

TUTRAKAN CA DESTINATIE TURISTICA

Rezumat: Orașul Tutrakan se află pe malul Dobrogean al Dunării la distanțe aproximativ egale de orașele Silistra, Ruse și Razgrad. În municipiul Tutrakan intră 15 comune în care sa dezvoltat turismul științific, sportiv, religios și congres. Dintre cele mai importante obiective turistice sunt: Fortificația antică Transmariska – partea de nord și de sud (secolele III-VI), Rezervația Arhitecturală “Ribarska mahala”, Muzeul de Etnografie “Pescuit și construcția bărcilor, Muzeul de Istorie, Complexul Memorial “Mormântul militar 1916”. Accesul la monumentele turistice este bine organizat, cu marcaje turistice. Primăria Tutrakan organizează regulat evenimente culturale: festivaluri, vernisaje, concerte ș.a. Muzeul Tutrakan participă anual la târguri turistice în Ruse, Veliko Tarnovo, Sofia ș.a.

Tutrakan is situated in the westernmost part of Danubian Dobrudzha, on the steep hill of the ancient river. The town is a municipal centre comprising 15 villages. Its advantageous geographic location, being situated at almost equal distance from the regional administrative towns Ruse, Silistra and Razgrad, as well as the convenient port facilitate transport connections and communications with those of the rest tourist destinations and services.

According to the purpose, main types of tourism developed in Tutrakan are the following:

Route-specific scientific tourism

The tour is aimed at making visitors acquainted with new towns, villages and places, popular customs, style of living and cultural peculiarities of Tutrakan people. According to statistical data kept with the Historical Museum since 1996 up to now, a considerable increase has been recorded with regards to the flow of tourists interested in the cultural and historical heritage of the town of Tutrakan, from 430 tourists annually to 5725 people, accordingly. As a result of the consistent and active work of museum experts much interest has been attracted to Historical Museum and its affiliated institutions.

Sports and entertainment tourism

The Danube river is the most important and favorable natural tourism resource for Tutrakan municipality. As a physico-geographical site the river plays key role

* Historical Museum-Tutrakan.

in the town's development and is of significant transport, economic and tourism importance (recreation fishing, water sports, ecotourism etc.).

There are 4 ornithological places of importance (OPI) on the territory of Tutrakan Municipality: "Kalimok - Brashlen" protected area of international importance for 13 bird species, "Pozharevski ostrovi" PA, "Saya kulak" PA and "Stenata" OPI (the largest Bee-eater colony in Bulgaria).

Preserved natural environment, rich biodiversity of ornithological places of importance on territory of Tutrakan Municipality attract people interested in nature and science.

A number of cultural, sport and entertainment events are included in the cultural schedule of Tutrakan Municipality that make Tutrakan preferred destination for tourists and fans of attractions, sports and entertainment.

May 30 - June 2: "Following the footsteps of Tanyo Voyvoda" Trail; June: Republican Championship round in powerboat racing; July: Apricot Fete, August-The River Day and Tour International Danubien - annual rowing trip down the Danube River; September: "River notes" International Arts and the National Gathering – Remembrance, in memory of the perished in the battle for Tutrakan in 1916.

Religious tourism

There are temples of faith erected on the territory of Tutrakan Municipality that attract tourists- pilgrims, namely "St. Nikolay" Church - Tutrakan, "Uspenie Bogorodichno" Church in the village of Staro selo and the Alevi sanctuaries in Softa Baba teke - Tutrakan and Ali Baba teke in the village of Varnentsi.

Congress tourism

Over the last two decades a number of conferences, symposia and round tables have been conducted annually in Tutrakan, thus drawing the attention of a certain set of tourists sharing scientific interests.

1. «Tutrakan in the historical development of Dobrudzha» - 1994
2. «Tutrakan Epopee and liberation of Dobrudzha » 1996
3. Scientific conference «60 years Treaty of Craiova» 2000
4. Fifth Spring Readings of young ethnologists – 2002
5. International scientific conference "The River Danube - style of living and culture" 2004
6. International Archeological conference "The lower Danube in Antiquity" - 2005
7. Scientific conference "Tutrakan Epopee and the war on the North front 1916-1918" - 2006
8. Round table "Contribution of Tutrakan to the National and European Culture" - 2007.
9. International scientific conference "The River and the Time" - 2009

Tutrakan has turned into a tourist destination due to its distinctive aspects:

Preserved, exhibited cultural and historical heritage

Antique castle “Transmariska”

Northern fortress wall

On the shore of the big river, in the central part of the town, there is an exposition in the open-northern fortress wall of the antique castle “Transmariska”. The castle “Transmariska” is announced in 1968 as is of national significance. During the archeological excavations are discovered two fortress tower with length of the of the fortress wall 34 m.

