

## BULGARIA – CLASSIC TOUR / summer 2014 /

*This tour (around 750 km) will get you acquainted with some of the most remarkable historical and cultural sites of Bulgaria.*

### 1<sup>st</sup> day – Friday

- ARRIVAL in Sofia (05.00h) & transfer to Park Hotel Moskva \*\*\*Superior located in a huge park  
<http://s806.photobucket.com/user/MarianaEmil/library/Park%20hotel%20Moskva-Sofia?sort=6&page=1>
- short rest till 12-12.30 h – snacks and drinks can be ordered in the cafeteria ( not included in the price)
- early afternoon departure to Pleven ( 162 km) – approx. 2-2 ½ hours drive  
<http://s806.photobucket.com/user/MarianaEmil/library/PLEVEN?sort=6&page=1>



- accommodation in hotel Kailyka 4\*\*\*\* situated in a huge park - one of the biggest in Bulgaria.



In this green paradise with forests, lakes, caves, outdoor swimming pools, playgrounds, cafeterias and restaurants you will really enjoy your free time.

- late afternoon - wine tasting in one of the biggest Wine museums, situated in a cave in the park
- dinner in the garden restaurant of the hotel



**2<sup>nd</sup> day- Saturday** visit to the **Panorama museum of Plevn** – an amazing monument included in



the list of the 100 Bulgarian historical monuments.

*Plevn Epopee 1877, more commonly known as **Plevn Panorama**, is a [panorama](#) located in [Plevn, Bulgaria](#), that depicts the events of the [Russian-Turkish War of 1877–78](#), specifically the five-months [Siege of Plevn](#) ) which made the city internationally famous and which contributed to the [Liberation of Bulgaria](#) after five centuries of [Ottoman rule](#). The Panorama was created by [Russian](#) and Bulgarian artists and was constructed in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Plevn Epopee and was officially unveiled in 1977. The panorama expanded the already existing [Skobelev Park](#), which is located on the site where three of the four major battles which led to the liberation of Bulgaria took place. In the first three years after its opening, 2.5 million people visited this extraordinary monument which is one of nearly 200 built by the people of Plevn in tribute to the battle and to the 35 000 lives lost. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plevn\\_Panorama](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plevn_Panorama)*

- late afternoon- visit to the Catholic church OUR LADY FROM FATIMA. The statue of OUR LADY MARIA was blessed by the Pope John Paul the 2<sup>nd</sup> and was brought to the church in 1997.

-after mass back to the hotel for dinner.

-overnight

**3<sup>th</sup> day –Sunday** after breakfast the trip continues to the old capital of Bulgaria- **Veliko Tyrnovo**,

distance – about 110 km.

<http://s806.photobucket.com/user/MarianaEmil/library/Veliko%20Tyrnovo?sort=3&page=1>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87GytEII5IQ&feature=related>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0x8\\_Z5kTjAE&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0x8_Z5kTjAE&feature=related)





-check-in hotel Aquaia\*\*\* -centrally located and close to many shops, restaurants, cafeterias. The hotel offers nicely furnished rooms, restaurant in Bulgarian style where you can choose from a large variety of typical local food. And if you choose to have a drink on the roof terrace you will enjoy nice views and spoil yourself in the Jacuzzi.



-afternoon – guided tour to the historical part of the city and the fortresses of the old town.



-evening – **OPTIONAL** visit to the amazing **Light and Sound show** (it's a must!)

A spectacular show of dramatic music, multicolor lights, lasers and chiming bells are synchronized in an unique way to depict the tumultuous history of Bulgaria. Immerse in this mystic world, go back into past centuries, live the moments of ascent and downfall, the battles with the invaders, the sufferings of the oppressed people and their exaltation of the liberation! Feel the magic of the ancient capital city of Tarnovgrad, illuminated with grandeur and glory, a city which became synonymous with the Bulgarian spirit and national pride! [http://www.welcome-to-bulgaria.com/show\\_static.htm](http://www.welcome-to-bulgaria.com/show_static.htm)



Price of tickets approx. 20-25 Euro p.p. for a group of min. 20 pax.

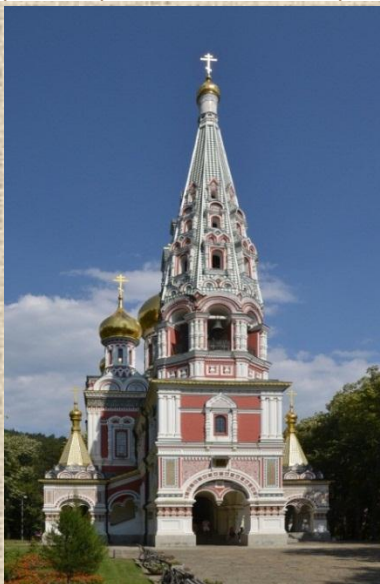
- overnight

**4<sup>th</sup> day Monday** – after breakfast the tour continues to the Open air crafts museum ETURA – distance 50 km. *The unique Architectural and Ethnographic Complex **Etar** is situated in the outskirts of the Balkan mountains. The museum presents the architecture and the life style of the region in the 18<sup>th</sup> - 19th century and consists of 50 sites – houses with craft workshops, water installations, shops, small restaurants. The only one collection in Bulgaria of technical installations driven by water – filling mills, water mills, grindstones, etc., are situated here. 16 houses can be seen on the crafts bazaar (the central commercial street) in the Etar, which are exact copies of buildings existing in the past in Gabrovo city and the region. In the crafts street the visitors can watch in real time the work of the craftsmen. Multiple crafts are presented – bell-making (manufacturing of wrought iron bells for animals), pottery-making, sugar-making (manufacturing of sugar articles), furriery, manufacturing of copper pots, etc. .. <http://www.etar.org/liato/welcome.htm>*

