

# Behind the Iron Curtain

*HUNGARY – ROMANIA - MOLDOVA*

10 nights / 11 days



Experience the unique blend of historical significance and contemporary charm across these fascinating destinations, from vibrant cities to picturesque countryside.

Embark on a captivating journey through Eastern Europe; the "Behind the Iron Curtain" tour delves into the unique legacies of Hungary, Romania, and Moldova. Explore their rich history, culture, heritage, and the profound impact of the Cold War era.

## DAY 1 BUDAPEST (-/-/-)

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Upon arrival at Budapest airport, private transfer to Kozmo Hotel Suites & Spa 5\* Boutique Hotel (or similar) for accommodation in the contemporary luxury hotel downtown Budapest.

## DAY 2 BUDAPEST (B/-/-)

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Meet your English speaking guide and proceed on a city tour. See the Heroes' Square, where stands a 36 metres high Corinthian column with the statue of Archangel Gabriel on the top, the symbol of the Roman Catholic religion.

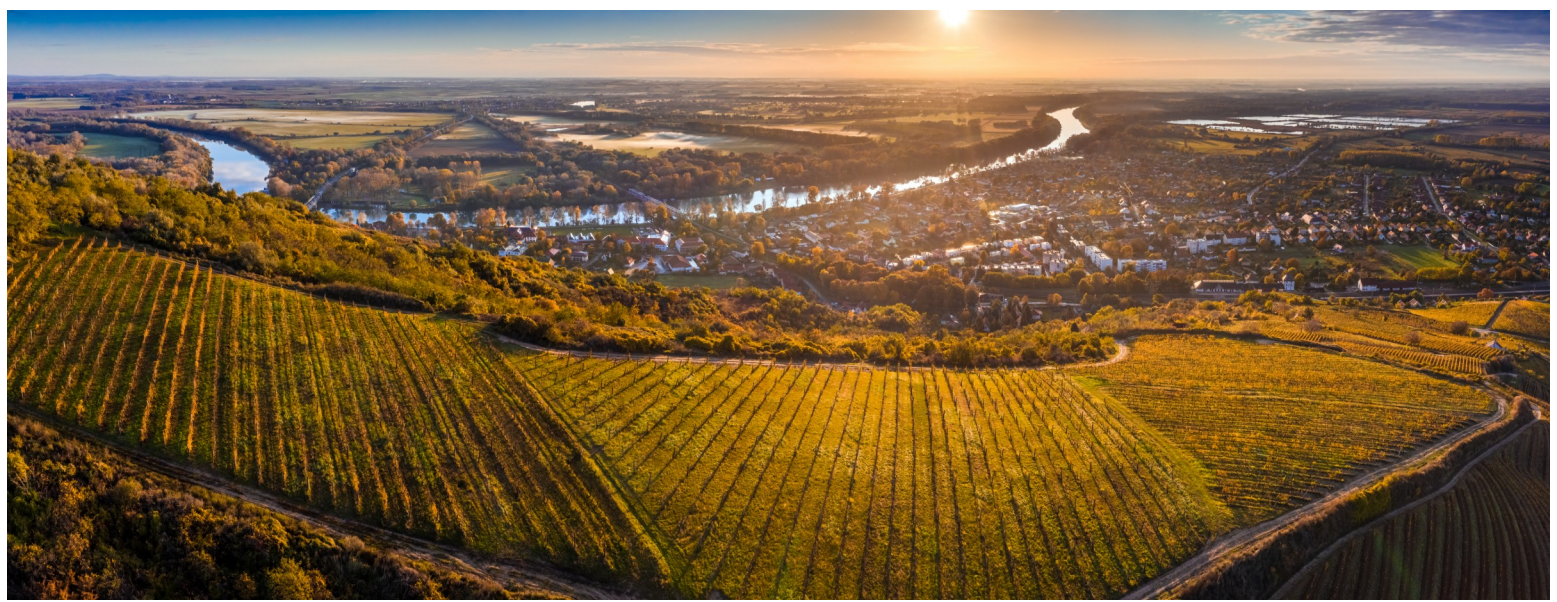


Continue with Vajdahunyad Castle, situated in the largest park in Budapest; the Opera, impressive with its fine neo-Renaissance architecture; St. Stephen's Basilica, named in the honor of Stephen, the first King of Hungary, the Parliament – ornamented with white neo-gothic turrets and arches, it forms the most outstanding landmark of the Pest side horizon with its statues of Hungarian monarchs and military commanders decorating the outer walls; Matthias Church, built in the 13th century and Budapest's first parish church; Fisherman's Bastion, which offers a grand panorama of almost the entire city.

Accommodation at Kozmo Hotel Suites & Spa 5\* Boutique Hotel (or similar).

### DAY 3 BUDAPEST – TOKAJ – HOTENI (480 km) (B/-/D)

In the morning, depart for **Hoteni**, a small traditional village in the charming Romanian area of Maramures. En route visit **Tokaj**, a historical and famous wine region dating from 1353.



The town is not only blessed with favorable natural assets, but thanks to its ancient grape and wine-culture, it has become one of Hungary's most popular and most often visited tourist targets; enjoy a wine tasting before heading for northwestern Romanian region of **Maramures**, where you enjoy as well a hearty traditional dinner and accommodation in Popicu traditional pension.

