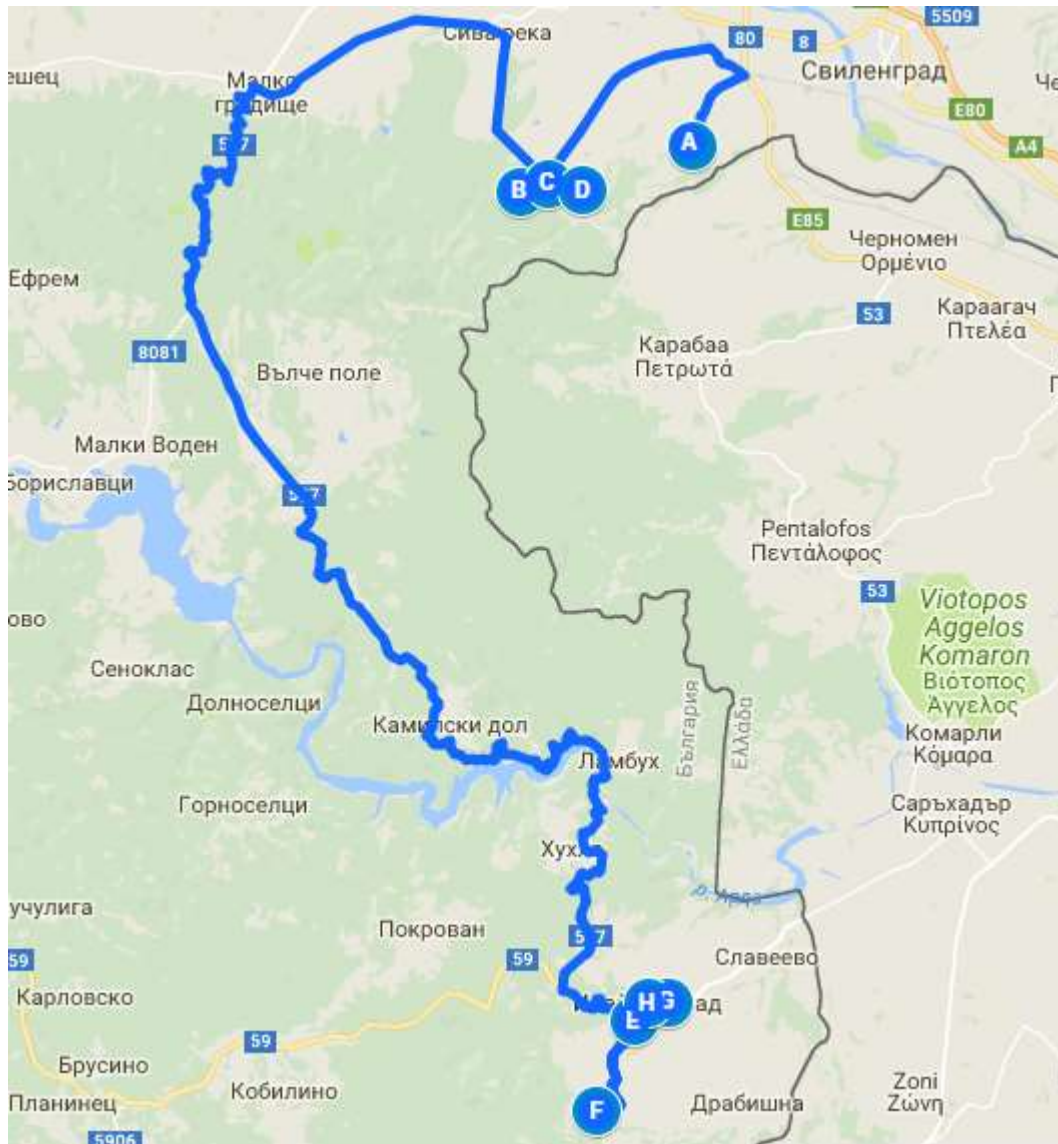


Proposal for new tourist routes for culinary and wine tourism in Haskovo region

Day trip on tourist route **Mezek – Ivaylovgrad**



Starting point: At the proposal of the tour operator

Route: Mezek - Siva Reka - Town of Malka Gradishte - Dubovets - Kamilski Dole - Lambuch - Huchla, Ivaylovgrad

End point: At the proposal of the tour operator

Program:

9.30	Arrival in front of Katarzyna Estate Winery (GPS 41.74669, 26.13939)
9.30 – 10.15	Examination of the winery, tasting and purchase of wines.
10.15 – 10.45	Exploring Mezek Medieval Fortress (GPS 41.73494, 26.08008)
10.45 – 11.30	Visit Mezek Winery (GPS 41.73687, 26.08969), tasting and purchase of wines.
11.30 – 12.30	Exploring the Thracian Dome Tomb (GPS 41.73518, 26.10178)
12.30 – 13.30	Trip to Ivaylovgrad.
13.30 – 14.30	Lunch at Hotel restaurant St. St. Constantine and Helena (GPS 41.52213, 26.11907).
14.30 – 15.30	Exploring Ancient Villa Armira (GPS 41.49914, 26.10649).
15.30 – 16.30	Visit to Yamantievi Winery (GPS 41.52674, 26.13106), wine tasting
16.30 – 18.30	Visit the festival "Culinary Heritage of Thrace", in the main square in Ivaylovgrad (GPS 41.52669, 26.12427) – only on the first weekend of September.
18.30	Departure from Ivaylovgrad.

Sites to visit:**A. Katarzyna Estate Winery**

Coordinates:

Mezek, Byala Tok locality, Svilengrad Municipality
+359 893 613 552, +359 2 459 1795, +359 2 491
1732, +359 892 277 206
office@katarzyna.bg
<http://www.katarzyna.bg/>
41.74669, 26.13939



Katarzyna Estate Winery was established in 2003 by Christophe Trylinski and Nikolay Dalakov, who are fascinated by nature near the Village of Mezek. The vineyards are located in the vicinity of the village, in one of the most prosperous areas for growing vineyards in Bulgaria and Europe and occupy an area of 300 ha. In cultivation, state-of-the-art wine-growing practices are applied to achieve maximum quality of grapes – green pruning, stabbing and attachment of shoots, removal of part of the leaf mass and green grape harvest. Red grape varieties are merlot, cabernet sauvignon, syrah, cabernet franc, malbec, tempranillo, carmener, and mavrud. The white varieties are chardonnay, sauvignon blanc, semion, vionier, muscat ottonel and traminer.

The winery quickly established itself as a leader in the wine market in the country, and gradually began to win high marks and accolades at prestigious international competitions. In 2011, Reserve Wine 2007 was rated extremely highly by global wine expert Robert Parker. Among the winery's most recognisable brands are Question Mark, Encore, Seven Grapes, Les Fleurs, Les Amandiers, Les Cailloux, Le Carre d'Or, Contemplations, Mezzek, Twins, Der Traminer, Smaraida and others. More than 2 million people are produced annually. Bottles. Tastings and a tour of the cellar are available upon prior reservation.

C. Medieval Fortress

Coordinates:

Mezek, Svilengrad Municipality
Tourist Information Center – Svilengrad
+359 889 044 016; +359 886 000 726
muzeis@abv.bg
41.73494, 26.08008



It dates back to the 11th century, the time of the Byzantine Emperor Alexius I Komnenos (1081-1117). The fortress was built on the site of older settlements from the early iron and late iron eras. It occupies an area of 7 decas, which are a quadrilateral measuring 110 x 60 m. Its walls are made of lomeni stones, welded with white mortar, and decorated with three brick girdles on the outside. Its defense has been reinforced by 9 towers with a height of more than 10 meters. Until 1900, the cogs of the fortress were preserved. The main entrance is located on the western fortress wall. Another small entrance (lateral) is next to the tower of the eastern wall. Besides views of the village and the surrounding area, in clear weather from the towers of the fortress there is a panorama of the White Sea.

D. Mezek Winery

Coordinates:

Mezek, Svilengrad Municipality
+359 888 878 295, +359 888 767 717
info@mezek.eu
<http://mezek.eu/>
41.73687, 26.08969



Mezek Winery is located in the village of Mezek, close to the Turkish and Greek borders. The philosophy of the winery is to produce ecologically clean wine, by technology as close as possible to "homemade".

Individual or group tastings can be performed in the winery, with a short talk about the historical monuments near the village of Mezek (medieval fortress and Thracian tomb), a small history of wine and cellar, and tasting of several wines with homemade appetizers. Each year 10 t. wines are produced by Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Mavrud (Eumolpia), Syrah, Traki (Kupij - Merlot, Mavrud, Cabernet, Syrah), Merlot, Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Traki (Coupage - Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay).

Guests for tasting are accepted daily, from 9.30 am to 8 pm.

