



## **2025 Essence of Bulgaria Exploration: The Queen of Flowers Retreat for Women**

**June 4 – 11, 2025 – 8 days/7 nights**

***Rose & Lavender Essential Oil Discovery – Kazanluk Rose Festival – Historic Sites –  
Daily Yoga – Special Spa Experiences – Delicious, Fresh Food –  
Luxury Accommodations - Fully-Guided Experience***

Would you enjoy a week of pampering, delicious meals, new adventures and experiences with me and a small group of women travelers? Are you ready to explore the origins of the world's most fragrant flowers and the essential oils they create? Then join me in Bulgaria this June to expand your knowledge of the most “feminine” essential oils!

I couldn't be more excited to take you to the land where ROSE oil, the delicate, yet powerful “Queen of Oils” – is grown and distilled. Early June offers a very short season when roses are annually picked and distilled. That makes it the perfect time of year to celebrate with the Bulgarian people during the Kazanlak Rose Festival! I've designed this very special women's program based on my own experiences in Bulgaria and passion for the hand-crafted nature of Rose and Lavender essential oils.

### ***Here's What I Have Planned for You***

During our time in Bulgaria, you'll come to love this lesser-known Eastern European nation by discovering its historically-significant and ancient sites, immersive cultural experiences, sampling fresh and unique Balkan foods, soaking in the area's thermal waters, receiving top quality therapeutic massage treatments, luxuriating in diverse spa approaches, starting your day with yoga, and taking in the peaceful scenery of Bulgaria's mountains and seaside vistas. I've purposefully patterned our journey across Bulgaria to allow for a retreat experience with time set aside just for relaxation and replenishing ourselves balanced with adventure and exploration of the country itself. You'll love it!

Throughout our Exploration, we'll be accompanied by a highly knowledgeable local Tour Guide who will help us interpret our experiences and the local language. The itinerary covers Bulgaria from the western border to the eastern seacoast, allowing us to gain a deeper understanding of the cultural changes experienced over the years by its people. You'll come to love the Bulgarian people and share in their pride for the nation they are building.

If you're ready to explore aromatic bliss and the healing power of flower oils, come with me and the new friends you'll meet as we venture into a new part of the world exploring the rose and lavender oils it produces. My Essence of Bulgaria Exploration – The Queen of Flowers Retreat for Women is the perfect travel retreat to share with other women you know. Talk to a girlfriend, a sister, daughter, cousin or mother and register together for a truly unique Essential Earth Exploration women's retreat experience in Bulgaria!

Limited space is available, so register today for this truly unique Exploration and opportunity!



### **Celebrate Your Feminine Nature with the “Queen of Flowers”**

Get ready for a joyous celebration and immersion in the roses of Bulgaria! For over 200 years, the climate and growing conditions have been ideal for the deeply aromatic Damascena Rose or “Queen of Roses” of Bulgaria. Our Exploration is scheduled for a truly special week in Bulgaria, during the **Kazanluk Rose Festival**, celebrated annually since 1903. Kazanluk is located in the *Valley of the Roses* where you'll see acres upon acres of this symbol of beauty, youth and health whose petals are selected in a short window of harvest to offer its deep and strong floral aroma. The Kazanluk Rose Festival is a joyous gathering of rose-adorned girls, women, boys and men for a time of dancing, sampling food

and drink made with rose, shopping for rose products from vendors, live music performances, dancing and so much more. You'll love the magic memories created as we participate in the fun with the locals!



### **Unique Essential Oil Distillation Experiences**

We'll be visiting during the ideal harvesting time of year for this delicate flower. We'll see the extensive rose fields, learn about the harvest and distillation of this precious oil used for healing, skincare, perfumery and so much more! I've been granted rare access to have you join me behind the scenes at the **doTERRA Terra Roza distillery** to observe the step-by-step process of creating rose essential oil. This is a very unique opportunity I've been allowed based on my years as a passionate essential oil enthusiast, teacher, and business leader with doTERRA essential oils. Our special tour is something very few people in the world have been able to see! Later in the travels to Eastern Bulgaria, we'll also visit some of the early season lavender fields where much of the world's true lavender is grown and essential oil distilled for our use.



### **Self-Care Time: Soak in the Healing Waters & Massage**

One of Bulgaria's highlights are the **beautiful spa experiences** offered in our Exploration. Both indoor and outdoor thermal pools of varying temperatures and mineralization provide a healing and soothing approach for soaking away tensions. Sample the cold room, dry and steam saunas, relax in peaceful repose with soft music, close your eyes and enjoy this chance to unwind and merely be in the moment, honoring this time and experience you've allowed yourself to enjoy. Make an appointment for a massage session that will help tired muscles and joints relax even further. It will be a truly worthwhile investment in you!



