

# Craiova - Calafat EN

## Descriere

### Maglavit monastery

#### Descriere

The first church was erected in 1935, by several locals, on the place where the shepherd Petrache Lupu had seen on May 31, 1935 "a white bearded monk [...] who stood two hands above the ground". In 1935, on several Fridays, Petrache Lupu had seen the Old man (God), transmitting commands to the world for heading towards the Church, to the right faith. Soon, a few thousand believers begin to arrive in Maglavit every day. On the places where the revelations took place are raised crosses, wayside crosses and even a pulpit for preaching the divine commandments. On September 14, 1935, the foundation stone of the future monastery was laid, and some monks were sent here. It is noteworthy that on the Danube a small village of nuns was established. The construction of this site has seen agitated times for 70 years. In 1936, the construction of several houses began, at a rather slow rate. The Second World War and the establishment of the communist regime led to the abolition of the monastery. The monastic life began only in 1990, when the construction of the settlement was resumed. The works evolved slowly, being intensified only after 2006. In 2010, the Maglavit Monastery was transformed from a monk monastery to a nun's monastery. Currently, the construction work is almost completed.



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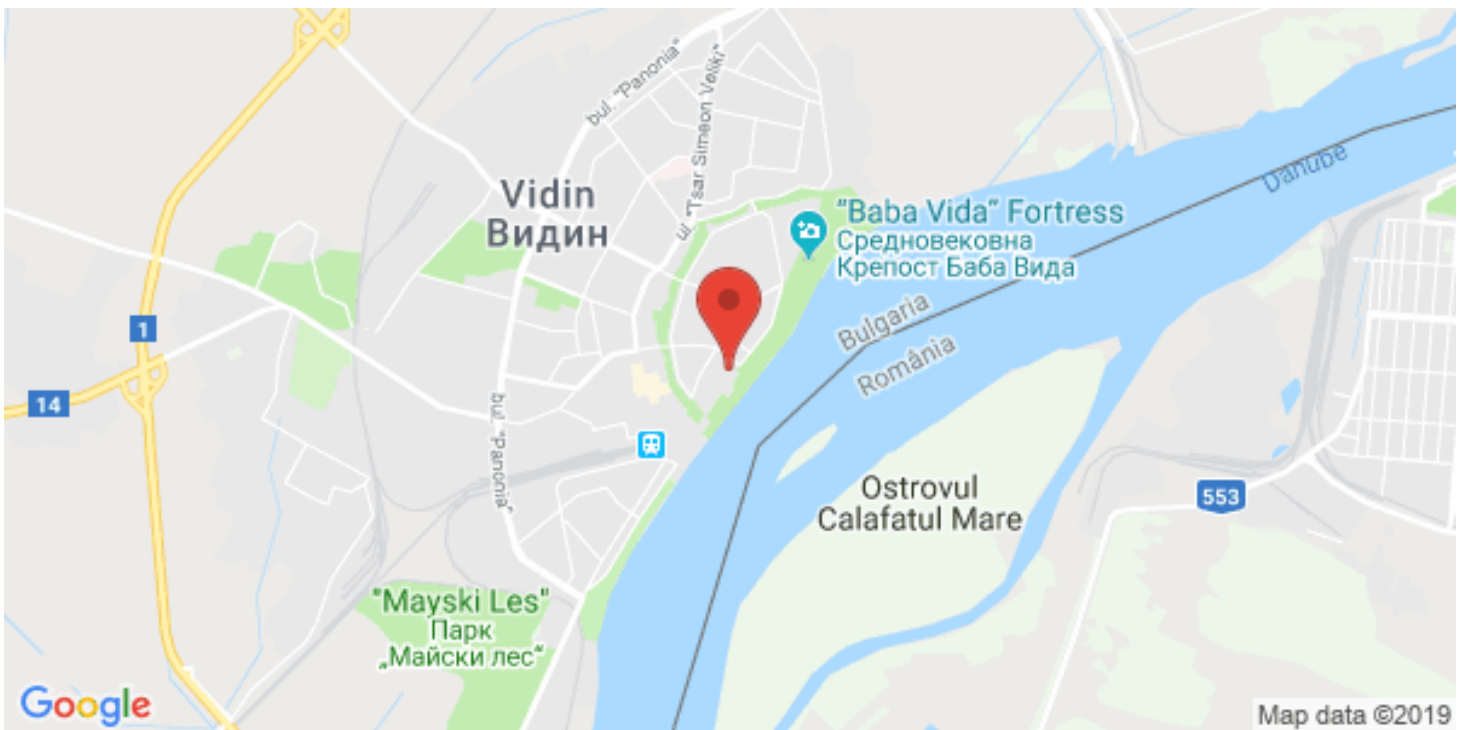
# Church Saint Nicholas

