

RESTAURANTS BARS SIGHTS SHOPS LEISURE MAP

Sofia

**inyour
pocket**

July -October 2024

Mini-Guide





Welcome to **Sofia** In Your Pocket!

We are excited to once again provide you with our free mini guide in print format. It is packed with genuine editorial information on what to see & do, where to eat, what's on and where to shop. Of course, all this is only a fraction of the information that you can find on our webpages. At the end of every listing you will find a link code, just type it into your browser and it will take you to the relevant page on our website with lots more information.

We hope that this map & guide will help you navigate our city and make the most of your time here.



Sofia

Grows but does not age




A BRIEF TIMELINE

- **6000 BCE:** Neolithic Settlements on the territory of present day Bulgaria
- **8th century BCE:** The Thracian settlement of 'Serдика' is established on the site of present-day Sofia.
- **29 BCE:** Serдика becomes part of the Roman Empire
- **809:** The city is included in the Bulgarian state during the reign of Khan Krum, and renamed 'Sredets'
- **855:** Cyril and Methodius create the first slavic alphabet
- **1018:** Falls to the Byzantine Empire renamed 'Triaditsa'
- **1376:** Sofia gets its present day name from the church of St. Sophia
- **1385:** Sofia besieged under Ottoman rule
- **1878:** Liberation from Ottoman rule; Sofia becomes the capital of the newly established Principality of Bulgaria.
- **1908:** The Kingdom of Bulgaria
- **1944:** Bulgaria is occupied by Soviet forces during World War II, and the Bulgarian Communist Party gains power.
- **1989:** The fall of the Berlin Wall and the subsequent collapse of communism in Eastern Europe
- **1990:** Bulgaria transitions to democracy, and Sofia becomes the capital of the Republic of Bulgaria.
- **2004:** Bulgaria becomes a fully fledged member of NATO
- **2007:** Bulgaria becomes a member of the EU
- **Present day:** Sofia continues to be the capital and largest city of Bulgaria, serving as a cultural, economic, and administrative centre, with a population around 1.2 m. (Bulgaria total 6.8 million)

 Sightseeing



1 Alexander Nevsky Cathedral

pl. Alexander Nevsky, SU Sveti Kliment Ohridski

Sofia's number 1 must-see is the splendid golden domed Alexander Nevsky cathedral which dominates the city centre. Built between 1904-1912 in the Neo Byzantine style.

 iyp.me/77182



2 Archaeological Complex Serdika

C-3, pl. Nezavimost, Serdica

Touted as the latest tourist attraction the remains of Roman Sofia are on display to the public, under a protective glazed roof, covering an area of approximately 9000 square meters.

 iyp.me/145020



3 Boyana Church


ul. Boyansko Ezero 1-3, Boyana, Sofia

One of Bulgaria's most significant historical treasures, listed on the Unesco World Cultural Heritage list. The frescoes, dating back to 1259, are considered a remarkable example of realistic art from that era.

 iyp.me/77186



4 Communist Party House

pl. Alexander Battenberg 1, Serdica

Completed in 1953, it marks the top end of an area known as the Largo, a major showpiece of postwar socialist Sofia.

 iyp.me/77211



5 Ivan Vazov National Theatre
ul. Dyakon Ignatii 5, SU Sveti Kliment
Ohridski



Lovely ornate building in a lively city centre park complete with fountain; a perfect photo opportunity if ever there was one!

iyp.me/77589



6 Sophia
Intersection of bul. Todor Alexandrov and bul.
Maria Luisa, Serdica



With open arms, Sophia welcomes all to Sofia. Not without controversy, she was considered too erotic and pagan to be referred to as St. Sophia.

iyp.me/77217



7 St. George Rotunda
bul. Dondukov 2, Serdica



Tucked away behind the Presidency, Sofia's oldest preserved building dates back to the 4th century. Three layers of frescoes can still be seen dating from 10th - 14th century.

iyp.me/77190



8 St Sophia Church
ul. Parizh 2, SU Sveti Kliment Ohridski



This simple red brick church dating back to the 7th century, gave its name to the present-day capital, back in the 14th century. It stuns with its elegant simplicity as it sits above the necropolis of ancient Serdika.

iyp.me/77184



TOURIST Information Centre

Sofia Tourist Information Centre

The main Tourist Information centre in Sofia where you can take maps and brochures of the city and get assistance about what to visit, where to eat and stay in Sofia. Located in the underpass of Sofia University.

Open
Monday - Saturday
10:00-19:00
Sunday
10:00-16:00



Open every day,
10:00-20:00,
located in
the City garden.

Tourist centre Chitalnyata (The reading room)

Built in the 1980's as a flower shop, abandoned for more than a decade, this charming park pavilion was renovated in 2015 and became a community library where all the books are donated and tourists can also find maps and brochures about the city.



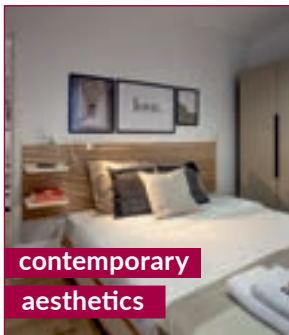
FREE SOFIA TOUR

Explore the best of Sofia
with our walking tours.

/no reservation required, just show up/

Every day: 11 am, 2pm
Start: Palace of Justice

freesofiatour.com



contemporary
aesthetics

Ruby Red House



1 Ekzarh Josif str 61, Serdica

Ruby Red House is a restored early 20th century house that has been brought back to life and converted into an apartment building. The house is located in Sofia's historic center. The eight apartments are equipped with everything you need. Pet friendly, parking within the project.

iyp.me/172328



bulgarian
traditional

Mehana Mamin Kolio



1 ul. Pozitano 40 / bul. Tzar Boris III 41

This traditional Bulgarian folklore style tavern is just a stone's throw from the city centre. The menu includes all the specialities from Bulgarian cuisine, including the sizzling hot 'sach' dishes. The restaurant caters from small intimate dinners to large groups.

iyp.me/149546



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DIRECTIONS





Museums & Galleries

RAKIA MUSEUM

*DISCOVER THE ESSENCE
of Bulgarian Spirit at
the Rakia Museum*

Welcome to the Rakia Museum, your gateway to the rich history and tradition of Bulgaria's beloved spirit, rakia. Our museum offers a captivating journey into the world of rakia.

WWW.RAKIAMUSEUM.BG

GET
5 BGN
DISCOUNT WITH
THIS MAP

Location:
Sofia, bul. Patriarsh
Eftimiy 22
Open Hours:
11:00 AM - 6:30 PM



green garden

summer party

K.E.V.A.



1 ul. Georgi Sava Rakovski 114,
underpass, Vasil Levski

KEVA is a sanctuary in the heart of Sofia, tucked away from the noise and bustle of the city.

Enjoy a cup of coffee in their green garden any time of day or join the summer party vibe with live music in the evening on the two floors of the bar.

They also provide co-working spaces, with a good internet connection and printing services. The staff are always happy to assist you in making the best out of your time in Sofia.

iyp.me/172414



1 Museum of Illusions



bul. Maria Luiza 16,  Serdica


The exhibition is a 400 m² space where illusions meet scientific inventions and arts: physics and optics are displayed together with mysterious artworks and classical riddles. The educational experience is enriched by interactive fun - drawing with light, creating shadows and memorable moments in the world upside down.

 iyp.me/166148



2 The Rakia Museum



bul. Patriarh Eftimiy 22,  Sveti Patriarh Eftimiy

Brand New: A museum dedicated to Rakia, Bulgaria's favourite spirit! Discover its history, how it is made and sample the various tastes.

 iyp.me/171484



3 National History Museum



ul. Vitoshko Lale 16, Okolovrustno Shosse, Boyana District


Once home to the communist elite, the Dictator's residence in Boyana is now the National History Museum. Definitely worth the trip out of the city, best combined with a visit to the Boyana Church.

 iyp.me/77198



4 Archaeological Museum



ul. Saborna 2,  Serdica


Without a doubt one of the most charming and interesting museums in Sofia. Fantastic collection of Bulgaria's gold and silver treasures as well as relics from earlier and later periods.

 iyp.me/77195



5 Museum of Socialist Art



ul. Lachezar Stanev 7,  Fr. Joliot-Curie/
G.M.Dimitrov


Slightly away from the centre, this Museum / Gallery showcases art from the Socialist era. The outdoor sculpture park is impressive.

 iyp.me/87269



6 National Gallery Kvadrat 500



sq. St Alexander Nevsky, ul. 19 Fevruari 1,
 SU Sveti Kliment Ohridski


Kvadrat 500 is the newest and largest building of the National Gallery and unites the former National Museum of Bulgarian Fine Arts and the National Gallery of Foreign Art.

 iyp.me/77587



7 Museum of Natural History



bul. Tsar Osvoboditel 1,  Serdica/SU Sveti
Kliment Ohridski

Great entertainment for children or anyone that might be fascinated by stuffed, pickled and preserved wildlife. Lovely old butterfly collections.

 iyp.me/77200



Restaurants



kuzina.greek.eatery



KUZINA

— G R E E K E A T E R Y —

36, Han Asparuh Str.

