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DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISTIC ROUTES IN THE SOUTH-EAST REGION

Project “Development of Sustainable Cultural Tourism in the Black Sea Basin - CULTOUR-BSB”, eMS code BSB -117



Project funded by
EUROPEAN UNION



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Black Sea Basin - CULTOUR-BSB”, eMS code BSB -117



Archaeological trails of the Black Sea regions
of Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey

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Archaeological trails of the Black Sea regions of Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey

The route will take tourists to the distant past. They will be able to visit ancient fortresses and archaeological excavations. Unfortunately, not all of them have survived in their original form, but even on the ruins of old fortresses one can feel all the greatness of those times.

There are a lot of interesting museums along the route that amaze with their unique exhibits.

The route will especially appeal to history buffs, as well as to all tourists wishing to expand their knowledge of the history and culture of the Black Sea countries.

Technical features

Administrative geography/counties included: Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey.

Duration of the tourist route: 16 days

Season: all year long

Transport accessibility: car, bike, bus

Basic goals:

promotion of local architecture and cultural heritage

strengthening the image and recognition of the region

promoting sustainable religious tourism

Sector 1 Romania:

Tulcea – Braila – Cernavoda – Constanta

Time 5 days.

Sector 2 Bulgaria:

Ravne – Pliska – Madara – Shumen – Veliki Preslav

Time 5 days.

Sector 3 Turkey:

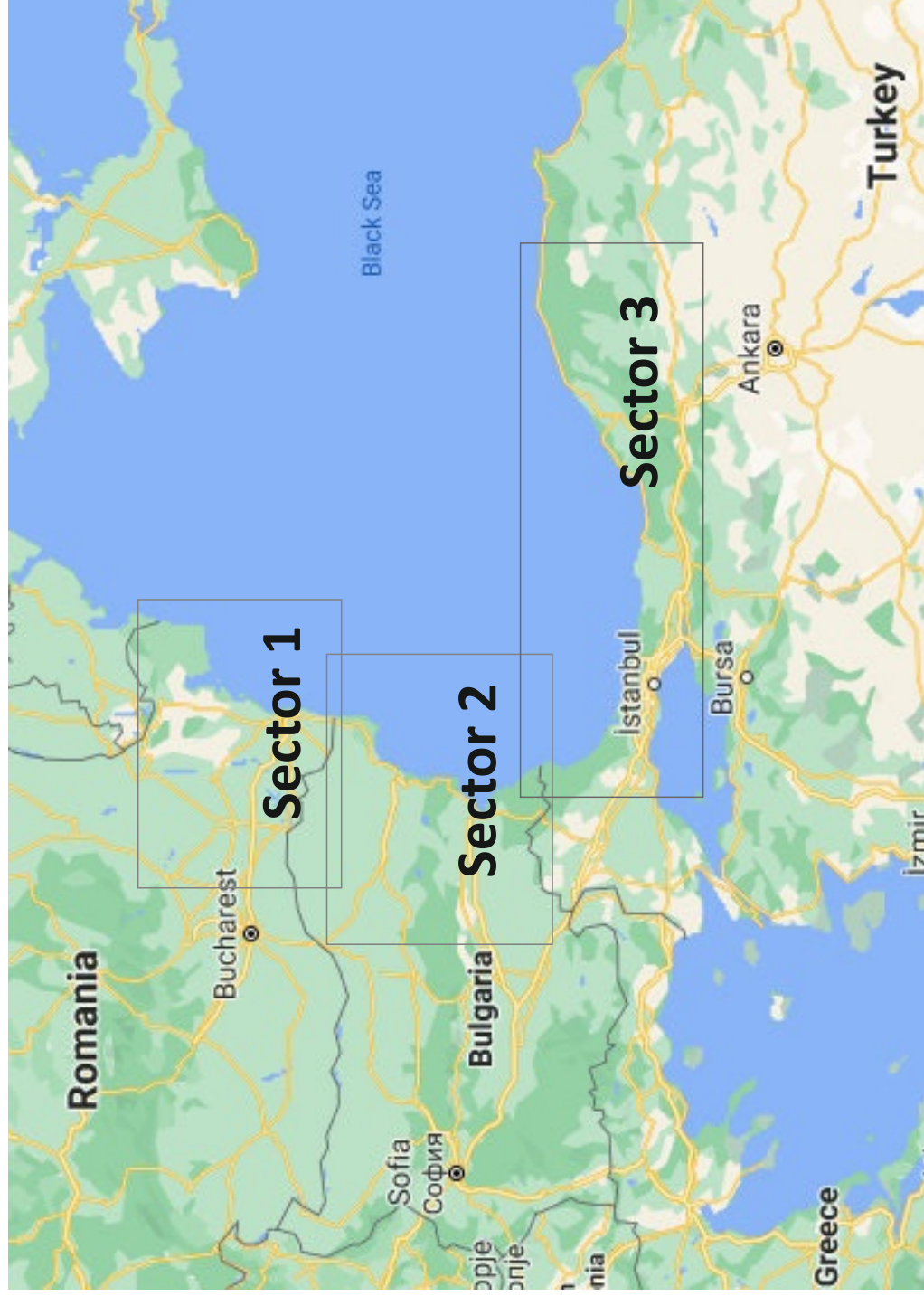
Istanbul – Kocaeli – Sakarya – Durce – Bartin – Karabuk

Time 6 days.



Keywords:
archaeology
ancient cultures

Types of sites:
archaeological sites
archaeology museums,city
archeological parks



Sector 1 Romania:

Start point: Tulcea

End point: Constanta

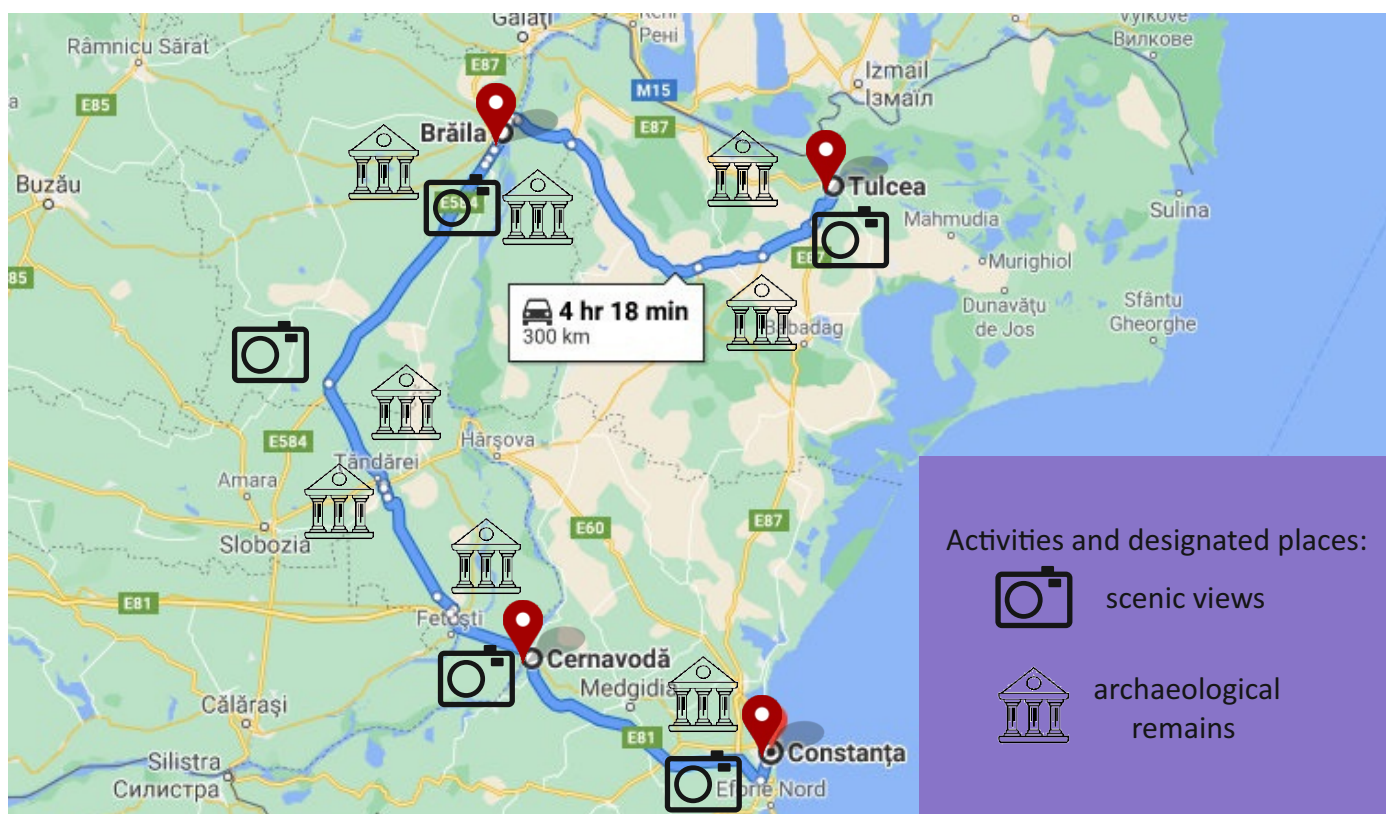
Route:

Tulcea – Braila – Cernavoda – Constanta

Targeted types of tourists: motivated cultural tourists, incidental cultural tourists

Main targeted country markets: Hungary, Israel, Germany.

The route tempts visitors to take a journey through the 7th century BC to the 1st centuries AD, in the Classical Antiquity. The Pontic Danubian region acted as a link between the imperial authorities of the Mediterranean and the migrant people of the Pontic steppes. This link took the form of both trade and open conflict, thus resulting in a variety of distinct settlements. In the dynamics of this region, the Greek cities, which sprouted along the shores of the Black Sea starting with the 7th century BC, have a special place. Later to be annexed to Rome's Balkan possession, the region displays both Hellenistic and Roman sites which can be discovered by cultural tourists. The Route links the archaeological sites with their individual (unique) histories, in the introduction of Greek and Roman culture along the Black Sea. The trail expands over 2 counties - Tulcea and Constanța, encompassing more than 15 archaeological sites, 3 museums dedicated to the subject and other smaller archaeological parks located in the main cities.



Sector 2 Bulgaria:

Start point: Ravne

End point: Veliki Preslav

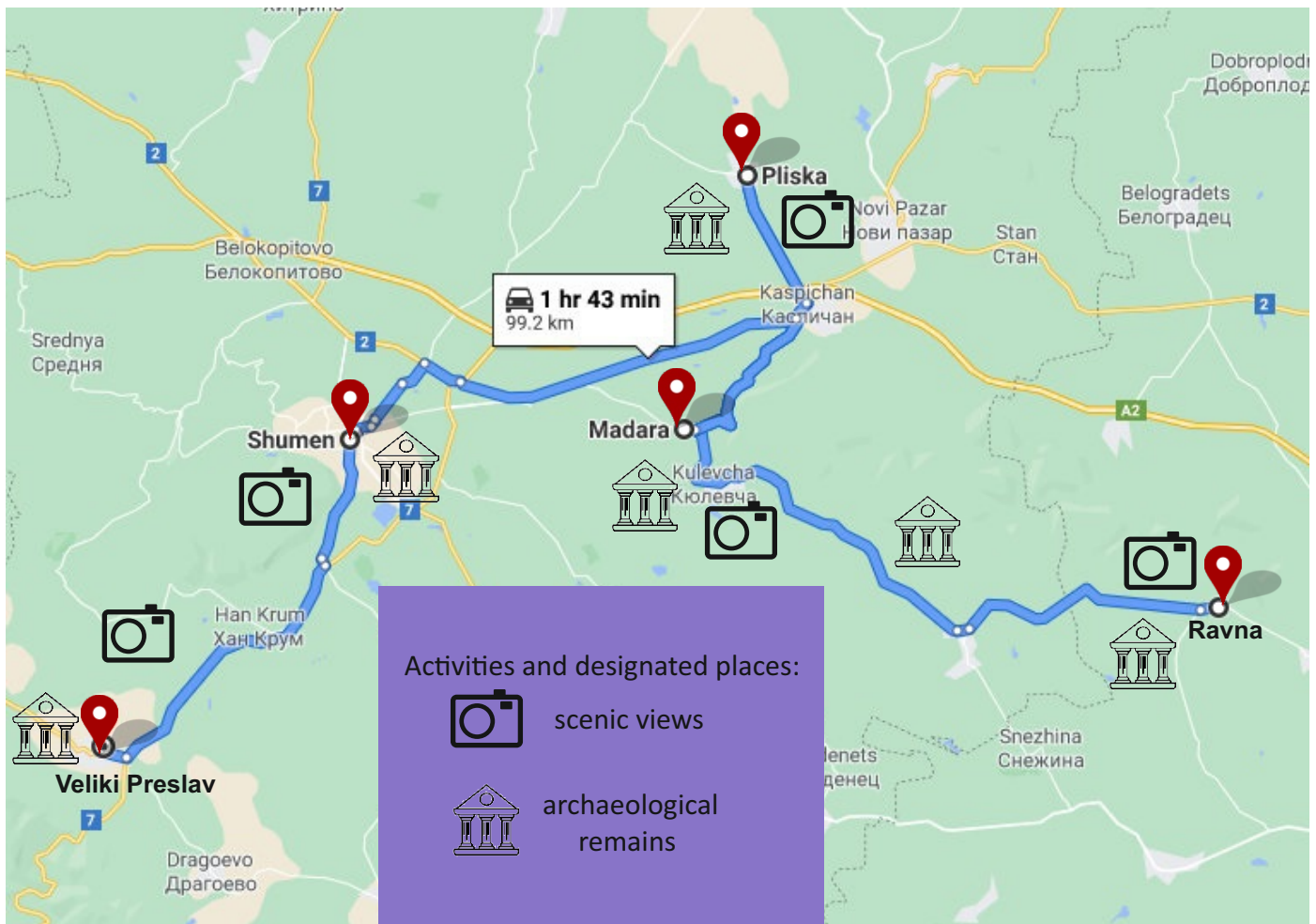
Route

Ravne – Pliska – Madara – Shumen – Veliki Preslav

Targeted types of tourists: motivated cultural tourists, incidental cultural tourists

Main targeted country markets: North Macedonia, France, Poland, Israel, Germany.

