

ROUTE 4

“THE SPIRIT OF BULGARIAN SOUTH 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



Project funded by
EUROPEAN UNION



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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

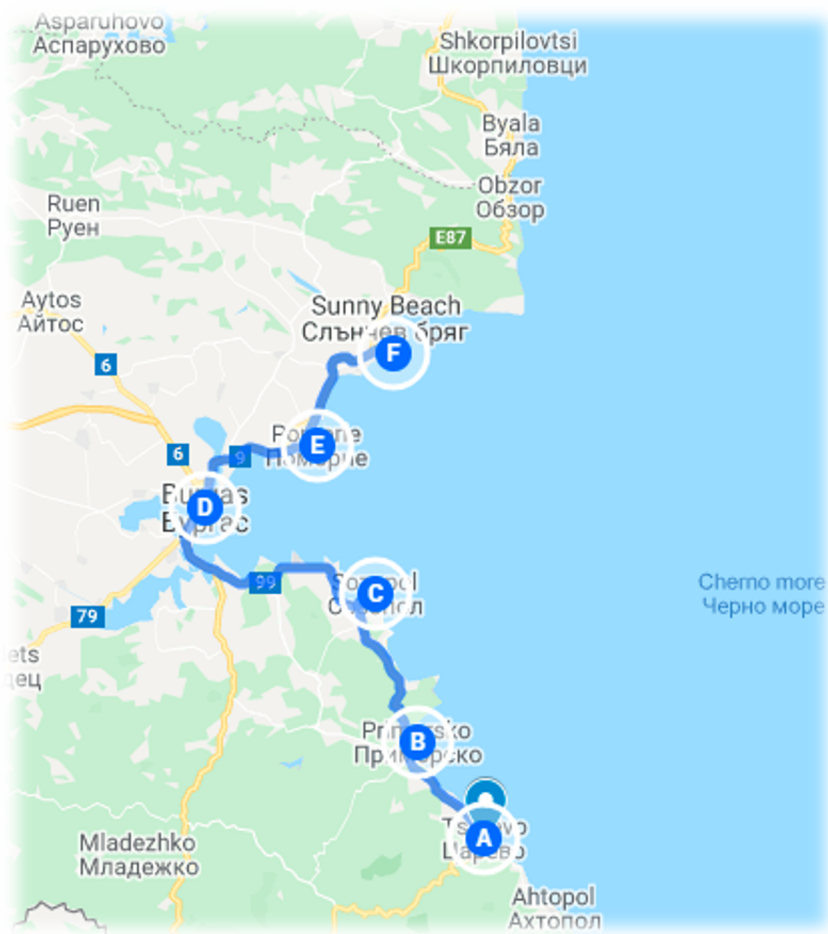
Starting point: town of Tsarevo, district of Burgas

Final point: town of Nessebar, district of Burgas

Duration: 15 days

Transport access: by car, by bicycle, by public transport

Season: all year around



- A. Municipal Museum of History, Tsarevo
Holy Assumption of the Virgin Church, town of Tsarevo
St. Panteleimon Church, village of Brodilovo
- B. Beglik Tash Thracian Sanctuary - Observatory, town of Primorsko
Ropotamo Reservation, Primorsko
- C. Architectural and Archeological Reservation - Antique Sozopol, town of Sozopol

Architectural and Historic Complex “South Fortress Wall and Tower”
Sozopol Archeological Museum
Sozopol Ethnographic Museum
Sozopol Art Gallery
Holy Virgin Church, town of Sozopol
Saints Cyril and Methodius Church, town of Sozopol
St. George Church, town of Sozopol
Sozopol Monastery “St. Nicholas the Wonderworker”, town of Sozopol
Medieval Christian Complex, town Sozopol
Natural and Archeological Reservation St. John Island, town of Sozopol

D. Roman City Deultum (Develtos), Debelt
Burgas Regional Historical Museum, city of Burgas
Burgas Archeological Museum
Burgas Ethnographic Museum
Tourist Complex “Aquae Calidae”, city of Burgas
Tourist Complex “Saint Anastasia Island”
Cathedral „Saints Cyril and Methodius“, city of Burgas
Church “Assumption of the Holy Virgin”, city of Burgas

E. Antique Beehive Tomb, town of Pomorie
Pomorie Historical Museum
Museum of Salt, town of Pomorie
Old Pomorian Houses Architectural Reservation, town of Pomorie

F. Nesebar Architectural-Historical Reserve
Nesebar Archeological Museum
The Old Nessebar Museum, town of Nesebar
Church of St. Stephen, town of Nesebar
Church “Holy Savior St. Spas”, town of Nesebar

3. ATTRACTIONS

DAY 1

Municipal Museum of History, Tsarevo

The Museum of History in the town of Tsarevo is a cultural institution aimed at the heritage protection and promotion of Seaside Strandzha. The museum is active on the territory of 13 settlements across the municipality. Its exhibitions comprise valuable archeological artifacts related to the rituals and traditions of the local people and the Bulgarians from East Thrace driven into exile in 1913.

This cultural institution has an exhibition area on three floors - Archeology Hall, Ethnography Hall and Gallery Hall. Since its foundation, the museum hosts visiting expositions and exhibitions.

It is one of the 100 national tourist attractions in Bulgaria - No 86, and a site of the national movement 'I love Bulgaria'.

The building provides access to people with disabilities.

Location	Tsarevo	Access	by car
Working hours	Monday - Friday: 09:00-18:00 (July - September) 08:00-17:00 (15 September - 30 June) Closed on weekends	Services	guided tours
Contact details	+ 359 590/52008	Website	http://museumtsarevo.com/
Entry fee	BGN 3	Coordinates	N 42.17169 E 27.85270

Holy Assumption of the Virgin Church, Tsarevo

The Holy Assumption of the Virgin Church is located in residential complex Vasiliko, town of Tsarevo. The church was built in 1810 on the high shore of the bay, on the site where of an older church took place. This is evidenced by the preserved icons painted by Yoan Zograf (John the Icon-Painter) from Ahtopol during the period 1797 - 1805. The existing appearance of the church dates back to 1895. It survived after the great fire in Vasiliko at the end of the 19th century. The church is a three-nave basilica with one apse. It is built of stone. A large building was found to the east from the Holy Assumption of the Virgin Church, which probably had two floors. The building dates back to the 16th - 17th century. Having in mind the artifacts found in it, it can be assumed that this building has had a military purpose. It is supposed that it has accommodated the customs point of Vasiliko where the goods from other Ottoman Empire ports arrived here by sea were



accepted.

The Holy Assumption of the Virgin Church is one of the most beautiful churches along the Bulgarian Black Sea coast and is a symbol of the town of Tsarevo.

Location	Tsarevo	Access	by car
Working hours	08:00:12:00 14:00:19:00	Services	-
Contact details	+359 876 210 615	Website	-
Entry fee	free of charge entry	Coordinates	N 42.16528 E 27.86176

St. Panteleimon Church, Brodilovo

The impressive building of the church was build based on the design of an Italian architect during the period 1910 - 1911. The construction process, and then the decoration and arrangement of the church were accomplished only with donations of local people who define themselves as “Greeks” and move to Greece after 1914. This is why almost all captions on the icons in the church are in Greek language. In 2011 the church underwent overhaul funded by the state and the municipality and with small grant by the church board of trustees. The iconostasis and another 40 icons, including all icons in the king’s row, were conserved and restored. With its entire magnificence and brilliance, the St. Panteleimon Church in Brodilovo officially opened doors on 6 August 2011 - on the Transfiguration holiday, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of its consecration.

In terms of architecture, the St. Panteleimon Church is an impressive three-nave basilica with opened narthex and wooden bell-tower above it. The central nave is separated from the lateral ones with wooden columns plastered on their facial side. A two-story and spatial gallery - wooden balcony, where the women and the choir stood, is located in the western part of the naos.

Location	Brodilovo	Access	by car
Working hours	08:00:12:00 14:00:19:00	Services	-
Contact details	-	Website	-
Entry fee	free of charge entry	Coordinates	N 42.09011 E 27.85874

DAY 2

Beglik Tash Thracian Sanctuary - Observatory, Primorsko

The Thracian sanctuary Beglik Tash is located in the highest part of cape Beglik Tash at 128 meters above sea level, near Primorsko. It covers an area of 6 decares.

The entrance for the sanctuary is from the southwest. A stone “marriage bed” can be reached by a cliff path. Two sacrificial stones surround the bed. Deep baths are dug into them, connected by outfalls for pouring of ritual liquids - wine, milk, olive oil, rainwater. A throne of stone stands next to them; deep outfalls and crossing lines are dug around it, which join and form a large rectangular “sharapana”. Three “menhiris” (large round stones) lie in the eastern part of the circle. A “divine step”, 0.6 meters long, 0.34 meters wide is carved at the top of the highest “menhiri”. The same “divine step” can be found in the opposite southern section at the foot of the rock terrace. The divine steps mark the innermost sacred place intended only for those who are initiated to participate in the mysteries.

So far, the central platform of the sanctuary is best researched. It is slightly raised above the surrounding terrain; cave elements, which used to serve in rituals, lie at the platform in a circle with a diameter of 56 meters. They have preserved their natural characteristics but were moved and shaped by humans with the typical sacred symbols and signs.

Behind them one can see an astronomical clock made of 16 flat round stones and a huge dolmen, representing the “holy cave”, where the Mother Goddess gave birth to her son - the Sun God, as well as the “labyrinth” - the path of the ordeal.

Pottery, stone tools and weapons, flints, coins, etc. were found during archaeological explorations. They show that the place was created in the middle of the 2nd millennium BC and was destroyed at the beginning of the 4th century AD. The lack of later constructions upon it has allowed the preservation of the unique sacred elements in their original form.

Location	Primorsko	Access	by car
Working hours	10:00-18:00 July - September Opened 7 days a week	Services	guided tour
Contact details	+359 550 3 24 66.	Website	-
Entry fee	2 лв.	Coordinates	N 42.31167 E 27.76752

Ropotamo Reservation, Primorsko

The Ropotamo Reservation is located in the territory of Primorsko Municipality. It is situated around the two banks of Ropotamo river. The river stream passes by large sand dunes before its flowing into the Black Sea.

The locality was declared a protected territory in 1940, and in 1992 it was broadened and declared a reserve with a total area of 1,000.7 ha.

There are multiple interesting and unique natural sites on the reservation territory - a firth part and an inlet terrace of the Ropotamo river with natural dense forests, natural sand dunes and a beach stripe, broad-leaved forests with Mediterranean elements. A deposit of sea wormwood (*Artemisia maritima*) is also found here. The Arkutino swamp is also situated within the reserve borders. Some of the species that grow there are white water lily (*Nymphaea alba*), duckweeds (*Lemnaoideae*), yellow water lily (*Nuphar lutea*), reed, rush and bulrush.

The reservation also comprises the rock formations “The lion head”, the “Joyful rock”, as well as the St. Thomas island, also known as the Snake Island.

The fauna in the Ropotamo reservation is presented by 21 mammal species, 260 bird species, 23 amphibian species. In order to protect this unique territory, in 2002 it was declared Ramsar area No 65 (declared on 24 September 1975 for the Arkutino region and broadened on 24 September 2002, called Ropotamo Complex, with a total area of 5500 ha.

The new complex includes various categories of protected areas - maintained reserve Velyov Vir, protected area Stamopolu Swamp, natural landmarks Alepu Swamp, Maslen Nos, Sand Dunes in the locality of Perla and Sand Dunes in the locality of Alepu.

The locality is a shelter for many species of national and international significance, among which 7 globally endangered bird species, 2 plant species, 8 invertebrates and 7 mammals. 5 Bulgarian and 12 Balkan endemites and 22 relict species have been found.

Any kind of human activity is forbidden in the reserve, excluding its guarding, scientific visits and passing of people along the marked paths. The visits to the reserve are performed only along the 8 designated paths marked for visitors. All land and water routes are marked by indicative board signs and information boards.

Location	Primorsko	Access	by car
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Working hours	9:00-17:30 All year around from Monday to Friday	Services	guided tours
Contact details	+359 56 813205	Website	-
Entry fee	free of charge entry	Coordinates	N 42.30042 E 27.72956

DAY 3 - DAY 6

Architectural and Archeological Reservation - Antique Sozopol

By Decree No 320 of the Council of Ministers 7th of September 1974 the old town of Sozopol was declared an architectural and archaeological reservation called “The Antique Sozopol”. It covers over 180 Sozopol houses of the Age of Revival, built between the middle of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th century, some of which were declared monuments of culture. The medieval church at the Monastery “St. Apostles”, the Art Gallery, the Ethnographic collection, the church “St. Mary”, the Christian medieval complex, the museum at the fortress wall, the church “St. Cyril and Methodius” are situated within the reservations borders.

