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Todor N Nikolov/Shutterstock.com

Sofia could be likened to a Sleeping Beauty rousing from her slumbers, reawakening to share her charm with the rest of the world. With relics from Roman times to the Soviet era, a vibrant cultural and entertainment scene, and breathtaking views of the Vitosha mountain massif, Sofia is ready to reclaim her rightful place as one of the leading lights on the European sky.

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VENTURED BEFORE!

5 Off the Beaten Track
Destinations in Asia

ArrivalGuides

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Top 5



Aleksandar Nevski Memorial...
This is the most popular tourist attraction in Sofia. The beautiful orthodox...



Russian Church of St Nicholas
This gorgeous Russian Orthodox church is located in central Sofia. It was bu...



Rotunda of St George
Encircled with a courtyard of modern dwelling buildings, Rotunda of St Ge...



Ethnographic Museum
Here you can view excellent displays of folk art and crafts. The museum has ...



Sofia Art Gallery
The Sofia Art Gallery holds an excellent collection of Bulgarian art. The co...



THE CITY



Anton Chalakov/Shutterstock.com

Downtown is where you will find Sofia's major historical sites, ranging from Roman, Byzantine and 20th century architecture to Neoclassical Stalinist constructions. This is also where the city's business and commercial heart is located, with major shopping avenues and entertainment areas. Near the Alexander Nevski Church is the Oborishte district, a charming residential and commercial area, with a fine array of small, boutique-style shops, galleries and restaurants.

Studentski Grad, as the name suggests, is home to the majority of Sofia's 16 universities, hence a heavily populated student area. The arts and social scene is particularly bohemian and vibrant. If you want to escape the bright lights of the city for something more serene, you can head out to the Boyana district. This district is located at the foot of Vitosha Mountain (perfect for wandering amongst the forested lower slopes) and breathe the fresh mountain air.

DO & SEE



RossHelen/Shutterstock.com

The central downtown district is where you will find the major sights of Sofia's long history, with traces of Roman, Byzantine, and Soviet presence (neoclassical Stalinist architecture is still to be seen). This is also the city's business and commercial heart, where the major shopping avenues and entertainment areas are located.

Aleksandar Nevski Memorial Church



This is the most popular tourist attraction in Sofia. The beautiful orthodox cathedral was built in 1912 and took 30 years to complete. The cathedral was created in honor of the Russians soldiers that died in the Russo-Turkish war and holds up to 10,000 people.

Photo: S-F/Shutterstock.com

Address: Aleksander Nevski Square, Sofia

Phone: +359 2 988 1704

Russian Church of St Nicholas



This gorgeous Russian Orthodox church is located in central Sofia. It was built by Russia after the liberation of Bulgaria. The grave of Saint

Archbishop Seraphim is located under the main floor - believers still visit for pilgrimages, leaving notes with wishes and prayers.

Photo: Nataliya Nazarova/Shutterstock.com

Address: 3 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd., Sofia

Rotunda of St George



Encircled with a courtyard of modern dwelling buildings, Rotunda of St George is the oldest preserved structure in the city,

which has also been declared a UNESCO World Heritage site. The beautiful cupola holds a fourteenth-century portrait of Christ surrounded by four angels.

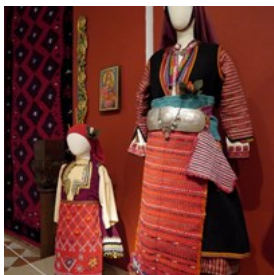
Photo: S-F/Shutterstock.com

Address: 5 Ploshtad Sveta Nedelya, Sofia

Phone: +359 02 980 9216

Internet: www.svgeorgi-rotonda.com

Ethnographic Museum



Here you can view excellent displays of folk art and crafts. The museum has several different collections of items such as traditional clothing, copper objects, woodcarving, ceramics, and more. It is a rather compact space, but the guide provides comprehensive information about the exhibits.

Photo: The Getting of Wisdom/Flickr (image cropped)

Address: 1 Alexander Battenberg Square, Sofia

Phone: +359 2 988 1974

Sofia Art Gallery



The Sofia Art Gallery holds an excellent collection of Bulgarian art. The collections include both past masters and contemporary artists.

Housed in what formerly used to be a palace, the space showcases works of celebrated artists such as Tsanko Lavrenov and Vladimir Dimitrov-Maistor.

Photo: blurAZ/Shutterstock.com

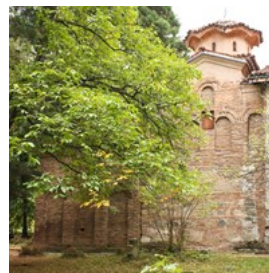
Address: 1 General Gurko Street, Sofia

Opening hours: Closed on Mondays

Phone: +359 2 987 2181

Internet: www.sghg.bg

Boyana Church



Boyana Church is the oldest Orthodox church in Sofia. This medieval construction, set in a green area at the foot of the mountains, was added

to the list of UNESCO World Heritage sites due to its renaissance-style frescoes. In the church you can see 89 scenes with 240 human images.

Photo: Toniflap/Shutterstock.com

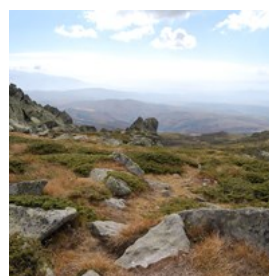
Address: 1-3 Boyansko ezero Street, Sofia

Phone: +359 2 959 0939

Internet: www.boyanachurch.org

Email: nmbc@nmbc.orbitel.bg

Mount Vitosha



If you want to escape the pace of the city you can go to Mount Vitosha, whose peak is visible from multiple spots in the city. Here you can enjoy a

hike through the forested slopes or rocky peaks,

and even go rock climbing if active pursuits are a thing for you.

Photo: R Dimitrova/Shutterstock.com

Address: Mount Vitosha, Sofia

Ivan Vazov National Theater



This old, ornate building is a perfect place to go for some of the best postcard-ready photos in town. Its main draw, however, are the many shows held here. Check the schedule to see what performances are currently put on. Tickets may be bought online.

Photo: aerogondo2/Shutterstock.com

Address: 5 Deacon Ignatius, Sofia

Phone: +359 2 811 9227

Internet: www.new.nationaltheatre.bg

Saint Nedelja Church



Another one of the city's many religious structures, the Saint Nedelja Church dates back to as early as the 16th century, and can be

found in the heart of Sofia. If you enjoy old icons and beautiful architecture, stop by along the route of your itinerary.

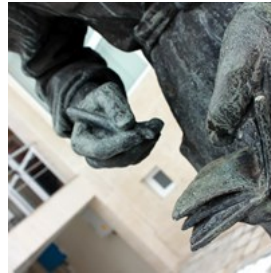
Photo: Andrii Lutsyk/Shutterstock.com

Address: Saint Nedelja Church, Sofia

Phone: +359 2 987 5748

Internet: www.sveta-nedelia.org

Museum of Socialist Art



The Museum of Socialist Art first opened in 2011. Here you can find a sculpture park and exhibitions featuring paintings and plastic

easel works that relate to the socialist era in one way or another. The sculpture park contains a plethora of statues, from prominent leaders to factory workers.

Photo: Rachel Titiriga/Flickr (image cropped)

Address: 7 Ulitsa Lachezar Stanchev, Sofia

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 10am-5.30pm

Phone: +359 2 902 1862

National Opera and Ballet



A lesser-know attraction, the National Opera and Ballet is Sophia's hidden gem. Performances are of very high quality, and good seats are easy to get

(and incredibly great value). This is also the place to go and listen to classical music by great masters like Wagner and Rossini.

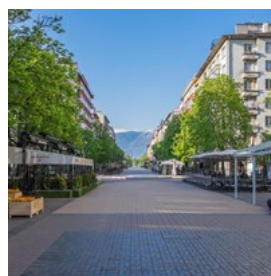
Photo: Eugene Mynzul/Shutterstock.com

Address: 30 Dondoukov Blvd., Sofia

Phone: +359 2 987 7011

Internet: www.operasofia.bg

Vitosha Boulevard



Vitosha, one of the most popular streets in Sofia, is certainly the place to be on a sunny day. This spacious boulevard has many cafés and shops,

and is teeming with leisurely strollers and shoppers at almost any given time. The Vitosha Mountain dramatically dominates the skyline in

the south.

Photo: teodorpk/Flickr (image cropped)

Address: Vitosha Blvd., Sofia

Statue of Slaveikovs



The famous Statue of Slaveikovs is located in its namesake Slaveikov Square. The statue eternalizes two poets, a father and son, sitting on

a bench. Feel free to sit down right next to the famed Bulgarian publicists and capture the moment on camera.

Photo: Bjørn Giesenbauer/Flickr (image cropped)

Address: Slaveikov Square, Sofia

Food Tour



A different way to discover what the city has to offer in terms of culinary delights, a food tour is good for those looking to discover some

under-the-radar family-run restaurants and sample some incredible local cuisine.

One company that offers such tours is Balkan Bites:

Photo: VikaRayu/Shutterstock.com

Phone: +359 87 761 3992

Internet: www.balkanbites.bg

Email: info@balkanbites.bg

More Info: Tours are free and operate on a "tip optional" basis.

Boyana Waterfall



Boyana Waterfall is a natural waterfall that can be reached going up from the Boyana neighbourhood (Boyana Church). Marked paths of two levels of difficulty are available (the shorter route is much steeper, and better for dry weather). Guided tours are offered by Sofia Green Tour:

Photo: Velichka Miteva/Shutterstock.com

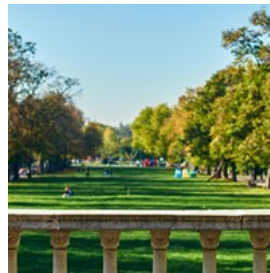
Phone: +359 885 523630

Internet: www.sofiagreentour.com

Email: sofiagreentour@gmail.com

More Info: Tours are conducted by local volunteers

Borisova Gradina



One of the nicest green areas in the city, Borisova Gradina is where locals come to spend a leisurly afternoon when the weather allows. Nearby are Vasil Levski and CSKA Stadiums, so the park will fit well into football-lovers' itineraries. There are a few cafes and children's playgrounds on premises.

Photo: Denys Kurbatov/Shutterstock.com

Address: Borisova Gradina Park, Sofia

Monument to the Soviet Army



A must-see landmark, the Monument to the Soviet Army is a nostalgic reminder of socialist times. It shows a brave soldier surrounded by hard-working members of the proletariat looking ahead to the bright future that awaits. Located at the eastern entrance to Borisova Gradina

park.

Photo: Nataliya Nazarova/Shutterstock.com

Address: Borisova Gradina Park, Sofia

National Museum of Military History



The museum has remained largely under the tourist radar despite its rather comprehensive collection of military artifacts. Army uniforms

and weapons dating back to 1876 all the way through to the times of WWI are on display, as well as WWII tanks and military jets directly outside the building.

Photo: DAVID HOLT/Flickr (image cropped)

Address: 92 Cherkovna, Sofia

Opening hours: Wed-Sun 10am-6pm

Phone: +359 2 946 1805

Internet: www.militarymuseum.bg

National History Museum



Set panoramically against the scenic backdrop of a snowy mountain range, the National History Museum contains a great selection of art and

archaeological finds. This is a must-see for anyone interested in learning more about Bulgarian history and art.

Photo: Monkey Business Images/Shutterstock.com

Address: 16 Vitoshko lale, Sofia

Phone: +359 2 955 7602

Internet: www.historymuseum.org

Snail House



The Snail House is a quirky place and a perfect spot for anyone interested in architecture. This has become one of the most popular places in Sofia and will probably win first prize for being the oddest picture in your photo album when you come home.

Photo: Marcian/Wikimedia Commons (image cropped)

Address: 187 Simeonovsko Shose, Sofia

DINING



SSokolov/Shutterstock.com

Due to its geographical location and its history of settlement, Bulgarian cooking is a mixture of several cuisines. Look out for Shopska Salad or the Turkish-influenced Kebapcheta and Kyufteta (spiced minced meat, molded and grilled). Do not miss out on a hearty bowl of Kavarma and if there is room left, be sure to try the renowned Bulgarian yoghurt.

Dreamhouse



For a great selection of vegetarian and vegan dishes, head to the Dreamhouse restaurant. It specializes in meat-free cooking, and caters to

those who follow a gluten-free diet. Dishes are inventive and flavorful, and the prices very affordable for the quality.

Photo: Timolina/Shutterstock.com
Address: 50A Alabin Street, Sofia
Phone: +359 2 980 8163
Internet: www.dreamhouse-bg.com

Chevermeto



If you want to get the full Bulgarian experience, visit this authentic restaurant which fuses local cuisine and performing arts together to offer guests a unique evening of entertainment. Acquaint yourself with Bulgarian culinary traditions and enjoy a show put on by guest dancers and musicians.

Photo: Peter Svetoslavov/Shutterstock.com
Address: 1 Bulgaria Blvd., Sofia
Phone: +359 2 9 630 308
Internet: www.chevermeto-bg.com

Mondo Downtown



Mondo Downtown (formerly The Company Wine Bar & Dinner) serves a selection of imported steaks and other meat dishes. The drink list here is extensive - from wines to beers (the beers on tap range from Guinness to Heineken). Live music is played regularly.

Photo: HLPhoto/Shutterstock.com
Address: 24 Slavianska Street, Sofia
Phone: +359 87 955 0090

Sage Bistro



Run by two chef brothers (one of whom used to be head chef at the reputable Kempinski Panorama), Sage Bistro is a rustic restaurant that serves traditional Italian cuisine in an intimate setting. Pasta is freshly made in-house, and the restaurant is especially know for its superb seafood.

Photo: Kzenon/Shutterstock.com
Address: 63 Stefan Stambolov Street, Bistritsa, Sofia
Phone: +359 2 992 7140
Internet: www.sage.bg

Sunmoon



Sunmoon restaurant offers a varied menu with Arabian, Asian and Moroccan-inspired dishes. The restaurant specialises in plant-based cuisine, all held to a high standard. Its interior is furnished with re-purposed old items, which creates a pleasant rustic atmosphere. Features an in-house bakery.

