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# CAVES IN BULGARIA

*multimedia*



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## GENERAL INFORMATION

*The beauty of the Bulgarian nature has many faces. It is not limited to unique rock formations, majestic mountains, beautiful landscapes and scenic areas. Much of its impressive sites are hidden underground.*

*There are many caves in Bulgaria, but only some of them are developed, managed and available for tourist visits. The rest of them are only a privilege to experienced climbers and cavers and require special training and equipment.*

*In many Bulgarian caves were discovered traces of ancient times. The caves were inhabited by people as early as the Stone Age, and some of them, such as Magurata cave, bear the signs of ancient cultures.*

*The most popular and interesting for tourists are the Devil's Throat cave, Yagodinska cave, Haramiyska cave, Uhlovitsa cave, Saeva dupka, Bacho Kiro, Prohodna, Devetashka, Snezhanka, Ledenika, Orlova Chuka, Magurata and Lepenitsa.*



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## DEVIL'S THROAT



*The Devil's Throat cave is situated in the Rhodope Mountain, 2 km from Trigrad in the Trigrad Gorge. It is not famous for beautiful cave formations, since it is a precipice cave.*

*However the water, pouring into a deep chasm, is quite impressive. The waters of*

*Trigrad River flow into the Devil's "throat" from a height of 42 meters, forming the highest underground waterfall on the Balkan Peninsula. According to a legend, Orpheus entered the Devil's Throat, which led to the underworld, to look for his beloved Eurydice.*



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## HARAMIYSKA CAVE

*Haramiyska cave is located in the Trigrad gorge, opposite the entrance of the Devil's Throat Cave. It is one of the sites for extreme tourism - the cave is only accessible*

*with appropriate equipment and with use of alpine and speleological techniques. The remains of primitive people were found in the cave - one of the main attractions of the*





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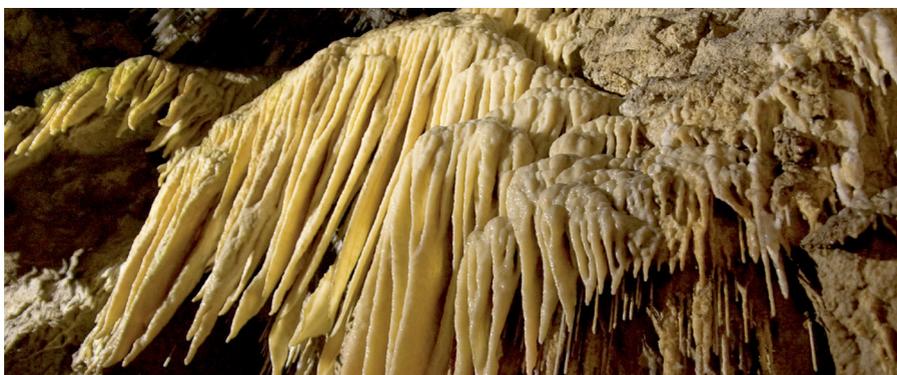
*Haramiyska cave are their models, located at the entry of course. The inner area of the cave is not illuminated - tourists should bring their own lighting and protective clothing. Experienced guides provide on-site training and equipment.*





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## YAGODINSKA CAVE



*Yagodinska cave is situated in the Buynovsko gorge, in the Rhodope Mountain near the village of Yagodina. It is a complex system of several floors, formed in marble. The lowest floor is developed and managed. More than a kilometer long route allows visitors to see beautiful*

*examples of almost all types of cave formations, but most impressive are the numerous cave pearls. They are formed as real pearls - from sand, which somehow splashed in the water and over many years it was covered with calcite and acquired round shape.*



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## UHLOVITSA

*Uhlovitsa is also located in the Rhodope Mountain, 3 km northeast of the village of Mogilitsa and about 30 kilometers southwest of Smolyan. The entrance of the cave can be reached after a steep climb that takes about 30-40 minutes. The cave length is 460 meters, but only 330 m of it are*

*suitable for visits. The name of the cave derives from the word Ululitsa - an owl species, which probably lived in the area of the cave. With its beautiful formations Uhlovitsa is often compared to an underground palace - it has dendrites, helictites, stalactites, stalagmites and stone waterfalls.*





