



## Romania Road Trip

*- A Quieter Corner of Europe -*



### AT A GLANCE

- 8 nights in Romania, encompassing the chaotic capital of Bucharest, the charming Transylvanian gems of Brasov, Sibiu, Sighișoara and Cluj as well as two fantastic mountain roads, the Transfăgărășan and the Transalpina, combining colourful cities/towns along with the great outdoors and idyllic countryside.

## DAY 01 \* 29 AUG (SAT)

### Flights:

While we are unable to arrange flight tickets, we will suggest the following option –

- \* Lufthansa LH 791 ✦ Depart Singapore @ 2325hrs (on 28 Aug, Fri) ✦ Arrive Munich @ 0550hrs ✦ 12h 25m
- \* Transit Duration: 3h 15m
- \* Lufthansa LH 1650 ✦ Depart Munich @ 0905hrs ✦ Arrive Bucharest @ 1205hrs ✦ 2h
- \* Total Flying Duration: 17h 40m

*\*Alternative Turkish Airlines flights via Istanbul is available, please enquire for more details.*

**Arrival:** Private airport transfer will be arranged to our hotel, where we drop off our luggage and have lunch on your own.

### The Plan:

- \* Afternoon Free at Leisure & Dinner on Your Own – have time to rest from the long flights, and in the late afternoon, depending on energy levels, we might venture out to a wine bar for an introduction to Romanian wines, followed by dinner on your own or together as a group.
- \* Alternatively, we can arrange an afternoon tour in Bucharest, such as to the Ceausescu Mansion or the Museum of Maps or discover other aspects of the city based on your interests.

**Check In (2 nights):** Hotel Lido by Phoenicia Bucharest (Standard) – no fuss 4\* hotel conveniently located in Bucharest centre

## DAY 02 \* 30 AUG (SUN)

**Overview:** No driving today, touring of Bucharest.

**About Bucharest:** Once renowned as “Little Paris” until Communist dictator Nicolas Ceausescu tore down numerous of the belle epoque buildings in place of Socialist buildings to create a model Socialist capital. Thankfully, enough remnants of “Little Paris” survives for one to imagine the past while learning its more recent past and discovering the latest rejuvenation injecting renewed vibe into Bucharest.

## The Plan:

- \* Morning City Tour – today's Bucharest has experienced a dramatic 20<sup>th</sup> century, opening the century with continuation of a prosperous era under King Carol I and closing at the end of decades of Communist rule. With our private guide, learn about key events of Bucharest's recent history and see the landmarks from the various era.
- \* Tour of the Palace of Parliament – this monumental building is the world's second largest building; we will attempt to secure places on a shared/join-in tour for an inside glimpse of this vast complex (entrance is never guaranteed until you are in).

**Overnight:** Hotel Lido by Phoenicia Bucharest

## DAY 03 \* 31 AUG (MON)

**Overview:** Check out and drive 3.5hrs/220km to Braşov with touring stops in Sinaia for Peles Castle and outside views of Bran and Rasnov Castles.

**About Braşov:** One of the many citadel towns settled by Germans/Saxons to protect Hungary's borders when Transylvania was part of the Hungarian kingdom.

## The Plan:

- \* Peles Castle – tour the sumptuous Peles Castle (entrance and photography fees included, shared/join-in tour), the ornate summer residence for Romania's royal family inaugurated in 1883.
- \* Bran Castle (outside view only) – possibly Romania's most famous castle, associated with the legends of Dracula. However, the interior of the castle is not particularly interesting & unrelated with Dracula thus we will skip it.
- \* Afternoon Walking Tour of Brasov – walking tours are our favourite way of acquainting ourselves with the history and landmarks of a destination. A guide will take us through the medieval centre, seeing icons such as the Black Church, Rope Street, St Nicholas Church and more as we hear about the legends and history of this nearly 800 years old city.

**Check In (1 night):** UpperHouse Boutique Hotel Braşov – comfortable contemporary hotel overlooking Brasov

## DAY 04 \* 01 SEP (TUE)

**Overview:** Drive around 2hrs/120km to Sighișoara, followed by 1h 45m/90km to the foot of the Transfăgărășan road and another 1+h over the road to Balea.

