ATLANTIC TOUR®

# Romania

## Essential tour

# Tour 4

**7 DAYS / 6 NIGHTS**

Arrival: Bucharest – Otopeni "Henri Coanda" International Airport

Departure: Bucharest – Otopeni "Henri Coanda" International Airport

## Your short program

Day 1: Bucharest - arrival

Day 2: Bucharest

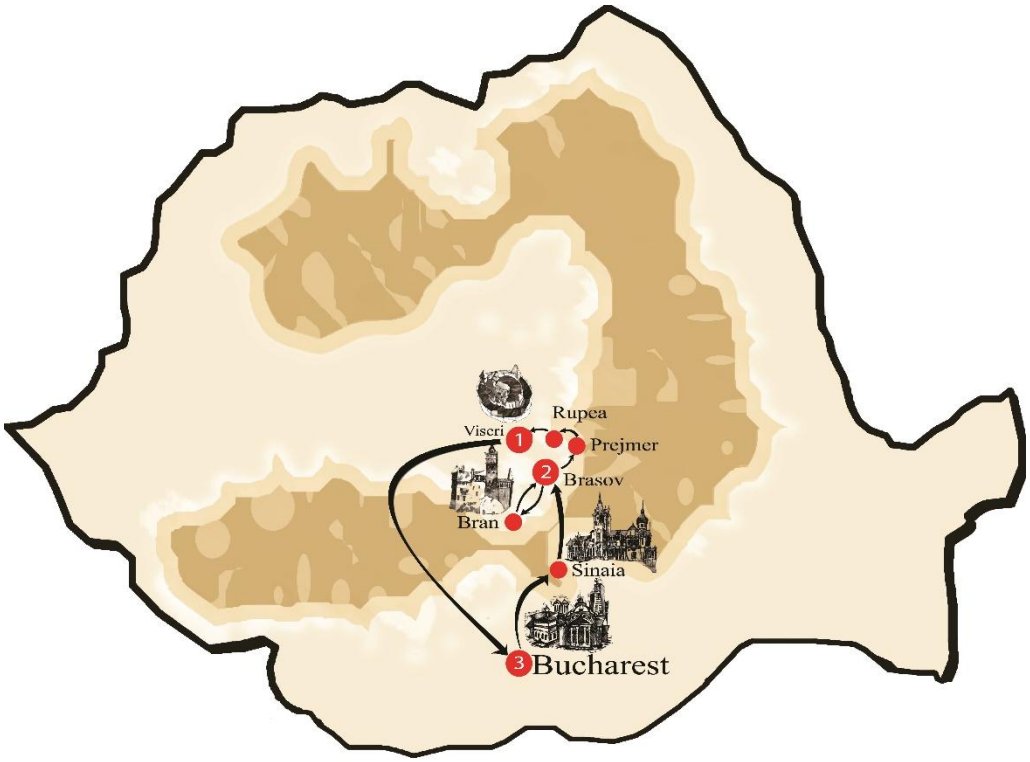
Day 3: Bucharest – Sinaia - Brasov

Day 4: Brasov (w. Bran & Simon)

Day 5: Brasov – Prejmer – Rupea - Viscri (or Crit)

Day 6: Viscri / Crit – Bucharest

Day 7: Bucharest - departure



## Day 1 : BUCHAREST - arrival

Welcome to Romania!

Upon arriving at the International Airport in Bucharest, you will be picked up by your Romanian guide and driver and transferred to your hotel in the city centre. Depending on the time of your arrival, 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 in the company of Nicholas and Alina-Maria of Romania.

*Accommodation: Bucharest*

*Meals: Dinner*

## Day 2: 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 dinner.
*Accommodation: Bucharest*
*Meals: Breakfast, Light lunch, Dinner*

## Day 3: BUCHAREST – SINAIA – BRASOV

Today will be a full day sightseeing as you will head north to the Carpathian Mountains. A two 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*".

Together with Prince Nicholas you will visit the **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 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, forging a melting pot of influences that can be seen to this day. After check-in at your hotel, you will have time to relax and unwind or maybe take a stroll through the beautiful old town and admire the urban architecture that is quite unique to Transylvanian cities.

