

Varna Travel Guide

Varna: Bulgaria's Pearl on the Black Sea

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Things to do in Varna

Landmarks & Monuments

Iconic structures showcasing Varna's rich history and architectural heritage along the Black Sea coast.



Must See

Varna Cathedral (Alexander Nevsky Cathedral)

45 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

A majestic Orthodox cathedral built in honor of Alexander Nevsky, featuring **golden domes** and stunning Byzantine architecture. Completed in 1907, the cathedral dominates Varna's skyline and serves as one of Bulgaria's most important religious monuments with intricate interior mosaics and ornate iconography.



Top Pick

Dormition of the Mother of God Church

30 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

An **18th-century Orthodox church** with remarkable wood carvings, ornate chandeliers, and gilded decorations. The church features one of the finest iconostases in Bulgaria and houses important religious artifacts. Its intimate interior provides a peaceful contrast to the cathedral.



Top Pick

Monument to the Exiled

20 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

A poignant **monumental sculpture** commemorating Bulgarian exiles, located in the Sea Garden. The dramatic stone figures convey themes of displacement and longing, offering both artistic and historical significance while providing scenic viewpoints over the harbor.

Tips for Landmarks & Monuments

- Visit cathedrals early morning for peaceful atmosphere
- Photography is allowed in most churches; respect prayer times
- Dress modestly when entering religious sites
- Many monuments are illuminated beautifully at night



Museums & Galleries

World-class museums featuring archaeological treasures, art collections, and maritime heritage exhibits.



Must See

Varna Archaeological Museum

2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

One of Bulgaria's **largest and finest museums**, housing the **oldest gold treasure in the world** (dating to 4600 BCE) discovered in nearby Varna necropolis. Features extensive exhibits of ancient Thracian, Greek, and Roman artifacts, with over 100,000 pieces showcasing millennia of Black Sea civilization.



Must See

Naval Museum

1.5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Bulgaria's premier maritime museum located at the Sea Garden waterfront, featuring **naval vessels, submarines**, and maritime artifacts. Exhibits trace Bulgaria's naval history from Ottoman times through World Wars to the modern era, with interactive displays and ship tours available.



Top Pick

Varna Gallery of Fine Arts

1.5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Bulgaria's second-largest art gallery featuring **Bulgarian and European paintings, sculptures, and decorative arts**. The collection spans from medieval religious art to contemporary works, with permanent and rotating exhibitions in a beautifully renovated historic building.



Top Pick

Ethnographical Museum

1 hour No Booking Needed



Map

Preserves traditional **Bulgarian folk culture and crafts**, showcasing costumes, household items, agricultural tools, and textiles from the region. The museum illustrates daily life and customs of Black Sea communities through authentic artifacts and thematic displays.

Tips for Museums & Galleries

- Archaeological Museum should not be missed; consider booking a guided tour for expert insights
- Most museums have student discounts
- Naval Museum ship tours operate seasonally; confirm schedule
- Many exhibits have English translations and information panels



Religious Sites

Sacred spaces reflecting Orthodox Christian heritage and diverse spiritual traditions of the Black Sea region.



Top Pick

Holy Mother of God Church (Roman Catholic)

30 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

Varna's **Catholic cathedral** built in Neo-Gothic style, representing the city's religious diversity. Features beautiful stained glass windows, ornate altar, and peaceful interior courtyard, welcoming both worshippers and visitors seeking architectural appreciation.



Notable

St. Archangel Michael Church

25 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

A charming **Orthodox church** featuring traditional Bulgarian ecclesiastical architecture and iconography. The intimate setting provides authentic spiritual atmosphere and showcases local religious art traditions and craftsmanship in its decoration.

Tips for Religious Sites

- Remove shoes when entering Orthodox churches if requested
- Attend Sunday morning liturgy for traditional chanting experience
- Women may be offered scarves to cover shoulders; accept gracefully
- Photography inside churches may be restricted during services



Ancient & Historical Sites

Archaeological sites and historical locations revealing Varna's significance as an ancient port city.



Must See Book Ahead

Varna Necropolis (Ancient Cemetery)

1 hour Book Ahead



Map

The archaeological site where the **world's oldest gold treasure** was discovered in 1972, dating to 4600 BCE. Now a protected historical site, it demonstrates advanced ancient burial practices and provides insights into prehistoric Black Sea communities and their wealth and craftsmanship.



Must See

Odessos (Ancient Roman City Ruins)

1.5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Remains of the **ancient Greek and Roman city** of Odessos, predecessor to modern Varna. Excavated sections reveal temple foundations, city walls, and pottery workshops. The site illustrates the city's strategic importance as a major Mediterranean trade port spanning over two millennia.



Top Pick

Old Town (Medieval District)

2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Varna's historic **medieval quarter** featuring narrow cobblestone streets, restored 19th-century buildings, and hidden courtyards. The district preserves architectural heritage with traditional shops, cafes, and galleries, offering atmospheric exploration of the city's Ottoman and Bulgarian heritage.

Tips for Ancient & Historical Sites

- Visit archaeological sites with a knowledgeable guide for deeper understanding
- Many excavations are ongoing; check access before visiting
- Bring water and sun protection for outdoor archaeological sites
- Old Town is best explored on foot early morning or evening



Squares & Streets

Vibrant public squares and pedestrian areas forming the social heart of Varna.



Must See

Vasil Levski Square (Central Square)

1 hour No Booking Needed



Map

Varna's **main public square** surrounded by cafes, shops, and historic buildings. The lively plaza features street performers, seasonal markets, and monuments, serving as the focal point for local gatherings, celebrations, and cultural events throughout the year.



Must See

Constanza Casino Square

1 hour No Booking Needed



Map

An elegant **seaside plaza** anchored by the iconic renovated Constanza Casino, featuring belle époque architecture and waterfront views. The square hosts cultural events, concerts, and provides access to Varna's beach promenade with restaurants and entertainment venues.



Top Pick

Independence Square (Women's Bazaar Square)

45 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

A historic **pedestrian square** featuring traditional market atmosphere mixed with modern cafes and galleries. Named for its role as a women's trading market during Ottoman times, it blends commercial activity with architectural charm and cultural significance.

Tips for Squares & Streets

- Squares are most lively in evening promenade time (7-9 PM)
- Street cafes offer excellent people-watching opportunities
- Free festivals and markets frequently occupy squares; check local calendar
- Safe for walking at all hours but busier during day



Neighborhoods & Districts

Distinctive districts each offering unique character, from beachfront leisure to bohemian arts scenes.



Must See

Sea Garden (Primorski Park)

3-4 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Varna's **jewel waterfront park** stretching 9 kilometers along the Black Sea coast. Features gardens, walking paths, museums, cafes, and beaches with stunning sea views. The park seamlessly blends nature with cultural attractions, art installations, and recreational facilities for all ages.



Top Pick

Euxinograd Beach & Palace

2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

An upscale **seaside resort area** featuring a historic royal palace set within beautiful Mediterranean-style gardens and private beach access. Once a royal summer residence, it now operates as a luxury destination with gardens open for strolls and special cultural events.



Top Pick

Vinetsa Village (South Beach Area)

Half day No Booking Needed



Map

A charming **beach village suburb** just south of Varna center offering relaxed seaside atmosphere, local restaurants, and water sports facilities. The area blends fishing village character with modern tourism infrastructure, ideal for beach days and fresh seafood dining.



Top Pick

Mladost District (Youth Quarter)

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Varna's **energetic bohemian neighborhood** filled with contemporary art galleries, independent cafes, live music venues, and creative studios. The area attracts young professionals and artists with its vibrant nightlife, street art, and constantly evolving cultural scene.

Tips for Neighborhoods & Districts

- Sea Garden is best visited in morning or late afternoon to avoid crowds
- Rent bicycles to explore the full length of Sea Garden
- Vinetsa offers the most authentic local beach experience
- Mladost comes alive after 8 PM with nightlife scene



Parks & Gardens

Green spaces offering tranquility, natural beauty, and recreational opportunities throughout the city.



