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GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA

## Project "The Path of Clay"

Project code 15.2.1.003, funded by INTERREG V-A Romania-Bulgaria Program

### Introduction

The Danube River has always been and will be a symbol of life. The great river separates and unites people, gives them drinking water, irrigation, gives them food and livelihood. It is an important transport artery - rafts, boats and ships since ancient times have connected not only its two banks, but also people who live and work in its fertile plain. The Danube divides and unites nations, cities and states. Downstream, before its fast-paced waters flow into the Black Sea, the water border is formed between two Balkan states - Bulgaria and Romania. The Lower Danube spills its lush waters along both shores to water the mother land feeding the two peoples - Bulgarian and Romanian.

Tighten up your luggage and come with us on an exciting journey through **the Path of Clay**. We will have eight administrative districts located in two countries - Bulgaria and Romania, on both sides of the fertile Danube valley. Awaiting us a journey full of surprises and inspiration. In addition to beautiful scenery, you will be impressed: ancient ruins from the beginning of our millennium scattered in the two Roman provinces of Dacia and Moesia; medieval Orthodox churches and monasteries; remnants of fortress walls and destroyed palaces, who are witnesses of past majesty and glory. We will trace how the lives of our ancestors changed in different ages, we will touch their lifestyle, traditions and culture. But still there is the eternal land to which we are born and live. Therefore, stone and clay have invariably accompanied man in his everyday life.



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**The Path of Clay** is the path of the human civilization. Clay has been used by man since ancient times - the first clay pots, the first amulets and cult objects were made in the Neolithic age. In Antiquity and the Middle Ages, household ceramic objects, ornaments for religious buildings are produced. Clay is used as a building material in the construction of Roman aqueducts, thermal baths and for the creation of houses. Until today, the good housekeepers prefer clay pots to make unique delicious dishes.

Take us along **the Path of Clay** to get to know some of the less well-known places on the lower Danube. Together with the clay and its marvelous creations created by man from antiquity to the present day, you will be able to experience the beautiful scenery, explore countless cultural and historical landmarks, museums, architectural monuments and beautiful cities in the valley of the Lower Danube - between the Carpathians and the Balkan Mountains - on the territory of two European countries - Bulgaria and Romania. Our journey in the Danube Plain starts from the beautiful Romanian city of Calafat, which has raised over the banks of the Danube.



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## Specialized tourist route "The Path of Clay"

### (Lower Danube - Romania and Bulgaria)

**Our first stop will be at the Museum of Arts and Ethnography in Calafat, Dolj County.**

The Museum of Art and Ethnography in the city of Calafat / Palace of Marincu / is housed in a beautiful palace owned by rich landowner Stefan Marincu. It is located in the center of the city near the Municipality. The building was constructed in 1904-1907 by the Italians Pietro Adotti, architect Konstantin Rogalski, Georgetti and Traunero.

The building was constructed in the modern epoch of eclecticism between neoclassicism with Baroque and Rococo elements. It has over 40 rooms. The facade is richly ornamented in Neo-Baroque style with beautiful decorative elements of travertine and marble. The exquisiteness and luxury of this beautiful building are reinforced by marble columns and frescoes. At the main entrance of the palace leads a proportionally located colonnade, both sides of the entrance are placed impressive figures of two marble lions. The yard has an area of 8333 m<sup>2</sup>.

In 1914, shortly before his death, Marincu bequeathed his magnificent home to the city of Calafat with the ultimate desire to host a school in it. The donation was made in memory of his three daughters, who died for four years. The building was originally used by the City Hall in Calafat for administrative purposes, and since 1927 it has been home to an agricultural school.

Today, the building is a historic monument of local significance and underwent a major renovation in 2003. It houses the Calafat Museum. The museum exposition consists of the following departments: archeology, history, ethnography, contemporary Romanian art and a hall dedicated to Bulgarian-Romanian cooperation. The museum preserves archeological artifacts from the time of the Roman colonization of the lands of the



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Dacians and the Middle Ages, historical and ethnographic exposition and works of art. The art department of the museum displays paintings and sculptures by contemporary Romanian artists from the Dolj district: paintings by Nicholas Grigorescu, Henri Catargiu and Teodor Palladi, sculptures of Ion Irimescu, Nicu Enea and George Dumitrescu Mircia. The gallery is a special venue for the exhibition of artworks and the cabinet of the world-famous Romanian sculptor Constantin Brancusi.

The ethnographic department has a valuable collection of national costumes, carpets, ceramics and other household items in the area of Calafat.

#### **Useful information:**

The Museum of Art and Ethnography

205200, city of Calafat, County Dolj, Romania

Address: "22 December" Str. № 6

Phone: +40 251 232521, fax: +40 251 230883

<http://www.montana-vidin-dolj.com/ro/cultural-resources/>

GPS coordinates: N°=43.994428 E°= 22.931860; Alt (m) - 49

Distance (km):

- Calafat, Dolj county, Romania - Vidin, Vidin district, Bulgaria - 17 km
- Calafat, Dolj County - Drobeta-Turnu Severin, Mehedinti County - 99 km
- Calafat, Dolj county - Craiova, Dolj county - 89 km
- Calafat, Dolj county - Beckett, Dolj County - 96 km

If you have enough time, we recommend you in Calafat to visit the Monument of Independence and the tombs of wealthy Romanian families Popescu and Marincu.

**Memorial monument dedicated to the War of Independence (1877-1878) Calafat**



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The monument of independence is a symbol of the city of Calafat. It was built in honor of the participation of the Romanian troops in the Russo-Turkish War of 1877/78. On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the war, which became a war for the independence of Romania, the first King Carol I began building the monument, which is a pyramid with a winged eagle on the top facing the bank of the Danube. In 1904, two old Turkish cannons are placed in front of the monument. The monument is placed at the highest place in Calafat. During the Communist rule, in connection with the 100th anniversary of Romanian independence, the monument was dismantled and placed in the city garden, the eagle was demolished and the modern monument was created, reflecting an episode of the heroic battles involving the Romanian warriors.

**Useful information:**

A commemorative monument dedicated to the War of Independence (1877 - 1878)

205200, Calafat, Dolj, Republic of Romania

Location: Central part City of Calafat

GPS: N 43.59497; E 22.56038

**Tombs of wealthy Romanian families**

The Calafat port was an important transport and commercial center, as the wheat business being extremely profitable. Romanians traded with the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Italy and France. In Calafat, wealthy trader families such as Popescu, Marincu were formed who sent their children to study in reputable Western European universities. They allowed winter holidays to the Mediterranean resorts in Italy, France and Spain. These wealthy families had gorgeous homes, and in the cemetery they have built majestic tombstones for their eternal peace. With their European architecture, grace and appearance impress the family tombs of the Popescu and Marincu families. The chapels are made of marble stone, the columns support the vaulted dome that ends



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with a marble cross. The windows are made of colored glass, and on the inner wall are painted the family initials.

#### Useful information:

205200, city Calafat, Dolj, Republic of Romania

Location: Calafat Municipal Cemetery

<http://alexisphoenix.org/marincu.php>

GPS coordinates: N 43.98885; E 22.942860

From Calafat we head to the village of Sisesti, 40 km from Calafat. For us in this settlement interest is the Ethnographic Museum "Gheorghe Ionescu", the workshop for the production of ceramic objects and the church "St. Grigore Decapolit. "

#### House Museum "Gheorghe Ionescu" - Sisesti

The **Sisesti Museum** is named after the famous scientist born in this village, academician Gheorghe Ionescu. It is the second Romanian to receive the title of Doctor of Agricultural Sciences at the University of Jena in 1911. His scientific achievements have been introduced in the Romanian agriculture by 1912 and have a great importance for the modernization of agriculture. Since 1935 he has been a member of the Academy of Sciences, until the Second World War he was four times Minister of Agriculture. With his cooperation in his native village were built: a school, a medical center, a city hall and an agricultural center. Today the museum is located in the building of the renovated medical center.

It holds the library of Gheorghe Ionescu and many personal belongings donated by his successor, Vlad Ionescu. The museum has an interesting ethnographic collection that tracks the life, the lifestyle and the traditions of this region. They impress the beautiful



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women's costumes, which consist of white leather shirts and two beautiful aprons, set in different colors with floral motifs. The shirts are with a coating of stiches on the skirts, sleeves and breastplate. It is noteworthy that the decoration has the same geometric motifs. In the ethnographic exhibition the special place is dedicated to ceramics and weaving as traditional crafts. Authentic photos track the life of people in the region in the past, colorful carpets contribute to the incredible color of exposure.

#### Useful information:

##### House Museum "Gheorghe Ionescu - Sisesti"

227456, village **Sisesti**; Mehedinti County, Republic of Romania

Address: "Begining" str. It is located against the building of the Municipality  
[raducanmarianion@yahoo.com](mailto:raducanmarianion@yahoo.com); <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/iden.asp?k=1917&->

Muzeul-Gheorghe-Ionescu-Sisesti-SISESTI-Mehedinti

Telephone: +040 252 384144, +040 252384003; Fax: +040 252 384144

GPS coordinates: N° 44.771149; E° 22.847159207.

Distance: 30 km from Drobeta-Turnu Severin.

#### Workshop for production of ceramics

In Sisesti, where one of the oldest pottery crafts is still alive, there is the only factory producing ceramics and bricks in the Mehedinti district. Pottery is a traditional craft in this village since the time of the Dacians, passed from father to son from generation to generation. In 1883, there were 52 pottery workshops, where 2000 potters were earning their bread. After that, the traditional local craft fell sharply and the number of craftsmen decreased. In 1939, on the idea and with the financial support of the local patriot Gheorghe Ionescu, a new, modern workshop for ceramics was built in Sisesti -



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the Revival of the ancient craft began. The chief master, Dumitru S. Popescu, is preparing a new generation of masters such as Titu Marin, Ionica Popescu, Giorgica Brandusescu, Andronache Marin and others. In 2001 a new impetus was given to the development of pottery with the financial support of European programs. Today, 15 pottery makers produce various ceramics, which have received international recognition and awards from many local and international fairs.

The secret of Sisesti ceramics lies in the qualitative material extracted from the Bora hill. The site of extraction of clay is known to the locals as Mirzaci. After the kaolin is separated from the impurities, it is transferred to the fermentation pit. It breaks into small pieces and turns into a white paste. Sand is added and the resulting mixture is placed on the potter wheel. In the skillful hands of the craftsmen, the well-mixed clay comes to life, different forms and sizes, depending on the master's desire. The molded vessels are allowed to dry and then bake in the oven slightly sloping. Baking the pots lasts about 10 hours. When black smoke comes out of the furnace chimney, the furnace opens, the ceramic is removed and allowed to cool under natural atmospheric conditions for several days. The obtained items are ready for sale. Siesta's ceramics is characterized by simplicity, elegance and ornaments made with a special painting called a physician. The decorations are geometric or typical for the folklores of the Costilei Valley - arrows, spirals, small snakes and sun. The colored ceramics are decorated with natural colors made of red or yellow clay.

**Useful information:**

Workshop for the production of ceramics

227455, village **Sisesti**; Mehedinti County, Republic of Romania

Address: Municipality **Sisesti**, telephone/fax: +040 252 384144, +040 252 384003

Location: the municipality is located at DN 70 at 30 km northwest of Drobeta - Turnu Severin, Mehedinti

<http://zigzagprinromania.com/blog/ceramica-sisesti-mehedinti/>



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GPS coordinates: N° 44.768251; E° 22.852876; Alt (m) - 212;  
Distance (km): village **Sisesti** - Drobeta - Turnu Severin- 28 km

The church "St. Grigore Decapolitul" is an Orthodox temple built in 1835. The building is a one-nave one-aisle structure, richly painted in the orthodox tradition. In the temple are impressed the beautiful frescoes of saints and religious scenes. It is located in the center of the village.

**Useful information:**

The church "St. Grigore Decapolitul"

227456, village **Sisesti**; Mehedinti County, Republic of Romania

the municipality is located at DN 70 at 30 km northwest of Drobeta - Turnu Severin, Mehedinti

<http://www.monumenteromania.ro/index.php/monumente/detalii/ro/Biserica>

GPS coordinates: N 44.756990] E22. 868486

Distance (km): village **Sisesti** - Drobeta - Turnu Severin- 28 km

After lighting a candle and praying for the health and God's blessing along the way, we continue to Turnu Severin, where we expect new surprises.

The Regional Museum of Iron Gates/Muzeul regiunii „Porților de Fier“ is located in Drobeta-Turnu Severin, Mehedinti County, Romania.

The building, which houses the Regional Museum of Iron Gates, is a monument of culture, built in 1926. The museum exposition was created by Prof. Al. Barcacila and



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is located in the Historical Museum of Trajan High School in 1912. Since 1945 the museum has been enriched with new exhibits, sections and halls and became a Regional Museum of Iron Gates. The present exposition was set up in 1972, and the museum is divided into two main sections - natural and historical.

The natural section tracks the flora and fauna in the Iron Gate gorge. Impressive is the aquarium with Danube freshwater inhabitants, and the historical section is divided into 9 departments that track the life and history of the region from prehistory to the present day; a special place was dedicated to the Trajan's wars with Decebal and the transformation of Dacia into a Roman province.

The museum expands its permanent exhibition with the creation of an ethnographic exhibition, including folk costumes, ceramics and fabrics. Since 1980 in the Regional Museum "Iron Doors" works laboratory for restoration of museum exhibits with three departments - ceramics, textiles and metal. The artifacts are restored to the laboratory before being exhibited, as well as replicas of the most precious clay items that are sold at the museum's souvenir booth.

Lovers of ancient Roman history and archeology can explore interesting artifacts in the courtyard of the museum, located on the northern bank of the Danube. These are the Roman fortress Drobeta, the Roman bridge of Emperor Trajan and the remains of Roman baths.

**Archaeological site Roman city in Drobeta-Turnu Severin** is the first stone fortress built in Dacia (103-105 AD) by Emperor Trajan. At present, you can see the foundations of the Roman city on an area of two hectares with four side doors, residential and barracks, storage rooms, streets and alleys. The city has a rectangular shape (125 to 139 m), with the four entrances built with one tower serving for security. In the center of the city was the headquarters of the prefect of the city, where Emperor Trajan was staying in the winter of 105-106 AD.



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**The Roman Bridge of Emperor Trajan** was built by Apolodor of Damascus (architect of Columnei) in 103 and 105 AD, on the lower course of the Danube, east of Iron Gates, to serve the Roman troops of Emperor Trajan in their war with Decebal and the conquest of Dacia. The bridge impresses with its architecture and technical performance. On top of twenty rectangular stone columns is a wooden superstructure. The bridge was about 18 m tall and 12 m wide. At both ends, triumphal arches with monumental gates were built. The bridge was destroyed around the 3rd century AD. At present, two columns are preserved on both banks of the Danube River. A copy of the bridge can be seen at the Regional Museum of Iron Gates.

**The Roman Baths** are located west of the Roman city of Drobeta on the banks of the Danube. In the ruins of the baths are found bricks with seal V Macedonian Legion. The baths are built at the same time with the bridge and the military camp. They consisted of hot water pools and gymnasiums. They are located in the courtyard of the Regional Museum of Iron Gates.

**The Medieval fortress of Severin** was built by the Knights of John the Baptist in 1247-1250. Its formation as a fortification facility on the banks of the Danube passes through several stages in the 13th and 15th centuries. It was destroyed by the Turks in 1524. Today the ruins of the fortress can be seen. The foundations of a number of security towers are found. One of the walls of the northeastern tower, which was three-storey, with a height of 11 m, 9 m long and 2.5 m wide, is preserved. The foundations of two medieval churches of XIII and XIV century are preserved. Archaeological remains can be seen in General Dragalina Park.

In the city of Drobeta-Turnu Severin, it is worth seeing the Water Tower, built on the project of engineer Ilie Radu, in order to satisfy the city's needs with drinking water from the Danube. / Read more: [adev.ro/nkmxo9/](http://adev.ro/nkmxo9/). The construction was completed in 1913. The water tower is 27 meters high and is built in medieval style.



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**In Turnu Severin ended the first day of the tour "On the path of the clay."**

**On the second day of our journey, we head to one of the most beautiful Romanian cities - Craiova. Our first stop is at a distance of 60 km - in the Monastery of Strehaia.**

### **Monastery of Strehaia**

The monastery was built in several stages in the XVII century - a monastery, a church, a belfry - 1645; cellars of the 16th century, a fortification wall - 1645 - 1693. The monastery was originally built by the boyars Craiovesti from the 15th century. Reconstructed in its present form by Matei Basarab in 1645. According to the legend, Mihai Viteazul built the church overnight and Matei Basarab the fortification system. In 1693 Constantin Brancusi reconstructed the church. In 1826 the church was painted by Barbu Zugravu. The monastery was reconstructed in 1962 - 1969. An external wall was then built. The church "St. Trinity" has a cross-shaped shape, a thick and thick brick wall and a large tower. The monastery is a monument of culture. In 1645, Matei Basarab transforms the boyar houses of a family Craiovesti (built in the early 16th century) in a palace. Since there were problems with the Turkish authorities, it was announced that the castle was for the needs of the monastery. The size of the palace is 27.4 x 11.6 m. The palace and the entrances are still preserved. They are located on the territory of the monastery of Strehaya.

#### **Useful information:**

##### **Monastery of Strehaia**

225300, village **Strehaia**, Mehedinti County, Republic of Romania

Address: №128B Republicii Blvd.

<http://www.episcopiaseverinului.ro/manastiri/mehedinti/manastirea-strehaia>

GPS coordinates: N 44.621364; E 23.192327



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**On the way to Craiova, 30 km after the monastery, we stop for a short rest in Filiasi, where we can worship the family tomb of the Filisanu family.**

### **Mausoleum chapel of the Filisanu family in Filiasi**

The Mausoleum Chapel was built between 1865-1868, on the project of architect Theophil von Hansen. The building is made on the order of Dimitrie Filisanu. The architectural ensemble consists of a mausoleum surrounded by a wall. Made by French masters, this chapel is a family tomb of Smaranda and Dimitrie Filisanu, bequeathed to the inhabitants of the village, who are proud that such people were born and lived in this village. The chapel is located in the cemetery of the village.

