



Carpathian Mountains and Castles - self-guided version

8 days / 7 nights

This 8 days Self Guided Walking Tour is the best way for you to truly experience most authentically the Romanian Country Life! Piatra Craiului and Bucegi are some of the most popular and appreciated Romanian mountains. In Piatra Craiului, you will discover rare flora and fauna and at the feet of the Bucegi Mountains, you will see lovely pastures, and altogether spectacular landscapes amongst perched sheepfolds and medieval fortresses.

YOUR PROGRAM

Day 1 - Reception in Bucharest

Our agent will meet you in Bucharest, at the North Train Station, to give you your documents (road book, maps...). You will then get on a train to Brasov (2.40hr). Once you arrive, you will change in Brasov with a train to Zarnesti (50 min). Several train options depending on the arrival flight and if you wish to stop in Brasov to visit this beautiful medieval city. Dinner and Accommodation in a lovely guesthouse in Zarnesti.

Dinner included



Day 2 - Zarnesti Gorges

Today you head into the heart of the Piatra Craiului National Park. Your walk starts with a nice steady climb following woodland trails that are picturesque and rich in birdsong. We end up to the lovely lunch spot at Cabana Curmatura, where you can take-in the views of the Valley and Canyon surrounding you. Lunch will be a real delight today with local soup and an amazing apple pie. Fill up from lunch you can either take a detour to a pass offering beautiful views, either make your way downhill through open hills before entering a large wooded area along the river. We will follow an old track to The Jurassic Zarnesti Canyon.

Approx 5h, 15km, +800m, -500m Breakfast, packed lunch and dinner included

Day 3 - Bran castle



Today you will walk on a small ridge going down to Bran castle. This castle was built in the 14th century and had a role of defense against the migratory people. Later it protected Transylvania from the Ottoman invasions. The castle was also associated with the fictional character of Dracula, who was based on the prince Vlad Tepes of Wallachia. Transfer to the same guesthouse as the night before.

Approx. 4h30, 12km, +300m, -600m Breakfast, packed lunch and dinner included



Day 4 - Pastures and forests in "Piatra Craiului" National Park

Trek in the National park of Piatra Craiului till the south of the limestone ridge. In this bucolic landscape we find our way in the middle of pastures, sheepfolds and woods. We will end the stage in a rustic scattered village which seems not to care about the fact that time is passing. Overnight in a welcoming guesthouse.

Approx. 5h, 15km, +700m, -550m Breakfast, packed lunch, dinner included

Day 5 - Scattered villages

Leave the Piatra Craiului mountains. An easy walk with "picture post-card" landscapes through scattered villages with small and ancient houses, at the foot of Bucegi mountains. The inhabitants are livestock breeders; therefore the village has a long time tradition in cheese preparing.

Approx. 4h, 13km, +350, -500m. Breakfast, packed lunch, dinner included



Day 6 - Bucegi's mountains



Trek towards the Bucegi massif. A long hike which you will not regret: magnificent landscapes and sights of the Piatra Craiului's crest.

Approx. 6h, 15km, +700m, -900m (Possible shorter walk 4h, 12km, +400m, -700m) Breakfast, packed lunch, dinner included

Day 7 - Meadow of Gutanu

Continue to hike in the Bucegi mountains. A trek along the meadow of Gutanu and the vertical walls of the Bucegi's crest. Starting with June you can find the shepherds with their flocks and maybe even ask to taste the cheese they prepare. Take the time and enjoy these landscapes.

Approx. 6h, 18km, +700m, -900m Breakfast, packed lunch, dinner included

Day 8 - End of the journey

Today you will get a private transfer to Brasov and then you'll get on the train to Bucharest. End of the journey
Breakfast included

Additional information

TARIFFS

545 euros per person.

Single supplement per person (price per person, for min. 2 travelers) : 80 euros per person.

Private transfer: Bucharest airport to the train station or center, for 3 people (45 min)

: 30 euros per person.

Departure at 1 person (only for very experienced hikers) : 125 euros per person.

INCLUDED

7 breakfasts, 6 picnics, 7 dinners

All accommodations

J1 and J8 transfers by train

Baggage transfer

The guidebook

Hiking maps

Assistance always reachable

NOT INCLUDED

Transport to the meeting point and from the point of dispersion (Gare du Nord)

The insurance

The drinks, other than water

Personal expenses

Site visits

Souvenirs



LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

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

CARRYING

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

ACCOMMODATION

7 night in lovely guesthouses, in double rooms with showers and toilets (except 1 night with sanitary in common).

SIZE OF GROUP

Minimum of 2 people.

DEPARTURES

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

DEPARTURE

Bucharest train station.

DISPERSION

Bucharest train station.

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 Plec?ri” (Otopeni departures).
- Take bus 780 and get off at the GARA DE NORD stop.
- From there walk straight into the train station, passing by Mc Donald’s. The train platforms will be right ahead.

TAXI

- You can order a taxi from the machines found near the exits of the terminals. A taxi costs maximum 60 lei, don’t accept to pay more or don’t take a taxi with another cost than 1,69lei/km!

PRIVATE TRANSFER

- We can arrange a private transfer for a total cost of 20 Euro, ~ 45 min – 1h (depending on the traffic).

UBER/TAXIFY

- The UBER and TAXIFI 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 10 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 a bus stop.
- Take the 780 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 60 lei, don't accept to pay more or don't take a taxi with another cost than 1,69lei/km! Independent taxi drivers have different prices.

PRIVATE TRANSFER

- We can arrange a private transfer for a total cost of 20 Euro, ~ 45 min – 1h (depending on the traffic).

UBER/TAXIFY

- The UBER and TAXIFY 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

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

-Daypack 24-35 liter rucksack is sufficient – make sure that it can hold all of your daily requirements such as water bottle or bladder, camera, warm clothes, and waterproofs.

Mandatory equipment

- Waterproof tracksuits (breathable Gore tex type jacket and possibly trousers)
- Warm fleece jacket
- High walking shoes (preferably already worn)
- Backpack for hiking large enough to carry all the business
- Food
- Water bottle (allow at least 1,5l of water at the beginning of the day)

Optional equipment

- Camping stove
- Cutlery and pans for picnics
- Hiking Bottles
- Lamp (frontal preferably)
- Toilet paper or tissues for the day
- Solar cream
- Safety glasses with protection number 4
- Personal pharmacy
- Tent
- Sleeping bag

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Possibility to extend your stay in Brasov or Bucharest, please contact us for accommodations.

Telescopic hiking poles are recommended!