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Reply to: Vassil Vassilev <v.g.vassilev@gmail.com>,

Mark Zeren <mzeren@vmware.com>,

Vassil Keremidchiev <Vassil.Keremidchiev@chaos.com>,

Stanimir Lukanov <slukanov@vmware.com>

2023 Varna Meeting Invitation and Information

Welcome to the Summer 2023 WG21 meeting to be held
June 12-17, 2023 at the **International Hotel Casino & Tower Suites,**
Golden Sands, Varna, Bulgaria.

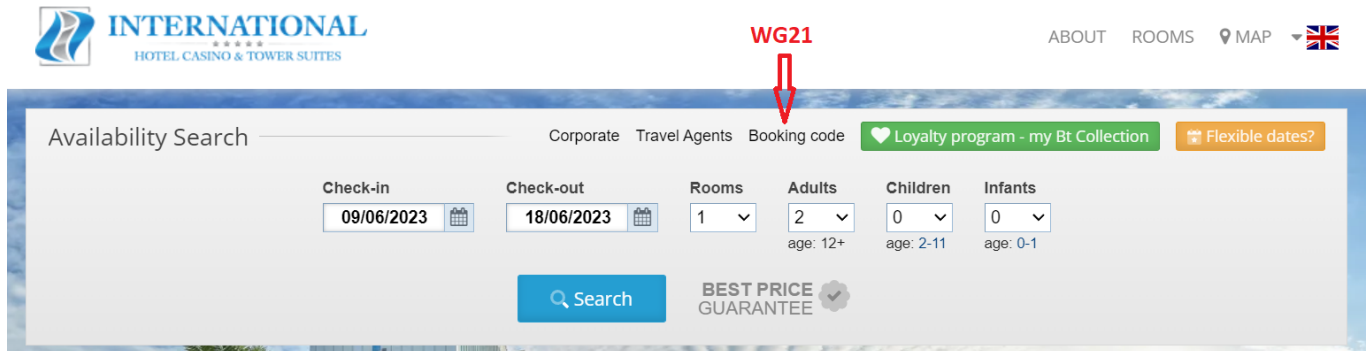


**Front Beach Alley, Golden Sands Resort,
Varna 9007, Bulgaria**

General Information

Registration

The [venue](#) offers discounted rates (breakfast included) with the promo code “WG21” from June 9 until June 20. [A limited number of rooms are available on site so register early!](#)



The screenshot shows the website header with the logo for 'INTERNATIONAL HOTEL CASINO & TOWER SUITES' and navigation links for 'ABOUT', 'ROOMS', 'MAP', and a flag icon. Below the header is the 'Availability Search' section. It includes fields for 'Check-in' (09/06/2023), 'Check-out' (18/06/2023), 'Rooms' (1), 'Adults' (2), 'Children' (0), and 'Infants' (0). A red arrow points to the 'Booking code' field, which contains the text 'WG21'. There is also a 'Search' button and a 'BEST PRICE GUARANTEE' badge.

There are plenty of hotels in walking distance, and this is the low season when costs are reasonable. Should the room block be all booked and you have issues finding lodging please contact Marina Elfimova at reservations@interhc.com or +359 892 605 310 We may be able to provide more discounted rooms elsewhere in a future update.

Currency

Bulgaria is not yet part of the eurozone and most places work only with the local Bulgarian currency lev/ leva / BGN. 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. In the hotel you can find a change desk that operates 24 hours, as well as an ATM. Banks and ATMs can also 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, 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 a logical choice if you plan to attend the meetup in Sofia on Friday June 9th. 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 at the airport are cash only.

Getting to the Venue

Shuttles: Most hotels in Varna have an airport shuttle service — please contact your hotel to arrange a shuttle. The cost is around €35 for a single ride and less for groups.

Taxi:  Triumph Taxi in Varna can be found in front of Terminal 2 or at the taxi counter. We suggest using this service rather than a no-name taxi service. Taxis are 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 on the bus for ~1 lev (€0.5). The bus departs every 15 minutes.

Meetup

Chaos and VMware are planning an event on Friday June 9 in Sofia preceding the WG21 meeting in Varna.

We would be happy to welcome WG21 members in Sofia for an onsite meeting with representatives of the C++ community, professionals and students in programming from Bulgaria. In case you are traveling to Varna via Sofia and you are interested in participating, please contact maya.traykova@chaos.com for more details.

Organization & Sponsorship

The organizing institutions are the BDS (Bulgarian Institute for Standardization), VMWare and Chaos. While we have generous sponsorship from VMware and Chaos, we are looking for additional sponsors to cover costs for our ever growing attendance.

Tourist Information

The warm early summer is one of the best seasons to visit Varna. 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. Suggestions: [Museum of Archeology](#); [Aladzha Monastery](#); [Ethnographic Museum](#). *Learn more at <https://visit.varna.bg>*. The hotel can organize group tours to the mentioned locations with a guide. Please contact marketing@wintravelbg.com if you are interested.

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 the Google Translate app** on your mobile 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, Rhodope and Stara Planina mountain 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's safety levels (and Varna in particular) are around the average for an EU member country.