

Travel, Accommodations, and General Information

for the participants

on

13th INTERNATIONAL METHAN-GAS HYDRATE RESERARCH & DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

to be held at

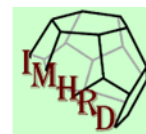
Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy (NVNA)

7 April – 9 April 2027



NVNA Scientific Department Team
E-mail: scientificdepartment@nvna.eu

Workshop Secretariats:
Angela Carter (acarter@calypsocom.com)
Alessandra Garcia (Alessandra.garcia@tamucc.edu)

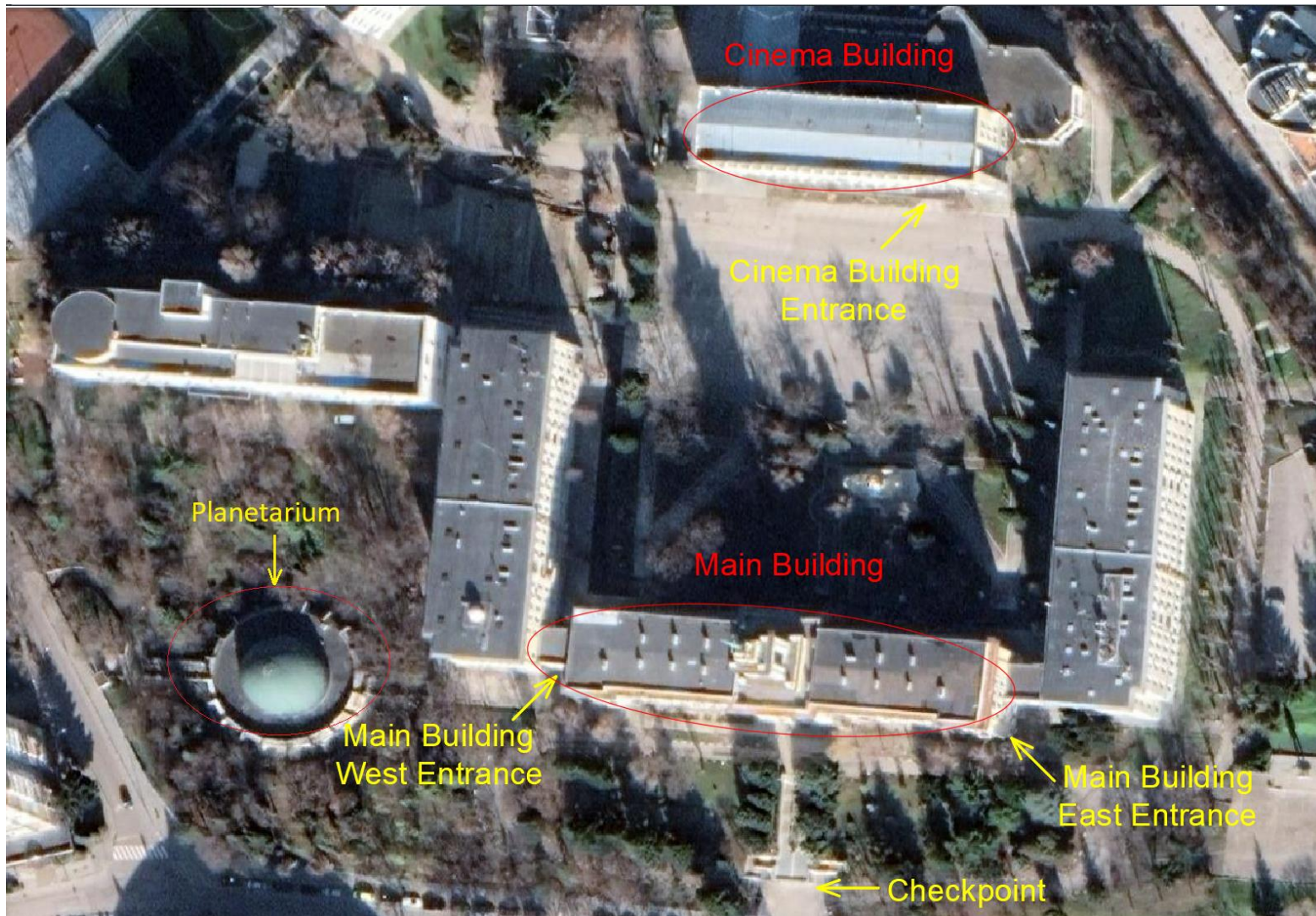


1. Welcome

Dear Member of the MGHR&D Community,

By invitation of Bulgaria, the 13th International Methan-Gas Hydrate R&D Workshop will be held in Varna, Bulgaria from 7 April to 9 April 2027. It will be hosted at the Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy (73 Vasil Drumev str., Varna)
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/CAUBHuyKM2BNEMzx6>







This **GENERAL INFORMATION PACKAGE (GIP)** will give you the necessary information required to plan your participation, travel and accommodation.

