

ROMANIA – TRANSYLVANIA & THE CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS

8-day / 7-night self-guided inn-to-inn walking - daily departures from May to October – **VALUE TOUR**



Romania is a country of cultural diversity and contrasts. It is also a very new destination for self-guided walking with traditional style accommodation, spectacular mountains, National Parks and alpine pastures. Piatra Craiului and Bucegi offer some of the most popular mountain scenery with unique flora and fauna, typical rural villages, medieval fortresses and an insight into the lives of shepherds and farming communities that has changed little over the centuries.

A highlight for many on this walking holiday is a visit to the 14th Century **Bran Castle** associated with the fictional character **Dracula**. Yet it is the tranquillity and the mountain peaks that will remain in your memory and the opportunity to interact with rural life in a unique part of Eastern Europe.

Departs: Daily departures from 5th May to 5th October 2019
Tour requires a minimum 2 people to operate (Solo Travellers available on request)

Difficulty: Easy to moderate walks of 5 to 6 hours with an average ascent and descent of 450m.

Cost from: **\$1010** per person twin share Single room supplement \$415 (limited availability & on request)

Included: Hotel or guesthouse accommodation with private bathrooms (occasionally shared facilities in high season); 7 breakfasts, 6 picnic lunches and 7 dinners (B,L,D) with dinner usually a 2 or 3-course menu with several choices - entrée, main and dessert; luggage transfers; route notes, maps, tourist information with 24-hour emergency telephone assistance; transfers as shown (including train transfer Bucharest to Zarnesti via Brasov on Day 1, private transfer from Bran to Brasov then train from Brasov to Bucharest on Day 8).

Not included: Tour guide, meals not mentioned, drinks, entrance fees or personal expenses

Accommodation: Very different accommodation is provided from typical village hotels or guesthouses to good 3 or 4-star city hotels. They are carefully selected to offer clean rooms usually with en-suite bathroom.



Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Suggested itinerary:

Day 1 Arrive in Bucharest, transfer to Zarnesti

Plan to arrive at Bucharest station before 2:00pm to meet our local representative for a briefing and to collect your travel documents, before you transfer by train (about 3½ hours, included in the cost) to Zarnesti via Brasov, where you stay in charming local accommodation overnight. (D)

Day 2 Zarnesti to Magura

Walking: @ 5h, 15km (+800m -300m)

Walk through Piatra Craiului (King's Stone) Mountains to the mountain hut at Curmatura for lunch on the terrace. An afternoon descent through the Zarnesti Gorges with its towering rock walls over 200m high to an eco-tourist guesthouse at Magura, which is your accommodation for the next 2 nights. (B,L,D)

Day 3 Bran Castle

Walking @ 4.5h, 12km (+300m -600m)

Today the walking follows a small ridge that links Piatra Craiului to Bucegi's mountains and that offers you spectacular landscapes on both of these mountains on your way down to Bran Castle, built in the 14th Century to defend the local community against marauders and to protect Transylvania from the Ottoman invasions. This fascinating castle is associated with the fictional character of Count Dracula (who was based on the Prince Vlad Tepes of Wallachia). Return transfer to Magura (B,L,D)

Day 4 Magura to Ciocanu

Walking @ 5h, 14km (+550m -550m)

A wonderful walk today through a rural landscape of pastures, rough enclosures built by shepherds, woods and a scattering of timeless villages within the Piatra Craiului National Park. Overnight in the traditional mountain village of Ciocanu. Your accommodation tonight may have shared bathroom facilities (B,L,D)

Day 5 Ciocanu to Moieciu

Walking @ 4h, 13km (+250m -350m)

Leaving the Piatra Craiului Mountains the trail takes you to the foot of the nearby Bucegi Mountains. It is astonishing how traditional agriculture and farming still go on regardless of the passing of time and in a perfect harmony with the wildlife around. The night is spent in a farm guesthouse, in the village of Moieciu de Sus, a village renowned for its smoked cheeses. (B,L,D).

Day 6 Moieciu to Simon

Walking @ 6h, 18km (+650m -900m) or optional shorter 4h walk

A longer walk today to Simon, towards the Bucegi massif, which again offers magnificent landscapes and views of the Piatra Craiului peaks, as well as an opportunity to discover the wilderness of the Carpathians. Dinner and accommodation in Simon. (B,L,D)

Day 7 Simon to Bran

Walking @ 6h, 18km (+700m -900m)

The trail continues through the meadow of Gutanu and beside the steep and rugged cliffs of the Bucegi Mountains. From June onwards you are likely to come across shepherds with their flocks and perhaps even ask to taste the cheese they prepare. Take time to enjoy the delightful rural landscapes as you make your way to Bran where you stay overnight. (B,L,D)

Day 8 Return to Bucharest

The tour ends after breakfast with a private transfer to Brasov then continue on to Bucharest by train. (B)

If you would like more time to explore Bucharest, a fascinating city where the old stands cheek-by-jowl with the new, we can arrange extra nights in Bucharest at additional cost – please ask when making a booking.

Other walking holidays – guided in small groups or self-guided walks - with inn-to-inn luggage transfers & meals – are available in many parts of Europe through **Outdoor Travel**. Destinations include the Loire Valley, Provence, the Dordogne in France, the Amalfi or Cinque Terre coast, Umbria or Tuscany in Italy, Andalucia in Spain, the Alps in Switzerland and many areas of England, Scotland, Wales & Ireland. Centre-based or one-hotel guided walks are available in France, Italy, Spain, the UK, Croatia, Turkey & Greece.

Outdoor Travel also offer 'must do' routes such as **Wainwrights Coast-to-Coast Walk** across England, the **Cornish Coastal Path** or **Stevenson's Trail** 'travels with a donkey' in the wild Auvergne in central France. We also specialise in Pilgrimage routes in France & Spain such as the **Camino de Santiago** or **Way of St James** from Le Puy to Santiago, the **Camino Portuguese** from Porto to Santiago, the **Camino del Norte** from San Sebastian to Santiago, and the Pilgrims' Road to Rome, the **Via Francigena** from the Alps to the Vatican.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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