E. Thracian dome tomb

Coordinates:

Mezek, Svilengrad Municipality

Tourist Information Center – Svilengrad

+359 889 044 016; +359 886 000 726

muzeis@abv.bg

41.737724, 26.083698



The tomb in the village of Mezek, Svilengrad municipality is the most monumental tomb of the Mycenaean type, discovered on the Bulgarian lands. In 1908, a peasant accidentally discovered a bronze figure of a goblin, in natural sizes, weighing 177 kg. Later, in 1931, locals discovered the tomb itself, which is covered with an impressive mound embankment with a height of 14-15 meters and a diameter at the base 90 m. The tomb is made of carved stone blocks connected in places with iron brackets. The tomb is entered through a more than 20 m long corridor (dromos). Two rectangular antechambers followed, and after them – a round burial chamber with a hive dome. The total length of the facility is about 31 m. A large number of objects of gold, bronze, iron, glass and ceramics were found in the tomb, which are on display in the museums in Sofia and Haskovo. The sculpture of a goeey is located in the archaeological museum in Istanbul, since in 1908 this area was still located within the borders of Turkey. In the museum in Haskovo there is a plaster cast of the original.

The tourist information centre offers a guided tour of the tomb upon prior request.

F. Hotel Restaurant St. Constantine and Elena

Coordinates:

Ivaylovgrad Str. Armira 8

+359 888 128 083, +359 888 128 086

info@hotel-ivaylovgrad.com

<http://www.hotel-ivaylovgrad.com/>

41.522189, 26.119066



Hotel Restaurant St. Constantine and Helena St. Constantine and Elena is located in ivaylovgrad, in the new druzhba district next to the central area of the city. The complex offers various package offers including nights, gala dinners, variety at different times of the year.

The restaurant has 80 seats in its main hall and 80 seats in a summer garden. The restaurant offers its guests a variety of Bulgarian, European and world cuisine, prepared by chefs, and for quality and fast service takes care of specially trained staff.

The hotel has 17 double rooms, 6 triple rooms and 2 apartments, furnished in a contemporary design style, spacious and cozy.

G. Villa Armira

Coordinates:

Ivaylovgrad Str. Orpheus 1
Tourist Information Center
+359 3661 60 39
tic_ivaylovgrad@abv.bg
ticivaylovgrad@gmail.com
<http://ivaylovgradtravel.com>
41.49914, 26.10649



Villa Armira was opened in 1964, during the construction of a dam, 1.5 km southwest of the sq. m. "Ludzha" in Ivaylovgrad. Its name is from the nearby Armira River, a right tributary of the Arda River. The suburban villa is dated 1st – 4th century, the period of Roman dominion on our lands. It was destroyed during the Goth invasion in 378.

H. Yamantiev Winery

Coordinates:

Ivaylovgrad Str. Captain Petko Voivode 18
+359 32 652 028, +359 32 652 026, +359 885 400 463,
+359 887 417 077
vinivel@dir.bg
www.yamantievs.com
41.52674, 26.13106



Since 2000, the winery in Ivaylovgrad has become the property of the Yamantievi family, who, after the realization of a project under the SAPARD program of the European Union, completely update the technological capacities and technology in the production of wine.

The winery has its own 70 ha vineyards with the varieties cabernet sauvignon, syrah, pinot noir, merlot, alicante bushe, traminer, vionier, muscat and chardonnay. More than 70,000 bottles are produced annually, with wines also available in the bag-in-box. The main brands of the cellar are Villa Armira, Yamantiev's, Marble Land, Roses.

The company wins a number of awards for its wines. Some of the most popular wines are Marble land Chardonnay 2010, Marble Land Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot-Syrah, Villa Armira Cabernet Sauvignon, Villa Armira Merlot, Villa Armira Shiraz. Tastings and cellar tours are available on working days from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. or upon prior request.

I. Thekunal heritage of Thrace

Coordinates:

Ivaylovgrad, pl. in front of the Municipality

<https://goo.gl/kZfSRk>

September

41.52669, 26.12427



Since 2012, on the first weekend of September, a festival of traditional food, livelihoods and crafts "Culinary Heritage of Thrace" has been held in Ivaylovgrad. The organizers are the Municipality of Ivaylovgrad and the Probuda-1914 Community Center.

The festival includes producers of sweets, herbs, spices, fruits, vegetables, bee products, thana, wine, brandy, pasta and typical dishes from the Region of Ivaylovgrad, as well as from regions of France, Greece and Turkey. Many craftsmen, sculptors, artists, and others also participate in the festival.