



# НЕСЕБЪР

# *NESEBAR*



1. Nesebar – Before 3200 BC in Eastern Bulgaria, a small village founded by the Thracians arised. This village is one of the oldest villages in Europe. It is situated on a small Black sea peninsula between Burgas and Varna. The Thracians named it Menabria, which means “Mena’s town” (Mena is the village’s founder). “Bria” is the Thracian word for “town”. The peninsula is 850 meters long and 350 meters wide and a narrow neck of land connects it to the main land.



Around the V Century BC, the first migration waves began. The Dorians were alone in the Black sea. All the other Greek towns were founded by the Ionians, who, even in the lands of Elada, fought constantly with the inhabitants of Pelopones. That’s why the Messambrians built a strong wall around the coast of Messambria (Nesebar). Nowadays, impressive remains of that wall can still be found on the north-west coast of the island. The wall was built with enormous white blocks. It drove back the invaders and was respected by the enemies of Mesambria. It was the reason why the town wasn’t invaded even once during the Antiquity.



- Are there Greek colonies in your lands? If yes, name them.

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- **2.** The town grew fast and became a typical Greek polis. With time a wall was built around it, shrines, a gymnasium and a theatre was also built. The city was divided in neighbourhoods. A number of handcrafts were also developed- most notably the forging of metal. Messambria began cutting its own coins during the first half of the V century BC. In the III and II centuries BC the city reached its golden age, when it began cutting a golden currency. The town traded energetically with other towns in the Black, Aegean and Mediterranean seas. The numerous artefacts from this period serve as proof of the economic, cultural and spiritual prosperity of the town. These artefacts are exhibited at the Archaeological museum.



What are the similarities between these coins cut in Messambria? What about the differences? .....

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- **3.** However, in the year 72 BC that same wall willingly opened itself for the Roman legions commanded by Mark Lukul. Being in the farthest quarters of the Roman Empire, the people of Messembria felt safe and protected and left the wall unattended, which was why it fell to ruins. But when the Barbarians began to cross these lands, they rebuilt it. The new wall was built in a new place and was made from big, rough stones which were shouldered with red bricks.

Nesebar fell in the hands of the Eastern Roman empire- Byzantium.

What does humanity inherit from the Romans?.....

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- 4.** During the early Middle-Ages, the town rebuilt its fortified walls and till 812 was a part of Bizantium. In that year the Bulgarian han Krum conquered it almost without resistance on the Messembrian's part. Since then, it was a part of Bulgaria. The Byzantines tried to take it back a number of times, but the Bulgarians recovered it each time. It bloomed the most under the rule of Ivan-Aleksander, when it grew so much that it covered parts of the land outside the peninsula. Most of the churches in Nesebar were built around this time. Even today these churches add to the beauty of the town and give it its uniqueness. Nowadays, Nesebar is the town with the most churches per citizens in the World.

- 5.** Follow **Maya** who will tell you more about the picturesquely decorated, massive architectural masterpiece – the church of Jesus Christ the All-Mighty.



- 6. Follow **Simona** who will bring you to the “**St. Sofia**” church, also called “The Old Bishopric”. The church dates from the V century.



- What is the influence of Byzantium on your lands?.....

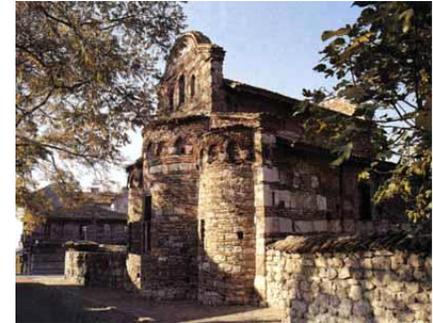
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- 7. You will hear a story about the “St. Stefan” church, told by **NADEZDA**. It is also called the “**New Bishopric**” and was built in the XI Century. It can be found near the harbour.

**The “St. Stefan” church in Nesebar**



- **8.** The church “St. John Aliturgitos” (The Undedicated) is considered the most beautiful of them all. It is situated at the harbour. It is a nave church with masterfully decorated facades, especially the eastern one, which is turned towards the sea. You will hear more information about it **from Lora.**



- **9.** In 1366 the knights of Amadeus the Savoy took over and ravaged the town, then sold it to the Byzantines for 15 000 dukats. In 1453, shortly after the fall of Constantinople to Turkish hands, the town was taken over by the Ottoman Empire and began to fall apart. When it was finally freed, it had become a small, ruined fisherman’s village, with developed vine-growing on the hills over it.

The Ottoman Empire colonized the Bulgarian lands- what is their influence? Observe houses in Nesebar from the XVI and XIX centuries, built in a unique style- the houses of Diamandi, of captain Pavel, of Panaiot Muskonyani, in which an ethnographic exhibition is situated, and many more. The whole ensemble of Nesebar's old neighbourhoods suggests exceptional taste and skill in the construction of the houses, walls and streets. At the beginning of the neck of the land are the Turkish baths and the windmill.

10. You learned that the Tracians, Greeks, Byzantines and Turks have lived on our lands and have left their footprints on them. Has this also occurred in your lands?

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- **Who lives in Nesebar today? Divide yourselves in 4 groups.**

- **The first group** should visit the archaeological museum and research: What has happened with the Greek minority in the town? Is there a Turkish one?

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- **The second group** should meet with a notary in Nesebar, with the help of its Bulgarian friends, and research if foreigners buy property in Nesebar. Also, what nationalities are these foreigners?

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- **The third group** should visit the real estate agency in the New Town and research if foreigners buy real estate in Nesebar and where do these people come from?.....

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- **The fourth group** should analyse the results from the research of the second and third groups and determine which are the reasons for the settling of certain foreigner groups in Nesebar?

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Let's meet in 90 minutes at the theatre in the Old town and discuss your findings

