

SUNNY BEACH BULGARIA

27th May 2012 to 3rd June 2012

Itinerary

Day 1: (Sunday) 27th May 2012

Take a charter flight from Gatwick Airport for Bourges at 17.55hrs arriving Bourges Airport at 23.10hrs. Transfer to Hotel Mena Palace Resort in Sunny Beach for seven nights.

Day 2: (Monday) 28th May 2012

Sliven & Zheravna - 'The Blue Mountains'

This morning we depart for a full day tour of Sliven & Zheravna,

First visit Zheravna where you visit the Bulgarian Church and Museum, from here we make our way to Sliven for vegetarian local lunch at Ichera village. After lunch, take a cable lift to the Karandila Nature Reserve.

Return to hotel at about 18.00hrs.



Zheravna is a little Bulgarian village with ancient Bulgarian Renaissance architecture, situated in the central part of the Eastern Balkan Mountains, near the town of Kotel, in Bulgaria. The village of Zheravna has 330 houses and 550 habitants. It is situated at 640 m. above sea level. The most elevated point is Rasboina peak which is at 1128 m. above sea level. Zheravna is a world wide known architectural reserve. The village keeps more than 200 wooden houses. Some of them are over 300 years old.

The Vida fortress has been constructed around 4th century. It was an important power point at the mountain pass called "Demir kapu" that means "Iron Gates". The legend tells there were stone walls

and iron gates, keeping the pass to the Northern parts of the country. Today there are still some remains from the fortress, the walls and a 2 kilometers long entrenchment.

DAY 3: (Tuesday) 29th May 2012

Varna & Aladzha - 'Bulgarian Riviera',

Today, we leave at 08.30am, after breakfast for a full day visit to Varna "Bulgarian Riviera"

You will visit the Dolphinarium and observation of a splendid dolphin show. Than for vegetarian Lunch and visit The Aladzha Monastery. Some time in Varna before returning to hotel at about 18.00hrs.



The name of Aladzha monastery comes from the Turkish word for colorful ("Aladzha") due most probably to the bright colors of its wall paintings, dating back to the early middle Ages. The monk's cells, common rooms and sanctuaries, dug directly into the limestone rock and situated on two levels high above the ground, were connected via an external staircase. The lower floor



hosted the monks' private cells, common rooms (i.e. kitchen, dining room) and a small church, while the upper level was dedicated entirely to a chapel. According to some historians, primitive monks' cells were built and inhabited already in the 4th century AC. The entire monastery is considered to date back to the 12th century AC. Unfortunately, nowadays only few of the frescoes are preserved (most of these to be found in the chapel) but the experience of visiting a monastery dug high above the ground into a steep rock is unforgettable.

Day 4: (Wednesday) 30th May 2012

Rest Day



Rest day, free to enjoy the facilities offered by the hotel or relax by the Beach which is 100m from the hotel. Mena Palace Hotel offers excellent swimming facilities, free Wi-Fi and a good range of services. Summer garden and a wide range of wellness facilities – do not miss the sauna and massage studio.

Day 5: (Thursday) 31st May 2012

Local Market Shopping

Mid morning, depart for Kableshkovo, Bourges Plaza and then for lunch and your favourite market shopping, visit to wine tasting in Pomorie. Return to Hotel at about 17.00hrs.



Day 6: (Friday) 1st June 2012

Sozopol and Ropotamo River

Sozopol is the oldest Greek colony on the Black Sea coast. It was founded in 7th century and was called Apolonia. Perhaps the most 'rounded' of the Black Sea resorts, Sozopol has a little bit of everything. This is the perfect place to have lunch or a cooling drink surrounded by National Revival architecture in the old town or by the pretty town beach.



Ropotamo is one of the most beautiful Bulgarian rivers with its drowned estuary and white water-lilies. This park protects vast natural marshes that form an important environment for rare flora and fauna, including desert orchids. The sand dunes here are the most extensive in Bulgaria. Enjoy a boat trip



Day 7: (Saturday) 2 June 2012

Bulgarian Village - Erkech

In the evening an excursion which will take you through some typical villages near Sunny beach and will acquaint you with the unique Bulgarian folklore. A walk around the village takes you to a lady's house that is popular with her homemade lemonade and then to the carder and the village tour ends up at the Spring Complex. Traditional crafts practices by local craftsmen are on exhibit here. Dinner is arranged at Spring Restaurant where you have chance to witness folk floor show featuring local costumes and dances plus exciting fire dance. Return to hotel at about 23.30hrs.

Day 8: (Sunday) 3rd June 2012

Bourges – London Gatwick

Check out of the hotel at 12.00 noon and transfer to Bourges Airport for our flight to Gatwick Airport departing at 15.35pm, arriving at Gatwick Airport at 16.50 hrs. Transfer to your waiting Coach for Kenton, arriving approximately at about 19.30hrs at Kenton with new friends and sweet memories of Bulgaria.