

ROUTE 2

THE DRAGOMAN MARSH + THE ISKAR RIVER GORGE

Departure from Sofia

First stop –The Iskar River Gorge

The Iskar River cuts deeply the Stara Planina Mountain (the Balkan Range) and the Predbalkan region (the Fore-Balkan) forming the longest (156 km) and the most majestic gorge in Bulgaria that stretches from the town of Novi Iskar (at 520 m above sea level) to the south, to the village of Chomakovtzi (at 50 m above sea level) to the north. This incredible creation of nature is a unique combination of canyon valleys and inaccessible sharp cliffs, picturesque valley expansions and amphitheatrically-lined or steep slopes with numerous caves and karst springs.

The Lakatnik Cliffs are located on the left slope of the Iskar Gorge just above the Lakatnik railway station. The sandstone and limestone cliffs rise some 250 meters above the river, and over the years the force of the wind has carved a variety of fantastic shapes, such as towers, stone needles and pyramids. The forces of erosion have also carved more than 100 caves in the limestone cliffs. More information can be found at: <http://www.bulgariatravel.org/en/article/details/366/The%20Lakatnik%20Cliffs>



The Zhitolyub Karst spring is located at the foot of the Lakatnik Rocks, under the Temnata Dupka cave. The spring is one of the largest karst springs in the country and gives birth to two underground rivers, which flow through the Temna Dupka cave.

The Cherepishki monastery of “The Assumption of Virgin Mary” is located 85 km northeast of Sofia, along the banks of the Iskar River. The monastery was built during the reign of Tsar Ivan Shishman (1371 to 1395). More information can be found at:

<http://www.bulgariatravel.org/en/article/details/317/Cherepishki%20Monastery>

Lunch



A trip to the Dragoman marsh

The Dragoman marsh is the biggest natural karstwetland in Bulgaria. It is situated only 40 km north-west of Sofia and covers a valley between the limestone hills of Tri Ushi and Chepan. The marsh represents a protected bird habitat. Over 200 species have been recorded in the area. Some of them have a high conservation status. More information can be found at:

<http://www.bulgariatravel.org/en/article/details/193/Dragoman%20Marshland>

Return to Sofia