### **Traditional Folk Dance, Music and Crafts**

Tradition is the fundamental way that customs, beliefs, history and values are passed on to the next generation. During our Essence of Bulgaria Exploration, we'll **learn about the traditions of healing** with herbal and flower remedies. We'll witness the joy of Bulgarian **folk dancing and music**. We'll explore the hand-crafted fabrics beautifully



embroidered in festive and traditional designs. Woodworking, folk painting, weaving, carpet making—all unique creations we’ll see in our travels. Perhaps you’ll find the perfect **hand-crafted** item to bring back home!



### **Explore Unique Villages and Architecture**

Throughout Bulgaria, we’ll visit some of the **unique and ancient, historical sights** erected over the years to commemorate needs of the faithful, and to honor the country’s heroes. We’ll learn about the different chapters Bulgarians have experienced through the generations, and the creative solutions they’ve used to sustain a thriving Eastern European nation. We’ll wander side streets and investigate local shops and artisans, take in the flavors of Bulgaria at local restaurants, and meet the warm and friendly locals along the way. While each day of our Exploration offers purposeful experiences, we’ve also included time for you to stroll and discover your own adventures along the way.



### **Relax and Unwind in Luxury Accommodations**

Nothing is more important when traveling abroad than feeling comfortable, safe and secure in our overnight accommodations. You will love the **incredible, 5-Star hotels** we’ve

selected to serve as “home base” each evening where you’ll feel like a queen! Each of the three hotels in our Exploration offer beautifully-appointed, comfortable rooms, wonderful meal options with onsite restaurants, gathering spaces to meet up with others in the group, and spa and service options to delight your senses.



### **Begin Each Day with Gentle Yoga**

Let me help you become more centered and grounded on our journey together with the **gentle, daily yoga practice** I will be leading for the group. Yoga mats are provided and we’ll gather to enjoy a practice designed for everyone in the group that participates. You can expect a practice that combines guided breathwork, meditation and movement to open and strengthen the body. In addition, I’ll be offering sunrise yoga on the beach when we reach Varna as well! For those who choose, yoga will be such a wonderful way to begin our days together and prepare our minds and bodies for a magnificent day of Exploration!

My **2025 Essence of Bulgaria Exploration** is going to be one of the most memorable adventures of your lifetime. I can’t wait to share this truly unique women’s travel experience with those who say “yes” and register right away!



**Cheers! наздраве!**

**—Marty**











## **2025 Essence of Bulgaria Exploration: The Queen of Flowers Retreat for Women**

### **Daily Itinerary**

#### **June 4 – 11, 2025 – 8 Days/7 Nights**

A wonderfully-unique travel experience awaits us as women in Bulgaria! Their land of roses, lavender, healing thermal waters, excellent spa services, daily yoga practice, cultural exploration, delicious food, and luxurious accommodations provides the perfect setting to elevate the feminine in us all.

My Essential Earth Explorations small-group women's travel program offers so many dimensions in self-awareness and growth, plus the chance to create life-long friendships with fellow travelers. This is an ideal Exploration to share by inviting a friend, daughter, or mother to join you on this special retreat. Take a look at what I have planned for you with the help of my incredible travel partners at Learning Journeys!

#### **DAILY ITINERARY**

##### **Wednesday, June 4 – DAY 1 – ARRIVE IN SOFIA, WELCOME RECEPTION**

Welcome to Bulgaria and the Sofia airport! Upon arrival, please go through Immigration, collect your baggage, pass through Customs and look for your *Learning Journeys Representative* who will take to your driver and transfer to our hotel. Your room will be

reserved from 2:00pm onwards to rest on arrival. Spend the afternoon at leisure in advance of gathering at the hotel for a **Welcome Reception** in the evening.

**Overnight in Sofia at Sofia Balkan Palace 5-Star Hotel**

**(Meals are not included today but light hors d'heuvres will be served at the Welcome Reception)**

**Thursday, June 5- DAY 2 – CITY TOUR, RILA MOUNTAIN MONASTERY, WELCOME DINNER**

Enjoy our group's first gentle yoga practice before breakfast at our hotel. This morning we will **explore Sofia**, a modern, youthful Eastern European capital, distinguished by a unique combination of communist-style architecture, Ottoman mosques and onion-domed churches. We'll view and learn about the statue of **Saint Sofia**, the city's patron saint whose statue was erected in 2000 to stand in a spot once occupied by a statue of Lenin. Sofia means wisdom in Greek –that's why she holds an owl in her left hand, a symbol of wisdom. In her right hand she holds a laurel wreath, symbolic of many things for Greeks and Romans: peace, success, reputation etc.

