

SOFIA IN A GLANCE

5-DAY CITY TOUR TO THE CAPITAL OF BULGARIA AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

Day 1: Welcome to Sofia – the city that grows, but never grows old!

Your local tour guide awaits you at Arrivals. Transfer to the hotel. Check-in. Free time to get a first peak. Dinner. Overnight in Sofia.

Day 2: Sofia city tour

After breakfast, sightseeing tour of Sofia – a 2000-year-old settlement steeped in history, yet youthful and exotic with its fusion of Roman ruins, golden-roof churches, Ottoman mosques and stubborn Red Army monuments. The tour lasts approximate 4 hours and includes the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, the Parliament, the Russian church, the monumental building of the Presidency, the open-air galleries of Roman and Byzantine ruins and many more (*please mind comfortable shoes*). **Optional lunch.** In the afternoon – time at leisure. 19h30 – dinner at a traditional restaurant with folklore program. Return to hotel. Overnight in Sofia.

Day 3: Vitosha Mountain and Boyana church

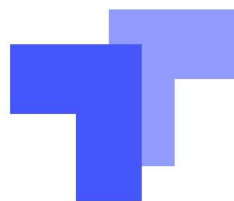
After breakfast we will visit the **Boyana church**. Located in the outskirts of Sofia and famous for its frescoes, the church is one of the most complete and perfectly preserved monuments of East-European medieval art, therefore it is inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Our day will continue 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 steep parts on the trail*). **Optional lunch.** In the afternoon – time at leisure or optional visit of the Museum of National History (supplement for entrance fee and guided tour apply). The tour can be held in English, German, French, Russian, Spanish or Japanese and its duration is about 1h30 min. Return to the hotel. Dinner. Overnight in Sofia.

Day 4: Sofia – Rila Monastery – Sofia (240km)

Breakfast. Departure to **Rila Monastery** – the largest at the Balkan Peninsula and UNESCO World Heritage Site (120 km/about 2 hours). The monastery bears centuries of Orthodox history and holds a very precious library with rare manuscripts and old printed books. Visit of the 10th century old complex located at an altitude of 1147 m amidst the fragrant forests of Rila Mountain. The tour includes the entrance fees to the History museum, the Ethnographic museum, the Tower of Hrelio (opened 01.06-30.09), Bulgarian Renaissance guestrooms and Monastery farm. At noon – **lunch at a nearby restaurant** (included in the price). In the afternoon – return to Sofia and time at leisure. Farewell dinner. Overnight in Sofia.

Day 5: Good bye!

Breakfast. Check-out and departure transfer to Sofia airport.
We hope to see you again in this theatre! 😊



**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:

- 4 overnights on the preferred hotel category on HB basis (3 or 4 star hotels);
 - Dinner at a traditional restaurant with folklore program in Sofia;
 - Lunch in the area of Rila Monastery;
 - Transfers from and to airport;
 - Bus service during the whole itinerary, including road taxes and parking fees;
 - Local tour leader during the whole tour (English, German, Spanish, French, Russian);
 - Entrance fees and reservations to Boyana church and Rila Monastery;
 - Tips for the driver and tour leader.
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The package doesn't include:

- Airplane ticket to/from Sofia;
 - Accommodation and other costs, if there is a representative of the arriving company;
 - Lunch on the second and the third day;
 - Visa fees and assistance (if required);
 - Medical insurance;
 - Supplement for the Museum of National History (pre-reservation is required);
 - Other from the above specified fees for museums or other sights;
 - Personal expenses of all kind, pocket money, etc.
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Important remarks (NB!!):

