Cultural garden heritage as focal point for sustainable tourism

GREEN TREASURES OF SOUTH EAST EUROPE
ROUTE OF GARDEN AND OPEN SPACE HERITAGE SITES
IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE
Gardens, parks, open space sites and landscapes, designed, as well as historically evolved, are expressions of human activity. They evidence interaction of people with and in their urban, rural or natural environment under a distinctive attitude. Thus, they are proof of a certain artistic approach, are an artwork, they document a specific relation to nature, an aim of production or development, or are an expression of political, social or religious belief. Being a historical site, they possess the quality to tell explicitly about these specific attitudes of past generations in Europe that led to their layout – and thus are a valuable historical document of past human activity, also in the South East Europe programme area (cf fig. 1). The preservation of this kind of cultural value is an important task for now, and the future generations. Some examples located in the South East Europe area are presented in this flyer, in the format of a travel route. Touring along this path will give you new insights into the region’s history, its inhabitants and life realities.

In this flyer a route that spans over four countries, a transnational travel route, is presented: “Green Treasures of South East Europe”. It has been developed together with four regionally based routes within the CultTour project, to make the precious garden and open space site heritage of Southeast Europe more visible: “Green Treasures of Bulgaria”, “Green Treasures of Greece”, “Green Treasures of Italy” and “Green Treasures of Romania”. The transnational route focuses on 16 sites in the South East Europe Programme area (cf Fig. 1), and connects the four “pilot sites” that participated in the CultTour project: Romania “Park at the Samuel von Brukenthal Summer Residence”, Avrig/Freck; Greece “Park of National Independency”, Alexandroupolis; Italy “Villa Peripato”, Taranto; Bulgaria “Boruna area with Asenevtsi Monument”, Veliko Tarnovo. A selection of twelve other important, significant gardens, parks and open space heritage sites is presented. All flyers are downloadable at www.culttour.eu.
Travelling the “Route of garden and open space heritage sites in South East Europe” will lead you to garden and open space sites of several epochs of garden art and open space culture in South East Europe. Very diverse types of the garden and open space heritage are connected with each other, beginning at a Baroque garden, passing by manor house gardens, city parks, forest parks, open space monuments, visiting urban parks and cultural gardens and passing historically evolved and designed cultural landscapes, as well as villa communale gardens. The route follows in some parts the old Roman roads Via Appia, Via Traiana and Via Egnatia, making reference to the long tradition of communication and exchange between connected countries. In other parts the route follows younger paths, some of them established or extended to improve Pan-European transport and connection in times of European growth. It is hoped that you as a traveller will gain unique impressions on this special category of the cultural heritage.

Time spent touring along the proposed route can not be estimated, as it is dependent on how long you will spent at every site and its region. Travelling by car will provide more flexibility, whereas travelling by bus or train will enable a deeper insight into the several countries daily life. Depending on connections and timetables the tour is likely to take longer by bus and/or train. Proposed starting point for travelling the route is Avrig with a visit or stay at the Samuel von Brukenthal Residence in Avrig/Freck, located just ca. 25 km south-east of the Sibiu/Hermannstadt city centre following the national route 1/ European street E68. Sibiu can be reached by air (Sibiu international airport, www.sibiuairport.ro) with connections to the larger European cities, and by land (Sibiu international bus station Atlassib, www.atlassib.ro or by Sibiu central railway station, www.infofer.ro); by train or bus with connection from the nearest larger European cities like Budapest, Sofia, Kiev, or Belgrade and all the other European capitals. By car, Sibiu is connected to the European street network with routes E81 & E68.
1. AVRIG, PARK AT THE SAMUEL VON BRUKENTHAL SUMMER PALACE  
PARCUL SAMUEL VON BRUKENTHAL

Historic garden/park, main entrance at: Strada Gheorghe Lazar nr. 39, 555200 Avrig/Freck, located at county route 1 from Sibiu, European route 68, rail station “Avrig/Freck” on the railroad route Sibiu/Hermannstadt – Bucuresti/Bucharest, park gates are open from sunrise to sunset, accessible for disabled persons except for terrain terraces, no entrance fee charged, information and guided tours available by contact: Foundation Samuel von Brukenthal, Cornelia Feyer, Tel.: 0040-(0)788456565, feyer@brukenthal.org, www.brukenthal.org

