

Monasteries catalog

Bachkovo Monastery



Name: Bachkovo Monastery

Year of construction: 1083

Area: 7900

Region: SouthWest

Church1: Church Petriotris

Abbot1: Yosif Stroitelq

Church2: Church sveti Nikola

Abbot2: Arhimandrit

Description: Bachkovo monastery is the second largest monastery in Bulgaria. It is beautifully situated on a ledge, on the right from the Valley of Chepelarska River, close to the village of Bachkovo, 30 km from Plovdiv. This easy accessibility makes it the second most visited monastery in the country. During the weekends and on big orthodox holidays large groups of tourists come to pay a visit. The climate is favourable, as the spot is in the heart of the Rhodope Mountains. The summers are breezy and the winters mild. It includes two yards and four churches. The monastery has 18 chapels, 10 in Asenovgrad and 8 around it.

Dryanovo Monastery



Name: Dryanovo Monastery

Year of construction: 1300

Area: 3100

Region: Central

Church1: Church St Boruna

Abbot1: Teofilakt Dryanovski

Church2: Church Arhangel Mihail

Abbot2: Vasilii Dryanovski

Description: The Dryanovo Monastery was established in the 12th century. The monastery was first built 2 km from the place where it is situated now. In 1393, the Ottoman Turks burned it down to ashes, in the 16th century, the local people restored it on the other bank of the river, but this time the holy monastery was also demolished. On the place where it is situated now, the monastery “St. Archangel Michael” exists from the end of the 17th century. In the monastery, there was an enormous library which turned it into one of the largest education centers during the Revival. The bandits who were acting in groups in the Ottoman Empire set the monastery on fire for the third time. In the 19th century, a renovation of the holy monastery began, residential buildings were constructed, and it was restored again.

