

## GRAMOVETS ROCK MONASTERY COMPLEX

It is located along the Cherni Lom River. It was cut near the „Smesitsite" locality, where the Beli and Cherni Lom form the Rusenski Lom River. Most of its premises are located in a chain in the central parts of the massif. They are connected to each other by a path that follows the natural curves of the rock. The church is spacious and well formed. It has a dome in the ceiling, which is a rare occurrence in cave temples. In places, the plaster layer is preserved, covered with pale images from the fresco decoration. The preserved holes and grooves show where the altar partition used to be. There is an interesting inscription carved around a large cross in which letters from the Cyrillic and Glagolitic alphabets are intertwined.

Nearby, following the river, you can reach a Christian rock monastery, located on several floors. The upper part of the rock staircase leading to it has been preserved. Here again, the grooves show where the altar partition was attached. An arched niche is carved into the east wall. Its function corresponds to that of the vaulted niches in brick temples - apses.

*The monastery complex of Gramovets and the shelter built at its foot can be reached following the marked hiking trails, on foot or by bicycle, from Ivanovski Rock Churches (5 km) or from Obretenka area (2.8 km). From the village of Koshov, there are two options: along the yellow-marked Pirin Hill Panoramic Road to the banks of the Cherni Lom River and taking the red marking (4.3 km in total), or along the left bank of the Cherni Lom River past the Milkovata Guest House and Sharaptasha (5 km).*