



The Black Sea Coast spans from the Bulgarian-Romanian boarder in the north to the estuary of Rezovska River at the border with Turkey in the south. The coastline is 354 km long (220 miles), of which 200 km (120 miles) of fine sand beaches. From a physico-geographical point of view, the area covers the seaside, including part of the shelf and the land stripe, which is 10 to 40-50 km wide in the mountainous regions of Stara Planina and Strandzha mountains.

The northern Black Sea Coast has mostly steep shores, as much as 70 meters high at certain part. Near Balchik and Kavarna, the limestone cliffs are furrowed by woody valleys. The seaside relief by the Albena and Golden Sands holiday resorts is hilly, with a typical land-slide, terraced nature. The Stara Planina mountain range with its most easterly tip, Cape Emine, divides the coast line into northern and southern before it goes under the sea. The South Black Sea Coast is popular for its long-stretching beaches.

The Bulgarian Black Sea Coast is an attractive centre for sea recreation and tourism. It is visited mainly during the summer both by Bulgarian and international guests and is one of the major tourist destinations in the country. Prior to 1989, it was called „The Black Riviera“ and most of the tourists came from the former socialist countries. Some of the most popular Bulgarian Black Sea resorts are: Albena, Ahtopol, Aheloy, Balchik, Dyuni, Elenite, Zlatni Pyasatsi (Golden Sands), Kiten, Lozenets, Nesebar, Obzor, Pomorie, Primorsko, Ravda, Sveti Vlas, Sinemorets, Slanchev bryag, Sozopol, and Tsarevo. The intense land development with new hotels and holiday villages that started at the end of the 90, now is the cause for protests by environmentalists.

