

# BULGARIA

CONFERENCE AND  
BUSINESS TOURISM



[www.bulgariatravel.org](http://www.bulgariatravel.org)

# Get to Know Bulgaria

The geographic position of Bulgaria has always defined its historical development. Since its very foundation in 681 AD, Bulgaria has had the potential to become one of the major centers of Europe. Bulgaria is a crossing point between Europe, the Middle East and the Mediterranean.

Both in the big cities, as well as the resorts in Bulgaria, there is a vast selection of well-equipped conference halls that will allow you to successfully enter the Bulgarian market and to develop lasting partnerships.

In Bulgaria, there are industrial and services expos, as well as expos about agriculture and new technologies, some of which are known all over the world. The tradition of hosting such events has resulted in the development of a corresponding infrastructure for conducting conferences in Bulgaria. The four international airports in the country ensure easy access to all parts of the world. Bulgaria's rich history and various natural resources allow for short cultural and ecological trips in addition to the main agenda of the event.



Nessebar



A view from the Rila mountain

of it for five centuries. The Russian-Bulgarian war of 1877-1878 led to the inauguration of the Third Bulgarian Kingdom. After World War II, the country became part of the Eastern Block and assumed a communist regime. In 1990, democracy was restored in Bulgaria in the form of a parliamentary republic and today it is part of the EU and NATO. Bulgaria's position with regard to spare transportation is particularly favorable. As part of Eastern Europe, Bulgaria is a crossroads and a transit territory between Western Europe, the Middle East and the Mediterranean.



The Tsarevets Fortress, Veliko Tarnovo

## Strategic position of Bulgaria – between the East and the West



Bulgaria is simultaneously a European, Balkan, Black Sea and Danube river country. It is situated in the Eastern part of the Balkan Peninsula and it borders the Black Sea to the East, Greece and Turkey to the South, the Republic of Macedonia and Serbia to the West and Romania to the North. The geographic location of the country predefines the country as a crossing point between Europe and Asia and its strategic position on the political map of the Balkan Peninsula with regard to regions rich in resources and world markets. Today, its outlet to the Black Sea connects the country with all other Black Sea countries and facilitates the exchange of goods among them.

The geographic location of Bulgaria has always been crucial for its development throughout its long history. Ever since it was established in 681 AD, Bulgaria has had the potential to become one of the focal points of Europe. It played an essential part in the dissemination of Christianity among the peoples in Eastern Europe. A few centuries later, with the decay of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom (1185-1396), the country was invaded by the Ottoman Empire and remained a part



The National Gallery of International Arts, Sofia



The Drama Theater Varna

Bulgaria's developing market economy is attracting foreign investors. The country hosts traditional expos, aimed at both professionals and a wider audience, which provides for a unique chance for local and international businesses to establish new contacts, to present their programs and to sign deals. Participation in expos and conferences in this part of the world gives the opportunity to demonstrate a competitive edge in a vast range of services.

## Major expos. Expo and congress centers

Bulgaria's population is mainly concentrated in the administrative centers of its regions, which provides for an active social and public life. Around 71% of Bulgarians live in cities. Population centers of above 100 000 inhabitants include: the capital Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna, Burgas, Ruse, Stara Zagora, Pleven, Sliven, and Dobrich.

Business tourism in Bulgaria has led to the development of modern facilities that will allow you to successfully and properly enter the Bulgarian market. The numerous expo and congress centers, conference halls, exhibition initiatives and festivals in all regions of the country add up to a beneficial business environment.



The International Plovdiv Fair

Each year there are international expos such as „Banks, Investments and Money“, „Agriculture and Everything about It“, „Protection and Security“, the „Eneco“ Energy and Ecology Expo, „World of Furniture“, the Plovdiv International Technical Fair, „Aquatex“ – Technology and Water Management Expo, „Eltex“ – Electronics and Electro-technology, „Infotex“ – Informational Technology, „Web Expo“, etc.



## Sofia

Sofia is the capital and the largest city in Bulgaria. It is the main administrative, industrial, transport and cultural center and it represents 1/6 of all the industrial production in the country.

The international airport establishes a connection with most capitals and big cities in the world, as well as the regional airports throughout the country.

The city has a 7000-year history. In VIII century BC in the place of a Neolithic village, the ancient city of Serdika was established due to its strategic position and natural resources.



The „St. Sofia“ Statue, Sofia

Sofia has a blend of monuments from different times, from the Roman Empire to the Middle Ages, and onwards as far as European architecture of XIX and XX centuries, all under the umbrella of its motto „It grows, but it never gets old“.

