ATLANTIC TOUR®

Romania

Saxon and Szekler heritage

Tour 3

10 DAYS / 9 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 – Curtea de Arges - Sibiu

Day 3: Sibiu – Calnic – Alba Iulia - Sibiu

Day 4: Sibiu – Biertan – Sighisoara

Day 5: Sighisoara – Viscri - Zabala

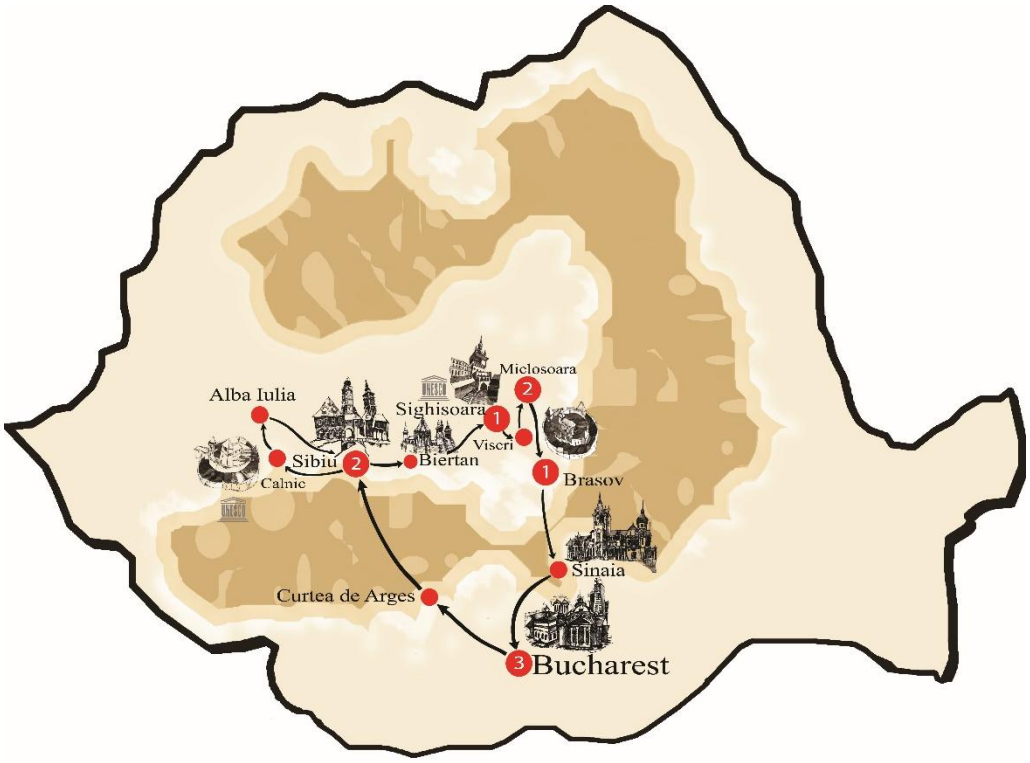
Day 6: Zabala – Cernat - Zabala

Day 7: Zabala - Brasov

Day 8: Brasov – Sinaia – Bucharest

Day 9: Bucharest – city tour

Day 10: 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 of Romania.
Accommodation: Bucharest
Meals: Dinner

Day 2: Bucharest – Curtea de Arges – Sibiu

After a leisurely breakfast at your hotel in Bucharest, you will depart to Transylvania. Your trip will take you along the spectacular Olt River Valley to Sibiu - European Cultural Capital in 2007. On the way stop in **Curtea de Arges**, one of the oldest towns in Walachia and 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.

Lunch in Curtea de Arges, then continue your trip to **Sibiu** where you will arrive in the afternoon. Check into your hotel, then join your guide for a stroll in the old city centre of Sibiu. Hermannstadt by its German name, was the largest and wealthiest of the seven walled citadels founded in 12th century Transylvania by German settlers known as "Transylvanian Saxons". The riches amassed by its guilds paid for the construction of both impressive buildings and the fortifications required to protect them. The beautiful Germanic architecture in its old town – legacy of 12th century Saxon settlers – as well as the remains of medieval walls and towers, make Sibiu a very historically important and romantic city.