The Northern wall is a part of the Danube park and uniquely blends in the landscape of Tutrakan. Excavations are still continuing.

Southern fortress wall

The site is a part of the fortification system of the antique fortress, which was built between 294 and 298/299. Under the personal control of the Roman emperor Diokletian, who visits twice Transmariska. There is information, that the castle was visited by Emperor Valence, who built here a bridge on the Danube River. In the town resides the commander of the second part of the XI Claudius legion, which includes from VI to X cohort of this legion.

The concrete site disposes of a fan-shaped tower in its eastern part, which is also the corner tower of the castle. An important element of the construction of the tower is the presence of belts from four rolls of bricks, which go on the entire width of the tower’ walls. In the same time, from the front part of the tower in western direction is built a additional fortress wall, chich connected probably the so pointed out tower with another, western front it. The destruction of these element is synchronized with the entire ruin of the antique Transmatiska.

The castle stops functioning in the beginning of the VII century, when it was destroyed by Avars and Slavs.

Architectural reserve “Ribarska mahala”

This is the one fishermen’s settlement in the country, which differentiated naturally on the shore. Architectural reserve “Ribarska mahala”, with its characteristic originality, tidiness and revival spirit is preserved for the generations in its authentic look. With the fishermen’s nets, the boat workshops and the fishermen’s houses, the quarter reminds like a living legend for this oldest way of life of our ancestors.

Until the beginning of the XX century in it live 1437 fishermen’s families and the count of the professional fishermen rises to 2296 people, with a population of 7926 people in the town.

The architectural reserve is a living monument of an ancient Bulgarian way of life of the local population-the fishery and the boat-building craft, which were important factors for the development of the town. The Fishermen’s quarter is an unbreakable part of the museum exposition of the Ethnographical museum

“Danube fishery and boat-building” and it is a monument of culture of national significance.

Ethnographical museum “Danube fishery and boat-building”

An impressive architectural monument existing from the beginning of XX century raises only 50 m from the Danube – the Ethnographical museum “Danube fishery and boat-building”- unique on the Danube River valley. As a museum it functions from 1974 and it preserve the rich material and mental culture of the Bulgarians from the fishermen’s settlements on the Danube.

The exposition is arranged in 7 halls and 2 interiors. In chronological sequence are exhibited original fishermen’s instruments from the Antiquity and devices, which are used in the present time. Original fishing devices from the Antiquity and used in the contemporaneity tools and equipment are presented in a chronological sequence. Original fishing rods and hooks from bone and copper, harpoons, clay leads for fishing nets, iron orifices, different types of nets, made by Tutrakan fishermen from vegetal fibers – sturgeon net, fishing – net, perch pike – net, small fry fish – net, etc. are shown. Photographs and black and white drawings explain the way of fishing in the settlements along the Lower Danube. Except the shown fishing belongings, you can get an idea about the social organization of the fishermen, accountancy, the inner structure of their homes, their spiritual culture.

A place is devoted also to the boat – making, which is developing in the region since the Roman period, when there was a vessel repair workshop in the antique fort. In the end of the 19-th century boats from Tutrakan were being exported to Romania, Serbia, Austria, etc.

The exposition of the Museum is a part of the enormous ethnographical legacy of the population of Tutrakan region and the settlements along the river Danube. The dynamic processes in this region and the mixing of different cultures lead to the variety and richness of fishing devices, preserved in the Ethnographical museum

The Ethnography Museum "Danubian Fishing and Boat-Building" in Tutrakan hosts a collection of minerals from the National Museum "The Earth and the People". The exposition comprises 184 items, 53 of which are donated to the History Museum in Tutrakan.

Precious and gem stones Earth minerals Bulgarian minerals Academic collection "Mineral Resources" Minerals: variety and resources of North-East Bulgaria Giant crystals

The Theodor’s house Historical Museum

The Teodor’s house is the massif stone building impresses with its elegant Vienna style. It was built in the end of the XIX century and it was property of the trader Dimitar Theodorov. In 1993 it was adapted for exposition of the Historical

museum. In the development of the Tutrakan region from the Antiquity to the liberation from Romanian occupation in 1940.

Displays include a 5th century B.C., Thracian pottery, objects from the ancient fortress "Transmariska", objects from the First and the Second Bulgarian kingdom, and objects from Ottoman rule and the Liberation.

In addition, the Museum has an exposition of icons from the Triavna pictorial school and church - printed books from the middle and the second half of the 19-th century.

