

## Sliven Province - Cities, Towns and Villages

Sliven Province

Kotel which means "cauldron" is a town with a population of 7,179 and is known for the numerous personalities of the Bulgarian National Revival that are somehow connected to the town, such as politicians Alexander Bogoridi and Stefan Bogoridi, enlighteners Sophronius of Vratsa and Petar Beron, public figure Gavril Krastevich, revolutionary Georgi Rakovski, as well as World War II prime minister Dobri Bozhilov. It has a well-known music school and a large talented Romany population who can be found playing in restaurants and orchestras all over Bulgaria. Because of its situation in the mountains, Kotel is also a popular healthy resort for the cure of diseases such as TB. Kotel has been a centre for carpet making and there is a museum devoted to the craft.

#### Villages in Kotel Municipality

Borintsi  
Bratan

Dabova

Filaretovo

Gradets

Jeravna  
Kamena

Katunishte  
Kipilovo  
Malko Selo

Medven

Mokren  
Neykavo  
Niska Polyana

Orlovo

Ostra Mogila

Paderovo

Ptichari

Sedlarovo

Sokolartsi

Streltsi

Ticha

Topuzevo

Varlishte

## Yablanovo

Tvarditsa is town with 5778 inhabitants (2006) and located in the southern slopes of Stara Planina. The area around is known as the Tvarditsa Coal Basin, the only place in the country where soft coal is mined.

There is a railway line and a highway link to and from Sofia, Karlovo and Bourgas. This gives good transport links and economic connections not only with the neighbouring municipalities but with districts all over Bulgaria. The name of the municipality's administrative centre - a symbol of pride, strength and bravery - is connected with the Gradishteto Fortress which lies 1.5 km south of the town. The name comes from the old Bulgarian word tvardina, which means 'fortress' or 'fortification'. The region is mostly mountainous and hilly with the territory of the municipality is distributed into three distinct areas - the Balkan, the Sredna Gora and the plain areas. The Balkan Area is shaped typically of the medium-height mountain relief - highly risen in their upper part rounded ridges with a southern exposure, with deeply sunken valleys passing into steep slopes sinking into other lower parts. The Sredna Gora Area has a low-mountain hilly relief with a pronounced central ridge of the Sredna Gora Mountain. The Plain Area, consisting of the Tvarditsa Hollow (around 250 m above sea level) and the Shivachevo Hollow (around 200 m above sea level). This is enclosed between the steep slopes of the Balkan on the north and the slanting slopes of the Sredna Gora Mountain to the south. The lowest point is situated in the valley of the Tounja River - 205 metres, and the highest point is the Choumerna Summit atanding at 1,536 metres. Needless to say this is a beautiful part of Bulgaria and mainly unknown as far a tourists are concerned. It is waiting to be discovered and only then can the process of regenerating the town happen. The beautiful nature of the surrounding countryside may well the the meal ticket to providing investment in the town.

### Villages in Tvardistsa Municipality

Bliznets  
Borov Dol  
Byala Palanka  
Chervenakovo  
Jult Bryag

Orizari  
Sborishte

Shivachevo is a small town with population is 3968 (2005,) the wine is reportedly, 'Just great there.!' It is therefore no accident that the reknown wine company Vini chose the town for one of their wineries. This is expected top create new jobs as the winery where another 500 ha of vines, will be planted. Vini has pledged to invest 11 million euro in the region over the next 4 years. The favorable location of the town, beautiful nature, hospitality of the people determines the growing interest in the development of mountain, holiday, hunting, cultural and ski tourism. Eco-tourism development is also a bit player in that field. A project for the development of Bulgarian eco-tourism has been drafted. Infrastructure has been built and accommodation is available in different establishments like: Olympic Hotel in Tvarditsa town, Gerov private hotel, Choumerna Chalet with 80 beds, Boukovets, Gorski Dom and Haidoushka Pessen chalets. A ski lift, 667 m long and with 400 people/hour capacity and a 1,000 m long ski slope were built under Choumerna peak which stands at 1,536 m. The climatic conditions allow these facilities to be used 4 months in the year.

