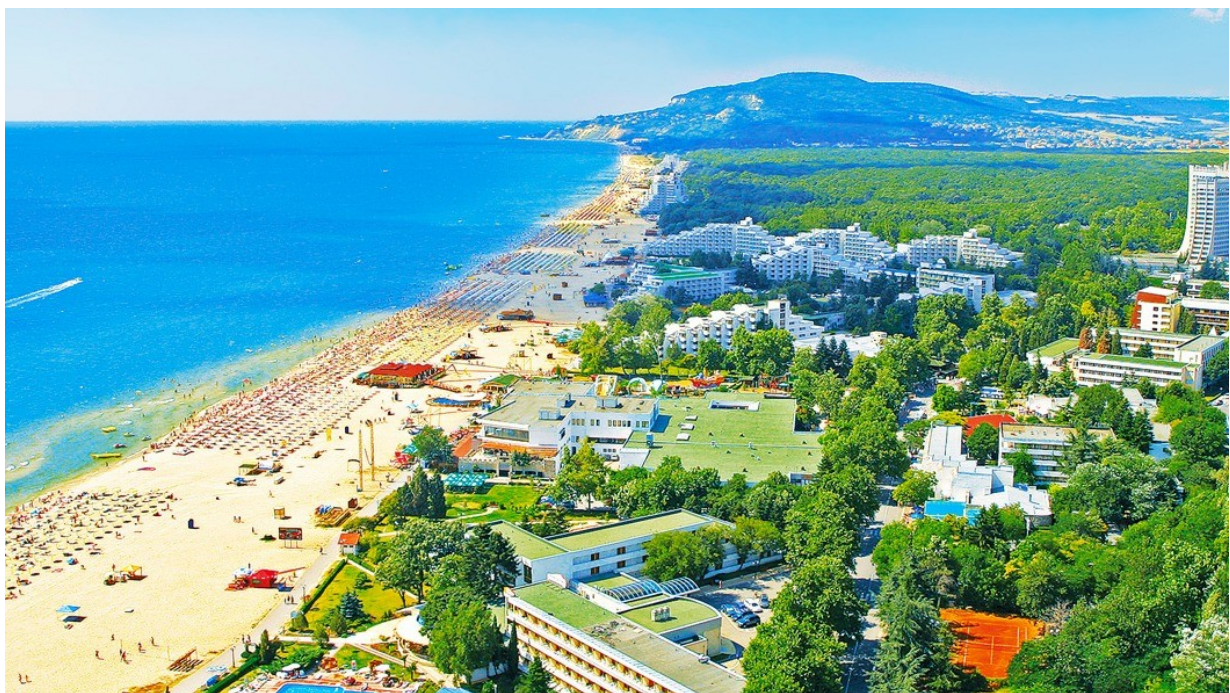


## Full Itinerary & Trip Details

# 15 Day Bulgaria - Greek Island Combined Tour

Wonderful trip to Bulgaria and Greece that will last over two weeks where you will get to see the very best of Europe and return home with postcard-like memories from Sofia to Athens and onto the never ending beaches of Santorini and Mykonos.



**PRICE STARTING FROM**

€1775 € 1775

**DURATION**

15 days

**TOUR ID**

22804

## ITINERARY

### Day 1 : Sofia arrival - Sofia City Tour

Arrival in Sofia. Transfer to the hotel and accommodation. Half-day city tour of Sofia. 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 the Roman emperor Justinian in the 6th century, National Theatre, former Royal Palace, the Presidency, etc. Overnight in Sofia.

## **Day 2 : Veliko Tarnovo and Arbanassi**

Breakfast Included

Breakfast. Departure for Veliko Tarnovo. Sightseeing tour of Veliko Tarnovo with a visit to the mediaeval citadel of the Second Bulgarian empire (12th-14th century) – Tsarevets. Free time for shopping on the old market street of Samovodska Charshiya. Sightseeing of Arbanassi, picturesque small village on the slopes above Tarnovo, famous for its fortress-houses and the beautifully decorated 16th and 17th century churches. Overnight in Veliko Tarnovo.

