



ROMANIA *for you*

Welcome to ROMANIA!
MUCH MORE THAN DRACULA'S LAND



Unique tours around a beautiful country



ROMANIA - MAIN ATTRACTIONS AND TOURS

UNFORGETTABLE TRIPS WITH ALSYS TRAVEL

In the colors of autumn or in the cold winter air, in the smell of spring flowers and mostly in the unreal light of summer, Carpathians Mountains reveal their beauty year after year, just a few kilometers from Bucharest.

Discover the legends of the Carpathians, kings, dynasties, only whispered mysteries, local stories passed from generation to generation and stunning Romanian folklore.

TRIPS:

Bucharest - Following Calea Victoriei - walking tour

Bucharest, the old city part of the city - walking tour

Bucharest - Old and new society - 1 day trip

On the steps of the Romanian Royal Family - 1 day trip

Castles and wine tasting on Prahova Valley - 2 days trip

Discover the historical capitals: Bucharest - Curtea de Arges – Sibiu - 2 days trip

Dracula behind the legend - a great historical personality - 3 days trip

Steps of history - medieval cities: Brasov, Sighisoara, Sibiu- 3 days trip

Discover the beauty and the wildness of Danube Delta - 3 days trip

Celebrate New Year's eve in the fairytale land of Maramures - 5 days trip

Romanian treasures - 7 days trip

Romanian Grand Tour - Valachia - Transylvania and Maramures - 9 days trip

BUCHAREST - FOLLOWING CALEA VICTORIEI

Walking tour

Calea Victoriei



Known for its wide, tree-lined boulevards, glorious Belle Époque buildings and a reputation for the high life (which in the 1900s earned its nickname of "Little Paris"), Bucharest, Romania's largest city and capital, is today a bustling metropolis.

Calea Victoriei is Bucharest's oldest and arguably, most charming street. Built in 1692 to link the Old Princely Court to Mogosoia Palace, it was initially paved with oak beams. The street became Calea Victoriei in 1878, after the Romanian War of Independence victory. Between the two world wars, Calea Victoriei developed into one of the most fashionable streets in the city.

Stroll along this street from Piața Victoriei to Piața Națiunilor Unite to discover some of the most stunning buildings in the city, including the Cantacuzino Palace, the historical Revolution Square, the Military Club, the CEC Headquarters and the National History Museum.

The Romanian Athenaeum

The work of French architect Albert Galleron, who also designed the National Bank of Romania, the Athenaeum was completed in 1888, financed almost entirely with money donated by the general public. One of the preeminent public fundraising campaigns ever in Romania, the "Give a penny for the Athenaeum" campaign saved the project after the original patrons ran out of funds. With its high dome and Doric columns, the Athenaeum resembles an ancient temple. Renowned worldwide for its outstanding acoustics, it is Bucharest's most prestigious concert hall and home of the Romanian George Enescu Philharmonic.

The Beer Cart Restaurant

Opened in 1879, this famous restaurant and beer house soon became one of the most popular meeting places for Bucharest's literati who would gather to discuss matters of their time. Its neo-gothic architectural style is reflected both in the façades and the interior decorations.

Package Includes:

- tour guide with a stop at Hanul Berarilor (drinks are not included)



BUCHAREST - THE OLD PART OF THE CITY

Walking tour

University Square

Buzzing with crowds and traffic from early morning until late at night, this area is one of the most popular meeting places in Bucharest. The square brings together some remarkable architectural masterpieces on each of its four corners, starting with the University of Bucharest's School of Architecture, the Bucharest National Theatre, the neoclassical Coltea Hospital and its lovely church (1702-1794) and the Sutu Palace, now home to the Bucharest History Museum.



In the middle of the square, on a little island, 10 stone crosses pay respect to those killed during the 1989 revolution. Below the square is an underground passage with shops and eateries, allowing pedestrians to cross from one side of the square to another and to access the subway station.

Lipscani District

Perhaps the city's unique charm can be best observed in the area known as Lipscani, which consists of a jumble of streets between Calea Victoriei, Blvd. Bratianu, Blvd. Regina Elisabeta and the Dambovitza River. A once-glamorous residential area, the old city centre is now slowly being refashioned into an upscale neighborhood.

Old Princely Court & Church

At the centre of the historic area are the remains of the Old Princely Court, built in the 15th century by Vlad Tepes, also known as Vlad Dracula. According to local lore, Vlad kept his prisoners in dungeons which commenced beneath the Princely Court and extended under the city. All that remains today are a few walls, arches, tombstones and a Corinthian column.

Manuc's Inn

We invite you at the end of the tour to enjoy a good beer or a Limonade at Manuc's Inn. Built between 1804 and 1808 by the wealthy Armenian trader Emanuel Marzaian (called by the Turks, Manuc Bey), the inn was witness in 1812 to the preliminary talks of the Peace Treaty that put an end to the Russian - Turkish War.



At the beginning of 1400s, most merchants and craftsmen - Romanian, Austrian, Greek, Bulgarian, Serbian, Armenian and Jewish - established their stores and shops in this section of the city. Soon, the area became known as Lipscani, named for the many German traders from Lipsca or Leiptzig. The mix of nationalities and cultures is reflected in the different architectural styles, from baroque to neoclassical to art nouveau. Today, the area is home to many art galleries, antique shops and coffee houses.

Package Includes:

- tour guide with a stop at Manuc's Inn (drinks are not included)

BUCHAREST - OLD AND NEW SOCIETY

Bucharest - 1 day trip

Parliament Palace

Built by Communist Party leader, Nicolae Ceausescu, the colossal Parliament Palace (formerly known as the People's Palace) is the second largest administrative building in the world after the Pentagon. It took 20,000 workers and 700 architects to build. The palace boasts 12 stories, 1,100 rooms, a 328-ft-long lobby and four underground levels, including an enormous nuclear bunker.

A guided tour takes visitors through a small section of dazzling rooms, huge halls and quarters used by the Senate (when not in session). The interior is a luxurious display of crystal chandeliers, mosaics, oak paneling, marble, gold leaf, stained-glass windows and floors covered in rich carpets.

