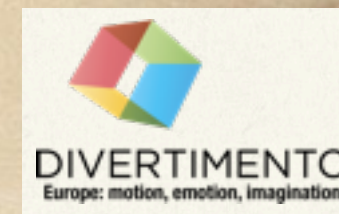


EUROTHENTICA

The Golden Anchor

COS-TOUR - 699493 DIVERTIMENTO

Diversifying tourism offers in peripheral destinations with heritage-based products and services, stakeholder-skills alliances to internationalize locally operating micro-enterprises



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Varna, 1869

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EUROTHENTICA

Following the COE tradition for the European Cultural Routes, DIVERTIMENTO innovates not through the assemblage of geo-locations across a line, but with an integrative experience at each location. By defining the places as the great imperative a scenario full of objects is created for each place represented, enabling visitors to select desired objects in the locations of interest with a total of 70 different heritage objects unified as a pluralistic experiences in the Project Area. Capturing realism and providing for emotional impact creating bridges between areas interpreted and visitors the Transnational Cultural Route EUROTHENTICA becomes an interactive learning space, revealing common values and cultural diversity in the Project Area, raising the awareness of policy makers and the general public for the values and fragility of European natural ecosystems and cultural diversity.

GREECE

*THE UNITED STATES OF EUROPE.
Dress Rehearsal: Rhodes, 1306-1522.*

ITALY

*LOOKING FOR MYTHS
Frederick II Hohenstaufen: Governance as Culture*

SPAIN

*SPAIN MAZARICOS
The inner journey on the Santiago Way*

SLOVENIA

*THE LAST CONSPIRACY
The Plot of Fate in Castle Race, 1668*

ROMANIA

*THE PEOPLE'S VERDICT
Alba Julia, 1st of December 1918.*

BULGARIA

*THE GOLDEN ANCHOR.
Varna, 1869*

TURKEY

*CONNECTING CULTURES
A truly Eurasian Story.*

INTRODUCTION

Varna was an important strategic point on the Western Black Sea Coast even before the liberation in 1878. The assigning factor for the trade development was lead to the port operation which enabled the connection of the city with the world. Golden flow of grain from Dobrudja ran to the mills in and around the city, then loaded on ships and traveled to Constantinople, Piraeus and the Entire Eastern Mediterranean.



Varna was an important strategic point on the Western Black Sea Coast even before the liberation in 1878. The assigning factor for the trade development was lead to the port operation which enabled the connection of the city with the world. Golden flow of grain from Dobrudja ran to the mills in and around the city, then loaded on ships and traveled to Constantinople, Piraeus and the Entire Eastern Mediterranean. Those traveling to Varna were able to glance at extraordinary view – a city located in a Gulf, but surrounded by a fortress wall. Steeple and minarets were

towering and among them there were wide facades of wooden and stone buildings which bore the Spirit of the Orient.

After the liberation a new layout of streets and neighborhoods was adopted to

transform the town into a modern European architectural outlook. The commercial life continued rapidly to evolve and many textile factories and distilleries for drinks were opened. The population was growing and when the Bulgarian Prince Alexander I Battenberg built his summer residence Euxinograd, Varna was awarded as the "Sea Capital", which to this day gives aristocratic confidence of locals. "Belle Époque" finds a cozy atmosphere in the Seaside pearl of Bulgaria!



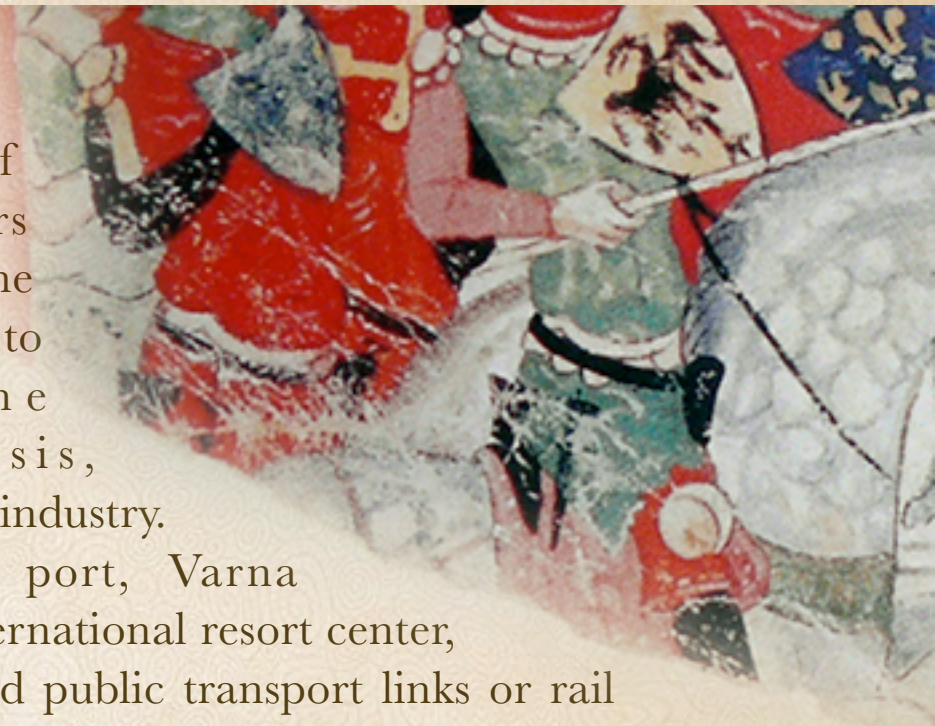
A number of successful mayors in the 20-ies of the XX C. managed to overcome the economic crisis, shifting the city's industry.

From industrial port, Varna turned into an international resort center, with well-organized public transport links or rail and port. A number of hotels, villas and boarding houses were opened. All Central Europe started talking and ran down to have summer holidays at Varna bay where "The Queen of the Black Sea" rules, as Varna became popular. Indeed it was the Golden Anchor appreciated by locals and foreigners.

Golden Anchor is a striving mission which traces stories to enlighten Varna as a valuable and attractive place of diplomats, noblemen, scientists, etc., a shelter of neighborhoods uniting Bulgarians, Greeks, Turks, Jewish, Armenians, Russians to live in peace and harmony, to work together and to be friends forever.

Golden Anchor is the place where past and the present are brining into accord thus making a gigantic leap into the industrial, commercial, tourist and human development of the city.

Join us and discover Varna!



Visit the tenth places united by the red thread in a single sight and explore the local world!

