

HERITAGE TRAIL

“Beauty in Nature Trail: Gazing at the Devetaki Plateau”

Introduction

This is an adventure amidst the beauty of the Devetaki Plateau with a special look at the karst formations that shape it, but also preserve its history.

You will have the opportunity to hear the pulse and meet the winged guardians of the Devetaki Cave, to feel what mysterious powers are hidden in the Krushuna Waterfalls, combined with their incredible beauty, to enjoy the view from the Big Curve - the viewpoint of the canyon, to get acquainted with the intriguing history of the Old Mill in Karpachevo, to look at the world from the inside out in the Garvanitsa Cave on the way to Gorsko Slivovo, to discover the remains of the Grada fortress near Kramolin and delight your senses with a picnic in nature and the incredibly beautiful panorama of the Alexandar Stamboliyski Dam, to learn the story of the deer from the picturesque village of Agatovo and to stop with bated breath in front of the immense beauty of nature at the highest point of the Devetaki Plateau - Chukata Peak, near Brestovo. Enjoy and cherish the memory!

What you'll discover

- **The Bats in the Devetaki Cave**
- **The Krushuna Waterfalls**
- **The Canyon**
- **The Old Mill in Karpachevo**
- **Golyama Garvanitsa Abyss Cave**
- **Kramolin, Fortress Grada**
- **Kramolin, View of the Alexandar Stamboliyski Dam**
- **Agatovo**
- **Brestovo**

Each stop along this trail offers interesting stories and wonderful views, happiness from immersing yourself in nature and history.

Heritage stories

Story 1 “The Bats in the Devetaki Cave: The Guardians of the Night”



A quick, slightly creaking sound pierces the silence of the night – the guardians of the night wake up: the bats of the Devetaki cave. Whispers in the darkness... a motion in the shadows. The Devetaki cave is a home of the silent and magical guardians of the night. A sudden flicker, a flap of wings and darkness comes alive under the majestic vaults of the Devetaki cave!

You will meet the incredible inhabitants of the cave – fifteen bat species, masters of

flight and sonar. Explore the cave that has sheltered ancient civilizations and today preserves the miracles of nature. The bats are the evidence of the fragile balance between nature and history – a connection that one needs to preserve. With the dance between light and shadows, the Devetaki cave reminds us that miracles are invisible to the naked eye, and manifest in the least expected ways.

Would you dare to enter the world of the masters of the night? Are you ready to feel the pulse of the cave and to meet its winged guardians?

Take the “Beauty in Nature Trail: Gazing at the Devetaki Plateau” and visit the Devetaki Cave.

Story 2 “The Krushuna Waterfalls: Ancient Wise Men Whisper Next to the King’s Lost Tomb”



What do the Krushuna Waterfalls hide and why they are linked to lost kings and mystical monks? This place is not just a natural phenomenon, but also a treasure with mysteries. The mysterious waterfalls of Krushuna hide more than just natural beauty. The legends tell a story of a king, buried here, and a monastery, which has not been found yet. The legends of the lost tomb of the Bulgarian king and the search for the mystical monastery, engulfed in time, will take you on a journey through the centuries. You will find remains of cells of Hesychast monks, who sought silent union with God.

The Krushuna Waterfalls are not just a natural wonder, they are also a treasure trove of ancient spiritual practices, which leave an indelible mark on our history.

Each rock here carries a secret, and each niche – wisdom. The Krushuna Waterfalls impress not only with their beauty, but also with their historical and spiritual significance. This is just one of the sites that conquers not only with nature, but also with the infinite secrets of Bulgarian history.

What secret forces are hidden in the Krushuna Waterfalls? Take a closer look and uncover the spiritual traces of the past.

Take “Beauty in Nature Trail: Gazing at the Devetaki Plateau” Heritage Trail and visit the Krushuna Waterfalls.

Story 3 “The Canyon: The Landfill with the Most Amazing View”



The Big Curve on the road between the villages of Krushuna and Karpachevo is a spot with an amazing view, but also with an intriguing story: how a village dump has been turned into The Canyon – one of the most desired places for photography and nature discovery.

