VARNA
in your pocket
Summer 2009

"In Your Pocket: A cheeky, well-written series of guidebooks."
The New York Times

The Black Sea coast
Beaches, yachts and hot bodies...

Summer Nights
Food, fun and festivals

Including

St. St. Konstantin and Elena,
Golden Sands, Albena &
Balchik

No 2
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Enjoy your COMPLIMENTARY COPY of Varna In Your Pocket
Helios SPA & RESORT
APHRODITE BEAUTY SPA & HEALTH CLINIC
Golden Sands, Varna

The flagship 5-star Helios Spa&Resort offers the most comprehensive services in Golden Sands. This luxurious hotel complex, located on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast, boasts one of the largest and most exquisite spas for rejuvenation and recovery, providing unique opportunities to its guests and visitors. Called Aphrodite Beauty Spa & Health Clinic, named after the goddess of Beauty, Love and the Sea balancing the magnificent power of the Sun.
Dear visitors to Varna, welcome!

This is a city with rich 6000 years history, dating back to the Thracian times and likely even before that. We are proud that Varna has conserved so much of its history that you will be amazed. Visit the ruins of the Roman baths, the Aladzha Rock Monastery, the Stone Forest or the Archaeological Museum, which houses the oldest gold treasure in the world.

Varna is more than just history. It is a dynamic and ever growing city. It is the sea capital of Bulgaria and home to a big seaport, the headquarters of the Bulgarian Navy and the only naval museum. Not to being a major tourist destination Varna is also a university and business centre. Many businesses have found their place in the new business park, located near the renewed airport of the city.

Varna is widely known for its beaches. What many do not know is that there are several hot mineral springs which pour into the sea and if you want you can enjoy them even the colder months of the year. The less obvious sites include a dolphinarium, art galleries and even a Zoo.

During the summer Varna offers many sunny hours and festivals to enrich your cultural soul. Amongst them are the International Ballet festival, the International Music Festival, the Theatre and Jazz festivals.

Varna’s luxury hotels stand up to modern business and leisure requirements. The restaurants can suit all tastes.

Welcome to Varna, the gem in the crown of the Black Sea!

Dr. Marin Neshkov, Associate Professor Chairman of the Varna Chamber of Tourism
Welcome to Varna, the Pearl of the Black Sea. Varna has it all: great beaches, superb restaurants, bars aplenty and clubs to suit every taste. There’s some great shopping to be had here and some wonderful sightseeing in and around the town. Some of the countryside around Varna is breathtaking and should be seen to be believed. You’ll find plenty of help in this guide about Albena, Balchik, Golden Sands and St. Konstantin & Elena (so keep the guide in your pocket!). We’ve included extensive write-ups on all the bars, discos, restaurants and cultural venues you’re likely to come across, so check the guide if you see something that sparks your interest. We hope you’ll find enough information and assistance in this guide. There’s a lot happening this summer in the region: music festivals, concerts and events so check out the culture section to see what takes your fancy. Varna in the summer is perfect for sun, sand, sea and sea. It’s, quite literally, a hotbed of youthful seduction and extravagance. So, go easy and good things will happen. Check out the key phrases over the page and really ingrati- ate yourself with the locals by speaking some of the lingo. You’ll be amazed how welcome they’ll make you by speaking just a couple of words. While we’re on the subject of local, don’t forget to try the local dishes in the restaurants. The Bulgarians arecount only on yourself. Once you get to Varna congratulate yourself on being so patient and brave and please get a drink to relax; you can buy hard liquor from any petrol station.

By boat

The Sea Port Varna G-8, tel. +359 52 69 23 33

The Sea Port is located on ul. Valonlinova 1. It was built in 1968. The building is on 3 floors and there is a restaurant and a bank in the ground floor. Two lifts and a stairway on the third floor provides a broad view of the port complex. The port of Varna serves cargo, cruise and liner passenger ships. There are daily ferries for cruiseships and a small passenger port managed by Yacht Club Varna. The yacht club provides services to small vessels and is a regular host and organizer of many local regattas.

By bus


The station is, to put it mildly, still awaiting its turn for renovation. The building is open from 7.00-12.00 and from 16.00-23.00. Tickets may be purchased from the ticket-collector on the platform. The opening hours are flexible and vary depending upon the conditions. An arrival or departure of a bus is expected every 15 minutes, depending on the traffic. Alternatively you can catch the bus in front of the VIP hall. A single ticket costs from 1.00Lv (€0.50) to 2.30Lv (€1.15) and depends on your de- stination. Buses operate every 15 minutes every day from 5.45 to 23.00. Tickets may be purchased from the ticket-collector on the bus. They will help you to choose the type of ticket you must buy. Some sign language and repeating the name of your destination with various accents may be useful.

Getting to town: Take a taxi to the city centre (3-6Lv.). Buses No18, 18A, 40, 59, 148 will also get you downtown. If you want to visit a resort or a town in the vicinity check the buses leaving from the Central Bus Station. If there is no bus leaving to your destination, check the private minibuses (marshrutki). They have set tariffs and usually there is one every 15 minutes (others and southern parts of the Black Sea coast) or two hours (other parts of the Black Sea coast) or every hour or so. Be aware that almost no middle-aged person will speak English, so you will have to use sign language or ask the name of your destination with various accents. As getting around will be an adventure, try to take it with humour, albeit black. Valmy may be handy for the more nervous passengers.

Getting to St. St. Konstantin and Elena and Golden Sands:

Bus No 9 - Varna - St. St. Konstantin and Elena - Varna

Bus No 0 - Varna - St. St. Konstantin and Elena - Varna

Bus No 109 (direct fast bus) - Varna - St. St. Konstantin and Elena - Golden Sands - Varna

By car

Travelling by car can be tricky. A lot of signs are still only in Cyrillic or appear unexpectedly on the road. The state of the road network at times resembles the surface of the moon and you should take care of potholes. To get to Varna from Sofia take the highway A2 (Varna-Ahtopol-Ahtopol-Ahto- nus), passing around Veliko Tarnowo. Mind that the speed limits are minimum 130 km/h on main highways, 90 km/h on other city roads and 50 km/h in urban areas. Driving to Varna during the summer season you are guaranteed to encounter heavy traffic. Be very careful and pay close attention to the road and other drivers at all times. A lot of Bulgarian drivers tend to break the road rules, speeding limits, international driving principles and all basic morals. The price of your car seems to dictate how much you may flout the rules. You can count on yourself only. Once you get to Varna congratulate yourself for being so patient and brave and please get a drink to relax; you can buy hard liquor from any petrol station.

To get to St. St. Konstantin and Elena or Golden Sands travel eastwards on highway A2, through the city centre and then north via the main road E87. Another way to reach Abena is to head north via motorway 29, following the road signs.

By plane

Varna International Airport (Letishte Varna) is located 16km west of the city centre. On arrival you’ll find a currency exchange office, as well as ATM machine (bankomat), various offices of tour agencies, cafés and rent-a-car counters. There is also a taxi stand in Terminal 1 and Terminal 3. If you lose your luggage you can call within 7 days (the Lost and Found office +359 52 57 34 23 or +359 52 57 34 23 or e-mail info@varna-airport.bg).

Getting to town: The taxis are located in front of Terminal 1. Just a couple of words. While we’re on the subject of local, don’t forget to try the local dishes in the restaurants. The Bulgarians are

To get to Albena or Balchik travel eastwards on highway A2, through the city centre and head north via the main road E87. Another way to reach Albena is to head north via motorway 29, following the road signs.

By train

Varna Central Station (Tsentralka gara) open 04:45-23:00, is located near the Sea Garden, 10-minutes walk from the city centre. Facilities include currency exchange, restaurant on the top floor, luggage storage, car rentals, travel agen- ries for disabled. There is a Travel Information centre where English-speaking staff can help you with advice and maps. The information centre is on the ground floor at the station and is open from 12:30-18:00 Monday-Friday, Saturday from 07:00-14.00.

Getting to town: You’re 10-15 minutes walk from the city centre. With public transport you can get to the centre by buses Nos. 7, 8, 9, 309 or trolleybus No. 82. The ticket costs 1.00Lv. The taxi stand is right outside the main entrance of the building. Make sure you check the rates which should be clearly marked (in Cyrillic) by stickers on the front window (rates should be between 0.89 - 0.99 Lv per kilometre) and that the meters are switched on.
Alcohol

The archetypal national tipple is rakiya or brandy, which usually comes as either grozdiva rakiya (grape brandy) or silvova (plum). It’s usually served up in 50g or 100g shots and is consumed alongside salad or some other form of nibble – wait-staff will consider you peculiar if you don’t order at least something to snack on while you’re slugging down spirits. As far as beer is concerned, Bulgaria produces several palatable if unexciting lagers – Zagorka, Shumensko and Kamenitsa are the most reliable of the big brands. Much more impressive are the dry red wines, particularly Cabernet Sauvignon from Svishtov and Oryahovitsa, Merlot from Stambolovo, Gura from Novo Selo, Malvrud from Asenovgrad, and Melnik from the village of the same name. The Chardonnays and Traminers from Veliko Preslav are among the best of the whites.

Customs

If you are travelling within the EU those over 18 can bring in 200 cigarettes, 10 litres of alcohol, as is driving under the influence of more than 0.5/1000 of alcohol. Foreigners are well advised to obey the rules of the road even if they see locals behaving otherwise: the police import.

Electricity

Bulgaria runs on a 220 volt electricity supply (so some of the things to look out for – side of the road are just some of the things to look out for – and with hazards like these you need to swerve around like a stunt driver in order to stay in one piece.

Roads & Traffic police

Most Bulgarians turn into psychopaths as soon as they get behind the wheel of a car, although even the state of the road network one can hardly blame them. Cow-sized pedestrians, suicidal pedestrians and drunken cyclists riding on the wrong side of the road are just some of the things to look out for – and with hazards like these you need to swerve around like a stunt driver in order to stay in one piece.

In order to drive on Bulgarian roads outside Varna you’ll need to purchase a vignette which must be glued to the windscreen. You can get these from border crossings, post offices and OMV and Shell gas stations. For a car or SUV vignettes cost 30Lv for one week, 29Lv for one month, and 67Lv for a year. Talking on a mobile phone while driving is strictly forbidden, as is driving under the influence of more than 0.5/1000 of alcohol. Foreigners are well advised to obey the rules of the road even if they see locals behaving otherwise: the police rarely speak English and are unlikely to show any lenience. Police checks on major highways are common, especially when entering or leaving Varna at the weekend. Policemen are allowed to charge on-the-spot fines up to 50Lv.

Lev to Euro exchange rates (as of April 2009):

- US$1 - 1.47Lv; £1 - 2.17Lv
- McDonald's Big Mac 3.59 1.84
- 0.5ltr beer (shop) 0.80 0.40
- 146
- 166
- Police:
  - Ambulance: 150
  - Police: 166
- Varna: 02/91146
- Breakdown Service: 02/91146 or 146 if you’re calling from a Bulgarian mobile

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You Rent A Lot More Than A Car.

Tourist information

Varna Tourist Information Centre C-2, pl. Musala, tel. +359 52 65 45 18/-359 52 65 45 19, otic, vn@mail.bg, Brochures, entertainment schedules, car rental and accommodation, The English speaking staff will provide you with maps and guides in different languages.

Important phone numbers

Fire: 160
Ambulance: 150
Police: 166
Road assistance: 146
Anti-corruption unit: +359 2 982 22 22, www.nocorrupt.bg
Telephone information: +11800
Breakdown Service: 02/91146 or 146 if you’re calling from a Bulgarian mobile

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For those who prefer facts: Varna is the largest city on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast, third largest city in Bulgaria after Sofia and Plovdiv. Average summer temperature is 27.5°C (June–Sept.), but do not get surprised if it actually gets much hotter. July being the warmest month with an average temperature of around 6°C (Dec.–March). When snow falls it stays only for a couple of days and then melts quickly. The population of the city is around 350,000.

The Mayor of Varna’s name is Kiril Yordanov. He is already waving his scepter over the city for a third term. Parts of his other jurisdictions are St. St. Konstantin and Elena and Golden Sands resorts.

**History**

**Antiquity** In antiquity, Bulgaria, the land of Orpheus and Spartacus, belongs to the Kingdom of Macedonia. 4th century BC The territory of contemporary Bulgaria is conquered and colonized by Philip II and his son Alexander the Great. During the first century AD these lands become Roman provinces.

632 The History of Bulgaria as a separate country begins with the establishment of Old Great Bulgaria (also known as Onguara).

861 First Bulgarian Kingdom is established by Khan Asparuh.

865 Bulgaria becomes a Christian country. Tsar Boris I (the Baptist) accepts Christianity and makes Orthodox Church the state church.

9th-10th centuries “The Golden Age” period under the rule of Tsar Simeon the Great. The Slavic writing is officially accepted throughout the kingdom, imposing the ancient temples, and monasteries are built. Bulgaria has an outlet on three seas - the Black sea, Aegean Sea and the Adriatic. The capital is moved to Preslav, which during that period could be compared with the beauty and glory of Constantinople.

1018 Bulgaria falls under Byzantine rule until 1185.

1185 The Second Bulgarian Kingdom (1185-1396) is founded after two brothers, Asen and Peter. The capital city of this new kingdom becomes Veliko Tarnovo.

12th-13th centuries Under the rule of the Tsar Kaloyan (1197-1205) and Tsar Ivan Asen II (1218-1241), Bulgaria becomes a dominant power in the Balkans.

1396 The Ottoman occupiers take the capital Veliko Tarnovo after a three-month siege. The city was unsuccessfully besieged by Amadeus VI of Savoy. 1389-1396 Bulgaria briefly became the capital of the spick-off Principality of Karvuna, then was taken over by the Ottomans in 1389 (and again in 1444), ceded temporarily to Manuel II Palaeologus in 1413 (perhaps until 1444), and sacked by Tatars at 1414.

Battle of Varna On November 10, 1444, one of the last major battles of the Crusades in European history was fought outside the city walls. The Turks routed an army of 20,000 crusaders led by Vladislav II of Poland, which had

**Recent History**

In June 2001, the Bulgarian monarchy anounces an unpredicted comeback which is crowned with King Simeon II’s election as prime minister. Unable to ease economics hard- ships for the majority, however, he too sees his popularity wane after a few months in power. In the same election, the country’s Turkish minority is represented in the government for the first time, and the president encourages Bulgarians to be tolerant of Turks and Bulgarians. Progress continues under President Georgi Parvanov, albeit slower than most hope. Membership of NATO is granted in 2004, and entry into the European Union follows in 2007.


**History**

**Antiquity and Bulgarian conquest** Varna is among Europe’s oldest cities. Miletians founded the apoka (trading colony) of Odessos in 570 BC (in the time of Astyages) at the site of an earlier Thracian settlement. The name Odessos, first mentioned by Strabo, was pre-Greek, perhaps of Carian origin.

Long before the Thracians populated the area by 1200 BC, several prehistoric settlements best known for the eneolithic tumuli and cemeteries have been excavated. In 536, Justinian I made it the seat of the Byzantine Province of Odessos and later the capital of the Theme of Thrace. In 1204, the city was captured by the Franks and became a Genoese possession, remaining under Genoese rule until 1476. In 1389, the city was conquered by the Ottoman Sultans. In 1413, however, it was captured by the Ottoman army of Sultan Murad II during the Battle of Varna.

**Medieval Age**

The city was unsuccessfully besieged by Amadeus VI of Savoy. 1389-1396 Bulgaria briefly became the capital of the spick-off Principality of Karvuna, then was taken over by the Ottomans in 1389 (and again in 1444), ceded temporarily to Manuel II Palaeologus in 1413 (perhaps until 1444), and sacked by Tatars at 1414.

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**Middle Ages**

9th - 10th centuries Varna was the site of a principal scriptorium of the Preslav Literary School in a monastery founded by Tsar Boris I who may have used it as his monastic retreat.

1201 The mayor of Varna’s name is Kiril Yordanov. He already waves his scepter over the city for a third term. Parts of his other jurisdictions are St. St. Konstantin and Elena and Golden Sands resorts.

13th-14th centuries Varna had turned into a thriving commercial hub frequented by Genoese, Venetian and Ragusan merchant ships (the three republics held consulates and had episcopate colonies there) and flanked by smaller ports of their own, Kastritsi and Galata, within sight of each other. Wheat and other agricultural produce for the Italian and Constantinople markets were the chief exports, and Mediterranean foods and luxy items were imported.

