



Discover Yourself Through Art

PAZARDJIK / BULGARIA  
13.07.2016 / 22.07.2016

INFOPACK



BULGARIA



CZECH



ITALY



POLAND



SPAIN



Erasmus+



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

## Dear partners,

We kindly want to invite you to take part in our youth exchange project which has been approved by the Bulgarian National Agency and it will take place in Pazardjik, Bulgaria from 13 to 22 of July 2016. At this stage we need to find the participants for the project quickly and you, as sending partners, should support the participants to buy their tickets AFTER receiving our approval of the potential participants.

Here below you will find more specific information on the contents of the youth exchange. After reviewing ALL the information, please have your potential participants fill in the questionnaire that you will find in the attachment and send back to [dytabg@gmail.com](mailto:dytabg@gmail.com) at the latest by June 10th, 2016. We will review the questionnaires and will give you approval to buy the tickets.

## PROJECT SUMMARY:

The project "Discover yourself through art!" was conceived as a Youth Exchange, to offer 30 youngsters coming from five countries – Bulgaria, Spain, Italy, Poland and Czech Republic – the chance to meet in Pazardzhik, Bulgaria.

Within eight days of exchange and two for travelling (from July 13th until July 22nd 2016) the project will provide young people with an opportunity to discuss how Europe supports art, what are the rights of people in this industry and how as young European citizens they can help achieving cooperation, innovation and integration through art and culture, both on a local and international level.

The main idea of the exchange is to promote cooperation between young people involved in the art field, in order to contribute to the cohesion, tolerance and mutual understanding, in a general context of intercultural harmony.

Our NGO aims to attract for this project young people involved or interested in activities related to theater, art and culture. Through planned activities and thanks to creative and artistic methods, the attention of all actors (leaders and participants) will be focused on building a more welcoming and respectful framework for young people as part of the big European family.

The main support to achieve this goal will come mostly from the presence of specific work methods: work in thematic groups with cultural activities such as theater, music and dance, interactive role-playing games and workshops, presentations, indoor and outdoor creative and artistic activities to acquire new knowledge and skills in the art field, intercultural evenings, visiting cultural and historical sites, meetings with local groups and musical groups, discussions on current youth issues, debates.

## MAIN OBJECTIVE

The main aim of the project is to enhance skills and competences of the participants, thanks to art:

1. Recognize art education as a viable factor in the total education curricula that develops citizens of a global society.
2. Recognize art is a necessity for the full development of better quality of life for all.
3. Direct attention to the value of art education for divergent and critical thinking.

4. Encourage commitment to the arts by students, community organizations, and individuals everywhere.
5. Increase community understanding and interest in art and art education through involvement in art creative workshops.

## WORKING METHODOLOGY

**The main activities planned for the YE are:**

- Interactive games
- Participation in different workshops
- Debates
- Musical games to express themselves
- Creative activities to acquire new knowledge and skills

Non-formal learning methods and informal activities will be used during the exchange and the workshops will be based on participants' past voluntary experiences.

## PARTICIPANTS PROFILE:

**Number of participants per organization:  
5 + 1 group leader**

A total of 6 participants per organization:

**5 aged between 18-30**

**1 group leader without age limit.**

- Age between 18-30;
- Young unemployed people;
- Youth workers, NGO activists, volunteers;
- Ready to take part and fully engage in the whole Youth Exchange;
- Have organizational support for further activities within ERASMUS+;
- Able to communicate in English language.

**Whether you are interested in the visual arts, dance, music, film, creative writing, and/or drama, you have to choose this youth exchange. If you are street artist, if you like to dance, sing - this is your project.**

## NOTE!

**Please take care of the gender balance of the groups!**

**PLEASE DO NOT BUY ANY TICKETS  
BEFORE RECEIVING OUR APPROVAL.**



## ACCOMMODATION AND TC VENUE

The hosting place is Hotel Trakia in Pazardjik, Bulgaria

**HOTEL TRAKIA** - [www.hotel-trakia.domino.bg](http://www.hotel-trakia.domino.bg), which is a hotel that hosts tourists and some guests of the city. The rooms will be for 2 people. Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be served in the same structure.

