

[Ski Holiday Apartment in Pamporovo, Bulgaria](#)



The apartment is located in building 1 of the Grand Monastery Complex on the first floor. It is fully furnished and equipped including bedding and towels. It has 2 double bedrooms, 1 with a super king size bed (6ft) with en-suite shower room, the other with 2 (3ft) singles. There is also a double sofa bed in the lounge, enabling a maximum occupancy of 6. The second shower room is off the hallway. There is an open plan living and dining area with fitted kitchen and wood burning fire. A load of logs to start you off is included in the price.

While staying at the Grand Monastery help is always at hand. Nik, the complex manager is very helpful and his English is excellent. The reception is manned from early morning to late evening and reception staff are always willing to help out. They have details and contacts for all local amenities and facilities.

Great Breaking news!! The new border crossing between Bulgaria and Greece is now open!! The Aegean Sea is now only 2hrs from Pamporovo! See details further on in the brochure!

For further information, booking and prices please contact Nick Hipkin email nhipkin@hotmail.com

Pictures of the apartment



The Lounge Area with
sofa bed and log fire



The Kitchen and Dining
Area

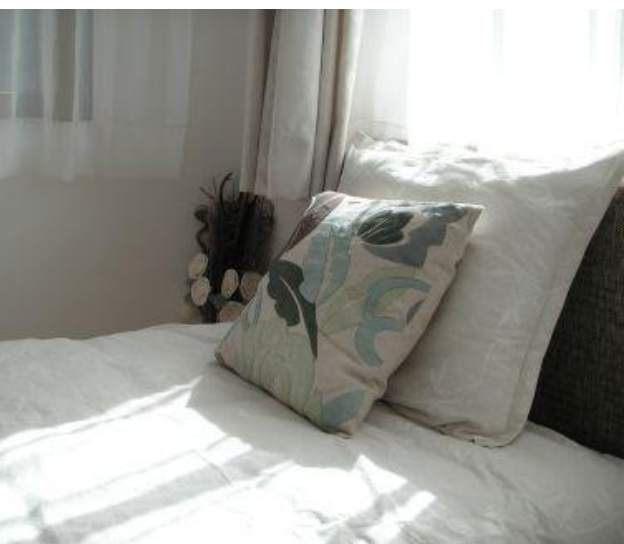
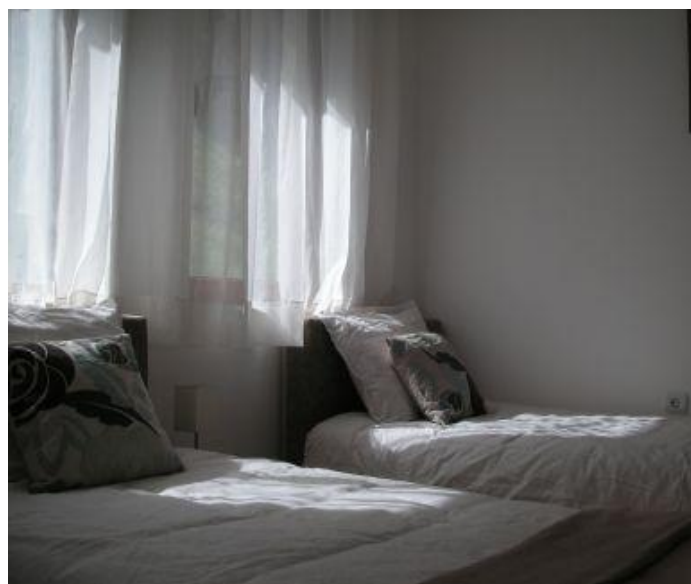


