

# ROUTE 3

## “THE SPIRIT OF BULGARIAN NORTH BLACK SEA COAST”

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

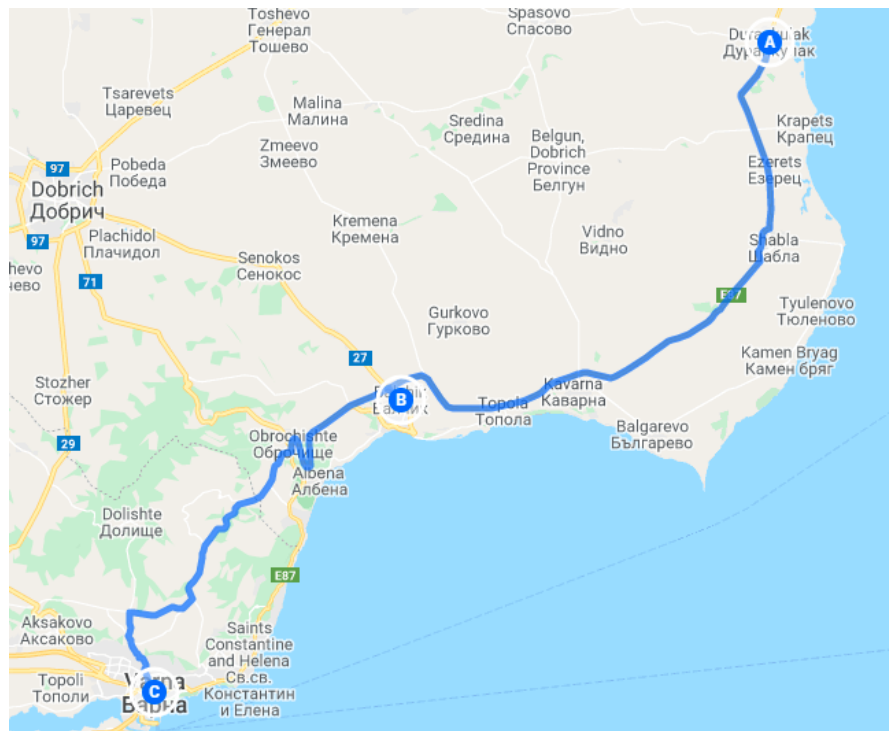
**Starting point:** town of Shabla, district of Dobrich

**End point:** city of Varna, district of Varna

**Duration:** 7 days

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

**Season:** all year round



- A. Village of Durankulak, Dobrich  
Lake Shabla, Dobrich  
Shabla Lighthouse and fishing settlement Kariya, Dobrich  
Nature and Archeological Reserve Kaliakra Cape, Kavarna
- B. State Institute of Culture “Palace Cultural Center”, Balchik  
University Botanic Garden, Balchik
- C. Dikilitash (Pobiti Kamani /Planted Stones/), Beloslav  
Roman Thermae, Varna  
St. Athanasius Church, Varna  
Aladzha Monastery, Varna  
Dormition of the Mother of God Cathedral, Varna  
Ethnographic Museum, Varna  
Varna Museum of Archeology  
Palace Evksinograd, Varna  
Ethnographic Museum Complex “St. St. Constantine and Helena” - Tsarevtsi

### 3. ATTRACTIONS

#### DAY 1

##### *Village of Durankulak*

The village of Durankulak is the northernmost Black Sea coast settlement located 18 km to the north of the town of Shabla and 6 km away from our border with the Republic of Romania. The Durankulak Lake is located to the southeast of the village. It is one of the most important and best preserved ecosystems in Bulgaria and is of international importance for the protection of a number of rare plant and animal species and those at risk of extinction. The location of the lake at the Via Pontica migration route ensures convenient nesting and wintering grounds of plenty of migratory birds.

The lake is separated from the sea by means of a slender strip of sand, and two islands are located in its northern part.

