

# REGIONAL HISTORY MUZEUM (RUSE, BULGARIA)

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2



<https://www.museumruse.com>



# РЕГИОНАЛЕН ИСТОРИЧЕСКИ МУЗЕЙ - РУСЕ

[Начало](#) [За посетители](#) [Експозиции](#) [Колекции и каталози](#) [Русезнание](#) [За нас](#) [Услуги](#) [Профил на купувача](#)



## THE BEGINNING! A SCHOOL MUSEUM (1902)

The Prince Boris Boys' School was built in 1842. This is the oldest school in Ruse.

The Board of the school organized the first museum of the town of Ruse (1902).

**The “Prince Boris” – Boy High School, 1842**



The Board of the school and the local community built a theater, a cultural center, a library, shops, and a casino to support education in the city.



## RUSE CITY MUSEUM (1937)

The Ruse City Museum was situated in one of these buildings – the Ruse Chamber and Commerce and Industry.



The main goal of the museum was to preserve and pass on to future generations the historical heritage of the region, which is part of Northern Bulgaria.



**Ruse Chamber and Commerce and Industry**

## REGIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM (2000)

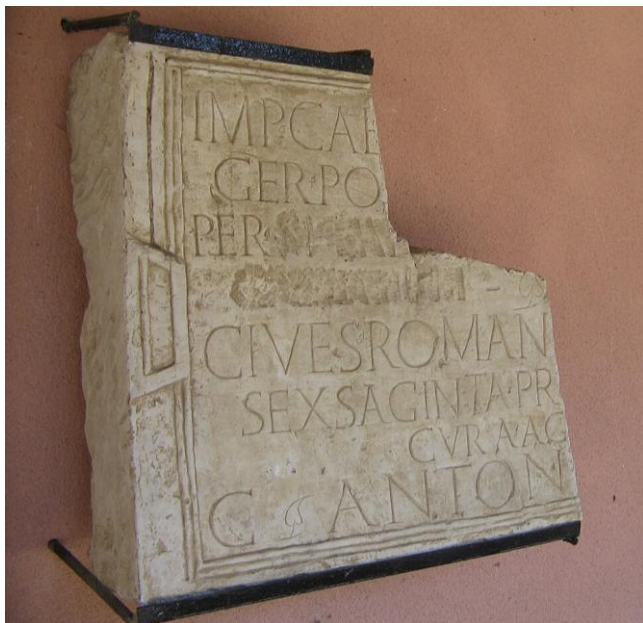
The mission of the **Regional History Museum** - Ruse (2000) is to enrich and expand knowledge about the local tangible and intangible cultural heritage, creating conditions for the development of dialogue with the audience and the opportunity for their participation in the presentation of cultural heritage.

Now the **Regional History Museum - Ruse** presents contemporary cultural and social Phenomena. It is open to the public and dedicated to current and future generations. It presents nine exhibitions.

Three of them are open-air exhibitions:

### 1) **THE ROMAN FORTRESS "SEXAGINTA PRISTA"**

In Roman times, about 1800 years ago, Sexaginta Prista castellum was more humble, a fortification stretching along the river bank. The name of the castellum can be interpreted as "the port of 60 ships" and indicates that Sexaginta Prista was a major military port.





Three Nymphs



Thracian God Rider



Artemis



Mitra



Celebration "Sexaginta Prista"

## 2) **THE IVANOVO ROCK CHURCHES**

They are parts of the UNESCO heritage list since 1979. The churches are on the banks of the Rusenski Lom River situated on the high rocks elevated 32 meters above the river. They represent a monastery complex with chapels and monolithic churches.



The Holly Mother church is the main one. There are many old organic paints. During the photo shoot, they began to fall apart. Now they are being preserved by UNESCO.

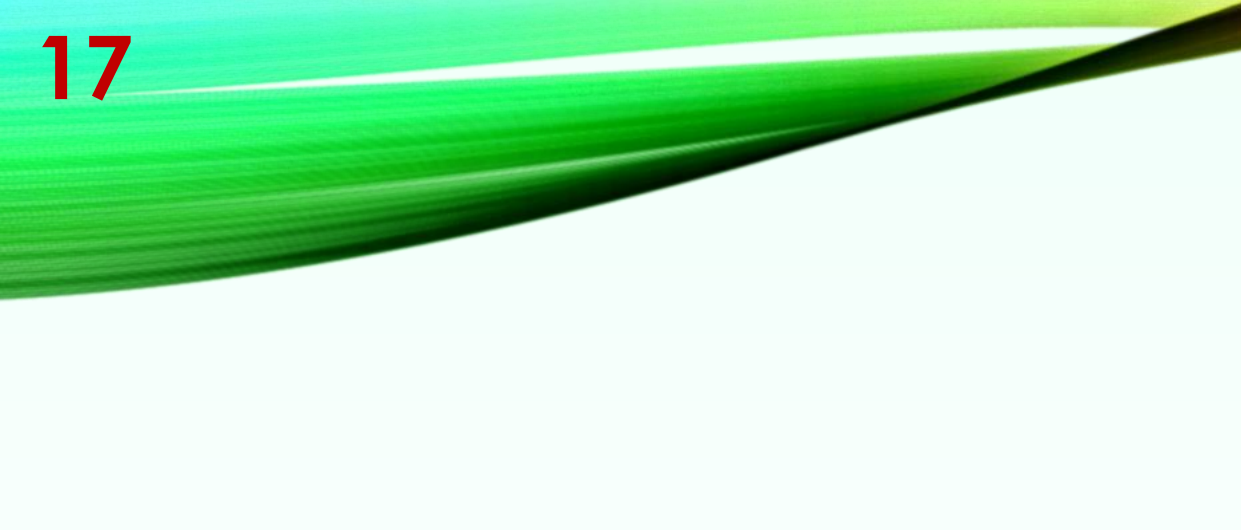






- This is the icon The Last Supper which was painted 130 years before the picture of Leonardo da Vinci.