On this part of the route, tourists will get acquainted with the national historical and archaeological reserves "Veliky Preslav", "Shumen Fortress", the reserve E.Madara, Madara National Historical and Architectural Reserve named after F.Pliski, Ovech Fortress, Rock Monasteries, Ravna Monastery.



Sector 3 Turkey:

Start point: Istanbul

End point: Karabuk

Route:

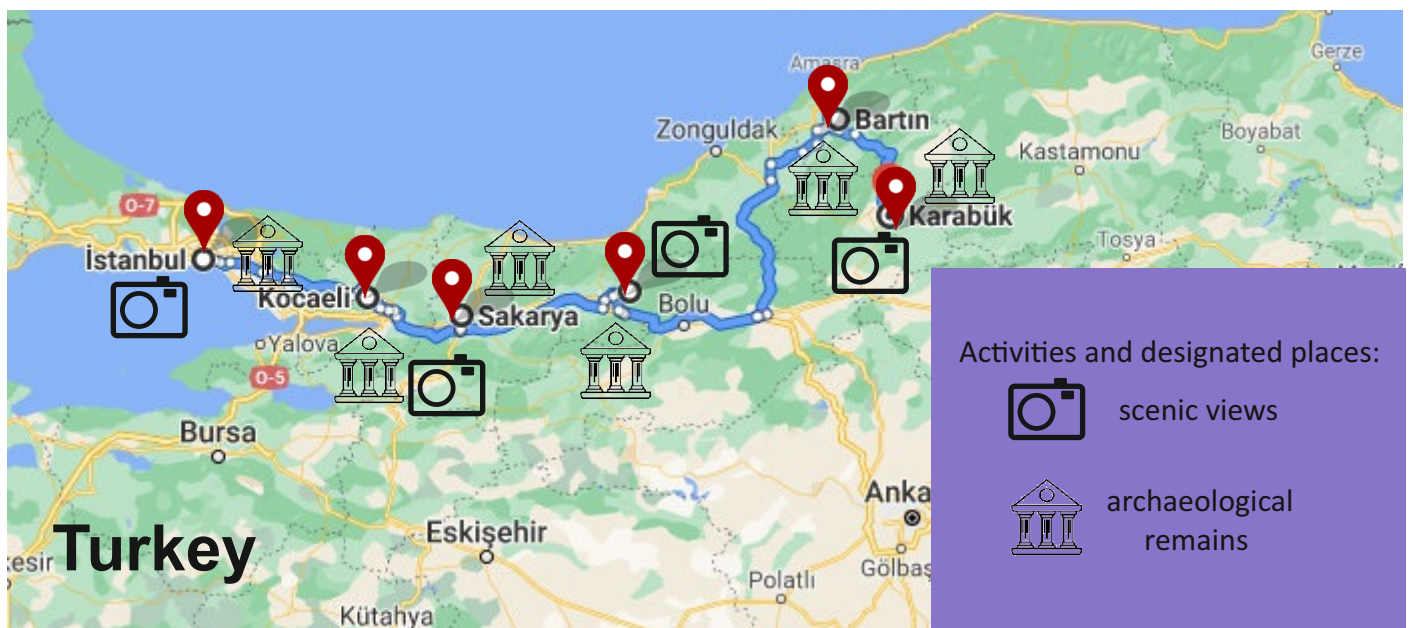
Istanbul – Kocaeli – Sakarya – Durce – Bartin – Karabuk

Targeted types of tourists: motivated cultural tourists, incidental cultural tourists

Main targeted country markets: Germany, Bulgaria, Iran, Russia, Greece, Georgia, Azerbaijan.

Local and foreign tourists who want to increase their knowledge and experience about concrete cultural heritage elements will enjoy visiting these cities that stand out with their cultural richness. This proposed cultural route transports includes important assets of concrete cultural heritage with the themes of cultural history and civilization; that are carried from past to present and reflect Byzantine and Ottoman culture. With the visits you will make, you will find an intense route that will feel make you feel as if you have traveled to the past. The route allows you to browse the cultural heritage of Istanbul, which is one of the oldest settlements in the world, with the museums and structures it contains. So much so, Napoleon, one of the most important commanders and statesmen in the history of the world, said, "If the world was a single state, Istanbul would be the capital."

There are many tourism activities on the route (in the provinces covered by the route) where the tourism route takes place. Istanbul, which is among the most popular destinations of cultural tours, also offers a very rich travel experience for tourists traveling for purposes such as trade, shopping, and entertainment. There are many tourism activities in the provinces on the route, especially in the fields of cultural, artistic, gastronomy, sports and recreation.







AXIOPOLIS MUSEUM OF HISTORY

At the beginning of their journey through Dobrudja, tourists can make their first stop at the History Museum Axiopolis, located in the city of Cernavodă. The main profile of the museum is archaeology, notably prehistorical, Dacian and Roman archaeology. The restored building that hosts the artifacts is divided into 5 rooms and a main hallway, displaying a collection of local and regional prehistoric remains, Roman and Dacian relics and decorative art pieces from the 19th century. Visitors can get familiarized with the Neoeolithic culture (displayed in Room 1) and admire the dark ceramics produced by the Hamangia culture. Room 2 displays the funeral inventory of a Hellenistic tomb from Medgidia dating from the 2nd century BC, Hallstattian vessels discovered at Cernavodă and Rasova, funeral and ceramic urns of import and amphorae.

useful information

address: 19, Ovidiu Street, Cernavodă

contact: +4 0241 487 170





CAPIDAVA FORTRESS

The remains of Capidava Fortress lie along the Danube's Eastern front, at half the distance between Cernavodă and Hârșova, the main road passing by the exterior wall of the fortress. Capidava occupies an important place in the Ancient Roman defense system, being one of the many castrums and fortifications built during Emperor Trajan's rule (starting from the beginning of the 2nd century AD). Visitors can see the enclosure walls, the Southern gate of the citadel, guarded by a rectangular tower and the main access. A secondary gate (poterna) has been constructed in the North-Western tower and represents the start of the visiting tour. In the Southern sector of the fortress, tourists can see the remains of the biggest building in the complex, namely the guard house (horreum) and the remains of a residential area, with houses organized along small porticos or courtyards. In the opposite side of the citadel, the remains of a ProtoChristian basilica can be found near the surrounding walls.

useful information

address: Capidava village, Constanța County

contact: ioan.opris@capidava.ro

website: <http://www.capidava.ro>





ULMETUM FORTRESS - PANTELIMON

According to historical sources, the fortress was built around the 3rd century AD, during the late Roman period and lasted until the 6th century, during the Roman Byzantine era. It is a small to medium fortress, which gradually became a fortified settlement and was attacked and nearly destroyed by 3 Hunnic waves in the 5th century. The ancient settlement of Ulmetum has the form of a rectangular triangle with a curved hypotenuse. On the corners, the fortress is provided with 3 round towers. It has 2 gates flanked by 2 towers with a semicircular front side (in the form of the letter U). The South-Eastern side displays 4 rectangular towers, while the other 2 sides of the fortress have 2 rectangular towers each.

useful information

address:

Pantelimon commune, Constanța County





CARSIMUM FORTRESS AND MUSEUM - HÂRȘOVA

The Roman and Roman-Byzantine citadel was built on a former Getae fortification, in the 1st century AD. In the 2nd century AD, during the Dacian Wars, Emperor Trajan fortifies the citadel with stone walls. The massive walls are the only visible remains of the former fortress. The Commander Tower, situated in the Northern part of the site is 9 m high, while a monumental wall, 40 m long marks the area in which the river port activated until the destruction of the citadel (17th - 18th centuries). Not much is known about the archaeological site, the Fortress of Carsium, housing throughout time the Romans, the Byzantines and the Genoese. The Carsium Museum displays nowadays the most representative archaeological findings from Hârșova and its surroundings, illustrating the civilizations that reigned the Danubian region, starting from the Neolithic Period to the beginning of the Modern Era. The museum has among its collections particularly valuable pieces typical of Neolithic cultures (Hamangia, Gumelnița), from the Metal Age cultures, from the Roman civilization, Roman-Byzantine and from Medieval cultures.

useful information

Carsium Fortress - 4, Dobrogea Street, Hârșova

Carsium Museum - 27, Revoluției Street, Hârșova

website: www.harsova.ro





TROESMIS FORTRESS - TURCOAICA

Troesmis was one of the main cities of the Getae tribes. The fortress is located in the North-West of Dobrudja, on the bank of the Măcin branch of the Danube, 3 km North from Turcoaica commune. It was throughout the ancient period an important strategic point, its oldest mention being in the Pontic of Ovidius. Around the year 100 AD, it is recognized as a Roman military center, due to the development of a civil settlement between the Eastern and Western citadels where craftsmen, merchants etc. are established. The ruins of the fortress were not investigated on their entire surface, but until now 3 waves of defense, a canal, 2 aqueducts, horseshoe towers at the corners, 2 Christian basilicas and the walls of several buildings, were excavated. The road to the archaeological site is a difficult one, the site infodelta.ro recommending travelers to take the DN22D road, and afterwards a dirt road orientated towards the Danube.

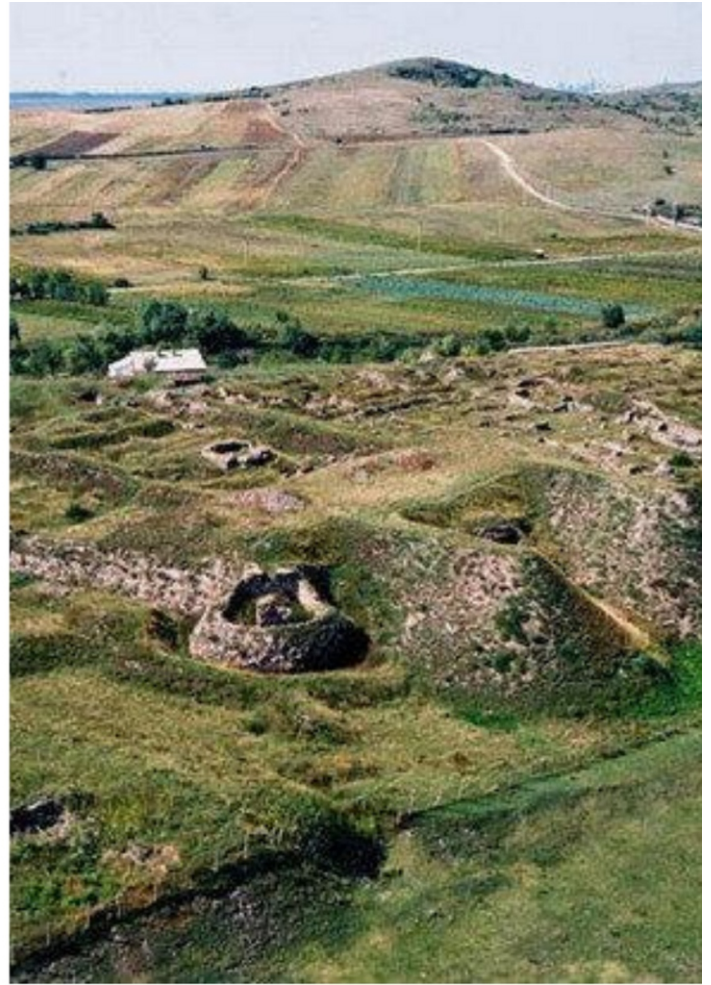
useful information

address:

Turcoaica commune, Tulcea County note:

the Troesmis Fortress does not have any visiting hours or guided tours included





DINOGETIA FORTRESS - GARVĂN

Dinogetia is a Roman - Byzantine fortress located on a small island, near the Garvăn commune. The settlement benefited from a favorable natural position, located in the proximity of the Danube. The fortification was built by the Romans in the 2nd century AD, on a former Getae settlement. The fortress suffered considerable damage, and by the end of the 3rd century AD, it took the form of the Byzantine settlement we know today. Nowadays, the 3 meters thick wall, dating from the 6th century and formerly guarded by 14 towers, is kept. Inside the enclosing walls, travelers can see the ruins of a basilica, believed to be one of the oldest in the country. After the 1990 restorations, Dinogetia became an important tourist spot. At the moment, there are no formal guided tours of the archaeological remains, although they are accessible to travelers.

