

## Excursion to **Kyustendil**







The town of Kyustendil is situated 90 km southwest of Sofia, 70 km northwest of Blagoevgrad, 40 km west of Dupnitsa and 22 km northeast from the border with Macedonia - Gyueshevo. It is a spa resort of national importance and a regional center.

Kyustedil was called Pautalia in ancient times and Velbuzhd in the Middle Ages. The area has been inhabited for seven thousand years and has been a town for two thousand years now. It has existed and survived through the centuries. It has been destroyed but has resurrected from the ashes and the ruins to become glorious and magnificent once again. In the antiquity Kyustendil was an administrative centre of a Roman province, in the Middle Ages-a centre of despotism, while in the Ottoman period-a centre of one the biggest sandzhaks within the Ottoman Empire.