

Romania Guided Walking Holiday

Tour Style: European Multi-Centre

Destination: Romania

Trip code: ROWHW

Trip Walking Grade: 3



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

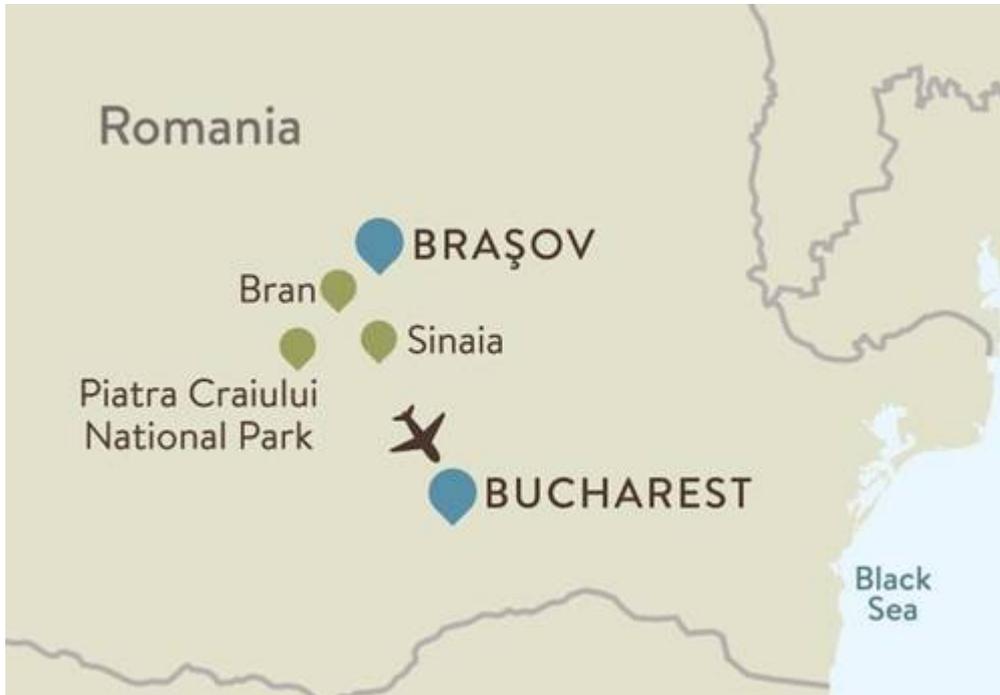
Tucked away in eastern Europe, Romania is home to mountainous landscapes with exhilarating beauty, a plethora of fairy-tale castles, medieval towns and a capital city (Bucharest) whose wide boulevards and French-style architecture earned it the nickname of 'Little Paris'. Travel away from Bucharest and you might be forgiven for thinking you've stepped back in time; people in many rural regions live traditional lives where the horse and cart are still the main mode of transport. In the centre of Romania lies Transylvania – fictional home of the character Count Dracula as well as Bran Castle – said to have been Bram Stoker's inspiration for Dracula's castle. On this multi-centre guided walking and sightseeing holiday, we'll discover some of the country's beautiful landscapes, rich history and peaceful mountains.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- A full programme of guided walks led by a local guide
- 'With flight' holidays include return flights from the UK and hotel transfers
- All transport, including cable car rides
- Half Board en-suite accommodation - 7 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 7 evening meals
- Sightseeing and entrance fees

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Sightseeing with an expert guide in Bucharest including the Palace of Parliament
- A visit to Bran Castle – said to be the inspiration for Dracula's castle
- Cable car up into the Bucegi Mountains for great high level but easier walking
- Discover medieval Brasov



ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival In Bucharest

On arrival we transfer from the airport to Bucharest and our hotel. The rest of the day is then at leisure, giving you a chance to relax before our welcome dinner this evening.

Day 2: Bucharest

Today we enjoy a walking tour of Romania's cosmopolitan capital city, well-known for its wide boulevards and fine pre-World War I buildings which lead to the city gaining the moniker "Little Paris".

