# BOOK SECONDER

CAMPSITES
TO ROMANIA

## ROMANIA ON4-WHEELS

Transylvania: Apr 22nd - May 6th

Black Sea & Danube Delta: July 8th - 22nd

Into the Mountains: July 26th - Aug 9th

Beautiful North: Aug 10th - 24th

Grand Tour of Romania: Sep 18th - Oct 12th



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#### online booking



www.bookyourcamper.com

CAMPSITES IN ROMANIA

You've heard a lot of good things about Romania: the Danube Delta, the Carpathian Mountains, the Black Sea, the Romanian hospitality and the delicious traditional Romanian cousine. But are you hesitating to start an adventure to discover our country, because you also heard about the bad roads and the criminality?

For five years now we are travelling throughout Romania in our campervan and we can assure you that this is a safe country, a EU member since 2007. With a little bit of preparation, by informing yourself about good campsites where you can spend the night and choosing the good roads, your experience in Romania will surely be pleasant.

#### DEAR FRIEND,

We propose to be part of one of the groups that we organize to visit Romania. The advantage of our services is that we adress to the camper or caravan traveler that wishes to visit Romania worryless. Even if you don`t own an RV but you want to join us, you could rent one from our parteners from bookyourcamper.com, they will arrange everything for you, from booking a flight to pick up the RV.

We make the routes, we book your campsite pitch, we recommend touristic objectives with specialized guides, we will be present next to the group in campings, when visiting points of interest or at the common dining.

The groups consist of tourists of different nationalities (from Holland, Poland, etc.) and we will use the English language for verbal and written communication. The groups with different nationality tourists have a special charm by spontaneous

interactions and exchanging experiences between cultures. Let's discover Romania together! Let yourself seduced by the fabulous landscapes in Maramures, the painted monasteries in Bucovina, the Danube Delta and the Black Sea shores! Visit the Transilvanian cities and full of history citadels!

Discover a country with profound values – authenticity, hospitality, traditions and spiritual life!





Location: South-Eastern Europe Vicinities: Hungary (North-West),

Ukraine (North and North-East), The Republic of Moldova (East), The Black Sea (South-East),

Bulgaria (South), Serbia (South-West)

Surface: 237,502 square kilometres

**Terrain:** Romania's territory is almost equally divided among all major forms of terrain: the Carpathian Mountains (966 km), hills and plateaus (The Western Hills occupy the largest surface), the Black Sea (the Romanian coast is 241 km long), plains (the Romanian Plain, the Western Plain), the Danube Delta

**Point of highest altitude:** Moldoveanu Peak, in the Făgăraș mountains (The Southern Carpathians): 2544m

**Population:** 19,350,000 inhabitants (2012) **Flag:** three vertical stripes – blue, yellow,red

Time zone: GMT + 2

Currency: Leu (1 euro = approx. 4,7 lei)



The European Status: member of the European Union since 2007, of UNO (1955), UNESCO (1990) and NATO (2004).





Visa formalities: no visa requirements for EU citizens. Depending on the country of origin, it is advisable for tourists to double-check these details at the Romanian embassies.

Non-Schengen Country; there are

manned border crossings; you may be asked for your vehicle documents

Airports: Romania has 16 airports

Railways: The Romanian Railway covers 17.535

kilometers

Emergency number: 112

Electricity: European 220 volts outlets; tourists from the United Kingdom, Ireland, the USA and Canada will need adaptors

cariada wiii ricca adaptors

Unit of measurement: the meter

**Vignette:** Immediately after crossing the border you should purchase a vignette, valid for all type of roads. It is best to enter the office with your registration number already written down and to ensure that you get a receipt that has all the data printed correctly.

The vignette's price is set according to the vehicle category and the period of validity. Example:

· for category A (cars),

7 days = 3 euros / 30 days = 7 euros

• for category B (freight vehicles, maximum authorised mass 0 - 3.5 tones),

7 days = 6 euros / 30 days = 16 euros

There are also toll roads – one at the Giurgeni – Vadu Oii Bridge over the Danube, on DN 2 A, and one at the Fetești - Cernavodă Bridge, also over the Danube River, a 17 kilometers long section on A 2 highway.

#### **Road Condition**

Usually the main arterial routes are in very good shape, but the secondary roads deteriorate quickly, often without warning; the size of the potholes are not to be underestimated! There are only a few ring roads or by passes, main roads often cross through villages or cities and you should take extra care. Road congestions can be expected around Bucharest, on Prahova Valley (from Predeal to Sinaia) or when

encountering a road reconstruction. Expect to encounter horse drawn carts or overloaded ancient cars and lorries. Driving in Romania can be tiring and stressful and you should be planning regular breaks and not expecting to cover large distances in a single day.





#### **Fuel stations**

There are many fuel stations and card payment is accepted. Average price of diesel is 5,2 lei (aprox. 1,1 euro) / litre and LPG is 2 lei (aprox. 0,45 euro) / litre.

Winter tyres are obligatory required between 1st November and 31st March.

There are no official aires or service points, grey / black waste can only be disposed at specially designated places from campings.



#### Campsites

Many of the campsites you will find listed on our guide are usually gardens of residential properties purchased by foreigners and usually filled with people from the same nationalities. Prices are usually between 10 to 20 euros, however the standards of the facilities can vary greatly. They can be gold mines of information and links to the local community. Touristic attractions have, usually, very low fees.

#### Fresh Water

Fresh water is often available from fuel stations. There are occasionally taps or pumps in villages. Bottled water is available everywhere and in as large as 10L containers from supermarkets.

#### Wi-Fi

Romania has a top speed internet connection. All the campsites that we suggest provide **free Wi-Fi**, but internet access is often available in cafes and bars.

#### Food and drink

Prices in Romania appear incredibly cheap to Western Europeans. The prices in Romanian restaurants, bars and cafes are also low. Average prices: bread – 2 lei, beer – 3 lei, menu of the day at restaurants - approx. 20 lei.

There are many Western European supermarkets, especially around towns, but do not miss the roadside stalls selling fresh produce and, of course the daily markets. Romanian cuisine focuses on simple homemade foods, although there are international influences. Romanian wine is excellent. In Romania there are still places in which traditional agriculture grows organic healthy foods without the help of artificial fertilizers. In these places, people produce everything they need on their own without relying on supermarkets. People bake their bread in ovens, milk their cows and gather fresh eggs. They gather the seeds from vegetables each autumn in order to plant them the next spring, and they keep the fruits wrapped in straws during winter, they make wild berry jams, they practice apiculture for wildflower honey, prepare cheese in sheepfold, they grow poultry around the house, all of these for a sustainable living.





