



Bulletin

European Destinations of Excellence

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

(Issue 16, June 2017)

NEWS, RELATED TO THE PROJECT

For the second consecutive year in EDEN destination Vratsa was held the National Folklore Festival "Ledenika"



Minister Nikolina Angelkova congratulated the participants in the National Folklore Festival "Ledenika", which took place on 24 and 25 June in Vratsa. "The holding of this event for a second consecutive year shows that you have the desire and you are trying to preserve the Bulgarian traditions and to popularize the region among more Bulgarian and foreign tourists," said Minister Angelkova. She recalled that Vratsa was chosen as one of the EDEN destinations in Bulgaria. „Vratsa has its origin in a rich Thracian settlement. Over the centuries,

it remains important craft-commercial and later industrial center.

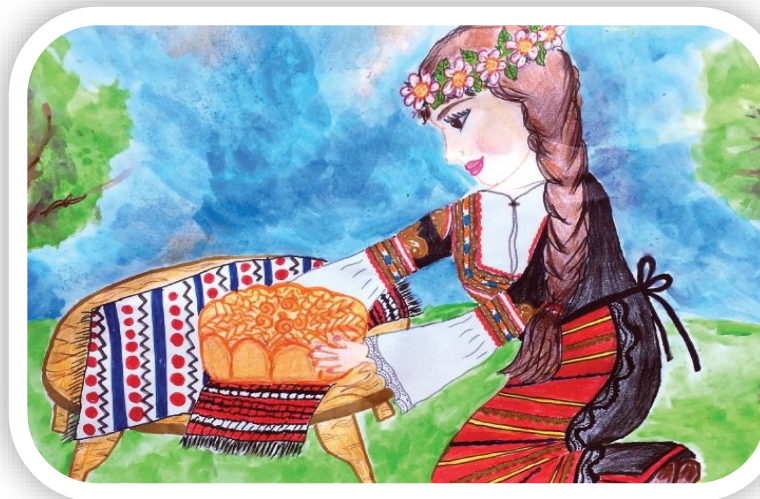
According Minister Angelkova, this initiative is an example that need to be followed and developed because it will contribute not only to preserving the Bulgarian spirit but also to building Bulgaria as a sustainable all year round tourist destination.

In 2016, when festival was first held, it was visited by more than 5,000 people. Also, the National Folklore Festival

"Ledenika" won the first prize in the "Spirit of Bulgaria" category in the first state Annual Tourism awards. "I am sure that the Municipality of Vratsa will join the competition this year as well", Minister Angelkova said.

The mayor of the Municipality of Vratsa, Kalin Kamenov, participated in the meeting and announced that this year the visitors of the festival are expected to exceed 10 000 people, and more than 70 folk ensembles have been included in the program. Traditionally, the Northwestern Wedding was also rebuilt.

"Communication campaign to promote EDEN destinations in Bulgaria – Second Edition", as implemented by The Ministry of Tourism under a grant agreement with the European Commission № 699265 Of Jan 18, 2016, is due to end on 31.07.2017. Until the completion of the project, it is planned to finalize the following activities:



- Design and printing of Leaflet "Events and Festivals @ Bulgaria EDEN destinations"; design and printing of Leaflets presenting thematic routes between EDEN destinations in Bulgaria; design and printing of Postcards and magnets with the best children's drawings from the competition "My Eden Destination in Bulgaria".
- Conducting 2nd Networking meeting of the EDEN network in Bulgaria. Meeting will be conducted in order to evaluate and

analyze the achieved results and gather feedback from the Bulgaria EDEN destinations representatives on their satisfaction with the efforts and actions, undertaken by the Ministry for the promotion the Bulgaria EDEN destinations. In addition, the meeting will discuss future actions to be undertaken by the Ministry of Tourism with respect to the promotion and sustainable development of the Bulgarian EDEN destinations. It is planned to be a two-day event and to be held within the first week of July 2017.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FROM THE EDEN DESTINATIONS

The Dance Festival „Horo near Pirin “ (1-2 July 2017)



Folklore Dance Festival for Children and Lovers "Horo near Pirin" will be held for the third consecutive year on 1 and 2 July 2017 in the town of Sandanski. The organizers of the festival are the Municipality of Sandanski, the "Magic Art Company" Ltd. and the Folklore Dance Schools "Makedontsi". The festival's purpose is to promote and preserve Bulgarian folk dances and dances of small and large people, without age limitation. The Dance Festival also provides an opportunity for expression of the people who like to dance and who want to keep the Bulgarian at home. The place



where participants from all over the country will be presented will be "Summer Theater" in the town of Sandanski.

