



# INFO KIT



# BULGARIA

2023

ASSOCIATION EUNI PARTNERS





# ABOUT BULGARIA

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Bulgaria, officially the Republic of Bulgaria, is a country in southeastern Europe. It is bordered by Romania to the north, Serbia and Macedonia to the west, Greece and Turkey to the south, and the Black Sea to the east. The capital and largest city is Sofia; other major cities are Plovdiv, Varna and Burgas. With a territory of 110,994 square kilometers (42,855 sq mi), Bulgaria is Europe's 16th-largest country.

The land that gave birth to the legendary Orpheus and Spartacus, Bulgaria is a country with a long, tumultuous and fascinating history. Founded in the 7th century, Bulgaria is one of the oldest states on the European continent.

To read more about Bulgaria's history, please check the link below.  
[http://bulgariatravel.org/data/doc/ENG\\_49-Istoria\\_na\\_Bulgaria.pdf](http://bulgariatravel.org/data/doc/ENG_49-Istoria_na_Bulgaria.pdf)

# USEFUL INFO



## FACTS

### Language

The official language in the country is Bulgarian with Cyrillic alphabet. English, Turkish and Russian are spoken by part of the population.

### Currency

The official currency in Bulgaria is Bulgarian lev. 1 EUR is equal to 1,9558 BGN.

### Religion

Bulgarian orthodox church. Minority religious groups include Muslims, Protestants, Catholics, Jews, and Gregorian Armenians.

**Capital:** Sofia



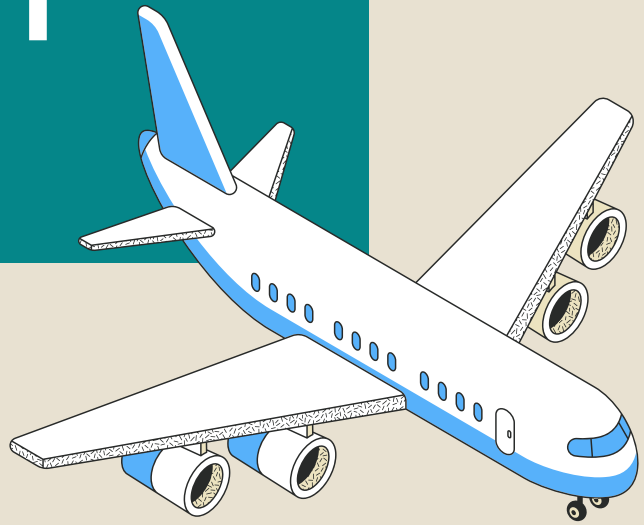
### INTERESTING FACT

Bulgarians nod their head for “no”, and shake their head for “yes”, in contrast with the other parts of Europe.

In Bulgaria



# TRANSPORT



## Closest Airport



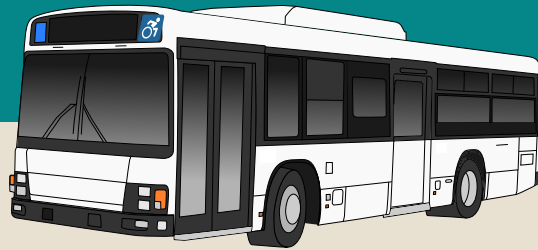
Sofia Airport

**Sofia Airport** is the main international airport of Bulgaria and has two terminals. Terminal 1 currently serves low-cost and charter carriers. Terminal 2 is the bigger terminal and provides a fast connection to the city center of Sofia via Metro Line 2 (the blue line), in an 18-minute journey.

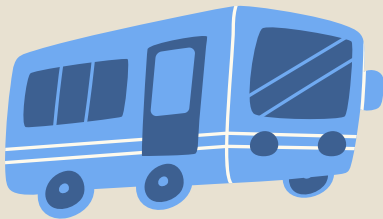
For transferring between Terminal 1 and Terminal 2, there is a shuttle bus provided by Sofia Airport free of charge every 15 minutes between 05:00 am. and 11:00 pm.