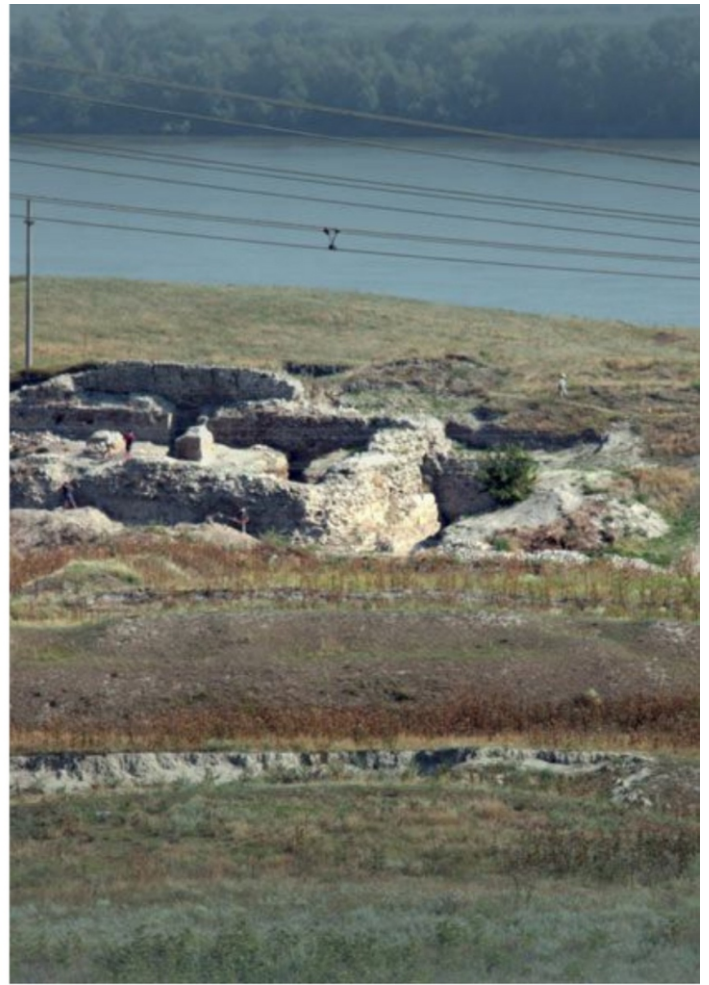
useful information

address:

Garvăn commune, Tulcea County

contact: + 4 0340 100 311





NOVIODUNUM FORTRESS - ISACCEA

Although most of the archaeological material has not been excavated yet, tourists can still visit the Noviodunum fortress, located near the town of Isaccea. The geographical position of this settlement offered the Romans the possibility of supervision and control of the border of the entire Roman limes located North of the Danube. The late Roman fortress was surrounded by massive fortifications, including large, impressive towers. The inside of the area has not been uncovered yet, but a Christian basilica has been identified. Historical sources demonstrate the fact that the fortress was reused during the Byzantine era. Around the fortress, a large civil settlement and cemeteries with numerous graves have been found, which can be dated to the Roman and Late Roman periods, as well as the Byzantine era.

useful information

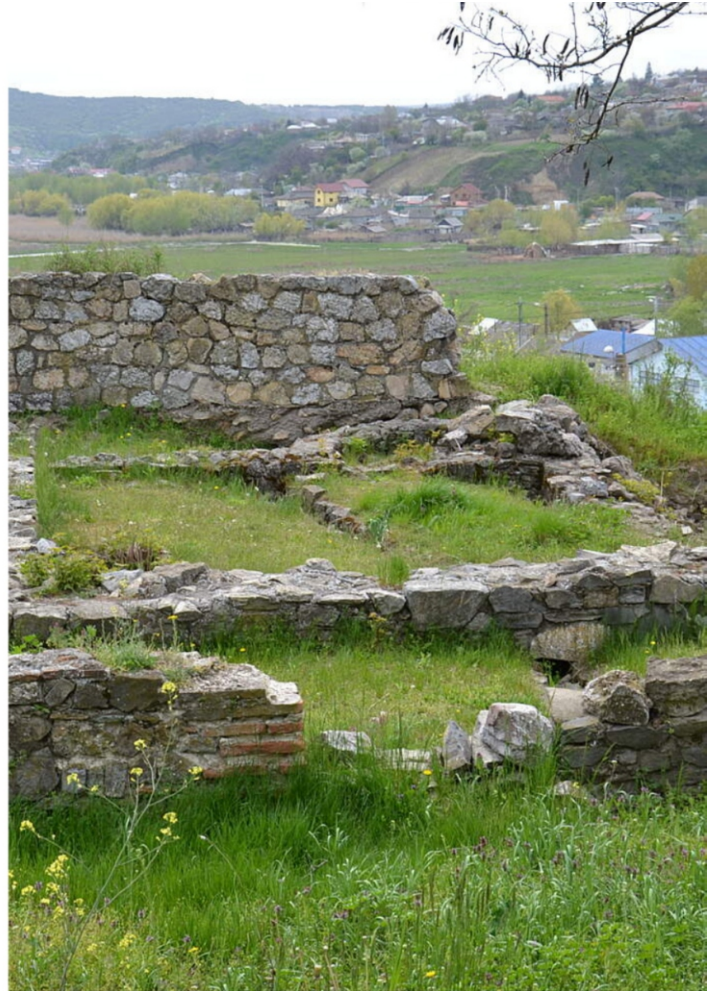
address: Isaccea commune, Tulcea County contact: +4 0340 100 311

website: www.noviodunum.ro

visiting dates and hours: May - September - 10:00 - 18:00

October - April - 08:00 - 16:00 Closed on Mondays





AEGYSSUS - TULCEA

Located on the Monument Hill in the North-Eastern section of Tulcea, the fortress was built at the end of the 4th century BC. Its name, of Celtic origin, derived from a legendary founder, Caspius Aegyssos. Reporting the events of the year 12 AD, when the town was attacked by the Getae, Ovidius called it the attribute *vetus urbs* (old town). At the beginning of 2nd century, the town was included in the Danubian *limes* (boundary). Then, starting with the 3rd century, it became an important military headquarters. The 6th century finds it as an episcopal residence. Urban life knows an end in the first quarter of the 7th century and a revival in the 10th and 11th centuries. Currently, on the Monument Hill, several archaeological complexes from the late Roman epoch can be visited.

useful information

address:

1bis, 14 Noiembrie Street, Tulcea Municipality, Tulcea County

contact: +4 0340 105 652; email: relatiipublice@icemtl.ro

website: <https://www.icemtl.ro/muzeul-deistorie-si-arheologie-engleza/>

visiting dates and hours: Tuesday - Sunday - 08:00 - 16:00

Last entry - 15:30

Closed on Mondays





HALMYRIS - MURIGHIOL

Halmyris has been shaped by more than 1,500 years of history, as multiple civilizations once ruled the point where the Danube River poured into the Black Sea. Halmyris was one of the most important military, civilian, economic and religious centers in the region throughout antiquity. Today Halmyris sits in the oasis of natural beauty that is the Danube Delta, a site of local tourism, religious pilgrimage, and archaeological exploration. Archaeological sources show that the first stone castrum at Halmyris was built during the reign of the Emperor Trajan. Although the original layout of the Trajanic fortress is largely covered by later reconstructive phases, the plan seems to follow the typical 2nd century layout of a Roman fort, composed of a rectangular defensive wall, rectangular towers and a gate on each side. Structures found within the establishment include numerous barracks, a private *thermae* or bathhouse and a basilica. Tourists can visit the ruins of the citadel driving from Murighiol towards Dunavățul de Sus, near the Sfântu Gheorghe (Saint George) branch of the Danube Delta.

useful information

address: Murighiol commune, Tulcea County email: relatiipublice@icemtl.ro

website: <https://www.icemtl.ro/halmyris-en/>





ENISALA FORTRESS

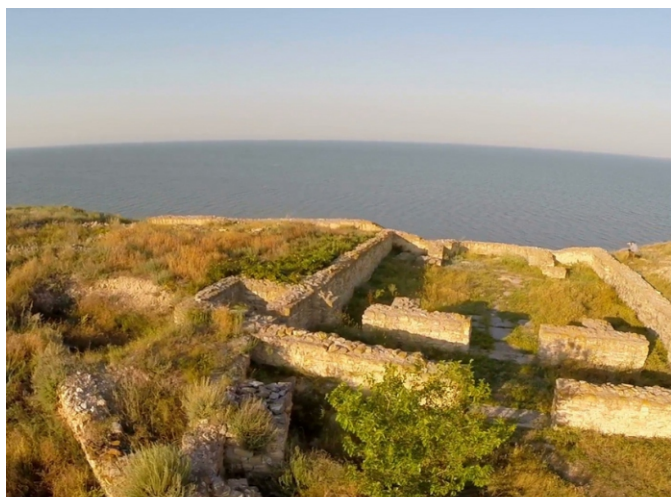
The Enisala Fortress is one of the monuments of military architecture on the territory of Romania, built in the Middle Ages. The fortification was built in the second half of the 14th century by an authority targeting the Danube Gorge area. Archaeological sources indicate that Enisala was part of the chain of Genoese colonies that includes the cities of Delta - Chilia and Likostomion, the White Fortress at the mouths of the Dniester, Caffa in the South of Crimea. Between 1397-1416 the fortress of Enisala was part of the defensive system of the Romanian country during the reign of Mircea cel Bătrân. After the conquest of Dobrudja by the Turks in 1419 -1420, an Ottoman military garrison was installed in the fortress. Tourists can enter the fortress on its Southern side, through a gate with a very high opening, provided with a double arch and protected by a massive pentagonal bastion. Coming

useful information

address: Enisala commune, Tulcea County

website: <https://www.icemtl.ro/enisala-medievalfortress/>





ARGAMUM FORTRESS - JURILOVCA COMMUNE

One of the oldest Greek settlements on the territory of Dobrudja, Romania, Fortress Argamum, originally named Orgame, was founded by Greek colonists from Asia Minor, sometime in the 7th century BC, to protect the gulf beneath the Doloşman Cape that offered shelter for boats during storms. The fortress was built on what was formerly the Black Sea: Doloşman Cape and today Razim Goloviţa bank, which is part of Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, in Tulcea County. In the Roman period, the fortress was named Argamum and many noticeable archaeological discoveries date from this time. The Fortress of Argamum stretches over 2 and a half hectares but the archaeological site's surface is much larger. There important relics were discovered like trade coins, bronze arrowheads, bronze shaped dolphins, glassware, pottery tools, bone and metal ornaments and clothing items. However, most of the city is still underground.

useful information

address: Jurilovca commune, Tulcea County





HISTRIA FORTRESS - ISTRIA COMMUNE

Located on the shore of Lake Sinoe, the Fortress of Histria is the first Greek colony on the western shore of the Black Sea and the oldest city on the Romanian territory. It was founded in the 7th century BC by Greek merchants and navigators, and permanently abandoned in the 7th century AD. The city of Histria has had an uninterrupted development in both the Greek and in the Roman period, being for a long time the most important economic center at the mouths of the Danube. The settlement was surrounded by defense walls, the water supply was made through pipes and the streets were paved with stone. Unfortunately, the Gulf of Halmyris on the bank of which the settlement is located begins to collapse with sand, closing the direct exit to the Black Sea. The fortress of Histria will be definitively abandoned after invasions that destroyed a large part of the settlement. The preserved ruins of Greek temples in the sacred area, paved streets and neighborhoods of Roman houses or workshops, civil and Christian basilicas and, in the center of the city, one of the largest Christian basilicas in the region, dating from 6th century AD can all be seen on the site.

useful information

address: Istria commune, Constanța County





MUSEUM OF NATIONAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY - CONSTANȚA

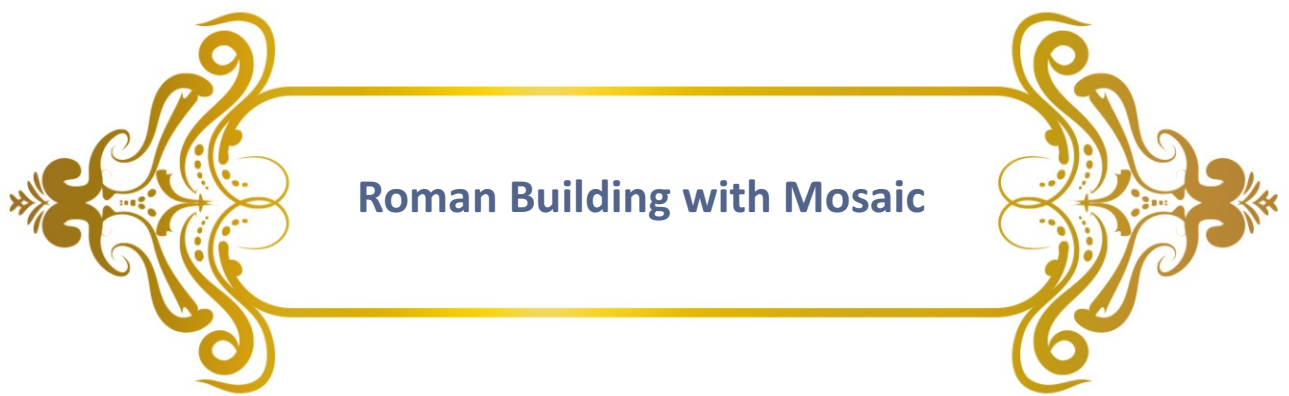
The Museum of National History and Archaeology Constanța is one of the richest museums in Romania. It houses objects of Greek, Romanian, Byzantine and medieval origin (tools and weapons made of stone, bronze and iron), ceramics, ancient architectural elements (columns, capitals, pediments, decorations, etc.), ancient sculptures, glass vessels, statues made of bronze, jewelry, numismatics (the collection includes silver, bronze and gold coins, some of them being unique), and so on. At the ground floor of the museum there are two rooms where archaeological monuments of special value, rarities and unique pieces are displayed: Glykon snake, Fortuna statuary group with Pontos, Aedicula with the double representation of the goddess Nemesis - one of the most remarkable pieces of the Museum (2nd century AD), collections of gold ornaments, stones and cameos, the treasure chest of silver vessels Sucidava - Izvoarele, etc.

