



Romania, Bulgaria & Macedonia

Day 1: Arrival at Bucharest.

Welcome to Romania! Arrival at Bucharest international airport. Meet your guide and transfer to your hotel in the city for rest after the long flight.

Dinner at the hotel with briefing of the upcoming journey.

Day 2: Bucharest - Tabla Butii Ridge – Timisu de Jos

After breakfast will transfer by bus til Baneasa Mall parking. After a short briefing will pick up the jeeps and drive towards Slon village to get to the foothills of the Tataru Mountains. You will be taken to the stunning landscape of Tabla Butii (“The Plateau of Barrels”) route for an amazing off road experience. You`ll drive on the road used centuries ago to cross from Wallachia to Transylvania, one of the mountain passes used by migrating Tatars and Cumans hordes into Transylvania and Europe. On the way, you`ll see the shepherds herding their sheep flocks supervised by vigilant packs of dogs. Your guide will also take you to visit an authentic sheepfold where you will have the opportunity to taste organic cheese. Continue driving and pass through the ruins of the Hungarian





border fortress Cruceberg, built in the medieval times by Teutonic Knights.

Dinner and overnight at 4* in Timisu de Jos from Brasov area or similar.
**Optional walking to Urlatoarele Waterfall

Day 3: Diham Cottage - Bran (Dracula`s) Castle – Simon - Poiana Marului

This morning, we will continue our off road adventure to Diham Cottage enjoying amazing views of the Bucegi Mountains. Discover spectacular peaks of “Coltii Morarului”, known as “Dracula`s Teeth” and drink a cup of coffee in nature surrounded by impressive mountains views. You`ll then visit the legendary Bran Castle, known as the home of Dracula`s spirit. Continue to drive towards Poiana Marului village, passing through breathtaking mountains landscapes. The village sceneries are charming and you`ll be fascinated by this fairytale place. In the evening, arrive at our cozy accommodation, located at an altitude of 1100m. We end the day with a delicious Romanian dinner and tasting the traditional local drinks.

Dinner and overnight at superb 4* pension Poiana Viselor in Poiana Marului area or similar.





Day 4: Poiana Marului – Canyon Zarnesti – Magura Pestera - Fundatica – Vidraru Dam

We leave Poiana Marului and will visit the Bear Reservation from Zarnesti. According to the time schedule will have the option for a short walking through the Canyon of Zarnesti while breathing the fresh mountain air in the scenery of “Cold Mountain” movie. After that, you`ll drive off road through the rolling hills of Magura and Pestera traditional villages. The beautiful scenery of the Piatra Craiului Mountain on one side and Bucegi Mountains on another will take your breath away. The off road adventure tour continues through stunning landscapes of the Bran Pass and reach the highest traditional village from Romania, Fundatica at an altitude of 1360 m. From there, drive through the Key Valley Canyon and arrive at our accommodation close by the Vidraru Dam, the biggest dam built in Romania, 166m high.

Dinner and overnight at Posada Vidraru Hotel in Arefu or similar.

Day 5: Amazing Transfagarasan Road – Olt Valley - Voineasa

We start the day with a tour of imposing Vidraru Dam, considered by specialists a real jewelry of engineering. Continue driving on the most famous and dramatic road in Romania.





The Top Gear team stated Transfagarasan road” the best road in the world”. The Transfagarasan mountain highway was built as a strategic military route and runs North to South across the highest sections of the Carpathians Mountains. The next stop will be at Balea Lake, a natural glacier lake at 2040 m. Here, you will drink a cup of coffee while admiring breathtaking landscapes of Balea Lake. In the evening, arrive in Voineasa for overnight rest.

Dinner and overnight at Zan Hotel in Voineasa or similar.

Day 6: Voineasa – Transalpina Road – Saxon villages – Sibiu

After breakfast we start our drive to the highest road in Romania - Transalpina Road. This is the road on top of the Romanian Mountains, known as 'King's Road' or 'The Devil's Pathway, crossing the Parang Mountains from North to South. On the way we will drive along the ridge of mountains, cross the beautiful passes and enjoy breathtaking scenery. We will have a coffee break on the mountaintop admiring spectacular view of Vidra Lake. Driving further, we arrive and explore amazing Sibiu saxon city.

Dinner and overnight in Mercure Arsenal Hotel in Sibiu or similar





Day 7: Sibiu – Sinca Veche – Poiana Marului – Poiana Brasov

We leave the picturesque region of Marginimea Sibiului, driving to Sinca Veche village. We make a stop to visit the unique cave Monastery, also named "Temple of Wishes". "Strange energy" and "special place" are expressions used by those who have stepped inside to seek rest and solace here. The off road adventure continues towards Barsa Land driving through breathtaking sceneries. Away from the noises of the world, here you will discover another portion of Romania cozy and picturesque. Relax and drink a cup of coffee while admiring the stunning views of Piatra Craiului Mountains ("King`s Stone"). In the evening, arrival at the hotel in Poiana Brasov.

