

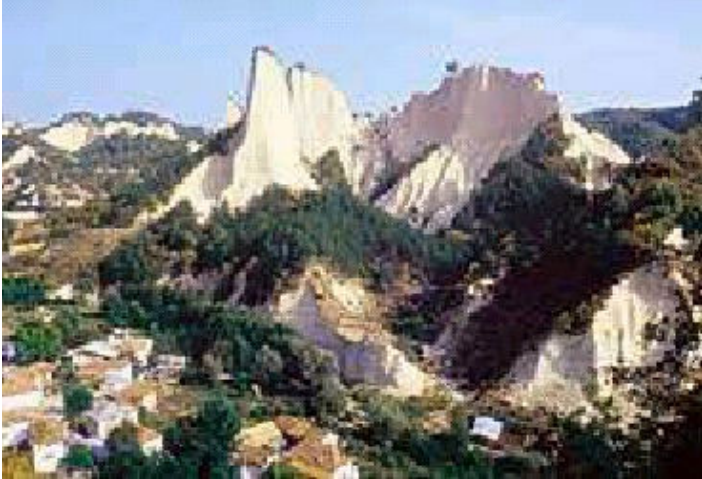


A SAMPLE ITINERARY

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BULGARIAN CHORAL FESTIVAL: THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHT



Day 1 – In flight (D, B)

Depart from USA. Arrive at least two hours prior to departure, and don't forget your tickets and passports! (No visas required.) Relax and enjoy the film onboard the flight.

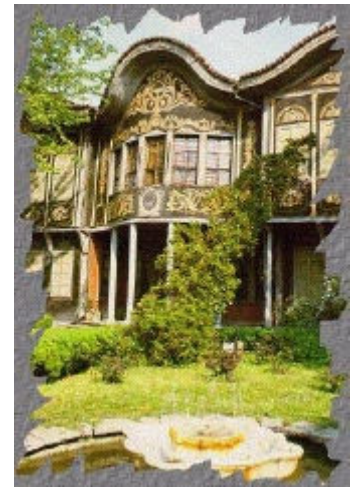
Day 2 – Sofia/Plovdiv (L, D)

Arrive in Sofia, capital city of Bulgaria and transfer to Plovdiv via private motorcoach. Check into your accommodations and relax a bit before your welcoming Reception. Enjoy a Bulgarian choral and dance performance this evening in a local venue.

Day 3 – Plovdiv (B, D)

Welcome to the Choral Festival! Register this morning after breakfast and meet other artists and participants today. Take a walking tour of the Old Town where many of the venues will be for the festival; lunch on your own. Choral workshop and group singing later in the day. Take in the street performances and al fresco art exhibits in one of Europe's most authentic old world cities! Dinner will be with the group at a nice restaurant in the Old Town.

The Renaissance town of Old Plovdiv was built during the 19th century. Today it has survived as a unique architectural ensemble: its houses reveal the remarkable urban culture of Bulgarian builders, as well as their sense of harmony and their creative power. The wooden ceilings inside the houses of Plovdiv are carved, as if there is a sun in every room. Walls are polychromatically decorated. They have painted niches and fine, stylish European furniture. There is a kind of magic, some fine, fairly innocence in the spirit of Plovdiv. Walking around Old Plovdiv, visitors enjoy the steep, cobbled streets and lanes with bow windows and eaves above them. Lovely gardens with plenty of green and flowers, fruit trees, old vines and figs, evergreen box shrubs and roses under the shadows of old trees are hidden behind solid walls and heavy gates. The babble of water running from old little fountains and taps breaks the silence. Tiny doors hidden within the thick walls lead to the neighbors' yards. All those beautiful colors of the narrow, patriarchal world of the past helped the Bulgarian ancestors survive during the long decades under the yoke of communism and other oppressors.



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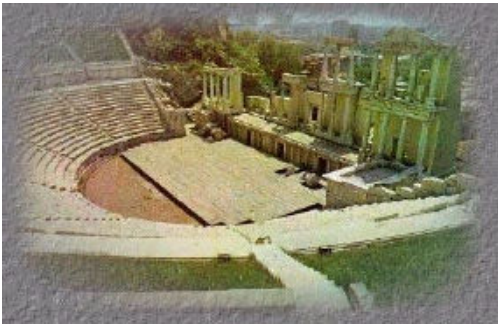
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Days 4 and 5 – Plovdiv (B, L, D)

After breakfast take part in Choral Festival activities. There will be afternoon and evening workshops and performances to choose from and where your group will perform. Meetings with local choirs and other opportunities for choral exchange and performance will be arranged.

Day 6 – Bachkovo, Smolyan (B, D)

After breakfast board a bus to travel to the Bachkovo Monastery to the south. Bulgarian churches possess some of the oldest bas-relief and exterior paintings from the Middle Ages still accessible today. Passing through the town of Assenovgrad, adults will want to sample the spectacular wine with a history that predates the Romans! There are several beautiful, artistic churches in this town. The Monastery itself is in Smolyan and was built in 1803. It is Bulgaria's second largest. Later, we will return to Plovdiv for the final concerts in town, a farewell dinner in your honor - then packing for the trip to Sofia!



Days 7, 8, and 9 – Sofia (B, D)

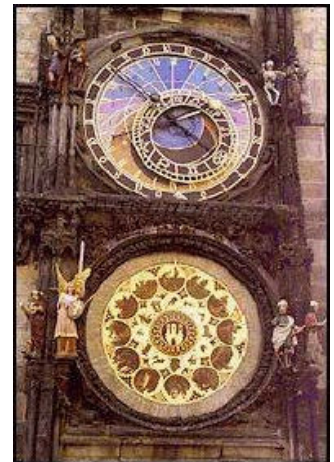
Transfer early in the morning after breakfast to Sofia. There will be a lunch waiting for you after check in to your hotel. Then we will visit our workshop and performance venues in the capital for some afternoon sessions and performances in the evening. Day 8 will include a visit to a town outside the capital. Day 9 will feature a final group program and a series of farewell concerts for all groups in attendance. That night will be a late night, with a farewell dinner planned for all - and some new friends, too!

Day 10 – Prague (B, L, Dinner)

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and transfer to the airport in your private motorcoach. Enjoy lunch and a snack onboard during your journey to Prague. Arrive in Prague with enough time to take a walking tour of this glorious city and a river cruise with dinner (weather permitting), before you are whisked to your hotel for the night.

Day 11 – to US (B, L, Snack)

After breakfast leave the hotel for your flight to the United States. Enjoy the memories and welcome home!



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