

ROUTE 1

“CAPITALS AND TOWNS OF THE BULGARIAN KINGS”

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



Project funded by
EUROPEAN UNION

Project “Development of Sustainable Cultural Tourism in the Black Sea Basin”
D.T2.1.1. “Developed 25 regional tourism routes in the project partner countries”



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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

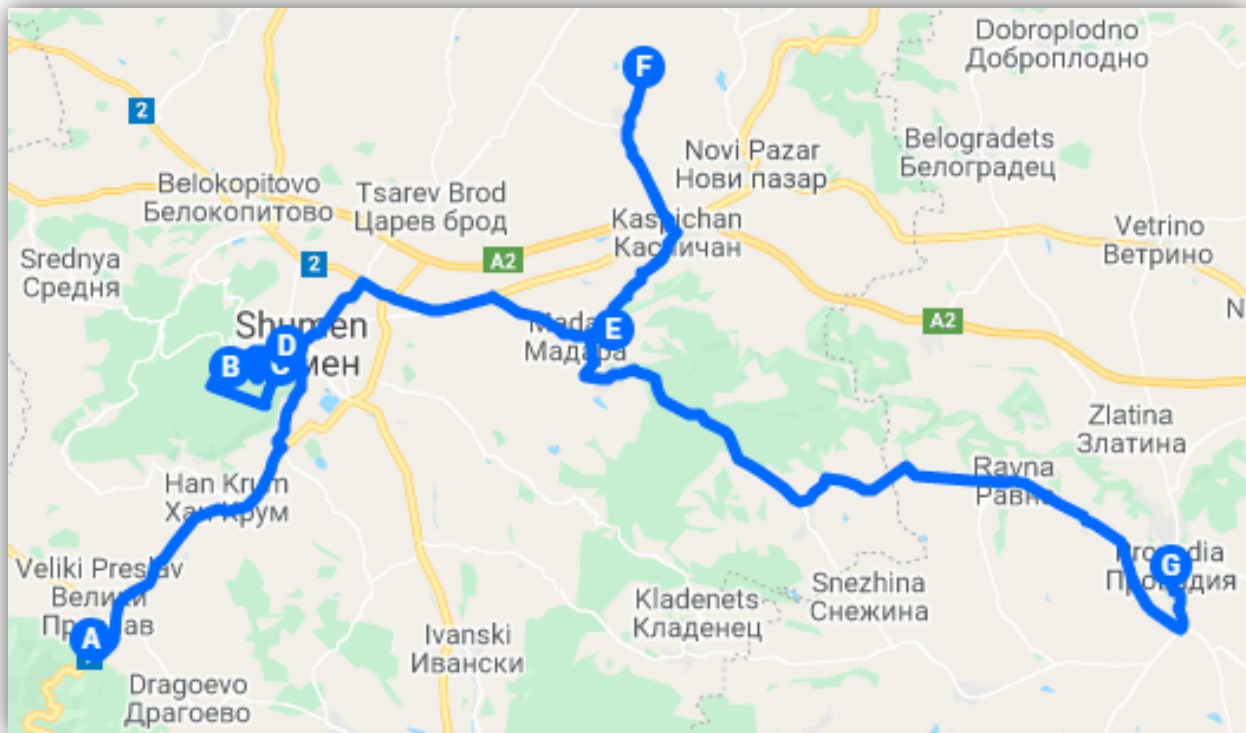
Starting point: town Veliki Preslav, Shumen District

End point: town Provadia, Varna District

Duration: 5 days

Transport accessibility: car, bicycle, public transport

Season: all year round



- A. National History and Archaeological Reserve “Veliki Preslav”, Veliki Preslav
- B. Shumen Fortress Historical-Archaeological Preserve, Shumen
- C. Founders of the Bulgarian State Monument, Shumen
- D. Regional History Museum Shumen, Shumen
- E. Madara national historical-archeological reserve, Madara
- F. Pliska National Historical and Architectural Reserve, Pliska
- G. Provadia - Ovech Fortress, Rock Monasteries, Ravna Monastery

3. SITES

DAY 1

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.

