



Guided and self-guided tours in Bulgaria and the Balkans – hiking, ski touring, mountain biking and snowshoeing trips

☎ +359 884 297 416

@ [info@bulguides.com](mailto:info@bulguides.com)

<https://bulguides.com>

## Long Weekend of Ski Touring in Pirin & Rila Mountains

### Guided ski touring holiday based in Bansko, Bulgaria

Unlike the crowded Alpine resorts, Bulgaria is a European ski touring destination that offers vast ski touring terrain with very few people. The Pirin and Rila Mountains combine dramatic alpine landscapes, reliable snow, affordable prices and genuine hospitality. With short transfers between touring areas and a flexible itinerary adapted to conditions, you'll experience remarkable variety within just five days.

For many visitors, Bulgaria becomes one of Europe's best-kept ski touring secrets.

### The Journey at a Glance

#### Day 1: Arrival in Bansko

Meet your guide at Sofia Airport before a scenic drive into the Pirin Mountains. After settling into our family-run hotel, we'll discuss the upcoming days over a traditional Bulgarian dinner and review current weather, snow and avalanche conditions.

#### Day 2: Bezbog & Polezhan Area

Using the historic Bezbog chairlift, we quickly reach high alpine terrain before beginning our first ski tour. Depending on conditions, we may climb Bezbog Peak, Polezhan or Disilitsa, enjoying wide-open bowls and enjoyable descents back towards the valley.

#### Day 3: Vihren Valley and Hvoynati Peak

Today we explore one of Bulgaria's most spectacular alpine landscapes beneath Vihren (2,914 m), the highest mountain in Pirin. Possible objectives include Hvoynati Peak, Muratov Peak or, for strong groups and suitable conditions, Vihren itself.

#### Day 4: Hidden Corners of Rila or Pirin

Depending on the weather and snow conditions, we head either to the peaceful Semkovo area in the Rila Mountains, Belmeken Plateau or the forests around Yavorov Hut. This flexibility allows us to seek the best snow while discovering a completely different side of Bulgaria's mountains.

## Day 5: Morning Ski Tour & Departure

Before returning to Sofia, there's often time for one final half-day ski tour near Bansko or Kartala. If your flight schedule allows, we can also stop at the UNESCO-listed Rila Monastery before heading to the airport.

## Brief Overview

|                                                                                                                                            | Hiking Stats                                                                           | Route                                                                                                                                                                                              | Highlights                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Accommodation                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <b>DAY 1</b><br><b>Arrival in Pirin National Park</b>     | -                                                                                      | Sofia Airport<br>→ Bansko<br>(2.5 hr transfer)                                                                                                                                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meet your guide</li><li>• Welcome dinner</li><li>• Trip briefing and equipment check.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Bansko</b><br>(4 nights at a hotel)<br><br><i>Historic mountain town.</i> |
|  <b>DAY 2</b><br><b>Polezan &amp; Bezbog peaks</b>         | Time: 5-6:00 h<br>Elevation: 1600 m ±1600 m (OR) ±1600-2000 m<br>Highest point: 2851 m | Bezbog hut<br>→ Mount Bezbog (2 645 m); OR<br>→ Mount Disilitsa (2 700 m); OR<br>→ Mount Polezan (2 851 m)                                                                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explore the alpine bowls of the Bezbog area</li><li>• Climb one of Pirin's finest panoramic summits</li><li>• Multiple descent options: skiing either back to Bezbog or into the Damyantsa Valley</li><li>• Option for forest ski free-riding: the forests of Bezbog are accessible by lift and lots of fun to ride!</li></ul> | <b>Bansko</b>                                                                |
|  <b>DAY 3</b><br><b>Vihren valley hike</b>                 | Time: 7:00 h<br>Elevation: 11000 m ±1800 m<br>Highest point: 2712 m                    | Bansko<br>→ Vihren Valley (Muratovo Lake)<br>→ Hvoynati Peak (2 635 m); OR<br>→ Muratov Peak (2 669 m); OR<br>→ Malka Todorka Peak (2 712 m); OR<br>→ Donchovi Karauli Peak (2 649 m);<br>→ Bansko | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Spectacular views of Mount Vihren</li><li>• Passing near glacial lakes and following a classic Pirin terrain</li><li>• Enjoy an unforgettable descent all the way back to Bansko</li></ul>                                                                                                                                     | <b>Bansko</b>                                                                |
|  <b>DAY 4</b><br><b>Hidden Corners of Rila or Pirin</b>    | Time: 4-6:00 h<br>Elevation: 1400-800 m<br>±1800-2600 m<br>Highest point: 2746 m       | Bansko<br>→ Mount Todorka Ridge (2 746 m)<br><br><b>NB!</b> We take the lifts up to the top station at 2550 m.                                                                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lift-assisted access leads to the dramatic Todorka Ridge</li><li>• Panoramic, yet exposed ridge walk</li><li>• Long descent to Bansko.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>Bansko</b>                                                                |
|  <b>DAY 5</b><br><b>Morning Ski Tour &amp; Departure</b> | Time: 7:00 h<br>Elevation: 11000 m ±1000 m<br>Start point: 1760 m                      | Bansko (drive)<br>→ Malyovitsa valley (with skis)<br>→ Return                                                                                                                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• First full ski touring day in the granite heart of the Rila Mountains.</li><li>• Flexible touring routes depending on the weather and snow conditions</li><li>• Enjoy a rewarding alpine descent</li></ul>                                                                                                                     | -                                                                            |

**NB!** We reserve the right to change the order of the days or the locations due to the weather and the snow conditions, without compromise with the quality of the whole tour and the time for ski touring.

## Equipment Needed:

- ✓ 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,
- ✓ beacon,
- ✓ shove,
- ✓ probe,
- ✓ Rucksack 35-45L,

- ✓ wind proof trousers and jacket with hood,
- ✓ 2 pairs of gloves – small ones for touring and ski gloves,
- ✓ ski goggles,
- ✓ warm hat,
- ✓ sun protection - glasses, sun block, sun hat,
- ✓ personal aid kit with any medicines you take, blister kit,
- ✓ travel liner for the huts,
- ✓ Water bottle or flask (1L) & snacks.



It is possible to rent all of the above from Sofia!

We prefer to work directly with our clients and customize the itineraries according to their preferences, abilities, time of the year and so on. Please, do contact us.