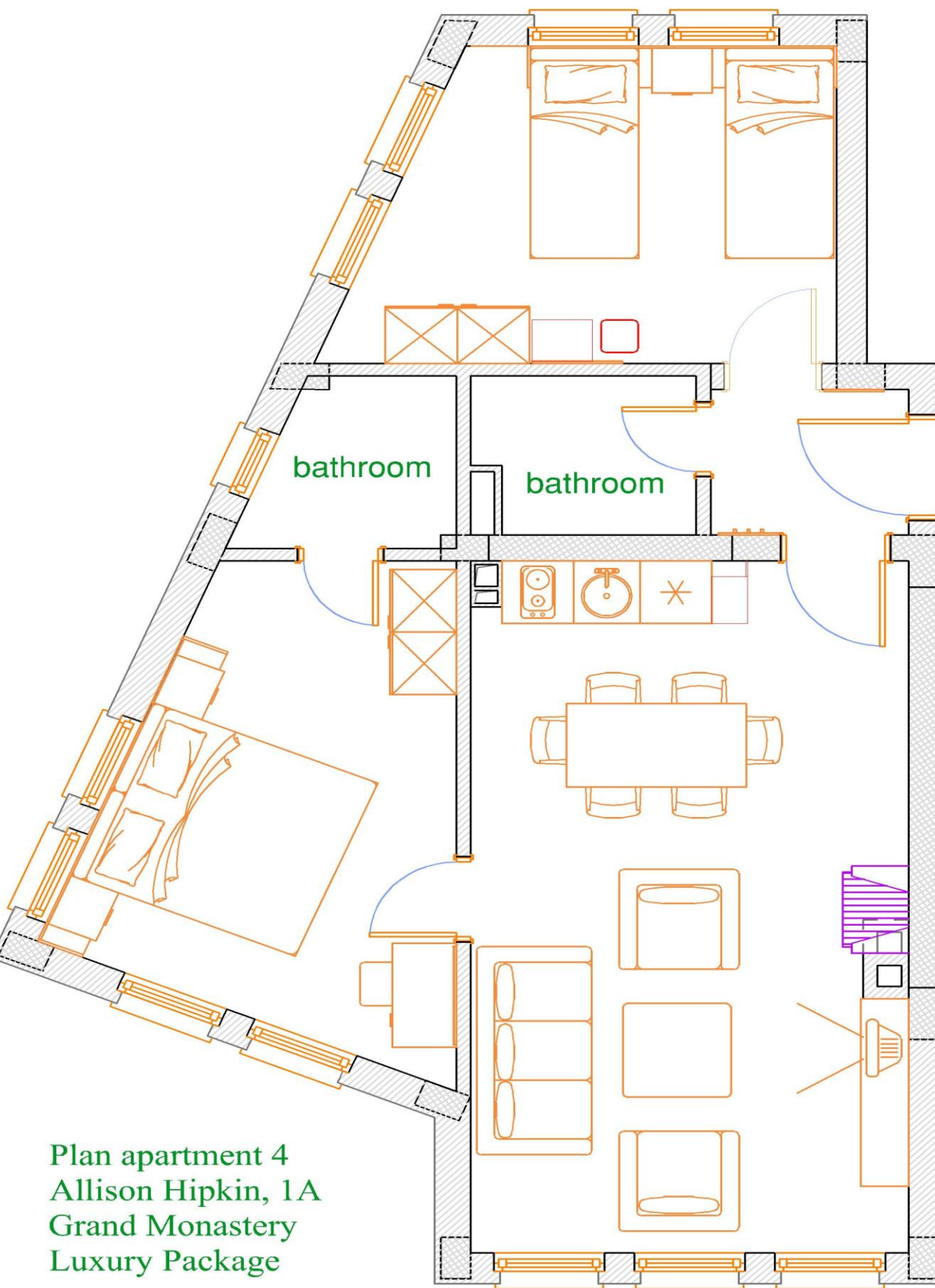
The Master Bedroom with
6' bed and en-suite
shower room





Bedroom 2 with
2 x 3' single beds





Plan apartment 4
Allison Hipkin, 1A
Grand Monastery
Luxury Package

- *Included items in the package
- *Additional Items - not included in the package

The Grand Monastery

The Grand Monastery Complex is situated next to Monastery 3 just north of the town of Pamporovo. Set into the mountainside it is truly a ski in ski out complex with a ski escalator running through the middle of the complex.

