

Welcome to Sofia

Gay Guide Net, Bulgaria

This gay & travel guide website is made and permanently updated since November 2004 in Sofia, Bulgaria, in Eastern Europe. At least twice per year we visit every place listed on this page and search for new places; we call every phone number and double check every detail. We hope it assists you to discover this town. We enjoy to go everywhere and we are happy to share all the information with you to help you having a pleasant, uncomplicated and safe time without the hassle to figure out everything on your own. If you find anything that is not up2date please contact us right away. If you know about a new place tell us everything you know and we will go there and include it to this page. If you take pictures in Sofia contact us as well. We may use them for this page. We try to describe every place as detailed as possible because we want you to know what to expect before you go to a venue where you have never been before. Also we list entrance fees and other prices. We also have a list of places and groups that do not exist or are not gay anymore (You may find them still listed in other guides).

Sofia is the capital of Bulgaria with appr. 1.2 million people living here. During the winter Bulgaria is a popular destination for winter sports because of it`s mountains. In the summer, from June til middle of September the coast at the Black Sea is very popular. For gay-lesbian life the best time to visit Sofia is from early April to end of October. We recommend to stay at least 7 days. However, you will not find gay bars and dance clubs or cafés for a specific audience (like a leather bar, a rent boy bar, a bar for chubbies, etc.). Everyone goes to the same places (age or preference doesn`t matter). All of the bars and clubs are in the center of Sofia, in the first and second district.

All gay accommodations listed in our guide are in the center of Sofia and we believe staying at gay accommodations makes it a lot easier to get access to

Sofia`s gay and lesbian life than if you stay isolated at regular hotels. At check in the staff will take the time to give you all the infos that you need to get started. Our Sofia Gay Guide has also info about baths and saunas, restaurants, media, groups and associations, condoms and lubricant, AIDS, events, cruising, sex shops, escorts, laws plus gay listings for Bulgarias countryside and links.

The first low cost airlines that flies into Sofia are Wizzair www.wizzair.com (Flights from/to Amsterdam, Budapest, Frankfurt Hahn, London Luton, Malmö, Paris) and Skyeurope, www.skyeurope.com (Flights from/to Bratislava and Kosice)

The chapter general tourist info gives you country facts (climate, time, money, national holidays); Info needed to travel to Bulgaria (visa, airlines, trains, busses, ships and cars); travel in Sofia (map, public transport, taxis, rent a car, lost and found); and info about communication (telecom, internet, dictionary, translations, interpreter, radio, TV) plus useful addresses (embassies, health, shopping, postal service, laundry, museums, galleries, tourist info) plus general links.

There is more we can do for you. First you should download and print the pdf file that we prepared and that includes all the info. Then you should subscribe to our newsletter. Don`t worry, we send newsletters no more than four times per year. Next subscribe to the Gay Sofia Yahoo Group. Use the mailing list to introduce yourself to other users of this site and let others introduce themselves to you. Share info and experiences, and meet online before you maybe meet in Sofia. You may order books and maps online. You may also get the latest event info for the period you will be in Sofia. We have a great fluent English speaking gay tour guide who can take you around. He can make it easier for you to discover the city and the gay places and can answer all your questions. And we offer translations of texts and interpreter for meetings. If you like this website you may donate for this website. Every (also small) donation will help to keep this site alive and to add more content in the future.

Sofia Gay Guide

Accommodation

Get the Up2date List via Email (Gay Accommodation)

GayGuide.Net Sofia provides information on gay/lesbian owned and gay/lesbian operated accommodations. We include only places in the center of Sofia, because all gay bars & clubs are located in Sofia`s first and second district. We select the places very carefully.

How to make a reservation (gay accommodation)

Please review the websites of the accommodations below and choose the place you prefer most. If you are flying into Sofia, please check first with the airline to insure flights are available before you request a reservation. This helps to avoid your having to change reservations.

If the place is available you will receive a confirmation via email including all the info you will need: Addresses, phone numbers, directions, check-in details.

In case, your first preference is not available you will receive offers via email for other places. You will never loose out!

Scottys Hotel

1 st district, Ekzarh Iosif Street

Web page: <http://gaystay.net/Scottys/>

Reservation: Reservation Form

(Close to gay venues and the Old Market Hall, the major Catholic Cathedral, the most famous Mosque and the Old Mineral Bath House, the National Museum of History, the former King`s Palace and present National Art Gallery)
Hotel

Scotty`s Boutique Hotel just opened in February 2005 and is the first gay hotel in Sofia, located in the heart of the city in a recently renovated and completely reconstructed building which is part of the city`s historical heritage.

Within walking distance to the major business, government and shopping district. Many restaurants and coffee shops nearby. Opposite the Sofia`s Synagogue and the Old Market Hall called Halite. One minute walk to the major

Catholic Cathedral and the most famous Mosque of Sofia and the Old Mineral Bath House (currently under reconstruction). Near to the biggest Orthodox Cathedral on the Balkans St. Alexander Nevski, National Museum of History, the former King`s Palace and present National Art Gallery and many other historical landmarks.

All staff at Scotty`s is gay. At the reception you can get info and assistance whenever you need it. Scotty`s is straight friendly, but most guests are gay and lesbian. You can have your own guests at day and night without extra charges; your guests needs to get registered at the reception. He can have a breakfast too. You can walk to several gay bars and clubs: 3 minutes to Exit, 5 minutes to Vital and to Why Not, 10 minutes to Joy and to Twelve Chairs restaurant, 20 minutes to Sax and Kayo, 30 minutes to Flamingo.

All rooms are individually decorated and named after world famous cities (Please see the webpage to find detailed info about each room). Every room has air condition, mini bar, free cable TV with 70 channels and one free movie channel (HBO); private phone with own local number; a safety box (you make your own number code); complimentary in-room coffee, tea and mineral water; private bath and toilet. Most rooms have double beds, but can be replaced with two single beds on request. Rooms are cleaned daily between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., but only if you are not in the room at the cleaning time. Normally towels are changed daily and bed sheets will be changed after the second night (but if needed can be changed daily free of charge). There are 2 single rooms with balcony, 7 double rooms, 1 double room with balcony and 6 deluxe double rooms with balcony and Synagogue view. For the deluxe double rooms a third bed is available for 10 EUR. Check-in is possible from 2 pm; latest check out time is 12 noon. You may store your luggage free of charge. Credit cards are accepted (Visa, Mastercard, Amex, Diners, JCB and debit cards like Maestro, Cirrus), but no traveller checks. Cash payment can be made in EUR, BGN and USD (see changerates at the webpage). There is a ATM just 1 minute walk away from the hotel where you can get Bulgarian Leva.

Breakfast is available on request from 8 am until noon and served in your room (you will have bacon, sausages and eggs, croissants, yoghurt, toasted bread, coffee, milk, juice etc). It costs 5 Euro per person. Bring your notebook with wifi adapter and you can have free wireless internet access throughout the hotel. In every floor you will find one internet terminal that you may use free of charge. Two gay friendly fitness facilities and saunas are nearby. Laundry and dry cleaning services are provided and on request in-room massage is available. Tickets for theatre, musical etc. can be ordered trough the reception. Tickets for public traffic, stamps and phonecards available at a shop across the street from the reception (open daily 9 am until 7 pm). Free parking on the street. Guarded parking is available in 3 minutes walk distance for appr 20 BGN (10 Euros) for 24

hours. Reservations for the parking area are not required. Transfer from train stations and the airport can be arranged for 12 EUR one way or 20 EUR return (see the webpage). Scotty's is 12 kilometer from the airport and 2 kilometer from the central railway station and only 15 kilometer from Vitosha Mountain, a great place for skiing during the winter.

Open all year, check-in on agreement, reservations in advance required.

Hotels in Bulgaria (not gay)

Do you need accommodations in Bulgaria other than Sofia or are you used to staying at 3 or 4 star hotels? We believe that staying at one of the gay owned and operated accommodations has many advantages (see listings above). But you may book hotels at <http://gayguide.net/Europe/Bulgaria/Hotels/>. We don't know if they are gay friendly or not ...

Airport Transfer

Airport Transfer in Sofia

GayGuide.Net Sofia provides a private airport transfer to every place in the city. The driver will wait for you in the arrival hall, having a name plate with your name. The fee is 29 EUR per car (up to 3 persons). A return trip is 49 EUR.

We provide this just because it's maybe nice to have someone who is gay awaiting you in Sofia and you may talk about the gay scene during the trip to your accommodation. It is possible that your accommodation provider offers a free transfer or charges less as a part of his advertising. Please check this first!

If you have a confirmed reservation for Scottys Hotel please visit their webpage to request the airport transfer. Rates for transfers to Scottys are lower and the drivers are different! For this reason you should not fill this form if you stay at Scottys.

Bars & Clubs

Exit Club

1301 Sofia, 16 Lavele Street
Phone: +359 887 965 026
Email: [Send Email](#)
Web: [Visit this link](#)
(between Alexander Stamboliyski Boulevard and Todor Alexandrov Boulevard, Tram 1, 5, 7)
Gay friendly, Coffee shop

Its not the old Ex It club, different location, different owner. Gay friendly. A coffeeshop during daytime which turns into a bar after 8 pm.
Daily from 8 am until 3 am (or later if guests are present)
No minimum consumption; No entrance fee.

Kayos Private Club

1142 Sofia, 27 Uri Venelin Street
Phone: +357 29864002 (landline); +357 899426243 (mobile); OLD 2807646
(near National Sport stadium, between two stops of trolleys 1, 5, 2, 10, 9)
Gay, Bar

A bar that is one room with black painted walls and ceilings, about 60 squaresmeter. Its on the groundfloor and the entrance from the street. You need to ring the door bell. It has 3 tables and a bar with appr. 10 bar stools. Comment by Dejan, received in October 2005: I used to come at Kayos very often, even in 1990's it was a good place to stay. Very pleasant atmosphere, music by customer's choice; nice and kind waiters; and a misterious woman in black which comes in and out of the bar - at the end we found out it was owner's Mum! She totally fits in the atmosphere of pleasant, drousy happiness and misterious constant craving! Must see if you're in Sofia.
Daily 7 pm til 4 am
No minimum consumption; No entrance fee.

SAX

1142 Sofia, 67 Vassil Levski Boulevard
Phone: +359 898767296 (mobile Jordan)
Email: [Send Email](#)
(close to a trolley stop 1,2,5,10)
Gay, Lesbian, Straight mixed, Bar

Popular night club with aquarium in a basement. Sax has a straight bar on the groundfloor and a gay bar downstairs in the basement. Air conditioned. Fridays and Saturdays DJ parties. Tuesdays Ethno parties. Comment by Viktor who visited in August 2005: One of the newest gay bars in

Sofia. The bar is okay. It's a bit bigger than the other bars. The music is mainly techno with some dance vibes as well. Friendly barmen. Not expensive. A separate with a big red curtain is available for those of you coming in groups and want some privacy.

Tuesdays til Saturdays 9 pm until 4 am

No entrance fee. No Minimum consumption.

Why Not

1000 Sofia, 31 Stamboliysky Boulevard

Phone: +359 986 66 30

(below Pizzeria Capri, opposite KFC)

Gay, Bar, Rent Boys, Shows

Next to Pizzeria Capri, at the left side of the building (outside), you will find stairs leading to the cellar. Here is an iron door and you need to ring the bell. Certainly a crowded place on Friday and Saturday nights. A bar, several tables and sofas; a very small dance floor. Comment by Viktor who visited in August 2005: Why Not is situated some 250 300 meter walking distance from the famous Sveta Nedelya Church. The bar is very small and very crowded from Fridays to Sundays. The music is mainly pop-folk. Small bar. Small toilet.

Daily from 8 pm til 4 am or sometimes longer

No minimum consumption; Entrance fee: 2 BGN

Gossips

Here we list gossips.

Someone told us about a new place in 1000 Sofia, 116 Botev Street. We went there on a Friday night. We found a `erotic bar` below a hotel. Two female prostitutes told us that Saturday and Sunday night gay people would go there. We did not went there again to check it.

Baths & Beaches & Saunas

Water Experience

Contributed by Georgi Hristov There are indoor and outdoor swimming pools and also bath houses in Sofia and the countryside. There are no private gay saunas or spas, but the outdoor pools and bath houses are secret meeting places for gay boys and men. The buildings of the bath houses in the area around Sofia (e.g. Pancharevo and Bankya) are in a bad condition, but the staff keeps the old buildings clean. The toilet facilities are a disaster but it worth it every second if you want an adventure. Do not miss pleasures of hot mineral water at the bath houses with naked roma boys hanging around, looking for a quick touch in the pool. There is no possibility of real gay sex but you can find an interesting game of looks, pleasure of

touches. There is no better view than the naked male body moving slowly his hands around him in steam and tear drops of the voyeur. The mineral bath is good to relax and make you feel like a feather. You will feel very good and this is how you will find what you are hunting for. Dont miss the chance to join our bath house tours!

In the center of Sofia near the mosque you can see the fabulous building of the general mineral bath house. With its magnificent architecture the complex has become one of the symbols of the city of Sofia. Now it is under reconstruction and its not known when it will open again. But when it opens, the hydrotherapy center in Sofia will cater for up to 1000 people a day and will offer a variety of treatments.

Pancharevo Bath House and Swimmng Pool Complex

Outside Sofia X

Phone: X

(Take minibus 37 from Orlov Bridge on Tsarigradsko Boulevard and ge off at the Bath House in Pancharevo. Or take our Pancharevo Water Tour!)

Swimmng Pools and Bath House

Dont miss the chance to join our Pancharevo Tour! Located about 15 km south of Sofia the village Pancharevo and the Pancharevo Lake are a perfect place for outings. The lake is 5 km long and it is suitable for different water sports: rowing, surfing and water skiing. Paddle boats can be hired. Around the lake there are hiking trails, several grassy park areas with coffee shops and restaurants, and some hot mineral springs. The temperature of the water is 47 degrees Celsius. The incredible nature of this place will capture you and will make your recreation unforgettable.

Next to the Pancharevo lake you can visit the outdoor swimming complex Pancharevo beach and the hot mineral water bath house. The swimming complex has water bars, waters games, three outdoor pools, loud music at a green area with the view to the lake.

Nearby is the Pancharevo mineral bath house. Men and women are separated. The guy at the door will give you a key for your own shelf. To feel comfortable in the bath you should take with you your own slippers, towel, soap, sponge, shampoo and what ever else you need for your bath. Everybody is taking his clothes off and gets into the real bath areas in slippers. You will see a lot of taps and large tubs. You can choose one of the seats near the tubs and to fill it with hot water. You can take a mug usually left near the tub and water your body. You can go straight to the showers with hot and cold water. There are two pools in the bath. One is 37, the second one is 42 degrees Celsius. Wash your body before you enter the pools. If you see an

interest from somebody you can invite him discreetly to the pool to stay close to each other and touch your bodies. Later you can relax in the pool and after 20 minutes you will feel like new.

Swimming Pool Complex daily from 9 am until 9 pm (entrance closes at 8 pm)

Bath House daily from 7:30 am until 7 pm (entrance closes at 6 pm)

Entrance fee at the swimming complex Pancharevo is 5 BGN (for all day); at the Pancharevo mineral bath house 2 BGN (for 1 hour).

