Via Transilvanica - Terra Saxonum - self-guided walk

8 days / 7 nights

Immerse yourself in authentic Romanian country life and breathtaking landscapes on this 8-day self-guided walking tour along Via Transilvanica - Romania's answer to "El Camino", a 1,400-kilometer trail. More than a hiking route, Via Transilvanica is a transformative journey connecting historical landmarks, remote villages, and forgotten corners of the countryside. As you trek, you'll directly support local rural communities and experience true Romanian hospitality, with genuine smiles, warm conversations, and homemade meals at every stop. Walk at your own pace, connect with nature, and become part of a story that bridges cultures, people, and places.

YOUR PROGRAM

Day 1 - Welcome to Terra Saxonum

Your adventure begins at Brasov train station (or at airport) with a private transfer to Architа (~2:00 hour). Architа is a historic village that marks the boundary between Terra Siculorum (Szekler Land) and Terra Saxonum (Saxon Land). Here you can wander around the impressive 14th-century fortified church, soak in the quiet rural atmosphere, as you prepare for your Via Transilvanica trek starting the next morning.

• Meals included: Dinner
• Accommodation: chariming guesthouse in Architа.

Day 2 - Via Transilvanica from Architа to Crit

Starting at the fortified church in Architа, the trail climbs past traditional shepherd camps into lush pastures. A peaceful forest road leads you to Roades, a beautifully restored Saxon village.
From here, the path winds down through rolling meadows and farmland before following a tranquil stream and forest trail that opens up to stunning panoramic views of Architа. After trekking through sunlit glades and woodland, your journey ends in Crit, another iconic Saxon village where you can explore the historic fortified church and relax.

• Walking: ~8h, 27km, +/-710m
• Meals included: Breakfast, picnic lunch, dinner
• Accommodation: chariming guesthouse in Crit.

Day 3 - Via Transilvanica – From Crit to Saschiz

Today's walk begins in the center of Crit village at the historic fortified church, the Via Transilvanica trail leads you to the edge of the village, passing charm-filled Saxon houses before heading toward the forest. A gentle climb brings you beneath the forest canopy, offering a shaded and peaceful walk with no steep ascents. Upon exiting the woods, the route leads directly into Cloasterf, bringing you to the evangelical church at the heart of the village. Here, you can take a moment to explore the local campsite or tour the church before continuing along a quiet paved road toward Saschiz. Upon arriving in Saschiz, you can visit its UNESCO-listed fortified church and discover the unique charm of this beautifully revitalized Saxon village.

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• Walking: ~4.5h, 13.6km, +380/-440m
• Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner
• Accommodation: chariming guesthouse in Saschiz

Day 4 - Via Transilvanica – From Saschiz to Sapartoc

Day 5 - Via Transilvanica – From Sapartoc to Stejarenii

Starting in Sapartoc, your day begins with a gentle climb past two abandoned churches and a shepherd's hut, leading into a cool fir forest. Emerging from the trees, the trail passes Aurel Vlaicu and reaches Lunca Postei, offering a breathtaking view over Sighisoara. You will descend into the UNESCO medieval citadel of Sighisoara, perfect for a break among its colorful cobblestone streets. Leaving the town, the path ascends onto the Breite Plateau nature reserve, where you will walk among massive, 800 year old oak trees. The day ends with a peaceful descent into the village of Stejarenii to visit its historic church, with an optional extension to Cris for those wanting extra miles.

• Walking: ~7.5h, 25.6km, +560/-670m
• Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner
• Accommodation at a local homestay in Stejarenii

* Flexible Pace: If you feel like taking things a bit slower, this stage can be split into two shorter days with an intermediate overnight stay in Sighisoara.

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Day 6 - Via Transilvanica – From Stejareni to Malancrav

Leaving Stejarenii, the trail follows a paved road for three kilometers to Cris, where you can visit the magnificent Renaissance Bethlen Castle. Crossing from Mures into Sibiu county, the path climbs gently through lush oak forests and open pastures, descending along a quiet forest track to the colorful hamlet of Floresti, an ideal spot to pause by the village well. Continuing past working sheepfolds, you will ascend through an enchanting woodland that hides a natural mini-canyon before descending into Malancrav. A unique village that remained a noble domain for centuries and famously avoided the architectural modernization of the communist era, Malancrav boasts a stunning Fortified Church containing Romania's largest complete cycle of 14th century Gothic frescoes. Before resting, take a moment to explore the renovated Apafi Manor or taste the village's famous organic apple juice, produced from orchards that have defined this valley for generations.

• Walking: ~5h, 16.5km, +420/-410m
• Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner
• Accommodation at a local guesthouse in Malancrav

Day 7 - Via Transilvanica – From Malancrav to Biertan

Departing Malancrav, the final leg of your journey leads through terraced apple orchards and past an ancient hexagonal well. The path climbs a hill before descending through young woodland onto a reddish-yellow dirt road toward Nou Sasesc. After

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passing through the village, you will ascend into sparse forest and follow a high grassy ridge across the countryside.
A steady descent brings you into Copsa Mare to view its 14th century fortified church before a short climb leads onto the crests of the Transylvanian Hills. The trail culminates with a panoramic descent into Biertan, a UNESCO World Heritage site dominated by its colossal fortified church. Here you can explore medieval features like the 1515 multi-locking door and the historic marital prison room, where couples seeking divorce were locked together until they reconciled.

• Walking: ~5h, 15km, +580/-620m
• Meals included: breakfast, lunch.
• Accommodation at a charming guesthouse in Biertan.

Day 8 - End of trip in Sibiu

Additional information

TARIFFS
975 euros per person.

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Single room supplement (price per person, for min. 2 travelers) : 220 euros per person.
Welcome & briefing meeting : 40 euros per person.
Train Bucharest - Brasov (price per person) : 20 euros per person.
Extra night in Nemsa to finish the region (price per person, including accommodation, full-board meals, and luggage transfers) : 130 euros per person.
Extra night in Medias to finish the region (price per person, including accommodation, B&B, and luggage transfers) : 130 euros per person.
Extra night in Bucharest, 3* central hotel, price per Double room, B&B : 110 euros per person.
Extra night in Bucharest, 3* central hotel, price per Single room, B&B : 100 euros per person.
Extra night in Brasov, 3* central hotel, price per Double room, B&B : 100 euros per person.
Extra night in Brasov, 3* central hotel, price per Single room, B&B : 90 euros per person.

INCLUDED
Meals: 8 breakfasts, 6 picnics and 6 dinners
All accommodations
D1 Private transfer Brasov - Archita
D8 Private transfers Biertan - Sibiu
Baggage transfer
Navigation app access
Via Transilvanica Hiker's Passport
Testimonium - section hiker certificate
Assistance always reachable

NOT INCLUDED
Transport to the starting point and from the final point
The insurance
The drinks, other than water
Dinner on Day 8 (Biertan)
Printed roadbook
Personal expenses
Site visits
Souvenirs

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY
8 days / 6 days of walking. Medium level of walking with a maximum day at 8h.

CARRYING
The transfers of your luggage are provided. You only have to carry your things needed for the day (picnic, camera...)

ACCOMMODATION
4 night in charming guesthouses, 2 nights in typical guesthouses, 1 night in local homestay in Stejareni

SIZE OF GROUP
Minimum of 2 people.

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DEPARTURES
Every day from April to October, subject to availability of accommodation, response within 48 hours, from Monday to Friday.

STARTING POINT
Brasov train station/airport.

END OF THE TRIP
Sibiu train station/airport.

HOW TO GET THERE
HOW to get from the AIRPORT to the North train station:

BUS
- To go to the North train station, exit the Arrivals terminal (from the ground level – if you see a flower shop to your right, you are on the first floor) and walk towards the bus stop “Otopeni Plecari” (Otopeni departures).
- Take bus 100 and get off at the Piata Victoriei stop. From here, you can get the metro to GARA DE NORD stop.

