ATLANTIC TOUR®

Romania

Castles and medieval towns

Tour 2

10 DAYS / 9 NIGHTS

Arrival: Cluj Napoca – Cluj Napoca International Airport

Departure: Bucharest – Otopeni "Henri Coanda" International Airport

Your short program

Day 1: Cluj Napoca - arrival

Day 2: Cluj Napoca – Turda – Jidvei/Cetatea de Balta

Day 3: Cetatea de Balta - Medias – Biertan – Malancrav - Sighisoara

Day 4: Sighisoara

Day 5: Sighisoara – Viscri - Brasov

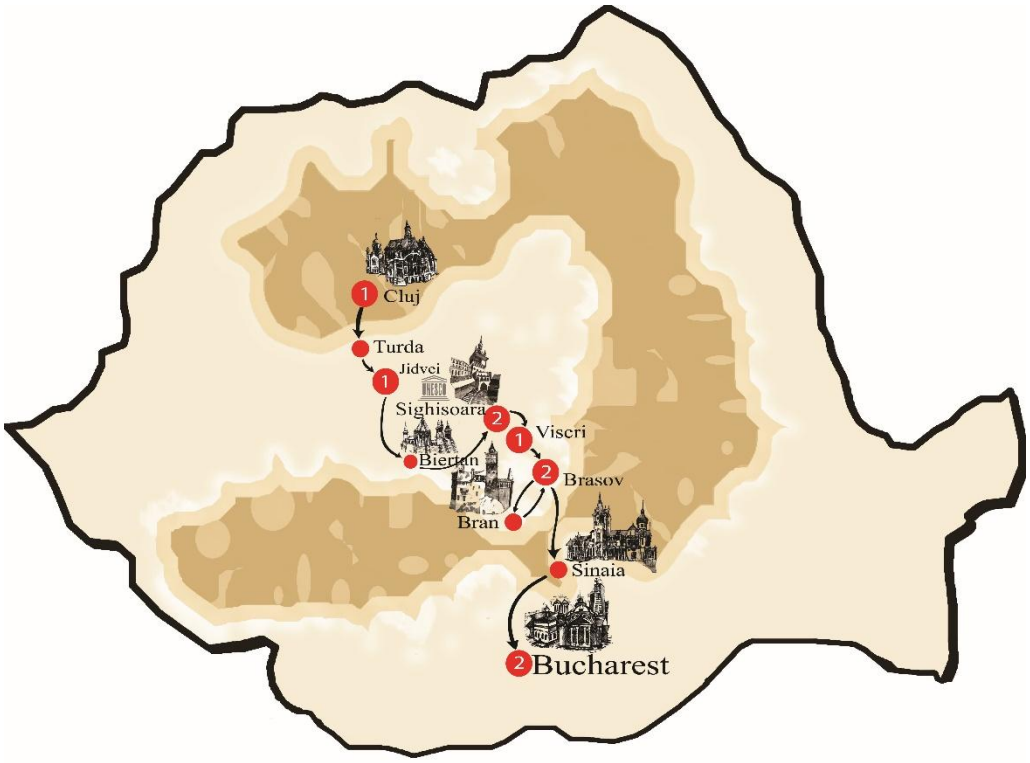
Day 6: Brasov

Day 7: Brasov - Bran - Brasov

Day 8: Brasov – Sinaia - Bucharest

Day 9: Bucharest

Day 10: Bucharest - departure



Day 1 : CLUJ NAPOCA - arrival

Welcome to Romania!

You have arrived in the largest city of Transylvania, a city founded over 2000 years ago by the Romans after Emperor Trajan's legions conquered Dacia. It is here that Trajan established a legion base known as Napoca. Emperor Hadrian then raised Napoca to the status of a municipium, naming it Municipium Aelium Hadrianum Napoca. And so your journey begins in one of the most ancient Romanian cities.