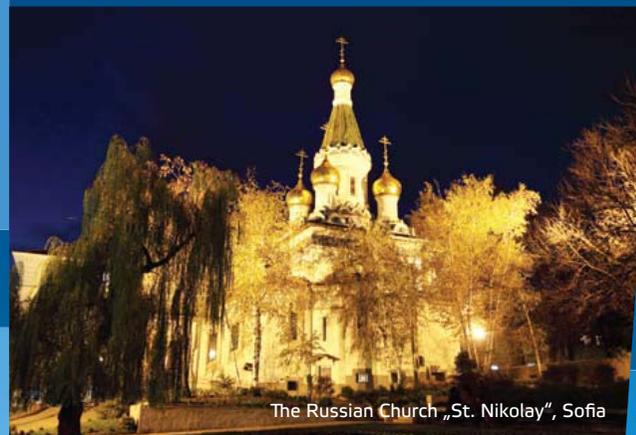
In the Middle Ages, the city was named after the „St. Sofia“ Temple. The Boyana church is situated right next to the capital and it is part of the UNESCO world heritage arrangements. There are also the „Alexander Nevski“ cathedral, the National Museum of History, the Russian church „St. Nikolay“, the „Ivan Vazov“ National Theater, The National Academy of Arts, etc.

Sofia is a modern city with well-developed infrastructure, transportation, communications and excellent conditions for organizing international congresses, conferences and exhibitions.



The St. Sofia Church, Sofia

Hence, it provides a large selection of halls with different capacities in up-scale four- and five-star hotels, some of which are part of world known hospitality chains. Depending on the event, they will ensure comfortable and appropriate halls with specialized sound, multimedia, air conditioning, as well as options for simultaneous translation - in other words everything that the perfect business meeting needs.



The Russian Church „St. Nikolay“, Sofia



Bulgaria's National Assembly

The National Palace of Culture /NPC/ in Sofia is a multifunctional building, a contemporary castle synthesizing modern architecture and plastic arts. The magnificent spaces are brought to life by more than 100 works of monumental painting, sculpture, woodcarving, tapestry, repousse, etc.

The Palace is the most impressive building in Southeastern Europe for hosting prestigious events, with rich opportunities from the entire spectrum of cultural and economic life. NPC is a member of the most prestigious associations in the congress business, ICCA and AIPC. In 2005, it received the prize for „Best Congress Center in the World”.

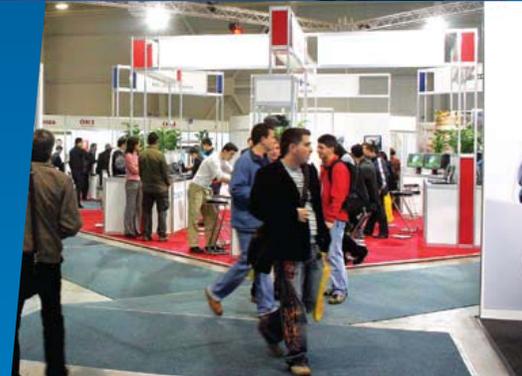
With its accommodation and excellent technical facilities, NPC continues to be the most preferred location for conferences of all types. It is situated in the center of the city, which provides easy access and secure communication. It has 11 levels containing 15 000 m<sup>2</sup> of lounges and halls, which have the potential to hold 6 000 m<sup>2</sup> unconventional exhibition spaces, presenting a real designer's challenge. NPC has on offer its own „Octanorm” constructions which allow for the building of pavilions and stands of various sizes, functions and forms. The Palace has comfortable halls suitable for additional events such as demonstrations, press conferences, symposiums, cocktails, etc. It has a well established relationship with all media, which ensures great coverage of every event. It has a rich cultural program, attracting big audiences as potential exhibition visitors. It also has authoritative partners and a stable relationship with them with regard to the organizing and conducting of events. The NPC halls echo the performances of world-famous personalities, such as Jose Carreras, Andrea Bocelli, Montserrat Caballe, Nigel Kennedy and Emir Kusturica.



The National Palace of Culture, Sofia

The Inter Expo and Congress Center has one of the largest exhibition halls in Bulgaria. It is located in the South-east part of Sofia, 3 km away from the international airport and 6 km away from the center of the city. Its halls have a total area of 42 000 m<sup>2</sup> and they host a series of national and international events.

