# Discover Carpathian Mountains and Danube Delta Small Group tour - 8 days

#### Highlights:

Transylvanian Carpathian Mountains trek, Brown Bears watching and Discover Danube Delta boat tour

#### **Description:**

#### Guaranteed Departures 2019: May 9 - 16 | June 20 - 27 | July 11 - 18 | August 8 - 15 | September 12 - 19

A short feedback about the tour from one of our clients: "Just a quick note to thank you both for a really wonderful holiday, the trip was organised to perfection and gave us the opportunity of sampling REAL Romania in a very short period of time."

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**Day 1:** Transfer Bucharest airport - Brasov city (160 km, 2-3 hours driving). Accommodation to a 3\* pension for 2 nights in Brasov. Fringed by the peaks of the Southern Carpathian Mountains and resplendent with gothic, baroque and renaissance architecture, as well as a wealth of historical attractions, Brasov is one of the most visited places in Romania. Founded by the Teutonic Knights in 1211 on an ancient Dacian site and settled by the Saxons as one of the seven walled citadels, Brasov exudes a distinct medieval ambiance and has been used as backdrop in many recent period films. Welcome dinner!

Day 2: Breakfast. Short transfer (10 km). Enjoy a round-trip hike to the epic Seven Ladders Canyon (Canionul Sapte Scari), famed for its ladders and waterfalls (Duration: 3-4 hours, medium effort, uphill/downhill walk: 500 m/500 m). After the hike we drive back to Brasov. In the evening (we leave between 4 and 6 pm - depending of the season May to September) we do the Brown Bears watching program. We offer you the opportunity to see and admire the brown bears in their own habitat from a specially designed observation hide in the Transylvanian forest. There are high chances (statistically more than 80%) to spot the Carpathian Brown Bear, sometimes a female with her cubs, sometimes a larger male bear, but you can also spot the wildboar, roe deer and red dear, wolves, linx and even some game birds. Accommodation. Late dinner.

**Note:** we cannot guarantee 100% that you will be able to see any of the wildlife listed above. Do not forget that wildlife have their own way of living and we, humans, try to approach them as much as possible in their natural habitat.

### Day 3 & 4: 2 day hiking tour in Piatra Craiului National Park.

Breakfast. Transfer to Bran village (30 km). We visit about 1 hour the Bran a.k.a. Dracula's Castle built by the Knights of the Teutonic Order between 1211 - 1225. We drive about 20 minutes to the Piatra Craiului National Park.

The trek is a medium one, except the part when/if we climb the highest peak of National Park: we spend 2 days in one of the most beautiful mountains of Romania, Piatra Craiului National Park. We trek between 5 - 8 hours, we make a stop to an authentic sheep farm for a "special" lunch (from June to September), we cross 2 authentic mountain villages - Magura and Pestera - depending of the weather and you we climb the highest peak of the National Park (2238), we cross Zarnesti Gorges.....in two words an AUTHENTIC ADVENTURE IN TRANSYLVANIA!

Accommodation to a local guesthouse in mountain villages from Bran area with private facilities, having local food.

# Highlights of the day:

**Bran** - The Dracula's Castle in Bran is no doubt one of the milestones when travelling in Transylvania. Towers, narrow corridors, hidden premises - the castle offers many interesting facts and stories, mysterious enough to incite the legend lovers

# Piatra Craiului National Park

The Piatra Craiului Mountains are a mountain range in the Southern Carpathians in Romania. Piatra Craiului ("King's Stone") is a

national park with wild animals and untouched nature where you can see rare flowers and unique flower in the world and amazing sites you won't regret it. The Piatra Craiului mountains form a narrow and saw-like ridge, which is about 25 km long. The highest elevation in the massif is the "Vârful La Om" with 2238 m. The ridge is regarded as one of the most beautiful sights in the Carpathians. The two-day north-south ridge trail is both challenging and rewarding. Starting at either Plaiul Foii in the north-west or Curmãtura in the north-east, walkers climb up to the ridge before following a somewhat precarious path along the narrow spine. The descent at the southern end leads into a karst landscape of deep gorges and pitted slopes where water penetrating the rock has carved a series of caves.

**Day 5:** Breakfast. We leave around 8:00 am and we drive to Tulcea town the main gate to the Danube Delta (500 km - about 7 hours driving). We make a stop for a quick lunch.

At 16:00 hour, we meet the local partner in Tulcea and embark you for the transfer to Mila 23 Village. We travel by boat, through one of the most beautiful parts on Danube Delta, on the route Canal 36, Sireasa Channel, Sontea Channel, Olguta Canal, Old Danube Canal, Mila 23 Village. Check in to a 3\* local guesthouse with private facilities.

