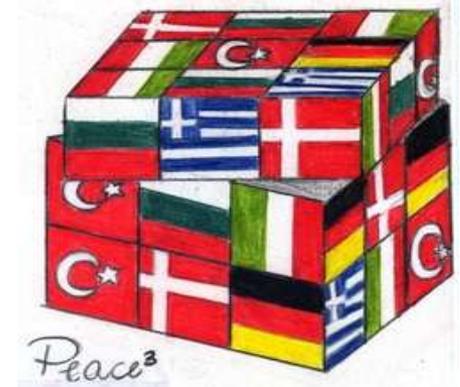




Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme



The joy of exploring village life  
Who we are  
My country - Bulgaria

**Bulgaria** is situated in south-eastern Europe. It occupies the central part of Balkan peninsula on both sides of the Balkan Range, from which the peninsula has taken its name. The greater part of the northern border with Romania passes along the Danube, and the eastern border is the Black Sea. The land borders with Serbia, Macedonia, Turkey and Greece.





**The flag of Bulgaria**



**Coat of arms of Bulgaria**

### **Language: Bulgarian**

The Bulgarians were the first to use Cyrillic script, which is also the alphabet currently used in Russia. The Cyrillic alphabet was adopted by the first Bulgarian Empire in 681 AD.

**Motto: "Unity makes strength"**



# Bulgaria is a country of old history, ethnological and cultural heritage and beautiful nature



Nature Landmarks



Historical Heritage



Sea Resorts



Ancient Buildings



Cultural Sightseeing



Nature Parks



Ski Resorts



Beautiful Nature

With a territory of 110,994 square kilometres (42,855 sq mi), Bulgaria is Europe's 14th-largest country. Its location has made it a historical crossroad for various civilisations and as such it is the home of some of the earliest metalworking, religious and other cultural artifacts in the world.



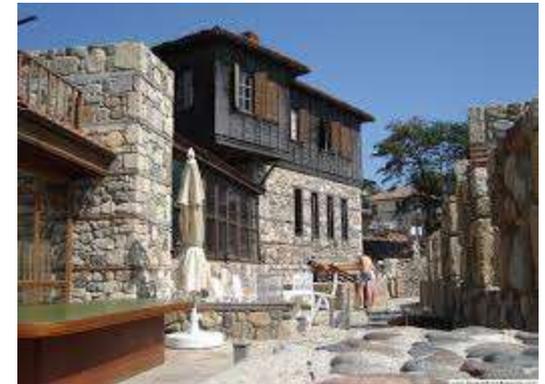
Βιβλίο από το Μπάσκοβο Βουλγαρίας, 1705.  
from Batskovo, Bulgaria, 1705, BXM 1487a



The population of 7.36 million people is predominantly urban and mainly concentrated in the administrative centres of its 28 provinces. Most commercial and cultural activities are concentrated in the capital Sofia.



Bulgaria boasts fourteen Museum Towns which are 'showcases' for houses built in the National Revival style of the 18th and 19th Century. These are towns where the past seems to come alive and are full of beauty and architectural style. It is very strange how they have come to be called 'Museum Towns' as this would suggest a cheerless, colourless and dull atmosphere whereas this could not be further from the truth. The towns are lively, active and inspiring places, full of life.



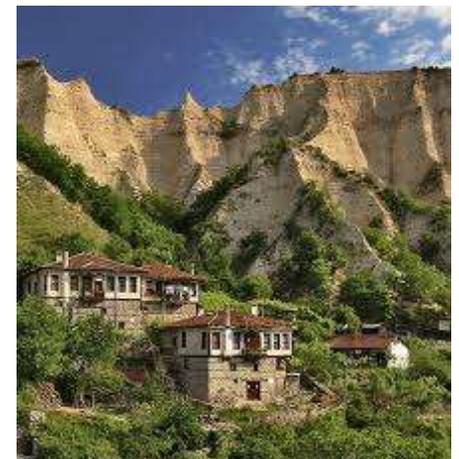
## Plovdiv Museum Town

An ancient crossroad between the East and the West and Bulgaria's second largest city today, Plovdiv has preserved unique treasures from its 24 centuries-long history



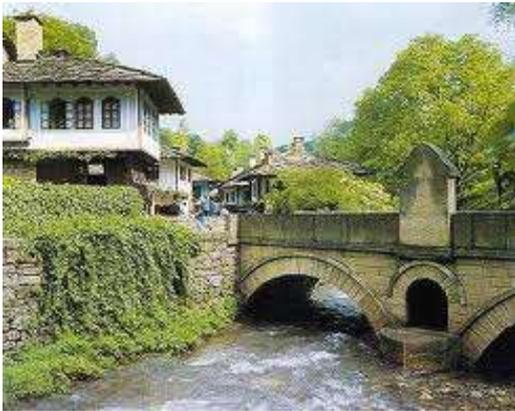
# Melnik

Bulgaria's smallest town is hiding among ancient sandstone pyramids, 190km south of Sofia. Thracians, Romans and Byzantines have written its history throughout the years.



# Koprivshitsa Museum Town

White stone walls, overgrown with ivy and wild geranium, guard from harm gardens full of flowers.



