



BULGARIAN TREASURES

Day 1: Arrival in Sofia. Welcome to Bulgaria!

Transfer to the hotel. Check-in. Free time (depends on the arrival time). Dinner. Overnight in Sofia.

Day 2: Sofia

Breakfast. 08h30 – sightseeing tour of **Sofia** – city that “grows, but never grows old” – 2000 year old settlement steeped in history, yet youthful and exotic with its fusion of roman ruins, golden churches, Ottoman mosques and stubborn Red Army monuments. Free time. **Optional lunch.** In the afternoon – visit to **Boyana Church**. Located in the outskirts of Sofia and famous for its frescoes, the church is one of the most complete and perfectly preserved monuments of east European medieval art, therefore it is inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Our tour will continue with one of the natural landmarks in the surroundings of Sofia – **the Boyana Waterfall*** – the largest in Vitosha Mountain (*comfortable shoes are required, there are some steep parts on the trail*). Dinner at a traditional restaurant with folklore program. Return to hotel. Overnight in Sofia.

Day 3 (220km): Sofia – Koprivshtitsa – Kazanlak

Breakfast. 08h00 – departure to **Koprivshtitsa** (110km) – a small town tucked in the mountains amidst century old pines, still preserving the atmosphere of the Bulgarian National Revival period of the 19th century. It is declared the only city-museum in the country and since 1978 is recognized as a National Architectural Reserve. With a total of 388 architectural, historical, artistic, and ethnographic monuments Koprivshtitsa is an international tourist destination. Arrival and sightseeing tour. **Optional lunch.** About 13h00 – departure to **Kazanlak** (110km) – the “capital” of the Rose Valley and the home of the Thracian kings. Visit of the Thracian Tomb from 4th century BCE with its memorable murals (part of UNESCO World Heritage) and the Museum of Roses (the Rosa Damascena, known as the Damask or Castile rose, is the greatest treasure in the region of Kazanlak). Check-in at hotel. Dinner. Overnight in Kazanlak.

Day 4 (130km): Kazanlak – Etara – Bozhentsi – Arbanasi – Veliko Tarnovo**

Breakfast. 08h30 – departure to the nearby town of **Shipka** (12km) and visit of The Russian Memorial Church dedicated to the soldiers who died in the Russo-Turkish war, 1877-78. Continue to Shipka Monument of Liberty (16km) – a monumental construction located at 1326m in the Balkan Mountains also erected in memory of the fallen Bulgarian volunteers and Russian soldiers during the Shipka battles in the summer of 1877. Departure to “**Etara**” (20km) – a one of a kind Open-Air Ethnographic Museum in Bulgaria with a unique collection of active old-time water-driven machinery and a trade street showing the skills of the craftsmen from the 19th century. Visit of Etara. **Optional lunch.** Continue to **Arbanasi** (60km) – a jewel in the crown of the Bulgarian architectural reserves due to its rich history and large numbers of historical monuments from the 17th and 18th century. About 16h00 – departure to **Veliko Tarnovo** (10km) – the old capital of Bulgaria. Visit of the most significant monument of the city – the medieval fortress Tsarevets situated on a hill surrounded by the river Yantra. Then we will take a short

stroll along the “Samovodska Charshiya” – a street that once developed as the economic center of the town and nowadays is bordered by souvenir and craftsmen shops, and inns. Check-in at hotel. Dinner. Overnight in Veliko Tarnovo.

Day 5 (350km): Veliko Tarnovo – Nessebar – Sozopol – Burgas

Breakfast. 08h00 – departure to the Bulgarian seacoast (250km). Arrival at **Nessebar** – one of its most prominent towns, whose old part is declared a UNESCO World Heritage site. Situated on a rocky peninsula, the Old Nessebar is a rich city-museum defined by more than three millennia of history. The city’s remains, which date mostly from the Hellenistic period, include the acropolis, a temple of Apollo, a wall from the Thracian fortifications, Stara Mitropolia Basilica and the fortress dating from the Middle Ages. Nessebar is famous with its wooden 19th century houses typical for the Black Sea region of that period. **Optional lunch.** Departure to Sozopol – another highlight of the Bulgarian coast and a legendary trading rival of Nessebar in the ancient times (70km). Sozopol is one of the oldest settlements on the seacoast with some 7 000 years old cultural tradition. The romantic atmosphere of the city’s beautiful old town with its narrow cobbled streets and venerable old houses attract visitors from all over the world. Today two of Sozopol’s most attractive tourist destinations are the city’s Archeological Museum and the Art Gallery. Departure to Burgas (30km). Check-in at hotel. Dinner. Overnight in Burgas.

