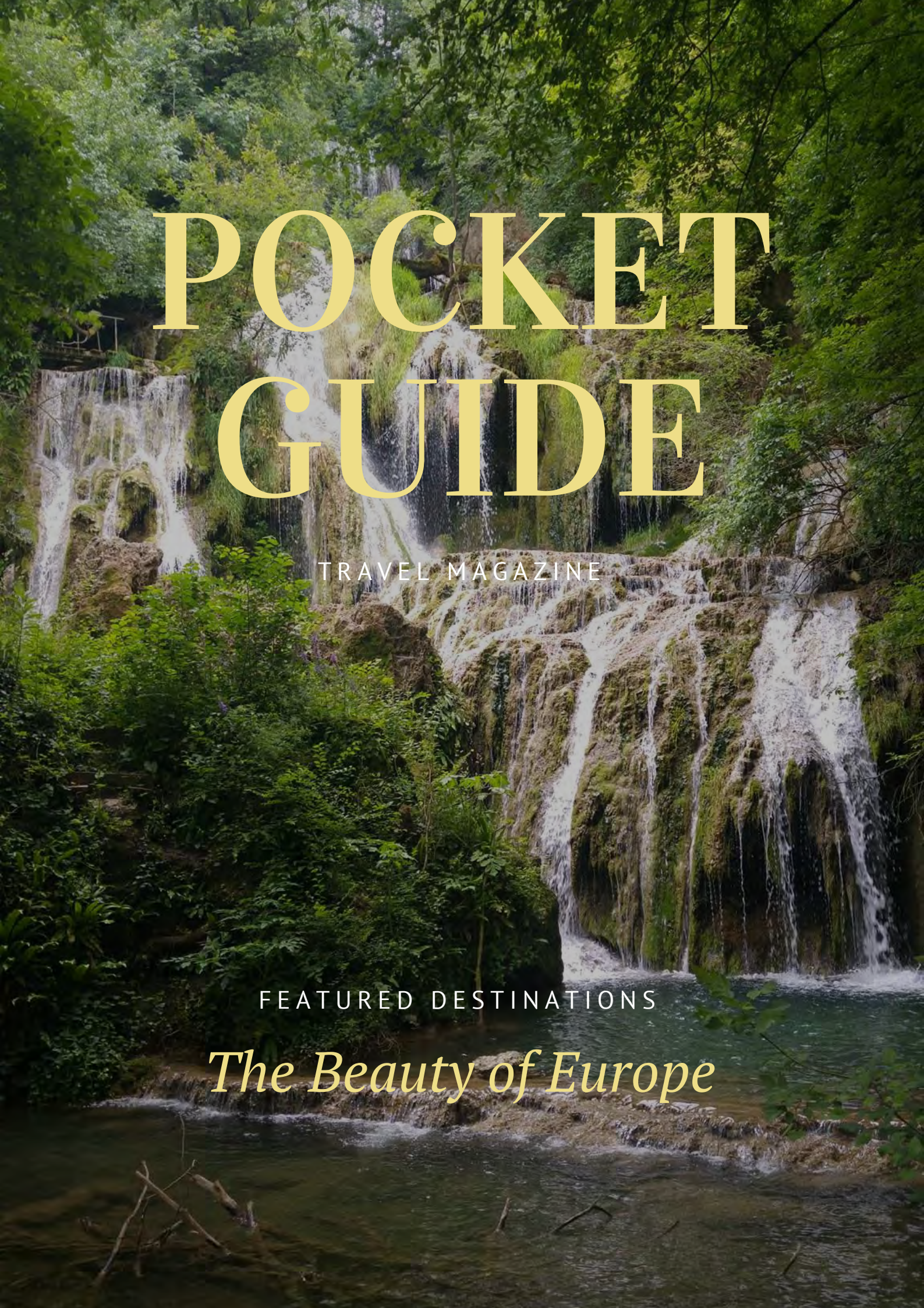




POCKET GUIDE

TRAVEL MAGAZINE

FEATURED DESTINATIONS

The Beauty of Europe

CONTENTS

**01 LATVIA IN 3
DAYS**

**02 HIDDEN GEMS
IN BELGIUM**

**03 THE WONDERS
OF BULGARIA**

**04 ROME - THE
PERL OF ITALY**

**05 LET'S PLAY -
CROSSWORD
PUZZLE**





LATVIA IN 3 DAYS

Only latvians know what it's like to feel the fresh autumn air under beautiful trees which paint our skyline colourful; what it's like to sing traditional songs on a stage which is filled with thousands of people and to feel united, what it's like to search for the fern flower at magic midnight because we wouldn't be latvians if we hadn't customs like summer solstice. With this guide I will show you some places latvians love the most.

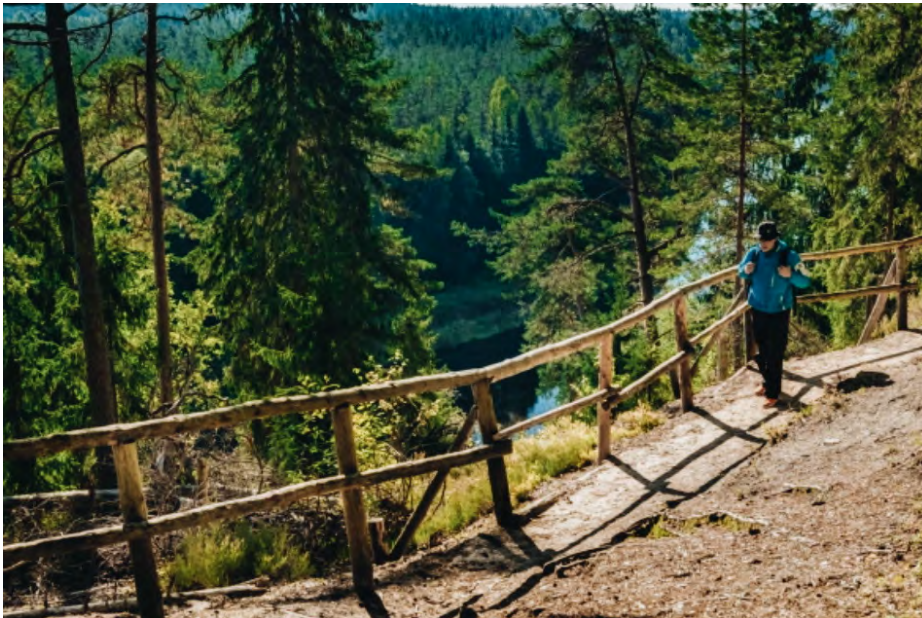


BEAUTIFUL LATVIA

BY LATVIAN GIRL

Day 1

We are going to explore the capital city of Latvia - Riga. Every tourist that has travelled to Latvia has always said that Riga is a wonderful city because of its simpliness. A must see is the old city of Riga that is why we will be going there. Also we will be visiting The Freedom Monument that symbolizes the strenght of our country and perseverance to fight for our nation. At the end of the day we will have a nice dinner in the heart of Riga.



Day 2

The day 2 is for crazy activities because latvians have that side of character too. We will be travelling to Sigulda which is near from Riga to do a bungee jump on the sunrise. It will be an extremely big energetic bomb! Then we will be going to Gauja National Park which is located in a beautiful place, characterized by great biological diversity, variety of landforms, natural springs. In the evening we will relax at SPA "Ezeri".



Day 3

Our last day on this trip will start at Jurmala beach which is near from Riga too. By the seashore you can buy the most delicious ice-cream ever. You can literally feel how it melts in your mouth.

In the evening we will be watching show at Latvian National Theatre. Latvian shows are really good because we are talented and ambitious as well. The day tourists can spend on the beach or visiting Latvian National Museum of Art. It depends on their own needs and desires.



