



MARTIN
RANDALL
TRAVEL
PRIVATE GROUPS

The Arts Society Granta

A Visit to Romania



Peles Castle

Thursday 22 - Tuesday 27 April 2027

Romania stands out for its rich cultural heritage and outstanding natural beauty. Nestled in the heart of Eastern Europe, its history is a tale of foreign conquest and staunch resistance. Long an important Roman province and the only Latin speaking state in the eastern part of the Roman Empire, Romania saw the gradual increase of Saxon influence and Ottoman expansionism during the medieval period before eventual unification of its principalities in 1881. Since then, it has been at the heart of Eastern European politics, resistant to Austro-Hungarian hegemony, subsumed by communist rule and since 2007 a member of the European Union. Based in **Bucharest** and **Sinaia**, our tour will bring to life some of the most dramatic cultural achievements from throughout Romanian history.

THURSDAY 22 APRIL 2027

We will transfer by coach from our local pick-up point to London Stansted for our flight with Ryanair to **Bucharest**, due to depart at 10.25 and arrive at 15.35 local time. *(Please note that flights are not included within the tour price and the schedule is subject to change by the airline).*

We will be met on arrival by our local guide and coach for a **short orientation tour** en route to the **Novotel Bucharest City Centre** (4 star), where we will check in for 2 nights' bed and breakfast accommodation. After some time to freshen up, **dinner** will be taken together in the hotel restaurant.

FRIDAY 23 APRIL 2027

After breakfast at the hotel we will meet our guide to spend the full day exploring **Bucharest** by coach and on foot. Romania's cosmopolitan capital, the city is well known for its wide Parisian-style boulevards and fine pre-World War I buildings.

We will visit the **Palace of Parliament** (formerly the 'House of the People' during the Communist era), a colossal structure and one of the largest buildings in the world. The Palace epitomises the megalomania that overtook leader Nicolae Ceaușescu in the 1980s. The interiors of the 1000 rooms are lavishly decorated with marble, walnut panelling and gold leaf, and Romanian materials were used in the construction of the palace.

(Please note that this visit is subject to availability).

Further visits will include the **Primaverii Palace** (Ceausescu Mansion). Built in the 1960's, the 'Spring Palace' served as a home for the Ceaușescu family from 1965-1989. Within the mansion there is an impressive collection of paintings, tapestries and mosaics, as well as interior ornaments made of both native (oak, sycamore, cherry, walnut) and exotic (mahogany, rosewood and Canadian cherry) woods.

We will also see the **Stavropoleos Church**, an early 18th century church which is richly decorated with ornate carvings and colourful frescoes. We will return to our hotel and the evening will be at leisure.

SATURDAY 24 APRIL 2027

We will check out of the hotel after breakfast and travel to the **salt mine at Slănic Prahova**. Located in the Prahova Valley, it is one of the largest and most spectacular salt excavation sites in Europe, with the chambers reaching heights of 54 meters. Salt mining in the region dates back to the late 17th century, and has historically served as a key economic pillar for the local community. Today, visitors can view ancient mining equipment and various salt sculptures. The mines are also known for their unique microclimate, with a steady temperature of around 12 degrees Celsius, making it a popular destination for those seeking health benefits.

We will continue to **Sinaia**, known as the 'Pearl of the Carpathians' due to its magnificent mountain scenery and Royal Castle. We will check in to the **Hotel International** (4 star) for 3 nights' bed and breakfast accommodation. The evening will be at leisure.

SUNDAY 25 APRIL 2027

After breakfast at the hotel we will visit **Peleş Castle**, a royal palace set in a large park landscaped in the English fashion. It was built in the late 19th century for Romania's first monarch, King Carol I, and took 39 years to complete. Outwardly it resembles a Bavarian Schloss, in the German Renaissance style, with a host of turrets. It has over 100 rooms richly decorated in ebony, mother of pearl and leather, and each room is styled on a particular country. There are over 800 stained glass windows in the building whose rooms are full of Renaissance armour and weapons, Murano chandeliers and Persian carpets. We will also visit **Pelișor Castle**, a smaller Art Nouveau residence that is part of the same complex that boasts Viennese furniture, Lalique vases and Tiffany glassware.

