



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Bulgaria - Plovdiv

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Sofia
- ✓ **Language:** Bulgarian
- ✓ **Population:** ± 671,600
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 102
- ✓ **Currency:** Lev (ЛВ - BGN)
- ✓ **Country code:** +359 (32)
- ✓ **Visa:** For some nationalities, [info here!](#)
- ✓ **Emergency phone:** 122
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** None



History Recap Over 1 Drink

500BC: Thracian tribes. Alexander the Great. Roman Empire. 681: Bulgarian state. 890s: Cyrillic alphabet. 1018-1186: Byzantine Empire. 1396: Ottoman Empire (*5 centuries*). 1876: Uprising against Ottoman rule violently oppressed. '78: Treaty of San Stefano (*by Russia/Turkey*): autonomous Bulgaria. '78: Treaty of Berlin: smaller Bulgarian principality, eastern Rumelia Ottoman → merged with Bulgaria in '86. '87: Prince Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha (*later tsar*). 1908: Independent Kingdom. '14-'18: WWI, ally Germany → 100,000 Bulgarian troops killed, most severe loss of any country. '39-'45: WWII → Soviet army invades German-occupied Bulgaria in '44: Soviet-backed Fatherland Front: power. '46: Monarchy abolished → republic: Communist Party. '47: New constitution → 1-party state (*Zhivkov president*). Economy nationalized. USSR ally. '84: Government tries to force Turkish minority to take Slavic names: resistance, 300,000 flee country. '89: Democratisation → multi-party system, UDF formed. '90: Economic crisis, Communist Party back as Socialist Party (BSP). Mass demonstrations, strikes: government collapses. '93: Mass privatization program. '96: Financial turmoil. 2004: NATO. '07: EU. Corruption (*EU criticism*). '12: Suicide bomber kills 6 in Burgas. '14: Banking crisis.

Travel Seasons

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Spring | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Summer | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Autumn | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Winter | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Budget | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Altitude: 164. Climate: Humid Subtropical Climate (Cfa).

Bucket List For Free

☺ **Sights (*can be discovered by Geocaching*):** Alyosha Monument, Old Town, Roman Theatre, Milyo The Crazy Statue, Park Tsar Simeon, Kapana Suburb, Hisar Kapia, Sveta Marina Church, Church of the Holy Mother of God, Sveta Nedelya Church, Sveta Petka Church, Sveta Paraskeva Church, Balabanov House, Singing Fountains, Clock Tower, Sant Ludvik Cathedral, Casa Lamartine, Klianti House, Sahabeddin Imaret Camii, Stefan Stambalov Square, Eirene Mansion, Monument of Reunion, Boris III Tunnel.

☺ **Nature:** Shezhanka Cave.

Worth The Extra \$€¥

👍 **Museums & sights:** [Trakart Cultural Center](#), [Vazrazdane Art Gallery](#), Zlatyu Boyadjiev Art Gallery, Ethnographic Museum, [Air Museum Plovdiv](#) (*free last wed/month*), [Regional Natural History Museum](#), House Museum Hindlian, Nebet Tepe, [Art Gallery Philippolis](#), Icon Gallery – City Art Gallery, Atanas Krastev House Museum, [Anastas Gallery](#).

👍 **'Free' Plovdiv Tour:** Tip-based tour, starts every day at Town Hall. May-Sep 11AM&6PM, Oct-Apr 2PM.

👍 **Relaxation:** [Aqualand](#), [Dragomir Winery](#).

Budget Bites

⌘ **Big supermarkets:** Lidl, Billa, Kaufland.

⌘ **Markets:** Farmers Market Plovdiv (*Wed 4-8PM at Bunadzhika monument / Plovdiv Plaza Mall*).

