

Trekking The Transylvanian Alps

Trip Code: ROM

Version:



WALK & TREK



GUIDED GROUP



CHALLENGING



HIGHLIGHTS

- Trek through jaw dropping mountain scenery to the highest peak in Romania
- Look over the Heroes Cross before staying on the shoulders of Mount Omu
- A relaxing two night stay in beautiful Brasov and explore pretty Sinaia on foot
- Visit Bran Castle and discover the atmospheric Monastery of Brancoveanu
- Easy to extend your holiday and explore the Romanian capital of Bucharest

AT A GLANCE

- 6 days trekking. Max altitude - 2545 metres.
- Join at Bucharest

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

[VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE](#)

Introduction

Home to the incredible Transylvanian Alps, charming towns, fascinating history and wonderful folklore, Romania is a magical country waiting to be explored on foot. Here breath-taking mountain ranges surround dramatic castles, whilst medieval towns offer pockets of Romania's proud history and fascinating culture. As the perfect destination for a trekking holiday, here you'll experience some of Europe's wildest scenery where brown bears, chamois, marmots and soaring raptors still thrive. The adventure starts in Sinaia where colourful wooden houses are surrounded by a panorama of fir trees. After Sinaia we trek for two days in the Bucegi Mountains where we'll look over the Heroes Cross and head up Mount Omu for a night in Romania's highest mountain hut. After the Bucegi Plateau we visit Vlad the Impaler's Castle in Bran before our next adventure - a jaw dropping journey through the heart of the Transylvanian Alps. For the next three days we're off the beaten track as we follow mountain trails which lead to the summit of Romania's highest mountain - Moldoveanu (2544m). During this holiday we stay in stunningly located mountain refuges to ensure a true mountain journey. We finish this superb holiday in the medieval gem of Brasov. Brimming with pretty architecture, Bohemian cafes and gothic spires, Brasov is the perfect place to toast a fantastic holiday to Romania.

Is this holiday for you?

This is a real off the beaten track adventure through dramatic scenery in the heart of the mountains. One of the holiday highlights of this Transylvanian Alps holiday is the hut to hut element which guarantees you get deep into the mountains. Due to their incredible locations, each hut is inaccessible by road which is a major part of the experience. You'll have access to your main luggage on days 1, 3, 6 and 7, but on a couple of days the group will carry what they need for the overnights in refuges. However there is no need for heavy backpacking as blankets are provided. All you need to carry is a sheet sleeping liner, your lunches and your personal items for a few days. With careful packing you should be able to get your rucksack weight to around 8 - 10kgs. Trekking trails are good and as you would expect with any alpine adventure, includes rocky footpaths, some scrambling (which is fully cabled for protection) and exposure on ridges and summits. Some of the days are long, especially for the ascent of Moldoveanu but these are balanced out with shorter days at the start and finish. This excellent holiday is suitable for active walkers with a good level of fitness who are looking for a unique week of mountain walking in a remote part of Europe

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

- A professional and qualified guide
- Single timed airport transfers on arrival & departure
- Accommodation as described
- Meals as per the meal plan
- All land transport required by the itinerary
- All activities/excursions/entrance fees mentioned except where specified as 'optional'

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Tips
- Some meals are per the meal plan
- Miscellaneous expenses - drinks and souvenirs etc.

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

A single transfer from Bucharest Otopeni (Henri Coanda) Airport to the group hotel in Sinaia, is provided in the afternoon of Day 1 of the Land Only itinerary. On the last day of the Land Only itinerary, there will be a single transfer (2.5 to 3 hours) back to Bucharest Otopeni (Henri Coanda) timed to arrive at approximately midday.

If your flight schedules do not fit with these single timed airport transfers we can provide private transfers at an additional cost.

Hotel contact details and an emergency number will be provided with your booking confirmation.

Baneasa Airport arrivals and departures

Please note that the majority of scheduled International flights arrive/depart Bucharest Otopeni (Henri Coanda) Airport, however some flights still arrive/depart from Bucharest Baneasa Airport. If your flight arrives at Bucharest Baneasa Airport you will need to take a taxi to Bucharest Otopeni (Henri Coanda) Airport if you are intending to take advantage of the single timed group airport transfers. A taxi from Baneasa to Otopeni usually takes around 20 minutes.

Joining in Sinaia

If you are unable to take advantage of the single timed group transfer on arrival, it is straightforward to reach the group hotel in Sinaia by train from Bucharest Gara de Nord Railway station. You should allow at least 45 minutes to reach Gara de Nord by taxi from Otopeni or Baneasa Airports. A taxi should cost around £20 for this journey. There is a regular (almost hourly) train service from Bucharest Gara de Nord to Sinaia, that takes around 90 minutes. The cost is approximately £10 - 15. You can check train times on the Romanian State Railway at www.cfr.ro.

Meal Plan

All breakfasts, 5 lunches and 4 dinners are included.

Food & Water

Water from the taps may not be drinkable in all locations on this trip - please check with your guide. We recommend taking water purification tablets and a reusable bottle with a filter such as [Water-to-Go](#), which can both be used to help make safe other water sources. Please note that we do not encourage the purchase of single use plastic bottles.

