

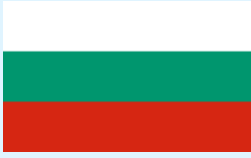




Information and Travel Guide for Sofia, Bulgaria

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Country Profile

Full name	Republic of Bulgaria																																																																																																																																																										
National Flag/Emblem	 																																																																																																																																																										
Geography	<p>110 994 km²</p> 																																																																																																																																																										
Population	7 153 784 (31.12.2015)																																																																																																																																																										
Capital	Sofia																																																																																																																																																										
Religions	Eastern Orthodox Christianity (59.4%), none/unspecified (31.1%), Sunni Islam (7.4%), Protestant Christianity (0.9%), Roman Catholic Christianity (0.7%), Shia Islam (0.4%)																																																																																																																																																										
Language	Bulgarian																																																																																																																																																										
Economy	GDP (nominal): \$ 47.167 Billion (2015)																																																																																																																																																										
Political System	Unitary parliamentary republic President: Rumen Radev Prime Minister: Boyko Borisov																																																																																																																																																										
Climate	<p style="text-align: center;">Climate data for Sofia (NIMH-BAS) 1981–2010 normals, extremes 1941–present [hide]</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>Jan</th> <th>Feb</th> <th>Mar</th> <th>Apr</th> <th>May</th> <th>Jun</th> <th>Jul</th> <th>Aug</th> <th>Sep</th> <th>Oct</th> <th>Nov</th> <th>Dec</th> <th>Year</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Record high °C (°F)</td> <td>19 (66)</td> <td>23 (73)</td> <td>27.5 (81.5)</td> <td>31 (88)</td> <td>34 (93)</td> <td>38 (100)</td> <td>41 (106)</td> <td>39.4 (102.9)</td> <td>36.1 (97)</td> <td>33.9 (93)</td> <td>25.5 (77.9)</td> <td>23 (73)</td> <td>41 (106)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Average high °C (°F)</td> <td>3.4 (38.1)</td> <td>5.6 (42.1)</td> <td>10.6 (51.1)</td> <td>16.2 (61.2)</td> <td>21.1 (70)</td> <td>24.7 (76.5)</td> <td>27.3 (81.1)</td> <td>27.5 (81.5)</td> <td>22.9 (73.2)</td> <td>17.1 (62.8)</td> <td>9.7 (49.5)</td> <td>4.3 (39.7)</td> <td>15.9 (60.6)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Daily mean °C (°F)</td> <td>-0.5 (31.1)</td> <td>1.1 (34)</td> <td>5.4 (41.7)</td> <td>10.6 (51.1)</td> <td>15.4 (59.7)</td> <td>18.9 (66)</td> <td>21.2 (70.2)</td> <td>21 (70)</td> <td>16.5 (61.7)</td> <td>11.3 (52.3)</td> <td>5.1 (41.2)</td> <td>0.7 (33.3)</td> <td>10.6 (51.1)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Average low °C (°F)</td> <td>-3.9 (25)</td> <td>-2.9 (26.8)</td> <td>0.8 (33.4)</td> <td>5.4 (41.7)</td> <td>9.8 (49.6)</td> <td>13.2 (55.8)</td> <td>15.1 (59.2)</td> <td>14.9 (58.8)</td> <td>11 (52)</td> <td>6.6 (43.9)</td> <td>1.4 (34.5)</td> <td>-2.4 (27.7)</td> <td>5.8 (42.4)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Record low °C (°F)</td> <td>-28.3 (-18.9)</td> <td>-25 (-13)</td> <td>-16.1 (3)</td> <td>-6 (21)</td> <td>-2.2 (28)</td> <td>1.4 (34.5)</td> <td>2 (36)</td> <td>3.5 (38.3)</td> <td>-2 (28)</td> <td>-6 (21)</td> <td>-15.3 (4.5)</td> <td>-21.1 (-6)</td> <td>-28.3 (-18.9)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Average precipitation mm (inches)</td> <td>33.2 (1.307)</td> <td>31.5 (1.24)</td> <td>38.1 (1.5)</td> <td>50.7 (1.996)</td> <td>67 (2.64)</td> <td>75.4 (2.969)</td> <td>52.6 (2.071)</td> <td>57.6 (2.268)</td> <td>45.7 (1.799)</td> <td>45 (1.77)</td> <td>43.3 (1.705)</td> <td>41.7 (1.642)</td> <td>581.8 (22.907)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Average snowfall cm (inches)</td> <td>23.4 (9.21)</td> <td>19.2 (7.56)</td> <td>15.2 (5.98)</td> <td>2.8 (1.1)</td> <td>0 (0)</td> <td>0 (0)</td> <td>0 (0)</td> <td>0 (0)</td> <td>0 (0)</td> <td>1.9 (0.75)</td> <td>10.8 (4.25)</td> <td>24.8 (9.76)</td> <td>98.1 (38.61)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Average precipitation days</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>10</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>12</td> <td>10</td> <td>9</td> <td>7</td> <td>11</td> <td>10</td> <td>12</td> <td>125</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Average snowy days</td> <td>7.2</td> <td>6.3</td> <td>5.8</td> <td>1.4</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0.8</td> <td>3</td> <td>7.2</td> <td>31.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mean monthly sunshine hours</td> <td>87.8</td> <td>114.3</td> <td>159.6</td> <td>182.2</td> <td>229.6</td> <td>257.7</td> <td>302.1</td> <td>288.3</td> <td>220.1</td> <td>163.6</td> <td>105.5</td> <td>66.1</td> <td>2,176.9</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year	Record high °C (°F)	19 (66)	23 (73)	27.5 (81.5)	31 (88)	34 (93)	38 (100)	41 (106)	39.4 (102.9)	36.1 (97)	33.9 (93)	25.5 (77.9)	23 (73)	41 (106)	Average high °C (°F)	3.4 (38.1)	5.6 (42.1)	10.6 (51.1)	16.2 (61.2)	21.1 (70)	24.7 (76.5)	27.3 (81.1)	27.5 (81.5)	22.9 (73.2)	17.1 (62.8)	9.7 (49.5)	4.3 (39.7)	15.9 (60.6)	Daily mean °C (°F)	-0.5 (31.1)	1.1 (34)	5.4 (41.7)	10.6 (51.1)	15.4 (59.7)	18.9 (66)	21.2 (70.2)	21 (70)	16.5 (61.7)	11.3 (52.3)	5.1 (41.2)	0.7 (33.3)	10.6 (51.1)	Average low °C (°F)	-3.9 (25)	-2.9 (26.8)	0.8 (33.4)	5.4 (41.7)	9.8 (49.6)	13.2 (55.8)	15.1 (59.2)	14.9 (58.8)	11 (52)	6.6 (43.9)	1.4 (34.5)	-2.4 (27.7)	5.8 (42.4)	Record low °C (°F)	-28.3 (-18.9)	-25 (-13)	-16.1 (3)	-6 (21)	-2.2 (28)	1.4 (34.5)	2 (36)	3.5 (38.3)	-2 (28)	-6 (21)	-15.3 (4.5)	-21.1 (-6)	-28.3 (-18.9)	Average precipitation mm (inches)	33.2 (1.307)	31.5 (1.24)	38.1 (1.5)	50.7 (1.996)	67 (2.64)	75.4 (2.969)	52.6 (2.071)	57.6 (2.268)	45.7 (1.799)	45 (1.77)	43.3 (1.705)	41.7 (1.642)	581.8 (22.907)	Average snowfall cm (inches)	23.4 (9.21)	19.2 (7.56)	15.2 (5.98)	2.8 (1.1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1.9 (0.75)	10.8 (4.25)	24.8 (9.76)	98.1 (38.61)	Average precipitation days	9	10	10	12	13	12	10	9	7	11	10	12	125	Average snowy days	7.2	6.3	5.8	1.4	0	0	0	0	0	0.8	3	7.2	31.7	Mean monthly sunshine hours	87.8	114.3	159.6	182.2	229.6	257.7	302.1	288.3	220.1	163.6	105.5	66.1	2,176.9
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Sofia Travel Information