The building has four exhibition pavilions, conference halls and an open air exhibition area. The state of the art presentational facilities allow for several events to occur at once, and the center has a direct connection with six exhibition pavilions, each having a



capacity of 1500 people, as well as seven halls with a total of 800 seats, each hall having a capacity from 50 to 320 seats.

The Inter Expo and Congress Center offers optimal conditions for specialized exhibitions, congresses, seminars, symposiums, company parties, cocktails, galas, promotions and fashion shows. Its visitors can enjoy its 700 parking spaces, several restaurants, coffee shops, insurance company offices and banks, as well as hotel and itinerary opportunities and rent-a-car services. The Expo Center's team guarantees thoroughly professional advice, complete service and qualified help in event organizing.

Among the most popular expos are „Security”, „Bulgarian Architectural Week – Interior”, „Bulmedica / Buldental”, „Autoshow”, „Beauty Arena”, „Technofurniture”, „Opto Salon”, etc.

## Plovdiv

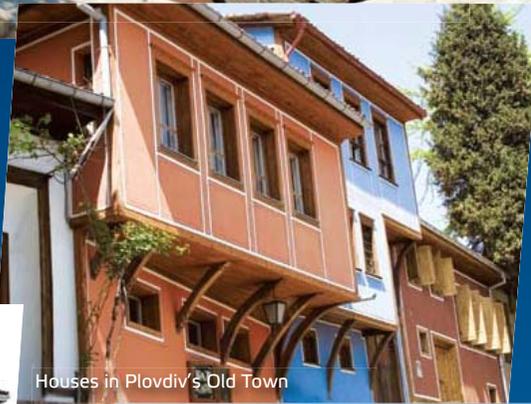
Plovdiv is the second largest Bulgarian city in terms of population and one of the major business event centers.

There are numerous economic and cultural events in the city such as the Plovdiv International Fair, the „Stage in a Crossroads“ International Theater Festival, the „The Golden Coffin“ TV festival, etc. There are a number of preserved monuments such as the Roman Theater, the Roman Odeon, the Agora (the Roman forum), the Roman Stadium, „Eyrene,“ a building from late antiquity, etc. There are also remains of the ancient city of Eumolpia which was one of the first ancient cities in Southeast Europe and can still be seen today.

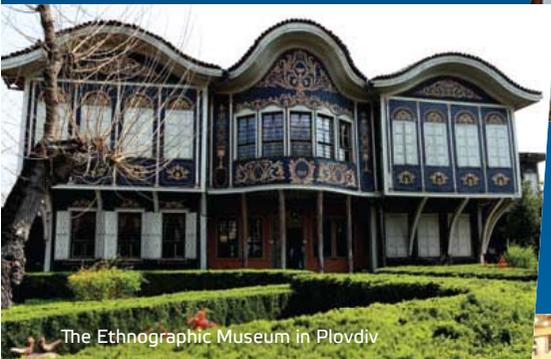
Plovdiv's Old Town is a unique urban organism, built entirely from archeological venues, museums, galleries with precious exhibits, ancient buildings, functioning temples with elaborate wall paintings and woodcarvings, cozy coffee shops and picturesque cobblestone streets. In 1979 Plovdiv's Old Town received a European gold medal for monument preservation.



The Roman Theater in Plovdiv



Houses in Plovdiv's Old Town



The Ethnographic Museum in Plovdiv



Companies have the opportunity to present and advertise their business activities and to facilitate relationships with their potential customers.

The Plovdiv International Fair program contains a lot of different segments and specialized exhibitions, comprising of the essential sectors of the Bulgarian economy. Here you can see the most significant commercial expos in the country, through which Bulgarian manufacturers enter the international market. Fairs and specialized expos demonstrate the pace at which the Bulgarian economy is developing and the amount of international interest in the country and the region.

The expo center is one of the biggest cities in Southeastern Europe. It is situated on a 352 000 m<sup>2</sup> area and it has 17 multifunctional exhibition halls, equipped with all necessary items for displaying any type of goods. The total exhibition area is around 159 100 m<sup>2</sup>, 64 500 m<sup>2</sup> of which is covered.



Plovdiv is a unique spot for organizing business events, business trips and team buildings. There are many three-, four- and five-star hotels that offer a large number of halls for meetings and seminars, with a comfortable interior and state of the art facilities which will ensure long and enjoyable business meetings.

