Here comes the sun

Look beyond Sunny Beach’s lively character and there’s more to the resort than meets the eye, finds Natalie Marsh.

Here’s something charming about wandering around the cobbled streets of a historical town overseas. There’s ancient architecture seemingly everywhere I turn, and ruins of churches hidden down some of the backstreets, sitting side by side with local shops and tourists enjoying a drink alfresco.

I’m in Nessebar, on the Black Sea coast of Bulgaria. Named a Unesco World Heritage Site back in 1983, the small town was once home to 40 churches, and the ruins of many can still be seen today. Some are small, with intricately beautiful architecture, while others have structures large enough to explore, imagining how majestic they must have looked centuries ago.

Looking north along the coast, I can see my home for my few days’ stay – the vibrant resort of Sunny Beach. I’m with tour operator Balkan Holidays, on a mega-fam trip with travel agents from across the UK, ready to see what Sunny Beach and the nearby towns have to offer.

Sun and sea

It’s early June, but summer is well under way in Sunny Beach. Staying true to its name, the resort welcomes warm temperatures between May and September, sitting comfortably in the low to mid-20s by June.

Stretching for five miles along the coastline of the Black Sea, Sunny Beach is best known for its nightlife. The resort is home to more than 200 hotels, and ruins of churches hidden down some of the backstreets, sitting side by side with local shops and tourists enjoying a drink alfresco.

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WHERE TO STAY

Hotel Laguna Park
This four-star all-inclusive property boasts great facilities, making it popular with families. Its outdoor areas have a water park, paddling pool and five pools. The hotel’s proximity to the beach, a short walk from the promenade and next to local shops, is a great selling point.

Hotel Tarkia Garden
As the name suggests, this family-run property is situated in a beautiful garden, among hundreds of flowers and plants, along with the owner’s rabbits and tortoises. With only 140 rooms, Tarkia Garden is on the smaller side, but about 60% of customers are repeat visitors. Although it’s only 250m from the beach, the property boasts great-value breaks.

Hotel Globo
This beachfront hotel is a convenient place to stay if your customers want to be near the centre of the resort. The rooms are spacious and guests can stay on a half-board or bed-and-breakfast basis. The hotel has three restaurants, a spa and health centre.

Ask the agents

“Ask the agents” section could be added as per the instructions.

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