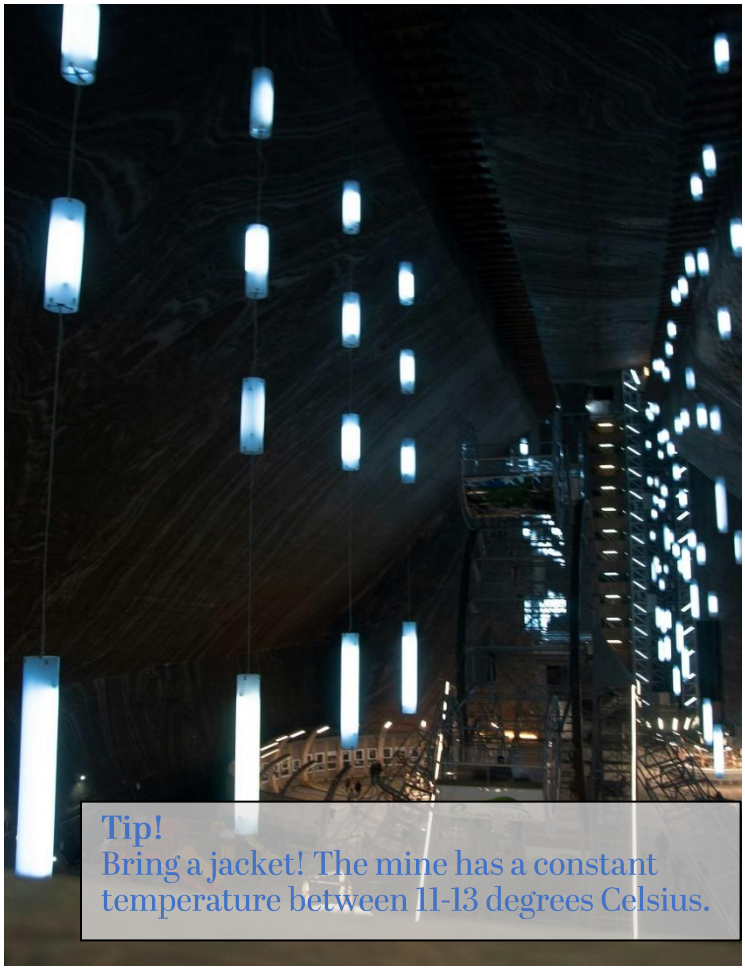
Upon arriving at the International Airport in Cluj, you will be transferred to your hotel in the city centre. This first day will be free to explore the city your way or just to relax in the comfort of your hotel before joining your fellow travellers for a welcome dinner hosted by Nicholas of Romania.

Accommodation: Cluj Napoca

Meals: Dinner

Day 2: CLUJ NAPOCA – TURDA – JIDVEI/ CETATEA DE BALTA

A full day of exploration awaits, as you will head further into the heart of Transylvania. Just 40 minutes from Cluj Napoca you will find the small town of Turda where you will visit a site of unusual beauty and quirkiness: **Turda Salt Mine.** Dating back to the Middle Ages and first attested in documents in the year 1271, this is one of the oldest salt mines



Tip!
Bring a jacket! The mine has a constant temperature between 11-13 degrees Celsius.

in the world. But apart from being a history museum of salt mining it is also an attraction that is part art and part recreational space. With an underground lake and many activities, it is one of the most visited sites in the area.

After the visit of the salt mine you will head into town for lunch at the Casa Ratiu Guest House – a place of cultural importance and part of the European Historical Houses Association. It is the family home of Ion Ratiu, a politician, diplomat, journalist and writer, one of the most famous supporters of democracy in Romania, who is most often remembered as "the best president Romania never had."