GPS 45.730764, 24.375379

2. CÂMPULUNG-MUSCEL, VILLA GOLESCU AND PARK VILA ȘI PARCUL GOLESCU

Villa garden; main entrance at: Strada Ioana Rafiroiu (Strada Soldat Golescu, Câmpulung; open: 1st May to 30th September 12-19 o’clock, out of this period you can visit by calling the housekeeper Mr Nica (number can also be found at the entrance gate, speaks only Romanian): (0040)731 87 88 32; just partly accessible for disabled persons, no entrance fee charged but a donation should be left (individuals: free choice, guided visit of the park and the villa: 5 Lei per person, children till 14 years free, groups (more than 10 persons): 3 lei per person; visit and guided tour (English and French) direct contact is Mrs Andreea Savescu: Tel.: (0040) 728 76 99 70; general information: Fundația Pro Patrimonio (Pro Patrimonio Foundation), Strada Pictor Verona nr. 13, sector 1, Bucharest, e-mail: propatrimonio.romania@gmail.com, web-page: www.propatrimonio.org

GPS 45.272931, 25.039494

3. GOLEŞTI, VITICULTURE MUSEUM  
MUZEUL VITICULTURII ŞI POMICULTURII GOLEŞTI

Originally a manor house garden, today a museum garden; main entrance: Strada Banul Golescu nr. 1, 117715 Ștefănești, Arges county, near Pitesti city; opening times: summer daily 9-18, winter 9-16 o’clock, Monday closed; in parts accessible for disabled persons; entrance fee charged; general information: National Viticulture and Tree Growing Museum Romania “The Museum Complex of Golești –Ștefănești”, e-mail: cmngolesti@yahoo.com, web-page: www.muzeulgolesti.ro, Tel.: (0040)248266364

GPS 44.839728, 24.963062

4. BUCHAREST, CIŞMIGIU GARDENS  
PARCUL CIŞMIGIU

City park; main entrance: Boulevard Regina Elisabeta (across from Bucharest City Hall), 050014 Bucharest; open from sunrise till sunset; in large parts accessible for disabled persons; no entrance fee charged; general information about the city and the gardens: http://en.seebucharest.ro/

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<th><strong>5. Ruse,</strong> Lipnik Forest Park (“Teketo”)</th>
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<td>Forest park; main entrance at: Lake Nikolovo, 7057 Bulgaria, east of Ruse, situated in the south-west part of Nikolovo village; open all day, main paths are accessible for disabled persons; no entrance fee charged; contact possibility: Ruse Tourist Information Centre, 61 Aleksandrovska Street, Tel.: (0035)982824704, e-mail: <a href="mailto:ruse.tic@gmail.com">ruse.tic@gmail.com</a>, web-page: <a href="http://tic.rousse.bg/index">http://tic.rousse.bg/index</a>;</td>
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<th><strong>6. Shumen,</strong> 1300 Years Bulgarian State Monument (“Monument Founders of the Bulgarian State”)</th>
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<td>Monument, Shumensko plateau south of the city centre of Shumen, visitors can climb up a stairway of 1300 steps starting from Vasil Drumev Drama Theatre Shumen; opening times 1st May to 15th October: 8-20 o’clock, 6th October to 30th April: 8.30-17 o’clock; accessible for disabled persons, entrance fee charged; information about the monument: e-mail: <a href="mailto:bg1300@psit35.net">bg1300@psit35.net</a>, Tel: (0035)954872107; general city information: Tourist Information Centre Shumen, Slavyanski Boulevard nr. 17, Shumen, E-mail: <a href="mailto:tic@shoumen.bg">tic@shoumen.bg</a>; web-page: <a href="http://www.tourism-shumen.com">www.tourism-shumen.com</a>;</td>
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<th><strong>7. Veliko Tarnovo,</strong> Boruna Area with Asenevtsi Monument</th>
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<td>Historic city park/sculpture park; main entrance at: Stambolov Bridge, ul. Aleksander Stamboliyski; open all day; some paths are accessible for disabled persons; no entrance fee charged for the park, small entrance fee charged for the art gallery; general information: Municipal Tourist Agency &quot;Tsarevgrad Turnov&quot;, Hristo Botev Str. Nr. 5, 5000 Veliko Tarnovo, Tel.: (00359)62622148, Fax: (00359)62600768, e-mail: <a href="mailto:ticvt2@gmail.com">ticvt2@gmail.com</a>; general city information: <a href="http://www.velikoturnovo.info">http://www.velikoturnovo.info</a></td>
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<th><strong>8. Dimitrovgrad,</strong> Maritza Park</th>
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<td>City park, main entrance at: Street Zahari Zograf, 6400 Dimitrovgrad (north of the city centre), open all day, accessible for disabled persons, no entrance fee charged, no direct contact possibility; municipality website: <a href="http://www.dimitrovgrad.bg">www.dimitrovgrad.bg</a></td>
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<td>9. ALEXANDROUPOLIS, PARK OF NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE</td>
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<td>10. KROKOS, KOZANI PREFECTURE, KROKOHÓRIA CULTURAL LANDSCAPE</td>
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13. BRINDISI,
PARK AT THE ITALIAN SAILORS MONUMENT (“BIG Rudder”)
MONUMENTO AL MARINAIO D’ITALIA