Shipbuilding developed in the Kaimchia river mouth. 14th century Italian portolan charts showed Varna as perhaps the most important seaport between Constantinople and the Danube delta; they usually labeled the land Zagora.

1386 The city was unsuccessfully besieged by Amadeus VI of Savoy.

1389-1396 Bulgaria briefly became the capital of the spick-off Principality of Karvuna, then was taken over by the Ottomans in 1389 (and again in 1444), ceded temporarily to Manuel II Palaeologus in 1413 (perhaps until 1444), and sacked by Tatars at 1414.

Battle of Varna On November 10, 1444, one of the last major battles of the Crusades in European history was fought outside the city walls. The Turks routed an army of 20,000 crusaders led by Vladislav II of Poland, which had

**Mayor of Varna**

The mayor of Varna’s name is Kiril Yordanov. He already waves his scepter over the city for a third term. Parts of his other jurisdictions are St. St. Konstantin and Elena and Golden Sands resorts. Till now we just found one misdemeanor on his behalf, the ban on the gay pride in the summer of 2005 costing the municipality a 250 Euro pain on the budget being the fine for indirect discrimination.

Using a siege tower, and annexed it to the Second Bulgarian Kingdom.

1389-1396 Bulgaria briefly became the capital of the spick-off Principality of Karvuna, then was taken over by the Ottomans in 1389 (and again in 1444), ceded temporarily to Manuel II Palaeologus in 1413 (perhaps until 1444), and sacked by Tatars at 1414.
assumed at the port to set sail to Constantinople. The Christian army was attacked by a superior force of 55,000 or 60,000 Ottomans led by sultan Murad II. Wladislaw III was killed in a bold attempt to capture the sultan, earning the sobriquet Varanochok (of Varna in Polish; he is also known as Varnai Ulusio in Hungarian or Laiskio Varanensis in Latin). The failure of the Crusade of Varna made the fall of Constantinople to the Ottomans in 1453 all but inevitable, and Varna (with all of Bulgaria) was to remain under Ottoman domination for over four centuries. Today, there is a commemorative plate of Wladislaw III in Varna.

Late Ottoman rule

The Russians temporarily took over the city in 1773 and again in 1828, following the prolonged Siege of Varna, returning it to the Ottomans in 1830 after its medieval fortress was razed. The British and French campaigning against Russia in the Crimean War (1854-1856) used Varna as headquarters and principal naval base; many soldiers died of cholera and the city was devastated by a fire.

1866 The first railroad in Bulgarian lands connected Varna with the port of Rousse on the Danube, linking the Ottoman capital Istanbul with Central Europe; for a few years, the Orient Express ran through that route. The port of Varna developed as a major supplier of food—notably wheat from the adjacent breadbasket region of Southern Dobrudzha—to Istanbul, and as a busy hub for European imports to the capital; 12 foreign consulates opened in the city.

Liberated Bulgaria

With the national liberation in 1878, the city, which numbered 25,26 thousand inhabitants, was ceded to Bulgaria by the Treaty of Berlin; Russian troops entered on July 27. Varna became a front city in the First Balkan War and the First World War; its economy was badly affected by the temporary loss of its agrarian hinterland of Southern Dobrudzha to Romania (1913-16 and 1919-40). In the Second World War, the Red Army occupied the city in September 1944, helping cement communist rule in Bulgaria. Over the first decades after the 1878 liberation, with the departure of most ethnic Turks and Greeks and the arrival of Bulgarians from inland, Northern Dobrudzha, Bessarabia, and Asia Minor, and later, of refugees from Macedonia, East Thrace and Southern Dobrudzha following the Second Balkan War and the First World War, ethnic diversity gave way to Bulgarian predominance, although sizeable minorities of Gagauz, Armenians, and Sephardic Jews remained for decades.

One of the early centres of industrial development and the Bulgarian labor movement, Varna established itself as the nation’s principal port of export, a major grain producing and viticulture centre, seat of the nation’s oldest institution of higher learning outside Sofia, a popular venue for international festivals and events, as well as the country’s de facto summer capital with the elevation of the Evinograd royal summer palace (currently, the Bulgarian government de facto summer capital with the erection of the Evinograd princely palace (currently, the Bulgarian government royal summer palace). Mass tourism emerged since the late 1950s.

1962 The 15th Chess Olympiad, also known as the World Team Championship, was held. 1969 and 1987 Varna was the host of the World Rhythmic Gymnastics Championships. From September 30 to October 4, 1973, the 10th Olympic Congress took place in the Sports Palace. Varna is running for European Capital of Culture for 2019.

National holidays

January 1: New Year’s Day (Nova godina)
March 3: Liberation Day (Liberation from the Ottoman rule) (Denyat na osvobozhdenieto)
April 19: Easter (Wolden)
May 1: Labour Day (Denyat na truda)
May 6: St. George’s Day (Gergyovden; Day of the Bulgarian Army)
May 24: St. Cyril and Methodius (Sveti Sveti Kiril i Metodi); Day of the Cyrillic Alphabet and Bulgarian Education and Culture
September 6: Unification Day (Saedinenieto); marking the unification of Bulgaria and Eastern Rumelia in 1885
September 22: Independence Day (Denyat na nezavisimostta)
December 24, 25, 26: Christmas (Koleda)

Basic data

Territory: Bulgaria takes up 110,550 km² of land. It shares borders with Turkey, Greece, Macedonia, Serbia and Romania. The country is bordered to the east by a 354km-long stretch of Black Sea coastline.

Rivers: The main rivers in the country are Danube, Maritsa, Mesta, Struma, Iskar, Yantra. There are more than 600 warm and cold mineral springs.

Highest Point: Musala (2925m), south of Sofia in the Rila mountains.

Population of Bulgaria: 7,385,367 (July 2006 est.)
Population of Sofia: 1,377,531 (July 2006 est.)
Local time: Bulgaria is part of the Eastern European Time Zone (GMT+2); when it is noon in Sofia it is 11:00 in Berlin, 10:00 in London and 05:00 in New York City.

Religion: Traditional religion in the Republic of Bulgaria is Eastern Orthodox Christianity. Orthodox 85%, Muslim 8%, others 7%.

Couriers


In Time C-3, bul. Primorski 331, tel.+359 52 60 34 96, fa+359 52 60 34 98, varna@intime.bg, www.intime.bg.


Tip Top courier F-6, ul. Stara planina 3, tel.+359 52 60 10 70 /+359 (0) 888 901 492, tip@courier.bg, www.courier.bg.

Post

Central Post Office B-1, ul. Saborni 42. The Central Post Office is on bul. Vladislav Varnenchik and ul. Saborni. Stamps, envelopes, postcards as well as prepaid cards for public telephones and mobile services. Open 07:00 - 19:00, Sun 8:00 - 12:00.

Postal rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Letters</th>
<th>Bulgaria</th>
<th>Europe</th>
<th>USA &amp; Others</th>
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<tr>
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Bulgarian main city codes

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The above codes should be prefied with 0 if dialing from inside Bulgaria.

International country codes

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The above codes should be prefied with 0 if dialing from inside Bulgaria.
Welcome to all of you - museum, festival and art lovers. What you will not find in any other popular resorts you will find in Varna. We have listed plenty of places of interest within the following pages to feed your hunger for culture to bursting point.

Art galleries
Active Art C-2, ul. Dunav 5, tel. +359 52 62 07 45. Open 09:00 - 19:00, Sat 13:00 - 18:00. Closed Sun.
Alfa Art A-1, ul. Drin 1, tel. +359 52 61 26 06. Open 10:30 - 18:00.
Art Gallery Boris Georgiev B-3, ul. Lyuben Karavelov 1, tel. +359 52 61 23 63. Open 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon.
Art Gallery Papiyon C-2, ul. Dragoman 12, tel. +359 (0) 97 881 636. Open 10:00 - 19:00. Closed Mon.
Bulart C-2, ul. Shipka 22, tel. +359 (0) 878 244 882. Open 13:00 - 19:00. Closed Sat, Sun.
Caprich C-3, ul. Sveti Kliment Ohridski 1, tel. +359 52 61 27 97. Open 10:00 - 19:00.
Galeria B-3, ul. Bratya Shkorpil 8a, tel. +359 52 61 26 75. Open 10:00 - 19:00.
Galeria PS A-3, ul. General Kiselov 10, tel. +359 52 60 54 08. Open 10:00 - 19:00. Sat 14:00 - 17:00. Closed Sun.
Galeria Viva B-4, bul. Tsar Osboditel 30, tel. +359 52 60 15 61, +359 (0) 888 960 64 95. Open 10:00 - 19:30. Closed Sun.
Kavale B-4, ul. Stefan Karadzha 18, tel. +359 52 60 44 96. Open 14:00 - 19:00. Closed Sun.
Nairi C-2, ul. Panagjurishte 4, tel. +359 (0) 887 767 95 96. Open 10:00 - 19:00. Closed Sun.
Naviart D-2, ul. Drazi 9, tel. +359 52 63 00 89. Open 10:00 - 18:30. Closed Sun.
Teo B-3, ul. Makedonia 34, tel. +359 (0) 888 614 717. Open 14:00 - 19:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

18th International Folklore Festival Varna Summer

Festival motto: Let’s be friends – now and forever
Participants: Over 300 dancers, musicians and singers from Greece, Serbia, Turkey, Russia, Switzerland, USA, Cameroon, India and Bulgaria
History: The International Folklore Festival Varna Summer was first organized in 1992 on the initiative of the Varna municipality. In its altogether 17 issues up to now almost 150 folklore ensembles and 10 000 participants have taken part from more than 50 countries from Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas plus 56 amateur and professional folklore ensembles from Bulgaria, including the National ensemble Filip Kutev, State company for folklore songs and dances Pirin, State company for folklore songs and dances Trakia, Folklore song and dance ensemble Zagore, Folklore song and dance ensemble Strandzha, etc. Traditionally, authentic folklore groups take part in the festival programmes.

For more information: www.varnafolk.org

Music, opera and ballet
Open Air Theatre C-4, Sea Garden, tel. +359 52 62 28 03. This notable place situated in the heart of Varna’s Sea Garden is one of the city’s defining cultural landmarks. This is the place where the most popular festivals such as the International Ballet Competition are held.
Varna Opera Theatre B-2, pl. Nezavisimost 1, tel. +359 52 65 06 66, office@operavarna.bg, www.operavarna.bg. The jewel in Varna’s cultural crown, featuring the best Bulgarian and local artists and some popular foreign guests.

(3-20Lv.)

Theatres
Cinema & Theatre Bulgarian B-2, bul. Maria Luiza 1, tel. +359 52 60 28 28, bulgarian@abv.bg, www.bulgarian.bg. Dolby ProLogic II. Tickets tel. 60 28 28 (6-7Lv.)
Mustang Cinema B-2, ul. Bratya Shkorpil 33, tel. +359 52 61 03 33. Opened in 1997, it’s part of the big multiple centre. There are two well equipped halls. Not too far from the city centre. (6-7Lv.)
Palace Cinema B-1, bul. Vladislav Varnenchik 10, tel. +359 52 60 61 05. (5-6Lv.)

Music, opera and ballet
Open Air Theatre C-4, Sea Garden, tel. +359 52 62 28 03. This notable place situated in the heart of Varna’s Sea Garden is one of the city’s defining cultural landmarks. This is the place where the most popular festivals such as the International Ballet Competition are held. Varna Opera Theatre B-2, pl. Nezavisimost 1, tel. +359 52 65 06 66, office@operavarna.bg, www.operavarna.bg. The jewel in Varna’s cultural crown, featuring the best Bulgarian and local artists and some popular foreign guests.

(3-20Lv.)
<table>
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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Festival and Congress Centre</td>
<td>Tanguarda Quartet Works by A. Piazzola, S. Possetti, G. Beytelmann, A. Agri,</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>L. Sanchez, C. Nelegatti etc.</td>
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<td>04.07</td>
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<td>City Art Gallery</td>
<td>Elena Pargavelova – bariton and Ivo Yordanov – piano Works by Rachmaninov</td>
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<tr>
<td>05.07</td>
<td>19.30</td>
<td>City Art Gallery</td>
<td>Varna 100th anniversary of Pancho Vladigerov 70th anniversary of Georgi Minchev</td>
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<td>Varna Symphonic Orchestra, Conductor: Milko Kolarov</td>
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<td>06.07</td>
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<td>Varna Music Gallery Prestige Trio Works by: Khachaturian, Stravinsky, Menotti,</td>
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<td>Works by Pancho Vladigerov and Dvorak</td>
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<td>Works by: Pancho Vladigerov, Mozart and Tchaikovisky</td>
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<td>09.07</td>
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<td>Recital by Eugeni Bozhanov – piano Works by: Beethoven, Liszt, Rachmaninov</td>
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<td>10.07</td>
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<td>Stoyan Bachvarov Drama Theatre</td>
<td>Varna Opera premiere Cavalleria Rusticana – Mascagni, Pagliacci – Leoncavallo,</td>
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<td>Conductor Nain Nadjensova Starring Emil Ivanov and Kaludi Kukudov</td>
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<td>Robert Cohen - violoncello, Mie Miki – accordion Works by: J.S. Bach, Rameau,</td>
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<td>13.07</td>
<td>19.30</td>
<td>Festival and Congress Centre</td>
<td>Mincho Minchev – violin, Robert Cohen – violoncello, Mie Miki – accordion</td>
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<td>Works by Piazzola, Gere, Rameau and others</td>
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<td>International Summer Academy Concert by distinguished participants in violoncello master classes</td>
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<td>19.30</td>
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<td>Albena Dankova – violin, Violeta Popova – piano Works by: Beethoven, Britten, Cesar Franck, Rossini</td>
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<td>Georg Friedrich Schenck /Germany/ – piano recital Works by: Johannes Brahms</td>
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<td>International Summer Academy Concert by distinguished participants in accordion master classes</td>
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<td>18.07</td>
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<td>Borodin String Quartet /Russia/ Works by Haydn Borodin, Shostakovich</td>
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<td>24.07</td>
<td>19.30</td>
<td>Stoyan Bachvarov Drama Theatre</td>
<td>Varna Philharmonic Orchestra Conductor: Amaury du Closel /France/ Works by: Ravel, Mendelssohn and Debussy, 200 years from the composer’s birthday Rachmaninov With the kind assistance of Institut Francais de Sofia</td>
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Varna has a good range of places for you to spend your night or day, offering everything from good hotels to plenty of options for those who wish to rent an apartment and cook their own food. Hotels quote their prices in Euros and in Lev. All prices include VAT and most of them offer breakfast, however it is always good to ask just to be sure. You can add your comments to any accommodation listing in this guide. Send e-mail to bulgaria@inyourpocket.com or add your comments online - www.inyourpocket.com. The most interesting reviews will be published and you might also win a prize - a weekend for two to a destination in Bulgaria.

Cream of the crop

**Capitol B-3, ul. Petko Karavelov 40, tel. +359 (0) 8 96 68 80 00, fa +359 52 68 80 08, office@capitol.bg, www.capitol.bg.** The professionalism with which the Capitol hotel caters to every need is somehow matched with the homely comfort of the rooms. All have wireless Internet, satellite television and all traditional conveniences of a standard which one expects from a 4-star hotel. We were also impressed by the abundance of thoughtful little touches throughout - international newspapers, free Wi-Fi available in the lobby, business centre and the nice meeting/banquet facilities. Free private parking is possible on site. All public and private spaces are non-smoking. ➤ 29 rooms (22 doubles €90 - 100, 5 suites €115, 2 Studio €120).

**Grand Hotel Musala palace C-2, ul. Musala 3, tel. +359 52 66 41 00, +359 (0) 888 258 693, fa +359 52 66 41 96, reservations@musalapalace.bg, www.musala-palace.bg.** The professionalism with which the Capitol hotel caters to every need is somehow matched with the homely comfort of the rooms. All have wireless Internet, satellite television and all traditional conveniences of a standard which one expects from a 4-star hotel. We were also impressed by the abundance of thoughtful little touches throughout - international newspapers, free Wi-Fi available in the lobby, business centre and the nice meeting/banquet facilities. Free private parking is possible on site. All public and private spaces are non-smoking. ➤ 24 rooms (8 doubles €95 - 140, 4 De-lux rooms €105 - 150, 8 Studios €115 - 160, 4 Junior suites €125 - 170).

