

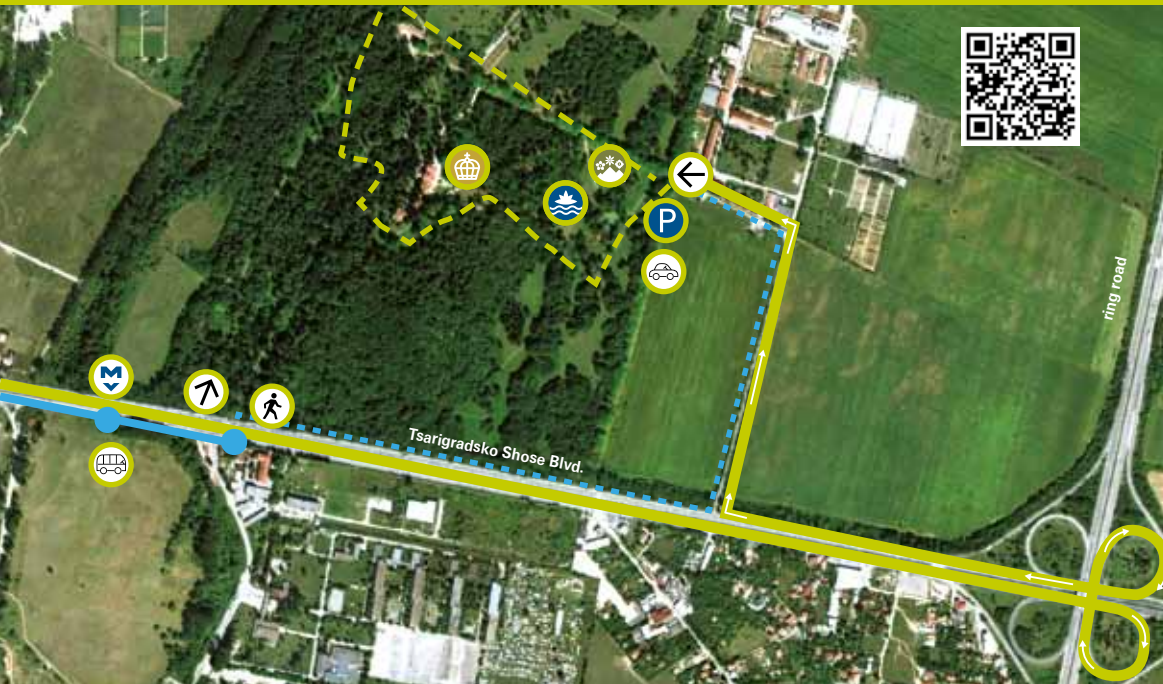
VRANA PARK, an area of 968 decares, is located 11 km east of downtown Sofia between the village of Kazichene, Iskar River and Tsarigradsko Shore Blvd., near the ring road junction.












**OPENING HOURS:**

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 10:00 – 16:00 for individual visitors and groups

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY 10.00 – 16.00 for groups of over 15 people that have filled out a request form one week in advance at [www.parkvrana.com](http://www.parkvrana.com) or call: +359 2 963 45 66

# MUSEUM PARK VRANA



-  Vrana Palace
-  Lake of the Lilies
-  Sightseeing route
-  Rockery
-  Bus route
-  Walking route
-  Car route
-  Tsarigradsko Shore Metro Station
-  Buses – bus No. 5 and bus No. 6 from Tsarigradsko shore Metro Station Bus Stop, bus No. 7 from Gara Iskar Bus Stop and bus No. 505 (April 1 – October 31, only before and on holidays) from Orlov Most bus stop
-  Parking
-  Entrance



SOFIA MUNICIPALITY  
PARKS AND GARDENS MUNICIPAL ENTERPRISE



VRANA  
MUSEUM PARK

SOFIA MUNICIPALITY, SOFIA TOURISM ADMINISTRATION – 1505 Sofia, 44 Oborishte St., tel.: +359 2 943 47 28, fax: +359 2 943 47 68, e-mail: [opto@info-sofia.bg](mailto:opto@info-sofia.bg)

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES – SOFIA – Located in the underpass of St Kliment Ohridski Sofia University (St Kliment Ohridski Metro Station), tel.: +359 2 491 83 44/45, e-mail: [tourist@info-sofia.bg](mailto:tourist@info-sofia.bg);

LARGO – Located in Serdika 2 Metro Station, tel.: +359 2 494 93 15, e-mail: [largo@info-sofia.bg](mailto:largo@info-sofia.bg); CHITALNYATA – Located in the City garden, tel.: +359 885 921 620, e-mail: [chitalnyata@gmail.com](mailto:chitalnyata@gmail.com);

BANKYA – 1320 Bankya, Republika Square, tel.: +359 885 074 115, e-mail: [bankya@info-sofia.bg](mailto:bankya@info-sofia.bg); **Fb: InformationCentreSofia, www.info-sofia.bg, www.visitsofia.bg**

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SOFIA MUNICIPALITY  
SOFIA TOURISM ADMINISTRATION



## ABOUT THE PARK

Vrana Museum Park was established under the influence of European landscape parks. Its creators built a magnificent ensemble by using decorative plants as a 'construction material'.

## A BRIEF HISTORY

After the Liberation, the Turkish Chardaklia homestead became property of Hadzhi Bone Petrov from the village of German. In the course of 10 years he established an exemplary agricultural farm. In 1889, Tsar Ferdinand bought the neighbouring lands as well as the homestead itself thus establishing his own mansion,

Vrana, where Vrana Park is located today. As part of his mansion, the Tsar developed the park for 43 years.

## STAGES

The first stage (1904–1909) is associated with the construction of the hunting villa of Tsar Ferdinand under the design of Austrian architect Wülf. The character of the old homestead has been preserved together with the access roads from Tsarigradsko shose and the lanes. German gardener Johann Kellerer built the greenhouses and the rockery. The first afforestation was done by Vasil Georgiev, who had graduated in Horticulture in Versailles, France. The head of the Sofia Botanical Garden Prof Jules Locheau supplied rare

conifers from France – Greek fir, Spanish fir, *Abies concolor*, *Sequoiadendron*, *Pinus ponderosa*, *Pinus jeffreyi*, *Juniperus virginiana*, etc.

During the second stage (1909–1926) the New Palace was built (1912), the main home of the Bulgarian royal family, designed by architect Nikola Lazarov. In 1912, the homestead was officially renamed to Vrana Palace. This stage is linked with the work of the Vienna graduate, the Czech Anton Kraus. At that time were set up the Lake of the Lilies (1909), the Daalem rockery (1911), the house by the lake, and many lanes. The interest of Tsar Ferdinand in botanical science helped the head of Sofia Botanical Garden Alaricus Delmard label the large botanical collection.

The third stage (1926–1943) is characterized by the further spacious

development of the park under the guidance of the chief gardener, the German Wilhelm Schacht. He created exceptionally beautiful perspectives and planted exotics, such as *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*, *Exochorda albertii*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Liriodendron tulipifera*, *Ginkgo biloba*, etc.

## WHAT CAN BE SEEN

The diversity of 821 tree, shrub and herbaceous species from 118 families and 435 genuses on a territory of less than 100 ha is impressive. All these add to the high artistic value of Vrana Park as one of the first pieces of landscape park development in Bulgaria, created in a period of rapid revival of cultural life following the Liberation in 1878.