Monument, Via Ammiraglio Millo, 72100 Brindisi; open: 1st October to 31st March: Tue-Sun 9-13 and 14-16.30 o’clock, 1st May to 30th September: Tue-Sun 9-13 and 15-20 o’clock, every first Sunday at 11 o’clock a Mass is celebrated in the sacred chapel; garden accessible for disabled persons; general city information: www.brindisiweb.it; no entrance fee charged

GPS 40.644979, 17.946767

14. LECCE,
VILLA REALE (“VILLA CARELLI”)

Villa garden, Via Egidio Reale, 73100 Lecce, opening times: it is a private garden, just few days every year the villa is open to the public, visits can be arranged by contacting the Garden Club di Lecce, contact: Garden Club di Lecce, Via Oberdan, 121, 73100 Lecce, president: Alessandra Zamparelli Della Notte, entrance fee charged, information about Pietro Porcinai: www.pietroporcinai.net

GPS 40.354444, 18.163333

15. TARANTO,
VILLA PERIPATO

Villa comunale garden, main entrance: Via Roma/Piazza John Fitzgerald Kennedy, 74123 Taranto, open: 1st Nov to 31st March: 7-19 o’clock, 1st Apr to 31st May: 7-22 o’clock, 1st June to 30th Sept: 6-24 o’clock, 1st Oct to 31st Oct: 7-22 o’clock, general tourism information Puglia: www.viaggiareinpuglia.it, no entrance fee charged

GPS 40.474093, 17.240789

16. AMASTUOLA
FARM DESIGNED CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Designed cultural landscape; address of Amastuola farm: Strada Provinciale 42 (east of Massafra), Massafra, Tarent, Puglia, Italien; Amastuola office: Amastuola Società Agricola s.s., Via Martina Franca, 80, 74016 Massafra, Tel.: (0039)998805668, e-mail: info@amastuola.it, Amastuola wine cellar: Via Appia Km 632,200, 74016 Massafra, web-page: www.amastuola.it

GPS 40.579191, 17.170449
1. AVRIG, PARK AT THE SAMUEL VON BRUKENTHAL SUMMER PALACE

The main structure of Brukenthal Park originates in the Baroque. Today it preserves important elements of that period. Situated at the rim of the Olt River lowlands in the north-western part of the City of Avrig, the ensemble developed starting in 1757 as a country estate and was soon after extended in several development phases as a summer residence by Baron Samuel von Brukenthal (1721-1803), Governor of Transylvania from 1774-1778. The garden and palace followed the examples of Schönbrunn and Laxenburg Palaces in and near Vienna. In the spirit of enlightened absolutism and under the principle of the freemasonry ethics of “combining the practical with the beautiful” the ensemble reached its peak in 1803, when the late Baroque garden was complemented by extending the park area in English landscape style. To that date a rich garden culture was developed. In 1908 the ensemble came into the possession of the Evangelical church in Sibiu/Hermannstadt, then established as a sanatorium, whose function continued during the times of state expropriation (1948-1998). In 1999, the complex was given back to the Brukenthal Foundation of the Evangelical church, which became responsible for future management. A park development concept was elaborated which today forms a valuable basis for its preservation and development.

Facilities: Café and restaurant in the historic orangery, terraces, WC, overview map, book, guided tours, parking, accommodation in the orangery available at Co. Klingeis (www.palatulbrukenthalavrig.ro, Tel: 0040-(0)726234417)

Botanical highlights: Within the park area an impressive group of historic tulip trees (Liriodendron) is preserved

Fig. 3: View along the main axis of the Park at the Samuel von Brukenthal Summer Palace, Avrig
2. CÂMPULUNG-MUSCEL, PARK AT THE “VILLA GOLESCU“
PARC DIN ANSAMBLUL VILEI GOLESCU

The site of Villa Golescu was in possession of one of Wallachia's oldest families since the 15th century. The engineer and forester Vasile Golescu, who became known as teacher in silvicultural education in Romania, let build a villa in the neo-Romanian style, typical for the region, surrounded by a park around the year 1910. It was a project planned not only to beautify the surroundings of his Villa, but also to use his knowledge gained in his studies at the “École nationale des eaux et forêts” in France. Thus, the project was also an acclimatisation experiment, introducing a wide range of rare ornamental species and forest trees, not natural to Romania. Faced with a steep terrain, Golescu realised a garden through building of several stone terraces and stairways. The high craftsmanship of terrain walls, built in Albesti stone masonry without mortar, endures until today. From 2001 the villa was restored and from 2002 the park was again made accessible in a sensitive restoration project commissioned by the Pro Patrimonio Foundation.