Airport	Sofia International Airport (SA) 10 km east of Sofia, Airport Transfer via Subway, Bus or taxi to the city center						
Time zone	EET (UTC+2) EEST (UTC+3) - summer						
Currency	Bulgarian lev (BGN) 1 € = 1.95583 BGN 1 BGN = 0.5113 € Update: May 2019						
Money Exchange	Euro preferred; exchange at airport, at banks, at large hotels and at independent currency exchange offices, where the rates are clearly displayed. Travelers should not be tempted by a 'better rate' offered at unofficial sources on the street.						
Credit Card	Credit Cards (American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard, Visa) and Debit Cards are accepted in larger hotels and in some restaurants and shops, mainly in Sofia. However, Bulgaria is still a country that operates <u>mainly on Bulgarian cash</u> . ATMs are widespread, although it is best to check with the relevant bank/card provider prior to travel. Not all Bulgarian bank machines accept every overseas credit or debit card.						
Telephone	Bulgaria: +359; Sofia: (+359) 2 <table style="margin-left: 40px; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">Fire</td> <td style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 10px;">112</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Police</td> <td style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 10px;">112</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ambulance</td> <td style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 10px;">112</td> </tr> </table>	Fire	112	Police	112	Ambulance	112
Fire	112						
Police	112						
Ambulance	112						
Sightseeing	St. Alexander Nevski Cathedral – the largest on the Balkan Peninsula St. Georgi Rotunda - included in UNESCO's World Heritage list The Russian Church, officially known as the Church of St Nicholas the Miracle-Maker Ethnographic Museum The Ivan Vazov National Theatre						
Average Prices	Food and Drink (inexpensive Restaurant): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coffee – 1–3 leva (0.5–1.5 euro) • Salad – 4 - 7 leva (2 - 3.5 euro) • Vegetable meal – 5 - 7 leva (2.5 - 3.5 euro) • Bottle of water – 1 lev (0.50 euro cents) • Dessert – 3 - 5 leva (1.5 – 2.5 euro) • Local Transportation (one-way ticket for Bus, Tramp, Trolleybus and Subway): 1.6 leva (0.82 euro cents) Taxi: 0.70 leva (0.35 euro cents) (Start) + 0.80 - 1 lv/km (0.4 - 0.5 euro/km)						

