

## Full Itinerary & Trip Details

# 7 Day Turkey And Bulgaria Escape Tour Combined Holiday Package

Welcome to Turkey! First class service and guided transportation through the historical and picturesque sites of Istanbul and historical sites to visit in Bulgaria as in Sofia that gloriously depict the country's past.



**PRICE STARTING FROM**

€0 €0

**DURATION**

7 days

**TOUR ID**

22810

## ITINERARY

### Day 1 : Istanbul - Arrival Day

Welcome to Turkey, Istanbul Airport. Meet with TravelShop Turkey staff and transfer to your hotel. Overnight in Istanbul.

## **Day 2 : Istanbul City Tour**

Breakfast Included

After breakfast, we pick you up at 08.30 from your hotel for the daily tour of old Istanbul City. Visit to **ST. SOPHIA** This ancient basilica, built by Constantine the Great in the 4th century and reconstructed by Justinian in the 6th century, is one of the architectural marvels of all time. **TOPKAPI PALACE** The great palace of the Ottoman sultans from the 15th to the 19th centuries housing an exquisite collection of crystal, silver, and Chinese porcelain, robes worn by the sultans and their families, the famous jewels of the Imperial Treasury, miniatures, the Holy Mantle; enshrining relics of the Prophet Mohammed. **SULTANAHMET IMPERIAL MOSQUE** Across from St. Sophia built in the 16th century by the architect Mehmet, is known as the **BLUE MOSQUE** because of its magnificent interior decoration of blue Iznik tiles. **HIPPODROME** Ancient Hippodrome, the scene of chariot races, with the three monuments; the Obelisk of Theodosius, the bronze Serpentine Column and the Column of Constantine. Murtis Tour will then take you to the Grand Spice Bazaar which is a unique atmosphere with reasonable prices for your shopping on many Exotic Spices and Herbs, Turkish Baklava, Turkish Delights, Turkish Coffee, nuts and fruits, small souvenirs such as Ceramic Handicrafts, Evil Eyes totems, all naturel olive oil, soaps and many other goods in Souvenir Shops and stores. After the tour, transfer back to your hotel. Free Evening and optional Istanbul Evening Shows or Bosphorus Dinner Cruise including traditional Turkish entertainment and dinner. Overnight Istanbul.

## **Day 3 : Istanbul Bosphorus Cruise and Shopping Tour**

Breakfast Included

We pick you up at 08.30 from the hotel and depart for the Istanbul Bosphorus Cruise and Shopping Tour following the breakfast. **BOSPHORUS BY BOAT** a traditional excursion by boat along the waterway separating Europe and Asia. The shore is lined with old wooden villas, palaces of marble, fortresses, and small fishing villages. During the excursion you will see the magnificent sights of the following attractions from your boat. See Dolmabahce Palace, and further along, the parks and imperial pavilions of Yildiz Palace. On the coastal edge of this park, is Ciragan Palace, 300 meters of its marble facade faces the shore. At Ortakoy a great variety of artists gather every Sunday to display their work along the street. Ortakoy is a symbol of tolerance with a church, a mosque and a synagogue existing side by side for centuries.

**RUMELI FORTRESS** Built by Mehmet the Conqueror in 1452 prior to the conquest of Istanbul was completed in only four months to control and protect the infamous Bosphorus passage. It is one of the most beautiful works of military architecture anywhere in the world.

**BEYLERBEYI PALAS (PALACE)** The summer residence of Ottoman sultans exists in its original renovated glory featuring original antique furniture and magnificent gardens with the Harem on the Asian side of Istanbul.

**BOSPHORUS BRIDGE** enjoy a unique chance to step from one continent (Asia) to another (Europe)  
**CAMLICA HILL** the highest point in Istanbul. At the top of it you can rest and admire the magnificent panorama of Istanbul and the Bosphorus from the beautiful gardens, landscaped in traditional Turkish Ottoman style.

**SHOPPING TOUR** (after cruise) Experience the traditional silk weaving skills of Turkish women at the carpet weaving courses provided by The Ministry of National Education. You will get the opportunity to see jewellery, handicrafts centre and a modern leatherwear show. Enjoy the experience of shopping whilst gaining the knowledge of the ancient craftsmen, with Murti's Tour's local escort full of knowledge about how to haggle the streets of Istanbul. The rest of the evening is yours to explore

Istanbul. Overnight in Istanbul.