Day 3: Across The Carpathian Mountains

Today we travel north across the Carpathians to Brasov, where we spend the next 4 nights. Enroute, we stop in Sinaia, where we visit the beautiful Peles Castle before we continue our journey to Braşov.

On arrival in Braşov, your local guide will offer a short orientation walk to introduce you to the town. Enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure before dinner.

Day 4: Through The Meadows From Mesendorf To Viscri

We depart for Mesendorf, where we begin today's walk. We walk over the hills and through the meadows to Viscri, a beautiful Saxon village famous for its UNESCO listed fortified church.

Distance: 8 miles (13km)

Total ascent: 800 feet (240 metres)

Day 5: Piatra Craiului Mountains

Today we explore the southern Carpathians in the Piatra Craiului National Park, an area protecting many species of flora and fauna, including fungi, lichens and mosses, flowers, herbs, insects and reptiles as well as over 100 species of birds, 15 species of bat and large mammals including chamois, wolves, brown bears and lynx. We walk through this landscape and end with a visit to the famous Bran Castle, commonly known as Dracula's Castle.

Distance: 8 miles (13km)

Total ascent: 1,200 feet (360m)

Day 6: Fagaras Mountains

Enjoy a full day exploring one of the most beautiful and highest mountain ranges in Romania. We travel to Balea Lake, a glacial lake situated at over 2,000m above sea level, and walk in the surrounding landscapes.

Distance: 4 Miles (6.5km)

Total ascent: 2,500 feet (750m)

Day 7: Bucegi Mountains

Today we explore the Bucegi Mountains. Visit Busteni and marvel at curious rock formations as we walk to the Cota 2000 station, enjoying spectacular views as we go. We return to Bucharest, where this evening we enjoy a special farewell dinner.

Distance: 8 miles (13km)

Total ascent: 400 feet (120m)

Day 8: Departure Day

Depart the hotel and transfer to the airport for our flight home.

ACCOMMODATION

Moxa Boutique Hotel, Bucharest - Romania

Our first two and final nights are spent in Romania's capital, Bucharest. We stay at the 4-star Moxa Boutique Hotel on Calea Victoriei, one of Bucharest's oldest and most charming avenues, where cosy en-suite rooms combine sophisticated style with guest comfort. The hotel features free Wi-Fi, a lovely garden terrace and a spa/fitness centre. The hotel is ideally located in Bucharest and is within walking distance of many of the city's key attractions.

Hotel Safrano, Braşov - Romania

We spend four nights in the charming city of Braşov, where we stay at the Hotel Safrano. This delightful 3-star hotel is in the heart of the city's Old Town: it's within walking distance of some of Braşov's key attractions,

including the Black Church, and enjoys great views of the stunning surrounding area. With 30 spacious rooms, each decorated in an individual style, enjoy complimentary Wi-Fi, tea and coffee making facilities and complimentary toiletries. The hotel offers bicycle rental, should you wish to explore further.

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Weather & Seasonality

All our tours depart in the summer months when we hope to have some warm sunny days, although rain can fall at any time.

Joining Instructions (With Flights)

On arrival, please proceed to the arrivals hall once you have passed through passport control, customs and baggage reclaim. Your HF Holidays leader or local leader will assemble the group in the arrivals hall - look out for the HF Holidays' sign.

Joining Instructions (Without Flights)

If you are arriving ahead of the group, and are meeting them at the first hotel, please leave a message at the hotel reception for the HF Holidays' leader or local leader, detailing your room number, and a mobile telephone number if possible. The leader will contact you once the group arrives.

If you are arriving after the group, a message will be left for you at the hotel reception, welcoming you and giving details of the time and place to meet the group.

If your flight arrives before the group flight and you would like to join the transfer to the first hotel (at additional cost), please contact our Abroad Administration team on (0)20 8732 1261 to enquire about availability and make arrangements

Essential Information

As you'll be carrying your own luggage at airports and between your transport and hotels, we recommend you try to keep your luggage to a minimum.

These items are a general suggestion of what to pack for an active outdoor and walking holiday; depending on your destination, you may need more of some things and less – or none! – of others.

We advise being prepared for all weather conditions, but you'll know best what you prefer to wear when out walking or while taking part in other outdoor activities.