Extremely abundant and interesting archeological fields are found on the west coast of the lake and on the Big Island. During the archeological excavations of the Big Island settlement mound in Durankulak Lake a unique archeological site was found evidencing human presence of the Late Neolithic Age (the second half of the 6<sup>th</sup> millennium BC), a settlement of the Late Chalcolithic, Bronze and Early Iron Age. After a break, a Bulgarian settlement also appeared on the Big Island during the second half of the 9<sup>th</sup> century. This is the biggest archeological site in Dobrudzha representing the entire prehistory and most of the ancient and early medieval history of that part of Bulgaria almost without interruption.

<b>Location</b>	Durankulak	<b>Access</b>	by car
<b>Working hours</b>	free access	<b>Services</b>	-
<b>Contact details</b>	-	<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://durankulak.net/">http://durankulak.net/</a>
<b>Entry fee</b>	free of charge entry	<b>Coordinates</b>	N 43.686456 E 28.529202

##### *Lake Shabla*

Lake Shabla protected area is located in Northeastern Bulgaria, at about 5 km away from the town of Shabla and 18 km away from the Bulgarian-Romanian border.

The protected area is declared by Order No DB-31/24.01.1995 of the Ministry of Environment and Water, Republic of Bulgaria. Part of it, except the arable land, is on the Ramsar Convention list of wetlands of international importance.



The total area of the protected territory covers 5312.4 decares. The area also comprises the two coastal limans - Lake Shabla and Lake Ezerets. They are interconnected by channel. 246 bird species are found within the area and some of them are in the Red Book of Bulgaria (list of endangered species in the country). 137 bird species are of European importance. World's endangered species like corn crane (*Crex crex*) and white-eyed pochard (*Aythya nyroca*) are nesting in Lake Shabla protected area. During the autumn and winter season here one can see world's endangered species such as white-headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*), Dalmatian pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*), pygmy cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmeus*). During the winter, Lake Shabla and Lake Durankulak provide shelter for 80-90% of the world population of red-breasted goose (*Branta ruficollis*).

Another 23 fish species can be seen in Lake Shabla, including seven species in the Red Book of Bulgaria. In addition to animal species, about 10 rare or endangered plant species are found in the protected area.

<b>Location</b>	Shabla	<b>Access</b>	by car
<b>Working hours</b>	free access	<b>Services</b>	-
<b>Contact details</b>	+359 5743 41 45	<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://shabla.be/">http://shabla.be/</a>
<b>Entry fee</b>	free of charge entry	<b>Coordinates</b>	N 43.577363 E 28.569807

### *Shabla Lighthouse and fishing settlement Kariya*

Shabla cape lighthouse is located at the easternmost point of Bulgaria. It is the highest lighthouse in Bulgaria and oldest authentic and functioning one in the Black Sea Basin.

Historians are at the opinion that a navigation facility was probably located at the same place during the Byzantine and Roman Age. The existing lighthouse was erected in 1768 for the purposes of the Russian-Turkish War (1768-1774). A monogram of sultan Abdulmejid is incorporated in the west wall of the then attached sentry-box. The renewed lighthouse was officially opened on 15 July 1857. The involvement of the Bulgarians is represented by the 30 cm high lion standing on its hind legs depicted on the northwestern edge of the lighthouse foundation at height of 9 m. While being hardly noticeable, this is a quite daring image on a Turkish state facility with military functions.

132 steps lead to the ever watching halogen searchlight that illuminates ship route. On clear days it can be seen from 17 nautical miles (31 km). The lightning rod of the lighthouse has a gold-plated tip. Its walls are 1,20 m thick and the room remains warm even during the winter. Measurements of local people show that the



coast in front of the lighthouse has decreased from 29 m in 1948 to 13 m in 1996. A message for the future generations was engraved on the tower walls more than 10 years ago. The guardians' message must be opened in 2056.

In 2015 a reconstruction design for the marine elevated road at Shabla cape was approved. It is almost completely damaged by the sea elements.

The single fishing settlement Kariya officially registered by decree is located in Shabla. There you can have excellent fishing, diving and boat trip experience and will have the opportunity to try fresh fish and fish soup.