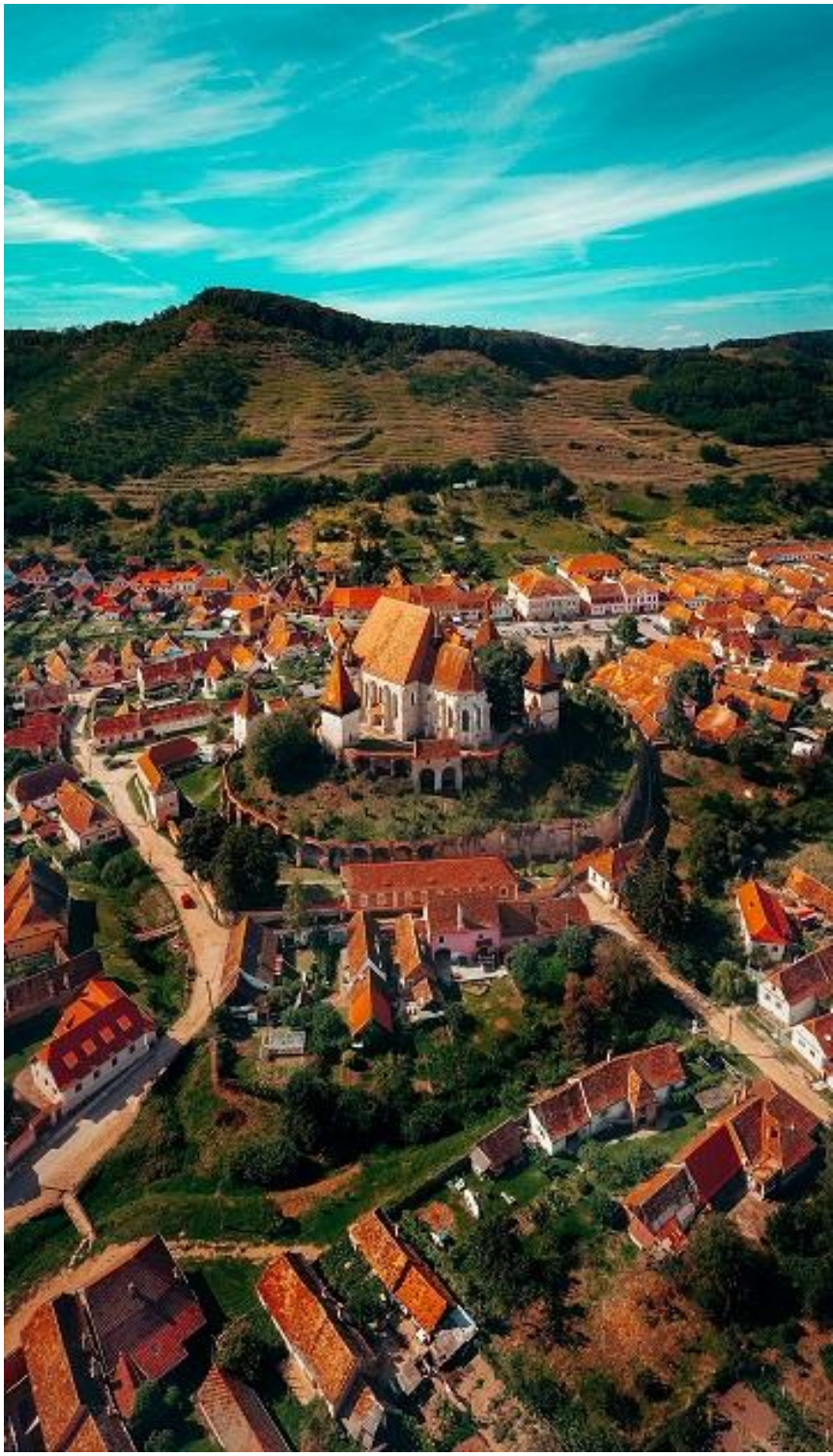
After lunch, continue your trip through Romania's Countryside towards the Bethlen Haller Castle in **Cetatea de Balta** – built in the 16th century in the French Renaissance stye, this impressive structure was remodeled with opulent and dramatic Baroque style features, in the 17th century. It is now a symbol of Jidvei wines – the largest single-owner vineyard in Romania and Europe.

You will check into your accommodation and have the afternoon at leisure to enjoy the beautiful scenery and the castle grounds, before a dinner with wine pairing in the company of one of Jidvei's seasoned sommeliers.