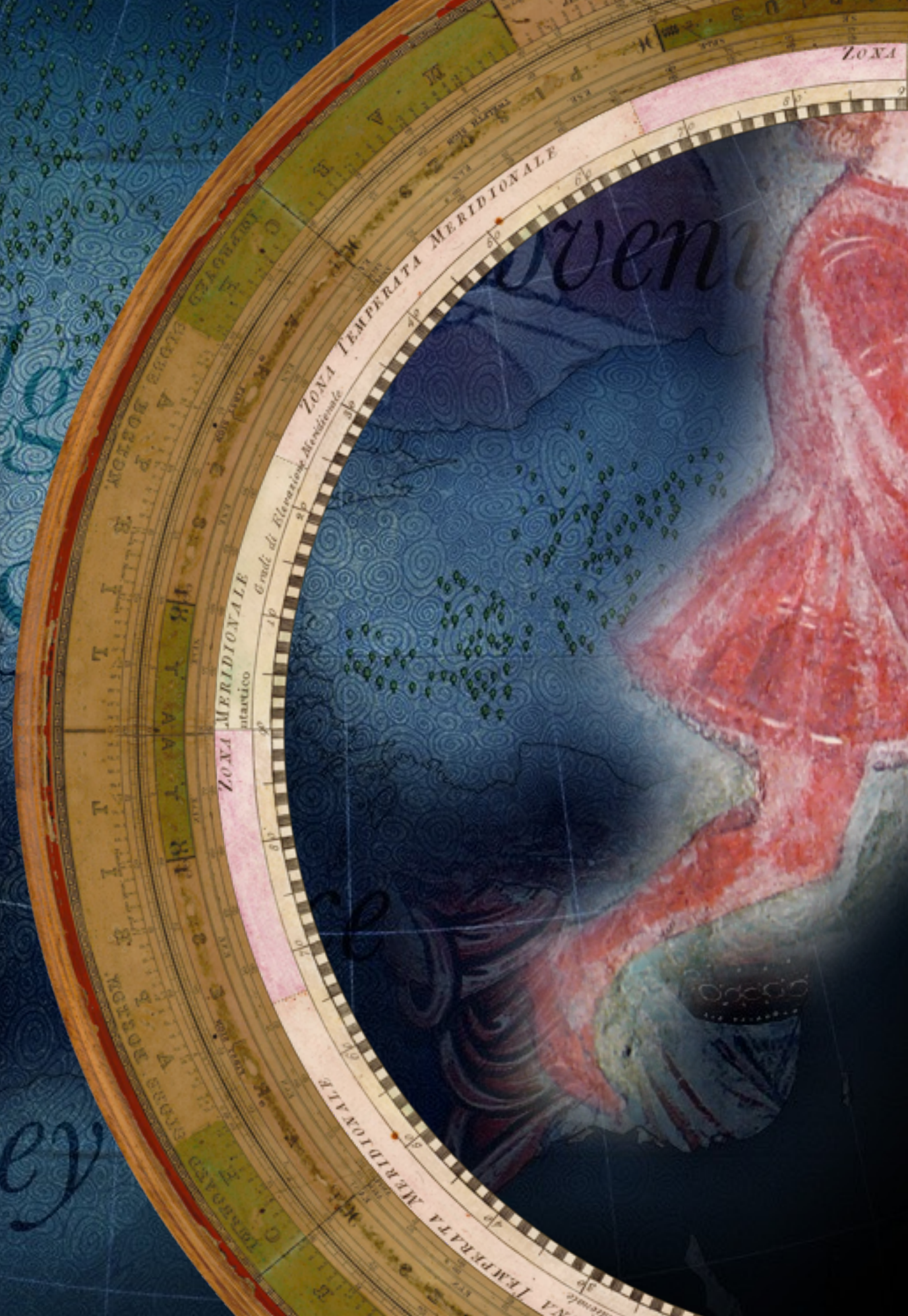


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The Antique Stretch

The Roman heritage of Varna is evidenced at the archaeological sites with many artifacts, traces of the material culture of the intercultural society of the Roman period. An excellent specimen is a large Roman bath of imperial type, the fourth largest in the territory of the Empire. The city of Varna was founded in VI BC when Greek settlers from Miletus, based their colony in Varna Bay and named it Odessos. Within the Hellenistic world the city experienced a period of bloom, and in the first century AD it was incorporated into the Roman Empire. Odesos



was a cosmopolitan city, inhabited by Greeks, Thracians and Romans and ships from all over the Roman world were calling at the



ROMAN BATHS OF ODESSOS

The Roman Baths – are the oldest architectural monument, preserved from the ancient Odessos on an area of 7500 square meters. The well preserved hypocaust system, rooms for hot and cold water and the water pools can be founded here. Roman baths were the largest public baths built in the II century AD during the Roman Empire. The system for water supply between different floors of the baths is of particular interest which makes the Baths a unique facility in the area of existence.



port.

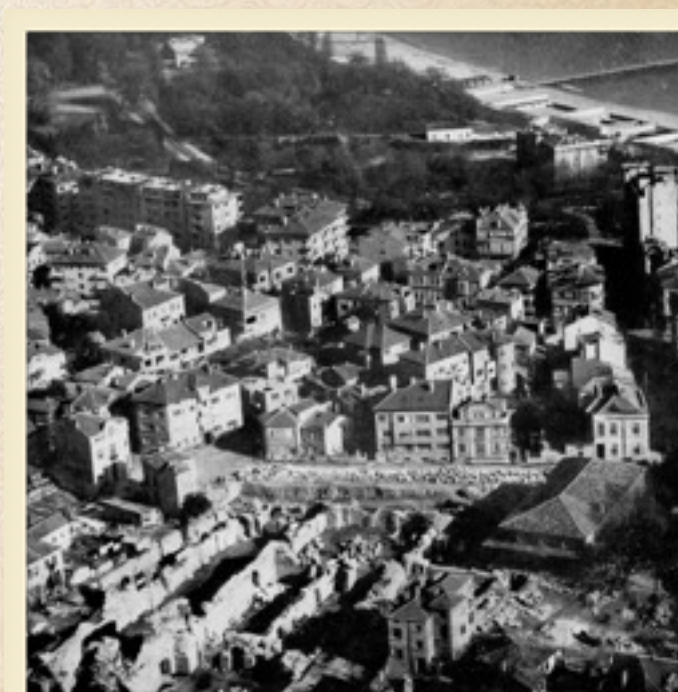
In the relatively peaceful II C Odessos was an important economic and cultural center of the Black Sea coast and the Roman province of Lower Misia. At the end of

the century the wealthy and thriving city obviously had the funds required to build and to maintain the baths. The grandeur of the building, the brilliant design, the richness of the decoration define the baths as a remarkable monument of ancient architecture. The visitors to the baths enjoyed bathing in different rooms with warm, hot and cold water. The baths include a huge hall for gymnastic exercises - Palestra. The premises were built over hypocaust system, i.e. with underfloor heating. Sometimes the residents of Odessos spent more than a day enjoying the pool or the sauna. The ladies had to pay a higher fee for their pleasure as for the washing of their long hair more fragrant oils were necessary. And around the building many shops and eateries were built. True antique luxury.

