

Excursion to Veliko Tarnovo

Medieval history emanates from Veliko Tarnovo's fortified walls and cobbled lanes. One of Bulgaria's oldest towns, Veliko Tarnovo has as its centrepiece the magnificent restored Tsarevets Fortress, citadel of the Second Bulgarian Empire. Often referred to as the "City of the Tsars" (a title used to designate certain Slavic monarchs or supreme rulers), Veliko Tarnovo attracts many tourists with its unique architecture. The old part of the city is situated on the three hills Tsarevets, Trapezitsa, and Sveta Gora, rising amidst the meanders of the Yantra River. On Tsarevets are the palaces of the Bulgarian emperors and the Patriarchate, the Patriarchal Cathedral, and also a number of administrative and residential edifices surrounded by thick walls. Trapezitsa is known for its many churches and as the former main residence of the nobility. During the Middle Ages, the city was among the main European centres of culture and gave its name to the architecture of the Tarnovo Artistic School, painting of the Tarnovo Artistic School, and to literature. Veliko Tarnovo is an important administrative, economic, educational, and cultural centre of Northern Bulgaria.



The Asenevtsi monument is dedicated to the brothers Asen, Petar, Kaloyan and Ivan Asen II. It was built in 1985 to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the uprising of Asen and Petar, which led to the liberation of Bulgaria from the Byzantine Empire. The sword located in the middle is a symbol of the power and prosperity of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom.



Bulgaria's 19th-century National Revival splendour is easy to relive along historic lanes such as Gurko Street; similarly evocative is handicraft market Samovodska Charshiya, which retains much the same atmosphere it had two centuries ago.



The Sound and Light Show is a unique attraction in Europe. Shows of its kind can only be seen in few other countries in the world. Through of music and spectacular illumination, this programme recreates the history of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom (1185–1393), the fall under the Turkish and the Liberation of Bulgaria in 1878. The music was composed especially for the show, which was first displayed in 1985 to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the Asen and Peter's uprising.

