

# ROUTE 2

## „ARCHITECTURE AND CRAFTSMANSHIP OF BULGARIA“

DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM ROUTES COVERING THE ELIGIBLE  
TERRITORY OF BULGARIA UNDER JOINT OPERATIONAL  
PROGRAMME BLACK SEA BASIN 2014-2020

under Project “Development of Sustainable Cultural Tourism in  
the Black Sea Basin”, CULTOUR-BSB, reference number: BSB-  
117, Grant contract ENI No. 100708/05.09.2018 funded under  
the Joint Operational Programme “Black Sea Basin 2014-2020”.

Activity A.T.2.1 “Development of regional tourism routes in the  
CULTOUR-BSB countries”

Result D.T2.1.1. “Developed 25 regional tourism routes in the  
project partner countries”

Beneficiary: Sozopol Municipality, Bulgaria

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This tourism route is a part of activity A.T.2.1 “Development of regional tourism routes in the CULTOUR-BSB countries”, deliverable D.T2.1.1. “Developed 25 regional tourism routes in the project partner countries”, part of work package T2 “Development of regional and cross-border tourism routes”, project “Development of Sustainable Cultural Tourism in the Black Sea Basin”, CULTOUR-BSB, reference number: BSB-117. The project is implemented according to the Grant contract from ENI No. 100708/05.09.2018 signed between the Ministry of Regional Development and the public administration acting as Managing Authority (MA) of the Joint Operational Programme “Black Sea Basin 2014-2020” and Sozopol Municipality in its capacity of Lead Beneficiary.

CULTOUR-BSB falls within the scope of Specific Objective 1: Promote business and entrepreneurship within the Black Sea Basin, Priority 1.1: Jointly promote business and entrepreneurship in the tourism and cultural sectors

### Project partners

The project consortium includes 6 partners from 5 countries of the Black Sea basin:

- Sozopol Municipality, Bulgaria (Lead Beneficiary),
- Constanta Municipality, Romania (Project Beneficiary 2),
- ECOCENTER for Environmental Protection, Georgia (Project Beneficiary 3),
- Agency of Sustainable Development and European Integration “Lower Danube Euroregion”, Ukraine (Project Beneficiary 4),
- Executive Committee of Izmail City Council, Ukraine (Project Beneficiary 5),
- Düzce Governorship, Turkey (Project Beneficiary 6).

### Project overall and specific objectives

The project aims at joint development and promotion of the cross-border business opportunities in the tourism sector with an emphasis on the cultural segment of the market within the Black Sea Basin.

### Specific objectives

- Improved cooperation between the countries in the BSB and enhanced exchange of knowledge and communication between all relevant stakeholders in the tourism sector;
- Building stronger cross-border business opportunities in the cultural tourism within the BSB;
- Enhanced attractiveness of tourism sector through small scale investments in the BSB region and through the use of new technologies and interactive tools for promotionGroup of activities;

## Activities

- GA M Project management and coordination
- GA T1 Development of joint strategy for cross-border tourism promotion
- GA T2 Development of national and cross-border tourism routes
- GA T3 Development of interactive web-based platform for tourism promotion
- GA I1 Enhance attractiveness of cultural site in Sozopol, Bulgaria
- GA I2 Enhance attractiveness cultural site in Izmail, Ukraine
- GA I3 Enhance attractiveness and promotion of cultural and historical site in Düzce, Turkey
- GA C Communication

## Expected results

- Building stronger cross-border business opportunities in the tourism sector in the Black Sea Basin (BSB). Through the implementation of the project activities (conduction of 5 national seminars, development of an Analysis of tourism potential, Joint Strategy for cross-border tourism promotion, creation of 5 national routes per country or total 25, creation of 15 cross-border tourism routes in the Black Sea Region) will be obtained sustainable economic and business growth as well as stimulated business cooperation. The result will have positive impact on building prosperity and competitiveness of the region and higher levels of employment and income in the BSB.
- Development of a sustainable Joint strategy for cross-border tourism promotion that will cover the eligible programme territory of Bulgaria, Romania, Georgia, Ukraine and Turkey.
- Fifteen (15) jointly developed cross-border tourism routes involving 2-5 countries. This result will encourage inter-flows of visitors coming from other regions and countries and will contribute the establishment of the Black Sea region as a cultural destination.
- Conduction of twelve (12) cross border tourism events organised using ENI support.
- Three (3) small scale improvements to cultural and historical sites that will enhance the attractiveness of the cultural and historical sites in Bulgaria, Ukraine and Turkey.

