



Conference Guide

Conference Venue

The conference will take place at the Imperial Hotel (Riviera Holiday Club Varna) *****



Riviera Holiday Club Varna

Address: 9007 Varna, Bulgaria

Tel: +359 52 386704

Fax: +359 52 386 709

Email: marketing@rivierabulgaria.com

URL: <http://www.rivierabulgaria.bg/>

How to get to Varna

By Plane

Varna Airport is located at the Black Sea coast, just 8 km away from the summer capital of Bulgaria. It lies at the heart of a highly developed business community and in direct proximity to leading Bulgarian summer resorts.

Varna Airport

Address: 9000 Varna, Bulgaria

Tel.: +420 220 111 888

Lost and Found: +359 52 573 423

Flight Information: +359 52 573 323

URL: <http://www.varna-airport.bg/Home/tabid/36/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

Email: Dragomir.Enev@varna-airport.bg

By Train

The central train station is located within walking distance from city centre and cruise terminal; there is a bus and taxi connection to airport, bus stations, and resorts. Daily services are available from Sofia, Plovdiv, and Rousse.

There is one direct international train always available. Night train #059 departs Kiev daily, journey time is just under 35 hours. On its way to Varna, this train also stops in Lviv (25 h) and Bucharest (8 h). During the summer seasons several more destinations are added. Which cities have a direct connection varies from year to year but expect Moscow, Saint Petersburg and Minsk from the east and Prague and Warsaw amongst others to be on the list.

For more information: <http://wikitravel.org/en/Varna>

By Car

Varna can be reached by Haemus Motorway (A2) from Sofia, E70 from Rousse (and Bucharest), E87 from Constanta, Romania, and Chernomore Motorway (A3)/E87 from Istanbul, Turkey.

Car Hire

Varna Airport Car Hire provides Car Hire from the following rent a car companies worldwide. The following car rental companies currently operate at the Varna Airport.

Hertz, Avis, Europcar, Budget, Sixt, and Choice. The car rental offices are located at the Arrivals Level.

More information about the rates and contact details:

<http://www.varna-airport.bg/tabid/258/Default.aspx>

Taxi



OK Trans Taxi is the authorized taxi operator at Varna airport. Taxi service is available around the clock. You may book your taxi ride at the OK Trans Taxi booking office inside the terminal, just before the exit in Arrivals Hall at T2, at the taxi rank or in advance +359 886 388 388 and at <http://en.oktaxivarna.com/>

All TAXI companies charge day and after 9 pm slightly higher night fees. Currently day fee is about ~ 0.45 €(0.89 BGN) per kilometer and night is about ~0.50 €(0.99 BGN)