The architecture of the typical Sozopol houses is specific, containing elements of the typical Strandzha houses and Balkan Mountain houses of the Age of Revival. It was built on stone foundations and it has sun-dried brick walls, covered by an external wooden boarding, which protects the buildings from the salty sea breeze. The roof is covered by Turkish tiles. Most of the old Sozopol houses have two or three floors, and the first one was used for farm needs and for storing craftsmen tools and wine barrels.

The most popular Sozopol houses are: the house of Marieta Stefanova, which was built upon a medieval fortified wall; the house of Kurdilis, in which the Ethnographic museum is housed nowadays; the house of Baba Kukulisa Hadzhinikolova; the house of Kurtidi, also known as the Thracian Inn, in which you can see an impressive fretwork in one of the rooms on the second floor; the house of Lina Psarianova; the house of Kreanoolu, etc.

Nowadays in the Old Sozopol one can also see renovated remains of the south fortified wall with a rectangular tower. The ancient town was situated on the rocky peninsula and was encircled by fortification walls protecting it by sea and land. The walls were raised at the beginning of the 6th century AD, but they were reconstructed and rebuilt multiple times after that. Nowadays, a square wooden well of the 4th - 3rd century BC can be seen in the complex, as well as a part of the water-mains of the ancient town dating back to the 5th century BC, an early Byzantine grain warehouse, a chapel from the 13th - 14th century, etc.

The Old Sozopol was declared a winner in the Bulgaria's Wonders competition organised in 2011.

Location	town of Sozopol	Access	by foot
Working hours and services	<p>The Museum of Archeology organizes a guided tour around Antique Sozopol</p> <p>Houses are private and are not open for visitors. Fortresses and ancient and medieval remains are out-door attractions, the access for visitors is free and there are no entry fees.</p>		
Contact details	+359 550 22226	Website	-
Entry fee	free of charge entry	Coordinates	N 42.42190 E 27.69314

Architectural and Historic Complex "South Fortress Wall and Tower"

Architectural and Historic Complex "South Fortress Wall and Tower" is located on the south panoramic alley in the old part of the town of Sozopol. The complex comprises a museum exhibition too.

Access to and within the complex is ensured for people with specific opportunities.

Location	town of Sozopol	Access	by foot
Working hours	<p>9:30 - 21:00 Opened 7 days a week June - September</p> <p>October - April upon request</p>	Services	guided tour
Contact details	+359 550/22226	Website	https://www.sozopol.bg/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8365&Itemid=227
Entry fee	BGN 7	Coordinates	N 42.2525 E 27.4144

Sozopol Archeological Museum

Museum works in the Antique Sozopol are performed by the municipal cultural institute Museum Center that maintains three permanent exhibitions -

Archeological, Ethnographic and Artistic Exhibition.

The Museum of Archeology in Sozopol is located in the old part of the town. It is housed in the building of the temple of the Saints Cyril and Methodius and in several halls provided by the cultural center of the town of Sozopol.

The Museum of Archeology reveals the history and the millennial cultural traditions of the town of Sozopol from the end of the 6th millennium BC to the 17th century AD. The collections of stone and lead anchors and bayonets - 2nd - 1st millennium BC, the ancient Greek painted vases - 6th - 5th century BC, and the antique and medieval amphorae - 6th century BC - 14th century AD, are most impressive.

The museum is divided into two sections: archeology (5th millennium BC - 17th century AD) and Christian art (17th - 19th century).

Visitors of the archaeological museum can see the alabaster casket containing the relics of John the Baptist for centuries and a small box with a Greek inscription talking about the journey of the relics to St. John Island. The saint's relics were discovered during archaeological excavations on the nearby St. John Island in the summer of 2010. Today the valuable relic is often displayed in other towns, but when in Sozopol it can be seen in Saints Cyril and Methodius Temple.

Ancient Sozopol and the relics of John the Baptist won Bulgaria's Wonders competition organised in 2011.

The museum hosts the international Francophonie festival Soleil and Apolonia Festival of Arts. Art exhibitions, chamber concerts, music contests and masterclasses are organised in its halls.

Location	town of Sozopol	Access	by foot
Working hours	8:30 - 18:00 Opened 7 days a week June - September 8:30-12:30 13:30-17:00 October - May Closed on weekends	Services	guided tour
Contact details	+359 550/22226	Website	https://www.sozopol.bg/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8365&Itemid=227
Entry fee	BGN 7	Coordinates	N 42.42197 E 27.69326

Sozopol Ethnographic Museum

Museum works in the antique Sozopol are performed by the municipal cultural institute Museum Center that maintains three permanent exhibitions - Archeological, Ethnographic and Artistic Exhibition.

The Ethnographic Museum was founded in 2005. The exhibition comprises more than 300 exhibits granted by the local community center, the Thracian society “Yani Popov” and the Bulgarian-Greek Society “Apolonia”. The exhibition is accommodated in the Thracian Inn House (end of 18th century) - an architectural monument of culture from the National Revival Age. It is located in the old part of the town of Sozopol on 34 Saints Cyril and Methodius Street. The authentic appearance of the yard is due to the shapely sheds and porches under which a loom, wine barrels, grape crushers, agricultural tools, a couch and household utensils are exhibited.

The exposition represents the coziness of a traditional Sozopol house with the low round dining table and the near fireplace full of kitchen utensils. The exhibition highlights the traditional fabrics and costumes that are typical for the ethnographic groups Ruptsi, Zagortsi and Tronki who inhabited the region of the town of Sozopol during the 18th - 19th century. National costumes, beautiful table cloths and joyful rugs, motley aprons, cushions and cuff-sleeves ensure the multi-coloured atmosphere that contrasts with the floors and ceilings darkened over the time. The museum presents craftsman tools related to the main livelihood of the inhabitants - fishing, agriculture, farm-breeding. The spinning-wheel, bobbin, wool picker, cotton gin arranged on the floor represent the domestic crafts and give the final touch to the exhibition.

Location	town of Sozopol	Access	by foot
Working hours	8:30 - 18:00 Opened 7 days a week June - September 8:30-12:30 13:30-17:00 Closed on weekends October - May	Services	guided tour
Contact details	+359 878433557	Website	https://www.sozopol.bg/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8365&Itemid=227
Entry fee	BGN 7	Coordinates	N 42.42393

E 27.69560

Sozopol Art Gallery

Museum works in the antique Sozopol are performed by the municipal cultural institute Museum Center that maintains three permanent exhibitions - Archeological, Ethnographic and Artistic Exhibition.

