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PLOVDIV

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Autumn 2008

International Plovdiv Fair

29 September –
04 October 2008

The Old Town

A crossroad of cultures

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ESSENTIAL CITY GUIDES

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Plovdiv is Bulgaria's second largest city after Sofia and definitely less stressful.

During the summer it is not just hot it is HOT. Plovdivians have their local wisdom in the following sentence "Gusto maina Filibeto, ogin pada ot nibeto" "Hey dude, it is nice in Plovdiv, but fire falls from the sky".

Spring (April, May and mid-June) and autumn (mid-September, October) are the best off-season months (except for the few International Fair days in mid May and end of September). This is the best time to visit as the weather is good and not too hot or too cold. The cultural venues, theaters, concert halls, etc. are in full swing and let's not forget the off-season rates.

Plovdiv is one of the most appealing cities in Bulgaria and the Balkans with its first foundations laid here between 6-8000 years ago thus making it older than Rome or even Beijing. Plovdiv is a great combination of real historical and archeological treasures with the liveliness of a modern city and great cultural and night life. The most visited and admired is the hilly Old Town, built on three hills called tepeta. The maze of cobbled streets which meander the area and contain the cuddled up revival houses with their colourful façades and ornate decoration don't fail to impress and take you back in time. Read more on page 30.

The modern part of the city centre is built along the main pedestrian street starting at the Central Square (Ploshtad Centralen) and passing along Dzhumaya Dzhamia just next to the Old Town on the west. This long street runs past all kinds of monuments, fountains, the ruins of the Roman stadium, shops, restaurants and cafés all the way to River Maritsa. This is the liveliest part of the city and especially in the evening it seems like the whole population has gathered here, strolling up and down. The streets between the centre and the train station are also something not to miss. The buildings here have not been restored as in the Old Town and the architecture is closer to the capitals' Sofia feel, but they also hold their charm.

Don't miss out on climbing the hills of Plovdiv, the views you can enjoy from their tops are amazing. Read more on page 10.

Plovdiv is also famous for the International Trade Fairs conducted for already 63 years, for 5 days in mid May and at the end of September. During these few days the city welcomes an additional 150-160 000 people so accommodation is hard to find and rates are obviously more expensive. Read more on page 45.

Europe In Your Pocket



With the launch of **Moscow In Your Pocket** now imminent, check out what we have to offer in the Russian capital at www.inyourpocket.com: the full content of Moscow IYP is now online. There are also online guides to **Sarajevo** and **Banja Luka**, **Bosnia** to enjoy, ahead of print editions to both cities, to be launched in October and November. Elsewhere, **Glasgow In Your Pocket** is in the final throes of preparation: expect the guide to hit newsstands before Christmas.

The biggest news of all though at In Your Pocket is our new, much improved website, coming soon to public beta. Check it out at beta.inyourpocket.com, and let us know what you think via email: editor@inyourpocket.com is our address.

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Plovdiv In Your Pocket

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Editor's note

The editorial content of In Your Pocket guides is independent from paid-for advertising. Sponsored listings are clearly marked as such. We welcome all readers' comments and suggestions. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information at the time of going to press and assume no responsibility for changes and errors.

With points of arrival characterized by confusing signs, most of which in Cyrillic, and staff who only speak English if they feel like it, your first five minutes in Plovdiv can often feel like landfall on a faraway planet. A healthy mixture of patience and good humour should be enough to set you on your way.

By bus

Central Bus Station Yug, H-2, bul. Hristo Botev 47, tel. 62 69 37, www.hebrosbus.com, www.avtogari.info. International buses arrive and depart from the central bus station on bul. Hristo Botev 47. Facilities include ticket offices, cafés and restaurant, 24 hour left-luggage office (garderob-1Lv) in the main passenger's hall.

Getting to town: Taxis are always on hand and can take you to the city centre for approximately 3-4Lv. Buses No 1, 7, 11, 18, 20 and minibuses No 4, 8 will also get you to the centre. By foot, go straight along bul. Hristo Botev and then turn to the left along bul. Tsar Boris III. It will take you approximately 15-20 min.

By car

Plovdiv is since historical times the centre point of various cross roads.

Coming from Sofia you take the A1 on which you are blessed with about 137 kilometers of relatively good highway. Departing from northern Greece you can take the mountainous route 86. You cross the border at Asenovgrad and keep on driving north until you reach Plovdiv.

In case you come from Turkey take the highway E80 to Svilengrad via Edirne (Odrin) going on via Harmanli and Haskovo Plovdiv is just ahead.

Burgas-Plovdiv (270km) should be done via the E773/E871 provincial until after Stara Zagora. Do not miss tiny exits with written София (Sofia) on it!

Parking in Plovdiv is generally less difficult than in Sofia. Traffic jams are also less even during rush hours and drivers a little bit more tolerable than the Sofia nervous bunch, so you will not hear too much honking of car horns like in Sofia.

By plane

Plovdiv International Airport (Letishte Plovdiv), K-8, often referred to as Plovdiv Krumovo Airport, is located 12km southeast of the city centre on the main highway Plovdiv-Asenovgrad. It has one terminal and is specialized in servicing charter passenger flights for the Bulgarian mountain ski resorts (Pamporovo - 60km, Borovetz - 90km and Bansko 163km) during the winter period from December to April. During the period May to November there are hardly any passenger flights, except for landings of aircraft originally destined to Sofia airport. The capital is some 150km away, via A1 (Trakiya) highway. There is only one café.

Getting to town: the only way to get to town is by taxi, approximately 15 min. The fare to town should not cost more than 20-30Lv (€10-15). Make sure you check the sticker on the windscreen indicating the rates in BGN. Charges are supposed to be metered and since this is an out of town course the driver switches the meter on exiting Plovdiv, so you pay 1 and ½ fare.

There are no regular buses except for the pick-up services of hotels or travel companies.

The railway stop of Plovdiv-Asenovgrad trains is about 1 km from the airport's terminal.

Plovdiv Airport provides bus transport for the passengers of all international carriers in case of irregularity, when Plovdiv Airport is used as an alternative airport of Sofia Airport or any other Bulgarian airport.

Message from the Mayor



Dear citizens and guests of Plovdiv, Plovdiv is a city with history and traditions of long standing – it is one of the oldest cities in Europe and indeed the oldest city in Bulgaria. Today it successfully interlaces the spirit of the past and its European present and future.

Plovdiv is a city on the crossroad between the East and the West. That is the reason why the people, who have come from far away, become enchanted by what they see. The monuments of culture are almost 200, including the Ancient Theatre of the old Philippopolis, the Roman Stadium, the Nebet tepe Archaeological Complex, the old Plovdiv... And along with the antiquities are the renovated city centre, the Row canal, the International Fair in Plovdiv, the green areas for recreation and amusement of the citizens and guests of Plovdiv. These places are well known even abroad.

I am convinced that everyone, who has visited the city once, will keep coming back enchanted by the spirit of Plovdiv, by the hospitality of the old houses and southern temperament of the local citizens. Anyone, who has been in contact with Plovdiv, falls in love with the city for ever. And for us, the citizens of Plovdiv, it is a privilege to be a part of the spirit of this unique place, hidden between the seven hills in the Valley of Maritsa River.

Welcome to our city !

Slavcho Atanasov
Mayor of Plovdiv

Street smarts

Street	Улица (ул.)	Ulitsa (ul.)
Square	Площад (пл.)	Ploshad (pl.)
Boulevard	Булевард (бул.)	Boulevard (bul.)
Highway	Магистрала	Magistrala
Bridge	Мост	Most

By train

Plovdiv's Central Station (Tsentralna gara), H-2, open 24hours, is located on the south side of the centre of Plovdiv. There is a luggage office (garderob), just inside the station left of the information desk. It is open 24 hours and the fee is 2Lv per item for 24 hours. The station has special facilities for disabled people. The central pedestrian street Ivan Vazov will lead you to the centre of the city - pl. Tsentralen, the Central Post Office as well as the Trimonizium Hotel. The cheapest way to get to the other parts of the city is either by walking or by taking buses No 9, 29, 44, 99 or minibus No 3, 5, 16, 19 from the bus stop, just from the same street.



The Plovdiv
telephone code is: 032

Alcohol

The archetypal national tipple is rakiya or brandy, which usually comes as either grozdova rakiya (grape brandy) or slivova (plum). It's usually served up in 50g or 100g shots and is consumed alongside salad or some other form of nibble – wait-staff will consider you peculiar if you don't order at least something to snack on while you're slugging down spirits. As far as beer is concerned, Bulgaria produces several palatable if unexciting lagers – Zagorka, Shumensko and Kamenitsa are the most reliable of the big brands. Much more impressive are the dry red wines, particularly Cabernet Sauvignon from Svishtov and Oryahovitsa, Merlot from Stambolovo, Gumza from Novo Selo, Mavrud from Aasenovgrad, and Melnik from the village of same name. The Chardonnays and Traminers from Veliki Preslav are among the best of the whites.

Customs

If you are travelling within the EU those over 18 can now take 10L of spirits, 90L of wine and 110L of beer. Most countries will not allow more than 200 cigarettes from Bulgaria.

You're not allowed to export antiques, artworks or coins of numismatic value unless you have a permit issued by the Ministry of Culture. Due to fears about child trafficking, travellers with small children may be asked for documentary evidence of their parental relationship before being allowed to leave the country.

Electricity

Bulgaria runs on a 220 volt electricity supply (so some visitors will need to bring a transformer). Standard continental two-prong plugs are used, so others will need to furnish themselves with an adaptor if they want to use their hairdryer/phone/charger/laptop.

Tourist information



Plovdiv Tourist Information Centre F-3, pl. Tsen-tralen 1, tel. 65 67 94, tic_plovdiv@abv.bg, www.plovdiv-tour.info. All you ever wanted to know about routes, tariffs, tickets, accommodation, cultural events, maps and general information about Plovdiv's transport, banks, insurance companies and real estate. ▶ Open 09:00 - 19:00. Closed Sat, Sun. ☎

Smoking

Cafés, bars and restaurants are required by law to provide an area for non-smokers. In practice however this will probably consist of one or two tables surrounded on all sides by nicotine addicts happily puffing away.

Visas

Citizens of the EU, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA can stay in the country visa-free for 90 days. Nationals of other countries should contact the Bulgarian embassies or consulates in their home countries about visa arrangements. Note that visas cannot be obtained at the border.

If you wish to extend your stay beyond the 90-day period you should apply for a residence permit from the Immigration Office, ul. Volga 47, tel. 93 28 78 fax 93 28 88. Open 8:30-12:00, 13:00-17:30. Closed Sat & Sun.

Roads & Traffic police

Most Bulgarians turn into psychopaths as soon as they get behind the wheel of a car, although given the state of the road network one can hardly blame them. Cow-sized potholes, suicidal pedestrians and drunken cyclists riding on the wrong side of the road are just some of the things to look out for – and with hazards like these you need to swerve around like a stunt driver in order to stay in one piece.

In order to drive on Bulgarian roads outside Plovdiv you'll need to purchase a vignette which must be clued to the windscreens. You can get these from border crossings, all post offices and OMV and Shell gas stations. For a car or SUV vignettes cost 10Lv for one week, 25Lv for one month, and 67Lv for a year.

Talking on a mobile phone while driving is strictly forbidden, as is driving under the influence of more than 0.5/1000 of alcohol. Foreigners are well advised to obey the rules of the road even if they see locals behaving otherwise: the police rarely speak English and are unlikely to show any lenience. Police checks on major highways are common, especially when entering or leaving Plovdiv at the weekend. Policemen are allowed to charge on-the-spot fines up to 50Lv.

Basic data

Territory: Bulgaria takes up 110, 550 km² of land. It shares borders with Turkey, Greece, Macedonia, Serbia and Romania. The country is bordered to the east by a 354km-long stretch of Black Sea coastline.

Rivers: The main rivers in the country are Danube, Maritsa, Mesta, Strouma, Iskar, Yantra. There are more than 600 warm and cold mineral springs.

Highest Point: Musala (2925m), south of Sofia in the Rila mountains.

Population of Bulgaria: 7,385,367 (July 2006 est.)

Population of Sofia: 1,377,531 (July 2006 est.)

Local time: Bulgaria is part of the Eastern European Time Zone (GMT +2); when it is noon in Sofia it is 11:00 in Berlin, 10:00 in London and 05:00 in New York City.

Religion: Traditional religion in the Republic of Bulgaria is Eastern Orthodox Christianity. Orthodox 85%, Muslim 8%, others 7%.



Key phrases

The following is a list of some of the most common words and phrases a person is likely to need.

Hello	Zdravei
Goodbye	Dovizhdane
Please	Molya
You're welcome	Pak zapoviadaite
Thank you	Blagodarya
Excuse me	Izvinete
Yes / No	Da / Ne
Cheers	Nazdrave
I don't understand	Ne razbiram
I don't know	Ne znam
Do you speak English?	Govorite li angliiski?
What's up?	Kakvo stava?
Good morning!	Dobro utro!
Good afternoon / evening!	Dobur den / vecher!
Good night!	Leka nosht!
Have you got...?	Imate li...?
Where can I buy...?	Kude moga da kupya...?
How many / how much?	Kolko / Kolko struva?
Good / bad	Dobro / losho
Expensive / cheap	Skupo / evtino
New / old	Novo / staro
Hot / cold	Toplo / studeno

Days of week

Monday	Ponedelnik
Tuesday	Vtornik
Wednesday	Sryada
Thursday	Chetvurtak
Friday	Petuk
Saturday	Subota
Sunday	Nedelya

Numbers

1	edno
2	dve
3	tri
4	chetiri
5	pet
6	shest
7	sedem
8	osem
9	devet
10	deset
100	sto
1000	hilyada

Market values

How do costs compare to back home? Here is handy list of local prices to give you an idea.

	Leva	Euro
Loaf of white bread	1.00	0.50
Snickers bar	0.70	0.35
Litre of vodka	40.00	20.00
Litre of local vodka	7.00	3.50
Bottle of local beer (½ litre)	1.00	0.50
20 Marlboros	3.40	1.70
Public transport ticket	1.00	0.50
Cinema ticket	8.00	4.00

Exchange rates (as of September 2008): US\$1-1.33Lv; €1-1.95Lv; £1-2.47Lv

The Cyrillic Alphabet

Аа	a	as in	arm
Бб	b	as in	bath
Вв	v	as in	van
Гг	g	as in	go
Дд	d	as in	dog
Ее	e	as in	let
Жж	zh	as 's' in	measure
Зз	z	as in	zoo
Ии	i	as in	bit
Йй	y	as in	yoke
Кк	k	as in	keep
Лл	l	as in	like
Мм	m	as in	map
Нн	n	as in	not
Оо	o	as in	opera
Пп	p	as in	pen
Рр	r	as in	run
Сс	s	as in	sit
Тт	t	as in	tap
Уу	u	as in	rule
Фф	f	as in	fan
Хх	h	as in	hand
Цц	ts	as in	cuts
Чч	ch	as in	church
Шш	sh	as in	short
Щщ	sht	as in	smashed
Ъъ	a	as in	but
Ьь	softens 'o'	as in	yoga
Юю	yu	as in	you
Яя	ya	as in	yard

National holidays

January 1: New Year's Day (Nova godina)

March 3: Liberation Day (Liberation from the Ottoman rule) (Denyat na osvobozhdenieto)

April 27: Easter (Velikden)

May 1: Labour Day (Denyat na truda)

May 6: St. George's Day (Gergyovden; Day of the Bulgarian Army)

May 24: St. St. Cyril and Methodius (Sveti Sveti Kiril i Metodi; Day of the Cyrillic Alphabet and Bulgarian Education and Culture)

September 6: Unification Day (Saedinienieto; marking the unification of Bulgaria and Eastern Rumelia in 1885)

September 22: Independence Day (Denyat na nezavisimostta)

December 24,25,26: Christmas (Koleda)

Important phone numbers

Fire: **160**

Ambulance: **150**

Police: **166**

Road assistance: **146**

Anti-corruption unit: **02/982 22 22**, www.nocorr.mvr.bg

Telephone information: **11800**

Breakdown Service: **02/91146** or **146** if you're calling from a Bulgarian mobile

History

Antiquity In antiquity, Bulgaria, the land of Orpheus and Spartacus, belongs to the Kingdom of Macedonia.

4th century BC The territory of contemporary Bulgaria is conquered by the Macedonians, lead by Philip II and his son Alexander the Great. During the first century AD these lands become Roman provinces.

632 The History of Bulgaria as a separate country begins with the establishment of Old Great Bulgaria (also known as Onoguria).

681 First Bulgarian Kingdom is established by Khan Asparuh.

865 Bulgaria becomes a Christian country. Tsar Boris I accepts Orthodox Christianity.

9th-10th centuries "The Golden Age" period under the rule of Tsar Simeon the Great. The Slavic writing is officially accepted throughout the country. Literature schools, imposing temples and monasteries are built. Bulgaria has an outlet on three seas - the Black sea, Aegean Sea and the Adriatic. The capital is moved to Veliki Preslav, which during that period could be compared with the beauty and glory of Constantinople.

1018 Bulgaria falls under Byzantine rule until 1185.

1185 The Second Bulgarian Kingdom (1185-1396) is founded after two brothers, Asen and Peter. The capital city of the new kingdom becomes Veliko Turnovo.

12th-13th centuries Under the rule of the Tsar Kaloyan (1197-1207) and Tsar Ivan Asen II (1218-1241), Bulgaria becomes a dominant power in the Balkans.

1393 The Ottomans occupy the Bulgarian capital Veliko Turnovo after a three-month siege.

1396 The Kingdom of Vidin is occupied, bringing the Second Bulgarian Empire and Bulgarian independence to an end.

14th-18th centuries By the end of the 14th century, the Turks control all of Bulgaria. Ottoman rule continues for five centuries.

18th century The Age of the Bulgarian National Revival begins. In spite of the resistance of the central Turkish authorities and the Greek clergy (the so-called phanariots), the struggle for an independent church, the publication of books and, later on, of periodicals in the Bulgarian language, the establishment of lay Bulgarian schools and the official recognition of the language and culture, become real steps to the revival of the nation. One important landmark was the writing of the *Slav-Bulgarian History* (1762) by monk Paisii of Hilendar.

1876 Bulgarian revolutionaries launch the April Uprising at Koprivnitsa. The Turks suppress it with unprecedented brutality. About 15,000 Bulgarians are massacred at Plovdiv and 58 villages destroyed. Outraged European allies come to Bulgaria's rescue in the late 1870s. Russia, the chief saviour, suffers 200,000 casualties in the conflict.

1877-1878 The Russian-Turkish war leads to the liberation of Bulgaria from the Ottoman Empire.

March 1878 The Treaty of San Stefano provides for an independent Bulgarian state, which spans the geographical regions of Moesia, Thrace and Macedonia.

July 1878 The Treaty of Berlin, under the supervision of Otto von Bismarck of Germany and Benjamin Disraeli of Britain, splits Bulgaria into three parts: an independent Principality of Bulgaria based in Sofia, the autonomous Ottoman province of Eastern Roumelia; and Macedonia, which remains under direct Ottoman rule.

April 1879 The Turnovo Constitution is passed by the First Grand National Assembly.

June 1879 Alexander Battenberg becomes prince of Bulgaria, and Sofia becomes the capital of the new Bulgarian state.

September 1885 Eastern Rumelia declares union with Bulgaria.

1887 A coup replaces Alexander Battenberg with Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha.

Recent History

In **June 2001**, the Bulgarian monarchy makes an unprecedented comeback when former king Simeon II is elected prime minister. Unable to ease economics hardships for the majority, however, he too sees his popularity plummet after a few months in power. In the same election, the country's Turkish minority is represented in the government for the first time, and the president encourages Bulgarians to be more tolerant of Turkish-Bulgarians. Progress continues under President Georgi Parvanov, albeit slower than most hope. Membership of NATO is granted in **2004**, and entry into the European Union followed in **2007**.

July 27, 2005 the Bulgarian Parliament chose Sergey Stanishev of the Bulgarian Socialist Party as the new Prime Minister in a coalition government with the Movement for Rights and Freedoms. **August 15, 2005** the BSP and National Movement Simeon II formed a stable government, along with the Movement for Rights and Freedoms. This grand coalition comprises the three largest parties. This coalition has a large majority in parliament with 169 of the 240 deputies.

September 1908 Ferdinand upgrades Bulgaria from principality to kingdom and declares himself Tsar.

1912-1913 The Nationalist Prime Minister, Ivan Geshov, forms an alliance with Greece and Serbia to attack the Ottomans and to drive them out of Macedonia and Thrace. The Balkan Wars are sparking. The alliance soon fall out, with Greeks and Serbs expelling Bulgarian forces from Macedonia, and then dividing up the spoils.

1915-1918 Bulgaria joins the German side in World War I. A Serb-French-British offensive in Macedonia causes Bulgaria's collapse. Ferdinand abdicates in favour of son Boris III.

1919 Elections are won by the Peasant party of Aleksandar Stamboliyski promising widespread social change.

1923-1934 Democratically elected governments are toppled via coups that bring authoritarian regimes to power.

1941 Bulgaria enters World War II on the side of the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis. The country is the only ally of Hitler's Germany which did not allow the killing of its Jewish citizens. It was thanks to king Boris III and to the Bulgarian governments that no hostilities are waged in the country's territory.

1944 After World War II, as a result of the Yalta agreements between the Great Powers, Bulgaria ends up in the field of influence of the Soviet Union.

1953-1989 Years of the communist rule of Todor Zhivkov who headed both the party and the state.

10 November 1989 Under pressure from domestic and international circumstances Todor Zhivkov is forced to resign. Bulgaria once again takes the road of democratic development.

7 December 1989 The Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) is formed as a unification of 13 opposition organisations.

June 1990 First free parliamentary elections.

12 July 1991 A new democratic Constitution is passed.

13 October 1991 First free local authorities elections.

1992 First free presidential elections. Zhelyu Zhelev is elected head of state.

3 November 1996 Petar Stoyanov, proposed by the SDS, is elected with President of the Republic of Bulgaria with a landslide majority.

19 April 1997 The Parliamentary elections are won by the Democratic Forces United. A government is formed headed by Ivan Kostov as Prime-Minister. Bulgaria starts on the road of genuine democratic reforms.

The oldest city in Europe? Please, rise. Maybe it's Plovdiv indeed with unearthed findings from as early as 4,500 BC, so having the origin within the same time frame as Troy. The city as from its early existence was a stronghold for trade routes and continues to have this role of importance in our day and age.

Antiquity

342 BC Philip II of Macedon conquers Plovdiv and names it Philippopolis, years later the city is re-conquered by the Thracians who Thracianise the name to Pulpudeva.

72 AD The Roman general Terentius Varo Lukulus captures Plovdiv and gives it the name Trimontium (City of Three Hills) and it serves as metropolis (capital) of the province of Thrace. Trimontium is an important crossroad for the Roman Empire and Lucian calls it "The largest and most beautiful of all cities".

