



code: VBG 0030

Duration: 8 days

Departure dates 2017/2018: every day

Group size: min. 2

Price: 510€/person/adult & child

This trip offers a combined trek through two of the most exciting natural reserves in the Balkan mountains: Kozyata Stena and Dzhendema, as well as a visit to the Troyan Monastery. We climb Mount Botev – the highest peak in the Balkan Mountains (2,376 m) and enjoy the imposing view of the low-lying Sredna Gora Mountains and the fertile Thracian Valley. After descending the extremely steep southern slope of the Balkan, known as "Tarzan's walkway", we visit the small town of Kalofer. The mountain huts lie like pearls on a thread with the walking paths in between. The trip ends in the town of Plovdiv, the second largest city in Bulgaria, still housing romantic remains of its old quarters.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Central Balkan National Park (highest peak: Mount Botev 2376 m a.s.l.) are the longest (550 km) and the biggest of all mountains in Bulgaria.

Kozyata stena and **Djendema** reserves housing many threatened wild species.

Troyan Monastery “Assumption of Virgin Mary”, being the 3-th largest in Bulgaria, is built in the style of the Bulgarian Renaissance.

Old town of Plovdiv ranks as the second Bulgarian city in population and size. The old town of Plovdiv is one of the oldest European towns with well preserved Roman theatre.

Saeva dupka cave – one of the most beautiful Bulgarian caves with plenty of rock formations.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival at Sofia airport and transfer to the town of Teteven where we stay overnight (2 hrs drive).

Day 2: Skribatna - Lesidren – Saeva dupka.

Short transfer to suburb Skribatna where the trek to Lesidren village starts. The path goes through broad-leaved forest and lush meadows. The minibus is waiting for us at Siniya vir near Lesidren. Short transfer to Lesidren for lunch. Transfer to Saeva dupka cave and then back to Teteven.

Uphill walk: 400 m; downhill walk: 400 m; walking time: 4-5 hours

Day 3: Bogoe - Chiflik.

Transfer to the passage Bogoe via Ribarica village. From there we start our day's march to Chiflik village famous for its hot mineral springs and swimming pools. The path follows the low ridge between two rivers finally reaching Haidushka pesen area from where the bus will take us to Chiflik. *Uphill walk: 300 m; downhill walk: 100 m; walking time: 5-6 hours.*

Day 4: Chiflik – Haidushka Pesen – Kozya stena - Beklemeto

Transfer from Chiflik to Haidushka pesen to continue our trek to the main ridge of Stara planina. The track ascends gradually through the old beech forest of Kozya stena reserve. Then following the ridge we get to Beklemeto. Transfer to Troyan monastery where we stay overnight.

Day 5: Smesite – Zelenikovo monastery - Pleven hut

Transfer to Smesite. This is the start point for the trek to the Pleven hut. The path goes along Zelenikovo monastery and through beech forest and Polenici peak reaches the hut where we stay overnight. *Uphill walk: 700 m; downhill walk: 200 m; walking time: 7-8 hours .*

Day 6: Pleven hut – Murgata – Mt Hristo Botev – Dzendema – Raiskoto praskalo – Rai hut

From Pleven hut the path goes through a beech forest, reaching a place, called “Murgata”. Then it continues by the foothills of the “Milk Peak” to “Hristo Botev” refuge with great views to the majestic rocks of Northern Dzendem reserve (Dzendem means Hell) . From there we start climbing the highest peak of the Balkan Mountains - Mount Botev (2376 m a.s.l.). From the peak the track weaves among the rocky slopes of the mount (The Tarzan's path), providing excellent view to the precipice of the Southern “Dzhendem”. Then we continue to “Rai hut” passing by the Heavens Waterfall (“Raiskoto pruskalo”).

Uphill walk:1000 m; downhill walk: 900 m; walking time: 6-7 hours.

Day 7: Dzhendemema – Panicite – Plovdiv

Descending through the rocky slopes of the Southern “Dzhendem” we finally reach Panicite area where our mountain experiences end. Transfer to the city of Plovdiv, where we stay

overnight. Visiting The Old Town we enjoy the atmosphere and the architecture of Bulgarian revival times.

Uphill walk: 0 m; downhill walk: 1000 m; walking time: 4 hrs.

Day 8: Transfer to Sofia or Plovdiv airport for departure (2hrs drive).

EXTENSIONS:

Yes, Black Sea

This is a unique proposal, which gives you the opportunity to stay in Bulgaria for one week more at the incredibly low price! We can offer a great variety of means of accommodation - from home stays (no meals) to 2, 3 and 4-star hotels (BB or HB) on the Southern Bulgarian Black Sea Coast:

- **Sunny Beach** - a big modern resort with hundreds of hotels, cafes, pubs, casinos, water-sports facilities etc.
- **Nessebar, Sozopol** - small towns (founded by the ancient Greeks) with picturesque Old Quarters and a specific atmosphere.
- **Lozenets** - a peaceful small village with a beautiful beach. Only 4-5 km from the forests of the Strandzha Mountains where you can go walking, biking or riding horses.

Difficulty grade: B / C

Accommodation: 6 nights in rooms with private facilities – 4 nights at good hotels (days 1, 2, 3 & 7), 1 night in a monastery, 1 night in a hut (day 5), 1 night dorm with shared facilities on day 6.

Group size: Min. 4 persons.

Price: 510 €

Single room supplement: 85 €

□ **NOTE!** The price is per person sharing a double room accommodation. Single traveler who has ordered a bed in a shared double room must be prepared to pay for a single room if a room-mate cannot be arranged.

The price does not include: map (could be requested in advance when booking the tour), tips, alcohol drinks and other personal expenses, other possible activities (not included in the price) which are optional and payable on spot. If you break the trip plan you pay on your own the extra expenses for transport and accommodation.map (could be requested in advance when booking the tour), tips, alcohol drinks, cigarettes and other personal expenses.

What's included:

- ✓ 7 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 1 lunchpack, 4 dinners (days, 3,4,5 & 6)

- ✓ all ground transfers and luggage transfers

- ✓ entrance fee Sueva Dupka

- ✓ English-speaking guide

- ✓ pick up/drop off at Sofia or Plovdiv airport

- ✓ Transfers to/from Sofia/ Bourgas/ Varna or Plovdiv airport
 - ✓ What is not included:
 - ✓ map (could be requested in advance when booking the tour),
 - ✓ tips
 - ✓ alcohol drinks and other personal expenses
 - ✓ other possible activities (not included in the price) which are optional and payable on spot
 - ✓ Guide expenses (non-compulsory):
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