

ORLOVA CHUKA CAVE

Orlova Chuka Cave was discovered in 1941. In 1957 it was landscaped, and in 1962 it was declared a natural landmark with an adjacent area of 7.5 ha.

It was formed at the end of the Pliocene and the beginning of the Quaternary, when it was the bed of an underground river, carving the local chalk limestones and calcareous sandstones. It is a complex system of tunnels and halls. The ceiling of the cave is a relief of smoothed forms formed by underground eddies. Remains of the late Palaeolithic were found in it: bones of a cave bear and traces of cave people living there.

Among the attractions of the cave are the Concert Hall, the Great Stalagnate (3.5 m high and with a diameter of 0.5 m), the Small Abyss, the rimstone pool called "Izvorcheto", the largest hall, the Great Screens, which is the end of the landscaped part of the cave. Orlova Chuka is the third among the longest caves in Bulgaria with a total length of galleries of 13,437 m. The temperature in the cave is relatively constant throughout the year (14 °C).

You can get to the parking lot of Orlova Chuka Cave by car or bicycle along the road III-501 Ruse - Dve Mogili. Another possibility is to walk or cycle along the marked hiking trails from the village of Tabachka (4.3 km), the medieval town of Cherven (10.5 km) and the village of Pepelina (3 km). Near the village of Pepelina is the Path of the Hesychasts, which can be done with an instructor and facilities provided by Prista Tourist Society of Ruse.