

Practical Information

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Important buildings and places



- **Venue of EUROCRYPT 2015 - Sofia Hotel Balkan** – 5 St. Nedelya Square, Sofia
- **Welcome reception at the National Archaeological museum** – 2 Saborna Str., Sofia





- **Sofia Hotel Balkan** – 5 St. Nedelya Square, Sofia
- **St. Nedelya Church** – St. Nedelya Square, Sofia
- **“Serдика” (Сердика) Metro Station** – St. Nedelya Square, Sofia
- **TZUM** (supermarkets, restaurants) – 2 Knyaginya Maria Luiza Blvd, Sofia

Bulgarian currency

The currency used in Bulgaria is **Bulgarian Lev**. The exchange rate with euro is fixed to: 1EUR = 1.95583 BGN. You can withdraw Bulgarian lev from any ATM machine in Sofia or you can exchange money at any bank branch in the city.

Tourism in Sofia

For detailed information about Sofia's tourist attractions, cultural events and practical information you can visit the Sofia Municipality official page – <http://www.visitsofia.bg/en/>, as well as the tourist website <http://www.sofia-guide.com/>. For restaurants, cultural and night life events, check: <http://programata.bg/?l=2>. You can also receive personal directions and more information in the Sofia Tourist Information Center which is located in the underpass at the Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski” (<http://info-sofia.bg/bg/information-center-en.html>). If you are interested in tourism out of Sofia, please check this website: http://bulgariatravel.org/en/official_tourism_portal/

Short history of Sofia

Located at the heart of the Balkan Peninsula, on the crossroad between the Western and Eastern world, Sofia is a city of many faces: it is busy and modern and at the same time peaceful and serene; it can be both lively and intense and thoughtful and mysterious. Similarly to its tumultuous historical past, Sofia is an ever-changing and ever-transforming city, that combines in a unique way multiple world perspectives.

Remnants of Sofia's not so distant communist years such as the Monument of the Soviet Union (Паметник на Съветската армия) quietly cohabits with the symbol of its Tsarist time - the old Royal Palace of king Alexander of Battenberg. The Palace itself has been initially built as a court and administration building during Ottoman rule. Not far from it, the stronghold of Orthodox faith - the "Alexander Nevsky" Cathedral peacefully coexists with the mosque "Баня Вaши" (Баня Баши) and Sofia's Synagogue. At the very center of the city, symbolically, all roads meet at Sofia's temple of knowledge - University "St. Kliment Ohridski" (Св. Климент Охридски).

The city of Sofia itself dates back to as long as 2,400 years ago. Its ancient name "Serдика" (Сердика) derives from the local Celtic tribe of the Serdi which established the town in the 5th century BC. It remained a relatively small settlement until 1879, when it was declared the capital of Bulgaria. Currently it is Bulgaria's biggest city and the 15-th largest city in the European Union. Its population is 1.4 million citizens (including suburbs). Thanks to the mountain of Vitosha (Витоша) (2,292 m), situated only 30 minutes away from the city center, Sofia also prides itself in being one of the few European capitals possessing a well-developed ski-resort during winter time.

Through its unique combination of Eastern introspection and Western determination Sofia asserts itself as an international city of tolerance and hospitality. It rightfully deserves its name, derived from the ancient Greek word for "wisdom" - "sophos" (σοφός).



Short list of sightseeing highlights in Sofia

- **St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral**

The St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral (Храм-паметник „Свети Александър Невски“) is a Bulgarian Orthodox. Built in Neo-Byzantine style. it serves as the cathedral church of the Patriarch of Bulgaria and is one of the largest Eastern Orthodox cathedrals in the world, as well as one of Sofia's symbols and primary tourist attractions. The construction of the St.

Alexander Nevsky Cathedral started in 1882 (having been planned since 19 February, 1879), when the foundation stone was laid, but most of it was built between 1904 and 1912. Saint Alexander Nevsky was a Russian prince. The cathedral was created in honour of the Russian soldiers who died during the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878, as a result of which Bulgaria was liberated from Ottoman rule.

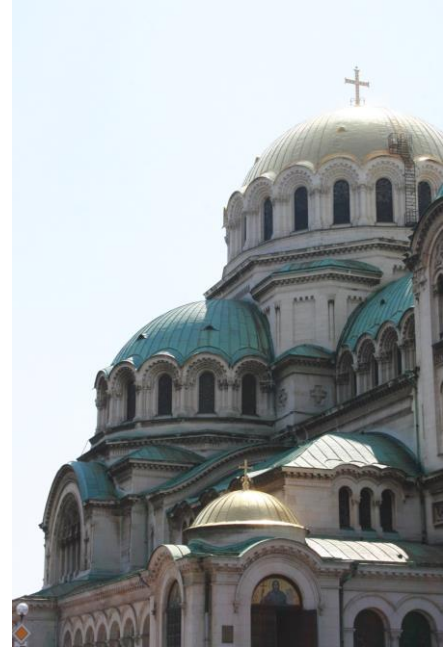
The cathedral was designed by Alexander Pomerantsev, aided by Alexander Smirnov and Alexander Yakovlev, as the initial 1884-1885 project of Ivan Bogomolov was radically changed by Pomerantsev. The final design was finished in 1898.

The St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral in Sofia occupies an area of 3,170 square meters (34,100 sq ft) and can hold 10,000 people inside. It is the second-largest cathedral located on the Balkan Peninsula, after the Cathedral of Saint Sava in Belgrade.

Address: Aleksandar Nevski sq. 4

Working time: 7:00-17:30

Phone: +3592 988 17 04



- **Sveta Nedelya (Holy Sunday Church)**

Sveta Nedelya (църква „Света Неделя“) or Holy Sunday Church Eastern Orthodox church, a cathedral of the Sofia bishopric of the Bulgarian Patriarchate. Sveta Nedelya is a medieval church that has suffered destruction through the ages and has been reconstructed many times. It was designed by the famous Bulgarian architectural team Vasilyov-Tsolov.

Sveta Nedelya sq. is being considered the center of Sofia city. The church Sveta Nedelya lies directly above the ancient crossroads of Serdica (Sofia's previous name). This church is a direct successor of several smaller churches from medieval times. In the beginning the church was built by wood and it had foundations made of stone. Later on the entire church was built by stone. But in 1925 it was destroyed by a bomb blast assassination attempt on Tsar Boris III. In this terrorist act set by the communists. Over 200 people were killed, although the intended victim was spared. The current architecture and design date back to 1950 when the Communist party decided to restore the church and rename it to Sveta Nedelya. It was previously known as Holly King (Sveti kral) as the remains of the Serbian king Stephan Urosh II were kept in this church. The beautifully preserved wood carved iconostasis dates back to 1865. The murals were added as late as 1976.