The Art Gallery of the town of Sozopol was founded in 1991. It is accommodated in a building - monument of culture, built in the rocky seashore in the northeastern part of Sozopol peninsula. The permanent exposition is arranged on two floors and comprises about 300 works - paintings, graphics and sculptures.

The collection of paintings of Prof. Aleksandar Mutafov - one of the first Bulgarian marine artists, is impressive. The Old Sozopol collection is presented in a separate hall comprising the works of Sozopol artists Yani Hrisopoulos and Petar Katerkov. Paintings of Georgi Bozhilov - the Elephant, Nikolay Shmirgela, Georgi Baev, K. Karamfilov, Gredi Asa, Ivan Bahchevanov and other famous Bulgarian artists are also exhibited.

Location	town of Sozopol	Access	by foot
Working hours	8:30 - 18:00 Opened 7 days a week June - September 8:30-12:30 13:30-17:00 Closed on weekends October - May	Services	tourist guide
Contact details	+359 550/22202	Website	https://www.sozopol.bg/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8365&Itemid=227
Entry fee	-	Coordinates	N 42.42531 E 27.69937

Holy Virgin Church, Sozopol

The Assumption of the Virgin or the Holy Virgin Church is a late medieval Bulgarian church located in the north part of the Old Sozopol. It was built during the 15th century on the place of an older Christian temple. Evidence of its existence dates back to 1482 when it was a monastery church to the nunnery of St. John the Prodrome Monastery.

According to the design, the church is a three-nave, one-apse basilica. It is

dug in the ground and its eastern wall is at the level of the passing-by street. This is due to the period it was built in - during the Ottoman Yoke, when Christian temples had not to exceed 2 m above the ground. The church stores valuable wood-carved iconostasis, a pulpit and a bishop's throne - work of the Debar School masters, created at the end of the 18th century. The iconostasis depicts abundant vegetation ornaments and multiple scenes with figural compositions of the Holy Bible. The church is a functioning temple, monument of culture of national importance of 1927.

The Holy Virgin Church in Sozopol is on the UNESCO List of World Cultural Heritage Sites.

Location	town of Sozopol	Access	by foot
Working hours	08:00:12:00 14:00:19:00	Services	guided tour
Contact details	-	Website	-
Entry fee	free of charge entry	Coordinates	N 42.42463 E 27.69511

Church „Saints Cyril and Methodius”, Sozopol

This is a Bulgarian orthodox church built in 1889 by the famous Bulgarian master Usta Gencho. The church is a one-nave basilica - 25 m long, 12,7 m wide and 12 m high. A 22,8 m high tower-bell is erected next to it.

The church „Saints Cyril and Methodius”, was restored in 2011. The gold-plated two-meter cross was made in Kiev. This is the third orthodox temple in Bulgaria with such type of dome after the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral and the Russian church in the village of Shipka.

Today, the Saints Cyril and Methodius Church in Sozopol keeps the relics of St. John the Baptist. The valuable relics were discovered during archaeological excavations on the nearby St. John Island.

Location	town of Sozopol	Access	by foot
Working hours	06:00:19:00	Services	-
Contact details	-	Website	-
Entry fee	free of charge entry	Coordinates	N 42.42197 E 27.69367

“St. George” Church, Sozopol

“St. George” church is a Bulgarian church of the National Revival located in the town of Sozopol. The church is situated in the old part of the town of Sozopol.



It keeps valuable icons of the second half of the 19th century. Parts of the relics of St. John the Baptist found on St. John Island and other Christian relics - part of the Holy Cross and part of the relics of St. Andrew the Apostle, are housed in the church. The building is a three-nave one-apse pseudo basilica. It was built in 1828 on the place of an old basilica. The temple has undergone several reconstructions and repairs. The last reconstruction and its current appearance date back to 1991.

Location	town of Sozopol	Access	by foot
Working hours	08:00:12:00 14:00:19:00	Services	-
Contact details	-	Website	-
Entry fee	free of charge entry	Coordinates	N 42.42376 E 27.69503

Sozopol Monastery “St. Nicholas the Wonderworker”, Sozopol

The medieval “St. Nicholas the Wonderworker” Monastery is located between and in the immediate vicinity of the south gate of the Old Sozopol and the “St. Cyril and Methodius” Church.

The monastery was found at the beginning of October 2011 during the archeological excavations near the South Fortress Wall and Tower. The monastery church - three-nave basilica, was built during the Middle Ages over a one-nave early Christianity temple of the 5th - 6th century. The archeological research of the monument and the artifacts found in and around it give multiple evidence about the past of the antique monastery. The three emperor’s stamps found there - the one of Basil II the Bulgar Slayer, the one of Theodora, and another one, indicate that this church in Sozopol was protected by the Byzantine emperors.

Another great finding in the monastery taken out of its oblivion, is the reliquary with chrism of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, which was found in the central part of the church in 2012 and gives evidence both of the importance of the monastery and of its patron. The reliquary is a little clay pot with a cover and was found in a small brick niche. These are typical elements for the early Christian era. The miniature pot contained emulsion and powder. It is believed that the very emulsion is the chrism of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker.

Location	town of Sozopol	Access	by foot
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Working hours	all year around	Services	guided tour
Contact details	+359 56 813205	Website	-
Entry fee	free of charge entry	Coordinates	N 42.300474 E 27.729197

Medieval Christian Complex, Sozopol

The medieval Christian complex is located in the center of the Old Town to the north from “St. George Church”, between Apolonia Steet and Saints Cyril and Methodius Steet. Three construction periods are identified:

- 11th century with classical basilic design;
- end of 11th - end of 14th century - reconstruction of the basilic design into crossed-dome;
- end of 14th - beginning of 17th century - reconstruction related to the attack against Sozopol in 1366 by Amadeus, Count of Savoy, and the establishment of Sozopol bishopric.

At the end of the 17th century, the complex was destroyed by the Turkish rulers under the pretext of pirates hiding there;

Location	town of Sozopol	Access	by foot
Working hours	9:00-17:30 all year around from Monday to Friday	Services	guided tour
Contact details	+359 56 813205	Website	-
Entry fee	free of charge entry	Coordinates	N 42.2526 E 27. 4142

Natural and Archeological Reservation St. John Island, Sozopol

St. John Island is the biggest of the five islands along the Bulgarian Black Sea coast. Its area is 660 decares and its highest point is 33 meters above the sea level. The island is a nature and archeological reserve placed under the protection of the state by decree promulgated in State Gazette №. 35/1965.

