

Proposed Itinerary for
***Natural and Cultural Resources Based Tourism in Bulgaria –
 Study Abroad & Service Learning Experience***

May Session (“Maymester”): May 12–June 5, 2009

Note: This itinerary is proposed and the activities are based on plans set months before departure; therefore, deviations from this plan due to unforeseen circumstances may occur.

Day	Destination	Date	Time	Lecture Topic or Activity (instructors)	Contact hours¹
	Athens (pre-departure)	16 March, Monday	7:00–9:00 pm	Orientation (Miller, Reap, Schweitzer)	2 L
	Athens (pre-departure)	24 March, Tuesday	7:00–9:00 pm	Orientation meeting & preparation for departure (Miller, Reap, Schweitzer)	2 L
1.a.	Departure (Athens→Atlanta→Stopover→Sofia)	12 May, Tuesday	Tba	Begin travel to Sofia, Bulgaria	
1.b.	Sofia, BUL	13 May, Wednesday		Arrive and acclimate; free day	
2.	Sofia	14 May, Thursday	9:00 –12:00; lunch- 13:00 – 16:00	Walking tour of Sofia: Alexander Nevski Church including the Museum of Bulgarian Icons (the Crypt), Church of Sveta Sofia ^a , Russian Church, National Arts Gallery, President’s Bldg. (changing of the guards), Chapel of Sveta Petka Paraskeva, Rotunda of Sveti Georgi, Banya Bashi Mosque, Mineral Baths, Hali, Synagogue. (Hosts: ^a Mr. Stanislav , Acad. Fine Arts, Sofia, & Soros Center for the Arts; Sofia University students).	6 F
			17:00 – 18:00	Summary meeting; journal writing	1 D
			18:30 – tba	Dinner	
3.	Sofia	15 May, Friday	9:00 – 12:00	Tour main building of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” and its history; introduction to Bulgaria (cultural history; ecological regions) (Dr. Nikolina Popova, Dr. Maria Vodenska; Dr. Anelia Kenarova)	3 L
			12:00 – 13:00	Lunch (restaurant in main building)	
			13:00 – 17:00	Visits to museums: National Museum of Natural History; National Ethnographic Museum (Center of Traditional Folk Arts and Crafts); National Archeological Museum	4 F
			17:30 – 18:30	Summary meeting; journal writing	1 D
			18:30 – tba	Dinner	

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4.	Sofia	16 May, Saturday	9:00 – 10:30	Development of sustainable tourism in rural communities (Dr. Nikolina Popova, Dr. Maria Vodenska);	1.5 L
			10:45 – 12:30	Planning for sustainable tourism in Borovets, Samokov, and Rila Mountains ski resort areas; Black Sea development (Dr. Vesilina Troyeva);	1.5 L
			12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	3 F
			13:30 – 17:00	Visit to museum: National History Museum	1 D
			18:00 – 19:00	Summary meeting; journal writing	
			19:00 – tba	Dinner	
5.	Sofia	17 May, Sunday		Free day in Sofia	
6.	Sofia	18 May, Monday	9:00 – 11:00	Strategy for “eco-” tourism development in Bulgaria (Dr. Nikolina Popova, Dr. Maria Vodenska);	2 L
			11:15 – 13:15	Conservation & education concerning cultural heritage sites (Dr. Hristina Staneva, Dr. Todor Krestev);	2 L
			13:30 – 14:30	Lunch	
			15:00 – 17:00	Trip to Boyana Church (Host: Dr. Elka Bakalova , Inst. of Art Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences)	2 F
			17:30 – 18:30	Summary meeting; journal writing	1 D
			19:00 – tba	Dinner & Social with Sofia University students	
7.	Sofia → Gabrovo (~266 km)	19 May, Tuesday	8:00 – 12:00	Travel to Gabrovo by chartered bus	
			12:00 – 13:00	Background and introduction to Central Balkan National Park (CBNP); administrative structure of CBNP management; goals & objectives of CBNP (Ms. Nela Rachevitz)	1 L
			13:00 – 18:00	Ethnographic Museum Village (includes lunch)	4 F
			18:00 – 19:00	Settle into Accommodations	
			19:00 – 22:00	Dinner; summary meeting; journal writing	1 D
			22:00 –	Free evening at accommodations	

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8.	Gabrovo → Shipka Pass	20 May, Wednesday	8:00 – 13:00	Travel to Shipka Pass monuments and cultural sites (e.g., Goljamata kosmatka [tomb of Thracian King Sentus III]).	4.5 F
	Shipka Pass → Kalofer		13:00 – 14:30	Lunch	
			14:30 – 17:00	Travel to Kalofer; Presentation: Eco-tourism Association Centers – tourism development relative to CBNP, the community of Kalofer, and surrounding areas (Mr. Dimitar Marinov)	1 L
	Kalofer → Apriltsi (~105 km)		17:00 – 19:00	Travel to Apriltsi by way of Trojan – Karnare pass; settle into accommodations	
			19:00 – 21:30	Dinner; Summary meeting; journal writing	1.5 D
		21:30 –	Free evening at accommodations		
9.	Apriltsi	21 May, Thursday	9:00 – 11:00	Apriltsi Eco-tourism Association Center: history of area; development of tourism in Apriltsi community and CBNP; achievements, current needs, plans for future (Mr. Theodor Nikolov, tba)	2 L
			11:00 – 13:00	Finalize project teams, solidify project ideas; develop plan of action for projects (Schweitzer, Miller, Spear, Nikolov)	2 L
			13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
			14:00 – 17:00	Independent service project work (instructors and hosts available for consultation and assistance) ^b	3 S
			17:00 – 18:00	Summary meeting; journal writing	1 D
			18:00 – tba	Dinner	
10.	Apriltsi	22 May, Friday	9:00	Submit journal for grading and review by instructors	
			9:00 – 16:00 (lunch)	Independent service project work (instructors and hosts available for consultation and assistance)	6 S
			16:00 – 17:00	Summary meeting; journal writing	1 D
			17:00 – tba	Dinner	

