

Carpathian Mountains and Castles - self-guided walk

8 days / 7 nights

This 8 days Self Guided Walking Tour is the best way for you to truly experience most authentically the Romanian Country Life! Piatra Craiului and Bucegi are some of the most popular and appreciated Romanian mountains. In Piatra Craiului, you will discover rare flora and fauna and at the feet of the Bucegi Mountains, you will see lovely pastures, and altogether spectacular landscapes amongst perched sheepfolds and medieval fortresses.

YOUR PROGRAM

Day 1 - Reception in Bucharest

The trip starts at Bucharest North Station (or at Bucharest OTP Airport, changing trains at Bucharest North) with a train Bucharest - Brasov (2:45 hours), followed by a private transfer to Magura (1:00 hour). There are several train options depending on the arrival flight and if you want to stop in Brasov to visit this beautiful medieval city, but the main option is Bucuresti Nord 15:15 – Brasov 17:37 followed by the private transfer to Magura.

• Meals included: Dinner
• Accommodation: guesthouse in the beautiful National Park of Piatra Craiului.



Day 2 - Zarnesti Gorges

Walk in Piatra Craiului (“King’s Stone”) mountains to the authentic mountain hut of Curmatura. Breath-taking views of the mountain ridge and the valley around the hut. You can enjoy the host’s unique recipe, special lunch, local soup and a delicious pie! From here, if you are not tired and the weather is good, an extension of approx. 1.5km, until the pass Crapaturii (“Saua Crapaturii”) is possible.
On the way back to the guesthouse, the clients will cross the mesmerizing Zarnesti gorges with 200m high vertical walls.
• Walking: around 5h30, 15km, +/-800m. Optional extension: 1.5km, +/- 150m

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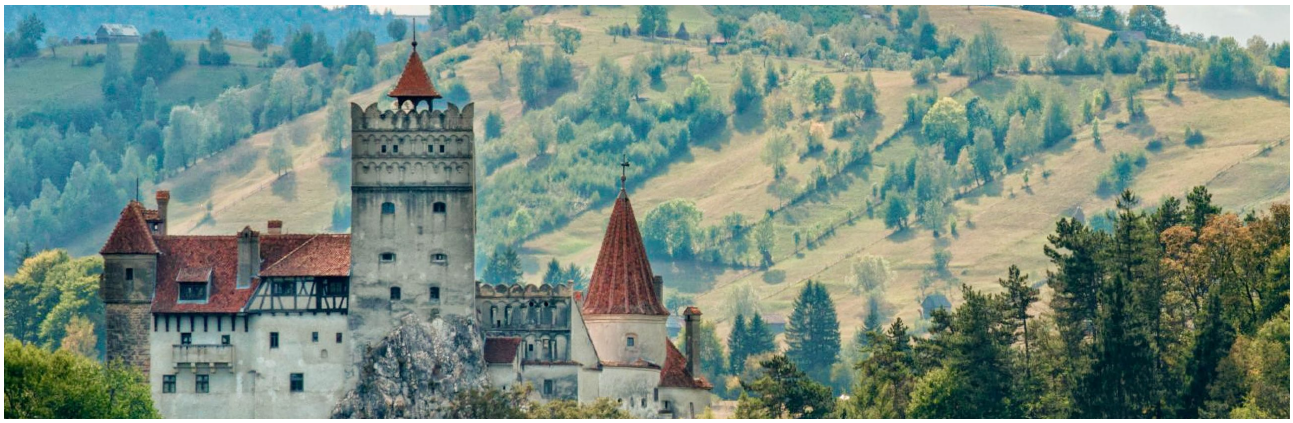


• Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner
• Accommodation at the same place



Day 3 - Bran castle

Today's walk goes on a small ridge leading to Bran castle. This castle was built in the 14th century and had a role of defense 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 Vlad Tepes, Prince of Wallachia. Private transfer to the same guesthouse the night before.
Alternatively, if you are not interested in visiting the castle or simply prefer walking more, returning on foot is possible: you take a pleasant wooden trail, part of Via Transilvanica long distance trail, an iconic trail crossing Romania from North-Est to South-West and the most important historical and ethnical regions of our country.
• Walking: around 4h, 10km, +450m, -700m. Optional extension: 9km, +650m, -400m.
• Meals included: Breakfast, packed lunch, dinner.
• Transfer: Bran – Magura. Possibility to replace it a walk back on the same route.
• Accommodation at the same place



Day 4 - Pastures and forests in "Piatra Craiului" National Park

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Trek in the National Park of Piatra Craiului taking in pastures, sheepfolds, woods and scattered villages. The walker will cross traditional villages where time seems to have stopped, and they will end the day in a beautiful and traditional mountain village. The day offers two walking variants, either a smoother walk through Curmatura Groapelor or a more adventurous one, that features two significantly steep sections: one descent and one ascent.

• Walking: around 14.5km, +550m, -420m. Long version: around 5.5h, 16km, +700, -550.
• Meals included: Breakfast, packed lunch, dinner
• Accommodation: mountain lodge (possible shared bathroom)



Day 5 - Scattered villages

This morning the route leaves Piatra Craiului Mountains, with an easy walk with picture perfect landscapes through lovely villages sheltering small and olden houses, at the foot of Bucegi Mountains. The locals are livestock breeders; therefore, the village has a long-standing tradition of cheese making.

