



Explore Romania

GOING TO THE HEART OF IT

Explore Travel Romania
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Trekking in the Romanian Carpathians

Group size: 4 to 14 persons

A tour that will take you away from the busy life in the big cities and into beautiful natural landscapes, surrounding you with the peace and tranquility of the Carpathians – the Romanian Alpes, giving you the opportunity to get in touch with the partly unspoiled life of the mountain villages, while testing your physical limits on the trekking routes, alongside a specialized guide.

Highlights:

- Beautiful landscapes offered by Piatra Craiului National Park, Bucegi Natural Park, Hasmas National Park
- Bicz Gorges (with about 300 m high walls) and the charming mountain villages of Magura and Barnadu
- Dracula's Castle
- 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

Arrive by plane in Bucharest.

Meet with the tour leader and accommodation in a 4**** hotel in Bucharest.

Day 2 – 5 h walking – 400 – 500 m climb

In the morning transfer via Prahova Valley to Bran village. Here we get accommodated in a guesthouse. Then we start our first day of walking – an easy day to prepare your body for the week. Hike in the hilly area between Bucegi and Piatra Craiului mountains, also known as the Bran-Rucar corridor. The route passes some of the country's richest pastoral areas, dotted by shepherds' huts, altitude single tracks and a wonderful view over two of the most spectacular massifs in the Southern Carpathians – Bucegi and Piatra Craiului. Picnic lunch.

In the evening return to Bran for dinner and accommodation.



Day 3 (~ 7-8 h walking – 1000 m climb)

All day trekking in Bucegi Natural Park. Depending on your physical condition we will decide on the trek of the day. Picnic lunch and return to Bran for dinner.

Day 4 (5-6 hours trekking. 1100 m climb, 900 m descent)

All day is dedicated to trekking in Piatra Craiului (The King's Rock) National Park – one of the most beautiful mountains in Romania, very rocky, a thin high limestone strip, 22 km long, considered a geographical accident of the Southern Carpathians, due to their gentle peculiar profile in contrast with the massiveness of the surrounding relief forms. It is also home of The Carpathian Large Carnivore Project, as although the Romanian Carpathians cover less than 1.5% of the European surface west of Russia, they are home to almost one third of all European large carnivores: the estimated number of bears is over 6,000, there are about 3,000 wolves, and some 2,000 lynx.

In the evening we get back to Bran village for dinner and accommodation.



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Day 5 – resting day

In the morning we visit Bran Castle, also known as *Dracula's Castle* this beautiful 14th century castle was, restored in the 19th century by the royal family of Romania.

Then transfer to Brasov (Kronstadt), one of Transylvania's major cities. We walk the medieval centre, one of the best preserved in Romania, housing The Black Church, the biggest church between Vienna and Constantinople, the City Council Square, the ramparts erected in medieval times by the Saxon colonists, and one of the narrowest streets in Europe, The Binder Street.

In the afternoon transfer by car through the land of the Szekeli minority in Romania, with their specific architecture and traditions. The route surprises us by the beauty of the landscape and villages.

In the evening we get to Rosu resort – The Red Lake – situated at about 900 m altitude.

Accommodation in a 3*** hotel.



Day 6 (about 6h trekking, 700 m climb)

We start our trek in Hasmaş National Park, mountains with a special charm due to the pastoral life and the ancient rituals surviving here. We climb a steep hill, pass the woods to get to the White Meadow, and then, through vast open spaces, to the top, where we reach an altitude of 1,797 m. Here we have an excellent view over the Eastern Transylvania and the Moldavian Carpathians: white limestone crags, green flat meadows, dotted by little lakes and bordered by dark conifer forests are surrounding us. The spectacular landscape is completed by numerous sheepfolds shelters and the semi wild horses and flocks of sheep which roam this land.

In late afternoon, after a gentle descent, we return to Lacu Rosu by car (15minutes).





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Day 7 (6 - 7 h trekking, approx 600 m climb)

After breakfast we have about 20 min transfer by car to Sugau Gorges. We start climbing near Sugau valley on a winding path used by locals of Barnadu – a small isolated village in the mountains above Bicz Gorges. We pass by fir-tree forests and reach the meadows surrounding this tiny hamlet in the mountains counting no more than 20 houses, a school, a church and a bar. We continue our hike up to Ciurgau Peak where we have a 360 degrees view over the Eastern Carpathians. After a picnic lunch we start descending through the meadows and then through the forest, back again to Bicz Gorges. From here we have about 2.5 h drive to Sighisoara city. Accommodation in a 3*** guest house.



Day 8

Tour of the cotadel in the morning and then transfer to the airport in Bucharest ~ 5 h driving.

~ End of the program ~

The estimated price per person can vary between 540 € and 1025 € depending on the group size.