200

# Welcome to Romania

18th-25th May 2025

"Romania is a country with thousands of years' worth of stories to tell—some folklore, some mythological, some brutal."

-Laura Kerry, Editor of Condé Nast Magazine

Romania is one of the largest countries in Eastern Europe, deeply rooted in rural traditions, with stunning natural wonders, rich culture, and a sense of timelessness.

On our Romania tour, you will be captivated by its capital, Bucharest, with its beautiful blend of Art Nouveau buildings, Orthodox churches, the 1888 Romanian Athenaeum concert hall, vibrant café culture, gourmet restaurants, trendy bars, flea markets, art galleries, and narrow alleys with lively nightlife.



Leaving the capital, we head to Transylvania, a name synonymous with myths and legends, including the infamous Vlad Tepes, aka Dracula! The rural landscape of green hills dotted with haystacks, horse-drawn carts, and shepherds tending to their flocks, all within the embrace of the Carpathian Mountains, will take your breath away. As you journey from one hamlet to another, you'll have the chance to explore magnificent 13th-century churches that once doubled as citadels. Wander through the Saxon village in Sibiu, the old capital, and the medieval cities of Brasov and Sighisoara, where you'll witness the influences of Romans, Huns, Mongols, Turks, Saxons, Slavs, Gypsies, and Hungarians—all contributing to the rich tapestry of the region's culture and charm. Soak in the untouched landscapes as you hike the Piatra Craiului Mountains. You'll stay at heritage hotels and charming village houses, dine at wonderful local restaurants serving authentic Romanian cuisine, and experience gourmet dining with contemporary flair.

You will discover Romania with all your senses!



# What's in store

#### May 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday

- Arrive in Bucharest, Romania's vibrant capital
- Enjoy a welcome dinner curated by acclaimed Chef Joseph Hadad at Caju
- Stay at the iconic Athenee Palace, a centerpiece of Bucharest for over a century

#### May 19<sup>th</sup> Monday

- Drive to Sibiu, the former capital of Transylvania
- Savor refined Romanian cuisine paired with regional wines
- Explore the picturesque upper town square
- Stay at the charming Copsamare Guesthouse in a quaint Saxon village

#### May 20<sup>th</sup> Tuesday

- Visit the Gypsy coppersmith community in Brateiu and tour the medieval citadel of Sighisoara
- Relish a fabulous lunch by local chef Florin in a UNESCO-protected 16<sup>th</sup>-century building
- Admire beautiful Lutheran murals and meet Mari, a master carpet weaver

#### May 21st Wednesday

- Arrive in Brasov, a city rich in Gothic, Baroque, and Renaissance architecture
- Take a guided walk through the medieval center
- Stay at the charming Schuster Boarding House
- Visit Bran Castle, famously linked to the Dracula legend
- Dinner at DOR will take you on a culinary journey to rediscover authentic Romanian flavors

### May 22<sup>nd</sup> Thursday

- Hike the stunning Piatra Craiului Mountains
- Enjoy a jazz performance at Old Soul, a cozy restaurant in Old Town

# May 23<sup>rd</sup> Friday

- Take a scenic drive from Transylvania to Wallachia, with breathtaking views of the Carpathian Mountains
- Arrive back in Bucharest

# May 24<sup>th</sup> Saturday

- Explore Bucharest's Flea Market with a "Bazaar of Memories" tour, followed by a heritage tour
- Conclude with a farewell dinner at the elegant Grano, where Chef Giulio Da Sacco will work his magic

May 25<sup>th</sup>
Sunday

• Departure