

Common Strategy

For the Valorisation of the Natural and Cultural Heritage of The Cross-Border Region Constanta-Dobrich

1. Introduction

1.1. Objectives and scope of the Strategy

The proposed common strategy for the valorisation of the natural and cultural heritage is in the scope of the ROBG-528 project “Window to the Mysteries of the Universe”, funded by the Cross-border Cooperation Program INTERREG V-A ROMANIA-BULGARIA 2014-2020. The strategy contributes to the achievement of the main objective of the project - to valorise the tourism potential of the region (natural and cultural) by diversifying the tourism supply in the cross-border region, focused on scientific tourism. It is about creating and promoting attractive tourist products based on natural and cultural resources in Constanta County, Romania and Dobrich District, Bulgaria.

The Main Contractor - Kavarna Historical Museum, is a partner in the project, while the lead partner is Constanta Natural Museum, Romania.

Three integrated tourism products have been developed as part of the project. The first one is called “Star Navigation”. It is a tourist product that combines the scientific component with the love of the sea. Thanks to it the tourist acquires the ability to navigate the Black Sea, using the night sky as a guide.

The second tourist product is called Astronomy Camps. This tourist product enables tourists to explore the sky with telescopes, taking advantage of the best available observation points in the cross-border area Constanta-Dobrich, equipped with the latest equipment (telescopes, cameras, observatory).

The third tourist product is called "Origins". It includes thematic tourist cross-border routes in the region of Constanta-Dobrich, one of them covering archaeological sites presented in an attractive and interactive way in virtual reality.

The current valorisation strategy offers options for complementing and enriching the long lists of sites of natural and cultural heritage, giving ideas for the creation of new tourist products, services and attractions, as well as ways of promoting them.

The newly created Centre of Excellence is beginning to work to improve the overall image of the Constanta-Dobrich region in order to attract more tourists.

The challenge that fostered the need for the development of this Common Strategy is the unfulfilled year-round tourism potential of the natural and cultural heritage in the historical-geographical region called “Dobrudja”.

Sea tourism is prone to a strong seasonality factor and is concentrated only on the Black Sea coast. The number of tourists visiting sites away from the Black Sea is small. This result may be due to the outdated way of presenting the tourist product, as well as the way events are being held, with little interactive or engaging element for the audience, not encouraging active participation of the guest in them. This is not in line with the profile of the tourist of the 21st century is already accustomed to and wants. Due to these facts, important tourist attractions in the region are unknown, are not attractive and cannot be utilized to their full potential. The most appropriate means, methods and approaches need to be identified in order to re-attract public attention to them.

The Objectives of this Common Strategy are:

- to present an up-to-date picture of the natural and cultural heritage in the cross-border area Constanta-Dobrich;
- to evaluate the tourist potential of natural and cultural sites by refining methods for attracting tourist interest in them;
- to identify 1-3 daily tourist routes combining several types of tourism or tourist attractions, including tourism products developed within the project.

The Strategy explores legal issues affecting cultural and natural heritage on each side of the border as an element affecting its sustainable use.

The strategy, in two separate parts, provides an inventory of the two components of Dobrudja's local heritage: nature and anthropology. In this way, it takes a picture of the current situation and presents a unified picture of cultural and natural heritage in the cross-border region of Constanta-Dobrich.

Due to their geographical location, Constanta and Dobrich have unique natural resources in the cross-border region - the Black Sea.

Constanta County benefits from the potential of the Danube River and the beautiful lakes - Siutghiol, Tubakier, Tekirgöl, hills and valleys, bays and peninsulas, fed by permanent or temporary rivers and groundwater, which in some cases carry sapropel mud, sapropelic mud.

There is a large nature and archaeological reserve in the region of Dobrich - Kaliakra, which covers an area of 688 decares of steppe zones and marine area. There are many grass, shrub and tree species that represent about 29% of the Dobrudja flora.

Another landmark in the Dobrich region is the Botanical Garden in the palace of the Romanian Queen Regina Maria of Edinburgh.

Due to its millennial existence, the Dobrudja region has a rich cultural and historical heritage: The Dobrich region offers attractions of different epochs - from the time of the Hamandzhiya and Durankulak protocivilizations - an essential part of Ancient Europe during the Roman period until the 20th century. Cultural tourism is highly developed, so is the sea tourism. The resorts of Albena and Rusalka, together with Kranevo, Balchik, Kavarna and Shabla attract many tourists every year.

In Constanta County there are numerous evidences of ancient civilizations that inhabited the territory of Dobrudja: Greek, Roman, Byzantine. Archaeological sites from these periods have been discovered on both sides of the border.

Each inventory item is described in a datasheet containing at least: description, current condition of the site, designation, accessibility, additional facilities such as parking, information centre, guides, toilets, etc.; necessary measures for restoration, conservation, or for the discovery of certain sites (as is the case with ancient cities), these measures being arranged in the degree of urgency for undertaking; additional measures and investments needed to improve accessibility and public interest in the site, estimated budget, possible sources of funding. The assessment of investment priorities depends on the condition of the site and its potential to increase the public interest. Information from the results obtained from the inventory of each site will be published on the project page.

In a separate chapter, the Strategy presents 1-3 daily routes, justifying their destination, sights, opening time, distances, accommodation and dining facilities, relaxation and leisure opportunities, access to logistics (gas stations, hospitals and medical dispensaries for ambulance, police stations) etc. as per the specifics of the route, public and private entities and stakeholders involved in offering, organizing and reporting them. Each of the proposed itineraries presents the natural and cultural heritage in an interactive way with the participation of the tourist who thus receives an inclusive experience. The descriptions of each route are visualized through photos.

Chapter of the Strategy is dedicated to the measures that will be taken to restore and promote the routes / sites and their integration in the tourist chains.

The measures related to the restoration and conservation of the sites are aimed at preserving and actual restoration of the identified cultural and natural heritage with wider application for each stakeholder.

Measures related to the promotion of natural and cultural heritage identify contemporary ways of promoting this heritage in order to attract more tourists, using modern technologies and tourism trends, oriented towards a more interactive and dynamic link between the tourist and the tourist destination. Identification of the best marketing and promotional channels depending on the target group that may be interested in the route and tourist site. The marketing budget should be determined according to the potential level of tourists' interest.

All proposed solutions are in line with the principles of sustainable development.

The strategy presents budget estimates for the achievement of the objectives, as well as identifies public and private entities that have the necessary legal authority and competence to implement the strategic proposals.

An essential part of the strategy is the product, presented in the form of cross-border tourist routes lasting 1-3 days.

The purpose of the proposed routes within the program is to promote the cultural and historical heritage, to make it more attractive to tourists, and the successful development of sustainable tourism that will contribute to the overall development of

the cross-border region. The region offers excellent Black Sea resorts with golden beaches and successfully developed summer sea tourism. But given the fact that it is strongly seasonal in these latitudes only during the summer months, it relies on sustainable tourism to complement the pre- and postseason recreational tourism.

Moreover, the idea of a successful experiment and turning it into a trademark for creative tourism is required in the region. This coincides with the evolution of tourism demand and supply in recent years, which has led to an increased interest in smart, creative destinations, which have become an innovative high value-added tourism model. The so-called smart destinations, in addition to be a fashionable, innovative model for high value-added tourism, does also lead to the sustainable development of the local community.

The global tourism industry is increasingly investing in sustainable tourism models as a way to keep pace with the dynamics and challenges of the 21st century and to reflect the evolving values and interests of contemporary tourists.

The cross-border region of Constanta and Dobrich has invaluable and untapped resources and significant potential for the development of sustainable tourism. Both Constanta County and the Dobrich Region have clearly and firmly stated their intention to focus their efforts on sustainable tourism by setting priority measures in this regard in their long-term development plans and strategies.¹ The eight municipalities of Dobrich District, including Kavarna Municipality, are working on a Municipal Development Plan 2014-2020². In addition, the development of sustainable tourism is a priority of national tourism policy in both Romania and Bulgaria.

The benefits of sustainable tourism are linked to the following principles and behaviours:

- Preservation and development of cultural and historical heritage and its resources;
- Respect for the local culture and its engaging and creative showcasing;
- Exploring the specific local uniqueness and focusing on turning it into an attractive tourist product, purpose, service and attraction;
- Promotion and sales of products with high local production;
- Efficient use and saving of energy and local resources.

Interesting is the scope of the Common Strategy for the Valorisation of Natural and Cultural Heritage under the ROBG-528 project “A Joint Open Window to the Mysteries of the Universe“.

It is run by the Constanta Natural Sciences Museum, Romania - a lead partner and the Kavarna Historical Museum, which is a partner in the project.

¹ Source: Regional Development Strategy for Dobrich Region 2014 - 2020;

² Kavarna Municipality - Municipal Development Plan - 2014-2020

³ See. Law on Tourism of Bulgaria, SG No. 56 / 07.06.2002, Art.1, para.3 and Art.2, para.1

The Natural Sciences Museum in Constanta is an established scientific institution with international prestige. It is well known for its scientific advances and research and development activities.

It has enormous capacity and a team that has complete information on the natural and anthropogenic heritage of the entire county of Constanta, which covers an impressive area of 7071 km² and a population of 684 082 people according to the most recent 2011 census.

The Kavarna History Museum, a partner of the Constanta Natural Sciences Museum, is a representative of the municipality of Kavarna, one of the 8 municipalities in Dobrich region. Kavarna municipality has an area of 481 km² and 15,861 inhabitants. Its northernmost part is located only 10 km from the Romanian border.

Dobrich Region has an area of 4719 km² and a population of 189 677 people. The common border between the Republic of Romania and the Republic of Bulgaria is 631 km. Most of it is along the Danube river stretching from Novo Selo to Silistra, then from Silistra to Durankulak the border is over 200 km in length. From it 2/3 - 130 km is the land border between Constanta county and Dobrich district, an excellent opportunity for joint cooperation.

The ambitious team of the Kavarna Historical Museum, working closely with the Dobrich Regional Museum of History, has taken on the great responsibility in the Common Strategy for the Valorisation of Natural and Cultural Heritage to integrate not only the interior of the Kavarna municipality into the Black Sea tourism, but the entire Dobrich region. This also means the neighboring municipalities - Shabla, General Toshevo and Balchik, as well as the more remote areas in district Dobrich, Krushari and Tervel

This is an interesting challenge. One municipality with direct access to the sea and hundreds of thousands of tourists a year wishes to expand its offer to include not only its rural areas, but also the territory of 7 more municipalities, two of which also with access to the Black Sea - Balchik and Shabla, and the rest at distances - General Toshevo - 41 km, Dobrich Town and Dobrich - 49 km, Krushari - 79 km and Tervel - 92 km. That is, a distance of only about an hour, an hour and a half (between 50 and 100 minutes) by bus for tourists resting on the sea beaches of the municipality of Kavarna. Thus, the scope becomes truly reciprocal - the whole Constanta county in the Republic of Romania and the whole district of Dobrich in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Main Target groups

The target groups of this strategy are divided into **internal and external** in relation to the two cross-border regions of Constanta County and Dobrich District. The identified **internal target groups** are:

- The population of Constanta County and the Dobrich Region,
- The local tourist transport and tour operators, the hotel and restaurant managers,
- The local business in all its aspects and the employees of the district,

- Regional and municipal administrations.

External target groups:

- Expected tourists,
- Foreign tour operators
- Future partners in a growing tourism business with good revenues and
- Potential investors.

Both target groups benefit greatly from the implementation of the strategy. The local population and businesses will benefit from its implementation through increased employment, increased incomes and quality of life. The staff of the municipal administrations will put into practice the development policy of the region, which is part of their mandate and responsibilities.

Potential tourists will benefit from the diversification of the tourist product available to them, the opportunity to get acquainted with a new destination and to rest under good conditions at a reasonable price. External investors will be able to implement projects that will bring them a sustainable return on their investment.

The internal and external stakeholders are equally important as they are two parties of the same process. One is the behind-the-scenes and the others who put on the stage and are the "lead actors".

But while we maintain contact with internal target groups that is visible, concise, and fast, it is not the case with external target groups. Organizers of the tourism industry know that when they create a tourism product, it must be specifically targeted, it cannot be a letter without an address and without a recipient. Therefore, they always have to answer two questions: "Who will come?" And why? The answer to the second question lies in the subject matter of the attractions and sites with which we are constructing a route, and this will be commented upon when presenting the routes.

Who could be potential tourists in presenting the natural and cultural heritage of the Constanta-Dobrich region under the heading "A Joint Open Window to the Mysteries of the Universe".

Several specific highlights emerge:

- ✓ combining the scientific component with the love of the sea and acquiring the orientation skills in the Black Sea, using the night sky as a guide;
- ✓ exploring the sky with telescopes equipped with the latest technology (telescopes, cameras, observatory);
- ✓ visiting attractive natural and cultural-historical sites in combination with the best spots available for nature observation, beautiful panoramic landscapes and the bright starry sky at night in the cross-border area Constanta-Dobrich.

The proposed routes are in the field of alternative, specialized tourism and it is necessary to determine very precisely the potential future tourists, people with cultural, natural and scientific interests. In developed market economies, this is also the smarter, more solvent audience.

Let's define the profile of the tourist, a user of our specialized and "scientific" product.

1. People with a professional or hobby occupation and interest - astronomers, physicists, philosophers, archaeologists, historians, eco scientists, botanists, ethnographers, ethnologists, local historians, linguists and others;

2. Students studying in these and related specialties. If, besides Constanta and Dobrich, we also include the neighboring and not very distant counties and districts - Varna, Shumen, Silistra and Rousse from Bulgaria and Tulcea, Galați, Braila, Calarasi and Bucharest from Romania, we will note that their number is several tens of thousands;

3. Young people, unmarried or family still without children who love nature, stroll through it, camp, sleep in the open sky, enjoy the stars, lakes and caves, visit ancient fortresses, travel by "time machine";

4. High school students who make excursions during their spring break with their teachers;

5. Students from Western Europe and America looking for trips to live in "scout camps" with their mentors.

6. Citizens of countries that hardly and rarely have access to beautiful nature, given the fact that they live in apartment blocks and work in high-rise office buildings and skyscrapers that have natural and scientific interests - Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Hong Kong.

7. Middle-aged and adult tourists who love nature, outdoor walks, beautiful scenery, clear waters, healing mud resorts with interesting balneological complexes, millennial legends of ancient history;

8. Photographers, artists, especially marinists, ornithologists, speleologists, fishermen and more must not be missed.;

9. Prospective tourists should expect from two similarly distant countries Russia and Ukraine, who have recently lived in a country known for its cosmonautics, where every second child grew up dreaming of flying into space, enjoying the stars, conquering the planets. These two countries have a combined population of nearly 200 million people and have enormous potential for such specialized travel.

10. Let us not forget the fans of gourmet tourism who would come for:

- Excellent local Dobrudja cuisine;
- Organic vegetables - tomatoes, cucumbers and "kapia" peppers;
- Delicious ripe fruits - cherries, peaches, apricots, watermelons, melons and grapes;
- Homemade juices, honey, sparkling wine - white, red and rose, authentic grape, plum and apricot brandy.

2. Legal framework of cultural and natural heritage

A) Romania

B) Bulgaria

The Ministry of Culture, based in Sofia, takes care of the cultural heritage in the Republic of Bulgaria. All matters related to cultural heritage, are regulated by the Law on Cultural Heritage, which came into force on 10.04.2009. Through the implementation of this law, the state secures the protection of this wealth, which encompasses the intangible and tangible, immovable heritage as a collection of cultural values, which bear historical memory, national identity and have scientific and cultural value. Cultural values are in the public domain and are protected by state and municipal authorities in the interest of the citizens of the Republic of Bulgaria.

In the capital Sofia there is the Ministry of Environment and Water, which mandate is the focused on the nature and environment of Bulgaria. One of the major laws at the heart of the Ministry is the Environmental Protection Act. It was published in issue 91 of the State Gazette of September 25, 2002.

This law regulates public relations related to:

1. environmental protection for present and future generations and protection of public health;
2. the conservation of biological diversity in accordance with the natural biogeographic characteristics of the country;
3. protection and use of environmental components;
4. control and management of factors that damage the environment;
5. Control over the state of the environment and sources of pollution;
6. prevention and limitation of pollution;
7. the establishment and functioning of the National Environmental Monitoring System;
8. strategies, programs and plans for environmental protection;
9. the collection and access to environmental information;
10. The economic organization of the environmental protection activities;
11. The rights and obligations of the government, municipalities, legal and natural persons for environmental protection.

Both ministries have several long-term programs to monitor and implement activities and goals related to natural and cultural heritage.

However, let us not forget that, as of January 1, 2007, Romania and Bulgaria became full members of the European Union and became involved in all pan-European initiatives. All European laws relating to natural and cultural heritage have been adopted and strictly adhered to. The two countries also make a significant contribution

to the work of world organizations dealing with this matter, such as the UN and UNESCO and others. The parties did not remain indifferent to the accepted conventions of international significance in this direction.

Since the adoption of the World Heritage Convention in 1972, the World Heritage List has been continuously evolving and expanding. It is about managing the World Natural and Cultural Heritage, an activity in which both Romania and Bulgaria take a worthy lead.

In addition, there is an enormous need to provide States Parties with guidance on its implementation. Different expert meetings and committees and the resulting Periodic Reporting highlight the need for more targeted training and capacity building in specific areas where States Parties and World Heritage Sites managers need greater support. The development of a series of World Heritage resource manuals seeks to meet this need.

The publication of the series of guidelines is a joint initiative of the three Advisory Bodies of the World Heritage Convention - the International Research Centre for the Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Monuments (ICCROM), the International Council for Monuments and Natural Heritage (ICOMOS Conservation) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and its resources (IUCN) and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in its capacity as the Secretariat of the Convention.

At its 30th session (Vilnius, Lithuania, July 2006) The World Heritage Committee supports this initiative and requests that the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre begin work on the preparation and publication of several thematic Resource Guides. At its 31st (2007) and 32nd (2008) sessions, the Committee approved the publishing plan and adopted a prioritized list of titles.

Meetings of the Editing Board are held on a regular basis, with representatives from all three Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre taking part in decisions on various aspects of their preparation and publication. Depending on the topic, one of the Advisory Bodies or the World Heritage Centre acts as the lead agency responsible for coordinating the manual, and its final preparation is provided by the World Heritage Centre.

The resource manuals are intended to provide specific guidance on the application of the Convention to States Parties, heritage authorities, local authorities, site managers and local communities related to World Heritage Sites, as well as other interested parties. in the process of identification and conservation. They aim to offer the necessary knowledge and assistance to ensure the representativeness and credibility of the World Heritage List, which consists of well protected and effectively managed sites.

The manuals are developed as easy-to-use capacity-building and awareness-raising tools for the World Heritage Convention. They can be used for self-study as tutors as well as teaching aids in conducting training seminars and should complement the basic provisions necessary to understand the text of the Convention itself and the Guidelines for its implementation.

The titles in this series are published in free downloadable PDF format.

Title list: **Disaster Risk Management for World Heritage Sites** Managing Disaster Risks for World Heritage (June 2010) **Preparation of nominations for World Heritage Sites** (Preparing World Heritage Nominations) (Second Edition, November 2011) **World Natural Heritage Management** (Managing Natural World Heritage) **Management of World Cultural Heritage** (Managing Cultural World Heritage)

There is also an organization created by leading European intellectuals who want to preserve and enhance the value of Europe's natural and cultural heritage.

To this end, on November 29, 1963, in Venice, Italy, a non-profit organization was founded to protect and develop our Europe. It is also called EUROPE NOSTRA.

Europa Nostra is a public movement to protect Europe's cultural and natural heritage. Today, the network consists of 250 organizations (associations and foundations with a mixed membership of more than 5 million people), 150 institutions (government bodies, local authorities, corporations) and 1500 individual participants.

There are two headquarters for the management and management of Europe Nostra, one in The Hague, the Netherlands and the other in Brussels, Belgium.

The president of the pan-European organization is the Spanish opera singer, tenor of worldwide fame - Placido Domingo.

With a common effort, network members:

- ✚ in cases of homelessness and neglect, environmental changes or conflicts, carry out campaigns to protect endangered historic monuments, landmarks and cultural values;
- ✚ lobby for the protection and development of European cultural values;
- ✚ organize events that reward the European Cultural Heritage (Europa Nostra Awards) - thus, the network celebrates the dedication and achievements of those who contribute to the preservation and development of European values - architects, craftsmen, volunteers, schools , local authorities, cultural heritage and media owners. Their example encourages creativity and innovation in Europe.

Europa Nostra motto is: "We are the voice of the cultural heritage in Europe."

Since 2014, the Association "European Institute for Cultural Tourism" EVRIKA "from Dobrich is the first organization in Bulgaria, out of three, accepted as an equal member in Europe Nostra. In 2018, the EUREKA Institute proposed the Buzludzha site as a national landmark and is one of the seven awarded sites to be restored as a pan-European value.

An interesting development marks Romania in the same pan-European organization. In just a few years there are already eight full member organizations and another 3 associate members of Europe Nostra.

In conclusion, both in Romania and Bulgaria **there is a Legal framework of cultural and natural heritage** as national vision and as a pan-European policy. It is important to embrace sustainable tourism, to keep the environment clean while developing natural and cultural routes and to invest the proceeds of the visits into the maintenance and maintenance of cultural, historical and natural sites.

3. General characteristics of the cross-border area Constanta-Dobrich - situational analysis

3.1. Location, population, borders, and target area

The cross-border region of Constanta County - Dobrich Region is located in South-eastern Europe, North and South Dobrudja with a total border of about 130 kilometres, which favours their unification into a common tourist destination.

A) The Republic Romania - Constanta

Republic of Romania (in Romanian: *România*) is a country that

Figure 1: *Map of the Republic of Romania*

located to the north of the lower reaches of the Danube in South-eastern Europe. It borders northeast with Moldova and Ukraine, on the west with Hungary and Serbia, and on the south with Bulgaria. There is an exit to the Black Sea to the east. Its area is 238 397 km², of which 231 244 km² is land and 7152 km² is water area. It has a population of 20,112,641 at the 2011 census.

Romania is a semi-presidential republic, the Prime Minister is the head of government, and the president is the head of state. Both the government and the president have executive functions.

The country is divided into 41 counties (districts) and Bucharest municipality. The population of the capital city is about 1,880,000 people (2011).

New highway connects Bucharest to Constanta - 206 km.

Figure 2: *Map of Constanta county*

Constanta County is located in the south-eastern part of Romania. To the north, it is separated from Tulcea County by a conventional line that meanders between the Danube and the Black Sea, crossing the Kasimcha Plateau and the Razim, Snake and Sinoe estuaries. It borders the Romanian-Bulgarian border to the south, crossing the South Dobrudja Plateau between the Island to the west and Vama Veke to the east. To the west, the Danube divides Constanta County from Calarasi, Ialomica and Braila counties. To the east, between Gura Portice and the village of Vama Veke, the Dobrudja Plateau reaches the waters of the Black Sea.

According to the General Classification of Territorial Units for Statistical Purposes (NUTS), Constanta County is part of **Southeastern Region (NUTS II)**, with

districts: Constanta, Medgidia and Mangalia, 58 communes and 189 villages. The southeastern region, the second largest region in the country, includes the counties of Buzau, Vrancea, Braila, Galati and Tulcea.

Figure 3: *Map of the regions of Romania*

The river-maritime connections of Constanta County are the following:

- ✚ via the Danube River (Black Water and Harshova ports)
- ✚ via the Danube-Black Sea Canal (the ports of Medjidia, Murfatlar, Ovidiu and Ajija);
- ✚ via the Black Sea (the ports of Constanta, Agigea and Mangalia).

Constanta County ranks 8th in Romania with an area of 7071.29 square kilometers and the 5th largest population in the country with approximately 684,000 inhabitants. The vast majority of the county's population lives in cities - between 60 and 70%. Constanta has the 6th largest population in Romania and the first in the cross-border region.

B) Republic of Bulgaria - Dobrich

The Republic of Bulgaria is a country in South-eastern Europe. It is located in the eastern part of the Balkan Peninsula and occupies 23% of its territory. It is bordered on the north by Romania; west with Serbia and northern Macedonia; south with Greece and south-east with Turkey. To the east, along the coast, the country is washed by the waters of the Black Sea. With its almost 111 thousand km² area and 7,000,039 people, Bulgaria ranks 11th and 16th place by area and population in Europe, respectively. Bulgaria is a parliamentary republic and is divided into 28 districts.

Dobrich Region is one of the 28 regions in the Republic of Bulgaria and is located in the northeaster part of the country. It borders with the districts of Varna - to the south, Shumen and Silistra to the west, and to the north - Constanta County from the Republic of Romania.

Figure 4: *Map with the regional division of the Republic of Bulgaria*

The district of Dobrich, together with the districts of Varna, Shumen and Targovishte, is in the Northeast Planned Development Region with a total population of over 1 million.

Figure 5: *Map of the Planning Regions of Bulgaria*

Figure 6: *Map of Dobrich Region*

Dobrich Region covers an area of 4719.7 km², and has a population of 189 677 people at the 2011 census. The administrative and economic centre of Dobrich district and Dobrich municipality is the city of Dobrich. It is located in the southern part of the geographical area of South Dobrudja, 34 km from Balchik and 51 km from Varna. The population of the city as of 31.12.2018 is 83 584 inhabitants (ninth place in Bulgaria).

Dobrich District has 6 cities and 209 villages. It is divided into 8 municipalities - 3 seaside - Balchik, Kavarna and Shabla, three in the central part of Dobrich, Dobrich and General Toshevo and 3 in the west towards Silistra - Tervel and Krushari.

The distance from Dobrich to Constanta is 101 km, and to Bucharest - 211 km. The nearest international airport is 38 km from Varna Airport. The next two are in Constanta and Bucharest.

In regard to **connectivity** between the two regions, the available infrastructure is relatively good. There are prerequisites for taking tourist flows from Romania and Bulgaria, as well as from the international airports within the destination range.

The cross-border **access** to the municipalities and the sights of the region on both sides of the border is carried out by land through 3 Border Crossing Points.

Table 1. *Infrastructure for crossing the Bulgaria-Romania border from Constanta County to Dobrich District*

Connection (West to East)	Transport mode
Checkpoint Severniak - Dobromir	Road Transportation
Checkpoint Kardam - Negro Voda	Road Transportation
Checkpoint Durankulak - Vama Veke	Road Transportation

3.2. Tourism as a factor for cross-border development in the region

A) Constanta

Tourism is an important factor for the Romanian economy, generating about 5% of the country's GDP. According to the World Travel and Tourism Council, Romania is rated as the fourth fastest growing travel and tourism industry. More than 60% of foreign visitors in 2007 came from other EU countries. The most popular ski resorts are along the Valea Prahovei and in Poiana Brasov, castles in Transylvanian cities such as Sibiu, Brasov and Sighisoara. Rural tourism focuses on folklore and traditions. In 2014, Romania has 32,500 companies active in the hotel and restaurant business with a total turnover of EUR 2.6 billion. More than 1.9 million foreign tourists visited Romania in 2014, which was 12% more than in 2013. According to the Romanian National Statistical Institute, **majority of the tourists** come from Europe (especially from Germany, Italy and France), 12% from Asia and less than 7% of North America.

According to the NSI Romania, for the first six months of 2018, Constanta County is the fourth most visited county after Bucharest (991,400), Brasov (594,200) and Cluj (289,800) with 289,100 visitors who realized 874,700 nights.

The total number of tourists arriving in 2017 in the Southeast region is 1 642 715, which is 9% increase from 2016. Of all arrivals, 7% are foreign visitors and 93% are local Romanian tourists. Over 90% of tourists were accommodated in hotels. The tourist flow in the Southeast region with centre Constanta represents 13% share from the total national level in 2017.

Table 2: Number of nights and arrivals in Romania and in the Southeast region of Constanta County.
Source data for the period 2016 - 2017

	2016			2017				
	TOTAL	Romanians	Foreign visitors	TOTAL	Romanians	Foreign visitors	% growth of Romanians	% growth of foreign visitors
Total in Romania	11,002,522	8,521,698	2,480,824	12,143,346	9,383,266	2,760,080	10	11
of which they stayed in hotels	7,973,803	No. 5,790,762	2,183,041	8,624,783	No. 6,230,359	2,394,424	8	10
Total in Southeast Region	1,506,616	1,404,096	102,520	1,642,715	1,527,784	114,931	9	12
of which they stayed in hotels	1,239,059	1,146,297	92,762 th most common	1,346,263	1,242,478	103,785	8	12

Source: NSI Romania: <http://www.insse.ro/cms/en/content/romanian-tourism-statistical-abstract>

Table 3: Number of tourists in accommodation, data for Romania for 2017

Tourists by country	Number of accommodated tourists	Nights
Total	12 143 346	27 092 523
Romanians	9 383 266	21 801 487
Foreign visitors	2 760 080	5 291 036
Europe	2 048 697	3 859 139
European Union	1 756 041	3 273 810
Austria	60 952	105 498
Belgium	45 210	80 013
Bulgaria	65 379	107 864

Source: National Statistical Institute, Romania

Table 4: Number of accommodations and their capacity by destination, 2017 figures

	Total	Sea	Spa	Mountain	Danube Delta	Bucharest and the area	Other places
TOTAL	7905	776	577	2270	125	1472	2685
Hotels	1597	287	132	212	19	658	289

<i>Motels</i>	222	1	15	19	-	31	156
<i>Tourist Inns</i>	3	-	-	-	1	1	1
<i>Hostels</i>	300	52	10	34	-	121	83
<i>Holiday villas</i>	659	160	84	206	57	86	66
<i>Bungalows</i>	434	235	57	25	14	2	101
<i>Huts</i>	225	-	8	144	-	6	67
<i>Holiday villages</i>	9	-	-	5	1	1	2
<i>Campsites</i>	57	10	8	14	-	5	20
<i>Student camps</i>	57	3	7	16	1	8	22
<i>Tourist bedrooms</i>	40	2	5	15	1	1	16
<i>Tourist boarding houses</i>	1666	14	200	449	9	523	471
<i>Rural guest houses</i>	2556	5	45	1110	13	23	1360
<i>Tourist houses</i>	70	7	6	20	2	6	29
<i>Accommodated on a ship</i>	10	-	-	1	7	-	2

Table 5: Number of beds in existing accommodations in Romania

TOTAL	343720	80618	36631	63921	3890	87901	70759
<i>Hotels</i>	194884	63535	25982	18675	2036	65400	19256
<i>Motels</i>	8902	291	541	1203	-	1281	5586
<i>Tourist houses</i>	63	-	-	-	21	20	22
<i>Hostels</i>	14211	3861	513	1513	-	5224	3100
<i>Holiday villas</i>	15255	4534	1773	4913	396	2017	1622
<i>Bungalows</i>	3554	1763	100%	441	172	28	879
<i>Huts</i>	6503	-	205	4674	-	168	1456
<i>Resort</i>	539	-	-	wind	29	12	140
<i>Student camps</i>	6436	1012	751	1574	249	793	2057
<i>Tourist bedrooms</i>	1919	194	378	603	96	20	628
<i>Tourist boarding houses</i>	34816	372	4063	9263	250	11668	9200
<i>Rural guest houses</i>	44499	184	946	18903	100%	496	23699
<i>Tourist houses</i>	2848	506	448	586	230	202	876

<i>Accommodated on a ship</i>	507	-	-	31	140	-	336
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B) Dobrich

Tourism in Bulgaria is one of the most contributing items to the country's GDP. Every year, the number of tourists is growing, with an outlook of 20 million by 2020. Most tourists are heading either to winter resorts or summer resorts, in accordance with the season. The prospects for tourism development are great as the country has potential due to its natural, cultural and historical landmarks. According to NSI data, in 2017 Bulgaria was a place for rest and excursion of 11 596 167 people. For comparison, in 2007 they were 7,700,000 people.

The development of sustainable tourism is set as a top priority in the strategic plans for the development of Constanta County and Dobrich District. Tourism brings significant revenues at the regional level in Dobrich and Constanta districts and is leading in the services sector.

According to the National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria for 2017, tourism revenues in the district of Dobrich amount to over BGN 119 million, which is almost 10% of the total tourism revenues in the country. In 2017 Romanian tourists were the number one international visitors in Bulgaria - nearly 2 million, which is an increase of 11% compared to 2016. Data shows that from April to September, the visitor flow maintains a steady levels between 150,000 and 280,000.

The number of overnight tourists in April 2018 increased by 22.1% compared to the same month of 2017 and reached 17.5 thousand. Foreign tourists visiting Dobrich Region are mostly from Romania (74.4%), the Russian Federation (4.1%), Finland (2.8%) and Germany (2.7%).

Figure 7: *Number of nights in accommodation facilities in Dobrich region by months 2015-2018 - Bulgarian and foreign citizens*

Source: NSI data as of 26.09.2018

Statistical zones Statistical regions Regions	Accommodation	No. of Beds	Number of nights		Number of tourists stayed overnight		Revenue from accommodation - BGN	
			Total	foreign visitors	Total	foreign visitors	Total	including. from foreigners
Total for Bulgaria	3 346	348 724	26 054 096	17 105 567	7,461	3 655 830	1 340 897 001	993 989 405
Dobrich Region	165	32 426	2,237	1 752 889	445 345	296 166	119 067 115	94 938 812

Table 6: *Activity of the accommodation places by statistical zones, statistical regions and districts in 2017, total Bulgaria / Dobrich region. Source: NSI, Bulgaria*

Conclusion:

- Tourism is one of the fastest growing industries in both countries, showing steady upward growth;
- Dobrich District and Constanta County follow the general positive trends in tourist flow growth and increase in tourism revenues;
- The cross-border region of Dobrich-Constanta is among the most visited by tourists in both countries;
- The target groups for the cross-border region - Romanians and Bulgarians - make the biggest contribution to the dynamic development of tourism in both countries;
- European tourists in general are the second most important tourism market in both cross-border areas;
- In terms of seasonality, in Bulgaria and Romania there is a sustainable trend towards extending the tourist season from strongly concentrated in the summer months to steadily high levels from April to September.

From the data presented, it is clear that tourism is of great importance for the livelihood and development of Constanta County and the Dobrich Region and brings significant revenue for the local economy.

3.3. State of the tourism offerings in the Region

State of the tourism offerings of Constanta county and Dobrich region

At present, the cross-border region does not have a common image of a tourist destination. Major tourism products focus mainly on several popular sites, while the cross-border region lacks integrated products based on shared tourism resources. Tourism development is still divided by the border between the two countries; there are no clear and decisive steps towards developing one common image of the cross-border region as a single destination. The area offers opportunities for the development of many types and forms of tourism: agro tourism, ecotourism, educational (cultural-educational by individual branches: ecology, biology, astronomy, history, archaeology), religious pilgrimage tourism, cultural and historical tourism, recreational tourism, balneo tourism gourmet tourism, sports / cycling, Danube water sports, diving and yachting in the Black Sea, whose immense potential is still underdeveloped.

At the moment, despite the presence of some unique and attractive sites, they alone cannot increase the stay and deliver the desired tourist experience in the area. Therefore, it is necessary to integrate these sites into one product, which should be

marketed as a common cross-border destination Constanta-Dobrich with unique "authentic image".

Building an 'unique authentic image' of the destination follows global trends and demand in tourism. The product needs to be recognizable in the 'sea' of opportunities and increased competition.

Constanta County and Dobrich Region are in a good position and with untapped potential to attract tourists from both neighbouring countries Bulgaria and Romania.

The rich cultural, historical and natural resources of Dobrudja cross-border region provide excellent opportunities for a very good symbiosis in the supply and use of the competitive advantages of each of them. As a result, the cross-border region of Constanta-Dobrich can become an attractive destination for sustainable tourism, offering rewarding and joyful experience and recharging the senses.

