



Travel to
Bulgaria
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Jim Gold International Folk Dance Tours

BULGARIA!

Koprivshitsa Folk Festival Tour

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

August 2-16, 2020

**Sofia, Plovdiv, Bansko,
Veliko Turnovo,
Koprivshitsa Folk Festival**

Led by Jim Gold and Lee Otterholt

Join our Bulgarian adventure !

Travel with us to the famous **Folk Festival** held in the historic Balkan mountain village of **Koprivshitsa**. **Performing groups, traveling in full costume with musicians and dancers from all over Bulgaria** come to participate. Learn their songs and dances. Meet and mingle. Explore historic sites from **ancient**

Thracian, Greek, Roman, and Byzantium, as well as medieval Bulgaria, visit **Sofia**, artistic **Plovdiv**, the 10th-century **Rila Monastery** with its historic icons and murals, **Veliko Turnovo**, medieval capital and birthplace of the Second Bulgarian Empire in 1187, **Bansko** and **Pirin Mountain** region.

OUR ITINERARY:

Day 1: Sunday, August 2: Depart from JFK airport in New York City.

Day 2: Monday, August 3: Sofia

Transfer to our hotel. Orientation and meet-and-greet dinner. Overnight in 5 star Grand Hotel Sofia.

Day 3-5: Tuesday-Thursday, August 4-6: Sofia

Sightseeing tour of Sofia: Alexander Nevski Cathedral, National Parliament, Saint Sofia Basilica, 4th century Saint George Rotunda, ruins of Roman Serdica, and the National Museum of History. Optional visit to the Sephardic Synagogue, largest in Eastern Europe. Afternoon free. Dinner and live folklore show at Hotel

Days 5-8: Thursday to Sunday, August 6-9:

KOPRIVSHITSA FOLK FESTIVAL!

Held once every five years, the Koprivshitsa Folk Festival brings together over 12,000 performers from all over Bulgaria, making it one of the biggest festivals in Europe! **Three days of unforgettable folk dancing, singing, ethnic costumes, performing groups, and photo**

opportunities! Plus visit preserved houses from the Bulgarian revival period. Dinners and overnights in our country hotel in Koprivshtitsa.

Day 8: Sunday, August 9: KOPRIVSHTITSA—VELIKO TURNOVO

Collect your last glimpses of the Festival finale. Afternoon departure to **Veliko Turnovo, Bulgaria's medieval capital**. Dinner and overnight at Gurko Boutique Hotel.

Day 9: Monday, August 10: VELIKO TURNOVO and Arbanassi Village

Morning sightseeing tour of Veliko Turnovo. Afternoon: Walking tour of charming **village of Arbanassi**. Dinner and wine served at a local restaurant with **live folk music show and folk dancing!** Optional Sound & Light Show. 2nd overnight at our boutique Gurko Hotel.

Day 10: Tuesday, August 11: VELIKO TURNOVO—Etara—Shipka Pass—PLOVDIV

Morning drive to **Valley of Roses and Valley of the Thracian Kings** (UNESCO World Heritage). Visit **Etara – open air Crafts Museum**, then gold-domed Shipka Memorial Church and a Thracian Tomb. Afternoon arrival in Plovdiv. Sightseeing tour of **Plovdiv's Old Quarter**. Overnights in the 4-star Trimontium Ramada Hotel in Plovdiv.

Day 11: Wednesday, August 12: PLOVDIV—Bachkovo Monastery

Morning free. Noon departure to **11th-century Bachkovo Monastery** with its exquisite murals and icons. We'll stop at the 13th-century Assenova Fortress and enjoy panoramic views of the Thracian Plain and city of Plovdiv. Overnight in the 4-star Trimontium Ramada Hotel in Plovdiv.

Day 12: Thursday, August 13: PLOVDIV – across the Rhodopes – BANSKO

Drive across the Rhodopes, birthplace of mythological Orpheus. Arrive in Bansko. Dinner at hotel or local tavern. Overnight in luxurious 5-star Kempinski Grand Arena in Bansko.

Day 13: Friday, August 14: BANSKO and Dobarsko Village

Walking tour of **Bansko**, stronghold of Bulgarian culture and tradition. Visit mysterious **village of Dobarsko**, where the local choir **Dobarski Babi** will give us a private performance followed by a traditional Bulgarian “Banitsa” and yogurt snack. Late afternoon a **picnic dinner at Chalin's Farm**, including horse cart ride, wine, and live folk music. Overnight in Bansko.

Day 14: Saturday, August 15: BANSKO – Rila Monastery – SOFIA

Morning visit of **UNESCO listed, 10th century Rila Monastery**, one of the most impressive on the continent with its abundance of frescoes and unique architecture. En route – stop in **Blagoevgrad** (home to the US University in Bulgaria). Continue to Sofia. Afternoon and evening free for extra Sofia sightseeing and shopping. Farewell dinner with wine.. Overnight at 5-star Grand Hotel Sofia.

Day 15: Sunday, August 16: Aug 16, DAY 14: SOFIA, Departure

Transfer to Sofia Airport for return flight to JFK airport in the USA.

Visit www.jimgold.com to see YOUTUBE tour videos

Land Only: \$3395 app. Land and Air: \$4295 app.

REGISTRATION FORM: Enclosed is my registration deposit of \$200 per person. Single supplement: \$495. Additional charges: \$145 hotel taxes and service. Gratuities and drinks during meals not included. Program subject to change without notice. Cancellations 90 days prior to departure: Total refund: Less than 60 days: No refund. Travel insurance always recommended **Total balance due May 1, 2020.**

Name _____

Address _____

No. of people _____ Phone (_____) _____ email _____

Make checks payable to: **Jim Gold International** 497 Cumberland Avenue, Teaneck, NJ 07666 U.S.A.
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