TREASURES OF BULGARIA *Privately escorted tour*

10 days / 9 nights

Day 1: Sofia. Arrival in Sofia, where you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Enjoy a Welcome Cocktail while you read your tour info-kit. Dinner at your hotel. Overnight Sofia. **D**

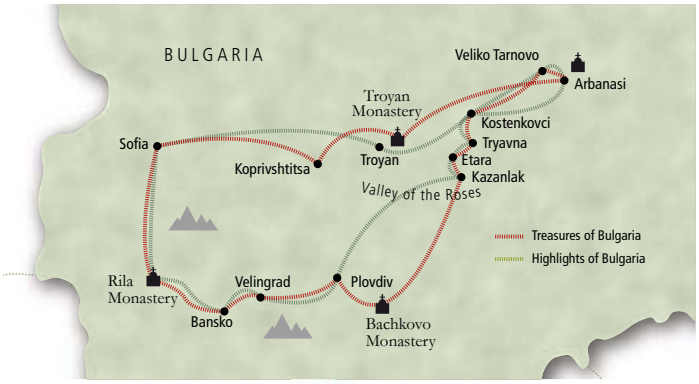
Day 2: Sofia. Your tour of this ancient city commences after breakfast. You will see St Sofia Church, the National Gallery, Russian church of St Nikolai, Alexander Nevsky Cathedral and the 11th century Boyana Church. Afternoon free. Dinner with folklore at a local restaurant. Overnight Sofia. **BD**

Day 3: Sofia to Rila Monastery & Bansko. Morning departure for the UNESCO-listed Rila Monastery complex. It was founded in the 10th century by the hermit Ivan Rilsky, later canonized as a patron saint of Bulgaria. After lunch continue on to the popular ski resort of Bansko. Dinner in a local restaurant and overnight Bansko. **BD**

Day 4: Bansko to Velingrad & Plovdiv. Depart for Velingrad via Belitsa, a national reserve for wild bears. Stop in the spa resort of Velingrad and continue to the wine producing area of Purvenets for a wine tasting and dinner. Overnight Plovdiv. **BD**

Day 5: Plovdiv to Bachkovo Monastery & Kazanlak. Your morning tour of Plovdiv includes the Old Town, Ethnographical Museum, 2nd century Roman amphitheatre and 19th century National Revival Period houses. After lunch visit the 11th century Bachkovo Monastery, the Rose Valley of Kazanlak and Thracian Tomb. Dinner and overnight Kazanlak. **BD**

Day 6: Kazanlak to Etara, Tryavna and Kostenkovci. After breakfast visit the Shipka Church and travel to the open air museum of Etara, a recreation of a typical 19th century craftsmen's village. Continue to the northern slopes of the Balkans and the 18th century town of Tryavna.



The highlight of your trip will be your stay in the delightful settlement of Kostenkovci to experience Bulgaria of the past. You will stay in a traditional Bulgarian house in the village with original antiques and furnishings but modern facilities. Dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight Kostenkovci. **BD**

Day 7: Kostenkovci, Veliko Tarnovo & Arbanasi. Morning sightseeing of Veliko Tarnovo, the ancient capital of the second Bulgarian kingdom (1185-1396). It has a spectacular setting, high above the Yantra River. See the medieval citadel of Tsarevets and Baldwin's Tower. Six kilometers away stands the historic monastery-village of Arbanasi, with its ancient wealthy houses and churches. Dinner and overnight Arbanasi. **BD**

Day 8: Veliko Tarnovo to Koprivshtitsa. Late morning departure for the delightful mountain village of Koprivshtitsa, with its cobblestone streets and red-tiled roofs. On April 20, 1876 the first shot was fired here, launching the national uprising against the Ottoman Empire. After your sightseeing tour you have some free time to explore. Dinner and overnight Koprivshtitsa. **BD**

Day 9: Koprivshtitsa to Sofia. After breakfast depart for Sofia. Afternoon arrival Sofia. You have time to relax before dinner at your hotel. Overnight Sofia. **BD**

Day 10: Sofia. Tour services end after breakfast, with your transfer to the airport. **B**

INCLUSIONS

- 8 nights accommodation in 3 and 4-star hotels
- 1 night in traditional Bulgarian house.
- Meals as specified
- Arrival/departure transfers
- Transportation by air-conditioned car or minibus with English speaking driver
- Sightseeing as specified, conducted by local English speaking guides

TIP: Ask us about our shorter tour – Highlights of Bulgaria 8 days / 7 nights.

YOUR HOTELS

- **SOFIA** – Metropolitan
- **BANSKO** – Banderitsa
- **PLOVDIV** – Nord
- **KAZANLAK** – Palace
- **KOSTENKOVCI** – Traditional Bulgarian House
- **ARBANASI** – Bohemi or Eolyarska House
- **KOPRIVSHTITSA** – Kozlekok

TOUR PRICE & DEPARTURES

Prices shown per person in AUD.
Daily departures Jan-Dec 2008.

Departures	Twn	Sgl	Tpl
Minimum 4 persons	1410	1612	1316
Minimum 2 persons	1860	2062	1736

Minimum participants – two.

ALBANIA *NEW*

TIRANA HOTELS

Tirana International ★★★★

Deshmoret e Kombit Blvd

Built during the Soviet era exclusively for foreign delegations and tourists, completely renovated in 2001. Located in the heart of Tirana, on Scanderbeg Square.

Season	Twn	Sgl
Sun-Thu 1 Jan-31 Dec	111	160
Fri-Sat 1 Jan-31 Dec	94	118

Mondial ★★★★

Rr. Muhamet Gjollesha

Modern hotel built in traditional style in 1998. Located close to the city centre. 34 rooms with balconies, A/C, minibar and internet access. Restaurants and bar.

Season	Twn	Sgl
1 Jan-31 Dec	111	148

Sheraton ★★★★★

Sheshi Italia

The first and only 5-star hotel in Albania, located in the tranquil part of Tirana, not far from the Presidential Palace. Wide of choice of amenities, two restaurants and a piano bar, free internet in the lobby.

Season	Twn	Sgl
Mon-Thu 1 Jan-31 Dec	225	379
Fri-Sun 1 Jan-31 Dec	190	320

Transfers & sightseeing in Tirana also available as well as regional hotels. Ask us for details.