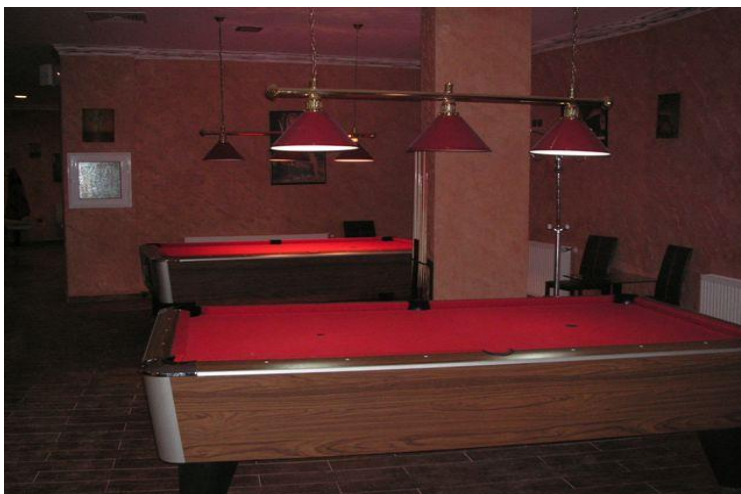
Facilities

Parking
Victoria Spa Centre
Massage rooms
Solarium
Sauna
Recreation rooms
20m swimming pool
Fitness centre
Ten pin bowling and pool
Magnito Piano Bar
Shop
Nightclub
Lobby bar
Childs play area
Table tennis area
Ski escalators
Lifts in all buildings
3 Restaurants



Above is the Foyer area with Wi-fi, Reception, Bar, Lounge Area, Cashpoint machine and Shop.

Below is the Bowling Alley with Lounge Area, Bar, Pool tables and Video Games



Victoria Spa (www.victoria-spa.com)

Victoria Spa Asian Spa is the only chain in Bulgaria with genuine therapists from Bali, Thailand and the Philippines.

Center has:

- Authentic oriental hammam with peeling
- Stone Sauna
- Finnish sauna
- Indoor swimming pool
- Vitamin bar
- Romantic Jacuzzi for two
- Cleopatra Bath
- Beauty salon / cosmetics Phytomer, Decleor, Les Fleurs
- Hairdresser with manicure and pedicure
- Relax room
- Solarium

Victoria Spa offers over 150 different massage and spa rituals, specially prepared for after skiing in the coldest winter days.



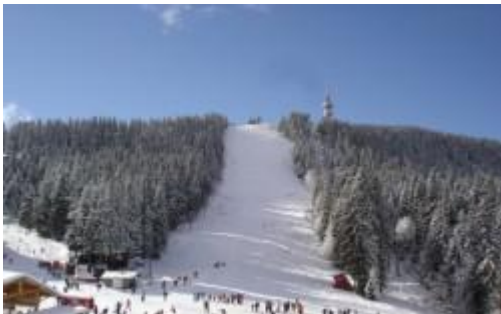
Note: 5 day subscription cards available for pool, sauna and fitness centre at discounted prices. Swimming caps must be worn, we recommend you bring your own if possible but can be purchased.

Pamporovo

Pamporovo is without doubt, the most 'up market' ski resort in Bulgaria. Boasting 31 ski runs and our resort is built on the slopes (Bansko is 12km away from the nearest ski lift - if the gondola doesn't work, you have to get a taxi!) Pamporovo offers a wonderful opportunity to ski and enjoy the stunning Bulgarian scenery.

Pamporovo has already undergone an exciting period of growth with new ski pistes, the Stoikite ski lift and 142 new snow cannons added to ensure skiers maximum skiing enjoyment. Night skiing can also be enjoyed between 6PM and 10PM

The picture to the right is of the Grand Monastery.



The total length of the ski pistes in the resort now reaches over 55km

The picture to the left is of the famous Wall, a black run that finishes at the entrance of our resort! There is now a Big Air jump on the left (not shown)

Pamporovo is a modern ski resort in the heart of the Rhodopi Mountain, the mountain of the mythical singer Orpheus. It is the most southern skiing resort in Europe and is also the sunniest Bulgarian mountain resort with wonderful snow throughout the whole season.



The resort is situated 210km from Sofia (approx. 3hrs) and 80 km from Plovdiv (approx. 1hr 15), both of which have international airports.

Pamporovo has an exclusive climate, featuring a mild winter with about 120 sunny days during the skiing period. The skiing season starts from mid December and lasts until early April.

The gentle profile of the mountain with its rounded slopes and summits makes Pamporovo particularly suitable for beginners. But there are also difficult ski runs like the Giant Slalom run which offers a challenge even for the expert skier.

