

## **BULGARIA AND ROMANIA, AT THE CROSSROADS OF THE BALKANS**

### **15 DAYS / 14 NIGHTS**



**NOTE : this tour can be guided in English only or bilingual (English and French)**

A short tour combining the highlights of Romania and Bulgaria might be the key for your time and budget. We have the perfect tour for you.

### **ITINERARY**

#### **DAY 1 SOFIA**

Arrival in Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria. Accommodation and overnight in Sofia. (D)\*

\* Dinner on the day of arrival is according to flight's arrival schedule.

**Accommodation: Sofia for 2 nights**

#### **DAY 2 SOFIA – RILA MONASTERY – SOFIA**

Departure to the Rila Monastery/10<sup>th</sup> c/, UNESCO World Heritage site, the largest and the most impressive Bulgarian monastery. Tour of the monastery complex, church and museum with its lavish collection of precious old manuscripts, icons, jewellery, masterpieces of woodcarving, ethnographic exhibition of fabrics and carpets. Back to Sofia. (B/L/D)

**DAY 3 SOFIA – PLOVDIV**

Sightseeing tour of Sofia, city with 7000 years of history, concentrating numerous cultural and historic monuments from different periods. Visit of the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, the St. George Rotunda from the 4<sup>th</sup> century, the St. Sofia Basilica, and the Ruins of the ancient city Serdica. Continue to Plovdiv, the second largest Bulgarian city. (B/L/D)

**Accommodation: Plovdiv for 2 nights**

**DAY 4 PLOVDIV - BACHKOVO MONASTERY - PLOVDIV**

Plovdiv is one of the most ancient cities in Europe and in the world. Sightseeing of the Old town of Plovdiv with National Revival architecture and excavations from Roman times. Visit of the ancient Roman theatre with impressive marble statues, decorative columns and arcades. Excursion to the Bachkovo Monastery /11<sup>th</sup> century/ one of the richest galleries of traditional Bulgarian religious art with exquisite murals and medieval icons. Back to Plovdiv. Overnight in Plovdiv. (B/L/D)

**DAY 5 PLOVDIV - KAZANLAK – TRYAVNA - VELIKO TARNOVO**

Departure for Kazanlak, the capital of the famous Valley of Roses. Visit the Kazanlak Historical Museum to see the Thracian golden treasures. Continue with one of the UNESCO's sites, the Thracian Tomb dating back from the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C. Visit the replica of the Thracian Tomb. Departure to the town of Tryavna. Walking tour of Tryavna, where vaulted stone bridges, houses, churches and the square with a clock tower preserve the spirit and talent of the artists from Tryavna School of Art from the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Visit the Woodcarving Museum. Continue to Veliko Tarnovo. (B/L/D)

**Accommodation: Veliko Tarnovo for 2 nights**

**DAY 6 VELIKO TURNOVO - ARBANASSI**

Sightseeing tour of Veliko Turnovo, including a walk on Samovodska Charshiya, traditional arts and crafts street and visit to Tsarevets hill, an impressive sight with medieval fortifications and dramatic architecture. Departure to the museum town of Arbanassi boasting a genuine gallery of religious art in its Church of Nativity. Visit Konstantsalieva house, fine example of 17<sup>th</sup> century house of a wealthy merchant. (B/L/D)

**DAY 7 VELIKO TURNOVO - MADARA - SVESHTARI - RUSSE**

Departure to Madara. Visit the Madara Rider included in the UNESCO List of World Cultural Heritage. It is a unique relief carved into a 100m high cliff and represents a figure of a knight over a lion. Tour continues to Sveshtari to visit the Sveshtari Thracian Tomb, an UNESCO monument. The unique architectural décor of the tomb includes 10 female figures carved in the walls and painted murals, a remarkable example of the culture of the Thracian people. Arrival in Ruse and walking tour in the city center. Overnight in Ruse. (B/L/D)

**Accommodation: Ruse for 1 night**

**DAY 8 RUSSE - IVANOVO - BUCHAREST**

Departure to Ivanovo. The Ivanovo medieval rock churches are unique monuments, UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site. They consist of churches, chapels and monastic cells, hewn into the craggy gorge of the Roussenski Lom River. Visit of the main church. In the afternoon departure to Bucharest. Overnight in Bucharest. (B/L/D)

**Accommodation: Bucharest for 1 night**

**DAY 9 BUCHAREST - CURTEA DE ARGES - SIBIU**

In the morning panoramic sightseeing tour of Bucharest, then departure to Curtea de Arges, former capital of Wallachia. Visit the Episcopal Church where the Romanian Kings are buried. Drive along the picturesque Olt Valley to Sibiu (on the way stop and visit Cozia Monastery, built by Mircea the Elder, Vlad Dracul's grandfather), one of the oldest towns in Transylvania, formerly Hermannstadt, founded by the Saxon colonists. Guided walking tour of the medieval town (the Main Square, the Evangelical Church, and the Liars' Bridge). (B/L/D)

