

Along the Enchanted Way

Romania & Hungary

9 nights / 10 days



Highlight departure: 3rd September 2023

Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary 8th of September in Hoteni-Maramures region

A unique combination of traditional and modern styles, this tour will take you from Transylvania, located at the very heart of Romania, with its imposing Gothic style houses and churches, to the timeless villages of the Maramures in North Romania and will end in the majestic city of Budapest.

DAY 1 3th of September, Sunday: Sibiu

Arriving at the International Airport Sibiu meet your throughout guide.

Sibiu was once the richest town in Transylvania and in 2007 it became the European Cultural Capital. The original town was built in the XVth century and was protected by walls and brick towers, the buildings were joined by tunnels and narrow passageways, with heavily grated windows to cover the stairways and corners where intruders might be ambushed.

Check-in at the hotel for the overnight stay.

DAY 2 4th of September, Monday:

Sibiu – Sighisoara (150 km)

After breakfast enjoy a comprehensive walking tour. See arcaded medieval shops and houses and the Cathedral, where the son of Vlad the Impaler (another of Dracula's monikers) was assassinated.

Serve a delicious Romanian lunch at a farmhouse in the village of Sibiel, then transfer to Sighisoara.

Overnight at Fronius 5* Residence, located in the center of Sighisoara Citadel and built by the Fronius family, which resisted at the devastating fire in 1676.

Sign of high social rank, the water well in the bailey saved what was to become a jewel of the old Citadel. The Latin inscription, dating since the great fire is still preserved on the facade of the house as a sign of "thank you" addressed to God for His protection. (L)

**DAY 3** 5th September, Tuesday:

Sighisoara– Malancrav – Biertan – Sighisoara (100 km)

After breakfast, visit Sighisoara, birthplace of Prince Vlad Dracula. Discover the wonderful old town, walk through the narrow cobbled streets and breathe in the medieval spirit. Visit the famous Clock Tower Museum, Medieval Weapons Room and Torture Chamber.

Then drive to Malancrav; mentioned in historic documents since 1305, it has retained more Saxons than any other Saxon village in Transylvania.





In 1340 the commune and its surrounding land were owned by the Apafi family, whose members ruled Transylvania in the 17th century.

The Lutheran Church in Malancrav displays rare 14th and 15th century frescoes and a 16th century altarpiece – the oldest entire piece of its sort still in its original location in Transylvania.

On the hill above the church stands the recently restored Apafi Manor. Continue to the Saxon village of Biertan to visit the fortress church, listed among UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Sites, hosting the largest wing altar in Romania. Evening return to Sighisoara for dinner in the house where Dracula was born. (B, D)

DAY 4 6st of September, Wednesday:

Sighisoara – Bicz Gorges –Gura Humorului (320 km)

Leave behind legendary Transylvania, “the land beyond the forests”, and head toward Bukovina region passing through Bicz Canyon, one of the most spectacular limestone formations in Romania. Reach Lacul Rosu (Red Lake) and stop for lunch and taste the fresh Romanian mountain trout; free time to admire the beauty of the mountains and the surrounding woods. Overnight in Gura Humorului. (B, L, D)



DAY 5 7nd of September, Thursday:

Gura Humorului – Voronet – Moldovita – Hoteni (280 km)

This day is dedicated to Moldavian Monasteries.

Voronet Monastery, built in 1488 by Stephan the Great in a record time – three months and three weeks –, is famous for the extraordinary paintings on outside walls. Called “The Sistine Chapel of the East”, Voronet features, among other mystical scenes, “The Judgment Day” painted on the whole western façade.

In Moldovita Monastery, erected in 1532 by Petru Rares, the illegitimate son of Stephan the Great, you’ll see the throne of the former Moldavian ruler.



Depart for Hoteni. The pace of life in Hoteni village is as relaxed and charmed as the couple who own this homestead; Ion Pop is one of Romania’s most sought-after folk musicians, and is acknowledged internationally for his contribution to the preservation of traditional music. (B, D)

DAY 6 8rd of September, Friday:

Full day trip into the Maramures Region (150 km)

Enjoy visiting of the most beautiful wooden churches in Romania. Start with Budesti Church, famous for its collection of objects – (which belonged to two 18th century freedom fighters against the Austrian Habsburgs) – and 15th-17th century wood and glass icons.

Continue to Ieud Church, more than 600 yearold edifice listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Next stop will be at Barsana Church, built of thick beams of oak on a foundation of massive blocks of stone.

Drive close to the Ukrainian border and visit the Merry Cemetery, a unique tourist attraction. Lyrics are painted on wooden panels by local artisans, describing the life of the deceased in a original, ironic way.

In the afternoon visit Desesti Church, built in 1770. In the evening return to Hoteni, dinner together with Pop family. (B, D)

DAY 7 9th of September, Saturday:

Hoteni – Satu Mare – Tokaj (260 km)

Leaving Maramures, heading towards Satu Mare – the last stop before you enter Hungary. After a brief panoramic tour, stop in the Freedom Square for free time. Depart for Tokaj, famous throughout the world for its amazing wines and listed as World Heritage in 2002 to protect the characteristic grape cultivation and wine making culture of this region in the northeastern part of Hungary.

Accommodation in a former mansion, the Grof Degenfeld Castle 4* Hotel, set in the middle of a 100-hectare vineyard. The history of the Degenfeld Counts with German-Hungarian origin dates back to the early Middle Ages; Count Imre Degenfeld, as one of the most primal vineyard owners in Tokaj, participated in the work of the Tokaj Region Wine Producers Association established in 1857 as a founding member. (B)



DAY 8 10th of September, Sunday:

Tokaj – Budapest (240 km)

Discover by bicycle the most celebrated wine producing areas in the country: Tokaj, part of the expansive Tokaj-Hegyalja region that runs through the southern and eastern fringes of the Zemplen Hills. According to the legend the conquering Prince Árpád was riding along the Bodrog river when he came across a huge hill. His valiant knight Turzol was first to climb the summit, and upon return he reported to his master that the hillside was covered with beautiful vineyards. Árpád then awarded Turzol not only with the hill, but also the entire area up to the intersection of the Bodrog and Tisza rivers. The village of Turzol was built here (today Tarcal). Later, a medieval chronicler mentioned the wines of the Hegyalja region, as well as the growing of the aszú grapes. Wine produced in the region was an really successful at the pontifical court when the Cardinal Draskovics presented it in 1362.



From then on it was known simply as “Tokay”, and the pontifical cellars were never low on the “wine of kings, and the king of wines”. In the 14th century new plantations were established in the region of Sátorajáújhely under the direction of Pauline monks. Their call to pray, “Oremus” was very often heard from the castle chapel. That is why one part of the vineyard was named Oremus; the wine produced there has a very special flavour. Before free time for lunch, enjoy a wine tasting in a 100 years old wine cellar on the Tarcal Terezia Hill. In the afternoon, depart for Budapest. Overnight at Le Meridien 5* Hotel. (B, WT)

DAY 9 11th of September, Monday: **Budapest**

Budapest is truly a cultural European city. Your morning city tour will acquaint you with the city and all of its most famous monuments, including Andrassy Avenue, the magnificent Opera House, St. Stephan Basilica, the largest Catholic church in Budapest, where the most important relic of the Hungarian Catholicism, the Holy Right of King St. Steven is kept. The Castle District, with its narrow streets and old houses reflects a medieval atmosphere. The Royal Palace hosts museums and exhibitions. Enjoy the visit to Matthias Church and the Fisherman's Bastion, the symbols of Budapest, Margaret Island and the Citadel.



Afternoon is at leisure to visit one of the city's excellent museums, relax in a cafe or shop for handicrafts. (B)

DAY 10 12th of September, Tuesday: departure transfer

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight back home. (B)

RATES AND CONDITIONS

Price: 2950 Euro

Prices are in EURO per person, based on two guests sharing a twin or double room in the hotels mentioned above.

Please contact us for further details in terms of specific dates.

Single Supplement 650 Euro/ price per person

PACKAGE PRICE INCLUDES

- Accommodation in the room category indicated in the program or similar (subject to availability)
- Meals as mentioned in the program: B= Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner
- Transfer from and to the airports by private /shared vehicle with A/C.
- Transportation by private minivan vehicle with A/C (tolls fees and tips to the drivers included).
- All entrance fees and sightseeing as mentioned in the program

Local English speaking guides as mentioned in the program

PACKAGE PRICE EXCLUDES

- International flight tickets and airport taxes
- Meals, drinks and other services which are not mentioned in the program
- Tips and personal expenses
- Porters at hotel
- Visa fees (if needed according to the nationality of the travelers)
- Travelers' personal medical insurance, cancellation insurance