

Proposed itinerary page 2

Day 6:

Breakfast included before travelling towards the heart of the **Valley of the Roses and Thracian Kings – Kazanlak**. A comfort stop will be made in Karlovo to visit the old town and enjoy a **coffee and rose cake** (typical local recipe). We then continue to Kazanlak, where **lunch** is included followed by a visit to a 4th century BC **Thracian tomb**. **Returning** to Plovdiv, a stop will be made in Stara Zagora, home to an **Ancient Forum** before enjoying an included **glass of wine or beer**. Hotel dinner included. **Cobbles during village walk. Mostly on the flat**

Day 7:

Breakfast included. Today we head in to the hills for an included visit to the idyllically situated 11th-century **Bachkovo Monastery**. This cloister is famous for the original Byzantine mural paintings on the charnel-house and for its frescoes (17-19th century) in the refectory and in the three monastery churches.

On all sides, the monastery is surrounded by the hills, which together with its size and ancient spirit, make it one of the most visited monasteries in Bulgaria. In this complex & the surrounding streets, there are many local products to purchase including rare herbs, home-made wild fruit jams, yogurt and white cheese made of sheep or buffalo's milk, woollen carpets, etc. **Lunch** is included in the area. Making our way back to Plovdiv, a stop will be made on the lower slopes of the **Rhodopi mountains** for an included visit to a modern boutique **winery with included wine-tastings**. It has been proven that from the 4th-century BC, wine was already being produced here, and today there are various types of grapes producing quality wines. Returning to Plovdiv, dinner is included.

Walking at Monastery: Cobblestones, uneven surfaces & steps – unsuitable for walking aids

Day 8:

Breakfast included followed by a **free morning** to explore **Plovdiv** & the city's hidden treasures.

Departing mid-afternoon for Sofia, an **early meal** is included before transferring to the airport for your return flight to the UK (ETA 10.30pm), where your coach transfer will return you to Cranleigh.

Simply Groups reserve the right to make minor changes to this offer due to circumstances beyond our control.

5* SOFIA BALKAN PALACE



4* DOUBLETREE BY HILTON PLOVDIV

