



Best period: All year round

Re-Discover Europe Experience Bulgaria!

7 days / 6 nights

Sofia – Plovdiv – Kazanlak - Veliko Tarnovo – Troyan – Sofia

**Package price at USD 1179 per person in DBL shared room
for a group of minimum 6 pax**

Re-discover Europe by this History & Culture round tour of Bulgaria - one of the oldest states in Europe, founded in 681 A.C. Participants will observe remains from different eras – Thracian (4th – 3rd century B.C), Roman (1st century B.C – 4th century A.C), Byzantine (4th – 7th century), the two Bulgarian Kingdoms in Middle Age, Ottoman Jug (14th – 19th century) and present days (20th – 21st century).

Along with historical and cultural sights, guests will be welcomed by the local hospitality and will reveal Bulgarian folklore, customs, wine and cuisine.

The package includes the following services:

- All transfers as per the itinerary by A/C coach;
- Professional Guide throughout the itinerary /English, French, German, Italian/;
- 6 nights in 3* and 4* hotels;
- 6 breakfasts;
- 5 dinners in hotels and local restaurants;
- 1 dinner in a traditional restaurant with live folklore show;
- 4 lunches in local restaurants;
- 4 sightseeing city tours – Sofia, Plovdiv, Kazanlak, Veliko Tarnovo;
- All entrance fees as per the program;
- VAT and all local taxes;

The package does not include:

- Air tickets to/from Sofia;
- Food and beverages not mentioned in the program;
- Personal expenses, tips for driver and guide.

Preliminary Program:

Day 1: Sofia

The guests arrive at Sofia Airport. A representative of MIEL and the guide will meet them. Transfer to the hotel. The guests will be accommodated in the hotel and will have a short rest. If the time of arrival allows there will be a short **sightseeing tour of capital city** / by foot /. Dinner. Overnight.



Day 2: Sofia – Plovdiv



After breakfast, guests will start their trip and travel to city of Plovdiv – one of the oldest cities in Europe, with 6 000 years of history starting with Neolithic settlement (4000 BC), then came the Thracian civilization, later the Greek one and Roman one. The **beautiful city of Plovdiv** is situated on the two banks of the Maritsa River. There are many remains preserved from Antiquity, which guests will see during the old city tour. The region is known for the wine production of a unique Bulgarian grape variety Mavrud. Guests will be accommodated in the hotel. After short rest they will

start their city tour. Lunch in the old city center and a tasty wine dinner in Todoroff Boutique Wine Cellar (including degustation of 3 type of wines) - the cellar is specialized in production of high quality red wines of "Mavrud", "Merlot" and "Cabernet Sauvignon" grape varieties in boutique series of limited quantity. Returning back to the hotel. Free time for relax. Dinner. Overnight.

Day 3: Plovdiv – Kazanlak – Veliko Tarnovo

After breakfast guests will be transferred to the city of Kazanlak. They will visit the regional historical museum to see all artifacts remained from the Thracian city of Seuthopolis and his ruler Seuthes III. Then guests will drive toward the Valley of Thracian Kings where they will visit a Thracian tomb, declared in 1979 as **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Guests will have lunch in Kazanlak and in the evening they will be transferred to the city of Veliko Tarnovo and will be accommodated in the hotel. Dinner. Overnight.



Day 4: Veliko Tarnovo and Arbanassi



After breakfast, guests will familiarize with the ancient city of Veliko Tarnovo and his surroundings. Known as **"City of the Tsars"**, **Veliko Tarnovo** is located on the Yantra River and is famous as the historical capital of the Second Bulgarian Empire, attracting many tourists with its unique architecture. In the 14th century as the Byzantine Empire weakened, Tarnovo claimed to be the Third Rome based on its preeminent cultural influence in the Balkans and the Slavic Orthodox world. In the spirit to discover the **Bulgarian traditional culture & architecture**, guests will visit the near village of Arbanassi for lunch and a short walk. It is known for the

rich history and large number of historical monuments, such as 17th and 18th century churches and examples of Bulgarian National Revival architecture. Returning back to the hotel. Free time for relax. Dinner. Overnight.

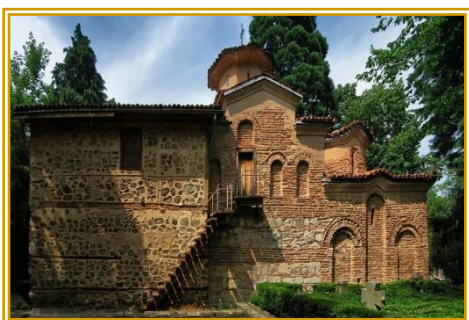
Day 5: Veliko Tarnovo – Troyan Monastery – Sofia

After breakfast guests will start their trip back to Sofia. On the way they will visit the Monastery of the Dormition of the Most Holy Mother of God, mostly known simply as Troyan Monastery. Founded in 16th century, Troyan Monastery is the third largest monastery in Bulgaria. Since the 17th century, the monastery is home of one of **the holiest icons in Bulgarian Orthodoxy** - the Three-Handed Virgin. This miracle happened in 8th century. St. John of Damascus was a writer and defender of holy icons. His writings made angry emperor Leo the Third, who involving his name in conspiracy about Damask caliphate treason. The caliph of Damask ordered to punish St. John Damascus and to cut his hand and put it on the city square. St. John obtained by pray his cut hand, touched it to his wrist and kneeled in front of the icon of Virgin Mary. During his sleep, he dreamed Virgin Mary, who told him "Your hand is healed, because you wrote in defense of God". After St. John awaked he saw his cured hand and to express his gratitude to Virgin Mary he order to put on the icon a silver copy of cut hand. That's why the icon is called Three Handed Virgin.



Apart the visit of Troyan Monastery, guests will have lunch near the Monastery and will be transferred to their hotel in Sofia. Free time for relax. Dinner. Overnight.

Day 6: Sofia /40 km. /



After breakfast guests are about to know for the Bulgarian capital. If they didn't have the time for city tour at their arrival, they will experience it this day. The Bulgarian capital dates even before the 7th century BC, when Thracians established their city around a mineral spring, which exists to the present day. Sofia's ancient name is Serdika and derives from the local Celtic tribe of the "serdi" who inhabited the region since the 1st century BC.

In the early afternoon, guests will drive to the Boyana church (**UNESCO world heritage site**).

The medieval Bulgarian Orthodox Church owes its world fame mainly to its frescoes from 1259. They form a second layer over the paintings from earlier centuries and represent one of the most complete and well-preserved monuments of Eastern European mediaeval art. A total of 89 scenes with 240 human images are depicted on the walls of the church. The name of the painter is recently discovered during restoration.

The guests will visit the National Historical Museum with more than 600000 exhibits including the Panagyurishte Thracian Golden Treasure. Dinner in a traditional restaurant with folklore show. Overnight.

Day 7 Sofia - departure

Breakfast at the hotel. Free time. Transfer to the Sofia Airport for your flight.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- The prices are based on current costs and conditions available at the time of offering, all rates and availability have to be reconfirmed in the time of definitive reservations.
- All requests and enquiries should be made in written by e-mail. MIEL will reply to all within 48h., except during weekends and other public holidays. If the immediate confirmation is not possible the buyer will be informed of the status.
- Arrival & Departure detail timing and flight details should be sent by e-mail or fax directly to MIEL in order all the necessary transfers to be dully provided.