

The logo for Craig travel, featuring the name "Craig" in a white serif font with a crown over the 'i', and "travel" in a white sans-serif font below it, all contained within a red circle.

Craig
travel

ROMANIAN HERITAGE

BOOK BY APR 30
SAVE \$200 PP



JOURNEY LEADER: BRIAN GALLIGAN
SEP 12 – 27, 2024 | 16 DAYS | 30 MEALS

Sighisoara Town, Romania. Situated in the historic region of Transylvania

Beyond being renowned as the homeland of the fictional Count Dracula, the pastoral lands of Transylvania reveal Romania's multifaceted charm. Join us as we uncover the influences of Romanian, Hungarian, and German cultures that have coexisted side by side for centuries.

Included are a host of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, such as the eye-catching Painted Monasteries of Moldavia and the quaint villages, farms and traditional lifestyles found in the northern region of Maramures. Our journey begins in Bucharest, the capital city which earned the title "Paris of the East" in the 1920's. In the larger centres, we'll see the architectural influence of the communist era alongside the more attractive traditional architecture. In the rural areas, we'll see people following age-old traditions. This step back in time is sure to enchant even the most experienced traveller.

Inclusive Features

- Return economy airfare from Canada to Bucharest
- Accommodations in first class and best available hotels as indicated or similar
- 30 meals included as noted in the itinerary (B - 14 breakfasts, L - 5 lunches, D - 11 dinners)
- Services of our Canadian journey leader plus a professional tour manager/guide in Romania
- All gratuities, surcharges, taxes and fees for included services plus water on the coach daily
- Airport transfers in Canada or equivalent value with purchase of group airfare

Highlights

- Bucharest, Romania's charming Capital city
- Explore the Carpathian Mountains and Transylvania
- Experience the Turda Salt Mine
- Discover the cultural heritage of the Romanian, Hungarian, Ukrainian and German settlers
- Maramures and the UNESCO villages, farms, wooden churches and colourful cemeteries
- UNESCO Painted Monasteries of Moldavia
- Stephen the Great's Princely Court and Church
- Drive through spectacular Bicaz Gorges
- Visit Bran Castle, Dracula's Castle

Journey Leaders

Rev. Brian Galligan is a very confident and experienced Journey Leader who still serves as an Anglican Priest, although prior to his ordination he had a successful international career in Biomedical Sciences. Brian developed a zest for travel in his early years while living in the UK and he has since visited numerous countries throughout Europe, the Middle East, Africa, the Caribbean, Australia and New Zealand. His wife **Karen** is a retired teacher who has also travelled extensively including Europe, North and Central America, Africa, the Middle East, Australia and New Zealand. In addition to their frequent personal trips, for over a decade now they have also been leading tours for Craig Travel and always look forward to travelling with both new and familiar faces. They are both very much looking forward to sharing this exciting journey with you.



SEP 12, Thursday

DEPART CANADA

Group members gather for the overnight direct flight to Bucharest, the capital of Romania.

SEP 13, Friday

BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

On arrival in Bucharest we have a brief tour of the city en route to our hotel. Balance of the day is at leisure with our welcome dinner at the Locanta Jaristea restaurant.

Sheraton Bucharest Hotel (2 nights)

D

SEP 14, Saturday

BUCHAREST

Enjoy a walking tour of the old city centre and visit the Palace of the Parliament, known as the People's Palace. It is the second-largest building in the world and the symbol of the Ceausescu era. Completed in 1989, it is constructed of the best materials and craftsmanship that Romania could provide. Experience lunch at the Pescarus Restaurant, offering scenic views of Herastrau Lake. This afternoon we delve into an open-air museum showcasing 272 authentic buildings portraying the essence of traditional Romanian village life.

BL

SEP 15, Sunday

CURTEA DE ARGES / COZIA / SIBIU

Our journey around Romania begins as we drive north into the Carpathian Mountains to the ancient centre of Curtea de Arges, which was once a Royal capital. The main site in the city is the Cathedral, built in the Byzantine style. We'll visit Cozia Monastery, one of Romania's most valuable monuments of medieval art and architecture. The church contains one of the richest collections of art and literature in the country. This afternoon we arrive in Sibiu, which was once the capital of Transylvania.