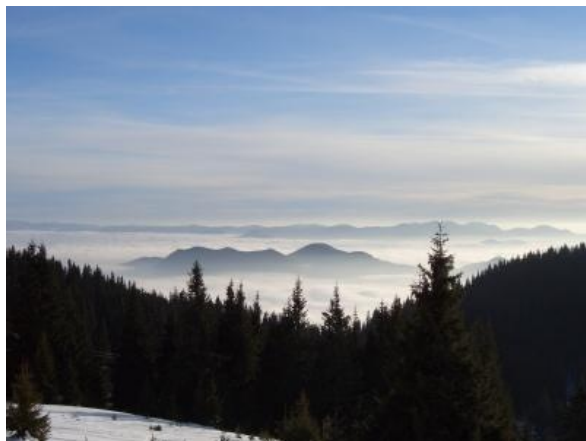


The ski runs are maintained to a high standard and there are more than 100 highly qualified ski instructors, fluent in different languages to teach both beginners and intermediate skiers and snowboarders alike.

The resort has a variety of shops, bars, restaurants and 'après ski' opportunities.

The charming, traditional town of Chepelare is only 10km away and this resort is also receiving a huge amount of investment. This season, two brand new ski pistes have opened. Thus the total length of the pistes and ski roads reaches 31 km. One of the pistes in the resort is 5.2 km long and is the longest ski piste on the Balkan Peninsula.

A brand new tourism information centre has opened this winter. The centre is equipped with a special weather monitor that will be connected to the hotels and every tourist will be able to see the conditions of the pistes, the depth of the snow, the temperature and the atmosphere pressure. See www.pamporovolive.bg for details. The resort has a snowboarders dream, a half pipe 150m long with a wall 3m high. There is also a 30km cross country track, a 20 km long track for motor sleighs, 10 km for dog sleighs, and a 5 km biathlon track.



Key Facts About Skiing In Pamporovo

Height of resort: 1,620 m

Highest skiing area: 1,937 m

Total length of ski runs: 55 km

Longest run: 3,8 km

There are ski runs of all degrees of difficulty in Pamporovo. Most of the tracks start from the very peak. Also, there are three cross-country runs in the resort, with a total length of around 40 km.

Beginners: Can start with the ski school, we recommend Steve's which is famous due to the quality of the tuition. Alternatively try Mirone Ski School and rental. All will do a discount for hire and lessons if you ask!! Starting on the nursery slopes, after few days they will be able to ski on the higher ski runs. There is a nursery slope within fifty yards of our resort.

Intermediate skiers: Pamporovo is really aimed at beginners and intermediates and the total length of ski runs which are suitable for Intermediates is approx. 20 km. These skiers can jump on the triple chairlift from the Malina station going to the top of Snejanka peak. Or, a single chair lift goes to the middle station, where the new four person lift runs up to the peak.

Advanced skiers: Can jump on the drag lift from the middle station which runs up the side of "The Wall". This is where our complex is situated. The "Wall" is the most difficult ski run in the resort and has been used for International Grand Slalom races. The other difficult pistes start from the TV tower, after the last station of the triple chair, go right, the pistes are called Snejanka.