Our morning of touring Sofia is where we'll discover many of Bulgaria's finest museums, galleries and restaurants along with several interesting landmarks such as the impressive **Saint Alexander Nevsky Cathedral**, the colorful Church of Saint Nicholas the Miracle-Maker, the Ivan Vazov National Theatre, the Church of Saint George, the Banya Bashi Mosque, the Sofia Synagogue, the National Palace of Culture, and Largo, one of the prime examples of Socialist Classicism architecture and one of Sofia's main landmarks.

After the city tour, we'll stop for a lunch break at one of Sofia's many, delightful restaurants.

Following lunch, enjoy the countryside as we travel 90 minutes high up into the Rila Mountains toward the historic Perched beneath Bulgaria's highest peak, Musala, and surrounded by breathtaking natural beauty, this **UNESCO World Heritage Site** is renowned for its serene atmosphere and authentic charm. It stands as one of Bulgaria's most photogenic and peaceful locations, offering an unparalleled glimpse into the country's rich cultural and historical heritage.

This evening we'll all enjoy our **Welcome Dinner** at a local restaurant to savor traditional Bulgarian cuisine.

**Overnight in Sofia at Sofia Balkan Palace 5-Star Hotel (B, D)**

### **Friday, June 6 – DAY 3 – PLOVDIV, ROAD TO KAZANLAK & ROSE COUNTRY**

After optional morning yoga practice, breakfast and check out, we will travel for 90 minutes to explore the beautiful and ancient city of **Plovdiv**, one of Europe’s oldest cities and designated as the “2019 European Capital of Culture.” Located on the banks of the Maritsa River and built around seven hills, Plovdiv boasts a cultural blend of different civilizations and a unique mix of architectural styles, making it an open-air museum. Visit one of its most famous landmarks – the architectural complex of **Ancient Plovdiv**, where many beautiful houses from the Bulgarian Renaissance era have been preserved and restored. The city’s most significant monument is the **Ancient Theatre of Philippopolis**, a 2nd-century amphitheater renowned for its perfect acoustics. The theatre continues to host theatrical performances, concerts, and various cultural events to this day.

We will also explore the Roman Stadium and the Church of Saint Constantine and Helena before concluding your tour in **Kapana**, the city’s vibrant creative district. This pedestrian area is filled with eclectic shops, charming restaurants, and art galleries, offering a lively and artistic end to our visit.

Make the most of your free time by discovering the city at your own pace – wander through charming streets, shop for unique souvenirs, and treat yourself to the rich flavors of Plovdiv’s cuisine during a leisurely lunch.

Today’s journey continues for about 90 minutes to **Kazanluk, the heart of Bulgaria’s renowned rose-growing region**. Over the next few days, we’ll immerse ourselves in learning about the tradition and production of Rose essential oil, often hailed as the *Queen of Essential Oils*. This cherished oil is prized worldwide for its luxurious aroma, soothing nature, healing properties and deep connections to love and romance. The Kazanluk area, with its breathtaking landscapes and the famous, annual **Rose Festival** we will experience, is celebrated for its exquisite rose oil, a key ingredient in many of the world’s finest perfumes and cosmetics.

As the day winds down, we’ll make our way to the Kings Valley Medical & Spa Hotel, where relaxation awaits. Check-in and let yourself unwind in the hotel’s peaceful and luxurious setting for the evening.

### **Overnight in Kazanluk at *Kings Valley Medical & Spa 5-StarHotel* (B)**

### **Saturday, June 7 – DAY 4 – DAMASCENA COMPLEX, ROSE FESTIVAL, SPA SERVICES**

Following optional morning yoga practice and breakfast, we’ll take a short drive through the stunning Valley of Roses to explore Bulgaria’s first, private rose essential oil factory at



the **Damascena Ethnographic Complex**. Through exhibits and demonstrations we will uncover why roses are a cherished symbol of Bulgaria. Enjoy an exclusive factory tour and see how this “liquid gold” is meticulously crafted – a fascinating process to witness! We’ll visit the amphitheater and have the opportunity to purchase their renowned rose essential oil straight from the distillery.

Ready to enjoy some fun? Some may choose to step in to the Saturday night experiences that await at the **Kazanluk Rose Festival**. Others may prefer to relax with a pre-scheduled treatment at Kings Valley, unwind at the hotel’s luxurious spa, or take a dip in the refreshing indoor and outdoor thermal pools.

**Overnight in Kazanluk at *Kings Valley Medical & Spa 5-Star Hotel (B)***

### **Sunday, June 8 – DAY 5 – ROSE FESTIVAL, SPA SERVICES**

Let’s start the day with a gentle yoga practice together, followed by breakfast. Then we’re off to enjoy the very special **Kazanluk Rose Festival**, a vibrant celebration where you can fully immerse yourself in the region’s rich cultural heritage. Experience traditional Bulgarian music and dance performances that highlight the local folk traditions. Wander through a variety of stalls offering an array of goods, from handcrafted rose products to local crafts and delicacies. The Rose Festival provides a unique opportunity to appreciate the region’s famous roses, learn about their significance, and savor the festive atmosphere of this colorful event.