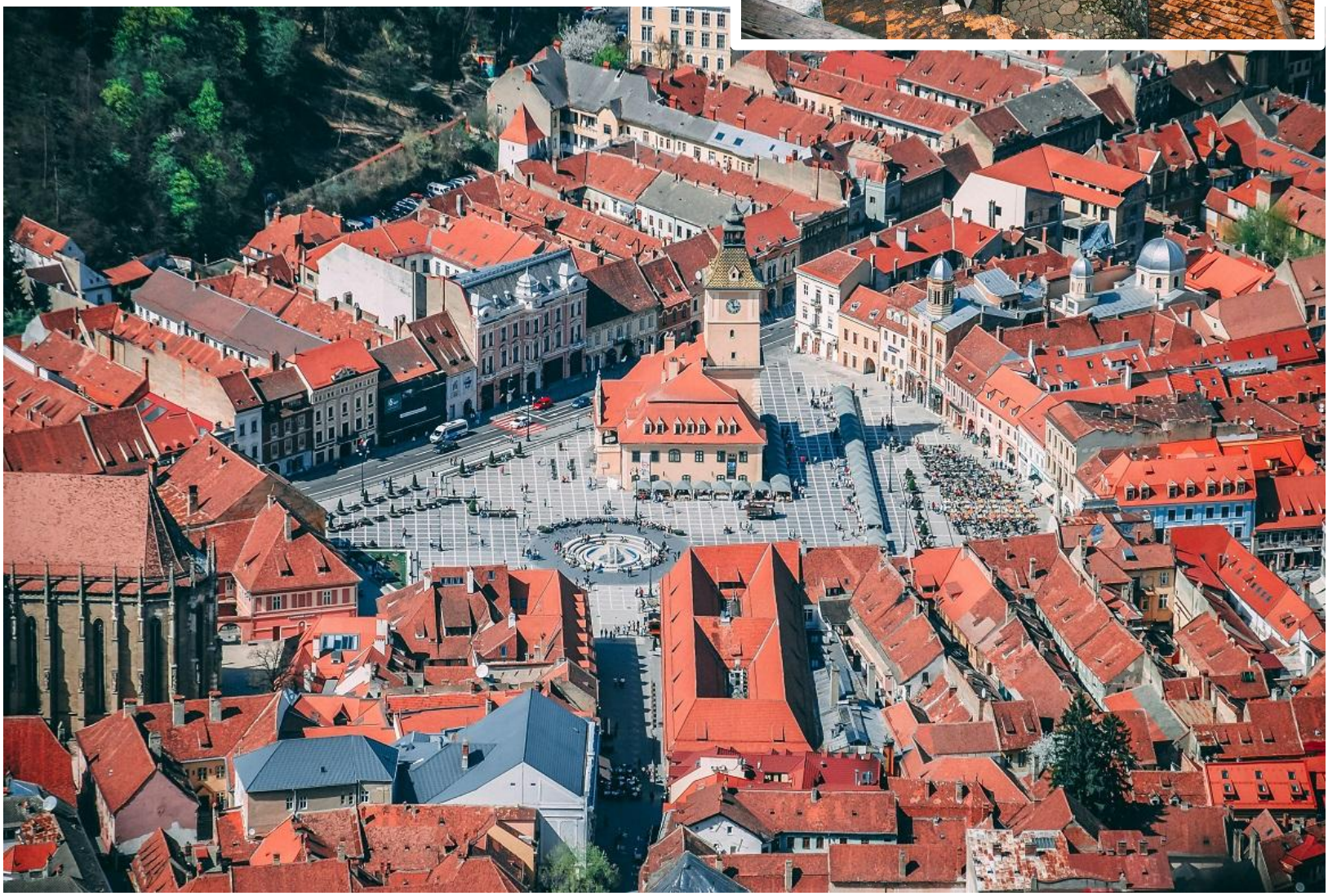
*Accommodation: Brasov*

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch*

## Day 4 : 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.

Lunch in the spectacular setting of the Carpathian Mountains, then return to Brasov. Upon arrival back in the city, you will

