

With its 1700-years of history, Yambol city is one of the most ancient cities in Bulgaria and the whole Europe. According to the ancient chronicles, the city is founded by the Roman emperor Diocletian in the year of 293, who calls it Dispolis - "the city of gods". Right next to it was situated the ancient city of Kabile - once a residence of the Thracian kings Spartok and Skostok. Today it is an interesting tourist destination.

The city of Yambol, which is the centre of Yambol region, is situated in the southeast part of Bulgaria, 100km. to the west of the biggest trade port in Burgas. It was built on the site of an ancient settlement not far from the ruins of the Thracian settlement of Kabile. Fortified by Philip of Macedon, the city later on became an important administrative centre of the Roman Empire. During the barbarian attacks on European lands, it was completely destroyed. The Byzantines restored the city and called it Dampolis. In the XI-XII century it was renamed to Anexopolis.



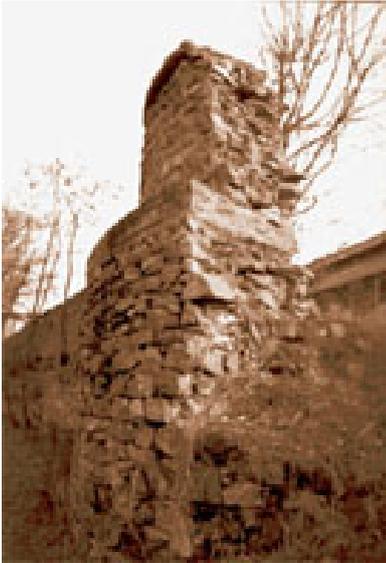
Among the most prominent historical and cultural sites in the territory of the city is the church "St. George". Built in 1737, it was a centre of the cultural and religious life and the fights for national independence in the city. Before the Russian-Turkish liberation war in 1877-78, the temple was completely burnt down and restored in 1882.



The church "St. Trinity" is built in the XVII century.



Built in 1888, the church "St. Nikolay The Wonderworker" is the biggest in the city.



The Medieval fortress of Yambol, whose west walls are still preserved, exists between the X and the XIV centuries.

From this period still stand the unique buildings of the Bezisten and the Mosque in Yambol.



Yambol and the region around it are the birthplace of many famous intellectuals, scientists and public figures, with whom we are deservedly proud of and whom we cherish. John Atanasoff - the scientist called “the father of the modern computer”, has roots from Yambol. His father Ivan Atanasoff is born in the village of Boyadzhik, in the Yambol region. The first pedagogics professor in Bulgaria - Petar Noykov is also born here, as well as the famous mathematician Atanas Radev, the world famous artists John Papazov and John Popov; the encyclopedist Kiril Krastev, Stilyana Paraskevova, who embroidered the prototype for the Bulgarian national flag, and many others.

The regional historical museum in Yambol keeps the material and cultural heritage of the

whole region. The museum was created thanks to the selfless collective work and researches of the local intellectuals and historians, who laid the groundwork for the historical studies of the region. The historical museum in Yambol owns more than 100 000 artifacts in the sections “Archeology”, “Numismatics” and “Ethnography”.

The diversity of the ethnographic heritage of Elhovo municipality and the whole region of the Strandzha-Sakar Mountains, is studied, stored and popularized by the specialized Ethnographic museum and the Historical museum in Elhovo.

On the crossroad between ancient civilizations, with different etno-cultural processes from the Northwest (The Balkan Peninsula, the middle and west parts of Europe), the Southeast (the Orient and the Middle East) and back, stands Bolyarovo municipality. This determines the specifics and richness of the cultural and historical heritage of this area. The 14 archeological sites, 5 ancient churches and 5 fortresses that are found there, testify for a rich and ancient past. The monument of the Bulgarian national hero Stefan Karadzha is in the village of Stefan Karadzovo. Archeological excavations are carried in the villages of Kraynovo, Igljika, Popovo, Dennica and Kamen vrah.