Accommodation : Sibiu

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3: Sibiu – Calnic – Alba Iulia – Sibiu

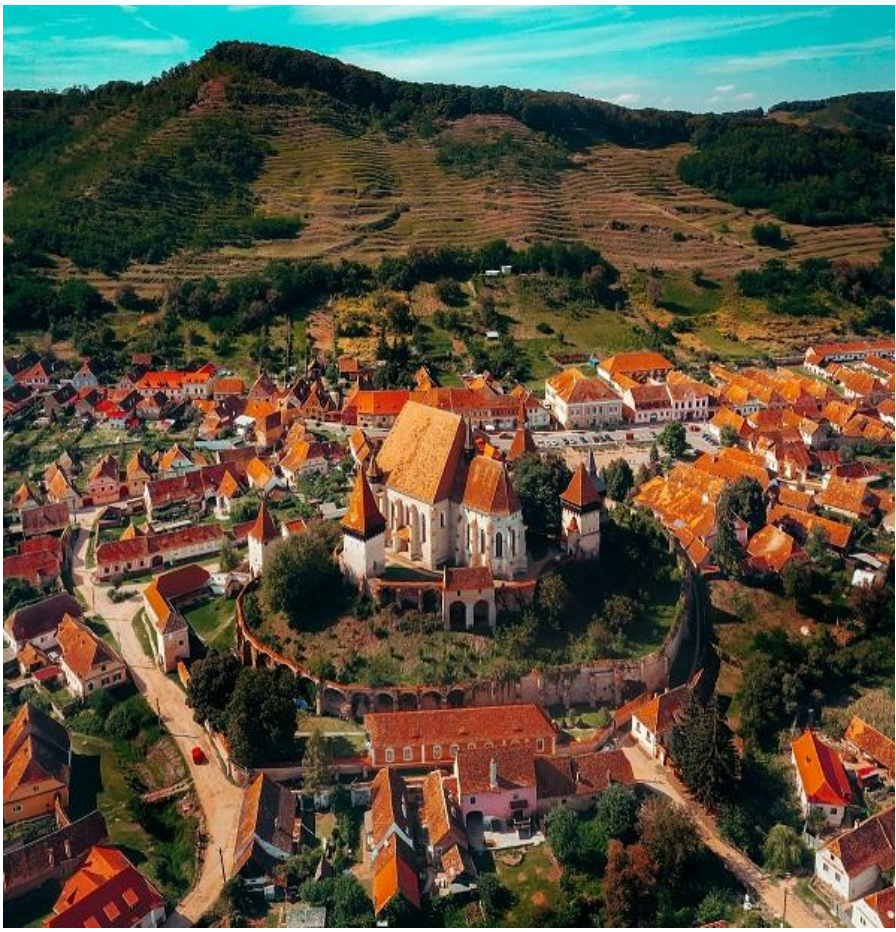
A full day awaits you, as you will venture deep into the heart of Transylvania. Today's tour will take you to **Calnic** to visit the fortified church that is part of the UNESCO World Heritage and quite unique in the Transylvanian landscape due to its history. The Calnic Fortified Church was first mentioned in official documents in 1269. Built as a noble's residence, it was bought in 1430 by local peasants and fortified. It differs from most other constructions of this type in that it is not situated on a hilltop but rather in a depression, much lower than the surrounding hills. This position, clearly inconvenient in case of a siege, can be explained by the castle's first function as a

residence, not meant as a defensive construction. You will have time to walk around and take pictures before continuing to the city of **Alba Iulia**, one of the oldest settlements in Romania. Known in ancient time as Apulum, it was the largest military and economic center during the Roman occupation of 106AD. The current star shape of the city dates from the 18th century and is a beautiful example of Vauban architecture. More than just a city, Alba Iulia is a symbol of the ideals of unity and identity carried by the Romanian people across the centuries. Its name is associated with the union of Transylvania and the Kingdom of Romania, on December 1st, 1918 - a moment that marks the beginning of the consolidation of the modern Romanian state. Return to Sibiu in the afternoon and time at leisure.