Day 6 (305km): Burgas – Villa Yustina Winery – Plovdiv

Breakfast. 08h00 – departure to the area of Plovdiv, the second largest city in Bulgaria (280km). Arrival at “Villa Yustina Winery” – a small boutique winery producing high quality young and barrel aged wines from its own grapes. The winery is situated 25 km southwest from Plovdiv, in the outskirts of the Rhodopi Mountains, a region with a significant wine history. **Wine tasting and lunch** at “Villa Yustina Winery”. After lunch we continue to Plovdiv (25km) – “The City of the Seven Hills” regarded as one of the world’s oldest ones. **In 2019 Plovdiv was the European Capital of Culture.** Sightseeing tour of Plovdiv – we will stroll through the narrow and steep streets of the Old Town, famous with its ensemble of houses from the 19th century, nowadays most of them turned into museums and galleries. We will take a glimpse of the ancient Roman Theatre (currently still in use) and then take a walk down to the main pedestrian street where remnants of the Roman Stadium still exist right next to Dzhumaya Mosque – one of the oldest Ottoman mosques on the Balkans. Check-in at hotel. Dinner. Overnight in Plovdiv.

Day 7 (400km): Plovdiv – Rila Monastery – Sofia

Breakfast. 08h00 – departure to Rila Monastery – the largest in Bulgaria and a UNESCO World Heritage Site (280 km). Visit of the 10th century old complex built on 8800 square meters and located at an altitude of 1147 m amidst fragrant coniferous forest of Rila mountains. It bears centuries of Orthodox history and holds a very precious library with rare manuscripts and old printed books. **Optional lunch.** Departure to Sofia (120km). Free time. Check-in at hotel. Dinner. Overnight in Sofia.

Day 8: Departure to home

Breakfast. Check-out. Transfer to the airport and departure. Hope to see you again!



**THIS ITINERARY IS SUITABLE FOR FIT AND GROUPS.
PACKAGE RATES ARE UPON REQUEST.**

PLEASE SEND US YOUR DETAILED TRAVEL INFORMATION, e.g.:

- APPROXIMATE DATES OF TRAVELLING;
 - NUMBER OF PAX;
 - NUMBER OF ROOMS;
- PREFERRED HOTEL CATEGORY;
- ANY OTHER SPECIFIC REQUESTS.

WE WILL REVERT TO YOU WITH OUR OFFER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Our package includes:

- Seven overnights on the preferred hotel category on HB basis (3 or 4 star hotels);
- Dinner at a traditional restaurant with folklore program in Sofia;
- Transfers from and to airport;
- Transportation during the whole trip, including road taxes and parking fees;
- Local tour leader during the whole tour;
- Entrance to Boyana Church in Sofia;
- Entrance to Koprivshtitsa museums;
- Entrance to the Thracian Tomb of Kazanlak and Museum of Roses;
- Entrance to the Open-Air Ethnographic Museum „Etara”;
- Entrance to Tsarevets fortress in Veliko Tarnovo;
- Entrance to the Archeological Museum of Nessebar;
- Entrance to the Archeological Museum of Sozopol;
- Entrance to the Regional Ethnographic museum in Plovdiv;
- Entrance to Rila Monastery;
- Wine tasting and lunch in “Villa Yustina Winery”;
- Tips for the driver and tour leader.

The package doesn't include:

- Airplane ticket to/from Sofia;
- Accommodation and other costs, if there is a representative of the arriving company;
- Lunch (except the one in “Villa Yustina Winery”);
- Visa fees and assistance (if required);
- Medical insurance;
- Other from the above specified fees for museums or other sights;
- Personal expenses of all kind, pocket money, etc.

Important remarks (NB!):

- **Day 2*:** In winter time and in bad weather conditions Boyana Waterfall is not possible. National History Museum can be offered instead, with a supplement of EUR 10/pp;
- **Day 4**:** In winter time (November to March) and in bad weather conditions Day 4 will be amended due to closures of Shipka pass;
- In 2019 the city of Plovdiv was the European Capital of Culture;
- Check-in is available after 14h00. Check-out is until 12h00;
- Hotel names will be advised about one month before arrival;
- In some hotels only DBL or only TWIN rooms are available. The tour operator can't guarantee the type of the rooms but will do the best to provide the requested ones;
- If TPL room is required, pls mind that the third bed usually is an extra bed or sofa bed;
- As per local regulations, city tax is applicable at some places during the tour. The city tax is payable on spot, prices vary between 1-2 euro pp/night, depending on the hotel category;
- Optional lunch is offered but it is not included in the price;
- It is obligatory that the tour operator is informed in advance about any special food requirements – e.g. vegetarians, vegans, allergies, etc.;
- All given times of arrival and departure are approximate. The tour operator can't foresee any road or boarder obstacles and cannot be held responsible for any delays;
- All objects (except the ones included in the price) are seen from outside. Any other historical sites, museums, mountain lifts and etc. can be visited at additional cost;
- Due to local or religious festivals, changes in the museums' policy (e.g. changes in the prices or the working time tables), other unforeseen circumstances or bad weather conditions, **the tour operator reserves the right to amend the sequence of the above given itinerary or to offer an alternative sites at a short notice;**

The itinerary is subject to change upon request.

We are able to provide you with tailor-made tour according to your taste, needs and budget.

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