

Group Trip Factsheet

Romania 2012



Bram's Castle



Group Trip 2012

Dates of proposed trip is : Monday 2nd April 2012
returns on
Monday 9th April 2012

Flight Detail :



Aer Lingus : www.aerlingus.com

Monday 2 nd April	Dublin	1445 / 2:45 pm
	Bucharest	2025 / 8.25 pm
	EI 672	

Monday 9 th April	Bucharest	2125 / 9.25 pm
	Dublin	2310 / 11.10 pm
	EI 673	

All times are local

Flight cost per person	€ 164.82*
With 1 bag (max 20kg)	€ 40
	€ 204.82 (flight & 1 bag)

*Price correct as of 20/10/11 – please note flight prices may go up / down and this is beyond our control at TDC.

Travel insurance is not included and is recommended at your own discretion – this can be done with Aer Lingus or through your bank or health insurance.

Tour Company



For our Romania Group Trip – we have researched different companies for the best price and plan.

Blue Danube Holidays Tour Company is an incoming travel agent specialist providing escorted travels in Europe and has been established since 1983. Their assigned partners are looking after our group travel arrangements.

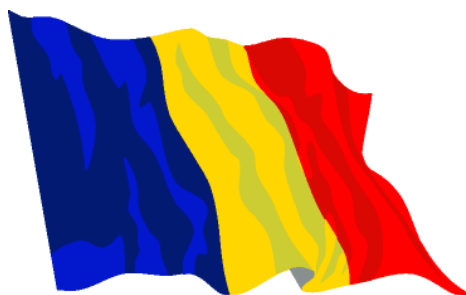
<http://www.bluedanubeholidays.com/>

Trip Background

A number of countries were researched but ultimately the Committee have favoured to pick Romania for the Group Trip 2012 based on feedback and trip organisation for intending participants.

Group Trip 2012 will be our fourth trip away and proving to be very popular – as earlier on this year many people were asking where are we going for 2012 so we are pleased to deliver this trip program for 2012.

This trip will be slightly different from previous as rather than staying in one hotel for a week – we will be moving around to different hotels throughout the trip due to the nature of the country and taking in as much as we can while on the tour and eliminates the need for long driving hours in a coach – so it would be like doing a circular trip around Ireland.



Day 1: ARRIVAL IN BUCHAREST (APRIL 02, MON)

Arrive at Bucharest Airport and meet our guide – transfer by coach to hotel

Hotel : Golden Tulip Victoria 4*

Day 2: BUCHAREST – CURTEA DE ARGES – SIBIEL – SIBIU (APRIL 03, TUE)

After breakfast we depart from Bucharest to Curtea de Arges – first capital of the Wallachia region. The Episcopal Church, one of the most famous monuments of architecture from Wallachia, better known under the name of the Arges Court Monastery, was built between 1512-1517. After visit of the monastery, drive on to Sibiel, a small village close to Sibiu, where you will enjoy a hearty traditional Romanian dinner in a farmhouse. Continue to Sibiu, the European Capital of Culture in 2007, for our overnight accommodation

Hotel : Ramada 4* Hotel. (B / D)

Day 3: SIBIU – SIGHISOARA (APRIL 04, WED)

After breakfast, have a city walking tour of Sibiu with the Huet Square, the Large Square and the Liar's bridge. We depart to the Salina Turda Salt Mines to discover the history of salt and its rich properties dating back to millions of years. Also an opportunity to go on the boat trip within the salt mines is not to be missed. After the tour of Salina Turda we will drive to the medieval town of Sighisoara and make a walking tour through the medieval complex of Sighisoara, which remarked itself as a big handicraft and cultural centre and as a residential town. It is certified in documents from 1280 under the name of 'Castrum Sex'. The complex, situated on a hill, dominates the whole city, maintaining its initial shape of a nucleus of massive buildings that guard the narrow colourful streets. Visit the famous Clock-tower, with its Weapons Museum and the Torture Chamber and the house where Vlad the Impaler supposedly was born in 1431.

Hotel : Hotel Sighisoara 3* (B)

Day 4: SIGHISOARA – TIRGU MURES – GURA HUMORULUI (APRIL 05, THU)

In the morning, depart for the beautiful lands of Bucovina. En route, stop in Tirgu Mures. The town was first documented as 'Novum Forum Sicolorum' (The New Market of the Seklars) in 1322. Beginning with the 16th century, Targu Mures excels as an important cultural and education centre. The first school appears in 1492. In 1786, the first printing shop is established and in 1802 count Teleki Samuel, chancellor of Transylvania, lays the foundations of the documentary library that bears his name to this day. The city received a major boost to its social and economic life in 1754 when it became the seat of the supreme court of justice of the Principality of Transylvania. Continue towards Gura Humorului, your final destination for today.

