

GP TRAVEL EXPERIENCES

Presents

BEST OF BULGARIA

WHAT'S INCLUDED

8 days / 7 nights' duration

Sunday 27th September - Sunday 4th October 2026

Return UK transfers to/from London Heathrow*

(*subject to numbers a supplement may apply)

Return flights London Heathrow —Sofia

3 nights half board Sofia – **5* Sofia Balkan Palace**

4 nights half board Plovdiv – **4* Doubletree by Hilton**

Tour accompanied throughout by local guide

Private coach transportation

Excursion package + refreshments—meals as overleaf

PRICES & SUPPLEMENTS

Price from **£1899pp** two share

Single supplement **£199** (7 nights) - max. 5 rooms

1st deposit **£300pp** payable by **30.12.25**

2nd deposit **£300pp** by **16.02.26**

Both deposits non-refundable / non-transferable.

Balance due by **13.07.26**

Insurance up to 79 years **£70pp** / 80-89 years **£105pp**

+ Admin fee **£5pp** (by email) & **£10pp** (by post)

Cancellation charges 100% after balance due date.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Sofia Guided Walking Tour + Site Visits
- Boyana Church UNESCO
- Archaeological Museum Sofia
- Rila Monastery - UNESCO
- Folklore Dinner in Sofia
- Bulgarian Persian Carpet Craft Workshop
- Museum of Socialist Cars
- Mosaics of Bishop's Basilica of Philippopolis
- Plovdiv Old Town Guided Tour
- Roman Theatre + Ethnographic Museum
- Valley of the Roses and Thracian Tomb

HOW TO BOOK

Please complete the attached booking form and return with your non-refundable deposit, Insurance premium + handling fee if required to: **Simply Groups, Dalton House, 1 Hawksworth St, Ilkley, LS29 9DU**
Tel: 01943 605999 info@simplygroups.co.uk
www.simplygroups.co.uk



Sofia Cathedral



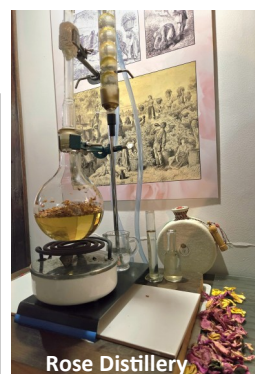
Roman Theatre



Rila Monastery



Plovdiv Old Town



Rose Distillery



Bachkovo Monastery

Proposed itinerary page 1

Day 1: - Transfer to **Heathrow** for a direct flight to Sofia. On arrival you will be met at the airport & escorted to a centrally located hotel, where dinner is included.

Day 2: This morning begins with a **guided walking tour** of Sofia taking in the city's most interesting sites in the historical centre. The Rotunda of St George, remains of the Serdika Ancient Fortress, Banya Bashi Mosque, Central baths, Cathedral of St Nedelya, National Bank, the St Nikolay Russian Church. **Coffee break** included near the Cathedral of Alexander Nevski. **Continue the city tour:** The Patriarchal Cathedral of St. Alexander Nevski (entrance included), the National Assembly, University of Sofia, Basilica of St Sophia (Entrance + visit to the Archaeological level). Free time for lunch along the main Vitosha Street.

This afternoon included visit of **Boyana church** (UNESCO Site), a remarkable monument with Bulgarian Medieval Art. Return to the centre to visit the **Archaeological Museum + a glass of wine or beer** afterwards.

Included **Folklore dinner** in an atmospheric Bulgarian restaurant with traditional meals, folklore songs and dance. Fire-dancing (subject to weather conditions). Return to the hotel mid-evening.

Total walking today is approx. 2km, mostly on the flat but with some stairs during visits.

Day 3:

Breakfast included before departing for the UNESCO World Heritage Site of **Rila Monastery**. Included is a **coffee / comfort stop** during the journey (coffee/tea, glass of lemonade). Included **visit with guide** to the 10th-century complex and museum. This impressive 10th-century complex, located high in the Rila Mountains, is known for its imposing architecture, arcade entrances, numerous staircases, bay-windows, beautiful frescoes, mural paintings and wood-carvings. The museum's icon gallery houses 80 icons from the 18th - 19th centuries selected from the museum's collection in addition to 28 portraits of the abbots of the monastery from 1860 to 2005. **Lunch** is included in a nearby restaurant in an area famous for freshwater trout. Returning to Sofia, dinner is at the hotel.

