

Bulgarian Facts, Hints, Tips

Welcome to Peculiar Bulgaria

Exchange bureaux. These are obliged to show daily exchange rates on boards which are both clearly visible and easily accessible. If a client wishes to reverse a deal, the cashier is obliged to pay back the full amount.

Tip: Before you enter an exchange bureau always make sure that there is a sign saying 'No commission' and count carefully the money you give to the cashier and again the money you receive. Once you have left the exchange bureau it is assumed that the deal is over and there is no turning back.

Taxis. Always choose a taxi displaying phone numbers and contact details on the side and make sure that the driver turns on his meter at the start of the journey. If traveling a longer distance agree the price in advance.

Tip: When negotiating the price of a long trip remember that taxi drivers will always try to overcharge you, so you would better check the reasonable price in advance and insist on it, you can always choose another taxi (there are numbers of English speaking Taxi drivers on page 17)

English Speaking Taxis in Varna

Valentin	0888 205751	Dido	0887 214340
Dimi	0885 906545	Georgi	0898 367144
Radi	0887 756625	Plamen	0888 805661
Miro	0888 775894	Rumen	0898 422957

in Albena & Balchik

Vlado 0887 810992

Public Transport. In general terms tickets are sold on board buses but conductors and drivers usually do not speak English, so it is very hard for them to help you with the exact location of the bus stop you are looking for and where to get off the bus so you can find a particular place.

Tip: It is not that the staff on board public transport will not be eager to help you but it will make your life easier if you check in advance how to get to where you want to. You can always ask the receptionist in your hotel or a local person to help.

Major Bus Lines for Varna

8 from downtown Varna to Euxinograd, St. St. Constantine and Helena
 # 9 and 109 from downtown Varna to Euxinograd, St. St. Constantine and Helena and Golden Sands
 # 51 from Varna, Central Railway Station to Euxinograd, St. St. Constantine and Helena
 # 409 from Varna Airport to Euxinograd, St. St. Constantine and Helena and Golden Sands

Speed Limits. These differ if you are in or out towns and are as follows: for motor bikes the in town speed limit is 50km/h, the out-of town limit is 80km/h and the high way limit is 100km/h; for cars-50km/h in town speed limit, 90km/h out-of town limit and 130km/h high way limit; for truck and buses-50km/h in town speed limit, 80km/h out-of town limit and 100km/h high way limit; for vehicles with trailers-50km/h in town speed limit, 70km/h out-of town limit and 100km/h high way limit.

Tip: Bulgarian drivers are generally not applying to those speed limits but you should be aware that the police authorities are very strict and can easily fine you for just one kilometer per hour speeding up over the accepted limits for the country.

Smoking. According to the latest changes in Bulgarian law, non-smoking sections should make up 50% of all seating in restaurants, pubs and cafes.

Tip: When entering a cafe or restaurant in Bulgaria first check which tables are for smokers and which are for non-smokers. Although will not be able to read the signs you can be sure that if there is an ash-tray at the table it is a smokers one.

Cinemas. Most cinemas show subtitled films with the original soundtrack, and the same applies to rented videocassettes or DVDs; films for children, however, are usually dubbed.

Tip: A cinema ticket costs between 6 and 10 lev; to rent a DVD or videocassette is about 3 lev. But you should be aware that most premier movies come to Bulgaria as late as 3 or 4 months after they have been shown in UK.

Shopping. Large supermarket chains offer a wide range of local and imported products. In smaller shops you will find very high levels of service and friendliness but it is quite likely that the assistants will not speak much English, although they will probably understand you perfectly well.

Tip: Look carefully around the shop and point out to the assistant the exact location of what you need. It is always helpful to learn some basic names of foodstuffs and grocery products and to be aware of the Bulgarian measurements. Be very careful with clothing as Bulgarian clothing sizes are pretty different:

Women's Clothing Sizes:

BG	44	46	48	50	52
GB	10	12	14	16	18
EU	38	40	42	44	46
USA	8	10	12	14	16

Men's suit Sizes:

BG	48	50	52	54	56
GB	34	36	38	40	42
EU	44	46	48	51	54
USA	34	36	38	40	42