**Total project budget: EUR 957 792.24**, co-funded by the programme are EUR 881 168.86

- Lead partner Sozopol Municipality, Bulgaria: EUR 237 026.24
- Partner 2 Constanta Municipality, Romania: EUR 118 169.00
- Partner 3 ECOCENTER for Environmental Protection, Georgia: EUR 129

047.00

- Partner 4 Agency of Sustainable Development and European Integration “Lower Danube Euroregion”, Ukraine: EUR 128 520.00
- Partner 5 Executive Committee of Izmail City Council, Ukraine: EUR 141 334.00
- Partner 6 Düzce Governorship, Turkey: EUR 203 696.00

**Project target groups** are 365 organizations established in Bulgaria, Romania, Georgia, Ukraine and Turkey, including:

- Local public authorities: 25 municipalities and 25 municipal councils,
- Regional public authorities: 25 regional administrations,
- National public authorities: 5 Ministries of Tourism and 5 Ministries of Economy or equal,
- Business support organizations: 25 business support associations in the fields of economy, tourism and environmental protection,
- Stakeholders including NGOs: 70 NGOs in the field of social economy, tourism and environmental protection,
- SMEs: 150 private sector organizations, including tour agencies, tour operators, hotels, restaurants and other services providers in the field of tourism,
- Infrastructure and public services providers: 10 infrastructure and public services providers,
- Others: 30 museums and historical associations.

Activity A.T.2.1 “Development of regional tourism routes in the CULTOUR-BSB countries” aims at creating new opportunities for the business and promotion of additional employment in the tourism sector. The integration of activities and attractions in several united routes shall facilitate the cooperation and encourage the economic growth. The general attractiveness of the Black Sea Basin region shall be enhanced as destination through presenting of new attractions and characteristics of the destinations to its visitors in view of increasing the number of tourist, extending the average duration of their stay and the total expenses.



## 2. MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ROUTE

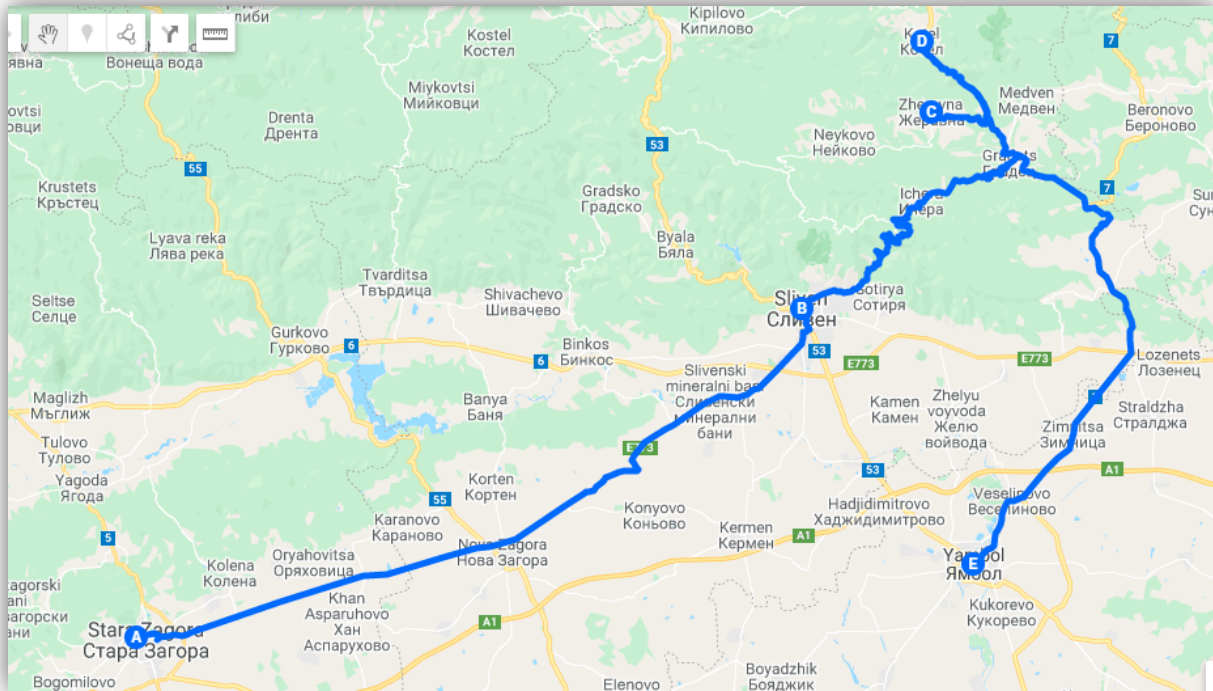
**Starting point:** town Stara Zagora, district Stara Zagora