HIDDEN GEMS IN BELGIUM

The second country that is very interesting to visit is Belgium. Almost everyone knows, Belgium is known as a heart of Europe. But did you know that Belgium has a lot more places to visit than only the ones in the capital city?



THE BREWERY OF WESTVLETEREN

Westvleteren is a beer that is brewed in the brewery of WestVeteren by monks. one of the three beers was the best beer in the world for several years. as a tourist you can not order a westvleteren in any bar in Belgium, only at the bar "in de vrede" has the right to sell this beer.



THE CORE CITY OF DURBUY

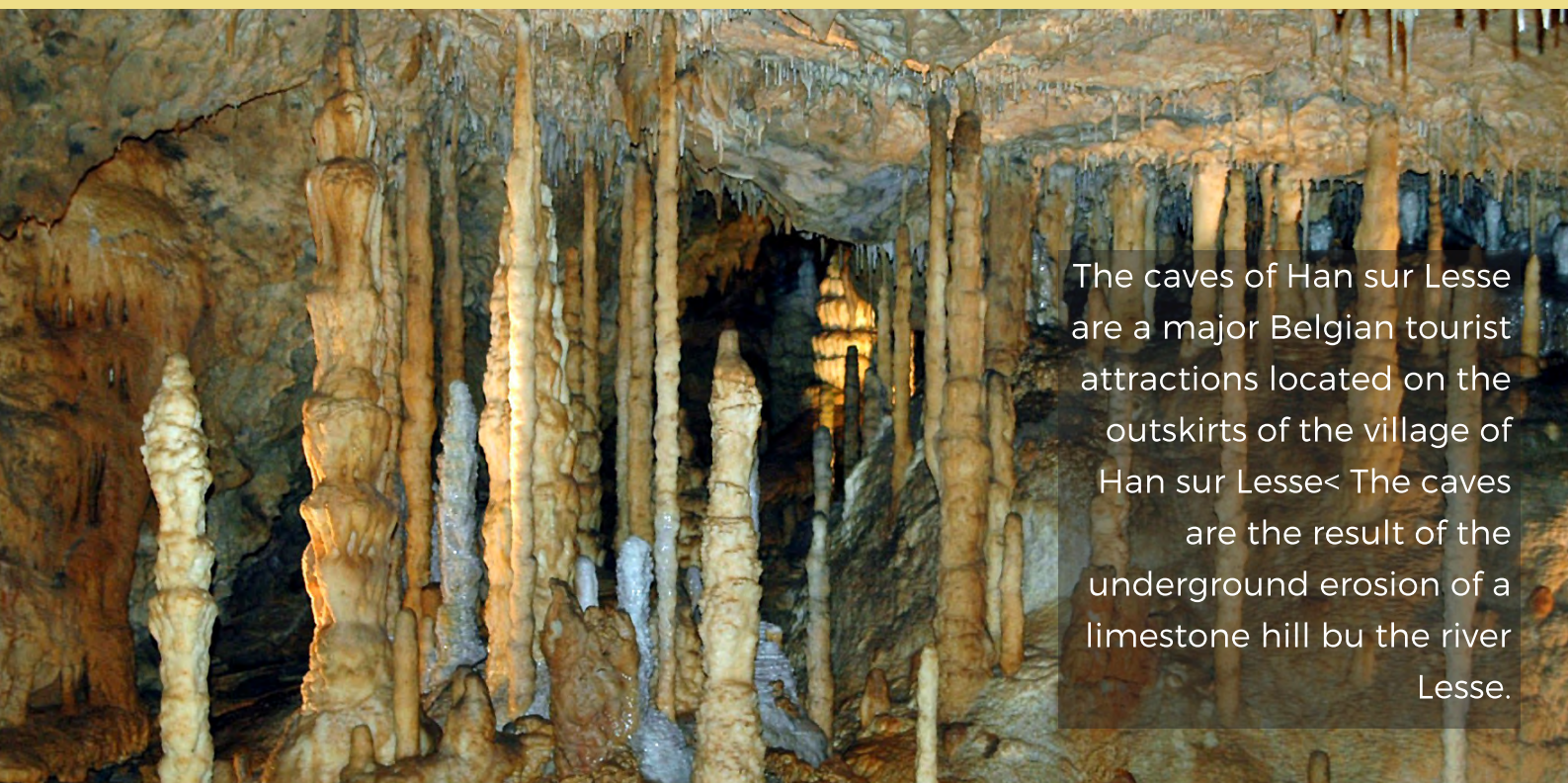
Durbuym is a city situated in Belgian Luxemburg is known as the smallest city in the world. This medieval city which core city counts 400 habitants who live in only a few streets.