Must See

Sea Garden (Detailed Park Sections)

2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Within the larger Sea Garden park, distinct sections include **botanical gardens, rose gardens, Japanese garden**, and themed landscaping. Each area features seasonal flowers, rare plants, sculpture collections, and peaceful seating areas providing intimate nature experiences within the urban landscape.



Top Pick

Dov Fest Park

1.5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A **modern recreational park** featuring children's playgrounds, outdoor fitness equipment, jogging trails, and landscaped gardens. The park serves as a community gathering space with seasonal events, open-air performances, and comfortable areas for relaxation.



Notable

Khan's Palace Garden

45 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

A **restored Ottoman-era garden** featuring traditional landscape design with walking paths, fountains, and shade structures. The peaceful space provides a historical perspective on how leisure spaces were designed during Ottoman rule, with authentic plantings and architectural elements.

Tips for Parks & Gardens

- Visit gardens in spring for maximum flower blooms
- Parks offer free entry and are best in early morning
- Bring a picnic for a full park experience
- Japanese garden is particularly tranquil for meditation



Fountains & Public Art

Decorative fountains and contemporary art installations creating visual interest throughout Varna.



Must See

Dancing Fountains Complex

30 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

Illuminated musical fountains featuring choreographed water displays synchronized to music, lights, and projections. Located in Sea Garden, the evening shows create spectacular visual experiences with performances varying by season, attracting crowds for both entertainment and photography.



Top Pick

Monument to the Black Sea Fleet

20 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

A powerful **sculptural monument** honoring naval history, featuring impressive stone figures and dramatic composition. Located along the waterfront, it serves both as historical memorial and striking visual landmark with panoramic views of the harbor and sea.



Top Pick

Street Art & Murals (Mladost District)

1 hour walking tour No Booking Needed



Map

Vibrant **contemporary street art** covering walls throughout Mladost District and select neighborhoods. The constantly evolving murals showcase local and international artists, representing themes of social commentary, nature, and cultural identity.



Top Pick

Sculpture Park in Sea Garden

1.5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A curated **outdoor sculpture collection** featuring contemporary and classical works set among gardens and walking paths. The installations range from abstract forms to figurative sculptures, creating an open-air museum experience integrated with nature.

Tips for Fountains & Public Art

- Dancing fountains perform nightly at set times; check schedule
- Best fountain viewing is from evening until 10 PM
- Street art constantly changes; photograph your favorites
- Professional photographers should visit sculpture park in golden hour



Tours & Activities

Guided experiences and activities offering deeper exploration of Varna's culture, history, and natural beauty.



Must See Book Ahead

Archaeological Museum Guided Tours

2-3 hours Book Ahead

Expert-led tours of Bulgaria's finest museum featuring the world's oldest gold treasure. Guides provide historical context, explain artifact significance, and offer insights into ancient civilization development. Tours available in multiple languages with specialized options for specific interests.



Must See Book Ahead

Black Sea Coast Boat Tours

2-4 hours Book Ahead

Scenic boat excursions departing from Varna harbor offering views of coastline, offshore rock formations, and marine wildlife. Options include dolphin watching tours, sunset cruises, and trips to nearby coastal villages. Professional crews ensure safety and educational commentary.



Must See Book Ahead

Old Town Walking History Tours

2 hours Book Ahead

Guided walks through medieval quarters and historic districts revealing Ottoman architecture, Bulgarian heritage, and hidden courtyards. Knowledgeable guides share stories of daily life, cultural transformation, and architectural evolution spanning centuries.





Top Pick Book Ahead

Food & Wine Tours

3 hours Book Ahead

Culinary experiences exploring traditional Bulgarian cuisine and Black Sea specialties through market visits and restaurant tastings. Tours include wine pairings from local vineyards, cooking demonstrations, and visits to family-run establishments preserving traditional recipes.



