

# The Roman roads of Thracian Tourist Region

A two-day itinerary suitable for Bulgarian and  
international tourists all year long

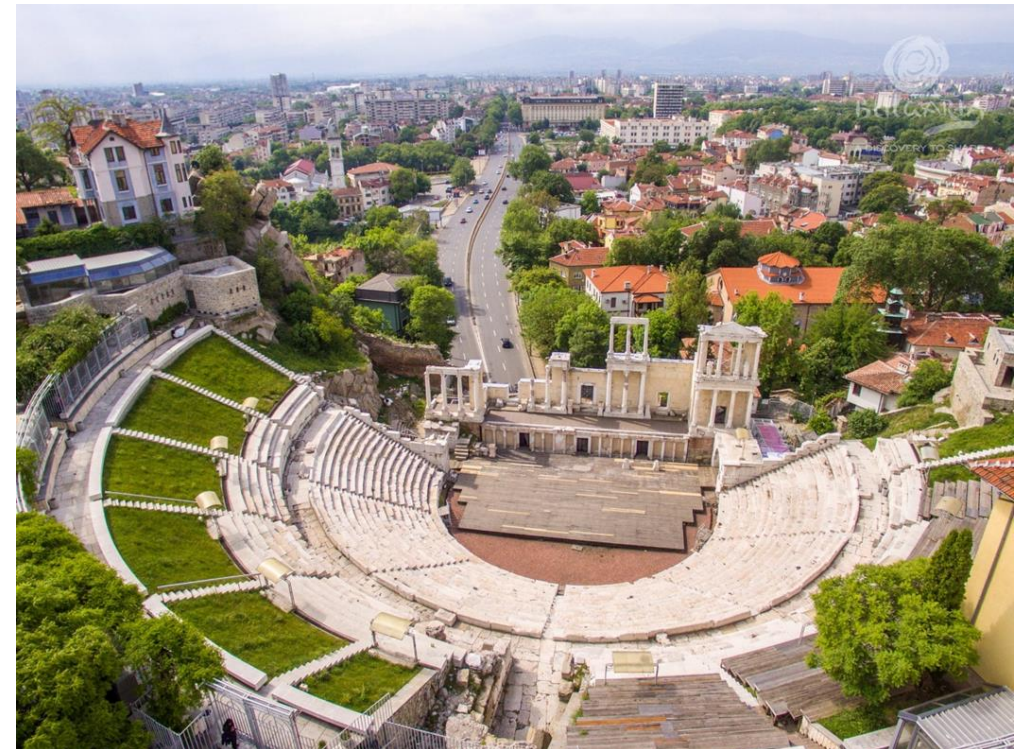


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Before noon – arrival in **Plovdiv** (Ancient Plovdiv, East Gate)

**Hisar Kapia** – there is a gate to this place since ancient times. Its foundations are located (II century) under the street pavement. Today's appearance of the gate is determined by a medieval renovation carried out in XI-XIII century. Above the outer arch a well visible specific construction typical for the period of the Second Bulgarian Empire can be seen.

**Ancient theater** - one of the best preserved in the world, with 28 rows of marble seats. Built in the 1st century AD, in addition to theatrical performances, it was used for gladiatorial and hunting games. It was in use until the 5th century and gathered about 6,000 spectators. Today it is a stage for musical and dramatic art. Among the most significant events are the annual International Folklore Festival, Opera Open, Sounds of the Ages Rock Festival and many more.





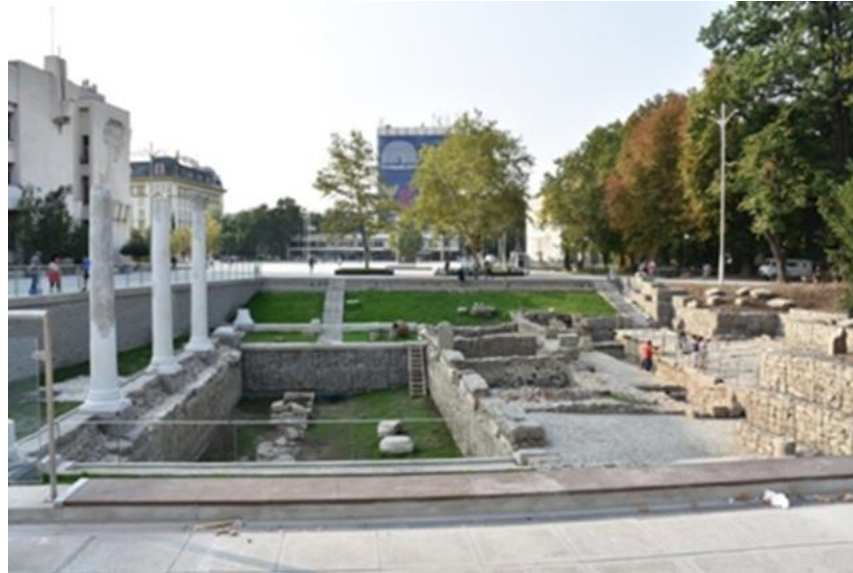


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**The Roman Stadium** was built in 2nd century during the reign of Emperor Hadrian. It is approximately 240 m in length and 50 m wide, with capacity for 30,000 spectators. Today it is located under the main pedestrian street of Plovdiv and you can sit on some of the 14 rows of marble seats. The archeological finds of 3 sectors of the Ancient Stadium of Philippopolis are open for visitors.

