

Jim Gold International Folk Dance Tours



Travel to
Bulgaria
broadens
one!

BULGARIA!

Koprivshitsa Folk Festival Tour

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

August 3-16, 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: Monday, August 3: Depart from Newark airport in Newark, NJ.

Day 2: Tuesday, August 4: Sofia

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

Day 3: Wednesday, August 5: 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 4-7: Thursday to Sunday, August 6-9:

KOPRIVSHTITSA FOLK FESTIVAL!

Held once every five years, the Koprivshtitsa 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 7: Sunday, August 9: KOPRIVSHTITSA—VELIKO TURNOVO

Collect your last glimpses of the Festival finale. Afternoon departure to **Veliko (Great) Turnovo, Bulgaria's medieval capital**, established in the distant 1185. Dinner and overnight at Gurko Boutique Hotel.

Day 8: Monday, August 10: VELIKO TURNOVO and Arbanassi Village

Morning sightseeing tour of Veliko Turnovo. Visit the dramatic Tsarevets Royal Hill with palaces and churches perched on cliffs of Yantra River gorge. Afternoon drive to the charming **village of Arbanassi**, summer residence of medieval royalty where we'll take a walking tour. Dinner and wine served at a local restaurant with **live folk music show and folk dancing!** Optional Sound & Light Show at the Tsarevets Royal Hill. 2nd overnight at our boutique Gurko Hotel.



Day 9: Tuesday, August 11: VELIKO TURNOVO—Etara—Shipka Pass—PLOVDIV

Morning drive south through the Balkan range and the world-famous **Valley of Roses and Valley of the Thracian Kings** (in UNESCO World Heritage list since 1952). We'll stroll



around **Etara – open air Crafts Museum** displaying two centuries of country houses and crafts. We'll pay a visit to the exquisite gold-domed Shipka Memorial Church and to one of the richest and best preserved Thracian Tombs in the area. Afternoon arrival in Plovdiv. After hotel check-in, enjoy a sightseeing tour of **Plovdiv's Old Quarter**, often compared to Montmartre Hill in Paris for its art galleries



and antique shops. View masterpieces of 18-19th century Bulgarian city architecture, a 15th century Mosque, a 2nd century Roman Theater, and the country's richest Ethnographic Museum. Dinner at Alafrangi Restaurant where Pope John Paul 2nd lunched during his visit in 2001. Overnights in the 4-star Trimontium Ramada Hotel in Plovdiv.

Day 10: Wednesday, August 12: PLOVDIV—Bachkovo Monastery

This morning sleep late or walk along the city's main pedestrian street, offering excellent shopping opportunities. Noon departure to **11th-century Bachkovo Monastery** with its

exquisite murals and icons. Meet the monks. Then 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 11: Thursday, August 13: PLOVDIV – *across the Rhodopes* – BANSKO

A day in the deep countryside. After breakfast, we'll carry on southwest across the Rhodopes, birthplace of mythological Orpheus; first on board of our coach and then on the highest-on-the Balkans narrow-gauge railway! During the 1 ½ hour mountain ride, enjoy a dancing workshop. See if the locals travelling along will share with you this unique *on-wheels* dance experience. Upon arrival in Bansko we'll check-in at the luxurious Hotel Kempinski Grand Arena, and if still full of energy and eager to explore we'll journey on to one of the many quaint villages and small towns around Bankso. Dinner at

hotel or local tavern. Overnight in 5-star Kempinski Grand Arena in Bansko.



Day 12: Friday, August 14: BANSKO and Dobarsko Village

Walking tour through **Bansko**, a stronghold of Bulgarian culture and tradition. Then we head for the 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. In late afternoon come along for a **picnic dinner at Chalin's Farm**, including horse cart ride, wine, and live folk music. Second overnight in Bansko.

