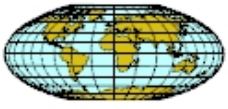


Jim Gold International Folk Tours



Travel
broadens
one!

ROMANIA!

October 1-15, 2023

Led by Nancy 3. Hoffman
Guided by Virginia O'Neill



**Folk Dancing, Folk Festivals, Klezmer jams sessions,
History, Art, Shopping, Adventure !**

**Bucharest, Sibiu, Cluj,
Sighetu Marmatiei,
Piatra Neamt,
Brasov**



SEE A WHOLE RANGE OF ROMANIANS!

- ★ Wallachia-Bucharest--old and new Romanians
- ★ Transylvania--Germans and Hungarians
- ★ Maramures--the old customs and unique dances
- ★ Klezmer jam sessions with Nancy
- ★ Moldova--14th century monasteries and old traditions
- ★ Meet with local folk dance groups
- ★ See Count Dracula's Castle!
- ★ Breathtaking scenery from mountains to sea
- ★ Price includes city tours, transfers, hotels, three meals daily, professional guide, private air-conditioned tour bus, all entrance and performance fees.

Romania ... a unique harmonious blend of amazing history, stunning art, folklore treasures and colorful various landscape.

This is one of the most detailed tours for those interested in the extremely old and rich history of Romania, for the sensible art lovers, for those who appreciate the melodious Romanian folk music,



the elegant popular dances for women exquisitely blending with the vitality of the men dances, the traditional craftsmanship, the flavors of the tasty local cuisine and for those always looking to meet the wondrous, fascinating, unspoiled areas and amazing scenery. So, while looking



forward new dance steps, this is an opportunity to broaden your knowledge, to experience delightful new things, to listen to the legends, to unfold the mysteries of the castles and feel the warm and joyous spirit of the Romanian people and land.

OUR ITINERARY:

Day 1: Sunday, October 1:

Flight from USA to Bucharest on airline of your choice.

Day 2: Monday, October 2: BUCHAREST

Arrival in Bucharest. Meet our guide at the airport and transfer to your hotel. Check-in. Welcome dinner at the hotel. Overnight at 4* hotel Bucharest

Day 3: Tuesday, October 3: BUCHAREST

Breakfast at the hotel. Half day sightseeing tour of Bucharest is a perfect way to familiarize yourself with the five-century-old capital of Romania. Stopover in the Revolution Square and in the Constitution Square, in front of the Palace of Parliament, Ceausescu's huge dream, now reality due to the enormous sacrifices of the Romanian



people, the second largest building in the world, being surpassed only by the Pentagon building in Washington. The tour includes visits to the Metropolitan Church (Patriarchal Church), to the Synagogue/Coral Temple, to the Village and Folk Art Museum - the largest in Europe, containing over 110 houses and old wooden churches and 11,000 objects of folk art, transported from all over the country. Drive by the Romanian



Athenaeum, the former Royal Palace, the Town Hall, the Opera House, the Cotroceni Palace, the Military Academy, the University Square and the Arch of Triumph, which gives the city a taste of Paris. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Afternoon meeting with Romanian folk choreographer and a pair of dancers. Dinner at a traditional restaurant. Overnight in Bucharest at the same 4* hotel.

Day 4: Wednesday, October 4: BUCHAREST – CURTEA DE ARGES – SIBIU

Breakfast at the hotel. Morning departure to Curtea de Arges, Wallachia's former

capital city, for a visit to Curtea de Arges Monastery, built between 1512-1515. Master Manole's Church is one of the outstanding churches in Romania, famous for its architecture, where, according to the legend, Master Manole, the builder, entombed his wife in the stone walls. A short drive from here will take you to the Vidraru Dam, an impressive construction on the Arges River. Pass by Poienari Castle, the real castle of Vlad Tepes, built around the 13th century, a real challenge for the visitors, being situated on a cliff of a canyon. In order to reach the castle and enjoy the amazing scenery, the visitors need to climb about 1480 steps. Lunch en route. Travel north through the beautiful Olt River Valley into Transylvania, translated from Latin as the "Land across the forest" with stop over for visiting Cozia Monastery, the oldest one in Romania, being built at the end of the 14th century. Late afternoon arrival in Sibiu, European Cultural Capital in 2007. Folk dancing, dinner and accommodation in Sibiu at a 4* hotel..



