



Bulletin

European Destinations of Excellence

ONLINE BULLETIN ON BULGARIAN EDEN DESTINATIONS, CREATED UNDER THE PROJECT ENTITLED "COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE BULGARIAN EDEN DESTINATIONS – SECOND EDITION", AS IMPLEMENTED BY THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM UNDER A GRANT FINANCIAL AID AGREEMENT WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION NO 699265 OF JAN 18, 2016

(issue 10, December 2016)

NEWS RELATING TO PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION



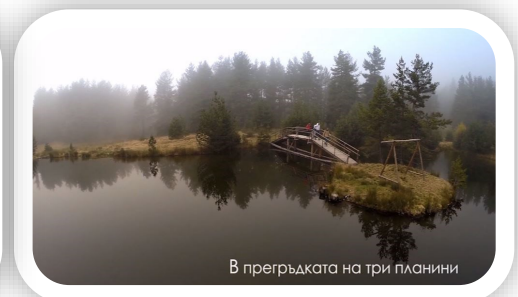
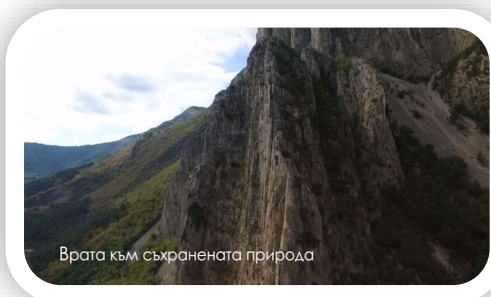
The Ministry of Tourism prepared videos promoting the Bulgarian EDEN destinations within the framework of the Communication Campaign to Promote Bulgarian EDEN Destinations – Second Edition project

Videos promoting the Bulgarian EDEN destinations were prepared within the framework of the Communication Campaign to Promote Bulgarian EDEN Destinations – Second Edition

project, which is implemented by the Ministry of Tourism as a beneficiary under the 2014-2020 COSME Program. The videos were made by an external contractor, at the Ministry of Tourism's order, and comprise:

- 9 (short) short promotional videos, one each for the EDEN destinations of: Lukovit, Vratsa, Kavarna, Kazanlak, Kardjali, Kyustendil, Sapareva Banya, Strandja national park, and Sandanski.

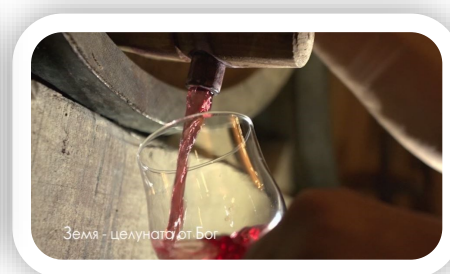
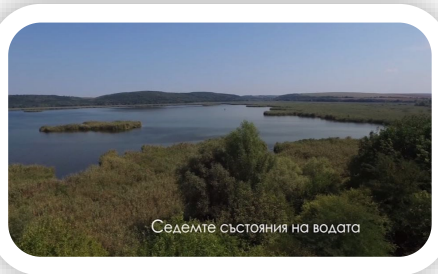
- One collective image video presenting all 12 Bulgarian EDEN destinations – Belogradchik, Silistra, Belitsa Lukovit,



Vratsa, Kavarna, Kazanlak, Kardjali, Kyustendil, Sapareva Banya, Strandja national park, and Sandanski.

The videos present an up-to-date snapshot of the destinations, attractive events

and tourism sites in the region, inspiring and attracting the attention to the particular destination. The video materials are available on DVD carriers, in Bulgarian and English language versions. They will be disseminated during Ministry of Tourism's participation in international tourism exhibitions and other events, online – via the available Ministry's online communication channels, as well as at the tourist information centres for the Bulgarian EDEN destinations.