Top Pick Book Ahead

Water Sports (Kite Surfing, Windsurfing, Paddleboarding)

1-2 hours Book Ahead

Beach-based **adventure activities** available at designated zones along Varna beaches. Equipment rental and instruction provided by licensed operators. Various difficulty levels accommodate beginners through advanced participants, with safety briefings and professional supervision.



Top Pick Book Ahead

Sunset Sea Garden Bicycle Tours

2 hours Book Ahead

Guided cycling experiences through the 9-kilometer waterfront park system with informative stops at key attractions. Routes are leisurely with frequent breaks for photography and refreshments, perfect for experiencing the park's full scale efficiently.

Tips for Tours & Activities

- Book tours in advance during peak season (June-September)
- Tours often include hotel pickup and drop-off; confirm when booking
- Group tours are more economical than private guides
- Check recent reviews for current operator quality and standards



Day Trips & Excursions

Nearby attractions and towns offering diverse experiences within day-trip distance from Varna.



Must See

Golden Sands Beach Resort

Full day No Booking Needed



Map

Bulgaria's premier **beach resort** just 20 minutes north featuring wide sandy beaches, holiday complexes, and water parks. The family-friendly destination offers excellent swimming conditions, seaside bars, and recreational facilities in a well-developed tourist setting with reliable infrastructure.



Must See

Albena Beach Resort

Full day No Booking Needed



Map

Another major **all-inclusive resort destination** north of Varna featuring calm waters, long beach stretches, and comprehensive tourist amenities. Environmentally certified for sustainable practices, Albena offers family packages and all-inclusive options with strong reputation for service quality.



Must See

Kaliakra Cape Archaeological Site

2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A dramatic **coastal promontory** featuring cliff-top fortress ruins dating to ancient times with spectacular Black Sea views. The archaeological site preserves medieval fortification remains and offers hiking trails along dramatic limestone cliffs popular for photography.



Must See

Balchik Botanical Garden & Palace

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

An enchanting **botanical paradise** set on cliff-top overlooking the sea, featuring rare Mediterranean and tropical plants. Adjacent restored palace provides architectural interest, and the terraced gardens descending toward the sea create stunning vistas for strolling and photography.



Top Pick

Book Ahead

Constanza Cave

2 hours Book Ahead



Map

Bulgaria's largest **sea cave** accessible by rowboat, featuring stalactites, stalagmites, and ancient archaeological layers. The cave has yielded important paleolithic artifacts and provides dramatic geological formations with sound echoes creating a mystical atmosphere inside.



[Top Pick](#)[Book Ahead](#)

Srebarna Nature Reserve (Bird Sanctuary)

[3-4 hours](#) [Book Ahead](#)[Map](#)

A UNESCO-designated **wetland reserve** featuring over 200 bird species in natural habitats alongside historical fishing villages. The reserve offers guided bird-watching tours, photography opportunities, and peaceful natural immersion accessible via scenic drive or boat tours.

Tips for Day Trips & Excursions

- Book organized day trips for guaranteed transportation and guides
- Beach resorts are busiest July-August; visit June or September for fewer crowds
- Rental cars provide flexibility for multiple site visits
- Early morning departures maximize daylight for full exploration



Practical Information

Essential information for planning and navigating your Varna visit.

Tips for Practical Information

- English is widely spoken in tourist areas and hospitality sector
- Credit cards accepted everywhere; ATMs abundant for cash withdrawals
- Public transportation includes buses and minibuses with affordable fares
- Tap water is safe to drink throughout the city



Food & Dining

Real, highly-rated Restaurants in Varna, sourced from Google Places (rating above 4★).

