## Sightseeing in Bulgaria

If you'd like to join us, the newly-weds, for a bit of post-wedding relaxation and fun, we will be at <u>Chateau Copsa</u>, a winery with a pool, July 2<sup>nd</sup> – July 3<sup>rd</sup>, and then in the south of Black Sea somewhere in or near <u>Sozopol</u>, July 3<sup>rd</sup> - July 6<sup>th</sup>. Feel free to incorporate either Chateau Copsa or Sozopol in your itineraries in Bulgaria.

In fact, while there will be no organized tour of Bulgaria by us, we suggest the following itinerary, which does hit on some of the key destinations in Bulgaria and includes Chateau Copsa and the south of Black Sea:

\*\*\*SOFIA is a must so be sure to add it to the itinerary either before the wedding or before you fly out\*\*\* the <u>free tours</u> of Sofia are wonderful, we hear; the city is in the skirts of <u>Vitosha</u> mountain, and is surrounded by wonderful opportunities for hikes and relaxing in nature, just half an hour away from the city center; <u>Boyana Church</u> is another must-see landmark near Sofia\*\*\*\*

June 29<sup>th</sup> – Rila Monastery (UNESCO Heritage)

June 29<sup>th</sup> & June 30<sup>th</sup> – sleep at <u>Katarino SPA</u>, <u>Hot Springs SPA</u> or somewhere in Bansko

(note that these SPAs are popular, and you should book sooner rather than later); during the days of June 30<sup>th</sup>/ July 1<sup>st</sup> – enjoy the SPAs, hike the Seven Rila Lakes or hikes nearby (Rilska Skakavitza waterfall, Malyovitza...there are so many of them!) or return to Sofia if you won't have other times to explore it;

**July 1**st – sleep in <u>Plovdiv</u> (European Capital of Culture in 1999 and 2019); enjoy the old town on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and then head to Chateau Copsa

**July 2**<sup>nd</sup> – sleep at Chateau Copsa (we suspect the hotel may be popular this time of the year, so we recommend booking sooner rather than later)

**July 3<sup>rd</sup> –** travel to <u>Veliko Tarnovo</u> (the old Bulgarian capital) and then to the Black Sea to sleep (we recommend <u>Sozopol</u> & <u>Nesebar</u> (both near Burgas, which has an airport) in the south;

July 4 & 5<sup>th</sup> – Black Sea stay continued

**July 6**<sup>th</sup> – return to Sofia, fly out of <u>Burgas</u>, or continue north to <u>Varna</u> (which also has an airport) and <u>Balchik</u> (with its beautiful palace)

Of course, feel free to skip any of the above and head to the Black Sea as early as you'd like, as well as to add other Bulgarian gems in your itinerary, depending on your interests and how much time you've got! Frankly, you can stay a whole month and never be bored!

\*\*\* Do rent a car for this trip! \*\*\*

Other Bulgarian gems, in no particular order:

Mineral baths/SPAs – Velingrad (check out Hotel Park & Spa Infinity), Hissar

Wineries/ wine towns: Melnik and a ton of others – just google wineries in Bulgaria...

Kazanluk (our rose valley) – the rose season will be over by mid-June, but there are <u>Thracian tombs</u> (UNESCO heritage) to check out...

## **Nature wonders:**

<u>Belogradchik Rocks</u>, various <u>caves</u>, all of our mountains...the <u>Marvelous Bridges</u>...truly, the nature wonders of Bulgaria are countless!!

Check this out (from Monuments of the Bulgarian – Soviet friendship near Varna to the Stone Mushrooms of Beli Plast):

https://www.atlasobscura.com/things-to-do/bulgaria/places and the <u>Top 100 tourist sites</u> of <u>Bulgaria</u>

NOT FOR THE WEBSITE. MESSAGE TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN AN ORGANIZED TOUR OF BULGARIA:

We note that you expressed interest in an organized tour of Bulgaria. Given the number of people who expressed interest and the variety of age and backgrounds (for some of you, this is not the first visit to Bulgaria), organizing a tour for all would be a silly enterprise bound to fail. Instead, we encourage you to visit <a href="www.yanasimeon.com">www.yanasimeon.com</a> again where we have now added a suggested itinerary, including where you could meet us the week after the wedding, and other noteworthy spots. Let us know if you'd like to be connected with others who will be sightseeing in Bulgaria around the wedding.

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