

SOUTH-EAST EUROPE

GREECE



AREA 131,957 sq km
POPULATION 10,760,000
MONEY Euro

BULGARIA



AREA 110,912 sq km
POPULATION 7,149,000
MONEY Lev

ALBANIA



AREA 28,748 sq km
POPULATION 2,995,000
MONEY Lek

MOST of south-east Europe is very mountainous, except near the River Danube. Farmers keep sheep and goats in the mountains and grow grain, vines and sunflowers on the lower land.

The coastlines are popular with tourists. There are many holiday resorts beside the Adriatic Sea (*Croatia*), the Aegean Sea (*Greece* and *Turkey*), and the Black Sea (*Romania* and *Bulgaria*). The Romanians are building new ski villages in their mountains. All these countries are trying to develop new industries, but this is still one of the poorest parts of Europe.

Albania is the least-known country in all Europe: very few people visit it. No railways crossed the frontier of Albania until 1985.

Yugoslavia no longer exists. It was 1 country with 2 alphabets (Latin and Cyrillic), 3 religious groups (Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Muslim), and 4 languages. Now there are 7 countries: *Slovenia*, *Croatia*, *Serbia*, *Montenegro*, *Kosovo*, *Bosnia-Herzegovina* and *Macedonia*.



▲ *The town of Korcula, in Croatia, is built on an island – also called Korcula – in the Adriatic Sea, north-west of Dubrovnik. In the distance are the limestone mountains of the mainland. Until 1991, Croatia was part of Yugoslavia, but after some fighting it became independent.*



▲ *Harvest time in Romania. The tomato harvest is being gathered by hand on a hot summer day. The horse-drawn cart will take the full boxes back to the village for distribution.*

THE DANUBE



This stamp shows a boat at the gorge on the River Danube called the Iron Gates, on the southern border of Romania. The Danube flows from Germany to a marshy delta beside the Black Sea.

THE CORINTH CANAL



A cruise ship being towed through the Corinth Canal in southern Greece. The canal was cut in 1893 and is 6.4 kilometres long. It links the Gulf of Corinth with the Aegean Sea.

Α Β Γ Δ Ε Ζ Η Θ Ι Κ Λ Μ Ν Ξ Ο Π Ρ Σ Τ Υ Φ Χ Ψ Ω

▲ **The Greek alphabet:** the Greeks developed their alphabet before the Romans, and they still use it. Some letters are the same as ours (A, B ...), and some look the same but have a different sound (P, H ...). The other letters are completely different. Some Greek letters appear in the Cyrillic alphabet, which is used in Bulgaria, the former Yugoslavia, and Russia (see page 41). The word 'alphabet' is formed from the first two Greek letters: alpha and beta. The Greek letter for D is called 'delta'; also the name for some river mouths that have a similar shape (page 96).



▲ **The Acropolis of Athens, Greece.** The monuments on this hill above the capital city are the ruins of temples built about 2400 years ago. Ruins of ancient Greek cities can be found in many of the countries shown on the map.