Must See

Saltish Restaurant★★★★★ 5 (161)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Saltish Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Varna, rated 5★ from 161 reviews. Located at Varna CenterOdesosOdesos, bul. "Primorski" 23, 9000 Varna, Bulgaria.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: Closed
- Wednesday: 6:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 6:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 6:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 6:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 6:00 PM – 12:00 AM

Must See

Staria Chinar Chernomore★★★★★ 4.7 (4,533)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Staria Chinar Chernomore is a highly-rated restaurant in Varna, rated 4.7★ from 4533 reviews. Located at Greek NeighborhoodOdesos, bul. "Slivnitsa" 33, 9000 Varna, Bulgaria.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 9:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 9:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 9:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 9:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 9:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 9:00 AM – 11:00 PM



Must See

Bistro Happy House★★★★★ 4.7 (1,883)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Bistro Happy House is a highly-rated restaurant in Varna, rated 4.7★ from 1883 reviews. Located at LevskiPrimorski, ul. "General Georgi Popov" 30, 9010 Varna, Bulgaria.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 9:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 9:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 9:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 9:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 9:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 9:00 AM – 11:00 PM

Must See

Staria Chinar Preslav★★★★★ 4.7 (4,205)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Staria Chinar Preslav is a highly-rated restaurant in Varna, rated 4.7★ from 4205 reviews. Located at Varna CenterOdesos, ul. "Preslav" 11, 9000 Varna, Bulgaria.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 AM

Must See

Atelier 60★★★★★ 4.7 (920)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Atelier 60 is a highly-rated restaurant in Varna, rated 4.7★ from 920 reviews. Located at Varna CenterOdesos, bul. "Knyaz Boris I" 60, 9002 Varna, Bulgaria.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM



Must See

Happy Bar & Grill Varna Morska Gara★★★★★ 4.7 (11,812)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Happy Bar & Grill Varna Morska Gara is a highly-rated restaurant in Varna, rated 4.7★ from 11812 reviews. Located at Sea Garden, Pristanishten kompleksOdesos, 9000 Varna, Bulgaria.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:30 AM – 10:30 PM
- Tuesday: 11:30 AM – 10:30 PM
- Wednesday: 11:30 AM – 10:30 PM
- Thursday: 11:30 AM – 10:30 PM
- Friday: 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 11:30 AM – 10:30 PM

Must See

Restaurant & Bar Caché★★★★★ 4.7 (481)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Restaurant & Bar Caché is a highly-rated restaurant in Varna, rated 4.7★ from 481 reviews. Located at Varna CenterOdesos, ul. "Bratya Shkorpil" 16, 9000 Varna, Bulgaria.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 5:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: Closed

Must See

Staria Chinar - Port Varna★★★★★ 4.6 (7,202)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Staria Chinar - Port Varna is a highly-rated restaurant in Varna, rated 4.6★ from 7202 reviews. Located at Pristanishten kompleksOdessos, 9000 Varna, Bulgaria.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM



Must See

Staria Chinar Restaurant★★★★ 4.6 (4,538)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Staria Chinar Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Varna, rated 4.6★ from 4538 reviews. Located at Varna CenterOdesos, ul. "Makedonia" 154, 9000 Varna, Bulgaria.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM

Must See

Burrata Italiana Varna★★★★ 4.6 (3,693)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Burrata Italiana Varna is a highly-rated restaurant in Varna, rated 4.6★ from 3693 reviews. Located at Пристанище Варна Изток, Pristanishten kompleksOdesos, 9000 Varna, Bulgaria.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 10:30 PM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 10:30 PM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 10:30 PM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 10:30 PM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 10:30 PM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 10:30 PM
- Sunday: 11:00 AM – 10:30 PM

Must See

No-Mad Brunch and Dinner★★★★ 4.6 (532)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

No-Mad Brunch and Dinner is a highly-rated restaurant in Varna, rated 4.6★ from 532 reviews. Located at Varna CenterOdesosOdesos, ul. "Frederic Shopen" 2, 9000 Varna, Bulgaria.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 8:00 AM – 10:30 PM
- Tuesday: 8:00 AM – 10:30 PM
- Wednesday: 8:00 AM – 10:30 PM
- Thursday: 8:00 AM – 10:30 PM
- Friday: 8:00 AM – 10:30 PM
- Saturday: 8:00 AM – 10:30 PM
- Sunday: 8:00 AM – 10:30 PM