^b Groups may work at sites away from Apriltsi

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11.	Apriltsi	23 May, Saturday	9:00 – 16:00 (lunch)	Independent project work (instructors and hosts available for consultation and assistance)	6 S
			16:00 – 17:00	Summary meeting; journal writing	1 D
			19:00 – tba	Dinner	
12.	Apriltsi	24 May, Sunday	9:00 – 16:00 (lunch)	Independent work on project presentation (instructors and hosts available for consultation and assistance)	6 S
			16:00 – 17:00	Summary meeting; journal writing	1 D
			19:00 – tba	Dinner	
13.	Apriltsi	25 May, Monday	9:00 – 12:00	Presentation of projects to Apriltsi community; submit mid-term journals to instructors	3 L
			12:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
			14:00 – 17:00	Pack and clean	
			17:00 – tba	Final day dinner and social	
14.	Apriltsi → Veliko Turnovo (80 km) → Shoumen (130 km)	26 May, Tuesday	9:00 – 12:00	Travel from Apriltsi to Veliko Turnovo and tour of Tzarevets castle and other heritage sites	2 F
			12:00 – 13:00	Lunch in Veliko Turnovo	
			13:00 – 17:00	Travel from Veliko Turnovo to Shoumen. Visit Veliki Preslav (http://www.museum-preslav.com) and Madara Rider	2 F
			17:00 – 18:00	Settle into accommodations in Shoumen	
			18:00 – 21:00	Dinner then summary meeting; journal writing	1 D
			21:00 –	Free evening at accommodations	
15.	Shoumen → Varna (90 km) → Nessebur (105 km) → Kiten (80 km)	27 May, Wednesday	9:00 – 12:00	Travel from Shoumen to Varna; visit 19th-century Cathedral of the Assumption of the Virgin; extensive ruins of the Roman Spa	2 F
			12:00 – 13:00	Lunch in Varna	
			13:00 – 16:00	Travel from Varna to Nessebur; tour heritage sites	2 F
			16:00 – 18:00	Travel from Nessebur to Kiten; settle into accommodations	
			18:00 – 21:00	Dinner then summary meeting, journal writing	1 D
			21:00 –	Free evening at accommodations	

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16.	Kiten	28 May, Thursday	9:00 – 12:00	Visit to Veleka River and tour along it (this estuary and some km of the river are protected areas); river is 30 km south of Kiten (will rent boats; host – Dr. V. Bogoev)	2.5 F
			12:00 – 13:00	Lunch; return to Kiten	
			13:00 – 16:00	Visit Ropotamo River (a reserve, 13 km north of Kiten; will rent boats; host – Dr. V. Bogoev)	2.5 F
			16:00 – 18:00	Summary meeting; journal writing	
			18:00 – 20:00	Dinner	
17.	Kiten → Sofia	29 May, Friday	9:00 – 12:00	Travel from Kiten to Sofia by chartered bus (some stops along the way at important sites)	2 D
			12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	
			13:00–14:00	Check into hotels in Sofia	
			14:00–16:00	Discussion and journal writing	
			16:00 –	Afternoon and evening free	
18.	Sofia	30 May, Saturday	9:00 – 16:00	Work on service project reports in computer labs and library, Sofia University	6 S
			12:00	Lunch	
			19:00	Dinner	
19.	Sofia	31 May, Sunday	9:00 – 16:00	Work on project reports and presentation in computer labs and library, Sofia University	6 S
			12:00	Lunch	
			19:00	Dinner	
20.	Sofia	1 June, Monday	9:00 – 16:00	Finalize project reports and presentation in computer labs and library, Sofia University	6 S
			12:00	Lunch	
			19:00	Dinner	
21.	Sofia	2 June, Tuesday	10:00 – 13:00	Give Project Presentations & Reports to Sofia University and CBNP hosts; and to instructors	3 L
			13:00 – 15:00	Lunch	
			15:00 –	Free time in Sofia (dinner on your own)	

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22.	Sofia	3 June, Wednesday	9:00 – 15:00	Visit the reserve “Bistrishko branishte” on Vitosha Mountain (includes stop for lunch; host – Dr. V. Bogoev)	5 F
			17:00	Submit final journal to instructors	
			18:00 – 21:00	Going away dinner and social with hosts and students	
23.	Sofia	4 June, Thursday	10:00 – 11:30	Complete evaluation forms for course	
			11:30 – 13:00	Lunch	
			13:00 –	Pack; free time in Sofia	
24.	Sofia → stopover → Atlanta → Athens	5 June, Friday	Tba	Leave Bulgaria via air line	

¹L = Lecture hours; D = Discussion hours; F = field hours; S = Service hours. Two field or service hours = 1 lecture or discussion hour

Totals:

L = 27

F = 37

D = 12

S = 39