## WHAT SHOULD YOU BRING WITH YOU?

Here is a list of important things that you should bring with yourself on the YE module:

- Travel tickets: We can only refund your traveling costs, if you have the tickets, receipts of the trip, invoices.
- Medicines: for preventive reasons we recommend for those who have health problems to bring their own medicine.
- Some traditional snacks, drinks or food: In order to learn as much as possible from each other's culture, we will organize an intercultural evening, where you are supposed to share some of your local specialties with the other participants.
- Representative materials of your sending organization: (brochures, CD's, etc.) and also photos from your local community.



## EQUAL CHANCE team



**Ivaylo Ivanov**  
Trainer



**Maria Sefterska**  
Trainer



**David Minuti**  
Project Coordinator

## FINANCIAL ASPECTS

The youth exchange will take place in Pazardjik, Bulgaria from 13 until 22 July (13 July arrival day & 22 July departure day). Financial support will be provided by the Bulgarian National Agency for the "Erasmus +" Program (Key Action 1). Focus NGO will be able to offer the following financial conditions:

- The travel costs from home town of the participants to the venue will be covered according to the new rules of the Erasmus+ program based on distance calculator.
- Accommodation, food, local transports and all materials of the training course will be covered by the hosting NGO.
- No participants fee

**Below you can see the official table for the reimbursement:**

COUNTRY	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	TRAVEL COST IN € PER ONE PARTICIPANT
Spain	6	170
Italy	6	170
Poland	6	170
Czech Republic	6	170

## CONTACT WITH US

**Focus - European Center for Development**

**Address:**

street "Svoboda" №5, fl.6, ap.24,  
4400 Pazardjik, Bulgaria

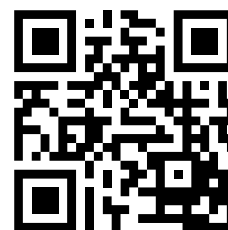
**phone:** 00359 899 08 19 09

**url:** [www.foccen.org](http://www.foccen.org)

**e-mail:** [dytabg@gmail.com](mailto:dytabg@gmail.com)

**e-mail:** [info@foccen.org](mailto:info@foccen.org)

ASSOCIATION



## Join

**Discover yourself through art YE at Facebook**





## ABOUT BULGARIA

Bulgaria, officially the Republic of Bulgaria, is a country located in Southeastern Europe. It is bordered by Romania on the north, Serbia and Macedonia on the west, Greece and Turkey on the south and the Black Sea on the east. With a territory of 110,994 square kilometres, Bulgaria is Europe's 14th-largest country. Its location has made it a historical crossroad for various civilisations and it is the home of some of the earliest metalworking, religious and other cultural artifacts in the world. The population of 7.36 million people is predominantly urban and mainly concentrated in the administrative centres of its 28 provinces. Most commercial and cultural activities are concentrated in the capital Sofia. The strongest sectors of the economy are heavy industry, power engineering and agriculture, all relying on local natural resources.

Official languages – Bulgarian

Official script – Cyrillic

Bulgaria Weather – summer +40 C° ; winter -1 C°

## HISTORY

In 680 Bulgar tribes, under the leadership of Asparukh moved south across the Danube and settled in the area between the lower Danube and the Balkan, establishing their capital at Pliska. A peace treaty with Byzantium in 681 marked the beginning of the First Bulgarian Empire. The Bulgars gradually mixed up with the local population, adopting a common language on the basis of the local Slavic dialect.

Succeeding rulers strengthened the Bulgarian state throughout the 8th and 9th centuries. Krum doubled the country's territory, killed Byzantine emperor Nicephorus I in the Battle of Pliska, and introduced the first written code of law. Paganism was abolished in favour of Eastern Orthodox Christianity under Boris I in 864. This conversion was followed by a Byzantine recognition of the Bulgarian church and the adoption of the Cyrillic alphabet developed at Preslav which strengthened central authority and helped fuse the Slavs and Bulgars into a unified people. A subsequent cultural golden age began during the 34-year rule of Simeon the Great, who also achieved the largest territorial expansion of the state.

Wars with Magyars and Pechenegs and the spread of the Bogomil heresy weakened Bulgaria after Simeon's death. Consecutive Rus' and Byzantine invasions resulted in the seizure of the capital Preslav by the Byzantine army in 971. Under Samuil, Bulgaria briefly recovered from these attacks, but this rise ended when Byzantine emperor Basil II defeated the Bulgarian army at Klyuch in 1014. Samuil died shortly after the battle,[38] and by 1018 the Byzantines had ended the First Bulgarian Empire.





