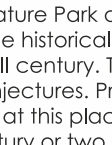


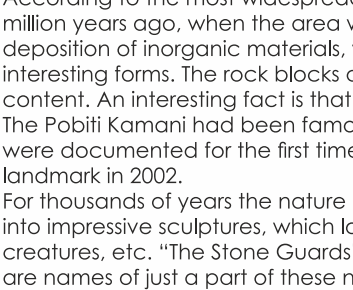
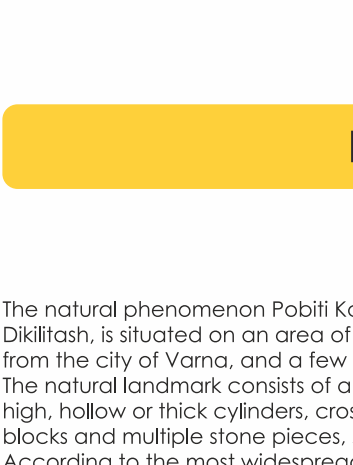


# LANDMARKS

## GUIDE



### Aladzha Monastery



Aladzha Monastery is one of the most famous Bulgarian rock monasteries and the largest on the Black Sea coast. It is located in a beautiful area 14 km north of Varna, close to the Golden Sands resort and in the central part of the Golden Sands Nature Park amidst a magnificent forest.

There is no reliable historical record of the monastery, but it is known that it already existed in the X-XII century. The history of Aladzha Monastery is based mostly on legends and conjectures. Probably as early as the 5th-6th centuries a religious center emerged at this place - one of the oldest Christian centers on the Balkan Peninsula. A century or two after the official adoption of Christianity in Bulgaria, hermit monks have sought an ascetic life among the cliffs and forests providing solitude, and it is believed that they have begun to use the caves as monastic cells.

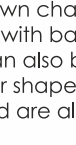
During the Second Bulgarian State, in the XII-XIV centuries there was a great rise of Bulgarian Christianity and many churches and monasteries were reconstructed and renovated, including the Aladzha Monastery. It is proved that at that time he was re-painted with the support of the boyars of the Dobruzha despotism of that time. With the fall of the despotism of Prince Ivanko, the life in the monastery gradually died out, which was eventually abandoned.

Aladzha Monastery is one of the few rock monasteries in Bulgaria, which clearly distinguishes the individual premises. The premises of the monastery are carved on two levels in almost 40 meters high limestone rock. On the first level are the monastery church, monastic cells, the dining room, the kitchen, a small cemetery church, the crypt and the farm premises. The second level is a natural rock niche at the eastern end of which is built the monastery chapel, 600 - 700 m west of the monastery is a group of caves known as the Catacombs. The discovered finds - ceramics, coins, graffiti, etc., indicate that the Catacombs were inhabited during the early Christian era (5th-6th centuries).

Today, Aladzha Monastery is a popular tourist attraction that is visited by thousands of tourists. The beautiful scenery around, combined with historical and Christian landmarks make it a great place for cultural, pilgrimage and ecological tourism.

Since 2009 in Aladzha Monastery there is a unique audio-visual performance "Legends of Aladzha Monastery", which is a new tourist attraction for the guests of Varna and the Black Sea.

The monastery was declared an architectural and construction monument of national importance in 1968.



### Pobiti Kamani | The Stone Forest



The natural phenomenon Pobiti Kamani, also known as The Stone Forest and Diklitsa, is situated on an area of 7 square km at a distance of about 18-20 km from the city of Varna, and a few kilometers from the town of Beloslav. The natural landmark consists of an ensemble of stone columns, up to 10 meters high, hollow or thick cylinders, crossed cones, variously shaped and sized rock blocks and multiple stone pieces, spilled around the entire complex.

