

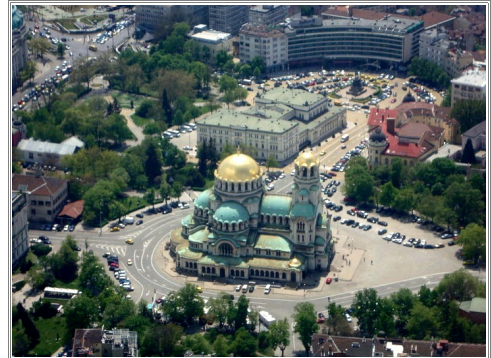
TOUR DISCOVER BULGARIA

Introducing two striking new places:

*The city of **Vidin** in north west Bulgaria and the neighboring area of **Serbia**
with the famous UNESCO archaeological site Felix Romuliana and the area of Negotino*

1\ SOFIA

Arrival in Sofia, meeting with the guide who will accompany the group throughout the tour. Visit the centre of the capital: the Church **St. Sofia**, the Memorial Cathedral **Aleksandar Nevski**, a Bulgarian Orthodox cathedral in Sofia, built in Neo-Byzantine style, which serves as the cathedral church of the Patriarch of Bulgaria and it is one of the largest Eastern Orthodox cathedrals in the world, as well as one of Sofia's symbols and primary tourist attractions. Visit the Church "St. Nedelia". Accommodation in a hotel. Half board.



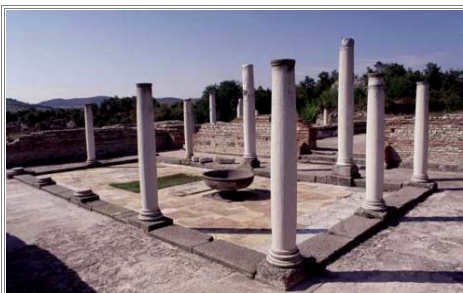
2\ SOFIA - VIDIN (200 km)

Breakfast. Visit the **National Museum of History** and the **Boyana Church** (UNESCO). The small church is an unique example of the medieval church architecture in the Balkans. The building was erected and then three times repaired in different historical periods, in fact it is constructed at the end of X century, but it undergoes its first change in XIII and the second in XIX century. What really make it special are its frescos on the interior. Because the technique by which are made the oldest ones (XIII century) and especially because of the sketch form of the perspective are considered to be predecessors of the stylistic innovative thematic of the large Italian painting. In the afternoon departure to Vidin. Accommodation in a hotel. Full board.



3\ VIDIN – NEGOTIN – RAJAC – GAMZIGRAD – VIDIN (200 km)

Breakfast. Departure to **Serbia**. Visit the center of **Negotin** where is located **The Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity**. The square dedicated to Stevan Mokranjac and Hajduk Veljko Street are geographical determinants of tourists. The Church is built in neoclassical style with renaissance elements, provides a special visual impression to the town. **The Negotin museum** is home to many archeological findings, from Roman times to the more recent World War II era. Departure to **Rajac** - a small stone city of wine. Houses built of yellow sandstone, partially buried in the ground. The scene as in a fairy tale. Visit one of the Rajac cellars and tasting of locally produced wine. Departure to Gamzigrad and visit **Felix Romuliana**. Gamzigrad is an archaeological site, part of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites. It is the location of the ancient Roman complex of palaces and temples Felix Romuliana, built by Emperor Galerius. The main area covers 10 acres. Departure to Vidin. Full board.





4\ VIDIN – TROYAN (290 km)

Breakfast. Sight seeings of Vidin - **Fortress Baba Vida**. Baba Vida is among the most preserved medieval fortification constructions in Bulgaria. The construction of the medieval castle began during the second half of the 10th century, but during the Second Bulgarian Empire (the end of the 12th – 14th century) the basic construction was performed. Baba Vida had nine corner and intermediate towers with the walls and the towers ending with loop-holes. There is also a prison in the fortress open for visitors. Visit the **Osman Pazvantoglu Mosque** (outside) and **Metropolitan Christian Complex**. Departure to Troyan. Accommodation in a hotel. Full board.

5\ TROYAN – ARBANASSI – VELIKO TARNOVO (120 km)

Breakfast. Visit of **Troyan Monastery**, the third largest monastery in Bulgaria. It is located in the northern part of the country and it was founded no later than the end of the 16th century. The main church of the monastery was reconstructed near the end of Ottoman rule during the Bulgarian National Revival period by a master-builder called Konstantin in 1835. The ornate interior and exterior of the church were painted between 1847 and 1849 by Zahari Zograf, a popular Bulgarian painter of the time, who also painted the central church of the Rila Monastery, the largest monastery in Bulgaria. The iconostasis in the central church is a wood carving and dates from 1839. The Troyan Monastery is also from the 17 century and it is the home of one of the holiest icons in Bulgarian Orthodoxy, the Three-Handed Virgin. Many people make a pilgrimage to this monastery on St. George's Day because of an icon of St. George in the main church. Departure to **Arbanassi**. Visit the **Church of the Nativity**, famous with its magnificent interior murals and the **house-museum Kostanzaliev**. This large building was built in the XVIII century by a wealthy merchant. Departure to **Veliko Tarnovo**. Visit the market-place **Samovodska Charshiya**. Accommodation in a hotel. Full board.



