

The Treasures of

Romania

Led by Peter and Carol Paine

Friday 21st April – Thursday 4th May 2023



"We hope you will be able to join Carol and I on our tour of Romania. The itinerary includes many of the most interesting sites in the country among which are no less than six UNESCO World Heritage locations.



Not only will we visit the dazzling frescoes of the Bucovina painted churches, the austere beautiful wooden churches of Maramures, the famous castles of Transylvania, the ancient capital of Moldova, enjoy a walking tour of the capital Bucharest, but we will twice traverse the rugged plateaus of the Carpathian mountains and conclude the tour with a full day birding in the Danube Delta - a world famous site for water birds of all kinds. So there is something for everybody - historical, cultural, religious and ornithological so I do hope you can join us on what will be, I'm sure, a fascinating tour."

*Best wishes
Peter*

Day 1: Friday, April 21st, 2023

MANCHESTER - BUCHAREST

Arrival in Romania's capital city. You'll be transferred from the airport to Bucharest.

The rest of the day is at your leisure.

Dinner and overnight in Bucharest.

Day 2: Saturday, April 22nd, 2022

BUCHAREST CITY TOUR

The sightseeing tour of Bucharest includes the famous Parliament Palace, the Village Museum, the Square of the Revolution, and a panoramic city tour. The first stop* will be in Revolution Square, where thousands of people put an end to a 45-year-long vicious regime. Get to understand the communist horrors and sufferings an entire nation had to endure. There are many impressive

buildings around Revolution Square, such as The National Art Museum, the Kretzulescu Church, the Central Library University, and several others. You'll get explanations about every sight. You won't leave this area before admiring the Romanian Athenaeum, the symbol of Bucharest.

The tour of Bucharest continues with the famous Parliament**, also known as the House of People. Built at Ceausescu's request, the former communist leader, the building became the largest administrative construction in Europe. The Village Museum is the last stop of the day. Inaugurated in 1936, this outdoor museum boasts old traditional houses representative of the whole country. In a short period of time, you'll be able to admire different architectural styles and many other stories.

Dinner and overnight in Bucharest.

Day 3: Sunday, April 23rd, 2023

BUCHAREST – SINAIA - BRASOV

This morning we transfer to Sinaia, the Pearl of the Carpathian Mountains. On the way pass by the city of Ploiesti, the second best-defended city after Berlin during WWII. In Sinaia, located at the Carpathians' foothills, you'll be overwhelmed by the splendour of Peles Castle* (Built at Carol I's request, the first king of Romania, Peles castle is considered one of the most beautiful castles in Europe.

The amazing architecture and exquisite interiors are matched only by the beauty of its setting in the Carpathians.

You will have free time for lunch at noon and then set off for Brasov.

Brasov, a city built by the German colonists 750 years ago, boasts wonderful medieval architecture. Surrounded by massive walls, towers, and gates, the city was also protected against different invasions by the mountains' steep hills. Located on an important trade route, the city developed quickly. The residents built one of the most impressive Gothic churches between Vienna and Istanbul, today known as the Black Church.

Dinner and overnight in Brasov.

Day 4: Monday, April 24th, 2023

BRASOV - BRAN - BRASOV

In the morning depart Brasov and head to visit the famous Bran Castle, also known as Dracula's castle. It was a safeguard castle for the trade route that connected Transylvania and Wallachia. It was built by the people of Brasov between 1377 – 1378. It represents in the consciousness of any tourist the dark residence of Prince Dracula, a fictional hero in the famous British Bram Stoker novel. Bran Castle is connected to Queen Marie of Romania. Visit Harman

Saxon village, located close to Brasov, and see the stunning Harman fortified church. The construction dates to 1240, and 200 years later, the fortification walls were constructed. The church served as a worship place for the locals and a shelter during the invasions. Discover how the Saxons lived here and admire their medieval dwellings and church.

Free time for lunch and the rest of the day at leisure.

Dinner and overnight in Brasov.

Day 5: Tuesday, April 25th, 2023

BRASOV - VISCRI - SIGHISOARA - TARGU MURES

Today we discover the forgotten world of the former Saxon villages. On the way to Sighisoara, we'll detour to the remote village of Viscri, a great UNESCO site. There are just 2 or 3 dirt roads in Viscri, the main one being quite broad. This road is flanked on both sides by beautiful and traditional houses built in the Saxon style. King Charles II owned a traditional house here, and he used to spend some days in the village every spring. At the outskirts of the village, perched on a hill, there is the fortified church of Viscri, one of the oldest fortified churches in Transylvania. Visit the church and the small museum located at the entrance.

