

# ref.№ 013EU

# **UNESCO Heritage in Bulgaria - 9 days**

9 <mark>Days/8 Nights</mark> transport: **bus** Food & Dining: **Half Board** 

UNESCO listed cultural monuments in Bulgaria in this tour::

- The Boyana Church
- The Rila Monastery
- The Museum Town of Nessebar
- The Madara Horseman
- The Sveshtari Thacian tomb
- Ivanovo Rock Churches and cells
- The Kazanlak Thracian Tomb

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### Day 1 ARRIVAL IN SOFIA, SOFIA CITY TOUR

Arrival in Sofia. The guide meets the group. Transfer to the hotel. Accommodation. Transfer to the city centre for sightseeing. The tour starts at the Alexander Nevski Cathedral – the biggest one in Bulgaria and according to many, the most spectacular building in Sofia. It continues on to the Holy Synod, St. Sofia Church, The Bulgarian

National Gallery for Foreign Art, The Sofia University, The National Library, The National Palace of Culture and The Earth and Man National Museum.

You will also see the biggest among Sofia parks which is Boris' Garden, the Eagle's Bridge and the monument of Vassil Levski - a great Bulgarian national hero. The

Transfer to the restaurant for welcome dinner. The delicious dishes from the national Bulgarian cuisine are combined with music and folk dances. Back to the hotel. Overnight.

### Day 2 SOFIA - RILA MONASTERY - PLOVDIV

Breakfast. Drive to The Rila Monastery - picturesque located in the heart of Rila Mountains. It is the most famous monument of Bulgarian culture, spiritual centre of Bulgarians for more than 10 centuries. The icons, iconostasis and murals are samples of the outstanding Bulgarian renaissance art schools from the National Revival period. The interior is a beautiful interlace of colonnades arches, wooden staircases and verandas. The museum keeps a rich collection of



books, manuscripts and icons. Transfer to the city of Plovdiv - Bulgaria's second largest town, famous for the International fair which is held every May and September. Plovdiv is an extraordinary combination of monuments from different époques - from Philip II Macedonian until the present days. Accommodation, dinner & overnight.

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### Day 3 PLOVDIV – SLIVEN - BOURGAS

Breakfast. City tour of the Old town of Ploydiv. It was inhabited by the Thracians, Romans, Goths, Slavs and Ottomans whose traces have turned the town into a museum. The Ancient Plovdiv Architectural Reserve is of special interest. Brilliant examples of the Bulgarian National Revival Period are preserved here. One can sit among the ruins of the ancient Roman Theater and feel the atmosphere of the extinct world. Today Old Plovdiv is an autonomous area within the modern town with a municipality of its own. It is declared an architectural



museum reserve with over 150 monuments of culture - houses from the National Revival period. Its magnificent houses are turned into museums, galleries, workshops, restaurants, and pubs.

In the afternoon - departure for Bourgas crossing the picturesque Thracian valley. Arrival in Bourgas;

accommodation, dinner & overnight.

## Day 4 BOURGAS - NESSEBAR - VARNA

Breakfast. The road proceeds to The Museum Town of Nessebar, picturesque situated on small peninsula. It preserves the ruins of more than 40 medieval churches with murals and carvings, ceramic ornaments. The town is remarkable with its splendid houses – each of

them a masterpiece of the Bulgarian architecture. The unique atmosphere of Nessebar is an unforgettable experience. Sightseeing tour of Nessebar with a visit of Hristos Pantocrator Church and St. Stefan church. Drive along the sea cost to the "summer capital city" of Bulgaria – the city of Varna. Panoramic tour of Varna and visit of the Archeological museum. Accommodation, dinner and overnight.

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#### Day 5 VARNA – MADARA - SHOUMEN

Breakfast. Visit of Aladja monastery. Departure to the Village of Madara for a visit of The Madara Horseman - 7th century AD, an impressive bas-relief, carved out of the sheer rock, unique in Europe. Arrival in the town of Shoumen, Accommodation at the hotel. Sightseeing of Shoumen with visit of the Tombul mosque – remarkable monument of the Ottoman architecture. Dinner in the village of Osmar. This is the place where the traditional Bulgarian hospitality, the gentle character of the people and the merry-making habits of the Bulgarians all meet. The famous bitter Osmar pelin wine originates here. Back to the hotel. Overnight.



# Day 6 SHOUMEN – SVESHTARI – ROUSSE

Breakfast. Departure to the town of Razgrad and then t The Sveshtari tomb which is the best preserved and beautiful Thracian tomb yet discovered in Bulgaria, located 7 km from the town of Isperih. Discovered during excavations of a sepulchral mound, it dates back to the first half of the 3rd century BC. The funeral rites, the building technique, the architectural design and the rich decoration, distinguished for Hellenistic models, provide evidence that a Thracian ruler has been buried there. Transfer to the city

of Rousse - the biggest and most beautiful Bulgarian city on the Danube River.

Accommodation at the hotel. Dinner and overnight.

# Day 7 ROUSSE - IVANOVO - VELIKO TURNOVO - TRIAVNA

Breakfast. Visit Ivanovo Rock Churches and cells, carved into the rock high above the canyon of the Roussenski Lom River, with 13th and 14th century murals of great artistic interest. Departure for

Veliko Turnovo - the ex-capital of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom (12-14century), one of the most picturesque cities in Bulgaria situated up on several hills on both sides of Yantra River. The houses are

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perched one above the other on the steep slopes making an incredible panorama. A stroll in the old part between the small shops and narrow streets, visit of Tzarevetz Hill with the remains of the fortress, the ex-royal palace and Patriarch church. Transfer to the museum town of Triavna, famous with the exceptional masterpieces of Bulgarian Revival architecture and handicrafts – 18-19 centuries. Visit to the Museum of woodcarving and icon-painting in Daskalova house. Accommodation, dinner and overnight.

### Day 8 TRIAVNA - KAZANLUK - KOPRIVSHTITZA – SOFIA

Breakfast. Crossing the Balkan mountains by the magnificent Shipka pass. Visit of the Russian memorial church. Stopover in Kazanluk and visit of The Thracian Tomb - the best preserved monument of Thracian art in Bulgaria dated 4th–3rd century B.C. The Tomb is not large, but it inspires the imagination with the beautiful ornaments and murals. Departure for the museum town of Koprivshtitza – one of the unique Bulgarian towns presenting the original architectural heritage from the Bulgarian Revival period. Transfer for Sofia. Arrival in the late evening. Accommodation, dinner and overnight.



### DAY 9 SOFIA – DEPARTURE

Breakfast. Check out from the hotel. Visit to The Boyana Church, dated 1259, known for its 13th century murals, famous for their exceptional realism.

Transfer to Sofia AP for the home flight.

The rate may vary according to the group size.

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