

Bulgaria - Balkan Mountains (M-ID: 2597)

<https://www.motourismo.com/en/listings/2597-bulgaria-balkan-mountains>



from €1,790.00

Dates and duration (days)

Bulgaria has much more to offer than just a beach holiday on the kilometre-long sandy beaches of the Black Sea. Anyone who travels through this small south-eastern European country by motorbike will be amazed: several high mountains promise riding pleasure and scenic diversity.

From our base hotel, located at the foot of the impressive Vihren peak, we explore the surroundings on beautiful roads. Not only do we ride through the winding roads of the Pirin Mountains, but also the Rila Mountains, whose highest mountain, Musala, scrapes the 3,000-metre mark. The detours into the eastern mountain region also promise the best riding pleasure at its best, as many roads have been newly asphalted. Culturally, Bulgaria has a lot to offer, such as the worth seeing village of Melnik and the imposing imposing Rila Monastery.

Programme:

Day 1: After individual arrival at our meeting point hotel in Lug/Osijek (Croatia) by 6 pm with fully fueled motorcycles, we meet for our briefing of the trip at 6:30 pm in the beer garden. Afterwards we will have dinner together.

Day 2: After breakfast we head east. Via Vukovar we soon reach the border of Serbia. After Sabac we leave the lowlands of the Danube and Sava and look forward to the rolling hills, because now we are spoiled by beautiful winding roads. After lunch break we enjoy winding roads and beautiful views of the hill country. A little later we reach our nice hotel in the centre of Krusevac.
Daily kilometres approx. 400

Day 3: Also today we have a longer stage ahead of us. Up to Leskovac it goes quickly ahead. After we have eaten our lunch, it becomes exciting, because fantastic curve combinations in the direction of the Vlasina lake let the adrenalin level shoot up. The other winding roads in the charming hilly country are also pure riding pleasure for us. South of Nis we take the motorway for about 30 km to avoid the heavy traffic in Leskovac. We cross the border to Bulgaria and soon we reach the town of Kujstendil. The

further roads in the Struma valley lead us to our destination hotel in Bansko, the "St. Moritz" of Bulgaria. Full of joy we go to our luxury hotel "Kempinski Gran Arena".
Daily kilometres approx. 390

Day 4: After the sensational breakfast buffet, which we are now allowed to enjoy for five consecutive days, we are already looking forward to the first stage of the day. We want to circle the almost 3000 meter high Vihren. The stage leads us at the beginning over the main road to Simitli. A nice curve swing spoils us in the Struma valley. In a nice café directly at the river we have our coffee break. Soon after we turn off and ride over great little roads into the Pirin Mountains. Around noon we reach Melnik. This romantic place worth seeing with its old Ottoman houses invites us for a lunch break. Also in the afternoon we enjoy the varied landscape, which is often characterized by eroded sandstone soils. Partly we only get further on gravel roads. Via the newly asphalted Gotse Delchev Pass and later through the Nestos Valley we return to the base hotel.
Daily kilometres approx. 290

Day 5: After breakfast we start our journey in the wonderful river valley of the Nestos until Gotse Delchev. Here we turn left and ride along a magnificent mountain road to Dospat. The winding road leads us further through another mountain range, the Rhodopes, to Devin. Here we have our lunch break. We continue north on a newly paved beautiful road. After arriving at the reservoir, we turn left into the heights of a lonely mountain world. We ride along the shores of the Dospat Lake until we only get the smallest roads under our wheels.
Quite exhausted but happy we arrive at our comfortable hotel in the early evening. Daily kilometres approx. 340

Day 6: Today is a free day. If you like, you can use the generous offers of our hotel: Indoor pool, sauna, hamam, outdoor pool and massage. If you can't get enough of motorcycling, you can explore further routes in the surrounding area on your own. There is also the possibility of a short hike into the surrounding mountains. In the evening we all meet again for our delicious dinner.

Day 7: Today we head north. After we have mastered the Yolunda Pass, we head behind Yakoruda towards Belmeken Lake. A wonderful mountain track takes us higher and higher. The views of the mountain lake are breathtaking. A winding road leads us back down into the valley.

Soon we reach our nice restaurant, where we have our lunch break. Back in the Struma valley we soon turn left towards the Rila Mountains. On a newly built road with many curves we ride further and further up until we reach the famous Rila Monastery. After visiting this place of pilgrimage we have a coffee break and then ride back to our luxury hotel.

