

Hello everyone!

We are counting the days to your arrival and we hope that you are as excited about it as we are.

The following are some kind requests and recommendations to make your stay in Bulgaria as pleasurable as possible.

First, we would like to receive your times of arrival at Sofia airport **asap** in order to organise, if possible, an airport transfer to the hotel in case there are several TIMS members arriving at approx. the same time (within 90 minutes). Airport transfer **tbc** in a follow-up email to those whose flights land within reasonable time gap.

2. We need to have **the number** of your travel insurance (health insurance) policy and the **name and phone number** for the person to contact in case of emergency.

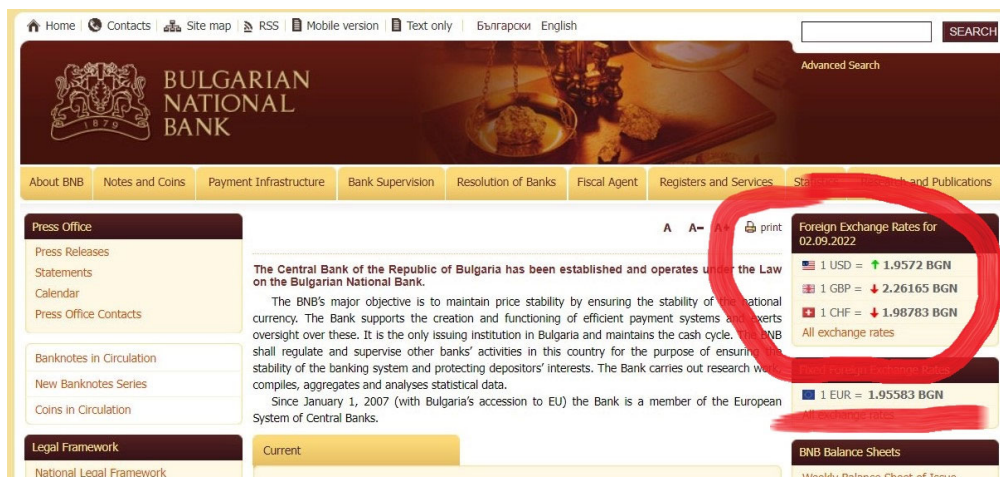
Please, provide the above information before Sept. 15th.

3. Local currency.

The Bulgarian lev is the local currency, which is approx. 0,50 euro/USD.

To make it easier for you, currently, the exchange rate for both the euro and the US dollar are the same, i.e. 1 euro/USD = 1.96 BGN.

https://www.bnb.bg/?toLang=_EN



The screenshot shows the website of the Bulgarian National Bank (BNB). The main content area displays the text: "The Central Bank of the Republic of Bulgaria has been established and operates under the Law on the Bulgarian National Bank." Below this, there is a section for "Foreign Exchange Rates for 02.09.2022" with the following rates: 1 USD = 1.9572 BGN, 1 GBP = 2.26165 BGN, 1 CHF = 1.98783 BGN, and 1 EUR = 1.95583 BGN. The exchange rate for 1 EUR is circled in red. The website also features a navigation menu with items like "About BNB", "Notes and Coins", "Payment Infrastructure", "Bank Supervision", "Resolution of Banks", "Fiscal Agent", "Registers and Services", and "Statements, Reports and Publications".

In other words, 50 euros/dollars equal 100 Bulgarian leva.

4. **At the airport** you could exchange some money if you would like to pay a taxi to the hotel in the local currency, but taxi drivers would not mind taking euros and/or dollars. A taxi from the airport to Akord Hotel will cost you about 20 euro/USD.

The taxi company, which is licensed to work at the airport is **OK taxi**.

You could also use the underground to get to the hotel. Here are some directions:

https://www.rome2rio.com/map/Sofia-Airport-SOF/Hotel-Akord-Sofia-Bulgaria?fbclid=IwAR2-0mEqx59_7kyo_0F9p9mzcIJZ9zuh0SaMe5YE5MGzWtwTCrJFYThuqiw

