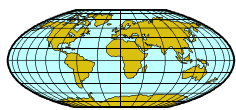


Jim Gold International Folk Tours



Travel to
Bulgaria
broadens
one!

Bulgaria !

Folk Dancing, Folk Singing and Music, Art, History, Culture, Adventure !

August 3-17, 2008

**Sofia, Bansko, Pamporovo, Plovdiv,
Veliko Turnovo, Koprivshitsa Folk Festival**
Plus a full day trip to Philippi and Kavala in Northern Greece!

Led by Jim Gold

Experience the magic and adventure of Bulgaria! Join the dancers and singers at the **Koprivshitsa Folk Festival**. We travel by bus with local musicians and our own folk dance teacher. Join us and explore the ruins and monuments of ancient **Thrace, Greece, Rome, Byzantium, and medieval Bulgaria**. Visit Sofia, scenic **Bansko** and its majestic **Pirin Mountains**. Drive through the Rhodope mountains to the resort of **Pamporovo**.

Visit the artistic capital of **Plovdiv**, the 10th-century **Rila Monastery** with its icons

and murals, dramatic **Veliko Turnovo**, medieval capital and birthplace of the Second Bulgarian Empire. capital and birthplace of the Second Bulgarian Empire. Plus optional full day trip to **Philippi and Kavala** in **Northern Greece!**

Our price includes round trip jet from New York, transfers, hotels, two meals daily, an English speaking guide, our own private bus and driver, and all entrance and performance fees.



OUR ITINERARY

Day 1: Sunday, August 3: Depart on Air France Air from JFK airport in New York City.

Day 2: Monday, August 4: Arrival in Sofia. Transfer to **5-star Radisson SAS** located in the heart of the city. Short tour in vicinity of our hotel, ending up with a welcome dinner at **Victoria Restaurant**. Overnight at the **Radisson Hotel**.

Day 3: Tuesday, August 5: Sightseeing tour of Sofia: Alexander Nevski Cathedral, National Parliament, Saint Sofia Basilica, 4th century Saint George Rotunda, and the ruins of Roman Serdica. Optional visit to the Sephardic Synagogue, largest of its kind in Eastern Europe. Afternoon free for individual sightseeing and shopping. Vitosha Mountain dinner at traditional restaurant with live folklore.

Day 4: Wednesday, August 6: After breakfast depart for the village of **Kovachevtsi** for a singing workshop with **world famous Bulgarian singer, Kremena Stancheva**. Later, we visit the **Borovets Ski Resort**. Overnight in Sofia.

Day 5: Thursday, August 7: En route to Bansko, we'll visit one of our tour's highlights, the **10th-century Rila Monastery**, then take a mountainous drive through the Rila and Pirin mountains, the highest ranges in the Balkans. Drive on to scenic **Bansko** and settle into the luxurious Hotel Orpheus for dinner and dancing.

Day 6: Friday, August 8: Morning walking tour through Bansko, a stronghold of Bulgarian culture and tradition. Then we head for the **mysterious village of Dobarsko**, where the unique local choir **Dobarski Babi** will give us a private performance followed by a traditional Bulgarian banitsa and

yogurt snack. In late afternoon, we have a **picnic dinner at Chalin's Farm** including a horse cart ride, wine, and live music.

- Day 7: Saturday, August 9:** Free day in Bansko. Or, take our **optional trip to Northern Greece!** We'll travel south to the archeological site of Philippi where Apostle Paul first preached in Europe. Then visit Kavalla on the Aegean Sea for historic sites, fresh fish, shopping, sea and sun bathing. Finally, explore the cool Angitis Cave, whose white and red stalactites hang over the flowing underground river of Angitis. A sheer fairy tale! Return to Bansko.
- Day 8: Sunday, August 10:** After breakfast at the hotel, we'll head east for a scenic drive across the Rhodope mountains (birthplace of mythological Orpheus). Dinner and overnight at **5-star Orlovetz Hotel in the world-famous Pamporovo Resort**. Fresh mountain air and primeval pine forests; deep breathing strongly recommended.
- Day 9: Monday, August 11:** Relax in the morning and take advantage of the Orlovetz's spa facilities. Noon departure to visit the 11th-century **Bachkovo Monastery** with its exquisite murals and icons. Meet the monks. We stop at the 13th-century **Assenova Fortress** and enjoy panoramic views of the **Thracian Plain and city of Plovdiv**. In the afternoon, we'll check in to the **4-star Trimontium Princess Hotel** in Plovdiv. Dinner and overnight in this artistic capital of Bulgaria.
- Day 10: Tuesday, August 12:** Sightseeing tour of **Plovdiv's Old Quarter**, known as Bulgaria's Montmartre. View masterpieces of 17th to 19th century Bulgarian architecture, a 2nd century **Roman Theater**, and the country's richest **Ethnographic Museum**. Afternoon free. Visit Plovdiv's modern section. Dinner at famous **Alafrangi Restaurant** which provided the lunch for Pope John Paul 2nd during his visit in 2001. Second overnight in Plovdiv.
- Day 11: Wednesday, August 13:** Morning drive through the **Valley of the Roses to the Valley of Thracian Kings (UNESCO's site)**. Visit the newly discovered **Kosmatka Tomb** and the gold-domed **Shipka Memorial Church**. We cross the **Balkan Mountains** through the **Shipka Pass**, topped by the granite **Liberty Monument** commemorating Bulgaria's Liberation from Turkey in 1878. We continue our drive to the **Etura Open Air Crafts Museum** to watch local craftsmen at work. Late afternoon arrival in **Veliko Turnovo**, Bulgaria's medieval capital and check into our **4-star spa hotel**, the Grand Yantra. Dinner and overnight.
- Day 12, Thursday, August 14:** Morning sightseeing tour of **Veliko Turnovo**. We visit the dramatic **Tsarevets Royal Hill** with palaces and churches perched on cliffs of Yantra River gorge. Afternoon is spent in the charming village of **Arbanassi**, summer residence of medieval Bulgarian royalty. Dinner served at a stylish local restaurant. Optional **Sound & Light Show** at the Tsarevets Royal Hill.
- Day 13, Friday, August 15:** Morning drive to Museum Town of **Koprivshitsa**. En route, we'll stop at the **14th century Troyan Monastery** and the **Oreshaka Crafts Center** with late afternoon arrival in Koprivshitsa. Check into Hotel Bashtina Kashta and Hotel Dahlia in time to attend the official opening of the **Koprivshitsa Folk Festival**. Dinner and overnights in Koprivshitsa.
- Day 14, Saturday, August 16:** Morning walking tour of historic Koprivshitsa. In the afternoon, enjoy the dancing and singing at the festival. We'll conclude our trip with a farewell dinner.
- Day 15, Sunday, August 17:** Transfer to Sofia Airport for return flight to JFK airport in the USA.

Land Only: \$2095 Land and Air: \$2995

Plus \$85 for hotel baggage handling, taxes, and service charges. Gratuities not included.

REGISTRATION FORM: I can't wait to go! Enclosed is my registration deposit of \$200 per person. Single supplement: \$395. Air tax of \$298 is additional. Optional Northern Greece trip: \$95. Cancellations 30 to 45 days prior to departure: Refund 50% of total price. Less than 30 days: No refund.

Total balance due May 10, 2008

Optional trip to Northern Greece: Yes___No___

Name_____

Address_____

No. of people_____Phone_(_____)_____Email_____

Make checks payable to: **Jim Gold International**, 497 Cumberland Avenue,
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