

Ancient Secrets Unearthed in the Heart of the Balkans

The temple-tomb of Starosel is the biggest one in the Balkans, dated according to the excavator from the later 5th Century BC.

The monument was discovered in 2000, and investigated by Dr. Georgi Kitov in the last summer of that century.

It is a magnificent monument of a powerful ruler of Thrace, possibly Sitalkes (c. 448?-424 BC), who was courted by Athens and Sparta, and invaded Macedonia.



Starosel Temple-Tomb. The earth of the tumulus is still in front of the entry. August 2000.

DUBENE-SAROVKA and STAROSEL TEMPLE-TOMB are some of the greatest discoveries of Bulgarian archaeology at the end of the 20th century. They open a new page of the investigation of the Central Balkans during prehistory and classical Antiquity. They reveal the significant participation of the population from both sides of the eastern Sushtinka Sredna Gora Mountains in the cultural-historical development of Upper Thrace. For millennia time has hidden unique and sensational secrets of prehistoric, bronze age and classical Thracian societies that lived there. These have only now been unearthed.

**Welcome to see
something really interesting!**



The Thracian temple-tomb of Starosel in the sub-Shustinska Sredna Gora Mountains (Hissar Municipality)



Starosel Temple-Tomb, August 2000



Dubene-Sarovka. July 2000. Full investigation of Apses-House No. 1.

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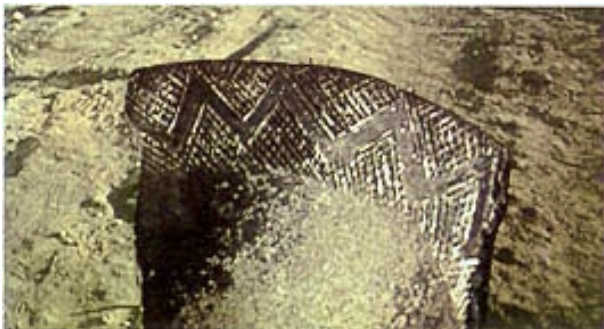


A partially preserved house wall from phase IIB2. Excavations in 2000.

The Early Bronze Age
Village centre of
Dubene-Sarovka in the
for-Sushtinska Sredna
Gora Mountains
(Karlovo Municipality)



Encrusted and corded pottery from phase IIB2.



Dubene-Sarovka is located in the Upper Stryama valley – one of the most important communication routes in Balkan prehistory that linked the Southeast with the Western, and the South with the Northern Balkans. Dr. Lolita Nikolova's excavations started in 1992 and are continuing.



Dubene-Sarovka. An encrusted bowl fragment from the excavations in 2000.



Dubene-Sarovka IIB. A burnt house floor.



Encrusted pottery from Dubene-Sarovka. Dubene-Sarovka, the biggest Early Bronze (later 4th - 3rd Millennium BC) village centre in Northwestern Thrace has been documented, with well-preserved architectural remains of rectangular and apses wattle-and-daub and clay-beaten houses, numerous interesting finds, evidence of metallurgical activity and active contacts with close and distant cultures.



A pithos from Dubene-Sarovka IIB2.

You are welcome to visit Dubene-Sarovka's finds in the Historical Museum of Karlovo. The Starosel temple-tomb is not far from the main road from Hissar to Plovdiv.



Karakachansko khoro from the exhibition of Nikola Zarov (Kazanluk) in Karlovo City Gallery. The Shushtinska Sredna Gora Mountains and Tsentralen Balkan were favourite place for those pastoral households until the 1950's. Probably they had used ancient communication routes through the Rhodopes to Greece and Turkey.

It takes about 2 hours to get from Sofia to both sites by car. On your way you can enjoy the beautiful towns of Sopot, Karlovo, and Hissar, and the Valley of Roses.

Fabulous Archaeology, modern art in the Karlovo City Gallery, wonderful hotels, restaurants and shops will make your trip unforgettable.



Karlovo Valley of the Roses

You can print your films immediately in Karlovo Photo Studio that is situated in the very centre of the town of Karlovo.

Thankyou to the excavation sponsors:

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Special thanks to Dr. A. Bonev (the supervisor of the excavations at Dubene in 2000), as well as the students and the assistants during the excavations. Thank you very much indeed!



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