



## SALT MINE





## **Significance of the asset:**

The salt center near Provadia is the oldest one in Europe. Its beginning dates back to 5500 BC. It existed and functioned until about 4250 BC. This is a time when Bulgarian lands were the center of European civilization. One of the reasons for this is the salt springs, turned into a salt-producing center in Provadia. Nowadays, many people may not understand the importance of salt and some even think it is harmful. But without cooking salt, the life of humans and animals is not possible. For ancient farmers and stock-breeders, extracting salt was a huge problem. In the middle of the 6th millennium BC the population in Europe rose and the problem exacerbated. A group of people from today's southern Bulgaria crossed Stara Planina and settled around the salt springs near Provadia. There are no other rock salt deposits on a vast territory - from the Carpathians to the Aegean Sea.

In 1959 an exhibition is established in a private house of one of the prominent residents and revolutionist of Provadia and throughout years it is the richest one in the country. In 2005 the house is transformed into a museum. Expositions from Solnitsata highlight the historic value and significance the region of Provadia has inherited from the ancient times as the only rock salt deposit in Bulgaria.

**Location:** Provadia

**Country:** Bulgaria

**Region:** Varna

**Geographic location** 43,128417, 27,472528