Address: 20 Sveta Nedelya Sq.

Working time: Every day

Phone: +3592 987 57 48

- **National Theater "Ivan Vazov"**

The Ivan Vazov National Theatre (Народен театър „Иван Вазов“) is Bulgaria's national theatre, as well as the oldest and most authoritative theatre in the country and one of the important landmarks of Sofia. It is located in the centre of the city, with the facade facing the City Garden.

Founded in 1904 by the artists from the Salza i Smyah company, it was initially called simply the National Theatre, but before being named after the prominent writer Ivan Vazov it also bore the name of Krastyu Sarafov between 1952 and 1962. The theatre's Neoclassical building, designed by famous Viennese theatre architects Hermann Helmer and Ferdinand Fellner, was finished in 1906 and opened on 3 January 1907. The building was extensively damaged by a fire in 1923 during an anniversary celebration, but was reconstructed in 1929 by German architect Martin Dülfer.



A theatrical school was established as part of the National Theatre in 1925. The bombing of Sofia in World War II caused considerable damage to the building, but it was reconstructed in 1945. Another reconstruction followed in 1971–1975, and a €100,000 restoration project was implemented in 2006. The building's facade is depicted on the Bulgarian 50 levs banknote, issued in 1999 and 2006.

Address: 5 Dyakon Ignatiy Str., Sofia

Phone: +3592 811 92 27; +3592 811 92 19

- **Vitosha Boulevard**

Vitosha Boulevard (булевард "Витоша"), often called just Vitoshka ("Витошка"), is the main commercial street in the centre of Sofia, with a lot of luxury stores, restaurants and bars. It extends from the St. Nedelya Square to the Southern Park. Many high-end fashion labels have outlets on Vitosha



Boulevard and the neighbouring streets: Versace, Escada, Bulgari, D&G, La Perla, Lacoste, Van Laak, Ermenegildo Zegna, Moreschi, Marella, Boss, Baldinini. Among the notable buildings, located on the boulevard are: The National Palace of Culture (Known as “NDK”), The Sofia Court House.

The boulevard is named after Vitosha Mountain, which is situated just next to Sofia. It was an unadjusted street during the Ottoman rule of Bulgaria and acquired the name Vitoshka ulitsa ("Vitosha Street") after the Liberation, in 1883. The street was initially built up with low one-storey houses, but turned into an imposing trade street in the Interwar period as massive public buildings were constructed, changing Vitoshka's appearance completely.

According to a 2007 Cushman & Wakefield, Inc. study, Vitosha Boulevard is the world's 22nd most expensive trade street.

- **The Royal Palace (which is now the National Art Gallery and National Museum of Ethnography)**

The National Art Gallery (Национална художествена галерия) is Bulgaria's national gallery and houses over 50,000 pieces of Bulgarian art. It is located on Battenberg Square, occupying most of the historic and imposing building of the former royal palace of Bulgaria, having been established in 1934 and moved to the palace in 1946, after the abolition of the monarchy.

The royal palace, a typical example of Second Empire architecture with chateausque connotations, was constructed in two stages. The first lasting between 1880 and 1882 during the rule of Knyaz Alexander Battenberg, when Austro-Hungarian architects under Viktor Rumpelmayer worked on the building. It was inaugurated on 26 December 1882 and constituted the representative part of the palace, encompassing the administrative ground floor, the ballrooms above and the service third floor. The second stage, during Knyaz (later Tsar) Ferdinand, saw the construction of the palace's east wing by Viennese architect Friedrich Grünanger, who incorporated elements of Viennese Neo-Baroque. The east wing was where the apartments of the royal family were located, but some service premises (including a lift) were also located there.

After the abolition of the monarchy and the establishment of a Communist government in Bulgaria following World War II, most of the palace was given to the National Art Gallery since its building was destroyed by the bombing raids in 1943 and 1944. Fortunately, all of the paintings it had housed were preserved, and together with the royal art collection already exhibited in the palace formed the stock of the National Art Gallery.

Address: 1 Knyaz Aleksandar I Sq.

Working time: Tuesday-Sunday: 10:00 -18:00

Entrance: 6 BGN

Phone: + 3592 980 00 93

- **Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"**

The "St. Kliment Ohridski" University of Sofia or Sofia University (Софийски университет „Св. Климент Охридски“) is the oldest higher education institution in Bulgaria. It was founded on 1 October 1888, 10 years after the Liberation of Bulgaria, to serve as Bulgaria's primary institution of higher education. The university's building was constructed between 1924 and 1934 with the financial support of the brothers Evlogi Georgiev and Hristo Georgiev, whose sculptures are now featured on its façade. The first rector was Bulgarian linguist Aleksandar Teodorov-Balan.

Sofia University has 16 faculties and three departments, where 21,000 students receive their education. Sofia University is the best university in Bulgaria in National Rankings, and is constantly among the top 4 percent of World Universities according to QS World University Rankings.

During Sofia University's first years, it had three faculties, a Faculty of History and Philology (since 1888), a Faculty of Mathematics and Physics (since 1889) and a Faculty of Law (since 1892). History, geography, Slavic philology, philosophy and pedagogics, mathematics and physics, chemistry, natural sciences and law were taught. The first women, 16 in number, were welcomed to the university in 1901. 25 November (8 December N.S.), the day of St. Kliment of Ohrid, became the university's official holiday the following year.

In 1907, as Prince Ferdinand opened the National Theatre, he was booed by Sofia University students, for which the university was closed for 6 months and all lecturers were fired. Not until a new government with Aleksandar Malinov at the head came into power in January 1908 was the crisis resolved.

Address: 1504 Sofia, 15 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd.

Working time: Daily: 07.30 – 20.00

Phone: +359 2 930 82 00

- **The National Library SS. Cyril and Methodius**

The SS. Cyril and Methodius National Library (Национална библиотека „Свети Свети Кирил и Методий“) is the national library of Bulgaria founded on 4 April 1878. The library received the status of Bulgarian National Library three years later and the Bulgarian National Revival Archive was merged into it in 1924. It is named after "Saints Cyril and Methodius". They are the creators of the Glagolitic alphabet named Cyrillic alphabet after Cyril. The present building of the library was designed by the famous Bulgarian architectural team Vasilyov-Tsolov and completed in the period 1940-1953.

Address: 88 Vasil Levski Blvd.

Working time: Mon - Fri: 8.30 - 18.00; Sat: 9.00 – 15.00

Phone: + 359 2 988 28 11

- **The National Assembly of Bulgaria (The Parliament)**

The National Assembly (The Parliament) (“Народно събрание”, “Парламент”) is the unicameral parliament and body of the legislative of Bulgaria. The National Assembly was established in 1879 with the Tarnovo Constitution.