Please refer to the following content to have a first orientation:

1. Welcome
2. Addresses and Contact Information
3. Lectures Agenda
4. Meeting Logistics and Useful Information
5. Arrival in Bulgaria
6. Accommodation
7. Varna History and Tourist Information
8. Attachments:
Attachment 1 – Meeting and Hotels location

Varna is the third-largest city in Bulgaria and the largest city and seaside resort on the Bulgarian Black Sea Coast. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Varna,_Bulgaria)

The city of Varna in Bulgaria

Varna is the third largest city in Bulgaria and the largest on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast. Because of its rich history and dynamic present, it is often called the "Sea Capital of Bulgaria". The city's geographical location, rich natural resources and ancient history determine its image of one of the most famous and beautiful resort centers in Europe and the largest in the Black Sea region. Today Varna is an attractive tourist, cultural and educational center. As the eastern gate of the European Union, the city is an important transport and logistics center, linking Europe and Asia, a bridge for cooperation and development of trade, transport and cultural relations.

Varna is an attractive four-season destination, and tourism is one of the main industries in the structure of the economy. Varna Airport operates flights to 110 destinations provided by more than 60 airlines. Each year the number of tourists, served at the airport, exceeds 2 million. The unique natural resources - 32 km of the coastline, golden beaches, lush forests, more than 20 mineral springs, combined with rich cultural and historical heritage and traditions, provide great opportunities for recreation and entertainment, for the development of cultural, nautical tourism and holidays, wellness, balneology, medical and spa tourism.

The cultural calendar of the city is extremely rich - Varna hosts many international festivals, including the International Music Festival "Varna Summer", the International Ballet Competition, the International Theatre Festival, the International Film Festival "Love is Folly" and others. The oldest processed gold in the world, found in the Varna Chalcolithic necropolis (eneolithic) necropolis - V-IV millennium BC, consisting of 294 graves was discovered here. The golden artefacts, made of 23.5 carat gold are over 3000 and their total weight is more than 6 kg. The Treasure can be seen in the Archaeological Museum. The guests of the city should not miss Aladzha Monastery - the most famous medieval rock monastery on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast, inhabited by hermit monks in the 13th - 14th centuries; Roman baths - archaeological remains of the former public baths of the ancient city of Odessos, the natural phenomenon "Stone forest" and many others.

We hope that you will enjoy your stay in Varna, Bulgaria, and we look forward to seeing you there!





2. Addresses and Contact Information

Meeting Site

Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy
73 Vasil Drumev str.
Varna 9002, Bulgaria

Local Coordinators:

Eng. Stella Velinova

Assistant rector
Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy
73 Vasil Drumev str.
Varna, Bulgaria
Tel: +359 87 777 1975
Email: st.velinova@nvna.eu

Ina Doncheva

Scientific Department
Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy
73 Vasil Drumev str.
Varna, Bulgaria
Tel: +359 897 012 178
Email: i.doncheva@nvna.eu

Dr. Atanas Vasilev, PhD

Tel: +359 898 566 411
Email: gasberg@mail.bg

Workshop Secretariats:

Angela Carter (acarter@calypsocom.com)
Alessandra Garcia (Alessandra.garcia@tamucc.edu)

3. Meeting Logistics and Useful Information

Registration

Prior enrolment for the Conference is mandatory. This can be done at: <https://imghrdc-13.nvna.eu/>

VISITOR BUILDING ACCESS

An identification badge will be issued to each person who has previously enrolled on the IMGHRD Workshop Website. The badges will be distributed during the registration. You are requested to wear your meeting badge at all times whilst in the meeting areas. For security reasons please remove your badge when leaving the meeting location.



Important Note (NB!):

- If you have **not enrolled** on the IMHARD Workshop Website and/or have not received a final confirmation for your booking, you will **not be granted access** to the meeting location.
- **Bring a valid ID/passport with you!**
- **You can check there whether you need a Visa on the following official link:**
<https://www.mfa.bg/en/services-travel/consular-services/travel-bulgaria/visa-bulgaria>

Smoking

Smoking is strongly prohibited and not permitted in any of the meeting rooms in the building.

Dress Code

Normal business attire is the requested dress code.

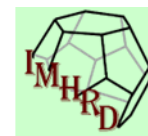
Refreshments

Free coffee/tea and light snacks will be served during the morning and afternoon coffee breaks.

Lunch/Dinner – Restaurants

There are a variety of dining options located at or nearby Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy:

- **Dining canteen of the Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy**
Located at 1st floor of the North (Cinema) building in the internal yard of the academy (right entrance)
Working time: Monday-Friday 11AM-14PM
<https://goo.gl/maps/5KVwTdR4S3Nhke8b7>
- **Ethno Restaurant “Starata kashta” („Старата къща”)**
ul. "Vasil Drumev" 97, 9000 Varna Center, Varna (distance 300 m - about 3-5 min walking time)
Working time: Monday-Sunday 11AM-01AM
<https://goo.gl/maps/vmApnJ9M9aEde6a6>
- **Dolce Amaro Garden restaurant**
zh.k. Chaika, 9010 g.k. Chayka, Varna (distance 400 m - about 5 min walking time)
Working time: Monday-Sunday 08AM-12AM
<https://goo.gl/maps/DSSnCE94dzvhS3mn8>
- **The Lobby Bar&Dea garden restaurant of Rosslyn Dimyat Hotel Varna**
bul. "Knyaz Boris I" 111, 9002 Varna Center, Varna
Level G and Level R, daily working time: 07AM–22PM
<https://goo.gl/maps/HGKiqiiDWtFnYccM7>
- **CASA FELICE - pizza & restaurant**
zh.k. Chaika, 9010 g.k. Chayka, Varna (distance 800 m - about 10 min walking time)
Working time: Monday-Sunday 08AM-12AM
<https://goo.gl/maps/uc9zrWUUwFXPDD2r7>
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ATMs and Currency

Bulgaria is a country part of the EU and the Euro zone. Euro is the official currency of Bulgaria.

