

## **UTOPIAN BULGARIAS: LITERARY PROJECTS AND POLITICS**

**Route:** Sofia (statue of Slaveykovs; National Art Gallery) – Stara Zagora (Museum-House "Geo Milev") – Yambol (Nevena Kokanova Drama Theatre; Monument to the murdered anarchists).

### **Justification for the project**

The main scope of attention on this route are certain literary visions of a utopian nature for the new country from the last decade of the 19th century to the end of the 1920s. These visions are the result first of the autonomy of post-Liberation literature, leading to a kind of modernist literary experimentation; secondly, the aforesaid decades of state construction and cultural engineering are a time of ideal pluralism, creating the conditions for public criticism of power on the one hand and conspiracy theories as a result of the gaining anarchism on the other hand. The route covers places marked by intense tension between literature and politics. The starting point is Sofia as the center of the emerging state institutions, as well as a place of conspiracies and plots against monarchism. The town of Stara Zagora is next and the Geo Milev Museum House, where a lecture on the literary projects of Geo Milev is scheduled. Finally, the town of Yambol – the birthplace of the Bulgarian avant-garde with the Crescendo journal. A special focus in the development of the route is the avant-garde-anarchism relation. Among the focal figures of these are: Pencho Slaveykov, Svetoslav Milarov, Kiril Krastev, Geo Milev, Georgi Sheytanov. The route could attract the curiosity of a wide range of tourists interested in the cultural history of the New Bulgaria; from the literary experiments of the first modernist formations; literature and power, on the one hand, and literature and collective experience in general. Lectures dedicated to anarchism can also provoke interest with their criminal storyline, since the first murders due to literary texts date back to the time of Tsarist Bulgaria.

### **TEAM**

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