



ROMANIA'S TRANSYLVANIA – CYCLING HOLIDAY

Transylvania is a historical region in the central part of Romania, famous for the scenic beauty of its Carpathian landscape and its rich history. Maybe is best known as the mysterious land of bloodthirsty vampires and howling wolves due to the film and novel, Dracula. Some may think it's fictional, but this central Romanian region is a real place. A beautiful and special, but real place. Bordered on the east and south by the Carpathian mountain range, »the land beyond the forest« still feels undiscovered. Join us on this unique biking adventure, where not only spectacular nature but world-famous Painted Monasteries in Bucovina as well as amazing Bucharest architecture are home. Ohh, and don't forget to pack your garlic!

1st Day (Saturday): arrival to Bucharest. Did you know that Romania's capital and commercial center is also called »Little Paris«, due to its wide, tree-lined boulevards, glorious Belle Époque buildings and a reputation for the high life? Bucharest nowadays is a bustling metropolis, its iconic landmark is the massive, communist-era Palatul Parlamentului government building, which has 1,100 rooms. In the evening, before group dinner you will meet with your tour guide. (Hotel 4*, meals included: dinner).

2nd Day: Bucharest – Transfagarasan. After breakfast you will enjoy discovering some of Bucharest's beauty and history. Local guide will show and explain you most important and interesting facts about this beautiful city founded on the banks of the Dambovitza River. In the afternoon we transfer you to Transfagarasan, where you will test your bikes as the next day you start with your bike adventure. (Hotel 4*, meals included: breakfast and dinner).

3rd Day: Transfagarasan – Sibiu (approx. 40 km/25 miles, 1.750 m descent). Today begins with a scenic drive up to a mountain pass Transfagarasan (van transfer). The Transfăgărășan Highway was constructed between 1970 and 1974 during the rule of Nicolae Ceaușescu. More than 150 kilometers in length is Romania's most spectacular and best known road and, now one of the country's most popular tourist attractions. Fully open only from June to October, the road's highest point is at 2042 meters. You will be amazed, cycling a part of this incredible road, descending towards another glorious Romanian city, Sibiu. Sibiu or Hermannstadt as it is called in German, was the largest and wealthiest of the seven walled citadels, built in the 12th century by German settlers known as Transylvanian Saxons. (Hotel 3*, meals included: breakfast and dinner).

4th Day: Sibiu – Paltinis – Sibiu (approx. 32 km/20 miles, 1.000 m descent). Another scenic cycling day. First you will be transferred to Păltiniș, attractive and beautiful mountain resort in Transylvania, located in the Cindrel Mountains. It is situated at 1440 m altitude, in a conifer forest, being the highest resort in

Romania. Pedaling and admiring pristine nature, you will arrive to Sibiu where a local guide will take you through this impressive medieval city known for its beautiful Germanic architecture. (Hotel 3*, meals included: breakfast and dinner).

5th Day: Sibiu – Avrig (42 km/26 miles, 330 altitude m). Today you can expect a beautiful cycling day. You will get to know the area where the 3 main cultures in Transylvania meet: Hungarian-Szeklers, Transylvanian Saxons and Romanians. Cycling route takes you through charming villages founded in medieval times with Lutheran fortified churches (Bradu, Sacadate, Avrig-town), old Orthodox Churches, a religion that although nowadays represents the majority, had it's struggles during medieval times and even later during the Habsburg domination. Be ready for unique baroque ensemble – the former summer residence of the Transylvanian governor Samuel von Brukenthal. Enjoy a visit in this historic manor and feel the charm of the spacious gardens dating from the 18th century – this will be an unparalleled experience - unique in Transylvania. (Hotel 4*, meals included: breakfast and dinner).

6th Day: Avrig – Veseud-Agnita (approx. 47 km, 465 altitude m). Today's ride follows a lovely quiet country road through charming little Romanian villages in central Romania. You will love your accomodation, a beautiful authentic traditional Romanian house. (Hotel 3*, meals included: breakfast and dinner).

