

Svetla Nedeva, Krassimira Trifonova

**A TOUR OF BULGARIA
A HANDBOOK IN GUIDING
PART ONE**

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P R E F A C E

The *Tour of Bulgaria – A Handbook in Guiding Part I* is intended to be a guidance and reference book for students on the Management of Tourism and Management of Leisure courses at the College of Tourism – UE, Varna. They will find in it detailed, topical and useful information about Bulgaria as a tourist destination. The Handbook is also intended to be a resource book that will serve as the focal point of their practical training in tour operations, which is an integral part of the College Curriculum. Educational field trips to major tourist destinations throughout Bulgaria are carried out each semester as part of the 3-year course of studies. Students design the itineraries and prepare individual presentations on the various assets of Bulgarian nature and man-made tourism resources.

The handbook reveals the main features of the natural, cultural and historical heritage of Bulgaria. It contains not only general information about the country but also more specific guidance on particular aspects of the numerous tourism attractions available. The guide offers an informative insight into more than 30 seaside, mountain and spa resorts, which are popular with both domestic and international tourists.

The handbook aims to provide precisely what its title is intended to denote: Designed to be a hands-on tool which facilitates the self-study process, the resource material is organized in 4 chapters under the following headings: *1. General Information about Bulgaria, 2. Tourism Resources, 3. Historical Survey, 4. Cultural Heritage.*

For the sake of easy reference and logical sequence the chapters on *History and Cultural Heritage* have been presented in chronological order including the main events and periods, as well as the major examples of artistic achievement throughout our history. The detailed information included in each chapter gives substantial knowledge enabling students to prepare their talks on the sights visited during the field trips. It can be an indispensable reference book both for fluent and intermediate users of English, since the style of language is not too academic or documentary.

The book could be of interest to companies offering in-land tours as well as all English-speaking visitors to Bulgaria who would like to get to know the traditions, culture and modern life of our hospitable people. It provides the background and new trends in the development of our tourism industry. Special attention has been paid to alternative types of tourism that are currently being promoted in Bulgaria, i.e. *Cultural Tourism, Rural Tourism and Homestay Holidays, Adventure Holidays, Caving, Hunting etc.*

The book strives to give a detailed approach and introduce Bulgaria to the enthusiastic and discerning traveller eager to learn about the country, which seemed to be “the best-kept secret of Eastern Europe” until recently. Enjoy the journey!