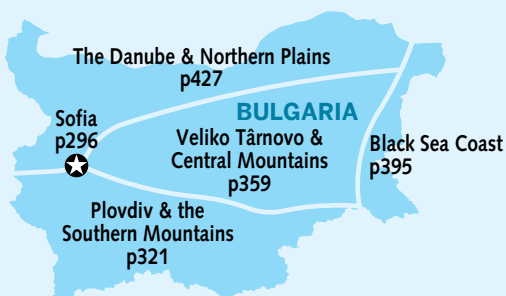


On the Road





Sofia

POP 1,200,000

Includes →

Sights.....	298
Activities.....	305
Tours.....	305
Festivals & Events ..	306
Sleeping.....	306
Eating.....	308
Drinking & Nightlife..	310
Entertainment.....	311
Shopping.....	313
Around Sofia.....	317
Boyana.....	317
Vitosha Nature Park	318

Best Places to Eat

- Manastirska Magernitsa (p309)
- Ege Türk (p309)
- Sun & Moon (p308)
- MoMa Bulgarian Food & Wine (p309)
- Made In Home (p309)

Best Places to Sleep

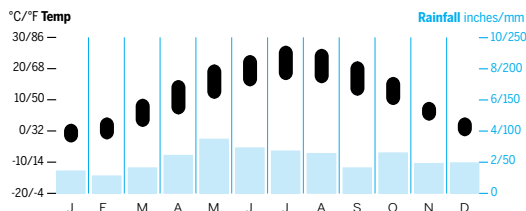
- Hotel Niky (p307)
- Light Hotel (p307)
- Hotel Les Fleurs (p308)
- Art Hostel (p307)
- Canapé Connection (p306)

Why Go?

Bulgaria's pleasingly laid-back capital is often overlooked by visitors heading straight to the coast or the ski resorts, but they're missing something special. Sofia is no grand metropolis, but it's a largely modern, youthful city, with a scattering of onion-domed churches, Ottoman mosques and stubborn Red Army monuments that lend an eclectic, exotic feel. Recent excavation work carried out during construction of the city's metro unveiled a treasure trove of Roman ruins from nearly 2000 years ago, when the city was called 'Serdica'. Away from the buildings and boulevards, vast parks and manicured gardens offer a welcome respite, and the ski slopes and hiking trails of mighty Mt Vitosha are just a short bus ride from the centre.

When to Go

Sofia



Mar–May Spring is warm and wet, and Easter is a colourful time to visit.

Jun–Aug Summer is very hot and dry, especially August, but there's plenty to see and do in the city.

Nov–Feb Winters in Sofia are often icy cold, with heavy snowfalls, but January is perfect for skiing.