Facilities: As a member of Pro Patrimonio Foundation it is possible to stay one or more nights in the Villa Golescu, meals can be organised. Becoming a member can be arranged at the day of arrival at the conditions of: 50 lei (12 Euros) per person, 250 lei (55 Euros) per family or institution (maximum 7 persons); for more information contact: www.propatrimonio.org, e-mail: propatrimonio.romania@gmail.com

Botanical highlights: Within the garden many trees older than 110 years belonging to the genera of Magnolia, Acer, Pseudotsuga, Platanus, Liriodendron, Castanea and Ginkgo are preserved.
3. GOLEȘTI, GOLESCU PARK AND VITICULTURE MUSEUM WITHIN THE MUSEUM COMPLEX OF GOLEȘTI-ȘTEFĂNEȘTI
MUZEUL POMICULTURII ȘI VITICULTURII DIN ROMÂNIA

Golești Museum Complex comprises of two major sections: 1. Museum of History – Ethnography, 2. Museum of viticulture and fruit growing outdoors in Romania. The first museum was established from 1939 within the Golești Manor. This house was built in 1640 by master Stoica from Târgoviște, and in the years 1942-1943 renovated to take up a memorial exhibition about the Golescu family. The second museum, the vine growing and fruit growing outdoors in Romania, was inaugurated in 1966, stretching over an area of 12 ha, showing the peasant civilization from the mid of nineteenth century from the main fruit-growing and wine-growing areas of Romania. The reason for the organization of this museum derives from the importance of viticulture and pomiculture in Argeș county. Located near the manor is the Golescu park, the former manor house park. A pond is crossed by a reconstructed birch-wood bridge. A pavilion and stone statues have been placed in order to resemble the original elements, fashionable at the time of the parks first establishment.

Facilities: Museum facilities, horseback riding, children program

Botanical highlights: Traditional vine species from the several regions of Romania are planted at the respective households, traditional apple tree species from Argeș county are preserved in the open air exhibition.
4. BUCHAREST, CIŞMIGIU GARDENS

Cişmigiu Gardens is a 14 ha and the oldest city park of Bucharest. The first person promoting the idea of the park was the Russian General Pavel Kiselev. He in 1830 delivered a first sketch on a park-project and needed drainage of the site’s swampy grounds. But first from 1843 efforts for its realisation were made: Gheorge Bibescu (1802-1873), Prince of Wallachia between 1843 and 1848, called up European horticultural experts to help realising the project. As a result, two citizens from Germany, the horticulturist Wilhelm Friedrich Carl Meyer and his assistant, the gardener Franz Hörer, came to Bucharest. Cişmigiu Gardens were finally inaugurated on September 23, 1847. Meyer had set up lanes, realised to drain the marshland, planted over 30.000 trees and shrubs from the local flora of Ilfov, Dambrovita, and Prahova counties, and additionally, many ornamental varieties of plants, imported from Peinther nurseries in Vienna and Jurich nurseries in Brașov, had set up Romantic landscapes with rocks and lakes with islands. Meyer then was appointed for park administration from 1848 by Barbu Dimitrie Stirbey (1799-1869), Prince of Wallachia between 1848–1853 and 1854–1856. Its second development phase started from 1851, bringing even more new plantations. Its official second opening took place on 22nd of March 1860. The third phase, modernisation, finally was undertaken by the architect Friedrich von Rebhuhn, after 1910. Its main aspects are still preserved in the garden layout.

Facilities: Garden of Roses, “Roman Round” (a circular platform with a diameter of 20 m), Cişmigiu Lake - was arranged in 1910 by F. Rebhun, enables boat trips/ice-skating, corner of evergreen plants, corner of chess players, playground, spring “Eminescu Source”, grotto.

Botanical highlights: Declared protected trees: Platanus acerifolia, Torreya nucifera, Torreya californica, Cedrus atlantica (red japanese pine), Picea excelsa inversa (red spruce fir)
5. RUSE, LIPNIK FOREST PARK (“TEKETO”)

The forest park is located about 10 km from Ruse (Roussé). It is a typical forest park, established around the 1950s by the local government, providing not just walking and cycling paths, but also nice picnic areas, several lakes, a well with a nymph sculpture, benches, a small bar in the summer and a small zoo. Forest parks are common in Bulgaria. With about 2000 ha, Teketo is said to be the largest of its kind in Bulgaria. They are well used recreational areas, especially during the summer heat, situated near the bigger cities. Lipnik park provides for many walking, cycling and skating possibilities. Recreational facilities, especially in connection with water sports on the several, partly artificial, lakes, comprise of rentable rowing and pedal boats. Many athletes use the park for water sports training (rowing). An annual rowing competition takes place here. Fishing is allowed, as well as cycling and skating along the parks paths. “Lipa” means “linden tree” in Bulgarian.

Facilities: Picnic areas, bar operating in summer, zoo, canoeing and other water sports are allowed at the biggest lake, rowing and pedal boat. Although most of the areas are wheelchair accessible, there hasn’t been an extra effort for disabled, so they won’t be able to easily reach the Zoo for example. Bus service from Ruse

Botanical highlights: Colonies of water lilies (Nymphaea) on the park lakes

Fig. 7: Impression of Lake Lipnik with stone path bridge crossing the lake, Lipnik Park, Ruse, by Wikimedia Commons user: Mila Nikol (CC, share alike, author attribution)
6. SHUMEN, 1300 YEARS BULGARIAN STATE MONUMENT

The Monument is also known as the “Founders of the Bulgarian State Monument”. It is a large monument that can be seen from 30km away, built on a plateau about the city of Shumen on the territory of Shumen Plateau Nature Park. The large scale monument was designed and built in 1981 by sculptors Krum Damyanov and Ivan Slavov, architects Georgi Gechev and Blagoy Atanasov, artists Vladislav Paskalev and Stoyan Velev, and the design engineer P. Hadzhov. Its main material is concrete used in a cubist style vocabulary. To experience this place of commemoration of the 1300th anniversary of the First Bulgarian Empire (said to be founded in 681 by Khan Asparuh), visitors can climb up the 1300 stairs of a processional concrete stairway staring in Shumen city centre. The idea to build the monument was first conceived in 1977, construction began in August 1979 and the monument was officially opened on 28 November 1981. The creators intended to show all of the most important figures in Bulgarian history from the 7th to the 10th century. Today you can see eleven idealised cubist sculptures of Bulgaria's medieval rulers of for example Asparuh, Tervel, Krum, Omurtag, Boris I. and Simeon.

Facilities: Visitor information centre and permanent exhibition about the monument’s construction, wedding ceremonies are often performed there

Botanical highlights: The monument is situated in the Shumen Plateau Nature Park. 90% of its territory is covered with forests. Most widespread vegetation type is the mixed deciduous forest. 14 kinds of orchids (Orchidaceae) and over 250 kinds of medicinal plants can be found in the area.
7. VELIKO TARNovo, BORUNA AREA WITH ASENEVTSI MONUMENT

The Boruna area is a small park located on a picturesque peninsula in the Yantra River meander, facing the historic centre of Veliko Tarnovo. The area is accessible by the historic “Stambolov bridge”, built in 1890s by Stojan Gerganov. Main feature beneath the art gallery in the park is the Asenevtisi monument, commissioned by the Communist Party in 1985, it is a work by the internationally known Bulgarian sculptor and arts professor Krum Damyanov. The Asenevtisi monument represents four tsars, Asen, Petar, Kaloyan and Ivan Asen II. The sword in the middle symbolizes the power of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom. Being a distinctive sign in the city’s relief, the monument is part of a series of large-scale monuments built during the socialist era (post 1945) all over the country. The site shows documentary quality, being a witness of the communist party's efforts to commemorate historical events. Visiting Boruna offers a great panoramic view on Veliko Tarnovo’s Old Town.

Facilities: Boris Denev State Art Gallery [Hudozhestvena Galeria Boris Denev], WC, café, Jazz festival (annually/summer), drinking fountain, art sculptures, picnic area, access to Sveta Gora Hill Forest park

Botanical highlights: River banks are preserved as NATURA 2000 nature reserve
8. DIMITROVGRAD, MARITSA PARK – PART OF THE TOWN CENTRE
DIMITROVGRAD

Maritsa park, together with Bulgaria Boulevard and D. Blagoev Boulevard, form the city centre ensemble of Dimitrovgrad. The 140 ha park builds the end of the central pedestrian area. It is one of the rare European examples of the construction of a completely new city with all its basic social facilities, including an extensive park. The project was based on a town-planning idea of Prof. Tashev in the 1950s. Socialistic urban planning ideals combined urban and architectural ideas of Modernism for the “compact city”, with functional zoning including green zones in accordance with the principles of the Athens Charter, and socialist ideas and doctrines imported from and imposed by the Soviet Union. An entirely new type of town, the first socialist industrial settlement in Bulgaria was born. Other European examples are Dunajvaros (Hungary), Eisenhüttenstadt (Germany), Nowa Huta (Poland) and Rasa (Croatia). Development phases followed in the 1960s introducing architecture of rationalism and in the 1980s promoting the then fashionable passenger zones, followed by contradictory building activities of the 1990s.

