



Romania – more than a glance

Medieval Transylvania & Painted Bucovina/Moldova

Detailed itinerary (land only services for 2007)

Starting from:

999 Euro / person

For minimum 6 participants

What's included ... see below !

“**Medieval Transylvania**” is about the strong medieval fortresses built starting with 13th century, to protect the locals during the invasions;

“**Painted Bucovina**” is about the world wide known “**Painted monasteries of Bucovina / Moldova**” with inside and outside frescoes that are lasting from 16th century.

There are not enough words to describe the beauty and mystery of the places that you will visit, and more that this, we offer the “**Romanian experience**” while meeting locals and when you will have the chance to speak with them, to find out about their stories. If not yet decided, here is another argument: **Dracula** – legend or mystery?

Highlights:

- medieval Transylvania
- painted monasteries of Bucovina
- **Bucharest** – “**Little Paris**” or “**Paris of the East**”
- **Dracula’s Birthplace**, palaces and stories
- **Sibiu** – The Cultural Capital of Europe for 2007
- horse and cart ride – a traditional way of transportation
- the Carpathian Mountains
- Romanian wine tasting

Day 1: Arriving & welcoming dinner

Pick up from Bucharest - Otopeni Airport and transfer to **Sinaia**. At the welcoming dinner, the guide will present a briefing of the whole trip, together with a short introduction of Romania.

*Accommodation: 3 or 4**** hotel in Sinaia; Distance by bus: 100 km*

Day 2: The Royal Touch & Bran Castle - Dracula

Morning visit to the famous “**Peles Palace**” – **The Royal Summer Residence** in Sinaia – also called the Pearle of The Carpathians. After the visit, we continue to Transylvania, visiting **Bran Castle** – also known as Dracula’s Castle. Lunch in a beautiful rustic place reached after a traditional horse and cart ride. In the afternoon is time to explore the medieval fortress of **Rasnov** and the town of Brasov.

*Accommodation: 2**, 3*** or 4**** hotel in Brasov or Poiana Brasov mountain resort. Distance by bus: 90 km*



Painted Eggs Easter



Ox Cart Full Of Hay



Royal Palace Peles Sinaia



Dracula Castle Bran



Handcraft From Willow Tree



Day 3: Into the Heart of Transylvania

It is time to explore the medieval town of **Brasov** (Kronstadt in German) with its magnificent **Black Church**, the largest gothic church in Eastern Europe. A history and culture lesson will take place at the Museum of **First Romanian School** where there are kept schoolbooks from 11th century. Before starting north, we can visit the fortified church in **Prejmer or Harman**, a settlement from the time of the Teutonic Knights in 12th century. Next day we will be in Moldova after we have passed the Carpathian Mountains.

*Accommodation: guesthouse or 3*** hotel in Miercurea Ciuc or Bacau Region;*

Distance by bus: 140 km

Day 4: East to Moldova

Passing the Carpathians over the **Bicaz Gorge** with hundreds of meters high cliffs on both sides, it is time to start exploring the religious life of the Romanians. The following days we will visit some of the most beautiful churches and monasteries, some with magnificent outside frescoes dating from 16th century. We will also explore the rural life, the icon painting and carpets/rugs workshops in monasteries. Stops at **Agapia** and **Varatec** nunneries than we will continue further north to Bucovina.

Optional visit to **Probita** monastery.

*Accommodation: guesthouse or 3*** hotel in Gura Humorului*

Distance by bus: ~230 km

Day 5: Bucovina – the Outside Frescoes

It will be a delightful day to visit the most beautiful Orthodox churches/monasteries of **Bucovina** with inside and outside frescoes lasting from the 16th century. We will admire the blue color of **Voronet** monastery, the red, green and yellow of the **Sucevita**, **Moldovita**, **Humor** and **Arbore**. An Easter egg painting demonstration will fulfill our day and we can also try our painting skills.

