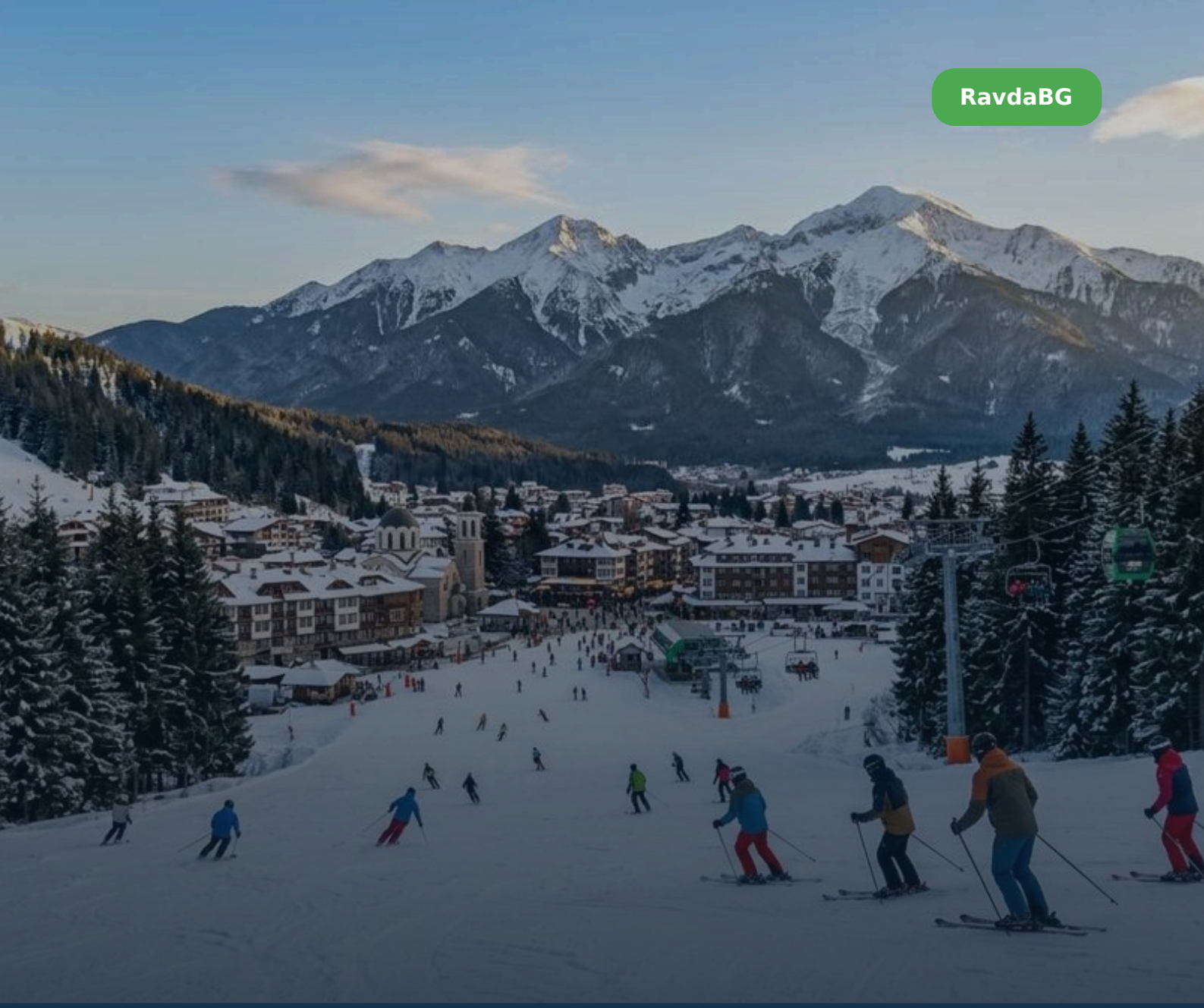

RavdaBG

Bulgaria Ski Guide 2026/27

Bansko, Borovets and Pamporovo: how to choose, what it costs and how to get there

Information checked 21-22 October 2026. Prices and dates change: always confirm with the resort before booking.

The three resorts at a glance

	Bansko	Borovets	Pamporovo
Mountains	Pirin	Rila	Rhodope
Pistes (approx.)	about 75 km	about 58 km	about 30-43 km
Top height (approx.)	about 2,560 m	about 2,560 m	about 1,930 m
Character	Big ski area, old town, best nightlife	Compact, pine forest, close to Sofia	Calm, sunny, gentle slopes
Best for	Intermediate and advanced skiers, groups	Beginners, families, short breaks	Beginners, families, budget
Transfer from Sofia airport	about 2.5-3 h	about 1-1.5 h	about 3 h (about 1.5 h from Plovdiv)
Season dates	1 Dec 2026 - 11 Apr 2027 (official; may change)	2025/26 opened 27 Dec	2025/26 opened about 28 Dec

Piste lengths and heights differ between sources because resorts and guides count lifts and connecting runs differently. Treat them as a guide to scale. Sources on the last page.

Bansko



Bansko is the best-known Bulgarian resort: a large ski area above a traditional old town, with taverns, bars, restaurants and spa hotels. The area rises to about 2,560 m with a vertical drop of about 1,630 m and a run of about 16 km back to town.

- Suits intermediate and advanced skiers, groups and anyone who wants evenings out.
- Beginners start on the wide, gentle plateau at the top of the gondola (Banderishka Polyana) or in the lower Chalin Valog area.
- Watch-out: queues at the gondola in peak weeks such as Christmas, New Year and February half-term. Arrive early and buy passes online.