## Descriere

The church is part of an eparchial complex, next to the Church of St. Pantelimon, the Cathedral of Vidin and the Mausoleum of the Exarch Antim. The first church was built in 1799, on the ruins of the old bell tower, being an annex of the Church St. Pantelimon. The new church was built under another project in 1926. It is a basilica with three intersecting naves, with apse and pronave, with two galleries, north and south, and one to the west. From the outside, the church is impressive, with a large dome, two towers located symmetrically above the central entrance, as well as beautiful facades, with round and vaulted windows. Inside the church we find an extremely beautiful mosaic floor and a mosaic on the southern wall, representing Saint Nicholas the Mircle Doer, most probably executed in Berlin. The beautiful icons and murals are made by the masters of the Debar School, Philip Filipov, Krastyu Yankov and Jeliaskov. The church was renovated in 2009. Here there are regular services attended by the Metropolitan of Vidin.



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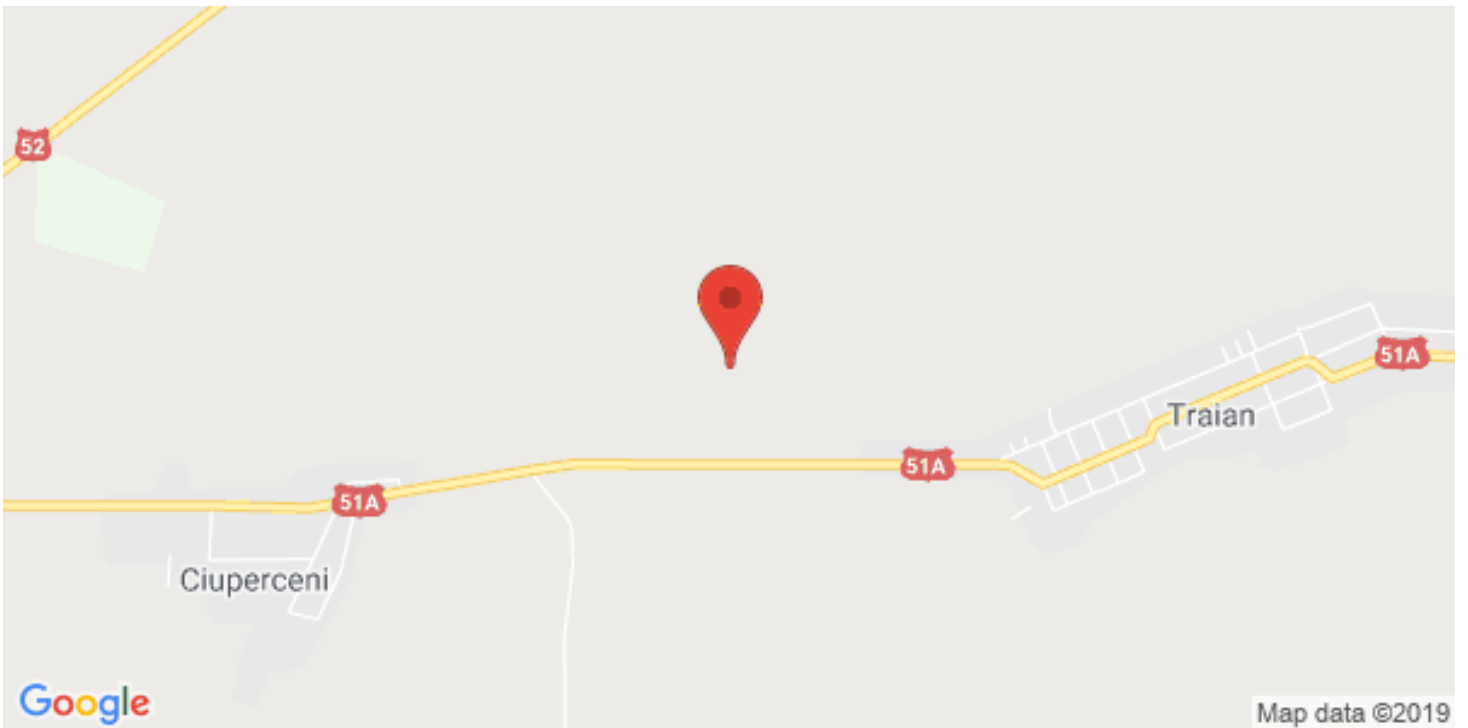
# Monastery of St. Demetrius Basarbov

