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**BULGARIA - The Balkan Legend**  
**(Sofia, Veliko Tarnovo, Kazanlak, Koprivshtitza)**  
**8 - Day Itinerary**



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**The program includes 3 nights in Sofia, 2 nights in Veliko Tarnovo or Arbanasi, 1 night in Kazanlak or the surrounding area and 1 night in Koprivshtitza.**

#### **Day 1 – Arrival at the Sofia Airport**

You will be met at Sofia airport by a representative who will supply you with a map of Bulgaria, a map of Sofia and documentation about the trip. Overnight at your chosen hotel in Sofia.

#### **Day 2 – Departure for Veliko Tarnovo**

On the way to Veliko Tarnovo, visit the Troyan Monastery at Oreshak - the third biggest monastery in Bulgaria founded in the 17th century. In 1847, the monks requested that the famous Bulgarian artist Zahari Zograf work on the decoration of the monastery. Late afternoon – arrival in Veliko Tarnovo – the capital of the Second Bulgarian Empire (1187-1396). Overnight stay in Veliko Tarnovo or Arbanasi.

#### **Day 3 – Sightseeing Tour of Veliko Tarnovo**

A visit to the historical village of Arbanasi - the Konstantsaliev's House – one of the biggest and most lavishly decorated houses of the Bulgarian National Revival and the Church of the Nativity of Christ, the oldest church in Arbanasi, unique with its frescoes. Return to Veliko Tarnovo. Overnight stay in Veliko Tarnovo or Arbanasi.

#### **Day 4 – Departure for Kazanlak**

A visit to the Dryanovo Monastery, established in the 13th century and situated in the picturesque gorge of the Dryanovo River. Visit to Bozhentsi, a pretty village at the foot of the Balkan Mountains, where there are a number of preserved houses from the Bulgarian National Revival. The village has been declared an architectural reserve. Visit the Etar Architectural-Ethnographic Complex, which portrays the way of life, traditions, customs and economic background of the Bulgarians during the Revival. Afterwards, visit the peak Shipka - where in August 1877 one of the most crucial battles in the Russo-Turkish war took place. It was part of a series of battles that brought freedom to Bulgarians after five centuries of enslavement. Visit the Shipka Memorial Church - a Russian church built in honor of the perished Russian soldiers and Bulgarian volunteers in the Russo-Turkish War (1877-1878). Late arrival in Kazanlak. Overnight in Kazanlak or the surrounding area.

#### **Day 5 – Sightseeing of Kazanlak**

Depart for Koprivshtitza – a pretty little town at the heart of Sredna Gora. Visit the historic Koprivshtitza and see traditional houses and villas for which the town is famous. Overnight stay in Koprivshtitza.

#### **Day 6 – Departure to Sofia**

Arrival in Sofia. Time at leisure. Overnight stay in Sofia.

#### **Day 7 – Sightseeing Tour of Sofia and Overnight**

Enjoy a visit to St. Nedelya Cathedral, St. George Rotunda, The Russian Church of St. Nicolas, St. Sophia Church, Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, and the Ivan Vazov National Theater. We stop for lunch followed by a visit to the National Museum of History and the Boyana Church, included in the UNESCO List of World Cultural Heritage Sites. The church has preserved frescoes of an unknown artist, which date back to 1259. The frescoes impress with the spirituality and expressiveness of their images, created 7 years before the birth of Giotto di Bondone, who is considered to be the first Renaissance artist. Dinner in a typical Bulgarian restaurant with a folklore program. Overnight stay in Sofia.

#### **Day 8 – Sofia and Departure**

Check out and transfer to the Airport for your onward journey.