**Pamporovo**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Snowboarders

Families

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

5

**Intermediate Runs**

11

**Advanced Runs**

3

**Total Runs**

19

**Lifts**

15

**Chairs**

9

**Drags**

6

**Gondola Cable Cars**

0

**Parks**

1

**Pipes**

0

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

1.5m (4.9ft).

**Overview**

Like most other resorts in Bulgaria, Pamporovo ski resort offers some of the cheapest skiing in Europe and is therefore popular with those seeking a low-cost ski holiday. Due to its location as one of the most southerly ski resorts in Europe, it is also one of the continent's sunniest, claiming to enjoy more than 100 sunny days during the season.

Based in the heart of Bulgaria's Rhodope mountains, Pamporovo has plans to link up with the nearby resort of Chepelare, increasing piste length and the choice of runs – currently this beginner- and early intermediate-centric resort has more than 70km (44 miles) of downhill and cross-country runs and trails to explore.

**Location**

Pamporovo lies in the centre of the Rhodope mountain chain in southwestern Bulgaria, 260km (162 miles) from the capital Sofia. The range borders Greece and peaks at Mount Snezhanka, which is 1,926m high (6,319ft).

**Website**

http://www.pamporovoresort.com

**Piste Map**

http://winter.pamporovoresort.com/en/our-services/ski-slopes/

**Hit The Slopes**

In spite of its low altitude, sunny weather and mild climate, Pamporovo usually enjoys a reasonable snowfall with a season lasting between late December and the middle of April. The automatic snowmaking system helps to maintain reliable cover on most of the terrain when snow is scarce, and there have also been recent improvements to the lift network with the addition of several quads and a six-seater chairlift.

Most of the main runs fan out from the peak at Mount Snezhanka, which has a viewing tower at the top. Advanced skiers and boarders have limited options, including the Snezhanka 2 black run (known as ‘The Wall’).

The majority of the runs are suited to beginners and intermediates, including the main beginners' ‘Tourist Track’, a 4.2km-long (2.6 miles) trail from the peak to the base. The ski schools here have a good reputation and employ over 100 qualified instructors, while ski gear can be hired at both Malina and Studenets.

In addition to over 37km (22 miles) of ski runs, there are also 38km (24 miles) of cross-country ski tracks and some off-piste opportunities for experts. The two main cross-country trails connect the villages of Studenetz and Mugla and Ardashla and Stoykite.

Snowboarders, meanwhile, can enjoy the fun park, which also includes a halfpipe – the first to be constructed in the country.

**Pamporovo**

**Resort**

1650

**Base**

1450

**Top**

1937

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Night skiing is available from 1730 to 2230 on the Snezhanka 2 run, but there are also enough activities off the slopes to keep most visitors happy.

Among the more exhilarating activities is the chance to take a high-speed ride around the hills on a four-seater snowmobile. Within the resort itself, there is an ice skating rink and there is also the chance to see artisan craftspeople at work – Pamporovo is known as a centre of arts and crafts, in particular for its copper products and woven fabrics.

There are also a number of excursions available to nearby places of interest. Among these is Bachkovo Monastery, the second largest in Bulgaria, which is perched on the banks of the Chepelare River. Trips are also available to the peaceful Smolyan Lakes.

**Family Fun**

The ski school welcomes children only over the age of eight, but the ski kindergarten caters for kids aged four to seven with half- with whole-day packages.

The Hotel Perelik (tel: (0309 59100 ); [www.perelikhotel.com](http://www.perelikhotel.com)) has a large swimming pool (open to non-guests) and a hugely popular bowling alley, which are good options for children’s activities. There is also a small kid's play area outside the Hotel Murgavets.

**Retail Therapy**

Two small shopping centres provide the resort with most of its retail needs. The Pamporovo Shopping Centre has small shops selling snazzy shades, chunky silver jewellery and sports gear.