THE GRAVENSTEEN AT GHENT

The Gravensteen is a castle in Ghent originating from the middle ages The name means castle of the counts in Dutch. The Gravensteen is situated at an altitude of 9 meters.

The coastal tram is inextricably linked with the unique nature of the Flemish coast. The tramway along the Belgian northseacoast is the longest single tramline in the world and connects Knokke with De Panne.



The caves of Han sur Lesse are a major Belgian tourist attractions located on the outskirts of the village of Han sur Lesse. The caves are the result of the underground erosion of a limestone hill by the river Lesse.



THE WONDERS OF BULGARIA

Dramatic mountain ranges, historic towns
and villages, and great beaches are just a
few reasons to discover Bulgaria!





BELOGRADCHISHKI SKALI

MADED BY TWO BULGARIANS

WHAT IS THIS?

These rock formations will take your breath away with their rugged beauty. Their colour varies from red to yellow and they are over 200 million years old. Each rock has a fantastic shape and the names come from legends and folklore of the past. The Rider, The Monks, Madonna, The Student, The Bear, The Lion, and Adam and Eve are the ones closest to the village of Belogradchik. They are on the tentative list for inclusion as an UNESCO World Heritage Site.

WHERE ARE THEY SITUATED?

Belogradchiski skali is located on the western slopes of the Balkan Mountains (Stara Planina) near the town of Belogradchik in northwest Bulgaria and they cover an area of 50 km².

WHAT MAKES THEM SPACIAL?

The rock figures and the small valleys with steep vertical slopes have formed over about 230 million years ago as a result of the natural processes of erosion, denudation, growth of mosses and lichens, and other natural factors.





7 Rila Lakes



“

*Climb the
mountains not so
the world can see
you, but so that you
can see the world*

”

The area has a special place in the hearts of many.

The Seven Rila Lakes are a group of glacial lakes, situated in the northwestern Rila Mountains in Bulgaria. They are the most visited group of lakes in Bulgaria. The lakes are situated between 2,100 and 2,500 metres elevation above sea level.

Each lake carries a name associated with its most characteristic feature. The highest one is called Salzata ("The Tear") due to its clear waters that allow visibility in depth.

The next one in height carries the name Okoto ("The Eye") after its almost perfectly oval form. Okoto is the deepest cirque lake in Bulgaria, with a depth of 37.5 m.

Babreka ("The Kidney") is the lake with the steepest shores of the entire group. Bliznaka ("The Twin") is the largest one by area. Trilistnika ("The Trefoil") has an irregular shape and low shores. The shallowest lake is Ribnoto Ezero ("The Fish Lake") and the lowest one is Dolnoto Ezero ("The Lower Lake"), where the waters that flow out of the other lakes are gathered to form the Dzherman River.



Prohodna Cave "The God's eyes"

Located in the Iskar Gorge amidst one of Bulgaria's largest karst regions, Prohodna is one of the best-known caves in a country full of them.

Known as the Eyes of God, these holes are located in the middle chamber of the 262-meter-long cave, illuminating the interior and providing a uniquely framed view of the firmament above. Remarkably in size, similar in shape, and eyeish in appearance, these holes are the result of natural erosive forces. These slow and steady forces are still at work, as is often demonstrated by the water running down the cave walls from the "crying" eyes above.

