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## Bulgarian Country Guide

Page 1 of 5 Important Information Prior to Travelling to Bulgaria

### Passport and Tourist Visa Conditions

Australian ordinary passport holders travelling to Bulgaria as tourists do not normally require a visa if they intend to stay for less than 90 days within a 6 month period. Travellers to Bulgaria must have health insurance (with documentary evidence), should have six months validity on their passport from the time that they expect to depart Bulgaria and be able to provide evidence of sufficient funds for their intended stay.

Additional conditions may apply to minors. Travellers are recommended to contact a Bulgarian mission on the details below for further information and to ensure their specific circumstances make them eligible to enter Bulgaria without a visa.

### Current DFAT Travel Advice

This advice is current for Mon, 5th November 2018.

Exercise normal safety precautions in Bulgaria. Use common sense. Look out for suspicious behaviour. Terrorism is a threat in Europe. See Safety and security.

*Bulgarian authorities have introduced heightened security measures with additional police presence in all cities, ski resorts and places where large gatherings are expected. See Safety and security. Carry your passport when crossing borders, even within the Schengen area. See Local travel.*

*Pickpocketing and purse snatching are common. See Safety and security. Check with your travel insurer to ensure you are covered for all the activities you intend to undertake, such as car hire, riding motorcycles or adventure activities. Restrictions can apply. Rabies is common in Bulgaria. If a dog or other animal bites or scratches you, seek immediate medical assistance. See Health.*

The above information is an edited excerpt of the Travel Advice Summary from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Travellers are encouraged to read the travel advice in full, subscribe to updates to this advice and to register their presence in Bulgaria at [www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au).

### Vaccinations and Health Precautions

The following information is intended as a guide only and in no way should it be used as a substitute for professional medical advice relative to a travellers individual needs and vaccination history. No guarantee is made as to its accuracy or thoroughness. For further information, please contact The Travel Doctor on 1300 658 844.

Vaccination against Hepatitis A is recommended for travellers to the Bulgaria. Vaccination against Hepatitis B should be considered by frequent travellers or those intending on a long stay, whilst vaccination against typhoid fever should be considered particularly if travelling to areas with poor sanitation and personal hygiene.

Regardless of destination, all travellers should be up-to-date with their routine "background" vaccinations, including a recent annual Influenza vaccination. Please consult a medical practitioner for your specific risk to preventable diseases and appropriate avoidance measures. Australians travelling to the Bulgaria should ensure that they have adequate travel insurance to cover the length of their stay. Medications that are legal in Australia may be illegal in other countries. For further information on insurance, taking medication overseas and other issues please visit [www.smartraveller.gov.au/tips](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/tips).

### Bulgarian Representation in Australia

Embassy of Bulgaria, Canberra

29 Pindari Crescent  
O'MALLEY ACT 2606

PO BOX 6096  
MAWSON ACT 2607

Tel: (02) 6286 9700  
Fax: (02) 6286 9600

Web: [www.mfa.bg/embassies/australia](http://www.mfa.bg/embassies/australia)



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## Bulgarian Country Guide

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### Time Differences between Bulgaria and Australia

Bulgaria is Greenwich Mean Time +2 hours (+3 during daylight saving). The applicable time zone is Eastern European Time (EET) or Eastern European Summer Time (EEST). Daylight saving is observed from the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October.

Bulgaria, 12 noon, Winter (Dec) = Perth 6pm; Darwin 7:30pm; Brisbane 8pm; Adelaide 8:30pm; Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 9pm.  
Bulgaria, 12 noon, Summer (Jun) = Perth 5pm; Darwin, Adelaide 6:30pm; Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 7pm.

### Important Contact Numbers

Country Code for Bulgaria: +359

To Dial Australia Call:  
00 61 <City> <Number>

Travelex Card Services:  
Call the US on 00 1 954 838 8294

Visa Global Assist:  
Call the US on 00 1 303 967 1090

MasterCard:  
Call the US on 00 1 636 722 7111

American Express Travellers Cheques:  
Call the UK on 00 44 20 7365 4846

Emergency Services:  
All - 112  
Ambulance - 150  
Fire - 160  
Police - 166

The 112 emergency number should have English speaking staff. When calling the other services it may be best to seek the assistance of a Bulgarian speaker.

### Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry photocopies of all important documents separately to their originals, and to leave a set of these photocopies with someone in Australia. This includes those documents listed below.

#### Passports

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Passport #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Passport #: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Credit Cards

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Travel Insurance

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency #: \_\_\_\_\_

### Australian Representation in Bulgaria

Australian Embassy, Greece

Level 6, Thon Building  
Cnr Kifisis and Alexandras Ave  
Ambelokipi  
ATHENS 115 23

Tel: (+30 210) 870 4000  
Fax: (+30 210) 870 4055

Web: [www.greece.embassy.gov.au](http://www.greece.embassy.gov.au)

Australian Honorary Consulate,  
Bulgaria

37 Trakia Street  
SOFIA 1504

Tel: (+359 2) 946 1334  
Fax: (+359 2) 946 1704

Australia does not maintain a permanent embassy in Bulgaria, however the Australian Honorary Consulate in Sofia may be able to provide limited assistance to Australian travellers. The Australian Embassy in Athens, Greece is accredited to Bulgaria.

Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (+61) 2 6261 3305. Australians in Bulgaria are encouraged to register their presence and contact details online with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at [www.orao.dfat.gov.au](http://www.orao.dfat.gov.au).



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## Bulgarian Country Guide

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### Duty Free Allowances

Allowances when entering Bulgaria by air from a non EU state:

Alcohol: 1 L spirits (>22% alc vol) or 2 L other beverages;  
as well as 4 L of still wine and 16 L of beer.

Tobacco: 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 250 g of tobacco.

Other Goods: Up to a value of €430 for air and sea travellers,  
€300 for others and €150 for those under 15 years.

Please go to [www.ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/individuals](http://www.ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/individuals) for further details on EU Customs and Duty Free regulations.

Duty Free limits when entering Australia:

Alcohol: 2.25 L.

Tobacco: 25 cigarettes plus one open packet of cigarettes.

Other Goods: Up to a value of \$900 (\$450 if under 18 years).

For more information on Australian duty free allowances or other customs regulations, please visit [www.homeaffairs.gov.au](http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au). Further restrictions apply, travellers should familiarise themselves with these restrictions before entry.

### Electrical and Telephone Adaptors

Electrical Plug type: European

Voltage: 220-240 volts (same as Australia, no voltage/frequency converter required).

Modem: USA. Bulgaria also uses the Russian/Polish telephone socket.

Source: Korjo Travel Products.

To purchase electrical/modem adapters, or for further information on this matter, please view the Korjo adapter guide at [www.korjo.com.au](http://www.korjo.com.au).



### Bulgarian Holidays 2018

01 Jan: New Year's Day 24 May: Cyril & Methodius Day

03/05 Mar: National Holiday 06 Sep: Unification Day

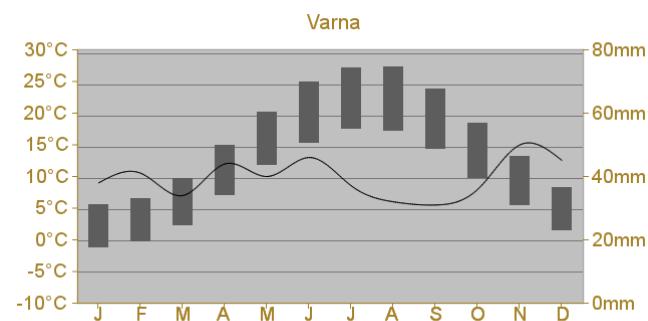
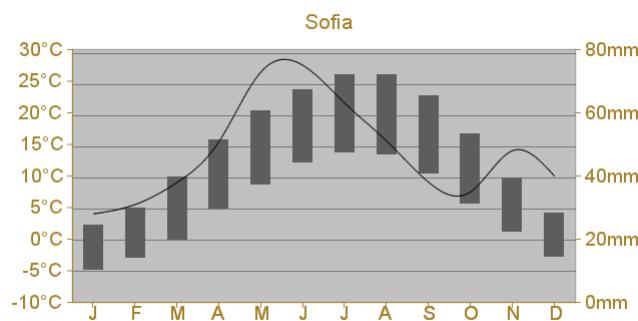
06 Apr: Good Friday (Odx) 22/24 Sep: Independence Day

09 Apr: Easter Monday 24 Dec: Christmas Eve

01 May: Labour Day 25 Dec: Christmas

06/07 May: St George's Day 26 Dec: St Stephen's Day

### Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in Bulgaria



Source: National Institute of Meteorology Bulgaria. For local forecasts please go to [www.weather.bg](http://www.weather.bg) or [www.bbc.co.uk/weather](http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather).