The island was a sacred place for the ancient Thracians who built here their sanctuary during the 7th century BC. In the early Middle Ages, a large monastery was built here, which was given the status of an imperial monastery in 1308. In the middle of the 15th century, the monastery was demolished only to be rebuilt a few years later. In 1629 the Ottoman Turks demolished it again to make sure it wouldn't serve as a shelter for the pirates hunting in the Black Sea waters.

During the archeological excavations on St. John island in June 2010, the team of Prof. Kazimir Popkonstantinov made an exclusive find - they found the relics of St. John the Baptist and a sealed reliquary made of alabaster containing a tooth, parts of arm and face bones. Scholars also revealed an inscription on the reliquary found in the alter section of the oldest temple on the island. Such inscription reads that Thomas moved the holy relics of St. John the Baptist right on his birthday. The scholars from Oxford confirm the authenticity of the find and the news about the relics gave rise to serious tourist and pilgrim interest and visits to the Saints Cyril and Methodius Church in Sozopol where the relics are exhibited even today.

There are no organised tourist visits to the island. However, it is accessible to tourists. It can be reached by boat from the Sozopol port.

Location	town of Sozopol	Access	The island can be reached by sea. A boat can be rented at the port of Sozopol.
Working hours	free access	Services	-
Contact details	-	Website	-
Entry fee	free of charge entry	Coordinates	N 42.438078 E 27.692504

DAY 7 - DAY 10

Roman City Deultum (Develtos), Debelt

The village of Debelt is situated 17 km southwest from Burgas. The name of the contemporary village of Debelt is a modification of the name of the antique town Deultum and the medieval Develt, the remains of which are located at the end of the village. The Roman Colony of Deultum was established here by the veterans of the 8th Augusta Legion at the beginning of the 70s of the 1st century, during the ruling of emperor Titus Flavius Vespasian. This is the only colony of free Roman citizens on the present Bulgarian territory. There was a port by the town, which was situated by today's Lake Mandrensko.

During the following three centuries the town broadened and established itself as one of the richest towns in the province. During the ruling of Emperor Mark Aurelius (2nd century AD) it was protected by large fortified walls. The town structure is according to the Hippodamus system (a rectangular street network-oriented according to the globe directions), with a very good water supply and sewerage. Impressive public bath with floor heating was found during

archaeological excavations. It was built at the end of the 1st century and reconstructed during the following centuries to the end of the 3rd century. The building size, as well as the degree to which it is preserved, are impressive.

The moving of the capital of the Roman Empire from Rome to Constantinople during the 4th century had a great influence on the town development. It turned into an element of the defence system of the empire against barbarian raids and an important communication point.

A number of large coin treasures were found during archaeological examinations in the region. Statues, inscriptions, ceramics and small finds have also been found here. Nowadays they can be seen in the Museum of Archeology in the city of Burgas. The fortress was declared an architectural and construction monument in State Gazette no. 65 of 1965.

The archeological site in the village of Debelt offer information materials and souvenirs.

Location	Debelt	Access	by car
Working hours	Monday to Friday 8:00-17:00 Upon prior request at weekends	Services	беседа
Contact details	+359 056 915799	Website	-
Entry fee	BGN 3	Coordinates	N 42.38752 E 27.28407

Burgas Regional Historical Museum, Burgas

Burgas Regional Historical Museum is accommodated in a building of the age of neoclassicism. It was built in 1901 by the Greek merchant Achilleas Ioannidis.

The museum has three exhibition halls arranged on three floors. The first floor displays highlights of the history of the city of Burgas through pictures and artifacts from the museum stock, as well as interior presentations. This permanent exposition provides information about a few archeological sites on the territory of the city, its development during the period of the National Revival, the combat mission of 24th Burgas infantry regiment, the modernization of the port city at the beginning of the 20th century and the change of its appearance after 1944.

The second floor hosts the hall of icons where valuable icons of the Tryavna Icon Painting School of the time of the National Revival are displayed, in addition to old printed books and church plates of mid- and late 19th century. Artifacts from the European Applied and Fine Art collection - crystal mirrors and glasses, porcelain, bronze plastic art of the age of classicism and late baroque, are also

exhibited.

The Wall of Letters is arranged in the yard of the Museum of History. It illustrates 11 of the most ancient written systems in the world - cuneiform, Egypt hieroglyphs, ancient Indian script “brahmi”, Phoenician writing system, Latin, Chinese, Runic, Greek, Arabic, Glagolitic and Cyrillic alphabet. This is the first of its kind exhibition in Bulgaria.

Location	Burgas	Access	by car
Working hours	09:00-17:00 (October - May) Closed on Sunday and Monday 09:00-19:00 (June - September)	Services	guided tours video film shows
Contact details	+359 56 82 03 44	Website	http://www.burgas museums.bg/
Entry fee	BGN 5	Coordinates	N 42.49622 E 27.47513

Burgas Archeological Museum

The Burgas Archeological Museum is part of the Regional Museum of History in the city. The Museum of Archeology is located in the former girls’ school that was built in 1894. It was designed by the Swiss architect Herman Maier.

The exhibition of the museum displays artifacts from prehistoric settlements in the region that date back to the 4th - 5th millennium BC, ancient Thracian cities, the time of Greek colonization of the Black Sea and the Roman Empire.

The oldest artifacts in the museum are implements of stone, flint and bone from the Neolithic Age found in excavated settlement mounds. в музея са сечива от камък, кремък и кост от новокаменната и каменно-медната епоха от проучени селищни могили. Sunken Bronze Age cities (3rd millennium BC) are also found in the bay of Burgas. The plenty of stone anchors of various sizes evidence the development of the maritime activity in the bay throughout this ancient era. A copper ingots of the Minoan type found near the village of Cherkovo, not far from Burgas, is evidence of the trade relationships of the Thracians with the Mediterranean world during the 15th - 13th century BC.

In the ancient settlement of Antiy, now a Burgas naval base, a statue of god Apollo was found that is also on display in the museum.

The third hall of the Museum of Archeology presents the Thracian cultic practices during the time of the Roman rule in Thrace (1st - 3rd century). There is a

display of treasure found in a Thracian tomb of that era near Pomorie, where the Thracian priestess Leseskapra was burned and buried. Her name is inscribed with Greek letters on a pair of golden earrings. Ritual earthenware figures related to the priestess' duties were also found in the tomb. The collection also comprises marble reliefs and figurines of various gods, the most notable being the preeminent Thracian god known as the Thracian Horseman.

The museum also has an outdoor exhibition with the unique Thracian tomb - "dolmen" of the 13th century BC discovered in the village of Belevren being the most valuable exhibits. Visitors may also see memorable marble stellae from the gravesites of those who lived in Burgas from the 17th to the beginning of the 20th century: Bulgarians, Greeks, Jews, Armenians and Turks.

The museum sells information materials and souvenirs.

Location	Burgas	Access	by car
Working hours	10:00-17:30 Saturday: 10:00:16:30 (June - September) 09:00-17:00 (October - May) Upon request at weekends	Services	guided tours video film shows
Contact details	+359 56 82 03 44	Website	http://www.burgas-museums.bg/
Entry fee	BGN 3	Coordinates	N 42.49364 E 27.47548

Burgas Ethnographic Museum

The Ethnographic Museum in the city of Burgas is located in a house known as the Brakalov House, which was built in 1873 for the respected community leader Dimitar Todorov Brakalov.

The museum is located near the Cathedral "Saints Cyril and Methodius". On the museum's first floor, visitors may see the interior design of a 19th-century house of Burgas and women's fashions of the period. The museum foyer is used for temporary exhibitions.

The second floor is of particular interest to visitors where an impressive collection displays the Bulgarian traditional costumes from every ethnographic group that has settled in Burgas - the Ruptsi; the Tronki; the Zagortsi; the Planintsi; the Aliani; and Bulgarians who settled in what is now Greece and Turkey. There are unique festival costumes and accessories from the 19th century that were worn for ritual purposes and traditional celebrations that are typical only for the

region of Burgas: Nestinarka, Enyova Bulya, Lazarka, and Karakachanska Bulka. There are also authentic wedding clothes from the village of Zidarovo.

The museum sells information materials and souvenirs.

Location	Burgas	Access	by car
Working hours	10:00-17:30 Saturday: 10:00:16:30 (June - September) 09:00-17:00 (October - May) Upon request at weekends	Services	guided tours video film shows
Contact details	+359 56 82 03 44	Website	http://www.burgas-museums.bg/
Entry fee	BGN 3	Coordinates	N 42.49615 E 27.47499

Tourist Complex “Aquae Calidae”, city of Burgas

Aquae Calidae complex near Burgas is quite new tourist attraction. Aquae Calidae is a historic settlement on the territory of the city of Burgas in the land area of Vetren and Banevo residential complexes. During the Middle Ages it was also known as Therma and Thermopolis. It was proved that the thermae were visited by Philip II of Macedon, the Roman emperors Justinian I and Constantine IV Pogonatos, the Byzantine empress Ino Anastasia, the Bulgarian khan Tervel, and sultan Suleiman the Magnificent. Today, the famous Burgas Mineral Baths are located on its territory.

On 18 September 2015 the restored museum complex was found. It comprises the bath of Suleiman the Magnificent with multimedia performance, the mineral water faucets, an outdoor stage with glass floor above the excavations.

Location	city of Burgas	Access	by car
Working hours	08:30 - 17:30 Monday - Sunday	Services	guided tours visit with 3D show
Contact details	+359 882 00 41 26	Website	http://www.aquae-calidae.com/
Entry fee	BGN 4	Coordinates	N 42.61156 E 27.39372

Tourist Complex “Saint Anastasia Island”

The single inhabited island on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast - Saint Anastasia, is located in the waters of the bay of Burgas.

The monastery “St. Anastasia Phaarmacolitria (Healer)” is the only insular cloister in Bulgaria part of which is preserved nowadays. During the Middle Ages such holy sanctuaries existed on Sozopol Islands of St. John, St. Cyricus and Julita, and on the Island of St. Thomas, however only their archeological remains exist now.

The earliest evidence of the existence of the monastery dates back from the 15th century. Over the years, the monastery has been burned several times and attacked by pirates. The monastery church, called “Assumption of the Virgin”, is a small church with solid stone structure fortified with wooden reinforcement props. This oldest part of the church was later on turned into alter. There is a remarkable wooden iconostasis of 1802 placed between this alter and the subsequent expansion of the monastery church.

The island is featured by a lighthouse built by a French company in 1889. It was mounted on an iron pole raising 40 meters above the sea level, and when the weather is good, its light was visible from 10 miles. In 1912, the foundations of the new lighthouse, which directs the ships even today, were laid in the northern part of the island. The lighthouse was lit for the first time on 13 June 1914.

Location	Burgas	Access	By the municipal catamaran ‘Anastasia’ or by private boat
Working hours	10:00 - 20:00 Opened 7 days a week	Services	guided tours visit with 3D show
Contact details	+359 882 004 124	Website	https://anastasia-island.com/news.php?id=37
Entry fee	BGN 6	Coordinates	N 42.46789 E 27.55333

Cathedral „Saints Cyril and Methodius“, Burgas

The cathedral “Saints Cyril and Methodius” is the oldest Christian cloister in the city of Burgas. The church is located in the city center, on the Saints Cyril and Methodius Square. It is named after the brother saints, creators of the Slavonic alphabet and missionaries of Christianity among Slavonic peoples. It was built in 1897 - 1907 according to the design of the Italian architect Ricardo Toscani. The church is a three-nave basilica. The interior of the cathedral is divided by five couples of weight-bearing marble columns. The main dome stands over a high twelve-walled windowed drum. The beautiful stained glass over the main entrance of the cathedral portrays Cyril and Methodius. The unique mural paintings were created by the famous Bulgarian artists Prof. Gyudzhenov and Kozhuharov, who also painted the walls of the St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral in Sofia.

Location	Burgas	Access	by car
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			by public transport
Working hours	08:00:12:00 14:00:19:00	Services	-
Contact details	-	Website	-
Entry fee	free of charge entry	Coordinates	N 42.14866 E 27.81758

Church "Assumption of the Holy Virgin", Burgas

The Holy Virgin Church built in 1840 - 1860 is the oldest one in Burgas. It is located in the city downtown on Lermontov Street, near the Armenian Church. The Holy Mother Virgin Mary - the most honoured saint among Orthodox Christians, is the patron-saint of the church. The church building is a three-nave basilica with 12 monolith marble columns bearing the roof structure and the wide balconies. The church houses icons painted by monks in the Holy Mountain of Athos. In 1927-28 the two towers of the church were built and three impressive bells were installed in one of them. After the World War II, the church was declared a monument of culture.

Location	Burgas	Access	by car by public transport
Working hours	08:00:12:00 14:00:19:00	Services	-
Contact details	+ 359 56 846 090	Website	-
Entry fee	free of charge entry	Coordinates	N 42.492479 E 27.475579

DAY 11-12

Antique Beehive Tomb, Pomorie

The antique beehive tomb in the town of Pomorie is situated to the west from Pomorie, close to Pomorie-Burgas road. The tomb dates back to the 2nd - 3rd century AD. It is believed that it had served as a heroon (a mausoleum) of a rich Anhialo family, where religious pagan rituals had been performed.

