

# The Spirit Of Orpheus

**TOUR DURATION: 8 DAYS/ 7 NIGHTS**  
**AVAILABLE: ANY TIME OF THE YEAR**

**Bulgaria offers an enormous variety, which could satisfy the needs of every tourist: bustling Sofia with the bright lights of the discos, the restaurants and the bars, contrasting with the serenity of the mountain villages. You have the unique opportunity to go back in time by visiting the old historical villages of Gela and Shiroka Laka, located in the beautiful Rhodope Mountains and taste the delicious home-made specialties of the local cuisine.**

## **Day 1 – Sofia**

Arrival in Sofia. Transfer to the hotel. Next follows a sightseeing tour of the capital. You will see the St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, the Sofia University, The National Assembly, The Rotunda St. George, The Mosque, The Synagogue and many more remarkable places. Dinner and overnight.

(D)

## **Day 2 - Sofia – Rila Monastery – Melnik – Sandanski**

Breakfast. Departure to the Rila monastery - the largest and most famous Eastern Orthodox monastery in Bulgaria. Founded in the 10<sup>th</sup> century, the monastery is regarded as one of the country's most important cultural, historical and architectural monuments. Lunch. Continue to the smallest Bulgarian town – Melnik. The town is an architectural reserve and 96 of its buildings are cultural monuments. The town of Melnik is also associated with the impressive natural sand pyramids in various forms, spread in an area of 17 km<sup>2</sup> near Melnik. Wine tasting in a traditional wine cellar. Accommodation in Sandanski (15km away from Melnik). Free time at leisure. Dinner and overnight.



(B, L, D)

### **Day 3 - Sandanski – Gela – Shiroka Laka – Pamporovo**

Breakfast. Departure to Gela – a beautiful village, situated in the foothills of the highest Rhodope peak Perelik. Such a marvelous sight can rarely be found anywhere else in the Rhodope Mountains. The legend has it that the famous poet Orpheus was born in Gela. We have prepared some delicious Rhodopean specialties for lunch. Next, you continue to the village of Shiroka Laka. It is a proclaimed architectural and folklore reserve and lies in the central Rhodope Mountains. There you will visit some authentic Rhodopean houses. You will proceed to the popular mountain resort Pamporovo, where you will overnight.

(B, L)

### **Day 4 - Pamorovo – Ardino – Pamporovo**

Breakfast. Departure to the village of Ardino. There you will visit the Devil's bridge. According to a legend, the devil agreed to build the bridge, and in return he asked for the first soul that crossed it. After building the bridge the devil was outwitted by the people of Ardino and was last seen descending into the water, bringing peace to the community. Then, you will return to Pamporovo, where you will overnight.

(B, L)

### **Day 5 - Pamoporovo – Ivailovgrad – Perperikon – Pamporovo**



Breakfast. Departure to Ivailovgrad – a town located in the very south of Bulgaria, set near the Arda River. There you will visit one of the biggest Roman villas found in Bulgaria – villa Armira. You will enjoy the show “Constellation, called love” – it is the local poetry competition. You will have lunch in Ivailovgrad, where you will taste some local specialties. In the afternoon you will visit the famous Perperikon – an ancient Thracian city, thought to have been a sacred place. It is believed that the famous sanctuary and oracular shrine dedicated to Dionysus of the Bessi was situated there. In the afternoon you will return to Pamporovo. Dinner and overnight.

(B, D)

### **Day 6 - Pamporovo – Bachkovo Monastery - Plovdiv**

After breakfast, you will head to the Bachkovo Monastery - an important monument of Christian architecture and one of the largest and oldest Eastern Orthodox monasteries in Europe. The monastery is known and appreciated for the unique

combination of Byzantine, Georgian and Bulgarian culture, united by the common faith. After the visit to the monastery you will continue to the city of Plovdiv. On the way you will have the opportunity to see one of the most famous fortresses in Bulgaria – the Assenova Fortress. You will have lunch in Plovdiv. Then you will take a sightseeing tour of the Old Town of Plovdiv - you will see the Roman Amphitheatre, the Ethnographic Complex, the Mosque, the Church St. Constantine and Elena etc. Dinner and overnight in Plovdiv.

(B, L, D)

#### **Day 7 - Plovdiv - Sofia**

Breakfast. Departure back to Sofia, accommodation. Free time at leisure. In the evening – farewell dinner with a folklore show at a typical Bulgarian restaurant. Overnight.

(B, D)

#### **Day 8 - Sofia**

Breakfast. Transfer to the airport.

(B)

#### Price list:

Group size	10 pax	20 pax	30 pax	40 pax
Price per pax	DBL – 649 euro	DBL – 577 euro	DBL – 543 euro	DBL – 509 euro

#### **THE ABOVE PRICES ARE PER PERSON AND INCLUDE:**

- \* 7 overnights on BB in 4\* hotels
- \* Transportation by minibus/ coach all along (A/C, A/V, microphone, mini bar, WC). All road taxes, parking and driver's salary included
- \* 5 dinners, 4 lunches
- \* Wine tasting on day 2
- \* Entrance fees for the sites and museums visited according to the program
- \* English speaking guide all along

**THE ABOVE PRICES ARE PER PERSON AND DO NOT INCLUDE:**

- \* Air transport to and from Bulgaria
- \* Any optional excursions
- \* Any meals apart from listed above
- \* Personal expenses.

*B – Breakfast*

*L – Lunch*

*D - Dinner*