# The 2010 Balkan Youth Swimming Games – Varna (Bulgaria)

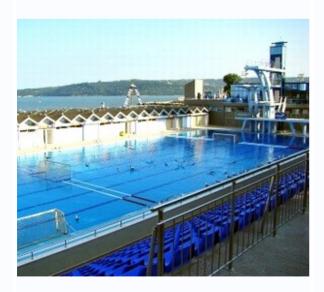
### **General Information**

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### **Data about Bulgaria**

Name: Republic of Bulgaria. Bulgaria is the only country in the world and oldest that never changes the name (Bulgaria). Area: 110,994 sq km. Population: 7,550,000 (2010). All Bulgarians in the native land and the rest of the word are estimated of ca. 11,320,000 (2010). Official language: Bulgarian. Alphabet: Cyrillic. Religion: Traditional religion in the Republic of Bulgaria is Eastern Orthodox Christianity. Relief: Most diverse. Climate: Moderate continental. Currency: Bulgarian Lev. State system: Parliamentary republic. Memberships: EU and NATO.



# The city of Varna

The city of Varna is the third largest city in Bulgaria with its population of about 375 000 people. It is widely called the seaside capital of Bulgaria as it is the biggest city at the Bulgarian Black Sea coast. The city lies in the Bay of Varna. Varna is over 12 km long. The city's structure resembles an amphitheatre as it follows the curves of the Bay of Varna. Varna offers all kinds of accommodation facilities though traditionally, the bulk of holiday-makers opt out for renting private flats and rooms. The fastest way to get to Varna is by airplane, as it takes less than an hour from the capital city of Sofia while planes in both directions fly 6 or 7 times a day during the summer.



# The swimming sport in Varna

The Bulgarian's competitive swimming sport was born in the city of Varna when the Bulgarian People's Marine Agreement (BPMA) was established on 1 of July 1920. BPMA established branches in different Bulgarian towns and developed all water sports, but the swimming sport as the most important. The ones of the most well-known Bulgarian swimmers and coaches are citizens of Varna. The best men swimmer ever from Varna is Yulian Rusev (12th place of the Mexico Olympiad'68 at 400 m I.M.). The best woman swimmer ever from Varna is Maria Nikolova. The coach legends are Alexi Alexiev, Lyuben Lazarov MD, Kharalambi Tchakarov, Milko Rachev and others. Nowadays in that splendid seaside city the swimming sport is very god developed. In the city are now working 16 swimming clubs. The swimming sport is individual sport N1 in Varna with great number of fans and adorers.

## The 2010 Balkan Youth Swimming Games in Varna

The Balkan Youth Swimming Games will undoubtedly attract a big interest among the swimming fans of Balkan Peninsula and the sport Medias and beyond. The hosting federation is the Bulgarian Swimming Federation. Men's Age group: from 17 to 18 (born 1992, 1993); Women's age group: from 15 to 16 (born 1994, 1995). The swimming competition will be held on June 6-7 at the "Primorski" swimming complex in Varna. The strongest teams are these of Greece (first place favorite both sexes), Romania (stronger women's team) and Serbia (stronger men's team). Turkey (rising power), Bulgaria (under domestic expectation pressure) and Cyprus (some individuals with chance to reach the medals) are behind. Albania (chance for 1-2 medals), Bosnia and Herzegovina (chance for 1-2 medals), FYROM (without chance for medals) and Monte Negro (without chance for medals) have the individuals with chance to reach the first places.

### The venue of the competition

The venue of the competition will be the magnificent "Primorski" swimming complex located very near to the Black sea and the South Beach of Varna. That swimming facilities was built in 1964. The "Primorski's" swimming complex consists of two out-door long course swimming pools and kids pool. The swimmers will compete on the "Yulian Rusev" swimming pool (10 lanes, depth: max 2.2 m - min 2 m) with 500 seats, the divers – on the "Alexi Alexiev" swimming pool (8 lanes, depth: max 2.5 m - min 1.5m). The owner of the "Primorski's" swimming complex is the municipality of Varna.

# The results and pictures of the competition

The results of the Balkan Youth Swimming Games on the days of competition could be viewed the both sites. The first one – the official site of the Bulgarian swimming federation (BSF) <a href="www.bul-swimming.org">www.bul-swimming.org</a> The second one – the most popular independent swimming site in Bulgaria (FBSS) <a href="www.bulswim.info">www.bulswim.info</a> – owned by Association of the Bulgarian swimmers. The hundreds of pictures will be published short after the competition on the Bulgarian's Sportsgallery site (section swimming) <a href="www.sportsgallery.eu">www.sportsgallery.eu</a>

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