

Bulgaria

Travel Facts



US State Department Travel Advisory

The US Department of State currently recommends US citizens exercise normal precautions in Bulgaria.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html>

Passport/Visa Requirements

For the latest passport and visa requirements for this country, please consult the U.S. State Department's "Learn About Your Destination" search tool, available through the link below.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages.html>

US Embassy/Consulate

[359] (2) 937-5100; US Embassy in Sofia, 16, Kozyak Street, Sofia 1408, Bulgaria; <https://bg.usembassy.gov/>; acs_sofia@state.gov

LGBTQIA+, Women, and Travelers with Special Needs

When venturing abroad, LGBTQ+ travelers can face unique challenges since laws, attitudes, and legal protections vary from country to country. Consult the website via the link below to learn what precautions to take before and during your trip.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go/travelers-with-special-considerations.html>

Telephone Code

359

Local Emergency Phone

Ambulance: 150; Fire: 160; Police: 166

Vaccinations

The CDC and WHO recommend the following vaccinations for Bulgaria: hepatitis A, hepatitis B, rabies, tickborne encephalitis, meningitis, polio, measles, mumps and rubella (MMR), Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis), chickenpox, shingles, pneumonia, influenza, and COVID-19.

<http://www.who.int/>

Climate

Temperate; cold, damp winters; hot, dry summers

Currency (Code)

Leva (BGN)

Electricity/Voltage/Plug Type(s)

230 V / 50 Hz / plug types (s): C, F



Type C



Type F

Major Languages

Bulgarian, Turkish, Romani

Major Religions

Christian, Muslim, other, none, unspecified

Time Difference

UTC+2 (7 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time); daylight saving time: +1hr, begins last Sunday in March, ends last Sunday in October

Potable Water

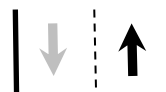
Opt for bottled water

International Driving Permit

Suggested

Road Driving Side

Right



Tourist Destinations

Rila Monastery; Pirin National Park; Plovdiv Roman Theater; Sunny Beach; Tsarevets Fortress; Baba Vida Fortress; Belogradchik Fortress; Thracian Tomb of Sveshtari, an ancient city of Nessebar

Major Sports

Soccer, skiing, basketball

Cultural Practices

Unlike in most other countries, a vertical shaking of the head indicates "no" in Bulgaria while a sideways shaking indicates "yes."

Tipping Guidelines

At restaurants, typically leave 10% of the total bill for a tip. Tip porters 50 levas per bag and hotel housekeepers 1.50 levas per day. It is common to tip taxi drivers 10% of the fare. Tour guides should also be tipped 5-10% of the total bill.

Souvenirs

Rose oil and other rose products, pottery, traditional dolls, handicraft items including hand-tatted lace and wood-carved items

Traditional Cuisine

Shopska salad — tomatoes, cucumbers, onion, raw or roasted peppers, sirene (white brine cheese), and parsley; the vegetables are usually diced and salted and served with a light dressing of sunflower or olive oil and occasionally complemented by vinegar

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