



The Church of St. John the Bapbtist

The Church of St. Ivan the Baptist, the beginning of which, according to research, can be dated back to the 6th century, is particularly attractive to visitors. In the 10th-11th centuries ACE, it was rebuilt as a cross-domed building, which originally housed the Archaeological Museum in 1956. At present the church is a gallery attracting visitors with the paintings of contemporary artists.

Christianity appeared on these lands 50 years after the birth of Christ, which is probably one of the reasons why the church as an institution is given so much importance in Nesebar.

The city was included, for the first time, in the boundaries of the Bulgarian state in 812, when Khan Krum conquered the city by storm. For 62 years, from 1201 to 1263, Nesebar was part of the Bulgarian state. After 1263, 40 years of Byzantine rule followed, after which Nesebar was again annexed to Bulgaria in 1304 by the King Todor Svetoslav. The city played a significant role in the political history of Bulgaria and Byzantium during the time of the Bulgarian kings Kaloyan, Ivan Asen II and Constantine Tyeh. In the 12th and 13th centuries, the city actively traded with the Mediterranean and the Adriatic territories, as well as with the principalities north of the Danube. The churches "St. Stefan" - (XI century) and "St. John the Baptist". Next are the churches "St. Petka" (Paraskeva) - (13th century), "St. Todor" - (14th century), "St. Archangels Michael and Gabriel" - (14th century), with architecture similar to the churches in the capital of Bulgaria - Turnovo, were built.

The vision and the influence of the church correspond to the cultural and economic power of Nesebar, which was most noticeable during the Byzantine and Bulgarian Middle Ages, especially during the time of Tsar Ivan Alexander, who ruled from 1331 to 1371, when many of the churches were built and richly decorated. According to the world statistics, Nesebar is the city with the most churches in the world per capita. In the 13th and 14th centuries, the spirituality of Nesebar was kept and flourished in the monasteries of "St. Virgin", "Christ Acropolis", "St. Peter", "St. Andrew", "St. Elijah", "St. Vlasius" and "St. Nicholas Emonsky", which became important centers of hesychasm in Bulgaria. Future Bulgarian patriarchs have being prepared here.

The royal family and Tsar Ivan Alexander gave a lot privileges to the Nesebar monasteries and generously donated them. Some sources tell that there is information about the existence of about 40 churches in Nesebar, but there is specific data for

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only 26 of them, to this day. Due to the many and well-preserved churches, especially from the period of XIII - XIV century ACE, the city is named by our and foreign researchers “The Bulgarian Ravenna”. Almost during all its history, Nesebar was the residence of a metropolitan.



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