Common Bulgarian names

Oh, of course you’re interested in the most common names Bulgarians are assigned. The naming of new generations is a cultural imperative; it gives generational stability, grounds newborns immediately into a family mosaic, and connects every family to the cultural grid. It’s no surprise to learn the most common names are Maria and Georgi. Ivan, Ivanka, Dimitar and Elena are also supremely popular. Is there some transcendent message that this type of knowledge sends to those interested in Bulgarian cultural guideposts? Probably not a message per se but just a bit of light to illuminate a people.

http://www.novinite.com/articles/172501/Georgi%2C+Maria+Continued+to+be+Most+Common+Bulgarian+Names+in+2015

Bulgaria attracts tourists

What exactly is the attraction? Have a look at these mountains, the crystal clear air, the affordability of tour packages priced in Bulgarian leva rather than European euros, and the general friendliness of the people, and you have a winning formula for a vibrant tourism industry. While living in Bulgaria in 2006-07 I hosted a group of Air France employees who
had come to Sofia, Bulgaria’s capital, to enjoy a performance of Puccini’s La Boheme at the Sofia Opera House. They explained to me that the cost of their discounted air tickets, three nights at a 4 star hotel, and the opera tickets was about one half the cost of an orchestra ticket at the Paris Opera. Affordability, thy name is Bulgaria.

http://www.novinite.com/articles/172573/Bulgaria+Visited+by+110+000+during+Winter+Holidays

**Sofia’s Vitosha Blvd. a pricy place to do business**

It seems every urban region in Bulgaria has a dedicated pedestrian zone where dress shops, haberdasheries, cafes, gelato honey pots, book and music stores thrive. Sofia’s Vitosha Boulevard (named for the urban mountain that the street approaches) has all of those aspects of a vibrant city and more. You got buskers and mimes, people watchers and dog walkers, babies in buggies with rubber bumpers and without, families out for a post-prandial constitutional with nuts, chocolate, or a gelato in hand, mother wiping the ice cream off the foreheads of infants in arms, father keeping an eye on his four year old crazy twins on skates hoping to prevent the inevitable havoc that gremlins on wheels pose.

Vitosha is a lively place. And because of all the foot traffic an expensive place to rent retail space. Not as expensive as New York City’s Fifth Avenue but pretty dear.

http://www.novinite.com/articles/171862/Vitosha+Blvd+in+Bulgaria%E2%80%99s+Sofia+Ranks+World%27s%C2%A054th+Most+Expensive+Retail+Location

**Female directors film festival in Sofia**

The Middle East and North African film festival will begin in Sofia tomorrow the 14th. The festival’s purpose is to expose the talents of female directors from parts of the Islamic world to European audiences. Bulgaria has always been a crossroads of civilizations from Thracian
and Roman times to the present. The art and culture of the Greeks, the Slavs, the Mongols, and Ottomans has created an appreciation of cultural diversity and an inquisitiveness that may be unique in Europe. Sofia and Plovdiv, Bulgaria’s second city and a center of artistic vitality and expressiveness, are hosts year round to festivals of music, dance, theater, and films. At this moment more knowledge about the Islamic world and culture is a dire need in the world. The MENAR festival will offer a bit of light where darkness has been the norm. 

http://www.novinite.com/articles/172577/MENAR+Film+Festival+Kicks+Off+in+Sofia+on+January+14

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

and program application:


Or contact Dr. Sarah Speir at sarah.speir@gsw.edu; or me at: philip.szmedra@gsw.edu.

Until next time.
Dovizhdane,
Philip Szmedra