

1-2022 HORSEBACK RIDING in Bulgaria 15 days \$ 3695

July 7 – 21, 2022 or Aug. 13 – 27, 2022

Group size 4 – 6 people can pick up their 15 days from April to October

Guarantee departure - Single supplement: \$450 per person

Register by July 16 and get a \$300 discount.



The Rhodopes mountains are the homeland of the mythological singer Orpheus. The 6 days riding in this enchanting mountain with high peaks and deep river gorges, unique rock formations, lush meadows, and dense forests. The western part of the Rhodopes ride offers a variety of terrains in which one can experience of all types of riding and paces. We visit remote villages, stay with local people enjoying their hospitality, local food, and excellent wines. We also spend 8 days of touring Sofia the capital of Bulgaria and the second largest city of Plovdiv - Europe's oldest inhabited city and 2019 European Capital of Culture.

Highlights:

- Rhodope Mountains - home to the mythological singer Orpheus
- Visiting authentic villages of Brestovitsa, Dedevo, Boikovo, Lyaskovo
- Orehovo - a magical mountain village located at a height of 3117 ft. above sea level
- The natural stone phenomenon of the Marvelous Bridges (Chudnite Mostove)
- Sofia: the capital of Bulgaria
- Plovdiv: the second-largest city in Bulgaria, Europe's oldest inhabited city, and 2019 European Capital of Culture
- Spa Resorts: Varhovruh and Pravets Golf Resort
- Boyana Church (UNESCO site)

Dates: August 13 - 27, 2022 **Register by July 16 and get a \$300 discount.**

Cost: \$3695 (per person, double occupancy)
Single supplement: \$450

I can't wait to go! Reserve my place with my \$200 deposit per person by registering through

PayPal: <https://www.paypal.com/myaccount/transfer/homepage/preview>

Once in, enter: georgevishegonov@yahoo.com

Price Includes:

- airport transfers and all ground transportation according to itinerary
- accommodation in 3*, 4 * hotels, family guesthouses or mountain hots based, dbl. occ.
- all meals according to the itinerary – breakfast, lunch, and dinner
- tour highlights entry fees for sights and events according to the itinerary
- English-speaking guide
- saddled horses
- equipment rental needed and route map according to the itinerary
- luggage transport
- VAT and all local taxes & Fuel Surcharges.
- 24/7 technical support

Not Included:

- airfare international flight tickets
- travel insurance
- Tour Extensions and Optional programs
- single supplement of \$650 per person
- drinks and meals not mentioned in the Itinerary
- tips at hotels and restaurants
- additional taxis rides or public transportation
- personal expenses
- optional excursions and entrance fees

Good to know:

- Recommended travel period of the year: April – October
- Riders need to be in dissent shape; maximum weight limit is 200 pounds.
- There is a minimum age of 12 for children on this trail.
- We recommend, if you have, bring your own riding hat. There are some available to borrow, there are limited sizes. However, hats are not mandatory in Bulgaria.
- You are welcome to groom your horse if you like but saddling is not required as this will be done by your guide.

OUR HORSES, RIDES and SABLES

Bulgaria is a horse country. The Bulgarian state was founded already in the year 681 by the proto-Bulgarians - nomads coming from Mongolia on horseback and having horse tail as their flag. Nowadays there are hundreds of wild horses in Central Balkan who live outdoors all year around. Bulgaria is the perfect horse-riding destination. Here most of the land though private is not cultivated, which leaves vast open areas - forests, pastures etc.

Since 1991-92 we run our own riding stables-bases - Gulubovo and Krivina with about 20 horses, The riding centers are just 20 min. drive from the town of Plovdiv and one hour drive from Sofia in the Teteven Balkan. They are carefully selected, surrounded by pastureland. Horses' welfare is of primary importance and for us the synonym for a happy horse is a free grazing horse.

