



Explore Romania

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Explore Romania

General Agricultural Tour Romania

Day 1: Bucharest

Arrival in Bucharest, meet your guide and transfer to the hotel, situated in the city center.

Dinner and accommodation in a 4* hotel



Day 2: Bucharest – Pantelimon – Bucharest, 25 km, ~1,5 hour transfer

In the morning we visit the People's House, the 2nd largest building in the world after the Pentagon. The People's House was designed and nearly completed during the communist regime led by Ceausescu, from 1984 till the Revolution in 1989. According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the Palace is the world's largest civilian administrative building, the most expensive administrative building, and the heaviest building. Today it is called the Parliament's Palace, seat of political and administrative powers, a multi-purpose building housing among others both chambers of our Parliament.

We then continue towards the outskirts of Bucharest to visit Agroindustriala Pantelimon - this dairy farm was, in the past, part of the elite farms for Holstein breed in Romania. It started in 1973 when 500 pregnant Holstein cows were brought from Denmark. Today there are about 500 heads, producing more than 5.000 l of milk every day. It has several milk dispensers in Bucharest and, in June 2009, they also opened the first "Farm Park" in Romania, close to the dairy farm. Last year they also started to produce yogurt and cream. It is a very good example of the transition of a former state owned communist farm to a privately owned one. We visit the farm and meet the owner, a veterinarian who has been working in the farm during the communist times and then became the owner of it. Lunch at the farm.



Transfer back to Bucharest for a city tour - Bucharest is a very cosmopolitan city, full of contrasts, which is now under an intense reviving process after almost 50 years of communism (like the country itself), period which left its strong marks in people, architecture and the way of life. Architectural masterpieces from the Belle Epoque and from the interwar period are now rediscovered and valued.

We visit a small craft beer factory that produces handcrafted beer, unpasteurized, naturally fermented, with simple and basic ingredients. Beer tasting.



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In the evening we have dinner in a famous restaurant in the city centre. Same accommodation as for the previous night.

Day 3: Bucharest – Pitesti – Cozia – Sibiel, 370 km, ~ 6 hours transfer

In the morning we leave towards Transylvania following the beautiful Olt valley.

We stop for lunch in a restaurant on the way and then pay a visit to Cozia Orthodox monastery, with its main church dating from the 14th century, a harmonious blend of different architectural styles. The building also provides a good backdrop for a good insight into the rituals of Romanian Orthodox faith.

We continue our drive across the Sourthern Carpathians and, in the afternoon, we reach Sibiel village - part of the ethnographical area of Marginimea Sibiului, where romanian shepherds created and still support a strong, original culture.

We check-in in several traditional houses that have been restored in order to receive guests and then go for a walk in the village. We return in time for a traditional dinner accompanied by local brandy and wine.

Day 4: Sibiel – Cartisoara – Albota – Saliste – Sibiel, 170 km, ~3 hours transfer

In the morning we transfer to Cartisoara where we get information about an agro-tourist group including: two animal farms, a slaughter house, a small meat production factory, a trout farm, guesthouse and several restaurants. We visit a small farm with Angus beef and guinea fowls and, depending on their activity at the moment, we might also get to see the slaughter house.

Transfer towards Albota to visit the trout farm belonging to the same group. They have two Romanian breeds of trout: Curcubeu (Rainbow) and Fantanel. We have lunch at the trout farm with products of their own.

We come back to Saliste village to visit a traditional sheepfold with about 1.000 heads (Romanian breeds TIGAIE and TURCANĂ – mix breeds: meat and milk). We see the cheese producing process and taste the cheese they make here.

Then we head back to Sibiel where we visit a typical traditional small peasant farm, with a few cows, pigs and chicken. Same accommodation as for the previous night and traditional dinner accompanied by local brandy and wine.



Day 5: Sibiel – Sibiu – Nocrich – Mosna – Sighisoara, 140 km, ~3 hours transfer

In the morning we depart towards Sibiu for a city tour - the former European Capital of Culture in 2007, one of the best preserved medieval cities in Romania, carefully restored in the latter years. The city is known to exist from the 12th century, rising in prominence to become an important trading town. Like other Transylvanian cities, it was inhabited by Saxon merchants organized in guilds or corporations, fortifying the city to protect its wealth. Sibiu is packed with fascinating sites to explore, from its ramparts and towers to its passageways, linking the upper to the lower quarters in a coherent ensemble.

