

ST. DIMITAR BASARBOVSKI ROCK MONASTERY

The Monastery of St. Dimitar Basarbovski is the only functioning rock monastery in Bulgaria. It was declared an archaeological cultural monument of local importance in 1978.

The earliest historical information about the existence of the monastery in this place dates from the 15th century in Turkish documents of the Nikopol Sanjak, where it is noted as „Besaraba monastery" - a property with 14 households in the village. According to the biographies, the monk Dimitar Basarbovski lived in the nearby village of Basarbovo in the 17th century. Dimitar walked along the Lom River and found a cave with a monastery. At the end of his life, he lay down between two stones and died, and his body remained incorruptible for a long time. The coming waters of the river carried away the body, and the relics were discovered 33 years later at the bottom of the river in a miraculous way and placed in a church in the village, built on the site of the saint's father's house, and later in the rock monastery.

The relics of St. Dimitar Basarbovski are now in the Patriarchal Church of Saints Constantine and Helen on the Dyalul Patriasiei hill in Bucharest. They were transferred there in 1774 during the first Russo-Turkish war. It is believed that Bucharest was chosen as a city close to Ruse and connected to the Bulgarian population around it. The relics are revered by the population of the whole of Romania, and the saint is perceived as its heavenly patron.

The Rock Monastery of St. Dimitar Basarbovski is located in the village of Basarbovo, 12 km from the town of Ruse.