Hotel : Best Western 4* Hotel. (B)

Day 5: BUCOVINA MONASTERIES TOUR (APRIL 06, FRI)

Today you will have a full day at disposal to enjoy the famous tour of Bucovina painted monasteries. Start with Voronet Monastery, founded in 1487 by Stephen the Great to celebrate a victory over the Turks. Widely known throughout Europe as "the Sistine Chapel of the East" due to its interior and exterior wall paintings, this monastery offers an abundance of frescoes featuring an intense shade of blue commonly known as 'Voronet blue.' The composition of the paint continues to remain a mystery even now, more than 500 years after the church was built. Continue with Moldovita, built by Alexander the Kind-Hearted (1400-1432), between 1402 and 1410, but it collapsed at the beginning of the 16th century because of the very heavy rains and ground sliding; its ruins can still be seen today. After that, you will visit Sucevita Monastery, built in 1583, Arbore Monastery, inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1993 and Humor Monastery.

Hotel : Best Western 4* Hotel (same as Day 4) (B)

Day 6: GURA HUMORULUI – LACU ROSU – BRASOV (APRIL 07, SAT)

After breakfast, you will depart for Brasov, fairy tale town founded in the 12th century by the Saxon settlers. En route, you will see Lacu Rosu, which will definitely be an interesting experience, as it is a natural storage dam lake and Bicz Gorges, one of the most spectacular places in Romania. The road along the 8 kilometres of ravines, often in serpentine with rock on one side and a sheer drop on the other, is one of the most spectacular drives in the country. Upon arrival in Brasov for our overnight stay.

Hotel : Coroana Brasovului 3* Hotel. (B)

Day 7: BRASOV – BRAN – SINAIA (APRIL 08, SUN)

In the morning, enjoy a city tour of Brasov. Photo stop at the famous Black Church, the largest Gothic style church in South-Eastern Europe and which acquired its name after the great fire in 1689 (*always closed on Sundays) and inside visit to the First Romanian School with hosts an impressive collection of rare books, many of them hand-copied right there. Drive on to Bran to visit the castle made famous by Bram Stoker's novel as the residence of the vampire count, Dracula. Proceed to Sinaia, one of the most beautiful mountain resorts in Romania, also known as the "Pearl of the Carpathians". Visit Peles Castle, an exquisite piece of architecture which served as the summer residence of the former Romanian Royal family and Sinaia Monastery. Accommodation overnight at Sinaia.

Hotel : Golden Tulip 4* Hotel (B)

Day 7: SINAIA – BUCHAREST – TRANSFER TO THE AIRPORT (APRIL 09, MON)

In the morning, depart for Bucharest. Upon arrival, you will enjoy a full day city tour including visit to the Parliament Palace, the second largest building in the world after the Pentagon and the open-air Village Museum. Photo stop at Revolution Square, the Romanian Athenaeum, the National Art Museum and other important landmarks of the city. In the evening, transfer to the airport for your flight back home.

Hotel : Palace 4* Hotel (B)

Group Transportation



Transportation is provided by the Tour Company and we will be brought around in a comfortable private 49-seater coach for our use and thus the group is limited to 45 for this trip.

Currency in Romania

The Romanian Leu - is the currency of Romania. The currency code symbol for Leu is RON. Romania is a member of the European Union but – euros cannot be used officially as they must be changed into local currency while in Romania. The local currency cannot be obtained outside of Romania.

