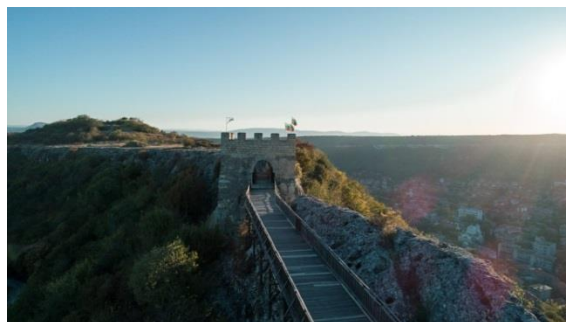




OVECH FORTRESS





Significance of the asset:

Provadia Fortress was built on a majestic plateau East of the town of Provadia known as Kaleto¹. It was used from the middle of III C. till the end of XVII C., suspending from the first decades of VII to X C.

The Byzantines called it Provat, the Bulgarians - Ovech, and the Turks - Tash Hissar (Stone Fortress). The unique natural features make it difficult to be seized. The rock is protected from everywhere by cliffs from 11 to 25 meters high.

It is believed that Ovech was built to protect the medieval Bulgarian capitals from the Byzantine offensive.

At the beginning it had a major defense function, but quickly became a large administrative and military center with a permanent population. The fortress was mentioned as a regional administrative center, and after the adoption of Christianity by the Bulgarians became an episcopal residence.

Due to its strategic abandon location it was attractive and desired place for many kings and rulers during the First and Second Bulgarian Empire and that's why there were many battles and fights for its possession thorough the years.

Ovech remembered the govern of Peter II and Kaloyan, the movement led by King Ivaylo, the knights of Amedee VI of Savoy, the Ottoman invasion, the anti-Ottoman uprising of the early 15th century, the campaign of the Polish-Hungarian King Vladislav III Jagiello. In the fourteenth century it was the seat of the Metropolitanate.

The fortress was a safety place for the residents where they could store their local provisions and be kept from the invaders. According to legends, huge stocks of grain and food were stored in the karst caves beneath the fortress itself to feed the city's inhabitants during the siege and to protect their lives. Nowadays Ovech is getting more popular as an attractive tourist destination and can be seen from all parts of the Provadia town.

Location: Provadia

Country: Bulgaria

Region: Varna

Geographic location 43.175409, 27.448018

¹ Kale - Arabian word, meaning fortress