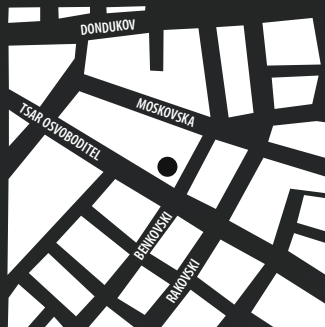


NMNHS is the only national institution directly engaged with the preservation of scientific collections of live and non-live nature from Bulgaria and the world. The study of biodiversity, environmental protection and the evolution of organisms are the museum's major priorities. The main task of NMNHS is the all-around study of the fauna, flora, fossils, minerals and rocks of Bulgaria and other countries. It develops the following scientific disciplines: taxonomy, faunistics, zoogeography and ecology of arachnids, myriapods, insects and all classes of vertebrates; taxonomy of fossil mammals and birds; floristics; mineralogy. The NMNHS is a national centre of biospeleology, archaeozoology and palaeontology of vertebrates and of bat studies.

Yearly the museum is visited by some 50000 (in some years up to 115000) people. Students and pupils often use the halls for practical seminars.



#### How to get to the museum?

- Subway — Serdika station
- Bus lines 9, 94, 280, 306 — Sofia University stop
- Trolley bus line 9 — St. Alexander Nevski Square stop
- Trolley bus lines 1, 2, 4, 11 — Sofia University stop
- Tramway line 20 — National Opera stop

#### Admission fees

Adults: 4.00 BGN • Children under 6: 1.00 BGN • Pupils and students: 2.00 BGN  
People with disabilities: 1.00 BGN • Retirees: 2.00 BGN

Guided tour [upon request by phone (+359 2) 988 28 94]: 20.00 BGN

Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

# National Museum of Natural History



#### National Museum of Natural History

1 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd, 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria  
[www.nmnhs.com](http://www.nmnhs.com)

e-mail: [contact@nmnhs.com](mailto:contact@nmnhs.com)

phone: (+359 2) 987 41 95 • fax: (+359 2) 988 28 94

tickets: (+359 2) 988 51 15 (ext. 706)

Opening hours: every day from 10:00 — 18:00,

except 1 January, 3 March and 25 December

— tickets can be bought until 17:00



The National Museum of Natural History (NMNHS) has a history of more than one hundred and twenty years. It is the oldest museum in Bulgaria and the oldest and richest among the natural history museums on the Balkan Peninsula. It was founded in 1889 by the Royal Prince Ferdinand under the name Royal Prince's Natural History Museum. At first it was used to accommodate Prince Ferdinand's personal collections of birds, mammals and butterflies. The first curator of the museum was the court doctor Dr Paul Leverkühn who was a famous ornithologist. He organised the first exhibition in 14 halls on two floors in an old building where today's museum stands and it was opened for visits in 1907.

Until WW I the museum added collections mainly from abroad, given as present or bought from famous foreign collectors and travellers: Count Amédée Alléon, Emil Holub, Stewart Baker, Josef Haberhauer, Julius Milde, etc. In the next decades almost all private collections of animals and plants were contributed by the first Bulgarian geologists such as Nikola Nedelkov, Petar Tschorbadjiev and Dimitar Ioakimov, Ivan Neitscheff, Ivan Urumoff and Anani Javascheff, Prof. Georgi Zlatarski and Rafail Popov.

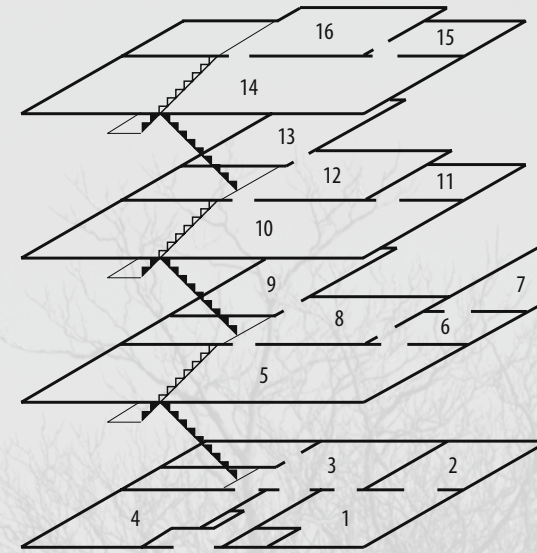
The museum underwent particularly intensive development under the management of Academician Dr Ivan Buresch, who run the museum

from 1914 to 1959. At that time it was called the Royal Museum and laid the foundations of the Royal Natural and Scientific Institutes established in 1918. Expeditions to all Bulgarian mountains and to the neighbouring Balkan countries were organised to enrich the museum collections. The museum turned into the main centre of studies on natural sciences in Bulgaria. Today's building, which harbours collections from 1936, is the only building in Sofia constructed for a museum. It was destroyed during the WW II bombings but the collections were preserved due to their timely evacuation.

After the war the building was restored to its previous condition and the new exhibition was opened for visitors in 1948. During the reorganisation of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in 1947 it was the first institution to become a division of the Academy.

In 1974, when director is Academician Ivan Kostov, the museum turns into an independent scientific unit with a national statute. The exhibition area has enlarged to 16 halls, once again displaying minerals, rocks, fossils, plants and animals arranged in a contemporary manner. A Palaeontological branch (museum) of the NMNHS was established in 1990 in the town of Asenovgrad.

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Halls 1, 2, 4 — Mineralogy • Hall 3 — Temporary exhibitions • Halls 5, 8 — Birds • Hall 6 — Amphibians and reptiles • Hall 7 — Fishes • Hall 9 — Palaeontology • Halls 10, 11, 12, 13 — Mammals • Hall 14 — Insects • Hall 15 — Non-insect invertebrates • Hall 16 — Plants