Link to the Bulgarian language videos: <http://www.edenbulgaria.eu/reklamni-vidео-EDEN-destinations-Bulgaria-BG-version>

Link to the English language videos: <http://www.edenbulgaria.eu/content/198>

EVENTS FROM THE EDEN DESTINATIONS

On December 28, 2016 a Festival of Young Red Wine will be held in Sandanski, the motivation for setting it up being recognition of the fine work of the private winemakers in that municipality. The event's first edition was held in late December 1992. Since then, the festival has been held on annual basis and includes a competition for the best red wine from the Sandanski and Melnik area. The competition is scored by a professional jury, with private winemakers from the area being eligible to participate. The Festival of Young Red Wine is particularly attractive for both locals and visitors because barrels of wine are made available for drinking, free-of-charge.

More information about the event: <http://tourbg.net/2016/12/08/28-%D0%B4%D0%B5%D0%BA%D0%B5%D0%BC%D0%B2%D1%80%D0%B8-%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B7%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%BA-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%BC%D0%BB%D0%B0%D0%B4%D0%BE%D1%82%D0%BE-%D1%87%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%B2%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%BE/>

PRESENTATION OF EDEN DESTINATIONS

*According to tradition, we will be presenting to you one Bulgaria EDEN destination in each bulletin issues. For this issue we have planned to familiarize you with the **Silistra** EDEN destination*

Silistra region is rich in diverse tourism resources, which is caused by the direct interaction among cultural, historical, archaeological, and natural resources.

Cultural heritage is a fundamental component in the overall historical characteristics of Silistra region.

The region's biggest settlement is the city of Silistra – a city with ancient cultural-historical heritage, with dozens of peoples and civilizations leaving their mark in the course of some two thousand years. These have left notable, often landmark traces of their presence. Except for the last century, the city was the leading administrative, military, cultural, and spiritual centre of Dobruja throughout the various historical eras. Archaeological and historical surveys over the recent

decades have revealed landmark monuments dating back to various civilizations and eras.

In 1971, by virtue of decree of the Council of Ministers, a large part of Silistra was identified as **Durostorum-Drastar-Silistra National Architectural-Historical Reserve**. The reserve covers more than 2/3 of the contemporary city of Silistra. The ancient Durostorum and the medieval Drastar were of global significance, nowadays the reserve contains unique, restored monuments from the ancient Roman and medieval Bulgarian eras.

The Roman tomb in Silistra - the most representative and fully preserved Late Antiquity Roman monument from the Durostorum era is the mid-4th century tomb with murals. It is considered a signature creation of the Late Antiquity civilization. Created in between two civilizations and cultural models, it hints at the demise of the pagan decorative system (the owner definitely being pagan), with elements of the new Christian perception of the world creeping through. The rich murals (geometric, vegetative, animal, and human figures, hunting scenes, a family couple and their servants) have the characteristic features of the post-Constantine I's era and illustrate the style of a gifted artist hailing from the Empire's eastern provinces /likely Egypt or Syria/. The central wall panel displays the tomb holder in life-size, dressed in the attire of a notable Roman commander – a magistrate, probably a patrician, who holds in his hand an imperial deed – codicil. Standing beside him is his noble wife, while servants are facing them from both sides, serving vessels and utensil for ritual washing and dressing, and the components of the costume of the magistrate master.



The Silistra Archaeological Museum is located in a building constructed during 1923-1924 as a branch of the Romanian National Bank in the city. Since 1990 archaeological expositions of the Silitry Historical Museum have been displayed here. The expositions take up an area of 400 sq. m. and feature items from the prehistoric, ancient, and medieval eras. The most valuable exhibits include a Roman stone sundial (the largest so far discovered in Bulgarian lands), a 3rd century gold ring, a column bearing the name of Khan Omurtag, stamps of Bulgarian and Byzantine rulers, gold jewelry from the times of the Drastar fortress, etc.

The Silistra Ethnography Museum opened in 1967. It is housed in a building dating back to the mid-19th century, where the then-Ottoman police was based. The exposition portion is placed on an area of 300 sq. m. in ten rooms. It consists of artefacts from the lifestyle and culture of people from the Dobrudja area and Silistra from the mid-19th to the early 20th century.

