



**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 5, July 2016 r.)

### NEWS AND EVENTS RELATING TO PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

#### **A 103 Degree Ring Dance – Competitive Dancing to be held for the 10th year running in Sapareva Banya**



Bisser 2000 Association – Blagoevgrad, with its Bisser folklore ensemble, with the support of Pavel Banya Municipality will organize again this year 103 Degree Ring Dance – Competitive Dancing. The folklore festival will be held on July 30 / Saturday/, commencing at 18:30 hrs., the venue being the Geyser amphitheater in the town of Sapareva Banya.

The festival has become a tradition and will gather, for the tenth year running, participants, fans of Bulgarian folklore from the entire country and from the region itself. Residents and guests of Sapareva Banya will be able to enjoy a motley agenda of people and dances presented by the festival participants. An expert jury will select a 103 Degree Dancer from each group.

#### **Opening of the Champions Factory bike park**

Sapareva Banya Municipality, jointly with the Champions Factory sports club and the company

Rila Sport AD is developing a bike park in the Rila mountain. The park is located immediately beneath the Seven Rila Lakes will be officially unveiled on August 6-7, 2016 in the loan located at the lift's lower station. On August 6 (Saturday) park visitors will have for the first time the opportunity to stem downhill on the three developed lanes. One is earmarked for the stemming discipline. The other two are for tourists and are suitable for beginners and medium advanced bikers. The route passes from municipal lands and falls outside the boundaries of the Rila National Park. Forthcoming is the development of the other planned lanes – stemming, endure, cross-country, as well as cleaning and marking of a bike alley from the lift's lower station to the town of Sapareva Banya. The route's length will be some 15 km., with a mild declivity.

The purpose is to develop a well-structured bike park offering many amenities to the visitors. It will target the broadest possible range of people involved in biking, as well as the tourists visiting the unique natural phenomenon, the Seven Rila Lakes.



### **Gathering of the White Brotherhood 2016**

During the period 19-21 August, at the plateau near the Babreka lake – one of the Seven Rila Lakes, followers of Petar Deunov from the entire world and members of the White Brotherhood will take part in the traditional paneurhythmy dance, which marks the beginning of the New Year, according to their creed.



### **Opening of the Srebarna Pafta international folklore festival**

Forthcoming during the period 28-30.07.2016 in the city of Kyustendil is the opening of the Srebarna Pafta (Silver Belt Buckle) international folklore festival. The event venue is the Velbuzhd square, the Arc. The festival is held under the auspices of the Kyustendil mayor and Pautalia 2008 Reading Hall. The event is not of competitive nature, it aims to preserve Bulgarian folklore, lifestyle, and culture. Srebarna Parfta IFF is becoming established as one of the landmark events in Kyustendil's culture calendar, it is yet another year that everyone can feel the beauty and magic of various people's folklore. Created for the purpose of preserving traditional culture and examples of Balkan people's folklore, with each year the

festival is expanding its scope, welcoming increasing numbers of folklore ambassadors from various places on Earth. Up to now, more than 900 performers from Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey, Serbia, Macedonia, Montenegro, France, the Ukraine, Hungary, Georgia, etc. have taken part in the festival. For more information: <http://www.kultura-kn.info/>

## Mechi Kros competition, Belitsa

On 30 July, 2016 – Saturday, at 10.00 hrs., the Mechi Kros (Bear Cross Race) competition will be held. It is organized by Belitsa Municipality, the Georgi Todorov - 1885 public reading hall, the Four Paws foundation, and the Plovdiv Run Non-Profit Association. The amateur cross race will include two disciplines: 7,2 km and 12,7 km. The route begins in the Belitsa town center and runs all the way to the Dancing Bears Park.