After immersing ourselves in the lively Kazanluk Rose Festival, let’s retreat to the serene comfort of **Kings Valley Medical & Spa Hotel** for the afternoon. Take advantage of this opportunity to luxuriate in the hotel’s world-class spa. Indulge in soothing therapy treatments tailored to refresh and revitalize you, or unwind in the opulent indoor and outdoor thermal pools, surrounded by tranquil views.

As evening approaches, you again have the option to continue enjoying the Rose Festival’s enchanting evening activities or simply savor the peaceful ambience of the hotel, completing a perfect day of exploration and relaxation.

**Overnight in Kazanluk at *Kings Valley Medical & Spa 5-Star Hotel (B)***

**Monday, June 9 – DAY 6 – doTERRA’s TERRA ROZA DISTILLERY, ETHNO VILLAGE ETAR, VELIKO TARNOVO, ROAD TO VARNA**

After optional yoga practice and breakfast, we'll set off a **very special visit to doTERRA's Terra Roza Distillery**, where we'll get a behind-the-scenes, up-close look at the precious rose distillation operations. To collect pure rose essential oil as efficiently as possible and ensure doTERRA's Co-Impact Sourcing Guiding Principles are being upheld, doTERRA built a rose distillery in the town of Shipka, Bulgaria—in an area known as The Valley of the Roses. The Terra Roza distillery began operations in May 2020 and was built as an extension of the doTERRA Esseterre Bulgaria operation. The Terra Roza facility is seasonally active, and those involved in the production processes are local specialists and those from the distillery in the town of Dobrich. This fascinating private tour will help you truly appreciate every drop the rose essential oil we have and will enjoy! Get ready for aromatic bliss and a deeper understanding of the therapeutic value and economic impact of this oil of Bulgaria. This visit will leave you inspired and refreshed, with a deeper appreciation for the harmony between nature and self-care.

Our journey continues towards the **Open Air Ethnographic Museum Etar**, where we'll uncover the true charm of traditional Bulgarian life from a bygone era. Explore historic water-powered installations, artisans' workshops, and authentic Bulgarian National Revival era architecture including its cobblestone streets.

Unveil the secrets of herbal traditions as you craft your own handmade soap or soothing calendula ointment. **Delve into the art of creating herbal cosmetics** using age-old recipes passed down through generations. Witness the ancient techniques women used to harness nature's power for their beauty rituals, with a hands-on demonstration of crafting natural, herb-based products.

Afterwards, prepare for a journey back to the rise and fall of the mighty capital of the Second Bulgarian Empire (1185 — 1396). As you walk along the cobblestone streets of **Veliko Tarnovo**, you will discover how its population thrived under Turkish rule, creating magnificent architectural masterpieces and forming a strong and united craftsmen's guild. Explore Tsarevets Fortress, where you can admire the well-preserved remains of the royal palace.

We'll take a lunch break in Veliko Tarnovo, followed by free time to explore the city's main street, charming handmade shops and unique souvenirs.

We'll conclude our day with a relaxing drive to Bulgaria's east coast to Varna, a lively coastal city on the Black Sea. Known for its beautiful sandy beaches, vibrant nightlife, and rich history, Varna offers a perfect blend of relaxation and excitement. Explore the city's renowned landmarks, such as the Roman Baths and the impressive Cathedral of the

Assumption, or stroll along the scenic waterfront promenade. With its mix of cultural attractions and seaside charm, Varna promises a refreshing and engaging experience.

**Overnight in Varna at *Maritim Hotel Paradise Blue 5-Star Hotel* (B)**

**Tuesday, June 10 – DAY 7 – SUNRISE YOGA, ESSENTIA LAVENDER, SPA & BEACH TIME, FAREWELL DINNER**

Start our day with a serene sunrise yoga session on the beach. As the sun rises over the horizon, feel the soft sand beneath our feet and listen to the gentle waves as we greet the day together, in nature. This peaceful start will rejuvenate your mind and body, setting a tranquil tone for the rest of the day.

Did you know that Bulgaria is one of the world’s leading producers of the highest quality Lavender essential oil? After yoga and breakfast, we will travel to explore how Bulgarian lavender is grown, harvested and distilled as we immerse ourselves in the calming, early-season beauty of **Essentia Lavender** – a boutique, family-run lavender farm nearby. Stroll through endless rows of vibrant lavender, taking in the soothing scent that fills the air. Learn about the cultivation and uses of lavender, and perhaps even pick a few sprigs to take home. This visit offers a perfect blend of relaxation and education in a truly picturesque setting.

