

DRAMATIC ROMANIA 12 DAYS 07-18 OCT 2025



Romania is a mid-sized Eastern European country roughly the size of Italy or half of Spain, and the Carpathian Mountains (reaching altitudes as high as 2,500m) divide the country into three main regions: Transylvania in the center, Wallachia in the south, Moldova in the east.

Inside the Carpathian arc in Transylvania are Brasov, Sibiu, Cluj-Napoca. In the Carpathian foothills around altitudes of 800m, the areas and small villages are famous for picturesque sceneries and traditional lifestyle. In recent years due to the warming climate and high temperatures, it is early October that marked the beginning of autumn and with vast swathes of forest-covered hills there are abundant beautiful places for picturesque memories.

Autumn is harvesting season, a great time to venture out in the Romanian countryside and experience local culture and gastronomy. Locals are eager to show off their produce and home-cooked meals and visits to small food producers are immersive community experiences.

Fun fact: Romania is actually named after the Romans, who they once saw as their forebearers.

ITINERARY SUMMARY:

DAY	DATE/DAY	DAY TO DAY DETAILS	LOCATION	HOTEL	STAR RATING	MEALS
1	07 Oct/Tue	Fly: Spore – Bucharest Arrive Bucharest	Bucharest	Marmorosch Hotel	5*	In Plane
2	08 Oct/Wed	Walking tour in Bucharest Drive to Sinaia Mountain Town Visit Peles Palace Drive to Brasov Medieval Town	Bucharest / Brasov	Schuster Boutique Hotel	4*	B L
3	09 Oct/Thu	Walking tour in Brasov Old Town Visit Bran Castle aka Dracula Castle	Brasov			B L
4	10 Oct/Fri	Visit Sighisoara Citadel (UNESCO WH) Drive to Cluj Napoca City, the Capital of Transylvania - walking tour in the Old Town	Cluj Napoca	Radisson Hotel	5*	B L
5	11 Oct/Sat	Visit Surdesti Wooden Church (UNESCO WH) Drive to Maramures: Breb Village	Maramures	Maramu Pension	3* Romanian Classic Guesthouse	B L D
6	12 Oct/Sun	Explore Maramures - old water mill, Merry Cemetery, Desesti Wooden Church (UNESCO WH)				B L D
7	13 Oct/Mon	Cooking class. Horse cart ride. Dancing & singing show.				B L D
8	14 Oct/Tue	Return to Transylvania Enroute visit Turda Salt Mine Arrive in Sibiu Medieval Town	Sibiu	Art Hotel	4*	B D
9	15 Oct/Wed	Walking tour in Sibiu & drive to Richis Saxon Village - Biertan Fortified Church (UNESCO WH)				B L
10	16 Oct/Thu	Morning drive on the famous Transfagarasan Afternoon at leisure				B L
11	17 Oct/Fri	Drive to Bucharest	Bucharest	Marmorosch Hotel	5*	B D
12	18 Oct/Sat	Fly Bucharest – Spore	-	-	-	B / In Plane

HOTELS:

BUCHAREST: Marmorosch Hotel 5* 2 nights w bkft
BRASOV: Schuster Boutique Hotel 4* 2 nights w bkft
CLUJ NAPOCA: Radisson Hotel 5* 1 night w bkft
MARAMURES: Maramu Pension 3* 3 nights w bkft
(Classic Romanian Guesthouse)
SIBIU: Art Hotel 4* 3 nights w bkft

Availability depends on the time of the booking.
Hotels could be replaced with similar hotel in same category.

FLIGHTS:

SINGAPORE – BUCHAREST

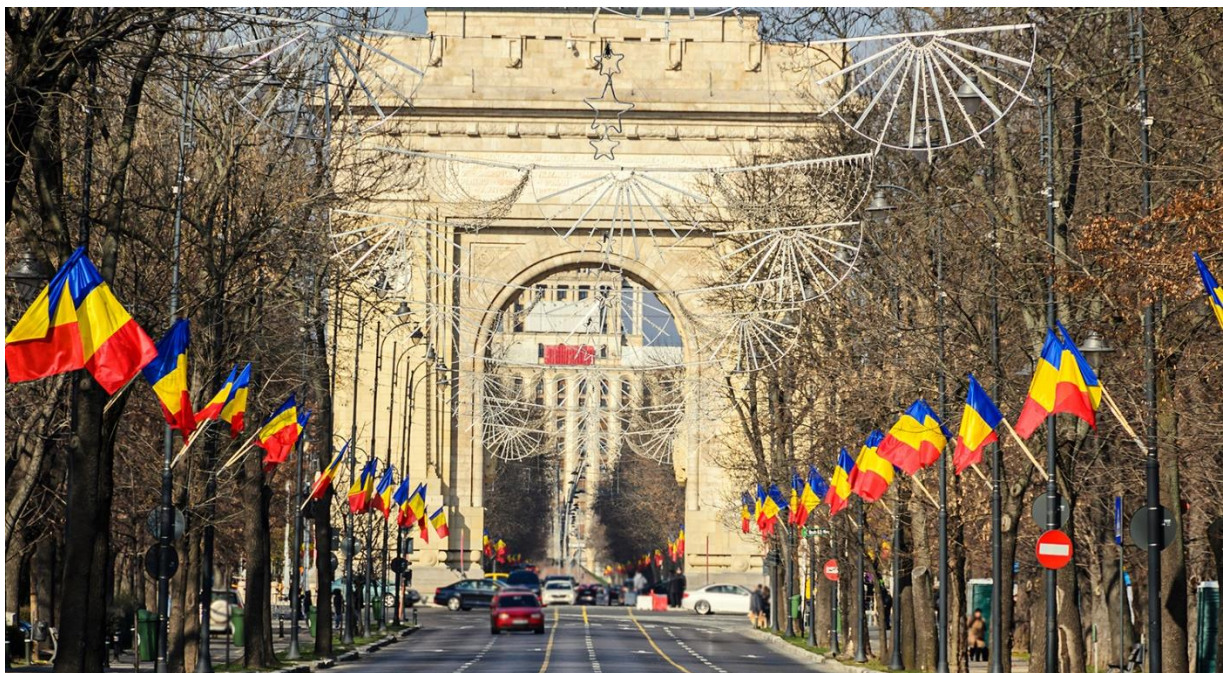
TK09/07OCT SIN IST 1015 1625 (11H 10)
TK1045/07OCT IST OTP 1900 2020 (2H 20)

BUCHAREST – SINGAPORE

TK1046/18OCT OTP IST 2140 2310 (2H 35)
TK54/19OCT IST SIN #0200 1755 (10H 45)

The itinerary has the possibility to change depending on date & time of arrival & departure.
Flights by the airlines are subject to changes / Taxes charged by airlines are subject to changes.

Day 1: 07 Oct/Tue – Fly Spore to Romania. Arrive Bucharest.



Welcome. Transfer to your 5* hotel.

Bucharest: Marmorosch Hotel

Day 2: 08 Oct/Wed – Bucharest/ Bucharest to Brasov (B L)



10:00am. Start on a 2h walking tour in Bucharest, on Victory Avenue to the Revolution Square and learn about the anti-communist Revolution from 1989 when thousands of people lost their life for freedom. See from the outside the Palace of the Parliament, the second largest building in the world.

