

Varna in Bulgaria on the Black Sea

On this trip we will visit enchanting places rich in history and adventure:

The old city of Nesebar, the Knight carved in the rock, the rock formations, the petrified forest, the boat trip on the lagoon are some places of this wonderful trip suitable for the whole family. A week to discover many attractions that you won't forget.

6000 year old Jewels of the Thracians were found in a necropolis and exhibited in the archaeological museum along with other findings from ancient Greek, Roman and Ottoman cultures.

With this map we show you where you can make one-day itineraries over 7 days.

Of course by car, as many of the attractions to visit are located several kilometers from Varna. The advice is to stay overnight in the surroundings of Varna starting point of various destinations.

Now that we know where Varna is located here are some useful tips and recommendations. Varna's airport is a modern and well-equipped facility. There are various car rental companies, bar and restaurant. Credit cards are not used everywhere, so it is warmly recommended to change currency already at the airport. Bulgaria's current currency is the "lev". Everywhere in the country, food, drinks and accommodation are cheap.



What to see in Varna



Varna's Cathedral

Varna's Cathedral in Bulgaria is located in the city center. It's a beautiful Orthodox cathedral well cared for both outside and inside. It looks majestic to the tourist's eye for its golden colours and frescoes that make it a true pearl of the Black Sea.

Retro museum

The Retro Museum is a gem for lovers of vintage cars and motorcycles and beyond. Here are home objects and appliances, toys, perfumes of those distant times rich in history. It's located on the first floor of the Varna Grand Mall.

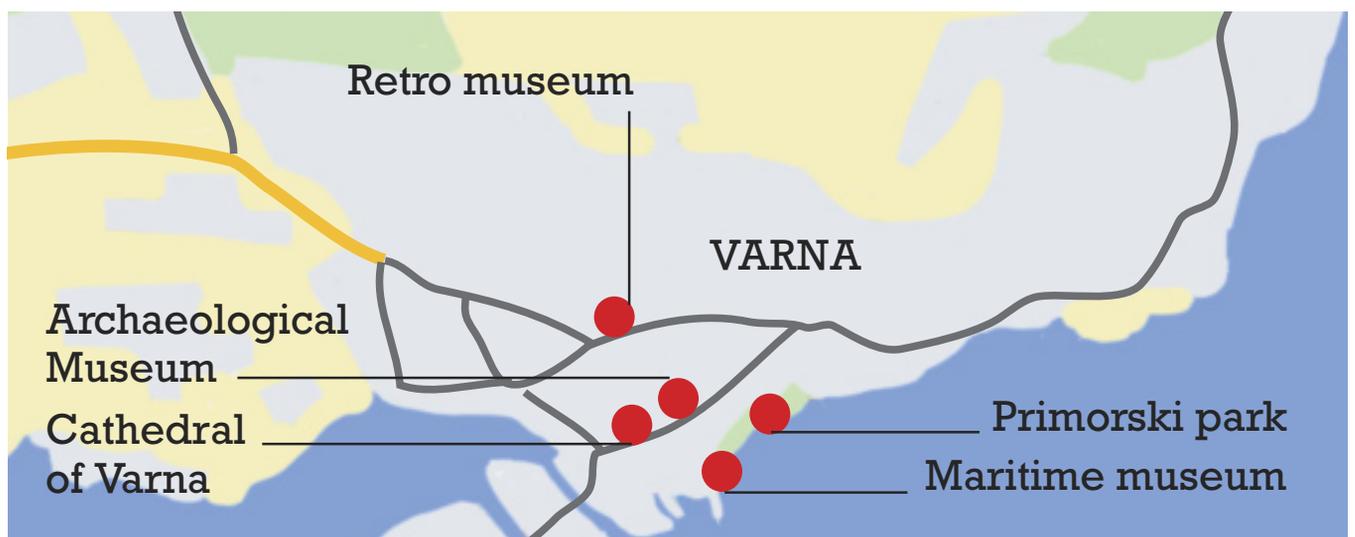


Archaeological Museum

Not far from the cathedral you will find the archaeological museum. It's well lit and structured in a modern and functional way and it houses an archaeological collection of enormous interest, not only Bulgarian. The skeleton of a character, certainly very important, covered with a rich funeral set in gold leaves you amazed. Statues, sarcophagi, a large amount of gold jewelry and colourful icons will take you back in time.