**End point:** town Yambol, district Yambol

**Duration:** 5 days

**Transport accessibility:** car, bicycle, public transport

**Season:** all year round



- A. Antique Forum Augusta Trajana, Stara Zagora**  
Regional History Museum, Stara Zagora  
Neolithic Dwellings Museum, town Stara Zagora  
House Museum "Urban life of the XIX century", Stara Zagora
- B. Regional Historical Museum, Sliven**  
House-museum of the Old Sliven Popular Customs  
Museum of Textile Industry, Sliven  
Museum House “Hadzhi Dimitar”, Sliven
- C. Zheravna Architectural-Historical Reserve**  
Museum of Kotel Awakening, Kotel  
Pantheon of Georgi Stoykov Rakovski, Kotel
- D. Yambol Historical Museum**  
Antique City Kabile, Yambol

### 3. SITES

#### DAY 1

##### Antique Forum Augusta Trajana, Stara Zagora

The Forum of the Ancient Roman City of Augusta Trajana is an archeological site in the central part of Stara Zagora. The site was discovered after construction works in the area of the Judicial Chamber in the city.

The forum was located in the southwestern fortified part of the Roman city, the center of the socio-political, economic and cultural life of the city and an important place to discuss the general city issues.

The complex comprises:

- western gate of Augusta Trajana;
- parts of the two fortress walls of the antique and Medieval town;
- moat around the town;
- square space with pedestal for emperor’s equestrian statue;
- amphitheatric auditorium;
- the trace of *decumanus maximus* (one of the main streets in the antique town direction east-west);
- the south façade of the town thermae.

The antique forum complex is one of the most monumental facilities in the Roman town of Augusta Trajana. The founder of the town was Emperor Trajan (98-117) after whom it was named. Trajan performed large-scale urbanizing activity, but the war he led in 114-117 against the Parthian Empire hindered him to build up the city.

Today at the antique forum a tribune for spectators was built and the forum is used for a number of opera, theatre, ballet and festival performances.

Visits are only organized after prior request to the Regional History Museum in Stara Zagora.

<b>Location</b>	Stara Zagora	<b>Accessibility</b>	<b>Motor vehicle</b>
<b>Working time</b>	10:00-18:00	<b>Services</b>	Tour guide, lectures in Bulgarian, Russian and English.
<b>Contacts</b>	+359 42 919215	<b>Website</b>	rim@museum.starazagora.net
<b>Entry fee</b>	free of charge	<b>Coordinates</b>	N 42.42713 E 25.62488

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## Regional History Museum, Stara Zagora

The Regional History Museum in Stara Zagora is situated in the town center. The region of Stara Zagora was inhabited since the hoary antiquity and the glass-cases of the museum retrace the historical epochs. The earliest traces of life are from the Neolithic epoch - 6<sup>th</sup> millennium B.C. A special map show the location of over 120 prehistoric settlement mounds discovered by the moment in the region around the town, five of the mounds being situated within the limits of the modern town.

Horn, bone and flint tools are exhibited, ceramic vessels of interesting forms and decorations. The Roman period had historical significance for the development of Stara Zagora region, starting in 46 A.D., when the region was conquered by the Romans. In 107, after his victory over the Dacians, Emperor Trajan passed through this area and decided to build a city under the Roman standard, which called Augusta Trajana. The town was semiautonomous, it has its own city council and national assembly. From this period, the museum keeps impressive exhibits discovered during excavations - glass, bronze lamps, statues, jewelry, coins.

During the construction works of the new museum building, the workers happened on an interesting find - right in the foundations of the building they discovered part of the main street of the Roman city - *cardo maximus* - which connected the South and the North gates of the city. The section discovered under the museum was situated at just 30 meters away from the South Gate in the fortress wall that surrounded Augusta Trajana. Experts restored and conserved it and today it could be seen on the ground floor level of the museum. The street is about 6 m wide and there are stone sidewalks on both sides, with which the width reaches 11 m. the exhibited street is decorated as in the past with columns, statues and stone reliefs, and a painted panel on the wall depicts its extension to the missing today South Gate of the city.

The other exhibition halls in the museum follow up the history of the town and its fate during the Late Antiquity, the Middle Ages and the National Revival until the time of the great fire in 1877, which almost entirely destroyed it. In the summer of 1877, near Stara Zagora one of the biggest battles during the Russo-Turkish War (1877-1878) took place. Despite the bravery and the heroism of the Russian soldiers and Bulgarian volunteer corps, the Ottoman armies lead by Suleyman Pasha captured the town and burned it to the ground. After the Liberation, on 5 October 1879 the first stone for the recovery of the town was placed. This date became the official holiday of the town reviving for new life from the ashes.