The architectural style suggests that the baths were built at the end of II - beginning of III C. The discovered coins confirm this period as the earliest of them were minted under Emperor Septimius Severus /193-211/, and the latest

- from the time of Emperor Tacitus /275/. It thus appears that the baths functioned until the end of III C.

The Roman baths were abandoned in the late III and early IV C in time of Roman Empire's decline. They sunk into oblivion and ruin until the new city emerged on their foundations. The Barbarian invasions in Varna left a trace in the baths. In VI-VII C. small groups of Slavs destroyed the roof and tried to make dug-outs there. Obviously they did not supposed to be in a huge Roman baths or maybe they considered the baths as useless...

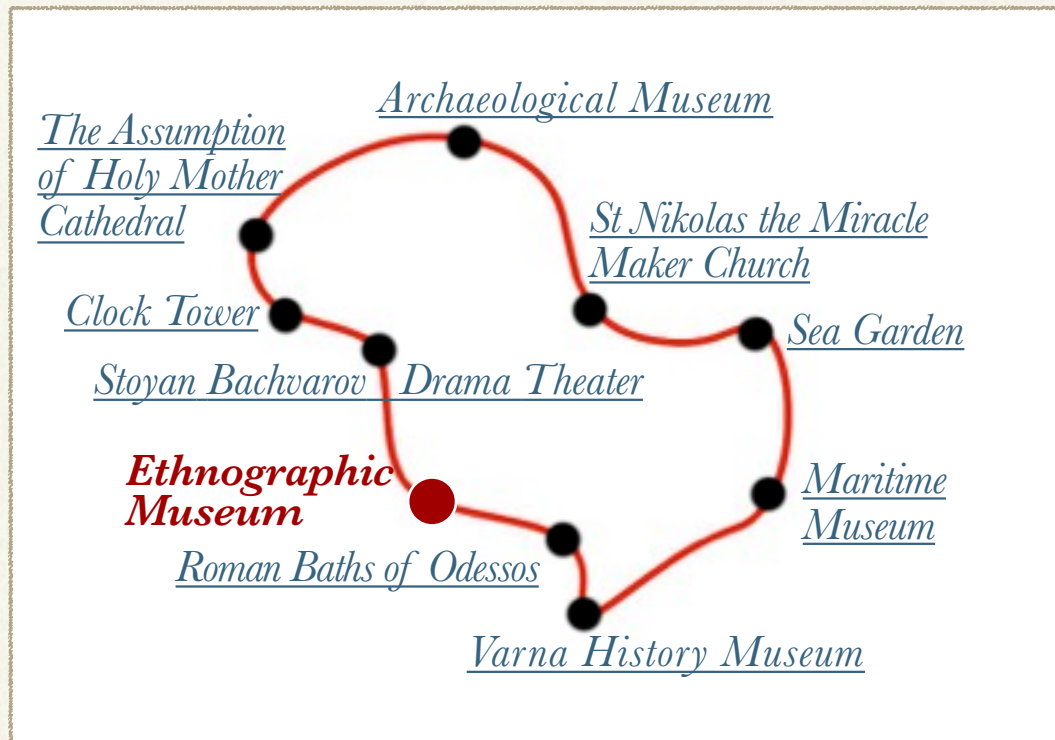


SECTION 2

Culture, Custom, Hospitality

Today I take a walk along Varna streets tracing the past. Like most of other port cities here many nationalities lived - Armenians, Bulgarians, Greeks, Jews, Tatars and Turks. The Greek and the Turkish were the two largest communities in Varna as of the middle of 19C. Each has its own neighborhood. Even today one can feel Mediterranean memory in these urban spaces. Narrow winding streets and wooden houses, fenced behind stone walls. In the Turkish quarter similar buildings can be still seen. Wealthy merchants, craftsmen and public figures. They all live and work together in the seaside pearl named Varna.

A sense of authenticity and attraction with the exotic of timeless building is appealing. Beauty to the eye, silence



ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM

Situated in a Renaissance house built in 1860 the museum represents the variety of culture and lifestyle of the people in the end XIXC. and beginning of XX C. This museum signifies the course of the local population had transformed from a pure “rural” society into a real “civil” citizenship with a strong internationalization, developed maritime connections and new economic sectors in the XIXth C. The internal atmosphere opts for intense and interesting contacts across the border of time inspiring Varna to welcome in Bulgarian, accepting in maritime and sending in European style.

for the ear in the spacious and sunny yard and garden and pleasant surprises of urban life from hundreds of years can be a spiritual sentiment to the history.

The Ethnographic museum is signified as attractive and interesting place for all who appreciate and preserve the eternal values of Bulgarian spirituality, place for knowledge of old crafts and traditions and a place to enjoy the beauty and colors of the old Bulgarians.

The high stone fence and old wooden gate are just a discreet sign of a treasure. Here are presented several expositions of tools, attributes and structures of the old life style of Bulgarians. They give birth to the beauty of life and serve fertility and lead to one thing - to live a good life.

Anyone can compare the personal life experience, knowing the environment of contemporary everyday style with that of 200 years ago.

The magical atmosphere and the layout of the Ethnographic museum building and its windows, the courtyard in which water and sun live give a sense of embrace of spirit and matter.

Extremely pleasant combination of urban and rural customs and traditions organically linked with the millennial natural way of life of the Bulgarians.



The Green Bay

The Green Bay

I am Anton Novak and I work as a park engineer. I came from Czech to Varna and I devoted my entire life till 1945 working for the green sight of the city.