Bankya Bath House and World Water Complex

1 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd, Bankya (World Water Complex)
?, Bankya (Mineral Bath house)

Phone: 9977390 (World Water Complex)

(Take bus 42 from the metro stop Slivnitsa and get off the center of the village Bankya and ask for the World Water Complex)

Swimming Pools and Bath House

Don't miss the chance to join our Bankya Tour! In Town of Bankya you will find the Balneo Spa Resort of international importance. It consists of a modern swimming complex called World Water Complex and an amazing Mineral Bath house in the center. The swimming complex has three outdoor swimming pools, a waterslide and a Kamikaze water swing. The four outdoor bars offer beverages, snacks and food from 9 am to 12 noon. One of the most impressive buildings in the resort is The Mineral Bath. This is due to its unique architecture and partly to amazing round pool and a lot of showers with hot water. Some of the showers are hidden and you can have an adventure. The town itself is interesting too: During the archeological excavations in the region many years ago some churches, ceramics and coins from the Roman times remain.

Daily from ?

Entrance fee for World Water Complex 8 BGN, for the Mineral Bath house 2 BGN.

Dianabad Sports Centre Swimming Pool

Sofia, Dianabad District, Nikola Gabrovski Boulevard 1

Phone: 962 01 01

Email: Send Email

(Take bus 94 on Arsenalski Boulevard. The bus stop is near Hemus Hotel. Get off at Dianabad Swimming Pool)

Outdoor Swimming Pools

Offers three outdoor swimming pools (one of them with a tower for water jumps) and an indoor fitness hall. The complex has a playground for beach volleyball plus

cocktail bar, a beer bar and barbecue. There is a V.I.P. zone (you will have a welcome cocktail, access to a chair-lounge, your own umbrella, a table and a pillow).

Daily from 8 am until 8 pm (entrance until 7 pm)

Entrance fee 4 BGN (for all day); VIP Zone additional 7 BGN.

Banya Maria Louiza Outdoor Pool

Sofia, Borisova Gradina (Boris Gardens)

Phone: 963 00 54, 963 00 56

Email: Send Email

(Take trolley 5 or 11 from the Orlov Bridge bus stop on the Tsarigradsko Boulevard for one stop or get into the park and ask for the pool.)

Swimming Pools

The Maria Luisa Swimming and Recreational Centre has three large pools (one is Olympic size), including one with a waterslide. Loud music. Near the entrance of the pool starts one of the cruising areas of Sofia. The one that leads to Yavorova Alley in the park near the TV tower.

During summer daily from 9 am until 9 pm

Entrance fee 4 BGN

Hawaii Complex @ Castle Hotel Hrankov

Sofia, Castle Hotel Hrankov, 53 Krusheva Gradina, Dragalevtsi

Phone: 91909

(by taxi! from the center it will cost appr 5 BGN)

Swimming Pools, Gym, Sauna, Sports

At the foot of Vitosha Mountain. It has both indoor and outdoor pools that are open to non-residents. There is also a well equipped sport centre with a gym, sauna, squash and tennis courts.

Daily from ?

Entrance fee 12 BGN

Maxi Sports Center Outdoor Pool

Sofia, Simeonovsko Shosse Boulevard,

Phone: 962 05 80, 962 05 81, 962 22 96

(by taxi! from the center it will cost appr ? BGN)

Outdoor Pools, Fitness, Sauna, Sports

Six pools, three outdoor bars, fitness, sauna, 10 tennis courts, restaurants, 12:00 pm - 24:00 am 15??. The price includes chair-lounge, cradle and a tent. Several outdoor

pools, which are all rather too small to really swim in. This is more of a place for lying on the chaise longue and people-watching. There is a paddling pool included. Also Maxi Center has a great sauna in the modern Spa complex.
Daily from 9 am until 7 pm
Entrance fee 6 BGN

Swimming complex Varadero Outdoor Pool

Sofia, Levski district, X
Phone: (02) 946 77 00, (088) 823 67 51

(Take minibus 17 from NDK underpass at the tram/trolley station)
Outdoor Pools

3 outdoor swimming pools, 2 water slides.
Daily from 9 am until midnight
Entrance fee 3 BGN

Lyulin Beach

Sofia, Lyulin District, Djavaharlal Neru Boulevard 5
Phone: 925 06 74
jvdreams@mail.bg
(Take minibus 14 from a trolley station where Patriiarh Evtimi Boulevard crosses Vitosha Boulevard at end of the NDK park.)
Swimming Pools

The complex offers 4 pools. One of them with waves and all the modern comfort plus 3 outdoor bars. Chair-lounge are umbrella are included in entrance fee.
Daily from 9 am until 7 pm
Entrance fee 5 BGN

Cafés

Vital

1301 Sofia, 5 Alabin Street
Phone: +359 9871967 (landline); +359 898614050 (mobile)
(Tram 5, 10 Stopanska Kamara stop, near Macedonia square)
Gay, Lesbian, Cafe, Bar, Snacks

The only gay and lesbian place in the daytime. Also at night you will not be the only guest. A coffee shop and bar. During the summer outside tables. Drinks and a food menu (unfortunately the menu is not available in English, but just ask someone to help). Comment by Viktor who visited in

August 2005: The cafe is an ordinary one with an option of being outdoors during the summer. Like at Why Not the music is mainly pop-folk but it can be full during the weekends. No admission fee. Prices very reasonable.
Daily from 8 am until 2 am (or longer if guests are present)
No minimum consumption; No entrance fee.

Dance Clubs

No Dance Clubs

Since Spartacus closed in May 2005 (it existed over 10 years) there is currently no gay dance in town.

Guided Tours

GayGuide.Net Tours. Let us take you around!

It would be a pleasure for us if you would take one or more of our private tours. We will be happy to answer your questions about (gay) life in Bulgaria. All the tours inside Sofia are walking tours. All tours outside Sofia are car driven tours (In case of group reservations of more than 3 persons by van). Our tour guide is Georgi. His main job is chief editor for a biweekly Bulgarian travel magazine. He`s very qualified, speaks fluent English, Russian and Turkish and is gay of course. In case he is not available we have other great tour guides. For questions please contact us: sofia@gayguide.net. Additionally we offer tailor-made tours for 7 or more days. Just contact us and we can start to work on an itinerary.

Historical Sofia Tour

This is our basic tour. Included are all locations you definitely should see if you`re coming to Sofia! Our guide will meet you at the hotel or accommodation at 11 am. The walking tour shows the most attractive places in the historical center of the city including the St. Alexander Nevski Cathedral Church, Ivan Vazov National Theater, St. George Rotunda Church, Archaeological Museum, the former public bath house, the Mosque and the Synagogue. During the trip, you will learn historical facts as well as anecdotes and fairy tales. We can include lunch at a local restaurant serving traditional Bulgarian cuisine if you like.

The Meeting Spot:
Pick up at your hotel or accommodation.

Duration:
4 hours, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Rate:

For 1 person 50 EUR, 2 persons 70 EUR, 3 persons 90 EUR, 4 persons 110 EUR, 5 persons 130 EUR, 6 persons 150 EUR

If you like to see the Crypt of Alexander Nevski Cathedral there is an entrance fee of 10 BGN. The Ethno Museum is 5 BGN (but both places are included to the tour only if you wish). Not included s lunch at a restaurant (Average for 3 courses & drinks is 10 till 15 Euro per person).

Reservations:

Please fill the online form below. Your reservation will be confirmed by email.

Reservations required.

Sofia by night Dinner- Sights- and Gay Clubbing Tour

This is our gay night life orientation tour. Our guide will meet you at your hotel or accommodation at 7 pm. We will start with a dinner at the Twelve Chairs or another restaurant (The guide will give you suggestions for nice restaurants). Then we will guide you through the center of Sofia, enjoying the time when everybody is on the streets. We drop in at Vital cafe for a drink and will visit at least two gay bars & clubs. This depends on which places you would like to see: Exit, Why not, Joy etc. We know where to go at what time. The tour ends in the gay club Sax.

The Meeting Spot:

Pick up at your hotel or accommodation.

Duration:

5 hours, from 7 p.m. until midnight (For this tour we recommend Friday or Saturday evenings, but the tour is available every day).

Rate:

For 1 person 50 EUR, 2 persons 70 EUR, 3 persons 90 EUR, 4 persons 110 EUR, 5 persons 130 EUR, 6 persons 150 EUR

Discount if you have reserved your accommodation with GayGuide.Net Sofia: 10 percent. Rates do not include entrance fees at bars and clubs or drinks & dinner at restaurants and bars (Average for 3 courses & drinks is 10 till 15 Euro per person; Average for a drink in the bars: 1.50 till 4 Euro.)

Reservations:

Please fill the online form below. Your reservation will be confirmed by email.

Reservations required.

Pancharevo Water Tour

Tour to Pancharevo Lake, to a swimming complex and a bath with hot mineral water. The area is perfect place for outings. The lake is 5 kilometer long and it is suitable for different water sports: rowing, surfing, water skiing. Paddle boats can be hired. Around the lake there are hiking trails, several grassy park areas with cafes and restaurants, and some hot mineral springs. The temperature of the water is 47 degrees Celsius.

Departure from Sofia at 11 a.m. Transfer to Pancharevo lake. We are going to spend part of the day from 12 till 4.30 p.m. at Pancharevo beach enjoying three different pools, water bars and all what this modern swimming complex can offer: green area, loud music, cocktails an so on. In the late afternoon we are going to visit a bath with hot mineral water. Around 6.30 p.m. departure for Sofia.

The Meeting Spot:

Pick up at your hotel or accommodation.

Distance from Sofia:

15-km/2.5 miles

Duration:

1 day, departure at 11 a.m.; arrival about 7 p.m.

Rate:

For 1 person 99 EUR, 2 persons 129 EUR, 3 persons 159 EUR, 4 persons 189 EUR, 5 persons 219 EUR, 6 persons 249 EUR

Included are transport and the tour guide. Not included are entrance fees, breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Reservations:

Please fill the online form below. Your reservation will be confirmed by email.

Reservations required.

Bankya Water Tour

Tour to a spa resort Bankya, a swimming complex and a mineral bath. Just 17 kilometer away from the capital city of Sofia, Bankya is one of the country's best known and most frequented spa resorts. It is situated in the green foothills of the Lyulin Mountain, at an altitude of 630-640 meters. Mineral waters are slightly mineralized, with a temperature of 36.5 to 37 degrees Celsius and very tasting.

Departure to Bankya at 11 a.m. We are going to spend part of the day near the pool of Bankya Water complex from noon till 4.30 p.m. In the late afternoon we will enjoy the pleasures that Bankya Mineral bath has to offer. One of the most impressive buildings in the resort is The Mineral Bath. This is due to its unique architecture and partly to

amazing round pool under an impressive dome. Now only one part of the bath is working, the royal glamour from the past is gone but it is clean and the building is very beautiful inside too. A lot of showers with hot mineral water are situated along the large rest area of the bath. Some of the showers are hidden and you can have an adventure. After a relaxing hour in the bath we can have dinner in Bankya or we can go back to Sofia. Arrival to Sofia without dinner at 7.30 p.m., with dinner at appr. 9.30 p.m.

The Meeting Spot:

Pick up at your hotel or accommodation.

Distance from Sofia:

17-km/3 miles

Duration:

1 day, departure 11 a.m.; arrival about 7 p.m.

Rate:

For 1 person 99 EUR, 2 persons 129 EUR, 3 persons 159 EUR, 4 persons 189 EUR, 5 persons 219 EUR, 6 persons 249 EUR

Included are transport and the tour guide. Not included are entrance fees, breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Reservations:

Please fill the online form below. Your reservation will be confirmed by email.

Reservations required.

Rila Monastery Tour

Tour of the most remarkable monuments on the Balkan Peninsula and one of the nature miracles in Bulgaria Stob sand pyramids. Departure to Rila Monastery at 9 a.m. Arrival at 11 a.m. in the biggest monastery in Bulgaria. It is situated at an altitude of 1100 m in the northwestern part of Rila Mountain. The monastery was founded in the 10th century by the Bulgarian monk St. John of Rila and was rebuilt in the 13th -14th century. From that time are the fortress tower (1334), erected by the local ruler Hrelyo Dragovola, the bishop's throne, richly carved doors and some manuscripts, icon-paintings and church plate. Its thorough renovation began in the early 19th century. A museum with a rich library is arranged at the monastery. Since 1983 it is included in the list of monuments of the world culture and natural heritage compiled at UNESCO. Lunch near the monastery in the restaurant with traditional food. On our way back to Sofia we are going to visit one of Bulgaria's nature phenomenon Stob sand pyramids. Return to Sofia at appr. 8 p.m.

The Meeting Spot:

Pick up at your hotel or accommodation.

Distance from Sofia:

120 km/75 miles

Duration:

1 day, departure in Sofia at 9 a.m.; return at 8 p.m.

Rate:

For 1 person 99 EUR, 2 persons 129 EUR, 3 persons 159 EUR, 4 persons 189 EUR, 5 persons 219 EUR, 6 persons 249 EUR

Included are transport and the tour guide. Not included are entrance fees, breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Reservations:

Please fill the online form below. Your reservation will be confirmed by email.

Reservations required.

Tran Eco-Trail Tour

Tour to one of Bulgarian eco-trails built in a preserved wild nature region. The eco-paths in Bulgaria are built only with the use of materials found in nature - wood and stone. The use of iron and concrete is forbidden. Most of the eco-paths are built by volunteers and follow river gorges, rarely using established hiking trails. The eco-paths are combinations of tiny wooden bridges situated over the roaring waters of a certain river and wooden ladders that climb almost vertically steep rocky precipices. Departure at 10 a.m. to the town of Tran. Tran eco-trail is situated west from Sofia in wild and magnificent nature area. After the first part of the trail - amazing adventure in the heart of the mountains - there is a possibility to use a cold mineral water pool and to make a picnic near the river Erma. The second part of the trail is almost on Serbia's border. On our way back to Sofia we can stop for a dinner in a restaurant near one of the villages in Vitosha mountain near Sofia with pool and great view. Return to Sofia at appr. 7 p.m.(without dinner).

The Meeting Spot:

Pick up at your hotel or accommodation.

Distance from Sofia:

90 km/56 miles

Duration:

1 day, departure in Sofia at 10 a.m.; return at 7 p.m.

Rate:

For 1 person 99 EUR, 2 persons 129 EUR, 3 persons 159 EUR, 4 persons 189 EUR, 5 persons 219 EUR, 6 persons 249 EUR

Included are transport and the tour guide. Not included are entrance fees, breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Reservations:

Please fill the online form below. Your reservation will be confirmed by email.

Reservations required.

Historical Koprivshitsa Tour

Tour to one of the few thoroughly preserved architectural ensembles of the Revival Period. Departure at 10 a.m. to one of the most scenic roads in Bulgaria along Balkan Range. First fast visit to the ruins of Elenska Basilica from 6-th century near town of Pirdop. Arrival to Koprivshitsa about 12.30 a.m. The Revival period houses with colorful courtyards surrounded with high stone walls and gates makes the town a real museum under the open sky. Lunch in Mekhana in the center with traditional Bulgarian cuisine and drinks like Grozdova rakia and red wine. The part of the houses are turned into a museums, so after lunch tour to a few houses and amazing blue church of Koprivshitsa. The road back to Sofia will reveal all the faces Sredna Gora Mountain. The prize for travelers who like curves is the view o parts of Thrace lowland and the Balkan range. Return to Sofia at appr. 8 p.m.

