

“Joint Initiative for promotion of Bulgaria – Turkey cross-border region as an attractive tourism destination” JOINTTOUR, CB005.1.22.055

JOINT TOUR

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For International/Asian Tourists

Edirne Kırklareli Tour

1. DAY

İstanbul Airport - Edirne

Edirne is 232 km away from Istanbul.

- *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 Treaty of Lausanne Monument and Museum (Turkish: Lozan Anıtı ve Müzesi)

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 in Protokol House

Meriç Bridge is a historical Ottoman bridge in Edirne.

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. Having been serving as a health museum today, Darüşşifa was awarded the Council of Europe Museum Prize in 2004.

Edirne Palace (Turkish: Edirne Sarayı), 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.

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.

Historic Kırkpınar Oil Wrestling Square, Oil wrestling (Turkish: Yağlı güreş), 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.

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

Passing through the oldest historic bridge of Edirne, Gazimihal Bridge, we arrive the city center. The tour bus leaves the tourists on Saraçlar Street.

With its mosques, religious complexes, bridges, old bazaars, caravanserais and palaces, Edirne is a living museum.

Saraclar Caddesi, A pedestrianized shopping street with pleasant cafés on sides.

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.

After the lunch break and free time;

Walking to Grand Synagogue and passing through Ali Pasha Bazaar,

Üç Şerefeli Mosque, Old Mosque, Selimiye Mosque and museums are visited here.

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.

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.

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".

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.

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. There is a small museum in the courtyard of the mosque with no admission fee.

Edirne City Museum (Edirne Kent Müzesi)

After visiting these areas, get on the tour bus in the parking area.

Moving towards Sveti George Bulgarian Church.

Sveti Georgi Bulgarian Church (Bulgar Kilisesi);

The church was built in the XIX century and worship service started in Sveti Georgi by July 24, 1880.

At the end of the day, free time for shopping etc. (Edirne's famous Deva-i Misk Tatlısı, Badem Ezmesi, Kavala Kurabiyesi, Edirne Cheese, Local fruit soaps etc.)

Moving to Macedonian Clock Tower and hotel after free time.

Beginning the tour next morning in Kırklareli.

2. DAY

Kırklareli

After breakfast 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.

The Demirköy Foundry (Turkish: Demirköy Dökümhanesi), Demirkoy; It is a town of Kırklareli and is located in the mountains of Yıldız Mountain. 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.

- **The second step is İğneada**

Accommodation in İğneada.

Free time or Special Tours In İğneada

1.ATV tour

2.Trekking towards Longoz

3.Limanköy / Lighthouse

3. DAY

After breakfast 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.

Vize Fortress (Turkish: Vize Kalesi), Vize is the first slow city of Thrace and the eighth slow city of Turkey. 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 tiyatro), 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.

- **Second step is Kiyıköy**

St Nicholas Monastery (Aya Nikola Manastırı), 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 Kiyıköy 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.

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.

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. Atatürk House is in Yayla Neighborhood. It is similar to the house where Atatürk lived in Thessaloniki.

Asağı Pınar Mound, Aşağı Pınar Mound is the oldest farm-village settlement in Trakya. The Aşağı Pınar Mound is the largest archeological excavation site in Kırklareli.

Kanlıgeçit Mound, 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.

Accommodation in Kırklareli.

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.

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

4. DAY

Malko Tarnovo – Brashlyan – Burgas – Pomorie - Nessebar (overnight in Pomorie/Nessebar/Sunny beach)

Travel to Malko Turnovo – visit to the Historical Museum of Malko Turnovo and Strandzha Nature Park visitor centre

Historical Museum of Malko Turnovo - The region of Malko Turnovo has been populated since antiquity. Many legends are told about Thracian kings, fortresses and hidden treasures. The historical and ethnographic wealth of the town and the region is well presented in the Historical Museum in Malko Tarnovo, comprising six expositions.

Strandzha Nature Park visitor centre - With its area of 1160 km² Strandzha Nature Park is the largest protected area in the country. It has no analogue in the country by the number of natural habitats (120).

Travel to the village of Brashlyan - visit to St. Dimitar church and to old Bulgarian houses from the Revival. Lunch at local restaurant.

The village of Brashlyan - The village of Brashlyan was declared an architectural and historical reserve in 1982. It consists of 76 houses - architectural cultural monuments, 9 of which are of national importance. Of special interest are the church “St. Dimitar” with a church school and the chapel "St. Panteleymon".

Travel to Burgas – walk to and around the Seaside Garden and visits to the Archaeological and the Ethnographical Museums

Archaeological Museum - Collections of archeological finds related to ancient Thrace, the Greek colonies along the Black Sea and the time of the Roman Empire are exhibited in the archeological exposition.

Ethnographical Museum - The ethnographic exposition to the Regional Museum of History in Burgas offers the richest ethnographic collection in Southeastern Bulgaria. The exposition is located in the known in Burgas Brakalov’s house.

Seaside Garden - The first trees in the area of today's seaside garden were planted by the soldiers of the 24th Black Sea Regiment (established in 1889). Hundreds of plants are present in the garden, from all continents, and the old part of the Seaside Garden (nearly a quarter of it) has been declared a monument of garden art.

Travel to Pomorie – visit to the Cupola Thracian tomb, St. George monastery and the Museum of Salt

Cupola Thracian tomb - The Cupola Thracian tomb near Pomorie is from the Roman period and in its construction the Thracian domed vault model was applied. It is an architectural monument of culture of national significance since 1965.