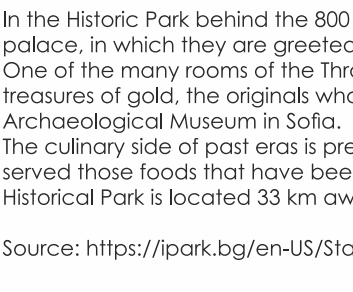
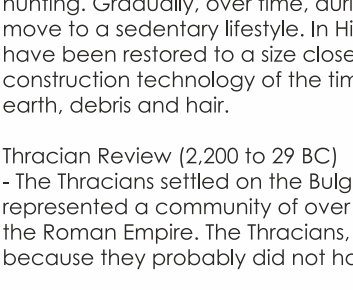
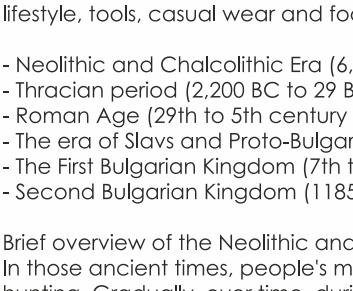
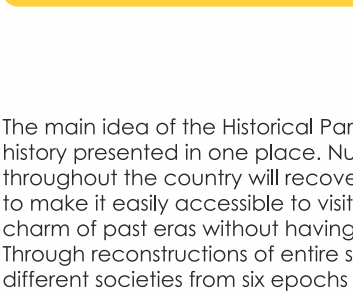
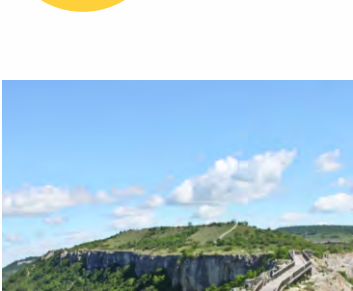
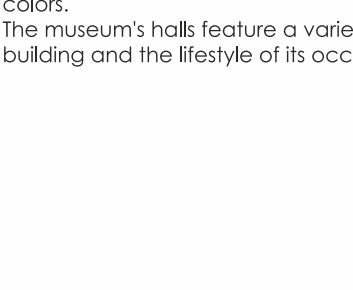
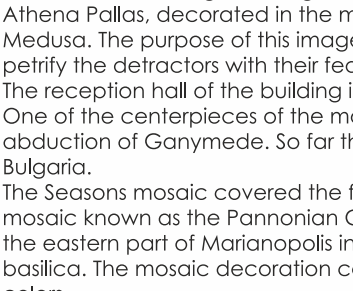
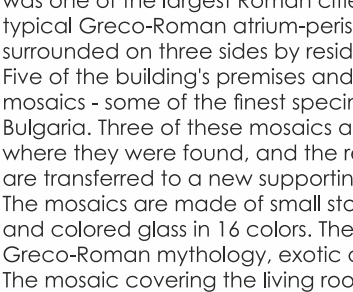
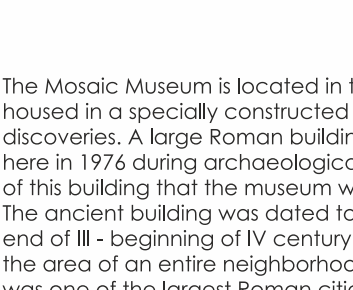
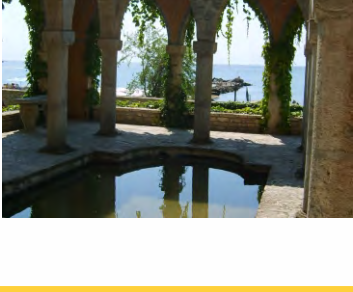
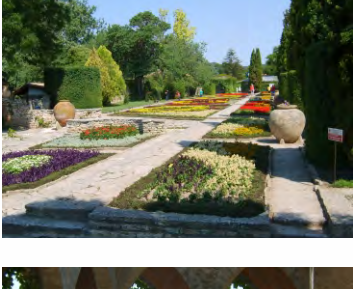
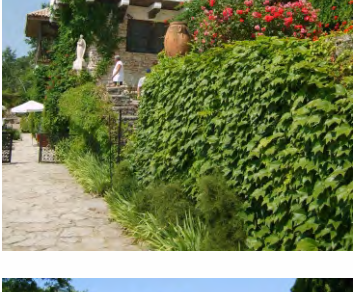
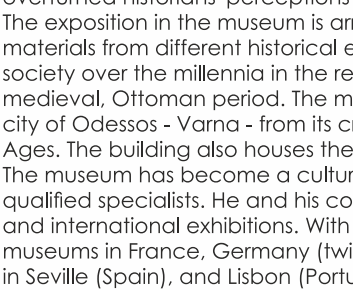
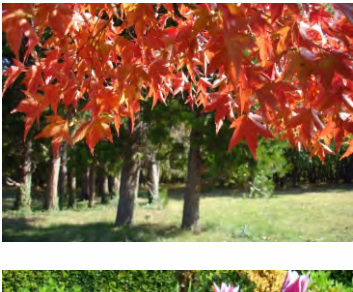
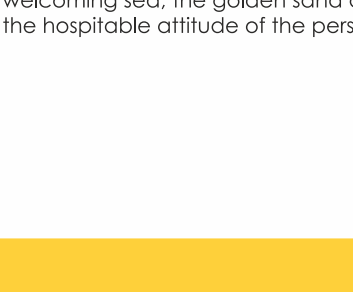
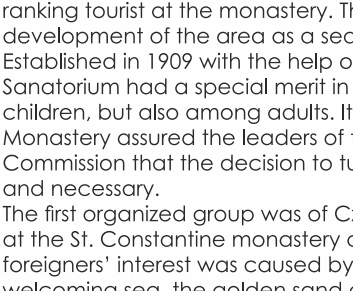
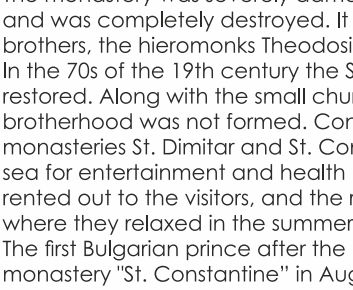
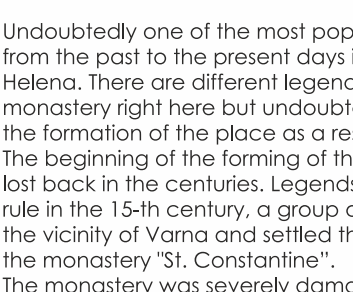
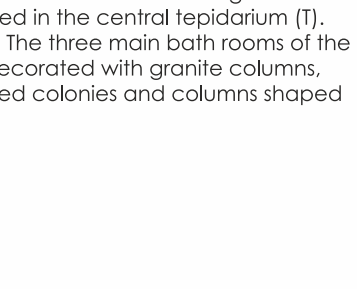
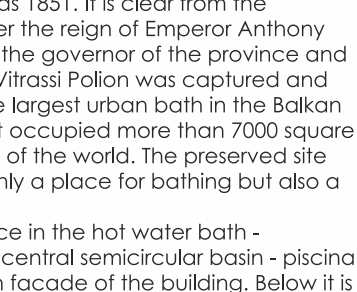
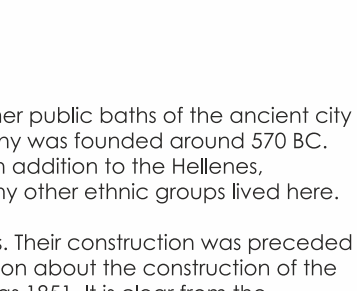
According to the most widespread theory, Pobiti Kamani were formed about 50 million years ago, when the area was seafloor, the withdrawal of water led to the deposition of inorganic materials, which eroded and acquired their present-day interesting forms. The rock blocks are made of light gray limestone with carbonate content. An interesting fact is that this is also the only desert area in Bulgaria.