**State Puppet Theatre Theatre C-2, ul. Dragoman 4, tel. +359 52 60 78 44, office@vnpuppet.com, www.vnpuppet.com.** Founded in 1952 the theatre offers performances for audience from different age groups: classical and contemporary plays for kids, humorous and vanguard shows for adults, educational plays for students. There is also a museum with exposition from about 130 theatre puppets and elements of décors of 15 emblematical performances shown from 1952 to 2000. The Puppet Theatre of Varna for 35 years has been hosting the prestigious international puppet festival - The Golden Dolphin. It takes place every three years in the beginning of October in Varna and it is a place every year from 1st to 21st of August in Varna.

**State Puppet Theatre**

**Boutique Splendid B-2, ul. Bratyah Shkorpil 30, tel. +359 52 68 14 14, fa +359 52 68 14 15, splendid@planehotels.com, www.splendidvarna.com.** A boutique hotel in the centre of Varna. Rooms are designed in Bordeaux and champagne colours in a classic setting. The fourth floor is for non-smokers only and the rooms there face the cathedral and cocktail bar. They are all with bathtubs. A conference hall and a lobby bar, sandwiches and snacks available. ➤ 26 rooms (1 single €80, 17 doubles €100, 4 apartments €160, 5 Junior Suite €110).

**Design Hotel Modus C-3, ul. Stefan Stambolev 46, tel. +359 52 66 09 10, fa +359 52 66 09 20, info@modushotel.com, www.modushotel.com.** A design business hotel with ecological orientation. Some rooms have terraces with sea panorama. Bathrooms in the rooms are with showers; the apartments have bathtubs. Each room is equipped with LCD TV and a personal safe. English speaking staff are available. Kids up to 12 sleep for free. ➤ 37 rooms (4 singles €50 - 75, 25 doubles €100 - 130, 4 Apartment small €130 - 160, 2 Apartment Medium €170 - 200, 2 Apartment Big €200 - 240).

**Divesta B-1, ul. Hristo Samsarov 1, tel. +359 52 68 47 47/ +359 52 68 47 48, info@hoteldivesta.com, www.hoteldivesta.com.**

**Hotel Divesta.** This is a small business hotel. All rooms are with internet and air-conditioner. Some bathrooms have bathtubs, most are with showers. Some rooms have balconies with city or cathedral panorama. Restaurant (36 seats, European and Bulgarian cuisine). Conference hall (30 seats and equipment). Panorama bar on the roof. ➤ 27 rooms (5 singles €55, 16 doubles €80, 4 suites €102, 2 apartments €120).

**Golden Tulip G-7, bul. Hristo Botev 3A, tel. +359 52 68 30 00, fa +359 52 68 30 98, info@goldentulipvarna.com, www.goldentulipvarna.com.** A city business hotel. All rooms are equipped with guest rooms and designed with soft blue furniture. The executive rooms are more spacious, provided with a desk and Internet connection. All bathrooms are equipped with bathtubs and showers. No balconies. Separate non-smoking smoking floors. A restaurant (90 seats, open: 07:00-23:00) with European cuisine is at the guests’ disposal. The hotel has 3 conference halls. ➤ 90 rooms (singles €80, doubles €98 - 108, apartments €130, Apartment Delux €350).

**Pamorana C-3, bul. Primorski 31, tel. +359 52 68 67 00, www.pamorana.bg.** An elegant hotel situated opposite the Primorski swimming complex and the beach. Some rooms have balconies with sea panorama or facing the city. All bathrooms are with bathtubs. Underground garage. English-speaking staff are available. Kids up to 12 sleep for free. ➤ 57 rooms (27 doubles €65, 9 apartments €135, 5 Junior Suite €110).

**Mid-range**

**Aqua Hotels 6-G, ul. Devnya 12, tel. +359 52 63 90 00, +359 899 47 47 67, fa +359 52 63 90 90, info@aquahotels.com, www.aquahotels.com.** Close to the train station and the centre you will immediately recognize the bluish building. Even though the name is a bit misleading as there is no swimming pool, you can choose this hotel for either leisure or business. They have a nice relation area with a bar, a solarium and a satellite TV on every phone and are in blue or red. The bathrooms are with douche cabins and the Presidential suite has a Jacuzzi on the terrace. Be aware that the parking is paid 5 Leva per 24 hours. ➤ 76 rooms (singles €40 - 47BGN, 70 doubles €50 - 65BGN, 7 apartments 78BGN, 1 Presidential Suite 153BGN).

**Art hotel C-2, ul. Praslav 59, tel. +359 52 65 76 00, fa +359 52 65 76 09, hotel_art@abv.bg, www.arthotel.bg.**
WHERE TO STAY

com. A small friendly hotel net to the main commercial district in the heart of Varna. The rooms are spacious, furnished in beige and brown colours with satellite TV and safe. The rooms are airy and have good natural lighting. The bathrooms are clean and modern. The staff is friendly and helpful. 

Astra B-3, ul. Opalcheniyska 9, tel. +359 52 63 05 24, fa +359 52 60 89 33, hotel_astra@abv.bg. This small family hotel with only 11 rooms is situated in the heart of Varna near the main business, commercial and cultural districts of the city. It represents a nice combination of a homey atmosphere with some creative decorations. The rooms are with cable television, WiFi and air conditioning. Prices include breakfast (croissant and a cup of coffee) in the garden. There are also apartments for rent. 

Three Dolphins ul. Gabrovo 27, tel. +359 52 60 09 11/359 885 62 91 37, fa +359 52 60 09 17, three-dolphins@abv.bg. Close to the train station this is a nice stop-over hotel. Small, clean and affordable with rooms with double beds, wooden furniture, cable TV, safe deposit box, mini bar and double cabin in the bathrooms. Breakfast is not included. 10 rooms (6 doubles €25, 4 triples €30, 4 Dormitory €30). 

Budget

Davidovi rela C-3, ul. Stefan Karadzha 22, tel. +359 52 36 15 86/+359 52 64 15 77, valdav@abv.bg. A small hotel located on a quiet street near the Sea garden. The furnishing is shabby but the hotel is clean, cheap and by the sea - important factors when choosing a place to stay. 4 rooms, all for €30 per night. 

Rela Hotel B-4, ul. Stefan Karadzha 22, tel. +359 52 60 78 47/+359 97 893 432, fa +359 52 61 81 19, hotelrela@abv.bg, www.hotelrela1.com. This nice hotel is close to the central train station. The staff are polite and friendly. Some rooms have balconies facing the inner yard. Cable internet is available in all rooms. Bathrooms of the luxurious rooms and studios have bathtubs, facing the inner yard. Cable internet is available in all rooms. The decor is clean and spacious. The staff speak English. However, they do serve you promptly. There are 17 rooms (6 singles, 8 doubles, 3 triples). 

Dionis D-2, ul. Buizhuzda 13, tel. +359 52 65 56 30, fa +359 52 65 56 31, hoteldionis@abv.bg, www.hoteldionis.com. This nice hotel is close to the central train station. The staff are polite and friendly. Some rooms have balconies facing the inner yard. Cable internet is available in all rooms. Bathrooms of the luxurious rooms and studios have bathtubs, facing the inner yard. Cable internet is available in all rooms. The decor is clean and spacious. The staff speak English. However, they do serve you promptly. There are 17 rooms (6 singles, 8 doubles, 3 triples). 

Typical Bulgarian dishes and wines

Darzalas B-3, bul. Slivnitsa 33, tel. +359 52 60 98 14, fa +359 52 60 60 84, club-wine-varna.com, www.wine-varna.com. Darzalas This unique place named after the great god of Odessos, the patron of the abundance and bowels of the earth, keeps the style and atmosphere of an old wine cellar. The interior is a nice combination of wood, brick, window, stone and many candles, the flames of which add a cozy element to the whole place. There is also a museum exhibition of the history of Bulgarian wine growing, wine producing and cooperatives, as well as books, articles and photos connected to these activities. Darzalas offers well prepared Bulgarian and international meals and throughout the year visitors can taste different Bulgarian wines. There are almost a hundred seats in the restaurant, located in a quiet street the restaurant offers a relaxed and very pleasant atmosphere. The menu includes French cuisine specialties which came out so delicious they took our breath away. Prices are a little high and staff are a little strange. However the interesting interior, selected music and fascinating yard give a very delightful overall impression. English speaking staff and menu in English are available. Open 12:00 - 24:00. (7-17Lv). 

Bulgarian

Alba B-2, bul. Maria Luiza 34. This place is extremely popular among younger locals for its relaxed informal atmosphere. There is a nice garden with a bar and tables only for the hotel residents. All rooms come complete with cable TV, air-conditioning, bathtub, shower and fridge. Prices include breakfast (croissant and a cup of coffee) in the garden. There are also apartments for rent. 10 rooms (2 doubles €30, 4 triples €30, 4 Dormitory €30). 

Varna offers restaurants for every budget and for nearly every taste. No matter whether you like to live on fast-food or nourish yourself on the exquisite salad and tumoredos of a bistro, you will definitely find your place in Varna. Local all-year-open restaurants and bistros are found in the city itself, those on the boulevard strip are closed during the winter season. The prices in brackets refer to the average cost of a main course.

Restaurants

Guan Don ul. Bratya Shkorpil 30, tel. +359 52 61 70 62/+359 (0) 897 90 42 56. A pleasant 3 storey restaurant offering tasty Chinese cuisine and generous portions. The place is arranged with wooden tables, couches and Asian art. There are 80 seats and on the weekend and holidays the place gets packed, so it’s advisable to reserve a table in advance. The staff are not overflying with amiability, especially when the place is full, but the prices are good and the location perfect. Open 11:30 - 23:00. (5-15Lv). 

At the Nun’s C-3, bul. Primorski 47, tel. +359 52 61 18 30, pri_monahinite@abv.bg. At the Nun’s Probably the restaurant with the best Bulgarian cuisine not only in Varna but in the entire country, and this is not an exaggeration. The owner who is also the chef, has collected hundreds of recipes from all over Bulgaria, so here you can try real Bulgarian food from different regions prepared in the way our grandmothers used to cook. As a extra the restaurant has an old chapel in the garden, so the prices are very reasonable. Open 11:00 - 24:00. (10-22Lv). 

Mehana Koleoto D-2, ul. Preslav 31, tel. +359 52 63 32 77/+359 (0) 888 20 52 50, koleoto_varna@yahoo.com. This is a Bulgarian folk style restaurant with Bulgarian cuisine. It is decorated with tablecloths, fretwork, old pictures from Varna, household knick-knacks, bells and other folklore trappings. There are 2 TV screens, so you will not miss any game. They went a little further with hanging a wild boar’s head on the wall, if this doesn’t bother you bring this issue of Varna In Your Pocket with you after 18:00 and you will get a free beer or a glass of wine with your main course. Open 08:00 - 24:00. (4-18Lv). 

Ribletska Shatra C-4, Krayzhrenzha aleya - Sever 2, tel. +359 52 60 97 35. Here on the beach you can escape from the summer heat and enjoy a delicious meal. This folk style restaurant is not expensive; the staff are friendly but do not speak English. However, they do serve you promptly. There are 100 seats in- and outdoors. The view is towards Galata and the lighthouse. Open 10:00 - 01:00. (5-15Lv). 

Bordeau C-2, ul. Tsar Simeon 3, tel. +359 (0) 897 916 566. A small and charming French restaurant (about 50 seats) which offers excellent food. Hidden on a quiet street the restaurant offers a relaxed and very pleasant atmosphere. The menu includes French cuisine specialties which came out so delicious they took our breath away. Prices are a little high and staff are a little strange. However the interesting interior, selected music and fascinating yard give a very delightful overall impression. English speaking staff and menu in English are available. Open 12:00 - 15:00, 18:00-23:00. (10-20Lv).
Greece

Tanasi Greek Restaurant B-2, ul. Bratyh Skopiril 16, tel. +359 52 60 11 38. An elegant Greek restaurant on a quiet alley. It holds 150 seats arranged in three halls and a VIP area. There are two floors and an underground floor. Various typical Greek specialties are offered, such as fish, grill and meat, a knuckle, etc. The staff consist of kind English speaking men. Menu in English is available. Good service. The interior is designed in bright nuances of yellow.

Pizza

AEGREBW

Pizza Akvarel C-2, ul. Dragoman 18, tel. +359 52 60 35 07/-359 (0) 889 100 242, www.akvarellonline.com. This pizza chain and pasta restaurant (30 seats) close to the pedestrian area. The food is very good. The staff are helpful although there is another place where the concept of service with smile has yet to reach. Radio music. Pets are not allowed. English speaking staff and menu in English are available. The interior is pleasant and clean. Many visitors. Prices are reasonable.

Mediterranean

Alga B-2, bul. Strastenbrella 2, tel. +359 52 60 36 14, office@alga.bg, www.alga.bg. A pleasant and clean pizza restaurant on a quiet street. 100 seats both outside and inside. Big LCD screen, opens music. In the menu there are appetizers, pizza, roast dishes, pasta, salads, desserts, wines, etc. English speaking staff and menu in English are available. The place attracts quite a lot of visitors and would probably attract more if it wasn’t so hard to find. Service is good.

Drinking

An underground pizza restaurant located at the entrance of the Sea Garden. The seating is wooden. They offer all kinds of fish and other marine dishes. The staff is English and helpful. There is a separate kids’ nook visible from all tables. Besides, there is a karaoke bar next door, so the place is especially good for evenings.

International

Europe B-3, bul. Slivnitsa 11, tel. +359 52 60 39 50. The restaurant situated on the Central Street exactly at the entrance to the Sea Garden. The staff are very polite and friendly. The meat dish will welcome you and lead you to your table. The place is quiet. The staff is not fluent in English. The restaurant is on two levels and there is a special place to have a cup of coffee or something sweet. The outside seats are virtually on the street.

Happy Bar & Grill Musala C-2, ul. Dragoman 1, tel. +359 52 60 38 38, musala@happy.bg, www.happy.bg. How can you be in Happy and not feel happy? The meals are delicious and waitresses smile at everybody. An overall friendly atmosphere. The specialty of this restaurant, called Musala, is in the heart of the city and the outside seats are on the street, so you may enjoy the sight of passing by tourists and locals.

Mr. Baba South beach (Yuzhan plazh), tel. +359 52 61 46 29, mr.baba@abv.bg, www.mrbaba.bg. This grellone from the 15th century, built in original size, hosts an elegant restaurant with 120 seats inside and 130, under the stars, on the deck. It has been beached on the sands of South Beach, at the end of the Sea Garden and presents you with a beautiful view to the sea and port. The interior is nicely designed to make you feel comfortable. The food is excellent and the wine list fair. The cuisine is a combination of international marine and meat dishes. The staff can cook the seafood or the crocodile and do go for a delicious desert. Tomorrow is also a good day for working on your waistline. After all the sausage, fish and chicken specialties, doner kebab, baked vegetables, as well as Turkish desserts such as Künefe, Kadaif, stuffed figs and sultanas, which are visible from all tables. There are two more restaurants of the same chain on the street.

Mish mash (ячнево мано) Eggs, baked over a caramel in small cups.

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Zelenchukova supa (зеленчукува супа) Vegetable soup

Redena salata (редена салата) A ripe soup, tomatoes, onions, mushrooms, ham, peppers, eggs and cheese.

Supa Topcheta (супата топчета) Small meatballs, beets and vegetables.

Tarator (таратор) Cold soup made of cucumber, walnuts, oil and yogurt.

