

The Church of St. Stephen

The church "St. Stefan" is one of the best preserved on the peninsula and cannot be missed. Old Nessebar, where the church, known as the "New Metropolis" is located, is full of history and mysticism. Right from the entrance of the city, after an ancient arch, along the narrow streets with unique houses with wooden verandas, the visitor falls into a fairy-tale world with intertwined past times, each with its own myths and legends that transport him to different spaces. The church "St. Stefan" is part of the transformation over time going back to the 10th-11th centuries, when the church was built. In the 16th and the 18th centuries additional parts were built to it. Because of its preserved architectural appearance, the iconostasis and its highly artistic frescoes, the church "St. Stefan" is one of the most significant monuments of the Bulgarian cultural heritage.

Initially, the church was named in honor of Virgin Mary. Therefore, the wall paintings in it are thematically related to the life of the Mother of God, and a preserved inscription in Greek above the entrance tells that the reconstruction of the church began in 1599, during the time of the Nessebar Metropolitan Christofor, who was known as the "exarch of the entire Black Sea".



Old Hellenic tombstones were used in the floor covering of the temple. The number of figures and scenes depicted is astonishing - over 1,000 figures in more than 200 scenes.

Today, the church is a museum offering knowledge and wisdom. The emotions of the visitors are complemented by the surrounding greenery, by the blue of the sky and the smell of the sea, by the noise of the waves and the scream of seagulls. Everyone is left impressed, charmed, inspired and pacified.

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