General Information   
  
**Location:** Bulgaria is situated in Southeast Europe and occupies the eastern part of the Balkan Peninsula. To the north it borders on Romania, to the west on the Republic of Macedonia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, to the east on the Black Sea, to the south on Greece and to the southeast on Turkey's European part.   
  
**Area:** 111.000 sq.km.   
  
**Relief:** Extremely varied: large plains and lowlands, low and high mountains, valleys and lovely gorges.  
  
**Climate:** Temperate continental with clearly marked four seasons. A Mediterranean influence is felt in the country's southern regions. The average annual temperature is 10.5°C. The average January temperature is around O°C. Average summer temperatures rarely exceed 30°C.  
  
**Population:** Bulgaria has a population of approximately 7.8 m people, and a land area of 43,000 miles (111,000 km). Sofia, the capital, which has approximately 1.2 m residents, is the largest city in Bulgaria. The other main cities and towns are Plovdiv, Varna, Bourgas, Stara Zagora, Ruse and Pleven.  
  
**Language:** Bulgarian, English, German, French and Russian is spoken in the country's resorts, hotels and restaurants.   
  
**Alphabet:** Cyrillic. Signs along international motorways, in airports and resorts are also spelled in Roman letters.  
  
**Religion:** 86.6% of the population are Orthodox Christians, 13% are Muslims. The Bulgarian Church is autonomous and headed by a Patriarch.   
  
**State government:**Bulgaria is a parliamentary republic with democratic government.   
  
**Capital:**Sofia (population 1 204 685)

**Large Cities:** Plovdiv, Varna, Bourgas, Rousse, Veliko Tarnovo.