Romanian food is excellent with a variety of influences from the Balkans. Local specialities are smoked bacon and sausages, stuffed cabbage rolls, cornmeal (similar to polenta) and served alongside fresh sour cream. You'll find bean soups, baked pumpkin, roasted corn on the cob and oven baked potatoes, which are wonderful with their crispy skins. Romanians love soups and stews, stuffed vegetables and mouth-watering tasty pies made with spinach or mushrooms and soft cheese. You'll come across colourful salads and wide range of soft or hard cheeses. Desserts are something of a speciality and range from dough filled with sweet cheese to mouth-watering papanash (little doughnuts served with sweet cheese and blueberries) plus crepes served with either jam, marmalade, chocolate or a ricotta-style of cheese.

Breakfasts are simple and usually consist of bread, butter, jam or honey, sometimes tomatoes, eggs or cheese plus tea or coffee. Lunches are picnic-style (sandwiches) and made up before the two trekking elements to be carried with you in your rucksack. Chocolate and cereal bars plus fruit is also available for you to take along.

Even in the huts you'll find soft drinks and local beers to buy for a reasonable price - perfect after a day in the mountains. Most beer is European-style such as Silva, Ciucas (from Brasov), Ciuc, Timișoreana and Ursus. Romania has brown ale called bere neagra or bruna. The country is one of the world's largest wine producers and the sixth biggest in Europe. Romania's main grape varieties are the white Feteasca and the red Feteasca Regala. Aligote and Merlot are other important varieties, alongside Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Gris, Rkatsiteli, Muscat Ottonel and Traminer. The national drink is a powerful brandy distilled from fruit and drank neat - don't leave Romania without trying it!

Accommodation

During this holiday the group will spend 4 nights in comfortable local hotels and pensions in Sinaia, Bran and Brasov, where the rooms are on a twin sharing en-suite basis.

The group has 3 nights in mountain huts/refuges. Accommodation in the mountain huts is dormitory style and the huts are simple with basic bathroom facilities, however, the most important aspect is their location. Each refuge has a simple kiosk where soft drinks and local beer can be purchased. The Cabana Omul is without running water and toilet facilities are extremely rustic. It's good to remember that mountain infrastructure in Romania is very simple, and accommodation options are located far apart. A real highlight though is their welcome and it's a great way to meet other trekkers. Staying in these mountain refuges also means the group can stay high in the mountains and genuinely get off the beaten track. Each hut provides a blanket so you only need to carry a sheet or thermal sleeping bag liner with you. However if you are someone who feels the cold, you may want to carry a lightweight sleeping bag.

If you are travelling by yourself, you will be paired up with another single client of the same sex for the nights in the hotels and pensions (4nights). Single rooms are available for a supplementary cost for these 4 nights. If you are planning on extending your holiday additional nights at the group hotel are available on request.

Group Leader & Support Staff

The group will be led by a professionally qualified Mountain Guide. A second guide will accompany groups of 10 or more clients for the 3 days in the Fagaras Mountains only. There will also be a support vehicle and driver for vehicle transfers and transporting our main baggage to our hotels.

Spending Money

The national currency of Romania is the Romanian leu. We estimate that £120 should be sufficient to cover your extra expenditure including non-included meals, tips for local staff, drinks and souvenirs. If you expect to buy considerable quantities of soft drinks, wine or beer, or if you intend to buy expensive souvenirs, you may need more. Credit cards can be used in restaurants and you will find ATM machines at Bucharest Airport (arrivals hall) and in Sinaia and Brasov. Please note the mountains huts only take payment in local currency cash.

Guidance on Tipping

Tipping is the accepted way of saying thank you to the leader and local team. Tipping is entirely voluntary and should be dependent on good service. We advise you to tip as a group and budget approximately £25 to £35.

Baggage Allowance

During this trip your main bag will remain with the support vehicle and you will have access to this at the overnight accommodation on days 1, 3, 6 and 7. During the days of trekking from hut to hut, you'll only need to carry minimal overnight items in a daypack. With careful packing you should not need to carry more than about 8kgs. There is no baggage limit other than that imposed by your international carrier but we do ask you to restrict your baggage to one main bag and one daypack.

Group Size & Holiday Status

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in the 'Dates and Prices' table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

Flight payment

We sell this holiday on a Land Only basis and recommend that you book your flights to Bucharest Otopeni Airport. Please refer to the 'Joining arrangements and transfers' section of the trip dossier for further details.

Flights SHOULD NOT be booked until you have received your booking confirmation and the trip is showing 'Guaranteed to Run' or 'Limited'.

If flying from the UK, Ryanair, EasyJet, Blue Air & Wizzair offer direct flights to Bucharest from London airports. Blue Air also operates a service from Liverpool & Wizzair offer a flight from Glasgow. Other airports & carriers may be available. Click on the 'Flight information' link below for further information on booking low cost airlines. Alternatively if you would prefer to book a 'flight inclusive package' using scheduled airlines from the UK please contact our flights department for a quote. Whilst flight prices are likely to be more expensive you will benefit from full financial protection.