Transportation in Varna

Bus

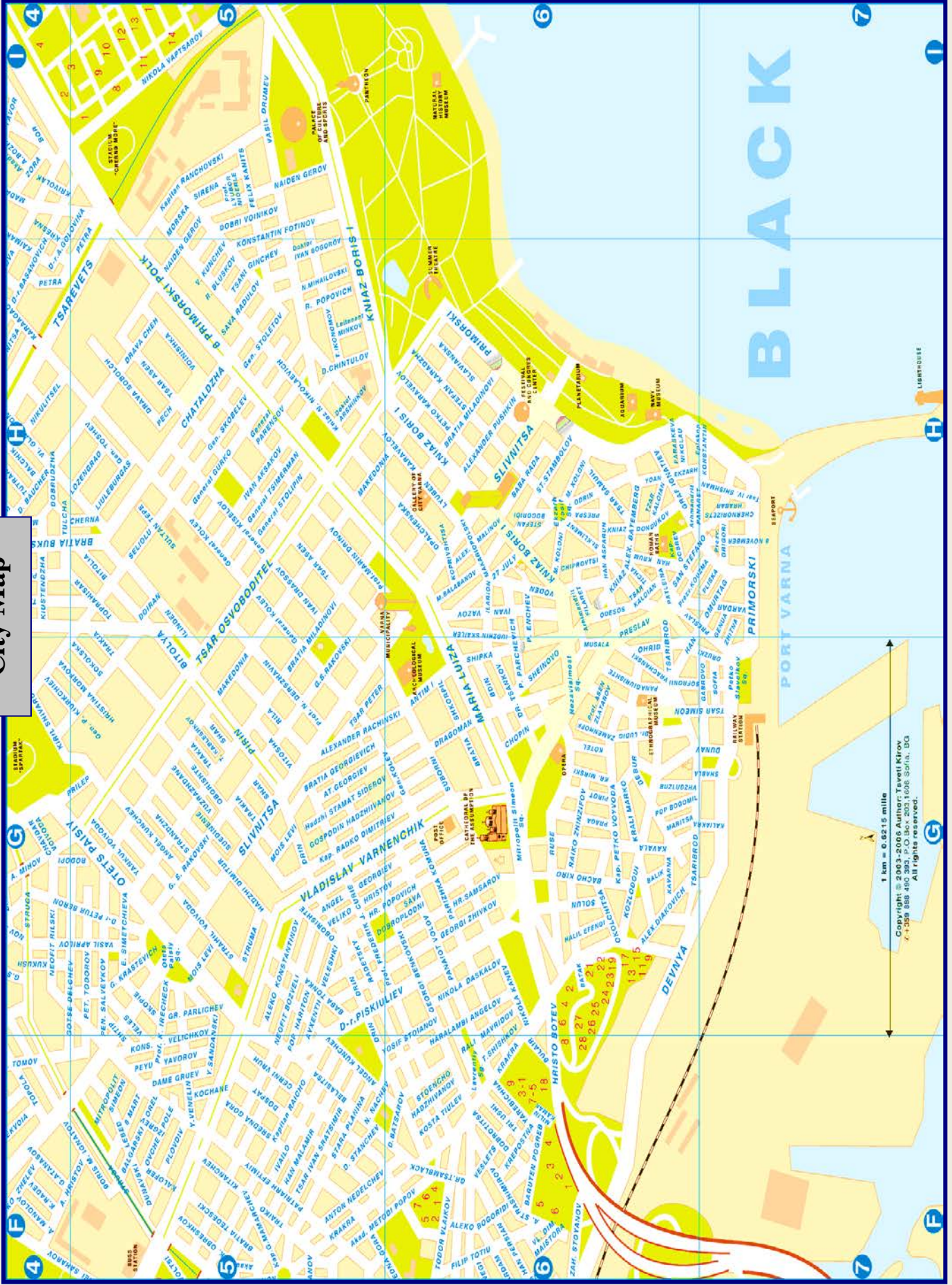
The Airport Bus stop to Varna and nearby resorts is located just outside Terminal 1. The bus ticket price varies between 1.00 BGN and 3.00 BGN depending on the distance to your destination.

Bus	Route
No.409	Varna Airport - Mall of Varna - Varna Couch Station - City Center (the Cathedral) - Golden Sands Resort
<i>From the City Center to the nearby Resorts</i>	
No.8	Varna City- “St. St. Constantine and Helena” Resort - Varna City
No.9	Varna City - Euxinograde - Sunny Day Resort - Golden Sands Resort - The Riviera - Varna City
No.109	Varna City – Euxinograde - Sunny Day Resort - Golden Sands Resort - Varna City
No.14	Vladislavovo housing estate – Slivnitsa Blvd – Central Bazaar – Varna Cathedral – University of Economics – Dolphinarium – “Pochivka”
No.31	Railway Station – Varna Cathedral – Saedinenie square – Vinitza estate;
No.108	Varna Cathedral – St. Constantine resort;
No.9	Varna Cathedral – St. Constantine resort – Golden Sands; #309 Railway station – Primorski blvd – University of Economics – Golden Sands resort;
No.22; 41	Vladislavodo estate – Bus terminal – Varna Cathedral – Railway station.

Bus transport within the city limits is available between the hours of 5:45 AM and 23:00 PM, running every 15 minutes. Tickets are available from the bus fare-collector.

The above routes provide information about the main bus stops only. Detailed information can be found on: <http://www.transtriumf.com> or <http://www.gtvarna.co>

City Map



1 km = 0.6215 miles
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History

The city of Varna is situated in the North-Eastern part of Bulgaria, on the Black Sea shore. Varna is the third largest city in Bulgaria and the largest one on the Black Sea shore with population of about 330 000 people. Because of its history and its economical and cultural significance, it is often called the Sea Capital of Bulgaria. The average January temperature in Varna is +1.7 °C, the average July temperature is +22.8 °C and the average annual temperature is +12.2 °C, which makes it very appropriate for holiday sea tourism during the warm months of the year.