ATM machines are readily available. Please check with your preferred bank to see which branches would be best to use during your visit.

Adapters

The voltage in Bulgaria is the EU standard of 220 volts/ 50 hertz. Please make sure you have the proper continental dual round pin adapters for your appliance needs.

Public Transport Directions

There is no transportation to and from the meeting site and the hotel is within walking distance (maximum 10-15 minutes from Naval Academy)

The most detailed information about buses, lines, stations and routes in Varna is available at: <https://www.varnatraffic.com/en-En>. You can download the application #VarnaTraffic for Android or if you prefer you may also use #Movit app with location area set to Varna, Bulgaria.

How & where to buy tickets?

You can purchase tickets from a bus ticket machine located on the bus stops as well as in all public transport vehicles. You can also purchase tickets online with #TicketVarna mobile app.

Information about ticket fares is available on http://tasrud-varna.com/?page_id=189

At the BUS station or in the bus		Online Via TicketVarna mobile app	
<i>Tickets</i>	<i>Fare</i>	<i>Tickets</i>	<i>Fare</i>
60 minutes	1,00 €	60 minutes	0,51 €
90 minutes	1,30 €	90 minutes	0.77 €
Day ride	2,00 €	Day ride	2.05 €

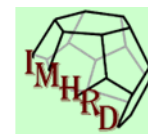
Tickets - tickets purchased at the bus stop or in the bus are valid from the moment of purchase. Ticket must be validated entering the bus as well as when transfer between buses. Tickets purchased in the bus must be validated when transfer between buses only.

Prepaid bus travel cards - you can purchase a [prepaid bus travel card](#). When you top up your card with 10 BGN you earn 1 BGN extra. Bus travel card must be validated entering the bus. At the moment of validation, you choose between 60 or 90 minutes ride.

Most important tourist lines from the public transport in Varna:			

Bus line № 409 connects the airport with the shopping centers, bus station, city center/cathedral, dolphinarium and the nearby summer resorts "St. Constantine and Helena", "Chayka" and "Golden sands" (summer season only). A bus ride from the airport to the central part of Varna takes about 20 minutes and to the resort "Golden Sands" - about 50 minutes.

Bus line № 9 connects the central railway station with the city center/Cathedral - Dolphinarium and the resorts "St. Constantine and Helena" and "Golden sands".



Bus line № 31A connects the central railway station with the city center/Cathedral - and the resort "St. Constantine and Helena".

Trolleybus № 82 (direction „Vladislav Varnenchik” park-museum) connects the central railway station with the city center/post office and the „Vladislav Varnenchik” park-museum.

In Varna there are two public transport service providers. The call center staff are available to answer all your questions at:

Gradski Transport EAD - +359 (0) 700 10933; e-mail: gtvarna@abv.bg web: www.gtvarna.com

Chensfild - +359 87 830 0680; e-mail: chensfild@gmail.com; web: www.chensfild.bg

Taxi Service in Varna

- **The largest taxi company in Varna is Triumf taxi. The reputation of the company is built on the correctness of the services.**

The tariffs per kilometer are:

- daily (06AM-22PM) = 0.50 EUR/km with initial fee of 1.50 EUR

- nightly (22PM-06AM) = 0.50 EUR/km with initial fee of 1.50 EUR

Telephone for orders: +359 52 644444; +359 879 644444; +359 882644444

<https://triumftaxi.com/en/tariffs>

- **Omega taxi – The second taxi company with a good reputation on correctness of the services.**

The tariffs per kilometer are:

- daily (06AM-22PM) = 0.50 EUR/km with initial fee of 1.50 EUR

- nightly (22PM-06AM) = 0.50 EUR/km with initial fee of 1.50 EUR

Telephone for orders: +359 52 388888; +359 878 388888; +359 888 388888; +359 898 388888

<http://omegataxivarna.com/>

- **Hippo taxi – The third taxi company with a good reputation on correctness of the services. They have also FB based service communication.**

The tariffs per kilometer are:

- daily (06AM-22PM) = 0.50 EUR/km with initial fee of 1.50 EUR

- nightly (22PM-06AM) = 0.50 EUR/km with initial fee of 1.50 EUR

Telephone for orders: +359 52 344444; +359 876 344444; +359 883 344444; +359 899 344444

<https://hippotaxi.bg/>

4. Arrival in Bulgaria

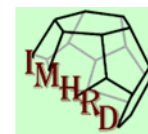
Arriving at Varna Airport

Varna Airport (VAR) offers international flights to and from the Bulgarian Sea capital - Varna. Almost 70 different airlines fly to Varna and the airport provides convenient direct links to 16 cities [all year round](#) and more than 120 cities [seasonal](#). Every year more than 2 million passengers pass through this airport.