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Costa Coffee B-3, bul. Slivnitsa 33. This lovely place located close to the entrance of the Sea Garden and Chemn is More Hotel is part of the world famous coffee shop chain. Excellent coffee, cakes, light and pleasant music and the usual set of cold beverages. Open 0700 - 2200, Sat, Sun - 0800. www.costacoffee.bg

Deja Vu A-3, ul. Brayta Miladionvi 142, tel. +359 52 63 18 17. A two level café restaurant with 100 seats. There is a summer garden, with furniture of natural materials. The underground floor has a night bar atmosphere. The menu includes appetizers, salads, sandwiches, drinks, cocktails, ice-cream. Staff are English speaking, but an English menu is not available. Open 0700 - 2200. The place is difficult to find and although the staff can be a little stand prices are a little high. www.dejavu.bg

La Piazza A-1, ul. Vladislav Varnenchik 12, tel. +359 52 60 20 26. Café in a noisy central part of the Cathedral. 60 seats inside and 20 outside. The menu offers cocktails, ice cream, coffee, soft and alcohol drinks. MTV and radio music background. The atmosphere is the overall impression for a classic street-cow. Staff are nice and polite. Open 0800 - 2200. LaPiazza.bg

Rucher Artístico C-2, Syoyan Bachvarov Drama Theatre building, pl. Nezavisimost. An overcrowded café in the central park, surrounded by trees and greenery on one side, and by cars and pavement on the other. Peace and relaxing atmosphere with exotic elements. The café faces the Cathedral. English speaking staff and menu in English are available. Open 0830 - 2100, (1-35Lv).

VIP Fashion C-2, ul. Dragoman 4, tel. +359 52 69 96 96, www.vipfashiongroup.com. A stylish café bar (180 seats) situated under the puppet theatre. Stairs with amphitheater disposition surround the outdoor tables. The indoor part is designed in several styles by famous designers and the different parts are named after some of them. Fashion reviews are often organized here. Music is varied, retro and house. English-speaking staff and menu in English are available. The air-conditioned hall, grouped in futuristically designed boes. www.vipfashiongroup.com

The Hungarian eiles in Shumen, Bulgaria, led by Lajos Kossuth of the Hungarian Revolution of 1848, brewed beer and are thought to have found their way here to the locals. However, their stay in the city was short and they could not manage to introduce beer to the masses. The Frenchman Ducop, who worked as a railway engineer near Shumen, opened in 1873 and 1876, opened a small brewery in Knyazevo. The Czech Jiri Prosek, who first came to Shumen in 1872 to work on the same railway line, noted that the local shop had the custom of brewing primitive beer at harvest time. And primitive it was. Their recipe; soak grain in water, leave it to spray, dry it, add hot water and wild hops, let it fermentate naturally and cool it.

Bulgaria’s earliest commercial brewery was established in the town of Ruse in 1817 by Friedrich Sulzer in 1878. It became a large and more modern factory between 1879–1881 with the help of another Swiss eper, Christian Habermann. The brewery opened in 1882 in the Kamenitsa area near the city and continues today, its successor being the Kamenitsa brewery. The first brew-ery in Varna dates back to 1884, when the commanders Kassabov and Vitevich opened up a small factory.

The professional Czech brewer Franz-Franstleik Milde established the Shumenko beer factory in Shumen in 1882, and helped in the foundation of the Bulgarian Brewing Association the same year. Jiri Prosek and his brothers founded the Vitosha brewery in Sofia in 1884; they also bought Ducop’s small brewery and owned the Dobak Zrikol color. Today, the Vitosha brewery is known as Ariana.

In 1899, Milde’s Bulgarian partners tried to deceive him, so he bought the Austrian Johann Habermann’s brewery in Rouse (established in 1876) and started producing beer there. Feared of competition, his partners quickly paid their debts and Milde returned to Shumen, leaving his brother Sebastian as the Rouse factory’s manager.

In the late 19th and early 20th century, beer rapidly grew in popularity among the Bulgarian middle class, and a large number of beer houses were established in most big cities. Among this wave, there were already 18 breweries in Bulgaria. Besides those already mentioned, these included the Stara Zagorka brewery of Dr. Kozhuhov (since 1902), the Czechs Malotin and Hozman’s factory in Lom, the Habermann and St Petka breweries in Rouse, the German Moritz-Ratz’s Cherven Rak factory in Pleven, W. Olgar’s in Koshava, others in Veliko Turnovo and Gorna Oryahovitsa, etc.

Following World War II, it was Bulgaria became part of the Eastern Bloc, all breweries were nationalized. Since the democratic reforms in 1989, the Bulgarian beer market has been dominated by some of the world’s largest multinational beer companies, like InBev with Kamenitsa, Ashtik, Sofia, Pleven, Habermann, Amuz, MM, Atanas Strumsko and Varna.

Just 230 km, away from Sofia, in the heart of the historic region of Traye, lies the city of Stara Zagora. In its rich historical inheritance, the city of straight streets, linden trees and poets, as it is known in Bulgaria, is famous for being among the birthplaces of one of the most popular Bulgarian beers - Zagorka. History

It started in 1902 with the opening of the “Biraria” / Beer House/. This is how people in Stara Zagora called the new brewery factory of local entrepreneur doc-tor Paul Milde. A lot of investments were made. New automated heavy duty equipment was installed, which was at a level comparable with the highest world standards. At the same time, the special attention and care for the quality brought good results.

Zagorka was the pioneer in beer marketing as well. For the first time in Bulgaria, they introduced the design and packaging with a new type of bottle, a new portfolio of different tastes and flavors of beer was epipanated. Zagorka – the Bulgarian beer – stepped on new markets – Tart of beer, foreign, Carlsberg, Tuborg, and others.

Today, more than a century after its foundation, Zagorka is a leading Bulgarian beer brand. More than any other brand, it symbolizes long standing tradition, experience and rich history of excellent and constant quality. Zagorka stands in high esteem and respect of Bulgarian beer connoisseurs. And even more – it is...The best beer of Bulgaria

24 hours in a day, 24 beers in a case. Coincidence?

Zagorka Beer – the leading Bulgarian beer

Thoughts about beer
• Beer is the greatest invention. The bicycle is also not bad, but it doesn’t go well with French fries.
• You have to know your limits when drinking beer otherwise you may drink too little.
• You cannot drink too much beer – only the toilet is too small.
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Additionally, it should be mentioned that the international beer brands dominate their own substantial piece of the market with Stella Artois, Beck’s, Heineken, Staropramen, Tuborg and Amstel. All of these brewed locally in Bulgaria.

Numerous beer festi-vals organized in different parts are named after some of them. Fashion reviews are often organized here. Music is varied, retro and house. English-speaking staff and menu in English are available. The air-conditioned hall, grouped in futuristically designed boes. www.vipfashiongroup.com

Zagorka has always been, and always will be, committed to providing Bulgarian beer lovers with a drinking experience of the highest standards, with an array of straight streets, linden trees and poets, as it is known in Bulgaria, is famous for being among the birthplaces of one of the most popular Bulgarian beers - Zagorka.

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The professional Czech brewer Franz-Franstleik Milde established the Shumenko beer factory in Shumen in 1882, and helped in the foundation of the Bulgarian Brewing Association the same year. Jiri Prosek and his
Bars

Bordo café B-3, ul. Slivnitsa 35, tel. +359 52 60 84 16. A cheap pub on the left side of Cherno More hotel. Actually located in the basement of two big pedestrian streets, so it’s not the most relaxed place that you will find. Drinks and cocktails are offered, as well as sandwiches and snacks. 100 seats. Various music. English speaking staff are available. Pets are allowed outside. → Open 00:00 - 04:00.

Cocktails & Dreams pl. Nezavisimost, tel. +359 52 97 41 48/359 (0) 896 87 60 87. This is a show bar right across from the Cathedral at the beginning of the main pedestrian street. Up the stairs you get onto a veranda with bar plots. Inside there are two halls with 30 places and a 2nd terrace on the other side. The place is dark, illuminated with lanterns, arranged with red divans. The action is at the bar, where you can enjoy the bartender’s juggling show. They have thematic evenings - Retro on Thursday, DJ Party the bar, where you can enjoy the bartender’s juggling show. → Open 00:00 - 06:00.

Da Capo C-2, ul. Preslav 25. An elegant café in red and black, with modern and stylish atmosphere (40 seats). It offers cocktails, alcohol and soft drinks, shakes, etc. but no food. No English speaking staff or menu. The coffee is excellent. Prices are reasonable. → Open 08:00 - 24:00. (3-Lv.

Indian bar B-2, ul. Parchevich 22, tel. +359 52 64 64 98. When there are many places similar to each other, this place is a rather unusual and charming surprise with more than 5 years history, located close to the main commercial district of Varna. When you take your first step inside you may think that this bar is a museum with so many colors, feathers and different Indian amulets. In daytime the place is quiet but the kind lady will serve you a cup of coffee with a smile. The fun here begins after 20:00. Don’t forget to leave your picture - it’s a tradition for this place. → Open 08:00 - 24:00.

Lobby Bar Musala Palace C-2, ul. Musala 3, tel. +359 52 66 41 00, fa +359 52 66 41 96, www.musalapalace.bg. The lobby bar of the Grand Hotel Musala Palace provides a sense of luxury and fine cuisine with high class and elegant service. The place offers classic fine dining and a variety of homemade ice creams and sorbets. Classical cocktails and unique selection of cocktails from different regions are a trade mark of the venue. The guests of the lobby bar can enjoy the personal tea collection of the Chinese Emperor, which has been served at his court since 12th century. → Open 00:00 - 24:00.

One C-3, ul. Kniaz Alexander Batonberg 11, tel. +359 (0) 888 800 661. An evening underground café with house and hip-hop music. 60 seats. Pets are not allowed. English-speaking staff and English menu are available. The menu includes main cocktails and drinks. Food is not offered, only nuts. Prices are low. → Open 18:00 - 04:00. (1-8 Lv.

Pench’s Cocktail Bar C-2, ul. Draganov 25, tel. +359 52 61 66 56, info@penchis.com, www.penchis.com. Maybe the most cocktail bars in Varna, 50 seats. The menu includes hundreds of cocktails (hot, cold, fresh, soft, with or without alcohol, etc.) This bar is underground, with very relaxed atmosphere; heavy soft furniture, long curtains, Buddha Bar and ethno music. English speaking staff and English menu are available. The staff are nice and friendly. Prices are a little on the high side. → Open 10:00 - 01:30. (3-Lv.

Gay & Lesbian

Mil Club Alexander B-3, Cherno More Hotel, Kaskada Complex, tel. +359 (0) 886 607 609, www.alexander-milclub.com. This is a dance club in the centre of Varna. The entrance to the club is net to the main entrance of Cherno More Hotel. Follow the signs and you will get to the basement of the hotel with various types of clubs. Have your entrance, the so called Kaskada Complex, All gay, lesbian, bisexual and open minded individuals are welcome in Alexander. If the “face control” doesn’t see you as one of the above categories you may not be admitted. → Open 22:00 - 04:00.

Retro Club Liqueur B-3, bul. Slivnitsa 33, tel. +359 (0) 885 605 040, www.clubliqueur.com. This brand new venue has an excellent location and is one of the most crowded clubs Varna has ever known. There’s a good sized dance floor, a thumping sound and lighting system and plenty of areas for sitting. Service is fine. The crowd is young and in a great night here is pretty much guaranteed. On the third floor they serve up a fine menu they promise “student night” on Monday, “staff party” on Tuesday, “lady’s party” on Thursday and “retro party” every Friday, with a free dance floor and great disco hits from the ‘70s-’80s. → Open 22:00 - 06:00.

Stereo Club D-2, ul. Tsarigrad 19, tel. +359 (0) 884 477 639. A hip hop & reggae underground club in a street, not easy to find. DJ parties are organized almost every night. The atmosphere is like in an MTV gangsta video, and the barman - a very kind and helpful young man, completes this impression with his look. 36 seats; English speaking staff and English menu are available. The menu includes cocktails, alcohol and soft drinks. Food is not offered. → Open 09:00 - 04:00. (2-Lv.

Live Music Clubs

Joker’s Club B-3, Cherno More Hotel, floor 2, net to the casino... A live music night bar situated in a big red hall next to a casino, on the second floor probably the oldest Varna hotel. Drinks and cocktails are offered. The live bands are mainly Fandango but a variety of rhythms is offered by other bands as well. Main music styles are blues, rock and pop. 80 seats. A small entrance fee (2-Lv). → Open 22:00 - 04:00. (1-Lv.

Guidelines to Bulgarian lifestyle, bars, clubs and discos

1. Try not to stare at women that are accompanied by their boyfriends, no matter how beautiful they are, it might be taken as an insult. 2. If you ever feel that you notice Bulgarian people stare at your wife/girlfriend, or at yourself, usually they will be just curious. Don’t forget some 19 years ago the majority of people were not used to meet foreigners from beyond the iron curtain, so you are still new and exciting. Bravo! 3. Don’t try to act overly macho, particularly in more provincial towns. Unluckily of course you are Mike Tyson, but... 4. When in a bar do not shout or insult the waiters or other staff members, it may be taken very deeply. 5. If you feel that someone is in some way being threatening, it is generally best to ignore them. In many cases locals feel threatened by foreigners and try to show themselves as tough but when you act as equals and friends they will often immediately drop this facade. 6. If however a conflict situation rises, leave immediately. Do not stay around and add on to the fire. Bulgarians are very social and family driven and under a common goal a big group of people is summoned very fast. 7. Good icebreakers are compliments on the country: The food, the football, the women, the inventions created by Bulgarians such as the Cyrillic alphabet and so on. As additional benefits you might get an interesting story or two. Make them talk, they love it. 8. Strong drinks (vodka, whisky etc.) come in quantities of 100ml for a large, in some places, unless you specifically ask for small you will be handed a large by default. 9. Petrol may only be drunk with shopska salad. Don’t ask us why, it just should. If you order one without salad you are an absolute must. That is if you want to appear young, cool, like a gangster or simply need to anchor a boat. 10. If you are going out on a Friday night to a bar and want to blend in like a local, it is essential that you haven’t shaved for at least 3 days. Dressing entirely in black is a bonus. 11. Bring a gas mask. Many Bulgarians are heavy smokers although this becomes less with new generations. 12. In bars you can not bring drugs, guns or other forbidden substances pretty much like most places you have been in your life. 13. Big fat silver chains that you could anchor a boat with are an absolute must. That is if you want to appear young, cool, like a gangster or simply need to anchor a boat. 14. If you are going to be a night out on a Friday night to a bar and want to blend in like a local, it is essential that you haven’t shaved for at least 3 days. Dressing entirely in black is a bonus. 17. Girls, for you to catch the attention of Bulgarian men, just act natural and dress sexy.
Where to go and what to see in Varna and surrounding area is totally up to you; after all it is your holiday; you are in Bulgaria, so please go along with the Bulgarian pace. We give you quite a few suggestions in the following paragraphs and we hope you enjoy your holiday and return to the Pearl of the Black Sea.

**Essential Varna**

**Cathedral of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin (Katedralen Hram Uspenie Bogorodichno)** B-1, pl. Sv.sv. Kiril i Metodiy, tel. +359 52 61 30 05. Built after the designs of architect Maas between 1883 - 1886 this ecclesiastical monastery has been Varna’s visual trademark ever since its completion. It is the second largest temple after Alexander Nevski Memorial Church in Sofia. It was built in honour of Bulgaria’s Liberation from the Turkish rule. The vigorous outline of the church is wreathed with a belfry, rear-rated with numerous marble details.

**Ruins of Roman Baths (2nd - 3rd centuries)** D-3, C-3, ul. San Stefano / ul. Khan Krum, tel. +359 52 60 00 59, www.amvarna.com. The ruins are situated on an area of 7 thousand square metres, which gives you a good idea of the construction and architectural traditions typical for the great heyday of Odessos (Varna) during the Roman Period. The territory of the ancient town of Odessos, where the Roman thermal baths are situated is declared an archaeological reserve. The construction consists of mixed masonry work of brick belts with four to si rows of bricks. The sewerage is symmetrically laid and consists of arched canals integrated in the thick foundations. The façades and the interior are decorated with numerous marble details. Open 10:00 - 17:00.

**Ethnographic Museum (Etnografski muzey)** C-2, ul. Panagurishhte 22, tel. +359 52 63 05 88, www.varna.bg.com/museums/etnografms/etnographia.htm. One of the few specialized museums of ethnography in Bulgaria is situated in a revival house from 1860. The eposition shows the main occupation of the city population through the centuries - farming, bee-keeping, fishing, vine-growing and various handicrafts. National costumes typical for the region can be seen on the second floor. The museum has also library with 1600 books, albums and magazines like Bulgarian ethnography, Bulgarian folklore, Vekove.

