

Villages of Bucovina and Maramures

9 Days / 8 Nights

With this 9-day guided tour of Maramures and Bucovina, you will discover a rural world which is no longer present in the Western countries. You will get to be in constant contact with the rich peasant culture and the beautiful, protected natural environment. Your two destinations are Bucovina and Maramures. Here, you will discover two regions which are so closely located to each other, however very much different. Their inhabitants will help you discover their very interesting village life, crafts, and customs and by the end of your adventure, you will have also understood the mysteries of the world-renowned Bucovenian painted monasteries and the beautiful wooden churches of Maramures which are now part of UNESCO's heritage. A stunning landscape will keep you company during this unforgettable journey. All of this and much more exciting surprises are waiting for you on this trip.

YOUR PROGRAM

Day 1 - Reception in Bucharest

Arrival in Bucharest. Meeting the guide in the evening at the train station 1hr before the train departure. Night train for Bucovina at 9:30 PM (sleeping wagon 2 or 4 beds / cabin, upon availabilities, we can know it only 3 weeks before the departure. Train timetable may change).

Day 2 - Bucolic hike

In the morning, short private transfer to our hosts. After breakfast, be ready to discover already the deep Bucovina: we'll take the steam train. The steam train track leads along the River Moldovita. We will get off before the terminus of the track, at the best starting point of our hike. This immersion in a peasant world will enchant you; the beautiful landscape punctuated with sheep herds and horse-carts reveals a great harmony. Night in Moldovita (~5 hours, 14 km, +500m, -550). (BLD)



Day 3 - Moldovita and its monastery

After a first short climb we arrive in the forest and from there, according to the moving of the flocks, we could reach a shepherd's hut. We continue through the famous fir-tree forest of Bucovina until we go back to the valley to discover one of the major components of the unique Bucovina monasteries set, the Moldovita painted monastery. From there, depending on how

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we feel we go back to the guesthouse either on foot (5km) through the village, either with a local bus. Night at the same place. (~4 hours, 13 km, +/-300m) (BLD)



Day 4 - Sucevita and local craft

Before our walk today, we will meet Hutsules people; these inhabitants (with uncertain roots and history) will make us discover their art: eggs painting. We will continue our hike through woods and fields and will lead you to an unexpected rural world which is still very alive. After a short transfer, we will arrive to the Sucevita monastery from the field, which will offer us a striking sight: the nature seems to protect the monastery like a jewel! The perfection of each detail on such a vast fresco is amazing. (~3.5 hours, 11 km, +400m, -300m, longer walk available). Night in Sucevita. (BLD)



Day 5 - Transfer to Maramures

Transfer to the border with Maramures (~3.30 hours of transfer) to Prislop pass (1400m). From here we will enter the National park of Rodnei Mountains and start our walk by a soft ascent to the glacier lake of Stiol (1700m). Our track will be studded with different flowers such as rhododendron, gentian, depending on the period of the year. From there will enter in the massif pine forest and go down to Horses' Waterfall, the tallest waterfall in Romania. (~4 hours, 14 km, +350m, -650).

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Day 6 - Contemporary Maramures

First stop for the day will be in the town of Sighetu Marmatiei, after a 2h transfer by car. Here we will visit the "Communism Victims Memorial" created in the prison where the main opponents of the regime were detained, without judging. You'll have some free time for lunch before we go to the village of Desesti, to visit one of the most beautiful wooden churches of Maramures. From there we'll do a relaxing walk to our host village for tonight, Breb, the village where Prince Charles is owner of a beautiful old traditional house. (~2 hours, 8 km, +350m, -650).



Day 7 - Maramures between fields and forests

Today we will discover Maramures between fields and forests. In every season, country is animated by the field's works. But before our walk, we'll pay a visit to the traditional wooden installations from Sarbi, a fulling mill, a thresher, whirlpools and a brandy distillery. According to the time, short stop at Barsana monastery which is a masterpiece of the wooden Maramures architecture. Then, we'll start our village to village walk, with destination in Botiza village. There we will have a weaving demonstration at one of the last ladies who masters this ancient craft. (6 hours, 13 km, +/-400)

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Day 8 - The oldest wooden church and Cluj-Napoca

On our last day we'll hike to the nearby village of Ieud. We will start going up on a narrow path along a small stream, covered by surrounded by colorful flowers. At the end of the walk, we will visit the oldest wooden church of Maramures, the one from Ieud dating back to 14th century, part of UNESCO heritage. We'll end the tour with a 4h transfer to the city of Cluj Napoca, the most important university city of Romania, with a cosmopolitan culture and Hungarian heritage which waits to be discovered. Late arrival but you can extend your trip in Cluj. (~2.5 hours, 8 km, +250, -300m).

Day 9 - End of journey

Breakfast. End of the trip.
We can assist you with train transfer or flight ticket to Bucharest. Also, we designed a special extra-tour for the way back to Bucharest including:
-1st day: train transfer to Sighisoara, visit of the beautiful fortified citadel and overnight Sighisoara.
-2nd day: train transfer to Brasov, visit of the medieval center and overnight Brasov.
-3rd day: train transfer to Bucharest. Check the extra-options below.
We can as well customize this tour.

Additional information

TARIFFS

1690 euros per person.
Single room supplement : 180 euros per person.
Private transfer Bucharest OTP Airport - Bucharest North Train Station (1-3 people) : 40 euros per person.
Private transfer Cluj city centre or Cluj Train Station - Cluj CLJ Airport (1-3 people) : 40 euros per person.
Extra-night in Cluj 3* hotel /SGL room/night : 87 euros per person.
Extra-night in Cluj 3* hotel/DBL room/night : 97 euros per person.
Extra-night in Bucharest 3* hotel /SGL room/night : 100 euros per person.

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Extra-night in Bucharest 3* hotel /DBL room/night : 105 euros per person.
Small group supplement: departure in case of a 5 person group, supplement to be paid / person : 100 euros per person.
Small group supplement: departure in case of a 4 person group, supplement to be paid / person : 300 euros per person.
Small group supplement: departure in case of a 3 person group, supplement to be paid / person : 600 euros per person.

INCLUDED

English-speaking guide throughout the trip
Accommodation
Meals (8 breakfasts, 6 picnics, 6 dinners). Dinner is a 3-course menu – entrée/soup, main dish, and a dessert
Transfers
Luggage transfer
Steam train ticket (if the 2026 schedule allows it)

NOT INCLUDED

Transport to the meeting point and from the point of dispersion
The insurance
Meals as indicated (not included Dinner of Day 1 and Lunch and Dinner of Day 8) and drinks, other than water
Site visits
Personal expenses

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

9 days / 6 days of walking. Easy to medium level of walking with a maximum day at 6 hours. Some walks could change depending on the group level or the weather conditions or be interrupted by small transfers.

CARRYING

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

ACCOMMODATION

Rural pensions in double occupancy, exceptionally triple with private & shared facilities (1 for 2 rooms).
Depending on the size of the group, the accommodation can be done in several pensions. Meals will be taken together.
1 night in sleeping train wagon - 2 or 4 beds /cabin, upon availabilities, we can know it 3 weeks before the departure. Sooner the booking is done, more chances we have to book cabins of 2 beds.
6 nights in rural guesthouses, in double occupancy, with private & shared facilities (1 for 2 rooms)
1 night in 3* hotel in the center of Cluj

SIZE OF GROUP

6 to 14 people. Smaller groups with supplement, contact us for details.

STARTING POINT

At 20:30 at Bucharest train station. optional transfer from Bucharest OTP Airport.

END OF THE TRIP

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At your hotel in Cluj, after breakfast. Optional transfer to Cluj CLJ 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.

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

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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.

- 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.

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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

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