Walking: Cobblestones & uneven surfaces – unsuitable for walking aids

Day 4:

Breakfast included before checking out of the hotel for the journey towards the Western Rhodopi mountains, making an **included coffee / comfort break** en route (coffee/tea + small cake).

A visit will be made in Kostandovo to the **Bulgarian Persian carpet craft workshop** where every day, up to 30 women are busy tying hundreds of thousands of knots, in order to produce carpets of extremely high quality from organic materials and dyes, using the largest loom in Europe, for palaces and private homes around the world.

Lunch is included in Velinograd before driving along the Batak reservoir with stunning views to Peshtera for an included visit the **Museum of Socialist Cars**, housed in an authentically preserved cinema. Here you can see numerous retro cars and many lifestyle objects from this period including toys, radios, & numerous signs with slogans. A **glass of wine** is included before continuing on to **Plovdiv**, one of the oldest cities in Europe and a former European capital of culture (2019). Hotel dinner included.

Day 5:

Breakfast included. Today is dedicated to the vibrant and rich-in-history city of **Plovdiv**.

You will be escorted on a **guided tour** around the **Old Town** with its stunning sights. Plovdiv is one of the most ancient towns in Europe and is similar to Troy, as it is built upon many layers of previous occupations and hence its varied culture. Visits today start with the **Bishop's Basilica of Philippopolis**, built mid-4th century where Roman mosaic heritage (a genuine masterpiece of late antiquity), continues to inspire today. A **coffee / comfort break is included** before continuing the **walking tour** of Old Plovdiv, along narrow streets with architecturally unique merchant's houses built in the 19th century. Visits are included to the fascinating **Ethnographic Museum, Roman theatre**, the **Hindlyan house** (the most beautifully decorated authentic building) + the church of St **Constine and Helena**. **Lunch** is included in a local restaurant before the last stretch of this tour finishing close to the **Kapana creative district**, which is both vibrant and colourful. Hotel dinner included.

Total walking approx. 3km - Many uneven surfaces, cobbles + steps. Unsuitable for walking aids

Continued on page 2

Proposed itinerary page 2

Day 6:

Breakfast included before travelling towards the heart of the **Valley of the Roses and Thracian Kings – Kazanlak**. A comfort stop will be made in Karlovo to visit the old town and enjoy a **coffee and rose cake** (typical local recipe). We then continue to Kazanlak, where **lunch** is included followed by a visit to a 4th century BC **Thracian tomb**. **Returning** to Plovdiv, a stop will be made in Stara Zagora, home to an **Ancient Forum** before enjoying an included **glass of wine or beer**. Hotel dinner included. **Cobbles during village walk. Mostly on the flat**

Day 7:

Breakfast included. Today we head in to the hills for an included visit to the idyllically situated 11th-century **Bachkovo Monastery**. This cloister is famous for the original Byzantine mural paintings on the charnel-house and for its frescoes (17-19th century) in the refectory and in the three monastery churches.

On all sides, the monastery is surrounded by the hills, which together with its size and ancient spirit, make it one of the most visited monasteries in Bulgaria. In this complex & the surrounding streets, there are many local products to purchase including rare herbs, home-made wild fruit jams, yogurt and white cheese made of sheep or buffalo's milk, woollen carpets, etc. **Lunch** is included in the area. Making our way back to Plovdiv, a stop will be made on the lower slopes of the **Rhodopi mountains** for an included visit to a modern boutique **winery with included wine-tastings**. It has been proven that from the 4th-century BC, wine was already being produced here, and today there are various types of grapes producing quality wines. Returning to Plovdiv, dinner is included.

Walking at Monastery: Cobblestones, uneven surfaces & steps – unsuitable for walking aids

Day 8:

Breakfast included followed by a free morning to explore **Plovdiv & the city's hidden treasures**.

Departing mid-afternoon for Sofia, an early meal is included before transferring to the airport for your return flight to the UK (ETA 10.30pm), for a return transfer to your original departure point.

Simply Groups reserve the right to make minor changes to this offer due to circumstances beyond our control.

5* SOFIA BALKAN PALACE



4* DOUBLETREE BY HILTON PLOVDIV

