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2020 Varna Meeting Information

Welcome to the Summer 2020 WG21 meeting to be held on
June 1-6, 2020 at the **International Hotel Casino & Tower
Suites, Golden Sands, Varna, Bulgaria**



**Front Beach Alley, Golden Sands Resort,
Varna 9007, Bulgaria**

General Information

Registration

The venue offers discounted rates (breakfast included) with the promo code “WG21” from May 27 until June 10. The registration will open on September 1, 2019. A limited number of rooms are available on site so register early!

There are plenty of hotels in walking distance, and this is the low season when costs are reasonable. We may be able to provide additional discounted room blocks in other hotels in a future update.

Currency

Bulgaria is not yet part of the eurozone and many places work only with the local Bulgarian currency lev /leva. The conversion rate to the EUR is fixed and 1 EUR is roughly 2 leva. While in many places you can pay with a credit card, it is very handy to have some amount of local currency. Banks and ATMs can be found at the airport. [Read more](#).

Visa

Since 1 January 2007 the Republic of Bulgaria has been applying the European Union’s Common Visa Policy, subject to the terms of the Accession Treaty. In case a visa is required please contact us if you need any assistance. [Read more](#).

Transport

Getting to Varna

The closest airport is Varna International Airport (VAR), which is well-connected to the city center and Golden Sands. Most participants will not need to rent a car. Varna and Golden Sands are compact with a good public transportation system. Also, there are plenty of restaurants within walking distance of the venue.

Varna Airport (VAR): There are direct flights between Varna and many airports such as Vienna, Moscow, Brussels, London, and Istanbul. [Read more](#).

Traveling via Sofia (SOF): It may be convenient to fly first to Sofia and then take the 50 minute flight to Varna. This would be the logical choice if you plan to attend **Total Chaos** in Sofia Friday and Saturday, May 29 and 30. See below for more information.

SOF Terminal 2 is metro-serviced and transportation from Terminal 1 to Terminal 2 is free of charge. Taxis are affordable and, if you prefer to use one, there is a taxi queue of

OK Taxi  around the corner to the right as you walk out of the airport. Avoid

accepting taxi ride offers as they are usually 5-10 times more expensive. Additionally, pay attention to the exact name of the taxi company. Taxis are cash only.

Getting to the Venue

Shuttles: Most hotels have an airport shuttle service — please contact your hotel to arrange a shuttle. The cost is around €30 for a single ride and less for groups.

Taxi:  Triumf Taxi can be found in front of Terminal 2 or at the taxi counter. We recommend using this service rather than a no-name taxi service. Taxi's generally take cash only. [Read more.](#)

Bus: Outside Terminal 2, the 409 bus goes to the center of Varna and the Golden Sands resort. Travel time to the city center (Varna Cathedral) is 20 minutes, and to Golden Sands — roughly 50 minutes. A ticket can be purchased in the bus and costs 1 lev (€0.5). The bus departs every 15 minutes.

Total Chaos

This year a number of ISOCPP members will speak at the TOTAL CHAOS Conference. It takes place on Friday, May 29 and Saturday, May 30 2020 in Sofia, just before the meeting in Varna.

TOTAL CHAOS is the biggest computer graphics conference in Central and Eastern Europe, organized by Chaos Group and provides a shared space for 3D artists and developers to connect and grow, as they explore topics such as AI, real-time ray tracing, Cloud computing and collaborative VR. Last year TOTAL CHAOS attracted more than 950 people from more than 50 countries around the world. [Read more.](#)

The technical track of the conference, called the CODE Track, is a forum for expressing ideas and sharing innovative approaches from the field of high-performance and latency-sensitive computing, extending across a variety of topics, from the latest R&D in off-line and real-time graphics, through computer languages and compiler technologies, to hardware architectures and evolving trends in the pursuit of high-performance computing.

In case you are traveling to Varna via Sofia and you are interested in participating, there will be special offers for WG21 members. Please contact teodora.serdeva@chaosgroup.com for more details.

Organization and Sponsorship

The organizing institutions are the BDS (Bulgarian Institute for Standardization), VMWare and ChaosGroup. While we have generous sponsorship from VMware and

Chaos Group, we are looking for additional sponsors to cover costs for our ever growing attendance. Potential sponsors should contact Vassil Vassilev at v.g.vassilev@gmail.com

Tourist Information

The warm early summer is one of the best seasons to visit the Varna region. People are friendly and most of them speak English. More information can be found at:

- <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/bulgaria/black-sea-coast/varna>
- <http://wikitravel.org/en/Varna>
- https://www.tripadvisor.com/Tourism-g616071-Varna_Province-Vacations.html
- <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/bulgaria>

Tours and Visits

There is plenty to do in Varna. Some suggestions are: [Museum of Archeology](#); [Aladzha Monastery](#); [Ethnographic Museum](#). Learn more at <https://visit.varna.bg>

Language

Spending a small amount of time to learn the phonetic reading of Cyrillic letters is useful even for non-speakers as many words are shared with other European languages. [Read more](#).

You'll also be getting a taste of Bulgarian history as the Early Cyrillic alphabet was developed during the 9th century AD at the Preslav Literary School in the First Bulgarian Empire. [Read more](#).

Before you depart, **install Google Translate** on your phone and download the Bulgarian language database. The camera-based instant translations are super helpful for restaurant menus and the like.

Explore Bulgaria on Your Own

Bulgaria is a beautiful country worth exploring. One of the top local destinations is the Black Sea. If you prefer mountains and lakes, Rila, Pirin, Rodhope and Stara Planina resorts are nearby. If you would like to learn about Europe's ancient history, visit places such as [Belogradchik Rocks](#), [Valley of Thracian Kings](#) and [Perperikon](#). [Read more](#).

If you are planning on organizing your summer vacation before or after the meeting, you can contact us for more information about local travel agencies.

Safety

According to [Eurostat](#) and [Numbeo](#), Bulgaria safety levels (and Varna in particular) are around the average for an EU member country.