



## Tourists Memo for a trip to Bulgaria

### Visa

For a tourist trip to Bulgaria citizens of Russia and the CIS need a national Bulgarian visa. You can enter in Bulgaria with the current multiple Schengen visa as well.

### Flight

You must be at the airport 2.5 - 3 hours prior to departure, to register for the flight and the luggage. Check-in closes 40 minutes before departure. It is necessary need to go through customs and border control before boarding the flight.

### Baggage allowance

Free baggage allowance, the overall parameters of baggage and excess baggage rates depend on the airline and class of service.

It is prohibited to carry stabbing, sharp objects (including manicure tools), as well as any liquids and gels in packaging larger than 100 ml in hand luggage.

### Phone numbers in case of need:

- Russian Embassy in Sofia:

Telephone (office. Days): (+359 2) 963-09-14, (+359 2) 963-13-14

Telephone (free): (359 2) 963-44-58

- Embassy of Russia in Varna:

Phone: (+359 52) 60-27-18

### Before leaving for Bulgaria check the following documents:

- passport with a valid visa;
- tickets;
- medical insurance policy;
- travel voucher.

## General information about Bulgaria

### Capital

Sofia

### Time

Local time in Bulgaria:

Orientalium Tempus - EET (GMT + II)



### **Language**

Official language - Bulgarian. Bulgarian belongs to the Slavic group of languages, based on Cyrillic. In hotels staff generally speaks English, German and Russian languages.

### **Currency**

Bulgarian lev. There are banknotes of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 leva, coins - 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 leva and 50 stotinkas. You can exchange foreign currency in hotels and exchange offices of banks.

### **Electricity**

Mains voltage - 220 volts across the country.

### **Transport**

Bulgaria has almost all kinds of urban and intercity transport. There is a large number of companies offering car rental. You can easily take a taxi. Better to avoid taxis without meters, otherwise the cost of the trip may exceed expectations.

### **Holidays and public holidays**

January 1 - New Year;

March 3 - Liberation Day from the Ottoman yoke;

May 1 - Labour Day;

May 6 - Day of the Bulgarian Army and courage;

May 24 - Festival of Bulgarian Culture and Slavonic Literature Day Saints Cyril and Methodius;

September 6 - Day of Unification of Bulgaria;

September 22 - Independence Day;

November 1 - Day of People's Enlightenment;

December 25 - Christmas.

### **Climate**

In the prevailing part of the country the climate is moderately continental, sub goes to the Mediterranean. For resorts in Bulgaria in the spring and summer and autumn months warm mild weather is usual. The swimming season on the Black Sea coast lasts from May to October. The average temperature in May is 20 ° C in June and September - 25 ° C in July and August - + 26-28 ° C.

### **Traditions and Culture**

Bulgaria is a welcoming and friendly Slavic nation. Most of the Bulgarian population is Orthodox Christians. Traditional home life keeps its effect on the modern lifestyle, the Bulgarians create strong families and support family ties.

The largest and the most favorite holidays to Bulgaria are Christmas and the Resurrection of Christ. These days several generations of a family gather together, give each other gifts and arrange celebrations. In the special favour are religious holidays such as Epiphany, Assumption, All Souls' Day, Lazarus Saturday.



Many Bulgarian customs and celebrations originate from ancient times, when people worshiped the power of natural elements and tried to tame them. For example, the ancient mystical ritual Fire dancing (Firewalking), when barefoot dancers perform a dance on hot coals under the traditional melody is widely known. In its present form, the ritual is performed on the day of Saints Constantine and Helen, May 21. March 1 Bulgarians celebrate favorite ancient folk festival of early spring, Baba Marta. The symbol of the holiday is Martenitsa - red and white wool threads knitted like brushes or symbolic human figures. Bulgarians give them to each other with wishes of happiness, health and longevity.

Folk arts and crafts are still preserved and maintained in Bulgaria, like Bulgarian famous embroidery and ceramics, traditional blankets and carpets, exquisite carvings and jewelry.

Bulgarians are very friendly, welcoming and hospitable. The closeness of the language and religion of the Bulgarians and Russian help them to understand each other well.

**Note:**

- A nod in Bulgaria means "no", movements of head to the right and to the left - "yes."
- Do not point the finger at objects, as locals consider this gesture offensive.
- Read in Bulgarian easier than listening to understand, especially if you speak Russian.
- Useful words:

Zapovyadayte - please, I beg you;

Molya - please;

Blagodarya - thanks;

Chadr - umbrella;

Pari - money;

Gara - Station (Avtogara, aerogara and zhelezoptna - railway);

Staya - room;

Koufar - suitcase;

And, of course,

**DOBRE DOSHLI! - Welcome!**