



Dear Friends,

Northern destinations might not be the most intuitive choice for winter travel. But North Bulgaria has plenty to offer during the cold season. Whether you like chasing sunsets, trekking through white-clad wilderness, uncovering layers of history (even while keeping layered up), or sampling heartening stews and soups, chances are the Bulgarian North won't disappoint.

While still considered off the beaten track, the region has enormous potential. This is why the America for Bulgaria Foundation has supported dozens of tourism initiatives there over for the past five years. Our latest offering is a request for proposals for tourism development in northwestern Bulgaria and along the Danube (see below).

One destination our team will definitely be visiting this year is the Danubian town of Svishtov, the birthplace of Bulgaria's most beloved writer, Aleko Konstantinov. To mark the 130th anniversary of the publication of his book *To Chicago and Back*, Svishtov Municipality will host a variety of events throughout the year.

We have a few more suggestions to help you escape the winter blues.

Happy reading!

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## Northbound



### Five Years of Incubating Successful Tourism Partnerships in North Bulgaria

Five years ago, the Foundation embarked on a long-term effort to foster tourism entrepreneurship and travel in the Bulgarian Northwest. Five years on, it supports tourism initiatives throughout northern Bulgaria.

[Find Out More](#)

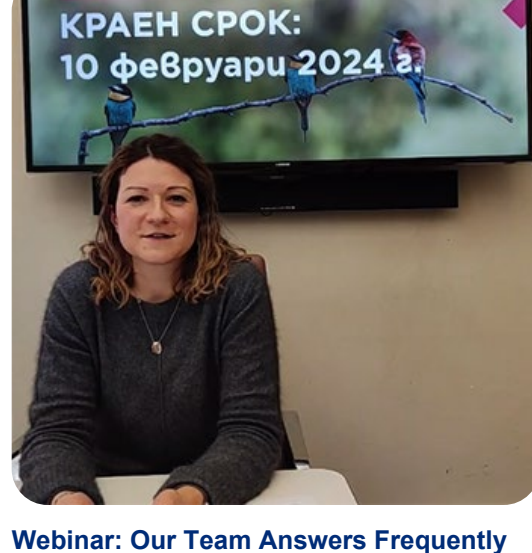
## New Opportunity



### Apply Now! New RFP for Northwest Bulgaria & Danube Tourism Development

This request for proposals will support the development of tourist products and services stimulating longer stays in the region.

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### Webinar: Our Team Answers Frequently Asked Questions in Tourism RFP

Who can apply? What ideas will you support? Are partnerships necessary? Find out how to make your application stand out.

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### Nature, Culture, History, and More: The North Has Opportunities Galore

Journalist Vladimir Nikolov of regional broadcaster Vratsa TV delved into some of the tourism projects in northern Bulgaria ABF has supported over the past half a decade and the Foundation's latest request for proposals in the Northwest and along the Danube.

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## On Air



### Regal Birds and Ancient Mysteries Await at Plovdiv Basilica

Travel series *No Luggage*, aired weekly on national television channel bTV, featured the Bishop's Basilica of Philippopolis on Christmas Eve.

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### Virgin Islands, Bulgaria: Discover the North's Best-Kept Secrets

In a special broadcast on December 31, 2023, bTV travel series *No Luggage* featured some of the many unspoiled destinations in northern Bulgaria.

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### Attention: Just a Few Days Left to See Bulgarian Treasures in Chicago

Chicago residents and visitors have [until January 28 to visit the \*First Kings of Europe\* exhibition at the Field Museum in downtown Chicago](#). The *First Kings* project is an unprecedented international collaboration between museums in North America and Southeast Europe bringing together more than 200 artifacts from 26 museum collections in 11 countries. Some of Bulgaria's most compelling artifacts from Antiquity occupy a central place in the exhibition.

The exhibition's next destination is Gatineau, Canada.

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Sending warmest regards,

Your friends at the America for Bulgaria Foundation

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