

# **Bulgaria**

/Training and research/



Bulgaria is a country, the history of which dates further back in time. The lands we occupy now, used to be the lands of the ancient Thracians, the Slavic and the Proto-Bulgarians. The country was created in the year of 681 with its first capital Pliska. Despite the difficulties the country and the nation has been through, during their time of existence,

Bulgaria has managed to preserve its cultural appearance as well as its national identity.

## **Geography:**

Bulgaria is situated at a very important crossroad between three continents. The nature here has an extreme variety of biological species. We have the Balkans here, which has given the name of the whole peninsula we are situated in. Then, there are the magnificent mountains Rila and Pirin, whose lakes reflect the sky in them, and are therefore called “the blue eyes of Bulgaria”. The Rodopi mountain, also called ‘the frozen stormy sea’, because of its shape, still keeps memories of the magical music of Orpheus. The rose is the symbol of Bulgaria, because it is here where the special oil rose grows. The Bulgarian natural phenomenon are the rocks at Belogradchik, which was even suggested for one of the new seven wonders of the world.



## **Culture:**

The Bulgarian national identity forms our image as a nation. The oldest university in Bulgaria – the Sofia University provides education for students in many different courses and aspects. Our sportspeople set world records, and the Bulgarian traditional music is currently broadcasted in space! (Valq Balkanska ). Many different

stage acts entertain the audience in the theatres and operas.

## **Our Region**

Varna is situated in the South-East of Bulgaria – a region, strongly related to the Black Sea and the rivers, which merge with it. Due to the magnificence of the seaside, tourism is very well developed here, with its different aspects:

- Summer Tourism
- Health Tourism
- Historical Tourism
- Religious Tourism
- Eco Tourism



**The Summer tourism:** The summer on the seaside is wonderful. Having felt the velvet golden sand under their feet and the playful waves in the sea, the tourists always come back for more! The most famous resorts in the Varna

Gulf are Golden Sands, Saint Constantine and Elena, Riviera and Kamchia.

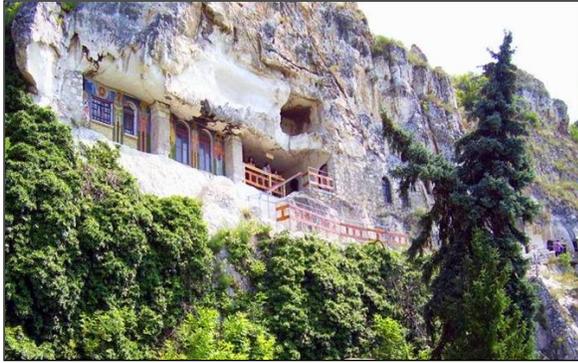


**Health tourism:** The good weather, healing mud and warm mineral streams attract the visitors, that would like to be healed, in both their body and mind, by nature, rather than by pills and chemicals.

**Historical Tourism:** There are legends, telling stories of magnificent castles and fortresses, holding memories of moans of captured knights, skillful Roman craftsmen have captured the images of mythical creatures into mosaic pictures, magnificent queens, glazing at the sea across their rose gardens, waiting for their loved one to return. Following the steps of history, many tourists find themselves amazed with what is waiting for them here.



**Religious Tourism:** Real and Mythical are so closely intertwined together, that they manage to create a while new unique fairy-tale world, which many people



are thrilled to find out about.

The tourists are mesmerized by the wonderful story about the icon of St. Saint Constantine and Elena, that saved a monk from the raging sea and a broken ship.

The mythical rock monastery – Aladzha Monastery can load up with holy and clean energy, anyone who dares to

climb the steep staircase leading to it.

***Eco Tourism:*** Bulgaria takes care of its nature. There are many natural resorts in the area of Varna as well as protected parks and places. There, the existence and survival of many species, endangered by extinction, is supported. The thrill-seeking curious tourist is mesmerized by the stone forests and cliff formations, that look like the towers of a magnificent castle.