St. George Monastery - St. George male monastery in the town of Pomorie was established in the end of XVIII c. although there is a legend telling that in VII c. there already was a temple or monastery, dedicated to St. George the Martyr, in this place. Today, many valuable examples of the iconographic art of the XVIII and XIX c. are kept in the monastery.

Museum of Salt and Pomorie Lake - The first “Museum of Salt” in Eastern Europe was built at Pomorie Lake. Healing mud is produced in the southern part of the lake for the sanatoria in the town and the northern part is used for traditional salt production, preserved for longer than 2000 years. The lake became a protected area in 2001, it is an important ornithological site of national importance, and Ramsar wetland of international importance since 2002.

Travel to Nesebar – bus tour of Sunny beach and walking tour of Old Nesebar. Dinner and overnight in Nesebar.

Sunny beach - Sunny beach is the largest and most popular beach resort in Bulgaria. With its hundreds of hotels, numerous bars and restaurants, multiple entertainment and shops and its developed infrastructure, the resort attracts thousands of tourists from around the world. The tourist season here lasts from May through October.

Old Nesebar - The Historical and Architectural Reserve Nesebar is located in the Old Town of Nesebar on a small peninsula. The old town was declared an architectural and historical reserve in 1956. In 1983 it was encribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

5. DAY

Nessebar – Aytos – Karnobat – Straldzha – Yambol (overnight in Yambol)

Travel to Karnobat via Aytos – visit to the Genger Architectural and Ethnographic Complex in Aytos, Markeli Fortress next to Karnobat and wine cellars

Genger Architectural and Ethnographic Complex - The Genger architectural and ethnographic complex in Aytos is an open-air ethnographic exhibition presenting the most typical for the Aytos region folk artistic crafts.

Markeli Fortress - Situated 7.5 km west of the present town of Karnobat the fortress is one of the most impressive medieval monuments throughout South Bulgaria.

Travel to Straldzha – Zimnitsa. Coffee break at Petolachkata.

Ethnographic museum - the village of Zimnitsa (Straldzha municipality) - The museum was opened in 1994. Expositions: Includes mainly ethnographic exposition: with agricultural equipment, household items and jewelry and costumes from the past of the village of Zimnitsa.

Travel to Kabile. Visit National Archaeological Reserve Kabile.

National Kabile Archeological Reserve - 6 km north of the city. In it are the ruins of the ancient Thracian town of Kabile - economic, cultural and political center of ancient Thrace. It has a museum of area 960 sq.m showing a standing exhibition with exhibits representing the historical development of the antique city. There is a conference room with 60 seats.

Travel to Yambol. Visit Historical Museum and Bezistena in Yambol. Accommodation in the selected hotel in Yambol.

Historical Museum of Yambol (website: <http://www.yambolmuseum.com/>) - The museum was founded in 1952. It has the following specialized departments: Archeology, Bulgarian lands XV-XIX century, New and new history, Public relations and Restoration. Funds: prehistory - 4,000 exhibits; antiquity - 2,600 exhibits; Middle Ages - 1,600 exhibits; numismatics - 6,200 exhibits; Renaissance - 3 050 exhibits; ethnography - 4,500 exhibits; a new story - 15,000 exhibits; the most recent story - 15 000 exhibits. Expositions: 115 years of musical work and 50 years.

Bezistena in Yambol city was built in the second half of 15 c. in the center of today's Yambol city. It is the only building of this type in Bulgaria and is one of the most interesting and well preserved monuments of 15 c.

6. DAY

Yambol – Elhovo – Topolovgrad – Harmanli - Haskovo (overnight in Haskovo)

Travel to Elhovo. Visit Ethnographic Archaeological Museum in Elhovo.

Ethnographic Archaeological Museum - Elhovo (Elhovo Municipality) - The museum was established in 1958. Specialized departments: "Agriculture and Livestock", "Transport, Hunting and Fishing", "Clothing and Decorations", "Fabrics and Embroidery", "Housing and Housing", "Traditional Crafts", " spiritual culture, customs and folklore ". The museum exposition is situated on an area of 244 square meters. in 4 halls, the ethnographic part of the exposition is preceded by a brief introduction to the historical past of Elhovo. The museum is included in the 100 tourist sites of Bulgaria. It has one of the richest ethnographic expositions in the country with examples of the folk crafts and costumes of Bulgarians - immigrants from Belomorska Thrace, Lozengrad and Odrin.

Pass and stop in Topolovgrad and Harmanli.

Travel to Haskovo.

The tourist route goes straight to *The Monument of the Holy Mother of God*. The monument is dedicated to Mary, the mother of Jesus and was unveiled in 2003. Standing at a total height of 31 meters or 102 feet, the monument has been certified by the Guinness Book of World Records as the tallest statue of the Virgin Mary with the Infant Jesus in the world

The Monument of envy. This is the first and only Monument of Envy in the world – of the Bulgarian Icarus –, it was inaugurated on 8 September 2014 in the town of Haskovo. The sculpture represents a man spreading out his arms, with feather wings, determined to fly. But two skeletal hands grab his wings, pulling them down, trying to break them.

Lyutitsa. It is one of the largest and best preserved castles in the easternmost part of the Eastern Rhodopes. It is also known as the "Marble City" because its walls are made of white marble.

Haskovo Regional History Museum. The Haskovo Regional History Museum treasures more than 120 000 pieces and artifacts of the historical cultural heritage, many of which have an exceptionally high value. Unique collections of prehistoric, antique and medieval artifacts made of ceramics, stone, iron and glass, contributing to part of the rich museum collection.

DAY

Departure to Svilengrad – Edirne – Istanbul Airport