**Accommodation: Sibiu for 1 night**

**DAY 10 SIBIU – BIERTAN - SIGHISOARA**

Morning drive to the heart of Transylvania to visit the secret retreat for the royalties of Europe. The Saxon villages display a remarkable, unspoilt harmony between people and landscape. Drive to Biertan to visit the impressive fortified church, an UNESCO world heritage. Drive on to Sighisoara, birthplace of Vlad the Impaler ("Dracula"). Walking tour in the medieval citadel (the "Upper Town" to admire the Clock Tower, the Church on the Hill and more). (B/L/D)

**Accommodation: Sighisoara for 1 night**

**DAY 11 SIGHISOARA - SUCEVITA**

After breakfast, continue to Târgu Mures to visit the elegant city centre, well known for its architecture. Drive on to Bistrita, one of the 7 main medieval towns of "Siebenbürgen" (the German name for Transylvania). Continuation through Tihuta Pass. (B/L/D)

**Accommodation: Sucevita for 1 night**

**DAY 12 SUCEVITA - MONASTERIES - PIATRA NEAMT**

Full day in Bucovina, land of the unique painted monasteries belonging to the UNESCO World Heritage. Visit the Moldovita and Sucevita monasteries with outside frescoes. Then visit the famous monastery of Voronet, "the Sistine Chapel of the Orient". Late afternoon drive south to visit the Agapia monastery. (B/L/D)

**Accommodation: Piatra Neamt for 1 night**

**DAY 13 PIATRA NEAMT – POIANA BRASOV**

Departure across the mountains to Brasov through the spectacular Bicz Gorges, the Red Lake, Miercurea Ciuc. Visit the beautiful fortified church of Prejmer. Panoramic sightseeing tour and guided walking tour in the historical centre of Brasov (formerly Kronstadt). Founded by the Teutonic knights in 1211 on an ancient Dacian site and settled by the Saxons as one of the seven walled citadels, Brasov exudes a distinct medieval ambiance and has been used as backdrop in many recent period films. Late afternoon arrival in Poiana Brasov. (B/L/D)

**Accommodation: Poiana Brasov for 1 night**

**DAY 14 BRASOV - BRAN - SINAIA - BUCHAREST**

Drive on to Bran to visit the famous medieval castle built as a fortress - The "Dracula's" Castle, for the citizens of Brasov with view to defence the city. We head to Sinaia following the scenic Prahova Valley. Arrival in Sinaia, called "Pearl of the Carpathians" due to the beauty of its natural setting and the elegance of its architecture. Visit the summer residence of the first royal couple, King Carol I and Queen Elisabeth, Peles Castle, one of the most beautiful palaces in Europe. Late afternoon drive to Bucharest. Upon arrival visit the outdoor Village Museum. Walking tour in the old city centre and dinner in the most famous restaurant in Bucharest. (B/L/D)

**Accommodation: Bucharest for 1 night**

### DAY 15 BUCHAREST

In the morning free time in central Bucharest for visits and shopping (according to the flight schedule) and transfer to the airport. (B)



### INCLUSIONS

- 14 night accommodation at 3\* and 4\* hotels
- 40 meals: 14 breakfasts, 13 lunches, 13 dinners
- Private car (for 2-3 passengers) or air-conditioned van, minibus or coach for all the above itinerary and program
- English/French speaking guide throughout (bilingual guide) (for parties of 2-3 passengers the guide will also drive)
- All entrance fees to museums, monasteries and sites included in the program
- All Bulgarian and Romanian taxes

**Not included** • Flights • Photographing or filming fees at the visited sites • Optional excursions • Beverages • Porterage • Personal Expenses • Gratuities to hotel personnel, guides and drivers • Travel insurance • Visa (if needed)

<b>Hotel Options or similar</b> (note : we use a mix of 3* and 4* hotels)		
<b>City</b>	<b>3*</b>	<b>4*</b>
Sofia	Hotel Budapest	
Plovdiv		Hotel Alafrangite
Veliko Tarnovo	Hotel Alegro	
Rousse		Hotel Dunav Plaza
Bucharest		Hotel Minerva
Sibiu	Hotel Ibis	
Sighisoara	Hotel Sighisoara	
Sucevita		Hotel BW Bucovina
Piatra Neamt	Hotel Ceahlau	
Poiana Brasov		Hotel Escalade

<b>Price in CAD\$, per person starting from, double occupancy</b>	<b>Land package</b>
<b>GUARANTEED DEPARTURES for minimum 2 participants at the following dates</b>	
<b>Dates in 2021</b>	
May 1, 22	3099
July 10, 31	3099
August 21	3099
September 4	3099
<b>Single room supplement</b>	+649

**\*\*These tours can be in English only or bilingual (English and French) depending of the number of participants per tour.**

**Note: We can also add international flights to your package or a stopover in an European city – Please ask your travel agent**

Prices in this document are for information only; they were issued at press time for the current year. Please note that due to exchange rates and temporary promotions, they can increase or decrease anytime. Contact your travel agent for the price and promotion of the moment.