## **Day 3 : Shumen – Varna**

Breakfast Included

Breakfast. Departure for Varna. On the way visit to Madara Horseman, unique stone relief amidst the rocky Madara Plateau, created by the old Bulgarians, part of UNESCO world heritage list. Arrival in Varna in the afternoon. Sightseeing tour of the town, nicknamed capital of Bulgarian Black Sea Coast: Cathedral of the Assumption of the Virgin, Varna Clock tower, Theater and Opera House, Roman Basilica, Roman Baths (Thermae). Overnight in Varna.

## **Day 4 : Balchik – Nessebar - Sunny Beach**

Breakfast Included

Breakfast. Half-day tour to Balchik for a visit to the palace of the Romanian queen “Quiet Nest” with its extensive botanical garden, one of the largest on the Balkan peninsula, preserving thousands of rare plant species. Around noon departure to the South sea coast. Free time for beach and time at leisure. Overnight in Nessebar.

## **Day 5 : Nessebar – Stara Zagora**

Breakfast Included

Breakfast. Sightseeing of Nessebar old town, included in the UNESCO world heritage list. In this small labyrinth you will get acquainted with magnificent Byzantine churches like St. Stephen and St. Spas, mediaeval fortifications, ancient theater and the local archaeological museum, preserving the long history of this ancient Greek colony. Free time. In the afternoon departure for the beautiful town of Stara Zagora. Evening walk in Stara Zagora around the Ancient Roman Forum. Overnight in Stara Zagora.

## **Day 6 : Kazanlak – Bachkovo Monastery – Plovdiv**

Breakfast Included

Breakfast. Departure for Kazanlak. Visit to the famous Thracian tomb from 4th century BC. Free time. Departure for Bachkovo Monastery. Visit to the monastery, which dates back to the 11th century and is one of the most important and well preserved Bulgarian monasteries. The monastery is known and appreciated for the unique combination of Byzantine, Georgian and Bulgarian culture, united by the common faith. Overnight in Plovdiv.

### **Day 7 : Bulgaria - Sofia – Rila Monastery – Bansko**

Breakfast Included

Departure for Bansko after breakfast. On the way, we visit 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 wood carved 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. Arrival in Bansko, in the late afternoon. Bansko is the most famous ski resort in Bulgaria with excellent conditions for winter sports. The town also keeps a special authentic atmosphere with its old houses and traditional restaurants. Overnight in Bansko.

### **Day 8 : Bulgaria - Bansko – Greece - Thessaloniki**

Breakfast Included

After breakfast, transfer from Bansko to Thessaloniki with our professional driver who will first transfer you to your hotel. It is your free day to explore and enjoy Thessaloniki on your own. Depending on the time of arrival, you can spend the day walking around, doing the shopping or relaxing in one of many cafes or taverns in Thessaloniki downtown. Overnight in Thessaloniki.

### **Day 9 : Greece - Thessaloniki - Vergina- Thermopylae - Athens**

Breakfast Included

Breakfast at the hotel. After breakfast, drive to Vergina, the most important remains of the monumental palace of the Kingdom of Macedonia, lavishly decorated with mosaics and painted stuccoes, and the burial ground with more than 300 tumuli, some of which date from the 11th century B.C. One of the royal tombs is identified as that of Philip II, who conquered all the Greek cities, paving the way for his son Alexander and the expansion of the Hellenistic world.

After the visit drive to Athens. On the way, make a short stop at Thermopylae where a fierce battle took place between the Persians and Greeks during the Persian invasion of 480-479 BC. The Greek force (300 strong) was very small but was determined to make a stand against the huge Persian army. Overnight in Athens.

### **Day 10 : Greece - Athens Sightseeing Tour With Acropolis & Half Day All in One**

Breakfast Included

In the morning, after breakfast, we will pick you up from the hotel and shall start our sightseeing tour of the center of Athens including The Constitution of Greece (Sintagma). It was created by the Fifth Revisional Parliament of the Hellenes and entered into force in 1975. It has been revised three times since, in 1986, in 2001 and in 2008.

