

ETHICAL SCHOOL ADVENTURES SINCE 2006





# Romania

# **Multiactivity in Transylvania**

Discover Romania by exploring the amazing sights in Transylvania and the Carpathians. This trip allows you to enjoy some of Romania's best scenery whilst taking part in numerous adventure activities. Over 6 days you will have the opportunity to kayak down the Olt River, go biking over the rolling Transylvanian hills, climb in amongst the mountains and enjoy a challenging hike in Piatra Craiului National Park. During our adventure we will pass through rural towns and feel as if we are stepping back in time as we learn about what life was like in Romania during Medieval times. If it's adventure you are looking for then this itinerary will be sure to impress and whet your appetite for more adventures in Romania.

## 6 Days



### Your Recommended Expedition Itinerary

#### Day 1 Arrive Bucharest

Welcome to Romania! Fly from London to Bucharest's Otopeni airport where you will be met by your local STC Expedition Leader. From here we will transfer to the Carpathians region, approximately 3 hours by car. After some dinner we will spend our first night either camping or in a local guesthouse.

#### Day 2 Piatra Craiului National Park Trek

Piatra Craiului is a stunning mountain range, known for its dramatic limestone ridges, deep gorges and diverse flora and fauna. A day hike in Piatra Craiului will be a rewarding adventure, offering breathtaking views and a chance to experience the natural beauty of the region. This is a challenging day where we will have the chance to reach the main ridge within the national park. We start the day with a short morning transfer to the start of the hike before beginning the steep ascent to the top of the ridge. The ascent will take approximately 4-5 hours and we will be rewarded with stunning views when we reach the top. After admiring the views we begin our descent on the opposite side of the mountain and into the valley. We finish the day by transferring back to our accommodation where we can reflect on the day's achievements.

#### Day 3 Water Sports Activities

Today we have the opportunity to spend some time on the water in either kayaks or on stand up paddleboards. Should we opt for kayaking we will spend the day paddling down the Olt River, passing through picturesque scenery. The length of the route is between 25-35km and can be confirmed closer to the departure date. Should we opt for paddleboarding, this will take place in either a calm river or lake. After a enjoyable day in amongst Romania's nature, we transfer back to a local guest house in the heart of Transylvania.

#### Day 4 Biking Day

We have an action packed day ahead as we head out for a full day bike ride across the rolling hills of Transylvania. Along the way we will visit fortified churches and learn about what life was like during medieval times. We will also make a stop at a traditional local workshop. Travelling through this region is like stepping back in time and we will admire the rural life at our pace, which has remained unchanged for many years. Our cycling route will take us over hills, through local forest, on forest roads and along designated bike paths. We would recommend being confident on a bike to make the most of this activity.

#### Day 5 Rock Climbing

Today will be spent in the heart of the mountains where we will start with a short walk to the 7 Ladders Canyon. After following this we approach the nearby cliffs where our instructors will guide us through the basics or intermediate level of rock climbing. There are a few climbing routes available and there is an indoor climbing wall available in town if it is raining heavily. After another busy day outdoors we transfer to our hostel in the medieval town of Brasov.



D

BLD

BLD

BLD

BLD

#### Day 6

#### **Bucharest and Departure**

On our final day in Romania we transfer back to Bucharest. Depending on the time of our flight back to the UK we may have time to enjoy a panoramic tour of Bucharest and buy any last minute souvenirs.



## Look what's included:

### · International flights

- · All accommodation, transportation and activities
- · All food as described above
- · Local, bi-lingual, first-aid qualified STC leader
- $\cdot$  Parent and student trip launch presentation
- · Pre-travel training programme
- $\cdot$  1-day offsite safety INSET day for school staff
- $\cdot$  ATOL financial protection
- · Emergency Medical & Repatriation Insurance

- · Group first aid kit and prescription meds pack
- · BS8848 safety management and risk assessments
- $\cdot$  Detailed pre-departure information and kit lists
- Comprehensive teacher travel packs
- · Permanent operations team in your destination
- · 24-hour UK operational support whilst overseas
- $\cdot$  Donations to two carbon & conservation charities
- $\cdot$  Free Fairtrade t-shirt for every participant and teacher
- Free travel guide book to your destination

### What's not included:

- Transport to airport in UK
- · Drinks (advice will be given on purification of water)
- Visas or tourist cards if required
- Any required inoculations or Covid tests

- Personal spending money
- Tips for guides, drivers and porters (ask for guidance)
- Airport departure taxes paid locally
- Personal effects and cancellation insurance

# A word about Responsible Tourism

On our expeditions and educational journeys, we strive to connect teachers and students with the people they meet, nurture the cultures they experience and protect the beautiful environments they are lucky enough to explore.

