



*Mount Pirin is named after the ancient Slavic god of thunder, Perun. According to legend, it was he who lived on its summit, which is why Pirin has long been a symbol of power and justice. Another theory suggests that the name comes from the Thracian word “perintos,” meaning “rocky mountain”. Regardless of which origin is correct, one thing is certain – this mighty massif, home to over 70 glacial lakes and numerous peaks higher than 2,500 meters, captivates with its wild beauty and challenges every nature lover.*

### General information



**Type of adventure:** hiking

**Departure:** during the season

**Group:** 8-12 people max.

**Duration:** 3 days

**Travel mode:** van/car

**Technical requirements:**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

**Physical fitness:**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

In the southeastern part of Europe, at the heart of the Balkan Peninsula, lies Bulgaria – a country of rich history, mystical tales, and magnificent landscapes. From vast valleys to impressive mountain ranges, it hides some of the most beautiful and challenging peaks of the Balkans.

The Valley of the Maritsa River has for centuries been a bridge between Europe and Asia, while the Danube, with its tranquil flow, shapes the northern border and connects Bulgaria with neighboring Romania. To the east, the Black Sea coastline offers refreshing contrasts to the towering mountain chains that rise inland. Among the mountain giants, Pirin stands out with its mighty peaks, glacial lakes, and rugged ridges. This mountain, steeped in tales of gods and heroes, offers unforgettable climbs and landscapes that will take your breath away.

Prepare for an adventure that will take you through the heart of this mountain empire, to its highest and most beautiful peaks, where nature and challenge merge into an unforgettable experience!

## TRAVEL ITINERARY

### **DAY I: NIŠ – BANSKO**

Departure from Niš in front of the “Čair” hall (near the ticket office) at 13:30. Drive through Serbia and Bulgaria with stops for rest and border crossing. Arrival in Bansko, one of the most famous mountain resorts in Bulgaria, located at the foot of the mighty Pirin. Check-in at the accommodation. In the evening, we will go for dinner at a traditional Bulgarian mehana, where we will enjoy authentic specialties, Bulgarian wine, and an atmosphere filled with music and hospitality. Overnight stay.



### **DAY II: BANSKO – H. BANDERICA – VIHREN (2914 m) – KUTELO (2908 m) – H. BANDERICA – BANSKO**

After breakfast, we drive to the Banderica mountain hut, where our adventure begins. We will continue on foot to the Vihren Hut (1950 m), from where we start our hike along the marked trail to the summit of Vihren, the highest peak of Pirin (2914 m) and the third highest in the Balkans. As we ascend, spectacular views of the surrounding peaks and turquoise glacial lakes, known as Pirin's "mountain eyes," unfold before us. After about three hours of hiking, we reach Vihren, where we take a break and enjoy the panoramic view of the endless ridges and mountain valleys. From here, we continue towards the challenging Končeto Pass (2850 m), a narrow and exposed ridge that requires steady footing and experience in high-altitude trekking. After crossing Končeto, we reach the summit of Kutelo (2908 m), and then descend back to the Banderica Hut. Rest break, followed by return to the accommodation in Bansko. Dinner and overnight stay.



### **DAY III: BANSKO – H. VIHREN – VELIKA TODORKA (2746 m) – MALA TODORKA – H. VIHREN – NIŠ**

After breakfast and check-out, transfer to the Vihren Hut, from where we begin our ascent to the summit of Velika Todorka (2746 m). The trail leads us past numerous glacial lakes, which are the true gems of Pirin, towards the Todorkina Porta Pass, where we take a short break. From there, we continue to the Todorkina Oči Lakes, where the final ascent begins. Just before the summit, we encounter more technically demanding terrain – crossing granite blocks, but every step is worth it! From the top of Velika Todorka, we are rewarded with an unforgettable view of the peaks we climbed the previous day – Vihren, Kutelo, and Banski Suhodol, as well as the remaining part of the Pirin massif. After a short break, we descend via Mala Todorka (2712 m) to the Vihren Hut. Break, followed by departure to Serbia. Arrival in Niš late in the evening. End of the program.

**Price per person:** \_\_\_\_\_ € in RSD equivalent.

**Price includes:**

- ✓ Transportation by van/minibus of tourist class according to the program,
- ✓ Two overnight stays in private accommodation in 1/2 and 1/3 rooms,
- ✓ Services of a licensed tour guide,
- ✓ Services of a licensed mountain guide,
- ✓ Tourist tax,
- ✓ Trip organization and leadership.

**Price does not include:**

- ✓ Meals,
- ✓ Travel health insurance (optional, with surcharge for extreme sports),
- ✓ Personal expenses.

**NOTE:** For departure from Belgrade, there is an additional charge of 30 euros per person in RSD equivalent. Transportation from Belgrade will be organized for a group of at least 6 passengers. The organizer reserves the right to change the trip plan and program due to unforeseen circumstances, no later than two days before the trip starts.

**ACCOMMODATION:** In private accommodation/hotel in Bansko. The town of Bansko combines the charm of past times with modern architecture, just 160 km from Sofia. The beauty of Pirin National Park, its authentic spirit, and many taverns serving excellent traditional food have made this small town one of the most popular tourist destinations in the Balkans.

**DO NOT FORGET TO BRING:** Sturdy hiking shoes or boots, multiple pairs of socks, short-sleeve shirts, a light jacket with a hood (preferably waterproof), a fleece or sweatshirt, spare pants, sunglasses, a hat, and sunscreen. Optionally, you can bring some sweets, snacks, refreshing drinks, and water. All of this should fit into a small backpack.

**PAYMENT TERMS:** A 50% advance payment of the total arrangement price is required at the time of booking. The remaining amount must be paid no later than 20 days before the start of the trip (with the option of installment payments). This program is based on a minimum of 7 registered participants. In case of changes in the monetary market (or the market of goods and services) or an insufficient number of registered participants, the tour organizer reserves the right to adjust prices, modify the program, or cancel the trip no later than 5 days before the scheduled departure.

The organizer of the trip is travel agency Nature Travel Office, licence number OTP 19/2023 issued by the Business Register Agency as of March 10, 2023. Nature Travel Office is insured by an insurance policy against responsibility for travel agencies in case of insolvency and liability in case of damage to the traveller, number 30000040045, by the insurer MILENIJUM OSIGURANJE ADO Belgrade. The policy is valid from February 13, 2024 to February 13, 2025. In this program, travel agency Nature Travel Office applies their general terms and conditions of traveling, which are included in signing up for the trip.