Armenians, Bulgarians, Gagauz, Greeks, Jews and Turks lived in own quarters but were united in one city. In the late years of the last century the Mayor of Varna Myulezim Halil Efendi Afuz Mehmedov separated four acres of an open area outside the city walls and promoted the idea for the creation of a Sea Garden

where the locals could enjoy the summer evenings, drink coffee and smoke hookahs.

V a r n a municipality put efforts to create a European exemplary park,



SEA GARDEN

Every guest, visitor, tourist and sightseer obligatory passes through the green pearl of Varna – the Sea Garden. Undoubtedly this is the pride of the locals dominated by the award as citizens of the Sea Capital of Bulgaria. A unique mixture of fauna and flora with a lot of entertainments and amusements, monuments and places for culture and rest, the 8th kilometer long area connect Varna with the life and the world. The Sea Garden exemplifies the rich culture, national identity and diversity of creative initiatives and events offered to its millions of visitors.

so I worked outside in the green area, which was extremely unique because of its location locked between the urban areas and the sea shore. Numerous alleys were developed, planted were various Mediterranean and Central European plants and flowers. Fountain, bridge and summer stage were constructed and benches were installed.



fence was replaced by a new modern entrance with columns. This garden with fruit and vegetable alleys united a shadow area with high trees and is among a few such European parks. The Varna Sea Garden is managed to combine green freshness, scientific knowledge and popular places of recreation and entertainment. It is

I have to admit that the people always helped to develop their green heart mainly because they all wanted this park to have been created. Nobody objected nor complained about any irregularities and hitches appeared. Thus this fabulous park quickly became a

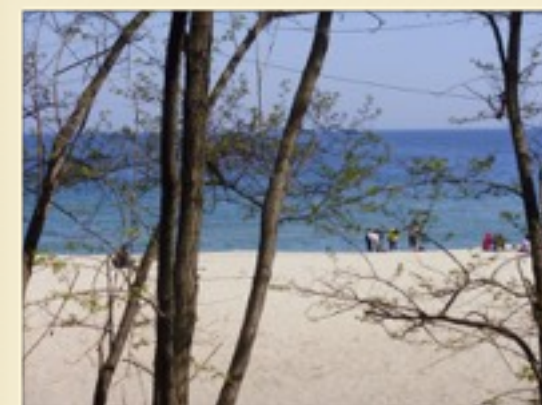


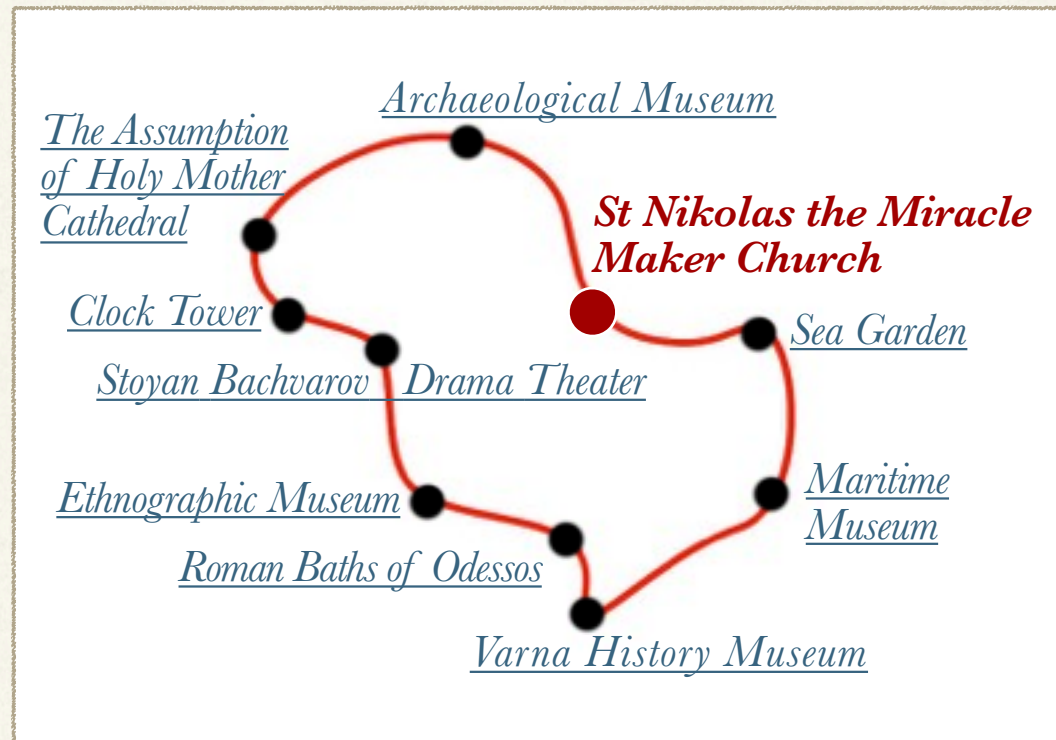
favorite meeting place for in-loved young couples. But the moral of the society was high - and young couples were not allowed to hold their hands or to afford similar affection. These rules were also adopted in each school how young boys and girls should walk in the park.

The municipal board wanted to protect the park and for greater security it was locked every night. In 1939 the old

where the marine biological station with the Aquarium are built, an outstanding example of Art Nouveau, where flora and fauna of the Black Sea are presented.

The Naval Museum and the Astronomical Observatory are located nearby. Inside the Seaside Park the Sea Casino was opened with a spacious outdoor restaurant scene and an orchestra stage. At this stage the orchestra played before being invited to the "Titanic" ship in 1912. The Park is the parade showcase of beautiful Varna, the pearl of the city, its first pride that stretches on the very sea coast.





ST. NIKOLAS THE MIRACLE MAKER CHURCH

Living in a sea city the community in Varna needed a temple of religious service and the mood was touched by the local practitioners. Thus the Church of St Nikolas the Miracle Maker was built in 1865 as a promise before God and protector of sailors St. Nicholas. This is the only sea temple in Bulgaria. One can learn about the existing conflict between the local population and the Greek Church and how he was avoided at that time as the sermons were officiated until 1906 only in Greek language.

The Saint and the Sailor

The frightened salesman promised that if they reach the port alive he will raise a church and hospital in honor of the St. Nikolaus the Mirakle Maker and protector of sailors....

Among the most eminent locals over the centuries echoes the name of the respectful trader Paraskeva Nicolau. In one of his trips to Odessa, very heavy storm broke in the sea. He never came back in Varna but he fulfilled the promise to the saint that he would send the money to build a church and hospital.