Various informational materials and souvenirs are sold in the museum.



<b>Location</b>	Stara Zagora	<b>Accessibility</b>	Motor vehicle, public transport
<b>Working time</b>	9:00-18:00 (Tuesday-Sunday)	<b>Services</b>	Tour guide, lectures in Bulgarian, Russian and English.
<b>Contacts</b>	+359 42 919 214	<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://www.rimstz.eu/">https://www.rimstz.eu/</a>
<b>Entry fee</b>	5 lv.	<b>Coordinates</b>	N 42.42659 E 25.62783

### Neolithic Dwellings Museum, Stara Zagora

The Neolithic Dwellings Museum is situated in Stara Zagora and contains finds that are extremely important for the history of mankind. It exhibits the two best-preserved Neolithic dwellings in Europe that date back to the 6th millennium BC.

The Neolithic Dwellings Museum is located in situ, i.e. it is built on the archaeological site in order to protect the discovery. During archeological research in 1969 the remains of a scorched house were found, which is one of the most well-preserved and containing richest inventory two-storey residential buildings in Europe from the early Neolithic epoch (beginning of 6th millennium BC).

The standing exposition “Prehistoric Art in Stara Zagora Area” in the museum exhibits the best samples discovered during archeological researches in this and in other settlement mounds in the region of town Stara Zagora.

The dimensions of the house are 10 x 5.80 m at 7 m height. It was built of wooden poles driven in the soil, interweaved with staffs, plastered with clay mixed with straw.

On the first floor of the house there were two rooms and on the second floor - one. It was inhabited by three families. On the north walls of the premises the furnaces were built, which are the best preserved ones from the Neolithic times discovered by now. Near them lay the manual grain grinders and the large ceramic vessels - grain storage, where the grain stock of the dwellers of the house was kept.

In each of the premises there are about 60 ceramic vessels with various forms and decorations, which after the burning of the house are scattered all over the floor.

Preserved in situ in the dwellings are also three small ceramic columns, branched at the upper end as bull’s horns. These are cult altars used for performing rituals by the inhabitants of the house. The furnace, parts of the manual grinders and other devices on the second floor of the house have fallen down on the first floor premises.

Standing in front of the remains of the Neolithic house, a whole world is revealed of people having lived on that place 8000 years ago.

The exposition “Prehistoric Art in Stara Zagora Area” is situated in the

basement of the building. Here one can see wonderful masterpieces of ceramic pottery, anthropomorphic and zoomorphic plastic, jewelry and labour implements made by the creators of the first European civilization.

Informational materials and souvenirs are sold in the museum.

The museum is a branch of the Regional History Museum in Stara Zagora. The site was proclaimed as an archeological monument in 1998.

<b>Location</b>	Stara Zagora	<b>Accessibility</b>	Motor vehicle, public transport
<b>Working time</b>	9:00-18:00 (Tuesday-Sunday)	<b>Services</b>	Tour guide, lectures in Bulgarian, Russian and English.
<b>Contacts</b>	+359 42 622 109	<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://www.rimstz.eu/">https://www.rimstz.eu/</a>
<b>Entry fee</b>	5 lv.	<b>Coordinates</b>	N 42.42475 E 25.61117

#### House Museum "Urban life of the XIX century", Stara Zagora

The exposition presents the Stara Zagora residents' everyday life after the Liberation until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A large collection of objects possessed by wealthy Stara Zagora families is exhibited.

The museum is situated in the house of Hadzhiangelov family built in 1883 for the family of a Stara Zagora merchant Hadzi Angel Hadzhipetkov. Museum exhibition present house arrangement and samples of city clothing from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the furnished two guest rooms, living room, lounge and bedroom traditional local objects are next to some contemporary for that time European and Russian models. Wax figures are dressed in everyday and holiday costumes.

The exhibited objects, which are an electric iron, a radio, a Soviet phonograph, show the entering of ready-made objects not only in clothing but also in furniture. These were no longer luxuries, but cheap, comfortable and affordable for every household items that largely harmonize home decor. The salon on the first floor reveals through toys, books and school belongings the world of a child - a carefree and magical world where anything was possible and achievable. Western impact in home furnishings and lifestyle of the 20-40s of the twentieth century is shown on the second floor. Along with the objects in the exhibition, the fashion trends for these periods are exposed there.