The Meeting Spot:

Pick up at your hotel or accommodation.

Distance from Sofia:

110 km/68 miles

Duration:

1 day, departure in Sofia at 10 a.m.; return at 8 p.m.

Rate:

For 1 person 99 EUR, 2 persons 129 EUR, 3 persons 159 EUR, 4 persons 189 EUR, 5 persons 219 EUR, 6 persons 249 EUR

Included are transport and the tour guide. Not included are entrance fees, breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Reservations:

Please fill the online form below. Your reservation will be confirmed by email.

Reservations required.

Glojene Monastery Tour

Tour to one of the most interesting mountain monasteries in Bulgaria and to the Sueva dupka cave. Glojene monastery is not sheltered in the mountain chains, it is perched on a high stone terrace, which is separated from the surroundings with steep and vertical rocks. It looks like a medieval fortress. According to the native legend, the Kiev prince Gloj established the monastery. The view from the monastery is breathtaking experience. Drive to Sueva

dupka cave. There are three marvelous halls - Harmanat, Beliat zamak (the white castle) and Kosmosat (the space). The hall Harmanat has an exceptional acoustic. Many famous choirs have sung here the children's choir of the Bulgarian national radio for example. Everyone who has ever visited Saeva dupka, says that the cave looks like a wonderful dream or fairy-tale. Return to Sofia at appr. 8 p.m.

The Meeting Spot:

Pick up at your hotel or accommodation.

Distance from Sofia:

105 km/65 miles

Duration:

1 day, departure in Sofia at 9 a.m.; return at 8 p.m.

Rate:

For 1 person 99 EUR, 2 persons 129 EUR, 3 persons 159 EUR, 4 persons 189 EUR, 5 persons 219 EUR, 6 persons 249 EUR

Included are transport and the tour guide. Not included are entrance fees, breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Reservations:

Please fill the online form below. Your reservation will be confirmed by email.

Reservations required.

Lakatnik Tour

Tour to magnificent Iskar gorge and to a unique church with seven altars in mountain monastery. Departure at 9.30 a.m. to the north river Iskar. The region provides travel along impressive river canyon. The Iskar gorge is one of the most interesting parts. Climbing to the top of the rocks near Lakatnik village. Picnic in front of amazing view to the gorge. Transfer to `The Seven altars` monastery settled in the Western foot of Balkan Range, along the upper stream of Gabrovnitsa river. The earliest information about the monastery dates from 1511 from a Gospel, and from 1554 from another official document. It was renewed in 1770 and in 1815 with the donation of the local people. Nowadays the monastery church was erected in 1825 and it is cruciform building with cylindrical coupon. With its architecture the church is unique. It is simplify variety of the cruciformed buildings. There are common seven premises. They are formed from four single isolated premises, two site premises in the narthex and main sanctuary - make seven cult premises. Here you can see and the wood - carved iconostasis, the iconostasis - icons, the monastery clapper (1799) each one of them priceless for the Bulgarian church art. On the way back visit to Cherepish monastery. Return to Sofia at appr. 9 p.m.

The Meeting Spot:
Pick up at your hotel or accommodation.

Distance from Sofia:
120 km/75 miles

Duration:
1 day, departure in Sofia at 9:30 a.m.; return at 9 p.m.

Rate:
For 1 person 99 EUR, 2 persons 129 EUR, 3 persons 159 EUR, 4 persons 189 EUR, 5 persons 219 EUR, 6 persons 249 EUR

Included are transport and the tour guide. Not included are entrance fees, breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Reservations:
Please fill the online form below. Your reservation will be confirmed by email.
Reservations required.

Krushuna Waterfall Tour

Departure at 9 a.m., stop for a guided tour in town of Lovech - famous from Second Bulgarian Kingdom time. Lunch in Varosha restaurant. Departure to Krushuna in the early afternoon. The village of Krushuna is situated where the slopes of Balkan Mountains go into common heights and where the Danubian plain starts touching the Devetashko plateau. The region looks like a decor of `The Lord of the Rings`. Groveling through the dark underground galleries and labyrinths the springing water goes out the cave and turns into the beautiful Krushuna waterfall with many rapids, water reservoirs and green vegetation. A wonderful day among amazing nature of Bulgaria. Drive to Nigovanska complex near village of Emen. Dinner and overnight. Breakfast and tour to Nigovanska eco-trail and Emen waterfall. Lunch in Nigovanka complex. Transfer to Staro Stefanovo village famous with its 100 houses from the Revival period. Return to Sofia at appr. 9 p.m.

The Meeting Spot:
Pick up at your hotel or accommodation.

Distance from Sofia:
230 km/144 miles

Duration:
2 days, departure in Sofia at 9 a.m.; return on the next day at 9 p.m.

Rate:
For 1 person 199 EUR, 2 persons 279 EUR, 3 persons 359 EUR, 4 persons 439 EUR, 5 persons 519 EUR, 6 persons 599 EUR

Included are transport, accomodation, breakfast and the tour guide. Most of the accommodations for the 2, 3 or 4 days tours are in 3 star hotels; sometimes in guesthouses with 2 or 3 bed rooms. For breakfast you can expect traditional dough products like banitsa (cheese pastry), mekitsa or pancakes with homemade wild strawberries jam. Guesthouses usually have one bathroom for all guests. If you have prefer better accommodation please let us know and we will arrange a place to stay that meets your preferences (We will let you know about the surcharge).

Not included are entrance fees, lunch and dinner.

Reservations:
Please fill the online form below. Your reservation will be confirmed by email.
Reservations required.

Plovdiv Tour

Tour to to the city with old history and a lot of beautiful man, 50 percent of them gay, and visit to Thracian cult complex near Starosel. Departure on the first day at 10 a.m. to the Trakia highway and arrival to magical Plovdiv at 12 noon. Ancient Plovdiv is one of the most romantic cities in Bulgaria. Situated in the western part of Gornotrakiiska Lowland, along the two banks of river Maritsa, and scattered upon six unique hills (called `tepeta`). Old houses in the center from the Revival period create specific color and atmosphere to the town and shape up its unique view and nature. The stately shape of Sahat hillock with the clock tower dating back to 16th century, Bunardjika with the Russian soldier statue and the Djendem hillock are noticeable and very famous cruising places for Plovdiv. Accommodation in a 3 star hotel in the center of Plovdiv. For a dinner we will suggest several restaurants and decide together with you where to go. For the night visit to Caligula bar - the most famous gay bar in Plovdiv. At the next day after lunch transfer to a Thracian cult complex Starosel - one of the most interesting remains from ancient times in Bulgaria. The grave and its surroundings are thought by archaeologists to have been an important religious site for Thracians dating from the Stone Age. Stairs and a corridor approach the two-chamber tomb. It is surrounded by a 263 yard long wall made out of some 4,000 stone blocks and was hidden under a 20 meter high mound of earth. Transfer to Sofia. Arrival at appr. 9 p.m.

The Meeting Spot:
Pick up at your hotel or accommodation.

Distance from Sofia:
150 km/ 87.5 miles

Duration:
2 days, departure in Sofia at 10 a.m.; return on the next day at 9 p.m.

Rate:

For 1 person 199 EUR, 2 persons 279 EUR, 3 persons 359 EUR, 4 persons 439 EUR, 5 persons 519 EUR, 6 persons 599 EUR

Included are transport, accommodation, breakfast and the tour guide. Most of the accommodations for the 2, 3 or 4 days tours are in 3 star hotels; sometimes in guesthouses with 2 or 3 bed rooms. For breakfast you can expect traditional dough products like banitsa (cheese pastry), mekitsa or pancakes with homemade wild strawberries jam. Guesthouses usually have one bathroom for all guests. If you have prefer better accommodation please let us know and we will arrange a place to stay that meets your preferences (We will let you know about the surcharge).

Not included are entrance fees, lunch and dinner.

Reservations:

Please fill the online form below. Your reservation will be confirmed by email.
Reservations required.

Royal Town of Veliko Tarnovo Tour

Trip to medieval capital of Bulgaria. Departure at 9 a.m. from Sofia and arrival around 12 noon to Veliko Tarnovo. Lunch in a traditional restaurant. Veliko Tarnovo is the town with the most glorious past in Bulgaria. Each little place in it is history. Visit to Tsarevets hill - a combination with the natural endowments, provided safety of the institutions which were of the greatest importance for the Bulgarian state - the ruins of palace of Bulgarian kings, towers, churches on 4872 square meters. Transfer to Nikopolis Ad Istrum - ruins of the majestic Roman town, to Preobrajenski monastery. Transfer to `Izvora` hotel. Dinner and guided tour in Veliko Tarnovo by night. Overnight in the hotel. Breakfast. Transfer to Dryanovo monastery and adventure on Drqnovno eco-trail. Transfer to Kmetovtsi village. Lunch in complex `Fenerite`. Transfer to Bojentsi village with preserved atmosphere from 16-th century. Arrival to Sofia at appr. 9.30 p.m.

The Meeting Spot:

Pick up at your hotel or accommodation.

Distance from Sofia:

240 km/150 miles

Duration:

2 days, departure in Sofia at 9 a.m.; return on the next day at 9:30 p.m.

Rate:

For 1 person 199 EUR, 2 persons 279 EUR, 3 persons 359 EUR, 4 persons 439 EUR, 5 persons 519 EUR, 6 persons 599 EUR

Included are transport, accommodation, breakfast and the tour guide. Most of the accommodations for the 2, 3 or 4 days tours are in 3 star hotels; sometimes in guesthouses with 2 or 3 bed rooms. For breakfast you can expect traditional dough products like banitsa (cheese pastry), mekitsa or pancakes with homemade wild strawberries jam. Guesthouses usually have one bathroom for all guests. If you have prefer better accommodation please let us know and we will arrange a place to stay that meets your preferences (We will let you know about the surcharge).

Not included are entrance fees, lunch and dinner.

Reservations:

Please fill the online form below. Your reservation will be confirmed by email.
Reservations required.

Rocks of Belogradchik Tour

Trip to nature phenomenon Belogradchik rocks, handmade carpet center town of Chiprovtsi, Magura cave and adventure in west Balkan range region. Departure at 8.30 am from Sofia through magnificent Petrohan pass. Arrival to town of Chiprovtsi about 12 a.m. Demonstration of old traditions in carpet craft and possibility to buy original handmade carpet. Lunch in a village house. Transfer to town of Belogradchik. Giant conglomerate, sandstone and limestone formations make up the Belogradchik rocks in fantastic shapes with scarlet, gray and buff colors. The miracle of nature has been shaped by rains, molded by rivers and chiseled by winds for more than 200 millions of years, turning the stone into sculptures, mythical beings and people, beasts and birds. Visit to a fortress near the town and free time. Dinner and overnight in `Madona` hotel. Breakfast and transfer to Magura cave. Picnic near Rabisha lake. Transfer to Sofia. Arrival at appr. 10 p.m.

The Meeting Spot:

Pick up at your hotel or accommodation.

Distance from Sofia:

200 km/125 miles

Duration:

2 days, departure in Sofia at 8:30 a.m.; return on the next day at 10 p.m.

Rate:

For 1 person 199 EUR, 2 persons 279 EUR, 3 persons 359 EUR, 4 persons 439 EUR, 5 persons 519 EUR, 6 persons 599 EUR

Included are transport, accommodation, breakfast and the tour guide. Most of the accommodations for the 2, 3 or 4 days tours are in 3 star hotels; sometimes in guesthouses with 2 or 3 bed rooms. For breakfast you can expect

traditional dough products like banitsa (cheese pastry), mekitsa or pancakes with homemade wild strawberries jam. Guesthouses usually have one bathroom for all guests. If you have prefer better accommodation please let us know and we will arrange a place to stay that meets your preferences (We will let you know about the surcharge).

Not included are entrance fees, lunch and dinner.

Reservations:

Please fill the online form below. Your reservation will be confirmed by email.

Reservations required.

Varshets Spa Relax Tour

Trip to the kingdom of calmness near Klisura monastery and relax in Varshets spa. Departure at 9 a.m. for Klisura monastery, situated in a picturesque part of Western Balkan Mountains. Arrival at 11 a.m. to the monastery at the foot of Todorini kukli peak (1785m) near the spa resort of Varshets. The spiritual complex attracts with the marvelous nature around it - green glades, crystal brooks, old green forests, and with its interesting history. The monastery is called the spiritual pearl of Northwestern Bulgaria. It is a place with very strong energy. You need to stay just 15 minutes near the magical spring and all the tension will go away. Lunch near the monastery in traditional restaurant - mehana. Relaxation and walk near the monastery. Transfer to `Minkovi bani` complex. Dinner and overnight. Breakfast and departure for town of Varshets. Possibility to swim in a pool with mineral water, to take a walk in a mountains, to make spa procedures, to relax and rest in a magical atmosphere of Bulgarian nature. Departure for Sofia and arrival at appr. 9 p.m.

The Meeting Spot:

Pick up at your hotel or accommodation.

Distance from Sofia:

90 km/ 56 miles

Duration:

2 days, departure in Sofia at 9 a.m.; return on the next day at 9 p.m.

Rate:

For 1 person 199 EUR, 2 persons 279 EUR, 3 persons 359 EUR, 4 persons 439 EUR, 5 persons 519 EUR, 6 persons 599 EUR

Included are transport, accomodation, breakfast and the tour guide. Most of the accommodations for the 2, 3 or 4 days tours are in 3 star hotels; sometimes in guesthouses with 2 or 3 bed rooms. For breakfast you can expect

traditional dough products like banitsa (cheese pastry), mekitsa or pancakes with homemade wild strawberries jam. Guesthouses usually have one bathroom for all guests. If you have prefer better accommodation please let us know and we will arrange a place to stay that meets your preferences (We will let you know about the surcharge).

Not included are entrance fees, lunch and dinner.

Reservations:

Please fill the online form below. Your reservation will be confirmed by email.

Reservations required.

Secrets of Balkan Range Tour

Trip to Vratsa Balkan Nature park to find the charm of rural and adventure tourism in Bulgaria. Departure at 9 a.m. for town of Vratsa. Arrival at 11 a.m. Tour around Vratsa, visit to a museum with the biggest Thracian silver treasure in Bulgaria. Transfer to Vratsata a fantastic gorge. Lunch in a restaurant near the rocky massif with extremely impressive height. Transfer to the beginning of Eco-path of Vratza. There is about 700 meters difference in altitudes from the start point to the end of the path. Steps cut out in the rock, wooden bridges high over the swift-flowing river and almost vertical ladders will take you into the heart of the mountain to the Borov kamak waterfall. Hiking tour to Pavol4e village. Accommodation in rural family houses. Plentiful dinner with owners of the houses and overnight. Breakfast with fresh milk and homemade food. Opportunity to be a part of rural life in Bulgaria. Transfer to Cherepish monastery. Departure to Sofia and arrival at appr. 9 p.m.

The Meeting Spot:

Pick up at your hotel or accommodation.

Distance from Sofia:

120 km/ 75 miles

Duration:

2 days, departure in Sofia at 9 a.m.; return on the next day at 9 p.m.

