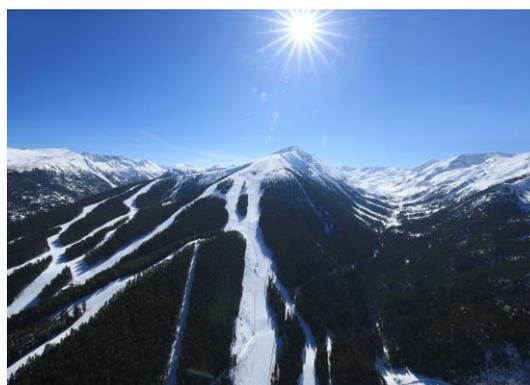


Bansko – a European tourist destination all year round

Bansko is equally attractive during the four seasons of the year, offering activities and a variety of options for your holiday. It entertains both Bulgarian and foreign tourists, because of its unique combination of tranquillity and nature. The popularity of Bansko in and outside Bulgaria is due to the wonderful conditions for skiing and summer tourism in combination with original folklore and unique architecture.

One of the biggest advantages of the city is the Ski Area, which makes Bansko the Top Winter Resort not only in Bulgaria, but in Eastern Europe too. The ski area offers 17 ski runs with a total length of 75km, the highest point being at an altitude of 2600m. The 400 artificial snow machines located along all ski runs ensure sufficiently thick snow cover – from December to April – for an unforgettable ski experience. Named as the winter capital of the Balkans, Bansko’s ski facilities cater to both professional skiers and beginners. Annually, Bansko organizes national and international ski and snowboard competitions. Bansko has hosted 8 World Cups in Alpine skiing and 2 World Cups in snowboarding.



Throughout the summer months the town is equally active because of its glorious surroundings. Take advantage of the Pirin mountain by going hiking, mountain biking, rock climbing or going on an off-road safari along the mountain paths. For more relaxing activities Bansko boasts hot mineral springs, horse riding, amateur and sport fishing, picnic in the mountains, and plenty of taverns serving ancient recipes and Bulgarian cuisine with an excellent selection of wines.

In Bansko you can go to a trip back in time. The spirit of Old Bansko is preserved in the center of the city. Here is the St. Trinity church – the second biggest church in Bulgaria. The clock tower with the bell of the church is the National Revival symbol of the city. The unique architecture in the style of the National Revival, the numerous cultural and historic complexes and museums, as well as the small streets of Old Bansko make a bridge through time and create a parallel reality of unprecedented nature.



Bansko is the municipality that covers the largest territories of the “Pirin” park, including 2 natural reserves, 1 protected locality, 13 historical places, 11 natural sites, 2 caves, 3 waterfalls and 1 venerable tree that impresses the tourists every year. National Park “Pirin” /40 467

hectares/ is the largest Bulgarian park of national and international significance. It is included in the UN List of national parks and reserves and in the List of UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Bansko is the best festival destination of the Balkans. More than 50 festival formats are put on the cultural calendar of the municipality, some being of international importance, others with national scope, and some others related to the preservation of local traditions and culture. The most important international festivals are: Jazz Festival, Bansko Film Fest, Festival of Balkan Music, Ballet Festival. The national cultural calendar comprises the theatre festival “To the Audience with Love”, Festival for Opera and Classical Music, Festival of folk art.

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