



code: VBG 0019

**Duration:** 8 days / 7 nights

**Departure dates 2017/2018:** every day

**Group size:** min. 2

**Route:** Bucharest - Sinaia - Brasov - Sibiu - Bistrita - Cluj - Oradec - Arad - Timisoara - Bucharest

**Prices per person (EURO):** 2 (1 303), 3 (965), 4 (796), 5 (722), 6 (650), 7 (606), 8 (567)

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There is always another mystery to uncover in Romania – from unexplored mountains and old castles to villages lost in time, centuries old health resorts and beautiful churches. Our senses will be awakened to the taste of home-made plum spirit, or wonderful wines from ancient vineyards and Romania's hearty cuisine.

On this tour we are going to explore the world of the Middle Ages in the land of medieval towns – Transylvania – also a land of ancient citadels, fortified churches and medieval castles. Huge open-air museums – the painted churches of Bucovina – Moldovita and Voronet monastery with the most beautiful Orthodox churches in Europe. We are travelling to Timisoara and Bucharest, the capital city, once known as the Paris of the East. On our way we are going to enjoy wonderful nature and authentic traditions. In many villages carts and horses still dictate the rhythm of life, and many traditional folkways are meticulously preserved. Highlights on our tour are the scenic Carpathian mountains, the heritage of Transylvania with fortified towns and citadels, the painted monasteries, the magnificent Peles and Bran castles and the capital Bucharest.

### 1. Arrival

Arrival to Bucharest and transfer to the hotel.

### 2. Bucharest – Sinaia – Peles castle – Brasov

Our tour of Romania starts with a drive to **Sinaia**. Sinaia claims to be the Pearl of the Carpathians. None outweighs the marvel of

**Pel**

### **Peles Castle**

, the highlight of the region.

Nestled at the foot of the Bucegi Mountains in the picturesque town of Sinaia, Peles Castle is a masterpiece of German new-Renaissance architecture, considered by many one of the most stunning castles in Europe.

We have a sightseeing tour of the castle. We travel further to the very heart of Transylvania – the town of

### **Brasov**

. In the afternoon we are going to discover the medieval glory of Brasov`s historic centre, surrounded by stone walls and baroque facades. Sightseeing tour of Brasov with Piata Sfatului and the Black church. Overnight stay in Brasov.

## **3. Brasov – Bran castle – Sibiu**

We leave Brasov and drive to Bran. Our unforgettable roundtrip continues with a tour of **Brans castle**

Surrounded by an aura of mystery and legend

s, and perched high atop a 200-foot-high rock, Bran Castle owes its fame to its imposing towers and turrets as well as to the myth created around Bram Stoker's

### **Dracula**

. Facing the flatlands and backed by mountains, the 60 m-tall Bran castle is an incredible view. After a sightseeing tour of the castle we head to

### **Sibiu**

– the king of the Transylvanian Saxon towns. In the afternoon we explore the old city center with its upper town, home to most of Sibiu's historic sites, and lower town, lined with colorful houses on cobblestone streets and bounded by imposing city walls and defense towers overlooking the river Cibin.

. Overnight stay in Sibiu.

### 4. Sibiu – Bistrita – Moldovita monastery – Campulung Moldovenesc

Another day with beautiful sceneries on the way. We are going to pass the **Carpathian mountains**. On the way we have a stop in **Bistrita** with its medieval centre. The road from Bistrita to the **Painted Monasteries of Bucovina** runs east through the Bargau Valley and across the Tihuta Pass which peaks at 3,840 feet. The **Bargau Valley** encompasses some of the most beautiful unspoiled mountain scenery in the Carpathians with picturesque traditional villages located in valleys and on hillsides. Our first stop here is **Moldovita monastery** with its predominantly gold and deep blue paintings on the exterior walls. Here the large and vivid *Siege of Constantinople* highlights the frescoes. Tour of the monastery and drive further to the small village Campulung Moldovenesc where we stay in a local guesthouse and taste the local food – mamaliga and sarmale.

### 5. Campulung Moldovenesc- Voronet monastery – Cluj

This morning we leave the Carpathian garden, but before doing that we visit one of the famous painted monasteries – **Voronet monastery** - perhaps the most famous and stunning of the painted monasteries. Widely known throughout Europe as "the Sistine Chapel of the East" due to its interior and exterior wall paintings. The composition of the paint continues to remain a mystery even now, more than 500 years after the church was built. After our visit of Voronet we head back to North Transylvania through the Carpathian mountains. We drive to Cluj. The western Transylvania city of **Cluj Napoca**

is today a vibrant cultural and university center. The main square, resplendent with 18th and 19th century buildings, is dominated by the 15th century

### **St. Michael's Church**

, one of the finest examples of Gothic architecture in Romania.

Sightseeing tour of Cluj and overnight stay.

## **6. Cluj – Oradec – Arad – Timisoara**

After breakfast we leave further to **Timisoara**. On our way we pass the towns of Oradec and Arad. In the afternoon we arrive in Timisoara and have a sightseeing tour.

The charm of this city, settled on the northern bank of the Bega River, lies in its distinct architectural character and vibrant cultural life. Frequently referred to as "Little Vienna," Timisoara abounds with churches of several denominations, a Jewish quarter, an elegant baroque square and a pedestrian-only downtown area. Some of the monuments in the heart of the city afford panoramic views, while the many parks in this "city of flowers" provide an idyllic spot to take a break from sightseeing.

Overnight stay in Timisoara.

## **6. Timisoara – Bucharest**

Early this morning we leave Timisoara and head to **Bucharest**. Known for its wide, tree-lined boulevards, glorious Belle Époque buildings and a reputation for the high life (which in the 1900s earned its nickname of "Little Paris"), Bucharest, Romania's largest city and capital, is today a bustling metropolis.

In Bucharest we have a sightseeing tour with the highlights of the city. We start with the

### **Cotroceni palace**

– the

former royal residence

and

home to King Carol

I

.  
Our next stop is the

### **Parliament palace**

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Built and furnished exclusively with Romanian materials.

Our  
guided tour takes

u  
s through a small section of dazzling rooms, huge halls and quarters. The interior is a luxurious display of crystal chandeliers, mosaics, oak paneling, marble, gold leaf, stained-glass windows and floors covered in rich carpets.

Free time in

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the afternoon in the historical part of the city – the Lipscani district. Overnight stay in Bucharest.

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## **8. Departure**

Depending on our departure times we have free time in Bucharest and transfer to the airport for departure.

### **What`s included:**

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Acc

ommodation at 3\*\*\* family and city hotels on bed and breakfast

✓ One home made dinner in Campulung Moldovenesc

✓ All entrances to monasteries – Moldovita and Voronet monastery

✓ Sibiu Cathedral

✓ Bran castle

✓ Brasov Black Church

✓ Peles castle

✓ Cluj Napoka Cathedral

✓

Parliament, Bucharest

✓ Cotroceni castle

✓ Transfers and transportation as per itinerary

✓ English speaking guided assistance throughout

**What`s not included:**

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✓ Tipping

✓ Meals and drinks not included above

✓ Insurances

Flight expenses (one compulsory) X-NONE X-NONE MicrosoftInternetExplorer4  
2. National tourist tax (one compulsory) X-NONE X-NONE MicrosoftInternetExplorer4  
3. Lunch for 6 lunches - 60 EUR per person restaurants with typical Romanian food - 85 EUR  
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