

Transylvania and Bucharest



TRIP OVERVIEW

Magical, mythical Transylvania, “the last truly medieval landscape in Europe”, takes you back in time to a world of Saxon villages and hilltop citadels. Discover the birthplace of Vlad the Impaler, delve into the legend of Dracula at Bran Castle, and delight in the fairy-tale landscape of dark forests surrounding colourful towns and fortified church steeples poking through the treetops. Conclude with a visit to the Romanian capital of Bucharest, taking in the historic yet dynamic Old Town.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to Romania. Please take the time to read this dossier to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our tour. It includes important details such as visa requirements.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

DAY 1: UK to Poiana Brasov D

Depart from London on your scheduled flight to Bucharest. On arrival transfer to your hotel in the ski resort of Poiana Brasov. Relax with a welcome dinner.

DAY 2: Brasov B

After breakfast head for nearby Brasov for a morning walking tour around the wonderfully well-preserved medieval and baroque old town. Start at its heart, in the venerable main square (Piata Sfatului) – also known as German Square – where modern café life buzzes against a background of stunning Saxon architecture. You can't miss Brasov's most prominent landmark, the 'Black Church', so called after being charred in a great fire in 1689. Travel back in time at the First Romanian School museum, then marvel at the adjacent Gothic spires of the 16th century St Nicholas Cathedral. In the afternoon enjoy an excursion to the 14th century Bran Castle, built as a clifftop defensive fortress and cloaked in Dracula legend. Under the direction of Queen Marie in the 1920s it was transformed into modern summer residence fit for royalty

DAY 3: Sighisoara & Biertan B

This morning it's off to UNESCO-listed Sighisoara for a walk around the cobbled streets of one of Europe's oldest citadels. The first thing to hit you is the riot of colour, with buildings painted in bright oranges, yellows, blues and pinks creating a dazzling canvas. It has a colourful history too, being the birthplace of Vlad the Impaler. The 14th century Clock Tower, offers a spectacular panorama from the top and a covered stairway leads to the "Church on the Hill", a fine example of Gothic architecture. Move on to the Saxon village of Biertan, home to the finest and largest fortified church in Transylvania.

DAY 4: To Bucharest via Prejmer and Sinaia B

Today we head for Bucharest, stopping first to see the impressive UNESCO-listed Saxon citadel of Prejmer. With walls 40 ft high and 15 ft thick, plus bastions, drawbridges it's perhaps no surprise that in 500 years it was besieged 50 times but only captured once. Then on to Sinaia, first to marvel at the unashamedly opulent neo-Renaissance masterpiece that is Peles Castle, commissioned by King Carol I in 1873 as a summer residence. Then visit Sinaia Monastery, with a history dating back 300

years and a dual function as a shelter for the needy and a strategic lookout over the Prahova River valley below.

DAY 5: Bucharest B/D

Romania's capital city has seen some turbulent times but has re-emerged as a dynamic, vibrant and welcoming city. Today's walking tour will give you a fascinating glimpse into its historic old town, the Lipscani District, an area that was neglected by the communist regime because of its bourgeois merchant roots and has been slowly regenerating since 1989. Besides the main arteries of Lipscani Street and Covaci Street, a warren of side streets reveal antiques stores, fashionable boutiques and hidden courtyards. You'll also see the beautiful 18th century Stavropoleos Monastery, with stunning ceiling frescoes in the Brancovenesc style. In the evening a farewell dinner can be enjoyed at a local restaurant.

DAY 6: Bucharest to UK or extension B

After breakfast the morning is yours to explore Bucharest at your own pace. In the afternoon transfer to the airport for your return flight to the UK, or continue on to your chosen extension.



ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP

Accommodation

Your accommodation is selected for convenience, location, comfort or character. Hotel accommodation is generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note there is no international classification system for hotels, and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the UK and Romania. All group tours hotels have private bathroom facilities and air-conditioning, where needed.

Rest assured that all accommodation used by Mercury Holidays is regularly inspected by our staff and partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

If you have booked a triple share please note that your room will be a twin room with a rollaway bed or sofa bed added. This may limit the floor space in the room.

Meals

Breakfast is always western style and served in the hotel each morning. Dinner (when included) will be taken in local restaurants or at the hotel. A variety of restaurants are visited giving you the chance to experience a range of dishes and flavours.



ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival in Romania you will be met by a representative from our local agent, **Dertour**, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays/ **Dertour** representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. Your national guide will be on hand 24 hours a day should you have any queries, however if you need to contact your representative during your stay the details are:

Dertour

Telephone Number: 0040 724 320 926 or 0040 21 314 3002

Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for **Dertour** 24 hour:
0040 724 320 926

WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

Visas

A visa is not required for your trip to Romania. Further advice should be sought from the applicable tourist authority for other nationalities and for general queries. We strongly advise you check your destinations' Tourist Board or Embassy for the most up-to-date guidelines regarding passport validity.