The horses are locally bred Karakachan along with East Bulgarian and Arab crosses they are strong, agile, and used to hard work. Their stamina and agility are outstanding, and they are

tough and extremely sure footed over rocky, even snow-covered mountains. The maximum group size on all our tours is 6 riders.

Saddles:

Western and English saddles are available. Helmets and saddle bags are provided upon request.

For a detailed itinerary and questions, please email georgevishegonov@yahoo.com or call George Vishegonov at 201 328-7744

COVID-19 safety measures

- COVID 19 vaccination with buster shot required
- Events will be outdoors
- COVID UPDATE: If your trip is canceled prior to departure in the event of a COVID-19-related reason, a full refund will be made.
- Check Bulgaria's COVID-19 policies online.

Remember to join the "Balkan Splendors: Tours, Trips, Culture, Adventure" group to stay up to date on upcoming tours and trips.

<https://www.meetup.com/balkan-splendors-tours-trips-culture-adventure/>

Itinerary:

Day 0. Overnight flight from New York JFK airport or Newark Liberty airport, New Jersey to European airline hub and catching connecting flight to Sofia International Airport.

Day 1. Sofia Arrive Sofia airport, transfer to your hotel for overnight. -/-/D

Day 2. Sofia Our day at the capital: visiting Boyana church and trip to the Vitosha mountain. Tonight, we will have our Orientation meeting with the Horseback riding tour leaders. Overnight in Sofia getting ready for tomorrow's Horseback riding tour. B/L/D.

Day 3. Sofia - Brestovitsa – Plovdiv

After breakfast at the hotel, we are heading to our base in Brestovitsa at the foot of the Rhodope Mountain (10 km from Plovdiv). Here we will meet our horses and do a short loop-like ride. While riding, we will pass through meadows and forests. According to the season, we will have the opportunity to enjoy the ripe fruits in the area and meet the local people, who work in the fields. Transfer to Plovdiv for overnight. (3 hours in the saddle). B/L/D

Day 4. Plovdiv - Brestovitsa - Dedevo/Boikovo

After breakfast, we are heading back to our base in Brestovitsa from where we will start today's ride. Passing through green pastures and picturesque villages, we will reach the village of Dedevo for overnight. Alternatively, we can take a slightly different route and spend the night in another charming mountain village - Boikovo. (6-7 hours in the saddle). B/L/D

Day 5. Dedevo – Orehovo

Today we are heading to the village of Orehovo - one of the most picturesque ones in the mountain. On the way, we will stop for a lunch near the scenic region of Bash Mandra. (6 hours in the saddle). B/L/D

Day 6. Orehovo – Lyaskovo

Today we will ride through pine forests and vast meadows on our way to the village of Lyaskovo. We will take a short stop at the unique rock formation Chudnite Mostove (Miraculous Bridges). We will spend the night in Lyaskovo in a local family-run guesthouse. (6 hours in the saddle). B/L/D

Day 7. Lyaskovo - Varhovruh

Today we are heading south and up in the mountains to the small resort of Varhovruh. Following the Varhovruh ridge, we will enjoy the great panorama views before reaching Persenk hut, where we will stop for lunch. (3-4 hours in the saddle). B/L/D

Day 8. Varhovruh - Brestovitsa-Sofia

Time to get back. First we are heading back to our base in Brestovitsa. Then we are continuing with a transfer back to Sofia where we will spend the night. (6 hours in the saddle). B/L/D

Day 9. Sofia

After breakfast walking tour visiting National Museum, indoor market Halite, Musk and Synagogue and the women's open market. Lunch at the Vitosha boulevard. Free time till dinner time at the hotel. B/L/D

Day 10. Sofia

After Breakfast FREE TIME for shopping at the Sofia Malls: Paradise and Serdica Malls. B/L/D

Day 11. Sofia – Plovdiv

After breakfast transfer to Plovdiv. Walking tour and lunch at the Old Town of Plovdiv. Free time till and dinner at the Old Town. After dinner departure to Sofia and return to our hotel. B/L/D