### DAY 4 HOTENI

#### Hoteni – Wooden Churches of Maramures – Hoteni (100 km) (B/-/D)

In the morning take part at the Whitsunday mass in **Budesti** with its wooden church, famous for objects that belonged to two 18th century freedom fighters against the Austrian Habsburgs and for a collection of icons painted on wood and glass (15th – 17th century).

Continue to **Sapanta** to visit the Merry Cemetery, which dates back to the mid-1930's and is the creation of the local folk artist Stan Ioan Patras, sculptor, painter and poet. For half a century the master created hundreds of wooden crosses, carved and embellished in a distinctive style. Continue the tour by visiting two more wooden churches included in the UNESCO World Heritage List: **Desesti** Wooden Church, with its harmonious whole and the well-preserved paintings and **Surdesti** Wooden Church – which the tallest wooden church in Europe with its tower of 54 m and a total height of 72 m until a few years back when the new 78 m tall church of the monastery of Peri in Sapanta was built.

Dinner and accommodation at Popicu traditional pension.



**DAY 5 HOTENI – MOLDOVITA – SUCEVITA – RADAUTI (260 km) (B/-/D)**

Today you will head towards the beautiful lands of Bucovina. Visit Moldovita Monastery, firstly built between 1402 and 1410, but collapsed at the beginning of the 16th century because of the very heavy rains and land slides; its ruins can still be seen today.

Moldovita Monastery the one we can see today dates back to 1532. Continue with Sucevita Monastery, the greatest monastic ensemble among the painted monasteries in Bucovina, as it has the appearance of a real fortress, with towers, buttress and watch roads. Upon arrival in Radauti, dinner and accommodation at Gerald's 4\* Hotel (or similar).



**DAY 6 RADAUTI – DRAGOMIRNA – SUCEAVA – CHISINAU (320 km) (B/-/-)**


After breakfast, depart for Dragomirna Monastery, 12 km West from the old residence of Stephan the Great and the Bishops of Moldavia. Standing tall as defying time inside the fortress walls, Dragomirna monastery is a perfect place of prayer through its ancientness, the originality of its style, its elegant and solid shape; impressing the pilgrim and the historian or art critic as well.

Continue to city of Suceava and enjoy a brief city tour before driving on to Chisinau, the capital city of Moldova, for accommodation at Berd's MGallery 5\* Hotel (or similar).

**DAY 7 CHISINAU – TIRASPOL – MILESTII MICI – CHISINAU (180 km) (B/-/-)**

Drive Eastwards to the second largest city of Moldavia, Tiraspol; take a fascinating glimpse at how life was lived pre 1991 as you journey back in time to the self-proclaimed Republic of Transnistria.

The capital, Tiraspol, is considered a living museum of Soviet culture. The statue of Lenin, Suvorov and other Soviet heroes remain intact and there is still nothing in the way of Western conveniences or services. On your way back to Chisinau, you will stop at Milestii Mici winery where you will visit the vineyard and have a wine tasting. The winery houses an impressive wine collection of over 2 millions bottles.



Upon arrival in Chisinau, accommodation at Berd's MGallery 5\* Hotel (or similar).



**DAY 8 CHIȘINĂU – BRASOV (400 km) (B/-/D)**

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Enjoy a sightseeing tour of Chisinau, including Grand National Assembly Square, the Government building, the Parliament and the University of Medicine. Short stop in the Stephan the Great Park, the favorite place of rest and walks of the cities inhabitants, where you will cross the "Alley of Classics of Moldovan literature".

Continue to Brasov for dinner at local restaurant and accommodation at Aro Palace 5\* Hotel (or similar).

**DAY 9 BRASOV – BRAN – SINAIA – BUCHAREST (200 km) (B/L/-)**

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After breakfast, have a walking tour of Brasov and visit the famous Black Church and St Nicholas Church with First Romanian School. Continue to Bran, visiting the castle made famous by Bram Stoker's novel as the residence of the vampire Count Dracula. Next stop is Sinaia, one of the most beautiful mountain resorts in Romania, also known as the "Pearl of the Carpathians". After lunch in local restaurant, visit Peles Castle, an exquisite piece of architecture, which served as the summer residence of the Romanian Royal family.

Continue to Bucharest for accommodation at Grand Continental 5\* Hotel (or similar).



**DAY 10 BUCHAREST (B/L/-)**

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In the morning, enjoy a half day sightseeing tour of the Romanian capital city, once called the Little Paris of the East. During the tour you will visit the Parliament Palace, the second largest building in the world after the Pentagon. See also the Revolution Square, the Romanian Athenaeum, the National Art Museum and others. Lunch in local restaurant. Afternoon at leisure.



Accommodation at Grand Continental 5\* Hotel (or similar).

**DAY 11 BUCHAREST (B/-/-)**

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Transfer to the airport subject to your flight. End of our services.

## RATES AND CONDITIONS

Price: 3150 Euro

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

Tour departs on Thursdays only.

Please contact us for further details in terms of specific dates or different departure days than the one offered.

Single Supplement 800 Euro / price per person

## PACKAGE PRICE INCLUDES

- Accommodation in the room category indicated in 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 ,parking,fuel included).
- Local English speaking guides as mentioned in the program

## PACKAGE PRICE EXCLUDES

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