Insurance

We strongly recommend that you and all members of your party are suitably insured as soon as you book your holiday. It is a condition of booking that you must have suitable travel insurance. It is important that you purchase travel insurance that suitably covers your participation in whatever activities you may undertake at the time that you make your booking. To assist you with this, we have arranged travel insurance in partnership with Holiday Extras. To arrange your travel insurance with Holiday Extras, please call 0800 781 4237 and quote 'WK830' for preferential rates. Please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Sunspot Tours will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

Health and Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to check any health and vaccination requirements applicable to your booked arrangements. We can only provide general information about this. Health and hygiene facilities and disease risks vary from country to country. You should take health advice about your own needs as early as possible and in good time before your departure. Sources of information include; www.fco.gov.uk, www.travelhealthpro.org.uk, www.hpa.org.uk, your General Practitioner or a specialist clinic.

Physical Accessibility

This tour is accessible to most people with a good level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves climbing of steep stairs and getting on and off coaches. This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties. All our tours feature a "Tour Pace" to help find the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights, climb stairs and get on and off coaches and boats. The tour pace for Transylvania & Bucharest is intermediate. A good level of fitness is required as you may be on your feet for approximately four hours in a day, though this will be interspersed with regular breaks and will vary from day to day. You will be walking around the sights, and

may be getting on and off coaches, trains and boats and climbing steps which may be irregular. You will stay in variety of hotels throughout the tour.

Our guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

Group Size

The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 10, and the maximum will be 40. If in the unlikely event there are less than 10 people booked on your tour date, we will endeavour to reduce any disruption to your holiday and try to operate your tour with lower passenger numbers. If we are not able to operate your departure date, then you may be asked to change to a different date and a full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

Tipping

It is at your customary to tip both your driver and guide. We would recommend to tip approximately 5 Euros per person per day. This is a total of €30 per person to budget for tips on your trip. Tips will be collected at the beginning/end of your tour. Tips are accepted in the local currency.

Tour Guides - Local Guides

This is a fully escorted tour meaning that you will be met by a local guide in each of the cities that you visit, ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times.

Private Tour

If you have booked a private tour then you will be accompanied by a Driver Guide or a Driver and Local Guides. These will be available to you during all scheduled sightseeing. Private Tours can depart on any day of the week depending on flight and train schedules and the opening days of the attractions. They will follow the itinerary as described in the brochure unless you have been advised otherwise and you will still have all of the same meals, sightseeing and local excursions included.

Currency Exchange

The currency in Romania is the Romanian Leu. We recommend that you exchange your currency before you leave the UK. It is important that you budget carefully and ensure you have the right form of currency before you arrive in the country. Cash machines will also

be available throughout the tour in order to withdraw money in your local currency.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry, any meals not included in the itinerary as well as drinks and any additional snacks. Approximately £200- £300 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour. It is a good idea to try and maintain a supply of small notes and change in the local currency for tipping or small purchases.

Credit Card Information

As normal practice you may be asked for your credit card details on check-in at the hotel in order to cover any extras incurred during your stay. If you do not have a credit card you may be asked for a cash

deposit. American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in hotels.

Itinerary changes

The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. The schedules of the domestic airlines in country are subject to frequent changes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction &/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

WHAT TO PACK

- Comfortable walking shoes
- Camera and charger
- A plug adaptor - the voltage in Romania 220 V
- Antibacterial hand gel
- Binoculars
- Personal first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin etc
- Sunglasses, Sunscreen and hat in summer
- Small day pack for excursions
- Sweater and jacket for the spring months
- Waterproof, lightweight jacket
- Lightweight clothing

FLIGHT INFORMATION

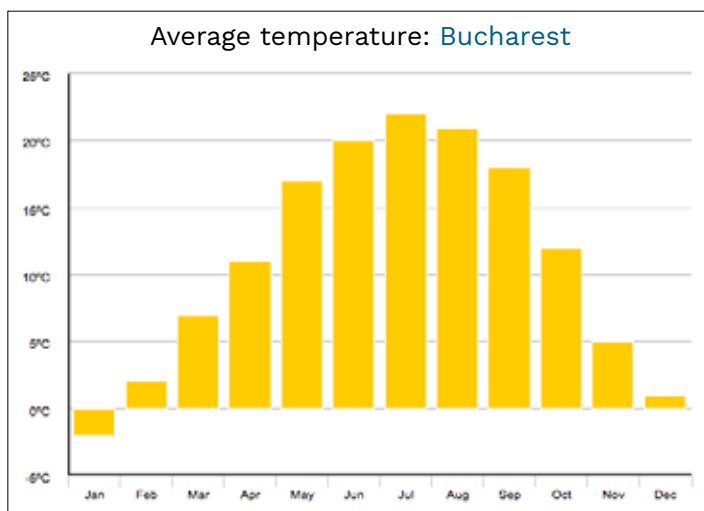
IMPORTANT: Please note that final flight details, including terminal, airline and baggage allowance, will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure. A printed E-ticket is no longer required at check-in, all you need to do is present your passport to the staff at the desk and your boarding pass will be given to you.