# TRAVELING TO BLAGOEVGRAD



## By bus

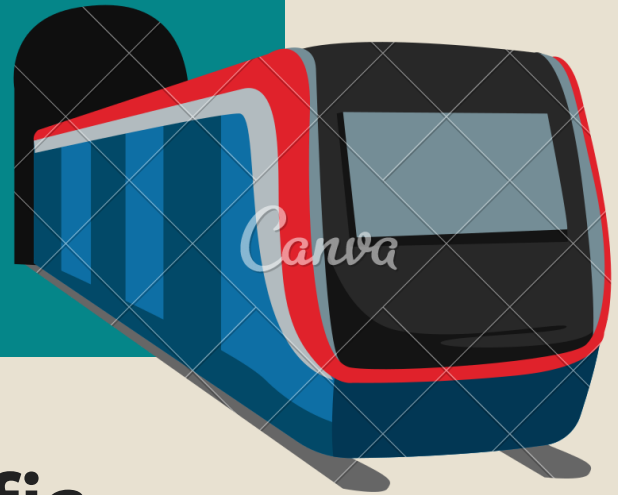


The most comfortable and fastest way for traveling to Blagoevgrad is by bus. There are several bus companies that go to Blagoevgrad hourly. The average price is 6 EUR (12 BGN) and the journey lasts approx. 1 hour 45 min. The buses arrive at Blagoevgrad bus station. You can take the bus from Sofia Central Bus Station.

Sofia Central Bus Station  
<http://www.centralnaavtogara.bg/index.php#b> provides transfer to most of the bigger cities in Bulgaria. When you arrive at the bus station go to the Information desk and ask for the next bus to Blagoevgrad. You can also check Union Ivkoni bus company.



# TRANSPORT



## How to get to Sofia Central Bus Station

Sofia Airport Metro Station is next to the building of Terminal 2. To get to the Central Bus Station and Railway Station, take the Metro, Line 1 (M1- the red line) to Serdika Station. Then you need to transfer to Line 2 (M2 - the blue line) from Serdika to Sofia Central Bus and Railway Station. There are 2 stops from Serdika Station.

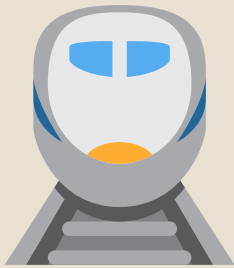
The metro trains operate from 5 am to midnight. Single ride ticket price is 1.60 leva (0.82 EUR). The ticket is valid for the entire metro network so you can use the same ticket for transfer to Line 2 (M2). Tickets can be purchased from the cashier desks in the metro station or from ticket machines. Sofia Central Bus and Railway Station are only 45 minutes away if you change lines.

Another option is to take a taxi from the airport to the Sofia Central Bus Station for an average price of 15-20 EUR. Always ask the driver for the price in advance, so you can avoid overcharging.

# TRAVELING TO BLAGOEVGRAD



## By train

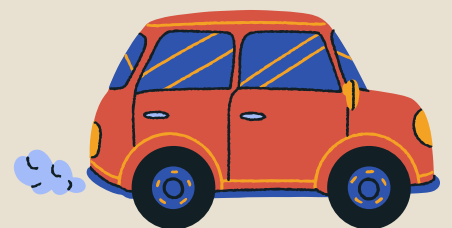


Sofia Railway Station is just next to the bus station. You can check the schedule on this link <http://www.bdz.bg/en/>.

A one-way ticket costs 5 EUR. Some trains can be antiquated, and not very comfortable, and journey times are usually slower than buses, on the other side, the scenery is likely to be more rewarding.

The journey from Sofia to Blagoevgrad takes approximately 1h. 30min. depending on the traffic. The route is safe, you will drive on the highway. You can rent a car directly at the Sofia Airport. I would suggest (if it is possible) doing it in advance.