The Constitutional history of Greece goes back to the Greek War of Independence, during which the first three revolutionary Greek constitutions were adopted. Afterwards we will visit Old Parliament House. The Old Parliament building, which is located at Stadiou Street in Athens, housed the Greek Parliament between 1875 and 1932. It now houses the country's National Historical Museum. In front of the building stands a large equestrian statue of General Theodoros Kolokotronis, cast in bronze. It was sculpted by Lazaros Sochos in Paris in 1900, and erected in its current place in 1904.

Continue our tour, we will go to The National Library of Greece which is situated near the center of city of Athens. It holds 4,500 Greek manuscripts, which is one of the greatest collection of Greek scripts.

There are also many chrysobulls and archives of the Greek Revolution

Then we will continue driving down Herod Atticus Street, you will see the Evzones in their picturesque uniform and the PRESIDENTIAL PALACE which is the official residence of the President of the Hellenic Republic. It previously served as the Royal Palace, until the abolition of the monarchy by referendum in 1974. On your way to the Acropolis you will see the Hadrian's Arch, visit the Temple of Olympian Zeus. and you will make a short stop at the Panathenaic Stadium which was refurbished a second time in 1895 for the 1896 Olympics, with completion funding provided by the Greek benefactor George Averoff whose marble statue now stands at the entrance, based on designs by architects Anastasios Metaxas and Ernst Ziller.

Upon arrive Acropolis, we will visit Acropolis Museum which is focused on the findings of the archaeological site of the Acropolis of Athens. The museum was built to house every artifact found on the rock and on its feet, from the Greek Bronze Age to Roman and Byzantine Greece. It also lies on the archaeological site of Makrygianni and the ruins of a part of Roman and early Byzantine Athens. Also, we will visit the architectural masterpieces of the Golden Age of Athens: the PROPYLAEA, the TEMPLE of ATHENA NIKE, the ERECHTHEION. The last stop before we back to hotel is The Parthenon. The Parthenon is a temple in Acropolis, the harmony between material and spirit, the monument that puts order in the mind. Early evening, we will back to hotel, you can relax in the rest of the day. Overnight in Athens.

## **Day 11 : Greece - Athens to Santorini**

Breakfast Included

Breakfast at the hotel and transfer to Piraeus port for a boat to Santorini. Arrival transfer from Santorini port to hotel. Then spend the whole day at leisure. Experience the delicacies provided by the local taverns, making sure to taste the local 'fava' dip. You can't come to Santorini Island without watching the sunset from picturesque Oia at the top of the island. Why not enjoy a meal at one of the many restaurants in Oia while you're there. Perhaps visit the pretty village of Megalochori with its 17th-century houses is also visit worthy, as is the archaeological site at Akotiri. Overnight in Santorini.

## **Day 12 : Greece - Santorini**

Breakfast Included

Breakfast at the hotel. Your stay in Santorini Island gives you the freedom and flexibility to enjoy your time on the island at your own leisure. Gaze in wonder at the submerged caldera, epicenter of what is probably the biggest volcanic eruption in recorded history. One side of Santorini Island is balanced on

the edge of the caldera while the other side is flat and contains many beaches of which there are white, red and black! One of the main beaches is Perissa which is a black beach, be sure to check out breathtaking Red beach with its high red cliffs and hand size pebbles submerged under the clear water. From Kamari village, you can take a caique (traditional fishing boat) to visit Anafi isle or to join other Santorini beaches. Experience the delicacies provided by the local taverns, making sure to taste the local 'fava' dip. You can't come to Santorini Island without watching the sunset from picturesque Oia at the top of the island. Why not enjoy a meal at one of the many restaurants in Oia while you're there. Perhaps visit the pretty village of Megalochori with its 17th-century houses is also visit worthy, as is the archaeological site at Akotiriri. Overnight in Santorini.

### **Day 13 : Greece - Santorini - Mykonos**

Breakfast Included

Breakfast at the hotel and transfer to Santorini port for a boat to Mykonos. Arrival in Mykonos Port and transfer to the hotel. Then spend the whole day at leisure. Enjoy your day on this Cycladic Island known for its great night life and the town's Cycladic architecture. Mykonos beaches a must to experience, such as Platy Gialos, Psarou, Ornos, Paranga "Paradise", "Super Paradise", Elia, Kalafati, Kalo Livadi. On Mykonos western shore are Agios Stefanos, Houlakia, Tourlos, Megali-Ammos. Walk through the narrow alleyways in Mykonos town and visit beautiful churches and the famous windmills. Overnight in Mykonos.