### PRESENTATION OF EDEN DESTINATIONS

*Traditionally, 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 Sapareva Banya EDEN destination*

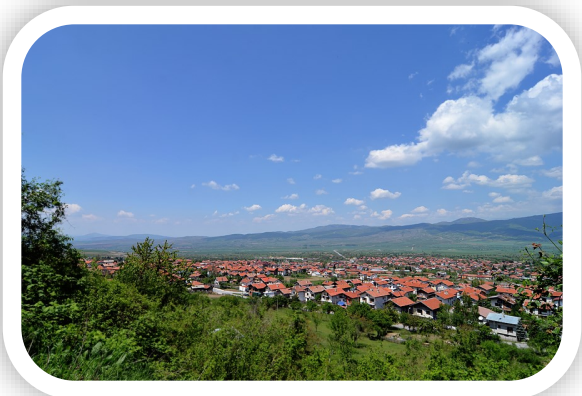
#### SAPAREVA BANYA

The Sapareva Banya destination – pulsating in the hot whirlwind of today and tomorrow – from the ancient Germanea and Dunax to today's Sapareva Banya and Rila mountain. The destination offers various types of tourism during the year's four seasons – alpine, winter and summer, ice- and rock climbing, eco, balneo + SPA, cultural-historical, and religious. Connoisseurs of Bulgarian traditions can enjoy the local folklore, be part of the celebrations, which come one after the other, sense the mountain's spirit and that of the people living at its foot. Touch the Water of Life, combine its curative effect with a refreshing walk in the Rila mountain, the hospitality and serenity of the area, which has preserved bits from Antiquity.

The hottest mineral springs in Bulgaria and continental Europe are located in the Sapareva Banya area, the hands-down attraction being a geyser-fountain with a 103°C water temperature.

High up the Rila is one of Bulgaria's most magnetic corners – the Seven Rila Lakes. The Seven Rila Lakes cirque is said to hide the gate to Agartha – the place from which to access another dimension, to more superior worlds. This is due not only to the beautiful views of these natural water landscapes full of purity and light, but also due to the magical energy, which seems to vibrate in the air.

The Sapareva Banya destination offers nu-



merous opportunities for pedestrian and ecotourism, which are linked together in pedestrian routes and eco paths from the lowest to the higher part of the mountain – along the way of the Water of Life, which covers part of the E4 European Long-Distance Path – Vitosha – Verila – Rila – Pirin – Peloponnesus, the picturesque canyons of the rivers Djerman, Skakavitsa, and Goritsa; Val-yavitsa eco-path, Panichishte resort, Panichishte endorheic lake, the Dry Lake, the Skakavitsa reserve and Skakavitsa waterfall; the peaks Damga (2 670 m) and Kabul (2 581 m); Sun’s Tears – the symbolic Seven Rila Lakes. Visit also the Seven Ovchartsı waterfalls, the Goritsa eco-path and Falcon’s View; the numerous churches, monasteries, consecrated grounds, and holy springs, and have a sip of their curative water.

The highest waterfall in the Rila mountain – Skakavitsa – is located within the Rila National Park, the Skakavitsa reserve; its vertical drop is 70 m. The waterfall is an impressive sight formed by the waters of Skakavitsa river dropping onto the rock swaths, and is an incomparable thrill to the fans of rock climbing and ice climbing.



[http://bulgariatravel.org/bg/object/242/Sapareva\\_Banya](http://bulgariatravel.org/bg/object/242/Sapareva_Banya)

**More tourist information can be found at the following addresses:**

**Geyser visitor’s information center – town of Sapareva Banya**

2650 Sapareva Banya, Geyser zone

Tel. +359 707 22332;

e-mail: [infcenter\\_sapb@abv.bg](mailto:infcenter_sapb@abv.bg)

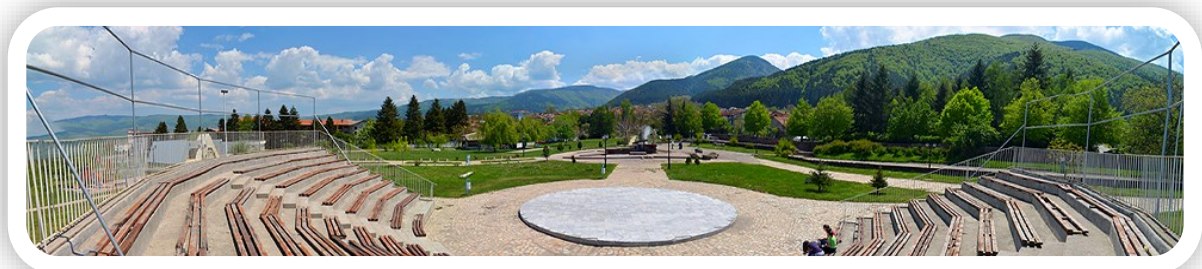
opening hours: Monday – Friday from 8.45 to 17.30 hrs.