Daily kilometres approx. 350

Day 8: Fantastic mountain routes await us today. At the beginning we will ride into the Pirin Mountains. Dense coniferous forests characterize the landscape. After crossing the Nestos we cross over into the Rhodope Mountains. A wonderful small mountain road, sometimes asphalted, sometimes only gravelled, leads us directly to the first lake: Lake Dospat. More small lakes follow until we reach Batak via a great new asphalt road. Here we enjoy our lunch. Also in the afternoon we are overwhelmed by such beautiful natural spectacles. Great roads lead us through varied landscapes back to our fantastic base hotel.

Daily kilometres approx. 360

Day 9: After breakfast we unfortunately have to start our return journey.

At the beginning we ride through the Struma valley to the north. Soon after Kjustendil we enjoy the side roads and soon reach the border to Serbia. At Leskovac we take the bypass and avoid the dense city traffic. A little later we can enjoy the rolling hills again before we reach our nice hotel in Kruševac again. Daily kilometres approx. 400

Day 10: Right after breakfast we enjoy a beautiful route through the central Serbian mountains near Kragujevac. The country road 22 is not very busy and leads us over varied landscapes further and further to the northwest. At a nice restaurant we have our lunch break. On the final stage in the afternoon, side roads alternate with main roads. We are again in the lowlands of the Sava and Danube. In the late afternoon we finally reach our starting hotel in Lug/Osijek. In the evening we will have a delicious farewell dinner. Daily kilometres approx. 400

Day 11: After breakfast we start our individual return journey.

Countries	Bulgaria
Category	Motorcycle Tour
Terrain	Onroad
Vehicle	your own motorcycle
Tourguide / Coach	yes (guided)
Accommodation	Hotel / B&B or similar
Flight to / from	no, not incl.
Ferry	no, not incl.
Support vehicle (luggage/service)	no
Customer payment protection	yes
* PRICING	Minimal without optional extras, see pricing

Pricing

per rider in shared twin/double room	€1,790.00
pillion passenger	€1,390.00
per person single room (surcharge)	€465.00

Included

10 nights in a double room
Half board
Entrance fees
German speaking tour guide, please inquire for English speaking tour guide

Not included

Everything that is not listed under services
Motorcycle
Gasoline
Lunch
Beverages
Travel cancellation and return transport insurance

More details

Special feature: This trip is especially suitable for passengers. The respective riding stages are long, but during the day tours the co-riders can decide whether they want to ride along or take advantage of the generous offers of our luxury hotel. The day tours can be done without luggage.

Directions: The start and finish hotel is located near Osijek in northern Croatia. From Berlin to the meeting point hotel is about 1,100 km, from Munich about 850 km, from Cologne about 1,350 km, from Vienna about 430 km. If you arrive by car and trailer, you can park them safely in the courtyard of our meeting point hotel.

Route: Approx. 2,900 km total distance, daily stages between 290 and 400 km.

Motorcycles: This trip is suitable for all motorcycles, although you will be better off with touring enduros and touring motorcycles. The motorcycles should be technically perfect. Please consider that with arrival and return journey up to 6.000 km are to be ridden. Accordingly, the tyres should be new or as good as new.

Riding skills: This tour is not suitable for inexperienced riders. The stages are often very long and exhausting due to the road conditions. Good condition and a lot of riding experience are required, safe control of the bike in hairpin bends, on low quality asphalt is a prerequisite.

Luggage: Pack only the bare essentials. Pay attention to low weight and small volume. The bike is put under a lot of stress on this journey, and the less weight the rider has to balance, the more stable and safe he or she will be on pothole tracks. We recommend a luggage roll or sturdily attached rear bags and a sturdily attached tank bag. Please use sturdy lashing straps in sufficient quantity for fastening.

Road condition/traffic: Mostly asphalt, sometimes rough, sometimes fine, unfortunately often bad. The condition ranges from extremely broken roads, which are full of deep potholes, to brand new and perfectly paved roads. Construction activity was also very brisk in 2018 - so it is possible that one or the other broken road has already been newly asphalted. In total you have to reckon with about 20 km of easy gravel roads. The same road traffic regulations apply in all countries driven over as in Germany, including right-hand traffic. You have to keep an eye out for stray dogs, goats, sheep, donkeys and cattle - or very slow moving horse-drawn carts.

