Dear Readers,

Bulgaria might be known for the big ski and summer resorts, but the places truly worth exploring don't get much press. In fact, some of them are known only to locals. Here we present you with our top picks for little-known places to discover this summer — as well as a few perennial favorites.

**A Danube Summer**

The Danube is an explorer's heaven: the more you discover, the more there is to explore. Just when you think you have gotten to know it, the river throws a marvelous surprise your way.

**Adventures in the Northwest**

Northwestern Bulgaria's first ever adventure festival, on July 1–4, is a great way to kick off the summer and pack as many culture & nature activities as you can in a long weekend.

Long stretches of well-maintained road with virtually no traffic; views of open green fields and dramatic cliff drops; fresh water sources at regular intervals; the occasional dairy farm or orchard: the Bulgarian Northwest is a road biker's paradise.

**Echoes from an Ancient Epidemic**

A chance discovery helped expand our knowledge of third-century Plovdiv and the struggles and hopes of its ancient inhabitants.

**A Plateau's Transformation**

The 2021 edition of Jazz under the Stars in the Devetaki Plateau took place over the past weekend. Enjoy some images from the open-air music festival, and learn more about the region's spectacular makeover here.

**A Call for Proposals**

In June, the America for Bulgaria Foundation announced a call for proposals for the redesign of the Thracian Treasures exhibit at the Vratsa History Museum.

**Chill but… Verify**

From researching vacation spots to procuring entertainment and grocery shopping, our lives are increasingly spent online. Don't be duped by false information and become more internet savvy by using the Association of European Journalists – Bulgaria's free online guide Factcheck.bg.

**Mark Your Calendars**

**Off the Beaten Path** is a festival for classical chamber music whose third edition will take place on August 6–9, 2021, in the Bulgarian village of Kovachevitsa. Follow this link for the full festival program, and read our interview with virtuoso pianist and festival founder Lora Tchekoratova here.

With Children's Science Center Muzeiko's new challenge, young explorers and their families can have summer fun even in the city. Through ten green missions, they will learn how to help reduce waste and protect the environment.

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