<b>Location</b>	Stara Zagora	<b>Accessibility</b>	Motor vehicle, public transport
<b>Working time</b>	request in advance	<b>Services</b>	Tour guide, lectures in Bulgarian, Russian and English.

<b>Contacts</b>	+359 42 919-214	<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://www.rimstz.eu/">https://www.rimstz.eu/</a>
<b>Entry fee</b>	3 lv.	<b>Coordinates</b>	N 42.687598 E 26.318973

## DAY 2

### Regional Historical Museum, Sliven

Regional History Museum in Sliven is situated in a beautiful building on the main street of the town, built in 1895 by the son of Dobri Zhelyazkov - Ivan. It is one of the oldest institutions in Sliven. It was founded in 1913 as a library museum at the ‘Zora’ cultural club. In the main building of the museum on both floors the exhibition ‘Memory from Centuries’ is displayed.

It includes original monuments from the museum fund, some of them of world significance. Arranged are on the first floor exhibits from the Neolithic and the Eneolithic age - pottery, cult figures, stone working implements, as well as bronze tools and weapons. The remaining part of the first floor exhibition is dedicated to the Thracians. Over 20 tombs have been researched in the region of Sliven, from which unique and one of a kind objects showing the high level of the Thracian masters found their place in the halls of RHM - Sliven.

One of the richest burials from the Thracian epoch discovered ever before is exhibited on the second floor in one of the halls. Here one can see gold phials, gold ring, the second gold mask found on Thrace, silver helmet, silver rhytons with gilding.

Separated on this floor are halls containing exhibits from the Roman epoch, as well as ‘Tuida’ hall.

A temporary exhibition named “180 years since the beginning of the textile industry on the Balkans” is arranged on the third floor.

<b>Location</b>	Sliven	<b>Accessibility</b>	Motor vehicle, public transport
<b>Working time</b>	9:00-12:00 14:00-17:00	<b>Services</b>	Tour guide, lectures in Bulgarian, Russian and English.
<b>Contacts</b>	+359 44 622 495	<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://museum.sliven.net/">https://museum.sliven.net/</a>
<b>Entry fee</b>	2 lv.	<b>Coordinates</b>	N 42.68038 E 26.31808

## House-museum of the Old Sliven Popular Customs

One of the most interesting tourist sites in Sliven is the House-museum of the Old Sliven Popular Customs. It was built in the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in one of the oldest neighborhoods of Sliven - the Kaftandzhiyski neighborhood. It is a model of the residential architecture from the years of Revival (18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> century) - an open symmetrical house with a loggia. It consists two houses, stuck to each other. The larger one which was built first is known as the house of Patkoolu, and the smaller one which was built later is known as the Arnautkina House.

In 1963, the Patkova house was turned into a museum, in which the interior exposition presenting the Sliven craftsmen house of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Hundreds of unique objects are exhibited, presenting the development of the carpet making, copper-making, pottery-making, carpentry, saddler-making (making of saddles and appliances for harnessing of horses), etc., as well as basic domestic practices and traditional requirements of the Liberation period. The house of Patkoolu was declared an architectural, constructional and art monument in Order № 4 of the State Gazette of 1966. The Museum from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, also known as the Arnautkina House, was established in 1969 and shows the style of life of a typical Sliven family from that period. Bulgarian furniture is exhibited - a bedroom suite, night-tables, a sofa, armchairs, a sideboard. Even though the house is a product of older age, in it successfully live the innovations in the town style of life with the wooden plank bed in the bedroom, the fireplace in the kitchen and the large wooden cupboards in all premises. In October 2009, in the House-museum of the Old Sliven Popular Customs a new exposition was opened: “Traditional Culture of Sliven Region”. It shows the preserved variety and the specifics of the regional traditional culture. Attention is paid to ritual food, ritual requisite, and verbal magic. The ritual and the feast costumes of the region are exhibited.

The vast cobblestone pavement yard, the flower garden and the shed containing various agricultural tools complement and build up the complete architectural ethnographic complex.

<b>Location</b>	Sliven	<b>Accessibility</b>	Motor vehicle, public transport
<b>Working time</b>	9:00-12:00 14:00-17:00 (Monday-Friday)	<b>Services</b>	Tour guide
<b>Contacts</b>	+359 44 622 494	<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://museum.sliven.net/obekti-slivenski-bit">https://museum.sliven.net/obekti-slivenski-bit</a>
<b>Entry fee</b>	3 lv.	<b>Coordinates</b>	N 42.68745 E 26.31895

## Museum of Textile Industry, Sliven

The Museum of Textile Industry is the first standing scientific-technical exposition in Bulgaria. It is a specialized museum, which keeps and popularizes evidences of the industrial textile heritage in Bulgaria in the context of the worldwide development of the textile engineering and technology.

