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1. Geographical location

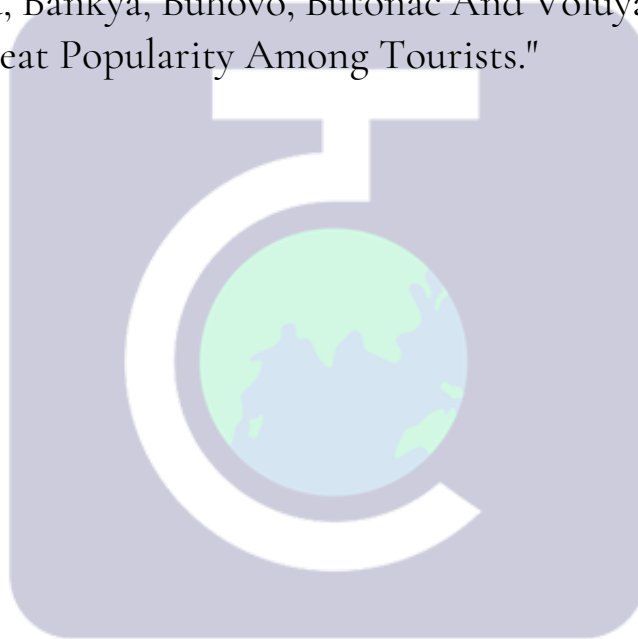
"Sofia is the capital of Bulgaria (located on the crossroads of Europe, Africa and Asia) and is the largest city in the country. The city lies on the western part of the country and enjoys a strategic location as the path from Western Europe to Istanbul passes from Sofia. The city is well connected and has an international airport which makes it easy to reach it. The city also has a good connection of subways, trolleybuses, trams, buses and taxis making it convenient for the tourists to explore the city. "



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2. Neighbouring cities/countries

"The Small Cities And Towns That Are Close To Sofia Are Godech (45 Kms), Elin Pelin (23 Kms), Pravets (60 Kms), Slivnica (22 Kms) And Kostinbrod (16 Kms). The Major Cities That Are Close To Sofia Are Skopje (239 Kms), Beograd (374kms), Tirana (553 Kms), Zagreb (762 Kms) And Athens (837 Kms). Nearest Villages Within A Radius Of 10 Kms That Can Be Seen Using The Public Transport Are Balsha, Bankya, Buhovo, Butonac And Voluyak. They Are All Very Scenic And Enjoy Great Popularity Among Tourists."



3. Significance

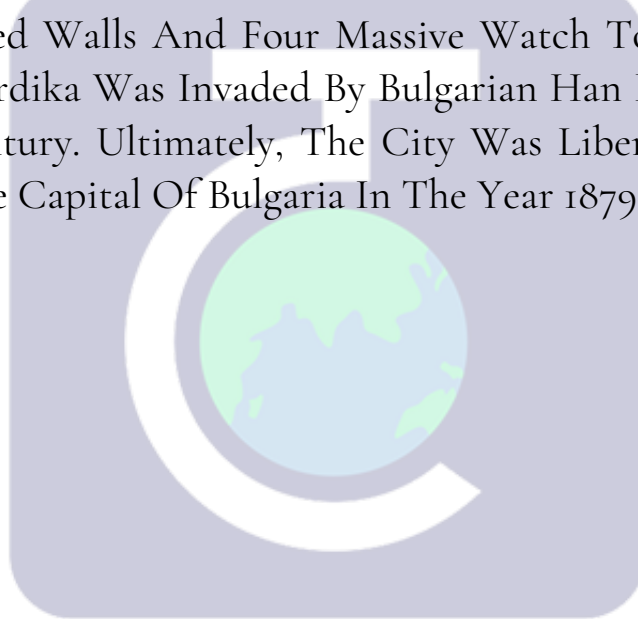
One Should Visit Sofia For Its Various Art Exhibitions And Sites. One Could Enjoy A Calm Night Life, Probably Have A Beer At A Café, Enjoying The Street Music By The Local Bands. One Can Buy Spices From The City Or The Local Wine. Also Famous Is The Craft Work By The People Which Excites The People.



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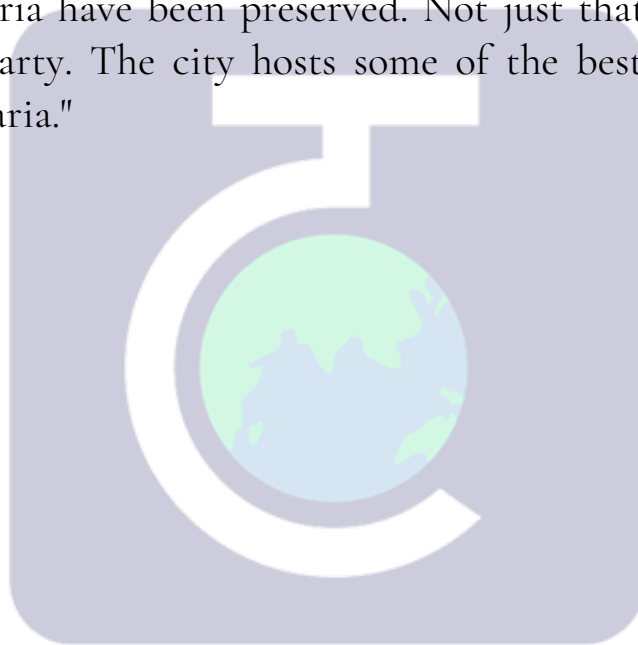
4. History

"Sofia Derived Its Name In The 8th Century, When The Thracian Tribes Settled At This Place And Named The City "Serdika" To Honour The Hot Springs. Serdika Was Captured By The Romans In The First Century And The City Was Transformed To A Roman City. This City Then Became An Administrative Centre For The Entire Region. Serdika Became Constantine The Great's (reign 306-337) Favourite Place Who Believed "Serdika Was Rome". During The 5th And 6th Century, Fortified Walls And Four Massive Watch Towers Were Built To Protect The City. Serdika Was Invaded By Bulgarian Han Krum (reign 803-814) During The 9th Century. Ultimately, The City Was Liberated In 1878 And It Was Declared As The Capital Of Bulgaria In The Year 1879."



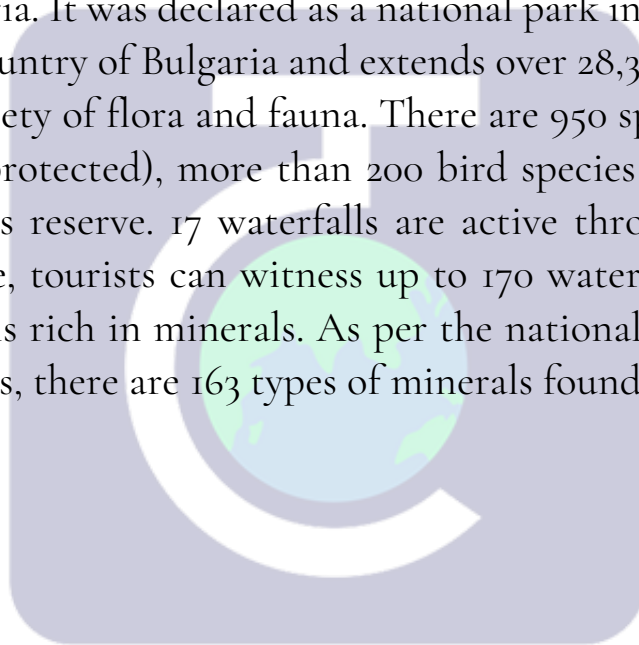
5. Cultural identity

"Sofia has a well preserved culture. Many precious monuments have been preserved that depict the history and culture of Sofia. A number of churches have also been preserved or converted to museums in order to keep alive the history and culture related to the place. Sofia is also famous for museums ranging from National Archaeological Museum to National Museum of History where valuable treasures of in Bulgaria have been preserved. Not just that, the people of Sofia love to dance and party. The city hosts some of the best music concerts and cultural fests of Bulgaria."



6. Natural resources

"The natural landscape of Bulgaria is quite diverse. It consists of beautiful plains, lowlands, plateaus, river valleys and mountains of different elevations. To the south of the capital city, Sofia, rises the mountain Vitosha. The territory of Vitosha mountain includes the Vitosha nature park, which is the oldest nature park on the Balkan Peninsula. Vratsa Balkan Nature Reserve is another great nature park of Bulgaria. It was declared as a national park in 1989. It is the second largest park in the country of Bulgaria and extends over 28,344 hectares in area. It is home to a rich variety of flora and fauna. There are 950 species of plants (57 of which are rare and protected), more than 200 bird species (157 endangered and are protected) in this reserve. 17 waterfalls are active throughout the year and during May and June, tourists can witness up to 170 waterfalls in this beautiful reserve. The country is rich in minerals. As per the national records of Bulgaria's resources and reserves, there are 163 types of minerals found in the country. "



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7. Key site seeing places (paid and free)

7.1. Paid

7.1.1. Boyana Church

Situated in the Boyana Quarter, Boyana Church is a medieval Bulgarian Orthodox Church known to have been added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1979. Built in 3 stages between 10th to mid-19th centuries, the most ancient section is a compact one-apse cross-arched church with incorporated cruciform supports. The second section has a ground-floor family sepulchre with a semi-cylindrical vault and the last section was built with donations from the local community. Marvel at the 89 scenes with around 240 human images that have been portrayed on the walls of the church.

Address : ул. Боянско езеро 3, 1616 Sofia, Bulgaria

Zipcode : 1616

Location : 42.64463130000001, 23.266183400000045

Contact : +359 2 959 0939

Website : <http://www.boyanachurch.org/>

Entry Fee : Adults: 10 lv Students: 2 lv Groups of more than 10: 8 lv

Open & Close Timing : November to March: Daily 09:00hrs–17:30hrs April to October: Daily 09:00hrs–18:00hrs Closed on 24th and 25th December, 1st January

Time Required : 1.5

Expected Wait Time : 20 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.2. Sofia Synagogue

Being the largest synagogue in South-eastern Europe, this is the only place of Jewish worship in Sofia and the museum explains the journey of the Jews in the country. The place is known for its architecture with elements of Vienna Secession and Venetian architecture in the facade and is one of the best architectural examples in the whole of Bulgaria. With a huge capacity of 1,300 worshippers, the chandelier weighing 1.7 tons is also the largest in the country.

Address : Exarch Joseph Street 18, 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 42.7002701, 23.320849400000043

Contact : +359 2 983 1273

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

Nearest Public Transport : Serdika Subway Station

Entry Fee : Adults: 2 lv Children (up to 18 years): Free admission

Open & Close Timing : Monday to Friday: 09:00hrs-13:30hrs and 14:00hrs-16:30hrs
Saturday and Sunday closed

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.3. Cathedral Saint Alexandar Nevski

A Bulgarian Orthodox Cathedral in Sofia, it serves as the cathedral church of the Patriarch of Bulgaria and stands as one of the largest Eastern Orthodox cathedrals in the world. One of the city's principal symbols and main tourist spots, it is a cross-domed Basilica showcasing an emphasized central dome and has 12 bells with a weight of 23 tons. The interior is adorned with Italian marble in different colors, Brazilian onyx, alabaster, and variant affluent materials and the Lord's prayer is etched in thin gold letters encircling the dome.

Address : pl. Sveti Aleksandar Nevski, 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 42.6958106, 23.332900300000006

Contact : +359 2 988 1704

Website : <http://www.bg-patriarshia.bg/>

Nearest Public Transport : Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski Subway Station

Entry Fee : Guided tours in Bulgarian language: 50 lv

Open & Close Timing : Daily 07:00hrs-19:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.4. Temple Sveta Sofia

A world-renowned historical and architectural monument from the 11th century, Temple Sveta Sofia stands as the second oldest church in the Bulgarian capital. Built in the Ukrainian Baroque style and capped with pear-shaped cupolas, it is famous for its mosaics and frescoes by Byzantine masters dating back to the 11th century on the walls, vaults, and pillars. Marvel at the notes, images, and Sofia

graffiti bearing extraordinary historical value.

Address : ul. Paris 2, 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 42.69651959999999, 23.331465500000036

Contact : +359 2 987 0971

Nearest Public Transport : Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski Subway Station

Entry Fee : Admission to Necropolis Museum: Adults: 6 lv Concessions: 2 lv

Open & Close Timing : Daily 09:00hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.5. Sofia Zoo

The oldest and largest zoological garden in South-eastern Europe, Sofia Zoo spans across an area of 36 hectares and is an abode to around 4,850 animals that belong to over 840 species. At the outset, it was situated in the park of the earlier royal palace with the major highlight being a Eurasian black vulture caught and caged. Later, the collection of birds, mammals, and animals increased with both local and foreign species being added.

Address : ул. 'Сребърна' 1, кв. 'Хладилника', ПК 67, 1700 Sofia, Bulgaria

Zipcode : 1700

Location : 42.6583585, 23.33202719999999

Contact : +359 2 868 2043

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

Nearest Public Transport : GM Dimitrov Subway Station (Not Recommended)

Entry Fee : Individual visits: Children under 3 years: Free admission From 3 to 18 years: 2 lv Over 18 years: 4 lv Seniors: 1 lv For persons with permanent disability 50% and above 50%: 1 lv Group Visits (Over 15 people): For the head of the group - Free admission Children under 3 years - Free admission From 3 to 18 years - 1 lv Over 18 years - 3 lv For persons placed in specialized social institutions/ homes - boarding type/ and persons using social service - residential - Free admission

Open & Close Timing : Monday to Friday: 08:00hrs-16:30hrs

Time Required : 4

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.6. Sofia Central Mosque - Banya Bashi Mosque

Also known as the Mollah Effendi Mosque, it was designed by the famous Ottoman architect, Mimar Sinan and was built in conformity with the trends in architecture in the 16th century. The prayer hall and the arches are made of bricks whereas the columns are carved of one full stone piece and are of opaque color with a lead-plated dome.

Address : Център, 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 42.6995277, 23.3225531

Contact : +359 2 981 6001

Website : http://bulgariatravel.org/bg/object/379/Sofijska_Djamiya

Nearest Public Transport : Serdika Subway Station

Entry Fee : Admissions: Adults: 4 lv Students: 2 lv Guided tours for groups: 10 lv

Picture taking: 3 lv Video recording: 5 lv Guided tours are available in 4 languages: Bulgarian, Turkish, English, and Russian

Open & Close Timing : March to October: 10:00hrs–20:00hrs November to February: 10:00hrs–18:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.7. National Archaeological Museum

Situated right in the heart of the city, the museum is housed in Buzuk Dzhamiya (The Large Mosque) which is the oldest preserved building from the age of the Ottoman Dominion that dates back to the end of 15th century. The museum was expanded a number of times in order to accommodate all archaeological findings of the city. The expositions range from Late Bronze Age to the Late Middle Ages, Paleolithic Age to the Middle Bronze Age and are placed on 2 floors. At the entrance, you can spot tombstones, statues of idols, ceramics, and other articles which were found on the shores of Black and the Aegean Sea.

Address : ul. "Saborna" 2, 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 42.696433, 23.3245809999999

Contact : +359 2 988 2406

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

Nearest Public Transport : Serdika Subway Station

Entry Fee : Adults, Parent(s) with children aged up to 16 years old (group ticket): 10 lv Students: 2 lv School, student or children's group visits (more than 10 people): 1 lv People with physical disabilities, ICOM Card-Holders: Free admission 2nd Thursday of the month: Free admission for all pensioners Last Sunday of the month: Free admission for all visitors Guided tours: In Bulgarian: 10 lv In English: 20 lv

Open & Close Timing : May to October: Daily 10:00hrs-18:00hrs November to April: Daily 10:00hrs-17:00hrs 24th and 31st December: 10:00hrs-14:00hrs Closed on 25th December and 1st January

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.8. National Museum of Military History

The National Museum of Military History scrutinizes, conserves, scientifically exercises and publicizes cultural valuables affixed with the national and European military history. From the day of its formation till present date, which is nearly a hundred years, it has accumulated almost a million things associated with Bulgarian and European military history. The 3 floors covering an area of 5,000 square meters and the outer exhibition area covering an area of 40,000 square meters tell the story of warfare in Bulgaria from the time of Thracians onwards.

Address : ul. 'Cherkovna' 92, 1505 Sofia, Bulgaria

Zipcode : 1505

Location : 42.6886873, 23.3506512999999

Contact : +359 2 946 1805

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

Nearest Public Transport : Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski Subway Station (Not Recommended)

Entry Fee : Children up to 7 years: Free admission Students (Schools, Colleges, and Universities), retirees, and handicapped: 2 lv Military men: 6 lv Family ticket: 10 lv Extra ticket for the collection halls: 4 lv For groups from 12 up to 20 visitors: 6 lv per visitor For visiting Children's Museum: 2 lv per child no matter what age

Guided tour in Bulgarian language: 15 lv Guided tour in Foreign language: 40 lv
Specialized tour: 25 lv Last Wednesday of every month: Free admission
Open & Close Timing : Wednesday to Sunday: 10:00hrs-18:00hrs
Time Required : 2
Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes
Buy Ticket : No

7.1.9. National Museum of History

Tagged as Bulgaria's largest museum, the National Museum of History displays over 650,000 exhibits associated with archaeology, fine arts, history, and ethnography. Get a thorough view on Bulgarian history from prehistory to the present day at this museum. Browse through the collections comprising of materials from old age and soak in the informative history.

Address : ul. 'Vitoshko lale' 16, 1618 Sofia, Bulgaria

Zipcode : 1618

Location : 42.6549798, 23.2708818999999

Contact : +359 2 955 7602 (Fax)

Website : <http://www.historymuseum.org/>

Entry Fee : Individual visitors: 10 lv Students, Children over 7 years: 1 lv Visitors with children: 3 lv Group of 10 or more: 8 lv per person People with special needs, children up to 7 years and last Monday of every month: Free admission Guided tours: Bulgarian language: 15 lv Bulgarian language with translation: 20 lv Foreign language: 30 lv

Open & Close Timing : April to October: Daily 09:30hrs-18:00hrs November to March: Daily 09:00hrs-17:30hrs

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.10. National Art Gallery

An abode to over 50,000 pieces of Bulgarian Art, the National Art Gallery has been outlined by the first female architect, Victoria Angelova for both Renaissance and contemporary art collections. Tagged as Bulgaria's national gallery, it displays the samples of contemporary and National Revival art as well

as few of the country's enormous collection of medieval paintings, including more than 4,000 icons.

Address : i, ploshtad 'Knyaz Aleksandar I' I, 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 42.6963229, 23.327078

Contact : +359 2 980 0093

Website : <http://www.nationalartgallerybg.org/>

Nearest Public Transport : Serdika Subway Station

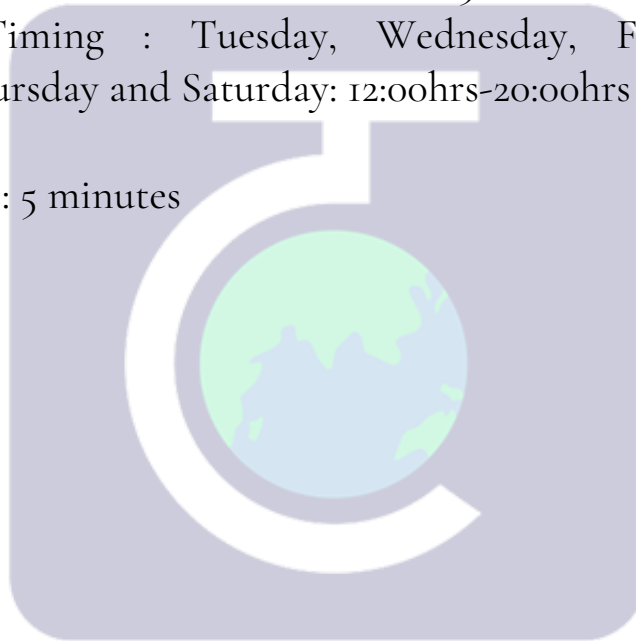
Entry Fee : Individual: 6 lv Students and seniors: 3 lv

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday:
10:00hrs-18:00hrs Thursday and Saturday: 12:00hrs-20:00hrs Closed on Mondays

Time Required : 1.5

Expected Wait Time : 5 minutes

Buy Ticket : No



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7.2. Free

7.2.1. Vratsa Balkan

Declared as a National Park in 1989, Vratsa Balkan Nature Reserve is the second largest park in the country and spreads over an area of 28,344 hectares. It is an abode to a rich variety of flora and fauna with 950 species of plants (57 of which are rare and protected) and more than 200 bird species (157 endangered and are protected). 17 waterfalls are active throughout the year, and during May and June tourists can witness up to 170 waterfalls in this reserve.

Address : 3038, Bulgaria

Zipcode : 3038

Location : 43.17884919999999, 23.461459399999967

Website : <http://www.vr-balkan.net/>

Open & Close Timing : 31st October to 31st March: Monday to Friday:
09:00hrs–12:00hrs and 13:00hrs–17:00hrs

Time Required : 4

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.2. St Nedelya Church

An Eastern Orthodox Church, St. Nedelya Church is a cathedral of the Sofia Bishopric of the Bulgarian Patriarchate. In spite of being destructed and renovated for several times, the present building is a renowned landmark in the city and was delineated by the celebrated Bulgarian architectural team Vasilyov-Tsolov. The wall paintings and the neo-Byzantine architecture of this place are alluring and if you are someone who enjoys architecture and old icons, this place is for you. The mural decoration was done between 1971 and 1973, the floor was renovated and the north colonnade was glazed, the facade was cleaned thoroughly in 2000 and a new device to automatically ring the 11 bells was installed in 2002.

Address : 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 42.6967188, 23.321429399999943

Contact : +359 2 987 5748

Website : <http://www.sveta-nedelia.org>

Nearest Public Transport : Serdika Subway Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 08:00hrs-18:00hrs

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.3. Church St. George Rotunda

Built during the 4th century, the Rotunda of St. George is the most ancient buildings in Sofia. It is cylindrical in shape topped with a frescoed dome. Now a baptistery (place for conserving Christianity), it is renowned for its 12th, 13th, and 14th-century frescoes inside the central dome. This is one of the best-preserved monuments in the city and is definitely worth visiting.

Address : bul. Kniaz Aleksandar Dondukov 2, 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 42.6969115, 23.322901699999999

Contact : +359 2 980 9216

Website : <http://svgeorgi-rotonda.com/>

Nearest Public Transport : Serdika Subway Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 08:00hrs-18:00hrs

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.4. Lovers Bridge

Basically a passageway over the Bulgaria Boulevard, this pedestrian bridge is next to the National Palace of Culture in the city center and known as a common meeting place for people in love. Though the person who named it 'The Bridge of Lovers' remains unknown, it is a prominent spot among locals as well as foreigners. Of late, this place has also been developed as an area to host various open-air exhibitions, photography meets and other promotional events. Beautiful sunset views can be enjoyed from this bridge, making it a favorite place for tourists to take pictures.

Address : Моста на влюбените, 1463 Sofia, Bulgaria

Zipcode : 1463

Location : 42.6827487, 23.320207100000006

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

Nearest Public Transport : European Union Subway Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.5. Central Sofia Market Hall

Opened in 1911, this place is still one of the best places to go shopping in Sofia. Built in Neo-Renaissance style, it has stalls selling clothes, accessories, food along with numerous restaurants and offices in the vicinity. Spanning an area of 3,200 square meters, it is considered as one of the best works of architect, Naum Torbov and it features elements of Neo-Byzantine architecture and Neo-Baroque. The place is as popular with tourists as it is with the locals.

Address : Central Sofia Market Hall, 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 42.7000147, 23.321811900000057

Nearest Public Transport : Serdika Subway Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 07:00hrs-19:00hrs

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.6. Vitosha Boulevard

One of the biggest shopping and commercial streets in Sofia, this is a pedestrian-only street with a couple of bars, restaurants, and lots of places to shop around. Initially built with low one-storey houses, this boulevard turned into an eye-catching trade street during the Interwar period as a result of the construction of massive public buildings. Stop by to enjoy numerous artists playing music on the streets during weekends.

Address : bul. 'Vitosha', 1463 Sofia, Bulgaria

Zipcode : 1463

Location : 42.6847976, 23.316242099999954

Nearest Public Transport : NDK Subway Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.7. Lake Ariana

Constructed during the 19th century, this place is popular among locals and tourists for entertainment and leisurely strolls around the lake area. If you want to enjoy some time close to nature away from the city's hustle, Ariana Lake in Borisova Gradina is a good place to be in.

Address : Lake Ariana, 1164 Sofia, Bulgaria

Zipcode : 1164

Location : 42.6891721, 23.336676399999988

Nearest Public Transport : Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski Subway Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.8. Ivan Vazov National Theater

One of the most prominent theaters across Bulgaria, Ivan Vazov National Theater is a must-see attraction on your trip to Sofia. Marvel at the world-renowned architecture as well as a well-equipped stage with 750 seats, a smaller 120-seat stage and an additional 70-seat, one on the 4th floor. Also famous is the stage curtain, with its mythical firebird motive from Stravinsky's ballet. You must definitely try and catch a show here when in Sofia.

Address : ul. 'Dyakon Ignatiy' 5, 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 42.694379999999999, 23.326199999999997

Contact : +359 2 811 9227

Website : <http://new.nationaltheatre.bg/bg/>

Nearest Public Transport : Serdika Subway Station

Open & Close Timing : Monday to Friday: 09:00hrs-22:30hrs Saturday and Sunday: 11:30hrs-19:30hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.9. Mall Of Sofia

Built on an area of 70,000 square meters, Mall of Sofia is a famous shopping center in the city and houses 130 stores, a supermarket, pharmacies, a beauty

salon, an Internet café and DVD and video rentals, among others. It boasts of a number of restaurants and cafés as well as a Cinema City promoting the first 3D IMAX theater in Southeastern Europe, M-Tel IMAX. A famous hangout place among locals as well as tourists, head here in your free time.

Address : bul. 'Aleksandar Stamboliyski' 101, 1303 Sofia, Bulgaria

Zipcode : 1303

Location : 42.6982035, 23.308497399999965

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.10. Serdika Center

Another famous shopping destination in Sofia, this is an abode to over 210 stores and makes a great place for shopping and leisure. Offering excellent retail mix, it proffers a convenient location which is easily accessible from the city center. An absolute leader in size and variety of presented brands, you are surely not going to return empty-handed from here.

Address : bul. 'Sitnyakovo' 48, 1505 Sofia, Bulgaria

Zipcode : 1505

Location : 42.6918831, 23.353531100000055

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.11. Vasil Levski Monument

One of the first monuments to be built in the newly unshackled Principality of Bulgaria, Vasil Levski Monument honors the hanging of this Bulgarian national conqueror and exhaustive figure on the same spot on 18th February 1873. Designed by Czech architect, Antonín Kolář, it is made up of gray Balkan granite and rises to a height of 13 meters.

Address : Vasil Levski Monument, 1164 Sofia, Bulgaria

Zipcode : 1164

Location : 42.6880766, 23.3384267999999

Nearest Public Transport : Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski Subway Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.12. Eagle's Bridge

Renowned as the Eagle's Bridge, this is a historic bridge crossing the Perlovska River in the inner city and derives its name from the 4 eagle statues on it which are emblematically its protectors and patrons. The bridge was constructed by Czech architect, Václav Prošek, his brother Jozef and his cousins Bohdan and Jiří in the year 1891.

Address : бул. 'Цар Освободител' 33, 1504 Sofia, Bulgaria

Zipcode : 1142

Location : 42.69055799999999, 23.33743589999999

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

Nearest Public Transport : Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski Subway Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.13. National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria

The National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria is the unicameral parliament and legislative body of Bulgaria. Designed in Neo-Renaissance style by Konstantin Jovanovi, the principal building has been given the tag of a cultural monument for its historic importance. You can attend an open plenary sitting of the National Assembly by making an appeal to the Secretary-General and carrying some identification documents.

Address : National Assembly Square 2, 1169 Sofia, Bulgaria

Zipcode : 1169

Location : 42.6941949, 23.33263899999999

Contact : +359 2 9 39 39

Nearest Public Transport : Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski Subway Station

Open & Close Timing : Monday to Friday: 09:00hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.14. Monument of the Unknown Soldier

The Monument of the Unknown Soldier celebrates the thousands of Bulgarian soldiers who died in the wars safeguarding their motherland. Many prominent ceremonies that involve the President of Bulgaria and other state leaders are performed here. Designed by architect, Nikola Nikolov, it was inaugurated on 22nd September 1981 which marks the 1,300th anniversary of the inception of the Bulgarian state.

Address : ul. 'Oborishte' 4, 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 42.6963432, 23.3315153999999

Nearest Public Transport : Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski Subway Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.15. Russian Church 'Sveti Nikolay Mirlikiiski'

Renowned as the Russian Church or the Church of St. Nicholas, the Miracle-Maker, this majestic white and green edifice was designed by the Russian architect Preobrajenski in 1914 in Russian Revival style. The central dome which rises to a height of 19 meters is encircled by smaller gold domes, and they blend flawlessly with the roof of the church which is engulfed with green majolica tiles. The frescoes are worth seeing as they are painted in the style of the Novgorod Icon school.

Address : bul. 'Tsar Osvoboditel' 3, 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 42.6956906, 23.3289666

Contact : +359 2 986 2715

Website : <http://podvorie-sofia.bg/bg/main/>

Nearest Public Transport : Serdika Subway Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 07:30hrs-18:00hrs

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.16. Botanical Garden

Distinguished as the dream destination of Sofia, the Botanical Garden is situated

in the heart of the city and is an abode to an open garden and a glasshouse packed with palms and cacti, rose and diverse trees and flowers. Soak in the comprehensive information about the flora and browse through 1,500 species of plants. The major highlight of the garden is the Ginkgo tree that illustrates the vegetation from the Palaeozoic Era.

Address : София, ул. Околовръстен път №22, 22, 1415 Sofia, Bulgaria

Zipcode : 1415

Location : 42.6442482999999, 23.2985168999999

Contact : +359 2 967 1105

Website : <http://www.cu.bas.bg/garden/>

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday to Saturday: 10:00hrs-16:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.17. National Palace of Culture

Famed as the enormous multipurpose conference and exhibition center in south-eastern Europe, the National Palace of Culture was built in 1981 using 10,000 tons of steel. Shortened as NDK in Bulgarian, it is hexagon in shape and a conglomeration of concrete and glass. Though the main purpose of the building is a concert hall, it is also used for trade fairs and exhibitions and is an abode to an underground cloister of shops and cafés.

Address : National Culture Palace, Boulevard 'Bulgaria', 1463 Sofia, Bulgaria

Zipcode : 1463

Location : 42.6847251, 23.3189383999999

Contact : +359 88 621 7240

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

Nearest Public Transport : NDK Subway Station

Open & Close Timing : Monday to Friday: 09:00hrs-19:00hrs Saturday and Sunday: 10:00hrs-19:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.18. Monument to the Tsar Osvoboditel

Monument to the Tsar Liberator is an emblematic statue that was built to honor

Alexander II, the great Russian Emperor who played an instrumental role in emancipating the country of Bulgaria from the Ottoman rule during the grisly Russo-Turkish War which took place between 1877 and 1878. The monument is made of black polished granite from Vitosha and comprises of a pedestal and a huge Neo-Renaissance cornice with the iconic sculpture of the Tsar on a horse. The bronze wreath at the foot of the sculpture was a gift from Romania commemorating the Romanian soldiers and martyrs.

Address : 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 42.693772, 23.3323181000000066

Nearest Public Transport : Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski Subway Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.19. Church of Sveti Sedmochislenitsi

Looking at the beautiful Bulgarian Orthodox Church, it is hard to believe that this was once a mosque. Known as the "Black Mosque" for its dark granite from which its minaret is made, it was built with the intention of being more beautiful than other Christian churches in the city and is 25 meters long with a square shape and lead-covered dome. The minaret subsided in an earthquake back in the 19th century and the mosque was deserted by the Ottomans.

Address : ul. 'Graf Ignatiev' 25, 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 42.6899348, 23.3275386999999

Contact : +359 2 987 8023

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

Nearest Public Transport : Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski Subway Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 08:00hrs-18:00hrs

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

Index

8. Key sites sports & adventure

In Winters You May Rent Skiing Gear And Head Towards Mount Vitosha For Skiing. For Mountain Activities Like Hiking And Trekking, Visit Rila Mountain Which Is Not Situated Far From Sofia. Situated In Borisova Gradina Park Is Kokolandia Adventure Park Which Offers Activities Like Rope Climbing, Tree-top Obstacle Courses And Rock-climbing Walls.

- **Vitosha Ski Resort -**

Address : 1619 Sofia, Bulgaria

Location : 42.6538889,23.251388899999938

Entry Fees : Day tickets: Adults - 35 lv Youth - 28 lv Children - 21 lv

Open / Close Time : December to mid-April: Daily 09:00hrs-16:00hrs

Time Required : 6

- **Kokolandia -**

Address : Sofia Borisova Gradina, St. Forget, the house of Baba Yaga, 1113 Bulgaria

Location : 42.6773392,23.352974300000028

Contact No : +359 89 996 6970

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

Nearest Public Transport : Joliot Curie Subway Station

Entry Fees : One way: Baby range - 4 lv First to fifth round - 4 lv Bungee for 5 minutes (up to 50 kg person) - 4 lv Tarzan (10 minutes) - 4 lv per person Climbing wall - 4 lv per person Trampoline (20 minutes) - 4 lv per person

Open / Close Time : May to September: Daily 10:00hrs-21:00hrs October to April: Daily 10:00hrs-19:00hrs Closed from 1st December to 28th February

Time Required : 4

- **Paintball -**

Address : bul. 'Nikola Petkov' 67, 1619 Sofia, Bulgaria

Location : 42.665509,23.2588409999999

Contact No : +359 87 841 2433

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

Entry Fees : 100 pieces + equipment per person - 18.99 lv 50 extra balls - 5

lv 100 additional balls - 8 lv 500 extra balls - 30 lv

Time Required : 2.5

Wait Time : 10 minutes



Index

9. Adventure sports, Local sports, stadiums

" The Most Popular Sport In Sofia Is Football, Sofia Being The First City In Bulgaria To Have An Organized Football Championship. As Of Recent Years, Sofia Has Four Teams That Have Participated In Top National Division And Received Appreciation In Various European Competitions. These Are CSKA, Levski, Slavia And Lokomotiv. Sofia Nomads FC Is An Expats Football Club In Sofia. Tennis, Basketball And Volleyball Also Enjoy Popularity In The City. There Are Some Good Stadiums In Sofia. One Such Stadium Is The National Stadium "Vassil Levski". It Is A Multifunctional Stadium And The Biggest Venue In Its Class. Sofia Sports Hall Is Also A Good Place For Conducting Badminton Tournaments, Gymnastics Competitions And Sumo Sports Events. Sometimes The Hall Is Also Used As A Place To Hold Trade Fairs, Cultural Exhibitions And Concerts. "

- **National Stadium 'Vasil Levski':**

Address : bulevard 'Evlogi i Hristo Georgiev' 38, 1164 Sofia, Bulgaria

Location : 42.6875882,23.33524710000006

Contact No : +359 2 930 0666

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

10. Spas and relaxation

- **Thai Spa:**

Address : Luchezar Stanchev 5 Street, 1756 Sofia, Bulgaria

Location : 42.6659083,23.35639230000004

Contact No : +359 89 739 3777

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

- **Victoria Spa:**

Address : Luiza, bulevard 'Knyaginya Maria Luiza' 131, Hotel Ramada, 1202 Sofia, Bulgaria

Location : 42.70873650000001,23.322038900000052

Contact No : +359 89 579 2938

Website : <http://www.victoria-spa.com/bulgarian>

11. Events calendar

Month

Events

Enyovden (Midsummer's day)

This annual festival is celebrated on 24th June, on the day of summer equinox to welcome the winters. Herbs are also collected on this day as they considered being most efficient if collected on this day.

Petrovden


Peter and Pavlovden : Paul : 29th and 30th June : This day is celebrated by the Christians as St. Peter and St. Paul were considered disciples of Christ. It is also celebrated as the harvest festival.

Goreshtnitsi (Dog Days)

15th to 17th July: During these three days, people of Sofia work in the fields, gardens or even their homes else they believe that fire from heaven may destroy their fields and homes.
Golyama Bogoroditsa

Celebrated on 15th August This day is associated with the death

**of holy mother of Christ. On this day, people of sofia make offerings in the Church and the first fruits of the season are also offered for good health and blessings in the church.
Apollonia Festival of Arts**



**Talented artists, musicians, writers gather from around the world for a week to celebrate and promote the rich and diverse Bulgarian culture.
Apollonia Festival of Arts**

Talented artists, musicians, writers gather from around the world for a week to celebrate and promote the rich and diverse Bulgarian culture.

12. Key local guides and tours

Although the city is pretty much walkable and you'll be good by yourself, there are a lot of tours and local guides in Sofia and personal or group tours can be customized by getting in touch with the tour guides.



13. Transportation hubs

"Sofia Has A Pretty Good Connectivity To All The Nearby Areas Within And Outside Of Bulgaria. Sofia Airport, Also Known As The Sofia-Vrazhdebna Airport Is An International Airport Just 10 Kms From Sofia Making It Easy For The Commuters To Reach Here. Every Half An Hour, There Are Shuttles That Commuters Can Take To Change Different Terminals. To Reach The City Centre You May Use The Metro Line 1(Red) Which Takes About 30 Minutes And Costs 1.10 BGN. Alternatively You May Use The Bus(#84) That Takes 30-40 Minutes And Costs 1.10 BGN. If Travelling With Lots Of Luggage You May Opt For A Taxi Which Will Cost You Around 15 BGN To City Center. The Central Railway Station Sofia Is The Main Passenger Railway Station Of Sofia And The Largest Railway Station Of Bulgaria Where Local As Well As International Trains Arrive And Depart. The Two Major Train Routes From This Station Are Sofia To Varna And Sofia To Burgas. The Main Bus Station Of Sofia Is The Central Bus Station. It Is Located Only A Few Minutes From The Central Railway Station And Is The National And Regional Road Transport Hub Of The City. The Railway Station And The Central Bus Station Are Located 2 Km North Of The City Centre And The City Centre Can Be Reached By Metro, Bus Or Taxi."