The Festival "Horo near Pirin" 2017 has prepared for all lovers and connoisseurs of Bulgarian folklore in two categories: festival and competition part.

More information about the event can be find on the following website: <http://horokraipirina.com>

Festival „ Fiery Danube” (26-29 July 2017)



The largest scale event for the locals and visitors of Tutrakan municipality and one of the biggest events in the entire region is Fiery Danube – four July days filled with performances, concerts, sports competition and gastro competitions, many surprises for the youngest festival guests, a light and fire show above the water and many other surprises bringing into one place thousands of visitors from the town, the country and abroad to enjoy the festival's charm.

It is held in late July. The town museums are open for visitors offering a diverse agenda for

the visitors from various age groups. It is organized by Tutrakan Municipality in partnership with Municipal center for out-of-school activities, Historical museum and community centers in the region. The festival's purpose is to promote the town as an attractive tourism destination, to attract outside visitors and participants to the festival, as well as increase awareness of the local traditions and culture environment.

More information about the event can be find on the following website: <https://opoznai.bg/view/festival-ogneniiat-dunav-tutrakan>

International folklore festival Srebarna Pafta (27-30 July 2017)

During the period 27-30.07.2017 in the city of Kyustendil is the opening of the Srebarna Pafta (Silver Belt Buckle) international folklore festival. The event venue is the Velbuzhd square, the Arc. The festival is held under the auspices of the Kyustendil mayor and Pautalia 2008 Community Center. The event is not of competitive nature, it



aims to preserve Bulgarian folklore, lifestyle, and culture. Srebarna Parfta IFF is established as one of the landmark events in Kyustendil's culture calendar. It is yet another year that everyone can feel the beauty and magic of various people's folklore. Created for the purpose of preserving traditional culture and examples of Balkan people's folklore, with each year the festival is expanding its scope, welcoming increasing numbers of folklore ambassadors from various places on Earth.

The heads of ensembles, dance groups set their participation program up to 25 minutes. Clubs for folk people up to 15 minutes. Folk choirs and individual performers up to 10 minutes. Customs and rituals to 25 minutes.

More information about the event can be find on the following website: <http://www.kultura-kn.info/festival/24/m%D0%B5%D0%B6%D0%B4%D1%83%D0%BD%D0%B0%D1%80%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B5%D0%BD-%D1%84%D0%BE%D0%BB%D0%BA%D0%BB%D0%BE%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%BD-%D1%84%D0%B5%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8%D0%B2%D0%B0%D0%BB-%D1%81%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B1%D1%8A%D1%80%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%BF%D0%B0%D1%84%D1%82%D0%B0-2015>

XVI International art contest "River notes" – Tutrakan (25 – 26 August 2017)



In August 2017, for the sixteenth time Tutrakan will become an international center of musical art. On the banks of Danube river, children from Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Israel, Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Greece will meet on open scenes. With the talent and youth of the participants and their performances, the days of the festival become a real celebration for the city. The objectives of the international competition are to find and provide a scene for young talented people, to popularize the Bulgarian children's and entertaining songs, to

unite the children from Bulgaria and abroad into a creative union and acquaintance with the culture of Bulgaria. The right to participate in the competition has individual performers and vocal formations in different age groups. Organizers of the event are the municipal administration - Tutrakan and the municipal center for out-of-school activities - Tutrakan. The venue is an open stage - Ritual home Tutrakan.

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web site: www.rechninoti-tn.net

More information about the event can be find on the following website: <http://rechninoti-tn.net>

Cultural forum "Panagia" – the Raising of the Bread" (13-15 August 2017)

"Panagia" – The "Raising of the Bread" is a forum for the Bulgarian tradition, Orthodox art and culture, which is held every year at churches and chapels called St. Virgin Mary.

