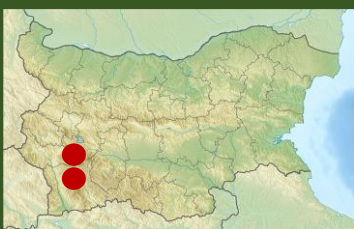




Rila & Pirin National Parks

An eight-day mountain tour along the most beautiful trails of the Rila and Pirin mountains. We will climb the highest summit of the Balkan Peninsula, encounter numerous glacial lakes, fields, pastures, and peaks, and greet the morning at an elevation of 2,300 meters. We will also explore Sofia, as well as many other villages and hamlets. We will visit the Rila Monastery, located in the deep valley of the Rila River and embraced by the magical nature of its namesake mountain, with Musala Peak watching over it. It is the largest and most prominent Christian Orthodox monastery in Bulgaria and has long been a spiritual and cultural center of the country.

General information



Adventure type:
mountaineering/hiking

Departure: during the season

Group: 16 people max.

Duration: 8 days

Travel mode: van/minibus

Technical requirements:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Physical fitness:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

The Republic of Bulgaria is located in the southeastern part of Europe, in the heart of the Balkan Peninsula. The Marica River valley forms a natural corridor connecting Europe with Asia Minor and the Middle East. The Danube, the longest river in Europe, serves as a natural border with neighboring Romania, while the picturesque “Friendship Bridge” linking the cities of Ruse and Giurgiu beautifully connects the two countries.

Bulgaria’s eastern region lies along the coast of the Black Sea, home to many famous resorts.

Bulgaria – NP Rila and NP Pirin



ITINERARY

DAY 1: SOFIA (TOUR OF THE CITY) – BOROVELS

Travelling distance: 95 km

The group meets at the airport and departs shortly thereafter for Sofia. We will take a city tour, visiting landmarks such as St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, Saint Nedelya Church, Saint Sofia Church, and the Saint George Church – Rotonda. A stop for a traditional lunch at a local restaurant is included. Our journey then continues to Rila Mountain, home to Bulgaria's largest national park, located about 70 km south of Sofia in the central part of the highest mountain region. The park is rich in rare and endangered plant and animal species, as well as historically significant monuments. Rila is famous for its glacial lakes, with over 150 scattered between 2,100 m and 3,500 m elevation. We will be accommodated in a cozy B&B-style lodging. After dinner, there will be a briefing about the adventures awaiting us. Overnight stay.

DAY 2: BOROVELS – YASTREBETZ – MUSALA PEAK – GOVEDARTSI

Travelling distance: 22 km; gondola lift ride: 12 km; total length of the trek: 13 km; lowest point of the trek: 2369m; highest point of the trek: 2925m; total ascent: 556m

After breakfast, we take the gondola lift from Borovets (1,315 m) up to Yastrebets (2,369 m), and then hike from Yastrebets to Musala (2,925 m), the highest summit in the entire Balkan Peninsula. The panoramic views from the summit are truly breathtaking. After spending some time at the top, we will retrace our steps back to Everest Lodge and then return to our accommodation in Borovets. Later, we continue to the village of Govedarts, where we will settle into our lodging and enjoy dinner. Overnight stay.

DAY 3: GOVEDARTSI – MALYOVITSA PEAK – IVAN VAZOV MOUNTAIN HUT

Travelling distance: 10 km; total length of the trek: 17 km; lowest point of the trek: 1700 m; highest point of the trek: 2729m; total ascent: 110m

After breakfast, we head to a starting point at 1,700 m elevation for our climb to Malyovitsa (2,729 m), one of the most beautiful peaks in the Rila Mountains. The rocky 8 km trail first takes us to Eleni Lake, then continues along a ridge leading to the summit. After enjoying some time at the peak, we follow the Rila ridge westward toward the mountain hut, our final destination of the day. Along the ridge, we pass several peaks: Golyam Mramorets (2,589 m), Mali Mramorets (2,562 m), Dodov Vrah (2,661 m), and Vazov Vrah (2,669 m). Dinner will be served at 2,300 m in the mountain hut. Overnight stay.

DAY 4: IVAN VAZOV MOUNTAIN HUT – THE SEVEN RILA LAKES – THE SEVEN RILA LAKES CHALET – PANICHISHTA – SAPAREVA BANYA

Total length of the trek: 12 km; lowest point of the trek: 1700m; highest point of the trek: 2729m; total ascent: 1100m

There's nothing more beautiful than waking up in the mountains at 2,300 m elevation. After packing our luggage and equipment and enjoying a light breakfast, we set off on what is arguably one of the most scenic trails in the entire Balkans. We will explore the Seven Rila Lakes, including Bliznaka (The Twin, 2,243 m), Babreka (The Kidney, 2,282 m), Salzata (The Tear, 2,525 m), Ribnoto ezero (Fish Lake, 2,184 m), Okoto (The Eye, 2,440 m), Trilistnika (The Trefoil, 2,216 m), and Dolnoto ezero (The Lower Lake, 2,095 m), from which the Dzherman River originates. Along the way, we will also climb Ezeren Vrah (2,559 m). After visiting the lakes, we reach the Seven Rila Lakes Chalet at 2,100 m elevation. From there, the lift takes us down to Pionirska Station at 1,520 m, and through Panichishte we descend to Sapareva Banya, where we enjoy dinner and spend the night in a private lodging.

Bulgaria – NP Rila and NP Pirin



DAY 5: SAPAREVA BANYA – RILA MONASTERY – BANSKO

Travelling distance: 175 km

We start the morning at the spa with breakfast and coffee. Shortly after, we depart for the Rila Monastery, founded by the hermit St. Ivan of Rila in the 10th century. The monastery is regarded as Bulgaria's most important architectural, historical, and cultural monument, and is one of the top tourist attractions in southeastern Europe. It has been a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1983. We stop for lunch at a nearby restaurant before checking in at our 3-star hotel. The afternoon is free to relax until dinner. Dinner marks the end of the day's activities, followed by rest for the night.

DAY 6: CLIMB TO VIHREN 2917m

Travelling distance: 34 km; total length of the trek: 7.5 km; lowest point of the trek: 1950m; highest point of the trek: 2917m; total ascent: 970m

After breakfast in Bansko, we travel to the Vihren Mountain Lodge (1,950 m). From there, we begin our hike to Vihren (2,914 m), the highest peak of the Pirin Mountains. After returning to the lodge, we are transported to our accommodation. The afternoon is free to relax until dinner. Dinner marks the end of the day's activities, followed by rest for the night.

DAY 7: BANSKO – CLIMB TO BEZBOG 2653m & POLEZHAN 2851m PEAKS

Travelling distance: 40 km; total length of the trek: 9 km; lowest point of the trek: 2236m; highest point of the trek: 2851m; total ascent: 650m

After breakfast, we travel to Goce Delchev Hut, where we take a ski lift up to Bezbog Hut. From there, a hiking trail leads us into the magical landscapes of the Pirin Mountains, taking us to the peaks of Bezbog (2,653 m) and Polezhan (2,851 m). The view from Polezhan, the fifth highest peak of the range, is simply breathtaking. Many consider it the most beautiful panorama in the entire massif, offering sights of other peaks above 2,500 m and 17 glacial lakes, including Popovo Lake, the largest at 30 m deep. The hike to the summit is manageable and not overly strenuous. We then return to Bansko for a traditional dinner and a recap of our adventure and impressions.

DAY 8: BANSKO – SOFIA

Travelling distance: 160 km

After breakfast, we transfer to Sofia for departing flights. End of the program.



Bulgaria – NP Rila and NP Pirin

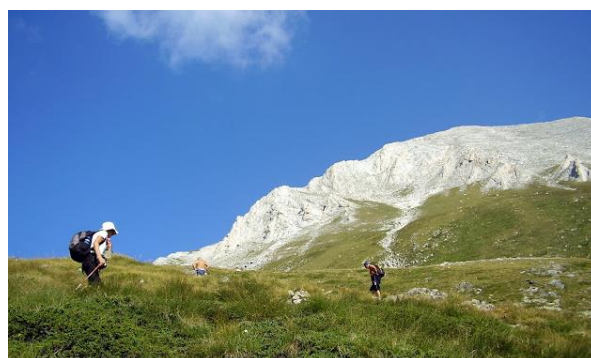
Price per person: _____ EUR (in RSD equivalent)

Price includes:

- ✓ Transport by high-class mini-bus or van according to plan and program,
- ✓ Luggage transportation on the trail, between accommodations,
- ✓ Accommodation for three nights in Borovets, Govedarci and Sapareva Banya in apartments in private accommodation,
- ✓ Accommodation for 1 night in the Mountain hut Ivan Vazov on Rila Mountain at 2300 m,
- ✓ Accommodation for three nights in a 3* or 4* hotel in Bansko,
- ✓ 7 half board services (breakfast/dinner with one drink included during each meal),
- ✓ 3 traditional lunches on the hiking tour (lunch includes one drink with a meal per person),
- ✓ 4 lunch packages on the hiking tour. Every passenger gets a lunch package before departure on the planed days,
- ✓ Ski lift in all locations defined by the plan and program,
- ✓ All entrance tickets provided in the program,
- ✓ One certified mountain leader for tours planned program,
- ✓ One certified tour guide for tours planned program,
- ✓ 24-hour support of NTO team,
- ✓ Travel organization expenses.

Price does not include:

- ✓ Airfare tickets,
- ✓ Travel medical insurance,
- ✓ Personal costs and expenses,
- ✓ Optional transfers,
- ✓ Optional activities and excursions.



NOTE: APPLICATION DEADLINE: 60 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE

DON'T FORGET TO BRING: High-top sneakers or hiking shoes, sleeping bag and mattress, multiple pairs of socks, short sleeved t-shirts, a lightweight jacket with a hoodie (waterproof if possible), a sweatshirt, a back-up pair of pants, sunglasses, a hat, sunscreen. If you want, you can bring candy or sweets, snacks, water and refreshments. Pack up everything in a small backpack. Do not forget: a swimming suit, a towel, a camera, back-up shoes and clothes, and, as always, a good mood!

WAYS OF PAYMENT: 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 8 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 trip organizer is Nature Travel Office tourist agency, license OTP 38/2025, issued by the Business Registers Agency, 06.05.2025. Nature Travel Office is insured by the insurance policy from tourist agency responsibility for any case of insolvency and responsibility in case of damage suffered by a passenger, no. 30000049351, by the insurance company "MILENIJUM OSIGURANJE" A.D.O Beograd. The insurance policy is valid from 01.04.2025. to 01.04.2026. With this programme Nature Travel Office's General Terms and Conditions are effective, and they are an integral part of this trip application.