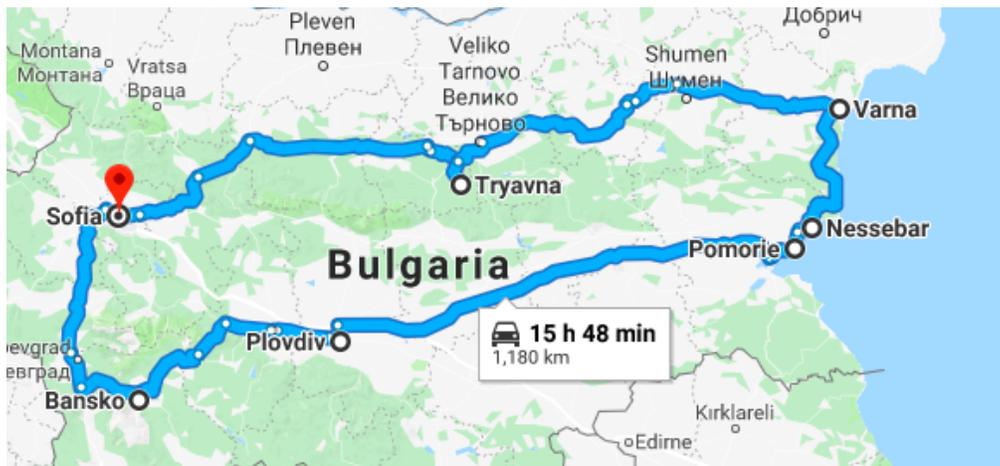


GRAND TOUR OF BULGARIA
June 10 – June 23, 2020



JUNE 10 DEPART ST. JOHN'S TO ARRIVE SOFIA

Depart St. John's on your overnight to Sofia Bulgaria.

JUNE 11 ARRIVAL IN SOFIA

Arrival at Sofia airport. Transfer to the hotel located in the city center.

Dinner at the hotel.

Meals: D

Accommodation in a 4-star hotel

JUNE 12 **SOFIA**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Departure in the morning for the **panoramic visit** of the Bulgarian capital including the “Alexander Nevsky” Cathedral and St. Sofia Church. Located at the bottom of Mount Vitosha and close to the Iskar River, the city of Sofia crystallizes the essence of Bulgaria, a country of fascinating contrasts. Sofia is a city that is both elegant and energetic, with a story as exciting and diverse.

Lunch at a local restaurant during the visit.

Tonight, **Folk Dinner at the famous restaurant Cheverneto**

Meals: B-L-D

Accommodation in a 4-star hotel

JUNE 13 **SOFIA – RILA- SOFIA (240 km)**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Departure to Bansko with a stop for the visit of **Rila Monastery**, the most remarkable monastic complex of Bulgaria, whose architectural and artistic magnificence makes it an element of UNESCO's world cultural and natural heritage. Retouring to Sofia

Lunch in this beautiful region.

Dinner at a local restaurant

Meals: B-L-D

Accommodation in a 4-star hotel

JUNE 14 **SOFIA – PLOVDIV (150 km)**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Departure for Plovdiv, the second largest city of Bulgaria. The various Thracian, Roman, Bulgarian and Ottoman cultures give it its unique character, which, in 2019, will make it the European city of culture. Plovdiv is an unknown jewel that will delight all visitors.

Lunch in the old town.

The guided tour of the city will take you to the heart of the old town of Plovdiv. You will admire many historical sites such as the Roman Theater (early 2nd century BC) and the ancient stadium. You will visit the Ethnographic Museum to understand the history and culture of this beautiful region. Plovdiv, its cobbled streets and colorful houses will undoubtedly be one of your favorites.

Dinner in a local restaurant

Accommodation in a 4-star hotel - Meals: B-L-D

JUNE 15 **PLOVDIV-STAROSEL-PLOVDIV (220 km)**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Departure for a lunch with wine tasting at the **Starosel vineyard**

Today you will discover another secret of this country: wine. Bulgarian winemakers are very proud of their products and produce wines of a quality far superior than a simple table wine. They have returned to the international scene by ranking among the best wines in the world. It was during the communist era in the 50's and 60's that major plantations of international grape varieties (Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Chardonnay, Syrah...) began to be produced and exported massively to the USSR, and secretly to the West.