In the evening we have a traditional fish dinner. After the dinner we discuss about the next day program.

The mighty Danube River flows 1,788 miles from its springs in Germany's Black Forest to the Black Sea. Just before reaching the sea it forms the second largest and best preserved of Europe's deltas: 2,200 square miles of rivers, canals, marshes, tree-fringed lakes and reed islands. The Danube Delta is a wildlife enthusiast's (especially a bird watcher's) paradise.

Danube Delta - the waters of the Danube, which flow into the Black Sea, form the largest and best preserved of Europe's deltas. The Danube delta hosts over 300 species of birds as well as 45 freshwater fish species in its numerous lakes and marshes.

**Day 6:** After the breakfast (8:30), we go on a boat tour on the lakes (9:30). We leave Mila 23 for the surrounding lakes on 2 tours, each about 4 hours long, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Depending on Danube water level and on updated information on where large groups of birds are feeding, we choose the best route for each day.

At 13:30 hours, we return at the resort for lunch and for a short rest, then with 4 hours before sunset, we leave on a different route. When we get back (after sunset), we have a traditional dinner, based on fresh fish.

**Day 7:** After the breakfast (8:30), we depart again on water (9:30). We visit Letea Forest and Letea Village. We travel to Letea Village by boat. From there, we travel to Letea Forest by car. We visit some local attractions, walk in the fine sand then head back to the boat and to Mila 23 resort. We have a lunch in a very beautiful local home with local food.

In the evening we have a traditional fish dinner.

**Day 8**: Breakfast at 8:30 then at 9:30 we head back to Tulcea, following the same route as day 1. We reach Tulcea around 11:30 and depart to Bucharest.

If your flight is after 14:00 (airport arrival), we can drop you to the Airport, if is earlier (11:00 - 14:00), is possible to drop you to the Airport for this flight BUT we have to do the water transfer from Mila 23 earlier.

If your flight is earlier than 11:00 AM, please take into consideration to have a hotel in Bucharest for the last night. Of course we can do the booking for you (NOT included in the tour price).

Known for its wide, tree-lined boulevards, glorious Belle  $\tilde{A}$ % poque buildings and a reputation for the high life (which in the 1900s earned its nickname of "Little Paris"), Bucharest, Romania's largest city and capital, is today a bustling metropolis.

### Details about trekking tour:

- -Â optimal time: May October
- -Â number of participants: minimum 2, maximum 10.
- transportation will be chosen according to the number of participants.
- mountain tour requires a good physical shape, with resistance to low effort but for long duration.
- the route could be changed because of the weather conditions.
- certified mountain guide during the entire trekking tour.

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#### See Classification of the trekking and hiking tours

Included: 7 nights accommodation with breakfast (2 nights in Brasov to a 3\* pension with private facilities, 2 nights to a 3\* local guesthouse in mountain villages from Bran area with private facilities, 3 nights to a 3\* local guesthouse in Danube Delta with private facilities) full board - 7 dinners, 3 lunch packs, 3 lunches all transfers and transportation by car or minibus transfers on water, Tulcea - Mila 23 and back entrance fees to Bran Castle, "7 Ladders Canyon", Piatra Craiului National Park 2 full days of boat trips + car to Letea Forest English speaking tour&mountain guide Brown bears watching program

Single supplement: 139 euro

Not Included: drinks

Cancellation terms:

#### TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR ACTIVE TRAVEL CULTURAL, BIKING, TREKKING & HIKING TOURS

IMPORTANT: All clients and participants in the programs offered by ACTIVE TRAVEL, must read and understand the following lines. They must agree with all the conditions presented below in order to be able to participate at any tour, mountain trip or any other form of activities organized by ACTIVE TRAVEL.

### The basic equipment needed for a mountain trip during summer time:

40-60 litre backpack, chosen according to the tour type.

Mountain boots covering your ankles; 2 additional pairs of socks.

Rain wear, jacket and pants. I recommend you to have the jacket and pants, so you will be protected from rain and windy weather. A rain poncho will do too, but only if there are no windy conditions outside.

Cap, gloves, sunglasses and sunscreen. I strongly advise you to carry a cap and gloves with you - even during the summer season because it could be quite cold at altitudes over 1700 m.

Warm clothes. One or two Polartec/Fleece sweaters.

Of course, you can add your personal belongings to the minimum equipment mentioned above.

