

## Museum of Natural History

The Varna Museum of Natural History is situated in the Sea Garden, opposite to the Palace of Culture and Sport, just a few yards from the sea coast.

The Museum studies and popularises the geology, flora and fauna of the Black Sea and the Bulgarian coast in particular. It keeps more than 20 000 exhibits divided in the following sections: Geology, Paleontology, Botany, Zoology and Exotics. The Museum of Natural History in Varna possesses almost full collections of Bulgaria's ichthyo-fauna living in freshwater and Black Sea habitats. Furthermore, the Museum boasts very rich collections of rare and protected plant species and Black Sea flora in general. Other remarkable collections present geological specimens and minerals, invertebrate and vertebrate fauna.



Supporting facilities include a taxidermic laboratory, which prepares dry-stuffed animals, a laboratory for wet specimens, herbaria, etc., an osteological laboratory producing vertebrate exhibits, and a biochemical laboratory for biological and chemical assays of different animal groups.

Presently, the Museum is setting up a 5 000 square meters outdoor exposition with rare and valuable specimens of live and unlive nature. The outdoor exhibition features valuable rock and natural specimens, both local and foreign, introducing the visitor to various rock types and their origin. The space is organised as a single garden with pedestrian alleys, which divide it in thematic zones and with resting and information places.



The thematic zones include the following plant communities: flora typical of sandy and salty soils (psammophytes); plants loving sunny areas with sandy and salty soils (arenarium), steppe flora and plants living on limy soils (chasmophytes); flora preferring wet areas (hydrophytes and hygrophytes) and longoz (dense) forests in shadowy places with added soil humidity; plants from Stranja mountain region growing in shadowy areas with acid soils (including decorative ones).





## ■ Terrarium

In a separate building, the Museum of Natural History has staged a terrarium called Exotic Zoo. This is the most affluent and diverse exposition of live exotic animals in Bulgaria. The Museum never stops enriching this collection, which now includes about 120 species from the following groups: invertebrates, fish, amphibious, reptiles, birds and small mammals. Here the visitor will see many interesting and lovely inhabitants from all over the world along with representatives of Bulgarian fauna. Many tropical species successfully reproduce themselves in the Terrarium: bird-eating spiders, insects, blue crabs, fish, frogs, tortoises, geckos, serpents, small rodents and many other exotic animals. During the tourist season, the Museum organises a variety of thematic events, such as the spider show Arachnomania, turtle shows,

etc., together with competitions, quizzes and suchlike. By separate arrangement visitors may attend to see how animals are fed, have themselves photographed with animals and so on.



### Museum of Natural History

Sea garden (opposite the Palace of Culture and Sport)  
9000 Varna, Bulgaria  
phone: + 359 52 / 618 011  
e-mail: nhmuseum\_varna@yahoo.com

### Opening hours:

In winter: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Days off - Saturday and Sunday.  
In summer: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Day off - Monday



### Terrarium

33, Saltanat str. (near Horizont restaurant)  
9000 Varna, Bulgaria  
phone: + 359 52 / 302 571

### Opening hours:

In winter: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m., Without day off  
In summer: 9 a.m. - 9 p.m., Without day off

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European Union



Republic of Bulgaria



Municipality of Varna

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