In 1892, expo traditions in Bulgaria began in Plovdiv, when it hosted the First International Agricultural and Industrial Expo. The Plovdiv International Fair has inherited the first expo and it continues its mission for sustaining prosperity in the country by stimulating local industry.

The major expo in Plovdiv is the most prestigious in Bulgaria. The international spring fair has been a respected and preferred market event for three decades due to the combination of its year-long traditions and the new opportunities it creates. The expo hosts leading Bulgarian and international companies that present their latest innovations. They demonstrate their full range of consumer goods, state of the art machinery and technology for their production.



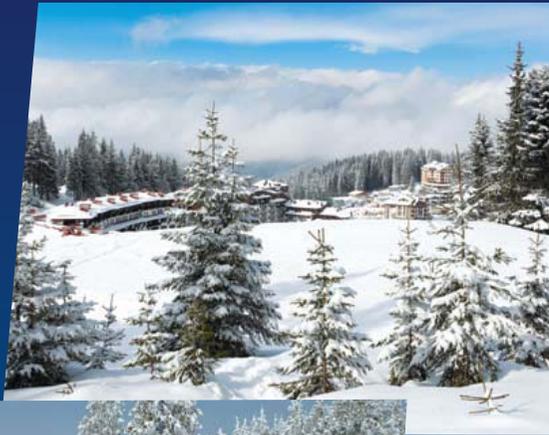
The expo area has a modern congress center with a total of 5 state of the art halls having between 20 and 600 seats. Another 10 halls are available in separate fair tents that add up to a total number of 2 100 seats.

The expo's visitors can enjoy a business environment comparable to the best European expos. The Plovdiv International Fair is the first expo organization in Bulgaria to join the exhibition industry UFI, in 1936. Seven of the events have met the highest expo criteria and have been approved by the UFI. They are the International Technology Fair, the International Agra Exhibitions, Vinaria, Medikus, Dento, Galenia, PrintCom and Foodtex.

## Pamporovo

85 km away from Plovdiv, there is the famous ski resort Pamporovo, situated in the Rhodope Mountains, the majestic mythical home of the ancient singer Orpheus. The region's climate has a mild winter with more than 100 sunny days. The resort is number one in terms of sunny days among all mountain resorts in Bulgaria and the average year-round temperature is 5.5°C.

Both in the summer and the winter, any visit to Pamporovo can combine both business activities and various types of entertainment. Many three- and four-star hotels offer excellent conditions for business trips, conferences, seminars, corporate events and team buildings. The halls have various capacities and can offer modern equipment and means of communication, as well as audio and video systems, multimedia, internet and microphones. Excellent service, coffee breaks, business lunches and dinners all contribute to the enjoyment of events held here. The numerous spa and sports facilities will certainly add to the good spirits of the participants.



Snezhanka Peak, Pamporovo

## Borovets

Borovets is situated only 60 km away from the capital of Bulgaria and it is the oldest winter resort in Bulgaria. It has hosted the World Ski Cup alpine style twice.

Huddled among century-old pine trees, more than 1300 m above sea level in the Rila mountains, Borovets today is the perfect spot not only for winter sports, but also for intensive hikes, team buildings and business activities. The four- and five-star hotels will provide excellent technological resources, professional service and modern conference halls. The hotels also have additional services such as covered swimming pools, saunas, tanning beds, steam baths, gym centers and various spa and recreational procedures.



## Bansko

Bansko is a pretty mountain town located at the foot of the Pirin Mountain at an altitude of 925 m. It is located 160 km away from Sofia Airport. With its natural resources and a well-developed hospitality chain, the city is perfect for year-round vacations. The resort is famous for its perfect skiing conditions, together with its local folklore traditions.

Bansko is well-known for its original and distinctive architecture, picturesque two-storey stone houses and flower gardens, as well as an iconography and a wood-carving school, and a fascinating local cuisine. In the past, Bansko was famous for being a large and rich settlement with well-developed crafts, trade and arts.

Today, the city is well-known for the heavenly beauty of Pirin, as well as for its numerous hotels and taverns and its wonderful conditions for summer and winter tourism. The unique hospitality of local citizens will make you feel at home and the experts will take care of all your professional needs for business seminars, conferences and congresses. The city has an environment predisposed to fulfilling team buildings designed to reward you and your colleagues.



