



ERSA Congress Sofia 2026

Practical Information Guide

DESTINATION: BULGARIA AND SOFIA

1. Bulgaria

Bulgaria is a country with more than 1,300 years of history, situated at the strategic crossroads between Eastern and Western Europe. In 2026, the country is experiencing an important milestone in its contemporary European integration, having joined the euro area on 1 January 2026 and completed its full accession to the Schengen Area on 1 January 2025.



Currency and Economy

Since 1 January 2026, the official currency of Bulgaria has been the euro (EUR), making the country the 21st member of the euro area. This facilitates travel and everyday transactions for international delegates, especially those arriving from euro-area countries, and makes prices easier to read and compare. The fixed conversion rate is EUR 1 = BGN 1.95583, while since 1 February 2026 the euro has remained the sole legal tender in the country.

Schengen Membership

Bulgaria is a full member of the Schengen Area. Following the lifting of internal air and sea border controls in March 2024, controls at internal land borders were also removed as of 1 January 2025. As a result, delegates travelling from Schengen member states benefit from smoother and more seamless cross-border movement when arriving in Bulgaria.

<https://visitbulgaria.com/>

Welcome to Sofia

Sofia is the capital and largest city of Bulgaria, located in the western part of the country at the foot of Vitosha Mountain. With a history of more than 7,000 years, Sofia is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in Europe. The city combines ancient heritage, vibrant cultural life, and a dynamic academic environment.

Today Sofia is an important political, economic and scientific centre in Southeastern Europe. The city hosts numerous universities, research institutions and





international organizations, which makes it a natural venue for academic gatherings such as the ERSA Congress.

The ERSA Congress will take place in the historic campus of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", located in the very heart of the city and surrounded by major cultural landmarks, parks and museums.

<https://www.visitsofia.bg/en/>

Congress Venue

Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

Address

15 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd
1504 Sofia
Bulgaria



<https://www.uni-sofia.bg/index.php/eng>

Founded in 1888, Sofia University is the oldest and most prestigious higher education institution in Bulgaria. The university is located in the historic centre of Sofia and is within walking distance of several key landmarks such as the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, the National Assembly, and the Borisova Garden park.

The congress sessions will be hosted in several buildings within the university campus. The Aula Magna of Sofia University will host the opening ceremony and the main plenary sessions.

Getting to Sofia

By Air

Sofia is served by Sofia International Airport (SOF), which is located approximately 10 kilometers from the city centre.

The airport offers direct connections to many major European cities including Vienna, Frankfurt, Munich, Istanbul, London, Paris and Rome.

Transport from the Airport

Metro

The Sofia Metro provides a direct connection between the airport and the city centre. Line M4 connects Sofia Airport with the central stations of Serdika and Sofia University. Travel time is approximately 20 minutes.



Taxi

Official taxis operate at the airport terminal. The journey to the city centre typically takes 20–30 minutes depending on traffic conditions.

<https://sofia-airport.eu/en/>

Public Transport in Sofia

Sofia has a well-developed public transport system.

Metro

The metro is the fastest way to move across the city and connects the airport with the central areas.

Tickets can be purchased from ticket machines, kiosks, or directly using contactless payment in most vehicles.

Here is the map of Sofia metro lines. The green (3), the Red (1) and the Yellow (4) lines are passing through the Congress venue location. The cost of a single ticket is 0.80 euro cents.

<https://www.metropolitan.bg/en/scheme/operating-metro>

Ground transportation

Further information is available at the Sofia Urban Mobility Centre website, where you can see online every public transport means. There is an option to install the Mobile Application on you mobile device.

<https://livetransport.eu/#/sofia>

Taxi

Smart and easy, just install these mobile applications. You can pay by cash or by card.

<https://taxime.to/>

<https://taxivolt.bg/en/>

Congress Locations

Registration Desk

The registration desk will be located in the central foyer of the university and will be open during the entire congress period 24-28.08.2026

Address

15 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd

1504 Sofia

Bulgaria



Plenary Sessions

The plenary lectures and the opening ceremony will take place in the Aula Magna of Sofia University.

Parallel Sessions

Parallel sessions will be hosted in several lecture halls within the university campus.

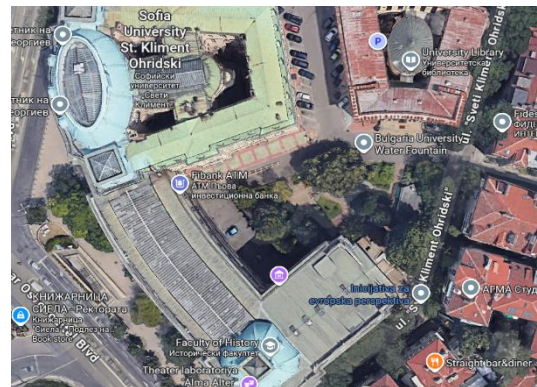
Social Events

The ERSA Congress in Sofia will include several social events designed to provide opportunities for networking and informal exchange among participants.

