

The Holy Monastery of Konstamonitou



The Monastery of Konstamonitou (Greek: Κωνστανμονίτου) is one of twenty monasteries on the Mount Athos peninsula and is located on the southeastern side of the peninsula at an elevation of about 200 meters (650 feet) above the sea. It is twentieth in hierarchical rank among the monasteries. Having fallen in decline after a fire in the sixteenth century Konstamonitou was revived in the early nineteenth century.

Konstamonitou was founded in the tenth century by a monk named Konstamonites and developed with the aid of the Byzantine Roman emperors and Serbian princes. In the sixteenth century the monastery was seriously damaged by fire and did not recover for some time. A recovery began in the eighteenth century, and in early nineteenth century continued when the east wing of the monastery compound was built with a financial aid from Vassiliki Kondaxi who was the wife of the Turk Ali Pasha. Then, in mid nineteenth century the north wing was added, as well as the katholikon, using money raised by two monks, Symeon of Stayira and Joseph of

Xeropotamou Monastery.

In addition to the katholikon, which is dedicated to St. Stephen the First Martyr, there are eight chapels associated with the monastery. Of these, four are within the monastery, namely the chapels dedicated to Our Lady, St. Constantine, All Saints, and St. Anthony.













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