⌘ **Local food:** Moussaka (*potato-egg-pork oven dish*), Sarmi (*rice rolls*), Gyuvech (*beef-veggie-stew*), Kiufte (*köfte – minced pork*), Kebabche (*grilled meat*), Shishche (*meat-veggie skewers*), Sach (*meat stew*), Banitsa (*stuffed pastry*), Lyutenitsa (*tomato-pepper relish*), Shopska Salata (*salad*), Kyopolou (*eggplant with bellpeppers*), Tarator (*soup*), Meshana Skara (*mixed grill*), Lukanka (*salami*), Shkembe Chorba (*hangover tripe soup*), Job Sandwich, Princessa Sandwich, Rakia (*alcohol*) Oblak (*cocktail*), Mastika (*watermelon with alcohol*), Boza (*wheat-fermented drink*).

⌘ **Go vegan:** Being vegan is ridiculously easy in Europe, but can be challenging in meat-loaded Bulgaria (*but doable*). Local vegan dishes: Kyopolou, Lutenica, Bob Chorba, Lozovi Sarmi, Bean Soups. There are quite some vegan restaurants, especially in Sofia. Check them here: [Happy Cow – Plovdiv](#).

Mama Said

☠ Europe in general, and also Plovdiv, is very safe... but use your common sense like everywhere. Known pickpocket-areas are overcrowded buses.

☠ A popular beggar scam scheme is someone carrying (*fake*) documents 'proving' they need money for a medical procedure.

☠ All legalized taxis are required to have stickers with the price list. Make sure the meter is turned on.

☠ Boycott zoos or aquariums like Plovdiv Zoo, where animals are held in captivity.

☠ Tap water is drinkable.

☠ Bulgarians shake their head up and down when they mean 'no' and left to right for 'yes'.

Next?

➔ **In Bulgaria:** Sofia, Pleven, Burgas, Varna.

➔ **International destinations close by:** Turkey, Serbia, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Greece, Romania.

Sleep Cheap

❖ Hostels and alternative accommodation are pretty affordable in Bulgaria. Prices vary widely per day based on demand, so I recommend getting the cheapest deal for that day on Booking.com. Get an extra \$15 discount via this [Booking.com link](#)! (*Wild*) Camping is officially illegal, but tolerated if you're discrete and don't build fires.

❖ Go [Couchsurfing](#) or Housesitting ([20% discount for Trusted Housesitters via this link](#)!) Also check [WorkAway](#) or [HelpX](#) for work-exchanges.

Festivals

☼ Hills of Rock: Music; June.

☼ Plovdiv Beer Fest: Food & Drinks; Sept.

☼ Kapana Fest: Culture; Sept.

More festivals [here](#).

Nights Best Spent

◆ **Nightlife areas:** Kapana.

◆ **Theatres:** State Opera Plovdiv, Drama Theatre, Hand Theatre, State Puppet Theatre.

Free-Riding?

■ Walking is an excellent option to see the more subtle details of Plovdiv. Check out both the Old Town and Kapana!

■ Bike rental is available.

■ Plovdiv is connected by a cheap bus network. Tickets must be bought on the bus itself. All routes can be found on [this website](#). There are 3 bus terminals. Bus Station South (*Hristo Botev Blvd 47*) & Bus Station Rhodope (*4013 Южна промишлена зона / Southern Industrial Zone 4013*) are very close to one another (*city buses 7/20/26 connect these stations with the city center*). You can also find the main [train station](#) in this area (*бул. „Христо Бомев“ 46 – all 4 stations are Central Railway Station, Railway Station Trakia, Filipovo and Proslav*). Bus Station North (*Dimitar Stambolov Str 2*) has trips to Veliko Tarnovo & Pleven, and is reached by city line 99. GPS apps (*like Moovit*) and info boards are often incomplete or not up-to-date. Budget bus lines are [Eurolines](#) and [Flixbus](#).

■ Airport: Plovdiv Airport (PDV).

■ Hitchhiking is relatively safe and quite common. You can also use apps like [Blablacar](#) for a cheap ride.