7th Day: Veseud-Agnita – Sighisoara (approx. 55 km, 386 altitude m). Quiet cycling route through numerous villages and fortified churches and castles. Arriving to the city of Sighisoara is like going back in time. The origins of the city date back to Roman times. Today, this perfectly intact 16th century gem (designated as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO) still stands as one of the most beautiful and best-preserved medieval towns in Europe. It is also the birthplace of Vlad Dracula or Vlad the Impaler, ruler of the province of Walachia from 1456 to 1462. We don't need to mention that he was the one who inspired Bram Stoker's fictional creation, Count Dracula, do we? (Hotel 4*, meals included: breakfast and dinner).

8th Day: Sighisoara – Bran (approx. 43 km, 342 altitude m). What a day! Full of history, the myth and magic! It starts with a short transfer but soon you'll change the transport and start cycling towards Rupea Fortress, one of the most interesting medieval castles in Romania. Guarded by thick strong walls, the fortress is located on top of a hill near the Carpathian Mountains. The legend of Rupea Fortress speaks that the last king of the Dacians took his life on the hill. In fact, many historians believe that Rupea Fortress was in fact built on old Dacian ruins. After seeing this beauty in company with a local guide, cycling continues towards Bran and its famous Dracula castle which offers splendid views of the Bucegi Mountains. A mighty castle, which served as an impressive backstage for Roman Polanskis 'Dance of the Vampires' film and for Queen Mary of Romania, a granddaughter of Queen Victoria, as salon and refuge. (Hotel 4*, meals included: breakfast and dinner).

9th Day: Bran – Brasov (approx. 37 km, 105 altitude m). Today starts with a short transfer to avoid the busy road but soon you will start on your two wheels toward another jewel of Romania. Surrounded by the peaks of the Southern Carpathian Mountains and resplendent with gothic, baroque and renaissance architecture, as well as a wealth of historical attractions, Brasov is one of the most visited places in Romania. (Hotel 3*, meals included: breakfast and dinner).

10th Day: Brasov – Bucharest. After breakfast transfer to Bucharest where the program ends. Enjoy some free time in this beautiful Romanian metropolis. (Hotel 4*, meals included: breakfast).

11th Day: Departure or extension. Extra nights on request. (Meals included: breakfast).

Price per person:

2,060 € (min and max 8 people) 2,335 € (7 people)

Price includes: 10 overnights with breakfast in Hotels 3* and 4* with en suite facilities, 9 dinners (sometimes in hotel, sometimes in good restaurant outside the property), *English speaking tour guide / driver who escorts the group in a van with a bike trailer, quality classic trekking bike Sub Cross 30 with one bike (back) pannier, all transfers as described in tour program, luggage transfers between the hotels, 4 guided city tours with local guides (English speaking), entrance in Rupea Fortress, organization and VAT.

*Tour guide is included from Day 1 at 6.30pm when he meets the group in Hotel in Bucharest until Day 10 after the transfer of the group from Brasov to Bucharest.

Optional supplements: – single accomodation 275 €.

What's not included; Arrival / departure to / from first / last hotel, flight tickets, travel insurance, tip, lunch's, drinks and all other expenses that are not mentioned in what's included description.

Accomodations; Mixture of 3* and 4* hotels & private guesthouse's with en suite facilities.

Category: Easy cycling holiday, mostly on tarmac roads (only approx. 2 km of the track is on gravel road), although on some parts the asphalt is in quite bad condition.

Key information; This tour is designed for a small cycling group (max 8 pax), where the tour guide is driver at the same time (he escorts the group in a van). We strongly believe that smaller number of guests creates a good group dynamic; you'll get to know people from different backgrounds with a shared interest in travel. Besides the tour guide who is with you throughout the tour, we added the local guides for

some cities as well, as this way, you'll get a unique insight into local life. Locals know the stories behind the sights.

Date; 7.9.2019 – 17.9.2019 (10 nights/11 days).

*Extra nights before / after tour in Bucharest on request.