Maritime museum

The maritime museum is located near the port of Varna and it presents maritime Bulgaria. On the outside you will find cannons, mines, helicopters, small ships and the sailing vessel "Cor Caroli" which sailed around the world, the ship "Druzki", a torpedo boat. Inside the museum you will see an exhibition that represents the most important moments of the Bulgarian naval activities.



Old Nesebar and Sunny Beach



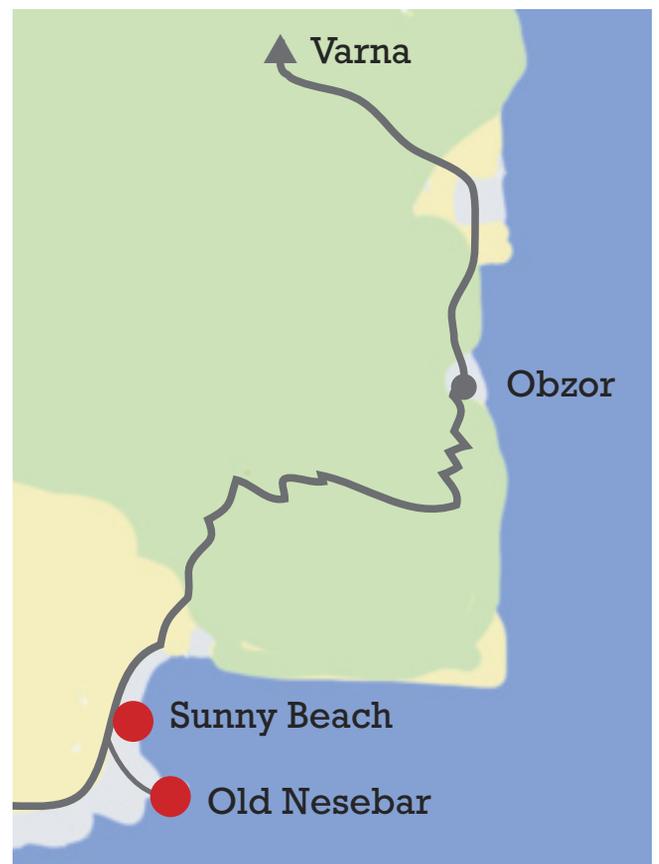
Old Nesebar

The old Nesebar is located on the Black Sea coast in the Burgas district (Bulgaria). At the time Nesebar was an island defended by a city wall, today it can be reached via a bridge that connects it to the mainland. Dominated by different people, it has left an important legacy to be included in the list of World Heritage Sites by UNESCO. Go for a charming walk in its quaint streets among monuments, churches, wooden buildings, unique corners where time has stopped. There are plenty of shops, bars and restaurants.



Sunny Beach

Sunny Beach is certainly the largest seaside resort on the Black Sea. It boasts over 800 hotels, 130 restaurants, pubs and discos for all tastes. During the summer period thousands of tourists storm it whilst during the year there are few residents. It can be reached in an hour and a half from Varna; about halfway the small town of Obzor is ideal for a coffee break.