Airport Extras

If you wish to arrange Airport car parking or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras on 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate chart below.



Bucharest City Stay

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0333 003 0522



TRIP OVERVIEW

Located on the banks of the Dâmbovița River, Bucharest is a bustling metropolis with tree-lined boulevards, 17th and 18th century orthodox churches and fabulous Belle Époque buildings.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your add-on in Bucharest.

Hotel Information - Bucharest (2 nights)

Your stay in Bucharest will take place at the following hotel;

4★ Union Plaza Hotel & Sky Bar on Bed and Breakfast. Ideally located near all of Bucharest's major attractions, in the centre of Bucharest, on the popular Unirii Boulevard, and just a short walk from the Old Town. Union Plaza Hotel features accommodation with a restaurant, and Sky Bar. The rooms at Union Plaza Hotel feature air conditioning, a desk, a safety deposit box, a flat-screen TV, and a minibar.

Hotel Information

Address: Bulevardul Unirii 47C, București 030825, Romania.
Contact number: 0040 746 198 914

Any alternative hotels or board basis will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our reservations department if you are unsure. **Please note: the hotels listed are provided for guidance only and final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.**

Please note

This extension takes place after your main tour.

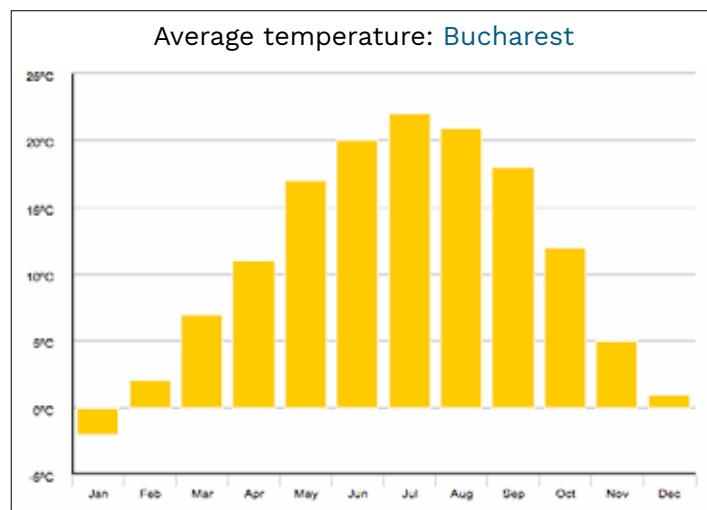
Personal Expenses

You will need to take some extra money with you to cover any meals not included, drinks and personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry and any snacks.

Tour Guides

Your stay in Bucharest is not escorted by a tour guide. All internal transfers are included.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE



FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information, call us on **0333 003 0522**

Bucharest, Sibiu & Piatra Neamt Mini Tour – pre tour extension

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0333 003 0522



TRIP OVERVIEW

Steeped in sophistication and layered with rich medieval history, Romania's rugged mountainside landscape frames a picturesque nation, scattered with crumbling monasteries and quaint stone churches. Witness some of the country's most captivating sights as you embark on a 5-night exploration of Romania before you begin your Transylvania and Bucharest Tour.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your pre-tour extension in Romania.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

Day 1: Bucharest

Depart from London on your scheduled flight to Bucharest. Upon arrival, you will be met by your representatives and transferred to your hotel.

Day 2: Bucharest to Sibiu B/D

Following breakfast, depart Bucharest and journey towards the municipality of Curtea de Arges. Dedicated to the Dormition of the Mother of God, marvel at a lavish example of Byzantine architecture as you visit the Cathedral Curtea de Arges whose appearance resembles that of an elaborate mausoleum. Continue onwards and discover the understated elegance of Sibiu, one of Romania's most charming historical cities. Enjoy a meal this evening in a local restaurant.

Day 3: Sibiu to Piatra Neamt via Sighisoara B/D

This morning, journey through the small city of Medias and head towards the UNESCO-listed metropolis of Sighisoara, an enchanting fortified city in the heart of Romania. Boasting a rich historical fabric which dates back to the 1100s, explore one of Europe's oldest citadels before basking in tranquillity and enjoying awe-inspiring vistas at the scenic Red Lake. Situated in the foothills of the Hasmasul Mare Mountains, this natural dam was formed following the collapse of a slope, caused by the earthquake of 1838. Later today, continue towards one of the country's oldest inhabited regions, Piatra Neamt - considered by many as the most picturesque city in Romania. Experience the local cuisine as you enjoy an evening meal in this charming metropolis.