Dimitrie Filisanu is a politician, a philanthropist of the local Boyar family, Filişanu. He was born in Craiova in 1808 and died in 1883. He was buried in the family chapel built by him. Dimitrie Filisanu is a fighter for Romania's national independence, participated in the revolution of 1848, and the unification of the Principalities of Wallachia and Moldova in 1859 under the rule of Alexander Ion Cuza. Dimitrie Filisanu is the heir of a local Boyar family and has enjoyed the respect of the Turkish authorities, who have recognized him as the Serdar and the Great Aga. Dimitrie Filisanu was the governor of the Dolj County and chairman of the court in Craiova. In 1859 he was elected a member of Mehedinti County, where he owned properties.

In Filiasi he is remembered as a donor who builds the local hospital on his family estate, bequeathed to the village.

#### **Useful information:**

Mausoleum Chapel of the Filishanu family

205 300 town. Filiasi, Dolj, Romania

Address: "Dimitrie Filisanu" Str.

Location: Located in the City Cemetery.



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<http://audiotravelguide.ro/bg/>

GPS: N 44.558688; E 23.511337

**We head to Craiova, one of the most beautiful cities in Romania and the administrative center of Dolj county, which is 50 km away. Although our main goal is the Baniei House, it is worthwhile to look at other cultural, historical and natural landmarks.**

The historic center of Craiova is the old part of the city, developed around the fountains of the ancient Elca market. Most historic buildings have been built since the 18th century and are of varying degrees of conservation and restoration, they are a conglomerate of architectural styles. In the center is Mihai Viteazul Square with the famous musical fountain, which is unique to Romania. The University of Craiova is housed in the building of the former Justice Palace. The building was built in 1890, by Ion Socolescu in neo-classical architectural style. Interesting is the building of the former commercial bank, which houses the municipal administration today. The building was built by architect Ion Mincu and was completed by his pupil Konstantin Lotz in 1916. It is richly decorated with stained glass, Venetian mosaics, wrought iron grids. The county administration and the Dolj County Council occupy the building of the former administrative palace, built by architect Petre Antonescu, built in 1912-1913. After World War I architecture was characterized by national elements. During this period, the White House was built near the English Park, which was shaped by the architect Constantin Lotzu in the style of London Square. The Jean Mihail Palace is the most beautiful building in Craiova. The palace was built between 1900 and 1907 on the project of French architect Paul Gottereau, on the initiative of Constantin Mihail, one of the richest people at that time in Romania. Due to its architectural and artistic value, in 1947 the palace was declared one of the most important civil monuments of the early 20th century. From 1954, the Art Museum of Craiova is located in the palace. We



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recommend to the curious tourist to visit the Museum of Natural History and explore the beauty of Romanescu Park. Now let's go back to the clay, awaiting the ethnographic museum of Oltenia, Baniei House.

### **Baniei House - Oltenia Museum, Craiova, Dolj County, Ethnographic Section**

Baniei House, Ethnographic section of the Oltenia Museum, Craiova, is located in the historical center of the city and is located in the city garden. Its ethnographic collection began in 1915, and from 1928 it became a section of Ethnography of the Historical Museum of Oltenia.

Baniei House is the oldest secular building in Craiova, built between 1699 and 1770 by Constantine Brancoveanu. Only part of the cellars is preserved from the original building. In 1750, Lord Gregory II Ghica donated the Baniei House to Bishop Grigore Socoreanul. This house was renovated and the church "St. Dumitru ", which from now on is called the Bishopric Church in Craiova. In the basement of the building, today an ethnographic museum, are reproduced the traditional professions of the local population: hunting, beekeeping, fish farming, livestock, agriculture, processing and preparation of agricultural products, wine and fruit growing. The main traditional artistic crafts in the area are: carving, pottery, carpentry. In the last room of the exhibition you can see some of the most valuable collections of glass icons from Romania. They are made of 54 pieces. These valuable icons were owned by the Jianu family, donated to the museum in 1977. The Baniei House can be seen another collection of musical instruments; papers and photos of Maria Tanase; ritual objects.

Specialists from the Ethnography section organize temporary exhibitions of traditional and contemporary art, symposia. Ethnographic exposition includes a collection of carpets, national costumes, icons, exhibits representing the artistic crafts in Oltenia. Since 2011 the Ethnographic Museum has a new exposition. Visitors can see "Bread



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Making" exhibitions (from sowing to sowing and collecting ritual collages), "Rhythms of Life" (Oltenian ceramics, wedding, religious objects, icons on glass, fabrics and rugs) .

Every year in October the museum organizes a folk crafts fair. The Ethnographic Museum contains a rich and valuable, high-scientific collection, a collection of original folk costumes and household items from the population of Oltenia. It presents the cultural and historical heritage of a large region in Romania and has a national significance.

The museum is an indisputable interest for both local and foreign tourists, as well as an authentic environment for the folk crafts fair. There is an educational program for students - a ceramics workshop.

At the Ethnographic Museums in Craiova, advertising materials and souvenirs such as leaflets, guides, postcards, art ceramics, icons, tapestries, painted eggs, musical instruments, etc. can be bought.

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### Useful information:

House "Baniei"/Casa „Băniei“

200352, Craiova, Dolj County

Address: № 16 „Matei Basarab“ str.

Telephone: +40 351 444030, muzeulolteniei@yahoo.com, www.muzeulolteniei.ro.

Opening hours: from Monday to Friday by 9.00 to 12.00 and by 13.00 to 17.00.

GPS coordinates: N° 44.314416; E° 23.792372; Alt (m) - 87

Distance (km):

- Craiova, Dolj county - Calafat, Dolj county - 91 km

- Craiova, Dolj county -Slatina, Olt county - 50 km

- Craiova, Dolj county - Drobeta-Turnu Severin, Mehedinti county - 112 km



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- Craiova, Dolj county -Targu-Jiu, Gorj - 113 km

## Folk Crafts Fair / Targului Mesterilor Populari, Craiova, Romania

The folk crafts fair is traditionally held each year in October, at the Mihai Viteazul Square in Craiova, Craiova, from the Oltenia Museum's ethnographic section. House Baniei, with the financial support of the Dolj County Council and in partnership with the local council and Craiova City Hall, organizes the Craft Fair in the period 21-23 October. This unusual event gives visitors the opportunity to discover the beauty and charm of the Romanian village by returning to traditional crafts. Traditional crafts fair in Craiova gathers over 140 craftsmen from all over the country. At the fair are presenting their works of potters, wood-carvers, furriers, weavers, icons painters and drawings with religious plots on glass, hardware, traditional pastry craftsmen, representatives of more than 30 craft workshops and workshops from the country like Maramures, Cluj , Harghita, Odorheiu Secuiesc, Brasov, Valcea, Arges, Mehedinti , Gorj, Sibiu, Hunedoara, Prahova, Suceava, Salaj and others. At the fair, you can see both demonstrations of folk crafts and buy ready-made handicrafts: ceramics, fabrics, leather goods, icons painted on wood or glass, painted eggs as well as bee products and traditional delicacies - smoked meats, different kinds of cheeses and desserts.

Craftsmanship is being evaluated by an ethnographic committee of the Oltenia Museum and scientists from the Craiova University. Each year, eight awards are given in two sections: Adults and Children and Youth.

Oltenia Museum, Ethnographic Section, Dolj County Council and Craiova City Hall distinguish and reward the most worthy masters for outstanding service for preserving and keeping alive folk traditions and crafts.



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The artistic creations of traditional costume masters from different areas such as Oltenia, Transylvania and Moldavia are presented at the fair. Visitors fall into a fabulous world of painted ceramics, home-made objects, fabrics, painted eggs, religious paintings on wood and glass, traditional blankets and garments, maize fabrics, woven baskets and furniture, wrought iron articles and traditional food products from different regions in Romania such as Sibiu, Harghita, Covasna. Beekeepers and confectioners from Caras-Severin, Hunedoara, Cluj, Arges and Valcea offer specific products, traditional pastries, cozonaci, placinta, chocolate, turta dulce, halva, magiun, jam and various sweets. The exhibition presents their products to the producers of sunflower oil, pumpkin seeds, grape seeds, as well as producers of natural juices.

Of great interest for visitors are the improvised craft workshops, where live techniques are demonstrated and the production of various craft products such as pottery, painting of icons, carving, etc.

#### Useful information:

**Folk Crafts Fair /Târgului Meşterilor Populari**

200352, Craiova, Republic of Romania, Dolj county

Implementation period: Every year 21 to 23 October

Location: Plaza „Mihai Viteazul“

<http://www.gds.ro/Local/Dolj/2016-10-19/craiova-xxxix-editie-targului-mesterilor-populari,perioada-21-23-octombrie/>

GPS coordinates: N° 44.318929; E° 23.798361; Alt(m) - 108

Distance (km):

- Craiova, Dolj - Slatina, Olt = 50 km
- Craiova, Dolj - Drobeta-Turnu Severin, Mehedinti - 112 km
- Craiova -Targu-Jiu, Gorj = 113 km

**Historical Museum of Oltenia, city Craiova / Oltenia Museum, Craiova**



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The building is designed as the headquarters of the Central School for Girls. This was one of the most prestigious schools in Romania until 1948. The building was designed and built by architect Toma Dobrescu in 1905. The Oltenia Museum has a long and rich history. It was founded in 1915 by Prof. Stefan Ciuceanu. On May 13, 1928, it was turned into a Regional Museum of Oltenia. The museum has three sections: history and archeology, ethnography and the natural department. At present, there are more than 110 000 museum exhibits stored in the following collections: archeology, numismatics, medals, documents, manuscripts, rare books by Romanian and foreign authors, photographs, memories and military trophies. The Archives of the Museum keep personal funds that have contributed to the culture, history and policy of Oltenia.

In 1929 - 1932, the fame of the Oltenia Museum crosses the country. Experience has been exchanged with specialists from France, Poland, Spain. Archaeological excavations attract leading researchers and scientists from over 30 countries. In 1934, Craiova held a Second Congress on Archeology and Numismatics. The Historical Section of the Museum contains a rich and valuable collection of original artefacts of high scientific value. It presents the cultural and historical heritage of a large historical region in Romania, with its own identity and national significance. The museum is an indisputable interest for both Romanian and foreign tourists.

The Museum of Natural History in Craiova is a section of the Regional Museum of Oltenia since 1928. The museum exhibition was established in 1986 as two temporary exhibitions - *Butterflies and Animal World*. On September 18, 2008, the permanent exhibition on the first floor of the project "Raising the Tourist Attraction of Craiova and Dolj" was opened by organizing a permanent exhibition, which is still functioning today at the Department of Natural Sciences - Museum of Oltenia, Craiova.

**Useful information:**

Historical Museum of Oltenia

Craiova 200410, Craiova, Dolj, Republic of Romania



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Address: Str. Popa nr. 8

Telephone: +040 251 411 674

Address: Department of History and Archeology 14 „Madona Dudu“ Str.

Working time: 10.00 - 17.00; Monday: Day off

e-mail: [muzeulolteniei@yahoo.com](mailto:muzeulolteniei@yahoo.com); [www.muzeulolteniei.ro](http://www.muzeulolteniei.ro)

[GPS coordinates: N° 44.3186865; E° 23.7914346](#)

Museum of Arts, Craiova / Art Museum, Craiova

The Craiova Art Museum is one of the most prestigious Romanian museums. It is housed in Jean Mihail palace. This palace was privately owned and was built by Mihail (Dinu) Constantin for a private home. Mihail Constantin is one of the richest people in Romania. The palace was built between 1899 and 1907. In 1908 his owner Mihail Constantin died and the new building was inherited by his sons Nicholas / Nicholas and Jean / Jean. The palace today is an architectural masterpiece built on the architectural plans of Frenchman Paul Gottereau. For the building are used quality materials - cement screed, partially gilded painted ceilings, Venetian mirrors, crystal chandeliers, made in Murano, marble staircase; the walls are lined with silk wallpapers brought from Lyon - all this gives the rooms elegance and talk of sophisticated taste. The palace is covered with slabs, it has its own electrical installation and central heating. The art gallery consists of several sections: painting, sculpture and decorative arts dating back to the 15th-19th century. The gallery hosts works by authors from the Dutch, Flemish, French and Italian art schools. In the museum a special place is devoted to Romanian art. It is represented by Orthodox icons from the period of XVIII-XVIII centuries, as well as works by a number of artists from the first half of the 19th century, such as Constantin Lecca, Theodor Aman, Nicolae Grigorescu, Ion Andreescu, Ștefan Luchian, Nicolae Tonitza, Camille Ressu, Corneliu Baba, Teodor Palladi, Ion Tuculescu, sculptures of Karl Storck and Dimitrie Paciurea. The gallery is a special venue for the



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exhibition "Constantin Brancusi's Office", located in two exhibition halls. The main attraction is six of his early sculptures (including variants of his most famous works): The Kiss / Sarutul (1907), "Vitellius" (1898), "The Woman of the Torso" (1909), "Ogoliu" (1905), "Cap de copil" (1906) and others. Brancusi is not only a famous Romanian sculptor, but is considered to be one of the world's largest sculptors. His works are part of the history of world art, and he is perceived as the father of modern sculpture, which has placed a radical turning point in the development of art.

**Useful information:**

Museum of the Arts/Muzeul de Artă

200419, /Craiova

Address: № 15 „Calea Unirii“ str.,

Telephone: +40 251 412342, Fax: +40 251 412342

E-mail: muzeuartacv@yahoo.com, muzeuartacv@gmail.com

Web site: [www.muzeuldeartacraiova.ro](http://www.muzeuldeartacraiova.ro)

GPS N° 44.3191793: E° 23.7950188

Nicolae Romanescu Park, Craiova

The numerous visitors of Craiova are impressed, enjoy true enjoyment and complete rest during a walk in the Park Nicolae Romanescu. It is one of the most beautiful in Europe and was established between 1900 and 1903 by the French architect Edouard Redont. At the World Exhibition in Paris in 1900, the park was awarded the 1st prize and a gold medal. The park has an area of over 90 hectares and includes a lake with islands, a hanging bridge and a zoo. In the late nineteenth century, the Mayor of Craiova - Nicolae Romanescu wanted to plant the city. In the northern part of it were the properties of the Bibescu family. There was a garden, built in 1842 by German specialists and used as a summer residence of the Bibescu family. Here was the Romanian ruler Alexandru Ioan Cuza during his visit in 1859 in Craiova. The garden for



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the most part was public - with alleys, benches and an orchestra pavilion. Concerts contributed to the incredible fare of romance, coolness, greenery and aristocratic spirit. After the War of Independence, the garden was deserted. The lake has become an outbreak of infection, and nearby are the stables of the city hall. The summer residence of the Bibescu family turns into a home for helpless and abandoned elderly people. In order to apply the idea of embellishing the city, Nicolae Romanescu needs this area, as well as an architect with experience and imagination. He finds it in the person of Edouard Redont, who designed the National Exhibition in Carol Park - Bucuresti. The construction began in 1900, and the opening was in 1903, in the presence of King Carol. Redond proved to be a genius at the time of drafting the project, applying very bold ideas: hundreds of species of trees that usually do not grow in the climatic conditions of Romania have been acclimated; hills and valleys are exposed, the lake design has been renewed, the suspension bridge and the castle are designed. Everything has been developed to the smallest detail. The result is available. Romanescu Park is built, with all relief forms being presented. Walking along the paths of the park, you see: the "plain" from the main entrance; the green hills; the river flowing slowly through his heart; hundreds of trees, perfectly grouped; benches that are abundant along the alleys. Climbing slowly along the river's thread, strewn with miniature cascades, you reach the lake, and revealing it to the light is wonderful. In the distance you can see the hanging bridge above the green color of nature, and two hills rise to the left and right. Without realizing, you have reached the "hillside". After sitting for a while on a bench, even at the end of the lake, you continue on your way, which passes through the hanging bridge, past the enchanted castle. Curiosity prompts you to find the "mountain area" that starts here. The creek, in which water lilies are pressed, runs through two wooded slopes, cut from one place to another with stone bridges. At last, you are crossing a bridge that seems to be built of logs and you find yourself on the other side, admiring the beauties that have escaped you at first glance. The enchanted castle existed in Redond's genius consciousness hosting the huge water basins that serve



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to irrigate the park. Everything has been designed to look perfect for over 100 years. The zoo was built at the turn of the century. Near it is the round pavilion for the orchestra ordered in the atelier of Vienna. Nearby is the Summer Theater. In the southeastern part of the park is the Hippodrome, the largest in the country at the turn of the century. By surface Romanescu Park is ranked second in Romania after Herastrau Park, Bucharest.

**Useful information:**

Park „Nicolae Romanescu“, Craiova  
200738, Craiova, Dolj, Republic of Romania, № 1A „Nicolae Romanescu“ Park,  
[https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parcul\\_Nicolae\\_Romanescu](https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parcul_Nicolae_Romanescu)  
GPS coordinates N° 44.3010357; E° 23.8015827

**Youth Park, Craiova / Youth Park, Craiova**

Youth Park Craiova (Parcul Tineretului) was opened in October 2009 on an area of almost 60 hectares. The park offers many recreational and sporting activities: tennis (4 terrains), mini football (4 fields with synthetic grass lawns), basketball (2 terrains), table tennis (10 tables of concrete), chess (10 boards) roller skates and skates for beginners and advanced, summer outdoor theater (200 seats), international mini golf (18 tracks), children's playgrounds, jogging alleys (12 km).

