

Overall Climate

Bulgaria is located in the temperate continental latitudes, and its climate is favorable for the development of various types of tourism. The average annual amount of sunshine for the territory amounts to about 2,500 hours. The climate of Bulgaria is influenced by atmospheric associated with the Icelandic minimum, the Azores maximum, and the Eastern European maximum. Arctic and tropical air currents pass through the country in significantly rare cases. The average annual temperature in the country is between 10° and 14°!, with a predominant temperature between 11° and 12°!. This figure is greatly dependent on altitude. In the mountains, at higher elevations thermal conditions are influenced by the thinner atmosphere, so that over 2,300 meters above sea level the average annual temperature is below zero (Mount Musala – 2.9°!). In the lowlands and foothills Northern Bulgaria the lowest average monthly temperature is in January (-1.4° and -2.0° !), and in Southern Bulgaria (excluding the plains) the average January temperature is between 0° and 1-2°!. In the mountainous regions (1,000 – 1,200 m) and the plains, the average January temperatures are between –2° and –4°!. In the higher elevations, the lowest temperatures are recorded in February; the average monthly February temperatures are between -8° and -10°!. During this month Musala ha an average temperature of -11.6°!. Along the Black Sea coast, the average monthly temperatures in January and February are above zero. Along the country's northern coastline, they are 0.8° – 2°!, and along the southern coastline they are 2.4 – 3.2°!. The highest average monthly temperatures are typically for the months of July and August. They range from 21 – 24°!. The regions outside the mountains to the north of the Balkans have an annual July temperature of about 22°!, and in the lowlands and foothills to the south temperatures range between 23° – 24°!. In the mountain regions (1,000 – 2,000 m) temperatures vary from 12° – 16°!, and over 2,300 meters, from - 5 – 8°!.

Rainfall is unevenly distributed throughout the country. There is a considerable deviation in average annual rainfall – from 500-550 mm in the Danube valley and the Gornotrakiyska lowland to 1,000-1,400 mm in the alpine regions. The annual snow cover in Bulgaria is unstable, and shows significant deviations both with regard to elevation and geographical location. In the lower parts of the country, the snow cover lasts from December to March, while along the Black Sea coast and in the territory south of the Balkan Mountains it remains for only a month, from January to February. Snow occasionally falls during other times of the year (in November or April, for example). But in these regions there is almost no permanent snow cover. Due to the frequent warming of air temperature to more than 0° !, the snow melts a number of times during the winter. Continuous and thick snow cover forms in the mountainous alpine regions. At an altitude of 1,000-1,500 meters, the snow lasts for 4-5 months, and over 2,000 meters - from 7 to 9 months.

The country climate can be divided into five distinct zones – temperate-continental, continental-Mediterranean, transitional, the Black Sea zone and a mountain zone. The favorable preconditions for winter tourism in our mountains include the substantial snow cover and the lower temperatures, allowing the snow to last longer. The development of recreational activity along the Black Sea coast is favored by the few rainy days during the active tourist season, abundant sunshine, moderate temperatures, the relatively high temperature of the sea water, and the lack of blustery winds. What's more, the bracing mountain air and the coastal air saturated with iodine vapors are both beneficial.

Source: bulgariatravel.org - The Official Tourism Portal of Bulgaria

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