Rate:

For 1 person 199 EUR, 2 persons 279 EUR, 3 persons 359 EUR, 4 persons 439 EUR, 5 persons 519 EUR, 6 persons 599 EUR

Included are transport, accomodation, breakfast and the tour guide. Most of the accommodations for the 2, 3 or 4 days tours are in 3 star hotels; sometimes in guesthouses with 2 or 3 bed rooms. For breakfast you can expect

traditional dough products like banitsa (cheese pastry), mekitsa or pancakes with homemade wild strawberries jam. Guesthouses usually have one bathroom for all guests. If you have prefer better accommodation please let us know and we will arrange a place to stay that meets your preferences (We will let you know about the surcharge).

Not included are entrance fees, lunch and dinner.

Reservations:

Please fill the online form below. Your reservation will be confirmed by email.

Reservations required.

Lost time of Kovachevitsa Tour

Trip back in time to a paradise for anyone of poetical soul departure at 8.30 a.m. for Kovachevitsa. Visit to Boboshevo monastery. Stop in town of Bansko and lunch in traditional restaurant. Arrival to Kovachevitsa about 2 p.m. If you are looking for relax, silence, magical nature, if you want to forget everything from this crazy world we are living in you need to visit Kovachevitsa. A village hidden in West Rodopes mountain where time seems to have standstill. The Rodope houses with stone-slab roofs resembling fortresses are magnificent. The nature is magical. The atmosphere of the narrow cobble stone streets between high stone walls, the hospitality of the local people are unforgettable. Accommodation in original house from 17-th century turned into a hotel with all the comfort you need. Time for a free walk. Dinner and overnight. Breakfast and morning you have never had. A walk to the rock formation called Koziyat Kamak. Picnic in a thick forest. Visit to the church of Kovachevitsa. Departure to Sofia. Arrival at appr. 10 p.m.

The Meeting Spot:

Pick up at your hotel or accommodation.

Distance from Sofia:

300 km/ 187 miles

Duration:

2 days, departure in Sofia at 8:30 a.m.; return on the next day at 10 p.m.

Rate:

For 1 person 199 EUR, 2 persons 279 EUR, 3 persons 359 EUR, 4 persons 439 EUR, 5 persons 519 EUR, 6 persons 599 EUR

Included are transport, accomodation, breakfast and the tour guide. Most of the accommodations for the 2, 3 or 4 days tours are in 3 star hotels; sometimes in guesthouses with 2 or 3 bed rooms. For breakfast you can expect

traditional dough products like banitsa (cheese pastry), mekitsa or pancakes with homemade wild strawberries jam. Guesthouses usually have one bathroom for all guests. If you have prefer better accommodation please let us know and we will arrange a place to stay that meets your preferences (We will let you know about the surcharge).

Not included are entrance fees, lunch and dinner.

Reservations:

Please fill the online form below. Your reservation will be confirmed by email.

Reservations required.

Ancient Bulgaria Tour

Trip to rock churches and ruins of a mediaeval town from 14th century, Thracan tomb and to the place where Bulgaria started. Departure at 9 a.m. for Cherven village. Visit to Orlova chuka cave. Arrival at 2 p.m. and lunch in Djordjeta Belcheva`s house situated in a magical canyon of White Lom River. Walk to the ruins of a medieval city of Cherven from 14-th century. Drive to Ivanovo rock church. The 14th-century murals testify to the exceptional skill. Transfer to Basarbovo rock monastery. Arrival and accomodation in Bistra & Gergana hotel in Ruse. Dinner and night clubbing in Ruse, Bulgarian Viena, situated on Danube river. Overnight in the hotel. Breakfast. Departure to Thracian tomb discovered in 1982 near the village of Sveshtari. This 3rd- century B.C. has unique architectural d?cor, with polychrome half-human, half-plant caryatids and painted murals. The 10 female figures carved in high relief on the walls of the central chamber and the decoration are the only examples of this type found so far in the Thracian lands. Near Sveshtari tomb is a Muslim monastery Demirbaba Tekke. Drive to Madara reserve. Walk to the Madara Rider, representing the figure of a knight triumphing over a lion, is carved into a 100-m-high cliff. Madara was the principal sacred place of the First Bulgarian Kingdom. The inscriptions beside the sculpture tell of events that occurred between A.D. 705 and 801. Dinner and overnight in Madara camping. Breakfast. Departure to the first and the second Bulgarian capitals. Visit to villages with preserved atmosphere from Bulgarian Revival period. Transfer to Sofia. Arrival at appr. 10 p.m.

The Meeting Spot:

Pick up at your hotel or accommodation.

Distance from Sofia:

450 km/281 miles

Duration:

3 days, departure in Sofia at 9 a.m.; return 2 days later at 10 p.m.

Rate:

For 1 person 299 EUR, 2 persons 469 EUR, 3 persons 549 EUR, 4 persons 629 EUR, 5 persons 709 EUR, 6 persons 789 EUR

Included are transport, accommodation, breakfast and the tour guide. Most of the accommodations for the 2, 3 or 4 days tours are in 3 star hotels; sometimes in guesthouses with 2 or 3 bed rooms. For breakfast you can expect traditional dough products like banitsa (cheese pastry), mekitsa or pancakes with homemade wild strawberries jam. Guesthouses usually have one bathroom for all guests. If you have prefer better accommodation please let us know and we will arrange a place to stay that meets your preferences (We will let you know about the surcharge).

Not included are entrance fees, lunch and dinner.

Reservations:

Please fill the online form below. Your reservation will be confirmed by email.
Reservations required.

Magical Bulgaria Tour

Trip to magical Rodopes mountain. Departure at 9 a.m. for town of Asenovgrad near Plovdiv. Visit to Asenova fortress. Transfer to Bachkovo monastery. One of the oldest monasteries in the Bulgarian lands, it rises in the picturesque Chaya river valley. Hiking to the footsteps of magical Rodopes mountain. Picnic near Bachkovo waterfall. Drive to Orehovo village. Free time for walk in the village and nature around. Dinner with traditional dishes from Rodopes - patatnik, klin, sarmi and so on. Overnight in family hotel `Paradise`. Breakfast. Hiking to the rock formation called `the Miracle bridges` - a series of huge impressive natural arches. Transfer to Trigrad gorge. Visit to Devil`s Throat cave. A walk to Yagodina village. Accommodation in Yagodina hotel. Dinner and overnight. Breakfast. Ride with a Jeep in the area. Visit to Yagodinska cave. Departure to Sofia along the dam of Vacha - beautiful road offering pleasant surprises at each turn of the road. Arrival to the capital at appr. 9 p.m.

The Meeting Spot:

Pick up at your hotel or accommodation.

Distance from Sofia:
250 km/156 miles

Duration:

3 days, departure in Sofia at 9 a.m.; return 2 days later at 9 p.m.

Rate:

For 1 person 299 EUR, 2 persons 469 EUR, 3 persons 549 EUR, 4 persons 629 EUR, 5 persons 709 EUR, 6 persons 789 EUR

Included are transport, accommodation, breakfast and the tour guide. Most of the accommodations for the 2, 3 or 4 days tours are in 3 star hotels; sometimes in guesthouses with 2 or 3 bed rooms. For breakfast you can expect traditional dough products like banitsa (cheese pastry), mekitsa or pancakes with homemade wild strawberries jam. Guesthouses usually have one bathroom for all guests. If you have prefer better accommodation please let us know and we will arrange a place to stay that meets your preferences (We will let you know about the surcharge).

Not included are entrance fees, lunch and dinner.

Reservations:

Please fill the online form below. Your reservation will be confirmed by email.
Reservations required.

Spiritual Bulgaria Tour

Trip to Seven Rila Lakes - one of the points of power in Bulgaria, introduction within spiritual legacy of Master Beinsa Duno and his dance Paneurhythmy. Departure at 9 a.m. to Rila mountain. Arrival at 12 a.m. to Pionerska mountain hut. Hiking tour to the Rila lakes hut - 3 hours. Conversation about spiritual traditions of Bulgaria. Leading in spiritual legacy of master Beinsa Duno. Dinner and overnight in mountain hut. Conditions are hard. No comfort, no bath and rooms are with many people. In the early morning greeting of the sunrise, songs, prayers... Soon opportunity to dance Paneurhythmy - the dance of the angels - in white clothes near one of the Seven Lakes. www.bialobratstvo.org. Paneurhythmy is based on a deep knowledge of the Laws of energy, radiation, frequency and the correlation between tone, form, movement, color, geometry and an idea. Through us, the Earth opens her portals, her point of power, to give of her energies, to receive of the Light. The Cosmos itself receives and is blessed and gives more. Feel this unique atmosphere and be a part of a powerful circle of love and light. Hiking tour to all Seven lakes to lift up kundalini. Overnight in the mountain hut. Morning rituals. Paneurhythmy. Hiking tour back to Pionerska hut. Drive to Sapareva banya village. Opportunity to relax in a spa center. Transfer to Sofia. Arrival at at appr. 9 p.m.

The Meeting Spot:

Pick up at your hotel or accommodation.

Distance from Sofia:
102 km/ 63 miles

Duration:

3 days, departure in Sofia at 9 a.m.; return 2 days later at 9 p.m.

Rate:

For 1 person 299 EUR, 2 persons 469 EUR, 3 persons 549 EUR, 4 persons 629 EUR, 5 persons 709 EUR, 6 persons 789 EUR

Included are transport, accommodation, breakfast and the tour guide. Most of the accommodations for the 2, 3 or 4 days tours are in 3 star hotels; sometimes in guesthouses with 2 or 3 bed rooms. For breakfast you can expect traditional dough products like banitsa (cheese pastry), mekitsa or pancakes with homemade wild strawberries jam. Guesthouses usually have one bathroom for all guests. If you prefer better accommodation please let us know and we will arrange a place to stay that meets your preferences (We will let you know about the surcharge).

Not included are entrance fees, lunch and dinner.

Reservations:

Please fill the online form below. Your reservation will be confirmed by email.
Reservations required.

Nudist Bulgaria Tour

Trip to the most famous nudist beaches on the Black sea. Departure at 8 a.m. for Varna. 6 hours to reach the Black Sea. Arrival to Kranevo village north of Varna. Afternoon at the nudist beach near Albena resort. Accommodation in 3 star hotel in the center of Varna. Dinner and night tour. Overnight. Transfer to mix Kamchi? hotel. Free day at the beach. Dinner and party at the hotel's bar. Overnight. Transfer in the morning to one of the most famous nudist beaches on the Black Sea Irakli. Day at the sea. In the late afternoon departure for Burgas - the second big city at The Black Sea. Visit to old part of town of Nesebar. Accommodation in 3 star hotel in Burgas. Dinner and night tour in Bourgas. Overnight. Departure in the morning for town of Sozopol south from Burgas. Time for the nudist beach Harmanite and walk to Paradise bay. Departure for Sofia in the late afternoon. Arrival at appr. 10 p.m.

The Meeting Spot:

Pick up at your hotel or accommodation.

Distance from Sofia:

550 km/343 miles

Duration:

4 days, departure in Sofia at 8 a.m.; return 3 days later at 10 p.m.

Rate:

For 1 person 399 EUR, 2 persons 549 EUR, 3 persons 699 EUR, 4 persons 849 EUR, 5 persons 999 EUR, 6 persons 1149 EUR

Included are transport, accommodation, breakfast and the tour guide. Most of the accommodations for the 2, 3 or 4 days tours are in 3 star hotels; sometimes in guesthouses with 2 or 3 bed rooms. For breakfast you can expect traditional dough products like banitsa (cheese pastry), mekitsa or pancakes with homemade wild strawberries jam. Guesthouses usually have one bathroom for all guests. If you prefer better accommodation please let us know and we will arrange a place to stay that meets your preferences (We will let you know about the surcharge).

Not included are entrance fees, lunch and dinner.

Reservations:

Please fill the online form below. Your reservation will be confirmed by email.
Reservations required.

The GayGuide.Net Sofia & Bulgaria Tours

Please choose a tour and a date and we will let you know as soon as possible, if the tour guide is available. If you have any questions on the tours don't hesitate to contact sofia@gayguide.net. All fields except the fax & homepage field must be filled.

Restaurants

3 x Ugo

1000 Sofia, Vitosha Boulevard 45

Phone: 988 18 92

1000 Sofia, Neofit Rilski street 68 (with garden and tables outside during summer)

Phone: 986 40 00

1000 Sofia, Han Krum street 2

Phone: 989 73 00

Email: Send Email

(At the main boulevard Vitosa that starts from National Palace of Culture and leads to Sheraton hotel, the restaurant is on the corner of Parchevich Street near the big shoe store)

(Close to Small Five Corners Square Malkite pet kyosheta and an internet café The Matrix)

(Near the Slaveykov Square, Book market. Just 20 meters from McDonalds on the street on the left from McDonalds.)

Restaurants, Gay friendly

A chain of pizza and pasta houses in the center of the city, all three of them are open 24 hours and are popular with local gay and lesbian people. Fresh and tasty food. The salads are served in enormous big glass bowls. Inner design made with good taste, friendly and attentive service, always a lot of people. Large and varied menu of alternatives.

Daily 24 hours nonstop

No minimum consumption; No entrance fee.

Gay Media

Media

Currently Bulgaria has no printed gay and/or lesbian media. There have been a few in the past:

Flamingo Magazine, 3 editions in 1996

P.S. Magazine, 4 editions between 1999 and 2003

Spartakus Magazine, 3 edition in 1997, 1998, 1999

Gemini Newsletter, 16 issues from 2001 to 2003

Gayzer Magazine, 6 editions in 2002 and 2003

`The other sense` is the title of a documentary film that was made in 1997/1998 with interviews with Bulgarian gays.

Groups & Associations

GayGuide.Net Sofia

Email: sofia@gayguide.net

Web site: <http://sofia.gayguide.net/>

Gay tourist information. GayGuide.Net Sofia (since May 2005) provides an up2date internet based gay & travel guide, replies to every email all year round and offers info and reservations for carefully selected gay operated accommodations and a mailing list. English speaking staff. A one stop website for everything you need before, during and after your trip to Sofia. Since 1998 GayGuide.Net operates guide web pages for Budapest and Prague and since 2001 for Warsaw and Cracow.

BGO Gemini

1142 Sofia, 3 Vassil Levski Boulevard, Apartment 7, 1st floor

Phone: +359 2 9876872

Email: [Send Email](#)

Web: [Visit this link](#)

(Near National Palace of Culture)

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Organisation

In 1992 Gemini was registered by a HIV positive gay couple. The organization has been the first LGBT organization working for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community and for individuals on a national level in Bulgaria. For the last years BGO Gemini, as a membership organization, is the only LGBT human rights advocate in Bulgaria promoting equal opportunities at all policy and community levels.

Gemini has an office space, located in the centre of Sofia. On Fridays at 6 pm everyone is invited to join an open meeting. Just call for more details. At the office Gemini runs the only LGBT and gender issues library in Bulgaria, consisting of more than 300 articles (books, magazines, scientific publications, manuals, CD`s etc.). Their website has over 110 registered users and about 80 unique visitors per day.

Gemini describes itself as `the public face and community voice`. As a human rights organization Geminis vision is `a society that accepts difference` and Geminis goal is `the social integration of gay, bisexual, lesbian and transgender people in Bulgaria`.