Enjoy a delightful lunch on your own in Varna, savoring local flavors that complement the peaceful ambience of the day. **The afternoon is yours to unwind.** Take advantage of the hotel’s luxurious spa, where you can indulge in various treatments designed to relax and revitalize. Alternatively, spend time by the sea, enjoying the waters and the warmth of the Bulgarian sun. This is your time to reflect on the past week’s incredible experiences and fully immerse yourself in the tranquility of the surroundings.

In the evening, gather for a special **Farewell Dinner** at a seaside restaurant, celebrating the end of your incredible Essence of Bulgaria Exploration with delicious food and stunning views.

**Overnight in Varna at *Maritim Hotel Paradise Blue 5-Star Hotel* (B, D)**

**Wednesday, June 11 – DAY 8 – Varna Departure**

It’s time to say farewell. Enjoy a final breakfast at the hotel and check out for departure to the Varna Airport for your trip back home. **(B)**





### **Program Pricing\***

**2025 Essence of Bulgaria Exploration:  
The Queen of Flowers Retreat For Women  
June 4 – 11, 2025**

**Double Occupancy: \$4,325 Per Person**

**Single Occupancy: \$5,115 Per Person**

*\*All prices are net, payable in US Dollars.*

Pre-and Post-Exploration hotel accommodations are available should your travel plans include arriving earlier or staying later.

### **Program Price Includes:**

- Arrival meet & greet by Learning Journeys representative at airport and private, individual transfer to your hotel in Sofia.
- Private, individual airport departure transfer
- Private English-speaking Tour Guides for the group
- Ground Transportation as outlined in modern deluxe vehicles (Mercedes Sprinter 18-seater mini bus)
- 2 nights at Sofia Balkan Palace 5-Star Hotel, Sofia
- 3 nights at Kings Valley Medical & Spa 5-Star Hotel, Kazanlak

- 2 nights Maritim Hotel Paradise Blue 5-Star Hotel, Varna
- 7 Breakfasts, 1 Welcome Reception, 2 Dinners
- Gentle, daily yoga practice and yoga mats provided
- Beverage: 1 Bottled water daily per person provided in vehicle. Meals are inclusive of bottled water and in-house soft drink brands. Hotels generally include coffee and tea at no additional cost.
- Special experiences at Etar and Damascena complexes
- Entrance fees to Open Air Ethnographic Museum “Etar”, Damascena Complex, Tsarevets Fortress, Kazanlak Rose Festival, doTERRA Terra Roza Distillery and all sites included in guided tours
- All currently applicable VAT, accommodation taxes, city taxes, tolls, parking fees, fuel costs and service tax

### **Special Site Events & Activities**

- Private Sofia city tour
- Private tour of Rila Monastery
- Private Plovdiv city tour
- Tour Damascena Complex
- Visits to Kazanluk Rose Festival events
- Access to Kings Valley Medical & Spa facilities
- Private doTERRA Terra Roza facility tour
- Tour Open Air Ethnographic Museum Etar
- Herbal Product Craft session
- Private Essentia Bulgaria Lavender farm tour
- Tour Varna at your leisure
- *Please note: Some visits or activities may be altered due to unforeseen circumstances.*

*\* Package price does not include: International airfare to and from Bulgaria; the highly recommended Trip Cancellation and Medical Emergency Evacuation Insurance; all items*

*of a personal nature such as laundry, room service, spa treatments; any meals or beverages not mentioned in program description or inclusions; telephone or fax calls, camera/video fee at any attractions or museums; any medical expense; tipping for guides, drivers, porters/bellmen and wait staff, restroom attendants; and any services including guides, admissions, meals and drinks not mentioned in the inclusions. If your international flight arrival and departure times require a pre- or post-journey, additional night's stay at your own expense, we are happy to provide information, pricing and to assist you with reservations for that need, should it occur.*

Important Notes Before You Register for This Exploration: Traveling on this Essence of Bulgaria Exploration is a unique and captivating experience that will require travelers to walk unaided and with ease at distances of a mile or more, move unassisted through uneven surfaces, to move quickly through festival crowds, climb and descend steps, transport their own luggage on occasion, and get in and out of vehicles that may require a sizeable step up. Medical cannabis and some other prescriptive medications may be illegal in Bulgaria and possession may result in your arrest/jail. Please contact Marty Harger before registering to confidentially discuss any and all prescriptive medications you take, to insure they are allowed in these countries. As a reminder, all travelers on the Essence of Bulgaria Exploration must be a minimum of 18 years of age at the time of departure.

Essence of Bulgaria Exploration will travel if a minimum of eight (8) persons have paid deposits before February 15, 2025. Less than eight will require rescheduling the group for a later date with the option for a full refund of your deposit or transferring it to the future scheduled date. In the event of rescheduling, make sure your international airline reservations can be refunded or transferred to other uses.