4. Analysis of the tourism resources of the cross-border area Constanta-Dobrich

Tourist resources

There are two types of tourism resources: natural (created by natural factor) and anthropogenic (created by human activity). These are sites and phenomenon that have the qualities to satisfy health and wellness, recreational, cognitive, business or leisure tourist needs, and therefore attract visitors.

The general keywords in the definition of "Tourist resource" given by the academic authorities of the Tourism Geography are: attractiveness factor, rational or needs and expectations of the tourist.

An important element of any attraction or phenomenon is the possession of the corresponding valuable qualities to meet the tourist needs and expectations, but more importantly, these qualities are usually preserved, not lost or destroyed.

Very often the "tourism resource" is confused with a "tourism product". The word "resource" in French means "opportunity". The tourism resource must be developed in order to become a service, product, destination (tourist destination) and tourist attraction.

4.1. Natural Resources (Inventory)

Natural resources are sites and phenomena of the natural environment that are attractive to tourists. The attractiveness is largely due to their healing and recreational qualities. There is a clear trend towards catering to the growing need for engagement and entertainment, as well as satisfying the unique needs of the tourists. These trends are increasingly dynamic and their development in recent decades is shaped under the influence of fashion, copy catting, leisure and the escape from stress created by the dynamic urban life.

Natural resources are divided into the following groups for the purpose of description and inventory:

1. **Relief** - Mountains, ski runs, gorges, canyons, caves, rock figures, beaches, volcanoes, deserts and oases, peaks and rock walls.
2. **Climate** - Sunshine, temperatures, rainfall, snowfall, winds, Northern lights
3. **Water** - Oceans and seas, tides, lakes and dams, mineral waters, karst springs, rivers, waterfalls, glaciers, geysers, swamps
4. **Vegetable** - flowers, trees and forests, herbs, mushrooms and berries, undergrowth
5. **Animal** - butterflies, fish and amphibians, game, birds

Both Constanta County and Dobrich Region have rich natural resources, as nature is beautiful and very diverse.

Therefore, they will be mentioned and listed here only briefly, and will be described in more detail when presenting the findings from the terrain surveys, as well as in the joint thematic routes of the Cross-border tourist destination Constanta-Dobrich.

Dobrich

1. **Relief** - mountains, ski tracks, gorges, canyons, caves, rock shapes, beaches, volcanoes, deserts and oases, peaks and rock walls.

1.1. Beaches:

The Black Sea coast of Bulgaria is 354 km long. The coastal area of Dobrich and Varna region is about 100 km long, and the rest stretches south of Cape Emine of the Balkan Mountains in Bourgas region. A very high percentage of all 354 kilometres - around 200 km, are beaches with golden, natural sand. One of the widest beaches reaching up to 160-200 meters, are the sheltered and coarse-grained beaches located in Albena seaside resort. They attract over a quarter of a million tourists every year.

The Golden Beach of Albena

The beaches in Dobrich are 16. The longest beach in Bulgaria is located between the villages of Durankulak and Krapets and is 17 km long. It is wild, open and extremely clean.

1.2. Canyons:

The Dry river springs south of Dobrich and was a tributary of the Danube, **which flowed either into... or at Lake Oltina in Romania**. Its length is 126 km. In the past, the Dry River was a wide and navigable river. Several strongholds such as Zaldapa, Adina and Palmatis, and most likely the Pistos were build alongside it. With the felling of beech forests throughout the 16-17th century, it gradually dried up. Even today, its canyons, 40-50 meters deep, look impressive in the municipalities of

Dobrich, Krushari and Tervel, whose caves housed early Christian rock monasteries - probably the oldest in Europe, spreading the Christian faith from here in the western counties.

1.3. Caves

An entire cave town with 101 caves is located in the area of the village of Tyulenovo near the seacoast. The village has been inhabited since ancient times. Even today it hides its mysterious secrets and legends.

1.4. Rock figures

The most beautiful rock figures are located between the villages of Tyulenovo and Kamen Bryag. The rock massif withstands the elements of the sea. Natural forces of the sea and the winds have shaped this extremely interesting rock phenomena.

Among the attractions is the area called "The Glorious Rock" near the village of Debrene, with a late Roman, early Byzantine and Medieval Bulgarian fortress from the 10th century.

lights
2. *Climate* - sunshine, temperatures, rainfall, snow cover, winds, Northern

2.1. Precipitation:

Dobrich region falls in the moderately continental climate zone and with occasional severe winters. However, there is a very interesting phenomenon around Balchik and Kavarna. The Dobrudja Plateau is 70 to 180 meters above sea level. When strong winds blow, they quickly fly over the low-lying highlands of the two cities, dropping a few miles inland, gradually slowing down. Then the winds return to the sea lanes, warmed by seawater, which very rarely freezes in winter. This creates a very specific maritime climate, which in some respects resembles the Mediterranean one. Proof of this is the presence of African magnolias in the palace of Balchik, which are best felt in the latitudes around the Equator.

That is why the Balchik region and the hills near Kavarna have the least rainfall compared to other regions of Bulgaria.

2.2. Temperature:

The temperatures during the high active tourist season - July and August are between 25 and 35 degrees. It is not as hot as in Greece and Turkey and therefore the destination is preferred by Scandinavian tourists living in the cooler latitudes. A big advantage of the summer at the Black Sea is the fact that during the night the temperatures do not fall below 12-15 degrees, so rest and sleep are guaranteed. There are beaches to the south where temperature is the same day and night - about 40 degrees, or it drops to near zero and this anomaly is also very unpleasant for tourists.

2.3. Sunshine:

For the average European visitor summer temperatures in Dobrich region are within the normal range. Sunshine is natural, there is no industrial pollution in the entire Dobrich region. This makes the region an eco-friendly tourist destination. For this reason, fruits and vegetables growing here too - especially tomatoes, cucumbers and red pepper, benefit from increased natural sunshine and are with irresistible taste.

3. Water - Oceans and seas, tides, lakes and dams, mineral waters, karst springs, rivers, waterfalls, glaciers, geysers, swamps

3.1. Sea:

To the East, Dobrich region reaches the Black Sea, once called the Euxine Pont - the Hospitable Sea. It is the world's largest inland sea. Its water has very low salinity as large European rivers flow into it - the Danube, the Bug, the Dnieper, the Dniester, the Prut, the Don. There are not a single deadly fish that lives in the Black Sea and this is one of its greatest advantages.

3.2. Tides:

There are no high and low tides at the Black Sea coast, which cause serious damage to both the environment and beach tourists.

3.3. Lakes and dams:

Dobrich Region is an arid region. The largest lakes are by the sea - Durankulashko, Shablensko and Ezeretsko. There are also several small lakes located inside the region, such as the one in the village of Dryan in the municipality of General Toshevo. Near the village of Abrit there is a small hotel complex with a fish restaurant called "Nayada", which is built on the shore of the lake. There are also several small dams near Plachidol and Dolina. All of them are full of fish.

3.4. Mineral water:

The existence of several mineral water fountains in Kavarna and Balchik as well as one of the springs of Albena resort provides visitors and locals with precious access to mineral water. Apparently, these waters once had a much larger flow and a greater healing power, since in the first century near the mouth of the Ziras River (today Batanovska river) was built the "Geranium" - the city of longevity. Retired Roman officers and warriors in were treated here - in "the Valley of Eternal Spring", as the Romans called the Batova Valley.

3.5. Karst Springs:

The lakes and marshes near Durankulak Lake, also called Durankulak Marsh, are fed by karst springs. The inhabitants of many settlements in the area, including the regional centre of Dobrich, drink water from these springs. From the karst spring comes the Batovska River. The Karst Cave "Kralimarkovka Step" is located northeast of the village of

Karapelit (in the direction of the village of Zhitnitsa) and is located on the rock rim of the canyon. It is associated with many interesting legends among the local population. It is an interesting fact that an artifact dating from the period of prehistoric Hamandzhia culture was discovered in the area.

3.6. Rivers:

Apart from the dried up Dry River, the only river in the Dobrich region is the Batovska River, the ancient Ziras. Batova River originates under the name Kavakdere from a karst spring called Palacecheshme, located 309 meters above sea level in the Frangen Plateau, 1.2 km southwest of the village of Kumanovo, Varna Region. After circumnavigating the plateau near the village of Kranevo, it flows into the Black Sea. The valley at its mouth is occupied by the Riparian Forest "Baltata" and the swamp "Batovsko Blato" ("Balchishka Balta"). Batovska river is the only Dobrudja river with a constant watercourse. It is 38.7 km long and its catchment area is 338.8 km.

3.7. Waterfalls:

The only waterfall in Dobrich Region is located in the Balchik Botanical Garden, near which Regina Maria builds her summer residence. It is very beautiful, picturesque and a place for pictures of lovers.

3.8. Swamps:

Swamps in the true sense of the word do not exist in Dobrich Region, although Durankulak Lake is also called a swamp. And with the term "Batovsko Blato", it is called the Batovska Forest near the Albena resort.

3.9. Tuzla:

There are two healing mud areas on the territory of Dobrich region. One is near Balchik and the other is near Shabla. At this stage, the one at Balchik has been better developed and has been transformed into a sanatorium and balneo hospital with medical teams and tourists from many countries. The development of the Shabla Tuzla is also expected, as the mud has excellent indications of the healing properties.

4. Flora - Flowers, trees and forests, herbs, mushrooms and berries, undergrowth

4.1. Flowers:

In some way, sunflower and lavender can also be beautiful flowers that have filled huge fields of Dobrudja.

The Dobrudja lawns are surrounded by wildflowers - mostly poppy. There are several villages around which huge amounts of wild peonies with large and beautiful red flowers bloom in the spring of April-May.

Prior to that, during the March-May period, in the Reserve Baltata near Albena a forest snowdrop pops up, which is almost 3 times larger than the garden snowdrop. The forest snowdrop is protected by law because it produces the invaluable medicine Nivalin for polio - a worldwide discovery by the Bulgarian doctor Dimitar Paskov in 1956.

Many beautiful flowers have been planted in Albena bringing joy to hundreds of thousands of tourists.

The Botanical Garden near the town of Balchik located in the courtyard of the summer residence of the Romanian Queen Regina Maria is a true paradise for the eyes. One of the most beautiful panoramas is in April, when more than 30 species of tulips bloom, or in the summer months, when the roses of the vast rosaries convey their unique, fragrant aroma.

4.2. Trees and forests:

In ancient times, Dobrudja was entirely covered by oak forests. Later, much of the forest was gradually uprooted and Dobrudja turned into huge open fields. In the early 1950s, large fields were encircled with bands of deciduous trees to stop the winds. This has a positive effect on the agricultural crop. A large number of settlements bear the names of oak species - Dubovik, Karapelit, Gorun, Dabrava.

The largest river in the area is the so-called Dry River today. It comes from the south, passes through Dobrich and flows into the Danube around the lake Oltina. Beech forests were growing along its banks. When it became fashionable in the 17th and 18th centuries to use beech briquettes in the winter for heating in stoves as being particularly calorific and giving the most heat, the beech trees were cut, and in their place poplars were planted, which gradually sucked the water out of the river and disposed of it through leaves and branches in the atmosphere. So the river is dry, and the poplars are dry and rotten.

4.3. Herbs:

The fields of Dobrudja are covered with herbs everywhere. After Afghanistan and India, Bulgaria is third in the world and first in Europe in terms of herbs per capita. Picking, drying and treating herbs is a noble cause, but also a local livelihood.

5. *Animal* - Butterflies, fish and amphibians, game, birds

5.1. Fish:

The fish in the area is caught in the Black Sea, as well as in lakes and dams that are more than 10. The most delicious sea fish are river catfish, lefer and turbot, which are also the most expensive in a restaurant or a fish shop. Organic mussels are offered everywhere from the nearby mussel farm in Duboka to Kavarna.

5.2. Birds:

Via Pontica passes the eastern part of Dobrich region by the sea. 70% of the birds flying over Europe are observed this time. Sheds, shelters and observation platforms for numerous birds have been made in many places. If you visit the Green Centre in Shabla, you will be able to use video cameras to take a closer look at what is happening in a bird's nest in nearby lakes.

Some of the birds can be cooked and are hunted. Bird delicacies are offered at several seafood restaurants.

5.3. Game:

There are several state hunting holdings in the Dobrich region. The most famous are those in Balchik and Tervel. Their hunting lodges are also home to foreigners who have arrived specifically for hunting and hunting trophies. Usually, these hunting lodges also offer game meat for consumption.

4.2. Anthropogenic Resources (Inventory)

The concept of anthropogenic tourism resources refers to sites and events of man-made origin which are an immediate purpose for travel. They are the result of human activity. In contrast to natural resources, anthropogenic resources have mainly a cognitive, and rarely a recreational, effect. Their impact is not characterized by seasonality. They are associated with such types of activities as orientation and routing, congress tourism, travel for entertainment, sporting events and more.

Demand for anthropogenic resources is influenced by factors such as age, intellect, profession, national composition, worldview, knowledge, education, etc. Anthropogenic tourism resources are typical for the urban environment. They are mainly concentrated in large cities. They are characterized by point localization, while the natural resources have area localization. A particularly valuable quality of anthropogenic tourist resources is that they are not influenced by meteorological and other natural conditions. This allows such resources to be used outside the main season, due to natural resources. This reduces the seasonality of tourist trips.

Bulgaria ranks third in Europe after Greece and Italy in terms of its cultural and historical landmarks and has much to show to its multimillion guests.

Anthropogenic sites are characterized by great educational and aesthetic impact. They are treated in two main groups, each with different characteristics and problems to describe and inventory:

Cultural, historical and business

1. **Historical** - Archaeological excavations, Fortresses and towers, palaces, monuments and places of battle, religious sites related to Holy Martyrs, Ships;

2. **Architectural** - fountains, bridges, aqueducts, buildings, streets, squares, sculptures, monuments.

3. **Religious** - Churches, monasteries, baptisteries - places of holy baptism, shrines, necropolises, tombs, mausoleums, religious processions and religious festivals.

4. **Ethnographic** - Crafts, workshops and artisan items, clothing and jewelry, customs and rituals, folk arts and festivals, farms, culinary;

5. **Cultural and cognitive** - Museums - expositions, art galleries, treasures, universities and science centres, libraries.

Man-made

1. **Entertaining** - Amusement and theme parks, Water parks, Science and technology parks, Recreation centres, Bars - disco clubs;

2. **Cultural** - Ethnographic complexes, restoration of rituals, crafts;

3. **Sports** - competitions, stadiums, halls, swimming pools, rowing bases, golf clubs;

4. **Historical** - Panoramic, restoration of battles and historical events, figures - panacticums, Monuments - memorials.

5. **Business** - Shopping centres, fairs, exchanges, world and other exhibitions, specialized and congress halls;

6. **Created by the human mind and fantasy** - legends, myths, beliefs, ideas, secrets, prejudices, taboos;

The number of anthropogenic resources of the Cross-border tourist destination Constanta-Dobrich is huge. It is logical to recall that the first data on protocivilization life in Dobrudja date back to 7 millennia - Hamandzhiya and Durankulak.

Therefore, they will be mentioned and listed here only briefly. They are described in more detail when presenting the joint thematic routes and in the findings from the field surveys.

Dobrich

Cultural, historical and business

1. **Historical** - Archaeological excavations, fortresses and towers, palaces, monuments and places of battle, martyrological sites related to Holy Martyrs, Ships;

1.1. Archaeological excavations:

In recent years, archaeological excavations have been carried out mainly at the Zalapa Fortress, at the Palmatis Fortress and partly at the Adina Fortress. They are located in the lands of the villages of Abrit, Balik and Onogur in Krushari and Tervel municipalities.

1.2. Fortresses and towers:

The most famous fortresses in the Dobrich region are Kaliakra, Chirakman and Yailata in the municipality of Kavarna, Dionisopolis - Balchik, Karia - Shabla and others.

1.3. Palaces:

The palace is known as the summer residence of the Romanian Queen Regina Maria. It is built near Balchik. There are smaller residences from the time of socialism in Tervel - for hunting, on the island in Durankulak - for growing crabs and in Dobrich - today the hotel-restaurant Residence.

2. *Architectural* - Fountains, bridges, aqueducts, buildings, streets and squares, sculptures, monuments, monuments.

2.1. Fountains:

While Dobrich has 2 fountains in its central square and one in the park, the unique fountains boast the towns of Kavarna and Balchik. Not only are they abundant, but their water is also very tasty. Soft drinks were made from the water in Balchik, and the water of Kavarna contributed to the glory of the famous event in Asia Minor Kavarna mastic.

2.2. Buildings:

Not far from the main square of the town of Dobrich was a remarkable building, from which only the foundations remain today. Archaeologists identify it as the bath of a wealthy Roman citizen. Its restoration would certainly attract many tourists.

2.3. Streets and Squares

The streets and the square with the clock tower in Old Dobrich are interesting. The earliest information about the Clock Tower at the Old Dobrich Architectural and Ethnographic Open-Air Museum comes from the Dubrovnik scientist Rudger Boskovic, who in 1762, during his travels through the Bulgarian lands, is impressed by the then wooden tower in the hail. This dates back to the time when the town was called Hadjioglu Pazardzhik.

The archaeologists who discovered the Lake City near Durankulak claim that it was built more than 7,000 years ago, and it really was a city that had a well-built system of several streets - maybe these were the first streets to be built in the world and this was the first city to be built.

2.4. Sculptures, Monuments, Statues:

There are monuments in many cities and villages in Dobrich Region. Most often they were dedicated to heroes who died for freedom in their native land. The monuments of Cape Kaliakra, the Despot Dobrotica in Kavarna, and in Dobrich - the "voivoda" Stefan Karadzha and Peyo Buyukliyata, the national hero, the Apostle of Liberty - Vasil Levski, the greatest Dobrudja writer and play writer - Yordan Yovkov, are impressive. The most notable one is **the statue of**

St. St. Cyril and Methodius - the two brothers who created the Slavic alphabet, proclaimed patrons of Europe.

There are interesting sculptures in General Toshevo and in Dobrich, which depict white swallows, a symbol of luck and wishful thinking. In Dobrich, the statue of the Reading Newspaper Man “sitting” on a bench near the municipal building brings a smile and a good mood.

The most attractive sculptures in Balchik are on the sea promenade. The first one is of the God of Wine and Joy - Dionysius created by the German sculptor Hans Hoyer and the other one is on a mythical personality - Captain Koschi with the golden ear, the narrator of extraordinary maritime stories, also known as “the Bulgarian Baron Munchausen”.

3. Religious - Churches, monasteries, baptisteries - places of holy baptism, shrines, necropolises, tombs, mausoleums, religious processions and religious holidays;

3.1. Churches:

In all villages and towns of the district there are Orthodox temples. The oldest church is “St. George” the Great Martyr in Dobrich, built in 1864. There are mosques for the followers of Islam and a synagogue, converted today into a rehearsal room for the Dobrudja Sounds Choir according to the wishes of the owners of the building in Israel.

3.2. Monasteries:

There are two monasteries in the area, one is St. Ilia near Alexandria and the other is St. Catherine in Bulgarevo.

3.3. Sanctuaries:

Ancient Thracian sanctuary was found in Yailata. Two temples of the Mother Goddess Cybele were found in Balchik and in the Lake City near Durankulak. The temple of Cybele in Balchik is distinguished for being one of the most preserved, ever discovered since it has never been plundered before.

3.4. Necropolis:

The oldest necropolis in Bulgaria was discovered on the territory of the Lake City near Durankulak. It is 7000 years old and is where the oldest gold-plated objects in the world were found.

3.5. Religious processions and religious festivals:

Nearly 86% of the population of Dobrich region are Orthodox Christians. So Christian holidays are celebrated in observance of the canons of Christianity. The festive manifestation is always held on May 24 - the Day of the Holy Brothers Cyril and Methodius - the creators of the Slavonic alphabet. On this day all students, and their teachers participate in open celebration.

A religious procession with bells organizes the village of Obrochishte in certain years from the church to the monastery of St. Athanasius on May 2 -

Summer St. Athanasius Day and St. Boris Day - in the name of St. Tsar Boris Michael - the Baptist of the Bulgarians in the Christian faith in 864. On 2 May is also celebrated the Village Festival.

4. *Ethnographic* - Crafts, workshops and household items, clothing and jewellery, customs and rituals, folk arts and holidays, farms, culinary.

4.1. Crafts, workshops and household items:

There is a craft chamber in the Dobrich district and in several villages and towns there are craft workshops - souvenir industry, barrel-making, pottery, winemaking. There is almost no settlement without a boiler for brewing home-made brandy.

4.2. Clothing and Jewelry:

There are also ateliers for folk costumes, as well as accessories for them, at the Dobrich Chamber of Crafts. A characteristic feature of the old Bulgarian crafts is the masterful filigree. This is a fine jewelry technique where a metallic thread (silver or gold) is made of a delicate lace motif.

4.3. Folk arts and festivals:

In the cities of Dobrich and in almost all villages with younger population, there are folk groups or ensembles for folklore songs and dances to the community centres. Folklore has a special tribute in Dobrudja. Between 5 and 10 are the international folklore festivals organized annually in the district. They always involve folklore ensembles from near and far. There is a stage on the main square in the city of Dobrich where the folklore dance ensembles perform concerts on all national and local holidays. All age groups, from elderly people to elementary school students are attending.

4.4. Customs and Rituals:

Customs and rituals are displayed in the Old Town Dobrich or at the Outdoor City Fairs, which are organized on Thursdays followed by a procession. Interesting customs and rituals are shown i.e. Koledari rituals, Lazarus Saturday, St. John's Eve wreath etc. Stands with organic products from local Dobrudja producers - honey, fruits, vegetables, herbs, dairy products, tastes attract visitors.

4.5. Farms:

In the early 20th century, there were two camel farms in the municipality of Kavarna. One hundred years later, the entrepreneurial spirit is still strong. In the area of Dalboka a Sea Shell farm was developed, and in the village of Balgarevo - a snail farm, which surprise with their extremely original cuisine.

4.6. Cooking:

The Dobrudja cuisine is very tasty and nutritious. It is always prepared from local product - meat, vegetables and fruits. Particularly attractive are dishes prepared in slow cooked ovens or sauces. In Southern Dobrudja, as well as

everywhere in Bulgaria, there are daily restaurants - called taverns or inns. They offer traditional Bulgarian and mostly local, regional cuisine. Often, there is a live music orchestra in these dining and entertainment venues, most often folklore, sometimes accompanied by a small folk-dance group.

5. *Cultural and cognitive* - Museums - expositions, art galleries, treasures, universities and science centres, libraries.

5.1. Museum exhibitions:

The main museum of the area is the Regional Historical Museum - Dobrich, which houses the oldest gold found in the Lake District of Durankulak dated 7400-7500 years old. The museums of Kavarna and Balchik also have rich collections. New museums were also opened in Tervel and General Toshevo.

5.2. Art Galleries:

There are art galleries in Balchik, Kavarna and Dobrich. The the Art Gallery in Dobrich city is the largest among all with 6000 m² of exhibition area, presenting Bulgarian classical and modern art, with frequent visits by foreign authors.

5.3. Treasures:

In the Dobrich Art Gallery the Regional Historical Museum exhibits a “true treasure”: 230 Christian icons from the region, painted after 1800.

5.4. Universities and scientific and technical centres:

There is a one University of Management and Tourism in Dobrich Region. Albena International College is a structural unit of Varna University of Management. In Albena students study under the French program at New Bulgarian University - Sofia.

5.5. Libraries:

In all cities there are self-contained libraries, and in the villages and in towns there are the community centres. These are centres for educational activity after the 18th century. The largest is one is in Dobrich - “Dora Gabe” Regional Library in Dobrich. In Albena, Balchik and Kavarna there are reading rooms which are very well received by foreign tourists and are very impressive because they offer books in several languages.

Man-made

1. *Entertainment* - Amusement and theme parks, Water parks, Science and technology parks, Recreation centres, Bars - disco clubs

1.1. Amusement and theme parks:

There is a city park in Dobrich, which has a specialized area designated for skate park, mostly visited by teenagers.

In 2007, a Bulgarian-Swiss partnership established the Centre for Nature and Animal Protection in Dobrich. It is unique not only for Bulgaria but also for Eastern Europe. More than 100 animals of 30 species live in the Centre for Nature and Animal Protection.

Next to the Despot Dobrotica Memorial Monument, Dobrich Municipality plans to build a Mini Dobrudja theme park with over 60 models of interesting landmarks.

1.2. Water parks:

Aquamania Water Park, the pride of Dobrudja people is located in Albena resort. It offers a Kids Tornado for Two, Baby Twister, Baby Mini River and Baby ProRacer with strips that reveal the thrill of racing, in the safest conditions for small boaters. Crazy water effects and fountains capture the imagination of children in the “Turtle Space Deck”; or in the “Moon Crater Lagoon” located next to the children’s area is the Galactic Pilot’s Bar, on the walls of which aliens and unknown civilizations have left their messages in forgotten and incomprehensible cosmic languages. A paradise for children and their fantasy!

1.3. Recreation centres:

There is a bird watching centre near Durankulak, a Green centre welcomes guests to Shabla, and there are a number of youth recreation centres in Kranevo. Along the Black Sea coast, more than 20 union, municipal and union recreation centres have been built, with many people resting on cards each year at fairly reasonable prices.

1.4. Disco clubs:

There are over 60 bars and disco clubs on the seaside resorts.

2. Cultural - Ethnographic houses and complexes, restoration of crafts and rituals

2.1. Ethnographic houses and complexes:

19th century ethnographic houses transformed into museums are located in Kavarna, Balchik and Dobrich.

The Architectural and Ethnographic Open-Air Museum “Old Dobrich” was established in Dobrich. It recreates the atmosphere of the city in the mid-19th century and is visited by a large number of tourists.

2.2. Ritual Restoration:

The Architectural and Ethnographic Open-Air Museum “Old Dobrich” and ethnographic museum-houses show old rituals such as Survak, Christmas, Babinden, Lazar, Enovden and others.

2.3. Restoration of crafts:

One of the goals of creating the “Old Dobrich” Architectural and Ethnographic Outdoor Museum is to showcase over 12 old crafts, practiced in the

19th century to the mid-20th century. Craftsmen produced their products and souvenirs in front of tourists, which is quite attractive. A craftsman's house showing the secrets of pottery was built near Balchik. It is a popular place to visit by foreign tourists.

3. *Sports* - sport competitions, stadiums, halls, swimming pools, rowing bases, golf clubs;

3.1. Stadiums:

Dobrich city has several football stadiums that qualify for the major leagues. The pride of the city is the tennis courts in Izida Hotel Complex.

3.2. Halls:

The volleyball team of Dobrich is a champion of Bulgaria for many years. The big hall is usually full of passionate fans of this elegant sport.

3.3. Swimming pools:

Modern swimming pools are built in resorts, near beaches and in hotels.

3.4. Golf clubs:

The real pride of the Dobrich region are the three golf complexes built according to European and world standards. These are: Lighthouse near Balchik, Black Sea Rama between Balchik and Kavarna and Thracian Cliffs (Thracian Rocks) near Kavarna, which is ranked in the top 10 best golf courses in the world, with consultant golf legend Gary Player.

4. *Historical* - Panoramic, restoration of battles and historical events, panopticons with wax figures of people or objects, monuments - memorials;

4.1. Panoramic:

On the territory of Dobrich there are two monumental complexes with a separate area around them. These are „**Khan Asparuh Architectural and Sculpture Complex**“ dedicated to the Founder of Danube Bulgaria in 681 - in the southern part of the city. The second one is “**Dobrotitsa Architectural and Sculptural Complex**” of Dobrotitsa Despot - on the eastern end of the city near the road to Balchik.

4.2. Battle restoration and historical events:

In Bulgaria and in Dobrich region, there are several teams of enthusiastic non-professional artists who have sewed appropriate uniforms and, at round anniversaries of major historical events, offer artistic restorations that are received with interest, both by tourists and locals.

4.3. Memorials:

In Dobrich there is a House-monument of Yordan Yovkov and the house where the writer lived in Dobrich, both of which are memorial. The reconstruction of the native house of the founder of the contemporary Bulgarian theatre “Adriana Budevskya”, born in 1901 in Dobrich, is under preparation.

The famous Adriana Budevsk

5. Business - Shopping centres, fairs, world and other exhibitions, specialized and congress halls;

5.1. Shopping Centres:

Once the whole of South Dobrudja was an agricultural area and when a harvest time came - from cherries or apricots, or live and barley, there was always a need for producers to gather and exchange their goods. This place was Dobrich. The local Dobrudja people referred to it as “the city”, “the centre”. Thus, Dobrich emerged as a shopping centre. It is no accident today that its entire square is filled with wonderful shops and a central shopping mall. The famous European modern grocery chains “Kaufland”, “Bricolage”, “Bila”; are also located here, and “Lidl” and in Balchik.

5.2. Fairs, Exchanges, Exhibitions:

There is a tradition dating back to the Middle Ages, when many people from Thrace and other parts of southern Bulgaria arrived on St. George’s Day in early May (May 6th) and camped in Dobrudja until Dimitrovdan - late autumn (October 26th). At that time, these workers received their money for the work they did, as well as the goods, as part of their remuneration. Everyone needed to go to a place where he could exchange some of the goods, diversify, and when returns home one would have everything that would provide the winter for his entire household.

It was in Dobrich that such fair was held at the end of the annual work cycle. The Dobrich Fair is held several times a year and includes the following events: Beekeeping from March 19 to March 21; Agriculture and everything for it from July 29 to August 1.

The Fair Exchange for seeds and seedlings is held in Dobrich from January 29 to February 1 every year.

And the EXPO Dobrich trade fair is always held from September 24 to 25, when it is the Holiday of the town of Dobrich.

5.3. Specialized and congress halls:

There are several specialized halls in Dobrich, they are located in the representative hotels of the city - Bulgaria, Dobrudja, Izida.

A significant Convention Centre was opened in Albena with modern equipped halls in several high-class hotels, where a large number of congress events and initiatives are held annually from European and world scale.

6. Created by the human mind and fantasy - Myths, legends, beliefs, secrets, miracles, taboos;

6.1. Myths:

Myths have existed since ancient times in human history. Two myths are known in Dobrudja, which are increasingly perceived as real events.

The first one is related to the ancient Flood that was in the Black Sea. Many expeditions, including leading American scientists in the field, collect evidence of this and scientifically prove it.

The second myth concerns Noah's ship. Experts say that in order to reach the Noah's Ark at the foot of Mount Big Ararat, only a whirlwind from the bay south of Kaliakra can take him there. That is why there are rocks in Dobrudja called "Noah's Bracket", and this is no accident!

6.2. Legends:

The ancient land of Dobrudja is "home" to many legends. Here are some of them. Holy Prophet Elijah passed on his donkey, tired and decided to rest. He landed on a rock near the village of Gaber, on which his donkey's hooves had left traces. But times were challenging, and the locals did not take strangers to spend the night at their homes. He rode his faithful helper again, and after a short flying reached a cliff near the village of Alexandria, where his donkey's hooves left traces along with the Holy One. As the Holy Prophet Elijah stepped to the ground, there was a deafening thunder of his landing. Suddenly healing water flashed nearby. After a while, near the magical spring the locals erected a monastery and named it after Saint Elijah, which has been repeatedly demolished but always restored and can be visited today.

There are two legends in the Kavarna region dating back to the end of the 14th century, when the Ottomans invaded Dobrudja. St. Nicholas Mirlikiiski stood before the oncoming hordes and slowed them down, but they were unstoppable. Eventually, he approached the seashore and ran to the sea, but then a miracle occurred - the drought under his feet did not end and extended further and further inwards. This is how the beautiful Cape Kaliakra emerged.

Another legend is related to the Ottomans, who demanded 40 virgins in return they would not destroy and plunder the fortress of the beautiful cape. The girls were selected, but instead of surrendering to the enemy, they braided their hair and threw themselves into the depths of the sea, thus protecting their honor.

6.3. Beliefs:

3 km from Batovo is the "Cup" spring, a mineral spring, famous for its crystal clear, healing water, also known as the "Wish of Wishes". According to local beliefs, a sip of water from the spring brings health, and the thread thrown into the spring brings luck and fulfils hidden wishes.

There are legends about the healing stone in the village of Feldfebel Dyankovo in Dobrich municipality. It is said that if you bring water to it and wash your hands and feet, you will unlock its healing power. The stone is located near the village. The locals would gladly show it to single tourists and self-organized groups.

6.4. Beliefs:

The village of Obrochishte, located not far from Balchik, probably originated in Thracian antiquity as a place for a vow. There was built a monastery of St. Athanasius the Great of Alexandria, who was later converted to a dervish Teke by Akyazlul Baba - one of the four saints of Islam who was buried there. He was also a healer himself. There is a belief that whoever touches his sarcophagus with his hand and wishes for something, most often related to his health, it will come true.

6.5. Secrets:

According to the laws of physics, water flows from high to low. And in the village of Kranevo, where there used to be an ancient, late antique and medieval fortress Kranea, the spring is located at the highest point of the hill. Apparently, the area hides some strange ancient secret as the water springs against the laws of nature.

6.6. Miracles:

A legend in the village of Church in Balchik Municipality tells that here in the Middle Ages there was a monastery and a church "St. Spas"; with a healing spring. When the Ottoman invaders conquered the village at the end of the 14th century, they demolished both the monastery and the church. Ever since, the same miracle has been happening in this place. At sunrise on the Christian holiday of Saint Spas, the healing water springs and flows all day until sunset, and then disappears. For more than 600 years. The real miracle is that the Feast of Saint Spas depends on Easter and every year is a different date, but always the water comes on the day of the feast to strengthen faith in the divine power.

6.7. Beliefs and Taboos:

There is also a belief that people have kept for centuries and strictly adhere to. One of them is related to human life and is related to tourism. St. Peter's Day, which is celebrated on June 29 or July 12, and St. Paul's Day, June 30, or July 13, are major Christian holidays. On these days one must not enter the sea, since the sea takes a human sacrifice. And on Pavlovden, no picnic fire should be lit, because there is a danger of fire. Such are popular beliefs and taboos.

4.3. Review of existing tourism products

Dobrich

The tourism products of the Dobrich region are mainly related to the hotel and restaurant business. The accommodation facilities 2 to 5 stars in Dobrich district are 165 with 32 426 beds. There are also various tourist services available - tour bookings, currency exchange, rent-a-car service, ticket purchase and booking for major events, taxi service assistance, childcare, animation programs and more.

Foreign and Bulgarian tourists traveling along the Bulgarian Black Sea coast are offered day trips to Constanta, most often including a city tour, sightseeing in the city

centre, a visit to the Museum of National History and Archeology, Ovidius Square and the Mosaic Building , a stroll around Mamaia, time to buy souvenirs or shop at some of the Malls in Constanta. When the groups include teenagers or student, then the tour must include visits to the aquarium and dolphinarium, the Constanta Natural History Museum.

Tourists from the Romanian Black Sea resorts mostly visit the fortress Kaliakra and Kavarna, as well as Balchik with the summer residence of the Romanian Queen Regina Maria Edinburgh, with a short walk through Albena.

There is still no agreed common policy for attracting tourists to both the Romanian and Bulgarian sides of the Black Sea coast.

The current cross-border routes are an encouraging positive step in this direction.

4.4. Trends in tourism development

Dobrich

Trends in tourism development in the cross-border region

The current trends in tourism require the development of sustainable business models on the territory of the cross-border region, including sustainable tourism.

An example in this direction is the implementation of the project “Economy in Romania and Bulgaria that preserves the Natural and Cultural Heritage”, jointly with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Dobrich and Constanta, where the following Vision for the development of the Romanian-Bulgarian cross-border region is formulated:

“By 2022, the cultural and natural heritage of the cross-border region of Romania-Bulgaria is gaining new economic significance for the business environment, which benefits from it: the cultural and natural heritage is a fundamental vector of the individual and collective identity of the integrated local community, an unlimited resource for development and rediscovery, and its sustainable exploitation can ensure its integration into the social and / or economic processes of local development and the environment, so to make a direct contribution to the well-being of local communities for generations.”

