Crossroad of Empires: Romania

A survey tour hosted by Overcome International

Overcome International is hosting this Survey Tour of history and culture, because some education is best gained on foot. You can read about Dracula, the Romans, the Austro-Hungarian empire, the Communist tyranny, and the war in Ukraine or you can see history firsthand.

During this two-week tour, you will go back in time 2000 years to pre-Roman times, visit Dracula's digs from the 15th century struggle with the Ottoman empire, and see Austro-Hungarian empire castles. You will also tour the largest administrative building in Europe and see the place where it's builder, dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, and his wife, were executed following the overthrow of Socialism/Communism. The last few days of the trip will be spent relaxing, with opportunities to get involved in humanitarian work. This survey tour is a unique way to immerse yourself and participate in a unique culture at the crossroads of history and empires.



DAY 1 – Arrival in Bucharest

After arrival at Bucharest airport (OTP) and completing customs and luggage pickup, you will be welcomed by our travel representative and guide, who will accompany you during the tour.

We will start the adventure with a panoramic tour of the city. Typical sites include: House of the Free Press (*Casa Presei Libere),* The Arch of Triumph *(Arcul de Triumf)*, the Romanian Athenaeum *(Ateneul Român,* a concert hall*)* and the second largest building in the world after the Pentagon, the Palace of the Parliament, formerly called People's House *(Casa Poporului)*. (Depending on arrival time these sites may be visited on Day 2)

Quiet dinner at the hotel in Bucharest.



Day 2 – Bucharest City Tour

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by a day entirely dedicated to the largest Romanian city. To get a

sense of recent history, we will take you on a one-hour guided visit of the Palace of the Parliament.

We continue the tour with one of the biggest outdoor museums in Eastern Europe. The National Village Museum "Dimitrie Gusti," showcases 60 original traditional houses representing all the country's provinces.

After lunch in the Old Center you will understand why they call Bucharest "Little Paris," when we stroll down Lipscani streets. We will visit the Stavropoleos Monastery and the Statue of Vlad Ţepeş, where you will learn some interesting details about the Prince and Ruler of Valachia.

Enjoy dinner in the Old Center at one of the famous restaurants: Carul cu Bere (The Cart with Beer) or Hanul lui Manuc (The Inn of Manuc).

Overnight accommodation in Bucharest.





Day 4 – Braşov and Bran Castle

Today we visit some of the attractions in Braşov: Weavers' Bastion, the Black Church (Biserica Neagră), the largest Gothic construction in South-

Day 3 – Dracula's Capital and Ceausescu's Execution

On day three we uncover the myth of Dracula by visiting his Royal Court of Târgovişte, where he ruled most of the time. Here we will also stop by the building where Ceausescu and his wife were summarily tried and executed on Christmas Day 1989.

We head up to Sinaia, the resort town at the heart of the Carpathian Mountains. Here the amazing Peleş Castle will remind us of the recent German royal family of Romania.

Dinner and accommodation in Braşov.



Eastern Europe, Rope Street, Council Square, and stroll through the narrow streets of the medieval city, shopping for souvenirs.

In the afternoon we visit Bran Castle, made famous by the legend of Dracula; although it is more closely connected to Romania's beloved Queen Mary (Queen Victoria of England's granddaughter).

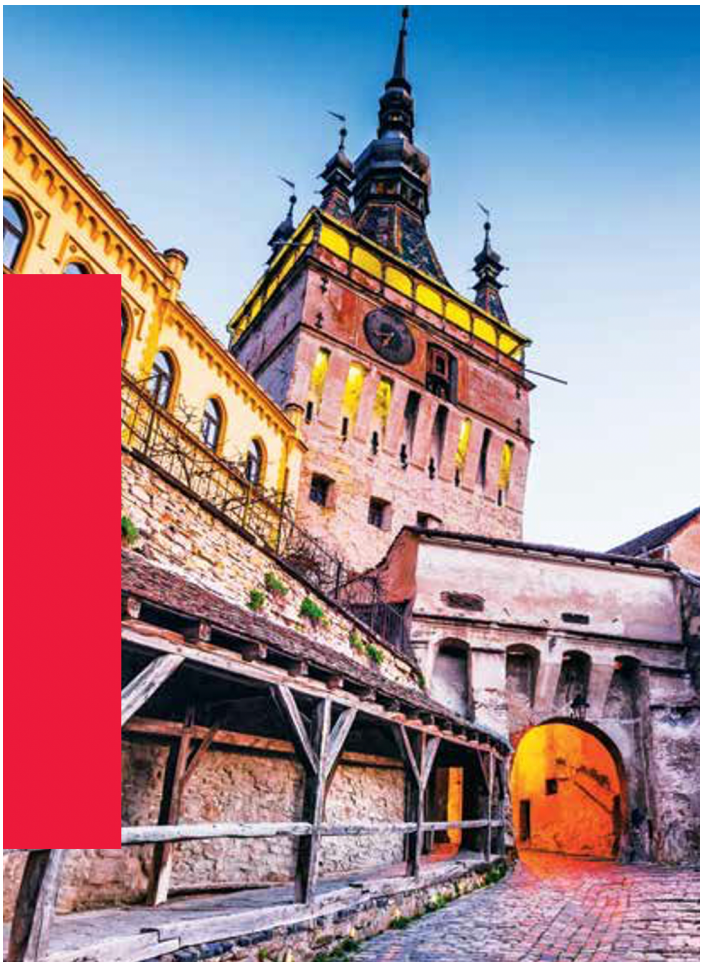
Dinner and accommodation in Braşov.