The Pobiti Kamani had been famous as a sacred place since antiquity, but they were documented for the first time in 1829. They were declared a natural landmark in 2002.

For thousands of years the nature has carved stone pieces in order to turn them into impressive sculptures, which look like people, animals, monsters, mythical creatures, etc. "The Stone Guards", "The Camel", "The Throne", "The Stone Forest" are names of just a part of these natural pieces of art.

The ensemble "Diklitsa Group" is the most famous and attractive for the tourists. It is situated at about 18 km west from Varna and is easily accessible from Route E70. The complex consists of more than 300 different in size columns, situated in a stripe with sizes 850 meters x 120 meters, and about 50 structures are located in a smaller area to the south. Some of the columns are broken in two or three parts, others are lying on the ground as if they had been uprooted from their places, and others form interesting sculpture groups.

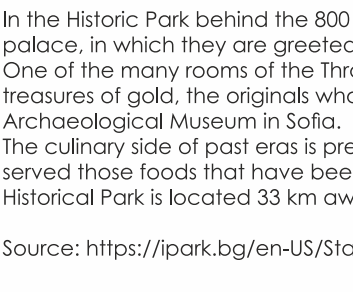
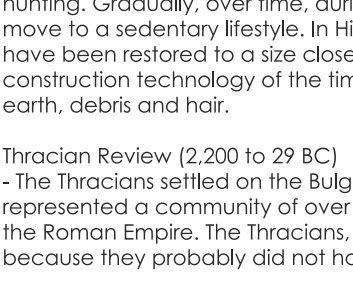
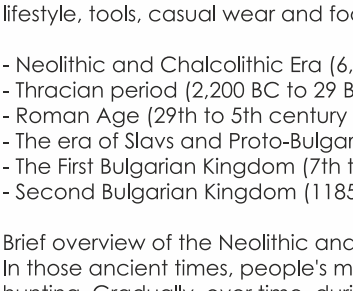
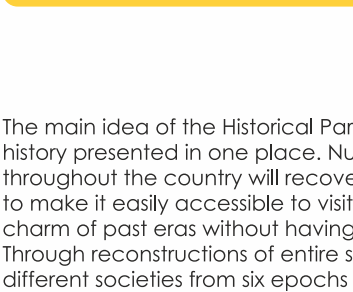
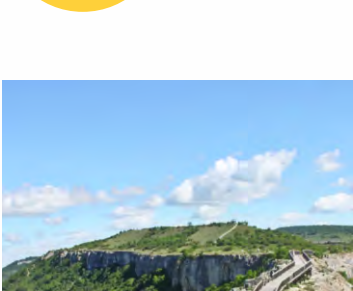
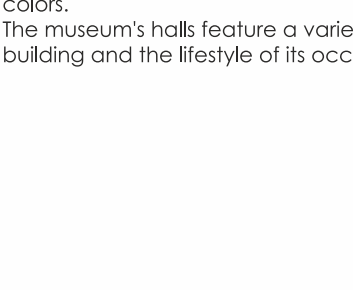
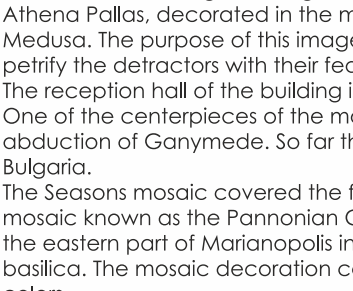
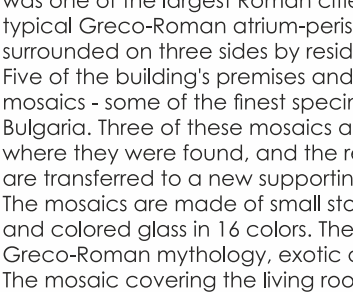
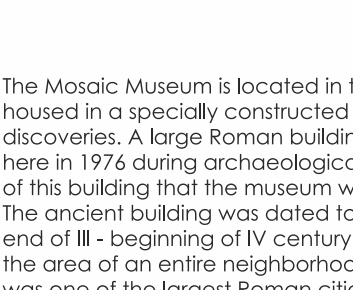
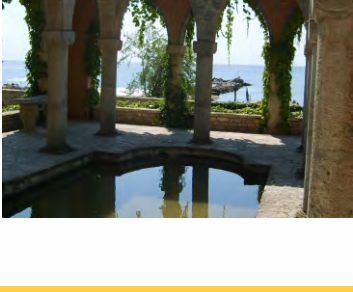
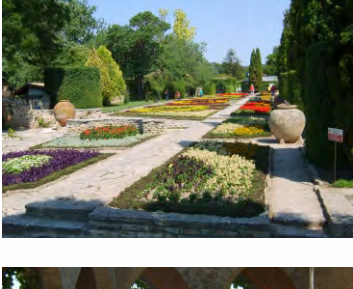
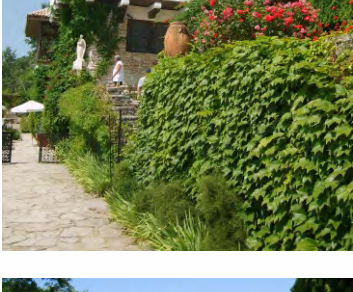
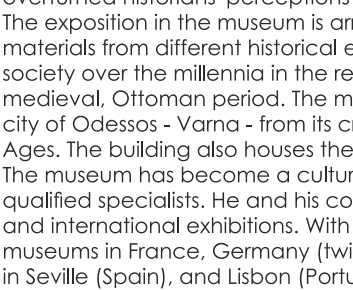
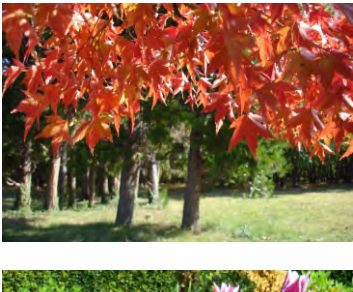
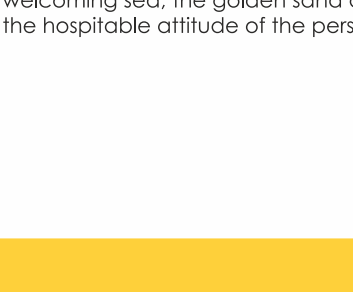
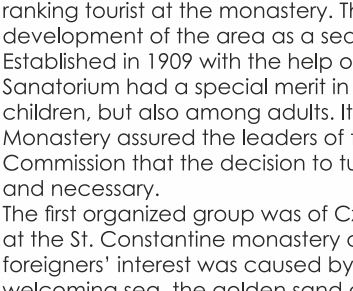
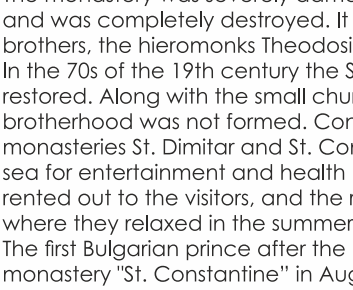
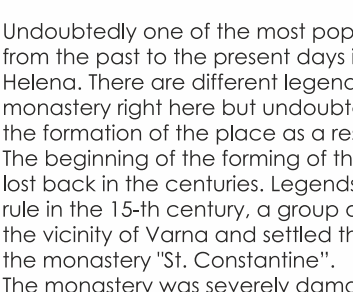
The Strashimirovka Groups is also impressive. It is situated to the south of the basic group, near the village of Strashimirovo, and consists of four closely situated ensembles containing structures with various sizes and shapes. A typical peculiarity of the columns here is that they are bulging in the middle, as if two crossed cones are stuck to their bases, as some of them reach up to 9 meters in diameter. The groups "Slanchevo" and "Barovo" are situated in the localities of the villages with the same names, and also have their own charm. One of the stone structures looks like a frozen fountain. A stone lion with basis diameter of 12 meters is lying in close proximity. Colossal mushrooms can also be seen nearby. If you have good imagination, you can differentiate other shapes as well. The rest of the groups are situated around the town of Beloslav and are also worth seeing.



