

# Bulgaria \*\*\*

Capital City: Sofia

Population: 7 million

Language: Bulgarian

Currency: Bulgarian lev



You can go on a river cruise on the Danube.



Bordering Countries: Romania, Serbia, Macedonia, Greece, Turkey

Size: 42,855 sq. miles

Lowest point: Black Sea at sea level

Highest point: Musala Mt. at 9,596 ft.

The Balkan Mountains pass through the centre of the country, while the Rhodope Mountains are located along the southern border with Greece.

In addition to the Danube, major rivers in Bulgaria include the Iskur, Maritsa, Struma, Tundzha and Yantra rivers.

Bulgaria is home to about 170 plant species that are found nowhere else in the world, including species of tulips, a buttercup, a cornflower, and a baby's breath.

The Balkani Wildlife Society is monitoring 13 mammal species including the red squirrel, European and Dobrudja hamster, lesser mole rat, wolf, jackal, pine marten, otter, wildcat, and red deer.



Dobrudja Hamster



Wildcat

Traditional Bulgarian recipes often feature Bulgarian feta cheese, fresh and/or stuffed vegetables, yogurts, and grilled meats (especially lamb, pork, and veal).

Popular dishes include kufte (spicy ground beef and pork formed into grilled patties), banitsa (pastries stuffed with meats and cheeses), and Shopska (the traditional Bulgarian salad of diced onions, tomatoes, cucumbers, and parsley).



Kufte



Banitsa



Shopska



Red Eggs

On Easter (or Velikden), Bulgarians dye bright red eggs and throw them at one another. The last person left with an unbroken egg is believed to have good luck for the year.



Ancient City of Plovdiv



Black Sea Beach