

Day 1 - SOFIA

Arrival in **Sofia**. Transfer to the hotel. Welcome drink. Overnight in Sofia

Day 2 - KYUSTENDIL - MELNIK

After breakfast departure for the town of Kyustendil. Visit the church of St. Jhon Theolgian - Zemen Monastery. Visit of the Asclepiads of Pautaliya - the ancient name of Kyustendil. Lunch. Departure for the town of Melnik and accommodation, Dinner and wine tasting at the hotel.

Day 3 – MELNIK – SANDANSKI - BANSKO

Breakfast. Tour in Melnik and visit of the Rojen Monastery. Departure for the town of Sandanski. City tour - the Archeological Museum and the Great Basilica, 5th - 6th century BC. Lunch. Departure for the town of Bansko and hotel accommodation. Dinner in a typical restaurant with a folklore show. Overnight in Bansko.

Day 4 – BANSKO – DOBARSKO - SOFIA

After breakfast you will take a city tour of Bansko - visit of the Holy Trinity Church, the Neophyte Rilski Museum House, the Icon Gallery, the Velyanov House. Lunch. Departure for the village of Dobursko. Visit of the SS Theodore Tyron and Theodore Stratilates Church. After this visit, you will depart to Sofia. On your way you will visit Rila Monastery – the most popular Bulgarian Monastery. Lunch and head to the capital. In the evening you will enjoy a music performance - Vasselin Annaniev - Violonchelo. Overnight in Sofia.

Day 5 – SOFIA – CITY TOUR

Breakfast. Next you will take a city tour of the Bulgarian capital, including some of the most beautiful churches in Bulgaria; the National Palace of Culture; The History Museum and more. Free time for shopping. Farewell Dinner. Overnight in Sofia.

Day 6 – SOFIA – Departure

After breakfast you will have a transfer to the airport.

The tour includes:

- Accommodation in 4* hotels;
- Meals: full board (breakfast, lunch, dinner); Welcome drink and farewell dinner;
- Entrances to all places mentioned on the itinerary;
- Professional guide throughout the itinerary;
- Accommodation and meals for the driver and the guide;
- Transportation according to the whole programme.

We are expecting you!



Visit the church of St. Jhon Theolgian - **Zemen Monastery**, one of the most interesting monuments of Bulgarian mediaeval cult architecture and decorative-monumental painting. The original construction of the church is dated to the late 10th or early 11th century. Next, you travel to Kyustendil - the favourable climate, the fertile land, the rich ore deposits and the healing mineral springs were the basis for the development and for the continuity of settlement tradition from the Neolithic Age /6th millennium BC/. Visit of the Ancient Termae of Pautalia - the ancient name of Kyustendil and the Pirgov Tower. Next, you will visit the St. George Church in the Kolousha Area of the Kyustendil, dated to the 10th-11th century.

Melnik

(pop. 800) is the smallest town in Bulgaria which is at the same time a vision and a reality. Ethereal yellow-white rocks, ruins and building blend to form an integral whole: in a sculpture created by Nature and by the artistic genius of the folk artist. During the 17th - 18th c. it became a flourishing tobacco and wineproducing center, whose fame spread to many European countries. The beautiful fortress-like houses with broad wine-cellar cut in the limestone rocks date from this period. Steep, strangely shaped sandstone rocks, lovely white houses perched on their slopes and a single street which leads to the finest example of the former splendour of this small southern town. A city tour to visit of the Kordopoulov and the Boyar houses

The Rozhen Monastery

was built by the Melnik ruler despot Slav during the 12th or 13th c. and is the only monastery restored in the first centuries of Ottoman rule that has survived to this day. The presentday appearance of this old monastery dates back to 16th c. According to one inscription, the image of Christ Pantocrator together with the twelve apostles above the entrance gate of the Holy Virgin main church, was painted in 1597. Valuable monuments of 17th c. painting included the external southern wall (Doomsday, Jacob's Ladder), dated with an inscription from 1611 and scenes from the life of John the Baptist painter in 1622 in the ossuary

Sandanski

a small picturesque town which has hidden in its bosom an invaluable wealth of archaeological finds and healing mineral springs. The unique combination of Mediterranean climate, warm mineral waters and wonderful nature makes the town a preferable tourist destination for recreation, treatment and rest. The territory of the ancient city of Sandanski has been declared an archeological reservation, and all archeological sites are protected by their status of monuments of culture under the law.

Bansko

has been declared a unique town of international importance to commercial tourism (1979). Apart from the beautiful Pirin and the numerous spots of natural beauty the town also boasts its many historic sites. Bansko is famous for its well-preserved traditions and culture, its original Revival-period architecture and its local culinary specialities (Banski shashlik, Banska kapama). Visitors to this mountain town have always left it captivated by the spirit of Banskalii (Bansko residents) wishing they could once again return to the heart of Pirin; to one with nature is something everyone craves for in their hurried everyday lives.

A city tour of Bansko visit of the Holy Trinity Church, the Neophyte Rilski Museum House, the Icon Gallery, the Velyanov House

Dobarsko

The village of Dobarsko is among the places in Bulgaria offering a spectacular view to enchanting natural phenomena. Huddled in the folds of Rila Mountain, it lies only 17 kilometers away from the premier ski resort of Bansko in the Pirin mountain.