



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

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Pirin and Rila Mountains

The Best Ski Touring of Bulgaria in One Week

In seven days we enjoy the best of Bulgaria ski touring holiday with few hotel changes, more skiing, and quite comfortable logistics. This adventure can be told as a story in two chapters:

- Chapter 1: Discover the wild limestone peaks of the Pirin Mountains (4 nights in Bansko)
- Chapter 2: Finish on the granite giants of the Rila Mountains (2 nights in Govedartsı)

This week-long ski touring adventure unfolds across Bulgaria's two highest and most spectacular mountain ranges, each offering a distinct character and unforgettable skiing. Join us!

The Journey at a Glance

Stage 1 — We stay in Bansko, the gateway to Pirin National Park

Days 1–4

Pirin mountains are famous for its dramatic marble ridges, rugged alpine terrain and breathtaking panoramas. It is home to some of the country's finest ski touring objectives. Over four days, you'll explore the wide bowls of Bezbog, climb panoramic summits such as Polezan and Hvoynati Peak, and traverse the airy ridge of Mount Todorka, enjoying long descents through pristine alpine terrain and quiet mountain valleys.

Stage 2 — We move to Govedartsı, nestled at the foot of the Rila Mountains

Days 5–7

Midway through the trip, we travel north to the peaceful village close to the Rila Mountains. Here, the landscape changes completely. Rounded granite peaks, glacial valleys and frozen lakes create a different style of ski touring, with broad open slopes and spectacular summit views. The journey culminates with ascents of two of Bulgaria's most iconic mountains—Mount Malyovitsa and Mount Musala, the highest peak in the Balkans—before unforgettable descents bring us back to the valley.

Brief Overview

	Hiking Stats	Route	Highlights	Accommodation
 DAY 1 Arrival in Pirin National Park	-	Sofia Airport → Bansko (2.5 hr transfer)	- Meet your guide - Welcome dinner - Trip briefing and equipment check.	Bansko (4 nights at a hotel) <i>Historic mountain town.</i>
 DAY 2 Polezan & Bezbog peaks	Time: 6:00 h Elevation: 1610 m 11600 m Highest point: 2851 m	Bezdog hut → Mount Polezan (2 851 m)	- Explore the alpine bowls of the Bezdog area - Climb one of Pirin's finest panoramic summits - Multiple descent options: skiing either back to Bezdog or into the Damyantsa Valley	Bansko
 DAY 3 Vihren valley hike	Time: 7:00 h Elevation: 11000 m 11800 m Highest point: 2635 m	Bansko → Vihren Valley (Muratovo Lake) → Hvoynati Peak (2 635 m) → Bansko	- Spectacular views of Mount Vihren - Passing near glacial lakes and following a classic Pirin terrain - Enjoy an unforgettable descent all the way back to Bansko	Bansko
 DAY 4 Todorka peak ridge hike	Time: 4-6:00 h Elevation: 1400-800 m 11800-2600 m Highest point: 2746 m	Bansko → Mount Todorka Ridge (2 746 m) NB! We take the lifts up to the top station at 2550 m.	- Lift-assisted access leads to the dramatic Todorka Ridge - Panoramic, yet exposed ridge walk - Long descent to Bansko.	Bansko
 DAY 5 Malyovitsa valley ski tour	Time: 7:00 h Elevation: 11000 m 11000 m Start point: 1760 m	Bansko (drive) → Malyovitsa valley (with skis) → Return	- First full ski touring day in the granite heart of the Rila Mountains. - Flexible touring routes depending on the weather and snow conditions - Enjoy a rewarding alpine descent	Govedarts (2 nights at mountain hotel) <i>Traditional mountain village.</i>
 DAY 6 Musala peak – Roof of the Balkans	Time: 6:00 h Elevation: 1850 m 11800 m Highest point: 2925 m	Borovets (30 mn drive) → Mount Musala (2 925 m) → Govedarts (drive)	- Lift-assisted access up to 2360 m with the Yastrebets gondola - Summit the highest peak in the Balkans before skiing nearly 1 700 vertical metres back to Borovets.	Govedarts
 DAY 7 Departure	-	Govedarts → Sofia (1.5 hr transfer)	Optional Sofia sightseeing in the center of the city	

Throughout the week, we use local knowledge and, where appropriate, ski lifts to reach the best terrain efficiently, allowing us to spend more time exploring the backcountry and less time on long approaches. Every day's objective is carefully selected according to the weather, snow and avalanche conditions, ensuring the safest and most rewarding experience while showcasing the incredible diversity of Bulgaria's winter mountains.

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.