## By car



# MEETING VENUE



## REGIONAL LIBRARY "DIIMITAR TALEV"

### Address:

**Square. "Georgi Izmirliiev-Makedonche" 2,  
2700 Blagoevgrad Center, Blagoevgrad**

**link** <https://maps.app.goo.gl/rASi9LTHwQ2rrhFu5>



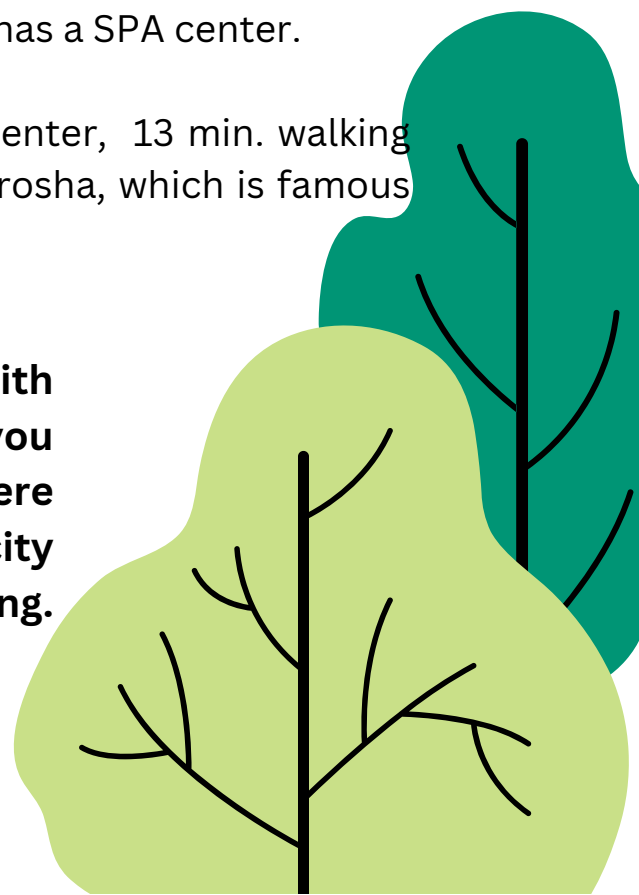
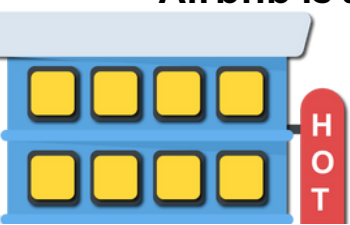
# ACCOMMODATION

**The Association Euni Partners recommends the following hotel options**



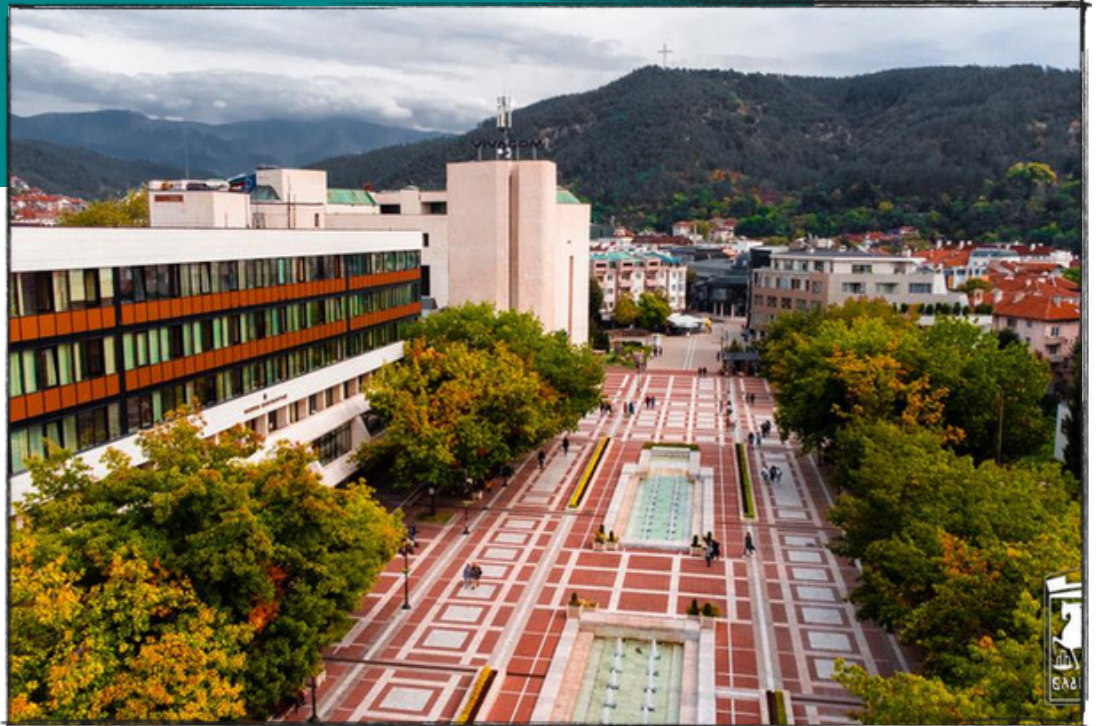
- Hotel Desita (3 star hotel) – 1,3km from the meeting venue (19 min. walk). You can take a taxi from the hotel to the meeting venue which will cost no more than 3-4 BGN (1,50 - EUR)
- Hotel Kardinal – 800m from the meeting venue
- Hotel Monte Cristo (4 star hotel) – 700m from the meeting venue. Situated in the very city center. The hotel uses water from thermal springs. That's why some rooms and common areas can smell like eggs - it's from the mineral water. The hotel has a SPA center.
- Family Hotel Petkov - 5 min from the city center, 13 min. walking distance. Located in the old town called Varosha, which is famous for its unique architectural style.