Location	Veliki Preslav	Accessibility	Motor vehicle
Working hours	9:00-18:00 (Apr-Oct) 9:00-17:00(Nov-Mar)	Services	Tour guide, lectures in Bulgarian, Russian and English.
Contacts	+359 538 43 243	Website	http://museum-velikipreslav.com/
Entry fee	6 BGN	Coordinates	N 43.145918 E 26.813369

DAY 2 & 3

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	Accessibility	Motor vehicle, public transport
Working hours	9:00-19:00 (Apr-Oct) 9:00-17:00 (Nov-Mar)	Services	Tour guide, lectures in Bulgarian, Russian and English.
Contacts	+359 893 342 208	Website	https://museum-shumen.eu/
Entry fee	3 BGN	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:

- Guided tours in Bulgarian, Russian, German, English, French and Czech for the monument and Proto-Bulgarian yurt;
- Information activities for the town and tourist sites near Shumen;
- Sale of post cards, leaflets, etc .;
- Wedding ceremonies;
- Exhibitions of local artists and photographers;
- Concerts;
- Screenings of films with a historical, advertising and scientific theme;

- Children’s familiarization route “Assemble the Puzzle”

Location	Shumen	Accessibility	Motor vehicle, public transport, not suitable for disabled people
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)	Services	Tour guide, lectures in Bulgarian, Russian and English.
Contacts	+359 893 342 208	Website	http://www.ab-bg.com/bg1300/
Entry fee	4 BGN	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.

Part of the exhibits in the museum are placed in the permanent museum’s exhibition spread in eight spacious halls and they present the rich history of the region since hoary antiquity till the end of the 19th century. A unique collection of icons is exposed in another part of the halls. It is interesting to visit also the treasury hall, where rare samples of coins and precious metals metaloplastic are exposed. The Antiquity” Hall present an original Thracian tomb - the only tomb in Bulgaria presented in museum environment.

Location	Shumen	Accessibility	Motor vehicle, public transport, not suitable for disabled people
Working hours	10:00-18:00	Services	Tour guide, lectures in Bulgarian, Russian

			and English.
Contacts	+359 899 903 838	Website	https://museum-shumen.eu/
Entry fee	5 BGN	Coordinates	N 43.270409 E 26.927922

DAY 4

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	Accessibility	Motor vehicle, public transport
Working hours	8:30-20:00 (Apr-Oct) 8:30-17:00 (Nov-Mar)	Services	Tour guide, lectures in Bulgarian, Russian and English.
Contacts	+359 893 342 225	Website	https://museum-shumen.eu/
Entry fee	4 BGN	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	Accessibility	Motor vehicle, public transport
Working hours	8:30-19:00 (Apr-Oct) 8:30-17:00 (Nov-Mar)	Services	
Contacts	+359 889 539 823	Website	https://xn----7sbb3acmfvip.bg/
Entry fee	5 BGN	Coordinates	N 43.231392 E 27.080616

DAY 5

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	Accessibility	Motor vehicle, Not suitable for disabled people
Working time	09:00-18:00 year round	all	Services Tour guide
Contacts	+359 518 420 33	Website	http://www.museum-provadia.com/
Entry fee	6 BGN	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	Accessibility	Motor vehicle, Not suitable for disabled people
Working time	-	Services	Tour guide
Contacts	+359 518 420 33	Website	http://www.museum-provadia.com/
Entry fee	-	Coordinates	N 43.194085 E 27.460629

History site Ravna Monastery, Provadia

Ravna 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 Ravna 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. Such quantity of inscriptions from the early Middle Ages is discovered for the first time in Bulgaria and in the whole Slav world. A lead correspondence seal of Prince Simeon I was also discovered.



The most important building in the monastery is ‘St. Holy Mother’ Church consecrated on 23.04.897. 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	Accessibility	Motor vehicle, Not suitable for disabled people
Working time	-	Services	Tour guide
Contacts	+359 518 420 33	Website	http://www.museum-provadia.com/
Entry fee	-	Coordinates	N 43.213045 E 27.353496

SOURCES

Website: Archeology Museum in Veliki Preslav. <http://museum-velikipreslav.com/>

Website: History Museum in Provadia. <https://muzei-provadia.com/>

Website: National History and Archeology Reserve Pliska. <https://xn----7sbb3acmfmvip.bg/>

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

Website: Official site of Provadia Municipality. <http://www.provadia.bg/>

Website: Official site of Shumen Municipality. <https://www.shumen.bg/>

Website: Official site of Veliki Preslav Municipality. <https://velikipreslav.bg/wp/>

Website: Regional History Museum in Shumen. <https://museum-shumen.eu/>

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