**Useful information:**

Youth Park(Parcul Tineretului), Craiova  
200375, Craiova, Dolj, Republic of Romania  
„Știrbei Vodă“ Blvd  
Telephone: +040 786 135 963



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Opening hours: Monday - Sunday:9:00 - 21.00.

GPS coordinates: N° 44.3098869; E° 23.7602449.

### National Theater "Marin Sorescu"

The National Theater "Marin Sorescu" in Craiova is the only theater in Romania, awarded the Order of Cultural Merit, in recognition of the outstanding achievements of the theater. This makes this cultural institution one of the most famous scenes in Romania. Through its impressive history, through its artistic achievements, proven by its numerous participation in world-famous festivals, the Marin Sorescu Theater in Craiova is one of the elite theaters not only in Romania but also in Europe. Every year in April the theater hosts the International Shakespeare Festival, one of the most interesting and recognized cultural events in Romania.

#### Useful information:

National Theater „Marin Sorescu”

200585, Craiova, Dolj, Republic of Romania

№ 11 „Alexandru Ioan Cuza“, Str.

Telephone: +40 251 413 677; +40 251 415 363; <http://www.tncms.ro>

E-mail: [teatrulnationalcraiova@yahoo.com](mailto:teatrulnationalcraiova@yahoo.com); [secretariat@tncms.ro](mailto:secretariat@tncms.ro)

GPS coordinates: N° 44.3189759; E° 23.7992057.

### Cathedral of "St. Dumitru", Craiova

Cathedral of "St. Dumitru" is a valuable architectural and religious monument, a model of Orthodox church architecture and fine arts. The temple is connected with important events in the history of Craiova and Oltenia in the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries and is an interesting tourist site, subject to cultural, historical, pilgrimage and religious



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tourism. The relics of St. Martyr Tatiana. The restoration and preservation of the temple was completed in 1978. That same year on October 26, St. Martyr Dumitru, Metropolitan Cathedral "St. Dumitru" in Craiova was again blessed by His Eminence Nestor, Archbishop of Craiova and Metropolitan of Oltenia.

**Useful information:**

Cathedral „St. Dimitrie“

Craiova, Dolj, The Republic of Romania

Telephone: +040 762 690 195, +040 725 442 701.

<http://www.catedralasfantuldumitrucraiova.ro/descriere/sfintele-moaste/>

<http://www.monumenteoltenia.ro/biserica-sf-dumitru-domneasca-craiova/>

Working time: Mass - liturgy 7:30 to 24:00

GPS coordinates: N° 44.3151445; E° 23.7915085; Alt (m) - 87

**On the third day of our journey "On the path of the clay" we will look at several pottery workshops that preserve and continue the traditions of this old craft.**

**Festival "The Tree of Life" / Festivalul "Pomul vietii", Bals, district of Olt.**

City Bals is the largest ceramics production center in the Oltenia region. Though today this craft has lost the important role it has in the past, in some small villages such as Oboga, Corbeni and Romana today there are family pottery workshops that maintain the old technology and traditional production techniques.

At the initiative of the Olt District Council, Bals Local Council, Bals Municipality, County Center for Conservation and Promotion of Traditional Culture Olt from 1993 in the center Bals takes place the festival "Pomul vietii" Festival. After the end of Nicolae Ceausescu's Communist rule, Romanians are intensifying their interest in traditional culture - folk costumes, celebrations, customs and traditional crafts, folk traditions. In



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this way, they return to their authentic roots and unique features. In order to revive and preserve the Romanian folklore and traditions, the festival, which takes place every year on the Ascension Day festival, is initiated. The Bals Festival has two strands - ceramics and folklore.

The Ceramics Section organizes the artisans' pottery fair. Representatives of various pottery schools from all over Romania present their works, which are judged by jury specialists from the Village Museum in Bucharest and the Oltenia / Ethnographic Museum of Oltenia. The most exquisite and masterpieces are awarded awards. Ceramics craftsmen and historical remarks from Oboga, Romana, Horezu, Corund present their works at the Potter Fair. An important part of the fair's work is the organized scientific session in which the subject of the reports is the art of pottery and its specifics in the valley of Oltet. Specialists from the Village Museum in Bucharest and the Regional Museum Olt participate in the scientific session.

The Folklore section organizes a traditional costume parade and presentation of different folklore groups from the region that preserve and keep alive the authentic folklore. The festival opens with the performances of the local folk group "The Tree of Life" to the Cultural House of city Bals.

**Useful information:**

Festival "The Tree of Life" / Festivalul "Pomul vietii"

235100, Bals Town hall, Olt County

Address: № 14 „Nicolae Balcescu“ Str.,

Telephone: +40 249 450 145

<https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bal%C8%99>; www.bals.ro

GPS coordinates: N° 44.353510; E° 24.095673; Alt (m) - 128

Distance (km):

- Craiova, Dolj County - Bals, Olt County - 25 km (DN65/E574);
- Bals, Olt County - Slatina, Olt County - 25 DN65/E574.



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## **Turcitu Gheorghe Pottery, Corbeni, Bals, Olt County.**

Corbeni is famous for its ancient traditions, customs and folk crafts. A special place among them is pottery. In the area of Oboga, Romana and Corbeni are the oldest pottery centers in Romania. At present, between 10 and 15 families enjoy pottery. They store the technology of the old masters and create replicas of famous ceramic artifacts. There are sculpted and ordinary ceramics, richly ornamented, with regional floral and geometric decoration. Ceramic products are one of the reasons why tourists visit the Oltet River to enjoy the most beautiful and exquisite ceramic artworks. As a reminder of this visit, they can buy unique ceramic works and watch the production process in the potter's workshop.

The most famous ceramic center in the Romana area was established in 1668. In the nineteenth century there were 60 pottery workshops in the village, which subsequently disappeared and disappeared. Today, Turcitu Gheorghe is a pottery workshop, a private ceramic center that keeps and passes the old craft to the generations.

### **Useful information:**

Pottery workshop Turcitu Gheorghe

235100, village Corbeni, Olt County, Republic of Romania

Address: ,№ 52 Krinilor Str., telephone: +040 763834780

[http://www.innoturism.ro/downloads/3\\_Vesnicia%20s-a%20nascut%20la%20sat.pdf](http://www.innoturism.ro/downloads/3_Vesnicia%20s-a%20nascut%20la%20sat.pdf)

GPS coordinates: N° 44.382928; E° 24.109111; Alt (m) - 140

Distance (km): 5 km from Bals, Olt County.

On the way from Bals to Oboga to the southwest, at the foot of the Mainesti hill there is a monastery of the same name. From the architectural point of view, the monastery is characterized by a brick structure and walls of 70 cm thick. The building has the form of a ship basilica. Includes an altar, a naos and a narthex. The iconostasis is made in the wall. The frescoes date back to 1810-1812 and follow the Orthodox tradition. In the



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portraits of the donors of the monastery, as well as in other frescoes, it is noticeable that the clothing includes specific elements of Romanian traditional costumes. The colours used by the icon-painter are in some shades of red, blue, gray, green and yellow.

### **Potting workshop of Ciungulescu Marinel in the village of Oboga, Olt district.**

Oboga is a trademark of ceramics for Romanian traditional pottery practice. Today, the original ceramic objects of Oboga are exhibited in the House Baniei, the ethnographic museum of Oltenia in Craiova. One of the most valuable museum exhibits is the Oboga wedding jug. The traditional technique of producing and decorating specific ritual objects and ceramics for domestic purposes is preserved and practiced in Olt - Oboga, Romana, Corneni. Today, the ancient pottery tradition of Oboga is preserved and continues in the workshop of master Ciungulescu. It supports two traditional production practices: coarse unglazed ceramics and fine glazed ceramics. Wine, wine, brandy and coffee mugs, plates, jars, bottles etc. are produced. Of great interest are the traditional wedding rings, richly ornamented with zoomorphic and floral motifs, and sometimes anthropomorphic decoration. In these workshops, ceramic statuettes are made of traditional costume boys and girls who would be a wonderful memory of Olt for every tourist.

The local pottery workshops are still using the traditional techniques of ornamentation preserved by generations, using natural materials such as corn, goose feathers and straw, which are used for very fine decoration. In their work, Oboga potters use mostly old tools such as: horns of cows for delineating ornaments; piece of leather used to smooth the edges of ceramic vessels; wooden tool used to polish the object on the outside; titirezul - a wooden tool by means of which the edge of the cuts is curled; goose feather and straw used for very fine decoration; tatar - a tool that makes an opening on the handle of the drinking jug.



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### Useful information:

Pottery workshop Ciungulescu Marinel

235100, village Oboga, Olt County, Republic of Romania

Seminar "Ceramics" on Ciungulescu Marinel Pottery workshop

[https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oboga,\\_Olt](https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oboga,_Olt)

GPS coordinates: N° 44.425215; E° 24.086682; Alt (m) - 146

Distance:

- Bals, Olt County - Oboga, Olt County - 9 km / DJ 643.

### Private Traditional Ceramic Workshops by Stefan Trusca, Romana Village / Romana and Gheorghe Turcitu / Gheorghe Turcitu, Corbeni Village

Oboga is a trademark of ceramics for Romanian traditional pottery practice. The tradition of Oboga's pottery equipment today is preserved and practiced in the villages of Romana and Corbeni in the workshops of the masters Stefan Trusca and Gheorghe Turcitu. They continue to work on the old technology passed down by a father to a son who has preserved the old native craft. Two traditional manufacturing practices are preserved: Coarse unglazed ceramics and fine glazed ceramics. Wine, wine, brandy and coffee mugs, plates, jars, jars, bottles, jugs, jars, casseroles, bowls, candlesticks, etc. are produced. The masters use traditional natural dyes in green, brown and yellow. Beautiful stones and dolls with zoomorphic decorations are produced, such as storks, chickens, peacocks, cocks, fish; floral ornaments such as: different flowers, tree of life, acorns; anthropomorphic decorations such as: heads of children and others. Here, as in the workshop in Oboga, wedding ceremonial wedding ceremonies specific to the area are made. The masters sell their artworks in the souvenir shops of museums in the area, make their exhibitions and participate in national and international fairs.

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### Pottery workshops of:

Stefan Trusca

235100,village Romana, Bals, Olt county, Republic of Romania

Telephone +40 747 969 807

[http://www.innoturism.ro/downloads/3\\_Vesnicia%20s-a%20nascut%20la%20sat.pdf](http://www.innoturism.ro/downloads/3_Vesnicia%20s-a%20nascut%20la%20sat.pdf)

GPS coordinates: N° 44.389763; E° 24.104531; Alt (m) - 153

Gheorghe Turcitu

Village Corbeni, Bals, Olt county

Telephone: 0763 834 780

GPS coordinates: N° 44.389666;E° 24.101129Alt (m) -154

<http://stiri.travelo.ro/turism-pentru-traditii-in-corbeni/>

Distance (km):

- Bals -Corbeni, Olt county -4 km;
- Corbeni -Romana, Olt county - 2 km;
- Romana-Oboga, Olt county - 3 km

### Calui Monastery, Oboga village

The Calui Monastery, on the territory of the village of Oboga, was founded in the sixteenth century. Its appearance is shrouded in beautiful legends narrated by the monks. The first is that when Mihai Viteazul passed these places with his horse, the horse's hoof failed in a hole from which a miraculous spring sprang. The second legend relates to the Greek monks who inhabited the monastery. They call it "kalo", meaning "beautiful", "holy place", "given by God". The monastery complex, surrounded by a high brick wall, was built between 1516 and 1521 during the domination of Neagoe Basarab. The monastery church is a true masterpiece of architecture, specific to mountain areas. In the front of the church is a beautiful statue of the three brothers Buzesti: Radu, Stroe and Preda, captains at the voivoda Mihai Viteazul. They are standing next to each



other. One holds a mace, the other one is a sword and a shield, and the third one is a feather and a parchment. The church dedicated to Saint Nicholas was created by Vlad Dumitru in 1515. In 1594 the monastery cellar was built for the monks who inhabited it. Firewalls surround the monastery and make it a real fortress. It has a high tower with 12 windows and two rows of pegs. Above the front door there is an old inscription and a fragment of exterior mural decoration. The monastery church consists of a narthex, a naos and an altar. The iconostasis impresses with its ornaments and beautiful icons. Master Mina, an artist and his team of masters, painted the frescoes in the church, where the figures of Mihai Viteazul and his captains, the Buzesti brothers, stand out.

Walking along the alley to the fortress wall of the monastery, we reach the new Assumption Church, built on the initiative and with the assistance of archimandrite Corneliu Miroslov. He came as an abbot to the monastery in 1986, revived the monastery, set up a monastery house, bought three new bells, gave the monastery a new life and turned it into a working male monastery. Today the monastery is a valuable monument of religious architecture and painting.

#### Useful information:

##### Calui Monastery

Location: The monastery is located on the shore of river Oltets. From DN65/E574 Bals the road goes on DJ643 - 12,5 km, turns left to Calui and takes the DC9 - 3 km to Gura Calui

<http://amfostacolo.ro/impresii9.php?iid=62787&d=descopera-oltenia--la-pas-prin-oltenia>

<http://www.crestinortodox.ro/biserici-manastiri/manastirea-calui-67841.html>

[http://primariacalui.ro/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=14&Itemid=15](http://primariacalui.ro/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14&Itemid=15)

[http://ortodox.ro/manastiri/manastirea\\_calui.html](http://ortodox.ro/manastiri/manastirea_calui.html)



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GPS coordinates: N 44.462800; E 23.031740

**After praying for the grace and protection of God, we continue on the road to Slatina, where the friendly guides of the Olt Ethnographic Museum are waiting for us.**

### **County Museum of Olt, Slatina**

The County Museum of the Olt was opened on 1 May 1952, and for this purpose Ion Florescu donated his private collection and house. His collection includes mainly archeological and numismatic artifacts. Today the Olt County Museum is arranged in the departments: Archeology, Numismatics, Ethnography, Modern and Modern History, Art and Territorial Departments.

The Archeology Department keeps artifacts from the excavations in the Neolithic settlements of Gumelnita, Slatina, Brebeni and Draganesti-Olt. The Neolithic culture of Vadastra is well represented in the museum. Archaeological collections show continuity in the material and spiritual culture of the population that inhabited these lands from antiquity to the present day. There has been a smooth transition from the time of the Dacian civilization to the modern times. The area is inhabited by prehistoric times, as evidenced by the discoveries of the many archaeological expeditions that have taken place. Testimonies from the past include: prehistoric and antique ceramics, instruments, clay ritual sculptures, anthropomorphic and zoomorphic figures. The museum exhibits testify to the culture of the Getic and Roman civilization. Since the Early Middle Ages it has been a Byzantine treasure of silver coins dating back to the 7th century. Other material testimonies from the Middle Ages are: weapons, old books, jewels, coins and treasures from Vlad Vintila, Mihai Viteazul, Matei Basarab and Constantin Brancoveanu.



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The Ethnography Division contains collections of folk crafts - pottery, weaving, carpets, wrought iron, jewelry, traditional male and female costumes. The museum collection of the modern era includes papers, weapons, photographs, decorative art and highlights the role of the urban settlement in the process of renovation and national affirmation. In 1969, is an Ethnography section, which has a collection of 1480 objects, and to date it has grown to 8933 objects, which shows that the Olt Museum is constantly enriching and developing. Almost all the Olt county and the specifics of people's clothing are presented. The collections are divided into: customs, professions, ceramics, textiles, fabric, metal, wood, folklore. The ceramic collection includes objects from the ceramic centers in Oboga, Corbeni, Romana. Also, the museum has objects from the Vadastra culture and the Oboga colored eggs. The museum has exhibited its rich collection of folk costumes, men's and women's, every day and festive wear. Presented are silk scarves, jewelry, handmade by local masters of silver and brass, straps and necklaces of colored beads, various coins.

The newest department in the museum is Art. It presents paintings, sculptures, drawings of Romanian contemporary artists born in Olt and received national and international acclaim - Ion Popescu-Negreni, Spiru Vergulescu, Corneliu Ionescu, Nicolae Truta, Mihai Marin Carstea.

#### Useful information:

Olt County Regional Museum

230079, Slatina, Olt County, Republic of Romania

Address: № Ana Ipatescu, Str., cod 230079

Telephone/fax: +40 249 415279

e-mail: [muzeu\\_olt@yahoo.com](mailto:muzeu_olt@yahoo.com)

<http://www.mjolt.ro/muzeul-olt/>

GPS coordinates: N° 44.430147; E° 24.360127; Alt (m) - 145



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**Distance (km):**

- Craiova, Dolj County -Slatina, Olt County - 51 km, road E 574;
- Bals, Olt County -Slatina, Olt County - 25 km, road E 574.

**Ethnographic Museum, Slatina / Ethnography Museum, Slatina**

Museum of Ethnography in Slatina is an important tourist destination. It was set up in 1997. Museum's exposition introduces the visitor to the customs and traditions of Olt County. Presented are collections of traditional male and female costumes, artistic fabrics, ceramic and wood handicrafts. Interest in the museum are original ceramic objects and replicas from the workshops in Corbeni and Oboga.

**Useful information:**

Ethnographic museum, Slatina, Olt county, Republic of Romania

N 73 „Ionașcu“ str.

Telephone/fax: +40 249 435 663; E-mail: [etnografie@mjolt.ro](mailto:etnografie@mjolt.ro)

<http://locuridinromania.ro/judetul-olt/orasul-slatina/muzeul-de-etnografie.html>

Working time: 10:00 - 18:00; Saturday and Sunday: 9:00 - 17:00

GPS coordinates: N° 44.4368849; E° 24.3626765.

On the fourth day of the tour on the Path of Clay we will finish our trip to Romania and after a night in Turnu Magurele we head to Bulgaria. First, we stop at Draganesti-Olt to look at the Boianului Campus Museum and the Archaeological Park.