Day 5: Thursday, October 5: SIBIU – SIBIEL – SIBIU

Breakfast at the hotel. Morning walking tour of the old part of Sibiu (mediaeval Sibiu), with its narrow streets; pass across Liars bridge, visit the Evangelic Cathedral, the Council Tower and the Catholic Church, beautiful art monuments and discover this citadel built by Saxons, where history, art and folklore blend to tourists' delight. A visit in Sibiu will not be complete without a glimpse at least of the Open-Air ASTRA Museum of Folkloric Traditional Civilization situated in the Dumbrava Forest; marvel at the unique old houses with genuine furniture and handmade rugs, clothes wooden craft objects in exquisite colors made by skilled artisans. A short drive from here will take you to Sibiel village for visiting the Museum of icons painted on glass; in this area, enjoy the flavors of the area's traditional cuisine at lunch. After lunch return to Sibiu for enjoying the dance lesson with a few members of one of the top ensembles in Romania (2 h). Dinner and overnight at the same 4* hotel in Sibiu.



Day 6: Friday, October 6: SIBIU – HUNYADI CASTLE (CORVIN CASTLE) - ALBA IULIA – SIBIU

Breakfast at the hotel. Morning departure to Hunedoara area for visiting the Hunyadi Castle (Corvin Castle) one of the largest in Europe, built in the 15th century. Lunch en route. An early afternoon drive will take you to Alba Iulia, known in ancient times as Apulum, one of the oldest settlements of Romania and the largest commercial center during the Roman Empire. Later it became an impressive Habsburg citadel called Alba Carolina. Have a tour of the restored ancient citadel, visit the Catholic Cathedral and the Orthodox Cathedral of Reunification. Early evening return to Sibiu for dinner and overnight.



Day 7: Saturday, October 7: SIBIU – TURDA – CLUJ-NAPOCA

Breakfast at the hotel. Morning departure Continue north to Turda for visiting the amazing and huge salt mine, 209 m underground, situated on the 22nd place of the world's top spectacular tourist destinations. Now restored as a museum and center for halo therapy, it has a futuristic feeling being more like a "playground" with bowling, mini golf, table tennis, basketball hoops, boat rowing facilities. Traditional lunch en

route. Late afternoon arrival to the hotel in Cluj-Napoca. Walking tour of the center of this beautiful city, including visits to the Orthodox Cathedral and to the St. Michael Catholic Church. Dinner at a local restaurant in Cluj-Napoca. Overnight at a 3* hotel in Cluj-Napoca.

Day 8: Sunday, October 8: CLUJ – SIGHETU MARMATIEI - SAPANTA – BARSANA – BOTIZA – BAI A MARE

Breakfast at the hotel. Early morning departure to Maramures area, land of almost one hundred beautiful wooden churches and extremely artful carved porches, where authentic rural culture and life with important touches preserved from



the Dacian ancestors may be experienced. There are eight Wooden Churches of Maramureş listed by UNESCO. Stop in Sighetu Marmatiei for visiting the Elie Wiesel Memorial House. Drive further north to Sapanta village, where the local spirituality, mostly people beliefs are more obvious. Since ancestors considered that death it's just a new beginning, they had a special way of honoring the deceased in the unique Merry Cemetery. Here, blue wooden crosses feature carved scenes and humorous lyrics that describe the personality, both good and bad sides, of those who passed away. A stop here



would not be complete without visiting the Sapanta-Peri Church the tallest wooden church in the world, 78 m high. Lunch with folk music ("ceterasi") at a local house with a tasty menu from Maramures. Continue your journey through remote villages of the Maramures area with a couple of stops for visiting representative art expressions of the local craftsmen, including the impressive Barsana Monastery Complex, an important cultural and religious center. Late afternoon arrive in Baia Mare city for dinner and overnight at a 4* hotel

