

Detailed Itinerary

Trip Name: [8 days] Discovering Transylvania's Heritage by Bike

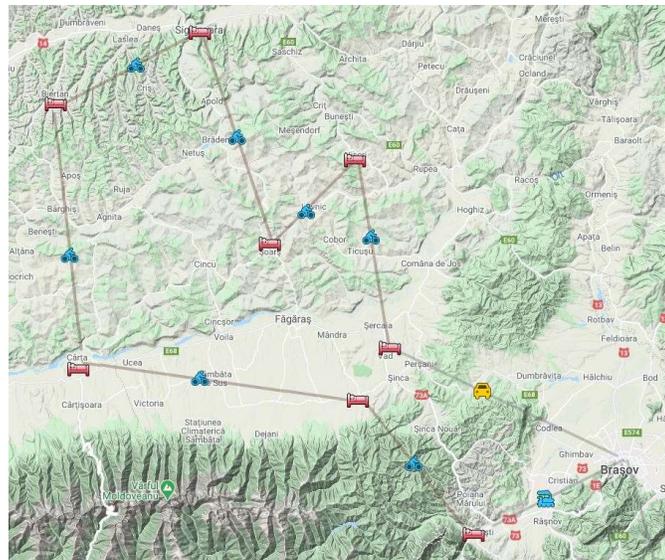
GENERAL

Dates: Variable. Contact Yügen Earthside for your preferred start date.

Discover Transylvania's magic with this great self-guided cycling trip! Let yourself be inspired by Transylvania's many legends, its breath-taking scenery, the kind locals and its surprising and historic atmosphere. You will get great exercise thanks to the stunning Transylvanian hills, and we've prepared a lot of delightful visits for you to enjoy! So get prepared to embark on a holiday that is rich in history, culture and very hearty food! Have yourself an exceptional adventure that you'll never forget!

Main Stops:

Bucharest – Fagaras Mountains – Zarnesti – Ohaba – Sambata de Sus – Dragus – Cartisoara – Carta – Biertan – Richis – Sighisoara – Dumbraveni – Apold – Soars – Viscri Brasov



About the Tour:

We are a certified partner of the Association of Ecotourism in Romania. Our philosophy has always been to encourage travelling as much as possible by non-motorized means and mostly off the beaten path, to try and avoid the mainstream and bring out the authenticity. We specialize in walking and cycling tours, as well as some road trip car tours. We strive to embody “slow travel” into all each of our carefully crafted itineraries.

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY



Day 1: Bucharest [Romania] (arrival day)

Arrival and welcome in Bucharest Northern Train Station before 2 PM. Train transfer to Zarnesti. Change in Brasov. 2nd train transfer to Zarnesti, a mountain village and main entrance to the Piatra Craiului National Park. Accommodation and dinner at your guesthouse.

Accommodation: Guesthouse

Included meals: Dinner

Day 2: Bike near the Fagaras Mountains, Zarnesti, & Ohaba (~50km | ~31 miles | +250 meter elevation gain | -400 meter elevation descent)

You will ride to the North, to a small typical village at the foot of the Fagaras Mountains, the highest mountains in Romania. You can take a 7 km detour on a gravel road to visit the famous Bear Sanctuary near Zarnesti. From there you head to Ohaba where you will visit the oldest flour mill in the county, powered by a water and you will hear its amazing story from the communism period.

Accommodation: Guesthouse

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 3: Bike by Sambata de Sus, Dragus, Cartisoara, & Carta (~60km | 37 miles | +300 m | -450 m)

You cycle at the foot of the Fagaras mountains over Bucium river. You will step by the original village of Lisa where a 100-year-old machine, tailoring thick woollen blanket is still working; then passing by Sambata de Sus with its impressive Brancovenesc monastery from 1696. After that the trip goes further over Dragus (ethnographic museum). You cross the Victoria town and to the small village of Cartisoara and from there to the village of Carta, where you will visit the ruins of the Cistercian monastery. Hopefully you will have the opportunity to meet the pastor and hear his beautiful stories.

2 extra nights possible in Carta:

- *One for the visit of Sibiu: we recommend to have an extra day in this magnificent village and to go by train to visit Sibiu, one of the most beautiful medieval towns in Romania. This is certainly the reason why Sibiu was chosen « the cultural capital of Europe in 2007 ». Developed by Saxons on a Roman village, Sibiu was the residence of the Austrian government in Transylvania. The small streets, the picturesque courtyards and the rock stairs create a romantic atmosphere. Lots of monuments and interesting museums are also waiting for you. In the evening you return by train to Carta village. **Also possible overnight in Sibiu.***
- *One for riding the Transfagarasan route: details in Pricing Exclusions section*

Accommodation: Guesthouse

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4: Bike through villages of Biertan and Richis (~65km | ~40 miles | +600 m | -650 m)

The route through Transylvania continues towards Biertan and its enormous, fortified church with several ring-walls. It has been on the UNESCO World Heritage list since 1993. Trip continues along country roads and you'll enjoy the pastoral landscapes and fortified church of Richis.

Accommodation: Guesthouse

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 5: Bike through Sighisoara & Dumbraveni (~40km | ~25 miles | +380 m | -400 m)

This cycling day will allow you to discover other treasures from Transylvania. You move on to Sighisoara, one of the few medieval citadels in Europe that is still fully inhabited and included on the list of UNESCO World Heritage. Discover the old town with its famous clock tower, which initially served as the main entrance to the citadel, but also covered stairs, medieval streets, the house where Vlad Dracul, the father of Vlad the Impaler known by Bram Stoker's legend as Dracula, was born. On the road you can make a small detour to Dumbraveni, another town with an important Armenian Catholic Church, another witness of our glorious past.

