

## BULGARIA – HISTORY AND CULTURE

*This tour will get you acquainted with some of the remarkable historical and cultural sites of Bulgaria.*

**3<sup>rd</sup> of April – Monday** — arrival at 10.00 h ;

departure from Airport to the ski resort Borovets- 65 km

<http://s806.photobucket.com/albums/yy349/MarianaEmil/BOROVETS/>

- check in in hotel – Rila\*\*\*\*\* <http://www.rilaborovets.com>

+ rest in the hotel

+ 4<sup>th</sup> of April – in the morning – taking the cable lift (next to hotel) you can reach only in 30 min. 2370 m up in the mountains from where you will admire the fascinating nature of Rila mountains.

+ after coming back – departure to Plovdiv – second largest city in Bulgaria



+ choice for lunch in Borovets or in Plovdiv

<https://www.lonelyplanet.com/bulgaria/plovdiv-and-rodopi-mountains/plovdiv>

[https://www.google.com/mt/search?q=plovdiv&biw=1600&bih=761&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiSia\\_4z9XRAhXHaxQKHAMnBp0Q7AkISQ&dpr=1](https://www.google.com/mt/search?q=plovdiv&biw=1600&bih=761&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiSia_4z9XRAhXHaxQKHAMnBp0Q7AkISQ&dpr=1)

### **4th of April**

+ check in / accommodation in hotel Hebros\*\*\*\*\* <http://www.hebros-hotel.com/index.php>

- after a short break in the hotel – walking city tour in Plovdiv

+ overnight / dinner a la carte in one of the restaurants ( you also can opt for a folklore dinner )

**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



a

and music.



### 5th of April

- after breakfast departure to Bachkovo monastery-25 km
- for dinner you can opt for a folklore dinner ( HIGHLY RECOMMENDED )

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

+ overnight /

### 6th of April

-after breakfast departure to **Veliko Tyrnovo**, distance – about 110 km.

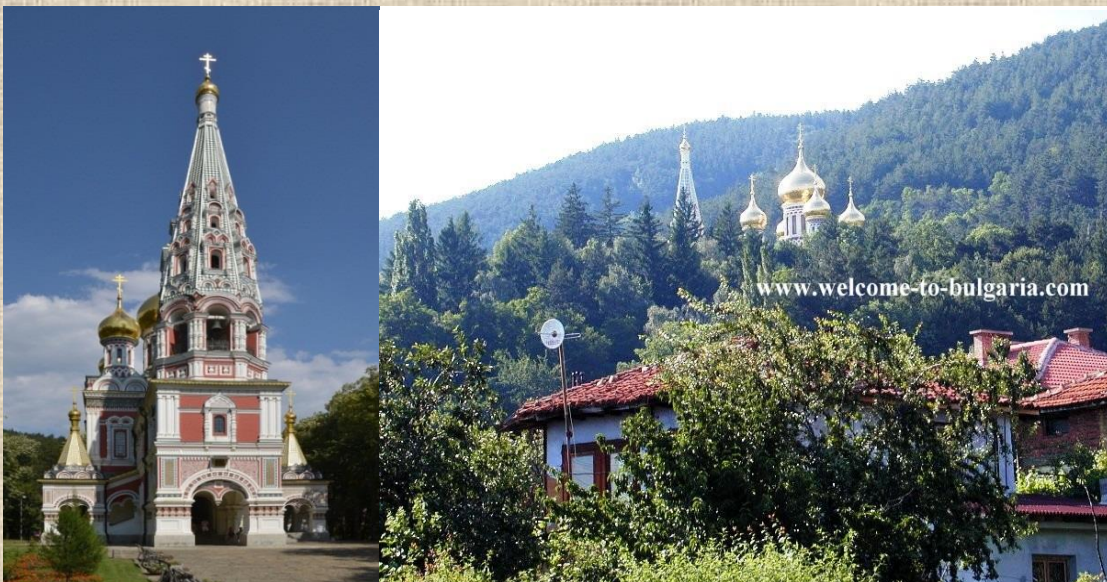
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87GytEII5IQ&feature=related>

You will cross the mountains through **Chipka Pass** - a scenic mountain pass through the Balkan Mountains

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



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





After 30 min. drive you stop at the Open air crafts museum ETARA ( IT'S A MUST ) – distance 55 km.

*The Architectural and Ethnographic Complex **Etar** is situated on the outskirts of the Balkan mountains. It is an open air crafts museum, the purpose of which is to present the architecture and the style of life of the region during the second half of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th century. The Architectural and Ethnographic Complex Etar was established in 1964 and was declared as an architectural and ethnographic monument of national significance.*

*The museum contains a total of 50 sites – houses with craft workshops, water installations and other buildings. The only one collection in Bulgaria of technical installations driven by water – filling mills, water mills, grindstones, etc., are situated there. 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. On 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. Besides observing the authentic technology which the craftsmen are using, the visitors can purchase the articles made before their eyes. Upon a preliminary request, the people working in the complex can organize trainings in traditional crafts. <http://www.etar.org/liato/welcome.htm>*

+ lunch in an open air garden restaurant.

+ the trip continues to Veliko Tarnovo ( 45 min. drive )

Veliko Tarnovo is one of the most ancient Bulgarian towns. The picturesque situation and panoramic view of the town, its rich cultural and historical heritage wins Veliko Tarnovo the recognition as a historical, cultural and tourist center of contemporary Bulgaria.