There are the archeological remains of the former public baths of the ancient city of Odessos in Varna nowadays. This Pontic colony was founded around 570 BC, from settlers from the Ionian city-state of Milet. In addition to the Hellenes, Thracians, Asians, Romans and settlers from many other ethnic groups lived here. The ruins rise in the older, seaside part of Varna.

Everywhere the Romans settled, they built baths. Their construction was preceded by the construction of water pipelines. Information about the construction of the Roman water pipeline was discovered as early as 1851. It is clear from the bilingual inscription in Greek and Latin that under the reign of Emperor Anthony Pius (138 - 161) the municipality of Odessos and the governor of the province and the deputy of the province of Lower Mizia Titus Vitrassus Polion was captured and brought to the city by water supply. Perhaps the largest urban bath in the Balkan provinces was erected in Odessos a little later. It occupied more than 7000 square meters and was oriented towards the directions of the world. The preserved site walls reach 22 tons in height. The spa was not only a place for bathing but also a center of social life.

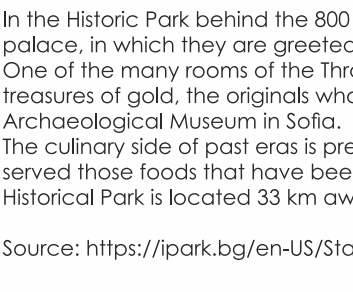
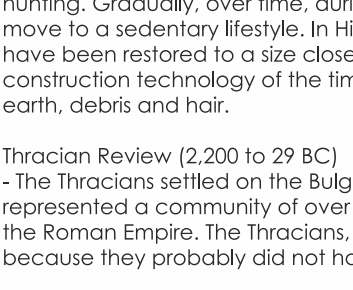
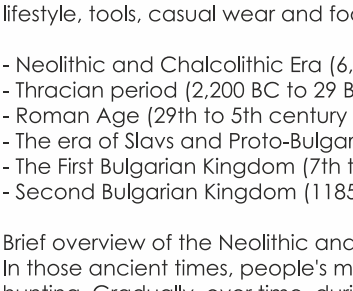
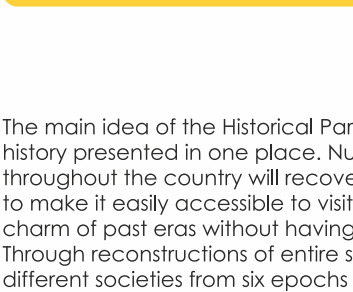
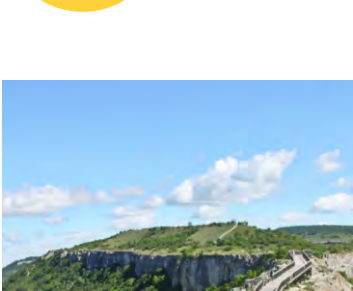
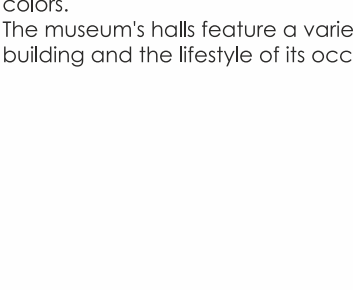
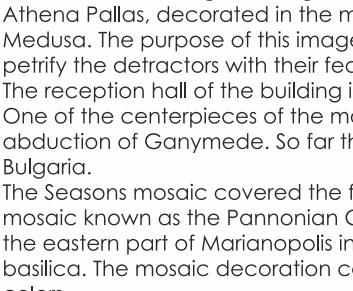
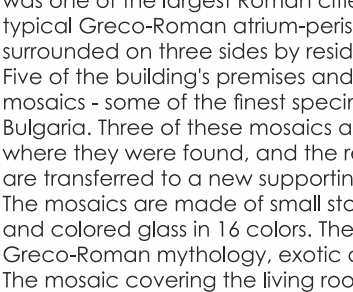
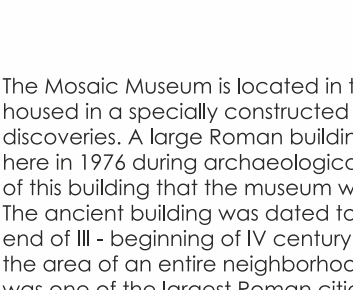
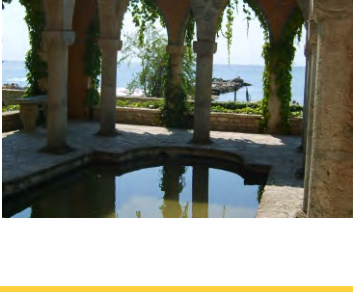
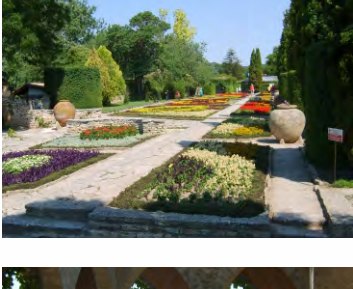
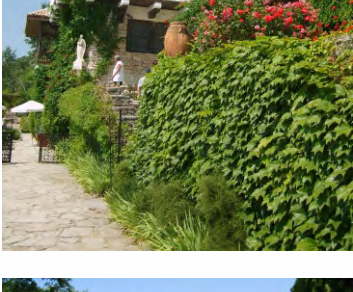
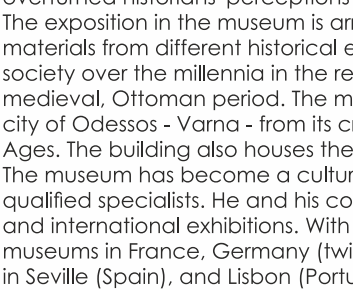
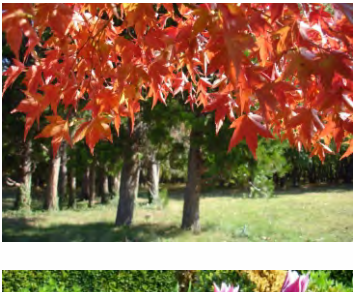
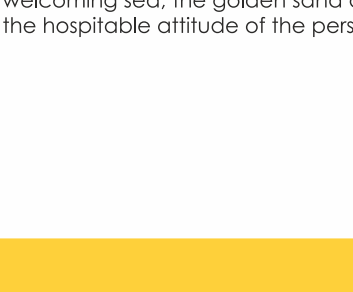
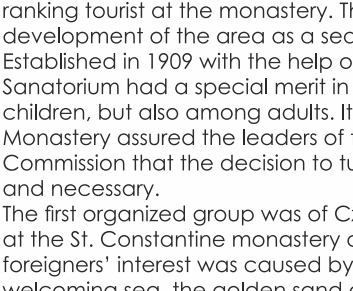
