

## Information on Bulgaria

Located right at the crossroad of the East and the West, Bulgaria is a country of more than 13 centuries of history. Throughout the millennia a number of civilizations appeared and thrived on the territory of present-day Bulgaria. It was inhabited by ancient Greeks, Thracians, Romans, Ottomans and others. They all have left innumerable treasures, which are still being unearthed. The Bulgarian settlers and all the other peoples who have lived in this corner of the world have forged a traditional culture that has been preserved to this date. The Bulgarian folklore has gained worldwide acclaim along with the Bulgarian cuisine.

Bulgaria is located in the south-east corner of Europe and occupies the north-eastern part of the Balkan Peninsula. The northern boundary of the country is shaped by the Danube River, the eastern one is formed by the Black Sea, to the south it shares a border with Turkey and Greece while to the south-west and west its neighbours are Northern Macedonia and Serbia. Golden sands cover the Black Sea coast of Bulgaria, which is 378 km long. The sea connects it with three other countries, i.e. Russia, Ukraine, and Georgia. More than 1/3 of Bulgaria's territory is mountainous and the tallest peak on the Balkan Peninsula is in Bulgaria; its name is Musala and it is 2925 high. The greatest attraction for nature-loving tourists are the countless natural phenomena such as stone and sand pyramids, caves, waterfalls, underground lakes and many more. Due to its varied geographical features Bulgaria is famous for its biodiversity.

The climate of the country is continental with warm summers (less hot than in neighbouring Greece) and sometimes very cold winters. Bulgaria is very rich in water resources. It has over 1600 drinking water sources and more than 500 mineral water springs. This naturally makes it a perfect SPA destination.

One of Bulgaria's symbols is the rose. It has been cultivated in Bulgaria for centuries. The Rose of Damascus, or the Damask Rose is grown mainly in the so-called Valley of the Roses in the central part of the Bulgaria where the climate conditions at the foot of the Balkan Mountain have proved to be perfect for it.

It is in the same region that one of the most mysterious and obscure European civilizations thrived alongside the Ancient Greeks. The Thracians have inspired the dreams of many archeologists. Numerous tumuli and tombs still guard their secrets dating back to the middle of the first millennium BCE. A number of priceless golden treasures from that period have been discovered but there is so much more to unveil about the legendary Thracian Kings.

The state of Bulgaria on the Balkans was established in the 7th century. It was among the earliest European states and was inhabited by several Slavic tribes and a semi-nomadic tribe that arrived from the western outskirts of Asia, the proto-Bulgarians, who gave it its name, which has been preserved to this day. During the 9th and the 10th centuries Bulgaria lived through its Golden Age becoming a power to be reckoned with in Europe's south-east. It was on its territory that the Cyrillic Alphabet was first used for the creation of official written works and medieval literary masterpieces. Towards the end of the 14th century Bulgaria fell

under the Ottomans and lost its independence. For five centuries it was within the boundaries of the Ottoman Empire. It was then that the Bulgarian folk traditions played a major role in keeping the national spirit and eventually leading to the survival of the national identity.

Today the population of Bulgaria predominantly considers themselves East-Orthodox Christians. One tenth of the Bulgarian citizens are Muslim. There is a small Catholic minority, jews, and Armenians.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (the official website of the Ministry of Tourism)**

<https://bulgariatravel.org/>

[www.travel-bulgaria.com](http://www.travel-bulgaria.com)

[www.bulgaria.com/index.html](http://www.bulgaria.com/index.html)

## UNESCO listed world heritage sites

### Cultural

- [Ancient City of Nessebar](#) (1983)
- [Boyana Church](#) (1979)
- [Madara Rider](#) (1979)
- [Rila Monastery](#) (1983)
- [Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo](#) (1979)
- [Thracian Tomb of Kazanlak](#) (1979)
- [Thracian Tomb of Sveshtari](#) (1985)

### Natural

- [Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe](#) (2007, 2011, 2017, 2021)
- [Pirin National Park](#) (1983, 2010)
- [Srebarna Nature Reserve](#) (1983)

## **Famous Bulgarians**

**Christo** <https://christojeanneclaude.net/>

**Asen Yordanov**, about whom Neil Armstrong said that it was him who taught the world how to fly. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OWZ\\_UI\\_LvRU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OWZ_UI_LvRU)

**Boris Christoff**, the greatest basso profundo of the second half of the 20th century  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J01aKpTn-2c>

**Nikolay Guyaurov**, another great opera singer  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=asXI3oLofS8>

**Carl Djerassi**, the father of the pill, was of Bulgarian origin.

**John Atanasoff** (1903-1993) was an American inventor born in Bulgaria who created the “first computer” (the Atanasoff – Berry Computer)

**Hristo Stoichkov**, a football legend

**Grigor Dimitrov**, a current tennis star

## **Videos presenting Bulgaria**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_Jen0xARe-Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Jen0xARe-Q)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o84aPJFmVr4&ab\\_channel=exercitius](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o84aPJFmVr4&ab_channel=exercitius)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyquCtjZU\\_M&ab\\_channel=Bolgaria](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyquCtjZU_M&ab_channel=Bolgaria)