**Museum of Archeology (Muzey na archeologiata)** B-2, bul. Maria Luiza 41, tel. +359 52 68 10 11, www.amvarna.com. Among the most frequently visited sites and impressive museums of Varna, it is situated in a historic building designed in the Neo-Renaissance style by the noted architect Petko Momchilov. The museum holds a unique collection of finds from the prehistoric, Thracian, Ancient Greek and Ancient Roman periods of the region’s history, as well as

**Vladislav Varnenchik Museum Park** E-6, Mia- dost, bul. Yanosh Huyaydi 55, tel. +359 52 74 03 02, vl.varnczik@abv.bg, www.militarymuseum.bg. It is devoted to a battle held in Varna in 1444. The park has a mausoleum to King Vladislav and an eposition of medieval armour. It also holds different monuments and a Thracian tomb from the 4th century BC. Open 09:00 - 17:00. Admission: 2Lv. Lecture 10Lv.
**WHAT TO SEE**

**The Sea Garden (Morskata gradina) C-4**, it is not only the largest, oldest and best known public park, but one of the most interesting places in Varna too. It is a national monument of landscape architecture and hosts many attractions. The person primarily associated with the garden’s modern appearance is the Czech gardener Anton Novak, who specialized at the Schonbrunn and Belvedere palaces in Vienna, Austria and Hungary. During his time in Varna Novak radically rearranged the garden and ordered the planting of rare plants from the Black Sea and the Mediterranean. In 1929, steel fountains and electric lighting system were built. The central alley was decorated with monuments of prominent Bulgarians chosen by a special committee. The seaside casino was built in the 1930s and acquired its current appearance after a reconstruction in 1960-1961. The garden reached its present borders in the 1950s and the trees in the centre of the complex were replaced by flower beds in the 1960s. In 1939, architect Georgi Popov designed the garden’s modern central entrance with a wide plaza and tall columns. The Sea Garden was opened in 1969, and it was inaugurated in 1969, with the first cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin planting a tall column. An entrance, flanked by the Alpineum and the Mediterranean, was inaugurated in 1969. Later on, an Eden Zoo territory was added. Announced were also plans for the expansion of the Natural History Museum and the Aquarium.

It is included in the Guinness book of records as the best achievement in the world for a one-hull yacht. Unfortunately, museum enthusiasts will not be able to enjoy all the exhibits due to the ongoing modernization of the building. Another reason to visit Varna again. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon. Admission: 2Lv per adult, 2Lv per student. Lecture - 20Lv.

**Museum of History D-3, ul. 8 November 3, tel. +359 52 63 20 18, mus_maritime@abv.bg, www.militarymuseum.bg.** Founded in 1883 and located in the Sea Garden, this incredible museum is one of the cultural highlights of the city. The National Naval Museum holds fund of 70 000 exhibits, which present and preserve the history of the Bulgarian naval fleet and commercial shipping. The museum houses a ship museum Drakini and three more vessels, two helicopters and ship armaments. The permanent collection of exhibits includes uniforms, medals, navigation equipment, etc.

The museum keeps the Cor Caroli yacht in which captain Georgi Georgiev made the first Bulgarian round-the-world voyage from 20 December 1967 to 20 December 1977.

**National Naval Museum C-4, bul. Primorski 2, tel. +359 52 63 20 18, mus_maritime@abv.bg, www.militarymuseum.bg.**

- Open 10:00 - 20:00. Admission: 4Lv. Lecture - 24Lv.

**Museum of History of Medicine D-3, ul. Paraskева Nikolov 7, tel. +359 52 63 97 29.** It’s the only museum of its kind in the Balkans and holds over 4000 old medical books, an ethnographic and archaeological collection and medical instruments from the times of the Thracians, the Greek colonization, the Roman Empire and the early years of the Bulgarian state. ▶ Open 10:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

**Aladzha Rock Monastery D-2, Near Golden Sands Resort, tel. +359 52 35 54 30, www.bulgaria-tourism.com/aladja.** The best known medieval rock monastery on the Bulgarian Black sea coast is located at some 14 km North-East from Varna and about 3.5 km west of Golden Sands Resort. It is declared a protected historical site. Today, one can see some rooms, monk’s cells and a chapel, which are embedded into the rocks at a height of 20 metres. The chapel still keeps some medieval murals of the 14th century. The monastery was founded in the 13th century in rock caves, which had been used before - as early as the 4th - 6th centuries - by hermits and brotherhoods of monks. It was inhabited until the 18th century. There is also a small museum with an exhibition hall. Models, sketches and photographs related to the history of the monastery can be seen there. Also there is a permanent exhibition of copious medieval murals of 12th - 16th centuries. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00. Admission: 5Lv per adult, 2Lv per children, 3Lv per group over 10 persons.

**Asparuhov bridge (Asparuhov most) C-7.** The longest bridge in Bulgaria connects the city centre with the northern region residential complexes of Asparuhov and Balata. The bridge is 515m long and weighs 3.200 tons. It has 3 pairs of supports, each one capable of carrying 2.400 tons. The bridge structure experiences significant traffic, with 10.000 vehicles crossing it every 24 hours.

Its construction began in 1973, and, in the need for a larger canal to connect Varna and the sea became obvious. The initial launch date was March 30, 1976, but construction was ahead of schedule and finished on September 8, 1978. The Asparuhov Bridge was opened in a ceremony held by Todor Zhivkov. Meanwhile, the new canal that the bridge crosses began operation on September 1, with the first ship going through on September 4 the same year. After 20 years of no repairs, reconstruction work began in 1998-1999, but the bridge was re-opened until 17 September 1999, a date far from the initial plans of a 16-month reconstruction.

Today the Asparuhov Bridge is not only an important transport place, but also a place where extreme sports fans meet, as the bridge is a favourite location for bungee jumping. The bridge is a beautiful sight at night as it is brilliantly lit up.

**National Naval Museum C-4, bul. Primorski 2, tel. +359 52 63 20 18, mus_maritime@abv.bg, www.militarymuseum.bg.** Founded in 1883 and located in the Sea Garden. This incredible museum is one of the cultural highlights of the city. The National Naval Museum holds fund of 70 000 exhibits, which present and preserve the history of the Bulgarian naval fleet and commercial shipping. The museum houses a ship museum Drakini and three more vessels, two helicopters and ship armaments. The permanent collection of exhibits includes uniforms, medals, navigation equipment, etc.

The museum keeps the Cor Caroli yacht in which captain Georgi Georgiev made the first Bulgarian round-the-world voyage from 20 December 1967 to 20 December 1977.

**Other sights**

**Cathedral of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin**

Located in the centre of the city the Cathedral is one of the biggest in the Black Sea Coast. Already in the first years after the liberation of Bulgaria from the Ottoman Empire the Bulgarian Orthodox population started to rapidly increase. This is why the construction of the Orthodox Church started. It was also partially inspired by the orthodox Christians in the city who wanted to confirm their protection of the Russian Patriarchate and demonstrate the separation from the Greek Patriarchate. The honour of laying the foundation stone of the temple had Knyaz Aleksandar Battenberg. He arrived in Varna on August 4th, 1880 and attended the opening ceremony on August 22, 1880. Especially prepared for the purpose were also the silver cup and spade used to turn the first sod. After the ceremony, Knyaz Battenberg caressed all prisoners from Varna prison with three months or less left to serve from their sentence.

The name given to the Cathedral (Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary) was in memory of Empress Maria Alexandrovna, Bulgarian benefactress and aunt of knyaz Aleander I Battenberg. He arrived in Varna on August 4th, 1880 and attended the opening ceremony on August 22, 1880. Especially prepared for the purpose were also the silver cup and spade used to turn the first sod. After the ceremony, Knyaz Battenberg caressed all prisoners from Varna prison with three months or less left to serve from their sentence.

The name given to the Cathedral’s domes. The entire roof structure was enriched with gold and silver based materials and a ventilation system was installed. In 2001 the municipality installed also a unique exterior lighting which added divine mysteriousness to the Cathedral.

**Other sights**

**Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy A-4, ul. V. Drumev 73, tel. +359 52 55 22 22, info@naval-acad.bg, www.naval-acad.bg.** Nicola Vaptsarov Naval Academy is the most authoritative centre of maritime personnel education in the country. It is based in the port of Varna. The academy has its roots in the Naval Machinery School established in 1881 in Rousse to serve the Danube Naval Fleet. It is thus the oldest vocational school in the country. The school acquired the status of an institution of higher education in 1942 and has bases in Varna (since 1900), Rousse and Sozopol (1934- 1940, on St. Cyrillus Island).

**Palace of Culture and Sports A-4, bul. Knyaz Boris I 115, tel. +359 52 64 51 33. fa.+359 2 64 77 64, office@palaceofvarna.com, www.palaceofvarna.com.** There are many competitions of more than 30 sports disciplines that take place here. Drama performances, concerts and many exhibitions are also organized here.

**Varna Dolphinarium B-4, north part of the Sea Garden, tel. +359 52 30 21 99.** The Dolphinarium on the Balkan Peninsula is one of the most entertaining attractions which Varna has to offer. The Dolphinarium was built in 1984 and has 1134 seats.

During the performances (30 min), visitors are introduced to the world of intelligence and the susceptibility of marine mammals. The unique dolphin shows include acrobatics, balance, music and dolphin dances. The lovely dolphins of the Tupikops Trunatsjus breed - Holly, Kimbo, Poppi and Yoanna - perform in the show. The youngest, Yoanna was born in the Dolphinarium in 1995. A team of experienced trainers takes the responsibility of the dolphin’s domes. The entire roof structure was enriched with gold and silver based materials and a ventilation system was installed. In 2001 the municipality installed also a unique exterior lighting which added divine mysteriousness to the Cathedral.
The valley of Kamchia river

Kamchia is one of the biggest Bulgarian rivers flowing into the Black Sea. It is formed by the rivers Golyama Kamchia (Big Kamchia) and Luda Kamchia (Mad Kamchia) and is 245km long. The region of the river was well known even in Antiquity when it had different names - Panisos, Tica, Kamchia. Even today along its left bank, above the estuary, one can see the remains of an ancient Roman fortress. In the Middle Ages the river was navigable. There is a hypothesis that there was a shipyard in the 14th century where ships were built for the needs of the rulers Balk, Dobrotitsa, and Ivanko. There is a curious statement by Evlia Cheleby, the famous traveler from 17th century that about 500 ships are wintering in the river.

The seaside resort comprise Kamchia with hotels, villas and restaurants is built near the mouth of the river. The holiday-makers enjoy the marvellous nature and the beach with fine golden sands. The real adventure though is the voyage up the river in a boat through a marshy forest.

The area is well preserved as it was declared protected biosphere reserve in 1985. There are maple, elm and oak forests, different lana species and strikingly beautiful white care of the dolphins. The tradition was set by the German Peter Bozeneker, the first trainer of the dolphins. On June 29, 2007 the first baby dolphin for three years was born. Another unique attraction is the Dolphinarium Café, situated at the outskirt of the city. The café also has two summer terraces with a panoramic view of the whole Varna Gulf.

The Dolphinarium is a favorite spot for all tourists-visited the Black Sea. Annually it is visited by over 100 000 visitors, 60% of which are foreign tourists.

Varna Zoo B-4, Sea Garden, tel. +359 52 30 25 28. Located in the Sea Garden net to the Pantheon statue, the Zoo was opened in 1961 and shortly after became the most popular place for children and adults alike. There is a children’s playground with roundabouts. Various water-birds, herbivorous animals, tigers, monkeys and a kangaroo can be seen there. Varna Zoo is famous with its peacocks, which are with black wings. There are also gold pheasants from China as well as storks and pelicans.

Open 08:00 - 20:00. Admission: 1Lv for adult and 0.50Lv for children.

Public transport

Varna public transport system is easy to use and fairly extensive, with over 60 local and express bus lines (including 3 seasonal lines), 5 trolleybus lines and fixed-route minibuses. You’ll rarely need buses or tais to see the sights of Varna, but many affordable hotels and some sights are located outside of the centre. Buses and trolleybuses run approximately from 05:00 to 23:00. Tickets (bilet) can be purchased only from the ticket-collectors for 1.00Lv. You are supposed to buy an extra ticket for each large item of baggage. There are spot-fines for fare-dodgers - 2Lv. Passes valid for one month for 1 line (karta za edin mesets za edna linia - 45Lv), or for 1 month for 2 lines (karta za edin mesets za dve linie - 90Lv) are also available - they can be bought from kiosks at major stops.

Trains

Central Train station G-9, pl. Pencho Slaveykov 1, tel. +359 52 63 04 44, +359 52 63 04 14. Varna's main train station (open 04:45-23:00) is located near the Sea Garden and can be reached easily by bus. In the main ticket hall there is a train timetable, luggage locker and Travel Information centre where English-speaking staff can help with tickets and advice. It is open from 07:00-12:00, 12:30-18:00 Monday - Friday, Saturday 07:00-14:00. There is a restaurant on the second floor. Tickets and sleeping places (berths) can be purchased in the main ticket hall. There are two types of sleeping compartments - 3 persons sleeping compartment (spalno myasto) and 6 persons sleeping compartment (kashet). For sleeping place, especially during the summer season, buy your ticket at least 2 weeks in advance (30 days is a minimum). If you don’t have that chance then buy a ticket and if they sell the sleeping places are sold out go 30-40 min. in advance to the sleeping compartment and purchase your sleeping place directly from the conductor. For ticket reservations call +359 52 62 33 43. For more information: www.bzd.bg

Airport

Varna International Airport (Letishte Varna) E-5, tel. +359 52 57 33 23/+359 52 57 34 16, www.varna-airport.bg. Located 8km west of the city centre Varna Airport hosts offices of tour agencies, cafes, car-hire counters, currency exchange office, as well as ATM (bankomat) in the arrivals area. If you want to avoid the terminal noise you can use the VIP Lounge of Varna airport tel. 57 34 60 fa +359 52 50 08 38 e-mail: vip@varna-airport.bg. To get to the airport from the city centre, a properly metered taxi shouldn’t cost more than about 10Lv (€5). Otherwise take bus No 409 from the city centre.

Buses

Mladost F-7, ul. Dobrovoltsi 7, tel.+359 52 50 00 39, +359 (0) 889 712 537, office@minibus-varna.com, www.minibus-varna.com (information in Bulgarian only). This is a private bus station which offers mostly domestic destinations. Open 06:00-20:00. In the proximity of the station there are several cafés and shops.

Central Bus Station (Tsentralna avtogara) F-7, bul. Vladislav Varnenchik 158, tel. +359 52 74 83 49, www.autogaravn.com. International buses arrive and depart from the bus terminal. There are plenty of shops, cafés and restaurants. There are many companies here offering direct services to European cities; international trips by bus are usually faster and more comfortable than by train. Open 06:00-18:30

Car rental

Autotrade F-8, ul. Doyan 2, tel. +359 52 60 15 70/+359 (0) 887 950 999, rentacar@autotrade-vw.com, www.autotrade-rent.com.

Avis E-5, Varna Airport - terminal 2, tel. +359 52 50 08 32, var@avis.bg, www.avis.bg. Open 09:00 - 23:00.

Best Rent and Travel F-9, mestnost Sv. Nikola 26b, tel. +359 52 33 56 56, office@bestrentacar.bg, www.bestrentacar.bg. Bring this issue of Varna In Your Pocket with you and you will get 10% discount, especially for our readers. Open 08:00 - 15:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Budget Car and Van Rental E-5, Varna International Airport, +359 (0) 899 700 005, var@budget.bg, www.budget.bg. Varna Downtown Location, ul. Ohrid 26, tel. 73 10 56, 09:00-17:30 Varna City Location, bul. Yan Hunsvidy 7, tel. 73 10 56, 09:00-17:30 Open 09:00-20:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

CarRent A-2, ul. Bratyia Georgievich 15, tel. +359 (0) 884 352 910, current@promobile.bg, www.current.bg. Free delivery/collection 24hours/day, 7 days/week.


City Rent F-9, kv. Chayka, bl. 188, ground floor, tel. +359 52 33 35 59/+359 (0) 886 553 900, fa +359 52 33 35 85, office@cityrent-bg.com, www.cityrent-bg.com. Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun.


Europcar E-5, Varna Airport, Arrivals, tel. +359 (0)
GETTING AROUND

The port of Varna

The port of Varna (Pristaniishta Varna) G-8, pl. Slaveykovski 3. It is easily accessible by road and rail and is next to Varna International Airport. The structure of the port includes two component port units: Varna East and Varna West. There are two anchorages at Varna roadstead: summer and winter. The port of Varna offers full service: loading, discharging, stevedoring, forwarding, storage and various intermediate services. There is a plan for the renovation and expansion of the Port till 2020 - a deepwater container terminal, a ro-ro terminal on the island under the Asparuhov bridge, etc. Other existing port terminals include the Cruise Terminal, the Petrol LesPort and the Railroad Ferry Terminal.

