



## Mountain biking in Romania through the Carpathian villages - Guided tour

7 days / 6 nights

During this trip we will discover the South-Eastern part of Transylvania. Almost all the rides will take place in Bucegi Mountains and in Piatra Craiului Mountains. The rides in those two National Parks, in the middle of pastures, sheepfolds and forests, will not leave you indifferent! The locals abandoned long time ago the valleys to perch on the heights, mostly to avoid Tartars and Turks attacks. A journey in the middle of a pastoral tradition in complete osmosis with a wild nature sheltering brown bears, chamois, wolves and lynxes.

### YOUR PROGRAM

#### Day 1 - Arrival in Bucharest & transfer to your guesthouse

The trip starts in Bucharest. Transfer (~3h) in a guesthouse at the foot of Piatra Craiului Mountains, where we spend the first night. (Meals: D)



#### Day 2 - The Piatra Craiului Mountains

A gentle, warm-up mountain-biking route, going through traditional villages into a very attractive rural landscape with steep hills and alpine pastures, on a ridge near the Piatra Craiului Mountains. We continue towards Bran where we visit the open-air village museum and the famous Bran Castle, better known as "Dracula's" Castle. Built in the 14th century, always had a role of defense against the migratory peoples. Later it protected Transylvania from the Ottoman invasions. The castle was also associated for a long time with Walachia's prince, Vlad Tepes the Impaler who is at the origin of the fictional character of Dracula. Also, for many years the castle was home to Queen Mary, Queen Victoria's granddaughter. You will then enjoy a last ascent towards the traditional village of Magura, nestled between the Bucegi and Piatra Craiului mountains. You will spend the evening in a traditional ecotourism guesthouse.

(~ 42 km, positive altitude change: 1200m) (B-L-D)



#### **Day 3 - A fair bit of adrenalin**

We will start with a very narrow downhill single track and then we ride up through the Jurassic canyon of Zarnesti Gorges. Here the landscape becomes absolutely spectacular. Following up is "Poiana Joaca" a splendid alpine pasture where we usually find shepherds alongside their flocks. We descend to the heavenly village of Pestera where you'll be mesmerised by the tranquillity and heaven like landscape. On the way back to our cosy guesthouse in Magura, we will once again pass by the legendary Bran Castle. Accommodation at the same as the night before. (~ 36 km, positive altitude change: 850m) (B-L-D)



#### **Day 4 - Traditional villages**

Today we will have the opportunity to explore the South side of Bran's country, crossing the border between the old principalities of Wallachia and Transylvania. We go up to Fundatica, a traditional Romanian mountain village with many small and ancient houses, at the foot of Bucegi Mountains. The inhabitants are livestock breeders; therefore, the village has a long time tradition of cheese preparation. Night in a lovely guesthouse in Moieciu de Sus. (~38 km, positive altitude change: 1200m) (B-L-D)



#### Day 5 - Rasnov

Our mission today will be to discover the Northern side of the Bran area. We will ride up near the ridge of Bucegi Mountains, and then we will enjoy passing through many alpine pastures and sheepfolds. Through our descent we enter in a wild tract of dense forest where we look for tracks, signs and markings left by large carnivores and other wild animals. Finally, we'll be reaching Rasnov's fortress, a historic monument and landmark, this citadel was built by the Teutonic Knights in the 13th century in order to protect Transylvania from the Turkish attacks. Night in comfy guesthouse next to the citadel. (~ 43 km, positive altitude change: 600m). (B-L-D)



#### Day 6 - Life in the mountains and Brasov

After our hearty breakfast, we have a couple of options when it comes to today's difficulty level, meaning that in order to reach Postavaru peak, the highest in Postovaru Massive, we can either go on tracks or by cable car. Either way, our efforts will be fully rewarded by the beautiful single-tracks in the middle high-altitude meadows and forests that will lead us to the old centre of the medieval city of Brasov. The most spectacular way of going "down-town" awaits us! Night in modern 3\* hotel in Brasov. (~ 27 km, positive altitude change: 600m, negative altitude change: 1200 m). (B-L)



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## **Day 7 - End of journey**

Transfer to Bucharest (around 3.5 hours). Possible extra-night to visit Bucharest. If you arrive early enough we can arrange a private transfer so you can visit the old Bucharest. (B)

## **Additional information**

### **TARIFFS**

1050 euros per person.

MTB rental with transportation : 250 euros per person.

Single supplement (price per person) : 125 euros per person.

### **INCLUDED**

English-speaking local Romanian guide for the 5 days of mountain biking, with a first-aid kit. 1 guide up to 6 people, 2 guides starting with 7 people. Welcome by one of our agent at the airport.

6 breakfasts, 5 picnics and 4 dinners to our guesthouses.

Not included: Drinks. Diner Day 6

### **NOT INCLUDED**

Mountain bikes rental, cable car, insurances, drinks, tips and items of personal nature. Entry fees into monuments.

### **LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY**

5 days of biking. Requires a medium-high level. Maximum of 45 km a day and 1100m of positive change in altitude.

### **CARRYING**

Luggage will be transferred by car during the rides. You only have to carry your things needed for the day (picnic, camera...)

### **ACCOMMODATION**

In guesthouses, double occupancy, exceptionally triple, with private facilities.



- 1 night in Zarnesti, in guesthouse
- 1 night in Magura, in a traditional guesthouse
- 1 night in Moieciu, in guesthouse
- 1 night in Ciocanu, in guesthouse, shared facilities
- 1 night in Rasnov, in guesthouse
- 1 night in Brasov, in a modern 3 \* hotel.

OR equivalent guesthouse/hotel nearby.

#### **SIZE OF GROUP**

From 6 to 12 people.

#### **STARTING POINT**

Bucharest airport, Bucharest train station or your hotel.

#### **END OF THE TRIP**

Bucharest airport, Bucharest train station or your hotel.

#### **EQUIPMENT TO TAKE**

##### **WHAT TO BRING?**

- Sunglasses
- Gloves
- Bottle/bottles to fill with water (the plastic bottle on the spot can always be an option)
- Cereal or energizing bars for the day
- Solar cream
- Anti-mosquito cream
- Card, but also a little money in cash
- Binoculars
- Light fleece top
- Light windproof/waterproof jacket
- Headlamp (some guesthouses may not have bed-side lamps, if you want to read in the evening)
- Sun hat
- Personal clothing for mild to hot weather
- Sturdy shoes