

Walking the Carpathians: Footpaths in Romania

September 24, 2016 Bucharest - Bran (D)

Arrival at Henri Coanda airport, Bucharest. We will then transfer 150 kilometres by minibus to Bran, passing through the Prahova valley of the southern Carpathian Mountains. The breathtaking scenery includes the steep Bucegi range, among Romania's highest mountains. We arrive in Bran for a wine tasting and then dinner at our guesthouse.

**September 25, 2016 Bran (B, L, D)
(approx. 13km walk, 670 m climb, 5h)**

Today's walk is in the Bran-Rucar corridor, a hilly valley between Bucegi and the Piatra Craiului mountains. We will see pastures dotted with shepherd's huts and hay meadows as well as views of the southern Carpathian peaks prior to our return to Bran.



**September 26, 2016 Bran (B, L, D)
(4h walking, approx 13km, 600 m climb)**

After a short transfer to Piatra Craiului National Park, we begin our walk on a country road climbing through the Zarnesti gorges, passing beautiful massives and contrasting limestone profiles. This area is home to the Carpathian large carnivore project. At the end of the gorges we climb through the woods to the alpine meadows of Magura and Pestera, typical Romanian altitude villages. After our descent we return to Bran by bus.

**September 27, 2016 Bran – Brasov – Sighisoara (B, L, D)
(approx 10 km, 3 h walking, ~250 m climb)**

Today we transfer to Poiana Brasov ski resort and begin our walk with a quick climb and then descend unto the centre of Brasov (Konstadt), one of Transylvania's major cities. Walking through the well preserved medieval centre we walk past the Black Church, the City Council Square and the ramparts erected by the Saxons. After lunch in Brasov we transfer to Sighisoara. This UNESCO protected town sits on a hilltop and is surrounded by ramparts. After leaving our luggage at the hotel we will stroll the narrow cobbled medieval streets seeing the ramparts and the brightly colored facades. We will tour the fortress, the clock tower and bastions and pass the house where Vlad Tepes (Dracula) was born about 600 years ago. Our accommodation is a 3* hotel built in 1520 situated in the centre of the old town.

September 28, 2016 Sighisoara – Viscri – Sighisoara (B, L, D)
(7 km, 200 m climb, 2 h walk, cart ride)

After a transfer to Mesendorf, an old Saxon village, we will walk across the hills to the Tarnava Mare Natura 2000 site. At the edge of the Viscri forest we will be picked up by horse drawn carts and taken to Viscri. Saxon colonist arrived here 800 to 900 years ago building the town and feudal society. With the Red army invasion and the communist era most of this has disappeared; however, a large open-air museum, which we will visit, portrays the Saxon heritage. We will have lunch in Viscri, visit the fortified church and return to Sighisoara.



September 29, 2016 Sighisoara – Sighisoara (B)
(Optional 2-3 hour hike)

A full day of rest or you may enjoy an optional 2-3 hour hike starting directly from the city on Breithe plateau, a reserve aimed to protect hilltop meadows dotted with centuries old oaks. Accommodation as per the previous night.

September 30, 2016 Sighisoara – Lacu Rosu (B, L, D)
(2 h walking, 5 km, 250 m climb)

We transfer today through the land of the Szekeli minority with their unique architecture and traditions. We travel through beautiful landscapes and villages and visit one of Romania's largest salt mines used for therapeutic treatments. After a locally sourced lunch at Basa Fogada, a 110 year old restaurant, we continue eastward crossing the next mountain chain into Moldova. Our accommodation is at the Red Lake Resort and in the late afternoon we will enjoy a short walk with wonderful vistas of the Bicajel and Bicaz valleys and gorges, all part of the Hasmas Mountains National Park. Accommodation is in a 3* hotel.

October 1, 2016 Lacu Rosu (B, L, D)
(about 6h trekking, 700 m climb, aprox 10 km)

Today's hike is in the Hasmas National Park where the mountains, pastoral life and surviving ancient rituals have a special charm. After climbing a steep hill and crossing a dark forest, we arrive at the White Meadow, finally reaching an altitude of 1797 metres with spectacular views over eastern Transylvania and the Moldavian Carpathians. The vistas include white limestone crags, green meadows, little lakes, sheepfolds and maybe some wild horses. Here we will savor a leisurely picnic lunch before our return to Lacu Rosa.

October 2, 2016 Lacu Rosu (B, L, D)
(700 m climb, 11 km, about 6 h walking)

A 30 minute transfer through the Bicaz Gorges takes us to the start of our walk today. This morning we walk through the Bicajel canyon to the meadows on the ridges of the Hasmas foothills. After a picnic lunch we will return to Lacu Rosa.

October 3, 2016 Lacu Rosu – Tusnad – Brasov (B, L, D)
(600 m climb, aprox 6 km, aprox 4-5 h walking)

This morning we leave Lacu Rosu and drive back to Transylvania. After a two hour transfer, we arrive at the base of Ciomadu Mountain. Here we climb the volcanic slopes covered in deep woods and eventually descend into the volcanic crater, now one of the only volcanic lakes in

Eastern Europe. If temperatures permit you can opt to swim in the crystal waters! After our descent we will continue by bus to Brasov. Accommodation is in a 3* hotel in the main town square.

October 4, 2016

Brasov – Bucharest

(B, L, D)

After breakfast we transfer to Bucharest where we drop our luggage in our city centre accommodation. We will then go on a walking tour of this astounding metropolis that stands at the crossroads of east and west, once known as the little Paris and now making a comeback after the communist period. We will see the stunning communist built Palace of the Parliament, the second largest administrative building on earth. Our farewell dinner tonight is in a downtown restaurant.

October 5, 2016

Bucharest – Canada

(B)

There may be a short period for some independent city exploration before our final transfer to the airport and flight home.

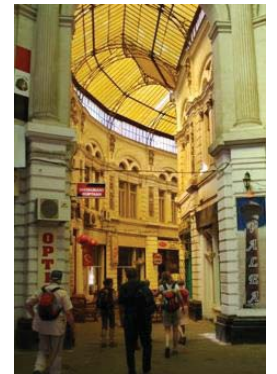


The Tour Pricing Includes:

- Tour escort Charles Whitlock throughout the tour
- Return air as noted including all air taxes as of June 2015
- 11 night's accommodation in 3* hotels and guesthouses and all taxes
- Full board / all meals for the entire land tour (most of the lunches are picnics) excluding on our rest day (September 29) when only breakfast is included
- Welcome wine tasting in Rhine wine cellars
- all necessary transfers by minibus
- all entrance fees for the visits included into the itinerary
- English speaking mountain guide for the entire program

The price doesn't include:

- Alcoholic beverages, others than those mentioned above, except tea/coffee with dinner
- Medical insurance
- Meals not indicated
- Gratuities



Exclusive reservations through:

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