



“ODYSSEIA-IN” AND “ZIG ZAG HOLIDAYS” TRAVEL TEAM
SOFIA 1000, 20-V “AL. STAMBOLIISKI”, (ENTRANCE FROM “LAVELE” STR.)
TEL: +359 2 989 05 38, FAX: +359 2 980 32 00
www.hiking-bulgaria.com E-mail: odysseia@omega.bg



SKI TOUR

RILA AND PIRIN NATIONAL PARKS

DATES:

- **19 February 2011**

- **26 February 2011**

*Or any date at your convenience
(beginning of January - end of March)

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- **Rila and Pirin National Parks**
- **Mussala 2925m** – highest peak in Southeastern Europe
- **Rila Monastery** (UNESCO)
- **Traditional cuisine** and Family-run accommodations



TRIP SUMMARY

The south-western part of Bulgaria is a land of mountains – a rolling sea of independent massifs separated by deep cut gorges and high passes. This is where Rila and Pirin Mountains rise high – they are the highest mountain ranges in Southeast Europe! The peaks tower well above 2500m – with the highest reaching nearly 3000m.

During our trip we will enjoy Rila National Park: Mussala Peak (the highest peak on the Balkans); Malyovitsa valley (the Bulgarian Matterhorn) and the Seven Rila Lakes (symbol of Bulgaria). In the heart of Rila we will visit the magnificent painted Orthodox monastery: Rila Monastery (UNESCO).

In the second part of our trip we will reach Pirin National Park (UNESCO Nature Heritage). In Pirin we will enjoy two ski tours: one to Mt.Vihren (2914m) and another one in the area of Mt.Todorka and Mt.Bezbog. After the day ski tours we will relax in the traditional local restaurants famous for its delicious cuisine and red wines.

Our guides hold national mountain leader diplomas and are professional ski instructors. Some of them are members of the Bulgarian mountain rescue team. All of them have years-log experience in leading ski groups.



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DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Welcome to Bulgaria!

Arrival in Sofia and direct transfer to Govedartsi village (1.30 hours) in the footsteps of Rila National Park.

Night stop: Govedartsi village

Accommodation: Family-run guesthouse

Included Meals: Dinner

Day 2: Mussala peak (2925m)

The day starts with a short transfer to Borovets ski center. Next we will take the gondola lift to peak Yastrebets (2360m). From that point starts a picturesque ascent to Mussala Peak (2925m) – the highest peak in the South-eastern Europe and the Balkan Peninsula! If the weather is good and snow conditions are acceptable, we will ski to peak Deno and from there descend to Borovets. Short transfer back to Govedartsi.

Skiing time: 4-5 hours; Ascent: 565m; Descent: 1550m;

Night stop: Govedartsi village

Accommodation: Family-run guesthouse

Included Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 3: Metchit peak (2567m)



We go to the small ski piste above Govedartsi and may take the ski lift, which will bring us to a high point. We will ski from there to hut Metchit (1750 m) and then continue to the peak itself - Metchit peak (2567m). We will follow the ridge and traverse to Lopushki peak (2698m). From there we will enjoy great panorama views. On the descent we will pass through some frozen lakes and beautiful valley of Maliovitsa River.

Skiing time: 5-6 hours; Ascent: 1050m; Descent: 1000m;

Night stop: Govedartsi village

Accommodation: Family-run guesthouse

Included Meals: Breakfast and Dinner



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Day 4: Maliovitsa Peak (2729m)

Transfer to Maliovitsa ski center (1700 m). We will warm up to hut Maliovtsa (1960m). From there we continue in the valley, passing through Elenino ezero up to the beautiful and alpine Maliovitsa peak (2729 m). Then following the main ridge, we will traverse through the rest of the peaks . From above we can see the biggest Bulgarian monastery – Rila Monastery. Our aim is to reach the Rila Lakes Hut (2150m.). The hut is set in the area of the famous Seven Rila Lakes covered with a lot of snow in the winter.

Skiing time: 7 hours; Ascent: 1000m; Descent: 450 m;

Night stop: Rila Lakes Hut

Accommodation: Mountain Hut

Included Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 5: Rila Monastery (UNESCO)

*Depending on snow conditions, we will ski downhill to Rila Monastery or ski in the area of the lakes.

From Rila Lakes hut we climb to the main ridge and after a traverse we descend to the Rila Monastery (1150m). The last section is through a pine forest and depending on the snow the guide will choose the way. If there is no enough snow there might be some walking with the skis on the back. It all depends on the snow conditions. We shall visit the Rila Monastery, which has a 1000-year-old history and is an UNESCO World Heritage Site. In the afternoon transfer to Bansko on footsteps of the Pirin Mountains. Accommodation in a 3-star hotel in Bansko.



Skiing time: 6 hours; Ascent: 350m; Descent: 1500 m;

Night stop: Bansko town

Accommodation: Family-run hotel 3*

Included Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 6: Todorka peak (2746m)

After breakfast we take two lifts which will take us to 2550m, just on the way to Todorka peak (2746m). In about an hour of ascent will reach the peak and traverse the following peaks on the ridge before descending to Demianitsa valley. Short transfer back to Bansko.

Skiing time: 6 hours; Ascent: 500m; Descent: 1200 m;

Night stop: Bansko town

Accommodation: Family-run hotel 3*

Included Meals: Breakfast and Dinner



Day 7: Vihren peak (2914m)

This will be technically the hardest day of the whole tour. We will start early in the morning – no later than 06.30 a.m. The Vihren peak involves a lot of climbing and good technical skills. It is climbed only in very good weather and good snow conditions.

First we will have a short transfer to the area of Shiligarnika (1700m). We start from there, pass Bunderitsa hut (1810m) and continue in the valley. Our first aim is to climb the Hvoinati peak (2635 m). From there we have a panorama to the Marmor Ridge of Pirin Mountains and also to Peak Vihren. We traverse to the foot of Vihren and then decide if we climb it or not. The climb is done from the south wall, which is the reason for a very early start from Bansko. If the snow is not stable we do not climb the peak. The way back is a descent in the valley and then ski on the ski piste down to Bansko – a very long and beautiful downhill to Bansko.

Skiing time: 8-9 hours; Ascent: 1250m; Descent: 1900 m;

Night stop: Bansko town

Accommodation: Family-run hotel 3*

Included Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 8: Sofia Walking City Tour

Transfer from Bansko to Sofia (3 hours).

We make a sightseeing tour of the capital city and see the main cultural monuments such as the great Alexander Nevski Cathedral, the Roman Ruins of the ancient city, the building of the former Royal Palace, St. George Rotonda.

Transfer to Sofia Airport and flight back home.

Included Meals: Breakfast



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Price per person:

635 EUR (valid for a group of 6 people)
All prices indicated are per person in a double room

The Price Includes:

Accommodation in a family-run guesthouses/hotels;
7 breakfasts and 7 dinners;
English-speaking guide;
Transfers and drives according to itinerary.

The Price Excludes:

Flight and taxes;
Failing meals;
Alcoholic and soft drinks;
Museum entry fees.



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Essential Info

Accommodation

3 nights in a family-run hotel in Bansko.
3 nights in a family-run guesthouse in Govedartsi.
1 night a comfortable mountain hut in Rila Mountains.
Double or twin rooms with ensuite WC/shower.

Transport

Depending on group size – either a mini van or mini bus.

Meals 7 breakfasts and 7 dinners;

Staff English-speaking guide and driver are included.

Age Restriction

This trip is suitable for adults with experience in ski touring and alpine terrain.

Group Size 2 persons and above

Operator Remarks

This tour can be easily tailored depending on your preferences.
If you would like to make a longer or shorter trip this can be easily arranged.
If your group has a tour leader – we can offer a free place.