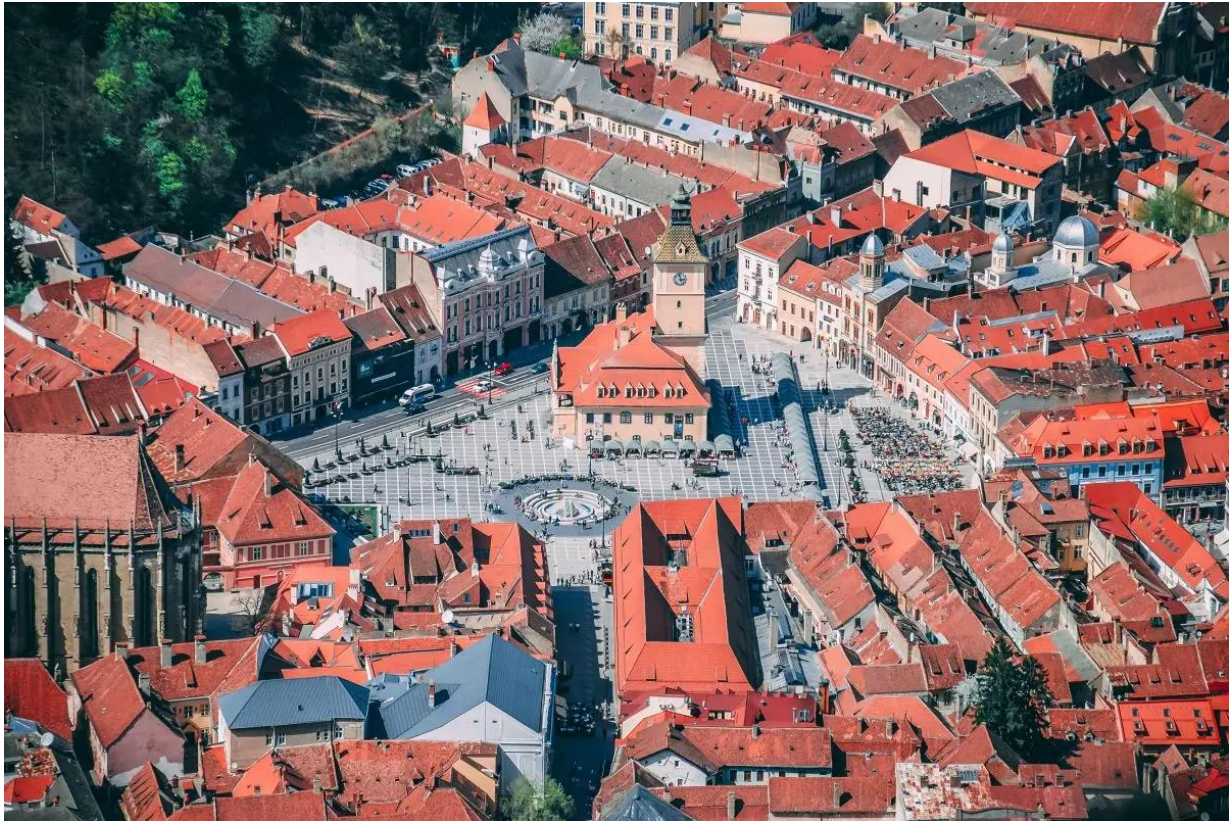
Drive 2h to Sinaia Mountain Town; en-route we stop for lunch.

Visit Peles Palace, probably the most famous castle here (together with Dracula's castle in Bran), and the most beautiful palace in Romania. Construction work began in 1873, when Romania's King Carol I decided to build a summer retreat for himself and his family. It is said that Neo-Renaissance masterpiece exterior and interior with a wealth of artwork in over 160 rooms, including thousands of paintings and sculptures, are jaw-dropping!

At 6pm, arrive in Brasov Medieval Town.

Brasov: Schuster Boutique Hotel

Day 3: 09 Oct/Thu – In Brasov (B L)



Walking tour in Brasov Old Town.

Drive 45 min and visit Bran Castle, commonly known outside Transylvania as Dracula's Castle. The only tangential association is with Vlad Tepes—aka Vlad the Impaler, voivode (military prince) of Wallachia, who shares his name with Dracula (Vlad Drăculea). Irish novelist Bram Stoker loosely based his fictional toothy vampire on this historical 15th-century prince, whose fondness for skewering enemies on stakes as a public warning earned him his nickname.

Have a nice walk in the midst of nature for great views over the Carpathian Mountains. Picnic lunch (weather permitting).



