



PRE-ARRIVAL INFORMATION

Visa Information

Delegates from some countries may require a visa to enter Bulgaria. Please check that you meet all visa requirements to enter Bulgaria and remember to apply for your visa.

Check here if you need a visa to enter Bulgaria <https://visaguide.world/europe/bulgaria-visa/>

Should you need a **Letter of Invitation** for visa purposes please email Mackrell HQ

mackrell.hq@mackrell.net

The Hotel

InterContinental Sofia

Address: 4 Narodno Sabranie Sq., 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

Phone: (+359) 2 933 4334

Web: <https://sofia.intercontinental.com/en>

The agreed prices with the hotel incl. discount: **EUR 159/179** (depending on view) per night for a single room and **EUR 189/209** (depending on view) per night for a double room, incl. tax and breakfast.

Book your accommodation by using the hotel online link on the Registration Form/Programme.
Rates are valid for bookings made no later than 23rd August if rooms are available.

Transport from Sofia Airport to InterContinental Sofia

Taxis:

Taxis are located right in front of the exit of the Arrivals at Sofia Airport. Licensed taxis are called Yellow. The fare from the airport to the city centre of Sofia is normally around € 10. Payment by card is possible in the Yellow taxis. Travellers are advised to avoid unlicensed taxis.

Metro:

Most travellers will be arriving in Sofia at Terminal 2 of Sofia Airport. Terminal 2 is connected to the city metro system. The metro trains operate from 5:30 in the morning to 23:30 in the evening. Single ride ticket price is 0.82 EUR. Payment by card is possible. The journey is 11 stops and exit the train at the Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski stop, which is 2 minutes away from the hotel.

Currency and Exchange

The currency in Bulgaria is Bulgarian Lev (BGN): 1 BGN = EUR 0.51.

Payment in cash is available **only** in BGN. Cash payment in EUR or other currencies is not accepted.

All major credit cards are accepted in most hotels, shops, taxis and restaurants.

There is an ATM at the airport and in front of the hotel, as well.

Climate

The temperature in Bulgaria in September is generally mild and pleasant. The average daily maximum is 25 C and the average daily minimum is 16 C. It is a good idea to bring along a jumper or light jacket for the evenings. Rains are possible, but generally not expected in September.

Check the weather forecast before you pack at <https://www.yr.no/en/forecast/daily-table/2-727011/Bulgaria/Sofia-Capital/Sofia/Sofia>

Dress Code

Friday Business Meeting: Casual

Friday Accompanying Persons: Casual and comfortable shoes for walking and raincoat, just in case.

Friday evening reception and dinner at InterContinental: Business Casual

Saturday Business Meeting: Casual

Saturday Accompanying Persons: Casual and comfortable shoes for walking and raincoat, just in case.

Saturday evening walking tour and dinner: Casual, comfortable shoes for walking and raincoat, just in case. The Saturday evening dinner is in a traditional restaurant in the mountain, so formal dressing (incl. ties) is not needed. We will not be going back to the hotel after the walking tour, but will be transferred directly to the restaurant with buses from the city centre, so comfortable clothes and shoes are priority.

Time Zone

The time zone is Eastern European Summertime EEST UTC +3h.

<https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/bulgaria/sofia>

Sales Tax

Bulgarian Sales tax of 20 % is included in all prices quoted in shops and restaurants.

Tipping and Service Charge

Tipping is generally expected in Bulgarian bars, cafes and restaurants and it is approx. 10-12 % of the bill. Of course, it is not mandatory. Tipping in shops, pharmacies, bookstores is not expected.

Electric Current

In Bulgaria the power plug sockets are of type F. The standard voltage is 230V and the frequency is 50 Hz <https://www.power-plugs-sockets.com/bulgaria/>

Essential Contacts:

Emergency, Police, Fire and Ambulance: 112

Places to Visit in and Around Sofia if you are coming early or staying longer

1/ Borisova Park - Sofia's biggest and best known park, it was named after Bulgarian Tsar Boris III and now home to the national stadium, as well as several statues, tennis clubs and children play areas. It is located about 8-10 minutes walking distance from the hotel.

2/ The Vrana Palace - The Vrana Royal Palace is located southeast of the city of Sofia, surrounded by a park largely renowned for its beauty. It was created personally by King Ferdinand I in the period 1899-1912. In the opinion of the landscape professionals and researchers, the park created in the first years of the twentieth century is exceptional for Bulgaria and is not inferior to the famous European landscape parks of the 18th and 19th centuries. Walking to it is not possible, but a taxi ride from the hotel will take no more than 15 minutes.

3/ Rila Monastery - founded in the 10th century by St John of Rila, a hermit canonized by the Orthodox Church. His ascetic dwelling and tomb became a holy site and were transformed into a monastic complex which played an important role in the spiritual and social life of medieval Bulgaria. It is 1.5 hours' drive from Sofia, so rent-a-car or pre-booked transfer is needed.

4/ City of Plovdiv - The city is home to the oldest continuously inhabited Old Town in Europe. Evidence of that can be seen in many architectural landmarks dating back to Thracian, Greek, Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman times. Plovdiv is known for its seven hills, which offer stunning views of the city and surrounding countryside. It is 1.5 hours' drive from Sofia, so rent-a-car or pre-booked transfer is needed.

For any questions and need of assistance on the above, please contact Mr. Simeon Hinkov from the host firm – STHS Law Firm, at s.hinkov@sths-law.com