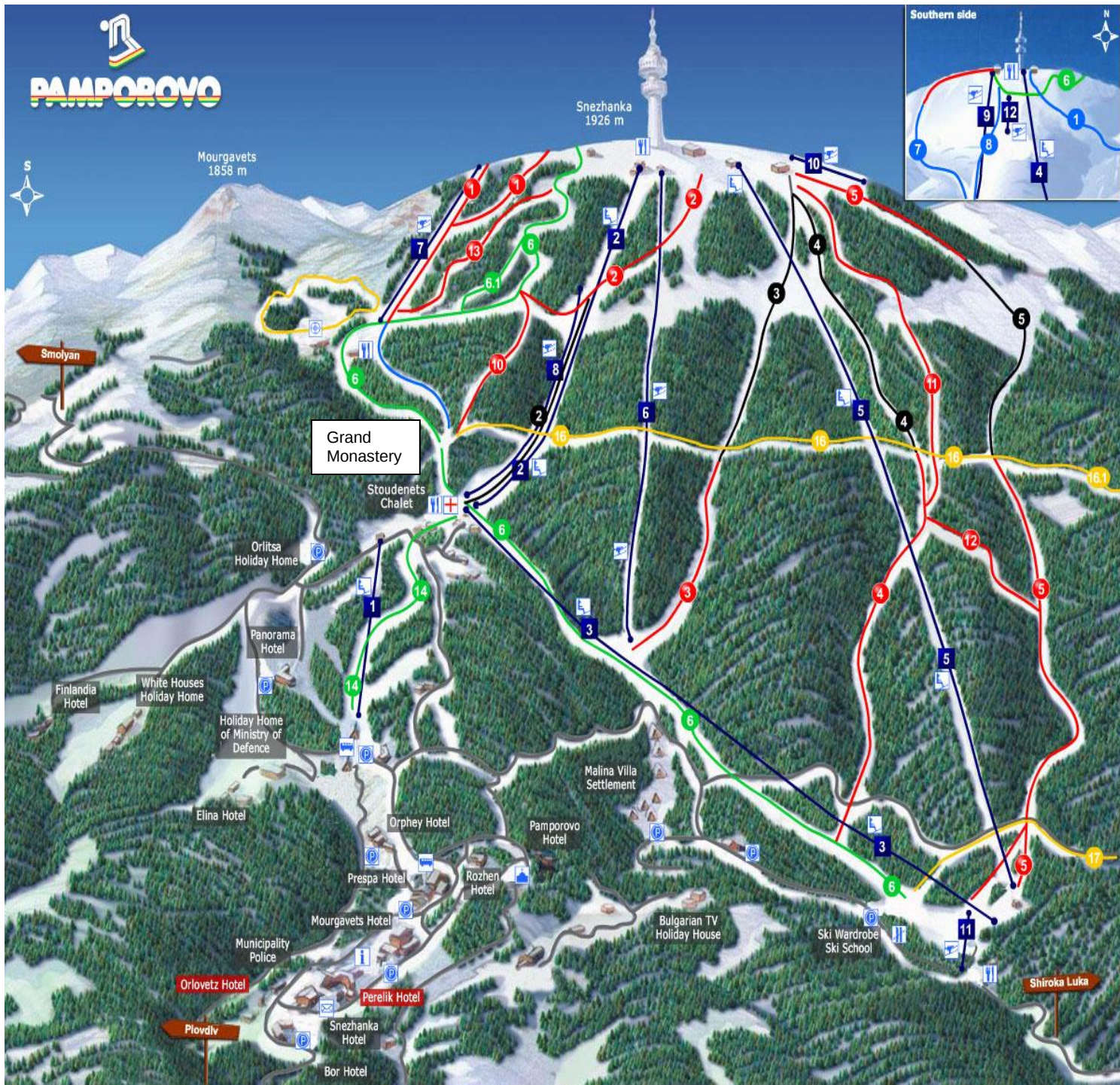
Snowboarders

There are 3 new pistes and the Stoikite Ski lift, which is not on the maps yet. These run from the peak

The mountain rescue service works 24 hours a day, taking care of the security of the skiers. The ski-kindergarten is open from 8.30 am to 5.00 pm.

Ski hire and Schools: www.skischoolsteve.com Recommended by previous guests

Mirone Ski School- next to Stenata apartments- gives discounts if asked.



N	Operating ski runs	Level of difficulty	Length m.	Lift	Displacement
1	Snezhanka 1 - The little wall	advanced	990	ski-lift/anchor	155
2	Snezhanka 2 - The wall	professionals	500	ski-lift/anchor	285
3	Snezhanka 3 - The two bridges	professionals	2200	ski-lift/bowl	405
4	Snezhanka 4 - The european track	professionals	2000	ski-lift/bowl	476
5	Snezhanka 5 - Ardashla	advanced	3500	open chair type 3	474
6	Snezhanka 6 - Tourist track	beginners	4200	open chair type 4	476
6.1	Tourist track - The dam lake	beginners	380	ski-lift/anchor	30
7	Snezhanka 7 - The lakes	advanced	3000	open chair type 2	390
8	The Southern	advanced	800	open chair type 2	90
10	Snezhanka 10	advanced	800	open chair type 3	68
11	Snezhanka	advanced	1060	ski-lift/anchor	130
12	Malina intermediate	advanced	400	open chair type 3	110
13	Snezhanka - The dam lake	beginners	347	open chair type 4	38
14	Studenets - Ski centre1	beginners	1500	open chair type 4	130
16	Running Track Studenets - Stoykite	-	5000	-	-
16.1	Running Track Stoykite - Mugla village	-	20000	-	-
17	Running Track Malina - Stoykite	-	7000	-	-

