

Nature and Culture Tour of Romania

10 nights/11 days

Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrival in Bucharest

Upon arrival at Bucharest International Airport, you will be warmly welcomed by the company staff that will transfer you to your hotel in Bucharest for an overnight stay.

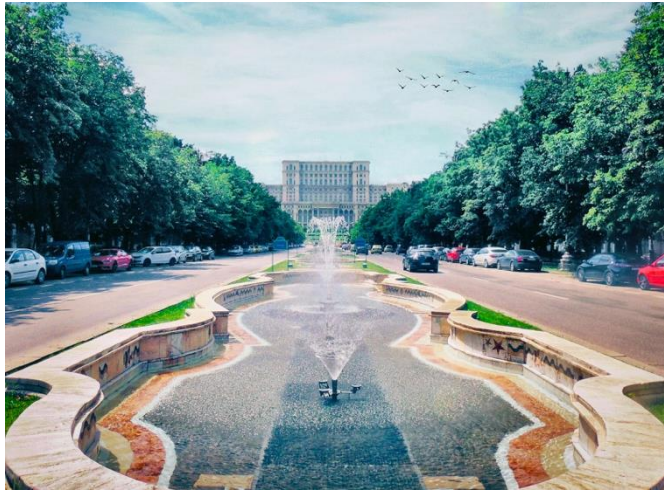
Overnight in Bucharest

Day 2: Bucharest city tour

Breakfast at the hotel

The communist regime left a powerful mark on the whole Eastern Bloc, even after the fall of the Iron Curtain, and on this day in Bucharest, you will have the chance to observe it. Even though Europe's last dictator, Nicolae Ceausescu, was taken down from power 30 years ago, the traces of the communism in Bucharest are still clearly visible throughout the city.

Our Bucharest communist tour will take you through the most striking remnants of the heyday of Romanian communism and help you see new details about life from our recent history. You will visit neighborhoods that were built for the working class, walk through the Revolution Square (Piața Revoluției) & University Square, discover the grandeur of the Palace of the Parliament, and take a tour of the Spring Palace (Primaverii Palace), the place where the Ceausescu family lived their luxurious life.



Overnight in Bucharest

Day3: Bucharest - Danube Delta

Breakfast at the hotel

Our trip to Danube Delta will start from Bucharest, and you will reach Tulcea port. This is the area where the Danube River splits into three narrow channels (Sulina, Chilia, and Sfântu Gheorghe) before spilling into the Black Sea. Also known as Europe's Amazon River, the Danube River forms a natural border between Romania and Bulgaria. The Danube Delta is a unique biosphere reserve filled with rare species of plants and birds, and it is the perfect spot to enjoy unspoiled nature. All of these earned it a spot on the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

We will then reach one of the traditional villages from the heart of the Danube Delta, Crisan. The traditional fishing village was founded by the Lipovans, a group of Russian refugees that blended in perfectly with the surrounding scenery.

Lunch at your expense

Throughout your trip through the Danube Delta, you will constantly enjoy bird-watching sessions that will introduce you to the flora and fauna of this remarkable delta biosphere reserve, with bushy reed beds and around 300 bird species such as Red-breasted Geese and Dalmatian Pelicans.

Before sunset will have a first boat tour to catch the lights of the Delta by night.

Enjoy a delicious dinner as you settle into the serene atmosphere of the delta.



Overnight in Crisan

Day 4: Danube Delta

Departure: 05:00 – 06:00 AM

Packed Breakfast

Awake to the tranquil beauty of the Danube Delta and prepare for an early morning birdwatching experience. Accompanied by knowledgeable local guides, venture into the delta's diverse habitats to observe and capture photographs of the rich birdlife that inhabits the area. Learn about the different species and their behaviors as you immerse yourself in this unique ecosystem.



Lunch at your expense

In the afternoon, we'll visit the point where the Danube River meets the Black Sea. If weather permits, we'll spend an hour on one of the area's most pristine beaches. Later, we'll immerse ourselves in the local culture of the Lipovans, who are an ethnic Russian refugees minority. We'll have the opportunity to witness their traditional dances and conclude the day with a dinner featuring freshly-caught fish.

Overnight in Crisan

Day 5: Danube Delta - Buzau UNESCO GeoPark – Magura village near Buzau

Breakfast at the hotel

After breakfast, we will leave behind the wilderness of this land and head to Buzau, where we will discover Buzau UNESCO Geopark. Buzău Land is a sustainable development territory from the Carpathian's Bend Area, marking the transition between hills and mountains.