Continue to Sighisoara, another UNESCO site in Transylvania. Built by the Germans about 800 years ago, the medieval citadel of Sighisoara looks like a perfect postcard. It is the best-preserved citadel in Romania, a stunning combination of cobblestone streets, medieval walls, massive watchtowers, and old architecture. Add to these the House of Vlad Dracul, allegedly the birthplace of Dracula.

Transfer to Targu Mures for dinner and overnight.

Day 6: Wednesday, April 26th, 2023

TARGU MURES - SURDESTI - SIGHET

In Targu Mures, you'll encounter a new type of architecture, the Secession style. Developed for the first time in Germany and Austria, the style spread into many other parts of the Western world. In Transylvania, it was introduced by the local Hungarian authorities in cities such as Targu Mures, Medias, and Cluj Napoca. One of the most impressive Secession buildings is the Culture Palace in Targu Mures – you'll get to admire the building's Concert Hall.

Travel to Maramures known for its wooden churches, several UNESCO sites, hospitable people, unspoiled rural areas, great food, and colourful traditional costumes. Visit the village of Surdesti to see the first wooden church on this trip. This is a UNESCO site.

Dinner and overnight in Sighet.

Day 7: Thursday, April 27th, 2023

SIGHET - MARAMURES VILLAGE - SAPANTA - SIGHET

Our tour of Maramures starts with Sighetu Marmatiei, a town on the border with Ukraine, a former Jewish centre, and the birthplace of Elie Wiesel. Visit the farmers' market. Stop at the Memorial to the Victims of Communism, a former political prison where thousands of innocent people were imprisoned because they dared to disagree with the communist regime. Visit the former cells, now transformed into rooms dedicated to various subjects such as the Cold War, the collectivization, the suppression of the church, etc. Before leaving the Memorial, take a stroll in the backyard of the prison to see two monuments dedicated to those who perished. We drive to a remote village to enjoy a short walk, see the locals, and taste Romanian traditional dishes prepared for you by a local family. The last stop of the day will be the most famous tourist attraction in Maramures, the Merry Cemetery. In the 1930s a local traditional woodcarver decided to carve crosses representing the dead during their lifetimes. Epitaphs were added to the beautifully carved crosses. Some are funny, others quite tragic, but they are painted in bright colours. Dinner and overnight in Sighet

Day 8: Friday, April 28th, 2023

SIGHET - BARSANA - GURA HUMORULUI

Today we head to Bucovina famous for the painted convents. Continue to Barsana, a village located along the Iza River to see Barsana Convent, a monastic centre consisting of a tall wooden church with beautiful frescoes and several wooden buildings. Visit the Museum of the Romanian Women, a traditional house turned into a museum, unique in Romania, where you see how women lived in the region of Maramures. Maramures boasts many traditional washing wooden installations located along the rivers. Local people still come to wash their carpets as they did hundreds of years ago. Dinner and overnight in Gura Humorului.

Day 9: Saturday, April 29th, 2023

GURA HUMORULUI - MOLDOVITA - SUCEVITA - VORONET - GURA HUMORULUI

The tour of Bucovina includes several painted churches, all UNESCO sites. We visit the convent in Moldovita and continue through the gentle mountains of Bucovina to Sucevita, known for its stunning painted church. This religious complex, looks more like a fortress and set in a beautiful valley surrounded by green mountains.

Marginea is known as an important ceramic centre in Romania. Admire the famous black ceramic and visit the local craftsmen.

Finally visit Voronet convent, erected in 1488. The church is a combination of

Byzantine, Gothic, and local elements. The exterior painting on the western wall depicts, on five registers, the Last Judgement scene, unique in the whole world. The Voronet Monastery has, in the composition of the paintings, the inimitable "Voronet blue".

Dinner and overnight in Gura Humorului

Day 10: Sunday, April 30th, 2023

GURA HUMORULUI - IASI - VASLUI

Today, you'll leave the Bucovina region and cross Moldova's historical region. You will stop in Iasi, the former capital city of the medieval state Moldova. Enjoy a short walk in the old town and admire the Palace of Culture, the Orthodox Cathedral, and Union Square. Hear more about the Communist impact on the city and about the faith of the Jewish people during WWII.

Dinner and overnight in Vaslui.

Day 11: Monday, May 1st, 2023

VASLUI - TULCEA

Visit and wine tasting at Macin vineyard. Lunch at the wine cellar (wine tasting includes a food platter).

Dinner and overnight in Tulcea.

Day 12: Tuesday, May 2nd, 2023

DANUBE DELTA

A short drive in the morning to the pontoon for the start of the full-day boat ride into the Danube Delta. Fish lunch (extra cost).

Dinner and overnight in Tulcea.

Day 13: Wednesday, May 3rd, 2023

TULCEA - BUCHAREST

Transfer to Bucharest. Lunch upon arrival in Bucharest and free time in the afternoon and evening.