+35987 9055999



Mehana & Garden Mamin Kolio

40, Pozitano Str.; 089 431 21 31; 02 471 65 77
Hipodroma; 41, Tsar Boris III Blvd.; 0894 210 410
maminkolio.com



italian
delicious

Pizza Caruso



8 52 Rakovski Str /184 Vitosha Blvd,
National Palace of Culture, Serdica

At Pizza Caruso you can taste authentic Neapolitan pizza and focaccia made with sourdough. They also offer a selection of good Italian coffee, Italian beers and desserts. Find them at two central locations in Sofia: 184 Vitosha boulevard and 52 Rakovski Street.

Feel the positive energy and passion they put into their work!

iyp.me/172054



organic
100% natural

Gelato & Latte



1 bul. Samokov 28 B, Joliot Curie

Do not miss the artisanal gelato, produced with own dairy raw materials at their Rozino Organic Farm.

Authentic flavors, as well as the classical ones await to be tried in their prepared on site hand-made waffle cones.

Gelato and Latte is ranked in the prestigious "Top 20 best places for ice cream in the world".

iyp.me/167746



2 Social Cafe & Kitchen Bar



bul. Vitosha 16, National Palace of Culture

We love the concept, decor, food and view. The dishes are a fresh innovative mix of regional and Italian, with an open kitchen concept where you can watch your meal being prepared.

iyp.me/142301



3 Blue Taste Poke



bul. Vitosha 16, National Palace of Culture

If you want to eat healthy and innovative food, Blue Taste Poke is your place! Here you will find fresh ingredients selected from local suppliers, with fresh grains, veggies, dressings and lots of protein choices.

iyp.me/172427



4 I love falafel



Garibaldi sq., National Palace of Culture

Lebanese street food, in the heart of the city - perfect for when you are on the go and need a quick bite.

iyp.me/172430



5 Bricole



ul. Angel Kanchev 11, National Palace of Culture


Authentic Italian taste in the heart of Sofia. Chef Mirco from Turin invites you to try his authentic pizza, pasta, salads and dessert classics such as Tiramisu and Panna Cotta.

iyp.me/172424



6 Mezza



ul. Angel Kanchev 19,  National Palace of Culture


Let the flavours of the Middle Eastern food lure you in to this new SOCIAL dining experience. Embark on a culinary journey through Lebanon and Turkey.

 iyp.me/172426



7 Kuzina



ul. Han Asparuh 36,  National Palace of Culture


Newly opened, Kuzina with head chef Ioannis Reppas, presents the traditional flavours of Greece and the Aegean Sea with a modern twist, in a Boho chic ambience.

 iyp.me/172423



8 Pizza Caruso



ul. Rakovski 52 and bul. Vitosha 184,  Serdica


You can taste authentic Neapolitan pizza and focaccia made with sourdough, Italian coffee, Italian beers and desserts.

 iyp.me/172054



9 Cookó Kitchen:Drinks



ul. Ivan Denkgolu 40,  Serdica

The heart of Junó Hotel is the lively Cookó Kitchen:Drinks restaurant. In rhyme with the hotel's name, Cookó captivates at first sight, offering a new vision of city life.

 iyp.me/171898



Cafés

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SPECIALTY COFFEE



1 192 "Vitosha" blvd

3 28 "Angel Kunchev" Str.

5 58 "Lyuben Karavelov" Str.

2 28A "Samokov" blvd

4 1 "Hristo Botev" blvd

 +359 882 477 000





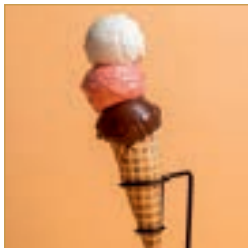
2 Dabov Specialty Coffee



bul. Vitosha 192, National Palace of Culture

Coffee is a passion for the Dabov family. They buy high quality specialty coffee directly from farmers all over the world and at a fair price so that in the end the client can enjoy a cup of balanced and tasty coffee.

iyp.me/171485



3 Gelateria Diana



ul. Iskar 16A, Serdica

The production of artisan ice cream is a passion for Diana's team. In their cosy shop, you will also discover a selection of pastries, desserts, and artisanal beverages.

