

Guided and selfguided trips in Bulgaria and the Balkans - ski touring, snowshoeing, walking and mountain biking tours

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Ski touring in Bulgaria - Rila and Pirin ranges, 8 days

Day 1: Arrival

Meeting with your guide at Sofia Airport. 1,5 hours transfer to the village of **Govedartsi** at 1200 m, in the foot of Rila Mountains. Accommodation in a hotel in the village for two nights.

Day 2: Mount Malyovitsa.

A 30 minute drive takes us to the starting point at 1730 m. From here we ascend Mount Malyovitsa (2729 m) passing Malyovitsa Hut and the Dears Lake on the way. Descent along the slopes of Malyovitsa and the valley back to the start point.

Total touring for the day: about 7 hours +1000/-1000 m.

Day 3: Mount Musala.

We hit the highest point in the Balkans today. Transfer to Borovets ski resort (30 min) where we take Yastrebits 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 then we ski back down to Borovets, located at 1300 m. The approximately 1.30 min drive takes us to our next accommodation - a hotel in Sapareva Banya village, The village is famous for its hot springs and we have an option to visit a thermal pool.

Total touring for the day: 6 hours, +850/-1800 m.

Day 4: The Rila Lakes

This morning we will take the chair lift to Rila Lakes Hut, located at the foot of the famous **Seven Lakes area**. Ascent to the main ridge of the mountain, near some of the lakes, and ski down to the hut and further through the forests to the bottom lift station. Overnight in the same accommodation.

Total touring for the day: 6 hours, +600/-1100 m.

Day 5: Bansko - Todorka

Two hour transfer takes us to Bansko. Bansko is a small town in the footsteps of Pirin Mountains and Pirin National Park, that hosts the most modern ski resort in Bulgaria.

We take the lifts up to the top station at 2550 m and then climb the ridge of **Mount Todorka** (2746 m). Option to follow an airy ridge (boot crampons required) to reach the peak, or to do a longer non technical tour entirely on skis. A short traverse along the ridge and we descend to Bunderitsa Valley and further down to Bansko. Accommodation in a hotel for three nights.

Total touring for the day: 3-4 hours, +200 or +400/-1800 m.

Day 6: Bezbog - Polezan

Today we'll visit another area of Pirin Mountains. 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 ascend to one of the highest peaks of Pirin Mountains -

Mount Polezan (2851 m). We'll ski back to Bezbog or alternatively the west slopes of Damyanitsa valley until we reach the Bansko ski zone.

Total touring for the day: 6 hours, +610/-1900 m.

Day 7: Mount Vihren

Ascent of **Mount Vihren**, the top of the Pirin Mountains today. Early start, drive to the Bansko ski area and tour to the top and back. We will ski all the way down to Bansko town.

Total touring for the day: 8 hours, +1300/-2100 m.

Day 8: Departure

A 2,5 morning transfer to the Sofia Airport. Time permitting, we can fit a sightseeing tour in **Sofia** on the way. Departure.