- Walking boots (worn in), with good ankle support and spare bootlaces
- Walking socks
- Lightweight fleece, waterproof trousers and jacket
- Shorts and short-sleeved t-shirts
- Long trousers and long-sleeved light-coloured shirts with collars to protect from the sun.

We recommend wearing walking boots on all our walks, as these provide the best ankle support and grip. Modern 'approach shoes' offer appropriate levels of grip and may be worn on some low-level walks, but users should be aware that they offer less ankle support. Lightweight trainers are not recommended for any walks.

Your clothing should ideally be pre-treated with insect repellent and in-built sun protection (available from specialist clothing stores such as Rohan, Cotswold Outdoor).

- Warm fleece, scarf/buff hat and gloves
- Comfortable clothes and shoes for evenings and sightseeing
- Sun protection – sun hat, sunglasses, high factor sunscreen and lip protection

- Water bottle – at least 2-litre capacity
- Lightweight survival bag
- Small/medium rucksack (30 litre) and a liner or cover to keep contents dry
- Insect repellent
- Personal first aid kit including: personal medication, tissues, plasters, blister kit, painkillers, antiseptic wipes, Imodium, rehydration sachets; hand sanitiser

Essential

- Passport (and copies)
- Booking confirmation
- Insurance cover note
- HF Holidays' registration form.

Please ensure you have access to emergency funds should you need them; carrying a credit card is probably the most convenient method.

Optional

- trekking poles
- camera
- umbrella
- binoculars
- high energy food bar

Please note that your HF Holidays' leader reserves the right to refuse to take any guest on a walk should they consider that a lack of suitable clothing/footwear may affect safety.

Safety On Your Holiday

Insurance is a condition of booking. Therefore, if you have not already arranged insurance, it is imperative that you do so, and advise us of the insurance company and policy number.

We have negotiated special holiday insurance and full details of this cover can be found in our brochure or at www.hfholidays.co.uk.

If you would like to purchase insurance from us, please call us on 020 8732 1220 or email holidayservices@hfholidays.co.uk.

For more information about healthcare abroad and its costs, please visit: www.dh.gov.uk/travellers.

If you are arranging your own travel insurance, please ensure it is adequate for your specific itinerary. Generally, this should include cover for walking at altitudes over 2,000m, which will cover you for a wide range of our holidays.

Once you have made your booking, you will receive a pre-holiday questionnaire where we ask for details of next of kin and insurance details. **You must complete and return this to us - we need to have this from you at least 10 weeks before travel.**

Please also inform us of any medical situation which may affect your enjoyment of the holiday. This is important because our leaders must consider both group and individual safety at all times.

Whilst out with the group, we respectfully request that you:

- Please listen to any safety instructions from the leader
- Keep group members in view, especially if weather or visibility is poor
- Please stay where you are if you become separated from the group. The leader will retrace their steps to find you.

Each leader carries a first aid kit but is not allowed to supply any medication including aspirin, paracetamol,

antihistamines and antiseptic cream. You may wish to bring these items with you in your own kit (see Suggested Kit List).

In the unlikely event that your leader is incapacitated, please use any emergency kit in their rucksack and call emergency services on 112. Please then call our emergency number and let us know there is a problem

Dietary Requirements

Please contact us as far in advance as possible if you have any specific dietary requirements; we will do our best to accommodate you.

If you require a specific meal on the flight, please let us know as soon as possible, and no later than 96 hours before travel.

Vaccinations & Health

This information is subject to change. In all cases, we **highly recommend** you consult your GP both for up to date details and for more information on what is appropriate to your situation. As a rule, travellers should be up to date with their routine vaccinations and boosters as recommended in the UK - including, for example, the MMR and diphtheria, tetanus, polio vaccines.

Requirements can change, and we recommend you check in good time ahead of your holiday.

Please note: the use or possession of some common prescription or over-the-counter medicines is banned in some countries.

If you will be carrying medication, please check with the country's embassy/consulate prior to travel. As an extra precaution, it is recommended to:

- Keep medication in its original packet
- Take a copy of your prescription
- If possible, ask your chemist to write the name of your medication in the language of the country you're visiting

Passports & Visas

Passports

Passports must be valid for the duration of your stay; generally, you are recommended to have at least 6 months validity beyond the end date of your holiday on your passport.

