

WINE AND SPA IN BULGARIA

Immerse in the healing waters of Bulgaria and indulge yourself with the drink of Dionysus

The program includes two overnights in Sofia, two overnights in the village of Starosel and two overnights in the SPA capital of the Balkans – the town of Velingrad, accommodation in 4 or 5 star hotels, meals on FB basis, bus transportation and transfers, local tour leader during the whole trip.

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 (180km): Sofia – Starosel

Breakfast. **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. The tour includes the golden-roofed Alexander Nevski Cathedral, the Russian Church, the Parliament and the Presidency, the Roman bath and the open-air galleries of Roman and Byzantine ruins, the beautiful medieval mosque Banya Bashi, the one-of-a-kind National palace of Culture, etc. Lunch. Free time. In the afternoon – departure to the village of Starosel. Arrival and check-in at **Wine & SPA Complex “Starosel”** – a magnificent example of local architecture and natural ambience. **Traditional dinner with folklore program.** Overnight in Starosel.

Day 3 (45km): Starosel – Hisarya – Starosel

Breakfast. Half day tour to the **Thracian tomb of Starosel and the town of Hisarya.** The Thracian Temple Complex is 4km west from the village of Starosel and was found about 20 years ago. This is the oldest ever found royal Thracian complex with a mausoleum. It dates back to the end of 5th and the beginning of 4th century BC. The town of Hisarya is about 20km east of Starosel and is famous for its Roman ruins and healing mineral waters. It is one of the oldest and most popular spa centres in Bulgaria. The town is located over the ancient fortress of Diocletianopolis and in terms of state of preservation of its fortification system, the Roman town is among the top-ranked in Europe. Lunch. Return to hotel. **Afternoon at leisure** – the spa centre awaits you for relaxation. At your disposal are hot tub, sauna, steam bath, indoor swimming pool and an outdoor one. At additional cost you can treat yourself with a massage or another special beauty procedure, including wine therapy treatments. **Wine tasting** will be organised in the evening. Dinner. Overnight in Starosel.

Day 4 (150km): Starosel – Plovdiv – Velingrad

Breakfast. Departure to Plovdiv (50km) – “The City of the Seven Hills” regarded as one of the world’s oldest ones. **In 2019 Plovdiv was the European Capital of Culture.** 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. Free time. Lunch. Departure to “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 at “Villa Yustina” Winery.** In the afternoon – departure to Velingrad (70km). Check-in at hotel. Dinner. Overnight in Velingrad.

Day 5: Velingrad

Breakfast. **A day for leisure at the SPA capital of the Balkans.** Lunch. Dinner. Overnight in Velingrad.

Day 6 (140km): Velingrad – Sofia

Breakfast. 11h00 – check-out. Departure to Sofia. On the way – visit of the **Museum of the Pliocene epoch near the village of Dorkovo** (15km). The museum was established in 2013 and houses fossils collected in the area of about five million years ago. This is the largest paleontological deposit on the Balkans and the second most significant exposure in Europe. The major attraction is a 4-meter high model of a mastodon crated by a team of professional artists. Our next stop will be **“Villa Terres” Winery** – a wine and spa tourism complex on the way from Velingrad to Sofia. The location of the winery was selected after a special research of the terroir, climate and topography of the area and it is one of the traditional wine regions in Bulgaria with great potential of creating high-quality wines. Lunch and wine tasting. Continue to Sofia. Check-in at hotel. Dinner. Overnight in Sofia.

Day 7: Departure to home

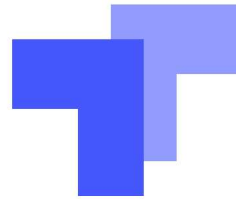
Breakfast. Check-out. Transfer to the airport and departure. Hope to see you again!

**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:




- Six overnights in the preferred hotel category on FB basis (4 or 5 star hotels);
- Dinner with a traditional folklore program in Wine & SPA Complex “Starosel”;
- Wine tasting at “Villa Yustina” Winery;
- Wine tasting and lunch in “Villa Terres” Winery;
- 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 the Thracian Tomb of Starosel;
- Entrance to the Archeological complex of Hisarya;
- Entrance to the Regional Ethnographic museum in Plovdiv;
- Entrance to the Museum of the Pliocene epoch in Dorkovo village;
- Free use of SPA facilities included in the room price (subject to further notice);
- Tips for the driver and tour leader.

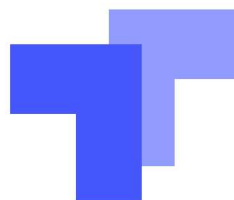
The package doesn't include:

- Airplane ticket to/from Sofia;
- Accommodation and other costs, if there is a representative of the arriving company;
- Visa fees and assistance (if required);
- Medical insurance;
- Any SPA procedures that are exclusive of the room rates (massages, therapies, etc.);
- Other from the above specified fees for museums or other sights;
- Personal expenses of all kind, pocket money, etc.

Important remarks (NB!!):

- In the first and the last day of the itinerary some activities could be provided according to the time of arrival/departure;
- The use of SPA facilities is subject to further notice according to hotels' rules and conditions;
- In 2019 the city of Plovdiv was the European Capital of Culture;
- Check-in is available after 15:00h. Check-out is until 12:00h;
- 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;
- 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;

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- 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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