To reach this goal Gemini is doing lobby work with government officials (there have been meeting with representatives of the European Union and Bulgarian governmental and political institutions, as well as participation in numerous international events) and organizes various social events to raise the profile of the gay, lesbian bisexual and transgender community in Bulgaria. On one side the idea is to build trust between the general society and the LGBT community; on the other Gemini wants to support the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community itself to develop more infrastructure and strenght within the community. This includes safe sex education; and to organize informational, social and other events.

Gemini reached some of their original goals already: In September 2002 the Article 157 of the Penal Code (which prohibited homosexual acts) was repealed. Also the age of consent became equalized as well as the legal status for homosexual and heterosexual prostitution; the penalties for rape; and homosexual actions in public became decriminalized.

In January 2004 also a law for protection against discrimination came into force which protects LGBT people from discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation in the field of employment (Gemini partnered with other Bulgarian NGOs to reach this goal). Also in January 2004 BGO Gemini with the support of ILGA Europe, COC Netherlands and ACCEPT organized the first international conference on ay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender issues in Bulgaria: `Preventing and combating discrimination`. The conference was organized under the Balkan Triangle Project and co-funded by ILGA Europe.

Gemini has a action groups network on regional level in the biggest regional cities of Bulgaria. It consist of professional lawyers, sociologists, medical workers, PR and media specialists.

Public meetings Fridays at 6 pm

Dolphin Gay Club for Naturism and Sport

Email: [Send Email](#)

Web: [Visit this link](#)

Gay Group

The club's birthday was at 23rd of September 2003, when the Yahoo group `Bulgarian Gay Nudist Club` was deleted without explanation. At that time the own website came alive. The website has now 600 registred members (October 2004). The club organizes meetings, wich combine nudism, outdoor activities and sport. One of the main activities are nude trips at the beatiful bulgarian mountains. For a year now we go every Tuesday on a sauna here in Sofia. And every Thursday some of the boys visit a fitnes center. Not to be missed are the sunbaths near Sofia or at the Black sea. Almost twice a month there is a bike trip (if, of course, whe weather is ok).

Tuesdays sauna, Thursdays Fitness, email for details.

No membership fee.

Tangra Gay Sports Club

Email: [Send Email](#)

Web: [Visit this link](#)

Gay Sport Club

Tangra organizes various sports events, such as sports camps, races, swimming pool competitions. At the moment (October 2004) they have XX members. In 2004 they started volleyball trainings in the sport hall Sofia each Wednesday. Each Friday Badminton training in the sport hall Sofia. Since June 2004 its a registred sport club in the courthouse. They joined the Eurogames 2004 in Munich and took 4 medals. In summer 2005 Tangra will organize of first LGBT sport tournament on the Balcans. It's expected that more than 300 athletes from all over the world will participate in the tournament. Tangra also started sport clubs in Varna and Plovdiv.

Membership fee ?

Queer Bulgaria

1000 Sofia, 8 Lavele Street, 2nd floor, Apartment 3

Phone: +359 2980 1979 & 359 2887 945249 (mobile)

Email: [Send Email](#)

Web: [Visit this link](#)

Gay, Lesbian

Queer Bulgaria Foundation is a non-profit, non-governmental organization, created in 2003. Queer Bulgaria works to achieve: Society, free of discrimination on the basis of sexuality and sexual orientation; Public and personal realization of lesbians, gay men, transgender, bisexual and intersex people in Bulgaria not at the cost of compromising (hiding) their sexual identity; A network of sustainable LGBT non-profit organizations in Bulgaria, acting as an integral part of civil society.

Projects: Integration of LGBT through Sport, Participation of Bulgarian Sports People in EuroGames 2004 in Munich (joint project with Tangra-Sofia Sports Club)

Meetings: On request

No minimum consumption; No entrance fee.

BGL-SporTeam

Email: [Send Email](#)

Lesbian

Informal Woman's sport organization promoting several sport disciplines by regular training and competitive life without neglecting the mass sport. Founded in September 2004.

Daily from

No minimum consumption; No entrance fee.

Lesbian and Bi-women Resource Centre Bilitis

Email: [Send Email](#)

Lesbian

Established in 2001, member of ILGA since 2003. The organization provides various services to lesbian and bisexual women, such as support groups, library, and organization of activities that support community building. The organization works presently only in Sofia, but aims to start local support groups all over Bulgaria in the near future. Its mission is to help lesbians and bisexual women integrate into the social mainstream without compromising their sexual identity. Non-membership organization.

Daily from

No minimum consumption; No entrance fee.

Condoms & Lubricant

Condoms & Lubricant

Condoms are available in pharmacies and sex shops. Get them during daytime to be prepared! In case of emergency you will find listings for 24 hour pharmacies in our chapter Useful Addresses. Or you get free condoms at BGO Gemini's office at 3, Vassil Levski Boulevard, Apartment 7, Sofia (open from 10:00 am to 18:00 pm).

Lubricants are available only at sex or erotic shops. If you travel to Bulgaria you may want to bring some.

AIDS

Think twice

In June 2004 484 people have been registered at the Ministry of Health as HIV positive, and 122 have been declared as having AIDS (Population seven million people). Since the beginning of 2004 13 new cases of HIV have been registered. The data analyses show that 68 percent of the HIV-positive are male and 32 percent female.

The major transmission way remains the sexual: 91 percent; about eight percent by blood transfusion and about one percent by vertical way (mother-child). About 70 percent of the HIV positive persons are between 20 and 39 years. The youngest HIV positive is 21 years male, the oldest is 56 years. The youngest HIV positive female is 24 years, the oldest 55 years.

The data shows that persons from different social groups are being infected. Meanwhile other sexually transmitted diseases like syphilis and hepatitis B are at their height. The fact that the sexually transmitted infections concern more and more young people is disturbing: 7,3 percent of the HIV positive (????) in Bulgaria are at age 15-17 years and 70 percent of the hepatitis B infected are at age 15-24 years.

The ratio of the HIV-positive people according to the whole population is 0.006 percent. As obvious, the AIDS is not considered as a problem in Bulgaria. The infection is invisible for the society and they feel protected from this invisible menace. All prerequisites for turning the infection into epidemics are present in Bulgaria. Prevention is needed. Reasons for the above mentioned fact and the expected turn of the infection are the lack of information for sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS; the lack of education in this respect; the lack of propagation and effective prevention.

Non governmental organizations in Bulgaria:
HIV INFO: <http://hiv.bg/english.htm>
Plus and Minus Foundation: <http://www.aidsbg.info>
BGO GEMINI: <http://www.bgogemini.org>

Center for Sexual Health Sofia

1431 Sofia, 2 Zdrave street
Phone: +359 2 9523399

Infection Hospital - Sofia

Prof. Ivan Iirov
1431 Sofia, 17 Acad. Ivan Geshov Boulevard
Phone: +359 2 9523780
Fax: +359 2 9520101
Email: Send Email

Hygiene-Epidemiological Inspectorate - Sofia

1233 Sofia, 20 Vrania,
floor 5, room 502
Phone: +359 2 833 40 99
Phone: +359 2 931 20 51 ext. 281

V (five) - Sofia

The former Student Hospital (floor 1, cabinet 15)
Phone: +359 2 9312091/288 or +3592/8312017

Bulgarian Family Planning Association - Sofia

1373 Sofia, 99 Suhodolska street (District Faculteta)
floor 1
Phone: +359 2 929 41 45

Hygiene-Epidemiological Inspectorate - Blagoevgrad

2850 Blagoevgrad, 2 Bross Miladinovi
Phone: +359 73 885321

Hygiene-Epidemiological Inspectorate - Burgas

8000 Burgas, 120 Alexandrovska street,
floor 5, room 35
Phone: +359 56 816 257

Hygiene-Epidemiological Inspectorate - Pleven

5800 Pleven, 7 Asen Halachev street
floor 3, room 307 (next to the Virological Laboratory)
Phone: +359 64 806 067

Hygiene-Epidemiological Inspectorate - Plovdiv

4000, Plovdiv, 1 Perushtitza street
floor 1, room 20
Phone: +359 32 643 436

Hygiene-Epidemiological Inspectorate - Stara Zagora

6000 Stara Zagora, 10 Stefan Karadjja
floor 1
Phone: +359 42 602468

Hygiene-Epidemiological Inspectorate - Varna

9000 Varna, 3 Bregalnitsa street
floor 5, room 501 (next to the Toxicophysiological Laboratory)
Phone: +359 52 632 778

Hygiene-Epidemiological Inspectorate - Veliko Tarnovo

5000 Veliko Tarnovo, 23 Nikola Gabrovski
floor 5, room 504
Phone: +359 62 47891 or +359 62 622261

Events & Gay Pride

Special Events & Gay Pride Day Sofia

There is no future Gay Pride event planned in Sofia, unfortunately. But there have been attempts in the past, in 2000 and 2002. They have been parties rather than Gay Pride parades. The march was less than 1 km, from Spartacus Club and back. About 1000 people took part.

Events in Sofia

Please inform me on special events during the time when I'll be in Sofia

Cruising

Toilets at Main Railway Station

In the toilets at the Main Railway Station (Tsentralna gara). Rough trade, and dangerous, especially at night. The best time is from noon till midnig

Little Park Near the Main Railway Station

A little park near the Main Railway Station, south after the bus and tram station on Hristo Botev boulevard. Cruising goes on in the bushes. The best time is before and after sunset.

National Palace of Culture

You can always meet gay boys at the open cafes at the beginning of the park of National palace of culture in front of trolley's station. The cruising goes in darkest part of the park near the Havana bar, near the monument fenced by walls covered with graffiti. The best time is before darkness and early evening. Saturdays and Sundays more cruisy than during the week.

Park Near the School for Priests

A lot of boys are looking for fun around the area of the park near the school for priests at the end of Preswiter Kuzma street, fenced with thick stone walls. Cruising goes on in the area around the Summer Theatre. The best time is before darkness and early evening. Saturdays and Sundays more cruisy than during the week.

Yavorov Alley

Especially in the summer Yavorov alley (at the far end of Borisova Gradina, also called Boris Garden or Central Park, near the TV Tower) is the best place to go for cruising. Men of all ages are walking around. It is a long alley along the Yavorov boulevard starting from a trolley and bus station on Tsarigradsko chaussee. There is a dark park area on the both sides of the street and you can find good sex in the warmer months. The best time is before darkness and early evening. Saturdays and Sundays more cruisy than during the week.

Doctors Garden

Doctors garden - there are boys sitting on benches of the park. Cruising goes on in the bushes around the monument. The best time is before darkness and early evening. Saturdays and Sundays more cruisy than during the week.

Sex Shops

Flamingo

1303 Sofia, 200 & 208 Tsar Simeon Street
Phone: +359 2 831 71 85 (landline); +359 2 831 31 64 (landline) +359 887 616 239 (mobile Angel); +359 887 616 246 (mobile Svetoslav)
Email: [Send Email](#)
Web: [Visit this link](#)
(Metro stop Opalchenska -10 min walk; Trolley 1,5,10 -5 min walk)
Gay, Bar, Back room / Darkroom, Video Cabins

Flamingo has 2 sexshops, in Tsar Simeon Street 200 and 208. The one in 208 also has video cabins on the groundfloor and a gay bar in the first floor. Of all gay bars the Flamingo is the oldest one, opened in 1995. Unfortunately its not very popular anymore and would need some renovation. If you like to hear more about the gay life within the last decades in Bulgaria or about the gay life in the countryside dont miss to talk to the owners, Angel and his boyfriend Svetoslav. Its always nice to talk to them. But dont expect too much if you go to to Flamingo bar. It can happen that you are the only visitor in the bar, after you paid the entrance fee of 5 BGN. Also be very carefull when you leave the place. It happened more than once that foreign visitors of Flamingo got robbed on the way home.

Sexshops: Monday til Saturdays from 10 am until 8 pm;
Bar: Mondays til Saturdays from 3 pm til 3 am; Sundays from 2 pm until 12 midnight
Entrance fee for the bar: 5 BGN

Amigo

1000 Sofia, Hristo Botev Boulevards 1a
Phone: ?
Email: [Send Email](#)
Web: [Visit this link](#)
(soon)
Sexshop

Review soon
Open: ?
No entrance fee

Escorts

Escorts

Currently we have no info about escorts. Please do not email us to ask for info about escorts. Once we have info we will publish it here.

Laws

Laws in Bulgaria

In 2003, following the recommendations, directives and negotiations with the European Union for accession, Bulgaria has made tremendous efforts to align its legislation regarding sexual minorities to the European norms and standards.

The first step in this juridical ‚emancipation‘ of the Bulgarian legislation was to change discriminatory provisions with regard to sexual minorities, under quite a strong pressure coming from BGO Gemini and European institutions, such as the European Commission and the European Parliament.

In September 2002 the Bulgarian Parliament repealed several provisions, including one prohibiting homosexual acts committed `in public or in a scandalous way or in such a manner as to induce others along the road to perversion`. Initial reports indicated Bulgaria's September law reforms had resulted in the repeal of all significant discriminatory aspects of the criminal law, a position which the European Commission endorsed in its report for Bulgaria.

The Bulgarian Law on the Protection against Discrimination came into force on January 1. It bans all forms of negative discrimination, including on the basis of sexual orientation. The Law outlines direct or indirect discrimination, harassment and victimization. Gemini took active part in the working group that drafted the Bulgarian Law for protection against discrimination.

The Act for Protection against Discrimination, forced on January 1, 2004, transposing the requirement of several EU Directives, marks one step forward in Bulgaria's accession in EU. Acknowledged as one of the most progressive in Europe, this Act bans discrimination on a number of grounds, including race, sex, religion, disability, age and sexual orientation and it provides protection of the LGBT people from discrimination. In order this new Act to be effective, the Commission for Protection against discrimination have to become operative without any delay (the deadline was March 31, 2004 but yet no one of its 9 members has been elected). Since BGO Gemini's PR campaign for promotion of the new Act started in

January 2004, the number of cases of harassment, indirect and direct discrimination reported to Gemini has increased and it is considerable that those are only the „top of the iceberg“. The lack of trust in the police and the legal system prevents reporting of such cases. No further steps have been taken on behalf of the government, no raise awareness campaigns, and no actions to prevent the discrimination, not enough clarity concerning the commission, supposed to work on such issues. The NGO sector is seriously concerned about the future implementation of this Act.

There are no provisions in the Bulgarian legislation regarding registered partnership both for heterosexual and for homosexual couples. Cohabitation is not a legal basis for inheritance, since partners are not included in the legal circle of heirs. Therefore, cohabitating partners may inherit from one another only when there is a last will statement, and not on the basis of their relationship. Cohabitating partners inheriting through a will have no right to a preserve part of the estate. Cohabitating partners have no parental rights over the children of the other partner. It is possible, however, for one partner to legally adopt the other's biological children. It is not possible for cohabitating couples to adopt children, since the law requires the adoptive couples to be legally registered as married. There are no political trends toward adopting any changes in partnership/family law towards legal recognition of same-sex partnerships. Same-sex partners are not allowed to legalize their relationships, have no patrimonial rights or the right to adopt children and no right for hospital visitation of their partner.

Although the Supreme Court has long accepted that de facto spousal cohabitation is a basis for seeking non-material damages in cases of one partner's death, there is still no case on complaints filed by same-sex partners.