<b>Location</b>	Shabla	<b>Access</b>	by car
<b>Working hours</b>	free access	<b>Services</b>	-
<b>Contact details</b>	-	<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://shabla.be/region/nos_shabla/">http://shabla.be/region/nos_shabla/</a>
<b>Entry fee</b>	free of charge entry	<b>Coordinates</b>	N 43.540419 E 28.607027

#### *Nature and Archeological Reserve Kaliakra Cape*

Kaliakra cape and the archeological reserve on its territory are located 12 km to the southeast of the town of Kavarna. It is a prolonged and narrowing rocky peninsula that juts about 2 km out into the sea. This is one of the most attractive tourist sites along the Black Sea coast thanks to its rich history, preserved nature and magnificent panoramic views.

The slopes of Kaliakra cape fall down to 60-70 meters right into the water. Waves have carved caves and arches at their foot, which can be reached by sea only. In the past, these tunnel-caves were connected with the fortress and were used for ship loading and unloading.

First evidence about the inhabitants of the cape dates back from the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC when the area was inhabited by the Thracian tribe Terici (Terizi). Probably, this is why the original name of the cape was Tirizis. Later on, the fortress wall started by the Thracian tribe was recovered and another fortification was erected. The settlement comprised two parts - internal and external town. The first fortress wall defended the settlement from the side of the mainland. Today its preserved remains are 2 m high and 440 m long. Remains of many buildings are found on the territory of the external town. Even now one can see a preserved huge edifice - a bath existing during the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. Another masonry vaulted tomb dates back from the same time and is almost entirely preserved. A few medieval churches were also found in the course of the archeological excavations.

A model of the ancient fortress that demonstrates how it looked like in the past is one of the most attractive exhibits. The fortress is declared an architectural monument of culture of national importance in State Gazette no. 73 of 1967, and Kaliakra cape is declared a nature reserve by Council of Ministers' Decree No 16 298 of 27.09.1941.

<b>Location</b>	village of Balgarevo	<b>Access</b>	by car
<b>Working hours</b>	9:00-20:00 (April - October) 24 hours (November - March)	<b>Services</b>	tourist guide
<b>Contact details</b>	+359 570 422 15	<b>Website</b>	-
<b>Entry fee</b>	BGN 3	<b>Coordinates</b>	N 43.361031 E 28.465729

## DAY 2

### *State Institute of Culture “Palace Cultural Center”, Balchik*

In 1924 South Dobrudzha was in possession of Romania. After her visit to this land, the Romanian queen Marie Alexandra Victoria de Edinburgh fell in love with the silver slopes of Balchik rocks and the favorable climate in the area. Therefore, she decided to build her summer residence here.

The construction of the palace started in 1924 when the Italian architects made the design and put the onset of its development, and the queen named it “Tenha Yuva”, which means “Quiet Nest”. Wonderful terraces were outlined along the steep sea coast, and the water running throughout the gardens flowed along special courses that form beautiful waterfalls and water mirrors. Old mills were reconstructed and the new buildings had to be in unison with Balchik’s main outlook - the contrast between silver rocks and red roofs. The construction of chapels, parks, fountains, paths was commenced.

The architectural composition of the palace complex combines plenty of varied styles - of the Bulgarian National Revival, Transylvanian, Mauritanian, Byzantine, Roman-Arabic, etc. The ornaments, sculptures, buildings and details belong to diverse cultures and most of the decoration was brought from all over the world. In addition to the symbols of different civilizations, the Quiet Nest is also featured by various interweaving religious plots.

<b>Location</b>	Balchik	<b>Access</b>	by car
<b>Working hours</b>	8:00-20:00 (April - October) 8:30-17:00 (November - March)	<b>Services</b>	tourist guide guided tour
<b>Contact details</b>	+359 579 76 849	<b>Website</b>	www.dvoreca.com/
<b>Entry fee</b>	BGN 5	<b>Coordinates</b>	N 43.404067 E 28.145461

### *University Botanic Garden, Balchik*

A Botanic Garden to Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” was created in 1955. It occupies the territory of the ex-summer residence of the Romanian queen Marie Alexandra Victoria de Edinburgh. Planted areas expand gradually to reach 190 decares nowadays and the collection comprises more than 3500 species whose number increases year by year.

