



The Rose Festival in the Valley of the Roses

The Rose Harvest in Bulgaria

1 – 6 June 2021

1 night Bucharest – 2 nights Veliko Tarnovo – 2 nights Kalofer





Veliko Tarnovo

Most of the rose oil produced in the world comes from the beautiful Valley of the Roses in Bulgaria, an area famed for its exquisite Damascene rose. The best time to observe the rose-picking process and to see the rose fields is from the end of May to the end of June. Usually, the Rose Festival takes place across four weekends in June with rose picking rituals taking place in a different village every weekend.

Learn the history of Bulgaria's rose-oil trade (and inhale its heady fragrance) at the Enio Bonchev Distillery, a family run distillery that was founded in 1909 in Tarnichene village. Visits involve the possibility of rose picking, plus a guided tour around the distillery's huge copper

vats and its small museum. Enio Bonchev also distills lavender, another floral industry in which Bulgaria leads the world.

You will also explore multi-faceted Bucharest in Romania; the medieval capital of Bulgaria, Veliko Tarnovo; the charming heritage village of Arbanasi; and the most magnificent Thracian tombs in Europe. Enjoy hearty and tasty local food and sample some of Bulgaria's excellent wine, which has been produced in the area for thousands of years, with viticulture predating Bulgaria itself. The land of wine and roses unravels layers of history, epicurean tradition and unspoilt countryside, as well as a way of life reminiscent of a Europe that has largely disappeared.

Tour Leader

Nikolay Tsutsov is an experienced national guide and a graduate of the University of Sofia, as well as being the owner of historic Tsutsovi House, where you will stay in Kalofer. A gregarious guide with an excellent sense of humour, Nikolay runs Valley of the Roses tours that are both informative and lot of fun. He is also a wealth of information on Bulgaria, its culture and its history. Nikolay will join you in Bucharest and accompany you for the remainder of the tour.



Rose Harvest guide & speaker

Susan Hagan MIFPA MBTPA Cert ED. DipAy has been a tutor and practitioner of complementary therapies for 40 years. She was the International Chair of the International Federation of Professional Aromatherapists from 2002 to 2005. She piloted aromatherapy for people living with HIV in the UK, and due to its success was invited to America to introduce the techniques there at various NGOs. Su is the Director of the International Bowen Therapy Foundation in Bulgaria, where she has lived for the last 10 years, and the creator and owner of Cob in Bulgaria, building houses from natural materials. An experienced tour leader, she leads regular tours to Bulgaria. Su will join the group for the rose harvest in Kalofer.

Tsaravets Fortress, Veliko Tarnovo



1 night Bucharest – 2 nights Veliko Tarnovo – 2 nights Kalofer



Day 1: Bucharest (Tues, 1 June)

D

Am: Arrive Bucharest and transfer to the central Golden Tulip Victoria Hotel.

Pm: Explore the old city of Bucharest.

Eve: Dinner at Carul cu Bere restaurant.

Day 2: Bucharest / Veliko Tarnovo (Wed, 2 June)

B D

Am: Cross the Danube into Bulgaria.

Pm: Continue to Veliko Tarnovo via the 14th century rock-hewn churches of Ivanovo. Check into the Asenevtsi Park Hotel, set in a peaceful forest location near downtown Veliko Tarnovo.

Day 3: Veliko Tarnovo (Thurs, 3 June)

B D

Am: Sightseeing in the medieval city of Veliko Tarnovo, where traditional red tiled houses cascade down a steep incline almost to the edge of the Yantra River. Visit the hilltop fortress of Tsvarets Castle and wander through the cobblestoned old quarter.

Pm: Visit the heritage village of Arbanasi with

its beautifully restored Bulgarian Revival style houses. Visit Hotnitsa village and walk along its acclaimed eco trail.

Day 4: Veliko Tarnovo / Kalofer (Fri, 4 June)

B D

Am: Drive to Etara, a superb working ethnographic village showcasing traditional Bulgarian life, to experience life in a medieval Bulgarian village.

Pm: After lunch in Etara, cross the Shipka Pass and visit the Church of St Nikolai on the way to the village of Kalofer in the beautiful Valley of the Roses. Check into the charming Ottoman-era Tsutsovi House Hotel, where you will have dinner.

Day 5: Kalofer (Sat, 5 June)

B D

Am: Visit the Thracian tombs of Kazanlak, the oldest in Europe and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, notable for their murals.

Pm: Drive to Tarnichene village and visit the Enio Bonchev Distillery. Learn first-hand about the painstaking process still used for harvesting and producing rose oil.

Eve: Traditional Bulgarian farewell dinner with live music and dancers.

