



“ODYSSEIA-IN” AND “ZIG ZAG HOLIDAYS” TRAVEL TEAM
SOFIA 1000, 20-V “AL. STAMBOLIISKI”, (ENTRANCE FROM “LAVELE” STR.)
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High Mountain Traverses and Via Ferrata

BULGARIA



TRIP DOSSIER



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Focus: Strenuous Hiking and traverse

Duration: 9 days

Period: July 1 – August 30

Trip Highlights:

- Traverse on the highest peak on the Balkans – Mussala (2925m)
- Via Ferrata on Malyovitsa Peak
- Traverse on “The Horse” Marble Ridge in Pirin Mountains (UNESCO)
- Visit of the biggest Orthodox Sanctuary – Rila Monastery (UNESCO)

Difficulty: Strenuous/ Previous experience required

TRIP SUMMARY:

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF “THE LITTLE HORSE” MARBLE RIDGE? WELL, YOU DON’T NEED TO BE A HORSEBACK RIDER, NEITHER A GREAT ALPINIST TO VISIT THEM! JUST JOIN US ON THIS HIGH-MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE AND WE WILL SHOW YOU BULGARIA FROM A DIFFERENT ANGLE.

THE TOUR PASSES THROUGH RILA AND PIRIN NATIONAL PARKS – REVEALING ONE OF THE MOST STUNNING ALPINE VIEWS TO BE SEEN IN BULGARIA. WE START THE TRIP WITH TRAVERSE ON THE HIGHEST PEAK ON THE BALKANS – MUSSALA (2925M). NEXT, TRAVERSE TO MALYOVITSA PEAK (2729M) PASSING THROUGH THE HIGHEST VIA FERRATA IN THE COUNTRY – “THE DOLL”. IN OUR THIRD DAY, WE WILL GET TO THE “EVIL TOOTH” PEAK (2678M), LATER A STEEP 1000M-DESCENT THROUGH “THE WHITE CULOIR” WILL LEAD US TO THE CULTURAL TREASURE OF BULGARIA – RILA MONASTERY (UNESCO).

IN THE NEXT DAYS WE WILL ENJOY THE OUTSTANDING BEAUTY OF PIRIN NATIONAL PARK (UNESCO). FIRST WE WILL VISIT POPOVO GLACIAL LAKE AND THE NEARBY JUGGED RIDGE CALLED THE “GUARDIANS”. NEXT, WE WILL CLIMB TO THE HIGHEST VIHREN PEAK (2914M) PASSING THROUGH “DJAMDJIEV” MOUNTAINS EDGE. OUR LAST TRAVERSE WILL LEAD US TO THE WHITE MARBLE RIDGE CALLED “THE LITTLE HORSE” AND “DJINDJIRITSA” NATURE RESERVE. ON OUR LAST DAY WE WILL VISIT THE CAPITAL CITY – SOFIA.

THE TRIP IS GARNISHED WITH HOME-MADE DINNERS, TRADITIONAL BULGARIAN MUSIC, FAMILY-RUN GUESTHOUSES AND MOUNTAIN HUTS; AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST WITH A BUNCH OF ADVENTURES!

WALKING GRADE: STRENUOUS/ WITH SOME SCRAMBLING SECTIONS

WALKING TIME: 6 – 9 HOURS

TYPE OF TOUR: HIGH MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE WITH SCRAMBLING



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DAYS	ITINERARY	BOARD	ACCOMMODATION
1	SOFIA AIRPORT – GOVEDARTSI VILLAGE	D	FAMILY-RUN GUESTHOUSE
2	GOVEDARTSI – MUSSSALA TRAVERSE- GOVEDARTSI	B - D	FAMILY-RUN GUESTHOUSE
3	GOVEDARTSI – MALYOVITSA TRAVERSE- GOVEDARTSI	B - D	FAMILY-RUN GUESTHOUSE
4	GOVEDARTSI – EVIL TOOTH – RILA MONASTERY - BANSKO	B - D	FAMILY-RUN HOTEL
5	BANSKO – BEZBOG HUT – MT DJENGAL - BANSKO	B	FAMILY-RUN HOTEL
6	BANSKO – DJAMDJIEV EDGE – MURATOV MT - BANSKO	B - D	FAMILY-RUN HOTEL
7	BANSKO – THE HORSE RIDGE - YAVOROV	B - D	MOUNTAIN HUT
8	YAVOROV - SOFIA	B - D	HOTEL 3*
9	DEPARTURE	B	

