

Tour Programme for ASIAN TOURISTS

Edirne & Kırklareli Tour

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under the project

**Joint Initiative for promotion of Bulgaria –Turkey cross-border region as an attractive
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PARTNERSHIP



**Joint Initiative for Promotion of Bulgaria –
Turkey Cross-border region as an Attractive
Tourism Destination- JOINT TOUR,**




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Tour Programme For Asian Tourists

Edirne Kırklareli Tour

1. DAY

Edirne

In the morning hours, Asian (or international) tourists arriving in İstanbul by airway will take a tour bus to Edirne (Lunch Boxes can be prepared to be distributed on the bus as breakfast). Edirne is 232 km's from Istanbul and driving will take a minimum of two and half hours, likely longer with traffic.

- ***The first step in Edirne is Karaağaç district***

Karaağaç;

Historical Karaağaç Neighborhood is one of the places that should be seen in Edirne with its colorful, single storey houses and wide streets. Many restaurants and tea garden is available in Karaağaç. The historic railway station and the Lausanne Monument are also here. Karaağaç is 4 km southwest from the center of Edirne, across the river Maritsa and opposite the Greek village Kastanies. In 1890, the large Karaağaç railway station was built in the town, which also served Edirne, becoming the last train stop in Turkey to Europe. In 1971, Turkish State Railways (TCDD) constructed a new railway station at the opposite side of the river, abandoning the former one, which is now used as Trakya University's Faculty of Fine Arts. Historical Train Station was built by Mimar Kemalettin Bey, taking Sirkeci Station as an example in 1913-1914. The Lausanne Monument was built here in memory of the Lausanne Treaty signed on 24 July 1923.

The Treaty of Lausanne Monument and Museum (Lozan Anıtı ve Müzesi)

are a monument and a museum dedicated to the Treaty of Lausanne of 1923. The monument, opened in 1998, is located at Karaağaç, Edirne in Turkey, and the museum is next to it in the former train station building.

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

Grand Synagogue of Edirne (Edirne Büyük Sinagogu), is a historic Sephardi synagogue located in Maarif Street of Edirne. there once was a thriving Jewish community in Edirne, numbering around 20,000 people. They worshipped in this Moorish revival styled synagogue that was able to accomodate up to 1,200 people. It was Europe's third largest temple and the biggest temple in all of Turkey. Reopened in 2015 as a part of a US \$ 2.5 million restoration Project, the synagogue now functions as a museum, a space for weddings, and a place of worship fort he few local Jewish people in the area. Restoration efforts included painstakingly decorating the ceiling was thousands of hand-painted stars.

Sveti Konstantin-Elena Kilisesi,

is a Bulgarian Orthodox church in Edirne. It was built in 1869 in less than seven months and is a prime example of the Eastern Orthodox church architecture of the period.

- ***Second Step is Edirne city center***

Edirne is a gateway of Turkey opening to western world in Thrace, the first stopover for newcomers from Europe. A gateway to Asia with a European flair, you'll discover striking architecture and rich local cuisine. With its mosques, religious complexes, bridges, old bazaars, caravanserais and palaces, Edirne is a living museum. Our first stop in the city center is Şükrü Paşa Monument, and then Balkan War Museum and Serbian War Museum.

Şükrü Pasha Memorial and Balkan Wars Museum (Şükrü Paşa Anıtı ve Balkan Savaşları Müzesi), This monument was opened in 2000, and lies on the highest hill in the city, close to the city cemetery. Rustu Pasha was the commander of Edirne's defending forces during the Balkan war. The museum isn't that big, but manages to a surprising number of war-artefacts in its four galleries. There is extensive documentation and also figurines and weapons, such as a small cannon used during the war. The Balkan Wars Memorial Cemetery is located close to the Edirne Palace, with an unknown soldier monument featuring an Ottoman soldier in front of its entrance.

- ***Lunch break: Edirne Tava Ciğeri (Edirne is well-known with its tava ciğeri)*** It is prepared in a unique local way (whole pieces, not puree, of liver, covered in flour, are deep fried inside a cauldron full of boiling vegetable oil) and served with an infernally hot dried and crunchy pepper. It possible to find a livery restaurant in many places in the city center. Some of them are; Aydın Tava Ciğer Restaurant, Çınaraltı Ciğercisi, Meşhur Edirne Ciğercisi Kazım ve İlhan Usta etc.