Historians date it back to the 4th millennium B. C.. The town of Veliko Tarnovo had inherited centuries-old Prehistoric, Thracian and Antique culture and in 1185 it became a center of the Bulgarian Uprising against Byzantine domination and the capital of the restored Bulgarian state. The medieval town of Tarnovo was rapidly expanding and developed into the strongest Bulgarian fortress during the 12-14th centuries. It became the most significant political, economic, cultural and religious centre of Bulgaria.

Modern Veliko Tarnovo is a town - museum rich in many cultural museums and monuments and architectural preserves. Every year the town is visited by thousands of tourists from Bulgaria and abroad.

Breakfast. Tour in the town with a visit to the architectural reserve Tzarevets and the hill Trapezitza.

Lunch.



+ accommodation - we highly recommend - will be in the village Arbanassi -

only 4 km from the center of the town V. Tarnovo <http://bulgariatravel.org/en/object/17/Arbanasi>

- hotel IZVORA (<http://s806.photobucket.com/user/MarianaEmil/library/Arbanasi?sort=3&page=1>)



## 7th of April

after breakfast – walking tour in the city followed by a **HD tour to Tryavna** - Distance - 50km.



*A settlement had existed there as early as the 18th century, and by the 19th century the town had already become a cultural and craft centre. During the Bulgarian Revival Period (18th – 19th centuries) Tryavna Artistic School was established in the town. Tryavna still keeps the spirit of this period even today. The Clock Tower – the symbol of Tryavna, stands in the centre of the town. It was built in 1814 and is 21 m high. The works of Tryavna Artistic School are displayed in several museums such as The Museum of Wood-Carving, the Museum of Icons, art galleries. Crafts' shops all situated in charming winding streets, in old wooden houses of 19<sup>th</sup> century. which is also housed there. <http://www.tryavna-museum.com/mainLEN.htm>. - back to Arbanasi and overnight in Arbanasi*

## 8th of April

-departure to **Pleven**



***Pleven Epopee 1877**, more commonly known as **Pleven Panorama**, is a [panorama](#) located in [Pleven, Bulgaria](#), that depicts the events of the [Russian-Turkish War of 1877–78](#), specifically the five-months [Siege of Plevna](#) (Pleven Epopee) 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 Pleven 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 remarkable monument which is one of nearly 200 built by the people of Pleven in tribute to the battle and to the 35 000 lives lost. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pleven\\_Panorama](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pleven_Panorama)*

-free time in the city.



-accommodation in a hotel\*\*\*\* situated in a huge park - Kaylaka (one of the biggest in Bulgaria)-among trees, greenery, lakes, swimming pools. The hotel offers nice garden / open air restaurants, big outdoor pool, nice rooms and many amenities.

<https://www.google.com/search?q=%D1%85%D0%BE%D1%82%D0%B5%D0%BB+%D0%BA%D0%B0%D0%B9%D0%B%D1%8A%D0%BA%D0%B0+%D0%BF%D0%BB%D0%B5%D0%B2%D0%B5%D0%BD&client=firefox-b-ab&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjxon-5tXRAhWkCsAKHTZwBicQ7AkIUw&biw=1600&bih=761>



- free time for leisure.
- late afternoon - wine tasting in one of the biggest Wine museums, situated in a big cave in the park
- dinner with wines at hotel's restaurant in the garden.

### 9th of April

after breakfast visit to the **Panorama museum of Pleven** – a remarkable monument included in the list of the 100 Bulgarian historical monuments.



- Overnight in Pleven



**10th of April** – departure to **Sofia** ( distance approx.. 160 km. )

- after accommodation in the hotel - guided tour in **Sofia** (3-4 hours)



-overnight in a 4 or 5 star hotel. Pls check these hotels

<http://arenadiserdica.com/>

<http://www.fpihotels.com/en/hotels/crystal-palace-boutique-hotel-8>

**11th of April**

### **Rila Monastery !**



Distance - about 120 km (the tour is about 6 hours) This is a must for all tourists visiting Bulgaria!

Part of the road will pass through picturesque mountains.

Pls view this link: [http://www.welcome-to-bulgaria.com/rila\\_m.htm](http://www.welcome-to-bulgaria.com/rila_m.htm)

and [http://www.rilamonastery.pmg-blg.com/Home\\_page\\_en.htm](http://www.rilamonastery.pmg-blg.com/Home_page_en.htm)

<http://s806.photobucket.com/user/MarianaEmil/library/RILA%20MONASTERY?sort=6&page=1>

this is the the biggest Orthodox monastery on the Balkan peninsula

. [http://www.rilamonastery.pmg-blg.com/Home\\_page\\_en.htm](http://www.rilamonastery.pmg-blg.com/Home_page_en.htm)

-lunch in the vicinity

-back to Sofia and overnight

**12th of April**

After breakfast – tour to **Koprivshtiza** – distance approx.. 110 km- the tour takes around 5-6 hours

<http://www.welcome-to-bulgaria.com/koprivchica.htm>

- Back to Sofia
- Transfer to the airport

**N.B. This tour will be organized with English speaking guide and private transport (10-50 seater).  
Dates can be changed accordingly to direct Wizz Air flights to/from Sofia – Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays**