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.

**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 withing 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 ...  

- **Boyana Church**
  Boyana Church is the oldest Orthodox church in Sofia. This medieval construc...
**DO & SEE**

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.

*Photo: S-F/Shutterstock.com*

Address: Alexander Nevski Square, Sofia
Phone: +359 2 988 1704

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**THE CITY**

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.
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 withing 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

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
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: Bjorn Giesenbauer/Flickr (image cropped)
**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.

**Borisova Gradina**

One of the nicest green areas in the city, Borisova Gradina is where locals come to spend a leisurely 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

**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

**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.
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

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.

Photo: SSokolov/ Shutterstock.com

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

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

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.skarabar.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

**Cafes**

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.

Photo: Csehak Szabolcs/Shutterstock.com

**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 Neoft Rilski Street, Sofia
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 café 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, cozy 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 specialty 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

Ciccone Panini Bar

The Ciccone 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.ciccone.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 Oborishtе 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

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 a 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 Denkoglu 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 cozy 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

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 aryusorn/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.

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.
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.

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.

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.

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

**Serdiika Center**

**“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

**Serdiika Center**
The Serdiika Center opened in early 2010 and is the biggest mall in Sofia. Much like other city malls, Serdiika 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
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

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 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

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

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

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
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

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

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.sofaring.bg
Email: infodesk@ssrm-bg.com

TOURIST INFORMATION

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
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

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.

Photo: Gemma Garner

Remedium 1
15 Dobruzhd 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: Jardson Almeida

Telephone

Country Code: +359 Area code: 02

Photo: Stirling Tschan

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
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