Here we can find a lot of places with mud volcanoes. Some of the volcanoes give rise to mudflows, while others generate small explosions. They are completely harmless, but they mimic at a small scale the eruptions of volcanoes from Hawaii or Stromboli. Whether it's cones and calderas, or tall and dwarf volcanoes, you can see the eruptions with your own eyes!

Lunch at your expense

Visit the unique Sculpture Camp in Magura, Buzau, a fascinating open-air art gallery nestled amid scenic hills. Created by artists from around the world, the camp showcases an array of stone sculptures that harmonize with the surrounding natural beauty. It's a serene and inspiring stop that art enthusiasts and nature lovers alike will appreciate. Lunch: At your expense

Dinner at your expense

Overnight in Magura village

Day 6: Magura-Bran castle- short hiking-Brasov

Breakfast at the hotel

Embark on an unforgettable journey starting from the quaint Magura Village. Traverse through the breathtaking Carpathian Mountains, witnessing Romania's scenic vistas. Arrive at the iconic Bran Castle, famously known as "Dracula's Castle," for an immersive historical experience. Following your castle visit, enjoy a leisurely hike through the charming nearby villages, soaking up local culture and natural beauty. Conclude your adventure-filled day in the vibrant city of Brasov, where you can explore its medieval architecture and savor a delightful dinner.

Overnight in Brasov

Day 7: Brasov- Cantacuzino Castle-Wine Tasting- Peles Castle-Brasov

Breakfast at the hotel.

Your day begins at the resplendent Peles Castle, nestled amidst the idyllic Carpathian Mountains. Constructed between 1873 and 1914 for King Charles I, this architectural marvel is a fine example of German Renaissance design. As you step inside, you'll be transported back in time to the heyday of Romanian royalty, surrounded by intricate wood carvings, exquisite stained glass windows, and sumptuous furnishings.



Our expert guides will take you on a tour of the grand hall, elegant reception rooms, and opulent dining hall, where you'll learn fascinating historical anecdotes about Romanian royalty.

Next on the itinerary is the enchanting Sinaia Monastery, founded in the 17th century by Prince Mihail Cantacuzino. Located in a picturesque valley, the monastery is known for its striking Byzantine architecture, stunning frescoes, and peaceful gardens. As you stroll through the cloisters and courtyards, you'll be transported to a world of spiritual tranquility, surrounded by centuries of history and culture.

From there, we'll take you to the captivating Cantacuzino Castle, a Neo-Romanian architectural masterpiece constructed in 1911 for Prince Gheorghe Grigore Cantacuzino. Nestled in lush gardens and offering panoramic views of the surrounding landscape, the castle has become a sought-after destination for history enthusiasts and Instagram aficionados alike.

Upon arrival, you'll be invited to the castle's picturesque terrace, widely recognized as one of the most Instagrammable spots in Romania. There, you'll be treated to an exclusive wine tasting experience featuring three limited-edition wines produced by a local winery that crafts a small quantity of these exceptional vintages each year. As you savor the unique flavors and aromas of these exquisite wines, our knowledgeable sommelier will guide you through their intriguing history and the winemaking traditions of the region.

To complement your wine tasting, you'll indulge in a delectable selection of Romanian cheese varieties and traditional products, meticulously chosen to enhance the flavors of the wines. This delightful pairing showcases the diverse and mouthwatering gastronomy of Romania and is certain to leave you craving more.

Overnight in Brasov

Day 8: Brasov – Visicri-Sighisoara – Copsa Mare Guest house

Breakfast at the hotel.

Embark on an enthralling journey through Transylvania, starting from the vibrant city of Brasov and leading you through the historic and cultural treasures of Viscri, Sighisoara, and Biertan, before concluding in Copsa Mica.



From Brasov, set course for Viscri, a quaint Saxon village distinguished by its UNESCO-listed fortified church. Immerse yourself in the serenity of rural life before heading to Sighisoara, the last remaining inhabited medieval citadel in Europe. As you meander through its labyrinthine, cobblestone streets, you'll be transported back to the 12th century. Reach the iconic Clock Tower, where a unique museum houses a collection of medieval weapons and a chilling torture

chamber. Continue your exploration by ascending the three hundred wooden steps to the Church-on-the-Hill, a 14th-century architectural gem that offers sweeping views of the area.

Lunch will be at your discretion, giving you the opportunity to taste the local cuisine.

After soaking in the history of Sighisoara, proceed to Biertan. This village, settled by Saxon colonists in the 13th century, boasts fertile soil ideal for winemaking and is crowned by an imposing, UNESCO-recognized fortified church. A 20-minute hike up the village's highest hill rewards you with panoramic views that reveal the church's grandeur.