Varna Airport is situated just 7 kilometres from the city center. Directly from the terminal you can rent a car or order a taxi to your final destination in or around the city.

By public transport:

Bus **409** connects Varna International Airport with the Central Bus Station (15 min.), city center - Cathedral (20 min.), Sts. Contantine and Helena Resort (30 min.), Chayka (35 min.) and Golden Sands Resort (50 min.). You



should not have to wait longer than 15 minutes for a bus, which departs from the Bus Stop ("[Letishte](#)") in front of Terminal 2 Arrivals.

A ticket can be purchased from a ticket machine located on the bus stops as well as in all public transport vehicles.

By taxi:

A 24-hour taxi service is available at Varna Airport. You may find the yellow taxi cabs of Triumf Taxi in front of Terminal 2.

You can book your transfer from Varna Airport online at www.triumftaxi.com or call:

+359 52 644444; +359 882 644 444.

The Taxi company representatives await in front of Terminal 2. You may also find them inside the terminal behind the counter of the taxi service provider. You will be accommodated with the most suitable car for you and your luggage which will take you safely and comfortably to your preferred destination.

Contacts: <https://varna-airport.bg/en>

Flight Information: +359 52 573 323

Arriving at Sofia

The best way to get from Sofia Airport (SOF) to Varna is by air (recommended) or rental car.

Sofia (SOF) to Varna (VAR) flights:

The flight time between Sofia (SOF) and Varna (VAR) is around 50 min and covers a distance of around 365 km. Services are operated by Bulgaria Air. Typically 14 flights run weekly, although weekend and holiday schedules can vary so check in advance.

There is no direct bus from Sofia Airport (SOF) to Varna. However, there are services departing from Sofia Airport Departure Terminal 1 and arriving at Varna via Stara Zagora. The journey, including transfers, takes approximately 12h 20min.

Contacts: <https://www.sofia-airport.bg/en>

Flight Information +359 2 937 2211,
+359 2 937 2212 , +359 2 937 2213

Visas

A valid ID card or passport is required to enter the Republic of Bulgaria.

For more information please refer to the web page of Ministry of foreign affairs of Bulgaria:

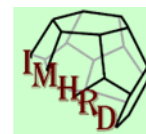
<https://www.mfa.bg/en/services-travel/consular-services/travel-bulgaria/visa-bulgaria>

5. Accommodations

Hotels:

Please note that hotel reservations are the sole responsibility of attendees. Neither our Bulgarian hosts nor NATO STO/CSO will be responsible for your hotel reservation.

1. Chernomore Hotel (4 stars) – www.chernomorebg.com
2. Rosslyn Dumyat Hotel (4 stars) - www.dimyat.rosslyn-hotels.com
3. Golden Tulip Hotel (4 stars) - www.goldentulipvarna.com



4. Amiral Hotel Varna (4 stars) - www.myAmiralHotel.com

5. Reverence (3 stars) - <https://reverence.bg/>

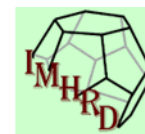
6. Duchess (2 stars) - <https://myduchesshotel.com/en/index.html>

7. Modus (2 stars) - <https://www.modushotel.com/en/>

You could use following sites to book hotels: www.booking.com, www.hotels.com

However, for any questions you have on your booking, please do not contact the Collaboration Support Office, but get in touch directly with the hotel:

Early booking is recommended due to the easiest forum organization.



Cherno More Hotel

Accommodation:

ROOM TYPE		DESCRIPTION
Preferential rate per room, per day (overnight, breakfast, tourist tax, insurance, VAT 9%)		
CLASSIC		
Single	Double	
46,00 EUR	51,00 EUR	Double room CLASSIC - maximum occupancy 2 pax <i>2 single beds /separated or adjacent/, A/C, mini bar, TV, WI-FI, bathroom with shower, hair dryer, balcony with panoramic view to the sea and the city</i>
DELUXE		
Single	Double	
70,00 EUR	75,00 EUR	Double room DELUXE - maximum occupancy 3 pax <i>2 single beds /separated or adjacent/, sitting area, A/C, mini bar, TV, WI-FI, bathroom with bath tube, hair dryer, balcony with panoramic view to the sea and the city</i> * The Double rate is for double use. Third person in Deluxe room is charged 30 BGN per night additionally.

* Preferential price per room, per night, including VAT, breakfast, tourist tax, insurance.

* Preferential price per room, per night, including VAT, breakfast, tourist tax, insurance.

Prices are applicable for direct bookings sent to below e-mails and prices may vary due to season:

Bookings and cancellation:

– The HOTELKEEPER shall accept booking and cancellation requests in writing by the following e-mails:

mice@chernomorebg.com, reservations@chernomorebg.com

Contacts 24/7: reception@chernomorebg.com; 0882 907 308

- The request for booking should compulsorily contain the following details: name of the guest, period of stay, type of room, type of the basic hotel service.
- Reservation requests shall be accepted upon availability.
- The HOTELKEEPER shall confirm/ reject the booking made by the CLIENT in writing, by e-mail within 24 hours of its receipt.
- The hotel requires an advance payment equal to the amount of the 1st overnight to guarantee the reservation. It shall be indicated if deposit payment will be via bank transfer or via credit card so we could send the information accordingly (bank account or authorization form).
- If the reservation is cancelled up to 3 days prior to arrival, the advance payment will be refunded. In case of a NOSHOW or late CANCELLATION (outside the cancellation window) the payment will be hold back as a penalty. Please bear in mind that the offer does not guarantee an availability of rooms.

