

The celebration of the rose, dedicated to beauty and compassion, takes place every year in Kazanlak during the first week of June.

In the present it is one of the most attractive events for the citizens and guests of the town.

It includes crowning of the Queen of Roses; the traditional rituals “gathering of roses” and “rose boiling” which reproduce the authentic atmosphere filled with joy, songs and dances from the Thracian region; and mummer’s games. Procession on the streets is formed by participants in the International Folklore Festival which takes place at the same time as the Festival of the Rose.

THE ROSE FEST

Oil-bearing roses are of a great importance for the occupation of the people in Kazanlak region (The Valley of the Roses). This plant has been imported from the Middle East 300 years ago and since then it is used for rose-oil production. Every first week of June the Rose festival takes place in Kazanlak. The festival program is very interesting and visitors take part in the coronation of the Queen of Roses and the traditional rituals of rose-picking and rose-oil preparing being involved in an authentic atmosphere filled with a lot of joy, singing and dancing and mummery. Young girls and boys dressed in national costumes welcome the guests decorating them with festoons of rose blossoms and offer them cheese patty, rose-petal jam and rose liqueur. The celebration is followed by a festive processing where the most attractive part take the participants in the International Folk festival which goes on in the same time.

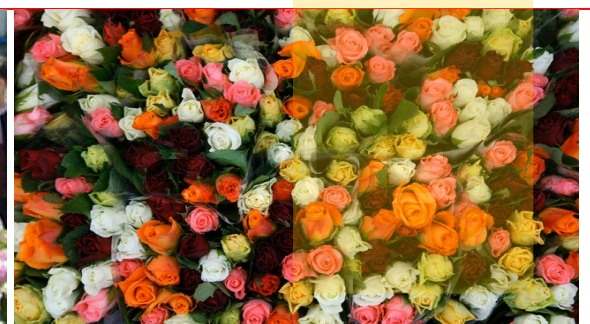
QUEEN ROSE

The Rose Festival held every year in late May - early June, is both unique and incredibly colorful.

The entire Valley of Roses comes vibrantly alive. The rose-picking season starts at dawn, before sunrise and before the rose fragrance has had a chance to disappear. Young rose-pickers dressed in colorful national costumes make their way to the rose fields to the sounds of folk music. This is the time of the Festival of Roses, dedicated to beauty, youth and hope. The festival is celebrated with carnivals, processions, folk songs and dances in the streets of Karlovo and Kazanluk. As a long-standing tradition King Seuth and Queen Rose open it ceremoniously on the first day of the festival.

And the carnival processions along the town streets mark its gala ending on the final day of the celebrations.

We are expecting you!



Day 1 - SOFIA

Arrival in Sofia and transfer to the hotel. Accommodation. Welcome drink. Overnight in Sofia.

Day 2 - SIGHTSEEING TOUR IN SOFIA

Half day Sightseeing tour in Sofia, the Bulgarian capital, including some of the most beautiful churches in Bulgaria; the National Palace of Culture; The History Museum and more. Overnight in Sofia.

Day 3 - KOPRIVSHTITSA – VELIKO TARNOVO

Morning departure to the town of Koprivshtitsa. Sightseeing tour, lunch in the city of Koprivshtitsa. The town preserves the atmosphere of the National Revival Period (18-19 century) and rich historical heritage.

Koprivshtitsa was declared to be museum town.

Next - departure to the town of Veliko Tarnovo – the old capital of Bulgaria.

Sightseeing tour and overnight in Veliko Tarnovo.

In the evening "Tsarevgrad Tarnov - Sound and Light" audio-visual spectacle (On request).

Day 4 – ARBANASSI - KAZANLAK

After breakfast, departure to the town of Kazanlak – Valley of roses and Thracian kings. En route stop to see Arbanassi – famous for its unique housing construction and its churches, abounding in mural paintings.

Visit 'Etura' - an open air ethnographic museum. Overnight in Kazanlak.

Day 5 – ROSE FEST - PLOVDIV

Early breakfast to enable you to witness rose picking in the fields (roses must be harvested before the heat of the sun evaporates the precious oils). Visit to a modern and traditional distillery producing rose oil and see the production process (small gift for all visitors). We can also sample rose jam, Banitsa (typical Bulgarian pastry), and Rosaliika liqueur. Join the carnival procession on the main square in Kazanluk. Lunch.

Visit the Goliama Kosmatka Thracian Tomb and the replica Kazanluk Thracian Tomb (UNESCO heritage site), and the spectacular Shipka Memorial church, with its vibrant colours and golden onion-dome.

Departure to Plovdiv in the evening. Plovdiv - a town with a prominent ancient past. Overnight in Plovdiv.

Day 6 – BACHKOVO MONASTERY- PLOVDIV

After breakfast, you will have a Plovdiv city tour: visit the remarkable old town, the remains of the ancient Roman theatre. After lunch, departure to the Bachkovo monastery – the second largest in Bulgaria. Overnight in Plovdiv.

Day 7 – BANSKO – MELNIK – SANDANSKI

After breakfast, departure to the town of Sandanski - a small picturesque town which has hidden in its bosom an invaluable wealth of archaeological finds and healing mineral springs.

En route stop to see Velinograd – a popular SPA resort.

Next – visit the famous ski resort Bansko: the Holy Trinity Church, the Neophyte Rilski Museum House, the Icon Gallery, the Velyanov House. Arrival in Sandanski and accommodation in hotel.

In the evening – visit of the smallest town in Bulgaria - Melnik (200 inhabitants), famous with its wine production. Visit of the Kordopulov's House – wine tasting.

Back to Sandanski and overnight there.

Day 8 – RILA MONASTERY – SOFIA

Morning departure to Rila Monastery – the biggest, the oldest and the most renowned monastery in Bulgaria, located amongst the high rising mountain peaks and next to a river. Discover the biggest spiritual and cultural center in Bulgaria for hundreds of years.

The Monastery is included in the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Lunch in the area of the monastery and head to Sofia.

Farewell dinner at traditional restaurant and overnight in Sofia.

Day 9 – SOFIA - DEPARTURE

Transfer by deluxe coach to Airport Sofia.

We are expecting you!