Village in Shivachevo Municipality

Surtsev

Nova Zagora is a town with a population of approximately 26,000 people in the city, and approximately 48,000 in the entire municipality which also includes 33 surrounding villages. The first traces of life in the region date back thousands of years. Many archeological sites are located in the region, showing settlements dating back to the Stone Age and the Stone-Copper age. The most prominent archeological site is in the nearby Karanovo. Nova Zagora is located in the so-called Thracian Plain, named for the Thracian culture that thrived in the region for centuries. The Nova Zagora Historical Museum has many historically significant artifacts dating back to this era. The region is very fertile for agriculture, growing a wide range of produce including grapes, sunflowers, cereals, and a variety of other plants. Nova Zagora is located on the main Plovdiv-Burgas railroad, as well as the Trakia Highway that runs from Sofia to Burgas. It is 35 km east of Stara Zagora and 30 km west of Sliven. Nova Zagora has a large population of Roma (Gypsy) people and ethnic Turks. Official estimates indicate that approximately 12 percent of the population is from this ethnic minority, but unofficial estimates put this much higher. The town suffers from high levels of

unemployment

(estimated at 23 percent), and the population has been declining like many other small urban areas of Bulgaria. The climate is mild, with the average winter temperature at 1.2 degrees Celsius and the average August temperature of 23.5 degrees. The town has a variety of sports facilities, including tennis, athletics, karate and there is also a football team called Zagorets Nova Zagora.

#### Villages in Nova Zagora Municipality

Asenovets

Banya

Bogdanovo

Bryastovo

Byal Kladenet

Dyadovo

Elenovo

Ezero

Grafitovo

Kamenovo

Karanovo  
Konyovo  
Korten

Kriva Krusha

Lyubenets

Lyubenova Mahala  
Mlekarevo

Nauchene

Novoselets

Omarchevo

Pet Mogili

Pitovo  
Polsko  
Padarevo

Prohorovo

Radetski

Radevo  
Sabrano

Sokol

Stoil Voyvoda

Sudievo  
Sudiysko Pole  
Tsenino  
Zagortsi

## Sliven

is the capital and administrative centre of the province and a comparatively large town with 110,000 inhabitants (the 8th largest in Bulgaria). Sliven is famous for its Bulgarian hajduks who fought against the Ottoman Turks in the 19th century. The current mayor of the city is former football star Yordan Letchkov. In 1834, Dobri Zhelyazkov established the first factory in Bulgarian lands, thus starting industrial development in Bulgaria, so this could be a Bulgarian Manchester! Sliven was one of the largest industrial centres in Bulgaria, playing an important role during the Bulgarian National Revival. It has long-lived traditions in textiles, machine-building, glass-making, and the technical and food industries. Today Sliven is on the fringe of discovery in Europe. It has already been recognised as a town of progress with its position just off the main Sofia - Bourgas trunk road. It had a small winter skiing resort and there is an International Formula One race track planned to be built on the outskirts of the town to give more worldwide recognition. It has the tradition of a yearly music festival and a Classical orchestra among other annual cultural events. It is the centre of many activities in the area with a big and lively bazaar with much local produce. The shopping centre is mainly pedestrianised and the building structures combine well the new architecture with the old. The backdrop of the mountains is always a dominant feature.

Kermen is a small town that has 2 042 inhabitants.

It is located within a short driving distance from Sliven 23 km in the Balkan plain. Some of the popular symbols of Sliven include: the Blue Rocks, the Karandila locality, the Old Elm Tree, the monument to Hadji Dimitar, the monument to the Seventh Cavalry Regiment - Orleto as well as the Little Eagle, the town's clock tower, Dobri Zhelyazkov's Factory. Cultural heritage and traditions are still alive. There is a theatre, a puppet theatre and a national museum of the textile industry. The Koutelka Nature Reserve is located in the Sinite Kamani /the Blue Rocks/ National Park and has an area of around 7 sq.km and is of international importance for rare bird species such as the osprey, Egyptian vulture, falcon, Falco peregrinus Tunstall, etc. The water in the Sliven Mineral Baths has been proved to have a positive effect in the treatment of gastrointestinal diseases, bilious and liver diseases, as well as bones and joint diseases and the nervous system. There are many archaeological finds from Roman and Byzantine times. There have been regular archaeological excavations in Hissarlaka since 1982. Examples of the lasting architectural traditions from the National Revival and the ethnographic wealth of the region can be seen in the Museum of Sliven Ethnography. The four hotels, the many holiday homes, huts and villas can accommodate nearly 2000 people altogether.

## Villages in Sliven Municipality

Bikovo  
Bilo  
Binkos  
Blatets  
Bojevtsi

Bozadjii  
Byala  
Chintulovo  
Chokoba  
Dragodanovo

Gavrailovo  
Gergevets  
Glufishevo  
Glushnik

## Golyamo Chochoveni

Gorno Aleksandrovo  
Gradsko  
Ichera  
Izgreve  
Jelyu Voyvoda

Kaloyanovo  
Kamen  
Kovachite

Kozin Dol

Krushare

Malko Chochoveni  
Masarlii  
Mechkarevo  
Mladovo  
Nikolaevo

Novachevo

Panaretovtsi

Rakovo  
Ruchenitsa  
Samuilovo

Seliminovo  
Skobeleva  
Sotirya  
Sredorek

Stara Reka

Staro Selo

Strupets  
Topolchane  
Trapoklovo  
Vuglen

Zaychari

Zlati Voyvoda