Day 6: Kalofer / Sofia (Sun, 6 June)

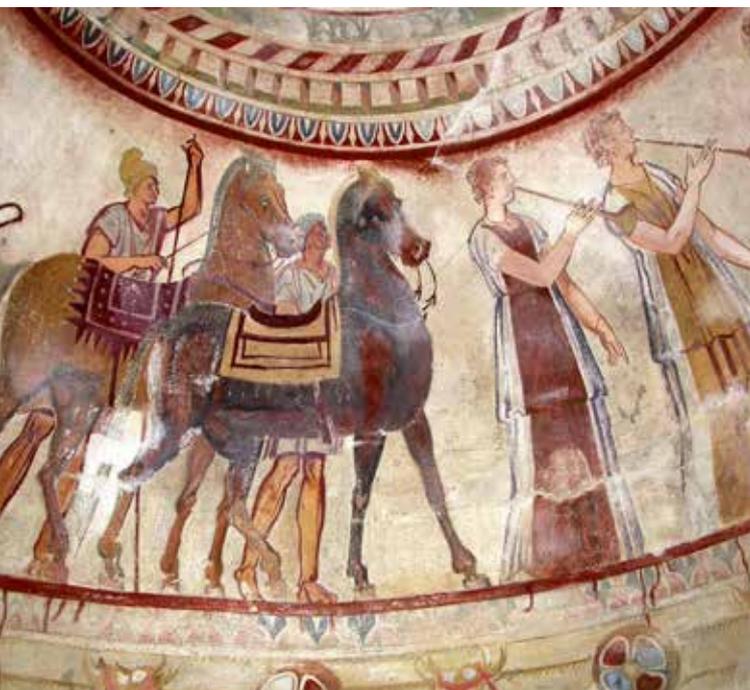
B

Am: Transfer to Sofia airport. We can organise additional accommodation in Sofia, if required.

All itineraries are subject to change according to local conditions.

The Damascene rose





The Romanian Athenaeum, Bucharest (top); A beautifully preserved Thracian mural; The lovely Ottoman era Tsutsovi House Hotel, Kalofer (above)

The cost of the tour is USD \$1,337 per person sharing

The cost includes:

- 5 nights' accommodation in twin- bedded rooms in medium grade hotels and a local village hotel in Kalofer

The single room supplement is USD \$216

- Local guide throughout
- Comprehensive briefing notes
- All breakfasts and dinners daily
- All internal transport
- A full programme of cultural visits
- Admission fees where applicable
- Tips

The cost excludes:

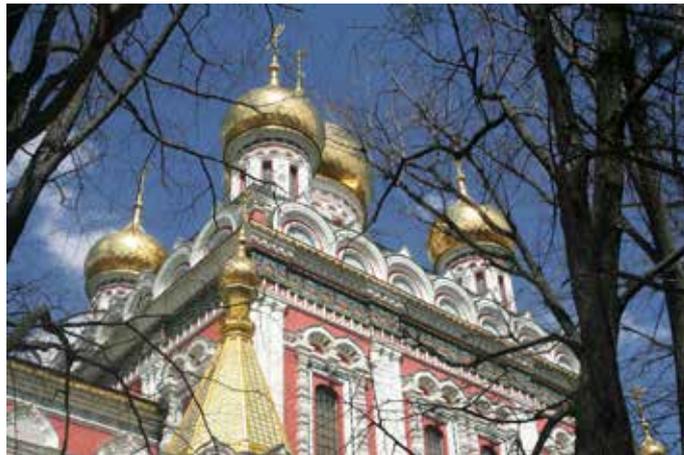
- International flights and arrival airport transfer
- All personal extras such as portorage, laundry, inoculation fees, and drinks
- All optional excursions, tours and visits
- Travel insurance
- Visas, if applicable

Beautiful Bulgarian countryside



About Us

To travel with us is to dig below the surface, revealing the deeper destination. Of course, you will visit the great historical sites; marvel at the wonders of architecture and engineering; be moved by the riches of culture and art; and experience the most spectacular landscapes in the world. What we also do is make sure that you see the country as it is today, giving you privileged access that independent travel and other tour companies rarely get close to. We give you a variety of experiences, from the sublime to the humble, in the company of intelligent, curious, like-minded people. And while we can be worthy, we also make sure



Murals in Arbanasi village (top); Etara village museum; St Nikolai Church, Shipka; A waterfall on the eco walk (above)

All the flights and flight-inclusive holidays in this brochure are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you pay you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate. Please ask for it and check to ensure that everything you booked (flights, hotels and other services) is listed on it. Please see our booking conditions for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to:
www.atol.org.uk/ATOLCertificate

Jon Baines Tours (London)
Hyde Park House, 5 Manfred Road,
London, SW15 2RS
Tel: +44 (0) 207 223 9485 / 5618
Email: info@jonbainestours.co.uk
www.jonbainestours.co.uk

Jon Baines Tours (Melbourne)
PO Box 68, South Brunswick,
Victoria 3055
Tel: +61 (0) 3 9343 6367
Fax: +61 (0) 3 9012 4228
Email: info@jonbainestours.com.au
www.jonbainestours.com

USA and Canada:
(Toll Free) 1-8777-398-764



Jon Baines
tours

