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## **BULGARIA**

### **The Grand Tour**

### **12 - Day Itinerary**



*Europe's  
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### **Day 1 – Arrival at the Sofia Airport**

Transfer to the hotel. Dinner and overnight stay in Sofia.

### **Day 2 – Sofia - Plovdiv (147 km)**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Depart the hotel by private bus with your guide.

Visit to the historic center of Sofia, which includes:

- The Central Baths and Halls
- Sofia Synagogue
- The Roman fortifications of Serdica
- The Churches of St Petka and Nedelya (Sainte-Dominique)
- The Rotonde Saint-Georges

Visit of the National Archaeological Museum.

Transfer from Sofia to Plovdiv (147 km).

Visit to Plovdiv: Walk in the historic center (Roman forum and stadium, main street, and the Djumaya mosque).

Dinner included at the hotel.

Overnight in Plovdiv.

### **Day 3 – Plovdiv - Bachkovo - Plovdiv (58 km)**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Walk through the historic center.

Visit to the Church of Saints Constantine and Helena.

Visit to the Kuyumcuoglu House (Ethnographic Museum).

Visit to the Hindlian House.

Visit to the Roman theater.

Visit to the Archaeological Museum of Plovdiv.

Transfer from Plovdiv to Bachkovo (29 km).

Visit to Bachkovo Monastery.

Visit to the Church of the Dormition of the Virgin and the Church of St. Nicholas.

Visit to the refectory.

Visit of the ossuary

Transfer from Bachkovo to Plovdiv (29 km).

Dinner included at the hotel. Overnight in Plovdiv.

**Day 4 – Plovdiv - Perperikon - Aleksandrovo - Burgas (346 Km)**

Breakfast at the hotel.  
Depart Plovdiv for Perperikon (89 km).  
Visit of Perperikon (The Thracian city).  
Transfer from Perperikon to Haskovo (38 km).  
Photo stop along the way to see the “mushroom rocks”.  
Transfer from Haskovo to Aleksandrovo (20 km).  
Visit to the copy of the painted Thracian Tomb and the Eastern Rhodope Museum.  
Transfer from Aleksandrovo to Burgas (214 km).  
Dinner included at the hotel.  
Overnight in Burgas.

**Day 5 – Burgas - Sozopol - Nessebar - Varna (205 km)**

Breakfast at the hotel.  
Depart for Burgas to Sozopol (35 km).  
The visit to Sozopol includes a walk in the old town and a visit of the Archaeological Museum.  
Transfer from Sozopol to Nessébar (71 km).  
Visit to Nessébar: Walk in the ancient city to see the ramparts and the Byzantine churches), and visit Saint-Stéphane Church (“New Metropolis”).  
Transfer from Nessébar to Varna (99 km).  
Dinner included at the hotel.  
Overnight in Varna.

**Day 6 – Varna**

Breakfast at the hotel.  
Visit of Varna: Walk through the historic center (See the Dormition Cathedral and explore the pedestrian street).  
Visit to the Roman Baths..  
Visit to the Archaeological Museum.  
Visit The Maritime Garden.  
The remainder of the afternoon is free.  
Dinner included at the hotel.  
Overnight in Varna.

**Day 7 – Varna - Pliska - Sveshtari - Ruse (288 km)**

Breakfast at the hotel.  
Depart Varna for Pliska (79 km).  
Along the way, we will make a photo stop at the “Petrified Forest”.  
Visit Pliska and we see the Citadel of the first Bulgarian kings and the Basilica undergoing reconstruction.

Transfer from Pliska to Madara (15 km).  
Visit of the Horseman of Madara.  
Transfer from Madara to Choumen (18 km) and from Choumen to Sveshtari (93 km).  
Visit to the great tomb of Sveshtari and the two smaller tombs nearby.  
Continue from Sveshtari to Ruse (83 km).  
Dinner included at the hotel.  
Overnight in Ruse.

**Day 8 – Ruse - Ivanovo - Arbanasi - Veliko Tarnovo (137 km)**

Breakfast at the hotel.  
Depart Ruse for Ivanovo (25 km)  
Visit of the Notre-Dame rupestrian church and its frescoes.  
Transfer from Ivanovo to Arbanasi (102 km).  
We break our journey in Byala for a photo stop at the Kolyu Fitcheto Bridge over the Yantra River.  
In Arbanasi, we visit the Church of the Nativity and the Konstantsaliev House.  
Continue from Arbanasi to Véliko Tarnovo (10 km)  
Visit Tarnovo and the medieval citadel of Tsarevets; enjoy a walk through this modern Ottoman city before checking into your hotel.  
Dinner included at the hotel.  
Night at Veliko Tarnovo.

**Day 9 – Veliko Tarnovo - Kazanlak (94 km)**

Breakfast at the hotel.  
Depart from Veliko Tarnovo to Chipka (81 km).  
In Chipka, we visit the Russian Church and the Thracian Tombs “Golyama Kosmatka”, “Ostroucha” and “Choushmanetz”.  
Continue your journey from Chipka to Kazanlak (13 km).  
Visit Kazanlak and see the copy of the painted Thracian Tomb and History Museum.  
Dinner included at the hotel.  
Overnight in Kazanlak.

**Day 10 – Kazanlak - Hissaria - Starosel - Koprivshitzza - Sofia (242 Km)**

Breakfast at the hotel.  
Depart Kazanlak for Hissaria (68 km).  
Visit to Hissaria including the enclosure and South Gate known as “Les Cameaux”.  
Transfer from Hissaria to Starosel (21 km) and visit the two Thracian Tombs.  
Continue to Koprivshitzza (46 km) and visit the historical houses of Oslekov, Kableshkovo, Lyutov and Debélyanov.  
Depart Koprivshitzza for Sofia (107 km).  
Dinner included at the hotel.  
Overnight in Sofia.



**Day 11 – Zemen - Rila (309 km)**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Depart Sofia for Zemen (74 km).

Visit the Saint-Jean-le-Théologien Church in the Zemen Monastery and then travel on to Rila (124 km).

Upon arrival, visit the Rila Monastery and the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin. Later we see the Monastery Museum.

Depart for Sofia (111 km)

Dinner included.

Overnight in Sofia.

**Day 12 – Sofia and Departure**

Breakfast at the hotel.

The program this day will be elaborated depending on your departure details.

Possible visits, if your flight depart in the evening are:

- Boyana district and Boyana Church.
- National History Museum and then return to central Sofia to visit the Saint-Alexandre Nevski Cathedral and the Hagia Sophia.

Transfer to the airport.

Departure for your onward journey.