01/07/2021

Panaghia Soumela Monastery reopened to the public



The historic Orthodox monastery of Soumela was reopened to the public on Thursday.

According to press reports, some 90 percent of renovation works have been completed, with 10 chapels, an iconic bell tower, the guest house, the quarters for monks and students, as well as the cellars located north of the Church open for the public.

The Panaghia Soumela Monastery, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, in the heart of the historic Pontus region of northeast Asia Minor, had for centuries been the focal point of Pontian Hellenism. Today the Turkish state operates the cliff-side Orthodox monastery as a museum, after the exchange of populations between Greece and Turkey in 1923.


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