

# Discover Medieval Transylvania and Danube Delta Small Group Tour - 8 days

Offer available between 2018-08-30 and 2018-09-06, 2019-06-20 and 2019-06-27, 2019-08-08 and 2019-08-15, 2018-09-26 and 2019-09-19, 2019-05-09 and 2019-05-16, 2019-07-11 and 2019-07-18, 2018-09-19 and 2019-08-15, Duration: 8 d

## Highlights:

Discover Medieval Transylvania and Danube Delta Small Group Tour

## Description:

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

Whether you choose to explore nature, culture and local traditions, saxon villages, it is up to you! We visit Bran Castle aka Dracula's Castle, Peles Castle, Corvin Castle, Viscri Saxon Fortified Church, Sighisoara, Biertan Fortified Church, Sibiu and more! And then we spend 3 perfect days in Danube Delta, a wildlife enthusiast's (especially a bird watcher's) paradise.

Romania's Transylvanian region offers a fascinating window into a lost Europe, with medieval castles, towns and churches that seem caught in a time warp. This trip takes you into the heart of the region for a fascinating look so don't forget your camera!

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## What You Can Expect

Explore Transylvania's most impressive citadels and discover why the region is steeped in mysterious lore, on a fascinating 4 day small group trip. Immerse yourself in the legends of Transylvania with a visit to Bran Castle, visit two UNESCO World Heritage sites - the saxon church in the medieval village of Viscri and the impressive Biertan fortified saxon church, wander through the fortified Saxon town of SighiÅoara - known as the birthplace of the warlord who inspired Bram Stoker's Count Dracula. We visit Sibiu medieval city and Corvin Castle. Declared for Cultural capital of Europe Sibiu was once the king of the Transylvanian Saxon towns, serving as capital and dominating cultural activity. Sibiu is home to the first hospital in Romania (1292), the first pharmacy (1494) and the oldest museum in Romania, the Brukenthal Museum, opened in 1817.

## DESCRIPTION & FEATURES OF THE TOUR

**Day 1:** Transfer Bucharest airport - Sibiu city (280 km, about 4 hours driving). Accommodation to a 3\* pension. Declared for Cultural capital of Europe Sibiu was once the king of the Transylvanian Saxon towns, serving as capital and dominating cultural activity. Sibiu is home to the first hospital in Romania (1292), the first pharmacy (1494) and the oldest museum in Romania, the Brukenthal Museum, opened in 1817. Welcome dinner!

**Day 2:** Breakfast. We drive to Hunedoara (130 km, about 2 hours driving). We visit Corvin Castle, also known as Hunyadi Castle or Hunedoara Castle (Romanian: Castelul Huniazilor or Castelul Corvinilor), a Gothic-Renaissance castle. It is one of the largest castles in Europe and figures in a list of the seven wonders of Romania. It is great and breathtaking, provides the feeling of medieval times. We drive back to Sibiu. Lunch. In the evening we visit Sibiu by night! Dinner.

**Day 3:** Breakfast. We drive to Biertan (70 km, about 1 hour driving). Biertan is one of the most important Saxon villages with fortified churches in Transylvania, having been on the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites since 1993. Featuring late-gothic architecture with heavy doors and double exterior walls, the church boasts the largest Transylvanian multi-paneled wooden altar and a remarkable wooden door which once protected the treasures in the sacristy.

We continue the tour to the remarkably well-preserved town of SighiÅoara (30 km, about 30 minutes driving), so rich in history that the entire old city center is an UNESCO site. Hear about the medieval town's legendary former resident Vlad the Impaler, a Wallachian prince and warlord who inspired Bram Stoker's fictional character Dracula. Discover the only city in Romania which looks exactly the same way as in the XVth century.

We drive to Viscri about 1 hour. As we approach, admire the impressive whitewashed walls and red-roofed towers that surround the village, designed to protect early inhabitants from invading Turks. Wander the rustic streets of the town and visit its UNESCO World Heritage-listed church. Prince Charles, who owns a house in Viscri, says "Transylvania is in my blood". We continue the tour to Brasov (90 km, about 90 minutes driving). Lunch and dinner. Accommodation to a 3\* hotel for 2 nights.

*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.*

**Day 4:** Breakfast. Today we visit Bran Castle (a.k.a. Dracula's Castle) - Rasnov Fortress - Peles Castle. Lunch and dinner.

We drive about 45 minutes to Sinaia town for visiting Peles Castle. The expansive, Bavarian-style Peleș™ Castle was built among a lush forest to house Romania's royalty in the 19th century and is among the most beautiful in Europe. A guide will lead you through many of its immaculate, ornate rooms, still adorned with luxuriant furnishings and décor. You'll also have the chance to tour the neighbouring Pelișor™ Castle, a smaller royal residence decked out in art nouveau finery.

We continue the tour from Sinaia (about 60 minutes) to Bran Castle, also known as 'Dracula's Castle' – a hilltop estate that conjures up visions of howling wolves and bats fluttering in the moonlight. Wander the castle's Gothic chambers and learn about its ties to Bram Stoker's undead antihero. Enter if you dare and wander through the castle's many well-preserved rooms and chambers. Gothic furnishings and details help set the scene for ghastly legends of all that happened here, including the imprisonment of Vlad the Impaler. This 15th-century prince was notorious for his bloodthirsty campaigns against invading Turks and is said to have inspired Stoker's malevolent Count Dracula.

We drive about 30 minutes to Râșnov™, situated among the stunning Bucegi Mountains. Learn about the storied history of Râșnov™ Fortress, a walled stone compound designed to ward off attacks by the fierce Tartars and used as a refuge for local villagers during medieval warfare. Explore the time-worn courtyards, ramparts and well of the 13th-century fortress built by the Teutons. A short drive back to Brasov.

**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 Époque 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 the tour:**

- optimal time: May - October
- number of participants: minimum 2, maximum 10.
- transportation will be chosen according to the number of participants.
- the route could be changed because of the weather conditions.
- certified tour guide during the entire tour.

**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 Sibiu, 3 nights to a 3\* local guesthouse in Danube Delta with private facilities)

full board - 7 dinners, 7 lunches

all transfers and transportation by car or minibus

transfers on water, Tulcea - Mila 23 and back

entrance fees

2 full days of boat trips + car to Letea Forest

English speaking tour guide

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.