## Descriere

This monastery is close to the city of Ruse, in the picturesque cliffs around the Rusenski Lom River and is the only rock monastery still functioning. It is a monument of architecture, culture and pilgrimage from the 13th century. The monastery is part of the chain of rock monasteries along the Rusenski Lom River. During the Second Bulgarian Kingdom, many monks, inspired by their faith in God and their desire to lead an honest and modest life, take refuge and live in several rock monasteries. In the fourteenth century, the monastery was under the authority of the Bessarab I voivode of the Romanian Country, related to the Bulgarian dynasty through his daughter Theodora, the first wife of Tsar Ivan Asan (1331-1371). According to the legends, Bessarab I established this monastery, making many donations. The monastery bears the name of Demetrius Basarbov, also called St. Demetrius the New. He was a historical personality who was born and lived in Basarabovo village. In the vicinity of the village he discovered this cave monastery, where he led the life of a hermit. When he felt his end near, he sat on the banks of the Lom River between two slabs, creating his own coffin. When they removed him from the water, his body was untouched and he was buried in the village church, erected in place of his birthplace, and later his remains were moved to this monastery. After the first Russian-Turkish war of 1774, the relics of St. Demetrius Basarbov were transferred to Bucharest, whose guardian he is today, celebrated on October 26th. The construction is dug in the depth of the rock, at the entrance having a niche in which lived St. Demetrius Basarbov. The monastery is recently renovated, with railings and access steps installed, and the mural paintings have been restored. In 2005, the Romanian Patriarchate donated a small part of the relics of the saint to the monastery.



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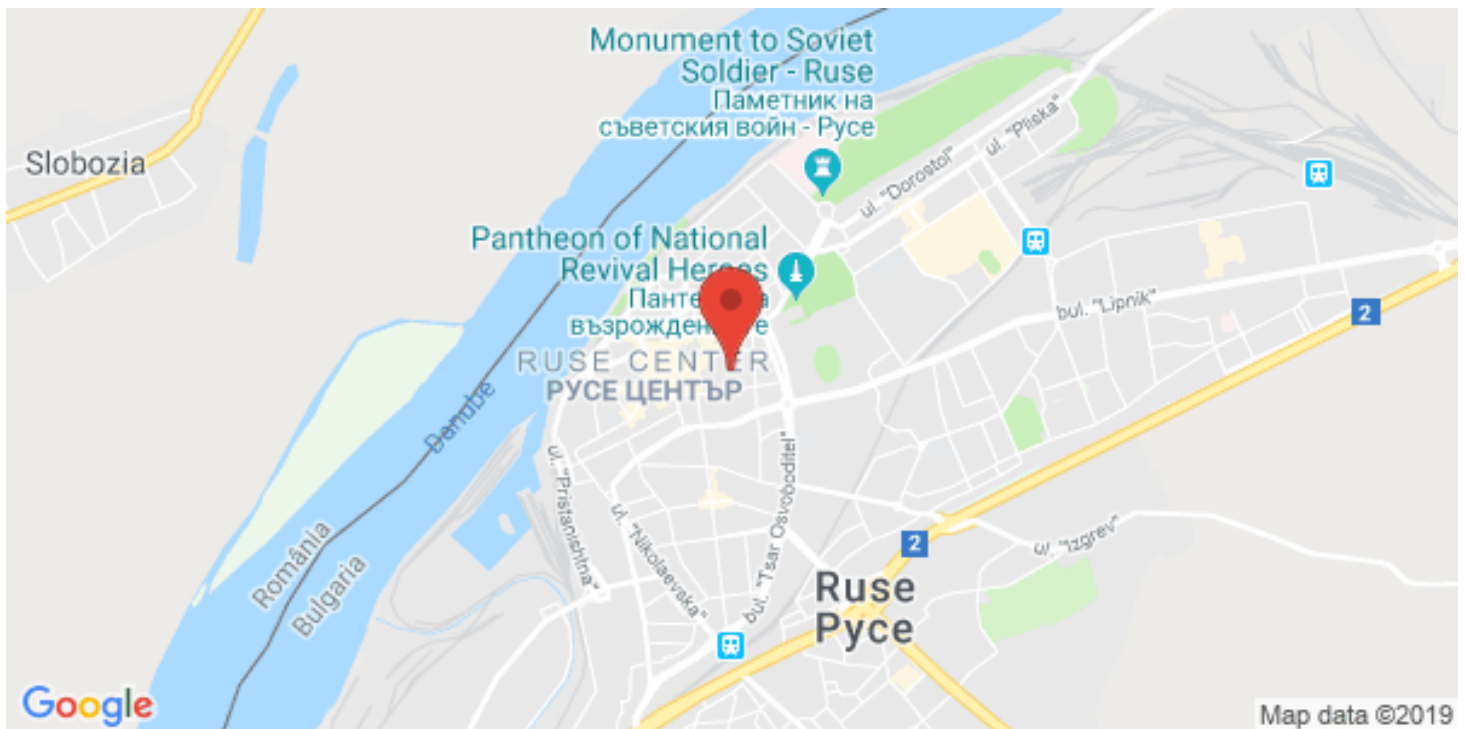
# Holy Trinity Monastery in Ruse