TAXI
- You can order a taxi from the machines found near the exits of the terminals. A taxi costs maximum 80 lei, don’t accept to pay more or don’t take a taxi with another cost than 2,59lei/km!

PRIVATE TRANSFER
- We can arrange a private transfer for a total cost of 35 Euro, ~ 45 min – 1h (depending on the traffic).

UBER/BOLT
- The UBER and BOLT apps work very well, so you can order a car that will take you to the hotel. The price depends on how many cars are available and on the traffic. The cost is of maximum 20 Euro.

HOW to get from the North train station to the AIRPORT:

BUS
- To reach the airport, at the end of the train platform, take the corridor between McDonald's and the information office.
- Just in front of the exit, there is an entrance at the metro-train.
- Take the yellow line for 1 stop, until Piata Victoriei.
- The bus station is right in front of the metro exit on "Lascar Catargiu Bulevard". Take the 100 bus that will take you straight to the airport.
- Get off at the AEROPORTUL INTERNATIONAL HENRI COANDA TERMINAL PLECARI (DEPARTURES).

TAXI
- You can order a taxi from the machines found near the exits of the train station. A taxi costs maximum 100 lei, don’t accept to pay more or don’t take a taxi with another cost than 2,59lei/km! Independent taxi drivers have different prices.

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PRIVATE TRANSFER
- We can arrange a private transfer for a total cost of 35 Euro, ~ 45 min – 1h (depending on the traffic).

UBER/BOLT
- The UBER and BOLT apps work very well so you can order a car that will take you to the airport. Just exit the train station and walk around 200 m near the station so the GPS can locate you better. The price depends on how many cars are available and on the traffic. The cost is of maximum 10 Euro.

EQUIPMENT TO TAKE
Mandatory equipment

- Waterproof tracksuits (breathable Goretex type jacket and possibly trousers)
- Warm fleece jacket
- High walking shoes (preferably already worn)
- Backpack for day hiking (20-35l)
- Water bottle (allow at least 1,5l of water at the beginning of the day)
- Hiking poles
- Power bank

- Walking Boots Should be sturdy and of good quality to handle all types of terrain. Ankle support is important. Leather, with a good durable sole, is
the most suitable or, for people who prefer a more lightweight boot, Cordura/leather boots which have Gore-Tex or sympatex waterproofing. They should be well broken in and be of correct fit. Proof your boots before you leave home. Waxing your boots regularly prolongs their life.

- Lightweight walking shoes/sneakers For wear around towns & villages. They can also be a backup pair for your walk.

- Socks & Underwear Take only good quality socks with wicking and insulating qualities. Road test them before you go on the trip to be sure they are comfortable with your boots. Take a suitable quantity of underwear (washing facilities are limited).

- Several Shirts and Walking Trousers T-shirts preferably with collar and at least 1 long-sleeved shirt for sun protection. If you sweat a lot it is a good idea to purchase at least one t-shirt in a breathable material. These are fast drying, keep moisture away from your skin and are available from outdoor stores. The quick-drying loose-fitting trousers are popular. You
should bring one pair of the loose-fitting type trousers to wear in cities and for evenings etc. Shorts for warmer weather.

- Warm jacket Fleeced Polartec or warm wool shirt for evenings. This will be worn a great deal; be sure it is totally suitable for your needs. A fleeced jacket which blocks the wind (Windstopper) is the most preferable.

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- Waterproof Jacket & Pants Must be waterproof, not shower proof, Gore-Tex is best. It must fit comfortably whilst wearing warm clothing and wearing your rucksack. It must have a proper hood, zipper flap and storm cuffs and come down over hips. Pants should have a zip on the side of the leg to make it easier to get them on quickly over boots.

Optional equipment

- Cutlery and pans for picnics
- Lamp (frontal preferably - some guesthouses don't have head lamps)
- Toilet paper or tissues for the day
- Solar cream
- Sun glasses
- Personal pharmacy
- Your favourite snacks or energy bars

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Want to conquer the entire Terra Saxonum region of Via Transilvanica? Ask our team about extending your trip by two extra stages when booking!

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