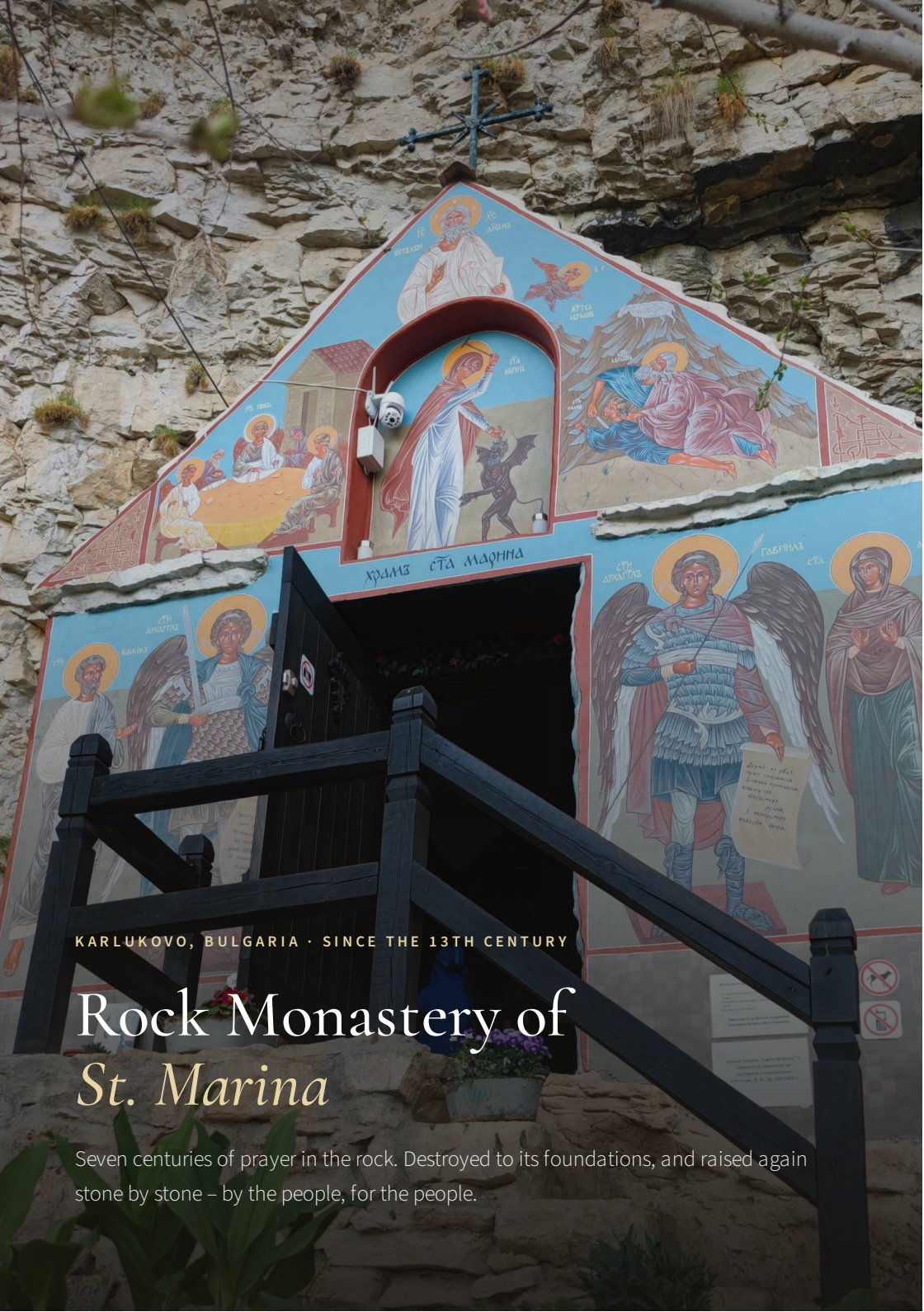




KARLUKOVO, BULGARIA · SINCE THE 13TH CENTURY

Rock Monastery of *St. Marina*

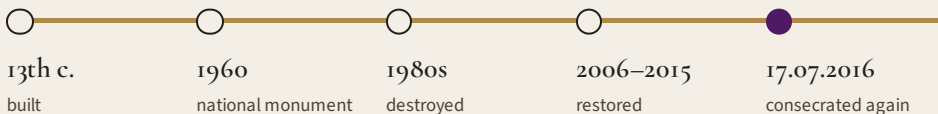
Seven centuries of prayer in the rock. Destroyed to its foundations, and raised again stone by stone – by the people, for the people.



HISTORY

Seven centuries of memory

Built in the 13th century on the site of an older sanctuary, the chapel was a skete – a place of solitude, fasting and prayer – of the great monastery “Viktorova Laka”. Hesychast monks lived here. The skete survived for 700 years, including the whole Ottoman period. The chapel is a monument of culture of national importance for its murals, a remarkable example of the Palaeologan Renaissance. In the 1980s the main murals were taken to a museum and the building was razed to the ground by vandals and treasure hunters.





RESTORATION

From ruin to sanctuary

The restoration was a private initiative of Florian Markov, privately funded and blessed by the Bulgarian Orthodox Church. In 2006 he and his son Atanas found only ruins. Atanas rediscovered the old path from the Cave House. After years of permits, and with the work of relatives, friends and strangers, the chapel stood again by 2015. Iconographer Mario Berov from Byala Slatina painted it inside and out, and on 17 July 2016 it was consecrated again.

20+

tonnes of material carried by hand

3,000

roof tiles carried across the Iskar

7

months of painting (2015)

1+ km

water pipe dug by hand (2017)



KARLUKOVO

Visiting

St. Marina lies in a rock niche 20 m above the Iskar, right beneath the National Cave House, near Karlukovo, Lukovit municipality. Walk down from the House, or come via Prohodna cave following the waymarks.

BEFORE YOU GO

- ✓ Comfortable, sturdy shoes, a hat in summer, water.
- ✓ Free hands – the last part has a steel cable, bridges and ladders. Hold the cable.
- ✓ Children under 7 – think carefully. Leave dogs up top.
- ✓ Modest clothing. Speak softly.
- ✓ Take your rubbish back with you.

Services: Saturdays and the great Christian feasts. Baptisms and weddings. Feast day: 17 July.

Donations are accepted only on site, at the monastery.



СКАЛЕН МОНАСТИР
„Света Марина“
с. КРАДУКОВО

“Deeds are needed, not words.”



Contact

skalenmanastir.com
info@skalenmanastir.com · 0899 921 938

Photos and texts: CC BY-NC-SA 4.0