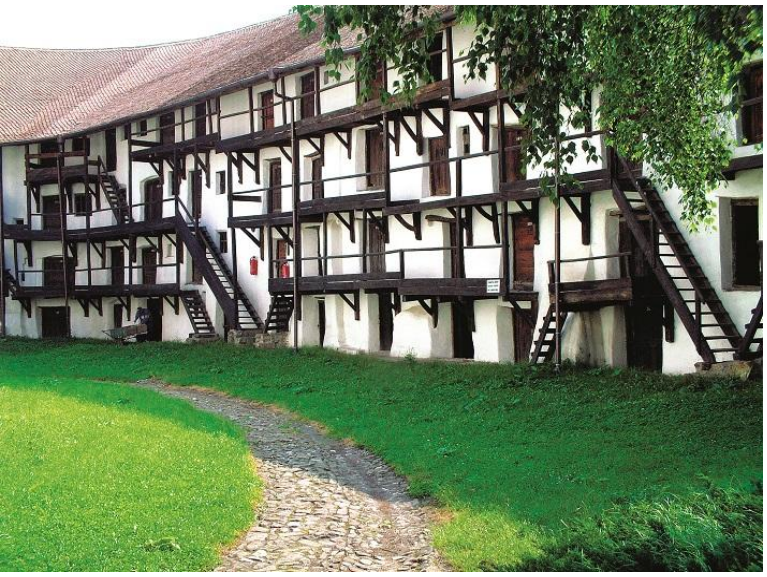


visit the **Black Church** - the largest Gothic style edifice in Eastern Europe. The church was first constructed between 1385 and 1477, but severely damaged in the Great Fire of 1689 and rebuilt in the 18th century.

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. You will then have time at leisure to explore the city on your own.

*Accommodation: Brasov*

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch*



## Day 5: BRASOV – PREJMER – RUPEA - VISCRI

After breakfast head to your next destination, **Prejmer** fortified church. First mentioned in a written document in 1240 when the Hungarian King donated it to the Cistercians, this fortified church is perhaps the best example of how the German colonists originally combined religious and defensive architecture in a monumental edifice. The church was inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage in 1999.

Lunch in a local homestead in Harman, before driving north to the town of **Rupea.** Here you will visit one of the most important medieval fortresses in Transylvania – Rupea Fortress.

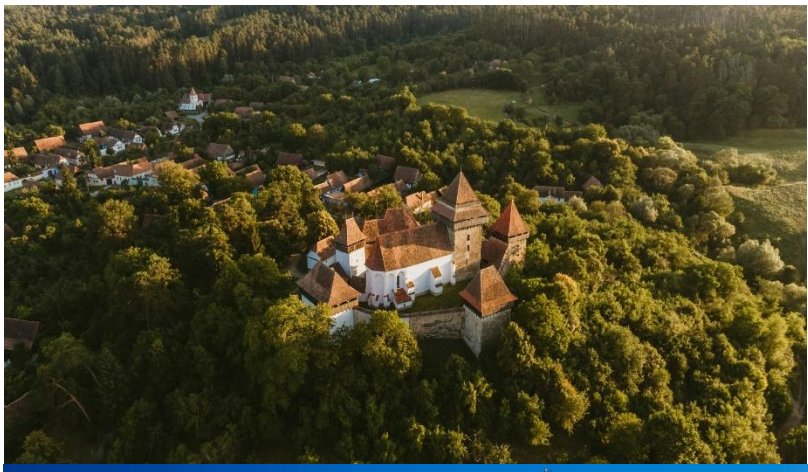
Continue to **Viscri** - a charming, idyllic village located off the main road between Brasov and Sighisoara. Here you will visit the amazing medieval fortified church, one of seven structures of that kind that are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The Viscri church is considered the oldest church in Transylvania,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

Then, take a stroll through the quaint village before dinner time.

Dinner in Viscri village.

*Accommodation: Viscri*

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*



## Day 6: VISCRI – CURTEA DE ARGES - BUCHAREST

A full day awaits you as you depart Transylvania via Romania's most spectacular and best known mountain road: the **Trasfagarasan Highway***. Winding its way through the Fagaras Mountains, this engineering marvel was built on the personal orders of communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu between 1970 and 1974. The road offers hairpin turns, amazing panoramic views and has been known to just make you forget how to breathe for a moment.

After crossing the mountains into Muntenia region you will stop in **Curtea de Arges**, the formal court of the rulers in

the 14th century. The main attraction of the town is the 500-year-old Curtea de Argeș Monastery, a grade A historical monument that is a masterpiece of marble and stone. Built in 1517, with Persian, Armenian and Georgian architectural influences, this monastery was chosen in the 19th century as the burial place for the kings and queens of Romania. Nicholas of Romania will join you for the visit and lunch in Curtea de Arges. You will then continue your trip to **Bucharest,** where you will arrive in the early afternoon and check-in at your hotel. Time at leisure to pack, buy souvenirs or just relax at your hotel pool or SPA. In the evening, be Prince Nicholas' guests for a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

*Accommodation : Bucharest*

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

** Note: The Transfagarasan Highway is open only from July to October*

### Day 7: 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.

## Accommodation for this itinerary

| City | Accommodation |
|---|---|
| **Bucharest** | Intercontinental Athenee Palace 5* |
| **Brasov** | Radisson Blu Aurum 5* |
| **Viscri** | Viscri 32 - White Barn and Blue House |

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

ATLANTIC TOUR®