*Accommodation: 3*** hotel in Piatra Fantanele at **Hotel Castel Dracula**;*

Distance by bus: 200 km



Overlooking Medieval Brasov



Brasov Black Church



Traditional Horse And Cart Ride



Prejmer Rooms Inside Fortification



Moldovita Painted Monastery



Medieval Festival Sighisoara



Day 6: Following Jonathan Harker and Dracula

Descending the **Borgo Pass**, the same journey that Jonathan Harker took on his way to Dracula's Land, we will reach the Transylvanian plateau and we will continue south to **Sighisoara** – the best preserved medieval town where people are still living in. It is also the **birthplace of Vlad Dracula or Tepes**. Afternoon at leisure or optional you can take part at some traditional activities like: home baking of bread, etc.

*Accommodation: 3*** or 4**** hotel in Sighisoara*

Distance by bus: 100 km



Voronet Judgement Day



Wooden Dracula Masks

Day 7: Sighisoara – birthplace of Dracula

Leisure morning in Sighisoara. Visit to the famous **Clock Tower**, the former Council tower, and find out how the guilds were organized to defend their fortress. Climb the **covered stairs** and feel the cobbled and river stone street bedding in the center square. Eat Dracula's tomato soup for lunch in the Vlad Dracula's house. Optional: for larger groups we organize a real **witch trial** on the streets of the old town. Afternoon we can visit the former Lutheran Bishop seat for 300 years in **Biertan** or experience a wine tasting afternoon at **Jidvei Winery**, the most appreciated winery in Transylvania, only for white wines.

*Accommodation: guesthouse or 3*** hotel in Medias or Sibiu*

Distance by bus: ~100 km



Easter Painted Eggs



Sighisoara Medieval Town

Day 8: SIBIU – The European Capital of Culture – 2007

Morning starts with a city tour of the Medieval Sibiu (Hermannstadt in German), which is designated to be the **European Capital of Culture for 2007**. From the **Small Square** step over the **Liar's Bridge** to reach the **Evanghelic Cathedral**. Time to stroll on the streets or to visit the **Brukenthal Museum**, a gallery opened about 200 years ago with the private art collection of the governor of Transylvania. Afternoon, we return to Bucharest for the Romanian capital city.

Optional: stop on the way to visit the fortresses of Vlad Dracula at **Poienari/Arefu**. The fortress is located in the heart of Carpathian Mountains and the only way up is climbing the 1500 steps through the unspoiled forest.

*Accommodation: 3***, 4 or 5***** hotel in Bucharest*

Distance by bus: ~300 km



Cetatea De Balta Jidvei Winery



Evanghelic Cathedral



Day 9: Bucharest – the capital city

Start the day with a comprehensive city tour of **Bucharest**, first time mentioned in written documents on the time of Vlad The Impaler, in 1452. The tour will include the **Romanian Athenaeum**, Revolution Square, where you will find out about the 1989 historical turnover of the communism dictators, the Opera, the Military Academy and the Patriarch Church. If time permitting also with a inside visit to the **Palace of Parliament** or **House of The People**, the second largest administrative building in the world after Pentagon.

Optional: walking tour in the old Bucharest around Lipsyani Street and with a stop at the old Manuc's Inn and the old Princely Court of Vlad Dracula.

Afternoon transfer for your departure flight or enjoy an extension day in Bucharest for more visits or shopping.

Distance by bus: 30 minutes from the hotel in the city to the airport

Optional Extension days in Bucharest:

*Accommodation: 3***, 4**** or 5***** stars hotel in central Bucharest*

Tour will include:

- all transfers - land only, with comfortable car/mini-bus/bus
- all accommodation as specified in the itinerary
- all meals will be: breakfast at the hotel, dinner
- some dinners in private houses to experience the local traditions
- service of an experienced / professional English speaking guide
- entrances to all tourist sites as mentioned in the itinerary
- horse and cart ride on one day

Tour will NOT include

- flight tickets, insurance, visa cost if necessary
- lunch meals throughout the whole trip
- photo tax inside tourist sites (museums, etc)
- drinks, personal expenses, gratuities

Optional trips described in the itinerary will be added only at request for the final price.

Note: itinerary subject to minor changes, especially on the first and last day depending on flights arriving/departing schedule.



Sibiu Hermannstadt



Sibiu Bird Eye Windows



George Enescu Museum Palace



Palace Of Parliament



Palace Of Parliament Interior



Romania Living Traditions