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multimedia



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One third of Bulgaria's territory is covered by about 40 mountains. Bulgarian mountains are diverse in size, height, topography and biological variety. They are beautiful and available in summer as well as in winter and offer excellent conditions for sport, recreation and hiking.





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BALKAN MOUNTAIN



The Balkan Mountain is the backbone of Bulgaria and the Balkan Peninsula. It stretches its long frame in the middle of the country and divides it into two sections. The highest point of the mountain is mount Botev (2,376 meters), and its most eastern point is cape Emine, where the mountain juts out into the Black Sea.



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The Balkan Mountain is divided into three parts. The west part covers the territory of the mountain from the Botevgradchik pass to the Botev pass; its middle share extends from the Botevgrad pass to the Vratnik pass in the Sliven Balkan area; and the eastern

section extends from Sliven to Cape Emine.

The Balkan Mountain offers many hiking trails, eco-paths, lodges and shelters. Along the mountain passes the international route E3, which links the Atlantic Ocean with the Black Sea - Kom - Emine.





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RILA

Rila is the most magnificent and highest mountain. It is situated in Southwest Bulgaria and it is a part of the Rila-Rhodope massif. 31 peaks with a height over 2,600 meters rise in Rila. The highest peak of the Balkan Peninsula - peak Musala (2,925 meters) is also located here.

Other landmarks of the mountain are the seven Rila Lakes of glacial origin, the Musala Lakes and the Rila Monastery, which is under the aegis of UNESCO.

Three major Bulgarian rivers spring from Rila - Iskar, Maritsa and Mesta.





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Rila is one of the mountains most visited by tourists in Bulgaria. It has many hiking trails, huts and mountain resorts. The most famous resort is Borovets, which offers excellent conditions for winter sports.





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PIRIN



The Pirin mountain is also a part of the Rila-Rhodope massif. It is situated south of Rila. Pirin has an alpine topography, with high cliffs and rocky peaks. The second highest peak in Bulgaria - peak Vihren (2,914 meters) is situated in Pirin. In Pirin rise 33 peaks with a height of over 2,600 meters.



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The largest Bulgarian winter resort Bansko is located in Pirin. It is a popular destination for skiers and snowboarders. Pirin is preferred by mountaineers and adventurers.

Various routes with huts and shelters pass through the mountain. The narrow col Koncheto is also located in Pirin - its passing is a challenge for many people.





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RHODOPE MOUNTAIN

The Rhodope Mountain is the third mountain of the Rila-Rhodope massif. It covers a significant territory in the south part of the country. Its topography is not as alpine as Rila's and Pirin's, and unlike

them, the Rhodope mountains didn't freeze during the last ice age. 11 peaks with height of over 2,000 meters rise in the Rhodope mountain. The highest of them is peak Golyam Perelik (2,191 meters).





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Some of the most beautiful and famous Bulgarian caves are located in this mountain - Snezhanka, Yagodinska, Uhlovitsa, Lepenitsa, Devil's Throat and Haramiiska caves. The relief of the Rhodope mountain is lower in their

eastern part, and the higher peaks are located in the western part of the mountain. Two major winter resorts - Pamporovo and Chepelare, are also located in these mountains. The Rhodope Mountain also offers two large spa resorts - Velingrad and Devin.



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VITOSHA

The Bulgarian capital Sofia is located at the foot of the Vitosha mountain. The highest peak of Vitosha is Cherni Vrah (2,290 meters). Here springs one of the longest rivers in Bulgaria - Struma.





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The beautiful mountain is very attractive for admirers of the ecotourism and sports. There are two ski areas here that attract many athletes during the winter season. In summer, at the numerous trails and eco paths there are hikers and

families with children, as well as bikers.

At the foot of the mountain, in the Sofia residential section of Boyana, lies the Boyana Church - one of the Bulgarian sites included in the UNESCO List of Global Heritage.





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OSOGOVO

Osogovo mountain is located in western Bulgaria, at the border with Macedonia. Its highest point is peak Ruen (2,251 meters) which is easily accessible and is popular among the mountaineers.





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Various routes pass through the mountain - some of them start from the town of Kyustendil and others - from the surrounding villages. Osogovo is located in the border zone and is subject to protection by the Border Police. When visiting the mountain you need to carry your ID card or passport.





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SREDNA GORA

Sredna Gora is the second longest after the Balkan Mountain. It is located parallel to it. Its highest peak is Golyam Bogdan - 1,604 meters high. There are routes of different length and difficulty with huts along the routes. The mountain has been inhabited

since ancient times and evidence for this are the archaeological discoveries near Starosel and Strelcha. Koprivshtitsa is located in Sredna Gora. It is a real outdoor museum with many preserved buildings from the times of the Bulgarian Revival.





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STRANDZHA



Strandzha is a relatively low mountain. It is situated in southeast Bulgaria and a part of it is situated on the territory of Turkey. The highest point in the Bulgarian part of the mountain is Golyamo Gradishte peak (710 meters).

Strandzha is sparsely populated, and its territory has several reserves and a natural park, protecting the large biodiversity of the mountain. Strandzha borders with the Black Sea on the east.



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