

General Information Note num. 2

A. AIRPORT FORMALITIES

2. The Government of Bulgaria, through its Ministry of Tourism, will receive all registered participants of the 68th Meeting of the UNWTO Commission for Europe and its side conference on Education and Skills in Medical and Wellness Tourism, through the authorities lounge of the Sofia International Airport.
3. Airport personnel will escort all registered participants from the airplane to the authorities lounge and from there on to their designated vehicles for the transfer to their hotel.

A. AIRPORT TRANSFERS

4. The Government of Bulgaria, through its Ministry of Tourism, will provide participants with the rank of minister (or higher) a private car for the transfer from the airport to the hotel and vice versa. All other participants will be offered group transfers from the airport to the hotel and vice versa.
5. Members are kindly requested to inform the Host Committee (see point 29 below) in case their embassies shall provide transfers for their delegations.

B. VENUE TRANSFERS

6. Group transfers will be provided from all hotels, listed in the General Information Note 1, to the venue of the meetings (Sofia Balkan Palace), and vice versa, according to the following schedule:

Departure from	Walking distance	Transfer to Sofia Balkan Palace 1 June	Transfer from Sofia Balkan Palace 1 June
Intercontinental Sofia Hotel	1 km (12 min)	08:30 09:00	30 minutes after the closing of the meeting at approx. 18:30
Hilton Sofia Hotel	2 km (25 min)	No registered participants	
Sense Hotel Sofia	1 km (12 min)	No registered participants	
Astoria Grand Hotel	1.4 km (18 mins)	08:30 09:00	
Rosslyn Thracia Hotel Sofia	650 m (8 min)	08:30 09:00	
Rosslyn Central Park Hotel Sofia	1.5 km (17 min)	08:30 09:00	
Best Western Art Plaza Hotel	1 km (12 min)	08:30 09:00	

Departure from:	Walking distance	Transfer to Sofia Balkan Palace 2 June	Transfer from Sofia Balkan Palace 2 June
Intercontinental Sofia Hotel	1 km (12 min)	08:30 09:00	13:45
Hilton Sofia Hotel	2 km (25 min)	No registered participants	
Sense Hotel Sofia	1 km (12 min)	No registered participants	
Astoria Grand Hotel	1.4 km (18 mins)	08:30 09:00	
Rosslyn Thracia Hotel Sofia	650 m (8 min)	08:30 09:00	
Rosslyn Central Park Hotel Sofia	1.5 km (17 min)	08:30 09:00	
Best Western Art Plaza Hotel	1 km (12 min)	08:30 09:00	

C. WELCOME COCKTAIL

7. The Welcome cocktail, hosted by the Minister of Tourism of Bulgaria, will be held on 31 May 2023 at 19:00 at the Loft of Hyatt Regency Sofia (Vasil Levski Square, 1504 Sofia).
8. The dress code for the occasion is semiformal.

9. Transfers from the hotels will be provided according to the following schedule:

Departure from:	Walking distance	Transfer to Hyatt Regency Sofia on 2 June	Transfer from Hyatt Regency Sofia on 2 June
Sofia Balkan Palace	1.3 km (16 min)	18:15	21:15 21:30
Intercontinental Sofia Hotel	600 m (7 min)	18:15	
Hilton Sofia Hotel	2 km (25 min)	No registered participants	
Sense Hotel Sofia	1 km (12 min)	No registered participants	
Astoria Grand Hotel	2.7 km (34 min)	18:15	
Rosslyn Thracia Hotel Sofia	1.7 m (21 min)	18:15	
Rosslyn Central Park Hotel Sofia	2.3 km (28 min)	18:15	
Best Western Art Plaza Hotel	600 m (7 min)	18:15	

D. TOUR OF SOFIA FOR ACCOMPANYING PERSONS

10. The tour of Sofia for accompanying persons will be organized on **1 June 2023 from 15:30 to 18:30** and will include the following sights: *St. Alexander Nevski Cathedral, Saint Sofia Church, the National Theatre, the St. George Rotunda, the Bulgarian Presidency, the National Archeological Museum, Banya Bashi Mosque, Church of St Petka of the Saddlers, St. Nedelya Church. Vitosha Boulevard and Sofia History Museum.*
11. The tour will start and finish at Sofia Balkan Palace, with departure at 15:30 and return at 18:30. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable footwear.
12. Registrations for the tour shall be made by 31 May 2023 at the following address: a.naydenova@tourism.government.bg.