Dinner and overnight in Bucharest.

Day 14: Thursday, May 4th, 2023

BUCHAREST - MANCHESTER

Pick up from your hotel and transfer to the airport for the flight back home.

Itinerary subject to change.

PRICES

£2690 per person

Included in the Price

- Return flights from Manchester to Bucharest
- Accommodation in twin bedded rooms in good hotels on bed and breakfast basis, according to the itinerary
- Meals as per the itinerary
- Transport by modern coach
- 1 full day Danube Delta boat trip
- Licensed English-speaking tour guide
- Entrance fees to all sites included in the programme
- Airport taxes
- ATOL protection

Not Included in the Price

- Items of a personal nature & extras at hotels (drinks etc)
- Single supplement £416 per person
- Fish lunch approx. €20 per person
- Tips - allow approx. €100 per person to be paid in cash - restaurants, tour guide, driver, visits to certain local craftsmen
- Travel insurance (including Covid-19 cover)
- Photographing or filming fees at the visited sites, where required

Please note that the cost of the tour may be subject to surcharges - please see the booking conditions.
Currency exchange rates used £1 = € 1.1684 as published in the Financial Times on 25th May 2022

* APC (ATOL Protection Contribution) provides passenger protection via the ATTF (Air Travel Trust Fund).
For further information visit www.caa.co.uk

How to Book

You can either book online at www.christian-travel.com or by completing the attached booking form and sending it together with your deposit of £200 (full payment if within 10 weeks of departure) to:

Worldwide Christian Travel
36 Coldharbour Road, Bristol BS6 7NA

Please make cheques payable to
'Hadler Tours Limited'

Worldwide Christian Travel
36 Coldharbour Road, Bristol BS6 7NA
Tel: 0117 973 1840
Email: info@christian-travel.com
Website: www.christian-travel.com

Worldwide Christian Travel has been organising Christian holidays and tours, mainly to the Holy Land, for 50 years. We cover all aspects of travel and are one of the most comprehensive Christian travel organisers in the country. Worldwide Christian Travel is a trading name of Hadler Tours Limited.

General Information

Fitness

People of all ages are welcome, but, whatever your age, we must insist on a reasonable level of fitness. A number of sites involve rough walking.

Your Protection

Hadler Tours Limited is a member of ABTA with membership numbers 93522 & V2096. ABTA and ABTA Members help holidaymakers to get the most from their travel and assist them when things do not go according to plan. We are obliged to maintain a high standard of service to you by ABTA's Code of Conduct. For further information about ABTA, the Code of Conduct and the arbitration scheme available to you or if you have a complaint, contact ABTA, 30 Park Street London SE1 9EQ Tel: 020 3117 0500 or visit www.abta.com.

All monies paid by you for the air holiday package shown are ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 3078. For more information see our booking terms and conditions.

Passports, Visas and Vaccinations

Travellers are responsible for ensuring that they have a valid passport for travel to the relevant countries. Visas are not currently required for British Passport holders

visiting Romania. At the time this brochure went to press no vaccinations or inoculations are required for travel but you may wish to consult your own doctor for advice concerning this. If you have any queries regarding the above, we will be happy to help.

Travel Advice

For the latest travel advice please visit www.fco.gov.uk or call 0870 606 0290.

Further Information and Paying The Balance

Further information will be sent to you regarding any action that may be required approximately 12 weeks before departure.

A final invoice will also be sent at this time and the balance for the tour must be paid at least 10 weeks before departure.

Travel Information

Full travel information, including details of meeting points, flight times, accommodation and travel information, will be sent to you approximately 2 weeks before departure. Normally, tickets are not issued but are handed to you at the airport or departure point by our representative who will be there to ensure that you depart without a hitch and to deal with any last minute difficulties.

Travel Insurance

It is compulsory to have travel insurance for your booking. Holiday Extras have a range of policies available at very competitive prices.

You can obtain a quote online by visiting www.christian-travel.com or alternatively you can call 0871 360 2742 and quote ABTA number 93522.

Gratuities

Our normal procedure is to deal with tips on a group basis and these are included in the price. The tour leader will distribute them to the guide, driver and hotels on your behalf. Individual tipping is not recommended unless the circumstances are exceptional.

Room Check In and Check Out Times

The standard international practice is to let rooms from midday to midday. However times do vary. Check-in times are usually between 2pm and 3pm, check-out times between 10am and 12 noon on the day of departure. Therefore, if you check-in immediately after a night flight this would normally count as one night's accommodation. Similarly if your return flight is at night you will normally be required to vacate your room at 12 noon prior to leaving for the airport. Day rooms are subject to availability/cost and should be arranged locally with the accommodation management.

Brochure Printed December 2022