Photo: qanatstudio/Shutterstock.com
Address: 39 Sixth September Street, Sofia
Phone: +359 899 138 411
Internet: www.sunmoon.bg

Taj Mahal Restaurant



This excellent restaurant is heralded by connoisseurs as one of the best for Indian cuisine in the country, and possibly beyond. The menu is varied, comprised of authentic Indian dishes such as tandoori, curries, various dishes

with chicken and seafood, and more.

Photo: Foodio/Shutterstock.com

Address: 11 August Street, Sofia

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 12pm-11.30pm, Mon 6pm-11.30pm

Phone: +359 2 987 3632

Internet: www.tajmahal.bg

Pizzarela



Out of the way of main tourist streams and yet very centrally located is Pizzarela, a restaurant that specializes in burgers, pizza, and grill.

The staff speak fluent English (not-so-common in less touristy areas). If weather permits, make use of the pleasantly refreshing outdoor seating area.

Photo: Fanfo/Shutterstock.com

Address: 1 Bulgaria Square, Sofia

Opening hours: Daily 9am-10.30pm

Phone: +359 88 866 0404

Internet: www.pizzarela.bg

Boom! Burgers & Steaks



Boom! Burgers & Steaks is a small, cosy steakhouse and burger place. If you enjoy a nice steak or gourmet burger, this is definitely a good

eatery to check out. Try the signature Boom burger or the "Double Trouble", if you're feeling especially hungry.

Photo: Dani Vincek/Shutterstock.com

Address: 15 Karnigradska Street, Sofia

Phone: +359 894 420 440

Lavanda



Lavanda is housed inside what used to be just your average apartment - guests are seated in one of the several rooms, on the balcony or in the garden. The menu features European and Mediterranean dishes with a creative spin on the classic flavors. Special emphasis is placed on presentation.

Photo: DonLand/Shutterstock.com

Address: 12 Tsar Ivan Shishman Street, Sofia

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 12pm-11pm

Phone: +359 882 249 740

Panorama Restaurant



Located at the reputable Marinela Hotel, Panorama is an upscale dining establishment with a view - but do book in advance to ensure being seated by the window. Cuisine served is European, with a special emphasis on seafood. Evening dining is accompanied with live piano music.

Photo: Andrey Bayda/Shutterstock.com

Address: 100 James Bourchier Blvd., Sofia

Phone: +359 2 868 6096

Internet: www.kempinski.com

Skara Bar



Skara Bar is an incredible find for meat-lovers - the menu features a dizzying assortment of grilled meats ranging from chicken to beef and lamb (several fish varieties on offer as well). Ambiance is laid-back and portion size generous. There are

three locations throughout Sofia.

Photo: R.Ashrafov/Shutterstock.com
Address: 2 Dimitar Grekov Street, Sofia
Phone: +359 2 483 4431
Internet: www.skabar.com

Moma Bulgarian Food & Wine



As the name reveals, the restaurant specializes in local flavors and serves some of the best traditional food in town, all in a modern Bulgarian interior gesturing towards the country's rich cultural heritage. Start or finish off with a shot of rakia - a local variety of brandy.

Photo: Peter Svetoslavov/Shutterstock.com
Address: 28 Solunska Street, Sofia
Opening hours: Daily 11am-11.30pm
Phone: +359 885622020
Internet: www.moma-restaurant.com

Made in Home



Booking in advance is a must at this Sofia restaurant due to its high popularity with diners (albeit, mostly among visitors to the city). The menu is dominated by Eastern European flavors interspersed with Turkish and Middle Eastern ones. Desserts are not to be missed.

Photo: Lisovskaya Natalia/Shutterstock.com
Address: 30A Angel Kanchev, Sofia
Phone: +359 87 688 4014

The Sushi Bar



Sushi comes in many delicious varieties at this small Japanese sushi bar located away from the city's busiest districts. The menu lists nigiri, futomaki, temaki and hosomaki rolls, as well as sashimi and mains such as Japanese yakitori and noodles.

Photo: funkyfrogstock/Shutterstock.com
Address: 18 Denkoglu Street, Sofia
Phone: +359 2 981 8442
Internet: www.thesushibar.bg

Bulgari



Restaurant Bulgari is ideally located in the city centre and offers traditional Bulgarian cuisine. Here you can enjoy your dinner in an atmospheric Art Nouveau style house adorned with photographs and icons. Seating in the outdoor patio available during the summer.

Photo: kocetoiliev/Shutterstock.com
Address: 71 Dondukov Blvd., Sofia
Phone: +359 2 843 54 19
Internet: www.bulgary.bg

CAFES



Csehak Szabolcs/Shutterstock.com

Cafes are aplenty in the Bulgarian capital, many doubling as bars in the after-hours. To people-watch, head straight to Vitosha Boulevard and savor a coffee in one of its many establishments with terraces and outdoor seating. Another area teeming with cafes is the central Oborishte. Organic and vegan trends are on the rise, and many cafes that popped up in Sofia in recent years serve as solid testament.

Villa Rosiche



Villa Rosiche is a longstanding establishment, the go-to place for some of the finest desserts in Sofia. Sweet-lovers will

certainly rejoice at the sight of its dessert menu, and for those who prefer savory, there are several varieties of fresh croissants with cheese and vegetable fillings.

Photo: Lia Koltyrina/Shutterstock.com

Address: 26 Neofit Rilski Street, Sofia

Opening hours: Daily 8am-9pm

Phone: +359 2 954 3072

Internet: www.vilarosiche.com

Art Club Museum



This café is located just behind the Archaeological Museum. One of its main draws is the spacious, airy outdoor seating area. The cafe serves light

snacks, sandwiches, salads, pizza, and some substantial foods. Alcoholic drinks and cocktails are on offer.

Photo: Luca Lorenzelli/Shutterstock.com

Address: 2 Saborna Street, Sofia

Phone: +359 2 980 6664

Internet: www.artclubmuseum.bg

Tea House



This vegetarian cafe cum tea house has much to offer in the way of food and tea varieties. Try the healthy wholewheat pizza, vegan kebab, or

opt for a lighter salad. The desserts are a highlight - the raw cake and chocolate truffles are not to be missed.

Photo: Wiro.Klyngz/Shutterstock.com

Address: 11 Georgi Benkovski, Sofia

Phone: +359 887 051 080

Internet: www.teahousesofia.com

Social Cafe Bar & Kitchen



One of the newest additions to the capital's cafe scene, Social Cafe Bar & Kitchen is a hip young establishment that offers some unusual

flavor combinations. Pizzas served here are done the right way (thin crust), and the menu features many elevated Mediterranean classics.

Photo: Eight Photo/Shutterstock.com

Address: 16 Vitosha Blvd., Sofia

Phone: +359 876767647

Internet: www.socialcafe.bg

Rainbow Factory



Small, cosy cafe with a modern air to it, the Rainbow Factory serves solid sandwiches and food, but what keeps customers coming back

for more are, beyond doubt, the incredible desserts served here. Serves set breakfasts and speciality coffees, rumored to be of rather high quality.

Photo: YKTR/Shutterstock.com

Address: Veslets Street 10, Sofia

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8am-10pm, Sat 10am-10pm, Sun 10am-8pm

Phone: +35 924440556

Supa Star



It's all about the soups (and sandwiches) at this homely, centrally located cafe. Soups come in many light and hearty varieties, which includes vegetarian

and vegan options. Soups vary by day and location, but some flavors include cream of broccoli and spinach, pumpkin, fish, and many more.

Photo: Bochkarev Photography/Shutterstock.com

Address: 8 Tsar Ivan Shishman Street, Sofia

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 10.30am-9pm, Sat 12pm-9pm, Sun 12pm-7pm

Ciccione Panini Bar



The Ciccione Panini Bar offers a wide range of Italian-inspired light meals and snacks. In the summer, the courtyard-like covered

seating area is ideal for a quick lunch break or even an evening glass of wine. The cafe operates on a self-service basis.

Photo: Billion Photos/Shutterstock.com

Address: 6 Hristo Belchev Street, Sofia

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8am-11.45pm, Sat-Sun 10am-11.30pm

Phone: +359 882503040

Internet: www.ciccione.bg

Memento Cafe



The cafe's location on the main pedestrian boulevard and the cushy outside seating area makes it a perfect place to shoot the breeze and

people-watch. Come for coffee or tea during day time and excellent cocktails at night, when guest DJs play groovy sets.

Photo: IAKOBCHUK VIACHESLAV/Shutterstock.com

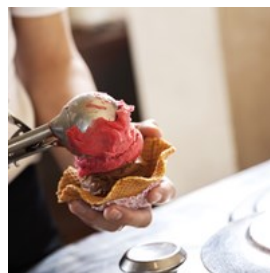
Address: 32 Vitosha Blvd., Sofia

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8am-2am, Sat 9am-3am, Sun 10am-2am

Phone: +359 88 242 2928

Internet: memento.cafe

Confetti



Far not the only ice cream shop in town, Confetti does stand out for the quality and freshness of its ice creams and the

impressive variety of flavors. There are definitely plenty of desserts to choose from, including cheesecake, tiramisu, and other cake varieties.

Photo: Tyler Olson/Shutterstock.com

Address: 4 Graf Ignatiev, Sofia

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8am-8.30pm, Sat-Sun 9am-8.30pm

Phone: +359 2 988 4444

Before & After



The cafe's charming Art Nouveau interior is an attraction in itself, and the varied food and drink menu only adds to the establishment's appeal.

The cafe is adjacent to a cabaret, and tango sessions are held every Sunday at 6pm. Located in the central Oborishte area.

Photo: Stas Walenga/Shutterstock.com

Address: 12 Hristo Belchev, Sofia

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8.30am-10pm, Sun 11am-10.30pm

Phone: +359 29816088

Internet: www.ba.club-cabaret.net

BARS & NIGHTLIFE

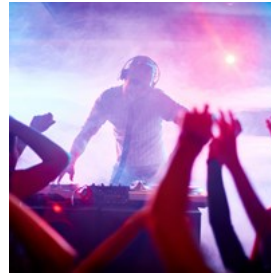


Pressmaster/Shutterstock.com

From chic designer bars where you can seriously strut your stuff to bohemian hideaways reminiscent of the 50's beat scene in San Francisco, Sofia will undoubtedly have a watering hole to fit any preference. For the nocturnal animals amongst you, or those

suffering from a severe bout of insomnia, Sofia's nightclubs will not disappoint. Be it hard house, rock or Bulgarian folk, there is always a place to suit all tastes and styles.

Tiffany



Tiffany has everything you need: a lovely interior, a big bar, guest DJs and a massive dance floor. One of the best nightclubs in the city with go-go dancers, loud beats and a party atmosphere, Tiffany offers the quintessential nightclubbing experience.

Photo: Pressmaster/Shutterstock.com

Address: 12-14 Denkoglou street, Sofia

Phone: +359 896 300 600

Internet: www.tiffany-sofia.com

Hambara Bar



The tucked away gem of a bar might be quite hard to locate. Walk down a small alley and seek out a door with no identifying sign on it, give it a knock and wait to be let into the candle-lit space of this underground bar. The absence of electricity truly creates a unique atmosphere.

Photo: Olivier Le Queinec/Shutterstock.com

Address: 6 Septemvri Street, Sofia

Sense Hotel Rooftop Bar



With its unobstructed view of the iconic Aleksandar Nevski Cathedral and central Sofia, Sense Hotel's Rooftop Bar ranks

amongst the finest for city panoramas. On top of that, the bar is excellently staffed with bartenders who know a thing or two about mixology.

Photo: Jag_cz/Shutterstock.com

Address: 16 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd., Sofia

Phone: +359 700 20670

Internet: www.sensehotel.com

J.J. Murphy's



J.J. Murphy's is a cosy pub that was first founded in Cork, Ireland but has expanded all the way to Sofia. Enjoy live music while sipping on a pint, or come here and watch a football match. Live music shows are put on every now and then. There is a garden designated for smokers.

Photo: Pressmaster/Shutterstock.com

Address: 6 Karnigradska Street, Sofia

Phone: +359 2 980 2870

Internet: www.jjmurphys.bg

Raketa Rakia Bar



The stylized space of Raketa Rakia restaurant and bar is packed with socialist memorabilia, making for an exotic interior that helped turn the place into a magnet for visiting foreigners. Several varieties of Bulgarian rakia are on offer (a brandy that packs quite a punch with its 40-degree strength).

Photo: maggee/Shutterstock.com

Address: 17 Qnko Sakuzov, Sofia

Opening hours: 11am-12am

Phone: +359 24446111

DADA Cultural Bar



The "cultural" in the bar's name stands for the frequently held performances, music sets, readings, and other social events held within its walls. It's a great place to grab an evening drink in a pleasant, artsy atmosphere. Check the website to see what's on when you're in town.

Photo: atipong arysorn/Shutterstock.com

Address: 10 Benkovski, Sofia

Internet: www.blog.dadaculturalbar.eu

One More Bar



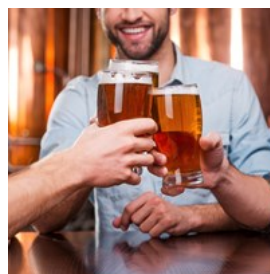
The intimate and refreshing courtyard seating area and the well-crafted cocktails make for some of the city's best settings for a leisurely evening drink. The place serves food, and the staff are English-speaking. Choose from a rather wide selection of spirits and cocktails.

Photo: Arina P Habich/Shutterstock.com

Address: 12 Tsar Ivan Shishman Street, Sofia

Phone: +359 87 769 37 35

Pub Crawl



Pub Crawls are a great way to hit several nightlife hot spots in the same evening, and learn about the city's best bars and clubs from local insiders. One company that enjoys a good reputation is The New Sofia Pub Crawl:

Photo: g-stockstudio/Shutterstock.com

Phone: +359 87 761 3992

Internet: www.thenewsofiapubcrawl.com

Bedroom Premium Club



Sofia's prime nightlife venue, the Bedroom is one of the leading clubs on the capital's party scene. With its incredible dance shows, excellent drinks and impeccable service, the club is currently the to-be place for the young and beautiful of Sofia and beyond.