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## Bulgarian Country Guide

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### Exchange Rate with Bulgaria

#### Interbank Rate

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 1.24 Bulgarian Leva  
1 Bulgarian Lev (BGN) = 0.81 Australian Dollars

#### With 4% Margin

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) buys 1.19 Bulgarian Leva  
1 Bulgarian Lev (BGN) will cost 0.84 Australian Dollars

All rates were correct at a point in time on Monday, 05 Nov 2018. The "Interbank Rate" does not take into account any exchange fees, while the "With 4% Margin" adds 4% to the exchange rate to simulate a typical margin paid when exchanging these currencies. These rates have been rounded and should not be used when calculating transactions of large value.

### Currency Cheat Sheet

0.50 BGN		= \$0.42 AUD		This cheat sheet uses the "With 4% Margin" of exchange listed above.	
1 BGN	= \$0.84 AUD	10 BGN	= \$8.42 AUD	100 BGN	= \$84.19 AUD
2 BGN	= \$1.68 AUD	20 BGN	= \$16.84 AUD	200 BGN	= \$168.37 AUD
3 BGN	= \$2.53 AUD	30 BGN	= \$25.26 AUD	300 BGN	= \$252.56 AUD
4 BGN	= \$3.37 AUD	40 BGN	= \$33.67 AUD	400 BGN	= \$336.74 AUD
5 BGN	= \$4.21 AUD	50 BGN	= \$42.09 AUD	500 BGN	= \$420.93 AUD
6 BGN	= \$5.05 AUD	60 BGN	= \$50.51 AUD	600 BGN	= \$505.11 AUD
7 BGN	= \$5.89 AUD	70 BGN	= \$58.93 AUD	700 BGN	= \$589.30 AUD
8 BGN	= \$6.73 AUD	80 BGN	= \$67.35 AUD	800 BGN	= \$673.48 AUD
9 BGN	= \$7.58 AUD	90 BGN	= \$75.77 AUD	900 BGN	= \$757.67 AUD
				1,000 BGN	= \$841.85 AUD

### Banknotes and Coins of Bulgaria

The currency of Bulgaria is the Lev (plural Leva), which is abbreviated using the symbol ₪ or the currency code "BGN". The lev is divided into 100 stotinki. The following units of currency are the most common however other units are also in circulation. As it is illegal in many countries to print copies of bank notes, travellers are advised to remove the below images when travelling.



1 Lev



50 stotinkas



20 stotinkas



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# Bulgarian Country Guide

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## About Bulgaria

Full Name:	Republika Bulgariya (Republic of Bulgaria).
Independence:	22 September 1908 (from Ottoman Empire).
Size:	110,879 sq km (half the size of Victoria).
Population:	7 million (30% the size of Australia). Sofia 1.2 mil; Plovdiv 340,000; Varna 330,000; Burgas 200,000; Ruse 150,000.
Religion:	Eastern Orthodox 60%, Muslim 8%.
Language:	Bulgarian 77%, Turkish 8%, Roma 4%.
GDP Per Capita:	US\$13,800 (Australia US\$40,800).

Significant Dates:	
500 BC	- Thracian tribes settle Bulgaria.
681 AD	- Bulgarian state established.
890	- Cyrillic alphabet is created by Bulgarian scholars.
1018-1185	- Bulgaria is ruled by the Byzantine Empire.
1396-1878	- Bulgaria is ruled by the Ottoman Empire.
1908	- Independent Kingdom of Bulgaria established.
1914-18	- During World War I Bulgaria fights as part of the Central Powers, loosing over 100,000 troops.
1944	- Soviet Russia invades, establishes a Communist state and abolishes the monarchy.
1989-91	- Bulgaria is declared a republic and introduces reforms leading to greater freedoms.
2004-07	- Bulgaria joins NATO and the EU.