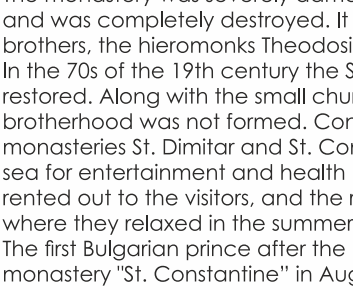
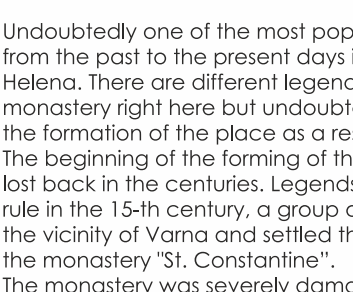
The actual bathing in the Roman bath took place in the hot water bath - caldarium [C]. It is central to the term plan. The central semicircular basin - piscina [p] is located in the apse, which faces the south facade of the building. Below it is a hypocaustum. From here the bathing continued in the central tepidarium [T]. Cold water was fired in the central frigidarium. The three main bath rooms of the caldarium, tepidarium, frigidarium were richly decorated with granite columns, marble Roman-Corinthian capitals, with two-sided colonies and columns shaped like the luffed rod of Hercules.



There are the archeological remains of the former public baths of the ancient city of Odessos in Varna nowadays. This Pontic colony was founded around 570 BC, from settlers from the Ionian city-state of Milet. In addition to the Hellenes, Thracians, Asians, Romans and settlers from many other ethnic groups lived here. The ruins rise in the older, seaside part of Varna.

Everywhere the Romans settled, they built baths. Their construction was preceded by the construction of water pipelines. Information about the construction of the Roman water pipeline was discovered as early as 1851. It is clear from the bilingual inscription in Greek and Latin that under the reign of Emperor Anthony Pius (138 - 161) the municipality of Odessos and the governor of the province and the deputy of the province of Lower Mizia Titus Vitrassus Polion was captured and brought to the city by water supply. Perhaps the largest urban bath in the Balkan provinces was erected in Odessos a little later. It occupied more than 7000 square meters and was oriented towards the directions of the world. The preserved site walls reach 22 tons in height. The spa was not only a place for bathing but also a center of social life.