Photo: Pressmaster/Shutterstock.com
Address: 2 Lege Street, Sofia
Phone: +359 88 886 0666
Internet: www.bedroom.bg/sofia

ShiSha Bar SpeShial Center



Shisha bars are still trending, with ShiSha Bar SpeShial Center topping the list of establishments recommended for hookah-lovers. Inviting soft couches, curtain-draped seating areas, and, naturally, the shisha that comes in multiple flavor varieties all make for a pleasant night out.

Photo: Chubykin Arkady/Shutterstock.com
Address: 32 William Gladstone Street, Sofia
Opening hours: Sun-Thu 12pm-1am, Fri-Sat 12pm-2am
Phone: +359 877 898 897
Internet: www.shishaspeshial.com

Club Mixtape 5



Sofia's underground music and event venue, Mixtape 5 keeps its hand on the pulse and regularly hosts both well-established and up-and-coming musicians, playing in genres ranging from reggae to hip hop to electronic music. The venue is spacious, which prevents

overcrowding. Smoking not allowed.

Photo: melis/Shutterstock.com
Address: 1 Bulgaria Blvd., Sofia
Phone: +359 88 530 5589

Rock'N'Rolla Club



The Rock'N'Rolla Club occupies a basement in one of Sophia's central district buildings. 80s and 90s rock is played, and football matches broadcast to hits by AC/DC, Guns'n'Roses, Scorpion and other iconic rock bands. Drinks are offered at very reasonable prices.

Photo: Kzenon/Shutterstock.com
Address: 1 Graf Ignatiev, Sofia
Phone: +359 88 813 1318
Internet: www.rocknrolla.bg

Bar FlipFlop



FlipFlop is one of the newest additions to Sophia's bar scene. The hip venue serves a range of beers and cocktails, and is a real magnet for the twenty-something crowd. Sundays are reserved for "lazy Indie nights", and DJ sets are hosted on Fridays and Saturdays.

Photo: Arina P Habich/Shutterstock.com
Address: 61 Oborishte Street, Sofia
Opening hours: Sun 11am-12am, Mon-Sat 10am-12am
Phone: +359 87 780 6997
Internet: www.barflipflop.tumblr.com

Motto



Motto is a cool and contemporary restaurant and bar that serves a fine selection of cocktails. The wood-and-glass veranda

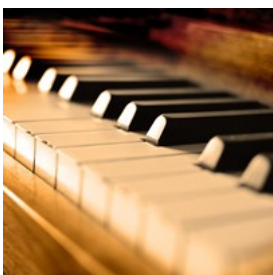
(and on summer days, the outdoor patio) look inviting for a lunch (menus vary daily) or an evening drink with pleasant music playing in the background.

Photo: Tarik Kaan Muslu/Shutterstock.com

Address: 18 Aksakov Street, Sofia

Phone: +359 2 987 27 23

Piano Bar Chicago



The Piano Bar Chicago offers a wide range of drinks. One of the bar's main draws are the regularly hosted live music nights, where

Bulgarian musicians showcase their craft to audiences of up to 100 people. Take note that the entry fee is paid upon exiting the bar.

Photo: Lane V. Erickson/Shutterstock.com

Address: 9 Dondukov Blvd., Sofia

Phone: +359 894 440 540

Internet: www.pianobarchicago.com

SHOPPING



Stoyan Yotov/Shutterstock.com

Since the end of communist rule, Sofia has blossomed into a shopper's paradise. If you are looking for high-end designer boutiques or simple pleasures at the local market, Sofia is guaranteed to satisfy your shopping needs. Vitosha Boulevard and Graf Ignatiev are Sofia's main shopping areas where you will find the familiar line up of international high street fashion chains. For one-off originals, Shipka, Oborishte and San Stefano Street, near the Alexander Nevski Cathedral are thronging with small boutiques. The covered market on Ekzarh Yosif Street is the place to pick up excellent Bulgarian food.

Paradise Center



The mall is located some 4 km outside of the city center, but is now reachable by metro, which has made it much more accessible to the

public. Inside a range of international brands are represented. An amusement park with several thrill rides operates on the rooftop, and there is a 4D cinema inside.

Photo: Pressmaster/Shutterstock.com

Address: 100 Cherni Vrah, Sofia

Opening hours: Sun 10am-12am, Mon-Sat 10am-2am

Phone: +359 700 10 050

Internet: www.paradise-center.com

Zhenski Pazar (Women's market)



The so-called "Women's Market" on Stefan Stambolov Boulevard is probably the most popular market in Sofia that sells all manner of goods - and not women's items alone. There is a large variety of fruit, vegetables, cheese and other edible delights to be had.

Photo: Matej Kastelic/Shutterstock.com
Address: Stefan Stambolov Blvd., Sofia

Mall of Sofia



This is the first mall and currently one of the most popular ones in Sofia. Brands represented include Replay, Bobo Zander, Ceelio, Esprit, Kenvelo, Mango, United Colors Of Benetton, Lee Cooper, Adidas, Speedo and Intersport. You can also watch a movie in the "Cinema City" or "M-Tel IMAX 3D".

Photo: gpointstudio/Shutterstock.com
Address: 101 Al.Stamboliyski Blvd., Sofia
Opening hours: Daily 10am-10pm
Phone: +359 2 980 4437
Internet: www.mallofsofia.com

Serdika Center



The Serdika Center opened in early 2010 and is the biggest mall in Sofia. Much like other city malls, Serdika is home to multiple international brand stores and boutiques. Its vast space is packed with all manner of shops, selling

clothing, beauty products, accessories, and more.

Photo: Syda Productions/Shutterstock.com
Address: 48 Sitnyakovo Blvd., Sofia
Phone: +359 2 495 2121
Internet: www.serdikacenter.bg

The Mall



With its 66,000 square meters surface area, The Mall (also referred to as Tsarigradskogo Mall) used to hold the title of the largest in the Balkans up until 2013. At this mall you will find shops like Benetton, Adidas, Intersport, Deichmann and other shops that sell fashion, accessories, and more.

Photo: www.BillionPhotos.com/Shutterstock.com
Address: 115 Tsarigradsko Blvd., Sofia
Phone: +359 2 8787 920
Internet: www.themall.bg

TZUM



If you are looking for something a little more exclusive, head to the upmarket TZUM department store located nearby the Sveta Nedelya Square. This mall is home to some of the top names in the fashion industry, and houses an array of fancy boutiques and luxury brand shops.

Photo: Pressmaster/Shutterstock.com
Address: 2 Knyaginya Maria Luiza Blvd., Sofia
Phone: +359 2 926 0700
Internet: www.tzum.bg

Market



If the hustle of the market is more your thing, there are all manner of antique and craft stalls selling everything from religious icons to lace doilies scattered around the Alexander Nevski Cathedral. It's a good place to come if you're looking to buy local souvenirs.