Official 2026/27 seasonal lift passes (EUR, VAT included): adults 870, students / 12-18.99 / retirees up to 74.99: 820, children 7-11.99: 460, kids up to 6.99 and retirees over 75: 55. Promotional price valid for purchases 1 Oct - 1 Dec 2026.

Borovets



Borovets is generally described as the first mountain resort in Bulgaria and the Balkans, set in a pine forest in the Rila Mountains close to Samokov. It has roughly 58 km of pistes served by one gondola, four chairlifts and nine drag lifts.

- Closest to Sofia airport: about 1-1.5 hours by road, ideal for a short break.
- Suits beginners and families; compact and easy to navigate.
- Watch-out: confident skiers can run out of new terrain after three or four days. The operator has said it plans to replace the gondola over the next ten years, so check lift status before booking.

We could not find confirmed 2026/27 prices. Last season (2025/26) an adult seasonal pass with night skiing was about EUR 1,020, and the season opened on 27 December.

Pamporovo



Pamporovo lies in the Rhodope Mountains in southern Bulgaria near Smolyan and tops out at about 1,930 m. Its wide, gentle slopes make it a favourite for first-timers, children and families. One guide describes it as often 20-30% cheaper than Bansko in peak season.

- Suits beginners, families with children and relaxed skiers who prefer sun and views to nightlife.
- Plovdiv airport is about 90 minutes away, which can be easier than about 3 hours from Sofia.
- Watch-out: it is the lowest of the three, so snow security is lower in warm spells, and advanced skiers will find the terrain limited.

We could not find confirmed 2026/27 prices. Last season (2025/26) a full-season pass was about EUR 975, and the season was due to open on 28 December.

What it costs: prices we can confirm

Bansko seasonal pass, adult, 2026/27	EUR 870 (official)
Borovets seasonal pass with night skiing, adult, 2025/26	about EUR 1,020 (last season)
Pamporovo full-season pass, 2025/26	about EUR 975 (last season)
Adult day pass, Bansko (2025 guide)	about EUR 60-65
Adult day pass, Pamporovo (2025 guide)	about EUR 38-44
Bansko rental, adult skis + boots + poles, 2026/27 (one operator)	EUR 18 per day / EUR 94 for 6 days
Bansko rental, child skis + boots + poles (one operator)	EUR 13 per day / EUR 64 for 6 days
Bansko group lesson, 2 hours (one school)	about EUR 42-47 per person
Bansko group lesson, 4 hours (one school)	about EUR 78-88 per person

Rental and lesson prices come from one operator each and are examples, not market averages. Prices for 2026/27 at Borovets and Pamporovo were not confirmed when this guide was written.

Getting there

Almost every visitor flies to Sofia (Pamporovo is also close to Plovdiv airport). Bansko is about 160 km from Sofia.

Public bus from Sofia Central Bus Station	about EUR 11-17 one way, about 3 h	Cheapest. Metro from the airport to Central Station takes about 25 min and costs about EUR 1.60.
Airport bus	about EUR 17, about 2 h 45 min	Once a day (about 16:30); book ahead.
Shared shuttle	about EUR 25-45 per person	Pickup at the airport; book ahead.
Private transfer	from about EUR 70-90 per car	Door to door; best for families and groups.
Hire car	from about EUR 5-40 per day plus fuel	Winter tyres or snow chains needed; the last 15 km to Bansko can have ice.

In winter allow 30-60 extra minutes. Times and prices are approximate.

Before you book: a short checklist

- Pick the resort that matches your level: Pamporovo or Borovets for beginners, Bansko for intermediates and nightlife.
- Avoid Christmas, New Year and February half-term if price matters, and book accommodation early for those weeks.
- Compare two or three rental shops; location and what is included matter as much as the daily price.
- Collect rental equipment the afternoon before your first ski day if the shop allows it, and check the boot fit in the shop.
- Do not buy a long lift pass before you know how often you will ski; ask your instructor.
- If you rent a car, confirm winter tyres or chains at pickup.
- Confirm opening dates and lift status on the resort website before you travel.

Packing basics

Warm layers (also for hand luggage), waterproof jacket and trousers, gloves, goggles, sun cream and lip balm, helmet if you do not rent one, a small rucksack, and some euros in cash for taxis.

Find places to stay on RavdaBG

Hotels, guest houses, apartments and ski rental in Bansko, with guides for Borovets and Pamporovo:

ravdabg.com/en/bansko

ravdabg.com/en/borovets

ravdabg.com/en/pamporovo

Sources

- banskoski.com - official Bansko lift pass prices and 2026/27 season dates (read 21 Oct 2026)
- Novinite.com - Bulgaria's ski resorts: prices for the 2025/26 season (25 Dec 2025)
- Sofia Globe - Borovets opens its 2025/26 ski season (Dec 2025)
- Botly Travel - Bulgaria ski resorts: Bansko vs Borovets vs Pamporovo (updated July 2026)
- The Travel Bunny - skiing in Bulgaria: Bansko and Pamporovo (updated March 2026)
- Ski Mania Bansko - rental and beginner guide pages (2026/27 prices, operator information)
- Red White Adventures and Tours Bulgaria - Sofia to Bansko transport guides (2026)

Disclaimer: this guide is for information only. RavdaBG is not affiliated with the resorts or companies named. Always confirm prices, dates and conditions before you book.