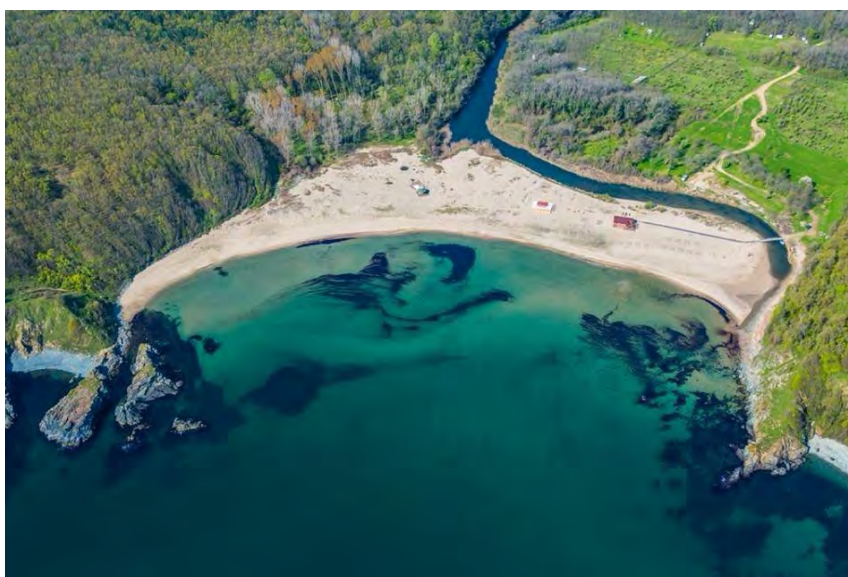
Prohodna has two entrances opposite each other — the "Small Entrance", 35 meters high, and the "Big Entrance", which is 45 meters high — making it the largest cave passage in Bulgaria

Prohodna shows evidence of prehistoric habitation. Today, the Big Entrance of Prohodna is a popular location for bungee jumping.



Silistar beach

Bulgaria has many beaches situated on the coast of The Black Sea, but one of the most beautiful and famous is Silistar.



Silistar is located close to border with Turkey. It is reached by 1 km dirty road through the forest.

Silistar bay is incredibly beautiful. The sea here is quiet, the bottom is sloping, and the sea water - crystal and clear. The beach is around 1km long and 50 meters wide. The sand is fine and golden.

Also known by the name "The beach of pirates". It is assumed that in the ancient times this and neighboring gulf (Listi beach) were base of robbers (pirates) and the name Silistar comes from the Greek word "syunlistareo" - "location adjacent to robbers".



Veliko Tarnovo

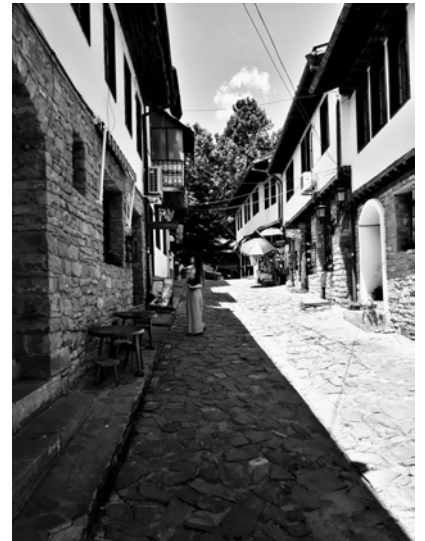
Medieval history emanates from Veliko Târnovo's fortified walls and cobbled lanes. One of Bulgaria's oldest towns, Veliko Târnovo has as its centerpiece the magnificent restored Tsarevets Fortress, citadel of the Second Bulgarian Empire.

The town of Veliko Turnovo is situated in the central part of North Bulgaria at the foot of the Balkan Mountains. Historians date it back to 4th millenium B.C. Veliko Tarnovo is the former capital of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom (1185-1396) and a symbol of the Bulgarian nationhood. Probably the most outstanding landmark of the town is the medieval fortress of Tsarevets - the ramparts, the Baldwin Tower, the royal Palace and Patriarchate, the Palace Church St Petka and a multitude of small cross-domed churches.