During the previous programming period of the Romania-Bulgaria Cross-border Cooperation Program 2007-2013, and especially during the current period 2014-2020, a considerable amount of resources has been invested in financing tourism and sustainable development projects in the Romania-Bulgaria cross-border region that support building and preserving the cultural, historical and natural resources of the region in a sustainable way.

Examples of sustainable tourism routes in the cross-border region: Istro-Pontic Cross-border Cultural Tourism Destination, Danube routes, Roman Legions Road, Vidin - Opera and Rural Tourism Destination, Silistra-Tutrakan - Centre of Network for Bicycle Enthusiasts, Danube Ultra - Link to European Bicycle and Adventure Tourism Network, Eco Tourism in the Danube Delta.

Table 7: Macro trends in tourism demand and their implications for the development of a Cross-border Tourist Destination by Constanta-Dobrich

MACRO TRENDS IN TOURISM DEMAND IN THE 21ST CENTURY	IMPLICATIONS FOR CROSS-BORDER TOURIST DESTINATION CONSTANZA-DOBRICH
<p>Increasing preference for shorter (within 1-3 days) but more frequent trips.</p>	<p>Opportunity to extend the tourist season, increase the number of weekend tourists - families, young people and individual visitors not only during the summer season, but also during the weaker months in spring and autumn.</p>
<p>Increased processes of urbanization and globalization leading to the unification of urban culture.</p> <p>High levels of stress and exposure to polluted air and noise make urban populations seek “escape” and “recharge”; in a “clean and authentic environment”.</p>	<p>Cross-border Tourist Destination Constanta-Dobrich is in a great position to offer an oasis of tranquility, privacy and a clean environment. The destination has enormous potential to develop and position itself in the growing popularity of the concept of “slow food, slow life”; “slow tourism”, which underpins the understanding of quality of life, achieving sustainable longevity and well-being - higher education and higher income segment of the population.</p>
<p>Increasing last-minute trips. Spontaneously organized weekend trip.</p>	<p>Ability to redirect part of the tourist flow to the destination Constanta-Dobrich and its presentation as “hidden and unknown jewel”;</p>
<p>Increase in the trips of senior people seeking treatment, prevention, rehabilitation and recovery.</p>	<p>Attracting senior tourists in the off-season with a “promise” of calm, recharging and authentic clean food. Constanta-Dobrich has a unique resource for the development of balneo tourism and rehabilitation, combined with wine tourism and gourmet.</p>
<p>The preference of tourists to destinations related to specific forms of alternative and specialized tourism - for example: cycling, ecotourism, ornithological tourism.</p>	<p>Based on the rich natural and cultural-historical resource of the region, the positioning of Constanta-Dobrich in the segment of specialized tourism, which attracts tourists with higher education and more stable incomes. In this sense, the inclusion of the destination as part of the already popular international Danube Ultra cycle route. On the other hand, the area can attract tourists with</p>

	specialized interests such as ornithologists, biologists, ecologists, geologists, etc.
The development of local cultural systems (LoCuS), which combine different elements of the potential tourist offerings developed for a specific target group, depending on existing cultural values and resources.	The integrated tourist product of Constanta-Dobrich offers a multi-layered, holistic, holistic experience for tourists- „connoisseurs“ of an authentic, clean and genuine environment. This includes clean food and beverages (locally made and locally sourced authentic recipes), clean air, exploring the richness of the region - nature and history.
Increase in trips of families with children deep in the region - high growth of domestic tourism.	Constanta-Dobrich can offer suitable forms of family fun, but also suitable accommodation, comfort and security. The heart of the tourism product offered would be fully in line with the needs of young families with children - convenience, flexibility, minimization of logistics and discomfort. An Eco Oasis with its own restaurant, cafe, bed, conference room, educational centre (Edutainment), information centre, unit for coordination and organization of excursions and additional visits, exhibition area / branded corner for products and souvenirs. It will be gourmet destination (maybe wine, local dairy products, organic producers).
Preference for trips by car, caravan, camper.	Construction and maintenance of appropriate road infrastructure, construction of parking lots, including campers, camping and picnic areas.
Increased trend to move from organized and self-organized vacations and excursions, without any anticipation. The tourist can rediscover, emerge in the destination, “feel” the place, be “surprised”.	Cross-border tourist destination Constanta-Dobrich to build its marketing strategy by taking advantage of the latest and most modern digital environment capabilities to reach directly all target groups.

A new drive for the development of the Cross-border tourist destination Constanta-Dobrich may be given by small new tourist attractions in the individual resort villages of municipalities such as Kavarna, Shabla and Balchik, which will foster interest and diversify the offer.

Let's take for example the city of Kavarna. It offers excellent accommodation and boarding options, a neat beach with swimming pools nearby, hiking trips to Kaliakra and Ongala Fort.

But if we want the stay of our guests to be extended, it is advisable to offer something small, but new, different each year, which we can upgrade further and again in the coming years. To keep the interest of tourists alive and growing.

Here is an overview of a small municipal attraction near the Tourist Information Centre in Kavarna, which can attract bus tourists who stopped to get up-to-date information about the region's attractions.

TOURIST ATTRACTION "LEGENDS OF KAVARNA"		
The tourist attraction is housed in 4 rented ancient Bulgarian tents with large TVs, info boards and animators, located in the municipal park opposite the Tourist Information Centre - Kavarna		
No	SAMPLE THEMES - MOVIES AND ANIMATION	Clarification
TENT # 1 (Languages: Bulgarian and English, but separate boards with translations in German, Ukrainian, Romanian, Danish)		
1	Old Europe	Durankulak
2	Legend of the Thracians Varni-Bavarni-Kavarni	Prof. Fritzler
3	Legends of Lizimach	Cape Kaliakra
4	Rulers and Celebrities Crossing the Region (See Attachment Below!)	From Darius I to Hans Christian Andersen
TENT # 2 (Languages: Bulgarian, Romanian and English)		
5	Ovidius' Legends	Kamen Bryag village
6	Legends about Emperor Traian and his sister	Marciana
7	Regina Maria -	dolphins, seals
8	The story of immigrants	1940 Year
TENT # 3 with stands for souvenir sales (Languages: Bulgarian, Romanian, Russian and English)		
9	Wonders of Dobrudja - presentation of all tourist attractions	Wine, camels, mussels, snails, crabs, honey
TENT # 4 (Languages: Bulgarian, Romanian, Russian and English)		

10	Kavarna - The Capital of Rock Music in South-eastern Europe	Recordings from concerts
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Scorpions Third Concert in Bulgaria, Kaliakra Rock Fest 2009 in Kavarna

RULES AND FAMOUS PERSONS THROUGH THE REGION (attraction # 4 from tent # 1)		
No		
1	Darius I	War with the Scythians
2	Philip II of Macedon	Getae fight
3	Alexander the Great	Getae fight
4	Attila	The contract in Odessa
5	Rome / Byzantium Emperors	Constantine the Great and others.
6	King Ivaylo and Chaka	Legend of Ivaylo and his fiancée
7	Vladislav Varnenchik	The Battle of Varna
8	Yuri Venelin	Collection of Dobrudzha Folklore
9	Hans Christian Andersen	respect for human rights;
10	Bulgarian National Revival	Hristo Botev, Stefan Karadzha and others.

This tourist attraction would also be visited by golfers participating in golf tournaments at nearby golf clubs, by Bulgarian and foreign participants in congress events at the Albena resort and many others.

4.5. Analysis of marketing tools

Dobrich

Due to the significant deficiencies identified in the situational analysis in terms of infrastructure, accommodation, human capital and levels of awareness of the local community, the strong competition from already established destinations with similar “promise” , the imposition of the Cross-border tourist destination Constanta-Dobrich being a single product is a serious task and a real challenge.

In this sense, the approach to the positioning of the Constanta-Dobrich brand should be based on centrality and extreme integration of products and specific services, which will enhance the sense of unity and uniqueness.

The approach proposed in the Common Strategy is based on the centralization and integration of tourist products and services.

The tourist product “Constanta-Dobrich” should be based on one common food and accommodation platform that should be selected or built in accordance with the

principles of sustainable tourism and in line with the values and philosophy of the modern tourist / visitor from the big city with an ecological attitude, socially responsible, digitally connected, requiring an individualized personalized approach and increasingly tuned to quality and high standards of service.

Having one “eco oasis” on the territory of the destination, to help promote it and to foster its image as sustainable tourism destination is the first stage of the successful destination brand building. In the next stage, after the approval of Constanta-Dobrich as an attractive and preferred destination or in parallel, it will create good foundation for the development of **network** from family-run guest houses, eco-settlements to use elements of this centralized sustainable model. The network should offer destination for bio products, souvenirs, promotional materials, brand identity, established contacts with service providers such as tour guides, manufacturers, etc.

In line with trends in the demand for tourism products and the “anatomy” of a tourist journey and an experience that begins well before the actual arrival, the cross-border tourist destination Constanta-Dobrich must take good use of new digital technologies. The field in which digital technologies need to find their place and application is in the stage of marketing and promotion of the destination, as well as in providing access and reliable navigation. Technologies should facilitate instant access to information, SEO, navigation, sharing and exchanging of reviews and recommendations.

5. Tourist routes for valorizing the natural and anthropogenic resources of the Dobrich-Constanta region

5.1. SWOT analysis of the tourism potential for the development of the cross-border region of Constanta-Dobrich

This SWOT analysis is based on an expert study of the resources and competitive advantages of the region, as well as the available plans and strategies for the development of Constanta County - “Constanta County Development Plan 2014-2020” and “Dobrich District Development Strategy 2014- 2020”.

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Cross-border region, including tourist destinations with good image and high-income tourist and resort complexes - Mamaia, Albena and others. ✓ Close proximity to three international airports: Varna, Constanta and Bucharest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state of tourism infrastructure is insufficient. • The visual information system (pointers and information signs) is underdeveloped.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Intersection of three important cultural corridors of Southeastern Europe: Danube Road, Black Sea Road - Via Pontica, Easter Pontica. ✓ Proximity to large sea and river ports: Varna, Balchik, Kavarna, Mangalia, Constanta, Rousse, Giurgiu, Silistra, Calarasi, Negru Voda, Tulcea. ✓ Good connectivity and access, availability of four border crossing points near the sites of the destination: Durankulak-Vama Veke, Kardam-Negru Voda, Severniak-Dragomir, Kainardja-Lipnitsa. ✓ Financial resources provided under European programs for improving tourism infrastructure and diversifying tourism supply. ✓ Unique and rich natural resources, flora and fauna, caves, birds, forests, fish and herbs. ✓ Presence of extremely rich cultural and historical heritage, the most ancient representatives of the first protocivilization Old Europe - Durankulak, Bulgaria and Hamandzija, Romania. ✓ Amazing authentic folklore, customs and rituals, authentic delicious cuisine, unique wine, impressive alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. ✓ Rich flora and fauna, preserved biodiversity, the presence of Via Pontica - The path of birds, clear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In many places there is no lead infrastructure, or if there is, it is often in poor condition • There is a lack of guaranteed protection, special conditions for entrepreneurs, which does not support investor activities in the cross-border tourist region. • In some hotels, the star rating is deliberately inflated, neither the accommodation nor the service fit the category of the establishment. • There are no developed local tourism products and services, and trained professional staff to implement them. • Conditions for visiting tourists to natural and cultural sites are of a low standard. • Extensive parking lots, campers, bathrooms and in some places even electricity and water are missing. • The region is in the shadow of more developed and established destinations such as the seaside resorts of Greece and Turkey. • Weak, non-engaging or non-existent identity as a destination to visit. • “White spot” in the radar of local and international visitors, lack of awareness, associations and tourist attitudes and expectations.
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<p>waters for fish and mussels, priceless honey and bee products.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Unique natural phenomena - rock wealth, cave city with 101 caves, canyons of the Dry River, kilometres of plows with golden sands. ✓ Presence of medicinal herbs, development of balneo, spa and wellness programs, thermal and mineral waters, treatment centres, health and wellness. ✓ The interior of Dobrudzha is a remote and quiet area, relatively untouched by globalization, urbanization and mass tourism ✓ Authentic and genuine nature, tranquility and easy “escape”; from the city’s hectic daily routine. ✓ Large coastline with well-developed resorts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a “new born” destination, the cross-border tourist destination Constanta-Dobrich is later involved in the competition and battle for visitors in the industry. • The educational level of the local population and their knowledge of tourism resources is low. • For the most part, cultural and historical monuments, local histories and legends are under-researched. • Invisible to zero presence in popular digital travel guides and platforms such as booking, trivago, trip advisor. • Poorly developed before and after the season and a short summer of 3-4 months - they all do not attract good staff for a short period, the cheap product only provides low salaries.
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to capitalize on the resource in other sectors such as agriculture, livestock breeding, organic, investing in green energy as an integral part of the sustainability formula. • Construction of a modern waste management system in line with the sustainable development of tourism. • Establishment of small bio-farms of European type in the rear of tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low incomes, as well as poor living standards, which are not typical for the regions of the European Union. • Aging population, demographic crisis, depopulation of rural and border areas. • Poorly developed services sector, strong dependence on trade - in the north and on agriculture in the south as a

<p>as an extension and diversification of the season.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidation of producers into cooperatives and associations - for example, producers of honey, dairies, poultry farms, etc. and partnership with the tourism business • Construction of a new Danube bridge at Silistra-Calarasi. • Closer planning and redevelopment of key road infrastructure. • Construction of a cross-border bicycle route along the Danube to the Delta, descent along the Black Sea coast to Kranevo, Dobrich, Silistra and its connection with Central Europe. • Effective utilization of EU funds in all sectors beyond 2020 in order to make the destination sustainable and attractive. • Introduction of the euro for the tourism sector as soon as possible in parallel with the local currencies - BGN lev • Successful exchange of good practices in the tourism sector and continued work with good integration. • Digitization and social media - opportunities for quick promotion and inclusion of the destination, taking advantage of the speed and cost effectiveness of the new digital platforms for tourism and travel. 	<p>livelihood - lack of diversification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of sustainable employment of the local population - an outflow of talents, intellect and human resources to the more developed regions and especially abroad. • Political and economic instability, unclear political vision and governance framework. • Unpredictability and worsening of the investment and entrepreneurial climate. • Weak or lack of investor and business interest in the region. • Unclear vision and development strategy, poorly formulated or implemented business plans and projects. • Improperly addressed all-in-one tourism products instead of a sharply focused target for the desired target groups and market segments. • Continuous growth in prices, as well as the basic costs of oil, gas, energy, water - all of them, which are more expensive for the hotel and tourist product. • Lack of alignment and consensus among stakeholders. • Non-inclusion and non-involvement at an early stage of the public with the problems
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment of mayors, business companies and key stakeholders to make the region even more attractive and interesting. • Develop a comprehensive economic strategy for the sustainability of the region and integrate tourism as a key pillar. • Building the identity and logo of the cross-border destination “Dobrudja Riviera”. • Developing joint new tourism products and offering the interior of Dobrudja as eco-friendly, quiet, clean and calm destination. • Valorisation and complementation of the gastronomic potential of Dobrudja region, organic food and natural wines. • Awakening curiosity and appetite for new tourist products in the rear of the region - an experience and adventure of various nature in the 21st century. • Implementation of new technologies, complete digitalization and gasification of tourist sites 	<p>and ideas of the tourism business, regional media and business partners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change with more extreme phenomena - droughts, floods, storms, extreme heat. • Limiting the free movement of persons. • Imbalance in the development of individual regions in the cross-border region - “centre-periphery” zones. • Slowdown in economic growth
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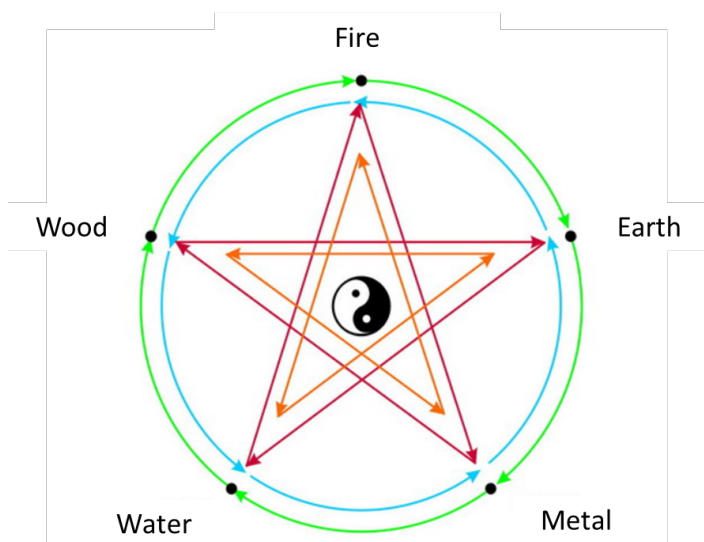
5.2. Rationale for choosing routes

In addition to the current cross-border project ROBG - 528 “A Joint Open Window to the Mysteries of the Universe”; funded under the INTERREG VA Romania - Bulgaria 2014-2020 Program, there are already a large number of completed projects under the same program during this and the previous period 2007-2013, which address the development of tourism.

Developed and operational routes on both sides of the Danube river are widely known and there is no point in repeating them. Most of the routes are related to cultural and historical heritage - religious trips, historical routes, trips to the fortresses of Limes, general culinary tours, festival celebrations, etc. Natural heritage tourism is known for hiking, wine tours, health trips, apitherapy (honey and beekeeping), cycle paths, eco routes, yacht tourism on the Danube and Black Sea, visit to rural festivals and attractions and many more.

Given that the current cross-border project “A Joint Open Window to the Mysteries of the Universe” is scientific in nature, it is necessary to take a philosophical approach in determining the subject of the two routes. Brainstorming was a common approach in synchronized teamwork. It was decided to develop two specialized thematic routes. One should be oriented towards natural wealth and the other towards cultural heritage.

If we go deep into the tone of the project and want to touch on the “mysteries of the universe”, we will immediately notice that according to the ancient Europeans there are 4 elements that rule the world - water, wood, fire and earth. Chinese philosophy with Yin and Yang involves another element - metal, and in them the elements are already five - water, wood, fire, earth and metal.



The **collective brainstorming** led to the following recommendations: the route relating to natural resources should be appropriately referred to the element “water”;. In recent decades, in addition to cruises on the oceans, seas and large rivers, and other types of water routes have been developed. Lakes travel is a trademark of Finland, a country of thousands of lakes. Belarus started to develop lake tourism in its model. Waterfall tourism is offered in Turkey, where tourists visit a series of waterfalls,

offering them overnight in a cave, in front of which falls a waterfall as an anti-stress program.

In the Dobrudja region, in addition to the Danube and Black Sea waters, there are more than 30 freshwater lakes, as well as several, although smaller, waterfalls, fountains, many springs, healing waters, separated in tuzla and old fountains, such as local and fountains of regional phenomenon and are not found in northern and western Europe.

And where there is fresh water, it is logical to farm freshwater, river or lake fish.

And when these lakes are located on the Bird Road, it is natural for the waters to have permanent local and migratory birds flying from the Equator of Africa to the Northern European lands.

Via Pontica and a flock of arriving red-breasted geese

Thus, the 3-day tourist route “The Birds and Lakes Road of Dobrudja”; was formed, which would show unknown countries of the natural and biological richness of the cross-border region, whose basis would be the water and the beautiful natural landscapes nearby.

The island at Lake Durankulak

The second thematic cross-border three-day tourist itinerary is themed around cultural heritage. In this case, we look at the “earth” element. If we approach philosophically again, we will say that land consists of land and water. We have already identified water as an element. It washes the soil, but it is not the case with the stone, the main building block of the land, on the earth. Let’s imagine the stone as an integral part of the rocks, the rock formations, the mountain ridges and peaks. There are no mountains on the territory of Dobrudja; it is a vast plain over which there are rock complexes, rock monasteries, caves in the rocks, picturesque gorges and impressive canyons. And ancient Greek, Roman and Byzantine fortresses were built on huge rock masses.

And so it logically came up with the idea of a 3-day tourist route related to cultural heritage to be “Rock Phenomena and the Cultural and Historical Heritage of Dobrudja”;

The unique cliffs at “Chail Dobrogje” (Dobrudja Gorge) in Constanta County

Dobrudja could be viewed considered a great historical open-air museum. It has a rich heritage with numerous movable and immovable heritage from prehistory to the Middle Ages. There are many remarkable places, some ennobled, others not. Here are found ancient cities and towns, tombs of all ages, burial mounds, impressive fortresses. And the sites that were discovered during the excavations, many of which were carried out for scientific purposes, are as varied in terms of their usefulness as well as the structure and combination of the materials used. Unfortunately, all these priceless

treasures are very poorly researched and popularized or are completely unknown to local people and even less to foreign tourists.

Map of Little Scythia with a large number of fortresses along the Danube Limes and along the Black Sea coast

Computer reconstruction of the impressive Kapidava Fortress

The general framework of the two three-day itineraries is recreation and active rest for nature lovers and cultural and historical heritage, combined with night-sky observation and astronomical observations, to touch the universe and to acquire cosmic sensations as a tourist.

Traveling by bus from north to south or south to north along the Black Sea or the Danube, tourists can visit natural landmarks (nature protected areas, sites of geology and paleontology), historical and cultural sites - Chirakman, Karia, Tommy and Histria, the archaeological excavations of Capidava and Karsium. They can touch the civilizations of those times through the tour guides' stories, as well as through VR / 3D applications that reconstruct the respective citadels in a particular era of their existence, can sleep on the Danube or the Black Sea in tents and can make astronomical observations with the equipment provided by the project partners; the tourist itinerary may end with a visit to Cape Kaliakra, where spectacular nature blends with history and where tourists can make new astronomical observations, learn interesting facts about Black Sea marine life, or observe the playful dolphins jumping over the water.

Chirakman Cape near Kavarna

Interesting astronomical observations can also be made by the mysterious Chirakman, which holds many ancient secrets.

5.3. Route # 1

CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTENT OF THE ROUTE

ROUTE 1 “EXPLORING THE BIRDS AND LAKES OF DOBRUDJA”;
<u>Theme:</u> The route represents the natural wealth of Dobrudja, with all sites and landmarks connected to the water, as a source and a symbol of life.
<u>Duration:</u> The route is three days long and includes three nights in Bulgaria and Romania
<u>Start and end of the route:</u> It can start from the south and continue north to Romania. It could start from Constanta and then continue south, following the same route and including the same sights.
<u>Route type:</u> The itinerary is a creative, professional tourist product and includes major sites that are the essence of the themed trip. Every day of the route includes segments in a time bound agenda - before noon and after noon. With an

increasingly demanding visitor audience wanting more diverse offerings and opportunities to choose and participate in various initiatives after the major sights, additional tourist sites are also offered, which can be added to the main route if desired to become even more interesting.

Route target groups: Each route is designed for a specific target group, aimed at satisfying its preferences, desires and hobbies. The current route “The Birds and Lakes of Dobrudja” targets nature lovers, nature conservationists, explorers of nature, space and the universe. It is aimed at connoisseurs of clean and wellness water, organic food and drink. It is not aimed at fans only of luxury accommodation in four and five star hotels, but prefer environmentally friendly accommodation in hotels, private lodgings or campsites, as well as overnight tents with opportunities to observe the beautiful starry sky.

Route formats: The creatively designed three-day thematic route “The Birds and Lakes of Dobrudja” can be shortened if necessary and turned into a two-day or even one-day itinerary, with the organizers and / or tourists participating in it selecting part of the the most significant sights of the three-day itinerary so as not to affect its attractiveness and impact. This often happens, given the fast-paced world we live in!

Total information: At the end of the itinerary, complete information will be provided on all the needs of the tourists - coordinates and addresses of ambulance, police, pharmacies and hospitals, tourist information and visitor centres, exchange offices, shopping malls and large shopping sites and more. Having this information gives more peace and security to the route participants.

ROUTE # 1

EXPLORING THE WAY OF THE BIRDS AND THE LAKES IN DOBRUDJA

A route revealing the natural wealth of Dobrudja

An important feature of this route is that the Bird Road near the Black Sea is Via Pontica’s world famous road.

Via Pontica (in Latin: *Via Pontica* , Black Sea Road) is an ancient Roman road that runs along the Black Sea. It starts from Equatorial Africa, passes near Constantinople (today Istanbul) and continues north to Bulgaria - Dionysopolis (Balchik), Bisone (Kavarna), Caria (Shabla), Romania - Calatis (Mangalia), Tommy (Constanta), Histria (Istria) , The Danube Delta and stretches north to the eastern shores of the Baltic Sea.

Today, Pontica is also the name of one of Africa’s major bird migration routes to Europe and vice versa. It passes through the territory of Bulgaria - over Strandzha and along the Black Sea coastline. This route is followed by many species of birds of prey, waterfowl and songbirds, of which 78% of all white storks and the entire pink pelican population in Europe, as well as the extremely rare species of Imperial eagle, Egyptian and Griffon Vulture.

Diagram of migratory birds: over Western Europe - Via Gibraltar, over Eastern Europe - two branches to the right - Via Pontica, three to the left - Via Aristoteles

Along the way, special shelters have been built, from which birds are observed, so unrevealed birdwatching.

One of the big stopovers for migratory birds is the Bolata located north of Cape Kaliakra. There can be seen red-tailed crickets, black-backed and oriental stonecutters, hooded cormorants, alpine swifts, pink starlings, thick-skinned and short-tailed hawks, pelicans and cranes.

In addition to Via Pontica, another airway of migratory birds passes through Bulgaria and Romania: Via Aristoteles (Zadbalkansky Road) through the Struma River Valley, Sofia Field and the Iskar Gorge to the Olt River in Romania.

VIA PONTICA:

In Bulgaria almost 70% of the birds inhabiting the European continent can be observed due to the transcontinental migratory ornithological roads passing through our country - Via Pontica and Via Aristotelis, the wetlands along the Bulgarian Black Sea coast and the Danube river, as well as the various natural conditions in the inland.

Hood cormorant

The diversity of birds is due to the preserved nature and to the fact that one of the major migration routes, Via Pontica, passes along the coast. Kaliakra is one of the few places in Europe to spot the Pink Shorthair, the Black-backed Stonemason, and the five species of larks that are characteristic of the Balkan Peninsula. The steppes are a cosy home for the tourist, and the coastal cliffs are proclaimed by the middle cormorant and alpine swift. The Natura 2000 area also includes a marine area - a strip of sea along the coast, where in calm weather three types of Black Sea dolphins and numerous seabirds can be observed. In the fall, many thousands of flocks of migratory white storks, pelicans and almost every predatory bird in Europe can be observed. Winter wheat fields also host numerous flocks of feeding geese - large white-headed and red-breasted geese that spend the night in the sheltered sea bays in the area.

Red-breasted geese

The most appropriate observation sites are along the Danube coast, along the Northern Black Sea coast (incl. Yaylata, Cape Kaliakra), along the Southern Black Sea coast, in the Shumen Plateau National Park, in the Provadia Plateau, in the Upper and Lower Topchiya Reserves by the Tundja River. Via Pontica is Europe's second busiest migration route. After Gibraltar (Spain), most of the birds in Europe and Asia pass through this migration corridor. Via Pontica passes along the Black Sea coast.

Day 1

Route of the day:

Dobrich-Balchik-Kavarna-Bolata-Dalboka
Kilometers: 35 +17 +7 +6 = 65 km / maximum 2 hours
<p>Highlights:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Balchik</u> - (max: 3 hours) Waterfalls and 2. The Regina Maria Botanical Gardens Summer Residence 3. Balchik - Tuzlata 4. <u>Kavarna</u> - (max: 4 hours) Fountains 5. Dobrudja and the Sea Museum 6. Bolata Bay
ROUTE DESCRIPTION:
<p>1. Balchik - Waterfalls</p> <p>The Palace architectural and park complex is located about 2 km southwest of the centre of Balchik.</p> <p>It is a complex of villas and other buildings located on the Black Sea coast. The Queen of Romania, Regina Maria Edinburgh, immediately falls in love with the mild climate, warm seawater and the picturesque Balchik rocks. After the return of Southern Dobrudja in 1940, the palace fell within the borders of Bulgaria and became one of the main sights on the Northern Black Sea.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Big waterfall at Regina Maria's summer residence</i></p> <p>At the beginning of the 20th century the area to the southwest of Balchik is known by the name <i>The Three Watermills</i> and state forest <i>Kulak</i>. The area is gradually increasing. By 1937 the property had already spread over 209.8 acres, and by 1938 their area reached 244.8 acres.</p> <p>The villa ensemble at the summer residence of the Romanian queen was designed by the Italian architects Amerigo and Augustino, with construction being carried out from 1924 to 1934. During the occupation of Balchik, many Romanian aristocrats and intellectuals, including the famous artist Cicilia Cucilia Stork. They are often invited to the royal residence, which makes the Palace a cultural centre. The Craiova Treaty returns Balchik and all of Southern Dobrudzha to Bulgaria. Today the palace is well preserved and constantly renovated, and after the 80s it has become a remarkable tourist centre.</p>
<p>2. Balchik - The Botanical Garden</p> <p>University Botanical Garden in Balchik is a unit of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"</p>

It was established in 1955. Today it covers an area of 194 decares, most of its territory having the status of a protected area under the Protected Areas Act. Within the boundaries of the protected area, experts and regular visitors can monitor the natural ecosystems and appreciate the rich biodiversity of the region.

The University Botanical Gardens also include the Palace Architectural and Park Complex, which includes the building and park area of the former summer residence of the Romanian Queen Maria in the early 20th century. Along the coast, terraces - gardens connected to each other by steep stairs, green tunnels and arches - are separated on terrain with great displacement.

In 1955, the terrain of the park was granted to the University of Sofia for the creation of a Botanical Garden, which was built under the direction of Academician Prof. Daki Yordanov. Gradually, the site changes its function and from a park with representative functions becomes a Botanical Garden - an institution with scientific and educational functions open to wide public access.

Since 2005, University Botanical Gardens has been opening its own adapted garden for disabled people. It was officially opened on its 50th anniversary.

The Botanical Garden specializes in the development of collections of tropical and subtropical exotic as well as other unique plants. It is known for its collection of large-scale cacti and succulents grown outdoors during the warm months over an area of about 1 decare. In 2012, it opened its doors to a permanent display of cacti and succulents, so fans of these exotics can enjoy their colours and beauty all year round. The garden with cold-resistant cacti is also an attraction.

Another interesting attraction to specialists and tourists are the successfully introduced exotic species in the garden, such as rubber, candy, book wood, ancient ginkgo, metasequoia, large magnolia, lyre wood and more. In the greenhouses of the garden ripen lemons the size of a handball, as well as many other exotic fruits such as bananas, papaya and more. Emblematic is the carpet bloom in the Divine Garden and the beautifully shaped ground and corners of the garden, which features annual spring and summer flowers, alpine and aquatic vegetation, ferns, protected and rare species, lianas, flowering and evergreen shrubs. This unique garden is home to over 4,600 plant species.

Besides a beautiful “corner of Bulgaria”, the University Botanical Garden in Balchik is also a place for research and scientific activity, student practices, initiatives related to environmental education and the arts.

The garden is a rescue centre for rare and endangered species under the Washington Convention. It is a member of the World Council of Botanical Gardens BGCI, the European Consortium of Botanic Gardens, the Educational Network for Environmental Education in Botanic Gardens (EBGEN). It participates with his collections in the exchange of seeds *Index Seminum* with botanical gardens from all over the world.

3. Balchik - Tuzlata

Balchik Tuzla, Balchik Marsh, Balchik Salt Lake, also known as Tuzlata is a seaside lake and mud resort that uses the mud from the lake.

The lake is an estuary and formed on a landslide. It is located in the northern part of the Bulgarian Black Sea coast, about 5 km east of Balchik. Its water is close to the waters of the Dead Sea in terms of salt concentration: its salinity ranges from 28 ‰ in the east to 160 ‰ in the west.

Its bottom is covered with radioactive silt, dark brown to black in colour, with great plasticity, the smell of hydrogen sulphide, with a granular and fine uniform structure. The mud stocks are about 38,000 tonnes.

The healing properties of mud in Tuzla were known and used as early as the 18th century. The mud has very good physicochemical properties and draws from the existing two estuary lakes - shallow and deep. The reserves in the mud pond in the shallow lake are about 26,000 tons. The mud layer increases by about 5-6 mm every year. In this way, approximately 200 tonnes of new mud are generated annually.

The healing mud from Lake Balchishka Tuzla belongs to the highly mineralized (over 35 g / kg), medium sulphide, with significant content of chlorides, sulphates and magnesium in soluble form. The mud is grey to dark-grey, greasy, with coarse-grained particles. Liquid mud is sodium-magnesium-chloride with mineralization, which depends on the watering of the lake.

The content of dissolved salts in the liquid mud reaches 83 g / kg, and the average mineralization is different in different studies and ranges from 37 to 66 g / kg. A significant concentration of sulphate ions - about 8 g / kg - is the cause of the solution being saturated and crystals forming. This is most pronounced during the summer months, when the formation of gypsum crystals carries the risk of burns.

Medicinal mud without purification has satisfactory physical and physical-mechanical parameters. The physical characteristics of healing mud such as moisture, water retention capacity, sediment volume, swelling rate and heat transfer are not always adequate for use in balneotherapy. Presence of mussels, sand particles and crystals up to 0.25 mm in size reaches 8-9%. After purification, these indicators improve. Healing mud reserves as a balneological resource are estimated at 11,332 tonnes.

The Open Mud Sector in Tuzla represents two zones separated by a wall. One area is used only by women and the other by men.

A specialized hospital for rehabilitation - a sanatorium with a mud centre has been functioning since 1955. It is located about 6 km east of the city. She specializes in the treatment of diseases of the musculoskeletal system, peripheral and central nervous system, skin diseases and metabolic disorders. From the fountains and showers of the hospital flows sulfide mineral water with excellent healing effect. The water is hypothermal with a temperature of 33 degrees and is with low mineralization.

4. Kavarna - Old spring fountains

Kavarna is well known for its spring *fountains*. There were once 12 spring fountains in the city along the road leading to the sea. Today, only 6 are preserved. Each fountain has its own history. It is believed that the oldest, built in the 15th century, is „Gumush“fountain, also known by its other name - the Silver Fountain. Once on the fountain there was an inscription: “Drink from this fountain, wash your face with this water and you will wash away your sins”. Legends say that the water was so clean and tasty that they sent it all the way to Constantinople; another story claims that the water from this faucet was used to make specialty beer and the famous in the past quality Kavarna mastic.

5. Dobrudja and the Sea Museum

Adjacent to the Museum of History in the town of Kavarna is the restored Turkish bath from the 15th century. The exposition “Dobrudja and the sea”; is located here, which tells about the maritime history of the region. The exhibition shows stone anchors, coins and gold Thracian treasure found along the banks of Dobrudja. The exhibition is a small maritime museum. Located in the renovated old Turkish bath - Hamam. It was built in the beginning of the 15th century and is a massive dome of stone. It is located at the beginning of the valley leading to the port 0.5 km from the city centre. Many stone anchors, amphorae, ceramic vessels, taken out during underwater archaeological expeditions, can be seen here. The Treasure Hall exhibits a unique polymetallic scroll - a coin-operated as an exchange tool, coins from different eras, a Thracian gold treasure. Color maps from antiquity and the Middle Ages convey the presence of ancient shipping on the northern Black Sea.

