



## Mysteries of the Carpathian Mountains and Saxon citadels of Transylvania

8 days / 7 nights

Transylvania is a hilly area surrounded by the Carpathian Mountains that always knew how to protect its mysteries. Your trip will take you in this bastion loaded with history (where Romanians, Hungarians and Saxons live together) on the route of the Saxon citadels, registered as UNESCO world heritage sites. As one of the unforgettable spots of this civilization, the city of Sibiu (Hermannstadt), founded by Saxons, was elected European capital of culture in 2007.

You will also discover the villages perched on the trays of the Carpathian Mountains which have kept until our days a pastoral life in perfect harmony with the wild nature of the surroundings. This walk & drive tour will give you the possibility to have a vision of the whole Transylvania and to truly discover this fascinating world during the hikes.

### YOUR PROGRAM

#### Day 1 - Reception in Bucharest

After you arrive at Bucharest airport, you will get your rental car and begin your journey towards the City of the Crown, beautiful Brasov. Depending on your arrival time you could have a stop to see the romantic Castle of Peles, a dreamy architectural jewel which served as a holiday home for the Romanian Monarchs. You will spend the evening in a traditional guesthouse, in a heavenly mountain village. Dinner included.



#### Day 2 - Beautiful trek in the Piatra Craiului Mountains

Today you will pack up and have a short transfer with your rented car (15m) to a mountain landmark. From here on, you will have a beautiful trek in the Piatra Craiului Mountains (" the Prince's Stone" in Romanian). Passing by the 200m high vertical walls of the Zarnesti gorges which are very beautifully coloured, you will head to the Curmatura hut, a traditional mountain hut where you will enjoy a tasty lunch. You will continue your circling trek back to where you left your car head to your next accommodation in another lovely Romanian village at the base of the Bucegi mountains. Breakfast, packed lunch and dinner included. (around 5 h, +/- 650m)



### Day 3 - Hike into the Bucegi Mountains

Today after breakfast you will enjoy a splendid hike into the Bucegi Mountains through secular forests and an amazing scenery. 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. Make sure to have your camera ready as there will be plenty of use for it today! Breakfast, packed lunch and dinner included. (around 6h, 18 km, +650m, -900 or a shorter one, around 4h30)



### Day 4 - Medieval citadel

Today you take the car to visit one of the most beautiful preserved medieval citadels of Europe, Sighisoara, part of UNESCO World Heritage. On your way, according to your preference you could stop to visit Bran Castle, known in the West as Dracula's castle. Once you finished you will continue towards one of Transylvania's traditional "pearls" - Viscri's fortified church - which has just celebrated its 700th anniversary - and its lovely authentic village. You will spend the end of the day in the medieval city of Sighisoara. Every tower of the citadel was managed by a guild of craftsmen. The tower of the dressmakers is a real masterpiece of medieval architecture. Night in a charming 3-star hotel in the centre of the citadel. Breakfast and lunch included.



### Day 5 - European capital of culture

This morning you have time to visit Sighisoara. In the afternoon you will leave Sighisoara to visit Sibiu, which was chosen to be the European capital of culture in 2007. This town is representative for the Transylvanian Saxon culture. On your way you will stop to see a splendid fortified church in the village of Biertan, home to many legends and a rich cultural heritage. You will spend the evening in a 4-star hotel in Sibiu. Breakfast and dinner included.



### Day 6 - Last days in Transylvania

Option 1: This morning you can continue the visit of Sibiu, then, go to the traditional villages of the region. Once you finished you will have two options according to the time of the year when you planned your holiday. Up until June you will go to visit the beautiful ruins of a Cistercian church at the base of Romania's highest mountains, then continue on to see the country's oldest still working wool mill and then the country's still working water mill. You will spend the evening in Brasov, in a central 3\* hotel. Breakfast, lunch included.

Option 2: If you are travelling in high season, instead of following the itinerary mentioned above, after leaving Sibiu, you will have a splendid walk up in the Fagaras mountains. You will spend the evening in a traditional mountain hut. (1h30m walk). Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.



### Day 7 - Farewell Transylvania

If you have done the first option, today you will visit the beautiful city of Brasov and enjoy a walk on the city's little mountain so you can have a wonderful panoramic perspective to end your holiday on before continuing on to Bucharest. If you chose the second option, you will drive on Romania's most impressive mountain road, the Transfagarasan. Be prepared to be amazed by this road's grandeur. You will spend the evening in a lovely central 4\* hotel in Bucharest.



### Day 8 - End of the stay

Today after breakfast you will give back your car and your holiday with us will have finished.

## Additional information

### TARIFFS

590 euros per person.

Single traveller supplement : 260 euros per person.

Car rental - Skoda rapid : 575 euros per person.

### INCLUDED



Technical description of the itinerary, map with itinerary traced out, contact listing, technical sheet, and vouchers. Our Road Book includes restaurants, museums, craftsmen, ATM addresses and a 24-hour emergency phone number.

