

Bulgaria Essentials

Best time to travel:

Climate:

Bulgaria has a temperate-continental climate with moderate features which is characteristic for Central Europe, with hot summers, long, cold winters and very distinct seasons. Abundant snowfalls may occur throughout the country from December to mid-March, especially if you are in the mountainous areas of Bulgaria. The trails are offered from April throughout October, though are set on special dates. To see which trail leaves on which date, please see each trail.

Flights to Bulgaria:

Direct flights from London airports to Sofia are offered by Ryan Air, Easy Jet and British Airways.

Getting Around:

The return airport transfer and transfers specified in the trails, are included. For those who would like to extend their stay to do a bit more sightseeing, we are happy to offer a rental car.

The Riding:

The horses are carefully selected, surrounded by plenty of pasture land. They are locally bred Karakachan along with East Bulgarian and Arab crosses

Their withers are between 1,40 m and 1,60 m, so all weights can find an adequate tour companion. The horses are strong, agile and used to hard work. Their stamina and agility are outstanding and they are tough and extremely sure footed over rocky and even snow covered mountains.

On the Sredna Gora rides we use Shagya Arabs from Hissar riding centre. The rides are perfect for intermediate riders, who are confident with trot and canter.

From Krivina riding base we can also arrange rides for novices. The maximum group size on all our tours is 6 riders.

Tack:

You will be riding western style saddles, but english saddles are also available.

Recommended Riding Cloths:

Jumpers, jodhpur boots or long riding boots, half or full chaps, long sleeve shirt, fleece jacket, gloves and rain protection. Also see 'what to bring'

Weight allowance for riders:

85kg/187lb and the maximum body height is 200cm/6.5lb.

Though as we know, an experienced rider, who may exceed the weight limit, may ride very light on the horse's back. So, please do check with us first.

Travel Essentials:

Before you go:

Visas & Passports – Passports must be valid for at least 6 months. Visas are not necessary for UK passport holders. Other nationalities should check with the local embassy.

Insurance – We strongly recommend that you take out a policy to cover theft, loss, and medical issues. Please visit our page on travel insurance for further information. It is a good idea to photocopy and scan all relevant documents – passport, travel insurance policy, etc. – and leave one copy at home. Carry another copy with you, separate from the originals and digital versions on your smartphone.

Electricity – 220v. You will need UK-European Plug adaptors.

Currency – Bulgarian Lev are easy to get in the UK and it's worth to get them in advance to avoid airport rates. If you are very organised you can get a pre-paid currency card, which you can use in a similar way to a debit card. We recommend Revolut and Monzo. With these you can also withdraw a certain amount of cash, free of charge, as some cash for the drinks is needed here and there.

Clothing – The temperature varies enormously depending on the time of year. The evenings during spring and autumn tend to be a little cooler. The weather has the potential to be a little unpredictable even in mid-summer. Therefore it is worth taking an extra layer.

Driving Licence – All car rental companies accept UK photo drivers license. Although not all companies require a Driving License Code, we would recommend obtaining one before you collect your car. You can do this through the DVLA website (<https://www.gov.uk/view-driving-licence>) and you will need: your driving licence number, your National Insurance

numbers, the postcode on your driving licence

While you are here:

Time difference – 2 hour ahead of UK time.

Telephone – Dial 0044 or +44 for a UK number.

The Bulgarian international code is +359

Tipping – Normally you tip around 10% at restaurants. For the gratitude for the riding guide we suggest around 3-5 € per person per day, but as said only a guideline. It is all up to what you feel is appropriate.