

ROMANIA – TRANSYLVANIA & THE CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS

8-day / 7-night **SELF-GUIDED** inn-to-inn walking - daily departures from May to October – **VALUE TOUR**



Romania is a country of cultural diversity and contrasts. It is also a very new destination for self-guided walking with traditional style accommodation, spectacular mountains, National Parks and alpine pastures. Piatra Craiului and Bucegi offer some of the most popular mountain scenery with unique flora and fauna, typical rural villages, medieval fortresses and an insight into the lives of shepherds and farming communities that has changed little over the centuries.

A highlight for many on this walking holiday is a visit to the 14th Century **Bran Castle** associated with the fictional character **Dracula**. Yet it is the tranquillity and the mountain peaks that will remain in your memory and the opportunity to interact with rural life in a unique part of Eastern Europe.

Departs: Daily departures from 1 May to 15 October 2023
Tour requires a minimum 2 people to operate (Solo Travellers available on request)

Difficulty: Easy to moderate walks of 5 to 6 hours with an average ascent and descent of 450m.

Cost from: **\$1430** per person twin share Single room supplement \$655 (limited availability & on request)

Includes: 7 nights' guesthouse / B&B accommodation; 7 breakfasts, 6 picnic lunches and 7 dinners, with dinner usually a 2 or 3-course menu with several choices; luggage transfers; route notes, maps, tourist information with 24-hour emergency telephone assistance; transfers as shown (including train transfer Bucharest-Brasov and private transfer Brasov-Magura on Day 1, private transfer Simon-Brasov and train from Brasov to Bucharest on Day 8).

Not included: Tour guide, meals not mentioned, drinks, entrance fees or personal expenses

Accommodation: Typical family-owned rural village guesthouses, pensions or B&Bs. These are carefully selected to offer clean rooms, usually with en-suite bathroom, and friendly hosts.



Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Suggested itinerary:

Day 1 Arrive in Bucharest, transfer to Magura

Plan to arrive at Bucharest station before 2:00pm to meet our local representative for a briefing and to collect your travel documents, before you transfer by train (about 3 hours, included in the cost) to Brasov for your private transfer to Magura, where you stay in an eco-tourist guesthouse for three nights. (D)

Day 2 Curmatura Hut and Zarnesti Gorge

walking @ 13 km (5h)

Walk through Piatra Craiului (King's Stone) Mountains to the mountain hut at Curmatura for lunch on the terrace. There are expansive views over the Piatra Craiului and Bucegi mountains. Descend through the narrow Zarnesti Gorge with its towering limestone walls, over 200m high, back to your accommodation in the peaceful mountain village of Magura. There is also an option for a longer walk. (B,L,D)

Day 3 Bran Castle

walking @ 12km (4.5h)

Your walk follows a small ridge that links Piatra Craiului to the Bucegi mountains and offers spectacular landscapes over both ranges on your way down to Bran Castle, built in the 14th Century to defend the local community against marauders and to protect Transylvania from the Ottoman invasions. This fascinating castle is associated with the fictional character of Count Dracula (who was based on the Prince Vlad Tepes of Wallachia). From Bran castle, transfer by vehicle back to Magura. (B,L,D)

Day 4 Magura to Ciocanu

walking @ 14km (5h)

A wonderful walk today through a rural landscape of pastures, rough enclosures built by shepherds, woods and a scattering of timeless villages within the Piatra Craiului National Park. Again there is an option for a longer walk. Stay overnight in the traditional mountain village of Ciocanu. Your accommodation tonight may have shared bathroom facilities. (B,L,D)

Day 5 Ciocanu to Moieciu

walking @ 13km (4h)

Leaving the Piatra Craiului Mountains the trail takes you to the foot of the nearby Bucegi Mountains. It is astonishing how traditional agriculture and farming still go on regardless of the passing of time and in a perfect harmony with the wildlife around. The next two nights are spent in a farm guesthouse, in the village of Moieciu de Sus, renowned for its smoked cheeses. (B,L,D)

Day 6 Bucegi massif

walking @ 18km (6h)

A longer walk, towards the Bucegi massif, which again offers magnificent landscapes, varied terrain and views of the Piatra Craiului peaks, as well as an opportunity to discover the wilderness of the Carpathians. (B,L,D)

Day 7 Moieciu to Simon

walking @ 18km (6h)

Ascend to the meadow of Gutanu beside the steep and rugged cliffs of the Bucegi Mountains. From June onwards you are likely to come across shepherds with their flocks and perhaps even ask to taste the cheese they prepare. Take time to enjoy the delightful rural landscapes as you make your way to Simon where you stay overnight. (B,L,D)

Day 8 Return to Bucharest

The tour ends after breakfast with a private transfer to Brasov then continue on to Bucharest by train. (B)
If you would like more time to explore Bucharest, a fascinating city where the old stands cheek-by-jowl with the new, we can arrange extra nights in Bucharest at additional cost – please ask when making a booking.

Other walking holidays, guided in small groups or self-guided walks with inn-to-inn luggage transfers & meals are available in many parts of Europe through **Outdoor Travel**. Destinations include Provence or the Dordogne in France, the Cinque Terre coast, Umbria or Tuscany in Italy, the Alps in Switzerland and many areas of England, Scotland, Wales & Ireland.

Outdoor Travel also offer 'must do' routes such as **Wainwrights Coast-to-Coast Walk** across England, the **Cornish Coastal Path** or **Stevenson's Trail** '*travels with a donkey*' in the wild Auvergne in central France. We also specialise in Pilgrimage routes in France & Spain such as the **Camino de Santiago** or **Way of St James** from Le Puy to Santiago, the **Camino Portuguese** from Porto to Santiago, the **Camino del Norte** from San Sebastian to Santiago, and the Pilgrims' Road to Rome, the **Via Francigena** from the Alps to the Vatican.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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