

THE HUNT FOR CIVILISATIONS



3... 2... 1... ALL ABOARD, MAINA-A-AS! AT THE FURIOUS SPEED OF 60 KM/H WE SET OFF FOR A RAMBLE AROUND THE CENTRE OF MAINA GALAXY. THICK SHADOWS, HISTORICAL LIGHTNINGS, RELIGIOUS RITUALS INTERTWINE WITH THE AILYAK AND STALK OUR VINTAGE MACHINES AROUND THE CORNER. ALL ABOARD, MAINA-A-AS!

PLACES AROUND MAINA TOWN

THE AREA AROUND MAINA TOWN IS ATTRACTIVE WITH ITS NATURE, HISTORY AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUTDOOR AILYAK IDLING (IDLE-YAK). STEFAN CHOLAKOV FROM RETRO SAFARI'S TEAM TELLS US ABOUT SOME OF THE PLACES WORTH VISITING.



HI,
MY NAME IS STEFAN
CHOLAKOV - BORN AND
BRED IN MAINA TOWN AND
ACTIVELY LIVING HERE.



MAINA TOWN
IS AN AMAZING CITY BUT AT
TIMES WE JUST WANT TO
GET IN THE CAR AND LEAVE IT
BEHIND. SO, LET'S GO...

RETRO SAFARI: A CRAZY, CRAZY IDEA... BORN OUT OF THE 'BEER ON THE BONNET' NOSTALGIA AND MEMORIES OF AN 8-HOUR DRIVE TO THE SEA... UNCLE MANCHO'S MOSKVICH, PETYO THE NEIGHBOUR'S LADA OR THE VOLGA, UNATTAINABLE FOR MOST (YOU KNOW THE ADAGE 'YOU EITHER GET PROMOTED OR GET KIDNAPPED') BRING A SMILE ON THE FACE AND A DREAMY GAZE THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE ON EVERYONE. THERE'S NO WAY MAINA TOWN WOULD NOT ACHIEVE THAT ESPECIALLY FOR YOU.



IN A NUTSHELL:

- FOR THE ADULTS - A RETURN TO THE PAST, A VINTAGE EMOTION, A BITE TO EAT, A DRINK (SHOULD YOU FANCY ONE), A STAMP HUNT (100 TOURIST SITES).
- FOR THE KIDS - WONDERING 'WHAT DID THE PARENTALS ACTUALLY GOT ME INTO'...

WE ARE HEADING TO THE COOL AND GREEN RHODOPE MOUNTAIN, PASSING THROUGH ASENNOVGRAD - A CITY WITH A WHOLE LOT OF 30 CHURCHES ON ITS TERRITORY (AND AROUND 300 BRIDAL SHOPS BUT WE'LL DRIVE YOU BACK FOR THAT ANOTHER TIME). WE LEAVE THE MAGNIFICENT ASEN'S FORTRESS BEHIND US (WE'LL BE RETURNING LATER) - THE GUARDIAN OF THRACE FOR CENTURIES - AND REACH BACHKOVO MONASTERY.

BACHKOVO MONASTERY IS THE SECOND LARGEST IN BULGARIA THAT HAS EXPERIENCED AND RESISTED THE VICISSITUDES OF TIME. TODAY IT TELLS A STORY OF UPS AND DOWNS LONG GONE. ARTFULLY PAINTED, IT WILL TRANSPORT US INTO A WORLD OF ANGELS AND DEMONS, OF TRUTHS AND DOUBTS. TO THIS DAY IT HOLDS THE MYSTERY OF THE EXACT LOCATION OF PATRIARCH EFTIMY TARNOVSKI'S TOMB. WITH ITS DARK TREE SHADOWS, COLOURS TO PLEASE THE EYE, NOURISHMENT FOR THE SOUL (AND NOT ONLY THE SOUL), THIS PLACE MAKES YOU YEARN FOR SOME AILYAK. THE PERFECT TIMING FOR A PHOTO SESSION WITH OUR VINTAGE VEHICLES.

WELL, WE'RE BACK! WE JUST HAVE TO PAY A VISIT TO ASEN'S FORTRESS. OUR OLD BANGERS KNOW THE WAY TO THEIR PEERS. A WELL-PRESERVED AND HANDSOME FORTRESS WHICH REACHED ITS PEAK DURING THE REIGN OF IVAN ASEN II. IT REVEALS A MEGA IDLE VIEW OVER THE WHOLE VALLEY AND THE BALKAN MOUNTAINS. PERCHED ON ITS WALLS IT IS EASY FOR US TO BELIEVE THAT WE ARE THE KINGS OF THE WORLD!

