

MINERALNI BANI – RENEWED AND ATTRACTIVE TOURIST DESTINATION

Mineralni bani is a national balneological resort – one of the best ones suitable for relaxing and healing in our country. It is situated in Southern Bulgaria, only 18 km far from the regional town of Haskovo. It is located in the northern part of the Eastern Rhodopes – in the foot of Aida Peak/859m/. The resort is enveloped with wonderful forest vegetation which gives it crystal clear air and natural beauty. Its climate – a mild winter, a warm summer and a long autumn – is favourable to the tourism development during all the seasons.

Recently the resort village underwent radical changes in its look and became an attractive tourist destination for balneological, ecological and cultural tourism.

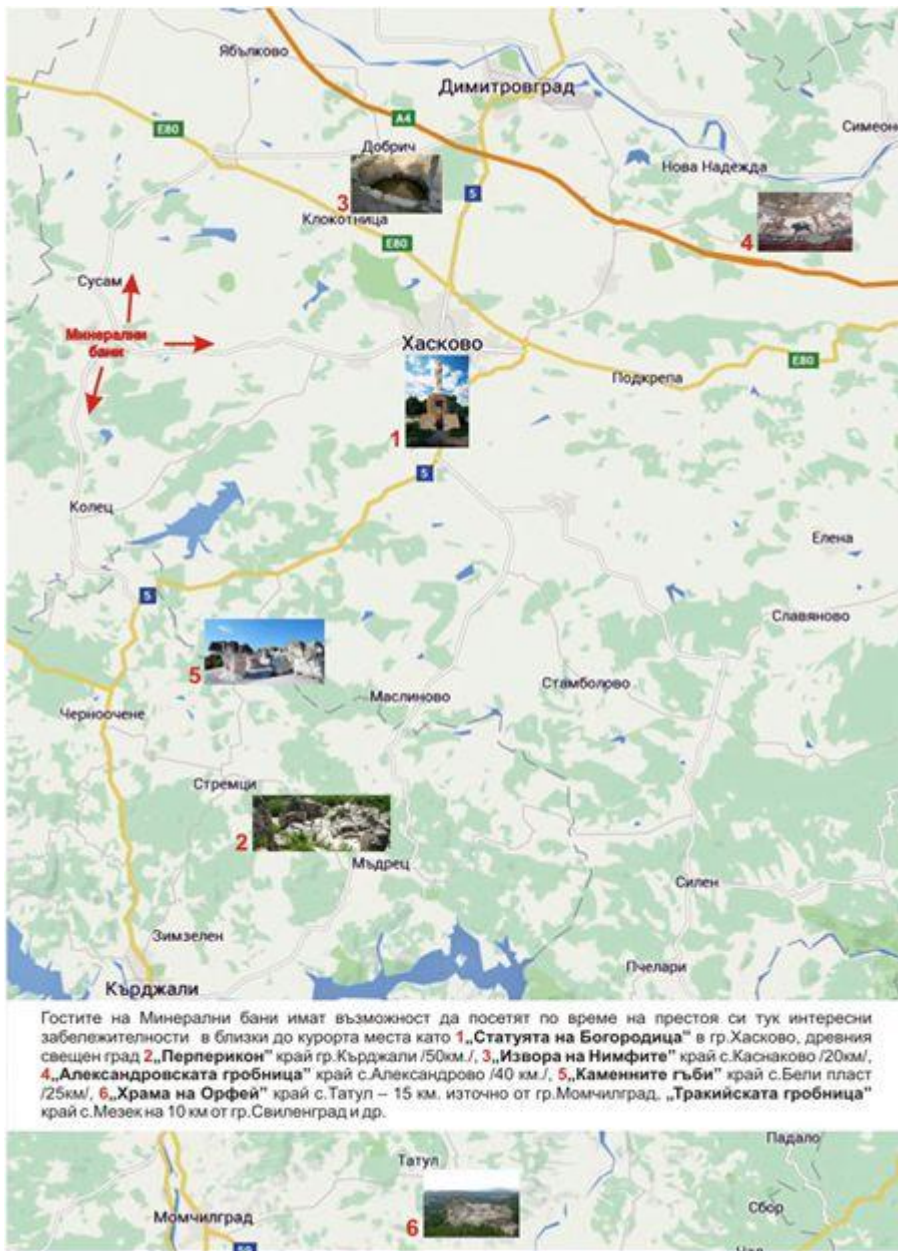


TRANSPORT



- Mineralni bani municipality is only 90 km far from the borders with Greece and Turkey and 14 km far from the international road E-80/Sofia-Plovdiv-Istanbul/.
- Comfortable coaches pass through Mineralni bani daily / following the itinerary Sofia – Kardzhali/.
- There is also a regular and comfortable bus line to the regional town of Haskovo.

ACCESS TO TOURIST SITES



During their stay the guests of Mineralni bani have the opportunity to visit interesting landmarks in the places near the resort such as:

- The Monument of the Virgin Mary in Haskovo - 18 km
- The ancient sacred town of the Thracians Perperikon - 50 km
- the Sanctuary of the Nymphs and Aphrodite near the village of Kasnakovo - 20 km
- The Tomb in Aleksandrovo - 40 km
- The Stone Mushrooms near the village of Beli plast - 25 km
- The Sanctuary of Orpheus near the village of Tatul /65 km / - 15km east of Momchilgrad
- The Thracian Tomb near the village of Mezek/100km/ - 10km from Svilengrad.

MINERAL WATER, BALNEOTHERAPY OPPORTUNITIES

The mineral water – the most valued natural resource of the area is hyperthermal – 59 degrees Celsius and is unique with its chemical composition and healing properties.

The national resort Mineralni bani is specialized in treatment of peripheral arteries diseases of organic and functional type.

Besides these diseases the following illnesses can also be cured with an excellent result:

- **Musculoskeletal system diseases** - joints, peri-arthritis, bursitis, tendovaginitis, myalgia, myositis, lumbago, contractures condition after bone fractures suffered, soft tissue injuries;
- **Peripheral nervous system diseases** - chronic neuralgia, neuritis, plexitis, radiculitis, discopathy, vegetative neurosis;
- **Gynaecological diseases** - chronic salpingo-oophoritis (adnexitis) and periadnexitis, chronic metritis, endo-, peri-and parametritis, agenesis;
- **Dermatological diseases** – eczemas, psoriasis vulgaris, dermatitis, keratoderma, urticaria

The mineral water is drunk when having kidney sand, gastritis, colitis, ulcers, bile and liver diseases.

The opening of the new-built balneohotel Bozhur /PRO Ltd/ is very important. Here the tourists can do prophylaxis of their health and take medical care at NSSI program preferential prices.

CULTURAL-HISTORICAL HERITAGE



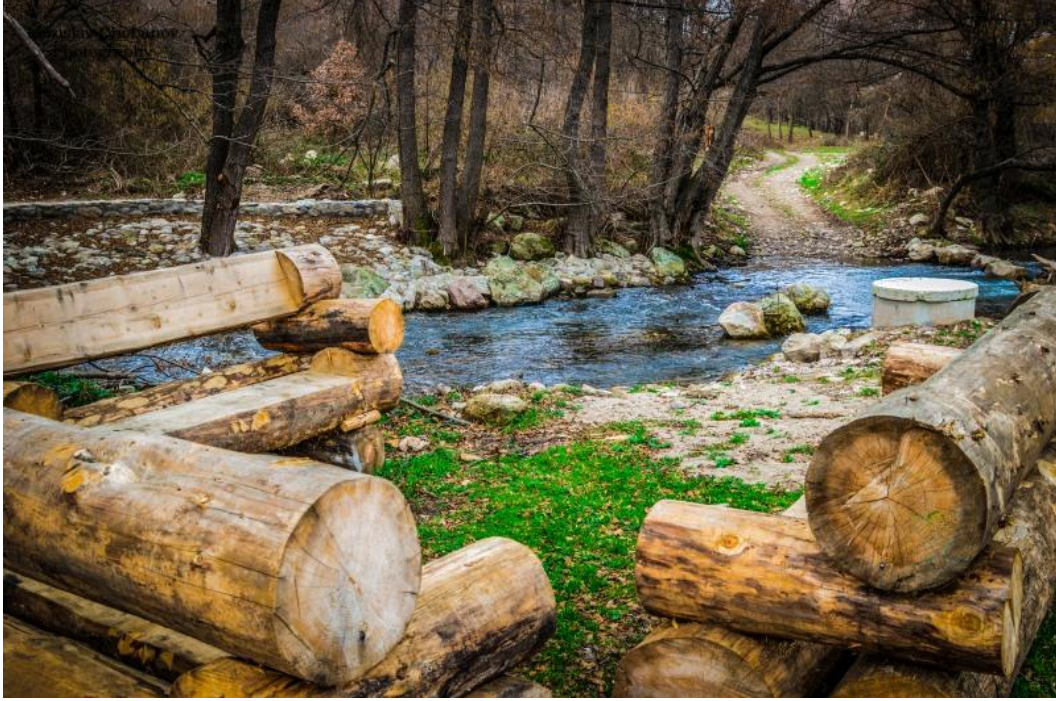
The district is rich of many megalithic monuments, ruins from the most ancient European civilization – cult niches, rock tombs, sharapani and nearby sanctuaries and fortresses. Along the eco paths there are built coquet sites for relax equipped with benches, bowers and places for barbecue. The most part of these sites are located on places with a panoramic view towards the wonderful forests of the Eastern Rhodopes.