Middle Ages

Middle 6th century The Slavs are fully settled in the area.

681 Establishment of Bulgaria, Philippopolis became an important border fortress of the Byzantine Empire.

812 Captured by Khan Krum.

834 Khan Malamir unites the entire area within the Bulgarian hemisphere.

970 Eunuch Peters Asian army is destroyed by the Bulgarians.

971 The Bulgarian reign is short lived and Plovdiv is taken by the Byzantine Empire.

1204 The Latin Empire takes over the rule, where the city has been taken by Kaloyan of Bulgaria two short periods.

1208 Kaloyan's successor Boril finds his Waterloo in the battle of Plovdiv.

During the times of Latin rule Plovdiv is capital of the Duchy of Philippopolis governed by the crusaders Renier de Trit, and later on by Gerard de Strem.

Between 1225 and 1229 again the city is under Bulgarian rule during Ivan Asen II.

1263 Conquered by the restored Byzantine Empire.

1322 George Terter II of Bulgaria recaptures Plovdiv for Bulgaria.

1323 Byzantine rule restored.

1344 Plovdiv and eight other towns are given to Bulgaria during the regency for John V Palaiologos as the price for Ivan Alexander of Bulgaria's support in the Byzantine civil war.

1364 The Ottoman Turks under Lala Shakhin Pasha seize Plovdiv. The Turks call the city Filibe. It is the capital of Rumelia.

1382 Ottomans captured Sofia which became the main city and capital of the province. Plovdiv survives however as one of the major cultural centres for Bulgarian culture and tradition. The name Plovdiv first appears in this period.

National revival

During the Ottoman Empire, Plovdiv is of great importance for the Bulgarian national movement in the Eastern Rumelia province. During this period Plovdiv is a major economic centre along with Istanbul, Odrin (Edirne) and Solun (Thessalonica). Many of the beautiful houses of these times can still be seen in the architectural reserve of Old Plovdiv.

Between 1364-1864 Plovdiv is a Sanjak (administrative district of the Turkish Empire within a province) centre of the

Facts, figures and Mayor

The population for the municipality of Plovdiv for 2007 was 375,137 making it the second city in the country. The average yearly temperature is 18.5 degrees Celsius and just 99 days of rain, also on average of more than 0, 25 mm. These figures show that in case you do take your umbrella to Plovdiv you likely just use it for sun protection. Slavcho Atanasov is since 2007 the newly elected mayor of Plovdiv.

Rumelia Province. **Between 1864-1878** Sanjak centre of Edirne Vilayet during Ottoman Rule.

1836 The first Bulgarian school is established.

1850 Modern secular education begins with the opening of the St St Cyril and Metodius school.

11 May 1858 the day of the Saints Cyril and Methodius is celebrated for the first time; this later becomes a National holiday and is still celebrated today.

1858 in the Church of Virgin Mary the Christmas liturgy is served for the first time in the Bulgarian language since the beginning of the Ottoman occupation.

1868 the school expands into the first grammar school. Some of the intellectuals, politicians and spiritual leaders of the nation graduated here.

1878 The city was liberated from the Ottomans during the Battle of Plovdiv.

3rd of March 1878 Treaty of San Stefano, the Principality of Bulgaria included the lands with predominantly Bulgarian population. Plovdiv is selected as a capital of the restored country and for a seat of the Temporary Russian Government. Great Britain and Austria-Hungary, however, do not recognize this treaty and the final result of the war is concluded in the Congress of Berlin by separating the autonomous region of Eastern Rumelia from Bulgaria and Plovdiv as its capital. At the time, it had a population of about 33,500, of which 45% were Bulgarians, 25% Greeks, 21% Turks, 6% Jews and 3% Armenians.

Spring of 1885 Zahari Stoyanov forms the Secret Bulgarian Central Revolutionary Committee in Plovdiv and actively conducts propaganda for the unification of Bulgaria and Eastern Rumelia.

5 September 1885 several hundred armed rebels from Golyamo Konare (now Saedinenie) march to Plovdiv. In the night of 5-6 September these men with their leader Danail Nikolaev take control of the city and remove the General-Governor Gavril Krastevich. A provisional government is formed under Georgi Stranski a universal mobilization is announced. After the defeat of the Serbs in the Serbo-Bulgarian War, Bulgaria and Turkey reach an agreement according to which the Principality of Bulgaria and Eastern Rumelia has a common government, Parliament, administration and army. Today the 6th of September is celebrated as the Unification Day and the Day of Plovdiv.

Recent history

After the unification Plovdiv remains the second city in population and significance after the capital Sofia.

1874 The first railway in the city is built.

1888 Railway link with Sofia.

1892 Plovdiv becomes host of the First Bulgarian Fair with international participation which is succeeded by the International Fair Plovdiv. After the liberation the first brewery is established in the city.

20th century Plovdiv grows into a significant industrial and commercial centre with well developed light and food industry.

1939 Over 16,000 craftsmen and 17,000 workers in manufacturing factories are counted, mainly for food and tobacco processing. During the Second World War the tobacco industry expanded as well as the export of fruit and vegetables.

1943 1,500 Jews are saved from deportation in concentration camps by the archbishop of Plovdiv Cyril who later becomes Bulgarian Patriarch of the Orthodox Church.

6 April 1956 opening of the first trolleybus line.

1960s and 1970s A construction boom and many of the modern neighbourhoods take shape.

1970s and 1980s antique remains are excavated and the Old Town is fully restored.

November 10, 1989 Plovdiv is a place of major demonstrations of the democratic forces in Bulgaria, referred to by many people as the city of “the blue (democratic) capital of Bulgaria.”

In this period Plovdiv becomes the birthplace of Bulgaria's movement for democratic reform, and by **1989** gains enough support to enter government.

1990 the Sports complex Plovdiv is finished, it includes the largest stadium and rowing canal in the country.

Plovdiv hills

Plovdiv also called the city of the hills was built amongst 9 hills. These hills are called “tepeta”. It is believed that one of the faded tepeta was at Filipovo station (gara Filipovo) and the other one was at the current Kamentisa beer factory. At the beginning of the 20th century one of the remaining tepeta was given on a concession for a quarry from the rocks of which were built the cobbled streets of the Old Town of Plovdiv. By the time the court tried to seize the contract for concession the 7th hill was gone.

The tepeta were from pure stone. During the reign of Tsar Boris the architect of the City Garden afforested the hills. Nowadays there are 6 hills left:

1. Nebet tepe (nebet means observe). It is believed to be the first inhabited place on these lands, long before the Thracians came about.

2. Taksim tepe (taksim means distribute).

3. Djambaz tepe (djambaz is after the fighters who were climbing the hills of the Roman theatre and not after the

turkish word djambaz which means to bargain) This is where the amphitheatre Filipopol is.

4. Sahat tepe (sahat means clock). This is where was built the first clock tower in the whole of the European part of the Turkish empire.

5. Bunardjika (bunar means well). In the old times here used to be the main well from where the water was supplied to the city. Here was built the Aliosha monument.

6. Djandem tepe (djandem means the end of the world). At the beginning of the 20th century the rich Plovdivians would take their carriages and would go for a picnic there, picnic at the end of the world. Also here during socialism was built a children's railway with small engine trains and carriages where the kids had the chance to dress and act as real engine drivers, ticket collectors and travelers. After being closed down for year the Plovdiv municipality re-opened the railway once again for the little ones to play again.





Couriers

Blue Express Mail E-5, ul. Ilarion Makariopolski 64, tel. 26 48 58.

City Express D-3, ul. Stefan Verkovich 8-10, tel. 63 08 90, www.city-express.co.m.

D & D Express C-1, ul. Pleven 6, tel. 64 11 60, www.dnd-express.bg.

DHL International K-8, bul. Kuklensko Shose 21, tel. 64 14 48, www.dhl.com.

Tip-Top Courier H-2, ul. Macedonia 29, tel. 67 58 80, www.courier.bg.

Internet cafes

Internet club 4K G-3, ul. Kostaki Peev 5 floor 2, tel. 27 13 68. Internet access and games. ► ☎

Internet club Fantasy D-2, ul. Knyaz Aleksandar I Batemburg 31. Internet and game club in the city centre.

Internet Club Neo C-2, ul. Raiko Daskalov 48, tel. 63 29 01. Modern Internet-cafe. Internet access and the latest games.

Internet Club The Matrix H-2, ul. Dimitar Talev 59, tel. 67 77 32. Internet access and games.

ISPs

Easy Lan G-1, ul. Trakia 9A, tel. 0700 12 700/0897 899 516, officepd@easy-lan.net, www.easy-lan.net.

Entry A-1, ul. Sredez 51A, tel. 57 07 70/0885 999 567. Internet, Cable TV and Internet phone provider.

EvroCom F-2, ul. Gladston 1, tel. 63 50 63, fax 62 72 50, sales@evrocom.net, www.evrocom.net.

Visio K-6, bul. Vapzarov 134, tel. 96 16 00/62 43 94, www.netvisio.net. High speed Internet.

Postal rates

	Bulgaria	Europe	USA & Others
Postcards	0.35 Lv	1.00 Lv	1.40 Lv
Letters	0.55 Lv	1.00 Lv	1.40 Lv

Bulgarian main city codes

Blagoevgrad	73	Lovech	68	Sliven	44
Burgas	56	Pazardzhik	34	Sofia	2
Dobrich	58	Pernik	76	Stara Zagora	42
Gabrovo	66	Pleven	64	Varna	52
Haskovo	38	Plovdiv	32	V. Tarnovo	62
Yambol	46	Ruse	82	Vidin	94
Kyustendil	78	Silistra	86	Vratsa	92

The above codes should be prefixed with 0 if dialling from inside Bulgaria.

International country codes

Austria	43	Hungary	36	Romania	40
Belgium	32	Ireland	353	Russia	7
Bulgaria	359	Israel	972	Serbia	381
Croatia	385	Italy	39	Slovenia	386
Czech Rep.	420	Japan	61	Spain	34
Denmark	45	Macedonia	389	Sweden	46
Finland	358	Netherlands	31	Switzerland	41
France	33	Norway	47	Turkey	90
Germany	49	Poland	48	UK	44
Greece	30	Portugal	351	USA/Canada	1

The above codes should be prefixed with 00 if dialling from inside Bulgaria.

Phones and ADSL

BTC Group A-2, bul. Bulgaria 17, tel. 96 55 00. ► Open 08:00 - 19:00, Sat 10:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun.

Post

Central Post Office F-3, pl. Tsentralen 1, tel. 62 24 60. ► Open 08:00 - 19:30.



The cultural season is here again after a long dry summer. Take your pick from any of the listings. Performers will astonish you regardless of the slightly dilapidated theatres.

Art galleries

Art Gallery Aspect E-3, pl. Stefan Stambolov 1A, tel. 51 11 47. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00, Sat 11:00 - 17:00. Closed Sun.

Art Gallery Philipopolis D-3, ul. Saborna 29, tel. 62 27 42. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00.

Art Spectar J-8, bul. Iztochen 68, tel. 62 15 71/0896 626 177. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Elista D-3, ul. Hristo Dyukmedzhiev 14/0886 103 995. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00.

Heros D-2, ul. Raiko Daskalov 30, tel. 62 46 43/0887 645 027. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

L'union de Paris D-3, ul. Krivolak 3, tel. 62 07 17. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00. Closed Sun.

Romfeya B-2, bul. Maritsa 83, tel. 95 06 08. ▶ Open 11:00 - 19:00. Closed Sun.

Terra Art A-2, ul. Zlatyo Boyadzhiev 9A, tel. 94 06 37/0878 330 059. ▶ Open 11:00 - 19:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Vazrazhdane D-3, ul. Stoyan Chalakov 1, tel. 63 53 39. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00, Sun 11:00 - 16:00.

Cinemas

Faces K-8, Zhk. Trakia, bul. Saedinenie, tel. 68 33 10. ▶ (4 - 6Lv). ☒

Flamenco Cinema C-1, bul. Shesti (6-ti) Septemvri 128, tel. 64 40 04. ▶ (4 - 6Lv). ☒

Geo Milev G-1, bul. Vasil Aprilov, tel. 62 64 57. ▶ (4 - 6Lv). ☒

Lucky F-2, ul. Gladston 1, tel. 62 90 70. ▶ (4-6Lv). ☒

Music, opera and ballet

Opera and Philharmonic Society - Plovdiv F-3, pl. Tsentralen 1, tel. 62 55 53, www.ofd-plovdiv.org.

Theatres

Plovdiv Drama Theatre E-3, ul. Knyaz Aleksandar I Batenberg 38, tel. 63 23 45, dtp@dtp.bg, www.dtp.bg.

Puppet Theatre Plovdiv D-1, ul. Hristo Danov 14, tel. 62 32 75.

Art Gallery Red Pony



Art Gallery Red Pony C-3, ul. Dr. Chomakov 5A Old Plovdiv, tel. 62 57 92/0888 262 615, renys@yahoo.com, www.redpony-bg.com. Founded in 1989 by Atanas Krustev - Nacho Kulturata, as the first private gallery in Plovdiv.

It is situated in the cozy revivalist yard of his house, close to the Ethnographic Museum in the Old Town of Plovdiv and is till this very day the only gallery exhibiting in the open.

For nineteen years now the Red Pony gallery has warmly hosted exhibitions by a number of Bulgarian and foreign painters and sculptors. Eminent artists like Svetlin Russev, Georgi Bozhilov - Elephant, Dimitar Kirov, Milko Bozhkov, Stoyan Tsanev, Yoan Leviev, Svilen Blazhev, Angel Geshev,

Andrey Daniel, Kolyo Karamfilov, Yon Georgiu and many others have exhibited their work here.

The unique location of the gallery as well as its considerable popularity, have established it as a magnetic centre for artistic and creative dialogues.

The programme:

From 17.09.2008 to 02.10.2008 - Oil paint on the canvas

Kolyo Karamfilov opening 18:30 free of charge

From 03.10.2008 to 23.10.2008 - Oil paint on the canvas

Dimitar Kirov opening 18:00 free of charge ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00. Closed Fri, Sat, Sun.

Famous Bulgarians



Dinko Dermendzhiev - Chiko. "To be a good player you have to have a talent and God-given skill, practice will never take you amongst the football stars" says Chiko, "I like Inter, Barca and to "Botev" Plovdiv I reckon a bright future".

Born in 1941, Chiko started his career in the team of Maritsa. In 1958 he was transferred to the canaries' team where he played 19 consecutive seasons, becoming one of the legends of "Botev" Plovdiv. He played in 447 games in group "A", scoring 194 goals. He also played 58 games for the Bulgarian national team, scoring 19 goals. He took part in the World Cups of 1962, 1966 and 1970. In 1974 he was declared sportsman of the year. After he concluded his career as a player he was several times senior coach of "Botev", winning the Bulgarian championship in 1962. He was chosen for Footballer number 1 of the 20th c. for "Botev" Plovdiv and is second in the eternal rank list of Bulgaria.

Cultural Centre TRAKART



Cultural Centre TRAKART F-3, underpass Archaeological, tel. 63 13 03, fax 95 19 98, trakart@abv.bg, www.trakart.org. Open: 09:00-19:00

The Cultural Centre TRAKART presents a permanent exhibition of ancient floor mosaics (4th-5th century AD) of the "Eirene" peristyle residential building of ancient Philippopol. The residential building "Eirene" occupies a central place among the private houses in the ancient Philippopol. It dates back to 4th-6th century and possibly was the residence of an eminent citizen of the Old Town. The building is designed for receiving guests which becomes clear from the inscriptions in the mosaic fields, situated along the passage from the entrance to the large room with a woman's image and the inscription EIPHNIH.

Twenty years after the mosaics were discovered they were preserved and exhibited by the "Trakart 2000" Foundation, supported by the fund of the ambassadors of the US State Department. They are exhibited in the so-called Archaeological underpass, situated to the south of the Three Hills.

The Cultural Centre Trakart has a chamber hall, which is a good example of combining the museum character of the exposition and the cultural events in Plovdiv-exhibitions, concerts, seminars, etc.

The Centre is located in the pedestrian Archaeological underpass. The site is easily accessible, there is convenient parking in the neighbourhood (the parking of the Catholic cathedral of St. Ludwig) on the southern side of the Tunnel.

You can see the autumn program of the TRAKART in our Culture & Events section.

September

Angel Kitipov exhibition *Fragments*.

Opening 05.09.2008 18:00.

The Night of the museums and galleries.

26.09.2008

18:00 Demonstrative workshop for Mosaics, Studio Colorit and Art Centre

18:30 Music studio performance of "Children's World" at Vasil Levski School with art director Elena Zaharieva

Presentation of modern ballet school "Trakart

Dance" with art director Radka Atanasova

20:30 Premiere: "Pardon, Dr. Chekhov" (the smaller comedies of A. P. Chekhov). A 'part Theatre. Admission free till 20:30.

22:00 There is an amateur night. Registration on phone 63 13 03



Musical Theatre Plovdiv



Musical Theatre Plovdiv J-8, ul. St. Shishkov 7, tel. 63 99 13/0889 554 721, nickyserafimov@hotmail.com, www.musichallplovdiv.hit.bg. It was opened in 1993. It presents works in the field of expressionism: theatre, ballet, pantomime, singing and music. It has a school for modern ballet.

The first performance of the theatre is the theatrical show *Bohemian Rhapsody* with music from the band Queen - in memory of the legendary singer Freddy Mercury. During the years the Musical Theatre presented different shows amongst which are *Prostituzia* (Prostitution) and *Ezhednevie* (Daily Round) by Nikolay Serafimov in script and choreography, as well as the infant musical *Vulshebniakat* or *OZ* (The Magician from OZ). The theatre was included in the programme of the European month of the culture 1999 with the dance show *Ezhednevie* (Daily Round).



Zoopark (The Zoo)

The Musical Zoopark is a performance about philosophy and social problems of today. The contemporary society is presented in a non-standard way and with a lot of humor. Sixteen players are dressed as different animals from the Zoo, presenting different human characteristics. The Seventeenth player is an alcoholic who is sleeping every night in the Zoo searching for comprehension from the animals. But this evening is different!!! When he falls asleep in his dream the animals transform into judges and victims in a parable about the good and the bad ways of humanity. The musical was nominated for Plovdiv 2001 award and the music from the show is available on audio tape and CD.

Autumn Salon of the Arts, Plovdiv 2008



- 01.09 20:00 Concert Hall**
Official opening. Rick Wakeman concert with the orchestra and choir of the Plovdiv opera house
- 01.09 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 18:00, 20:00**
Architect Yolov Hall, Dedeman Trimontium Princess Hotel
"The Truth About Orpheus" film show
- 02-30.09 The Ancient Plovdiv**
National autumn exhibitions „Concepts on the Image”
- 07.09 21:00 Ancient Theatre**
Keith Emerson Band
- 03-08.09 Puppet Theatre**
27th International Puppet Theatre festival "Three Are Too Many – Two – Not Enough"
- 05.09-04.10 Sentralen Square**
Photographic Exhibition of Alexander Ivanov "Bulgaria From Above"
- 05.09-10.10 Starlnna bath**
Weeks of contemporary art "Zero Gravity" – Bettina Steinbruge and Vesela Nozharova curators
- 15-30.09 International Sculpture Symposium**
- 10-23.09**
12th Autumn International Theatre Festival "Stage At The Crossroads"
- 20.09 19:00 Ancient Theatre**
Pictures of the Old Town - Holiday of the Old Town of Plovdiv. Concert with participation of Folk Ensemble "Thrace" and BTR Rock Band
- 21-27.09 Novotel Plovdiv**
33rd International TV Festival "Golden chest"
- 25-27.09**
Plovdiv Rock Fest with the participation of bands from Plovdiv and the region
- 26.09 20:00-03:00**
Night of the museums and galleries
- 06-15.10 Balabanov House museum, Sariev Gallery**
"The Unseen Turkey" Project.
Exhibitions: Works made by the ebru technique, Gold-plated works, Calligraphic works, Photography, Ceramics exhibition
- 7-21.10 Balabanov House museum**
Plovdiv violinists' series
- 08-11.10 20:00 Concert Hall**
International Festival "Plovdiv's Jazz Nights"
- 13-16.10**
Days of Polish Culture in Plovdiv
- 15-18.10 Puppet Theatre**
Festival of the Guitar
- 20-31.10**
Bulgarian-German Exhibition "en plein air"
- October**
The Art of the circus
- 17-31.10 The Ancient Plovdiv**
International Days of Photography

Accommodations in Plovdiv have many faces and are found in all the (un)usual classes. Any taste is catered for. Efficient modern business, high class Russian, romantic antique Bulgarian revival style hide-outs, and most amusing private lodgings just take your pick. During the International Fair do book way in advance!