It became the most significant political, economic, cultural and religious center of Bulgaria.

Modern Veliko Turnovo develops dynamically but still is a town-museum rich in many cultural museums, monuments and architectural sites. Every year the town is visited by thousands of Bulgarian and foreign tourists.

The beautiful defiles of the river Yantra outline the three hills – Tsarevets, Sveta gora and Trapezitsa and shape the unique townscape.





ROME - THE PERL OF ITALY

A heady mix of haunting ruins, awe-inspiring art and vibrant street life, Italy's hot-blooded capital is one of the world's most romantic and inspiring cities.



THE COLOSSEUM

As the Eiffel Tower is to Paris, the silhouette of the Flavian Amphitheatre is to Rome. The largest structure left to us by Roman antiquity, the Colosseum still provides the model for sports arenas - present day football stadium design is clearly based on this oval Roman plan.



VATICAN CITY

The Vatican is the smallest independent state in the world, with an area of less than half a square kilometer, most of it enclosed by the Vatican walls. Inside are the Vatican palace and gardens, St. Peter's Basilica, and St. Peter's Square, an area ruled by the Pope, supreme head of the Roman Catholic Church. This compact space offers much for tourists to see, between its museums and the great basilica itself.



THE PANTHEON

The Pantheon - the best preserved monument of Roman antiquity - is remarkably intact for its 2000 years. The Pantheon was rebuilt after damage by fire in AD 80, and the resulting brickwork shows the extraordinarily high technical mastery of Roman builders. Its 43-meter dome, the supreme achievement of Roman interior architecture, hangs suspended without visible supports - these are well hidden inside the walls - and its nine-meter central opening is the building's only light source. The harmonious effect of the interior is a result of its proportions: the height is the same as the diameter.



ROMAN FORUM

Walking through the forum, now in the middle of a throbbing modern city, is like stepping back two millennia into the heart of ancient Rome. Forum was the history of the Roman Empire and of the western world. Roman political and religious life was centered here, along with the courts, markets, and meeting places.



TREVI FOUNTAIN

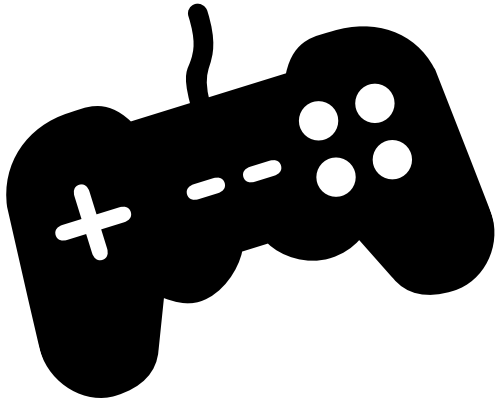
One of the city's most popular tourist attractions, this 17th-century masterpiece has been immortalized in films until it is almost a required visit. Throwing a coin into the Trevi Fountain (Fontana di Trevi) is a tradition that is supposed to assure your return to Rome. Rome's largest fountain, Fontana di Trevi is supplied by an aqueduct originally constructed by Agrippa, the great art patron of the first century BC, to bring water to his baths. It depicts the sea god Oceanus (Neptune), with horses, tritons, and shells.



PALATINE HILL

Strategically set 50 meters above the Tiber, the Palatine Hill shows evidence of Rome's earliest settlement: rock-cuttings found in front of the Temple of Cybele show human activity as long ago as the ninth century BC. Later, this was the site chosen by the emperors and great aristocratic families for their palaces.

The Palatine Hill is a lovely place to explore, combining a park with magnificent and impressive ruins of ancient Rome.

