

## THE SANCTUARY OF DIANA

At the confluence of the Beli and Cherni Lom rivers, three stone inscriptions dedicated to Diana Plestrensis were found in different years of the 20th century, testifying to the existence of a large sanctuary here in between the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries. The inscriptions (see the picture) are exhibited in the Lapidarium of Ruse Museum. As a result of the archaeological excavations in 1985 and 2018, the remains of two large buildings that were part of the cult complex of Diana were discovered.

The first of them is located next to the left bank of the Beli Lom River. It is rectangular and its length exceeds 30 m. The earliest items are from the period of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC-1<sup>st</sup> century, and the latest from the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries.

The second building consists of four rooms, the central one having a roughly square plan and a semicircle (apse) on one side. The coins, the bronze ornament and the fragments of household ceramics found there show that the building was used in the 4<sup>th</sup> or at the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> century.

*The complex can be reached following the marked paths from the village of Koshov, Obretenka area and Ivanovski Rock Churches.*