Sliven is the first and one of the biggest industrial centers in Bulgaria. The idea of creation of an industrial museum in the town dates from 1903. Actually, it was realized 90 years later, when the 150 anniversary since the beginning of the Bulgarian industry was celebrated. In 1984 the museum was incorporated in the Bulgarian museum network and on 8 September 1986 it was officially opened for visitors.

Museum exhibition is thematic, characterized by strict chronology and dynamics. Big parts of the exhibits are functioning and real time demonstrations are performed on them. During the tour lead by professional guide and demonstrator the visitors have the possibility to be not only spectators, but also participants in the presentation.

The museum building is an architectural monument of culture.

Information materials and souvenirs are sold at the site.

<b>Location</b>	Sliven	<b>Accessibility</b>	Motor vehicle, public transport
<b>Working time</b>	8:30-17:00 (Monday-Friday)	<b>Services</b>	Tour guide
<b>Contacts</b>	+359 896 853 683	<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://textile-museum.com/">http://textile-museum.com/</a>
<b>Entry fee</b>	4 lv.	<b>Coordinates</b>	N 42.68857 E 26.31868

## Museum House “Hadzhi Dimitar”, Sliven

One of the most famous tourist sites in the town of Sliven is the house of the legendary Sliven voivode Hadzhi Dimitar. It was built by the grandfather of the renowned voivode at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and is situated in the Sliven residential section “Klutsohor”.

The building is a small, one-storey, non-symmetric house with a wooden veranda, with the typical architectural marks of the early Bulgarian Revival. Dimitar Nikolov Asenov was born here on 10 May 1840, known mostly as Hadzhi Dimitar - one of the most famous Bulgarian strugglers for liberation from Ottoman Dominion in the 19th century.

The first museum collection was established here in 1935. In 1955 it turned

into an exposition.

Nowadays the house is situated amidst a beautiful green yard. The room where Hadzhi Dimitar was born, the guest room, the fireplace and the typical Sliven wine cellar are entirely restored to their authentic look.

A part of the museum complex is the inn of Hadzhi Nikola Asenov with the adjoining farm constructions, where an atmosphere typical for the pre-liberation inn is recreated.

A broad exposition dedicated to the voivodes Hadzi Dimitar and Stefan Karadzha, who in 1868 led a detachment of rebels in order to liberate the people in an uprising against the Ottomans, is presented on the second floor. They gave their lives for the freedom of Bulgaria in this uprising.

The exposition includes photos, domestic articles, guns, and exact restoration of the rebels’ uniform and a copy of the flag of the detachment of Stefan Karadzha.

<b>Location</b>	Sliven	<b>Accessibility</b>	Motor vehicle, public transport
<b>Working time</b>	9:00-12:00 14:00-17:00	<b>Services</b>	Tour guide Lecture Informational materials and souvenirs.
<b>Contacts</b>	+359 896 853 683	<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://museum.sliven.net/obekti-hadji-dimitar">https://museum.sliven.net/obekti-hadji-dimitar</a>
<b>Entry fee</b>	3 lv.	<b>Coordinates</b>	N 42.67850 E 26.31181

### DAY 3

#### Zheravna Architectural-Historical Reserve

Zheravna Village is situated in Stara planina (the Balkans), 12 km away from Kotel, 50 km away from Sliven.

The region of the village has been inhabited ever since ancient times. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Zheravna became a big craft and cultural centre with a population of a couple of thousand people, a main street and lots of shops. The main occupation of the local people was sheep breeding and different crafts.

Nowadays, Zheravna has turned into an architectural and museum reservation with well-preserved and restored houses with decorations and exquisite wood-carvings from the Bulgarian Revival Period, narrow cobblestone alleys and lots of drinking fountains. The region abounds in springs and most of their waters spout from the fountains. 172 of the houses in the village were declared monuments of culture.

150 sites in the village were restored and revived, including St. Nicholas Church which was built in 1834. It presents a rich collection of icons, stone sculptures, and church plates. The Yordan Yovkov House Museum, the History of Zheravna Exhibition in the Sava Filaretov House Museum, the Life and Culture in Zheravna during the Bulgarian Revival Period (18th - 19th centuries) Exhibition in the Rusi chorbadzhi House Museum (Master Rusi House Museum) also attract the tourists' attention.