useful information

address: 12, Ovidiu Square, Constanța, Constanța County

contact: minaconstanta@gmail.com +4 0241 614 583 /+4 0241 618 763

website: <http://www.minac.ro>





ROMAN BUILDING WITH MOSAIC - CONSTANȚA

Constructed between the 3rd and 4th centuries AD, the building represents an architectural jewel of the early Byzantine period West of the Pontus Euxin. The imposing construction was carried out in Antiquity on 3 terraces, cut in the slope of the cliff and leveled to ensure the stability of the construction. It was located right on the docks of the old Tomitan harbor, from where it opened its first suite of rooms. It contained 11 vaulted rooms used as warehouses for the merchandise brought by the commercial ships that docked in the port. The feature which gave the building its name, as we know it today, the mosaic carpet was spread over the entire surface of the room. The portion that sat on the sloping terrace was the best kept, and the part above the 11 rooms on the lower level collapsed with their vaults, seizing the goods stored there. Some of the collapsed pieces could be recovered. The Roman Building with Mosaic is part of the Museum of History and Archaeology Constanța and can be visited, both during the summer and the winter season.

useful information

address: 12, Ovidiu Square, Constanța, Constanța County

website: <http://www.minac.ro>



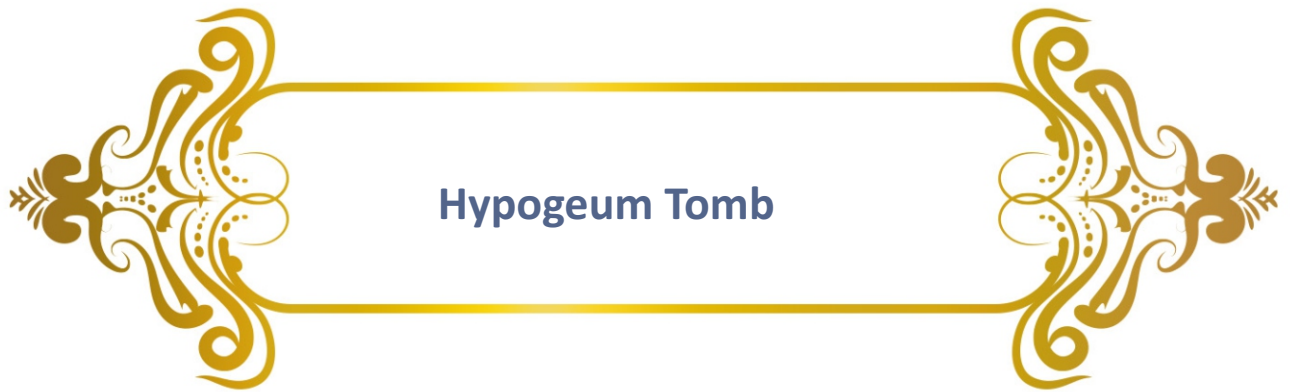


ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK AND MOSAIC MAP OF ANCIENT SETTLEMENTS IN DOBRUDJA - CONSTANȚA

Located in the peninsular area of the city, the side of the park from Ferdinand Boulevard is still bordered by the Roman enclosure wall, a construction dating from the 3rd century AD, which has 2 entrance gates to the fortress. Also here tourists can see the remains of the Butcher's Tower, rebuilt during the Justinian period, a series of other architectural fragments of the ancient Tomis, as well as objects such as amphorae, columns etc. On the wall of the building at the Eastern end of the park, tourists can see the map of the ancient settlements in Dobrudja, an objective realized on a large scale and made of natural stone.

useful information

adress: Arhiepiscopiei Street, Constanța, Constanța County





HYPOGEUM TOMB - CONSTANȚA

Located at the intersection of Mircea cel Bătrân and Ștefan cel Mare streets, at a short distance from the Black Sea shore, The Hypogeum Tomb or “The Banquet” is unique in the ancient landscape of Dobrudja, being part of a large necropolis of Tomis. It is a family cave like tomb, built around 330. Inside the tomb, 5 skeletons have been discovered, 4 adults and a child. The cave is decorated entirely with a paint applied al-seco, on a layer of fine plaster. Thus, on the surface of the Northern wall there is a fresco marked by powerful symbolism, representing a celestial ritual mass, fact revealed by the glasses held by 2 of the deceased, probably husband and wife. The drawings made researchers believe that the tomb was erected at the border of 2 different periods: Roman and Byzantine, but also at the border between the last remains of paganism and the dawn of a Monotheistic religion. The cave is not open to the public, but a high-fidelity copy can be viewed at the Museum of National History and Archeology in Constanța.

useful information

note: the tomb is not accessible to tourists, however, a 3D reconstruction of it can be found at the Museum of National History and Archaeology Constanța.





CALLATIS MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY - MANGALIA

The Callatis Mangalia Archeology Museum offers a varied cultural offer to the visiting public. In the permanent exhibition of the museum, the public can notice numerous architectural fragments (columns, capitels, architraves, metope friezes, cornices with buckles, etc.), various ceramic vessels (amphorae, hydri, kantharos, lekythos), opaques, aqueducts, Tanagra statues, glass vases, funerary stars, inscriptions, representations of some deities, ornaments, jewelry, coins, metal objects, etc. Entering the museum, visitors can see the famous papyrus tomb, dating from the 4th century BC, researched in 1959, restored and preserved in the museum's basic exhibition. The tomb had been covered with 3 stone slabs, and inside it was found a papyrus written in Greek. The tomb was surrounded by a stone ring that can be seen even today. Papyrus is the only such artifact found in Romania and is the oldest in Europe.

useful information

address: 23, Constanța Road, Mangalia, Constanța County





CALLATIS FORTRESS RUINS - MANGALIA

The ruins of the ancient fortress can be seen in different parts of the contemporary city. The most notable sites represent the North -Western and the Northern part of the Doric fortress. Near the Museum of Archaeology, towards the center of the city, tourists can take glimpses of the old defensive North - Western tower, and of the ancient columns and various architectural fragments, as well as sarcophagi from the Roman period. Another important archaeological monument is the Northern wall of Callatis. The defense wall surrounded the most important surface of the Hellenic city. The ancient fortress had 2 enclosures: the first - built at the end of the 4th century BC, and the second, in the 2nd century AD. The wall protected the main buildings of the city (temples, markets, public and private buildings).

useful information

address:

50, Constanța Road, Mangalia (the NorthWestern part of the ancient city)



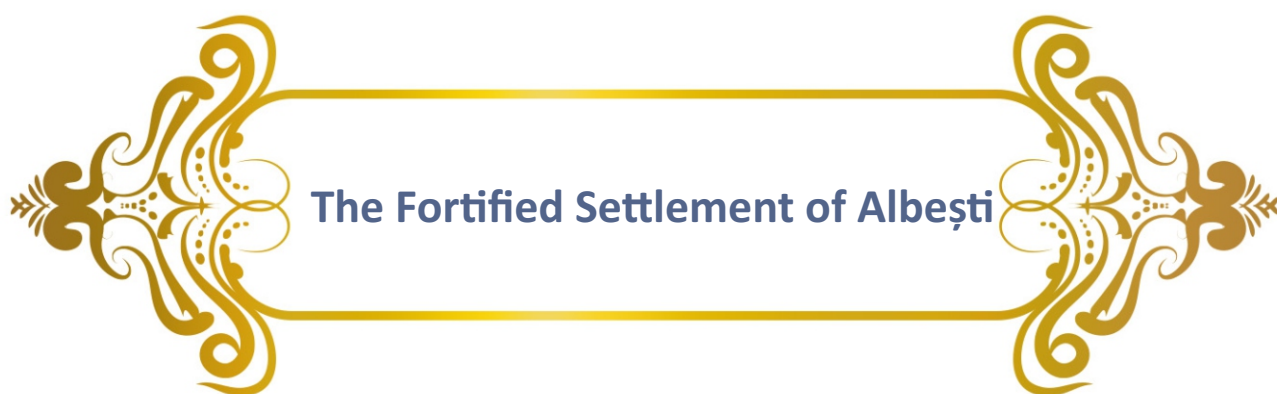


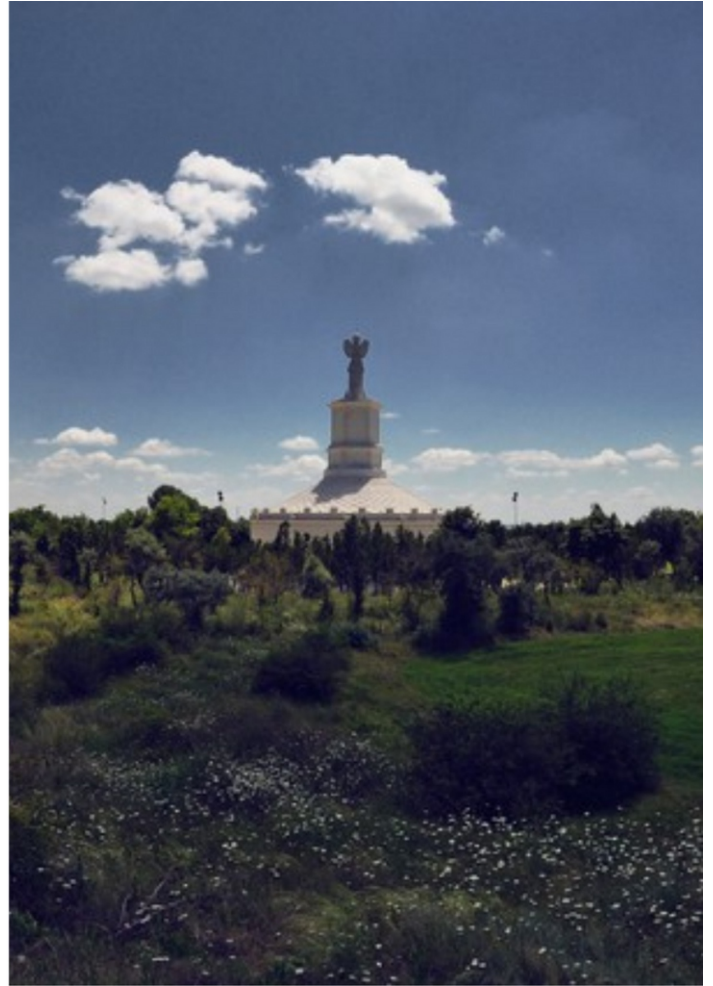
THE ROMAN BYZANTINE NECROPOLIS - MANGALIA

The Roman-Byzantine necropolis (built in the 4th-5th century AD) is located in the Western part of Mangalia. As a result of several years of archaeological excavations, the Roman-Byzantine necropolis of Callatis continues to reveal funerary monuments, which confirm an intense spiritual life in the Callatis fortress. The most important discovery in the region is the tomb painted with psalms. The access passage to it is covered with 3 limestone slabs and from the level of the last step, the ceiling is vaulted and plastered with the same material used in the funeral room. Above the entrance, as well as on the side walls of the dromedary, different inscriptions and a cross are painted with red paint.

useful information

note: the actual archaeological site is not accessible to tourists, however, for more details regarding the necropolis, tourists can contact the Callatis Archaeology Museum.





THE FORTIFIED SETTLEMENT OF ALBEȘTI

The fortified settlement of Albești is located in the Callatian territory, on its Western boundary and on the line of a traffic artery that ensures the connection between the settlements in the South-East of Dobrudja and those in the Danube area. It falls into the category of permanent fortifications, designated by the term *frurion*, with role in the defense and agricultural exploitation of the area. The proximity to Callatis, but especially the manner of building the enclosures, the quasi-urban character of the settlement and the preponderance of the Greek materials, support the idea of a Callatian creation. The other elements - Getic and possibly Scythian, identified by inventory objects and forms of their own spiritual manifestations, give the measure of the Greek-indigenous character of the settlement. Not as renowned as the other ancient fortification of Dobrudja, the road to the Albești settlement is a difficult one, once stirring away from the main road (it can also be accesible by car, but there is no main motorised road leading directly to the archaeological remains).

useful information

address: Albești commune, Constanța County

website: <http://www.minac.ro>





TROPAEUM TRAIANI AND ADAMCLISI MUSEUM

The fortress of Adamclisi, located in the SouthWestern part of the village with the same name, at approximately 1,500 m from the triumphal monument, on the Urluia valley, was built at the orders of Emperor Trajan for the families of the veterans who participated in the Dacian wars (and is considered the largest Roman civil settlement in the territory of Dobrudja). The city was rebuilt in the 4th century AD and it witnessed another flourishing period during the 5th century, when it became an important religious centre. North-East of the settlement, about 1.5 km on the side road that runs from DN3 to the East of the village, a triumphal monument can be found. The triumphal monument from Adamclisi constitutes one of the most important monuments of Roman provincial art. It was rebuilt in 1977, according to one of the hypothetical models of the old ruined monument. On the same plateau, 250 m West-North-West from the monument, is the funeral altar dedicated to the approximately 3,800 Roman soldiers who fell on the battlefield. Moreover, the Adamclisi Museum contains archaeological remains discovered in the fortress of Tropaeum Traiani, at the monument (the original pieces) and in the immediate or further vicinity.

useful information

address: Adamclisi commune, Constanța County





National History and Archaeological Reserve “Veliki Preslav”

The city of Veliki Preslav is witness of one of the greatest moments in Bulgarian history. In 893, during the rule of Tsar Simeon I, the town was declared the capital of the Bulgarian state. According to the researches, the settlement was planned in such an exquisite way that it could match even the magnificent Constantinople.