Our itinerary will cover so many wonderful experiences – please read the daily activities fully to insure you understand the rhythm and pace of this program before you commit. It will be a remarkable experience!

Is Your Passport Ready for Travel? Travelers leaving the USA for Bulgaria must have a passport that is valid for at least 6 months AFTER they return to the USA, and must have at minimum 6 empty pages for stamping. Passport acquisition and renewals have taken excessive lengths of time to process in recent years. Please visit the US State Department website for the latest turn-around times and options for processing well in advance of our departure date. Also, feel free to contact Marty Harger for suggested alternatives if needed. You will not need Visas to travel to Bulgaria.

Travel Protection Plan: Travel protection is highly recommended by purchasing Trip Cancellation/Interruption and Medical Evacuation insurance for this Exploration. Learning



Journeys can recommend options for Travel Protection plans which are suitable for your experience.

**Travel arrangements and payment for the 2025 Essence of Bulgaria: The Queen of Flowers Retreat for Women are made through my partners at *Learning Journeys*.**



**LIMITED SPACE IN THIS EXCLUSIVE, SMALL GROUP**

Questions? Call Marty today at 801-712-5406

**Please read the Terms & Conditions below in detail *BEFORE YOU CHOOSE TO REGISTER & PAY YOUR INITIAL DEPOSIT TO LEARNING JOURNEYS***

NOTE: Once Learning Journeys receives your deposit, you will be emailed a registration link, invoice, and information about Trip Cancellation, Interruption and Medical Evacuation Insurance they offer.

[SINGLE OCCUPANCY/1 PERSON TRAVELING ALONE/ 1 ROOM – Click to REGISTER and pay \\$1,000 NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT](#)

**DOUBLE OCCUPANCY/2 PEOPLE SHARING 1 ROOM/ *PAYING SEPARATELY*:** If you choose to share a room with someone, you are responsible for confirming the female roommate with whom you are sharing throughout the Exploration. Roommates are NOT provided by Marty Harger, Essential Earth Explorations or Learning Journeys. BOTH parties of the shared room must name each other as roommates and must reserve their room with deposits on the same day, through a customized link provided by Marty Harger. **If you plan to share a room with another woman on this Exploration, please contact Marty today for the customized link – do NOT register via the pink or blue buttons shown.**

[DOUBLE OCCUPANCY/2 PEOPLE SHARING 1 ROOM/1 PERSON MAKING ALL PAYMENTS – Click to REGISTER and pay \\$2,000 NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT](#)



## Terms & Conditions

TERMS & CONDITIONS. THIS AGREEMENT sets forth the terms under which we, Learning Journeys agrees to provide you with the services and accommodations for your custom/or package tour.

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT. **A \$1,000 non-refundable per person deposit is due at the time of booking via the link provided.** Ninety-five (95) days prior to departure, the non-refundable land balance is due to Learning Journeys. For bookings made within 95 days of departure, payment must be wired to Learning Journeys bank account or credit cards must be used for full payment.

FINAL DOCUMENTS REVIEW. While Learning Journeys takes the utmost care in making sure the information on your itinerary and travel vouchers (collectively, “Final Documents”) is complete and accurate, it is your responsibility to carefully read and review the final documents upon receipt. Failure to contact us in time to allow for the correction and re-sending of the final documents could result in the loss or cancellation of your reservation, tickets or services listed on the documents for which Learning Journeys will not be responsible. In such a case, no refunds will be possible. Documents will not be issued unless full payment has been received. Your final travel documents will be emailed to you 14 days prior to departure.

**UNUSED TOUR ELEMENTS.** No refund will be given for any unused tour features, whether because of customer's choice, operational reasons, because of bad weather or any other reason.

**ERRORS.** In case of printing, typographical error, computer error, verbal or human billing error, we reserve the right to invoice or re-invoice participants with corrected billing.

**BAGGAGE.** Each traveler is limited to one large suitcase (maximum 50 lbs.) and one small carry on due to limited baggage area on buses. For some airlines and taxi/coach transfers, extra luggage may be subject to an extra charge due on the spot.

You are responsible for complying with the airline regulations concerning their baggage allowances and with the airline restrictions on the size, weight and contents of your check-in and carry-on bags. Check with the carrier for luggage guidelines. Learning Journeys is not responsible for loss or damage of luggage or personal belongings. Travel Insurance is strongly recommended to cover loss or damage of your luggage.

**AIRPORT:** We recommend you arrive to the airport for your check-in at least 3 hours prior to your international flight departure time and 2 hours prior for your domestic flights.