3) **THE MEDIEVAL TOWN OF CHERVEN** was a major medieval Bulgarian fortress and town, serving as a military, administrative, economic, and cultural center from the 12th to 14th centuries.



Other parts of the Museum are in different buildings.

4) **THE BATTENBERG PALACE**, built-in 1882 by the Austrian architect Friedrich Grünanger. The main goal was to serve as the official residence of Bulgarian Prince Alexander I Battenberg in Ruse.

Since the palace was completed after Prince Alexander I's abdication from the Bulgarian throne, it was never used as the seat of a Bulgarian ruler. Instead, it housed the Ruse Police and District Court.



The building has a large basement where interrogations of people were held during the socialist times.

In addition, the building was connected by an underground tunnel to the nearby house of the mayor of Ruse. Now this is the archive.



The main building of the museum is the Battenberg Palace. It houses approximately 140,000 items.

Among its exhibits are prehistoric pottery and figurines, **the Borovo Treasure from the 4th century BCE**, finds from the archaeological excavations, a collection of medieval murals; collections of exhibits depicting traditional life, as well as personal belongings of prominent figures in the Bulgarian national liberation struggles



**The Borovo Treasure**







VOTIVE PLATES /2-4 CENTURY AD/



## 5) **ECO-MUSEUM WITH AN AQUARIUM** **(2014)**

The Eco-museum showcases the coexistence of humans and nature, the diversity of animal species, and the protected areas along the Danube River.

The museum's exhibits have been collected by teachers and researchers since 1989.

The most interesting exhibits are:

- Globally unique lower jaw of *Mammuthus rumanus* — the earliest known European mammoth;
- An aquarium with Danube fish
- Interactive displays and models





Най-ранният Евразийски мамут  
мамут  
Earliest Eurasian Mammoth  
(*Mammuthus rumanus*)  
долна челюст / low jaw





Legend has it that the house was built in 1864 at the behest of Midhat Pasha - the governor of the Danubian Vilayet in the Ottoman Empire, a friend of the sultan, and a French Jew who had converted to Islam.

Midhat Pasha fell in love with Calliope (Maria Kalish, the wife of the Prussian consul Kalish) because she was as beautiful as the muse in ancient Greek mythology. As a token of his love, the Turkish governor decided to gift her a house with beautiful architecture. He devised an elegant way to make Calliope the owner of the house. He organized a competition - pigeon shooting - for the ladies of high society. Hidden nearby, close to the competitors, was a skilled marksman. Of course, Calliope won.

## 6) MUSEUM OF URBAN LIFE IN RUSE – THE KALIOPA HOUSE



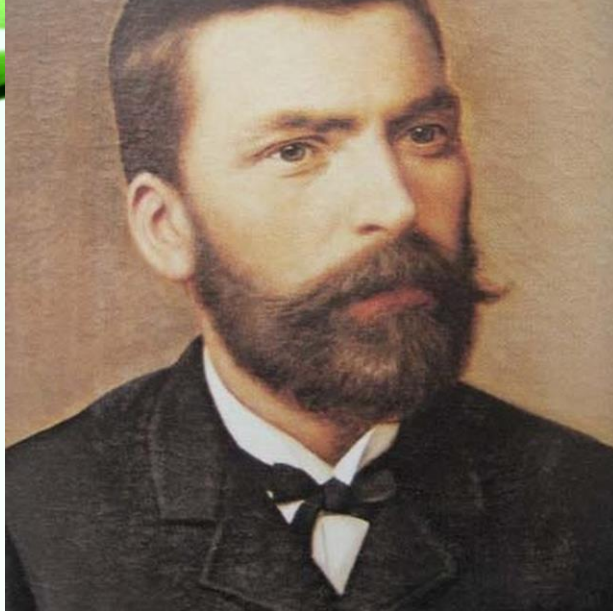
## 7) MUSEUM - ESTATE BABA TONKA (1958-1992, 2013-)

The museum is dedicated to the revolutionary activities of the national heroine Tonka and her family, who gave their lives for Bulgaria's liberation from Ottoman rule.



## 8) ZAHARI STOYANOV MUSEUM (1978)

The museum is dedicated to the chronicler of the April Uprising, a fighter for Bulgaria's liberation from Ottoman rule, and a close friend of Baba Tonka and many other revolutionaries.



## 9) **PANTHEON OF THE RENAISSANCE (1978)**

The museum is a national memorial. It honors 453 people who fought in Bulgaria's struggles for liberation from Ottoman rule and against socialist repression.



## More information about the Regional History Museum

The, features numerous permanent and temporary exhibitions, traveling exhibits, collections, and more. Its Director is Prof. DSc. Nikolay Nenov.

**The Regional History Museum has been awarded many times:**

- Ruse Award – 2015
- Best Slavic Museum Award - 2024



# Regional History Museum Ruse, Bulgaria