Cream of the crop

Dedeman Trimontium Princess Plovdiv F-3, ul. Kapitan Raicho 2, tel. 60 50 00, fax 60 50 09, trimintium@dedeman.com, www.dedeman.com. At a magnificent location in the heart of the city centre, the hotel offers fine accommodation in a range of tastefully decorated rooms and suites. An excellent choice of facilities for both business and leisure. Extras include two restaurants, one terrace café, three bars, indoor and outdoor swimming pool, good business and conference services. Keeping up with its reputation, the hotel also hosts the local Rotary club. ▶ 158 rooms (12 suites €130 - 150, 142 Standard room €95 - 115, 3 Executive room €130 - 150, 1 Presidential suite €250 - 300).  ★★★★★

Hotel Maritsa B-3, bul. Tsar Boris III Obединitel 42, tel. 90 03 00, maritza.hotel@vghotel.net, www.victoria-group.net. Located exactly opposite the gates of the International Fair of Plovdiv on the bank of Maritsa River. This place will impress you mostly by its style, especially if you want to feel the atmosphere of an Arabian night and fancy yourself as an Arabian sheikh. The apartments of the Hotel are in red and gold and the bathrooms combine the stylish red and black. The hotel has two restaurants and one of them may be used for private parties. In the foyer you can buy clothes from the boutique shop or visit the beauty salon. ▶ 114 rooms (singles €50, doubles €80 - 120, apartments €140 - 200).  ★★★★★

Novotel Plovdiv A-2, ul. Zlatyo Boyadzhiev 2, tel. 93 44 44/93 45 67, fax 93 43 46, reservation@novtelpdv.bg, www.lcep.bg. This business class hotel is located very close to the International Plovdiv Fair and this is why it is preferred by many business people and by the organizers of conferences and symposia. The hotel composes of three restaurants, lobby bar, night club and many shops on the first floor. The foyer is spacious with remarkable black marble flooring. The staff are skilled and polite. ▶ 365 rooms (singles €90, doubles €120, apartments €180 - 360).  ★★★★★

Upmarket

Alliance Hotel J-7, bul. Vasil Aprilov 7, tel. 64 63 33/0878 120 369, fax 64 63 30, reservation@alliance-hotel.com, www.alliancehotel.com. This four star hotel is located not far from the city centre. While waiting to be checked in you may amuse yourself with the rich collection of banknotes from all over the world, placed just on the right of the reception desk. All rooms are with pleasant modern furniture, cable TV and mini bar. There is also a conference hall plus a nice sports and relax centre. There are a lot of restaurants and clubs in the area, so put on your best clothes, and hit the road. ▶ 25 rooms (10 singles €51, 10 doubles €72 - 82, 4 suites €100, 1 apartment €151).  ★★★★★

Symbol key

Air conditioning	Credit cards accepted
Casino	Conference facilities
Child friendly	Facilities for the disabled
Internet	Guarded parking
Fitness centre	Non-smoking rooms
Restaurant	Nearest metro station
Sauna	Swimming pool
Animal friendly	Wi-Fi connection









Art Hotel Boris Palace D-3, ul. Saborna 49, tel. 26 63 79/0888 260 456, apolon_bh@abv.bg. This small hotel with only 5 rooms is built on 9 floors, 5 of which are underground and is the only hotel in the Old Town of Plovdiv with an elevator. The rooms are designed in Baroque style with wooden furniture and are a mixture of the ultra modern and old. Everything here screams luxury - flat screen TVs with cable, electronic locks and bathrooms with showers, and guess what, even a small swimming pool on one of the underground floors. There is a restaurant for 32 with Bulgarian cuisine, lobby bar, panorama bar, 3 fireplaces, 4 VIP halls for 6 people with separate bathrooms with showers and a bed falling from the wall. Here you are going to be served with gilded cutlery and spoiled like a king. Enjoy! ▶ 5 rooms (5 doubles €120 - 250).  ★★

Famous House Hotel C-2, ul. Bethoven 4, tel. 27 98 00/27 98 11, info@hotelfamoushouse.com, www.famoushouse.eu. This recently built business hotel is with a stylish look and a modern design. It is situated at the very centre of the city, in the immediate vicinity of the Old Town, the Roman stadium and the International Plovdiv Fair. The lobby bar is charming with a lovely garden for the summer months. There is a conference hall with 50 seats. ▶ 22 rooms (singles €55, doubles €65, apartments €83).  ★★

Hebros Hotel C-3, ul. Konstantin Stoilov 51 A, tel. 26 01 80, fax 26 02 52, hebros@tourism.bg, www.hebros-hotel.com/index.php. Some people have all the luck in the world and in this case having the luxury to stay in a special place like the Hebros. Located in the Old Town of Plovdiv even the interior lives up to the area it is situated in. From the beautifully restored façade to the tiniest detail in every corner of the hotel you will find the Bulgarian Revival style - the beds, the chairs and the tables. The only discrepancies are the TV and the refrigerator; they simply do not blend in. Highly recommended for a romantic stay. ▶ 10 rooms (5 singles €99, 5 doubles €119).  ★

Noviz Hotel D-1, bul. Ruski 55, tel. 63 12 81/63 41 51, fax 63 34 65, hotel@noviz.com, http://hotel.noviz.com/. This hotel is located in the very heart of Plovdiv, just at the foot of one of the seven Plovdiv hills - the Bunardjik Park. The Central railway station, the International Fair, the Old Town and downtown Plovdiv are easily accessible. The bathrooms are with bathtub, hairdryer, telephone and heating. There's a restaurant

and open-air cocktail bar "On the seventh sky". Day trips around Plovdiv plus visits of wine cellars and wine tasting are also available on request. ▶ 20 rooms (4 singles €110, 10 doubles €140, 6 apartments €150 - 180).         ★★☆☆

Park hotel Sankt Peterburg A-2, bul. Bulgaria 97, tel. 91 03/95 18 30, marketing@sphotel.net, www.sphotel.net. Why this hotel does not hold 5 instead of 4 stars remains till now a mystery. The luxury is literally overwhelming especially compared to others in its class. Where the façade suggests an old Communist design, inside await you many pleasant surprises. From the reception to your room all is top class. Beds you'll like to stay in, luxury bathrooms and other facilities like multiple classy restaurants, multiple swimming pools and even a night club contribute to your well being. Chapeaux! ▶ 210 rooms (42 singles €55, 42 doubles €100, 21 apartments €140, 105 Studio: €75 - 100).         ★★☆☆

The Old Town Residence D-3, ul. Knyaz Tseretelev 11, tel. 62 07 89/63 23 89, residence@abv.bg, www.theoldtownresidence.com. A small hotel found in the heart of the Old Town of Plovdiv. The place is designed to take you back to the times of tsarist Russia - marble floors, wallpapers and ceilings with gilded coloured elements, crystal chandeliers, big mirrors, heavy antique wooden furniture, paintings. The beds are covered with lace or satin. The apartments are large, especially the VIP apartment whose living room is 200 sq. m. All rooms have satellite TV. The bathrooms are with bathtub. ▶ 10 rooms (10 apartments €40 - 80).        

Mid-range

Business studios and apartments Ori A-2, bul. Bulgaria 4, tel. 90 89 60/65 40 00, fax 64 34 04, reservations@leipzig.bg, www.ori-bg.com. This modern business hotel is located near to the north entry of the Plovdiv International Fair. The studios and apartments consist of office part with a desk, sitting area with leather sofa and armchair, double bed and bathroom with bathtub. Some of the apartments also have a kitchenette. There is cable TV, direct telephone/fax, safe and coffee/tea maker. The hotel composes of fully equipped conference room and good restaurant facilities - all the setting needed for getting the deal in. There is 20% discount for over 6 nights stay. The parking is paid (5-12Lv per night), breakfast (6Lv). ▶ (apartments €36 - 105).        

Complex Aqualand K-9, JK Trakia, tel. 99 42 22/688 918, fax 99 42 43, hotel@aqualand.bg, hotel@sos.bg, www.aqualand.bg, www.sos.bg. The complex is found in Jk Trakia (neighbourhood), at the end of ul. Saedinenie, 15 min from the centre by car. On one side is the amusement water park part and on the other the socialist apartment blocks of Trakia. The hotel is newly built. The rooms are large, especially the apartments, viewing the aqua park, some of them are with balconies and are decorated in either Bordeaux or silverfish blue colours. There is Cable TV, mini-bar, telephone and room service. The bathrooms are with showers and black and white tiles. The hotel has a health spa offering massages, solarium, hair styling salon, etc. (www.olympia.bg). The sauna and steam bath are included in the price. During the summer months you can also use the amusement park for free. The hotel hosts a 10-line bowling hall (open 09:03, 4-5 Lv) and children's kindergarten with animators. The restaurant (open: 08:03) offers international cuisine. There is a conference hall for

about 40 people. ▶ (6 singles €26 - 52, 17 doubles €31 - 79, 4 apartments €39 - 104, 9 Studio €39 - 104).         ★

Hotel-Hostel Filibe Philippopolis D-4, ul. Mitropolit Panaret 7, tel. 26 90 83/0888 033 044, alleva_s@abv.bg. At the foot of the Old Town of Plovdiv this place offers home comfort at affordable prices. The entrance and lobby are decorated with a mixture of antique and modern trinkets. There is a lobby bar with stools, billiards and big comfortable leather sofa and armchairs facing a big flat TV and good sound system, where you can watch football or other TV events you don't want to miss. The rooms are big, furnished with modern furniture, double or twin beds, night stands, armchairs and wardrobe. There is a possibility of an additional bed in the rooms. The bathrooms are with showers. All rooms have cable TV and mini-bar. Breakfast is not included. ▶ 13 rooms (10 doubles €13, 3 apartments €15).      ★★

Hotel Alafangite D-4, ul. Kiril Nektariev 13, tel. 62 31 87/62 09 83, fax 26 95 95, alafangite@abv.bg, www.restorant-alafangite.org. Located in the Old Town of Plovdiv this family run hotel is newly built, but following the architectural trend of the surrounding Renaissance buildings. It has a small garden, comfortable lobby with leather sofas and nicely decorated common areas. Here nothing is too much, but just enough. The rooms are neat, comfortable; medium sized and decorated in red and orange. The bathrooms are in green and with douche cabins. The apartments hold a sofa in beige and wrought iron table. The rooms have cable TV, mini-bar and parquet flooring. There is a garage for 10 cars and conference hall for 40. ▶ 16 rooms (4 singles €31 - 62, 10 doubles €59 - 118, 2 apartments €70 - 140).        ★★

Hotel Belle Ville D-4, ul. P. R. Slaveykov 24-26, tel. 62 39 31/0878 695 810, fax 62 39 32, hotelbelleville@abv.bg, www.belleville.hit.bg. Found in the Old Town of Plovdiv this small 3-storey hotel is hosted in a restored Renaissance house, monument of culture. The rooms are arranged and painted in the spirit of the Renaissance style with tasselled curtains. All rooms are in different colours - from navy blue to red and ochre. The apartments are bigger and furnished with restored wooden antique furniture. One of the rooms has the original "gossip" window. The bathrooms are with showers and two have bathtubs. All rooms have mini-bar, telephone and cable TV. A great atmosphere that will take you back in time without depriving you of the modern comforts. ▶ 8 rooms (6 doubles €60 - 140, 2 apartments €120 - 180).        ★★

Hotel Bulgaria E-3, ul. Patriarh Evtimil 13, tel. 63 35 99, mng@hotelbulgaria.net, www.hotelbulgaria.net. Located on the central pedestrian street, this modern building looks amazing from the outside and inside its neo-classic style makes it the perfect place for a royal type of stay in Plovdiv. With no lobby bar, the restaurant will treat you to the max. Needless to say this hotel offers two types of room categories from good standard to refined luxurious. ▶ 59 rooms (singles €62 - 76, doubles €82 - 96).        ★★



The Plovdiv
telephone code is: 032

Hotel Dafi D-3, ul. Georgi Benkovski 23, tel. 62 00 41, office@hoteldafi.com, www.hoteldafi.com. Who has never had the dream to repose in a circle shaped bed and a Jacuzzi within the same suite? Are your fantasies tickled? If so, check out hotel Dafi. Located in the centre, at the foot of the old town hills, this hotel is a charming place to relax and enjoy your holiday or business trip. All rooms meet high standards, are clean and furnished with wooden furniture in beige and peach. The hotel composes of a good restaurant on the first floor; unfortunately here the quite modern style is not in line with your chosen suite so if indeed you seek to impress that lady... ROOM SERVICE! Ah... and what about this for a tip... blindfold her... lead her to the upper floor of the hotel... gently replace the eye-covers for your hands, slowly open them and dazzle her with the amazing panoramic view. ▶ 21 rooms (8 singles €42, 8 doubles €54, 2 apartments €78, 3 Double Studio €58 - 68). [Icons: wheelchair, baby cot, crib, pet, etc.] ★★★

Hotel Kendros C-4, bul. Shesti Septemvri 268, tel. 63 63 03, fax 63 63 02, kendroshotel@mail.bg, www.kendroshotel.com. Relatively new structure with spacious modern rooms where the apartments and studios are so huge you might feel like Alice in Wonderland. The rooms are furnished with ivory coloured leather sofas and armchairs and ebony coloured tables and bureaux. The walls are in rose-beige. The apartments come with king size bed, kitchenette, bar plot, stools and big mirror. The bathrooms are with shower or bathtub and hairdryer. All rooms have satellite TV, mini-bar, safe, phone and are with electronic locks. There are 3 conference halls one for 20 and two for 60 people. The restaurant is elegant with international cuisine. It's close to the centre making it an ideal venue for business and leisure travellers alike. ▶ 32 rooms (22 doubles €52 - 62, 4 apartments €87 - 100, 6 Studio €62 - 72). [Icons: wheelchair, baby cot, crib, pet, etc.] ★★★

Hotel Mirena E-4, bul. Maria Luiza 64, tel. 62 05 53, fax 62 05 60, reservation@mirenahotel.com, www.mirenahotel.com. A small, modern four-storey hotel close to the centre. It is newly built and offers comfortable, stylish rooms in Bordeaux, grey and blue colours with patterned floor. The double rooms are medium sized and come with double or twin bed. The bathrooms are with douche cabin or bathtub, hairdryer and big mirror. The apartment is bigger and holds a Jacuzzi. All rooms have electronic locks, glass table with chair/s, cable TV with LCD screen, telephones, personal electronic safe and mini-bar. The restaurant is with European cuisine and special vegetarian and diet menu. The conference hall holds up to ten people and is equipped with all necessary equipment. ▶ 28 rooms (7 singles €47, 20 doubles €57, 1 apartment €67). [Icons: wheelchair, baby cot, crib, pet, etc.] ★★★

Hotel Renaissance E-4, pl. Vazrazhdane 1, tel. 36 69 66/0898 502 590, info@renaissance-bg.com, www.renaissance-bg.com. This small hotel is found at one of the entrances to the Old Town of Plovdiv in a restored house from the Renaissance period, built in the 19th c. Every room is in a different colour and unique ceiling drawings. Three of the rooms are furnished entirely with restored antique furniture with fretwork and two with contemporary furniture designed in the antique style. Two of the rooms are with twin beds and the other three with double beds. All of the rooms have night stands, wardrobe, mirror, cable TV and modern bathroom with shower cabins. Overall a charming place where you can spend an unforgettable holiday in the spirit of the past. ▶ 5 rooms (4 doubles €59 - 79, 1 Studio €80 - 90). [Icons: wheelchair, baby cot, crib, pet, etc.] ★★★

Hotel Seven Hills C-2, ul. Zhiten Pazar 6, tel. 66 03 99/66 01 99, hotel_seven_hills@abv.bg, www.hotel-sevenhills.com. Found at the foot of the Old Town



Park-Hotel. Imperial

Plovdiv

BULGARIA - 4017 PLOVDIV
6, Lev Tolstoy / 1A, Arch.
Kamen Petkov Str.
Phone: + 359 32 600 730
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E-mail: hotelimperial@abv.bg
http://www.hotelimperial.bg

The Imperial Park Hotel disposes with 120 comfortable and elegantly appointed rooms, offering warm and relaxing atmosphere for both business or leisure guests.

At the guests disposal are cosy lobby-bar and a charming restaurant with two halls, suitable for holiday making, celebrating marriages, business-parties and gatherings for up to 250 participants.

The hotel has a well-equipped spa centre and fitness facilities including a sauna, steam bath, infra red cabin, massage room and gym equipment.

Business guests will also appreciate the extensive conference facilities, including purpose-built business and conference centres.





of Plovdiv this hotel is stylish and comfortable place for rest. The building is in the Renaissance style of Old Plovdiv. There are columns with decorative elements, the ceilings are hand-painted, and there are different decorative elements from wrought iron. The rooms are on the small side and are decorated in brown and beige colours. Each room has a night stand, satellite TV, mini-bar and safe. The bathrooms are with bathtubs. There is paid Wi-Fi internet. The single rooms are also suitable for two persons. The lobby bar is with comfortable sofas and armchairs and is quite big. The restaurant has two halls for 40 and for 70 and a garden for 40. During the weekend they have live piano music. The cuisine is international. ▶ 20 rooms (8 singles €50 - 105, 7 doubles €60 - 115, 5 Studio €60 - 130).                                               

room with a kitchen, a bathroom and a terrace. The seventh one includes two bedrooms and balconies with a view to the Old Town. The interior is coloured in brown and beige. The walls are decorated with pictures of students from the Art School in Plovdiv. The building has no elevator. There is no restaurant, but the owner provides breakfast at the cost of 6 euros. Guests enjoy 10% discount in the modern solar studio. ▶ (6 Apartment (1 bedroom) €40 - 45, 1 Apartment (2 bedroom) €50 - 65). [Globe icon] [CC BY-NC-SA icon]

Hostels

Guest House Elena C-4, ul. P. R. Slaveykov 9, tel. 26 88 57. This guest house/hostel is an old house built in the inside yard of another Renaissance style house in the Old Town of Plovdiv from the 1890's. The house composes of 2 rooms with double bed, 1 room with a double and single bed used as dorm and a single bed room. There is a shared bathroom with bathtub on the ground floor. The furniture is old, socialist type. In the rooms there are a lot of books, cabinets and trinkets from old times. The atmosphere is of a family home which brings you back in time. There is a small yard with outside seating and a mini garden with home-grown tomatoes. The owner baba Elena (granny Elena) is extremely friendly and even though she doesn't speak English you will be able to communicate just fine (she has a piece of paper with written words in English which she will readily use). This is a perfect place for budget travellers or tourists with love for the authentic and old. If you have an oversensitive nose and love for sterile cleanliness this otherwise charming place is not a good choice for you. Best is to just drop by or call in the evening. ▶ (singles €7 - 11). [Globe icon] [CC BY-NC-SA icon]

Hikers Hostel Plovdiv D-3, ul. Saborna 53, tel. 0885 194 553/0896 764 854, plovdiv@hikers-hostel.bg, www.hikers-hostel.bg. Found in the Old Town of Plovdiv this place is one of the most visited hostels in Plovdiv. It has a twin private room, one mixed dorm for 8, a twin balcony bed, camp-beds, plank-beds in the yard used as seating places and emergency beds and place for 4 tents. (Down the street they have another house with 1 double room and a dorm for 6.) Breakfast in self-catering kitchen (08:00-12:00), free coffee all day long, sheets and towels, hot showers, Wi-Fi and a computer with Internet are all included in the price. There is laundry service and you can also buy a beer. Smoking is allowed only in the garden. There is no check-out, curfew or lock-out. The place attracts all kinds of budget travellers and the party in the garden can go on till the morning. The staff are very friendly, English speaking and party animals themselves. ▶ (2 doubles €13 - 15, 14 Dorm bed €11 - 12, 1 Loff bed €9, Tent/plank bed €6 - 7). [Globe icon] [CC BY-NC-SA icon] [Globe icon] [CC BY-NC-SA icon]

Hostel Raisky Kat (Paradise's corner) C-4, ul. P. R. Slaveykov 6, tel. 26 88 49/0897 927 732, accommodation_svetla@yahoo.com. Located in the Old Town of Plovdiv this family owned and run place offers 3 rooms (5 during the summer). One of the rooms is with two twin beds and another is with three beds used as mixed dorm, sharing a bathroom. One of the bedrooms has a double bed, TV and separate bathroom. The furnishing is contemporary and in different colours. Ventilators will keep you cool. For 2 euro breakfast is served in the courtyard. They also offer a computer with internet. The owner is friendly and speaks English. ▶ 5 rooms (5 doubles €10 - 12). [Globe icon] [CC BY-NC-SA icon]



Like everywhere in the country service is traditionally on the slow side, but is gradually improving. Most of the local restaurants are surely worth your visit where they still serve the original Rodopi recipes. The prices in brackets refer to the average cost of a main course.

Symbol key

Air conditioning	Credit cards accepted
Live music	Take away
Child friendly	Facilities for the disabled
Non-smoking areas	Guarded parking
Casino	Nearest station
Internet	Animal friendly

Armenian

Erevan D-2, ul. Otets Paisly 29, tel. 65 00 41. Cosy restaurant in the central city area of Plovdiv. Furniture is in yellow and orange, and the walls are decorated with black and white photographs of the Old Plovdiv. Warm atmosphere, good service, delicious Armenian dishes prepared according to original recipes. We recommend to have your coffee here with a friend, and to order Anush Abur with ice cream (2.60Lv) or Armenian baklava. Visitors are mainly representatives of art circles, politicians, foreigners. Try it out and you will not regret it. ▶ Open 09:00 - 22:00. (3-10Lv).

Bulgarian

Alafrangite D-4, ul. Kiril Nektariev 17, tel. 26 95 95. Popular not only among locals but also among tourists, this restaurant is located near one of the entrances to the Old Town. Go up the stairs covered with greenery to enter the inside yard offering a cool retreat. The interior is simple, the tables and chairs are wooden. Every night visitors can enjoy live music performed on piano and violin. We recommend trying the restaurant specialty - "Vreteno Alafrangite" and the chef's specialty "Chicken fillet in stomna". Bulgarian and English menu is available. ▶ Open 12:00 - 23:00. (5-15Lv).

Bulgarska kushta (Bulgarian house) D-3, ul. Saborna 31, tel. 0896 685 828. You'll hardly find a local person who does not know this Bulgarian house restaurant at the entrance to the Old Town. The main hall is fully folk-style designed, and on top of it there is a huge terrace covered with Bulgarian rugs. There is also a special VIP area. The music is folk. We believe, however, that the most beautiful thing here is not the menu, the service or the atmosphere, but the wonderful view to the city. Unforgettable! ▶ (3-15Lv).

Dayana I E-2, ul. Dondukov 3, tel. 62 30 27. This restaurant is located in the city centre. You can enjoy here typical Bulgarian cuisine and especially grilled meat of any kind. It composes of 90 places inside and one hundred under the sky's ceiling. A perfect place to organize parties. The Dayana chain has other restaurants in Plovdiv: Dayana II, bul. Tsar Boris III and Dayana III, ul. Dondukov 7. ▶ Open 00:00-24:00. (5-41Lv).

Grazhdanski Klub (Civil Club) D-3, ul. Stoyan Chalakov 1, tel. 62 41 39/0899 766 866. This restaurant used also as a meeting place for prominent Plovdivians and political communities since the beginning of the last century

is found in the Old Town of Plovdiv. Nowadays it is also used for the regular meetings of club "Rodolyubie" (club Patriotism). The place is quite often visited also by the previous mayor of Plovdiv. It has 3 halls with wooden tables and benches, outside garden for 50 and several wooden tables on a platform on the street. One of the halls is used as conference room for the meetings of the club or other gatherings. The cuisine is Bulgarian. Try the Rosno pile s bosilek (Chicken with basil) or Sirene po trakiiski (Cheese the Thracian way). You should not miss the killer dessert, as they call it - "Udovolstvie za dvama" (Pleasure for two). If you want to bump into famous Plovdiv figures this is a place you should visit. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00. (4-12Lv).

Malak Bunardzhik J-7, ul. Volga 1, tel. 64 26 40. This restaurant is situated at the foot of the Bunardzhik Hill. After you climb the stairs you enter into the garden with splendid vegetation and a beautiful wooden bridge over the small pool. If you ask the waiter to serve you in the pool, he will be happy to accommodate you on one of the tables with high chairs. If you want to remain dry, just take the menu, looking like a newspaper and start choosing. Ask the chef for something special to go with your brandy, choose from lamb specialty, fish directly from the fishing rod or traditional dishes from the Rhodope Mountains. Bulgarian music. Polite staff. Bulgarian and English menu is available. ▶ Open 10:30 - 24:00. (2-17Lv).

Megdana G-1, ul. Odrin 11, tel. 62 46 94/0885 968 270. Maybe this place is the most stylish Bulgarian restaurant in Plovdiv. It is situated in a remote area, behind the South bus station (avtogara Yug). The wooden entrance gate in a Renaissance style suggests that inside you can expect something great and remarkable. And then you enter into the vast garden of the restaurant, which looks like a rural yard. Carts, porches, woven rugs are part of the remarkable decor of the place. The main hall inside is even greater in size, capable of accommodating more than 270 people. The menu is impressive. Only the list of salads exceeds 4 pages. We recommend the dishes from Grandma's kitchen - Sarmi with beans, Patatnik from Rhodope Mountains, etc. There is a rich menu of fish and collection of selected wines. Every evening after 21:00 Megdana offers a rich folklore program performed by Ensemble "Thrace" and Ensemble "Balgare". ▶ (7-23Lv).

Mehana Hashove D-4, ul. Panayot Volov 8, tel. 0888 589 323, mehana_hashove@abv.bg. Found on a narrow steep street in the Old Town of Plovdiv this restaurant is decorated in Bulgarian style and offers Bulgarian cuisine. The seating is wooden with tables set with typical red cloths. The place is decorated with rugs from old times and folklore costumes on the walls. The inside holds 35 seats arranged on the ground floor and up the stairs. The outside holds 50 seats arranged under a vine. The menu is very rich and offers different kind of dishes and rakia (fire water). Try the Steak Antoinette, the Stanimashki sarmichki (rice and minced meat tucked in marinated cabbage leaves) or the Kavarma (meat prepared in earth pot). The bathroom is a little primitive. ▶ Open 17:00 - 01:00. (5-16Lv).

Mehana Staroto Vreme F-2, ul. Gladston 22, tel. 26 06 00/0886 535 363. Decorated in Bulgarian style with colourful tablecloths, wine vessels, swords and other old-time items, national costumes, dolls dressed in folklore style and even cannon in the yard this place is certainly amusing to visit. The inside is for 40 and the seating is wooden. The garden is for 50 with wooden seating and cooling artificial waterfall. The cuisine is Bulgarian and they have certainly chosen the best to offer - meat sach, stuffed bon fillet,

International

Birena Gradina Voivodite (Beer Garden the Chieftains) F-2, ul. Gladston 13, tel. 62 72 70. Open from spring to autumn the beer house has at its disposal 80 seats in the garden. They serve 30 kinds of beer, big choice of salads, Bulgarian and Mexican dishes. Go for the komitska salad, the chicken on a skewer or the gyuveche (hotchpotch). No English menu, but the staff are English speaking. ▶ Open 07:00 - 01:00. (6-13Lv). ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

Enoteque Kopcheto J-7, bul. Vasil Aprilov 7, tel. 64 63 32, fax 64 63 30, kopcheto@alliancehotel.com. It may be considered the perfect place for having dinner, but it leaves something to be desired, although this is a 3-star venue. The restaurant offers a special gourmet menu and a good wine selection. ▶ Open 12:00 - 00:00, Sun 12:00 - 16:00. (5-30Lv). ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

Fontana A-3, bul. Tsar Boris III Obedinitel 37, tel. 90 28 00. The bar is located in Pavilion No.9 at the International Fair of Plovdiv. Here you'll be welcome as a special guest by a polite waiter. The interior is in mild green colour. The menu is not very rich but there is a salad bar with an abundance of various salads of your choice. For hard drink enthusiasts the bar dispenses high quality aged whisky. ▶ (3-10Lv). ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

Happy Bar and Grill A-2, ul. Vasil Levski 2, tel. 94 39 13. Do you know that Happy is the largest restaurant chain in Bulgaria? Like all the others also this one in Plovdiv offers a vast collection of tasty meals to choose from and pretty waitresses that fly for you. At weekends this place is preferred by young people and the business circles like it for business lunches on week days. ▶ Open 09:00 - 00:00. (10-25Lv). ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

Rahat Tepe C-3, ul. Doktor Chomakov 20, tel. 62 44 54/0878 384 374. This open-air restaurant is found on the top of the Rahat Tepe (Rahat Hill) in the Old Town of Plovdiv. It is open from May till the end of September (depending on the weather). The wooden tables, benches and chairs are arranged under big sunshades and are surrounded by greenery. It has about 200 places. The food includes meat on the grill, salads and desserts. Popular and dance music. The bathroom is a little bit primitive and not exactly the cleanest. ▶ Open 10:00 - 24:00. (3,30-6,50Lv). ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

Restaurant-Garden Philippopolis D-3, ul. Saborna 29, tel. 62 48 51, fax 62 29 63, gallery@philippopolis.com, www.philippopolis.com. This unique restaurant is located in an old house near the Old Town. The building is an architectural monument and one of the most beautiful Renaissance houses in Plovdiv. It's known as Alekovata house. In 2003, after repairs and restoration, it was turned into an Art Gallery and Museum Philippopolis. The restaurant offers exquisite cuisine, wine-rich menu and excellent service. It has a summer garden (100 seats), which offers a panoramic view to Plovdiv and Kapana square. The garden is open from April to September. The main hall has 50 seats and is decorated with paintings from the collection of the museum. Bulgarian and English menu is available. ▶ Open 10:00 - 24:00. (10-28Lv). ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

Restaurant & Garden Amsterdam D-3, ul. Konstantin Stoilov 10, tel. 62 99 53/0899 40 66 35. One elegant restaurant in the centre of Plovdiv. A great variety of specialties from the Bulgarian and European cuisine, fish temptations. They offer a separate menu for drinks with a selection of Bulgarian red and white wines and wines from Spain, Australia, California, Chile, Argentina. Bulgarian and

Fast food

Posleden Grosh (Last Penny) J-8, ul. Architect Kamen Petkov 14, tel. 66 03 21. A small family run fast food restaurant with 10 seats inside and 20 in the garden. Here you can find toasted sandwiches (toster), pocket sandwiches (dzhob sandwich), roasted sandwiches with ham and cheese or minced meat (printsesa). The bonus to the place is the pottery shop next door belonging to the artist - daughter of the owners. It sells ceramic souvenirs, vases, candlesticks, flower pots and more. Just ask about the shop, it might look closed, while the artist is creating her magic in the back room. ▶ Open 06:00 - 23:00, Sat, Sun 07:00 - 23:00. (1,50-3Lv). ☎

Vkusno E-3, ul. Patriarh Evtimiy. Fast food booth with high tables and no seating - Döner kebab, pizza, toasted sandwiches, hot dog, pancakes. ▶ Open 07:00 - 23:00. (1,30-3,50Lv). ☎ ☎

English menu is available. From special offers (15-22Lv) of the chef Petar Yankov, we recommend to try the tender deer steak with cherry tomatoes and dressing with thyme. And be careful! Don't miss the themed evenings of world cuisine Italian, Turkish, Mediterranean and haute cuisine. ▶ Open 11:00 - 24:00. (7-30Lv). ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

Restaurant Arena D-2, ul. Otets Paisiy 2, tel. 62 23 20. An unpretentious place where free seats are hard to find especially between 18:00-22:00. The menu offers a long list of salads, pizza and desserts. The staff are polite and patient. ▶ Open 09:00 - 01:00. (2-7Lv). ☎ ☎ ☎

Restaurant Janet B-2, ul. 4 (Chetvarti) Yanuari, tel. 62 60 44. Situated in the Old Town of Plovdiv in a restored house of symmetrical style, built in 1863, this restaurant has four halls for 60, a garden for 50 and wine cellar in the basement. The place is decorated in the Renaissance style with mural at the entrance, drawings on the walls, Persian carpets, statues and even pieces of old fashion clothes. The garden is set with wooden tables and chairs, some greenery and a small fountain. The cuisine is international and there is a rich selection of wines. Try the specialty Rodopa or go for the rich choice of fish. The music is evergreen, Russian romance songs and Bulgarian popular music. ▶ Open 11:30 - 23:30. (12-25Lv). ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

Restaurant Renaissance E-4, pl. Vazrazhdane 1, tel. 26 69 66/0898 502 590, info@renaissance-bg.com, www.renaissance-bg.com. Found at one of the entrances to the Old Town of Plovdiv down the stairs in a restored house from the Renaissance period, built in the 19th c. The place for 28 is stylish with decoratively painted walls, dark wooden tables and chairs and fretwork wooden bar. There is a TV with cable, so will not miss any important game. The garden for 50 is with wooden tables and benches, big sunshades, lots of flowers and a mandarin tree. The cuisine is International with French flavour. There are also traditional Bulgarian dishes. Do try the Kachamak (corn farina) with honey and walnuts or the fried French cheese with blueberry jam. ▶ Open 15:30 - 24:00. (8,50-17Lv). ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

Skerzzo Bar & Dinner F-3, ul. Tsar Asen 8, tel. 62 60 74/0886 112 317, office@skerzzo.com, www.skerzzo.com. This is a modern club-restaurant on two floors. The relaxed atmosphere is enhanced by the minimalist chic style and chill out and jazz music. The seating is with wooden tables and ivory leather chairs and sofas, high tables, white leather stools and a bar. The place is illuminated by wicker floor lanterns with muted light. There is a nice summer terrace.

The cuisine is international and the food is delicious. Try the Scalopina (pork bon fillet with smoked cheese, walnuts and tomatoes) or the Emperor's steak (veal fillet with steamed vegetables and pasta). The fish connoisseurs can go for the Argentinean gaucho (white fish fillet, tomatoes and fish sauce). Every day there is lunch menu from 11:30-14:30. On Tuesdays with every main course you get a free salad. On Thursdays Beck's is at half price. Every week there are thematic dinners - Mexican, Italian, German and French. Best is to make a reservation. ► Open 08:30 - 24:00. (8-20Lv). ☎ ☑

The Old Plovdiv (Staryat Plovdiv) C-2, ul. Zholio Kyuri 6, tel. 62 91 33, www.oldplovdivbg.com. The restaurant is located near the central city area. The interior combines ancient architecture and modern style. The hall on the second floor is decorated with antique household items, and the hall on the first floor is in a contemporary style. The restaurant has a spacious terrace with 50 seats. An authentic tower is preserved as part of the interior, which in the past measured the time for Christian-, Muslim- and Jew-inhabited neighbourhoods. At the entrance there is a fountain with goldfish. A menu (in Bulgarian and English) begins with: "Even if you've come alone, you are among friends!" ► Open 10:30 - 24:00. Closed Sun. (8-19Lv). ☎ ☑ ☑

Italian

Gusto pizza & restaurant D-2, ul. Otets Paisiy 26, tel. 62 37 11. We recommend this restaurant not only because of the pleasant atmosphere, pleasant music and a central location, but mostly because of the superb Italian cuisine. Whether you are in the white, the orange or the green sector, symbolizing the different seasons, try at all costs any of the Italian salads and wood-oven pizzas. During the summer you may have your coffee on the new terrace. On each table there is a specifically fitted fan which will keep you cool. ► Open 09:00 - 24:00. (4-10Lv). ☎ ☑ ☑ ☑

Pizza

Classic J-8, ul. Zefir 8, tel. 63 09 30/0885 26 25 66, pizza_classic@abv.bg. The pizza restaurant offers, pizza, pasta, salads, barbecue and main courses. The seating is wooden and there is also an outside seating. The food is delicious, but the service is a bit on the slow side. ► Open 07:30 - 24:00. Closed Mon. (5-10Lv). ☎ ☑ ☑ ☑

Godzilla D-2, ul. Knyaz Batenberg 29A, tel. 96 01 60/0895 960 160. We discovered with surprise that Varna's famous Pizza restaurant Godzilla is also found in Plovdiv. In contrast to the sea capital, the place here is not very visited. Outside again you will meet a huge Godzilla statue. The salon inside is entirely in black and white. The outside terrace is for about 50 people. Pleasant staff, good prices. ► Open 00:00 - 24:00. (2.50 - 17.99Lv). ☎ ☑ ☑ ☑

Pizza Originale D-4, ul. Mitropolit Panaret 25, tel. 66 37 97/0894 205 085. This pizza restaurant is found at the foot of the Old Town of Plovdiv. It is a wooden structure with inside and semi-outside (the windows open completely) part with greenery. They have an impressive pizza menu, pasta, lasagna, salads, dishes on the grill and even Spanish paella. The stuffed potatoes are not something you should miss. The home delivery will cost you additional 3Lv and you can order online from amam.bg. ► Open 11:00 - 23:30. (4-20Lv). ☎ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑

Pizza Verdi E-2, ul. Nayden Gerov 19, tel. 9171/0886 889 171, www.pizzaverdi.com. To get one of the best prepared pizzas in town visit one of the six pizzerias Verdi. They offer 45 kinds of pizza (small, family, big, thin and crispy),

Decoding the menu

Starters and salads (предястия и салати)

Shopska salata (шопска салата) – sliced tomato, cucumber, sweet pepper, onion and grated white sheep's cheese

Ovcharska salata (овчарска салата) – tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, onions, mushrooms, ham, egg and cheese

Snezhanika (снежанка) – made of strained yoghurt, cucumber and garlic

Kyopolu (Aubergine purée) (кьополю) – salad of mashed baked eggplant, peppers, loads of garlic, parsley, vinegar and sunflower oil

Sudzhuk (суджук), **lukanka** (луканка), **pastarma** (пастърма) – traditional Bulgarian dried salami with various spices, salt and pepper

Soups (супи)

Tarator (таратор) – cold soup with yoghurt, cucumber, walnuts and dill. Especially popular in hot summer

Bob chorba (bean soup) (боб чорба) – well soaked dried beans, a variety of vegetables and plenty of herbs

Shkembe chorba (шкембе чорба) – tripe soup cooked in milk with garlic, vinegar and chilli

Zelenchukova supa (зеленчукова супа) – vegetable soup

Meat dishes (ястия с месо)

Kebapche (кебапче) – grilled minced meat rolls

Kyufte (кюфте) – grilled minced meat balls

Shish Kebap (шиш кебап) – grilled skewered meat, onion and paprika

Meshana skara (мешана скара) – a Bulgarian version of mixed grill

Sarmi (сърми) – cabbage or vines leaves stuffed with meat

Kavarma (кавърма) – meat and vegetable stew, usually served in individual pots

Banska kapama (банска капама) – chicken, pork, veal, cabbage, and rice

Gyuvech (гювеч) – a dish of vegetables and meat baked in an earthenware pot

Lamb in oven (St. George's way) (агнешко на фурна) – lamb stuffed with pluck and rice, cooked in the oven, served with green salad

Vegetarian dishes (постни ястия)

Sirene po shopski (сирене по шопски) – white sheep's cheese baked with eggs

Chushki byurek (чушки бюрек) – fried peppers stuffed with egg and cheese

Kashkaval pane (кашкавал пане) – fried, breaded yellow cheese

Banitsa (баница) – flaky pastry filled with white cheese

Kiselo mlyako (кисело мляко) – world famous Bulgarian yoghurt

Deserts and sweets (десерти)

Crem caramel (крем карамел) – dessert prepared from fresh milk, eggs and caramelized sugar, similar to the classic French crème brûlée












Baklava (баклава) – flaky pastry stuffed with pistachio nuts in syrup

Kadaif (кадаиф) – shredded wheat stuffed with nuts in syrup


pasta, lasagna, salads, risotto, chicken bites, asparagus, soups and relatively big selection of wines. The Naiden Gerov pizzeria we visited has big wooden tables and chairs in white and champagne colours and open kitchen. There are two gardens with wooden tables and benches with green cushions. There is also a kid's corner. The service is on the slow side, but they do it with a smile. From 15:00-17:00 for every order there is 10% discount. For home delivery there are also discounts according to the total price of order. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:30, 6-20Lvly. ☎ 📞 📱 🌐 🍷 🍴

Zlatna Krusha J-8, ul. Konstantin Velichkov 22, Rilov Centre, tel. 66 30 80. An interesting option if you are in the area, this local-geared pizza place has a nice interior and very good service. A large list of pizzas on the menu but also offering various pasta, fish and vegetarian options. There is one more restaurant on ul. Otets Paisiy 30, tel. 65 05 05, open 10:00-24:00. Recommended. ▶ Open 10:00 - 24:00. Pasta (3.37-8.70Lv), pizza (3.36-20.22Lv), main courses (2.79-6.00Lv). ☒ ☒ ☒

Russian

Petar I (Pyotar the First) D-3, ul. Knyaz Tseretelev 11, tel. 62 07 89/63 23 89, residence@abv.bg, www.theoldtownresidence.com If you want to plunge into the atmosphere of tsarist Russia restaurant Petar Purvi found in the Old Town of Plovdiv is the place you should visit. The restaurant has two floors and a VIP hall. The setting is sumptuous - marble stairs lead you to the main hall, where the tables are covered in red satin with chairs in blue satin, crystal chandeliers and vases, paintings including a portrait of Peter I, covings on the ceiling and panoramic French windows with an amazing view towards the city. The magnificent garden composes of balustrade, illuminated fountain and a real chapel. The cuisine is International with accent on the Russian specialties prepared by original recipes. Here you can try the typical Russian Blini (blins), Pelmeni (pelmens) and Projki (patties with meat) as well as different types of fish. Do not miss the Sturgeon a la Savourov fashion or the Veal the Caucasian way. For dessert you might consider the Armenian caddafi or the cake Napoleon. The wine list is impressive and includes original Dom Perignon (499Lv). The music is Russian romance and gypsy songs and occasional live music - piano and violin. The menu is in English and the staff speak English, Russian, Turkish, Greek, Italian and German. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. (10-39Lv).           

Seafood

BBQ & Bar Hemingway E-3, ul. Gurko 10, tel. 26 73 50. If you have the chance to visit this restaurant in Plovdiv, wherever you go at a later stage in your life, you will always remember it. Books of the famous American writer, arranged in racks, interior in brown and orange, the abundance of dishes from fresh fish, unostentatious service are the things that put this place into the category of "unforgettable". The restaurant offers a varied salad bar (weekday at midday) and the Serbian meat specialties. Rich list of wines. Acoustic music after 20:00. ▶ Open 10:00 - 24:00. (7-30Lv). 




Cafe & Fish Restaurant History F-4, Archaeological underpass, tel. 64 69 78/0887 806 006. Fish restaurant in the Archaeological underpass (podleží Arheologického) near the central city area. On two levels - one room is completely pure modernistic design and the second one is equipped with furniture combined with historical excavations. The place offers a rich menu of fish focused on exotic fish such as mullet, fagri and you'll even find Indian dishes on the menu. There are over 250 types of wine and several types of cigars. Live jazz

music is played here in the late afternoon and evening hours.

► Open 11:00 - 02:00. (7-16Ly).

Siyanie (Radiance) J-8, ul. Krayova 4, tel. 62 77 48/0898 621 882. This small stylish restaurant is on two floors and in the blue colour scheme. It has 40 places in- and 30 outside, where dogs are allowed. The garden is with good shade, ventilators and a small fountain all giving a nice feeling of coolness, especially in the hot summer days of Plovdiv. 27 Kinds of fish like perch (kostur) and sea wolf (lavrak), Serbian barbecue, gyuveche (hotch-potch) and other specialties will kill your hunger. They also have a lunch menu (obedno menu). Some of the staff speaks English so no need for having an English menu. ► Open 11:00- 02:00. (4-15Lv). ☎ ☑ 📞 🍴 🐕

Sushi

Kaiten Sushi Bar Sazae E-3, ul. Patriarh Evtimiy 12, tel. 63 31 33, www.sazae.bg. An underground sushi bar - stylish, but not pretentious. It has a bar with conveyor-belt, unique for Bulgaria. There are also tables for the traditionalists. The menu includes traditional Japanese dishes, salads and more than 100 types of sushi. The big choice can puzzle you if you are not a connoisseur, but the staff can help you on that. On the other hand gourmet persons, acquainted with the Japanese cuisine, will find this place quite satisfying. The conveyor-belt is on self service principle and you can order dishes you don't see on it from the waiter. The cook is a certified sushi master. English speaking staff and English menu are available. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00, Sun 14:00 - 24:00. (10-35Lv).   

Turkish

Yasmin F-2, ul. Avksentii Velezhki 37, tel. 0878 325 524.
A mid-range restaurant which is a gathering place for the Turkish community in the city. The music is oriental and the cuisine is Turkish. The atmosphere is friendly with small tables covered with white table cloths. Yasmin is known for its caged canary in the garden. ▶ Open 10:00 - 23:00. (5-20Lv). ☎ ☑ ☒

Have Your Say

If you have had an experience to remember at any of the venues listed in this guide, be it good, bad, ugly or downright sad, let the two million regular unique visitors to our website, www.inyourpocket.com, know about it. Every venue on our website now has a module below it for you to comment on the places we write about. You can agree or disagree with us, scold us or praise us, but do give us your feedback, it's essential!

YOUR COMMENTS

Write your own review or add your comments for this venue here. Note: this is for reader's reviews only; contact the venue directly for information or reservation requests.

* What do you think?

* Name * Email

* Country/State City

* Required fields

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Cafes in Plovdiv quite often offer much more than just a cup of coffee with pastry or a cup of tea. Most of them have soups, salads and sandwiches on their menus, so the border between restaurants and cafes is very thin. Look over the selection of cafes in our guide and pick the one that is just right for your mood or occasion.



Afreddo creamery F-2, ul. Gladston 2, tel. 62 76 33/0887 699 977. This cafe is located in the main pedestrian street, right in front of the Tourist Information Centre. Excellent cakes, ice cream (2-4Lv), pancakes and sandwiches are served here. It has a summer garden. Main hall is on the second floor. The staff could be friendlier. ▶ Open 08:00 - 22:00. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

Balaban Café D-4, ul. Kiril Nektariev 4, tel. 0888 87 50 73. A small café-club designed with thoughtfulness and style. The wooden tables and decorations add to the atmosphere. The place attracts some of the prominent Plovdivians who meet here to discuss matters of their daily grind. The owner, of course, takes great part in the discussions. They serve coffee, beer and snacks. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

Café-aperitif Dolly D-4, ul. Paldin 13A, tel. 26 41 91. A tiny café found in the Old Town of Plovdiv with just 3 tables inside with a cosy fireplace for the cool days and 2 tables on the outside. Here you can meet the local folks who come by to chat and share a glass of beer or coffee. The place is run by the owner with the help of her daughter who is English speaking. They offer soft drinks, beer, alcohol, cigarettes, French fries, grilled meat and roasted sandwiches with meat (printsesa). ▶ Open 09:00 - 22:00. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

Café Aperitif Nika E-4, bul. Maria Luiza 68, tel. 62 28 97. A small modern café on two floors, where the second floor is for non-smokers. They serve different kinds of coffee-based drinks, soft drinks, beer and alcohol. Here you can also get snacks like toasted sandwiches, roasted sandwiches with ham and cheese or minced meat (printsesa), hot dog, fried chips with feta cheese and even soup in a cup. They also sell the daily newspapers and popular magazines. There is a flat screen TV tuned to a sports channel. The owner runs the café herself or with the help of her daughter who speaks English. ▶ Open 06:30 - 23:00. ☎ ☎

Café Arena Old Town, The Ancient Theatre "Trimonstium", tel. 62 65 26/0889 028 990. This charming cafe is located in the Old Town, at the entrance of the Ancient Theatre. Many tourists land here during sightseeing in the

Old Town. The venue offers beautiful panoramic view and nice music. The menu will impress you with refreshing drinks (Pitietata za otskok) such as Cocaine I, which contains vodka, schnapps peach, Curacao and cointreau. Unfortunately, the place is open only during summer months. Friendly staff. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00. ☎ ☎

Café Lia C-4, ul. P. R. Slaveykov 34, tel. 0895 691 638. This is a small café in the Old Town of Plovdiv. They have only 15 seats on 3 tables inside and another 2 outside. The seating is wooden and upholstered furniture in brown colours. They serve coffee and soft drinks. Don't forget to ask for the homemade ashure (stewed wheat farina with ice cream). ▶ Open 08:00 - 22:00. ☎ ☎

Café Scarface E-4, bul. Maria Luiza 63. Named after the movie Scarface (suggested by the big poster from the movie next to the bar) this small café offers much more than just coffee and soft drinks. There you can order all kinds of salads, chicken dishes, French fries, pancakes and ice cream. The place has several tables inside and several outside. There is no menu in English, but some of the staff speaks English. Animals are allowed outside. ▶ Open 07:00 - 23:00. (3-6Lv). ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

Café Taksim D-3, ul. Saborna 47, tel. 0896 734 565. A small café in the Old Town of Plovdiv with great view to the city and original well in the yard (Taksim - means water distribution well). During winter the yard is transformed into a closed area with air-conditioning. The seating is wooden tables, benches and chairs. The place plays rock music and attracts customers from all ages. The bathroom is not the state of the art, but does have a charming mural, painted by one of the customers, obviously a painter, on his own initiative as a surprise to the owners and staff. The café offers soft drinks and alcohol, chips and nuts. There are 60 places. The staff are English speaking. ▶ Open 08:00 - 01:00. (3,60-5Lv). ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

Dreams E-3, ul. Aleksandar Batenberg 42, tel. 62 71 42, fax 62 71 44. This lovely coffee shop is one of the most popular places in Plovdiv and one of the reasons for that is its central location right on the pedestrian street. Its fame is mostly due to the rich menu of both alcoholic and non-alcoholic cocktails, as well as fresh cakes and pastry. Here you can hide from the summer heat or enjoy the mild autumn lazy days. ▶ Open 08:00 - 12:00, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 01:00. (2-6Lv). ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

Nedelya H-3, bul. Hristo Botev 92B, tel. 65 50 15. This well-known chain of pastry shops in Bulgaria is usually always full, not only with lovers of sweet temptations. A lot of families come here with their children, as well as business partners to drink coffee. The main hall is in orange, gray and white. The music is pleasant. Polite staff. You can order here a cake for home. ▶ Open 08:00 - 22:00, Sun 09:00 - 22:00. (3-5Lv). ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

No name F-2, ul. Gladston 1, tel. 0889 337 544. Café-bar up the stairs of an administrative building, right next to the City Garden. The inside for 40 is nothing fancy, comfortable with orange tables and blue chairs. The outside tables for 30 are found on a narrow balcony surrounded by trees whose crowns are so close, that it almost feels like you actually alighted on your table just like a bird. The café-bar serves coffee, soft drinks, cigarettes, alcohol, snacks, sandwiches, beer and cocktails. The personnel are English speaking. In the evening the place attracts the young crowd and teenagers who laugh and dance around you, so at some point you might feel you are more in a discotheque rather than in a café-bar. ▶ Open 07:30 - 23:30. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

Most of Plovdiv's bars and clubs are located in the centre or in the Old Town. Some of them are very well hidden. Next to having this guide at hand other useful sources of this night's parties are taxi drivers and the friendly locals. Hip-Hop and R&B are yet to be discovered or established. But a Chalgia night will already take your breath away by the sight of the local beauties.

Bars

Bar Iguana F-2, ul. Gladston 32, tel. 62 33 89. Modern bar with interesting décor of old records and other memorabilia. The bar and the stools are wooden. During summer months the place is all open-air with 70 seats and during the colder period they close the garden area leaving about 30 seats inside. Available are various alcoholic and non-alcoholic cocktails and drinks, nuts. Music is dance, disco and house. The TV is tuned to either sports or MTV. The personnel speak English. Prices are average. ▶ Open 08:00 - 01:00. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

Casa de Cuba G-1, bul. Vasil Aprilov 118, tel. 64 96 04/0888 073 601, ilian.1973@yahoo.com, http://plovdiv.casadeucuba.bg. The only place with full time Latino music. There you can have a Cuban cigar and try their Mojito and Cuba Libre. The place is decorated with photos from Cuba... "Una-Dos-Tres-Quarto-Fi-Del-Castro". It has 120 seats set on a few dark brown sofas with low tables and round tables with armchairs. The most interesting place to sit is at the bar where you can chat with the bartender, who certainly has an interesting story to tell. There is a flat TV, so you will not miss any game. ▶ Open 07:00 - 02:00. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

Club 150 H-3, bul. Hristo Botev 82, tel. 0888 033 055/0886 333 321. This is a cool house music bar with a good sound system. There are high tables with stools in black and white. The garden is furnished with huge wicker chairs with cushions where you can comfortably settle down, only mind that your party will most probably see only the tip of your nose, unless they are Michael Jordan. As well as alcoholic and non alcoholic drinks and cocktails this bar offers pizza, salads, desserts and fruit. Here you can order an entire bottle of wine or martini for around 30Lv. The service is on the slow side. ▶ Open 08:00 - 02:00. (4,50 - 10Lv). ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

De Niro K-8, Zhk. Trakia, ul. Saedinenie 11, tel. 0894 499 893. It is found in Zhk. Trakia (a neighbourhood), opposite Dimitar Matevski School, 15 min from the centre by car. With 2 snookers tables, 8 billiards tables, darts and table football this place is fit to welcome the Cincinnati Kid. It has 2 big bars with leather seating, several bar plots with stools, white leather sofas and separated seating areas with red leather sofas and wooden tables. There are 6 huge flat screen TVs tuned to a sport channel during sports events. The garden area is big, designed with wicker seating, tables with coffee beans under the glass and separate seating areas on platforms with curtains. The greenery includes decorative mandarin and palm trees. Animals are allowed in the garden. An hour of billiards or snookers will cost you 6 Lv. The bar offers both alcoholic and non alcoholic drinks and cocktails, ice cream and nuts. ▶ Open 00:00 - 24:00. (1,50 - 5Lv). ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

Escape Moda Bar A-2, bul. Bulgaria 39, tel. 0887 878 840/0888 654 560. Cocktail bar with popular, dance and retro music. The place is big and has 350 seats inside and outside. The inside is designed in red, black and white colours and holds a long bar. The outside seating is wooden. There is an outside bar. The music is not loud, so you can hear yourself think. ▶ Open 07:00 - 02:00. (3-5Lv). ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

Excalibur bowling & bar J-8, bul. Sankt Peterburg 15, tel. 63 18 52/0899 907 992, deltakart@gmail.com. It is found right next to Lokomotiv stadium. The Bar area is quite big with white leather furniture. There are 8 bowling alleys (two for children), billiards, darts, electronic games, cocktail bar, children's centre and big TV screen. They also organize bowling competitions. There are 150 seats and pop, R&B, retro and dance music. ▶ Open 09:00 - 03:00. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

Piano Bar La Rosa Negra H-1, bul. Vasil Aprilov 116, tel. 0888 699 211. Small piano bar with retro and jazz live music - piano, guitar and saxophone. The furniture is a combination of leather sofa seating and wooden low chairs and bar plots. The best place you can position yourself of course is at the piano (there are special seats) where you are closest to all the soul food needed - music and drinks. 65 places. ▶ Open 23:00 - 05:00. Closed Mon, Sun. Admission: 5Lv. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

Red Eye Bar F-2, ul. Gladston 8, tel. 0898 484 771. Cool bar which attracts young people with love for rock, hip-hop, jazz or alternative music. There isn't any kind of sign or indication for the bar, so you will have to use your sixth sense to find it. It's right across from the Plovdiv municipality building, next to Allianz Bank. First you go a few steps down and when you see the painted naked woman on the wall of the green corridor (if the wooden door is open) go in and take the stairs up. You will get into a small bar with few wooden tables and a bar with stools. They also have a balcony where you can spy on the people walking along the central pedestrian street. Due to its central location, during the day, this is the most popular place for young folks to drop by for a cool beer on their way to somewhere. There is a TV in the corner, so if there is a game you do not want to miss, don't worry. ▶ Open 9:00 - 23:00. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

Trakiyski Stan (Club Orpheus Wellness) D-3, ul. Paladin 7, tel. 62 36 76/0878 413 368, office@orpheusclub.com, www.orpheusclub.com. This is a piano bar found in a garden behind the high stone walls of the typical asymmetrical Renaissance house in the Old Town of Plovdiv. It has 3 balconies from which the night view to the city is amazing. The seating is wooden and the lighting is arranged with garden torches and candles. There is a mural of Orpheus, greenery, authentic fountain and a grand piano. They have evening shows - piano, guitar and a singer performing evergreen and popular music. There is also karaoke with rich repertoire and flat screen TV for the lyrics. The place also offers a food menu including several choices of salads, appetizers, main courses and a pancake for desert, so you will not have a hard time choosing. Try the broccoli with blue cheese or the pork fillet with pesto basil and parmesan. The menu is also in English and the personnel speak English, German, Greek and Russian. The place is open from May till mid October and has place for 70 people. ▶ Open 17:00 - 24:00. (7-9Lv). ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

Clubs

Club Marmalad C-2, ul. Bratya Pulievi 3, tel. 63 18 34/0898 653 753, www.marmalad.bg. Behind a massive black door this club boasts a unique atmosphere. Brick walls, muted lighting, black and white photos, wooden and leather furniture and electronic music adds to the atmosphere. The menu includes a wide range of drinks, as well as salads, sandwiches and desserts. The Marmalad programme is varied: Wednesday - karaoke night, Thursday Bulgarian band night, Friday and Saturday - retro party. As from September every Tuesday night here will be organized cocktail shows with games for the audience. In November you can expect "The Night of the fans" (rock music and many surprises). Expect "the whole city to be in...Marmalad". ▶ Open 09:00 - 04:00. Admission: 4-6Lv. ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎

Plazma H-2, bul. Hristo Botev 82, tel. 62 47 61/0885 530 500, plazmabooking@abv.bg, <http://clubplazma.com/>. The fulltime house, techno and electronic music venue in town. State of the art sound system, DJ equipment and illumination. There are DJ parties every Friday and Saturday. ▶ Open 22:00 - 08:00. Admission: 6-15Lv. [G] [P]

Folk clubs

Night Club G-1, ul. Vasil Aprilov 13 A, tel. 0886 693 020/64 74 84. This richly decorated place has a dance floor and a mezzanine. The music is extremely loud and tuned to a shake your booty rhythm. The place is quite full and attracts dressed up party animals. They offer alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks and a full range of bar snacks. ▶ Open 22:00 - 06:00. Admission: 3-5Lv. [G] [P]

Paparazi E-4, bul. Maria Luiza 43A, tel. 0888 715 657, www.paparazi-pl.com. One of the most visited live music venues in town. The club is divided into two separate zones- the main hall (for Folk music) and the Retro Hall (mainly for Retro music). Each of the halls has its own weekly program. There is a third hall which opens when the visitors exceed the limit of the other two; the music is mixture of everything. The focus is on folk music (chalga), which is emphasized by the eclectic mixture of design styles. The lavish interior of the main hall is in red, with golden elements and leather furniture. The long corridor to the bathroom continues the style where a relief Silver Moon is placed in combination with enormous crystal mirrors. The staff are English speaking half-naked girls and live dancers. There is a door policy. The facility has about 30 parking places. ▶ Open 22:00 - 05:00. Admission: 3-5Lv. [G] [P] [F]



an English pub, a live music club & a tiny restaurant

[pet-NOTT-oh]



the pub

Petnoto is actually three places in one; an English pub, a live music stage and a tiny restaurant.

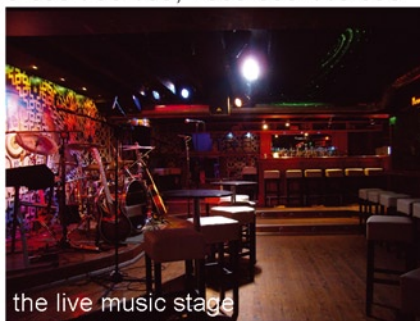
The pub opens at 9 am and works late into the night. The choices are numerous, ranging from a light and leisurely snack during the day to a slow, intoxicating wine - drinking session at night.

Live music clubs

Letni Stseni Konyushnitsa na Tsara (Summer Stage King's Stables) D-3, The park between ul. Saborna and ul. Kiril Nektariev, tel. 0899 448 896/0899 750 109, ivannedelev@yahoo.com. This open-air complex located in the Old Town of Plovdiv composes of stage for live performances, cocktail bar and restaurant (total of 250 people). The restaurant is built right on top of the Roman ruins (Round turret from the acropolis fortress wall of Philippopolis 4-6 century) and some of the tables are under thick ivy, giving the place quite a romantic feel and good escape from the burning summer sun. The cuisine is with accent on the Balkan region specialties - Bulgarian, Serbian, Greek and Turkish. Try the Balkan chicken or the yoghurt with jam. The summer stage is used for all kinds of events - live music performances, concerts, exhibitions, shows and presentations. Up a narrow staircase you get to the cocktail bar where on a huge lawn are arranged the tables and the bar. The music varies from jazz to funk and pop. They claim to offer the best Mojito in town. ▶ Open 09:00 - 01:00. (5-12Lv). [G] [P] [F] [T] [B]

Petnoto na Rorschach C-2, ul. Yoakim Gruev 34, tel. 0899 448 896/0899 750 109, ivannedelev@yahoo.com, www.petnoto.com. Named after the inkblots of Hermann Rorschach this place combines a restaurant for 40, night bar for 80 and live music club for 80. The restaurant is a small place with few tables inside and few outside. The cuisine is Balkan including specialties from Greece, Turkey, Serbia and Bulgaria. The night bar is bigger with a few wooden tables along the bar, several bar plots with stools and two separated tables with sofa seating. The live music club is the most interesting of the three. It has a small stage for live performances, a bar and high tables with stools. It is also

36 Yoakim Gruev St.,
across from Sadebnata palata,
near the former Apteka Maritsa
+359 899 750 109, +359 899 448 896



the live music stage

On weekend nights some of the best Bg bands perform at Petnoto. Occasionally some more specialised, DJ - led private parties are also hosted here.

The restaurant serves old Plovdivian specialties (all prepared on the spot!) and more than a hundred type of wines. Suitable for family and personal occasions.

Gay and lesbian Plovdiv

Caligula E-3, ul. Knyaz Aleksandar I Batemburg 30, tel. 62 68 67. The only gay&lesbian club in Plovdiv. You will find here a mixed crowd from all ages getting off on a mixture of MTV tunes and Bulgarian popular music. It has air-conditioning to keep you cool during all circumstances. Shows every night at 1, 3 and 5 am. The place is open as long as people are there and it is one of the last to close in Plovdiv. There are 2 halls and usually it is quite crowded. The bathrooms are not the cleanest. ▶ Open 23:00 - 08:00. ☼ ☼

one of the most visited places in Plovdiv. Young crowds gather here for the live performance of their favourite band or just to enjoy the DJ's sets of jazz, funk, pop, rock, Bulgarian popular music, R&B, dance, etc. Petnoto also gives the opportunity for each site member to propose their own set list, which will be played if it gets enough votes on the website. There are also membership cards which give you free access on weekends when there is entry fee (1Lv). During live performances the entry fee is higher. ▶ Open 08:00 - 04:00. ☼ 📱 📺

Retro Club Liqueur H-1, bul. Vasil Aprilov 15, tel. 0898 806 513, www.clubliqueur.com. A preferred place amongst the local folks with love for retro, rock, evergreen, R&B, dance and occasional live music. The place is on two floors and usually quite full on Fridays and Saturdays, so come early to get a nice table. The setting is in red and black with sofas and stools along several bar plots and many flat screen TVs. It is a small modern club with good luminous effects. There are also special alcohol promotions for each day of the week. Just ask. ▶ Open 22:00 - 04:00. Admission: 3-5Lv. On Monday and Sunday no admission fee, Thursday is ladies night. ☼ ☼

Pubs

Rozenhof D-1, ul. Hristo Danov 36, tel. 63 11 57. This unique Belgium beer-house is located in the immediate vicinity of Saedenine square. The beer is served in specially cooled glasses with all the beer serving techniques. Here you can enjoy different brands of beer with Leffe and Hoegarden being the most popular. Of course, you can try Bulgarian beer as well. The staff are very helpful in providing you with professional advice. ▶ Open 09:00 - 24:00. ☼ ☼ ☼ ☼ ☼ ☼

Guidelines to Bulgarian lifestyle, bars, clubs and discos

1. Try not to stare at women that are accompanied by their boyfriends, no matter how beautiful they are, it might be taken as an insult.
2. Try to avoid conflict if you notice Bulgarian people stare at your wife/girlfriend, or at yourself, usually they will be just curious. Don't forget some 19 years ago the majority of people didn't even meet foreigners from beyond the iron curtain, so you are still new and exciting. Bravo!
3. Don't try to act overly macho, particularly in more provincial towns or cities. Unless of course you are Mike Tyson.
4. When in a bar do not shout or insult the waiters or other staff members, it may be taken very deeply.
5. If you feel that someone is in some way being threatening or intimidating to you, it is often best to befriend them. In many cases locals feel threatened by foreigners and try to show themselves as tough but when you act as equals and friends they will often almost immediately drop this façade.
6. If however a conflict situation rises, leave immediately. Do not stay around and add on to the fire. Bulgarians are very social and family driven and under a common goal a big group of people is summoned very fast.
7. Good icebreakers are compliments on the country: The food, the football, the women, the inventions created by Bulgarians such as the Cyrillic alphabet and so on. As additional benefit you might get an interesting story or two. Make them talk, they love it.
8. Strong drinks (vodka, whisky etc.) come in quantities of 50ml for a small and 100ml for a large. In some places, unless you specifically ask for small you will be handed a large by default.
9. Rakia must only be drunk with shopska salad. Don't ask us why, it just should. If you order one without salad you may well be looked at as if you are from Mars.
10. The Bulgarian for "cheers" is nazdrav, which literally means "to your health". If someone proposes a toast (and

this could happen innumerable times during the course of the evening) you have to clink your glass with absolutely everyone, no matter how many are sitting round the table, making sure to look in the eye at the point of clinking. If you fail to make eye contact, they will think you are disrespectful (or just an uninformed foreigner). The custom comes from ancient times. In days gone by kings, khans and other important figures would look deep into the eyes of the person they cheer to guess his intentions. Then they would bang their glasses so hard, so that a drop of each drink gets into the other (mixing the drinks would guarantee they are not poisoned).

11. Be prepared to mix your own drinks. Whilst in England a "vodka and coke" means a nice mixed drink from the bar, in BG it means 1 vodka (most likely large) and 1 coke. Mix it yourself to your own perfect proportions. Cheers.

12. Bring a gas mask. Many Bulgarians are heavy smokers although this becomes less with new generations. Some bars can be closed in and stuffy places. Combine this with a crowd of 40 a day hardcore smokers and you get quite a fog.

13. Take advantage of the hospitality of the Bulgarian soul. You might be invited to dinners, parties, cocktail parties, promotions, etc. Generally Bulgarians love foreigners.

14. In bars you can not bring drugs, guns or other forbidden substances. Pretty much like most places you have been in your life.

15. Big fat silver chains that you could anchor a boat with are an absolute must. That is if you want to appear young, cool, like a gangster or simply need to anchor a boat.

16. If you are going out on a Friday night to a bar and want to blend in like a local, it is essential that you haven't shaved for at least 3 days. Dressing entirely in black is a bonus.

17. Girls, for you to catch the attention of Bulgarian men, just act natural and dress sexy.



Casinos

Casino Alfa D-2, ul. Raiko Daskalov 8. Slot machines and electronic roulette. Accumulation of Jackpot. ▶ Open 00:00 - 24:00. [P] [A] [C] [M] [W]

Casino Budha A-2, ul. Zlatyu Boyadzhiev 2, tel. 0886 496 530. Slot machines and electronic roulette. Lottery. The winner gets a 2 hour free limousine ride. ▶ Open 00:00 - 24:00. [P] [A]

Casino Eldorado A-2, ul. Zlatyu Boyadzhiev 4. Slot machines and electronic roulette. ▶ Open 00:00 - 24:00. [P] [A]

Casino Life E-3, ul. Patriarh Evtimiy 12. Slot machines. ▶ Open 00:00 - 24:00. [P] [A]

Casino Magic City J-8, bul. Iztochen 48, tel. 0899 931 271. Slot machines and electronic roulette. ▶ Open 00:00 - 24:00. [P] [A]

Casino Palas F-2, ul. Ivan Marev 3. Slot machines and electronic roulette. ▶ Open 00:00 - 24:00. [P] [A] [P]

Casino Sesame E-4, ul. Patriarh Evtimiy 13, tel. 0885 441 545. Slot machines and electronic roulette. ▶ Open 00:00 - 24:00. [P] [A]

Las Vegas Casino Club F-2, ul. Gladston 7-9, tel. 62 00 77. Good choice of slot machines and 2 electronic roulette. ▶ Open 00:00 - 24:00. [P] [A] [C]

Quick picks

	Eat	See & Do	Sleep	Drink & Dance
Trendy	Hemingway – a restaurant with style (page 24)	Discover Batchkovski manastir (Batchkovo Monastery) on page 37	Novotel Plovdiv close to the International Plovdiv Fair (page 15)	Petnoto na Rorschach – cool live music club in town (page 27)
Cheap	Posleden grosh (last penny) – fast food (page 22)	Sightseeing in The Old Town (page 33-36)	Plovdiv Guest - bed and breakfast for €9 in The Old Town (page 18)	Retro Club Liqueur – live music and affordable prices (page 28)
Crowd	Dayana I – Bulgarian restaurant (page 20)	The International Plovdiv Fair (page 45)	Dedeman Trimontsium Hotel (page 15)	Marmalad – the crowds are here (page 26)
Luxurious	Petar I (Pyotr the First) – a Russian style restaurant (page 24) Amsterdam – gourmet cuisine (page 22)	The Casino with live roulette in Dedeman Trimontsium Hotel (page 15)	Hotel Maritsa – a special place (page 15)	Casa de Cuba – Latino music Cuban cigars, Mojitos and Cuba Libre (page 26)



Old Town, Old Town, Old Town get yourself to the Old Town of Plovdiv. Cast your eyes away from the post-war socialist mischief's in the suburbs, unless this is your kick. Get yourself to the Old Town and get in touch with the true colourful spirit of Bulgaria. For those who haven't had enough we included some unmissable day trips. So where do you go?

Churches

Catholic Cathedral St Ludwig E-4, bul. Maria Luiza 3, tel. 62 84 30. It is located in the central city area, diagonally opposite the Orthodox Church of St. Petka. The church was built by the famous master from Bratsigovo Ivan Boyanov. In this biggest Catholic Cathedral in the city of Plovdiv Marie-Louise Burbonska Knyaginya Bulgarian, wife of Prince Ferdinand was buried in 1899.

The Orthodox Church of St Petka E-4, pl. Sveta Petka, tel. 63 32 64.

Mosque

Dzhumaya mosque D-2, pl. Dzumayata. Dzhumaya mosque is the main Muslim temple in Plovdiv. During the conquest of the town in 1371 by the Ottomans the Church St. Petka Tarnovska was placed here. Sultan Murad II (1421 - 1451) destroyed the old building and built today's mosque, called Dzhumaya Ulu Mosque - a major Friday mosque. The people called it Muradie in honor of the ruler. Dzhumaya mosque is one of the oldest Ottoman religious buildings in the Balkans, and among the biggest in Bulgaria. A remarkable solar clock, a donation from a Russian officer, is placed on the south-western corner of the building. See how the land lies and go ahead to the other Plovdiv attractions!



Museums

Archaeological Museum (Arheologicheski Muzei)

C-2, pl. Saedinenie 1, tel. 63 31 06/62 43 39, www.archaeologicalmuseumplodiv.bg. The museum was built in 1882 as National Museum of Eastern Rumelia. Its legalizing is done by decree of Tsar Boris III from 1921. In 1928 the museum is placed in the building of pl. Saedinenie, built during the 80-s of the 19th century by the eminent Plovdiv architect Joseph Shniter. The museum is the biggest treasure of archaeological riches of ancient Thrace. The three sections - "Prehistory", "Antiquity" and "Middle Ages", contain valuable finds from the Palaeolithic to the early Ottoman period in Bulgarian history (15th-16th century). Unfortunately the Museum is temporarily closed for visitors because of reconstruction work. ▶ Open 10:00 - 17:30. Closed Mon.

Museum of Aviation (Muzei na Aviatsiata) K-8, near Plovdiv Airport, Mavrudovo railway station, tel. 60 11 12, fax 60 11 24, http://www.abvg.net/Aircraft_Museum/index.html.

This unique museum is located 15 km south of Plovdiv, near the airport and presents the history of Bulgarian Aeronautics & Aviation. There is a big out-door exposition which includes aviation-powered aeroplanes and gliders, zenith and radio-locating stations. ▶ Open 09:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Natural Science Museum D-1, ul. Hristo Danov 34, tel. 62 66 83.

The museum was opened to the public in 1955. The building is the old building of Plovdiv municipality, built in 1880 by the well-known architect Yosif Shniter. The museum is one of the most significant in Bulgaria, with large collections in Palaeontology, Mineralogy, and Botany. Space is also devoted to the animal world and in the basement is the largest freshwater aquarium in Bulgaria with 40 kinds of decorative fishes and a few amphibians. Especially valuable is the museum's collection of Rhodope minerals. ▶ Open 08:30 - 17:00.

The Museum of History Exposition "Union of Bulgaria 1885" C-2, pl. Saedinenie 1, tel. 62 94 09, hm_plovdiv@mail.bg, www.historymuseumplodiv.com.

Organized for the first time in 1985, along with the construction of the Unification Memorial, this museum is dedicated to the Unification of East Roumelia with the Bulgarian Principality (September 6th, 1885). The Historical Museum is placed in the beautiful old building constructed by the Czech engineer Brada - a house that once hosted the meetings of the East Roumelia's governorship. After the Unification, this building housed the Plovdiv National Library. The exposition features the short but remarkable period of 8 years when Plovdiv used to be the capital of East Roumelia. Many pictures, personal belongings, documents and decorations of the fighters for the Union and the participants in the Serbian-Bulgarian war are shown here. Admission: 2Lv, lecture 6Lv. ▶ Open 09:30 - 12:30, 13:00-18:00, Sat 9:30 - 17:00. Closed Sun.



Other sights

Ancient Philippopolis's Forum E-3.

The Forum (agora) of ancient Philippopolis is situated at the southern foothills of the Three Hills and is a remarkable architectural complex. It consists of a vast square space (area) with dimensions approximately 100 by 112 meters, covered with well-polished marble plates and surrounded by an arcade with Corinthian pilasters. The columns are set at regular intervals of six meters and support a broad awning that covers a traffic alley (ambulation), next to which trade premises were arranged. Thus, the whole space closes into a square by a single imposing construction. It is the most impressive discovered in ancient Thrace.



Chifte Banya This is an ancient bath - from the time of the Roman Empire which was later rebuilt by the Turks. It is called "Chifte" (Couple) because it comprises of 2 departments for men and for women. It was declared a monument of culture and was recently restored. Nowadays it is used as an international center for contemporary art. The Communication Front Festival in Plovdiv takes place here every year.

River Maritsa River Maritsa separates Plovdiv into two parts. It takes its source from the Marichinite lakes of Rila and flows into the Aegean Sea. It is 525km long 322 of which are on Bulgarian territory. The ancient name of Maritsa was Hebros. In the past the river was navigable, but after the clearing of the forests during the Ottoman occupation the reservoir lowered. Maritsa has about 100 tributaries. It flows along the cities of Stara Zagora, Svilengrad, Belovo and others. The basin of Maritsa has great importance for the preservation of the biological diversity of the unique vegetation and animal species of Southern Bulgaria.

The Roman stadium D-2. Under the shopping center in Plovdiv can be found the magnificent Roman stadium. Its rostrums were built over the Sahat tepe and Taksim tepe (hills). The stadium has the form of horseshoe and is 180 meters long and there are 30 000 seats. Some archeologists think that here were held games from the Septimius Severus time (193-211). The most important competitions were the Alexandrian games, which were just like the Greek Olympic games. Main sports were the discuss, the javelin, running and wrestling. The games were organized every 4 years and continued for a few days.

Parks & Gardens

The city garden (Gradskata Gradina) F-2. This beautiful park, also known as the garden of Tsar Simeon, is a great place to escape from the heat. It's located just off the Central Square and offers a lot of benches for rest. Inside the park you will find beautiful trees, plants, alleys, different sculptures, monuments and drinking fountains. There is an artificial lake with a fountain and a children's playground. In the afternoon you will find the local oldies gathered for a game of chess or cards, in big groups, surrounding the players. Beware of mosquitoes.



Statues

Monument of Philip II Makedonski F-2. Located in the centre, right next to Dzhumaya mosque this monument was erected in 2004 after great dispute between historians for the authenticity of facts. The statue is work by Kiril Naidenov and represents Philip II Makedonski (382 BC - 336 BC, in Greek Φίλιππος, Filipos) founder of Philippopolis and father of Alexander the Great. It is believed that Philip II of Macedon conquered the Thracian City Evmolpia and gave the name Philippopolis to the present city of Plovdiv.



The Spiral Statue F-3. Located in the centre, close to Trimontsium Hotel and Central Post Office. The statue was unveiled on 31.12. 2006. It was built to commemorate the membership of Bulgaria in the Europe Alliance. The statue is a synthesis of metal, water and light unified in spatial composition.



The Unification monument C-2. At the centre of the Unification Square this monument was erected to the remembrance of the 100th anniversary of the unification of the Principality of Bulgaria and the autonomous region of Eastern Rumelia on the 6th of September 1885. The monument presents the Mother-Country with the laurel headdress of victory stretched in her hands. Her two wings symbolize the two regions brought together. The statue is a creation of Velichko Minekov. Seen from a distance but even more impressive if you take yourself up to Bunardzik Hill. Commemorating the liberation of Bulgaria by the Russian army from the Nazis Alyosha looks out over Plovdiv as if he is protecting the city for years to come. The monument dates from the mid fifties of the last century and is a combined work of Radoslavov, Zankov, Kozhev and Topalov. Go up the hill via the street or more exciting via one of the multiple paths and overlook Plovdiv together with Alyosha.





[28] **Ancient Plovdiv Municipal Institute** D-3, ul. Konstantin Stoilov 50, tel. 63 33 80, stargrad@oldplovdiv.com, www.oldplovdiv.com.

[46] **Andrey Georgiadi House** D-3, ul. Mitropolit Paisiy 6.

[25] **Armenian church St Kevork (Armenska tsurkva Sveti Kevork)** C-3, ul. Turist 2, tel. 63 28 04.

[35] **Artin Gidikov House** C-3, ul. Chetvarti yanuari 15.

[27] **Balabanov House Museum (Balabanova kashta)** C-3, ul. Konstantin Stoilov 57, tel. 62 70 82. The Balabanov House is situated in the Old Town and was built in the early 19th century as ordered by its then owner, Hadzhi Panayot Lampsha, but it still bears the name of its later owner - Luka Balabanov. Having been completely destroyed, it was reconstructed in 1980 in accordance to the architectural copies made by the late Plovdiv architect Christo Peyev. The Balabanov house is a Revival symmetrical building and was built similar to the houses of the rich on the Bosphorus coast, in the vicinity of Istanbul. It is furnished with copies of original 19th furniture. Today the Plovdiv Municipality uses this magnificent house as a Reception Hall and it is a centre of various cultural activities. Admission: 5Lv, lecture 30Lv (for a full tour around the Old Town). ► Open 09:00 - 17:00.



[29] **Birdas House** D-3, ul. Saborna 45, tel. 62 02 34.

[21] **City Art Gallery Plovdiv** D-3, ul. Saborna 14A, tel. 63 53 22, ghgplart@mail.techno-link.com, www.art.domino.bg. The continuous exhibition of the City Art Gallery Plovdiv is housed in the building of the Plovdiv High School for girls. More than 300 paintings, drawings and sculptures show the development of Bulgarian art from the Bulgarian National Revival till the present day. You can see here paintings of Stanislav Dospevski, Nikolay Pavlovich, Georgi Danchev, Anton Mitov, Hristo Stanchov and Ivan Markovichka. The Gallery was founded in 1952. ► Open 09:00 - 17:30, Sat 10:00 - 17:30.

[16] **Dr. St. Chomakov House** D-3, ul. Saborna 18, tel. 26 07 07. The remarkable Revival house of Dr. Stoyan Chomakov is located on ul. Saborna 18. The house was built in 1860 in the classic European style with symmetrical façade. Dr. Stoyan Chomakov is one of the first certified physicians in Plovdiv prior to the liberation of Bulgaria. He is famous for his struggle for independent Bulgarian church during the Renaissance period. After the liberation the house was consigned a residency of Tsar Ferdinand. After the 1950s the house was used as a branch to the national library "Ivan Vazov". In 1980 here was settled the permanent exhibition of Zlatyu Boyadzhiev, a famous Bulgarian painter (1903-1976).

[12] **Ethnographic Museum (Etnografski Muzei)** C-3, ul. Dr. Stoyan Chomakov 2, tel. 62 56 54/62 52 57. Among the most frequently visited sites and impressive museums of Plovdiv we mention the Ethnographic Museum. It is situated in a historic revival house known as the Kuyumdzhiev House. The house was granted the status of a National Monument of Culture. The "Royal House" as it was called, has 12 big rooms and about 130 windows. The most striking feature of the museum is the wooden ceiling carvings; a different motif is displayed in each room. On the second floor, one sees an ornate rosette spanning the entire width of the room. Public concerts of chamber music are presented in the beautiful courtyard throughout the summer months. ► Open 09:00 - 12:00, 14:00-17:00. Closed Mon, Fri.



[24] **Fortress walls of Philippopol**

[22] **Georgi Kianti House** D-3, ul. Knyaz Tseretelev 16.

[20] **Georgi Nikolaidi House** B-3, ul. 4 (Chetvarti) yanuari 3. Club-restaurant Janet is housed here. Read more in our Restaurants section.

[38] **Hadzhi Alekova House** D-3, ul. Saborna 29. The antique shop of Hadzhi Alekovata kushta is housed here.

[3] **Hadzhi Dragan Kaloferetsa House** D-4, ul. Petko R. Slaveykov 32, tel. 62 42 01.

[34] **Hindlian House Museum** C-3, ul. Artin Gidikov 4, tel. 62 89 98. The house of Stepan Hindliyan (rich Armenian trader) is located in the western part of the Old Town and is one of the most interesting monuments. It was built during the period 1834-1840 and impresses with its artistic

decoration and original frescoes from Chirpan's masters Moka and Mavrud. Here you can see beautiful landscapes of Alexandria, Constantinople and Venice. The house was restored in 1974 and is equipped with furniture from the Bulgarian Revival period. Permanently open to visitors. Over the weekend the entrance is via the Balabanovata house. Admission: 5Lv, lecture 30Lv (for a full tour around the Old Town). ► Open 09:00 - 17:00.

[13] **Hissar Kapia D-3, ul. Tsanko Lavrenov.** One of the unique architectural and historical ensemble, and the symbol of Plovdiv. The name of this place came from Turkish and means "The Gate of the Fortress". Actually the gate exists on this place from deep antiquity. Below the level of the street pavement (kaldaram) are located the old foundations, dating back from Roman times, probably from the 2nd century and a remake from 12th-14th centuries. During the Renaissance and the early 20th century the gate was reconstructed and was saved from collapse. On the north of the fortress entrance the foundations of the old fortress wall, also converted in height during 12th-14th centuries, could be seen. This construction is used for a base for major revival house of Kuyumdzhiglu which bend over Hissar Kapiya. On the south the fortress wall absorbed in bosom of the yard of St. St. Konstantin and Elena Church. From outside of the eastern port small picturesque square is shaped, surrounded by church walls, the facade of Kuyumdzhieva's house and the main facade of the home of Dimitar Georgiadi.



[1] **Holy Sunday Church (Tsarkva Sveta Nedelya) D-4, ul. Petko R. Slaveykov 40.**

[39] **Holy Virgin Church (Tsarkva Sveta Bogoroditsa) D-3, ul. Saborna 6, tel. 62 32 65.** Cathedral "Holy Virgin" in Plovdiv is on the place where in the early 9th century a medieval cathedral dedicated to Holy Virgin's death was placed. The building was dedicated as the Cathedral in 1189 during the Bishop Konstantin Pantehi. Later the cathedral and the adjoining monastery were destroyed by the Ottoman Turks in 1371. In 1859 the first public worship in

Bulgarian language was made. This was a great achievement in the fight for an independent church. On March 12, 1860 Metropolitan Paisii celebrated the first mass in Bulgarian in the presence of forty Bulgarian priests from the main towns of Plovdiv Diocese and thus note the official renunciation of power to the Constantinople Patriarchate. After the creation of the Bulgarian Exarchate in 1872 Plovdiv welcomes its first Bulgarian bishop - Panaret, again in this temple. After the liberation of Bulgaria in 1881 architect Joseph Shniter added to the building three storied tower with dome. It reads: "Въ память освободителямъ" (In memory of the liberators), with which label the Plovdiv population dedicate it on of the Russian forces, liberated the town of January 4, 1878.

[14] **Hram St St Konstantin and Elena D-3, ul. Saborna 24, tel. 62 45 73.** Built in the 4th century right on top of the ruins of the antique fortress in the Old Town this is the oldest Christian temple in Plovdiv. First it was devoted to St. St. Severian and Memnos who were beheaded here in 304 because of their Christian faith together with 36 Plovdiv martyrs. In 313 the temple was renamed to St. St. Constantine and Elena. In 1830 the walls of the temple were in ruins and it had to be torn down and completely rebuilt with the donation of 200 grosha by Todor Moravenov. The newly built church was one of the biggest for its time - 26m long, 18m wide and 8m high. Unique for Plovdiv is also the iconostas and fretwork in the Baroque style made by Joan Pashkula in Vienna. Zahari Zograf (famous Bulgarian artist who lived and worked in Plovdiv during 1836-1840) made the entire first row of the altar icons. Here is found also the small icon of St. Constantine and Elena which is believed to be miraculous and healing. ► Open 08:30 - 19:00. ☺



[31] **Church of St Dimitar (Tsarkva Sveti Dimitur) D-3, ul. Todor Samodumov 1.**

[47] **Church of St Marina (Tsarkva Sveta Marina) E-3, ul. Dr. Georgi Valkovich 7.**

[45] **Church of St Nikola (Tsarkva Sveti Nikola) D-3, ul. Mitropolit Paisii 4.**

[6] **Church of St Petka (Tsarkva Sveta Petka) D-3, ul. Zora.**

[42] **Church of St St Kiril and Metodiy B-3, ul. Chetvarti yanuari 27.**

[11] **Kasandra Bayatova House C-3, ul. D-r Stoyan Chomakov 20.**

[32] **Kashta na Ritara D-3, ul. Todor Samodumov 8.**

[43] **Konstantin Stoilov House D-3, ul. Saborna 21.**

[18] **Lamartine House Museum D-3, ul. Knyaz Tseretelev 19, tel. 63 17 76.** The house of Georgi Mavridi (today's Lamartine House-Museum) is situated at ul. Knyaz Tseretelev 19 and is one of the largest and most beautiful houses in the Old Town. The house was built in 1829 at the corner of three streets. While passing through Bulgaria in 1838, the great French poet Alphonse de Lamartine spent only three days in the house of Georgi Mavridi but that was quite enough for the house to be called more often after Lamartine's name rather than its real owner's. Today the house-museum hosts an exposition of photo albums, a sculpture of the poet, and the map with Lamartine's route through Bulgaria. Admission: 5Lv, lecture 30Lv (for a full tour around the Old Town). ▶ Open 9:00 - 17:00. Closed Sat, Sun.



[5] **Marazliyata C-4, ul. Petko R. Slaveykov 1.**

[23] **Nebet tepe archaeological complex C-3.**

[7] **Nedkovich House Museum (Kashta na Nikola Nedkovich) D-3, ul. Tsanko Lavrenov 3, tel. 62 62 16.** This revival home was built in 1863 entirely in the spirit of European classicism, and was owned by a famous trader Nikola Nedkovich. The house was partially restored in 1969 and saved many original frescoes. Today the house of Nikola Nedkovich is turned into a museum exposition representing the internal regulation of the rich homes of Plovdiv from 19th century. Furniture which belonged to the family is presented here. Admission: 5Lv, lecture 30Lv (for a full tour around the Old Town). ▶ Open 09:30 - 12:00, 12:30-18:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

[26] **Ovanes Stepanyan House C-3, ul. Konstantin Stoilov 56G, tel. 63 43 34.**

[2] **Pavlit House (Kashta na Pavliti) D-4, ul. Arh. Hristo Peev 6.**

[19] **Ralu Altan Elmaz House D-3, ul. Knyaz Tseretelev 23.**

[36] **Revival House (Vazrozhdenska kashta) C-3, ul. Artin Gidikov 11, tel. 62 87 45.** The permanent exposition of Mexican art and Tsanko Lavrenov is housed here.

[4] **Revival House (Vazrozhdenska kashta) C-4, ul. Petko R. Slaveykov 5, tel. 63 32 11.**

[9] **Revival House (Vazrozhdenska kashta) ul. Kiril Nektariev 17, tel. 26 95 95.** Alafangite restaurant is housed here. Read more in our Restaurants section.

[30] **Revival House (Vazrozhdenska kashta) ul. Stoyan Cholakov 1, tel. 26 50 30.** Vazrazhdane community centre with a picture gallery is housed here.

[17] **Revival House (Vazrozhdenska kashta) ul. Knyaz Tseretelev 3, tel. 63 17 20/62 45 10.** Pudin restaurant is housed here. Read more in our Restaurants section.

[41] **Starinna Banya C-2, bul. Shesti (6) Septemvri 179.**

[37] **Stepan Mesrobovich House C-3, ul. Artin Gidikov 9.**

[40] **The Ancient Theatre "Trimontsium" (Antichen teatar) D-3.** This is one of the best preserved antique theatres in the world. This impressive Roman building is located in the Old Town of Plovdiv in the saddle between the Taksim Tepe (Hill) and Dzhambaz Tepe (Hill). It was built by emperor Trajan (2nd century). In the 4th century, a big part of the building was destroyed as a result of fire or earthquake. It took more than ten years for the archaeologists to remove the 15m thick layer of earth covering the theatre and even more to restore it. The spectators' seats with capacity of 5 to 7 000 people are amphitheatrically shaped, divided by stairs, into two rings of 14 rows, made of marble. The names of the respective city quarters were chiselled on the benches in each sector. The two tiers are divided by a wide horizontal path. At the stage there is a two-storey building holding exquisite statues and inscriptions. The quality materials and the exceptional artwork of the theatre show the importance of that structure. Nowadays the Antique Theatre (Antichen teatar, as it is referred to) is adapted to the contemporary cultural life of Plovdiv and accommodates about 5000 spectators.

[15] **The Icon collection D-3, ul. Saborna 22, next to St. St. Konstantin and Elena Church, tel. 62 60 86.** The Icon collection of the City Art Gallery was established in 1975 and is placed in a separate building in the yard of the oldest Plovdiv Orthodox Church - the Church of St. St. Konstantin and Elena. The collection includes icons of the 15th till the end of the 19th century, mainly from South Bulgaria. Here you can see the works of prominent Renaissance icon as Zahari Tsanyov of Troyan, Hristo Dimitrov and his sons and Dimitry Zahari Zograf from Samokov, Nikola Odrinchanin and other representatives of the Tryavna's, Samokovsk's and Odrinsk's schools.

[44] **The Museum of History Exposition "Book Publishing" The Old Town, ul. Mitropolit Paisly 2, tel. 62 94 05, hm_plovdiv@mail.bg, www.historymuseum-plovdiv.com.** The house of Hristo G. Danov, Bulgaria's first large-scale publisher, now contains The Museum of Bulgarian Printing. The place is situated very close to the "Virgin Mary" cathedral church in the Old Town. It once belonged to Hristo G. Danov - the founder of book-publishing in Bulgaria, called by his contemporaries "the Bulgarian Gutenberg". It was built in the middle of the 19th century. The stone foundations of the house are built on solid rock, and it allows a unique view to the town. The Russian knyaz (king) Alexey Nikolaevich Tseretelev lived in this house for some time. Today this beautiful house hosts a special exposition dedicated to the Bulgarian book-publishing. Admission: 2Lv, lecture 6Lv. ▶ Open: 09:30-12:30, 13:00-18:00. Saturday 9:30-17:00. Closed Sunday.