**"Campia Boianului" Museum and Archaeological Park, Draganesti -Olt, Olt**



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The museum complex in Draganesti -Olt, includes Girgiu House, Polihronie House / Nicolae Titulescu House / Memorial House Nicolae Titulescu and other outbuildings, located in a mansion on "Nicolae Titulescu". In 2010, an archeological park of Neolithic houses was built, which is a major tourist attraction. The archaeological excavations at Draganesti -Olt - have been held for more than 30 years. The first scientists from the Timisoara University are starting to work, as well as archaeologists from the National History Museum of Romania, the Craiova Institute of Thracology and the Draganesti - Olt Museum in Craiova.

In 1981 began the shaping of the modern museum complex. The historical exposition is located in the seven rooms of the Girgiu House. Authentic exhibits of archaeological excavations are displayed and the history of the Paleolithic settlement has been traced to the present day. The most remarkable archaeological artifacts belong to the Dudesti cultural layer, but most exhibits are from the Neolithic culture of Gumelnita. These include: hammers, motifs, deer horn instruments, bone dagger, clay figures related to religious cults of Neolithic people, weights for fishing nets, spear-guns, daggers, arrowheads, stone flamethrowers, slings - proof that the livelihood of the first inhabitants of these lands are hunting and fishing.

**Polihronie House** is the main building of the Campiei Boianului Museum. It is the oldest house preserved today in the Campiei Boianului Museum and was built by the Polihronie family at the end of the eighteenth century. It is used as an administrative building for managing the farm. In this house is located the main exhibition of the museum, presented in the following departments: Folk Art, Lada de Zestre Exhibition, Orthodox Art, Church Plateau and Art Exhibition "World of Colors". The ethnographic exhibition restores rural life in this area, traditional handicraft weaving, folklore costumes from the area, home textiles and flooring textiles.

Undoubtedly, the most attractive part of the museum in Draganesti-Olt is the "Gumelnita" archaeological park. It consists of 6 Neolithic residences that reconstruct



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the Neolithic culture called Gumelnita. The park was created on the initiative of Traian Zorzolui. Chalets renovate the Neolithic homes of fishermen, farmers and potters. Neolithic objects or replicas of neolithic objects, tables, religious altars, household tools and work equipment were used in the reconstruction of the interior. Reproduced a dwelling in which food and tools were stored. Inside the dwellings people retreated during the great spills of the river, when flooded the main housing huts.

#### Useful information:

##### Museum "Campia Boianului"

235400, Draganesti-Olt, Olt county, Republic of Romania

Address: №239 „Titulescu“ str.,

Telephone: +040 249 465 239

[https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muzeul\\_C%C3%A2mpiei\\_Boianului](https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muzeul_C%C3%A2mpiei_Boianului)

GPS coordinates: N° 44.173613; E° 24.515090; Alt (m) - 78

Distance (km):

- Draganesti -Olt -Caracal, Olt - 23 km;
- Draganesti -Olt -Slatina, Olt - 36 km

Our second stop this day is the **Romanatiului** Museum, Caracal

The famous magistrate Ion Hagiescu-Miriste, the art director, donated his home to the municipality in order to help students following sculpture in Rome and Paris. His rich collection of sculptures and paintings donated to the municipality against a duty to store them. Today, they occupy a central location in the **The Romanatiului** Museum in city Caracal. The museum was established in 1949 year and is located in the house donated by Ion Hagiescu-Miriste in 1904 to the municipality. The building is a monument of culture, built in the middle of the 19th century. The exhibition area includes two rooms, which house the two departments: History and Art. The history department



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includes 65 exhibits representing the core of the museum. The art department includes 27 paintings by Nicolae Darascu, C.D.Stahi, O.Obedeanu, N.Grimani, Ambrosini and others. In 1950 the museum was moved to the house of Niculin Jianu, a historical and architectural monument of culture, built in the second half of the XVIII century.

Today, the museum has four sections: archeology and history; "Iancu Jianu" and ethnography. The Department of Archeology and History owns more than 20,000 valuable objects, some of which are more than 6,000 years old, exhibited in eight rooms occupying an area of more than 400 m<sup>2</sup>. The permanent exhibition of the Department of Archeology and History is based on thematic and chronological criteria and is based on the main periods in Romanian historiography, and presents valuable testimonies certifying the rich material and spiritual life of the local people from the earliest times until 1944. Each of the eight rooms of the museum is thematically arranged. The museum exposition is rich in images, papers, maps and objects of various materials, costumes, uniforms and weapons, objects of art related to the history, economic life, culture and ethnography of the former Romantani district. The Paleolithic department can see stone instruments, mammoth, bone instruments, ceramic vessels found in Vladila, Caracal, Farcasele, Hotarani and Gardens. Neolithic and Bronze Age are represented by ceramic vessels, weapons, religious objects, burial urns, bronze and iron objects discovered during archaeological excavations in Farcasele, Hotarrani and Gardens. The Daco-Roman era is represented by exhibits found in Romula-Malva (the village of Resca, near Caracal). Artifacts such as cups, pots, amphorae, precious stones, candlesticks, sarcophagi, thresholds, stone and brick inscriptions, statues, etc., have been found here, proving the vitality of the settlement in this era. The museum has a large collection of various types of candlesticks with one, two or three slots. A rare find that is displayed in the museum is a candlestick depicting the head of an old man. In the excavations of Romula, semi-precious stones of jasper and onyx are found, engraved with figures of gods, mythological scenes and animals. Valuable exhibits include Roman bronze statues of the goddesses Diana, Fortuna - Defender of Romula-Malva, Janus, and



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the stone sculptures of Jupiter Dolichenus, Dea Dardanica Romula and others. The artefacts include objects discovered during archaeological excavations in the Roman city of Romula, which originated and became the main center of Dacia during the Roman emperor Septimius Severus. At the entrance of the museum there is a lapidarium. It includes more than 20 exhibits: sarcophagi, door gates, burial pins, and more. An exceptional find is the sarcophagus of the Roman queen Aelius Julius Julians, the Roman consul, with dimensions: 2,30 x 1,08 x 1,54 m, made of Varsanian stone, with sculptural ornaments on both the lid and on the box. The sarcophagus is made by order of his wife Valeria Gamelina and his children. The archaeological find was discovered near Romula, in the Hotarani necropolis, in 1952.

The ethnographic department of the museum is in the process of redevelopment. It contains a wealthy collection: costumes from the area of Romanati, males, females, girls and unmarried men, veils, hair accessories, etc., a collection of more than 4000 models of tailoring articles. In the Ethnographic Fund are kept old agricultural tools, wooden plow and household objects: weaving looms, silk thread extractors and others. In the area of Caracal (south of the city) you can see the remains of Roman city "Romula": buildings, baths and temples. As well as the ruins of the Princely Palace in Caracal, a former Princely residence at the time of Mihai Viteazul (XVI century), Matei Basarab and Constantin Brancoveanu. In the city is interesting the building of the Court and the house, a monument of architecture, by Iancu Jianu.

**Useful information:**

**Romanatiului Museum Caracal**

235200, city Caracal, Olt county, Republic of Romania

Address: № 28 „Iancu Jianu“ str.



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Contacts: +40 249 511344,

[pmc@romanati.ro](mailto:pmc@romanati.ro); <http://www.cniptcaracal.ro/index.php?page=muzeu-romanatiului>

GPS coordinates: N° 44.112629; E° 24.344703; Alt(m) - 107

Distance (km):

- Caracal, Olt county - Craiova, Dolj county - 55 (E 70);
- Caracal, Olt county - Slatina, Olt county - 41 (DN 64).

We continue our journey on the Corabia road, after 35 km we stop at Vadastra to visit the ceramics workshop of Ionel Cococi.

Vadastra is an archaeological prehistoric culture in the Corabia area, opened and researched by archaeologists from the Universities of Bucharest and Craiova and the Oltenia Museum, the Oltenia Museum, Craiova, in the second half of the 19th century. Ionel Cococi is the owner of a potter's workshop, where he produces replicas of unique ceramic finds from the Vadastra culture. Under a project, in 2000 he completed a specialized arts course at the University of Craiova, studied the peculiarities of the Vadastra culture, technology and techniques for the production of ceramics in the prehistoric age. Now its main goal is to revive this production and keep it for generations. He therefore organizes courses and extracurricular activities for local children who, in his ceramics production center, can not only observe but also incorporate it in the production of archaic vessels. It uses a technique from 5000 to 5500 years BC for the production of black ceramics. The Vadastra culture is one of the most important Neolithic cultures, distinguished by its originality and perfection in terms of both typology, production techniques, working tools and decorative motifs. Thronconic vases, hemispheric bowl (castroanele emisferice), fructierele - are some of the typical forms of Vadastra ceramics. The decorations of these vessels are carried out with the technique of cutting and cutting. Spirals, meanders, triangles, diamonds,



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"wolf-like teeth" are the specific decorative motifs of Vadastra ceramics. They cover the entire surface of the vessels in a mathematical arrangement.

Ionel Cococi has visited exhibitions of his Vadastra-style ceramic products at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, the Committee of the Regions in Brussels, Strasbourg, Milan and Turin. He passes his knowledge to students from the Slatina School of Arts, in a class with a professional field of ceramics.

**Useful information:**

Pottery workshop Ionel Cococi

237510, village Vadastra, Olt

Telephone: +4420 761 164 092

<http://www.agerpres.ro/cultura/2014/06/14/destinatie-romania-olt-ceramica-de-vadastra-revitalizata-dupa-aproape-sapte-milenii-de-artizanul-ionel-cococi-11-28-33>

GPS coordinates: N° 43.864116; E° 24.378910; Alt (m) - 66

Distance:

- Vadastra, Olt county - Caracal, Olt county - 33 km, road DJ 642A;

- Vadastra, Olt county - Corabia, Olt county - 19 km, road DN 54.

**After we reach another 20 km, we arrive at Corabia, where we will visit the Historical Museum.**

**Archaeological and Ethnographic Museum in Corabia.**

The Corabia Historical Museum was founded in 1951 at the suggestion of academician Nicolaescu-Plopsor, head of the Oltenia Museum. The museum is housed in a building that is a cultural monument. It includes two departments: archaeological-historical and ethnographic.

In the archaeological-historical department of the museum are exhibited artifacts discovered during the last six decades, proof of the prehistoric life belonging to the





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Neolithic culture of Vadastra (4th millennium BC), the Eneolithic culture Salcuta-Gumelnita, cultural group Chelai 3 thousand BC) The open linen tissues date back to the Eneolithic Age and are more than 4,000 years old. Ceramic artifacts date back to the Old-Iron Age of Hallstatt. Interesting are the ornaments of the same age - a pendant and two gold earrings that are the oldest in Sucidava. Gold rings with stones, silver bracelets, five gold coins, a treasure of Turkish piastres (44 silver coins) found before 1989. in Sucidava, the treasure of Republican coins (211 silver coins) discovered in Gura Padinei years ago, and 408 medieval coins - Spanish, Hungarian, Romanian, gold coin issued during Constantin I's reign, which have an exceptional artistic and historical value.

The ethnographic department includes 2500 exhibits; traditional folk costumes, Romanati folk costumes, Vadastra, Vadstrita, Orlea, Dabuleni, and the Collection of Blanket-specific blankets and tablecloths, with images of flowers, people or animals, some of which date back to the Neolithic with alternating colors on the horizontal; traditional furniture and weaving machine.

#### **Useful information:**

#### **Archaeological and Ethnographic Museum in Corabia.**

235300, city Corabia, Teleorman county, Republic of Romania,

Address: № 65 „Cuza Voda“ str.

Work time:

- from Tuesday to Friday - from 8.00 to 17.00;

- Saturday and Sunday - from 9.00 to 13.00.

Contact: +40 249 561 364, <http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro>

GPS coordinates: N° 43.774823; E° 24.502004; Alt (m) - 46

Distance:



- Corabia, Olt county - Caracal, Olt county - 41 km, road DN 54;
- Corabia, Olt county -Bechet, Dolj county - 47 km, road DN 54A.

**The city of Alexandria is 90 km from Corabia, and the purpose of our visit is the Regional Museum.**

### **Teleorman Regional Museum**

Teleorman Regional Museum is located in the city of Alexandria. Its construction began as a museum collection in the distant 1934, when the foundation of the museum was founded with the collection of documents, ethnographic and archeological exhibits from Alexandria region. In 1952 the collection was enriched and arranged in a museum of the city, and from 1974 it received the status of Teleorman Regional Museum. In today's building the museum was moved in 1981.

The permanent museum exposition includes a collection of archaeological excavations. Artifacts date back to the time of the Paleolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Dacian - Getae -era domination and migrations of tribes during the Early Middle Ages. The museum exhibits open artifacts on the Ciuperceni expeditions, Ciolanestii hill, Vitanesti, Magura, Bujoru, Albesti Orbeasca.

The most precious exhibits of the Early Neolithic (Precris Starcevo-Cris) are: ceramics, wooden objects, ornaments of Magura; from the Neolithic (Dudesti Vadastra): pots and ceramics, ornaments by Magura. The archeological culture of Gumelnita is represented by painted ceramics, a golden bowl, clay vessels with anthropomorphic and zoomorphic ornaments, wood jewelry, bone, horn, stone, copper, copper ax. Medieval archeology is represented by engraved ceramic Sgrafito and silver jewelry.

Permanent Treasure Exposition consists of 72 finds in the region of coin treasures containing more than 600 coins of different ages. The oldest are Greek coins from the 4th century BC, among which can be seen drachmas from the time of Alexander the



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Great. Interesting are the Roman coins of the Republic, coins with Emperor Trajan's inscription "Dacian winner". Fewer are the coins of the Byzantine Empire, and there are also coins of the Bulgarian Tsar Ivan Alexander, Spanish, Hungarian, German, Polish, Latvian and Ottoman coins. Open foreign currencies testify to active commodity exchange in the Late Middle Ages on these lands.

Extremely rich and valuable is the permanent ethnographic exhibition at the Museum of Alexandria. With the cooperation of the Museum of the Village in Bucharest five rural houses from the Teleorman area were reconstructed from the end of the 19th century to the mid-twentieth century. The interior reconstructs the specific lifestyle, regulation and clothing of the people in the region. Rich is the exhibition of male and female traditional costumes. There are also halls representing traditional rural home crafts such as: weaving, fishing, viticulture, agriculture. The museum has its own laboratory for the restoration and preservation of ceramics, metal and epistolary documents from new and newest times.

The Teleorman County Museum presents temporary thematic exhibitions, conducts scientific conferences with international participation and works on a number of international projects in the field of museums, archeology, ethnography and the promotion of the cultural and historical heritage of the region.

**Useful information:**

Teleorman Regional Museum, city Alexandria

140033, city Alexandria, Teleorman county, Republic of Romania

Address: №1 „1848 year“ Str.,

Telephone/fax: +40 247314761

Working hours: 9: 00-17: 00, day off - Saturday and Sunday

<http://www.muzeulteleorman.ro/organigrama.html>



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GPS coordinates: N° 43.975057; E° 25.328258; Alt (m) - 46

Distance:

- Alexandria, Teleorman - Corabia, Olt - 80 km;
- Alexandria, Teleorman - Turnu Magurele, Teleorman - 47 km

The last stop on the fourth day of our tour is the Romanian city of Turnu Magurele, where we stop for rest and overnight.

**Useful information:**

145200, city Turnu Magurele, Teleorman county, Republic of Romania

[https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turnu\\_Măgurele](https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turnu_Măgurele)

<https://www.agerpres.ro/engleza-destinatie-romania/>

GPS coordinates: N° 43.752268; E° 25.877236

Distance:

- city Turnu Magurele, Teleorman county, Republic of Romania - Nikopol, Pleven district, Republic of Bulgaria - 7 km

**On the fifth day by ferry from Turnu Magurele to Nikopol we cross the Danube River and we arrive in Bulgaria, where our tour on the Path of Clay continues. On this day we will visit three Bulgarian cities - Nikopol, Pordim and Pleven.**

Once we get off the ferry, we head to Shishman's fortress in Nikopol.

Kaleto, also called the Shishman's fortress (Nikopol), has had an important strategic importance in a well-protected harbor in the past. Today the fortress is a relatively well preserved part of the western wall and the so-called Shishmanova Vrata. In fact, the "door" is not from the reign of Ivan Shishman, but from the beginning of XIX century. The original door is located in the Regional History Museum in Pleven. Archaeological



excavations have revealed different cultural layers from the Roman, Bulgarian and Turkish periods.

Nikopol in the Middle Ages was the largest commercial Danube port of Bulgaria. The fortress rises on a high hill with steep slopes, especially north to the Danube. The hill is located in the northwest corner of the city, accessible only from the west, where a narrow road connects it to the Danube altitudes. This place was obviously the western gate of the fortress. The city, which is located in a deep valley, entered through the eastern gate. It was reached by a steep road that started from the foot of the hill to the Danube shore. The road runs along the eastern and southern slopes, cut into a rock cut from deep ramps. According to K. Shkorpil, the fortress was 370 feet long and 270 feet wide. The fortress walls have undergone a major overhaul in the 12th - 14th centuries. This is evidenced by the construction of the cut stone, the white mortar with the ballast and the internal beams in the walls, laid longitudinally and transversely. The castle's doors were double, with towers above them. There was a ditch on the western wall. The western gate had a falling bridge over the ditch.

The fortress is known as Shishmanova because it is related to the last years of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom. It was the residence of the last Bulgarian Tsar Ivan Shishman and the last Bulgarian fortress. After her conquest by the Turks in 1395, Tarnovo Kingdom fell under Ottoman rule. The following year, 1396, under the walls of this fortress, the warriors of Tsar Ivan Sratsimir fought in a coalition with the Polish-Hungarian King Sigismund. The goal of the united Christian coalition is to bring Nikopol back and expel the Turks from these lands. Here Sultan Bayazid wins a second victory over Christians. Thus the Ottoman military-political system in the Bulgarian lands is finally imposed.

**Useful information:**

Shishman's fortress



### City Nikopol, Pleven district, Republic of Bulgaria

Location: Located on a hill in the northwest corner of Nikopol.

