

SKI BANSKO

PRE-DEPARTURE GUIDE



Bansko is the heart of skiing in Bulgaria, having hosted countless races and international competitions with its 75+ km of ski runs, and of course millions of ski and snowboard enthusiasts over the years. The town has sprawled into a vibrant, social and sports hub for travelers of all ages. As always, Ski Bansko tours provide the legendary Travel Talk value with premium services: 3 and 4 star hotels close to the lift, return airport transfers, experienced tour leader, swimming pool and sauna, unlimited wine and beer on dinners...

VISAS

UK, AUS, NZ, USA and CAN passport holders do not require a visa to enter Bulgaria for a stay of up to 90 days. It is your responsibility to ensure you are aware of your requirements and have the relevant documents as Travel Talk will accept no responsibility of refusal upon entry.

ESSENTIALS

Before you leave your country, we recommend you to make sure you have followings with you ;

- ➔ Passport
- ➔ Transportation or flight ticket
- ➔ Tour voucher
- ➔ Insurance policy
- ➔ Visas (if necessary)
- ➔ Cash & Card
- ➔ Ski/board clothing

HEALTH AND SAFETY

It is mandatory to all passengers traveling on Travel Talk Tours to have personal insurance to cover all medical and repatriation costs. As this tour involves skiing/snowboarding, an extreme sport, make sure that you are covered for such sports' injuries as well. While on the mountain, always pay attention to your surroundings, and avoid drunk skiing to avoid any unwanted injuries.

Please have a copy of your policy on you. It is often difficult to find the precise medication that is available in one's home country and for this reason we recommend you to carry your medication with you.

MONEY

We recommend you carry a mixture of cash and a debit/credit card. In Bulgaria, the official currency is Lev. Euro is also accepted in some places, however the exchange rate on the spot may not be favorable for you! You can withdraw money in banks with a debit card, or directly from a cash dispenser in Sofia or Bansko. Credit cards are generally accepted in hotels, restaurants and shops.

Approximately, 1 Euro = 1.96 Bulgarian Lev. Bulgaria is relatively cheaper compared to Europe and the UK; and a nice, hefty traditional meal might cost around £8-10, or a pint of beer £1-2.

WEATHER & WHAT TO WEAR...

Bansko has a relatively low altitude for a mountain village, located at 925m above the sea level, however the temperature and the climate may show differences as you climb higher up to ski.

Usually the weather is warmer than most other ski resorts, but it is still a mountain village. It tends to get quite cold at night time, however usually a jumper/sweater and your ski-jacket should be enough.

The village gets quite a bit of snow, make sure to pack your boots, a hat and gloves.

Month	December	January	February
Low C°	-2	-6	-5
Average C°	0	-1	-1
High C°	2	3	4

SNOW

The latest snowfall statistics are as below. Even though when natural snowfall is limited, 80% of the slopes have snow-making machines to keep it going on when the temperature falls below 0 degrees. However, there are never any guarantees about snowfall. Especially in the last few years, there is much variation about snowfall across different resorts and time periods compared to previous years.

Many factors affect skiing conditions besides snowfall; including the temperature, a flat ground-base vs rocky-base, snow quality, snow base-depth and so on. Upper slopes may sometimes provide better snow quality with a higher altitude.

Month	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
Nov	0 cm / 0 cm	0 cm / 0 cm	0 cm / 0 cm
Dec	0 cm / 24 cm	14 cm / 28 cm	8 cm / 64cm
Jan	52 cm / 80 cm	55 cm / 125 cm	23 cm / 172 cm
Feb	65 cm / 99 cm	70 cm / 150 cm	39cm / 204 cm
Mar	33 cm / 124 cm	59 cm / 145 cm	59 cm / 145 cm
Apr	0 cm / 76 cm	10 cm / 68 cm	10 cm / 68 cm

Key: Lower slopes/Upper slopes

EQUIPMENT, TUITION & LIFT PASSES

Please find below the list of ski services for Ski/ Snowboard & Boots hire, Tuition and Lift pass packages. To acquire the below discounted package rates, please send us the package and the duration of your choice at least 5 days before your tour date. You can make the payment for the ski services on the first day of the tour, when you pick up your equipment and lift pass at your hotel. Once you confirmed the requested services, the cancellation fee is 100% of the package price. If you do not make the payment for ski services on the first day of the tour, the cancellation fee will be charged to your card.

If you wish to purchase only a Lift Pass separately, you can near the lift at 57 leva or approx. 30 Euros/per day.



EQUIPMENT, TUITION & LIFT PASSES

It is also possible to hire a jacket and snow-pants at the town from approx. 20 Levas or 10 Euros/day

	Ski Packages	3 Day	4 Day	5 Day
1	Hire of ski and poles	28.0 €	36.0 €	44.0 €
2	Hire of ski boots	18.0 €	24.0 €	34.0 €
3	Hire of ski, poles and boots	42.0 €	56.0 €	75.0 €
4	Lift pass + Hire of ski and poles (no boots)	110.0 €	145.0 €	185.0 €
5	Lift pass + Hire of ski, poles and boots	125.0 €	165.0 €	215.0 €
6	Full ski-pack (full ski-equipment, lift pass, 4 hours daily tuition)	135.0 €	175.0 €	250.0 €

	Snowboard Packages	3 Day	4 Day	5 Day
1	Hire of snowboard	42.0 €	55.0 €	65.0 €
2	Hire of snowboard boots	36.0 €	42.0 €	50.0 €
3	Hire of snow board and boots	60.0 €	75.0 €	90.0 €
4	Lift pass + Hire of snowboard (no boots)	125.0 €	165.0 €	205.0 €
5	Lift pass + Hire of snowboard and boots	155.0 €	205.0 €	255.0 €
6	Full snowboard pack (snowboard, boots, lift pass, tuition 3days/2h)	185.0 €	230.0 €	275.0 €

Distances

From	To	Kms	Time
Sofia	Bansko	155	Approx. 2 hr.

