

THE ANCIENT LANDS OF RUMELIA, A JOURNEY THROUGH THE BALKANS

8 days from Belgrade to Sofia, Varna and Bucharest

Vacation Highlights:

- ◆ Arrival transfer from Belgrade airport to the hotel; or alternatively, join from Kompas' "Capitals of the Habsburg Empire" tour.
- ◆ 8 day/7-night guided tour featuring:
 - Centrally located first class hotels:
 - 2 nights in Belgrade
 - 1 night in Sofia
 - 2 nights in Varna
 - 2 nights in Bucharest
 - Buffet breakfast daily
 - A welcome reception in Belgrade (heavy hors d'oeuvres, a glass of wine, beer or soft drink)
 - A dinner in Belgrade (coffee or tea included)
 - A light lunch in Varna
 - A farewell dinner in Bucharest (coffee or tea included)
- ◆ Hotel taxes and service charges
- ◆ Touring by modern air-conditioned motor-coach
- ◆ Professional English-speaking tour director
- ◆ Sightseeing tours with licensed local guides
- ◆ Admission included where indicated in bold letters
- ◆ Luggage handling at the hotels
- ◆ Whisper technology enhanced touring
- ◆ Departure transfer from Bucharest to Bucharest airport or join another Kompas Tour or a Kompas Adriatic Cruise.

Tour spotlights:

- ◆ Belgrade, city of Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman, Serbian and Austrian importance
- ◆ Sofia, Bulgaria's capital with 2000 years of history
- ◆ Varna, antiquities, gold and seaside resort
- ◆ Bucharest, communist-era buildings, art-nouveau and wide boulevards

Special features:

- ◆ Dinner with live music on Skadarlija, a vintage street in Belgrade
- ◆ Aladzha Monastery, a medieval Orthodox Christian cave complex in Bulgaria
- ◆ Ancient viticulture, wine tasting, light lunch and vineyards tour in Romania

Hotels:

- ◆ Belgrade: Moskva (F) or similar
- ◆ Sofia: Downtown hotel (F) or similar
- ◆ Varna: Golden Tulip (F) or similar
- ◆ Bucharest: Europa Royale Hotel (F) or similar

Itinerary:

Day 1, arrive in Belgrade, Sunday

Welcome to Belgrade, the Serbian capital! You will be met and transferred to your hotel. The day is at leisure until you gather with your fellow travelers and your tour director for a welcome reception in the evening. **(WR)**

Day 2, in Belgrade, Monday

With a history dating back more than 7,000 years, Belgrade is a fascinating city to visit. Our morning sightseeing tour includes the city's main attractions: the imposing Kalemegdan Fortress, dramatically situated at the joining of the Sava and Danube Rivers, the Republic Square, Mihajlova Street; Saint Sava Temple: the largest Orthodox Church in the city, and finally **Tito's Memorial** and mausoleum. The afternoon is free. Tonight, we enjoy **dinner on Skadarlija with live music. (B, D)**
Optional tour: Cruise on the Danube River

Day 3, to Sofia, Tuesday

We continue our journey to Sofia. En-route, we stop in Nis for a lunch break on your own. Our arrival in Sofia is planned for the late afternoon and we tour the city's major landmarks thereafter. The evening is at leisure. **(B)**

Day 4, to Varna, Wednesday

We drive to Varna with a stop in Plovdiv for a lunch break on your own. Upon arrival in Varna, there is free time to explore the city's waterfront promenade, thermal baths, cafes, art galleries, and vibrant nightlife. **(B)**

Day 5, in Varna, Thursday

This morning, we begin with a half-day city tour which includes the Architectural Museum, the Roman baths, the Historical Museum, and the Sea Garden. We then visit Varna's **cathedral**, one of the most beautiful symbols of the city. We also see the Aladzha Monastery. Used in the days of the Byzantine Empire and abandoned in the 1700s, Aladzha Monastery is comprised of a series of grottos used for worship and monks' quarters. **(B)**
Optional tour: Food tour with wine tasting

Day 6, to Bucharest, Friday

We drive to Bucharest, and on the way, stop in Shumen to see the Madara Horseman, a large medieval rock relief, and now a UNESCO World Heritage listed monument. Our next stop is for **wine tasting, viticulture, a light lunch, and a vineyards tour**. Upon arrival in Bucharest, there is free time for independent discoveries. **(L, B)**

Day 7, in Bucharest, Saturday

We get acquainted with the Romanian capital by touring the city. We visit the Parliament Palace, one of the largest buildings in the world and a National Treasure. We will learn how the Romanian people succeeded in toppling the last communist dictator in Eastern Europe. Our tour



ESCORTED TOUR PROGRAM 2021

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also brings us to the Romanian Athenaeum, the Opera House, the National Military Club, the Military Academy, and the Triumphal Arch. In the evening gather with your fellow travelers and your tour director for our farewell dinner. **(B, D)**

Optional tour: Visit of the Village Museum

Day 8, depart Bucharest, Sunday

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport for your departure flight. **(B)**

The Ancient Lands of Rumelia - a Journey through the Balkans (K070)		
departure dates	\$ pp double occupancy	\$ single supplement
9-May-21	\$1.590	\$450
20-Jun-21	\$1.590	\$450
22-Aug-21	\$1.590	\$450
19-Sep-21	\$1.590	\$450
24-Oct-21	\$1.590	\$450

Rates are gross, per person, in US dollars