

Bulgaria



Travel Advice

DIALLING CODE: +359

CURRENCY: LEV

EASTERN EUROPEAN STANDARD TIME: GMT + 2

EASTERN EUROPEAN SUMMER TIME: GMT + 3

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

The official language is Bulgarian, which belongs to the group of Slavic languages. English is widely used but outside of Sofia translators are often required. Second languages are German and Russian.

Bulgarians shake their heads for 'Yes' and nod for 'No', and that could be a cause for potential misunderstanding.

MONEY

You can buy Bulgarian Leva from banks and foreign exchange bureaux. There are many exchange offices in Bulgaria that exchange all major currencies. Always check the rates of exchange before making a transaction. You should change money in banks, foreign exchange bureaux or hotels.

Do not use sellers on the street.

There is a relatively well-developed network of ATMs that accept standard international credit and debit cards.

BLACK SEA COAST

Average air temperature in the summer is about 28°C, water temperature: 25°C. There are more than 240 hours of sunshine in May and September and more than 300 hours in July and August. The two international airports of Varna and Bourgas connect the Bulgarian Black Sea Riviera with the rest of the world.

TRANSPORT

Bulgaria has 4 international airports – Sofia, Varna, Plovdiv and Burgas.

Bourgas Airport is the closest to Lozenets: <http://www.bourgas-airport.com>

Railway transport in Bulgaria is accessible and the railway network covers all larger towns and populated places in Bulgaria. The railway lines cross all land borders of Bulgaria. The large European railway line Orient Express crosses the country.

Tickets can be bought on the very railway stations, in the transport offices in towns and cities, and in tourist agencies. International tickets are issued in the offices, the agencies and on the international desks of the stations.

More information at the Bulgarian State Railways: www.bdz.bg

The water border points are on river (along the Danube river) and on sea (along the Black Sea coast).

The primary sea ports, which perform marine transport in Bulgaria, are Varna and Burgas ports.

Along the Danube River there is a border checkpoint by the village of Vrav, as well as along the entire length of the river, at the towns of Vidin, Lom, Oryahovo, Ruse, Tutrakan and Silistra.

There are many private carriers with boats, yachts and motor boats that travel to the local landmarks and conduct river or sea tours on request of the customers.

Ports:

Varna: www.port-varna.bg

Burgas: www.port-burgas.com

Ruse: www.port-ruse-bg.com

Lom: www.portlom.bg

Vidin: www.cmamyc.com/port

Most cities and larger towns have cheap and extensive public transport. There are regular bus services between most major towns in the country. There are several car-hire companies in Burgas, including Hertz, Avis, Europcar, Sixt etc.

Taxis are plentiful and relatively cheap, although vehicles may not be in very good condition. Most taxis are metered. In Bulgaria, yellow taxis are generally considered to be reliable. However, avoid taxis parked outside hotels or in tourist areas. You can ask your hotel to call a taxi.

Always check the tariffs on the vehicle window before boarding.

Bus transport:

Sofia Central Bus Station: www.centralnaavtogara.bg

Varna Bus Station: www.autogaravn.com

Burgas Bus Station: www.burgasbus.info

Plovdiv Bus Station: www.avtogara-plovdiv.info

Ruse Bus Station: www.avtogararuse.org

ROAD TRAVEL

When entering Bulgaria from an EU country in a private vehicle, you must have your driving licence and all original registration and ownership documents, logbook included. You should also present evidence of insurance that is valid in Bulgaria.

If you have hired a car you must have the original contract document to certify that the vehicle can be brought into Bulgaria.

Driving on motorways and main roads out of town requires a toll, in the form of a vignette. Tolls are payable in Bulgarian Leva. You can purchase vignettes at large petrol stations, post offices, border points, ports, and DZI bank offices. You will be fined if you do not carry the appropriate vignette.

USEFUL LINKS

The Weather:

<http://weather.bg/indexen.php>

Exchange rate:

<http://bnb.bg/Statistics/StExternalSector/StExchangeRates/StERForeignCurrencies/index.htm>



this document online.