Photo: posztos/Shutterstock.com

Address: Alexander Nevski Church, Sofia

The Book Market



The Book Market in Slaveikov Square has been around for more than 100 years. Come here and feel the atmosphere of an authentic book market, shop around, but do keep in mind that many of the newer books may be purchased at lower prices in nearby bookstores.

Photo: Yulia Grigoryeva/Shutterstock.com

Address: Slaveikov Square, Sofia

Art Shop Hand Made



For something a little different, pay a visit to this tiny shop packed to the brim with hand-made, unique items. The display includes dolls, home decor, jewellery, and various knick-knacks made of cloth, hand-painted silk and ceramics - all fruit of an enthusiast's work.

Photo: Robert Kneschke/Shutterstock.com

Address: 17 Gurgulyat Street, Sofia

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 11am-7.30pm, Sat 11am-6pm

Phone: +35 9888439010

Internet: www.everyoneweb.fr/artshophadmade

Central Sofia Market Hall



The sleek Central Market Hall is more of a tourist attraction than a busy authentic bazaar, but it is certainly worth a quick look around if time allows. It mostly sells produce such as local cheeses and meats, but there are few souvenir shops inside as well.

Photo: eesti/Shutterstock.com (image cropped)

Address: 28 Maria Luiza, Sofia

Vino Orenda Wine Shop



The wine shop supports Bulgarian wine producers, and offers an assortment of wines all made locally. Wines from the region make for a great souvenir, and the knowledgeable store assistant will willingly offer advice if the choice strikes you as overwhelming.

Photo: Markus Mainka/Shutterstock.com

Address: 50A Makedonia Blvd., Sofia

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 10.30am-7.30pm, Sat 11.30am-7.30pm

Phone: +359 889623606

Internet: www.vinoorenda.com

Elephant Bookstore



The bookstore features a large selection of literature in English, which makes it a very tourist-friendly place for literature enthusiasts. On top of books, there are lots of fun, quirky souvenirs and accessories to look at such as the

"nihilism soap" or the Sigmund Freud wrist watch.

Photo: luminaimages/Shutterstock.com
Address: 31 Shishman, Sofia
Opening hours: Daily 10am-10pm
Phone: +359 88 642 0954
Internet: www.elephantbookstore.com

Dobrev's Cheese Store



The Dobrev family first established the brand in 1994, and has opened several dairy shops around town since then.

The stores specialize in high-quality cheeses - curd, ricotta, white and yellow cheeses, mozzarella, and many more. Other dairy products are on sale, as well as coffee and sandwiches.

Photo: Ewais/Shutterstock.com
Address: 139 Vitosha Blvd., Sofia
Phone: +359 884 203 156
Internet: dobrev-cheese.com

The Game



This incredible Sofia store packed to the brim with all manner of board games isn't just a place to shop at in preparation for a friends' night in. The

store's main draw is the fact that most games can be played right inside for a small fee (which includes coffee or tea).

Photo: Ballda/Shutterstock.com
Address: 75 Krum Popov Street, Sofia
Phone: +359 89 760 6919
Internet: www.boardgames-bg.com

Zona Urbana



All items on sale at Zona Urbana have been recycled from old materials and turned into original, rustic-looking designs (e.g. purses made from an old German newspaper). With its bags, souvenirs, and knick-knacks, the store lays huge emphasis on sustainability and encourages customers to follow suit.

Photo: ponsulak/Shutterstock.com
Address: 24 Angel Kanchev, Sofia
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10am-7pm
Phone: +359 2 981 2278
Internet: www.zurbana.com

Sofia Ring Mall



With its unique architecture and large open spaces, Sofia Ring Mall offers the ultimate shopping experience. The mall opened its doors in

2014 and is a new generation mall where you definitely will find what you are looking for since the mall offers two hundred stores that represent over 400 brands. Besides housing stores catering everything from fashion to home decor and beauty product, they also have indoor karting track, indoor entertainment park for kids, a cinema, Spa hotel and restaurants. You can easily spend some hours here!

Photo: nenetus/Shutterstock.com
Address: Boulevard Okolovrasten pat 214, Sofia
Public Transport: Free bus line to the mall from Business Park Sofia every 30 minutes
Opening hours: Mon - Sun: Shops: 10am - 10pm, Cine Grand: 10am - 01.00am, Food court: Until 01.00am
Phone: +359 700 11 190
Internet: www.sofiaring.bg
Email: infodesk@ssrm-bg.com

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION



Ditty_about_summer/Shutterstock.com

Sofia International Airport



Sofia International Airport is located 10 kilometres away from Sofia city. There are shuttles running between the two terminals every

30 minutes.

There are two bus lines, 84 and 384, that run between Sofia Airport and they city centre. The journey takes approximately 20 minutes and tickets can be bought in newspaper kiosks (or the ticket machine in Terminal 1).

Metro line 1 runs directly to the airport. Change to line 2 to reach all major central districts of Sofia, as well as the central railway station. Journey time is about 30 minutes.

Taxis and car rental companies are available for hire at the airport.

Photo: Juan Garces

Address: Sofia International Airport, Sofia

Phone: +359 2 937 2211

Internet: www.sofia-airport.bg

Public Transport



Sofia has a network of public transport options that will enable the visitor to easily get around the city and its surrounding suburbs. The

fastest and most convenient way to travel from one point to another is by metro. The two lines cross at the Serdika station. Tickets are sold in machines at the entrance to each metro station. There is also a network of buses and trams that run around the city. Tickets for those can be bought in advance or directly inside, in which case the ticket ws valid for that particular vehicle.

Urban Mobility Centre

+35 9700 13233

www.sofiatraffic.bg

Bulgarian State Railways

+35 9700 10200

www.bdz.bg

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair

Internet: www.metropolitan.bg

Taxi



There are a dozen of big taxi companies operating in Sofia. You can call and order a taxi or hail one down the street. Green Taxi +359

878332810

Yellow 333 Taxi

+359 29311952

OK Supertrans

+359 2 973 21 21

Internet: www.oktaxi.net

Post



Mailboxes in Sofia are yellow. Main Post Office:

Photo: Andy Fuchs

Address: 4 Gurko Street, Sofia

Internet: www.bgpost.bg

Pharmacy



You can easily find a pharmacy in Sofia. Ask you hotel for assistance if you need help finding one. You can normally find everything from

medicine and cosmetics to food and other products.

Remedium 1

15 Dobruzhda Street

+359 2 981 3129

Mon-Sat 8am-9pm, Sun 9am-8pm

Pharmacies Adonis

10A Han Presiyan

+359 2 958 6354

Open 24 hours

Photo: Gemma Garner

Telephone



Country Code: +359 Area code: 02

Photo: Jardson Almeida

Electricity



220 volts

Photo: Stirling Tschan

Population

Approximately 1,2 million

Currency

Euro (EUR) €1 = 100 cents

1 Lev (BGN) = 100 stotinki

Opening hours

Most shops are open from 10 am until 8 pm on weekdays and between 11 am and 7 pm on weekends. Big shopping malls are normally open from 10 am to 10 pm.