The National Assembly consists of 240 members elected for a four-year term. 209 of the representatives are elected by proportional representation in multi-seat constituencies and 31 are elected in single-seat constituencies according to the last amendment of the Electoral law governing parliamentary elections on 15 May 2009. Political parties must gather a minimum of 4% of the national vote in order to enter the Assembly. Bulgaria has a multi-party system. Obtaining of all state power by a single party is forbidden according to the articles of 1991 Constitution of Bulgaria.

The Assembly is responsible for enactment of laws, approval of the budget, scheduling of presidential elections, selection and dismissal of the Prime Minister and other ministers, declaration of war, concluding peace and deployment of troops outside of Bulgaria, and ratification of international treaties and agreements. It is headed and presided by the Chairperson of the National Assembly of Bulgaria.

The National Assembly’s main building has been proclaimed a monument of culture for its historic significance. Situated in downtown Sofia, it was designed in Neo-Renaissance style by Konstantin Jovanović, a Serbian-Bulgarian architect who received his education in Vienna and Switzerland and whose other works include the Parliament of Serbia building. It was constructed between 1884 and 1886 by Friederich Wilhelm Gustav Liebe, a young builder from Saxony who was only 22 years old when construction began. The building is depicted on the reverse of the Bulgarian 20 leva banknote, issued in 1999 and 2007.

Due to insufficient space in the main building, some administrative offices of the National Assembly are now housed by the former headquarters of the Bulgarian Communist Party, located at the Largo. Individuals can attend the open plenary sittings of the National Assembly taking specially assigned seats for visitors. For this purpose you have to make a request to the Secretary General of the National Assembly in advance. Entry into the National Assembly buildings requires an Identification Document. For group visits you should make a request in advance to the Secretary General of the National Assembly. It is recommended to request a visit at least 7 days in advance.

Address: 2 Narodno sabranie square

Working time: Monday – Friday: 09.30 – 16.30

Phone: +3592 939 39

- **National Palace of Culture (NDK)**

The National Palace of Culture, abbreviated as NDK (Национален дворец на културата, НДК), is the largest multifunctional conference and exhibition centre in south-eastern Europe. It was opened in 1981 in celebration of Bulgaria's 1300th anniversary.

The centre was initiated by a suggestion of Lyudmila Zhivkova, daughter of the communist leader of the former People's Republic of Bulgaria Todor Zhivkov. The project was designed by a team of Bulgarian and foreign architects led by Alexander Georgiev Barov (1931–1999). Internally, the building exhibits a unified style, employing an octagonal motif and heavy, dark colors. Large bright murals depicting historical figures and events cover the main wall of many of the smaller halls.



In July 2005, the National Palace of Culture was proclaimed the best congress center in the world for the year by the International Organization of Congress Centers.

The conference center is equipped to host a variety of events, including concerts, multilingual conferences, exhibitions and shows. It has an area of 123,000 m² on eight floors and three underground levels. The National Palace of Culture has 13 halls and 15,000 m² of exhibition area, a trade center and a car park. The main hall can seat over 3,000 people.

Sofia International Film Festival, an annual film festival takes place in NDK.

Address: 1 Bulgaria sq. Sofia

Phone: + 3592 916 63 00

- **National History Museum**

The National History Museum (Национален исторически музей) is Bulgaria's largest museum. It was founded on 5 May 1973 and its first representative exposition was opened in 1984 to commemorate 1300 years of Bulgarian history. The museum was moved to a former governmental residence in 2000 and currently stores and owns over 650,000 objects connected to archaeology, fine arts, history and ethnography, although only 10% of them are permanently exhibited.

Address: 16 Vitoshko lale St.

Working time: Every day- Winter: 9.00 – 17.30; Summer: 9:30 - 18:00

Entrance: For individual visitors - 10 BGN

Phone: + 359 2 955 42 80

- **Boris Garden (also known as The Park of Freedom)**

Boris Garden, Borisova gradina or Knyaz-Borisova gradina (Борисова градина or Княз-Борисова градина) is the oldest and best known park in Sofia. Its construction and arrangement began in 1884 and it is named after Bulgarian Tsar Boris III. Although Knyaz Boris became Tsar in 1918, there is no evidence of the park's name ever having officially changed to reflect this fact. Instead (or, perhaps, because of this), the word Knyaz was gradually dropped to become simply Boris's Garden. After the Communist regime took power in 1944, the park was renamed The Park of Freedom (“Парк на Свободата”), until its fall in 1989, when it reverted to its original name.

Address: Sofia, between Eagle Bridge and Vasil Levski Stadium, located along the Tsarigradsko shose road.

- **Boyana Church**

The Boyana Church (Боянска църква, Boyanska tsărkva) is a medieval Bulgarian Orthodox church situated on the outskirts of Sofia, in the Boyana quarter. In 1979, the building was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List. The east wing of the two-store church was originally constructed in the late 10th or early 11th century, then the central wing was added in the 13th century under the Second Bulgarian Empire, the whole building being finished with a further expansion to the west in the middle of the 19th century. A total of 89 scenes with 240 human images are depicted on the walls of the church.

Address: 1-3 Boyansko Ezero St.

Working time: 01.04 - 31.10: 09:30 - 17:30; 01.11 - 31.03: 09:00 - 17:00

Entrance: Adults – 10 BGN; Students - 2 BGN

Phone: + 3592 959 09 39

- **Museum of Socialist Art**

Museum of Socialist Art is the first of its kind museum institution whose purpose is to collect, preserve and exhibit art from the period 1944-1989, with themes that are related to the era of socialism. The exhibition hall covers an area of 550 square meters and displays 60 paintings and 25 works of plastic art easel. The museum consists of a sculpture park with an area of 7,500 square meters, which are currently at 77 works of monumental sculpture.

Address: 7 Lachezar Stanchev Str.

Working time: Monday to Friday: 10:00 - 16:00

Entrance: Adults - 6 BGN; Students - 3 BGN

Useful phone numbers

Emergency

Emergency phone numbers in Bulgaria:

Urgent cases only!