Some of the more interesting landmarks are the *Holy Spirit* fortress, Virgin Mary's foot, the cult complex *Eagle Rocks* with the carved human profiles, the ancient town of the Sun near the village of Angel voyvoda and the Snake town near the village of Sarnitsa – approximately coeval with Stonehenge.



ECO PATHS

For the people who love Mother Nature and our cultural heritage in the territory of the municipality there are built six eco paths that comprise important natural and cultural landmarks.



Tourist eco trail: "Boyan Botevo - Pette chuchura - Orlovi skali"



Tourist eco trail: „Sarnitsa village - Angel voyvoda“

Miroslav Chobanov
Photography



Tourist eco trail: „Sarnitsa-Kupena-Orlovi skali“

TERRARIUM



An interesting place for children and adults is the new-built modern terrarium located in **Toplika** Park.

The visitors can see the permanent exposition of different species of amphibians and reptiles that can't be seen for a long time in their natural environment.

They are iguana iguana, python sebae, yellow anaconda (scientific name *Eunectes notaeus*, also known as the Paraguayan anaconda), rattlesnakes etc...

CHIFTE BANIA

Another interesting tourist destination is situated near the terrarium. It is called **Chifte bania**.

At night, silent nice music is the background of laser beams that illuminate the two small pools full of mineral water which falls from two huge attractive showers.

SWIMMING POOLS



Three new modern **mineral water pool complexes** attract thousands of visitors in summer

- The **Olympic** pool has olympic dimensions and a children's pool with sections for children all ages, a Jacuzzi, a children's playground, open-air bar-bistro and rented rooms.
- The **Daisy** pool has a Jacuzzi, a children's pool and a healing pool.
- The **Miramar** pool offers beach sand and straw umbrellas.



CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS AND FESTIVALS

The following important cultural celebrations, competitions and festivals are held every year in the municipal centre of Mineralni bani.

- **The Festival of the mineral water, health and beauty** is an official holiday of the municipality. It is held on Fridays and Saturdays of the last August week and is consecrated on the unique healing mineral water.
- **International children's ethnic festival "Children of the Balkans – with spiritual power in Europe!"** – it is held on 31st May and 1st June with the aim to overcome the ethnic differences and increasing the ethnic and religious tolerance among all children. Over 2 000 children take part from Bulgaria, Turkey, Macedonia, Greece, Serbia, Romania, Croatia, Georgia, Poland etc...



- **National competition “With Nedyalka Keranova’s songs”** is very interesting for the fans of the Bulgarian folklore music. It was held for the first time in 2015 in the honor of the great folklore singer’s art. Nedyalka Keranova was born and grew up in the village of Tatarevo.
- **The Festival “Horo dancing at the vintage”** is held in the end of September. It includes a competition in dancing of groups playing Bulgarian horo dances from all over the country. The festival is combined with an ancient Thracian ritual in the honor of gods Sabaziy -Zagrey. All participants in the ritual wear Thracian clothes and wreaths of vine leaves.



Mineralni bani municipality makes every year a summer cultural calendar full of interesting events for children and adults – concerts, open-air libraries in the park for children, organized walking excursions following the eco paths etc...