

Transylvania Trek

Discover Romania



Ultimate Challenges

T: 020 3642 9830
events@theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk
www.ultimatechallenges.co.uk

Transylvanian Trek

Discover Romania on this amazing weekend challenge

On this unique trekking challenge we will discover some of the hidden sights of Transylvania, and step back in time to experience rural life, Romanian style.

Discover Romania on this amazing weekend trekking challenge in the rugged Piatra Craiului Mountains, tucked away in the southern Carpathians.

Feast your eyes on majestic castles such as the famous Count Dracula's 'Bran Castle', pass through traditional villages and hike through stunning untouched scenery.

Our three-day challenge, takes us along craggy mountain ridges, through indigenous forests and flower-strewn meadows and farmland, with a fascinating glimpse of rural life in an almost medieval corner of Europe.



Detailed itinerary

Day 1: Depart London to Zarnesti

Our adventure starts when we meet our guides at Bucharest airport, the capital of Romania.

We will be transferred to Zarnesti (approx. 3 hours), where we will spend the night in a local guesthouse and be treated to a traditional welcome dinner and a full trek briefing about the challenge ahead.



Day 2: Zarnesti (750m/2460ft) - Coltii Chiliilor (1100m/3608ft) - Valea Ursului - Plaiu Foi Chalet (850m/2788ft)

Trekking hours: 6hrs

Distance: 12kms/7.5 miles

After breakfast we make a short transfer by bus to the northern slope of Piatra Craiului Mountains. We begin trekking along the lower border of the forest towards Coltii Chiliilor Monastery. The beautiful views continue this afternoon as we descend along Valea Ursului towards Plaiu Foi Chalet. After a great days trekking we have a short transfer back to Zarnesti for dinner and overnight in our local guesthouse.



Day 3: Zarnesti Gorge (400m/1310ft)

Trekking hours: 4-5hrs

Distance: 12kms/ 7.5miles

After breakfast we transfer to Zarnesti Gorges. Here we begin trekking through the gorge on a shepherds path through into an old forest towards Curmatura Hut. From here we resume along the same road but it becomes narrower and at the same time forms the bottom of a stunning steep sided limestone gorge with several natural caves, one of which was used in a scene from the film "Cold Mountain".

We then have a steeper ascent and start walking through the forest at a much sharper angle and on a slightly rougher terrain. We follow this shepherd's trail rather than the normal tourist trail, which should give us a chance to see forest wildlife such as woodpeckers, shrike and owls. Our guides are expert trackers and will undoubtedly point out traces left by the inhabitants of the forest such as wolves, bears and lynx. After trekking in the forest we emerge onto a high meadow near a shepherd's camp. After a shorter afternoon hike, we transfer back to Zarnesti.

Detailed itinerary

Day 4: National Park Bucegi Mountains, Moieciu de Sus (950m/3116ft) - Strunga Saddle (1909/6263ftm) - Padina Chalet (1509m/4950ft)

Trekking hours: 5-6hrs

Distance: 11kms/6.8 miles

The final day of our trekking challenge! After breakfast we will be transferred to the remarkably unspoilt little town of Bran, famous for its castle, which was the home of Count Dracula. Bran Castle was originally a fortress built by the Knights of the Teutonic Order in the year 1212. After a short visit to the castle we will be transferred to the entrance of the National Park Bucegi Mountains. Here we begin trekking on a forestry road before entering the alpine meadows where we trek up to Strunga Saddle. We then continue in the Bucegi Mountains to Padina Chalet our finish line! Late afternoon we transfer to the hotel where we will enjoy an evening of celebrations.

Day 5: Depart Romania

After breakfast, time permitting there is the opportunity to visit Peles Castle in Sinaia before those flying home immediately after the trek, transfer together to Bucharest airport (about 2 hours).

Challenge grade

We grade each trek as a guide based on the level of terrain, length, altitude and climate. All our challenges require a certain level of base fitness, lust for adventure, new culture and a positive attitude. This trek is mostly moderate if you have trained well with some tough sections.

Moderate

You are likely to walk for 5-7 hours each day on good paths and low altitude (below 2,500m), with the occasional more demanding ascents and descents.

Best time of year

May, June, July, Sept - early October

Temperature:

Between 10°C/50°F and 25°C/77°F

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This itinerary is complex and subject to change