The „St. Trinity“ Church, Bansko



# BULGARIA

CONFERENCE AND  
BUSINESS TOURISM

## Major congress centers



## Varna

Varna is also called the „Sea capital of Bulgaria“. The city is connected through four means of transportation, ground, air, water and railway. Varna airport services over 65 Bulgarian and international airlines which carry out frequent scheduled and charter flights to more than 35 countries. The airport is among the three airports in Bulgaria that function year-round. There are frequent flights during winter and 28% of passengers travel for business purposes. The city has numerous modern hotels with excellent conditions and state of the art conference and congress halls. There are various and countless opportunities for recreation after a busy day.

Among Varna's landmarks are the Roman Therms, the „St. Assumption of Virgin Mary Cathedral“, one of the sea capital's main symbols, as well as the Summer Theater, the Sea Garden, the Dolphinarium, the Aquarium, etc. The city hosts a number of important cultural events of national significance such as the „Varna Summer“ International Festival, The International Ballet Competition, the International Jazz Festival, the „The Golden Dolphin“ International Puppet Festival, „August and the Arts“, „Videotechnics“, etc. The oldest golden treasure in the world is kept in the Town Museum of History, also known as „Varna Culture“.

Situated in the most attractive spots in the center of the city, right next to the main entrance of the Sea Garden and 100 m away from the beach, there is the Festival and Congress Center, which is one of the city's landmarks and a cultural center for local and international events.



The „St. Assumption of Virgin Mary“ Cathedral, Varna



The Dolphinarium, Varna



It has developed painting, creative and international activities, as well as congress and conference activities, catering and other corresponding services. The congress center has 1000 m<sup>2</sup> of exhibition area, 12 multifunctional halls with a capacity from 50 to 1000 people, equipped with the latest technology, its food court has the capacity to service events of up to 500 people.

Everyday, there at least eight events and the yearly visitors to the cultural center alone are around 250 000. This is an excellent selection for conducting seminars, conferences, practices, presentations and press conferences.

The Varna Festival and Congress Center is the face of Bulgaria in prestigious congress organizations such as the ICCA, EFCT and AIPC, and includes the only pan-European cinema chain „Europe Cinemas“, part of the European Union.

Every month, The National Culture and Sports Palace in Varna hosts many national and international

events. It is a multifunctional building for congress, culture and sports events. It has six halls, a recreational center, a gym, a press center and a mall.

The „Congress“ hall can transform into a sports arena (with dimensions of 50 m by 25 m and a height of 15 m) with an electronic informational board for monitoring real play time and score. The „Mladost“ complex has 5 independent halls, suitable for practice. It has soundproof and electronic curtains. Right next to the training halls is the „Palace Press“ hall, which is suitable for press conferences and workout and sports meeting analysis. It is equipped with such video facilities as „Barcovision“, a mobile screen, a HI-Fi and hi-speed internet.

The building has two gym halls, equipped with modern sports equipment. The sports and recreational center is equipped with all the facilities required for a complete recovery (sauna, tangentor) and rehabilitation of the players, as well as physical therapy.

The National Culture and Sports Palace also has a big mall, offering recreation and entertainment opportunities at leisure.



The Culture and Sports Palace, Varna



## Albena

Albena is situated only 30 km away from Varna. It is located in a scenic sea bay, sheltered from the wind and with a large beach line with a length of 6 km and a width of 150 m. Albena is a unique destination for organizing and conducting events such as a gala for more than 1000 seated people, with a five-course meal, quality service, holiday decor, a rich entertainment program, international festivals, sports competitions, reality shows, rock concerts, beach parties, exhibitions, etc.

The Albena Congress Center offers opportunities for organizing seminars, conferences, business meetings, corporate events, motivational trips, as well as a variety of many other programs.



## Burgas

Burgas is the second largest city on the Black Sea and the biggest port in the country, connected to European and world cities through its international airport. Burgas is also the center of the biggest district, as well the most important economic, cultural and administrative center in Southeast Bulgaria.

Burgas is a cultural center with well developed sea tourism. Every year there are different festivals and festivities such as the Days of Classical German and Austrian Music, the International Children's Choir Festival, the „Theater in a Box“ Miniature Theatrical Forms Festival, the Opera and Classical Music Festival, the International Folklore Festival, etc.

The multifunctional „Mladost“ hall hosts various business and sports events.

The city has many hotels and a variety of suitable opportunities for conferences, meetings, exhibitions and team buildings. All of the above ensure successful business activity.