Main contact information for the destination:

Contacts:

Silistra Municipality

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Tel. + 359 86 824243; fax: + 359 86 823343

e-mail: mayor@silistra.bg

Regional Historical Museum

24, G.S. Rakovski St.
7500 Silistra

086/820 388
e-mail: museumsilistra@abv.bg

Archaeological Museum

7500 Silistra, , 74, Tsar Simeon Veliki St.

Tel. + 359 86 822075; + 359 86 822154

e-mail: geoatal@abv.bg

www.museumsilistra.com

Ethnography Museum

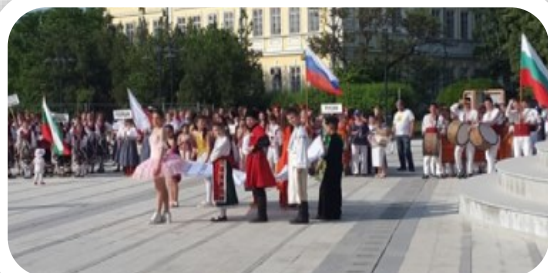
Otets Paisii St.

7500 Silistra

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e-mail: museumsilistra@abv.bg

Destination-popular events:



In 1994 the **International Children's Dance Festival**, the first of its kind in Bulgaria, began, with the impactful message: „Tomorrow's peace begins with today's friendship". The founders were the Chair of the Association of Child-Youth Choreographers in Bulgaria, Agrippina Voynova, and the Silistra choreographer Yordan Filipov – then leader of the Dobrudjanche ensemble.

Prominent children's dance ensembles from Europe, Asia, America, and Africa have visited Silistra. The festival's history is rich, preserving distinct culture and dance art. The thousands of young participants, visitors, and guests keep the love for dance, the memory of friendship and the hospitality of our beautiful city of Silistra in their hearts for a lifetime. The festival's contribution to the dialogue among young people, cultures, and peoples is invaluable.

Bread Festival and the opening of the harvesting season in Garvan village, Silistra region



The annual Bread Festival is a continuation of a funded project of the Garvan-based Dimitar Ivanov Polyanov – 1870 Reading Hall entitled Grandpa's Wheat Mill, Grandma's Bread under the Living Heritage program. The project's purpose is tied to the lifestyle of people from Garvan village over the course of some 100 years. In the past the populace produced its own wheat, corn, flour, yeast, and bread. The project carried out research of the local customs involved in bread-making and preservation of those customs by publishing the rituals in a booklet, bringing them back to life via reenactment of the local Dobrudja custom associated with bread-making.

The Bread Festival is the only one of its kind in the Silistra region. The festival begins with ritual consecration of the grain harvesting tools according to an old Dobrudha custom of harvesting with sickles and swaphooks, and ends with a dining table where the local female master bread-makers display their creations to a jury. According to schedule, a procession sets out from the 100-years old Dobrudjanska house in Garvan village to the wheat fields where the fields and harvesting equipment are all consecrates, with the harvesting starting afterwards.



The Festival includes a competition and exhibition of items made under old formulas ("from grandma's notebook"), as well as a flour milling demonstration. Meanwhile, there are a lot a folk songs and dances.

The Bread Festival in Garvan village is held during summer – usually early July, but the exact day depends on when harvesting is set to commence. The event is hosted by the December 16th association, the Dimitar Ivanov Polyanov – 1870 Reading Hall, the Nadezhda Club of Disabled and Retired People, and the Garvan village mayoralty.

Fiery Danube

The largest scale event for the locals and visitors of Tutrakan municipality and one of the biggest events in the entire region is Fiery Danube – four July days filled with performances, concerts (classical music evening, folklore evening, and pop music evening), sports competition (swimming across the river, rowing, fishing) and gastro competitions (the fish soup cooking competition being a big attraction), many surprises for the youngest festival guests, a light and fire show above the water and many other surprises bringing into one place thousands of visitors from the town, the country and abroad to enjoy the festival's charm.



It is held in late July. During that week The River outdoor painting event is also held, featuring notable Bulgarian artists.