## Descriere

The church is the oldest building in the city, built on the ruins of a 5th century church. It is a solid construction, a basilica with three separate seven-column naves, deeply buried in the ground. A large Russian-style cube was built behind the entrance, and the church has five bells. There are two chapels, the first dedicated to St. Alexander Nevsky, built in 1884 and where a museum exhibition is arranged, and the second one, dedicated to St. Kiril and Methodius, built in 1886. The iconostasis of the church and the icons are made by an unknown master. Between 1989-2000, extensive restoration work was carried out here. The church is declared a cultural monument of national importance.



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## Saint George Church in Ruse

### Descriere

It was built on the ruins of the old wooden church, burned during the Russian-Turkish war of 1806-1812. After obtaining permission from the Ottoman rulers, Major Peno Nikeoglu from Tryavna rebuilt it only in 1843. It is a large basilica, deep dug into the ground, with three altars: the one in the center is dedicated to St. George; the one on the North - to St. Diemetrius Basarbov, and the one in the South - to St. Nicholas. The nave is separated from the rest of the church by 6 wooden columns. It is painted by Apostol Hristov, a disciple of the Debar School, and later the painting is restored by Nikola Kozhuharov and Tcanko Gheorghiev. The iconostasis is the work of the sculpture school of Tryavna, being executed by Dontcho Todorov and Bozhko Stoynov. The icons are also an achievement of the Tryavna School, being executed by Zachary Tsanyuv and Yoanikiy Pope Vitanov, in 1842. The bell tower was erected in the complex around the church, in 1909, and in 1939 a paraclis was built, dedicated to John of Rila. There is also a large church house built, here the library and conference rooms are found. In the church a part of the relics of Saint George, chosen in 2002 as protector of the city of Ruse, is



preserved.



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# The Church of Saint Demetrius from Thessaloniki in Veliko Târnovo

## Descriere

It is the oldest church in the city, erected in 1185 and is related to an important historical event, namely the rebellion of Peter and Asan against the Byzantine rule. Here were buried the tzars of the Asenevci family, Assan - the father and Kaloian. In the 17th-18th centuries, there was a necropolis and a monastery. The church is narrow, with galleries in the north and south, with a cross shape, and cross towers. It is built with the features typical of the Middle Ages, with inserted ceramic tiles and rosettes made of stone and brick. The church itself has a special, medieval air, being particularly picturesque as architecture. It is declared a monument of national value, being administered by the Veliko Târnovo Regional History Museum.



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# Church of the 40 Martyrs from Veliko Târnovo

## Descriere

Built in the 13th century, in honor of the victory of Tsar Ioan Asan, on May 9, 1230, over the ruler of Epirus, Teodor Komnin, this church represents the most important medieval monument in Veliko Târnovo. Until then, there was an eleventh-century necropolis in this place, and probably later the "Virgin Mary" church was erected. The current church has three apses, six columns inside, an ossuary mausoleum and two galleries. In the church, a mural painting from the 13th century is kept. In the eighteenth century the Turks transformed the church into a mosque, destroying the paintings and icons. Inside the Church "40 martyrs" are buried the Tsar Kaloian (died 1207), the Tsarinas Ana Maria, Irina and St. Sava of Serbia. In the church was also found the ring and seal of the Tsar. Over the centuries, the church has often been rebuilt. In this place, many events of national importance took place, the most important being the proclamation of the independence of Bulgaria by Tsar Ferdinand, in 1908. The church was declared a monument of architecture of national importance, being in the administration of the Regional History Museum in Veliko Târnovo.

**Bibliography:** Popov A., *Mănăstirea mare a Asăneștilor la Târnovo*, B. *Cultura orașului medieval Târnovo*, C, 1985, p. 17-25; Barov, Zdr., *Descoperirea fragmentelor murale la biserica „Sf. 40 de mucenici”, Târnovo c. B X*, 1977; Dimova B., *Bisericile din Bulgaria în secolele XIII-XIV*, C, Agato, 2008, p. 193-200; Valov B., *Noile săpături „Sf. 40 mucenici”, Veliko Târnovo*, revista de Arheologie 2,1974, p. 37-54; <http://museum-swstem.com>