<b>Location</b>	<b>village Zheravna</b>	<b>Accessibility</b>	Motor vehicle
<b>Working time</b>	9:00-12:30 13:30-18:00 (May-October) 8:00-12:00 13:00-17:00 (November-April)	<b>Services</b>	Tour guide Lecture Informational materials and souvenirs.
<b>Contacts</b>	+359 4585391	<b>Website</b>	-
<b>Entry fee</b>	3 lv.	<b>Coordinates</b>	N 42.83269 E 26.45756

#### DAY 4

##### Museum of Kotel Awakening, Kotel

A point of interest in the town of Kotel is the exhibition dedicated to the Kotel Awakening in the building that also houses the Georgi Stoykov Rakovski Pantheon. It opened in 1981 on the occasion of the 1,300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bulgaria's founding.

The Kotel Awakening exhibition is spread throughout four halls at the museum - the Halls of the Awakeners, Enlighteners, Agitators, and Revolutionaries. The exhibit displays unique examples of Kotel's literary and scholarly activity of the Kotel revivalists during this period.

In the first hall, “The Awakeners”, there is an exhibit on the life and work of Sofroniy Vrachanski (1739-1814) that includes invaluable manuscripts and personal effects belonging to this eminent Kotel resident, covering a span of more than 20 years. On display is one of Bulgaria's first printed books, along with the first copy of Paisiy Hilendarski's History of the Bulgarian Slavs prepared by Sofroniy Vrachanski in 1765.

The reconstructed mutual school (a desk with prison for punishments, sand top desks) recreates the school process atmosphere in the first half of the 19th century.

The second hall, “The Enlightener”, follows the renaissance of Bulgarian literary activity. There is a copy of the first Bulgarian magazine ‘Lovers of the Word’, along with books by respected writers from Kotel such as A. Granitiski, N. Bozveli, S. Izvorski, and A. Kipilovski. There is a copy of Petar Beron's first

Bulgarian textbook, published in 1824, which began a new era in the development of the Bulgarian education. Dr. P. Beron was Bulgaria’s first professional pedagogue, resolutely labored for implementation of the secular education in Bulgarian language. The museum preserves his heart in a balsamic resin as a valuable relic.

The third hall, “The Agitators” includes a rich collection of firearms and swords owned by the freedom fighters Captain Georgi Mamarchev, Captain Valkov, and Gadzhal Voyvoda. One of the most valuable items here is the seal owned by Captain Mamarchev, who was Rakovski’s uncle. The captain was a chief organizer of the Kotel Uprising of 1829 and the commander of the Velchova conspiracy.

In the fourth hall, dedicated to „Revolutionaries”, there is an exhibit tracing events in the life of Georgi Rakovski (1821-1867), including his journalistic and revolutionary activity. Photographs, documents, and facsimiles illustrate his key role as leader and president of the Belgrade Legation. One of the most interesting objects here is the bronze sculpture Resurrection, conveying the revolutionary hero’s immortality. On display here are the revered patriot Rakovski’s sarcophagus, the personal diary of the great Bulgarian, his personal weapons, along with a collection of weapons from The Russo-Turkish War (1877-1878).

Location	Kotel	Accessibility	Motor vehicle
<b>Working time</b>	09:00-12:30 13:30-18:00 (March-October)  08:00-12:00 13:00-17:00 (November-February)	<b>Services</b>	Tour guide, lectures in Bulgarian, Russian and English.
<b>Contacts</b>	+359 453 425 49	<b>Website</b>	-
<b>Entry fee</b>	3 lv.	<b>Coordinates</b>	N 42.88883 E 26.44699

### Pantheon of Georgi Stoykov Rakovski, Kotel

One noteworthy display of the History Museum in Kotel is the Pantheon of Georgi Stoykov Rakovski, located in the section of the museum dedicated to the Kotel Awakening. The building that houses the pantheon opened in 1981, in honor of the founding of the Bulgarian State 1300 years earlier.

The pantheon is dedicated to one of the greatest Bulgarian revolutionaries and revivalists - Georgi Stoykov Rakovski (1821-1867). Rakovski was the initiator of the organized national revolutionary struggle for the liberation of Bulgaria from the Ottoman rule; a democrat, writer, journalist, historian and ethnographer.

Rakovsky’s marble sarcophagus occupies the central hall in the main



exhibition gallery. A bronze banner inscribed with the words “Liberty or death” stands above it, along with a replica of his sword.

In the “Revolutionaries” of the Kotel Awakening Exhibition, the life of Rakovski is followed up, focusing on his journalistic and revolutionary activity. Photographs, documents, and facsimiles attest to his participation as a national chieftan and chairman of the Belgrade Legion. A particularly interesting object is the bronze sculpture “Resurrection”.

