Carpathian Mountains and unspoiled villages

5 days / 4 nights

This 5 days self-guided tour in the most beautiful mountains of the Carpathians will offer you the best brief experience available. Piatra Craiului and Bucegi mountains are two amazing Romanian massifs and although they are easily reachable, their wilderness will astound you! Take this trip and see for yourself their beautiful fauna and flora, have your lunch in bright and colorful clearings, alongside sheepfolds, and experience the most spectacular natural landscapes and medieval fortresses. You will also have the chance to be inspired by the local rural activities and find out more about the rich local history which will certainly spark your imagination. Il fascinate you there, and you will be impressed by sheepfolds and medieval fortresses.

YOUR PROGRAM

Day 1 - Reception in Bucharest

Beginning of the journey in Bucharest (airport railway station or main railway station). Recommended start before 2:00 PM. Reception at the train station. Train to Brasov. Private transfer to Magura village, a picturesque location with wide views over the wonderful mountain landscapes. Dinner and overnight in a charming guesthouse. (D).

Day 2 - Zarnesti Gorges

Our walk starts with a warm-up descent followed by a nice steady climb through woodland trails that are mysterious and rich in birdsong. We will reach spots where we can take-in the views of the ridge of Piatra Craiului (“Rock of the King”). We will head to Curmatura traditional Romanian mountain-hut, where we will have a tasty lunch. On our descent we will cross the fascinating Zarnesti gorges - Jurassic canyon dig by waters - nowadays exhibiting spectacular 200m high vertical walls. Accommodation in the same place as day the before (around 6h, 18km, +900m, -900m). (B, L, D)

Day 3 - Bran Castle

We say goodbye to Piatra Craiului to meet the Bucegi mountains. Today we will walk on a small ridge going down to Bran

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castle. This castle was built in the 14th century and had a role of defence against the migratory people. Later it protected Transylvania from the Ottoman invasions. The castle was also associated with the fictional character of Dracula, who was based on the prince Vlad Tepes of Wallachia. End of the trip in Bran. Transfer to Moieciu de Sus. (around 4.5h, 14km, +300m, -600m). (B, L, D).

Day 4 - The Bucegi Mountains

From the guesthouse, you will be taken by horse-cart to the entrance of the Bucegi National Park, where the hiking route starts. Our walk begins with a nice slow steady climb towards the ridge. Before leaving the forest, we can choose to do either a shorter or a longer hike. The longer one brings us to the top of the ridge, overlooking impressive landscapes and clear view of the Strunga Wall, reaching the pass of Strunga at 2000m of altitude and passing by a mountain shelter on the former Transylvanian – Wallachian border. Going down, we will arrive at Poiana Gutanu Meadows. This is our thoughtfully chosen beautiful picnic spot for both hiking routes.
Going back to the village, we will be passing many Sherpa Huts along the way, where
we will have spectacular views of the Bucegi Mountains and the Valley of Bangaleasa below. There will be plenty of time to take photos here and admire the scenery.

Hike:
Long: 5h30, 18 km +/-850m
Short: 3h30, 12 km +/- 350m
Meals: breakfast, picnic, dinner

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Day 5 - End of the journey

Breakfast and transfer to Brasov train station, then train to Bucharest; if you do not need get to Bucharest early, there is the option of leaving the luggage at the railway station and visiting Brasov (local transport not included). End of the trip. (B)

Additional information

TARIFFS

590 euros per person.
Private transfer from Bucharest airport to Bucharest hotel or train station for maximum 3 people : 40 euros per person.
Single room supplement : 75 euros per person.
Single traveler supplement : 200 euros per person.
Private transfer Bucharest OTP Airport - Magura: price / service (1-3 persons). : 170 euros per person.
Private transfer Bucharest city centre - Magura: price / service (1-3 persons). : 180 euros per person.
Private transfer Moieciu de Sus - Bucharest OTP Airport: price / service (1-3 persons). : 170 euros per person.
Private transfer Moieciu de Sus - Bucharest city centre: price / service (1-3 persons). : 180 euros per person.
Extra night in Bucharest, 3* hotel, price / DBL BB. : 95 euros per person.
Extra night in Bucharest, 3* hotel, price / SGL BB. : 90 euros per person.
Extra night in Brasov, 3* hotel, price / DBL BB. : 97 euros per person.
Extra night in Brasov, 3* hotel, price / SGL BB. : 95 euros per person.
Bucharest walking city tour (approx 2h) : 120 euros per person.

INCLUDED

Accommodation
Meals (from dinner Day 1 to breakfast Day 5)
Train transfer from and to Bucharest
Road-book & maps sent by email and at the first hotel
Luggage transfer

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Permanently reachable local assistance by phone.

NOT INCLUDED

Transfer to the Starting point and from the point of dispersion
The insurances
The drinks other than water
Personal expenses
Visit entries

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Requires a medium fitness level. Maximum of 5-6h walking a day.

CARRYING

The transfers of your luggage are ensured. You only have to carry your things needed for the day (picnic, camera...)

ACCOMMODATION

Nights in guest-houses in double rooms with private facilities.

SIZE OF GROUP

Minimum of 2 people.

DEPARTURES

From early May to mid October.

STARTING POINT

Bucharest North train station / Bucharest Airport train station.

END OF THE TRIP

Bucharest North train station / Bucharest Airport 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

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- 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 "Lascar 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
Mandatory equipment

- Waterproof tracksuits (breathable Goretex type jacket and possibly trousers)
- Warm fleece jacket
- High walking shoes (preferably already worn)
- Backpack for day hiking (20-35l)
- Water bottle (allow at least 1,5l of water at the beginning of the day)
- Hiking poles
- Power bank

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- Walking Boots Should be sturdy and of good quality to handle all types of terrain. Ankle support is important. Leather, with a good durable sole, is
the most suitable or, for people who prefer a more lightweight boot, Cordura/leather boots which have Gore-Tex or sympatex waterproofing. They should be well broken in and be of correct fit. Proof your boots before you leave home. Waxing your boots regularly prolongs their life.

- Lightweight walking shoes/sneakers For wear around towns & villages. They can also be a backup pair for your walk.

- Socks & Underwear Take only good quality socks with wicking and insulating qualities. Road test them before you go on the trip to be sure they are comfortable with your boots. Take a suitable quantity of underwear (washing facilities are limited).

- Several Shirts and Walking Trousers T-shirts preferably with collar and at least 1 long-sleeved shirt for sun protection. If you sweat a lot it is a good idea to purchase at least one t-shirt in a breathable material. These are fast drying, keep moisture away from your skin and are available from outdoor stores. The quick-drying loose-fitting trousers are popular. You
should bring one pair of the loose-fitting type trousers to wear in cities and for evenings etc. Shorts for warmer weather.

- Warm jacket Fleeced Polartec or warm wool shirt for evenings. This will be worn a great deal; be sure it is totally suitable for your needs. A fleeced jacket which blocks the wind (Windstopper) is the most preferable.

- Waterproof Jacket & Pants Must be waterproof, not shower proof, Gore-Tex is best. It must fit comfortably whilst wearing warm clothing and wearing your rucksack. It must have a proper hood, zipper flap and storm cuffs and come down over hips. Pants should have a zip on the side of the leg to make it easier to get them on quickly over boots.

Optional equipment

- Cutlery and pans for picnics
- Lamp (frontal preferably - some guesthouses don't have head lamps)
- Toilet paper or tissues for the day
- Solar cream
- Sun glasses
- Personal pharmacy
- Your favourite snacks or energy bars

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