

Rose Festival



The famous oil-yielding Bulgarian rose is an inseparable element of Bulgarian history and culture. It has been honored by a number of famous, as well as lesser-known writers and artists. Its name is commemorated by countless folklore songs. As a trademark of the country, the Bulgarian rose is celebrated every year in a very special ceremony – the Rose Festival. In early June the Rose Valley comes alive with the songs and dances of the rose-pickers. They come at early dawn dressed in careful national costumes. The event takes place every year on the first Sunday in June. It stretches out from the Rose Valley to the towns Karlovo, Kalofer and Kazanlak and is strikingly beautiful when the famous Bulgarian rose blossoms in May/June and the area is consumed by fragrance.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to encounter a piece of authentic Bulgaria, as well as the chance to enjoy genuine folk dances and songs, to see a very special ceremony and have the experience of a lifetime.

Departure dates:

07 June 2008

Country region: Central Bulgaria

Price with ticket: KD925

Trip plan:

Day 1: Arrival at Sofia or Plovdiv Airport and meet with one of our professional and friendly guides. Overnight stay in Sofia or Plovdiv

Day 2: Early drive to the rose fields near Kazanlak for participation in the traditional rose-picking followed by the authentic rose boiling demonstration. Attend the Carnival Parade in the town centre. Enjoy the special celebration lunch with delicious Bulgarian dishes and wine, accompanied by magnificent folklore dances and songs. Dinner and overnight stay in Kazanlak

Day 3: This day we see two Thracian tombs, the one in Kazanlak and the lately discovered "Goliama Kosmatka" which will be followed by a visit to Shipka's gold-domed memorial church. Continue on to Veliko Tarnovo – capital of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom (1185-1396). We will then get a chance to visit the Etera Open-air Ethnographic Museum. Dinner and overnight stay in Veliko Tarnovo or Arbanasi

Day 4: Sightseeing in Veliko Tarnovo – a city considered to be one of the most beautiful in Europe. In the afternoon visit the village of Arbanasi – a piece of unbroken Bulgarian tradition. Overnight stay in Veliko Tarnovo or Arbanasi.

Day 5: Morning departure to Sofia with a visit on the way of the unique town of Koprivshitsa. Dinner and overnight stay in Sofia.

Day 6: Sightseeing tour in Sofia – the capital city of Bulgaria. Sofia has been inhabited for 7,000 years. It was called Serdica by the Thracians. Dinner and overnight stay in Sofia.

Day 7: Drive to Plovdiv – the second largest city in Bulgaria. Plovdiv was founded by the Thracians who called the city Evmolpia. Dinner and overnight either in Plovdiv or Sofia.

Day 8: Time to go home. Transfer to Sofia or Plovdiv Airport.

Accommodation and food: Seven nights in shared double rooms (3 +, 4-5 star hotels with en-suite facilities) on HB (breakfast and dinner included). One folklore evening included on day seven.

Price of extra services: Single room supplement: KD65

Included in the price: accommodation on HB (breakfast & dinner included), ground transfers, English-speaking guide; entrance fees

Excluded from the price: entrance fees outside the program; souvenirs/rose oil testers; other meals; personal expenses

Practical information: EXTENSION AT THE BLACK SEA COAST: we have a unique proposal, which gives you the opportunity to stay on a sea holiday for extra week after your active tour at an incredibly low price! We can offer a great variety of means of accommodation - from home stays to 4-star hotels in Sozopol, Nessebar, Sunny Beach, Lozenets, St. Vlas, Golden Sands etc. and all this with arranged transportation right after your tour and before your departure flight (prices vary between KD85 and KD250 per person per week depending on the hotel category and the meal plan; transportation is included

Tour highlights:

- Sofia – the capital of Bulgaria
- Rose Valley – the famous site where the Rose festival and rose-picking takes place
- Kazanlak – located in the Valley of Roses with more than 90 cultural and historical monuments in the vicinity of the city
- Plovdiv is one of the oldest European towns existing as a settlement for some 8,000 years
- Veliko Tarnovo (the Old Bulgarian capital) is regally situated along the historical hills of Tsarevets,

Trapezitsa and Sveta Gora on the banks of the Yantra River.

- Arbanassi – a village with houses that resemble mini fortresses
- Koprivshitsa – one of the most best preserved towns with houses from the National Revival Period

Recommended travel period of the year: The Rose Festival takes place each year during the first weekend of June. This program can change according to your flight schedule.

Tour difficulty: A ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ - A ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

No special experience is needed; everyone who is in condition to cope with long Saturday walks in the forest can also cope with these tours. As a rule, the trips are short and at a low altitude. Often, it is your choice to join or skip a day-tour. The routes follow a hilly terrain without steep ascents and descents. Normally we walk 3/5h a day.

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Group Size: Minimum 6