<https://bg.wikipedia.org/wiki>

GPS coordinates: N° 43.702941; E° 24.891687; Alt (m) - 102

Distance:

- city Nikopol, Pleven district, Republic of Bulgaria city Turnu Magurele, Teleorman county, Republic of Romania - 7 km;
- city Nikopol, Pleven district, Republic of Bulgaria - city Pleven, Pleven district, Republic of Bulgaria - 55 km;
- city Pleven, Pleven district, Republic of Bulgaria - city Pordim, Pleven district, Republic of Bulgaria - 65 km

### The church "St. St. Peter and Paul"

The church "St. St. Peter and Paul" is a medieval church in Nikopol, first described in 1871 by Felix Kanitz. She had not served in her for a long time, and she was in the yard of a Turkish house. Kanitz heard a legend that was once a cathedral temple of the Nicopolitan Catholics (Paulicians). He mentions two small turrets over the church narthex; one of them is also visible on a watercolor drawing made by him. When George Balsch (1868-1934), in turn, examined the church in 1914, the narthex has already collapsed. In 1927 the building was declared a folk old age, now it is a monument of culture of national importance.

The building has small dimensions: 10 x 7 meters. The entrance is on the southern side of the narthex. The nave inside is crossed, with an altar apse. The high dome rises right above the inner corners of the cross. The narrow narthex was previously two-story. Outside, the walls have blind arches with decorative masonry of bricks and white stone. Judging by the style of this decoration, the scientists date back to the 14th century



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temple, making it one of the most important preserved works of medieval Bulgarian construction.

## Elia Fountain

Elia is the name of a fountain in the city of Nikopol, registered as a monument of culture. The old name of the fountain is Syutlika. It is located in the southern part of the city, 1 km from the Danube River. Represents an ancient Roman sarcophagus with a Latin epitaph of Elya, the late wife of Roman clerk Fronton. The inscription was dated by the historians to 160-181. Later, probably during the Ottoman rule, a fountain was built in the sarcophagus, a high 3m with a 4m front. The French archeologist Dijarden draws the inscription on the sarcophagus. He remains very impressed and translates the elegance into French by putting the tap on his own plate. The Elia fountain is currently in operation with spring water.

**Our tour continues to Pordim, which is 60 km from Nikopol. Here we will visit three sites:**

### **HS "St. St. Cyril and Methodius", Pordim, Pleven district**

The school has an Arts profile and offers training in three areas: folk dances, folk songs and folk instruments. He has his own dance ensemble "Severnyache". Graduates of the school have a number of participations in regional, national and international folk music festivals, winners of honors and honorary diplomas. The school has an ethnographic corner, representing the folk traditions and the costumes of the North.

#### **Useful information:**

Highschool "St. St. Cyril and Methodius ",



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Pordim, Pordim municipality, Pleven district, Republic of Bulgaria

Address: 11 "Ivan Bozhinov" Str

E-mail: [soupordim@abv.bg](mailto:soupordim@abv.bg); <http://www.soupordim.com/>

telephone +0359 6513 2070; GSM: +0359 885188242

GPS: N 43.376744 E 24.850150171

House Museum "Great Prince Nikolay Nikolaevich", city of Pordim, Pleven district

The museum is located in the house of Ivan Stoykov - Troyanchanina, built between 1862 and 1865. In 1877, the Russian Emperor Alexander II, the commander of the Danube Russian Army, the great Prince Nikolay Nikolaevich, the Romanian Prince Karol I and prominent Russian commanders reside there. From 26 October to 10 December, the Headquarters of the Russian Army were stationed here during the Russian-Turkish War of Liberation (1877-1878). In this house, in the presence of Count N. Ignatiev, Gen. N. Obruchev, Gen. D. Miliutin, Gen. E. Totleben and Gen. Gurko is holding military advice, important strategic decisions are made for the course of the war - for the blockade of Pleven, for the winter passage of the Balkan, the draft of the San Stefano Peace Agreement was discussed. The house was redeemed by the Military Ministry and turned into a museum in the period 1904-1907.

The exhibition reflects the activities of the Headquarters of the Russian Army during the reign of Prince Nikolay Nikolaevich and Emperor Alexander II in Pordim from 26 October to 15 December 1877. Special attention was paid to the participation and role of Russian Artillery in the war.

House Museum "His Royal Majesty Carol I", city of Pordim, Pleven district

The museum is situated in the house of Varban Iliev, built after the war, in the immediate vicinity of the house where the Romanian Headquarters is housed and Prince



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Karel I lived during the battles for Pleven (July 19 - December 10, 1877). Together with the original building in which the environment was completely preserved, it was transformed into a museum established in 1904-1907. A significant part of the exhibits were donated by the Romanian Ministry of Defense in 1904, 1954 and 1967. The museum exposition is devoted to the participation of Romania in the Russo-Turkish War / 1877-1878 / and the activity of the Headquarters of the Romanian Army during the residence of the Romanian Prince Carol I in Pordem in 1877. The museum presents a rich collection of Romanian uniforms and armament.

House Museum "His Royal Highness Carol I" is among the first museums in Bulgaria. The museum exhibition reflects one of the most significant events in the course of the Russo-Turkish Liberation War of 1877/78, namely the siege and the capture of Pleven, an important strategic battle on which the outcome of the war depends.

**We leave Pordim to the city of Pleven. Along the way we will stop in the village of Grivitsa, where we will take a look at the Romanian mausoleum and memorial park.**

The mausoleum was built between 1892 and 1897 in memory of the Romanian warriors who died, with funds from the Romanian people. It was discovered in 1902. The iconostasis and frescoes in the temple room were made by Romanian artists. In the area of the Grivishki Redut, immediately after the war, 17 Russian and Romanian monuments were erected above the fraternal mounds. In 1958 a memorial park with an area of 360 decares was built. In 1967 a museum exhibition was opened, which reflects the fighting in the village of Grivitsa during the Russo-Turkish war and the battle of the Romanian army.

In the mausoleum, which consists of a temple room and an ossuary, the bones of Romanian warriors who died in the battles near the village of Grivitsa are stored in marble sarcophagi. The iconostasis has four icons - "Jesus Christ", "St. Nikolai ",



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Archangel Michael "and" The Virgin with the Baby ". In 1902 a bronze medallion was placed in Romanian with a text of dedication to the Romanian warriors.

The museum is devoted to the participation of Romania in the Russo-Turkish War / 1877-1878 / The fighting was shown at the village of Grivitsa, led by the Russian army at the beginning of the Plevna Epopee and the Romanian Army during the Third Attack of Plevna 11-12 September 1877); exhibits of original Romanian uniforms, copies of Romanian battle flags and objects reflecting the country life during the Russo-Turkish war.

#### **Useful information:**

*Romanian mausoleum and memorial park*

*village of Grivitsa, Plevna district, Republic of Bulgaria*

Telephone: +0359 64 830 251; <http://panorama-pleven.com>

Working hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10.00 to 16.00, on other days - upon prior request. Free entry

GPS coordinates: N° 43.414252; E° 24.694757

Distance:

- Grivitsa, Plevna district - Pordim, Plevna district - 14 km;
- Grivitsa, Plevna district - Plevna, Plevna district - 9 km

#### **Kaylaka Park**

Kaylaka Park is located to the south of the center of Plevna. It was declared a Protected Site at the initiative of General Ivan Vinarov. It is rich in many protected animal and plant species. It is situated on an area of about 10,000 decares in the karst valley of the Tuchenitsa River. The natural canyon of the river has sheltered a rich and diverse flora and fauna. There are unique plants for Bulgaria and the Balkan Peninsula, and many birds and mammals are included in the Red Book of Bulgaria. The park offers



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unique combining opportunities for walking, recreation and entertainment. The vertical rocks, over 40-50 meters high, are great for practicing rock climbing. There are artificial lakes and dams, boats and water wheels, swimming pools, hotels, bars, cafes, restaurants, discos, playgrounds, tennis courts, zoo and a unique restaurant entirely built in a cave.

At the beginning of Kailaka Park are the ruins of the late anti-Soviet fortress Storgozia. It was built during the Late Antiquity (IV-VI century) by the Romans and occupied an area of 31,000 m<sup>2</sup>. The fortress walls were 2 meters high, made of solid stones. The fortress has surrounded and guarded many residential and administrative buildings. In the eastern part, remains of Early Christian basilica, which is the second largest after the royal basilica in Pliska, were found. The Storgozia fortress still preserved and restored are part of the firewall, the basilica and the choreum.

In the park there is the summer theater of Pleven, as well as the only wine museum in Bulgaria, located in a cave, which consists of 5 galleries with an area of 650 m<sup>2</sup>.

#### **Useful information:**

Kailaka Park

Location: located to the south of the city Pleven, Pleven district.

Address: 5800 Kailaka, Pleven

<http://panorama-pleven.com>

Opening hours: open 24 hours. Free entry

GPS coordinates: N° 43.391882; E° 24.622216; Alt (m) - 122

Distance:

Kailaka Park, Pleven District - Pleven, Pleven District - 5 km



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**The Museum of Wine** in Pleven is the result of a long-term development of a team of Bulgarian and French specialists, architects, ethnologists and museum experts from the Pleven Panorama and the Regional Museum of History. The city of Pleven is chosen because it is the first center of the wine industry in Bulgaria. The museum has 2 tasting halls, a historic part and a hall with exhibited wines from different regions of Bulgaria. The visit of the Museum is accompanied by a talk which includes a wealth of information on wine history, production technology and more. The wine museum is both a cultural attraction and a place where visitors can taste and buy bottles of over 6,000 wines from all regions of Bulgaria. The museum offers the largest exposition in Bulgaria (of over 7,000 exhibits) of old wines - from 30 to 90 years old. In the historical hall are exhibited objects and attributes related to the viticulture and wine-making on the Bulgarian lands - from the ancient Thracians, Greeks and Romans, to the present day. The hall offers wines from all regions of Bulgaria. The wine is stored in 100 French oak barrels. There is a tasting, which is held with a lecturer. This practice is well known in France and worldwide and has an educational and cultural character.

#### **Useful information:**

##### *Wine Museum*

*Pleven, Pleven district, Republic of Bulgaria*

Location: 5 km south of Pleven, Kaylaka Park

Working hours: every day from 11:00 to 19:00. From October to March, the museum works with a pre-order. For degustation groups, you need to make a prior request.

GSM: +359 887 731 537; e-mail: winemuseum@mail.bg

<https://bg.wikipedia.org/wiki>

GPS coordinates: N° 43.391882; E° 24.622216122

Distance:

- Kailuka Park / Wine Museum, Pleven District - Pleven, Pleven District - 5 km



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**We arrive in the regional city of Pleven. To the attention of the inquisitive tourist we offer a walk in the exhibition halls of the Regional Museum of History in Pleven.**

The Regional History Museum in Pleven contains a rich exposition that tracks the life of the region from the prehistoric age to the present day. It is organized in several departments: Prehistory, Antiquity, Middle Ages, Modern Times, Ethnography and Nature, and an exhibition hall devoted to the life and work of the world-famous Bulgarian opera singer Gena Dimitrova. During our walk through the centuries on the road of clay, undoubtedly the greatest interest is the departments: Prehistory, Antiquity and the Middle Ages, so we will only pay more attention to them.

In the Department of Prehistory are displayed exhibits showing the material and spiritual culture of the ancient stone, the New Stone Age and the Stone-Copper Age. The earliest traces of human presence in the Pleven district are evidenced by the end of the Middle Paleolithic (50-45 thousand BC). A remarkable exhibit of this era is a collection of leaf-shaped tops for copies, found in a workshop for making flint tools near the village of Muselievo (municipality of Nikopol). The New Stone Age (Neolithic, VII - Vth century BC) is presented with materials that illustrate the characteristic features of ceramics production in the region. Evidence of the development of the Pleven district during the Stone Age (chalcolith, V-IV th centuries BC) are ceramic vessels decorated with incised and painted with graphite ornaments. Also exposed are the most used tools of different material: stone, flint, bone, horn, copper and clay. The main accent is placed on the finds from the Chalcolithic settlement in the Reduts locality, which was discovered near the village of Telish (Cherven Bryag municipality) - one of the significant and thoroughly studied prehistoric sites in the area. The museum has an original prehistoric residence (excavations near the village of Telish), which provides information on the construction technique, the interior and the crafts practiced.



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In the Antiquity Department, monuments discovered in the Roman city of Ulpia Eskus near the village of Gigen (Gulyantsi Municipality), in the late Roman and early Byzantine fortress Storgozia near Pleven: architectural details, multicolored floor mosaics, sculptures and bronze sculptures of gods from the Greco- pantheon, household items and golden ornaments. For nearly two millennia, the history of this part of the Balkan Peninsula is connected with the Thracians. One of the great mysteries of ancient Thrace is the famous Valchitran treasure (Pordim Municipality). It dates back to the 16th and 13th centuries. From the period of the early Iron Age (XII - XIX) Was found on the island Persin (near Belene) golden bowl with bouquets. The II - mid - 3rd century (the time of the Anthony and Severus dynasties) marked the peak of economy, construction and culture in the province of Lower Mizia. At that time in Colonia Ulpia Eskus (Gigen village, Gulyantsi Municipality) - one of the largest and most significant antiquities of the Lower Danube, the monumental civil and religious architecture was developed. At the beginning of the 4th century, during the reign of Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337) Colonia Ulpia Eskus experienced a second bloom. Then a stone bridge was erected on the Danube river and was discovered by the Emperor himself on July 5, 328. The Roman road station Storgoziya (near Pleven), established in the middle of the 1st century, inherits the name of the Thracian settlement. During the late Antiquity and Early Byzantine period (4th-6th centuries), thanks to its location (already in Kailuka - in the Gradishte locality) and the changed political and military conditions, Storgozia grew into a heavily fortified settlement.

The Bulgarian Middle Ages are presented with materials from the First and Second Bulgarian States, among which there are elegant vessels and jewels from the Nikopol Treasure (XIV - XV century); original gate from the Nikopol fortress; silver and bronze bracelets, earrings and rings from necropolis near Pleven (XII - XIV c.); weapons, ceramics and bone objects. In the ethnography department, the exhibits present the traditional dwelling and interior, the basic livelihoods of the population, the folk



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clothing and the customs of the end of XIX and the beginning of the 20th century. The socio-economic and cultural rise of the Bulgarian people, its increased financial capabilities are reflected in the section City life The main tools of the population - agriculture, sheep breeding, viticulture and fishing - are represented by the typical tools of labor. Ritual objects and costumes illustrate the holidays associated with them. Only in North Bulgaria is the familiar German, found its special place in the museum exposition.

Traditional folk clothing is shown in collections of festive costumes and jewelry. Handmade, at home, they have intricate and rich embroidery - plant, geometric and zoomorphic. Women's folk clothing is two-sided and retains its antiquity until the beginning of the 20th century. It consists of: shirt, front and rear apron. Especially beautiful is the headscarf with Kajtsa (an ancient hat that reflects the woman's family position). Silver jewelry complements the jewels of the costume. Men's folk clothing is white-eyed, with preserved antique elements until the beginning of the 20th century. It consists of: shirt, pants, belt and cap. At the beginning of the 20th century, as a result of migratory processes, it darkens and in most of the area passes into black-and-white: shirt, sweatshirts, belt and cap.

#### **Useful information:**

Regional historical museum

Pleven, Pleven district, Republic of Bulgaria

Address: № 3 “Stoyan Zaimov” Str.

Telephone: +359 64 822 623 (director); +0359 64 823 502 (guides);

E-mail: [plevenmuseum@dir.bg](mailto:plevenmuseum@dir.bg); <http://rim-pleven.com/>

GPS coordinates: N° 43.404540; E° 24.617603111

#### **Historic center of Pleven**



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The historical center of Pleven district is welcoming us with the water fairy tale of the cascade of waterfalls. In 1982, the Water Complex was built on an area of 1 ha. The site consists of three unique water cascades, water mirrors and a fountain.

Here are the buildings of the Municipality and the Regional Administration, the Military Club, the Regional Museum of History (former military school and monument of culture), the Museum of Liberation of Pleven - 1877. After the fall of Pleven in this Revival house the Russian Emperor Alexander II was here, here the captive Turkish captain Osman Pasha was presented. The house was the residence of the first military governor of Pleven, Skobelev.

Another interesting landmark in the center of Pleven is the Mausoleum Ossuary of the Fallen Russian and Romanian Warriors at Pleven - 1877. It is included in the list of the 100 national tourist sites. The ossuary is a symbol of the city of Pleven. It was opened in 1907 in the presence of General Stoletov in memory of the Russian and Romanian warriors who had fallen in the epic battles for Pleven.

The church "St. Nikolay "was built in 1834, the iconostasis dates back to 1845, and the icons were made by the famous Revival masters Dimitar Dospevski and Nikola Obrazopisov.

Next to the church is the pillar of Pleven culture and spirituality - the Dramatic Theater "Ivan Radoev". It was founded in 1919. The building, which is housed, is located in the center of the pedestrian zone and is declared a monument of architecture of national importance. The interior is endowed with the traditions of the European urban style of the late 19th century.

In the historical center of Pleven there is an Art Gallery donation - "Svetlin Rusev Collection", situated in a former public bath, built in the beginning of the 20th century under the project of Nikola Lazarov and functioned as a bathroom until the 70s of the 20th century. Nearby is the Skobelev Park.



