Elena "

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St. Knyazhevo temple "St. Dimitar "

S. Section temple "St. Trinity "

S. Lesovo Temple "St. Live. Source"

S. Chukarovo Temple "St. Virgin Mary "

St. Chernozem Temple "St. Virgin Mary "

S. Mamarchevo Temple "St. Virgin Mary "

SH Sharkovo Shrine "St. John the Baptist "

C. Melnik Temple "St. Georgi "

S. Marble Temple "St. Arch. Michael "

S. Cap. Petko vojvoda temple "St. Live. Source"

St. Oreshnik church "St. Paraskeva "

St. Popovo temple "St. Georgi "

S. Dabovo Temple "St. Elijah "

St. Svetlina temple "St. Bororoditsa"

St. Sinapovo church "St. Elijah "

S. Srem temple "St. Ascension of the Lord "

St. Stefan Karadjovo Temple "St. Virgin Mary "

St. Kamen Peak temple "St. Atanasii "

St. Dobroselz temple "St. Petka "

S. Ustrem temple "St. Dimitar "

C. Planinovo temple "St. Cyril and Methodius"

St. Hilabovo temple "St. Georgi "

St. Sharkovo Shrine "St. Virgin Mary "

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Orlov Dol Temple "St. Dimitar "

Chr. Topolovgrad temple "St. Virgin Mary "

Chr. Topolovgrad temple "St. Georgi "

Chr. Topolovgrad temple "St. Petka "

Chr. Topolovgrad temple "St. Elijah "

St. Izgrev temple "St. Dimitar "

S. Igluka temple "St. Virgin Mary "

S. Sitovo temple "St. Ivan Rilski "

St. Lalkovo Temple "St. Ascension of the Lord "

#### **Temples in Harmanlian spiritual region**

- 1. St. Ivan Rilski Temple, St. Athanasius Temple and St. Trifon Temple - Harmanli**
- 2. "St. Bogoroditsa" church and "St. Nikolay" temple - Simeonovgrad**
- 3. "St. Ivan Rilski" church and "Nativity of the Virgin" temple - Galabovo**
- 4. "St. Nedelya" temple - Cherepovo village,**
- 5. "St. George" temple - Rogozinovo village,**
- 6. "St. Demetrius" temple - Ovcharovo village,**
- 7. "St. Archangel Michael" Temple - Glavan Village,**
- 8. St. Demetrius Church - Mednikarovo village,**
- 9. "St. Archangel Mihail" temple - Obruchishte village,**
- 10. "St. Ivan Rilski" Church - Dositeevo village,**
- 11. St. Petka Church - Navusen village,**
- 12. "St. Archangel Michael" temple - Mudrets village,**
- 13. "St. Bogoroditsa" church - Bulgari village,**

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- 14. "St. John the Theologian" Church - Dryanovo,**
- 15. "St. Bogoroditsa" church - Iskritza village,**
- 16. St. Andrew's Church - Svirkovo village,**
- 17. St. Georgi Church - Troyan village,**
- 18. "St. George" Temple - Tyanevo village,**
- 19. Temple "Nativity of the Virgin" - Kolarovo village,**

#### **Temples in Svilengrad spiritual region**

- 1. St. Trinity Temple, St. Demetrius Temple, Temple "Living Source" and "St. Ivan Rilski" Temple - Svilengrad**
- 2. "St. Bogoroditsa" temple - town of Lyubimets,**
- 3. "St. George" temple - Kapitan Andreevo village,**
- 4. "St. Atanasii" temple - Dimitrovche village,**
- 5. St. Demetrius Church - Levka village,**
- 6. "St. John the Theologian" Church - Studena village,**
- 7. St. Cyril and Methodius Church - Mustrak village,**
- 8. temple "St. Ascension" - Momkovo village,**
- 9. "St. Peter and Paul" Church - Georgi Dobrevo village,**
- 10. St. Demetrius Church - Matochina village,**
- 11. St. Georgi Church - Prisadets Village,**
- 12. St. Demetrius Church - Generalalo village,**
- 13. "St. Bogoroditsa" Church - Shtip village,**
- 14. St. Atanasii Temple - Pastrogor village,**
- 15. "St. Petka" temple - Oryahovo village,**
- 16. "St. Ascension" temple - village of Chernodub.**

#### **III. Annexes**

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### **3.1. Photos of the objects**

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