<http://www.saparevabanya.bg>

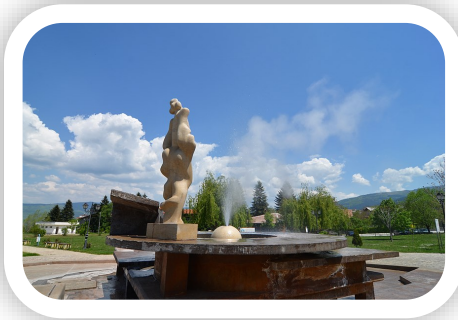
**Visitor’s information center for Rila national park, Panichishte resort**

Tel. +359 701 56757;

Opening hours: every day, 9.00 to 17.30 hrs.

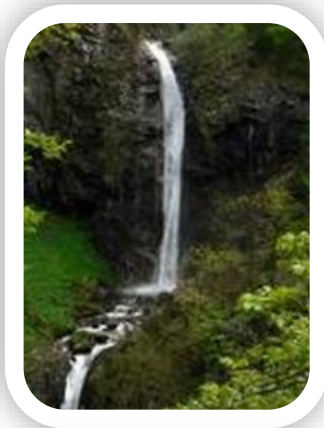


## Visitor's information center for Rila national park, Panichishte resort



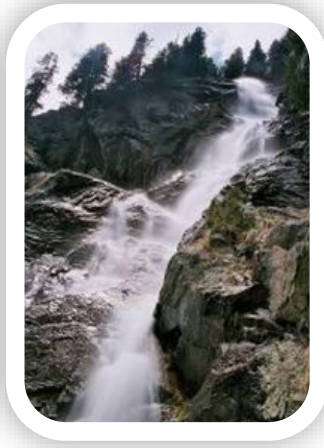
### **Geyser-Fountain**

The only geyser-fountain in Bulgaria and continental Europe is located in Sapareva Banya, its water temperature is 103 °C, it erupts naturally. The boiling water can boil an egg in 5 minutes.



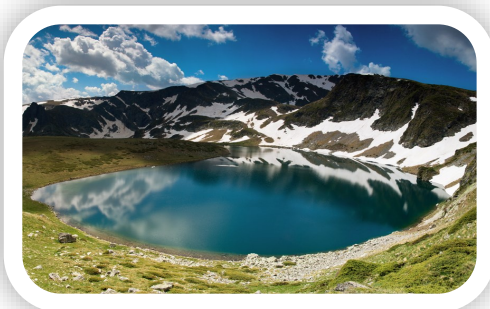
### **Goritsa waterfall**

One of the seven Ovchartsi waterfalls, it is located at 900 m elevation and its vertical drop is 39 meters. Year-round access to the waterfalls via the picturesque Goritsa eco-path.



### **Skakavitsa reserve and Skakavitsa waterfall**

A magnificent and picturesque locality along the Djerman river valley, which is rich in game; you can see rare plants, centennial forests and the scenic Skakavitsa waterfall.



### **The Seven Rila Lakes**

The most beautiful and visited lake grouping in Rila mountain. They are glacial lakes, terrace-like located in the mountain's highest part, in one of Rila's largest cirques.



### **St. Nicolas medieval church**

A medieval landmark in the town center of Sapareva Banya, constructed in the 1200's – a national culture monument. The exposition of the archeological reserve features a beautiful medieval floor mosaic from an early Christian church.



### **Rila national park**

One of the eight main entrances to Rila NP and Skakavitsa reserve is located in the Zeleni Preslap locality, the entrance point has preserve a unique flora, fauna, the highest Rila waterfall – the Skakavitsa one, Skakavitsa river, and Skakavitsa lake – which collect water from the snow accumulations and the melting snow of Rila's Kabul section.



### **Panichishte resort**

The mountain resort is located in the northwestern part of Rila mountain, among beautiful and lively conifer woods, at 1350-1450 m elevation, and borders on the Rila national park. It has cozy hotels, restaurants, a modern information center, ski rope lines, and ski tracks. Offers good hospitality and diverse cuisine.



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