Here one can see quite rare specimens and exotic species like pencil cedar, Japanese raisin tree, ancient Ginkgo biloba, rubber tree, holly oak, evergreen magnolia and many other. A unique collection attracts visitors from all over the world - the permanent exhibition of cactuses and succulents takes an area of 800 sqm. It is the second largest in Europe after the one in Monaco. Here one can see unique plants, some of which blossom once every 100 years, as well as winter-resistant cactuses, which are also worth seeing, having in mind that we are used to see cactuses in deserts. More than 400 species within this selection are protected at global level, and some of them are unique, for example, the Galapagos cactus.

Except a tourist attraction, the university botanic garden is a research center too. Consultations and training courses in botany are organised here. It is a good place for school and university practices. Art- and environmental education-related events and initiatives are also held here.

The university botanic garden encompasses the Palace Architecture Park Complex and The Nursery Garden. The Palace Architecture Park Complex further accommodates the State Institute of Culture “Palace Cultural Center”. The institute and the botanic garden are among the 100 national tourist attractions in Bulgaria.

<b>Location</b>	Balchik	<b>Access</b>	by car
<b>Working hours</b>	8:30-17:00 (November - March) 8:00-20:00 (April - October)	<b>Services</b>	tourist guide guided tour
<b>Contact details</b>	+359 579 72 338	<b>Website</b>	www.ubg-bg.com
<b>Entry fee</b>	BGN 8	<b>Coordinates</b>	N 43.40490 E 28.14707

### DAY 3 - DAY 7

#### *Dikilitash (Pobiti Kamani /Planted Stones/), Beloslav*

The nature phenomenon Pobiti Kamani, also known as the Stone Forest and Dikilitash, takes an area of 7 sq km and is situated at about 18-20 km away from the city of Varna and a few kilometers away from the town of Beloslav.

This natural attraction represents an ensemble of up to 10 m high stone columns - hollow or thick cylinders, truncated cones, rock blocks of different form and size and numerous stone pieces scattered throughout the complex.

Pobiti Kamani have been known as sacral place since ancient times but were first documented in 1829. They are declared a nature attraction by order No PД-817 of 23.08.2002.

For millennia, nature has been sculpting the stone pieces to make them impressive sculptures that resemble people, animals, monsters, mythic creatures. Stone Guards, the Camel, the Throne, the Stone Forest are the names of few of these natural plastic masterpieces.

The most famous and attractive ensemble for tourists is the Dikilitash Group. It is located about 18 km to the west of the city of Varna and is readily accessible by route E70. The complex comprises more than 300 columns of different size arranged in a row of 850 m x 1 20 m, and another 50 structures within a small plot to the south. Some of the columns are broken into two or three parts, others are lying on the ground as if they were torn up, and still others form interesting sculpture groups.

The Strashimirovo Group is very impressive too. It is located to the south of the main group, next to the village of Strashimirovo, and comprises four ensembles situated close to each other and consisting of plenty of structures with different size and form. The typical feature of the columns here is that they are bulging in



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the middle as if the foundations of two truncated cones were stuck together, some of them reaching a diameter of 9 m.

Slanchevo and Banovo Groups are located in the surroundings of the same-name villages and are also charming. One of the stone sculptures resembles a frozen fountain, and a stone lion is lying in the vicinity, with foundation diameter of 12 m. Huge mushrooms can be also seen and if you have good imagination, you can find other forms as well.

The other groups are located around the town of Beloslav and are worth seeing as well.

<b>Location</b>	town of Beloslav	<b>Access</b>	by car
<b>Working hours</b>	15 May -30 September 9:00-19:00 (Opened 7 days a week)  1 October - 14 May: 10:00-16:00 Closed on Monday	<b>Services</b>	tourist guide guided tour
<b>Contact details</b>	+359 888 544506	<b>Website</b>	-
<b>Entry fee</b>	BGN 3	<b>Coordinates</b>	N 43.225918 E 27.702572

***Roman Thermae, Varna***

The Roman Thermae, also known as the Roman Baths are one of the most valuable monuments of culture in Varna, situated in the central part of the city, on the corner of the streets San Stefano and Khan Krum. This is one of the sites of the Archaeological Museum in the city.