- The Palace of Parliament it is the world's second-largest office building in surface (after the Pentagon) and the third largest in volume (after Cape Canaveral in the U.S. and the Great Pyramid in Egypt)
- The crystal chandelier in the Human Rights Hall weighs 2.5 tons
- Some of the chandeliers have as many as 7,000 light bulbs



Metropolitan Church

Set atop one of the city's few hills, known as Mitropoliei, the Metropolitan Church has been the centerpiece of the Romanian Orthodox faith since the 17th century. The church was built by Constantin Serban Basarab, ruler of the province of Walachia between 1656 and 1658, to a design inspired by the Curtea de Arges monastery. It became the Metropolitan Church in 1668 and the seat of the Romanian Orthodox Church in 1925.



The Arch of Triumph

Initially built of wood in 1922 to honor the bravery of Romanian soldiers who fought in World War I, Bucharest's very own Arc de Triomphe was finished in Deva granite in 1936. Designed by the architect, Petre Antonescu, the Arc stands 85 feet high. An interior staircase allows visitors to climb to the top for a panoramic view of the city. The sculptures decorating the structure were created by leading Romanian artists, including Ion Jalea, Constantin Medrea and Constantin Baraschi.





Village Museum

Founded by royal decree in 1936, this fascinating outdoor museum, the largest in Europe, covers some 30 acres on the shores of Lake Herastrau in Herastrau Park. It features a collection of 50 buildings representing the history and design of Romania's rural architecture. Steep-roofed peasant homes, thatched barns, log cabins, churches and watermills from all regions of the country were carefully taken apart, shipped to the museum and rebuilt in order to recreate the village setting.

Throughout the year, the Village Museum hosts special events where you will have a chance to witness folk artisans demonstrating traditional skills in weaving, pottery and other crafts. Folk arts and crafts are available at the museum gift shop.



Package Includes:

- transport by car/minibus
- guided tour at the Palace of Parliament

The price does not includes:

- the drink at Hanul Berarilor
- entrance fee at Village Museum



CASTELS AND WINE TASTING ON PRAHOVA VALLEY

Bucharest - Sighisoara - Brasov - Sinaia

1 day trip

Prahova Valley is the valley where the Prahova river makes its way between the Bucegi and the Baiu Mountains, in the Carpathian Mountains, Romania. It is a tourist region, situated about 100 km north of the capital city of Bucharest.

Geographically, the Prahova river separates the Eastern Carpathians chain from the Southern Carpathians. Historically, the corridor was the most important passage way between the principalities of Wallachia and Transylvania.

Peles Castel

Peles Castle is one of the most beautiful castles in all Europe. The building of the castle began in 1873 under the direct order of the Viennese architect Wilhem Doderer and was continued in 1876 by his assistant.

The location for the castle was chosen by the German Prince Carol I Hohenzollern, who was to become a king and it draws its name from the neighboring brooks which pass through the courtyard.

Bran Castel

Bran Castle is situated in an old village of the same name. Bran Castle is considered as the home of Dracula, in so far as VladTepes the original Romanian Prince who

inspired the legend, once lived there. Bram Stoker, the author of the book, was also inspired by this castle and the Transylvanian lands and villages surrounding it.

Old center of Brasov

Fringed by the peaks of the Southern Carpathian Mountains and resplendent with gothic, baroque and renaissance architecture, as well as a wealth of historical attractions, Brasov is one of the most visited places in Romania.

After seeing these precious and unique jewels we shall stop in **Azuga**, where you are invited to taste sparkling wines and have dinner in a special place – **the Halewood Wine Cellars**

1 Day Trip

The old center: The Council Square, the imposing Black Church, The Council House, Merchant's House, Brasov's Fortress, Schei Gate, Ecaterina Gate of 1540, and The Rope Street, the narrowest street in Europe.

Package Includes:

- transport with a private car
- professional guide
- lunch (without drinks)

The price does not includes: entrance fee



ON THE STEPS OF THE ROMANIAN ROYAL FAMILY

Brasov - Bran Castel - Peles Castel
1 day trip



The German Prince Carol I Hohenzollern became the first king of Romania, in 1866. In 48 years of rule - far and away the longest in Romanian history - he helped Romania gain its independence, he raised its prestige, he helped redress its economy and he established a dynasty. In the Carpathian mountains, he built Peleş Castle, still one of Romania's most visited touristic attractions. The castle was built in German style, as a reminder of the king's origin. Peles Palace is one of the best-preserved royal palaces in Europe and one of the most beautiful castles in all Europe.

In 1914, Carol I died and Ferdinand ascended the throne of Romania. Ferdinand of Romania was King of the Romanians from 10 October 1914 until his death. In Sigmaringen on 10 January 1893, Prince Ferdinand of Romania married his distant cousin, the Lutheran Princess Marie of Edinburgh. Marie had become a Romanian patriot, and her influence in the country was large. After the death of her husband in 1927, Queen Marie remained in Romania, writing books and her memoirs, *The Story of My Life*. She died in **Peleş Castle** on 18 July 1938, and was buried next to her husband in the Monastery of Curtea de Argeş.

In accordance with her will, her heart was kept in a cloister at the Balchik Palace which she had built. In 1940, when Balchik and the rest of Southern Dobrudja were returned to Bulgaria in accordance with the Treaty of Craiova, Queen Marie's heart was transferred to **Bran Castle**. Nowadays, the coffers are part of Romanian National Thesaurus and can be seen at National **Museum of Romanian History, in Bucharest**. Bran Castle had been her principal home for much of the early 20th century, and the artefacts with which she chose to surround herself can be seen by visitors today.

1 Day trip

Day 1- Bucharest - Brasov

Tour of Brasov City

Tourist objectives: The Peles Castle, The Bran Castle (Dracula's Castle), The Black Church, The First Romanian School, The Fortress

In the evening, we arrive to Bucharest.



Package Includes:

- transport with a private car/bus
- professional guide

The price doesn't include:

- the entrance fee for the museums and tourist objectives
- lunch/dinner (we recommend good restaurants)

DISCOVER THE HISTORICAL CAPITALS

Bucharest - Curtea de Arges - Sibiu - Bucharest
2 days trip

Curtea de Arges



One of the oldest towns in Wallachia, **Curtea de Arges** was the capital of a small local state which was the start for the unification of the lands south of the Carpathians. The oldest archeological evidence of it being the seat of such a ruler date from the 13th century.

While **Câmpulung** is sometimes credited as the first capital of Wallachia, the Wallachian chronicles mention only Curtea de Argeș as being the capital, this being supported by the fact that the Hungarian documents mention that Charles I attacked the Argeș stronghold and not the Câmpulung ones.