N	Lift	Type	Length m	Capacity	Displacement
1	Bus station - Studenets	open chair type 4	734	2000	208
2	Studenets - Snezhanka	open chair type 4	1100	2400	264
3	Ardashla- Studenets	open chair type 1	1350	475	180
4	Smolyan lakes - Snezhanka	open chair type 2	1550	365	340
5	Ardashla- Snezhanka	open chair type 2	2140	1800	280
6	Ski-lift - Tha wall	anchor	600	240	20
7	Ski-lift - The dam lake	anchor	800	380	130
8	Ski-lift The two bridges - Snezhanka	bowl	1340	680	290
9	Ski-lift Akademika	bowl	700	280	160
10	Mini ski-lift Snezhanka	drag-lift	150	250	10
11	Mini ski-lift Malina	drag-lift	100	100	10
12	Mini ski-lift The Southern	drag-lift	350	280	20

Halfpipe
 Lift
 Drag lift
 Ski wardrobe & Ski school
 Information
 Parking

Post office
 Restaurant
 Shooting lodge
 Road
 Bus station
 Church

(03021) 336

Getting to and from town

There are a few options. To walk, go left after Steve's Ski School and follow the path down through the woods to the town centre avoiding walking on the main road. You can walk on the main road to the town in about 25 minutes. It can be fairly busy but the nature of the road means the traffic is fairly slow. Alternatively, once you have purchased your lift passes, you can take the ski lift from near the apartment complex to Station 1 in the town centre.

Taxis can be expensive, make sure you negotiate a price before setting off. Try and not pay more than 15leva from the town to the complex.

There is also a ski shuttle bus that runs from the Laplandia (the complex next door) and Ski Centres 1 and 2. The times sometimes vary and can be found outside the Laplandia reception.

If you plan to go into town to eat, I have found 3 restaurants that you can phone and they will pick you up from the complex and drop you off after your meal for free!!!! See the following section for details.

Eating Out

The restaurant in the complex serves excellent food and is very reasonable. There is also Italian themed food in the Magneto Piano Bar. But if you fancy a change there are many places in Pamporovo that serve freshly cooked food. The next closest restaurants are at Monastery 1 and Laplandia. Both are within 100m of the Grand.

Making a reservation at the more popular places in advance is recommended, because the best restaurants can get very busy in the evening and finding a table might be a problem. Ask at reception for contact details.

The following restaurants provide free transport-

-Belfry 1: Located 100m from Ski Centre 1, lots of choice for the whole family.

-Belfry 2: Located in the Centrum area, again a fantastic choice and ask for Jonny the front man, he can't be more helpful! I had a fantastic pizza, pudding and 2 big beers for about £7 and a free ride home!!

We have heard good reports about the following restaurants/places to eat in Pamporovo:

- **The White Hart:** From the simple "comfort" food – bangers 'n' mash, Pub Grub, through to T-Bone steaks! There is a great selection of Pizza & Pasta plus lots for the Vegetarian.

- **Chevermeto:** the oldest restaurant in the resorts. Offers typical Bulgarian cuisine from the Rhodopi mountain region - lamb is a speciality.

- **The White House:** Bulgarian cuisine and some popular International meals. The selection of food and wines is very good.

All hotels have their own restaurants and bars so there is a fantastic choice of places to eat and drink.

There is also a good selection of Restaurants in nearby Smolyan. If sufficient numbers, some provide free transport.

Other Activities

Apart from skiing there is a wealth of other things to do in Pamporovo. Nik, the Complex manager, has a wealth of local knowledge and can organise skidoo hire, day trips, excursions, horse riding, fishing, hunting and a vast array of activities to make your stay a memorable one.

You can experience the amazing athleticism of **Bulgarian Huskies**, by joining them for an exhilarating workout along the magnificent forest trails. You will be able to **ride** as a passenger behind a team of **Bulgarian Huskies** and enjoy watching the dogs working amid beautiful scenery in the Rhodopi mountains. They can be found near the Studenets ski lift 50m from our apartment



The Bulgarian Husky Experience
“Mush, mush!!!!!!”

All terrain vehicles(ATVs), snowmobiles and paintballing can be found at the Castle Complex 5 minutes walk down the road. www.pamporovoadvent.com/index.

Self-Catering

The Complex has a small lobby shop with UHT milk, croissants, chocolate, soft and alcoholic drinks and a selection of toiletries. Other larger selections such as bread, cheese and meats can be found in the nearby Castle complex 5 minutes walk down the road.

The Alaska 24 hour supermarket can be found in the resort centre opposite the Hotel Murgavez. Here you will find a wealth of products and foods to cater for all tastes.

The nearest supermarket (Billa) is in Smoylan (15 mins drive)

Flights

Breaking News!!

Ryanair now flying from Stanstead to Plovdiv!! Cheap return flights from approx 70 GBP!!

In winter, chartered flights (e.g. Balkan Holidays, Thomson) are available directly to Plovdiv airport. Transfer from here to the apartment is approx 1 hour 15 mins.

Easyjet have just started flights from Gatwick to Sofia (www.easyjet.co.uk). Cheap scheduled direct flights from London, Dublin and Manchester to Sofia with Air Bulgaria (www.air.bg) operate throughout the year.

Wizzair (www.wizzair.com) offers regular cheap flights from Luton to Sofia. One website to try is www.onlinetravel.com to find the best prices for the major airlines. Alternatively www.skyscanner.net. As always though, shop around!

Taxi and Car rental

The A1 motorway will take you by taxi from Sofia directly to Plovdiv (130km), from where a scenic mountain road will take you the further 80 km to Pamporovo. Transfer time from Sofia is approx 3 hours and the taxi fare is about 100 euros.

Taxi and car rental are available at both airports. If you wish to book your own taxi we recommend you use OK SUPERTRANS (www.oktaxi.net). For car rental try Holiday autos (www.autoholidays.co.uk), Avis (www.avis.bg) or Budget (www.budget.bg). Also, www.moneysupermarket.co.uk compares prices for hire companies from Sofia airport.

Transfers

We are able to organise private transfers from both airports if required. Please feel free to enquire if you need any help or advice with your travel arrangements. I have found that <http://www.motoroads.com/airport-hotel-transfers.html> offer very competitive rates. Also a new service is provided by <http://www.psl-bg.com/index.htm> and comes recommended both for transfers and car rental.

Bus Transport

For those on a budget or more adventurous, you can get to Pamporovo by bus. It is quite easy and costs only 20lev (£10) each way!! Take the 84 or 284 from the airport and ask the driver to get off at Hotel Pliska (make sure you are on the right side of the road to carry on though, as it sometimes doubles back!) Then take the 213 or 214 to the Central Bus Station. Here go to the Info Desk and they will direct you to a kiosk to purchase a ticket to Pamporovo. The buses go 4 times a day between 8am and 4pm and take 4 hours.

When you arrive in Pamporovo, take your bags out and, to save on a taxi, ask the driver if he will stop at Studenets (where the Grand Monastery is), which is 2km up the mountain on his way to his next stop. You can always drop him a couple of lev!!

Alternatively a taxi will cost 15-20 lev, but don't forget to barter and agree a price.

A regular bus service operates between Pamporovo and Smoylan (nearest large town) You can hail a bus from the road outside the complex . 1 way is 3 leva and takes you to the small bus station 2 minutes walk from the town centre.

Currency

This is currently the Bulgarian Leva. We have found the best exchange rates at www.travelex.com you can order online and collect from the airport of your departure. Shop around though other companies may offer better rates.

Once at the Grand Monastery, a cashpoint can be found in the Reception area.

I have found good rates in town after you have arrived. These are the bank next to Ski Centre 1 and the kiosk near the Belfry 2 in the Centrum. Most complexes have exchange centres with varying rates.

New Border open linking resort to Greece!!!

Bulgaria and Greece have opened a new border crossing on the Bulgarian-Greek border at Zlatograd-Xanthi. The new crossing opens the shortest link between the central part of Bulgaria and the Aegian region. The new road between Zlatograd-Xanthi will connect the Bulgarian ski resort Pamporovo to the Greek beaches. This gives the option of Pamporovo as a great location for a Summer holiday, enjoy the fabulous mountains of the Rhodipi with all it has to offer in the Summer, and only a 2 hour drive to the Greek beaches!!!!

Useful websites

<http://plovdiv.meteo.bg/en/pamporovo.php> Pamporovo Webcam