PENSION

**BREAKFAST:
8**

LUNCH: 0

DINNER: 7

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY:

DAY 1: WELCOME TO BULGARIA!

ARRIVAL IN SOFIA, BULGARIA AND DIRECT TRANSFER TO GOVEDARTSI VILLAGE, HIDDEN IN THE NORTHERN FOOTSTEPS OF RILA MOUNTAINS.

TRANSFERS: 1.30-2 HOURS

NIGHT STOP: GOVEDARTSI VILLAGE

ACCOMMODATION: FAMILY-RUN GUESTHOUSE

INCLUDED MEALS: DINNER



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DAY 2: MUSSALA TRAVERSE (2925M)

RILA MOUNTAINS WITH ITS MUSSALA PEAK ARE THE HIGHEST RANGE-PEAK ON THE BALKAN PENINSULA. WE WILL START THE DAY WITH A SHORT TRANSFER TO BOROVETS RESORT AND A SHORT CABIN LIFT TO TO 2370M. THE HIKE TO THE PEAK ITSELF IS NOT A BIG CHALLENGE BUT THE FOLLOWING TRAVERSE THROUGH LITTLE MUSSALA AND İRECHEK PEAK ARE A NICE WARM UP EXERCISE FOR THE UPCOMING TRIP. NEXT: DESCENT TO BOROVETS RESORT AND BACK TO GOVEDARTSI VILLAGE. LATER IN THE AFTERNOON WILL ENJOY THE AUTHENTIC FOLKLORE SHOW IN THE GUESTHOUSE BEFORE DINNER.

HIKING TIME: 7-8 HOURS (ASCENT: 800M; DESCENT: 800M)

TRANSFERS: 1.30 HOURS

NIGHT STOP: GOVEDARTSI VILLAGE

ACCOMMODATION: FAMILY-RUN GUESTHOUSE

INCLUDED MEALS: BREAKFAST AND DINNER

DAY 3: VIA FERRATA AND MT. MALYOVITSA (2729M)

THE AREA OF MT MALYOVITSA IS FAMOUS AS ONE OF THE MOST ALPINE REGIONS IN BULGARIA. IT IS OFTEN REFERRED TO AS “THE BULGARIAN MATTERHORN”. OUR HIKE STARTS FROM THE WIDE MALYOVITSA RIVER VALLEY BUT VERY SOON WE WILL HAVE TO ASCENT TO THE “DOLL” ROCK FORMATION. THE FOLLOWING VIA FERRATA IS ONE OF THE MOST CHALLENGING IN BULGARIA. FROM ITS TOP WE WILL HAVE A GREAT VIEW TO THE WILD URDINA RIVER VALLEY! AT THE END OF THE VIA FERRATA STARTS A TRAVERSE TO PEAK MALYOVITSA. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO WOULDN’T DARE TO TRY IT, THERE IS AN EASIER PATH NAMED THE “RABBIT PATH” ☺ NEXT WE WILL ASCENT TO MALYOVITSA PEAK (2729M) VIA ITS NORTHEASTERN EDGE.

NEXT: DESCENT TO THE BUS AND SHORT TRANSFER TO GOVEDARTSI VILLAGE.

HIKING TIME: 7-8 HOURS (ASCENT: 1000M; DESCENT: 1000M)

TRANSFERS: 1.00 HOURS

NIGHT STOP: GOVEDARTSI VILLAGE

ACCOMMODATION: FAMILY-RUN GUESTHOUSE

INCLUDED MEALS: BREAKFAST AND DINNER

DAY 4: EVIL TOOTH MT (2678M) AND THE WHITE COULOIRS

TODAY’S ADVENTURE INCLUDES A HIKE TO THE MAIN RIDGE OF RILA MOUNTAINS AND DESCENT TO THE STEEP RILSKA RIVER VALLEY, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN. FOR THAT REASON WE WILL HIKE THROUGH “ORLOVETS” REFUGE IN DIRECTION TO THE “EVIL TOOTH” PEAK. ITS NAME COMES FROM THE STRANGE SHAPE IT HAS AND IT JUGGED EDGES CONNECTING IT WITH THE “DEVILS





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NEEDLES” ROCKS. TO GET TO THE TOP OF THE PEAK WE WILL NEED TO SCRAMBLE THE 15-METER HIGH ROCK WALL (2+ UIAA CLIMBING CATEGORY). FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE NOT ATTRACTED BY THIS ADVENTURE, THERE IS AN OPTION TO STAY AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PEAK AND ENJOY THE SCENERY. LATER, WE WILL DESCENT THROUGH THE 1300M-STEEP “WHITE” COULOIRS. AT THE END OF THE DAY WE WILL VISIT RILA MONASTERY – THE MOST IMPORTANT ORTODOX SANCTUARY IN BULGARIA AND UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE.

HIKING TIME: 7-8 HOURS (ASCENT: 1000M; DESCENT: 1300M)

TRANSFERS: 2.00 HOURS

NIGHT STOP: BANSKO TOWN

ACCOMMODATION: FAMILY-RUN HOTEL

INCLUDED MEALS: BREAKFAST AND DINNER

DAY 5: DJENGAL Mt (2730M) AND THE GUARDIANS RIDGE(2810M)

TODAY WE WILL MAKE OUR FIRST HIKE IN PIRIN MOUNTAINS. IT IS A MOUNTAIN RANGE WITH MANY NATURE RESERVES AND IT IS DECLARED A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE FOR ITS UNIQUE FLORA AND FAUNA. THE DAY STARTS WITH A SHORT TRANSFER TO DOBRINISHTE VILLAGE, FROM WHERE WE TAKE THE CHAIRLIFT TO BEZBOG HUT (2236M). ON OUR WAY WE WILL PAS THROUGH POPOVO LAKE – ONE OF THE BIGGEST GLACIAL LAKES IN BULGARIA. FROM THERE WE START A HIKE TO DJENGAL Mt (2730M) – ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BULGARIAN PEAKS. NEXT WE CONTINUE TO Mt POLEJAN AND “THE GUARDIANS” RIDGE – A JUGGED ROCKY RIDGE WITH MORE THAN 6-7 PEAKS LINED IN A ROW AND HIGHER THAN 2800M.

WALKING TIME: 8 HOURS (ASCENT: 900M; DESCENT: 1600M)

TRANSFERS: 1.30 HOURS

NIGHT STOP: BANSKO TOWN

ACCOMMODATION: FAMILY-RUN HOTEL

INCLUDED MEALS: BREAKFAST

DAY 6: Mt VIHREN AND DJAMDJIEV EDGE

TODAY WE WILL ENJOY AN ASCENT TO THE HIGHEST PEAK IN PIRIN MOUNTAINS – Mt VIHREN (2914M). TO GET TO THE TOP WE WILL HAVE TO CLIMB ON THE ROCKY DJAMDJIEV EDGE. Mt VIHREN IS THE BEGINNING OF THE WHITE MARBLE RIDGE OF PIRIN. IT IS HOME TO THE RARE EDELWEISS FLOWER, IF WE ARE LUCKY WE MAY ADMIRE ITS BEAUTY. LATER, WE WILL DESCEND TO VIHREN HUT AND BANSKO FOR A RELAXING





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AFTERNOON. DINNER IN A TRADITIONAL BULGARIAN RESTAURANT WITH LIVE MUSIC.

WALKING TIME: 7-8 HOURS (ASCENT: 1200M; DESCENT: 1200M)

TRANSFERS: 1 HOURS

NIGHT STOP: BANSKO TOWN

ACCOMMODATION: FAMILY-RUN HOTEL

INCLUDED MEALS: BREAKFAST AND DINNER

DAY 7: “THE MARBLE HORSE” RIDGE

THE WHITE MARBLE RIDGE OF PIRIN MOUNTAINS IS ONE OF THE SYMBOLS OF BULGARIA. THE MOST STUNNING PART OF IT IS THE “THE HORSE RIDGE” - A NARROW PART, WHERE ASTOUNDING PRECIPICES WILL FORCE YOU TO WALK VERY CAREFULLY (IT'S NOT TOO DANGEROUS - A STRONG ROPE IS PUT THERE TO HELP TOURISTS FEEL SAFE). NEXT: WE WILL DESCENT TO THE NATURE RESERVE “DJINDJIRITSA”. WE WILL SPEND OUR LAST NIGHT HIGH IN THE MOUNTAIN IN MOUNTAIN HUT YAVOROV.

WALKING TIME: 7-8 HOURS (ASCENT: 1300 M; DESCENT: 1300 M)

TRANSFERS: 1-1.30 HOURS

NIGHT STOP: MOUNTAIN HUT YAVOROV

ACCOMMODATION: MOUNTAIN HUT WITH DOUBLE/TRIPLE ROOMS

INCLUDED MEALS: BREAKFAST AND DINNER

DAY 8: NATURE RESERVE “DJINDJIRITSA” AND SOFIA CITY TOUR

AFTER BREAKFAST WE WILL DESCENT TO THE BOTTOM OF THE MOUNTAIN THROUGH THE PINE FORESTS OF DJINDJIRITSA NATURE RESERVE. NEXT: TRANSFER TO SOFIA AND SOFIA WALKING CITY TOUR. AT THE END OF THE DAY WE WILL HAVE FAREWELL DINNER IN A TRADITIONAL BULGARIAN RESTAURANT.

WALKING TIME: 5 HOURS (ASCENT: 200M; DESCENT: 800M)

TRANSFERS: 2.00 HOURS

NIGHT STOP: SOFIA CITY

ACCOMMODATION: 3* DOWNTOWN HOTEL

INCLUDED MEALS: BREAKFAST AND DINNER

DAY 9: DEPARTURE

TRANSFER TO AIRPORT AND FLIGHT BACK HOME.

INCLUDED MEALS: BREAKFAST



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PRICE PER PERSON:

730 EUR (VALID FOR A GROUP OF 6 PEOPLE)

**ALL INDICATED PRICES ARE PER PERSON ACCOMMODATED IN A DOUBLE ROOM*

PRICES INCLUDE:

- ACCOMMODATION IN FAMILY-RUN GUESTHOUSES;
- 8 BREAKFASTS AND 7 DINNERS;
- ENGLISH-SPEAKING MOUNTAIN GUIDE;
- TRANSFERS AND DRIVES ACCORDING TO ITINERARY
- HELMET, HARNESS AND SAFETY ROPE EQUIPMENT
- LOCAL FOLKLORE SHOW IN RILA MOUNTAINS

PRICES EXCLUDE:

- FLIGHT AND TAXES;
- FAILING MEALS (ALL LUNCHESES AND DINNER IN DAY 5)
- CHAIR AND CABIN LIFT TICKETS IN DAY 2/5
- ALCOHOLIC AND SOFT DRINKS;
- INSURANCE;
- MUSEUM ENTRY FEES

Essential Info

Accommodation

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

Transport

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

Meals 8 breakfasts and 7 dinners;

Staff English-speaking guide and driver is included.

Age Restriction This trip is suitable for adults with experience in alpine terrain and scrambling

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.