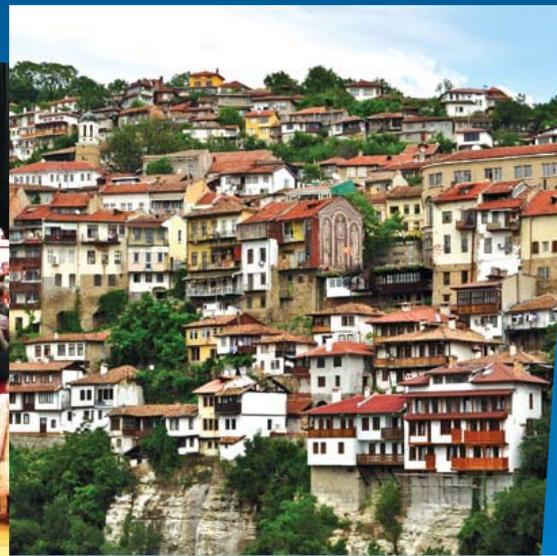
The Tsarevets Fortress, Veliko Tarnovo

## Veliko Tarnovo

Veliko Tarnovo is one of the most beautiful cities in Bulgaria, it is an ancient capital with a unique ambiance. It is situated in central Bulgaria at the foot of the Stara Planina. Its Old Town encompasses the historical mount Tsarevets, the home of Bulgarian kings in the Middle Ages, Trapezitsa, sheltering over 17 ancient churches and Sveta Gora.

During the centuries-long existence of the city, there have been created and preserved unique cultural monuments, related to the history of the Bulgarian people. The preserved remains of the fortresses, castles and churches show evidence of the heyday of Bulgarian culture in XII - XIV century. The proximity of the ancient city from Roman times, Nichopolis Ad Istrum, the architecturally and historically unique village Arbanasi and the number of monasteries create favorable conditions for satisfying the scientific and cultural interests of people of all ages.

The „Varosha“ neighborhood itself is an architectural landmark that has preserved quaint houses with enchanting yards and beautiful cobblestone streets from XVIII - XIX century. The „Son et Lumiere“ audio-visual show is also a unique attraction. Dramatic music and special effects tell Bulgaria's story with the majestic historical witnesses in the background. The city also offers great opportunities for business and congress events, business trips and team buildings.



## Suggestions for Bulgarian cities – galleries, museums, festivals, mall, night life

Both big and small cities in Bulgaria can offer extremely rich opportunities for completing a business itinerary that can satisfy the most diverse interests.

The rich centuries-long history of Bulgarians has left its traces all over the country's territory. In most case the cities, which have been cultural centers in the past, have remained such today as well.

Big cities have national, regional and private museums, the rich collections of which speak of the glorious past of Bulgarian lands.

The galleries in the country have on offer both permanent and visiting expositions, as well as different forms of contemporary arts such as performances, installations and fashion shows. The cities in the country are modern, their cultural image can always provide a rich selection of concerts, exhibitions and theatre plays.

Throughout the year, there are a number of festivals, most common are festivals related to Bulgarian folklore, international music festivals, and film and theater festivals that attract fans from all over the world. Among the biggest folklore festivals, inspired by Bulgarian century-old traditions and customs, are „The Rose Festival“ in Kazanlak, the „Surva“ International Festival of Mask and Costume Games in Pernik, the „Works of Folklore“



The National Museum of History, Sofia



The Thracian Treasure, National Museum of History



The Panagyurishte Gold Treasure, National Museum of History



„Rachenitsa“, painter Ivan Markovichka, National Gallery of Arts



„Return from Shopping“, painter Yaroslav Veshin, National Gallery of Arts



The National Gallery of Arts, Sofia



„Ivan Vazov“ National Theater, Sofia



Fire dancers



Kukeri



national gathering in Koprivshtitsa, the „Pirin Sings“ gathering in Rozhen, the „Pipe Playing Contest“ in the village of Gella, etc.

Each year, „The Apollonia Arts Fest“ in Sozopol at the end of the summer brings together prominent figures in all the arts, such as musicians, actors, directors, producers, painters, poets and writers.

The „Kaliakra Rock Fest“, the „Lovech Party Fest“, the „Spirit of Burgas“ are all rock festivals where some of the most famous world artists participate. Other music festivals are „Burgas and the Sea“, the Bansko International Jazz Festival, the International Musical Festival at the Plovdiv Ancient Theater, one of the most unique cultural monuments. The „Varna Summer“ International Festival and the „Cinemania“ and „Sofia Film Fest“ film festivals attract fans of theater and film arts from all over the world.

