Plovdiv is one of Europe’s best destinations!

You’ve read my ravings of Plovdiv in the past. A city of art, culture, dance, all the things that make life sublime. Which differentiates Europeans of the southeasterly persuasion from Americans of the southeasterly persuasion who consider Southeast Conference football as the epitome of American cultural expression. Those European folk have a different view of the world developed over millennia. The ancients are long gone but their felt presence give a place gravitas. The Romans were in Bulgaria two thousand years ago and built this amphitheater which is still used by the citizens of Plovdiv for theater presentations. A café at the rim of the theater provides a lovely place to sip an expresso and conjure what life was like under Roman occupation all those millennia ago. We have been to this place and will venture again with a horde of GSW students. Be sure to be with us to conjure and reflect and appreciate Plovdiv as one of Europe’s best destinations. And football doesn’t get going till August anyway.
http://www.novinite.com/articles/172748/Bulgaria%E2%80%99s+Plovdiv+Vying+for+Title+of+European+Best+Destination+2016

Bulgarian Black Sea coast is a bargain

Europeans on holiday love the Black Sea. The Bulgarian portion (depicted here is Sunny Beach) is one of the most developed tourist locations in the world. High rise hotels, t-shirt
shops, salt water taffy, arcades. All the glories of Panama City. But northern Europeans whose winters are cold, dark, wet, and cold, dream of the sunny days and dry heat of the Bulgarian coast. Which is why those Germans, Russians, Dutch, Belgians, Poles, Czechs, Slovaksians, Slovenians, and a few French folks, bare almost all the winter adipose their bodies have layered on to protect their cores against the brutality of a very cold eight month winter. It’s quite a sight. There is no shame. Why would or should there be? The sea loves all the humanity that bathe in it. The sun is not so accommodating. SPF 75 is a requirement.

http://www.novinite.com/articles/172659/Algarve%2C+Bulgaria%2C+Cape+Town+%27Cheap+for+Holiday+Spending%27

Avalanche danger on Vitosha

The capital city of Sofia is snuggled against the northern flanks of Mount Vitosha making the mountain Sofia’s playground since the city has been a city. Sofians take picnics to its woods, hike its extensive trail system, travel the gondola to the summit to take in the city sights, and ski the mountain. Serious accidents occur including avalanches when skiers go off piste whether that trail is in Utah, the Alps, or in Bulgaria. Here is a sad story of such an accident within sight of the capital city.

http://www.novinite.com/articles/172738/Avalanche+in+Bulgaria%27s+Vitosha+Mountain+Kills+Two+People
World Festival of Animated Film in Sofia

Bulgaria is the world’s best kept secret. Ask a passerby what and where is Bulgaria and even the literati would have problems identifying and placing it never mind the passerby. There is always music, always dance, always theater, always a mesmerizing assortment of cultural events to attend and be captivated by. The World Festival of Animated Film has chosen Sofia to be its host city in 2016. And even if you aren’t a fan of animated film and could care less you have to be amazed at the variety of artistic endeavors and exhibitions that fill the cultural calendar in Sofia, Plovdiv, and other urban centers in the country.

http://www.novinite.com/articles/172712/Bulgaria%27s+Sofia+to+Host+World+Festival+of+Animated+Film+Jan+29-31

Snowy and cold in Bulgaria

Well, what else is new? The winters can be both a physical and emotional challenge. Snow, ice, the somber gloom of a mid-winter day. My most vivid recollection of winter in Blagoevgrad was a particular evening while walking back to my apartment after a night class on campus surrounded by fog so thick that I could not see my feet. A few more ice crystals in the air and I could have swam through the Jello-ey mass. London has nothing on a foggy evening in Bulgaria. The spring and summers however are glorious. Warm, sunny days and cool nights. We can almost guarantee splendiferous sunshine during June 2016. We have already applied to the Meteorological Service of Bulgaria for a special boon and have been assured that the weather during our four week sojourn will be grand.
http://www.novinite.com/articles/172736/Warning+for+Cold+Weather+Remains+in+Force+for+Most+of+Bulgaria+on+Thursday

That’s it for this time. We hope you decide to do summer study abroad with us in Bulgaria in June 2016. Compare our $2950 program fee with any other four week program to Europe and you’ll be astonished. How do we do it you wonder? Bulgaria hasn’t adopted the Euro as yet although it became a member of the European Union in 2007. And we have strong connections in Bulgaria. For more information see the Bulgaria program flyer: https://gsw.edu/Assets/International/Study%20Abroad/2016%20Bulgaria%20Flyer.pdf


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Until next time.
Dovizhdane,
Philip Szmedra