## **Varna**



I am now describing my home city, looking through the eyes of a traveller. I believe that Varna is the most magnificent place on Earth. My birthplace is the sea capital of Bulgaria. Varna is a city, full of life and thrill, and it is no wonder that it is attracting a huge number of tourists from all over the World.

When I was little, my parents wanted to get me familiar with my birth place.

They took me to the Dolphinarium, the big ships at the sea port, the Marine School, where those ships have their crew taught well and prepared for duty, the ancient Roman ruins – everything used to get me mesmerized. I would keep asking more and more questions.

Varna is a beautiful city and holds a lot of history and lovely architecture in itself. There are many festivals and events taking place here. Our city is a cultural and religious center. When I was little, my mother used to give me walks around the sea garden, which is a symbolic place for Varna with its breezy alleys. My mother also used to tell me that there is everything in Varna – past, present and future. My world –that is my home town, Varna.

## **Education**

Every school year in Bulgaria starts on September 15<sup>th</sup> and ends on May 24<sup>th</sup>. There is always a festive celebration of the creation of the Slavic alphabet and writing. The education here is divided into 5 stages.

There are **pre-school groups**, which children can apply for at age 6. There, they are provided with basic knowledge and skills, that will be used further in their education for build on. **Start Stage** /age 7 to 10, grades 1 to 4/ The Education of the kids is fulfilled in a whole-day teaching schedule. Until noon, they study grammar, mathematics, foreign languages and science and they take a long break after 12. The time of the afternoon is spend over pre-scheduled exercises and training on the different subjects the students are taking. **Intermediate stage**



/age 11 to 14, grade 5 to 8/ The knowledge and skills offered to the children at this stage are more scientifically based and let the students get deeper knowledge in a subject(s) they feel better and more interested in, than others. This is the age when those students go through the transformation from a child to an adolescence, so they are taught how to take responsibility, deal with it and improve their common knowledge from books, they choose themselves. Thanks to the institution of the school, the children at this stage have learned (and continue to learn) to socialize and have priorities arranged for them.

**Higher Education** /after 19 years of age/. This stage is not obligatory in Bulgaria. There are universities in Bulgaria, which offer education, directed at a specific professional area. There, the students, who have picked their course, can receive a lot of theoretical knowledge as well as some practical experience

on the profession they have picked. The higher education in Bulgaria is in two stages – Bachelor and Masters. There are many foreign students in Bulgaria, as well as many Bulgarian students in foreign universities.

### Our school

The process of education is aimed at children in pre-school , start and intermediate stages.



Each of the three stages, mentioned above has its own part of the school building as well as specialized equipment, to support the needs of the students from the particular stage. There are lecture rooms for biology, music, chemistry, physics and computer studies, as well as interactive lecture rooms. The education is scheduled throughout the whole day and the children have lunch

in a specialized cafeteria. After they have eaten, they can go have a break among the green areas of the school yard. There are many different sport games taking place in the school gym. In the concert room of the school, we put up student theatre and concerts! There is always a psychologist, medical team and a big group of loving and professional teachers, taking care of the children throughout their day at school. A priority in Bulgaria is the integration of disadvantaged people, which is why we have a specialized speech therapist's office on the school premises.

There are many interests clubs available for the students to join and share experience, hobbies and passions with their peers. Currently they can choose between entrepreneurship, sports, arts, cheerleaders' team, photography, theatre, computers, journalism, Bulgarian language and mathematics. Every year, we celebrate the "Letters Holiday", the day of the creation of the Cyrillic alphabet, organize trivia events



with questions from History, have a Christmas concert and celebrate many different events and occasions, related to education and science. This year, we are celebrating 40 years from the creation of our school.

Our school has a past and present of participation in many projects on a national and international level (Comenius, USPEH (Success), Erasmus). We have just started working on an Erasmus plus project and we created an interests club with the same name. In relation to the international language day, we got our students familiar with the countries that are taking place in the project.



We organized a number of events in preparation for our first visit in Germany.

We believe that through these projects, we can make the planet a better place, because the children, being the pure and beautiful creatures they are, can spread this to the rest of the people in this world and make the Earth as it exists in our fantasies and dreams.

