

TOUR ROMANIA - BULGARIA

Day 1: Arrival at Belgrade airport – flight from USA

Sightseeing Belgrade and overnight in the hotel. Dinner at the hotel

Day 2: Belgrade – Timisoara – Arad –Oradea

Arrival in Timisoara, approximate time 12:00 o'clock. City tour of Timisoara and free time for lunch (not included). Around 4 PM, we leave from Timisoara to Oradea where is the first accommodation in Romania. Dinner to hotel.

Day 3: Oradea – Sighetul Marmatiei

Breakfast at hotel. This day starts in Oradea with a pedestrian city tour which includes the historical center with its mix of architectural styles as: Baroque, Classical, Art Nouveau and Eclectic. Before lunch we leave Oradea to Satu Mare where we make a short stop for lunch (not included) and to admire the small yet charming old center. The tour goes further to Sighetul Marmatiei with a stop in Sapanta where we will visit The Merry Cemetery, there all the blue painted wooden crosses carries a epitaph about the person's life. In Sapanta is also the Peri Monastery with the highest tower of a wooden church, having a height of 78 meters. Accommodation will be in Sighetul Marmatiei and dinner in the Village of Vadul Izei hosted by a local family and gladden by local folk musicians

Day 4: Sighetul Marmatiei – Bistrita – Cluj Napoca

Breakfast at hotel. This day you will understand why Maramures, is considered special for its wood work. First stop will be in the village of Vadul Izei, where we will visit a plum brandy distillery and a typical whirlpool still used by the local women to wash heavy woolen blankets and carpets. In the village of Barsana we stop to visit the workshop of a famous, master carver who represented Romania in 1999 at the „Smithsonian Folk Festival”, in Washington DC. Going towards Bistrita, we will visit the very old wooden churches of: Barsana, Rozavlea and Bogdan Voda, all of them are part of UNESCO heritage. Lunch time we will be in Bistrita at the restaurant Coroana de Aur (is included). From Bistrita we go to Cluj Napoca for accommodation and dinner.

Day 5: Cluj Napoca – Turda – Alba Iulia – Sibiu

Breakfast at hotel. This day starts with a city tour of Cluj Napoca, we will visit: the city center and the Ethnographic Museum of Transylvania. Once we finish the visit in Cluj Napoca, we go towards Turda where is included a visit to one of the most spectacular salt mine from Romania. Lunch time is also in Turda (not included). Another attraction of this day is Alba Iulia where we stop to visit the medieval fortress built in Vauban style. The itinerary continues towards Sibiu for accommodation. After the check-in and a short time for refresh we go to the famous village of Sibiel for a traditional dinner.

Day 5: Sibiu - Sighisoara

Breakfast at hotel. This day starts with a walking tour in the historic center of Sibiu, that in 2007 was The European Capital of Culture. We will take a look to the old protection walls and the defense towers that belonged to the different guilds. The city tour also includes, places like: Orthodox Cathedral, Evangelical Cathedral, Roman Catholic Church, Art Museum – Brukenthal, etc. Lunch time we spend in Sibiu (not included). From Sibiu we go to Sighisoara. Before to reach the destination we will stop to Biertan (a fortified church that impress with its exterior aspect and historic value, but especially by its originality preserved since beginning of the XV century, those characteristics have been determinant for its inclusion on the list of UNESCO World Heritage). Accommodation and dinner in Sighisoara.