Domestic and international trains arrive at the Varna East Port, which is not part of the complex and is located on the north shore of Beloslav Lake opposite Varna West.

Tais

Most tais in Varna are reliable, but beware of the dodgers waiting outside the train and bus stations. Make sure your taxi is coloured yellow, has a sticker on the windscreen and that the driver turns on the meter and you will be charged. The official rates are 0.89Lv and 0.99Lv per kilometre. Expect to pay approximately 30% more on weekends and during the holidays. Most tais hang around the big intersections, although you can order them by phone - just don't expect to get through to an English-speaker (you can always ask your hotel receptionist to do it for you).

Tourist information

Varna Tourist Information Centre C-2, pl. Musala, tel. +359 52 65 45 18/19. Brochures, entertainment schedules, car rental and accommodation. The English speaking staff will provide you with maps and guides in different languages.

The port of Varna

From Varna

From Varna

To Varna

From Varna Days

To Varna Days


12-4967 05:00 06:00 Sofia BA -23467 09:30 10:30

123467 07:20 08:20 Sofia BA 23467- 16:00 7:00

-3467 12:30 13:55 Sofia BA 23467- 19:45 20:45

1-1-15 13:55 Sofia BA 23467- 19:45 20:45

-----67 16:00 16:25 Budapest MA 23467- 10:00 10:15

1-3-5-7 08:30 09:30 Budapest MA 23467- 10:00 10:15

123467 05:25 05:50 Varna BA 23467- 23:10 01:35

67 16:00 16:25 Budapest WA 23467- 07:00 08:00

1-3-5 09:00 10:00 Vienna BA 23467- 11:00 13:35

123467 17:25 18:40 Vienna OS 23467- 13:40 16:45

1-3-5 14:35 16:20 London BA 23467- 17:20 22:35

23-6 21:25 23:00 London BA 23467- 15:15 20:40

2-6 04:25 06:00 London BA 23467- 21:55 03:25


Airlines codes:

BA – Bulgaria Air, MA – Malev Hungarian Air, BA – British Airways, WA – Wizz Air, W – What’s behind the numbers? 1- Monday, 2- Tuesday, 3- Wednesday, 4- Thursday, 5- Friday, 6- Saturday, 7- Sunday.

For further information call tel. 57 33 23 or visit www.varna-airport.bg

*In Your Pocket is not responsible for changes.

Flights schedule

GETTING AROUND

Varna in Your Pocket

varna.inyourpocket.com
BULGARIA'S LARGEST & BEST MALL

Your place for shopping & entertainment

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Shopping smarts

Open
Otvoreno

Closed
Zatvoreno

Push
Butni

Pull
Drajni

Monday
Понеделник

Tuesday
Вторник

Wednesday
Среда

Thursday
Четвъртък

Friday
Петък

Saturday
Събота

Sunday
Неделя

24hr food and drinks

Roni - 24hr - Radina bul. Nyzay Cherkaski 37, tel. +359 52 74 01 17.

Bul. Slivnitsa and some of the side streets make up the shopping heart of Varna. Although the streets are quite crowded in summer, still walking up and down these shopping promenades is a pleasure, without having the fear to be hit by a car. And guys….. not every girl or woman here is to be considered free hunting game, although often a pleasure to the eye.

Antiques & Collectables
Galeriya B-2, ul. Shipka 23, tel. +359 52 60 61 57, viliart@mail.bg.

Books
Helikon bul. Maria Luiza 20, tel. +359 52 60 67 46, varna.ml@helikon.bg, www.helikon.bg. One of the best bookstores with a good selection of English, French and German paperbacks, art books and international guidebooks.

Pingvinte ul. Praga 7, tel. +359 52 60 65 71, varna@pe-bg.com.

Metro cash & carry F-7, k-s Vladislav Varnenchik bul. Aleksandar Moskov, tel. +359 52 58 81 13, info@metro.bg, www.metro.bg.

Hypermarkets
Metro cash & carry F-7, k-s Vladislav Varnenchik ul. Aleksandar Moskov, tel. +359 52 58 81 13, info@metro.bg, www.metro.bg. Open 07:00 - 21:00.

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Clothes & Accessories
PiKa A-2, bul. Silvnitza 201, Pfohe Mall, tel. +359 (0) 888 331 225, piKa@abv.bg. Women fashion.

Jewellery
Antique and Gold B-1, ul. D. Piskulyuliev 44, tel. +359 52 62 52 70, gold@abv.bg. Open 09.00 - 19.00.

Astvig VM D-2, ul. Preslav 20, tel. +359 52 61 06 90/+359 899 459 825.

Manteli A-1, ul. V. Varnenchik 31A, tel. +359 52 62 17 86, manteli@abv.bg. Open 10.30 - 19.00.

Princes D-3, ul. Prezveti Kozma 17, tel. +359 52 63 23 95.

Beauty Salons
Health Center Pulse A-3, ul. Ivan Drasov 21, tel. +359 52 60 95 13. Open 08:00 - 16.00.

Medical Center Kisyov D-2, ul. Gabrovo 43 A, tel. +359 52 62 18 88. Open 10:30 - 17.00.

Medical centre Daria C-2, ul. Panagyurishte 2, tel. +359 52 63 11 26. Open 07:00 - 19.00.

Opticians
Alta B-1, ul. G. Benkovski 9, tel. +359 52 63 49 15. Open 09.00 - 17.00. Closed Sat, Sun.


SkaY T A-2, bul. Silvnitza 40, tel. +359 52 65 55 73. Open 09:00 - 19:00, Sat 10.00 - 16:00. Closed Sun.

Religious Services
In Your Pocket would like to include more churches and denominations. Please inform us about your address, denomination and hours of services. Those not listed, please ecuse us, we simply did not find you.


Sports centres

Finess A-3, bul. Bht primorski polk 115, tel. 30 11 97. Fitness center. Open 08:00 - 22:00, Sun 09:00 - 21.00.

Fitville C-3, bul. Silvnitza 33, Cherno more hotel, tel. 65 5015. Open 08:00 - 22:00, Sat, Sun 09:00 - 21.00.

The cube A-3, ul. Makedonia 19, tel. 0889 902 999. Fitness center. Open 08:00 - 22:00.


Yogi club Marea C-2, ul. Tsar Simeon I 27, tel. 33 23 78, 0889 902 739. Classic yagi courses.
Accountants & Consultants

**Agile Bs**

**Business Agency Varna**

**Libra**

Insurance company.

**NTZ Transport**
D-3, ul. Pliska 8, tel. +359 52 (0) 868 73 80, fa +359 52 60 93 82, office@ntz.bg, www.ntz.bg.

Open 08:30 - 17:30, Closed Sat, Sun.

Banks

**First Investment Bank**

**ING Bank**

**International Asset Bank**
C-2, ul. Asen Zlatarov 3, tel. +359 52 60 37 01, fa +359 52 62 11 75, varna@iabank.bg, www.iabank.bg.

**InvestBank**
B-3, ul. Lyuben Karavelov 7, tel. +359 52 68 45 55, fa +359 52 68 45 54, office@bank.bg, www.ibank.bg.

**MKB UnionBank**
C-2, ul. Plovdiv 14, tel. +359 52 68 47 77, service@unionbank.bg, www.unionbank.bg.

**Piraeus Bank**

**Railfedsen Bank**

**UniCredit Bulbank**

**United Bulgarian Bank**
A-3, bul. 8th Primorski polk 77, tel. +359 52 68 91 20, info@ubb.bg, www.ubb.bg.

**Bulgarian Officials**

**Municipality Varna**

Open 09:00 - 17:30. Closed Sat, Sun.

**Regional Administration Varna**

Open 09:00 - 12:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

**Foreign representation**

**General Consulate of Poland**
B-4, ul. Slavyanska 18, tel. +359 52 60 92 12, fa +359 52 60 92 11, conplvar@techno-link.com.

**General Consulate of Russia**
A-3, ul. Macedonia 53, tel. +359 52 60 27 18, fa +359 52 60 27 22, consul_rusia@nat.bg.

**General Consulate of Ukraine**
A-2, ul. General Kolev 92, tel. +359 52 32 18 00, fa +359 52 32 19 00.

**Lawyers**

**Lawyer’s office - Daskalova, Vasilev**

**Lawyer’s office Pankova, Zhivkov and Panov**
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**Lawyer Vatev, Stanislav**

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Ritsa has a range of spa and wellness services and conference rooms. It offers tourist services, horse riding, pony riding and euror visiting in Varna and to the St. Konstantin and Elena Monastery. 39 rooms (5 singles 50-60, 32 doubles 60-80, 3 apartments 80-100, €110-140).

Romance G-2, tel. +359 52 38 54 00/+359 (0) 885 53 05 00, fa +359 52 38 54 35, info@hotelromance.net, www.planehotels.com/romance/bg. A true quintessence of chic and luxury with views on Bulgaria. The rooms are cozy, light and comfortable. The hotel provides a dreamy atmosphere. The interior decoration and furniture add to the finishing touch in their pale beige, brown and golden setting. All the rooms have balconies and are equipped for stay of any length. The hotel is located in the center of the resort and resembles a modern glass cube. The interior suggests space, set in Mediterranean white. The various types of rooms designed in mild white, blue and wooden brown colours with equisite furniture. All the views are fascinating - you can choose between a park or a sea view. The restaurant offers a variety of choices. The interior is set in white colour as well. The hotel is highly attended parties.

Bar, Clubs, Discos

Bowing & Disco Club The Grand Strike G-2, www.grandhotelvearna.com. The Grand Strike seems to be the only place where not only Konstantin and Elena is a bowling and disco club for all night long dancing and gaming. Open 18:00 - 04:00.

Figaro Main Shopping Street, tel. +359 52 36 25 10/+359 (0) 887 21 78 02, mery.ufs@abv.bg.

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GOLDEN SANDS

In the old days the land took revenge on the pirats, turning their buried gold into ash. Today the Golden Sands. Today we have pirates of a different breed. We have the brave tourist type of pirates, who come to Golden Sands in their hot air, balloon, or their celebration trip, wedding or annual, all-inclusive, holiday. The formula is simple: more than 100 hotels, apartment blocks, restaurants, bars, etc. grouped in a long strip of beach reaching an average of around 27 degrees Celsius. For those of you that come by car, beware where you park! Your car is easily stolen.

For those who choose to escape the crowd, we challenge you to visit the rest of the wonderful nature surrounding the resort. Within the resort various excursions are offered.

**Hotels**

Admiral D-5, tel. +359 52 39 02 00 / +359 52 39 02 01, +359 52 35 52 52, hoteladmiral.bg, www.goldensands-bg.com. A 5 star hotel on the beach. The rooms are spacious, decorated with Danish furniture and have balconies with inland or sea panorama. Some bathrooms have bathtubs. Junior suites are a little bigger than the double rooms and have a sundeck with sea view. A Viennese café, a billiard bar and a night club with disco are there to make your day complete. Two conference halls are also part of the hotel amenities. There is also a modern Spa centre with a Turkish bath, massage salon, Jacuzzi, beauty salon, etc. • 301 rooms (284 doubles €78 - 125, 12 suites €90 - 300, 29 junior suites €165 - 450, 9 presidential suites €495 - 2 000). *4*****

Helios Spa & Resort F-5, tel. +359 52 35 61 08, fa +359 52 39 04 45, frondesk@heliosspa.com, www.heliosspa.com. Helios offers everything an all inclusive Spa resort should offer. Spacious rooms, multiple spa facilities - they are all in Golden Sands - 3 restaurants and child care while you relax in whatever way you desire. All inclusive would not be our choice since the menu repeats itself too often, but there are many snacks served in and out of the resort. Rooms and other facilities are clean and the staff are there to offer you a good stay. The pools and surrounding areas spend most of the day in the shade; this is the reason we fell in love with Golden Sands German guests from getting too sunburn. • 557 rooms (singles €82 - 173, doubles €144 - 201, apartments €99 - 391, Families and two bedroom apartment (bedroom €184 - 650, suite €315 - 1 100). *5*****

Hotel Complex Iberostar Obzor Beach B-5, tel. +359 52 38 30 00 / +359 52 38 30 40, +359 52 38 30 33, iberostar@goldensands.bg, www.iberostarhotel.com. Part of the worldwide hotel chain Iberostar resort at Obzor Beach is situated very close to the sea coast. The complex includes two hotels - Obzor Beach and Izgrev. The complex offers various sports, leisure and health care facilities. The bathrooms are with hairdryers, showers or bathtubs and wide shower cabins. In the rooms designed in fresh summer colours and marine blue accent and bathrooms being all with bathtubs, all-inclusive, holiday. The formula is simple: more than 100 hotel guests. The luxurious spa centre offers various pleasures and relaxation procedures. For your business needs the hotel offers two conference halls of 70 and 30-seats capacity. • 80 rooms (singles €43 - 71, doubles €70 - 100, Studio €60 - 110, 4 twin rooms €50 - 90, 4 suites €100 - 300). *4****

Asteria Hotel & Casino F-5, tel. +359 52 35 97 77, reservations@asteriahotel.com, www.asteriahotel.com. Hotel Asteria is situated on the central alley of Golden Sands. The hotel offers rooms with sea and garden views, decorated in contemporary style with brown, orange and rose colours with satellite TV, radio, satellite TV, minibar, telephone, Internet access, mini bar, safety deposit boxes, massage, sauna, steam bath, hair studio and a business centre. There are also several conference halls. • 259 rooms (136 doubles €60 - 100, 3 suites €100 - 160, 9 family suites €200 - 600, 3 presidential suites €500 - 2 000). *4****

Grand Hotel Casino International E-5, tel. +359 52 35 71 93, +359 52 35 71 94, hotelcasino@hotelscinonternational.com, www.hotelscinonternational.com. A place for your Las Vegas style vacation including a pool, a game room, a casino and a beach. The rooms are equipped with satellite TV, telephone, Internet access, mini bar, safe bo. There is a beach bar, a wine restaurant (vinarna), an indoor swimming pool, fitness centre, bowling alley, table tennis, and a spa centre. The business facilities are extensive. • 72 rooms (31 singles €113 - 179, 15 doubles €125 - 199, 18 apartments €200 - 240, Junior Suite €269 - 350, Executive Suite €495 - 2 000). *4****

Imperial F-5, Holiday Club Riviera, tel. +359 52 38 68 11, +359 52 38 67 12, info@rivierabulgaria.com, www.rivierabulgaria.com. Holiday Club Imperial's indoor swimming pool, hotel Lotos' outdoor swimming pool, the pool and water slide, where grown-ups find themselves playing in the water with the enthusiasm of children. The pool parties they organize are incomparable. The all-year-round hotel Slunchogled is located 300 m from the sea. Each room has satellite TV, minibar, telephone, bathtub, and balcony and is charming with its simplicity. The hotel is designed in contemporary style with brown, orange and beige colours. Facing the sea and the park, it's a nanny, you are sure of having leisure time here. A conference hall is also available. Two rooms are equipped with satellite TV, telephone, fridge and balcony. The hotel hosts two restaurants, two lobby bars, guarded parking, hair studio, a business centre and a Jewish guest club. There are indoor and outdoor mineral water swimming pools, fitness, sauna and a Spa centre offering individual recreation processes. There are also several conference halls. • 290 rooms (singles €64 - 140, 230 doubles €78 - 171, 21 suites €101 - 270, Family room, 11 Maisonnettes). *3****

Lilia B-5, tel. +359 52 35 70 00 / +359 52 35 70 10, +359 52 35 70 45, manager@hotellilia.com, www.hotellilia.com. The rooms are spacious, in dark blue and beige colours, except the family rooms, decorated with Ikea style furniture colours and have balconies with sea or park view and outside seating. The bathrooms are with hairdryers, showers or bathtubs and wide shower cabins. In the rooms designed in fresh summer colours and marine blue accent and bathrooms being all with bathtubs, all-inclusive, holiday. The formula is simple: more than 100 hotel guests. The luxurious spa centre offers various pleasures and relaxation procedures. For your business needs the hotel offers two conference halls of 70 and 30-seats capacity. • 25 rooms (single €30, 21 doubles €45, 3 apartments €75 - 85). *3****

