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Itinerary released on:
1 September 2006

Two weeks - Nature Explorer in Transylvania / Romania

Detailed itinerary for 2007 (land only)

Starting from **1.055Euro / person**
sharing a double room, for minimum 6 participants

Grade **Moderate**
Recommended for anyone
in good health and reasonably fit

Hiking is a way of life! We love it and we want to share it with you. We want to introduce you to the most beautiful places in our area, to see our virgin forests, unspoilt mountain range, breathtaking sceneries and in the same time to find a lot more about our culture, customs, people and their life. After one week in the mountain area you can continue to explore the mountain area or choose a completely different destination: The Danube Delta! There you can go fishing and bird watching. The last day it is reserved to visit Bucharest City - Romanian's capital and its best.

For your convenience we use the same accommodation over the whole period, a very nice guesthouse/homestay, situated by The Carpathian Mountains. There you will experience every day the traditional Romanian cuisine. Lunch bags will be prepared by everyone. Vegetarian option available. Accommodation in Bucharest in 3*** or 4**** stars hotel.

Some of the days you will be taken to see a traditional water powered mill and wood saw, and also a textile processing complex.

Programme:

Note: The itinerary for any day is subject to minor changes upon weather conditions.

1st day - Arriving day:

Arrival at Otopeni Airport, Bucharest. Transfer to Braşov area in Transylvania into the heart of the Carpathian Mountains.

Accommodation: for the whole period will be at a minihotel in Brasov area, town of Zarnesti or Bran





2nd day - Cold Mountain review

Our first hiking day will be an easy one for everyone to adapt with the climate, jetlag and to get familiarized with the area. Short morning transfer to beginning of trail, where, if interested, you can visit Râșnov fortress. From there the trail will lead us through a beautiful beech tree forest. A nice observation point over the mountains and valleys will be our second stop after we entered a small cave where, if lucky, we can see bats. Today we will enjoy the wonderful area that was the filming set for Cold Mountain film. There is no other description but I suggest you go and watch the film.



3rd day - Piatra Craiului National Park

We step into the spectacular **Piatra Craiului National Park** through **Prapastile Zarnestilor** (canyon) where cliffs are 2-300 meter high on both sides, enjoying the sounds of birds, and the fresh and ozonic tonic air. As we come out of the forest we reach a meadow. From here we have the best view of the mountain crest. We reach the *Curmatura* cabin at 1430 m altitude when we start our descent.



4th day - Bucegi Massif:

A good weather and clear sky is all we need for this day. After coach transfer to Busteni, we use cable-car to get on Bucegi Mountain plateau (alt. 2000m) which is our starting point for today's trail. Beautiful rock formation like "The Sphinx" and "Babele" are watching for our steps. They were created by the power of water and wind. Easy walk on the plateau to the highest peak on the massif (*Omul Peak*, alt. 2505m) for the longer tour, and shorter tour will be able to see Prahova Valley from very high cliffs.



5th day - Optional Day: Bran Castle and Braşov – suggested excursion

Visit to Dracula's Castle. Guided tour to the old town of Braşov including visit to **The Black Church**, **The First Romanian School** and **The Weavers Tower**. Getting in the old town of Brasov, you are surrounded by very old houses, narrow streets, and friendly people. Free time for shopping in the city. Romanian specialties for dinner and folklore show at a restaurant in Brasov or dinner at a fancy restaurant or restaurant with traditional Romanian food and folklore show.





6th day – Ciucas Massif:

We are very close to the Carpathian Bend. Surrounded by mountains, the trail will offer very nice views all around. Sharp and rounded stones are getting out of wide meadows. It is a pleasure just to lie down in the grass and wait for the day to pass by.



7th day - Romanian Village:

Discover old Romanian mountain village of Magura after passing over Maguricea hill. You get the chance to see and talk with Romanian peasants who spent all their life on this unspoiled piece of land. For lunch we taste the delicious home made "bulz", which is polenta with special sheep cheese.



8th day – Fagaras Mountain

Coach transfer for a day trip to Fagaras Mountain range up to Balea Lake (alt. 2000m). Go round the peaks above the Balea glacier lake. Afternoon tea on the terrace offering incredible views over the mountain.



9th day - Piatra Craiului National Park

Easy walk deep into the forest to the Hidden Chapel. Large meadow for lunch break. From there, it is possible to continue to the base of the Piatra Craiului rocky walls on a more strenuous walk. On the way back we stop at a very nice mountain hut for an evening grill/dinner prepared by the hut owner offering as well a small entertainment. Drinks included.



10th day - Optional / Sightseeing day

A day for rest or for some more optional activities. Our suggestions are:

- shopping in the city
- more cultural objectives like: Sighisoara - the Medieval City - birthplace of Vlad the Impaler, Prejmer - the fortified church, Sibiu - medieval city, etc ...
- one day or a few hours horseback riding in the area near by
- one day cycling or mountain biking
- visit to the Royal Summer Residence in Sinaia - Peles Palace - a real work of art



11th day - Tampa to Poiana Brasov

Starting from old city center of Brasov, we get on top of Tampa hill with a great perspective over the whole city. Continue on a very nice trail to Poiana Brasov. The longer trail will include "Pestera de Lapte" (Milky Cave).





12th day - Bucegi Mountain

Walk to Glajarie area in Bucegi Mountain and further more up to Malaiesti Cabin. In winter time, the only possible way to the top of the mountain. Return by Diham Cabin to Piriul Rece or Busteni.



13th day – Postavarul Massif

There is a trail going slowly to the top. On the way we stop for the best geography lesson for the area, as well to see where we were the other days. This will be just from "Postavaru" Chalet terrace. Further up we can get to the top of the "Postavarul" mountain. The way down is winding through the forest. Or you can use the cable-car. It is a beautiful trail for the last hiking day.



14th day - Bucharest

Bus to Bucharest including complete city tour, visit to Peasant Museum and The House of The People - now Palace of Parliament. Bucharest, also called "little Paris" or "Paris of the East", will prove itself a very cosmopolitan city: old town, the new one, parks and everything a large city can offer. Dinner will be served at a very nice restaurant.



15th day - Transfer to Bucharest Airport & time to say goodbye

City tour, shopping and transfer to Bucharest's Otopeni airport.



For more information please contact us on e-mail office@activeholidays.ro or by post.



Tour will include:

- all meals at guesthouse: breakfast, lunch pack, dinner
- all transfers - land only
- visit to a Sheppard camp (subject to accessibility of location)
- all accommodation as specified in the itinerary at the same family run guesthouse
- service of an experienced / professional English speaking guide



Tour will NOT include

- flight tickets, insurance
- entrances and photo tax to all sites mentioned in the itinerary
- dinner in Bucharest
- drinks, personal expenses, visa cost if necessary
- gratuities



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