



ST. ATANASIUS FORTRESS





Significance of the asset:

A person cannot even imagine to walk around the streets of an ancient city, to take a look into a winery, a bath and a church dated 1500 years ago and all these are just on the edge of a rock at the sea shore.

Beneath the walls of the small port town – fortress and refuge for the population of the region – there was active work, mainly commerce, more handicraft production and less agriculture. Protected by a wall and a moat, the town was around 3,5 hectares big. The discovered ruins of houses, storages, wineries, road structure, drainage system, bath house and an early Christian basilica describe the way of life for the people from IV, V, VI and VII centuries. A time, when the Western part of Europe underwent into the so called Dark ages, while to the South East the local communities flourished as a part of the Eastern Roman Empire.

Close to the Christian complex there is another place of great interest – one of the three wineries found here. The innovation of centuries ago is preserved and exhibited on spot by a mockup of a grape harvester, which gives an idea of the technology by which the ancients turned grape juice into wine.

The view to the Christian basilica is indeed a view to the edge and the Black Sea – it is the end of St. Atanasius Cape.

Nowadays the site is an opened archaeological site, which attracts more and more tourists over the years.

Location: Byala

Country: Bulgaria

Region: Varna

Geographic location 42.84611, 27.901306