Dinner and overnight at 4* Hart hotel in Timisu de Jos or similar with SPA facilities and swimming pool

Day 8: Timisu de Jos – Brasov – Bucharest by bus

In the last day of our 4x4 tour, we will have a short walking tour in the Old Town of Brasov. Here you will see the famous Black Church (the largest Gothic construction in Eastern part of Europe).

The old town is one of the best-preserved old towns in Europe with splendid architecture and old fortifications.





The city has an amazing history with influences from Germany, the Austria-Hungarian Empire and the old communist state. [Return to Bucharest for dinner and overnight at the hotel.](#)

***During dinner you will meet with your guide and driver for the Bulgaria-Macedonia part of the trip.**

[Day 9: Bucharest – Veliko Tarnovo – Welcome to Bulgaria!](#)

Breakfast at the hotel in Bucharest and check-out. We pass the border with Bulgaria and continue to the medieval capital of Bulgaria -Veliko Tarnovo. En route we stop to visit The Basarbovski Rock Monastery, known as "St. Dimitrius Basarbovski," It is located in the Rusenski Lom River valley, close to Besarabovo village, approximately 10 km away from Ruse town. Its origins date back to the time of the Second Bulgarian Empire, although its name first appeared in the Ottoman Tax Register of 1431. After a period of abandonment in the 19th century, the monastery saw new life in 1937 when Priest Hrisant from the Preobrazhenie Monastery settled there, revitalizing the religious community.

Notably, the monastery's most renowned resident was St. Dimitrius Basarbovski, born in 1685 in Besarabovo village, who dedicated his entire life to the monastery. Following his passing, he was initially interred in the village church. However, during the Russo-Turkish War of 1768-1774, his relics were transferred to Bucharest, where they remain housed in the St.





Konstantin and St. Elena church to this day. The Basarbovski Monastery stands as Bulgaria's sole active rock monastery.

Then we head Veliko Tarnovo. The impressive history of the town can be felt best on the hill Tsarevets. A well-preserved fortress wall goes round the hill, enclosing the numerous archaeological excavations from different eras. A splendid panorama to the numerous basilicas and churches in the town is opened from the fortress towers. The view of the town is formed by the buildings in typical 18th - 19th century architecture, situated in terraces on the hills around the river Yantra. A walk along Samovodska charshiya (street), one of the busiest commercial streets of the town in 19th century, involves in the spirit of Bulgarian Revival. It is a live museum of crafts, in which old technology and original tools are used.

Continue to Arbanassi a small museum village, famous for its characteristic architectural style, well preserved houses, churches and monasteries from 16th - 17th centuries is visited.

Dinner in typical restaurant. Overnight in Komplex Arbanashki Han hotel, Arbanasi.





Day 10: Veliko Tarnovo – Kazanluk - Plovdiv

After breakfast at the hotel, we depart for Plovdiv. The day will offer you a fascinating journey through Bulgaria's rich history, stunning landscapes, and architectural wonders.

Head south towards Shipka, a small town nestled in the Balkan Mountains. Visit the Shipka Memorial Church, a striking golden-domed Orthodox church built in memory of the Russian and Bulgarian soldiers who fought and died for Bulgaria's independence in the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-78. Climb the 894 steps to reach the monument at the Shipka Pass for panoramic views of the surrounding mountains. Continue your journey to the abandoned Buzludza Monument, a surreal and futuristic structure perched atop the Buzludza Peak. This communist-era monument was once a symbol of Bulgaria's socialist regime but now stands abandoned and decaying. Despite its derelict state, the monument's unique architecture and panoramic views make it a popular destination for urban explorers and photographers. Proceed to Kazanluk, located in the famous Rose Valley of Bulgaria. Explore the Thracian Tomb of Kazanluk, a UNESCO World Heritage Site dating back to the 4th century BCE. Admire the beautifully preserved frescoes depicting scenes from Thracian life and mythology.





Visit the Rose Museum to learn about Bulgaria's centuries-old tradition of rose oil production, and if timing allows, participate in the annual Rose Festival held in early June.

Conclude your tour in Plovdiv, one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in Europe. Dinner at traditional restaurant.

Overnight Ramada by Wyndham hotel.

Day 11: Plovdiv – Koprivshtitsa – Sofia

Breakfast at the hotel. Explore the charming Old Town, a labyrinth of cobblestone streets lined with colourful Revival-era houses, museums, and art galleries. Visit the Ancient Theatre of Philippopolis, a well-preserved Roman amphitheatre still used for performances today. Don't miss the vibrant Kapana District, known for its lively atmosphere, trendy cafes, and street art. We continue to Koprivshtitsa. Koprivshtitsa is a charming and historic town located in the heart of the Sredna Gora Mountains in central Bulgaria. Steeped in history and surrounded by beautiful natural scenery, Koprivshtitsa is renowned for its well-preserved 19th-century architecture, rich cultural heritage, and significant role in Bulgaria's struggle for independence.