Artificial insemination is available in some clinics in Bulgaria. However, it is usually accessible only to married heterosexual women. Ministry of Health Regulation 12 of 1987 sets out that women can be inseminated with seed from their husbands or from a third person only if the husband's seed is not fertile.

There are no special asylum or immigration rights in Bulgaria for gays or lesbians.

Author: Desislava Petrova, BGO Gemini

No Longer Existing

Places that no longer exist

If you find listings in printed guides or at other webpages and you are not sure if the listings are still up2date, here is a list to help you know where not to go. Our guide web page is continuously updated.

Bars and Clubs in Sofia

Underground Fassion Caffè 35, Fritof Nansen Street corner Luben Karavelov Street, 1142 Sofia
 Malkiyat Printz (The Little Prince) 24 Slavyanska Street, 1000 Sofia
 Vodoley, Street of 6th September, 1000 Sofia
 Luna Lounge, 2 or 3 Malko Turnovo, 1000 Sofia
 Paradox, 15 Hristo Belchlev Street, 1000 Sofia
 Adonis & Ex It, 110 or 122 Knyiaz Boris Street, 1000 Sofia
 Gejzer, 20 Simeon Street or 77 Rakovsky Street 1002 Sofia
 Amor, NPC underpass, 1034 Sofia
 KuchKite, 47 Rakovski Street, 1000 Sofia
 Monako, 30 San Stefano Street, 1000 Sofia
 B 52, between Donckykov and Iskar Street, 1000 Sofia
 White Cat restaurant, 12 Sheinovo Street, 1000 Sofia
 Expose, 1 M. Bichev Street, 1000 Sofia
 ClubNO, Inside the National Theatre (still existing, but dont have pink parties anymore)
 George, 1301 Sofia, 17 Lavele Street (closed January 2005)
 Chillout Cafe, 6 Baba Nedelia St (not closed, but no gay parties anymore since March 2005)
 Joy, 1504 Sofia, 28 Vrabcha Street
 Spartacus, 1504, Sofia, Tsar Osvoboditel street 20 (closed in May 2005)
 SPS Summer Park Spartacus, In the middle of Boris Central Garden (closed in May 2005)
 Twelve Chairs (Dvanadesette Stola). 1000 Sofia, 12 Dr. G. Vulkovich Street (closed in September 2005)

Cruising Areas in Sofia

Toilet at Vazrajidane square near the tram station (since early 2005 the toilet is part of a bar and no longer a public toilet)

Countryside

Adam's, 15 Otets Paisiy Street, Plovdiv
 Krokodil, near Hospital & railway station, Plovdiv
 Spartacus, near Varna State Theatre
 Parfum, behind Picadilly Supermarket, Varna-Chataldja
 The Dreamers, 40 Ivan Vazov Street, Varna
 Momo Club, park near the sea seacoast alley, Varna

Media

Flamingo Magazine, 3 editions in 1996
P.S. Magazine, 4 editions between 1999 and 2003
Spartakus Magazine, 3 edition in 1997, 1998, 1999
Gemini Newsletter, 16 issues from 2001 to 2003
Gayzer Magazine, 6 editions in 2002 and 2003

Countryside Guides

Guide for the Countryside

Black Sea Coast

All the beaches at the Black Sea at the end of the official area have a territory for nudists. Many of nudists are gay.

Burgas

The city is the second largest at the Black seacoast. It is situated 390 km east of Sofia. There are no gay bars and disco clubs in Burgas.

Hermes Sex shop, Kiril and Metodii street, 37, phone:
+359 56/ 820710

3W-group Sex shop, Morska str. 40

Cruising: At the main railway station and in the city park near the sea. There is a nudist beach north of Burgas after the Burgas Hotel direction Nessebur (New Town) near the saltpan of Burgas. Cruising in the bushes behind the dunes.

Cruising: Sunny Beach Resort. The resort is situated 42 km of Burgas and 434 east of Sofia. Walk along the beach south towards Nessebar, after the Burgas Hotel and the beach of the Council of Ministers you will find a nice and calm beach. Almost all single males are gay. The hetero couples are friendly. Action is possible in the bushes beyond the dunes.

Kyustendil

The town is situated 90 km south-west of Sofia.

Cruising: bath house in the town.

Pazardjik

Sex shop: 7 Car Simeon street

Venera Sex Shop, 7 Tzar Shishman street

Pleven

Sexshop

Pirot street 11 (above History museum)

Open 10 a.m. until 10 p.m.

0887 86 56 93

shop@eros2000.net

<http://www.eros2000.net/>

Plovdiv

Mix club Incognito, 122 Maritza Boulevard (between Old Bath house and the International Plovdiv Fair, near the Maritsa river bridge). Phone +359 888 13 50 40. Every day different music - e.g. Evergreen party, Sky party, Retro party, Elegant party, Erotic show. Open daily 10 pm until 6 am.

Caligula, 30 Alexander Batenberg Street, 4000 Plovdiv, Phone: +359 32/ 62 6867, Open daily 11 pm until 8 am. Show performances every night at 1 am, 3 am and 5 am. Gay bar and dance club. At the main walking street in the center of Plovdiv near the McDonalds. Air condition. Good sound system, MTV-style and Bulgarian music.

Venera Amur Sex Shop, 46 Avksentii Veleshki Street

Cruising: Central railway station Alyosha hill (with the big monument of a Russian soldier)

Cruising: Clock Tower hill.

Ruse

Sexshop

Slavqnska street, 3 (near the Pinko Chinese restaurant).

Open 10 a.m. until 10 p.m.

0889 60 40 25

shop@eros2000.net

<http://www.eros2000.net/>

Stara Zagora

Sexshop

Otets Paisii street 42

Open 10 a.m. until 10 p.m.

0889 60 40 25

shop@eros2000.net

<http://www.eros2000.net/>

Sliven

Sexshop

Slivnitsa street 8 (near Dobri Jelyazkov shop)

Open 10 a.m. until 7 p.m.

0887 86 56 93

shop@eros2000.net

<http://www.eros2000.net/>

Sozopol

This beautiful old town is situated 31 km south-east of Burgas and 421 km south-east from Sofia. Famous nudist beach towards the south of Harmanite beach (towards Duni resort). After Harmanite beach you can go on walking along the rocks and you will reach a Heaven`s Bay.

Varna (the Sea capital of Bulgaria)

Mix Club Alexander, 33 Slivnitsa Blvd, Located in the very heart of the city of Varna. The club is in the Chernomorec Hotel, which is in the Kaskada Complex. It is opened for visitors every day (except Sundays) from 10 pm till break of day. On-line reservations. Web www.alexander-mixclub.com

Cruising:

At the end of the park near the sea, near the spring of mineral water.

The Journalist beach, south from Golden sands is very famous. Situated after the yacht port in front of Glarus Hotel of Golden sands resort.

Varna Area

Albena Resort. The resort is situated 32 km north from Varna, 502 km north-east from Sofia. Walk along the beach south to Kranevo village. After Gergana Hotel there is a great, beautiful nudist beach. Almost all single males are gay. The straight couples are friendly. Action is possible in the bushes beyond the dunes.

Golden Sands Resort. The resort is situated 15 km north of Varna.

The nudist beach, after the yacht port in front of Glarus Hotel.

Kamchia Hotel. Phone: +359 52 144 320 Fax: +359 52 601 150 Email: Send Email

Web: Visit this link

Gay, Lesbian and straight mixed. The hotel is 25 km away from Varna. Excellent spot to relax and for sports. This piece of paradise is a rare combination of dense forests, the Kamchia river and the Black Sea. This unique spot which carries the pretty name of Kamchia resembles Spielberg's Jurassic Park much more than the civilized world of 20th century! Breakfast. Bar with alcoholic drinks. Swimming pool.

Veliko Tarnovo

Sexshop

Mednikarska street 2 (above former Hali shop parking)

Open 10 a.m. until 10 p.m.

0889 60 40 25

shop@eros2000.net

<http://www.eros2000.net/>

Cruising: Garden Park famous as 7 hills

Yambol

Sexshop

Snec bar Biliana

Graf Ignatiev 251

Phone 0887616239

To unsubscribe please send an empty email to sofia@gayguide.net and type the word unsubscribe into the subject line.

Gay Sofia Mailing List

Gay Sofia Yahoo Group. Use this mailing list to introduce yourself to other users of this site and let others introduce themselves to you. Share info and experiences, and meet online before you possibly meet in Sofia.

A mailing list is a forum where your emails will be sent to all members of the list and you receive a copy of every email sent by other members as long as you are subscribed.

To avoid your getting spam emails, we moderate this list and delete all advertising mails before you get them.

Attachments (e.g. pictures) are not allowed with this list. It's free. You can subscribe and unsubscribe whenever you like.

Visit the groups page at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/gaysofia/>

Links

Additional Gay and Lesbian Links

Gay Guide on Budapest by GayGuide.Net

Gay Guide on Prague by GayGuide.Net

Gay Guide on Warsaw by GayGuide.Net

Gay Guide on Cracow by GayGuide.Net

gayguide.net More than 650 Gay Guides worldwide:

Global Gay Guide Network

News Letter & Mailing List

Gay Sofia Newsletter

Mailings 4 Times per year. Keep informed about Gay Sofia and this web site. It's free. Unsubscribe at any time.

General Tourist

Country Facts

Facts

Republic of Bulgaria

Population 7,517,973 (2003), where of 1.189.043 (2003) in Sofia (estimated)

Capital city Sofia

Initials BG

Area 110.994 sq. km

Bordering countries BGreece, Macedonia, Romania, Turkey, Serbia and Montenegro

Ethnic Bulgarian 83.9 percent, Turk 9.4 percent, Roma 4.7 percent, other 2 percent (including Macedonian, Armenian, Tatar, Circassian) (2001) Ethnic: Bulgarian 83.9 percent, Turk 9.4 percent, Roma 4.7 percent, other 2 percent (including Macedonian, Armenian, Tatar, Circassian) (2001)

Religion Bulgarian Orthodox 82.6 percent, Muslim 12.2 percent, Roman Catholic 1.7 percent, Jewish 0.1 percent, Protestant, Gregorian-Armenian, and other 3.4 percent (1998)†

Foreign Visitors 2208016 (2001); 2996518 (2002); 3320314 (2003); 3500000 (January till August 2004)

GDP per CAPITA USD 7600 (2003 est.)

Daylight Saving Time Last Sunday of March till last Sunday of October

Electricity 220 Volts, round two-pin or three-pin plugs are in use.

Video system PAL/SECAM

International Access Code 00

International Country Code +359, Sofia +3592

mobile phone codes 088 (M), 089 (Globul)

Language Bulgarian

Climate

Climate: continental, hot summers, cold winters. Bulgaria has a continental climate, which means that summers are generally hot, winters are cold. It is the coldest in January (average -2 degrees Celsius; between -5 to 5), warmest in July (average 22 degrees Celsius; 26 to 30 degrees Celsius). Annual rainfall 645mm (25.4 inches). Weather forecast for today and the next few days.

Time

Central European Time (CET). Normally GMT + 2 hours except from the last Sunday in March until the last Sunday in October (summer time counting) GMT + 3 hours.

Money

Bulgarian Leva BGN; One Lev is made up of 100 stotinki. Coins: 5, 10, 20, 50 stotinki & 1 Lev; Banknotes: 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 BGN

The currency was redenominated in 1999. It is tied to the Euro and the exchange rate is fixed at EURO 1 = BGN 1,95583. Some of the exchange offices located in the center charge commission. Ask first how much you will get. Bulgaria will join the European Union in 2007, but that does NOT mean that the Euro will be used. It will take a few years until there will be a referendum about the Euro in Bulgaria and only if the majority vote for the Euro will the Euro be used. The United Kingdom and Sweden are EU members, but voted against the Euro and will keep their local currency.

If you come from abroad, we advise you to change money after your arrival in Sofia, but not at the airport. Exchange rates are sometimes a lot more favorable in Sofia than outside the country. We advise not taking the risk of changing money in the street; you may receive counterfeit money and such transactions are illegal. Keep the receipt you are given when exchanging money until you leave the country.

Credit cards

Visa and Mastercard is widely accepted; a few places also accept American Express and Diners Club.

ATM

You will find a lot ATM in the center, at the airport, at the central rail station. Most accept credit cards: MasterCard, Maestro, Cirrus, JCB, Visa, Visa Electron. The maximum amount depends on the issuing ATM provider. Please contact your bank.

Bank accounts for foreign currencies

Several banks offer accounts for foreign currencies. One of them is Bulbank, the main branch is opposite to the Sheraton Hotel (7 Sveta Nedelya Square, 1000 Sofia, Phone 923 2111, Web page). Foreigners can have bank accounts.

National Holidays

Listed below are the public holidays, but Bulgaria has a lot of religious holidays too. The public holidays are the non working holidays.

3rd of March Signing of the San Stefano peace treaty in 1878, which secured the liberation of Bulgaria from the

Turks

Orthodox Easter (Sunday and Monday), date depends on the year.

1st of May Labour Day

24th of May Day of the Cyrillic alphabet, created by Saints Cyril and Methodius

6th of September Union Day, when the Ottoman protectorate of Eastern Rumelia was freed to join the independent Bulgarian Principality (in 1885)

22nd of September Bulgarian Independence Day (Independence from influence by European countries 1908)

24th, 25th of December Christmas holidays

31st of December & 1st of January New Year's Eve and New Year's Day

Austrian Airlines (OS) 41, Vitosha Blvd., Phone 981 2424, 980 2323, Fax 981 4434; Airport Phone 937 3131, 937 3132

British Airways (BA) 56, Alabin St., Phone 981 7000, 981 6999, Fax 981 1771; Airport Phone 937 3111

Czech Airlines (OK) 9, Saborna St., Phone 981 5408, 988 5568, Fax 981 1386; Airport Phone 7932 2040

Helios Airways (ZU) 132, Rakovski Str. Phone 980 9597, 980 9684; Fax 980 9743

Hemus Air (DU) Sofia Airport, Phone 9420 202, Fax +359 2 945 9147; Airport Phone/Fax 9420213

Israel Airlines (LY) 50, Stamboliiski Blvd., Phone 986 5790, Fax 980 8058

LOT - Polish Airlines (LO) 27A, Stamboliiski Blvd., Phone 987 4562, Fax 980 3293; Airport Phone 937 3161

Lufthansa (LH) 9A, Saborna St., Phone 980 4101, Fax 981 2911; Airport Phone 937 3141, 937 3145

Malev Bulgarian Airlines (MA) 19, Patriarh Evtimii Blvd., Phone 981 5091, Fax 981 5096; Airport Phone 945 9239

Olympic Airlines (OA) 55, Stamboliiski Blvd., Phone 980 1040, 981 4545, Fax 980 1050; Airport Phone 945 9288

Pulkovo-Aviation Enterprise (FV) 9, V. Hugo Str. Phone 943 1107, Fax 944 6305

Romanian Air Transport (RO) 38, Hristo Botev Blvd., Phone 933 1066, Fax 933 1030

Syrian Airlines (RB) 36, Stamboliiski Blvd., Phone 981 2499, Fax 987 6657

Turkish Airlines (TK) 11A, Saborna St., Phone 980 3957, Fax 980 4151; Airport Phone 945 9145

Viaggio Air (VM) 1, Brussels Blvd. Phone 945 9038, 945 9039; Fax 945 9031

Alitalia, 40 Graf Ignatiev Str. Phone 981 67 02, 981 67 05/06 Fax 981 67 04 www.alitalia.bg www.alitalia.it

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines 14 Uzundjovska Str. Phone 981 99 10 Fax 981 99 12

Swiss & Crossair 1 Angel Kanchev Str. Phone 980 44 59 Fax 981 77 32.

