The Natural Splendor of the Rhodope Mountains

About

This tour encompasses some of the Rhodope mountains' most mysterious natural and archeological wonders. Starting from the Kardzhali area, we will explore the ancient Thracian sanctuary of Belintash – a discovery unique in the territory of Bulgaria. Its deep historical significance, mysterious origin and the spectacular natural rock formations it rests upon make it one of the most beautiful areas in Bulgaria. We'll then head for Krastova Gora, or "Crucifix Forest", a spiritual place known for its many crucifixes and churches, some of which are said to heal ailments.

Highlights

- See the Belintash sanctuary– a mystical places that has baffled historians since its discovery
- Enjoy the breathtaking scenery of the Rhodope Mountains
- Visit Bulgaria's Crucifix Forest and see its collection of intricate crucifixes
- Learn the many legends that surround this spiritual location and its churches

Description

We'll start with a drive to an ancient Thracian religious sanctuary – Belintash. Interestingly, there is a powerful magnetic anomaly in the area that throws compasses off, which many believe attests to the area's powerful energy. Belintash is the second largest Thracian sanctuary in Bulgaria and was likely used as a solar observatory. The rocks have been carved into shapes resembling the heads of gods and animals. The head of the god Sabazios faces east, towards the rising sun. The nature of this sanctuary is steeped in legend and mystery, and historians have theorized about its significance for centuries. We will climb up the rocks to the top. The view from up there is breathtaking, with views towards nearby rock formations.

We'll next head towards Krastova Gora ("Crucifix Forest") – a place known for its miraculous power and healing properties. Tens of thousands of pilgrims visit it every year seeking help from its miracle-working cross or simply to get in touch with their spiritual side. According to

the legends, centuries ago below the mountain peak there was a monastery in which a fragment of the Holy Cross was kept. Recently, two churches and 12 chapels were built in this holy place, each with its own history and folk tales surrounding it.

Price upon request for:

- Private excursions
- Groups of 2 or 3 people
- Groups of 4 or more people

The price includes

- Atourguide
- Cartransfers