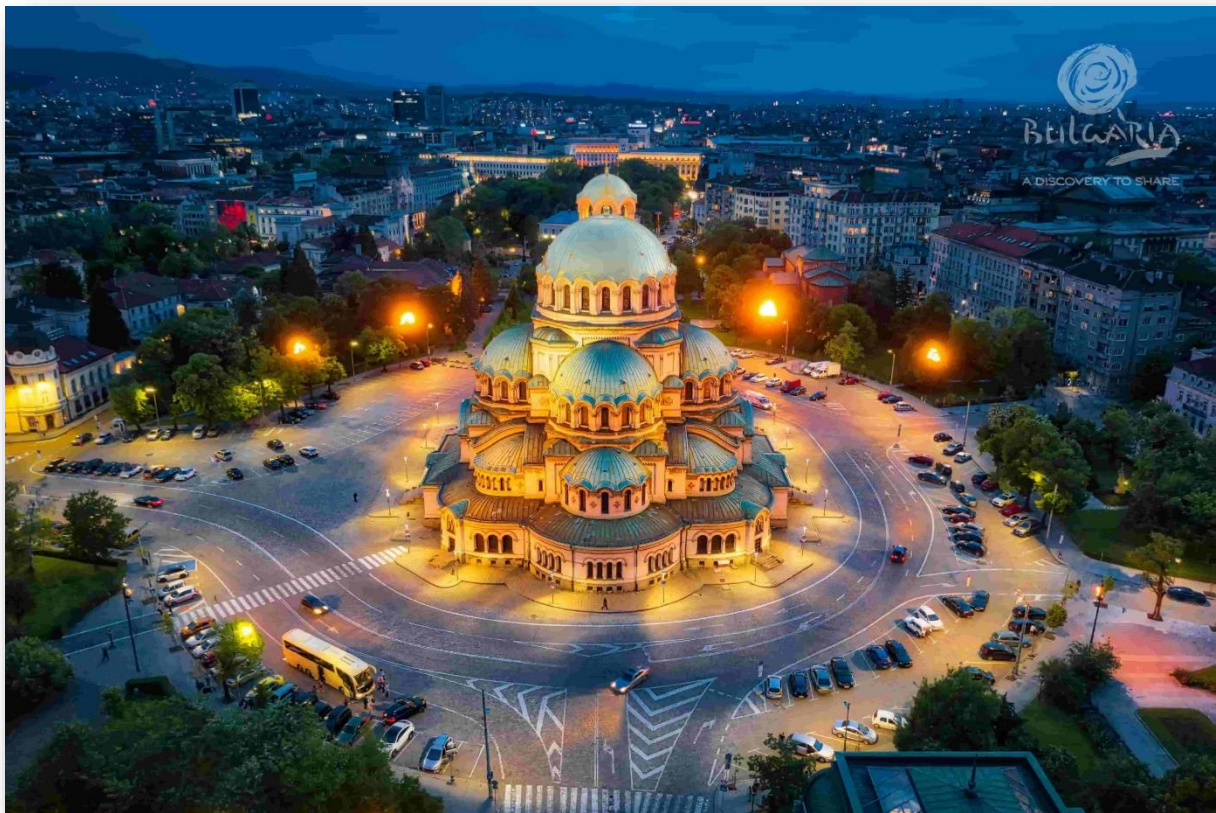




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WELCOME TO SOFIA, BULGARIA!



Sofia, Bulgaria, is a city where history and nature blend seamlessly, with stunning landmarks like Alexander Nevsky Cathedral and the ancient Roman ruins scattered throughout its vibrant streets. Nestled at the foot of Vitosha Mountain, it offers breathtaking views, lush parks, and a unique mix of architectural styles that make it both charming and dynamic.

And here is your brief guide for your visit!

The training is happening at the University of Library Studies and Information Technologies – Corpus 2 and the address is **69A Shipchenski Prohod Blvd.** (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/p9CpjBSgUVpDg2FC6>) and the building looks like:



Sofia Airport is about 5 km from the venue and all suggested hotels are 1 km top from it, too. From [Sofia Airport](#) to your hotels you may use a Public transport ([Sofia Metro Map](#)) or taxi operator [Yellow!](#) as the contractual partner of SOF Connect, the concessionaire of Sofia Airport. You must pay with a card or acquire the ticket in advance to use public transportation. You may get more details about this [here](#). More details for the taxi fares and useful information can be found [here](#) and if you are interested to rent a car you can check the details [here](#).

More information about the public transport: As a universal rule, one ride costs one ticket and one ticket costs 1,60 BGN. You can use it one-time only for the bus, tram or trolleybus. There are other options. One is a collection of numbered tickets that you need to use in the correct succession and always keep the first one. There are also monthly or yearly passes, but let's not overcomplicate things. After you obtain a ticket, you have to validate it by running it through one of the perforators in the public vehicles (see pictures). Usually there are at least 4-5 of these devices in every bus, tram or trolleybus. Be careful, each vehicle's perforators leave a unique pattern of holes through your ticket, so you can't re-use it. The system is primitive and old-fashioned, but it guarantees that you won't use the ticket multiple times. Many of the vehicles are now also equipped with ticket-selling machines. They print tickets upon insertion of the correct amount of money (1,60 lev). These you do not need to perforate, as they have the date and time of purchase printed on them! There is also a day card that costs 4 BGN, and you can use it as many times as you want on all public transport vehicles (including the metro). It is only valid during the day of purchase, and it can only be used by 1 person.

You can check [here](#) different places to eat – restaurants, pubs, coffee shops, etc. Information about the supermarkets can be found [here](#), but if you want to check out other suggestions for grocery shops and liquor stores you can do it [here](#).