The town museums are open for visitors offering a diverse agenda for the visitors from various age groups.

It is organized by Tutrakan Municipality in partnership with all culture institutions in the town.

The festival's purpose is to promote the town as an attractive tourism destination, attract outside visitors and participants to the festival, as well as increase awareness of the local traditions and culture environment.

National Carnival of Masquerade Games, Dobrudjanski Kukeri, Varnentsi village

The National Carnival aims to stimulate the generations' interest in and love for folklore heritage and spur them to research, preserve, and disseminate folk customs and traditions. Kukeri dance groups from the country and neighbouring Romania take part. The Carnival has a competitive side in the following categories:

- reenactment of a Kukeri ritual;
- most attractive group;
- most attractive costume;
- most attractive dance.

Folklore, art, temperament, and emotions all into one. It is held on the first Sunday before Lent.

Palm Sunday – a festival of artistic creations

The Palm Sunday festival of amateur art boasts a tradition of over 50 years in Tutrakan Municipality. Amateur song and dance ensembles and musicians of diverse ages perform a wide range program – from the magic of Bulgarian songs and dances, reenacted folk customs, old urban songs, to patriotic words by young reciters and dances of children-youth ensembles.

Each year the host is determined based on rotation among the local reading halls. Amateur groups from 9 reading halls in the municipality take part. The festival is not of competitive nature and is held during the week preceding Easter.

Apricot Festival

Traditionally, Tutrakan becomes the apricot capital in early July. In 2004 the idea to promote apricot production emerged and was jointly implemented by Tutrakan Municipality and the Bulgarian Apricot cooperative.

The festival's purpose is to promote the good work of apricot producers in the municipality and the apricot varieties and apricot-containing foods, preserve traditions in the culture life in Tutrakan Municipality.

Locals and visitors have the pleasure of tasting and appreciating the Tutrakan apricots, taste the foods prepared by Tutrakan women by special recipe, and try the famous Tutrakan apricot brandy.

There are attractive games for the children, such as the Princess Apricot and Prince Apricot competition and a painting competition on the apricot theme. Apricot producers, local reading halls, and fans take part in the event. Seminars with apricot producers are held with representatives of the Apricot Institute of Silistra.

Rechni Noti International Performers Festival

In August Tutrakan becomes an international centre of music art. Open-air stages on the Danube river bank turn into meeting points for children hailing from Bulgaria, Romani, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Israel, Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Greece. With the talent and youth of the participants and their performances, the festival days become a gen-

uine celebration for the town. The Rechni Noti (River Notes) competition is on the agenda calendar of the Ministry of Education and Science, and the Program of Measures for Protection of Children with Notable Talent. The individual pop performers in the third age group, who are ranked first, second, and third in the end, receive a year's cash scholarship.

Recommended site-seeing in Silistra destination:

The Medjidi Tabia fortress dating back to the 1st half of 19th century, located between Kalipetrovo village and city of Silistra. It was visited personally in 1847 by sultan Abdul Medjid, who took interest in it and for that reason it was named after him - Medjidi Tabia. The fortress wall has a hexagonal form, reaching 8 meters in height. In its immediate vicinity there is a ditch, which served both as a barrier and as disguise. The fortress was completed during the tenure of district governor Said Pasha on the eve of the Crimean War. The fortress



was part of the Crimean War, which broke out in 1853 in Silistra. The Medjidi Tabia fortress is located in a park environment, on a hill, which dominates the surroundings. It was built according to the plan of the notable German general Helmut von Moltke, who visited the city in 1837. It was constructed during the period of 1841–1853 by Bulgarian masons – representatives of the then-leading Dryanovo school of masonry in Bulgaria. Russian army's attack on this fortress was the beginning of the Crimean War /1853 – 1856/. The world-famous writier Lev Nikolaevich Tolstoy, duke Gorchakov, general Rott, and others took personal part in the fighting around Medjidi Tabia. The fortress is located in the immediate vicinity of the national road network connecting Silistra to Shumen, Varna, and Russe, via a dedicated 2 km turn-off to the national road network. Further, the fortress is connected to Silistra via a dedicated stairwell in a relatively well maintained park environment. Present—day tourist flows to Alfatar and the Srebarna reserve pass just a few kilometres from the fortress. Also notable is that it was built by the same builders, who erected the most attractive Bulgarian National Revival temple in the town of Alfatar, which is currently one of the major destinations for tourist flow in the region.

