

MUMMERS FOLKLORE FESTIVAL TOUR

27 - 30 January 2017 (Tour code: MFF)

Price: £690

(Based on a group of 4-5, if more people book, price will be lower – down to £630. See Price Conditions at the end of the leaflet.)



This tour presents the best traditions of the Bulgarian mummeters, or *kukeri*. During the International Mummeters Festival *Surva* in Pernik, Bulgaria, the ancient pagan traditions will be revealed through scary masks, colourful costumes and playful dances. We shall attend the evening Grand Opening of

the Festival, and spend the following full day there taking photos on the streets and meeting the mummers at cafes, drinking hot drinks to warm the soul and the body. There will also be time to get to know the Bulgarian capital, Sofia, with its churches, museums and galleries all linked by the yellow brick road.

Bulgaria's beautiful scenery, friendly people and excellent wine and food are additional highlights. The B-BS offers you the benefits of nearly forty years' experience of organizing tours to Bulgaria and excellent value.

For your financial protection our tour operators for twenty years, Balkania Travel Ltd. are licensed by the UK Civil Aviation Authority, ATOL 4465 and bonded by the International Air Transport Association, IATA number 91-2 7839.

Projected Itinerary (which may be subject to adjustment)

Friday 27 January Welcome to Sofia! Our representative will meet you at the airport, and take you to your hotel in central Sofia. Later we take an easy walk and see some of the historical sites and landmarks, including some of the Roman remains in the city at the Largo complex, the set piece hub of Sofia during the Communist party era. We shall visit the National Ethnographic Museum, situated in the former Royal Palace, to get acquainted with some folklore costumes and mummers' masks. In the late afternoon we shall drive to Pernik for the Grand Opening of the International Mummers' Festival *Surva*. We shall have reserved places to enjoy the opening and have a good view of the performing mummers. Fireworks and mummers' dances around the bonfire will mark the end of ceremony. Dinner with Bulgarian traditional food. Return drive to Sofia.

Saturday 28 January After a late breakfast we shall drive back to Pernik and spend the whole day there. We shall again have reserved places for the best possible view of the

parade and the mummers' performances. We have arranged to go to see the participants in private, where they can show us their costumes, some of them costing thousands of Leva, and others more than a century old. Drive back to Sofia for independent dinner and overnight.

Those with energy left might like to go to the opera or a concert performance in the evening. This can be arranged but is not included, prices are reasonable.

Sunday 29 January A leisurely start for a day of sightseeing, beginning with a short drive out to the suburb of Boyana where two major attractions are situated: the UNESCO listed Boyana Church with its famous medieval frescoes from 1259, and the National Historical Museum with its rich and well-displayed collections. Independent lunch. In the afternoon we return to central Sofia for further sightseeing, including the Alexander Nevski Memorial Church, the newly opened Museum of Sofia and the Sveta Sofia church and the Roman necropolis beneath it. Farewell dinner.

Monday 30 January Morning at leisure for shopping or a little more sightseeing. Transfer to Sofia airport for your early afternoon flight home.

We hope to see you again in Bulgaria!

Price Conditions: At the time of booking we shall confirm and invoice at the starting price of **£690** per person. That price will be reviewed subject to number of participants booked at the time the balance is due (ie 8 weeks before departure) and if necessary, re-invoiced accordingly. E.g. if 6 people have booked, the price will be reduced to **£660**, if 8 people book, the price will be **£630** per person.

OUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return flights from Heathrow to Sofia and all taxes and charges. Our online check in, seat reservation and boarding pass issuing service.
- Half Board (Details in daily itinerary)
- 3 nights accommodation in a central hotel in Sofia (3* superior) with en suite facilities on a twin bedded shared occupancy basis.
- Coach/minibus for transfers and excursions.
- English speaking guide/Interpreter and entrance tickets to events and museums.
- Bradt's Travel Guide to Bulgaria 2015 edition before your departure and information pack locally.

NOT INCLUDED:

- Travel Insurance (compulsory). Balkania Travel can advise.
- Drinks and personal expenses such as gratuities.
- Single room supplement £80.

Published May 2016.