During the rule of Tsar Simeon Bulgaria spread over a territory between the Aegean, the Adriatic and the Black Sea. Besides the military power and territorial expansion, unmatched till now ecclesiastical and educational activity was carried out. The period is called “Golden Age of Bulgarian culture”.

Veliki Preslav expanded and gained the magnificence of a powerful imperial capital. It was founded shortly before that time – during the rule of Boris I (852 – 889) and after a few decades it became one of the most beautiful cities in Eastern Europe.

The fortress of Preslav consisted of inner and outer fortification systems. The inner fortress was located almost at the centre of the Inner Town. It was r-shaped and had round towers at the corners and square ones along the walls.

The palaces were built on a high plateau. The impressive remains of a palace complex consisting of two monumental buildings – Big Palace and Western Palace, have been preserved to this day. The throne hall had a nave and two aisles and was divided into three sections.

The ruler's temple – the missing part of the palace architectural complex in Veliki Preslav, was discovered during excavations. It was located in a central spot in the Inner Town and was connected to the ruler's palace by a straight 35 m-long street. The temple was impressive in size: 21 m by 40 m. It was built in the 10th century and was related directly to the development and construction activities of either Tsar Simeon I or Tsar Peter (who reigned in the period 927 – 969).

All excavated and unexcavated churches in Preslav Region were declared historical monuments by virtue of publication in State Gazette, issue No 69 of 1927. The Palace and the fortresses of Tsar Simeon were declared historical monuments by virtue of publication in State Gazette, issue No 221 of 1927. The inner and outer fortification walls, the round church, etc., were also declared historical monuments by virtue of publication in State Gazette, issue No 46 of 1970.

Today, the remains of the numerous churches, monasteries, workshops, studios and palaces can be seen at Veliki Preslav National Historical-Architectural Reserve, while the masterpieces of the ancient masters, such as painted ceramics, adornments, weapons, all significant monuments of medieval Preslav, including Preslav Gold Treasure, the ceramic iconostasis of the palace monastery, a copy of the monumental icon of St. Theodore and other valuable items, various ancient inscriptions, a unique collection of lead seals, etc., are all kept at the Archaeological Museum of Veliki Preslav. There are also hundreds of artefacts illustrating the life and the farming habits of the old inhabitants of Preslav.

Veliki Preslav National Historical-Architectural Reserve is one of the 100 Tourist Sites of Bulgaria and was declared a reserve by virtue of Ordinance No 161 of the Council of Ministers of 1958.

useful information:

Location: Veliki Preslav

Working hours: 9:00-18:00 (Apr-Oct), 9:00-17:00 (Nov-Mar)

Contacts : +359 538 43 243

Entry fee: 6 BGN

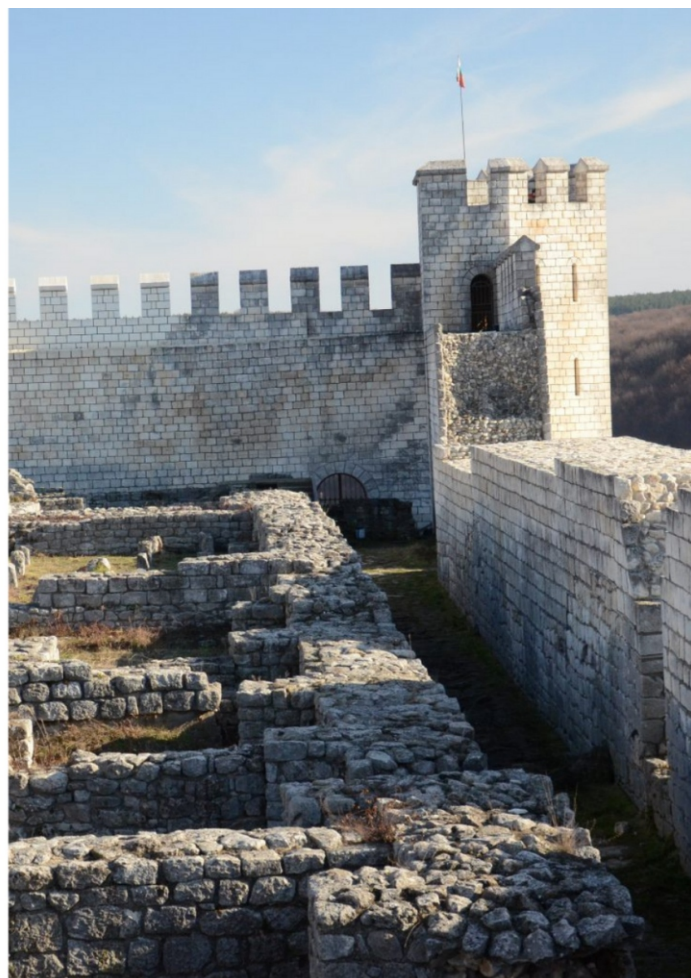
Accessibility : Motor vehicle

Services : Tour guide, lectures in Bulgarian, Russian and English.

Website: <http://museum-velikipreslav.com/>

Coordinates : N 43.145918 E 26.813369





Shumen Fortress Historical-Archaeological Preserve – Shumen

Shumen Fortress is one of the most famous landmarks in Bulgaria and the Shumen region. The remains of the fortress are situated at 3 kilometers away from the center of the modern town. The fortress is located in the Shumen Plateau.

Shumen Fortress was probably first built by Thracians and was later completed and reconstructed by Romans, Byzantines, and Bulgarians. It is believed that the first fortification built in this place is 3200 years old, which makes it one of the oldest fortifications in Bulgaria. Conquered and demolished many times, Shumen Fortress rose to new life and existed until 1444.





The remains of the fortress are perhaps some of the most thoroughly studied ancient remains on the territory of Bulgaria. Research provided important information about the way of life and the military customs of Bulgarians during the Middle Ages. The remains of 12 churches, as well as an ancient Roman bath, pottery, vessels, adornments, and coins were found.

Today Shumen Fortress is reborn as a popular tourist destination. It is exhibited as an open-air museum. Visitors are provided with easy access to the remains thanks to the alleys and signs. Tourists are most attracted by the rebuilt tower of the fortress that offers a beautiful view of the town of Shumen and the Shumen Plateau Nature Park.

Location: Shumen

Working hours: 9:00-19:00 (Apr-Oct), 9:00-17:00 (Nov-Mar)

Contacts : +359 893 342 208

Entry fee: 3 BGN

Accessibility : Motor vehicle, public transport

Services : Tour guide, lectures in Bulgarian, Russian and English.

Website : <https://museum-shumen.eu/>

Coordinates : N 43.262637 E 26.894348





Founders of the Bulgarian State Monument, Shumen

“Founders of the Bulgarian State”, known also as “1300 Years Bulgaria”, is an architectural complex dedicated to the 1300th anniversary since the establishment of the Bulgarian State. The monument is situated on the highest part of the Danube Plain – the Shumen Plateau – at 450 meters above sea-level and it appears to be the visual center of the Bulgarian antique monuments – Pliska, Preslav, the Madara Rider and Shumen Fortress. It reproduces the cultural and social development of the Bulgarian State between the 7th – 10th centuries. The monument was opened in November 1981.

The monument was created by a team of artists lead by the sculptor Prof. Krum Damyanov.

The memorial reproduces important moments of the Bulgarian history from the 7th till the 10th century. It comprises 8 concrete bodies shaping two semi-halls. The composition includes figures of the Bulgarian rulers Asparuh, Tervel, Krum, Omurtag, Boris I, and Simeon I. The biggest sculpture is dedicated to the Founder of the Bulgarian State – Khan Asparuh (on horseback), who drives his sword into the ground saying these words: ‘Bulgaria will be here! – under this sky, on this land’. Dominating are natural stones combined with artificial smalt – golden, silver, red and black.

The Memorial Complex performs the following activities:

1. Guided tours in Bulgarian, Russian, German, English, French and Czech for the monument and Proto-Bulgarian yurt;
2. Information activities for the town and tourist sites near Shumen;
3. Sale of post cards, leaflets, etc .;
4. Wedding ceremonies;
5. Exhibitions of local artists and photographers;
6. Concerts;
7. Screenings of films with a historical, advertising and scientific theme;
8. Children's familiarization route "Assemble the Puzzle"



Location: Shumen

Working hours:

8:30-18:00 (Apr-May)

8:30-19:30 (Jun-Aug)

8:30-18:00 (Sep-Oct)

8:30-17:00 (Nov-Mar)

Contacts : +359 893 342 208

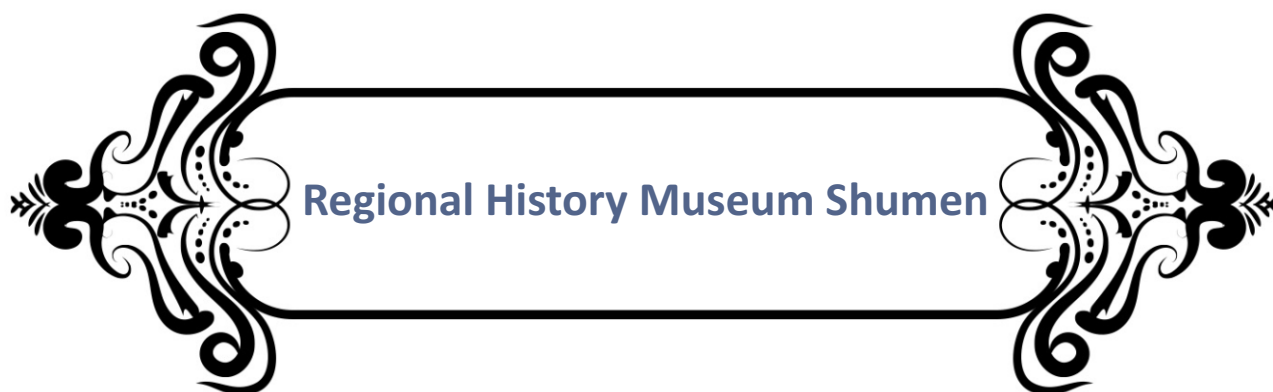
Entry fee: 4 BGN

Accessibility : Motor vehicle, public transport, not suitable for disabled people

Services : Tour guide, lectures in Bulgarian, Russian and English.

Website : <http://www.ab-bg.com/bg1300/>

Coordinates : N 43.261884 E 26.922925





Regional History Museum Shumen

Regional History Museum in Shumen was established in 1904. It is one of the most influencing institutions in the district center town with broad network of permanent expositions and sites. Its structure provides for nine detached departments and a scientific team. Its premises preserve more than 150 000 movable cultural monuments, 15 000 of which are exhibited in the eight exposition halls.

Temporary exhibitions are organized periodically. The museum has its own edition – “Journal of History Museum – Shumen”, the library has more than 25 000 units scientific literature and periodical editions, restoration-conservation ateliers and photo laboratory. It is carrying out explorations on the territory of Shumen Region.

Location: Shumen

Working hours: 10:00-18:00

Contacts : +359 899 903 838

Entry fee: 5 BGN

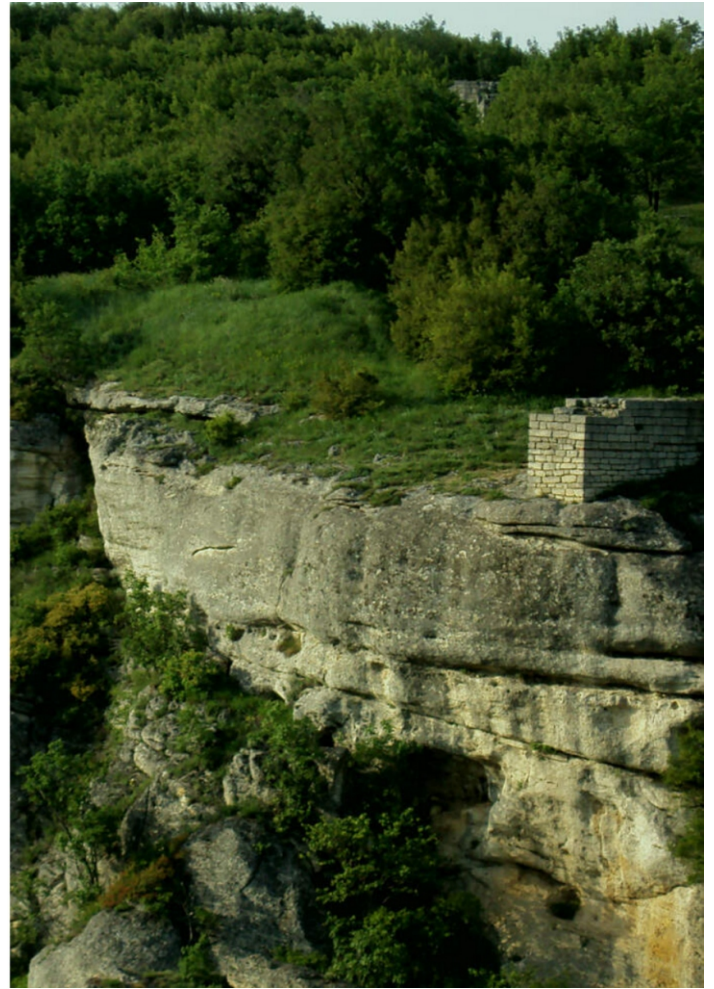
Accessibility: Motor vehicle, public transport, not suitable for disabled people

Services: Tour guide, lectures in Bulgarian, Russian and English.