We will continue to **Sinaia Monastery**, that was built between 1690-1695 by the Boyar, Michael Cantacuzino, on the site of an earlier hermitage. The monastery is so called because it contains a stone that Cantacuzino brought back from Mount Sinai during a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. We will return to our hotel and the evening will be at leisure.

MONDAY 26 APRIL 2027

After breakfast at the hotel travel to **Prejmer**, an attractive Saxon town. We will visit the 13th century Gothic **Evangelical church** that is surrounded by a five-towered, 12 metre high wall.

We will continue to **Braşov**, a medieval town with ornate Saxon churches and townhouses, for a **walking tour**. Legend has it that when the Pied Piper of Hamelin enticed the children away from the town and underground they emerged in Transylvania near Braşov's main square, Piaţa Sfatului.

In Brasov, we will visit the Lutheran **Black Church**. The church took almost a century to build (1383 – 1477) and is so-called for its soot-blackened walls – the result of a great fire started by the Austrian army that swept through Braşov in 1689. The Black Church is the largest Gothic church between Vienna and Istanbul, and its 7 tonne bell is the largest in Romania. Inside there are fine hanging Turkish carpets and a huge organ with 4000 pipes built by Buchholz.

This afternoon we will also visit '**Dracula's Castle**' in **Bran**. In actual fact, Vlad the Impaler never lived in 14th century Bran Castle, but the edifice lives up to the Gothic fairytale image that Bram Stoker's book evokes.

The castle was created by the Saxons in the late 14th century to defend Braşov from invasion by the Turks and its interior displays rich Western European furniture, which Queen Marie purchased in the 1920s when the castle was used as a royal residence.

We will return to our hotel in Sinaia by coach After some time to freshen up, **dinner** will be taken together in the hotel restaurant.

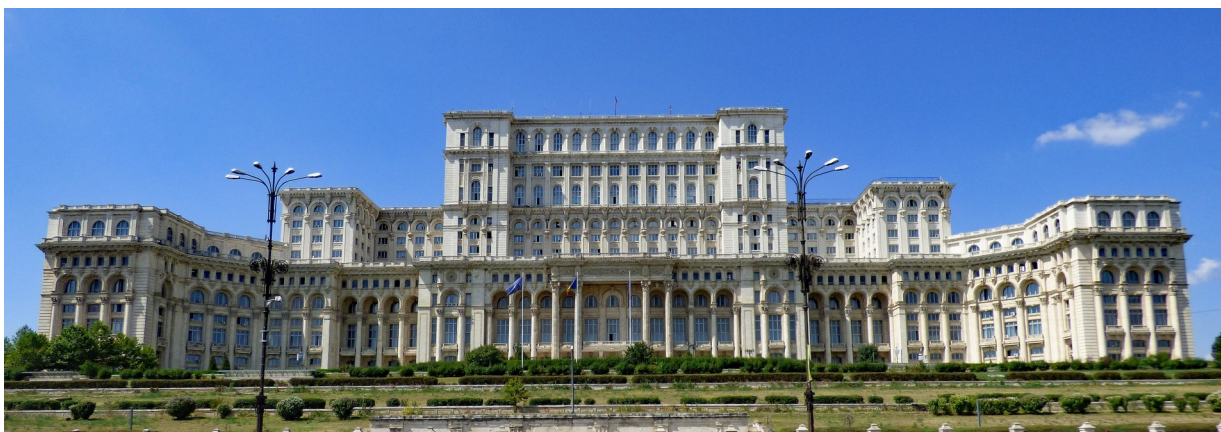
TUESDAY 27 APRIL 2027

We will check out of the hotel after breakfast, and there will be some time at leisure this morning. After loading our luggage onto the coach we will travel to the **Snagov Monastery**, a small but historically heavyweight monastic retreat. Founded in the late 14th century and later expanded by various Wallachian rulers, the monastery is most famous for its association with Vlad the Impaler. Local tradition and several excavations suggest that the infamous prince was buried beneath the floor of the main church after his death. The monastery remains a vital piece of Romanian medieval heritage, blending Byzantine architectural styles with the dark legends of the Transylvanian region, and contains 16th century frescoes.

We will return to Bucharest Airport for our return flight with Ryanair to London Stansted, due to depart at 19.45 and arrive at 21.05 local time. (*Please note that flights are not included in the tour price and the schedule is subject to change by the airline*). Our local coach will return us to our original pick-up points.

Please note that this tour involves a reasonable amount of walking and standing, and the ground is uneven in places. This tour is therefore inadvisable for those with mobility problems.

Please note that as this tour has been planned many months in advance, the final itinerary may vary slightly from the above.



Palace of Parliament, Bucharest



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TOUR PRICE

£1,170 per person sharing a twin/double room (*excluding flights*)

£250 supplement for the **first 12 single bookings**

(thereafter a supplement of **£295** will apply)

PRICE INCLUDES

Return UK airport coach transfers

2 nights' bed and breakfast accommodation in Bucharest

3 nights' bed and breakfast accommodation in Sinaia

2 dinners

The services of local guides throughout

All coach travel in Romania as per the itinerary

All booking and entrance fees as per the itinerary

Audio headsets throughout

Gratuities

HOTEL DETAILS

Novotel Bucharest City Centre (4 star)

Calea Victoriei 37B, 010061 Bucharest

<https://all.accor.com/hotel/5558/index.en.shtml>

Hotel International Sinaia (5 star)

Strada Avram Iancu 1, 106100 Sinaia

<https://www.internationalsinaia.ro/>

PASSPORT & ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

British Nationals should be in possession of a valid 10 year passport. In late 2026, the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) will be launched for entry to Schengen area countries (most of the EU) if using a UK passport. **No action is required by travellers at this point.** We will update all participants closer to the date of travel.

FINANCIAL PROTECTION

Our ATOL Number is 3622. All the flights and flight-inclusive tours in this brochure are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you pay you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate. Please ask for it and check to ensure that everything you booked is listed on it. Please see our booking conditions for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: www.atol.org.uk/ATOLCertificate

MINIMUM NUMBERS

The price of the tour is based on a minimum of 25 paying participants.

SUGGESTED INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

We intend to use the following flights with Ryanair:

22 April 2027 - Stansted/Bucharest - 10.25 (15.35) FR 1005

27 April 2027 - Bucharest/Stansted - 19.45 (21.05) FR 1006

All flights are subject to schedule change by the airline.

The tour price shown **excludes** airfares as these can vary on a daily basis. Martin Randall Travel Private Groups can book flights on your behalf and will pass on the airfare cost plus an administration fee of **£10 per person**. We anticipate flights to be in the region of £325-£350 per person (including checked luggage both ways). Should fares excessively exceed this amount we will contact you. In the unlikely event that the tour does not materialise your deposit will be refunded in full. Please indicate on the booking form if you prefer to make your own travel arrangements. We ask that you **do not** book your flights until you have received confirmation that the tour is going ahead.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a condition of booking that each tour participant carries full travel insurance and it is your responsibility to ensure that you have adequate insurance for this tour. We have arranged a scheme with specialists Brokersure Limited who are fully authorised and regulated by the FCA (firm reference number 501719) full details of which can be found on the FCA website www.fca.org.uk. Please call Brokersure on 0330 880 3625 for a quote.

BOOKING & FINAL TRAVEL DETAILS

To reserve your place on the tour, please send your **completed booking form** and deposit of **£350 per person** as soon as possible and no later than **Friday 12 June 2026**. Please note that as places on the tour are limited, bookings will be accepted on a 'first come, first served' basis. You will receive a confirmation of your booking combined with an invoice for the final balance. The final travel details (itinerary, flight ticket and luggage labels) will be available 10-14 days prior to travel. The final balance is due by **Monday 25 January 2027**.

Martin Randall Travel Private Groups

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