Must See

Happy Bar & Grill Center (Varna)★★★★★ 4.6 (14,649)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Happy Bar & Grill Center (Varna) is a highly-rated restaurant in Varna, rated 4.6★ from 14649 reviews. Located at opposite Cherno More Hotel, Varna CenterOdesos, bul. "Slivnitsa" 22, 9002 Varna, Bulgaria.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:30 AM – 10:30 PM
- Tuesday: 11:30 AM – 10:30 PM
- Wednesday: 11:30 AM – 10:30 PM
- Thursday: 11:30 AM – 10:30 PM
- Friday: 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 11:30 AM – 10:30 PM

Top Pick

El Kapan★★★★★ 4.5 (4,585)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

El Kapan is a highly-rated restaurant in Varna, rated 4.5★ from 4585 reviews. Located at кап. "Георги Георгиев", Крайбрежна Алея , Северни Морски Бани, PrimorskiOdesos, 9000 Varna, Bulgaria.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Tuesday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Wednesday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Thursday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Friday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Sunday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 AM

Top Pick

The Sea Terrace★★★★★ 4.5 (3,429)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

The Sea Terrace • Café • Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Varna, rated 4.5★ from 3429 reviews. Located at Централен плаж, Ресторант Морска Тераса, PrimorskiOdesos, 9000 Varna, Bulgaria.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM



Top Pick

Captain Cook Varna★★★★★ 4.5 (2,952)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Captain Cook Varna is a highly-rated restaurant in Varna, rated 4.5★ from 2952 reviews. Located at Morska gara Mopcka rapa, Pristanishten kompleks Odesos, 9000 Varna, Bulgaria.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM

Practical Information

Ideal Visiting Seasons

June-September offer warm, sunny weather perfect for beach activities with temperatures 25-28°C. Water temperatures peak at 23-24°C in August, ideal for swimming and water sports.

May and October provide pleasant weather (18-23°C) with fewer tourists, ideal for cultural exploration and outdoor activities without heat intensity.

November-March experiences cooler temperatures (5-10°C) with occasional rain, but offers peace, lower prices, and clear skies for autumn/winter photography.

Avoid July-August if crowd-sensitive—peak season brings maximum tourists to beaches and major attractions, with premium pricing and potential overcrowding.

Getting Around Varna

Public Buses & Minibuses: Extensive network covering entire city with affordable fares (1-2 BGN). Purchase tickets from kiosks or aboard. Most buses operate 5 AM-midnight.

Taxis: Metered yellow taxis available everywhere. Use Vitosha Taxi or call 7777 for reliability. Uber available in limited capacity. Always verify meter engagement.

Bicycle Rental: Bike-sharing system 'Bike Varna' and rental shops throughout city. Perfect for Sea Garden exploration and flat urban areas.

Walking: Compact historic center easily walkable. Sea Garden waterfront ideal for strolling.

Car Rental: International agencies at airport and city center. Driving requires EU license or International Driving Permit. Roads generally good; parking available but challenging in center.

Airport Transfer: Sofia Varna Airport 10km away. Bus line 409 to center (1.5 hours), shuttle vans (30 minutes), or prearranged airport transfers available.

➔ Airport Transfer

Varna Airport (VAR) to city center:

- **Bus 409:** Public bus to Varna city center in about 30 minutes, 1.60 BGN



- **Taxi:** Metered taxi to city center in 15-20 minutes, around 15-20 BGN
- **Private transfer:** Pre-booked door-to-door transfer to city center or Golden Sands resort in 20-30 minutes, roughly 40-60 BGN
- **Car rental:** Pick up at the arrivals hall and drive to the city center in about 15 minutes, from 60 BGN per day

What to Buy & Where to Shop

Traditional Souvenirs: Rose water products from Kazanlak, essential oils, crafts. Markets: Women's Bazaar (Independence Square), craft shops in Old Town.

Jewelry: Bulgarian rose gold and silver jewelry at excellent prices. Vetnica Street features quality jewelers with authentic traditional designs.

