

British-Bulgarian Society Special Interest Tours

BULGARIA
2019

ROSES AND ROSÉ

29 MAY – 3 JUNE (Tour Code: RF)

Price: £950 (Based on a group of 6 or more, a smaller group will incur a supplement)

EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNT: £50 PER PERSON IF BOOKED BY 30TH SEPTEMBER 2018



We shall visit the unique Rose Valley, one of Bulgaria's best-known symbols and its fields of roses, from which the world famous attar is made. We shall join the festival celebrations in Kazanluk area and visit some Thracian tombs from 5th to 3rd Centuries BC. The important historical sites of Sofia and Plovdiv will be explored as well. There will be two chances to sample local wines - including rosé of course!



Balkania Travel



Bulgaria's beautiful scenery, friendly people and excellent wine and food are additional highlights. The B-BS offers you the benefits of over forty years' experience of organising tours to Bulgaria and excellent value.

For your financial protection our tour operators for over twenty years, Balkania Travel Ltd. are licensed by the UK Civil Aviation Authority, ATOL 4465 and bonded by the International Air Transport Association, IATA number 91-2 7839.

Projected Itinerary

(which may be subject to adjustment).

Wednesday 29 May

Your guide will meet you at the airport, and take you to your hotel. After check-in, there will be a walking tour of central Sofia. We shall see the Rotunda of St. George, 4thC. AD, which is the oldest building in Sofia still in use, the Roman ruins of Emperor Constantine's Serdika, the President's office, the former royal palace and the iconic gold domed St. Alexander Nevski Memorial Church. Dinner and overnight in Sofia.

Thursday 30 May

Morning drive to UNESCO listed Boyana church, with its amazing pre-Renaissance 13th C. frescoes, then continue on to Plovdiv, European Capital of Culture 2019. On the way call at the Todoroff winery in Brestovitsa for a tasting with snacks. Afternoon visits in Plovdiv to see the restored Tsar Simeon's Garden, ongoing excavations of the Roman forum, Roman mosaics in the newly opened basilica from 5th C. AD and the mosaics in a residential building from 4th C., now a small private museum. Dinner and overnight in Plovdiv.

Friday 31 May

Walking tour of the Old Town. Plovdiv is one of the oldest still inhabited cities in the world. We shall explore some of the remains of the numerous civilizations on these lands: among them Thracian, Greek, Roman, Ottoman and the beautiful decorated timber buildings of the Bulgarian National Revival Period, 18th-19th Centuries.

Drive to Kazanluk, on the way visit the village of Pesnopoy for a winery tour and wine tasting with snacks.

Continue to Hissarya. The town gained popularity in the Roman period mainly due to its hot mineral springs. We shall walk among the Roman ruins and taste some of the waters directly from the springs. Continue to Kazanluk, via a rose distillery where we learn about the production of rose oil. Dinner and first of two overnights in Kazanluk.

Saturday 1 June

Very early in the morning there will be an optional visit to the rose fields where workers pick the rose petals and you have a chance to participate. Later we go to the Rose Museum. Other visits for the day include some of the Thracian tombs of the Valley of the Thracian Kings and Kazanluk's Iskra historical museum. Dinner and overnight in Kazanluk.

Sunday 2 June

Official rose-picking ceremony in the fields near Kazanluk with lots of photo opportunities and a presentation of the original rose-distillation process. Then we shall drive to Kazanluk for the colourful parade. Independent lunch, then drive to Koprivshtitsa. Walking tour along the cobbled streets with visits to some of the house-museums. There are numerous houses from 19th C. National Revival period. Overnight stay and farewell dinner in Koprivshtitsa.

Monday 3 June

Some time for shopping or sightseeing before driving to Sofia airport for your return flight.

BULGARIA 2019

OUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return flights from Heathrow to Sofia with all taxes and charges. Our online check in, seat reservation and boarding pass service.
- Half board.
- 2 Winery visits with tastings.
- 5 nights accommodation in 3* and 4* hotels with en suite facilities on a twin bedded shared occupancy basis.
- Coach for transfers and excursions.
- Leader/Interpreter.
- All entrance fees.

NOT INCLUDED:

- Lunches and light suppers (about £4 - 5).
- Travel Insurance (compulsory).
Balkania Travel can advise.
- Drinks and personal expenses such as gratuities.
- Single room supplement £70.

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Further Information from Dr Annie Kay, B-BS Tours Organiser,
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