



Transylvania by foot & bike

15 days / 14 nights

This trip will introduce you to the Carpathian Mountains and Transylvania, known as a mysterious and spectacular land, famous through Bram Stoker's legend of Dracula and well-known for its forests sheltering so many species of wild plants and animals.

Transylvania, a land surrounded by the Carpathian Mountains, was also a much sought for area. That is how the Saxons arrived here in the 11th century to guard the Carpathian Mountains passes between Transylvania and Wallachia against the Tatars and the Ottomans. This is the heritage that you will discover during this entire trip. An exceptional holiday is awaiting for you!

YOUR PROGRAM

Day 1 - Reception in Bucharest

Arrival and welcome in Bucharest Northern Train Station before 2 PM. Train transfer to Zarnesti. Change in Brasov. 2nd train transfer to Zarnesti, a mountain village and main entrance to the Piatra Craiului National Park. Accommodation and dinner at your guesthouse

Day 2 - Fagaras Mountains

You will ride to the North, to a small typical village at the foot of Fagaras Mountains, the highest mountains in Romania. You can make a 7 km detour on a gravel road to visit the already famous Bear Sanctuary near Zarnesti. From there you head to Ohaba where you will visit the oldest flour mill in the county, powered by a water and you will hear its amazing story from the communism period. Dinner and accommodation in a guesthouse. (BLD, ~50 km, +250m, -400m)

Day 3 - Cistercian monastery

You cycle at the foot of the Fagaras mountains over Bucium river. You will step by the original village of Lisa where a 100 years old machine, tailoring thick woollen blanket is still working; then passing by Sambata de Sus with its impressive Brancovenesc monastery from 1696. After that the trip goes further over Dragus (ethnographic museum). You cross the Victoria town and to the small village of Cartisoara and from there to the village of Carta, where you will visit the ruins of the Cistercian monastery. Hopefully you will have the opportunity to meet the pastor and hear his beautiful stories. Overnight at guesthouse in Carta village. (BLD, ~60 km, +300m, -450m)



2 extra nights possible in Carta:

- One for the visit of Sibiu: we recommend to have an extra day in this magnificent village and to go by train to visit Sibiu, one of the most beautiful medieval towns in Romania. This is certainly the reason why Sibiu was chosen « the cultural capital of Europe in 2007 ». Developed by Saxons on a Roman village, Sibiu was the residence of the Austrian government in Transylvania. The small streets, the picturesque courtyards and the rock stairs create a romantic atmosphere. Lots of

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monuments and interesting museums are also waiting for you. In the evening you return by train to Carta village.

- One for riding the Transfagarasan route: details below

Day 4 - Biertan

The route through Transylvania continues towards Biertan and its enormous fortified church with several ring-walls. It is Unesco World Heritage since 1993. Trip along country roads and you'll enjoy the pastoral landscapes and fortified church of Richis. Dinner and accommodation in Biertan village. (BLD, ~65 km, +600m, -650m)

Day 5 - Sighisoara

This cycling day will allow you to discover other treasures from Transylvania. You move on to Sighisoara, one of the few medieval citadels in Europe that is still fully inhabited and also included on the list of UNESCO World Heritage. Discover the old town with its famous clock tower, which initially served as the main entrance to the citadel, but also covered stairs, medieval streets, the house where Vlad Dracul, the father of Vlad the Impeller known by Bram Stoker's legend as Dracula, was born. On the road you can make a small detour to Dumbraveni, another town with an important Armenian Catholic Church, another witness of our glorious past. Free diner. Accommodation in a charming 3* hotel. (BL, ~40 km, +380m, -400m)

Day 6 - Bucolic areas

Today you will cycle through the Transylvanian hills to Apold village which also has a lovely fortified church. Then you will arrive in Soars village where you will spend the night. The country road will take you to remote and bucolic areas where you will surely meet shepherds watching over their sheep herds. Do not miss this meeting! (BLD, ~48 km, +600m, -500m)

Day 7 - Viscri



From Soars we bike to one of the highlights of this trip, Viscri, where you will have the opportunity to visit Viscri's fortified church. This church was restored with the help of Prince's Charles foundation. A ride day through those old and time-standing villages offer a peaceful immersing into yourself; time to meditate at the passing of time and connection to the nature. (BLD, ~35 km, +300m, -250m)

Day 8 - The ancient rhythm

Leaving from Viscri you will reach Homorod. You will continue your route to Rupea Fortress, one of the oldest archaeological remains in Romania. Due its dominant position, next to the city, the fortress is a remarkable presence from distance. A ride which will takes us through the villages that will make you discover the ancient rhythm of the Romanian villagers. (BLD, ~58 km, +250m, -350m)

