

## POMORIE – THE TOWN OF SALT: TRADITION, HERITAGE, CULTURAL TOURISM

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### Abstract

Salt production in Pomorie dates back to ancient times, when salt was as rare and expensive as gold. Until 1922 when the mass production of salt from Burgas salt pans started, Anchialos /Pomorie/ had been the main producer of sea salt in Bulgaria. The social and economic changes, which occurred in the 70s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, led to the disappearance of the old salt pans and this made the people of Pomorie give up their ancient craft. The local government developed the idea of creating a museum in which the old tradition could be preserved. Thus, the “Old salt pans” Museum Reserve was set up in 1976. It was finalized with the financial support of the European Union through the “Phare” Programme – two projects were implemented, as well as with the support of the Operational Program “Regional Development”. The museum is located in the immediate proximity of Lake Pomorie and it is the only museum of salt in Eastern Europe. It was opened on September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2002. It is among the unique museums in Bulgaria and is included in the “100 Tourist Sites of Bulgaria”.

The ancient technology of production of salt through evaporation of seawater by the sun's heat (known as Anchialos technology) is presented within 20 acres of active salt pans and in an exhibition hall, which shows old photos, maps, authentic instruments, models and films. In summer, people can see all the technological operations and can participate in the gathering and transportation of salt.

The deposit of medicinal mud has been used for centuries for healing procedures. On a special wooden ramp, the visitors of the museum can see mud applications. The museum is an attractive place for lovers of beautiful landscapes and nature.

От създаването на цивилизацията солта е била съществен елемент в храната на хората, като също така се е използвала и за нейното консервиране. От древни времена производството на морска сол е играло ключова роля за търговията в целия свят, тя е била първото парично средство за размяна - затова била наричана „бяло злато“. Ето защо производството на сол е една