Facilities: Benches, rose garden, sport facilities (children's swimming pool), Maritsa River terraces, restaurant, WC

Botanical highlights: no information accessible
9. ALEXANDROUPOLIS, PARK OF NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE

The Park of National Independence has been designated as an urban park, a green space for public recreation from the 1970s. The site receives its historic value from the neoclassical buildings preserved at its borders framing the park, dating back to the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th century (Court House, Post Office, 1st Kindergarten and Zarifios Pedagogic Academy). The 1.3 hectares park surface evolved from demolition of the former National Guard and city prison buildings. After the Guard building burned down in 1954, and the Gendarmerie with prison was demolished around 1970, the area remained undeveloped and came into use as a public space. A first layout for the park was realized under supervision by the city's technical and green space department. Its last renovation was realized in 2013, which you can experience when visiting the site.

Facilities: Many cafés, taverns and restaurants are located in the vicinity of the park, two drinking fountains and many benches are located in the park area, as well as a playground, and a statue memorialising the “National Independence Day”

Botanical highlights: In the nearby “Division Park” the old “Dedeagatsch tree” can be visited. It is the oak tree (Quercus pubescens) from which the city received its first name. Its origin dates before the city’s foundation in 1850.

Fig. 11 Alexandroupolis, Park of National Independence, “Green and colourful resting place within the historic city centre”
10. KROKOHÓRIA (THE CROCUS VILLAGES CULTURAL LANDSCAPE), KROKOS, KOZANI PREFECTURE

The small town of Krokos is the centre of the cultural landscape Krokohería, meaning “crocus villages”, in Northern Greece. It is renowned for the production of the Greek Macedonian Red Saffron “Krokos Kozanis”. The history of the saffron production in Greece is interesting. Already the ancient Minoans were known to cultivate it in Crete during Late Bronze Age. But then the use of the plant disappeared from Greece until about 300 years ago, when Greek Macedonian traders brought the plant from Austria back to Kozani region, Greece. Today, many inhabitants of the region make a living from Krokos production. They are organized in the cooperative “Saffron Producers of Kozani”, a cooperative that counts 2000 members spread between 40 small villages, systematically cultivating and growing the plant. Visiting the area in autumn will enable you a unique impression on the purple blooming Krokos fields and the harvesting procedure.

Facilities: In the towns of the area many taverns and cafés can be found, original products can be purchased

Botanical highlights: Krokos Kozanis (Crocus sativus Linneaus) production fields.

Fig. 12: Krokos Fields, near Kozani, by sahuran
11. IOANNINA ISLAND - SPIRITUAL CULTURAL LANDSCAPE, LAKE IOANNINA

The small monastery island is situated within the Pamvótis lake. It is preserved as natural monument and a well known destination for day-trips, its fish specialities (eel) and reachable by boat. From Ioannia city a shady promenade leads the visitor to the boat landing-stages. Five monasteries can be visited when walking along the nice paths of the forested island. Most known is the Pandeleímonas-Monastery, surrounded by Plane trees and originating in the 16th century. Here not only frescoes of the 16th century can be seen, but also the house in which Ali Pasha, who ruled Epirus and Albania, found his death in 1822. A memorial chamber dedicated to this event is open for public access. More frescoes can be seen at the church belonging to the Ágios Nikólaos Dílos (also Stratigópoulos-) Monastery and in the church of the Filanthropiní (also Nikólaos Spanós) Monastery. The several monasteries bring the theme of spirituality to mind when wandering within the beautiful landscape of this island.

Facilities: Tavernas and cafés in the small town on Ioannina Island, five monasteries, Ali Pasha Memorial museum, scenic walking paths

Botanical highlights: Some very old impressive plane trees grow on the island, for example in the harbour area
12. CRETE, ACHILLEION PALACE GARDEN, GASTOURI VILLAGE, ISLAND CORFU