•Walking: around 5h, 15 km, +550m, -700m.
•Meals included: Breakfast, packed lunch, dinner.
•Accommodation: local guesthouse



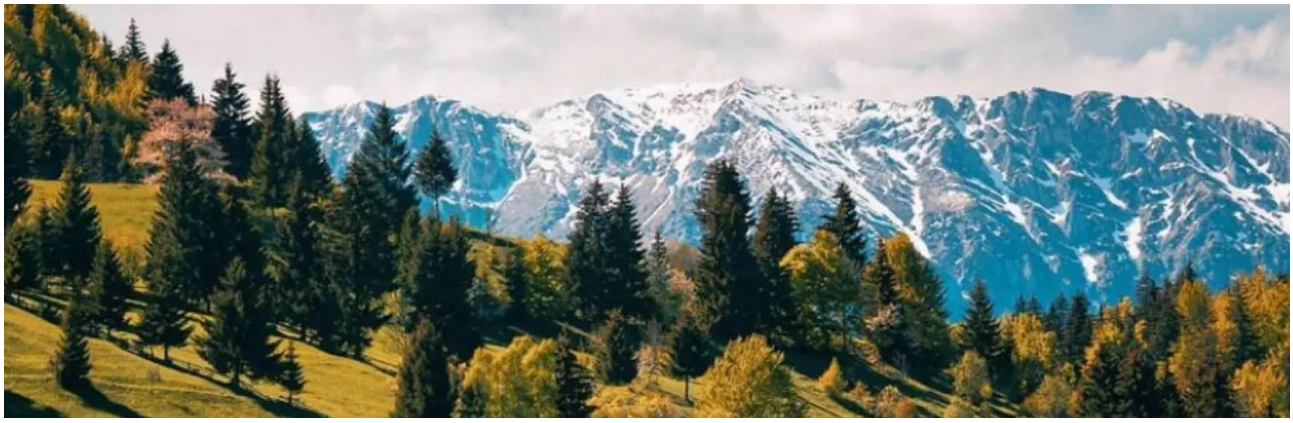
Day 6 - Bucegi's mountains

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Trek towards the Bucegi massif. A long hike that you will not forget: impressive landscapes and sights of the impressive Strunga Wall, crossing two passes, the Strunga and the Strungulita and passing by a mountain shelter upon the former Transylvanian – Wallachian border. Strunga Pass is also the highest point of your trip, at 2000m of altitude.
The round-trip walk we propose, can be extended if you are willing to explore more and have the delight of a 360° superb view of both National Parks.
•Walking: around 5h, 13km, +/-900m. Optional extension: +4.7km, +200m, -300m.
•Meals included: Breakfast, packed lunch, dinner
•Accommodation at the same place



Day 7 - Meadow of Gutanu

The hike continues in Bucegi Mountains, going up to Gutanu clearing with excellent views towards the dramatic cliffs above. Starting with June, you can encounter shepherds alongside their flocks, and even ask to taste the cheese they prepare themselves. This being the last day walking in the mountains, we have prepared three route options, of different lengths.
• Walking:
- short version: around 2.5h, 8km, +350m, -450m;
- medium version: around 5h, 14km, +570m, -650m;
- long version: around 6h, 18km, +750m, -850m;
• Meals included: Breakfast, packed lunch, dinner
• Accommodation: charming guesthouse

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Day 8 - End of the journey

Private transfer from Simon to Brasov and then travel by train to Bucharest. End of the journey. (B)

Additional information

TARIFFS

920 euros per person.
Single room supplement (price per person, for min. 2 travelers) : 200 euros per person.
Private transfer Bucharest airport to the train station/center (up to 3 people)

: 45 euros per person.
Private transfer Bucharest airport to Magura (up to 3 people) : 200 euros per person.
Private transfer Bucharest city centre to Magura (up to 3 people) : 210 euros per person.
Private transfer Simon (last village) to Bucharest airport (up to 3 people) : 190 euros per person.
Private transfer from Simon to Bucharest city centre (up to 3 people) : 200 euros per person.
Extra night in Bucharest, 3* central hotel, price per Double room, B&B : 110 euros per person.
Extra night in Bucharest, 3* central hotel, price per Single room, B&B : 100 euros per person.
Extra night in Brasov, 3* central hotel, price per Double room, B&B : 100 euros per person.

Bucharest walking city tour (approx 2h) : 150 euros per person.
Walking poles rental : 20 euros per person.
Welcome & briefing: At the North train station or at your hotel in Bucharest if there are pre-tour extra-nights. (per departure) : 40 euros per person.

INCLUDED

7 breakfasts, 6 picnics, 7 dinners
All accommodations
D1 and D8 transfers by train

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Baggage transfer
The guidebook
Hiking maps
Assistance always reachable
Welcome and briefing

NOT INCLUDED
Transport to the starting point and from the final point (Bucharest North Train Station)
The insurance
The drinks, other than water
Personal expenses
Site visits
Souvenirs

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY
8 days / 6 days of walking. Medium level of walking with a maximum day at 6 h.

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

ACCOMMODATION
6 night in lovely guesthouses, in double rooms with showers and toilets, 1 night in mountain lodge with shared facilities.

SIZE OF GROUP
Minimum of 2 people.

DEPARTURES
Every day from April to October, subject to availability of accommodation, response within 48 hours, from Monday to Friday.

STARTING POINT
Bucharest North train station / Bucharest OTP Airport train station.

END OF THE TRIP
Bucharest North train station / Bucharest OTP 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!

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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 "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)

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- 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

- 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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION
Possibility to extend your stay in Brasov or Bucharest, please contact us for accommodations.

Telescopic hiking poles are recommended!

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SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

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