

**Bulgaria** is a small country of ancient culture, scenic splendours, friendly people, hospitality and warmth. The country is located in Southeast Europe, in the Northeast part of the Balkan Peninsula. It is a European, Balkan, Black Sea and Danube country. This geographic location places it on the crossroad between Europe, Asia and Africa.



**Ruse** is one of the most elegant cities in Bulgaria, situated on the highest right bank of the Danube River. Due to the beautiful architecture and the internal shaping of the buildings constructed by Italian, Austrian, German and Bulgarian architects, Ruse is also known as “The Small Vienna”.

Ruse is the biggest Bulgarian city on the Danube and the most significant transport, logistics, business and cultural centre of North Bulgaria. The city is located at crossroads, approximately 320 km North-East of Sofia, 200 km North-West of Varna, 100 km North-East of Veliko Tarnovo and 70 km South of Bucharest. Ruse is the fifth largest city in Bulgaria with a population of about 160 000.

Ruse has a continental climate with very hot summers and relatively cold winters. Usually October is picturesque and mild with daytime temperatures varying between 17 to 22 °C.

You may find more information about the city of Ruse on the Official Tourism Site of Bulgaria:

<http://bulgariatravel.org/en/object/88/Ruse>

The monetary unit in Bulgaria is the Lev (BGN), which is equal to 100 stotinki (st.). Since 1997, the country has been governed by a currency board and the value of the lev has been pegged to the Euro, at a fixed rate of 1 EUR – 1.95583 BGN.

Currency can be exchanged in banks or in currency exchange offices. Some of these exchange offices also work on holidays. Euro-cheques can be exchanged in banks.