Wonderful Rocks and Byzantine fortress

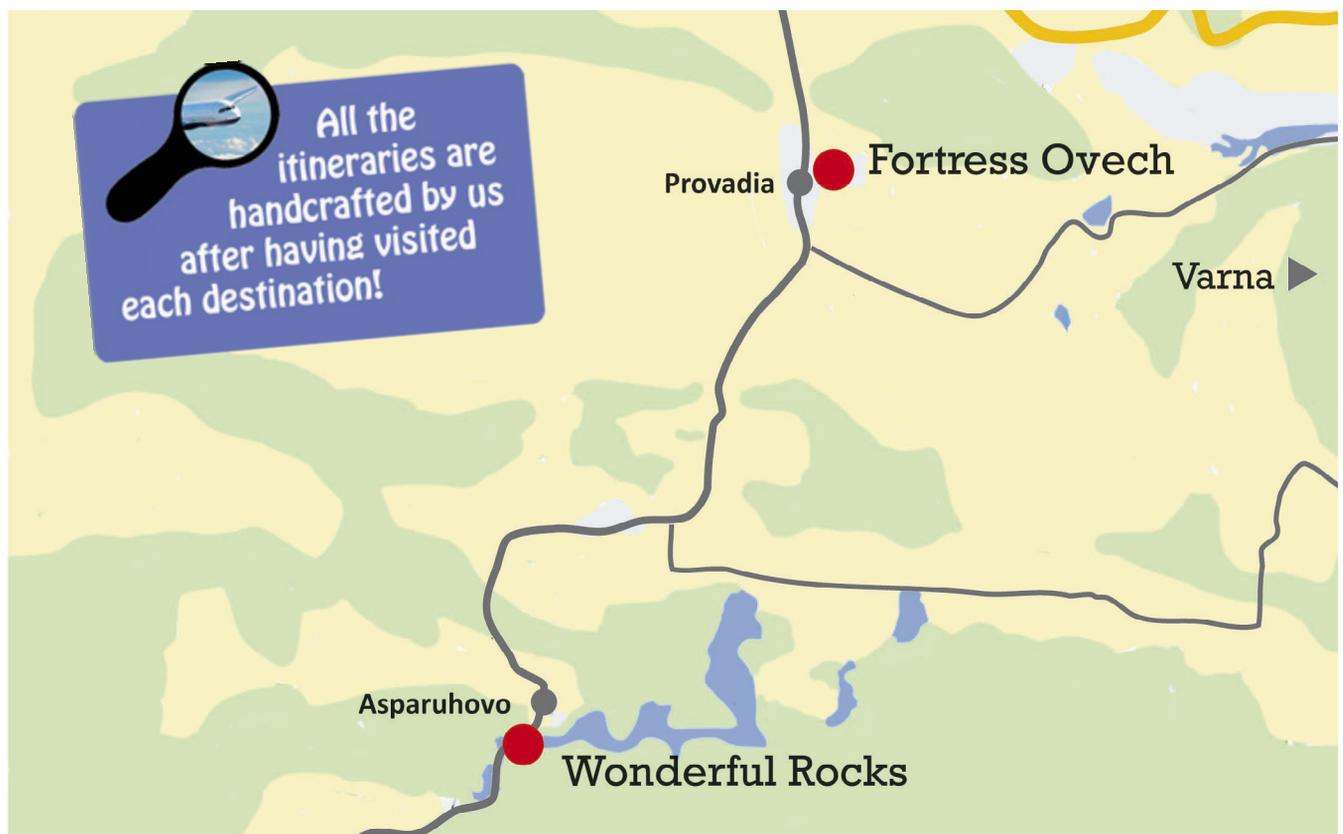
Wonderful Rocks

Wonderful Rocks are natural rock formations 40-50 meters high. This phenomenon is the result of the effect of wind and water erosion on this soft limestone rock, similar to Cappadocia (Turkey). Tunnels have been dug under these rocks, forming a footpath. It's a protected area of Bulgaria and an hour and a half drive from Varna.



Ovech, Byzantine fortress

Twenty minutes from Wonderful Rocks, in Provadia, is the Byzantine fortress of Ovech. There are few remains of this fortress but it is worth a visit. Stairs dug into the rock lead to the plateau where you can enjoy the surrounding silence while walking around the mountain. Visible parts are a 79-meter deep well, the remains of the church, the knights' prison, the tower and the "path of the devil" around the mountain. Open all year.



The Knight of Madara and Medieval city of Pliska



The Knight of Madara

The Knight of Madara is located one hour from Varna (Bulgaria).

Just before, in Kaspichan you can enjoy a coffee break along a pleasant tree-lined and car-free avenue.

