



“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



WINTER WALKING AND SPA **IN** **RHODOPI MOUNTAINS AND PIRIN NATIONAL PARK**



TRIP HIGHLIGHTS:

- ACCOMMODATION IN SPA-HOTEL WITH HOT MINERAL WATER
- MOUNTAIN TRAIN-RIDE
- WALKS IN PIRIN NATIONAL PARK
- VISIT OF RILA MONASTERY (UNESCO)

TRIP SUMMARY

BULGARIA WILL FASCINATE YOU WITH ITS ENDLESS PINE FORESTS, COSY VILLAGES AND DELICIOUS CUISINE. WE START THE TRIP WITH A WALK IN VITOSHA MOUNTAINS - KNOWN AS THE LUNGS OF THE CAPITAL, SOFIA. LATER WE WILL ENTER INTO THE MAGICAL LAND OF ORPHEUS, RHODOPI MOUNTAINS, WHERE WE WILL FIND THE BIGGEST SPA RESORT IN BULGARIA – VELINGRAD. WE WILL SPEND A FEW RELAXING DAYS IN THE AREA, ENJOYING THE HEALING WATERS. AFTERWARDS WE WILL HEAD WEST TO PIRIN MOUNTAINS (UNESCO), THE FASTEST GROWING WINTER REGION IN BULGARIA. AT THE END OF THIS WONDERFUL TRIP WE WILL VISIT RILA MONASTERY – 9TH CENTURY COLORFULLY PAINTED ORTHODOX MONASTERY (UNESCO World Heritage Site) AND WILL ASSIST TO A FAREWELL DINNER IN A TRADITIONAL RESTAURANT IN DOWNTOWN SOFIA.



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DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 1: WELCOME TO BULGARIA!

ARRIVAL IN SOFIA, BULGARIA AND TRANSFER FROM SOFIA AIRPORT TO VITOSHA MOUNTAINS (SOME 20KM AWAY FROM THE CAPITAL).

TRANSFERS: 1 HOUR

NIGHT STOP: VIOTSHA MOUNTAINS, SOFIA AREA

ACCOMMODATION: 3* MOUNTAIN HOTEL

(HIDDEN INTO THE DEEP WOODS OF VITOSHA NATURE PARK)

INCLUDED MEALS: DINNER

DAY 2: WALK IN VITOSHA MOUNTAINS

THE FIRST HIKE OF OUR TRIP WILL REVEAL US THE BEAUTY OF VITOSHA NATURE PARK. ON THE WAY WE WILL PASS THROUGH “PEAT NATURE RESERVE” AND THE ROCK PHENOMENON “THE GOLDEN BRIDGES”. LUNCH BREAK IN ANY OF THE MANY MOUNTAIN HUTS ON THE WAY. LATER WE WILL HAVE AN AFTERNOON TRANSFER TO THE HEART OF RHODOPI MOUNTAINS.

WALKING TIME: 3-4 HOURS

TRANSFERS: 2.30 - 3 HOURS

NIGHT STOP: VELINGRAD TOWN (THE SPA-CAPITAL OF BULGARIA)

ACCOMMODATION: 4* SPA-HOTEL

INCLUDED MEALS: BREAKFAST, DINNER

DAY 3: WALK IN RHODOPI MOUNTAINS

BEGLIKA LAKE IS ONE OF THE HIGHEST DAMS IN BULGARIA, MORE THAN 1500M ABOVE THE SEA LEVEL. IN WINTER TIME THE WHOLE LAKE IS COVERED BY THICK LAYER OF ICE (POPULAR FOR ICE FISHING). WE WILL MAKE A CIRCLE ROUTE IN THE FIELDS AND PEAKS ABOVE THE LAKE. THE WALK IS IN PINE FORESTS WITH SOME NICE VIEWS TO THE LAKE FROM TIME TO TIME. AND BACK TO VELINGRAD FOR A RELAXING AFTERNOON.

WALKING TIME: 3-4 HOURS

TRANSFERS: 2 HOURS

NIGHT STOP: VELINGRAD TOWN (THE SPA-CAPITAL OF BULGARIA)

ACCOMMODATION: 4* SPA-HOTEL

INCLUDED MEALS: BREAKFAST, DINNER

DAY 4: WALK IN RILA-RHODOPI MOUNTAINS



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THE AREA OF YUNDOLA (1400M) IS FAMOUS FOR ITS NATURAL PINE FORESTS AND WILD ANIMALS. WE WILL MAKE A SHORT WALK ON THE SOUTHERN RILA SLOPES RIGHT THERE, WHERE THEY MEET THEIR NEIGHBORING RHODOPI MOUNTAINS. APART FROM THE WILD NATURE THE AREA OFFERS GREAT VARIETY OF HOME-MADE HONEY/JAM AND RUGS MARKETS. BACK TO HOTEL: FOR MESSAGES/SWIM/RELAXATION.

WALKING TIME: 3-4 HOURS

TRANSFERS: 1 HOUR

NIGHT STOP: VELINGRAD TOWN (THE SPA-CAPITAL OF BULGARIA)

ACCOMMODATION: 4* SPA-HOTEL

INCLUDED MEALS: BREAKFAST, DINNER

DAY 5: WALK IN RHODOPI-PIRIN MOUNTAINS

MORNING TRANSFER BY THE ONLY LEFT MOUNTAIN TRAIN IN BULGARIA. THE TRAIN IS A WHOLE ATTRACTION ITSELF WITH THE LOCAL ETHNICITIES WHICH USUALLY USE IT AND THE VIEWS TO THE SURROUNDING MOUNTAINS. THE TRAIN WILL LEAVE US ON THE HIGHEST TRAIN STOP IN THE BALKAN PENINSULA – 1267M. FROM THERE WILL MAKE A NICE WALK ON THE MOUNTAIN RIDGE WITH SPECTACULAR VIEWS TO THE JUGGED PEAKS OF RILA AND PIRIN MOUNTAINS. IN THE AFTERNOON: VISIT OF DOBARSKO VILLAGE AND THE CHURCH “ST. THEODOR TIRON AND THEODOR STRATILAT” – 17TH CENTURY CHURCH WITH UNIQUE FRESCOES. IN THE LATE AFTERNOON: TRANSFER TO BANSKO TOWN, LOCATED ON THE NORTHERN FOOTSTEPS OF PIRIN MOUNTAINS.

OPTIONAL VISIT: “DOBARSKI BABI” FOLKLORE SHOW

WALKING TIME: 3-4 HOURS

TRANSFERS: 3.30 HOURS (1.30 HOURS BY TRAIN AND 2.00 HOURS BY BUS)

NIGHT STOP: BANSKO

ACCOMMODATION: 4* DOWNTOWN HOTEL

INCLUDED MEALS: BREAKFAST, DINNER

DAY 6: WALK IN PIRIN MOUNTAINS

THE DAY WILL BE DEDICATED TO A HIKE IN PIRIN MOUNTAINS. WE WILL START FROM GOTSE DELCHEV HUT (1400M) TO A NEARBY TOURIST CENTER MOCHARATA OFFERING NICE VIEWS TO THE SURROUNDING PEAKS. IN THE AFTERNOON: VISIT OF BANSKO OLD TOWN (CHURCHES, HOUSES-MUSEUMS).

WALKING TIME: 3 HOURS

TRANSFERS: 1.00 HOUR

NIGHT STOP: BANSKO

ACCOMMODATION: 4* DOWNTOWN HOTEL

INCLUDED MEALS: BREAKFAST, DINNER



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DAY 7: RILA MONASTERY/ RILA MOUNTAINS

WE WILL START THE DAY WITH A TRANSFER TO THE RILA MONASTERY NATURE RESERVE. THE BUS WILL BRING US TO A HIGH MEADOW CALLED “KIRILOVA POLYANA” FROM WHERE WE WILL DESCEND TO THE MONASTERY. THE AREA REVEALS A VERY PANORAMIC VIEW TO THE HIGH RUGGED RIDGE OF MALYOVTISA REGION. IN THE AFTERNOON WE VISIT RILA MONASTERY – THE MOST IMPORTANT ORTHODOX SANCTUARY IN BULGARIA. THE MONASTERY WAS FOUNDED IN THE THE 10TH CENTURY AND IS A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE. TRANSFER TO SOFIA AND A WALKING-TOUR OF THE CITY CENTER. FAREWELL DINNER IN A TRADITIONAL RESTAURANT.

WALKING TIME: 2 HOURS (ASCEND: 50M/ DESCEND: 250M)

TRANSFERS: 4 HOURS

NIGHT STOP: SOFIA

ACCOMMODATION: 3* HOTEL IN DOWNTOWN

INCLUDED MEALS: BREAKFAST, DINNER

DAY 8: DEPARTURE

IN THE MORNING: FREE TIME IN SOFIA (DEPENDING ON DEPARTURE TIME). TRANSFER TO AIRPORT AND DEPARTURE.

PRICE PER PERSON:

650 EUR (VALID FOR A GROUP OF 6 PEOPLE)

ALL PRICES INDICATED ARE PER PERSON IN A DOUBLE ROOM

PRICES INCLUDE:

7 BREAKFASTS;

7 DINNERS;

1 LUNCH + FOLKLORE SHOW

TICKETS FOR THE MOUNTAIN TRAIN-RIDE IN DAY 5

ENGLISH-SPEAKING MOUNTAIN GUIDE FROM ODYSSEIA-IN;

TRANSFERS AND DRIVES ACCORDING TO ITINERARY;

ALL EXCURSIONS;

PRICES EXCLUDE:

FLIGHTS AND MEDICAL INSURANCES;

ALL LUNCHES;

ALCOHOLIC AND SOFT DRINKS

ALL MUSEUM ENTRY FEES;

PERSONAL EXPENSES



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Essential Info

Accommodation

1 NIGHT IN 3* MOUNTAIN HOTEL IN VITOSHA
3 NIGHTS IN 4* SPA HOTEL IN VELINGRAD
2 NIGHTS IN 4* HOTEL IN BANSKO
1 NIGHT IN 3* DOWNTOWN HOTEL IN SOFIA
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 AND KIDS WITH NO EXPERIENCE IN WINTER ACTIVITIES.

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 ARRANGED.
IF YOUR GROUP HAS A TOUR LEADER – WE CAN OFFER A FREE PLACE.