- 112 – The Common European emergency phone number
- 150 – Emergency/Ambulance
- 166 – Police/Rescue
- 160 – Fire brigade

Phone numbers of the organizers

- Svetla Nikova: 00359 889196890
- Tsonka Baicheva: 00359 886224621

Taxis

Taxi companies (officially approved by the Sofia Municipality):

OK SuperTrans – phone: 359 2 973 21 21; mobile: 1 8294

Taxi for 1 euro – phone: +359 2 962 22 26, +359 2 80700; mobile: +359 887 622 226

9 12 80 Taxi S Express – phone: +359 9 12 80

Yellow 333 Taxi – phone: +359 2 931 19 52

Green Taxi – phone: +359 810 810; mobile: +359 878 332 810

Public transport

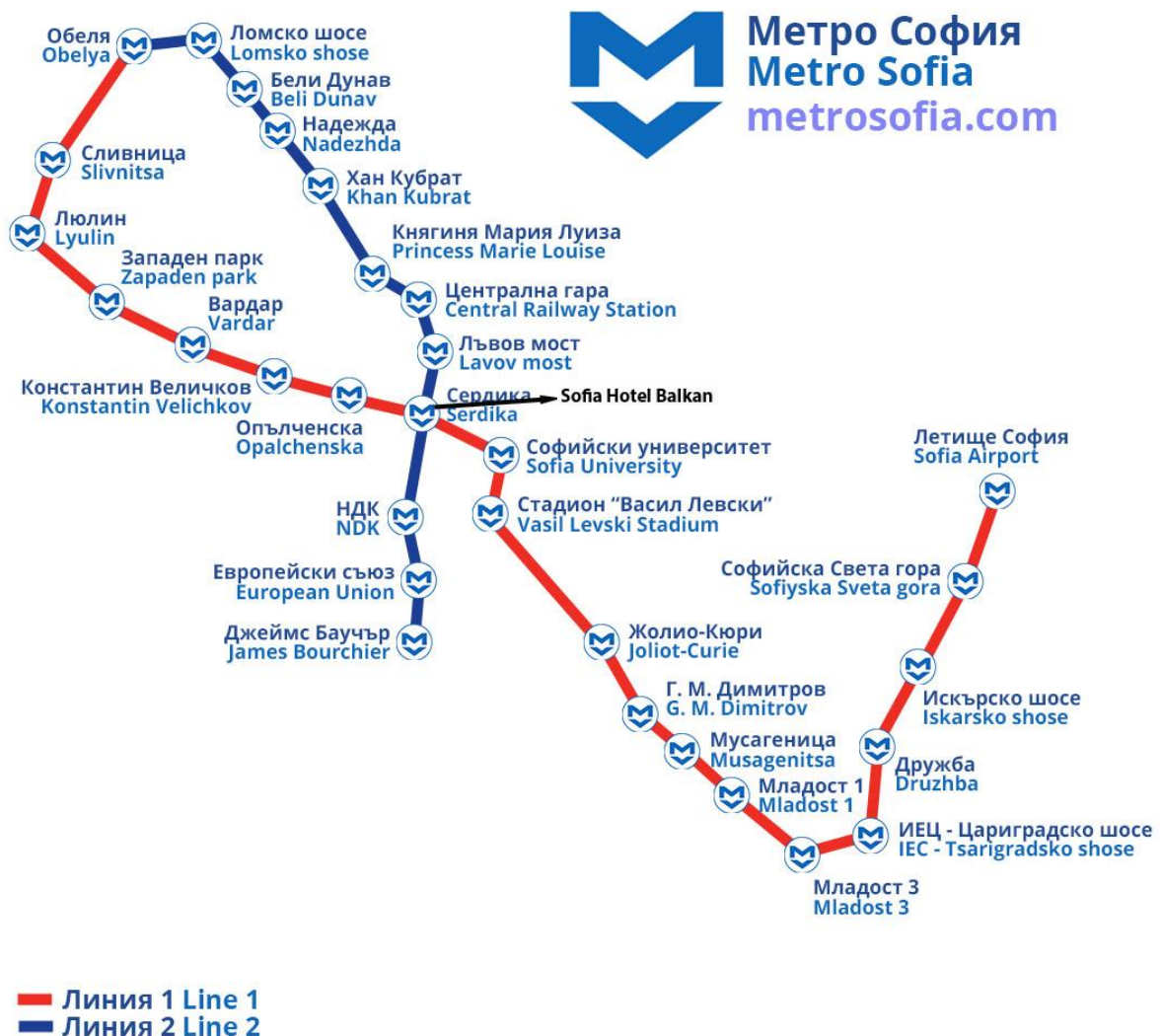
The very city center of Sofia is relatively small and you can reach most of the tourists' highlights and sightseeing by foot. So, if you are staying in place close to the center there would be no need to take public transport. If, however you need transport, here is the map of the metro lines and sources of information for the lines and schedule of the other public transport.

Full information about the buses, trams and trolleys in Sofia, can be found here:

<http://www.sofiatraffic.bg/en/>

Information about the metro and its lines: <http://www.metrosofia.com/>

Map of the metro lines: <http://www.metrosofia.com/images/sofia-metro-lines-2015-april.png>



Restaurant suggestions in Sofia

If you are looking for good restaurants in Sofia, you can find some valuable suggestions below, tried and recommended by the locals.

Bulgarian Cuisine

Chevermeto

Address: NDK- Pronoto, 1 Bulgaria Blvd.

Price: 25 - 30 €

Phone: +3592 963 03 08; +359 885 630 308

Website: <http://www.chevermeto-bg.com/en/>

Work time: Every day: 12.00 am - 00.00 am

Comments: Restaurant Chevermeto combines authentic atmosphere, dishes prepared according to old receipts and a folklore show. Every evening a whole lamb is roasted on fire as “cheverme”, where the name of the restaurant comes from. There is a special program with traditional Bulgarian songs and dances (horo), which start at 8.30 pm.

Manastirska Magernitsa

Address: 67 Han Asparuh Str.

Price: 10 - 15 €

Phone: +3592 980 38 83

Website: www.magernitsa.com

Work time: 11.00 am - 02.00 am

Comments: This is traditional Bulgarian mehana (tavern) and offers sample authentic Bulgarian cuisine. The enormous menu features recipes collected from monasteries across the country, with dishes such as “drunken rabbit” stewed in wine as well as salads, fish, pork. Portions are generous and service attentive.

MOMA

Address: 28 Solunska Str.

Price: 20 €

Phone: + 359 885 622 020

Website: <http://moma-restaurant.com>

Work time: 11.00 am - 24.00 pm

Comments: Traditional Bulgarian cuisine, with typical specialties.

Hadjidraganovite Izbi (Cellars)

Address: 18, Hristo Belchev Str. (near Solunska street corner)

Price: 20 - 25 €

Phone: +3592 981 81 48, +359 898 775 936

Website: http://www.izbite.com/index_en.htm

Work time: Every day

Comments: The restaurant offers Bulgarian national cuisine, live folklore music – in the center of Sofia

Pod Lipite

Address: 1 Elin Pelin Str.

Price: 20 - 25 €

Phone: +3592 866 50 53 ; +359 886 801 227

Website: <http://www.podlipitebg.com>

Work time: Monday – Sunday, 12.00 pm – 01.00 am

Comments: Traditional Bulgarian dishes with high quality of service, live music of Rhodope songs, played on bagpipe.

Pri Yafata

Address: 29 Dondukov Blvd.