-duration of the visit – approx. 2-3 hours and we continue to **Plovdiv**- the second biggest town of Bulgaria. We shall cross the mountains through **Chipka Pass** - *a scenic mountain pass through the Balkan Mountains.*



*It marks the border between South and North Bulgaria. The pass connects Tyrnovo /Gabrovo with the Rose valley. During the Russian-Turkish War in 1877-1878, Shipka Pass was the scene of a series of conflicts collectively named the Battle of Shipka Pass, fought between the Russians, aided by Bulgarian volunteers, and the Ottoman Empire. It is really worthy to visit the nearby village Chipka with its amazing Russian-style Memorial Church*





The trip continues along the Rose Valley and we shall make a short stop for lunch in the garden of a nice restaurant (not included in the price)

-After lunch - we need not more than one hour to reach our next destination **PLOVDIV**- second biggest city of Bulgaria. The outstanding part of the tour in the city will be ***The Old Plovdiv** which is compact and within walking distance from the centre. Here you can see a lot of buildings from the time of the Bulgarian Revival. Many of them host museums, hotels, and restaurants etc... One can wander the cobblestone streets near the downtown to find the centuries old **St. Marina church** with a unique wooden tower. In the new center of the city (at the street heading up into the Old Town) you will find the Roman Stadium which dates back to the 1<sup>st</sup> century. It had a capacity of 30,000 people.*

- Accommodation in hotel Star -3\*\*\*, on bed only basis, in the very center of the town, close to all amenities, next to the shopping street (pedestrian zone), in the heart of the busy night life.

<http://s806.photobucket.com/user/MarianaEmil/library/PLOVDIV/STAR%20HOTEL%20-%20Plovdiv?sort=3&page=1>

-Afternoon – free time for leisure -walking in the Main Street with its many shops, cafeterias, restaurants



-**Folklore dinner** – another highlight of our programme : in a very typical Bulgarian restaurant

<http://s806.photobucket.com/user/MarianaEmil/library/PLOVDIV/FOLKLORE%20RESTAURANT?sort=3&page=1>  
which offers not only traditional food but also an attractive entertainment programme with Bulgarian dances and music. Transport included.



-Overnight.



**-5<sup>th</sup> day –Tuesday** after breakfast – walking tour in the centre and in the Old Town of Plovdiv



- late afternoon - departure to Sofia – distance 120 km (on the highway)
- accommodation in Park hotel Moskva \*\*\*Superior, located in a huge park amidst a forest. And from the window of your room you will enjoy fantastic views to the nearby mountain Vitosha or to the park  
<http://s806.photobucket.com/user/MarianaEmil/library/Park%20hotel%20Moskva-Sofia?sort=6&page=1>
- all rooms are supplied with free mineral water in the minibar  
(to reach the centre of Sofia – you need just 10 min. by the subway (ticket 0.50 c.) or by taxi – 15 min.  
(cost per car - approx. 2-3 Euro)
- dinner and overnight in the hotel

## **6<sup>th</sup> day- Wednesday**

- morning: organized transfer to the city centre and – guided walking tour of **Sofia** (3-4 hours).



- afternoon – free time for leisure and/ or shopping.
- Dinner at hotel in the Panorama restaurant – on the 20<sup>th</sup> floor and overnight

## **7<sup>th</sup> day – Thursday**

- organized tours (optional): 1. Zoo 2. the nearby Vitosha mountain 3.shopping centre /Mall  
Price for transport return will fixed on spot - as per number of participants
- Dinner at the hotel

## **8<sup>th</sup> day- Friday**

- early morning – 04.00 – airport transfer
- departure at 06.00 h to Malta . Arrival in Malta @ 8.35 hrs.



**Price will vary as per the size of the group**

- 12 -15 pax- 365 Euro
- 16-20 pax- 345 Euro
- 21-25 pax- 330 Euro
- 26 pax onwards -320 Euro

**and includes:**

- Accommodation- 2 nights in a 4\* \*\*\* hotel, 5 nights in 3\*\*\* hotels,
- 7 dinners (one of them - folklore night / dinner)
- 5 breakfasts
- Wine tasting in the Wine Museum in Pleven (return transport included)
- Visit to the Catholic Church in Pleven (return transport included)
- Half day excursion to the open air crafts' museum - village Etura with entrance included
- English guided walking tour in Sofia with transport to the city centre.
- All other transports - as per itinerary
- English Guided tours in Pleven (entrance ticket for Panorama monument) , Veliko Tarnovo and Plovdiv
- Bulgarian tour leader - the directors of Marianna Co. who will give on spot many useful advices for the sites, as well as for suitable places for lunches, coffee breaks, shopping and many others. ☺

**N.B.**

**1/ This tour can be organized from May to September - for individuals or groups**

**2/ The show Sound and Light must be pre-booked. The official price is 410 Euro ( as a group ) will be divided between participants. No limitation of number of visitors.**

**3/ tickets are not included in the package. Their price might vary as per dates of travel.**