

IAEG Commission 16 – UNESCO World Heritage

Bulgaria

Boyana Church

The Boyana Church is located in the southern periphery of the active Sofia Neogene-Quaternary graben - near the Vitosha fault zone. The Church is situated at the foot of steep slope of Vitosha mountain. Landslides, rockfalls and marshes are manifested along the graben periphery. The Church is placed on Quaternary proluvial-deluvial cones. The deposits are sandy clays and gravel with clay matrix with depth more than 5 m. The Quaternary lies over Pliocene clays, sands and gravel. The level of the ground water is of 3-5 m. Main geological risks: seismic intensity of IX degree (MSK-64), unconsolidated sediments, shallow ground water.

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The Boyana Church includes 3 constructions. The first is from 10th-11th- centuries, the second - from - the 13th century and the third - from the 19th century. The remarkable wall paintings from the 13th century in the ancient two parts of the Church represent a contribution for the Bulgarian and European Renaissance.

Penkova, B. 2000. In Boyana Church. – In: Sofia 1200 years Capital. Publ. House of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences "Prof. M. Drinov", Sofia, Bulgaria, p. 297-301 (in Bulgarian).
Matova, M. 1999. Geoenvironmental Danger for Boyana Church (Sofia, Bulgaria). - Proceedings of 5th Meeting of the Environmental and Engineering Geophysical Society, European Section (6-9.9.1999, Budapest, Hungary), ArP2.

The Boyana Church is subject of periodical stabilizations and conservations.

The wall painting of the Middle Age is restored in the ancient western and middle parts of the Church.