Travel to Bulgaria

Airlines

The first low cost airlines that flies into Sofia are Wizzair www.wizzair.com (Flights from/to Amsterdam, Budapest, Frankfurt Hahn, London Luton, Malmö, Paris) and Skyeurope, www.skyeurope.com (Flights from/to Bratislava and Kosice)

Airport flight info: Sofia Airport (SOF) Info Phone 937 22 11, 937 22 12

Sofia's airport is located ten kilometers (six miles) east of the city center. Airport facilities include several 24 hour change offices (but change rates at the airport are really bad); an ATM located in the customs building some distance from the main entrance, as well as left-luggage facilities, bars, fast-food outlets and car hire from Avis and Hertz. No arrival or departure tax.

Bulgaria Air (FB) 1, Brussels Blvd., Phone 945 9140, Fax 937 3254; NDK Phone 865 9517, 865 9557

Aeroflot (SU) 23, Oborishte St., Phone 943 4489, 946 4529, Fax 946 1703; Airport Phone 937 3191, 937 3192

Aero Svit (VV) 4, Trapezica St., Phone 987 3181, Fax 980 8280; Airport Phone 981 5937, Only Mon and Wed

Air France (AF) 2, Saborna St., Phone 980 6150, 981 7830, Fax 981 9783; Airport Phone 937 3207

Air Malta (KM) APG-Bulgaria 44, Vitosha Blvd., Phone 933 1033, 933 1044, Fax 933 1030 Al Italia (AZ) 40, Graf Ignatiev St., Phone 981 6702, Fax 981 6704; Airport Phone 937 3211

Entry, Exit & Visa & Customs

Exit: Visitors not staying in a hotel must register at the local police station within 48 hours, together with the id card of their host. Be advised not to stay more than what the permit allows you, otherwise you might face some unpleasant charges. Extensions and further info can be obtained at the passport directorate on 48, Maria Luisa Boulevard, Phone 982 33 16.

Entry: Foreign nationals may enter the country with a valid international passport and a visa where required. You need a passport. ID cards are not accepted.

You can spend with valid international passport...

...up to 90 days without a visa if you are a citizen from a European Union country or a citizens of Iceland, South Korea, Estonia, Malta, Monaco, Norway, San Marino, Hungary and Switzerland.

...up to 60 days without a visa if you are a citizen of Tunisia.

...up to 30 days without a visa if you are a citizen of Australia, Andorra, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Israel, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Macedonia, New Zealand, Poland, Romania, USA, Serbia and Monte Negro, Slovakia, Slovenia and the Vatican.

For information about visa requirement for all other countries please contact the Bulgarian embassies and consulates in the respective country.

Currency that exceeds 10000 BGN must be declared when entering (or leaving) the country.

If you are staying or working long-term in Bulgaria, you may be entitled to a blue passport. Foreign nationals who have made an investment of over 250.000 US Dollar in accordance with the Bulgarian law are also entitled for permanent stay permission.

Identification should be carried on you at all times.

Airport Transfer

When arriving at the airport you have several options:

The public bus 84 runs between the airport and the Sofia university (Orlov Bridge), with several stops on the route. The bus operates from 5 am until midnight every 10 to 15 minutes, to the city centre (journey time - 20 minutes). Tickets cost 0.50 BGN and can be bought from the kiosk near the bus stop or directly from the driver. See `Travel in Sofia` for detailed info about public transport.

We suggest OK Supertrans Taxi. When you take the right exit from the arrival hall you will find the taxis. For a ride to Sofia`s first district you will pay below 10 BGN with OK Supertrans. If you cannot find a OK Supertrans taxi you will find their office in the right corner of the arrivals hall at the airport and you can order one there. Change just a small amount of money for the taxi at the airport since the rates there are about 15-20% below the change rates that you can get downtown. Do not take another taxi company. Some of the drivers at the airport overcharge. See `Travel in Sofia` for more info about taxis.

There are no mini busses, trains, subways etc at the airport.

Trains

If you want to check the train schedules, we recommend the extensive online database at <http://bahn.hafas.de/bin/query.exe/en>. You will find all schedules there. Just type in the cities and press `Search Connections`. Trains to abroad and destinations inside Bulgaria depart from the Central Railway Station (called Tzentralna Gara at 112 Maria Louiza Boulevard; 20 minutes walk from the city centre). Facilities include left luggage, money exchange offices, ATM, bars and fast-food. Tickets for lines covering the northern half of Bulgaria are sold on the ground floor of the station and all others are sold in the basement. Students should be able to get a discount of 40% on tickets. Train schedule information: Phone 931 11 11, 932 33 33.

Trams 1 and 7 run from the station forecourt to Ploshtad Sveta Nedelya in the city centre. Taxis are also available.

There is also a railway office in the National Palace of Culture (NDK) underpass. Info about international trains call 65 71 85, inside the country call 65 84 02.

From Sofia there are six main routes: to Varna or Burgas on the Black Sea coast, to Plovdiv and beyond on the Turkish border, to Kalotina on the Yugoslavian border, to Kulata on the Greek border and to Ruse on the Romanian border. There are also daily services to Belgrade (8 hours), Bucharest (11 hours), Budapest (16 hours), Istanbul (15 hours), Kiev (38 hours), Moscow (45 hours), St Petersburg (65 hours) and Thessaloniki (10 hours).

Busses

International: There is no central coach station in Sofia. International coach services terminate at one of three places. Most go to the bus station, in front of the Tsentralna Gara train station, 112 Maria Louiza Boulevard, on Ploshtad Predgarov, just behind the Hotel Princess, 131 Maria Louiza Boulevard. Some companies use the bus station at 38 Damian Gruev Ulica (a ten-minute walk west of the city centre), or the one at 84 Knyaginya Maria

Louiza Boulevard (a ten-minute walk north of the city centre). Eurolines (www.eurolines.com) runs international coaches, connecting Sofia to cities throughout Europe. These terminate in front of the train station. Find a timetable of international bus-lines at <https://secure.maverick2000.net>.

Domestic: Sofia has several bus stations for routes inside the country. Long distance and local bus services reach all Bulgaria's main cities, such as Bourgas, Varna, Plovdiv, Haskovo, Blagoevgrad, Pernik, Montana and Pleven, as well as 90% of its towns and villages. Most domestic coach services, run by private companies, terminate at the brand new Central Bus Station close to the train station (phone 090021000) or at one of three other bus stations, some way out of the city centre. These are the Avtogara Poduyane terminal, Todorini Kukli Ulica (for buses to the north and northeast, phone 8474262), Ovcha Kupel terminal, Tsar Boris III Boulevard (buses southwest, phone 722345), and the Yug terminal, Dragan Tsankov Boulevard (buses southeast, phone 9555362). The bus company Etappe (phone 981 4213) has a ticket office in the National Palace of Culture (NDK), 1 Ploshtad Bulgaria, Yuzhen Park.

Ships

No ships to Sofia. The Black Sea ports of Bourgas and Varna offer routes to Ukraine, Russia and the countries of the Mediterranean basin, and through the Danube a direct link with Central and Western Europe is provided. Varna ferry: 052 683224; 052 683301. Rousse is the largest Bulgarian port on the River Danube.

Cars

Speed Limits for ...

Cars inside the city 50 outside 90 highways 120

Trucks, buses inside the city 50 outside 80 highways 100

Motorcycles inside the city 50 outside 80 highways 100

Keep right.

You can use your national license. It is useful to have an international license. A motor insurance certificate is obligatory.

Road signs follow international standards.

Fastened seat belts are obligatory.

Mobile phones can only be used with hands-free sets.

Fines for speeding is between 50 and 100 leva.

Alcohol legal limit is 0.5 pro mil.

In the event of an accident the traffic police KAT should be called at 165 and a report filed

In the event of a breakdown there is a 24-hour Road Assistance service, call 146 or 048 146

No highway fees now, but there are plans to introduce them.

Signs for locations are in both Cyrillic and Latin script - on minor roads they may be in Cyrillic only. But road signs are international.

The main car parking areas in the centre are Makedonia Square. TsUM, (Maria Luiza Boulevard).

Corner of Evlogi Georgiev Boulevard and Gurko Street, (opposite Levski Stadium).

Corner of Evlogii Georgiev Boulevard and Yanko Sakazov Boulevard.

Corner of Fritjof Nansen and Bulgaria Boulevard (Palace of Culture NDK, underground car park. Entrance Post Bank on Vitosha Boulevard.

You can also park for up to 2 hours in the city centre, in the designated blue zones: opposite the Parliament, by the National Art Gallery, off Rakovski Street near the Cathedral. The fee for up to one hour parking is 0.80 leva. Vouchers are usually sold by attendants in these locations and they will help you fill them out. Some car parks are privately run and prices vary.

If you park in restricted zones the Sofia City Council uses yellow wheel clamps or they tow your car away, usually to the car park near the Hilton Hotel or the one next to the Central Railway Station.

Online Reservation: Rent a car in Sof

Left Luggage

Public left luggage facilities are located at...

Central Railway station

Left Luggage in the basement. Opening hours(daily 5.30 am-midnight. Phone 02/ 989 05 38. Most railway stations have a left-luggage office (called garderob). In the large ones you may need to fill a form.

Airport:

No left luggage facilities.

Travel in Budapest

Map of Sofia

All gay-lesbian venues are in Sofia's 1st and 2nd district. The city consists of 20 districts, they are arranged in a spiral. Bulgarian postal codes always consist of 4 digits. The first digit for Sofia is a 1. District 1 is 1000 Sofia, 1100 the second district, 1200 is the third district. XXX

There is a really great online map available at www.bgmaps.com. Click on the British flag to get to the English version. You can either click on Sofia in the map or you enter a street name and house number (both Latin and Cyrillic characters are OK) to find a particular address. Click here to enlarge the map

Public Transport

Information hot line of the Sofia public transport company : 987 71 87

The Sofia public transport company has a web page. There is no public transport between midnight and 5 am.

There are trams, buses, and trolley buses and one subway line. There are also a fleet of privately run marsh-route taxis which cover the more obscure routes (Ticket price 1 lev; pay the driver as you get on). You need to stop them on the road like a taxi; just look for mini busses with 8 to 15 seats, that have a number on the top. Most of them are white, some are dark blue.

Public transport runs daily from 5 am until 11.30 pm (buses), midnight (trams), the subway runs from 5 am until 11 pm; on Fridays and Saturdays until 11:30 pm. After 11:30 pm taxis are the only means of transportation.

Tickets

Since 18th of April 2004 fares are:

Single ticket 0.50 BGN Sold by driver 0.50 BGN

Combined ticket for 2 journeys (except subway) for 60 minutes 0.80 BGN

Combined for 2 journeys (including subway) for 60 minutes 0.80 BGN

Penalty fee for travel without ticket 5.00 BGN

A ticket for three journeys. 1.35 BGN (Keep the booklet until all are used)

A ticket for five journeys. 2.00 BGN (Keep the booklet until all are used)

One day pass for all lines 2.20 BGN

Five day pass for all lines 10.00 BGN

One month pass for one line 17.00 BGN

One month pass for two lines 28.00 BGN

One month pass for all lines 37.00 BGN

One month pass for one line and the subway 28.00 BGN

One month pass for two lines and the subway 34.00 BGN

Three month pass for one line 50.00 BGN

Three month pass for two lines 82.00 BGN

Three month pass for all lines 100.00 BGN

Single trip tickets are sold at kiosks and newspaper stands at the major stops or by the driver of the vehicle. You have to validate the ticket using the metal punchers located near the windows.

Major Tram Lines

1, 7 Central Railway Station - Sheraton hotel - Vitoshka Boulevard - National Palace of Culture NDK

2, 12 Central Railway Station - Graf Ignatiev Str. - Lozenets district

6 Central Railway Station - National Palace of Culture underpass - Lozenets district

9 Central Railway Station - National Palace of Culture underpass - Lozenets district - Kempinsky Zografsky Hotel

Major Bus lines

84 Sofia Airport - Sofia University

213, 313 Central Railway station - Lavov Most (Lions Bridge) - Tsarigradsko Shosse Boulevard - Mladost housing complex

94 Sofia University - National Palace of Culture - Hemus Hotel - Darvenitsa district - Studentski Grad (Student city)

Major Trolley Bus lines

1 Banishora district (near the Central Railway Station)

- Opalchenska subway station - National Palace of Culture underpass - Sofia University - Hadji Dimitar district

2 Hadji Dimitar district - Sofia University - P. Evtimii Boulevard - Medical Academy - Borovo district

5 Banishora district (close to Central Railway Station)

- Opalchenska subway station - National Palace of Culture underpass - Mladost housing complex

Subway The only metro line runs northwest from Ploshtad Sveta Nedelya to the Lyulin suburb.

Taxis

Since June 2000 all legal and registered taxi cabs must be yellow and operate by meter. The rates per km are regulated: The average rate is between 0.30 and 0.56 BGN per kilometer. Always check the table of fares. Day and night time tariffs are common. Daytime is 6 am until 10 pm. Starting and call-out charges must by law be displayed on the windows. Dispatchers and drivers usually speak only Bulgarian. That means you may need someone to help you order one by phone and you need to learn how to name your destination. When you order a taxi by phone they will give you a 3 digit number of the taxi which will come to pick you up. An additional fee is paid when ordering by phone.

The following companies are known to charge reasonable fees:

OK Supertrans 9732121

Yes 91119 & 91009

Inex 91919

Taxi S Express 91280

Rent a Car

Go online to rent a car in Sofia

Communication

Telecom & Internet

The Bulgarian Telecom: www.btc.bg and www.telecom.bg.

You will find 3 types of pay phones in operation. For the coin phones you need 50 stotinki tokens, which can be bought at many kiosks. And there are card phones of two types: Mobika (blue phones) and Bulfon (orange phones) with cards for each ranging in price from 4 to 25 Leva. They can be bought at certain shops, kiosks or post offices.

Europe, America, Near East, Japan, Africa and Australia can be dialed directly. For countries that cannot be called directly you must call the operator at 0123.

Public phones in Sofia are not callable. Bulgaria's country code is +359, 2 is the area code for Sofia. ??

For international calls you may purchase an Orbitel card, see www.orbitel.bg and for low cost calls. There is a local dial-in number, no incidental expenses, ready to use after purchasing. You get the Orbitel card in many shops all over Sofia and you can use it on every landline phone, including public phone booths. Other low cost phone card providers are Nexcom, www.nexcom.bg.