Map of Bulgaria

А Б В Г Д Е Ж З  
 И Й К Л М Н О  
 П Р С Т У Ф Х Ц  
 Ч Ш Щ Ъ Ы Ю Я  
 а б в г д е ж з и  
 ъ к л м н о п р  
 с т у ф х ц ч  
 ш щ љ љ ю я

#### **Bulgarian Cyrillic alphabet**

In AD 886, the Bulgarian Empire introduced the Glagolitic alphabet, devised by Saints Cyril and Methodius in the 850s. The Glagolitic alphabet was gradually superseded in later centuries by the Cyrillic script, developed around the Preslav Literary School, Bulgaria at the beginning of the 10th century. Several Cyrillic alphabets with 28 to 44 letters were used in the early and middle 19th century during the efforts[clarification needed] on the codification of Modern Bulgarian until an alphabet with 32 letters, proposed by Marin Drinov, gained prominence in the 1870s: it was used until the orthographic reform of 1945, when the letters Ъ, ъ (called ят "yat" or двойно е/е-двойно "double e") and Ъ, ѡ (called Голям юс "big yus", голяма носовка "big nasal sign", ѡ кръстато "crossed ѡ" or широко ѡ "wide ѡ"), were removed from the alphabet, reducing the number of letters to 30.

#### **The Bulgarian alphabet**

With the accession of Bulgaria to the European Union on 1 January 2007, the Cyrillic script became the third official script of the European Union, following the Latin and Greek scripts.

## GEOGRAPHY

Bulgaria occupies a portion of the eastern Balkan peninsula, bordering five countries—Greece and Turkey to the south, Macedonia and Serbia to the west, and Romania to the north. The land borders have a total length of 1,808 kilometres (1,123 mi), and the coastline has a length of 354 kilometres (220 mi).[93] Its total area of 110,994 square kilometres (42,855 sq mi) ranks it as the world's 105th-largest country. Bulgaria's geographic coordinates are 43° N 25° E

The most notable topographical features are the Danubian Plain, the Balkan Mountains, the Thracian Plain, and the Rhodope Mountains.[93] The southern edge of the Danubian Plain slopes upward into the foothills of the Balkans, while the Danube defines the border with Romania. The Thracian Plain is roughly triangular, beginning southeast of Sofia and broadening as it reaches the Black Sea coast.

The Balkan mountains run laterally through the middle of the country. The mountainous southwest of the country has two alpine ranges—Rila and Pirin, which border the lower but more extensive Rhodope Mountains to the east. Bulgaria is home to the highest point of the Balkan peninsula, Musala, at 2,925 metres (9,596 ft)[97] and its lowest point is sea level. Plains occupy about one-third of the territory, while plateaus and hills occupy 41 per cent. The country has a dense network of about 540 rivers, most of which are relatively small and with low water levels. The longest river located solely in Bulgarian territory, the Iskar, has a length of 368 kilometres (229 mi). Other major rivers include the Struma and the Maritsa in the south.

Bulgaria has a dynamic climate, which results from its being positioned at the meeting point of Mediterranean and continental air masses and the barrier effect of its mountains. Northern Bulgaria averages 1 °C (1.8 °F) cooler and registers 200 millimetres (7.9 in) more precipitation annually than the regions south of the Balkan mountains. Temperature amplitudes vary significantly in different areas. The lowest recorded temperature is −38.3 °C (−36.9 °F), while the highest is 45.2 °C (113.4 °F). Precipitation averages about 630 millimetres (24.8 in) per year, and varies from 500 millimetres (19.7 in) in Dobrudja to more than 2,500 millimetres (98.4 in) in the mountains. Continental air masses bring significant amounts of snowfall during winter.



## VIDEOS ABOUT BULGARIA





## CITY OF PAZARDZHIK

Pazardzhik is a city situated along the banks of the Maritsa river, Southern Bulgaria. It is the capital of Pazardzhik Province and centre for the homonymous Pazardzhik Municipality.

For more information on Pazardzhik, visit:

[www.PzHistory.info](http://www.PzHistory.info)

### Weather in Pazardjik

The weather in Bulgaria in April is from 20 to 25 and more degrees. You can check more info before coming to Pazardjik at [www.sinoptik.bg](http://www.sinoptik.bg)

### Our currency and prices

Bulgarian's official currency is the LEV (BGN). One Euro is approximately 1,955 Bulgarian leva. For other exchange rates, check the following website:

[www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com)

You can change currency at exchange office in your hotel, or get LEVA right out of the ATM in several places in the town, banks and exchange offices.