Newspapers

Duma

Trud

24 Chasa

The Sofia Echo

Emergency numbers

Emergency: 112

Fire Brigade: 160

Police: 166

Tourist information

Tourist Information Centre

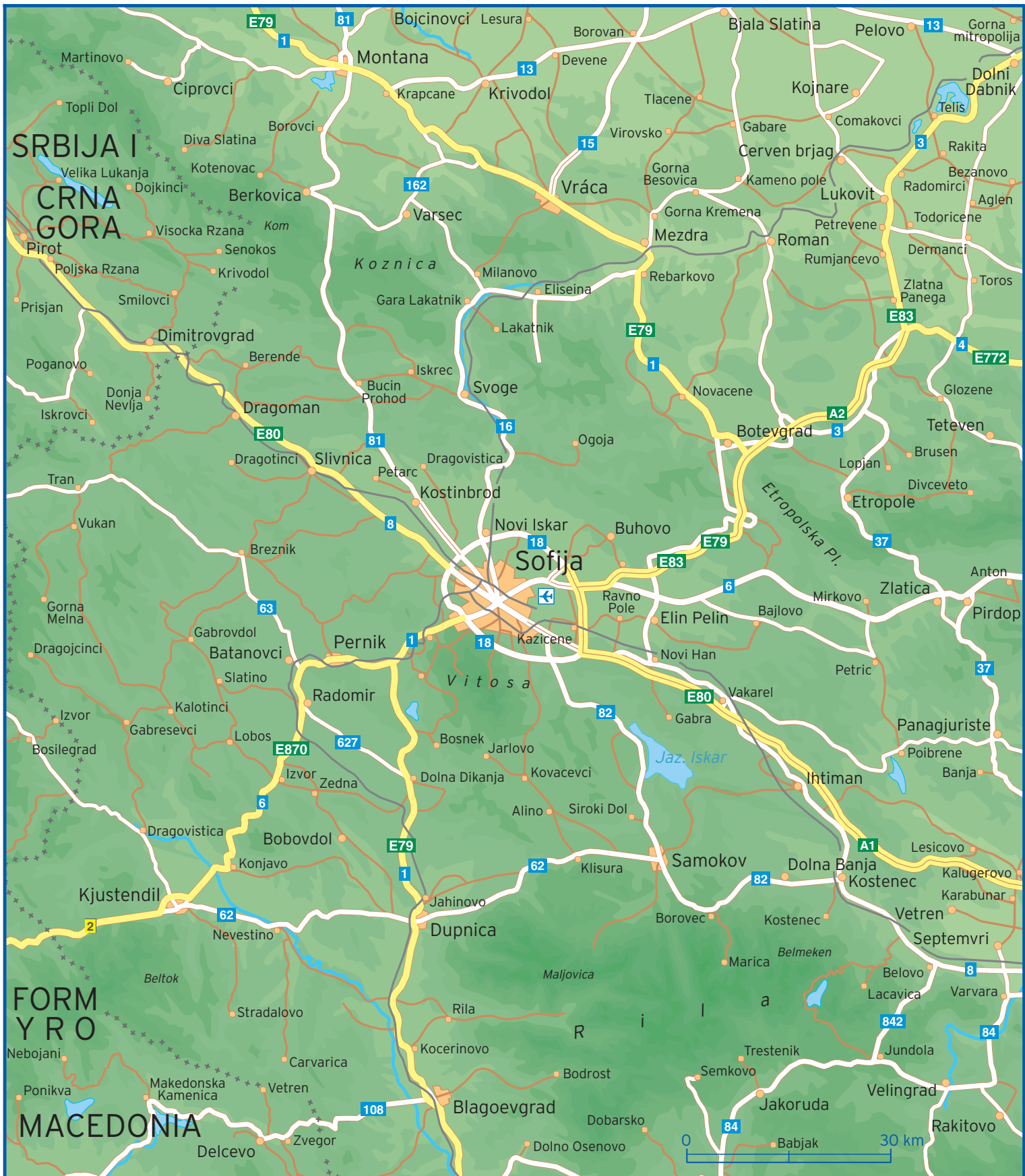
1 Sveta Nedelia Sq, Sofia

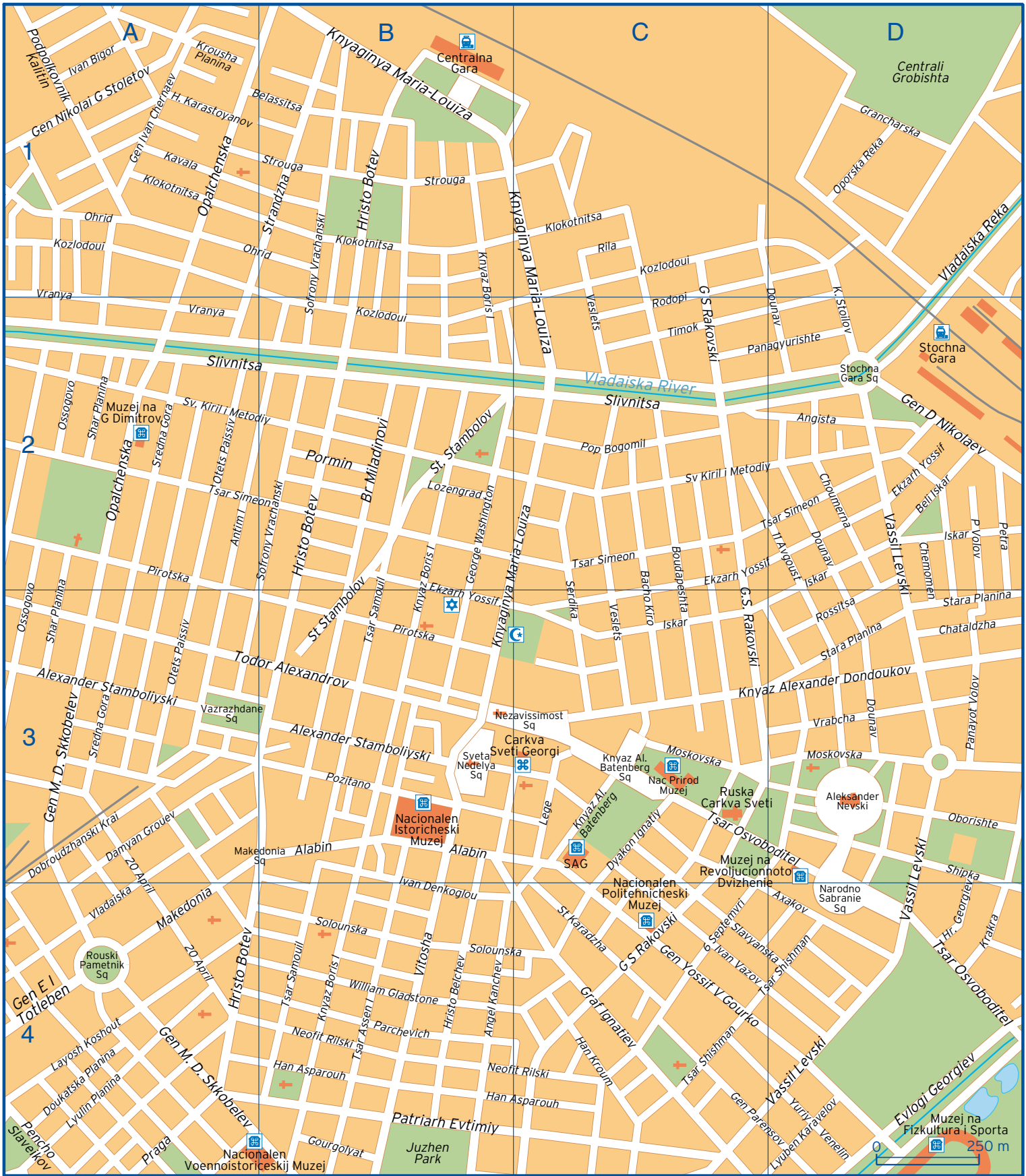
July-September: Mon-Fri 8 am-8 pm. Sat-Sun 10 am-6 pm

