

# **Slatina - Bechet EN**

## **Descriere**

# **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.



**Harta**



# 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 Penko 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.



## Harta



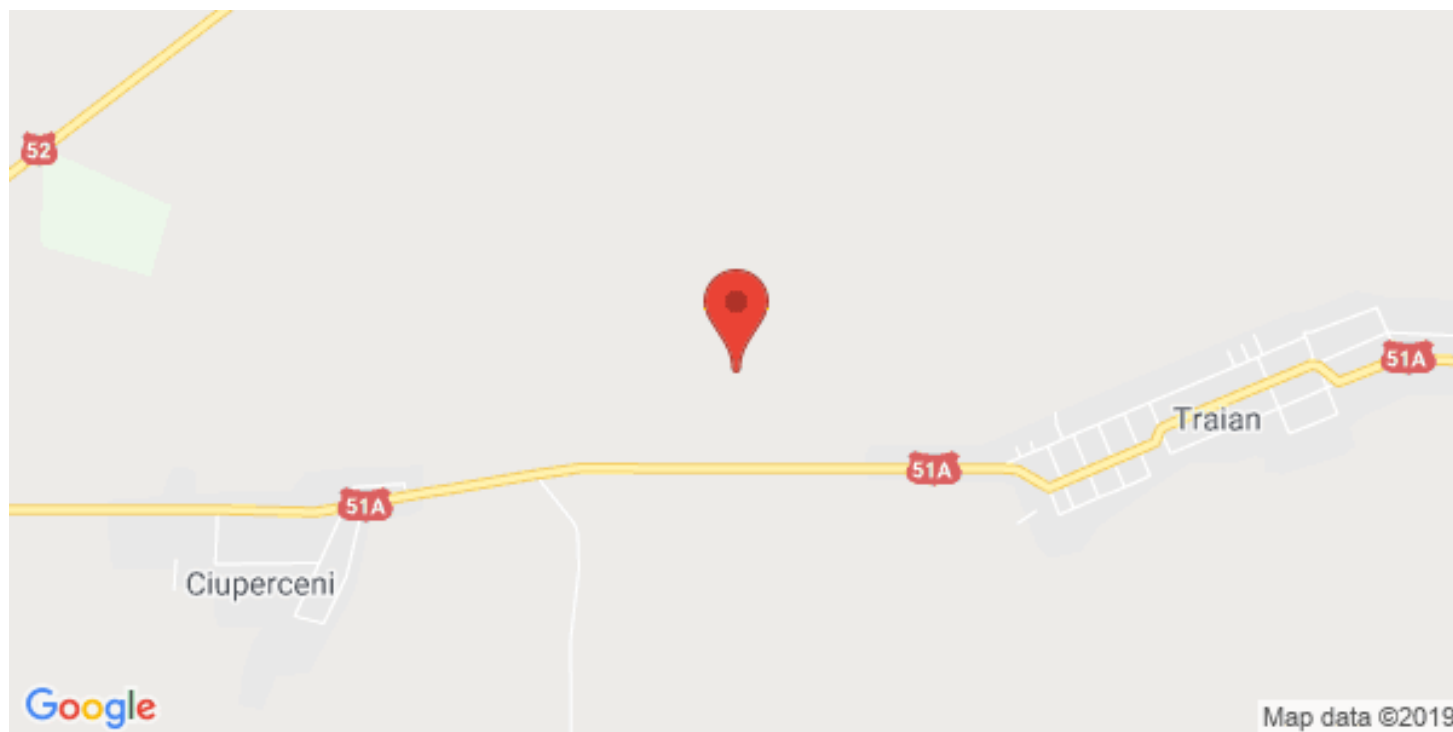
# Monastery of St. Demetrius Basarbov

## 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 Basarbovo 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.