Located in the heart of Transylvania, in a picturesque area, Cluj-Napoca has a special charm, given by the 2000 years history, the geographical location and the people, because here, time flows differently, and the people take the time to say hello to each other, to walk between the bloomed trees in the Botanical Garden, to watch the reflection of the sun beams in the twin buildings on the Mirror Street, to smile and to invite you to discover the local culture and traditions.

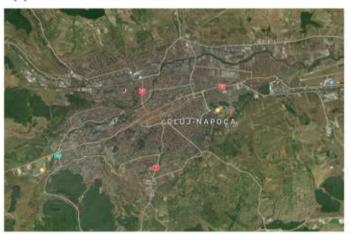
Cluj-Napoca – the heart of Transylvania shelters in the land on which impressively old archaeological vestiges were built. The story of the city, tumultuous and mysterious, at the same time, is told by means of the artifacts brought to light by specialists and ancient legends



Ancient culture and civilization center, Cluj is known from Roman times, as one of the most important cities in Roman Dacia mentioned by the geographer Ptolemaeus two millennia ago.



Today, Cluj-Napoca is the country's second largest city, located in the center of Cluj County and covers an area of about 180 km2 on Someşul Mic and Nadăş Valley. In the south-est, it occupies the space of the upper terrace on the north side of Feleacu Hill. Surrounded on three sides by hills with heights between 500 and 700 meters, it has the appearance of a real fortress.



Specific to the area of Transylvania, Cluj-Napoca is a multiethnic and pluriconfesional city, with a population of 324.576 inhabitants according to the 2011 census. The metropolitan area has a population of 427.348 people. Another 80.000 students, as non-permanent residents, increase the population of Cluj-Napoca by coming to study and work here. Nowadays, Cluj-Napoca brings together historical communities of Romanians, Hungarians, Germans, Armenians, Hebrew, as well as recent communities of Italians, French, British, Dutch, Turkish, Asians. There is an ethnic, cultural-economic and religious

mosaic of communities that live in peace and

learn from each other.

**Cluj-Napoca** has earned the title of "Capital of Transylvania", because of the dynamism with which it has grown to become today the most important academic, medical, business & IT, cultural, sports and scientific center in Transylvania.

The cultural and material influences that left their mark on Transylvania, left to the posterity a rich tourist heritage, materialized through monuments and artifacts dating from ancient times, medieval and modern churches and cathedrals, and also museums that now represent a true legacy for the future.



Cluj-Napoca is ranked in several European and worldwide tops, which appreciate the quality of life, urban, youth and innovation policies, such as:

- The friendliest city with foreigners in Europe:
   91% of Cluj inhabitants have a positive perception of foreigners;
- The best positioned Romanian city in a ranking that measures the quality of life (of 143 cities around the world, May 2016);
- The cleanest air in Europe, according to a ranking of pollution in the 100 European largest cities;



- City of Arts of the 21st Century. The volume "Art Cities of the Future: 21st Century Avant-Gardes" identified Cluj-Napoca as one of the 12 places in the world where the 21st century arts avant-garde is redefining, assessment also mentioned by "The New York Times" and "Huffington Post";



- USA Today recommends Cluj as a tourist destination for young people;
- The Sun recommends Cluj for its venues and for the art galleries;
- Central Park was awarded the Trip Advisor's Excellency Certificate.





The city in the heart of Transylvania is a vibrant one, with unusual events that make you get out of the house and of your daily routine.

Cluj-Napoca hosts a number of cultural festivals of various types: music, film, sport, opera, theater or food. These occur throughout the year, though are more frequent in the summer months.

The city has seen a number of important music events, including UNTOLD Festival, Electric Castle Festival, which takes place at Bánffy Castle near Cluj-Napoca, Delahoya, Jazz in the Park, Mioritmic, SoNoRo International Music Festival, Mozart Festival, Opera Aperta and many others.



Also the Days of the City which are celebrated each year in May, the **Transilvania International FilmFestival - TIFF**, the Interferences International Theater Festival, International Puppet Theater Festival or Comedy Cluj, are very important for the citizens and tourists.





Thanks to the infrastructure of the city, there are many sports events and competitions in Polyvalent Hall or in the Cluj Arena during the year.

Otherwise, Cluj-Napoca was awarded the title of "European City of Sport 2018 by the European Capitals and Cities of Sport Federation – ACES Europe – a non-profit organization recognized in European Commission's White Paper, which aims to internationally acknowledge communities that value sport and create contexts favourable to its development for its inhabitants.

Together with the title of the **European Youth Capital**, won in 2015, this new title will further contribute to increasing the visibility of our city internationally, including Cluj in the European network of cities promoting sports policies.



We believe that the best way to know a city is to participate and get involved in the most important events!

The number of guests staying in overnight accommodations in the Cluj-Napoca rose to 470.000 in 2017.

This represents a year-on-year growth rate of nearly 28 percent, the strongest from Romania.



**Cluj-Napoca** is famous for the traditional dish served in Transylvania having a rich history and being prepared for the nobles and peasants since 1695.

Varză à la Cluj/Cabbage à la Cluj is an original way to prepare the cabbage with minced meat and rice baked in sour cream. There is a restaurant in the city that has the name of the dish – Vărzărie.

Varză à la Cluj is quite similar to Sarmale, sometimes even considered as "messed up cabbage rolls". Still, it tastes different. Originally from Transylvania, the dish has become very popular in other regions as well. The cabbage rolls are filled with rice and pork and then chopped. Varza a la Cluj is served with sour cream.



**Papanaşi**, a traditional Romanian dessert made of sweet cow cheese, stuffed doughnuts, served with fruit jam, soft cheese (similar to sour cream) and powdered sugar.



**Năsal cheese**, a traditional Romanian cheese bearing the same name as the village where it is produced in the Țaga, Cluj County. It is a smear-ripened cheese made from cow's milk.

Năsal is produced by Napolact, in a natural cave, traditionally used in the cheese-making process from the Middle Ages. Its characteristics and flavour are imparted by the unique microbiological conditions in which it is manufactured.



The rock of the cave and the Brevibacterium linens bacteria which developed in it, the constant temperature and humidity, act on the cheeses produced here.

Cheese is served as an appetizer or as a dessert, with vegetables, fruits, and various alcohols (wine, champagne, cognac and so on).

It is exclusively produced by Napolact, as a unique product in the world.







La Salina Wine Cellar. As the name of the wine cellar suggests, the vineyard is located in the immediate vicinity of the Turda salt mine, more precisely about 100 meters away, on the Durgau hills, an area with a secular tradition in viticulture dating back to the Roman Empire, at the time when the known settlement today, under the name of Turda, was called Potaissa.



La Salina Wine Cellar was born in the heart of Transylvania, in an area with a strong vocation for white wines. Among the most famous wines you can find Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonay, Chardonay Barrique, Rhein Riesling or Pinot Noir.







Cluj-Napoca Tourist Information Center is located in the historical center of the city, on one of the most important pedestrian and commercial arteries. The TIC is addressed to Cluj-Napoca visitors and Cluj inhabitants who wish to know their town better and the possibilities for leisure.

The information provided refers to both the tourist destinations and routes in the city and the vicinity, as well as the tourist base (hotels, hostels, restaurants, clubs, travel agencies, car rental) and recreational facilities. The TIC offers free flyers, maps and guides in many international languages, as well as internet access for tourist information, interactive tourist map, virtual reality VR etc.

Summer – time period (April to October): Monday to Friday: 08:30 a.m. to 08:00 p.m. Saturday – Sunday: 10:00 a.m. to 06:00 p.m.

Winter-time period (November to March): Monday to Friday: 08.30 a.m. to 06:00 p.m. Saturday – Sunday: 10:00 a.m. to 06:00 p.m.



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Located in Western Romania, in the Banat region, 40 km northwest from the northern border with Serbia and around 650 km west of Bucharest), **Timisoara** is the capital of Timis county. No less than 315000 people call this city home.

Timisoara, in translation: "city of the Timiş" is the capital and largest city of Timis county, historical region Banat, western Romania.

The name of the village comes from the Timis River (passing to the south of the city), called by the Romans in ancient times Tibiscus Tibisis.

This is also one of the country's most attractive urban areas, built around a series of beautifully restored public squares and lavish parks and gardens. It is known as Primul Oraş Liber (the First Free City), for it was here where the anti-Ceauşescu protests first exceeded the Securitate's capacity for violent suppression in 1989, eventually sending Ceauşescu and his wife to their deaths.

The first record of the city of Timisoara, built on the site of an ancient Roman fortress called Castrum Regium Themes, dates back to 1212. Over the years, Timisoara, the largest city in western Romania, has been influenced by many cultures. The Romans used it as an important crossroads fortress until the Tatars destroyed it in the 13th century. Conquered by Turkish armies in 1552, Timisoara remained under their protection until 1718 when the region of Banat came under Austrian rule for two centuries. Timisoara later became a vital commercial and manufacturing town. Turks, Austrians, Germans and Serbs all left their mark and their influence can be seen in neighborhoods throughout the city even today.

A progressive, cosmopolitan place, Timisoara was the first city in Europe and second in the world after New York, to use electricity to illuminate its public streets.

The city Center, especially the Victory Square has impressive buildings like the Metropolitan Church and the Opera House. The Theater of Timisoara is the only one in the country that houses three theaters: the Romanian, the German and the Hungarian one, which is an example of peaceful cohabitation and interethnic tolerance of this city.

Union Square is a bohemian destination preferred by high-school teenagers, students and tourists who want to enjoy the view of old buildings, feed the pigeons or even listen to the bells of the Catholic Dome.



"Politehnica" University of Timisoara is one of the biggest and most well-known technical universities from Central and Eastern Europe. It was founded in 1920, at the end of the First World War, in order to respond to the need of engineers felt by the Romanian society at that time, within the economical re-launching it assumed.

Timisoara International Airport provides flights at regular intervals to the main cities inland and abroad. For further information see www.aerotim.ro



Sibiu (Hermannstadt in German) was the largest and wealthiest of the seven walled citadels\* built in the 12th century by German settlers known as Transylvanian Saxons. The riches amassed by its guilds paid for the construction of both impressive buildings and the fortifications required to protect them.

The lovely town of Sibiu sits at the foothills of the Cindrel Mountains in Transylvania, some 215 km from Bucharest. It's a medieval town. About 154,000 people live here and its history goes all the way back to the 12th century.

Sibiu was the European Capital of Culture in 2007, together with Luxemburg, being the first city in South-Eastern Europe to receive this title. Even before Romania adhered to the European Union, Sibiu was already being acknowledged as having a European character, from the point of view of its infrastructure, due to the fact that it is a cultural location and because of its European spirit.



Sibiu is a pedestrian-friendly city with two easily accessible levels: the Upper town, home to most of Sibiu's historic sights, and the Lower town, lined with colorful houses on cobblestone streets and bounded by imposing city walls and defense towers overlooking the river Cibi.

Sibiu might not be the largest town in Romania, but it packs a punch when it comes to sightseeing, charming medieval buildings and history. Most of the main sites are located in the historical center, which includes the Big Square, Huet Square, the Small Square, Liar's Bridge and Goldsmiths' Square. You can see all this and everything else in this post in less than 3 hours.

Historically Sibiu was the first for many things that happened in Romania: first Romanian theatre, first hospital, first book written in Romanian was printed in Sibiu (1544), first museum, first Zoo, first use of electricity... It also has some first places on a worldwide level and some second places as well – first homeopathic laboratory, second city in Europe with electric trams (1904). Such active citizens!

Medieval buildings have been preserved in the center of the city, including remains of city fortifications (13th to 17th centuries), the Gothic Hospital Church (1292) and Evangelical Church (1350 to early 16th century), and private houses (14th to 16th centuries). Palaces with portals in the Renaissance style (16th century) are located on Republic Square, as are several baroque structures, including the tower of the town hall (completed 1750), a church (1726-38), and the Brukenthal Palace (1780-1785; now the Brukenthal Museum). Since the late 1940's, new residential areas have been under construction, including Terezian and Hipodrom, as well as the areas along Stefan cel Mare and Dumbrăva streets and Gheorghe-Gheorghiu-Dej Boulevard.

Apart from the occasional events that take place in Sibiu, there is always a theatre or a cinema to go to for entertainment, as well as art exhibitions.



laşi is the most important political, economic and cultural centre of the province of Moldavia as well as one of the oldest cities in Romania. Located in the northeastern part of the country, lasi was for many centuries the crossing point of the most important commercial routes linking Poland, Hungary, Russia and Constantinople.

Iaşi has traditionally been one of the leading centers of Romanian social, cultural, academic and artistic life. The city was the capital of the Principality of Moldavia from 1564 to 1859, then of the United Principalities from 1859 to 1862; Even after the Great Union was accomplished on the 1st December of 1918 (when Moldova and Walachia were united with the other Romanian countries: Basarabia, Bucovina, Banat and Transylvania) and it became clear that Bucharest will remain the capital of the Romanian Unitary State, Iasi continued to claim the status of the most important cultural center of the country.

Known as The Cultural Capital of Romania, laşi is a symbol in Romanian history. The historian Nicolae lorga said "There should be no Romanian who does not know of it". Still referred to as The Moldavian Capital, laşi is the main economic and business centre of the Moldavian region of Romania.



Over the past 500 years, history, culture and religious life have molded the city's unique character. Iasi boasts an impressive number of Orthodox churches, almost 100, most of them located in the so-called Golden Plateau (Platoul de Aur). The oldest, the Princely Saint Nicholas Church, dates from the reign of Stephen the Great (Stefan cel Mare, 1457-1504). The finest, however, are the 17th century St. Paraschiva Metropolitan Cathedral and Trei Ierarhi Church, the last a curious example of Byzantine art, erected in 1635-1639 by Vasile Lupu. Its outer walls and twin towers are intricately carved in what many think of as stone lace.

lasi is among the very few cities in the Orthodox world with more than 100 churches.

The Golden Plateau represents the nucleus of the city, around which the entire settlement developed over the centuries. With the Palace of Culture at one end and the Union Square (Piata Unirii) at the other, the Golden Plateau features churches and princely palaces on both sides of Stefan cel Mare si Sfant Boulevard, which runs right through its centre. Many other important sites can be found on nearby streets.

As with its shopping scene, laşi's innumerable eateries, drinking holes and lively clubs depend on the robust university population. You'll find students from all over the world here – making this little corner of Romania unexpectedly cosmopolitan.





**Bucharest** is the capital municipality, cultural, industrial and financial centre of Romania.

It is the largest city in Romania, located in the southeast of the country, and lies on the banks of the Dâmboviţa River. Bucharest is situated in the south eastern corner of the Romanian Plain, in an area once covered by the Vlăsiei forest, which, after it was cleared, gave way to a fertile flatland.



Bucharest was first mentioned in documents as early as 1459 when it was recorded in a signed document of Vlad III (the Impaler), the ruler of Walachia. Vlad III built the fortress of Bucharest - the first of many fortifications with the aim of holding back the Turks who were threatening the existence of the Walachian state.

Under the Ottoman suzerainty that was eventually established, Bucharest developed rapidly as the main economic centre of Walachia, becoming the capital in 1659.

The names of some streets - Strada Blănarilor ("Furriers' Lane"), Strada Şelarilor ("Saddlemakers' Lane"), Strada Şepcarilor ("Capmakers' Lane") - testify to the emergence of guild organizations, and, during the reign (1688–1714) of Prince Constantin Brâncoveanu, large thoroughfares were built.

In the period between the two World Wars, the city's elegant architecture and the sophistication of its elite earned Bucharest the nickname of "Little Paris" (Micul Paris). In recent years, the city has been experiencing an economic and cultural boom.

The modern city is characterized by a number of squares from which streets and boulevards radiate. The two chief streets, running roughly parallel through the centre of the city, are Calea Victoriei and Bulevardul Magheru. Bulevardul Unirii, formerly called, under communism, the "Boulevard of the Victory of Socialism," was vastly expanded in the 1980s under the dictator Nicolae Ceaușescu and was bordered by such buildings as the palatial marble House of the People (Casa Poporului, now the Palace of the Parliament). About 25,000 acres (10,000 hectares) of old Bucharest were razed to make room for the new palace and grand boulevard.

The Lipscani area is the oldest remaining part of Bucharest and is known as the "historical center". This district was Bucharest's most important commercial zone from the middle ages to late 20th century. Also, the prince had his court here – the ruins can be seen today on the French Street. While probably famed more for its history and its nightlife, the Old Town area of Bucharest is in fact home to some superb places to eat: both high end, fine-dining establishments as well as kebabs and take-aways.

Most of the attractions in the old center of the city are included in the Bucharest Sightseeing Tour offered to the participants at the Strategica conference.

Today, the city is a mix of old and new, traditional and modern, in a neoclassical style that is showing originality and charm. In 2012, Bucharest ranked second among Europe's 'coolest' cities, taking into account several criteria, such as the price of beer, the number of students in the city and the number of neighborhoods where tourists and residents can have fun.

In Bucharest there is the second largest administrative building (after the Pentagon), an architectural colossus that also claims title as the heaviest building in the world. Boasting more than 3,000 rooms over 330,000 square meters and constructed with marble and steel, it was originally called the People's House by its visionary, the former dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, who used it as his family's residence and as the seat of his government. To complete it, he razed places of worship, workshops, factories, parks, part of the Old Town, and entire neighborhoods. More than 20,000 workers and 700 architects worked on the opulent Neoclassical-style palace over a span of 13 years while Romanians faced poverty.





Another landmark in Bucharest is Arcul de Triumf (The Triumphal Arch), built in its current form in 1935 and modeled after the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. It was made from wood and dedicated to the Romanian soldiers who fought in World War I. In 1936, it was reconstructed in granite and designed by architect Petre Antonescu at a height of 27 meters (89 feet).

The Romanian Athenaeum is a concert hall in the center of Bucharest. Opened in 1888, the ornate, domed, circular building is the city's main concert hall and home of the "George Enescu" Philharmonic and of the George Enescu annual international music festival.