## NOTE!

You should change or withdraw money when you arrive in Bulgaria, in order to buy a bus tickets only in Bulgarian leva (BGN).

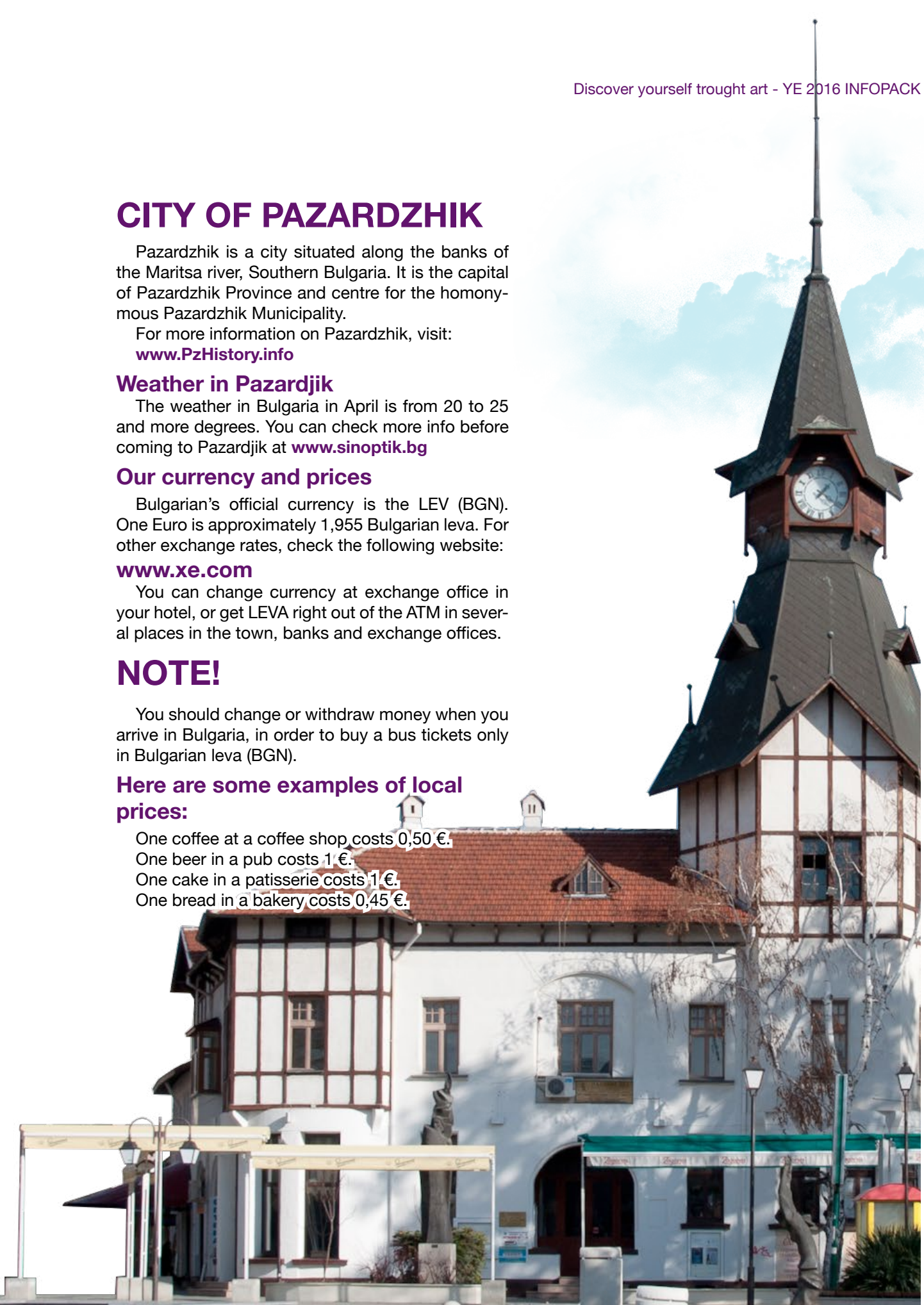
### Here are some examples of local prices:

One coffee at a coffee shop costs 0,50 €.

One beer in a pub costs 1 €.

One cake in a patisserie costs 1 €.

One bread in a bakery costs 0,45 €.





