Easy 3

Bansko – Peshterite – Ancient fortress' remains – Paligoden Monastery – Belizmata dam – Bansko

Duration: 3hrs
Ascent: 500m

Starting point: Gondola station (behind Kempinski), Bansko.
Walk up the ski road to the second large bridge.
Cross the river and on its right/west bank is the area called “Peshterite”. There's a rock with short climbing routes of a different level. There is also a restaurant.

From the bridge, continue straight on the wide dirt road. There is a sign “Sitan kale”. In a while on the left, you’ll see a sign with pictures and a scheme of the fortress. Take the road to the left.

Walk until you see the next sign “Sitan Kale” – it will show you the direction – left road.
In a while, you'll reach another sign with picture and scheme of the fortress. From this point, a narrow path goes to the left and up the hill with a wooden handrail along. Follow it and in about 15-20 min you’ll arrive at the fortress’ remains on the top of the hill (Kaliata peak 1340m).
122 – 124 Walk back on the same path to the wide dirt road and take left there. Follow the road to Belizmata dam and restaurant.

125 – 126 Before you reach the restaurant take the dirt road on the left, which goes to a small old building – Paligoden Monastery. Go back on the road and take north east direction to return to the town – it will take you to the ring road just above hotel Bansko SPA & Holidays and 4 Leaf Clover complex.