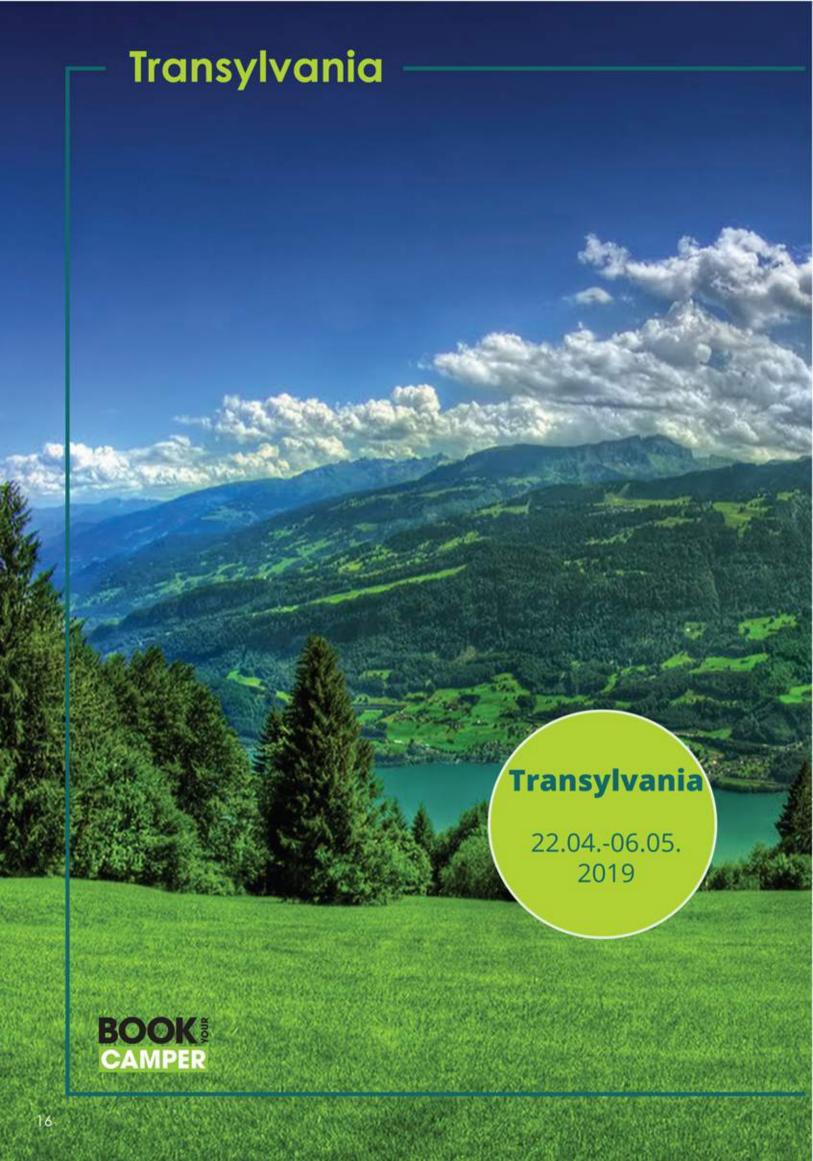
Herăstrău Park or King Michael I Park is a large park on the northern side of Bucharest, around Lake Herăstrău, one of the lakes formed by the Colentina River. The park has an area of about 187 hectares (462 acres), of which 74 hectares (183 acres) is the lake. Initially, the area was full of marshes, but these were drained between 1930 and 1935, and the park was opened in 1936.



Bucharest has a growing cultural scene, in fields including the visual arts, performing arts, and nightlife.

A number of cultural festivals are held in Bucharest throughout the year, but most festivals take place in June, July, and August.





## BOOK E



"Today Transylvania is the most developed region in Romania, partly because of tourism and partly because of a stronger capitalist tradition prior to World War II. The presence of the German and Hungarian minorities has been a catalyst for Western influences in Transylvania since 1989. It is interesting to observe the differences within this small region: the South and South East are dominated by Saxon culture, the East and North East are more influenced by Hungarian culture, the North is more Slavic, and the South West different again."

A realistic perspective from www.wikitravel.org

The architecture of the houses, the kindness of the people and the well preserved traditions will be unforgettable memories for everyone who choose to visit these unique places. All over Transylvania there are villages that remained almost unaffected by modern civilization, still looking like they did three centuries

The route we have planned will guide you on a tour in Transylvania, offering you the chance to visit the famous Turda Salt Mine, the pastel-hued citadel of Sighişoara, and some of the most scenic mountain villages where the traditions still play an important part of every day life.



- 700 euros/1 person/RV
- 300 euros/every other person/RV
- 150 euros/every child under 10 years old/RV
- ♣ FLY & RIDE ( if necessary):
  - Fly: from 150 euros/person
  - RV (2018-2019): from 130 euros/day



Number of stages: 11

Total driving length: 1338 km

Total driving time: 27h 42 min

Driving length per stage: 121.6 km

Driving time per stage: 2h 31min





- 3 group meals welcome dinner, traditional dinner, Romanian BBQ
- 4 group visits

### Transylvania



- The tour begins around Cluj. Welcome to Romania!
  A quiet night in camping and then visit to the Turda
  Salt Mine, first opened in the first century BC, now
  a fascinating place.
- Moving on to the center of the country throught the land of old fortified churches, each one with its own story, hidden gems waiting to be rediscovered.
- In Sovata, this quiet resort, well known for its salted, warm water lakes, the Bear Lake is unique in Europe. In a nearby village there are folk ceramics to be found and the deep forests will be explored by steam train or by old military cars in an unusual safary trip.
- A little break is needed now before entering the land of Dracula, be prepared and buy yourself some garlic:)





#### Bran Castle

The legend of Dracula is a mixture between the novel written by Bram Stoker, history that shows the cruel romanian ruler, Vlad the Impaler, who used to impale his enemies, and popular beliefs in vampires and ghosts.



Brașov

Piaţa Sfatului is the main city square and it houses different local markets or events all across the year; the buildings that surround the market are a proof of the germanic origins of the city.

## BOOK E



#### Richis

The name of the village (Reichesdorf/Richvini/Richis) means "the rich people's village" because the land around it is very fertile for agriculture and for growing grape vines.



Cluj Napoca

Romanians call it simply Cluj. The city seems to be meant for an intense and rich art scene, cultural events taking place almost weekly.



- Bran Castle was at first a military defense fortress, but now everywhere you look will remind you that you are in a region dominated by ghosts and vampires:)
- Sibiu is a posh city, an European Cultural Capital in 2007 and one of the most beautiful and most visited places in Romania.
- Continuing the journey, the road follows the Mures River Valley, then it leads towards the Apuseni Mountains. These are known for their caves, the underground palaces with majestically natural decorations.



## **Beautiful North**



**Beatiful North** 

10.08. - 24.08. 2019

## BOOK CAMPER





"I learned how little in the way of material goods we really need, and how beautiful a simple life can be.

In Romania people work with their hands every day, and you'll see an 80-year-old woman still chopping wood because she's been looking after herself all her life, and she still has the strength to do it."