Website: <https://museum-shumen.eu/>

Coordinates: N 43.270409 E 26.927922





The Madara national historical-archeological reserve

The Madara national historical-archeological reserve is located 17 km northeast of Shumen, 2 km from the village of Madara and 75 km from Varna.

First settled during the Neolithic Age (the late Stone Age), it has been occupied ever since. Over the centuries, rock sanctuaries were founded here, as were palaces and other habitations, fortresses, temples, hermits' retreats and monastic complexes, places for solitude and for communal celebrations. Visitors can observe evidence of the material and spiritual cultural development of many ethnic groups – the earliest inhabitants, Thracians, Romans, Byzantines, Slavs, Bulgars, Turks, and others. Today dozens of monuments and artifacts from all epochs can be seen.

Since ancient times, the Thracians used the plateau rocks for lodgings, similar to the primitive people. Besides such lodgings, other traces from the Thracians were discovered during the excavations of two tombs in the vicinity. They produce information about the commercial links of the local inhabitants with the Greek colonies along the Black Sea coastline.

Madara was a vital location during the Middle Ages – as the site of important historical gatherings connected with the founding of the Bulgarian State (7th century) and because of its proximity to the first capitals, Pliska and Preslav.

Apart from being farming center, here also a spiritual center was established, witnessed by the great number of pagan temples discovered during the explorations.

In the 14th century one of the largest cliff monasteries in Bulgaria was founded at Madara. More than 150 natural caves on the rock face were used as churches, chapels, monastic retreats, and gravesites. One of the largest caves was used as a church, and it continues to function to this day as the cliffside chapel “Saint Panteleymon”, which is open yet today.

The most notable monument at the Madara reserve is the unique stone relief known as the Madara Horseman. Carved on a massive cliff some 23 meters high, it is representative of early Medieval Bulgarian artistry. The relief depicts a horseman in a natural pose with a sword in his hand. At the feet of the horse is a lion, and behind the rider is depicted his hunting dog. Around it there are numerous inscriptions in Greek. The composition is in real dimensions and it symbolizes the triumph over the enemy and the most often assumptions are that the image is of the Bulgarian ruler Tervel (701 – 721).

The stone relief is the only one of its kind in Europe. In 1979, it was included on the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and in 2008 it was chosen as the national symbol of Bulgaria.

At the Madara reserve there is now an archeological museum that presents the history of the site during epochs of human habitation there. The museum opened in 1935. The exposition includes more than 350 original finds from the Madara region.

“Madara” was recognized as a national reserve by Decree 161 on 05.08.1958. At present the site is under the supervision of the regional historical museum in Shumen. The reserve includes all area protected as part of the Madara cliffs site, which covers an area of 3,691,336 hectares. It is recognized as a protected environment for all petrified remains and rare animal species.

The site is provided with parking facilities, toilets, and access for people with limited mobility, and it has a pavilion open to the public that sells informative materials and souvenirs.

Location: Madara

Working hours: 8:30-20:00 (Apr-Oct), 8:30-17:00 (Nov-Mar)

Contacts : +359 893 342 225

Entry fee: 4 BGN

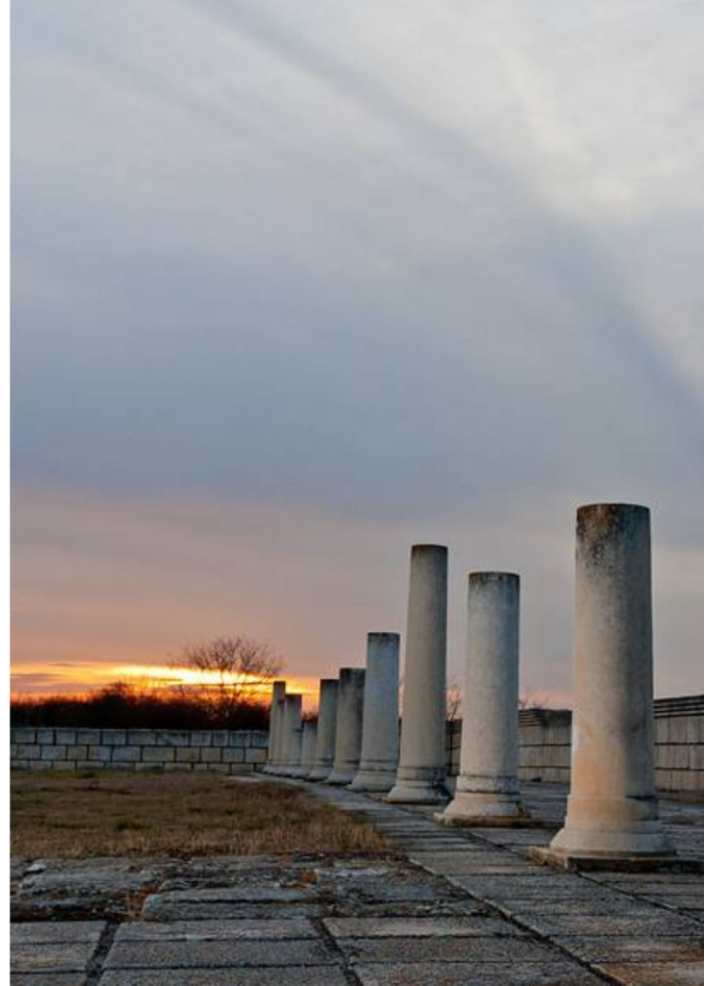
Accessibility: Motor vehicle, public transport

Services: Tour guide, lectures in Bulgarian, Russian and English.

Website: <https://museum-shumen.eu/>

Coordinates: N 43.277008 E 27.117209





The Pliska National Historical and Architectural Reserve, Pliska

Pliska is the capital of the First Bulgarian State during the period from 681 till 893. The Pliska National Historical and Architectural Reserve was declared an important national cultural and historical landmark in Issue № 46 of the State Decrees for 1970.

The first structures at Pliska date from the end of the 7th century. They were made of wood and either circular or rectangular. Some were living quarters, while others served different purposes. At the end of the 8th century and the beginning of the 9th century, buildings made of stone replaced those made of wood. The initial palace complex in Pliska was surrounded by a fortress wall and settlements of the common people were founded in the field around it.

The imperial compound at Pliska was rebuilt during the reign of Omurtag (814-831). A new throne room was built and a high brick wall was erected around the palace and the adjoining living quarters and fields. When Bulgaria accepted Christianity in 864 under King Boris I (reign 852-889), Pliska also underwent changes – the pagan temples were rebuilt as Christian churches and new churches were built.

The most impressive of those was The Great Basilica, remains of which can still be seen today. In 889, King Boris established a monastery, and its first prelate was the king's oldest son Vladimir (Rasate). However, when Vladimir attempted to re-introduce paganism he was blinded and imprisoned in a dungeon. In 893, Simeon I (reign 893-927) assumed the throne, and the capital was moved from Pliska to Preslav.

After that, Pliska lost its administrative and political importance and returned to its former status as an agricultural center. The city was particularly devastated by a massive invasion in 1048-1049.

Today visitors can still visit the Eastern Gate, once the main entrance to the castle. The gate is now a protected site.

About 1.5 km from the Gate is the Great Basilica. Tourists can also walk through the Imperial Palace, as the Omurtag Palace is called since that was its function when Bulgarian rulers occupied it during the first half of the 9th century. Also in the vicinity is the so-called "Small Palace." There is a museum located at the northeastern corner of the palace that displays artifacts discovered in the region, and in front of the museum, there is a rest area that offers coffee, nonalcoholic drinks, and packaged snacks.

The Pliska Reserve is maintained by the Shumen Regional Museum of History and is one of the country's 100 most important tourist destinations.



Location: Pliska

Working hours: 8:30-19:00 (Apr-Oct), 8:30-17:00 (Nov-Mar)

Contacts: +359 889 539 823

Entry fee: 5 BGN

Accessibility: Motor vehicle, public transport

Website: <https://xn----7sbb3acmfmvip.bg/>

Coordinates: N 43.231392 E 27.080616





Ovech Fortress, Provadia

Provadia is a settlement with over 15 centuries of history. The archeological dating refers the most ancient traces of human activity on the territory of the city to the 5th c. B.C. It is considered that the city was founded as a fortress and an outpost of Byzantine against the bellicose tribes invading from the north. The Byzantines called it Provat (pass or gorge). By the end of the 11th century the Bulgarians maintained the name Ovech probably because of the well-developed sheep-breeding in this region.

Ovech Fortress is a rock stronghold situated to the east of town Provadia. In the historical annals the fortress is known under several names. The oldest of them is the Byzantine name Provat. Bulgarians called it Ovech and the Turks – Tash Hisar (translated – stone fortress).





The archeological explorations discovered that the stronghold was used from the 3rd century until the first decades of the 7th century and after that from the 10-11th century until the end of the 17th century. The fortress was inhabited consecutively by Thracians, Romans, Byzantines, Bulgarian, Turks. Its name is connected with the rule of Tsar Ivaylo (1277-1280), the campaign of Count of Savoy Amadeus VI Savoy (1366) and the campaign of the Polish-Hungarian King Wladyslaw III Jagello (Varnenchik) (1444). Visiting the fortress in the stone stronghold, one can see also the talking well 79 m deep, the Bishop's Church, the prison of the knights, the tower with the devil's path and the Monks' Holes.

Location: Provadia

Working time: 09:00-18:00 all year round

Contacts: +359 518 420 33

Entry fee: 6 BGN

Accessibility: Motor vehicle. Not suitable for disabled people

Services: Tour guide

Website: <http://www.museum-provadia.com/>

Coordinates: N 43.175706 E 27.447694

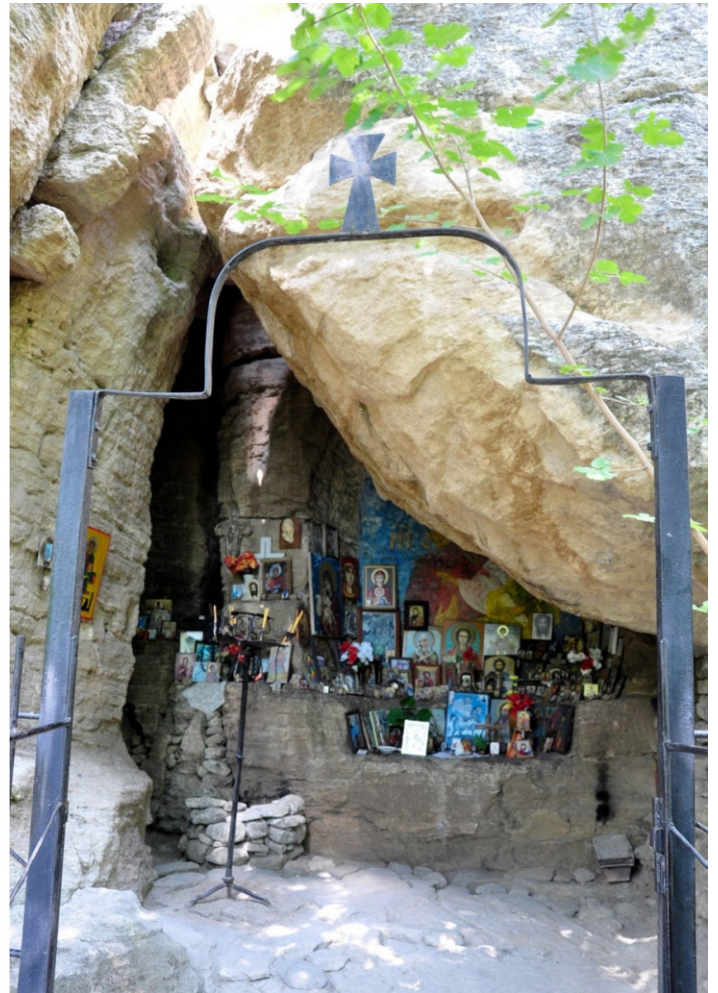




Historical site Rock Monasteries, Provadia

The rock monasteries of Provadia are scattered all over the surroundings of town Provadia (at 47 km away from Varna) and they represent an enormous complex of churches and cells cut into the rocks. These cloisters thrived during the 12th – 13th century, when they sheltered the Hesychast monks. In the closest vicinity of Provadia are the monasteries in the localities Shashkunita (to the north of Ovech fortress and Tabiite plateau), Gradishte (at 1.5 km away to the north), Sara Kaya (on the western rock ridge above the town itself), Chukara, Tabanite, etc.

Rock monastery in “Kara Peshtera” locality near village Manastir is situated at 2.3 km to the northwest of the village center. It is assumed that the monastery is dated 12th – 14th . The cloister consists of several above ground and underground rooms. Most impressive is a big cave with elliptical shape and arch ceiling, the so called ‘Kara’ (black) cave. The length of the ellipse is 40 m and the height of the arch in the front part is 5 m. in the middle of the cave there is a niche resembling a small altar. It was proclaimed a cultural monument of local significance (State Gazette № 16/1968).



Rock monastery 'St. George' is situated at 2 km to the southeast of village Petrov Dol, 'Tash Kaynardzha' locality, on the bottom of a woody ravine. It consists of a wooden chapel and a cell-ossuary cut in the rocks at 6-7 m height. It is dated 12th – 14th c. It was proclaimed a cultural monument of local significance (State Gazette № 16/1968).