Accommodation: Charming 3-star hotel

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch



Day 6: Bike through Apold & Soars (~48km | ~30 miles | +600 m | -500 m)

Today you will cycle through the Transylvanian hills to Apold village which also has a lovely fortified church. Then you will arrive in Soars village where you will spend the night. The country road will take you to remote and bucolic areas where you will surely meet shepherds watching over their sheep herds. Do not miss this meeting!

Accommodation: Guesthouse

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7: Bike through Viscri & Soars (~35km | ~22 miles | +300 m | -250 m)

From Soars we bike to one of the highlights of this trip, Viscri, where you will have the opportunity to visit Viscri's fortified church. This church was restored with the help of Prince's Charles foundation. A day ride thorough these old and time-standing villages offer a peaceful immersing into yourself; time to meditate on the passing of time and connection to the nature. If you want the maximum out of your trip you can go have a stroll through this post-card village and visit the blacksmith and the gipsy-Hungarian blacksmith.

Accommodation: Guesthouse

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8: Leave from Viscri, transfer to Brasov, train to Bucharest (departure day)
Leaving from Viscri after breakfast, private transfer to Brasov from where train departure to Bucharest (several trains starting with 13:30). We highly suggest an extra-night in this medieval town if you don't have the time to visit it during the first day. End of the trip.

Included meals: Breakfast



PRICING

Tour cost:

- \$850 USD for 2 travelers
- \$1000 USD for a solo traveler
- More than 2 people: an additional \$105 USD per person

To reserve your spot on a tour, a **non-refundable** deposit equal to 20% of the trip price will be required.

INCLUSIONS

- **Accommodation:**
 - 1 night at a 3-star hotel
 - Remaining nights as local guesthouses
- **Meals:**
 - All meals mentioned in detailed itinerary: 7 breakfasts, 6 picnic lunches, 6 dinners at guesthouses.
- **Transportation:**
 - Local transfers as mentioned in itinerary. All transfers are private, by local buses or trains.
 - Day 1 & 8 – Train Bucharest / Brasov – Brasov / Bucharest: about 2h45
 - Day 1 – Train Brasov / Zarnesti: about 40 minutes
 - Day 8 – Private transfer from Viscri to Brasov: about 1h30

- Luggage transfers between guesthouses
- **Other:**
 - Technical description of the itinerary
 - Map with itinerary traced out
 - Contact listing
 - Technical sheet & vouchers for all accommodations
 - Our Road Book includes: restaurants, museums, craftsmen, where to find a bank machine, and a 24-hour emergency phone number.
 - Our agent will join you at the SNCFR train station in Bucharest. Or we can send all the documents by email.

EXCLUSIONS

- **Meals:**
 - Drinks & snacks
- **Transportation:**
 - Flights to/from Bucharest
 - Airport transfers
 - **Day 1 & 8:** Bucharest airport / Bucharest train station: + \$35 base 3 pax
 - Private transfer on **Day 1:** Brasov / Zarnesti: +\$30 base 3 pax
 - Bike rental & equipment (see info below)
- **Other:**
 - Entrance fees into museums, monasteries, etc.
 - Travel insurance
 - Tips
 - Personal spending
 - Optional activities – see below.

Night 4 in Sibiu: +\$65 / pax double base, +\$70 / pax in single.

Activity: Visit the city of Sibiu and spend the night. Price includes hotel in Sibiu with breakfast and train tickets to Sibiu and back (around 1h15 per section). This price doesn't include: lunch & dinner.

Day 3 in Carta: +\$53 / pax double base, +\$65 / pax in single.

Activity: Visit the city of Sibiu. Price includes hotel with half-board and train tickets to Sibiu and back (around 1h15 per section). This price doesn't include: lunch.

Day 3 in Carta: +\$90 / pax double base, +\$100 / pax in single.

Activity: Ride on Transfagarasan road, one of the most amazing mountain roads from Europe. This price includes: hotel with half board, bus in the morning to Balea Lake (2050m), bike rental. This price doesn't include: lunch. More info about this road:

<http://www.wildtransylvania.com/p/transfagarasan.html>.

AVAILABLE ONLY ON MONDAYS WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS.

BIKE INFO

Trek Hybrid Bike

+ \$115 / pax

- Front suspension, disk brakes, bottle holder.
- 21 gears, light aluminium frame, Shimano derailleur.
- Rental includes: repair kit, pump, lock, 1 side back pannier, map holder.

Arcade Hybrid Bike

+ \$95 / pax

- No suspensions, v-brakes, bottle holder for men's frame only.
- 21 gears, light aluminium frame, Shimano derailleur.
- Rental includes: repair kit, pump, lock, 1 side back pannier, map holder.

Electric Bike

+ \$307 / pax

- Frame: Alpha Aluminum, specially designed for the Bosch Active Line system, luggage rack and mudguard.
- Fork: Rigid
- Tires: Schwalbe Big Apple, 700x50C, K-Guard puncture protection
- Shimano hydraulic disc brakes
- Cassette Shimano 9-speed Crankset Miranda Delta
- Battery: Bosch PowerPack (diagonal tube), 500Wh
- Engine: Bosch Active +, 250 Watt, 50 Nm



Not included with any bike rentals: handlebar bag, speedometer, gloves, extra panniers, **helmet**. We provide helmets only on request as it is always safer and more comfortable to bring your own helmets.