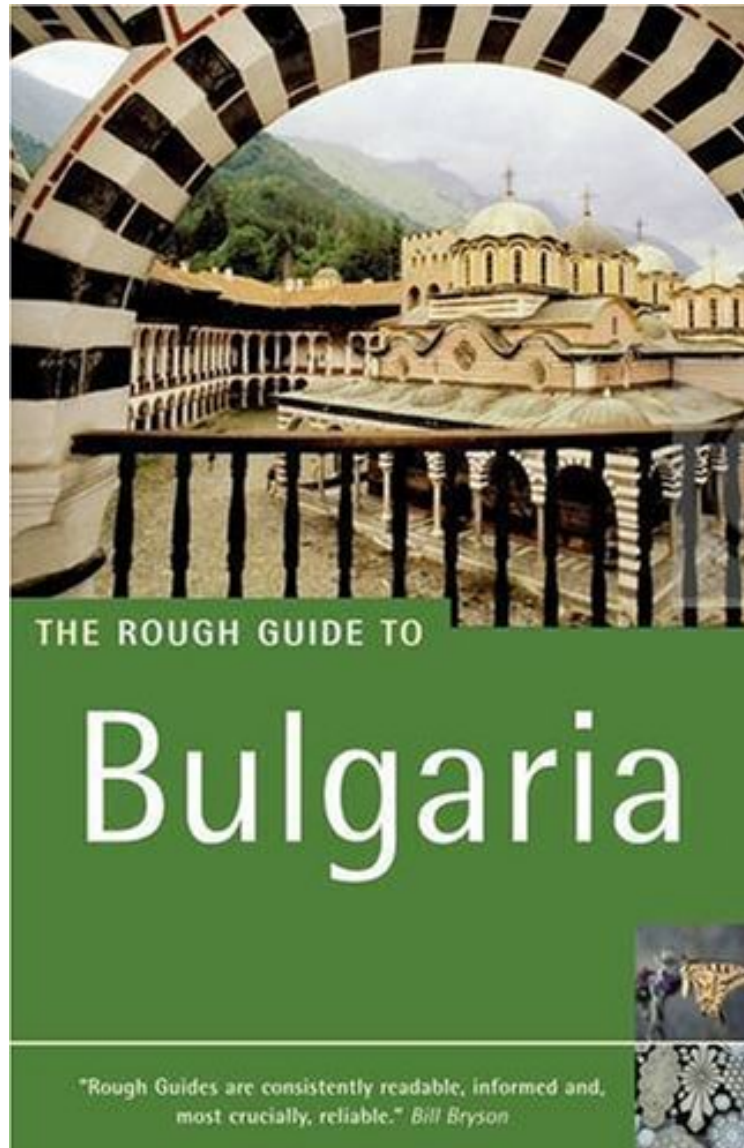


[Online library] The Rough Guide to Bulgaria 5 (Rough Guide Travel Guides)

The Rough Guide to Bulgaria 5 (Rough Guide Travel Guides)

Jonathan Bousfield, Dan Richardson

*DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#5108213 in Books Rough Guides 2005-09-19 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.75 x .86 x 5.10l, #File Name: 1843534576512 pages | File size: 78.Mb

Jonathan Bousfield, Dan Richardson : The Rough Guide to Bulgaria 5 (Rough Guide Travel Guides) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Rough Guide to Bulgaria 5 (Rough Guide Travel Guides):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great Guide By Shoshana Battat I just returned from an 8 day Trek in the Mountain areas of Bulgaria, Rila mnts., Pirin and Rhodopi ranges. Although we had a wonderful local guide, I found the Rough Guide to have sufficient information about all the places and sites we visited, in addition to a very

good background of each area, village and city. The book is divided conveniently and written amicably, making it an interesting and easy read while on the roads. Thank you Rough Guide 6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. This one is a keeper. By Ben J. Arthur the 40-page "contexts" section is the best part. Gives a concise review of the history of the area from minus infinity to present. Not so long that you won't finish it, but not so short that there aren't enough details. Wish all guidebooks had something like this for the nerdy academic inside me. Otherwise, this guide was comparable to most others I have used. Detailed and accurate. I have no complaints. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Ok. By Jim M. Has a lot of useful information, but I found the writing in some sections rather slapdash. For example, the section on Bulgarian history has a lot of dates, names, and places, but was frequently hard to follow. The book rightly highlights the diversity of birds to be found in Bulgaria, which is one of the highest in Europe, but twice boasts of Bulgaria's having "seventy species of heron." I do not believe there are 70 species of heron in the entire world. Even if you include bitterns and egrets, only 10 species of heron are on the official Bulgarian list of birds recorded in Bulgaria.

