



Explore Romania

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Explore Romania

Arts and Crafts in Romania

DAY 1 – ARRIVAL IN BUCHAREST

After the arrival in Bucharest we will visit a small beer craft factory, with beer tasting. Then we transfer to 4* hotel for check-in before going out for dinner in a restaurant in the city centre.

DAY 2 – BUCHAREST – SIBIEL

After a guided walking tour of Bucharest and lunch in a restaurant in the city centre we start our journey towards Transylvania and Sibiel following the beautiful Olt valley. We can stop on the way to visit Cozia monastery, with its main church dating from the 14th century and a wonderful blend of styles.

Later in the afternoon we arrive at our destination - a village surrounded by mountains and forest, and steeped in ancient Romanian traditions.

We have dinner and we are accommodated in a family-run traditional guesthouse/homestay.

DAY 3 TIME TO DISCOVER SIBIEL VILLAGE

Sibiel Village (meaning little Sibiu) is part of the ethnographical area of Marginimea Sibiului, where the Romanian shepherds created and are still supporting a strong, original culture. Here we can have a look at the Museum of Icons on glass, which holds the largest existing exhibition of this kind in Transylvania. It is a proof of artistic creativity and religious inspiration born of the riches of the Orthodox Christian tradition and the imagination of Romanian peasant painters. We are explained the process of painting on glass.

Icons Painted on Glass Workshop. The icon painter and restorer Marius Coman Sipeanu will make a presentation of iconography and techniques of painting icons on glass, then each participant will receive a glass frame, will choose a model for his icon (named "izvod") and start to paint under the guidance of the icon painter. All the necessary materials, such as colours, brushes, springs, glass frames will be provided and, at the end, each participant can take home his painted icon.

After the workshop ends, we have lunch with traditional food prepared by our host from Sibiel, accompanied by local brandy and wine, then we enjoy some free time to explore the village.

Later we're going to assist to a handicraft afternoon sitting, animated by a whistle singer and locals dressed in traditional costumes. During this you will learn about a few other traditional handicrafts like weaving and sewing. Traditional dinner and accommodation as previous night.



DAY 4 SIBIEL – SIBIU – BIERTAN – MALANCRAY

After breakfast we transfer to Sibiu - the European Capital of Culture in 2007. The city was inhabited by Saxon merchants who formed themselves into guilds, fortifying the town to protect its wealth. Here we can go for a walking city tour before heading to ASTRA National Museum Complex, institution founded out of the Transylvanian people's desire to define their own ethno-cultural identity within the Austro-Hungarian Empire multiculturalism. Here we discover some traditional craftsmanship during another workshop: vegetable fibres woven handicrafts, dolls making from





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organic materials, traditional bowling game.

We then have lunch in a restaurant inside the museum.

After lunch we transfer to Biertan - one of the first Saxon settlements in Transylvania, the earliest attestation of its name being certified in 1283. Biertan is famous for its very low number of divorces throughout the history and this due to its "marriage room".

We end our day in Malancrav, a beautiful 14th century village, where you will discover the Saxon architecture and visit the fortified church.

Dinner and accommodation in Apafi Mansion, a refurbished historic Hungarian Manor House.

DAY 5 MALANCRAV – SASCHIZ – VISCRI

In the morning we leave Malancrav and head towards Saschiz village where we are meeting a small local producer, member of the Slow Food movement, a Romanian - French family producing pickles, jams and lately also testing some craft beer recipes. After the visit we will taste a few of their products and then have lunch. Next, we head to Viscri (Deutschweisskirch). This is a Saxon village included in the UNESCO World Heritage list, one of the villages in Romania where the Prince of Wales owns a traditional Romanian house.

After we "check-in" in traditional farmers' houses, renovated to accommodate guests, we take a ride in horse pulled carriages around the village and the surrounding hills and forests and we see some local craftsmen at work.

Traditional dinner accompanied by local brandy and wine.



DAY 6 VISCRI – BATOS – DRAGOIASA

After breakfast we continue our journey towards Batos village where we visit Liliac Winery. We also have lunch here and wine tasting at the cellars.