Renee Zellweger

Number of stages: 11

Total driving length: 1364 km

Total driving time: 30h 42 min

Driving length per stage: 124 km

Driving time per stage: 2h 47min

Maramureş and Bucovina are the celebrities you will get to know on this tour. See the wooden churches, the painted monasteries, hike the mountains, eat the best food and drink "palincă".

Forests will surround you with their fresh air, lack of pollution and restful sounds of nature.

Men still working their fields with the help of horse-drawn carts, women still wearing scarves tied on their heads and keeping the household neat - life looks so lovely, so simple, so uncluttered.





- 3 group meals welcome dinner, traditional dinner, Romanian BBQ
- 4 group visits

#### **PRICES**

- 700 euros/1 person/RV
- 300 euros/every other person/RV
- 150 euros/every child under 10 years old/RV
- + FLY & RIDE ( if necessary):
  - Fly: from 150 euros/person
  - RV (2018-2019): from 130 euros/day

#### **Beautiful North**



- Cluj is the meeting point and start of the tour. Welcome to Romania! The first close approaches of life in Romania are about to happen and spending time in a Romanian village is all it takes to know it already.
- North means mountains and crossing the mountains means roads with stunning view: prepare yourself:)
  But also for cooler temperatures!
- You must have heard about Bucovina and its painted monasteries. This is the moment when you will get to see all those natural colours and get to feel all that quietness of monastic life.
- The road leads now to Moldova. Just to dispel any confusion, this region of Romania is different from the Republic of Moldova, the country that used to be part of Romania before the WW II.





#### Maramureș

Maramures is one of the best preserved regions in Romania. In the middle of vaste forests, in the region where people still wear their traditional costumes on church days, there are adorable villages with old houses and sculptured wood porches and gates.



#### Târgu Mureș

The Teleki-Bolyai library is an historic public library and current museum that houses one of the richest Transylvanian collections of cultural artefacts. An engraved copy of The Declaration of Independence of USA can be found among its vaste and rare collections.

## BOOK 5



#### Bucovina

Just a few kilometers away from Suceviţa there is Marginea, a village where there is still kept an ancient old craftmanship – the pottery. The black ceramics are only to be found in Marginea and they are a proof of the romanians' Dacian origins.



#### Cluj Napoca

When climbing one of the seven hills surrounding Cluj, you can reach the ruins of an ancient fortress built here in the 18th century to ensure control, rather than defense, of the city. The Fortress Hill gives a panoramic view of the city that will persuade you it was well worth the effort



- Again crossing the mountains, this time to Transylvania, to get to know the rich region of salt mines, healing waters and deep forests that surrounds Sovata. In this quiet resort, well known for its salted, warm water lakes, the Bear Lake is unique in Europe. In a nearby village there are folk ceramics to be found and the forests will be explored by steam train or by old military cars in an unusual safary trip.
- The exploration continues in the land of fortified churches, these hidden gems waiting to be revealed.







"Romania has a huge virtually-untouched area of mountains almost the size of Britain. It is the heavily-forested home to some of Europe's most exciting species, including alpine Chamois, and particularly large carnivores like Brown Bears, Wolves and the elusive Lynx. Much of the area is a time-capsule with an almost-medieval life-style."

Written by Infocobuild.com -Charlie Ottley, "Wild Carpathia" Number of stages: 11

Total driving length: 1580 km

Total driving time: 33h 34 min

Driving length per stage: 143.6 km

Driving time per stage: 3h 03min

You will drive along the whole Carpathian Mountain range that lies across Romania.

Stop for a moment, look around you and discover for youself the surprising scenery!

agearpathians means dark forests mixed with green pastures, hidden caves and picturesque waterfalls, cold clean water from mountain streams, astonishing sun rises and sunsets, grandeur and antiquity, hospitable people.



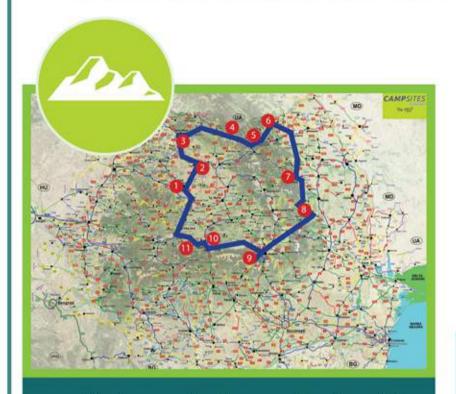


- 3 group meals welcome dinner, traditional dinner, Romanian BBQ
- 4 group visits

#### **PRICES**

- 700 euros/1 person/RV
- 300 euros/every other person/RV
- 150 euros/every child under 10 years old/RV
- + FLY & RIDE ( if necessary):
  - Fly: from 150 euros/person
  - RV (2018-2019): from 130 euros/day

#### Into the Mountains



- This journey will drive you along the whole Carpathian Mountain range that lays across Romania. The tour begins around Cluj. Welcome to Romania!
- Maramureş is the place to be discovered first. In the middle of vaste forests, crossing by sheep herds and horse carts, in the region where people still wear their traditional costumes on church days, there are adorable villages with old houses and sculptured wood porches and gates, a place where time seems it stoped.
- When driving from one point to another, stop for a few moments on the roadside. Look around you and discover the surprising scenery!
- Painted churches are hidden into the mountains and forests of Bucovina. You will get to see all those natural colours and get to feel all that quietness of monastic life.





#### The Charpathians

Without having the fame of the Alps or the spectacular altitude of the Himalayas, the Carpathian Mountains mesmerize with their sometimes terrifying wilderness, their ridges covered with tall firtrees which seem to defy gravity.



**Bran Castle** 

In Bran there is also a Haunted Castle that is meant to scary you and to remind you that you are in a region dominated by ghosts and vampires!

## BOOK SCAMPER



#### Bucovina

Bucovina is a conservative region, inhabited by people living in harmony with the mountain, craftsmen keeping their own forms of material and spiritual life.



Turda Salt Mine

There are many recreational possibilities inside, available on charge: a big wheel, minigolf, bowling, pool table, boating on the underground lake, a sport field, table tennis, an amphitheater.



- Following the Carpathians, it is now time to stay in Moldova and taste the beverage you probably have heard about tuica:)
- Now that you got yourself some courage:), drive along to enter the land of Dracula. In Bran, the famous castle will be discovered and all the mistery around it will be revealed.
- Next, the highest mountains in Romania are on the left side of the road and the night will be spent in a very good base camping for crossing the Transfăgărășan.
- The tour won't be over until the visit at Turda Salt Mine, a must-see attraction.