At the beginning of August an iconography plein air is conducted with the participation of young icon-painters. On the eve of the Virgin Mary holiday the iconography exhibition, Panagia is revealed.

On the days leading up to the Assumption, the traditions surrounding the kneading of the Virgin Mary bread loaves and the baking of them in flat pottery baking dishes are presented. Even the actions happening around the bread resembles the religious sacrament. The wheat is sanctified and objects connect to the kneading are filled with sanctity. The "Woman- Mother" teaches and gives the sacrament to the most prominent girls.

The next day, the Regional Historical Museum in Kyustendil host an exhibition, "The Eve of the Assumption". The alleys of museums are filled with many loaves of bread, kneaded by the skillful hands of Kyustendil's women. Into this bread is braided faith, mastery and authenticity – those things that are passed down from mother to daughter, from family to family.

On August 15th according to traditions the women of Kyustendil knead bread with prayers for prosperity, then decorate the loaves with shapes made from the dough itself which express the most meaningful ideas from customs. Once the bread has been baked, they bring these decorated loaves to chapels to give thanks to the Virgin Mary.

More information about the event can be find on the following website: <http://www.kultura-kn.info/celebration/3/%D0%BA%D1%83%D0%BB%D1%82%D1%83%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%BD-%D1%84%D0%BE%D1%80%D1%83%D0%BC-%D0%BF%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B0%D0%B3%D0%B8%D1%8F-%D0%B2%D1%8A%D0%B7%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%B3%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B5-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D1%85%D0%BB%D1%8F%D0%B1%D0%B0-panagia>

INTERESTING TOURIST ROUTES IN THE BULGARIAN EDEN DESTINATIONS

Itineraries in the EDEN destination Kyustendil

The town is situated in the southernmost part of the fertile Kyustendil hollow, along the banks of the small Banshtitsa river, on the most northern slopes of Macedonia's Osogovo Mountain. Kyustendil is a balneological resort of national importance that has a diverse natural resource potential. The presence of geothermal waters directly in sites - cultural monuments and areas with a concentration of cultural and historical heritage is a great chance and potential for development of spa, wellness and cultural and historical tourism.



Kyustendil – forest park Hisarlaka – village of Bo- goslov

You can reach the Hisarlaka forest park in 3 ways, along the ladders of the town market (marked in red), along the park promenade at the end of Gorotsvetna Street or along the panoramic road above Osogovo Stadium.

Kyustendil - Zhilentsi village - "Studen Kladenets" area – "Pamuka" area - Osogovo hut

The route is marked in yellow. The village of Zhilentsi (655 m) is 6 km away, west of Kyustendil. From the center of the village goes south along the road, along the Glogozka River, into the mountain.





Kyustendil - Kadin Bridge (Nevestino village) - Chetirska cave

The village of Nevestino (Nevestino municipality) is 12 km east of Kyustendil. In the center of the Struma River is Kadin Bridge, built in 1470 with a length of about 100 m.



Kyustendil - the village of Smolichino (the country- side of the village)

The village of Smolichino is located about 30 km. east of Kyustendil on the way to Blagoevgrad. On the right bank of the Eleshnitsa river, among lush bushy vegetation and steep cliffs, in the "Manastira" area, the waters of the two karst springs, which have been captured, form the waterfall "St. Yana".

Lovers of archaeological values can visit the remains of a late antique fortress wall near the Bachkovo

neighborhood, the remains of an ancient necropolis in the "Pobien Kamik" area and a late antique tomb in the "Dimkovi vodenitsi" locality.

Cave "Prikazna" - located in the rock from which the small waterfall "St. Yana", unique in its formations, with rich interior decoration, standing by the Eleshnitsa River about 20 m.

Cave "St. Yana" - is situated above the holy water behind the cave "Prikazna". It is inclined with a length of about 48 m, uneven, one-storey and damp.

More information about the event can be find on the following website: http://tourism-kn.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=45&Itemid=118&lang=bg



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