



# Knowns and unknowns places in our local places

History, culture and tourism: Aksakovo (Bulgaria)

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# Presentation overview

1. Geographic location of Aksakovo
2. History: from Adjemler to Aksakovo
3. Cultural life: preservation of our cultural heritage
4. Video about the cultural calendar of Aksakovo
5. Known place: The Rose Valley & The Festival of Roses
6. Unknown place: The Stone Forest



# Location of Aksakovo Municipality



# History – from Adjemler to Aksakovo

- Thracian settlement
- Near the settlement: Roman fortress Maglish- important role for the development of the settlement and defense of territories
- 1444- 1573: decline in the number of Bulgarian population in the area
- Turks were the predominant population , village of Adjemler – meaning “Persians”
- 1878: mass exodus of Turks after the San Stefano Treaty (Liberation of Bulgaria)



# From Adjemler to Aksakovo

- Bulgarian refugees came from the region around Odrin (Edirne- now Turkey) and Lozengrad (Kırklareli- now Turkey)
- Old Bulgarian population “Vajaci” (въяци) and Bulgarian refugees “madzuri”(маджури)
- 14 august 1934: change of the name: new name after the Russian publicist Ivan Aksakov who was actively involved in the process of the liberation of Bulgarian from the Ottoman Empire
- 1946- 1990 (communism): industrialization and collectivization of agriculture
- 27 may 2014 – change in the administrative status: from village into city

# Culture

- National holidays
- Municipality of Aksakovo- 23 places (2 cities+ 21 villages): each one has its own city/village holiday
- Religious holidays
- Local festivals
- Days of remarkable Bulgarian poets and national heroes

# Folklore Festival

*Let's conserve the Bulgarian spirit and tradition!*

- Takes place in the Exhibition Hall of Aksakovo Municipality, located in the village of Klimentovo (June)
- International festival with special participation from Ukraine, Moldavia and United Kingdom
- Preservation and promotion of the Bulgarian traditions
- Focus on the importance of the cultural heritage and the cultural diversity of different ethnic groups
- Participants: folklore ensembles, folklore musical and dance groups, individual performers and duets, folk instruments performers

# The festival

Market for local food products  
And degustation of traditional  
dishes

Exhibition of handmade  
jewelry, embroidery, ceramics  
and ect.

Music and dance  
performances

Old craftsmen's workshops for  
children

Exhibition of art pieces  
(done by children and  
students)



# Cultural life

- Video: Throughout the cultural calendar of Aksakovo



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# Do you know that...

- Bulgaria is world's #1 producer of rose oil
- The Valley of Thracian Kings is in Bulgaria
- The only one museum of roses in the world is in Kazanlak (Bulgaria)
- We have a Rose Queen – the most beautiful girl, who participated in the ritual of the roses during the Festival of Roses

# The Rose- Symbol of Bulgaria





# The Rose Valley



# The Festival of Roses in Kazanlak



- One of the most joyful and beautiful festivals in the country
- the days of rose-picking (rose harvest in late May)
- Early in the morning is the festive rose picking, when beautiful girls, dressed in festive Bulgarian costumes, collect the rose blossoms and adorn with them for health and beauty.
- After that follows the choosing of a Rose Queen – the most beautiful girl, who participated in the ritual.
- Celebrations continue with a folklore procession and tasting of rose foods and beverages

More information: <https://www.rosefestivalkazanlak.com/tell-me-more-about-the-rose-valley-of-kazanlak/>





## “Stone Forest”





# Tourist attraction

## Natural phenomenon “Stone Forest”

- Bulgarian name “Побити камъни“ (Pobiti kamani); Meaning: “stones beaten into the ground”
- Located in the Municipality of Aksakovo
- 50 million years old (Cenozoic Era)
- One of the first protected areas in Bulgaria since 1938
- Part of the ecological network Natura 2000
- The largest inland sand habitats in the country with its specific flora and fauna
- Territory: over 13 sq km
- A sacred space with some sort of energy and supernatural force
- Shooting location for movies such as Conan the Barbarian (2011, Jason Momoa)



# Hypotheses about the origin

- colonnades of Poseidon's temple in Atlantis
- mechanical acting of the environmental factors (sea waves, wind, rain)
- precipitation of carbonate from infiltrated ground waters (stalactite mode of formation)

**The idea that they are human creation is excluded**



# Local legend

A local legend states that the pillars are the petrified bodies of the giants who requested that a young immortal man reveal to them the name of God so that he could marry a beautiful girl originally destined to become the giants' leader's wife.

# Thank you for your attention!



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