

## BULGARIA - MACEDONIA - ALBANIA

**Sofia - Arbanassi - Veliko Turnovo - Etara - Kazanlak - Plovdiv - Rila monastery - Sofia - Skopje - Ohrid -**

### Day 1 - Sofia



*Alexander Nevski cathedral*

Arriving in Sofia. **Half-day city tour of Sofia.**

You will see part of the city walls, churches and streets from the antiquity side by side with edifices built during the Byzantine period LA the 6th c. AD church of **St. Sophia**, the 4th c. AD **St. George Rotunda** and The Cathedral of **St. Alexander Nevski**. The beautiful building of the University, the National Art Gallery, the National Theater, numerous monuments and open spaces in the city will make the tour a pleasant one.

**Dinner and overnight in Hotel in Sofia. (D)**

### Day 2 – Sofia – Veliko Turnovo /230 km - 2h40m/

Morning departure from Sofia to Veliko Turnovo. **Sightseeing tour of Veliko Turnovo** – the ex-Royal capital with visiting **Tsarevets Hill** with its solid fortress walls, royal palaces, patriarchal church and Baudouin's Tower.



*Tsarevets*

One should not leave Veliko Turnovo without taking a walk along **Samovodene market** with its original workshops from the period of the National Revival.



*Arbanassi house*

Lunch in the museum village of **Arbanassi**, situated only 5 km. from Veliko Turnovo. Sightsseing of Arbanassi with its unique architecture of the houses, which resemble minor fortresses. We will visit the oldest of Arbanassi's five churches is **The Birth of Christ (1637 - 1649)**, hiding a genuine art gallery with over 3,500 stunningly realistic figures and Biblical scenes.

**Dinner and overnight in Veliko Turnovo. (B, L, D)**

### Day 3 – Veliko Turnovo – Etara - Kazanlak – Plovdiv /210 km - 3h20m/

Departure to Plovdiv – the second largest city.

En route visit **Etara ethnographic museum** and the Assumption **Sokolski monastery** with the famous stone fountain constructed by the master Kolyu Ficheto.

See the golden domes of **Shipka Monastery** and continue to the town of **Kazanluk** known as the capital of the Valley of the Roses. Trace the Thracian culture by visiting the **Kazanlak Thracian Tomb** (4th century BC, UNESCO) and **Kulata ethnographic complex** in Kazanlak.



*Etara Open air museum*

### **Lunch in Kazanlak.**



*Roman theatre*

Continue to Plovdiv. Sightseeing of The Old Town of Plovdiv, which is one of the most remarkable places in Bulgaria with its steep cobble-stoned streets, unique houses and romantic atmosphere. See 4<sup>th</sup> century BC **Thracian wall paintings**, the **Roman amphitheater**, **Byzantine and medieval fortifications** and **15th century Ottoman mosque**.

**Dinner and overnight in Plovdiv. (B, L, D)**

### **Day 4 – Plovdiv – Rila monastery - Sofia**

Morning departure for Rila monastery. Visit and lunch at **Rila monastery** – the biggest and most spectacular in Bulgaria, one of Europe’s oldest and included in UNESCO’s World Cultural Heritage List.

The monastery's most treasured historic and artistic monuments include the 14th century Hrelyo Tower, the five-domed Birth of the Blessed Virgin Church and the original monastery kitchen from the 19th century.

Return back to Sofia.



*Rila monastery*

**Farewell dinner at National restaurant** with folklore program.

**Overnight in Sofia. (B, L, D)**

### **Day 5 – Sofia - Skopje /230 km - 3h30m/**

After Breakfast we drive to Skopje capital of Macedonia on the Vardar River. Visit the centre, with a mixture of styles, The old bazaar and Mahmut Pasha Hamm am of Ottoman Style, the memorial house of Mother Teresa and the Macedonia Plaza with modern styles. Lunch independently. After lunch visit the old stone bridge, the Castle of Ohrid etc. Welcome dinner in a local restaurant. Overnight in Hotel 4\*

**Sightseeing of Skopje. Dinner and overnight in Skopje 4\* hotel (B, L, D)**

### **Day 6 - Skopje - Ohrid /180 km - 2h30m/**

After breakfast drive to Ohrid. We will visit: St. John at Kaneo, stands alone on a small promontory which juts out into the Lake at the western end of the Old Town, and provides

spectacular panoramic views of the Lake and surrounding mountains, Samuil fortress, etc. other visits include– Saint Sophia Cathedral, Saint Painteleimon Church, The Holy Virgin of Peribleptos Church, Icon Galery,-and old Bazaar. Lunch independent. The tour continues to: St. Naum Monastery. In the monastery we follow the path of St. Naum, meeting the legends of all the miracles he made before and after he built his church on the top of the rock. Visit of the monastery and the Springs of Black (Crni) Drim river, you may enjoy in the rowing boat on the springs site. Dinner independent. Overnight in Ohrid Hotel 3-4\*

***Sightseeing of Ohrid and Sveti Naum. Dinner and overnight in Ohrid 4\* hotel (B, L, D)***

***Day 7 - Ohrid - Elbasan - Berat /175 km - 2h45m/***

***Day 8 - Berat - Gjirokastër - Saranda /230 km - 3h40m/***

***Day 9 - Saranda - Butrint - Vlora /185 km - 3h20m/***

***Day 10 - Vlora - Apollonia - Duress - Tirana /160 km - 2h20m/***

***Day 11 - Tirana - Kruja - Shkodra - Tirana /230 km - 3h45m/***

***Day 12 - Airport transfer***

***Package price per person:***

***2+0:***

***3+0:***

***4+0:***

***6+0:***

***8+0:***

***10+1:***

***15+1:***

***20+1:***

***Single supplement:***

**The package rates should include:**

- Accommodation in 4\* hotels on HB where possible or very good 3\* hotels
- American buffet breakfast daily
- Lunches at local restaurants
- One farewell show dinner with folklore program in Tirana
- Transfers and transportation by deluxe vehicles from Day 6th from Skopje to Day 12 - Tirana airport:
- for 2 and 3 pax by sedan - guide to act as a driver as well,
- for 4 and 6 pax by mini-van - 6+1 and 8+1 seats,
- for 8, 10 and 15 pax by mini-coach - 15-18+1 seats,
- for 20 pax - by coach - 25-30+1 seats
- English speaking guide for the whole tour
- Entrance fees and museum taxes as per itinerary
- One person /tour leader/ free of charge in single room for 10, 15 and 20 pax group