The drive from Sofia airport to Bansko takes approximately 2.5 hours depending on the traffic.

OPENING HOURS

Normally the shops are open Mon-Fri 9 am - 6 pm and Saturday from 10 am to between 2 and 5 pm depending on the shop. Some shops stay close Saturdays in summer although many supermarkets remain open until 11 pm, seven days a week. There is also a shopping mall open until 10pm every day. On the other hand, the bars and clubs go on all night long, there are no last calls in Bansko.

NIGHTLIFE

When the sun sets, Bansko comes alive with its vibrant nightlife. There are many cafes, restaurants, bars, and clubs open until late night or early morning, mainly focused around the main gondola, or the town center.

Why not sing the night away at the local karaoke bar, where you'll find a friendly atmosphere and a brilliant sound system. Next to the gondola, you'll also find the Happy End Bar; a converted barn turned into a bar that's buzzing during Apres Ski or in the early evening; or just opposite to it, the bar Euphoria, serving the best cocktails.

A short walk from the city centre is the Lido, which serves the best coffee in Bansko and is a good spot to meet after a night out. This charming little coffee shop also has free Wi-Fi and a great view to enjoy whilst you sip your coffee.



EATING & DRINKING

Bulgaria has countless traditional delicacies and drinks to offer for you to lose yourself feasting. While all dinners are included, you may want to try some 800-year-old local recipes, while listening to some traditional music on the background at one of the Mehanas (Bulgarian Tavern), just ask your guide for advice and help. Moreover, a full, traditional meal should cost no more than £10-15! If you had too much to eat, the local spirit Rakija is a very effective digestive, drink responsibly!

You can also find similar restaurants, or cafeterias up on the mountain for a quick lunch, or even pack your lunch with you to save more time for the slopes.

ARRIVAL

Travel Talk will provide a free return shuttle transfer from/to Sofia Airport twice a week at the following times:

Sofia to Bansko
Saturdays; 1:15 PM
Tuesdays; 1:15 PM

Bansko to Sofia
Saturdays; 8:30 AM
Tuesdays; 8:30 AM

Your driver for the transfer to Bansko will be waiting in the arrivals hall of Sofia Airport Terminal 2 with a Travel Talk sign, and will stop at Terminal 1 for pick-ups before going on the road. For the transfer back to Sofia Airport, you will be picked up from the hotel at the stated time. The transfer time is approximately 2.5 hours.

Please email us the following information at least 2 weeks before your departure date.
info@traveltalktours.com

Travel Date
Flight Number
Local Arrival Time
Name/s of the Passengers
How to get to Bansko yourself

If for some reason you cannot make the designated transfer times that Travel Talk have provided, you can organise a shuttle transfer yourself at the airport, or via one of the below shuttle transfer companies:

www.suntransfers.com
www.shuttledirect.com
www.interbansko.com
www.sofiabanskotransfershuttle.com

HOTELS IN BANSKO

St. George Ski & SPA Hotel

Address : 12 Asanitsa Str., 2770 Bansko, Bulgaria
Phone : +359 2 490 4343
Located 5-10 min walking distance from the main gondola.

Hotels Friends

Address : ul. "Rayna Knyaginya" 2, 2770 Noviyat Grad, Bansko, Bulgaria
Phone : +359 89 461 2626
Located 500 meters away from the ski lift and 5 minute walk from the town center.

ST. GEORGE SKI & SPA HOTEL



St. George Ski & SPA Hotel is a 4-star hotel located only 500 hundred meters from the ski lift, and 1.3km from the town center.

Facilities

- Open Buffet Breakfast
- Ski Storage
- Free Wireless Internet at all areas
- SPA & Wellness Centre
- Hot tub & Jacuzzi
- Indoor Pool
- Sauna & Hammam
- Massage
- Game Rooms
- Billiards
- Table Tennis
- Free Luggage Storage

SERVICES INCLUDED

- ➔ Accommodation at 4 Star Hotel
- ➔ 7 Breakfasts, 7 Dinners including unlimited beer and wine
- ➔ Tour Leader
- ➔ Services of experienced ski tour leader.
- ➔ Evening Entertainment
- ➔ Return airport shuttle transfers.

SERVICES NOT INCLUDED

- ➔ Any flights, insurance
- ➔ Ski/Snowboard Equipment, lift pass or tuition, unless otherwise stated
- ➔ Tour Leader
- ➔ Meals and drinks not stated in the itinerary
- ➔ Evening Entertainment
- ➔ Tips, visa fees

HOTEL FRIENDS



Friends Hotel is a superior 3 Star hotel, located only 500 meters away from the ski lift, and only a 5-minute walk from the town centre. Recently refurbished, hotel Friends has an amazing jacuzzi bar instead of an indoor swimming pool

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- Free Luggage Storage