

Frequently Asked Questions

neighbor or a Bulgarian acquaintance to help you out as the process is a bit complicated.

The most common medicines can be brought from the nearest pharmacy, if the pill is highly addictive or strong, you might need a prescription for it, and this would need to be issued by a Bulgarian doctor.

What is the minimum age for children to begin school? Are there nurseries for younger children?

In Bulgaria, children begin school at the age of 6 or 7 years and can go to the nursery from 1 year old, as long as they can walk properly and eat common food. Nurseries and kinder gardens have a monthly fee, but state schools are free of charge. Parents have to sign their children up for nursery, kinder garden or school a year or so in advance and to be prepared to pay for all the necessary notebooks, textbooks and other related materials.

Will I be able to get UK TV channels in Bulgaria?

There are three different ways of getting UK TV channels in Bulgaria. You can have Cable TV, which gives you a small choice of about 5 to 10 English channels, depending on the provider. Alternatively, you can have Digital Satellite Television with over 350 TV channels, about 20 to 30 of which are English channels. The best way, is to buy a receiver and a card for the Sky package from the UK. You can then have it installed when you come to Bulgaria, you will then be able to watch all the

UK TV channels you are used to, except BBC 1 and BBC 2 (you will have to pay the bill for this via the UK).

Shop opening hours/days of the week

Most food and clothing shops in Bulgaria are open from 09.00

Do the police carry guns?

Yes, policemen in Bulgaria generally do carry guns. It is very common to see street patrols, guards on important government buildings and traffic police carrying guns in fact this is not something that local people find strange,

ity of the presentation and the good taste of Bulgarian food. Some of the traditional meals may sound like a strange mix of different products but it always tastes great. You just have to be aware that a lot of cheese and yellow cheese is used in most of the dishes.

Is there any basic etiquette (business/social) I would find useful to know?

In Bulgaria there is not any particular business or social etiquette different from the worldwide accepted ones. There are only some peculiarities in the everyday communication such as that it is accepted impolite to turn your back to the other people when you are sitting on the same table having a meal or talking. It is also nice to shake people's hands firmly and look them in the eyes when greeting or toasting.

What the legal age is for: Drinking, Gambling, Smoking, And Driving?

In Bulgaria teenagers become adults at the age of 18. That is the legal age for drinking, gambling and driving. Young people receive their passports at the age of 16 but still are not considered of full legal age before they become 18. At the same age, driver's licenses are issued, and it becomes legal for young people to go to the disco and have alcohol or gamble. According to Bulgarian law, there is no regulation concerning legal age for smoking but again the age of 18 is accepted as appropriate.

Important Telephone Numbers:

/ Dialing from Varna /

Ambulance	150
Police	166
Traffic Police	502550
Road Side Assistance.....	146; 504040
Fire Brigade.....	160; 504171
Lifeguard Centre	692481; 603268
Water Troubles	510203
Central Heating Troubles.....	500661
Electricity	613439
Phone Repairs.....	130
Telephone Information	144
International Dialing Code for Bulgaria.	00359
Dialing Code for Varna.....	052
Dialing Code for Sofia.....	02

a.m. to 18.00 or 19.00 p.m. Some larger hypermarkets may be opened till 22.00 p.m. but not later. Shops in big cities are usually opened during the whole week but it is very common for shops in small villages to have Sunday as a day off. The same applies when it comes to working on national holidays, shops in small villages normally do not work while the ones in the cities do.

on the contrary, it is the accepted norm.

What is the food like?

There is nothing peculiar about Bulgarian food. It is usually neither, spicy or hot, and is generally of high standard as it is made of fresh and locally grown and reared, organic products. Foreign nationals usually enjoy the qual-