After the lunch break;

Old Mosque (Eski Camii), (at the central square, across the street from Selimiye). The Old Mosque is the earliest monumental structure of Edirne reached from the Ottoman times. The mosque, known as the first original abridged mosque, is one of the most important mosques built in the 15th century. Inside the mosque large calligraphy works can be seen. The mosque

Üç Şerefeli Mosque (Üç Şerefeli Camii) (just north of Old Mosque, close to Selimiye). This mosque is easily recognizable, having four distinctive minarets that all have very different designs, uncommon during the 15th century, one of which has three balconies, giving it its name which literally means "three balconied". Long undergoing restoration, interior of the mosque, which features a colourfully decorated central dome, smaller surrounding domes of varying sizes each featuring a different colour pattern, and very stately columns supporting them, has recently been re-opened to visits. In addition this mosque has the first large cloister of the Ottoman architectural history.

Selimiye Mosque (Selimiye Camii) was built by Mimar Sinan between 1569-1575. A grandiose piece of art by Sinan, the Ottoman architect of 16th century, Selimiye is usually considered the zenith of Ottoman architecture and has been listed as a World Heritage site by UNESCO in 2011. It was considered by Sinan to be his masterpiece and is one of the highest achievements of Islamic architecture. The dome of the building, which hangs high over main hall, encloses a huge space which gives the place an expansive atmosphere, had

the largest diameter (31.28 mt) of all domes in the world for several centuries. And its minarets (towers) are the second highest minarets (70.89 mt) in whole world, surpassed only by Qutb Minar (72.50 mt) in Delhi, India. This grand mosque stands at the center of a *külliyeye* (complex of a hospital, school, library and/or baths around a mosque) which comprises a medrese (Islamic academy teaches both Islamic and scientific lessons), a *dar-ül hadis* (Al-Hadith school), a timekeeper's room and an arasta (row of shops). There is a small museum in the courtyard of the mosque with no admission fee.

Ali Pasha Bazaar: The Ali Pasha Bazaar in Edirne is a covered market designed by Mimar Sinan in 1569. Decorated with red and white stone arches, there's six different gates into the bazaar. Similar to the Grand Bazaar in Istanbul, this atmospheric market is much smaller in size, but no less fun to explore with over 130 vendors selling everything from knock-off Nikes, to underwear, dishes, etc. It's just one of three such bazaars in the city where you'll find a wealth of locally produced and imported goods available.

Historic Kırkpınar Oil Wrestling Square, Oil wrestling (Turkish: Yağlı güreş), Across the grassy field come the quavering voices of *zurna* woodwind and the stick-beaten bass of the heavy *davul*. Pairs of men in leather pants grapple for dominance, pushing and flipping each other to the ground while spectators cheer them on. Turkish wrestlers wear leather waist-to-ankle pants called *kispet*, and before the match they cover each other's bodies in olive oil, making it much harder to grip the opponent. Traditionally the wrestling matches had no time limit, lasting as long as it took for one pehlivan to surrender. The **Kırkpınar oil wrestling tournament** in Edirne is documented as far back as 1346, making it the oldest recorded competition in the world. In this competition, wrestlers battle for the coveted Kırkpınar Golden Belt and the honor of being Turkey's chief wrestler.

Justice Pavilion (Kasr-ı Adalet), Erected in 1561 by Suleiman the Magnificent, who is called in Turkey as Suleiman the Lawmaker, the "Kasr-ı Adalet" (literally: Justice Pavilion) is the only structure as part of the palace complex, which remained intact. In the form of a rectangular tower with a pointed metal roof, it is situated next to the tiny Fatih Bridge over the Tunca river, which was built in 1452 by Mehmed the Conqueror (Turkish: Fatih Sultan Mehmet). Two stone columns still stand in front of the building. The right one, called the "Respect Stone" (Turkish: Seng-i Hürmet), was used to hold the petitions of the people to the sultan, and the left one, named the "Warning Stone" (Turkish: Seng-i İbret), to display the capitated heads of criminals.

