

THE  
WORLD'S  
GREATEST  
**GOLF  
ESCAPES**

# CAPE KALIAKRA

A new project on Bulgaria's north-east coast is set to compete with Europe's finest golf destinations.



Evocative ruins atop Cape Kaliakra's cliffs recall its colourful history.



Mussel Bay in Kavarna.

"This is probably Europe's last undeveloped coastline and when you add to that three of Europe's finest golf courses, an area steeped in history and outstanding natural beauty, you have a product that is going to challenge the traditional destinations," comments Seth Underwood, chairman of the Bulgarian Golf Association.

The award-winning BlackSeaRama Golf & Villas Resort was the first project to open there, in May 2008. The golf course was also the first of two Cape Kaliakra projects designed by legendary golfer and designer Gary Player.

Since emerging from Socialism in 1989, Bulgaria has been developing as a tourist destination and has plenty to offer, from the ski resorts of the Balkan mountains to the long, beach-lined coasts of the Black Sea. Now golf can also be added to that list.

The north-east coast's capital, Varna, is Bulgaria's third-largest city and is situated on Varna Bay. It has a long sandy coastline and offers both the latest facilities and ancient history. But it is best known for its boutique

shops and nightlife; you can find clubs with international DJs performing or Bulgarian Chalga music clubs with their unique blend of folk and modern electronic music.

Cape Kaliakra, 25 miles north of Varna, is the Black Sea coast area chosen for golf development – and it could not offer golfers a more stunning setting. A headland rich in history, beauty and culture, the cape consists of limestone rocks rising high out of the sea.

The beauty of Cape Kaliakra is said to be the main reason why Queen Marie of Romania had a royal residence and world-famous botanical gardens (home to one of Europe's largest cactus collections) built at Balchik in 1926. Nearby is the dramatic landscape setting for Bulgaria's Signature Golf Coast development.

Golf is a new sport for Bulgaria, a country known more for its football, volleyball and wrestling. Designers such as Gary Player and Ian Woosnam have found the north-east coast an ideal canvas to weave their magic.

The Cape Kaliakra Signature Golf Coast comprises three top-drawer golf resorts and three signature golf courses, situated side by side on the Black Sea coast. With a marina, private airfield and five-star hotels it is quickly gaining a reputation as a golf destination.



Floral displays at Balchik botanical gardens.



Gary Player's BlackSeaRama was the first championship signature course in Bulgaria.

BlackSeaRama was the first championship signature golf course in Bulgaria, the 18-hole, par 72 layout measuring 7,270 yards. The magnificent classical golf course has been created on flat terrain perched high on the cliffs offering endless sea views to Cape Galata. The stiff sea breeze adds to its challenge.

The design reflects the region's history, and ancient ruins can be seen around the fairways. A replica ancient theatre in front of the clubhouse frames the panoramic view of the sea.

The project has adopted a natural and ecological approach, with vineyards planted

alongside fairways and one of its four lakes stocked with fish.

The residential complex set around the Bell Tower comprises 28 detached or semi-detached villas, a pool, bistro and a shop, with the sport centre close by. Deluxe private

## FACTFILE

### CAPE KALIAKRA, BULGARIA

**TIME DIFFERENCE:** GMT +2

**GETTING THERE:** Varna is the gateway airport for Cape Kaliakra. Charter flights operate to Varna from several UK airports. Flight time is just over 3 hours.

**GETTING AROUND:** Car rental is good value in Bulgaria and major companies as well as small local firms rent vehicles in Varna.

**CLIMATE:** Bulgaria's Black Sea coast enjoys mild winters and hot, dry summers, with pleasantly warm weather in spring and autumn.

**TOURIST INFORMATION:** For more information about Cape Kaliakra, visit [www.capekaliakra.com](http://www.capekaliakra.com)



Bell Tower at BlackSeaRama.

THE  
WORLD'S  
GREATEST  
**GOLF  
ESCAPES**



BlackSeaRama clubhouse.

villas provide the ultimate relaxing retreat, combining privacy and space.

The Lighthouse Golf Resort & Spa opened in September 2008. Its course was designed by former European Ryder Cup captain Ian Woosnam.

Nestled on a cliff overlooking the Black Sea's clear waters, golf does not get any more breathtaking than here.

Challenging, yet generous, the 6,790-yards, par 71 Lighthouse Golf Course offers beginners as well as the experienced player a



Villa on the Lighthouse course.

chance to test their skills, with some of the best and most challenging greens in Europe.

The classic clubhouse is one of the resort's main features with its beautiful interior and large balconies overlooking the 1st and 18th holes.

The Lighthouse is the area's biggest project. The five-star Osiris Hotel, a central landmark of the resort, is set for completion

in 2011. The Lighthouse Resort has been designed around five main hamlets, and facilities will eventually include a spa, casino, tennis courts, aqua park, private beach, shops, and villas and apartments all with high-speed internet access.

Thracian Cliffs is the latest golf project, and is the most spectacular yet undertaken in Bulgaria.



Thracian Cliffs enjoys a stunning cliff-top setting.

Dubbed the "Pebble Beach of Europe", the course forms the core of the development and was designed prior to real estate components, allowing its creator, Gary Player, to craft

18 stunning holes directly along the cliffs overlooking the Black Sea. Opening during 2010, the cliff setting, challenging fairways and sea breeze make this a golfers' dream.

The Thracian Cliffs resort is completed by the luxury Chedi Hotel, Villas and Marina, all built around the cliffs with glorious vistas of the Black Sea coast.

Bulgaria may lack golfing history, but it offers charm, a rich ancient history and value for money. And with its golf developments and spectacular scenery, Cape Kaliakra has huge potential to be a significant player in Europe's golf tourism industry.



Thracian Cliffs resort.



The challenging Lighthouse course was designed by Ian Woosnam.

**OFF COURSE ATTRACTIONS**

Bulgaria is one of the oldest documented wine-producing regions in the world, with evidence showing its existence 6,500 years ago. The north-east coast is one of Bulgaria's most famous vine-growing areas and produces good white and red wines from the Varna and Russe wineries.

Bulgaria also has high-quality beer. Its breweries produce award-winning brews. At less than one euro each, they are also excellent value. Shumen, a city in north-east Bulgaria, is a major producer and its Shumensko beer can be widely found around the area.

Bulgaria is called the "Land of the Roses" as it produces 85% of the world's rose oil used in many perfumes. The Rose Valley, a region just south of the Balkan Mountains and the eastern coast, is famous for its rose growing industry and the sweet scent can be smelt at festivals in May and June.

The ancient fortress of Tirisits stands guard atop

Cape Kaliakra's inaccessible cliffs. According to legends, the fortress was guarding the treasures of Lyzimah, successor of Alexander the Great. Today there are many visible remains of ancient settlements.

The Kaliakra cape was declared a protected area in 1941 and is home to rare species of sea and bird life. Nearby Durankulak Lake is another protected area, with more than 250 rare species - covering fish, reptiles, amphibians, marsh birds and plants, many of them included among endangered wildlife in the Red Book of Bulgaria.

On an island in the lake is an archaeological park known as the "Bulgarian Troy". Its stone architectural complex is the oldest monumental structure in Europe, with a temple dating back 7,000 years. Human occupation of the region encompasses seven civilisations - Golden Prehistoric, Thracian, Roman, Hellenic, Byzantium, Islamic and Bulgarian. All of them had settlements in the area.