



HISAR KAPIA

Historically, this is one of the three gates leading to the Old Town. Its foundations date back to Roman times. Today, if you don't have a wedding photo taken here, you are practically a 'no one' in Maina Town.

THE HOUSES IN THE OLD TOWN

WE, THE MAINA PEOPLE, ARE TOUGH. WE ARE WELL OFF WITHOUT BAY WINDOWS, FRENCH FASHION, WOOD CARVINGS, ROSE-TINTED WINDOWS, "WET" FRESCOS, GDANSKI BAROQUE, GOLD PLATED BAS-RELIEFS, INCUNABULAR PHARMACOPOEIA, TO NAME BUT A FEW! BUT YOU DO GET TO SEE QUITE A FEW OF THE ABOVE IN THE OLD TOWN OF PLOVDIV. SHEER SPLENDOR, JUST BECAUSE!



NEDKOVICH HOUSE

The "Green room" here is the landlady's room, the "Red room" is the drawing room, the "Purple room" is the dining room and the "Orange room" is the living room. If you are colour-blind, go for the unique wood carvings on the ceilings of the ground floor instead. Another fab must-see: The Key for the Gate is a real masterpiece of blacksmith and ironmonger art. It is the only authentic key still used for its original purpose today.



CHOMAKOV HOUSE

The ayliak residence of King Ferdinand during his visits to Maina Town. It was subsequently used as a tobacco warehouse and a town library during the last century. Today, it houses the paintings of Zlatyu Boyadzhiev.



KUYUMDZHIUGLU HOUSE

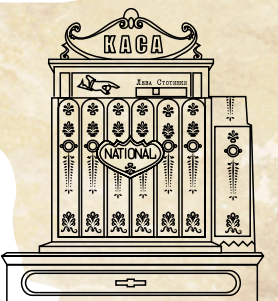
Today, the house is used to display the collection of the Ethnographic museum. During working hours, visitors are welcome to view the fascinating exhibits of Maina history over the centuries, but as the night sets in through the branches of the ancient mulberry tree, a gentle whisper fills the air with a legendary story:



One day, the old Diamandi was waiting expectantly for a visit from his granddaughter Maria, who was coming from Vienna with her sweetheart Rudolf. She asked Diamandi for permission to stay in the house with her beau. Seeing how strong their love was, the old man gave his blessing and the couple got engaged. Rudolf had to go back to Vienna, make some arrangements there, tell his mother, then come back, marry Maria and make Philipopolis their home. The night before his departure, they were sitting quietly under the old mulberry when a thunderstorm struck. A bolt of lightning split the tree asunder, killing them both, hand in hand. Maria and Rudolf were buried in one grave in the small churchyard of "St. Taksiari", located under the cliffs of Dzhabaz Hill.



A good find is also the oldest jingling cash register. It was produced in 1903 and still operates incorruptibly. Just fancy!



HIPPOCRATES PHARMACY

The building is cool, but be sure to check the expiration date on the Bulgarian painkiller tablet Analgin, because the last supply here was more or less one century ago.



LAMARTINE HOUSE

The French poet Alphonse de Lamartine stayed in the Old Town for three days in 1833, and Maina people named an entire house after him. What if he had stayed until the weekend after!