Wine & Spirits: Local wine from Thrace region vineyards. Rakija (fruit brandy) and plum spirits. Specialized wine shops throughout city.

Textiles: Handwoven carpets, embroidered linens, and traditional folk costumes from mountain artisans available at markets and craft galleries.

Modern Shopping: Varna Center Mall and Paradise Center offer international brands and local boutiques. Seaside boutiques feature designer goods.

Markets: Women's Bazaar (daily except Sunday, 8 AM-3 PM) for traditional crafts, clothing, souvenirs. Fish market (morning) for fresh seafood.

Bargaining: Normal in street markets and bazaars. Expect to negotiate 10-20% off initial prices in traditional markets. Fixed pricing in stores and malls.

Annual Events & Celebrations

Varna Summer Theater Festival (June-September): International theater performances in open-air venues throughout city, featuring Bulgarian and European productions.

Spirit of Burgas Sea Fest (August): Weekend music festival with international and local artists, food stalls, and beach activities.

Varna Jazz Festival (September): Premier jazz event attracting world-class musicians and lovers to outdoor and indoor venues.

Golden Sands Film Festival (August-September): Cinema celebration at nearby resort with international and Bulgarian productions, masterclasses.

Easter Orthodox Celebrations (April/May): Solemn religious processions, traditional foods, and candlelit evening services in churches citywide.

National Day of Enlightenment (May 24): Parades, educational events, and celebrations of Bulgarian culture and Cyrillic script.

New Year (December-January): Street celebrations, concerts, fireworks display over Sea Garden, holiday markets.

5-Day Sample Itinerary

Day 1 - History & Culture: Begin at Archaeological Museum (2 hours) exploring world's oldest gold treasure. Lunch in Old Town. Afternoon stroll through medieval streets photographing architecture. Evening: visit Alexander Nevsky Cathedral (45 min), sunset at Sea Garden promenade, dinner at waterfront restaurant.

Day 2 - Maritime & Monuments: Morning at Naval Museum exploring Bulgarian naval history (1.5 hours). Lunch at Sea Garden café. Afternoon bicycle tour through Sea Garden (2 hours) visiting sculpture park and themed gardens. Evening: Dancing Fountains show, casual dinner in Mladost District bohemian neighborhood.



Day 3 - Beach Day Adventure: Breakfast then day trip to Golden Sands Beach Resort (20 min north) for swimming and sunbathing. Try water sports or relax beachside. Sunset return to Varna, visit Constanza Casino for evening ambiance, dinner at fish restaurant near Vinetsa beach.

Day 4 - Nature & Archaeology: Boat tour along Black Sea coast (3 hours) with potential dolphin sightings. Lunch at harbor. Afternoon visit Balchik Botanical Garden (40 min) exploring terraced plants and clifftop palace. Return via scenic route. Evening exploration of contemporary galleries in Mladost, live music venue.

Day 5 - Leisure & Surrounding Areas: Morning visit Srebarna Nature Reserve for bird watching (30 min drive). Afternoon drive to Kaliakra Cape for fortress ruins and dramatic clifftop walks (1 hour south). Return for final sunset Sea Garden stroll, farewell dinner at traditional Bulgarian restaurant sampling regional specialties.

Best Photography Locations & Timing

Sea Garden at Sunset (6-8 PM spring/summer): Golden light illuminates monuments, trees, and water. Telephoto lens ideal for sea reflections. Dancing fountains create dramatic evening light show.

Alexander Nevsky Cathedral Exterior (Morning 7-9 AM): Side-lit golden domes glow beautifully. Blue-hour photography pre-sunrise captures dramatic sky and illuminated cathedral against darkness.

Old Town Cobblestone Streets (Early Morning 6-8 AM): Soft directional light creates dramatic shadows on historic architecture. Minimal tourist crowds for clean shots. Afternoon backlighting highlights worn architectural details.

Black Sea Coastal Cliffs (Golden Hour 5-7 PM): Kaliakra Cape and clifftop areas offer dramatic landscape photography. Seascape compositions with sunset light across water. Use wide-angle lenses for epic scope.

