

WHV – Bolgar International Volunteer Workcamp

Bolgar Historical and Archaeological Complex, Russian Federation

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List since 2014 26/07/2017 – 06/08/2017



This property lies on the shores of the Volga River, south of its confluence with the River Kama, and south of the capital of Tatarstan, Kazan. It contains evidence of the medieval city of Bolgar, an early settlement of the civilization of Volga-Bolgars, which existed between the 7th and 15th centuries AD, and was the first capital of the Golden Horde in the 13th century. Bolgar represents the historical cultural exchanges and transformations of Eurasia over several centuries that played a pivotal role in the formation of civilizations, customs and cultural traditions. The property provides remarkable evidence of historic continuity and cultural diversity. It is a symbolic reminder of the acceptance of Islam by the Volgar-Bolgars in AD 922 and remains a sacred pilgrimage destination to the Tatar Muslims.

Project objectives:

The project aims at contributing to the site's conservation as well as to promote World Heritage volunteering in the region. It also aims at raising awareness of the local community about the site's values and to improve the communication between the site's residents and its administration.

Project activities:

The volunteers will participate in maintenance and conservation activities by helping the site administration and archaeologists in archaeological excavations, artefacts processing, which will consist of sorting, cleaning and labelling archaeological finds and field conservation. The volunteers will also be involved in interviewing the local community and improving the English version of the web-site of Bolgar State Historical and Architectural Museum-Reserve. They will also have the opportunity to participate in other awareness-raising activities, including the production of a short film about volunteering in Bolgar.



Partners:

Bolgar State Historical and Architectural Museum-Reserve, Khalikov Institute of Archaeology, Regional Foundation of Revival of Historical and Cultural Monuments of the Republic of Tatarstan, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Tatarstan

Cultural World Heritage Resource Centre, Kazan Federal University

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