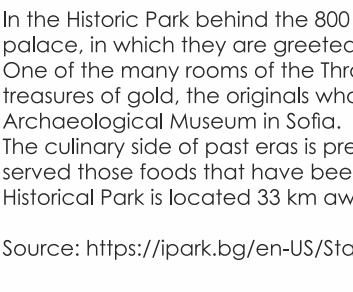
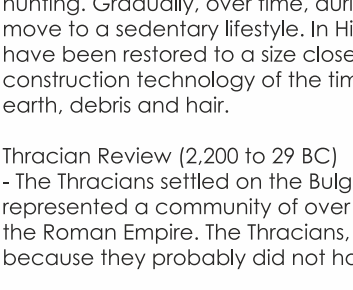
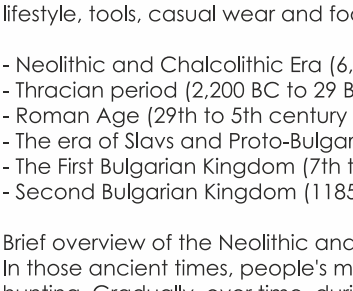
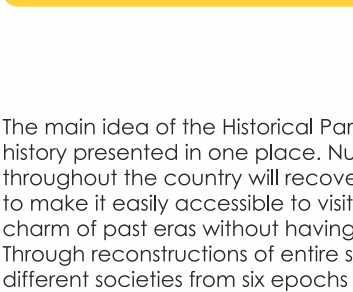
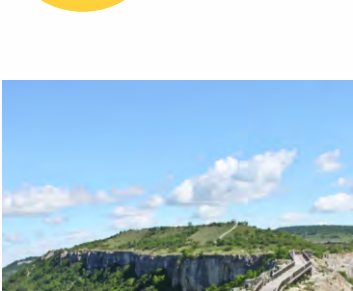
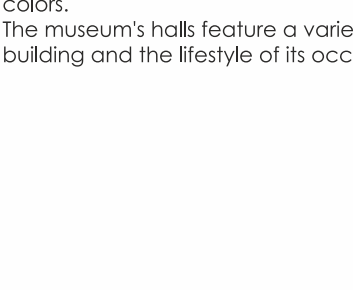
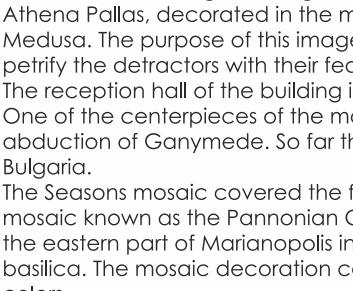
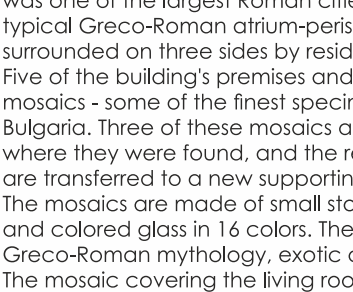
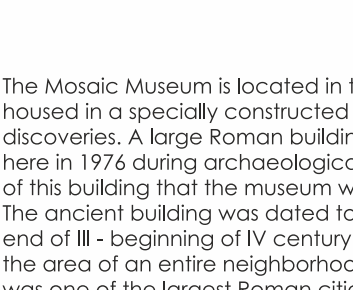
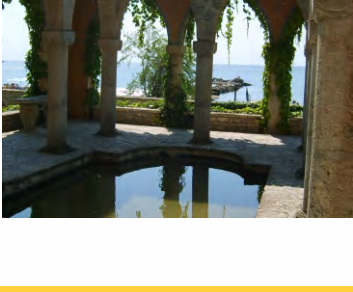
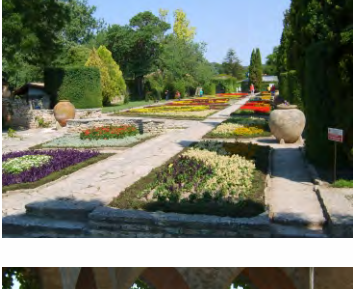
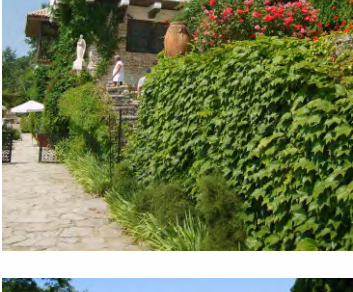
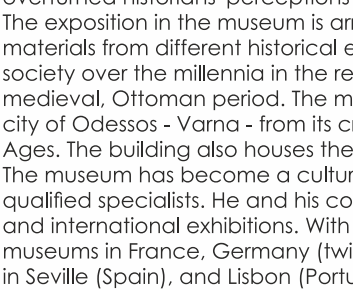
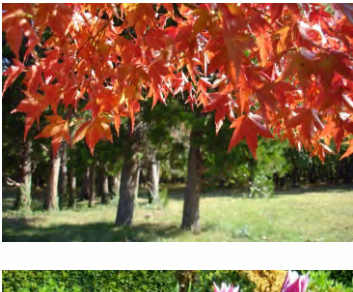
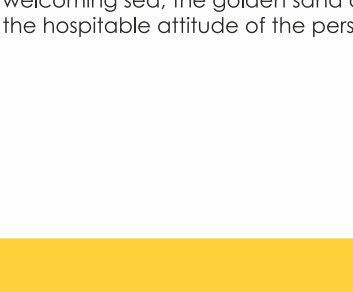
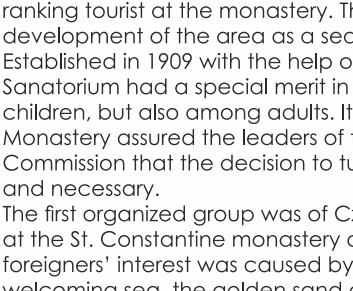
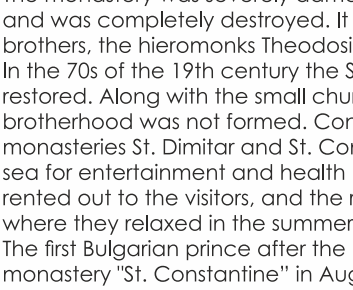
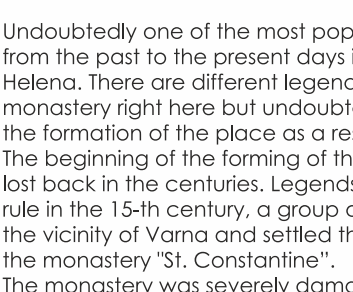
The actual bathing in the Roman bath took place in the hot water bath - caldarium [C]. It is central to the term plan. The central semicircular basin - piscina [p] is located in the apse, which faces the south facade of the building. Below it is a hypocaustum. From here the bathing continued in the central tepidarium [T]. Cold water was fired in the central frigidarium. The three main bath rooms of the caldarium, tepidarium, frigidarium were richly decorated with granite columns, marble Roman-Corinthian capitals, with two-sided colonies and columns shaped like the luffed rod of Hercules.