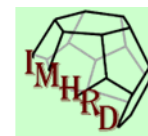
Address: 33 Slivnitsa Blvd., Varna, Bulgaria

Web site: <https://www.chernomorebg.com>

Email: mice@chernomorebg.com, reservations@chernomorebg.com

Phone: +359 882 90 73 08

Distance to meeting site: 1.6 km (21 min by foot; 6 min by taxi; 13 min by bus 14/109/409 from bus stop Sevastopol to bus stop Akatsiite).



Rosslyn Dimyat Hotel Varna



Rates	Single Use	Double Use
Classic room	80 EUR	90 EUR
Deluxe room with sea view	100 EUR	109 EUR
Executive room with sea view and high floor	110 EUR	120 EUR
Junior suite	110 EUR	120 EUR

By Direct/individual reservations on <http://www.dimyat.rosslyn-hotels.com/> and prices may vary due to season.

The above rates are net, per room per night, inclusive of: ☐ Rich buffet breakfast at our Sea Garden Restaurant 7:00-10:30 h; ☐ Use of wi-fi internet in the rooms and lobby area; ☐ Complimentary use of indoor swimming pool at the Maya Vita Center; ☐ Complimentary use of fitness; ☐ Complimentary use of the Thermal zone (sauna, steam bath, relax room, Kneipp bench); ☐ Complimentary use of in-room safe; ☐ Complimentary coffee and tea making facilities; ☐ City tax and 9% VAT;

Parking: The Hotel may provide a parking place in the underground garage. The price of the parking lot is 8,- EUR per night per car. The parking lot timing is considered from the moment of check-in until 12:00 h noon time on the check-out day. The parking places are subject upon availability and a reservation of the parking lot is necessary.

Cancellation policy for rooms: ☐ For cancellations, submitted to the Hotel until 12:00h two days prior to check-in, no cancellation fee applies. After this deadline, a cancellation fee amounting to the first room night applies; ☐ In case of No-show the amount of the first night will be charged as a No-show fee.

Payment terms & conditions: The hotel shall be entitled to the below payment guidelines: ☐ Your reservation is non-guaranteed. In order to guarantee it, please transfer the amount of the first night via bank transfer or provide us with credit card details in a filled and signed authorization form; ☐ Non fulfillment of payment when due will result in cancellation;

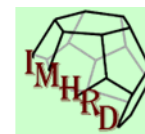
Address: 111 Kniaz Boris I Blvd, 9002 Varna, Bulgaria

Web site: <http://www.dimyat.rosslyn-hotels.com>

Email: reservations.dimyat@rosslyn-hotels.com

Phone: +359 52 910 800

Distance to meeting site: 0.55 km (6 min by foot; 2 min by taxi)



Golden Tulip Hotel



GOLDEN TULIP VARNA is a classic 4 star hotel, part of Louvrè Hotel Group, located in center of Varna, Bulgaria, on walking distance from the main square and the pedestrian zone with all buildings of culture, shops, bars and restaurants. Golden Tulip Varna Hotel has 85 rooms – with twin or double king size bed, classic restaurant, a-la-carte Bar & Dinner Restaurant, Lobby Bar and Conference center with 4 rooms. An Early Christian Tomb (dated back to the 5th century A.D), remain of Odessos Necropolis is preserved and presented in the Lobby zone of the Hotel.

Hotel accommodation Price for Direct Reservations in EUR: price inclusive – accommodation, breakfast, Wi-Fi, all taxes and fees.

Single Standard	Double Standard	Single Executive	Double Executive	Corner Suite
75,00€	85,00 €	82,00 €	92,00 €	107,00 €

*10% discount is applicable for fully prepaid in 3 days term after reservation confirmation, no further modification.

Terms for Price application, Reservations, Guarantee, Cancellations:

- Prices are applicable for direct bookings sent to below e-mail and prices may vary due to season:

e-mail: reservation@goldentulipvarna.com cc info@goldentulipvarna.com;

- Reservation shall be confirmed upon request and hotel availability for the requested date/s;
- Non-Guaranteed reservations, confirmed by the Hotel are valid for 3 days. To guarantee reservation after this term Hotel requires Credit Card details for authorization of the 1-st night price. Authorization Form shall be enclosed to Hotel Reservation Confirmation document.
- Cancellation policy – free cancellation in term of min 72 hours prior check-in date - 6 pm local time. For cancellations after this term and/or No-Show Guest, penalty for 1 night price and for each room as per reservation shall be charged.

No cancellation and modification for prepaid reservations at discounted price.

