



Rila Monastery

# Classic Bulgaria

## Small group tour - 8 days/7 nights



See the very best that Bulgaria has to offer on this guaranteed, fixed departure small group tour. You'll travel in a group of maximum 15 travellers with your own English speaking guide, and all meals, accommodation, transport, entrances, and sightseeing are included in the price. If the dates below are unsuitable, then we can create a tour to suit your specific needs.

### Inclusions

- 7 nights accommodation with breakfast in 3-star hotels
- Meals - 6 lunches, 7 dinners including complimentary coffee and mineral water
- Arrival/departure transfers to/from airport or train station
- Transportation by A/C coach, minibus or car with professional driver and guide (for fewer than 4 passengers travel will be by air-conditioned car with driver/guide)
- Small group tour with minimum 2 and maximum 15 passengers
- Sightseeing commentary by **multilingual guide** in English and Spanish (There may be some non English speaking passengers from South America who speak Spanish)
- All entrance fees to museums, monasteries and ancient sites

### Your hotels

- **SOFIA** - Ramada Sofia
- **PLOVDIV** - Alafrangite
- **KAZANLAK** - Palas
- **VELIKO TARNOVO** - Gurko

*Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.*

### Day 1 Sofia

You will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Sofia. **D**

### Day 2 Sofia

This morning depart for the Rila Monastery, a 10th century UNESCO World Heritage site. It is the largest and most impressive Bulgarian monastery, famous for its outstanding frescoes and lavish collection of precious old manuscripts, icons, jewellery, woodcarving and ethnographic exhibition of fabrics and carpets. Overnight Sofia. **BLD**

### Day 3 Sofia to Plovdiv

Today enjoy a comprehensive sightseeing tour of Sofia, a city with 7000 years of

history. Your local guide will introduce you to the culture and history of those many different periods. Visits include Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, the St. George Rotunda from the 4th century, St. Sofia Basilica, and the Roman ruins of Serdica. Later continue to Plovdiv, the second most important city in the country. Overnight Plovdiv. **BLD**

### Day 4 Plovdiv to Kazanlak

Plovdiv is one of the most ancient towns in the world and even older than Rome. During your sightseeing of the Old Town you'll view impressive National Revival architecture and visit the remarkable 2nd century Roman theatre with impressive

marble statues, decorative columns and arcades. Later, depart Plovdiv to travel to the 11th century Bachkovo Monastery, one of the richest galleries of traditional Bulgarian religious art with its exquisite murals and medieval icons. Towards late afternoon, continue to Kazanlak, the capital of the famous Valley of Roses. Overnight Kazanlak. **BLD**

### Day 5 Kazanlak to Veliko Tarnovo

Firstly, a tour highlight with a visit to the recently discovered Thracian golden treasures in Kazanlak Historical Museum. Continue to a UNESCO site, the Thracian Tomb, dating from the 4th century BC, before travelling through the Shipka Pass

to Tryavna. There enjoy a walking tour across vaulted stone bridges and past houses, churches and a town square which preserve the spirit and talent of the artists from 17th century Tryavna School of Art. After a visit to the Woodcarving Museum of Tryavna continue to Veliko Tarnovo. Overnight Veliko Tarnovo. **BLD**

### Day 6 Veliko Tarnovo

Your morning sightseeing tour of this town perched spectacularly on the cliffs above the river includes a walk on Samovodska Charshiya, the traditional arts and crafts street. Then visit Tsarevets Hill - an impressive sight with medieval fortifications and dramatic architecture. This afternoon travel to the museum town of Arbanassi boasting a genuine gallery of religious art in its Church of Nativity. There visit Konstantsaljeva House, a fine example of a 17th century wealthy merchant's house. Overnight in Veliko Tarnovo. **BLD**

### Day 7 Veliko Tarnovo to Sofia

Depart this morning for Sofia and on the way stop to visit the Troyan monastery dating from 16th century, and third largest in Bulgaria. Arrive in Sofia in the afternoon with free time to explore the city from your central hotel. Overnight Sofia. **BLD**

### Day 8 Sofia

Your tour ends after breakfast with your departure transfer. **B**



Bachkovo monastery, wall painting detail

### Tour price & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD. Min 2 pax. Saturday departures May-Sep 2017.

Departures	Twn	Sgl
6 May, 10 Jun, 15 Jul, 5 Aug, 26 Aug, 9 Sep	1575	1890

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