Paraskeva Nicolau drew up a will that after his death a hospital and a church to be erected. He left the realization and the management of his property in the hands of



Varna Greek community that fulfilled the last wishes. In 1865 the construction of the church "St. Nicholas" was finished.

The direct executor of the Paraskev Nikolau's will was the Greek community which did not want to collaborate with Varna municipality, although the patriotic man born in Varna wanted to make good to all his fellow-townsmen, no matter whether they were Bulgarians or Greeks. All services were made in Greek language till 1906, when the citizens of Varna rebelled against the new Greek metropolitan Neofit. On June 9th, 1906 the first Bulgarian liturgy was celebrated. Wealthy laymen donated or restored the icons as a direct support to the church.

The unique architecture of the white stone temple, the enormous anchor to the gates, open doors with twilight behind them bring every believer in the magical atmosphere for a meeting between the visible and the invisible matter, between man and God.

Insiders say that there is no other church built by funds of only one person. The unique architecture of the white stone temple, the enormous anchor to the gates, open doors with twilight behind them bring every believer in the magical atmosphere for a meeting between the visible and the invisible matter, between man and God.



The church "St. Nicholas" is the only sea temple in Bulgaria recorded in the church books as a sea church in 1927. The oaths of Varna sailors took place here till the coup in 1944.

The only marine church carries unusual message - after heavy trials the sea embraces the living. The unique relationship between sea symbol, sea saint and the man who can feel them and become one of them is visible and touchable. This is the only sea temple in Bulgaria built by extraordinary donor and giving exceptional experiences.

In 2000 another symbol of seamanship was placed next to the church entrance – an anchor.



Fate, Hope, Love

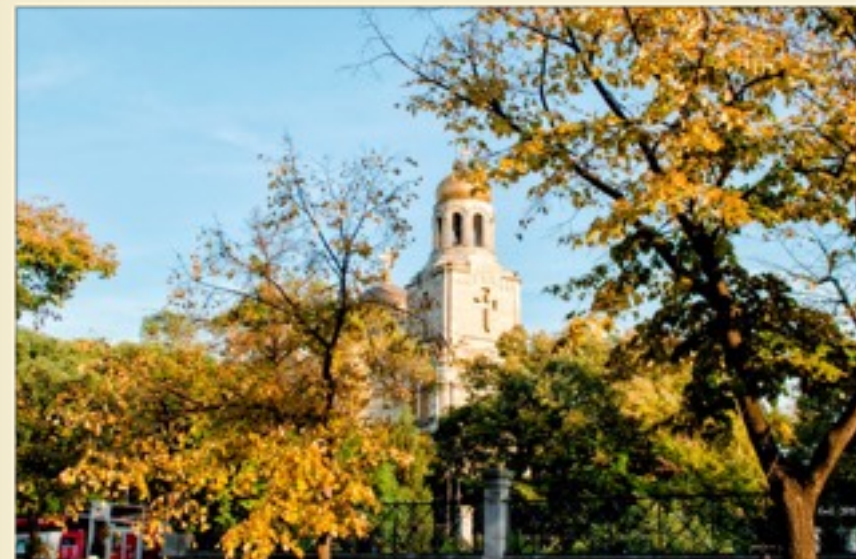


THE ASSUMPTION OF HOLY MOTHER CATHEDRAL

“The Assumption of Holy Mother” Cathedral is one of the symbols of Varna. The construction was made in 1880-1885 with the support of Prince Alexander Battenberg. The name of the Cathedral commemorates the Russian empress Maria Aleksandrovna, benefactor of Bulgaria and aunt of the prince. The financing of the construction relied on mainly by donors. It is the second largest Cathedral in Bulgaria and the largest and brightest place in Varna.

Immediately after the liberation, when visiting Varna, Prince Alexander I Battenberg remained surprised that Bulgarians do not have a large representative temple of their own. So yet in 1879 the idea emerged of building a Cathedral. On November 9, 1879, following the suggestion of Bishop Simeon a 8-member commission was composed, which together with Varna Municipality started fundraising and organizing the competition for selection of architectural project. It was estimated that the amount needed for construction is 350 thousand French francs.

Nearly one third has been earmarked by the Treasury and a lottery with 150 000 tickets of BGN leva were distributed. As a result 150 thousand were the collected





funds from the state lottery and the rest came as donations from laity in Varna and in the country. Waking spirit of Bulgarians helped in the early post-liberation period to implement an idea, uniting believers to a new beginning.

The Assumption of Holy Mother Cathedral has turned into a centre of the spiritual Orthodox religion in Varna.

The place itself was chosen by

Alexander I Battenberg himself. Once entering the temple one gets emotions of high relation with God. People can feel the spirit and values of pure nature and uniqueness of the human existence in the entire life. Everyone can compare this building with others over the world thus being enabled to distinguish the sacred place which symbolizes the faith in God, a place of worship, tranquility and spiritual power. It is a magic place for purification of the human spirit accessible for all believers of all religions.

Immediately after the consecration in 1886, the temple became the emblem of the city of Varna which already had the legitimate right to be called the summer capital of Bulgaria. The Cathedral dedicated to the Assumption, which is also protector of the city, is becoming a popular image found on old photographs and postcards. Significant events

for the city in that period such as the Military Parade on St. George's day, church holidays and more took place precisely in front of the Cathedral - on the wide square. The bells from the high tower alerted the citizens of Varna for times of holidays and of grief. And now a look at the cathedral is thrown by many tourists expressing admiration of this achievement of Christian culture and architecture.



