



The Ethnographical Museum

Located in the house of the prominent citizen of Nesebar, Moskoyani, the Ethnographic Museum offers an intriguing history of the life of the city's inhabitants, their traditions, legends and myths.

In Nesebar, there are still many houses from the era of the Bulgarian Renaissance, with a typical for the Bulgarian Black Sea coast architecture. Apart from the houses, windmills, a bathhouse and fountains have been preserved until modern times. And since the ancient past of the city, fishing, viticulture and the production of flax have been preserved as well as the main means of livelihood.

Researchers and scientists from all over the world are intrigued by the golden treasure of jewelry discovered in the 1960s, the chronicle with notes from the 15th century about the history of the city, the documents of Tsar Ivan Alexander, etc., valuable artifacts.

Besides the material cultural heritage, the museum preserves knowledge about traditions, beliefs, myths and legends. One of the legends that excites the inhabitants of Nessebar is the legend of the Black Virgin, whose icon attracts believers from faraway places.

What is the story?

The celebration of the Virgin Mary's Day on August 15 in Nesebar is the city holiday. Being at that time in Nessebar and in the Church of the Holy Assumption is a memorable experience. Then, it is full of people who come to worship the icons with faith and belief that their prayers will be heard and will come true. The atmosphere in front of the church during the day is enlivened by the traditional meals cooked for visitors and tourists. People tell each other stories related to the church and to the mysterious icon of the Black Virgin - the only one, apart from the Iberian one, on which the Virgin Mary has a black face.

The people of Nesebar are in awe of the Black Virgin Mary, because in the past they had to pay a heavy sin to her. According to the legend, two centuries ago, the icon was found on a tree. People wondered who hung it there. The priests only were taking it down for worship and putting it back on the tree again. One day, the Black Virgin Mary appeared in the dream to a virgin from the city, and told her that she already wanted to "come down" from the tree and have her own home. Thus, on the site of the

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tree, the Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary was built. The money for the construction was found in the roots of the tree, so the Holy Mother "paid" the temple herself. Since then, miracles began to happen in the temple - thousands of sick people were cured of their illnesses. Thus, the Black Mother of God became famous.

Until one day, when the icon was stolen from the church. The thieves, young men from the city were found. The icon was found either, but from that moment on, many young people began to suddenly die. People began to whisper that the Black Virgin was taking revenge for the theft. To stop the evil, they sprinkled the whole city with sugar, on the advice of the prophetess Vanga, and the evil stopped...

From that moment on, the inhabitants of Nessebar have a strong reverence for the Black Virgin Mary and consider her as their patron.



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