Opposite is a larger shopping centre (linking the Hotel Perelik and Hotel Murgavets). Its ground floor souvenir shop sells beauty creams made from local natural rose oil, painted ceramics, the ubiquitous Russian dolls and handmade crystal ornaments. The ground floor also has plenty of ski gear shops, including Select sports store, which sells all the top names in boots, skis and snowboards.

For self-catering visitors, there is a small 24-hour supermarket opposite the Hotel Murgavets.

**Splashing Out**

Indulge in a full Oriental therapeutic treatment at the luxury spa in the Hotel Pamporovo (tel: (0309) 59900; [www.hotelpamporovo-bg.net](http://www.hotelpamporovo-bg.net)); or puff away at the hotel’s Whisky and Cigar Bar.

**Apres Ski**

Some of the most popular bars and clubs for après-ski in Pamporovo are located in the larger hotels in the resort. These include the Après-Ski Bar in Hotel Perelik (tel: (0309 59100; [www.perelikhotel.com](http://www.perelikhotel.com)), which serves cocktails, burgers and steaks; and the Irish Dak’s Bar in Hotel Snezhanka (tel: 02 878 0101; [www.ehotels-bg.com](http://www.ehotels-bg.com)), which hosts karaoke, cocktails and televised sport. Alternatively, sip a cocktail on the top-floor terrace of Hotel Orlavetz’s (tel: (0309) 59000) Sky Bar.

The bar and restaurant at the Snezhanka TV Tower on the peak of Mount Snezhanka is a popular meeting point after the ski day is over.

**Eating Out**

Most restaurants serve local dishes plus popular international cuisine, with the largest hub around Hotel Murgavets (tel: (0309) 58310; [www.murgavets-bg.com](http://www.murgavets-bg.com)). The Italian restaurant in Hotel Perelik has a wonderful selection of pastas and pizzas. Live traditional music plays nightly at the roomy *mehana* (traditional bar) that’s aptly named Bulgarian Village. This lively bar serves a large range of local dishes and has a roaring log fire.

The large Chevermeto restaurant specialises in the Rhodope dish of *cheverme* (barbecued lamb), and also has live traditional music.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Plovdiv Airport (PDV).

Distance to resort: 85km (53 miles).

Driving time: 2 hours.

**Getting Around**

All major hotels run free shuttle buses to the ski centres of Studenets and Malina – the latter can also be reached on foot in 30 minutes. In addition, buses operate to the nearby ski resort of Chepelare, 10km (6 miles) to the north. It can also be possible to travel by bus to the small snowboarding centre of Momchilovtsi, 12km (7 miles) to the east.

**Hotels**

There is a range of accommodation to suit all budgets and tastes, but the majority of accommodation in Pamporovo is in the form of hotels. These range from luxury 5-star options with excellent facilities to basic 1-star offerings. As a purpose-built resort, the majority of accommodation in Pamporovo consists of large modern-looking buildings, with a few in a traditional Alpine style.

**Hotel Rodopi**

Located in a quieter area of the resort, the Hotel Rodopi is a 15-minute walk from the main road junction. Although its double rooms are small, the refurbished apartments are larger and good value.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Smolyan

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Pamporovo

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Bulgaria

**Telephone**

(0309) 58442.

**Website**

XXX

**Hotel Orlovetz**

A 5-star hotel with 105 spacious and light rooms featuring contemporary décor, Hotel Orlovetz boasts a spa, pool and a health centre. The hotel’s Sky Bar affords wonderful views of the resort.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Smolyan

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Pamporovo

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Bulgaria

**Telephone**

(0309) 59000.

**Website**

http://www.hotelorlovetz.com

**Hotel Murgavets**

This large 4-star hotel in the centre of the resort has a selection of rooms and apartments with decent facilities. The hotel also offers spa facilities, a restaurant and shops.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

Smolyan

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Pamporovo

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

Bulgaria

**Telephone**

(0309) 58310.

**Website**

http://www.murgavets-bg.com