



Explore Romania  
19 bis Calistrat Hogaş street, Piatra-Neamt, Romania  
tel: +4 0748 155 400

[www.exploreroomania.org](http://www.exploreroomania.org)  
[office@exploreroomania.org](mailto:office@exploreroomania.org)  
VAT number: RO15727857

# Explore Romania

## Biking Tour in Bran County and the Transylvanian Plateau

An average difficulty tour, with 6 to 8 h biking/day altitude gain from 400-500 m to almost 1000 m.

### Day 1. (3h transfer by car to Bran)

Arrival at the airport in Bucharest and transfer to Bran, in Transylvania, at the feet of Bucegi Mountains Natural Park and Piatra Craiului National Park. Accommodation in the vicinity of Bran Castle. Presentation of the bike gear and the program for the next days.



### Day 2. Hills and hamlets of Bran Country 20km (400m climb, 400m descent)

Warm up day. We start with a tour of Sohodol and Poarta. These are typical Romanian spread out villages, occupying the ridges and valleys at the feet of Bucegi Mountains. Our itinerary takes us through orchards, hamlets and valleys, occasionally stopping to admire the open landscape, views of Bran Castle (also known as Dracula's Castle), or to have a drink on the terrace of one of the local pubs. In the afternoon we return to our guesthouse.

### Day 3. The slopes of Bucegi Massif (35 km, 700m climb, 700m descent)

Ride all day in the hilly area between Piatra Craiului National Park and Bucegi National Park, through the villages and the alpine meadows of Simon and Moeciu, on cart roads, single tracks, country lanes. Our itinerary bounces in and out of the forests at the feet of the majestic Bucegi massif. In the afternoon we return to Bran. Accommodation as the previous nights.





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### Day 4. Towards Piatra Craiului National Park (40 km, 800m climb, 800 m descent).

Our ride heads for Zarnesti gorges, then, after the woods and meadows of Piatra Craiului National Park, we get to the hilly area and the altitude villages of Sirnea, Pestera, Magura. The landscape surrounding us is made of the high peaks of the Southern Carpathians, and we go through picturesque hamlets sitting on the grassy ridges of an undulating high plateau. In the afternoon we prepare for a long descent that will eventually get us back to our guesthouse.

### Day 5. Persani woodlands (40 km, 800m climb, 800 m descent)

This morning we ride to Zarnesti, then we make a long loop through the hamlets nested by the wooded Persani Mountains. Our itinerary swaps from the wooded valleys to the sunbathed ridges occupied by isolated hamlets. We reach the plane of Barsa at Vulcan – a typical Transylvanian Saxon village with its own fortified church. We take time to look at the surroundings. Our itinerary then returns in the afternoon, back to Bran.

### Day 6. The Saxon Heritage (25km, 400m climb)

We transfer by car for 2h to Viscri village, a UNESCO rural site, then we go for a circuit ride in the rolling hills of Hartibaciu. The landscape is littered with colorful Saxon villages, each one with its own medieval fortified church, and we swap from one to another on forestry roads and single tracks going through oak and beech forests and green hay meadows.



### Day 7. The forests of central Transylvania (50km, 600m climb)

Ride in Hartibaciu plateau, Natura 2000 site. Our itinerary departs from Viscri climbing through the meadows grazed by the local herd, then we sink into the forest. We then follow a MTB single track that follows a long undulating ridge, often crossing junctions with connections to other villages and fortified churches. After a picnic lunch we resume our ride and we get to Sighisoara. The UNESCO protected town sits on hilltop and is surrounded by the original ramparts. The medieval atmosphere is still very present due to the lively coloured facades, the narrow cobbled streets, the ramparts, towers and guard walks. We make our way to the main square of the old town, have a coffee in one of the many nice terraces around and then we take a walk in the afternoon, going for a tour of the fortress, The Clock Tower, several bastions and also the house





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where Vlad Tepes (later know as Dracula) was born, almost 600 years ago.

In the afternoon we are transferred for half an hour, back to Viscri.

### Day 8. Downhill to Brasov (14 km, 1300m descent)

This is the icing on the cake day. We start with a transfer to Poiana Brasov ski resort. From where we take the cable car up to 1799m, the summit of Postavaru massif, then we spend the next 2h descending on a ridge single track all the way to the center of Brasov (Kronstadt), one of Transylvania's major cities. We drop our luggage at the hotel in the town square, then we take a walk in the medieval center, one of the best preserved in Romania, housing The Black Church - the largest between Vienna and Constantinople, the City Council Square, the ramparts erected in medieval times by the Saxon colonists.

Farewell dinner and accommodation in Brasov.

### Day 9. (3h transfer)

After breakfast we transfer to Bucharest/Bucharest airport.

~ End of the program ~

*Please note that all the cycling activities can be tailored depending on the weather and the level of experience of the participants. However, it is recommended that participants to this tour have a good physical condition.*

*We strongly advise the participants to bring with them a travel insurance to present to our guide upon their arrival.*

