



The Carpathian Mountains, villages and castles

8 Days / 7 Nights

This 8-day guided walking adventure through the most appreciated Carpathian Mountains is a must do! Romania is a wonderful, bucolic country in which village locals still rely heavily on craftsmanship and maintaining a strong link with the stunning nature. The Piatra Craiului and Bucegi Mountains are very well preserved and offer the perfect setting for an unforgettable hike. Inside these pristine natural parks, you will be amazed by an incredibly rich fauna and flora and more so, you will also discover the pastoral way of life which is still full of traditions. Apart from this, these fabulous mountains, which are home to exceptional natural conditions offer a very strategic advantage. It is why fortresses were erected here to protect the Transylvania borders. In the 14th century, the Saxons built the Bran fortress. This magnificent castle had a protecting role against Ottoman invasions and the migratory peoples. However, it is, above all, associated with the prince Vlad the Impaler of Wallachia, the character at the origin of the fictional character of Dracula.)

YOUR PROGRAM

Day 1 - Welcome and transfer to Brasov

Meeting your guide at the North Train Station in Bucharest at 14.15. Train transfer to Brasov where you'll have a private transfer to your central hotel in Brasov. Travelling by train will create a great opportunity to experience the stunning views from Prahova Valley where the Prahova river makes its way between the Bucegi and the Baiului Mountains, in the Carpathian Mountains. Free time to visit Brasov. Dinner not included.

Transfer: 2h40 by train

Meals: not included



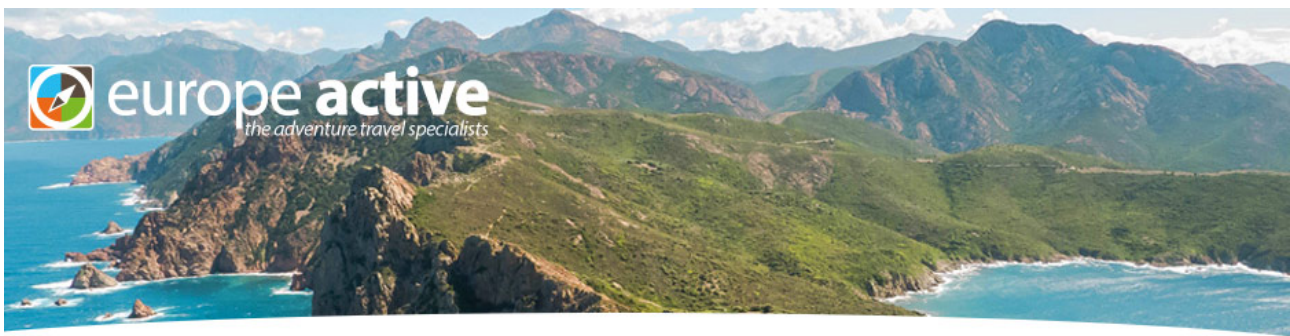
Day 2 - Piatra Craiului National Park and Curmatura hut

After a short transfer, we head into the Piatra Craiului National Park. Our walk will start with a nice steady climb following woodland trails that are picturesque and rich in birdsong. We end up to our lovely lunch spot at Cabana Curmatura, where we can take-in the views of the Valley and Canyon surrounding us. Lunch will be a real delight today with local soup and an amazing apple pie!! Full up from lunch we make our way downhill through open hills before entering a large wooded area along the river. We will follow an old track to The Jurassic Zarnesti Canyon. The last ascent will bring us to the fairy-tale village of Magura where we will spend our next couple of nights in a traditional and cosy guesthouse.

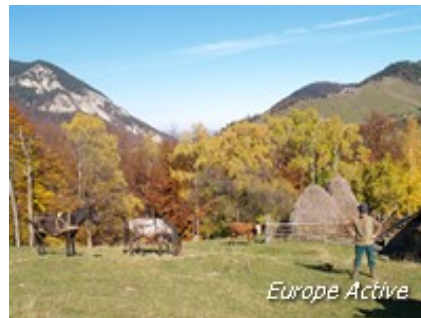
Transfer time: 1h00 in the morning

Walk duration: 5h30, 15km, +750/-600m

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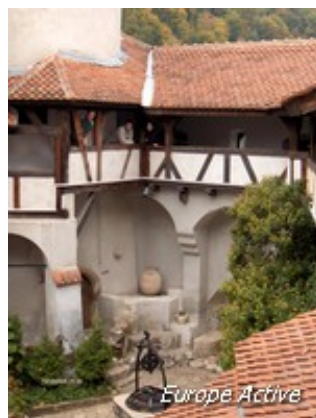
Meals: breakfast, picnic, dinner



Day 3 - Bran castle

Our walk will commence at Magura, and begins with a slow ascent through green pastures and traditional farm land. We will join a shaded forest track for some time, where we will still be gradually ascending before the forest opens up to reveal a magnificent hill top where we can stop and take in the wonderful views below! We make our way to our hill side lunch spot with a gentle walk. Our lunch spot is picturesque as it overlooks a very remote farm house that has no electricity and no running water, and is owned by a charming local farmer herding his cattle with not a care in the world!! After lunch we follow a good terrain before descending a very steep hill (500m). The descent is paired with fantastic views of Bran Castle so take your time, go slowly and take it all in.