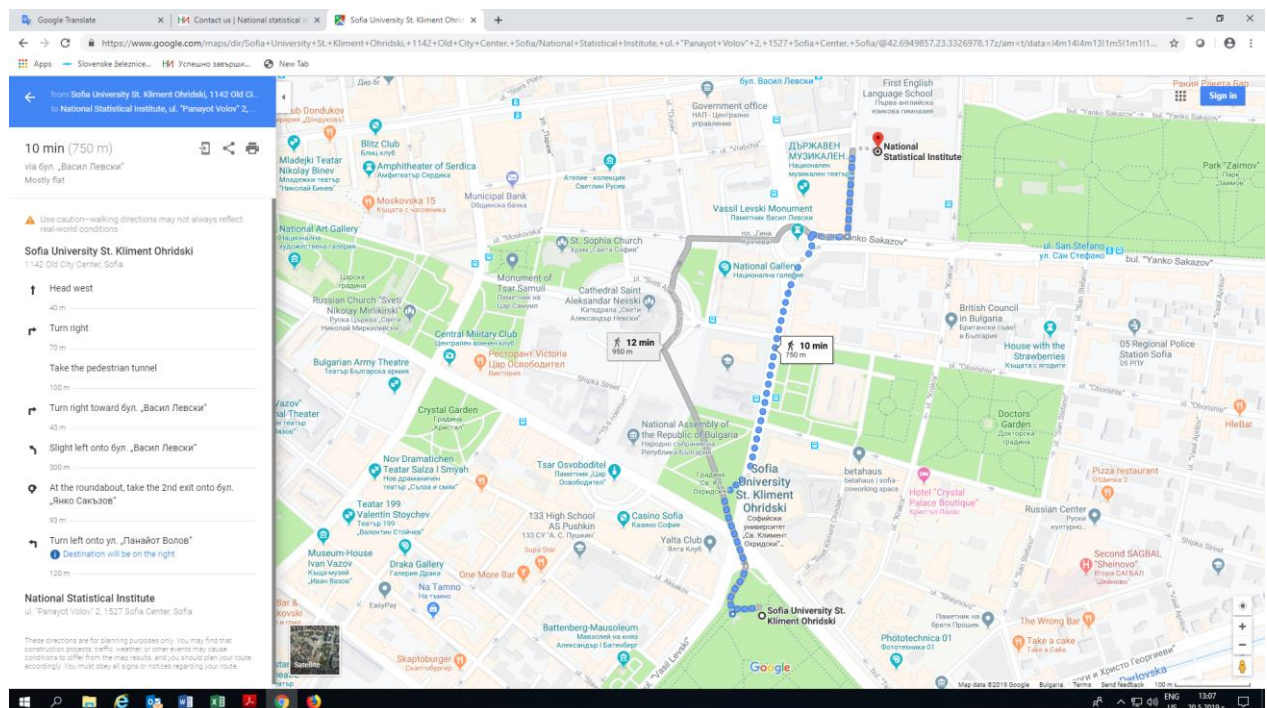
Hotel Recommendation – Close to NSI and the city center