#### Accommodation

Meals (7 breakfasts, 4 picnics (plus 1 more on day 7- if you stay in Balea mountain cabin if the weather allows) and 4 dinners (plus an additional one if you stay in Balea mountain cabin on day 6). Dinner: 3-course menu with several choices - entrée, main dish, and a dessert. Occasionally dinner is a 2-course meal.

#### **NOT INCLUDED**

Rental vehicle - possible through us  
insurance  
Drinks and meals not mentioned  
Cultural visits and optional activities  
Personal expenses & souvenirs  
Air Transport

#### **LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY**

Requires a medium fitness level. Maximum of 5h walking a day. 3 days of hiking.

#### **CARRYING**

You will take your own baggage in the rented car.

#### **ACCOMMODATION**

- Double occupancy with private facilities.
- 1 night in Magura in a charming guesthouse
- 2 nights in Moieciu in a traditional guesthouse
- 1 night in Sighisoara in a charming 3\* hotel inside the citadel
- 1 night in Sibiu in a 4\* hotel
- 1 night in Balea or Brasov (According to the season) either a traditional mountain cabin or a 3\* central hotel in Brasov
- 1 night in Bucharest in a 4\* central hotel

#### **SIZE OF GROUP**

Minimum of 2 people.

#### **DEPARTURES**

All year, subject to availability of accommodation, response within 48 hours, Monday to Friday.

#### **STARTING POINT**

Bucharest airport or train station.

#### **END OF THE TRIP**



Bucharest airport or train station.

## HOW TO GET THERE

HOW to get from the AIRPORT to the North train station:

### BUS

- To go to the North train station, exit the Arrivals terminal (from the ground level – if you see a flower shop to your right, you are on the first floor) and walk towards the bus stop “Otopeni Plecari” (Otopeni departures).
- Take bus 100 and get off at the Piata Victoriei stop. From here, you can get the metro to GARA DE NORD stop.

### TAXI

- You can order a taxi from the machines found near the exits of the terminals. A taxi costs maximum 80 lei, don't accept to pay more or don't take a taxi with another cost than 2,59lei/km!

### PRIVATE TRANSFER

- We can arrange a private transfer for a total cost of 35 Euro, ~ 45 min – 1h (depending on the traffic).

### UBER/BOLT

- The UBER and BOLT apps work very well, so you can order a car that will take you to the hotel. The price depends on how many cars are available and on the traffic. The cost is of maximum 20 Euro.

HOW to get from the North train station to the AIRPORT:

### BUS

- To reach the airport, at the end of the train platform, take the corridor between McDonald's and the information office.
- Just in front of the exit, there is an entrance at the metro-train.
- Take the yellow line for 1 stop, until Piata Victoriei.
- The bus station is right in front of the metro exit on "Lasca Catargiu Bulevard". Take the 100 bus that will take you straight to the airport.
- Get off at the AEROPORTUL INTERNATIONAL HENRI COANDA TERMINAL PLECARI (DEPARTURES).

### TAXI

- You can order a taxi from the machines found near the exits of the train station. A taxi costs maximum 100 lei, don't accept to pay more or don't take a taxi with another cost than 2,59lei/km! Independent taxi drivers have different prices.

### PRIVATE TRANSFER

- We can arrange a private transfer for a total cost of 35 Euro, ~ 45 min – 1h (depending on the traffic).

### UBER/BOLT

- The UBER and BOLT apps work very well so you can order a car that will take you to the airport. Just exit the train station and walk around 200 m near the station so the GPS can locate you better. The price depends on how many cars are available



and on the traffic. The cost is of maximum 10 Euro.

## EQUIPMENT TO TAKE

Practical information for Romania

### Weather / climate

Located in the south-east of Europe, Romania has a dynamic climate that differs from one country to another. In September, climatic conditions in Bulgaria make it a good travel destination. In September, the temperatures vary from 10 to 25 ° C, but the maximum temperatures can exceed 30 ° C.

### connectivity

All hotels offer wireless internet connectivity.

### Electricity

Electricity in Romania is 220 volts - two plugs are used.

### Romanian currency

Romanian LEU (lei) is the official currency of Romania and the currency code is (RON). The lei come in 1 - 5 - 10 - 50 - 100 - 200 - 500 banknotes and coins of 1, 5, 10, 50 bani (50 bani x 2 = 1 leu)

### Exchange rate

The leu has a fixed rate with the euro at 1 euro = 4.65 lei Romanian

### Money problems

Lei are the only accepted currency. ATMs are widespread throughout the country and foreign exchange bureaus in Romania operate without commission. Major credit cards are commonly accepted in major cities and towns in Romania, but still provide money for rural villages and small towns. In addition, we advise you not to exchange money as there will be a commission, but to use the ATM to withdraw lei.

Along the way you can use an ATM or currency exchange in Bucharest, Sibiu, Sighisoara and Brasov.

### Tax Information of Romania

Romania applies a general rate of Value Added Tax (VAT) of 19%. VAT is included in the indicated price of items.

### Equipment

- Casual clothing for travel and city clothes
- Casual shoes for travel and leisure
- Day pack (15-25L)
- Jacket



- Insecticide
- sun block
- Sun hat
- Sun glasses
- Toiletries
- Bottle of water