When we reach Bran we will have a guided tour of the castle. Most people know Bran Castle as "Dracula's Castle", from Bram Stoker's novel. This story is loosely based on Vlad Tepes who ruthlessly defended this part of Transylvania, and in the process, the legend of his rather gruesome killings inspired the story of Dracula. Bran Castle it's an amazing example of 14th century Gothic architecture that looks like it was carefully placed on top of a mountain. Going to Bran Castle one can really experience the feeling of what it was like to live in those times and places. As you wander through the mazes of rooms, stairways, secret passages and levels connected with wooden ladders, it's easy to imagine the history and secrets hidden there. It's on mountaintops, so you can walk around outside for great views and fresh Carpathian Mountain air. After we have had ample time to explore we will have a private transfer till our new guesthouse run by a family of farmers in Moieciu de Sus village. That's why all our meals will be home-cooked with their own production, issued by traditional agriculture, without chemical fertilisers. around 4 hours, 11 km, +350m/-600m





Day 4 - Mountain village

Today we continue the walk at the feet of the Piatra Craiului Mountains in this bucolic landscape in the middle of pastures, sheepfolds and woods. We will approach a sheepfold where, if it's not too late in the year (our notes: the animals are there till around 15th of September), we can stop and taste the traditional cheese "burduf" being made here at this remote Cheese house. Our guide will give us a talk on cheese making. We will end the stage in a scattered village which seem not to care about time passing. We will see spectacular landscapes in the surrounding mountains. Accommodation in a nice guesthouse set in an idyllic village.

Walk duration: 5h00, 14 km +/-550m

Meals: breakfast, picnic, dinner



Day 5 - Bucegi Mountains

After waking up to a picturesque setting you will enjoy a hearty breakfast before starting on your walk. Today's walk takes you through a mix of quaint villages where traditional customs and cultures still exist. You will pass by one of the oldest houses in this area, which is nearly 200 years old. We will stop in a lovely local house where there is a small museum about the villages you are walking through. Depending on the time of day it may also be possible to visit two local Orthodox Churches before relaxing in your cosy guesthouse whose owner is a well renowned cook. That's why all our meals will be home-cooked with the owner's own traditional agriculture.

Walk duration: 4h00, 13 km +250/-350m

Meals: breakfast, picnic, dinner



Day 6 - Ridge to ridge walk at Bucegi mountains

Our walk begins with a nice slow steady climb to the top of ridge, passing many Sherpa Huts along the way to La Bisericuta, where we will have spectacular views of the Bucegi Mountains and the Valley Bangleasa below. There will be plenty of time to take photos here and admire the scenery. Slowly we will descend into the Valley below and enter the Bucegi National Park. From here, a longer walk is possible to a second ridge and onto our lunch spot at Poiana Gutanu Meadows, where we will have a well-deserved rest and a packed lunch.

Long option: around 5.30 hours, 18 km, +/-850m

Short option: around 3.30 hours, 12 km, +/-350m



Day 7 - Bear sanctuary – church of Vulcan

After a short transfer, today we will visit the Bears Sanctuary, where you will hear plenty of interesting stories about the bears that you will see. From there we will start a short easy hike to visit the fortified church, the witness of the Saxon heritage since they colonised Transylvania in 13th century. In the village we will have a surprising encounter with the priest of this old church an enthusiastic and intelligent young men who will explain us the story of the church and will make us taste some local specialities. After that we will meet our vehicles and transfer in a magnificent traditional village with great views to the crests of the surrounding mountains for the next three nights. From here we will transfer back to Bucharest, with a small stop to see the magnificent castle Peles. The evening will be free to spend some quality time in Bucharest exploring this astonishing city.

Accommodation at a 3* central hotel.

Transfer time before the walk: 45min

Transfer time to Bucharest: 3h

Walk duration: 4h00, 14 km +250m/--350m

Meals: breakfast, picnic, dinner



Day 8 - Bucharest & Departure

Breakfast at the hotel. Bucharest it was known between the two world wars as "the Eastern Paris". Today is a very eclectic city, where you can see the influences of The Medieval period with its Ottoman occupation and of the modern period with the influence of neoclassical French architecture and of the communist period. If your flight schedule allows, you can visit the Romanian capital with the help of a road-book created by us with a lot of attention. End the of the trip.

Meals: breakfast



Additional information

TARIFFS

Price from 645 euros per person.

OPTIONS

Single supplement : 75 euros per person.

Transfer from/to Bucharest airport - max. 3 pax : 25 euros per person.

Departure 5 people (price per person) : 90 euros per person.

Departure 4 people (price per person) : 150 euros per person.

Departure 3 people (price per person) : 250 euros per person.

Departure 2 people (price per person) : 450 euros per person.

INCLUDED

English speaking Romanian guide from Day 1 to Day 7, with a first aid kit

7 breakfasts



6 picnics (Day 2 to Day 7)
5 dinners (Day 2 to Day 6)
accommodations
transfers from D1 to D8 by public and private transport
Luggage transfer

NOT INCLUDED

hiking stick rental
entry fees to attractions
meals as indicated
the drinks, other than water
insurances
articles of a personal nature

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

8 days / 5 days of walking. Medium level of walking with a maximum day at 6 hours. Some walks could change depending of the group level or the weather conditions.

CARRYING

Luggage will be transferred by car during the treks. You only have to carry your things needed for the day e.g. picnic, camera.

ACCOMMODATION

5 nights in guesthouses, in traditional mountain villages, in double rooms with showers and WC, exceptionally 1 sanitary for 2 rooms
1 night in a 2 * hotel in Brasov
1 nights in a 3 * hotel in Bucharest.

SIZE OF GROUP

Minimum of 5, maximum 14 people.

DEPARTURE

Nord Train Station

DISPERSION

Nord Train Station

HOW TO GET THERE

By plane: Otopeni airport in Bucharest.
By train : Bucharest train station.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Depending on the weather conditions, the route may be slightly modified.