Shipka Monastery



Name: Shipka Monastery

Year of construction: 1902

Area: 4200

Region: Central

Church1: Church Rojdestvo Hristovo

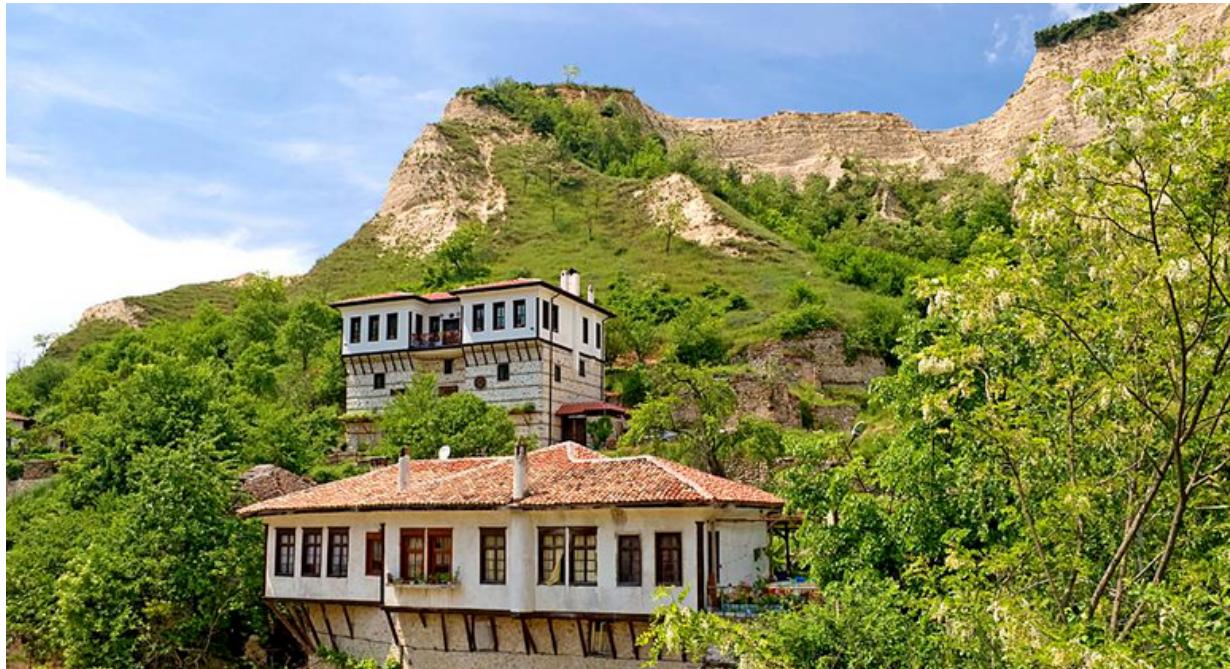
Abbot1: Kalin Vrachanski

Church2: Church St Bogorodica

Abbot2: Yosif Shipchenski

Description: Shipka Monastery "Rozhdestvo Hristovo" is located on the outskirts of the town of Shipka. The funds for the construction were donated by the Russian people, and the residents of the town of Shipka. Its construction began in 1885 and ended in 1902. The monastery was Russian until 1934, when the Soviet government handed it over to Bulgaria. Today, the Shipka Monastery is part of the "Shipka - Buzludzha" park-museum.

Rozhen Monastery



Name: Rozhen Monastery

Year of construction: 1397

Area: 2890

Region: SouthWest

Church1: Monastery Iviron

Abbot1: Ioakim Rozhenski

Church2: St Kiril i Metodii

Abbot2: Gerasim I Georgiev

Description: The Rozhen monastery of the “Nativity of the Mother of God”, one of the oldest medieval monasteries in Bulgaria, only a few kilometers away from the town of Melnik and near the famous Melnik Pyramids, is among the most precious jewels in Pirin Mountain. Its unique architecture, rich history, and collection of valuable icons attract hundreds of visitors from the country and abroad.

Kremikovtsy Monastery



Name: Kremikovtsy Monastery

Year of construction: 1890

Area: 3300

Region: SouthWest

Church1: Church sveti sveti Konstantin i Elena

Abbot1: Boiko Gradichevski

Church2: Church St Ivan Rilski

Abbot2: Dimitar Todorov

Description: The Kremikovtsi Monastery of Saint George is a Bulgarian Orthodox monastery near Kremikovtsi to the northeast of the Bulgarian capital Sofia. Founded during the Second Bulgarian Empire (12th–14th century) and re-established in 1493 by a local Bulgarian noble, the monastery includes two churches. Of these, the older medieval church is notable for its highly regarded 15th-century frescoes.

Cherepish Monastery



Name: Cherepish Monastery

Year of construction: 1400

Area: 3400

Region: NorthWest

Church1: Church St Nikola

Abbot1: David Cherpishki

Church2: Church Uspenie Bogorodichno

Abbot2: Evgenii Adrionopolski

Description: The Cherepish monastery “Uspenie Bogorodichno (“The Assumption of Mary”) is situated in the Iskar gorge by the shore of the river Iskar. In the monastery statute, which was written in the period between 1390 and 1396, it is mentioned that the monastery was destroyed during one of the last battles with the Ottoman invaders, which took place in that region. During the Bulgarian National Revival the monastery became a cultural and educational centre. A church school was founded and books, martyrologies and gospels were written and rewritten.

Rila Monastery



Name: Rila Monastery

Year of construction: 1344

Area: 8800

Region: SouthWest

Church1: Birth of Bogorodica

Abbot1: Ivan Rilski

Church2: St Luka

Abbot2: Neofit Rilski

Description: The Monastery of Saint John of Rila, also known as Rila Monastery "Sveti Ivan Rilski", is the largest and most famous Eastern Orthodox monastery in Bulgaria. It is situated in the southwestern Rila Mountains, inside of Rila Monastery Nature Park. The monastery is named after its founder, the hermit Ivan of Rila, and houses around 60 monks. Founded in the 10th century, the Rila Monastery is regarded as one of Bulgaria's most important cultural, historical and architectural monuments and is a key tourist attraction for both Bulgaria and Southern Europe. The monastery is depicted on the reverse of the 1 lev banknote, issued in 1999.