

Transylvanian Bike

Romania by bike in a weekend!



Ultimate Challenges

T: 020 7386 4680
events@theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk
www.ultimatechallenges.co.uk

Transylvanian Bike

Discover Romania on this amazing weekend challenge

Join us on a bicycle journey from the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains to Covasna County, an ethnic Hungarian enclave known as Szeklerland, in the heart of Transylvania. The hills above Bran, where we will start our adventure, are home to 'Dracula's Castle' and offer magnificent views of the surrounding mountains and national parks. Zabola, where we will end up, is a castle and estate with its roots in the 15th Century that, after years in decline under communism, has recently been brought back to life by its ancestral owners.

From Bran to Zabola we will cover 205 kilometres along roads and forestry tracks, enjoying wonderful hospitality, remote villages and fortified churches, beautiful traditional guest houses, and experiencing a rural way of life that has changed little for centuries. We will also have the chance to see the work being done by TENT (The European Nature Trust) to preserve some of the richest biodiversity in Europe.



Detailed itinerary

Day 1: Depart London to Bran

Our adventure starts when we meet our guides at Bucharest airport, the capital of Romania. We will be transferred to Bran, 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: Bran to Sinca Noua

50km cycling

After breakfast we will cycle down into Bran to visit 'Dracula's Castle,' the archetypal Transylvanian castle. From there we ride out of Bran on dirt roads and tracks towards Magura, where we will have lunch with extraordinary views over two beautiful national parks. From there it is a steady descent towards Sinca Noua, where we will spend the night.

Day 3: Sinca Noua to Miklosvar

55km cycling

This morning we leave the Carpathian ranges and head north towards Szeklerland. First we cross plains that offer staggering views of snow-capped peaks. As we reach Szeklerland the landscape shifts to become rolling hills. Traditions are perhaps better preserved in Szeklerland than in any other part of Romania and we will have the chance to witness a centuries-old way of life. Miklosvar, the historic seat of the Kalnoky family, is our destination this evening.

Day 4: Miklosvar to Zalanpatak

35km cycling

Today's ride is stunning. It takes us into remote country and through beautifully preserved villages populated by ethnic Hungarians. We will pause for lunch on a high pasture before descending into a remote, deserted river valley until we reach Zalanpatak, a tiny village first populated by glass blowers employed by Count Kalnoky's ancestors. Now it is home to a couple of hundred villagers and the private residence of HRH The Prince of Wales. We will arrive in plenty of time for an evening walk in the surrounding wildflower meadows and will have every opportunity to spot bears in the wild.



Detailed itinerary

Day 5: Zalanpatak to Zabola

65km

Today is our last day in the saddle and it's a fantastic ride from Zalanpatak through Hungarian villages and beautiful countryside to Zabola, a historic estate owned and run by another Hungarian noble family. In the evening we will have dinner and celebrate the end of our time in Transylvania.

Day 6: Transfer to Bucharest for onward flight to London

This morning we will have the chance to further explore the hills around Zabola before our transfer to Bucharest for our flight home to London. Time permitting, we will have lunch at Cantacuzino Castle on the way to Bucharest.

Terrain

Surfaces vary from rough horse & cart tracks and forest trails to gravel backroads and smooth tarmac. Transylvania is a hilly place and the daily distances we cover are not inconsiderable, especially bearing in mind the range of surfaces. You should therefore be comfortable riding a bike on dirt roads and paths, up and down hills.

© Ultimate Challenges

This itinerary is complex and subject to change

Challenge grade

Moderate to tough

Best time of year

May, June, July and early October