The Balkan Wars Memorial Cemetery in Edirne (Turkish: Edirne Balkan Savaşı Şehitliği), located at Sarayı quarter of Edirne, Turkey, is a memorial burial ground for Ottoman military personnel of the Balkan Wars (1912–1913), who were killed in action during the Siege of Adrianople (1912–13). It was opened to public on January 14, 1994.

Edirne Palace (Turkish: Edirne Sarayı), Saray-ı Cedid, known as Edirne New Palace, was built with Sultan II as being the second palace in this region. It was started after the capture of Edirne by Turks during Murat period and the construction was completed in 1451 during the reign of his son Fatih Sultan Mehmet. The palace is one of the biggest

palaces of Ottoman Empire after the Topkapı Palace in İstanbul. Only a very small part of the palace can be reached today.

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

II. The Beyazit Külliyesi was built between 1484 and 1488 and is the largest social structure of the Ottoman Empire. It is also one of the most important historical treasures of Edirne. The museum is situated at the hospital (Darüşşifa) section of the Complex of Sultan Bayezid II. This Complex was built by the 8th Ottoman Emperor Sultan Bayezid II who was the son of Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror. Throughout centuries, students of medicine were brought up, patients were healed and the hunger of the poor was allayed in this complex. Hospital section was one of the most important Health Centers of its period. In later years, the hospital began to serve lunatics. Patients were treated with the sound of water, music, odorous scents, various occupations, as well as medical knowledge and medicine. Having been serving as a health museum today, Darüşşifa was awarded the Council of Europe Museum Prize in 2004.

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

We are moving to Macedonian Clock Tower and our hotel after free time. We are participating in "FASIL" night with the customers who are interested. We begin our tour the next morning in Kırklareli.

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Most booked hotels in Edirne

Margi Hotel, Rys Hotel, Hilly Hotel - Boutique Class, Ottoman Palace Hotel Edirne, Hotel Edirne Palace, Efe Hotel Edirne.

2. DAY

Kırklareli

After breakfast we are checking out of the hotel in Edirne and heading towards Demirköy district of Kırklareli.

• First step is Demirköy

The Dupnisa Cave (Turkish: Dupnisa Mağarası), is the second largest cave in Thrace, about 6 miles south of Sarpdere Village in Demirköy District, about 50km north of Kırklareli. Dupnisa cavern is a large underground system that has continued its formation and development since about 4 million years. Dupnisa Cave has two floors and consists of three caverns: Dry Cave, Girl Cave and Watery Cave. Its total length is 2720 meters and it is one of the longest caves of Turkey. The underground river is one of the impressive features of Dupnisa Cave.

The Demirköy Foundry (Turkish: Demirköy Dökümhanesi), Demirköy; It is a town of Kırklareli and is located in the mountains of Yıldız Mountain. With its unique landscape, it has become a popular destination for nature photographers for all seasons. Fatih Dökümhane, which was built during the Ottoman period, is located here. Fatih

Dökümhanesi is the place where the balls used in the conquest of Istanbul were molded. Demirköy also hosted the Thracian Tribes in ancient times. Wild strawberry, trout and forest honey are also famous and delicious products of the region. (Honey, strawberry etc. tasting may be done here).

Palivor Farm?

- **The second step is İğneada**

Tourists will be accommodated in İğneada Resort Hotel in İğneada.

Tourists can choose Free time (sea time) or Special Tours İn İğneada

1.ATV tour

2.Trekking towards Longoz

3.Limanköy / Lighthouse

3. DAY

After breakfast we are checking out of the hotel in İğneada and heading towards Vize district of Kırklareli.

- **First step is Vize**

Little Hagia Sophia Church (Gazi Suleiman Pasha Mosque) (Turkish: Küçük Ayasofya Kilisesi (Gazi Süleyman Paşa Camii)), is a former Byzantine era Orthodox church built during Emperor Justinian I (reigned 527-565) times, which was converted later in the Ottoman era into a mosque. Designed in an Orthodox Basilica plan, the church was constructed upon the foundations of the Temple of Apollo with masonry stone and brick. The church was built in the 6th century during the period of the Jewish. It was started to be used in the 14th century and it is also used today. Despite being transformed into a mosque, church air is dominant in the building.