6. Bolata Bay

To the north of Kaliakra are two small wetlands - Bolata and Taukliman (Bird’s Bay). Interesting waterfowl nest here - small water bull, small diver, ducks. These places are immensely rich during bird’s migration, when more than 150 species of birds stop for rest and foraging. The surrounding rock massifs are a shelter for owls, white-tailed mousetrap; endangered reptiles included in the “Red Book” of Bulgaria. It is interesting that Bolata is actually not just a beach, but a whole reserve that covers the surrounding rocks as well as the small river. The reserve is known to ornithologists for the fact that Via Pontica passes one of the main migration routes for migratory birds. It is no coincidence that the birds have chosen to stop right here for a short break on the long way to the South! According to experts, red-backed crickets, black-backed and oriental stonecutters, hooded cormorants, alpine swifts, pink starlings, thick-billed and short-toed larks, white storks, pelicans and cranes can be observed here.

The Amazing Bolata Bay

ADDITIONAL SIGHTS:

1. Eco Honey House

Mihovi Honey House is located in the picturesque Dobrudja village of Prilep. It is located 30 km southeast of Dobrich city and only 15 km away from the resort

Albena. The village is unique as a landscape - a mountain located beneath the Dobrudzha Plateau. Very beautiful and peaceful place.

Here you can try the magic bee products collected by the bees of Mihov beekeepers. Each guest will enjoy the incredible taste of handmade honey-tahoe candy, honey bar, honey brandy, as well as a high-energy cocktail of honey, pollen and freshly squeezed citrus juice.

As you taste the unique natural products you will also see a movie about the life of the bees and the work of the apiary.

Here you will find interesting facts about beekeeping from ancient times to the present day. Personally, Nedialka Mihova will tell you about bees and their unique rules, order, and organization that are of biblical value. You will learn about the healing and high nutritional properties of all bee products - honey, pollen, propolis, royal jelly, and wax.

In the Mihovi Honey House you can see different bee dwellings - a stone cave, logs and hollows, a clay hive used in Egypt and Israel and a wicker hive typical of our lands. There is also a functioning apiary with attractive bee houses of various shapes.

The glass wall demo will show you the intestinal life of bees. You can see how worker bees import pollen and nectar, ventilate, and build wax foundations. Of course, you will see the male presence in the hive - the drones.

The functioning knit hive gives a unique atmosphere to the small apiary in the Honey House.

The Solar Wax Maker collects the sun rays and turns old wax cakes into purified gold wax.

The Mihovi Honey House has a kiosk where you can view and buy all the unique organic bee products.

2. The spring of Kranevo and the Golden Sands Nature Park

Kranevo is the southernmost settlement in Dobrich region. The highest limestone ridge is located on the border with the district of Varna, on which is situated the Golden Sands Nature Park. It is located 17 km northeast of the town. Varna and 17 km south of Balchik. It is located parallel to the beach and surrounds the resort of the same name. Golden Sands Nature Park is the smallest (13.2 sq. Km) of the 11 nature parks in Bulgaria. The length of the park is 9.2 km and the average width is 1.2 km. The highest peak is Chiplak Tepe - 269 m and the average altitude is 110m

The idea of creating a park was documented as early as 1915. But it became a reality on February 3, 1943, when, by a decree of the Ministry of Agriculture and State Property, part of the Hachuka State Forest on an area of 2.4 sq. Km. was proclaimed Golden Sands National Park - the second declared in the country after Vitosha Nature Park in 1934. The purpose of the park is to preserve and protect valuable plant and animal communities and unique landscapes. The Nature Park is

a Protected Area for the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna, part of the Natura 2000 Ecological Network.

It is hard to believe that against the natural laws at the very top of the highest peak, Chiplak Tepe, with a height of 269 meters existed a spring since antient times.

3. Baltata Nature Reserve

Baltata is a maintained reserve in Northeast Bulgaria. It is located on the Black Sea coast in the territory of the village Obrochishte, Balchik municipality, Dobrich region.

It was declared a Reserve on April 20, 1978. Re-categorized as a maintained reserve on October 15, 1999. ^[1] Its purpose is to protect the natural dense forest with its flora and fauna.

The reserve stretches over the northernmost forest in Bulgaria, at the mouth of the river Batova. The river springs from the Frangean Plateau under the name Jevizliyska River. It flows to the north, and at the village of Batovo it turns to the east, flowing into the Black Sea between Varna and Balchik. It is formed by karst springs. Batovska River is the only non-drying river in the Dobrudzha region. Its mouth is estuary. The Balta Reserve is located next to Albena Holiday Village.

The specific climatic conditions, the presence of rich alluvial sandy-clay soils and the considerable humidity are favorable conditions for the development of dense forests in the area. In this type of forest two tree species predominate - field elm and ash tree. They reach up to 30-35 m height. Among the more common tree species are summer oak, field maple, wild pear, ordinary hornbeam, black alder, white poplar, white willow and others. The forest is shooty, with an average age of 45-50 years. The undergrowth is characterized by ordinary and black hawthorn , dogwood, blackberry, rosehip, deciduous , fishing line , viburnum and others.

From the lianas, the most common type is prickly creeper. In the past, it formed a dense and prickly belt that made the forest inaccessible. Along with the prickly creeper, *Periploca graeca*, the ivy, the wild vine and *Clematis vitalba*. The many twisting plants that densely intertwine or descend from the trees give the forest its appearance of jungle.

Typical from the grass species in Baltata are: the snowflakes, irises, *Hyacinthella leucophaea* and several types of buttercups, Cinquefoils, *Oenanthe*, white and black oman, and others. The reeds have conquered the river spills and give shelter to many waterfowl.

4. The Fountains on the square in Kavarna

The fountains are located in the city centre, between the Post office and the Community centre. They represent many artificial water sources that recreate the authentic atmosphere of the city. It is a place for meetings and relaxation for the citizens of Kavarna and the numerous tourists in the city.

5. The Mussel Farmhouse and Mussel Restaurant Dalboka

The mussel farm in Bulgarovo village and the mussel restaurant located between Kaliakra and Bulgarevo village have become one of the attractions of Kavarna and the region. Everyone visiting to Kavarna also visits the Mussel Farm and Restaurant in Dalboka, to learn how to cultivate and prepare different seafood, and then enjoy the great mussel flavors of the Kaliakra Bay itself.

On the seashore above the bay and the farm is located the Fish and Mussel restaurant Dalboka. The restaurant offers a rich menu of fresh seafood mussels sourced from the mussel farm as well as a variety of seafood dishes. The rich and tasty menu would satisfy even the most sophisticated taste. In addition to the mussel specialties, the menu includes selected fish and sea food delicacies, fresh salads, appetizers, as well as pork and chicken dishes created with unique taste. Here you can enjoy the beautiful view and listen to the whisper of the waves to immerse yourself in an incredible atmosphere.

On the seashore above the bay and the farm is located a deep-sea restaurant Deep. The restaurant offers a rich menu of fresh seafood mussels as well as a variety of seafood dishes. The rich and tasty menu would satisfy even the most discerning taste. In addition to the mussel specialties, the menu includes selected fish and fish delicacies, fresh salads, appetizers, as well as pork and chicken dishes created with unique taste. Here you can enjoy the beautiful view and listen to the whisper of the waves to immerse yourself in an incredible atmosphere.

Mussels have been a favourite healthy food from ancient times! As early as 2,000 years ago, Romans were the first to include mussels in their menu. Since then, the popularity and consumption of mussels has increased, not only because of the taste qualities of mussels, but also because of the unique composition of useful substances of their meat. Mussels are a natural “bioindicator” for the purity of the water in which they live, because they grow only in clean water!

6. Snail farm in Balgarevo

A stroll through the farm fields allows visitors to get acquainted with the most popular types of edible snails, the process and methods of cultivation - from reproduction to collection. There the visitors can learn more about the unknown world of snails.

The snail organic farm is the first and only in Europe to have its own organic restaurant **ESCARGO**. The specialties on offer are prepared with a lot of love and satisfy even the most sophisticated taste.

Here you can enjoy the snail delicacies freshly prepared and sourced from the farm and immerse yourself in the cosy Provencal-style atmosphere. A real euphoria of flavours with French whiffs from Provence awaits you!

ROUTE # 1 SECOND DAY

2nd day:

Route of the day:

Kavarna - The Gulf of Birds - Green Centre - Shabla Tuzla - Tuzla - Mangalia - Tekirghiol - Tubakery - Constanta

Kilometers: 16 +24 +7 +31 +51 = 129 km / maximum 2 hours

Highlights:

- 1. Tauk Liman Birds Bay - (30 minutes)**
- 2. Green Centre - Shabla (2 hours)**
- 3. Shabla Tuzla - (30 minutes)**

ROMANIA

- 4. Mangalia - (30 minutes)**
- 5. Tekirghiol - (1 hour)**
- 6. Maritime Museum - Constanta (1 hour)**
- 7. Natural History Museum Complex - Constanta (3 hours)**

ROUTE DESCRIPTION:

1. Bird'Bay, Tauk Liman

About 6 km northeast of Cape Kaliakra there is a beautiful and unique natural place - the Bay of Birds (Turkish, Taukliman). The place is charming with its small beaches and terraced slopes, with its abundance of warm mineral water and its numerous rocky islets scattered along the shore. Taukliman is surrounded by a plateau rising 70 meters above the sea. Particularly beautiful are the caves located in its high **part** - the Great Maar; The Dark Hole (Longest, 170m); The Aragonite Cave (richly decorated with beautiful Aragonite crystals) and the Needle Ear Cave (with red coloured synth formations). Between the terraces of the slopes are scattered small caves, which are home of rare species of birds and reptiles included in the "Red Book" of Bulgaria.

The area is a true bird's paradise along the bird migration route, Via Pontica. Each spring, flocks of thousands of seagulls, geese, shorebirds, rainbows and other birds stop in the Gulf for rest before continuing north to the East European Plain, to Central and Northern Europe. In the fall, they rest here before continuing south to the Nile Delta.

In addition to nature, Taukliman is also known for his archaeological findings. According to studies, the rock caves were inhabited by Thracians, Greeks, Romans and Slavs, and most probably served as sanctuaries. In the area were found the remains of ancient medieval settlements, parts of late antique fortification, a Byzantine fortress from the 5th century and interesting circular stone structures used for wine production.

2. The Green Educational Centre - Shabla



The Green Education Centre was built between April 2009 and April 2011 with the financial support of the Norwegian Cooperation Program for Economic Growth and Sustainable Development in Bulgaria.

It is located in a municipal building of local cultural importance known as the Old School or the Boarding House. The massive stone building dates back to the beginning of the XX century and is distinguished by its monumental architecture and high aesthetic value. As part of the project, the building and its adjacent park have been renovated and adapted to the new needs and specific functions of an educational and promotional centre for nature conservation and tourism.

The centre is multifunctional and has lecture halls, exposition halls presenting the biodiversity and cultural and historical heritage of the area, an Internet room with an on-line system for on-line monitoring of wetlands through cameras installed in appropriate places. In addition to direct monitoring of the lakes by visitors, the IT system also helps control bodies that monitor environmental compliance. The park area adjacent to the Centre has a separate recreation area and several areas exhibiting typical vegetation: a lake area with aquatic vegetation, a sandy vegetation area and a rocky corner with a rock garden.

3. Lake “Tuzla” near Shabla

Lake Tuzla (250 acres) is located about 6 km east of the town Shabla. The lake is completely separated from the sea by about 80 m wide sandy line. It is a salty lake - a lagoon formed mainly by the seepage of salty seawater beneath the sand dunes that separate it from the sea. Its average depth is 0.6 m, its average salinity is 0.004.

Environmental importance:

The periphery of Shabla Tuzla is overgrown with reeds, the rest is covered with salt-loving algae. The origin and ecological characteristics of Tuzla indicate that this small lake is a unique coastal ecosystem with an extremely rich flora and fauna. There are 13 species of rare and endangered plants included in the “Red Book” of Bulgaria. 41 breeding birds have been identified.

Conditions for healing mud:

Both the marine and fresh groundwaters of the Sarmatian limestones are involved in the water balance of the Shabla Salt Lake, whose level here extends to the surface. Thanks to the subsurface nourishment, even in many waterless years, the water cover over the mud, though shortened in area, is retained, protecting it from oxidation. The conditions for mud formation in the Shabla Tuzla are very favourable. For thousands of years, aquatic life has contributed to the formation of mud with unique qualities. The high erosion susceptibility of the west coast provides the mud with the necessary amounts of fine-grained clay material. On the other hand, the small size of the lake basin does not allow for strong waves and the associated oxidation of the top layer of mud.

Healing properties:

Compared to other mudflows in our seaside lakes, the Shabla Lake stands out with its exceptionally high qualities and uniformity. Its reserves, determined with considerable precision in the muddy capacity, amount to about 200,000 tonnes.

ADDITIONAL SIGHTSEEING SPOTS IN BULGARIA:

1. Lake Shabla

Lake Shabla is a lake in northeastern Bulgaria. It is a coastal estuary separated from the sea by sandy hair up to 230 m wide. It is within the boundaries of the protected area of 510 ha and is included in the list of ornithologically important sites in Europe. Its area is 0.8 - 0.9 square km, depth is 0.4 to 4 m, maximum - 9.5 m, salinity is 0.4%. To the north, through an artificially dug canal, it connects to Lake Ezeret. It is located 1.6 km northeast of Shabla.

The flora in the lake is rich. There are 32 species of algae and over 79 species of higher plants. The shores are overgrown with reeds and papuras, and the exquisite colours of the water lilies appear on the open, glittering surface of the water. In the autumn, the papyrus dries and surrounds its blue waters with a golden halo.

The lake is rich in fish. The fish are catfish, carp, platypus, caracuda, redfin, whitefish, perch, pike, whitefish and donkeys. The lake also boasts numerous birds. 57 species are nesting there, 10 of which are rare, and during the migration of birds to the lake, they winter on average up to 30,000 large white-fronted geese and almost the entire population of the Red-breasted Goose, which is an endangered species worldwide.

2. Lake Ezeretz

The Lake of Jezera, or the Lake of Ezeretz (formerly Sutulmush), is a lake located in Primorska Dobrudja in Bulgaria.

It is located 1 kilometer east-southeast of the village of Ezerets and 4 kilometers northeast of the town of Shabla.

The lake is in the shape of a stretched Latin letter; from northwest to southeast, its length is 2.1 km and its maximum width in the southeast reaches 0.3 km. Its area is 0.7 - 0.72 km², maximum depth 9 m, volume 2.5 million tonnes³. A narrow 120-meter-long sand strip separates it from the Black Sea.

Its southeastern end is connected to Lake Shabla by a canal about 200 meters long. It is mainly fed by spring water, which is why its water is fresh. During heavy rainfall, a large amount of water flows into the Ezeretsk Valley and rises.

Its waters are used for irrigation. It is an important fishing site.

In the village of Ezerets is located the local restaurant “Wild Duck”, which offers both fish dishes and game specialties.

3. Durankulak Lake

The lake is located in the northeastern part of Bulgaria, about 6 km from the Bulgarian-Romanian border and 15 km north from the city. Shabla, between the villages Durankulak to the northwest, Krapets to the south and Vaklino to the southwest. It is in the Latin letter “Y”, with its upper end facing west. The lake has two “tails”; the northwest starts at the bridge in the village Durankulak and into it flows the Durankulak Dol, and in the southwest - the Vaklinovski Dol. The lake itself extends southeast to the beach. Represents coastal lake - lagoon with an area of 3.4 - 4.05 km² and approximate dimensions - 4 km in length and 0.37 - 1.1 km in width. In its western part there are two islands (20.0-25.0 and 5.3 acres respectively). The larger one, depending on the level of the lake, periodically transforms from an island to a peninsula and houses the Durankulak Archaeological Reserve. The lake is connected via an artificially constructed canal to the north The Kartali swamp at the nose Kartalburun. Its maximum depth is up to 4 m, its volume is 4.9 million m³ and salinity up to 4 ‰. its main nourishment is from karst springs.

In the 1950s and 1960s, a partition wall was constructed to protect the lake from draining into the Black Sea. North of Lake Durankulak and near the Kartali swamp is located the camping site Kosmos.

Durankulak Lake is one of the most significant and best-preserved coastal wetlands in Bulgaria, with international significance for the conservation of more than 260 species of rare and endangered plants and animals. The locality of the *Scirpus triqueter* is the most representative of Bulgaria.

Located on the Via Pontica migration route, the wetland provides favourable conditions for feeding and resting for a number of migratory species and birds. Durankulak Lake is of international importance for the conservation of the little water bull, as well as of national importance for breeding white-eyed duck, dumb swan, the reed bog, the Indian seamstress. The bee-eater, which is extremely beautiful with its multi-coloured plumage, can be found nesting in the surrounding flabby shores. The populations of three species of waterfowl are wintering here - great white-fronted

goose , red-breasted goose and green-headed duck , there are large populations of small cormorant and pink Pelican .

The lake is also the only proven site in Bulgaria where you can see carp. Along the shore of the lake in the beautiful nature there is the restaurant “Goldfish”, which offers fish from both the lake and the sea.

4. Tekirghiol

The city is located in the southeastern part of Romania on the northwestern shore of Lake Tekirgol (11.6 m²), 15-20 m high, 18 km south of Constanta municipality and very close to the Black Sea (3 km). In Tekirgol, winter is mild and summer is warm and clear, with the sun shining 2400 hours a year.

The name comes from Turkish *Tekirgöl* , which means “Lake Tekir”. According to the legend, a blind and disabled old man named Tekir reaches the shore of the lake with his donkey by mistake. Trying to get the stubborn animal out of the mud, Tekir was miraculously healed - he looked and walked again. Since then, the lake has become famous for its healing properties, and Tekir and the donkey have been immortalized with the statue downtown. The name of the lake in Turkish may also mean “colorful lake”. This is due to its salinity - when the wind blows, white salt bands appear on the surface of the estuary.

Tekirgol was first noted on the map of the country in 1893, but as a resort town it developed after 1912. First in 1891 the entrepreneur *Hadji Pandele* opened a hotel and created cold baths in the city. In 1900, the extraction of healing mud initiated the construction of many beaches and hotels. After the First World War, Tekirgol became a very popular tourist destination thanks to the famous mud.

An endemic species of fish lives here *Gasterosteus crenobiontus*, which is mainly found in Lake Tekirgol.

The sapropel mud from the lake was awarded a gold medal in 1924 at the World Expo in Paris. Alfonso Saligny was the first to research its therapeutic application; later, the Romanian Balneology Institute approved its results and began applying them for therapeutic purposes and treatment modalities. The use of sapropel mud is recommended to improve skin elasticity through hydration in psoriasis and eczema, to relieve rheumatic pain syndrome within procedures in the comfort of your own home, in a specialized salon or on the seashore.

5. Maritime Museum - Constanta

The Maritime Museum in Constanta is the most important institution of its kind in Romania and is home to valuable evidence of the development of the country’s military and civilian fleets. Located on Trayan Street, the museum is housed in an impressive building that has a history as interesting as the exhibits it holds. The building was erected in 1909 and housed the Marina Higher School, the first institution of higher education in North Dobrudzha.

The idea to create a museum of the Romanian fleet was first realized in 1919, with the removal of several vessels from the Romanian fleet. Despite repeated attempts, the idea came to reality only in the late 1960s at the initiative of Nicolae Ceausescu,

who expressed a desire to visit such an institution. The Romanian Navy Museum was officially opened on 3 August 1969.

The exposition base of the museum is very large and is organized chronologically, representing the history of the military and the local merchant fleet, the development of navigation and navigation in the Carpathian-Danube-Pontian region. The museum presents the history of shipping in the native lands from the ancient period. This era is illustrated with the help of stone maps, models of Greek and Roman ships, the cornices of the Trajan Column, and even some of the Dacian and Roman fighter planes in natural size, and continues with the original anchors and amphorae found at the bottom of the Black Sea. The story goes back to the medieval times, a period very well illustrated in the museum and related mainly to the reign of two of the most important Romanian rulers: Mircea Stari and Stefan the Great. This section shows models of some ships, traditional navigation aids, decorations of some ships, a navigation kit that contains extremely rare pieces of navigation and more.

The museum's collections **are unique and spectacular**. These include naval units, anchors - some impressive in size, rudders, weapons of all kinds - from white weapons made by Dacians to artillery units. The navomodule collection takes an important place among the exhibits of the Romanian Navy Museum, featuring 150 models of warships and civilian ships that make up the Romanian Navy throughout history. The museum also includes an important collection of naval uniforms. The first official clothing of Romanian sailors is from 1850, the year in which the uniform was introduced. The museum dedicates a special collection of personalities who made history in the Roman Navy and who have linked their name to eternity. Only two examples would be that of the writer sailor Jean Bart, who in 1932 made the steps to create a naval museum in Constanta, and that of officer Dimitri Stubei, considered the greatest Romanian sailor.

We stop here with the chronological arrangement of the collections of the Romanian Navy Museum. We don't want to reveal too many details, but let you discover all the museum's collections upon your visit, which you will surely find impressive.

5. The Natural Sciences Museum Complex - Constanta

As an institution with more than half a century long tradition, the Natural Sciences Museum in Constanta represents an important stage in the cultural and scientific development of the city. It is a valuable addition to every tourist offer on the Pontian coast, but also for the Dobrudja region as a whole.

Its multidisciplinary structure offers visitors access to the following sections: aquarium, dolphinarium, microreserves, exotic bird exhibition and planetarium - astronomical observatory.

The Aquarium

It is the oldest attraction which opened on 01.05.1958. In the period 2007 - 2008, the Aquarium mobilized its own resources and, with the support of basic credit from the Constanta Regional Council, the Council modernized and renovated its exhibitions in line with Europe's requirements.

Much of the fish resources purchased through specialized institutions in accordance with the law.

The Aquarium of Constanta houses 72 original fish and 1105 copies of exotic fish.

The building of the aquarium is located opposite of the casino and is the first of its kind in the country. Over 100 species of marine and river animal and plant species live here - from fish from the Danube Delta to coloured exotic species. The aquarium is located on the beach, just in front of the magnificent Casino of Constanta.

The building that houses the aquarium was built in the early 20th century as an extension of the Casino itself and functioned as a restaurant before it was converted to aquarium. The exhibition space is designed to accommodate the permanent exhibition of aquatic fauna and flora, but also temporary exhibitions of various topics related to biology, aquatic ecology and marine fisheries.

Over time, the Constanta Aquarium gathers more than 100 species of fish and marine creatures belonging to different geographical areas. Based on ecological, biogeographical and taxonomic criteria, the Constanta Aquarium is constructed in three sections: Marine, Freshwater and Exotic fish. The Marine Section is the largest and most representative section of the Aquarium and hosts species of fish and invertebrates occurring in the Black Sea and migrating from the Mediterranean.

Impressive in this section is the pool, which houses a unique collection of sturgeons known for its long life. Interesting for visitors of the Aquarium are also the species of catfish, scorpion and sea dragon, starfish, seahorse, sea needle, echinoderms, fowls, etc.

The freshwater section presents different types of freshwater fish and invertebrates that inhabit the Romanian coastal marshes and waters of the Danube Delta: carp family, redfin, babunka (from the carp family), platypus, and predator fish such as catfish, whitefish (sander), perch and pike. The Exotic Fish section is a real discovery for the Aquarium's visitors. In its swimming pools there are a variety of fish that belong to different freshwater ecosystems of tropical and subtropical zones: a variety of Piranha fish, knifefish, angel fish, shovel fish, catfish and many other rich fish species.

Dolphinarium

The Dolphinarium is dedicated to the study and conservation of dolphins. The Black Sea is home to three types of dolphins that are being studied by marine specialists at the museum. In the summer you can watch dolphins and seals show.

The Dolphinarium is one of the most visited tourist attractions in Constanta, both during the summer and out of the active season. Similar to the Planetarium, the Astronomical Observatory and the Microreserve, the Dolphinarium is part of the beautiful and interesting Museum of Natural Sciences at Constanta.

The Dolphinarium was opened on June 1, 1972, and at that time was the first of its kind in Romania and Southeastern Europe.

The Dolphinarium in Constanta is home to all three types of dolphins from the Black Sea. The first were the harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena relicta* L.1758) and the common Black Sea dolphin (*Delphinus delphis ponticus* L.1758), and nearly 20 years ago, afales or large dolphins were brought in from the species *Tursiops truncatus ponticus*. (Montagu, 1821). A representative of this kind is Mark, a veteran and at the same time the current star of the Dolphinarium, is a part.

Today, the Dolphinarium remains the only place in the country where you can rest, while enjoying the extraordinary show of the dolphins, sea lions and penguins. The stars of the Constanza Dolphinarium are Peipai, Chen Cheng, and Ni-Ni (one male and two female), three dolphins brought in from China in 2010. The fin stars perform magic-filled tricks every day on a program, deriving smiles and applause from the audience.

In 2016, the Dolphinarium was renovated. The Ni-Ni and Chen-Chen dolphins are now performing in a larger and more modern pool that can accommodate over 1300 guests.

Two more dolphins and 20 penguins may appear in the future.

The new Dolphinarium in Constanta is one of the most modern in Europe. The number of seats for spectators is doubled, as is the area of the pool, which now offers closer to the natural environment.

The old Dolphinarium, which is in a poor condition, will be renovated as well. It will be a place for seals and penguins to be brought from England.

ADDITIONAL ATTRACTIONS IN ROMANIA:

1. Lakes, estuaries and mud lakes in the Mangalia-Eforia region

There are several natural water basins in the region of Mangalia. We start with Liman and the lakes near Liman immediately after crossing the border at Vama Veke. This is followed by Balta Mangalia, a similar natural phenomenon as the Balta near Albena. Tisman Lake is the next one on our way north.

The lakes called Neptune I and Neptune II are beautiful, with a unique Romanian-style restaurant built on the shore of one of them, where fish specialties are largely available in the professionally prepared menu.

After the Tatlajak estuary and Kostinesti Lake, we reach the Tuzla resort, where many people go to improve their health.

And we arrive unnoticed at Europe's biggest attractions - the Danube-Black Sea Canal.

2. The Danube-Black Sea Canal near Agigea

The idea about a canal project linking the Danube to the Black Sea through Dobrudja first occurred in The Ottoman government in the first half of the 19th century. The Romanian Government following the grant of Northern Dobrudja to Romania as per The Berlin Treaty also carried out studies on project implementation, but for one reason or another, the project was abandoned. The purpose of the Romanian government to build the canal is to stimulate the process of colonization of Dobrudja,

which historically did not belong to the Romanian ethnicity up to 1878 . At the same time, building the canal would raise the commercial importance of Constanta Port which remains secondary for Romania due to geostrategic reasons, compared to the main ports of Wallachia and Moldova - Braila and Galatians .

The decision to build a canal connecting the Danube river with the Black Sea was resurrected in 1948. It is taken from Politburo on The Romanian Communist Party on the advice of Stalin . In 1949, a year later, labour camps were built. They recruited mainly peasants who disagreed with the continued collectivization of agriculture, as well as “Romanian fascists”, Zionists and other “unreliable elements”; for the Soviet-style communist dictatorship in Romania . Romanian communist propaganda calls the canal the “tomb of the Romanian bourgeoisie”. For the construction of the canal Romania used The Soviet Union construction equipment of The Volga-Don Canal . The Romanian endeavour gradually depleted the resources of the economy and, in 1953, upon Stalin’s recommendation, construction was put on hold again. Construction work was mostly done by hand. In order to “cover” the poor construction planning and execution, in 1952 the Socialist party accused some of the builders for sabotage .

Completion

In 1976 the ruling Romania dictator Nicolae Ceausescu decides to finish the mega project. Some historians believe that the decision was dictated by the independent Romanian foreign policy . It seeks to bypass Soviet territory and naval bases around the Danube Delta.

The value of the canal is estimated at around € 2 billion today. After numerous delays in construction, the southern channel of the canal was completed in 1984 and the northern - in 1987 year. The economic viability of building the canal is debatable. According to some reports, the profit from the canal in 2006 is estimated at just over EUR 3 million. The main reason behind supporting the construction of The Danube Black Sea Canal is the argument that through it the Danube shipping bypasses the protected by UNESCO Danube Delta. The Canal is the third largest in the world after Panamanian and Suez Canal . In terms of volume of excavation works, it ranks first in the world.

ROUTE # 1 THIRD DAY

Day 3
Route of the day: Constanta - Tabakaria Lakes - Siutghiol with Ovid Island - Tasaul Lake - Danube Canal - Black Sea - Fuchlia Lake Fishing Camp - Constanta Port
Kilometers: 25 +15 +40 +52 = 132 km / maximum 2 hours
Highlights: 1. Tabakaria Lake - (1 hour)

- 2. Siutghiol with Ovid Island (1 hour)
- 3. Tasaul Lake - (2 hours)
- 4. Danube Canal - Black Sea - (30 minutes)
- 5. Fishing camp Lake Fuchlia Tekirgol - (1 hour)
- 6. Port of Constanta (30 minutes)

ROUTE DESCRIPTION:

1. Tabakaria Lake

A true oasis of tranquility in Constanta is Tabakaria Park. It is located on the shore of the lake of the same name. The park and the lake are very beautiful and are a favorite place for relaxation in the city. They are also a place of worship. Here, in the period 1995-1997, was built a replica of the famous medieval Maramures wooden church "St. Mina"

In addition to being extremely beautiful, St. Mina Church is impressive with the height of its tower, which stands 43 meters high and can be seen from many points in the city. Therefore, the Church of Saint Mina in Constanta is one of the tallest wooden churches in Romania.

2. Siutghiol and the Ovid Island

Lake Sutgol or Canary Lake is a lagoon in North Dobrudja. It is located just north of Constanta. It has an area of 20 km² and a maximum depth of 18 meters. Translated from Turkish (*Sütgöl*) the name of the lake means Milky Lake. The name of the lake is associated with Ovidius.

Publius Ovidius Nazon (*Publius Ovidius Naso*), or Ovid, is an ancient Roman poet known mainly for his work "Metamorphoses". Together with Virgil and Horace is considered one of the three canonical poets in Latin literature.

Ovid was born on 20th March 43 BC Chr. in Sulmona, a city located 90 miles from Rome. He genuinely admired Julius Caesar's personality and began writing pamphlets against his successor, the spoiled Octavian Augustus.

After writing "Metamorphoses" in the year 7 AD, he was sent into exile by Octavian Augustus in the city of Tomis on the Black Sea which is on the border of the Empire. In an act of desperation, Ovid destroys his work that reaches us through copies of his friends. From Tomis he sends his "Letters from Ponta"; and "Sorrows"; complaining about the cold climate and the harsh life of the barbarians. Legend has it that he made an unsuccessful attempt to escape from hard labor, but drowned here in the Canary Lake.

An imposing statue of the genius poet Ovid is located in the old part of the city, the Piazza Ovidiu, in front of the first building of the Constanta Town Hall, today the National Museum of History and Archaeology, next to the port of Tomis. It was built in 1887 by the Italian sculptor Ettore Ferrari. An identical replica exists since 1925 in Sulmona, Italy.

3. Lake Tashaul

The lake is located near the fastest growing city of Romania - Navodari. It is known for two reasons - the first is that it is stocked and inhabited by several species of fish. The second is that here at the beginning of the new century, the World Fishing Championship was held with participants from all over the world. The competition was organized in several categories - for the fastest catch, for the largest amount of fish caught, for the largest specimen, etc. every fish caught, after registration by the jury, was thrown back into the lake.

4. Danube - Black Sea Canal

The Danube - Black Sea Canal route

The canal that connects Cernavoda with Constanta, as it approaches the Black Sea, has a branch that leads to the town of Navodari. So after Lake Tashaul from Navodari we head in the direction of Cernavoda to visit Lake Fuchlia.

5. Fuchlia Lake Fishing Camp

This lake is associated with the visionary policy for the development of mass sport in Romania. On its shore is built unique fishing camp "Fuchsia". Fishing courses are conducted there on a permanent basis for students, young people and adults. Professionally trained students become passionate anglers. The best of them participate in European and World Championships in this sport. Romania, by investing in a well-developed fishing camp, creates a school for an interesting and stress-relieving sport.

6. Port of Constanta

The port of Constanta includes a maritime, river and tourist port and is the largest in the Black Sea basin, as well as the main port of Romania. For centuries it served as a trading centre for the Greeks, Romans, and later for Venice, Genoa and the Ottomans. The present port was opened at the end of the 19th century by King Carol I.

The area of Constanta Harbour is 3926 hectares, of which 1313 are on land and 2613 ha are in the water. Two breakwaters located to the north and south limit the port and create the best possible conditions for its operation. The current length of the northern breakwater is 8344 m and the southern one is 5560 m. It is the main Romanian port and one of the 10 largest ports in Europe.

The good geographical position and importance of Constanta Port provide it with links to two of the Pan-European transport corridors: VII (river) and IV (rail). The two satellite ports, Midia and Mangalia, are located near Constanta and are part of the Romanian seaport system owned by *Maritime Ports Administration SA*.

ADDITIONAL ATTRACTIONS IN ROMANIA:

The third day is very busy in terms of attractions and kilometers, but if there is still free time and interest, the lakes north of Constanta can be visited. Here are their brief features:

Lake **Sinoe** - Looking at the calm blue waters of the lake, we understand where its Slavic name comes from - “the Blue Lake”;

Lake **Nuntash** - Local tourism managers say that on his shore in the mid-30s of the 20th century, the entrepreneur Nikola Petre and his family rented a shoreline building and turned it into a “Cantina” - a tourist hut with dining room. For years, they have welcomed and served groups of children, students and teenagers from Transylvania at camp and beach during the summer months. Some call it the cantina - the first tourist destination of Romania, and Nikola Petre - the first manager in the field of contemporary tourism in the country.

Lake **Zmeica** is a big clear lake located at the Black Sea coast. His name sounds interesting in Slavic language. There may be a reason why it was called so. Mythologically, this could be translated: Ness Lake or Snake Lake would sound like Loch Ness. And maybe here lives a lake monster, which someday, with its unexpected appearance, will make the lake world famous and visited by tourists.

DINING AND ACCOMMODATION

In the cross-border region of Constanta - Dobrich there is a large number of hotels ranging from 1 to 5 stars and restaurants offering diverse European, Asian and American cuisine and entertainment outlets.

Whenever you arrive on Romanian or Bulgarian ground, you must taste the local Romanian and Bulgarian Dobrudja cuisine. It is an unique experience as the Dobrudja cuisine is famous for its fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as the interesting authentic cooking traditions using delicious pots, flat clay plate etc.

We recommend you a few small mostly family-owned places where one can feel really welcome and enjoy some culinary delights with a glass of local Dobrudja wine.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO ROUTE 1
The town of Balchik - particularly the dam area from Primorska Square to the Regina Maria Spa Hotel-Restaurant is full of more than twenty smaller and larger restaurants, located just over the sea water. All of them offer local cuisine and a fish menu. Worth visiting is the restaurants “El Simpatico” on the seafront, 8 Primorska Str., telephone: 089 860 3840. It offers local Balchik cuisine, but also specialties with Spanish flavour.
Town of Kavarna - Guest House "Nash Dom", 7 "Al. Pushkin" Str. Phone: 0570 8 39 97; + 359887 852 978 - Costa Argirov; + 359887 102 189 - Darina Argirova, where you will be served delicious Kavarna dishes and homemade beverages, which are not offered at the big restaurants.
Village of Tyulenovo - Hotel-restaurant Tyulenovo with always fresh fish menu and other dishes from the local rural cuisine.

Phones: hotel +359 877 287 197 +359 877 287 197, restaurant 05743 42 80, Manager 0889 921 017, e-mail: tulenovoeood@abv.bg
The village of Krapets - Villa Kibela - a paradise for lovers of culinary art, here the host and owner Margarita Kaisheva, serves only organic food prepared with products without an “expiry date”. She is a habilitation scientist, but in the summer season she devotes herself entirely to her cooking hobby.
The village of Durankulak
The village of Ezerets - hotel-restaurant “Wild Duck” offers accommodation in separate cottages-bungalows with a very rich local menu - dishes cooked in the oven and in sac. Freshly prepared sea and lake fish, crabs, veined rapa whelk and mussels are available, as well as game specialties. 9687 Ezerets, phone: 089 678 8537.
The village of Durankulak - Golden Fish Restaurant on the shores of Lake Durankulak will impress you with its excellent atmosphere and delicious freshly prepared dishes.
If you love solitude in the wild, getting into the Kosmos campsite near the village of Durankulak on the Bulgarian-Romanian border will make you feel at the right place with its delicious rustic cuisine served on the seafront.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR TOURISTS ON ROUTE # 1
(useful contacts!)

1. TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE		
Balchik	Kavarna	Shabla
Address: 9600 Balchik city, Sq. “Cap. Georgi Radkov “1 The Mill, Balchik Phone : 089 555 4206 E-mail: tic@balchik.bg melnitsata@gmail.com	Address: 9650 Town of Kavarna, ul. Doncho Il. Stoykov“ No.10 Phone : 0887 102 189 E-mail: tur.sd.kavarna@gmail.com	Address: 9680 <i>Shabla</i> Str. Flat Box No. 36 Tel / Fax: 05743 40 88 E-mail: tic@ob-shabla.org
2. COUNTY		
Balchik	Kavarna	Shabla
Address: 9600 Balchik city, 6 September 21 square. E-mail: mayor@balchik.bg .	Address: 9650 Town of Kavarna, Str. Dobrotitsa # 26 tel: 0570 84246. e-mail: obskavarna@kavarna.bg	Address: 9680 <i>Shabla</i> , ul. Flat Field # 35 tel. 05743 41 45 Email: obshtina@ob-shabla.org
3. Museum		

Balchik	Kavarna	Shabla
Address : 9600 Balchik city, ul. 2 Dimitar Zhelev Str. Phone: 0879 998 940	Address: 9650 Town of Kavarna , Str. Black Sea # 1B t el : 057 082 150, E- mail: kavarna_museum@abv.b g	Address: 9680 <i>Shabla</i> , ul. Flat Field №57 A Phone: 057 434 200
4. REGIONAL POLICE OFFICE		
Balchik	Kavarna	Shabla
Address: 9600 city of Balchik, Str. Ivan Vazov 5 Phone : 057 972 431	Address: 9650 Town of Kavarna , Str. Dobrotitsa # 38 Phone: 057 082 112	Address: 9680 <i>Shabla</i> , Str. Dobrudja # 1 Phone: 057 082 112
5. EMERGENCY MEDICAL CENTRE - PHONE: 112		
Balchik	Kavarna	Shabla
Address: 9600 Balchik city, ul. Zlatko Petrov 1 Phone : 0579 7 24 42	Address: 9650 Town of Kavarna , Str. Vasil Levski # 91 Phone: 057 083 161	Address: 9680 town of <i>Shabla</i> , Str. Flat Field №37 Phone: 057 434 114
6. HOSPITAL		
Balchik	Kavarna	Shabla
Address: 9600 town of Balchik, Str. Zlatko Petrov 1 Phone : 0579 7 26 91	Address: 9650 Town of Kavarna , Str. 36 Vasil Levski Str. Phone: 057 083 161	
7. Gas station		
Balchik	Kavarna	Shabla
At the entrance of the town from Dobrich and Kavarna	At the entrance of the town from Balchik	At the entrance of the city from Kavarna and Durankulak
8. CURRENCY EXCHANGE BUREAU		
Balchik	Kavarna	Shabla
the town of Balchik, Str. Address: 17, Hristo Botev Blvd Euronet To the bus station	town of Kavarna , Phone: 0570 / 82-262	In bank branches
9. SUPERMARKET		
Balchik	Kavarna	Shabla
Address: 9600 the town of Balchik, No.2 Danube "№ 5 Lidl grocery chain	Address: 9650 Town of Kavarna, Str. Bulgaria 20 Tomi grocery chain	Address: 9680 Shabl, ul. Flat Field 34 Telephone: 0889 921017 Store "Bohem"
10. AUTOGARA		

Balchik	Kavarna	Shabla
Address: the town of Balchik, Str. Danube River 8 Phone: 089 359 0060	Address: town of Kavarna, Phone: 0570 82390	Address: <i>Shabla</i> , Phone: 057 434 335

5.4. Route # 2

CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTENT OF THE ROUTE

ROUTE 2 “Rocky Phenomena and the Cultural and Historical Heritage of Dobrudja”;
<u>Theme:</u> The route represents the rich cultural and historical heritage of Dobrudzha, with all sites and landmarks related to the rocky phenomena carved into the rocks and canyons, rock monasteries, symbolic stone canals, and rock complexes on which Greek, Roman and Byzantine fortresses were built with hewn stones for protection.
<u>Duration:</u> The route is three days long and includes three nights in Bulgaria and Romania
<u>Start and end of the route:</u> It can start from the south and continue north to Romania. It could also start from Constanta and then continue south, following the same route and including the same sights.
<u>Route type:</u> The itinerary is a creative, professional tourist product and includes major sites that are the essence of the themed trip. Every day of the route includes segments in a timely manner - before noon and after noon. With an increasingly demanding tourists wanting more diverse offerings and opportunities to choose and participate in various initiatives after the major sights, additional sightseeing experiences could be offered. They can be added to the main route and make the experience even more exciting and memorable.
<u>Target groups for the Route:</u> Each route is designed for a specific target group, aimed at meeting its expectations, preferences, vision and hobbies. The current route “Rocky Phenomena and the Cultural and Historical Heritage of Dobrudja” is aimed at people with archaeological , historical and geographical interests, patriotic citizens who love and appreciate Europe-wide cultural and historical heritage. To those who love to travel with the “time machine” and find themselves in ancient worlds and cities to learn more about the lives of our ancestors. Know more about their knowledge of nature, space and the universe. This route does not only target fans of luxury accommodation in four- and five-star hotels, but also for people who prefer means of shelter and food close to nature with opportunities to observe the beautiful night starry sky.

Route format: the creatively developed three-day thematic itinerary “Rocky Phenomena and the Cultural and Historical Heritage of Dobrudja” can be shortened if necessary and turned into a two-day or even a one-day trip. In this case, the organizers and / or tourists participating in it should select some of the most important sights of the three-day itinerary so that its attractiveness, expressiveness and impact remains strong. This often happens, given the fast-paced world we live in!

Information Security: At the end of the itinerary is provided full information on all the needs of the tourists - coordinates and addresses of ambulance, police, pharmacies and hospitals and tourist information centres, currency exchange offices, shopping malls and large shopping sites and more. Having this information gives more peace and security to the participants of the routes.

ROUTE 2
“The Rocky Phenomena and the Cultural and Historical Heritage of Dobrudja”;
A route revealing the history and archeology of Dobrudja
Day 1
Route of the day: Dobrich-Krushari-Balchik-Kavarna
Kilometers: 45 +77 +17 = 139 km / maximum 2 hours
Highlights:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Dobrich</u> - Regional History Museum (1 hour) 2. <u>Krushari</u> - Zaldapa Fortress (1 hour) 3. <u>Onogour</u> - Palmatis Fortress (1 hour) 4. <u>Balchik</u> - Dionysopolis Fortress and Cybele Temple (1 hour) 5. <u>Kavarna</u> - History Museum (2 hours) 6. Kavarna - Bisone Castle and Chirakman Hill (1 hour)
ROUTE DESCRIPTION:
<p style="text-align: center;">7. Dobrich - Regional Museum of History</p> <p>The Architectural and Ethnographic Museum Old Dobrich is an open-air museum where traditional Dobrudja crafts from the end of the 19th and the first half of the 20th century are preserved, presented and developed. In the restored old city market, the professional craft men continue the centuries-old tradition of their ancestors. Traditional products of pottery, blacksmithing, weaving, pottery, homespun tailoring (production of coarse woolen cloth), goldsmiths and others are made using old hand technologies and original tools in more than 30 workshops. In</p>

the centre of the complex is restored the old clock tower, built in the eighteenth century. It is accessible to tourists.

The ethnographic complex organizes folklore performances as well as demonstrations of old Bulgarian crafts. There are also educational programs for crafting objects using old techniques, using traditional folk instruments.

The permanent exhibition “Archeology of Dobrudja” is located in the exhibition hall. The Museum complex also hosts a partial restoration of a 19th-century Revival school.

The Archeology Exhibition of Dobrudja presents the world-famous archaeological complex “The Big Island Settlement Mound” and its necropolises found on the western shore of Lake Durankulak. In this complex are revealed nine building layers of the Stone, Copper, Bronze Age, Antiquity and Early Middle Ages with a general chronology from the 5250 BC. Chr. to the ninth and tenth centuries.

8. Krushari - Zaldapa Fortress

Zaldapa is the largest fortified ancient centre in the present-day Dobrudja. It is located in Kaleto area, between the villages of Abrit and Dobrin, Dobrich region. In older publications and among the local population it is known by various names - Abtaat Kale, Kuz Kale, Dobrin Kale, Dobri Kale and Hisar Kale, and its name means cold or yellow water.

For a long time in science the town near Abrit was identified with the ancient city of Abritus. Subsequently, after it was located near Razgrad, archaeologists linked the settlement to the enigmatic town of Zaldapa, long sought by then throughout Northeastern Bulgaria and Dobrudja. This localization, made only about 7 decades ago, has already become established in contemporary historical literature, although we do not yet have its epigraphic confirmation.

Zaldapa occupies a vast peninsula with a length of 1200 m and a width of up to 500 m, surrounded from the east, north and northwest by a deep valley, and from the west and southwest by a short side valley. The northern part of the peninsula is a relatively flat plateau terrace, while the southern part is much wider and hilly. It is fortified with a fortress wall and inside is the ancient city. Field observations indicate that it was heavily built up. Its quarters were probably located in the northern part of the peninsula, as well as in the valley immediately east and west of the fortified territory. As Zalapa’s fortification system shows a very homogeneous appearance, it should be assumed that its construction was carried out within a single, probably relatively short, construction campaign. The fortress wall consists of many strictly straight sections. It has a total of 32 fortresses of different shapes and sizes, 3 main and 2 smaller gates. The appearance of the fortification system strongly testifies to its late Roman origin. The grand scale of the Zalapa (over 35 ha) and the monumental character of the open-cast construction leave no doubt that it should be considered as one of the largest and most significant late-antique urban centres in this part of the Balkan Peninsula.

The first archaeological excavations in Zaldapa date from 1906-1910 and were carried out by K. Shkorpil. Subsequently, partial field studies and observations were carried out. Unfortunately, over the years, the ancient building material has been subjected to systematic robbery and destruction, which began in the 19th century and continues to this day. Complete archaeological studies are also lacking. As a result of the archaeological excavations, only a part of the fortification system, the civilian basilica, the early Christian church and the impressive reservoir construction were explored.

1. Roman Civilian Basilica.

It was studied by K. Shkorpil. The building is located in the central part of Zalapa, south of the intersection of the two main city streets that connect the main gates. It is oriented south-north and has a very elongated rectangular plan with outer dimensions of 101 x 18 m. The central entrance is from the west. The walls are built in the opus implectum style and the floor is made of bricks. The vaulted structures above the doors and windows are made of the same material. Most likely the building was covered with flat tiles. According to S. Torbatov, we can assume that this case is not a single building, but an architectural complex that combines two separate basilicas, located against a common entrance. According to him, the building was of a public nature and was used for judicial and commercial purposes. Its mediocre location, impressive size and precise construction make it possible to interpret it as a kind of centre of social life in the ancient Zaldapa.

2. Christian Basilica.

In 1906, an early Christian church was also excavated by K. Shkorpil, located about 40 meters northeast of the city's southeast gate. According to the plan, the church is a three nave basilica with a narthex basilica with a maximum size of 27 x 16 m. Most probably it dates from the end of V - the beginning of VI century or in other words from the time of the reign of Emperor Anastasius.

Reservoir.

It was discovered in 1949 by M. Mirchev. It was built at the northwestern foot of the fortified urban area outside the fortress walls. It consists of a captivity and a water tank - a massive two-chamber building with interconnected rooms. The first one probably played the role of a precipitator, and the second was the actual tank fitted with a safety valve to prevent any rise in water level above the maximum allowed. The facility was quite sophisticated and perfect for its time. It was connected to a secret corridor - a cut corridor in a rocky slope 3 m wide and height, with walls and floors made of mortar and tamped soil. The vulnerable location of the reservoir, as well as the presence of a secret passage, give us reason to believe that as soon as it was made, the reservoir was flooded so that it did not differ from the terrain. The construction of this impressive water facility is clearly part of a large-scale and comprehensive construction campaign from the second quarter of the fourth century that led to the formation of a completed late Roman urban infrastructure.

In the written sources, Zaldapa is mentioned in relation to events that took place in the 6th century. John of Antioch claims that this is the birthplace of Vitalian - the leader of the famous rebellion against Emperor Anastasius, which grew into a 5-year civil war. The name of the city is also included in the extremely confusing list of fortifications under the reign of Emperor Justinian I. Moreover, Zaldapa was then also referred to as the centre of a diocese whose bishop was subordinate to the Metropolitan of Tomis. Later, it was important in the war between Byzantium and the Avars.

Built in the second half of the 4th century, the fortress has been in operation for about 250 years - until the death of the city at the end of the 6th century, during which time it underwent several repairs and reconstructions. The great Avar invasion of 585 marks the beginning of the end of Zaldapa. Life has continued here for another decade, but in the last years of the 6th century the city was finally depopulated and died.

9. Onogur - Palmatis Fortress

Onogur is a village in Northeastern Bulgaria, located in the municipality of Tervel, Dobrich District. It is 25 km northeast of the town of Tervel, 46 km northwest of Dobrich and 49 km southeast of Silistra

The village is located among the hills of West Dobrudzha, on the left bank of Dry River valley, at an altitude of 180 m. The few waters of the already dry river, which fill the Dry river, fill the lake located on the east of the village, known here as Onogur Ghiol. The small dam gives a very picturesque appearance to the surroundings.

Today the village of Onogur is almost depopulated, its population is about 30 people and almost all are native Tatars.

The old name of the village is Churtluk, which in Turkish means "sharp". The area of the village has an interesting and rich history. It is known that there was a settlement in late antiquity. In the northeast end of the village of Onogur are the remains of a late antique and medieval fortress, along which the Roman road Durostorum - Martianopolis passed. During this era, the road followed the course of the high-water of the Dry River.

Again in late antiquity (IV-VI c.), near the early Byzantine fortress, east to the present-day Onogur, a rock monastery operated in the "Shang Kaya" area, belonging to the large early Christian monastic colony of Dry River. The spiritual centre is considered the rock monastery "Giau Avery" near the village of Balik.

The monastic life here, as well as the Palmatis fortress, after some interruption, also existed during the First Bulgarian Kingdom (IX-XI c.). There is no information on the life of the village during the Ottoman rule.

Today's villagers are Tatars who have well preserved the memory of their ancestors that came here in 1851 from the Crimea peninsula. "They first settled in the nearby villages of Zimnitsa and Bakalovo, and then were expelled from the Turks and came to this area." This version is historically quite plausible, since the largest Tartar

migrations to Bulgarian lands date from the nineteenth century, after the Russian-Ottoman wars of 1806-1812, 1828-1829 and the Crimean War (1853-1856).

Tatar traditions in Onogur are still preserved today. Each year, the small community honors the “Tepresh festival”, which is identical to the Christian St. George’s Day, then a kurban is made. Traditional Tatar dishes are also prepared: shubberik, bailavar, ozurbiorek, kubet, katlama.

10. Balchik - Dionysopolis Fortress and Cybele Temple

Late antique and medieval fortress **Dionysopolis** is located 0.9 km north on a straight line from the centre of Balchik. After the flood, the surviving population of the ancient city moved to the new fort, which they began to build in the very end of the V and the beginning of the VI century. **Dionysopolis** from the early Byzantine era, it is located on a plateau on the plain, northwest of the centre of Balchik, on the territory of the present “Horizon” quarter. The fortress has an irregular shape that is strongly elongated from south-southwest to north-northeast. It is located more than 300 meters away from the southern slope of the coastal plateau and occupies the end of its terrace and the upper slope to the valley on the east. The territory is not more than 150 acres. The western, northern and western half of the southern fortress walls have been fully explored. The track of the east, fortress wall is established by drilling. It is about 770 m long and has the appearance of a broken line consisting of 4 sections predetermined by the configuration of the terrain direction. Only one quadrangular tower is explored along the wall. Thicknesses of about 2 m per masonry in individual sections should obviously be interpreted as remnants of staircases rather than internal towers, as is the case in most publications. In one of these sections is registered a postern. At the southeast corner of the fort, a large, round tower was probably built. The southern fort wall is absolutely straight and has a length of about 250 m. Two of the towers registered here belong to the late antiquity. One of them has a quadrangular plan and is issued in front of the wall. The other tower is referred to as a “double quadrangular”, which actually clarifies that it stands out both in front and behind the wall. It is assumed that to the east of it was the southern fortress gate. The southwestern corner of the fort is protected by an imposing circular tower, the analysis of which has made it possible to distinguish two construction periods in its construction. The western fortress makes an approximately right angle to the south and is rectilinear. It is 485 m long. Of the 11 towers surveyed along its route, 9 belong to late antiquity. Five of them were initially quadrangular, but were subsequently converted into pentagonal, with two of them flanking the western gate. Right in the middle of every two quadrangular towers, small dense triangular towers were built, in the rear of which a two-story battle staircase was built. During the excavations 4 such towers were registered. The northern fortress wall consists of two sections, the western part of which is 90 m long and the eastern 136 m. It has 6 towers (4 late antique and 2 medieval). At the junction with the west wall and at the junction along its route, a fan-shaped tower was erected. At the east end of the wall is the north gate flanked by two very large quadrangular towers. In a later reconstruction, the towers were connected to a transverse wall, in the middle of which a passage was formed, and a small door tower was erected above it. Here, too, in the middle

of the larger towers, dense triangular towers were erected, with two-sided staircases. The fortress wall is made of well-shaped stone blocks of small and medium size, and of stone and mortar. The foundations are 3.2 m wide. They are laid on a solid rocky foundation and their depth varies from 0.6 to 1.2 m. The thickness of the fortress wall is 3-3.1 m. for shaping the outer face. It is believed that the construction of the fort was started by Emperor Anastasius and completed by Emperor **Justinian I**. It is also believed that the finishing work was accelerated in connection with the consequences of the catastrophic flood of 544/545. After this year, it is believed that the population left the ancient **Dionysopolis** and moved here. The arrival of Bulgarians in these lands is a turning point in the long process of ethnic and territorial changes that began as a result of the great migration of peoples. After the great military campaign of the Proto-Bulgarians under the leadership of Khan Asparuh, it forced the Eastern Roman Empire to abandon for a very long time part of the fortification system on the western Black Sea. Important fortifications for the empire, whose ruins have been abandoned are permanently settled by the Bulgarians. Undoubtedly, this process affects the future of the entire plain, known hereafter as Karvuna Land, and the settlement - **Karvuna**. During the first three centuries of the existence of Danube Bulgaria the Bulgarian nationality consolidated on Karvun land. Situated in the immediate vicinity of the city centres of Pliska and Preslav, the district is densely populated and built up by auli fortifications and fortified urban settlements. Apart from "Druster" fortress, the Bulgarians only left behind the unfinished fort near the village of Nikulitzel. Not only is Balchik fortification the largest, but also the only one in the whole region - from the Danube Delta to Pliska. It has priority in the defense strategy of the rulers in Pliska and Preslav, towards the Black Sea.

One of the most interesting and significant cultural and historical landmarks in Balchik is the temple of Cybele, discovered by accident during construction works in 2007.

It is the only temple of the Mother Goddess in the eastern part of the Balkan Peninsula and the best preserved Hellenistic temple in Bulgaria, with findings being compared in significance to those of the ancient Pompeii complex. The excavated inscriptions and marble plastics are extremely important archaeological monuments, reflecting the religious and social life in Dionysopolis. In number and variety, it is the largest group of movable monuments associated with the Cybele cult, discovered so far in the temple.

It is supposed to have been built in 280-260 BC and functioned until the end of the 4th century. Probably a natural cataclysm has buried the temple deep and that is why it is preserved.

An antique building of 93.5 sq.m. has a rectangular plan and includes an interior sacred space and an entrance hall. The walls are made of stone slabs and dry masonry and end with two beautifully shaped Ionian frieze and cornice. Along the east and west walls were stone benches, and in the middle was a marble Lutheran (stone basin) with an altar next to it. The building had a double-sided roof covered with tiles. A niche decorated with columns, capitals and a pediment embossed with

the image of God Helios was found across the entrance. More than ten whole or half-preserved marble statues of Aphrodite, Pan, Poseidon, Dionysus, epigraphic monuments, over 200 coins, clay lamps, bone needles, remains of sacrificial animals were found in the remains of the temple.

Who is Cybele?

The most discovered are statues and reliefs of Cybele, a Phrygian goddess considered Mother Earth. She was worshiped in large parts of Asia Minor (around the Ida Mountains, in Lydia, Vithia, Galatia) as well as in Thrace. Cybele is also called the Great Mother, the Mother of Gods and all living creatures on earth, personified by the forces of nature, she is the patron saint of mountains, forests and beasts. The goddess unites the two sexes. The statues depict her dressed in a long coat and chiton, seated on a throne, with a tympanum and a scepter in her hands, and a lion lying on or near her lap.

Restoration of the temple of Cybele in Balchik

By the middle of the first millennium BC, through the Greek colonies in Asia Minor, the cult spread into Hellas, where she was identified with the earth goddess, Rhea. In 191 BC, during the period of the Republic, in its honor were introduced the Megalense holidays.

700 years in the service of the Goddess Mother

The excavation materials - coins, ceramics and, above all, the inscriptions - indicate that the temple has operated without interruption for more than 700 years.

The marble reliefs found have a variety of subjects. Particularly interesting is a rectangular marble frieze with ten dancing women dressed in long clothes, as well as two votive tiles on a Thracian rider, one of which is engraved with inscription.

In the temple were found 27 completely or partially preserved inscriptions. All but one of the texts are in Greek. The earliest inscriptions date from the 3rd century BC, and the latest text is the only text in Latin dating from the first quarter of the IV century. The temple was donated property, vineyards, workshops and buildings for rent and with the proceeds were organized the holidays of Cybele. The longest decree is dedicated to the Thracian Mocarporis, appointed by King Remetalk I as a strategist who assisted Dionysopolis in peacetime and in the war "against the common Danube enemies". From the written documents we also learn about the presence of temple slaves, there are lists of priests and servants of Cybele. The religious association celebrated its cult on the first of each month. Cybele's main holiday was celebrated by the policy in the month of Tavreon (in the spring). From the inscription we learn about another celebration dedicated to her, in which only women participated. They collected flowers, organized a procession, and made sacrifices.

The temple was destroyed several times. It was burned down in 378, along with dozens of other settlements in Moesia and Scythia, by the Goths. It is confirmed by the latest coins found under a layer of charcoal and broken tiles in the naos - on them are the faces of Emperors Valentinian I (364-375) and Valence (364-378). After

this devastation, the temple was not rebuilt. In 544-545 it was ruined by a mass of land that had slipped from the northeast. The natural disaster sealed the temple tightly and, like ancient Pompeii, has preserved it to this day.

Today, the Temple of Cybele has been declared a national cultural monument, which is to be strengthened and presented as a cultural and historical destination in Bulgaria. The finds are in the Balchik History Museum - statues of the Mother Goddess, the temple pediment with the image of God Helios, many other plastics and epigraphic documents have been restored.

5. The Kavarna Historical Museum

The town of Kavarna is located on a rocky coast in the northern part of the Bulgarian Black Sea coast, 63 km northeast of Varna. The beautiful coastline of Kavarna stretches over 42 km, and the total area of the beaches in the municipality is 74,000 square meters. The population of the town is about 11,000 people. The traces of human activity in the region date from the 3rd millennium BC. Greek settlers from Mesemvria (present-day Nessebar) form the Bisionia colony in the area in the 5th century BC. Today, on the Chirakman Cape, which is 3 km south of Kavarna, are the remains of a fortress wall built in the 4th c. During the Antiquity and the Middle Ages the city was an important economic and cultural centre. In the fourteenth century, Karvuna (Kavarna) and the nearby town of Kaliakra were the principal cities of the Principality of Karvuna. After the 15th century, the medieval town of Karvuna was named Kavarna. In 1913 the city fell under Romanian occupation, and in 1940 it was returned to Bulgaria. Today, Kavarna is known as “The Rock Capital of Bulgaria”, because every summer the city brings together world-renowned rock musicians. The Kavarna Rock Fest started in 2006 and has so far featured Scorpions, Dream Theater, Tarja, Doro, Heaven and Hell, Motorhead, Manowar and many other well-known rock artists and bands.

The Kavarna Historical Museum houses treasures dating from the V-VI century until 1940. In the museum can be seen a very interesting exhibit-polymetallic ingot- a pre-coin exchange medium. Ingots were distributed in the second half of the second millennium BC. in the region of the Eastern Mediterranean. The museum also holds silver coins from the treasure of Tsar Ivan Alexander (ruled from 1331-1371).

6. Bizone Castle and Chirakman Hill

The leader of the first phase of the Kavarna 2005 underwater archaeological expedition, Assen Salkin, claims that the Roman city of Bizone had sunk twice in the sea. This is evidenced by the localized by light-water divers' borders of a sunken quarter from the Roman city of Bizone in the Gulf of Kavarna. For the presence of residential buildings at the bottom of the sea, archaeologists judge from the open cut stone blocks and pieces of brick wall. The finds date back to the second century AD. According to the head of the expedition, this neighborhood has nothing to do with the catastrophic earthquake of the first century BC described by Hellenic geographers Strabo and Pomponius Mela. The underwater findings testify to another phenomenon for which scientists have made only assumptions. These are transgression and regression of the Earth's layers or land motion. It began to rise in

the first century BC and continued until the second century. During this period, the seashore probably rose by 4 meters, and one day it suddenly collapsed and the coastal quarters of Bizone ended up underwater.

Cape Chirakman is an imposing natural elevation on the coast of **Kavarna**, which has become a symbol of the majestic **Kavarna Beach**. It is located 3 km south of **Kavarna town** and is a beautiful ending to a beautiful valley, through which the road from the city to the harbor and the sea descends.

Cape Chirakman keeps the cult of fire and light in itself. The name **Chirakman** means a lamp or a torch. It is associated with the cult of the Thracian fire and historical records that in ancient times **Cape Chirakman** served as a guide for ships in the sea. It is believed that there was a lighthouse on top of it, which was destroyed by the great earthquakes during antiquity.

The history of the Greek colony also known as Bizone is very interesting to tourists who want to know more about the existing Byzantine fortress, the early Christian basilica and the necropolis of the fourteenth and seventeenth centuries, in which many valuable gifts and artifacts were discovered for extremely interesting rituals related to the Thracian beliefs.

In the little bay, located at the foot of **Chirakman Cape**, you will find a small fishing village with beautiful houses and many boats, a marina and a beautiful beach. The area around **Chirakman Cape** offers wonderful opportunities for recreational and alternative tourism, extreme and alternative sports such as parachuting, hang gliding and yachting tourism.

The unique appearance of the Kavarna coast at the port is determined by the silhouette of the plateau that cuts into the sea. They call it Chirakman. Scientists still argue over the origin of his name. One popular version is that "chirakman"; means "torch", "lamp". This name is associated with its role since ancient times as a landmark for ships in the sea. There may have been a lighthouse at the end of the cape. Unfortunately, in one of the great earthquakes in antiquity, the front of the plateau collapsed. Thus, the sea swallowed up most of the well-known village of Bizone. It was created in the 5th century BC. Chr. the site of an ancient Thracian settlement, when Greek settlers from Mesambria (today's Nessebar city) are impressed by the cozy valley surrounded by Chirakman and Chair Burun. The wealth and flourishing of Bizone have been proven in archaeological excavations. The findings - expensive vessels, magnificent jewelry, weapons, luxuries of the standards of the time - that can be seen today in the Historical Museum of Kavarna prove that all the known centres of the Black and Mediterranean Sea were traded.

Its location as an important port in the ancient world is evidenced by the ancient maps in which Bizone was placed between Odessos (Varna) and Kalatis (Mangalia). This is an indication that ships can dock there and merchants can sell their goods.

The earliest Chirakman fortress walls were built before the 5th century as part of the Byzantine fortification system along the northwestern Black Sea coast. After the annexation of the region to Bulgaria, the Chirakman Fortress gradually became one of the most important medieval fortresses. The magnificent construction,

whose remains can still be seen on the plateau today, the vast amount of coins, large necropolises, luxurious objects and springs provoke experts to suggest that it was on Chirakman Cape that the Karvuna fortress, which gives the name to the “Karvuna region”; was located. The settlement was mentioned in the Dubrovnik diploma of Ivan Asen II. Although this theory is still controversial, this medieval city was of great importance during the era of the Second Bulgarian State. It was certainly within the boundaries of Dobrudja region and was the favorite place of Dobrotica- the son of Ivanko Terter, who once again tilts the scales at the likelihood of the medieval Karvuna rising above the port of Kavarna. In the ancient sources, the city is mentioned first as Kariava, Gavarna, Karnava.

500 meters west of Chirakman cape was discovered the largest necropolis of the fourteenth and eighteenth centuries. Archaeologists have examined 960 graves that reveal not only unique burial gifts-gilded earrings, bronze and copper rings, polychrome wooden combs decoration and gold inlay, but traces of extremely interesting rituals associated with people’s beliefs. For example, this is probably the only region in Bulgaria where evidence of the cult of fire is found in large numbers, with flames, the so-called “Perun arrows”, being put in almost every funeral. Or translated into simple language, these were the “tools of the god Perun” with which he sends to the people the purifying power of fire.

Another necropolis was registered 300 meters west of the **Late Middle Ages** walls. There was found a treasure of 36 silver coins of Ivan Alexander and **Michael** (fourteenth century).

One impressive fact about Chirakman’s history is that over 70 different types of coins have been found there. In addition, in 1902, a large gold treasure was discovered on the neighboring hill. It contained a gold wreath, a gold vessel about 25 cm in diameter, depicting a chariot of three horses and a golden statuette of a lion about 20 cm long. The treasure also includes a set of horse harness ornaments, among which stands out the head, shaped like a griffin head and decorated with palm trees. The treasure was made at the end of the 4th century BC. Chr. and it may have been crafted in one of the jewelry workshops of the city of Bizone. In any case, it proves that rich Thracian aristocrats lived there, whose magnificent ornaments are yet to be found in the Kavarna region. One of the most interesting finds discovered on Chirakman is a medieval statuary composition made of bone and representing an eagle that has grabbed a swan in its nails.

ADDITIONAL SIGHTS:

1. Old Dobrich Open-Air Architectural and Ethnographic Museum

There was life here back in the ancient era. Remains of a Roman settlement (III-IV century) have been found north of the city centre and in the eastern part. In the 8th century an ancient Bulgarian settlement existed here. The modern city emerged in the 15th century as a large market town. The village is founded under the name Hadji-oglu Pazardzhik (Pazar).

Legend has it that the wealthy tar trader Hadjioglu traveled around the empire for a long time. He finally got to this place, liked it and stayed here forever. First he

built a mosque and later a farmyard where many new people settled. That is how the city was founded. According to the latest studies, Dobrich was founded by a Oguz family named Hadjioglu.

The famous Ottoman traveller Evliya Chelebi describes in detail the city of that time from the mid-17th century. It depicts the city as a lively trade and craft centre. It had 3 halls, 200 shops, a huge “bedesten” (covered market) with 2 facades and 2 doors located on the “royal road”. The bedesten was demolished in 1890-1891 due to the regulation of the city. The presence of so many shops suggests a lively trade and craft activity. Evliya Chelebi stopped for food and drinks in this city and glorified the white bread and honey there. The source does not give a detailed description of the crafts in the city, but it was particularly impressed by the elaborate ornamental quilts made of Russian leather encrusted with brimstone, “one of a kind in the populated quarter”.

The city emerged as a weekly market that gathers thousands of people. Other landmarks were the 3 baths. Ibrahim Aga spent 3,000 for the construction of a “public fountains”, cobblestones for passage, which contributed to the cleanness of the city. The appearance of the city in the second half of the 18th century impressed travellers. They referred to it as a “special city” that “spins big trade”. They admired “the best streets and a very good inns”, many mosque - stone or wooden.

Particularly attractive to visitors was the city clock tower. Its bell rang across the city. Mounted on a high tower, the clock, with its bell, measured the time and regulated the life of the city market. The clock tower has existed at least 200 years ago. The city was also populated with Armenians and very wealthy Jews.

Years of wars followed, with a severe impact on the city. In the 1930s, there was a notable influx of Bulgarians into the town from Kotel, Turnovo and other Balkan settlements. Again, craftsmen’s workshops, merchant shops, wheat and wool traders revived the city as a trading spot. The city became famous for wainwrights. The well-known Dobrudzha carts are made in the craft workshops of the town, and the saddle craft was developing. Dozens of artisans specialize in the production of saddles, clamps, reins, cushions and more.

At the end of the 18th century Dobrich had already the traditional Bulgarian Monastery school. During the Crimean War, the city was almost deserted and crafts declined. Half of the livelihoods were related to handicrafts. The largest group was the Arabs and the drivers. An important place is occupied by abagi and terzi. In 1872. There are a large number of artisans who come looking for and rent shops and set up a workshop or shop. His craft was also matched by his craft. In 1868, several more fountains were built and the clock tower was repaired.

In the 60s, 70s of the 18th century, Hadji Oglu Pazardzhik developed and got more and more urban settlements. In 1859. the first school in the city was built. It marked the beginning of high school. In 1872 a class school was opened.

After the Liberation, craftsmanship in the city remained primitive. Wheat, iron and hammock - related to the needs of agriculture - are developing well. The famous

Tulca carts are produced here. Furriery was one of the common crafts. Further crafts that were well-developed included millinery and especially tailoring, woodworking. Another craft widely used in everyday life was pottery. Weaving and betrayal produce products for the needs of the market. Popular craftsmen were bakers, bricklayers, tinsmiths, sheds, butchers, painters, potters, fountains masters and more.

The construction of the “Old Dobrich”:

The construction of the complex began in 1973. The Architect Vitaliy Chalakov is one of the people who designed and built the complex. “There were old workshops, shops. Fence nets were knitting where the inn and pub were now. And where the barrel shop and our studio are, there were some small archaic shops left over from Ottoman era. You could find absolutely everything in them - wooden spoons, mats, lean paints, ingredients for kachamak. Somewhere across from these shops was the Turkish Community Centre, and above, the bey Stancho’s hat workshop. On the other side, where the blacksmith shop is now, there was an Armenian shop. The mosque remained in the same place, and where the administration of the complex is now, there was a Damarche skimmer.” he shared.

He added: “It was decided that the full name of this complex would be “Ethnographic complex “Old Dobrich”, an architectural environment for the preservation and preservation of old, typical for the regional crafts.” Most of the projects we did were in the memories of former owners.”

2. The Rock Monasteries in the Dry River Canyon

The Dry River Canyon is a mystical place full of rocky monasteries, caves and whimsical natural forms. It is located 100 km from Varna - almost halfway between Dobrich and Silistra. Dry river springs near Varna village of Izvor. In the past it was quite flooded. Today it is a small river that in some places dries up. A reservoir of several hundred meters wide and 3 kilometers long is built near the village of Onogur, making several turns, which gives the impression that the river is quite deep. After the dam, the river stops flowing and you can move along the riverbed overgrown with vegetation. On both sides of the bed there are the rock monasteries of Shan Kaya, Asar Evelri, Giaur Evelri, Tarapanata and Sandakli Maar.

The first monastery is called Asar Evlari and consists of a church, a funeral chapel, living quarters, even a toilet. It is dated to the 5th - 6th centuries - much earlier than the rock monasteries, most of which began to operate after the fall of Bulgaria under Ottoman rule.

In order to reach the next rock monastery - Giaur Evliri, we have to cross the river bed again and return to its right bank and turn in the opposite direction to the one from the village of Onogur. Giaur Avery is also dates back to the 5th - 6th century and was used in the 10th century. It is considered to be the largest early Byzantine rock monastery complex in Bulgaria. Church with three altar, chapel, abbot, large living room, water well, all located on three levels.

There are two more rock monasteries nearby. One looks like a human face - it is called “Tarapanata”, but it is also known as the “Monetarnica”. The upper 2 rooms, the Eyes, were a chapel and a living room. The lower floor - the Mouth is divided into the same 2 rooms.

Sandaklar Maar is located about 100 meters east of Tarapanata. It is a tomb of the monks on 3 floors. Interestingly, the collapsed rocks have formed something like a moat in the front, and it takes a bit of agility and climbing to get into the rock tomb.

Passing through the cliffs located in the southern part of the fortress, and after a short descent on them, it continues along the plateau above Asar Evelri in the direction of Onogur village. A GPS device is needed as the road passes through a forest where there is no signage and in many places one can get lost due to the dense vegetation and the lack of a clear path.

After a short descent, near the dam wall, is the Shang Kai Monastery. It is located on a rock terrace above the water and is a 64-meter narrow corridor with rooms around it and several windows overlooking the dam.

It turns out that the Dry River Canyon, the rock monasteries and ancient fortresses are poorly known to tourists, but the whole area is impressive and mystical.

3. The rock of Saint Elias at the monastery of Saint Elias

Legends from the old days tell us that St. Elijah passed his donkey through the village of Gaber, Dobrich, frowned and asked for shelter. The times were dark and uncertain and no one wanted to take him home. Outraged and offended, St. Prophet Elijah continued his journey and reached a valley near the present-day village of Alexandria. He stopped on a rock, came down from the donkey and began to sink with anger and resentment and it was very heavy. His footsteps and traces of the donkey’s hooves are still visible on this rock today. After falling asleep at this place, clear and healing water began to spring up from the roots of several centuries-old elms.

When Asparuh Bulgarians settled here, they made a cult temple on the rock, where were the footsteps of St. Elijah and his companion - the donkey. There, they paid worshipped the pagan god Tangra and the thunderer Elijah. The Bulgarians also liked the place because of the good pastures for their horses and other livestock, as well as for the spring healing water. During the reign of Tsar Ivan Alexander (1331-1371) monasteries were built in many sheltered places in Bulgaria. The monasteries are the largest supporter of the kingdom and the centre of Bulgarian literature after the baptism of Prince Boris I (852-889).

The construction of the monastery “St. Prophet Elijah” near the sanctuary of the Proto-Bulgarians is associated with the second wife of the king, who protected his creation. The monastery was made of stone, with a rectangular chapel - typical of the shrines of the Bulgarians. There was a fountain with healing water to the monastery. At the beginning of the eighteenth century, refugees from the southern parts of our country came to these remote areas, escaping from the Ottomans. Later

in the area came the so-called “Kizilbash”, who were also persecuted by the Ottoman authorities. They find the ruined wooden building of the monastery and call it, according to their religion, the “teke” in the name of their prophet Hazred Ali (not the Prophet Ali - cousin of Mohammed). This is the same as St. Elijah worshiped by Christians. Since then, the place became known as the “Tekke”. It is also a historical fact that the Kizilbash are the oldest Bulgarian population of Dobrudja that converted to Islam. They are completely different in traditions and religious customs from orthodox Muslims. On Ilinden (August 2), the local people of northeastern Bulgaria come here and make a “kurban” - an old rooster, in honor of Prophet Hazred Ali, to thank him for keeping the hail away from the crops, and the Bulgarian Christians sleep here against the feast of St. John. Elias for health.

The restoration of the Alexandrian monastery began only in the XXI century. The construction of the monastery continued with the construction of the church “St. Prophet Elijah” sanctified in 2009, and the housing and administration wing. Not far away is a picnic area with a stone fountain on the healing spring, which is thought to cure various diseases.

4. Aldina Fortress

The “Aldina” fortress is located on the left bank of the Dry River - exactly where it turns and surrounds the fortress from 3 directions.

In order to get to its remains - we cross the bed, struggling with the plants, and after a little ascent, we will reach the remains of the walls of the fortress. Today, only scattered stones from its walls are left of it, but by their location we will see that it was quite large and surrounded an impressive territory. From the holes in the walls it appears that the treasure hunters were looking for valuables.

In the past, when the river was deep, the only place to reach Aldina was from its southern part. There are rocks that provide additional protection for the fortress. It was built during the Late Antiquity for the protection of the road Durostorum (today Silistra) - Marcianopol (today Devnya). It was also used during the First Bulgarian Kingdom.

Beautiful panorama from the hill of Aldina Fortress

5. Ethnographic Museum of Kavarna

Kavarna also has its own Ethnographic Museum, which includes objects from the life of the Kavarna people, folk clothing from different ethnographic groups and jewelry. The exposition is located in a house typical of a wealthy citizen from Dobrudja.

6. Ongala Audio-Visual Centre - Balgarevo village

An original way of telling the story of the Bulgarians was made in the village of Balgarevo between Kaliakra and Kavarna. Behind the Angels, nine tales tell of the myths and legends, achievements and defeats of the peoples that have inhabited our lands since ancient times. The angel is called the first wooden fort that Khan Asparuh built in 680 when expanding Old Greater Bulgaria south of the Danube. At that time, the Byzantine emperor Constantine the Fourth Pogon tried to counter

the new state by attacking it with more than 60,000 troops and its entire fleet. After fierce fighting for several days, Khan Asparuh defeated the Romans and created the Bulgarian state between the Danube and the Balkan Mountains, which retains its name to this day. Thanks to the audio-visual presentation, visitors learn about the history of the Bulgarian lands 7500 years ago. The presentation is in seven languages without a guide. In nine halls of nine fairy tales with images that shine only when told about them, we understand the curves of glory and decline in the history of our country. From them we learn what year we are now in the old count, how old are the most famous civilizations, when and where the oldest of them originated and where the biblical Flood was. One of the tales explains who the Thracians are and where the Bulgarians come from. Another tells about the unique in the Bulgarian calendar and how the ancient Bulgarians built it. In the fifth hall we are reminded when and how the Bulgarian language becomes sacred, and the Bulgarian Church gains independence. We are also reminded of how many peoples write the Bulgarian alphabet. Here we also understand who the Bulgarian ruler is who voluntarily withdrew from power. This was Prince Boris the First, who stepped away from the throne in favour of his sons, and he himself spent the last years of his life as a monk. And for those who really want to feel like the old Bulgarians, can dress with vests similar to those worn by the Bulgarian soldiers of the Middle Ages. This way, everyone will experience how strong and courageous our ancestors were. Thanks to them, Bulgaria is still on the map today.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR TOURISTS ON ROUTE # 2

(addresses and phones that may be helpful!)

1. TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE		
Balchik	Kavarna	Shabla
Address: 9600 Balchik city, Sq. "Cap. Georgi Radkov "1 The mill, Balchik Phone: 089 555 4206 E-mail: tic@balchik.bg melnitsata@gmail.com	Address: 9650 Town of Kavarna, 10 "Doncho Il. Stoykov" Str. Phone: 0887 102 189 E-mail: tur.sd.kavarna@gmail.com	Address: 9680 Shabla, 36 "Ravno Pole" Str. Tel / Fax: 05743 40 88 E-mail: tic@ob-shabla.org
2. MUNICIPALITY		
Dobrich	Krushari	Tervel
9300 Dobrich, 12 Bulgaria 12 Pk. 20 Tel.: +359 58 600 Fax: +359 58 600 166 e-mail: dobrich@dobrich.bg	9410 village Krushari str. September 9, No. 3 A Tel: +359 5771 20 24 Fax: +359 5771 21 36 e-mail: krushari@dobrich.net	9450 gr. Tervel Str. "Sv. Sv. Cyril and Methodius" № 8 tel: 05751 / 20-70; 20- 75 fax: 05751 / 23-91
Balchik	Kavarna	Shabla
Address: 9600 Balchik city,	Address: 9650 Town of Kavarna,	Address: Address:

“6 September” 21 square. E-mail: mayor@balchik.bg.	Str. Dobrotitsa # 26 tel: 0570 84246. e-mail: obskavarna@kavarna.bg	9680 Shabla, “Ravno Pole” Str. 35 tel. 05743 41 45 Email: obshtina@ob-shabla.org
3. MUSEUM		
Dobrich	Krushari	Tervel
9300 Dobrich, “Dr. Konstantin Stoilov” 18, Centre, Dobrich Phone: 058 603 256		9450 Tervel Str. Han Asparuh 30, Phone : 088 467 5046
Balchik	Kavarna	Shabla
Address: 9600 Balchik city, Dimitar Zhelev Str. № 2 Phone: 0879 998 940	Address: 9650 Town of Kavarna “Black Sea” # 1B tel: 057 082 150, Email: kavarna_museum@abv.bg	Address: 9680 Shabla, “Ravno Pole” Str. №57 Tel: 057 434 200
4. REGIONAL POLICE OFFICE		
Dobrich	Krushari	Tervel
9300 Dobrich, 12 12 Maxim Gorky Street, Centre, Dobrich Phone : 058 658 058		
Balchik	Kavarna	Shabla
Address: 9600 Balchik city, 5“Ivan Vazov” Str. Phone : 057 972 431	Address: 9650 Town of Kavarna, ul. Dobrotitsa # 38 Phone : 057 082 112	Address: 9680 Shabla, Str. Dobrudzha # 1 Phone: 057 082 112
5. EMERGENCY CENTRE - PHONE: 112		
Dobrich	Krushari	Tervel
9300 Dobrich MBAL Str. Panayot Hitov 24, Phone : 058 600 488		9450 Tervel MBAL 2 Stara Planina Street, Tel. : 057 512 063
Balchik	Kavarna	Shabla
Address: 9600 Balchik city, 1 “Zlatko Petrov” Str. Tel.: 0579 7 24 42	Address: 9650 Town of Kavarna, ul. Str. Vasil Levski # 91 Tel. : 057 083 161	Address: 9680 grad Shabla, Str. Flat Field №37 Tel: 057 434 114
6. HOSPITAL		
Dobrich	Crushers	Tervel
9300 Dobrich MBAL Str. Panayot Hitov 24, Tel. : 058 600 488		9450 Tervel MBAL 2 Stara Planina Street, Tel. : 057 512 063
Balchik	Kavarna	Shabla
Address:	Address:	

9600 Balchik city, 1 “Zlatko Petrov” Str. Phone : 0579 7 26 91	9650 Town of Kavarna, 36 “Vasil Levski” Str. Tel.: 057 083 161	
7. Gas station		
Dobrich	Crushers	Tervel
At the entrance of the city from Varna, Silistra and Balchik	At the entrance of the town from Dobrich	At the entrance of the town from Dobrich
Balchik	Kavarna	Shabla
At the entrance of the town from Dobrich and Kavarna	At the entrance of the town from Balchik	At the entrance of the city from Kavarna and Durankulak
8. CURRENCY EXCHANGE BUREAU		
Dobrich	Crushers	Tervel
9300 Dobrich Sq. Freedom 2 058 602 113 and in all bank branches	in bank branches	in bank branches
Balchik	Kavarna	Shabla
the town of Balchik, Str. Address: 17, “Hristo Botev” Blvd. Euronet To the bus station	town of Kavarna, Tel. : 0570 / 82-262	in bank branches
9. SUPERMARKET		
Dobrich	Crushers	Tervel
Lidl, Kaufland, Billa and more. and others		A supermarket
Balchik	Kavarna	Shabla
Address: 9600 Balchik city, Sq. Danube “№ 5 Lidl chain	Address: 9650 Town of Kavarna, ul. Bulgaria 20 Tomi retail chain	Address: 9680 Shabla city, 34 “Ravno Pole” Str. Tel.:0889 921017 “Bohemi” grocery store
10. CENTRAL BUS STATION		
Dobrich	Krushari	Tervel
Address: 9300 Dobrich city Blvd. Russia 59 Tel.: 058 690 120		9450 Tervel Str. “Khan Asparukh” tel: 088 883 3273
Balchik	Kavarna	Shabla
Address: the town of Balchik, Str. Danube River 8 Phone: 089 359 0060	Address: town of Kavarna , Phone : 0570 82390	Address: <i>Shabla</i> , Phone: 057 434 335

ROUTE # 2 SECOND DAY

2nd day:
Daily Route:
<p style="text-align: center;">Kavarna - Kaliakra Fortress - Yailata Fortress and Kamen Bryag Cave - Durankulak Lake Settlement - Kalatis Fortress and Museum, Mangalia - Constanta - Museum of National History and Archeology and Roman Mosaic Building, Ancient City, Constanta</p>
Kilometers: 59 +51 = 110 km / maximum 2 hours
Highlights:
<p style="text-align: center;">11. Kaliakra Fortress - (2 hours)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12. Yailata Fortress and Kamen Bryag Cave City - (1 hour)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">13. The Lake Settlement at Durankulak (30 minutes)</p>
ROMANIA
<p style="text-align: center;">14. Mangalia - Kalatis Fortress and Museum - (1 hour)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">15. Constanta - Museum of National History and Archeology and Roman Building with mosaic - (2 hours)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">16. Constanta - Ancient Tomis (30 minutes)</p>
ROUTE DESCRIPTION:
<p style="text-align: center;">1. National Archaeological Reserve “Kaliakra”</p> <p>Kaliakra (in Greek Kalì Akra) is a long and narrow Cape in the north of Bulgaria the Black Sea coast, in the southeast of Dobrudja plateau. The Cape is located near the villages Balgarevo and Saint Nicholas, 12 km from Kavarna and 60 kilometers northeast of Varna. The cape stretches 2 km inland and resembles a peninsula. It is a natural and archaeological reserve. The Aristotelis cormorant nests here and Dolphins can be observed. The shore at Cape Kaliakra is cliffs type, the sheer cliffs descend 70 meters down to the sea. The rocks are hard Sarmatian limestone and conglomerates soldered with clay which are rich in iron oxides that give the unique reddish tinge. The surf waves shaped caves, niches, mounds and arches at their foot, which can only be reached from the sea. The many underwater rocks are the result of the strong abrasion . The Gulf formed by Cape Kaliakra is an excellent storm shelter for the passing ships. On the Cape there is a museum, restaurant, nautical light, marine radar station, meteorological station and a chapel.</p> <p>History: The earliest settlements here date back to the 4th century BC when the area was inhabited by the Thracian tribe tyrizes . The Thracians gave its first name - Tirisia. Ancient geographer Strabo described Kaliakra as the capital of King Lysimachus, one of the heirs of Alexander the Great and ruler of Thrace . He hid in the caves near the Cape the numerous treasures captured while fighting with Alexander</p>

against Persia . In Hellenistic era, further into the land, there was built a second fortress wall. In Roman times the Thracian fortress was expanded. Through 341 - 342 year round towers were built, by that time there was already an outer and inner city. In the second half of 4th century further into the end of the cape there was a third fortification with 10-meter walls, 2.90 m thick. The remains of ancient and early Christian necropolises were discovered in Kaliakra during archaeological excavations carried out through 20th Century . Through 5 - 6th century , according to Hierocles , the fortress (now known as Acra Castellium or simply Acra Cape) emerged as a strong fortification against the barbarian tribes and was one of the 15 provincial cities in Scythia . In 513 a battle between the rebel commander Vitalian and the Byzantine emperor Anastasius I took place near Kaliakra . In the following centuries the settlement and the fortress developed, but according to some researchers in the 7th century there is a decline because the Slavs and Proto-Bulgarians have shown no interest in settling in the are. In sources from 10th century the Slavic names of Tetrasida and Tetrasiada occur; Tetrissias, Trisa, Tirisa and Tirista. There is also a scuffle for the name of the fort, which is more eccentric. The earliest dated Western European map that mentions the modern name Kaliakra is that of Italian Petrus Vesconta from 1318. The word comes from Proto-Bulgarian language : “Kala”; - wife / wife and acre - cape / fortress, and means “married at the cape”, as the legend of the girl Kaliakra. In other Italian maps and writings from the 14th century the cape is also described as Capo Calacria or Calacria. The German armor-bearer Hans Schiltberger described the Cape as “Kalacerca”. The name comes from “καλός” - beautiful / good and “τσέρκι”; - a hoop, referring to the three walls of the Kaliakren fortress. In the Bulgarian Navy since the First World War, there was a minesweeper called Kalatserka.

The greatest bloom of Kaliakra was in the second half of 14th century when it became the capital of The Principality of Karvun (despotism) under the reign of the Bulgarian rulers Balik and Dobrotitsa . It encompassed the north eastern Bulgarian lands which were cut off from the central authorities. Some scholars believe that Dobrudja was named after Dobrotitsa, which is also the Turkish pronunciation of his name.

Written sources refer to the Cape city as powerful medieval centre where the ruler cuts his own coins and turned the fortress into a religious centre. Today there are remains of the fortress walls on the cape, some of the water supply, baths and the residence of the prince are still preserved. Kaliakra’s rulers were the first of the Bulgarian leaders to build a navy. Dobrotitsa’s galleries participated in successful combat operations in the Black Sea.

Through 1393 - 1394 The principality of Karvuna became one of the last Bulgarian territories to fall under Ottoman dominion. Through 1402 d. the Wallachian ruler (“voivoda”) Mircea the Old occupied the lands around Kaliakra, but later that year the territory was again conquered by the Ottoman troops. In 1444 the knightly troops of the Polish and Hungarian king Vladislav III Varnenchyk stopped near Cape Kaliakra during their military campaign against the Ottoman Empire. In the old Turkish legislative documents, Kaliakra is mentioned as a port with customs called Kilagra or Celigra Burun. On July 31 1791 took place the largest naval battle in the Black Sea off the coast of Kaliakra. The Russian squadron led by admiral Fyodor Ushakov

defeated the Turkish Armada of Hussein Pasha which was times bigger than the Russian navy . This victory put an end to the Russian-Turkish war from 1787-1792. A bas-relief of the Russian admiral was put on the cape. To commemorate 215 years since the victory on August 10 2006 a monument was erected there - a figure in full height set on a hill, from which the sea can be seen.

Legends: The most famous legend is about the 40 Bulgarian girls who tied their hair to each other and threw themselves into the sea so that they would not fall into the hands of the Ottoman invaders. One of them was Kaliakra. The cape was named after her. Nowadays, at the beginning of Cape Kaliakra there is an obelisk called the Gate in memory of the 40 Maidens.

The other legend is about Saint Nicholas , the patron saint of sailors. The saint fled from the Turks, and God extended the earthly firmament beneath his feet in order to help him escape, thus creating a cape. He was eventually captured and nowadays there is a Chapel restored in 1993 symbolizing his grave. A small cape north of Kaliakra bears the name “St. Nicholas”.

2. Yailata Fortress

Yailata is a large rock terrace, located 10-15 m above sea level and about as much below continental level. The water area of the place here is open to powerful winds, and nowadays, as in ancient times, it offers almost no conditions for a port.

In the area of “Big Yaila” is located a “cave city” of 101 so-called “dwellings” - natural caves, modified by human hand, dated to the 5th millennium BC. They are located on multiple levels in the rocks and have been used for millennia.

At the sanctuary carved at the rocks near Yailata, astronomical studies were carried out by a team led by marine historian and archaeologist Kalin Porozhanov. The sanctuary is located in the northern part of Yailata, near the southeast end of Kamen Bryag village. It is located on a distinct relief rocky outcrop, which offers an excellent view to the vast part of the eastern horizon. Of all the preserved man-made shapes in the rock, the most characteristic are the lined playground with rectangular, trapezoidal and oval shallow indentations; linear and angular carvings of various sizes; a three-step staircase facing southeast and three rock tombs at its base with close azimuths on the main axes to the longitudinal axis of the sanctuary.

The main axis of the sanctuary is directed to the point of winter solstice and refers to astronomers for the sixth and fifth centuries BC. (A description of such a shrine has been retained by Pindar - he claims that the Argonauts saw a carving into the altar (literally “palms of hands”;) after reaching the shore at the mouth of the Axine Pont and did a sacrifice for a successful sea journey. This information from the 5th c. Chr. scientists associate with those recesses and chutes in the rocks (natural or man-carved) that used to be altars in ancient times. It is alleged that, in addition to collecting the blood of a sacrificial animal, some of the man-made pits in sanctuaries may have served to collect rainwater, given the large size of the facilities. However, water was used for cultic purposes and was probably identified with some deity of the natural forces as in the Asia Minor gods of the storm. Allegedly, the ritual processions were probably climbing the steps of the sanctuary - an act that can be seen as a certain kind of

initiation in Ancient Thrace described by Poliyan. In this procession the king-priest of the tribes **kibi and scaboy** demonstrated in front of his tribesmen desire to speak to the gods, climbing wooden stairs to heaven.

According to ancient authors such as Pomponius Mela and Arian, the so-called “Karia harbour” is located around today’s Cape Shabla, and the whole area (where the Yailata is located) bears the name “Karia”. This name raises a number of questions related to the location of the Kari tribe , but generally their ethnocultural characteristics and their localization primarily on the islands of Hellas and Asia Minor refer them to the Thracian-Pelasgian community. In the scientific literature, the Thracian tribes inhabiting the Black Sea coast of Dobrudja use two-component names such as „Getae-Dacians” and “Thracian-Getae”. The collective name that appeared in the 6th century BC. in the ancient Greek historian Hecateus of Miletus, includes tribes such as krobizi, terizi, matunets and myrgets.

The territory of today’s Dobrudja Black Sea coast is a contact zone between the Thracian Getae and the Scythians.

Archaeological excavations have been done regularly since 1980, and the early Byzantine fortress, necropolises and cave complexes are of major interest in the studies. By their architectural plan, burial facilities are divided into several main types:

- cave type with small shaft entrances with or without steps.
- tombs in which the chambers have a relatively large, usually rectangular or elliptical opening to the surface, closed with parted stone slabs (usually these types of tombs have better shaped vestibules and steps).
- rectangular or ellipsoidal graves, covered with one or more partitions (children are buried in this type of facility).

The so-called „Necropolis No. 1“, located about 700 meters north of the Early Byzantine fortification facility, located along the rim of the rocky shoreline, about 50-60 meters above sea level. The necropolis is located around a sanctuary carved into the rock, with all its facilities facing the sea in the direction of the rising sun.

With few exceptions, almost all the tombs were plundered in antiquity, and the tomb inventory found is dated between the II and V centuries. The tombs are family and functioned for a long time, with up to 15 scaffolds found in some of them.

In the northern part of the Yailata locality, an early Byzantine fortress from the end of the 5th century is partially preserved, with remains of 4 towers and gates. The fortification facility rises in the northern part of the plain terrace - the so-called „Big Yayla“. It dominates the surrounding terrain and is separated from the north and east by the sea with sheer cliffs over 20 m high. This feature of the relief was used by the architects of the facility and the defensive fortress walls were erected only from the west and south. Four dense towers rise in front of the west wall, and at the east end of the south wall is the gate of the fortress. Inside the fortified settlement, a section of the main street leading from the entrance to the centre of the fort was discovered and a large building that probably served as a guardhouse. The stone staircase attached to one of the buildings shows that the building was on two floors.

The fortress gate has 2 entrances. The exterior was blocked by a descent door (the so-called “cataract”), and the interior by a double-leaf door lined with solid wooden beams. Above the entrance, which was arched, was a gate tower, providing better security for the gate and the terrain around it.

The various archaeological materials discovered here were made of copper, bronze, bone and clay objects, as well as numerous coins. The findings show that the fortress was built at the end of V - the beginning of IV century for about three centuries. In the 9th century an old Bulgarian settlement emerged around it. Like most settlements in Dobrudja. It was destroyed by the Pechenegs in the mid-11th century. After that, the settlement was completely abandoned.

Archaeo-astronomic studies

The orientations of almost all 120 rock tombs and the axis of a building that was supposed to have served as a sanctuary were analyzed. A statistical survey (by criterion χ^2) of the 2 main orientation methods used (magnetic compass and solar observation) shows that the magnetic compass is unreliable in archaeo-astronomical studies.

It has been found out that the sanctuary building is oriented towards the sunrise during the winter solstice. The median distribution of the orientations of the burial facilities, adjusted for refraction (when viewed at sea), indicates that the rock tombs are oriented predominantly at an angle of $23^{\circ}39'$ south east. This corresponds to the exact value of the ecliptic for the studied period. (The study's authors suggest three possible options for this coincidence - the slope of the ecliptic was laid “symbolically” south of the east, with the axes of the individual tombs being traced in the same direction (of course, roughly with deviations); marked the sunrise at a declination point of $-16^{\circ}56'$ (2 - 3. II or 9-10. XI); the axes of the tombs were traced along the axis of the sanctuary, but with the distance from it the orientation errors led to deviations of the order of $\pm 10^{\circ}$).

Rock necropolises: More than 120 burial facilities were discovered in the three necropolises in the reserve, carved in the rocky flat plateau or in the steep slopes. Several tombs of the so-called cave type have been explored in the southern part of the Yaila Terrace. They are at the base of the rock massif and consist of small vestibules through which a rectangular chamber is entered. Necropolis No. 1, located on the Dobrudja Plateau, about 700 meters north of the Early Byzantine fortress, was studied more systematically. It is located on the cornice of the rocky beach, which is about 50-60 meters above sea level. According to their architectural plan, the burial facilities are divided into several main types: Cave type with small shaft lobbies with or without steps; Tombs where the chambers have a relatively large, usually rectangular or elliptical opening to the surface, closed with cut stone slabs. Usually these types of tombs have better shaped vestibules and steps; Tombs of rectangular or ellipsoidal shape, covered with one or more cut boards. (Children are buried in this type of facility). The necropolis originated from the shrine carved into the rock. Like most of the burial facilities, it faces the sea in the direction of the rising sun. Necropolis No. 12, of which 14 tombs have been explored, is located just east of the village of Kamen Bryag. Unlike Necropolis No. 1, the tombs here are divided into small groups with an

east-west and north-south orientation. Most of them are larger in size and much more precisely carved. Of particular interest is Tomb No. 2, on the east wall of which is a stylized depiction of a bull's head - the only ornament found so far in the investigated necropolises. With few exceptions, almost all tombs were looted in ancient times or in modern times. The tomb findings and artefacts - clay panes, pots, cups, light bulbs, bronze and iron currents, glass beads, coins and others date them to the chronological boundaries of the II-V centuries. The tombs were family-owned, functioned for a long time and up to 15 skeletons were found in some of them. The necropolises in the Yaylata archaeological complex raise rather important and interesting questions, related not only to burial customs, but especially to their ethnicity. The formal-typological comparison of the facilities of the studied necropolises shows more similarity to the ones on the territory of the North-East Black Sea coast than with those of the Eastern Rhodopes, Strandja-Sakar and other regions of our country. That is why we associate their appearance along the Dobrudja Black Sea coast with the invasions and settlement of "barbarian" tribes here, most probably of Sarmatian origin.

3. The lake town at Durankulak

Durankulak Archaeological Reserve is an archaeological site located in the Durankulak Lake near the village of Durankulak.

The first evidence of written signs in human history were discovered in this territory (50 - 48 century BC. BC), an indication of prehistoric Danube proto-writing, as well as the oldest phase (beginning 55 - 54 century BC). Christ.) called *Blatnitsa*, of the European Neolithic culture of Hamandzhiya.

The Durankulak findings are considered to be an argument for the Black Sea Flood hypothesis. This cataclysm has severely affected the local cultural human community, whose heirs are apparently the bearers of the cultures of Durankulak and Varna.

Prehistoric monuments

Archaeological research in Durankulak began in 1974, led by Henrieta Todorova, Kiril Botov and Todor Dimov. They revealed the following:

First inhabited was the southwestern shore of Lake Durankulak where a Neolithic settlement was discovered. There were found partially dug domed one-storey dwellings of the most ancient culturally settled agricultural livestock population in Europe from 5500 - 5400 to 5100 - 5000 BC. This is the settlement where the most ancient phase of the Hamandzhiya Culture "Blatnitsa" was discovered.

As of 5100 - 5000 BC Chr. the inhabitants abandoned the settlement on the coast and settled on the island opposite it (today it is a peninsula with an area of 19 acres). They built a new Chalcolithic settlement that existed from 5100-5000 to 3800 BC. The houses were rectangular in plan with the short side facing north. Everything, including the streets were oriented according to the world's directions. Twenty-four buildings have been found, each with a population of 15-20 people. This is the beginning of the Eneolithic settlement mound that originated on the island, in which 8 settlements in layers on top of each other were traced. The first 2 are from the Neolithic culture of Hamandzhiya, and the next 4 are from the Chalcolithic culture of Varna. The centre

reveals the remains of a significant building, probably a palace, temple, barn or other public function with an area of more than 300 m². The thickness of the cultural layer of the mound reaches 4 m. The first settlement is inhabited by about 350 people. These are the first stone structures in Europe. The walls of the houses were built of dry stone up to about 1 m in height and from there clay thick belts, using timber as well. The roof is flat covered with reeds, straw and hay. The area of the dwellings in the plan is from 80 to 170 square meters, with a length to width in the ratio of approximately 1/3, there were two main spaces. In height, the attic space may have partially or completely formed the second floor or the stone walls may have been a plinth above any actual habitable level. The walls are finely plastered inside with purified clay, painted with mineral paints and decorated with drawings. The oldest streets in Europe, most often several meters wide, are built between the buildings, according to a strict "urban plan". Due to the limited area of the island and the harsh climate, there are no attached buildings, but the distance between some is only 10 cm, and there are also passages between them only 80 cm wide. The population raised wheat, barley, peas, lentils, domestic animals, sailed the seas, maintained foreign trade, or travelled to the Mediterranean from where it supplied its valuable spondylus and dentalium shells, used according to Prof. VM Masson of St. Petersburg as a money equivalent, but also for luxurious ornaments and masterful craftsmanship of exquisite clothing. The ancient people did not give up hunting and fishing including lions that were encountered here. They used to produce woven on a loom, made moulded ceramics without a potter's wheel, had metallurgical knowledge and processed gold and copper, made malachite, chalcedony and shells, for which imported products were used. There was a public system with princes, young warriors and priests. Religious beliefs have been developed in cults for fertility and the dead. The idols - generic female figures are carefully crafted, polished and often decorated with bracelets. Incised signs are found on them - the first beginnings of writing in human history, dated together with everything listed no later than 51 - 48 century BC.

On the coastline, south of the firstly abandoned settlement in this era in the 53rd century BC. the world's largest known paleo historic necropolis in the area known as "Nivata". There were discovered a total of 1400 burials and 1204 graves were studied. It was used for over 1000 years until the 38th century BC. The men were buried with their backs facing north, while the women and children were bent sideways, with tools, food, gifts, utensils and votive figures being laid around them.

On the west shore of the lake. between the island and the monument, burial mounds, united in mound necropolises, were erected in the Proto-Bronze Age (around 35 - 34 BC). They marked the beginning of the Proto-Thracians occupation of these lands.

In the 34th to 30th centuries BC. Chr. the climate significantly deteriorated, and sea levels have risen by about 4-5 m above the present level, which, combined with the invasions of northern tribes, resulted in severe depopulation of the area.

Ancient monuments

During the late Bronze Age in the 13th century BC. Chr. and the beginning of the Early Iron on the southern slope of the island beyond the settlement mound, a fortified Thracian settlement emerged, which was well studied by archaeologists. It is the only

fully explored site on the Balkan Peninsula since the Trojan War, when the genesis of the Thracian tribal community began, part of which were the Getae tribe who inhabited this area in antiquity.

Another such settlement of the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age is localized in the south-eastern end of the village of Durankulak again at the lake. It is not studied yet.

There are dozens of Thracian mounds in the area around the lake. They have been described in terrain crawls but have not yet been studied.

The next great monument on the lake island is from the 4th century BC. - the beginning of the Hellenistic era. A Hellenistic cave temple of the Thracian-Phrygian Great Mother Goddess was cut down 26 m inside the rock massif. It is a well-known powerful mother goddess, but already like Cybele, the version adopted in Asia Minor by the Thracians, their heirs and the other neighbouring tribes, a little more fearsome and closer to their Balkan Bendida and Demeter. This impressive temple is unparalleled in Europe and is the only open cave sanctuary on the continent. On the Bulgarian territory were found the earliest cult figures of the goddess on the continent. The sanctuary is built in the interior of a karst cave niche consisting of two parallel caves low at the level of the lake surface, shaped in a long rectangle divided in the middle by a barrier. It was discovered by chance only after his vault had fallen out of its own weight. During the excavations, a goddess's vow, two ancient Greek black-figured (red-figured) canthros, an amphora tare and handles were discovered. The monument is located in the eastern part of the Big Island. The exploration of the great cave sanctuary of the goddess Cybele with numerous rich sacrificial pits and burials has not been completed.

Again, on the western shore of Lake Durankulak, during other excavations was discovered partially explored an ancient necropolis of Hellenistic and Roman times that existed for nearly 700 years from the 3rd century BC. to 4 c. 41 burial facilities have been discovered. They have different typology, architecture and cultural background. Among them are the late antique tombs-catacombs, characteristic of the Scythian-Sarmatian tribal community, as well as a large number of Roman burials. There have been found unbelievably valuable burials with gold and bronze ornaments.

In the Kathmera (Patarnica) area near Durankulak Lake there is an unexplored late antique settlement. It is possible that this settlement was inhabited not only by Thracians but also by Sarmatians, who probably used the ancient necropolis.

ROMANIA

4. Mangalia - Kalatis Fortress and Museum

The Kalatis Archaeological Museum in Mangalia is an institution dedicated to the exhibition and preservation of the historical remains of the old Kalatis Fortress. The museum was opened in 1959. The reconstruction works in the city revealed numerous remains of ancient times: Neolithic, Greek, Roman and Roman-Byzantine. The museum encompasses a variety of artefacts of historical significance. Starting with the findings in the museum exhibitions and ending with the archaeological monuments discovered on the territory of Mangalia Municipality: the defensive wall of the Kalatis Fortress, the Roman Byzantine Necropolis and the Prince's Tomb.

In the early 20th century, as part of initiative for reconstruction works of foundations of buildings, there were found traces of the antient past of the settlement in Mangalia. The first once who paid closer attention to these remains were: K. Butkulescu, Pamphil Polonik and Grigore Tochilescu. In 1915-1920, Vasile Parvan, also known as “the father of Romanian Archeology”, discovered damages of Mangalia’s historical heritage and undertook the first archaeological excavations in the settlement (Kalatis) and in the surrounding area (Histria, Ulmetum, Tomis). On September 15, 1924, the historian Theodore Sauciuc-Saviano lays the foundation of the first museum in the building of the ancient Greek church.

The communist period was characterized by the rapid pace of construction work, leading to destruction of important archaeological remains. To prevent this, archaeologists were sent to the area, who continued their studies and in 1959 opened the first archaeological museum in Mangalia, under the direction of Vasile Canarake. The museum functions as a section of the National History and Archaeological Museum in Constanta.

The Kalatis Archaeological Museum, Mangalia offers a diverse cultural experience to visitors, starting with the exhibits in the building and ending with the archaeological sites located across the Mangalia Municipality. Thus, in the main exposition of the museum, the visitors will notice numerous architectural fragments (columns, capitals, architraves, friezes with metopes, cornices with ornamental motifs in the form of an ox’s head, etc.), ceramic vases (amphorae, hydrias, cantharos, lecifiers.), lamps, water pipes, statues of Tanagra type, glass vessels, funerary ceilings, inscriptions, images of deities, jewelry, accessories, coins, metal objects and many more.

The Kalatis fortress was founded, according to ancient literary sources, at the end of the VI BC. Chr. by Doric settlers arrived from Pontic Heraklius. The fortress was built by order of an oracle in the place of a Getae settlement called Cerbatis and Acervetis. There is information from a number of ancient authors about the building of the fortress Kalatis, among which worth mentioning are: Ptolemy, Strabo, Memnon, Ovid, Pliny the Old, Aryan, Pseudo-Skimnos, Demetrios of Kalatis and Scylax of Carriadne.

In IV BC the city reached high economic, social and political importance, which is cited from both written sources and archaeological finds.

The settlement has a rural part. Its workshops produced a lot and enjoyed a democratic regime which modelled the fortress cities in the Aegean southern part. Strong walls were erected to protect the land, harbour structures were erected, temples, public and civilian buildings and monuments were built.

In the town of Kalatis there were minted coins, the first once dating back to about 300 years. They were made of silver and were part of the head of Heracles on one side, and the symbols of the city: quiver, bow, snot and wheat classes on the other. Later, bronze coins appeared to reproduce on the front the images of the gods Dionysius, Apollo, Athens, Hermes, Demetra, and on the reverse side the short name of the city, Kala or Kalla.

Endowed with a sheltered harbour, rugged walls and fertile hinterland, the city of Kalatis experienced great prosperity in the 4th and 3rd centuries BC. In spite of the danger of Macedonian domination, the siege (310-309 BC) of the Thracian king Lysimachus and the failure of his plan to conquer Histria, the port of the city of Tomis at that time. Even after the death of Alexander the Great and Lysimachus, in the III and II centuries BC, the fortress-city still issued gold statera, having on the front side the images of the two monarchs, and on the opposite sides, the wings of Victory and Athens with victory in hand.

Along with the booming economic life, there was a flourishing creative activity in Kalatis. Evidence of this are artifacts found here: fine glass objects, clay figurines covered with gold (tanagrete), marble statues and monuments.

In terms of archaeological remains, what we know and discovered during excavations is a wall built in the late Roman period. Historia Augusta, the official chronicle of the Roman Empire, recalls that Emperor Galienus sent two architects from Byzantium, Cleodamos and Atenios to restore the fortifications of cities along the Black Sea coast of Dobrudja.

In the northeast corner of the city is the Basilica. Its ensemble consists of three parts: the actual basilica, the atrium and the palace. It dates from the 5th century BC. The Basilica served as a Christian place of worship, unusually north-south oriented, has important similarities, both as a plan and as technical buildings of the same type from Syria. This is obviously the work of a Syrian architect, and it served as the seat of the bishopric of the city.

5. Constanta - The Museum of National History and Archeology and the Roman building with mosaic

The museum presents collections of prehistoric, Greek, Roman and Byzantine time and medieval archaeology. In two halls on the ground floor are exhibited archaeological monuments of exceptional value, rare and unique exhibits representing the Roman Empire's life and culture: a collection of Tanagra type statues (Hellenistic and Roman epochs), anthropomorphic ceramic vessels or with Dionysius; the treasure of tomitan sculptures, discovered in 1962 (bust of the goddess Isis, an edicula with a double representation of the goddess Nemesis, a group statue of Fortune with Pontos, the statue of the serpent Glycon, etc. ; a collection of imperial portraits (Antonius Gorian Pius, , Philip Arab, Constantine); collections of gold ornaments (rings, earrings, bracelets, pendants, crosses), jewels and cameos; silver vase of treasure found in Suchidava-Izvoarele.

Other Roman artifacts include epigraphic documents, stamped bricks, pillars of stone, architectural elements, agricultural tools, various ceramic objects, including a collection of tools, a sun dial, tombstones, busts of Venus, Hercules, goddess Cybele, the Thracian Rider), etc., portraits and funeral stars.

The Roman building with mosaic

The Roman mosaic building was probably built at the end of the 2nd century but was later expanded and strengthened. The mosaic flooring was made in the 4th century,

and the ensemble functioned long after the Aurelian's withdrawal until the beginning of the 7th c. Only a part of about 850 sq.m. remained unspoiled.

The ensemble includes rooms that served as warehouses or workshops in antiquity. During the Roman era, the building was located next to the port. The museum houses collections of artefacts found in the warehouses of the building: anchors, bars, weights, amphorae with paint and resins, statuettes, lamp collections, marble worktops, multi-coloured mosaics, pillar heads. The former warehouses display epigraphic monuments found in various centres in Dobrudja.

The mosaic paved building is located on terrace B. An area of 850 square meters is preserved by the sidewalk. Terrace A is an antique dwelling and warehouses (terrace 11 with vaulted ceilings) are formed on terrace C. Along the same level, next to the building, there are several rooms that used to serve as ateliers. Terrace D is the level of other warehouses for storing goods in front of the quays of the ancient port. Today, they are below sea level. The connection between the terraces was made through a ladder with long and high limestone steps.

6. The ancient city of Tommy (Tomis) - Constanta

The Moesian Colony Tomis was founded as an Emporion (trading centre) in the 6th century BC. on the western coast of Pontus Euxinus (Black Sea). During the Hellenistic period, from the 4th century BC, it became a polis. The city is a member of alliances (Pentapolis and Hexapolis) concluded between cities along the Black Sea coast. The Latin poet Publius Ovidius Nazon was imprisoned here in 9 BC. Chr. by Emperor Augustus.

During the time of Diocletian (284-305) Tomis became the capital of Lower Moesia Province. So far, 7 early Christian basilicas were found here. Port installations were built, the problem with the drinking water was solved, and monumental buildings were built.

There were excavated antique monuments such as the Roman building with a mosaic (the agora of the fortress), an ancient quarter, thermal baths and Roman-Byzantine wall from the IV-VI century.

According to archaeological data, the Greeks settled in the region of Constanta in the 6th century BC. Initially, the city of Tomis was an emporium (a trading factor preceding the actual establishment of the colony). During the Hellenistic era (IV-I c.), the citadel became a polis. The importance of the city increased, rich possessions have been acquired that allow citizens to build impressive private and public buildings of stone and marble. During this period, a firewall was erected, similar to those of the western Pontian cities of Histria and Kalatis. The citizens organized their political and social life according to the Ionian model.

ADDITIONAL SIGHTS IN BULGARIA AND ROMANIA:

Due to the impressive size of the ancient cities, there will not be enough time to include additional sights!

ROUTE # 2 THIRD DAY

Day 3
Full Day Route: Constanta - Histria - Adamclisi - Constanta
Kilometres: 65 +65 +64 +64 = 258 km / maximum 3 and a half hours
Highlights: 1. Histria Museum Complex - (45 minutes) 2. Histria Fortress - (45 minutes) 3. Adamclisi Museum (1 hour) 4. Adamclisi Roman Fortress - (1 hour) 5. Tropeum Traiani Monument of Emperor Trajan- (1 hour)
ROUTE DESCRIPTION:
1. Museum Complex - Histria
<p>The Museum Histria houses some of the most important discoveries of the fortress and its territory. The collection consists of clay and stone objects of personal and household items, sculptures, architectural details, inscriptions. The collections are organized into periods (Greek and Roman, Late Roman), following their historical sequence. This way, the halls on the ground floor exhibit collections of archaic, classical and Hellenistic Histria, and those located on the upper floor are dedicated to Roman and Late Roman History.</p> <p>At the entrance, people can marvel at a beautiful marble frieze belonging to a Histrian monument dating from the end of the 2nd century and the beginning of the 1st century BC. It was found in the immediate vicinity of the civilian basilica, located on the south side of the street, which begins at the city's' main gate to the east.</p> <p>Built in neo-attic style, the relief depicts images of Apollo, Hephaistos, Poseidon, Eros, Aphrodite, Athens, Zeus, Hermes and Hera, and laterally the figure of Apollo in Helios position. In the first room (L-shaped), behind one of the showcases where the major histories have been published, followed by another five containing fragments of ceramics belonging to Hamandzhiya (early eneolithic, circa 5,000-4,500 BC). Babadag (XI-VII centuries BC).</p> <p>Among them is the Menhir statue, discovered in a mound in Hamandzhiya (Baia) dating from the beginning of the Bronze Age (III millennium BC).</p> <p>After that follow a series of showcases that include archaic pottery (late 7th-6th c. BC): Greco-Eastern (cups, amphorae of Klazomene), Corinthian, Athenian with black figures, fragments of stone vessels, votive statues of terracotta, pond malachite.</p>

In the next room one can see a fragment of Kuros (marble, 560-550 BC). Probably Irish style) and a nice capital dating from the first half of the 5th century BC. Along with this impressive capitol, other marble architectural fragments belonging to the decoration of the same building or other temples complete the image of the city's exceptional development during the 5th and 4th centuries BC.

Leaving the rooms on the ground floor, the visitor can admire a rich collection of altars, stars and other sculptures of vows or funerals. We only recall that the altar dedicated to Asclepius, in which the origin of the cult to this god is mentioned: the city of Pergamum. On the right are some architectural sites: the Ionian capitals, the Ionian (pagan) structure and the late Roman Corinthian capitals.

2. Fortress Histria

The Histria fortress - the first Greek colony on the western coast of the Black Sea and the oldest city on the territory of Romania - was founded in the mid-7th century BC. Chr. (657 BC). Chr. according to historian Eusebius), from migrants who came from Miletus. The city had a continuous development over a period of 1300 years, beginning with the Greek period until the Roman-Byzantine era. At the end of VI and in VII century. Chr. the fortress was destroyed by the Avar-Slavic attacks and gradually abandoned by its inhabitants.

Left unknown for a long time, the remains of the fort were first examined in 1914 by archaeologist Vasile Parvan. The Greek acropolis, located for a long time under the remains of a late fortress, has been a sacred site, a place of great importance for life in the city for religious events. In the 6th century BC. Chr. the settlement was already there, as evidenced by the temple of Zeus and that of Aphrodite that were discovered there.

During the classical period, a democratic regime was established in Histria (an event recorded by Aristotle) and the city joined the Athens Maritime Union. Intensive trading allowed it to issue own coin towards the middle of the 5th century BC. Chr. After a short period of management by King Burabista, followed the final acquisition of the city into the Roman Empire, following a campaign led by M. Licinius Kras in 29-27 BC.

Archaeological excavations have revealed numerous monuments included in the tours of the fortress. The late Roman fortress is impressive, with a main door and defensive towers.

Important sites are the basilicas (public and religious) and a number of public buildings from the Roman-Byzantine period, built in the refuge of the late castle court. The multitude and variety of archaeological finds discovered here made Vasile Parvanes call the Histrian Fortress "Romanian Pompeii".

A Greek colony founded in the 7th century BC. Chr. by Miletian colonizers, Histria developed during the Hellenistic and Roman periods until the 7th century AD.

The complex consists of the Museum of the Histria Fortress and the remains of the Greco-Roman city. The history was discovered by the archaeologist Vasile Parvan in 1914 and since then the archaeological research has continued without

interruption. In the fortress can be seen the inner wall of the Roman-Byzantine period, with towers and gates, ancient streets and markets, the basics of basilicas, houses and shops, Roman baths, and ancient temples.

Founded in 1982, at the Museum of History and Archeology - Constanta, the museum exhibits objects from Greek, Roman and Byzantine archaeology found in the studies of Histria and the surrounding area. The collection consists of ceramic and stone vessels, personal and household goods, sculptures, architectural objects, inscriptions.

3. Adamclisi Museum

The Adamclisi Archaeological Museum is a “excavation museum” that together with the “Triumphal Monument of Tropeum Trajani” and “Fortress of Tropeum Trajani” (which dates from the 2nd century) forms the Tropeum Traiani Museum complex. It is a branch to the Museum of National History and Archeology - Constanta.

The Museum of National History and Archeology - Constanta has over a hundred years of history, a period that can be divided into three major stages: the period 1878-1957 - the most turbulent; thereafter, 1957-1977 and, finally, from 1977 to the present.

Since 1877, the expansion and dynamic development of Constanta has led to the discovery of important ceramic, statuary, epigraphic, numismatic and many more findings. All of them are evidence of the important role Tomis played in ancient history of the country.

The museum building opened in 1977. It is designed as a lapidarium and includes numerous archaeological remains discovered in and around the fortress.

In one part of the museum are exhibited metope, upper and lower frieze, pilasters, battlements, and parapets of the ornate attic style.

In the middle of the museum is displayed the original statue from the top of the monument Tropeum Trajani, as well as most of the metope, which were in the middle of the monument, depicting scenes from the battles of the Dacians with the Romans.

The museum contains inside the building pieces of the original work discovered during the archaeological excavations, led by Grigore Tocilescu in 1882.

Tocilescu is one of the first historians to undertake the study of civilizations on the territory of the former Dacia. He left three impressive works: Dacia before the Romanians, the Adamclisi Monument in collaboration with O. Benndorf and G. Niemann, and the third - Fouilles et recherches archéologiques en Roumanie.

In its restored version, the monument has a cylindrical pedestal, at the base with a number of circular steps.

At the top there is a two-person trophy representing four-shield armour, and at the base of this trophy there are two statues depicting prisoners.

Other exhibits consist of ceramic collections (vessels belonging to the Hamandzhiya culture, ceramics from the Getae, Greek, Roman and Byzantine amphorae), lamps, instruments, ornaments, fragments of aqueducts, sculpture, epigraphic documents.

4. Adamclisi Fortress

Adamclisi is the largest Roman archaeological complex in Romania. Trajan Fortress was built by Emperor Trajan on the site of an older Getae settlement. From the outset it was defined as a settlement with an independent form of government.

5. Emperor Trajan Trophy Tropeum Trajani

Tropeum Trajan is one of the most important ancient monuments in Romania. The first excavations were undertaken in 1882 by Grigore Toculescu.

The monument, in the restoration by archaeologists, consists of a cylindrical pedestal, at the base of which are several rows of circular steps, and at the top - a conical roof, with scales on concentric rows of stone, in the environment of which a hexagonal superstructure rises.

At the top is a 10.75-meter high double trophy depicting a four-cylinder armor shield. There are two statues at the base of the trophy, each consisting of a representation of the bodies of three captives.

The height of the monument together with the trophy is approximately equal to the diameter of the base, namely about 40 m.

54 metope limestone depict war scenes in bas-relief. The metopes are rectangular with a height of 1.48-1.49 m. Of the original 54 metopes, 48 are kept.

Above the metopes there is a 26 cm frieze, of which only 23 are preserved, carved in bas-relief, which make up the crown of the circular ring.

At the top is **the two-faced trophy**, which depicts a four-cylinder shield armour. In fact, it is a **torso dressed in classic armour with weapons of war**, on whose feet there are arms. At the base of the trophy are two statues, each containing a representation of the bodies of three captives.

On one of the sides of the cylindrical core is a decoded inscription from which it follows that the monument is dedicated to the "God of War Mars" by "Nerva Traian Augustus", Emperor and Caesar, the conqueror of the Germans and Dacians, the son of the Divine Nerva, the High Priest, for the 13th time a tribune, for the sixth time the emperor, for the fifth time a consul, the father of the fatherland".

The ensemble of which the monument was part also included a funeral altar, the walls of which record the names of nearly 3,800 Roman soldiers who had probably fallen in the battle of Adamclisi and also a mausoleum with three concentric walls in which the commander was buried (*praefectus castrorum*) who gave his life to win the battle of 102.

The origin of the Adamclisi monument is not clearly decoded, because over time, historians attributed it to either the Getae or Thracian, even Persian, and dated to the pre-4th century AD.

ADDITIONAL SIGHTS:

Upon request, the program could be enriched with additional visit to the Rock Complexes and Roman fortresses built on them

1. Museum and Fortress Axiopolis in Cernavoda

The Museum of Local History of Axiopolis was opened on June 3, 2006. The museum immediately became another landmark of Cernavoda, along with other symbols: the engineering bridge “Angel Saligny”, the Bridge “St. Mary”, the Nuclear Power Plant and the Gate - all related to the old Danubio / Danube /.

In the museum you will discover the famous statues of “the Thinker and his Companion”, excavated in Sofia plain and belonging to the neo-Neolithic community in the Danube region.

The remains of the dominion and presence of the Romans in Axiopolus date from the ancient fortress and stone quarry.

The city was founded in the 4th century BC. as a Greek settlement and was called Axiopolis.

In the 1850s and 1860s was built the first railway line in the Ottoman Empire. It connected Cernavoda with Constanta city,.

Between 1890 and 1895, the “Podul lui Saligny” Bridge was built near the town, linking Fetesti and Cernavoda. The bridge was the longest in Europe and the third longest in the world (total length 4037 m, of which 1662 m above the Danube and 920 m above Bolcha) at that time.

The city is a port on the Danube River and near it is the beginning of the Danube-Black Sea channel.

The first Romanian nuclear power plant, Cernavoda, was built in here.

2. Kapidava Fortress

Kapidava Fortress located near today’s Topalu village is one of the fortresses built during the time of Emperor Trajan, as part of the measures to strengthen the Danube limes. The fortress was built on a rock massif whose shape determines the shape and direction of the camp: a four-pointed shape with long sides parallel to the river. As it was a military station in the first place, the fortress was used primarily for military purposes. A number of troops that were accommodated here. After being built by units of the V Macedonian Legions and XI Claudia, the cohort was transferred here *cohors I Ubiorum* (up to 143), then *cohors I Germanorum* (up to 243). During the Roman-Byzantine era the following were confirmed: *vexillatio Capidavensium*, *cuneus equitum Solensium* and *cuneus equitum scutariorum*.

The fortress was destroyed by various attacks and rebuilt, the massive walls that can be seen today have been restored in the 4th century. Archaeological excavations, which began in Kapidava in 1924 and continue to this day, have shown the numerous materials used to restore the history of the site and area. The port installation on the Danube shore may be evidence that there was a customs office here for *Classis Flavia Moesica*, the fleet that patrolled the Danube.

Written sources tell us that it was one of 16 Episcopal headquarters; a basilica was discovered, as well as a number of artifacts of Christian origin. Inside the fortress were found more buildings: security post; neighborhood with buildings consisting of more premises; streets with sewers; private terms. In addition to the monuments on site, the discoveries of the movable cultural heritage are numerous and particularly remarkable.

3. Ulmetum Fortress

The Latin name Ulmetum means “elm forest” in Romanian. The remains of Fort Ulmetum were discovered by Vasile Parvan, during his first archaeological excavation campaign in 1911, and encompasses inscriptions and statues from the Roman decay. Archaeologists from Constanta found that at the end of the 4th century, the Ulmetum fortress sheltered hundreds of Gothic federations who were granted the right to settle in the area. During the excavations, the tomb of a German nobleman was discovered in the centre of the fortress, which contradicts the hypothesis that the necropolises are located only outside the settlements.

Located at the north western edge of Pantelimon de Sus, the fortress was built in the late 4th century and early 5th century, probably under Emperor Theodosius the Great.

Inside the walls there are many buildings with diverse premises, such as military stations, a basilica and probably a military headquarters. With some interruptions life here lasted until the end of the 6th century and the beginning of the 7th, towards the end of the Roman-Byzantine era.

The fortress falls in the category of small or medium. It gradually became a fortified settlement and in the 5th century was attacked and almost destroyed by successive Hun waves.

Historians from Constanta found that after the three Hun invasions in 420-450, Ulmetum was in decline. Thus, more limited traces of habitation were discovered, then, at the end of the 6th century, the fort was abandoned. Until Justinian (525-565) ordered the restoration of the fortress, and the Byzantine military captured and punished gangs of thieves who wreaked havoc in the area of the fortress.

Among military units located here throughout the ages, we can also mention *Cuneus equitum scutariorum* and *Paedatura lanciarium iuniorum*. The layout plan is a rectangular triangle with a curved hypotenuse. There are three round towers along the corners of the fort. There are also two gates, enclosed by two towers with a semicircular front, in the shape of the letter U. On the southeast side are four rectangular towers, to which are added two more towers of the same shape,

one on either side of the fortress. According to some specialists, the masters who worked on the construction of the fort are from the Thracian area, there are numerous similarities in the plan of other centres from the same period, built in Thrace.

The systematic archaeological survey in the fort lasts one year. Important discoveries made by the team of archaeologists in Ulmetum lead to a better valorisation and promotion of the site. For the better valorisation of this site though are needed cleaning, restoration, and reconstruction of the building of the fortress, restoration of the monuments in the interior is also required.

4. Carsium Museum and Fortress

The Carsium-Harshova Museum was opened in the presence of Tsar Carol I, Queen Elizabeth and the Royal Family on May 1, 1904. It was destroyed in World War I on May 29, 1926 by Tsar Ferdinand and Queen Mary. It was closed during the Ceausescu regime years and reopened on 20 April 2006 by Tsar Mihai and Queen Ana.

The museum preserves archaeological artifacts of exceptional value from the Neolithic settlement Harshova: flint tools, vases, ornaments, representative of civilization on the Danube territory 6500 years ago. Most are part of the exposition exhibited in Paris and other cities in France, as well as in Romania in 1997-2000.

In addition to these discoveries from the Roman and Roman-Byzantine strongholds of Carsium, there are also ceramic vases, lamps, coins, as well as from the fortification and medieval settlement, proving exceptional civilization on these lands over a historical period of about 7 millennia. The Carsium Museum in Harshova is also a research centre for the Neolithic settlement and the Carsium fortress, where specialists and students from home and abroad participate.

The Roman and Roman-Byzantine fortress of Carsium was probably built on the foundations of a Getae fortress as early as the second half of the 1st century. At the beginning of the II century during the Dacian wars, in 103, Emperor Trajan reinforced the fortification with stone walls.

The fortress is often mentioned in all documents of antiquity, dating from the 2nd century BC. Chr. to the beginning of the 7th century (Ptolemy, Tabula Peutingeriana, Itinerary Antonini, Notitia Dognitatum, Hieroccle, Procopius, the Geographer from Ravenna) with the name Carsum, Carsio, Carso, Carsos.

Most likely, the place name is of Thracian origin and is related to the rocky aspect of the site. The fortress was built on the banks of the Danube River near the most important passage to the "Jalomitsa" plain.

The safe and fast transfer of commercial goods from the western Black Sea coast to those living in the South-eastern Carpathians was secured through Carsium.

Furthermore, the fortress had the role of protecting the most important cross over the Danube, which provided the connection between Romanian communities with those of the western Black Sea coast and later with people from the southern part of the Balkan Peninsula. In the first Christian centuries, economic life flourished

here. Evidence of this is the architectural elements discovered since the last century, made of marble, the large number of discoveries - ceramic vessels, coins, glass. A life comparable to that of a big city.

Historical sources indicate the end of the city and its restoration under Emperors Constantine the Great and Justinian. Older studies, but also more recent ones, have discovered archaeological material of great scientific and museographic value, in fortification, especially in the necropolis. Harshova is known for the largest number of military columns (Roman road terminals) in Dobrudja: ten so far.

This shows that the authorities repaired and maintained in ancient times, under optimal conditions, constantly, the roads that provided the connection, either along the Danube limes or in the countryside with other places. Hence the importance of the ancient city as a commercial and transit area, as demonstrated by the extraordinary discoveries made over time.

DINING AND ACCOMMODATION

The region of Constanta county and Dobrich region offers a large number of hotels from 1 to 5 stars and restaurant of various European, Asian and American cuisines and entertainment outlets .

Since you are on Romanian and Bulgarian ground, it is a must to taste the local Romanian and Bulgarian Dobrudja cuisine. It is unique with its fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as the interesting authentic cooking traditions using delicious pots, flat clay plate etc.

We recommend you a few small household, mostly family-owned outlets where one can feel really welcome and enjoy some culinary delights with a glass of local Dobrudja wine.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO ROUTE 2

City of Dobrich - The hotel in Old Dobrich is a true masterpiece in the preparation of original Bulgarian Dobrudja cuisine, all in a setting 200 years old. ul. Dr. Konstantin Stoilov 18, phone: 088 813 1244

Abrit village near Zaldapa fortress - "Abrit" hotel complex on the shore of a lake with fresh fish, in the area of Krushari municipality. Phone 088 696 6599.


In the village of Zimnitsa - Krushari municipality, the expert on rural and ecotourism from Varna Nikolay Panayotov has transformed an old rural house into a real authentic place with great atmosphere. He revived 200-year-old recipes and everything is prepared in an authentic and environmentally friendly way.

Balchik - "El Simpatiko" restaurant, which offers local Balchik cuisine, but also specialties with Spanish taste on the seashore, ul. Primorska 8, telephone: 089 860 3840. Along the promenade, there are over 20 restaurants, and all offer delicious food as well as a fish menu.

<p>Town of Kavarna - Guest House "Nash Dom", ul. "Al. Pushkin" № 7 Phone: 0570 8 39 97; + 359887 852 978 - Kosta Argirov; + 359887 102 189 - Darina Argirova, where you will be served delicious Kavarna dishes and personally prepared beverages, which are not offered at the big restaurants.</p>
<p>Village of Tyulenovo - Hotel-restaurant Tyulenovo with always fresh fish menu and other dishes from the local rural cuisine. Telephin: Hotel reception +359 877 287 197 +359 877 287 197, Restaurant 05743 42 80, Manager 0889 921 017, e-mail: tulenovoeood@abv.bg</p>
<p>The village of Krapets - Villa Kibela - a paradise for lovers of culinary art, here Margarita Kaisheva, owner, serves only organic food prepared with products without "expiry date". She is a habilitation scientist, but in the summer she devotes herself entirely to her hobby.</p>
<p>The village of Ezerets - hotel-restaurant "Wild Duck" offers accommodation in separate cottages-bungalows with a very rich local menu - dishes in the oven and in sac. Freshly prepared sea and lake fish, crabs, rapeseed and mussels are available, as well as game specialties. 9687 Ezerets, Telephon: 089 678 8537.</p>
<p>The village of Durankulak - "Golden Fish" Restaurant on the shores of Lake Durankulak will impress you with its excellent atmosphere and delicious freshly prepared dishes.</p>
<p>If you love solitude in the wild, getting into the Cosmos campsite near the village of Durankulak on the Bulgarian-Romanian border will make you feel great. Delicious rustic cuisine served on the seafront.</p>

LEGAL POWER AND COMPETENCE

The strategy should identify entities, both public and private, that have the necessary legal authority and competence to implement the strategic proposals. Indicate the methods and mechanisms for the implementation of the two three-day tourist routes through the cooperation of several public institutions, including economic agents, to ensure the necessary and timely logistics.

 PUBLIC ENTITIES
<p>1. The main and most important public entity on the territory of the Kavarna region is the Municipality of Kavarna.</p> <p>The mayor of the municipality and the management team have the necessary legal authority and competence to implement the strategic proposals. In the last decades the municipality of Kavarna has established itself as a leading municipality for tourism in Bulgaria. Both the municipal authorities and the tourism experts, along with the local population</p>

demonstrated massive involvement and responsibly and managed to change the image of the municipality with a lot of persistence and consistency. Today, at the end of the first two decades of the 21st century, Kavarna is a symbol of an innovative and attractive tourist municipality. It is popular as “the Rock Capital of Bulgaria”.

Kavarna is a favorite and popular festival destination and an original event centre offering a wide range of events. The numerous awards and honors from the tourism industry, as well as the increased number of tourists, the increased number of tourist sites - hotels and restaurants prove this.

2. Secondly, there are two departments in the municipal structure, which play a very important function in achieving the strategic goal for the successful development of sustainable tourism. The first one is the Culture and Tourism department which manages the administrative and cultural activities and the Tourism sector. The other department is Programs and Projects, which, develops and manages projects, secures financially significant investment intentions. The current Cross-Border Project ROBG - 528 “Joint Open Window to the Mysteries of the Universe” funded by the INTERREG VA Romania - Bulgaria 2014-2020 Program, implemented in partnership with the Constanta Natural Sciences Museum and the Kavarna Historical Museum, is direct evidence of this, and for the upgrade of the project in the future.
3. Tourism Council. Each Bulgarian municipality that develops the tourism industry creates an expert council. It includes both municipal employees related to the tourism industry as well as tourist figures, experts, consultants, managers, hotel managers, restaurants, tourist attractions, tour operators, tourist associations, of which, necessarily, those who are registered in the expert team. to the Minister of Tourism of the Republic of Bulgaria and others. The Tourism Council operates with the tourist tax, which goes to the Municipality every year and is in the tens or hundreds of thousands of leva. It is very important where these funds will be directed, where they will be invested, in order to give new opportunities for the development of sustainable tourism, of which everyone is interested.
4. Historical Museum Kavarna. It is rare in Bulgaria to see a historical museum in a small town with such a rich collection of priceless artifacts, as is the case with the historical museum in the town of Kavarna.

These are not just perfectly arranged and exhibited museum halls, there is a spirit of antiquity and eternity, of science and discovery that can be felt in by visitors in discussions and debates, inspired by well-prepared and sweet-minded speakers, guides, historians, archaeologists.

The entire team of the History Museum - Kavarna from the Central Exposition, from the Dobrudja and the Sea Exposition and from the Ethnographic Complex is always on the front line in fulfilling the strategic tasks of the municipality related to the development of sustainable year-round tourism.

5. The tourist information centre in the municipal centre and the visitor centres on the tourist sites, which are most often either municipal or working in excellent coordination with the municipal authorities, can also play a significant positive role. They advertise hiking trails, assist in bookings, have contact and provide information to guides and animators, get feedback from those involved in the trips, whether they are satisfied, what they liked most and what they are not satisfied with. They are the people who can be a true corrective to the route development. To control the guide's talk with interesting facts and philosophical summaries, without unnecessary statistics. To share an opinion with the animators about the tourists' perception of their programs, etc.
6. On October 26, 2009, the Founding Committee of FLAG "Shabla-Kavarna-Balchik" was held. The Fisheries Local Association Initiative Group (FLAG) Shabla-Kavarna-Balchik is a voluntary, independent non-profit organization registered for carrying out activities in the public interest. The association is managed by a general committee, a board of directors, a manager, a supervisory board. Fishermen and farms that grow fish, crabs, mussels and snails also have an interest in increasing the number of tourists in the region so that they can better market their products.
7. To the public entities we can also add non-profit associations with a tourism activity, or at least those that are of public benefit. NGOs also have a wide scope for action. And they develop and manage projects - regional, cross-border and international. They carry out tourist activities, train staff for the needs of the tourism industry. They are an essential part of the tourist society.

PRIVATE BUSINESS ENTITIES

1. According to the Tourism Act in the Republic of Bulgaria, tourist routes are key focus area for the tour operator companies. They are licensed by the Ministry of Tourism and subject to strict administrative and financial control. Therefore, the presence of tour operators in each municipality is a good sign for the development of tourism and they need to be highly active. They record tourists, they arrange transportation, they provide tour and animation services.
2. The companies that offer transport services are part of the chain of participants making tourist trips. Reliable vehicles and polite drivers contribute to the satisfaction of tourists traveling on tourist routes.
3. Guides, escorts, translators, mountain, land and sea guides are the people who are in direct contact with the participants in the tourist route. The success of the trip depends on them. The Bulgarian Ministry of Tourism paid special attention to the preparation of the guides. Only licensed tour guides

are allowed to accompany tourists. They are members of the Bulgarian Guides Association. It can benefit from the experience of Greece, where licensed tour guides are hired to work at hotels, or simply contracted to increase the supply of tourist trips to the surrounding area to accommodate guests.

4. Animators in tourism. A good travel animator can make dozens of hotel guests happy, when it is raining heavily outside and the environment is not suitable for lying on the beach and swimming in the sea. By delivering a fun animation program, he can engage the attention of guests so that they do not regret missing the day at the beach. Animators are also private actors.

5. Managers of hotels and restaurants.

Hospitality and catering throughout the world, with the exception of a very small fraction, is private. Hotels and restaurants are the backbone of the tourism industry, so no tourism initiative can go without them. Their managers, directors and supervisors are particularly valuable - some of them have management experience, others have ideas for business development, others have free resources and are ready to join new ventures, invest in sustainable tourism.

6. Managers of tourist attractions and of all types of tourist services bureaus are also potential private entities in the implementation of the tourism development strategy.

7. Representatives of local businesses. There are many businesses that are directly or indirectly related to the tourism industry. These are farmers, food and beverage manufacturers, pharmaceutical companies, gas stations, logistics companies, computer and telecommunications stores, city malls and smaller retail outlets, gift shops and more.

PRIVATE PUBLIC PERSONS

1. The local community shouldn't be underestimated. First are patriotic Bulgarians. In each city there are half a dozen at least native-born researchers, ethnographers, ethnologists, journalists, folklorists, linguists, writers. They all publish their findings, discoveries and research and wish that they be made available to more people through cultural events, festivals, discussions, forums, and be involved in presenting the products of local cultural and ethno-tourism.

2. Intellectuals. Kavarna has been known for many years for the famous graphic artist Hristo Gradechliev. The local art gallery is named after him. Another prominent artist whose name is related to Kavarna is Hristo Kavarnaliyev, one of the most prominent Bulgarian painters, marinists, whose father Nikola is a native of Kavarna. Here in Kavarna were born the famous writers Kiryak Tsonev, a translator and a diplomat, as well as Prof.

Gocho Gochev - a theatre expert and university professor. Today, many young and talented artists live here. All intellectual potential must be attracted when tourism develops. The basis of tourism is hospitality, culture and attitude towards the guest. Here, cultural figures and intellectuals are in the right place.

3. Locals who left Kavarna for various reasons but keep in touch with the city and the region, which are very valuable because they give an outward view of Kavarna. They even value their birthplace in a particularly sentimental way.
4. Kavarna people, living for years abroad. All of them have their hearts left in Kavarna or the wide beautiful fields around. Some of them should be also involved with the big vision - the future of sustainable tourism in Kavarna.
5. Wealthy Kavarna citizens. This segment should not be missed. These are citizens of Kavarna, other cities, or abroad with high economic and financial status. Attracting such patriotic people is a must. In addition to having excellent ideas, thanks to their life and management experience, they can gladly take part in the municipality's investment program related to perspective types of tourism.

The strategy identifies the most important local stakeholders, public and private, who have the necessary legal authority and competence to implement the strategic recommendations. **The appointment of a competent team, its alignment and most importantly the understanding of its mandate and creative activities is challenging. However, there are sufficient** resources on the territory of the municipality of Kavarna as well as plenty of successful experience.

7. The Strategic part:

7.1. Strategic framework

The following Strategic framework was developed based on the facts and conclusions drawn from the analytical part of the Strategy and the SWOT analysis:

Vision:

Cross-border Tourist Destination Dobrudja offers an oasis of tranquillity, privacy and a clean environment. Constanta and Dobrich work in partnership for its promotion through a diverse tourist offering based on the exploration and experience of the nature, culture, history and spirit of Dobrudja.

The time horizon for achieving the vision exceeds 10 years.

Rationale behind the Vision: The common vision builds on the years of cross-border partnerships in Constanta and Dobrich that aimed at solving common problems and the quest for common solutions. These partnerships have a high potential to accumulate added value in tourism if a common centre formed by all stakeholder leads to joint and coherent actions and directs investment in the exploration and discovery of common resources such as the nature and cultural and historical heritage of Dobrudja. The common tourist products are based on the principles of sustainable development, addressing to the various target groups the messages of the region for: clean nature, calm and hospitable people, delicious food and diverse experiences.

Mission

Constanta Museum of Natural Sciences, Romania and Kavarna History Museum, Bulgaria work together to implement the Strategy, initiating partnerships with stakeholders on both sides of the border for coordinated action, promoting the Dobrudja Cross-border Tourist Destination.

The rationale for the Mission: As specialized museum institutions with headquarters in North and South Dobrudja respectively, both partners carry out the activity of preserving and presenting the local natural and cultural heritage. Their professional mandate is at the heart of the tourism products, and for this reason they have an interest and can play a leading role in initiating schemes through which heritage can be transformed into integrated tourism solutions that meet the demands and attitudes of consumers of tourism products.

