

Day 1 – SOFIA

Arrival in Sofia. Transfer to the hotel. Welcome drink. Short tour and overnight.
Overnight in Sofia

Day 2 - ARBANASSI – VELIKO TARNOVO

After breakfast departure for the town of Arbanassi. Visit of the Kostantsaliev House and the Nativity of Christ Church. Lunch. Departure for the town of Veliko Turnovo. Veliko Turnovo – visit of the SS Peter and Paul Church and the Tsarevets mediaeval fortress. Accomodation at the hotel.
Dinner. Sound-and-light night show of the Tsarevets mediaeval fortress. (On request)

Day 3 – VELIKO TARNOVO - IVANOVO – SVESHTARI - SHOUMEN

After breakfast, you will depart for the village of Ivanovo to visit the famous rock churches.
After lunch – departure for the village of Sveshtari. There you will visit the old tombs.
Departure for the town of Shoumen. Accomodation and dinner at the hotel.

Day 4 – SHOUMEN – MADARA - PLOVDIV

After breakfast departure for the village of Madara. Visit to the Madara Horseman monument and information on the reserve. After that - departure for the town of Plovdiv. Hotel accommodation.
Free time for tour, coffee or shopping.

Day 5 – PLOVDIV - SOFIA

After breakfast you will take a tour of the city – visit the remarkable old town, the remains of the ancient Roman theatre. Next you will depart to Bachkovo Monastery and have lunch (28 km south) – the second largest in Bulgaria. After lunch you will depart to Sofia. Arrival. Hotel accommodation. In the evening you will enjoy a traditional dinner in folklore restaurant. Overnight in Sofia.

Day 6 – SOFIA – Departure

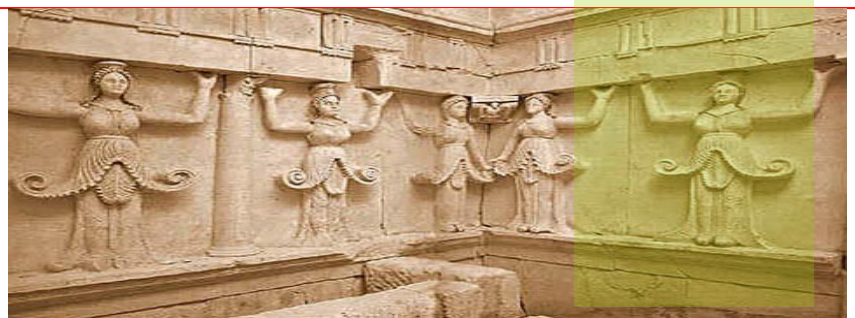
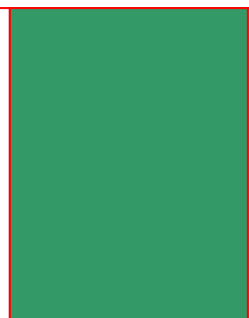
After breakfast you will have a transfer to the airport.

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!

Bulgaria Medieval Tour
TOUR DURATION 6 days / 5 nights



Arbanassi

The old settlement of Arbanassi is situated on a high plateau with a view to the hills of Tzarevetz and Trapezitza, 4 kilometers from Veliko Turnovo. It's distinguished for its impressive houses and churches with rich interior decoration, wood-carving, and mural paintings created in XVI - XVII century. Namely these unique monuments from our architectural and arts heritage are the cause for

Arbanassi to be frequently visited not only by tourists but also by scientists, archeologists, historians, architects, and artists. With a tsar decree from 1921 the settlement is declared resort, and in 2000 it is declared "historical settlement" with national significance.

Veliko Tarnovo

Veliko Tarnovo district is a unique combination of rich cultural and historical heritage, beautiful nature and modern technologies. Its administrative center - Veliko Tarnovo - was the capital of the Medieval Bulgarian State. As a reminder of these glorious times now stays the Tsarevets Fortress and its majesty is further accentuated by the "Tsarevgrad Tarnov - Sound and Light" audio-visual spectacle, reproducing the history of Bulgaria.

Ivanovo rock Monastery

21km southwest of Russe, near the Ivanovo village, high in the vertical rocks above the Rusenski Lom river, churches and monk cells were built as far as back in the 12th century. By this time, there were 40 rock temples and around 300 dwellings for monk hermits. They were followers of the Hesychasm, searching for tranquility and the purpose was to enhance their spirituality. They used to eat forest fruits and roots. The rock churches in Ivanovo are under the protection of UNESCO as a valuable monument of history. In 2004, under the project executed by the regional administration in Russe and financed by European Union, the whole complex was restored for tourism.

Sveshtari

Discovered in 1982 near the village of Sveshtari, this 3rd- century B.C. Thracian tomb reflects the fundamental structural principles of Thracian cult buildings. The tomb has a unique architectural decor, with polychrome half-human, half-plant caryatids and painted murals. The 10 female figures carved in high relief on the walls of the central chamber and the decoration of the lunette in its vault are the only examples of this type found so far in the Thracian lands. It is a remarkable reminder of the culture of the Getes, a Thracian people who were in contact with the Hellenistic and Hyperborean worlds, according to ancient geographers.

The Madara Horseman

This is an imposing relief cut into rock. It represents a four figure life-size scene depicting a man on horseback thrusting his spear into a lion trampled beneath his horse's hooves, and a dog following the rider. The relief composition is cut at a height of about 75 m above the ground, in the almost vertical 100-metre cliffs of the Madara plateau near the village of Madara, Shoumen region, in north-eastern Bulgaria. The monument of the Madara Horseman /or Madara Rider/ was carved at the beginning of the 8th century. It is situated in the vicinity of one of the most significant proto-Bulgarian pagan sanctuaries of that age. There have been different opinions as to what the relief represents.

Plovdiv

is a picturesque town, with many parks and gardens, museums and archaeological monuments. Its old part, called the Old Town, with houses from the National Revival period (18-19th century), is an imposing open-air museum situated on the three hills of the ancient Trimontium.

Bachkovo Monastery

the second largest in Bulgaria. Founded in 1083, the monastery has unique icons and has the atmosphere of a majestic divine place.