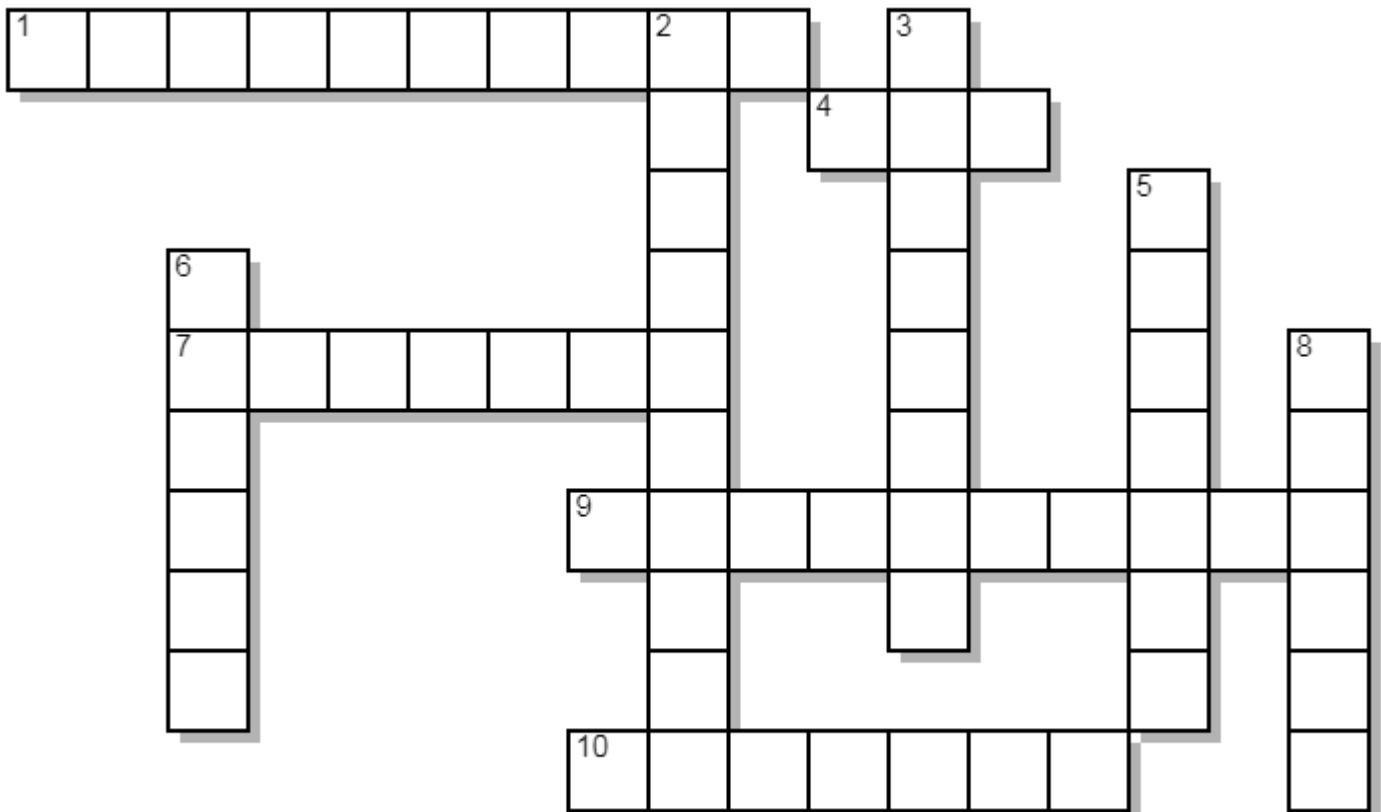


Do you want to
have fun?

Let's play!

Fill the following crossword puzzle

1. Famous sea resort, known for its nightlife
2. Place in Turkey, know for its hot-air ballooning
3. The most famous language in Italy
4. What is the Bulgarian currency?
5. Traditional dance in Greece
6. Famous Romanian festival
7. The capital of Cyprus
8. Latvian drink?
9. In which sports Poland is famous?
10. A typical Belgium food



- THE END -