It is within the competence of both institutions to develop and promote integrated products that diversify tourism offering. In addition, there are financial instruments available to both the Constanta Museum of Natural Sciences and the Kavarna Historical Museum, as both institutions are eligible beneficiaries in national, European, and in particular cross-border programs. It is through them that both partners can take on the role of a focal point that dynamizes the efforts of stakeholders to diversify the tourism offer, attracting interest in this incredible but not yet fully explored and valorised tourist area called Dobrudja.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

Strategic objective 1: Diversifying tourism offering
Strategic Objective 2: Integrated management

Objectives' choice rational: In the analytical part of this strategy are identified 2 routes from the field of alternative, specialized tourism. They are aimed at the tourist segment that is curious, open, and proactive and meet the needs of the modern visitor for a choice in diversity. The routes can be offered all year round. They are suitable for a weekend tourism and contribute to overcome the seasonal nature of the tourist offer in the region. The proposed routes illustrate in practice how strategic objective 1 should be delivered.

The choice of the second strategic objective is related to the fact that the museum institutions, to which the strategy determines the leading role, have a certain capacity,

which is not sufficient to achieve the goal of establishing Dobrudja as a tourist destination on its own. Only with the involvement of public and private sector stakeholders the two museums will be able to execute the strategy objectives. Tourism management is a difficult task, does not imply hierarchy and subordination, combines public sector policy implementation with private sector market interest and requires training and cooperation skills.

Strategic objective 1: Diversification of the tourist offering		Strategic goal Integrated management	
Priority 1 Socializing tourism resources	Priority 2 Integration of products in the tourism chain	Priority 1 Local cooperation	Priority 2 Cross-border cooperation
Specific objective 1.1.1. Preservation and improvement of accessibility of tourist resources	Specific objective 1.2.1. Raising the public interest	Specific objective 2.1.1. Increasing the capacity of participants in tourism supply	Specific objective 2.2.1. Improving information connectivity
Specific objective 1.1.2. Experience as an added value	Specific objective 1.2.2. Digital marketing	Specific objective 2.1.2. Improving partnership mechanisms	Specific objective 2.2.2. Program and project partnerships

7.2. Program for the realization of the specific objectives

The program for the achievement of the specific objectives is open. During the implementation of the strategy and when new conditions occur related to the development of socio-economic, political or technological processes, the program may be supplemented by new measures or new activities to existing measures.

The inventory of 35 sites located in the Dobrich region contributes to the formulation of the measures. 24 of them are natural sites, 22 are anthropological, with 9 sites featuring landmarks of both nature and history, one of them being a men-made attraction.

Each site is described in a datasheet that contains information about the site, current status, working hours, visitor traffic, availability of tourist services, signage, accessibility. Depending on the condition of the site, the necessary measures and investments are indicated for restoration, conservation, or for the opening of the site, for improving the accessibility and public interest to the site. An estimated budget is made, possible sources of financing are indicated. The datasheets are presented in an annex to the strategy.

In this way, the information collected by museum, community centre and municipal structures in the Dobrich region serves to assess the tourism potential of the territory in order to diversify tourism supply and with a special focus on scientific tourism. The information has been analysed, summarized and represents an up-to-date picture of the area's natural and cultural heritage. The measures are derived from the identified needs for storage of the sites, improvement of access and increasing interest in them.

Measures to achieve a strategic objective 1.1.1. Preservation and improvement of accessibility of tourist resources

Measure 1) Restoration and conservation of sites included in the itineraries

The measure includes activities for discovering, restoring, preserving, restoring, adapting and exhibiting objects and values

Site	Restoration and conservation activities
Balchik Palace and Botanical Gardens.	Conservation of pitos, 30 crosses of pots, architectural elements, stone armchairs, in the gallery “the Quiet Nest” impregnation, Roman bath, restoration of murals in the chapel.
Kavarna Silver fountain	Restoration of the fountain according to historical data
Balchik White Rocks and the Fortress in Arizona	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation, reconstruction and restoration of the authentic architectural image of tower No. 1 • Restoration of the existing volumes of the rectangular towers or of the nozzle according to the existing shape • Restoration of the fortress walls, construction of new walls, construction of flooring, apex, concrete and damping walls • Execution of hydro insulation works.
Kragulevo. Rock Monasteries.	<p>The activities related to reconstruction and conservation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conservation and restoration of the authentic image of the site of two secluded hermit cells and the church-tomb of “Sanduclar Maar” • The conservation, reconstruction and partial restoration of the church-tomb of “Sanduclar Maar” • Conservation and restoration of the inscriptions • Execution of hydro insulation works.
The village of Krasen, the village	Preservation of exhibits in the exhibition of Yovkov.

of Rosen and the “Dryan” Dam	
Durankulak Lake	Restoration and conservation of artifacts and exhibits
Zaldapa Fortress	<p>The activities related to restoration, conservation, adaptation and display include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation, reconstruction and restoration of the authentic architectural image of the Tower and the Basilica • Restoration of the existing volumes of the rectangular towers or of the nozzle according to the existing shape • Restoration of the fortress walls, construction of new walls, construction of flooring, apex, concrete and damping walls • Execution of hydro insulation works.
Karapelit. Cave in the area “Krali Marko Step”	Restoration of exhibits
Kranevo Kraneia Fortress	Restoration, conservation and display
Onogour Palmatis Fortress	Conservation and display
Kavarna Exposition “Dobrudja and the Sea”	Restoration of the building interior and exterior and replacement of showcases with new ones
Village of Hrabrovo. The Thracian Rock Sanctuary	Restoration and conservation of objects and exhibits
The fountains in Kavarna	Restoration and maintenance
Kavarna Cape Chirakman	Restoration and preservation
Shabla lighthouse, Caria Fortress	Restoration of the tower discovered during archaeological studies

Yaylata Archaeological Reserve	Restoration and conservation of cultural monuments
Cape Kaliakra	Reinforcement and restoration of fortress walls and exposed buildings

Measure 2) Improve accessibility of sites

The measure includes activities leading to improving the access to natural and anthropological sites. At present, some of them are accessible only on foot, others are unmarked and difficult to find.

Sites	Activities to improve accessibility
The Baltata Reserve	Construction of paths and approaches for disabled people
Balchik Palace and Botanical Gardens.	Purchasing a robot to transport people with disabilities
Balchik Tuzlata	Construction of parking lot, construction of pedestrian paths in the area, installation of trash bins, information boards
Kavarna Silver fountain	Improving the land shaft in the surrounding area and building a picnic area
Bolata Bay	Construction of parking lot
	Charging station construction and launching of electric line / shuttle from the parking to the shore
	Bicycle lanes
	Walkways
Birds Bay Tauk Liman	Navigation signs
Balchik White Rocks and the Fortress in "Horison" neighbourhood	Navigation signs
Picnic area in Bozluka area	Track safety and maintenance. Picnic places.
	Navigation signs

Orlova Mogila Protected Site	Navigation signs Eco-trail. Trash bins.
Kragulevo. Rock Monasteries.	Bicycle paths.
	Navigation signs
Picturesque Gorges Dry River	Signboards; eco-trail; cycle path. Recreation areas, shelters.
The village of Krasen, the village of Rosen and the Dryan Dam	Directional signs Eco paths. Picnic areas
Alexandria Monastery “St. Prophet Ilia”	Construction of infrastructure, parking, toilets
Batovo. Picnic Area in the Mushrooms Area	Construction of toilets, shelters, parking
Durankulak Lake	Construction of ramps for disabled people, eco paths, parking, drinking water, toilets, observation platforms
Lake Ezerets	Construction of infrastructure, toilets, bird watching sites, ramps for disabled people, eco trails
Zaldapa Fortress	Construction of tourist infrastructure: road and parking, toilets, eco trails, drinking water, signboards
Karapelit. Cave in the area “Krali Marko Step”	Construction of tourist infrastructure: road and parking, toilets, eco trails, drinking water, signboards
Kranevo, Kraneia Fortress	Construction of eco-path for access to the site.
Tervel - “Diana” hunting lodge	Navigation signs
Novo Botevo - Odrintsi	Construction of tourist infrastructure: road and parking, toilets, eco trails, drinking water, signboards
Onogour. Palmatis Fortress	Construction of tourist infrastructure: road and parking, toilets, signboards
Feldfelbel Dyankovo - healing stone	Construction of information board and gazebo for visitors, signboards
Village of Hrabrovo Thracian rock sanctuary	Construction of tourist infrastructure

The fountains in Kavarna	Approaches and improved land shaft of the adjacent territories
Kavarna Cape Chirakman	Construction of an eco-trail and places for recreation along it
Shabla Lighthouse and Caria Fortress	Construction of a ramp for disabled people
Shabla Tuzla	Construction of toilets, ramps, installation of signboards
Lake Shabla	Infrastructure development, bird watching sites, signboards, hiking trails, ramps, access to sites, recreation and entertainment venues
Yaylata Archaeological Reserve	Securing and maintaining separate paths for the safe stay of site visitors. Construction of recreation areas along the route

Measures related to the Specific objective 1.1.2. Experience as an added value

The Law on Tourism gives the following definition of “Tourist Attraction” is “ Natural, cultural or purpose-created tourist site of interest, most often related to natural, tangible or intangible cultural heritage and / or historical event, or artificially created recreational site, providing educational or educational services and / or leisure or entertainment opportunities.”;

The components included in the definition of “tourist attraction” draw attention to unused available resources that are outside the region’s tourism offer and which can contribute to creating a genuine tourist experience. These are the dozens of dance and authentic folklore ensembles in the region that can recreate custom and demonstrate local rhythms; the cultural calendar of the area, which should be a mirror of public and private events; available re-enactment clubs; organizing farmers’ markets and gastronomic experiences with the local population. For example, a large travel company was soon exploring the region to offer tourists a tasting of home-made bread prepared for guests. The options are numerous, and it is a matter of initiative and very good coordination between the participants in the tourist offer process.

Measure 1) Development of small attractions in the settlements included in the route

Activities include identifying opportunities to include intangible heritage as a route point; designing the creation of a site (s) for educational, and entertainment purposes; development of attractions - programming, design, financing, marketing of attractions - for example, creating a catalogue of attractions offered along the route

Measure 2) Creating a the Attraction “Legends of Kavarna”

The attraction is described in the analytical part of the strategy in section 4.4. Trends in tourism development. The activity includes providing funding for its implementation and engaging an operator for its presentation to the public.

Measures related to Specific objective 1.2.1. Raising the public interest

Measure 1) Study of the marketing needs of the sites

The measure includes activities to assess the marketing needs of the various sites included in the destination.

Below is an assessment of the interviewed experts (museum, community centre and municipality) for the need to attract the interest in the sites included in the proposed itineraries and products that can achieve this goal. It is worth mentioning that even in developed sites, such as the palace in Balchik and Cape Kaliakra, there is a need for additional advertising tools to raise the interest in the site.

Site	Raising the public interest
The Baltata Reserve	Signs, Digital apps, Animation
Balchik Palace and Botanical Gardens.	Mobile app
Balchik Tuzlata	Attraction development, souvenirs
Bolata Bay	affixing information boards
Birds Bay Tauk Liman	Mobile app; advertising
Balchik White Rocks and the Fortress in “Horizon” neighbourhood	Mobile app; advertising
“Orlova Mogila” Protected Site	Mobile app; Advertising and broadcasting in national media; Placing information boards.
Kragulevo Rock Monasteries.	Mobile app; Advertising film, information boards.
Picturesque Gorges “Dry River”	Information panels

The village of Krasen, the village of Rosen and the Dryan Dam	Attraction. Advertising film, Mobile app
Alexandria Monastery “St. Prophet Ilia”	Advertising film, Mobile app; information Center; attraction
Batovo. Picnic Area in the “Gabkite” Area	Information panels
Durankulak Lake	application; film; attraction
Lake Ezerets	Information panels
SHABLA GREEN CENTER	eco-school, attractions, animations
Zaldapa	information site, signboards, attraction; animation
Karapelit. Cave in the area “Krali Marko Step”	Information boards; Hamandzhia Culture movie and brochures
Kranevo, Kraneia Fortress	Information panels
Tervel - “Diana” hunting lodge	Website creation, movie, application
Novo Botevo - Odrintsi	Information panels
Onogour. Palmatis Fortress	Website, movie, TIC, souvenirs, attractions, restorations
Rock formations in the village of Tyulenovo	Attraction - diving, kayaking, yachting
	Promotional Movie: Sea World near Tyulenovo
	Placing navigation signs to direct the natural phenomenon.
Feldfebel Dyankovo - healing stone	Creation of a site, inclusion in tourist routes. Create an attraction
Kavarna “Dobrudja and the Sea” Exposition	Advertising in local and national media. Mobile apps and QR codes for smartphones, from which basic information about the site can be obtained.
Village of Hrabrovo Thracian rock sanctuary	Information panels
The fountains in Kavarna	Signboards, Application, Promotional film
Kavarna Cape Chirakman	Attraction. Promotional film, application

Shabla Headlight, Caria Fortress	Signs, website
Shabla Tuzla	Attraction, information boards
Lake Shabla	Information panels Attraction. Info Centre
Yaylata Archaeological Reserve	Attraction. Promotional film, Mobile app
Cape Kaliakra	Promotional film, Mobile app

Measure 2) General marketing of the tourist destination Dobrudja

An initial analysis of the best channels is presented below. It is based on the evaluation by the interviewed experts on the measures needed to raise public interest in the sites. The analysis is also supported by the tourist profile to which the proposed tourist routes are addressed to promote depending on the target group that may be interested in the route / object in question.

Type of tourists		Promotional channel for the route / site					
		Internet channel	Tourist Information Centre	Specialized magazines for tourism and science	Media - Radio, Television	Educational Institutions	Local tourism services providers
Self-organised	Tourists with professional interest or hobbies	x		x			
	University students with suitable academic major	x		x		x	
	Young people - single or families without kids	x	x		x		
	Families with kids	x	x		x	x	
	Gourmet tourists	x		x	x		x
	Senior tourists	x	x	x	x		x
Organized tours	School trips	x	x			x	x
	Adult groups	x	x				x

* site, mobile app, social media - Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, blogs

The measure includes activities for the creation of a common marketing centre, which collects and analyzes information from the sites, operators, stakeholders and from the channels for promotion of the tourist product (s); analyzes the profile of the tourism product target group; make marketing plan proposals, new marketing products and

tools; markets products in appropriate channels to reach potential users of information; measures the results of their impact and proposes solutions to stakeholders.

The activities may include tourist information centres such as a known and disseminated channel for tourist information and their loading with brochures, maps, advertising materials; the introduction of a procedure for the promotion of tourist interest, similar to that of the “100 National Tourist Sites”, with the collection of stamps and incentives for the most active; integration of a mobile advertising center in the holiday resorts in order to reach users of age groups with a limited interest in the Internet; institutionalization of the marketing center with a view to high specialization if the stakeholders identify their common interest in promoting the tourist destination Dobrudja.

Measures to implement Specific objective 1.2.2 .: Digital marketing

In times of social distancing, the need to digitalise the tourism offering and marketing increases. The virtual space provides the opportunity to avoid the risks of close social contact. This is perhaps the only alternative to the tourism industry. It should join forces and offer new options for offering and consuming the tourism product in all its multifaceted nature if it is to continue to exist in the presence of serious health risks associated with the movement of tourism groups.

The epidemiological situation around the world, apart from the crisis, is a chance for the natural redirection of tourist interest to unpopular, secluded and less populated places. Another positive factor is the possibility to get information online. Namely the digital presence of new destinations is in line with the principles of social distancing and plays an advantage role for such destinations. Because humanity will continue to move to different places and interact with nature and cultural and historical values, one way or another, if the situation requires. New rules / reality has been introduced that open up new niches and opportunities.

Measure 1) Educate stakeholders in the specifics of digital marketing

The measure includes profile training / webinar activities for stakeholder of the sectors for establishing the Dobrudja as tourist destination.

The choice of marketing tool should not be underestimated when it comes to different target groups of tourists with different interests. How to get the tourist destination advertisements to encourage them to visit a particular destination or attraction? The great advantage of digital marketing is that it works with a lot of different data. How does digital marketing deliver the messages? What are the benefits of different platforms - Instagram for instance is different from Facebook. Can bloggers direct and manage tourist interest? Is a common destination website not a good solution? And isn't the investing in shared marketing plan more efficient than doing it on your own?

Any questions that may unite people who have a common interest but also knowledge of how to successfully market integrated products.

Measure 2) Creation of common digital products

The measure includes digital product development activities such as virtual tours; applications; Virtual reality; public-private partnerships for digital production. The measure is a natural extension of Measure 2) General marketing of the tourist destination Dobrudja

Measures in related to the implementation of Specific objective 2.1.1. Increasing the capacity of participants in tourism supply

The participants in the tourist offer are divided conditionally into representatives of the public, non-governmental and private sectors, and the list of structures listed below is not exhaustive:

- 1) a public sector that implements policies, in particular a policy for attracting interest in the territory and the development of tourism, and which is funded by the state or municipal budget represented by:
 - A) The Regional Governor of Dobrich District
 - B) The 8 municipalities from Dobrich District, where the sites included in the routes are located. The local self-government bodies are the mayor and the municipal council. Each one of them has specific competence and responsibility. Pursuant to Art. 11 of the Law on Tourism, the municipal councils adopt a municipal program for tourism development, which is part of the program for the implementation of the municipal development plan. It is the mayor's responsibility to set up an Advisory Council on Tourism, in which according to Art. E.g. 3 of the PA "participate with equal number of representatives the following stakeholders: the local administration, the national, regional or municipal museums, as well as the tourist associations listed in the National Tourist Register and other natural and legal persons who are relevant to the development of tourism."
 - C) Cultural institutions - Regional Museum of History, State Institute of Culture "the Palace", University Botanical Gardens, municipal museums, community centres, ensembles, orchestras, youth centres, tasked with developing and preserving the natural, tangible and intangible cultural heritage in Dobrich
 - D) Institutions whose mission is to protect the environment and the security of the territory, such as the Regional Inspectorate for Environmental Protection, Forestry, Nature Parks, Mol RD, etc.

E) educational institutions training in the field of tourism, such as Vocational High School of Tourism, College of Management and Institute of Culinary Arts, Bachelor's Program in Hospitality and Restaurant Management - Albena at NBU (private structures) region, vocational training centres etc.

2) Non-governmental sector represented by:

Chamber of Commerce, local lore associations, hunting and fishing associations, tourist associations, local initiative groups, local initiative fishing group, associations in the field of culture, sports, environmental protection, recreation clubs, etc.

The sector may also be represented by associations which have their headquarters outside the territory of the tourist offer but whose subject of activity is relevant to it, for example, the Bulgarian Union for Balneology and SPA Tourism, the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds, the Astronomical Association. , other scientific associations, etc.

3) Private sector represented by:

Albena AD, being the largest travel company in the region, hoteliers, restaurateurs, tour operators, travel agencies, companies offering animation services, attractions, golf courses, transport services, translator agencies, language courses services providers and other associated businesses

The measures proposed below concern stakeholders from all three sectors, which have their place and role in establishing the Dobrudja tourist destination.

Measure 1) Thematic industry / sector meetings and trainings

The measure includes training and organizational activities for regular industry debate and forming a common position of the respective industry or sector for solving a problem related to the development of tourism in the territory. Defending a common position is a prerequisite for balanced representation between sectors in integrated tourism management, especially since the sectors use different means and approaches in their work, and finding points of contact between them is a matter of interest and understanding in the cooperation process.

Measure 2) Strengthen the Advisory Councils for Tourism Development

As per Art. E.g. 6 of the Law on Tourism *The Advisory Board on Tourism:*

1. discusses and approves the draft of the municipal tourism development program, as well as the draft report on the implementation of the program for the previous year;

2. makes proposals to the mayor of the municipality and gives expert opinions on issues related to tourism development on the territory of the municipality on:

(a) the amount of the tourist tax and its spending;

(b) the membership of the municipality in the relevant tourist area management organization;

3. examine and make proposals to the municipal council through the mayor of the municipality for:

a) the priority construction and maintenance of the tourist infrastructure and the preservation and maintenance of the tourist attractions on the territory of the municipality, as well as for attracting investments in the sphere of tourism;

(b) improving the condition of transport services;

c) protection, maintenance and development of the green areas in the territory of the municipality related to tourism;

d) ensuring the permanent employment of tourism personnel and improving their skills;

The above quotes from the Law on Tourism illustrate the existence of a legal framework in the Republic of Bulgaria, which presumes cooperation at the local level of the sectors for coordinated solution of the issues related to the development of tourism in the respective municipality.

The activities of the measure include examining the work of the Advisory Councils in the field, drawing out good practices, lessons learned, recommendations, issuing a manual, civilian control of the mayors who are legally chairing the advisory councils, training members, learning about the goals of the strategy , program acceptance

Measures in related to the implementation of the Specific objective 2.1.2. Improving partnership mechanisms

Measure 1) Establishment of the Association for the management of the tourist destination Dobrudja - for the part of South Dobrudja in the Bulgarian territory and for the part of Northern Dobudja - in the Romanian territory

The measure includes actions to create an association for the management of the tourist destination Dobrudja. Although the national concept of tourist zoning does not

imply the existence of a tourist zone “Dobrudja”, the current strategy proves the existence of prerequisites for the establishment of a cross-border tourist destination “Dobrudja”, the management of which may follow the model detailed in the Law on Tourism.

In this sense, the Association for the Management of Tourist Destination Dobrudja is a voluntary organization - a legal entity, which through mutual assistance and cooperation in the interest of its members and in the public interest, carries out activities related to the formation of tourism products and the implementation of regional marketing and advertising on the territory of Dobrudja.

The Association is established to implement the following activities:

1. Implementation of the Common Strategy for the Valorisation of the Natural and Cultural Heritage of Constanta-Dobrich
2. Logo design and slogan creation of the tourist destination
3. Organizing and conducting of marketing researches and studies of the tourist flow on the territory of the tourist destination and analyzes and forecasts for the tourist development
4. Carrying out activities for brand building, public relations and advertising of the tourist destination
5. Organizing and supporting the activity of the tourist information centres in the area
6. Development and implementation of product strategies and annual plans for tourism development in Dobrudja in accordance with national and cross-border documents in the field of tourism development
7. assisting the activity of the regional governor and mayors of municipalities in the implementation of tourism development strategies and programs through opinions and proposals
8. Implementation of projects under EU programs
9. Creation and maintenance of a database on tourism in the territory
10. Exchange of information, standards and good practices
11. Carrying out training activities and improving the quality of tourist services
12. Supporting the development, execution and implementation of voluntary systems for assessing the quality of tourism services and sustainable development in the territory of the Dobrudja tourist destination

The registration of the association presupposes a statute and its founders should be representatives of the interested parties, with the participation of the municipalities on the territory of which the tourist sites are located. The organization may be supported by: Membership fee; business income and provision of paid services; funds from participation in European, international and other donor programs; donations from individuals and legal entities.

The measure has its continuation in the measures for the implementation of Specific Objective 2.2.1. Improving information connectivity and Specific objective 2.2.2. Project partnerships.

Measure 2) Advocacy for the inclusion of the Dobrudja tourist destination in the strategic plans implementing the horizontal policies for the next programming period

The measure includes actions for the valorisation of the natural and cultural heritage. It is a priority in the strategic documents, respectively the eligibility of its financing from the operational programs for the programming period 2021-2027. Actions should also be directed towards the inclusion of the Dobrudja tourist destination and the proposed tourist routes in the local and regional strategic documents for the period 2021-2027. This is how the region would declare its readiness to support the potential of natural and anthropogenic resources in adding economic value to its development.

Measures related to the implementation of the Specific objective 2.2.1. Improving information connectivity

Measure 1) Partnership Network for best practices sharing

The measure includes activities that demonstrate good practices for sustainable partnerships. They promote successful partnerships created in the cross-border area, but also exchange practices with other regions of the European Union, where the partnerships have produced remarkable results in attracting tourist in the territory. The information network may be part of the project website.

Measure 2) Annual Conference “Dobrudja Tourist Destination - Annual Review”

The measure includes activities to prepare and hold an annual conference of stakeholders from the cross-border region. It can be organized by the Dobrudja Tourist Destination Management Association. Thematic reports of the conference follow up on the contribution of the relevant type of stakeholders to the establishment of the destination. Sample topics of the reports: tourism demand growth achieved; discussing measures to improve tourism infrastructure; the effectiveness of the visual information system; a system of incentives for entrepreneurs to contribute to the promotion of the Dobrudja tourist destination; review of compliance with the star category tourist services; staffing of the destination, etc. The conference presents the progress achieved and adopts an annual program of activities to confirm the destination.

Measures related to the implementation of the Specific objective 2.2.2. Project partnerships

Measure 1) Cross-municipal projects

The measure involves the development of cross-municipal projects under operational or transnational programs based on the assessment of investment priorities in order to integrate the relevant sites into the tourism chain and provide an experience for the tourist. They are in the context of establishing the Dobrudja Tourist Destination.

Measure 2) Strengthen the administrative capacity of the Dobrudja Tourist Destination Management Association and of the Tourism Advisory Councils

The measure includes the development of a partnership project to establish and strengthen the activities of the Dobrudja Tourist Destination Management Association and hold its first annual conference, a comparative analysis of the advisory council’s activities, the issuance of a guide for good practice and recommendations and training for members of the association including useful tips.

Measure 3) Web Marketing of Dobrudja Tourist Destination

The measure includes the development of a project to create a common marketing center and the development of digital products to increase tourism offering.

7.3. Budgetary estimates for the implementation of the measures

The budget forecast below is a summary of the indicative expert assessments made during the collection of information and the development of the data sheets of 35 natural and anthropogenic sites located in the territory of Dobrich included in the proposed routes. The budget estimate is in BGN and EUR. It also prioritized the urgent investment sites needed for the socialization of the site. Objects in need of urgent investment measures in restoration, accessibility or public interest are highlighted in orange. The goal is to quickly bring these natural or anthropological resources to a preservation of heritage, or to improve access to these sites. The sites where the urgency level of investment interventions is medium is marked in green and the low level of prioritization indicated in blue.

Prioritization of interventions:							
- Compulsive shopping			Amount in BGN	medium	Amount in BGN	low	Amount in BGN
No	Sites	Restoration and conservation	Amount in BGN	Improving accessibility	Amount in BGN	Raising the public awareness and interest	Amount in BGN
1	The Baltata Reserve			Trails and paths; approaches for people with disabilities	80000	Signs, App, Animation	8000

2	Balchik Palace and Botanical Gardens.	pitos, 30 crosses of pots, architectural elements of stone armchairs, in the gallery “ the Quiet Nest” impregnation, Roman bath, restoration of the chapel and murals.	120 000	purchase of another robot for transportation of disabled people 15 000 BGN	15,000	Arr;	3000
3	Balchik Tuzla			Construction of parking lot Construction of pedestrian paths in the area, installation of trash bins, information boards	80000	Attraction development, souvenirs	25000
4	Kavarna Silver fountain	Restoration of the fountain according to historical data	up to 1000 BGN	Improving the land shaft in the surrounding area and building a picnic area	20000		
5	Bolata Bay			Construction of parking lot	160000		
				Construction of a charging station and launching of an electric line / shuttle from the parking lot to the shore - 220 000 BGN.	250000	Installation of information boards	5000
				Bicycle lanes	60 000		
				Walkways	60 000		
6	Birds Bay Tauk Liman			Navigation signs	2500	App; advertising	12,000

7	Balchik White Rocks and the Fortress in "Horizon" neighbourhood	<p>Conservation, reconstruction and restoration of the authentic architectural image of tower No. 1</p> <p>Restoration of the existing volumes of the rectangular towers or of the nozzle according to the existing shape</p> <p>Restoration of the fortress walls, construction of new walls, construction of flooring, apex, concrete and damping walls</p> <p>Execution of hydro insulation works.</p>	BGN 60,000	Navigation signs	2500	App; advertising	12,000
8	Picnic area Bozluka			Track safety and maintenance. Picnic places.	20000		
				Signboards - 2500 BGN	2500		
9	Orlova Mogila Protected Site			Directional signs Eco-trail. Trash bins.	10,000	Arr; Advertising and broadcasting in national media; Placing information boards.	40000
10	Kragulevo. Rock Monasteries.	The activities related to reconstruction and	60 000	Bicycle paths.	20000	Application; Advertising	40,000

		<p>conservation include:</p> <p>The conservation and restoration of the authentic image of the site of two secluded hermit cells and the church-tomb of "Sanduclar Maar"</p> <p>The conservation, reconstruction and partial restoration of the church-tomb of "Sanduclar Maar"</p> <p>Conservation and restoration of the inscriptions</p> <p>Execution of hydro insulation works.</p>		Navigation signs	5000	movie information boards.	
11	Picturesque Gorges Dry River			Signboards; eco-trail; cycle path. Recreation areas, shelters.	60 000	Information panels	5000
12	The village of Krasen, the village of Rosen and the Dryan Dam	Preservation of items in the exhibition of Yovkov.	35000	Navigation signs Eco paths. Picnic areas	40000	Attraction. Movie Application	60 000
13	Albena Aqua Park						
14	Alexandria "Prophet St Iliya" Monastery			Construction of infrastructure, parking, toilets	150, 000	Movie, App; Information Centre; attraction	70000
15	Batovo. Picnic Area in the Area "Gabarnika"			Construction of toilets, shelters, parking	80000	Information panels	2500
16	Durankulak Lake	restoration and conservation of objects and exhibits	200 000	Construction of ramps for disabled people, eco-paths, parking, drinking water, toilets, observation platforms	400,000	arr; movie; attraction	80000

17	Lake Ezerets			Construction of infrastructure, toilets, bird watching sites, ramps for disabled people, eco trails	300,000	Information panels	2500
18	SHABLA GREEN CENTER					eco-school, attractions, animations	150000
19	Zaldapa Fortress	The activities related to restoration, conservation, adaptation and display include: Conservation, reconstruction and restoration of the authentic architectural image of the Tower and the Basilica Restoration of the existing volumes of the rectangular towers or of the nozzle according to the existing shape Restoration of the fortress walls, construction of new walls, construction of flooring, apex, concrete and damping walls Execution of hydro insulation works.	BGN 100,000	Construction of tourist infrastructure: road and parking, toilets, eco-paths, drinking water, signboards	150, 000	information site, signs, animation	12,958,500
20	Karapelit Cave in the area "Krali Marko Step"	Restoration works	60 000	Improve tourist infrastructure: road and parking, toilets, ecopaths, drinking water, signboards	250,000	Information boards; Hamandzhia Culture movie and brochures	30,000

21	Kranevo, Kraneia Fortress	Restoration of the site and the need for its socialization.	80,000	Construction of eco-path for access to the site.	30000	Information panels	2500
22	Tervel - "Diana" hunting lodge			Navigation signs	2500	Website creation, movie, application	25000
23	Novo Botevo - Odrintsi			Construction of tourist infrastructure: road and parking, toilets, eco-paths, drinking water, signboards	250000	Information boards - 2500 BGN	2500
24	Onogour. Palmatis Fortress	conservation and display	500,000	Construction of tourist infrastructure: road and parking, toilets, signboards	500,000	Creating a website, movie, TIC, souvenirs; attractions, restorations	200000
25	Rock formations in the village of Tyulenovo					Attraction - diving, kayaking; boat trip	
						Movie: Sea World near Tyulenovo	20000
						Placing signs to navigate visitors to the natural phenomenon.	2500

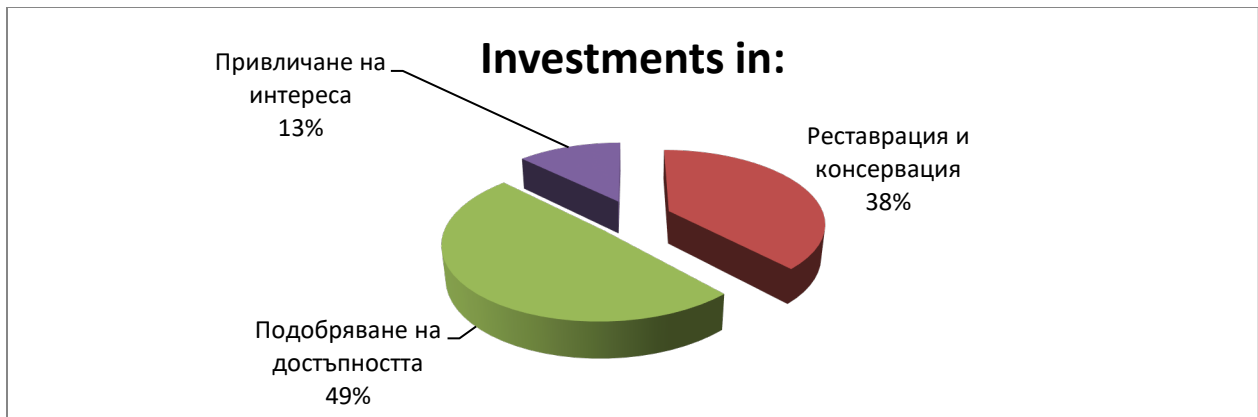
26	Feldfebel Dyankovo - healing stone			Construction of information board and gazebo for visitors, signboards	17500	Creation of a site, inclusion in tourist routes. Create an attraction	35000
27	Kavarna Exposition "Dobrudja and the Sea"	interior and exterior restoration of the building and replacement of storefronts with new ones	150000			Advertising in local and national media. Applications and QR codes for smartphones, from which basic information about the site can be obtained.	20000
28	Village of Hrabrovo, Thracian rock sanctuary	restoration and conservation of objects and exhibits	180000	Development of tourist infrastructure - 250 000	250000	Information panels	2500
29	The fountains of Kavarna	restoration and maintenance	200000	Approaches and enrichment of the adjacent territories	200000	Signboards, App; Movie	20,000
30	Kavarna Cape Chirakman	restoration and maintenance	200000	Construction of eco-paths and places for recreation along it	200000	Attraction. Movie, App	35000
31	Shabla lighthouse fortress Karia	Restoration of the tower discovered during archaeological studies	120000	Installation of a ramp for disabled people	12,000	Signs, website	5000
32	Shabla Tuzla			Installation of toilets, ramps, installation of signboards	100000	attraction; information boards	12500

33	Lake Shabla			Infrastructure construction, bird watching sites, signboards, hiking trails, ramps, access to sites, recreation and entertainment venues	250,000	Information panels Attraction. Info Centre	50,000
34	Yaylata Archaeological Reserve	restoration and conservation of cultural monuments	200 000	Securing and maintaining separate paths for the safe stay of site visitors. Construction of recreation areas along the route	200 000	Attraction. Movie, App	35000
35	Cape Kaliakra	Reinforcement and restoration of fortress walls and exposed buildings	1000000			Film, App	25000

The total amount of investments needed to improve the tourist supply of the routes is BGN 7949501, or EUR 4064515, allocated by measures as follows:

	BGN	EUR
Total	7 9497 501	4 064 515.321
Restoration and reconstruction	3 025 000	1 546 657.941
Improving access	3 914 500	2 001 452.069
Improving the attractiveness	1 010 000	516 404.8

The table shows that 2 001 452 Euro, or 49% of the total funds are needed to improve accessibility in 30 sites, 1 546 657 Euros, or 38% by indicative estimates are needed for the restoration and display of cultural heritage in 17 sites, and 516 405 Euros, or 13 % of the total amount of funds are needed to attract interest to the cultural and heritage sites included in the development of trip itineraries.



Since the investment needs of each of the sites have been assessed, different project combinations and flexibility of financing from different sources are possible. For example, municipal tourism development programs can provide a means for placing information and signboards. Attractions, mobile applications and animations are a possible subject of public-private partnerships. Some of the restoration activities are funded by the budget of the Ministry of Culture. Maritime municipalities from the territories in which tourism is structurally crucial, invest in improving tourism infrastructure. The largest funding item is the European funds through the national operational programs as well as the Romania-Bulgaria cross-border cooperation program.