

Varna, Places of interest:

In the **Archaeological Museum** visitors can see miniature models of pile dwellings from the Palaeolithic period; the hall to ancient arts and means of living; the hall to antique arts one of the biggest and most impressive collections in the country; some objects and church plate from the early ages of Christianity; objects of cult from the ancient Bulgarian ethnicity; the hall with exponents from the 13th-14th century, where the development of crafts at that time could be traced; the hall of Bulgarian applied arts. The museum holds some rare objects from Egypt, Greece, Babylon and the Mediterranean countries, which were transported to ancient Odessos via the trade routes.

The **National Revival Museum** is housed in a building from 1861, which was proclaimed a cultural monument. Patriotic citizens and scholars arranged the museum exhibition in 1959 and it has been enriched and extended many times. An impressive exhibition shows the struggle for religious enlightenment, national independence and the epic battles during the Russian-Turkish War of Liberation.

The **Naval Museum** is in the Sea Garden Park and possesses all the important documents and equipment of Bulgarian Navy from its foundation in 1878 up to the present. The great scientist Karel Shkorpil founded it in 1923.

The **Vladislav Varnenchik Park-Museum** is to the north-east of the city, near the crossroads for Sofia and Dobrich. It was built in honour of the historical battle in 1444 when Czechs, Poles, Croatians, Hungarians and Bulgarians tried to resist the Turkish invasion in Europe. A mausoleum to Vladislav Varnenchik was built in 1934 on the foundations of an ancient Thracian tomb.

The **Ethnographic Museum** is housed in a Revival house from the 19th century. A typical arrangement of a house in Varna at that time is shown there. Many kinds of jewellery are displayed as well as clothing, formal national costumes, everyday life items and goods manufactured goods in the city and its vicinities.

The **Natural Science Museum** was founded in 1960 and it displays species typical of the Black Sea flora and fauna. Geological and speleological miniature models show the stages of the formation of the Earth. There is a small board with the main kinds of stones and minerals.

Burgas, Places of interest:

The **Aquarium** and the **Black Sea Museum** were opened in 1932 - the first and the only marine biological station in the country. In 1954 the Scientific Research Institute on sea related issues, fishing and industrial fishing was opened with the Aquarium. Hundreds of fish species are gathered here: molluscs, actinides, crabs, periwinkles as well as species of the fresh water rivers. A special place is occupied by the natural resources derived from the Black Sea, such as sea salt and oil.

The **Museum of Medicine** is the only one on the Balkan Peninsula. Medicinal plants and herbs are here on display as well as surgical and other medical tools and clothing used in ancient times up till now.

The **Museum of Art and History of Varna** has an exceptionally rich collection and will interest both the informed archaeologist and the casual visitor. The most famous of its exhibits is the Gold Treasure of Varna, dating back 6000 years ago it is the oldest processed gold found in the world. Other exhibition halls contain Greek and Roman antiquities, including some fine ceramics; icons, weapons and materials from the 19th century struggle against the Ottoman Empire.

The **Art Gallery** was opened in 1950. It possesses paintings by the most outstanding Bulgarian artists as well as pieces of work by numerous foreign artists donated to the gallery by private persons.

The **Varna Terrarium** has one of the most diverse collections in Bulgaria - more than 40 different kinds of exotic animals from all over the world and many interesting and rare Bulgarian species displayed in an environment similar to their natural one.

The **Roman Baths** date back to the 2nd century when the region was a part of the Roman Empire and the settlement was called Odessos. These were some of the largest buildings in the eastern part of the Empire and a proof for the wealth and importance of the town. During this century enough has been revealed by archaeologists to give a good impression of the original layout, though some parts of the building remain hidden under nearby streets.

The **19th century Cathedral of the Assumption of the Virgin** is an imposing landmark, which contains a finely carved iconostasis and bishop's throne, some interesting murals and stained glass.

At the seafront you will be greeted by the colourful flowerbeds of the **Sea Gardens** modelled allegedly on the Viennese Baroque palace gardens of Schonbrun and Belvedere.

The **Varna Dolphinarium** is the only one on the Balkan Peninsula and it is among the greatest attractions that Varna can offer to its guests. The visitors will enjoy the incredible intelligence and playfulness of the sea mammals.



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