

## IVANOVSKI ROCK CHURCHES

The rock churches of Ivanovo are included in the list of the world cultural and natural heritage of UNESCO and are one of the 9 such sites in Bulgaria.

In the main church, the Holy Virgin Church, which today is the most visited one, various biblical scenes are painted on the rocks. Among them are the Last Supper, the Entry into Jerusalem, scenes from the life of St. John the Baptist, the Passion of Christ and Hanging of Judas, the Descent of Christ into hell.

The churches and all the premises in Pismata Area make up several complexes that bear the names Belbernitsa, the Crowded Church (St. Michael the Archangel Church), the Baptistry, Gospodov Dol, the Congregated Church (Saints Theodore Tyrone and Theodore Stratilatus Church). They form the Rock Monastery of St. Michael the Archangel, founded in the 13th century by the monk Joakim, who was later elected as the first patriarch of Tarnovgrad.

*To the parking lot, located next to St. Bogoroditsa Church, can be reached by car or bicycle along the deviation from the Ruse - Ivanovo road (Republikanski pat III-501).*

*Another option is a journey of about 10 km, on foot or by bicycle, along one of the two routes from the village of Koshov, through the Kukeri campsite or along Milkova guest house and Sharaptasha.*

*The complexes in Pismata can be reached on foot or by bicycle. The distance from the parking lot at St. Bogoroditsa Church is about 1.5 km.*

*Another option is a longer trek, on foot or by bike, from Kukeri campsite to Gramovets, from where you follow the yellow marking across two small bridges over the Cherni Lom river, another bridge over the Beli Lom river and the green marking along the area of Smesitsiki. The total distance from the campsite to Pismata is 10.5 km.*