

Discover the Soul of Romania: A 7-Day Private Tour

– Perfect Danube Cruise Extension

Day 1: Budapest to Timișoara | Gateway to Romania

Leave the Hungarian capital behind and cross into Romania, where the journey begins in the vibrant city of **Timișoara**—a cultural jewel with a rich Austro-Hungarian legacy. Often dubbed “*Little Vienna*,” Timișoara’s baroque squares, colorful facades, and lively cafes make for a charming first impression. Enjoy a guided city tour, including Victory Square, Union Square, and the Orthodox Cathedral, where the anti-communist Romanian revolution ignited in 1989.

Hotel Opera 4* or similar



Day 2: Timișoara to Sibiu | Castles and Citadels

Today, travel into the heart of Transylvania, stopping first at the imposing **Corvin Castle** in Hunedoara—one of Europe’s most dramatic Gothic castles, steeped in legend and history. Continue to **Alba Iulia**, the spiritual capital of modern Romania, where the 18th-century Vauban fortress tells the story of the country’s unification. In the afternoon, arrive in Sibiu, “the city of the eyes”, one of Transylvania’s most beautiful cities, nestled in the foothills of the Carpathians.

Hotel Republique 4* or similar





Day 3: The Ultimate Road: Transfăgărășan Adventure

Begin with a walking tour of **Sibiu**, exploring its grand squares, medieval walls, and the iconic Bridge of Lies. Then, embark on a thrilling drive along the **Transfăgărășan** Highway, hailed by Top Gear as one of the world's best roads. Wind your way past alpine lakes, waterfalls, and craggy peaks. In the evening, arrive in **Sighișoara**, one of Europe's best-preserved medieval citadels and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Walk the cobbled streets on a guided tour through the birthplace of Vlad the Impaler - Dracula.

Fronius Residence 4* or similar



Day 4: Sighișoara to Brașov | Myths & Mountains

Leave Sighișoara behind and head to the iconic **Bran Castle**, famously linked to the Dracula myth but historically tied to Queen Marie of Romania. Explore its ramparts and hidden passages. Continue to **Brașov**, where you'll take a city tour through the medieval heart, including the Black Church, Rope Street, and the Council Square, framed by colorful baroque architecture and forested mountains.

Hotel Prinz Gregor 4* or similar



Day 5: Hungarian Villages near Braşov | Hungarian Heritage of Transylvania

Step into the Hungarian heritage of southeast Transylvania. Visit the **Prejmer citadel**, a UNESCO site, and explore a functioning water mill that still grinds flour the old-fashioned way. Discover the quirky Ika Tower and Haszmann Pál **ethnographical Museum** with its open-air collection of rural tools and agricultural machinery. Join a local for a two-hour long **hands-on bread-making workshop** followed by a traditional Hungarian lunch.

Hotel Prinz Gregor 4* or similar



Day 6: Braşov – Bucharest | From Royal Trails to City Lights

Begin the day with a visit to **Peleş Castle**, a masterpiece of Neo-Renaissance architecture set in the picturesque town of Sinaia. Explore its richly decorated halls and royal chambers, once home to Romania's kings. In the afternoon, drive to **Bucharest** and take a panoramic tour of the capital. See highlights like the Arch of Triumph, Revolution Square, and the colossal Palace of Parliament. Discover the city's blend of Belle Époque charm, communist grandeur, and modern vitality as your guide shares stories of its fascinating past.

Hotel Capitol 4* or similar



Day 7: Departure | La Revedere, Romania!

After breakfast, enjoy a relaxed **private transfer** to the airport for your onward journey. Whether this tour began or ended your Danube cruise, it completes your experience with intimate insights into Romanian culture, history, and landscapes. Depart with rich stories, warm memories, and a connection to a land that's both complex and welcoming.

What's included:

- A private tour – just for you and your family or friends;
- The services of an English-speaking guide throughout the trip (guiding available in Spanish or French upon request);
- Pick-up directly from your Danube river cruise ship in Budapest;
- Transportation in a modern, comfortable vehicle, with all associated costs covered;
- 6 nights in centrally located 4-star hotels with daily breakfast;
- A bread baking experience, followed by a traditional lunch in the village;
- All entrance fees and guided visits as outlined;
- A beautiful, welcoming country ready to be explored.

What's not included:

- International flights or other transportation to/from the start or end of the tour;
- Meals not specifically mentioned above;
- Gratuities for your guide (at your discretion).