Day 5 – Birthplace of Dracula

We continue our journey through Transylvania and hit the road to Sighişoara. We stop twice: at Rupea, to visit the Castle built by the Saxons in 1324, and at Viscri, to visit the fortified church, which is on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

At Sighişoara, the birthplace of Vlad Ţepeş, we visit the Museum of Weapons and climb into the Clock Tower. After a visit to the "Church up the hill," a stop at a craftsman's wood workshop, we continue on to Sibiu.

Hotel accommodation and dinner in Sibiu.





Day 6 – Sibiu, European Cultural Capital 2007

During the day we stroll through the Grand Square, pass through the Liars' Bridge, stop by the Tower of the City Hall, visit the Museum of Pharmacy and have plenty of time for shopping for souvenirs.

Dinner will be by invitation only into a local shepherd's home.

Accommodation at the hotel in Sibiu.

Day 7 – Romanian Roots

After breakfast, we check out and head towards Alba Iulia and its architectural gems: Cetatea Alba Carolina (The White Carolina Fortress), the Reunification Cathedral, the Obelisk of Horea, Cloşca and Crişan, and the National Museum of the Union.

After seeing the ceremony of the changing of the guards at the castle, we head towards Sarmisegetusa to understand the roots of the Romanian people. This location is at the center of struggle between the Dacian and Roman world and is the root of the modern Romanian people.

Dinner and accommodation in Deva.





Day 8 – Hunyad Castle and Bear cave

Today we visit Hunyad Castle, considered one of the seven wonders of Romania. Built in 1446 in Renaissance-Gothic style the castle is an impressive sight.

On our way to Oradea, we will visit one of the top 3 caves in Eastern Europe, the Bear's Cave. This cave boasts amazing stalagmites and stalactites as well as over a hundred skeletons from bears that went extinct 27,000 years ago.

Dinner and accommodation in Oradea.

Day 9 to 14 – Oradea, Relax and Serve

Oradea is an amazing city with Art Nouveau architecture, over 100 churches, and a fortress from the 16th century that has outlived both the Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian empires. The stroll downtown, and the river walk are amazing and accessible. The nearby thermal baths are a treat and a good place to relax.

This is your chance to relax, enjoy Romanian life on your own terms, and serve the needy in the local community.



Food and board will be provided as well as transportation to scheduled activities. You will have a choice of activities such as: English immersion camp, working with special needs children, volunteering at an orphanage, preparing and/or taking supplies to Ukraine, or working with Gypsy children. The work will be half day (3-4 hours max) commitment. Your tour director will help you choose the activity that fits your preference.

During the remainder of each day you will be able to relax at the famous Baile Felix thermal pools, visit downtown Oradea, or attend presentations about Romania's recent Socialist/Communist past.

Day 15 – Fly out of Budapest airport

On day 15, you will fly out of Budapest airport. Because of time zone difference you will most likely land on the same day at your destination.

Trip Dates

July 9 to July 22 – 14 days.
(Note you will fly on Friday July 8th in the evening, and fly home on July 23rd early in the morning)

What is included

- English language guide and support throughout the trip.
- Licensed historical guide at the historical sites.
- Entrance fees at tourist attractions.
- Group transport by coach and van.
- Four-star hotel accommodations, two persons per room, twin or queen beds. Rooming decisions made after first installment made.
- Half board – breakfast and dinner included. Lunch on your own.

What is not included

- Travel insurance.
- Covid-19 tests, if needed. Currently only one test is needed for return trip to US. Approximately $45 for same day test, when done in Oradea.
- Visa costs (Visa for US passports not needed).
- Tips for driver and guide (approx. $20 one time suggested).
- Lunch and snacks ($15-20 a day per person suggested).
- Spending money for souvenirs.

Trip Costs

$1850 – cost of trip (fixed)
$1850 – flight cost (flexible, may be less)

$3700 – total (based on group size of 16)

Payment due dates for 2022

- June 3rd - $1200 - First payment/deposit*
- June 24th - $2500 - Balance of payment

* deposit is non-refundable

Visit: www.overcomeinternational.org or email us (overcomeint@gmail.com) contact us to find out more and register for the trip.