



The Danube & Northern Plains

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Garden Restaurant (p435)
- ➔ New House (p435)
- ➔ Riverside (p442)
- ➔ Classic Pizzeria (p433)
- ➔ Sladost (p442)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Hotel Drustar (p441)
- ➔ City Art Hotel (p435)
- ➔ Hotel Kiprovets (p431)
- ➔ Pelican Lake Guesthouse (p440)
- ➔ Old Town Hotel (p433)

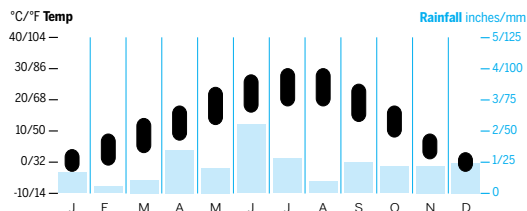
Why Go?

Though it's one of the poorest parts of Europe, northern Bulgaria is a rewarding region to explore. Unspoilt mountain landscapes, wild nature reserves and peaceful monasteries await discovery. The mighty Danube River shimmers along most of the country's border with Romania, and the riverside city of Ruse, famed for its Viennese-style architecture, is the gateway to Bucharest.

The enigmatic rock churches and rich wildlife of the Rusenski Lom Nature Park and, further east, serene Lake Srebarna, home to numerous rare bird species, are well worth visiting. Away from the Danube, the bizarre rock formations at Belogradchik and the Sveshtari Thracian burial tomb are top national sights.

When to Go

Vidin



Mar–May Spring days are warm and festival season begins. Late spring is ideal for birdwatching.

Jun–Aug Summers are hot and dry, and it's a great time for hiking and sunbathing.

Nov–Jan Winters can be harsh, but the countryside looks picturesque in the snow.

The Danube & Northern Plains Highlights

1 Belogradchik Rocks

(p431) Clambering over massive sandstone and limestone formations.

2 Thracian Tomb of Sveshtari

(p434) Peering

into a perfectly preserved

Thracian burial tomb.

3 Ruse

(p433) Strolling through the parks and gardens of this most elegant of

Bulgarian cities on the Danube.

4 Ivanovo Rock Monastery

(p439) Marvelling at the lives of monks who retreated to caves here in the Rusenski Lom Nature Park.

5 Srebarna Nature Reserve

(p440) Spotting rare fowl along this UNESCO-protected birdwatching biosphere.

6 Vratsa's Historical Museum

(p429) Gawking at the Rogozen Treasure, a collection of more than a hundred Thracian silver jugs and plates.