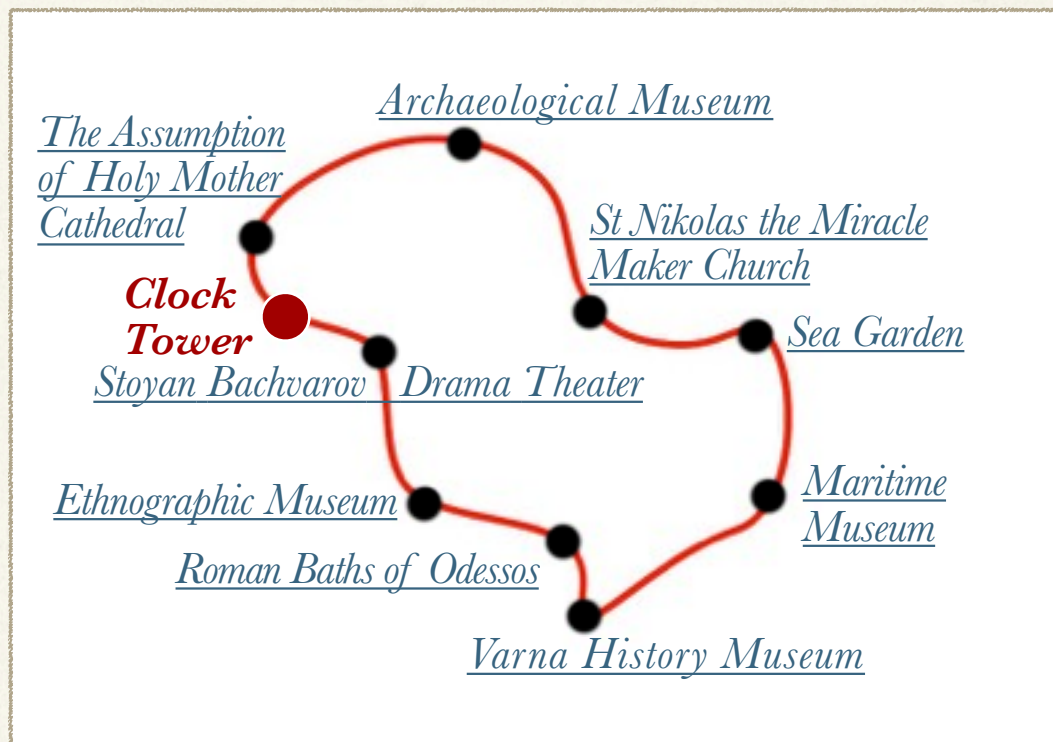
United in the Time

Built in the early years after the Liberation, the monolithic tower, facing the Cathedral was the highest building of Varna by that time. Nowadays, its 24-meter silhouette is another landmark of the city, reminding the citizens and the guests about the vicissitudes of life.

In 1888 the idea of a clock tower to be built was realized by the Mayor Krastiu Mirsky. In a two year period Varna city distinguished itself with a fire tower with a clock, constructed

after the design of the architect S a v a

Dimitrievich. The place was deliberately chosen as the very central part of the city. For quite some time the tower was used by the fire



CLOCK TOWER

Anyone who wants to meet a relative, a friend, a social or cultural matchmaking make a date in front of the majestic symbol Varna bears since 1890. You can't pass the Clock Tower if you are coming from South and North, from East and West. IT is the perfect place where everybody can be seen. Not by chance the first radio broadcast was here and the important fire service at that time.



brigade, guarding the city and its inhabitants. With the influence of the new technologies, the local Radio Varna performed its first broadcast here, on 9th of December 1934. For 120 years this tower, closer to heaven than other buildings, is witnessing the development of the city and the life changes. Varna citizens are proud of this jewel taking it as a symbol of security, reliability and a solid foundation in time.

Bought from England, the clockwork was installed by the Bulgarian revolutionary Oton Ivanov. Although you can see nowhere the name of the craftsman produced the clock mechanism, you might be astonished by its 1000-year guarantee! It is a real piece of art! When it needs repairs, the clock-hands are moved manually. So far, only three men have been maintained the clockwork. Thanks to their devotion, the citizens of Varna can always rely on the clock to be accurate in their activities. It is kind of a habit that local citizens obtained to look at the clock every time they pass by the ancient tower, listening to the melodic bells on every exact hour and enjoy the beautiful clock hands. Over the time, the clock tower turned to be the most attractive place for accurate communication: the preferred meeting place of a huge influx of people, always on time!

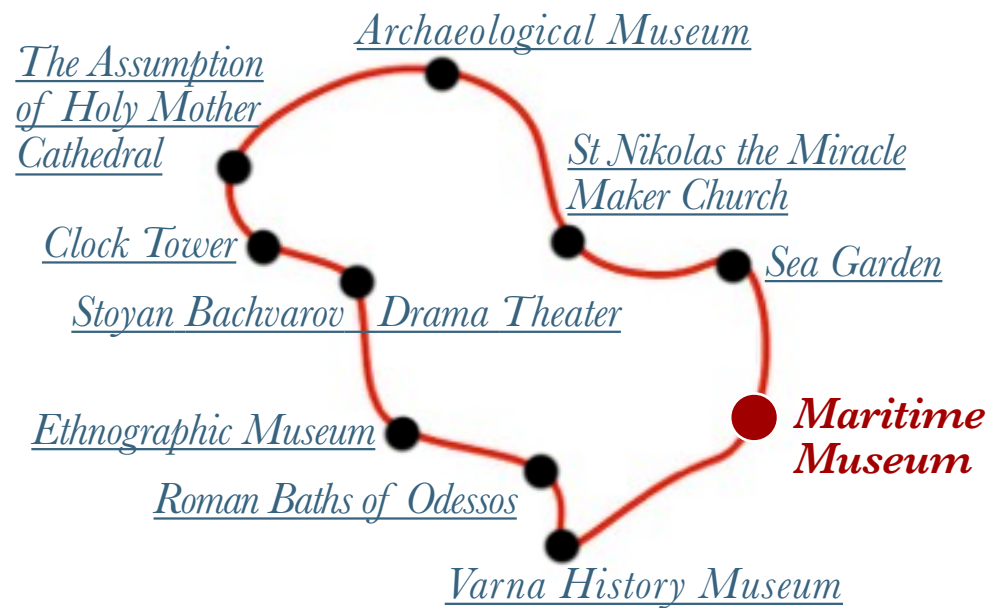
Since 1891 the town's clock tower has been counting the paces of transformation of the city. Nestling the fire brigade or the radio broadcasting, offering a panorama view or just the crystal bell sound – it can't be missed neither by the local citizens, nor by the tourists. It spreads its magical attractive power over the city and beyond. And will continue to guide the everyday life of Varna, preserving its memories and values for 1000 years ahead. Anyone who is fortunate to get inside, to climb the old wooden stairs and to look from the high balcony over Varna, will feel the piercing through time and the feeling of eternity. The tower clock is not only a high stone landmark of the city. It's the silent storehouse of Varna memories and time.