Hotel Golden Tulip (2 nights)

BD

SEP 16, Monday

SIBIEL / SIBIU

Sibiu is a treasure trove of historic buildings mostly centred around two Town Squares, called Piata Mare and Mica (large and small). We'll explore this delightful centre on our morning walk, and view the Council Tower, Gates and Stairs, important churches, and Liar's Bridge. Following lunch, we'll venture to nearby Sibiel Village, set like a jewel on the Sibiel River surrounded by low mountains. The

highlight of our visit will be the Museum of the Icons on Glass, Zosim Oancea, to view a wonderful collection of glass, wood, and pottery. Finally, we visit the fortified Saxon church in Cristian. BL

SEP 17, Tuesday SIGHISOARA / TARGU MURES

Founded by German craftsmen and merchants known as the Saxons of Transylvania, Sighisoara is a fine example of a small, fortified medieval town. Sitting on a small hill overlooking the Târnava Mare River, it is considered the birthplace of Count Dracula. We'll tour the Old Town which is still partially surrounded by walls, including the Clock Tower, the History Museum and the Torture Chamber. The city of Targu Mures lies in the center of the Transylvanian Plateau, on both sides of the Mures River.

Hampton by Hilton Targu Mures (1 night) BLD

SEP 18, Wednesday TARGU MURES / TURDA / CLUJ-NAPOCA

After a leisurely start to the day, we drive to Turda. The Turda Salt Mine was used for centuries before being closed down in 1932. After receiving funds from the EU in recent years it has been modernized to become one of Romania's must-see landmarks. This evening we are in Cluj-Napoca, the largest city in the northern region of Transylvania.

Hotel Golden Tulip (1 night) BD

SEP 19, Thursday CLUJ-NAPOCA / BAIJA MARE

This morning we'll explore the city, seeing the Botanical Gardens, the Orthodox Church, the Justice Palace, the National Theatre and the Romanian Opera House. Heading north we'll enjoy the scenic countryside and a number of traditional wooden churches (UNESCO), typical of this region. For the next two nights, we will be in the town of Baia Mare, the regional capital of Maramures County, which borders Hungary. Its medieval history is retained in the town square, Piata Libertatii, by houses dating back to the 14th century.

Primeria Dru & Spa (2 nights) BD

SEP 20, Friday SIGHETU MARMATIEI

In the village of Sapanta we'll visit the Merry Cemetery, noted for the colourful carved crosses. Sighetu Marmatiei is noted most for the horrors of the communist regime. We will also visit the home of Elie Wiesel, awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace. Along with some 38,000 other Jews he was placed in Nazi Concentration Camps, later writing about what they endured. Driving through the enchanting Maramures countryside, we hope to visit the Barsana Monastery and a wooden church in Budesti before returning to Baia Mare. BD

SEP 21, Saturday GURA HUMORULUI

We journey across northern Romania today, admiring the beautiful rural scenery and quaint villages. This afternoon we reach the region of Bucovina, home of the UNESCO World Heritage Painted Monasteries for which Romania is famous. Our first visit will be to Moldovita, founded in 1532. Next is Humor, a monastery which was only reopened in 1993 and founded in 1523. Humor is noted for its exceptional frescoes and its tranquil setting by the Humor River. Lastly, we visit Voronet, considered by many to be the "Sistine Chapel of the East", due to its incredible frescoes painted on the west wall. Our next two nights will be in Gura Humorului.