You will see for yourself the beauty and the abundance of the nature of the Devetaki Plateau – rare bird species, wild animals, flowers, herbs, and unforgettable

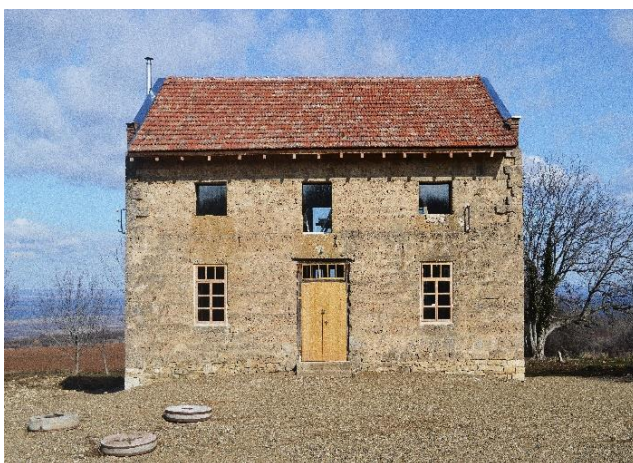
sunsets.

The story of The Canyon viewpoint tells us how important it is to know nature and to also realize our enormous responsibility for preserving every little spot on our Planet!

Do not miss stopping at the Big Curve between Krushuna and Karpachevo! There you will find a place of contemplation and knowledge. And, please, leave nothing but your footprints!

Take the “Beauty in Nature Trail: Gazing at the Devetaki Plateau” and visit the viewpoint The Canyon Between the Villages of Krushuna and Karpachevo.

Story 4 “Nice to Meet You: I am the Old Mill”



The secrets hidden within my walls tell a story of brave people who rise from the ashes of the past. Six kilometers, many sharp turns, and infinite dreams bring a mill from Krushuna to Karpachevo. The old walls keep memories of the golden grains of the past... and the new ideas of the future.

Once a young and proud water mill, the Old Mill survives tumultuous times. It experienced moving, full transformation, oblivion... and new revival as a modern centre for knowledge and culture. The Old Mill is a traveller. It has been disassembled into parts, carried on calf carts, put back together with lots

of love. It has witnessed the wonder of electricity and has found a new meaning in the 21st century. From a water mill on a river, through an electric mill, to a home of dreamers and entrepreneurs – the Old Mill has survived three different lives, each of them more exciting than the previous. The story proves that tradition and innovation go hand in hand when someone believes in their inner strength. It shows us that when people believe in the future, even an old mill can become a place for new adventures. Can one spot bring simultaneously so much history and future? The Old Mill is the answer to this question.

Take the “Beauty in Nature Trail: Gazing at the Devetaki Plateau” and visit the Old Mill in Karpachevo.

Story 5 “Golyama Garvanitsa Abyss Cave: to See the Earth Inside Out”



Step on the ground, but this time take a look from the inside out! The Golyama Garvanitsa cave is not just a geographical landmark, it is an entrance to a completely new perspective. Descending into this deep abyss is not just a physical journey, but also an experience that is going to transform how you perceive the world. Imagine a cave that is not only a geographical phenomenon, but is also a portal to our ancestors’ past. Golyama

Garvanitsa is an abyss linked to myths about giants and ancient forces. When you visit it, you will feel in your bones that you are part of something bigger, something far beyond the trivial.

With a depth of 65 meters and a giant opening with a diameter of 45 meters, Golyama Garvanitsa is a place where ancient Thracians and Romans conducted mystical rituals. You will venture into a cave with unforgettable geological shapes, and you will find out how ancient people descended into this underground world without using modern technology. This is an awesome place for those seeking unsolved mysteries. You will feel how the earth is breathing and how each stone tells its own story. Grab your adventure shoes and do not forget your camera, because this journey is worth being part of your memories!

Take the “Beauty in Nature Trail: Gazing at the Devetaki Plateau” and visit Golyama Garvanitsa Cave.

Story 6 “Kramolin: The Town Over the Village - the Ancient Fortress Amidst the Rocks”



You climb a rocky ridge above the village of Kramolin. Then you see the ruins in front of you – at a place where once warriors, boyars, and craftsmen lived. There are no signs, no noise... only silence and wind that carries stories from beyond.

You will step over stones where once Roman warriors walked. You will see walls that resisted time, as well as remnants of a tower from which the warriors observed

the whole valley. You will learn about a fortress, which guarded roads, about a village that sank under a reservoir, and about secrets buried some meters below your feet. This site shows how a rock can be a home, a fortress, and a witness to centuries of human destinies.