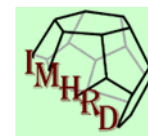
Address: Golden Tulip Varna Hotel, 3A Hristo Botev Blvd., 9000 Varna, Bulgaria

Web site: www.goldentulipvarna.com

Email: info@goldentulipvarna.com

Phone: +359 52 683 000

Distance to meeting site: 2.5 km (33 min by foot; 7 min by taxi; 15 min by bus № 9,17,39,109 from bus station MAKEDONSKI DOM (МАКЕДОНСКИ ДОМ /за КК/ / to bus station AKATSIITE (АКАЦИИТЕ).



Amiral Hotel



Hotel amenities: First class accommodation in Standard/Superior rooms with: Smart LCD TV, Ambient lighting, Floor heating in the Bathrooms, Luxury hotel cosmetics, French windows and Balcony, Minibar, Orthopedic mattresses, Free LAN and Wi-Fi Internet, Fitness, Printing/copying, conference and other business services, Laundry and dry cleaning services, Airport transfer and transportation services, Free parking (limited availability).

Room types:	Rate with breakfast	Rate without breakfast
Standard Double room (single use with Breakfast)	43 EUR	40 EUR
Standard Double room (double use with Breakfast)	49 EUR	45 EUR
Superior Double room (single use with Breakfast)	46 EUR	43 EUR
Superior Double room (double use with Breakfast)	51 EUR	47 EUR

*Accommodation prices include: First class Breakfast Buffet (for BB rate), LAN and Wi-Fi Internet, complimentary Coffee, Tea and Mineral water in the room, Fitness, Parking (limited availability), City tax, 9% VAT, Insurance.

Reservation conditions, payment and cancelation policies:

- [Reservations are accepted via phone / e-mail and prices may vary due to season](#)
- Preferably, hotel reservations must be made at least one month before the accommodation date, the hotel does not commit with a fixed room allotment and all reservations are based on current availability upon reservation.
- Reservation cancelation is free up to 48 hrs before accommodation.
- In case of Last minute cancelation (>48hrs) / No show guest will be charged the cost of the first room night.
- No advance prepayment is necessary, reservations are confirmed with a valid phone number, CC details may be requested from the hotel for additional confirmation.

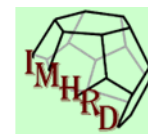
Address: Knyaz Boris I Blvd, Bus stop Dolphinarium 5, 190 Chayka, 9005 Varna, Bulgaria

Web site: www.myAmiralHotel.com

Email: info@myAmiralHotel.com

Phone: +359 52 389 789; +359 888 111 001;

Distance to meeting site: 1.2 km (14 min by foot; 5 min by taxi; 11 min by bus № 9/14/17/409 from bus stop Dolphinarium 2 to bus stop Akatsiite 2).



6. Varna History and Tourist Information

City of Varna

Varna

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 a population of about 330 000 people. Because of its history and its economic and cultural significance, it is often called the Sea Capital of Bulgaria.

History of Varna

The town was established as a trading colony in 570 B.C. under the name of Odessos (town on water) by Greek sea-faring colonizers from the town of Milet in Asia Minor at the site of an earlier Thracian settlement.

In 15 year A.D. province of Moesia was annexed in the Roman Empire and Odessos was finally overcome.

2nd and 3rd century– the town's best year. The Romans fortified the city, built a water-supply system, many temples and public buildings – the Thermal Baths, nowadays a museum.

After the disintegration of the Roman Empire in 395 A.D., the town became an important port of the Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantium) and was converted to Christianity.

The town was destroyed several times: by the Huns (in the 5th A.D.), by the Avars and Slavs (in 6th A.D.).

The Slavs gave the present name of the town – Varna. It was first mentioned when Khan Asparuh founded the First Bulgarian Kingdom in 681.

During the 13th and 14th century Varna had turned into a thriving commercial port city frequented by Genoese and later also by Venetian and Ragusan merchant ships.

In 1393 Varna was captured from the Ottoman troops.

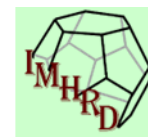
10 November 1444 - Battle of Varna – a crusade for the liberation of the Christians on the Balkan Peninsula led by Vladislaus III Jagello and his Hungarian general Janos Hunyadi (20 000 crusaders) were defeated by the strong army of Sultan Murad II (60 000 soldiers).

The Russians temporarily took over the city in 1773 and again in 1828, returning it to the Ottomans in 1830.

1866 – the first railroad in Bulgarian lands connected Varna with the port of Rousse on the Danube, linking the Ottoman capital Istanbul with Central Europe.

The town was finally liberated on 27 July 1878 after the Russo-Turkish war of 1877-1878 and it grew rapidly.

October 1972 – near Varna the Chalcolithic (Eneolithic) Necropolis was found – 5th – 4th millennium B.C. with 294 graves. The gold objects alone are more than 3 000 and weight in total well over 6 kg., 23,5 carats – considered to be the oldest gold treasure in the world or hundreds of years older than anything comparable elsewhere.



