

# King Marko's Monastery

South of Skopje, on the outskirts of an unassuming village called Markova Sučica, is the Markov Monastir. Built in 1346 by King Marko of Serbia, this medieval monastery has remained remarkably unaffected by the passage of time.



Although Marko Mrnjavčević was technically king of all Serbia, the great majority of the country was controlled by powerful noblemen hostile to the crown. So in practice, King Marko ruled over only a small section of present-day Macedonia, with his capital at Prilep. His reign overlapped with the ascendancy of the Ottomans and, although he initially resisted their encroachment, Marko eventually became a Turkish vassal. He even died while fighting for his Muslim masters against Christian Wallachia, during the pivotal [Battle of Rovine](#).

The unremarkable reality of King Marko's reign hasn't prevented him from becoming a cherished personality in Slavic folklore. King Marko is considered a hero by Serbians, Bulgarians and Macedonians alike, figuring in epic poems and legends, usually fighting for the common man against powerful enemies. He often appears as a giant, capable of extraordinary feats of strength, and is even rumored to be immortal... currently at rest in some long forgotten cave.