



7 Days

Romania

Treasures of Transylvania

Join us on a great value seven day tour as we travel deep into Transylvania, a land of rugged beauty, medieval towns, volcanic springs, caves and gorges and the home of Count Dracula. We spend time in Bucharest, the nation's capital, where we visit Revolution Square, which has witnessed most of the important events in Romanian history. Combining vibrant Bucharest with the charm and beauty of the Baile Tusnad spa resort, Romania makes a great destination for schools looking for a great value experience.



Recommended tour itinerary

Day
1

Arrive Bucharest

Welcome to Romania! Fly from London to Bucharest's Otopeni airport where you will be met by our experienced team and transferred directly to our base in the beautiful Baile Tusnad Spa Resort. Also known as the '*Pearl of Transylvania*', Baile Tusnad is renowned for its salt lakes, mineral waters, therapeutic mud and volcanic crater lakes. Our journey takes around four hours to cover the 220km and our destination is the Hotel Ciucas which features a large swimming pool and health suite - ideal for relaxing after a full day's activity. After our welcome briefing, dinner will be served in the hotel's restaurant.

Day
2

Varghisului Gorge & Caves - Carpathian mountain foothills

Today we have a full day walking tour to the "Varghisului Gorges" located about a one hour drive from the hotel.

Situated in the foothills of the eastern Carpathian mountains, Vârghiş Gorges is one of the most picturesque and interesting limestone-carved gorges in Romania. The waters of the Vârghiş river emerge from the potholes of the Harghita Mountains and carve their way through the limestone barrier creating a dramatic gorge. We explore this beautiful area which features over 120 caves, the longest totalling 1,500 metres.

Day
3

Covansa Spa Resort, Mountain biking

A full day trip to the Covansa spa resort known for its mineral water springs and for the Covasna-method of treatment. We will visit a volcano which produces yellow mud and mineral water, which has been used as a public bath since 1881.

Mid-morning we will take a gentle mountain bike ride out in to the countryside, where we witness rural life in this idyllic part of Europe. After a picnic lunch, we will head back to our hotel, stopping off en route to visit Ghelinta - a small town in deepest Transylvania. Ghelinta is home to a beautiful church with amazing frescos which look almost as fresh as when they were first painted seven centuries ago. What's more fascinating is that these paintings had been entirely forgotten until being rediscovered in 1882. We return to our hotel for a chance to refresh and have a quick swim before dinner.





Day
4

Bicaz Gorge & Red Lake

Today we take a trip to the Bicaz Gorge and Red Lake (the largest natural mountain lake in Romania). The Bicaz Gorge is famous for its 1,000ft limestone rocks towering over the gorge below. The 3,780ft high Altar Rock dominates the skyline giving way to the Eastern Carpathian mountains in the distance. We're heading for the Red lake (Lacul Roșu) nestled in a steep valley overlooked by the Altar Rock. The lake is well known for the pine trunks standing out of the water and the secular remnants of an ancient forest; its name comes from the colour of the water stained by the minerals of the surrounding soil.

Day
5

Bran & 'Dracula's Castle'

We bid farewell to our base as we head back south to Bran and visit 'Dracula's Castle' which has a spectacular location on top of a rock, marking the one-time border between Transylvania and Valachia. The medieval castle is very striking in appearance and is the perfect Gothic fairytale image of a Transylvanian castle. Exploring the village, the castle and the museum gives us a chance to unravel fact from the myths of legends that surround this fascinating castle.

We continue to Bucharest and check into our hotel.

Day
6

Bucharest city tour

Bucharest is Romania's largest city and became the capital in 1832. Our Bucharest tour begins in the political centre of the city, Revolution Square, which has witnessed most of the important events in Romanian history. It was from here in 1989 that dictator Ceausescu made his ill-advised rallying speech to a crowd that quickly turned on him, instigating the Romanian revolution. Surrounding the square are several other notable landmarks, including the former Royal Palace, the Athenaeum concert hall and Athenee Palace - the heart of espionage and intrigue in the years between the wars.

We'll spend time exploring the maze of passageways and paths of the old town in the heart of the medieval district, steeped in history where Ottoman pashas rubbed shoulders with Transylvanian princes, and churches and mosques stood side by side.

To end our tour we return once more to the modern part of the city heading along Victory Street, named after the spectacular victory of the new Romanian nation in the 1877 War of Independence. We'll try some covrig, a daily salty snack for most Romanians introduced in medieval times. Our final stop is the famous People's Palace the second largest building in the world (only the Pentagon is bigger) a standing monument to the Ceausescu's rule.

This evening we will enjoy a 'farewell' dinner in a traditional Bucharest restaurant.

Day
7

Transfer to the airport

We head back to the airport for our return flight to the UK.

Further information

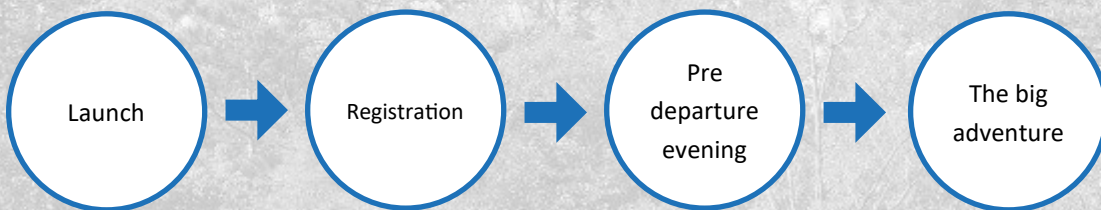
Look what's included!

- International flights
- All accommodation
- All food
- All transportation and activities
- Bi-lingual, first-aid qualified local tour leader
- Parent and student trip launch evening
- Pre-departure preparation evening
- 1-day offsite safety INSET day for staff
- ATOL financial protection
- Medical Emergency / Repatriation Travel Insurance
- Group first aid kit and prescription meds pack
- BS8848 safety management and risk assessments
- Detailed pre-departure information and kit lists
- Comprehensive teacher travel packs
- Permanent operations team in your destination
- 24-hour UK operational support whilst overseas
- Carbon offsetting of all flights
- Free t-shirt for every participant and teacher

What's excluded?

- Transport to airport in UK
- Drinks (advice will be given on purification of water)
- Visas or tourist cards if required
- Any required inoculations
- Personal spending money
- Tips for guides, drivers and porters
- Airport departure taxes paid locally
- Cancellation and personal effects insurance

Your educational journey timeline



Physical journey rating:



Some low level physical activities included in your trip, including walking on uneven terrain, maybe a morning/afternoon trek of two to four hours. That said, no physical preparation is required to make the most of the tour. High humidity and temperatures can occur at certain times of the year.

Culture shock rating:



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.



A journey of 1,000 miles...

Starts with a single step... Contact us now to start your educational journey.



1 Get your tailor-made proposal and further information

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

2 Ask for risk assessments and marketing materials

We can provide initial risk assessments and destination threat assessments to help you with your expedition approval process. Ask for posters and your pre-booking information pack too.

3 Arrange a trip launch evening at your school

This is a chance for students and parents to hear more about the planned adventure with a comprehensive information evening and an opportunity for questions.



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