In case you have forgotten parts of your compulsory equipment at home, please be so kind as to let me know about it before starting the tour.

Also, please keep in mind that tourists who do not have their basic equipment with them, are not allowed to participate at the tour.

#### Assuming risks. Warranties.

Participation in trekking, group tours, expeditions, exploration of flora and wild fauna or any other form of touristic round or holiday organized by ACTIVE TRAVEL might involve certain risks and dangers.

# These risks include but are not limited to the following situations:

Trips on mountain terrain, rivers and forests.

Travel by car, bus, mini-bus, terrain cars or any other means of transport

Accidents or sicknesses in isolated areas, with or without medical facilities with/without the possibility of evacuation against a cost.

Accidents caused by natural hazards.

Changes of itinerary due to causes independent from the agency's will.

Cancellation of tours or trips due to causes independent from the agency's will.

Taking in consideration the above, and through the payment for the right to participate to such trips or other services and activities organized by the company mentioned above, I hereby assume full responsibility for the actions I take, for the causes, duties, law-suits, requests or complaints of any type, hereby present or which could arise in the future due to the trip or in connection with it, or due to participation in activities organized for me by the above mentioned company.

I have read this document representing the assuming of risk and a guarantee for me and my inheritance, for administrators, executors and all family members, including all minors who join me. I hereby agree and accept all risks involved, dangers and mentioned conditions. Also, I agree with all the conditions mentioned above and with the payment of supplementary costs which might come up during the travel.

#### Limitation of responsibility

ACTIVE TRAVEL offers for its programs: transport, accommodation and other services provided by various services providers, as well as the professional mountain guide service offered ACTIVE TRAVEL, its owners or employees, contractors and providers of means of transport and/or any other needed transport services. Thus, ACTIVE TRAVEL is relieved of any responsibility concerning accidents, losses or personal damage which might result as a consequence of air, water or land transport or any other means of transport which are independent of his control. The use of any vehicle or mean of transport for this trip is the entire responsibility of companies or individuals which provide these services for passengers. These service providers (physical or legal entities) are responsible according to the existing legislation within the territory of Romania, all incidents being written down locally.

The contracted transport companies are licensed for transport of groups of people, according to the legislation within the territory of Romania, disposing of luggage insurance and accidents insurance for goods and people.

Also, ACTIVE TRAVEL as well as its owners, employees, contractors and associates don't assume any responsibility for losses or personal damage due to circumstances, weather, fire, governmental or any other authorities actions, as well as in the case of war, strikes, terrorist actions, thefts, epidemics, quarantine situations, dangerous incidents on air, water or land, or any other actions and incidents which are out of the control area of the agency.

The agency reserves its right to operate reasonable routes changes (including changes of hotels) when this is imposed, to insure optimum comfort and well-being of the participants.

The price is quoted using the current exchange rate and can be changed if the exchange rate varies significantly.

### **Payment conditions**

After having commonly agreed on the route and other helpful details regarding your trip, an advance payment of 25% (of the trip's total cost), is required to be done by the customer, by bank transfer or credit card payable to: ACTIVE TRAVEL.

The balance of 75% will be paid with 1 months before arrival.

# **Cancellations conditions**

Any program/tour cancellation is done by sending an email or fax (+40 268 32 15 15), the cancellation being valid only after you have received an answer.

The cancellations fees:

### Cultural tours (day tours or multiday tours):

- 30 days before the start of the tour 25% per person out of the total value of the program
- between 29 and 15 days before the start of the tour 75% per person out of the total value of the program
- less than 14 days from the beginning of the tour 100% per person out of the total value of the program
- no-show 100% per person out of the total value of the program

#### Biking, trekking&hiking tours (included the self guided tours)

- 30 days before the start of the tour 25% per person out of the total value of the program
- between 29 and 1 days before the start of the tour 100% per person out of the total value of the program
- no-show 100% per person out of the total value of the program

In case of cancelling a tour, ACTIVE TRAVEL is not responsible for the supplementary expenditures made by you for the well-going of the program. For example: buying the equipment, reservations at hotels/cottages, buying of plane/train tickets.

For any program cancellation you will informed by e-mail or fax.

We recommend you to have a trip cancellation insurance (storno) so that, if out of any reasons you cannot participate in the program any more (sickness, etc), to be able to ask the insurance company for the advance payment.

ACTIVE TRAVEL reserves the right to refuse providing services for third parties - persons or companies, without motivating the refusal.

Everything mentioned above represents constitutive part of current contract which will be signed by both parties before the start of the trip.