Day 13: Saturday, August 15: BANSKO – Rila Monastery – SOFIA

Following breakfast our journey will take us north into Rila Mountain (highest on the Balkans) to the world famous **UNESCO listed site, 10th century Rila Monastery**, one of the most impressive on the continent with its abundance of frescoes and unique architecture. En route – an hour stop in **Blagoevgrad** (home to the US University in Bulgaria), including a walking tour of its Old Quarter. At Rila Monastery

if you wish you may have freshly caught mountain trout lunch. Then continue north to Sofia once again. Afternoon and evening free for extra Sofia sightseeing and shopping. Farewell dinner with wine at 5-star Radisson Hotel. Overnight at 5-star Grand Hotel Sofia.



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

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

Visit www.jimgold.com to see YOUTUBE tour videos

About Jim Gold

Jim brings a love of music, people and languages to his tours and dance classes, making them a joy for all ages. For over 25 years, he has led **Jim Gold International Folk Tours** to Bulgaria, Greece, Norway, Turkey, Hungary, Israel, Jordan, Croatia, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Egypt, Tunisia, Russia, the Baltics and Spain to experience their history and culture, from a folk dance perspective. He is also the author of ten books. His latest is: 50 Folk Dances



Choreographed by Jim Gold. Jim is a classical guitarist and folk singer as well. He has performed on TV, at universities and schools, and on national radio.

About Lee Otterholt

Lee Otterholt, born in USA of Norwegian-American parents, has lived and worked in Norway as a professional dancer, teacher, and choreographer. He founded the Center for International Folk Dance in Oslo, and was professor of dance folklore at the Norwegian National College of Ballet, and University College of Oslo. Lee established folk dance and performing groups in Norway, taught at festivals and workshops throughout Europe, United States, and East Asia, and authored folk dance and instructional manuals for Norwegian schools. He was a choreographer for the Opening Ceremony of the Winter Olympic Games in Lillehammer.



Land Only: \$3495 Land and Air: \$4495

REGISTRATION FORM: Enclosed is my registration deposit of \$200 per person. Single supplement: \$695. 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. Phone (201) 836-0362. Web site at www.jimgold.com Email: jimgold@jimgold.com



JIM GOLD INTERNATIONAL: TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Air Transportation: International air not included except as noted.

Rates: Tour rates are subject to change in the event of currency fluctuations or increase in costs. Inclusive tour rates are per person in double occupancy. In case of computer or human billing errors, we reserve the right to re-invoice clients with corrected billing.

Reservations: Deposits and Payments: Deposit of \$200 per person is required at time of reservation. Balance is due 90 days prior to departure date.

Changes: Prices and program subject to change without notice

Baggage: One baggage per person and a carry on is allowed.

Cancellations: Cancellations 75 days prior to departure: Refund 50% of total price. Less than 60 days: No refund. Additionally, any cancellation fees imposed by the respective hotels, airlines, tour companies and cruise lines will be charged. Travel Insurance is non-refundable as are unused services.

Gratuities: Tipping to guides, drivers, transfer personnel and hotel staff is left to the discretion of the participants and is not included.

Insurance: Tour participants are **strongly recommended to purchase insurance** for trip cancellation, trip interruption, accident, sickness and/or loss of baggage and personal effects.

Dispute Resolution: The sole and exclusive method of resolving any dispute which might rise under this agreement and any agreement between Jim Gold International, Inc., and another party (ies), the brochure or website and deemed to arise in the United States of America, shall be by arbitration before the American Arbitration Association in New York City pursuant to the Association's rules then in effect. Any such arbitration must take place in N.Y.C., N.Y. In any such arbitration, the substantive law of N.Y. will apply. In the event a tour participant should find a service or hotel unacceptable, it should be reported immediately to the local representative and to Jim Gold International, Inc. upon their immediate return. No claim shall be deemed legitimate if not reported to the local representative and if reported after the scheduled service or after departure from the hotel.

Responsibility: Jim Gold International, Inc. Of 497 Cumberland Avenue, Teaneck, NJ 07666 U.S.A acts



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Jim Gold International, Inc. is not responsible or liable for defaults of those not directly under the exclusive control of Jim Gold International, Inc.

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