Do you want to discover a fortress that is not featured in the textbooks? Grab some water and your comfortable shoes, get something to picnic and let's go up the hill. The fortress is waiting for you.

Take the “Beauty in Nature Trail: Gazing at the Devetaki Plateau” and visit the Ancient Fortress Gradat.

Story 7 “Kramolin: The Inheritance of Alexandar Stamboliyski Reservoir - the Oldest Dam in Bulgaria”



From the top of the Grada Fortress, there is a scenic view towards Alexandar Stamboliyski Dam. But beyond its beauty, there is a story of destruction and resurrection.

The construction of the reservoir has forever changed the landscape, absorbing villages and changing the lives of many people. Find out how the dam was built during the last century, in order to prevent

future floods, and how this has transformed the life of local communities.

The reservoir is a symbol of human sustainability and the fight against the elements of nature. It is proof of how history, culture, and nature intertwine, creating a heritage that shapes the contemporary landscape. How can a flood can give rise to such an impressive dam? Take a walk to the site and discover the stories of people, landmarks, and events that shape the future of this unique region.

Take the “Beauty in Nature Trail: Gazing at the Devetaki Plateau”, visit the Fortress Grada and enjoy the view of the Alexander Stamboliyski Dam.

Story 8 “The Fawn from Agatovo: Between the Bronze of Time and the Heart of the Plateau”



More than 2 500 years ago, by the light of the forge’s flames, a blacksmith created a small bronze figurine of a fawn, which was meant to live on for centuries. Today, the fawn is a symbol of ancient magic and the wealth of the Devetaki plateau.

How a small bronze figurine, discovered by accident during the 30s of the 19th centuries, embodies in itself stories of ancient civilizations, deities and the timeless traditions of the local people, who still believe in the magic of these lands. You will find out how the Agatovo fawn as well as the sword and the torc found in the same lands are linked to the ancient Thracian beliefs, and you will realize they belong not only to the past,

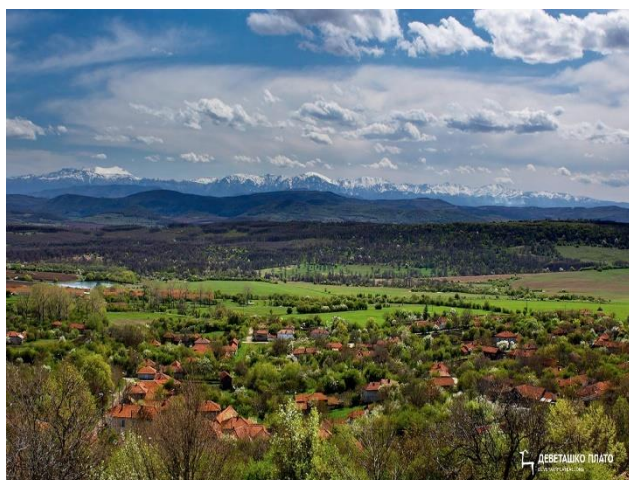
but are a part of the future.

The enchantment of the bronze fawn does not lie only in its historic roots, but also in the inspiration it brings to contemporary generations to preserve their patrimony. It is a story of a small symbol that carries significant power – to bridge past and present, to inspire people to work together for the preservation of their history and nature.

What is the story of this mystical symbol of the Devetaki plateau? Now is the time to discover not only its past, but also its future. Are you ready to immerse yourselves in the legend of the bronze fawn and discover how a small figurine could bring a big change in the future of this region?

Take the “Beauty in Nature Trail: Gazing at The Devetaki Plateau” and visit Agatovo Village.

Story 9 “Brestovo - Chukata Peak - 360° Natural Beauty”



Brestovo Village is located 24 km northeast of the town of Lovech. The land area of the village is 38 sq. km. Altitude 495 m. It borders the villages of Tepava, Devetaki, Kakrina, and Gostinya from Lovech Municipality, and Agatovo and Malki Varshets from Sevlievo Municipality.