14. Transportation cost

"If You Are Staying In The City Centre, Then All The Tourist Attractions Can Be Explored On Foot As The Tourist Attractions In Sofia Are Pretty Close To Each Other. However, If You Are Not A Very Big Fan Of Walking, You May Like Some Local Transport Options In Sofia. Public Transport In Sofia Is Affordable And Reliable. The Most Convenient Way To Travel From One Part Of Sofia To Another Is By Sofia Metro Which Is Operational In The City Since 1998. It Has 34 Stations In The City, The Routes Of Which Can Be Checked Online At: [Http://www.metropolitan.bg](http://www.metropolitan.bg) And [Http://www.metrosofia.com/en/tickets](http://www.metrosofia.com/en/tickets) A Ticket For A Single Trip By City Bus, Trolley Or Tram Costs Approximately 1 Lev And Can Be Purchased From POS Or From The Driver Directly. Trams Are Convenient And Fast. There Are 15 Tram Lines In The City. Traveling By Shuttle Bus (or “marshrutki” As They Are Called In Bulgaria) Is Also Comfortable And Fast. It Is A Really Cheaper Option Compared To Local Taxis. There Are No Shuttle Bus Stations In Sofia. All You Can Do Is Raise Your Hand, When You See A Shuttle Bus Coming And It Will Stop. Apart From Single Use Tickets, You Can Also Purchase An E-ticket For 10 Travels (if Your Stay Is Long) Which Turns Out To Be Much Economical. There Are A Number Of Taxi Companies Operating In Sofia. Taxi Can Also Be Called From Across The Road. You Can Contact +359 2 973 21 21 For Booking A Taxi. "

Index**15. Baggage allowance**

In Sofia, If The Dimensions Of Your Luggage Exceed 60/40/40, You Are Required To Buy An Extra Ticket For Each Luggage. It Is Advised You Carry Small Bags Or Backpacks As They Are More Comfortable To Carry Around The City. Wheeled Suitcases May Cause Difficulty In The City.



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16. Must try food and local savouries

"Bulgarian Cuisine Is Known For Its Rich Salads And Delicious Grilled Meats. The Locals Always Start Their Meals With A Salad Accompanied By A Glass Of An Aniseed Based Spirit Called Mastika Or A Glass Of Raika Which Is A Local Spirit Made Of Either Plums Or Grapes. Shopska Salad Is The Most Famous. It Is Made Of Freshly Cut Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Onions, Parsley And Grated Sirene. Common Starters Include Chushki Byurek (a Pepper Stuffed With Cheese And Herbs), Mish Mash (scrambled Eggs With Topulneni Chushkimatoes), Sirene Po Shopski (baked White Cheese) And Pulneni Chushki (peppers Stuffed With Minced Meat). Main Course Is Usually Grilled Meat (chicken And Pork Majorly) Served With French Fries. When In Sofia, You Must Definitely Try Their Famous Banitsa Or Tutmanik (a Flaky Pastry Filled With White Cheese), Mekitsi (shapeless Doughnuts), Gevrek (similar To A Bagel), Palachinka (pancakes), Baklava (filo Pastry Filled With Nuts) And Dried Salamis Such As Lukanka."

17. Restaurant & Nightlife

Food -

- **Moma Bulgarian Food & Wine:**

Address : ul. 'Solunska' 28, 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

Location : 42.6930276000000,23.3188013000000

Contact No : +359 88 562 2020

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

Open / Close Time : Daily 11:00hrs-00:00hrs

- **Made in Home:**

Address : ul. "Angel Kanchev" 30, 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

Location : 42.689616,23.3216089999999

Contact No : +359 87 688 4014

Open / Close Time : Monday: 11:00hrs-21:00hrs Tuesday to Thursday:
11:00hrs-22:30hrs Friday and Saturday: 11:00hrs-23:00hrs Sunday:
11:00hrs-22:00hrs

- **Taj Mahal Restaurant:**

Address : ul. '11-ti avgust' 11, 1520 Sofia, Bulgaria

Location : 42.6981189,23.3321656000000

Contact No : +359 87 660 0776

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

Open / Close Time : Monday: 18:00hrs-23:30hrs Tuesday to Sunday:
12:00hrs-23:30hrs

- **Hadjidraganovite Izbi:**

Address : ul. 'Hristo Belchev' 18, 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

Location : 42.6928174,23.3212055999999

Contact No : +359 9818148

Website : <http://www.izbite.com/bg>

Open / Close Time : Daily 11:30hrs-02:00hrs

- **Chef's Restaurant:**

Address : ul. 'Lyubata', 1407 Sofia, Bulgaria

Location : 42.6702861999999,23.3178792999999

Contact No : +359 89 672 3222

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

Open / Close Time : Daily 11:30hrs-23:30hrs

- **Tequila Club:**

Address : Narodno Sabranie square 4, 1000 Sofia

Location : 42.6932,23.3324814000000

Contact No : +359 88 500 0500

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

Open / Close Time : Daily 23:00hrs-06:00hrs

- **Yalta Club:**

Address : София, бул. Цар Освободител 20, 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

Location : 42.69291,23.3338899999999

Contact No : +359 89 787 0230

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

Open / Close Time : Monday to Thursday: 09:00hrs-19:00hrs Friday:
09:00hrs-19:00hrs and 23:00hrs-06:00hrs Saturday: 23:00hrs-06:00hrs
Sunday closed

- **Happy Bar & Grill:**

Address : pl. 'Sveta Nedelya' 4, 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

Location : 42.69669,23.32051000000000

Contact No : +359 700 20 888

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

Open / Close Time : Daily 11:00hrs-00:00hrs



Index**18. Average meal cost**

"A Three-course Meal In Sofia Costs As Following: • Basic Lunch (including A Drink) In Ruse At A Decent Place Costs Around 13 ₺. • A Combo Meal In Fast Food Restaurant 10 ₺ • (Big Mac Meal Or Similar) Costs 8 ₺ Approximately.



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19. Shopping

"When In Sofia, Shop! Bulgarian Products Represent The Best Value For Money And Tourists Have An Option To Shop From Big Malls Or Small Streets In The Tourist Areas. Some Good Places To Shop Are Listed As Under: • Mall Of Sofia: This Place Has All The International Brands Than One Can Shop For. The Only Imax Cinema In Bulgaria Is Also In This Mall. Address: Sofia, 101 A. Stamboliyski Blvd 1303, Bul. ""Aleksandar Stamboliyski"" 101, 1303 Sofia, Bulgaria Phone: +359 2 980 4437 • The Serdika Centre: This Place Has An Excellent Selection Of Shops And Products From The High Streets Of Austria To Germany Are Available Here. Lots Of Shops, Restaurants And Cafés Are Here To Keep You Occupied All Day Long. Address: Bul. ""Sitnyakovo"" 48, 1505 Sofia, Bulgaria Phone: +359 2 495 2121"



20. Tourist benefits

VAT In Bulgaria Is 20%. If You Are A Non-EU Resident, You Can Claim Back Your VAT On Goods Purchased From Shops In Sofia With The Tax Free Bulgaria Logo. The Minimum Spend Must Be 250 Lv For Tax Refund Entitlement. Do Not Forget To Ask For VAT Refund Form At The Time Of Purchase And Get It Stamped By Customs At The Airport. We Advise That You Allow Just Enough Time At The Airport/ Station For The Refund Process.



21. Essential local apps

Bulgaria City Guide Is The One Guide App Everyone Who Travels There Needs To Have With Them For Everything They Need There.



Index**22. Driving**

Every Person Who Drives A Motor Vehicle In Bulgaria Must Carry Either A Driver's License Issued By The Bulgaria Itself Or Another European Union (EU) Member State, Or An International Driver's License That Is Accepted In The Bulgaria Including One From His/her Home State. Driver's Licenses Issued By The Individual States In The U.S. Without The International Driver's License Component Are Not Accepted In The Bulgaria.