HOW IS IT GOING, RASCALS? THE OLD MAINA BANGERS ARE TIRELESS, THERE'S NOTHING THEY LOVE MORE THAN SOME ACTIVE AILYAK. AND O-O-O-OFF TO THE SUPER COOL AVIATION MUSEUM WE GO! THE COSMIC CAPSULE OF GEORGI IVANOV (NOT A MAINA, WHAT A PITY), FIGHTER JETS, HELICOPTERS AND PLETHORA OF COOL GADGETS AWAIT THERE! NOT TO BE MISSED, MARK OUR WORDS!

WHAT A GUSTO TRIP WE HAD, NO TWO WAYS ABOUT IT. NOTE - AUTO MUSEUM MARKOVO IN MAINA BEVERLY HILLS, A.K.A. MARKOVO, IS ALSO NOT TO BE MISSED. THERE ARE ETERNAL CLASSICS INSIDE (TESTAROSSA, BABY, CHAIKA AND A NUMBER OF OTHER AUTO TREATS). JUST THINK ABOUT IT AND OFF WE GO...

ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY THERE ARE SEVERAL FOUNTAINS OF ETERNAL YOUTH. DEPENDING ON YOUR PREFERENCE WE CAN MAINA-PORT YOU TO PIVOVARNA (BREWERY) HILLS IN PERUSHTITSA (YOU KNOW ABOUT BREWER'S YEAST, DON'T YOU - FOREVER YOUNG, OR 'THE MORE, THE MORE'), OR THE DIVINE VILLA USTINA IN THE VILLAGE OF USTINA WITH ITS FANTASTIC WINE SELECTION. BOTH PLACES HAVE INCREDIBLE VIBES, GREENERY, ENTERTAINMENT AND SURPRISES FOR MAINA-TRAVELLERS. AND RETRO SAFARI AND OUR DRIVERS WILL ENSURE YOUR SAFE DEGUSTATION.

MUSEUM OF THE WORLD - FROM THE CREATION TO OUR TIMES IN NOVO SELO / 24 KM FROM PLOVDIV
SITUATED OVER 10 ACRES OF ROCKY TERRAIN ABOVE THE VILLAGE, THE MUSEUM PRESENTS MIXED HISTORICAL PERIODS IN AN UNCONVENTIONAL EXPOSITION ENTIRELY CREATED BY THE LOCALS.

A DONUT WITH MAGIC POWDER - PESNOPOY VILLAGE / 38 KM FROM PLOVDIV
HEY MAINA, IF THE ROAD TAKES YOU TO THE VILLAGE OF PESNOPOY - STOP OVER FOR A CLASSIC FROM THE CLASSICS! A 'MEKICHKA' DOUGHNUT: GOLDEN IN COLOUR, SLIGHTLY GREASY, FLUFFY AS A CLOUD AND POWDERED WITH ICING SUGAR, REMINISCENT OF SNOW IN AUGUST. IF YOU CATCH IT WHILE IT'S HOT - TELEPORT TO ANOTHER DIMENSION!

KRICHIM ROYAL PALACE / 25 KM FROM PLOVDIV
FOR A MAGICAL EVENING STROLL VISIT KRICHIM ROYAL PALACE. EVERY AUTUMN THE FOREST AROUND IT COMES TO LIFE WITH A SPECTACLE OF LIGHT - "WHISPER OF LIGHTS" - INSTALLATIONS, SOUNDS AND COLOURS, WHICH IMMERSE YOU INTO A PROPER FAIRYTALE. PLEASE CHECK CURRENT DATES AND TIMES ONLINE - THE EVENT IS USUALLY HELD IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER.

WHICH WAY NOW?
ALL ROADS LEAD TO FANTASY - THE NON-MUSEUM OF PLOVDIV.

THE WINE LINE



WINE CELLARS

BRESTNIK VILLAGE

PULDIN

PARVENETS VILLAGE

THE OLD CELLAR
GIRO TRADE

USTINA VILLAGE

VILLA USTINA

BRESTOVITSA VILLAGE

TODOROFF
VILLA VINIFERA
BONINI
NEW LIFE