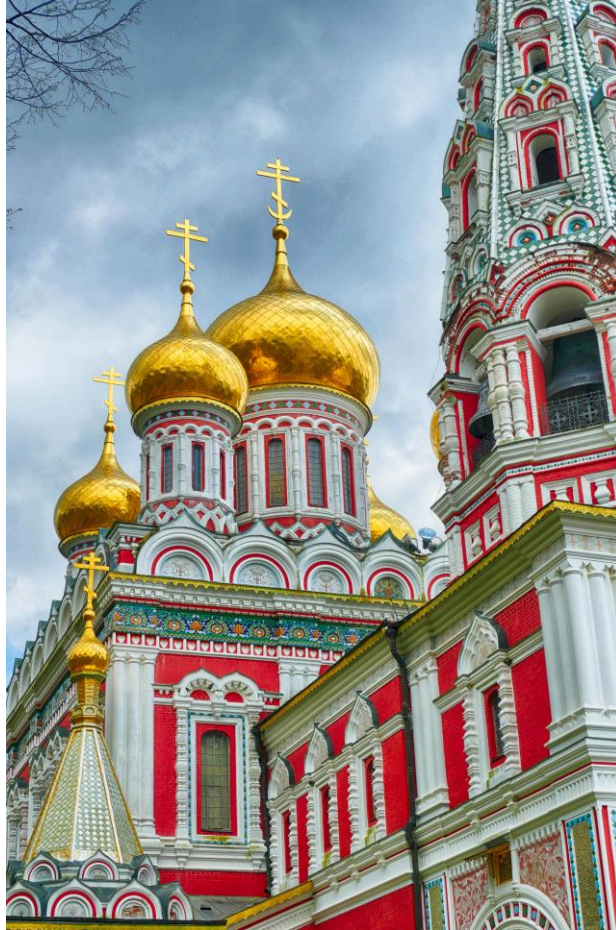


Bulgaria tour (Segment C) May 18-25

Here we just outline the day-to-day explorations, with links to much more historical detail, pictures and selections from our journals of previous trips. Besides the listed itinerary whenever possible we have optional, guided evening walks, a great opportunity for night photography without getting lost, or to just observe the local evening culture.

We're [leading 3 tours to Turkey](#) this year, that also may be combined.
[Email for pricing](#)

- 18-May 1** Arrival in İstanbul and transfer to hotel. Short orientation. Join group who finished Hittite Tour.
Overnight in İstanbul
- 19-May 2** Drive to Plovdiv. Visit old town.
Overnight in Plovdiv. (425 km)
- 20-May 3**
we visit the Thracian Tomb in Kazanluk. After a brief stop at the Shipchenski monastery of St Nicholas, we cross Shipka pass. Our next stop is the Etar Ethnographic village, a UNESCO world heritage site. Its street of Balkan buildings display traditional crafts, plus historical water mills. Then continue on to Veliko Tarnovo



Overnight in Veliko Turnovo. (210 km)

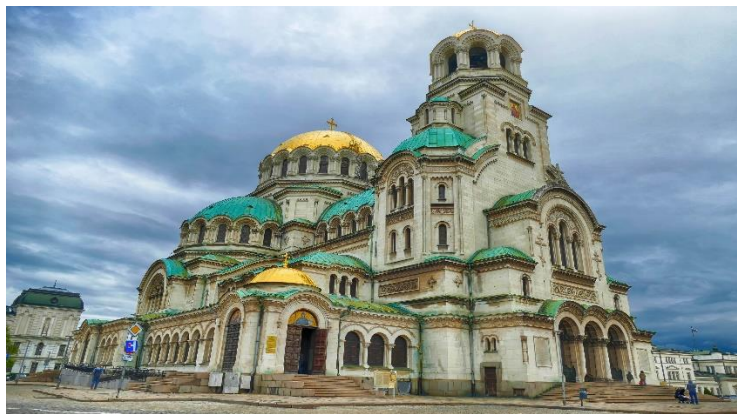
21-May 4 After breakfast at hotel, walking tours Tsarevets Citadel and Arbanassi village Free time in Turnovo.

Overnight in Veliko Turnovo. (20 km)



22-May 5 Depart for Sophia and visit museum town Koprivshitsa and Troyan Monastery. Short sightseeing city tour.
Overnight in Sophia (220 km)

23-May 6 Walking tour including Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, the Serdica archaeological site and old bazaar. Head south to [Rila Monastery](#)



Overnight in Sophia (250 km)

24-May 7 Back across border to visit Edirne, the old capital of Ottoman empire. Visit Selimiye mosque and Beyazit complex which was medical school and hospital during Ottoman times and drive to Istanbul.

Overnight in Istanbul (550 km)

25-May 8 Fly home

Istanbul extra days

We can arrange independent or guided nights in Istanbul pre- or post-trip

For example – 2 full days in Istanbul

1 Hippodrome Obelisk, Marathon serpents, Blue mosque, Hagia Sophia / Ayasofya, Basilica cistern, Grand Bazaar (Kapali Carsi) walk downhill thru local markets to Spice (Egyptian) market. Boat trip on Bosphorus from Galata Bridge

2 Topkapi Palace, Rustem Pasa Mosque. Walking tour to Galata Bridge, Tunnel funicular to Galata Tower and Taksim Square. Return by metro