Accommodation: Cetatea de Balta

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3: CETATEA DE BALTA - MEDIAS– BIERTAN – SIGHISOARA



After a hearty Transylvanian breakfast at the castle, you will depart to your next destination – the medieval town of Sighisoara. First stop of the day will be in the 13th century town of **Medias**, where you will visit the last factory of hand-pressed and painted tiles in Romania. After more than 110 years and a multitude of social, political and economic changes, Teracota Medias produces the same painted tiles, using the old kilns, the original recipe for earth mixtures, the same number of manufacturers and the same glazing and hand-painting technology. You will then visit **Biertan**, home to one of the largest and most impressive medieval strongholds in Transylvania. The 15th century fortified church at Biertan is perched high on a hill in the middle of the village. Three tiers of defensive walls, connected by towers and gates, encircled the complex, making the church impossible to conquer during medieval times. From 1572 until 1867, Biertan was the seat of the Saxon Evangelical bishops of Transylvania.

Visit the church and village, then take the scenic route through the Transylvanian countryside to **Malancrav** and learn about the local Saxon community, the Mihai Eminescu Trust and about what connects King Charles III of the United Kingdom to

Transylvania ... you might be surprised that he owns an apple orchard in the village. Stop in the village of Richis for lunch, then continue to **Sighisoara** where you will have time to relax, have a cup of tea and catch up on reading or writing postcards – what better place to send a postcard from then a UNESCO-listed medieval town?
Accommodation: Sighisoara
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 4: SIGHISOARA

Spend your day in **Sighișoara**, UNESCO World Heritage site and one of Europe's best preserved medieval towns. Stroll its cobbled lanes and explore the old town on foot, seeing the covered wooden stairs, the landmark clock tower and the house where Vlad the Impaler was supposedly born. Lunch will be served at a restaurant in the medieval town. Afternoon at leisure in Sighisoara.
Accommodation: Sighisoara
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 5: SIGHISOARA – VISCRI - BRASOV

After breakfast, bid farewell to Sighisoara and depart to Brasov. On the way, stop in **Viscri** - a charming, idyllic village located off the main road between Brasov and Sighisoara. Here you will visit the amazing medieval fortified church, one of seven structures of that kind that are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The Viscri fortified church is considered the oldest church in Transylvania, dating back to the early 13th century.

Then, take a stroll through the quaint village that has charmed even King Charles III of the United Kingdom, who owns one of the houses on the main street. After lunch in Viscri, you will continue your trip to Brasov where you will arrive in the early afternoon. Check-in at your hotel in Brasov. The afternoon is free for you to explore the city your way or just relax and enjoy the comfort of your hotel.

Accommodation: Brasov

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 6: BRASOV

The full day is dedicated to the medieval town of **Brasov** – the heart of Romania and, according to National Geographic, “one of the 25 best places in the world to travel to in 2025”. The city once stood at

the crossroads of important trade routes linking the Ottoman Empire and western Europe. Together with your guide, discover the fortifications, towers and bastions of the city, take a stroll through the beautiful old town and admire the urban architecture that is quite unique to Transylvanian cities.

After a relaxed lunch, you will visit the **Black Church** - the largest Gothic style edifice in Eastern Europe. The church was first constructed between 1385 and 1477, but severely damaged in the Great Fire of 1689 and rebuilt in the 18th century.
The church is known for its impressive collection of 17th and 18th century oriental rugs, which are considered to be some of the finest in the region. It also houses the largest functional Buchholz organ in Eastern Europe, built in 1839.
The afternoon will be at your leisure.
Accommodation: Brasov
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 7: BRASOV - BRAN - BRASOV

In the morning you will head for **Bran** to visit the castle that owes its fame to Bram Stoker's novel Count Dracula. Although Bram Stoker never visited Romania and so the connection between the castle and Bram Stoker's famous literary figure is tentative at best, the etching in the first edition of "Dracula" is strikingly similar to Bran Castle with its imposing walls, towering spires and secret passageways.

But Bran's actual history is linked primarily to Queen Marie who received the castle from the City Council of Brasov in 1920 as a gift for her contribution to the unification of Romania. It was the same year that Queen Marie restored and arranged it to be used as a residence of the royal family.