## Harta



# Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in Veliko Târnovo

## Descriere

The church is located in the neighborhood of Asănești, opposite the church "St. 40 martyrs", on the left bank of the river Iantra. It is built over an old medieval church, in which Tsar Asan Kaloian received the relics of St. Filofteia from Târnovo, a holy healer. Today her relics are kept in Romania, at Curtea de Argeș. In the fourteenth century, here were crowned the two wives of Ivan Alexandar, Theodora of Wallachia, the daughter of the voivode Basarab I, and Sara, of Jewish origins. In 1843, the church was renovated and painted, but by the end of the 19th century the paintings had already disappeared. In 1923, the church was restored. It has a dome and a single apse, surrounded by brick walls. The old icons are the most valuable part of this church. The icon of St. Petka the miracle doer, with inscriptions in Greek, dates from 1854 and was donated by a Turk, because the icon has cured his sick children. Most icons in the church are dated in the 16th-19th centuries, and the icons of the Virgin Mary and Jesus Christ the Savior date from the 16th century. It was found that some of the icons were brought from the neighboring medieval churches. There was an old iconostasis, now disappeared, and the present one is 4 meters high and was made by Ilia Kosev. In 2005, the church was painted again.



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# Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary in Veliko Târnovo

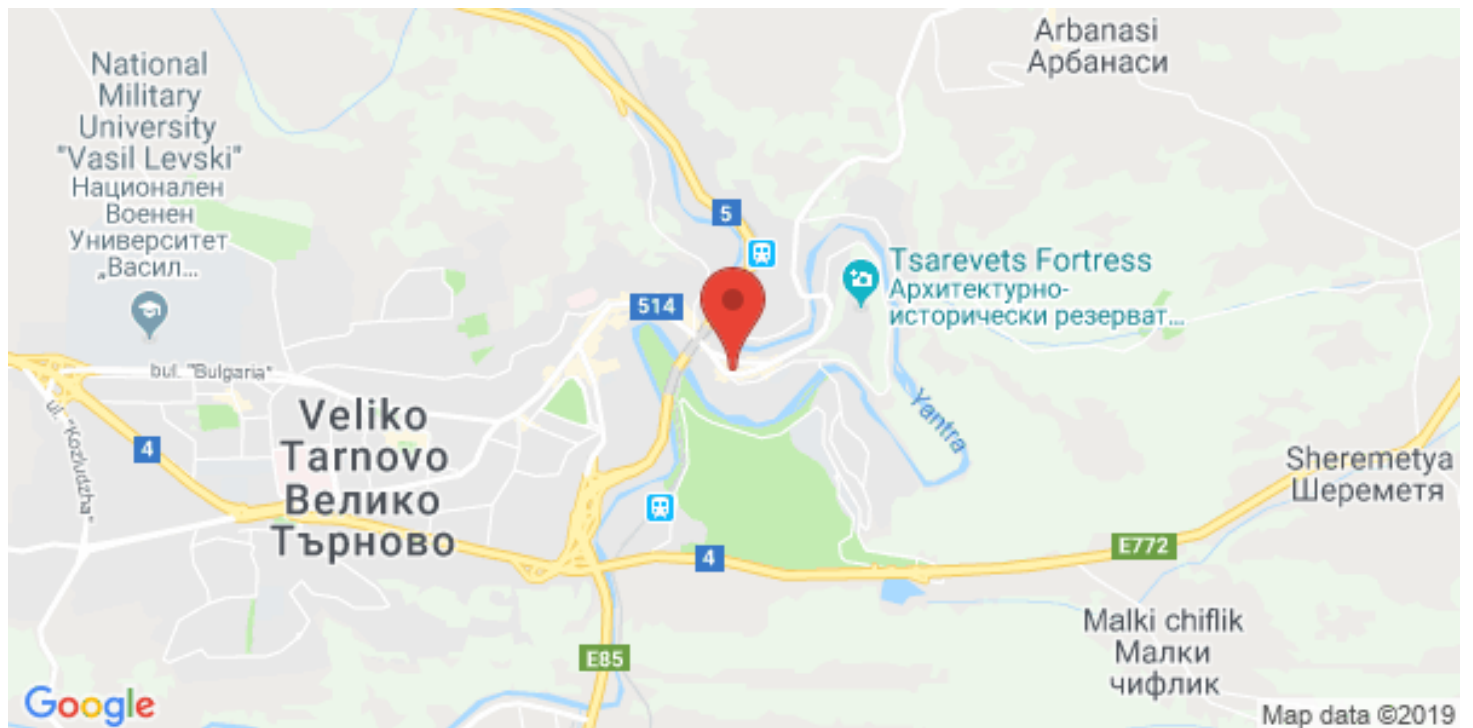
## Descriere

The church is located in the old town center of Veliko Târnovo, at the foot of the fortress Tareveţ, in the Boierilor district, near the Metropolitan building of Veliko Târnovo. On the foundations of an older church, the craftsman Kolio Ficeto builds the present church, between 1842-1848, made of carved sandy sandstone and red brick, with cornices and double arches. It is unique due to the four columns, the ellipsoidal windows, and the three naves and two rows of capitals inside. The bell tower on the western wall is also built by Kolio Ficeto. The church was destroyed in the earthquake of 1913, being rebuilt in 1934, following the plans of Master Grozo. The wood carvings are by Peter Kuslev, from the Debar School, and the royal portal carved in oak is elaborated by prof. Travniţki. The painting is done by prof. Kojuharov, Peter Seferov, Atanas Veleb and D. Ghidjenov.