**Ancient Forum (Agora)** of Philippopolis was the commercial, administrative and religious center of the ancient city. It was used as a place for debates, meetings, holidays, state affairs. Located on an area of 20 decares, in the center of Philippopolis with dimensions 143m by 136m. It is located below today's main square.

The Odeon has 300-350 seats and it used to serve as the seat of the city council of Philippopolis. Later on it was turned into a theater. Today the Odeon is used for chamber theatrical, musical and literary events.







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Lunch – for example at Odeon restaurant. It features oak furniture, colorful glass murals, a fireplace and valuable paintings. It serves vegetarian dishes, traditional Bulgarian and international cuisine, as well as special vegan menus and a wide selection of wines.

**Ancient peristyle building Eirene** exhibits antique polychrome floor mosaics from the 3rd – 4th century BC. The residential building occupies a central place between the private dwellings in the Ancient Philippopolis and was home of a prominent citizen of the Ancient city. In the representative hall of the dwelling the rooms were covered with multicolored mosaics, with the opus tessellatum technique. In the middle of the central room one can see a precise mosaic with a masterfully crafted female image with the inscription: EIRHNE - the Greek goddess of peace, daughter of Zeus and Themis.



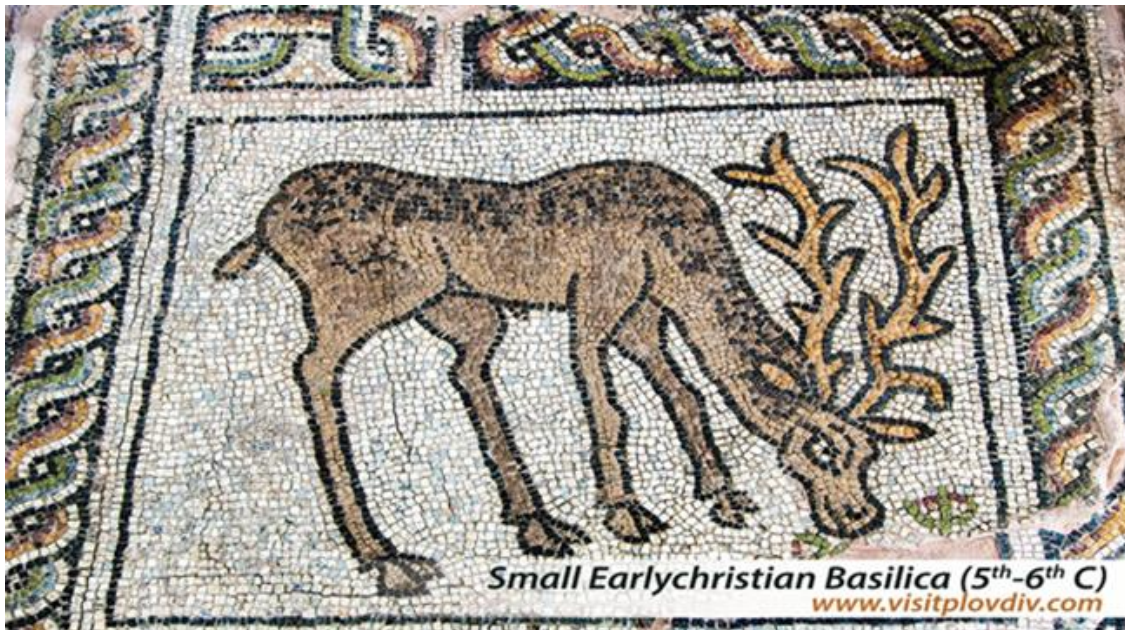




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**Bishop's Basilica of Philippopolis** – a revealed coin of Emperor Licinius (308-324) indicates that it was among the first basilicas built in the Roman Empire. Its decoration and location near the forum of the ancient city testify to the large and influential Christian community in Philippopolis. It has impressive architecture - central and two side naves, apse, narthex and an atrium with colonnades. In the central nave one could see a marble presbyterium. Its interior was adorned with columns with Christian symbols, murals and lavish mosaic floors. The mosaics are executed in three stages, form two layers and have a total area of 2000 sq.m.