The town's architecture is characterized by colourful Revival-era houses adorned with intricately carved wooden facades, stone foundations, and red-tiled roofs. Wandering through the cobblestone streets of





Koprivshitsa feels like stepping back in time, with each building telling a story of Bulgaria's past. After lunch at local traditional restaurant, we continue to Sofia.

Dinner at local restaurant with live music performance. Overnight in Grand hotel, Sofia.

Day 12: Sofia – Rila Monastery – Sandanski

The day starts with panoramic tour of the city centre before to proceed to Rila Monastery, one of the most emblematic places in the country (UNESCO), founded in the 10th century by Saint John Rilski among the rugged Rila Mountains, a place of worship in the Orthodox world and a symbol of identity preservation. Bulgarian culture during the Turkish occupation. The monastery boasts wonderful architecture with rich interiors, galleries with colonnades, arches and vaults, spacious rooms decorated with wall paintings, wooden balconies and Byzantine-style domed churches featuring famous frescoes, majestic works of the Bulgarian renaissance. Have a lunch in the area. Continue to Sandanski, the beautiful SPA capital of Bulgaria. Sandanski is a town located in southwestern Bulgaria, nestled in the foothills of the Pirin Mountains near





the borders with Greece and North Macedonia. It is known for its unique climate, rich cultural heritage, and therapeutic natural springs, making it a popular destination for relaxation, wellness, and outdoor activities.

Dinner and overnight in Inter hotel Sandanski.

Day 13: Sandanski – Melnik – Ohrid

Sandanski is located in close proximity to the famous Melnik wine region, known for its excellent wines and historic wine cellars. Visitors can embark on wine tasting tours, sampling local varietals such as the robust Melnik reds, while learning about the region's winemaking traditions and heritage. This is our first stop today. Melnik is one of the oldest settlements in Bulgaria, with a history dating back thousands of years. It was once a thriving center of commerce and culture during the Middle Ages, serving as an important trade hub on the route between Europe and the Aegean Sea. The town's historical significance is evident in its well-preserved architecture, including medieval fortress walls, Ottoman-era houses, and ancient churches.

Melnik is renowned as one of Bulgaria's premier wine-producing regions, known for its high-quality red wines made from the indigenous Broad-Leaved Melnik Vine (Shiroka Melnishka Loza). Wine has been produced in the region for centuries, with the local winemaking tradition dating back





to ancient times. Visitors to Melnik can embark on wine tasting tours, visiting the town's historic wine cellars and vineyards, and sampling a variety of award-winning wines. The nearby sandstone pyramids, known as the Melnik Earth Pyramids, are a unique geological phenomenon and a popular tourist attraction. Additionally, the town is situated amidst picturesque vineyards, olive groves, and rolling hills, providing scenic vistas and tranquil surroundings for nature lovers.

After lunch at a local restaurant and glass of the local wine, we are ready to proceed to North Macedonia.

[We head Ohrid for dinner and overnight in Hotel & Spa Tino.](#)

Day 14: Ohrid

After breakfast we visit Ohrid Old Town: Explore the cobblestone streets and narrow alleyways of Ohrid's Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Marvel at the well-preserved medieval architecture, including ancient churches, Ottoman-era buildings, and traditional Macedonian houses. Don't miss landmarks such as the Church of St. Sophia, St. Clément's Monastery, and the Ancient Theatre of Ohrid. We visit also the Bay of Bones Museum. Lunch at local restaurant.

At the afternoon, embark on a scenic boat ride on Lake Ohrid. Cruise along the crystal-clear waters, taking in the stunning views of the shoreline, historic landmarks, and surrounding mountains.





Learn about the lake's ecological significance and cultural heritage from your knowledgeable guide. We head the Monastery of St. Naum. It was founded in the 10th century by the medieval Bulgarian saint, St. Naum of Ohrid. The monastery complex includes a church dedicated to St. Naum, as well as residential buildings, chapels, and a bell tower. The architecture is typical of Byzantine and Macedonian medieval style, characterized by stone construction, domes, and ornate frescoes.

Return to Ohrid for dinner and overnight.

Day 15: Ohrid – Skopje

After breakfast we depart for Skopje, the capital of North Macedonia. Our path passes through the Mavrovo National Park and Mavrovo Lake, which is the largest artificial lake in North Macedonia, created by the damming of the Mavrovo River. The lake is surrounded by majestic mountains, lush forests, and scenic landscapes, offering breath-taking views and ample opportunities for outdoor activities. Here we will stop for a longer break and lunch. Later, continue to Matka Canyon. Matka Canyon is renowned for its breath-taking natural scenery, characterized by towering cliffs, crystal-clear waters, and lush vegetation. The canyon stretches along the Treska River and is surrounded by rugged limestone cliffs, creating a dramatic and picturesque landscape.

Continue to Skopje for dinner and overnight in Marriott Skopje hotel.

Day 16: Skopje – Departure

Breakfast at the hotel and transfer to the airport for your departure flight.

