

DETAILED PROGRAMME of the TOUR “EASTER IN BULGARIA”
From 13 to 26 April 2014
(14 days)

THRACE

13.04.(Sunday)- Arrive at Sofia Airport then travel to the Plovdiv area. Stay for 2 nights with the families of the dancers and singers from Ensemble “Voivodintsi” in Voivodinovo village. Dinner with the families at home. This is the Ensemble of Iliana and Todor.

14.04.(Monday)- 8,00 - Breakfast at home in Voivodinovo;
- 9,30 – 12,00 - Dance lessons with Iliana and Todor at the Cultural centre
- 12,15 – 13,15 - Lunch at the restaurant “Panorama”-across the street;
- 13,30 – 15,30 – Singing with Iliana and Todor at the Cultural center;
- 15,30 – 16,00 – Presentation “Greetings from Bulgaria”;
- 16,00 – 16,30 – Break for tea, coffee and cake;
- 16,30 – 18,00 – Relax at home;
- 18,30 – 20,00 – Ensemble “Voivodintsi” will dance and sing for you.
- 20,00 – 24,00 – Dinner and party with Orchestra “Voivodintsi” and our host families in the restaurant “Panorama” in the village.

NORTH BULGARIA

15.04.(Tuesday)- 8,00 – Breakfast at home. At 9,00 – Leave Voivodinovo and travel to the Stara Planina mountains. Lunch in Gabrovo before continuing on to Apriltsi - a small town in a beautiful mountain setting. Stay at the Hotel “Apriltsi” for 2 nights. Dinner – in the restaurant of the hotel.

16.04.(Wednesday)- 9,30 – 12,00 - Dance lessons with Iliana and Todor at the hotel. Lunch at the hotel. In the afternoon visit Troyanski monastery.
- 19,00 – Dinner at the hotel;
- 20,00 – 22,00 – Singing lesson at the hotel.

17.04.(Thursday)- 9,00 – Leave Apriltsi and travel north. After 1,30 hour we will stop in the town of Lovech and visit the unique “Covered bridge of Kolyo Ficheto”. In the past and present day it has been a good place for shopping with lots of souvenir stores. We will picnic near “Devetashka peshtera (cave)” before visiting the cave and the “Krushunski vodopadi (waterfalls)” near Krushuna village. After this nice walk we will travel to the town of Pleven and stay for 3 nights in Hotel “Kailaka” in the park “Kailaka”-near the town. Dinner in the restaurant of the hotel.

18.04.(Friday)- 9,00 – Visit the professional “Severnoyashki folk ensemble Pleven”. We will see their daily rehearsal and after that - a concert with costumes.
- 13,00 – Lunch in the restaurant-mehana “Bolyarite”.
- 14,30 – Visit the historical hill “Plevenska panorama”. This is a great art-gallery, built and created by Russian and Bulgarian artists in honour of all the soldiers who died for Bulgaria’s freedom in the Russian-Turkish war in 1876-1878.
After that visit we will have free time in the centre of the town.
19,00 – Dinner

19.04.(Saturday)- 9,00 – 12,00 – Dance lessons at the hotel. Lunch at the hotel.
Free afternoon then, after dinner, visit a church. It is Easter evening.

20.04.(Sunday)- Leave Pleven after breakfast and travel to Kozlodui which lies on the river Dunav (Danube). We will stay at the Hotel "Istar" for 1 night only. Lunch at the hotel.

Late afternoon we visit the village of Hairedin where we will be guests at their Easter concert – the biggest annual event for the village. We will have dinner with them and sample their traditional Easter food before dancing and celebrating Easter with the villagers.

21.04.(Monday)- 10,00 – 12,00 – Singing session - at the hotel.

- 12,00 – Lunch – at the hotel. Leave Kozlodui and travel to the village of Sofronievo to meet the village's folk groups. We will participate in the Easter ritual "Ora pashtului". This ritual is part of the life of the villagers and they perform it every year on the second day of Easter. We will have a traditional Easter dinner and dance together. On the same evening we travel to Vidin on the river Dunav. Stay for 2 nights in Hotel "Neptun".

22.04.(Tuesday)- 9,00 – Visit the professional folk ensemble "Dunav".

- 12,30 – Lunch – at the hotel
- 14,00 – A river-side walk to the castle "Baba Vida". After that - free time.
- 17,00 – Visit the folk groups from Gamzovo village. Dance to their brass band and have dinner in the village.

23.04.(Wednesday)- 9,00 – Leave Vidin and travel south. Visiting the cave "Magura"- 2,500 km long and very different from "Devetashka peshtera". Picnic lunch.

In the afternoon we go to see the famous rocks in Belogradchik town. We are now back in Stara Planina. In the evening we check in at the Spa-hotel "Ata" for 3 nights. This is in the small town of Varshets - famous for its mineral springs. Dinner.

24.04.(Thursday)- 9,00 – Travel to Chiprovtsi in Stara planina. This place is famous for its carpets. The oldest designs have names and the colours are unique. We will visit a weaving-master. Lunch will be at a local family restaurant. Late in the afternoon we return to the hotel in Varshets. Dinner at the hotel.

25.04.(Friday)- After breakfast – the last dance and singing workshop;

- 12,30 – Lunch-at the hotel; After lunch-enjoying the swimming pool and spa-procedures.
- 17,00 – Visiting Ensemble "Gushantsi" from Zamfirovo village. Dance and dine with them and enjoy their great brass band.

26.04.(Saturday)- Fly back home

We hope you will enjoy it!

Iliana and Todor

12.10.2012