

## TRANSYLVANIA AND BUCHAREST



## TRIP OVERVIEW

Magical, mythical Transylvania, “the last truly medieval landscape in Europe”, takes you back in time to a world of Saxon villages and hilltop citadels. Discover the birthplace of Vlad the Impaler, delve into the legend of Dracula at Bran Castle, and delight in the fairy-tale landscape of dark forests surrounding colourful towns and fortified church steeples poking through the treetops. Conclude with a visit to the Romanian capital of Bucharest, taking in the historic yet dynamic Old Town.

## ITINERARY &amp; DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to Romania. Please take the time to read this dossier to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our tour. It includes important details such as flight details, visa requirements and travel insurance.

## Your included meal guide:

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

## DAY 1: UK to Poiana Brasov D

Depart from London on your scheduled flight to Bucharest. On arrival transfer to your hotel in the ski resort of Poiana Brasov. Relax with a welcome dinner.

## DAY 2: Brasov B

After breakfast head for nearby Brasov for a morning walking tour around the wonderfully well-preserved medieval and baroque old town. Start at its heart, in the venerable main square (Piata Sfatului) – also known as German Square – where modern café life buzzes against a background of stunning Saxon architecture. You can't miss Brasov's most prominent landmark, the 'Black Church', so called after being charred in a great fire in 1689. Travel back in time at the First Romanian School museum, then marvel at the adjacent Gothic spires of the 16th century St Nicholas Cathedral. In the afternoon enjoy an excursion to the 14th century Bran Castle, built as a cliff-top defensive fortress and cloaked in Dracula legend. Under the direction of Queen Marie in the 1920s it was transformed into modern summer residence fit for royalty.

## DAY 3: Sighisoara &amp; Biertan B

This morning it's off to UNESCO-listed Sighisoara for a walk around the cobbled streets of one of Europe's oldest citadels. The first thing to hit you is the riot of colour, with buildings painted in bright oranges, yellows, blues and pinks creating a dazzling canvas. It has a colourful history too, being the birthplace of Vlad the Impaler. The 14th century Clock Tower, offers a spectacular panorama from the top and a covered stairway leads to the “Church on the Hill”, a fine example of Gothic architecture. Move on to the Saxon village of Biertan, home to the finest and largest fortified church in Transylvania.

## DAY 4: To Bucharest via Prejmer and Sinaia B

Today we head for Bucharest, stopping first to see the impressive UNESCO-listed Saxon citadel of Prejmer. With walls 40 ft high and 15 ft thick, plus bastions, drawbridges it's perhaps no surprise that in 500 years it was besieged 50 times but only captured once. Then on to Sinaia, first to marvel at the unashamedly opulent neo-Renaissance masterpiece that is Peles Castle, commissioned by King Carol I in 1873 as a summer residence. Then visit Sinaia Monastery, with a history dating back 300 years and a dual function as a shelter for the needy and a strategic lookout over the Prahova River valley below.

## DAY 5: Bucharest B/D

Romania's capital city has seen some turbulent times but has re-emerged as a dynamic, vibrant and welcoming city. Today's walking tour will give you a fascinating glimpse into its historic old town, the Lipscani District, an area that was neglected by the communist regime because of its bourgeois merchant roots and has been slowly regenerating since 1989. Besides the main arteries of Lipscani Street and Covaci Street, a warren of side streets reveal antiques stores, fashionable boutiques and hidden courtyards. You'll also see the beautiful 18th century Stavropoleos Monastery, with stunning ceiling frescoes in the Brancovenesc style. In the evening a farewell dinner can be enjoyed at a local restaurant.

## DAY 6: Bucharest to UK B

After breakfast the morning is yours to explore Bucharest at your own pace. In the afternoon transfer to the airport for your return flight to the UK.



## ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP

### Hotel information

**Poiana Brasov** (3 nights): 4★ Ana Hotel Sport  
Address: Strada Valea Dragă Poiana, Braşov 500001, Romania  
Telephone: 0040 268 407 330  
Exception dates (13th August, 24th Sept, 8th & 22nd Oct 2019 departures) will be staying at the;

**Poiana Brasov** (3 nights): 4★ Alpin, Poiana Brasov  
Address: Poiana Doamnei, Poiana Brasov 500001, Romania  
Telephone: 0040 268 262 343

**Bucharest** (2 nights): 4★ Europa Royale Bucharest Hotel  
Address: Strada Franceză 60, Bucureşti 030106, Romania  
Telephone: 0040 21 319 1798  
Exception dates (18th June, 24th Sept & 22nd Oct 2019 departures) will be staying at the;

**Bucharest** (2 nights): 4★ Moxa Boutique Hotel  
Address: Strada Mihail Moxa nr 2-4, Bucureşti 010961, Romania  
Telephone: 0040 21 650 5555

### Accommodation

All accommodation features an en suite bathroom, air-conditioning/heating and TV. Mercury Holidays has visited and inspected all of the hotels to ensure that they meet the high standards of service which we require for our clients. If the hotels detailed are not available, alternatives will be used of a similar standard. Final confirmation of your hotels will be sent in a document approximately 10 days before you travel.



### Meals

Breakfast is served in the hotel each morning. Dinner (when included) will be taken in local Romanian restaurants or at the hotel. A variety of restaurants are visited giving you the chance to experience a range of dishes and flavours.

## ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival in Romania you will be met by a representative from our local agent, Nova Travel, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays/ Nova Travel representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. Your national guide will be on hand 24 hours a day should you have any queries, however if you need to contact your representative during your stay the details are:

### Nova Travel

Telephone Number; 0040 724 320 926 or 0040 21 314.30.02  
E-mail [alina.popescu@novatravel.ro](mailto:alina.popescu@novatravel.ro)

### Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for Nova Travel 24 hour: 0040 724 320 926

## WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

### Visas

A visa is not required for your trip to Romania. Further advice should be sought from the applicable tourist authority for other nationalities and for general queries. We strongly advise you check your destinations' Tourist Board or Embassy for the most up-to-date guidelines regarding passport validity.

### Insurance

We strongly recommend that you and all members of your party are suitably insured as soon as you book your holiday. It is a condition of booking that you must have suitable travel insurance. It is important that you purchase travel insurance that suitably covers your participation in whatever activities you may undertake at the time that you make your booking. To assist you with this, we have arranged travel insurance in partnership with Holiday Extras. To arrange your travel insurance with Holiday Extras, please call 0800 781 4237 and quote 'WK830' for preferential rates. Please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Sunspot Tours will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

### Health and Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to check any health and vaccination requirements applicable to your booked arrangements. We can only provide general information about this. Health and hygiene facilities and disease risks vary from country to country. You should take health advice about your own needs as early as possible and in good time before your departure. Sources of information include: [www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk), [www.travelhealthpro.org.uk](http://www.travelhealthpro.org.uk), [www.hpa.org.uk](http://www.hpa.org.uk), your General Practitioner or a specialist clinic.

### Physical Accessibility

This tour is accessible to most people with a good level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves climbing of steep stairs and getting on and off coaches. This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties.

### Group Size

The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 10, and the maximum will be 40. If in the unlikely event there are less than 10 people booked on your tour date, we will endeavour to reduce any disruption to your holiday and try to operate your tour with lower passenger numbers. If we are not able to operate your departure date, then you may be asked to change to a different date and a full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

### Tipping

It is customary to tip both your driver and guide approximately 2 euros per person per day in total. Tips will be collected at the end of your tour.

### Tour Guides

This is a fully escorted tour meaning that you will be met by a local guide in each of the cities that you visit, ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times.

### Currency Exchange

The currency in Romania is the Romanian Leu. We recommend that you exchange your currency before you leave the UK. It is important that you budget carefully and ensure you have the right form of currency before you arrive in the country. Cash machines will also be available throughout the tour in order to withdraw money in your local currency.

### Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry, any meals not included in the itinerary as well as drinks and any additional snacks; Approximately £200- £300 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour. It is a good idea to try and maintain a supply of small notes and change in the local currency for tipping or small purchases.

### Credit Card Information

As normal practice you may be asked for your credit card details on check-in at the hotel in order to cover any extras incurred during your stay. If you do not have a credit card you may be asked for a cash deposit. American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in hotels.

### Itinerary changes

The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. The schedules of the domestic airlines in country are subject to frequent changes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction &/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

## WHAT TO PACK

- Comfortable walking shoes
- Camera and charger
- A plug adaptor - the voltage in Romania 220 V
- Antibacterial hand gel
- Binoculars
- Personal first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin etc
- Sunglasses, Sunscreen and hat in summer
- Small day pack for excursions
- Sweater and jacket for the spring months

## FLIGHT INFORMATION

Your initial flight is to [Henri Coandă International Airport](#) with [British Airways \(BA\)](#), departing from [London Heathrow, Terminal 5](#)