After 1340, a new royal court was built at Argeș, containing a palace and a church, the whole compound having an area of 0.76 hectares. It was here that the Metropolitan Orthodox Church of Walachia was founded in 1359.

Cozia Monastery get acquainted to the Brancovan architecture and decoration. This monastery features an excellent late 17 century Last Judgment fresco on the western façade. Cozia was painted between 1390 and 1391. Some of the original frescoes (1390) are still well preserved.

Cozia features a museum of exhibiting old art: old manuscripts and prints, embroideries and objects of worship.

Cross the mountains into Transylvania and enjoy dramatic views of the Olt River and spectacular Middle Carpathians.

Olt Valley



Cozia Monastery





Sibiu

Located in the central part of Romania, in the Transylvania region, in the foreground of the South-Carpathian Mountains, **Sibiu was considered to be the capital of the Saxons of Romania.**

Developing as the region's educational and cultural centre, the city once again achieved international recognition when it became "Europe's Cultural Capital" in 2007. Its medieval inner-city is relatively small, and can easily be covered on foot. The principal attraction of the old-city is its Gothic cathedral, built in three stages from the 14 to the early 16th centuries. It replaced a Romanesque style basilica which stood on this site in the 12th - 13th centuries.

The nearby, very impressive Baroque style palace - now **the Brukenthal Museum** – was named after a former Governor of Transylvania, whose bequest of a large collection of books, coins, engravings and paintings has been on public display here since 1817.

2 Days Trip

Day 1: Bucharest - Curtea de Arges - Sibiu

Tourist objectives: Curtea de Arges Monastery,
The Historical Center of Sibiu

Day 2: Sibiu - Olt Valley - Bucharest

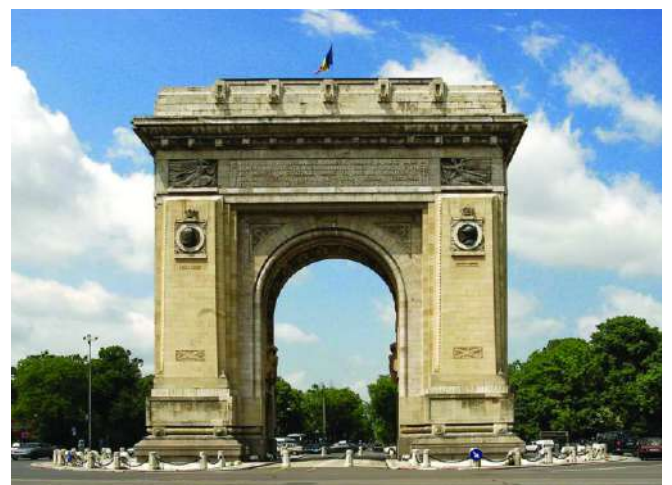
Tour of Sibiu City
Tourist objectives: The Brukenthal Museum
in Sibiu
Olt Valley - Cozia Monastery

Package Includes:

- transport with a private car/bus
- professional guide
- 1 night - accommodation with breakfast
- 1 traditional dinner

The price doesn't include:

- the entrance fee for the museums and tourist objectives
- lunch/dinner (we recommend good restaurants)



DRACULA - BEHIND THE LEGEND

Bucharest - Sighisoara - Brasov - Sinaia
3 days trip



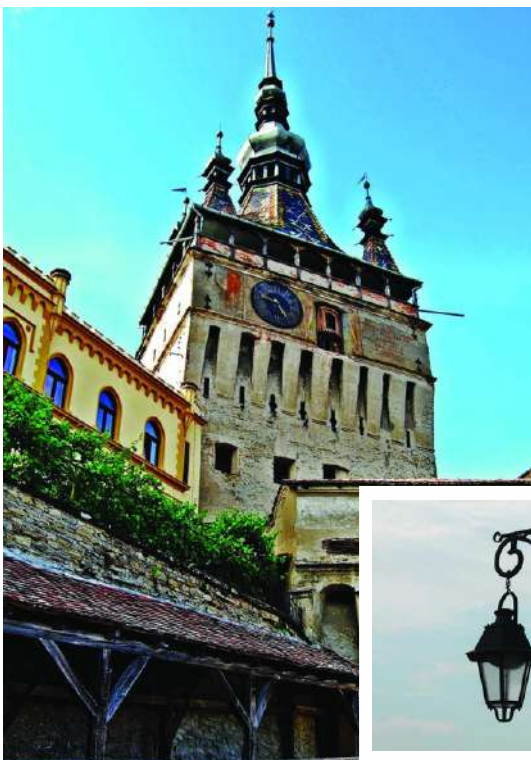
"Vlad III, Prince of Wallachia"

Vlad III, Prince of Wallachia (1431–1476), was a member of the House of Drăculești, a branch of the House of Basarab, also known by his patronymic name: **Dracula**.

He was posthumously dubbed **Vlad the Impaler** (Romanian: **Vlad Țepeș** pronounced [ˈvlad ˈt͡sepeʃ]) and was a three-time Voivode of Wallachia, ruling mainly from 1456 to 1462, the period of the incipient Ottoman conquest of the Balkans. His father, Vlad II Dracul, was a member of the Order of the Dragon, which was founded to protect Christianity in Eastern Europe. Vlad III is revered as a hero in Bulgaria as well for his protection of the Bulgarian population both south and north of the Danube.

Vlad III spent much of his rule campaigning against the Ottoman Empire and its expansion. As the cognomen 'The Impaler' suggests, his practice of impaling his enemies is central to his historical reputation. During his lifetime, his reputation for excessive cruelty spread abroad, to Germany and elsewhere in Europe. The total number of his victims is estimated in the tens of thousands. The name of the vampire Count Dracula in Bram Stoker's 1897 novel Dracula was inspired by Vlad's patronymic.

Sighisoara



Situated on the Târnava Mare River, in Transylvania, the formerly Saxon city of Sighisoara is one of the region's most beautiful cities. Consisting of an upper- and a lower-city, the upper-city is actually a castle, sitting on a 72m high peak, surrounded by a protective wall with 14 towers; during the Middle Ages the castle was impregnable.

The castle, on which work was begun as far back as 1191, appears on the UNESCO World Heritage List. **The central part of Sighisoara** hosts one of the most impressive medieval fortified cities in Europe, listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage site. Its main attraction is the **Clock Tower**, built in 1556. **The House of Vlad Tepes** is another tourists magnet. It is located near the Clock Tower and serves nowadays as a restaurant.