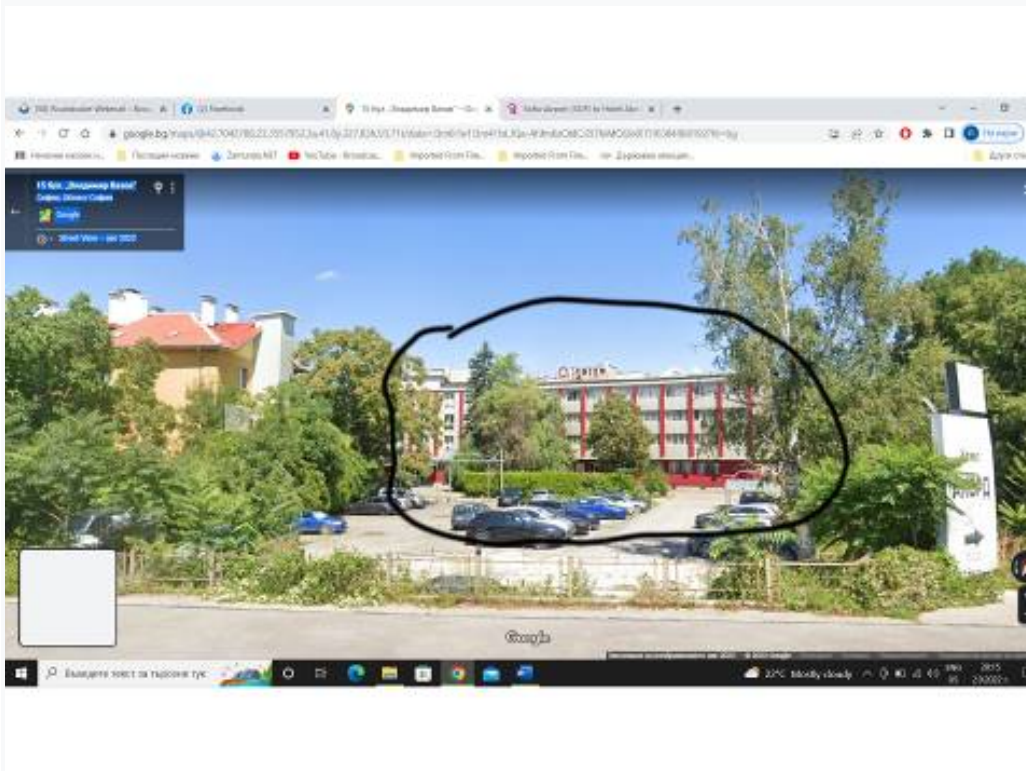
A ticket for the underground costs 1.60 BGN (80 cents).

From the airport you need to take **Line 4** (the yellow line) to Orlov most. There (at **Orlov most** stop) you need to **change to Line 3** (the green line) and get to **Hadji Dimiter** stop.

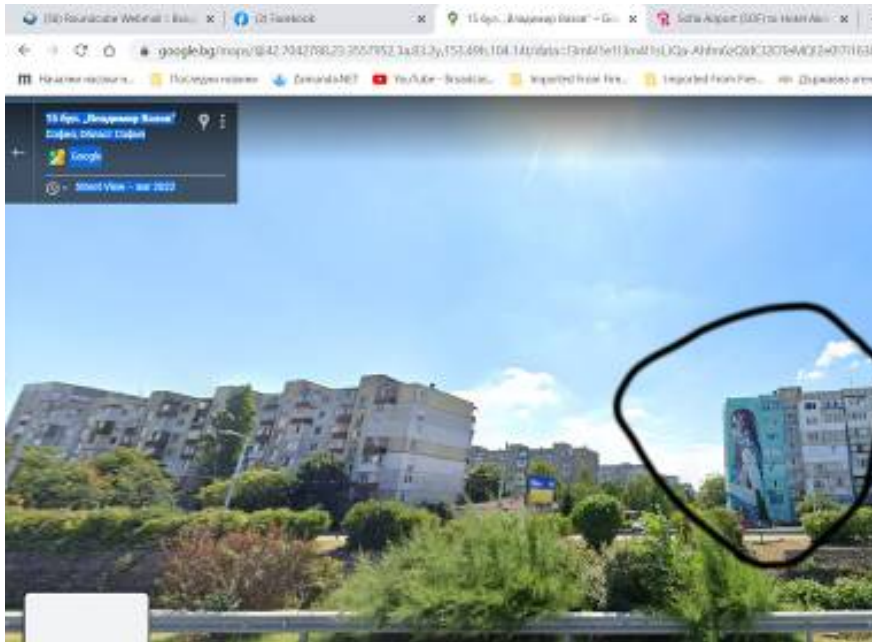
The names of the stops are written in English as well so you will be able to find your way. You will also hear the names of the stops in English while travelling.

When you get off at **Hadji Dimiter** stop you will have to walk for about 400 m in order to get to the hotel.

Then you have to cross the boulevard and go to the right. The hotel will be on your left. He is on the second line



On the right opposite the hotel is a large drawing on a block of flats



Turn left and reach Hotel Akord



5. Hotel Accommodation

Travelling in a group, we are staying at **Akord Hotel (Акорд - in BG)** in Sofia at a discount rate; the additional nights for some of you will also be at the discount rate of 63 BGN for a single room; a twin room will cost you 90 BGN.

Our group leader, Mr. Dimiter Balabanov has made the arrangements with the hotel and you will have to pay him if you are staying an additional night(s). You could make this payment in BGN, euro and/or USD at any time before the end of the tour.

They are expecting you at Akord Hotel. Just state that you are a TIMS member when you check in.

Looking forward to seeing you in Bulgaria!

Best regards,

Rositsa Bineva