Welcome Reception

The welcome reception will take place on the first evening of the congress at a central cultural venue in Sofia. 25.08.2026 19.00 PM Sofia University inner park

Participants will have the opportunity to meet colleagues from around the world while enjoying Bulgarian cuisine and local wines.



Get Together party

Sofia University Botanical Garden /5-6 minutes' walk from the Congress venue/
26.08.2026 at 19.30 PM

<https://www.ubg-bg.com/en/>





Congress Gala Dinner

The official congress dinner will be organized at a venue representing Bulgarian culture and gastronomy.

The dinner will offer participants a unique opportunity to experience Bulgarian traditions, music and cuisine.

Hotel Marinela 5* <https://hotel-marinela.com/>

28.08.2026 19.00 PM

Logistics from the congress venue by Metro blue Line (2) for about 20 minutes.

Metro station James Bourchier.

<https://www.metropolitan.bg/en/scheme/operating-metro>

Technical and Cultural Excursions

Two technical excursions will be organized during the congress.

These excursions will provide participants with insights into regional development, urban transformation and economic geography in Bulgaria.

Excursions will depart from the Sofia University campus and will be conducted by bus.

Detailed information about the excursions will be available in the congress programme.

1. Technical excursion Sofia Airport – The new Flight Control Tower of Europe

24.08.2026 Starting 13.00 PM to 16.30 PM, upon request (Fee 35 Euro per person)

2. Technical excursion Trakia Economic Zone, Plovdiv

24.08.2026 Starting 9.30 AM to 16.30 PM, upon request (Fee 50 Euro per person)

3. Cultural excursion to Rila Monastery

29.08.2026 starting 9.30 AM to 16.30 PM, upon request (Fee 65 Euro per person)



Accommodation

A range of hotels is available in the central part of Sofia within walking distance of the congress venue.

Participants are encouraged to book their accommodation early.

All selected hotels are located in the central part of Sofia, ensuring safety and easy access to the event venue – Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". Prices and services at all establishments are in **Euro (EUR)**.

1. InterContinental Sofia (5★) – Prestige on the "Yellow Pavements"

- **About the Hotel:** As part of the world's leading luxury accommodation chain, InterContinental Sofia offers the highest standard of service in the country. The building combines a modern interior with classic elegance. The hotel features a 24-hour business center, high-speed internet, and a well-equipped fitness center.
- **Experience:** Delegates will be at the epicenter of Bulgarian history and culture. Most rooms offer a direct panorama of the St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral and the National Assembly. The hotel's restaurant is the perfect place for official lunches or quiet business conversations in a refined setting.
- **Logistics to Sofia University:**
 - **Route:** Upon leaving the hotel, simply cross National Assembly Square towards the Yellow Pavements. The University is the imposing building on the right.
 - **Time:** 4-5 minutes walk (approx. 250 meters).
 - <https://sofia.intercontinental.com/en>

2. Hyatt Regency Sofia (5★) – Modern Design and Wellness

- **About the Hotel:** Hyatt Regency Sofia is the newest five-star hotel in the center, focusing on innovative design and exceptional comfort. The hotel offers 183 contemporary rooms, smart management systems, and spacious conference halls. Guests have access to the *Ortus Spa*, which includes an indoor pool, hammam, and a variety of therapies.
- **Experience:** One of the greatest advantages is *The Scene Rooftop Bar* – a modern spot on the hotel's roof with a 360-degree view of Sofia, ideal for cocktails after the end of the working day.
- **Logistics to Sofia University:**
 - **Route:** The hotel is located at the "Vasil Levski" monument. Simply walk south along Vasil Levski Blvd.
 - **Time:** 5-6 minutes walk (approx. 400 meters).
 - <https://www.hyatt.com/hyatt-regency/bg-BG/sofrs-hyatt-regency-sofia>