Srebarna Nature-Biosphere Reserve, with **Srebarna Nature-Science Museum** is a maintained biosphere reserve located near Srebarna village, 16 km west of Silistra and 2 km south of the Danube river. It comprises the Srebarna lake and its surroundings. It is located



on main migration route of migratory birds between Europe and Africa, which is called Via Pontica. The locality was declared a reserve in 1948 and has a protected area of some 600 hectares, along with a buffer zone of some 540 hectare. Srebarna is a freshwater lake located near the Danube river. Its depth ranges between 1 and 3 meters and its area is 2 – 2.5 km². It frequently becomes swampy. Flora –

there is reed and other water plants in and around the lake. The reed habitat takes up some 2/3 of the reserve's area. There are 139 types of vascular plants, of which 11 are rare or endangered outside the Srebarna territory. The second most common vegetation form is the lesser bulrush (*Typha angustifolia*) followed by common bulrush (*Typha latifolia*). The gray willow (*Salix cinerea*) and purple willow (*Salix purpurea*) are also frequent. Fauna – animal world in the reserve is a very diverse one. 41 species of mammals, 11 species of reptiles, 10 species of amphibians, and 24 species of fish are encountered – inter alia, Eurasian otter, European wild cat, southern birch mouse, water vole, Aesculapian snake, Caspian whip-snake, spur-thighed tortoise, Syrian spadefoot (*Pelobates Syriacus*), European tree frog, European fire-bellied toad, Northern pike, carassius, common rudd, , Danube crayfish, etc. The reserve is mostly famous for the birds, which can be seen there. 221 species nest in the Srebarna reserve: Dalmatian pelican, pygmy cormorant, glossy ibis, fallow deer, mute swan, white-eyed pochard, lesser white-fronted goose, red-breasted goose, greylag goose, ducks, western marsh harrier, bluethroat , bearded reedling. It is the only nesting location in Bulgaria of the great white heron. Status - in 1948 Srebarna was declared a **maintained reserve**. In 1975 Srebarna was included in the **Ramsar Convention on Wetlands**. In 1977 it was declared a **biosphere reserve in the UNESCO list**. In 1983 it was included in **UNESCO** List of World Cultural and Natural Heritage. The reserve protects 22 rare, vulnerable or endangered species of plants and animals according to the European Red List of globally endangered animals and plants and 149 species according to Bulgaria's Red Book. The Science-Culture Museum at the Srebarna Nature-Biosphere Reserve has an exposition of stuffed reserve animals dwelling in the reserve. The reserve birds may be observed from the museum. A video camera is mounted in the middle of the marsh, where pelicans nest, with the image and sound being transmitted via video link to a screen in the museum. An eco-path is set up around the reserve, with recreation alcoves set up nearby, as well as observation sites from where to watch the birds. Srebarna is among the **One Hundred National Tourism Sites** of the Bulgarian Tourist Union and has a dedicated stamp.

The Silistra Art Gallery was opened on March 3, 1972 and is housed in the regional centre's most representative building, which was built in late 19th century for the then-nascent School of Pedagogy. The exhibit collection activity itself commenced several years prior to the opening of the gallery. The Gallery repository stores over 1500 works of art – paintings, graphics, sculptures, including valuable works of notable Bulgarian painters such as Stoyan Venev, Vladimir Dimitrov-Maystora, Danail Dechev, Dechko Uzunov, Ilia Petrov, Zlatyo Boyadjiev, Nenko Balkanski, Tsenko Lavrenov, Vasil Barakov, Boris Ivanov, Vail Stoilov, Panayot Panayotov, Alexander POplilov, etc.



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