Our final stop brings us to Copsa Mica, once infamous as one of Europe's most polluted towns, but now a beacon of resilience and recovery. This part of the tour offers a stark but hopeful contrast, rounding out your comprehensive Transylvanian experience.

Dinner included

Overnight at Copsa Mica GuestHouse

Day 9: Copsa Mare- Brateiu- Sibiu

Breakfast at the hotel

Begin your day with a visit to Copsa Mica, a town known for its industrial past, where recent transformations have led to a focus on sustainability and eco-friendly practices. Discover how the community is turning a new leaf and adapting to modern challenges.

Next, you'll journey to Brateiu, a fascinating village where you'll delve into the vibrant culture of the local Roma community. Engage with skilled craftsmen who demonstrate time-honored techniques in metalwork and other crafts. This is a unique opportunity to gain insights into a culture that is often misunderstood. Learn about their customs, their daily lives, and their incredible artisanship.

Lunch: At your expense

The final stop of the day is Sibiu, one of Romania's cultural gems. As you wander through the historic city, you'll be charmed by its well-preserved medieval architecture and the enigmatic "eyes" peering from the rooftops—small windows that are a unique feature of the local architecture. Explore the cobblestone streets, visit the Brukenthal Museum or perhaps take a leisurely walk along the city walls for panoramic views.



In the evening, settle into your chosen accommodation in Sibiu, relishing in the beauty and history that surrounds you, as you prepare for another day of exploration.

Overnight in Sibiu

Day 10: Sibiu- Corvin Castle-Alba Fortress-Sibiu

Embark on an enriching trip from Sibiu, starting with the awe-inspiring Corvin Castle. Built in the 15th century, this Gothic-Renaissance fortress is one of Europe's largest and most impressive castles. Wander through its grand halls, where history whispers tales of the Corvin family, and marvel at its drawbridges, towers, and inner courtyards, all exemplifying medieval architectural mastery.

The journey continues to the Alba Carolina Fortress, a stellar example of Vauban-style military architecture. Constructed in the early 18th century under Habsburg rule, this star-shaped fortress stands as a testament to strategic military engineering of its time. Explore its well-preserved walls and gates, and delve into the rich historical narratives of battles and sieges that shaped the region. In the evening we will return to Sibiu.

Overnight in Sibiu.

Day 11: Sibiu-Transfagarasan road-Curtea de Arges- Bucharest Airport

Breakfast at the hotel.

From Sibiu, your next adventure awaits as you head toward the Transfagarasan Highway, often dubbed as the "best road in the world" by automotive enthusiasts.

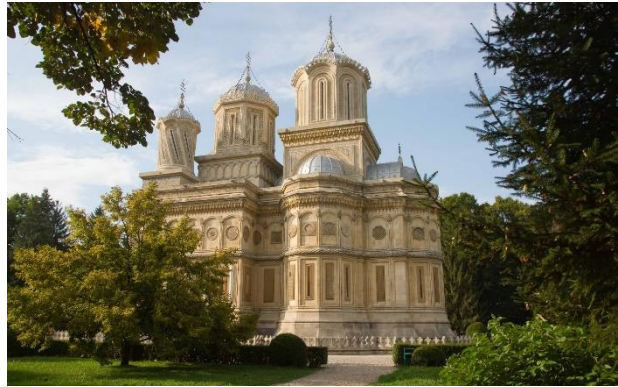
As you ascend through the spiraling roads of Transfagarasan, prepare to be captivated by the stunning landscapes, where each bend seems to compete with the last in terms of its scenic beauty. Stops will be made for photographic opportunities and to simply bask in the splendor of the Carpathian Mountains.

* The Transfagarasan road is closed during winter and may be closed at other times due to weather conditions. If the Transfagarasan road is not open, then the journey across the Carpathian Mountains will be made along the Olt River Valley.

Lunch: At your expense

From the high peaks, descend to Curtea de Arges, a town steeped in legend and history. Here, you'll visit the Curtea de Arges Monastery, an architectural masterpiece with fascinating myths surrounding its construction. Learn about the legend of Master Manole and the sacrifices made to complete this iconic structure.

Today your tour concludes at Bucharest International Airport.



Hotels:

Bucharest: Grand Hotel Continental 5* or similar
Danube Delta- Delta Boutique Resort 4* or similar
Copsa Mare guest house

Magura Village/Buzau county- Cetatuia hotel 4*
Brasov-Schuster Boarding House 4*
Sibiu- Art Hotel 4* or similar