Accommodation : Sibiu

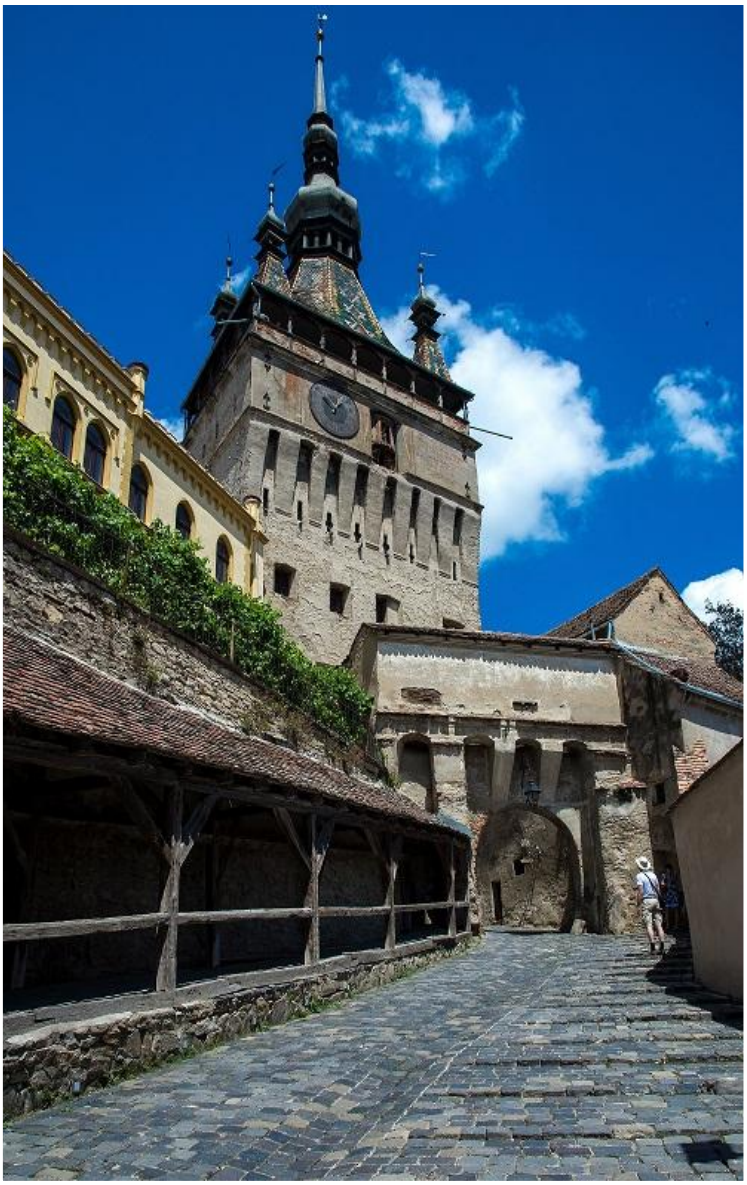
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 4: Sibiu – Biertan – Sighisoara



Morning departure to the village of **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 Sighisoara.

Enjoy a traditional lunch on the way in the small village of Alma Vii.



In the afternoon, arrive in **Sighisoara** - **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.** Walk up to the gothic Church on the Hill and enjoy a private showing of the 19th century church organ.

Accommodation : Sighisoara

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 5: Sighisoara – Viscri - Zabala

Bid farewell to Sighisoara and depart towards Zabala. 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.

Lunch in Viscri, then continue your trip through the Transylvanian countryside to **Zabala** where you will arrive in the early afternoon. Check-in at Zabala Estate.

We have chosen this part of Romania to show you a place that has a different pace, an authenticity that you will find preserved in very few corners of the world, a world with a different set of rules and values if you like.

Accommodation: Zabala Estate

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6: Zabala – Cernat - Zabala

After a leisurely breakfast, enjoy activities offered by the Zabala Estate. Lunch at the estate, then drive to the small nearby town of Cernat to visit the Hazsman Pall Ethnographic Museum, dedicated to the life of Transylvanan Szeklers. Return to the Zabala estate and time at leisure for reading and relaxation before dinner.

Accommodation: Zabala Estate

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7: Zabala – Brasov

A full day of exploration awaits, as you depart to the beautiful 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 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 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 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 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 Ceaușescu, 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.

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, 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
Bucharest	Intercontinental Athenee Palace 5*
Sibiu	ART Hotel Sibiu 4*
Sighisoara	Fronius Residence 5*
Zabala	Zabala Estate
Brasov	Radisson Blu Aurum 5*

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

ATLANTIC TOUR®