### **Day 14 : Greece - Mykonos**

Breakfast Included

Breakfast at the hotel. Day free to explore the island on your own. Mykonos Island is the most famous and cosmopolitan tourist island in the Eastern Mediterranean amongst the Cyclades, something which is not just by chance.

Expect to experience the exquisite visuals of white-washed houses, proud windmills, a multitude of chapels, busy back streets with balconies full of flowers and a multicoloured fleet of fishing boats at the port. If you're after a bit of history and culture, the island has five museums you can visit as well as a beautiful church. The church of Panagia Paraportiani is located beyond the Delos Ferry Quay on the way to Little Venice. Overnight in Mykonos.

### **Day 15 : Greece - Mykonos – Athens – Tour End**

Breakfast Included

Breakfast at the hotel and transfer to Mykonos port for a boat to Piraeus. When you arrive at Piraeus port you will be transferred to Athens International airport for a flight back home.

## **Includes**

- Professional English - speaking tour guides
- All entrance fees mentioned in the itinerary

- Transportation in a fully air - conditioned, non - smoking coach
- 1 night hotel in Thessaloniki
- 2 nights hotel in Athens
- 14 breakfasts
- 1 Night accommodation in Plovdiv
- 2 nights' hotel accommodation in Mykonos
- Escorted Half All in One Panoramic Tour
- Guided Vergina Tour
- Transfer from hotel to Piraeus port
- Ferry tickets to Mykonos
- Transfer from hotel to Mykonos Port
- Ferry tickets to Piraeus or Rafina
- 1 night hotel accommodation in Sofia
- 1 night hotel accommodation in Veliko Tarnovo
- 1 night hotel accommodation in Varna
- 1 night hotel accommdoation in Sunny Beach area
- 1 night hotel accommodation in Stara Zagora
- 1 nights hotel accommodation in Bansko
- 2 nights' hotel accommodation in Santorini
- Guided City Tour in Veliko Tarnovo
- Guided City Tour in Arbanassi
- Guided City Tour in Shumen Plateau
- Guided City Tour in Varna
- Guided City Tour in Balchik, Nessebar, Stara Zagora, Kazanlak
- Guided City Tour in Plovdiv, Bachkovo Monastery, Rila Monastery, Koprivshitsa, Bansko
- Guided Athens Sightseeing Tour
- Ferry tickets to Santorini
- Transfer from Santorini Port to hotel
- Transfer from hotel to Santorini Port
- Departure transfer from Piraeus or Rafina Port to Athens Airport
- Departure airport transfers
- Arrival airport transfer
- Guided City Tour in Sofia
- Transfer for hotel to Piraeus port

## **Excludes**

- International flights
- Items of a personal nature such as alcoholic drinks, cold drinks, laundry
- Any others expenses which are not mentioned at the included section
- Evening panoramic tour "Sofia by night" and dinner at a traditional restaurant with folklore music and dances
- Greece entry visa
- City tax
- Tipping
- Hotel room taxes
- Bulgaria entry visa

## **Routes**

## **Available On Dates**

28 August, 2020 - 31 March, 2022 Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday

## **Hotels**

SILVER TOUR PACKAGE CATEGORY HOTELS or Similar Category Ramada Sofia Hotel Yantra Grand Hotel Dallas Residence Barcelo Royal Beach Park Hotel Stara Zagora Hotel Imperial Luxury Bansko Mountain Resort Holiday Inn Hotel Titania Hotel Theoxenia Hotel Alkyon Hotel GOLDTOUR PACKAGE CATEGORY HOTELS or Similar Category Ramada Sofia Hotel Yantra Grand Hotel Dallas Residence Barcelo Royal Beach Park Hotel Stara Zagora Hotel Imperial Luxury Bansko Mountain Resort Holiday Inn Hotel Titania Hotel Theoxenia Hotel Alkyon Hotel