Rock monastery in 'Shashkunita' locality. Situated at 300 m above quarter North of town Provadia. There are no scientific publications. It is assumed that it is dated 12th – 14th c. It consists of 10 cells situated individually and in groups at about 30 m height. Three cells form the first group, followed by two independent and a second group of five cells. There are no traces of inscriptions or Christian circles there. In 2007 a rope bridge was built to the cloister.

Location: Provadia

Contacts: +359 518 420 33

Accessibility: Motor vehicle. Not suitable for disabled people

Services: Tour guide

Website: <http://www.museum-provadia.com/>

Coordinates: N 43.194085 E 27.460629





History site Rava Monastery, Provadia

Rava Monastery is a literary centre since the dawn of the Bulgarian writing (9th – 11th c.). It is situated at 11 km to the northwest from Provadia, near Rava railway station. It was explored in the 80s.

The most important find there is the enormous quantity of inscriptions and rock drawings. Researches discovered about 280 inscriptions in old-Greek, old-Bulgarian and Latin and a four digit number of drawings of animals, crosses, figures of saints and shamans, riders, ships, geometric and floral ornaments, etc.

The most important building in the monastery is 'St. Holy Mother' Church. It blinds the visitor with the whiteness of its masonry from small well cut limestone blocks, bound along the joints with red mortar. It is distinguished by its ornamentation of marble details – bases, columns, capitals, altar barriers. Other important buildings are: baths with water pipeline, sewer and hypocaust, a school, residential premises, workshops, a barn, toilet rooms, etc. The monastery has surrounding wall with towers and two gates. Its area is 8 decares and it was built probably with the permission of the ruler.

Location Provadia

Contacts +359 518 420 33





TOPKAPI PALACE MUSEUM - SULTANAHMET

Topkapı Palace, which is located in the center of the Historical Peninsula and used as the administrative center for 400 years of the 600 years of the Ottoman Empire, is still the heart of Istanbul with all its glory. Topkapı Palace, which was one of the most established historical buildings in the world and built by Fatih Sultan Mehmet in 1478, continues to be used as a museum today. Topkapı Palace, one of the richest museums in the world, attracts the attention of tourists regardless of weekdays or weekends. Topkapı Palace Museum, which is also one of the most visited museums of domestic tourists, contains artifacts from different collections such as hırka-i saadet department, sacred relics, imperial treasure, European porcelains, sultan caftans, silvers and portrait collections.

Topkapı Palace, which is on the UNESCO World Heritage List, has four courtyards and harem departments. The rare miniature and calligraphy arts and spoonmaker's diamond from the Ottoman era on the side of the Enderun Courtyard are among the most interesting works.

Useful Information

Address: Sultanahmet City Square, Fatih / İstanbul

Website: www.millisaraylar.gov.tr/saraylar/topkapi-sarayi





İSTANBUL ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM-SULTANAHMET

Istanbul Archeology Museums is a museum complex consisting of three main units. Archeology Museum, Ancient Orient Museum and Tiled Pavilion Museum.

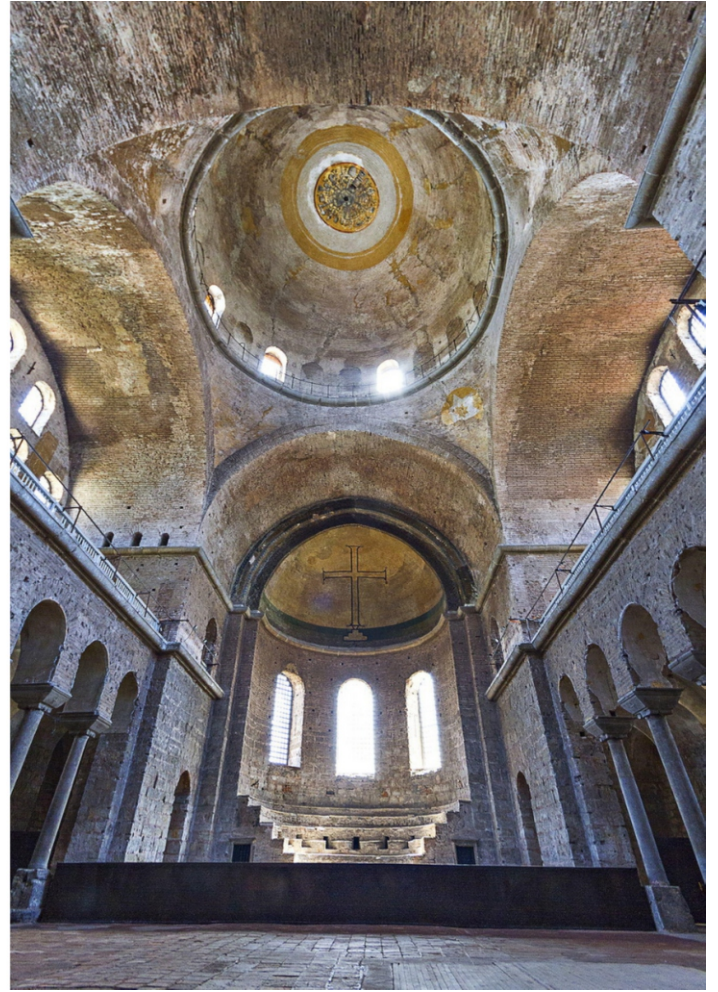
Turkey's first museum Istanbul Archaeological Museum's collection includes works brought from the imperial lands, belonging to various cultures; there are nearly one million works that contain Paleolithic, Neolithic, Chalcolithic, Early, middle and late bronze period, Helen, Roman and Byzantine periods.

Useful Information

Address:

Cankurtaran District, 34122 Fatih / İstanbul





HAGIA IRENE MONUMENT MUSEUM-SULTANAHMET

Located in the first courtyard of the Topkapı Palace, the Hagia Irene Museum was built by Constantine as the Church of the Hagia Irene over the Roman temples in 330s, as well as a forum, palace and hippodrome when rebuilding the city. The church is a Byzantine building, and the building was burned and destroyed for a period and was rebuilt as a church in VI. century during the reign of Emperor Justinianus. Hagia Irene, one of the churches that were not converted into a mosque after the conquest of Istanbul, was first used as a warehouse and then utilized as military museums and the place where art performances were held. Today, classical and jazz concerts are organized at Hagia Irene, which is used as a museum.

Useful information

Address: Cankurtaran District, Topkapı Palace 1.Courtyard, 34122 Fatih/İstanbul

Website: <https://istanbul.ktb.gov.tr/TR-165578/ayairini-kilisesi-muzesi.html>

Visit times: It changes periodically. Organized concerts and open times should be checked on the website.

Entrance Fee: Hagia Irene entrance fees are full ticket 30 TL, discount ticket 60 TL.





BASILICA CISTERN- SULTAN AHMET

One of the magnificent historical buildings of Istanbul is the Basilica Cistern located in the southwest of Hagia Sophia. Built by the Byzantine Emperor I. Justinianus (527-565), this large underground cistern was named as the "Basilica Palace" among the people because of the marble columns rising from the water and seen as countless. Since there was a Basilica in the place where the cistern is located, it is also known as the Basilica Cistern. The Basilica Cistern, which covered a large area in this area during the Byzantine period and provided water to the great palace where the emperor resided and other residents in the region, was used for a while after the conquest of Istanbul by the Ottomans in 1453 and water was given to the gardens of the Topkapı Palace where the sultans lived.

Useful Information

Address: Alemdar Yerebatan Cd. 1/3 34110 Fatih/İstanbul

Website: www.yerebatan.com

Visit times: Winter (31 October – 1 April): 09:00-18:00. Ticket office closing time: 17:30

Summer (1 April – 31 October): 09:00-19:00. Ticket office closing time: 18:30

Entrance fee: The museum is open to visitors every day between 09.00 - 17.30 and the entrance fee is 5 TL for students, 10 TL for Turkish citizens and 20 TL for foreign tourists.

* The museumcard is not valid at the entrance





TURKISH AND ISLAMIC WORKS MUSEUM - SULTANAHMET

The Istanbul Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum is the first museum in Turkey to cover the Turkish-Islamic arts all together. It is located in İbrahim Pasha Palace, one of the important structures of Ottoman civil architecture. The museum, which underwent a restoration in 2012, received the European Council Museum of the Year Competition Special Jury Prize in 1984 and the Council of Europe UNESCO's award for popularizing the cultural heritage to children in 1985. The museum, which exhibits rare examples of Abbasid, Memluk, Seljuk and Ottoman periods, has been collected from different corners of the Islamic world. The museum is known for having one of the best carpet collections in the world. In addition to carpet collections, Museum also stands out with its manuscripts, which are rare works of art. Glassware, stone and terracotta artifacts, and metal and ceramic objects are other valuable pieces on display.

Museum of Turkish and Islamic Art that should be visited by those who will visit Istanbul, includes nearly 13,000 works and it is the last museum opened during the Ottoman Empire.

Useful Information

Address:

Sultanahmet Meydanı, No:46, 34122 Fatih / İstanbul





CHORA MUSEUM-EDİRNEKAPI – FATİH

The Chora Museum was built in the 5th century during the reign of Emperor Justinianus. It was used as a palace church and chapel in important religious ceremonies. It was converted into a mosque in 1511 and a museum in 1945. The Chora Museum, known worldwide for its well-preserved mosaics and frescoes, offers important and beautiful examples of the last period of Eastern Roman painting. In the outer narthex (usually the western entrance section in the Eastern Roman basilica and churches), there are mosaics describing Hz. Jesus' life and mosaics describing Hz. Mary's life in the inner narthex. Frescoes with a lively narrative also depict important scenes from Christian theology. Dış nartekste (Doğu Roma bazilika ve kiliselerinde genellikle batı giriş bölümü) Hz. İsa'nın hayatı, iç nartekste ise Hz. Meryem'in hayatını anlatan mozaikler bulunuyor. Canlı bir anlatıma sahip olan freskler de Hristiyan teolojisinden önemli sahneleri betimliyor.

Useful Information

Address:

Dervişali Chora Mosque St. No:18 34087 Fatih/İstanbul





RAHMI KOÇ MUSEUM – HASKÖY - BEYOĞLU

Opened to visitors in 1994, Rahmi M. Koç Museum is located in the Hasköy district on the northern side of the Golden Horn. Spreading over an area of approximately 27 thousand square meters today, the museum consists of three main sections: Mustafa V. Koç Building / Historical Lengerhane Building, Historical Hasköy Shipyard and Open Air Exhibition Area. The museum collection includes the widest range of examples of industrial heritage in communication and transportation.

Useful Information

Address:

Piri Paşa District Hasköy Street No:5 D:No:5 34445 Beyoğlu/İstanbul

Website:

<http://www.rmkmuseum.org.tr/istanbul/hakkimizda/rahmi-mkoc-muzeleri>

Visit times:

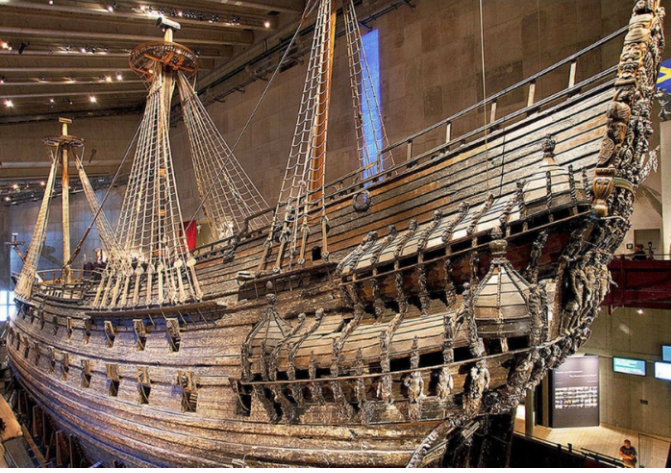
Winter (1 October – 31 March): 09:30-17:00

Summer (1 April – 30 September): 09:30-19:00

Closed on Mondays

The museum is closed on the eve and the first day of the Religious Holidays and on the dates of 31 December and 1 January each year.





NAVAL MUSEUM - BEŞİKTAŞ

Existing as Turkey's biggest museum in maritime field and one of the world's leading museum in terms of collection diversity, Maritime Museum was founded on August 31, 1897 and after serving in different places for various reasons, it has been in service in the current place on October 4, 2013. First military museum established in Turkey, İstanbul Maritime Museum includes approximately 20,000 works. Among these works, the Ottoman boats and the boats used by Ghazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk are among the works to be seen.

Useful Information

Address: Sinanpaşa District, Beşiktaş St. 6/1, 34353 Beşiktaş/İstanbul

Website: <https://denizmuzesi.dzkk.tsk.tr/tr>

Visit times:

The Naval Museum is closed on New Year's Day, the first day of religious holidays and Mondays; It is open to visitors between 09:00 - 17:00 on weekdays and between 10:00 - 18:00 on weekends. There is no visitor entrance to the museum after 16.00 on weekdays and 17.00 on weekends.

Entrance fee:

Entrance fee to the museum is: full ticket 12 TL, free for students. In the museum, a fee of 23 TL is required for photo shooting and 46 TL for video shooting.