Visas

Visas are not currently required for UK travellers; however, this may change depending on the outcome of negotiations on the UK's exit from the EU.

Luggage

If your bag or its contents are damaged or lost while in the airline's care, this should be reported to the baggage service agents at the airport on arrival. They will assess the damage; in some cases, the airline may decide to settle your claim immediately.

You will be given a reference to quote to your insurance company if an immediate settlement is not possible - in many cases, baggage claims can only be accepted in writing. A baggage claim form must be obtained from the airport.

Romanian is the main and official language, but many other languages – including Hungarian, German and Bulgarian – are also widely spoken, often co-officially at a local level.

Local Currency

The local currency is the Romanian Leu (RON).

We would recommend taking RON which can be obtained in the UK, we would advise against exchanging GBP in the airport as the exchange rate is bad. RON can be obtained in cash at ATM machines which are widely available.

Local Time

GMT +2

Electricity

220V, round European two-pin sockets. We recommend you take a universal plug adaptor for UK appliances.

ATM Availability

Card payments are widely accepted in Romania and ATMs are available in all towns. Some cash is useful for small purchases.

HOW TO BOOK

When you're ready to book, you can choose to **book online** or book **over the phone**. Our website offers secure online booking for our holidays, is available 24/7, and offers more in-depth information about all our holidays. If you prefer to call us, our experienced and knowledgeable team are available to answer any specific questions you have and can offer guidance as to which holiday is best suited to your needs.

Our office is open: Monday to Friday: 9am – 7pm Saturday: 9am – 1pm Sunday & Bank Holiday Monday: closed

PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

To secure the holiday of your choice, you will need to pay a deposit: UK & European Holidays: £150 per person and Worldwide Holidays: £250 per person. You can pay your deposit by debit or credit card with no additional card fees charged or make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account, please see details under BACS payments. You can also pay your deposit by cheque within seven days of booking. Cheques should be made payable to 'HF Holidays Ltd' with your booking reference / Order ID on the back.

NON-MEMBER FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying a Non-Member's fee of £30 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full membership is available from £100 – visit hfholidays.co.uk/membership for details.

BACS PAYMENTS

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: Svenska Handelsbanken AB (publ) Account Name: HF Holidays Ltd Account Number: 35923304 Sort Code: 40-51-62 IBAN: GB92HAND40516235923304 Swift / Bic Code: HANDGB22

Once we have received your booking and deposit, we will send a confirmation invoice to the lead name. Please check this carefully. For bookings 'with flights' it is essential that the names on your booking confirmation invoice match those on your passport for bookings overseas. Please advise us immediately of any errors. Any name changes after the balance of your holiday has been paid will be subject to a fee levied by the airline.

MANAGE MY BOOKINGS

Payments can also be made through the Manage My Booking function on our website. Click on the link at the top of our homepage. This is available to all customers who provide an email address at the time of booking.

YOUR FINAL BALANCE

The balance is due 10 weeks before departure. As with paying your deposit, you can pay your final balance by debit or credit card, make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account or pay by cheque.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking and essential for one of our holidays. HF Holidays works with specialist. Insurance Brokers Campbell Irvine Direct. For more information or to obtain a quote call them on 01702 427 236 or visit hfholidays.co.uk/insurance

PEACE OF MIND

ATOL:

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL-protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 710. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid us for advance bookings. For further information visit the ATOL website atol.org.uk

MEMBER OF ABTOT:

HF Holidays is a member of ABTOT (The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited) which provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for HF Holidays Ltd and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following: 1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK; 2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; 3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland, which are sold to customers outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland. 1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with HF Holidays Ltd.

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

PRICE GUARANTEE

We promise that our earliest published prices will always be the best and if we reduce our holiday price after your booking has been confirmed, we will pass this reduction on to you. Our price promise applies if any subsequent offer price is for an identical holiday, duration, location and date and does not cover any optional extras, flights or additional services.

Document produced: 21-09-2021

