



ref.№ 002KW

Explore the Balkans - SUMMER TOUR

14 days/ 13 nights

Day 1 – Sofia – Sandanski – upon arrival transfer to the town of SANDANSKI- city well known as SPA & Balneology center and the best place in the Balkan peninsula for asthma treatment. **At the evening** guide and tour leader meet to comment the excursions and attractions for the next days. Overnight in Sandanski.



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Day 2 – Sandanski - Bansko

Departure for one day trip to Bansko. **Bansko** is a town in southwestern [Bulgaria](#), located at

the foot of the [Pirin Mountains](#) at an [elevation](#) of 925 m [above sea level](#). It is a popular [ski resort](#) for both European and Bulgarian tourists. Alpine and biathlon competitions take place regularly. It is expected that the summer biathlon world cup will also take place in the resort of Bansko.

The group will use the gondola – lift climbing the mountain, and will be able to enjoy the wonderful scenery from the top of the hills. There is a lovely city center in Bansko with fountains and green area where a numerous restaurants and coffee shops are located under the shadow of the trees.



Optional – picnic in the grass in a meadow with cathering.

Depart back to Sandanski. Overnight in hotel Interhotel Sandanski.

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Day 3 – Sandanski – Popina luka waterfall

Departure for Popina luka waterfall near the town of Sandanski where the group can enjoy the nature and small river and a lovely small waterfall. There are a lot of restaurants and coffee shops there because this is a small mountain resort.

Drive back to Sandanski. Overnight.

Day 4 – Sandanski – Thessaloniki (Greece)

Departure to THESSALONIKI Greece.

Thessaloniki, historically also known as **Thessalonica**, **Salonika** or **Salonica**, is the second-largest city in Greece and the capital of the region of Central Macedonia as well as the capital of the Decentralized Administration of Macedonia and Thrace. Its honorific title is Συμπρωτεύουσα (Symprotévoussa), literally "co-capital", and stands as a reference to its historical status as the Συμβασιλεύουσα (Symvasilévousa), "co-reigning" city of the Byzantine Empire, alongside Constantinople.

Overnight in hotel in the downtown of Thessaloniki (1).

Day 5 – Thessaloniki (Greece)

Day for exploring the city and its wonders.

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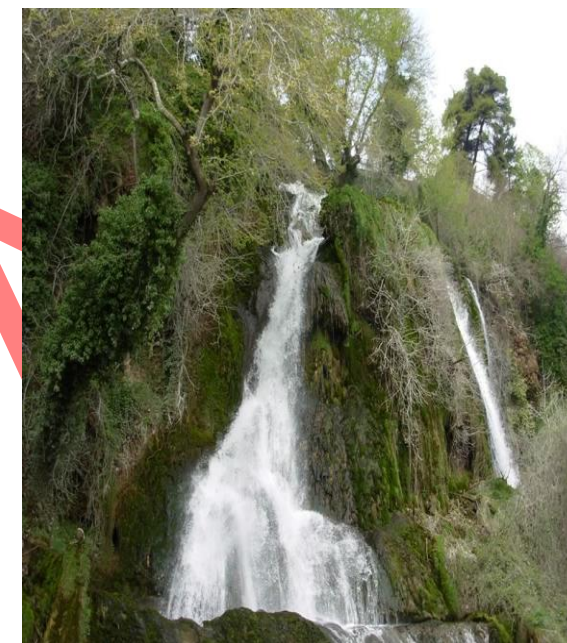
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Overnight in Thessaloniki (2).

Day 6 – Thessaloniki (Greece)- Edessa waterfalls

Departure for the wonderful place located to the west of Thessaloniki called Edessa,



famous with its waterfalls. There people can enjoy the water and the green area together with seating and observing the waterfalls in one of the many restaurants and coffee shops opposite them. A lovely place with huge trees and bushes and numerous shops around.

Departure back to Thessaloniki. Overnight (3).



Day 7 – Thessaloniki (Greece)- Alistrati cave – Kavala old town – Volvi lake – Thessaloniki

After breakfast departure to direction

Serres and Alistrati cave. Visit to the cave. After going direction Kavala – a very beautiful city located at the sea coast with a wonderful old town. In the old town people can see the house of Mehmed Ali and the Imaret from the period of his reign. Free time for lunch in a local tavern with fresh fish and etc.

After the sightseeing in Kavala departure to lake VOLVI- the biggest lake in Greece.



Overnight in Thessaloniki (4).

Day 8 – Thessaloniki (Greece)

HERE I STILL NEED TIME TO FINISH IT.

Overnight in Thessaloniki (5).

Day 9 – Thessaloniki (Greece) – Sofia (Bulgaria)

Departure to Sofia – Bulgaria. Overstop in Blagoevgrad for lunch and rest.

Overnight in Sofia. (1)

Day 10 - Sofia – The seven lakes of Rila mountain

Drive from Sofia on the way to Panichishte,

which is located at the foothill of Rila Mountain, one hour drive south from Sofia. Just before come to Panichishte the route goes via Sapareva Banya. On the way if there are cherries along the road - a short stop for **10 min.** to buy some cherries. Arrive to Sapareva Banya. The hottest mineral water geyser in Europe is there - in Sapareva Banya. 103 Celsius, it comes up every 8 seconds. Drive uphill to Panichishte. It is a ski resort at 1400 m. above sea level. Taking the open chair lift to the top of the mountain. **From there** by horses or Jeeps going to the **seven lakes area**. If someone wants to



walk it takes about 45 minutes walking. Enjoying the lakes and nature on top. After some time by horses and jeeps we are going back to the lift and reach Panichishte again and taking our bus to drive back to Sofia. Drive to Sofia and arrival at the hotel. Overnight in Sofia (2).

Day 11 - Sofia city tour and Vitosha Mountain

City tour by bus showing the central part of Sofia. Drive to VITOSHA mountain. On the way they make a stop at **Kambanite (The bells)**. **Second stop at The Dendrarium in Vitosha**. This is open space, green area with different little lakes, varieties of trees, places for children to play and adults to relax and seat. Drive higher in the mountain and there is the **Third stop Morenite (The stone river)**. This is a nature phenomenon. Big rocks all the way down over a small river. Cristal clean, clear water runs under the rocks. Children and adults can go on the rocks, walk in the area and TOUCH the water. Drive back to Sofia and there is the **Fourth last stop The Mall in Sofia**. Two and half hours shopping in the Mall. The bus goes back to the hotel at 20:30. Overnight in Sofia.(3)

Day 12 -Sofia Borovets one day excursion

Drive to one of the 3 most famous International ski resorts in BULGARIA- Borovets, located at 1350 metres above the sea level in Rila Mountain (the highest mountain in the BALKAN Peninsula with peak MUSSALAH – 2925

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m). From Borovets taking the cabin lift to the top of the mountain. On the top of the mountain fresh air, nice views, making pictures, walking around. There is a small place to buy tea, coffee, other drinks and some sandwiches or fried potatoes. Sometimes, they sell honey on the top. It is recommended to buy from that honey – it is home made. Taking back the cabin lift to the resort. In the resort there are possibilities to ride horses and/or take another open chair lift. Free time in Borovets for Shopping, playing football, walking etc. Drive from Borovets and stop over to a big lake Shturkelovo gnezdo area, located at the biggest dam in the BALKANS with the name ISKUR Dam .At the lake – possibility for dinner, sailing boat or water wheel. Nice place. Lovely big lake. Drive back to Sofia. Overnight in Sofia.(4)

Day 13 – Sofia

Day for shopping and relax.

Overnight in Sofia.(5)

Day 14 – Sofia

Departure to Kuwait.

End of the program.