

YAMBOL REGION - A DESIRABLE PLACE FOR TOURISM



Yambol region offers excellent opportunities for recreation and tourism. The guests of the region can practice cultural, as well as hunting tourism.

The valley of the river Tundzha offers good conditions for hunting and boat cruises to places of interest in picturesque areas along the river. Also along the Tundzha river valley there are well-preserved and alluring riparian dense forests, called "Ormani".

Hotels in the "Bakadzhitsi" uplands offer opportunities for recreation and healing tourism since the air there is famous for its healing quality for lung diseases.

The region offers good conditions for water tourism along the middle and upper parts of the Tundzha river valley. The Lesovo gorge of the Tundzha river, between the mountain Sakar and the "Derventski" heights, and the rapids of the river Tundzha in the area of Darkaya, are an attractive place for competitions in water jumping and water slalom.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE ANCIENT PEOPLE - ANCIENT SETTLEMENTS AND DOLMENS



More than 30 fortresses, 70 prehistorical settlements and 1000 gravestone mounds in the territory of the region attract the interest of tourists. There are two historical reserves and 6 natural zones, placed under state protection.

More than 270 ancient settlements and around 1000 gravestone mounds are found in the region. Most of them are situated along the Tundzha river valley and its feeders.

In the territory of Yambol city there are: a Roman bath, Medieval fortress, the only preserved covered market in Bulgaria - the XV century "Bezisten"; the second biggest mosque in Bulgaria - the 1373 mosque "Eksi". The orthodox temple "St. George" is a cultural monument and owns a unique wooden iconostasis.

In Yambol region, in the area of the Sakar mountain, stands the biggest concentration of megalithic monuments in the Balkan peninsula - dolmens (prehistoric tombs, built of huge stone blocks).

THE ANCIENT THRACIAN CITY OF KABILE



The most famous ancient historical site in the area is the Thracian city of Kabile, situated 8km. to the northwest of Yambol city. More than 30 fortresses from Antiquity and Medieval times are found in the city that was born in IV c. B.C. They were used for the protection of the south border. Among the found and preserved things are the rock sanctuary of the goddess Kibela-Artemida, situated in "Zaychi" peak, parts of the fortress walls with a gate from the Hellenistic epoch /IV-II century B.C./, a fortified military camp, a Roman bath with an ancient floor heating system, two early Christian basilicas with multicolor floor mosaics and other archeological remains from the ancient city. Situated 1km. away from the village of Kabile, is the nunnery "Nativity of the Holy Mary", known for its inexhaustible life-giving spring with healing water.

Near the city of Straldzha stands the legendary peak "Kaletu" with its preserved foundations from an ancient fortress.

THE PREHISTORIC MOUND "DRAMA"

Situated 40km. to the southwest of Yambol, in the area "Medzhumekya" on the right shore of the Azmak river, is the prehistoric mound "Drama". The excavations of the mound and the

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immediate region around it offer an opportunity to trace the history of the settlement and the changes in the way of life and nature from the neolith to the end of the Roman epoch.

THE MAGIC OF MELNITSA



Standing 2km. from the village of Melnitsa, in the northern foothill of the Derventski heights, is the area "Dranchi dupka" - a Karst terrain with several springs, a vertical cave with an underground river and a horizontal cave. Near the village there are the caves "Kesedzhiitsa" /161m/, "Starata dupka" /42m/, Dranchidupka /27m/, Penyov bent /21m/, Dzhoganitsa /14m/ and Kara Burnu /6m/. The area Manastircheto, near the village of Stroyno, is a vast meadow with more than 20 century-old trees, a spring with drinkable water and a small church-sanctuary. South of the Melnitsa village is the Thracian rock sanctuary. In the areas Mircholovite kamani, Mochukovite kamani and Kyusterlaka there is the biggest concentration of 250 rock circles symbolizing the solar disk. They are carved on a chain of protruding rocks along an area of 6-8km.

THE BEAUTY OF THE RESERVES "DOLNA TOPCHIYA" AND "GORNA TOPCHIYA"



Situated close to the city of Elhovo, the reserves "Dolna topchiya" and "Gorna topchiya" are suitable for walks in the virgin nature. The only place in Bulgaria where the kolhidski pheasant can be found is in the reserve "Dolna topchiya". Aside from the kolhidski pheasant, there also are other types of herons nesting in the reserve: gray, night, small and white, as well as glossy ibis, and many other bird species. The reserve is composed mainly of dense centuries-old

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forests.

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE MAGICAL FOLKLORE

Many ancient traditions, rituals and crafts have been preserved in the region. They can be observed during the many folklore festivals, gatherings and singing competitions.