Day 9: Monday, October 9: BAI A MARE — TIHUTA PASS – CAMPULUNG MOLDOVENESC – GURA HUMORULUI

Breakfast at the hotel. This morning cross an invisible threshold to Bucovina, land of the outdoor painted monasteries mostly included in the UNESCO World Heritage, a realm where religious beliefs, tradition and old history are mostly expressed. Stopover in Tihuta pass, the actual area of Bram Stoker's Borgo pass, the place of Count's Dracula presumed castle for admiring the landscape. An hour drive will take you to Campulung Moldovenesc remote town for visiting the interesting Wood Art Museum. Continue on to the heart of Bucovina for a last visit of the day, Voronet Monastery, surnamed "the jewel of Bucovina", famous for its unique shade of blue. Dinner and overnight at a 4* hotel in Bucovina area

Day 10: Tuesday, October 10: GURA HUMORULUI – MARGINEA – SUCEVITA – GURA HUMORULUI

Breakfast at the hotel. Today, after an early morning departure, enjoy the gentle hills, the luxurious nature wrapped in a warm light, of this blessed territory. Bucovina presents itself like an art album, with time and space dimensions discovered by getting acquainted with the exquisite frescoes painted on the monasteries, with the impressive walls of the citadels, with the vivid colours from the enchanting popular costumes. Sucevita, "a Poem in Green and Light", Moldovita



which received the Order “Pomme d’Or” (Golden Apple), Humor, one of the best-preserved monuments of its kind, are a must on your visiting list. While touring the monasteries you may want to stop in Marginea village famous for its black pottery, unique in the world, being a ceramic centre since the 16th century. The tasty Moldavian cuisine will be experience during all your meals in the area but today’s lunch might be on the top. Late afternoon return to your yesterday’s accommodation place just in time for your 1 h folk dance lesson. Dinner with folk show (for group of minimum of 15 pax) and overnight in Bucovina area at the same hotel as the previous night.

Day 11: Wednesday, October 11: GURA HUMORULUI —AGAPIA – PIATRA NEAMT – BICAZ GORGES – LACU ROSU (Red Lake) – SIGHISOARA

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning the group heads south. Stop over for visiting the picturesque Agapia Monastery, the name meaning “Christian love”, painted by our greatest painter Nicolae Grigorescu whose painted saints are extremely special by choosing living models. Cross the Eastern Carpathians through the impressive Bicz Gorges. Short stop in Lacu Rosu (Red Lake) to admire the landscape and find out the story of the crimson waters. Enjoy lunch with a special treat of fresh trout and then continue on to Sighisoara, for dinner and overnight at a 4* hotel.



Day 12: Thursday October 12: SIGHISOARA – BRAN – POIANA BRASOV

Breakfast at the hotel. Morning walking tour of Sighisoara, the most beautiful and best preserved, still inhabited, medieval citadel in the central and South-Eastern Europe, listed as UNESCO World Heritage Site. Take a peek to the the most sought place here, Vlad Dracul House, the very place where prince Vlad Tepes, the Impaler, was born; it has been turned into a museum-like restaurant full of old flavors and artifacts. Stop before the Clock Tower in the small square where artisans and painters usually present their work, climb the covered wooden staircase to the Church on the Hill, wander through the town’s narrow streets with original architecture, pass by the Antler House, the Venetian House, towers and secluded squares; you will feel that, due to the quiet, peaceful atmosphere, trapped in the Middle Ages. Lunch in the area. Afternoon departure to Brasov travelling though Transylvania. Lunch en route. Dinner. Overnight at a 3*hotel in Brasov - Poiana Brasov area.