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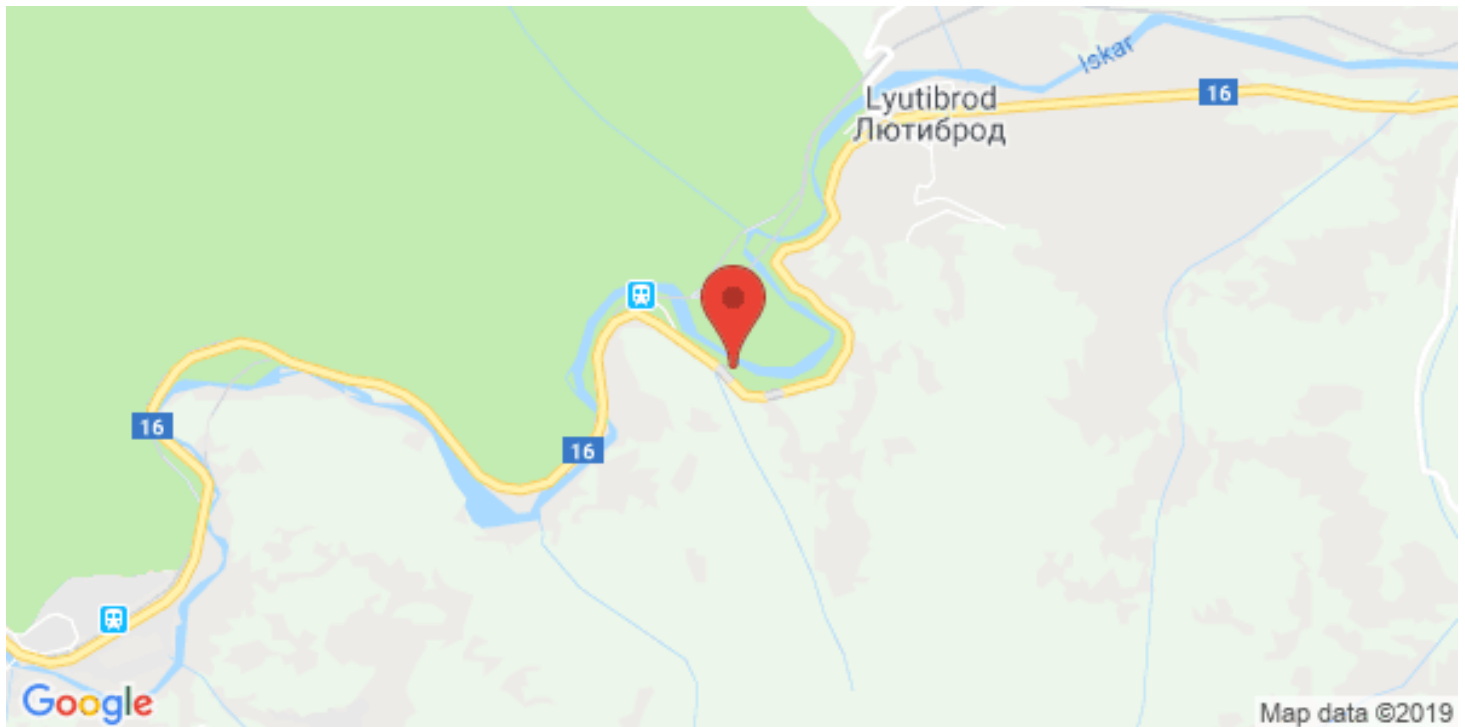
# Cherepish Monastery

## Descriere

It is a Bulgarian Orthodox monastery in the Vratsa diocese, located in the Iskar Gorge, in the so-called *Swiss Bulgaria*, due to the beauty of the area. Founded during the second Bulgarian country, under Tsar Ivan Shishman (1371-1393), the monastery was a great literary and educational center. It hosts the Seminary of Sofia, which prepares priests for the entire country. It was burned several times during the battles with the Turks, being redone every time. The monastery church is shaped like an arched nave. The iconostasis is carved, and the icons belong to the Tryavna Schools, through the painter Yoanikii Vitanov and Debar, through Vasil Iliev. It holds valuable church objects, as well as old frescoes by Pimen Zografski.