Price: 15 - 20 €

Phone: +3592 980 02 50; +359 899 13 44 60

Website: <http://www.priyafata.bg>

Work time: Mon – Sun, 10.00 am – 12.00 pm

Comments: Typical Bulgarian cuisine. Offers various dishes with duck, rabbit, pork as well as many vegetarian options like the monastery salad (tomato, spinach, peppers, onion and more)

Vino Vino

Address: 121 G. S. Rakovski Blvd.

Working time: 10.00 am - 23.30 pm

Price: 20 - 25 €

Phone: +359 884 474 003

Website: www.facebook.com/vinovinosofia/timeline

Comments: The cuisine is home-made gourmet. The restaurant has special focus on wine and offers varieties of Bulgarian wine. It is cozy and with nice design. Live music is available on some evenings.

SkaraBar 2

Address: 12 Benkovski Str.

Price: Below 15 €

Phone: +3592 483 44 31; +359 884 195 817

Website: <http://www.skarabar.com>

Work time: Monday – Sunday, 12.00 am – 00.00 pm

Comments: Rich grill assortment with vegetables.

International Cuisine

Restaurant “Bulgaria”

Address: 4 Tzar Osvoboditel Str.

Price: 20 - 25 €

Phone: +3592 988 53 07; +359 887 736 435

Website: <http://restaurantbulgaria.net>

Work time: Every day

Comments: Restaurant Bulgaria is a part of the old history of Sofia. The building was constructed in 1936. During Second World War the building was destroyed and after that is built in the same construction that is now. For this time the restaurant and the hotel were the only modern facilities, giving the opportunity of receiving first class services on European level. The restaurant has winter garden, summer garden, and pastry shop.

Corso

Address: 10 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd. (across the Russian Church)

Price: 10 - 20 €

Phone: +359 888 100 113, +359 888 838 228

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/corsosofia>

Work time: 8.00 am – 00.00 pm

Comments: European and Mediterranean cuisine; Italian pizzas, barbecue, home-made desserts

Flanagans

Address: Sq. Narodno Sabranie 4 (across the Parliament, on the ground floor of Radisson Hotel)

Price: 10 - 20 €

Phone: +3592 933 43 34

Website: <http://visitsofia.bg/en/cityinfrastructure/where-to-eat/restaurants/flanagans>

Work time: 12.00 pm - 01.00 am

Comments: International cuisine. This restaurant is usual destination for the Bulgarian politicians who are having lunch or dinner after a plenary session at the Parliament right across the restaurant.

Sozopolis Greek Restaurant

(If Sofia Hotel Balkan is faced, the street on the right side of the building)

Address: 14 Saborna Str.

Price: 20 - 25 €

Phone: +3592 981 17 94; +359 899 972 891

Website: <http://www.sozopolisrestaurant.com>

Work time: Monday-Sunday 10.00 am - 00.00 pm

Comments: Typical Greek cuisine in a classy and nice atmosphere.

Happy Bar & Grill

Address: St. Nedelya Sq. No. 4; 145 Rakovski Str.

Price: 20 €

Phone: +359 888 181 070

Website: <http://www.happy.bg/en>

Work time: Every day from 11.00 am – 24.00 pm

Comments: Wide range of international dishes, in a cosy atmosphere. Usually on Friday and Saturday evenings is full. Especially for big groups a reservation in advance is recommended.

Checkpoint Charlie (Jazz Restaurant)

Address: 12 Ivan Vazov Str. (the corner with G. Rakovski Str.)

Price: 15 - 20 €

Phone: +3592 988 03 70; +359 886 577 342

Website: <http://www.checkpointcharlybg.com/en/>

Work time: Every day, 11.30 am - 23.30 pm

Comments: Traditional European menu. The restaurant has nice garden. Every Friday night there is a live Jazz band.

Restaurant Concept

Address: 12 Ivan Vazov Str.

Price: 20 €

Phone: +359 895 508 689

Website: <http://www.programata.bg/?p=71&c=1&id=7484&l=2>

Work time: 11.00 am - 23.00 pm

Comments: Cozy small restaurant with European Cuisine. Vintage style.

Restaurant Armenian First

Address: 10 Dobrudzha Str.

Price: 20 €

Phone: +3592 989 33 83; +359 894 399 099

Website: <http://firstbg.eu/>

Work time: 11.00 am – 23.00 pm

Comments: Cozy atmosphere, good design. Special Armenian dishes. The service is of high quality.

Made In Home

Address: 30 A “Angel Kanchev” Str.

Price: 20 €

Phone: +359 876 884 014

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/MADE-IN-HOME/351358010611>

Work time: Mon - Thu 11.00 am -10.30 pm; Fri-Sat 11.00 am - 11.00 pm; Sun 11.00 am - 8.00 pm

Comments: Alternative design, home like atmosphere. The tables are made of old wooden doors or cupboards. Interesting place with Mediterranean and vegetarian dishes.

Divaka (The Savage)

Address: 16 Hristo Belchev Str.; 54 Gladston Str.; 41A “6th Septemvri” Str.

Price: 10 - 15 €

Phone: +359 888 219 087; +359 887 440 011; +359 886 702 996

Website: <http://www.divaka.bg>

Work time: Monday – Sunday, 10.00 am – 01.00 pm

Comments: The restaurant has a simple, cozy and unpretentious atmosphere. It started as a pub and became a chain of restaurants. The best menu there would be chicken wings, French fries and beer.

Italian Cuisine

Fancy Restaurant&Pizza

Address: Fancy Terrace & Garden (Center) – 10 Tsar Osvoboditel blvd.; Fancy Park – 2 Sveti Sedmochislenitsi str.

Price: 20 €

Phone: +359 888 100 113

Website: <http://fancy.bg>

Work time: Every day

Comments: Freshly made pasta, pizza baked in special technology ovens with Italian products, and a great variety of meat and vegetarian dishes

Spaghetti Kitchen (Italian food & American Grill)

Address: 6-ti Septemvri Str. No. 9

Price: 20 €

Phone: + 359 890 566 666

Website: <http://spaghetti-kitchen.com>

Work time: Every day

Comments: Fresh and rich in flavor pasta, risotto, grilled-meat specialties, made on an authentic American grill. Well prepared meat - pork, chicken, beef and fish.

Spaghetti Company

Address: TZUM (Central Department Store (TZUM), in Bulgarian known as “ЦУМ”, close to the Council of Ministers), 1st floor, Vitosha Blv. 150

Price: 20 €

Phone: + 3592 926 04 27; +3592 881 01 00

Website: <http://www.spaghetti-company.com/>

Work time: Every day

Comments: Pizza, pasta, Mediterranean salads

Pizza Victoria

Address: 7A Tsar Osvoboditel blvd.