The tomb consists of a 22 meters long corridor (dromos) and a round chamber with a diameter of 11.60 meters and a height of 5.50 meters. It was built of stone and bricks. The tomb was arched by a semi-cylindrical arch. There is a hollow column with a diameter of 3.30 meters in its center. The column broadens in length and merges with the external wall. There was a winding staircase on the internal site of the hollow column which led to the mound surface. There are five

niches on the bypass wall in which the urns of the deceased had been placed.

The tomb is the only one of its kind on the Balkan Peninsula. Its architecture and construction impresses visitors even today due to its perfect implementation. It was declared a monument of architecture and construction in State Gazette no. 35 of 1965.

Location	town of Pomorie	Access	by car
Working hours	09:00-17.00 from Tuesday to Sunday, closed on Monday June - September October - May: The tomb is opened from Monday to Friday upon prior request for groups of more than 10 people.	Services	-
Contact details	+359 596 2 20 08	Website	http://pomorie-historical-museum.com/obekti-kam-muzeya/antichna-kupulna-grobnica.html
Entry fee	BGN 2	Coordinates	N 42.56739 E 27.59630

Pomorie Historical Museum

Pomorie Historical Museum has preserved and exhibited the the cultural and historic heritage of the town of Pomorie and the region. The building of the museum is a monument of culture. It was built during the last two decades of the 19th century, when a Greek girls school was originally accommodated in it.

The museum has a rich archeological exposition comprising unique exhibits related to the prehistory of the region, as well as the ancient and medieval history of Anhialo. The numismatic wealth of the exhibition consists of Anhialo coins from the Roman era, the cities Messambria, Deultum, Marcianopolis. Medieval, Byzantine, Bulgarian, Ottoman and Western European coin finds are also exhibited.

Location	town of Pomorie	Access	by car
Working hours	15 June -15 September	Services	-



	Monday - Friday 08:30 - 19:30 Weekends - 09:00 - 18:00		
Contact details	+359 622 008	Website	http://pomorie-historical-museum.com/
Entry fee	BGN 2	Coordinates	N 42.55459 E 27.64630

Museum of Salt, Pomorie

The only museum of salt not only in Bulgaria but in Eastern Europe is located in the town of Pomorie, 20 km away from Burgas. It opened doors on 7 September 2002 and is dedicated to the production of salt through solar evaporation of seawater. This method is known as the “ancient Anchialo technology”.

Production of salt in the region of Pomorie provided a livelihood for the local people for centuries. According to historical sources, the salt-pans in the region of Pomorie existed even before the establishment of the town (about 5th century BC). In ancient times, salt was extremely valuable - rare and expensive - and for this reason it was called “white gold”.

The Museum of Salt in Pomorie is a specialised outdoor museum - visitors may see both the museum building and the 20 decares of salt-pans adjacent to the museum, where salt is still being produced.

The salt-pans area a number of basins separated from one another by wood and dirt embankments. Salt is produced there by using the same technology that was used centuries ago.

The museum exhibition in the building represents the development of ancient salt-production technology. Here you can see a rich collection of photographs from the beginning of the 20th century and copies of documents from the period 15th - 19th century, which depict the production and trade of salt in Bulgaria. Some of the most interesting exhibits within the collection are the authentic salt-working tools, such as wooden salt-working barrows, rakes, etc.

Location	Pomorie	Access	by car by public transport
Working hours	1 October - 31 May: 8.00 - 16.00 Monday - Friday	Services	guided tour



	Closed on weekends. 1 June - 30 September: 8.00 - 18.00 Monday - Friday 10.00 - 18.00 on Saturday Closed on Sunday.		
Contact details	+ 359 596 25344	Website	http://pomorie-historical-museum.com/obekti-kam-muzeya/filial-muzey-na-solta.html
Entry fee	BGN 2	Coordinates	N 42.56564 E 27.63226

Old Pomorian Houses Architectural Reservation, Pomorie

Old Pomorian Houses reserve is located close to the sea shore, at the east end of the old part of Pomorie and presents the architecture and the typical elements of the seashore houses. The buildings in the reserve were built during the 19th century. The typical Pomorian house, which tourists can see while walking along the cobblestone streets, is a two-floor house that consists of stone ground floor and a frame-built upper floor. The upper floor is covered by wooden casing made of pine planks and beech logs upon them, placed horizontally. In rich Pomorian houses the salons and the rooms had artistic decoration on the ceilings and the walls.

The houses in the reserve are private and are not open for visitors, but the Museum of History in Pomorie has an exhibition that recreates the exact arrangement of the Anhialo home. There visitors can find out more about the living style of local people in the past.

Location	town of Pomorie	Access	by car by public transport
Working hours	Monday - Friday: 08:00 - 12:00 13:00 - 17:00	Services	guided tour



Contact details	+ 359 59622008	Website	https://www.pomorie.bg/
Entry fee	BGN 2	Coordinates	N 42.565076 E 27.633330

DAY 13-15

Nesebar Architectural-Historical Reserve

Nesebar Architectural-Historical Reserve is located in the Old Town and takes the form of an 850 m long and 350 m wide peninsula. The Old Town was declared an architectural and historic reserve of national importance by virtue of Council of Ministers' Decree No 243 of 18.07.1956.

In 1983 it is included in the UNESCO List of World Cultural Heritage Sites.

Nesebar is one of the most ancient towns in Europe founded 3200 years ago. During Antiquity the town was called Messambria, in the Middle Ages it was known as Mesemvria, and it was later renamed to Nessebar. Numerous archeological findings provide evidence of the centuries-old history of the Old Nessebar. Many of them can be seen at the Museum of Archeology in Nessebar located at the very beginning of the peninsula. The individual museum halls provide information about the town's existence under the control of the Thracians, the Roman Empire, the Byzantine Empire and the Bulgarian State.

Ever since it was found, the town has always been surrounded by fortification walls, some remains of which have survived to this day. The first fortification walls were built by the Thracians in the 8th century BC. Later on, during the 5th century BC, the Greek colonisers also constructed fortification facilities. After the Romans conquered Mesemvria, they used the fortification walls as well. The period in which Mesemvria was under the rule of the Byzantine Empire was characterised by a construction boom (5th century AD). The wall by the town's gate is the best-preserved example of a fortification wall from this period. During the early Byzantine period, a fortification wall was built on the southwestern shore as well. It has survived until the present days.

