

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

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Walking in Bulgaria - Rhodope, Rila and Pirin ranges, 8 days

Day 1: Arrival

Arrival at Sofia Airport. Transfer to the village of Shiroka Luka in Western Rhodope Mountains – 3,5 hours. Accommodation in a small hotel at 1550 m.

Day 2: Rhodope Mountains - Perelik Ridge

10 min drive to the village of Gela at 1500m, at the foot of the highest ridge of the Rhodopes – Perelik Ridge.

Traverse of the main ridge of Rhodope Mountains – Perelik Ridge. We start from the village and ascend to Perelik Hut, then further along the ridge to Mount Karluk – 2188 m. Descent to the remote village of Mugla at 1500 m. Accommodation in a family hotel at Mulga.

Total for the day: 8 hours, +900/-900 m.

Day 3: Mugla – Chairite Lakes – Trigrad – Yagodina trek

6h walk through the most beautiful meadows of the Rhodopes, with great views towards Perelik Ridge. We`ll pass near the landslide formed lakes of Chairite and finally walk to the village of Trigrad, visit Devil's Throat Cave and the Trigrad Gorge.

40 min transfer to the village of Yagodina via the Yagodina Canyon, accommodation in a family hotel.

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

Day 4: Yagodina Village – Yagodina Cave – Pirin Mountains (Bansko).

3 hours return walk up to the Eagles Eye Panorama on the top of Sveti Iliya peak and another 30 min descent to the entrance of Yagodina Cave. Visit to the cave.

3 hours drive to the town of Bansko, located in the foot of Pirin Mountains. Walk around the old town of Bansko, dinner in a traditional tavern. in a valley between the main mountain ranges of Bulgaria – Rila, Pirin and Rhodopes. Accommodation in a family hotel in Bansko.

Total for the day: 3,5 hours, +400/-600 m.

Day 5: Valyavishki and Todorini Lakes in Pirin National Park

30 min drive up the mountain. Walk via Demyanitsa Hut and through Ulen Reserve near Valyavishki and Todorini Lakes. Ascent up to a col at 2500 and descent along Buderitza Valley. Accommodation at the same hotel in Bansko.

Total for the day: 8 hours, +1200/-600 m.

Day 6: Mount Vihren – the top of Pirin

Drive up to the Pirin Mountains again. Ascent of Mount Vihren (2914 m), the highest point of Pirin Mountains and second highest in Bulgaria. Accommodation at the same hotel in Bansko.

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

Day 7: The Rila Monastery, the Rila Lakes and Skakavitsa Waterfall

1,5 hours drive to the Rila Monastery – the biggest in Bulgaria, located in the heart of the Rila Mountains, a UNESCO heritage sight. Visit to the monastery. A 1,15 hours drive to the bottom lift station at Seven Rila Lakes. Lift up to 2140 m, walk around the lakes and descend via Skakavitsa Waterfall, the biggest in Rila. Transfer to Sofia, accommodation in a hotel in Sofia downtown.

Total for the day: 5 hours, +450/-850 m.

Day 8: Departure

Transfer to Sofia Airport, departure.