Hotel Dukat Gura Humorului (2 nights) BD



Explore Bran Castle, home of the fictional Dracula



The Council Square in Braşov



Medieval town of Sighisoara



The Orthodox Barsana Monastery

SEP 22, Sunday PAINTED MONASTERIES OF MOLDAVIA

Our day is devoted to exploring a number of the world famous Painted Monasteries. Sucevita Monastery, the most recent construction, is the largest and finest of the painted monasteries of Bucovina. Putna Monastery is one of the most important cultural, religious, and artistic centres in medieval Moldavia. Stephen the Great is famous for building dozens of churches and monasteries across Moldavia. Putna, a place of pilgrimage, houses the tombs of Stephen and several of his family members. Blessed by great clay soil and the Sucevita River, the region is ideal for the production of exquisite ceramics. There is an ethnographic museum in the village where we can admire traditional costumes from Bucovina. BD

SEP 23, Monday PIATRA NEAMT

Today our road slices through the Bicaz Gorges, one of Romania's most scenic routes. One of the deepest gorges in the Carpathians, Bicaz Gorges is a rock-climbing paradise. We shall stop by Red Lake, the largest natural mountain lake in Romania. This evening we will arrive in the Moldavian city of Piatra Neamt, delightfully surrounded by wooded mountains. We hope to visit the only wooden synagogue in Romania which dates from the 17th century and is partially built below the ground.

Hotel TBA (1 night) BD

SEP 24, Tuesday PIATRA NEAMT / BRASOV

Also known as the "Pearl of Moldavia", Piatra Neamt was home to Stephen the Great's Princely Court and Church. We shall explore the city this morning before we continue our journey to Brasov. En route to Brasov, we visit Prejmer, a UNESCO World Heritage Site where we find an excellent example of a fortified Saxon church and fortress used by the early German settlers in Transylvania.

Radisson Blu Brasov (2 nights) BD

SEP 25, Wednesday BRASOV / BRAN

We continue to Bran Castle, a national treasure that is commonly known as Dracula's Castle, as it's usually associated with Bram Stoker's Dracula. During our visit, we'll enjoy dramatic legends, the period furniture and the small open-air museum containing typical peasant dwellings. This afternoon enjoy some free time to explore the old town of Brasov, including the square and the Black Church, the largest Gothic church in South Eastern Europe. BL

SEP 26, Thursday SINAIA / BRASOV / BUCHAREST

Our final stop will be in Sinaia, where we visit Peles Castle, a former Royal Residence, built in the 19th century German-Renaissance style, which will enchant us with different furnishings. This evening we gather for our Farewell Dinner at Caru' cu Bere, featuring traditional dancing and music.

The Marmorosch, Autograph Collection (1 night) BLD



SEP 27, Friday BUCHAREST / CANADA

All too soon our journey draws to a close as we catch our flights back to Canada. B

CT Rating 2.5/5 - Slightly Challenging: Members should be aware that there will be a number of extended walking tours (up to two kilometres), some of which will be over cobblestone surfaces. Good walking shoes are highly recommended and members should have no mobility issues to fully enjoy this itinerary.

Book With Confidence

For peace of mind, your deposit for this journey is fully refundable until **June 10, 2024**

 **Book by April 30, 2024** and save \$200 per person 

Tour Cost in Canadian Dollars Per Person

Land Only* (Join / Leave Hotel).....	\$4,545
Toronto	\$6,645
Ottawa / Montreal	\$6,825
Halifax.....	\$6,915
St. John's.....	\$7,115
Winnipeg.....	\$6,915
Regina / Saskatoon / Victoria	\$7,075
Calgary / Edmonton / Vancouver.....	\$6,975
Single Supplement	\$1,095

*Land-Only price does not include arrival and departure transfers in destination. Airfares from other gateways are available on request. Airfares and air carriers will be confirmed prior to final payment. Refer to inclusive features for more details.

Prices are based on taxes, surcharges, airfares and exchange rates effective December 2023 and are subject to change due to factors beyond our control. Tour prices are per person, based on sharing a double/twin room at hotels and a minimum of 20 participants travelling. Group to be escorted with a minimum of 20 group members.

Insurance is NOT INCLUDED but is highly recommended. Premiums are calculated based on the individual's age, destination (country), trip length, and trip booking window – please contact our staff to receive a quote. Your coverage starts on the effective date of your confirmation of coverage. Please discuss your insurance coverage prior to booking. Check our website for the most current information. Refer to the enrollment form for terms and conditions.

Final payment is due on June 11, 2024
Deposit is \$700 per person

To reserve your spot on this tour, complete the enclosed enrolment form indicating the tour you wish to join and your home city, and forward it with your deposit to:



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