6\ VELIKO TARNOVO – MADARA – POBITI KAMANI - VARNA (260 km)

Breakfast. Visit the old town: **Tzarevets Architectural and Museum Reserve**. This is a medieval stronghold located on a hill with the same name. It served as the Second Bulgarian Empire's primary fortress and strongest bulwark from 1185 to 1393, housing the royal and the patriarchal palaces, and it is a popular tourist attraction. Visit **Assenova Mahalà** district. Departure to visit the **Madara Rider** - is an early medieval large rock relief carved on the Madara Plateau. The monument is dated to about 710 AD and has been on the UNESCO World Heritage List since 1979. Departure to visit the **Petrified Forest (Pobiti kamani)**. They look like a petrified forest. It is actually the end result of a particular geological phenomenon. Departure to **Varna**. Accommodation. Full board.

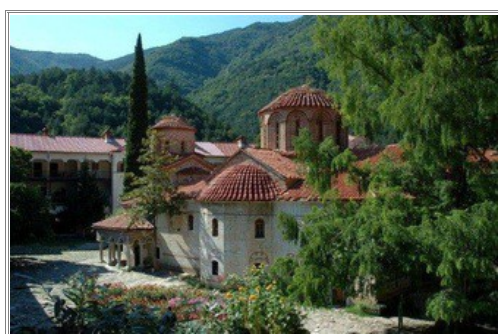


7\ VARNA – MEDOVO – KARANOVO – KAZANLAK (340 km)

Breakfast. Visit the **Varna Archaeological Museum** that now holds over 100 000 various objects of the region's past epochs. Departure to village **Medovo** and visiting **Chateau Rubaiyat**. Chateau Rubaiyat is built in traditional Bulgarian architecture with a unique Handicrafts Street in the spirit of 18th century Bulgarian lifestyle. Departure to **Kazanlak**. On the way to Kazanlak, stop to visit Bulgaria's newest archaeological complex in the village of **Karanovo**, consisting of a tomb of an Ancient Thracian aristocrat and displaying a uniquely preserved Thracian chariot has been opened in 2010. In addition to have four wheels, which is a very rare archaeological find, the chariot is remarkable for the large size of its wheels – 1.2 meters in diameter. It also features well preserved bronze decoration. Accommodation in Kazanlak. Full board.

8\ KAZANLAK – BACHKOVO – BRESTOVITSA – PLOVDIV (170 km)

Breakfast. Visit **Kazanlak** - the capital of the Rouses valley. The region around Kazanlak has been inhabited for thousands of years, with traces of civilization going as far back as 2.000 BC. Visit the important **Thracian Burial**: in the 4th century BC, near the ancient Thracian capital of Seuthopolis and close to the city, a magnificent Thracian tomb was built. Consisting of a vaulted brickwork "beehive" tomb, it contains, among other things, painted murals representing a Thracian couple at a ritual funeral feast. The tomb was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979. Departure for the **Bachkovo Monastery**. Visiting the **Bachkovo Monastery**, the second of importance in Bulgaria. It is an important monument of Christian architecture and one of the largest and oldest



Eastern Orthodox monasteries in Europe. It is located on the right bank of the Chepelare River, 189 km from Sofia and 10 km south from Asenovgrad, and it is directly subordinate to the Holy Synod of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church. The monastery is known and appreciated for the unique combination of Byzantine, Georgian and Bulgarian culture, united by the common faith. Departure to **Brestovitsa**. Departure to **Plovdiv**. Visit the town: the **Ethnographic Museum**, the "Nebet Tepe" hill, the **Church of St. St. Costantin and Elena**, the **old Theatre**, the **old Mosque**. Plovdiv is one of the oldest cities in Europe. It is a contemporary of Troy and Mycenae and it is older than Rome, Athens, Carthage or Istanbul (Constantinople).

Plovdiv has more than 200 known archaeological sites, 30 of which are of national importance. Some of the most famous sites include the Roman Theater (early 2nd century AD) and Stadium (late 2nd century AD), the Nebet Tepe archaeological complex and the noted samples of Bulgarian National Revival architecture, such as the Balabanov House, the Lamartine House, and the houses of Georgiadi, Nedkovich, and Hindian. The Old Town of Plovdiv is a historic preservation site known for its unique Bulgarian Renaissance architectural style. Almost every house in the Old Town is characteristically impressive in its exterior and interior decoration. Accommodation in a hotel. Full board.

9\ PLOVDIV – RILA - SOFIA (340 km)

Breakfast. Departure to visit **Todoroff Wine House** – the cellar was established in 1945 and it was nationalized two years later, in 1947. This is the first Boutique Cellar in Bulgaria. Continuation for the **Rila Monastery**. Founded in the 10th century, the Rila Monastery is regarded as one of Bulgaria's most important cultural, historical and architectural monuments. It is also a key tourist attraction in Bulgaria and Southern Europe as a whole. It is traditionally thought that the monastery was founded by the hermit Ivan Rilski, whose name it bears, during the rule of Tsar Peter I (927-968). The monastery complex, regarded as one of the foremost masterpieces of Bulgarian National Revival architecture, was declared a National Historical Monument in 1976 and became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983. Since 1991 it has been entirely subordinate to the Holy Synod of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church. Departure to **Sofia**. Accommodation. Full Board.



10\ SOFIA - DEPARTURE

Breakfast. Transfer to the airport.