## Harta



# 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.



# Harta



## 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.



**Harta**



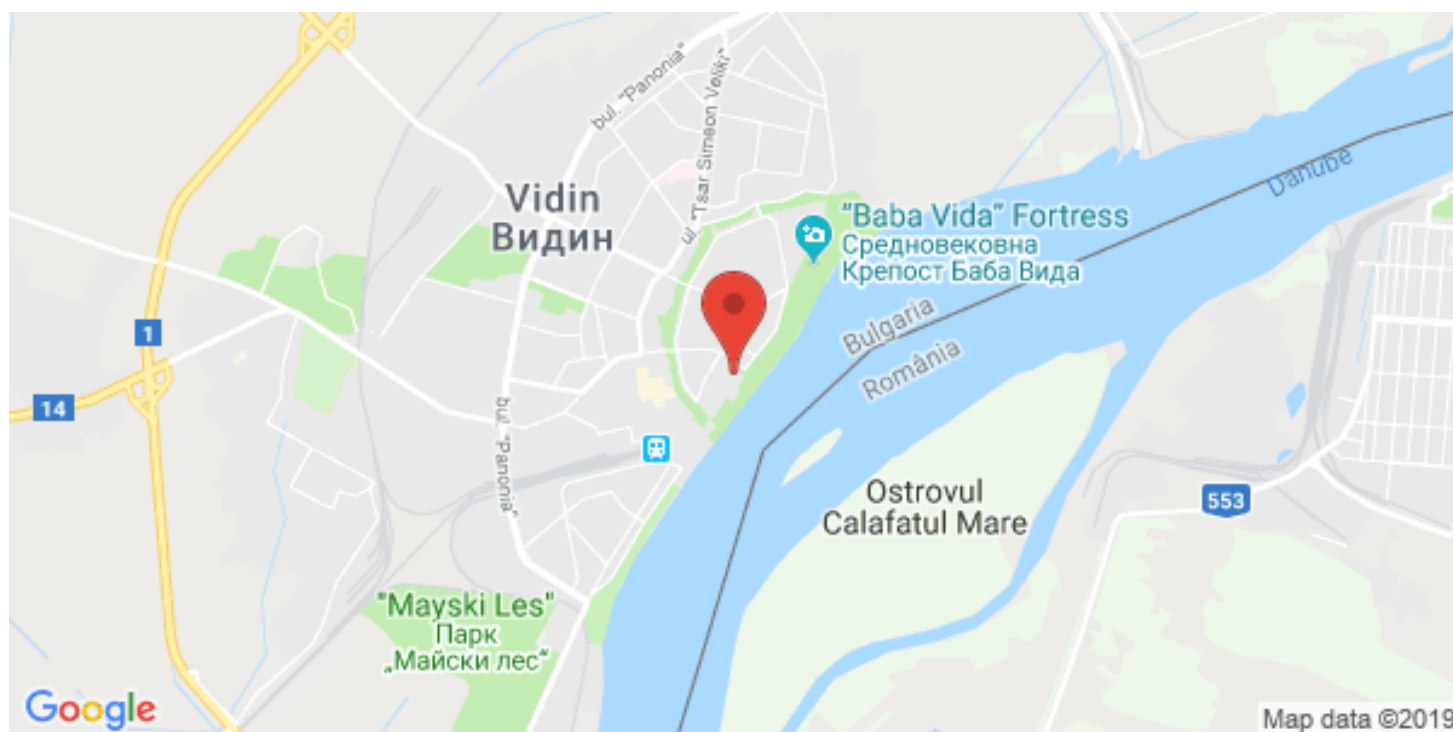
# Church Saint Nicholas

## 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.



## Harta



# Church Assumption of Virgin Mary in Arbanasi

## Descriere

The monastery is located on the road between Veliko Târnovo and Gorna Oryahovitsa, at the entrance to Arbansi village. The monastery was built during the Second Bulgarian Kingdom, the Shishman Dynasty. After the fall of Târnovo fortress under Turkish rule, the monastery hardly survived, but was subsequently abandoned due to repeated destruction. In the XVII-XVIII centuries, the locals rebuild it. After 1716, many residential buildings were built, and not only, which modeled the current monastery complex. The entrance is through the north side. The chapel of the church has the typical architecture of the churches in Arbanasi. The bell tower was built in 1836. The church is entirely painted mural, with two layers of painting. There are beautiful frescoes from 1600-1603 and from 1704. In the church are kept the relics of St. Modest and of St. Ecaterina. In the monastery museum several heritage objects and holy relics of silver and gold are kept.