**Small Basilica** - 5th century. Its dimensions are 20 x 13 m, three-naves with rich decoration and beautiful floor mosaics. It was located on the outskirts of ancient Philippopolis, near the eastern necropolis. At the end of the 6th century, it was abandoned and gradually destroyed, being used as a source of building material. In the X – XI century, the ruins were excavated, which leaves traces on the mosaics on the floor. Today it acts as an "insitu" museum.







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Arrival and accommodation in Yustina Winery - located in Ustina village in the outskirts of the Rhodopi Mountains, 26 km from Plovdiv. The site of the cellar is purposely chosen - in this area you can hear many legends about the Thracians and their wine, about ancient rituals and mysteries. Herodotus describes the local Thracians as a militant tribe with an independent spirit and guardians of the Sanctuary of Dionysus. The first vines were transported from the Middle East. According to Homer, the most aromatic and heavy wine was from Thrace. The mission of Yustina Winery is creation of quality wines combined with wine tourism, in an area with rich cultural and historical heritage and wonderful nature.

Wine tasting and dinner

Day 2 – breakfast and departure to Stara Zagora





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## Arrival in **Stara Zagora**

**Ancient Forum Augusta Trayana** – the complex includes a semicircular square with a preserved pedestal of an imperial statue, an amphitheater auditorium with nine rows of stone seats facing the square, the southern facade of the city baths, the western gate and the city walls, the ancient street (decumanus maximus), along which the remains of 36 stores were discovered. The forum complex of the ancient city is located in the center of Stara Zagora and is a stage for concerts, performances and other events. It is part of the Augusta Trayana - Vereya Archaeological Reserve.



*Античен форум  
на Августа Траяна*



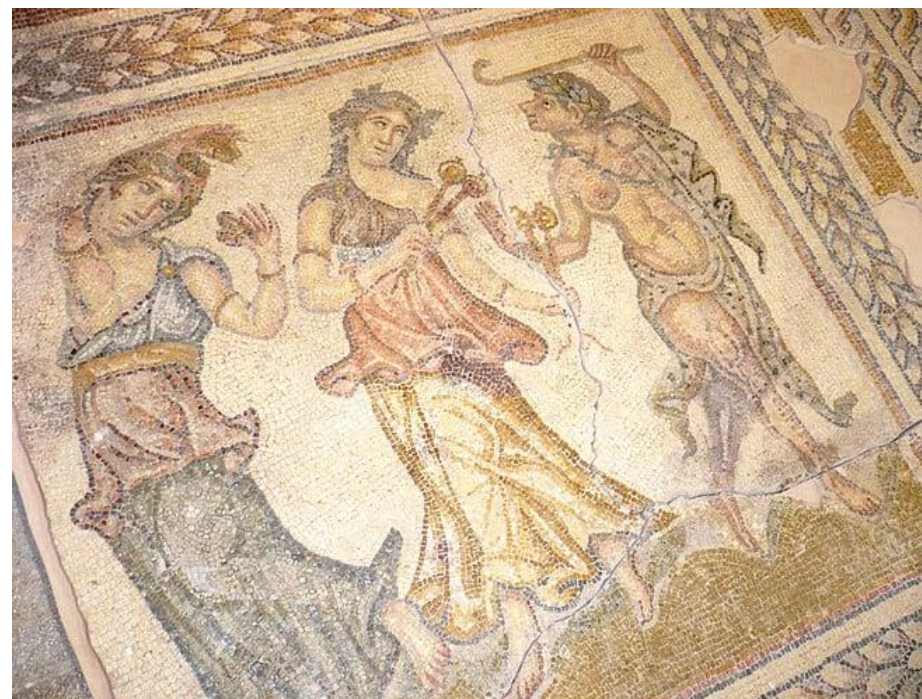




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**Late antique residential house** with mosaic, IV century - figural composition in more than ten colors and shades decorates the space around a small decorative pool in the reception hall of a rich home, presents the complete cosmogonic scheme: water, earth and heaven.

**Late antique public building** with mosaic, IV-VI centuries. - floor mosaics from the executive hall, the entrance hall and the porticos of the building, rich in geometric shapes, braids, pagan and Christian symbols.







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## Lunch

**Regional History Museum** - the museum halls, located on four levels, trace the millennial history of the city and the region. The Antiquity exhibition exhibits objects related to the daily life of the inhabitants of Augusta Trayana, the rich collections of coins, bronze and glass vessels stand out. On the first exposition level, the preserved part of the ancient street (cardo maximus) and the remains of the adjoining building from the east are attractively presented, as well as a beautiful floor mosaic called "Dionysian procession" (IV century) - a complex composition of geometric ornaments and exquisite shaped figural stage, made in more than 15 color shades.

Departure (Sofia or Plovdiv)

The approximate cost of the itinerary is about BGN 200, excluding travel cost.