

THE ROYAL TOUR

Discover Bulgaria on a Royal Train

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

If you choose to go on this tour you will travel by the luxury train Corona Express, especially manufactured for Boris III, Tsar of Bulgaria; you will visit places of great historical interest – what could be more exciting than that?

Day 1 - Sofia

Arrival at Sofia airport and transfer to a hotel in the heart of the capital. Free time at leisure. Dinner and overnight.

(D)

Day 2 - Sofia – Plovdiv

Breakfast. Transfer to the Sofia Central Railway Station from where your journey will commence. You will travel with the only quality private train in Bulgaria- Corona Express, which belongs to the royal family. You will arrive in Plovdiv in two hours. Accommodation and lunch at a hotel. In the afternoon you will take a sightseeing tour of the Old Town of Plovdiv – you will see the Ethnographic Museum, the Roman Amphitheatre, the St. Constantine and Elena Church, the Mosque etc. Dinner at a traditional Bulgarian restaurant. Overnight.

(B, D)

Day 3 - Plovdiv - Kazanlak - Tryavna

Breakfast. Transfer to the local railway station. Departure to the world famous Bulgarian Rose Valley. There you will pay a visit to the Thracian Tomb of Kazanlak. The monument dates back to the 4th century BC and has been on the UNESCO protected World Heritage Site list since 1979. You will also visit the Rose Museum in Kazanlak. Lunch at a traditional restaurant with local specialties. After lunch you will travel along a zigzag railway climbing between the peaks of the Balkan mountain for the



gracious town of Tryavna. The town is famous for its typical National Revival architecture, featuring 140 cultural monuments, museums and expositions.

Dinner and overnight in Tryavna.

(B, D)

Day 4 - Tryavna – Veliko Tarnovo

In the mornig you will take a sightseeing tour of Tryavna including visits to the town square, named Capitan Diado Nikola, with the clock tower, dating from 1814; the St. Archangel Michael Church; the Daskalov house built in the year of 1808. Lunch at a traditional restaurant in the old part of town. In the early afternoon you will proceed to the town of Veliko Tarnovo, known as the historical capital of the Second Bulgarian Empire. You will visit the attractions of Veliko Tarnovo – you will see the Tzarevets hill, the Fortress, the Patriarchal Church, the small churches in the foothill of Trapezitsa. Next, you will continue to Arbanassi, known for its rich history and large number of historical monuments, such as 17th and 18th century churches and examples of Bulgarian National Revival architecture, which have turned it into a popular tourist destination. There you will visit the Monastery of Saint Nicholas, the Konstantsaliyata's House (18th century) and other authentic merchants houses. In the evening you will return to Veliko Tarnovo, where you will enjoy the unique “Sound and Light” show. Dinner and overnight.

(B, L, D)



Day 5 - Veliko Tarnovo – Sofia

This day your trip will take you to the famous town of Pleven - a major battle scene during the Russo-Turkish War of 1877–1878. There you will visit the Panorama – a panorama, depicting the events of the mentioned war, specifically the five-month Siege of Pleven (Pleven Epopee) which made the city internationally famous and which contributed to the Liberation of Bulgaria after five centuries of Ottoman rule. You will also visit the St George the Conqueror Chapel Mausoleum, built in honor of the Russian and Romanian soldiers who lost their lives during the Siege of Pleven. Lunch in Kailyka - a beautiful park south of Pleven. Your journey will continue to the town of Mezdra - a vital rail link between Sofia and northern/western regions of Bulgaria. You will pass through the beautiful Iskar Gorge - a mountain pass in the Balkan Mountains. There the railroad follows the



course of the Iskar River through a winding, scenic canyon. Arrival at the Sofia Central Railway Station and transfer to the hotel. Dinner and overnight.
(B, D)

Day 6 - Sofia – Rila monastery – Sofia

After breakfast you will travel to the Rila Monastery – the largest and most famous Eastern Orthodox monastery in Bulgaria. You will visit the main church of the monastery, where you will see the gold-plated iconostasis, famous for its wood-carving. The creation of the iconostasis took five years to four handicraftsmen. You will also visit the museum of the monastery, particularly famous for housing Rafail's Cross. Lunch at a restaurant near the monastery. Return back to Sofia. Free time at leisure. Overnight.
(B, L)



Day 7 - Sofia

Following breakfast you will take a morning sightseeing tour of Sofia - you will see the Byzantine Church of St. Sofia, the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral and the Icon gallery, the Archaeological Museum, the Roman Gate and the ruins of the Roman fortification system, the St. George Rotunda, the National Theatre and other places of interest. Free time at leisure. Farewell dinner with a folklore program at a traditional restaurant in the foot of the Vitosha Mountain.
(B, D)



Day 8 - Sofia

Breakfast. Transfer to the airport.
(B)

PRICE IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

- **B – breakfast**
- **L – lunch**
- **D – dinner**