The land of the village has deep karst formations (caves, underground rivers, etc.). The deepest precipice cave is "Kantilkata". Near the village is the cave

"Pogris" - vertical, with a depth of over 10 m, explored in 1976. It is characterized by a long tunnel, which is always fed by deep groundwater. These caves are not suitable for visits by tourists. The relief is hilly, made of limestone and sandstone. A complex of karst formations has been formed on them in the areas of "Cherkovishteto", "Bardo", "Tishanov Kamak", "Belishki Skali", "Dyalat", "Trapchishta" and "Vodnata Virpina". The climate is moderately continental. The nature of the village of Brestovo is endowed with a huge variety of tree species, birds and herbs. Deciduous trees predominate - oak, elm, hornbeam, etc. Animal species include roe deer, hare, wild boar, pheasant, fox, as well as many species of birds.

In the village of Brestovo there is an ancient church, named Sveti Georgi Pobedonosets (Saint George the Victorious). Built in 1864, the church today preserves the Christian spirit and is a place of worship during holidays. Near the village is the highest point of the Devetaki plateau - Chukata peak, 555.7 meters above sea level, with a stunning view in all directions.

Take the “Beauty in Nature Trail: Gazing at The Devetaki Plateau” and visit Brestovo Village.

Why this trail matters

The Old Mill proves that tradition and innovation go hand in hand, as long as someone believes in their power. It shows us that when people believe in the future, even the old mill can become the scene of new adventures.

The Krushuna Waterfalls are not only a natural wonder, they are also a treasury of ancient spiritual practices that leave an indelible mark on our history. Every rock here carries a secret, and every niche carries wisdom.

The Canyon - with a past of a landfill, with a present of a beautiful viewpoint, was cleaned and changed in 2009 by enthusiasts from the village and the Devetaki Plateau Association with the help of the Karpachevo village and the Letnitsa Municipality.

The Fortress Grada shows how a rock can be a home, a fortress and a witness to centuries of human destinies.

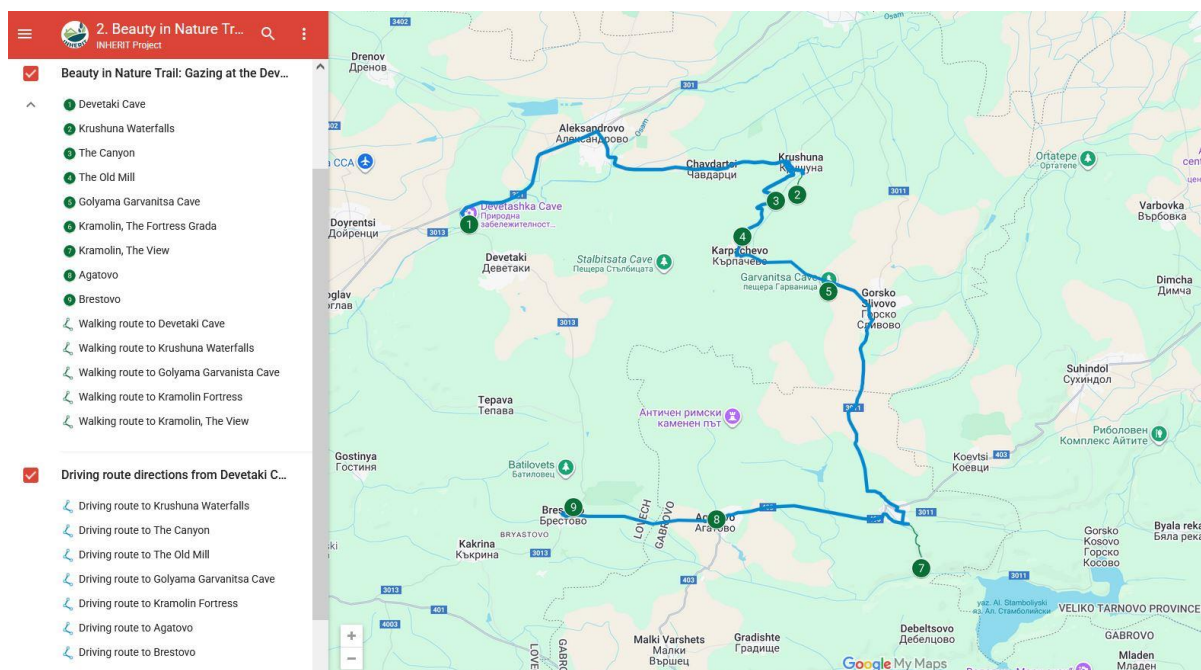
The Dam is a symbol of human resilience and the fight against natural elements. It is also a testament to how history, culture and nature intertwine, creating a heritage that shapes the contemporary landscape.