## Black Sea & Danube Delta-



## BOOK SCAMPER





"I left the delta dazed by its utopian landscape but (...) concerned for its vulnerable beauty."

Elisabeth Zach in an article for The New York Times

Number of stages: 9

Total driving length: 1715 km

Total driving time: 30h 50 min

Driving length per stage: 190.5 km

Driving time per stage: 3h 25min

This tour will guide you from Western to Eastern Romania, all the way to the Danube Delta, then the Black Sea.

The mighty Danube River ends its long journey across Europe and it empties into the sea. The river's mouth, the Danube Delta, is a largely, unspoiled wetland that draws bird lovers and seekers of solitude alike.

Next, take your sunglasses, put a hat on and don't forget to use sunscreen, then head over to the beach at the Black Sea because the golden fine sand is there to tickle your toes!

- 3 group meals welcome dinner, wine tasting, Romanian BBQ
  - 4 group visits

#### **PRICES**

- 700 euros/1 person/RV
- 300 euros/every other person/RV
- 150 euros/every child under 10 years old/RV
- FLY & RIDE ( if necessary):
  - Fly: from 150 euros/person
  - RV (2018-2019): from 130 euros/day

#### Black Sea & Danube Delta



- All the roads lead to ... Cluj. This is the meeting point. Welcome to Romania!
- The first stop will be in the region of the old fortified churches, then follows the visit to the Bran Castle with free time to buy yourself some scary souvenirs.
- Even if, scientifically speaking, they are not real volcanoes, the Muddy Volcanoes are quite spectacular when splashing cold mud lava and flavouring the area with a prickly scent of sulphur. The night will be spent in a campsite close to this protected area.
- A little adventure to cross the Danube river by float bridge, then a well-deserved break for wine tasting. You are now in the Danube Delta, the newest land in Europe that grows by 40 meters of soil every year, the second delta in Europe by dimensions, after Volga's, a very complex ecosystem that shelters rare flora and fauna these are just a few words to describe this unique area.





#### Constanța

The biggest city on the Black Sea coast is Constanța. The beginnings of this city dates back from many centuries B.C. As well as the whole region of Dobrogea, the city has influences from a mix of civilisations that passed by or remained here until nowadays.



#### Măcin

Romania has one of the oldest winemaking traditions in the world, its viticulture dating back more than 6,000 years. Due to suitable climate, relief and soils, viticulture became a current activity of the local inhabitants mainly in the hilly areas.

## BOOK CAMPER



#### The Danube Delta

There are three branches that form the Danube Delta: Chilia, Sulina and Sfântu Gheorghe. Murighiol is an important way of entering the delta, on the right bank of Sfântu Gheorghe branch. Tulcea is a harbour that provides easy access to all the branches.



#### București

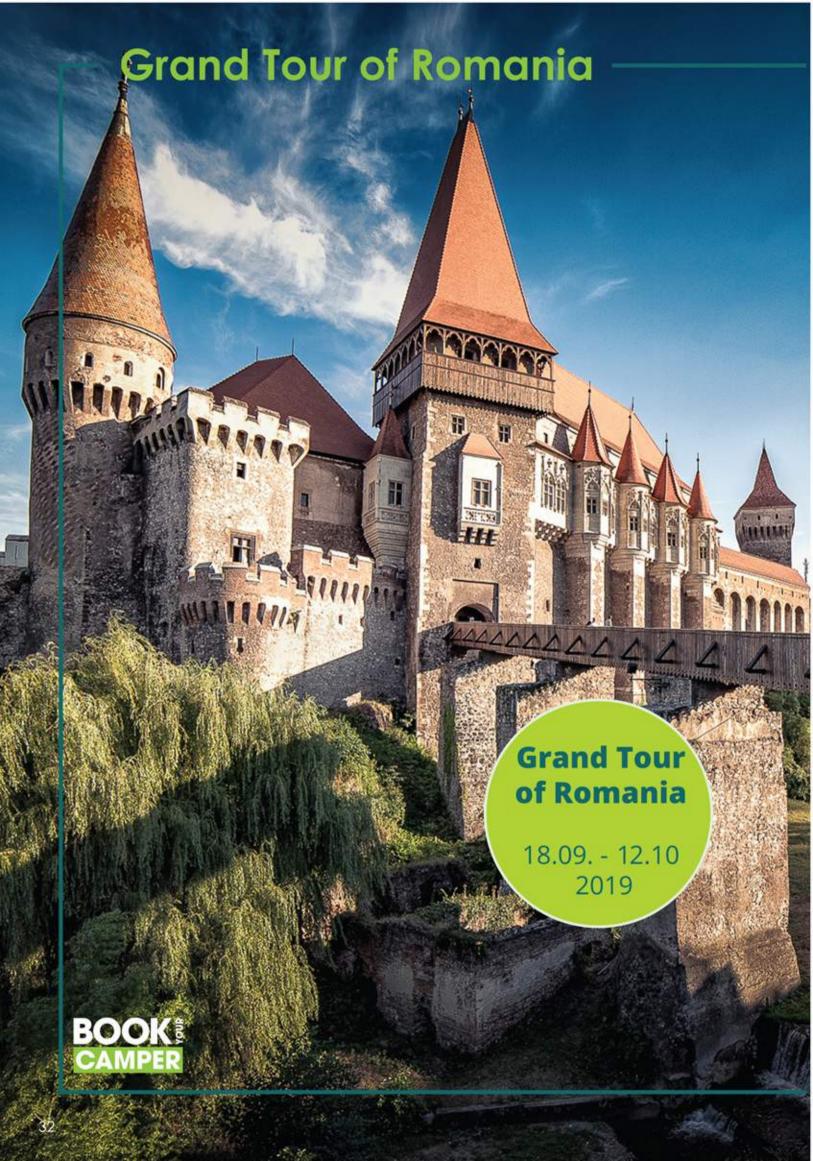
The Lipscani area is situated in the Old Town and it was named after the many German traders from Lipsca (Leiptzig) that used to sell their merchandise here. Today it is a cosmopolitan promenade place for locals to take the city pulse, with art galleries, antique shops, coffeehouses, restaurants and night-clubs.