Back to Brasov – free relaxed time.

Brasov: Schuster Boutique Hotel

Day 4: 10 Oct/Fri – Brasov to Cluj Napoca (B L)



Drive 2h and visit Sighisoara Citadel – UNESCO WH

Today's Sighisoara is an explosion of colours whilst maintaining its well-preserved history. It is considered an open-air museum with its mixture of different cultures that have intertwined, thereby enhancing the charm you will find on every alley, in every building and on every street corner.

Sighisoara Citadel – UNESCO WH, is the birthplace of Vlad the Impaler, also known as Dracula. Learn what is real and what is fiction about the famous warlord. Out of the 14 towers built originally, nine survived to this day.

The most famous of them, the Clock Tower, was used in the past as a holding cell for prisoners sentenced to death. In modern times it was transformed into a museum, hosting a collection of weapons and military equipment, as well as a torture chamber.



Drive 2h and arrive in beautiful Cluj Napoca City, the Capital of Transylvania – walking tour in the Old Town. Visit the Union Square and the St Michael Catholic Cathedral.

Cluj Napoca: Radisson Hotel

Day 5: 11 Oct/Sat – Cluj Napoca to Maramures (B L D)



Drive 2.5h and visit 300 years old Surdesti Wooden Church – Unesco WH

Almost 100 old wooden churches survived for hundreds of years, are found in the villages of Barsana, Desesti, Surdesti, Ieud, Budesti, Rogoz, Plopis, and Poienile Izei. These are exquisite, high-steepled jewels with multiple gabled roofs, all of a pattern yet each distinctly unique. Seeing at least a few interiors is a must as many frescoes remain in good condition.

The wooden church from Surdesti is without a doubt one of the most renowned with its imposing 72 meters oak buildings. Built around 1721, this UNESCO Site is one of the best representations of this architectural style unique to the region of Maramures.

Drive 45 min and arrive to the most beautiful village from Maramures, Breb Village. Immerse in the simplicity of Romanian rural living with this traditional village. Though, quite primitive in some ways, the fact they live so close to nature is simply amazing. We will stay 3 nights here.

Have lunch in the village at a nice open air restaurant. Rest and enjoy the village.

Home cooked dinner at Marumu Pension.

Maramures: Marumu Pension



Day 6: 12 Oct/Sun – In Maramures (B L D)



One of the last truly rural regions of Europe, Maramures is not only the land of wooden churches, well-kept traditions (watermills) but also of splendid natural landscapes and kind people.

Visit a local family to see an old Water Mill and the entire processing (you normally see this at Village Museums), but here it is still in use!

Visit the Merry Cemetery from Sapanta. Unlike most graveyards in the world, the Merry Cemetery of Sapanta has a unique approach to death, seeing it as a celebration of a life that ended rather than a tragic event.

Have lunch at a nice local restaurant.

Visit Desesti Wooden Church – UNESCO WH

Home cooked dinner at Marumu Pension

Maramures: Marumu Pension



Day 7: 13 Oct/Mon – In Maramures (B L D)



Spend a leisurely day in the village.

In the morning, visit a local woman for a cooking class.

Small-scale agriculture and food production is still the main occupation for many locals and selling their produce at food markets or by the side of the street is their main source of income. Naturally, they have delicious home-grown vegetables and fruits and a variety of jams, pickles, honey and more.

When these are cooked in traditional - yet unpretentious - meals such as soups (ciorbă), slow cooked stews (tochitura) or the classic cabbage rolls (sarmale).

Experience a nice horse cart ride to explore the village and meet the locals: the local photographer who takes photos since the 80s, the local woodcarver who still makes traditional wooden gates - a big tradition in Maramures. We can also engage in some farming activities in the fields with the locals.

Return to the local woman's home for lunch - food that was prepared earlier by group members.

In the evening, home cooked dinner and dance and sing with a local band performing local folk music.