We quit Batos and we cross the Carpathians via a scenic route - Tihuta mountain pass – which appears also in Bram Stoker's Dracula novel as Borgo Pass. This will be a long driving day, but the beautiful landscapes while crossing the mountains will be your rewards.

We will arrive in Dragoiasa village in late afternoon and enjoy some free time in the quiet atmosphere of the village before the dinner prepared by our hosts.

DAY 7

Today we discover the local gastronomy which is very rich and varied in Bucovina, with many regional influences. The Bucovinean recipes are well kept in each family and are transmitted to the next generations with great care.

In the morning we transfer to a dairy farm and experience some farm activities. For those who want, they can milk a cow by hand.

We then return to our guesthouse where we're going to cook some traditional specialties together with our hosts, like sausages and homemade pie.

Dinner and accommodation is as previous night.



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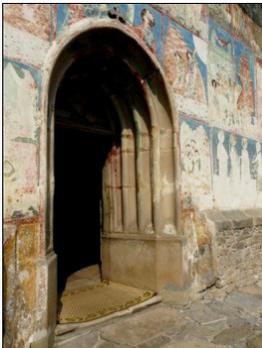
DAY 8 – DRAGOIASA – MOLDOVITA – SUCEVITA

We start the day by continuing our route through the Carpathians and heading to Moldovita to visit the village's Eastern Orthodox monastery, a wonderful 16th century building that blends Byzantine and Gothic influences.

Our next visit is to the workshop of Glicheria Hretiu, one of the most skilful exponents of the traditional art of egg painting. Following a tradition that is meant to date back to the time of the crucifixion, painted eggs are believed to bring luck and keep away unholy spirits, with each intricate colour and pattern dispelling a different form of evil. After a demonstration of her skill and a chance to see some samples of Glicheria's work, you can also try your hand with painting the eggs.

In the afternoon we're heading to the small village of Sucevita for our accommodation.

Accommodation in traditional wooden houses.



DAY 9 SUCEVITA – VORONET – TARPESTI – LACU ROSU

In the morning we start the day with a visit to a local monastery, whose church is the last and the largest ever covered in exterior painted frescoes. Close to Sucevita we also see the black pottery workshop of Marginea, where again you can try your hand at making your own artistic mark.

We continue then to Voronet monastery – with exterior frescoes dating from the 15th century, dubbed by certain historians the Sistine Chapel of the East.



Around lunch time, we arrive in Tarpesti village, where we stop by the house of the peasant artist Nicolae Popa, a self-taught archeologist, ethnographer and collector. Mr. Popa died in the autumn of 2010 in his 92nd year of life, but his family is carrying on his legacy. We have lunch prepared by his family and we visit the Popa Museum displaying the works of the artist and his impressive collections.

In late afternoon we arrive in Lacu Rosu – the Red Lake resort – situated at about 1000 m altitude, home of a natural dam lake formed in the 19th century.

We can choose to go for an easy evening walk in the mountains of Hasma National Park, whose slopes are still full of pastoral life and

ancient rituals.



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Dinner and accommodation in a 3* hotel in Lacu Rosu resort.

DAY 10 LACU ROSU – PRAID – TALISOARA

After breakfast we continue our journey to Praid Salt Mine through the impressive Bicz Gorges.

We visit **Praid Salt Mine** which is like a completely different underground world, 50 levels deep, buried at around 120 meters from the surface. Thanks to the stimulating climate (with an average temperature of around 16° C, rich in ozone), the air is very beneficial for the treating of asthma, chronic bronchitis, chronic kidney diseases, chronic sinusitis, pulmonary emphysema, silicosis I and II, respiratory infections and others.

After the mine walk, we have lunch in a restaurant, then we quit Praid and head towards our final destination of the day, Talisoara, where we will be accommodated at an old restored castle, Daniel Castle.

Dinner and overnight in Talisoara at Daniel Castel.

DAY 11 TALISOARA – ROTBAV – BUCHAREST

We continue to Rotbav village to visit an interesting family farm belonging to three brothers who started their business in 1998 following the family tradition of three generations. They are producing several types of cheese with traditional recipes attested since 1412 and also different types of meat products.

We visit the cheese production unit and enjoy some cheese tasting, then we start our final journey back to the capital city.

We'll be arriving back to Bucharest in late afternoon.



~ End of the program ~