Your training includes a cultural tour on day 3 – 26th February. Still **other significant places** to visit in Sofia include:

Sofia History Museum (square Banski 1, location <https://g.co/kgs/a5T5a4N>) – The history of



Sofia is presented on two floors of the magnificent former Turkish Mineral Baths, just behind the mosque. Exhibitions are divided thematically over eight chambers, with the most interesting rooms dedicated to the Bulgarian royal families of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and the findings of recent archeological digs around town. There are plenty of signs in English.

Sveti Nikolai Russian Church (3 Tsar Osvoboditel Str., location <https://maps.app.goo.gl/ZkHmYGMAYUiFk8DT8>) – This



beautiful church with glittering mosaic exterior and golden domes was completed in 1914 for Sofia's Russian community, and named in honour of St Nikolai, the 'miracle worker'.

Peyo Yavorov House-Museum (136 Rakovski Str, 2nd floor, location <https://maps.app.goo.gl/xEFgjzYCu3VnQ5vX7>) – The Romantic



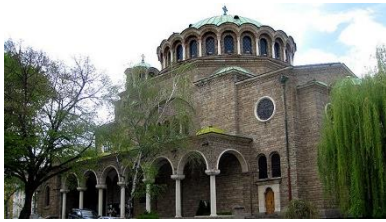
poet and revolutionary Peyo Yavorov (1878–1914) briefly lived in a small apartment here; the three rooms have been restored to their original appearance, while ghoulish mementoes include Yavorov's death mask and the dress Yavorov's wife, Lora, was wearing when she killed herself in the study. Ring the doorbell for admittance.

Archaeological Museum (2 Saborna Str., location <https://maps.app.goo.gl/HpUbhj9PcT4vwXBA9>) –



Housed in a former mosque built in 1496, this museum displays a wealth of Thracian, Roman and medieval artefacts. Highlights include a mosaic floor from the Church of Sveta Sofia, a 4th-century BC Thracian gold burial mask, and a magnificent bronze head, thought to represent a Thracian king.

Saint Nedelya Cathedral (square Sveta Nedelya, location



<https://maps.app.goo.gl/svtQ1z5LBZmPTYX58>) – Completed in 1863, this magnificent domed church is one of the city’s major landmarks, and is noted for its rich, Byzantine-style murals. The church was targeted by communists on 16 April 1925 in a failed bomb attack aimed at assassinating Tsar Boris III.

Sofia City Art Gallery (1 Gen Gurko Str. Location



<https://maps.app.goo.gl/znmdk87zs5KdnrjY6>) – The chunky building at the southern end of the City Garden Park is an art gallery staging rotating exhibitions of mostly contemporary Bulgarian and international art over two floors. Enter from Knyaz Alexander Batenberg Str.

National Palace of Culture (square Bulgaria, location



<https://maps.app.goo.gl/CtVjpV1emMaBbbW68>) – Sofia's vast concert hall dates from 1981 and houses countless chambers, as well as music clubs and cafes. It watches over an elongated park known as square Bulgaria.

National Gallery Quadrat 500 (1 19 Fevruari Str., location



<https://maps.app.goo.gl/5HLwRPnVDgrtKf797>) – This massive visual-arts gallery combines the holdings of the National Gallery and the former Museum of Foreign Art. The result is several hundred paintings spread out over 28 rooms. Works range from African tribal masks to countless 19th- and 20th-century paintings, mostly by lesser-known artists. Minor sketches by Renoir and Matisse and works by Gustave Courbet are on display.

Ethnographical Museum (1 Knyaz Al Batenberg Str., location



<https://maps.app.goo.gl/CLNbHE42nDQaWv22A>) – Displays on regional costumes, crafts and folklore are spread over two floors of the former royal palace, and many of the rooms are worth a pause themselves for their marble fireplaces, mirrors and ornate plasterwork. There are some interesting 19th-century Bulgarian paintings housed in an adjacent wing of the museum,

and there's a crafts shop on the ground floor.

More information for sightseeing can be found [Sofia Tourist Information Center](#).

Shopping in Sofia

Everything from old street markets to quirky new stores to famous pedestrian streets can be found [here](#).

Vitosha Boulevard – Sofia’s city center is very compact, and walking is the best way to get your bearings and experience the Bulgarian lifestyle. It is inevitable that you will end up on Vitosha boulevard. It is by far the busiest pedestrian zone in our capital, full of many great bars, restaurants and shops.



Women’s Market – The Women’s Market (Zhenski Pazar, Женски Пазар) is the oldest and by far most legendary market in Sofia. Established more than 140 years ago and always known as the place where one can find everything they need. Starting from fresh fruit and vegetables by Bulgarian farmers, going through traditional souvenirs, clothing, fresh meat and dairy products, and ending up with exotic foreign spices and condiments.



Pirotska – Pirotska street is in fact the first ever pedestrian street in Sofia. Even though it’s lost its popularity over the past few decades and is now past its former glory it is still a must if you want to get a complete feeling of what Sofia is really like. Pirotska Street takes you from the Halite (Central Covered Market) all the way to the Women’s market.

If you love performing arts you’ve come to the right place. Sofia is full of affordable options for lovers of all art.

- [Sofia Opera and Ballet House](#) – With its 126 years of history it offers rich variety of classical and modern opera and ballet performances for adults, kids and even for babies.
- Watch a theatre performance – There are [several options](#) for subtitled theatre performances.
- [Attend a Classical Concert](#) – For more information in English you can visit Hall Bulgaria.