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## SAEVA DUPKA



*Saeva dupka is located near the village of Brestnitsa, in Lovech region. It is well laid out and accessible for tourists. It is assumed that its name comes from the names of two brothers - Seyu and Sayu, who used it as a shelter during the Ottoman Dominion. Saeva Dupka cave consists*

*of 5 rooms, the largest of them being the Srutishte hall (the Landslip). The Harmana hall has very good acoustics and concerts are held in it quite often. The cave is very beautiful - it contains all kinds of cave formations - stalactites, stalagmites, sinter lakes, draperies, etc.*



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## BACHO KIRO



*Bacho Kiro cave is located about 6 kilometers southwest of the town of Dryanovo and its entrance is 300 m away from the Dryanovo Monastery "St. Archangel Michael". Bacho Kiro cave is the first well-laid cave in Bulgaria - since 1937; and since 1940 it has bore the name of the famous Bulgarian revolutionary, who participated in the April*

*Uprising (1876), Bacho Kiro. For thousands of years rivers have shaped cave galleries and halls. Beautiful cave formations - stalactites, stalagmites and stalactones, have gotten strange and varied forms. Visiting the cave is possible along two routes - the short one takes about 30 minutes and the long one - about 70 minutes.*



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## PROHODNA

*Prohodna cave is one of the most famous and easily accessible caves in Bulgaria. It is located 2 kilometers away from the village of Karlukovo and 112 kilometers from Sofia.*

*The cave is a natural rock bridge with a length of 262 meters. It has 2 entrances - a*

*large one and a small one.*

*The large entrance is the largest cave vault in Bulgaria - 45 meters high. Prohodna is naturally lit from the huge openings in the ceiling - they are also called "okna". The Okna resemble eyes and they have been defying the human imagination for centuries.*





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## DEVETASHKA CAVE



*Devetashka cave is located 18 km northeast of Lovech and 2 km from the village of Devetaki. The cave is also known as Maarata or Oknata due to the seven various-sized holes in the ceiling, through*

*which light penetrates and illuminates the central hall and part of the both arms of the cave. Studies show that Devetashka cave used to be inhabited during almost all historical eras.*



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## SNEZHANKA CAVE



*Snezhanka is one of the most beautiful caves in Bulgaria. It is located in the Rhodope Mountain, 5 km from the town of Peshtera, towards the town of Batak. Although short - only 145 meters, the cave has collected all types of cave formations - stalactites,*

*stalagmites, sinter lakes and draperies. The name of the cave was given due to the snow-white deposits, which formed for millions of years and froze in strange shapes. One of them looks like the fairytale heroine Snow White.*



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## LEDENIKA

*Ledenika cave is located 16 km from the town of Vratsa.*

*Ledenika bears its name for the ice stalagmites, stalactites and stalactones which form during winter near its entrance. There is a small sinter lake in the cave*

*and, according to a belief, it fulfills the desire of everyone who dipped their hands in it.*

*The tour in the cave lasts for an hour and the route covers 350 meters of the cave galleries.*





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## ORLOVA CHUKA



*Orlova Chuka cave is located about 40 km from Ruse, near the village of Pepelina. Its name comes from the rock crown that stands above its entrance. Skeletons of cave bears were discovered during a study of the cave. It is believed that the*

*cave was inhabited by humans during the Paleolithic and the Copper Ages. About 3 kilometers of the cave are nowadays open for visitors and illuminated. The cave impresses with its sinter formations, calcite crystals, stalactites and tunnels.*



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## MAGURA CAVE

*The Magura cave is located in northwest Bulgaria, 17 km from the town of Belogradchik. It was carved in the limestone Rabishka mound. It is one of the largest and most beautiful caves in Bulgaria. It consists of one main gallery and three side branches. Prehistoric*

*drawings, carved into rock and decorated with bat guano (droppings), were discovered in one of the cave halls. The figures represent dancing women silhouettes, dancing and hunting men, disguised men, animals, stars, tools and plants.*





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## LEPENITSA

*Lepenitsa cave is located in the Western Rhodope Mountain, 10 km southwest of Rakitovo and 11 km from Velingrad.*

*The 1,525 meters long cave is rich in stalagmites, stalactites*

*and stalactones and is very beautiful. Impressive cave pearls have been discovered in the cave, which can nowadays be seen in the Natural History Museum in Sofia.*





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