#### **Day 4 : Istanbul to Sofia - Sightseeing Tour**

Breakfast Included

After breakfast, we check out from the hotel and depart by international flight to Sofia. Arrival in Sofia. Transfer to the hotel. Guided sightseeing tour of the city center including visit to Alexander Nevski Cathedral - one of the largest Eastern Orthodox cathedrals in Europe, as well as one of Sofia's symbols and a primary tourist attraction; St. George Rotunda, St. Sophia Church, built by emperor Justinian in the 6th century, National Theatre, former Royal Palace, today housing the National Art Gallery and the Ethnographic Museum, Presidency, etc. Optional visit of National History Museum and Boyana Church in Sofia. Tour duration - approx. 3 hours. Optional - evening panoramic tour "Sofia by night" and dinner at a traditional restaurant with folklore music and dances. Overnight in Sofia.

#### **Day 5 : Rila Monastery - Virgin Church Tour**

Breakfast Included

After the breakfast, we depart for Rila Monastery - the most exquisite example of the monastery art and architecture in Bulgaria. Guided tour of the monastery complex. Visit to Nativity of the Virgin Church with its miracle icon of the Virgin and splendid gilded iconostasis, the old kitchen, the monastery museum where you can learn about the long and heroic history of the monastery, the woodcarved cross made for a period of twelve years by a monk called Rafael, Hrelyo's Tower and many spectacular views from the mountain and the surrounding nature. Tour duration - approx. 8 hours. Arrival in Plovdiv. Overnight in Plovdiv.

#### **Day 6 : Old Town, Roman Ancient Theatre Tour and Hissarya Sightseeing Tour**

Breakfast Included

Sightseeing tour in the Old Town including a visit to the Roman Ancient Theatre, which was built in the 2nd century AD under the rule of the Roman Emperor Trajan and is nowadays considered to be the largest surviving Roman construction in Bulgaria, visit to the Ethnographic Museum, Roman Stadium, St. Constantine and Helena Church, etc. Departure for Hissarya. Sightseeing tour, including the Roman Fortress, the Tomb, etc. The archaeological reserve Hissar Fortress is an excellent example of early fortification art and perhaps the best monument of this kind in Bulgaria. Visit of Starosel and walk around the latest excavations of the Thracian tombs at Starosel. The village is known for its abundance of ancient Thracian sites, with finds dating back to the 5-6 millennium BC. Drive to Sofia. Overnight in Sofia.

#### **Day 7 : Boyana Church and National History Museum Tour- End of the Tour**

Breakfast Included

If the time permits, optional half day tour to Boyana Church and the National History Museum after the breakfast. Visit to the National History Museum. Most interesting are the collections of Thracian and Old Bulgarian gold and silver treasures, rich collection of icons, church plates and cloths, numismatics, manuscripts and early printed books, ethnographic exhibits. Visit to Boyana Church (included in the list of UNESCO), located at the foot of Vitosha Mountain in the suburb of Boyana. Tour duration - approx.

3 hours. Transfer to the airport for departure.

## **Includes**

- Guided Istanbul city tour
- Professional English - speaking tour guides
- All entrance fees mentioned in the itinerary
- Transportation in a fully air - conditioned, non - smoking coach
- 2 nights hotel in Istanbul
- Guided Istanbul Bosphorus cruise
- 6 open buffet very rich continental breakfasts
- Guided Istanbul Bosphorus Cruise and Shopping Tour
- Return airport transfer to Istanbul Airport
- 1 Night accommodation in Plovdiv
- Guided Visit of Rila Monastery
- Guided Sightseeing tour of Sofia
- Guided Sightseeing Tour in the Old town of Plovdiv
- Guided Sightseeing Tour of Hissarya and Starosel

## **Excludes**

- International flights
- Insurance: All types
- Items of a personal nature such as alcoholic drinks, cold drinks, laundry
- Any others expenses which are not mentioned at the included section
- Country entry Visa
- Evening panoramic tour “Sofia by night” and dinner at a traditional restaurant with folklore music and dances
- Visit to Boyana Church and the National History Museum

## **Routes**

## **Available On Dates**

10 March, 2020 - 15 March, 2021

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday,  
Saturday