Discover the **village of Skobelevo** for the visit of the ethnographic complex and the **DAMASCENA distillery**, the first private distillery in Bulgaria. It produces and sells the famous Bulgarian rose oil, recognized worldwide. It also produces rose water, lavender oil, lavender water and other essential oils. Lunch and tasting included on site.

Meals: D-L-S

Accommodation in a 4-star hotel

JUNE 16 **PLOVDIV – NESSEBAR - POMORIE (300 km)**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Departure towards the Bulgarian east coast to reach beautiful landscapes having for background the Black Sea.

Lunch in Nessebar.

About 30 km north of Bourgas and only a few kilometers from Sunny Beach, located on a tiny peninsula of the Black Sea, **Nessebar** is one of the oldest cities in Europe. It was founded by the Thracians around 3000 years before the new era and is the richest city with Byzantine architecture in Bulgaria.

In the afternoon, take a **guided tour of the old town of Nessebar**, listed as an architectural, historical and archaeological reserve, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Continue to Pomorie and to the hotel. Dinner at the hotel.

*Accommodation at Sunset Resort Pomorie 5 * for 4 nights, all inclusive.*

Meals: B-L-D

Accommodation in 5-star hotels for 4 nights

JUNE 17, 18, 19 **POMORIE** **SUNSET RESORT**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Free time to enjoy this beautiful complex. A list of tours will be proposed, offering a selection of activities and visits. A wonderful opportunity to relax halfway through the circuit.

This club resort is located in the town of Pomorie, by the beach. Pomorie is one of the oldest cities in Bulgaria and owes its reputation to its important salt mines. In addition to its beautiful beaches, Pomorie is very popular for its hot springs specializing in mud baths. A small river meanders peacefully over the vast private estate.

Meals: B-D

June 20 **POMORIE / VARNA (150 KM)**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Departure to Varna, the largest Bulgarian city on the Black Sea coast and considered the most beautiful. Varna was already a city of importance at the time of ancient Greece, while its was named Odessos. Today, its core reflects an architecture of the late 19th and early 20th century. Varna is the third largest Bulgarian city, after Sofia and Plovdiv. It has its universities, its opera as well as the biggest sports palace in Bulgaria.

Lunch in a local restaurant.

City tour in the afternoon. You will discover its magnificent cathedral, its exceptional archaeological museum where you will learn about the oldest worked gold of the world. Walk into the pedestrian center of the city that links the cathedral to the beach. Passage to the Roman Baths of Odessos (Varna), which are the largest in the Balkans and were among the 4 largest in the Roman Empire.

Meals: B-L-D

Accommodation in a 4-star hotel

June 21 VARNA – VELIKO TARNOVO - TRYAVNA (295KM)

Breakfast at the hotel.

Departure towards **Veliko Tarnovo**, former capital of Bulgaria during the years 1187 to 1393.

The first stop will be the **Madara Rider**, who is an impressive representation of a horseman winning a lion carved on a cliff 100 meters high, near the village of Madara. It was the first sacred place of the first Bulgarian Empire, before the conversion of Bulgaria in the ninth century.

Visit of **Arbanassy village museum** with unique architecture of houses, streets and fountains.

Lunch in Arbanassy.

Continue to Tryavna via Veliko Tarnovo. On arrival, **Walking tour of Tryavna**.

Meals: B-L-D

Accommodation in a 4-star hotel

JUNE 22 TRYAVNA – SOFIA (300 KM)

Breakfast at the hotel.

Departure for "**Etara**", an **open-air museum** showcasing Bulgarian craft workshops of the 18th and 19th centuries. Continue to Kazanlak for lunch crossing the Balkans at the Shipka Pass. Stop on the way to visit the **Shipka Memorial Church**, built in honor of Russian soldiers and Bulgarian volunteers who died during the Russo-Turkish War (1877-1878). Continue to Sofia via Mount Balkan. Arrival in Sofia for dinner.

Meals: B-L-D

Accommodation in a 4-star hotel

JUNE 23 SOFIA / DÉPART

Breakfast at the hotel.

Transfers to the airport for the return flight to Canada or your next destination.

MEAL: B

(B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner)