



SKI. SPA. CULTURAL EVENTS.
"Where luxury meets tradition"

Hiking

The hiking around Bansko is some of the best you'll find anywhere in Europe. The Pirin National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site covering 400km², with marked trails stretching for hundreds of kilometres. Here you can see more than 100 glacial lakes, 98 different peaks and an abundance of wildlife, including 300 rare species.

Mountain biking

Wherever there are mountains, there are keen mountain bikers. Bansko doesn't just host world-class skiing events. It's also the home of the annual 'Road to Nowhere' competition, which attracts mountain bike enthusiasts of all levels from around the world. The Pirin Mountains are the draw, with their extensive marked trails and astonishing scenery.

Horse riding

Criss-crossing the foothills of the Pirin and Rila mountains are an array of trails suitable for all levels of rider. The local riding school offers lessons, and guides lead anything from a gentle excursion to a multi-day expedition. It's a fantastic way to explore the beauty of the mountains.

Go-karts

If you want to get the feeling of taking part in a Grand Prix, the nearby racing circuit is a must. All equipment is provided, along with safety instructions. You can even race at night if you like – the course is floodlit.

Off-road buggies

Petrol-heads will jump at the chance to drive one of these 250cc 4-wheel drive buggies around mountain paths and forest tracks. Tours are led by an experienced guide, who will take you safely through an adrenaline-charged off-road adventure.

Golf

A 10-minute drive from St George Palace brings you to one of the sporting gems of the Razlog Valley – the famous Ian Woosnam designed Pirin Golf Course and Country Club. This elite club offers guests a fantastic 18 hole championship course, with pine-lined fairways and stunning views of the Pirin Mountains. An experience keen golfers won't want to miss!

Watersports

The watersports capital of Western Bulgaria is Lake Iskra, just an hour from Bansko. Here you can enjoy the thrill of water-skiing, wakeboarding, jet-skiing and sailing on a beautiful tree-fringed lake surrounded by mountains. Instruction is available if you want to try these sports for the first time.

Clay pigeon shooting

20 minutes from St George Palace you'll find a shooting lodge, where you can enjoy the mountain air and blast away from stands to challenge all levels. A safety briefing, shotguns, cartridges and clays are provided. You can even arrange a barbecue if you like.

Paintball

If you prefer a target that shoots back, there are two paintballing arenas to choose from near St George Palace – one forest, the other urban. It's a great way for families and groups to spend a morning or afternoon.

White water rafting

In April to June the snows recede and the rivers become full of fast-flowing melt-water. Just 30 minutes from St George Palace is the Kresna Gorge, with its challenging rapids and mountain scenery. Professional instructors will brief you on safety and then guide you through this exhilarating river adventure.

Fishing

There are more than 100 glacial lakes in the Pirin Mountains and Razlog Valley – many of them well stocked with trout. It's a paradise for fishing, and both fly and coarse fishing are available. The more remote lakes can be reached by 4x4, for the chance to fish in utter tranquillity in a stunning mountain landscape.

Bird watching

Sitting on the Balkan Peninsula, Bulgaria is an important stopover point for many species of migratory birds. This makes it an ideal location for bird watching, worth visiting at almost any time of the year, but with a particular abundance in the spring and autumn months.

Narrow gauge railway

The local narrow gauge mountain railway passes through Bansko on its way to Septemvri. The steam locomotive travels 106km through stunning mountain scenery and lovely river valleys. There are 35 tunnels along the way and the journey passes through the Balkans' highest train station – Avramovi Kolbi at 1,267m above sea level. It surely ranks as one of the most spectacular train journeys in the world.

Vineyard visits

Bulgaria has a perfect climate for viticulture, and many types of grape flourish here. One of the most famous wine-growing regions is Melnik, where you can take a vineyard and cellar tour with wine-tasting. You'll also get the chance to visit the old town and the famous natural sandstone Melnik Pyramids..

Thermal springs

There are more than 70 thermal springs in the Razlog Valley, and several purpose-built outdoor pools where you can enjoy the healing properties of the natural mineral waters. And, of course, there's also the Spa Centre at St George Palace if you prefer to indulge without venturing too far afield!

Water park

45 minutes from Saint George Palace is Blagoevgrad, with its popular Aqua Park. It makes a fun-packed day out for families, with an Olympic-size swimming pool, wave machine, children's pool with slide, speed slides and waterfall. Other facilities include a restaurant and café.

Belitsa Bear Park

Originally founded as a rescue centre for Eastern Europe's mistreated dancing bears, the Belitsa Bear Park now serves as a sanctuary for their re-integration to their natural habitat. The park sits on the slopes of the Rila Mountains and is currently home to 24 bears, which enjoy a diverse habitat. You can watch them from the safety of fenced pathways or book a guided tour.

Bansko International Jazz Festival

In August each year, Bansko swings to the beat of world-class jazz. Musicians from around the world gather to perform at Bulgaria's biggest summer music event. This is a fantastic time to visit, with music-lovers flocking to the open-air stage at Nikola Vaptsarov Square in the old town. You can also hear live jazz at smaller venues and in many of the local taverns and restaurants

Saint George Palace 4* - Apart Hotel
5 Kosherinata Str., Bansko
Tel./Fax + 359 749 82424

E – mail : reservations@saintgeorgepalace.com
www.saintgeorgepalace.com