The Public Baths of Odessos are one of the most preserved architectural monuments of the Roman Age in Bulgaria (1st - 4th century AD). They are of the so called “small imperial style” and their construction refers to the end of the 2nd century AD. This is the largest Roman bath on the Balkan Peninsula - with an area of 7000 square meters. It is the fourth in size in Europe - among the baths of Karakala and Diocletian in Rome and Trevira (Trier, Germany). It was used by the end of the 3rd century.

If you want a guided tour across the thermae, you should contact the Museum of Archeology in advance. At the very place of the attraction there is a kiosk offering guides and souvenirs.





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<b>Location</b>	city of Varna	<b>Access</b>	by car by public transport
<b>Working hours</b>	10:00-17:00	<b>Services</b>	guided tour tourist guide
<b>Contact details</b>	+359 52 600 059	<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://www.archaeo.muuseumvarna.com/">https://www.archaeo.muuseumvarna.com/</a>
<b>Entry fee</b>	BGN 5	<b>Coordinates</b>	N 43.20027 E 27.91788

### *St. Athanasius Church, Varna*

St. Athanasius Church is the oldest bishop's church in Varna. In its current form the church dates back since 1838 when it was rebuilt on the site of the church that was burned two years earlier. It is believed that the temple was erected at the place of two medieval churches. The construction period of the first one is unknown, while the second one dates back from around 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> century.

In terms of architecture, St. Athanasius Church is a three-nave basilica with rich interior decoration and glass narthex. The woodcarving of the iconostasis, the bishop's throne and the ceiling is impressive - a masterpiece of the church art - work of the Tryavna School. Most of the icons are painted by Zahari Tsenyuv and priest Dimitar. It is believed that the image of Saint Athanasius is painted by the icon-painter Dimitar from Sozopol.

<b>Location</b>	city of Varna	<b>Access</b>	by car by public transport
<b>Working hours</b>	7:30-18:00 spring-summer 8:00-17:00 autumn-winter	<b>Services</b>	-
<b>Contact details</b>	+359 639 716	<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.sv-atanasii-varna.org/index.php">http://www.sv-atanasii-varna.org/index.php</a>
<b>Entry fee</b>	-	<b>Coordinates</b>	N 43.20005 E 27.91906



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### ***Aladzha Monastery, Varna***

Aladzha Monastery is situated in a beautiful area 14 km north of Varna, near Zlatni Pyasatsi Resort (Golden Sands Resort), in the centre of Zlatni Pyasatsi Nature Park (Golden Sands Nature Park). There are no reliable historical records as to when the monastery was established, but there is evidence that it already existed in the 10th - 12th centuries.

Aladzha Monastery is one of the few cave monasteries in Bulgaria where the different premises and their functions are clearly distinguishable. The monastery premises are carved and arranged on two levels in a limestone rock that is almost 40 m high. The monastery church, the monastery cells, the refectory, the kitchen, the small cemetery church, the crypt (ossuary), and the farm premises are all situated on the first level. The second level is a natural rock recess in the eastern part of which lies the monastery chapel.

A group of caves known as the Catacombs is located about 600 - 700 m to the west of the monastery. The archaeological finds such as pottery, coins, graffiti, etc. discovered there, provide evidence that the Catacombs were inhabited by people during the early-Christian Age (5th - 6th centuries).

The Christian name of the monastery is unknown. The word “aladzha” comes from Persian-Arabic and means “motley”, “variegated”.

Extraordinary architectural forms and multiple legends about hidden treasures and ghosts of monks walking across the ruins create an atmosphere of mystery and mysticism, which has been attracting numbers of admirers since decades. During the 1970s a museum was built in the vicinity of the monastery that hosts a permanent exhibition representing the history of the monastery as well as other exhibitions dedicated to the Bulgarian Christianity culture.

A unique audio-visual show called Legends of Aladzha Monastery has been taking place in the monastery since 2009. The monastery was declared a monument of architecture and construction of national importance by virtue of publication in State Gazette, issue No 16 of 1968.

The visitors of the monastery can also take a tour in a museum of miniature models. Souvenirs and information materials are sold there.





<b>Location</b>	Varna	<b>Access</b>	by car by public transport
<b>Working hours</b>	09:00-22:00 (May - October) 09:00-16:00 (November - April)	<b>Services</b>	tourist guide guided tour
<b>Contact details</b>	+359 052 355 460	<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://www.archaeo.museumvarna.com">https://www.archaeo.museumvarna.com</a>
<b>Entry fee</b>	BGN 5	<b>Coordinates</b>	N 43.27821 E 28.01550

### *Dormition of the Mother of God Cathedral, Varna*

The Dormition of the Mother of God Cathedral, Varna is the biggest church in the city of Varna, Bulgaria. It is the residence of the bishopric of Varna and Preslav. Prince Alexander of Battenberg visited the city in August 1880. He approved a construction design modelled after the temple in the Peterhof Palace in St. Petersburg but recommended to change the place chosen for the church and to build it on a vacant ground with more space where the temple could be seen from all sides. The construction continued six years mainly with materials from the district of Varna.

The church sizes are 35 x 35 m. In terms of architecture, it is a three-nave basilica and the main altar is dedicated to the Assumption of the Virgin, the northern one - to St. Alexander Nevsky, and the southern one - to St. Nicholas.

Today, Dormition of the Mother of God Cathedral is one of the most famous buildings in Varna and has become one of the symbols of the city. Orthodox churches were built mostly with donations and voluntary work.

<b>Location</b>	Varna	<b>Access</b>	by car by public transport
<b>Working hours</b>	8:00-18:00 Opened 7 days a week	<b>Services</b>	-
<b>Contact details</b>	+359 46 66 34 03	<b>Website</b>	-
<b>Entry fee</b>	Free of charge entry	<b>Coordinates</b>	N 43.20535 E 27.91028

### *Ethnographic Museum, Varna*

One of the most interesting museums of the sea capital of Bulgaria, the Ethnographic museum, is situated in a house belonging to the age of Revival, which was built around 1860. The ethnographic museum was established in 1974.



The museum presents the rich variety in culture and style of life of the population in the Varna region from the second half of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century.

On the first floor of the museum are presented basic occupations of the population including agriculture and stock-breeding, apiculture, fishing, vine-culture, and the crafts - cooperage, copper-making, furriery and homespun tailoring (manufacturing of a rough woolen fabric). One of the most interesting exponents in the museum is the small ancient plough called “dyolmedzha”, used for ploughing of earth in the beginning of the 20th century. Vessels for storing of grain, as well as for preparing of bread are also exposed.

Two labor customs, related to sowing and harvesting are also presented in the exposition.

The exposition on the second floor presents traditional national costumes, which give an idea about the demographic look of the Varna region. The people’s clothes in the settlements in the region differentiate with their great variety, due to the complex migration processes, which happened in the first decades and the end of the 19th century. Traditional costumes of each of the basic geographic groups in the region are presented here - local population and settlers from the Thracian region, Asia Minor and Macedonia. The traditional costumes for the customs - Christmas, Petlyovden, Lazarovden is also presented.

Here you can get familiar with basic elements of the typical Bulgarian wedding - the taking of the bride from her home, a sleigh with gifts, etc.

Information materials and souvenirs are sold in the museum.

<b>Location</b>	city of Varna	<b>Access</b>	by car by public transport
<b>Working hours</b>	10:00-17:00 Closed on Sunday and Monday.	<b>Services</b>	guided tour tourist guide
<b>Contact details</b>	+359 52 630588	<b>Website</b>	-
<b>Entry fee</b>	BGN 4	<b>Coordinates</b>	N 43.20122 E 27.91390

### *Varna Museum of Archeology*

Varna Museum of Archeology is one of the biggest museums in the country. It keeps one of the most outstanding and valuable monuments of the world culture. It has become a cultural and scientific center with highly qualified specialists. The museum and its collections represent Bulgaria at tens of national and international exhibitions. The individual exhibitions of the museum were presented in famous



museums in France, Germany (twice), Japan, Israel, Italy, and at the international fairs in Seville (Spain) in 1992 and Lisbon (Portugal) in 1998. The exhibition items on stock are used as a base for the work of a number of national and foreign specialists. The exhibits and the museum sites Aladzha Monastery and Roman Thermae are among the most visited attractions by the thousands of tourists to the Bulgarian Black Sea coast.

<b>Location</b>	Varna	<b>Access</b>	by car by public transport
<b>Working hours</b>	10:00-17:00	<b>Services</b>	guided tour
<b>Contact details</b>	+35952 681025	<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://www.archaeo.museumvarna.com/bg/">https://www.archaeo.museumvarna.com/bg/</a>
<b>Entry fee</b>	BGN 8	<b>Coordinates</b>	N 43.20749 E 27.91528

### *Palace Evksinograd, Varna*

Palace Evksinograd is located 8 km to the north of the city of Varna. It is the oldest country residence of the Bulgarian rulers of the last Bulgarian Empire and was built as a summer residence of Prince Alexander of Battenberg in 1881 - 1885. Originally, the residence was called Sandrovo (after the diminutive Italian name of the prince - Sandro), but in 1893 Princess Marie Louise of Bourbon-Parma renamed it to Evksinograd (the Hospitable Town) - from the Greek name of the Black Sea.

The entire “Evksinograd” covers a territory of about 900 decares - ownership of the Bulgarian state, and in addition to the main building it further comprises greenhouses for rare plant species and real flowers, French garden and English park, wine-cellar with newly planted vineyard, sports complex, several holiday villas, the former residence of the head of state, hotel and administrative building with restaurant, and several buildings that accommodated the royal servants and the stables.

The palace is a place of immovable cultural value of national importance.

<b>Location</b>	Varna	<b>Access</b>	by car by public transport
<b>Working hours</b>	Guided tours from 9.00 am, 12.00 pm and 3.00 pm Closed on Monday	<b>Services</b>	guided tour tourist guide
<b>Contact details</b>	+359 52 393 140	<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.euxinograd.bg/bg">http://www.euxinograd.bg/bg</a>
<b>Entry fee</b>	BGN 12	<b>Coordinates</b>	N 43.21927 E 27.99541



***Ethnographic Museum Complex “St. St. Constantine and Helena” - Tsarevtsi***

Museum Complex St. St. Constantine and Helena is located in Tsarevtsi. The complex comprises a church dating back from 1825 and a monastery school with carpet workshop.

Tsarevtsi is a village in Northeastern Bulgaria. It is located in Avren Municipality, district of Varna. In the course of its existence, the village of Tsarevtsi was called by different names - Sultanlar, Tsarevo, Sultantsi.

The first secular school was built in 1872 because the old monastery school had proved to be narrow for the Bulgarians eager for knowledge. Currently, the church and the school are restored and function as a museum complex. In 1980 two mineral springs were found in Tsarevtsi. One of the springs is a salt-water spring with temperature of 60 degrees, and the other one is a fresh-water spring with temperature of 38 degrees.

<b>Location</b>	Avren	<b>Access</b>	by car
<b>Working hours</b>	-	<b>Services</b>	-
<b>Contact details</b>	+359 52 393 140	<b>Website</b>	-
<b>Entry fee</b>	Free of charge	<b>Coordinates</b>	N 43.09458 E 27.56870



Project funded by  
EUROPEAN UNION



## REFERENCES

Website: Euxinograd Palace and the surrounding park.  
<http://www.euxinograd.bg/bg>

Website: Holy Bishopric of Varna and Veliki Preslav <https://www.mitropolia-varna.org/hramove/varna/1028-mitropolitska-katedrala-uspenie-bogorodichno-varna>

Website: Museum of Archeology, Varna.  
<https://www.archaeo.museumvarna.com/bg/>

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

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

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Website: Website: Official website of Balchik Municipality. <http://www.balchik.bg/>

Website: Website: Official website of Shabla Municipality. <https://shabla.bg/>

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