

Plovdiv

Museums and Galleries











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|  Entry ticket |  Payment in cash |  Souvenir Shop |
|  Online ticket |  Guided Tour |  Photography permitted |



1

Regional Archaeological Museum

1, Saedinenie Sq.
+359 32 624 339
ramplovdiv.com



The Regional Archaeological Museum in Plovdiv is one of the oldest cultural institutions in Bulgaria. Officially opened in 1882, its development went through the stage of being archaeological-numismatic collection office, until it was finally established as an Archaeological Museum in 1920. The museum possesses one of the richest collections of artefacts and works of human art related to the history of Plovdiv District and the city of Plovdiv – successor to one of the largest and most important ancient cities on the Balkan Peninsula – Philippopolis.



Free visits for children and seniors – every first Thursday of the month.



2

Regional History Museum

Exhibition Unification of Bulgaria 1885

1, Saedinenie Sq.
+359 32 629 409
rimplovdv.com



The building was constructed in 1885 for the Provincial Council of Eastern Rumelia. On 19 September 1985 the national museum exhibition “Unification of Bulgaria 1885” was opened here. On an area covering 1000 square metres, through authentic items, weapons, photographs and documents are traced back the efforts of Bulgarians in the establishing of Eastern Rumelia as the Second Bulgarian State, their fight for the Unification with the Principality of Bulgaria and its military defence – the Serbo-Bulgarian War.

 Free visits for children and seniors – every first Thursday of the month.



3

Regional History Museum

Exposition Book Publishing in Bulgaria in the Second Half of the 19th and the Beginning of the 20th Century

2, Mitropolit Paisiy Str.
+359 32 629 405
rimplovdv.com



The building was constructed in the mid-19th century and Hristo Gruev Danov, the founder of organized book publishing in Bulgaria, lived here from 1869 until his death in 1911. Today, an exhibition dedicated to the history of book publishing in Plovdiv and the Plovdiv region is situated here. The stages in the development of Bulgarian education on the basis of Hristo G. Danov and Dragan Manchov’s publishing activity are traced here.

 Free visits for children and seniors – every first Thursday of the month.



4

Regional History Museum

Exposition Bulgarian National Revival

1, Tsanko Lavrenov Str.
+359 32 623 378
rimplovdiv.com



Exhibition Bulgarian Revival is set in the house of the wealthy Plovdiv merchant Dimitar Georgiadi, which was built in 1848 and traces the history of Plovdiv during the period from the 15th to the 19th century. Rich documentary and photographic material allows guests to immerse themselves in the atmosphere of the city's distant past – a time of foreign rule, but also a time of assertion of Bulgarians' national identity, a time of fight for independent Bulgarian education, church and national independence.



Free visits for children and seniors – every first Thursday of the month.



5

Regional History Museum

Museum Centre of Modern History

14, Angel Bukoreshtliev Str.
+359 32 628 886
rimplovdiv.com



The building was constructed in 1895 as officers' club. From the beginning of 1905 until 1923 it was a "Public House" with theatre company, brass music band, orchestra and night school. Today it is a Museum Centre of Modern History and houses the permanent exhibition entitled "The Soul of the Japanese Doll" – a donation from the Friends of Bulgaria Society in Japan.



Free visits for children and seniors – every first Thursday of the month.



6

Regional Ethnographic Museum

2, Dr. Stoyan Chomakov Str.
+359 32 625 654
ethnograph.info



The exhibition is located in Arghir Kuyumdzhioğlu's beautiful Renaissance house, which was built in 1847 by the master-builder Hadzhi Georgi. Inside, there are representations of traditional material and spiritual culture of the Bulgarians who lived in the region of Plovdiv, Rhodope Mountains and Srednogie during the National Revival. Among the museum's collections are those of copper vessels, ceramics, ancient collections, brassware, pottery, weapons, shepherds' woodcarving, jewellery, church items, and sewn and crocheted lace. Costumes from the entire Bulgarian ethnic territory, musical instruments, and urban décor stand out.



Free visits for children and seniors – every first Thursday of the month.



7

Regional Ethnographic Museum

The World of the Flatiron

20, Saborna St.
+359 32 625 654
ethnograph.info



The Flatiron Museum is unique not only in Bulgaria but also on the Balkan Peninsula. It is located in the Old Town, in the house of Nevena Atanasova, also known as the House of Angels. The collection, donated by the renowned Plovdiv artist Dimitar Dobrev (1948–2022), is the result of decades of passion, dedication, and inspiration. The exhibition contains 1,200 exhibits from around the world and traces the history and development of the flatiron not only as a practical tool for ironing, but also as a beautiful decorative object. Particularly impressive are the flatirons decorated with symbols and ornaments, carrying deep messages inspired by nature, mythology, and religious beliefs from different eras.



Free visits for children and seniors – every first Thursday of the month.



8

City Gallery of Fine Arts

Bulgarian Art Permanent Exhibition

14A, Saborna Str.
+359 32 622 434
galleryplovdiv.com



The exhibition is housed in the building of the Young Girls' College, designed and built under the guidance of architect Josef Schnitter in 1881. It is arranged chronologically on two floors. There are over 200 original artworks, which trace the development of Bulgarian art from the National Revival up to present day. Prominent authors and characteristic stylistic trends are represented here.

 Free visits for children and seniors – every first Thursday of the month.

 The City Gallery of Fine Arts offers a combined admission ticket for access to its exhibitions.



9

City Gallery of Fine Arts

Icons Permanent Exhibition

22, Saborna Str.
+359 32 626 086
galleryplovdiv.com



The Icons Permanent Exhibition opened in 1975. It was constructed near the Revival Church of St. Constantine and Elena, on top of the round defensive tower of the early Byzantine city wall in the Old Town. Some of the best examples of icons taken from the Gallery's collection and the Plovdiv Bishopric are exhibited here. They represent the Orthodox Christian art in the Plovdiv region and across Southern Bulgaria from the end of the 15th century to the late 19th century.

 Free visits for children and seniors – every first Thursday of the month.

 The City Gallery of Fine Arts offers a combined admission ticket for access to its exhibitions.



10

City Gallery of Fine Arts

Tsanko Lavrenov and Mexican Art
Permanent Exhibitions

11, Artin Gidikov Str.
+359 32 628 745
galleryplovdiv.com



Tsanko Lavrenov (1896–1978) was one of the most famous Bulgarian painters, a distinctive natural talent with high erudition, limitless energy and incredible creative imagination. The exhibition includes the artist's best works.

On the first floor is the exhibition of Mexican Art – modern Mexican graphic art, crafts and copies of stone sculpture and ceramics. The exhibits are donated in honor of the 1300 anniversary of the Bulgarian State, and the gallery was opened in 1981.

 Free visits for children and seniors – every first Thursday of the month.

 The City Gallery of Fine Arts offers a combined admission ticket for access to its exhibitions.



11

City Gallery of Fine Arts

Encho Pironkov Paintings
Permanent Exhibition

1, Vasil Kanchev Str.
+359 32 638 055
galleryplovdiv.com



Encho Pironkov (1932–2025) is from the generation of artists who in the 1960s not only modernized the look of the Plovdiv art school, but also of Bulgarian art. There are forty-five works donated by the author, covering various periods of his creative development, exhibited here.

 Free visits for children and seniors – every first Thursday of the month.

 The City Gallery of Fine Arts offers a combined admission ticket for access to its exhibitions.



12

City Gallery of Fine Arts

Georgi Bozhilov – Slona Permanent Exhibition

1, Knyaz Tseretelev Str.
+359 32 635 322
galleryplovdiv.com



Skobelev House is a house from the Revival period in Plovdiv, built in 1860. General Mikhail Skobelev's mother, Olga Skobeleva (1823–1880), known for her charity work during the April Uprising and the Liberation War, lived here after the Liberation, until her death. In 2003, a permanent exhibition dedicated to the works of the renowned Plovdiv artist Georgi Bozhilov – Slona – was set up here. (meaning “the Elephant”) (1935–2001).

 Free visits for children and seniors – every first Thursday of the month.

 The City Gallery of Fine Arts offers a combined admission ticket for access to its exhibitions.



13

City Gallery of Fine Arts

Temporary Exhibition Halls

15, Knyaz Aleksandar I Str.
+359 32 624 221
galleryplovdiv.com



The exhibition spaces are housed in a building with a typical urban architecture from the beginning of the 20th century. In the halls on both floors are presented temporary exhibitions relating to the anniversaries of outstanding Bulgarian artists, as well as the history and problems of the country's cultural life. Exhibitions of foreign artists, experimental exhibitions and children's exhibitions are also presented here.

 Free visits for children and seniors – every first Thursday of the month.

 The City Gallery of Fine Arts offers a combined admission ticket for access to its exhibitions.



14

City Gallery of Fine Arts Kapana Gallery

29, Rayko Daskalov Str.
+359 32 207 410
galleryplovdiv.com



The Kapana Gallery is among the newest art exhibition spaces of the City Gallery of Fine Arts – Plovdiv. Open since the summer of 2019, it is located near Kapana Creative District in the lively city centre. The gallery is equipped for presenting both traditional and contemporary art in a two-storey building with a total area of nearly 500 square metres. The building also offers modern systems for suspending works of art, air-conditioning, CCTV and security. It also offers a conference room with 40 seats.

 Free visits for children and seniors – every first Thursday of the month.

 The City Gallery of Fine Arts offers a combined admission ticket for access to its exhibitions.



15

City Gallery of Fine Arts 2019 Exhibition Hall

32, Gladstone Str.
+359 32 207 412
galleryplovdiv.com



Plovdiv's most spacious exhibition hall is named after the city's title of European Capital of Culture for 2019. It is located next to the Tsar Simeon's Garden in the city centre. With its dimensions of 625 square metres, distributed in two open levels, and a mesmerizing skylight roof that provides a wonderful diffused light, it is ideal for large temporary exhibitions with both classical and contemporary works. The 2019 Hall also offers ample opportunities for conferences, presentations to numerous audiences, chamber concerts and stage performances. The building has a separate conference room with 40 seats.

 Free visits for children and seniors – every first Thursday of the month.

 The City Gallery of Fine Arts offers a combined admission ticket for access to its exhibitions.



16

Regional Natural History Museum

34, Hristo G. Danov Str.
+359 32 633 096
rnhm.org



The museum is one of the most modern museums in the country and in the Balkans, having exhibitions with enhanced nature conservation idea. The halls of Geology, Botany, Invertebrates, Amphibians and Reptiles, Birds and Mammals are on the first floor, and on the ground floor are the halls of Fishes, Aquarium and Seabed. The highlight of the Tropic Hall is the live tropical butterflies that are freely flying around.



Free visits for children and seniors – every first Thursday of the month.



17

Regional Natural History Museum Planetarium

34, Hristo G. Danov Str.
+359 32 633 096
rnhm.org



The digital planetarium, located in the building of the Regional Natural History Museum in Plovdiv, was established in 2015 by the American company Evans & Sutherland – a world leader in the field. The planetarium features an 8-metre dome and is equipped with a special “fisheye” lens projector, allowing projection across the entire dome. Each film in the planetarium’s program represents a unique journey into space, giving viewers the opportunity to experience events they would otherwise not be able to see. The hall has 50 seats.



Free visits for children and seniors – every first Thursday of the month.



18

The Ancient Theatre

2A, Tsar Ivaylo Str.
+359 32 621 040
oldplovdiv.bg



The Ancient Theatre of Philippopolis is one of the best preserved ancient theatres in the world. A recently discovered inscription on a statue pedestal indicates that the theatre was built in the 90s of the 1st century AD, when Philippopolis was under the rulership of Titus Flavius Cotise – an heir of a Thracian Royal Dynasty, the high priest of the Thracian province, representative of the Metropolitan Court of Justice and a person in charge of the construction sites. The theatre was one of the major public buildings of ancient Philippopolis. The open area includes 28 concentric rows of marble seats. In addition to theatrical performances and sittings of the National Assembly and the Union of Thracian Cities, the theatre also hosted gladiatorial fights. It was active until the end of the fourth century and had a capacity of 6,000 spectators. Today the Ancient Theatre is one of the symbols of Plovdiv and has been fully adapted to the city's modern cultural life. It is a functioning stage for opera, drama and music.

 Free visits for children and seniors – every first Thursday of the month.

 The Municipal Institute “Ancient Plovdiv” offers various types of admission tickets and guided tour talks.



19

The Roman Stadium

Roman Stadium Sq.
+359 876 662 881
oldplovdiv.bg



The Stadium is located in a hollow between Sahattepe and Teksimtepe, in the middle of the Main Pedestrian Street. It was built in the 2nd century, following the model of the stadium in Delphi. With its impressive size, the stadium could seat up to 30,000 spectators who watched sporting competitions. According to the inscriptions and coins found, Pythian Games were held at the Stadium. During the visit of Emperor Caracalla in 214 AD, the games were called Alexandria-Pythia, and after the visit of the Emperor Elagabalus in 218 AD, they were named Kendrisian Games. Today only the northern part of the Stadium with 13 rows, the northern entrance and part of the track can be seen. There is also a remaining part of the city walls, built in 172 under the rule of Emperor Marcus Aurelius, and the foundations of the Roman Aqueduct of Philippopolis.

 Free visits for children and seniors – every first Thursday of the month.

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20

The Bishop's Basilica of Philippopolis

2, Knyaginya Maria Luiza Blvd.
+359 876 662 900
oldplovdiv.bg



The Bishop's Basilica of Philippopolis is a three-nave single-apse building, impressively large in size, with rich interior architectural design. Its total length is 82.80 m and its width is 36 m, which makes it the largest basilica building from the 4th–6th century in Bulgaria and one of the largest in the Balkans. The floors of the basilica are covered with two layers of multicoloured mosaics, with an area exceeding 2,000 square metres depicting complex geometric compositions, flowers, plants and birds. Each bird, rosette and meander is the result of great artistry, hours of work and years of experience. It functioned from the middle of the 4th century to the end of the 6th century.

The Bishop's Basilica of Philippopolis is a monument of very high historical, artistic and scientific value. It is included in the UNESCO Tentative List for Cultural and Natural Heritage as part of the serial property "Bishop's Basilica and Late-Antique Mosaics of Philippopolis, Roman Province of Thrace".

 Free visits for children and seniors – every first Thursday of the month.

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21

The Small Early Christian Basilica

31A, Knyaginya Maria Luiza Blvd.
+359 876 662 882
oldplovdiv.bg



The archaeological complex Small Early Christian Basilica dates from the second half of the 5th–6th century. It is a three-nave basilica measuring 20 m in length and 13 m in width. A small chapel was built to the south, and a baptistery was attached to the north nave. The basilica had very rich architectural decorations – marble colonnade between the naves, marble altar, pulpit and synthronon. The floors are covered with multicoloured mosaics, considered some of the best ever made by the masters of Philippopolis. For early Christians, the mosaics conveyed meaning and symbolism. The deer, for example, represents the soul of the Christian who strives for faith and truth, and the dove symbolizes the Holy Spirit.

 Free visits for children and seniors – every first Thursday of the month.

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22

Late-Antique Irene Building

89, Tsar Boris III Obединitel Blvd.
+359 876 662 900
oldplovdiv.bg



The building occupies a greater part of an insula (rectangular space bounded by an orthogonally developed street network), located at one of the main intersections in the urban plain, south of the Ancient Theatre. The rooms in the representative part of the building, developed around an inner courtyard, have polychrome mosaics. The name of the building is derived from the inscription next to the image of a female, located in the central room. The mosaics, dating back to the 4th–5th centuries, are the work of local masters, influenced by Eastern schools and models.

 Free visits for children and seniors – every first Thursday of the month.

 The Municipal Institute “Ancient Plovdiv” offers various types of admission tickets and guided tour talks.



23

Balabanov House

57, Konstantin Stoilov Str.
+359 32 627 082
oldplovdiv.bg



Balabanov House is a representative of the development of symmetrical houses in Plovdiv and one of the models with very rich architectural details of the plastic and flat decorative ornamentation. This house definitely goes beyond the functions of the normal home and becomes more like a public building with its size and functions. It was built in the early 19th century and had three owners. The last one was the merchant Luka Balabanov, whose name is given to the house. The size of the house is impressive – built on an area of 546 square metres. Today Balabanov House is one of the most popular chamber stages for cultural events in Plovdiv.

 Free visits for children and seniors – every first Thursday of the month.

 The Municipal Institute “Ancient Plovdiv” offers various types of admission tickets and guided tour talks.



24

Hindliyan House

4, Artin Gidikov Str.
+359 32 628 998
oldplovdiv.bg



Built by unknown master builders in 1835-1840, the house of Stepan Hindliyan is one of the few originally preserved symmetrical houses of Plovdiv. The owner of the house is also the founder of one of the four wealthiest Armenian families in the city. He was a renowned merchant, whose trade often led him to India in the early 19th century. As a result the name Hindliyan was given to him.

The house is second to none in regards to its artistic and decorative ornamentation. Lavish details cover not only the walls but also the ceilings. The first floor features a bath continuing a tradition started with the Roman hypocaust system and developed into the Turkish bath variant “hammam” with its unwinding steam room.

 Free visits for children and seniors – every first Thursday of the month.