E. GALA DINNER

13. Gala Dinner, hosted by the Minister of Tourism of Bulgaria in the **format head of delegation +1**, will be held on **1 June 2023 at 20:00 at Sofia Balkan Palace**. Other delegates will have dinner at restaurant **Labels** in Sofia Balkan Palace.
14. After the meeting on 1 June, transfers to the hotels will be provided 30 minutes after the closing of the proceedings. To attend the gala dinner, transfers will be provided from the hotels back to Sofia Balkan Palace according to the following schedule:

Departure from:	Walking distance	Transfer to Sofia Balkan Palace	Transfer from Sofia Balkan Palace
Intercontinental Sofia Hotel	1 km (12 min)	19:30	22:30
Hilton Sofia Hotel	2 km (25 min)	No registered participants	
Sense Hotel Sofia	1 km (12 min)	No registered participants	
Astoria Grand Hotel	1.4 km (18 mins)	19:30	
Rosslyn Thracia Hotel Sofia	650 m (8 min)	19:30	
Rosslyn Central Park Hotel Sofia	1.5 km (17 min)	19:30	
Best Western Art Plaza Hotel	1 km (12 min)	19:30	

F. TECHNICAL VISIT

15. The technical visit to **Sapareva Banya**, famous for its mineral waters, the hottest mineral water in Europe with the temperature of 103°C, will take place on **2 June in the afternoon**. Wear comfortable shoes.
16. The departure location for the tour will be at Sofia Balkan Palace at 15:00. Upon return (around 21:30), the buses will stop at all the hotels.
17. The farewell dinner will be offered at the location of the visit in Sapareva Banya.
18. The dress code for the occasion is casual. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable footwear.
19. Registrations for the tour shall be made by 31 May 2023 at the following address: a.naydenova@tourism.government.bg.

G. OTHER TOURS AND VISITS

20. All participants are invited to attend the tours, offered by the Ministry of Tourism on 3 June, providing an opportunity to all participants to get acquainted with the rich historical, cultural, and gastronomical heritage of **Bulgaria**.
21. **A tour of Sofia**, including *St. Alexander Nevski Cathedral, Saint Sofia Church, the National Theatre, the St. George Rotunda, the Bulgarian Presidency, the National Archeological Museum, Banya Bashi Mosque, Church of St Petka of the Saddlers, St. Nedelya Church. Vitosha Boulevard and Sofia History Museum*, will be offered on **3 June in the morning**:

- 23.1. The tour will start and finish at Sofia Balkan Palace, with departure at 10:00 and return at 13:00.
- 23.2. The dress code for the occasion is casual. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable footwear.
- 23.3. Registrations for the tour shall be made by 31 May 2023 at the following address: a.naydenova@tourism.government.bg.
24. **A visit to Plovdiv**, the second-largest city in Bulgaria, one of the world's most ancient cities and Europe's oldest inhabited city with pre-historic settlements that archaeologists date back over 8,000 years, and 2019 European Capital of Culture, will be organized on **3 June**:
- 24.1. The departure for the tour will be at Sofia Balkan Palace at 9:00. Upon return (around 17:00), the buses will stop at all the hotels.
- 24.2. Lunch for the participants of this tour will be offered at Plovdiv Old Town.
- 24.3. The dress code for the occasion is casual. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable footwear.
- 24.4. Registrations for the tour shall be made by 31st May 2023 at the following address: a.naydenova@tourism.government.bg.
25. For further information and assistance, please contact:

<p>Ministry of Tourism of Bulgaria</p> <p>Ms. Zlatina Lyutova Expert, International and Visa Affairs Directorate T: +359 2 904 68 45 M: +359 897 020 281(WhatsApp; Viber) E: z.lyutova@tourism.government.bg</p> <p>Mr. Julian Milanov Expert, International and Visa Affairs Directorate T: +359 2 904 68 47 M: +359 885 938 710 (WhatsApp) E: j.milanov@tourism.government.bg</p>	<p>World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)</p> <p>Mr. Nedim Jasic Project Specialist, RDEU E: njasic@unwto.org, rdeu@unwto.org</p> <p>Ms. Nina Kusar Senior Project Specialist, RDEU E: nkusar@unwto.org, rdeu@unwto.org</p> <p>T: +34 91 5678 100 W: www.unwto.org/europe/68ceu</p>
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Summary of the social programme

Wednesday, 31 May 2023

19:00 – 21:00 **Welcome Cocktail**

The Loft, Hyatt Regency Sofia (Vasil Levski Square, 1504 Sofia)

Dress code: semiformal

Thursday, 1 June 2023

13:30 – 14:30 **Lunch**

Sofia Balkan Palace

15:30 – 18:30 **Sightseeing tour of Sofia for the accompanying persons**

20:00 – 22:00 **Gala Dinner**

Sofia Balkan Palace

Dress code: formal/black tie optional

Friday, 2 June 2023

13:30 – 14:45 **Lunch**

Sofia Balkan Palace

15:00 – 21:30 **Visit to Sapareva Banya with farewell dinner**

Sapareva Banya

Dress code: casual

Saturday, 3 June 2023

09:00 – 17:00 **Visit to Plovdiv**

10:00 – 13:00 **Sightseeing tour of Sofia**