



VISIT TO ROMANIA

Tuesday 1 October to Monday 7 October

The ninth largest country in the EU and a member since January 2007, Romania has a fascinating and varied history owing to its location as an intersection between central and south-eastern Europe. It has stunning UNESCO World Heritage sites, the painted monasteries of Bucovina, Saxon villages in Transylvania, and Sighisoara, medieval citadel town and birthplace of Count Dracula. All these, we will visit.

We start our tour travelling by coach from Chester to Heathrow on the Tuesday for our direct flight to Bucharest and overnight stay. On day two we depart by coach for the Carpathians and the mountain resort of Sinaia to visit Peles Castle and then on to the castle of Bran, made famous by Bram Stoker as the residence of Count Dracula. We then drive on to Brasov for a walking tour and then onward to our centrally located hotel for an overnight stay, which includes dinner and opera performance in the citadel.

On day three we depart for Coseni and an opportunity to see artists at work painting religious icon panels. Then, we drive on to the Zabola Estate, set in the untouched wilderness of Transylvania where we will enjoy lunch in the Machine House on Count Mikes' estate: with time to explore the surrounding park. Then we proceed to Piatra Neamt for dinner and overnight stay at our hotel.

The next day we depart after breakfast for the lands of Bucovina: visiting a pottery workshop at Marginea and then the three of the best Painted Monasteries at Sucevita, Moldovita, and Voronet: the latter containing the 'Sistine Chapel of the East', famous throughout the world. We then drive to Gura Humorului for an overnight stay at our hotel, which includes dinner and a folklore show at a nearby tavern.

On the fifth day we set off for Sighisoara. On the way we stop at Bistrita for a brief city centre tour of this important medieval trading post. We continue to Tirgu Mures, another historic city containing a medieval fortress, before moving on to our destination, Sighisoara where we dine at the home of the historically fascinating and controversial Vlad Tepes and Vlad Dracul. Overnight, our hotel is in the heart of the medieval citadel, which is acclaimed as the best preserved, of its type, in Europe.

After breakfast we tour Sighisoara, before moving on to the fortified 15th century church of Biertan: designated a World Heritage Site, and then onwards to Sibiu, European Capital of Culture 2007, for dinner at a local restaurant and overnight at our hotel.

On our final day we make a brief tour of Sibiu, transfer to the airport for flight back to Heathrow, and thence Chester.