Price: 20 €

Phone: +359 888 393 077; +3592 986 32 00

Website: <http://www.victoria.bg>

Work time: Every day

Comments: Tasty pizzas, pasta, salads and Italian desserts like Tiramisu, served in a cozy and pleasant atmosphere. The service is of high quality.

UGO

Address: 45 Vitosha Blvd.; 68 Neofit Rilski str.; 2 Han Krum Str. (close to Slaveikov Sq.)

Price: 20 €

Phone: +3592 986 48 09; +3592 989 20 94; +3592 987 45 45

Website: <http://www.ugo.bg>

Work time: Every day – 24/7

Comments: Offers nice pizzas, pasta and salads. The restaurant biggest advantage is that it works every day, 24 hours and always serves tasty and warm dishes. On early mornings, around 5-6 am, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday the place is full of people who have just finished partying and dancing around the clubs in Sofia and have their rich breakfast with big pizzas or even stakes.

Chinese, Japanese & Indian Cuisine

9 Dragons

Address: 8A Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd.

Price: 10 €

Phone: +3592 981 88 78

Website: <http://www.sofia-guide.com/business/9-dragons/>

Work time: Monday – Sunday, 11.30 am – 23.30 pm

Comments: Traditional Chinese cuisine

City Hong Kong

Address: 50 Samuil Str.

Price: 10 €

Phone: +359 2 80 82 10

Website: <http://www.sofia-guide.com/business/city-hong-kong/>

Work time: Monday – Sunday 11.30 am – 23.30 pm

Comments: Traditional Chinese cuisine

Wok to Wok

Address: 8 Vitosha Blv.

Price: 10 €

Phone: +359 88 412 2920

Website: <http://woktowalk.com/bulgaria/>

Work time: Mon-Thurs: 11.00 am - 22.00 pm;

Fri: 11.00 am – 23.45 pm;; Sat: 12.00 pm – 23.45 pm;

; Sun: 12.00 pm – 22.00 pm

Comments: Asian Fusion, Fast Food, Thai and Vegetarian

Wasabi Garden

Address: 35A Aleksander Fon Humbolt Str.

Price: 20 - 30 €

Phone: +3592 973 34 34; +359 889 833 434

Website: <http://www.garden.wasabi.bg/>

Work time: Monday – Sunday 11.00 am - 23.30 pm

Comments: Japanese food, Sushi

Indian Restaurant Kohinoor

Address: 7 "Knyaz Boris I" Str.

Price: 15 - 20 €

Phone: +359 882 532 541

Website: <http://www.kohinoor.bg/en/>

Work time: Monday-Friday: 12.00 am - 23.00 pm; Saturday: 17.00 pm - 23.00 pm; Sunday: closed

Comments: Typical Indian cuisine

Spice House Indian Restaurant

Address: 3 Han Aparuh Str.

Price: 10 €

Phone: +359 87 614 53 72

Website: <http://spicehouse.bg/en/>

Work time: Monday-Sunday 12.00 pm - 23.00 pm

Comments: Typical Indian spicy dishes, suitable for vegetarians

Vegetarian Cuisine

Tea House – Tea Lounge & Restaurant

Address: 11 Georgi Benkovski Str.

Price: 12 €

Phone: + 359 884 648 873+; 359 887 051 080

Website: <http://teahousesofia.com/en/>

Work time: Monday-Saturday 10.00 am – 23.00 pm; Sunday 11.00 am - 18.00 pm. Summer time, lunch time only: 12.00 pm - 18.00 pm

Comments: Warm, cozy artistic place with live music in the evenings. Offers a large variety of teas and food, including vegan options. Holds events such as pottery making. Accepts payment only in cash.

Vegan Kitsch (Vegan Restaurant)

Address: 48 Petar Parchevich Str.

Price: 10 €

Phone: +359-878878360

Website: <http://vegankitsch.com/>

Work time: Monday-Saturday 9.00 am - 7.00 pm

Comments: Vegan, Bakery, Bulgarian, Western, Take-out. Formerly known as Kurabiinica Bakery, this vegetarian and organic bakery is housed inside "My Organic Market". Became all vegan since late 2013. Makes wholegrain and stone milled flour cookies, cakes, and Banitsa (traditional bulgarian bake in a vegan option). Offer breakfast and lunch food, seasonal drinks, smoothies, and coffee. Sugar-free options. Has outdoor seating.

Dream House

Address: 50A Alabin Str. (1st floor)

Price: 10 €

Phone: +3592 980 81 63

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/DreamHouse/148103941903740>

Work time: Monday - Saturday 11.00 am - 10.00 pm, Sunday 12.00 pm - 6.00 pm

Comments: Bulgarian and English both spoken and on the menu. Menu is mostly vegan with main course items labeled. Also has tea, soy and rice milk. Large dining room with view overlooking the street. Directions: Look for sign in yellow & green, take the corridor into the shopping centre, then take the white door to the left which is the entrance of a hostel, walk up a flight of stairs and you will find the entrance door there.

If you walk on **Vitosha Boulevard** or **Graf Ignatiev Street** you could find nice restaurants of different kinds. If you are interested in alternative bars and small cozy places with art atmosphere and non-mainstream music, just walk on **Tsar Ivan Shishman Street** and you will find many hidden and interesting places.

Desserts & Sweets

Cafe Wien

Address: 29 Moskovska Str.

Price: 10 €

Phone: +3592 441 62 16; +359 888 100 531

Website: <http://www.cafewien.bg/>

Work time: Mon - Fri 09.00 am - 22.00 pm; Sat - Sun 10.00 am - 22.00 pm

Comments: Very classy cafe, close to the National Opera. It has old style decoration and atmosphere and serve the best Wien cafe.

Confetti Gelateria (Also known as the Journalists' Cafe)

Address: 4 Graf Ignatiev Str.

Price: 20 €

Phone: +3592 988 44 44

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/CONFETTIgelateria>

Work time: Every day

Comments: One of the best ice cream in Sofia, made by Italian recipe. It also offers wide assortment of cakes and desserts as well as warm meals for lunch or dinner.

Laguna

Address: 13 Hristo Belchev Str.

Price: 10 - 15 €

Phone: +3592 980 30 01

Website: <http://www.laguna-bg.com/>

Work time: Monday – Sunday, 10.00 am – 24.00 pm

Comments: Tasty cakes, pastry, desserts, ice cream, cocktails, but also warm dishes with meat and salads.

Raffi Bar & Gelato

Address: 18 B “Vitosha Blvd.”; 11 Angel Kunchev Str.

Price: 10 - 15 €

Phone: +359 895 515 041; +359 895 515 045

Website: <http://raffydelivery.com/en/>

Work time: 00.00 am – 24.00 pm;

Comments: Fancy bar with wide range of cocktails, cakes and ice cream.