Hotel	Address	Price	Specifics
Best Western Plus City Hotel	6 Stara planina Str. 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria Tel: (+359 2) 915 15 00 Email: reservations@sofiacityhotel.com Web: https://sofiacityhotel.com/bg/	Standard single room Around 90 euro per night *Included buffet breakfast, VAT, insurance and tourist tax	The walking distance between the Venue Meeting (National Statistical Institute) is 10 minutes; 10-minute walk to “Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” subway stations
Arte Hotel	5 Dondukov Blvd. 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria Tel: (+359 2) 402 71 00 E-mail: reception@artehotelbg.com Web: http://www.artehotelbg.com/en/index/	Standard Room: Single 75-80 euro per night; *Included buffet breakfast, city tax, insurance and 9% VAT	Located in city center. The walking distance between the Venue Meeting (National Statistical Institute) is 20 minutes;

How to get from Sofia Airport to the National Statistical Institute

Address: 2, P. Volov Str.; 1038 Sofia, Bulgaria (the low building), Room 300, 3rd floor

- By public transport – Subway. From Gate 2 you may use the subway, Sofia Metro Line 1. The price of one-way ticket is 1.60 leva (0.80 euro cents). From subway station “Sofia Airport” you should travel 10 stops (Sofiiska Sveta gora, Iskysrsko shose, Druzba, Inter Expo Center-Tsarigradsko shose, Mladost III, Mladost I, Musagenitsa, G. M. Dimitrov, F. Joliot-Curie, Vasil Levski Stadium) and you should get off at the station “Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. Then the walking distance to the NSI building is around 10 min.

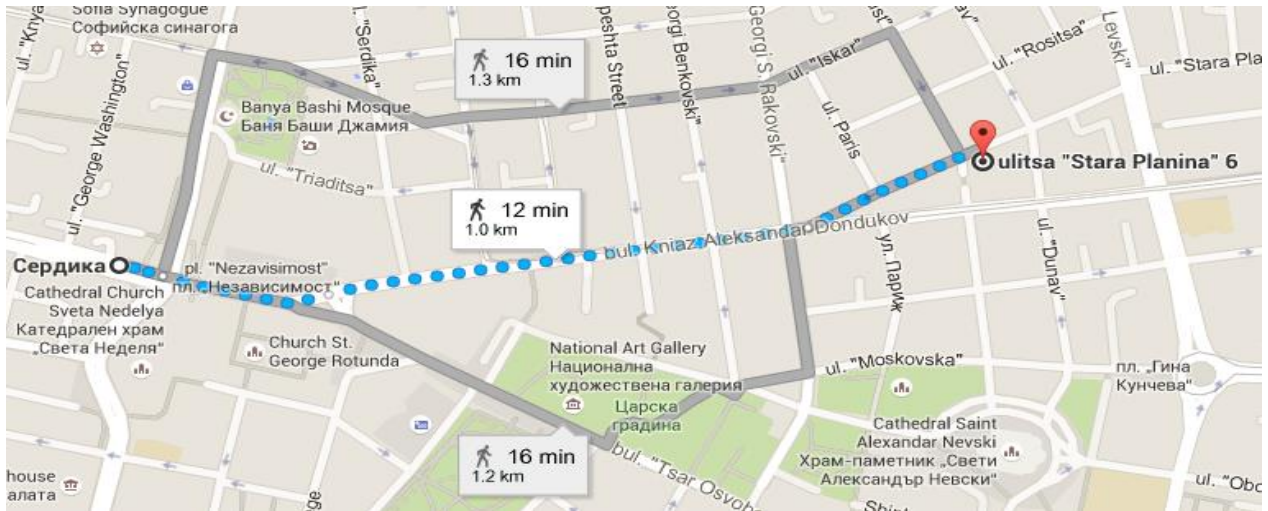


- By public transport – Autobus No 84. The price of one-way ticket is 1.60 leva (0.80 euro cents). From Gate 2 you may use the autobus No 84 where is its first stop. From bus stop “Sofia Airport – Gate 2” you should travel 19 stops and you should get off with the bus stop “Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. Then the walking distance to the NSI building is 15 min.