## Harta



# Church of Saint Archangel Michael of Kilifarevo

## Descriere

The monastery complex is on the way to Hainboaz Pass, 14 km from Veliko Târnovo and 5 km from Kilifarevo, on the banks of the Belitsa River. It was founded between 1348-1350, by Theodosius Turnovski, a prominent representative of the literary school in Târnava, assisted by Tsar Ivan Alexander (1331-1371). The monastery was transformed into a literary center, with about 460 clerics, including Patriarch Eftimie of Târnova, Romul Vidinski and others. After the fall of Târnovo fortress in 1393, it was completely destroyed by the Turks. It was rebuilt in 1718, and destroyed again between 1793-1798. It was rebuilt in 1842, by Kolyu Ficheto, who builds the new church with the dedication to St. Demetrius and the residential buildings. The old church dedicated to the "Birth of the Virgin Mary" has become a chapel. There are interesting old frescoes and the icons are made by masters from the painting school in Tryavna. The iconostasis of St. John of Rila is worth seeing and admired. Today it is a monastery for nuns.





## Harta



# Monastery Change of the Face in Samovodene

## Descriere

The monastery is located 7 km from Veliko Târnovo, on the left bank of the river Iantra, near the town of Samovodene, being at the beginning a metat of the Vatodedia monasteries in Sveta Gora. This is the largest monastery in the region, being founded by Tsar Ivan Shisman and his mother, Theodora-Sara, in the fourteenth century. The historical sources recall it as the monastery of Shisman or Sara. It is the fourth largest in the country. After the fall of Târnovo under Ottoman rule, in 1393, the monastery was immediately burned down. It was rebuilt by the monk Zotih in 1825, in a rectangular shape. The monastery church was built by Dimitar Sofianliata in 1834, and after its death the works were resumed by Kolio Ficeto and Ivan Barnata, in 1837. It has three apses, shape of a cross and a dome. Kolio Ficeto builds the bell tower, and later, in 1863, the small church is built over the old chapel. The interior and exterior painting was done by another great master, Zaharii Zograf from the Samokov School, in 1851. Extremely interesting and valuable is the calendar painted with the Wheel of Life. Inside the monastery there is an exhibition with extremely valuable manuscripts and books.



## Harta



# The Holy Trinity Church in Svishtov

## Descriere

The orthodox church “Holy Trinity”, located in the highest place of the town of Svishtov was built in 1867. This is one of the last works of the Kolio Ficeto master from Tryavna. The house has three naves, a central dome and three other sides, with specific decorations on the exterior facade, with false arches and stone cornices. The bell tower was built by master Genceo Novakov in 1886. The church surprises with its unique construction, with two columns at the gate that are centered near its own axis. The iconostasis is made by the master Anton Stanishev, from the Debar School. Several icons, respectively 79, are painted by Nikolai Pavlovici from Svishtov. Another 120 icons are the work of Danail Nestorov, the descendant of some craftsmen from Debar. The six bells with the face of some Christian saints are donated by the Russian Tsar Alexander II.