We then transfer to nearby Nocrich in order to visit Karpaten Meat farm - the biggest beef farm in Romania. It was founded in 2008 and its two Swiss owners have a long





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experience in agriculture. Now they manage a group of three big farms near Sibiu. They produce high quality beef with Angus cattle, bred on natural pastures in Transylvania. With Swiss know-how and tradition of agriculture, livestock breeding and meat processing, the founders of Karpaten Meat provide optimal natural thoroughbred cattle and a proper meat processing. The premium beef is commercialized in Romania and Western Europe. We visit the farm and have time for further discussions with the administrative members then have lunch.



We continue by bus towards Mosna village, to visit the mixed eco-farm of Willy Schuster, one of the pioneers and promoters of eco-farming in Romania. After the presentation of the farm, discussions and tasting of their products (cheese, jam & tea) follow.

In the afternoon we continue our journey to Sighisoara – a medieval citadel included in the UNESCO heritage list, inhabited continuously ever since its settlement by Saxon colonists.

We go for a walk around the town, including the house where Vlad Tepes – Vlad the Impaler (the Romanian ruler who inspired Bram Stoker's character Dracula) was born.

We have dinner in one of the best restaurants in town and we are

accommodated in a 3* hotel in the centre of the city, in a historical building.

Day 6: Sighisoara – Crit – Viscri – Brasov, 140 km, ~3 hours transfer

In the morning we transfer to Crit for a visit to a World Vision Foundation project in Romania – Agrovision – a project farm, created to present to and to teach the locals how to make the transition from a subsistence farm to a commercial one. The farm has now about 50 heads and it must self-finance itself. Meeting with the administrative members and discussions about their different activities: courses for the local farmers, summer camps etc.

We continue to Viscri (Deutschweisskirch by its German name) where we have lunch prepared by the locals, accompanied by homemade brandy and wine. During lunch we get to know the local agricultural association and discuss with one of the members.

After lunch we take a ride in horse pulled carriages, visiting the surroundings and seeing some local traditional craftsmen at work.



We continue to Brasov, one of Transylvania's major cities. Also known as Kronstadt due to the presence of Saxon colonists as early as the 12th century, fringed 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. As one of the medieval Saxons' seven walled cities built in the 12th century – and its location at the intersection of the trade routes linking the Ottoman Empire and western Europe – Brasov has been a popular destination throughout the ages.

We have dinner in one of the restaurants in the centre and find our accommodation in a 3*** hotel in a historical building situated in the main square of the city.



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Day 7 – Brasov – Rotbav – Bran – Azuga – Brasov, 140 km, ~3 hours transfer

In the morning we visit a local fruit and vegetables market in Brasov and then we continue our journey towards Rotbav to visit an interesting family farm – Catean farm – belonging to three brothers who started their business in 1998 following the family tradition of three generations. Now they have about 1.100 sheep, 100 cows, 9 horses, 100 ha arable land and 150 ha of pastures. They are producing several types of cheese with traditional recipes attested since 1412 and also different types of meat products which they are selling in several supermarkets in the area. We have lunch at the farm.



We then drive to Bran castle - one of the highest rated castles in the world nowadays, due to its Dracula linked reputation. Bram Stoker's character, Dracula, a Transylvanian Count is relayed with Vlad Tepes, known as Vlad Dracul, the ruler of Wallachia from 1456-1462 and 1476, mentioned in history as a ruthless despot. We are taken to a guided tour of this imposing structure guarding the passage between two Romanian provinces: Walachia to the south and Transylvania to the north.



We continue to Azuga resort where we visit Rhein wine cellars, dating from 1892 and producing sparkling wine by the „Champenoise“ method, the sparkling wine suppliers of the royal family of Romania. We meet the specialist of the cellar who will explain the whole process of sparkling wine making while visiting the cellars. After that comes sparkling wine tasting and dinner at the cellars.

In late afternoon we return to Brasov for the same accommodation as for the previous night.



Day 8 – Brasov – Bucharest OTP Airport , 160 km, 3 hours

In the morning we leave Brasov and head towards Bucharest OTP airport for flight back home.

~ End of the program ~



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