## Etara Architectural and Ethnographic Complex

Eight km from the center of Gabrovo, master craftsmen fashion beautiful gold, silver, copper, leather and wooden articles right before your eyes from early morning until late at the night.



Hundreds of historical, cultural and natural landmarks are located all over the country.



Nine historical and natural objects have been inscribed in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

The **Rila monastery** is the largest and most famous Eastern Orthodox monastery in Bulgaria. It is located in Rila mountain, several kilometers east of town of Rila and 117km south of Sofia. The monastery was built in X-th century.



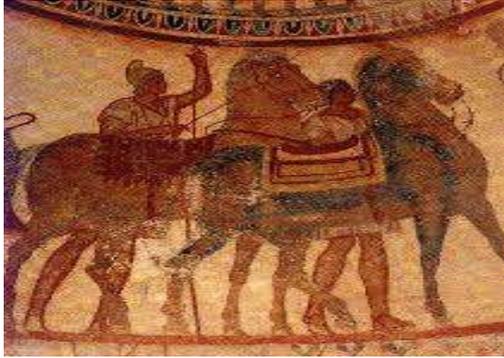
The **Madara Rider** or **Madara Horseman** is an early medieval large rock relief carved on the Madara Plateau east of Shumen in northeastern Bulgaria, near the village of Madara. The monument is dated to about 710 AD.



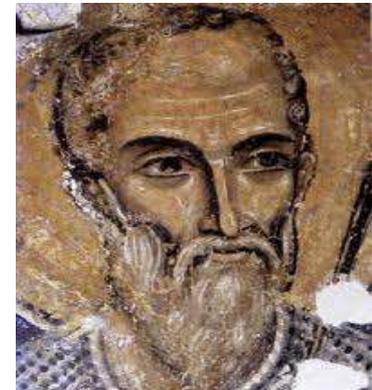
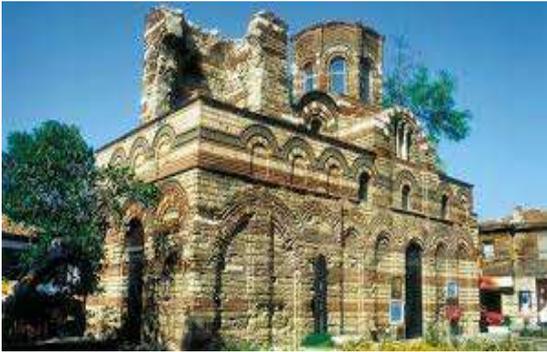
- The **Sveshtari Thracian Vault** (aka **Sveshtari Tomb**) is a unique monument of the Thracian Hellenistic art, dating back to the first half of the III-th century B.C.



- The **Kazanlak Thracian Crypt** is a monument of exceptionally great worth, discovered in 1944. It is representative of the Thracian architectural and pictorial art from the end of the 4th and the beginning of 3rd c. B.C.



The **Boyana Church** is a medieval Bulgarian Orthodox church built in the late X-th or early XI-th century. The church is famous with its frescoes from 1259. They form a second layer over the paintings from earlier centuries and represent one of the most complete and well-preserved monuments of Eastern European mediaeval art.



The **Rock-hewn Churches of Ivanovo** are a network of monolithic churches, chapels, cells and monasteries hewn with different heights, out of solid rock and completely different from other monasteries in Bulgaria. The complex was inhabited during XIII-th - XVII-th centuries by monks, many of whom were grammarians and bookmen.



**Pirin National Park** is a World Heritage national park that encompasses the larger part of the Pirin Mountains in the southwest of Bulgaria. It has an area of about 400 km<sup>2</sup> (150 sq mi)



**Nesebar** is an ancient town and one of the major seaside resorts on the Bulgarian Black Sea Coast. Often referred to as the "*Pearl of the Black Sea*" and "*Bulgaria's Dubrovnik*", Nesebar is a rich city-museum defined by more than three millennia of ever-changing history.



**Bulgaria** is a beautiful mountainous country, with tourism opportunities being one of its biggest assets.

The modern **ski resorts** attract attention of lots of foreign tourists.





Bulgarian ski resorts are extremely child friendly and many offer special deals for families who book in advance. There are Ski Kindergartens, organised locally, where young children get their own ski coaching and are looked after while their parents enjoy skiing by themselves. In Borovets, a nursery is provided for the very young.



The **Black Sea Coast** on its East border is famous for its fine sanded beaches, and perfect temperatures of water and air. There are plenty of sea resorts and sea towns and villages that give opportunity for great sea holidays.



Further, Bulgaria has around 600 **natural mineral springs**, with water temperatures ranging from 20 to 60 degrees Celsius, whose baths and health spas are famous tourist attractions.



**The Rose Valley** is famous for its rose-growing industry which have been cultivated there for centuries, and which produces 85% of the world's rose oil.



**Bulgarian yogurt** has a unique taste because the bacteria used to make it, *Lactobacillus bulgaricus*, is only found naturally in Bulgarian air. Other countries import it, though, so that they can make their own yogurt.