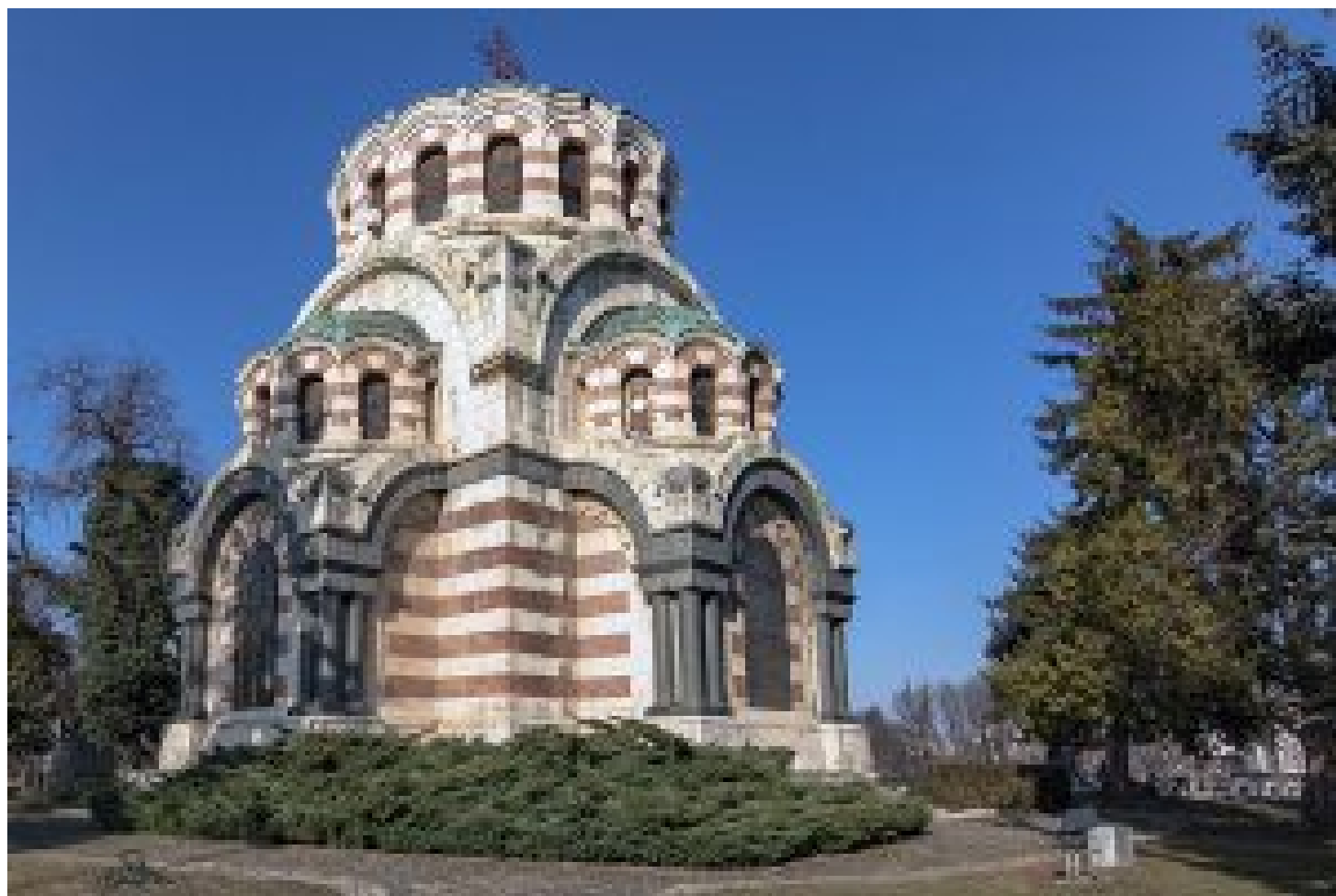
# Harta



## The Church-mausoleum of St. George the Victorious in Plevna

### Descriere

Built in memory of the Russian-Turkish Liberation War of 1877-1878, the Sf George Chapel of Orthodox Rite honors the memory of the fallen soldiers in the 1878 siege of Plevna. The remains of the 31,000 Russians and 7,500 Romanians are buried in the mausoleum crypt. The mausoleum was built in 1903-1907, for the 30th anniversary of the liberation of Bulgaria. The project is elaborated by the architect Penceo Koicev, and the iconostasis is the work of the painters Ivan Markvichka and Anton Mitov. The chapel has a Bulgarian-Byzantine style, with cross domes. It has a central dome 24 m high and four more side domes. The facade is built with horizontal brick and stone belts on an area of 452 square meters. The chapel is part of the 100 national monuments of Bulgaria.