Many companies talk the talk, few truly walk the walk. We are far from perfect, but we are leading the way in sustainability in the school travel sector. In 2018 we were the first UK travel company to become **Travelife Certified** – a verified sustainability certificate formally recognised by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council.



Trees for Lyfe

This is our passion, and we'd love to tell you more about it in due course. In the meantime, for more information on some of the steps we take as a company to make our operations more sustainable, please visit: https://www.thestc.co.uk/travel/what-do-we-do/

### Physical Rating for this trip: Grade 3

# A A A A 3/5

Moderate physical activities are included in Grade 3 trips. Good health and reasonable fitness are important to get the most out of the trip. Trips of this grading are likely to include multiple consecutive days activity either walking at moderate altitude (up to 2,500m) or paddling. With between five and seven hours of activity with occasional longer/harder days. The trip may contain other activities such as cycling, rafting, remote camping which also require physical effort and a reasonable level of fitness and resilience. Steady preparation and an increase if your underlying fitness levels will help you get the most from this grade trip.

### Cultural Rating for this trip: Grade 2



Expect to find local life broadly familiar to that in the UK, however aspects of the trip are likely to be in remoter areas where differences are more profound. Whilst English may not be the native language, you can expect it to be widely spoken. There may be some cultural differences and although western pallets should be well catered for there will be the opportunity to try new dishes.



# **Travel Safety & Other Expedition Training**

Preparing students and teachers for their upcoming adventure is an opportunity to teach important life skills and a vital part of our overall approach to safety management. Please ask for your quote for the training schedule specific to your expedition. Topics covered will include:

### **Responsible Tourism workshop**

An interactive workshop covering ethical and sustainable travel dilemmas as well as:

- Long term positive and negative impacts of travel
- Water usage & other resource management
- Cultural considerations
- Ethical volunteering and cultural imperialism

### **Travel Safety Training**

This is delivered through a series of talks, games, discussions, activities and videos:

- Safety approach and attitude to risk
- Being open about problems
- Health & hygiene
- Specific hazards related to your expedition e.g: dehydration, altitude, bite avoidance etc.
- Money management
- Kit selection, luggage and packing
- Water purification
- Itinerary & activity specific issues
- Fitness expectations / training ideas



# A journey of 1,000 miles...

# **Starts with a single step...** Contact us now to start your expedition journey

### **1** Ask for your personalised quote & further information

If this itinerary doesn't quite scratch your expedition itch then let us tailor-make one for you. Our wealth of experience and expert in-country contacts means we can design an adventure that's just right for you and your students. Contact us for more information and a detailed quote.

### 2 Ask for risk assessments and marketing materials

We can provide initial risk and threat assessments to help you with your expedition approval process. Ask for posters and your Pre-Booking Information Pack too.

### 3 Arrange an expedition launch evening

This is a chance for students and parents to hear more about the expedition with a comprehensive information evening covering the itinerary, safety management, the buildup to the trip and lots more. There is also plenty of opportunity for questions.



The home of the modern, innovative school expedition, where a sustainable, ethical approach guarantees unique experiences and a life enhancing adventure.





Our school trips and educational tours are all about maximising the learning opportunities of travel. It's all here, the humble school tour has just come of age.

Adventures, holidays and cultural journeys for teachers looking to 'Escape the Classroom' and discover more about our amazing world, its people and places.

"I am being completely serious when I say that I won't ever run a school trip without you guys. I trust you and your team completely - and the incountry staff that you carefully cultivate and train are a cut above the rest." **Teacher feedback,** King's High Warwick

# **Contact Us:**

STC Expeditions, 6b King Street, Exeter, EX1 1BH t: 01392 660056 | e: schools@thestc.co.uk | w: www.thestc.co.uk



STC Expeditions, STC Educational and The School Travel Consultancy are trading names of The Specialist Travel Consultancy Ltd. Registered office: Unit 6B, King St Business Centre, Exeter, EX1 1BH. Registered in England No: 5700491