iyp.me/171889



4 Air Bakery



ul. Tsar Asen I 11, Serdica

This innovative bakery is worth seeking out if you care about your physical and spiritual well-being. There are 2 locations in Sofia. bul. Tzar Boris III 137 and ul. Tzar Asen I 11

iyp.me/171487



5 Green Deli Cafe



ul. Rakovski 165, National Palace of Culture

Just one of many outlets across town, something for every taste bud. Vegan friendly.

iyp.me/139358



Nightlife



1 K.E.V.A.



ul. Georgi Rakovski 114,  Vasil Levski


Enjoy a cup of coffee in their green garden any time of day or join the summer party vibe with live music in the evening on the two floors of the bar.

 iyp.me/172414



2 By The Way



ul. Georgi Rakovski 166,  National Palace of Culture


Whether, morning coffee and a croissant, a quiet lunch or to meet up with friends in the evening over cocktails this is a good choice.

 iyp.me/114664



3 Toplocentrala Bar Stage



ul. Emil Berzinski 5,  European Union

Toplocentrala Bar Stage is an interesting place, located in the South Park - the green heart of Sofia. It has a huge terrace, where you can enjoy the day, work or chat with the art community. Dog friendly!

 iyp.me/171489



4 Maimunarnika



Borrisova Gradina,  Vasil Levski Stadium

Great summer event location, beer garden with live music or DJ events most evenings.


 iyp.me/145443

 Shopping



1 Kasiopeya jewellery

GIFTS 


18 Tzar Asen street,  Serdica, National Palace of Culture

This small family run jewellery studio is situated in the centre of Sofia. They specialise in the production of silver jewellery with minimalist design and accents of semi-precious and precious stones.

 iyp.me/172044



2 Roman wall Farmers' Market MARKET

ul. Stara stena 3,  Vasil Levski

Sofia's first and richest farmers' market, operating for more than a decade now. Every Saturday 40+ small scale farmers and artisans from all around the country offer exquisite products of all kinds - fruits, vegetables, herbs, spices, bread, pastry, meat, dairy, and much more. Meet the farmers, taste Bulgaria with its colourful blend of tradition and innovation!

 iyp.me/128473



3 Oborishte Farmers' Market MARKET


Gina Kuncheva sq.,  SU Kliment Ohridski

This is a brand new location for the Hrankoop Farmers' markets. Located in the heart of the city centre, with the Botanical garden and the National Gallery Kvadrat 500 within meters, and many other sights close by; Sofia University, the National Library, Alexander Nevski Cathedral among them. Every Sunday 20+ small scale farmers and artisans from all around the country.

 iyp.me/172420



4 Gorichkata GIFTS & SOUVENIRS

ul. Georgi Rakovski 161,  Vasil Levski

Gorichkata is an arty shop. They offer artisan products by some of Bulgaria's most creative talents. Choose from paintings, prints, ceramics, jewellery, home decor and natural cosmetic products.

[🔗 iyp.me/172416](https://iyp.me/172416)



5 Beeswax Wraps GIFTS & SOUVENIRS

Looking for an original, eco-friendly, hand made gift from Bulgaria? BeeCome Green Beeswax wraps and bags are made from high quality beeswax. Find them in Gorichkata (161, Georgi Rakovski str.) and Air Bakery (11, Ivan Asen I str.).

[🔗 iyp.me/171488](https://iyp.me/171488)



6 Krakra SHOPPING STREETS


ul. Krakra,  SU Sveti Kliment Ohridski

Beautiful architecture and lots of small arty and artisan shops in one of the best neighbourhoods in the centre of Sofia.

[🔗 iyp.me/140381](https://iyp.me/140381)



7 Pirotska SHOPPING STREETS

ul. Pirotska,  Serdica

Pedestrian street with most shops offering regionally produced fashion and accessories

[🔗 iyp.me/166191](https://iyp.me/166191)

 Events



Craft Beer

Festival

улица

ХМЕЛ

27-28-29

september

NDK - park

CULINARY TREASURES

FROM NEAR AND AFAR

FARMERS FESTIVAL

25-27.10.2024 * NDK PARK

XPAM
KOCHI





TO Ato JAZZ FESTIVAL

4-7 JULY
SOUTH PARK

1 Ato Jazz



04-07.07 10:00-19:30

This annual summer festival aims to promote jazz, world and improvised music among young people. It gets very busy these days, but tickets to a comfort zone are available.

