

The Treasures of Nature

TOUR DURATION: 6 DAYS/ 5 NIGHTS
AVAILABLE: ANY TIME OF THE YEAR

The unique environment is Bulgaria's most prized asset: a striking topographic variety within a relatively small compass, a scenic landscape with an abundance of rivers, lakes and mineral springs, and a rich plant and animal life. Combined with remarkable cultural, historical, ethnographic and architectural diversity, this makes Bulgaria one of the most popular tourist destinations. By choosing to go on this tour, you will discover more and more of the magnificent nature of Bulgaria.

Day 1 – Sofia

Arrival at Sofia airport. Transfer to the hotel. Afternoon sightseeing tour of Sofia – one of the oldest capital cities in Europe, blending its past and present in a remarkable architectural style. You will see many interesting places – the golden-domed St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral (one of the world's largest Orthodox churches), the Ivan Vazov National Theatre, the former royal palace, the late Roman Church of St. George (4th century). Dinner with folklore show in a traditional Bulgarian restaurant.



Overnight.
(D)

Day 2 – Rila Monastery - Bansko

After breakfast you will depart to the Rila Monastery - the largest and most famous Eastern Orthodox monastery in Bulgaria. Founded in the 10th century, the Rila Monastery is regarded as one of the country's most important cultural, historical and architectural monuments. It was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983. You will take a guided tour of the monastery complex – you will see the main church with its gold-plated iconostasis, the monastery museum



(famous for housing Rafail's Cross). In the afternoon you will continue to Bansko – a popular mountain resort, located at the foot of the beautiful Pirin Mountain. In the evening, you will try local specialties at a traditional Bulgarian tavern (“mehana”). Overnight.

(B, D)

Day 3 – Bansko – Dospat Dam - Devin

After breakfast you will take a guided sightseeing tour of Bansko – you will visit the Bulgarian National Revival-style Church of the Holy Trinity, built in 1835; the house, where the great Bulgarian poet Nikola Vaptsarov was born; and some typical Bulgarian National Revival houses. Lunch in a traditional tavern. In the afternoon your journey continues to the Dospat Dam - the highest dam in Bulgaria by altitude and, with its 22 km² of water area, the second largest in capacity. It is situated in the interior of the Rhodope Mountains. Later you will proceed to the town of Devin, famous for its beautiful location (in the heart of the Rhodope Mountains) and its hot mineral springs. Overnight.

(B, L)

Day 4 – Trigrad gorge – Buynovsko gorge



After breakfast you will depart to the Trigrad gorge. The magnificent and impressively beautiful gorge is situated in the valley of Trigradska river. The 250 meters high, sheer, marble rocks raise at the two sides of the river forms an eye-catching narrow rocky bed. This region is home of more than 150 caves. The most famous is the precipitous Devil's Throat Cave, which you will visit. The cave is a result of collapsed earth layers. Along an artificially dug tunnel (150m), one can reach an impressive cave hall that could accommodate the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral in Sofia. A winding steep cement staircase leads from the hall

to the natural entrance of the cave. While climbing, you can see one of the highest underground waterfalls in Europe (42m).

Later you will take a walk along a forest path till you reach the Yagodina cave - the “pearl in the crown” of the Rhodope Mountains. The cave is a part of the unique Karst of Buynovsko Gorge. It is 10 km long, and 5 stories tall, with many labyrinths and abysses inside. You will enter the cave through an artificially dug opening, while the natural entrance is 30 m above. A special passageway through the cave offers you the opportunity to see the wonderful underground world formed in the course of millions of years. Electric lights enhance the atmosphere of mysterious formations: draperies, pipe-like stalactites, cave pearls, “leopard’s skin” and

hanging stalactones. Some of the formations inside resemble the well-known "Santa Claus", "Snow-White and The Seven Dwarfs", "Virgin Mary and her newborn child", "Pizho and Penda"(2 characters from a typical Bulgarian tradition celebrated on the first of March),"The Elephant", "The Crocodiles" and many more. After visiting the cave you will proceed on foot to the Devil's Bridge - a rock bridge, which is 10 meters long, 3 meters thick. It raises 30 meters above the Borino River. According to a local myth, that gave the bridge its name, only the devil can cross under it. The myth tells the story of two brothers fighting over their father's land. When they finally reached an agreement and shook hands, they turned into stones thereby forming a bridge and connecting the two sides of the canyon.

In the evening you will go back to Devin. Dinner and overnight.

(B, D)

Day 5 – Wonderful Bridges

After breakfast you will travel to the Wonderful Bridges. The unique rock formation covering an area of 40,3 hectares, can be found along the course of the Aidarsko Dere River in the Central Rhodopes.

The bridges are most probably the result of an ancient cave collapsing in an earthquake. The river has carried away most of the smaller rock debris. In time, atmospheric processes shaped the two natural marble bridges of extraordinary beauty. The bigger bridge is 12-15m in width and 96 m in length, with an opening 45 m deep and 43



m wide. About 200 m down the ravine, there is the second bridge, which is 60 m long.

In the afternoon you will return to Devin. Farewell dinner with a folklore show. Overnight.

(B, D)

Day 6 – Sofia

After breakfast you will go back to Sofia, where you will be transferred to the airport for your flight home.

(B)

Price list:

Group size /min/	10 pax	20 pax	30 pax	40 pax
Price per pax	DBL – 499 euro	DBL – 417 euro	DBL – 403 euro	DBL – 381 euro

THE ABOVE PRICES ARE PER PERSON AND INCLUDE:

- * 5 overnights on BB in 4* hotels as per program
- * Transportation by minibus/ coach all along (A/C, A/V, microphone, mini bar, WC). All road taxes, parking and driver's salary included
- * 4 dinners
- * 1 lunch
- * 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