**PASSPORT and VISA:**

For travel outside the United States U.S. citizens must have valid passports, with an expiration date of at least six months after the scheduled return date. If possible, you should renew your passport approximately 9 months before it expires. Travelers are responsible for ensuring that they have the proper travel documents and **MUST CHECK** with the respective consulate(s) or visa agency to determine whether any visas are required. Each traveler is responsible for processing any required visas. Please ask the respective consulate for visa processing schedule to ensure you receive your documentation at least 7 days prior to departure. Any information provided pertains to US citizens only. Non-US citizens should check with the respective consulate of the country(s) to be visited for current entry requirements.

A valid Government-issued photo ID is required for all domestic flights within USA. It is suggested that you use a passport for domestic travel as well. Select countries require additional documentation for children under the age of 18 years especially when one parent is traveling without the other parent. Learning Journeys is not responsible for denial of boarding due to passenger negligence and cannot offer assistance on location or at the airport. If a passenger has not met the requirements as stated above and is denied boarding the cost of the tour is fully non-refundable.

**NAMES MUST MATCH PASSPORT.** The name given on your Learning Journeys booking must match the name on your passport, and in-turn, the name on your air ticket. Any variation between the spelling of your name on your air-ticket and passport will require re-ticketing, often at the cost of a completely new ticket. The airline will deny boarding if your airline ticket does not match your passport. Learning Journeys requires a copy of passengers' passport be forwarded no later than 95 days prior to departure. Passengers are responsible for providing accurate information including the exact name as listed on the passport, date of birth and passport number. If the information forwarded is incorrect, the passenger will be liable for any change fees which may occur.

**FEES FOR CANCELED LAND SERVICES.** If you cancel your complete land reservation, the cancellation charges shown below will apply. Cancellation charges are based on the number of days from the time Learning Journeys is notified of your cancellation, to the start of the services provided – whether air and land or just land services. (Some charges may be avoided by your purchasing optional travel insurance explained below).

**CANCELLATIONS & COMPLAINTS.** We work around-the-clock to ensure your vacation goes smoothly and according to plan. But unexpected problems, often out of our control, can still arise. We urge you to work with us in correcting the problem on the spot instead of dealing with it after you return home. If your program has a tour manager, you are required to work with them to resolve pending issues.

If a cancellation or refund is warranted, it is under the express condition that you release Learning Journeys from all further liability and you thereby waive all additional rights and remedies under this contract or any applicable state, federal or foreign law.

**GUESTS NEEDING SPECIAL ASSISTANCE.** We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance to a tour member for walking, dining, getting on and off motor coaches and other transportation vehicles, or other personal needs. Travelers who need such assistance must be accompanied by a qualified companion. It is the passenger's responsibility to travel with a collapsible wheelchair, if needed. Electric wheelchairs are not permitted. Please provide your Learning Journeys Program Manager about any specific dietary needs or any specific issues which may require attention during your program.

**GROUND TRANSPORTATION.** Deluxe motor coach transportation will be provided to you based on the number of participants in your party. Should the number of participants on any motor coach tour drop below estimated passengers, we reserve the right to operate the tour with a smaller vehicle. Please also note that smaller coaches may not have the same facilities as full-size coaches (no lavatories, TV, etc.). Baggage is limited to one carry on and one suitcase per person. If luggage guidelines are not followed, a second vehicle may be

added to accommodate the excess baggage at the passenger's expense. There are strict laws concerning driver hours on touring coaches that must be always respected. A typical touring day can last 8 hours only. In addition, here are mandatory rest periods during the working day and weekly rest periods depending on the length of the tour.

**DELAY CHARGES:** If your flight delays cause additional charges for transportation/guides waiting times you will be responsible to pay extra charge on the spot directly to the vendor. If you purchased travel insurance, it may be covered under the policy. We recommend you check with your Travel insurance company on coverage for trip delay.

**EXPERIENCES & TRANSFERS:** Sightseeing and entrance fees have been included as specified in itinerary. All foreign airport transfers are also included in the land cost unless otherwise requested by the agent. Land arrangements will be provided as described; however, Learning Journeys reserves the right to substitute sightseeing features. Optional add ons and hotel reservations are non-refundable once reserved and paid. If an optional service is canceled by Learning Journey, a refund will be issued.

**TIPS AND SERVICE CHARGES:** All taxes and service charges levied by the hotels or charged by various governments and municipalities are included. We have not included tips to the restaurants, chambermaids, drivers/guide or escort. Tips to servers, chambermaids and local guides should be left at the time of service. Tour Manager and driver tips should be given at the end of the tour.

Suggest Tipping in USD

Suggested Tipping to be given in the end of each tour:

- Local Guide: \$8 for half-day tour and \$10 per person for a full day
- Driver: \$4 per person per day
- Tour Escort: \$10 per person per day

Exceptional circumstances may warrant a higher tip.