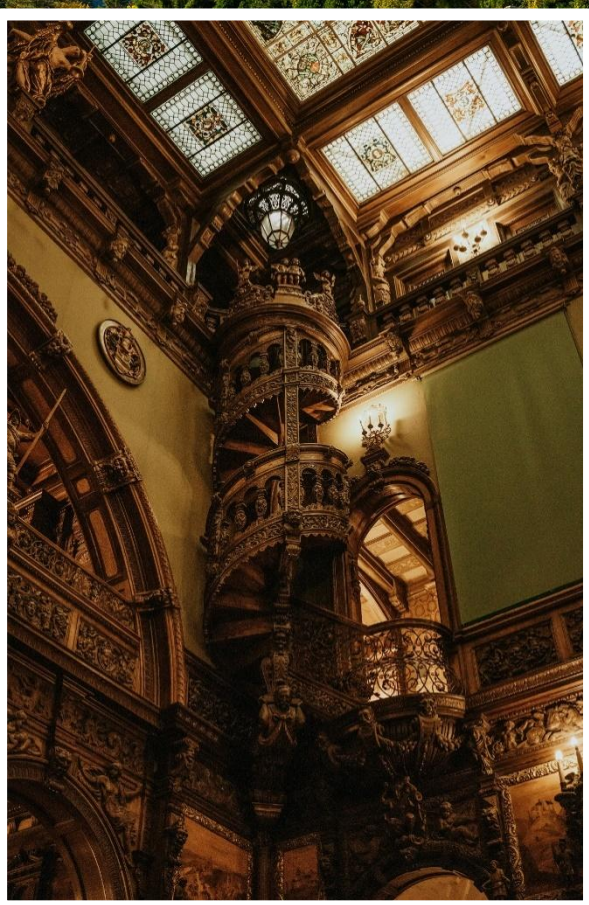
Lunch in the spectacular setting of the Carpathian Mountains, then return to Brasov.

Accommodation: Brasov

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 8: BRASOV – SINAIA – BUCHAREST

Today will be a full day sightseeing as you will head south to Bucharest, crossing the Carpathian Mountains. A one hour drive takes you along the scenic Prahova Valley to Sinaia - Romania's most famous mountain resort also known as the "Pearl of the Carpathians".



Prince Nicholas will join you for the visit of Peles Castle – the former summer residence of the Romanian royal family. Constructed during the reign of the first Romanian King, Carol the 1st of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, in the late 19th century, the castle is set at the foothills of the majestic Bucegi Mountains. Recognized as a masterpiece of German neo-Renaissance architecture it is without doubt one of Europe's most beautiful castles.

After an extended tour of the castle and grounds, you will also visit Sinaia Monastery.

Nicknamed the „Cathedral of the Carpathians”, the religious ensemble was built in 1695 and named after the great Saint Catherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai in Egypt. Enjoy a delicious lunch in Sinaia then continue to Bucharest - the capital or Romania. Upon arrival in Bucharest, check-in at your hotel and time at leisure to enjoy the city.

Accommodation: Bucharest

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 9: BUCHAREST – city tour

Today, delve into the city’s tumultuous history. See the immense Palace of the Parliament, one of the lasting legacies left behind by dictator Nicolae Ceauşescu, whose extravagant tastes culminated in the world’s second-largest administrative building. Then visit Cotroceni Palace - originally built in 1679 as a monastery, in 1862 the palace became the summer residence and then the official residence of the Romanian monarchs. After the Romanian Revolution, the Palace became the seat of the country's presidency.

Have a light lunch in the city, before continuing your exploration of Bucharest with a visit to the Romanian Patriarchal Cathedral, a 17th century church located symbolically on a small hill in the center of Bucharest.

In the afternoon, join your local guide for a stroll in Bucharest’s Old Town before being transferred to a local restaurant. Be Prince Nicholas’ guests for a farewell dinner.

Accommodation: Bucharest

Meals: Breakfast, Light lunch, Dinner

Day 10: BUCHAREST - departure

Our Romanian journey has come to an end.

The local guide and your driver will transfer you to the airport, in time for your homeward flight.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation for this itinerary

City	Accommodation
Cluj Napoca	Courtyard by Marriott Cluj Napoca Downtown 4*+
Cetatea de Balta	Winery accommodation, Bethlen-Haller Castle
Sighisoara	Fronius Residence 5*
Brasov	Radisson Blu Aurum 5*
Bucharest	Intercontinental Athenee Palace 5*

For more information and reservations,
contact Atlantic Tour at: *incoming@atlantic.ro*

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