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## Church Sofronii Vrachanski in Vratsa

### Descriere

The church is part of a museum complex, together with the Ethnographic Museum and the Museum of carriages and traditional houses from the Renaissance Period. It dates from 1848, is built over an older church and is the oldest religious monument in the locality. Through its entire existence, it has been a centre of great importance for the spiritual and political life of Vratsa district, and its name is linked to remarkable Bulgarian personalities: Vasil Levski, Sofronii Vrachanski, Paisii Hilendarski. The building is shaped like a basilica with three naves, on the west side, there is the bell tower. The iconostasis and the royal gates represent an exceptional work of art belonging to the famous Debar School. The icons are painted by Anton Stanishev and the great master of Samokov, Dimitri Zograf. In 1989, on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the birth of the Renaissance educator, Bishop Sofronie Vrachanski of Vratsa, by a decision of the Diocesan Council of the Bishopric of Vidin, the church was declared a "Memorial monument to Bishop Sofronie of Vratsa (Vrachanski)". Sofronie Vrachanski is the spiritual protector of Vratsa. After the major restoration of 2002, every year on June 2, a service

commemorating Hristo Botev and the fallen heroes for the freedom of Bulgaria takes place. In the church is organized an exhibition with the theme of ancient Bulgarian art from the Vratsa region, consisting of icons, church objects and wood carvings. The complex is managed by the Vratsa Regional History Museum.



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# Ivan Pusti Monastery

## Descriere

Located not far from the road that connects Vratsa with Montana, the monastery is part of the spiritual centers on Mount Vico, at the foot of the Balkan mountains. Built around an ancient Thracian sanctuary, erected several millennia before Christ, the monastery was the spiritual center of the medieval fortress Kasina. It was destroyed several times by the Turks, being restored as today between 1894-1928. There was a school here to educate the poor children in the area. Over time, it bore many names: Kasinets Monastery, St. John the Theologian, St. John of Rila, Pustii. In 2008, the monastery was renovated again. The church is a basilica with a nave, with the dome covered with split plates and six buttresses to the north and south. Around the monastery there are caves where monks lived. In one of them lived St. John of Rila, the heavenly protector of Bulgaria and Europe, and the walls of this cave there are still paintings. The icons and iconostasis were made by Todor Manyov, from the Treyava School. In the mural painting there are three distinct layers: from the eleventh century, from the sixteenth century and from the nineteenth century. In the 17th century, the craftsmen Nikola, Pala and Kostadin from Chiprovtsi, representatives of the famous Golden Crafts School in Chiprovtsi, came to work here. The golden cross is kept, with colored stones and with the two lions and the inscription *"for the Kasinets Monastery, craftsmen Nikola and Pala from the village of Kiprovtsi [...] the bishop of Târnovo, Gavriil, 1612"*

, but also two gospel covers. This gold workshop has made an important contribution to the development of crafts in the last 200 years. During the Renaissance, the monastery was not only a craft center, but also a great literary and spiritual center.