- *In bad weather conditions the tour to Boyana Waterfall is not possible. It can be substituted with one of the following: the Museum of Sofia, the National Ethnographic Museum, the National Gallery, the National Gallery for Foreign Art, Archaeological Museum, etc. Supplement for entrance fee and guided tour apply;
- The maximum number of people for the National History Museum is 25 pax;
- For groups of 20 pax and above Day 3 and 4 can be substituted with other optional tours. Pls see the information below;
- Depending on the location, some of the hotels cannot be reached by bus. If your hotel is in the pedestrian zone, the drop-off will be no further than 2-5 minutes walk from the hotel. Please specify in your reservation, if you prefer a hotel which is reachable by bus;
- Check-in is available after 14:00h. Check-out is until 12:00h;
- Hotel name 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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OPTIONAL TOURS FOR DAY 3 AND 4

OPTION 1: The Seven Rila Lakes – whole day trekking tour

The Seven Rila Lakes are a group of glacial lakes situated between 2100 and 2500 meters above sea level in the northwestern part of Rila Mountain, about 150 km away from Sofia.

The tour begins with bus transfer to the cable car station “Seven Rila Lakes”, where we will take the cable car to the lakes cirque. From there the guide will take us to a trekking tour alongside some of the lakes, revealing breathtaking views of the mountain scenery. The tour duration is about 5-6 hours and trekking equipment (at least trekking shoes), as well as warm clothing are required.

On the way back to Sofia, we will make a short stop at Sapareva Banya – a small wellness resort, known for the hottest mineral water geyser in Europe – 103°C (217 °F).

Transfer time: 3-3,5 hours

Walking time: 5-6 hours

Difficulty: average/steep

The tour includes:

- Bus transfers from and to Sofia
- Trekking guide (available in several languages)
- Roundtrip-ticket for the cable car
- Lunchbox

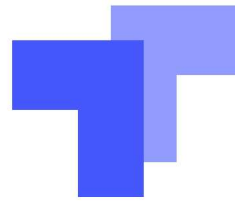
Price pp: EUR 44,-

NB! The tour is possible only in good weather conditions.

OPTION 2: Krushuna Waterfalls and Devetashka cave – whole day tour

The falls are the biggest travertine cascade in Bulgaria, unique with its picturesque scenery, lush vegetation, numerous round-shaped terraces and small natural pools with water. The main waterfall is about 20 m high and it splits into several smaller ones along its way down the soft limestone rocks. There is a path that allows visitors to go up the river and get to the spring of the waterfall hidden in a cave. Along the way there are steps and bridges so that one can get the best views of the cascades.

The Devetashka cave is a picturesque karst cave near the waterfalls. Unlike other caves, Devetashka is very well lit and its floor is covered by lush greenery, especially in spring and summer, so sometimes it is hard to believe that one is actually underground. The cave provides habitat to a wide diversity of faunal residents from protected amphibians and reptiles to 82 bird species, 13 of which are included in the Red list.



Transfer time: 3,5 hours
Walking time: ca. 2 hours
Difficulty: relaxed/stairs

The tour includes:

- Bus transfers from and to Sofia
- Local guide (available in several languages)
- Lunch box
- Entrance fees

Price pp: EUR 49,-

OPTION 3: The town of Panagyurishte and the „Treasure of Panagyurishte“

The town of Panagyurishte is situated in a picturesque valley of the Sashtinska Sredna Gora. Among many ethnical and historical buildings and monuments the most famous artefact is the so called „Treasure of Panagyurishte“ – a unique 24-karat Thrasian golden ceremonial set from 4th century BC with beautiful ornaments. Also very attractive for tourists is the carsija – a traditional town market from the Ottoman period with many well preserved shops. After a short tour in town, we will visit the wine cellar Rumelia, offering a bouquet of exquisite local wines and a tour to the cellar.

Transfer time – ca. 1,5 hrs.

The tour includes:

- Bus transfers from and to Sofia
- Local guide (available in several languages)
- Entrance fee to the History Museum of Panagyurishte
- Wine tasting with traditional fingerfood.

Price pp: EUR 51,-

- **The prices are valid for a group of minimum 20 PAX.**
- **In case of bad weather conditions, we reserve the right to cancel the tour to the Seven Rila Lakes for safety reasons.**
- **In case of cancellation, no charges will be made.**