

## Essence Bulgaria

**Customised Tours**

6 Nights/7 Days



### Itinerary

Day  
1

#### VARNA- GOLDEN SANDS

Arrival at Varna airport. Greeted by professional English-speaking guide. Transfer to Hotel. Free time and dinner in the hotel. Optional dinner at local restaurant.

Day  
2

#### GOLDEN SANDS –JEEP SAFARI-VARNA

After breakfast get ready for exciting Jeep Safari trip. An exotic trip with Jeeps in the unique natural environment, shooting with air rifles, picnic in the forest and entertainment. Includes lunch. In the late afternoon Varna city tour. The program includes visit of the most famous sights in Varna, free time for shopping. Optional dinner in a local restaurant. Dinner at the hotel

Day  
3

#### VARNA – BALCHIK - VARNA

Breakfast at the hotel and departure to Balchik. The trip begins with a visit to the Botanical Garden in the picturesque town of Balchik, a tour of the summer residence of the Romanian Queen Maria - a romantic and exquisite architectural mix of Oriental and European styles, located on the beach, in a magnificent botanical garden - hosting over 3000 plants, including the second largest collection of cacti in Europe containing more than 250 species.

The tour continues with a visit to the Kaliakra cape - a picturesque place on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast and the ruins of a medieval fortress. Dinner in the hotel

Day  
4

#### VARNA-NESSEBAR- SOFIA

Early breakfast and departure to Nessebar. A full-day trip to one of the oldest cities in Europe -

Nessebar - a museum town under the UNESCO protection - located on a peninsula, known for its narrow cobbled stone streets and the distinctive architecture of the typical Nessebar houses from the Bulgarian Renaissance.

Introduction of cultures of different ages and peoples - the Thracians, the Romans, the Slavs, the Byzantines and the Bulgarians. Visit to the churches of "Sveti Stefan" and "Sveti Spas". Lunch with local fish and free time. In the late afternoon we will depart to Sofia. Accommodation and dinner at the hotel in Sofia

**Day  
5**

## SOFIA –PLOVDIV-SOFIA

Breakfast at your hotel. Pick up from your hotel for a full day trip to Plovdiv, which is the second largest city in Bulgaria. It is situated at about two hours drive from Sofia near the beautiful Rhodope Mountains. Plovdiv was selected to be the Europe's cultural capital in 2019. The town in its present appearance was built around seven hills – the hills of Plovdiv.

For a true experience of Bulgaria it is worth touring the sights of tradition and natural beauty in Plovdiv – a town with ancient past, an open-air museum with fascinating architecture. Its Old town preserves examples of Bulgarian Renaissance architecture along with the Roman Antique Theatre and the Roman Stadium.

You will be able to take a walk along the small cobbled streets you will visit the Ethnographic museum where you will see an exhibition representing traditional culture of Thrace, The Rhodopes and the Central Balkan Mountains during the 18th-19th centuries in Bulgaria.

The main street of the city offers excellent opportunities for entertainment and shopping.

In Plovdiv you will discover many opportunities to experience shopping. Whenever you go to Markovo Tepe Mall, Grand Mall or Mall of Plovdiv, you will find anything you want.

Departure to Sofia in the afternoon. Dinner at an Indian restaurant in Sofia.

**Day  
6**

## SOFIA –RILA MONASTERY-SOFIA

Breakfast at your hotel. Pick up from your hotel for a full day trip to Rila Monastery. Pick-up from your hotel after breakfast for a full day tour to the world famous Rila Monastery included in UNSECO World Heritage list.

Lunch at a local restaurant near the river. Afterwards, visit to the monastery founded in the 10th century, it's the largest and most famous Eastern Orthodox monastery in Bulgaria and Eastern Europe. The monastery complex houses a rich collection of icons, wall paintings, old-printed books.

On this guided tour you will see the gold-plated iconostasis in the main church, the monastery museum, famous for housing Rafael's cross. Photo stop of the tower of Hrelyu and the residential part of the complex.

Dinner in Indian restaurant.

**Day  
7**

## SOFIA

Breakfast at your hotel. After breakfast at your hotel you will first take a walking tour of Sofia starting with Alexander Nevsky Cathedral – the symbol of Sofia, the St. Sophia church, built in 6th century, the former Royal Palace, St. George Rotunda and the ruins of ancient Serdica.

Near Banya Bashi Mosque is located one of the oldest commercial complex – Centra Sofia Market Hall also known as „Halite“ or „Tsentralni Hali“ opened in 1911, showing unique architecture and containing many stores for food, clothes, shoes etc. Next to the Ruins of Serdica is one of the remarkable buildings in Sofia where is located the Central Universal Market.

Free time on Vitosha blvd. famous with its many stores of world known brands.

The tour continues to one of the Sofia shopping centers. In Sofia are located the biggest trendy malls in the country. Combine shopping with a brief rest in the cozy restaurants and coffee shops

Free time at leisure before your flight back home.

