

# BULGARIA AND ROMANIA – 09 DAYS

**Depart Date: 05/08/2024**

**Depart Date: 15/09/2024**

**Return Date: 13/08/2024**

**Return Date: 23/09/2024**

**Adult: from £1895 per adult on twin / double / triple sharing basis**

## ITINERARY:

### **DAY 1: LONDON TO SOFIA, SOFIA GUIDED TOUR (D):**

Take flight from London airport to Sofia. Dinner and Overnight in Sofia.

### **DAY 2: SOFIA GUIDED TOUR (B/D)**

After breakfast panoramic tour seeing among others the Alexander Nevski Cathedral dominating the city with its shining gold domes, the St. Sophia Church which gave the name of the city in the Middle Ages, Monument of Tsar Liberator dedicated to the Russian King Alexander II, the St. George Rotunda which is the best preserved Byzantine building in the country, the Russian St. Nicholas Church built on the site of a former Saray Mosque after the liberation of Bulgaria following the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878, the medieval St. Petka Church, the Banya Bashi Mosque and many other sites. Check-in at the hotel, dinner and overnight.



### **DAY 3: SOFIA – RILA – PLOVDIV (350 KM) (B/D)**

Continue your journey to the Rila mountains, which are the highest on the Balkan Peninsula, reaching the Rila Monastery which represented for centuries a sanctuary of Bulgarian literature and spiritual life and now is included in the UNESCO Heritage. It was founded in the middle of the 10th century by St. Ivan of Rila and played a key role in preserving Bulgarian culture. You shall see the monastery church with its amazing frescoes painted by the most famous Bulgarian finest artists from 19th century. Longer transfer to Plovdiv, which is Bulgaria's second largest city and former European Capital of Culture in 2019. Overnight.



**DAY 4: PLOVDIV – KAZANLAK – VELIKO TARNOVO (250 KM) (B/D)**

Morning Plovdiv walking city tour seeing among others the Roman Forum, the small Roman basilica and the Roman theatre dated back to the 2nd century AD. Walk along the tiny cobbled streets of the old town winding between ancient fortress walls, beautiful houses and churches. Continue to the town of Kazanlak located in an area well known as “The Valley of the Thracian Kings” due to the numerous Thracian tombs discovered in the surroundings. Visit one of the finest examples - a replica of the oldest discovered Thracian tomb listed in UNESCO World Heritage. Cross the Balkan Mountains via the historical Shipka pass which played a key role in the Russo-Turkish Liberation war for Bulgaria. Evening arrival in Veliko Tarnovo, medieval capital of Bulgaria, with evening walking tour along the oldest merchant street in the town called Samovodska Charshia. Overnight.

**DAY 5: VELIKO TARNOVO – ARBANASSI – RUSE – BUCHAREST (200 KM) (B/D)**

Morning you will discover in Veliko Tarnovo the Tsarevets Hill castle where the Bulgarian kings once lived and where the remains from the capital’s glory can still be traced. Proceed to Arbanassi, a small Bulgarian village founded in the 15th century by Bulgarians, Greeks and Albanians merchants. The town is well known for its rich history and large number of historical monuments. Visit one of the most interesting churches of “Nativity of Christ” with its well preserved murals depicting over 2000 Old and New Testament scenes. Head along the Bulgarian plains towards Romania with brief stop in Ruse, formerly known as “Vienna of the East” and cross the border and the Danube River. Afternoon you will reach Bucharest, Romania’s capital city formerly called “Little Paris of the East”. Panoramic tour seeing among others the Victoria Square where the Romanian government has its seat. Continue down the Victoria Boulevard seeing the Revolution Square where the Romanian Dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was toppled. Other sites include the Constitution Square, the University Square, the Unirii Square with the Patriarchal Church and more. Dinner at a local restaurant and overnight.