How to get from Sofia Airport to the hotels

1. Best Western Plus City Hotel

- By public transport – Subway. From Gate 2 you may use the subway. The price of one-way ticket is 1.60 leva (0.80 euro cents). From subway station “Sofia Airport” you should travel 11 stops (Sofiiska Sveta gora, Iskysrsko shose, Druzba, Inter Expo Center-Tsarigradsko shose, Mladost III, Mladost I, Musagenitsa, G. M. Dimitrov, F. Joliot-Curie, Vasil Levski Stadium, “Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”) and you should get off at the station “Serdika”. Then the walking distance to the hotel (6, Stara planina Str.) is 12 min.



*Note – If the sum of the three dimensions (length, width and height) of your baggage/belonging is more than 140 centimeter you should buy a ticket for him.

- By public transport – Autobus No 84. The price of one-way ticket is 1.60 leva (0.80 euro cents). From Gate 2 you may use the autobus No 84 where is its first stop. From bus stop “Sofia Airport – Gate 2” you should travel 19 stops and you should get off at the bus stop “Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. Then the walking distance to the hotel (6, Stara planina Str.) is 12 min.

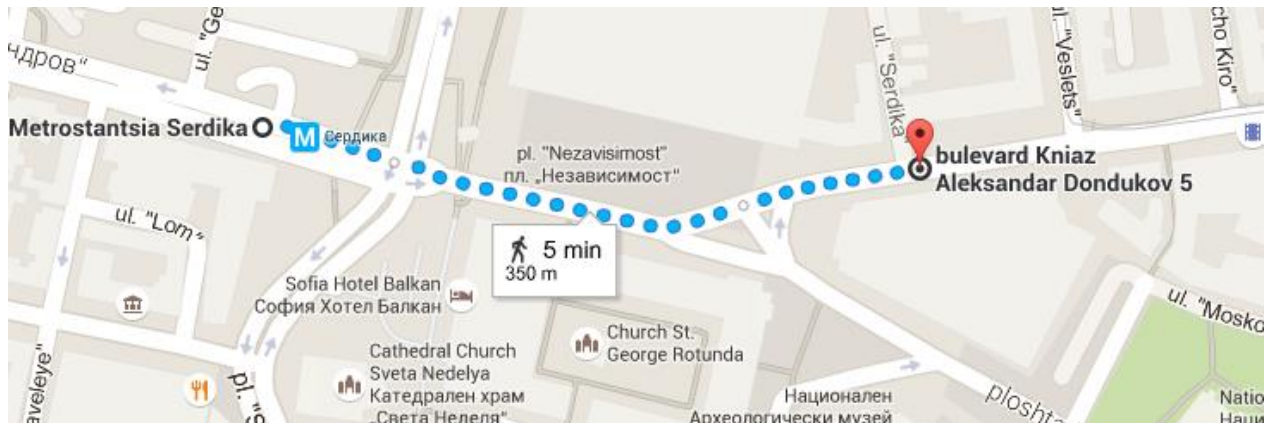


*Note – If the sum of the three dimensions (length, width and height) of your baggage/belonging is more than 140 centimeter you should buy a ticket for him.

- By taxi – when you enter into the arrivals hall you will see OK-Supertrans taxi office counter, where you can book an official, meter-equipped taxi. They will give you a slip of paper with the three-digit code of your cab, which will normally be immediately available. A taxi (using the meter) from the airport to the city center should cost approximately 15 leva (7.5 euro). Be careful with taxi drivers offering you a ride into town at often ridiculously inflated rates.