23. Travel essentials

" Rainfall In Sofia Isn't Unified Along The City. It Is Advised That You Carry An Umbrella And A Raincoat. It Is Also Advised To Carry A Nice Pair Of Shoes To Ease Your Movement Around The City Streets As They Are Rusty. Also Carry A GPS Device Or Ensure That You Have A Proper Knowledge Of The Things You Need To Visit In The City. You Wouldn't Want To Waste Time On Looking For A Site Than Looking At The Site. It Is Also Advisable That You Carry Your Toiletries With You As The Hotels In Sofia Aren't Very Generous About The Toiletries. Though Toiletries And Medical Supplies Are Easy To Fetch In Sofia As Well, Its Better You Have Them In Your Backpack. It Is Also Advised That You Carry Your Medicines In Advance If You Are On A Prescription. Sofia's Standard Voltage Is 220 - 240V And There Are Type F Sockets In Hotels And Apartments. You Might Need To Carry A Converter Depending On The Country You Come From. It Is Recommended That You Carry Your Own Adapter As It Might Become Difficult To Find One In The City"

24. Essential clothes

" Rainfall In Sofia Isn't Unified Along The City. It Is Advised That You Carry An Umbrella And A Raincoat. It Is Also Advised To Carry A Nice Pair Of Shoes To Ease Your Movement Around The City Streets As They Are Rusty. Also Carry A GPS Device Or Ensure That You Have A Proper Knowledge Of The Things You Need To Visit In The City. You Wouldn't Want To Waste Time On Looking For A Site Than Looking At The Site. It Is Also Advisable That You Carry Your Toiletries With You As The Hotels In Sofia Aren't Very Generous About The Toiletries. Though Toiletries And Medical Supplies Are Easy To Fetch In Sofia As Well, Its Better You Have Them In Your Backpack. It Is Also Advised That You Carry Your Medicines In Advance If You Are On A Prescription. Sofia's Standard Voltage Is 220 - 240V And There Are Type F Sockets In Hotels And Apartments. You Might Need To Carry A Converter Depending On The Country You Come From. It Is Recommended That You Carry Your Own Adapter As It Might Become Difficult To Find One In The City"

25. Local currency

The Bulgarian Lev (BGN ₺) Is The Official Currency In Ruse And Is Equal To 100 Stotinki. The Exchange Rate For BGN/USD Is 1.75.



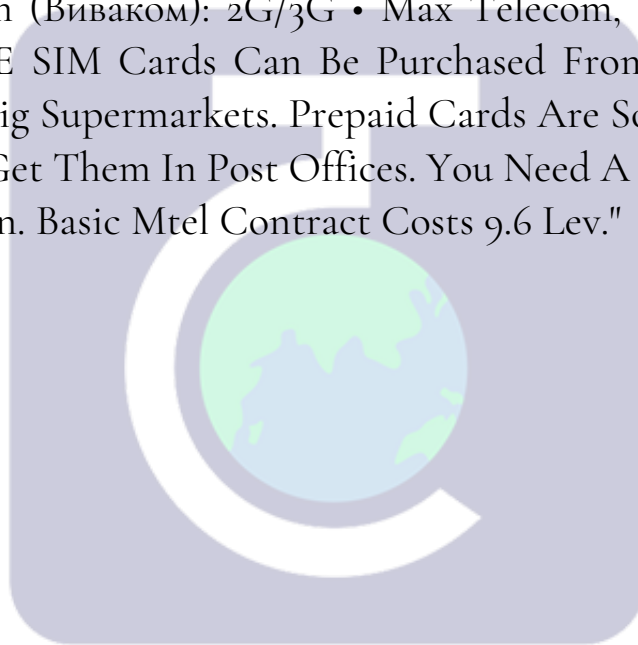
Index**26. Change vendor's commission, ATM charges**

"It is advisable to carry cash as credit/ debit cards are not accepted at all places. There are a lot of ATM's around the city and they charge USD 3.9 + 1-2%. Travellers' cheques are common as well as safe in Bulgaria."



27. Staying connected

" There Is A Good Wi-Fi Connectivity Throughout The City, And Almost All Hotels And Restaurants Offer Free Wi-Fi Services If Your Are Using It For Dining Or Staying. Even Shopping Malls And The City Centre Have A Password Free WiFi Service. You Can Ask The Hotel Staff For It. Bulgaria Has Five Main Physical Network Providers: • Mtel 2G/3G Network • Telenor (Теленор): 2G/3G/4G • Vivacom (Виваком): 2G/3G • Max Telecom, 4G/LTE • Bulsatcom (Булсатком): 4G/LTE SIM Cards Can Be Purchased From The Shops Of The Providers Or From Big Supermarkets. Prepaid Cards Are Sold By The Operators Or You Could Also Get Them In Post Offices. You Need A Valid Passport Or ID Card For Registration. Basic Mtel Contract Costs 9.6 Lev."



28. Time Zone

Sofia lies in the Eastern European Time Zone UTC+02:00



Index**29. Languages**

The Local People Have A Niche On Speaking The Local Bulgarian Language. There Is A Little Use Of English In Certain Places. But You Can Easily Find Tourist Guides Speaking English, French, Spanish, Russian And German. The Prices May Vary Though Depending Upon The Ability Of The Guide. The Prevalent Language For Written Communication Is English But Is Not As Accepted For Speaking.



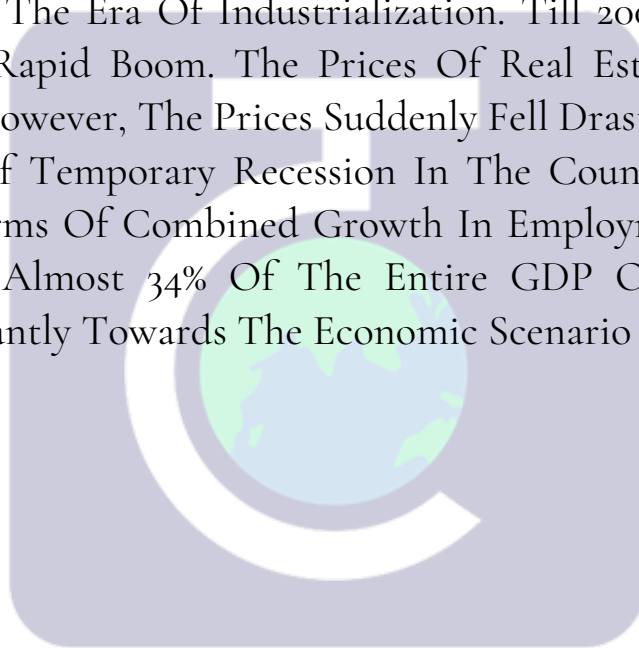
Index**30. Political Scenario**

"Being The Capital City, Sofia Is The Seat Of All Bulgarian State Authorities, The Headquarters Of All Parties, Supreme Courts And The Constitutional Court Of Bulgaria. The Common Head Of Sofia Municipality And All The 38 Settlements Is The Mayor Of Sofia



31. Economic Scenario

"Due To Its Strategic Location And Vibrant Infrastructure, Sofia Is Rightly Called The Economic Heart Of The Country. Almost Half Of The Foreign Capital Entering In Bulgaria Is Invested In Sofia. Bulgarian Stock Exchange, Bulgarian National Bank And Some Important International Companies Of Bulgaria Are Situated In Sofia. The Economic Growth Of The City Started After World War II With The Era Of Industrialization. Till 2007, The Economy Of Sofia Witnessed A Rapid Boom. The Prices Of Real Estate Started To Soar During This Time. However, The Prices Suddenly Fell Drastically In 2009 Which Marked A Period Of Temporary Recession In The Country. Today The City Ranks Highly In Terms Of Combined Growth In Employment And Real GDP And Accounts For Almost 34% Of The Entire GDP Of Bulgaria. Tourism Contributes Significantly Towards The Economic Scenario Of The City."



Index**32. Religious belief**

The Chief Religion In Sofia Is Bulgarian Orthodox. You Can Also Find Some Roman Catholics, Muslims, Protestants And Jews In The City.



33. Visa requirements

"The EU Citizens Can Enter Sofia With Just An ID Proof. Citizens Of USA, Canada, New Zealand, Australia And Japan Can Stay In Ruse For As Long As 90 Days Without A Visa, Provided That They Carry An International Passport And Do Not Work During This Period. Citizens From The Rest Of The World Will Have To Get A Proper Visa To Get An Entry Into Bulgaria. It Is Advised You Carry Your Passport At All Times During Your Stay In Ruse."



