

PACKING LIST – BULGARIA’S MOUNTAINS AND MONASTERIES

FOOTWEAR

- 1 pair lightweight/midweight hiking boots with good ankle support.
- 1 pair of comfortable shoes for general use
- 2-3 pairs of hiking socks (wool or synthetic equivalent: Smartwool, Thorlo, Darn Tough)

CLOTHING

- 1-2 pair of comfortable synthetic long (3/4) pants for hiking - zip-offs work well
- 2 - 3 synthetic or lightweight merino wool T-shirts or short-sleeved shirts
- 1 lightweight long underwear top – silk, wool or synthetic equivalent
- 1 medium-weight top layer – synthetic/wool/down pull over – fleece/wool or down vest works well for this layer
- 1 lightweight/midweight/warm fleece/down jacket or pullover
- 1 pair shorts, ¾ pants or hiking skirt: (unnecessary if you use zip-offs)
- 1 lightweight, long-sleeved shirt for hiking/sun protection - button up front is the best
- 1 wide brimmed or baseball style hat for protection from the sun/rain
- 1 rain jacket/poncho and rain pants – waterproof/breathable fabric like Gore-tex
- 1 pair wool, Capilene, or Polartec gloves
- 1 warm/lightweight wool or fleece hat
- 1 buff
- Underwear/nightwear
- 1 – 2 changes of casual clothes to wear at end of day

EQUIPMENT/ESSENTIALS

- Passport and a photocopy of your passport
- 1 pair Trekking poles (strongly recommended)
- 1 daypack (see notes on packing list for recommended capacity)
- 1 Pack/rain cover or other capability to ‘waterproof’ your backpack (Please see Notes on Packing List)
- Capacity to carry 2/3 liters of water (Please see Notes on Packing List)
- Sunglasses (100% UV protection) w/retention strap
- 1 – 2 bandanas/buff
- Wristwatch/travel alarm clock
- Ear plugs (for a good night’s sleep!)
- Small headlamp or flashlight

TOILETRIES (small everything)

- Toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, hand sanitizer, shampoo, contact lens, sanitary supplies
- Sunscreen and lip protection with sunblock of at least SPF 15
- Personal first aid/patch kit - Band-Aids, 1 safety pin, moleskin, Compeed (or blister bandages), ibuprofen, any personal medications

Please note: Individuals who have had or have the potential for a severe allergic reaction to insect stings, specific foods, or medications must bring an epi-pen. Consult your doctor and tell your guide.

OPTIONAL

- washcloth - typically not provided in Europe
- camera
- compact binoculars
- favorite snacks
- book or small game
- bathing suit (several hotels have pools/hot tubs)
- electrical adaptor/converter plug
- shower shoes (like flip flops)

NOTES ON PACKING LIST

Adventures in Good Company's packing list includes items to help you be prepared for the various activities and conditions. It is not personalized, so please add the items that you require to travel safely and comfortably but remember – less is better! You may not use everything you bring; however, you need to come prepared for all possible weather. At the same time, you must be able to carry your own luggage, sometimes up and downstairs. Bringing a duffel bag or soft-sided suitcase with wheels, rather than a hard-sided suitcase, is easier for packing into the vans that will be transporting our luggage. **As space for luggage on our trips is limited, please do not overpack!**

Daypacks: Your daypack should be large enough to hold the following items: 1 – 2 liters of water, rain gear, lunch/snacks (for the day), sun screen, warm layer (fleece pullover or vest), personal first aid kit, lightweight gloves, warm hat and personal items such as camera, etc. We recommend a daypack with a capacity of between 1800 and 2400 cubic inches with a hip belt, padded shoulder straps, and 'lifters'. Line your daypack with a durable plastic bag to keep your belongings dry, or have an elasticized pack cover that fits snugly over it. Before you leave home check to be sure that it is comfortable to wear all day and has sufficient space for all of your items. Note: Fanny-packs and hydration packs are not large enough to hold all of the items you will need for the day.

Pack Cover: These are waterproof/resistant, usually elasticized covers designed to go over your backpack and keep both the pack and its contents dry in case of inclement weather. If you are purchasing a pack cover be sure to either take your pack with you or know the size cover you need. Many daypacks do come with built in pack covers.

Footwear: Well-fitting, sturdy boots are very important to your safety and enjoyment. If you plan to buy new boots, break them in by wearing them around town and taking some short hikes before your trip. For general hiking, lightweight or midweight cordura or leather boots with a Vibram sole work well. If you have weak ankles or are recovering from an ankle injury, get boots that come above the ankle– you'll find that this will give you more support in uneven or slippery terrain. Remember to waterproof your boots before the trip. Even boots billed as 'waterproof' need to be treated with a waterproofing product.

Clothing: The clothing listed on the packing list has been chosen for your specific trip conditions and for its versatility for layering. NO COTTON for your active wear! It should all be made from synthetic/synthetic blends, down/down blends or wool/wool blends. Layering is the most practical and efficient method of insulating the body. Several layers of varied weight materials provide better insulation than one thick Layer of clothing. Also, adding or subtracting layers allows you to adjust to the temperature at your particular level of activity.

Regarding Casual Clothing: Bulgarians are very relaxed about dress codes; for this tour, clothing for sightseeing and evening meals at restaurants, etc. can be completely informal. However, when visiting the Monasteries, women will need to wear either long skirts/wraps/trousers (to cover knees) and shirts/tops with sleeves (T-shirts are OK, the important thing is to cover shoulders). It is not necessary for women to wear headscarves or cover their hair when entering churches or monasteries.

Rain Gear: You will need a parka or jacket made of a coated nylon or a waterproof/breathable fabric like Gore-tex, HellyTech, Membrane, H2No, or Ultrex. Be sure it keeps water out. Before making this important purchase, be sure that it fits you properly. It should be large enough to fit over all your

layers. In particular, the hood needs to be effective. It should shield your face from the rain and turn with your head. Movement of your arms must not interfere with the hood. Put on your daypack; can you still raise your arms? Your wind/rain pants should be comfortable, allow enough room for your layers, and permit free movement of your legs (for example, can you crouch comfortably?). Partial or full-length leg zippers are useful for easily putting your pants on over your boots. An inexpensive plastic poncho will both leak and tear easily and is not recommended.

Hydration: Being able to easily access your water without assistance, so that you can drink frequently, is important to your safety and enjoyment. One method is to have a water bottle attached to your waist strap. Another option is to use a HYDRATION SYSTEM such as CamelBak, Platypus, and MSR bladder bags, which are collapsible water bags with a hose attachment that you drink from. The bags fit inside or outside your pack with the hose positioned over your shoulder so that you can access your water as you hike. Bladder bags can hold 1 - 3 liters of water.

Personal First Aid Kit: Bring a small first aid kit with familiar medicine and first aid supplies you might need. Recommendations include the following: blister or foot remedies like moleskin, Compeed, blister bandages, or similar, a small roll of duct tape (always useful!), remedies for respiratory ailments, stomach ailments, sore muscles or joints. The guides will have a first aid kit but having what you know works well for you is a good idea.

Trekking Poles: Trekking poles are strongly recommended for this trip. Trekking poles contribute to your safety by improving your balance and stability, and to your health by saving stress on your hips and knees. If you are not familiar with trekking poles, [click here to read this blog post](#) that addresses the most commonly asked questions.