

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

☎ +359 884 297 416

@ info@bulguides.com

<https://bulguides.com>



## Mountain Biking in Bulgaria - Rila and Pirin Classic Routes, 8 days

### Itinerary:

#### Day 1: Arrival

Pick up from Sofia airport and drive to the town of **Blagoevgrad** and further to the start point at Bodrost locality – 2.15h. Pick up the bikes and adjustment of the equipment. Ride up to **Macedonia Hut** – dirt road, 8km, +730 m. Accommodation at the hut.

#### Day 2: Rila Mountains: Macedonia Hut – Semkovo – Belitsa Bear Park – Treshtenik

We start with a ride from Macedonia Hut to the **Semkovo** area and then we follow dirt roads on the southern slopes of Rila Mountains towards the **Belitsa Bears Park**. Visit to the park and lunch. Afternoon ride to **Treshtenik** area, accommodation in a hotel.

Total for the day 50 km, +1100 m.

#### Day 3: Rila Mountains: Treshtenik – Belmeken – Ortsevo

From **Treshtenik** we start with an uphill ride along the asphalt for about 4km, then we start following the panoramic channel road towards the high mountain

dam of **Belmeken**, located at 2000 m above the sea level, in Eastern Rila. The road goes up and down and offers great views towards Rila, Pirin and the Rhodope ranges.

After a short stop at the lake we will descend towards the highest train station on the Balkans near the village of **Avramovo** – the Avramovo train station at 1300 m. We further enter the Rhodopes range and follow some gentle dirt roads, passing by the highest peak of the area and descending down to **Ortsevo** village at 1500 m. Accommodation in a local guest house – private rooms, but common bathroom.

Total for the day: 72 km, +1400 m.

#### **Day 4:** Rhodope Mountains: Ortsevo – Zlataritsa – Dospat Lake

We bike along a very panoramic ridge that offers views towards Pirin Range and reach the remotest village in the area – **Zlataritsa**. Further we follow the main ridge and finally descend to the town of Sarnitsa, on the west shore of **Dospat Lake**. A final ride around the lake will take us to **the town of Dospat**, Western Rhodope Mountains.

Total for the day: 65km, +740 m.

#### **Day 5:** Rhodope Mountains: Dospat – Yagodina

We leave the town and start following an ancient Roman road, very close to the border with Greece. Passing by a few nearly abandoned villages, we finally reach the valley of **Buinovska River** and descend along it down to Yagodinska Cave. A final short ascent takes us to the village of **Yagodina** (The Strawberry village) at 1500 m. Accommodation in a family hotel.

Total for the day: 45 km, +1020 m.

#### **Day 6:** Rhodope Mountains: Yagodina – Trigrad – Chairski Lakes Hut – Mugla Village

We head to the village of **Trigrad**, following a gentle road through the forests. Visit to the village, **Trigrad Gorge** and **Devil's Throat Cave**. Lunch. Afternoon ride up to Chairski Lakes and further via the abandoned village of **Chamla**. Final descent to **Mugla** village. Accommodation in a local family hotel.

Total for the day: 32 km, +960 m.

**Day 7:** Rhodope Mountains: Mugla village – Gela village – Solishta village – Shiroka Luka Village

From the village of Mugla we climb the slopes of the highest range in the area – **Perelik Ridge**, following a dirt road. We cross the ridge at a pass at 1900 m and then descend down to the famous **Gela** village. Ride across the villages of Stikul and Solishta with final descent takes us to the architectural reserve of **Shiroka Luka** for a visit and accommodation.

Total for the day: 50 km, +940m

**Day 8:** Rhodope Mountains: Shiroka Luka village – town of Devin – Sofia

Option for a half day asphalt ride to the town of **Devin** and visit of the outdoor mineral pools.

Transfer to **Sofia** – 3,5h. Departure/end of service.