

Varna

Overview

The beautiful city of Varna is located on the Black Sea Coast, in North-Eastern Bulgaria. Along with being Bulgaria's third largest city and primary seaside resort, Varna also boasts stunning historical architecture and a whole host of activities and annual events to keep visitors of all ages entertained.

Between the months of May and September tourists and locals flock to the seaside to relax on the gorgeous sandy beaches and take a dip in the crystal waters, while the cities parks provide shade from the searing summer sun. Shopaholics are spoilt for choice with a number of shopping options to suit all tastes and budgets. Famous high street brands can be found in central Varna, particularly around Market Square and in shopping centres such as Mall Varna. For a more traditional shopping experience head to the Central Market, where Varna's shaded streets are filled with vendors selling local produce and handicrafts.

Varna boasts a number of dining options, from small and quaint local cafes to high end restaurants. Visitors wishing to sample some local cuisine should try speciality dishes such as Sarma (beef rolled in cabbage leaves), and the traditional Bulgarian vegetable and meat stew known as Gyuvetch. Varna's close proximity to the sea gives it an excellent selection of fresh seafood which are used in both international and local dishes. For some fast-food options several major chains are located on the high-street, alternatively small cafes provide an easy place to grab a sandwich and a drink for those in a hurry. Visitors will find that eating and drinking in Varna is great value for money.

The city has a moderate climate all year round, with warm and sunny summer days, where the temperature averages around the late twenties. Winters are relatively mild, and warmer than in central Bulgaria, although snowfall can occasionally occur in December and January. The wettest months are June, October and December, although it can rain all year round - so pack an umbrella just in case!

Varna is fast becoming a popular tourist destination with international visitors, so it's no surprise that it has all the required facilities to make vacations more enjoyable and convenient. A number of 24 hour ATM's are located around the streets of Varna, while Bureau de Change booths can be found in a number of high-street banks and inside of the airport terminal. Rental cars can be hired from branded booths in the airport, or visitors can arrange to collect their chosen model from a downtown location. A Tourist Information Centre is able to give free maps and advice, while hotel concierges can order taxis and book restaurant reservations for visitors. The currency used is the Bulgarian Lev (BGL).