Day 12. Sofia – Pravets Golf Resort

Today after breakfast we will make a short transfer to Pravets Golf Resort for a day of outdoor relaxation laying down by the pool or taking a swing at the golf course. Lunch at the resort. After sundown return to Sofia for dinner and FREE TIME opportunity to explore the night life the capital Sofia offer. B/L/D

Day 13. Sofia Trekking at Vitosha mountain

After breakfast and short ride we will be taking the chair lift to Aleko Hut at Vitosha mountain. Time and opportunity for some scenic pictures, lunch at Aleko hut and possible claim to Vitosha mountain peak Cherni Vrah (Rising to 7513 ft.). Late afternoon back to our hotel, FREE TME explore the city on your own till dinner time B/L/D

Day 14. Sofia Transfer to Sofia airport for departure B/-/-

***NOTE:** Necessary equipment and details will be provided upon request.



REGISTRATION FORM: Enclosed is my registration deposit of \$200 per person. Single supplement: \$450. 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 July 13, 2022.

Name _____
 Address _____ No. of people _____
 Phone_(_____) _____ email _____

Pay by PayPal: <https://www.paypal.com/myaccount/transfer/homepage/preview>
Once in, enter: georgevishegonov@yahoo.com

OR

Make checks payable to: George Vishegonov 381 Fort Lee Road, Teaneck, NJ 07666 U.S.A. Phone (201) 328-7744. Web site at <https://www.jimgold.com/balkan-sporting-tours/> or <https://www.meetup.com/balkan-splendors-tours-trips-culture-adventure/events/283790163/>

Jim Gold International, Inc./ Balkan Sporting Tours:

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 30 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 60 days prior to departure: Total refund. 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 Balkan Sporting Tours., 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 Balkan Sporting Tours/George Vishegonov 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: Balkan Sporting Tours George Vishegonov 328 Fort Lee Road, Teaneck, NJ 07666 U.S.A acts solely in its capacity as marketing agent on behalf of its suppliers such as air carriers, ground operator, taxi suppliers, motor coach suppliers, excursion or tour companies and hotels identified on documents supplied in connection with purchase of the tours. Balkan Sporting Tours/Jim Gold International, Inc. shall not be held responsible for any wrongful or negligent acts or omissions by any supplier or other party not directly owned or exclusively controlled by Balkan Sporting Tours/Jim Gold International, Inc. or by the failure of any equipment operated by any such supplier or other party. Balkan Sporting Tours/Jim Gold International, Inc. shall not be liable for any loss, injury or damage to person, property or otherwise, in connection with any accommodations, transportation, or other services, resulting directly or indirectly from any acts of God, dangerous incident to the sea, fire, breakdown of machinery or equipment, acts of government or other authorities, wars whether or not declared, hostilities, civil disturbances, strikes, riots, thefts, pilferage, epidemics, quarantines, medical or customs regulations, defaults, delays or cancellations of or changes to itineraries or schedules, or from any causes resulting from insufficient or improperly issued passports, visas, or other documents passports, visas, or other documents. Neither Balkan Sporting Tours/Jim Gold International, Inc. nor any of its affiliates or subsidiaries shall be or become liable or responsible for any additional expenses or liability sustained or incurred by the tour member as a result of any of the aforementioned causes. Tour participant agrees that any claim against Balkan Sporting Tours/Jim Gold International, Inc. is subject only to the jurisdiction of the courts of the country in which the cause of action arose. The right is reserved to substitute hotels and to alter itineraries. The right is also reserved to cancel the tour prior to departure. If any tour is canceled prior to departure, Balkan Sporting Tours /Jim Gold International, Inc. will be responsible only up to the amount of monies Balkan Sporting Tours /Jim Gold International, Inc. received less any cancellation fee applied by a supplier as defined above. Travel Insurance is recommended. Balkan Sporting Tours/Jim Gold International, Inc. is not responsible or liable for defaults of those not directly under the exclusive co