The town was established in the 6th century BC under the name of Odessos by emigrants from the town of Milet in Asia Minor. For a short time it turned into a polis and one of the most important ports and commercial centers on the Black Sea.

For a few decades Odessos was within the borders of the Macedonian Empire of Alexander the Great, but later it reestablished its independence and again rose as an economical, commercial and cultural center. The city was coining its own money which is an evidence of its development. In the 15th year AD Odessos was included within the borders of the Roman Empire. In 1201 the Bulgarian tsar Kaloyan (born 1168 - died 1207) integrated the town to Bulgaria, and in 1366 Varna was given to the Dobrudzha ruler Dobrotitsa, and it had served as his capital. In 1398 Varna was conquered by the Ottoman conquerors. During the Revival (18th - 19th century) it was developed as a cultural and commercial center.

Today Varna is a modern city with a rich cultural calendar. Two of the most modern multifunctional halls in the county are situated here - the Palace of Culture and Sports and the Festival and Congress Center, which allow the conducting of multiple international cinema festivals, scientific forums and sport events, among which are the following: International Theater Festival "Varna Summer", Ethnic Festival, International Jazz Festival "Varna Summer", International Folklore Festival of Varna, International Film Festival "Love is Folly", International Festival of Puppet Art "Golden Dolphin", International Photographic Saloon, Bulgarian Film Festival "Golden Rose", etc.

More info: http://bulgariatravel.org/en/object/205/Varna_grad

Sights

Varna Cathedral

The 19th century Cathedral of the Assumption of the Virgin is an imposing landmark at the city center, which contains a finely carved iconostasis and bishop's throne, some interesting murals and stained glass. The cathedral is one of Varna symbols. You can enjoy the splendid view from the bell tower but you have to climb up the narrow and spiral staircase of 133 steps.

It was Prince Alexander Battenberg who placed the first stone in the foundations of the construction starting on 22 August 1880. The design was made by Maas, an architect from Odessa. The building was completed in 1886 but its consecration was delayed until 1910.



Address: Square St. Cyril and Methodius 2, Varna, Bulgaria

Tel: +359 52 612 940

Dolphinarium

It is the only dolphinarium on the Balkan Peninsula and it is one of the greatest attractions that Varna can offer to its guests. The show lasts 40 minutes. The visitors will enjoy the incredible intelligence and playfulness of the sea mammals. A curious fact is that in 1992 a baby-dolphin was born in the Dolphinarium in Varna. The event was a sign that the animals feel at home in their surrounding.



Address: Varna, Sea Garden

Tel: +359 52 302 199

Opening Hours: Tuesday to Sunday from 10:30 AM to 12:00PM and 15:30PM

Official site: <http://www.dolphinarium.festa.bg/en/>

Varna Archaeological Museum

The inauguration of the Varna Archaeological Museum and its further development is closely connected with the names of the two brothers Herman and Karel Skorpil, Czechs by origin, who came to help with the education and culture of their sister Slavonic nation following the Liberation of Bulgaria from the Turkish Yoke. In 1894 they permanently settled in Varna. On 12 December 1901, a group of socially active figures and teachers established the Varna Archaeological Society that for decades since has been the basic



motivating power for interest and study in the history of Varna, Varna Region, and Northeast Bulgaria. The inauguration of an archaeological museum was a task of prime importance for the Society. On June 11, 1906 the first exhibition of the Museum was officially opened in a room of the Girls' High School. Karel Skorpil was elected as director of the Museum and remained in that post till his death in 1944.

Address: 41, Bul. Maria Louisa, Varna 9000, Bulgaria

Tel: +359 52 681030

Official site: <http://www.archaeo.museumvarna.com/en/>



Sea Garden (Varna)

The Sea Garden (Bulgarian: Morska gradina) is the Bulgarian port city of Varna's largest, oldest and best known public park, also said to be the largest landscaped park in the Balkans. Located along the city's coast on the Black Sea, it is an important tourist attraction and a national monument of landscape architecture.

