

Blagoevgrad is a city in southwestern Bulgaria, the administrative centre of Blagoevgrad Municipality and of Blagoevgrad province, with a population of 70,881 inhabitants (as of 2011). It lies on the banks of the Blagoevgradska Bistritsa River.

The city is the economic and cultural centre of southwestern Bulgaria. It is located in the valley of the Struma river at the foot of the Rila and Pirin Mountains, 101 kilometres (63 miles) south of Sofia, close to Republic of Macedonia border. Blagoevgrad features a pedestrian downtown with preserved 19th-century architecture and numerous restaurants, cafes, coffee shops, and boutiques.

Blagoevgrad is home to two universities, the South-West University “Neofit Rilski” and the American University in Bulgaria. The city hosts also the "Sts. Cyril and Methodius National Humanitarian High School", the former Bulgarian Men’s High School of Thessaloniki moved from Thessaloniki to Blagoevgrad (then Gorna Dzhumaya) in 1913.

Interesting places to visit:

Varosha

Varosha is neighborhood that is differentiated by its Christian population by the end of XVIII, mostly craftsmans and shopkeepers and it’s the only Christian neighborhood back then in “Gorna Dzumaya”. The Bulgarians from the villages around the city build their small one-floor houses and live in piece with the Turkish population. In the middle of XIX century people start building bigger two-floor houses, made in the traditional Bulgarian style, created from traditional materials for the age – wood and stone. Interesting places are few stores and workshops, where different craftsman show their skills.

Park Bachinovo

Bachinovo – park next to the city is a beautiful place, located 2km away from Blagoevgrad, in the Valley of Bistritsa River, and on the way to terrain/locality “Bodrost” and ski slope “Kartala”. The Park is full with greenery and booming nature, has a big parking, lake, children’s playgrounds and restaurants

Regional History Museum

The museum is located in a modern building with a lot of exposure halls, laboratory for conservation and restoration, photo laboratory and library. The lovers of Bulgarian history

and art, can enjoy a variety of over 160 thousand exhibits, stored in departments Archeology, Ethnography and Nature

District Varosha str. "Rila" №1

e-mail: rimbld@gmail.com ; www.museumblg.com

Museum Georgi Izmirliiev-Makedoncheto

In Varosha there is a house-museum of Georgi Izmirliiev-Makedoncheto, revolutionary and participant in April Uprising. The revolutionary was supporter of the apostle Stefan Stambolov, military leader in First Revolutionary area.

Horse riding

Horse riding club "Fortune". The club has modern base and it's located in a beautiful mountain terrain, 7km away from Blagoevgrad.

Phone: 089 797 27 08

Fishing

Suiting for fishing trout is the mountain river Struma, the biggest in south-west part of Bulgaria. In the valley of the river there are over 50 ponds, dam's like Pchelina , Dyakovo, Studena. In that region you can catch a variety of fishes, such as carp, American catfish, crucian and a lot more. In the beginning of the spring the big Barbus peloponnesius start being active(wake up).

Hunting

State property "Dikchan" offers hunting of small and big game. The species you can kill from the small animals are: rabbit, pheasant, wild birds, partridge, woodcock, turtledove, guinea fowl, wild turkey. The big species you can hunt are: Reindeer, roedeer, moufflon, wild boar, and fallow deer. Every hunted animal has a price that has to be paid for it.

Adress: Bulgaria, PK 2950, Satovcha, str."Todor Shopov" 39

Phone: 07541 / 2170, 0889 912 120

Fax: 07541 / 2070

e-mail: ddssatovcha@abv.bg

<http://www.dls-dikchan.com/bg/>

Rope Garden

This is something untraditional, funny and healthy. The rope garden has two levels. The first level is for kids and more scared enthusiasts, the second level is 5m high, with more extreme elements.

Rafting

That extreme sport guarantees you unforgettable experience, full with adrenaline. Over 130km of Struma river is suitable for rafting.