[8] **The Museum of History Exposition "Bulgarian National Revival" D-3, ul. Tsanko Lavrenov 1A, tel. 62**

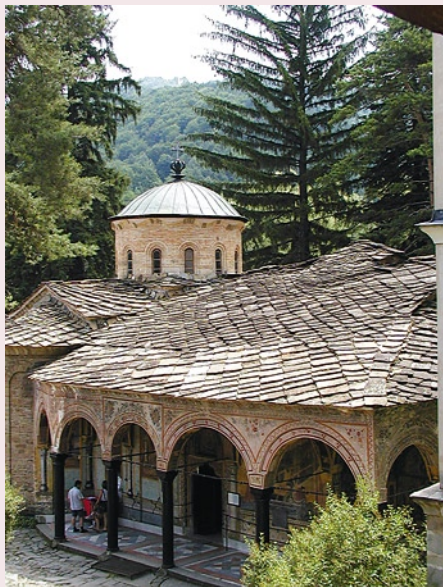
33 78/62 33 79, hm_plovdiv@mail.bg, www.historymuseum-plovdiv.com. Located at the entrance of the Old Town in the House Museum Dimitar Georgiadi (built 1846-1848), right next to the Hissar Kapya Gate, you will find this house containing treasures from the Bulgarian National Revival Period. It was once owned by the Plovdiv merchant Dimitar Georgiadi. It was ordered as a dowry present to his wife by her father, the eminent fabrics trader Georgi Kendindenoglu. The building was erected for Georgiadi in 1846-48, by the famous master Hadzhi Georgi of Constantinople, who built

many houses in the Old Town, among which the neighbouring house of Koyumdzhioğlu (today's Ethnographic Museum). Admission: 2Lv, lecture 6Lv. ► Open 09:30 - 12:30, 13:00-18:00, Sat 9:30 - 17:00. Closed Sun.

[33] **The Yellow School (Zhaltoto uchilishte) D-3, ul. Todor Samodumov 2.**

[10] **Veren Stambolyan House D-4, ul. Kiril Nektariev 15.**

Out of town



Bachkovo Monastery is located 29km south of Plovdiv at the foot of the Rhodope Mountains and blends wonderfully with the surroundings. It is the second largest monastery in Bulgaria after Rila and is one of the oldest and richest. It was built in the 11th century by Prince Gregorios Pakourianos, a prominent Georgian statesman and military commander in Byzantine service in 1083. The monastery was almost completely destroyed by the Turks in the 14th century and rebuilt a century later. The charnel house and the church "Saint Archangels" dating back to the XII century are amongst the parts that survived from the original structure. The cathedral church of the Virgin Mary dating back to 1604 is where the most valuable icon of the Virgin Mary Eleusa (dated 1310) is kept. It is believed that the icon is miraculous and heals the sick. The museum of the Monastery has a rich exhibition of church plates, icons, books, wood carved cross with miniatures and the sword of Friedrich Barbarossa, the Crusader, the Sultan's fireman from 1452. Bachkovo Monastery is a UNESCO site. Bachkovo is a short bus ride (1/2 hour) from Plovdiv. The bus travels through beautiful flat land and villages. The monastery is surrounded by places to eat and souvenir pavilions. If you have time walk some of the lovely paths and trails in the hills around the monastery. The entry is free. Unfortunately the bathroom is dirty and they charge for it.

Perushtitsa

On a mere 26 kilometers from Plovdiv you will find the historical town Perushtitsa. Various historical documents say that the name Perushtitsa is derived from Perun, worshipped by the Slav people as the god of thunder and lightning. The town and area contain many archaeological sites of both Thracian and Roman times. About 2 kilometers south of Perushtitsa the ruins of the Red Church are found, dating back to the 5th or 6th century. Perushtitsa played a major role in the April Uprising of 1876 against the Turkish Ottoman yoke in Bulgaria, where thousands freedom fighters found their death. The historical and cultural heritage of Perushtitsa is well preserved by the Church of St Archangel Michael and the town museum.

Perushtitsa is one of the few places in Bulgaria where the native Mavrud grapes are grown for the typical Bulgarian (Rhodopean) Mavrud wine. You will recognize the true Mavrud by its typical ruby colour, its clear, rich and enduring taste. Ask any locals for their choice and you'll be sure to take home the Tsar amongst wines. Warning! One bottle will not do if opened in the presence of friends and or family. Tip! Write down the address and phone number of the place you bought it from so you can order more.

Hisarya

Hisarya is a small town, north of Plovdiv, located in the outskirts of the Sredna Gora mountain range, it boasts of a very mild climate and over two dozen different mineral springs, which make it a favourite spa for many Bulgarian and foreign tourists. The mineral water springs gave reason for the foundation of Hisarya over thousands of years back. Many Roman ruins are still visible everywhere - public buildings, a small amphitheatre, the barracks of the Roman garrison, the foundations of a couple of the oldest churches in Bulgaria, as well as the best preserved Roman fortress in Bulgaria. The southern gate is known as "The Camels", because it used to be broken in the middle and looking like two camels facing each other, before it was partially restored in the late 20th century. After the fall of the Roman Empire, the prosperous city declined. During the Turkish rule further decline set in. At some point the once prosperous town consisted of just a couple of small houses in the midst of many Roman ruins, used by peasants from the nearby villages for a stone quarry, destroying many remains in the process. After the liberation of Bulgaria Hisarya started to prosper again from the mineral springs and became a favourite recreation spot. After 1945, the summer houses of the rich were nationalised and became spas for the public. The Communist leaders founded here one of their most favourite retreats. After 1992 a new decline of the town started due to the restitution of many of the properties of the pre-war rich to their heirs, who had no money to repair the buildings.

Plovdiv is best experienced on foot. Most of the sightseeing is either in the Old Town (forbidden for cars) or in the central square and the main pedestrian street.

Public transport

Plovdiv's network of buses and trolley buses is easy to use - though most visitors get around most sights by walking. Public transport starts running around 05:45 and closes down at 23:00. Tickets (bileti) can be purchased only from the ticket-collectors for 0.80LV. Passes valid for one month, and for one line (karta za edin mesets I za edna linia-30LV), or for one month, for all lines (za edin mesec za vsichki linii-48LV).

Public transport companies: Gradski transport Plovdiv ul. D.Stambolov 2, tel. 96 01 72, **Avtotrans Cholakov Plovdiv** bul. Iztochen 48, tel. 62 72 41, **Gratsia** 0312 73 10, **Meritans Plovdiv** ul. Balkan 20, tel. 26 29 97, **Hebrus bus Plovdiv** bul. Makedonia 1, tel. 63 36 00

Minibus

There are not many minibuses in Plovdiv but they are of great importance for the transport within the city. They are called Marshrutki (minibuses) for the reason of their resemblance of their smaller brothers the taxi's that tour the city and pick and drop passengers on request. The routes are usually from the outer quarters to the centre. The charge is 0.80LV.

Line 1 - кв. "Хр.Смирненски" - ж.к. "Тракия"

Kv. Hristo Smirnenki - Jk Triakia (Trakia neighbourhood - Smirnenki neighbourhood).

Line 2 - кв. "Прослав" - ж.к. "Скобелева майка"

Kv. Preslav - Jk Skobeleva maika (Preslav neighbourhood - Skobeleva maika neighbourhood).

Line 3 - "4-ти километър" - ж.к. "Тракия"

Chetvarti kilometer - Jk Trakia (4th km - Trakia neighbourhood).

Line 4 - Гара Филипово - ж.к. "Христо иотев"

Gara Filipovo - Jk Hristo Botev (Train station Philipovo - Hristo Botev neighbourhood).

Line 5 - с. Труд - ж.к. "Тракия"

Selo Trud - Jk Trakia (Village Trud - Trakia neighbourhood).

Line 6 - с. Войводиново - ж.к. "Христо Ботев"

Selo Voyvodino - Jk Hristo Botev (Village Voyvodino - Hristo Botev neighbourhood).

Line 8 - ж.к. "Ю.Гагарин" - Транспортна болница

Jk Yuri Gagarin - Transportna Bolnitsa (Yuri Gagarin neighbourhood - Transport hospital).

Line 10 - "4-ти километър" - кв. Коматево

Chetvarti kilometer - kv. Komatevo (4th km - Komatevo neighbourhood).

Line 16 - кв. "Прослав" - ж.к. "Тракия"

Kv. Proslav - Jk Trakia (neighbourhood Proslav - Trakia neighbourhood).

Line 19 - Гара Филипово - ж.к. "Тракия"

Gara Filipovo - Jk Trakia (train station Filipovo - Trakia neighbourhood).

Trains

Plovdiv's Central Station (Tsentralana gara) H-2, bul. Hristo Botev, tel. 63 27 20 (information in Bulgarian only) English-language timetable information on www.bdz.ng. The station is just ten minutes' walk south-west of the centre. It is well organized but mind that the platforms aren't numbered and the staff don't speak much English. Recent arrivals and departures are listed on computer screens at the station's entrance and in the underpass leading to the platforms. There is a luggage office (garderob), just inside the station left of the information desk. It is open 24 hours and the fee is 2LV per item for 24 hours. Connections to Sofia, Burgas, Varna and Asenovgrad are frequent.

Domestic train schedule

From Plovdiv Dep.	Arr.	Destination	To Plovdiv Dep.	Arr.
06:50	12:33	BURGAS	06:50	12:09
08:58	13:12	BURGAS	10:40	15:39
13:20	18:25	BURGAS	14:20	20:36
16:20	21:05	BURGAS	15:00	21:07
16:35	22:19	BURGAS	15:40	20:01
01:10	06:05	BURGAS	21:55	02:31
01:55	07:04	BURGAS	22:30	03:24
05:37	14:25	RUSE	06:20	15:39
08:58	17:10	RUSE	15:15	01:02
22:55	07:10	RUSE	21:55	05:35
18:00	05:30	RUSE	23:30	08:35
06:50	13:58	VARNA	09:15	15:39
08:58	17:55	VARNA	15:10	21:07
13:20	19:50	VARNA	17:55	02:31
22:55	05:25	VARNA	23:04	05:35
05:37	14:17	PLEVEN	06:17	13:14
08:27	16:26	PLEVEN	09:49	16:39
08:58	15:45	PLEVEN	12:28	18:55
13:00	20:16	PLEVEN	15:48	21:37
14:15	21:30	PLEVEN	18:46	01:02
18:00	00:14	PLEVEN	22:36	05:35
22:55	06:15	PLEVEN	02:58	08:53

Bus schedule – Bus station Yug

Burgas (4-5hr), 06:00, 06:45, 07:30, 15:30, 23:00, 01:00

Sofia (2hr), 06:00, 06:30, 07:30, 08:30, 09:00, 09:30, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30

Slunchev Bryag (5-6hr), 06:45, 15:30

Stara Zagora (1-2hr), 07:30, 08:00, 09:00, 09:30, 14:00

Varna (6-7hr), 06:45, 13:25

Velingrad (1-2hr), 12:30, 13:40, 15:00

For further information call tel. 63 29 02

Buses

Central Bus Station Yug H-2, bul. Hristo Botev 47, tel. 62 69 37, www.hebrosbus.com, www.avtogari.info. The Central Bus Station in Plovdiv is not particularly large. It stands at about 2 km from the town centre (15 minute walk) and close to the train station. On the ground floor are the main passengers' hall, ticket offices and luggage lockers (1LV per 24 hours). A wide staircase leads to the second floor, where a cafeteria-restaurant is located. Several companies offer tickets for destinations within Bulgaria and abroad. There are plenty of shops, cafés and restaurants outside. Be careful not to enter the station with ice cream, pets or a lightened-cigarette these items are not appreciated inside. Open 05:30-21:00

Rodopi H-2, bul. Makedonia 1, tel. 65 78 28, www.hebrosbus.com, www.avtogari.info. Just south of the railway (next to Billa supermarket), through the underpass by the train station. Daily buses serve Haskovo and Karlovo and hourly buses (between 06:00 and 19:00) go to Smolyan (2.5hrs), via Bachkovo (1hr), Chepelare and Pamporovo. ▶ Open 08:00 - 17:00.



Sever I-7, ul. Dimitar Stambolov 2, tel. 95 30 11, www.hebrosbus.com. North of the Maritsa River. Buses to Pleven, Ruse, Troyan and Koprivshtitsa. ▶ Open 08:00 - 17:00.

Union-Ivkoni C-1, ul. Vesela 61, tel. 62 83 65. Train station underpass. Buses to international destinations including Paris, Rome, Vienna and Amsterdam. ▶ Open 08:00 - 18:00.

Airport

Plovdiv International Airport (Letishte Plovdiv) K-8, tel. 60 11 27, 63 30 81, info@plovdivairport.com, www.plovdivairport.com. It is often referred to as Plovdiv Krumovo Airport and is located 12km southeast of the city centre on the main highway Plovdiv-Asenovgrad. It has one terminal, only one café and Wi-Fi. There are no souvenir-buying facilities, so don't rely on last minute shopping. To get to the airport from the city centre, a properly metered taxi shouldn't cost more than about 20-30Lv (€10-15).

Taxis

Plovdiv's taxis are safe, clean and generally reliable. Officially the charges range from 0.65Lv and 0.75Lv per kilometre. The starting rate is 0.90Lv. All taxis are yellow coloured and have a sticker on the windscreen with the phone number, company name and rates in BGN. You can catch the taxi in front of the big hotels in the city, the train station, bus stations, from the big intersections. The better way is to order it by phone.

Car rental

Key di transkar E-4, bul. Maria Luiza 63, tel. 62 62 02/0899 931 290. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00, Sat 09:00 - 17:00. Closed Sun.

Rent a car J-7, ul. Ivan Andonov 24, tel. 68 93 76/0888 618 066, www.papurent.hit.bg. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00.

S & Z rent a car F-3, bul. Tsar Boris III Obedinitel 26, tel. 96 74 10/0898 443 390, fax 94 64 22, www.szgroup.com.

Tourist service - rent a car F-3, close to Hotel Trimontslum bul. Tsar Boris III Obedinitel, tel. 62 34 96, fax 63 34 99, www.tsrentacar.com.

Travel agencies

Alma Tour D-1, ul. Hristo Danov 26, tel. 62 70 27/62 43 00, fax 63 35 09, www.almatour.net.

Ani E-4, bul. Maria Luiza 52, tel. 62 78 76/26 06 97, www.anh.gr. Daily buses to and from Athens. Offices in Plovdiv, Sofia, Stara Zagora and Varna.

ArkanTours J-6, ul. Lerin 7 A, tel. 64 02 05/0886 908 912, arkantoursbg@gmail.com, www.arkantours.com. Equestrian, adventure and cultural tourism.

Astral Holidays D-2, ul. Otets Paisiy 24, tel. 62 66 08, fax 62 66 09, www.astralholidays.bg.

Odans Travel D-1, ul. Kiril i Metodii 5, tel. 62 91 59, fax 62 91 50, plovdiv@odans-travel.com, www.odans-travel.com. International bus, railway and airline tickets. Trips and Holidays. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00, Sat 10:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

Taxi companies

VIP Taxi tel. 61 03, 0887 6103 03, 0899 92 6103, 0878 22 6103, 08001 6103

Gusto Taxi tel. 99 99

Evropa Taxi tel. 61 55, 0878 66 61 55, 0889 55 61 55, 0898 82 61 55, 08001 6661

Elma Taxi tel. 66 65

Inter Taxi tel. 91 99

Korona tel. 61 62, 61 82

Mega Trans tel. 66 62

Taxi 1 tel. 61 42

Along Saborna street in the Old Town you will find lots of souvenirs to take home. Popular are prints of paintings of the Old Plovdiv. Traditional music can be bought in the State Gallery of Fine Arts for about 10Lv per CD. For them real tasty tomatoes you got excited about in the restaurant find yourself an outdoor food market.

Antiques & Collectables

Antique Shop Bari D-3, ul. Saborna 14, tel. 66 40 12/0887 373 682. Swords, clocks, silver vessels, figures, coins, medals, typewriters and folklore costumes. ▶ Open 09:30 - 18:30.

Antique Shop Daninis D-3, ul. Saborna 47, tel. 0885 342 921, daninis@abv.bg. Swords, rifles, uniforms, medals, folklore costumes, copper vessels, souvenirs, etc. ▶ Open 09:30 - 20:00.

Antique Shop Saborna 51 A D-3, ul. Saborna 51 A, tel. 62 44 27/0887 647 212, etruscila@abv.bg. Coins, ornaments, clocks, books, medals (socialist and tsarist), weapons and accessories from the 18 and 19th c. and from the Russian-Turkish war, etc. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00. ☎ ☎

Books

Helikon C-2, ul. Raicho Daskalov 13, tel. 62 32 63.

Hermes J-6, ul. Danail Yurukov 2, tel. 64 31 23.

Nansi press D-2, ul. Sofroniy Vrachanski 4, tel. 0700 10099, nansypress@plovdiv.techno-link.com.

Clothes & Accessories

Cacadu B-2, Trade centre "Maritsa", peshehoden most, tel. 0899 807 650, info@cacadu-bg.com, www.cacadu-bg.com. Affordable collection of female clothing. ▶ Open 10:00 - 20:00. ☎

Indian shop F-1, ul. Gladston 44, tel. 634382. Female clothes and accessories - imported from India. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00.

Invert F-2, ul. Gladston 20, tel. 0885 108 673. Teen and youth fashion - jeans, jackets, t-shirts, hats, belts, sunglasses and ski glasses. ▶ Open 10:00 - 20:00.

Kamato - Design Studio F-1, ul. Dragan Tsankov 36, tel. 0898 747 905, kamato.shoe.design@gmail.com. Design, laser decoding, production and sales of leather shoes, clothes, bags and other leather goods. Custom tailored production.

Lafer F-2, ul. Gladston 18, tel. 0889 808 280. Bulgarian, Turkish and Italian female clothing. Leather jackets - male and female. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00. ☎ ☎

Flowers

Arexim C-2, bul. 6th September 190, tel. 95 91 34.

Marieta E-4, bul. Knyaginya Maria Luiza 69 B, tel. 0897 919 907, floratrade@mail.bg. Arranging and delivery of bouquets, planting and arranging for the house and office, land shaft architecture, decorations, production, import and wholesale. Home delivery. ▶ Open 10:00 - 20:00. ☎ ☎



Gifts & Souvenirs

Art Shop D-4, ul. MacGahan 2, tel. 0887415156. Souvenirs, paintings, icons, ceramics, fretworks, art copies of archaeological findings in Bulgaria. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00, Sat 10:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

ET Lupov D-3, ul. Tsanko Lourenov 8B, tel. 0888 637 198. Souvenirs, icons, paintings, fretworks, genre tablecloths, ceramics, Bulgarian rose products, Rakia and rose liqueurs. ▶ Open 08:00 - 17:00. ☎

Souvenir Shop D-3, ul. Knyaz Tseretelev 3, tel. 26 56 79. Ceramics, earthen pots, badges, medals, slippers, Bulgarian rose products - crèmes, honey, etc. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00.

Hypermarkets

Metro Cash & Carry J-8, bul. Sankt Peterburg 135, tel. 60 51 09, www.metro.bg.

Monsieur Bricolage C-2, bul. 6th September 223A, tel. 60 52 60, fax 60 52 50, www.mr-bricolage.bg.

Technomarket Evropa A-3, bul. Bulgaria, 4 km, tel. 90 50 60/0700 10 800, www.technomarket.bg.

Technopolis J-8, bul. Sankt Peterburg 133, tel. 68 33 12, www.technopolis.bg.

Jewellery

Fortuna D-2, ul. Alexander Batenberg 42, tel. 62 31 65/0889 006 067. High quality gold, silver and platinum jewelry.

Jewellery House "SK-Gold" E-3, ul. Patriarh Evtimiy 12, tel. 63 46 56/0899 900 335, fax 62 60 10. High quality golden jewelry.

Silverete F-2, ul. Gladston 5. Silver jewelry.

Lingerie

Bellissima E-5, bul. Maria Luiza 61, tel. 67 69 89. Small shop with Bulgarian lingerie and clothing. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00, Sat 10:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

Deppo D-4, ul. Mitropolit Panaret 10, tel. 62 51 46/0894 624 262, info@deppold.com, www.deppold.com. Lingerie, stockings, nightgowns, twin sets. Also wholesale. ▶ Open 09:00 - 19:00, Sat 09:00 - 17:00. Closed Sun.

Music

Elektrika shop D-3, Zhk. Kapana, ul. Abadzhiliska 11, tel. 62 33 63. Specialized in electronic music. Also offer Dance, Pop, Hard Rock, Metal, Reggae, Rap, Soul, Funk, R&B on CD and Audio.

Music shop C-4, ul. P. R. Slaveykov 9, tel. 0888 639 121. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00.

Music shop Yamaha A-2, ul. Karlovska 34, tel. 96 27 58.

Parfumery & Cosmetics

Ivis C-2, ul. Raiko Daskalov 50, tel. 0887 591 225, www.iwis-bg.com. Mass and selection cosmetics. Turbo solar studio. ▶ Open 10:00 - 20:00. ☎

Photography

Kodak Expres Photo Svyat D-2, ul. Aleksandar Batenberg 39, tel. 62 57 25, www.fotosvlat.bg.

Shopping centres

Hot Spot E-3, ul. Patriarh Evtimiy 12, tel. 0889 900 879/62 53 40, office@masters-bg.net, www.hotspot-bg.com. A two storey shopping centre for modern garments, high quality shoes and jewelry. They have their own city youth oriented brand - BRIGADA. The company is exclusive distributor for Fornarina, GAS, Crocs, El Naturalista, Cushe, Ben Sherman, Gola, KOOKAI, Von Dutch, Clarks, The Art Company and Hawaiiana. ▶ ☎

Tehnostil (Techno style) E-4, bul. Maria Luiza 64, tel. 65 05 56. Two storey shop for kitchen and household appliances, kitchen and house furnishings. Everything you might need to furnish your apartment, house or office. ▶ Open 09:00 - 19:30, Sat 10:00 - 19:00. Closed Sun. ☎ [cc] [P]

Sports equipment

Skate shop D-2, ul. Alexander Batenberg 26. Skate boards, snow boards, rollerblades and equipment. More than 100 models of sport shoes and sneakers. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00.

Sport Depot J-8, bul. Sankt Peterburg 48, tel. 68 36 70, office_plovdiv@sportdepot.bg, www.sportdepot.bg.

Supermarkets

Billa C-2, bul. 6th September 221, tel. 65 81 20, fax 65 81 23, www.billa.bg.

Video Stores & Rental

24 Self Video E-4, bul. Maria Luiza 50-52, tel. 620414, selfvideo24@abv.bg. You have to be a member. The software is in Bulgarian, but you will be guided through the process by an English speaking staff member. ▶ Open 00:00 - 24:00.



The Plovdiv
telephone code is: 032

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Moscow: First at inyourpocket.com

The full content of *Moscow In Your Pocket* - which will appear in print very soon - is now available online, at **inyourpocket.com**. Plus, by the time you open up the next issue of *In Your Pocket*, we will have launched our new-look website: packed with added features and easier than ever to use. Make sure you check **inyourpocket.com** regularly.

24hr pharmacies

Den i Nosht (Day and Night) H-3, bul. Hristo Botev 150, tel. 63 09 83.