Afreddo

Address: 12 Vitosha Blvd.

Price: tubs&cones 2-3 €

Phone: *no phone available*

Work time: 11.00 am - 02.00 am

Comments: Ice cream&Galateria. One of the best ice creams in Sofia. Offers dozens of flavours. There are seats upstairs, too, and coffee and sandwiches are also offered

Bars & Clubs

Memento Bar

Address: 32 Vitosha Blvd.; 106 G.S. Rakovski; NDK

Price: 10 €

Phone: +359 882 422 928

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/MementoCafe>

Work time: 08.00 am - 02.00 pm

Comments: Nice, fancy bar, with variety of special cocktails

Racketa Rakia Bar

Address: 17 Yanko Sakuzov Blvd

Price: 10 - 15 €

Phone: +359 2 444 61 11

Website: <ww.facebook.com/RaketaRakiaBar>

Work time: 11.00 am – 24.00 pm

Comments: The bar offers wide assortment of the traditional Bulgarian drink – *Rakia*, such as Troyanska Slivova, Tetevenska Slivova. The bar offers also salads and light dishes. Cool design.

Petnoto na Rorschach (The Rorschach Stain)

Address: 8A Hristo Belchev Str.

Price: 5 - 8 €

Phone: +359 888 400 435

Website: <http://www.programata.bg/?p=69&c=1&id=6414&l=2>

Work time: Every day, after 9 pm.

Comments: Nice, cozy bar, with literature spirit, with portraits and pictures of famous writers on the walls, such as Virginia Wolf, Jack Kerouac, etc.

A:part:mental

Address: Neofit Rilsky Str. 68

Price: 10 €

Phone: 087 878 7321

Website: www.facebook.com/apartmental

Work time: Every day, from 10.00 am – 02.00 am

Comments: Alternative bar made as a real apartment. Not just a bar, but also a tea house, chocolaty, apartment with artistic design, art space for performances and readings, and home-like place which offers homemade desserts and drinks. Highly recommended for those who would like to experience a different atmosphere and enjoy a home party in an open public bar.

One more bar

Address: 12 Tsar Ivan Shishman Str.

Price: 5 - 10 €

Phone: +359 877 693 735; +359 877 693 735

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/OneMoreBar>

Work time: 08.30 am - 02.30 am

Comments: Great design and cozy bar, with artistic atmosphere and tasty cocktails.

Irish Harp Pub

Address: 7 Sveta Sofia Str. (St. Nedelya Square)

Price: 10 - 20 €

Phone: +3592 989 92 26

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Irish-Harp/173135449458094>

Work time: 10.00 am – 24.00 pm

Comments: Typical Irish atmosphere, with a lot of Guinness beer. The place also offers some assortment of warm dishes and salads.

Irish Pub J.J. Murphy's

Address: 6 Karnigradska Street Str.

Price: 10 - 20 €

Phone: +359 2 980 28 70; +359 878 333 457

Website: <http://jjmurphys.bg>

Work time: Every day, 12.00 pm – 01.00 am

Comments: Cosy Irish atmosphere, TV screens showing football games, especially if there are special championships and live music, with great rock bands.

Kanaal

Address: 2 Madrid Blvd.

Price: 10 €

Phone: +359 882 856 346

Website: <http://kanaal.bg/>

Work time: 17.30 pm - 02.00 am

Comments: The best bar for Belgian beer. It offers wide assortment of special Belgian beers, such that usually you can find only in Belgium

Maze Club

Address: 1 Hristo Belchev

Price: 5 - 10 €

Phone: +359 899 102 177

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/mazesofia/timeline>

Work time: 20.00 pm - 04.00 am

Comments: Live music, alternative bands, casual, friendly club

Brasserie (Bar&Dinner)

Address: 3 Rayko Daskalov Sq.

Price: 10 - 15 €

Phone: +3592 980 03 98; +359 888 105 816

Website: <http://www.brasserie-bg.com/>

Work time: Sunday – Thursday 10.30 am – 00.00 pm;

Friday – Saturday 10.30 am – 02.00 pm

Comments: Quinoa salad, grilled asparagus and Halumi cheese or homemade terrine are some of the favorites. Good for vegans. DJ music or live Jazz bands.

Bar Motto

Address: 18 Aksakov Str.

Price: 10 - 15 €

Phone: +3592 987 27 23

Website: <http://www.motto-bg.com>

Work time: Monday - Sunday 10.00 am - 00.00 pm

Comments: Nice bar, with cocktails, but also good salads and dinner dishes

Tell me...

Address: 12 Ivan Vazov Str.

Price: 10 - 15 €

Phone: +359 88 832 1106

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/TellMeBar>

Work time: 10.00 pm-04.00 am

Comments: Dance bar, disco music, DJ parties

Oscar

Address: 15 Slavjanska Str.

Price: 10-15 €

Phone: +3592 981 17 07

Website: <http://programata.bg/?p=69&l=2&c=1&id=2777>

Work time: Every day 11.00 – 03.30

Comments: Oscar club exists since 1999 and offers wide range of cocktails both alcoholic and non-alcoholic. The club is fancy. Usually visitors are dressed classy and officially.

Tiffany

Address: 12-14 Denkoglu Str

Price: 10-15 €

Phone: +3592 980 55 83; +359 899 134 85; +359 894 471 997

Website: <http://www.tiffany-sofia.com/index.php?lang=bg>

Work time: Every day 11.00 am - ...

Comments: Classy and fancy bar

Piano Bar Camino

Address: 70 Neofit Rilski

Price: 10-15 €

Phone: +359 899 121 219

Website: <http://www.programata.bg/?p=69&c=1&id=4575&l=2>

Work time: Every day 22.30 pm – 04.30 am

Comments: Classy and fancy piano bar. Jazz and retro music

Hospitals and Doctors in Sofia

Specialized Hospital for Emergency Medicine “Pirogov”, (or “Pirogov” only)

21, Totleben Blvd., Sofia

Tel: +3592 915 44 11; +3592 915 42 90

<http://www.pirogov.eu/>

Military Medical Academy (MMA)

3, St. Georgi Sofiyski Blvd., Sofia

Tel: +3592 922 60 00, +3592 922 57 31

<http://www.vma.bg>

Lozenetz (Governmental) Hospital

1, Koziak St., Sofia

(Metro stop “James Baucher”)

Tel: +3592 960 76 81; +3592 960 76 82; +3592 960 76 83; +3592 960 76 84;
+3592 960 7 6 85

<http://www.lozenetz-hospital.bg/>

Tokuda Hospital

51B Nikola Vaptsarov Blvd., Sofia 1407

Tel: +3592 403 40 00

Emergency Tel: +3592 403 41 12

<http://www.tokudabolnica.bg/en>

University Alexandrovska Hospital (Medical Academy)