The Knight of Madara is an ancient sculpture carved in the rock. It is a bas-relief 23 meters above the ground and depicts a knight with a spear, a lion and a dog. The surrounding area is rich in history with its caves, a tomb, a fortress and a ritual area.

Close by there is a restaurant for lunch.



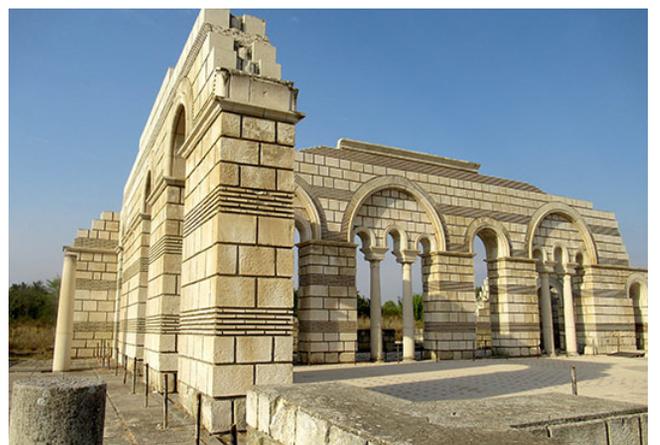
Medieval city of Pliska

After visiting the Knight of Madara, continue for 13 kilometers where the ruins of the ancient medieval city of Pliska are located. It's a national archaeological reserve with a stone wall that encloses the inner city. Among other things you can admire the ruins of the great palace and a large brick cistern, four clay ovens for the production of ceramics and findings related to the making of iron and glass.



The great basilica of Pliska

After visiting the medieval ruins, a few minutes from the parking lot you will find the remains of the great basilica of Pliska. The architectural complex includes a cathedral, an archiepiscopal palace and a monastery. The courtyard with columns has the shape of an extended rectangle. The size of the basilica is surprising and was considered the largest in Europe until the 17th century.



Petrified forest, Glass factory and Historical Park



Petrified forest

20 km from Varna we visit the petrified forest. It is a natural rock formation dated millions of years ago. For its visit it's recommended to wear closed shoes as you walk in the sand. It's a remarkable extension covering 70 sq km of surface. You will see columns up to 6 meters high hollow inside and others hidden in the sand. Their formation is thought to be the result of coral activity or of mineral origin. It's certainly a place shrouded in mystery.



Glass factory

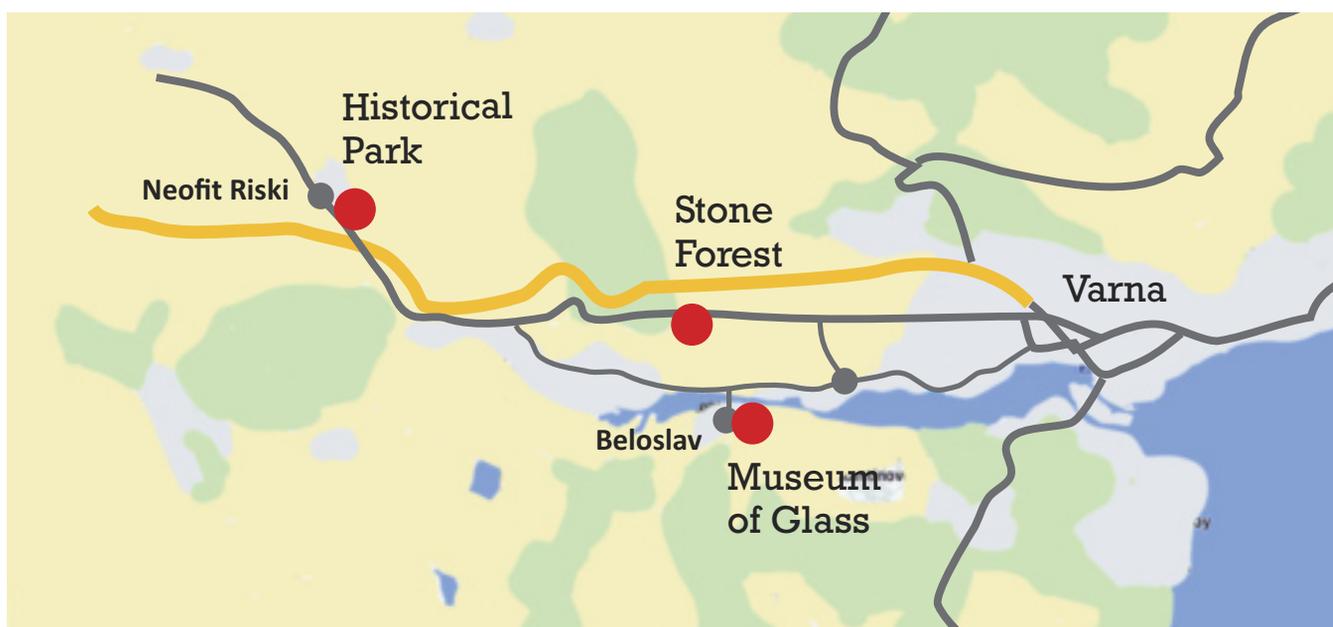
After visiting the petrified forest, you can reach the shore of Lake Beloslav in 10 minutes by car where the ferry takes you to the glass factory in 4 minutes.