Millenium Plus K-9, JK Trakia, bl. 97, next to Trade Centre Evropa, tel. 99 33 33, fax 99 43 33.

Trimontium C-2, bul. 6th Septemvri 149, tel. 62 85 68.

West - Alpha J-7, ul. Dilyanka near the petrol station, tel. 94 46 99.

Beauty salons

A & D D-1, ul. Sv. sv. Kiril i Metodii 15, tel. 63 49 62. In this modern studio you can enjoy the professional products of L'Oreal and Kerastase. The services which you can use are manicure, pedicure, cosmetics, massage, haircut and Su-Du - tropical complexion, note that the cosmetic and massage procedures are to be booked in advance. The staff are young and polite. ▶ Open 09:00 - 20:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 19:00. ☎ ☎

Be Beauty E-4, bul. Maria Luiza 52, tel. 0878 505 692, be_beauty@abv.bg. Photoepilation for unwanted hair growth and PhotoRejuvenation treatments. Solarium. ▶ Open, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri 09:00 - 21:00, Sat 10:00 - 19:00, Sun 12:00 - 19:00. ☎ ☎

Bella & Beatris F-2, ul. Gladston 90, tel. 0896 682 259. Slimming procedure. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00.

Karizma E-4, ul. Mitropolit Panaret 10, fl.2, tel. 0893 258 670/0898 448 612, http://karizma13.hit.bg/. Hairstyling, manicure, beautician services, massages and therapies. ▶ Open, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri 10:00 - 19:30, Sat 10:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun. ☎ ☎

Palm Beach (solarium) E-4, bul. Maria Luiza 20, tel. 0886 229 969.

Queen C-2, ul. Petko Karavelov 24, tel. 63 34 34/0897 313 212. Various cosmetic services with quality products. ▶ Open 09:00 - 19:00. ☎ ☎

Skerzoo Spa & Cosmetics ul. Tsar Asen 8, tel. 62 60 74/0886 112 317, office@skerzoo.com, www.skerzoo.com. Facials, body procedures, spa therapies, manicure, pedicure, depilation, solarium and other procedures. ▶ Open 08:30 - 20:00.

Catering

Vanyaa Stil Kocho Chestiminski 2A, tel. 26 93 71/0888 994 931, office@vanya-style.com, www.vanya-style.com. Catering, shows, cocktails, weddings.

Clinics

Medline Clinic F-2, ul. Philip Makedonski 37, tel. 65 56 00.

Private Clinic Medikus Alpha G-2, ul. Veliko Tarnovo 21, tel. 63 44 63.

Toraks Clinic C-2, ul. D. Tsonchev 5, tel. 62 51 25.

Dentists

Dr. Goranov H-3, bul. Hristo Botev 99, tel. 62 17 35.

Dr. Krasimira Musurlieva C-4, ul. Petko R. Slaveikov 12, tel. 65 20 33. ▶ Open, Mon 14:00 - 17:00, Tue, Wed, Thu 10:00 - 14:00. Closed Fri, Sat, Sun.

Dr. Minka Kafedzhieva E-3, ul. Gen. Gurko 13, tel. 65 29 11.

Dr. Popova A-2, pl. Pobeda 51, tel. 94 28 21.

SMTL Kadent ul. Asen Zlatarov 34, tel. 63 89 64.



Dietary & Diabetics shops

Dia Healthy Foods - dietary and diabetics F-2, ul. Gladston 3, tel. 0878 667 462. ▶ Open, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri 10:00 - 19:30, Sat 10:30 - 19:30. Closed Sun.

Hospitals

MBAL Plovdiv A-2, bul. Bulgaria 234, tel. 95 92 21.

Sv. Pantaleimon K-6, bul. Nikola Vapzarov 9, tel. 60 39 14.

UMBAL Sv. Georgi J-1, bul. Peshtersko shose 66, tel. 60 21.

Opticians

Art Optic A-2, ul. Polk. Bonev 5, tel. 94 02 94. ▶ Open 08:00 - 18:00.

Interoptics G-2, ul. Ivan Vazov 45, tel. 62 34 03.

Reflekt H-3, ul. Kukush 4, tel. 64 27 76. ▶ Open 08:00 - 18:00.

Religious service

Dzumaya Mosque D-2, in the city centre pl. Dzhumaya.

St. Ludwig's Catholic Cathedral E-4, bul. Knyaginya Maria Luisa 3, tel. 62 84 30.

The St. Marina's Metropolitan Temple E-3, ul. Dr. Georgi Valkovich, tel. 62 32 76.

Vets

Veterinary clinic & foods J-8, ul. Kiev 6, tel. 62 49 25.

Veterinary clinic Novet Kamenitsa J-8, ul. Architect Kamen Petkov 58, tel. 0888 838 342. ▶ Open, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri 08:00 - 18:30, Sat 09:00 - 14:00. Closed Sun.

Veterinary clinic Novet Karshiyaka A-2, ul. Karlovskya 34 A, tel. 96 31 29/0889 682 830. ▶ Open, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 20:00, Sun 09:00 - 14:00.

Billiard and Bowling

9 Ball Club D-2, Kapana ul. At. Samokovetsa 9, tel. 62 04 83. ▶ Open 10:00 - 03:00. ☎

Dance clubs

Salsa de Cuba B-1, ul. Vasil Sokolov 2 fl.1, tel. 0896 868 075.

Fitness & Spa

Kea Sport A-2, ul. Ivan Rilski 16, tel. 55 00 43. ▶ Open 08:00 - 21:00.

Olimpiya K-9, Aqualand quarter Trakia bl. 36, tel. 99 42 43. ▶ Open 07:00 - 23:00.

Perla G-2, ul. Ivan Vazov 94, tel. 64 24 48. ▶ Open 08:00 - 21:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Studio M C-4, behind the Flamingo cinema, tel. 0888 575 758. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:30. Closed Sat, Sun.

Total Sport Fitness & Squash G-1, ul. Ekzarh Yosif 13, tel. 62 51 51. ▶ Open 07:00 - 22:00. ☎

Horse-riding

ArkanTours J-6, ul. Lerin 7 A, tel. 64 02 05/0898 302 120, arkan@evrocom.net, www.arkantours.com. Equestrian Tourism, hourly rides (45 min), training. Every sixth ride is free.

Paintball

Paintball Park Battle Field quarter Miromir ul. Gen. Gurko 46, tel. 0898 574 043.

Strikeball Club J-8, ul. Borovets 6, tel. 0899 963 172.

Stadiums

Stadion Botev J-8, bul. Iztochen 10, tel. 63 33 75.

Stadion Lokomotiv ul. Iauta 1, tel. 62 28 89.

Stadion Maritsa I-6, bul. Vasil Levski 1, tel. 95 36 50.

Stadion Plovdiv ul. Greben Kanal 1, tel. 64 44 83.

Stadion Spartak H-2, bul. Makedonia 6, tel. 69 70 61.

To love football



What is to love football? To follow each game of your favourite team and forget the world around you when they play? Or is it to stick your face like a post stamp to the TV screen during the World Cup or the European championship? Yes, all of this and more! For the Plovdiv football fans it is not only talking or watching football. They play their favourite game daily. Each day after work on small illuminated football fields in the spaces between the blocks the Plovdivians practically live the football passion. One of the most loved football teams in Plovdiv is Botev Plovdiv. We visited them on their practice game just prior to their important match with the Varna club Chernomorec.

The team

Botev Plovdiv, also called the canaries because of their black-yellow kits, was created in 1912 by a group of student enthusiasts from the then male high school "Knyaz Alexander Battenberg. This makes them the oldest registered club in Bulgaria. Five years later were chosen the club colours – yellow and black, which they have kept ever since. In 1924 was created also the youth football school with senior coach - Nikola Shterev – the Oldie. In 1929 "Botev" received an

invitation to play in September at the Balkan tournament organized by Turkey. In Izmir Botev Plovdiv won all three of the games played. On the 3rd of October 1929 "Botev" won over Levski Sofia with 1:0 on stadium Yunak and thus became the first team to win the Bulgarian Championship.

During the socialist years, the team was artificially united with the teams Shipka and Stefan Kiradzhiev. In the autumn of 1947 "Botev" became a military club, representing the Plovdiv military garrison. The most successful years in the history of the team were during the leadership of its senior coach - the legendary Dinko Dermendjiev – Chico. As honorary president he keeps on supporting the team.

After the 10th of November 1989 for president of the club is attracted the Italian businessman – Paolo Dinuchi.

In the period of 1993-96 the team was twice a finalist for the Bulgarian Championship and three times a winner of the bronze medal. During 2001-2004 the team twice dropped out of the "A" group, but this didn't discourage the players and they succeeded to stay in the group.

The current senior coach of the club is Kostadin Angelov. He believes that with a lot of hard work the canaries' team will once again reach the top. Success!



Accountants & Consultants

Elan Consult F-3, ul. Leonardo Da Vinci 30, tel. 65 53 80. Accounting Services.

INS Consult G-1, Mladetzki Halm bul. Lyuben Karavelov 21, tel. 0898 353 534.

Insurance & Reinsurance Company Lev Ins A-3, bul. Bulgaria 63, tel. 95 92 95.

Interface A-1, pl. A.P.Chehov 1, tel. 96 10 12. Translation, Legalization and Typing Services

SD Cargo Ltd ul. Varshava 25, fl. 4 ap. 17, tel. 0878 743 942. Spedition and International Transport

Spediko Trans Entarprys H-5, ul. D.I.Mendelev 2A, tel. 62 56 58. Spedition and International Transport.

Vavilon - EM D-2, ul. Knyaz Aleksandar I 39, tel. 62 56 86. Translation, Legalization and Typing Services.

Advertising agencies

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Tobear Ltd I-7, ul. Sredets 79, tel. 0894 627 206.

Viki - 2000 J-6, bul. Trakiya 46 ent. A, tel. 99 61 68.

Banks

Alpha Bank E-1, ul. Victor Yugo 27, tel. 65 57 42, fax 65 57 44, www.alphabank.bg.

Bulgarian - American Credit Bank A-2, ul. Oborishte 22, tel. 90 17 40, fax 65 22 20, www.bacb.bg.

Bulgarian National Bank D-2, ul. Raiko Daskalov 51, tel. 90 51 00, www.bnb.bg.

Emporiki Bulgaria Plc D-3, ul. Abadzhyska 2, tel. 62 37 49, fax 62 37 80, www.infobulgaria.info.

EuroBank EFG Bulgaria Plc D-1, ul. Antim I 2B, tel. 65 59 00, fax 62 34 98, www.postbank.bg.

First Investment Bank B-2, bul. Maritsa 95, tel. 96 25 10, fax 96 25 11, www.fibank.bg.

MKB Union Bank C-2, bul. 6th Septemvri 6, tel. 65 40 77, fax 60 75 03, www.unionbank.bg.

Piraeus Bank Plc C-3, bul. Tsar Boris III Obединitel 20A, tel. 96 77 81, www.piraeusbank.bg.

ProCredit Bank Plc D-2, pl. Dzumaya 2, tel. 65 33 45, www.procreditbank.bg.

Raiffeisenbank F-1, ul. Avksentiy Veleshki 5, tel. 60 12 70, fax 62 99 66, www.raiffeisen.bg.

Bulgarian officials

Plovdiv Municipality E-3, pl. Stefan Stambolov 1, tel. 65 64 00, signal.plovdiv@plovdiv.bg, www.plovdiv.bg.

Regional Administration Plovdiv D-1, pl. Nikola Mushanov 1, tel. 60 55 12, oa@pd.government.bg, www.pd.e-gov.bg.

Business facilities

House of Science and Technology (RSTU&HST) F-2, ul. Gladston 1, tel. 62 25 60/62 30 73, fax 62 25 61, nts@hst.bg, www.hst.bg. With the Association "Regional Unions of Science and Technology" are organized various congresses, conferences, symposiums, seminars, workshops, international exhibitions and fairs.

Foreign representations

General Consulate of Greece E-1, ul. Preslav 10, tel. 63 20 03, fax 26 88 18, grconsfl@evrocom.net.

General Consulate of Turkey F-2, ul. Philip Makedonski 10, tel. 63 23 09, fax 62 48 39, fillbe.bk@mfa.gov.tr.

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Layers Society Haralampiev C-4, ul. Detelin Voivoda 3, fl. 1, tel. 62 33 35.

Office supplies

Knizharnitsa (stationer's shop) E-4, bul. Maria Luiza 63, tel. 63 15 05. Xerox, printing, lamination, stationery, school appliances, driver's tests. ▶ Open, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri 09:00 - 20:00, Sat 09:00 - 14:00.

Real Estate

Alfakom Ltd. G-1, bul. Vasil Aprilov 4, tel./fax 64 11 30, alfakom@abv.bg, www.alfakom.dlr.bg.

Andi Group Ltd. H-3, bul. Hristo Botev 82 fl.3, tel. 63 06 02/0899 919 319, fax 63 51 16, office@andigroupbg.com, www.andigroupbg.com.

Garanti Ltd (Podem Ltd) A-2, c-s Podem bul. Dunav 51, tel. 95 70 87, office@podem-bg.com, www.podem-bg.com.

Gidas Ltd G-2, ul. Ivan Vazov 49A, tel. 62 53 30/0888 218 109, gidas@abv.bg.

Lango Ltd D-3, bul. Tsar Boris III 22, tel./fax 95 64 69, tel. 0888 263 761, office@langobg.com, www.langobg.com.

Omega-A Ltd F-2, ul. Avksentiy Veleshki 30, tel. 62 12 57/0888 590 997, fax 63 13 45, omega_a@abv.bg.

Scorpio M Ltd C-3, bul. Tsar Boris III Obединitel 134 fl.2, tel. 62 01 01/0888 766 436, fax 62 01 00, scorpio_m@abv.bg.

Tera Commercial Ltd J-7, ul. Kapitan Raicho 56, tel./fax 62 34 52, tel. 0888 800 605, tera.comercial@abv.bg, www.terabg.net.

Trakia Agency E-3, ul. Patriarh Evtimii 3, tel. 26 25 55/0889 650 711, maria@1001line.com, www.1001line.com.

Viel D-1, ul. Preslav 15 fl.2, tel. 26 91 60/0888 525 190, fax 65 28 64, vielbg@gmail.com.

International Fair Plovdiv



International Fair Plovdiv A-3, bul. Tsar Boris III Obedinitel 37, tel. 90 36 00, fairinfo@fair.bg, www.fair.bg. During autumn and spring Plovdiv suddenly gets flooded with people from all over the world. All the hotels and restaurants are full of people. Why this great interest? The answer lies in Plovdiv being the traditional host for the International Spring consumer goods Fair and the International Autumn Technical Fair.

The beginning of the exhibition industry in the modern Bulgarian history was laid in 1892 when Plovdiv hosted the First Bulgarian Agricultural and Industrial Exposition.

The mission statement of the fair is - To contribute to the prosperity of the Bulgarian people by encouraging the development of the national industry.

The exhibition calendar of International Fair Plovdiv comprises multi-branch fairs and trade exhibitions covering key sectors of the Bulgarian economy. International Fair Plovdiv organizes the most important trade forums countrywide, opening up prospects for the Bulgarian producers to appear on the international market. The trade fair and exhibition events outline the performance of the Bulgarian economy, as well as the interest of the international business in the country and region.

The Fair ground is one of the largest exhibition venues in the Balkan region. It is situated on an area of 352 000 sq. m. The exhibition complex consists of 16 multifunctional pavilions equipped for the arrangement and display of all kinds of exhibits. The exhibition area amounts to 153 700 sq. m., the indoor area is 63 800 sq. m. The modern

Congress Centre of the International Fair Plovdiv comprises eight multifunctional halls with 20 to 550 seats. Another 12 halls in various pavilions are also available.

The International Fair Plovdiv provides its customers with appropriate conditions for business activities, identical to those offered by the most renowned European fairs. International Fair Plovdiv is the only fair organizing company in Bulgaria and is a member of UFI - the Global Association of the Exhibition Industry. Seven of its events have fulfilled the high criteria and have been approved by UFI. These are the International Technical Fair, the International Consumer Goods and Technologies Fair, the specialized exhibitions AGRA; VINARIA; MEDICUS, DENTO, GALENIA, PrintCom and Foodtech.

The First fair was held in 1882 with the official opening by knyiaz Ferdinand on August 15. The initiative was of Grigor Nachovich. The royal gardner Lucien Shevals built a beautiful European style park on 90 000 sq. m. in which 36 exhibition pavilions were located. Around 2500 soldiers took part in the opening parade. 24 countries from Europe, America and Asia took part in it. There were 167 000 visitors. Unfortunately the Fair didn't become traditional until 1933 when an industrial exhibition with 424 participants was organized. In 1934 the participants grew to 880 and in 1936 the forum became a full member of UFI. In 1947 the first permanent Fair pavilions were built on the north bank of the river Maritsa. During the 50-ies the fairs were held each two years and from 1966 they became annual.

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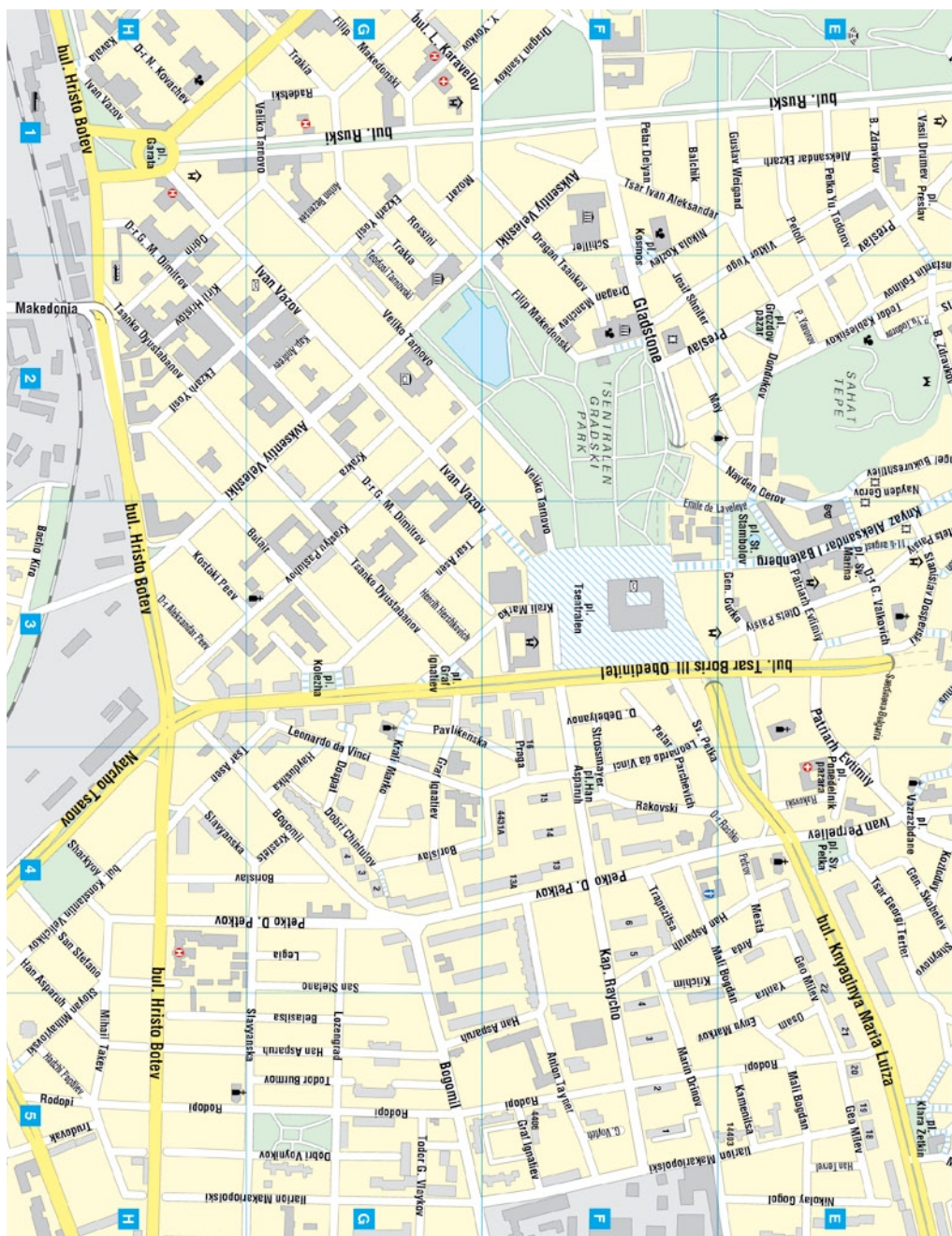
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PLOVDIV

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- Industrial Area
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- Stadium
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- Public Building
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- Post Office
- Cultural Centre
- Library
- Theatre
- Outdoor Theatre
- Cinema
- Gallery
- Museum
- Historic Site
- Monument
- Church
- Mosque
- Hotel
- Hospital
- Medical Centre
- Sports Hall
- Motor Racing
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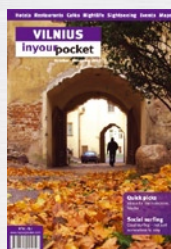
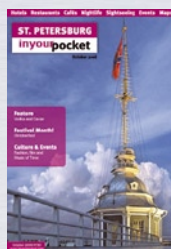
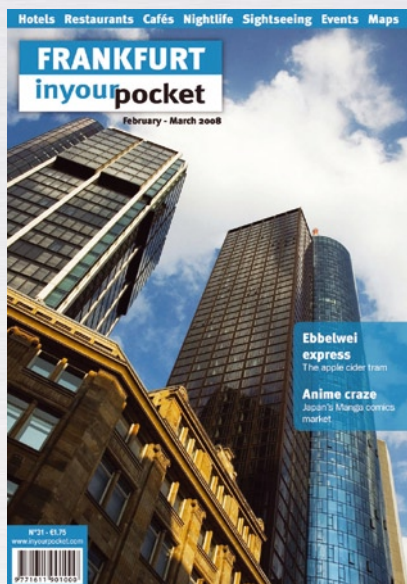
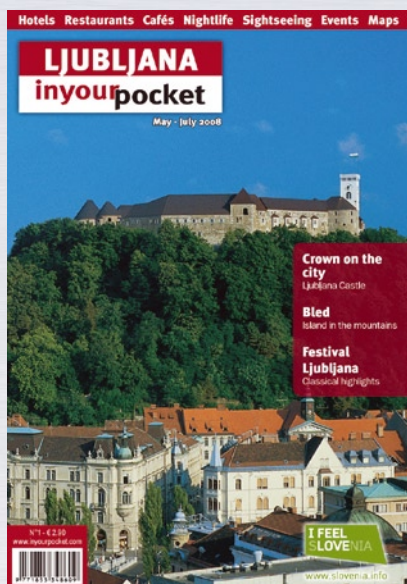
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