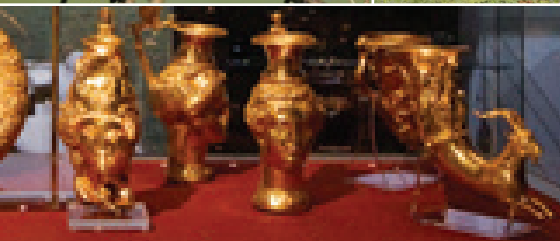


# Bulgaria

# 2018



## BRITISH-BULGARIAN SOCIETY TOURS





## TOURS 2018

All prices include flights, early booking strongly recommended.  
Discounts on bookings received before 30th September 2017!

---THE DESCRIPTIONS HERE ARE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TOURS, DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARIES ARE AVAILABLE, PLEASE ASK---

### **Wine Tour and More!** (Tour code: TZ)

*History, Traditions, Spa*

**7 – 11 February Price: £990**

Wine making and drinking, entertaining welcome guests and enjoying life have always been an inseparable part of the lifestyle of the Bulgarians. We visit the Struma Valley, one of the country's most important wine regions, also rich in historic monuments. The beginning of the farming year and the pruning of the vines are celebrated in the festival of St. Trifon Zarezan, the patron saint of the vines. Relax in one of the best 5-star spa resorts in Bulgaria.

### **Winter Wildfowl Tour** (Tour code: WW)

**10 – 17 February**

**Leader: Tihomir Stefanov Price: £995**

**Price held for another year!**

Come on our regular "Wild Goose Chase" and look for Red-breasted and other wintering geese and ducks. Apart from these main target species, wintering birds on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast include a wide range of raptors, a good selection of woodpeckers, flocks of larks and on the sea, mixed rafts of grebes and divers.

### **BiG Bulgarian** (Tour code: MMS)

**Birdwatching Tour**

*Migrants and Mountain Specialities*

**6 – 16 May Leader: Lyubo Profirov Price: £1,200**

Bulgaria is located where the Balkan mountains meet the Black Sea, not far north of the border with Asia, which makes it one of the Western Palearctic's foremost birding destinations. Few other European countries can match its diversity of species and habitats, or its spectacle of mass migration. This tour is an opportunity to see the best of Bulgaria's birds at selected sites, at the height of spring migration.

### **Spring Butterfly &** (Tour code: BF)

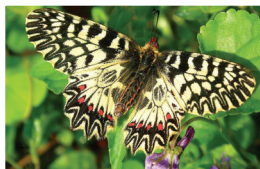
**Flower Tour 19 – 30 May**

**NEW!**

**Leaders: Nick Greatorex-Davies  
and Vladimir Trifonov Price: £1,460**

This 12 day tour should provide us, although it is May, with over a hundred species of butterfly. We shall visit three very different areas, all with beautiful unspoilt scenery.

These are Strandzha in the southeast corner of Bulgaria, the Eastern Rhodopi Mountains centred on the Arda River valley, and lastly a marble limestone area in the Western Rhodopi Mountains. We expect to see a whole host of scarce and interesting butterflies such as Small Bath White, Krueper's Small White, Grecian Copper, Little Tiger Blue, Freyer's Purple Emperor, Freyer's Fritillary, Assman's Fritillary, Russian Heath, Large Chequered Skipper and many others. For flowers we shall be looking for a range of species endemic to, or characteristic of the Balkans, including *Haberlea rhodopensis*, *Serapias vomeracea*, *Verbascum bugilifolium* and *Calystegia soldanella*.



## The Rose Fields of Bulgaria Tour 30 May – 4 June

(Tour code: RF)

**Price: £950 - Lower than 2017!**

The beautiful and aromatic symbol of Bulgaria, the rose, is at the heart of this tour, we shall visit the Valley of the Roses to see the fields of roses and participate in the picking, the Museum of Roses and the Rose Festival. There will also be visits to concerts, to some Thracian tombs from the 5th to 3rd centuries BC and the important cities of Sofia and Plovdiv.

## Early Summer Butterfly & Dragonfly Tour 10 - 20 June

(Tour code: BD)

**NEW!**

**Leaders: Nick Greatorex-Davies and Tihomir Stefanov Price: £1,450**

This 11 day tour will take place in NE Bulgaria, over 100 species of butterflies are expected. A key target species will be the Scarce Fritillary in the Suha Reka Prime Butterfly Area and elsewhere. We shall also visit the Blue Rocks Nature Park in the Eastern Stara Planina, an area of jagged limestone where over 150 species of butterfly are known to occur. Near here we shall also be looking for both Tesselated and Spinose Skippers. June is the peak time for dragonflies, and we shall visit several wetland areas where we expect to see many familiar and unfamiliar species including several which are rare or have a very restricted European distribution such as the Dark Spreadwing, Eastern Spectre and the Turkish and Blue-eyed Goldenrings.