And at the end of the day, when you find yourself near the village of Brestovo, where the highest point of the Devetaki Plateau is located - Chukata Peak, 555.7 meters above sea level, and you see the enchanting view in all directions, you will feel incredible. Guaranteed!

Trail map

This trail takes you to nine beautiful landmarks:

- The Bats in the Devetaki Cave
- The Krushuna Waterfalls
- The Canyon
- The Old Mill in Karpachevo
- Golyama Garvanitsa Abyss Cave
- Kramolin, Fortress Grada
- Kramolin, View of the Alexandar Stamboliyski Dam
- Agatovo
- Brestovo



Link to the map:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/1/edit?mid=1gSuYNli9PSY7saKkhQSv98lq2kKyAtc&usp=sharing>

Stop 1	Devetaki Cave https://maps.app.goo.gl/vqiTrt4aS1fKq7Q98 GPS 43.233508, 24.885456
Stop 2	Krushuna Waterfalls/Maarata Cave https://maps.app.goo.gl/pRsBiB4J13D4gZNH9 GPS 43.242419, 25.034150
Stop 3	The Canyon https://maps.app.goo.gl/rCezCKzVjx6Pgncm8 GPS 43.241314, 25.023936
Stop 4	The Old Mill https://maps.app.goo.gl/bLvUNUaw4wUXrXDv6 GPS 43.22936093498595, 25.0086952403594
Stop 5	Golyama Garvanitsa Cave https://maps.app.goo.gl/sL1Q6ZaMk8DtVdxVA GPS 43.211389, 25.047500
Stop 6	Kramolin, The Fortress Grada https://maps.app.goo.gl/yVi5tDCZpDeY1jhB7 GPS 43.123291, 25.089109

Stop 7	Kramolin, The View https://maps.app.goo.gl/yVj5tDCZpDeY1jhB7 GPS 43.123291, 25.089109
Stop 8	Agatovo https://maps.app.goo.gl/dYn7Vn1ve6Hjk5WZ6 GPS 43.136556, 24.996861
Stop 9	Brestovo https://maps.app.goo.gl/qQf9bKWXYG4S1UxeA GPS 43.140704, 24.932442

Trail details

- Length (km):
 - 58 km
- Duration (without a quest / with a quest):
 - 7 h 30 min / 8 h
- Getting there:
 - Cycling and walking
 - Driving and walking
- Special notes (e.g., clothes, equipment, weather, etc.)
 - Sturdy shoes (rocky terrain inside caves and slippery paths in the forest)
 - Flashlight or headlamp (low-light areas inside caves)
 - Smartphone or printed map (for navigation)
 - Notebook or phone (to take notes for clues, if you engage with quests)
 - Best Season: Spring to Autumn (April – October), when the caves are easily accessible and safe
- Safety guidelines
 - Be cautious of uneven surfaces in the caves
 - Watch for loose rocks or slippery surfaces
 - Limited mobile coverage inside the caves – download an offline map
 - Respect the sites – the caves are natural heritage
- Guided tour (by INHERIT partner) and/or self-organized trip by travelers

- This trail can be undertaken by travelers on their own
- Guiding is not offered
- Contacts for more details:

Devetaki Plateau Association

<https://www.devetakiplateau.org/en>

Quests / Chances to be creative

Quest 1 “Nine Memories from the Devetaki Plateau”

Quest Overview

- Theme & Heritage Focus: The beauty and diversity of nature on the Devetaki Plateau
- Duration: Variable (depends on the trail completion time, plus 3 additional minutes per stop)
- Difficulty Level: Moderate (Suitable for anyone capable of walking on rugged terrain with slight gradient)
- Location: All stops along the trail
- Best Season: Spring, summer, autumn



Mission

Discover and enjoy the views, take a photo and continue to the next point.

Practical Information

- Essential Equipment: comfortable shoes and clothing, flashlight

Quest Description

Take photos near/in/at each of the sites. Send them by email to: devetakiplateau@gmail.com or post them on social media, tagging Devetaki Plateau Association.

Everyone who completes the task will participate in a raffle and has the opportunity to receive a prize from the Devetaki Plateau Association.



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Starting Point

Devetaki Cave

Area Description

Devetski Plateau

Heritage Connection

Natural beauty, preservation, and history

Success Criteria

Minimum 9 photos taken at each point of the route

Participant's Role

Take photos and share images.

Disclaimer:

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