

Day Hikes from Bansko

Moderate Walks

Dobarsko Valley Loop: A circular valley walk following forestry trails up this secluded valley to the picturesque village of Dobarsko on the edge of the Rila National Park. We stop in the village for a guided tour of the



church of St Teodor Tiron & St Teodor Stratilat. This hidden gem is a UNESCO heritage site famous for its unique and perfectly preserved frescoes. Our return routes takes us along a gentle ridge, enjoying 360 degree panoramic views of the Pirin, Rila and Rhodope mountains. **Terrain easy. Distance 8 miles. Time 4 hours.**



The Priest's Lake: A scenic 30 minute drive takes us to the Gotse Delchev Hut and chairlift. We ride the chairlift (13levs) up to Bezbug Lake, 2240 metres above sea level, where our hike begins. Our route takes us round the lake before climbing the ridge for breathtaking views into the heart of the Pirin mountains, a land steeped in history and folklore. We follow a rocky mountain trail down to Popovo Lake (the priest's lake), the largest lake in

the Pirin. Our return route retraces our steps with more glorious views while Bezbug and Polejan peaks tower above us. **Terrain rocky and steep in places. Distance 5 miles. Walking time 5 hours.**



Three Bunderitsa Lakes: Driving up out of Bansko we cross the ski slopes on Mt. Todorka's northern flank, on our way to the Vihren Hut, 1915 metres above sea level. Our hike starts here as we follow a circular route round three of the picturesque Bunderitsa lakes; Okoto (The Eye), Ribnoto (The Fish) and

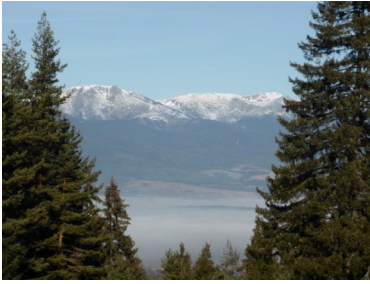


Muratovo (White Fir). We walk along rocky mountain trails which wind up the Bunderitsa valley, below the rugged Pirin peaks offering breathtaking views. **Terrain rocky and steep in places. Distance 3.5 miles. Walking time 4.5 hours.**



Godlevo Valley Walk: A gentle and picturesque valley walk from the pretty village of Godlevo. From the village, we ascend the ridge with beautiful views of the surrounding Pirin and Rila mountains. Following the ridge up the valley brings us to the foothills of the Rila National Park and a peaceful lake with stunning views back to Bansko and the Pirin Mountains, an ideal lunch spot. Continuing down cart tracks, we reach the painted chapel of St Ilya hidden in the pine forest., before a gentle descent brings us back into the village. **Terrain easy. Distance 8 miles. Walking time 4 hours.**

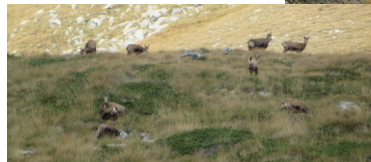




Into the Rila Mountains: A higher altitude circular walk through the forests of the Rila National Park. Starting from Georgi's trout farm above Dobarsko village, we follow steep forestry trails up to the Dobarsko Hut where a viewing platform gives unparalleled views across the valley to Bansko and the Pirin mountains. Our return route takes us down winding tracks between rocky outcrops and mountain streams. **Terrain moderate, steep in places. Distance 6 miles. Walking time 4 hours.**

Strenuous Walks

Ascent of Mt. Vihren: Our starting point for this hike to the highest peak in the Pirin mountains (the third highest in Bulgaria) is Vihren Hut. We take the shorter, easier, southern approach to the summit, climbing steeply out of the valley up rocky mountain paths. Amazing views across to Todorka and back into the Bunderitsa valley give the perfect excuse to stop and catch your breath. If you're lucky you might glimpse the elusive Wild Mountain Goats which live here. The final ascent to the peak is steep and rocky but the indescribable views from the top make it all worthwhile. **Terrain steep and rocky. Distance 4 miles. Ascent 1000 metres. Walking time 5.5 hours.**



Two Valleys, Seven Lakes: A stunning linear mountain walk from Vihren Hut to Damyantsa Hut. Following rocky mountain trails, we ascend the rugged Bunderitsa Valley passing three of its lakes. The ascent to Little Todorka pass is steep but 360° stunning views from the top make it worth the climb. We descend into the Damyantsa valley, leaving behind the dramatic rugged scenery and entering a gentler, more verdant landscape of tranquil lakes and majestic pine forests. **Terrain steep and rocky in places. Distance 11 miles. Ascent 670 metres. Walking time 8 hours.**



Important information

The above hikes are a sample of some of the more popular routes in the Bansko area. Many of the moderate walks can be shortened or extended and there are many other routes locally. If you fancy something different, e-mail me and I will put together a tailor-made itinerary for you.

All day hikes cost 120 leva for 1-2 people. Additional walkers pay 30 leva per person. Maximum group size is eight people. The price includes transport and guiding. Chairlift tickets and church entrance fees are not included. Walkers should wear suitable footwear and bring a packed lunch and plenty of water.