Yuzhen Park (South Park), M European Union, www.atojazz.bg/en/line-up/



2 Emeli Sandé



10.07 20:00

Following her breakthrough with the album 'Our Version of Events' Emeli Sandé won two "Brit" awards for best British female artist and best album in 2012. This is her first concert in Bulgaria.

National Palace of Culture, pl. Bulgaria 1, M National Palace of Culture, tel. (+359) 2 916 6300



3 Jacob Collier



11.07 20:00

& The Mystery of the Bulgarian Voices. Jacob Collier, the gifted singer, songwriter multi instrumentalist, who has won 6 Grammy awards, collaborates with Bulgaria's most famous choir.

National Palace of Culture, pl. Bulgaria 1, M National Palace of Culture, tel. (+359) 2 916 6300



4 Muses on the Water



11.07-11.08 20:00

Every Summer the National Opera & Ballet moves select repertoire performances to the banks of the lake in the nearby suburb of Pancharevo. Check the opera website for more details. www.operasofia.bg/en/repertoire/Panchrevskoto_ezero




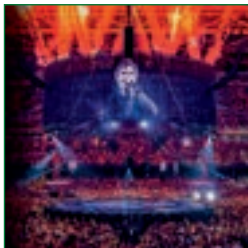
5 Phantom of the Opera



29.08-05.09 20:00

After completely selling out earlier this year, Andrew Lloyd Webber's original production returns to Sofia for 9 more shows, with 2 afternoon performances on the weekend.

National Palace of Culture, pl. Bulgaria 1,  National Palace of Culture, tel. (+359) 2 916 6300




6 Ed Sheeran



31.08 16:00

As part of his $+ - = \div \times$ Mathematics tour across Europe, Ed Sheeran will be playing Sofia's largest open air venue, and tickets have sold fast, with only standing sector tickets left.

Vasil Levski stadium, bul. Evlogi Georgiev 38,  Vasil Levski, <https://ticketstation.bg>




7 Andrea Bocelli 30th Anniversary



14.09 16:00-18:00

Much loved Italian tenor, Andrea Bocelli, who somehow blurs the boundaries between opera and pop, will be giving a concert in Sofia as part of his 30th Anniversary tour.

Vasil Levski stadium, bul. Evlogi Georgiev 38,  Vasil Levski, <https://ticketstation.bg>




8 SOFIA MOTOR SHOW



18-27.10 10:00-19:30

In the six halls of the EPP, visitors will be able to touch luxury and high-tech models of more than 30 leading global car brands, test more than 150 electric, hybrid, etc.

Inter Expo Center, 147, Tsarigradsko shose blvd,  Inter Expo Center, sofiamotorshow.bg

Getting Around



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Схема на софийското метро

Sofia Metro map



Легенда: Legend:



- Летище София
Sofia Airport
- Жп гара/станция
Railway station
- АЗС/гара
Gas station
- Парк/парк и пешеход
Park and foot



1 Sofia International Airport



bul. Brussels,  Sofia Airport


Sofia Airport is approximately half an hour from the city centre and relatively compact. Currently most international and domestic flights operate from Terminal 2, but please check flight details carefully.

iyp.me/142392



2 Central Train Station



A-3, bul. Maria Luiza 102,  Central Railway Station

Since the modernisation of the station and gradual improvements to the trains, train travel within Bulgaria is an attractive, if slower option.

iyp.me/133190



3 Luggage Storage – LockStars



Store your luggage in LockStars self-service lockers and enjoy the city! Open 24/7 with no booking required and flexible hourly rental prices. Extra Large Jumbo size lockers available for groups.

iyp.me/171900



4 Underground Metro system



Sofia's underground meanwhile has good coverage across the city, is clean and relatively easy to navigate, without being too crowded.

iyp.me/142738



5 Buses, Trams and Trolley Buses

Buses and Trams offer additional excellent coverage, although older and not so clean, they offer a sense of adventure in themselves.

iyp.me/166082



6 OK Taxi


(+359) 2 9732121

The largest and most recognisable fleet in Sofia. Beware of impostors!

iyp.me/133107



7 Free Sofia Tour

bul. Vitosha 2,  Serdica

The 'must do' thing in Sofia, to get your bearings and familiarise yourself with the city and its history. Highly recommended.

iyp.me/136776



8 Tourist Information Center

pl. Sveta Nedelya 1,  Serdica

Information about travelling to other destinations in Bulgaria is available here. Discover Bulgaria!

iyp.me/168474

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ESSENTIAL
CITY GUIDES



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