The Sea and the World

Very few people know that one of the symbols of the new times in Varna and the young country – Bulgaria*, is “Primorski” boulevard. Immediately after the liberation (1878) the old Turkish fortress walls, surrounding the city, were demolished and replaced by a new street, serving as a parade showcase and

link of Varna to the world. Varna citizens of that time gave very high importance to this particular street, which was strengthened further by the history. After changing its name several time, by the end of XIX century the street got the name "Ferdinand the 1st" , in honour of the Bulgarian monarch of that time. Distinguishing itself with a new European outlook and remarkable location - facing the sea, close to the port, the street attracted the elite of the



MARITIME MUSEUM

The first and the only, the Maritime Museum is another piece of the jig-saw puzzle which reveals the pride of Varna as marine capital. Facing the sea, looking at the unlimited space of the floating waves it is a place for remembrance, historic commemoration and cultural revival of the city. This museum represents and promotes marine and naval history of Bulgaria and descent public respect for the achievements of maritime activities through the centuries.



Bulgarian society and foreign diplomacy. Soon after its construction, a number of European countries affirmed their consulates - Spain, the Netherlands, Greece

and Sweden. In 1889, the Italian Consulate was the next in the row diplomatic hub, opening its doors in the prestigious street. The appointed diplomat of the Italian country was the aristocrat Count Luigi Assaretto, who moved to Bulgaria with his entire family.

In 1890 an elegant neoclassical building was constructed on the design of the Swizz architect Henry Pierre. Its purpose was to serve as a gambling house and casino. Soon after its construction, the Italian consulate moved there, transferring it into a multipurpose house, comprising residential dwellings, a Consulate office, a gambling section, a hotel section and a restaurant in the open summer garden. The name of Villa "Assaretto" naturally came after the building, visited by diplomats, citizens and guests of the city. Later, the municipality of Varna bought the building back, making a good use of its excellent location. It was converted into the first maritime museum and the first underground research in Bulgaria.



The Maritime museum of Varna was established in 1883 in Russe, and only in 1955 was transferred to Varna, settling in Villa "Assaretto". Stately standing on the border between the residential

part of the city and the unique See garden with the Black Sea, the museum offers now a place for lessons and reflection, unveiling the millennial maritime history of Bulgaria, linking the past with the present. The museum holds more than 1000 exhibits, which invisible radiation attracts the citizens and the guests of the city, and provides the opportunity even to the uninitiated to feel the intersection of different meaning, to acquire knowledge and to get the sense of authenticity – to travel in time.

The powerful cosmic energy of marine infinity fascinates the visitors. Looking around the exhibitions one can almost physically experience a time travel by getting deeply involved into the inexhaustible stock of stories, adventures, feats and historic events revealed by the rich collection. The unique environment of the museum and its exhibits provoke the imagination and the emotions of the guests.



This museum is one of a kind in Bulgaria and is highly valued as a place for obtaining knowledge, observation and walking, offering exceptional unity with the past.

The museum possesses an incredible force in this trinity. It combines opportunity and desire, experience and knowledge with attributes of military power and sea storm. The weapons are silent now, reminding us for past victories and glorious times.



Civilization Home

I am Christo Kovachevski and I work as an architect.* I was assigned to supervise the construction of the Public High School for Girls in Varna. Fortunately it was not for nothing. Let me tell you the story...

In 1982 the Minister of Education Georgi Zhivkov approved the plan for the construction of the building, designed by Petko Momchilov. In order to save money the contractors used boulders*** for the foundation from the just ruined old Ottoman military barracks, but created a compromised foundation. When I saw what a creature did they make I immediately decided to stop the action. Luckily the money was returned, the foundation was demolished and the construction started



ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

The Archaeological Museum was founded in 1887.. A group of active and socially responsible local people decided to establish a place where the archaeological facts, figures and objects can be situated. Switching in between alterations and the physical movement of the items between Sofia and Varna, finally in 1906 the first exposition in the Girls' High School happened. The museum is housed in a Neo-Renaissance building of two floors and a large patio. The Archaeological Museum exhibits several objects and departments representing the ancient history and heritage of Varna.



again. In 1898 this neo-Renaissance palace was created with pediments, pillars and capitols, a veritable temple of culture and education. This was a great challenge indeed.....

For remembrance of Princess Maria Louisa

an inscription in Bulgarian can be read above the central second floor balcony - Public High School for Girls. Indeed this was the largest school building on the Balkan Peninsula which was opened in 1898 and looked more like a palace - with elegant interiors, remarkable architecture and magnificent garden. There was a strict discipline and the rules for high public morality and decency existed. Generations of girls received their secondary education in this building when in the middle of the 20th century several schools in Varna were settled in the building and the separation of boys and girls in classrooms stopped. In 1902 the first historic exponents were placed in the basement premises of the school. Following several alterations and interchanges between the legal pre-conditions and the actual localities in 1983, the old Public High School for Girls was reconstructed and began to be used as an Archaeological Museum.

Being the natural spiritual center of Varna, the cultural traditions of the city are organically linked to the museum spaces, halls for concerts and exhibitions, outdoor inner court.

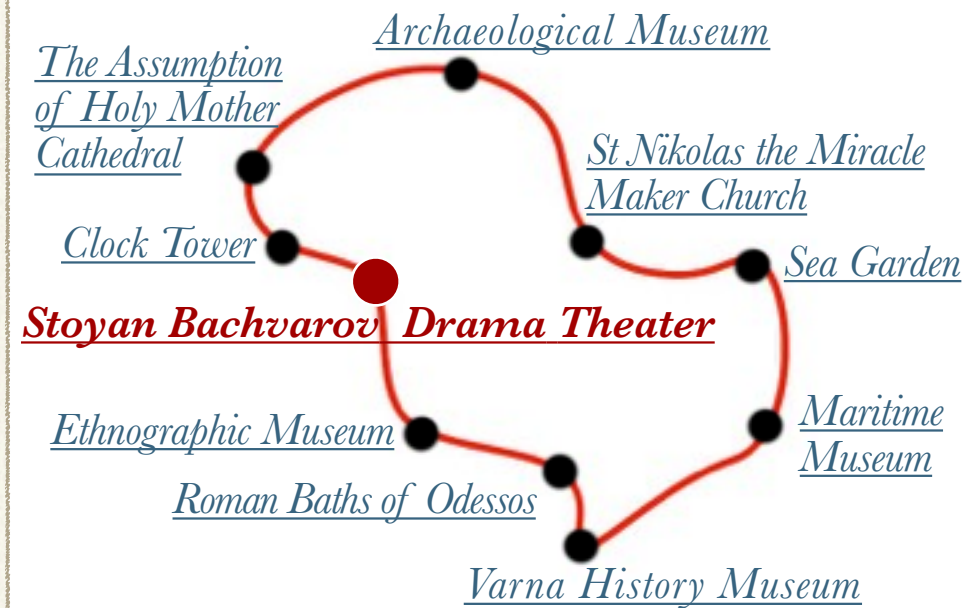
Created in 1906 with the active work of the Check brothers Karil and Herman Shkorpil, the Archaeological Museum has a long history. A rich collection of objects from Prehistory, Antiquity, the Middle Ages and church art are presented thematically in the Museum halls. Here the Varna necropolis – the oldest golden treasure in the world can be seen and it is exciting to see gold older than that of the Mayas, the Inca and Egyptians. Comparing the works of the various civilizations, people who love to travel, can track human development in the processing of gold. The wealth of a long period of time is a result of the work and inspiration of hundreds of generations. The Varna Necropolis is celebrating the human spirit and the rich sense of the ancient philosophies and spiritual practices. The oldest processed gold is the link between the Earth and the Cosmos indeed...



The Promise to the Locals

I am Ivan Tserov, Mayor of Varna. I will tell you the story about the idea for building the Drama Theatre. Right after the liberation from the Ottoman yoke**, Theater art penetrated Varna. The first private theater halls appeared and in 1890 the building of the Municipal Theatre The Reunion Hall was built. However while speaking with my fellow citizens I felt the urgent need for a modern European theater they had. And I stated this before the councilors. Right after my selection as a Mayor, I declared that I will accept to stay in office only on the condition that the council votes to set aside funds for construction of a

building of Drama Theater. I also supported some local enthusiasts and jointly created a theatre group. And it happened.... On the 26th of March 1912 we laid the foundation stone of



STOYAN BACHVAROV DRAMA THEATRE

The Theatre came to Varna during the Crimea War when the French soldiers performed cartoon and vaudevilles before the local audience. Since then till the opening ceremony of the modern and fashionable performance building the locals always used to find suitable places where performances could take place. Varna society felt the need to keep the theatre art life and for that reason was very consistent in the willingness the theatre building to be constructed.

the building. The councilors surprised me choosing this date because not by chance it was my 55th birthday.

I am so proud of the work done by the active involvement of everyone for building this temple of culture. Even after my leave I never stop working in the cause of it. Fundraising campaign was initiated by several volunteers through fund postmarks which were distributed with every piece of bread, every ticket for cinema, for entertainment, for bathing and for entertainment on the beach. As a result 1 million leva were collected in less than a month. Another 2 million leva were granted by the National Theatre and the municipal government. This enabled the construction of the Theatre. This was a commitment of whole society.

I am Stoyan Bachvarov, an actor in the first theatre group created in Varna in 1921.



While the Theatre building was constructing I decided to start making performances and to show the people the magic feeling

the art can bring. Though I was forced to leave Varna in 1922 and returned in 1935 I have never stopped playing and

thinking about the theatre performance in the city. This cultural institution not only educates its audience, but also designs a creative atmosphere for detection and utilization of capabilities of new Bulgarian talents. This is the most attractive place for meetings, chats and

entertainments - a huge influx of the most different people, who all feel the spirit of the

enlightenment that Varna has to

offer. On the 5th of July 1932, Varna's Drama Theatre opened its doors to the public and the first official performance took place.

This majestic building reminds the elegance of Varna and the cultural life that has not ceased to develop and to enrich.





VARNA HISTORY MUSEUM

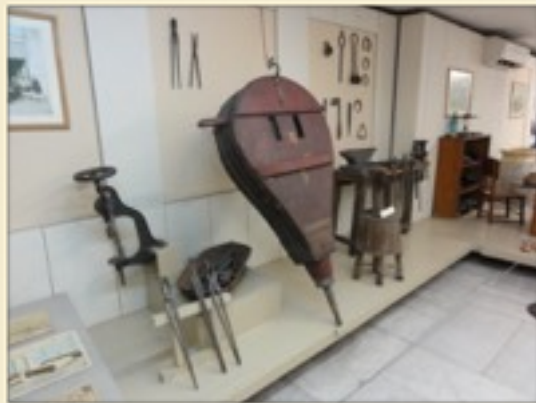
The society of Varna needed the exclusive historic development to be widely promoted to the numerous guests and visitors and as from 1969 the museum presenting the city vast cultural and economic development exists. The era of the new history and culture of Varna for the period 1878 – 1944 is disposed in the three floor building of the Varna History Museum. Every visitor is introduced to the political development, industrial revival, culture life and the creation of Varna as leading tourist centre of Europe in 20-es of XXC.

The Odds-On

Let us walk in the oldest part of Varna, the so called “Greek neighborhood” which indicates signs and diversity of cultures during the centuries. Many traditional wood houses were built during the years before the liberation from the Ottoman Yoke* and a romantic Mediterranean style stone masonry is exemplary appearing where the entire city lives. Few buildings can be praised with so diverse functions they used to have. Being the service of the first Belgian consulate, the first modern European hotel “Orient”, the Varna county jail, in 1965 the architect Kamen Goranov restored the building and turned it to a fashionable place for expositions.

The political developments and the industrial progress in the late 19th century are





represented in a way that one can feel the evolution by every piece and item. The cultural life and the advanced tourism flow in the early 20th century are grasping the eye. Significant attention is paid to the changes in the spiritual culture of the population.

Walking in between the historic evidences, facts and figures, one can see a pleasant meeting between families in the old atmosphere of a typical Bulgarian home style. Everyone can tell a story, explain an element or expose an item and compare it with the technological leap. Curious objects and surrounding from an almost completely vanished life of the city 100 years ago can be seen on the different floors and corners. Explicitly interesting is the walk



along a typical Varna street from the beginning of 10th century. One can see a restaurant-brasserie, a café, a hotel room, a photo studio, a millinery shop and many others. The grand piano, purchased for the opening of the first Bulgarian folk music celebrations in the summer of 1926 (the forerunner of today's



International Music Festival "Varna Summer") is presented in the Museum. The helm of the first Bulgarian ship built in the Varna shipyard is exhibited here.

The tour around the history of Varna is capturing the sight.



The time in the Museum has stopped, but in a more elegant and relaxed atmosphere where everyone can immerse and have a break. And intentionally can make a choice in what reality would like to live - then or now? Which is the best combination of both?

Not by chance one can also see how people could reach Istanbul through the Black Sea without a boat: waking on the ice, when the sea was frozen in 1929! Interesting and attractive

combination of reenactments and expositions, objects and history transfer visitors back and forth in time. The choice is only ours!



EUROTHENTICA

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