Brasov

In the centre of the square stands the **Old Town Hall** (1420), now home to Brasov's History Museum, while the southeast corner is dominated by the town's most famous landmark, the **Black Church**.

Bran Castle is located in the central part of Romania, on the border between Transylvania and Wallachia regions, about 30 km south from the city of Brasov, in the village of Bran. The medieval castle of Bran is one of the most popular castles not only in Romania but also in the Eastern European region.

Bran Castle is often called as Dracula Castle and is referred as the home of Vlad Tepes (Dracula), the former ruler of Wallachia region and the main character of Bram Stoker's Dracula film.



3 Days Trip

Day 1 - Bucharest - Sighisoara.

Tour of Sighisoara City

Tourist objectives: The Clock Tower, The House of Vlad Tepes.

Dinner in a Dracula's restaurant

Day 2 - Sighisoara - Brasov

Tour of Brasov City

Tourist objectives: The Black Church, The Bran Castle
Accommodation in Sinaia

Day 3 - Sinaia - Bucharest

Tourist objectives: Sinaia Monastery, The Peles Castle

In the evening, we arrive to Bucharest.



Package Includes:

- transport with a private car
- professional guide
- 2 nights - accommodation with half board
- 1 dinner in Dracula's restaurant

The price doesn't include:

- the entrance fee for the museums and tourist objectives
- lunch (we recommend good restaurants)



STEPS OF HISTORY - MEDIEVAL CITIES

Brasov - Sighisoara - Sibiu
3 days trip



Brasov

Fringed by the peaks of the Southern Carpathian Mountains and resplendent with gothic, baroque and renaissance architecture, as well as a wealth of historical attractions, Brasov is one of the most visited places in Romania.

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. The Saxons built massive stone walls and seven bastions around the city that are still visible today, as well as ornate churches, elaborately trimmed buildings and one of the finest central squares in the country, said to be the spot to which the legendary Pied Piper led the children of Hamelin. In the centre of the Council Square stands the Old Town Hall (1420), now home to Brasov's History Museum, while the southeast corner is dominated by the town's most famous landmark, the Black Church.

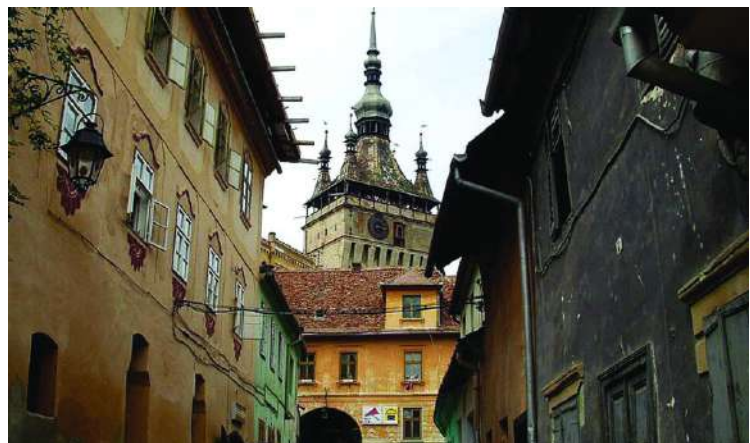
Near Brasov is located **Bran Castle**, in the village of Bran. Often called as Dracula Castle, the medieval castle of Bran is one of the most popular castles in Romania.



Sighisoara

The formerly Saxon city of Sighisoara is one of the country's most beautiful cities. Consisting of an upper- and a lower-city, the upper-city is actually a castle, sitting on a 72m high peak, surrounded by a protective wall with 14 towers.

The castle appears on the UNESCO World Heritage List. **The central part of Sighisoara hosts one of the most impressive medieval fortified cities in Europe, listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage site.** It's main attraction is the Clock Tower, 64 m high, built in 1556. It is used to host a history museum. The House of Vlad Tepes is another tourists magnet. It is located near the Clock Tower and serves nowadays as a restaurant. Also worth mentioning are the "Student Steps" – a fully enclosed flight of 172 steps, entirely made of wood, constructed in 1642.



Sibiu

Located in the central part of Romania, in the Transylvania region, in the foreground of the South-Carpathian Mountains, Sibiu was considered to be the capital of the Saxons of Romania. Developing as the region's educational and cultural centre, the city once again achieved international recognition **when it became "Europe's Cultural Capital" in 2007.**



Its medieval inner-city is relatively small, and can easily be covered on foot. The principal attraction of the old-city is its Gothic cathedral, built in three stages from the 14th to the early 16th centuries.

The nearby, very impressive Baroque style palace - now the Brukenthal Museum – was named after a former Governor of Transylvania, whose bequest of a large collection of books, coins, engravings and paintings has been on public display here since 1817. From the top of the 16th century town-hall tower, which stands at the edge of the main square, one can gain a splendid view of the city; the tower also functions as a museum.

3 Days Trip

Day 1: Bucharest - Brasov

Tour of Brasov City

Tourist objectives: The Peles Castle, The Bran Castle (Dracula's Castle), The Black Church, The First Romanian School, The Fortress

In the evening, dinner in a traditional restaurant or pub. Accommodation in Brasov

Day 2: Brasov – Sighisoara - Sibiu

Tour of Sighisoara City

Tourist objectives: The Clock Tower, The House of Vlad Tepes.

Lunch in a Dracula's restaurant (optional)

Departure to Sibiu, in the evening a walk to the center of the town and dinner in a local restaurant. Accommodation in Sibiu

Day 3: Sibiu - Valea Oltului - Bucharest

Tour of Sibiu City

Tourist objectives: The Brukenthal Museum, The Historical Center

Valea Oltului - Cozia Monastery

In the evening, we arrive to Bucharest.

Package Includes:

- transport with a private car/bus
- professional guide
- 2 nights - accommodation with half board
- traditional dinner night

The price doesn't include:

- the entrance fee for the museums and tourist objectives
- lunch (we recommend good restaurants)



BEAUTY AND WILDNESS - DANUBE DELTA

3 days trip



The mighty Danube River flows 1,788 miles from its springs in Germany's Black Forest to the Black Sea. Just before reaching the sea it forms the second largest and best preserved of Europe's deltas: 2,200 square miles of rivers, canals, marshes, tree-fringed lakes and reed islands. The Danube Delta is a wildlife enthusiast's (especially a bird watcher's) paradise.

Travelers can spend three or more days exploring its passages, teaming with the highest concentration of bird colonies in all of Europe. The maze of canals bordered by thatch, willows and oaks entangled in lianas, offers the perfect breeding ground for countless species of birds, some of them from as far away as China and Africa. Millions of Egyptian white pelicans arrive here every spring to raise their young, while equal numbers of Arctic geese come here to escape the harsh winters of Northern Europe.

Some 300 species of birds make Danube's Delta their home, including cormorants, white tailed eagles and glossy ibises. The bird watching season lasts from early spring to late summer. Birds are not the only inhabitants of the Delta. There is also a rich community of fish and animals; from wildcats, foxes and wolves, to even an occasional boar or deer. Altogether, 3,450 animal species can be seen here, as well as 1,700 plant species.

» **The Danube River is the most international river on the planet** - its course runs across — or forms a part of the borders of several countries: Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine, and four capitals: Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest and Belgrade.



» Formed over a period of more than 10,000 years, the Danube Delta continues to grow due to the 67 million tons of alluvia deposited every year by the Danube River.

» The Delta is formed around the three main channels of the Danube, named after their respective ports: Chilia (in the north), Sulina (in the middle), and Sfântu Gheorghe (in the south).

» The Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve has the third largest biodiversity in the world and exceeded only by the Great Barrier Reef in Australia and the Galapagos Archipelago in Ecuador.

» The Danube Delta is home to over 60% of the world's population of pygmy cormorants (*phalacrocorax pygmeus*), 50% of red-breasted geese (*branta ruficollis*) and the largest number of white pelicans (*pelecanus onocrotalus*) and Dalmatian pelicans (*pelecanus crispus*) in Europe.

» It also is home to the world's largest reed bed expanse: 625, 000 acres / 240,000 ha.

» Some 15,000 people inhabit the Delta area, living in 28 villages and one city (Sulina).

» More than half of the Delta Biosphere Reserve is virtually intact.

UNESCO World Heritage Centre



3 Days Trip



Day 1: Bucharest – Tulcea - The Danube Delta

Day 2: The Danube Delta

Activities:

Bird watching

Fishing

Photo shooting

Day 3: Tulcea - Bucharest

In the evening, we arrive to Bucharest.



Package Includes:

- transport with a private car
- professional guide
- 2 nights - accommodation with full board

CELEBRATE NEW YEAR'S EVE IN THE FAIRYTALE LAND OF MARAMURES

5 days program



December - January (4 nights / 5 days)

Maramures, a historical province that has kept the traditions and habits unchanged over time invites you to spend the transition between years in an authentic way. We will taste the traditional cuisine cooked by the housewives of this area, we will participate in the New Year's traditions, we will listen to the carols and spend an unforgettable day at one of the most beautiful festivals in the area, all in a dream stay.

Day 1: Bucuresti - Brasov - Ocna Sugatag

We leave early in the morning. The first stop will be in Brasov, a lovely mountain city. We will visit the Council Square and the fair organized in the city center. The black Church, a tourist emblem of Brasov, is waiting for us to open its doors. We will say good-bye to Brasov and continue our journey through the heart of Transylvania. We will arrive at the Popasul din Deal guesthouse in Ocna Sagatag, where the host will welcome us with dinner.

Day 2: Traditional Festival in Sighet - Maramures

Early in the morning, we will have breakfast and head towards the neighboring village to attend the Traditions Festival in Sighet. After becoming accustomed with the traditions and customs of Maramures, we return to the guesthouse to have dinner and to share festival impressions. The festival has taken place yearly since 27th of December 1969.



Day 3: New Year's Eve festive dinner

On the morning of 31.12 we will have breakfast and we will participate in a horsedrawn sleigh ride. Alternatively, you can spend a relaxing afternoon at the pension's swimming pool and SPA center. In the evening we will get ready for the New Year's Eve festive dinner, rich in traditional dishes, tuna and "palinca".

The host has also prepared a series of surprises, raffles, dancing, traditional music played by folk ensembles.



Day 4: Maramures - New Year Day

Early in the morning we have breakfast and we can attend the New Year's Day mass at the church in the center.

On New Year's Day, everyone can hear the voices of children who go from house to house to announce the beginning of another year. A very special character is the "Goat".

The "Goat" is actually a young person who manipulates a wooden creature dressed in colourful clothes with long ribbons, making her dance to the rhythm of the pipe played by a "Shepherd", to the amusement of the "public". In the villages of Maramures, the New Year's Day overflows with beliefs, magic, and rituals meant to guarantee a good future. There are signs everywhere that show how the year is going to be

Included services:

- Transportation by coach / minibus classified under international standards (1165 km)
- Accommodation 4 night with breakfast and dinner with traditional alcoholic beverages at Pension Popasul din Deal 3*, Ocna Sugatag - Maramures or similar.
- Festive dinner on 31.12.2017 with raffles, dancing and traditional music
- Dinner in Maramures on 01.01.2018 with popular dances.
- Free access to the 2 swimming pools.



ROMANIAN TREASURES

7 days program



Day 1: Bucuresti - Horezu - Cozia - Sibiu

Walking tour in the old historical Bucharest city center. Drive past Pitesti to Horezu. If there is a monastery which one should in no case miss, so that is (approx. 50 km further), that one from Horezu. It was established 1691-97 by the monarch Constantin Brancoveanu in the typical style of the epoch (Romanian renaissance) and was accepted in 1995 in the UNESCO world cultural heritage. Afterwards drive further through the Red Tower pas to Transylvania.

On the way, short visit of the fortified small monastery Cozia, which was built by the monarch Mircea the Old during years 1386-1388. In the late afternoon we reach Sibiu and, during a city tour, we get to know the sights of the city.

The delightful oldest part of the town, with a lot of paved streets with houses covered with slate stand, forms a unity with remnants of the medieval fortifications and baroque palaces. Accommodation and dinner near Sibiu - 3* hotel.

Day 2: Sibiu - Sighisoara - Tg. Mures - Bistrita - Tihuta

After the breakfast, drive to Sighisoara, the most beautiful medieval city of Romania, which radiates a quite special mood. The still one only (the fortress medieval inhabited in Europe) is put down since 1990 cultural world of list UNESCO the on heritage. We will visit the famous clock tower from the 14th century, the birthplace of Vlad Tepes (Dracula) and the late-Gothic

mountain church. Past Tg. Mures to Bistrita, where we make a short stop, further trough the Tihuta pass, to the castle hotel of Dracula where we can experience a dinner with campfire and vampire's delicacy. If it becomes lately enough, even the count will pay us personally a visit! Accommodation near Bistrita Nasaud 3* hotel.