1, Georgi Sofiyski Blvd., Sofia 1431

Tel: +3592 95 301, +3592 923 06 13

<http://alexandrovska.com>

City Clinic

Services for G.I., Cardiology, Neurology and Vascular Surgery, Daytime Pediatric Clinic

JCI Accredited

127 Okolovrasten Pat, Sofia 1407

Tel: 0700 13 127

Emergency Heart and Vascular Care: 0700 13 112

<http://cityclinic.bg/bg/sofia/home>

Dental Clinics and Dentists

Dental Clinics and Dentists

ArtDental Studio

Sharl Shampo Street. Bld. 86 (ground floor), Sofia

Phone: +359 884 836 360; +359 899 862 968

<http://www.artdental-studio.eu>

Dr. Ivaylo Ribagin, Ribagin Dent

23, Tvardishki Prohod, Sofia 1404

Tel: +3592 958 91 45

Mobile: +359 889 299 289; +359 888 309 653

<http://www.ribagindent.com/>

Dr. Dean Mihailoff, Swedent Dental Center

100 James Boucher Blvd., Hotel Kempinski Zografski, Room 114

Phone: +3592 969 22 73, +3592 969 22 72

Mobile: +359 888 703 821, +359 8954 744 573

Pharmacies

24/7 Pharmacies in the city center of Sofia

Adonis Pharmacy

2 Maria Louisa Blvd. (the TZUM underpass, opposite the church)

tel.: +3592 958 14 70

Medea Pharmacy

233 Alexander Stamboliiski Blvd.

Phone: +3592 929 81 35; +359 879 340 690

Zoia Pharmacy

160 G.S. Rakovsky Str.

Phone: +3592 986 79 84

Pharmacies with regular working hours

Remedium Pharmacy

34 Denkoglu Str.

Phone: +3592 878 01 46

Working hours: Mon-Fri: 8 - 21; Sat-Sun: 9 - 20

7 Slaveikov Sq.
Phone.: +3592 980 0287
Working hours: Mon-Fri: 8-21 h; Sat-Sun: 9-21 h

St. Mina Pharmacy

8 Pozitano Str. (close to the Court of Justice)3999
Phone: +359 2 980 44 28

Supermarkets for grocery shopping

- **Piccadilly TZUM** – 2 Knyaginya Maria Louise Blvd. (Every day – 8-22 h)
- **Tsentralni Hali** – The Central Sofia Market Hall – 25 Knyaginya Maria Louise Blvd. (across Banya Bashi Mosque)
- **Carrefour** – 11 Slaveikov Sq. (Every day: 8 - 22)
- **BILLA** – 116 G. S. Rakovski (Every day – Mon-Fri: 7.30 am - 23 pm; Sat: 8am - 22pm; Sun: 8.30 am - 21.30 pm)
- **BILLA** – 22 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd. (Every day – Mon-Fri: 7.30 am - 23 pm; Sat: 8am-22pm; Sun: 8.30 am - 21.30 pm)

Safety Tips and Advices

The very center of Sofia is safe

Sofia in general is a safe city. Especially if you keep staying in the very center, there is no need to worry. The city's heart is regarded to be St. Nedelya Square, with the Saint Nedelya Church, Vitosha Blvd. (especially the central part with a lot of shops, restaurants and bars, the part between Pozitano Str. (which crosses the Blvd.) and NDK; Patriarch Evtimii Blvd., Graf Ignatiev Str., the monument of St. Patriarch Evtimii (key meeting point for the locals, mostly known as Popa); Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd. (between the Parliament, the Council of Ministers to the building of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”); the park and the area around The National Theater “Ivan Vazov”, Slaveikov Square. The area around these streets and boulevards is safe and friendly for tourists and foreigners.

Watch out for pickpockets

As in any other big city pickpockets are also operating in some areas in Sofia. Be careful and watch out for pickpockets on the crowded central areas and touristic places, such as the shopping area of Vitosha Blvd., Graf Ignatiev Blvd. Be extra cautious at the area of Central Train Station, Tsentralni Hali (also known simply as *Halite* – the Central Sofia Market Hall), Knyaginya Maria Louiza Blvd. (toward Lions' Bridge), around Banya Bashi Mosque, Pirotska Str. (which starts in this region and leads to the so called “Women's market”. Don't be misled by the name. It doesn't sell women, but mostly fresh vegetables and fruits). This area is famous for the large population of gypsies. However recently the region around Halite and

Maria Louiza Blvd. became a popular place also for illegal immigrants from the East. Special cases of violence or robbery have not been reported.

In daytime the pickpockets can steal your purse or pocket with money in a very discreet way, so that you may notice after few hours. So, they do it in non-violent way, but are searching for distracted and not careful tourists. Generally, this area and the area that goes down Maria Louiza Blvd. toward Lions' Bridge have their history of being a little shady regions, especially at night time.

It is important to mention that in the last years the percentage of the robbed people on the streets in the center of Sofia have decreased. Probably, this is due to the security cameras put in major public places and may be also due to the presence of policemen at the central spots.

Cautious with the Taxis – avoid taxi scams!

Before getting into a taxi make sure it is one of the recommended, legal companies, approved by Sofia Municipality, listed previously in this leaflet. There are several big **companies, which are legal, have fixed tariffs and provide good service.** They are: **O.K. SuperTrans, Taxi for 1 euro, Taxi S Express, Yellow 333 Taxi, Green Taxi** (Green taxi is the only company with green cars, all the other legal taxis are yellow). The best way to be sure that you take legal taxi is to order it by phone.

However, if you have to take a taxi from the street, be careful for taxi scam and frauds. There are a lot of fake taxis which imitate the logos and the names of the legal companies, just by changing only one letter or word of its name, but try to make it look the same. So that when a customer is in a hurry and don't check carefully the name, he could be misled that he has taken a taxi from a legal company.

Remember always to check the prices and the name of the company before entering the car!

Especially when you take taxi from Sofia Airport to the city center, make sure that you order it from the official booth of O.K. SuperTrans Company, available at the Arrivals.

Here is a picture that shows how possible frauds or illegal imitation of the names of the real taxi companies look like (*Photo Credit: www.sofia-guide.com*):



* For more tips and advices about your good and safety stay in Sofia, check the online Sofia Tourists' TV: <http://sofiatouriststv.com/>

Tips in restaurants and bars

In Bulgaria in general tips in restaurants, bars and taxis are not obligatory and are left to the good will of the customers. However, usually people leave a small tip, which is roughly **10% of the bill**. You can leave higher or lower tip around this percentage, depending on your satisfaction with the service.

Sources: VisitSofia.bg, Sofia-Guide.com, Programata.bg, Sofia Free Tour, Lonely Planet, Trip Advisor, Wikipedia, locals' advices and experience.