



Explore Travel Romania  
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**Explore Romania**

GOING TO THE HEART OF IT

## **Biking Tour in Bran County, Transylvanian Plateau and the Eastern Carpathians**

**Group size:** 4 to 14 people

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

This tour is perfect opportunity to jump on the bike and immerse into the peaceful surroundings of the Carpathians and their hidden mountain villages. It will be an adventure on a variety of single tracks, selected so that you can enjoy the view while testing your physical limits, alongside a specialized guide.

### **Highlights:**

- Beautiful landscapes in several National & Natural Parks : Piatra Craiului, Bucegi and Hasmas
- One of the best preserved countryside landscapes in Europe, home to Tarnava Mare Natura 2000 site
- Picnic by the shores and a swim in the crystal clear waters of Sfanta Ana Lake, the only volcanic lake in Eastern Europe
- Bicaz Gorges with limestone walls more than 350 m high
- Encountering locals leading their lives in the mountain villages, according to laws and at a pace very much different from those of modern times

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

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



### **Day 2 (about 25 km, 400m climb, 800m descent)**

After breakfast we transfer for 20 minutes to Fundata Mountain Pass at 1300m, then we ride through the altitude villages of Bran-Rucar corridor. Having passed Sirnea, we stop for lunch at a sheepfold then we resume our ride through Piatra Craiului National Park and Zarnesti Gorges to return to Bran.



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### **Day 3** (about 30 km, 200m climb, 1200 m descent)

Ride in the morning to a Bear Sanctuary in the vicinity of Piatra Craiului National Park. After a short visit we set off for a 1h ride through the Saxon villages and hills to Cristian. From here we transfer for 20 minutes to Poiana Brasov ski resort (at 1000 m altitude) where we take the cable car up to 1800m, on Postavaru Peak. Break for lunch at the chalet then we start our long and technical descent on forestry roads and single tracks to 600m altitude, to Brasov medieval centre. We have time for an afternoon coffee break and a stroll through the centre, then a 30 minutes transfer by car takes us back to Bran.

### **Day 4** ( about 35 km, 500m climb, 400 m descent)

Today we change region and environment, going deeper into Transylvania. We drive to Sighisoara where we take a stroll on the cobbled streets of this remarkable UNESCO site, then we start our ride towards Viscri - a Unesco rural site with its own fortified church where Prince Charles owns two houses. The ride takes place in one of the best preserved countryside landscapes in Europe, home to Tarnava Mare Natura 2000 site. It is a mix of old medieval Saxon villages, huge undisturbed hay meadows and vast forests. Having reached Viscri, we visit the 800 years old fortified church and after a good supper we are accommodated in traditional refurbished Saxon houses.



### **Day 5**

Optional circuit ride in the rolling hills of Hartibaciu. The landscape is littered with coloured Saxon villages, each one with its own fortified church and we swap from one to another on forestry roads and single tracks going through oak and beech forests and green wild flowers hay meadows.

### **Day 6** (10km, 400 m descent)

Morning transfer to Sfanta Ana Lake, the only volcanic lake in Eastern Europe. Time for picnic and a swim in the lake's crystal clear waters. Here we have a chance for spotting brown bears. Descent on bike to Tusnad village, then transfer to Red Lake Resort.



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### **Day 7 ( 35km, 600m climb, 800m descent)**

We start after breakfast on the national road, we pass by the Red Lake, result of a massive rock fall 150 years ago, and after 10 km we reach Pangarati Mountain Pass. Here we turn left to follow the altitude road on the main ridge. The forestry road takes us to 1400 m altitude, to the White Meadow. Here the landscape changes, vast spaces open for us, green meadows bordered by dense dark conifer forests and white limestone walls. We climb to The Upper White Meadow, among junipers, white boulders and little lakes. We are surrounded by the sounds of pastoral life, with sheepfolds, cows and semi wild horses which roam these lands. From the Upper White Meadow, there is an easy optional hike (a circuit of about 2 hours) to Hăşmaşul Mare (1797m altitude), the highest summit of these mountains, with a breathtaking 360° view over the endless peaks of the Eastern Carpathians. We stop in search for some local cheese and some good company at one of these cow farms, then we descend to the Valley of Bicăjel (1000m alt.) and its scattered mountain village of Trei Fantani (Three Wells). We follow the Valley of Bicăjel, and close to the canyon the river dug in the limestone massif, we return, through the Verescheu Saddle, with excellent view over the mountains we have passed today, back to the Red Lake Resort. Accommodation.



### **Day 8 ( 45km, 600 m climb, 850 m descent)**

Breakfast, then 20 min transfer to Pangarati mountain pass - optional climb on national road. We head north on an altitude ancient road connecting Moldova with Transylvania. We pass by fir-tree forests and reach the meadows at the foot of Mount Vitos. Optional hike to the top of the limestone



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peak, dominating the north of Hasmas Mountains. And offering a 360 degrees view over the Eastern Carpathians. The route continues south and after 5km the landscape changes. Wide spaces open in front of us and we descend to the altitude village of Barnadu (not more than 30 houses, a church, one bar and a school). Further down Bicz Gorges with limestone walls more than 350 m high lead us back to Lacu Rosu.

### **Day 9**

Transfer to the airport to catch the flight back home.

~ End of the program ~

**The estimated price per person can vary between 580 € and 1190 € depending on the group size.**

**Bike rental : 105 Euro/7 days**