**You can book accommodation direct with the suggested hotels or if you prefer you can find alternative accommodation. There are many apartments situated in the city center with very high ratings on Booking. Airbnb is also an option.**



# PLACES TO VISIT

## BLAGOEVGRAD



Blagoevgrad is a city in southwestern Bulgaria, the administrative centre of Blagoevgrad Municipality and of Blagoevgrad Province, with a population of 70,881 inhabitants (as of 2011). It lies on the banks of the Blagoevgradska Bistritsa River. The city is the economic and cultural centre of southwestern Bulgaria. It is located in the valley of the Struma River at the foot of the Rila and Pirin Mountains, 101 kilometres (63 miles) south of Sofia, close to Republic of Macedonia border and 1 hour of driving to Greece. Blagoevgrad features a pedestrian downtown with preserved 19th-century architecture and numerous restaurants, cafes, coffee shops, and boutiques.





# BLAGOEVGRAD

Blagoevgrad is small, vibrant university city, the South-West University "NeofitRilski" and the American University in Bulgaria. The city hosts also the "Sts. Cyril and Methodius National Humanitarian High School", the former Bulgarian Men's High School of Thessaloniki moved from Thessaloniki to Blagoevgrad (then GornaDzhumaya) in 1913.



Because of the large number of students (partly due to the South-West University and the American University in the city), its cross-road location, nature and number of social factors, the city has relatively well developed economy. It offers many clothing stores, cafes, restaurants and nightclubs.

There are also green parks and 2,5 km long alley for strolling, jogging or cycling, which reaches to the lake alongside places for barbecue and green area for sport.

**Orthodox church  
"Presentation of Most  
holy Theotokos"**



**Park Bachinovo**



**City Center**



## ETHNOGRAPHIC COMPLEX "VAROSHA"



## "The cross" eco trail



# BULGARIAN CUISINE

Bulgarian cooking traditions are diverse because of geographical factors such as climatic conditions suitable for a variety of vegetables, herbs, and fruit. Aside from the vast variety of local Bulgarian dishes, Bulgarian cuisine shares a number of dishes with Persian, Turkish, and Greek cuisine.

Bulgarian food often incorporates salads as appetizers and is also noted for the prominence of dairy products, wines, and other alcoholic drinks such as rakia. The cuisine also features a variety of soups, such as the cold soup tarator, and pastries, such as the filo dough-based banitsa, pita, and the various types of börek.

**BANITSA** This piece of greasy pastry deliciousness can be purchased in bakeries all over the country. Its standard variety includes a filling of feta-like white cheese (сирене, sirene), though varieties filled with onions, cabbage, spinach, mushrooms or pumpkin can also be found.



**SHOPSKA SALAD** This classic Bulgarian salad contains chopped onions, peppers, tomatoes and cucumber, topped with parsley and grated Bulgarian white cheese. Deceptively simple and utterly delicious.



# BULGARIAN CUISINE



## **Lactobacillus bulgaricus**

When visiting Bulgaria, for sure you will hear a lot about their yogurt (in Bulgarian “kiselo mlyako”) with special bacterium, appearing only in Bulgaria. All Bulgarians are proud on their dairy product and eat it daily



MUSAKA this dish is enjoyed in many variations throughout the Balkan region. The Bulgarian version involves potatoes, eggs and minced pork meat and is a known favourite of Bulgarian men, among whom it is a popular joke that they cannot marry a woman who is unable to cook the perfect musaka. The whole dish is traditionally covered with thick Bulgarian yoghurt on top.