There are the archeological remains of the former public baths of the ancient city of Odessos in Varna nowadays. This Pontic colony was founded around 570 BC, from settlers from the Ionian city-state of Milet. In addition to the Hellenes, Thracians, Asians, Romans and settlers from many other ethnic groups lived here. The ruins rise in the older, seaside part of Varna.

Everywhere the Romans settled, they built baths. Their construction was preceded by the construction of water pipelines. Information about the construction of the Roman water pipeline was discovered as early as 1851. It is clear from the bilingual inscription in Greek and Latin that under the reign of Emperor Anthony Pius (138 - 161) the municipality of Odessos and the governor of the province and the deputy of the province of Lower Mizia Titus Vitrassus Polion was captured and brought to the city by water supply. Perhaps the largest urban bath in the Balkan provinces was erected in Odessos a little later. It occupied more than 7000 square meters and was oriented towards the directions of the world. The preserved site walls reach 22 tons in height. The spa was not only a place for bathing but also a center of social life.

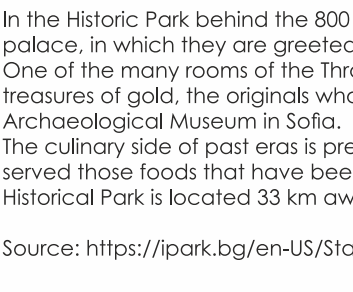
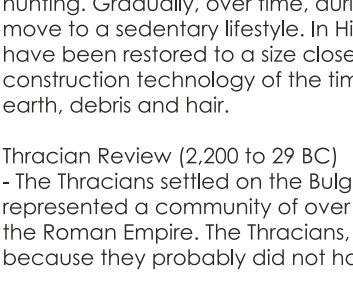
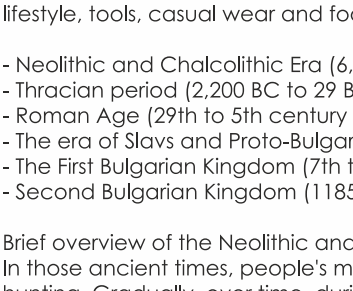
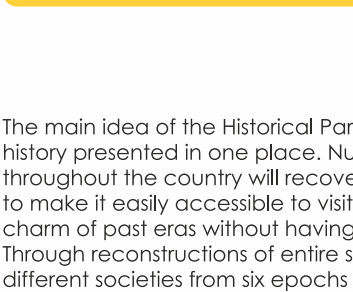
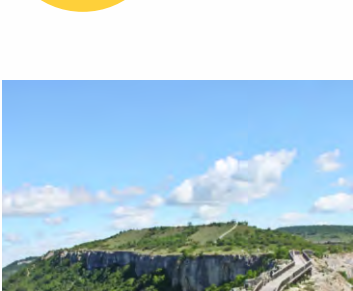
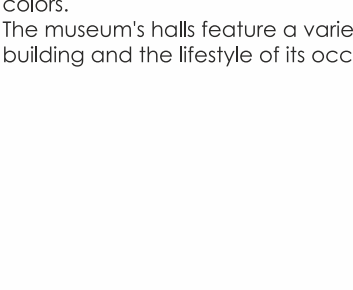
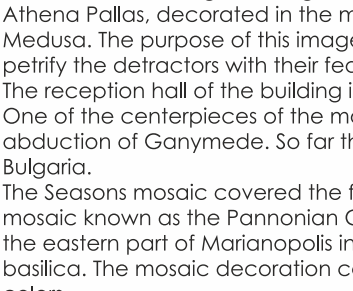
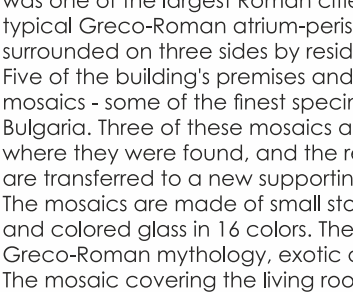
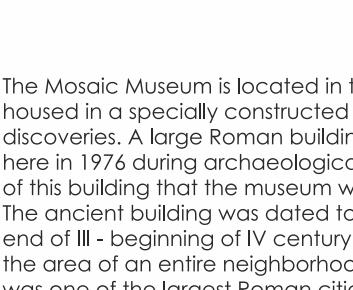
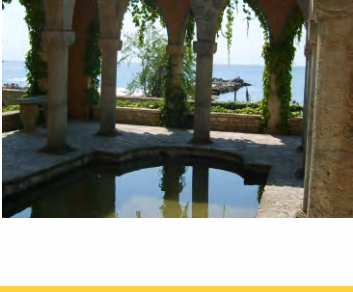
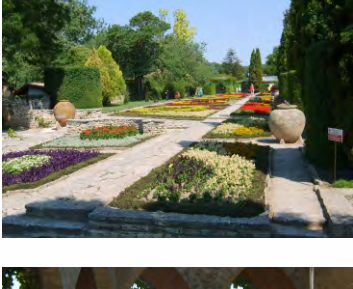
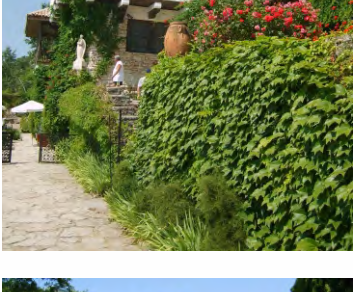
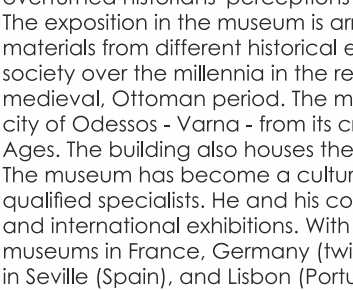
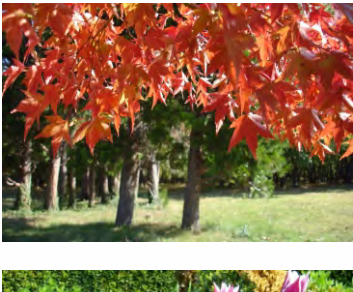
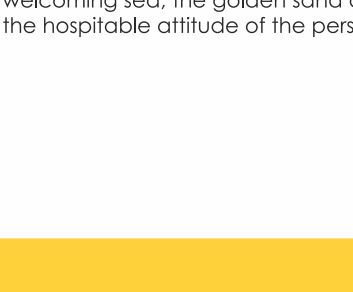
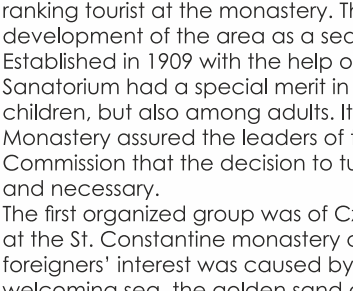
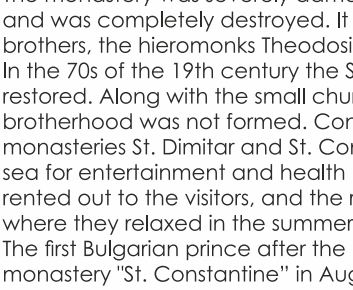
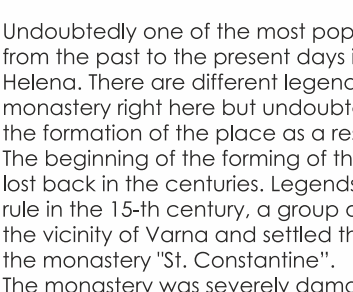
The actual bathing in the Roman bath took place in the hot water bath - caldarium [C]. It is central to the term plan. The central semicircular basin - piscina [p] is located in the apse, which faces the south facade of the building. Below it is a hypocaustum. From here the bathing continued in the central tepidarium [T]. Cold water was fired in the central frigidarium. The three main bath rooms of the caldarium, tepidarium, frigidarium were richly decorated with granite columns, marble Roman-Corinthian capitals, with two-sided colonies and columns shaped like the luffed rod of Hercules.



There are the archeological remains of the former public baths of the ancient city of Odessos in Varna nowadays. This Pontic colony was founded around 570 BC, from settlers from the Ionian city-state of Milet. In addition to the Hellenes, Thracians, Asians, Romans and settlers from many other ethnic groups lived here. The ruins rise in the older, seaside part of Varna.

Everywhere the Romans settled, they built baths. Their construction was preceded by the construction of water pipelines. Information about the construction of the Roman water pipeline was discovered as early as 1851. It is clear from the bilingual inscription in Greek and Latin that under the reign of Emperor Anthony Pius (138 - 161) the municipality of Odessos and the governor of the province and the deputy of the province of Lower Mizia Titus Vitrassus Polion was captured and brought to the city by water supply. Perhaps the largest urban bath in the Balkan provinces was erected in Odessos a little later. It occupied more than 7000 square meters and was oriented towards the directions of the world. The preserved site walls reach 22 tons in height. The spa was not only a place for bathing but also a center of social life.

The actual bathing in the Roman bath took place in the hot water bath - caldarium [C]. It is central to the term plan. The central semicircular basin - piscina [p] is located in the apse, which faces the south facade of the building. Below it is a hypocaustum. From here the bathing continued in the central tepidarium [T]. Cold water was fired in the central frigidarium. The three main bath rooms of the caldarium, tepidarium, frigidarium were richly decorated with granite columns, marble Roman-Corinthian capitals, with two-sided colonies and columns shaped like the luffed rod of Hercules.



There are the archeological remains of the former public baths of the ancient city of Odessos in Varna nowadays. This Pontic colony was founded around 570 BC, from settlers from the Ionian city-state of Milet. In addition to the Hellenes, Thracians, Asians, Romans and settlers from many other ethnic groups lived here. The ruins rise in the older, seaside part of Varna.

Everywhere the Romans settled, they built baths. Their construction was preceded by the construction of water pipelines. Information about the construction of the Roman water pipeline was discovered as early as 1851. It is clear from the bilingual inscription in Greek and Latin that under the reign of Emperor Anthony Pius (138 - 161) the municipality of Odessos and the governor of the province and the deputy of the province of Lower Mizia Titus Vitrassus Polion was captured and brought to the city by water supply. Perhaps the largest urban bath in the Balkan provinces was erected in Odessos a little later. It occupied more than 7000 square meters and was oriented towards the directions of the world. The preserved site walls reach 22 tons in height. The spa was not only a place for bathing but also a center of social life.

The actual bathing in the Roman bath took place in the hot water bath - caldarium [C]. It is central to the term plan. The central semicircular basin - piscina [p] is located in the apse, which faces the south facade of the building. Below it is a hypocaustum. From here the bathing continued in the central tepidarium [T]. Cold water was fired in the central frigidarium. The three main bath rooms of the caldarium, tepidarium, frigidarium were richly decorated with granite columns, marble Roman-Corinthian capitals, with two-sided colonies and columns shaped like the luffed rod of Hercules.