**About Sighișoara:** Another medieval gem of Romania alongside Brașov and Sibiu, this colourful UNESCO listed citadel is also the birthplace of Vlad the Impaler, said to be the inspiration behind Dracula.

**About Transfăgărășan:** Ranked among the best roads in the world by Top Gear, this iconic Romanian mountain drive boasts outstanding views (subject to weather conditions), and rewards drivers with the satisfaction of negotiating through the numerous hairpin turns.

### The Plan:

- \* Walking Tour of Sighișoara – walking tours are our favourite way of acquainting ourselves with the history and landmarks of a destination. A local Sighișoara guide will meet and guide us through the highlights such as Clock Tower, the Covered Staircase and the Church on the Hill.
- \* An overview drive through the Transfăgărășan – overnighting within the mountains and the long daylight hours will allow us to slowly (and carefully) drive along the length of the road and make mental note of stops for next day.

**Check In (1 night):** Vila Balea or similar – basic guesthouse set amidst the forests within the mountains

## DAY 05 \* 02 SEP (WED)

**Overview:** The day is mainly the 2hrs (without stops)/90km drive towards Sibiu.

### The Plan:

- \* Exploring the various viewpoints and photo stops along the Transfăgărășan, particularly around Balea Lake, lingering wherever we like as we descend towards Sibiu.
- \* Late afternoon, we may take a drive through a local town 30min outside of Sibiu for a glimpse of ordinary Romanian countryside life. This is a totally unplanned excursion through a quaint town where we are possibly the only tourists thus there is no guarantee what we may come across.

**Check In (2 nights):** ART Hotel Sibiu – stylish contemporary centrally located hotel

## DAY 06 \* 03 SEP (THU)

**Overview:** No driving today, touring of Sibiu.

**About Sibiu:** Populated from the 12<sup>th</sup> century by German/Saxon settlers, Sibiu grew to be the most significant German city in Transylvania and continues to be one of the busiest cities.

### The Plan:

- \* Morning Walking Tour – walking tours are our favourite way of acquainting ourselves with the history and landmarks of a destination. A local Sibiu guide will meet us this morning to bring us through the city, discovering the many iconic squares, the houses with eyes and other monuments.
- \* Afternoon Own Exploration – Sibiu is relatively less touristy compared to Braşov and Sighişoara, and makes for a lovely afternoon to soak in the idyllic atmosphere. After several packed days, it is worthwhile to have a breather.

**Overnight:** ART Hotel Sibiu

## DAY 07 \* 04 SEP (FRI)

**Overview:** Depart after breakfast for a half day drive (approx. 4hrs/200km) through the Olt valley and then up to the mountain village of Ranca on the TransAlpina.

### The Plan:

- \* TransAlpina – over today & tomorrow, we take a leisurely drive along Romania's highest mountain road, enjoying the mountain and valley scenery (a more barren contrast from Transfăgărăşan due to the higher altitude) and thrilling hairpin bends. The sensational views more than make up for the huge efforts in getting to this fairly out of the way destination.
- \* After lunch & check in, switch from our cars to rugged ATVs for a mini adventure along mountain trails to experience the wonderful mountain views, hopefully basked in golden late afternoon sunlight.

**Check In (1 night):** Terra Ranca or similar – simple and cosy family operated guesthouse up in the mountain town

## DAY 08 \* 05 SEP (SAT)

**Overview:** A day spent mostly on the road, beginning with 2.5-3hrs/120km to Sebes for lunch, from Sebes, continue 2hrs/110km to the city of Cluj-Napoca.

**About Cluj:** Unofficial capital of Transylvania with 2,000 years of history, and second largest city in Romania, Cluj is also home to numerous universities, creating a bustling café culture, thriving modern art scene and a vibrant nightlife.