Day 6: Sighisoara – Bran – Brasov

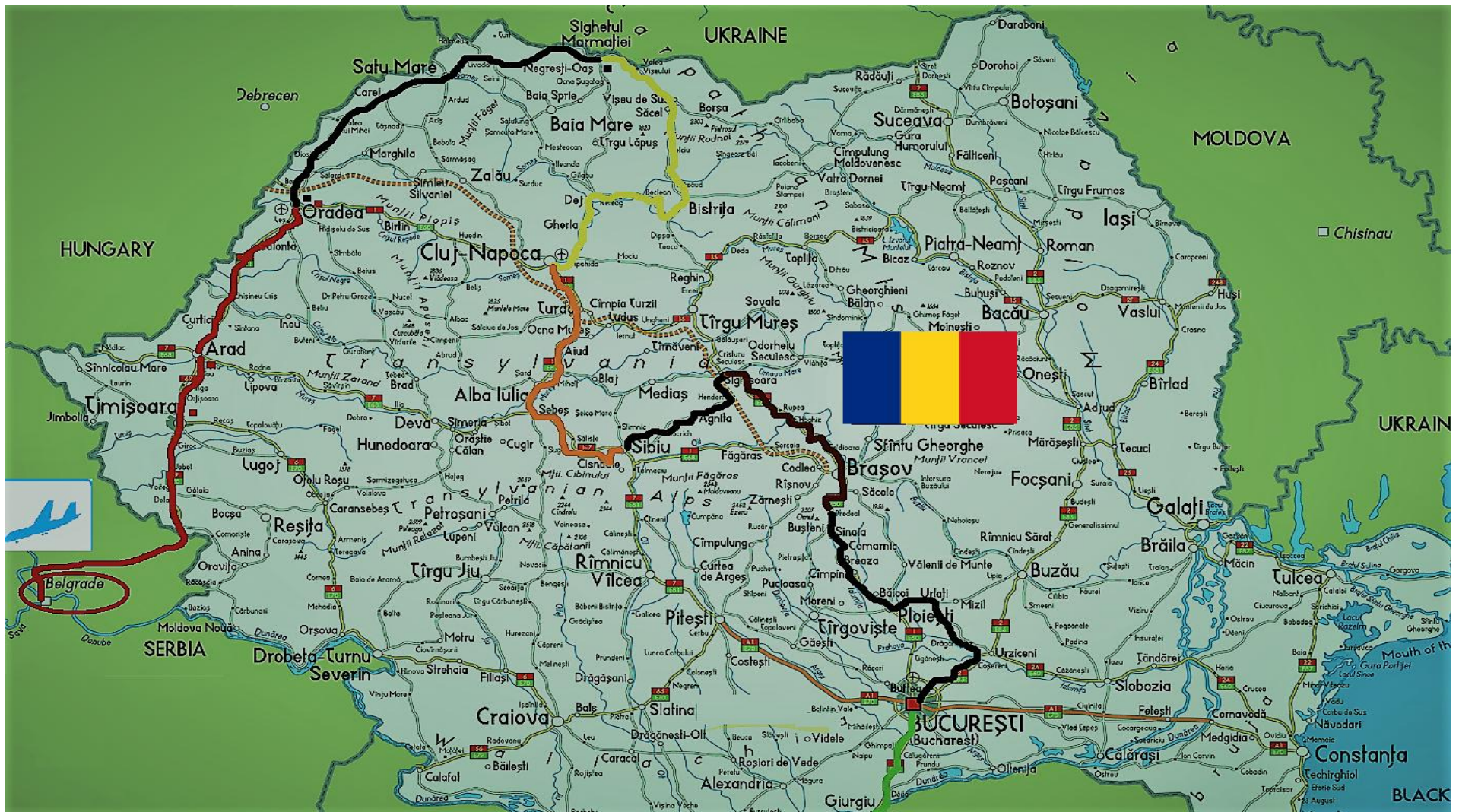
Breakfast at hotel. This day starts with a tour of Sighisoara including an exclusive lecture about Vlad the Impaler – Dracula who was born here and visits to: The Gothic Lutheran church, The Clock Tower, The Medieval Weapons collection and The Torture room. The tour includes also a visit to a workshop of a Romanian famous sculptor. We leave Sighisoara for Bran to visit the famous Bran Castle, also known as Dracula Castle. Lunch time in Bran at Popasul Drumetului (is included). This day ends in Brasov with a tour in the old center of Brasov, where we visit: The Council Square, Black Church, Orthodox Synagogue, Rope Street, etc. Accommodation and dinner in Brasov.

Day 7: Brasov – Sinaia – Urlati – Bucharest

Breakfast at hotel. The tour goes further from Brasov to Sinaia where we visit Sinaia Monastery and Peles Palace the summer royal residence of King Charles I of Romania. One the way to Bucharest we make a detour through Urlati where we visit a local wine cellar and have wine tasting and lunch (is included). The day ends in Bucharest where we have accommodation and dinner with folk show.

