

## CHILINGIR FORTRESS AND NISOVSKO KONCHE VIEWPOINT

The fortress is located on a rocky promontory surrounded by the Beli Lom River. It has an irregular triangular shape with a wider western side. Its first description was made by the prominent Czech-Bulgarian archaeologist Karel Shkorpil. From the north, east and south, the fortification ("kale" in Turkish) is protected by steep rocks. It is accessible only from the west, from the plateau where there used to be a wall with a protection ditch. There were two gates on the western side of the fortress that led to the river. Traces of a 2-meter-wide stone building can be seen along the fortress wall. In the southern part, there are probably the remains of a defensive tower, and square and round holes connected by wooden beams are carved into the rock.

There were found a vessel with ornaments filled with white material, characteristic of the Stone and Copper Age (5<sup>th</sup> millennium BC), loom weights and ceramic fragments of vessels characteristic of Antiquity and the Middle Ages. In the exhibition of Ruse Museum, you can see a sabre originating from the surrounding area. The weapon dates back to the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> - the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, and marks the introduction of a new type of sabre to the Bulgarian lands.

At the very eastern end of the rocky promontory, the view of the rocky pinnacles towering like sentinels over the wide meander of White Lom is breathtaking. This is the Nisovsko Konche Panoramic Viewpoint. „Koncheto", a wonderful island at dizzying heights overlooking the surrounding vast forests. And on the horizon is a majestic and impenetrable wall of rocks, enclosing the river curve.

The construction of the former military fortification in the most inaccessible part of the rocky ridge gave the name to the entire surrounding area - THE BIG STONES. After 1842, when Koyu Ivanovski and his sons from the village of Draganovo, Tarnovo District, settled in Nisovo, most of the newcomers built their houses with stone from this area. Today, among the people of Nisovo, it is also known by the name of SECHENATA / TSEPENATA CHUKA, which is related to the unsuccessful attempt in the 1960s to straighten the riverbed in order to build a fishery.

*You can go to Chilingir Fortress and Nisovsko Konche Viewpoint using the marked paths from the village of Nisovo, the village of Koshov and Obretenka area.*