

THE HIDDEN THRACIAN TREASURES

6 nights/7 days

Sofia – Plovdiv – Kazanluk – Veliko Turnovo – Sofia

Once upon a time the Thracians inhabited our lands. The Greek chronicler Herodotus claims that 'after the Indian, the Thracian people are the most numerous'. Millennia after, their ancient and mysterious culture was revealed in its true magnificence. The unearthed **Thracian gold treasures** conquered the modern world and enabled a great civilization to take its deserving place in the history of mankind.



Day 1 Sofia

Meet and greet your guide at Sofia airport, transfer to your hotel. **Welcome dinner at a traditional folk style restaurant with program. Overnight in Sofia (D)**

Day 2 Sofia



Archaeological museum



Rotonda



Boyana church

Morning sightseeing tour of Sofia. Visit the gold domed **Alexander Nevsky Cathedral**, 4th c. AD St. Sophia church, 4th c. AD St. George Rotanda, 11th c. AD church of St. Petka of the Saddlers. Visit the **National Archaeological museum** where are exhibited three of the world's famous treasures - the golden vessels and disks from Vulchitrun, Plevan region; the silver appliques of a horse harness from Lukovit, Lovetch region and the

golden ornaments, silver vessels and coins from Nikolaevo, Pleven region. Afternoon visit of the **National Museum of History** - one of the largest history museums on the Balkans with 650.000 items and the largest archaeological and historical archive and UNESCO's World Cultural Heritage listed **Boyana church** with astonishing 13th century AD frescoes. **Dinner and overnight in Sofia (B,L,D)**

Day 3 Sofia – Perperikon – Plovdiv /360 km/



Perperikon



Plovdiv

After breakfast, drive to the town of Kurdjali in the Rhodopi Mountains and visit the recently discovered sacred town of the Thracians – **Perperikon** with **Dionysios's sanctuary** (6-5th c. BC). In the afternoon continue to Plovdiv, Bulgarian second largest city. Sightseeing tour of the **Old Quarter** including the 2nd c. AD **Roman amphitheatre**, **The Archaeological Museum**, where not on a tour, the Panagyurishte golden treasure is kept, **St. St. Konstantine and Helena Church** and **Jumaya Mosque**. **Dinner and overnight in Plovdiv (B,L,D)**

Day 4 Plovdiv - Starosel - Kazanluk /170 km/



Starosel tomb



Golden mask (4th c. BC)



Ostrousha fresco

Drive to Kazanluk, situated in the middle of the Valley of the Thracian kings. En route visit **Starosel** with **Chetinyova hill** (recently discovered 5th c. BC Thracian sanctuaries once used as a temple as well as a Thracian tomb). PM visit of **Goliamata Kosmatka Tomb** dating back to 5-4th c. BC belonging to the Thracian King Seuthes III; the unique tomb at **Ostrousha Funeral Complex** (5th c. BC); **Svetitsata Tomb** belonging to the mighty Thracian King Teres who reigned during the 5th c. BC. **Dinner and overnight in Kazanluk (B,L,D)**

Day 5 Kazanluk – Veliko Turnovo /100 km/



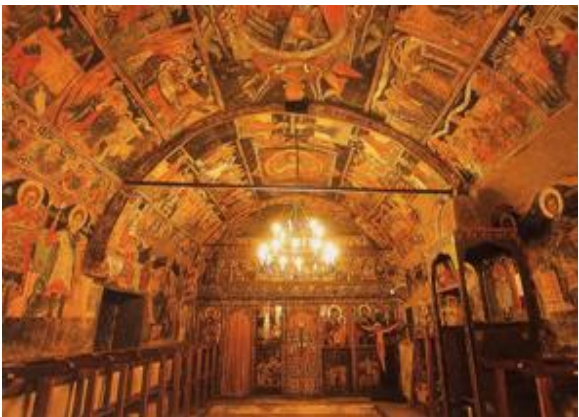
Kazanlak tomb



Sound& Light at Tsarevets Hill

Morning visit of the **Iskra Museum of History in Kazanluk** where some of the unique Thracian golden treasures discovered in the region are on display and the famous 4th c. BC **Kazanluk Thracian Tomb**, listed by UNESCO as World Cultural Heritage. After lunch departure **to Veliko Turnovo** – the medieval Bulgarian capital. Cross the Balkans via the Shipka Pass. En route see the Russian Memorial Cathedral of **Shipka** and **Etura**, architectural-ethnographic museum. Upon arrival sightseeing tour of **Veliko Turnovo** including **Tsarevets Hill** and Samovodene market. **Dinner and overnight in Veliko Turnovo (B,L,D)**

Day 6 Veliko Turnovo – Sveshtari tomb – Russe /230 km/



Nativity church – Arbanassi



Sveshtari tomb

After breakfast sightseeing tour of **Arbanassi** museum village to see Church of Nativity (16-17th c. AD). Drive to **Sveshtari tomb** – in UNESCO heritage list - arguably the finest Thracian tomb yet discovered in Bulgaria, located 7 km from the town of Ispirih. Continue to the Danube town of Russe, called the "small Viena" and city tour. **Dinner and overnight in Russe (B,L,D)**

Day 7 **Ruse – Sofia / 310 km/ or Ruse – Bucharest /75 km/**

After breakfast continue your trip to Bucharest in Romania or transfer back to Sofia airport for your flight back home (B)

Additional overnight in Sofia is possible.

PACKAGE PRICE / EURO/:	20 pax +	10-15 pax	6-9 pax	2-5 pax
Per person in double/twin room:	565.00	635.00	755.00	995.00
Single room supplement:	90.00	90.00	120.00	120.00
Additional overnight in Sofia:	33.00	33.00	35.00	35.00
Single room supplement:	18.00	18.00	20.00	20.00

Package Includes:

- Accommodation at 4 star hotels, HB basis
- Lunches at local restaurants;
- One dinner at Folk style restaurant with program;
- Professional Guide throughout the whole tour;
- Transfers and transportation by deluxe A/C coach/ mini-coach;
- Entrance fees for the museums and sights, included in the tour;