With regard to entertainment, Sofia is a modern capital that must be visited. In terms of variety and quality, the day and night entertainment establishments in the other big cities in Bulgaria such as Plovdiv, Varna, Burgas, Veliko Tarnovo and Stara Zagora are comparable to the ones in Sofia.

Bulgarian cities follow the latest trends, such as integrating the architectural heritage into modern construction and increasing the number of malls featuring famous brands. Cinemas, stores, clubs and children's attractions will satisfy the needs of every visitor.

In the big cities, the night life is pretty vibrant and it is full of pleasant surprises and fun. Some of the capital and seaside clubs are among the best and most impressive in the world. Restaurants and bars are numerous. Apart from Bulgarian cuisine, you can also try Japanese, Indian, Middle Eastern, European, Russian and Latin American dishes, as well dishes from all parts of the world.

Accommodation opportunities in Bulgaria vary a lot, together with most international hospitality chains, the family hotel network is also well developed, together with rural accommodation such as camps and chalets.



## Recreation, countryside entertainment and team building



In the country you can find various opportunities for recreation, sports and entertainment which are a crucial addition to every business itinerary.

The geographic location of Bulgaria and the Rila, Pirin, Vitosha and Rhodope high peaks combine to offer the best conditions for a complete winter vacation. There is also a rich selection of hotels, establishments and private lodgings that can satisfy the needs of every tourist who wants to get to know Bulgaria's mountains. Last, but not least, the local population is well-known for its hospitality.

Water sports fans have a lot of options as well. Bulgarian Black Sea resorts have excellent conditions for water skiing, wind surfing, spear fishing, diving and yachting. During the summer season, most of the cultural events and festivals in the country are carried out at the coast, which is facilitated by the nature of its resort towns and villages, and their excellent conditions for a true sea vacation.

In recent years, the newest entertainment types have also been growing in Bulgaria. The favorable climate and the natural resources are the basis for a program of active golf-course construction in the country. Modern and tasteful facilities have been predicted to be the future of one of the most successful endeavors in Bulgarian tourism.



Today, there are various options for team building programs on the Bulgarian market which are properly targeted, coordinated with each company's policy, the general physical preparation, the type of the company, the company's requirements towards the participants and its demands on the group, aiming at realizing the company's goals.

Different educational tools and outdoor activities are available. The selection of a suitable area for the event is a crucial element in the general effectiveness of a team building program. With its rich and multifaceted natural landscape, Bulgaria has to offer excellent team building programs of all types.

Team building is an opportunity to visit the various Bulgarian mountains, each of them having their own unique atmosphere. You can also learn more about orientation and surviving in the mountains. The events are carried out outdoors and depending on their particular type, accommodation can be made in a hotel, a chalet or in tents when going on an expedition. Mountain survival courses give the opportunity to develop



both practical skills and to also learn about yourself and the people around you, as well as to develop your will power and your physical abilities, in addition to visiting new places and meeting new people. The Struma, Cherni and Beli Iskar rivers create perfect conditions for rafting and kayaking, in addition to water and mountain activities.

Opportunities for interesting activities can be also found at the Bulgarian lakes such as the Iskar dam, next to Sofia, the Batak and Dospat lakes in the Rhodope Mountains, etc. There are outdoor activities, both land and water-based, which gives the participants the chance to experience all activities related to sailing.

The Black Sea coast also provides rich opportunities for team building with its mild climate, vast open spaces, crystal clear water and endless beach lines. Many activities are carried out outdoors, such as building a raft (the construction of a raft with any available materials), yachting, kayaking, lots of sports, games and entertainment related to the beach and the water.



# TOURIST INFORMATION CENTERS

## NATIONAL TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER AT THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, ENERGY AND TOURISM

1040 Sofia, 1 Sv. Nedelya Square  
phone: +359 2 933 58 26, +359 2 933 58 21, +359 2 933 58 11  
e-mail: e-docs@mee.government.bg

### SOFIA

1504 Sofia, the underpass of St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University  
phone: +359 2 491 83 44, +359 2 491 83 45  
e-mail: tourist@info-sofia.bg