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## **From the center of Pleven we head to Skobelev Park to visit the Pleven panorama.**

Panorama "Pleven Epopee 1877" is an art museum in Pleven, built in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Liberation of Pleven from Ottoman yoke. It was built in the area of Skobelev Park, next to the Reduta "Kovvanlak", where during the 3rd attack from the siege of Pleven one of the hardest battles took place. The authors of the project are architects Ivo Petrov and Plamena Tsacheva, together with a design team of 14 people. Author of the picturesque part and principal contractor is Nikolay Ovechkin (Military Studio "M. Grekov", Moscow). A team of 13 Russian and Bulgarian artists painted the panoramic sea lanes. The architectural body of the Panorama is made to appear elevated over 4 bayonets that represent the power of the weapon that has brought freedom. The patches carry 4 horizontally placed rings, 3 of which symbolize the 3 attacks against Pleven, and the 4th ring is a decorative-plastic frieze symbolizing the siege of Pleven. Tourists can climb elevators on 2 sightseeing grounds on the roof of the museum, from where they can observe the historical sites: The Dead Valley, the Reds of Kovanlak and Isa Aga, the Ossuary in Skobelev Park, Radishevski and Grivish Heights.

The exposition of Panorama "Pleven Epopee 1877" consists of four halls: introductory, panorama, diorama and final. The introductory hall contains six paintings that reflect moments from the Bulgarian history and the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-78. In the Panorama Hall on canvas was recreated the largest and bloodiest battle for Pleven - The Third Assault / 11-12 September 1877 / RTI & gt; The visitor finds himself in the center of the battlefield, on the highest hillside of the city, on the positions of the Turkish army between the Reds and the Isa Aga. From here you can see the city and the surrounding hills, the attacking Russian and Romanian regiments, the defensive Turkish parts, the location of the Russian command and the headquarters of Osman Pasha. The first day, Russians and Romanians attack the city from the east, southeast, and south. A central place is devoted to the combat operations of the southern region, led by the



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detachment of a gene. MD Skobelev. After a short hand-to-hand battle, "Kovalek" is captured, and an hour later Isa Aga falls. Turkish defense was first shot at its full depth and the road to Pleven was open. For 30 hours, without rest and help, Skobelev's soldiers defeated five Turkish counterattacks. The next day the Russian army was forced to retreat. In the Diorama Hall the painting canvas reflects the last battle for Pleven in the valley of the Vit River on December 10, 1877. In the Final Hall, two paintings show the capitulation of Osman Pasha and the winter passage of the Balkan by the Russian army.

**Useful information:**

Panorama Pleven Epopee 1877, Directorate of Military History Museum, Pleven  
Pleven, Pleven district, Republic of Bulgaria

Address: 157 Vasil Levski Str.,

Work time:

- Summer time (April 1 to October 31): 9:00 to 12:00 pm. 12:30 to 18:00 pm. The last group enters at 17.30.

- Winter time (November 1st - March 31st): 9:00 to 12:00 pm. 12:30 to 17:00 pm. The last group enters at 16.30.

Telephone: 064/830 251

E-mail: panoramapleven@gmail.com; <http://panorama-pleven.com>

GPS coordinates: N° 43.398738; E° 24.606153190

Early on the morning of the sixth day of our journey, we take the Knezha. 23 km away from Pleven is the Ancient Road Station and the Ad Puteya Fortress, which is our first stop of our tour this day.

The Ancient Path Station and Ad Puteya Fortress is located on a naturally protected site on the right bank of the Vit River, in the Gradisteto area, 1.2 km northwest of the



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center of the village of Riben. "Ad Pushtata" has emerged as a roadside station of Trajan's Roman road Ulpia Eskus - Philippopolis, connecting the Carpathians with the Aegean Sea. It is 14 miles from Ulpia Eskus (Gigen village, Gulyantsi municipality) and 7 miles from Storgozia (Pleven). Later the road station has grown into a fortified castle, which occupied an area of about 10 acres. Today only part of the walls and walls of buildings are preserved on the terrain. The fortress wall is at an altitude of 2.00-2.2 m. It retains an insignificant fragment at a height of about 2.00-2.20 m, almost deformed with the removal of tiling stone. In the archaeological site were found a marble head, a bronze statue of Hermes, bronze artifact bust of a bacchanalian, a bronze replica of Praxitel's classical work - the rest of a Satyr, a stone altar with an inscription dedicated to Jupiter, and coins that are part of the exposition of the Regional History Museum in the city of Pleven.

**Useful information:**

Ancient road station and fortress "Ad Puteya", Riben village, Dolna Mitropolia municipality, Pleven district, Republic of Bulgaria

Location: the northwest end of the village of Riben, 1.15 km northwest of the village center, on the right bank of the river Vit.

<http://www.culture-dm.com/?p=765>

GPS: 43.535573;E24.62074456

Distance:

- Riben village, Dolna Mitropolia municipality, Pleven district - city Pleven, Pleven district - 23 km;
- Riben village, Dolna Mitropolia municipality, Pleven district - city Kneja, Pleven district - 56 km

City Kneja is 56 km away from the village of Riben. The purpose of our visit is the Municipal History Museum.



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The Municipal History Museum in Kneja is open for visitors since 2007. The exhibits are arranged in three departments: ethnography, archeology and art gallery. The ethnographic exhibition presents the material and spiritual culture of the population: the traditional dwelling of the Bulgarians, household objects - blue, ceramic vessels, traditional tools for knitting and preparation of materials like hooks, spindles, looms, spinners, traditional fireplace; objects used in agriculture, livestock, viticulture; traditional folk costumes, handbags, bracelets, earrings, rings, etc. ; Bulgarian Revival weapons - rifles, revolvers, sabers, daggers and knives.

Archaeological exposition includes: objects of stone, horn, bone and iron from V-I c. BC; Thracian and Celtic weapons from V-I c. BC; iron sword, shield, iron knife handle, etc., found in Koshutanyaka; The Roman epoch from the 1st to the 3rd century AD is represented by a bridle, knives, tweezers, needles, amulets, arrowhead, ornaments, votive tablets, hammer, arrowheads; keys of III - IV c. AD; pottery and lamps, counters for weighing scales, cantaros, applications and more from Late Antiquity and Early Middle Ages - III - VII c. AD; flint and steel, axes, arrowheads, blades for folding knives, ladies' ornaments from the Middle Ages.

In the art gallery are presented icons, paintings and works of art of the artists from Kneja: Lyuben Dimanov, Asen Kraishnikov, Petko Shilyashki, Marin Georgiev, Venera Simeonova, Lyuben Naskov, Mimi Vekova, Stoyan Kyosovski, Valentina Rasheva, Lydia Schindler, Dimcho Dimchovski , Mancho Milev, Teodor Radkov and others.

**Useful information:**

Municipal Historical Museum

City Kneja, Pleven ditrict, Republic of Bulgaria

Address: 45, "Marin Boev"Str

Telephone:

+35991327503

E-mail: [historicalmuseumkneja@mail.bg](mailto:historicalmuseumkneja@mail.bg); [www.//knejamuseum.hit.bg](http://www.knejamuseum.hit.bg)



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Opening hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 - 12:00; 12:30 - 17:00

GPS coordinates: N° 43.493360; E° 24.080562109

Distance:

- village Riben, municipality Dolna Mitropolia, Pleven district - city Pleven, Pleven district - 23 km;
- village Riben, municipality Dolna Mitropolia, Pleven district - city Kneja, Pleven district - 56 km;
- city Kneja, Pleven district - city Pleven, Pleven district - 47 km;
- city Kneja, Pleven district - village Telish, Cherven bryag municipality, Pleven district - 39 km;
- city Kneja, Pleven district - city Cherven bryag, Pleven district - 56 km

**From Kneja we head to Cherven Bryag Municipality. At a distance of 40 km there is the village of Telish, where we will stop to look at a replica of Neolithic houses, realized in the period 2003 - 2004 by Chitalishte "Razvitie" under the project "We are looking for a future in the past".**

The remains of a prehistoric village from the Stone-Copper and the Early-Bronze Age are found in Redutti place, Telish village. The settlement is fully explored by archaeologist Ventsislav Gergov. Miniature clay housing patterns have been discovered that allow you to see how real homes look from outside and inside. The ancient people initially aligned the site in which they laid the foundations. The walls, up to 40 cm thick, were made of a wooden structure, which was lined with a mixture of mud and straw. Through this ancient building technique, stable houses were built, which are cool in the summer and warm in the winter. An obligatory part of the interior furnishings was the home furnace they usually had in front of the entrance. Next to it were shelves for clay pots, and to the right of the door was the "bedroom". Beyond the fireplace were the chrome pebbles for grinding the grain. The study found more clay models on tables,



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chairs, and a richly decorated baby swing. Pottery was more than a craft - the pots were adorned with geometric patterns with graphite motives. Particularly interesting are the numerous clay idols. Many of the vessels and cult objects and statuettes have a high artistic and aesthetic value. The richest collection of so-called "Goddesses sitting on a throne" comes from the village. They are made of fine clay (terracotta) and represent female figures solemnly placed on a throne with a short back and a round base. The faces of the goddesses are three-dimensional, the nose is beak-like, and there are traces of colored decoration around the eyes. Researchers believe that these are figurines of the Great Mother Goddess, worshiped as a protector of the genus and fertility. Her cult is also connected to the clay altar found in one of the dwellings. In the prehistoric settlement are found bone remains of over 18 species of wild and domestic animals, objects of hunting and livestock breeding by its ancient inhabitants. More interest is represented by extinct wild cattle (*Bosprimigenius*), wild horses (*Equusferusferus*) and river beaver (*Castorfiber*). Among the birdwatchers, Prof. Zlatozar Boev, a paleornologist, discovered bones of the Golden Eagle (*Aquilachrysaetos*), probably a bird of totem-ritual significance at that time. The artifacts found near the village of Telish are exhibited at the Regional Museum of History in Pleven.

A replica of three neolithic houses was built in the central part of the village of Telish and recreates houses (and bits in them), which were discovered in the Reduta area near the village. Here you can get acquainted with the prehistoric crafts used by the ancient people on our lands.

**Useful information:**

Replica of Neolithic houses

village Telish, Cherven bryag municipality, Pleven district, Republic of Bulgaria

Community center "Razvitie"



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Address: № 1 "G. Damianov" str.,

Telephone.: +0359 6575 2364; <https://bg.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

GPS coordinates: N° 43.327186; E° 24.261186188.

Distance:

- city Kneja, Pleven district - city Pleven, Pleven district - 47 km;
- city Kneja, Pleven district - village Telish. Cherven bryag municipality, Pleven district - 39 km;
- village Telish, Pleven district - city Cherven bryag, Pleven district - 22 km

**We continue our journey to the desired destination and after 22 km we arrive in Cherven Bryag.**

### **Museum Collection - Archeology and Ceramics at "Terra" Company in Cherven Bryag**

Museum collection - archeology and ceramics at the company "Terra" in the city of Cherven bryag contains replicas of clay statuettes of throne goddesses seated on the throne from the 4th millennium BC, discovered during archaeological excavations in the Reduta area, Telish village (Cherven municipality beach) and artefacts from field trials. The statues are exhibited at the Regional History Museum in Pleven. The museum collection for the Terra plant (Cherven Bryag) has been completed for years. The plant owners have invested to create a collection of antique and modern ceramics. In a special room is an exposition of antique ceramic vessels and objects, photo material and information about archaeological sites on the territory of the municipality of Cherven Bryag. In the courtyard of the plant is exhibited an exhibition of modern ceramics, created during the organized and financed by the management of the plant to create ceramic sculpture sculptures. The plant's management organizes international biennials for artistic ceramics. In the courtyard of the brick factory was built a chapel. Here you can get acquainted with the whole process of producing artistic ceramic products.



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### **Useful information:**

Factory "Terra 2000", Ltd.

5980, city Cherven briag, Pleven district, Republic of Bulgaria

Address: Industrial Zone, №1 Antim I Street,

Telephone/fax: +0359 659 92237, +359 659 92 363,+350 92 376;

GSM:+0359 888 850376, +0359 887 921051;

<http://chervenbryag.bg/bg2/2008/06/21/q-2000q/>

GPS coordinates: N° 43.269413; E° 24.076072112

We head to the regional city of Vratsa where we will spend the night and on the seventh day we will look at the natural and cultural-historical sites in and around the city.

On the seventh day of our journey we are expecting: The Regional Museum of History-Vratsa and the Ethnographic-Revival Complex "St. Sofronii Vrachanski ".

### **Regional Historical Museum, Vratsa, Vratsa district**

The museum exposition of the Regional History Museum in Vratsa tracks the history of the region from antiquity to the present day. It is arranged in departments: Archeology, Thracian Treasures, History of Bulgaria XV-XIX century and New History. The Thracian treasure hall is of great interest. The finds from the Mogilanian Mound are exhibited there. The golden wreath and the golden earrings are one of the masterpieces of ancient goldsmithing. The unique silver gilding with gilt is locally produced and carries the scars of Thracian decorative art. The collection includes many gold and silver applications. The same exposition presents the treasures from the city of Moesia (Bukyovtzi village) and the village of Galiche; silver, gold and golden ritual vessels, applications with images of the Mother Goddess and Thracian Rider are presented. In





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separate windows there are pieces of jewelry from the epochs of Antiquity, Middle Ages and Revival. Undoubtedly, the most valuable unique in the museum is the Rogozen treasure. It consists of 165 vessels made of silver and decorated with gold plated. It has been collected by several generations of local Thracian kings between the end of the 6th and 4th centuries BC and is a family service of a dynasty. Through the magnificence of the treasure, rulers demonstrate their wealth and power. Most of the dishes are of local origin - the varied lush decoration carries the features of original art. The mythological scenes illustrated testify to the rich peace of the Thracians. The exposition in History Hall of Bulgaria XV-XIX c. Presents valuable examples of the Vratsa Literary, Iconographic and Gold School and traces the economic prosperity of the Revival city, church and political struggles.

#### **Useful information:**

Regional History Museum (RIM)

3000, city Vratsa, Vratsa district, Republic of Bulgaria

Address: 2 "Hristo Botev" Blvd., Center of city Vratsa, Vratsa District

Telephone: +0359 92 620 220 (information)

<http://www.vratsamuseum.com/index.php?lang=bg>

Opening hours: Monday - Friday: 9:00 - 17:30. Free day: Monday

GPS coordinates: N° 43.200884; E° 23.547448; Alt (m) - 384.

Distance:

- city Vratsa, Vratsa district - city Cherven bryag, Pleven district - 39 km;
- city Vratsa, Vratsa district - city montana, Montana district - 57 km

**Ethnographic-Revival Complex "St. Sofronii Vrachanski ", to the Regional Historical Museum, Vratsa**



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The Ethnographic-Revival Complex "St. Sofronii Vrachanski "covers a territory of 0.55 ha, on which are situated three Revival houses, in the typical for this region architectural style, and two public buildings of the same period. These are the house of the Hadji Toshevi family, the house of Ivan Zambin, the house of Grigoria Naydenov, the building of the Revival school "Vaznesenie" (Ascension) and the church "St. Vaznesenie ". All of them are listed as architectural and historical monuments of culture. The complex is built in stages. In 1976, the museum house "Dimitraki Hadji Toshev" was opened for visitors. After the completion of the restoration work in the middle of the 80s they were prepared to open expositions: the building of the Revival school "Ascension", the house of Ivan Zambin, the house of Grigoria Naidenov, the church "St. Ascension, "as well as the yards. Special premises and shelter for displaying traditional means of transport and agricultural equipment were built. The official opening of the complex was on May 25, 1986. The expositions of "St. Sofroniy Vrachanski "show the most characteristic of the traditional folk culture of the Vratsa population, its regional distinctions and its unity with the common Bulgarian folk culture. Built on the principle of historical sequence in the display of ethnographic processes and phenomena, chronologically, they cover the time from the middle of the 19th century and the first decades of the 20th century.

#### **Useful information:**

Ethnographic-Revival Complex "St. Sofronii Vrachanski ", to RHM

3000, Vratsa, Vratsa district, Republic of Bulgaria

Address: 2 Hristo Botev Blvd., City Center of Vratsa, Vratsa district

Telephone: +0359 92 620373 (Director); +0359 92 620220 (Information);

Fax: +0359 92 620373

<http://vratsamuseum.com/index.php?pageID=33&lang=bg>

e-mail: [vratsamuseum@mail.bg](mailto:vratsamuseum@mail.bg); [www.vratsamuseum.com](http://www.vratsamuseum.com)

Opening hours: Monday - Friday: 9:00 - 17:30. Free day: Monday

GPS coordinates: N° 43.210240; E° 23.552848; Alt(m) -362.



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**For the lovers of archeology are interesting the Thracian-Roman archaeological site "Vratitsa" in the Gradishte area and the Heritage Trail "Ancient and Medieval Vratitsa", Vrachanski Balkan, near the city of Vratsa.**

Archaeological studies of the experts from the Regional History Museum in Vratsa reveal part of an ancient settlement, a medieval fortress and a city. Their original purpose is to guard the road to the copper mines in the Vratsa Balkan. The central fortification of the fortress, which is irregular in shape, has been studied. Until now, parts of the western wall have been revealed, following the natural rocky cavity. It is further strengthened by a square-shaped defense tower. The eastern wall is fully exposed. The northern end is of lesser thickness, with a ladder lying close to the inner face of the wall. The western wall is fortified with a defensive tower that is triangular in shape. The two walls of the fortress are connected in the southern direction through a trapezoidal drawing room in which the military garrison was housed.

One of the neighborhood necropolises of the medieval city of Vratitza, which has developed in the 12th - 14th centuries, is located near a small medieval church, where the stone inscription is found. This necropolis also falls within the city's territory protected by the fortification wall. So far, five graves of adults have been studied, located south of the church, buried according to the Christian canon.

In the bosom of the Balkan Mountains, the Directorate of Vratsa Balkan Nature Park and the Regional Museum of History have built and marked the hiking trail "Ancient and Medieval Vratitsa", the route departs from the Vratsata pass and passes through the archaeological site in Gradishte locality (4th c. BC - XIV c.).

**Useful information:**

Thracian-Roman archaeological site "Vratitsa" / RHM, Vratsa and Heritage Trail "Ancient and Medieval Vratitsa" / Directorate of Vratsa Balkan Nature Park



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Location: village Gradishte, Vrachanski Balkan, next to the Vratitsa Pass, 2 km southwest of the city Vratsa in the direction of the village of Zgorigrad

town of Vratsa, Vratsa, Republic of Bulgaria

Address: 2 "Hristo Botev" Square, Bulgaria

Telephone: +0359 92 620 373 (Director); +0359 92 620 220 (Information);

Fax: +0359 92 620373

e-mail: [vratsamuseum@mail.bg](mailto:vratsamuseum@mail.bg); [www.vratsamuseum.com](http://www.vratsamuseum.com)

Opening hours of expositions: open for 24 hours; working hours at the Regional Museum of History, Vratsa

GPS coordinates: N° 43.192010; E° 23.540673; Alt (m) - 423.

Distance:

- „Vratitsa“, Vrachanski Balkan, near city Vratsa - city Vratsa, Vratsa district- 2 km;
- „Vratitsa“, Vrachanski Balkan, near city Vratsa - Ledenika cave, Vrachanski Balkan, near city Vratsa - 18 km

From there we continue the trip in the bosom of Stara Planina to one of the natural wonders of the Vratsa Balkan and Bulgaria - the Ledenika cave.

Ledenika Cave is one of the most visited caves in Bulgaria. It is open all year round. It is located 18 km from Vratsa. Next to it there is an asphalt road that passes through the Vratsata Pass, winding along the rocks and forest massifs of the Vratsa Balkan and reaches the very entrance of the cave, which is 830 m above sea level. The cave is 320 m long and has 10 halls. In the first room the temperature drops to minus 20 degrees and a huge ice column forms. This is a phenomenon, as in the cave itself the temperature is constant and is about 8-16 degrees. Ledenika Cave has some of the most beautiful halls and formations. Here is the most attractive cave on the Balkans - the Concert Hall, which has amazing acoustics. The Vratsa Philharmonic Orchestra performs symphonic concerts there. From here on iron bridges, you pass through the Little and



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the Big precipice, through the Zaveskite Gorge and reach the White Hall. The highest point in Ledenika is called Seventh Heaven.

Near the cave an amusement park is created, Ledenika Amusement Park. Inside the cave there is an audio and light show performance. The Concert Hall presents a Water Performance. With the capabilities of modern technologies (graphic animation 2 and 3D, personalized and synchronized with music, speech and audio effects), the graphic show presents various shapes and figures in the cave, resembling figures of Velikan, Sokol, Baba Yaga House, Mashinitsa etc. The video of Feia Ledenika is presented in the Lake of Desires, and in the Little precipice - the Vulcan show. In front of the cave are built: the ice cream module, the sports and entertainment module *Mama, Dad and we*, the educational and interpretive module The Bat and the Fairy alley with the amphitheater - a promenade with dolls (famous heroes of fairy tales).

In the area there are two tourist routes for ecotourism lovers and mountain passes - Gorno Ozirovo - Ledenika (4 hours) and Vratsa - Ledenika. On the territory of Vratsa Balkan Nature Park there are other eco-paths.

In the free time you can see the beautiful center of Vratsa at the foot of the impressive Vratsa Balkan.

#### Useful information:

Amusement park and cave Ledenika

city Vratsa, Vratsa district, Republic of Bulgaria

It is managed by the Municipal Enterprise "Sport and Tourism", Municipality of Vratsa  
Hristo Botev Stadium, 3001 Apolon, Vratsa

Telephone: +359 92 623 553; GSM: +359 882 621 608; <http://www.parkledenika.org/>

GPS: N° [43.113461](#); E° [23316562](#); Alt (m) - [830](#).

Distance:

- Ledenika Cave, Vrachanski Balkan, near Vratsa - Vratitsa, Vrachanski Balkan, near Vratsa - 16 km;



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- Ledenika Cave, Vrachanski Balkan, near Vratsa - city Vratsa, Vratsa district - 18 km

**On the eighth day of our tour we will take a look at the tourist attractions in the Montana region. Our first stop is the Regional Museum in Montana.**

### **Regional Museum of History, Montana**

The Historical Museum in Montana was established in 1953. For nearly six decades there is a considerable amount of collection, research and popularization activity. The museum organizes systematic archaeological excavations to explore the material and spiritual culture that give the region its unique appearance. Cultural values, owned by the museum, are displayed in the Exposition Hall, the Mihailov House, the Lapidarium Archaeological Exhibition and the Ancient Fortress. Today the museum owns over 50,000 museum objects. Among them are a large collection of epigraphic monuments - the history of Ancient Montana, a copy of the Yakimov Treasure, a medieval silver treasure, golden ornaments, icons, old-style books, Hipovean carpets, historical weapons. Archaeological exposition of epic monuments from the Roman era is located in the area of the ancient city of Montana, on an area of 700 m<sup>2</sup>, in the park environment of the Popcorn Garden. Nearby is the museum site "Mihailova kashta" and the orthodox church "St. Cyril and Methodius". The volumetric composition includes 56 monuments found in Montana. The inscriptions on marble are the only sources written so far for this provincial Roman city and contain valuable information about the history and culture of Montana in the II - III century AD.

#### **Useful information:**

Regional Museum of History, Montana

Exposition hall

3400, Montana, Montana district , Republic of Bulgaria



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Address: №3 Graf Ignatiev str.

Telephone: +0359 96 305 489

Opening hours: Monday - Saturday 08.00-12.00; 13.00-17.00

House Museum "Hristo Mihaylov" and Lapidarium

Telephone: +0359 96 305 589

Opening hours: Monday-Saturday:08.00-12.00; 13.00-17.00

<http://montana-museum.weebly.com/>

GPS coordinates: N 43.405952; E 23.226624; Alt (m) - 149;

Distance:

- city Montana, Montana district - city Vratsa, Vratsa district - 39 km;
- city Montana, Montana district - city Berkovitsa, Montana district - 25 km;
- city Montana, Montana district - city Vidin, Vidin district - 88 km

The city of Berkovitsa is our second stop on the route of the day. The main object to look at is the Ethnographic Museum.

The ethnographic museum of the city of Berkovitsa is housed in the Serbian house, a monument of 19th century architecture, which testifies to the lifestyle and culture of the population in the region. The house impresses with the built-in bathroom, the water heating technology and the ceramic sewage system for dirty water.

The Ethnographic Museum's Fund includes more than 15,000 exhibits. Here are the most significant crafts that the families of the Renaissance have enjoyed - copper, scarlet, pottery and others. The city lifestyle is also presented along with the folk costumes and the products of the then textile production.

Ceramics Fund preserves crates, worked by the Berkovski potters in the late 19th and early 20th century, when the craft reaches its bloom. The number of pottery workshops was between 50 - 60. The containers are refined form, and in the decoration



predominate stylized flower ornaments, rhythmically alternating dots, lines, wavy lines, and others. The typical colors for Berkovska ceramics are yellow and green. Permanent forms are: cups, jars, pots, pots, jars, gloves, plumes, sneakers, etc. Today there are two pottery workshops in Berkovitsa.

In Berkovitsa traditional craft is carpet. More than 600 weaving machines produced annually thousands of carpets with characteristic names: "Garibalda", "Bequeta", "Loznitsa", "Car", "Ventsi" and others. The carpets found a very good market in the Ottoman Empire - for the needs of the Muslim population and the Turkish army.

Strongly developed in the region was the silversmith. Approximately 100,000 occipital cocoons were produced in Berkovitsa and surrounding villages. Women were wearing yellow and white silk in special cases. The annual yield amounted to more than 6000 mesh silk.

Another traditional craft is coppermaking. Copper pots (boilers), cooking (mills, pots) and cookers (tepies) were produced. They are a traditional gift for a wedding, a new home, a newborn.

Monsignor's Department shows the typical female, male and Karakachan costumes for the region. The female costumes are two-sided and a sukman type, and for men - white-haired. Finished appearance of the costume gives different ornaments. In the past, many Karakachans lived in the area and their livelihood was sheep and meat, leather, livestock, cheese, cheese, milk and butter. After Gergyovden they went out to the Balkan, where they flocked the flocks, and after Crossbreed they went down to winter in the plain.

The woman Karakachanka had a unique costume, handmade. Traditional materials are wool and cotton, and the predominant color is black. It is decorated with many wigs, embroidery, lace and various colored buttons. The male Karakachan costume consists of a bodice, a sleeveless garment, a posture, and a white fustanela (pleated skirt).





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### Useful information:

Ethnographic museum - Sabin house

3500, city Berkovitsa, Montana district, Republic of Bulgaria

Address: № 7 Poruchik Grozdanov Str

Telephone: +359 953 88 045;

<https://tripsjournal.com/zabelezhitelnost/etnografski-muzey-gr-berkovitsa>

Work time:

Monday - Friday: 08:00 - 17:00; Saturday - Sunday: 09:00 - 17:00

There are no days off.

GPS coordinates: N° 43.239932; 23.127016E° 23.12712; Alt (m) - 409.

Distance:

- city Montana, Montana district - city Berkovitsa, Montana district - 25 km;
- city Berkovitsa, Montana district - city Chiprovtsi, Montana district - 35 km

### House Museum "Ivan Vazov", Berkovitsa

The home of the folk poet Ivan Vazov while he is chairman of the district court in Berkovitsa in 1879-1880 is now a museum. Ivan Vazov House Museum was opened in 1957 and the present exposition dates from 1980. In 1964 the house was declared a monument of culture of national importance. During his stay in Berkovitsa Ivan Vazov wrote one of his most popular works - the poem "Gramada" and the poems "Na Kom", "Malini" and others. The exposition in the museum tracks Vazov's creative path by paying special attention to his life and work in Berkovitsa. The house itself is an interesting example of the Renaissance architectural heritage with its frescoes and wood carvings.

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## House Museum "Ivan Vazov"

3500, Berkovitsa, Montana District

Address: 11 Poruchik Grozdanov Str.

Telephone: +0359 953 88 045

### Work time:

- Summer time: 9:00 to 12:00; 12:30 to 17:30. There is no day off.

- Working hours: 8:30 to 12:00; 12:30 to 17:00 There is no day off.

GPS coordinates: N° 43.2392102; E° 23.1244042; Alt (m) - 409.

## City Art Gallery "Otets Paisii", Berkovitsa

The City Art Gallery was established in 1969 and is housed in the old inn's building. In 1980, the Revival School "Otets Paisii" was renovated and the art gallery moved to it. In the funds and exhibition of the gallery are preserved and exhibited works of famous artists from the whole country in the departments: painting, sculpture, graphics, cartoon, applied art and Renaissance paintings - icons. This is a total of over 1500 works. A special place is also dedicated to the artists of Berkovski - Yordan Inkov, Dimitar Dimitrov Koutsarov, Kiril Vodenicharov, Angel Konstantinov, Yordanka and Boyan Stoyanov. Berkovitsa Gallery is one of the oldest in Northwestern Bulgaria. For the last 30 years, more than 120 thousand visitors have gone through the gallery halls.

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### City Art Gallery "Otets Paisiy"

3500, city Berkovitsa, Montana district, Republic of Bulgaria

Address: Municipal Administration - 4 "Yordan Radichkov" Square

Telephone: +0359 953 88927; fax: +0359 953 88405;

E-mail: [ob@berkovitsa.com](mailto:ob@berkovitsa.com); <http://www.berkovitsa.bg/>

Working time of the administration: 8:30 - 12:00, 12:30 - 17:00, excluding Saturdays and Sundays.

GPS coordinates: N° 43.237045; E° 23.125109; alt(m)- 408.

**We head to the next destination in Montana, Chiprovtsi and Chiprovtsi Monastery. Here we will visit the Historical Museum and the Ethnographic Exhibition "Katerinina House".**

### Historical Museum, Chiprovtsi

The beginning of the museum work in Chiprovtsi dates back to 1968 when two museum collections for the "Probuda" community center were created in connection with the celebration of 280 years since the Chiprovtsi Rebellion: historical and artistic.

The exposition of the museum includes several sections - Chiprovtsi metal mining, Chiprovtsi goldsmith school, Chiprovtsi in the 17th century, Chiprovtsi carpets (from 2014 "Tradition of production of Chiprovtsi carpets" is inscribed in the World representative list of elements of intangible cultural heritage) and Revival art. The ethnographic exhibition of the museum today is housed in the Katherine's House, where it is also the only living collection in the country with dyeing plants for carpets. The ethnographic museum is dedicated to the material culture of the Turlaks, to which the population of Chiprovtsi belongs. You can see the traditional costumes for the region and many other objects from the traditional lifestyle.



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In Chiprovtsi visitors will be acquainted with the mining and metalworking, which have been the main occupation of the population here. They will enjoy the skillful craftsmanship of the Chiprov goldsmiths, they will move in the time when the settlement was an important spiritual center of the Bulgarian Catholics, they will enjoy the colors of the unique Chiprovtsi carpets. The remains of the Catholic cathedral "Santa Maria" (XIV - XVII century) are also next to the main exposition.

### **Ethnographic Museum "Katerinina House"**

Ethnographic Museum "Katerinina House" is also called "The Carpet House". Here you can see the torlacian living - a small ethnographic group to which the local population belongs. Old clothes, utensils, weaving accessories are shown. In the yard visitors can see a live exposure of plants used for the natural dyeing of the yarn weaving the famous Chiprovtsi carpets. Their models from the 17th century are exhibited in one of the halls of the historical museum. Besides carpets, there is a vertical loom that shows how the carpets are made. If you want to see all the splendor of colors, figures and motifs of beautiful bedding, you have to visit Chiprovtsi on September 6th. Every year on this date, the people of the city gather together at the remains of the Gushov Monastery, St. Archangel Michael Summer. It has been the holiest place in the city for centuries. The monastery was destroyed in the suppression of the 1688 uprising but continued to gather people. At this place Chiprovtsians bring their carpets and show them as a sign of respect to the ancestors they have developed and handed over to this craft.

#### **Useful information:**

Historical Museum and Ethnographic Museum "Katerinina House"

3460, town of Chiprovtsi, district of Montana, Republic of Bulgaria,

Address: № 2 Vitosha Str

GSM: +0359 878 910 598; e-mail: [historicalmuseum\\_chiprovtsi@abv.bg](mailto:historicalmuseum_chiprovtsi@abv.bg);

<http://historical-museum-chiprovtsi.com>



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**Work time:**

Monday-Friday: 08: 00-12: 00, 13: 00-17: 00; Saturday-Sunday: 09: 00-17: 00

GPS coordinates: N° 43.383354; E° 22.879021.

**Distance:**

- city Chiprovtsi, Montana district - city Montana, Montana District - city Berkovitsa, Montana District - 35 km;
- city Chiprovtsi, Montana district - Chiprovtsi Monastery, Montana District - 7 km;
- city Chiprovtsi, Montana district - city Belogradchik, Vidin district - 54 km

### **Chiprovtsi Monastery "St. Ivan Rilski "**

Chiprovtsi Monastery "St. Ivan Rilski" is situated in the valley of the Chiprovka River Ogosta, about 7 kilometers northeast of the city of Chiprovtsi. The monastery is reached by a driveway on the road between the villages of Belimel and Jelezna. According to Peter Bogdan, the monastery was built in the 10th century and for nine centuries it was an important spiritual and educational center and fortress for the invasions of Tatars and Magyars in the 13th century. The monastery complex consists of a church, a monastery cloister, a small cemetery and a three-story tower with an ossuary on the ground floor, a chapel on the second and a bell tower on the third floor. The complex is surrounded by a stone wall with three entrances.

In the center is the church "St. Ivan Rilski", which is a single-apsed and triconchal with a low dome without frescoes. The iconostasis is carved and decorated with painting and gilding; seven of the icons were made by the iconographer Hristo Enchev in Koprivshitsa.

The monastery cloister is two-storey with patios open to the courtyard and is 75 meters long. Due to the sloping terrain on the outside it looks like an impressive fortress, and from inside it creates the impression that it is dug into the ground. In honor of the Liberation, the Chapel of St. Athanasius was found in the second floor.



The tower in Chiprovtsi Monastery is a three-story bell tower. On the ground floor there are bones of participants in the Chiprovtsi Uprising and monks who died during their participation in the national liberation movement. A memorial plaque near the entrance of the ossuary glorifies the names of Petar Parchevich, Georgi Peyachevich, Mancho Puinin from the village of Bistrilitsa, Varban Penev from Belimel village, the voivods Panayot Hitov and Philip Totyu. On the second floor of the tower, which is reached by external stone steps, there was once a small chapel, which is now restored. The third floor where the monastery bell is located is reached by internal steps. There is a beautiful view of the courtyard of the monastery and the surrounding hills.

**Useful information:**

Chiprovtsi Monastery "St. Ivan Rilski "

3460, city Chiprovtsi, Montana district, Republic of Bulgaria

Location: Located in the River Chiprovska Ogosta, about 6 kilometers northeast of the city Chiprovtsi. The monastery is reached by a driveway on the road between the villages of Belimel and Jelezna.

GSM: +359 878 970388

[http://www.bulgariamonasteries.com/chiproviski\\_manastir.html](http://www.bulgariamonasteries.com/chiproviski_manastir.html)

GPS coordinates: N°=43.407786; E°=22.933670';alt (m) -388.

Distance:

- Chiprovtsi Monastery, Montana district - city Chiprovtsi, Montana District - 7 km;
- Chiprovtsi Monastery, Montana district - city Montana, Montana District - 29 km;
- Chiprovtsi Monastery, Montana district - city Berkovitsa, Vidin Region - 48 km

We travel to the last destinations on our route - from the Montana region we go 50 km northwest to Vidin and Belogradchik. Here is the historical museum and the unique natural protected "Kaletu" fortress in Belogradchik.