Day 3: Tihuta - Moldavia monasteries - Suceava

The current day brings a varied round trip which makes accessible the beauty of the famous Bukovina monasteries to us. These monasteries, painted in Byzantine style, true masterpieces which are here from the glorious times of the Moldavian culture (15th century), were declared as belonging the world cultural heritage by UNESCO. Here we visit the monastery Voronet, a "symphony in Blue" which is named with its unique shining "Voronet - blue" the "Capella Sixtina" of the Rumanian orthodox belief.

Afterwards we visit the monastery Moldovita which is famous for its outside frescoes, and the monastery Sucevita where the painting on the north side still intactly in the original condition well preserved is.

Then we drive to Suceava. City tour in Suceava, the first capital of Moldavia where we visit not only the unique orthodox churches, but also the remnants of the fortress of Stefans the Great. Check-in in the hotel 3*. Dinner with folklore and wine tasting.

Day 4: Suceava - Agapia - Piatra Neamt - Slanic Moldova

In the morning we visit the two monasteries Agapia and Varatec, which with over 1000 nuns are the biggest from Europe. We can see the life of the nuns better by taking a look at the workshops of the monasteries (where carpets, needleworks or icons are being made).

Further, we drive trough the most beautiful region, namely we cross the east Carpathians trough the Bicaz-gorge past the Red Lake. Than we drive to the well known

location Slanic Moldova. Accommodation and dinner in a 4* hotel.



Day 5: Slanic Moldova - Brasov - Poiana Brasov - Bran

Drive to Brasov and city tour, the famous Black church and the center of the city walking tour. Drive to Bran where we will look at the fortress built at the end of 14th

century- Brab Castle. Lunch in a traditional restaurant. Walking in Bran area and admiring the landscapes (a little bit of sport). Accommodation and dinner in a 3* hotel.

Day 6: Sinaia - Azuga (wine testing) - Bucharest

Breakfast and drive to Sinaia, the resort situated at about 800 m over the Sea level, also known as the "pearl of the Carpathians", where at the end of the 19th century king Carol I built an astonishing fairy tale castle. The castle has 160 splendid rooms used as the summer residence of the royal family. In the castle, Gustav Mahler

with his brother worked and lived. The mural painting of theater hall is painted by him. Lunch and wine testing and souvenir-wine shopping in Azuga. Shortly after, we leave the Carpathians and drive trough the Prahova valley to Bucharest. In the evening we reach the capital city. According to the traffic night city tour in Bucharest.

Day 7: Bucharest

Breakfast and check-out. City tour with a short visit to Parliament Place (optional) or

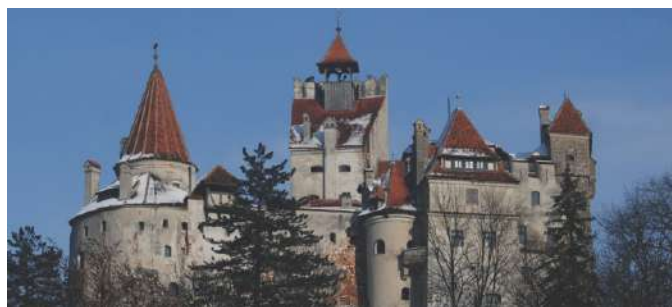
shopping in one of the famous Bucharest' Malls (optional). Transfer to the airport.

Package Includes:

- 7 overnights accommodation in 3 and 4* hotels in DBL rooms
- HB (breakfast and dinner-included gala dinners, folklore program)
- wine testing
- transport with minivan (AC, DVD, TV)
- transfers from/to the airport
- French speaking guide
- touristic assistance
- entrance fees
- baggage services

Not included:

- lunch (aprox.20-25/Euro/pers/normal lunch)



ROMANIA GRAND TOUR - VALACHIA, TRANSYLVANIA AND MARAMURES

9 days program



Period: March - November

Days 1-2: Bucharest

Arrival in Bucharest - the capital of Romania. Pick-up from the airport and transfer to your hotel. The rest of the day is free. In the evening you meet your tour guide.

FULL-DAY TOUR OF BUCHAREST

After breakfast, full day sightseeing tour of Bucharest including visit of the famous Parliament Palace. The walking tour includes the Revolution Square and the bustling old center of Bucharest. You'll admire as well The Village museum and famous boulevards and neighborhoods of this interesting city. the settlement of Bucharest was first mentioned in 1459 and, ever since, the town went through a series of continuous changes, representing the central scene of Romania's political, artistic, university, financial and cultural life. Between the two world wars, due to the elegant architecture and to the elite living in Bucharest, the city was nicknamed "The Little Paris".

Guinness Book registers the **Palace of Parliament** as the second largest administrative building in the World, after Pentagon - with a floor area of 300,000m² - and the third in the world as volume, with 2,550,000m³. The building is situated in the historical and geographical center of Bucharest and it was built on a hill. The building, whose works were started in July 1984, is structured on six levels and divided into 21 body units. It includes a huge combination of monumental sculptures, glided ornaments, decorative

flooring, laced ceilings, brocade curtains, heavy carpets and tapestry, all a simple, overwhelming and harmonious way. Located in a green area of Bucharest and inaugurated in 1936, The Village Museum is one of the most beautiful and most interesting museums in the country. It boasts old and original houses brought from different parts of the country.

Day 3: Bucharest - Curtea de Arges - Sibiu

Breakfast and departure to Curtea de Arges, the former capital of Walachia, and visit Curtea de Arges Monastery.

The Episcopal Church, known as the **Church of the Curtea de Arges Monastery**, was built by the Romanian ruler of Wallachia Neagoe Basarab in 1512-1517. A great legend is connected to this church. It is said Master Manole entombed his wife alive in the walls of the church so that they would never crumble. And so that the secret of the monastery's construction would be preserved forever, Manole made himself wings from wooden laths and tried to descend: he crashed to earth and from his body wekked a spring. Such is the legend of Manole's Weel. In 1875, the beautiful trefoil church was demolished and rebuilt by French architect Andre Lecomte

du Nouy. The Episcopal Church of Curtea de Arges houses the tomb of its founder, Neagoe Basarab, and other members of the royal family (Kings Carol I and Ferdinand, and Queens Elisabet and Mary).

In the afternoon we will drive along the picturesque Olt Valley to visit Cozia Monastery and then we will arrive in Sibiu.

Mircea the Elder, ruler of Walachia and grandfather of Vlad the Impaler (**Dracula**), built Cozia Monastery in the 14th century. Here you'll have a first contact with the painted frescoes. On the entrance wall of the church you'll see an impressive "Last Judgment" fresco.

Overnight and dinner in Sibiu

Day 4: Sibiu - Sighisoara - Cluj Napoca

After breakfast, you will enjoy a walking tour of Sibiu.

Considered to be one of the most beautiful Romanian towns, due to its unique architectural style and to the impressive complex of museums, Sibiu was awarded the two great cultural and historical centers: The **Brukenthal Museum** and the Astra Museum. The wown's touristic attractions are: The Evangelical Church, The Orthodox Cathedral, The Roman-Carholic Church, The

Stairs Tower, The Council Tower, etc. Drive to Biertan to visit the impressive Saxon fortified church. The medieval town of **Sighisoara** is listed in the UNESCO World Heritage as being the only inhabited citadel in Europe. It is a popular tourist destination, due to it's particular architecture, as well as to the strong connection that exists between the citadel and the legendary image of vampire-prince Dracula.



Day 5: Cluj Napoca - Sapanta

The name **Cluj** comes from Castrum Clus, first used in the 12th century as the name of the citadel surrounding the city. Clus means "closed" in Latin and refers to the hills that surround the city.

After the breakfast you will be driven toward the region of Maramures, a place where the purity of nature blends with the beauty of the old villages, a place where the locals kept untouched their traditions, where the carved wood represents a common way of building.

The Merry Cemetery has gained originality and value by means of the chopped, carved and painted crosses on which the artisan has chiseled out versified epitaphs, most of them full of a remarkable sense of humor, particular to the area to all the Romanians. The value of these works of art is recognized both at home and abroad. In the same village you'll stop to admire the highest wooden structure in the world: Peri Convent, recently rebuilt.

Day 6: Sapanta - Barsana - Moldovita - Sucevita

Today the journey is long and beautiful. First, you will visit Toader Barsan's house, a local wood carver who took part at the Smithsonian World Festival in Washington. In the same village, you'll visit one of the highest wooden churches in the world, Barsana Convent.

The Convent of Moldovita is the first painted church visited in Bucovina. It is famous for its "Siege of Constantinople" fresco. Then you'll be driven to the nearby Sucevita Monastery, which is the largest of all, looking more like a mighty fortress than a monastery.

Day 7: Sucevita - Voronet - Bicz - Brasov

Today the journey is long, but impressive. The first visit of the day is at the most famous painted monastery of all, Voronet Convent. Erected in 1488, **Voronet Monastery** represented one of the first Moldavian creative elements showing a

distinctive style. The church is a combination of Byzantine, Gothic and local elements. The exterior painting on the western wall depicts, on five registers, the Doomsday scene, unique in the whole world.

Day 8: Brasov - Bran - Sinaia - Bucharest

After breakfast you will enjoy a walking tour of **Brasov** with visit of the old downtown. 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. You'll admire the beautiful buildings like Black Church which is built in Gothic and Renaissance style - the largest gothic church in Romania.

The **Bran Castle** was a safeguard castle for the trade route that connected Transylvania and Wallachia, it was built by the people of Brasov between 1377-1378. It represents in the consciousness of any tourist the dark residence of prince Dracula, a fictional hero in the famous British Bram Stocker's novel.

the **Peles Castle**, built in two stages between 1875 and 1914, was the summer residence of King Carol Ist and his wife, queen Elisabet.

Day 9: Bucharest



ROMANIAN EVENTS IN 2018

The national festival of Painted Eggs - March, 2018, Ciocanești, Bucovina.

A unique event in the country, the national festival of painted eggs is organized annually on „Shrove Tuesday” at the beginning of the Big Fasting, wishing to point out the beautiful tradition of this area – the egg painting- and all at once to bring Ciocanesti into the world's attention as a museum-commune.

Fire Wheel Festival – March 2018, Sinca Nouă

Many Romania communities celebrate the last day before Lent, but none do it with quite so much style as Sinca Noua near Brasov. Residents of this picturesque village hold a nocturnal ritual where hay wheels are set on fire and rolled from the top of a nearby hill to symbolise purification.

Celebration of the Traditional Costumes – May 2018, Lapuș, Maramureș

Folk festival dedicated to traditional and wedding costumes in the Land of Lăpuș.

The Trout National Festival – May 2018, Ciocanești, Bucovina.

Being part of the events for the promotion of the local authenticity and specificity, the Trout national festival gets together Sport Fishing contest with rewards for the winners, culinary art demonstrations (trout preparing recipes), rafting demonstrations on Bistrita.



EUROPAfest – May 2018, Bucharest

One of the biggest international music festivals in Romania, EUROPAfest attracts jazz, pop, blues and classical acts from all over the world. In addition to a host of concerts across dozens of venues, it also runs jam sessions and workshops for up-and-coming musicians and hosts the prestigious Jeunesses International Music Competition.

Transilvania International Film Festival – May – June 2018, Cluj-Napoca

Established in 2001 by Romania Film promotion, this lively festival has become one of the most popular of its kind in Eastern Europe. It now attracts more than 55,000 attendees, and draws directing and acting talent from around the globe. This is the perfect place to see the efforts of the country's fledgling film industry.

Sibiu International Theatre Festival - June, 2018, Sibiu

Sibiu International Theatre Festival is an event that promotes excellence in the Performing arts. The selection of the events that are part of the program is done by the recommendation of an artistic board. The Festival has achieved continuity: now, it is well known from America to Japan, and it has become an institution with a very well defined personality and culture.



The Traditional Crafts Fair – June 2018, Bucharest, Village Museum

Held at the Village Museum in Bucharest, this fair attracts crafts enthusiasts from all over the country and is the perfect place to pick up a local souvenir. It also hosts a programme of free demonstrations and workshops in everything from textile weaving to pottery making.

Festival of Dance, Song and Costumes in Fisculaş – Julie, Dumbrăviţa, Maramureş

Festival of the traditions of the villages between Baia Mare, Baia Sprie and Lăpuş River.