Ski

The resort Bodrost is located 30km away from Blagoevgrad, in the southeast part of Rila, next to park “Rila” and reserve “Parangalitsa”. The road to the resort is upgraded with new asphalt and maintained throughout all seasons. There is ski slope with cabin lift that is 3000 meters long that can take up to 1400 people/hour. Using the lift you can take the tourist route to h.”Makedonia”, resort “Parangalica”. The routes are well marked.

Phone: 0889 50 04 21 , 0889 50 04 21, info@kartalaski.eu

Aqua park

The aqua park is located in the north-east part of Blagoevgrad, in the beginning of the park zone. The water park covers an area of 10000 m². The complex includes Olympic sized pool, indoor pool, children water facilities, speed slides, pool with waves and decorative waterfall.

Blagoevgrad, str. “Haidukovi” № 74

Phone: 073/881880 mail: info@aquapark-bg.com

<http://www.aquapark-bg.com/>

Church “Vurzkresenie Bogorodichno”

Central spot in district Varosha takes the church “Vuzkresenie Bogorodichno”. She is created in 1884 and is declared as national monument.

Phone - 073 260 41

Zoo

The zoo is situated on 150 acres of space, and has a variety of species from the animal world, among them some exotic species. They are thinking about creating a program for adoption of some of the animals. Phone: +3597323536

S P A

With one of continental Europe’s very few hot water geysers bang in the middle of Sapareva Banya (Сапарева баня), you just know the mineral springs in this sleepy mountain town are something to talk about. The hot waters spring forth at a temperature of 103°C and they have proven healthy properties.

The town lies at the foothills of the awe-inspiring Rila Mountains, the Balkans’ highest; in fact, it’s a starting point for the hike to the mesmerizing Seven Rila Lakes. Besides the geyser and a cute Byzantine-style medieval church, Sapareva Banya offers a variety of accommodation options and a modern spa centre.

SANDANSKI SPA RESORT

Sandanski, located 160 km south of Sofia and just 20 km north of the Greek border, is the most famous spa resort in the southwestern region of the country. What people really like about it is the peaceful atmosphere it creates. Its hotels and guest houses are always open for tourists who seek a tranquil spot to spend their holidays. Anyway, its surroundings abound in tourist attractions so you will always have plenty of options to spice up your vacation should

you feel the need to Melnik, the smallest town in Bulgaria, the Rozhen Monastery and the village of Rupite are all such places.

Rupite (Bulgarian: Рупите, pronounced ['rupite]) is a village which includes a small mountainous protected area in the southeastern part Blagoevgrad Province, Bulgaria, 10-12 kilometres northeast of Petrich, inside Petrich Municipality, on the right bank of the Struma River. It is best known as the place where the Bulgarian medium Baba Vanga lived and was buried. The area is in fact the crater of an extinct volcano, its appearance being shaped by the volcanic hill of Kozhuh, the thermal springs and Pchelina Hill. The village has 1,124 inhabitants.

VELINGRAD SPA RESORT

Velingrad is the most beautiful and most famous among the Bulgarian balneological resorts. Internationally known climate therapy and health resort. It lies in the most attractive part of the Rhodopean Mountains in Southern Bulgaria. There are 70 sources of mineral water with curative and preventive properties. Together with the numerous mineral waters Velingrad takes pride in another natural phenomenon as well - the Kleptuza. This is the biggest Karst spring in Bulgaria with debit of 1200 litres of ice-cold water per second.

The mineral waters (from springs and wells) vary considerably in temperature, mineralization, radon, silicic acid and fluorine content, and are suitable for treatment of a wide range of diseases. 9000 liters of water per minute spring from the five thermal and mineral deposits.

The treatment of non-specific diseases of the respiratory tract is particularly successful. Considerable experience has been accumulated in the efficient treatment of diseases of the locomotive system, nervous diseases and gynecological disorders.