



## FRANCISCAN MONASTERY

### 18th century

The monastery complex consists of a church and cloister and was founded by Bulgarian Franciscan monks to minister to Bulgarian Catholic families who came to Transylvania following Turkish oppression and settled on the outskirts of Deva around 1712.

Work on this complex continued throughout the 18th century. Records of the construction of the Bulgarian Franciscan church in Deva date back to 1723, when the old chapel was replaced by a larger building. Work on this new church was completed in 1731, but it took on its current form between 1762 and 1766, following reconstruction due to flooding from the Mureş River.

The church consists of a polygonal choir, a hall, and a tower on the main façade. Access is through the tower, into the vestibule under the western tribune. Composed of three bays, the interior of the nave is punctuated by massive masonry pillars supporting the semi-cylindrical vault with penetrations.

The exterior of the church is uniform, in the style of 20th-century architecture.

The monastery cloister was built in successive stages during the 18th century. Enclosed on all sides, the cloister is designed as a simple tract, with circulation towards the interior. Both the corridor and the rooms on the ground floor are covered with semi-cylindrical vaults with penetrations or cross vaults. The refectory and kitchen were built in the wing opposite the church.