Sighişoara Medieval Festival – Julie 2018, Sighişoara

During the Sighişoara Medieval Festival, the pretty town of Sighişoara reverts to its medieval roots. Locals dress up in traditional costume, and the streets are packed with entertainers, troubadours and handicraft displays. A series of medieval ceremonies and open-air concerts also gives visitors the chance to learn more about Romanian heritage.

Dance at Prislop – August 2018, Prislop, Borşa

This traditional Romanian festival of music and dance was established to celebrate the friendships between Moldavia, Maramures and Transylvania. Villagers dressed in traditional costumes parade to Prislop Pass in the Carpathian Mountains. The parade finishes with a huge feast of Romanian delicacies and plenty of noisy celebration.

Fish soup festival in Danube Delta – September 2018, Crişan, Danube Delta

Teams of chefs throughout the Delta immerse the

guests and tourists with their traditional products, but also with an extraordinary show of folklore, traditional songs and dances.

George Enescu Music Festival – September 2018, Bucharest

There are over 150 cultural events that will take place in Bucharest and other Romanian cities: Arad, Bacău, Braşov, Cluj, Iaşi, Oradea, Sibiu and Timişoara. The festival is part of the international circuit of this kind and it marks Bucharest on the agenda of great orchestras and famous international artists.

Sambra Oilor – September 2018, Maramureş

This old practice is celebrated across Romania and began to mark the return of the shepherds from the mountains for winter and the measurement of the sheep's milk. It was traditionally an important time for pastoral communities, and is best seen in the Maramures region where many of the old traditions remain intact.

Sibiu Christmas Market – November – December 2018, Sibiu

Sibiu holds one of the biggest Romanian Christmas markets, its Greater Square plays host to merchants from over 20 countries selling everything from mulled wine to handmade gifts.

Winter Customs and Traditions Festival – December 2018, Sighetu-Marmaţiei, Maramureş

Every year since 1968, after Christmas, a synthesis of Romanian winter customs and traditions is performed in Sighet, at the occasion of the Marmatia Winter Traditions Festival: traditional costumes parade, horse riders, carriages with carol singers etc.



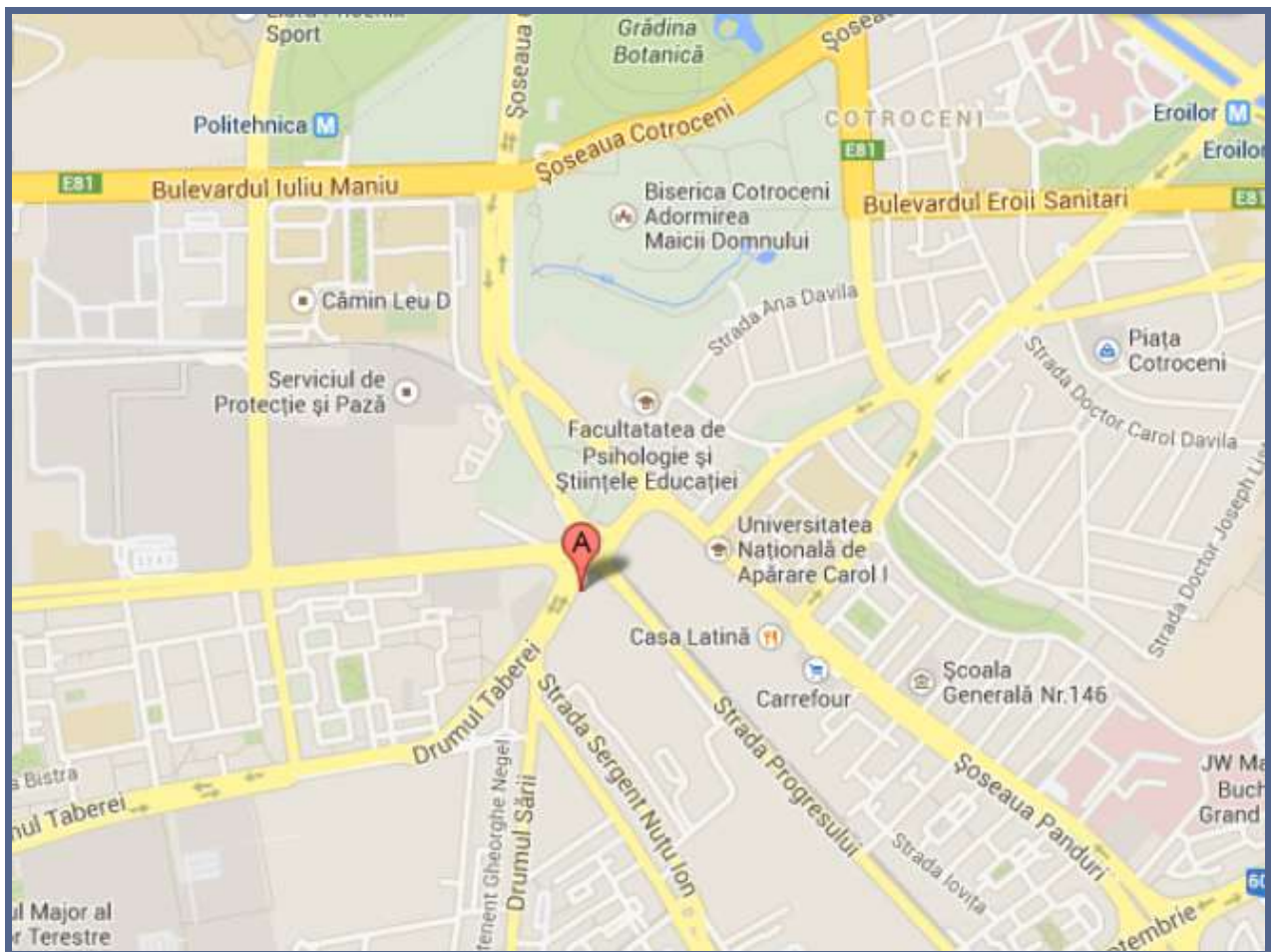
"No journey to Eastern Europe would be complete without visiting Romania. Outstanding landscapes, a huge diversity of wildlife" (The Rough Guide)

"Join us to visit the beauties of Romania unique in Europe and in the world. Spend some exciting days with us at the romantic Danube Delta, or the fairy-tale castle of Bran. Enjoy your stay at the world famous Monasteries in Bucovina or medieval towns in Transylvania. Come with us to see the majestic Carpathian Mountains and much more."

Romania for You Team

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**We look forward to
welcome you
to Romania!**

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