



Explore Romania

GOING TO THE HEART OF IT

Explore Travel Romania
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Traditional Cuisine in Romania – A Gastronomy Tour

Group size: 6 to 19 persons

Meals: full board

A journey designed to discover the Romanian cuisine with its many influences gained from the various nations that became in time part of the country's history (Turks, Germans, Hungarians, Russians etc.), combined with refined wines, as more and more Romanian wines are internationally awarded, or authentic homemade brandy. All these mixed with the discovery of beautiful cities and the real life in the traditional villages.

Highlights:

- A variety of delicious food, that passed the quality check of our gourmets☺
- Wine and brandy tastings
- Cooking lessons and demonstrations
- Ride in horse pulled carriages in Viscri village
- Dracula's castle in Bran village
- A collection of some of the most beautiful cities in Romania: Sibiu, Brasov, Cluj
- Bucovina region – the heart of Romanian spirituality, with its painted monasteries which are on the UNESCO heritage list

Program:

Day 1

Arrival in Bucharest on Henri Coanda airport. Transfer to a hotel in the city centre.

Lunch in one of the most famous restaurants in Bucharest. We'll try the first Romanian specialties: white bean salad, *sarmale* with *mamaliga* and *papanasi* and try the beer of the house, prepared based on the house recipe.



Dinner will be served in a restaurant with Moldavian specialties – the owner, all the employees and all plates are from the Republic of Moldova, so we get the chance to try some specialties influenced by the Russian and Ukrainian cuisine.



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Accommodation in a 4**** hotel in the city center.

Day 2

Breakfast at the hotel.

We visit a specific market in Bucharest and then we start our transfer towards Sibiu. We stop to a wine cellar situated in a rich wine growing region. The hilly countryside reminiscent of Tuscany consists of loess terrain of distinct structures, usually of red-brown loam and clay layers of varying thickness in the upper section, underlain by sand, which in some places emerges on the surface. This makes the region attractive both for white wines, which are favored in the cooler northern and eastern facing vineyards, and for the red wines and aromatic white wines in the other vineyards. **Lunch.**



Then we continue to **Sibiu** city, which was in 2007 the European capital of culture.

We have **dinner** in a Saxon traditional restaurant with Saxon specialties.

Accommodation in a 3*** hotel in the city centre.

Day 3

Breakfast at the hotel.

City tour in the morning and transfer to Sambata de Sus in order to visit the monastery and to have **lunch** prepared by the monks leaving here. It is the everyday food of the monks and, depending on the day of the week it can be food for the fasting period (without meat), as in addition to the long fasting periods preceding Christmas, Easter and other religious celebrations, Wednesdays and Fridays in the Orthodox monasteries are fasting days.

We continue towards Bran village where we get the chance to meet a great food lover who opened a restaurant, where he serves traditional specialties made from (but not only) sheep products from his own sheepfolds and vegetables from his own farms. The team in the kitchen is young and passionate about cooking.

We have cooking lessons in the restaurant, learning some secrets of Romanian cuisine. **Dinner.**

Accommodation in a 3*** guesthouse in Bran.



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Day 4

Breakfast at the guesthouse.

First thing in the morning we visit Bran castle, also known as Dracula's castle a beautiful 14th century castle, restored in the 19th century to its former glory by the royal family of Romania.

Then we have about 30 min by car to get to Brasov city. City tour and **lunch** in a restaurant.

Continue then towards Viscri village, included in the UNESCO heritage list, one of the villages in Romania where the Prince of Wales owns a traditional Romanian house. It is also the only place for the moment in our country with an organic wastewater treatment plant.

We do the "check-in" in several peasant houses which will accommodate us with their traditional conditions and we take a ride in horse pulled carriages around the village and we visit the village fortified church.



We get the chance to see an "alambic" for the home made brandy and to discuss with one of the locals who is making his own brandy and wine.

In the evening we have a traditional **dinner** prepared by the locals, accompanied by homemade brandy and wine.

Day 5

Breakfast in the village, prepared by the locals.

We leave Viscri and head towards the region inhabited by the Hungarian minority – called Szekler.

First we get to Praid where we can visit the salt mine and get information about salt mining in Romania. The salt mine includes: treatment base, church, playground, a wine gallery etc.

We continue then towards Borzont village where we have **lunch** in a traditional Szekler Inn, more than 100 years old. We'll taste the specific Szekler meals and their delicious bread made at the inn.

In the afternoon we continue via the beautiful Bicaz Gorges (with about 300 m high walls) to Moldova region and get to Piatra Neamt.

Here we visit a small producer of bread and traditional cakes and a small shop of traditional food chosen very carefully by its owners, two brothers passionate about cuisine. Taste of different types of cheese and meat.



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Dinner and accommodation in a 3* guesthouse, depending on the group's size.

Day 6

Breakfast at the guesthouse.

We leave Piatra Neamt and head towards Bucovina region – the heart of Romanian spirituality.

We visit Voronet monastery – with exterior frescoes dating from the 15th century, included in UNESCO heritage list and we have **lunch** with specialties of the area.

Continue towards Sucevita village with a stop in Marginea for a black pottery centre. In Sucevita we are accommodated in several restored traditional houses and our hosts, Felicia and Trandafir Cazac will make a demonstration of how specialties of the area are prepared.



Specific **dinner** prepared by our hosts accompanied by local brandy and wine.

Day 7

Breakfast at the guesthouse.

In the morning we visit Sucevita monastery and continue towards a peasant workshop of painted eggs.

Lunch in restaurant and then we pass the Carpathians one more time to get into Transylvania again.

In the afternoon we get to Cluj – the former capital of Transylvania.

Dinner in a restaurant serving the famous “Cabbage a la Cluj”, a local specialty.

Accommodation in 3* guesthouse.

Day 8

Breakfast at the guesthouse.

City tour and short transfer for to a village, where we have the last **lunch** in Romania. It is a restaurant with Hungarian specialties, as we are in the centre of the Hungarian minority area in Romania.

Transfer to the airport for the flight back home.

~ End of the program ~

The estimated price per person in DBL room can vary between 798 € and 1180 € depending on the group size.