



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

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Long Weekend of Ski Touring in Rila Mountains (Borovets area)

Four days. Three nights. Two of the most iconic ski touring areas in Bulgaria, and a chance to ski from the highest summit in the Balkans.

This long-weekend ski touring trip explores the high mountains of Rila, based in the traditional mountain village of Govedartsı, close to Borovets and Malyovitsa. From here, we head into the mountains each day to find the best available snow, combining classic ski mountaineering objectives with long descents through Bulgaria's winter landscapes.

The Journey at a Glance

Day 1: Arrival

Leave Sofia behind and settle into Govedartsı, a quiet mountain village beneath Rila. The village offers a more authentic mountain atmosphere and puts us close to several of the best touring areas in central Rila.

Day 2: Climb Malyovitsa

Start touring from the valley at 1730 m and work your way into the high mountains, passing Malyovitsa Hut (1960 m) and Deer Lake (Elenino ezero, 2479 m) before reaching the 2729 m summit. Then ski back down.

Day 3: Go for the Musala summit

Transfer to Borovets ski resort (30 min) where we take Yastrebets gondola to take us up to 2360 m, and climb toward Musala. At 2925 m, you stand on the highest summit of the Balkans. Then comes the reward: approximately 1800 vertical metres of descent.

Then an 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.

Day 4: Ski touring to Mechit or Popova Kapa peaks & Departure

Finish with a final touring objective such as Mechit or Popova Kapa. The exact mountain is chosen according to the snow and weather, giving the guide the freedom to find the best skiing available before returning to Sofia in the late afternoon.

Brief Overview

	Hiking Stats	Route	Highlights	Accommodation
 DAY 1 — Arrival in Rila Mountains	-	Sofia → Govedartsi (1.5 hr transfer)	• Meet your guide • Scenic drive into the Rila Mountains and settle into the peaceful village of Govedartsi • Trip briefing and equipment check.	Govedartsi (3 nights) <i>Traditional mountain village.</i>
 DAY 2 — Malyovitsa area for a touring day	Time: 6:00 h Elevation: 11000 m 11000 m Highest point: 2729 m	Malyovitsa Trailhead → Mount Malyovitsa (2 729 m) → Return	• First full ski touring day in the granite heart of the Rila Mountains. • Climb one of Bulgaria's most iconic peaks via Malyovitsa Hut and the Elenino Lake • Enjoy a rewarding alpine descent	Govedartsi
 DAY 3 — Musala peak – Roof of the Balkans	Time: 6:00 h Elevation: 1850 m 11800 m Highest point: 2925 m	Transfer to Borovets (1300 m) → Yastrebets gondola lifts us to around 2360 m → Mount Musala (2925 m) → Descent to Borovetz → Transfer to Sapareva Banya	• Summit the highest peak in the Balkans before skiing nearly 1,700 vertical metres back to Borovets. • Finish the day relaxing in the famous thermal springs of Sapareva Banya.	Govedartsi
 DAY 4 — The area of Mechit (OR) — The tour of Popova Kapa	Time: 6:00 h Elevation: 11000-1300 m 11000-1300 m	Option to choose between Mechit & Popova Kapa → Forest Descent	• Flexible final mountain day selected according to snow, weather and avalanche conditions • Transfer to Sofia	(return to Sofia)

Equipment Needed:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">☑ 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, | <ul style="list-style-type: none">☑ 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. |
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 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.