**SINGLE ROOMS.** Be aware that single rooms are often smaller than double rooms. Ask about a "double room/single use" option at a cost above the normal single supplement.

**TRIPLE ROOMS.** Available on most tours. They usually consist of a twin bedded room with an additional folding bed or cot for the third person. This may not be comfortable for three adults.

**CUSTOMIZED ITINERARY CHANGES.** In rare cases scheduled tours maybe cancelled. In such cases Learning Journeys reserves the right to change the scheduled tour itinerary or

trip features at any time and for any reason, with or without notice and/or to substitute airlines, hotels or features of a similar category for those listed in the confirmed itinerary. Learning Journeys shall not be held liable for any such changes.

**CUSTOMIZED TOUR CANCELLATIONS BY LEARNING JOURNEYS.** From time-to-time a tour departure may be cancelled for lack of participation or other operational reasons. In such a case, Learning Journeys sole responsibility is to provide a complete refund of monies received without any other liability whatsoever including any additional costs or fees related to cancellation of airline tickets or other travel reservations not made by Learning Journeys.

Learning Journeys is not responsible for necessary cancellations due acts of government; bites or attacks by animals, insects or pests; sickness; the lack of appropriate medical care; evacuation to same, if necessary; weather; strikes; acts of God; acts of terrorism or the threat thereof; events of force majeure; war; quarantine; epidemics/pandemic or the threat thereof; criminal activity or any other cause beyond the company's control.

**MISCELLANEOUS.** Foreign air-conditioning systems in public places, hotels and motor coaches are not up to U.S. standards. If due to weather, flight schedules or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend an additional night(s), you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers and meal costs.

The right is reserved to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of these trips at any time. In any such event, Learning Journeys' sole obligation is to refund for any unused accommodations or other trip features. Passenger certifies not to have any mental, physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for himself/herself or other passengers.

**RESPONSIBILITY.** Learning Journeys Ltd. and their employees, shareholders, officers, and directors does not own or operate any entity which goods or services for your trip, including, for example, lodging facilities, transportation companies, guides or trip leaders, food service providers, equipment suppliers, ground operators, etc., including, without limitation, various entities which may utilize the Learning Journeys name. Learning Journeys is not responsible for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such person or entity, nor for any act or inaction of any other third party not under its control.

Without limitation Learning Journeys is not liable for any direct, indirect, consequential, or incidental damage, injury, death, loss, accident, delay, inconvenience, or irregularity of any kind which may be occasioned by reason of any act or omission beyond its control, including, without limitation, any willful or negligent act, failure to act, breach of contract of any third party, such as an airline, train, hotel, restaurant, or food supplier; bus, taxi, van, or



local ground handler; local outfitter or guide, which is, to, or does supply any goods or services for this trip.

Learning Journeys is not responsible for any loss, injury, death, or inconvenience due to delay or changes in schedule or failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart safely; overbooking or downgrading of accommodations; insolvency or default of any third party; acts of government; bites or attacks by animals, insects or pests; sickness; the lack of appropriate medical care; evacuation to same, if necessary; weather; strikes; acts of God; acts of terrorism or the threat thereof; events of force majeure; war; quarantine; epidemics/pandemic or the threat thereof; criminal activity or any other cause beyond its control and cancellation policies per the contract will apply.

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE WARNINGS.** In the case of a government issued warning, we will provide our utmost consideration to the severity of the warning and accomplish everything possible to safeguard the well-being of our passengers. We reserve the right to evaluate each booking on a case-by-case basis for potential refund/cancellation fees, re-scheduling of tours or itineraries and postponements.

**BINDING ARBITRATION.** I agree that any dispute concerning, relating, or referring to these Terms and Conditions, this release, the catalog, or any other literature concerning my trip, or the trip itself shall be resolved exclusively by binding arbitration according to the then existing commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association in New York. Such proceedings will be governed by substantive New York law. The arbitrator and not any federal, state, or local court or agency shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or part of this contract is void or voidable. Upon payment of a deposit, tour participant indicates acceptance of the above Terms and Conditions and of the Arbitration Agreement.

**NOT INCLUDED:** Passports, laundry, food and beverages not listed on the itinerary International Travel Tax and Portage at U.S. Airports, as well as all other items of a personal nature.

**FORMS OF PAYMENT: CREDIT CARDS.** We accept all major credit cards for the total amount of the cost of the tour.

Please note if you confirm and proceed with your booking you are automatically accepting these Terms and Conditions.

**See the REGISTRATION BUTTONS above the Terms & Conditions to secure your place on my 2025 Essence of Bulgaria Exploration!**

I hope you'll join me in 2025!

—*Marty Harger*

801-712-5406 contact Marty with any questions



**2025 Essence of Bulgaria Exploration**