Harbor & Fishing Boats (Pre-dawn 5-7 AM): Moody light reflects off calm morning water. Fishing boats create foreground interest with colorful vessels. Fog often adds atmospheric depth.

Balchik Botanical Garden (Overcast Days or Golden Hour): Rare plants photograph well without harsh shadows. Terraced layout creates layered composition depth. Late afternoon side-lighting highlights textures.

Street Art Mladost District (Bright Overcast or Morning): Overcast light eliminates harsh shadows on murals. Morning sunlight creates directional interest. Use fast film for low-light evening neon effects.

Dancing Fountains (Evening 8-10 PM): Colored lights and water create abstract patterns. Long exposures blur water motion artistically. Foreground silhouettes add composition depth.

Power & Voltage Information

Standard Voltage: Bulgaria uses 230V AC at 50Hz frequency, significantly higher than North American 120V. Check all electronics for dual-voltage capability before plugging in.

Outlet Types: Predominantly Type C (European two-round-pin) outlets. Some newer buildings feature Type E or Type F variants (three-round-pin configurations). Most visitor areas standardized on Type C.

Adapters Required: North American (Type A, B), UK (Type G), and Australian (Type I) visitors require travel adapters. USB adapters work universally and charges effectively for phones/tablets.

Adapter Sources: Purchase before departure or at airport shops. Electronic stores and hotel front desks supply adapters for guest use, often complimentary.

Safety Tips: Use surge protectors for valuable electronics. Outlets often poorly grounded; limit multiple appliances simultaneously. Never force incompatible plugs into outlets.

Power Reliability: Infrastructure reliable throughout city. Occasional outages during winter storms possible but rare. Coastal areas highly stable.



Culinary Specialties & Dining Guide

Must-Try Bulgarian Dishes: *Shopska Salad* (tomato, cucumber, cheese) - refreshing staple. *Banitsa* (phyllo pastry with cheese) - flaky breakfast favorite. *Kebab* (seasoned meat skewer) - street food staple. *Snezhanka* (yogurt, cucumber, garlic) - refreshing cold soup.

Black Sea Specialties: Fresh mussels and oysters harvested daily. Grilled sea bass and sea bream. Shrimp prepared simply with lemon. Calamari and octopus in traditional preparation. Fish roe salads (*tarama*) as appetizers.

Regional Wines: Rose wine from Thrace region (light, floral). Red wines from Burgas area (fruity, medium-bodied). Local *rakija* fruit spirits (homemade varieties vary widely).

Where to Eat: Old Town restaurants offer traditional atmosphere. Sea Garden waterfront venues provide views with meals. Mladost District hosts trendy contemporary restaurants. Fish markets near harbor for authentic local seafood.

Dining Tips: Lunch typically 12-3 PM (main meal). Dinner after 8 PM (3-4 hours). Tipping 10-15% standard for good service. Cash payments expected at many establishments; cards increasingly accepted. Street food (grilled corn, roasted chestnuts, pastries) widely available and inexpensive.

Vegetarian Options: Vegetable mezze (appetizer platters), phyllo pastries, salads readily available. Bean soups and grain dishes offer protein alternatives.

Tourist Passes

Varna Tourist Card

A **comprehensive visitor pass** offering free/discounted entry to major museums, galleries, and attractions throughout Varna. The card provides significant savings for museum-focused itineraries while including discounts at restaurants and shops. Available in 1, 3, and 7-day durations.



www.varnaturist.bg

Archaeological Museum Entry Pass

Direct entry ticket to Bulgaria's premier museum. **Special combined packages** available with guided tour and exhibition catalog. Student and group discounts apply. Online advance booking offers convenience and often price savings.



www.archaeologicalmuseum.org

Sea Garden Bicycle Pass

Weekly or monthly **bicycle rental subscriptions** offering unlimited rides throughout Varna's 9-kilometer waterfront park system. Bike stations located at key attractions. Pass includes basic maintenance and repair services.



www.bikevarna.bg