The Achilleion Palace and Gardens are located in the village of Gastouri, 10 km south-west of the town of Corfu. Situated on a hill sloping down to the coast, the palace and its garden were built and decorated after the wishes of Empress Elisabeth of Austria (1837-1898). Designed by the Italian architect Raffaele Caritto and built on a 200,000 m² area, between 1890 and 1891, it is still today an impressive ensemble. Elisabeth, widely known as “Sissi”, often visited Corfu and other places in Greece, initially to further her education in the Greek language and culture, later also to find rest from the royal court in Vienna. The Imperial gardens provide a majestic view of the surrounding landscape. It was decorated with several statues from Greek mythology that have been issued by the Empress. The centrepiece of the gardens is a marble statue on a high pedestal of Achilles created by Ernst Herter, a famous German sculptor, in Berlin in 1884. Elisabeth used to visit the palace often until 1898 when she was assassinated in Geneva. After the death of the Empress in 1898 a mausoleum dedicated to the Empress´ remembrance was built in the then woodland garden. Unfortunately, this area now has become wild and is not accessible. The main garden is still present and open to visitors. Its foremost features are three terraces stretching from the palace across the hill towards Corfu town, that provide a spectacular view and space for several statues. The palace today is a museum owned by the Greek state, open to the public.

In 1907 the palace was bought by the German Emperor Friedrich Wilhelm II. It served for several more years as a summer residence and became known as a hot spot of diplomacy these days.

**Facilities:** Achilleion Palace museum, statue collections (muses, gods and goddesses, philosophers), statue of Empress Elisabeth, statue of Dying Achilles by the artist Herter, WC

**Botanical highlights:** The gardens were designed with native and exotic tree, shrub and plant species, imported to Corfu

Fig. 14: Achilleion Terrace with statues from Villa dei Papiri in Ercolano, Gastouri, Corfu
13. BRINDISI, PARK AT THE ITALIAN SAILORS MONUMENT (“BIG RUDDER”) - MONUMENTO AL MARINAIO D’ITALIA

The Italian Sailors Monument is a cenotaph dedicated to the fallen Italian marines of World War I. A nice little park at the foot of the monument was laid out as part of the ensemble to strengthen its standpoint as a place of memory, providing a good view over the harbour area and providing a connection of the monument to the city context through a surrounding designed under architectural-geometric principles. At the monument's base a chapel was realized to keep the memory of 6,000 names of fallen sailors. Already in 1925 the city was chosen as a standpoint for a Sailors’ monument by Benito Mussolini. The harbour had played a key role in controlling the Adriatic Sea during World War I. But missing funds delayed the construction. Finally, it took about 10 years to collect enough means for its realisation, a big amount donated by the tenor Tito Schipa, who contributed takings from his concerts. Planned and realised by the architect Luigi Brunati and the sculptor Amerigo Bartoli the monument was built between 1932 and 1933 out of local stone with a height of about 53 m. Together with the Roman Column at the Endpoint of Via Appia it is considered the symbol of the city. Only in 1954 the marble figure of “Our Lady” was placed at the monument’s top. A highlight is the oval staircase within the architecture, leading to the top of the monument, offering a beautiful view on the city.

Facilities: Chapel at the monument, oval staircase within the monument, viewing platform at the monument

Botanical highlights: no information accessible

Fig. 15: Monumento al Marinaio d’Italia, Brindisi harbour
14. LECCE, VILLA REALE ("VILLA CARELLI")

The garden at the Villa Reale in Lecce is an early work of the internationally renowned Tuscan landscape architect Pietro Porcinai (1910-1986), a revitalisation of a historic garden, laid out between 1933 and 1936. Special for his design are the careful interventions planned in old gardens. In Lecce he retained old pine and olive trees, in the overall new composition, bringing the ideas of modernist garden design to the place: a colourful formal garden was established separated from a landscaped park and elements as a well, an exotic theme garden and an outdoor theatre were designed by Porcinai. Art historians today describe the garden as a piece of Tuscany transplanted to the “Florence of Apulia” (Lecce) in the landscape of the Salento. Porcinai was a pioneer in bringing the profession of landscape architecture in modernist style to Italy in the beginning of the 20th century. He designed a wide variety of projects on the most diverse scales: gardens and public parks, industrial districts, hotels and tourist villages, motorways and agricultural areas. The son of a head-gardener of Villa Gamberaia in Settignano near Florence was initially trained as a horticulturist. He started his landscape design career at the Martino Bianchi nursery in Pistoia, but soon continued his work in Germany and Belgium. Here he met protagonists of modernity in garden art and landscape architecture, as for example the famous plant breeder Karl Foerster and eminent European garden and landscape architects (Fritz Encke, Russel Page, Geoffrey Jellicoe, René Pechère and Gerda Gollwitzer). His works are interpreted to mirror Italian landscapes.