**DAY 6: BUCHAREST – BRAN – BRASOV (240 KM) (B/D)**

Morning you will visit the Parliament Palace, which is the heaviest building in the world after the Pentagon. It has 1,100 rooms, is 12 stories high and has 8 underground levels. In order to prepare the site of the construction more than 7 square km of housing have been demolished and over 40.000 people moved away. Drive along the Prahova plains and across the Carpathian Mountains into the historic region of Transylvania, stopping in Bran to visit the castle made famous by Bram Stoker’s novel Dracula as being the residence of the vampire count Dracula. In fact it was built by the Transylvanian Saxons as an outpost for the trade-route between Transylvania and Wallachia. Evening reach the city of Brasov/mountain resort of Poiana Brasov where you will serve dinner at the hotel and be accommodated for 2 nights.

**DAY 7: BRASOV – PREJMER – SIGHISOARA – BRASOV (300 KM) (B/D)**

After breakfast drive further into the heart of Transylvania and stop in Prejmer to visit the church which is part of the UNESCO World Heritage. It is the largest Saxon fortified church in Romania, with its imposing 12m high and 5m thick walls, having over 500 rooms where the villagers could retreat in chase of an attack. Continue to Sighisoara to visit a still inhabited medieval fortified city which is today part of the UNESCO World Heritage. The city was first certified in the year 1280 under the name “Castrum Sex” and is located on a hill guarded by 14 watch-towers, of which the most impressive and famous is the 64m high Clock-Tower. In this medieval city you will see the Church on the Hill, the Covered Stairs, the Venetian House and the “House with the Deer” and “Casa Vlad Dracul” where the famous Prince Vlad Tepes was born. Return to Brasov/Poiana Brasov for dinner and overnight.

**DAY 8: BRASOV – SINAIA – SNAGOV – BUCHAREST (200 KM) (B/D)**

Leave Transylvania behind back South, stopping in Sinaia, which is the most famous mountain resort in the country and where you will visit the Peles Castle, which is without a doubt the most magnificent castle in Romania. It was the former summer residence of King Carol the 1st of Hohenzollern – Sigmaringen, built in the late 19th century. It is built of wood, stone, marble and brick in the German Renaissance style combined with the Italian and the English Renaissance, the German Baroque, the Rococo, the Hispano-Moorish and the Turkish styles etc. On the way back to Bucharest you will also stop in Snagov to see the rustic cloister from 1364 located on a small isolated island in the middle of Snagov Lake, which is the reputed burial place of Vlad Tepes, also known as Dracula. Don't let yourself be taken in by the imposing forest and the nice lake surrounding the island or by the generous architecture of the monastery. Reach Bucharest with some free time for shopping and farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

**DAY 9: BUCHAREST – OTOPENI - LONDON (B)**

Depending on departure flight, free time at leisure/for shopping or we can include a visit of the Village Museum which is one of the first open air museums in Europe, exhibiting over 70 farms & churches from all corners of Romania, which had been used and built by the villagers in the 18th and 19th centuries. Transfer to the Airport for the flight back home.

**Price Include:**

- ✓ Economy class air ticket (London to Sofia / Bucharest to London)
- ✓ Accommodation in 3/4-Star hotel in standard room on Twin / Double / Triple Sharing basis
- ✓ Daily Continental Breakfast
- ✓ 8 x Indian or Western Dinners at Restaurant
- ✓ Boyana Church OR National History Museum in Sofia
- ✓ Rila Monastery Church with museum
- ✓ Thracian Tomb in Kazanlak
- ✓ Tsarevets Hill Fortress in Veliko Tarnovo
- ✓ Nativity Church in Arbanassi
- ✓ Parliament Palace Bucharest
- ✓ Bran Castle
- ✓ UNESCO Prejmer Fortified Church
- ✓ Peles Castle Sinaia
- ✓ Snagov Monastery
- ✓ Village Museum Bucharest
- ✓ All Intercity and Sightseeing Transfers by Private Vehicle Basis
- ✓ Services of Tour Manager
- ✓ Driver tips

**Price does not include:**

- ✗ Visa Fee
- ✗ Travel Insurance
- ✗ Lunches / Any meals not mentioned
- ✗ Expenses of personal nature like laundry, telephone bills, drinks etc.
- ✗ Any entrance fees not mentioned
- ✗ Any items not mentioned
- ✗ Tips and Porterages
- ✗ Guide Services not mentioned
- ✗ Single Supplement: £475

**Price per Adult from £2095****Price per Adult from £1895****Depart Date: 05/08/2024****Depart Date: 15/09/2024**