3. Hotel Marinela Sofia (5★) – Architectural Scale and Japanese Garden

The Gala Dinner venue

- **About the Hotel:** Designed by the world-renowned Japanese architect Kisho Kurokawa, this hotel is an architectural phenomenon in Sofia. It is located in the elite "Lozenets" district. The hotel features the largest base of restaurants (including panoramic and sushi bars) and a huge fitness center with a 25-meter pool.
- **Experience:** The unique feature of the hotel is its authentic Japanese Garden, which offers peace and seclusion amidst nature in the heart of the city. Rooms on the higher floors reveal an incredible view of all Sofia and Vitosha Mountain.
- **Logistics to Sofia University:**
 - **Metro:** The fastest way. "James Bourchier" metro station is 200 meters from the hotel. Take **Line 2 (Blue)** for 3 stops to "Serdika" station. There, transfer to **Line 1 (Red)** or **Line 4 (Yellow)** for 1 stop to "Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski". Total time: 15-20 minutes.
 - **Taxi:** Approximately 10-12 minutes journey.
 - <https://hotel-marinela.com/>

4. Crystal Palace Boutique Hotel (4★) – Aristocratic Comfort

- **About the Hotel:** This boutique hotel is located in a renovated landmark building. It offers an intimate and discreet atmosphere, preferred by delegates seeking quiet. It features a wellness area, fitness, and an elegant lobby bar with a fireplace.
- **Experience:** The hotel is located in the "Doctor's Garden" area – the aristocratic heart of Sofia, surrounded by embassies, antique shops, and the city's best cafes.
- **Logistics to Sofia University:**
 - **Route:** The hotel is located on Shipka St. The rear entrance of the University is literally 50 meters from the hotel entrance.
 - **Time:** Less than 1 minute walk.
 - <https://www.crystalpalace-sofia.com/>

5. Central Park Hotel Sofia (4★) – In the Center of Urban Life

- **About the Hotel:** A classic business hotel with an excellent reputation, located next to the National Palace of Culture (NDK). The rooms are functional, quiet, and well-lit, with comfortable workspaces.
- **Experience:** Located at the beginning of the pedestrian zone of Vitosha Blvd. This is the ideal place for delegates who want to combine work with walks along the main shopping street, full of restaurants and shops.
- **Logistics to Sofia University:**
 - **Walk:** A pleasant walk through the center along Patriarch Evtimiy Blvd for about 20 minutes.
 - **Metro:** "NDK" station is right in front of the hotel. Take **Line 2 (Blue)** for 1 stop to "Serdika", transfer to **Line 1 or 4** for 1 stop to the University.
 - <https://centralparkhotel.bg/bg/luksozen-hotel-sofia-center/>



6. Roslyn Hotel Trakia (4★) – Hospitality and Quietude

- **About the Hotel:** Hotel Trakia is known for its personal touch toward guests and exceptional cleanliness. It is located on a quiet street in the central urban part. It offers a cozy restaurant with a summer garden in the inner courtyard – a true escape from city noise.
- **Experience:** Suitable for participants who value home comfort and a peaceful sleep but still want to be within walking distance of the main landmarks.
- **Logistics to Sofia University:**
 - **Route:** Pedestrian route via Solunska St and Graf Ignatiev St.
 - **Time:** Approximately 12-15 minutes at a steady pace.
 - <https://thracia.rosslyn-hotels.com/bg/luksozen-hotel-v-centara-na-sofia/>

7. Hotel Aurora Sofia (3★) – Functionality and New Facilities

- **About the Hotel:** A modern, new hotel with a clean design and a focus on practicality. All rooms are equipped with modern air conditioning, fast wireless internet, and amenities for business travelers.
- **Experience:** The hotel offers an excellent price-quality ratio in a prestigious central area (Dondukov Blvd). There are many small bakeries and shops nearby.
- **Logistics to Sofia University:**
 - **Walk:** Direct route along Vasil Levski Blvd.
 - **Time:** 10 minutes walk.
 - **Transport:** Trolleybus lines 1, 2, 3, and 4 stop next to the hotel and travel 2 stops to the University (5 minutes).
 - <https://aurora-sofia-hotel.eu/en/home>

Congress participants are eligible for a special discount using the promo code: **ERSA2026**

XOTEL	MARINELA 5*	HYATT 5*	INTERCONTINENTAL 5*	CRYSTAL PALACE 4*	CENTRAL PARK 4*	TRAKYA 4*	AURORA 3*
Single room	115,00 EUR	153,00 EUR	150,00 EUR	142,00 EUR	94,00 EUR	94,00 EUR	80,00 EUR
Double room	125,00 EUR	169,00 EUR	165,00 EUR	163,00 EUR	105,00 EUR	105,00 EUR	90,00 EUR

Practical Information

Currency

Euro (EUR)

Electricity

220V/50Hz/Type F plug

Emergency number

112

Contacts

ERSA - <https://ersa.org/>

ERSA Congress Sofia 2026 -

<https://ersa.eventsair.com/ersa2026>

Congress LOC – ersaloc2026@gmail.com

Further information will be available on the congress website.