Spa Hotel Orchidea F-9, Chaya district, tel. +359 52 38 19 38 / +359 52 38 19 39, +359 52 35 62 76, orchidea@force-bg.com, www.sphonhotelorchidea.com. This is a five-star hotel with 220 rooms and 557 guests in Golden Sands, 450 m from the sea coast. This boutique hotel offers uniquely furnished rooms in pink, beige and green shades all equipped with cable TV, telephone, minibar, personal safe, bo, bathtubs and shower. There is a 30-sea restaurant with a terrace, a BBQ with a wine-club in the lobby, a sky bar and a pool bar. An indoor and outdoor swimming pool with children’s section do add to the fun. The hotel’s Spa centre offers different saunas, aroma therapeutic and relaxing procedures. For your business needs the hotel offers two conference halls of 70 and 30-seats capacity. • 80 rooms (singles €43 - 71, doubles €70 - 100, Studio €60 - 110, 4 twin rooms €50 - 90, 4 suites €100 - 300). *3****

Restaurants & Cafes

Casablanca Snack Bar tel. +359 (0) 899 89 93 44. A 5 star hotel with a restaurant and a snack bar. We offer a fish and a chicken menu and a complete cocktail bar. Dolphin and the shopping lane, this is place to 270 rooms for 120 people. They serve all kinds of international dishes. You will find yourself relaxing on the comfortable wicker seating, spa pool and sunbeds. The sea and the pool are always on the background. The restaurant has a swimming pool, parasol and lounge at the beach, table tennis, water bike (with reservation) and parking. • 54 rooms (singles €60 - 110, doubles €85 - 110, 4 suites €100 - 220). *2****

Complex Dolphin tel. +359 (0) 887 56 68 62, sada@hotelcomdpi.com, www.goldenbay-marinepark.com. Complex Dolphin TIs a complete of 2 cocktail bars and pizza place, found between the coastal street and the beach. Swimming pools, cross over bridges, 3 waterfalls, bar overlooking the pool, pool bar and restaurant. There are chaise longues with umbrella and table for the games. They have it all. The place has 600 places and the pool parties they organize are incomparable. The restaurant offers pizza, chicken, veal, fish and Meican. There are also 2 cocktail bars have happy hour every hour and if you bring this issue of...
The Sand Castle is a place that after you visit once, you will keep coming back. It is found in the centre of the main shopping street. Ivan is of course the owner and he will make sure you feel comfortable and attend to all your needs. Inside there is a bar, tables and TV screens for the games. It is decorated with football scarves. Outside under a sunshade are arranged tables and comfortable seating with cushions. They serve also mixed grill dishes, meat and vegetables on the "sash" (metal plate). The place is decorated with flags from all over Europe. They have live music with guitar and electric piano, playing mainly evergreens. They have 200 places.

Flamingo B-3, tel. +359 579 6 27 40, fa +359 579 6 27 45, flamingogrand@albena.bg, www.albena.bg. Few hotels on the Black Sea Coast can match Flamingo. The ultra modern complex Flamingo - Standard (4 stars) and Flamingo Grand (5 stars) - are situated in the central part of the resort on the beach, 150m from the beach. With its 9 floors, 7 elevators, safe, large (1200 m2) swimming pool with show pool and children’s pool with water attractions, indoor swimming pool, internet hall, video games, children’s playground, massage studio, spa centre, fitness, squash, billiards, shops, art gallery, change bureau, 5 conference halls, business centre, hair dresser, manicure and pedicure, baby sitting and parking. This hotel offers all you need, and more, for your holiday. The rooms, apartments and studios are decorated in cream or soft beige colours. Each of them has a balcony, satellite TV, internet, safe, mini bar, electronic locking system, bath with tube or shower cabin, hair dryer, telephone and panic button. The luxurious and comfortable furniture includes fully equipped bathrooms with showers, all with balconies and sea or park view. There’s telephone, satellite TV, mini bar and bath or shower in every room. The hotel has 3 elevators, a restaurant, cafe, a bar, an outdoor swimming pool, a poolside bar, a shop, hairdresser’s, massage studio, safe, at the reception and currency exchange desk. At Boraya all activities of sport activities are organized - beach volleyball, water skiing, surfing, paragliding parachute flights, jet-ski and even a yacht club. For an extra charge the guests can use the restaurant's tennis court, tennis courts, table tennis, karting and the spa centres of Raitsa Superior and Dobrudja hotels. At inclusive: 176 rooms (124 singles €88, 53 doubles €134, 4 suites €142), 2 apartments €180, 60 Junior suite €146, 2 Presidential suite €349, 4 Maisonette €456, 84 Studio delu €152, 14 Executive studio €174.

Gergana C-3, tel. +359 579 6 29 10, fa +359 579 6 29 18, gergana@albena.bg, www.albena.bg. Gergana is an all inclusive comple is located on the beach, near to the national reserve Baltata and includes the former hotels Mura, Slavuna and Gergana. It was fully renovated in 2008. The complex has two restaurants, shops, wellness and spa centre, hairdresser’s, manicure and pedicure salon, massage studio, bicycles for hire, 1 indoor and 2 outdoor swimming pools with water attractions, children’s section and playground on the beach. There is an animation program for children and
of Albena resort on the beach this is a jolly place, decorated with all kinds of antique household objects - old irons, sewing machine, etc. The owner is a collector of beer glasses from all over the world and has decorated the place with them. If you read this edition of "In Your Pocket" before you visit Bulgaria take a beer glass with you, you will make somebody in Albena extremely happy. They have a fireplace, which gives atmosphere to the place. You will be able to play the violins, viguelas, bass guitar and trumpet. The rooms are spacious, in beige colours with telephone, satellite TV, mini bar, spacious bathrooms, fridge and personal safe for hire. The apartments are for 4 and consist out of 1 double room and studio with kitchenette. The hotel also provides bicycles for hire and a mini golf course. Tennis fans can use the tennis courts near Kaliopa Hotel. They have 145 rooms (14 singles €59, 127 doubles €113, 4 apartments €179). ***

Lora C-2, tel. +359 579 6 24 42, fa +359 579 6 25 75, www.albena.bg. This is one of the best two star options in Albena. Lora is just 300m from the beach, net to the post office. The rooms are small, neat, with modern furniture in green and yellow or brown and beige. They come with private bathrooms, balconies and fridges for hire. The apartments have air-conditioning and telephones. They have 57 rooms €56 - 73, apartment €60 - 93. ***

Nona C-3, tel. +359 579 6 29 30, fa +359 579 6 21 85, nona@abv.bg, www.albena.bg. Located on the beach near the National Reserve Batakta and only 300m away from the Balneological Center Medica this hotel provides rooms in light colours with air-conditioning, cable TV, phones, hair dryers, big bathrooms and mini-bars. There is no swimming pool but the guests can use the swimming pools of the neighbouring hotels Boryana and Elitsa. Near the hotel is the Gorski Tsar disco club. Worth trying are also the delicious pizzas in the pizza restaurant on the beach in front of the hotel. All inclusive. **

Raillis Superior C-2, tel. +359 579 6 22 30, fa +359 579 6 25 05, raillissuperior@albena.bg, www.albena.bg. The former Key nay Raillis Superior, is one of the most beautiful hotels in Albena. It is near the Varieté Theater Alben, the Horse Riding Centre and the three football stadiums. The hotel offers bedrooms, suites and apartments, some restaurants to a large spa centre, jacuzzi, tennis court, basketball and volleyball playground, air-conditioned animation hall for 400 people with a stage, conference facilities. The rooms are spacious, well decorated and were completely renovated in 2003. They have air-conditioning, telephone, radio and satellite TV and Scandinavian languages. The beachfront Albena centre offers a 30 minutes from 09.30 to 17.00. Ultra all inclusive. ** 246 rooms (5 singles €68, 238 doubles €136, 3 apartments €146). ***

Laguna Garden B3, tel. +359 579 6 28 27, fa +359 579 6 25 25, l.garden@albena.bg, www.albena.bg. This elegant, all inclusive, hotel with terraced architecture is situated at the beginning of the main shopping street, 150 metres from the beach and just a few metres from the spa and wellness centre Medica. Laguna Garden has an air-conditioned restaurant, cocktail bar, outdoor swimming pool, pool for children, poolside bar, animation hall for 200, shops and a restaurant. The hotel has 273 rooms (263 doubles €158, 7 suites €175, 4 apartments €270). ***

Kaliakra A-3, tel. +359 579 6 28 73, fa +359 579 6 28 26, kaliakra@albena.bg, www.albena.bg. This is a lovely luxury hotel with the best beach location in Albena. The rooms are spacious, in white and beige colours, with wooden furniture and they come with air-conditioning, bathroom with shower or bathtub, telephone, satellite TV, mini bar, big bathrooms, fridge and personal safe for hire. The apartments are for 4 and consist of 1 double room and a studio with a kitchenette. The hotel also provides bicycles for hire and a mini golf course. Tennis fans can use the tennis courts near Kaliopa Hotel. They have few metres from the SPA and wellness centre Medica. Laguna Garden has an air-conditioned restaurant, cocktail bar, outdoor swimming pool, swimming pool for children, poolside bar, animation hall for 200, shops and restaurants to a large spa centre, jacuzzi, tennis court, basketball and volleyball playground, air-conditioned animation hall for 400 people and a playground for children. The rooms are spacious with balconies facing the sea or the garden, and they offer beach entertainments - boat trips, water wheels, water fans can use the tennis courts near Kaliopa Hotel. They have few metres from the SPA and wellness centre Medica. Laguna Garden has an air-conditioned restaurant, cocktail bar, outdoor swimming pool, swimming pool for children, poolside bar, animation hall for 200, shops and restaurants to a large spa centre, jacuzzi, tennis court, basketball and volleyball playground, air-conditioned animation hall for 400 people and a playground for children. The rooms are spacious with balconies facing the sea or the garden, and they offer beach entertainments - boat trips, water wheels, water

Restaurants & Cafes

** Beerhouse Kartel tel. +359 579 6 25 55/+359 (0) 884 35 52 98, julie@mail.bg. Located right behind the barrier of the resort. It has 120 seats on wooden tables and benches. The decoration is tamburus (mandolins) and other Bulgarian folklore objects. There are 3 terraces, SAT TV and a big aquarium from which you can choose the fish for your dish.

The Old House in front of Laguna Beach Hotel, tel. +359 (0) 898 63 45 61, fa +359 579 6 26 80, novakova_1964@abv.bg. This is a Bulgarian style restaurant decorated with cow bells and icons. They have a big hall inside for 80 and an outside "terrace" on the sand for 50 people, both with wooden tables and chairs. The restaurant is located on the beach alley in front of Laguna Beach hotel and the Rosaria (rose garden). The cuisine is Bulgarian, but they also serve international dishes. The owner prepares original Bulgarian and international dishes and all kinds of beer and cocktails. Bring this issue of Varna In Your Pocket with you and you will get 5% discount, especially for our readers. ** Open 09:00 - 00:00. (5-18Lv).

Bistroradorzha, tel. +359 579 6 22 87/+359 (0) 887 20 80 57, keki@abv.bg. Located on the beach front hotel, on the main shopping street, there is located a "Bistro Radorzha", a restaurant with 60 places inside and 250 outside. The cuisine is Bulgarian and the menu is in English, German, French, Russian, Bulgarian and Scandinavian languages. They have 500 different channels (also Scandinavian). The guests will be entertained by a duo performing evergreen songs. ** Open 07:00 - 23:00. (15-25Lv).

** Bistro Shamrock near hotel Dobrudza, tel. +359 889 38 00 21. Net to hotel Dobrudza and Detelina supermarket, this is a lively place and the owners call it an Irish pub. When your company takes a table there, you will get your own national flag to proudly present your nation. ** Open 09:00 - 23:30. (15-25Lv).

Mobi Dick at the end of the beach, tel. +359 579 6 26 60/+359 (0) 889 43 40 71. This is a restaurant located at the end of the beach, outside the boundaries of Albena resort. It has 120 seats on wooden tables and benches. The decoration is tamburus (mandolins) and other Bulgarian folklore objects. There are 3 terraces, SAT TV and a big aquarium from which you can choose the fish for your dish.

Bars, Clubs & Discos

** Kaareko Bar Galvne tel. +359 (0) 898 63 54 94, val_erli104@abv.bg. It is right on the beach of Albena, across from the central Bazaar, but you will not get sand in your shoes as they built a wooden bridge over the sand connecting the place to the beach lane. It is a wooden construction decorated with lights in all colours and the sign outside displays "Live Music Karaoke Bar". They have comfortable seating and big screens. They serve salads, pizza, meat on the spit, grilled meat and desserts. Bring this issue of Varna In Your Pocket with you and you will get 10% discount, especially for our readers. ** Open 09:00 - 05:00. (12-25Lv).

Tex Mex net to hotel Dorostor. This is a Meican restaurant in the heart of Albena on the main shopping street. Everything here is authentic. The cook is Meican and prepares the food by original Mayan, Aztec and Olmecs recipes from imported Meican products and ingredients. They serve tortillas, mole, corn and rice. They are in a small place, no more than 4-10 people at a time, and even prepare baby’s pap from fresh fruit and vegetables. They serve it in original Meican cutlery; have show kitchen and a fish tank. The kitchen and the staff are Mexican and the kitchen are also created by Meican artists. The live mariachi (band) is of course Meican from the Tlaxcalan state and they sing and play the violins, vijuetas, bass guitar and trumpet. ** Open 16:00 - 23:30. (15-25Lv).

Summer 2009

Varia in Your Pocket

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Balchik - the city of white cliffs, queen Maria of Romania and the Botanical Garden. Staying in Balchik will clear your mind and spirit from the everyday rush. Here you can come with beauty which impresses in all seasons.

In spite of the fact that Balchik is a subsection of Varna it is quite a popular place, at least to those who are fond of both city and seaside. The city is located on the Black Sea coast and consists of sea and beach parts, the latter being the most popular in the summer season.

Arriving in Balchik
You can get to this small but very romantic Bulgarian seaside town by car through the main road from Varna city. Alternatively, plenty of buses leave from the bus station every day. There is a regular bus service to Varna and Dobrich, another town to the west of Balchik. If you have your own yacht it’s possible to use one of the few yacht ports on Northern Black Sea coast.

History
Antiquity
It is said that in antiquity there was a settlement of Thracians here who practiced Thracian Orphism.

from the Ottoman Empire. The town became a centre of one of the 66 regions Bulgaria was divided into.

17-20 centuries
The town became an important industrial, economic and political center. Seven Joint-stock companies started operation with two million golden levs. Established were a number of factories, corn exchange, fishing industry, wine making, leather factories, hops and tobacco processing plants.

19-20 centuries
The town became a centre of one of the 66 regions Bulgaria was divided into. The town grew with the wealth of plant life in the University Botanical Garden. Staying in Balchik will clear your mind and spirit from the everyday rush. Here you can come with beauty which impresses in all seasons.

11th-12th centuries
The lands fell under Byzantine rule and the population was forced to leave and settle on the neighbouring hills. The town lost its importance due to the building of the new impregnable fortress Kaliakra, which became the residence of the despot Dobrotitsa. The town was rarely mentioned in the Byzantine documents.

14th - 16th centuries
The Turks took control of the city and a big part of the population left, leaving people of predominantly Bulgarian origin. The town continued to change from mostly Gagauz and Turkish to predominantly Bulgarian.

1513 - 1940
After the Balkan War in 1913 with the annexation of South Dobrudza the town became part of Romania.

1915-1919
During the Romanian rule the town was transformed into a luxurious resort for the Romanian aristocrats. Struck by the natural beauty of the place Queen Maria built a palace for her summer residence, a botanical garden, a chapel and a villa complex.

21 September 1940
An agreement was signed in the Romanian town of Craiova, 6 million golden levs were paid and Balchik was once again a part of Bulgaria.

Arriving in Balchik

You can get to this small but very romantic Bulgarian seaside town by car through the main road from Varna city. Alternatively, plenty of buses leave from the bus station every day. There is a regular bus service to Varna and Dobrich, another town to the west of Balchik. If you have your own yacht it’s possible to use one of the few yacht ports on Northern Black Sea coast.

