



## 'CIAO ROMANIA' TOUR

**Period: 10 days/9 nights**

**Tour: Bucharest - Sinaia - Brasov - Bucovina - Bucovina - Sighetu Marmatiei - Sighetu Marmatiei - Sighisoara - Sibiu - Bucharest**

**Total distance: 2500 km**



### **Day 1: Arrival in Bucharest and Ciao Romania ☺**

Arrival to the airport of Bucharest and departure to Prahova Valley with its winter resort Sinaia, “the Pearl of the Carpathians”. Here we will visit Peles Castle the most beautiful summer residence of the Romanian principles starting from the time of king Carol I and Pelisor Castle – decorated by the Queen Maria, who brought the Art Nouveau style in Romania.

After lunch short visit of the winter resorts from the Prahova Valley – Predeal, Azuga, Busteni. In Busteni there is the possibility to arrive in one of the highest points of the Romanian Carpathians ( by cable car ) and enjoy a beautiful panorama and also 2 natural wonders: “ The old ladies” and “ The Sphinx”. In Azuga we can visit the Royal Champagne Cellars – the Reihn Cellars, from 1892. This champagne was used in lots of occasions by the Queen Maria and the King Ferdinand of Romania.

Dinner in a local restaurant with Romanian specialities, in a warm atmosphere.

Overnight in Sinaia in a 3 stars stylish villa, built in 1884 by one of the architects of the Peles Castle.



### **Day 2: The gate to Transilvania – the medieval city of Brasov**

We continue our adventure with the famous Dracula’s Castle in Bran built in top of a rock and described by the Queen Maria as a small and pugnacious fortress.

Afterwards departure to Rajnov, a fortified Saxon citadel from the XIIIth century, and then arrival to Poiana Brasov – the most famous Romanian winter resort.

Next destination the medieval city of Brasov. Visit of the historical center (The Council Square, the Black Church, the Old quarter Schei, the Caterina Gate that separated the Rumanians from the Saxons).

Dinner in Poiana Brasov in one of the most traditional restaurants in Romania, where the house speciality is mix of bear, deer, wild boar in a red salsa.

Overnight in Brasov in a 3 stars medieval hotel in the city center.



### Day 3: Bucovina-the land of 2000 monasteries

Departure in the morning to Bucovina, the land of the famous painted monasteries, passing through Bicz where you will admire 2 nature's wonders, Cheile Bicazului ( Bicz Quay ) and the Red Lake, uniques in Romania. Here we will have a stop to buy typical souvenirs from Moldavia.

Arrival in Bucovina, in Voronet where you will visit two monasteries: Humor and Voronet. The last one was founded in 1488 by the ruler Stephen the Great and is named the „Eastern Sistine Chapel” with its famous „blue of Voronet”.

Traditional dinner with home made products and overnight in a 3 stars rural complex characteristic for Bucovina.



### Day 4: The monasteries of Bucovina – UNESCO's patrimony

A whole day dedicated to visiting the beautiful monasteries, almost 500 years old. They were first build as fortified monasteries but soon became a real Bible for the analphabetic people.

The Moldovita Monastery from 1532 build by Petru Rares, with its dominant colour sunny yellow, the biggest of this period, the Sucevita Monastery.

The Sucevita Monastery is the last monument in Stephen's style, the exterior paintings date from 1596 and green is the dominant background color.

In the evening you will assist at a demonstration of egg-painting, typical from Bucovina.

Dinner and overnight in Bucovina, in the same 3 stars rural complex.



### Day 5: The lost world of Maramures

Next destination: **Maramures** with its points of interest – the agroturistic villages. Here the traditions are still alive, the people always happy is dressed in traditional costumes, the windows, the entrance doors are rich in wood ornaments and the famous wood churches seam to reach the cloudes.

Going to Sighetu Marmatiei you will pass by Iza Valley and Mara Valley, real open air museums of rural art. You will visit the old frescos and icons of Bogdan Voda and Ieud churches with their characteristic tall, slim clock towers, of which the last one Ieud is the oldest one in Maramures ( from 1364 ).

Traditional dinner and overnight in Sighetu Marmatiei in a 3 stars pension in the centre.



