



ref.№ 008EU

## **Bulgaria monastery tour**

### *The beauty of the Bulgarian monasteries*

**Dates:** every saturday from 30.04.2013 to 17.09.2013

**Minimum participants:** 12

**Price:** 619 EUR

**Price includes:** bed and breakfast accommodation, transport, all entrance fees, guide.

**Price doesn't include:** transport to Bulgaria (may be booked separately)

**Itinerary:** Sofia - Troyan - Troyan Monastery - Veliko Turnovo - Plovdiv - Bachkovo Monastery - Pamporovo - Devin - Bansko - Rozhen Monastery - Melnik - Sandanski - Rila monastery - Sofia

### ***Brief tour schedule***

**Day 1st / Saturday (or Sunday) /** Arrival at Sofia Airport.

**Day 2d / Sunday /** Sofia – Troyan monastery – Veliko Tarnovo

**Day 3th / Monday /** Veliko Tarnovo - Arbanassi

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**Day 4th / Tuesday /** Veliko Tarnovo - Dryanovo monastery - Plovdiv

**Day 5th / Wednesday /** Plovdiv - Bachkovo monastery - Pamporovo - Shiroka Luka - Devin

**Day 6th / Thursday /** Devin - Bansko - Rojen monastery - Melnik - Sandanski

**Day 7th / Friday /** Sandanski - Rila monastery-Sofia

**Day 8th / Saturday /** Transfer to the Airport

### ***Tour Prices***

Package prices:

Price per person in double room – **599 EUR**

Single supplement – 120 EUR

Dinner supplement – 95 EUR

Price per child on regular bed – 534 EUR

Price per child on additional bed – 499 EUR

### ***Prices include***

The above prices include:

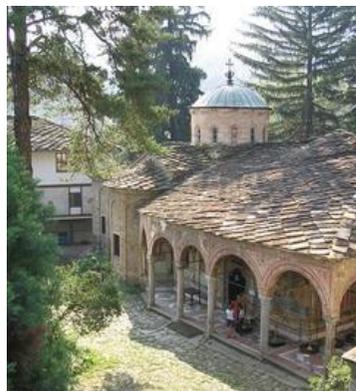
- **7 overnights with breakfasts** in Pirin Park Hotel Sandanski \*\*\*\*\*/ Grand Hotel Yantra \*\*\*\* / Bulgaria Hotel \*\*\* / Hotel Devin \*\*\*\* / Best Western Thracia Hotel \*\*\*\*
- transportation according the planned itinerary
- Guide in English ( German, French, Spanish, Italian on request ) during the program
- **all entrance fees** in the program.
- The package prices are valid for a minimum of 2 participants.

Prices do not include

**Flight ticket to Bulgaria.** You can book a flight to Bulgaria from any town in Europe with us as we are authorized IATA agent.

**ITINERARY in details:**

**Day 1st / Arrival at Sofia Airport**

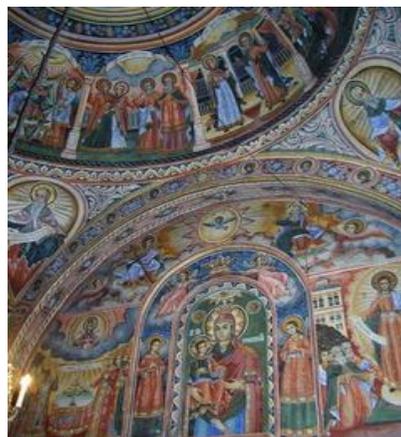


Arrival at Sofia Airport. Transfer to Hotel Best Western Thracia\*\*\*\*. Overnight.

**Day 2d / Sofia – Troyan monastery – Veliko Tarnovo**

Breakfast. Sightseeing tour of historical center of Sofia: the Cathedral Alexander Nevski, one of the most remarkable monuments of Orthodox culture in Bulgaria, built in 1912 in Neobyzantine style; The Crypt, where are exhibited ones of the most beautiful Bulgarian icons; The Church “Sveta Sofia” which was built on the site of several earlier churches and places of worship dating back to the days when it was the necropolis of the Roman town of Serdica; St. George Rotunda, considered as the oldest building in Sofia, built by the time when Emperor Constantine the Great had been staying in Sofia.

In the afternoon, visit of Troyan monastery, the third largest monastery in Bulgaria, situated in the northern part of the country in the Balkan Mountains, on the banks of Cherni Osam River.



Arrival in Veliko Tarnovo.– one of the oldest cities in Bulgaria with more than 5 hundred years of history. Overnight in Veliko Tarnovo - Grand Hotel Yantra \*\*\*\*.



**Day 3th / Veliko Tarnovo - Arbanassi**



Breakfast. In the morning, visit of Tsarevets Hill – the capital Bulgarian fortress from the time of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom (1185 – 1396).

**Arbanassi village** In the afternoon, the exciting trip continues toward Arbanassi – one of the most unique and picturesque villages in Bulgaria.

Overnight in Veliko Tarnovo - Grand Hotel Yantra \*\*\*\*

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**Day 4th / Veliko Tarnovo - Dryanovo monastery - Plovdiv**



Breakfast. Departure for Dryanovo monastery "Sveti Arhangel Mihail" - situated in the picturesque gorge of Dryanovo River in Stara Planina.