Day 8: Bucharest – Bulgarian border

Breakfast at hotel. This day starts with a city tour of Bucharest which includes a panoramic tour and visits to: Palace of the Parliament and Village Museum. From Bucharest we go to Giurgiu at the Bulgarian border. End of services in Romania and entering Bulgaria.



Day 8: Arrival from Romania to Ruse

Ruse was known in the past as the "little Vienna". Enjoy the tour of the town famous with its rich history and a big number of architectural monuments. Ruse was the largest city of Bulgaria in 1878. The rich merchants built proud hotels in the eclectic style, then in vogue. Ruse was famous with its Viennese cafes. The elegant women sported the "latest fashion Paris". Visit a building which epitomizes the skills of craftsmen and women in the late 19th and early 20th century. The building, once home to a well known merchant family of the Rousse region, has been restored and filled with antique furniture to recapture the atmosphere of Rousse at the turn of the century.

Dinner. Overnight in Ruse.

Day 9 : Ruse – Ivanovo – Sveshtari – Varna (310 km)

Departure to Ivanovo and Russe. The rock monastery “St. Archangel Michael” is situated 22 km from Ruse, in close proximity to the village of Ivanovo. The monastery was founded in the 1220s. The monastery joins a number of complexes of rock premises. Wall-paintings which show the specifics of Bulgarian church art in the 13th – 14th centuries are preserved in six temples. Their exceptional artistic qualities are the reason for their inclusion by UNESCO in the list of the global cultural heritage. Departure to Sveshtari. The Thracian Royal Tomb of Sveshtary was constructed at the beginning of the 3d century BC and is a wonderful example of the Thracian tomb architecture. The tomb has a unique architectural decor, with polychrome half-human, half-plant caryatids and painted murals. The Sveshtarska tomb is included to the list of global cultural heritage by UNESCO. Departure to Varna. The town was established in the 6th century BC under the name of Odessos by emigrants from the town of Milet in Asia Minor. For a short time it turned into a polis and one of the most important ports and commercial centers on the Black Sea. Walking tour of the city center to discover the long history of the city and its modern life. Dinner. Overnight in Varna.

Day 10 : Varna. – Nessebar – Sunny Beach (112 km)

After breakfast visit of the Museum of Archeology where is exposed the oldest gold treasure in the world, dating from 4,600 BC to 4,200 BC.

Departure to Nessebar. Visit of the Old town of Nessebar, architectural-historical reserve, included to the List of UNESCO of world cultural heritage. Nessebar is one of the most ancient towns in Europe, founded 3200 years ago. During Antiquity the town was called Mesembria. Ever since it was founded, the town has always been surrounded by fortification walls, whose remains have survived until today. The first fortification walls were built by the Thracians in the 8th century BC. After the capital of the Roman Empire moved to Constantinople and Christianity became the official religion, there was a boom of Christian temples, built on the territory of Mesembria. According to some legends there about 40 churches in Nessebar. Sunny Beach is the biggest Bulgarian resort on the Black Sea side. It is situated just few kilometers from Nessebar. The resort has 5 kilometer sandy beach and great number of restaurants, café, bars. Folklore dinner including the famous fire dance. Overnight in Sunny Beach/Kosharitsa.

Day 11 : Sunny Beach - Plovdiv (285 km)

In the morning departure to Plovdiv. On the road a stop for visit of wine cellar. Lunch and wine tasting. Plovdiv is the European capital of the culture for 2019. Walking tour of the city. Visit of production of chocolate with tasting. Plovdiv is one of the oldest cities in the world and the oldest continuously inhabited city in Europe. Plovdiv was founded in 4000 BC. It is older than the ancient city of Troy and Athens. The periods of its history are the Prehistory, the Thracian, Hellenic and Roman cultures, the Middle Ages, the Ottoman period and the National revival.. The period during which Plovdiv has been within the Roman Empire was marked by the construction of many large public buildings: the ancient theater (late 1-st and early 2-d century AC). And nowadays it is used for performances and outdoor concerts. Other major monuments of Roman civilization are the Roman Forum (2nd century BC) and Roman stadium in length of 180 meters and with 30,000 seats (2-d century AC). At that time the name of the city was Trimontium, which means "town on three hills." Bulgarian history is presented in the old town of Plovdiv with the big beautiful houses of 18 - 19 centuries. They are evidence of the economic power of the city during this period. At that time Plovdiv compete with Thessaloniki and Istanbul. The walk along the narrow cobbled streets between high walls and overhanging second floors take us back in time. The Ancient Plovdiv is on the

