

Ski Touring in Bulgaria – Pirin and Rila ranges

Day 1: Arrival at Sofia airport. Meet with your guide. 2.45h transfer to the town of **Bansko** in the Pirin Mountains. Accommodation in a hotel in Bansko for 4 nights, welcome dinner.

Day 2: Pirin Mountains - Bezbog area. Morning 30 min. transfer takes us to the bottom station of Bezbog chair lift. We take it up to Bezbog Hut at 2240 m. From here we ascent to one of the highest peaks of Pirin Mountains – **Mount Polezan** (2851 m). A few options for the descent, according to the conditions. Total for the day: +600/-1700 m or +1200/-2300 m (option for a second ascent).



Polezan area

Day 3: Pirin Mountains - Hvoynati Peak. We'll spend the day in the area of the highest peak of Pirin Mountains (Mount Vihren). Drive from Bansko to the ski zone above the town – 20 min. We skin up to

Vihren Hut at 1950 m starting from 1650 m for about an hour. Our route goes further up along the valley near Muratovo Lake and finally to the top of **Hvoynati Peak (2635 m)** that offers a great close view towards the giant Vihren Peak. We've got a few options to descent according to the snow conditions. We ski back down all the way to Bansko. Total for the day: +1000/-1700 m



Hvoynati Peak

Day 4: Pirin Mountains – Todorka Peak. Today we use the lift system of the resort in order to get quick access to the highest parts of the mountain. A 1h ridge walk (boot crampons required) starts from the top lift station at 2550. We ski down the peak of **Todorka**, put the skins on and do a second ascent/descent in the area. Final run down to Bansko. Total for the day: +800/-2200 m,

The ascent of Todorka is a ridge hike – no technical difficulty, but fairly exposed, so boot crampons/ice axe required.



View from the ridge of Todorka

Day 5: Rila Mountains – Malyovitsa Valley. A 2h morning transfer takes us to the **Rila Mountain** range. We skin up from 1760 m into the beautiful Malyovitsa valley. Numerous options for ascents/descents, according to the conditions. 20 min transfer to the village of **Govedartsi**, accommodation in a mountain hotel for 2 nights. Total for the day: +1000/-1000 m.

Day 6: Rila Mountains – Musala Peak. We hit the highest point on the Balkans today. Transfer to Borovets ski resort (30 min) where we take Yastrebets gondola to take us up to 2360 m. We are at the foot of **Mount Musala** (2925 m). About 3 hours ascent to the top than we ski back down to Borovets, located at 1300 m. 4-5 hours in total, +600/-1600 m.

Day 7: Transfer to Sofia – 1,5h. Time permitting, a sightseeing walk around the city center. Departure.



Malyovitsa area

Required equipment:

*Touring skis; ski touring bindings with ski/walk mode and brakes or straps; climbing skins; ski crampons; poles; AT ski boots – with rubber sole and ski/walk mode.

*Personal Rescue Equipment – beacon, shovel, probe.

Rucksack 35-45l, water and wind proof pants and jacket with hood, 2 pairs of gloves – a tiny ones for touring and ski gloves, sun glasses, sun block, sun hat, warm hat, ski goggles, travel linen for the huts, water bottle or flask (1l), snacks, personal first aid kit.

**It is possible to rent all of the above from Sofia, please contact us.*