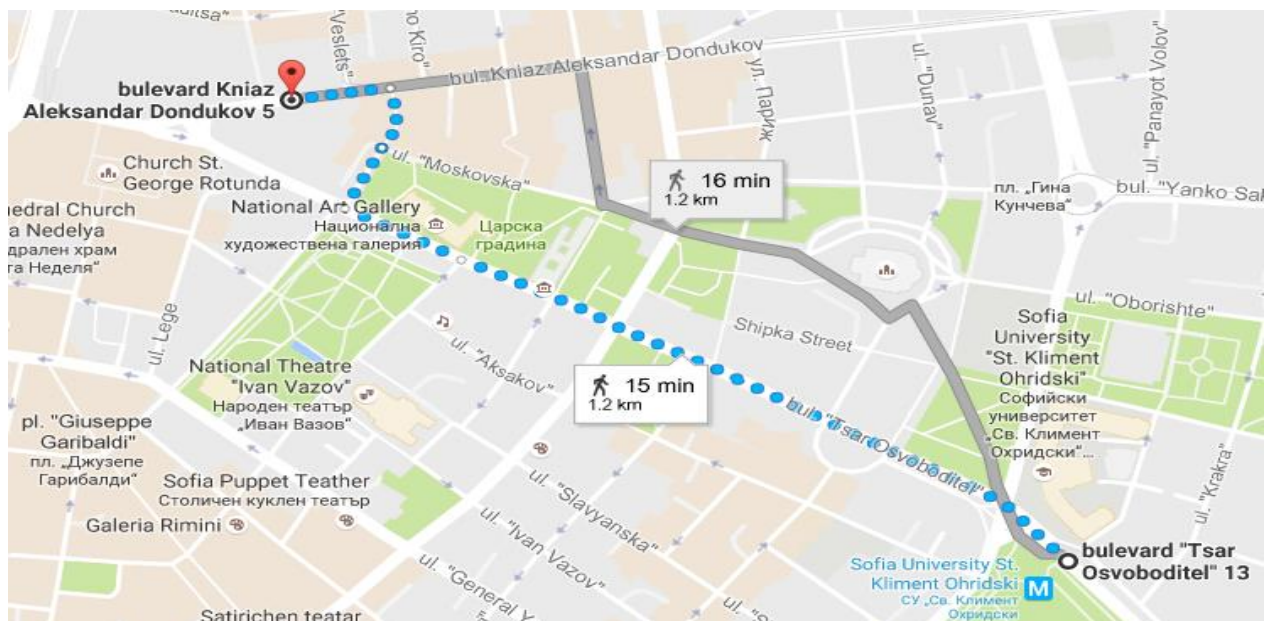
2. Arte Hotel

- By public transport – Subway. From Gate 2 you may use the subway. The price of one-way ticket is 1.60 leva (0.80 euro cents). From subway station “Sofia Airport” you should travel 11 stops (Sofiiska Sveta gora, Iskysrsko shose, Druzba, Inter Expo Center-Tsarigradsko shose, Mladost III, Mladost I, Musagenitsa, G. M. Dimitrov, F. Joliot-Curie, Vasil Levski Stadium, “Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”) and you should get off at the station “Serdika”. The walking distance to the hotel (5, Dondukov Blvd.) is 5 min.



*Note – If the sum of the three dimensions (length, width and height) of your baggage/belonging is more than 140 centimeter you should buy a ticket for him.

- By public transport – Autobus No 84. The price of one-way ticket is 1.60 leva (0.80 euro cents). From Gate 2 you may use the autobus No 84 where is its first stop. From bus stop “Sofia Airport – Gate 2” you should travel 19 stops and you should get off at the bus stop “Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. Then the walking distance to the hotel (5, Dondukov Blvd.) is 15 min.



*Note – If the sum of the three dimensions (length, width and height) of your baggage/belonging is more than 140 centimeter you should buy a ticket for him.

- By taxi – when you enter into the arrivals hall you will see OK-Supertrans taxi office counter, where you can book an official, meter-equipped taxi. They will give you a slip of paper with the three-digit code of your cab, which will normally be immediately available. A taxi (using the meter) from the airport to the city center should cost approximately 15 leva (7.5 euro). Be careful with taxi drivers offering you a ride into town at often ridiculously inflated rates.

Contact Information

If you have other inquiries or questions regarding the practical information, please do not hesitate to contact with:

ESSnet on BD II, coordinator at national level	Ms. Galya Stateva Tel: +359 2 9857 773 Mobile: +359 888 884 022 E-mail: GStateva@nsi.bg
Big Data Technical assistant in the BNSI	Ms. Vera Ivanova Tel: +359 2 9857 426 E-mail: VLivanova@NSI.bg

More information

More information about Bulgaria and its capital - city Sofia you may find in these websites:

- http://bulgariatravel.org/en/official_tourism_portal
- <http://www.visitbulgaria.net/en/sofia/sofia.html>
- <http://www.worldtravelguide.net/bulgaria/money-duty-free>
- <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/bulgaria/sofia>