

Municipality of Sopot



image by *Jens Pattke*, 30 April 2006

Source: http://www.rootsweb.com/~bgrbshv/fl_plovdiv.htm

The Town of Sopot is in Plovdiv Province. Sopot is the location of an international music festival and a memorial of Bulgarian history. The town of Sopot (12 000 inhabitants, 520 meters above the sea level, 65 km from Plovdiv) is located in the fertile sub-Balkan mountain valley of Karlovo (which is the western part of the legendary Valley of Roses), immediately under the steep southern slopes of the Troyan Balkan Mountain (Central Stara Planina). It is situated 5 km west of Karlovo, 136 km east of Sofia, 63 km north of Plovdiv and 61 km south of Troyan. The town of Sopot is the birthplace of the Patriarch of the Bulgarian Literature - Ivan Vazov. Sopot is an important machine-building center.

There is information about the settlement dating back to the Ottoman Rule. During the Revival period it was called Altun Sopot (Golden Sopot) because of its fluorescent industry and also thanks to the crafts and trade development. The citizens of Sopot manufactured abas, braids, fur and leather of high quality and traded them predominantly around the Ottoman Empire. The town was destroyed by fire during the Liberation days (1877) and its inhabitants were either slaughtered or expelled. The town was named Vazovgrad between 1950 and 1965 and later obtained its present name again.