Arrival in Plovdiv

Sightseeing of The Old city: The Antique theatre, built in the beginning of II century by the time of Emperor Trayan (98 – 117).

Overnight in Plovdiv – Star Hotel Bulgaria \*\*\*

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**Day 5th / Plovdiv - Bachkovo monastery - Pamporovo - Shiroka Luka - Devin**

Breakfast. Departure for Bachkovo monastery "Assumption of St. Maria", the second large Bulgarian monastery. It is located on the right bank of the breathtaking Chepelare River. The monastery

was founded in 1083 by the Byzantine military commander of Georgian origin, Grigorii Bakuriani and his brother Abazii.

Our trip continues to a famous Bulgarian ski resort - Pamporovo. The specific combination of favourable weather condition makes this resort both beautiful in winter and in summer. Pamporovo, the pearl of all Bulgarian mountain resorts, is situated in the heart of the stunning Rhodopi Mountains. It is better known as the sunniest mountain resorts in Bulgaria.

Pamporovo is situated on 1650 m above the sea level at the foot of peak Snejanka (1926 m).





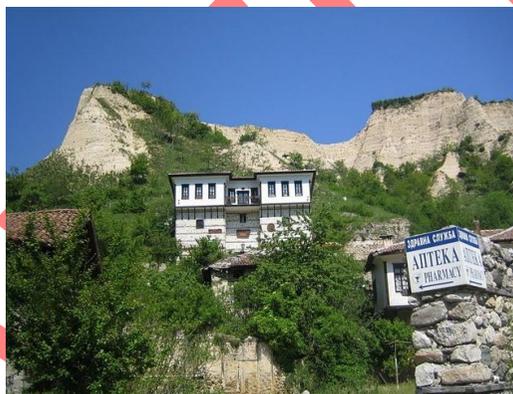
Visit of Shiroka Laka

- village–museum, an architectural and ethnographic reserve, well known for its original Rhodope architectural style, musical traditions and history.

It is built amphitheatrically in the narrow and steep valley of the Shirokolashka River, at the foot of the Western Rhodope Mountains.

Next stop on the road is the city of Devin, Spa and holiday resort. It is situated amid scenic hills in the heart of the Rhodopes at an altitude of 710 - 780 m. Devin boasts several mineral water springs with a temperature between 16 and 76C. The water is clear, colourless, palatable, odourless, hyper- and homeo-thermal, mildly mineralized, and contains hydrocarbonates of sodium and small quantities of fluorine. It has a strong alkaline reaction (pH 9.4).

Devin is the perfect choice when it comes for spa and balneology treatments for a wide range of diseases: of the locomotor system, cardiovascular diseases and nervous disorders.



Overnight in Devin - Hotel Devin \*\*\*\*

### Day 6th / Devin - Bansko - Rojen monastery - Melnik - Sandanski

**Rozhen Monastery** Visit of the town Melnik /old wine producing centre/, the Rozhen Monastery, winetasting and dinner in Melnik, overnight in Sandanski. Breakfast. Departure for the most famous Bulgarian winter resort Bansko. It is quite different from the classic mountain resorts as it can impress with significant cultural heritage spanning from architecture to poetry and ancient Christian arts.

The city can impress with authentic fortified and artistically decorated houses from the 18th and 19th century, built almost entirely of stone, with small barred windows, tall walls, heavy metal-plated gates and interconnected by narrow and winding cobble-stone streets. The "Sveta Troitsa" ("St.Trinity") church, the bell tower with the big clock, the medieval church "Assumption of the Virgin Mary" with its remarkable wood-carved iconostasis make for fine accents in Bansko's atmosphere.

Stop in Melnik – the smallest town in Bulgaria. The breathtaking Melnik pyramids rank among the most remarkable natural phenomena in Bulgaria. Over an area of about 17 sq. km. millennia-long erosion has created a truly unearthly world. Apart from the unique natural surroundings, the town also boasts for the fascinating architecture of its old Melnik houses, most of which were built during the Bulgarian Renaissance.

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Arrival in Sandanski. Its excellent position, favourable climate (with the highest average annual temperature in the country, +19,70°C) and the concentration of mineral water springs in the area are the reasons why the town is a famous centre for relaxation and recreation.

Overnight in Pirin Park Hotel Sandanski \*\*\*\*\*

#### **Day 7th / Sandanski – Rila monastery - Sofia**



Breakfast. Trip to the Rila Monastery - one of the most famous Bulgarian symbols. Not only is it the biggest monastery in Bulgaria, but also the Rila Monastery is the most influential spiritual centre in the country and the second biggest monastery on the Balkan Peninsula. Since the monastery

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was established, it was a number of times rebuilt, destroyed and reconstructed. It is considered that the founder of the the Rila Monastery is the first Bulgarian hermit Ivan Rilsky (876-946).

The famous the Rila Monastery found it place on the List of World Cultural Heritage (UNESCO) as a world cultural value in 1983.

Overnight in Sofia - Hotel Best Western Thracia\*\*\*\*

#### **Day 8th / Transfer to the Airport**

Breakfast. Transfer to the Airport.