SAKIP SABANCI MUSEUM – EMİRGAN - SARIYER

Sabancı University Sakıp Sabancı Museum is located in Emirgan, one of the oldest settlements of the Bosphorus in Istanbul. The main building of the museum, the villa was built in 1925 by Prince Mehmed Ali Hasan, from an Egyptian Hidiv family, to Italian architect Edoardo De Nari and used as a summer residence for many years by different members of the Hidiv family. The mansion bought from the Hidiv family by the industrialist Hacı Ömer Sabancı from Adana in 1951, started to be known as the "Horse Mansion" due to horse sculpture dated 1864 and made by the French sculptor Louis Doumas, which was purchased and placed in front of it in the same year. The second horse statue within Horse Mansion is the casting of one of the 4 horses taken from the Sultanahmet square, which was looted by the Crusaders during the 4th Crusade in 1204, and placed in front of the San Marco church in Venice. The exhibition areas of the Museum, which was opened to visitors in 2002 with the addition of a modern gallery, were expanded with the arrangements in 2005 and reached international standards at a technical level.

Useful Information

Address: Emirgan, Sakıp Sabancı St. No:42, 34467, Sarıyer/İstanbul

Website: www.sakipsabancimuzesi.org/tr/sayfa/ziyaret





ESKİHİSAR CASTLE – ESKİHİSAR - GEBZE

Eskihisar Castle built before 1241, is in the north east of Eskihisar Village, which controlled the passage in the south of Izmit Bay in ancient times. It is believed that the castle was built in the Byzantine Period to protect the harbor. The castle, which was also used by the Ottomans, was restored in 1998. The castle has Byzantine cistern with 8 columns, 15 domes and a theater stage with a capacity of 1025 people. The entrance of the castle has been opened for concert events. It is 50 kilometers from Istanbul and 45 kilometers from the center of Izmit.

Useful Information

Address:

Eskihisar, Eskihisar Castle, Gebze/Kocaeli





ATATÜRK AND REDİF MUSEUM – İZMİT- KOCAELİ

It is known that the Izmit Redif Office was first built by Izmit Governor Hasan Pasha with Kasr-ı Hümayun during the period of Sultan Abdülaziz (1861–1876). It was restored in 2011 and opened to service under the name Atatürk and Redif Museum. In the hall where the National Struggle times are exhibited, there is a panel with the photograph of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and his fellow soldiers and the words of Mustafa Kemal's about Izmit in 1922. In the Ottoman period, the hand-drawn decoration of the Redif Department, one of the military structures built for Redif (those who were taken in tow after performing his military service), is important. Although it was built as a military building, Turkish people's spiritual richness and the great importance given to art stand out in the decorations. It is possible to see the works belonging to the Ottoman and Republican period together in the worthseeing museum.

Useful Information

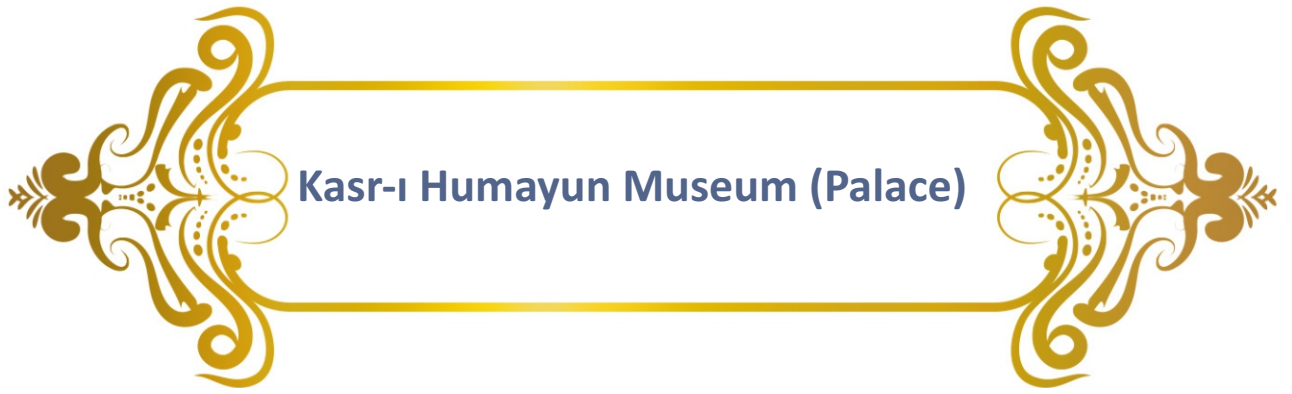
Address: Kemalpaşa District, İnönü St. 80-1, 41200

Website: muze.gov.tr/muzedetay?SectionId=KCA01&DistId=MRK

Visit times:

Open except Saturday-Sunday

Entrance fee: Entrance is free of charge.





KASR-I HUMAYUN MUSEUM (PALACE) – KEMALPAŞA - İZMİT

Kasr-ı Hümayun meaning the palace of the Sultan, was first built on wooden foundations during the IV. Murat Period but it was understood that it collapsed due to earthquake and fire. The building that reached today is the palace built during the period of Sultan Abdülaziz (1861-1876). The palace attracts attention with its interior features as well as its exterior features. Stylized rumi and palmette motifs are used in the ceiling decorations of the ground floor. The interior flooring is made in an anthropic style. One of the most remarkable features in the structure are mirrors. These mirrors, which are similar to each other and crowned with pediments, bear the characteristics of the Ampir style. Its marble workmanship ceiling decorations and its large columns remind us of a small example of Dolmabahçe Palace. It is easily accessible by car and on foot from the city center.

Useful Information

Address:

Kemal Paşa Mah. Saray Slope İzmit/Kocaeli

Website:

www.kulturportali.gov.tr/turkiye/kocaeli/gezil





KONURALP ETHNOGRAPHY MUSEUM– ÇİFTEPINAR DISTRICT – KONURALP

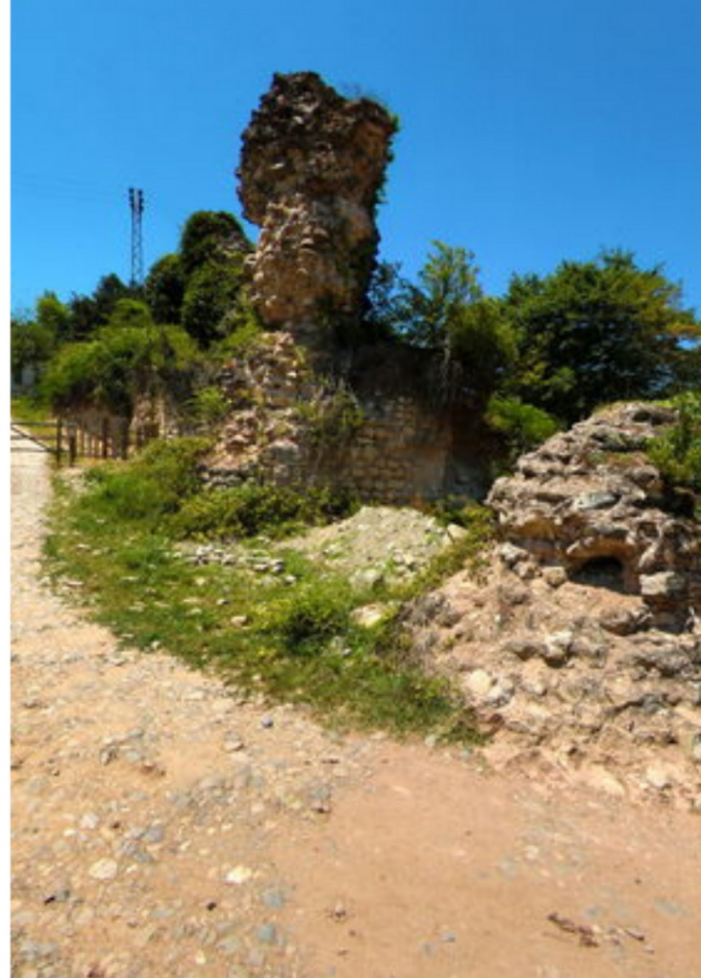
Tykhe Statue is exhibited in the mülaki archeology hall within Konuralp Ancient City and its original is exhibited in the Istanbul Archeology Museum. The Tykhe, the goddess of fate, fortune and success, with a rich ornament, has a crown on the head representing the city wall decorated with olive leaves. He carries a child named Plutos, a symbol of wealth, with a cornucopia horn filled with various fruits on his left arm. Tykhe is one of the daughters of Okeanos and is the goddess of fate, luck, success. The museum, which was established to preserve the rich cultural heritage of the Prusias ad Hypium Ancient City, was opened to visitors in 2003. It consists of 3 exhibition halls, 1 laboratory, 2 warehouses, 1 conference hall and administrative departments. The museum has a total of 6,237 works, including 1,848 archaeological sites, 491 ethnographic and 3,898 coins.

Useful Information

Address:

Konuralp Çiftepınarlar District Cumhuriyet Street No:50 DÜZCE





KEMERKASIM EQUEDUCT – KEMER KASIM VILLAGE – CENTER

It is located in Düzce province, Central district, Kemerkasım village, 124 section, 7 parcels and non-deed area. was It is registered as second group monument. The length of the aqueducts, which is 10 km away from the ancient city Prusias ad Hypium, is 160 m in length and about 20 m in height. Only the foot parts of the equeducts, which were built as two layers of mixed cut and rubble stone with Khorasan mortar, have survived to the present day. The surface area of the aqueducts belonging to the Hellenistic and Roman periods is 5672,11 m2.

Useful Information

Address: Düzce Province Center Kemerkasım Village

Website: www.kulturportali.gov.tr/turkiye/duzce/kulturenvanteri/kemer-kasim-su-kemerler

Visit times: Outdoor facility

Entrance Fee: No entrance fee





GENOESE CASTLE - HACIYUSUFLAR – AKÇAKOCA

Genoese Castle was constructed on a cliff between two bays, 2.5 kilometers west of Düzce Akçakoca District. On the south of the castle, in the east and west direction, there is a high tower in the middle of the walls and a water cistern in the inner courtyard. The brick and mortar used in the castle are similar to the brick and mortar used in other Genoese Castles.

Genoese Castle and its surroundings coming from the Hellenistic, Roman and Eastern Roman periods, have been registered as Archaeological and Natural Sites by the Decision of Ankara Cultural and Natural Heritage Conservation Board. It has written its name on the UNESCO World Heritage Temporary List under the name of 'Fortress and Walled Settlements from the Mediterranean to the Black Sea on the Genoese Trade Road'. Genoese fortress is one of the rare centers in the region, which offers the aesthetics of history and nature together with its position above the sea and near the sea. It has two separate beaches with blue flags in the east and west. One of the beaches called Yalıyarlar is known as seal rocks because it contains caves along the coast and attracts attention

Address:

Hacıusufklar District 81650 Akçakoca DÜZCE





CEHENNEMAĞZI CAVES (CHURCH CAVE) – EREĞLİ

Cehennemagzı Caves, which is accepted as ruins under Ereğli Museum, consist of three caves lined up side by side. The first cave is arranged in two sections. In the first section, the floor is paved with an original plant and a geometric motif mosaic. A small abscissa was opened on the eastern wall of the second section and there are stepped steps in front of it. This cave, which is a very old Christian church, was used as a secret place of worship in the early years when Christianity spread. The third cave is the largest in terms of surface area. The floor is covered with ground water. The cave built by human hands served as a water cistern for the first and second caves.

Columns, column heads, mosaic floor and oil lamp slots in the first of the Cehennemagzı Caves and also known as the church cave, shows that the cave was used as the secret worship center by the first Christians when paganism was dominant and Christianity was forbidden. The ruins in this cave are decorated with motifs bearing the traces of the Early-Christian Period.

Useful Information

Address: Hüseyin Karadeniz St. Ereğli/Zonguldak.





AMASRA MUSEUM – KUM - AMASRA

The frequent emergence of portable old artifacts in Amasra, which is an ancient settlement center, and its surroundings, created the idea of establishing a museum here. Archaeological and ethnographic works collected since 1955 started to be exhibited first in the Town Hall and since 1982 in the present Museum Building. The museum, which has four halls, displays Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine and Genoese, Ottoman-era artifacts and Amasra's archaeological and ethnographic artifacts. Also; there is a Mediterranean map dated 1852 and printed in the Palace Printing House in the corridor of the museum, and there are stone works from the Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, Genoese and Ottoman periods in the garden of the museum. The museum attracts the attention of cultural tourists with its historical, archaeological and cultural collections indoors and outdoors.

Useful Information

Address:

Kum, Çamlık St. No:4, 74300 Amasra/Bartın

TYPES OF CLIENTS TARGETED

ORIGIN

local
national
international
(DE, HU, IL)

AGE

20-40 years old
middle aged
(40-59 years
old)

BUDGET

medium budget
high budget

TRAVELER PROFILE



Motivated cultural tourist

higher education background
medium to high income
considerable interest in culture
considerable interest in social and environmental issues

Incidental cultural tourist

This group likes to add cultural components to their holiday. However, they have another primary reason for their trip. They may participate in cultural activities that fit their plans

MARKETING STRATEGY



ONLINE

1. Promotion on website and social media accounts
2. Integration of social media influencers and support of local population and local tourism stakeholders
3. Promotion and partnership with tourism digital newspapers and tourism blogs
4. PDF guidebook and mobile app



OFFLINE

1. Promotion via billboards, leaflets at hotels and restaurants, partnership with tourism offices
2. Establishing partnerships with tour operators and local tourism service providers

NEW PRODUCTS / SERVICES RECOMMENDED



1. The integration of archaeological sites with gastronomical tourism

Ex. : Tavola Mediteranea <https://tavolamediterranea.com>

2. Virtual reality shows in certain archaeological sites

**Agency of Sustainable Development and European
Integration “Lower Danube” Euroregion”**

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Joint Operational Programme Black Sea Basin 2014-2020
Agency of Sustainable Development and European Integration “Lower Danube” Euroregion”

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