This is the 5th edition of this very successful title so represents 15 years of accumulated travel experience to this little-known but deeply rewarding country. Over this period the Rough Guide has established itself as the agenda-setting book which consistently opens up new destinations and new aspects of Bulgarian tourism - from the remote Belogradchik region to the white sand beaches of the southern Black Sea coast. The Rough Guide is written and researched by people who have lived in Bulgaria, and so provides deeply insightful accounts of all the regions and their attractions. As ever, this is a guide for independent travellers on any budget, with accommodation listings ranging from the film stars' favourite, Castle Hrankov in Sofia, to local campsites.

ROUGH GUIDES GIVE YOU THE INFORMATION MOST OTHER GUIDES DON'T About the Author Jonathan Bousfield has been writing for Rough Guides for over ten years. His other titles include Croatia, Baltic States, Austria and Poland. Dan Richardson first visited Bulgaria in 1984 and is also the author of Rough Guides to Romania and Hungary. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. **WHERE TO GO AND WHEN** Bulgaria has a continental climate, with long, hot, dry summers and in the interior at least bitterly cold winters. July and August can be oppressively hot in the big cities, and a little crowded on the Black Sea coast elsewhere, you won't have to worry about being swamped by fellow visitors. Using public transport is reasonably easy throughout the year, although the highest cross-mountain routes will be closed during the coldest months. Bulgaria's most obvious urban attractions are Sofia, a set-piece capital city whose centre was laid out by successive regimes as an expression of political power; and the second city Plovdiv, home to what is arguably the finest collection of nineteenth-century architecture in the Balkans. Both are increasingly cosmopolitan places, offering a range of street cafes and nightlife opportunities in short supply elsewhere in the country. They each form important cultural centres, being well endowed with museums and galleries, and are good bases from which to visit the rest of the interior. Yet it's in the countryside rather than the cities that the real rewards of inland travel are to be found. You'll come across some of Europe's finest highland scenery in the Rila, Pirin, Balkan, Sredna Gora and Rhodope mountain ranges, whose valleys harbour the kind of bucolic villages which have all but disappeared in Western Europe. Many of them are time-consuming to reach by public transport, but if traditional architecture and goat-thronged, cobbled alleys appeal, any effort will be rewarded. While the villages of Bansko, Koprivshitsa a living memorial to the 1876 April Rising and Melnik have the best tourist facilities, more rustic out-of-the-way spots such as Brshlyan, Kovachevitsa and Zheravna are also well worth seeking out. In addition, the highland regions display Bulgaria's rich spiritual traditions in the shape of its many monasteries: Bachkovo, Rila, Rozhen and Troyan are the big four, although any number of smaller foundations make worthwhile destinations! . Also in the mountains, a burgeoning winter tourist industry is taking shape in resorts such as Bansko, Borovets and Pamporovo, although the latter two are purpose-built package resorts which lack the charm of the former. Snow is thick on the ground from late November through to mid-March, and in summer the mountain resorts are taken over by climbers and ramblers. However, most foreign visitors still make a beeline for the Black Sea, formerly the summer playground of the entire Eastern bloc. That said, big purpose-built resorts like Sunny Beach and Golden Sands tend to be rather characterless and isolating: though package tours based at these resorts present a cheap and easy way of getting to Bulgaria, it's best to steer clear of them once you arrive. The main resort-city of Varna is the liveliest place along the coast, while small peninsula settlements like Nesebr and Sozopol, though crowded in August, provide traditional fishing-village architecture as well as enticing stretches of sand. Indeed, beaches are on the whole magnificent, especially in the south, and private enterprise is more developed here than anywhere else in the country, ensuring a plentiful supply of private rooms and good seafood restaurants. Although the climate remains mild all the year round, the Black Sea becomes deserted outside the main tourist season (June! Sept), when many tourist attractions and hotels shut up shop. Elsewhere, although few places are geared up to cater to Western-style, consumer-oriented tourism, the rugged highlands that cut across the centre of the country are the best places to explore the heartland of Bulgarian history and culture. The crafts towns and monasteries of the central Balkan Range were the places where Bulgarian culture recovered during the nineteenth-century National Revival, and are easily explored

from the dramatically situated, citadel-encrusted town of Veliko Tnovo, medieval capital of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom. Shumen, main town of the northwest, is dour in comparison, but allows access to the remains of the Bulgarian states first two capitals, Pliska and Preslav. Between the Balkan Range and the Sredna Gora, with its countless reminders of Bulgarias nineteenth-century struggles against Turkish oppression, lies the Valley of the Roses, lined by a string of historic market towns and home to Bulgarias renowned rose harvest in late May.