**Historical Museum, Belogradchik**



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The Historical Museum in the city of Belogradchik was founded in 1970 and is housed in the Panova House - a model of the West Bulgarian revival architecture. This monument of culture was built in 1810 and has preserved its Renaissance style even today. The exposition in the museum is dedicated to the Ottoman period and the Renaissance and reflects the development of crafts such as goldsmithing, woodcarving, abadjity, terziness, mutation, pottery, coppermaking. A large part of the exhibition focuses on the uprising against the Turkish enslave of 1850, with the city of Belogradchik, one of the most mass revolts in the Bulgarian lands. There are also events related to the liberation of Belogradchik from slavery and the Serbian-Bulgarian War of 1885. The museum has a rich collection of coins and icons. They show: home life, folk costumes and household items. Women's jewels - earrings, nevestin wreaths, rings and earrings are richly decorated with colorful glasses, mother of pearl and pendants. In the courtyard of the museum are exhibited ancient tombstones.

#### Useful information:

Museum of History

3900, Belogradchik, Vidin district, Republic of Bulgaria

Address: "Knyaz Boris I" Str.

[http://www.belogradchik.biz/belogradchik/attractions/museum\\_of\\_history.bg.htm](http://www.belogradchik.biz/belogradchik/attractions/museum_of_history.bg.htm)

[↓](#)

<https://belgradin.wordpress.com/about/>

Work time: 9:00-12:00; 14:00-17:00.

GPS coordinates: N° 43.625096; E° 22.681709; alt (m) - 538.

Distance:

- Belogradchik, Vidin - Chiprovtsi Monastery, Montana - 48 km;
- Belogradchik - Rabisha village (Magura cave), Belogradchik, Vidin district - 23 km;
- the village of Rabisha (Magura cave), city Belogradchik, Vidin district - city Vidin, Vidin district - 48 km



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## Belogradchik Fortress "Kaleta"

Kaleta fortress is one of the best preserved in the country. Using the natural inaccessibility of the rocks, in the 1st-3rd century the Romans maintained here a fortress to guard the strategic roads. In Late Antiquity it is part of the defense system of the Roman, then of the Byzantine Empire. It is built on the northern slopes of Stara Planina. The fortress is completed by the Bulgarians. Its importance grew after the formation of the Vidin kingdom. It was conquered by the Turks at the end of the 14th century. The latter a garrison was here, playing an important role in guarding the western areas of the state and in suppressing the uprisings of the Bulgarian population. In the period 1805 - 1837 he expanded and rebuilt firearms under the direction of French and Italian engineers. The commemorative slabs in connection with the construction are in Turkish and in Bulgarian - the only case in the history of the construction of Turkish fortresses. It consists of 3 yards (each with the possibility of independent protection) with a total area of 10 211 m<sup>2</sup> and one separate fortification. There are two main gates - Vidin and Nis. At the fortress walls (height up to 10 m) are built rifle ribbons. For the cannon, three bastions for 15-16 guns are built. In wartime the number of defenders of the fortress and the surrounding heights reached up to 3000 people.

### Useful information:

Belogradchik Fortress "Kaleta"

3900, Belogradchik, Vidin district, Republic of Bulgaria

Address: "Knyaz Boris I" Street, 1 km from the center of Belogradchik

Telephone: +0359 93653 469

[http://www.belogradchik.biz/belogradchik/attractions/museum\\_of\\_history.bg.htm](http://www.belogradchik.biz/belogradchik/attractions/museum_of_history.bg.htm)

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<https://belgradin.wordpress.com/about/>



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Opening hours: Summer: 9: 00-18: 00; Winter: 9: 00-17: 00 No day off.

GPS coordinates: N° 43.623874; E° 22.676522; alt (m) - 582.

**If we have enough time in Belogradchik we can visit the Natural History Museum and the Art Gallery.**

**The Natural History Museum in Belogradchik \*** is located in the park part of the city. From the center of Belogradchik to the museum you can walk on the path of health, which is asphalted. The museum features 520 exhibits of the most attractive part of the flora and fauna of Northwestern Bulgaria, namely: Aquila chrysaetos, Vulture, Wolf (Canis lupus), Deer (Cervus), Deer (Capreolus capreolus), Falcon (Falco) and others. The museum features mock-ups and figures of various animal species.

\* Note: The museum is entered upon a preliminary phone call.

#### **Useful information:**

Natural History Museum in Belogradchik

3900, city Belogradchik, Vidin district, Republic of Bulgaria

Location: Park area of the city (walking distance about 1 km, not accessible by vehicles)

Telephone: +0359 936 53 231; <https://nevenahouse.com>

Working hours - every day: 8: 00-12: 00 and 14: 00-17: 00

GPS coordinates: N° 43.623171; E° 22.691284.

**The Belogradchik Art Gallery** was opened in 1989. It has three halls, one with permanent exposition and the other two with temporary expositions where exhibitions



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of visiting artists are held. The artistic fund includes over 180 paintings - paintings and graphics, including original works by Vladimir Dimitrov-Maistora, Stoyan Venev, Ivan Hristov, Aneta Dragushan, Georgi Petrov and others.

**Useful information:**

**Art Gallery** 3900, city Belogradchik, Vidin district, Republic of Bulgaria

Address: 41, "Knyaz Boris I" Str., Center.

Telephone: +0359 93 653 469; +0359 93 654 042

[http://www.belogradchik.biz/belogradchik/attractions/museum\\_of\\_history.bg.htm](http://www.belogradchik.biz/belogradchik/attractions/museum_of_history.bg.htm)

↓

Opening hours: Monday-Sunday from 9.30 - 18.30

First Entry: 10:00, Last Entry: 16:30

GPS coordinates: N° 43.6255415; 22.6798656; alt (m) - 538.

**We head to Magura Cave (Rabisha)**, which is located about 20 km from the city of Belogradchik. It is carved in the Rabishka mound, at the foot of which is the beautiful Rabishko lake. The Magura is among the great Bulgarian natural landmarks. The formation of the cave began 15 million years ago. It consists of one main gallery in which are formed 6 cave halls and three side branches. It is rich in cave formations. In 1960, its cave richness was declared a natural monument and cultural monument, and the following year it was well-developed and adapted for tours. The Magura is best known for its cave paintings dating back to the epochs of epipalleoliths (cultures of 8000 and 5000/4500 BC), Neolithic (6000 to 4000 BC) found in one of its great halls, the Eneolith (4800-4000 BC) and the early Bronze Age (3200-600 BC). The images are carved in the rock and painted with a guano (pungent manure). The drawings have a variety of themes and reveal the whole life of our ancestors from antiquity. They show hunting scenes, dancing women, household scenes, tools of labor, animals and plants, different star pictures. Of particular interest is the solar annual calendar of the late



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Eneolithic, which later, in the early Bronze Age, is enriched and prestigious with precision of recordings.

#### **Useful information:**

##### **Magura Cave**

3938, Rabisha village, Belogradchik municipality, Vidin district, Republic of Bulgaria

Location: 1,5 km northwest of the village of Rabisha.

Telephone: +359 894 481 964; +359 89 448 1955.

[http://bulgariatravel.org/bg/object/32/magurata\\_peshtera](http://bulgariatravel.org/bg/object/32/magurata_peshtera)

Working time: April 1 to October 30: Every day from 10:00 to 17:00 (the last group is at 17:00)

GPS coordinates: N° 43.732383; 376945; alt (m) - 461

**Our route "The path of clay" ends on the ninth day with a visit to the sights of Vidin. Again, we return to the Danube River, the great floating river that separates us and unites us. The purpose of our visit to Vidin is the Regional Historical Museum, located in Konaka, and the Crossroads Barracks.**

#### **Regional History Museum - Vidin**

The Regional History Museum - Vidin is located in two buildings. The archeology and history departments are housed in the Konaka Museum, and ethnography and numismatics at the Crossroads Barracks Museum. In the Konakka Museum is located the Department of Archeology with subunits: Prehistory, Antiquity and Middle Ages. In the Prehistory section, the rock paintings from the Magura cave, inhabited during the Bronze Age and early Iron Age, are shown. The Late Bronze Age is represented by a collection of artifacts discovered in today's Baley village (Bregovo Municipality). The antique department is represented by rich collections discovered during the



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excavations of the great Roman cities of Ritaria, Bononia and the Roman fortress Castra Martis. The medieval period is represented by exhibits illustrating the economic and military life of Bdin (Vidin), found mainly in the study of Baba Vida Castle. Since the end of the 14th century Vidin has been under Ottoman rule. Within the Ottoman Empire, it is the center of sanjak and vilayet, one of the largest ports along the Lower Danube and an important Turkish fortress.

The "Krastata kazarma" building is a monument of culture of national importance. It was built in 1801 for the needs of the Ottoman army in the city and was connected with the nearby weapons workshop. After the Liberation, the building served as a court and barracks of the Bulgarian army. "The Cross Barracks" is a massive two-storey building in the form of an equal cross and a built-up area of 1260 m<sup>2</sup>. The interior imparts a sense of monumentality, stability and solemnity. In 1965-1967 the building was restored and adapted to a museum, and since 1969 an ethnographic exhibition has been arranged to present the traditional culture of the Vidin region from the late 19th to the 20th century. The main agricultural activities are shown: plowing, sowing, harvesting, threshing, hay. Great attention is paid to viticulture and wine production. A special place in the exhibition is fishing on the Danube. Domestic handicrafts include weaving with wave processing equipment, hemp and cotton, horizontal loom, and characteristic tattooed and tapered fabrics. Folk arts crafts are shown with the relevant instruments and works - goldsmith, copper, pottery, carving, tertiary, furry, robbery, blacksmithing and carriages. Beautiful women (two-sided and sukmani) and male white-haired ritual, holiday and everyday suits and exquisite embroidery reveal the high aesthetic culture of the local population. Costumes and objects from the city life illustrate the connections between Vidin and Europe.

One of the most interesting monuments in Vidin is the medieval **Baba Vida Castle**, which will surely attract the attention of the visitors of the city.



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It is the most preserved medieval defensive facility in Bulgaria built on the remains of fortress walls of ancient Bulgaria. The Bulgarian construction of the castle began in the second half of the 10th century and its main construction dates back to the era of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom (end of XII-XIV century).

The castle occupies an area of 0.95 hectares together with the surrounding ditch, which in the past was filled with water from the Danube and the bridge was movable. It consists of an inner fortress belt in the shape of an irregular quadrangle with nine angular and intermediate towers. Walls and towers ended with a loophole. Later, the outer fortification belt was built with the entrance tower.

From the end of the 17th century to the beginning of the 19th century, the castle was adapted for firearms. For the needs of the Turkish army, arched stone rooms used as ammunition and food stores, guardhouses and prison were built on the site of the destroyed housing part.

**Useful information:**

Regional History Museum (RHM) Vidin

3700, city of Vidin, Vidin district, Republic of Bulgaria

Address: 13, "Tsar Simeon Veliki" Str

Telephone +0359 94 601710(director); +0359 94 601707 (guides)

e-mail: [museumvd@mail.bg](mailto:museumvd@mail.bg); <http://museumvidin.domino.bg/index2.htm>;

<http://www.museum-vidin.domino.bg/>

GPS coordinates: N° 43.9876533; E° 22.8720956; alt (m) - 37.

RHM, Vidin - "Konakka" Museum

Address: 2, "Municipal" Str

Telephone: +359 94 601713

Opening hours: Monday - Saturday - 9: 00-12: 00 and 14: 00-17: 00



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Day off - Sunday

GPS coordinates: N° N 43.988967; E° 22.875037; alt (m) - 39.

RHM, Vidin - Museum "The Cross Barracks"

Address: Knyaz Boris I Str., № 26, Kaletu District

Telephone+359 94 601709

Opening hours: Monday - Saturday - 9: 00-12: 00 and 14: 00-17: 00

Holiday - Sunday

GPS coordinates: N° 43.996159; E° 22.867930; alt (m) - 37.

Medieval Castle Baba Vida

Location: Krajdunavski park - the northern part of the town of Vidin, on the banks of the Danube River

Telephone: +359 94 601 705

Work time:

Summer: weekdays - 8: 30-17: 30; holydays - 9: 00-17: 30 h.

Winter: weekdays - 9: 00-17: 00; holydays - 10: 00-17: 00

GPS coordinates: N° 43.993105; E° 22.886375; alt (m) - 39.

### **Art Gallery "Nikola Petrov", Vidin**

The Art Gallery was opened in 1962. The participation in the creation of the fund of the newly created art gallery takes the cultural figure and public figure Angel Budev. Collections from the collections of Mikhail Kremen and Bogomil Rainov were purchased. In 1962 the city came to paint artists from all over the country, including Stoyan Venev, Panayot Panayotov, Ivan Hristov and others. The created by them about 80 canvases form the original fund of the gallery. The building of "Nikola Petrov" HG was built in 1892 on the foundations of an old fortress facility. Author of the project is architect



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Todor Verchota. In 1976, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the death of the great Bulgarian painter Nikola Petrov, born in Vidin, it was decided that the gallery should bear his name. Then the artist's bas-relief was placed over the entrance door of the gallery, made by a sculpture Georgi Chapkanov. Today, the gallery's gallery contains over 1,400 works of art. The painting department is the most numerous - it has 800 canvases. The graphic department of the Art Gallery in Vidin contains 45 original prints of world famous masters.

**Useful information:**

Nikola Petrov Art Gallery

3700, city Vidin, Vidin district, Republic of Bulgaria

Address: No 2Bdintsi Square, Center

Telephone: +359 94 601 708; <http://vidin.bg/>

GPS coordinates: N° 43.9855446; E° 22.8767667; alt (m) - 39.

"Saint Panteleimon" is an Orthodox church located in the courtyard of the Vidin Metropolis. It was declared a national art monument. It served as a cathedral before the construction of St. Dimitar. Sofroniy Vrachanski and the first Bulgarian exarch Antim First served in the temple "Saint Panteleimon".

**Useful information:**

Saint Panteleimon

3703, city Vidin, Republic of Bulgaria,

Address: 11, Baba Vida Str., Kaletu. The court of Vidin's Holy Metropoly.

<http://www.vidin-online.com/manastiri-i-tsrkvi/tsrkva-sv-panteleymon>

GPS coordinates: N° 43.9885308; E° 22.8805967; alt (m) - 39.



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The old synagogue in the city was destroyed during the Liberation War (1877-1878). The current temple was built with the help of donations from local Jews - a large part of the population of the old district Kaletu, as well as Jews from all over the Principality of Bulgaria. It was officially opened on 28 September 1894 by Dr. Mordechai Grunwald, chief rabbi in Bulgaria. It is the second largest after the synagogue in Sofia. Since 1950, the building is not used as intended, but as a warehouse, which leads to its very poor condition at the moment.

#### Useful information:

The old synagogue

3703, Gr. Vidin, Vidin District, Republic of Bulgaria

Address: complex Georgi Benkovski, No 29 "Baba Vida" Str

[http://bg.wikipedia.org/Видинската\\_синагога](http://bg.wikipedia.org/Видинската_синагога)

GPS coordinates: N° 43.9908306; E° 22.8815682; alt (m) - 39.

#### Additional information can be obtained from:

**Tourist Information Center (TIC)**

*Pleven district*

**5800, Pleven, 1 Vazrazhdane Square, Center**

Telephone: +0359 64 824 004

Work time: 8:30 - 17:00.

GPS coordinates: N° 43.4085237; E° 24.617723

**Montana District**

3400, Montana, 2 Tsar Boris III Str., (In the building of the Historical Museum)

Telephone: +0359 96 307 481, +0359 96 305 156

GPS coordinates:





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3500, Berkovitsa, 2 Yordan Radichkov Square

Telephone: +0359 95 388 682

Work time: 8:00 - 17:00.

GPS coordinates:

3540, Varshets, 90A Blvd.,

Telephone: +0359 9527 31 56, GSM: +0359 886 985 858, +0359 886 095 676

Opening hours: Monday-Friday - 8:30 - 12:30 and 13:00 - 17:00.

GPS coordinates: N° 43.1931627; E° 23.283339

3460, Chiprovtsi, 3460, Pavleto street, № 27

Telephone/fax: +0359 9554 29 10; GSM: +0359 885 258 405

Work time: 9:00 - 16:45

***Vidin district***

***3700, Vidin, 4, Baba Vida Str***

Telephone: +0359 94 609 498

E-mail: [collaboration.vidin@gmail.com](mailto:collaboration.vidin@gmail.com)

GPS coordinates: N° 43.9875395; E° 22.8788621; alt (m) - 39.

3900, Belogradchik, Vidin, Republic of Bulgaria

1A Poruchik Dvoranov Str.,



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Telephone/fax: +0359 9365 32 91

Work time: 8:00 - 17:30.

GPS coordinates: N° 43.6256525; E° 22.6817948.

### **Nature Conservation Center "Natura"**

3000, Vratsa 3000,

27-29, Pop Sava Katrafilov Str. (in the building of Eski Mosque at Red Square)

Telephone: +0359 92 660 318, GSM for emergency information: +0359 888 866 529

Opening hours: Monday-Friday -9:00 - 12:00 and 13:00 - 17:00

GPS coordinates: N° 43.1994611; E° 23.5460381.

Our journey to the Path of Clay ends where it started - on the Danube. The river that divides and unites people and countries in Europe. The river that brings life, fertility and grace to all. The river that spills its waters and waters the soil with its juice. The river, whose water is mixed with clay, to create man his creations, an expression of his rich soul and creative energy.

It has completed an exciting journey through the centuries. At the time of this journey, we met the fairy-tale world of clay and the artistic ceramics of the Lower Danube peoples from antiquity to the present day. We have learned about clay products made for households, tools and religious rituals from ancient times to the technology of building clay houses. We got to know the cultural and historical heritage that our forefathers left in our lands. It is now part of the European and world cultural heritage. We have experienced the fairytale touch to the natural wonders of the Lower Danube.



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Thus ends the tourist route "The Path of Clay", the path of the development of the Lower Danube civilization.

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floor 3, apt. 17**

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[vilarowbg62@gmail.com](mailto:vilarowbg62@gmail.com)**