Facilities: Private villa garden - no use of facilities possible, cafés and restaurants in the city centre of Lecce

Botanical highlights: Old olive trees and grown hedge plants

Fig. 16 Villa Reale, Lecce
15. TARANTO, VILLA PERIPATO

The Gardens of “Villa Peripato” are a city park. They belong to the special type of "villa comunale" gardens in Italy, former villa gardens that have been purchased by cities to open them as recreational areas to their citizens. Its history shall reach far back to antiquity, when the Tarantini citizen Archytas (430-370 BC) used the place for meetings with Plato, the philosopher. In Renaissance times the garden was in possession of the Beaumont family who came to Taranto in 1628. Antonio de Beaumont established a "Giardonetto", which was characterised by common fruits and citrus trees. But not before 1863, the garden received a villa, when the Beaumont-Bonelli family commissioned the architect Giovanni Criscuolo di Napoli. Already then some selected families were invited to use the gardens. But only in 1913 it became the `Public Gardens of Peripato`, when the city council leased its ground from the Beaumont family to open it for the benefit of all citizens. The project of “Villa Peripato”, realised in 1913, was designed by Egidio Salvi, an official Taranto engineer. Since then the garden layout was changed in several parts. In 1933 the orangery building was broke down to build a cinema in its place. It burned down in 1970 and was just recently replaced by an open-air temporary theatre. In 1937 the monumental Baroque staircase at today’s Piazza Kennedy was replaced by a smaller one to enable the construction of buildings for the US Army, which also led to building a swimming pool in the public garden. Even more changes to the garden’s structure were caused by the “Fairs of the Sea” (Fiera del Mare) that took place from 1946-1949. After a period of ten years closing and after their renovation, the gardens were re-opened in 1990. Now being a well used park in the old town, with most striking impressions of a luxuriant exotic vegetation, Mediterranean plants, and nice promenades under very old trees.

Facilities: playground, bird cages, café, fountains, drinking fountains, sculptures, benches

Botanical highlights: Alley of Cedars, over hundred years old Phoenix palm and Washingtonia palm trees, old Cypress trees, medicinal and water plants exhibition

Fig. 17: Impression from Villa Peripato, Taranto_byASW
16. AMASTUOLA FARM DESIGNED CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

The centre of Amastuola project are the ruins of a walled farm, belonging to the typical Apulian “masseria” style, dating back to the 15th and 17th centuries. The farmyard is situated on a plateau, 210 meters above sea level, near Crispiano and is surrounded by about 170 hectares of land, planted in vineyards with olive trees and stone walls, used for organic farming. The farm is part of the Regional Park "Terra delle Gravine." The surrounding area is rich of natural vegetation, with maritime pines, rosemary, thyme, wild strawberry, blackberry and country rose. The area, historically agricultural, is characterized by the cultivation of vines since antiquity. Especially to this history the Amastuola vineyard project refers. For its creation the known landscape architect Fernando Caruncho, an artist and philosopher, who integrates agricultural elements to his gardens, was chosen. Reinventing this approach, he designed for the first time an entire agricultural landscape as if it was a garden. Space and time are two important parameters of Caruncho's works, geometry is the means of expressing them. Waving lines of vine, in which circular islands of 800 years old olive trees have been arranged shape a unique landscape impression. Autochthon vine varieties (Primitivo, Nero di Troia, Negro Amaro, Fiano Minuetto) were chosen and sustainable production methods made feasible in addition to modern technologies. Thus, the vineyard is equipped with a compensating drip irrigation system, used only in years of drought. The Amastuola project shall become an engaging example for revitalizing the declining agricultural sector in Southern Italy. Visitors are welcome.

Facilities: In the future the old farm buildings shall be developed as a visitor centre and as production facilities for processing the harvest at site (vine, olives)

Botanical highlights: The vine variety ‘Fiano Minuetto’ was believed lost but was recovered in the project

Fig. 18 Amastuola vineyards by Ferdinand Caruncho
CultTour is an INTERREG IVB Project, funded by the EU within the framework of the ETC (European Territorial Co-operation), the South East Europe Programme (SEE) and co-funded by ERDF (European Regional Development Fund). The project implementation from January 2011 to June 2014 involves nine partners from six countries out of the South East Europe programme area (cf fig.1): Romania, Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, and Germany, with the Romanian Municipality of Avrig as the leading partner. CultTour aims to implement strategies for the preservation and valorisation of cultural garden and open space heritage sites. Thus, it covers a wide range of topics: Cultural garden and open space heritage in the whole SEE programme area is being assessed, with special attention on four pilot sites. A common methodology and tools for future conservation strategies are defined, addressing the operative level of conservatory work. The value of garden and other open space heritage sites will be capitalized in regional development processes. The approach of CultTour is based on the principle that cultural heritage must reflect the history of the site and also must be able to be experienced by the people. As gardens and open spaces are both witness of cultural identity and biodiversity, both aspects must be considered within a restoration process.

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