

Program of tour of Bulgaria “TERRA INCOGNITA” part 1

First day - 10.09.17 - Tour of Bulgaria “Terra Incognita” will start from Alexandroupolis, Greece after GR-treffen.

Start 8:00-10:00h. Group ride to Ivaylovgrad, Bulgaria, crossing the border GR-BG, visit



the Villa Armira. 145km. Visiting Armira Villa 10-11:30h
Armira Villa, one of the most interesting monuments from the time of the Roman Empire, is located in Southern Bulgaria. The villa was luxurious, with remarkable design, magnificent marble decorations and original floor mosaics. It is one of the oldest and most precisely dated Roman villa complexes studied so

far in Bulgaria and also the most luxurious private palace from the Roman period discovered on the territory of modern-day Bulgaria. It was built in the second half of the 1st century AD by a renowned Thracian aristocrat as a centre of a large estate in the valley of Armira River. An impressive 3600 sq m two-storey building with a panoramic terrace and many different rooms and premises surrounding an outdoor pool from three sides used to stand in a beautiful garden suited for walks. The first floor alone had 22 rooms.

11:30-12:30 Group ride to lunch place, a traditional Bulgarian village restaurant

12:30-13:30 Lunch

13:30-14:00 Group ride to Perperikon (total Armira-Preperikon 100km)

14:00-16:00 a guided tour of Perperikon, coffee break.



Religious activity at the top of the cliff began in the 5th century BC. It is associated with the beliefs of the Copper Age people, who started the cult of the sun god. Here they established the first sanctuary and started leaving food

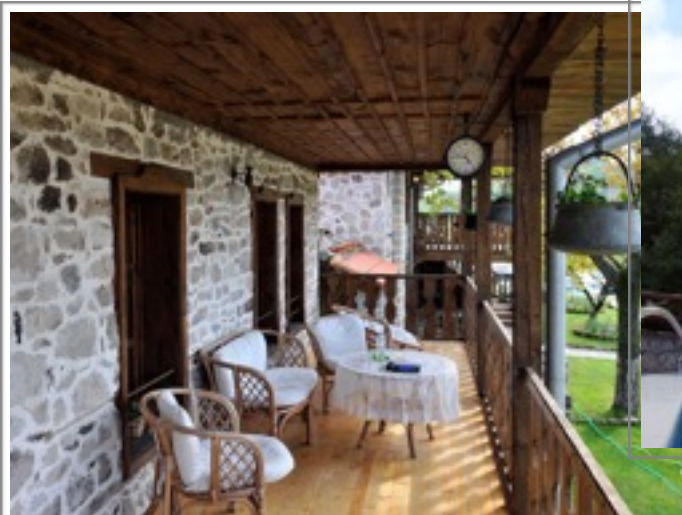
containers for the gods. These religious rites continued through the entire Bronze Age (III-II millennium BC). The sophistication of the metal tools made the hard rock cutting possible. At that time the oval hall with a huge circular altar in its center was built. There, priests performed their sacred rituals with wine and fire. These religious practices were typical for the temple of Dionysius, which was long sought in the Rhodope mountain. The latest archaeological research show clearly that the temple was located exactly in Perperikon. According to the legends, two crucial prophecies were made from the altar of this temple. The first one predicted great conquest and glory for Alexander the Macedonian, and the second, made a several centuries later, predetermined the power and strength for the first Roman Emperor – Gaius Julius Caesar Augustus.



16:00-17:30 Group ride, accommodation and dinner in hotel “Old House” 100km.



The Bulgarian cuisine, colorful and rich, was tested through the ages. It was influenced by invaders passing through our lands. It bears the uniqueness with which every guest, who has tasted its wealth, could touch the spirit of our



people. Salads of our ancestors and grandmothers:

When they sat to have a bite, they couldn't go Rakia only! Rich was the harvest of the garden and all should be on the table - that was what grandfather liked. To have abundance on the table...

Shepherd's salad - coarsely cut tomatoes, cucumber, fresh peppers, onion, mushrooms, crumbled white cheese, egg, parsley ... Courgettes with garlic-zucchini, yogurt, garlic and dill ...

Banski Chomlek-cut veal knuckle, potatoes and onion rings, garlic, wine ...

Tiganitchki - Bulgarian homemade style donuts with homemade preserve, honey or powdered sugar. Brandy rakia - special selection ; wine MERLO - TERRA TANGRA ; Beer, mineral water



Second day 11.09.17. - after breakfast we go to the Bachkovo Monastery

Start 09:00-10:00 - Group ride to the Bachkovo Monastery - 40km.

The Bachkovo Monastery “Assumption of the Virgin” is located in the southern part of the village Bachkovo, 10 kilometers south of Asenovgrad. The monastery

was founded in 1083 by the Georgian Gregoriy Bakuriani, who donated the land. For a long time the monastery was Georgian. The two-story ossuary some 400 meters from the monastery was built during the monastery’s earliest days.



10:00-11:30 Visit the monastery and museum, coffee break and shopping for souvenirs

11:30-12:00 Group ride to Plovdiv - 30km.

12:00-16:00 Walk through the old town, lunch, visit the museum,

amphitheater





Plovdiv is one of the oldest cities in Europe - the beginning of its history dates back to 4,000 years BC. In the beginning the ancient settlement was situated on the natural elevation between Nebet, Taksim and

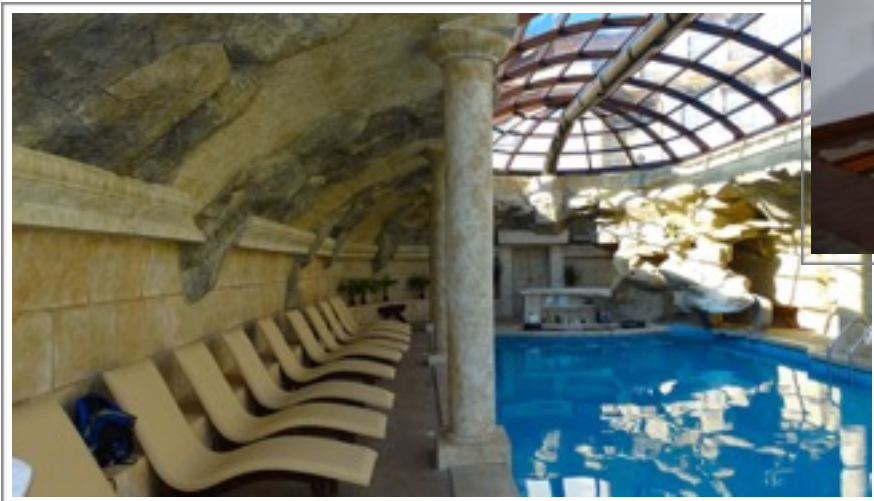
Dzhambaz hills (the Three Hills). In ancient times Thracians inhabited the Three Hills and built a fortified settlement - the largest city in Thrace. In the 4th century BC Plovdiv was conquered by Phillip of Macedonia. He gave the city one of its many names - Phillipopolis, and had it surrounded by thick fortified walls. Later the Thracians regained their power over the city, but after a series of battles in the 1st century AD it became a part of the Roman Empire.

During the period of the Roman Empire, Plovdiv (at those times - Trimontium) was an important regional center. The city flourished with a large-scale construction of buildings, facilities and roads. Numerous well-preserved artifacts had remained from those times, such as cobblestoned streets, fortress walls, buildings, water supply and sewerage systems.

The city was returned within the boundaries of the Bulgarian state during the ruling of Khan Malamir (reigned 831 - 836 AD). Over the centuries, the power over the city was passed between the Bulgarians and the Byzantines. The city even briefly became a possession of the knights of the Fourth Crusade. It finally became part of the Bulgarian state in 1344 AD.



16:00-17:00 Group ride, accommodation and dinner in SPA hotel “Starossel” - 50km.