 The Municipal Institute “Ancient Plovdiv” offers various types of admission tickets and guided tour talks.



25

Nedkovich House

3, Tsanko Lavrenov Str.
+359 32 626 216
oldplovdiv.bg



Built in 1863 in the spirit of European classicism, the house of Plovdiv merchant and public figure Nicola Nedkovich impresses viewers with a richly decorated facade and a four-column solemn portico. The rooms on the first floor are located symmetrically on both sides of a wide lounge (hayet). The second floor is stylistically distinguished by its decorations. The exhibition in the house presents the inner order of the wealthy Plovdiv houses of the 19th century and includes furniture and belongings of the Nedkovich family. Also exhibited are samples from the two main carpet schools – those of Chiprovtsi and Kotel. Especially impressive are massive carpets of the Kotel school, made to order for this house, as well as the exquisite silk fabrics and fine household textiles.

 Free visits for children and seniors – every first Thursday of the month.

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26

House of Dr. Stoyan Chomakov

Zlatyu Boyadzhiev Permanent Exhibition

18, Saborna Str.
+359 32 635 308
oldplovdiv.bg



The house of Dr. Stoyan Chomakov, one of the most prominent fighters for an independent Bulgarian church, was built in 1858-1860. From an architectural point of view, it belongs to the then very popular style of neoclassicism. After the Liberation, the heirs let the house as King Ferdinand's residence. Since 1984, the largest collection of paintings of the famous Bulgarian artist Zlatyu Boyadzhiev (1903-1976) has been exhibited in the building. The artist's work spans several periods, in which the image of the person takes centre stage.

 Free visits for children and seniors – every first Thursday of the month.

 The Municipal Institute "Ancient Plovdiv" offers various types of admission tickets and guided tour talks.



27

Stambolyan House

Dimitar Kirov Permanent Exhibition

15, Kiril Nektariev Str.
+359 32 635 381
oldplovdiv.bg



Veren Stambolyan's house, built in the second half of the 19th century, is a large two-storey symmetrical building, located on the eastern slope of Dzhambaz Tepe. For many years it was used as a creative centre of the Union of Bulgarian Artists and the Society of Plovdiv Artists. Since May 2010, a permanent exhibition dedicated to the work of the famous Plovdiv artist Dimitar Kirov (1935-2008) has been arranged in the house. The artist belonged to the generation of Plovdiv artists, which in the 1960s modernized the image of Bulgarian art.

 Free visits for children and seniors – every first Thursday of the month.

 The Municipal Institute "Ancient Plovdiv" offers various types of admission tickets and guided tour talks.



28

Klianti House

3, Todor Samodumov Str.
+359 32 660 160
oldplovdiv.bg



Klianti House is one of the oldest preserved houses from the period of the National Bulgarian Revival, part of the Ancient Plovdiv architectural and historic reserve. Dating from the middle of the 18th century, it is an asymmetrical two-storey house. Here you can observe unique architectural elements. The house is richly decorated with mural paintings, wooden carved ceilings and beautiful alafrangas (An alafranga is a decorative alcove, meaning “in the French style”). Many of the decorations are one of a kind and can't be seen in the rest of the houses from the Revival Period. Research and restoration of the building began in 1971, proceeded in a few stages, and concluded in 2017, when the house was transformed into a museum and awarded the title “Building of the Year.”

 Free visits for children and seniors – every first Thursday of the month.

 The Municipal Institute “Ancient Plovdiv” offers various types of admission tickets and guided tour talks.



29

Pharmacy Museum Hippocrates

16, Saborna Str.
+359 32 624 594
oldplovdiv.bg



From 1872 until 1947 the House of Dr. Sotir Antoniadi was a well-functioning pharmacy. It was among the best equipped pharmacies in Plovdiv. Since 1981 a museum collection of pharmacy-related objects, unique in Bulgaria, is on display and visitors learn about pharmacy and medicine of the Bulgarian Revival in the 19th century through the turn of the 20th century. Medications and remedies were then entirely based on natural components, herbs, minerals and essential oils. The most popular methods of remedy preparation in the past are presented here.

 Free visits for children and seniors – every first Thursday of the month.

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 **Ticket sales for museums and events**

Address 1

1 Doctor Stoyan Chomakov Str.
(The Old Town of Plovdiv)

Phone: +359 32 620 453

Address 2

1 Rayko Daskalov Str.
(Roman Stadium Square)

Phone: +359 32 620 229

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