- The name for Black Sea may come from a lot of sources, one of these can be the fact that violent storms are forming very easy away from the shore, making it a dangerous sea for sailing. But for sun bathing and relaxing is just the place to be:)
- Legend has it that București was founded by a shepherd whose name was Bucur, that means "joy".

  A period of great progress for the city made it gain itself, at the beginning of the nineteenth century, the nickname of "Little Paris".
- The next day, the road follows the beautiful Olt Valley. The tour doesn't end until the road shows on a side the highest mountains in Romania and spending the night in a camping that is a very good base for crossing the Transfägarasan road.





## BOOK SCAMPER





"The key thing that I think about Romania, Transylvania in particular, is that there is so much that we can learn from it. It is the last corner of Europe where you see true sustainability and complete resilience and the maintenance of entire eco-systems to the benefit of mankind and also for nature and, there's so much we can learn from that before it's too late I think."

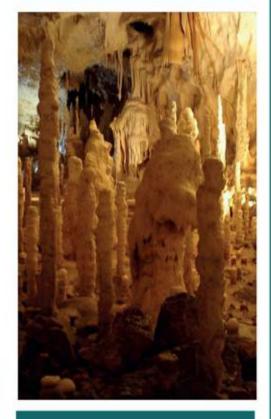
**HRH Prince Charles** 

Number of stages: 17
Total driving length: 2973 km
Total driving time: 60h 33 min

Driving length per stage: 174.8 km
Driving time per stage: 3h 33min

Pack your bags, start your engine and head to Romania for your next getaway. With monuments listed as UNESCO Patrimony, unique landscapes, rich culture and traditions, tasty food and friendly people ... Romania will surprise you.

From the scenic villages of Transylvania to the Danube Delta (with its 360 species of birds and 45 species of fish), its amazing mountains, its spectacular monasteries and fortified churches or Sibiu - the European City of Culture in 2007 ... these are the best reasons to visit Romania this year.



- 4 group meals welcome dinner, traditional dinner, wine tasting, Romanian BBQ
- 6 group visits

#### **PRICES**

- 1000 euros/1 person/RV
- 500 euros/every other person/RV
- 250 euros/every child under 10 years old/RV
- → FLY & RIDE ( if necessary):
  - Fly: from 150 euros/person
  - RV (2018-2019): from 130 euros/day

#### **Grand Tour of Romania**



- Romanians call it simply Cluj. This is the start point. Welcome to Romania!
- One less explored part of Romania, the fortified churches in Transylvania are specific to Saxon and Szekler villages and they form one of the densest, well preserved medieval fortification system in Europe. Each of these have their own stories to tell, their own mysteries to hide and their own charm to be revealed.
- On the other hand, a thing that always reminds of Romania is the Bran Castle. Plenty of time to explore the haunted surroundings of Dracula's place:)
- A little adventure to cross the Danube river by float bridge, then a well-deserved break for wine tasting.
- Black Sea is a dangerous sea for sailing. But for sun bathing and relaxing is just the place to be :)





#### -The Muddy Vulcanoes -

The Muddy Vulcanoes can be found on two separated but close plateaus called the Little Mud Volcanoes (Pâclele Mici) and The Big Mud Volcanoes (Pâclele Mari)



#### • The Danube Delta

One who loves nature will definitely love everything he will find in this paradise of birds, insects, plants, animals, water and will certainly fall in love with the amazing sunsets.





#### București

A period of great progress for București made it gain itself, at the beginning of the nineteenth century, the nickname of "Little Paris"

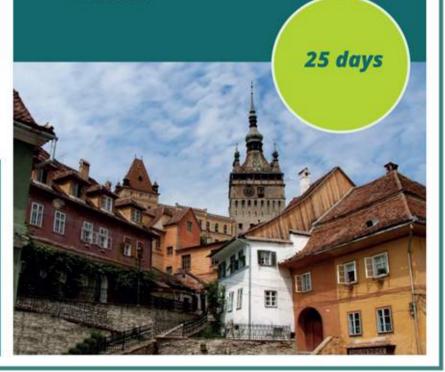


#### Curtea de Arges

A monument of Romanian mediaeval art, Curtea de Arges Monastery is an artistic creation decorated with minutely detailed motifs of Georgian and Arabic origin, as well as with Romanian folk motifs.



- Legend has it that București was founded by a shepherd whose name was Bucur, that means "joy".
- A must-see place in Sibiu is the Bridge of Lies with its intriguing legends. But not only this makes the city one of the most beautiful and most visited places in Romania.
- In a Sovata nearby village there are folk ceramics to be found and the deep forests will be explored by steam train or by old military cars in an unusual safary trip.
- Painted churches are hidden into the mountains and forests of Bucovina. You will get to see all those natural colours and get to feel all that quietness of monastic life.
- The tour won't be over until you get to see the Maramureş life, one of the best preserved regions in Romania.



## Where? What? Why?

#### Where should we stay?

We have chosen a few of Romania's **best campsites** to be our hosts for the tour. From the biggest camping to the simplest **campsite** located around a household, from the **countryside** to the crowded **cities**, a whole range of sites are to be found. After all, this is Romania, a country packed with **variety**, offering the visitor a whole range of completly different sights and **experiences**.

In every briefing you will recieve a description of sites for the next day. It would look like this:





## Where? What? Why?

#### Why should you be part of our groups?

- taking advantage of the organizers experience by spending the night in safe, good quality campsites, by knowing the good roads to be followed and the touristic objectives to visit
- saving money by obtaining the best rates for booking an flight and renting an RV in Romania
- saving money by having discount accomodation costs, due to the connections between the organizers and the camping owners
- visiting major turistic objectives accompanied by the organizers and guides that know well the places
- discovering the real Romania, with the help of the organizers who tell stories about the places, about local traditions and food and who know where local markets are
- besides spending the night, the visiting and the group meals, you can enjoy the freedom to choose your own rithm of driving and the way you spend your day
- getting assistance when in need, organizers will assist in case of o road events or health issues or relating with Romanian authorities



#### What our services include?

- Our services include consulting throughout the entire journey for campsites to spend the night, the roads to be chosen, the touristic objectives to be visited, the group meals and the group visiting, English language speaking, group accompaniment during the whole period, daily travel briefing (map, GPS), common informing meetings.
- Our parteners from bookyourcamper.com will assist you in booking a flight and renting an RV in Romania, if it's necessary.









#### How can you book our services?

Visit www.bookyourcamper.com for more details or write us an email at office@bookyourcamper.ro



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