Among the natural mountain scenery are found the attractive mineral swimming pools, promising relaxation and full recovery, both in summer and winter. The beneficial effect of water on the skin is evident.

The complex seems to be ignoring all vanity and busy days and invites you to hole up alone in the outskirts of the forest, where the Thracian heritage gives it a mystical atmosphere and the wine of Starosel opens the senses for the good things in life.



The Enoteca complex resembles the rotunda, which proudly became the new temple of the god of wine - Dionysus. A Temple, where you can experience the cult of wine and the world of the ancient Thracians who left us a gift of art to make and drink wine.

Then we have dinner at restaurant : Iovanova salad /baked peppers, strained milk with garlic,

powdered with crushed walnuts/; Grilled cheese on a plate with honey, walnuts and basil; Mixed barbeque / pork chop, chicken fillets 2 pcs chicken shishche/ served with stewed potatoes ; After the dish / plateau / sausages and cheeses, assorted ; Homemade apple pie ; Mastika/ Bulgarian ouzo/ Mineral water ; Wine; Beer and



Third day 12.09.2017 - after breakfast we go to Koprivshtitsa 50km.

9:00-10:00 - Group ride to Koprivshtitsa, 10:00-12:00 Visit the city and museum, coffee break and shopping for souvenirs



There are many legends concerning the town's beginnings. One relates that the location boasted a plentiful store of kop, and that it was particularly fertile, a popular resting place for caravans and shepherds herding their flocks. It was here that proto-Bulgarians settled with their herds – people known as “Zhupa” – and that was the origin of Koprivshtitsa. Another legend has it that Koprivshtitsa was the base

for the “lords of Rila” who settled the area with their livestock and petitioned the Ottoman sultan to proclaim them the rulers of Koprivshtitsa. He issued a decree granting them wide-ranging privileges. In the decree the sultan referred to Koprivshtitsa as the “Woman’s Field” – and that is what the Ottomans called Koprivshtitsa in the years that followed. A third legend claims that the village was settled by Bulgarian fugitives, heirs of the numerous Bulgarian tribes of Bolyari, herdsman, and tenders of livestock, who removed to the region after Bulgaria came under Ottoman rule (at the end of the 16th century). Among them were three shepherds – Lambo, Toroman, and Arnautin, who founded the enclaves that today bear their names. All of the legends agree that Koprivshtitsa was founded at the end of the Second Bulgarian Empire (the end of the 14th century).



12:00-12:40 - Group ride to the restaurant where we have fish lunch - 70km.

12:40-13:30 - Lunch

13:30-17:00 - Group ride to SHIPKA , visit of the Russian Church; National Park Museum Shipka is located on top of Shipka Peak (1,326 m) in the Balkan Mountains; Then we will ride through the Valley of the Thracian Kings and visit some of the most famous tombs; We will visit the Museum of the Rose.



An original Thracian tomb from 4th – 3rd century BC is situated in the Tyulbeto park. It is known as the Kazanlak Tomb. It is under a special

storage regime. Its duplicate, constructed in scale 1:1, which presents the architecture, the archaeological materials and the wall-paintings of the Kazanlak Tomb, is situated next to it. This Tomb is one of the most significant monuments of the Thracian culture in the Bulgarian lands, included in the list of the global



МУЗЕЙ НА
РОЗАТА
MUSEUM OF
THE ROSE

cultural inheritance of UNESCO in 1979.

Museum of Rose, here in Kazanlak are produces the famous Bulgarian rose oil.



18:00 - accommodation in SPA hotel “Terma” - 110km. Here we will rest in the warm mineral pool and will have dinner at the hotel restaurant.

For dinner we will have a mix of salads and appetizers, Meat platter /pork steak, chicken fried steak, lamb sausage, lamb cutlet, veal sausage, Boyar meatball, pork ribs, chicken and pork skewer / - Topped

with stewed tomatoes and potatoes, Homemade biscuit cake, Home made bread, Brandy rakia - special selection Mineral water ; Wine TRAMINER KHAN KRUM ; Beer and

Fourth day 13.09.2017 - after breakfast we go to Start Zagora 20km.



