

# Tales & Trails of Transylvania

**Tour Style:** Guided walking

**Destination:** Romania

**Trip code:** ROLCL

**Trip Walking Grade:** 3



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

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Busting the myth of the storm-lashed spooky backwater depicted in Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, this Transylvania tour brings a new perspective on a place immortalised in Western culture. Tucked away in the dramatic curve of the Carpathian Mountains, it's a land of rugged peaks, rolling hills, and Gothic castles fit to house horror's most iconic character. Walk captivating trails in vast national parks teeming with wildlife and tales from the past. Soak up the rich history at Bran Castle and take a thrilling cable car ride over the Bucegi Plateau. There'll also be guided tour of Romania's capital, Bucharest, and visits to traditional Transylvanian villages like Viscri that preserve the region's unique charm and heritage.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- Return flights from London Heathrow, including baggage and transfers
- Guided walks and sightseeing with local leaders
- HF Holidays Tour Manager
- 6 nights' accommodation in Brasov & 1 night in Bucharest
- 7 breakfasts & 7 dinners
- All in-destination transport

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## HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

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- Exploring the beautiful Carpathian Mountain range
- Visiting Piatra Craiului National Park and the Rasnoava Valley
- Discovering the history of Bran Castle, famed for its associations with Dracula
- Guided tours of both Brasov and Romania's capital, Bucharest
- Views over the Bucegi Plateau on a cable car ride
- Spending time in traditional Transylvanian villages, including Viscri

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## TRIP SUITABILITY

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On this holiday there will be walking each day at one level with our local guide. This will vary between 4 - 8.5 miles (6.5 - 13.5 km). Ascents will be up to 1,390 feet (425 m) on Day 7, with the highest notable descent on Day 3 of 1,540 feet (470 m), as we start at the highest point at Predeal.

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## ITINERARY

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### Day 1: Arrival Day

We arrive in Bucharest, join our local guide and transfer onwards to Brasov, with an introduction to our tour on the way. Our dinner this evening will be a set menu selection of traditional Romanian fayre.

### Day 2: Southern Carpathians & Dracula's Castle

**Distance:** 6.5 miles (10km)

**Total Ascent:** 770 feet (235m)

**Total Descent:** 985 feet (300m)

We begin with a walking tour of historic Brasov, before heading to the eastern hills of Piatra Craiului, a beautiful mountain range of southern Carpathians. We'll cross through Zarnesti Gorges and Magura village, descending to visit famous Dracula's Castle in Bran. On a rocky outcrop guarding the entrance to a mountain pass, the castle was built by the Saxons in the late 14th century. Inside you'll find displays of rich Western European furniture, which Queen Marie, granddaughter of Queen Victoria, purchased in the 1920s when the castle was a royal residence.

### Day 3: Cheile Rasnoavei & Rasnoava Valley

**Distance:** 4.5 miles (7.5km)

**Total Ascent:** 200 feet (60m)

**Total Descent:** 1,540 feet (470m)

Starting in Predeal, the highest-located town in Romania, on the former border between the provinces of Wallachia and Transylvania, we'll explore the wild and spectacular landscape that stretches throughout the entire area all the way to Rasnoava Valley. Here the beautiful gorges, steep cliffs, and karst formations offer a fascinating visual landscape, and the contrast between the rocky walls and the crystalline waters of the Rasnoava River creates a magical setting for our walk.

### Day 4: Bucegi National Park

**Distance:** 4.5 miles (7.5km)

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**Total Ascent:** 1,000 feet (315m)

**Total Descent:** 590 feet (180m)

Our walk begins in the popular mountain destination of Bucegi, from where we take the cable car transfer up to 2,200m. We will pass Babele and Sfinx on our route, taking in a unique complex of carved rock formations and enjoying beautiful views over the Cross of Caraiman, a monument dedicated to rail workers who died serving their country during World War I. From here we descend to the town of Busteni and continue our journey back to Brasov.

## Day 5: Free Day

Each week there is a free day when no guided walks are offered. This is an ideal opportunity to relax around the hotel, walk independently, or visit local places of interest.