Tentative list of UNESCO. Possibility for have pictures in traditional Bulgarian costumes. Visit of the craftsman street and option for individual workshops of painting, wood craiving (duration about 1, 30 h).
Dinner. Overnight in Plovdiv .

Day 12 : Plovdiv – Panagurishte – Sofia (170 km)

Departure to Starosel. On the road stop in a small village to meet the locals and taste the traditional banitza. In Starosel visit of the largest Thracian royal complex with a mausoleum. It dates back to the end of 5th and the beginning of 4th century BC. A dug-in rock bath-tube for wine production and storage is located on the northern side of the temple. It has an oval base and solid plastering. Vessels for wine-drinking and strainers were found inside it during excavations. The wine production on the territory of Bulgaria are old more than 3 thousand years.

Departure to Panagurishte. In this small town was discovered one of the masterpiece of the antique arts - the famous Panagurishte gold treasure 2400 years old (dated end of the 4-th beginning of the 3-d century BC). The treasure consists of nine vessels made of pure 24- karat gold, with total weight of 6.164 kg . Wine tasting in the wine cellar Rumelia keeping the millenary wine making traditions. Departure to Sofia. Dinner. Overnight in Sofia

Day 13 : Sofia

Welcome to Sofia where 6 civilizations left their traces. You will be met by our staff and we will transfer you to your hotel .

Walking tour to the city center (about 3 hours). You will see St.Sophia church dating back to 5th-6th century AD, a monument of Bulgarian medieval civilization that gave the current name of the town. You will visit the largest cathedral Alexander Nevski with its gilded dome, the rotunda St.George 3th-4th century, Banya Bashi Mosque built in 16th century over natural thermal springs and named after the neighboring Central Baths, the city fortress and you will feel the atmosphere of the city, which history dates over 5000 years ago

Dinner. Overnight in Sofia.

Day 14 : Sofia- Rila Monastery – Sofia (248 km)

After breakfast departure to Rila Monastery. This is the largest monastery in Bulgaria. The monument is included to UNESCO world heritage list. It is a true masterpiece of Bulgarian Middle Age. You will feel the special atmosphere, created during the 11 centuries of its existence and will admire the green mountain, surrounding the monastery. Lunch and departure to Sofia. On the road to Sofia visit of Boyana Church St. Nicolas and St. Pantaleimon, UNESCO monument. The church is famous with the frescoes, painted in 1259, make it one of the most important collections of medieval paintings.

Dinner with folklore program. Overnight in Sofia.

Day 15 : Sofia - Airport Sofia / 18 km / - Departure

Free time for explore the city. Transfer from the hotel to airport Sofia. Preparations for the flight to USA. Departure.

SERVICES INCLUDED ON TOUR

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Included on tour:

- ☐ Guiding
- ☐ Entrance fees to sites
- ☐ 7 nights – BB – accommodation
- ☐ 7 dinners (2 of them have included folklore show)
- ☐ 3 lunches

SERVICES INCLUDED ON TOUR IN BULGARIA

What's Included

- ☐ 7 overnights on HB in hotels 4* including 2 folklore dinners with programs in Sunny Beach and in Sofia with 1 glass of rakia (local grappa), 1 glass of wine and water included
- ☐ 2 lunches
- ☐ 2 wine tastings
- ☐ 1 tasting of chocolate
- ☐ 1 tasting of Banitsa
- ☐ English speaking guide during the entire tour
- ☐ All sightseeing as indicated in the program
- ☐ Entrance fees to museums and sites, indicated in the program