Day 4: Piatra Neamt B/D

Today, experience the breath-taking passageway of Bicaz Gorge which spectacularly slices through the Romanian provinces of Moldova and Transylvania; along the winding 8-kilometre path, this enthralling journey passes through towering canyons with imposing rockfaces on one side, and a sheer drop on the other. Proceed to a trio of medieval Roman Orthodox Monasteries, commencing at the 15th century Neamt Monastery and continuing to Agapia and Varatec Monasteries which house two of Romania's largest communities of nuns. Later, return to Piatra Neamt and dine in a local restaurant for your evening meal.

Day 5: Piatra Neamt to Bucharest B

After breakfast, begin the return journey to Bucharest stopping en route at the Vingex Winery (optional excursion at a fee). Savour the rich tastes of locally produced wines before arriving at your hotel this evening.

Day 6: Bucharest B

This morning, travel to the airport and transfer to Brasov for the beginning of your Transylvania and Bucharest Tour.

Hotel Information

Your stay in Romania will take place at the following hotels:

Bucharest (2 nights): 4★ Union Plaza Hotel & Sky Bar - Bulevardul Unirii 47C, București 030825, Romania.

Contact number: 0040 746 198 914

Sibiu (1 night): 4★ Hotel Continental Forum - Piața Unirii 10, Sibiu 550173, Romania.

Contact number: 0040 372 692 692

Piatra Neamt (2 nights): 4★ Central Plaza Hotel - Piața Petrodava 1-3, Piatra Neamt 610033, Romania.

Contact number: 0040 233 216 230

Any alternative hotels or board basis will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our reservations department if you are unsure. **Please note: the hotels listed are provided for guidance only and final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.**

Personal Expenses

You will need to take some extra money with you to cover any meals not included, drinks and personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry, and any extra snacks.

Tour Guides

This is an escorted tour extension. You will be met by a local guide, ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times.

Tipping

It is at your customary to tip both your driver and guide. We would recommend to tip approximately 5 Euros per person per day. This is a total of €30 per person to budget for tips on your trip. Tips will be collected at the beginning/end of your tour. Tips are accepted in the local currency.

Please note

This extension takes place before your main tour.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information, call us on **0333 003 0522**

Danube Delta Extension

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0333 003 0522



TRIP OVERVIEW

Combine adventure with relaxation as you journey to where the mighty Danube meets the Black Sea on this 4-night/5 day extension.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your Danube Delta extension.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

Day 6: Bucharest to Tulcea B/D

Following breakfast, depart from Bucharest and travel to Murighiol - Ponton Star 2000, transferring to your ship to Sfântu Gheorghe - to the Green Village Resort. A boat transfer will take you to tonight's overnight stay in the Green Village Resort, arriving in time for an evening meal.

Day 7: Discover Danube Delta B/D

Experience a labyrinth of waterways, backwaters and lakes as you embark upon a full day of discovery through a mere section of the vast Danube Delta. A wildlife haven, this tranquil region houses a variety of birdlife including pelicans, herons and eagles which soar through the skies overhead or eagerly dip into the glistening waters on the hunt of food. Listen to the calming sounds of rippling water and absorb picturesque vistas as you sail along this idyllic landscape before returning to the hotel for an evening meal and overnight stay.

Day 8: Sfântu Gheorghe B/D

Spend a day at leisure unwinding at the wild beach, soaking in the blissfully serene panoramas or participating in a selection of resort activities. Enjoy dinner at the resort later this evening.

Day 9: Sfântu Gheorghe to Bucharest B

After breakfast, make the return journey to Murighiol by boat and transfer to Bucharest, arriving at your hotel later this afternoon.

Day 10: Bucharest to the UK B

In the morning transfer to the airport for your flight to the UK.

Hotel Information

Your stay will take place at the following hotels:

Danube Delta (3 nights): 4★ Green Village Resort - Sfântu Gheorghe, Delta Dunării.

Contact number: 0040 738 764 520

Bucharest (1 night): 4★ Union Plaza Hotel & Sky Bar - Bulevardul Unirii 47C, Bucureşti 030825, Romania.

Contact number: 0040 746 198 914

Any alternative hotels or board basis will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our reservations department if you are unsure.

Please note: the hotels listed are provided for guidance only and final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take some extra money with you to cover any meals not included, drinks and personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry, and any extra snacks.

Tour Guides

This is a semi escorted tour extension. You will be met by a local guide, ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times. All transfers are included.



FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information, call us on **0333 003 0522**