Of interest is the casket that held Rakovski’s remains, the personal diary of the great Bulgarian patriot, his personal weapons and a collection of weapons from the Russo-Turkish War of Independence.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Kotel</b>	<b>Accessibility</b>	<b>Motor vehicle</b>
<b>Working time</b>	09:00-12:30 13:30-18:00 (March-October)  08:00-12:00 13:00-17:00 (November-February)	<b>Services</b>	Tour guide, lectures in Bulgarian, Russian and English.
<b>Contacts</b>	+359 453 425 49	<b>Website</b>	-
<b>Entry fee</b>	3 lv.	<b>Coordinates</b>	N 42.88883 E 26.44699

## DAY 5

### Yambol Historical Museum, Yambol

The History Museum in Yambol is housed in a two-storey building in the centre of the town. It was established in 1952 as a natural successor of local scientific and archaeological societies.

Today, the museum’s collection numbers approximately 93 000 exhibits, some of which of great artistic and historical value.

The exhibition of the museum is divided into several departments: Prehistory, Antiquity, Middle Ages, Numismatics, National Revival, Ethnography, Modern History and Contemporary History.

The archaeological treasures of the region of Yambol, displayed in the hall on the first floor, include exhibits from the material and spiritual life of man as far back as the Neolithic period (7th-6th millennia BC). Here one can see some of the most important finds from the excavations of the nearby ancient Thracian town of Kabile.

The exhibition on the second floor of the museum is dedicated to the ethnographic peculiarities of the region of Yambol. Here one can learn more about the local rites and customs, crafts, holidays and beliefs of the people of Yambol

region. Among the most fascinating exhibits are holiday folk dresses, ritual costumes, decorated ritual masks (kukeri rites), urban clothing, musical instruments, etc.

Souvenirs and informational materials are available for purchase at the site.

Location	Yambol	Accessibility	Motor vehicle
Working time	8:00-18:30 (April-October)  9:00-15:30 (November-March)	Services	Tour guide, lectures in Bulgarian, Russian and English.
Contacts	+359 46 66 34 03	Website	<a href="https://yambolmuseum.eu/%D0%BA%D1%80%D0%B0%D1%82%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%B8%D1%81%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%80%D0%B8%D1%8F/">https://yambolmuseum.eu/%D0%BA%D1%80%D0%B0%D1%82%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%B8%D1%81%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%80%D0%B8%D1%8F/</a>
Entry fee	6 lv.	Coordinates	N 42.48339 E 26.50799

#### Antique Town of Kabile, Yambol

The remains of the antique town of Kabile are situated at a distance of 8 km the town of Yambol. The place was declared an archaeological reservation of national significance by Issue № 24 of the State Gazette of 1969. The first research in the region was performed in 1912. Kabile was one of the sites of the Historical Museum in the town of Yambol. The territory of the archaeological reservation occupies an area of more than 600 decares.

Kabile was established at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BC near a large cultural center at the height of Zaychi peak. During the Antiquity, the town was an important economic and cultural center in Southeast Thrace and Lower Tundzha.

The finds from the region are exhibited in the Archaeological Museum at the reservation. The open-air excavations, which can be viewed without entry fee, include remains of basilicas and churches, fortress walls and public buildings.

Location	Yambol	Accessibility	Motor vehicle
Working time	8:00-18:00	Services	Tour guide Lecture
Contacts	+359 46 66 34 03	Website	-
Entry fee	6 lv.	Coordinates	N 42.549866 E 26.483618

## SOURCES

Website: History Museum Kotel. <http://muzeum-kotel.com/za-nas/>

Website: National Museum of Textile Industry, Sliven. <http://textile-museum.com/>

Website: National Tourist Information Centre <https://bulgariatravel.org/>

Website: Official site of Kotel Municipality. <https://kotel.bg/>

Website: Official site of Sliven Municipality. <https://mun.sliven.bg/>

Website: Official site of Stara Zagora Municipality.  
<https://www.starazagora.bg/bg/>

Website: Official site of Yambol Municipality. <https://yambol.bg/>

Website: Regional History Museum ‘Dr. Simeon Tabakov’ - Sliven.  
<https://museum.sliven.net/>

Website: Regional History Museum Yambol. <http://yambolmuseum.eu/>

Website: Regional History Museum, Stara Zagora. <https://www.rimstz.eu/>

Website: Register of tourist attractions, Ministry of Tourism, Republic of Bulgaria.  
<http://rta.tourism.government.bg/TAResister.aspx>