You may decide to explore more of Brasov. We recommend a ride on the cable car up to the top of Mount Tampa, to soak up the views of Brasov below and the scenery beyond.

## Day 6: Viscri & Rural Transylvania

Distance: 8.5 miles (13.5km)

Total Ascent: 1,015 feet (310m)

Total Descent: 1,015 feet (310m)

Step back in time as we head from Mesendorf, over hills and through meadows to reach the remote traditional village of Viscri. With the help of benefactors, including King Charles III, restoration schemes have helped save many villages, and Viscri is the most famous example. Here barns, cottages, cattle troughs and more have been repaired and rustic skills re-introduced. After our walk we can explore the village and have a tour of Viscri's UNESCO-listed fortified church. We'll enjoy a leisurely evening, with a set menu dinner at our hotel.

## Day 7: Poiana Tapului & Bucharest

**Distance:** 4 miles (6.5km)

**Total Ascent:** 1,390 feet (425m)

**Total Descent:** 1,150 feet (350m)

Today's tour takes us from the charming mountain village of Poiana Tapului, through the vistas of mountains and meadows, to reach Sinaia, home to a historic 17th century monastery and the neo-Renaissance Peles Castle. After the walk, we will continue onward by coach back to Bucharest, where we'll enjoy an insightful city tour, seeing landmarks including The Palace of the Parliament, before our final dinner at a local restaurant and overnight stay.

## Day 8: Departure

Transfer to the airport for the flight home.

## ACCOMMODATION

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### Hotel Prinz Gregor

Located in the heart of the historical city of Brasov, the Prinz Gregor offers an ideal base for guests looking to

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explore Transylvania. Each room is furnished with taste and attention to detail, offering all mod cons for a relaxing stay. There's also a small-but-stylish restaurant serving breakfast and evening meals.

## Mercure Bucharest City

With decor inspired by some of Romania's most famous composers, the Mercure Bucharest City is music to the ears of any tourist looking for a relaxing stay in a great location. The Romanian Athenaeum, the Royal Palace and the National Art Museum are all within walking distance and 114 spacious rooms offer a welcoming place to unwind. Enjoy views over the city skyline, decor portraying scenes of early 20th century Bucharest, and in the morning, a generous continental breakfast buffet.

## USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

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### Joining Instructions (With Flights)

Book your holiday 'with flights' and you can choose to depart from a range of UK airports\* to your destination. For latest flight times and prices please call us on 0203-974-8865 or email [reservations@hfholidays.co.uk](mailto:reservations@hfholidays.co.uk)

If you choose to book your flights with us, we automatically include return transfers between the destination airport and hotel.

### Joining Instructions (Without Flights)

Alternatively, tailor your journey to suit you by booking your holiday 'without flights' and you'll have the freedom to book your own flights from your local airport.

\*Subject to availability

## Essential Information

It's best to be prepared for all weather conditions. To make it easier, here is a list of items you should consider packing.

### Essentials

- Walking boots
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Insulated jacket/top
- Walking clothing
- Walking socks (plus spares)
- Sunhat
- Gloves/mitts and warm hat
- Water bottle (minimum 2 litre capacity)
- Headtorch
- High-factor sunscreen (minimum SPF 30)
- Sunglasses with a dark lens
- Rucksack (15-30 litres)
- Mobile phone
- Personal first aid kit (containing your medication, blister plasters, etc.)
- Passport
- Visa (if applicable)
- Copy of your travel insurance policy
- UK Global Health Insurance Card (**formerly known as EHIC**)

### Recommended

- Collapsible walking poles
- Swimwear and travel towel
- Snacks
- Dry bags
- Rubbish bags
- Insect repellent

### Optional extras

- Camera
- Sit mat
- Flask for hot drinks
- Durable lunch box
- Gaiters
- GPS device

## Useful Information

### Travel Insurance

Travel 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 work with Campbell Irvine to provide you with competitive single and annual multi-trip insurance. Please see our website for more information and details of how to contact them for a quote:

<https://www.hfholidays.co.uk/about-us/booking-information/insurance>.

For more information about healthcare abroad and its costs, please visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/>.

## TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

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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.

**Document produced:** 21-05-2025