Day 13: Friday, October 13: BRASOV

9:00 AM - This morning, after breakfast at the hotel, you will find out that the main city of the area, Brasov, nestled in the Central Carpathians, is situated at the meeting point of the three Romanian regions: Wallachia, Moldavia and Transylvania. Enjoy a walking tour of the old part of this beautiful medieval town, with attractive Saxon architecture, including the Council Square, the famous Black Church, the largest Gothic Church between Vienna and Istanbul and the extremely pleasant, cobbled streets and alleys packed with boutiques, cafes, shops, cafeterias and feel the special romantic medieval atmosphere harmoniously blend with modern life. Lunch en route. About 1 h drive, will bring you to Bran Castle,



widely known as Dracula's Castle, after Bram Stoker's famous novel inspired by these places and our harsh ruler, Vlad the Impaler. It was built at the beginning of the 13th century by Knight Dietrich of the Teutonic Order, having a strategic mission being at the border between Transylvania and Wallachia. In the XX century, the Castle became a royal residence. Now it is open for visitors eager to broaden their history knowledge and thirsty of fabulous legends. Enjoy a traditional meal, with a tasty Romanian menu, at a native restaurant. Folk dancing and overnight at a 3* hotel in Brasov - Poiana Brasov area.

Day 14: Saturday, October 14: BRASOV – SINAIA – BUCHAREST

Breakfast at the hotel. Drive south, crossing the beautiful Southern Carpathian Mountains, through Prahova Valley, and stop-over in Sinaia mountain resort, well-known as the "Pearl of the Carpathians". Situated on the outskirts of this resort city, amidst lovely

fountains, surrounded Royal Castle is an landmark, a New-Renaissance the castle itself is the setting in which it summer residence of spectacular castle, 19th century, is now beautiful museums, collections of



Photo by Tom Tauber

sculpture gardens and by mountains, Peles exquisitely detailed masterpiece of German architecture. Rivaling beautiful natural stands. Once the Romania's kings, this built at the end of the one of Romania's most displaying priceless weaponry, hand woven

silk rugs and furniture, ceramics, and sculptures. Lunch en route. A couple of hours drive will have you back to Bucharest just in time for a few hours on your own. Farewell dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight at a 4* hotel in Bucharest,

Day 15, Sunday, October 15

Breakfast at hotel, then departure to the airport for the flight back home.

Land Only: \$4995

REGISTRATION FORM: I can't wait to go! Enclosed is my registration deposit of \$200 per person. Single supplement: \$995. Additional charges: Service charges:\$185. Gratuities and drinks during meals not included. Program subject to change without notice. Cancellations 90 days prior to departure: Total refund: Less than 90 days: No refund. Travel insurance always recommended. **Total balance due July 1, 2023**

Name _____

Address _____

No. of people _____ Phone_(_____) _____

Make checks payable to: **Jim Gold International**, 497 Cumberland Avenue, Teaneck, NJ 07666 U.S.A Phone (201) 836-0362. Web site: www.jimgold.com E-mail: jimgold@jimgold.com

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Rates: Tour rates are subject to change in the event of currency fluctuations or increase in costs. Inclusive tour rates are per person in double occupancy. In case of computer or human billing errors, we reserve the right to reinvoice clients with corrected billing.

Reservations: Deposits and Payments: Deposit of \$200 per person is required at time of reservation. Balance is due 90 days prior to departure date.

Changes: Prices and program subject to change without notice

Baggage: One baggage per person and a carry on is allowed.

Cancellations: Cancellations 90 days prior to departure: Total refund. Less than 90 days: No refund. Additionally, any cancellation fees imposed by the respective hotels, airlines, tour companies and cruise lines will be charged. Travel Insurance is non-refundable as are unused services.

Gratuities: Tipping to guides, drivers, transfer personnel and hotel staff is left to the discretion of the participants and is not included.

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