## Harta



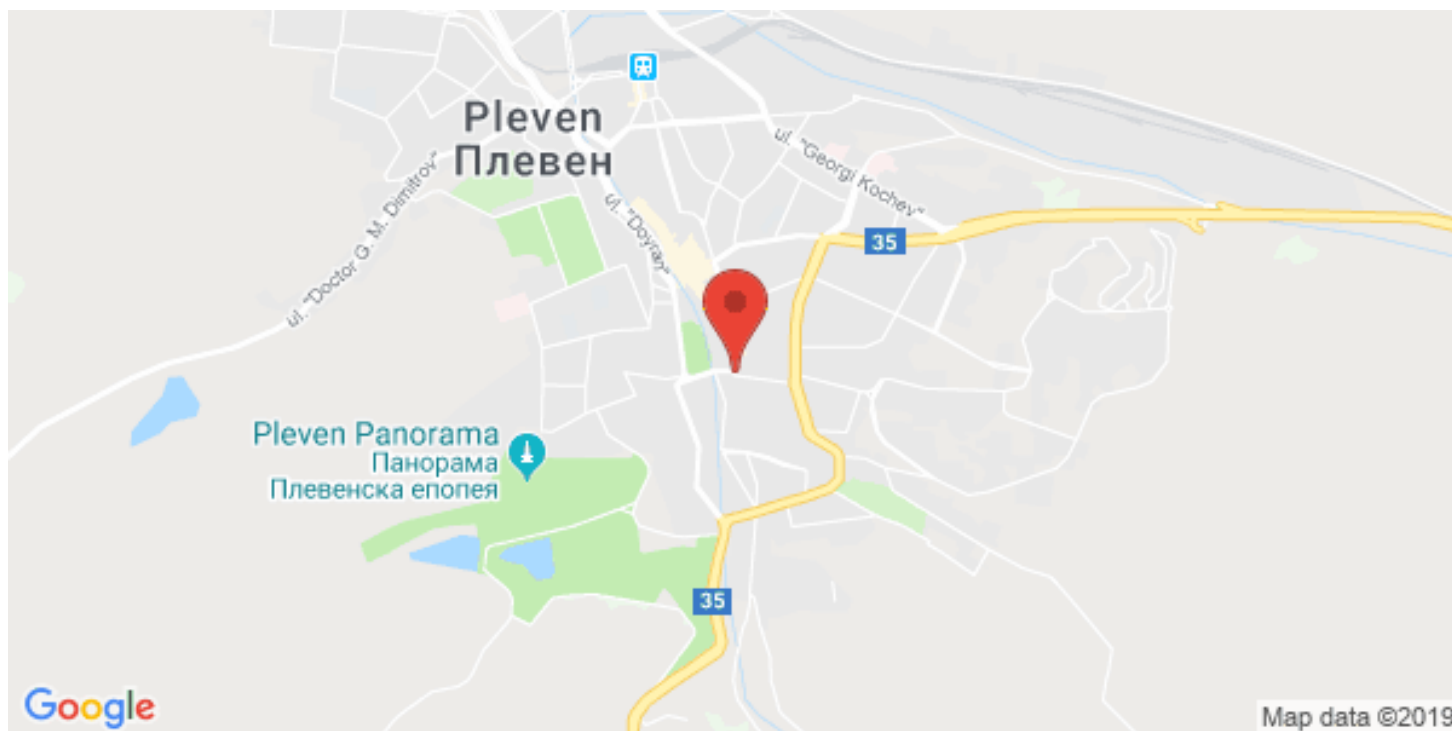
# The Holy Trinity Church in Pleven

## Descriere

Until 1870, in place of the church Holy Trinity there was a small old church and a school. The desire of the entire society in the city was to have a new place of worship, so between 1893-1898, the architect Vyachelslav Gavarda made a new project, and the construction was done by the entrepreneur Ivan Okoliyski of Tryavna, under the patronage of the town hall. The construction was completed in 1912, resulting in a tall, massive church made of stone and brick, in the form of a majestic basilica with three naves, an apse and pronaos, and three domes. The columns in the nave are of Roman origin. The iconostasis is high, and the icons come from Galicnik (Macedonia) school masters Danail Nestorov, his cousin Oventiy Isachev, Aleks Vassilev and Adolf Sedov. The interior was painted by prof. Iliya Pefev, also descendant of the masters of the Debar School, between the years 1940-1946.



# Harta



## 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.



**Harta**