### The Plan:

- \* Continue through the length of the TransAlpina with a few photo stops towards the town of Sebes, and then a straight drive to the city of Cluj.
- \* Late Afternoon Walking Tour – walking tours are our favourite way of acquainting ourselves with the history and landmarks of a destination. A local Cluj guide will meet us in the old town and show us around this storied city and point out the less obvious traces of its history.

**Check In (1 night):** Lol et Lola Cluj-Napoca – a colourful charming boutique hotel

## DAY 09 \* 06 SEP (SUN)

**Overview:** Morning drive about 50min/35km to Turda Salt Mine, & then back to the city for lunch & a short 9km departure drive to the airport.

### The Plan:

- \* Turda Salt Mine (only entrance is included) – today a sci-fiction looking amusement park with a Ferris wheel and boat rides in the cavern.
- \* Farewell lunch back in Cluj before almost 30min drive to the airport to return rental cars and check in for our flights home.

### Flights:

While we are unable to arrange flight tickets, we will suggest the following option –

- \* Lufthansa LH 1671 ✦ Depart Cluj @ 1810hrs ✦ Arrive Munich @ 1900hrs ✦ 1h 50m

- \* Transit Duration: 3h 20m
- \* Lufthansa LH 790 ✦ Depart Munich @ 2220hrs ✦ Arrive Singapore @ 1630hrs ✦ 12h 10m
- \* Total Flying Duration: 17h 20m

\*Alternative Turkish Airlines flights via Istanbul is available, please enquire for more details.

Organized by *Yellow Kudu Journeys* (TA03275)

WhatsApp: 8817 2090 | Telegram: YellowKudu

What It Will Cost (Per Person):		
Based on 4 Pax	Based on 6 Pax	Based on 8-10 Pax
SGD 2,980	SGD 2,650	SGD 2,500
<i>Based on two persons sharing one rental car and one room during the trip - triple/quad sharing and single supplement rates available on request</i>		
What's Included?		What's Not Included?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 8 nights of accommodation with breakfasts</li> <li>✓ 8 lunches &amp; 7 dinners</li> <li>✓ Car hire (automatic "compact sedan") with zero excess, one listed driver and fuel (<i>reduction of S\$ 90 per person for manual car</i>)</li> <li>✓ Private English-speaking walking tours as listed</li> <li>✓ Entrance fees to Peles Castle, Bran Castle, Sinaia Monastery, Turda Salt Mine</li> <li>✓ Yellow Kudu Convoy Leader experienced in road trips</li> <li>✓ Effort, care &amp; attention in curating &amp; organizing the itinerary</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>× International flights - <i>estimated S\$ 1,100-1,300 in economy class, purchase online via Lufthansa or Turkish Airlines website</i></li> <li>× <b>Travel insurance</b></li> <li>× Higher car rental category</li> <li>× Meals on Day 1</li> <li>× Any other items not included, e.g. tipping, personal shopping etc.</li> </ul>

## Important to Note

- **Twin Rooms:** Twin rooms are very limited – sometimes two single beds pushed together or a double bed with a sofa bed and other times simply not available, if necessary, we may need to use alternative nearby properties.
- **Accommodation:** While we have selected fairly good quality accommodation, some do not have elevators and you may need to carry your own luggage up the stairs. Parking may be a short distance from the accommodation.
- **Lunches/Dinners:** Where available, we will select good quality local restaurants. A few glasses of wines & other drinks during dinner will occasionally be included throughout, depending on how well you charm your convoy leader!
- **Rental Car:** Due to road conditions, we have costed based on a “compact sedan” which generally has space for a large case in the boot and another case in the back seats. If you have any specific preference on cars, please let us know.
- **Lowering the Cost:** If a convoy journey is confirmed, it might be possible to lower the tour price by about S\$ 100-300 or more per person by booking accommodation and car rental on non-refundable rates and/or switching to more basic accommodation close by (within 5-10min drive radius). Please feel free to speak to us for more details. Note that more basic accommodation might not include breakfasts and you will be expected to meet the convoy in the designated accommodation at the respective meeting times.
- **Deposit:** Non-refundable deposit of S\$ 850 required in order to confirm the trip.