October-December: Mon-Fri 9.30 am-6.30 pm

Closed on Public Holidays

+359 2 987 9778





Podpolkovnik
Kalitin
Ivan Bogor
Gen Nikolai G Stoletov
Gen Ivan Chernbaev
H. Karastoyanov
Kavala
Klokotnitsa
Ohrid
Kozlodou
Vranya

Ossogovo
Shar Planina
Muzej na G Dimitrov
Sredna Gora
Opalchenska
Pirotska
Ossogovo
Shar Planina
Alexander Stamboliyski
Sredna Gora
Gen M. D. Skkobelev
Dobroudzhanski Krai
Vladaiska
Makedonia
Gen E. I Totleben
Layosh Koshout
Doukatska Planina
Lyulin Planina
Praga
Nacionalen Voennistoricheski Muzej

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Lyulin Planina
Praga
Nacionalen Voennistoricheski Muzej

Knyaginya Maria-Louiza
Centralna Gara
Belassitsa
Strouga
Strandzha
Ohrid
Klokotnitsa
Hristo Botev
Kozlodou
Sofrony Vrachanski
Knyaz Boris I
Knyaginya Maria-Louiza

Slivnitsa
Vladaiska River
Slivnitsa
Pormin
Br Miladinovi
St. Stambolov
Lozengrad
George Washington
Ekzarh Yossif
Knyaz Boris I
Pirotska
Todor Alexandrov
Alexander Stamboliyski
Vazrazhdane Sq
Sveta Nedelya Sq
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Makedonia Sq
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Solounska
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Hristo Botev
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Neofit Rilski
Parchevich
Han Asparouh
Patriarh Evtimiy
Juzhen Park

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Neofit Rilski
Parchevich
Han Asparouh
Patriarh Evtimiy
Juzhen Park

Centrali Grobishta
Grancharska
Oporaska Reka
Vladaiska Reka
Stochna Gara
Stochna Gara Sq
Gen D Nikolaev
Ekzarh Yossif
Bari Iskar
Iskar
Petra
P Volov
Chernomiri
Stara Planina
Chataldzha
Panayot Volov

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Stochna Gara Sq
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Bari Iskar
Iskar
Petra
P Volov
Chernomiri
Stara Planina
Chataldzha
Panayot Volov

Muzej na Fizkultura i Sporta
250 m

11 Avgoust	D2	Iskar	C3 D2	Pop Bogomil	C2
20-apr	A3 A4	Ivan Bigor	A1	Pormin	B2
6 Septemvri	C4	Ivan Denkoglou	B4	Pozitano	B3
Alabin	B3	Ivan Vazov	C4	Praga	A4
Aleksander Nevski Catedral	D3	K Stoilov	D1 D2	Rila	C1
Alexander Stamboliyski	A3 B3	Kavala	A1	Rodopi	C2
Angel Kanchev	B4	Klokotnitsa	A1 B1 C1	Rossitsa	D3
Angista	D2	Knyaginya Maria-Louiza	B1 B3 C2	Rouski Pametnik Sq	A4
Antim I	A2	Knyaz Al. Batenberg	C3	Serdika	C2 C3
Axakov	D4	Knyaz Al. Batenberg Sq	C3	Shar Planina	A2 A3
Bacho Kiro	C2 C3	Knyaz Alexander Dondoukov	C3 D3	Shipka	D3
Belassitsa	A1 B1	Knyaz Boris I	B1 B2 B3 B4	Slavyanska	C4 D4
Beli Iskar	D2	Kozlodoui	A1 B2 C1	Slivnitsa	A2 B2 C2
Boudapeshta	C2 C3	Krakra	D4	Sofrony Vrachanski	B1 B2
Br Miladinovi	B2	Krousha Planina	A1	Solounska	B4 C4
Chataldzha	D3	Layosh Koshout	A4	Sredna Gora	A2 A3
Chemomen	D2 D3	Lege	C3	St Karadzha	C4
Choumerna	D2	Lozensgrad	B2	St Stambolov	B2 B3
Damyas Grouev	A3	Lyuben Karavelov	D4	Stara Planina	D3
Dobroudzhanski Krai	A3	Lyulin Planina	A4	Stochna Gara Sq	D2
Doukatska Planina	A4	Makedonia	A4	Strandzha	B1
Dounav	C1 D2 D3	Makedonia Sq	A3 B3	Strouga	B1
Dyakon Ignatij	C3	Moskovska	C3 D3	Sv Kiril i Metodiy	A2 B2 C2 D2
Ekzarh Yossif	B3 C2 D2	Nac Prirod Muzej	C3	Sveta Nedelya Sq	B3
Evlogi Georgiev	D4	Narodno Sabranie Sq	D4	Timok	C2
G S Rakovski	C1 C2 C3 C4	Neofit Rilski	B4 C4	Todor Alexandrov	A3 B3
Gen D Nikolaev	D2	Nezavissimost Sq	B3 C3	Tsar Assen I	B4
Gen E I Totleben	A4	Oborishte	D3	Tsar Osoboditel	C3 D3 D4
Gen Ivan Chernaev	A1	Ohrid	A1 B1	Tsar Samouil	B2 B3 B4
Gen M D Skkobelev	A3 A4	Opalchenska	A1 A2	Tsar Shishman	C4 D4
Gen Nikolai G Stoletov	A1	Oporska Reka	D1	Tsar Simeon	A2 B2 C2 D2
Gen Parensov	C4 D4	Ossogovo	A2 A3	Vassil Levski	D2 D3 D4
Gen Yossif V Gourko	C4	Otets Paissiv	A2 A3	Vazrazhdane Sq	A3 B3
George Washington	B2	P Volov	D2	Veslets	C1 C2 C3
Gourgolyat	B4	Panagyurishte	C2 D2	Vitoshka	B4
Graf Ignatiev	C4	Panayot Volov	D3	Vladaiska	A4
Grancharska	D1	Parchevich	B4	Vladaiska Reka	D1
Han Asparouh	B4 C4	Patriarh Evtimiy	B4	Vrabcha	D3
Han Kroum	C4	Pencho Slaveikov	A4	Vranya	A2
Hr Georgiev	D3 D4	Petra	D2	William Gladstone	B4
Hristo Belchev	B4	Pirotska	A2 B3	Yuriy Venelin	D4
Hristo Botev	A4 B1 B2	Podpolkovnik Kalitin	A1		