Day 9 - Brasov

After breakfast, private transfer to Brasov You will spend the evening in an époque 2* hotel right in the heart of the old city and discover at your own pace with the help of our written guide the beauty of the Crown City of Transylvania. (B)

Day 10 - Traditional village

Today a taxi will transfer you at the first guesthouse, in a magnificent traditional village, at the foot of Piatra Craiului National Park. This is where your hiking adventure will commence. (B,D)

Day 11 - Bran Castle

Walk on a small ridge to Bran Castle. This castle, built pursuant to a favour granted by Ludovic d'Anjou in the 14th century to the inhabitants of the region, always had a role of defence against the migratory peoples and later it protected Transylvania from the Ottoman invasions. The castle was also associated during a long time with the prince Vlad Tepes of Walachia. Born in Transylvania, he is at the origin of the fictional character of Dracula. (BLD around 4h, 12 km, +350m, -600m)

Day 12 - Pastures & sheepfolds

Today you continue the walk at the feet of the Piatra Craiului Mountains in this bucolic landscape in the middle of pastures, sheepfolds and woods. You will cross scattered villages which seem not to care about time passing. You will see surprising landscapes in the surrounding mountains. (BLD ~5h00, 14km, +/-550m)



Day 13 - "Picture post-card" landscapes

Leave Piatra Craiului mountains and walk to Bucegi's mountains. An easy walk with "picture post-card" landscapes through a Romanian traditional mountain village with small and ancient houses, at the foot of Bucegi Mountains. The inhabitants are livestock breeders; therefore, the village has a long time tradition in cheese preparing. (BLD Approx. 4h30, 14km, -150m, +250m)

Day 14 - Bucegi

Climb into the Bucegi's mountains. A longer walk is possible along the meadow of Gutanu and the vertical walls of the Bucegi's ridge, who will offer you beautiful landscape and view over Piatra Craiului ridge. (BLD around 6h, 18 km, +650m, -900 or a shorter one, around 4h30)

Day 15 - End of the journey

Private transfer to Brasov train station. Train to Bucharest. End of trip (B)

Additional information

TARIFFS

899 euros per person.

Trek hybrid bikes with front suspension, bottle holder, disk brakes : 95 euros per person.

Arcade hybrid bikes, no suspensions, v-brakes, bottle holder for men frame only : 80 euros per person.

E-bike Rental throughout the trip Frame: Alpha Aluminum, specially designed for the Bosch Active Line system, luggage rack and mudguard Fork: Rigid Tires: Schwalbe Big Apple, 700x50C, K-Guard puncture protection Shimano hydraulic disc brakes Cassette Shimano 9-speed Crankset Miranda Delta Battery: Bosch PowerPack (diagonal tube), 500Wh Engine: Bosch Active +, 250 Watt, 50 Nm : 290 euros per person.

Extra Day In Carta: / person double base, Activity: visit the city of Sibiu. Price includes hotel with half-board and train tickets to Sibiu and back (around 1h15 per section). This price doesn't include: lunch. : 45 euros per person.

Extra Day in Carta: / person double base, AVAILABLE ONLY ON MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS Activity: Ride on Transfagarasan road, one of the most amazing mountain roads from Europe. This price includes: hotel with half-board, bus in the morning to Balea Lake (2050m) or to Balea Cascada (1450m if there is still snow by the lake), bike rental. This price doesn't include: lunch, cable car in case of snow at Balea Cascada . More info about this road:

<http://www.wildtransylvania.com/p/transfagarasan.html> . : 75 euros per person.

3 people departure price / person : 120 euros per person.

2 people departure price / person : 220 euros per person.

INCLUDED

14 breakfasts (B), 12 dinners (D) et 11 pique-niques (L). Dinner: 3 course menu with several choices - entrée, main dish and a dessert.



Occasionally dinner is a 2 course meal.

Not included: Drinks.

NOT INCLUDED

handlebar bag, speedometer, gloves, helmet. We provide helmets only on request as it is always safer and more comfortable to bring your own helmets

Meals like indicated, drinks, extra panniers, items of personal nature.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

15 days of which 7 of cycling. Medium level (from 35 to 66 Km / day, with some climbs) and 4 days of walking. Medium level of walking with a maximum day at 6 hours.

CARRYING

Luggage will be transferred from one guest-house to the other during the hikes/rides.

ACCOMMODATION

Double occupancy in guesthouses and small charming hotels. Exceptionally shared facilities.

SIZE OF GROUP

Minimum of 4 people.

DEPARTURES

From the end of April to the end of October.

DEPARTURE

Bucharest train station.

DISPERSION

Bucharest train station.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Entries into or exits from the biggest cities can have busy traffic for a few kilometres.