### SMOLYAN

4700 Smolyan, 5 Bulgaria Blvd.  
phone: +359 3016 25 30, e-mail: toursmolyan@abv.bg

### BANSKO

2770 Bansko, 1 Nikola Vaptsarov Square  
phone: +359 749 885 80, +359 749 886 33  
e-mail: infocenter@bansko.bg

### VELIKO TARNOVO

5000 Veliko Tarnovo, 5 Hristo Botev Str.  
phone: +359 62 62 21 48; e-mail: ticvt2@gmail.com

### RUSE

7000 Ruse, 61 Aleksandrovska Str.  
phone: +359 82 82 47 04, e-mail: tic@tic.rousse.bg

### SHUMEN

9700 Shumen, 17 Slavyanski Blvd.  
phone: +359 54 85 77 73, e-mail: shumen\_opt@abv.bg

### PLEVEN

5800 Pleven, 1 Vazrazhdane Square  
phone: +359 64 82 40 04, e-mail: tourpleven@abv.bg

### STARAZAGORA

6000 Stara Zagora, 27 Ruski Blvd.  
phone: +359 42 62 70 98, e-mail: tic@city.starazagora.net

### NESEBAR

8231 Nessebar – Old Town, 10 Mesembria Str.  
phone: +359 554 293 46, e-mail: visitnessebar@abv.bg

### SANDANSKI

2800 Sandanski, 1 Bulgaria Square  
phone: +359 74 63 05 49, e-mail: tour\_centre@abv.bg

### PLOVDIV

4000 Plovdiv, 1 Tsentralen Square  
phone: +359 32 65 67 94, +359 32 62 02 29  
e-mail: tic\_plovdiv@abv.bg, tic.plovdiv@gmail.com

### BURGAS

8000 Burgas, Hristo Botev Str.  
phone: +359 56 82 57 72, +359 56 84 15 42  
e-mail: tic\_burgas@burgas.bg

### VARNA

9000 Varna, St. St. Kiril i Metodiy square  
phone: +359 52 60 89 18, +359 52 60 89 19  
e-mail: invarna@abv.bg

### DEVIN

4800 Devin, 5 Osвобождение Square  
phone: +359 876 53 54 35,  
e-mail: tic\_devin@mail.bg

### VELINGRAD

4600 Velingrad, Svoboda Square  
phone: +359 359 584 01,  
e-mail: icvelingrad@b-trust.org

## GENERAL INFO ABOUT BULGARIA

**Geographic location:** Republic of Bulgaria is a European country, located in the Eastern part of the Balkan peninsula. Its Eastern boundary is the Black Sea; Greece and Turkey are situated southbound, its Western neighbours are The Republic of Macedonia and The Republic of Serbia, and to the North it shares border with The Republic of Romania.

**Climate:** Bulgaria has a mixed Mild-Continental and Mediterranean influenced climate.

**Average winter temperatures:** 0 °C to -2 °C

**Average summer temperatures:** 20-22 °C

**Territory:** 110,099 sq. km.

**Population:** 7 679 290

**Official language:** Bulgarian

**Capital:** Sofia

**Average height above sea level:** 470 m

**Highest point:** summit Musala (2925 m)

**Time zone:** GMT+2 (EST+7)

**Main denomination:** East-orthodox Christianity (82,6% of the population)

**Other denominations:** Islam (12,2% of the population), Catholicism (0,6% of the population), Protestants (0,5% of the population)

**Ethnic groups:** Bulgarians (83,9%), Turks (9,4%), Gypsies (4,7%), Others (2%) (All data is from survey made in 2001)

## MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, ENERGY AND TOURISM

Bulgaria, 1000 Sofia, 8 Slavjanska Str.  
tel.: +359 2 940 7001  
fax: +359 2 987 2190; +359 2 981 9970; +359 2 981 5039  
e-mail: e-docs@mee.government.bg  
www.mee.government.bg



Operational Programme „Regional Development” 2007-2013

www.bgregio.eu

Investing in your future!

The project is funded by the European Regional Development Fund and the state budget of the Republic of Bulgaria



Grant Scheme BG161P0001/3.3-01/2008 „Support for effective national marketing of the tourist product and improvement of the information service”, BG161P0001/3.3-01/2008/001-4 „Design and distribution of advertising materials for promotion of Bulgaria as a tourist destination”

This document is created within the framework of the project “Preparation and Distribution of Advertising and Information Materials Promoting Bulgaria as a Tourist Destination”, Contract No BG161P0001/3.3-01/2008/001-4, which is performed with the financial support of Operative Program “Regional Development” 2007 – 2013, co-financed by the European Union through the European Regional Development Fund. The entire responsibility for the contents of the document is brought by the beneficiary – The Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism, and under no circumstances it can be considered that this document presents the official position of the European Union and the Managing Body.

# OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE YEAR