Hotels
Baya Kashta, sharing ‘white house’ is a small 3 floor hotel on the coast of Balchik, not to the yacht port. Apartments are small with modern furniture. Some rooms have panoramic balconies. Bathrooms are with showers and have small balconies. If you are looking for the basics this is the perfect place. 4 rooms (2 doubles 15 - 250BGN, 2 twins 23 - 330BGN).

Guest House Brezito ul. Primorska 4, tel. +359 (0) 888 26 09 34/39 +359 896 89 59 91, dom_brezito@abv.bg. This is a small guest house with just 3 rooms. The owners are a young couple, who are quite friendly. They are with wooden beds, fridges and cable TV. The bathrooms are with showers and have small balconies. If you are looking for the basics this is the perfect place. 3 rooms (1 double 15 - 250BGN, 2 twins 23 - 330BGN).

Jupiter ul. Primorska 1A, tel. +359 579 7 64 70/39 (0) 887 88 31 23, fa +359 579 7 26 97, ietveta@abv.bg. www.hotel-jupiter.bg.info. It is located on the parallel to the sea front, close to the pier. There are bigger and smaller rooms, comfortable and complete, with cable TV. They are appointed in green and tender pink colours. The bathrooms are with showers, clean and comfortable, with cable TV.

Rehabilitation Hospital Tuzlata for spa and mud treatment mostest Tuzlata, tel. +359 579 7 24 80/+359 579 7 28 82. The mud and spa healing hospital is 6 kilometers east of the town of Balchik. The curative mud is obtained from the bottom of two salt lakes, which is covered with black magnesia sulphide peloid. The hospital is specialized in the treatment of problems in the locomotory system - arthritis, rheumatism and post-traumatic states, gastritis and peripheral nervous systems. They provide kinesis therapy and electrotherapy. One of the mud methods they use is known as the Egyptian method. The mineral water springs have high flow capacity and is 31°C. It contains calcium-magnesium, hydrogen sulphide and meta-silicon acid, gives good reaction. Deshkis in the town of Balchik, which are beneficial to the kidneys, have high flow capacity and at 20°C. The mud and mineral water spring has high flow capacity and is 31°C. It contains calcium-magnesium, hydrogen sulphide and meta-silicon acid, gives good reaction. Deshkis in the town of Balchik, which are beneficial to the kidneys, have high flow capacity and at 20°C.
BalChik
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Sea Star (Morska zvezda) ul. Primorska 7, tel. +359 579 7 70 47. 350 (0) 888 707 137, seastar-bg.com. The place is a two-star hotel in Balchik, situated very close to the sea, is built and furnished in a modern style. All rooms have phones, cable TV, mini-bars, coffee and helpful staff. A nice and cheap place for rest and recreation. + 16 rooms (2 singles €15, 8 doubles €30 - 4 suites €35, 2 apartments €45).

The Irish Rover ul. Primorska 27, tel. +359 (0) 888 510 530. The restaurant attached to the hotel (100 seats, open: 8:30-23:30) offers traditional Irish and Bulgarian cuisine and they have an excellent choice of music on the jukebox. English speaking staff. + 9 rooms (1 single €75, 14 doubles €170 - 30, 2 apartments €28 - 48).

El Simpatico ul. Primorska 8, tel. +359 579 7 42 4 / +359 (0) 898 626 275, mail@el-simpatico.com, www.el-simpatico.com. This delightful place is situated right next to the yacht port of Balchik, with a great view over the sea. It is a smoky place, so mind that if you don’t like smoke, you will probably be better off somewhere else. + 16 rooms.

The Three Water Mills – Vodenicata. The Three Water Mills Vodenicata is a small cosy restaurant in the Palace complex just next to the beach. It is a former water mill, built in the 18th century and it is part of the decoration of the restaurant. The inside seating is quite elegantly done with tables and chairs from wrought iron and wood. The outside seating is under a trellis, with nice wooden tables and chairs, and it is nice and romantic. The restaurant offers a diverse wine collection. The cuisine is Bulgarian national with a rich choice of meals. If you are a lover of desserts, you should not miss the sauce with wicker furniture. It is a smokey place, so mind that if you don’t like smoke, you will probably be better off somewhere else. The place is arranged to suit different groups of visitors, from small romantic dinners to larger parties. The cuisine is international and the staff are helpful. + 16 rooms.

Mussel Farm and Restaurant Dalboka, tel. +359 (0) 888 911 377 / +359 (0) 888 917 777, www.dalboka.com. The restaurant is found just 20 min. from the town of Balchik on a lagoon in the cove of Cape Kaliakra. It is framed by rocky cliffs, with tables overlooking the beach and opening out to amazing sunsets over the sea. To get there, you definitely need a car and best would be to take a boat taxi. After you pass the town of Kavarna, be careful not to miss the turn for the village of Balgarevo. About 300 meters before the village’s sign board turn to the right on the dirt road. There is a small sign for the mussel farm Dalboka. The restaurant offers the stunning number of 60 types of mussel dishes, even more soups and a few fish and meat dishes. The mussel farm, 500 meters from the shore, and are guaranteed to be ecologically clean Black Sea mussels. For your information the shells have mineral composition value and contain 7.9-14.6 % proteins, 0.14 - 3.2 % lipids and 0.89 - 2.2 % mineral salts. The rest 78 - 86% is water. So if you are on a diet this is the perfect place to get a nutritious and low fat meal in a tranquil atmosphere. The wine list is rich and completely consistent with the food. The restaurant also offers hotel rooms and a small private beach. The place is equipped and thus greatly visited by connoisseurs and celebrities, so we recommend you to book in advance. + 16 rooms. (5-30lv).
tation started in 1935 by the Romanian authorities, but it was finished and consecrated only in 1954. Church of St. st. Konstantin i Elena (Greek church). It is situated in front of the Art gallery and is now used for concerts and summer opera. Toketo - religious cult monument, tel. +359 88 882 070. It is located near the village of Obrochishko, 15km to the southwest of Balchik and 6-7km to the west of Abena. Built in the 19th century the religious cult monument has an original architecture unique for the Balkans. The monastery was once visited by both Muslims and Christians simultaneously.

Museums

Art gallery (Hudozhestvena galerija) ul. Otets Paisiy 4, tel. +359 579 998 946, gallery@balchik.net. This is the first Art gallery in South Dobrudja and is situated in a nice building erected at the beginning of the 20th century. It displays modern Bulgarian art and hosts various exhibitions. Admission: 5 lv. Open 10:00 - 17:00.

City Historical Museum (Istoricheski muzey) ul. Dimitur Zhelev 3, tel. +359 579 7 21 77. The museum is found on the central square of the town. Balchik history is displayed chronologically in three halls - from the foundation in the 6th century BC until the middle of the 20th century. The last stone is the mark of the present 21st century. Admission: 5 lv. Open 9:00 - 17:00.

Ethnographic Museum (Etnografski muzey) ul. Revival compol (Vazhodentsi kompleks) ul. The Balchik Palace

The Balchik Palace, tel. +359 579 7 45 42/+359 579 7 68 51, tour@dvoreca.com, www.dvoreca.com. Balchik was visited in 1921 by Queen Maria and her son Prince Nikolay who were intrigued by the stories of their friends, describing the rocks with colour of silver ashes and the calm sea. Maria was fascinated by the natural beauty of Balchik and as it was at the time the most southern point of the new Romanian territories she decided that the place was suitable for the construction of a summer residence. The project was assigned to the Italian architects Amengo and Augustino. The architects changed the steep beach, constructing terraces with stone channels of running water. The garden was shaped by the Swiss Gardner Jules Jani, former chief gardener of the Russian Emperor Nicholas II. Nowadays the biggest natural grace is the abundant crystal clear water from the springs Ab bunar (White well), Chatal fountain and Danak Gyoz (Weal eye). The picturesque view is complemented by the high waterfalls. You can see the Byzantine Orthodox chapel, Roman-Arab rotundas and villas in the Moorish style. Many fountains are decorated with fine marble statues and statues of mythological figures. The palace itself is built in the typical Bulgarian style with verandahs and decorated with a minaret. During the Romanian rule, the well Gyunyush bunar (Silver well) was covered according to the traditions of Transylvania. The buildings are found behind iron gates and are accessible via numerous staircases made of Balchik limestone. Admission: 5 lv. children 7-16 years 1 lv. Open 08:00 - 21:00.

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Getsemanitskata Gradina (Garden of Gethsemane) Whitestones stairs lead from a terrace below the chapel to the garden. Its construction started in 1933. It took the architects and the gardeners three years to complete. Tulips from white through black can be seen in spring here as well as rare species of trees and bushes like Hrip (Phylops vulgaris), heavenly rose (disporus lotus kalo), pomegranate (punica granatum), figs (ficus carica), Begonia (begonia tuberosae), crocuses (Erythraea) and others. In the northern part of the garden there is a small building that existed before the palace was built. A strong stream of water gushes forth from the wall and the general belief is that this water is curative and helps healing. Therefore local people built a small chapel - Ayazmo.

Gradina Anglyjski dvor (The Garden English Court) The garden with the white stone columns, flowers, palms and frogs was designed in 1933 by the Swiss Gardner Jules Jani, former chief gardener of the Russian Emperor Nicholas II. Nowadays the biggest natural grace in the garden is the abundant crystal clear water from the springs Ab bunar (White well), Chatal fountain and Danak Gyoz (Weal eye). The picturesque view is complemented by the high waterfalls. You can see the Byzantine Orthodox chapel, Roman-Arab rotundas and villas in the Moorish style. Many fountains are decorated with fine marble statues and statues of mythological figures. The palace itself is built in the typical Bulgarian style with verandahs and decorated with a minaret. During the Romanian rule, the well Gyunyush bunar (Silver well) was covered according to the traditions of Transylvania. The buildings are found behind iron gates and are accessible via numerous staircases made of Balchik limestone. Admission: 5 lv. children 7-16 years 1 lv. Open 08:00 - 21:00.
**The Palace Comple**

**Villa Gutman**

The Palace comple, tel. +359 579 7 68 54 /+359 579 7 68 71, fax +359 579 7 68 49, office@dvoreca.com. Villa Gutman was named after the Swiss gardener Gutman who took part in the ennobling of the Gardens of Queen Maria’s Palace. The Lady’s Palace is the residence of the governor of the Palace during the Romanian rule. It is a two storey building in the Bulgarian style. The building is made of stone and wood. It has five double rooms - one with a double bed and the other three with single beds. Each has a TV and a fridge and are equipped with radiators. The rooms are decorated in dark brown and cream colours. The floor is covered with stone columns and a red roof. The villa is covered with a heavy lid of forged iron. A porcelain icon of the Virgin Mary kneeling before baby Christ is built in the wall. Prices: doubles €25-50, apartments €31-57.

**Villa Izbanda**

Villa Izbanda is a two-storey white building in the Bulgarian style. The cinema, the post office and the telegraph of the Palace used to be here. On the ground floor there used to be a wine cellar. Net to the wineery there were around 100 beehives and apiarists gathered honey. The winery is a small building behind an iron gate. On the ground floor is a small room with a fireplace and a stove. On the first floor there are 2 double rooms with a shared bathroom. On the second floor there is an apartment and a double room each with a TV and a refrigerator. The villa holds also a small room with a small table and a television. The hotel also offers a fireplace in the garage and a bathroom.

**Villa Moara (Watermill)**

It is located in one of the water mills next to Restaurant Korona in the comune. It is a small building in the middle of the valley. On the ground floor there is a double room with a shared bathroom. On the first floor there are an apartment and a double room each with a TV and a refrigerator. The villa holds also a small room with a small table and a television. The hotel also offers a fireplace in the garage and a bathroom.

**Srebaniyat Kladenets (The Silver well).** The well is built with brown stone. The bath house is shelter with stone columns and a red roof. The well is covered with a heavy lid of forged iron. A porcelain icon of the Virgin Mary kneeling before baby Christ is built in the wall.

**The Botanical Garden**

The Botanical Garden was declared protected territory. On the size of 65 000 m² it preserves the habitat area of threatened, rare and vulnerable plants and animals. The garden is home to the 340 year old poplar tree. There are 8500 plant species belonging to 85 families and 200 genera. One of the garden’s main attractions is the collection of large-sized cactus species arranged outdoors on 1000 m², the second of its kind in Europe after the one in Monaco. Admission: 5€, children 7-16 years 1€.

**The Garden of Balchik**

Maria and Princess Leanna are painted on both sides of the entrance. Inside the temple there is a wooden carvings and an iconostasis made in 1721, bought by Queen Maria from the island of Cyprus.

**Sea Daffodil (Paeonia tenuifolia), the Dobrudja wormwood, the Judas tree (Aesculus hippocastanum).** There are also another 2000 plant species belonging to 85 families and 200 genera. One of the garden’s main attractions is the collection of large-sized cactus species arranged outdoors on 1000 m², the second of its kind in Europe after the one in Monaco. Admission: 5€, children 7-16 years 1€.

**The Gravel Mansion**

Maria died in the evening of July 13, 1938 in Sinaytia, Romania. Through vaulted tunnels the stairs of the Labyrinth lead to a stone cross with carvings in Church-Slavic language. In its base the rock is shaped as a green, Queen Maria was born in crimson and wanted to die in crimson, so the mourning flags in Bucharest were not crimson but also in crimson. Thousands of people for three days went to take the farewell with their favorite Mama Regina, as they called her. The body of Maria was buried in the tomb of the

**Minareto na Villa Tihoto Gnezdo (The Minaret of the Villa Quiet Nest).** Behind a wood-carved door, narrow stairs lead to the bedroom, from which the view into the valley opens. From the bedroom you can see the unique vase which used to have stretched chords as in a harp with which the wind played magical sounds. The minaret doesn’t have a religious value, but it is just a decorative element to the house.

**Mosta na Vazdeshkite (The Bridge of Sighs).** The vaulted domes were guarding the entrance around the clock. Spherical sea mines, a symbolic warning to anyone who might disturb the peace of the palace, are placed on both sides of the gate. Over the entrance there were candles placed to illuminate the path. Further down along both sides of the cobbled path are the garden of the Cacti, the Maze of trees and the multiple flower garden. The minaret was turned into a shop, called the Queen’s workshop, where they sell various souvenirs and artwork.

**Paraklisat Uspenie Bogorodichno (The Chapel of the Blessed Virgin).** A small staircase through one of the broad arches of the Nipneme will take you to a garden with white lilies, different from all the other gardens in the Palace. You have to visit it to see why. A stone alley leads to the chapel which was built in 1932. High trees surround the building in the center where the temple rises, the images of Queen Maria were placed in your pocket.com

**Summer 2009**
The Queen’s Winery House. The Collection of wines, raki and brandies which the house presents is unique. There you can find Ganza wine (sort of black grapes) from 1909, Mavrudov wine from 1956, mastika, raki and brandy produced prior to 1945. The rest of the collection consists of wonderful exhibits and owns wines the house produces. We tasted the Successa wine with bee honey and almonds and the digestives, raki, distilled with 26 herbs and honey, aged in oak barrels. We were so pleased with the quality that we went further and bought a bottle.

Villa Gabka (Villa Mushroom). The villa reminds the watchtower of a fortress. It is hidden amongst the green trees and looks like a mushroom which just came up after the rain. From the windows there is a great view to the sea horizon.

Villa Sinyata Sretsa (Blue Arrow) Prince Nikolay. The villa was the residence of Prince Nikolay - the second son of Queen Maria - and later of Princess Ileana - the youngest daughter of Maria, married to the Habsburg duke Anthony. The villa was built in 1931. The western wing is on three floors, and the eastern wing is on one floor. The first and second floors have small rooms, which served as bedrooms for the children of the princess, the ladies-in-waiting and the chambermaids. The third floor held the apartment of the princess. The sunny bedroom was separated by a heavy staircase passing through the arches, behind a wrought iron balustrade. Numerous exhibits and own wines the house produces. We tasted the rakia and brandies which the house presents is unique. There you can find Gamza wine (sort of black grapes) from 1909, Ducsona wine with bee honey and almonds and the digestives, raki, distilled with 26 herbs and honey, aged in oak barrels.

Tourism information

Tourism Information Centre ul. Primorska 25A, tel. +359 579 76 951, balchik_tic@abv.bg. For more on p… in our where to stay and restaurants section.)

Three Mills. The third mill is turned into Villa Magnolia (read more on p…. in our where to stay and restaurants section.)
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