**IMPORTANT: Please note that final flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.**

### Baggage Allowance

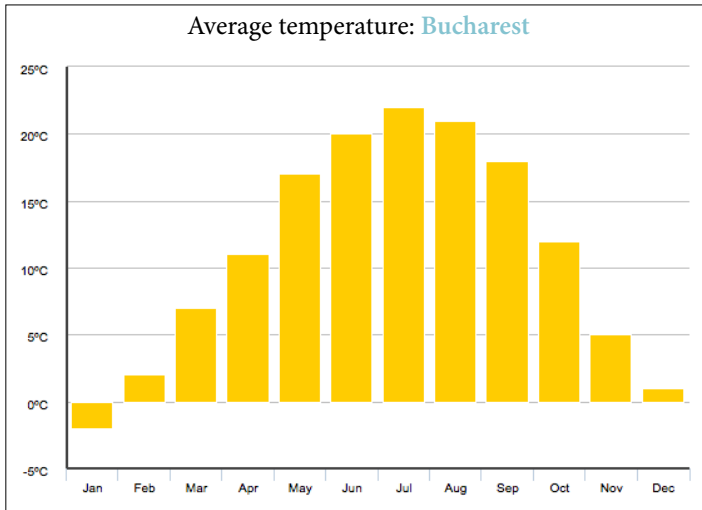
Each passenger is entitled to 23KG of hold luggage plus 1 item of hand luggage not exceeding (Max 7kg - 50cm/37cm/ 25cm) in size and 1 personal item such as a handbag, briefcase or laptop case. Weight restrictions will be finalized on E-ticket receipt. Should you wish to take additional luggage you will need to pay extra at check – in. Check-In should be at least 3 hours before departure.

### Airport Extras

If you wish to arrange Airport car parking or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras on 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

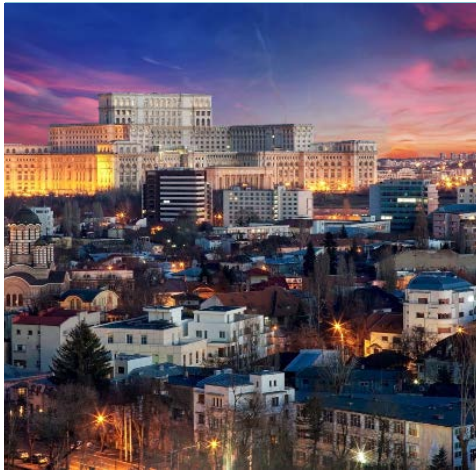
## WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate chart below.



# BUCHAREST CITY STAY

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0843 224 0723



## TRIP OVERVIEW

Located on the banks of the Dâmbovița River, Bucharest is a bustling metropolis with tree-lined boulevards, 17th and 18th century orthodox churches and fabulous Belle Époque buildings.

## ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your add-on in Bucharest.

### Hotel Information

Your stay in Bucharest will take place at the 4★ Europa Royale Bucharest Hotel on Bed and Breakfast. This comfortable hotel is centrally located in the heart of Bucharest, close to popular restaurants and coffee shops and is a close distance from the quaint cobbled streets of the old town. With its modern decor and cutting-edge facilities, enjoy this gem of a hotel on the doorstep to Bucharest's cultural highlights.

### Hotel Information

**Bucharest** (2 nights) 4★ Europa Royale Bucharest Hotel  
Address: Strada Franceză 60, București 030106, Romania  
Telephone number: 0040 21 319 1798

Any alternative hotels or board basis will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our reservations department if you are unsure.

Please note: the hotel listed is provided for guidance only and final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.

### Please note

This extension takes place after your main tour.

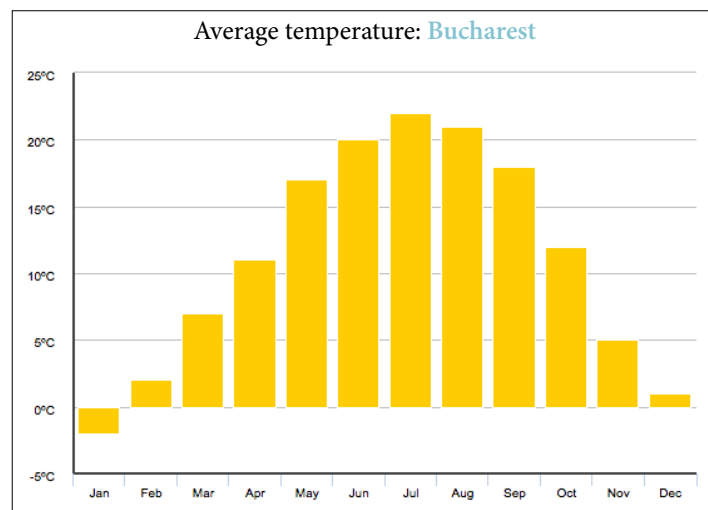
### Personal Expenses

You will need to take some extra money with you to cover any meals not included, drinks and personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry and any snacks.

### Tour Guides

Your stay in Bucharest is not escorted by a tour guide. All internal transfers are included.

## WEATHER AND CLIMATE



## FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information, call us on 0843 224 0723