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# Klisurski Monastery

## Descriere

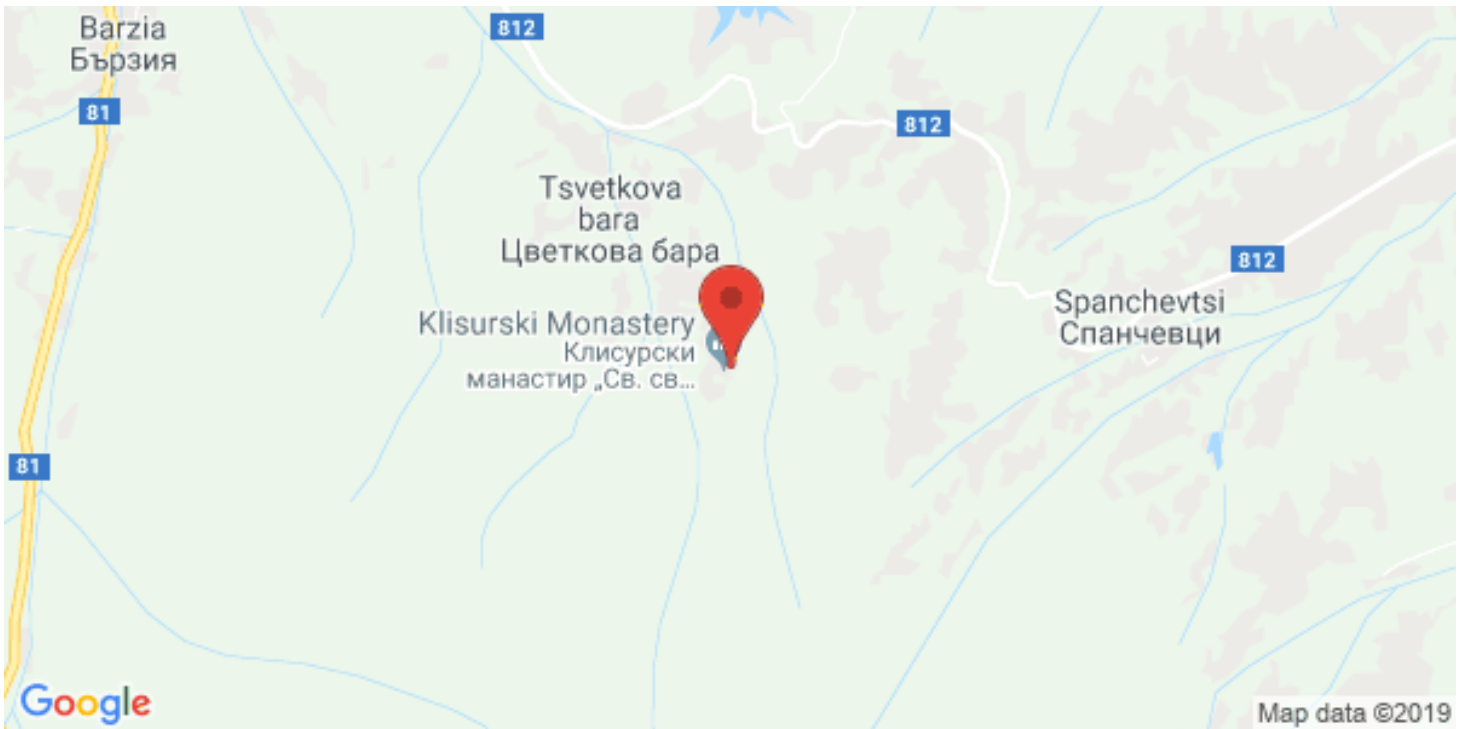
The holy place, located on the hill in the center of the complex, has the shape of a church with three naves, a crucified tower, with three apses, a dome with an eight-walled barrel in the middle, an outer nave and two bell towers on the north and south. The splendid iconostasis is the work of master Stoiceo Fandakov from Samocov. From the tenth century until today, the monastery has served as a true spiritual center in the region. Repeatedly, it was set on fire, plundered, destroyed and rebuilt by locals. In the modern era, only in 1867, Iliia Stoyanov from Draganița village, following a vision of St. Nicholas, begins the restoration of the holy place, managing to involve the local population in this work. His successor, Alexandar Damianov from Bercovita, later became the abbot Antim, being the son of a rich man, dedicating his life and personal wealth to the development of the monastery, so that from 1887 to 1890, the church was built. Supported by the surrounding Orthodox population, he manages to buy a large number of monastery land. The abbot Antim dies at the age of 95, after spending 55 years in this monastery. In 1891, the talented painter Nikola Obrazopisov (1828-1925), a connoisseur of the traditions of Mount Athos, is called to paint the new icons donated by the founders. Between 1936-1937, the successor of the Russian painter Repin, Gospodin Jeliaskov, his daughter Olga and his son-in-law, prof. Gherghi Bogdanov, paint the place

again. Subsequently, the archimandrite Antep, the current protozoan of the Metropolis of Vidin, begins extensive work on the infrastructure of the monastery complex. Visitors can learn about the history of the monastery by visiting the church museum, which contains valuable exhibits, photographs, documents, church utensils, service books and icons. Here you can also see the ruins and objects of the first Bulgarian and Metropolitan exarch of Vidin, Antim, as well as those of the Metropolitan of Vidin, Dometian.



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# Saint Demetrius Cathedral

## Descriere

Cathedral St. Demetrius is the business card of Vidin. The church is the second largest in Bulgaria and the third largest in height, measuring 33 meters. The first building was built on a wooden structure, which collapsed over time, so it was necessary to build a new large church, built between 1885-1926. It was a realization of Antim, the first Bulgarian exarch, and the construction was made with the efforts of all the believers in the city. Proiectul aparține unui maestru al școlii din Tryavna și unui arhitect italian. It is a basilica with three naves, in the form of a cross, with a large interior space. To keep track of time, one of the bells has a clock built in 1900. The interior space of the building is divided into three planes. The iconostasis is an artistic work of the Debar School, with the help of the famous Philipovci family, made in 1923. The church is beautifully painted by a team led by artist Zhelyazkov, from Repin's Russian school. In addition to the icons of the Bulgarian saints, there are also several Bulgarian national heroes in the holy place. The painting "Gifts from the Tsar Peter (927-970) to St. John of Rila" is found only in this church.



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