9:00-09:20 - Group ride to Start Zagora

09:20-11:00 - Visit of Regional Historical Museum, town of Stara Zagora , coffee break. The regional historical museum in Stara Zagora is situated in the center of the town. Thousands of important exponents are stored in its fund. The museum windows trace the historical epochs. The Stara Zagora region has been inhabited since antiquity. Evidences of this can be seen in the first exposition hall of the museum. The earliest evidences of settlement are from the Late Stone Age – 6 thousand years BC



11:00-12:00 - Group ride to Sliven, 70 km.

12:00-15:00 - We have lunch, visit Regional Historical Museum, town of Sliven



The renovated exposition of the Museum, entitled “Treasures – Museum – Memory” was opened on 12 May 2008 celebrating 130 years of the beginning of museum activity and 95 years of the establishing of the museum in Sliven. Original monuments of the museum fund are included in the exposition, some of which are of global significance and are related

to the life of the Sliven region population from the Neolithic Age (6000 years BC) to the present day.



Museum House “Sliven Style of Life” – a



typical house of the Revival period (18th – 19th century) - open, symmetrical and with a veranda, built by an unknown builders from Tryavna in one of the old neighborhoods of Sliven – the Kaftandzhiyski neighborhood.



15:00-16:00 - Group ride to “Minkov Brothers” Winery - 70 km.

16:00-17:00 - visit winery

The Minkov Brothers Wine Cellar is the most charming wine tourism destination, we can experience the charm of the high-quality wines. Looking for the balance between tradition and modern winemaking technologies, we have combined 135-year experience, beneficial soil, favourable climate and a passion for winemaking, and are now carrying on with



what the Minkov brothers have bequeathed to us. We took on traditional winemaking practices and complemented them with new ideas and technologies. The terroir we have chosen gives our wines an excellent aroma and taste profile. The varieties we grow develop an immense potential and produce high-quality, expressive and attractive wines. Inspired by the New World style, we have restored the Minkov Brothers Wine Cellar – Tradition since 1875, with the mission to become a synonym for high quality and uniqueness.

16:00-17:00 - Group ride to Aheloy, area in 5th Bulgarian treffen - 80km.



Participation fee for part 1 covers 3 nights in 3* and 4* hotels, breakfast, lunch, dinner, coffee breaks, museum, galleries, a unique T-shirt, certificate and personal gift.

Lunch - soup or salad, main course, dessert, drink

Dinner - mix of salad and appetizer, main course, dessert, mineral water, alcohol, wine, beer

Coffee break - coffee, cappuccino or tea, soft drink or mineral water, ice cream or fruit.

Participants in the tour "Terra Incognita" use/get:

- 50% discount from treffen inscription
- Special T-shirt
- Personal certificate
- Personal gift (only Parts 1+2)

Date	Hotel 2 persons	Double room	Lunch	Dinner	Coffee break	Museums	tax per organizing
10.09.2017	"Old House"	€46.00	€25.00	€38.00	€10.00	€16.00	€10.00
11.09.2017	"Starossel"	€54.00	€25.00	€38.00	€10.00	€16.00	€0.00
12.09.2017	"Terma"	€46.00	€25.00	€38.00	€10.00	€16.00	€0.00
13.09.2017			€25.00		€10.00	€16.00	€0.00
						Total	€474.00
						Advance payment	€244.00
Date	Hotel 1 person	Single room	Lunch	Dinner	Coffee break	Museums	tax per organizing
10.09.2017	"Old House"	€25.00	€13.00	€20.00	€5.00	€8.00	€5.00
11.09.2017	"Starossel"	€45.00	€13.00	€20.00	€5.00	€8.00	€0.00
12.09.2017	"Terma"	€36.00	€13.00	€20.00	€5.00	€8.00	€0.00
13.09.2017			€13.00		€5.00	€8.00	€0.00
						Total	€275.00
						Advance payment	€135.00