After the capital of the Roman Empire moved to Constantinople and Christianity became the official religion, there was a boom of Christian temples built on the territory of Mesemvria, including those preserved nowadays: the Church of St. Stephan, the Church of St. John Aliturgetus, the Church of Christ Pantocrator, St. Spas temple, the Church of St. Paraskeva.

While taking a walk around Nessebar, tourists can see the remains of thermae (baths) from the early Byzantine period. They were built in the 6th century and were used as baths until the end of the 8th century, when they were



reconstructed to become residential and farm buildings.

Location	town of Nessebar	Access	by car by public transport
Working hours	Houses are private and are not open for visitors. Fortresses and ancient and medieval remains are out-door attractions, the access for visitors is free and there are no entry fees.	Services	tourist guide guided tours mobile audio guide
Contact details	+ 359 56 846 090	Website	http://ancient-nessebar.com/html/main_bg.php?menu=map
Entry fee	free of charge entry	Coordinates	N 42.659114 E 27.730840

Nesebar Archeological Museum

Nesebar Archeological Museum is one of the most visited attractions in the town. It safe-keeps its millennial history, which is presented in a modern way appealing to the visitors.

The first exhibition of the Archeological Museum was arranged in St. John the Baptist Church in the Old Nessebar in 1956. In 1994 the museum was moved to a new building, which it occupies today.

The museum has four halls that chronologically follow the development of the town during the different historic ages.

The first hall is called “Messambria and the Thracians” and exhibits remains from the everyday life of ancient Thracians - ceramic utensils with relief ornaments of the 9th - 6th century BC, findings from stone anchors dating back to the 12th - 9th century BC.

The second hall of the museum - Messambria, the Pontic Polis, exhibits four very rare “hydrias” (bronze vessels) found in the Messambrian necropolis. Visitors can also see a portion of the statue of Apollo, the torso of the Heracles statue, a statue of Tyche - the goddess of good fortune, dating back to the 4th century BC, etc. The exhibit items further comprise gold adornments, such as earrings, rings, necklaces from the 3rd and 2nd century BC.

The third hall of the museum - Mesembria within Rome, Byzantium and Bulgaria, exhibits the marble pedestal of the bronze statue of Emperor Claudius.

There is a special hall in the Museum of Archeology of Nessebar dedicated to the iconic art. After Bulgaria was conquered by the Ottomans (14th century), a local icon-painting school was founded in Nessebar. Its zenith was in the 16th - 17th century. About 250 icons painted by local icon-painters that used to hang in the scores of churches in the town have survived to this day. The icons of St. Nicholas and the Virgin Mary - Ruler of Life, are from that period.

Books, specialised literature, guidebooks, cards of all museum sites in the town and souvenirs are sold at the museum.

Location	Nesebar	Access	by foot
Working hours	09:00-19:00 Monday - Friday Weekends: 09:00-13:30 14:00-18:00 June - September 09:00-18:00 Monday - Friday Weekends: 09:00-13:30 14:00-18:00 May and October 09:00-12:00 12:30-17:00 Monday - Friday November - March	Services	tourist guide guided tours mobile audio guide
Contact details	+ 359 554 4 60 12	Website	http://ancient-nessebar.com/html/main_bg.php?menu=sights_archeolo
Entry fee	BGN 5	Coordinates	N 42.65833 E 27.73079

The Old Nessebar Museum, Nessebar

The Old Nessebar exposition is arranged in Moskoyani house built in 1840 by a wealthy Greek merchant. This is a two-floor house consisting of stone ground floor and timber-framed second residential floor. The salon with carved wooden ceiling ornate by a big star-shaped rosette in the middle takes a central place on the second floor. A bedroom, a larder and kitchen are situated to the north, and



another two bedrooms mainly occupied during the summer face to the south.

Location	town of Nessebar	Access	by foot
Working hours	10:30:00-13:30 14:00:00-18:00 Tuesday - Sunday June - September 10:30-13:30 14:00-18:00 May and October Tuesday - Sunday November - March Upon request	Services	tourist guide guided tours mobile audio guide
Contact details	+ 359 554 4 60 12	Website	http://ancient-nessebar.com/html/main_bg.php?menu=etno
Entry fee	BGN 5	Coordinates	N 42.658388 E 27.736724

Church “St. Stephen”, Nesebar

The Church “St. Stephen” or the so called New Bishopric was built in the period 11th - 13th century. According to the design, the church is a three-nave basilica. The central nave raises up above the lateral and has oval frontons to the east and to the west. The church was built in stones and bricks. During the construction, many architectural elements - cornices, capitals, reliefs of destroyed earlier buildings, were reused.

More than 1000 figures in 258 compositions are depicted. Scenes from the Miracles of Christ according to the Gospel legends are presented in entire series. Thanks to its preserved architectural style, iconostasis and most of all thanks to its mural paintings of high artistic quality, the Church of St. Stephen is among the most important monuments of the Bulgarian cultural heritage.

Location	Nesebar	Access	by foot
Working hours	09:00-19:00 Monday-Friday Weekends: 09:00-13:30 14:00-18:00 June - September	Services	tourist guide guided tours mobile audio guide



	Monday-Friday 09:00-18:00 Weekends: 09:00-13:30 14:00-18:00 May and October November - March Upon request		
Contact details	+ 359 554 4 60 12	Website	http://ancient-nessebar.com/html/main_bg.php?menu=sights_svestefan
Entry fee	BGN 5	Coordinates	N 42.65779 E 27.73309

Church “Holy Savior St. Spas”, Nesebar

The Church “St. Spas” is now a museum. It was built in 1609 with funds provided by a wealthy citizen of Nesebar. An unknown master painted the church in the 17th century. The gravestone of the Byzantine princess Matiassa Kantakouzene Palaiologina was kept within the floor for many years and is now exhibited in the Museum of Archeology in Nesebar. The church was declared an architectural and construction monument of culture of national importance in Stage Gazette no. 41 in 1964.

Location	Nesebar	Access	by foot
Working hours	Monday-Friday: 10:00-17:00 Weekends: 10:00-15:00 June - September Monday-Friday: 10:00-17:00 Weekends: 10:00-15:00 May and October November - March Upon request	Services	tourist guide guided tours mobile audio guide
Contact details	+ 359 554 4 60 12	Website	http://ancient-nessebar.com/html/main_bg.php?menu=sights_svestefan



Project funded by
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Entry fee	BGN 3	Coordinates	N 42.65963 E 27.73470
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