

## *USEFUL INFORMATION*

### **BULGARIA**

Bulgaria is part of the Balkan Peninsula in South Eastern Europe. The state of Bulgaria was first founded in 681 AD and has a long and varied history. Since January 2007 Bulgaria is a member of the European Union.



Here are some facts about Bulgaria:

- The oldest crafted gold in the history of mankind
- Of the 300 cultural and natural sites in the UNESCO List of World Heritage, nine are in Bulgaria.
- Bulgaria is the country of yoghurt – the food of the centenarians.
- The world's perfume and cosmetics industry could not do without the Bulgarian attar of roses – the Bulgarian oleaginous rose yields 80% of the world's production.
- Small Bulgaria is one of the world's largest wine producers together with France, Spain, Italy and Greece.

Bulgaria is a beautiful mountainous country, with tourism opportunities being one of its biggest assets. Bulgaria possesses beautiful landscapes and beaches. The Black Sea Coast on its East border is famous for its fine sanded beaches, and perfect temperatures of water and air.

### **SOFIA**

Situated among vast parkland, Sofia, the capital and largest city of Bulgaria, lies at the foot of the Vitoshka mountain – a popular ski destination. With a history that stretches over seven millennia, ruin-rich Sofia is one of Europe's oldest cities. The National Historical Museum is one of Eastern Europe's most extensive and the Boyana church nearby, is a UNESCO monument.

Traversed by a modern metro, the city of Sofia is an intriguing mix of wide and graceful Parisian-style boulevards and Communist-era architecture.



Enjoy a stroll down Sofia's chic pedestrianized Vitosha Street full of charming boutiques, tempting cafes and cozy bistros. Don't miss the stunning gold-domed Alexander Nevski cathedral and the unique collection of early Roman mosaics in the crypt of St. Sofia church.

## **GETTING TO SOFIA**

### **By plane**

Sofia Airport is the main international airport of Bulgaria located 10 km from the centre of the capital city Sofia. It has 2 terminals. Terminal 2 (the new one) is located to the east of Terminal 1 and is significantly bigger than the old one which continues to serve low-cost and charter airlines. From 16 January 2017 onwards Terminal 2 currently serves Ryanair flights as well.

There is a white shuttle bus running every 30 minutes between the two terminals and it is free. There are a few kilometers between the two terminals and they are not in a walking distance.

Public bus line 84 travels to both terminals. Allow 30 to 40 minutes to reach the city center depending on traffic.

### **By car**

If you travel by road, please visit your favourite route planner for detailed directions from your place of origin.

GPS coordinates of Park Hotel Moskva: GPS: N 42.6741459 E 23.3484383

### **By Bus/Train**

Park Hotel Moskva could be reached also by using an international bus or train to the Central Bus and Railway Station.

## **GETTING TO THE HOTEL**

### **From the airport**

Park Hotel Moskva is located 12 kilometers away from Sofia International Airport.

The hotel can be reached easily by using the subway („Joliot-Curie“ subway station). The Metro Red Line travels from/to Terminal 2. The trains run every day between 5:30 and 24:00 and take around 30 minutes to the city center and 20 minutes to Park Hotel Moskva. Make sure you check the terminal that you are arriving at or departing from carefully.

The metro operates with separate tickets that are not valid for the other modes of public transportation. Tickets are only sold at the metro stations at cash-only ticket machines or at a manned ticket booth (again cash-only). The cost of this transportation is 1,60 Lev. The tickets are only valid up to 30 min after purchase.

A taxi from the Sofia Airport could be ordered as well. There are only one company, that is allowed to service the airport /"OK Supertrans/.

We recommend that you do not use taxi services offered outside the office of the taxi operator or in front of the terminal to avoid overcharge.

### **From the bus/train station**

If arriving by bus or train, the hotel can be reached either by taxi (OK Supertrans or Yellow Taxi) or by subway (a change of lines will be needed at Serdica Station).

### **Organized transfers**

Participants can order individual transfers from Sofia airport (bus/railway station) to the hotel or v.v. to CME Ltd. The price per person for one direction is 22 Euro. On arrival at Sofia Airport, a member of the organizing team with a sign with conference name will welcome delegates. The organizing team will take care of all transfer arrangements from the airport (bus/railway station) to the hotel. On arrival and during the first day of the event, delegates will be asked to confirm their departure times. Transportation will be organized from the hotel to the airport (bus/railway station) for those delegates who have booked and paid the transfer individually.

**Transfers' booking can be done on-line during registration process.**

### **PASSPORTS & VISAS**

Bulgaria has the European Union's Common Visa Policy as a member country accepting European citizens freely. All non-EU citizens are required to have a passport to enter the EU with the appropriate visas. You can find out more about visas at <http://mfa.bg/en/pages/109/index.html>. If you need an invitation letter, please send a mail to [mira@cmebg.com](mailto:mira@cmebg.com).

### **MONEY**

The national currency is the Bulgarian Lev. Bank notes of the following denominations are in circulation: 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 Levs. 1 Euro = 1,95583 BGN. There are numerous foreign exchange offices and ATMs around the city centre. It's always prudent to carry a little foreign cash, however, in case you can't find an ATM or bank office nearby. You can always change cash at the hotel, though the commission will be high. Make sure you have enough of the national currency when you plan to visit local markets and shops.

### **TIPPING**

When a gratuity is not included in your bill, which is usually the case, 10% is customary. If service is outstanding, you could go as high as 15%. With taxi drivers, you usually just round up the sum if you have been happy with the ride or for the sake of convenience.

### **CLIMATE**

The climate in Bulgaria is moderate continental with beautiful blooming spring, dry and hot summer, long and pleasant autumn, and mild winter with lots of opportunity for skiing. The weather at the beginning of June is warm and sunny, although afternoon showers may be expected. Daily temperatures usually range from 25 to 30°C.

### **TIME**

Summer time: GMT + 3 hrs. (April through October)

## **ELECTRICITY**

220 Volts, 50 Hz

Bulgaria uses CEE 7/4 (German "Schuko") power plugs and sockets.