Specific attention has been paid to the period after the Liberation in 1878, when Tutrakan blossomed as an administrative, economic and cultural center. Russian and Austrian passenger ships docked in its port and trade flourished. Tutrakan's printers published internationally regarded authors and education became a key component of society. At the beginning of the 20-th century, Tutrakan boasted six schools and seven newspapers.

After the Balkan wars in 1912 – 1913, Tutrakan became part of Romania. In 1916 Bulgaria launched a campaign to regain Tutrakan and its surrounding areas (Dobruja). The Romanian Army suffered a disastrous defeat and Tutrakan again joined Bulgaria. Between 1919 and 1940 Romania again occupied Dobrudja, but after the signing of Krayova's treaty in September 21st, 1940, Tutrakan again joined Bulgaria.

In order to make museum exposition more attractive and accessible the citizens and guests of the town are allowed to take pictures with some of the exhibits.

Memorial complex “Military tomb - 1916”

After the First and second Balkan and the following economic collapse, Bulgaria signed a peace accord on July 28, 1913. Southern Dobruja became part of Romania and the newly appointed Romanian government invested considerable resources into the consolidation of the new border. For two years they transformed Tutrakan into one of the most powerful strongholds on the new border as a result of its close proximity to Bucharest and the city's other strategic advantages for military activity within the territory of Bulgaria.

On September 1, 1916, Bulgaria in order to protect the nation's pride, declared war on Romania. Against the strong forces of Romania, Bulgaria assembled part of the 3rd Bulgarian army, the 4th Preslatsi infantry division, the 1st Sofia division, Danubian Bulgarian-German force and sections under the general command of the head of the 4th Preslatsi division General-Mayor Panteley Kiselov which included 55,000 people, 132 pieces of equipment, and 53 machine guns.

The battle began on the morning of September 5th and in spite of a strong defense by Romania into the night, the front line fell. The next day, the Bulgarian army continued the onset. At 3:30pm the Romanian garrison surrendered and at 6pm, General Panteley Kiselov entered the newly liberated Tutrakan. The

Bulgarian army took captive 450 officers, 28,000 soldiers, and all their armaments. The quick battle of Tutrakan was the beginning of the liberation march into Dobrodja.

Within the memorial “Military tomb – 1916” – eternal peace is found for 8,000 soldiers and officers from different nation of which 1764 are Bulgarians.

On September 6th, 1917 the first anniversary of the heroic epic was commemorated.

On the same day a foundation was established to erect a monument to the liberators of the town who had sacrificed their lives, and the collection of donations began. The ensuing Rumanian occupation slowed down the project. In 1922 a monument - which has been preserved till nowadays in the memorial complex - upon which it is written in four languages: "Those who could die like heroes protecting their motherland, are worthy to be honoured and cherished”.

In 1986 the complete reconstruction and architectural redesign began. By 2002, according to a project ratified by the National Institute for the Monuments of Culture, the entrance, the park with a podium for official celebrations, the postaments for the guns were built, as well as the Alley of Glory where the names of the dead Bulgarian soldiers are listed. A chapel is planned to be built.

Every year, during the first Sunday of September, thousands of people, relatives of the heroes and other patriots, gather together to commemorate the memory of the heroes of the epic of Tutrakan.

Access to sites

Site of interest for tourists on the territory of Tutrakan are easily accessible by convenient roads; bilingual guide signs are placed in accordance with the European requirements and standards. There are convenient parking lots in close proximity.

Advertizing

Tutrakan Municipality and the Historical Museum present the cultural and historical heritage, as well as the nature wealth at International Tourism Exchange agencies in Sofia, Veliko Tarnovo and Ruse. Bilingual advertizing materials, brochures, leaflets, guide-books, picture postcards and souvenirs are regularly issued. Information on the websites of the Historical museum and Tutrakan Municipality is updated weekly.

Regular events

As was mentioned above, cultural schedule of Tutrakan Municipality is rich in events carried out every year. The river, in combination with the cultural and historical heritage and cultural events, contributes to development of tourism and provides opportunities for recreation in this region.

Historical Museum changes its science targeted exhibitions every month. Among the most preferred in the last year were: "The Bulgarian room", "Forms and shades", "Exhibition of exotic animals" and "The village- virgin and the town-strange woman".

Availability of variety of nature trails and rich cultural and historical heritage make Tutrakan an attractive tourist destination. Today, having preserved the values of its historical traditions, having protected the specific atmosphere of a town on the Danube River, Tutrakan more and more confidently establishes itself as a cultural and tourist centre in Danubian Dobrudzha.

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