## Day 6 : Exploring the fairytale land of

### Maramures

In the morning you will enjoy visiting one of the most interesting cemetery in Europe- the Happy Cemetery in Sapanta. Here you can buy many hand made objects, typical from this area. Next destination: Sighet where you can see the house where the Nobel Price Winner, Ellie Wiesel, was born. Along the way towards Baia Mare we will also visit the beautiful rural villages Budesti, Calinesti and Surdesti ( with the tallest wooden church in Europe – 54m )

Dinner in a rural atmosphere and overnight in the same 3 stars pension in Sighetu Marmatiei.



## Day 7: The legends and the fortified citadels

### of Transilvania

In the morning departure to Sighisoara, one of the best preserved inhabited fortress in Europe and also the place where Vlad Tepes was born, in a big house close to the Clock Tower. Here at midnight one of the 7 statues emerges from the Clock Tower.

You will pass by the winter resort Bistrita and then you will have a panoramic tour of the historical center of Targu Mures – right in the heart of Transilvania.

After lunch you will visit the beautiful village of Viscri with its fortified citadel, preserved since the 15th century, being part of the UNESCO List of World Patrimony.

Dinner in Sighisoara, in the house where Vlad was born, now became a medieval restaurant, serving bloody specialities.

Overnight in Sighisoara, in a 3 stars medieval hotel, right next to Dracula's House.



## Day 8: Sibiu and Europe...

In the morning, departure to Biertan, an exemple characteristic for the fortress-church family, one of the 300 fortified churches built between the 14th and 16th centuries. The Citadel of Biertan, placed high on a hillock right in the centre of the village was defended by triple walls, 6 towers and 3 bastions. Even today, one of the 3 entrances in the church has 19 locks.

Next direction: the House of wine from Ganesti. Short visit of the wine cellar where you will have the opportunity to taste the famous wine from Transilvania – the Tarnave area.

Afterwards departure to Sibiu – Hermannstadt, one of the most important medieval and cultural cities in Romania. This year Sibiu is the European capital of culture, an open air museum, a beautiful experience to see and live. Here you will see the Big Square with the Brukenthal Museum, The Small Square and the Huet Square, the Passage of Steps, The Iron Bridge etc.

Dinner in a traditional restaurant with live music and specialities from Sibiu.

Overnight in Sibiu, a in 3 stars central hotel.



## Day 9: Bucharest – now and then

In the morning we will visit the Brukenthal Museum, the first Romanian museum, opened in 1817 and hosting an impressive Art Gallery and the Exhibition of Ethnography and Folk Arts. Afterwards we will admire the Evangelic Cathedral, built in 1520 with its immense Baroque organ designed by a German master in 1671 and the Ursuline Church, from 1474, known from the Germans as Klosterkirche and taken in 1755 by the Ursuline nuns.

Departure to Bucharest passing by the Olt Vally, with its wonderful panorama and the thermal resorts Calimanesti and Caciulata.

Arrival in Bucharest. The communist period surely left its marks on the face of the capital, but after that it started the modernizing period. Bucharest is now an exciting city with nightclubs and sidewalk cafes, opera house and art museums, parks and gardens.

Bucharest is a city full of places to be discovered walking on the old streets besides the main roads where you will see the other face of Bucharest, known in 1930's as the "Little Paris" due to its artistic life, broad boulevards and "fin de siecle"

Dinner in one of the most famous restaurants in Bucharest –the old Beer House.

Overnight in Bucharest in a beautiful 3 stars hotel.



## Day 10: End of the story in Bucharest, the little "Paris of the Balkans" and Ciao Romania ☺

In the morning sightseeing tour of Bucharest including: the Ceausescu's House ( today the Parliament ) the biggest building in Europe, the Unirii Avenue, 1 m larger than Champs Elisee, The Victoria Avenue with stop to the Revolution Square, the University Square, the Royal Palace, the presidents' residence in Cotroceni, Dambovitza Quay with the beautiful Palace of Justice, the impressive Military Academy, the Village Museum – an open air museum - and the historical center – the area called Lipsani.

Special farewell dinner and transfer to the airport in time for the flight back home.

### **Services included:**

- 9 nights in double room ( hotels/pensions 3/4 stars - included breakfast )
- transport by bus 9+1 persons (with driver and assurance) for 10 days
- English speaking guide
- HB ( traditional dinners included )

### **Non included:**

- tickets to castels/museums/palaces and other points of interest etc ( about 3 euros each )
- tips, personal expenses
- flight to Bucharest and return

**Per 6 pax: tariff 800 euro/person/double room**

**150 euro/single supplement**

**Per 12 pax: tariff 650 euro/person/double room**