General Information

Passport & Visas

Europe

Your passport must meet 2 requirements. It must be:

- less than 10 years old on the day you enter (check the 'date of issue')
- valid for at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave (check the 'expiry date')

For the latest details on visiting countries within the EU or the European Economic Area (EEA), please check the UK Government website

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders. A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required, and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents and visas for your holiday. Please ensure that you check for the latest advice before travel. For the most up to date information on entry requirements, please visit the [UK Government website](#).

Health & Vaccinations

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips. You will need to carry your own treatment for the allergy with you, as 'adrenaline auto-injectors' are not carried as standard by KE leaders and staff. You should inform your leader on arrival of your allergy, and let them know where you keep your adrenaline pen.

Vaccinations

You should contact your doctor or travel clinic to check whether you require any specific vaccinations.

GHIC / Medical cover

UK residents should carry a free Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC). This entitles you to state provided medical treatment when you're visiting an EU country or Switzerland. This is not a substitute for medical travel insurance which is vital when travelling overseas.

Currency

The unit of currency in Romania is the Romanian New Leu.

Preparing for your Holiday

It makes a lot of sense to spend some time before coming on a trekking holiday getting some additional exercise. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable you will find the experience. We would suggest that you adopt a regular exercise routine leading up to your trip. Running, cycling and swimming are good for developing better stamina. Before departure, we suggest that you try to fit in a number of long walks in the boots you intend to trek in.

Climate

The main season for trekking in Romania is from July to September and the weather is generally good. We can expect daytime, valley temperatures of between 20°C and 25°C, dropping to 12°C at night, sometimes less dependent on the altitude. As with any mountain area, there is always the risk of mixed weather including rain, wind and the occasional storm.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's '[Travel Aware](#)' campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. North Americans can also check out the U.S. Department of State website: www.travel.state.gov for essential travel advice and tips.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Books

- The Rough Guide to Romania
- Never Mind the Balkans, Here's Romania - Mike Ormsby
- Lonely Planet Romania and Moldova
- The Mountains of Romania Cicerone Guide - James Roberts
- Dracula - Bram Stoker
- Transylvania and Beyond - Dervla Murphy
- Romania - Bucharest and Beyond

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our [Travel Insurance](#) page for further information and to get a quote.

Equipment Information

Equipment List

The following checklist should help you with your packing. As a general rule, you should always try to keep the weight of your equipment to a minimum.

You should bring the following items:

- Hiking boots
- Trainers / approach shoes
- Socks

- Underwear
- Trekking /walking trousers
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof overtrousers
- Thermal leggings
- Shorts
- Thermal baselayer shirts (2 short sleeve, 1 long sleeve)
- T-shirts and/or casual shirts
- Fleece jacket or warm jumper
- Warm gloves
- Sunhat
- Sunglasses
- Warm Hat
- Earplugs (for the mountain huts)
- Daypack 40 litres
- Headtorch and spare batteries
- Sun protection (including for lips)
- Water bottles 1L x2 (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Sleeping bag liner (for the huts)*

- Washbag, toiletries and wetwipes
- Small Towel
- Antibacterial hand wash

Basic First Aid Kit including: Antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium)
■ painkillers, plasters and blister treatment, insect repellent (DEET), and re-hydration salts (Dioralite).
Glucose tablets and multi-vitamin tablets are a good idea.

*Those who feel the cold may consider taking a lightweight sleeping bag for the September departure. Please note that blankets are provided in the huts, however a sheet sleeping liner is needed as sheets are not provided.)

The following items are optional:

- Trekking poles (highly recommended)
- Gaitors
- Insect repellent
- Camera
- Pen-knife (remember to put all sharp objects in hold baggage)
- Travel clothes
- Small padlock
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

Cotswold Outdoor

Many of the equipment items listed above are available from [Cotswold Outdoor](#) - our '**Official Recommended Outdoor Retailer**'. When you book a holiday with KE you will receive a 12.5% discount with Cotswold Outdoor, Snow+Rock and Runners Need. The discount code can be downloaded from your MyKE account and you can use this code at the checkout, either in store or online.

Land Only Information

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If flying from the UK, Ryanair, Blue Air & Wizzair offer direct flights to Bucharest from London airports. Blue Air also operates a service from Birmingham, Liverpool & Glasgow & Wizzair offer a flight from Birmingham & Doncaster Other airports & carriers may be available.

If you would prefer to book a 'flight inclusive package' using scheduled airlines from the UK please contact our flights department for a quote. Whilst flight prices are likely to be more expensive you will benefit from full financial protection.

Why Choose KE

Why KE

With KE you'll stay two nights in the magical town of Brasov at the end of your holiday. With its charming cobbled streets, stunning medieval architecture plus traditional cafes and restaurants, we know it's the most perfect spot in Romania to raise a celebratory glass of local wine. We also feel Bran Castle is a must see so it's included in the holiday too.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 11/12/2024 and the trip is subject to change