Climate

Varna has humid subtropical climate with mediterranean influences in summer but specially continental influences in autumn-winter. The specific Black sea climate is milder than the inland parts of the country and the sea influence lowers the effect of the occasional cold air masses from north-east. Average precipitation is the lowest for the country and sunshine is abundant. The summer begins in early May and lasts till early October. Temperatures in summer usually vary 27–30 °C (81–86 °F) during the day and between 17–18 °C (63–64 °F) at the night. Seawater temperature during the summer months is usually at the range 24–27 °C (75–81 °F). In winter temperatures are about 6–7 °C (43–45 °F) during the day and 0 °C (32 °F) at night. Snow is possible in the coldest months, but can quickly melt. The highest temperature ever recorded was 41.4 °C (106.5 °F) in July 1927 and the lowest –24.3 °C (–11.7 °F) in February 1929.

Food tradition in Varna and the area

Bulgaria has long been known across the Balkans for its delicious cuisine. But why does Bulgarian food taste so amazing? Hint: unique recipes passed down from generation to generation for hundreds of years. Varna is a popular seaside resort so you can expect fresh seafood and fish delicacies all year round – as well as modern options and traditional classics.

Varna can be certainly proud of the widest choice of culinary institutions, restaurants and cafes present in the city. Simply every gourmet will easily find here a place to eat that will suit his/her taste perfectly.

Almost every restaurant offers both traditional and international cuisine. We recommend the restaurants situated along the coast and the sea garden and those located at Port Varna so that you can enjoy the magnificent view of the Black sea and the vibrant city of Varna. **Tourist Information:**

<https://www.atlantaga.gov/visitors> <https://discoveratlanta.com/>

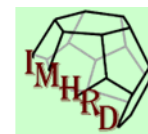
City sights

The Seaside Garden is [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](#). There is a long alley of the Bulgarian revival with busts of the most honourable figures of the era. Perfect place for a pleasant walk, bicycle ride or outdoor sports. It contains also zoo and terrarium. The park is the favourite place for recreation and fun of the citizens of Varna. Apart from the long alleys for promenades, the sea coast with the beach and numerous restaurants, bars and clubs, one could also enjoy a swimming pool complex and a children's playing ground with mini-entertainment park and a small pond with boats. Just before the main alley of the garden is situated the so called "bridge of wishes"- a small bridge which is believed to fulfil wishes if you cross it walking backwards and with your eyes closed.

The city center of Varna was rebuilt in late 19th and the earlier half of the 20th century by the nascent Bulgarian middle class in Western style, with local interpretations of Neo-Renaissance, Neo-Baroque, Neoclassicism, Art Nouveau and Art Deco. Varna's central area is full of beautiful architecture along pedestrianized streets.

Port of Varna is the largest seaport complex in Bulgaria. It can handle all types of cargo, including containers, general cargo, dry and liquid bulks. The port provides services to passenger and cruise ships, scientific vessels and pleasure boats. It is a host port of major international marine events.

In 2016 a new **"Recreational and Entertainment Zone at the Port of Varna"** with area of 2.7 ha was set apart. In partnership between the Municipality of Varna and the Port of Varna this area has been socialised and has been turned into an attractive pedestrian alley with free access for all the residents and visitors of the city.



Significant cultural and sport events such as the Day of Varna, the international "Tall Ships" Regatta, "FUNCITY+", etc. have been organised there. Thus the first impression for the tourists coming to Varna by the sea is of an attractive zone with benches, flowers, palm trees and cosy cafes.

There is a car park in the area which facilitates the cruise operators and the visitors. Guests and citizens of Varna could also reach the Recreational and Entertainment Zone at the Port of Varna by bus lines 20, 17A, 39 to bus stop "Baseyna".

Museums

Varna Archaeological Museum has constantly carried out archaeological investigations and excavations on various sites all over Northeast Bulgaria. They now compose the Museum exhibition, more than 100 000 objects – monuments of past epochs from Varna, the Region and Northeast Bulgaria. The most important of them (one tenth of the whole Museum collection) are represented in the Museum exhibition halls. The Museum's arguably most celebrated exhibit is the Gold of Varna, the oldest gold treasure in the world, excavated in 1972 and dating to 4600-4200 BCE, which occupies three separate exhibition halls. Opening hours 10AM to 5PM. Entrance fee 10 Leva (5€)

The museum also manages two open-air archaeological sites, the large **Roman baths** in the city centre and the medieval grotto of **Aladzha Monastery** at Golden Sands Nature Park.

Naval Museum - one of the symbols of Varna. Situated in the southern part of the Sea garden. Beautiful museum building was constructed in 1890. The most valuable exhibit is the destroyer "Drazki" placed there in 1957. This is the only ship of its type to be preserved until today.

Museum of Ethnography - The exposition of the Ethnographic Museum - Varna is situated in a revival house of so-called "symmetrical type houses" built in 1860. The museum shows the rich diversity in culture and lifestyle of the population of Varna end of the second half of the XIX and early XX century

Varna Aquarium - The aquarium's exhibition focuses on the Black Sea's flora and fauna which includes over 140 fish species, but also features freshwater fish, Mediterranean fish, exotic species from faraway areas of the World Ocean, mussels and algae.

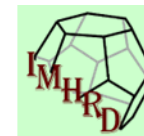
Notable old Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox churches include the metropolitan Assumption of Mary Cathedral; the early 17th-century Theotokos Panagia; the St. Athanasius (former Greek metropolitan cathedral); the seamen's church of St. Nicholas the Miracle Worker; the Archangel Michael's chapel; and the St. Constantine and Helena church of the 16th century suburban monastery of the same name.