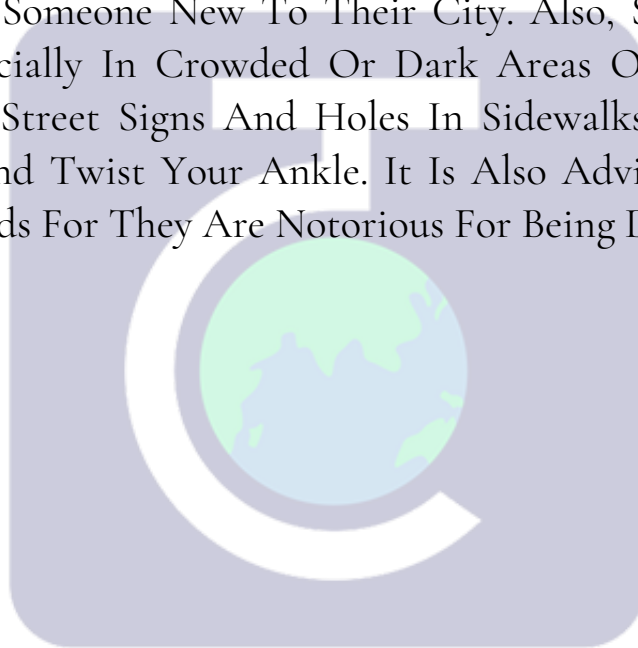
Index**34. Essential vaccination**

One Travelling To Bulgaria Is Asked To Take A Hepatitis A Vaccination. One Should Consult Their Doctor Before Doing So.



Index**35. Theft and Safety**

"Sofia Is Not Very High On Crime But Just Like Any Other Foreign Destination, Tourists Must Be Careful About Themselves And Their Belongings When Moving About In The City. It Is Advised That You Do Not Carry Too Many Valuables Or A Large Amount Of Cash With You. Also, Do Not Be Very Friendly With Locals Immediately. They Are Friendly But They May Try To Take Advantage Of Someone New To Their City. Also, Steer Clear Of Being Pickpocketed , Especially In Crowded Or Dark Areas Of The City. Also Be Careful Of Various Street Signs And Holes In Sidewalks As You Just Might Crash Into Them And Twist Your Ankle. It Is Also Advised That You Avoid Gipsy Neighbourhoods For They Are Notorious For Being Dirty And Dangerous."



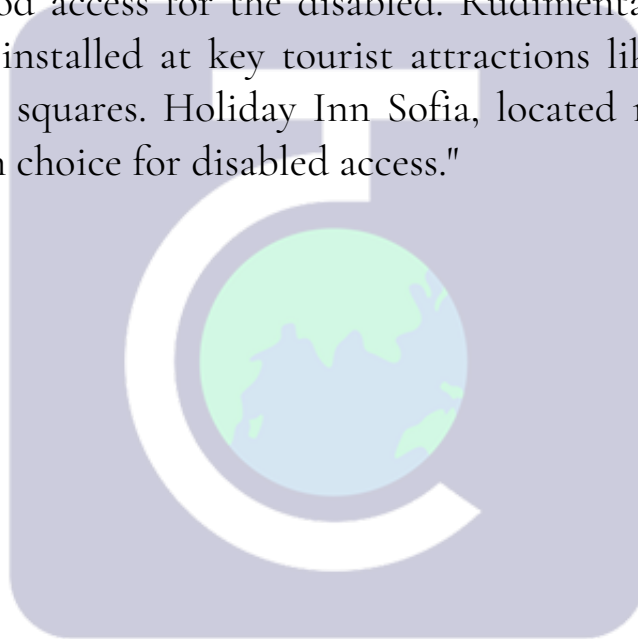
Index**36. Embassy/Consulate**

Here Is A List Of All Foreign Embassies And Consulates In Sofia:
[Http://www.all4sofia.com/embassies-in-sofia/](http://www.all4sofia.com/embassies-in-sofia/)



Index**37. Accessibility**

"General commuting (walking or via public transport) is rather difficult in Sofia for disabled. Buses and trams are old and usually crowded. Although there are some newer vans and buses that have access for disabled individuals but talking generally about the city and its streets, disabled access is very limited. The Sofia metro, however, is the most accessible for disabled travelers. Sofia Airport terminal also has good access for the disabled. Rudimentary wheelchair ramps have also now been installed at key tourist attractions like Alexander Nevsky cathedral and public squares. Holiday Inn Sofia, located near the airport, is a good accommodation choice for disabled access."



Index**38. Emergencies**

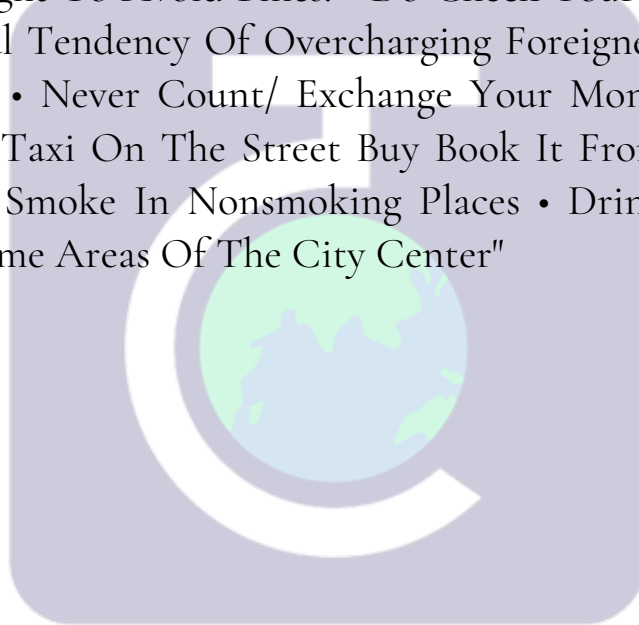
"The State Run Pirogov Hospital Is Maintains Good Standards And One Can Run Down In Case Of Any Emergency. Address: Pirogov Hospital At 21 General Totleben Blvd Tokuda Hospital Is A Good Alternative And Is A Private Hospital, Whose Ambulance Service Can Be Called On T. 02 403 4150. EU And EEA Citizens Are Advised To Carry Their European Health Insurance (EHIC) Card While Traveling To Sofia. Visitors From Rest Of The World Should Get A Valid Travel Medical Insurance."



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39. Do's and Don'ts

"Do's • Do Keep An Eye On Your Belongings At All Times, Especially In The Tourist Areas. • Do Visit Some Of The Less Popular Tourist Attractions In The City. The Experience Can Be Really Rewarding. • Do Check Menu Prices Carefully Before Ordering. • If You Intend To Stand Still, Stay On The Right Side Of Escalators. • Make Sure You Cross The Road Only On The Crosswalks And On A Green Light To Avoid Fines. • Do Check Your Bill Carefully Before Paying. Its A General Tendency Of Overcharging Foreigners At A Number Of Places. Fines. Don'ts • Never Count/ Exchange Your Money On The Street. • Don't Flag Down A Taxi On The Street Buy Book It From A Reliable Source Beforehand. • Don't Smoke In Nonsmoking Places • Drinking While On The Street Is Illegal In Some Areas Of The City Center"



Index**40.Tipping basics**

When In Sofia, Roughly 10% Of The Bill Amount Should Be Paid As Tips. Ensure That A Service Charge Has Not Already Been Added To The Bill.



Index**41.Pet info**

"If Travelling With Pets, Ensure They Have A Pet Passport And Also A Few Other Details As Mentioned On This Site.
[Http://www.pettravel.com/immigration/bulgaria.cfm](http://www.pettravel.com/immigration/bulgaria.cfm)"



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Conclusion – Why to select this destination

"Looking For A City With A Combination Of Age Old History, Spectacular Architecture, Museums, Galleries, Religious Places, Parks, Theatres And Other Entertainment Options? Then Sofia Is The Place To Be! Home To Some Of The Best Museums, Churches, Markets, Lakes, Nature Parks, Restaurants And Clubs In Bulgaria, Sofia Is A Pure Treat For The Senses. The City Tops Various Travel Affordability Indexes And Is A Sweet Destination For Those Looking For Adventure Out Of The Mainstream. It Has Something To Cater To Every Individual's Needs And Has A Vibrant Culture With Surreal Surroundings."



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