Important phone numbers

Police 166
Fire 160
Ambulance 150
Road Assistance 91146 ??
Traffic police 165
Phone Directory Bulgaria 144 (office numbers) 145 (private numbers)
Phone Directory International n/a
Telegrams 149
International operator 0123
Operator 121
On-duty pharmacies 178 (tape in Bulgarian)
Theater performances in Sofia 171 (tape in Bulgarian)
National Palace of Culture schedule 174 (tape in Bulgarian)
Cinema program 191 (tape in Bulgarian)

Some area codes

Sofia 02
Blagoevgrad 073

Bourgas 056
Pleven 064
Plovdiv 032
Rousse 082
Varna 052
Veliko Turnovo 062

Long Distance Calls

Inside Bulgaria dial 0 and the area code, for international calls dial 00 and country code. If you call Bulgaria from the US, dial 011 first, then 359 for Bulgaria, regional code (e.g. 2 for Sofia), and then the phone number.

Faxes

A public fax station is at 4 Gen. Gurko Street

International direct access providers

AT&T World Connect Service:

MCI WorldPhone Service:

Sprint:

Australia Direct:

Canada Direct:

France:

Germany Direct:

Mobile phones

In Bulgaria, the GSM mobile phone network is operating.

Providers:

Mtel (Prima) Home page: (Prefix is +359 88 from abroad or 088 inside Bulgaria)

Globul (Bconnect) Home page: (Prefix is +359 89 from abroad or 089 inside Bulgaria)

Mobikom Home page: (Prefix is +359 48 from abroad or 048 inside Bulgaria)

Mobile phones from North America do not work on the GSM Network.

Internet cafés

Garibaldi Internet Cafe Home page 6 Graf Ignatiev Street 1st floor, Garibaldi square, 1000 Sofia, Phone +359 2 9894285. Open 24 hours. All-day rate: 1,60 BGL per hour; Discount 5,00 BGL for whole night long (10:00 pm - 9:00 am).

Internet cafe With printing, scanning and cd-burning facilities. 45 Vitosha street, Sofia 1000, Phone: +359 2 986 08 96, Web Home page. Open 24 hours, All-day rate: 1,80 BLG per hour, email: info@siteout.net

Star gate Very fast Ethernet connection, surfing, emails, voice mails, scanning, printing color/black & white, chatting, all types of music. Pozitano 20 street, Sofia 1000, Web: Home page. Open 24 hours, All-day rate: 1 BLG per hour, email: bogolito@abv.bg

Cyberia The best Internet Cafe in Sofia, 18b Stefan Karadja street, Sofia 1000, Web: Home page. Open 24 hours, All-day rate: 1 BLG per hour, Phone: +359 2 9862791, email: cyberia@c4.com

Internet Access for Notebooks and PC`s
Please be aware that electricity is 220 volts in Bulgaria and you may need a different power-pack.

Dial Up Connections If you bring your own laptop to Bulgaria and you want to be connected to the Internet, you may buy dial up Internet access (a card with user name and password and a local dial in number) www.???.bg, that you can get at ??????. You can choose between XX or XX hours access. For sure this is a more reasonable solution than using access/providers like AOL or Compuserve, since they charge approx. 5 USD surcharge for global access.

WiFi Connections Recently free WiFi hot spots opened in Sofia: XXXXXXXX

TV Cable and Cable Connections If you stay at least 3 month in Sofia you may decide to get internet conection through cable and TV cable provider. Or you choose an ISDN coonexion, available from the Bulgarian Telecom company BTC.

Language & Dictionary

If you do not know what it means ... use a free online dictionary (interactive)

Translations & Interpreter

If you need a text to be translated or an interpreter for meetings let us know and we will try to find someone who is available.

Foreign Language Media

Further resources for tourists are newspapers & magazines in foreign languages, purchasable at train stations and newsstands downtown. Practically all the well known international press publications can be purchased in the larger hotels and from news-agents. Some of the foreign language press published in Bulgaria:

Sofia Echo, www.sofiaecho.com
Sofia City guide, www.sofiacityguide.com, monthly guide
Sofia Insiders` guide, 4 season guide

Second hand books in English are selling at the book stalls on the streets.
Every video rental store offers a large selection of English language videos.

Radio & TV

There are a lot of American, British, German, Austrian, French, English, Italian and Spanish channels on the Sofia TV cable networks.

Useful Addresses

Embassies

Albania 10, Krakra Str. Phone 946 12 22
Algeria 16, Slavyanska Str. Phone 980 22 50 www.amb-bulgarie.fr
Argentina 36, Dragan Tsankov Blvd. Phone 971 25 39
Australian Consulate 37, Trakia Str. Phone 946 13 34 Fax: 946 17 04
Austria 4, Shipka Str. Phone 981 17 21, 980 35 72
Belgium 1, Velchova Zavera Square Phone 963 36 22
Brazil 19, Frederic Joliot-Curie Str. Phone 971 98 19
Canadian Honorary Consulate 11, Assen Zlatarov Str. Phone 943 37 04, 988 72 76 Fax: 946 19 13
China 7, Al. von Humboldt Str. Phone 973 38 73
Croatia 18, Krakra Str. Phone 943 32 25 Cuba 1, Mladezhka Str. Phone 72 20 14
Cyprus Iztok area, Urii Gagarin Str., bldg. 154A, ap. 2 Phone 971 22 41, 971 92 70 Fax: 971 37 70
Czech Republic 9, Yanko Sakazov Blvd. Phone 946 11 11 www.czechembassy.org
Denmark 54, Dondukov Blvd. Phone 980 08 30
Egypt 5, Shesti (6-ti) Septemvri Str. Phone 987 02 15
Finland 16, Krakra Str. Phone 942 49 10
France 29, Oborishte Str. Phone 946 15 79 www.ambafrance.bg
Germany 25, Frederic Joliot-Curie Str. Phone 91 83 80, visas: 963 41 01 www.german-embassy.bg
Ghana 48, Gorski Patnik Str. Phone 963 09 61
Greece 33, San Stefano Str. Phone 946 10 27 www.greekembassy.bg
Hungary 57 Shesti (6-ti) Septemvri Str. Phone 963 04 60
India 31, Patriarch Evtimii Blvd. Phone 986 76 72, 986 77 72 Fax: 980 12 89
Indonesia 53, Simeonovsko Shosse, Res. 4 Phone 962 52 50, 68 32 20 Israel 1, Bulgaria Blvd., 7th floor Phone 951 50 44
Italy 2, Shipka Str. Phone 980 77 47
Japan 14, Lyulyakova Gradina Str. Phone 971 27 08 www.bg.emb-japan.go.jp
Kuwait Simeonovsko Shosse, Res. 15 Phone 962 52 09
Lebanon Frederic Joliot-Curie Str., bl. 155, app. 13 Phone 971 34 97

Morocco 129, Evlogi Georgiev Blvd. Phone 44 27 94, 943 30 90
 Netherlands 38, Galichitsa Str. Phone 962 57 85, 962 57 90 www.netherlandsembassy.bg
 Norway 4, Narodno Sabranie Sq. (Radisson SAS Hotel), Hall 2 Phone 933 47 72, 933 47 73
 Peru 17, Frederic Joliot-Curie Str. Phone 973 34 69
 Poland 46, Han Krum Str. Phone 987 26 10 www.brhplsofia.bsbg.net
 Portugal 6, Ivats Voivoda Str. Phone 943 36 83
 Romania 4, Sitnyakovo Blvd. Phone 971 28 58
 Russia 28, Dragan Tsankov Blvd. Phone 963 09 12 www.bulgaria.mid.ru
 Slovak Republic Yanko Sakazov Blvd. Phone 943 32 81
 South Africa Al. Gendov Str., bl. 1, 1st floor Phone 971 34 25, 971 21 38
 South Korea 36, Dragan Tsankov Blvd. Interpret, floor 8A Phone 971 21 81, 971 25 36, 971 29 31
 Spain 27, Sheinovo Str. Phone 943 30 34, 943 30 32
 Sweden 4, Alfred Nobel Str. Phone 971 24 31
 Switzerland 33, Shipka Str. Phone 943 30 68
 Turkey 80, Vassil Levski Blvd. Phone 980 22 70
 Ukraine 29, Boriana Str. Phone 955 94 78 www.ukramb.bol.bg
 United Kingdom 9, Moskovska Str. Phone 933 92 22 www.british-embassy.bg
 United States of America 1, Saborna Str. Phone 937 51 00 www.usembassy.bg
 Venezuela 1, Tulovo Str. Phone 943 30 61
 Yugoslavia 3, Veliko Turnovo Str. Phone 946 16 33

Health

The Bulgarian Health Security does not have a contract with similar foreign institutions about covering the costs of medical services provided for non-Bulgarian citizens. This means that in most cases it is recommended to arrange some kind of travel/health insurance for yourself before visiting Bulgaria. First aid is free for everyone including tourists.

Pharmacies

It is not very difficult to get certain medicines without a prescription. Prescriptions brought from abroad are not accepted. Below pharmacies which are open 24 hours, but you must ring the doorbell after opening hours.

Call 178 for information about pharmacies (in Bulgarian)
 No. 7 - 5Sveta Nedelya Square, Phone 987 50 89
 First Private Pharmacy - 42 Tsar Assen I Street Phone 46 54 35
 24 Hour Pharmacy Center Dr. G. M. Dimitrov Boulevard (near Studentski Grad) Farmatel Phone 962 22 22
 Delivery service.

Shopping

Opening hours

In the case of supermarkets, food and grocery shops regular opening hours are: Mondays until Saturdays 9 am until 7 pm. You can find 24 hours supermarkets and restaurants that operate 24 hours.

The main shopping areas are on Vitosha Blvd., Graf Ignatiev St., Rakovski St. and all the streets leading off from them. The Central Department Store (TsUM), has recently re-opened as a shopping centre on three floors where you will find everything from souvenirs to household goods. The area around Shipka Street, Oborishte and San Stefano has all sorts of small private shops, boutiques, furniture etc., where service is friendly even if choice is limited. Market stalls around town, often lumped together under one roof, hide the occasional bargain if you look carefully (slight seconds from western fashion houses etc.)

To find what you are looking for your best bet is still to wander around the central and back streets and see what you come across. If you find something you like buying it straight away. It might be gone by the time you get back.

The Central Halls (Halite) on Maria Luiza Blvd once again specialize as a Food Hall with over 100 different pavilion shops offering all kinds of fresh foods. On three levels; shops also offer household goods and fashion boutiques. There is also a food court and create facilities. Nearby, Pirotska Street has been transformed into a continental style pedestrian area with a variety of shops and street cafes.

Most popular with tourists is the arts and crafts market around the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral. Here you can find all kinds of typical Bulgarian souvenir items. Embroidered table clothes, jewelry, lace, Russian dolls, handmade toys, ceramics, wooden items, imitation icons and paintings, as well as so called antiques. There are also plenty of serious Antique shops around which may hide a treasure or two. Never pay more than what it is worth to you, and check whether you require an export certificate when buying genuine antiques.

Our recommendations for souvenirs include: Bulgarian wine, Rakia (the schnapps) sealed in ceramic urns, Bulgarian carpets, icons and also some of the famous Troyan pottery especially the earthenware casserole dishes, which make great inexpensive oven to table wear.

There are several specialized shops for Bulgarian souvenirs: 14 Vitosha Blvd., 11 Knyaz Al. Dondukov Blvd., Shishman St. near the 'Tsar Osvoboditel' monument, within TsUM, and in the underpass near the President's office on Dondukov Blvd.

There are no shopping malls in the center, but a few in suburban areas. One is called Metro, Mr Bricolage, Billa, Como.

Tax-free Shopping

VAT in Bulgaria is 20%. Tax free shopping is possible for EU citizens only until 2007 when Bulgaria will join the EU. Obtain information on Tax-free Shopping at:

Postal Service

The central post office is at 6 Gen. Gurko Street. A normal size letter up to 20 grams to other countries costs 0.85 BGN; inside Bulgaria 0.22 BGN. To send postcards to other countries 0.32 BGL, inside Bulgaria 0.11 BGN. Public post boxes do not have a particular color and their size is varying.

Laundry

We hope to find one to list here.

Museums & Galleries

Museums

National Museum

2, Vitosha Blvd., phone: 884 160)

The museum covers the whole period from prehistory to the present day. The ground floor houses relics from the earliest period up to the Middle Ages and includes gold and silver treasures (the Panagyurishte treasure), ceramics and archaeological remains. The first floor concentrates on ecclesiastical art, the 19th century Bulgarian National Revival including folk costumes, carpets and typically furnished rooms from that period.

Opening hours: 09.30 am - 06.30 pm; No day off

Archaeological Museum

2, Saborna St., phone: 882 406

Remains of Thracian, Greek and Roman settlements in the ivy-clad 15th century 'Buyuk(Big)Mosque'. Opening hours: 10.00 am - 6.00 pm; Closed on Mondays.

The Earth and Man Museum

2, CherniVrah Blvd., phone: 656 639

Founded in 1986. Over 20,000 exhibits are on display, divided into six sections: Giant Crystals, Minerals of the Earth, Industrial Minerals, Raw Material Sources of Bulgaria, Gems, New Materials. The museum also holds art exhibitions and classical music evenings, which are noted in our cultural supplement.

Opening hours: 10.00 am - 6.00 pm; Closed on Sundays and Mondays.

Natural History Museum

1, Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd., phone:885 215)

The museum was founded in 1889 and opened to visitors in 1907. Nowadays the museum has three major sections: Geology, Zoology and Botany. Apart from several meteorites, the 'Earth and Space' exhibition features unique lunar samples and an impressive dinosaur skeleton. A special exhibition shows live pythons, crocodiles, and iguanas.

Opening hours: 10.00 am - 7.00 pm; No day off.

Ethnographic Museum

6A, Moskovska St., phone: 874 191

The museum displays folk costumes, fabrics, jeweler, woodcuttings, hammered ironwork, etc. A small craft shop sells crafts, costumes and musical instruments from all over Bulgaria. In the former Royal Palace on Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd., along with the National Art Gallery.

Opening hours: 10.30 am - 5.30 pm; Closed on Mondays and Tuesdays.

The Alexander Nevski Crypt

1, St. Alexander Navsky, Sq, phone: 877 697

The crypt museum was founded in 1965 and contains items from the very beginnings of Bulgarian iconography (the end of the 9th century) until the end of the 19th century. All stages of the Bulgarian iconography school are represented in a collection of 1500 items.

Opening hours: 10.30 am - 6.30 pm; Closed on Tuesdays.

Galleries

National Art Gallery (Retrospective exhibition of Bulgarian and foreign art)

1, Knyaz Battenberg Sq., Opening hours: 10.30 am - 6.30 pm; phone: 980 33 20

National Gallery for Foreign Art

1 Sveti Alexander Nevski Sq., Opening hours: 10.30 am - 6.30 pm; phone: 877 697

Art Gallery of the Union of Bulgarian Artists

6, Shipka St., Opening hours: 10.00 am - 5.30 pm; phone: 43 351

Sofia City Art Gallery 1

Gourko St., Opening hours: 10.00 am - 5.30 pm; phone: 872 181

Antiques, Second Hand Book Shops

You will find the best antique shops on Rakovski Street.

Saveikov Square is the place where a lot of bookstalls are during the summer.

Tourist Information

Besides GayGuide.Net Sofia you can contact the state operated National Tourism Promotion and Information

Agency (1 Sveta Nedelia Square, 1000 Sofia, Phone +359/2 987 97 78; +359/2 987 11 52).

Links

Links

programata.bg - A great website with listings for movies, cinemas, theatres, performances, opera, concerts, restaurants, clubs, bars ...

The National Museum of History