Aladzha Monastery is the most famous medieval cave monastery along the Bulgarian Black Sea coast. It was inhabited by hermit monks during the XIII- XIV centuries.

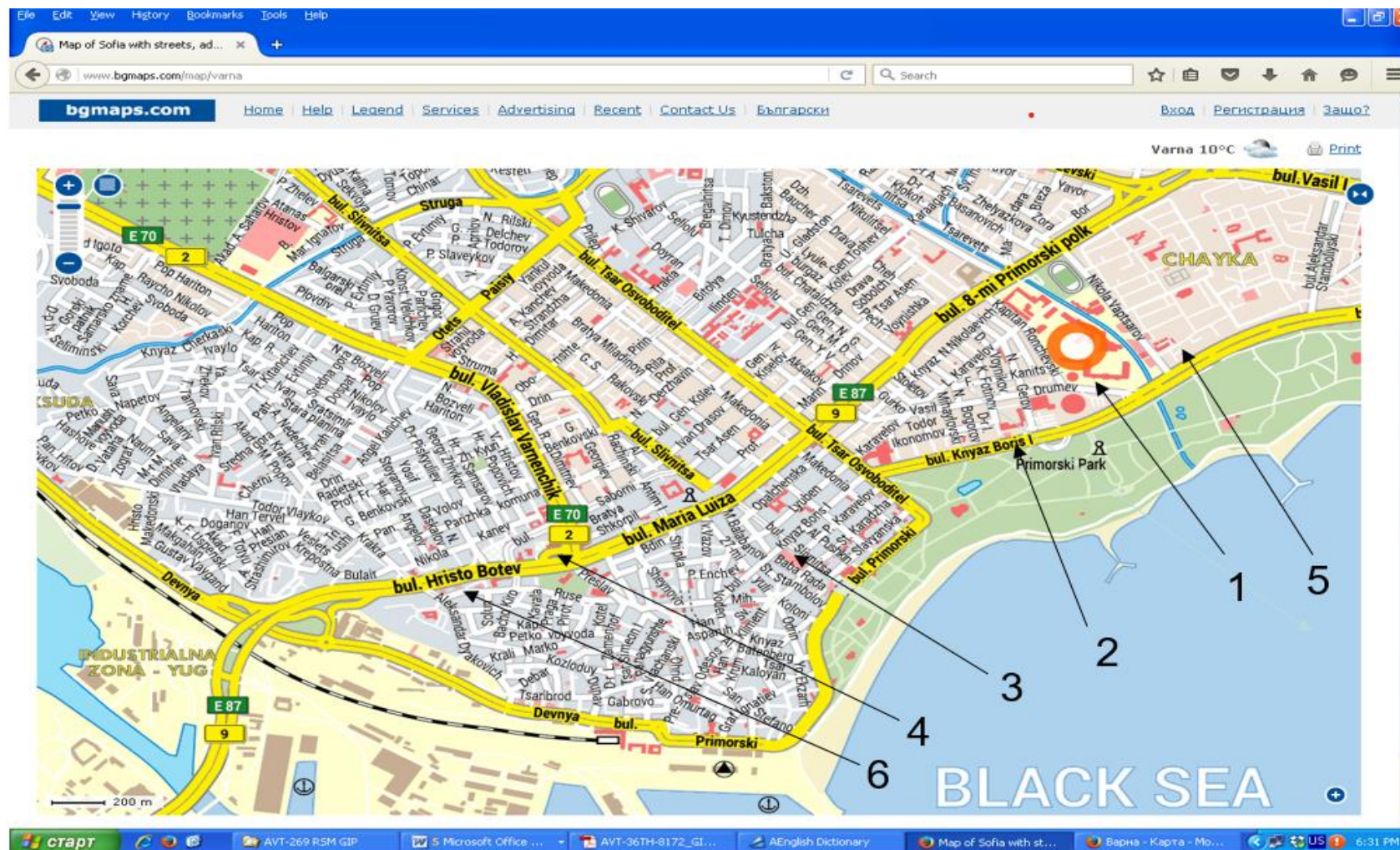
The monastery caves are hewn on two levels into an almost 40m high limestone rock. The first level consists of a monastery church, monastic cells, a dining premise and a kitchen, a small cemetery church, a crypt (bone-vault) and farm premises. The second level is a natural cave recess in the eastern end of which there is a monastery chapel.

For more information, please visit
https://visit.varna.bg/en/free_walking_tours_of_varna_in_english.html

Tourist information can also be found on <https://visit.varna.bg/en/index.html>



ATTACHMENT 1 – Meeting and Hotels location



1. "N.Vaptsarov" Naval Academy – 73, Vasil Drumev Str.
2. "Roslin Dimvat" Hotel Varna – 111, Knyaz Boris I Blvd.
3. "Cherno More" Hotel – 33, Slivnitsa Blvd

4. The Orthodox Cathedral, Central Bus Station from/to Airport
5. "Amiral" Varna Hotel, 111, 190 "Chayka" suburb,
6. "Golden Tulip" Varna Hotel, 3A Hristo Botev Blvd.