€1 = 4.33109 RON (correct as of 20/10/11)

3 course meal in restaurant	€ 15 - € 20
Big Mac Burger	€ 2.50
Bottle of water	€ 0.60
Local beer	€ 1.10
Wine	€ 4.40



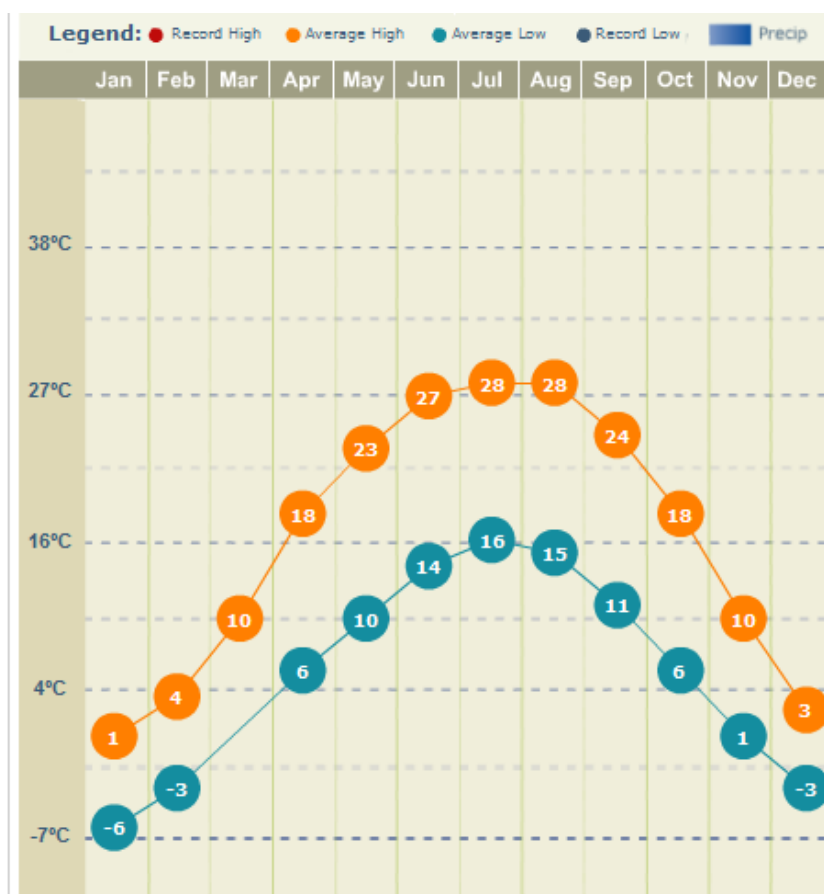
Romania Facts

Banks are open from 9am – 1pm during the week. It is advisable to use the Currency Exchange booths that charge 0 % commission or alternatively money can be exchanged at a hotel or bank – the airports have a reputation of overcharging.

Normal shopping times in main town / city from 9 am till 6pm – however areas of touristic interests may remain open till later.

Weather in Romania

Temperature on average in April is around 11°C in the area of Bucharest, in the higher regions this would be significantly less. It is possible to have snowfall between the months of December – March. Hottest months are in June / July with extended hours of sunshine.



Group Travel Advisory

- Please respect all decisions issued by the Committee throughout the trip
- Be on time each morning at the meeting point
- Stay with your assigned interpreter so that groups are divided equally due to space (if assigned)
- Please ensure you return to coach promptly after the tours so that we are not delayed or left waiting unnecessarily
- When on the coach – a rotation system will be in place each day by moving two rows in a clockwise direction – so that everyone gets a fair seating space.
- If for any reason you are unable to join a tour or delayed or unwell, please let one of the TDC Committee know immediately to avoid delays or confusions
- When the tours are finished each day the TDC Committee & Interpreters are off-duty – but are around in event of such crisis / incidents should it arise.
- Breakfast times to be advised on arrival
- Please be ready on-time each morning as advised otherwise it will cause unnecessary delays to the group plan.
- After all that have a wonderful time on the tour



Time

GMT +2

2 hours ahead from Irish time

General Information

Need European Plug / Adapter (230V) Round Pin style



Ensure your Passport is up to date. Suggested to keep a copy of your passport with you or separately.

Phone credit – top up before you go if necessary

Bring adequate medication / tablets for the trip

Comfortable clothes / walking shoes

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## Package Cost

- Full package as outlined cost is € 435 (based on 40+ pax, if this is less then the price will adjust accordingly)
- Non-refundable deposit of € 50
- This includes hotel, tours, interpreters, and some meal(s) as listed in the itinerary program.
- Airport transfers / guide service included
- Flights are **NOT** included and should be booked separately yourself directly at [www.aerlingus.com](http://www.aerlingus.com)



## **TDC Contacts**

**+353 87 2944338**  
**SMS / Voice**

**[www.tdc.ie](http://www.tdc.ie)**

**[tallaghtdeafclub@eircom.net](mailto:tallaghtdeafclub@eircom.net)**