The site where today the Sea Garden is located was until the middle of the 19th century a bare field outside the city walls. In 1862 a small garden was arranged on the orders of the city's Ottoman mayor. After the Liberation of Bulgaria in 1878 mayor Mihail Koloni suggested the arrangement of a city garden and a seaside park in 1881, and despite suspicions a small sum was granted. As a result the Sea Garden was expanded to 26,000 m² and further developed according to the plan of French engineer Martinice.



More info: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sea_Garden_%28Varna%29

Aladzha Monastery is a medieval Orthodox Christian cave monastery complex in northeastern Bulgaria, 17 km north of central Varna and 3 km west of Golden Sands beach resort, in a protected forest area adjacent to the Golden Sands Nature Park.

The monastery caves were hewn into a 25-m high vertical carst cliff near the upper edge of the Franga plateau on several levels. The complex also includes two small nearby catacombs.

Dedicated to the Holy Trinity, it was an active hesychast monastic community of the Second Bulgarian Empire since the 12th century and perhaps survived until the early 18th century. Nearby, remains of a 5th-century cave monastery have also been found.



More info: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aladzha_Monastery

The Wonderful Rocks – a natural landmark

The rock phenomenon “The Wonderful Rocks” is situated at a distance of 4 km from the village of Asparuhovo, municipality of Dalgopol, county of Varna. It was declared a natural phenomenon by Decree of the Council of Ministers No 1869 of 17 February 1949, and covers an area of 12.5 ha on the shore of Tsonevo dam.

The main road connecting Provadia and Aytos, as well as the railway line Varna – Plovdiv passes in close proximity.

The Wonderful Rocks is a massif consisting of about ten beautiful rock needles, 40-50 meters high, shaped like castle towers. They were formed by the effect of water and wind on limestone. The rocks had formed directly by the banks of Tsonevo dam, where they are steepest and vertical.

The phenomenon consists of three massifs. Three tunnels are dug through along their entire length, where an automobile road made of crushed stones passes. Since they can be seen from the main road, the rocks often attract the travelers, which come by to enjoy the view.

A hut with the same name, which offers accommodation, is situated directly against the Wonderful Rocks.

A lot of interesting caves, rock massifs and holes, some of which are inhabited by large rapacious birds are situated in the region.

The rocks which have routes for rock climbing are also interesting. They are situated at a distance of 10 minutes walking from the natural phenomenon “The Wonderful Rocks”, uphill along a steep path, at the place of an abandoned quarry. The rocks have the shape of an arch, with typical ceiling in their upper part.

One of the first climbing competitions was conducted here, and 8 routes were especially designed for this purpose. Gradually the rocks were additionally equipped, and at the moment 18 routes are equipped from 6th to 10th category.

Breaking and demolishing of the rocks as well as painting them is forbidden as the territory is a natural landmark.



More info: http://bulgariatravel.org/en/object/128/Chudnite_skali_zabelejitelnost

Dinning

Restaurants

Captain Cook Fish Restaurant

Address: Morska Gara, Varna

Tel: + 359 0882 999 002

Cuisine: International

More info: <http://www.mydestination.com/bulgaria/restaurants/190552/captain-cook-varna>



Godzila Varna Grand Mall

Address: Grand Mall Varna,

2 Andrey Saharov Str., Varna

Tel: + 359 887 978138

Cuisine: International

More info:

<http://www.mydestination.com/bulgaria/restaurants/191705/godzila-varna-grand-mall>



Rappongi Restaurant

Tel: +359 882 909090

More info: <http://www.mydestination.com/bulgaria/restaurants/123096/rappongi-restuarant>

La Pastaria Varna Center

Address: 45 Dragoman Str., Varna

Tel: + 359 89 677 99 35 and + 359 52 63 20 60

Cuisine: International

More info:

<http://www.mydestination.com/bulgaria/restaurants/189881/1a-pastaria-varna-center>



More options to dine in Varna: <http://varna-bulgaria.info/restaurants/>

Sources:

<http://www.rivierabulgaria.bg/>

<http://www.varna-airport.bg/Home/tabid/36/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

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<http://www.archaeo.museumvarna.com/en/>

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