Daily routine: Normally a day of travel begins at 8 o'clock with breakfast. At 9 o'clock everybody should be on the bike. Lunch and breaks are taken regularly. Usually we reach the hotel by 18 o'clock at the latest. If there are exceptions, there is certainly a good reason for them.

Accommodation: In Croatia and Serbia we stay in two clean hotels typical for the country. According to the southeast European category, the houses are 3-4 star houses. In Bulgaria, we enjoy the ***** luxury hotel "Kempinski Gran Arena Bansko". It was voted the best hotel in Bulgaria in 2015. The hotel has a sensational offer, which you can use free of charge: On an area of 1,200 m² you will find three swimming pools, indoor and outdoor pool, two saunas and two steam baths, a large fitness centre and a unique snow room. Only SPA treatments and massages are charged extra.

Rations: For breakfast we usually serve the usual continental breakfast, occasionally varying with specialties such as olives and sheep's cheese, filter coffee, Turkish coffee or tea. In the Gran Arena Bansko we enjoy a fantastic breakfast buffet. This trip is also a culinary foray into Balkan cuisine. In the evening, a multi-course menu is usually served in the hotel or in neighbouring restaurants. In addition to water and the usual soft drinks, there are various kinds of tasty beer from the country's own breweries to drink. Various red and white wines round off an enjoyable dinner.

Additional costs: The petrol is a little bit cheaper in all visited countries than in Germany. Altogether, one has to calculate with 150,- to 250,- Euro fuel costs on the tour (with 4 litres or 6 litres consumption per 100 km). In Croatia you can easily pay with credit card or Maestro card at petrol stations. In Serbia and Bulgaria this is not always possible and if it is, then only with the PIN of the card. The drinks in restaurants and cafés are relatively cheap: ½ l beer about 1 to 2 euros, a bottle of red wine about 10 to 15 euros (except for the Gran Arena in Bansko). Depending on the drinking pleasure one has to calculate with approximately 130,- Euro for the tour. In addition, there are about 7 Euro per day for lunch (so a total of about 200,- Euro for drinks and lunch). As it is completely unusual in restaurants and cafés to pay individually, it is advisable to set up a joint cash desk for lunch and drinks (without the Gran Arena Bansko, here you can have the drinks written on the room bill), which your guide can manage for the group if you wish. So you actually have nothing to do with money anymore and can concentrate on the journey and the various impressions.

Climate: Because we are on the way across Europe and have to cope with big differences in altitude, the climate is also very different. In general we can expect temperatures around 22 to 38 degrees. In case of rain and on the pass heights it can get 5 degrees cold. In contrast, the thermometer in the valleys and lowlands can sometimes scratch the 35 degree mark.

Documents: An identity card valid for at least 6 months is sufficient for entry. A visa for German citizens is not necessary. If the vehicle is not registered to you, please carry a power of attorney, preferably in English, with you. A national driving licence is sufficient. Please also remember the Green Insurance Card, which must be valid for all countries you travel to. On the motorways in Austria, Slovenia and Croatia, motorcycles are also subject to tolls, but not in all other countries.

Electricity: The voltage is 220 volts.

Equipment / protective clothing: The most suitable clothing is waterproof textile clothing or enduro clothing (and rain trousers and jacket if necessary) and a helmet with a visor (because of the possible rain). As there are large differences in temperature between the lowlands and the mountains, the onion principle with many thin layers, which can be put on or taken off as required, is most suitable. Waterproof motorcycle gloves and boots should be a matter of course. Please do not forget your bathing suit. Also useful would be: a multitool or pocket knife, earplugs, sunglasses that fit under the helmet and a water bottle. On such tours, drinking rucksacks in the style of a camelback have proven to be particularly useful. Please also think about medication for the most common travel diseases. Diarrhoea and cold remedies as well as vitamins can be very helpful on the way.

Sports: Three swimming pools are available at the Gran Arena Bansko.

Money requirements and means of payment: For drinks and lunch it is best to bring 50,- Euro in cash and to withdraw the remaining 150,- Euro from the ATM in Bulgaria in the national currency (150 Euro = approx. 300 LEVA. National currencies for petrol can be exchanged at ATMs or exchange offices. You should also have some money for possible tips, souvenirs and gifts.

Minimum number of participants: 5 riders. If the minimum number of participants is not reached, we reserve the right to cancel the tour up to 28 days before the tour starts.