## Summer Butterfly and Moth Tour 29 June – 10 July

(Tour code: BGS)

**Leaders: Martin White and Mitko Petrakiev Price: £1,550**

This 12 day tour will first visit NW Bulgaria, a relatively poor and hugely diverse region, with many wooded valleys and unimproved meadows to the north towards the Danube, and to the south an area of fascinating rock formations and a limestone ridge of hills that proved very productive on previous visits (almost 70 butterfly species in one valley in one day). Then we travel to the Serbian part of the Western Stara Planina (166 species known) and finally to the region of Kyustendil near Bulgaria's border with Macedonia and Serbia. We shall be looking for a few special species including the Bog Fritillary

and Freyer's Fritillary, False Comma, Lesser Lattice brown and Spinose and Persian Skippers, as well as a host of other species.

## Autumn Migration Tour 9 - 16 September

(Tour code: AM)

**Leader: Assen Ignatov Price: £990**

**Price held for another year!**

This one week tour visits the migration hotspots on the northern and southern Black Sea coast. The Via Pontica migration route is a truly remarkable spectacle. The southern section in particular is a bottleneck for birds from all of eastern Europe. Flocks of tens of thousands of White Stork, birds of prey and pelicans heading south fill the skies, as well as passerines such as Red-breasted Flycatcher and Pied Wheatear, and a good selection of waders.

## Taste of Bulgaria Tour 16 - 21 September

(Tour code: TOB)

**Price: £1,100**

This tour is intended to give both first time visitors as well as old friends a taste of Bulgaria's uniquely diverse nature, cultural traditions and lifestyle. We visit high mountain villages, country homes and meet real local people to be amazed by their warm hospitality and sample their home-made delicious local specialities. We end the tour in Bulgaria's main cities of Plovdiv and Sofia, with proud centuries-old history and surprising present day sophistication.

## The Ancient Treasures of Bulgaria 23 - 30 September

(Tour code: ATB)

**Price: £1,200**

This tour gives you the perfect opportunity to visit the remains of the Thracian civilization, which is one of the least known in Europe. Bulgaria has treasures from many different eras, Thracian, Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman. We look forward to sharing them with you.

At the time of printing, some of the planned flights have not yet been scheduled by the respective airlines. We may therefore have to adjust some of the itineraries' dates at a later stage.

*Thanks to Nick Greatorex-Davies, Tihomir Stefanov, Mitko Petrakiev, Assen Ignatov, Vladimir Trifonov, Mike Hillman and John Cornwall, for permission to use their lovely photographs in this brochure and on our itineraries.*



# TOURS CALENDAR 2018

## FEBRUARY

**07.02 – 11.02** Wine Tour and More

(Tour code: TZ)

**10.02 – 17.02** Winter Wildfowl Tour

(Tour code: WW)

## MAY

**06.05 – 16.05** BiG Bulgarian Birdwatching Tour

*Migrants and Mountain Specialities*

(Tour code: MMS)

**19.05 – 30.05** Spring Butterfly and Flower Tour

(Tour code: BF)

**30.05 – 04.06** Rose Festival Tour

(Tour code: RF)

## JUNE

**10.06 – 20.06** Early Summer Butterfly

and Dragonfly Tour

(Tour code: BD)

**29.06 – 10.07** Summer Butterfly and Moth Tour

(Tour code: BGS)

## SEPTEMBER

**09.09 – 16.09** Autumn Migration Tour

(Tour code: AM)

**16.09 – 21.09** A Taste of Bulgaria Tour

(Tour code: TOB)

**23.09 – 30.09** The Ancient Treasures

of Bulgaria Tour

(Tour code: ATB)

## TAILOR MADE TOURS

**Are you a party organiser? Do you have an idea for a tour?** Or would you like any of our tours

adjusted to better suit your particular interests? Don't hesitate to contact us. We'll be happy to put it together for you! We have a wide experience of specialist tours, for small or large numbers (the larger the number, the smaller the price) and long or short periods of time. Recent topics, in addition to what's in this brochure, have included mountain walking, wild flowers, wine festivals, culinary tours, folklore festivals, folk dancing, textiles and embroidery, and photography.

**Availability, detailed itineraries & booking forms**

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**Booking forms and deposits to:**

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Harrow-on-the-Hill, HA1 1BD

Being an IATA accredited **flight ticketing** agent gives us access to the best consolidated air fares on any airline. So, before you make your next travel booking, to Bulgaria or anywhere in the world, why not give our **Flight Department** a ring on **020 8515 1140** or email **vania@balkaniatravel.com**