Leave your car in the parking lot before ferrying because the glassworks are a stone's throw away.

At the entrance you will find the souvenir shop where you will be spoiled for choice. It's possible to have a short tour of the production line where you can also watch demonstrations by the masters of glass who create amazing works of art.

Historical Park

Historical Park is located in Neofit Rilski and can be reached in 20 minutes from the glass factory ferry. It's certainly an adventure in time, rich in culture and history. Construction began in 2017, it is an open-air museum and the complex recreates the history of Bulgarian lands with different huts and houses from various eras built with materials from those times. It also houses an exhibition of battle weapons and replicas of treasures found in Bulgarian lands. Ideal for the whole family.



Yaylata Archeological Reserve, Cape Kaliakra and Aladzha Monastery



Yaylata Archeological Reserve

At 80 km from Varna, a walk in the wild nature, Yaylata National Archeological Reserve, preserves important historical monuments and various archaeological remains. You will find a small fortress partly restored, caves located in the vertical cliffs used as accommodation, 4000-year-old Thracian tombs with an altar on which animals were sacrificed.

Cape Kaliakra

On the way back, 14 km from the Yayalata natural park, this stop is a must at Cape Kaliakra headland of the Bulgarian coast. With vertical walls up to 70 meters high from the sea, here are the remains of medieval fortifications and some wells visible too. Here the view is breath taking. On-site restaurant.

Aladzha Monastery

The monastery in the rock, is 50 minutes away from Cape Kaliakra. It is an ancient monastery carved into the rock and surrounded by a garden immersed in the forest. It accommodated monks who lived in isolation to pray and meditate. Here they slept, ate and buried the dead. The caves were dug into a vertical karst cliff on several levels.



Kamchiya Lagoon and ancient Byala fortress



Kamchiya Lagoon

Kamchiya Lagoon is located 30 minutes from Varna. This is an experience not to be missed! A pleasant cruise on small or medium-sized boats along the river with trees on both sides immersed in water give the impression of being in the jungle. The reserve is 40 km long, extending along the forest to the mouth of the river. If you are lucky you can see small turtles swimming in the river.



Primorski park in Varna

Back to Varna to visit the Primorski park. The park extends for 4 km and runs along the Varna beach. It is accessed from the main street of Varna and it's a pleasure to walk there as it is well kept. You will find playgrounds for children, tennis courts, football, miniature golf and a dinosaur park. The park is much appreciated by families, joggers and bikers. A central avenue with flowers is a delight for the soul.



Ancient Byala fortress

30 minutes from the lagoon, a jump in time to the ancient fortress of Byala. It stands on ruins of other settlements and is very well restored. Numerous jars emerge from the ground where wine was produced and there are also some ovens where ceramics used to be made. You will find the basilica, a mural that depicts the life of those times and the lighthouse overlooking the sea.



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