

TUMBA HIKE

WITH SMOLARI, KOLESHINO AND MOKRINO SPRINGS

Tumba is a peak in the Belasica mountains in the region of Macedonia. The peak, 1,880 meters (6,170 ft) in height, lies on Belasica's main ridge, west of Lozen Peak and east of Sechena Skala Peak. A dome-shaped mountain with steep southern and northern slopes, Tumba is covered with low subalpine vegetation and is made of metamorphic rock. Tumba is notable as the point where the national borders of Bulgaria, Greece and the Republic of Macedonia meet. It is the southwestern-most point of Bulgaria and the southeastern-most point of the Republic of Macedonia.

Tumba hike starts at the Smolari Waterfall. You can taxi from Novo Selo and request Smolari Vodapod. The waterfall is a short distance from the road and can be visited easily apart from the full Tumba hike. Look for the trail on your left.



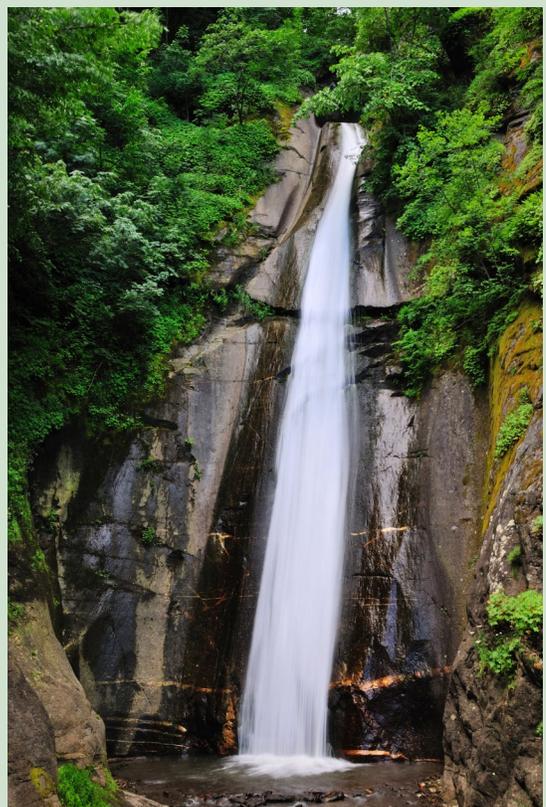
STARTING POINT: Smolari Waterfall

LENGTH OF TIME: 7 hours

DIFFICULTY: Moderate—Difficult

ELEVATION: 1880 m or 6168 feet

BRING: lunch, snacks, sunscreen, hiking boots, wool socks, anything else for a normal hike



TUMBA HIKE

The challenging Tumba Hike starts at Smolari waterfall. When you have been dropped off at the park entrance, there is a path leading to the waterfall on your left. Start up a short set of steps and follow the clearly marked trail to the waterfall. Once at the waterfall, look for the red and white markers painted on rocks and trees to the right of the waterfall. These will be your guide for the entire hike so keep a watchful eye for them. The hike will be a steep incline and it is recommended that you take a like daypack, not a large hiking pack.



The markers will be difficult at times to follow, so keep your eyes peeled and go with someone who knows the trail if possible. Around the halfway point you will reach the mountain hut, where you can find fresh cold water and a picnic table. This is a great place to stop for lunch.

Continue up the road until the path is marked again. Eventually, you should come into an area that looks as if it was once occupied. Follow the trail to the left and continue to go up and left, even if you do not see a marker. The trail will eventually level out and lead you on a flat path for a couple of miles. Then you should come into a clearing on the side of the peak and see the column marking the borders and the end of the hike far off in the distance. This is your destination and arguably the most difficult part of the hike. Take good care of your ankles on your final ascent!



SMOLARI

The Smolari Waterfall is the biggest waterfall in Macedonia with its water falling from 39.5 meters. It is located above the village of Smolari and formed on the river Lomnica on the Belasica Mountain at an elevation of 630 meters. The trail is a total length of 580 meters with 200 stone stairs and a small wooden bridge. The trail is lit up with candelabras that use solar power, making it possible for the nature lovers to enjoy the site during the night too.



KOLESHINO

Above the village of Koleshino at an elevation of 610 meters, is the Koleshino Waterfall. It is 19 meters high, with several smaller waterfalls above it. A walking path has been built, arranging a 200 meter trail with wooden railing and a bridge. The trail also consist of resting stairs and stairs leading to the smaller waterfalls above. The trail is also lit up with candelabras that use solar power so you can visit it at night as well.

MOKRINO SPRINGS

A popular picnic destination, Mokrino Springs is a simple hike from both Koleshino and Smolari, and all three can easily be done in a day with connecting trails. Mokrino is located appx. 16 kilometers from Strumica. Every year on Aug. 2nd, the residents gather at the springs in celebration and offer a sacrifice to honor the water of the springs.