Vize Fortress (Turkish: Vize Kalesi), Vize is the first slow city of Thrace and the eighth slow city of Turkey. Vize received the title “Slow City” with the application made in 2012 to the Association of International Slow Cities (Cittaslow). Vize Castle is located in the Vize district of Kırklareli province and carries the name of its place. The Vize Castle consists of two castles; an inner castle and an outer castle. The Vize Castle and its walls are based on the Roman period.

Vize Amphitheatre (Turkish: Antik tiyatrosu), is an open-air theatre built in the 2nd century during the Late Roman era, the only known one in Thrace. It dates back to the 2nd century AD and has a capacity of 4000 spectators. The steps of seating and walking are made of marble. The antique theater that emerged as a result of excavations in the 1990s, is the only Roman period theater known up to the present.

- **Second step is Kıyıköy**

St Nicholas Monastery (Aya Nikola Manastırı), is a quite small religious complex engraved into a rocky slope of a hill in the forest, about 15-30 minutes walk from town centre, near the bank of the stream. It is 700 meters away from Kıyıköy. It is one of the most beautiful examples of rock monasteries belonging to 6-9th century. In addition, the monastery has cells obtained by carving rocks.

Lunch break in Kıyıköy and free time in this sweet small village.

- **Third step is Kırklareli City Center**

Hızır Bey Külliye: Hızırbey complex consist of Hızırbey Mosque, double bath, arasta (Ottoman bazaar) and fountain. Hızırbey Mosque, also known as Great Mosque, was built in 1383. Nowadays, it is open for worship.

Kırklareli Museum (Turkish: Kırklareli Müzesi) It was built as a municipality building in 1894 by Mutasarrıf Neşet Pasha and Hacı Mestan Efendi, the mayor of that period. The building which was actually used until 1962 by the municipality was allocated to the Ministry of Culture in order to be transformed into an museum in 1970. The building which was started to repair in 1983 was opened in 1994 as a museum. The Archeology and Ethnography sections are located on the top floor and the Culture and Nature Exhibition Hall is located on the ground floor. In the culture and nature hall, the creatures under the threat of extinction or extinction are exhibited with their natural appearance.

Yayla Neighborhood Historical Houses and Atatürk House, Kırklareli Yayla Neighborhood, it is a place with Bulgarian, Greek and Jewish populations. It is an open-air museum where houses are found reflecting Turkish architecture. Historical houses in Yayla neighborhood are thought to have been built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Today it has been declared as an urban protected area. Atatürk House is in Yayla Neighborhood. It is similar to the house where Atatürk lived in Thessaloniki.

Asağı Pınar Mound, 3 km from the city center of Kırklareli. It is a mound located to the south. Aşağı Pınar Höyüğü shows a distinct difference from the mounds in Anatolia. This difference is also called "horizontal stratification". Historical remains obtained as a result of excavation works, it was learned that the region was used as a settlement in the Neolithic Age. Aşağı Pınar Mound is the oldest farm-village settlement in Trakya. Located on an area of 3000 square meters, the Aşağı Pınar Mound is the largest archeological excavation site in Kırklareli.

Kanlıgeçit Mound, is a mound located 500 meters south of Kırklareli Provincial Center on both sides of the Haydar Dere. It is 300 meters west of Asağı Pınar Mound. Historical background of it is based on 3000 B.C. It is the oldest urban settlement known in the Balkans and is the settlement of the Anatolian colony belonging to the first and only Bronze Age in Thrace. Kanlıgeçit is a northern necropolis area with a flat hill view.

Accommodation in Kırklareli.

Kırklareli city center accomodation alternatives: Bilgiç Hotel, Lozengrad Hotel, Akkuş Kaya Palas Hotel, Vanilya Butique Hotel, Line Hotel.

Dinner: Special Kırklareli meatball

Most popular gastronomic values of Kırklareli: Hardaliye, Kırklareli Cheese, Kırklareli Meatball, Turbot and Seasonal Fish Varieties, Demirköy Honey, Poyralı Molasses, Pumpkin Dessert in Lime, Kid Chawarma, Boza, Water Buffalo Yoghurt, Kırklareli Cherry.

We begin our tour the next morning in Bulgaria. Departure from Dereköy (Aziziye) border gate to Bulgaria.