Maramures: Maramu Pension



Day 8: 14 Oct (Tue) – Maramures to Sibiu (B D)



Return to Transylvania.

En-route: the long drive to Turda Salt Mine. First mentioned in 1075, the Turda Salt Mine remained operational until 1932. This ancient salt mine has underground galleries and its large, high-ceilinging caverns host an unusual amusement park that includes its most iconic feature, a 20-meter-tall Ferris wheel and a 6m deep underground lake! It is pretty interesting how the mine had been given a second life.

Everything including light installations were designed to highlight the salt mine's natural beauty. Experience unique moments through the magical underground galleries, inhaling salty air... well known among Romanians...to be good for your lungs and treats respiratory diseases.

Also, as the largest salt mine museum in the world, visitors can learn about the mining process and the cultural importance of salt at the exhibits and displays within the mine.

At 4pm, arrive in Sibiu Medieval Town, we will stay 3 nights here.

Sibiu: Art Hotel



Day 9: 15 Oct/Wed – In Sibiu (B L)



Walking tour in Sibiu in the morning - the Large and the Small Squares of the Old Town, Liar's Bridge and the Pedestrian Street.

Founded in the 12th century as the home for German settlers in Transylvania, Sibiu Old Town retains the grandeur of its earlier days when rich and powerful guilds dominated regional trade. There are two distinct sections: the Upper Town, home to most of Sibiu's historic landmarks, and the Lower Town, lined with colorful houses on cobblestone streets and bounded by imposing city walls and defence towers overlooking the river Cibin.

Drive 1.5h and have a delicious home cooked lunch + wines at a local family in Richis Saxon Village.

Visit 500 years old Biertan Fortified Church – UNESCO WH.

At 4pm you are back in Sibiu.

Sibiu: Art Hotel



Day 10: 16 Oct/Thu – In Sibiu (B L)



Day Trip: On the famous Transfagarasan scenic road crossing the Carpathian Mountains at 2000m altitude. The highway crosses the Fagaras Mountains forming a part of the Carpathians, often referred to as the Transylvanian Alps and divide northwestern and southern Romania.

The total length of Transfagarasan is 152 km, but only 90 km go through the mountains, climbing over the peaks, parallel to a river. The most spectacular section of the road is between Vidradu Lake and Carțișoara village, 85 km and it will take a minimum of two hours to cross it. Once at the Top Carpathian Mountains, there is a possibility for a light hike.

Back to Sibiu where we arrive at 2pm – enjoy some free time.



Sibiu: Art Hotel

Day 11: 17 Oct/Fri – Sibiu to Bucharest (B D)



It is a 5h drive to Bucharest.

Farewell dinner in the evening.

Bucharest: Marmorosch Hotel

Day 12: 18 Oct/Sat – Depart for Singapore (B)

Check out. Transfer to the airport for flight home.

END OF TOUR

Inclusions:

- Turkish Airlines flights
- Accommodation for 11 nights with breakfast included at 5* & 4* hotels (3 nights in Maramures at a local guesthouse Pension with all facilities: private shower, wifi, toilet)
- Private 30-seater bus/AC with professional driver & all transportation costs: fuel, parking, tolls
- Private English-speaking guide
- Meals as listed (B-breakfast, L-lunch, D-dinner) which includes
 - home cooked dinners in Breb Village, Maramures
 - cooking class / lunch in Breb Village
 - folkloric dance and singing show in Breb Village
 - farewell dinner in Bucharest
- Horse cart ride in Breb Village
- Sightseeing and entrance fees according to the itinerary (includes 4 UNESCO WH sites)
- 0.5l x 2 bottled water per day
- Experienced Tour leader

Exclusions:

- Tips & gratuities for guides and drivers, portorage, etc
- Entrance fees for sights, & other activities not included in the itinerary
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Beverages including coffee & tea at lunches and dinners
- Travel Insurance
- Personal expenses
- Visa Fees: for other citizens will be advised, where applicable; (visa not required for Singaporean citizens)