

Sightseeing in Bulgaria – **UPDATED May 23, 2025**

Suggestion for a quick trip near hotel Yastrebetz: a trip to [Samokov](#) to see the female monastery Pogrov Bogorodichen and the old church. We have not been, but we were told these are interesting to see. Also, [Tsarska Bistritsa](#).

Simeon and Yana will be near [Sozopol](#) from June 30th until July 6th, most likely at Viva Mare at [Santa Marina](#), where a lot of people will be staying too; another good option is [Green Life Apartments](#). There are many other options in the Sozopol area.

Note that you can also book Santa Marina or Green Life Resort apartments through Airbnb or booking – that is, you can either book through the hotel OR book apartments from apartment owners in the complex directly.

- Before you head to the beach, we recommend that you pass through Plovdiv for a couple of hours, if not overnight. Plovdiv is a cultural hub in Bulgaria and was the European Capital of Culture in 1999 and 2019. The city is an important economic, transport, cultural, and educational center. Plovdiv joined the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities in 2016. It has a picturesque old town and a stunning Roman amphitheater in the heart of Old Plovdiv.
- Santa Marina is a family-friendly resort near Sozopol; from there, you can easily explore the entire South Coast – we recommend visiting [Nessebar](#), for example.

*****SOFIA is a must so be sure to add it to the itinerary either before the wedding or before you fly out***** the [free tours](#) of Sofia are wonderful, we hear; the city is in the skirts of [Vitosha](#) mountain, and is surrounded by wonderful opportunities for hikes and relaxing in nature, just half an hour away from the city center; [Boyana Church](#) is another must-see landmark near Sofia******Simo and I will be happy to show you downtown Sofia on the afternoon of June 26th******

We know a lot of people will be staying on June 29th in Yastrebetz. Others will be going straight to Plovdiv on June 29th, and then to Sozopol on June 30th.

You may want to see if you can squeeze in also:

[Rila Monastery](#) (UNESCO Heritage) – possibly on your way to Borovetz after the cathedral ceremony on June 27th OR even skip the cathedral ceremony, or on your way back to Sofia, or, as several friends will be as a day trip on June 29th (some people will be doing this day trip

[Veliko Tarnovo](#) (the old Bulgarian capital) – possibly on your way back to Sofia from the seaside, or before the seaside.

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Previously suggested itinerary (**outdated** but keeping here for reference, in case someone is ambitious and wants to do it all):

June 29th– [Rila Monastery](#) (UNESCO Heritage)

June 29th & June 30th – sleep at [Katarino SPA](#), [Hot Springs SPA](#) or somewhere in [Bansko](#)

(note that these SPAs are popular, and you should book sooner rather than later); during the days of June 30th/ July 1st – 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 1st – sleep in [Plovdiv](#) (European Capital of Culture in 1999 and 2019); enjoy the old town on July 2nd and then head to Chateau Copsa

July 2nd – sleep at Chateau Copsa

July 3rd – travel to [Veliko Tarnovo](#) (the old Bulgarian capital) and then to the Black Sea to sleep (we recommend [Sozopol](#) & [Nesebar](#) (both near Burgas, which has an airport) in the south;

July 4 & 5th – Black Sea stay continued

July 6th – return to Sofia, fly out of [Burgas](#), or continue north to [Varna](#) (which also has an airport) and [Balchik](#) (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!

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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 [Thracian tombs](#) (UNESCO heritage) to check out...

Nature wonders:

[Belogradchik Rocks](#), various [caves](#), all of our mountains...the [Marvelous Bridges](#)...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 [Top 100 tourist sites of Bulgaria](#)