## HISTORY

Pazardzhik was founded by Tatars from what is today Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi in 1485 on the left bank of the river Maritsa, near the market of the region, an important crossroad at the middle of this productive region, and named Tatar Pazardzhik meaning “small Tatar market”. Thanks to this favourable location, the settlement quickly developed. While it was very small at the beginning of the 19th century, it became the administrative centre for the region at the end of the century and remained so until the dissolution of Ottoman Empire.

During the following centuries the town continued to grow and strengthened its position. Trade in iron, leather and rice prospered. The town impressed visitors with its beautiful houses and clean streets. In 1718 Gerard Kornelius Drish visited Pazardzhik and wrote “the buildings here according to construction, size and beauty stand higher than those of Niš, Sofia and all other places”.

The Russians under Count Nikolay Kamensky took the city after a brief siege in 1810. By the mid-19th century Pazardzhik was a big, important centre of crafts and trade, with a population of about 25,000 people. It hosted two big annual fairs, and a big market Tuesdays and Wednesdays. There was a post office with a telegraph.

In 1837 the Church of the Mother of God was built – an important national monument, famous for its architecture and woodcarving. In the mid-19th century Pazardzhik became an important cultural centre: a school was opened in 1847, a girls’ school in 1848, a community centre in 1868, the women’s union “Prosveta” in 1870.

Pazardzhik is exempt from Zapdnya Russian detachment commander with Lt. Gen. Joseph Gurko on 14 January 1878 (new style). Thanks Ovanes Sovadzhyan Armenian, Turkish command failed to execute his perfidious and monstrous plan – to light the town and destroy its Bulgarian population – before retiring.

The railway station in 1928

From the early 20th century on people built factories, stores and houses, and thus the industrial quarter of the town. From 1959 to 1987 Pazardzhik was again an administrative centre for the region, and is again since the 1999 administrative division of Bulgaria.



The old clock tower is one of the landmarks of Pazardzhik.

## POPULATION

In the 1880s the population of Pazardzhik numbered about 15,000 inhabitants and it was one of the largest of Bulgaria. Since then it started growing decade by decade, mostly because of the migrants from the rural areas and the surrounding smaller towns, reaching its peak in the period 1985–1992 exceeding 80,000.[3] After this time, the population has started decreasing in consequence of the poor economic situation in the Bulgarian provinces during the 1990s that led to a new migration in the direction of the country capital Sofia and abroad. As of February 2011, the city has a population of 71,979 inhabitants, while the Pazardzhik Municipality of 114,817 inhabitants.

## CULTURE AND PEDESTRIAN AREAS

The Church of the Theotokos preserves the most impressive icons in Bulgaria by master artists of the Debar School, wood-carvings of New and Old Testament scenes, and icons by Stanislav Dospevski. Among the town's landmarks are also the clock tower, the ethnographic and history museums.

As with most Bulgarian cities, Pazardzhik has developed a significant pedestrian center, in which several central squares typify the European coffee house society and pedestrian culture. In Bulgaria the café culture is particularly prominent, with many downtown squares easily providing up to a half dozen cafés, with ample outside seating.

Pazardzhik has a level of pedestrian streets (or network of carfree areas) even above the relatively high Bulgarian standard. There are several longer pedestrian streets, and at one point there is even an intersection where five different pedestrian streets converge. A few of these do not continue for very long, but most do, or are connected to the rest of the pedestrian areas of the city, and thus could be said to form the pedestrian network of the city.

During the warmer seasons, most afternoons of the week and especially weekends find a large number of people strolling about or sitting in cafés. There are few tourist attractions in this area but there are large supermarkets including Billa and a Lidl.

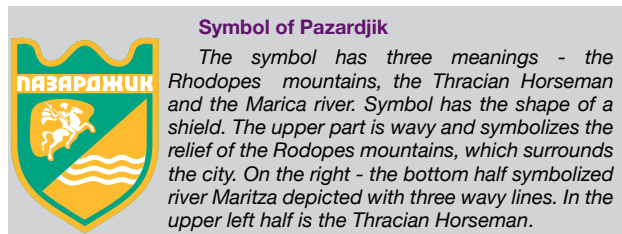
Pazardzhik Point on Snow Island in the South Shetland Islands, Antarctica is named after Pazardzhik.



Dormition of the Theotokos Church



Pazardzhik History Museum



## NIGHT WALK VIDEO





501

www.5cod.com  
DESIGN