



Romania Via Transilvanica & Beyond Hiking

Village to Village Trails in the Carpathian Mountains

Thank you for checking out our adventures and for downloading this itinerary. Please note that this itinerary and accommodations may be subject to change depending on the specific departure date. Be sure to check with us before scheduling any flights.

We love talking travel!
Contact us at info@mtsobek.com
or call **800-974-0300**



Feel the difference

with **Mountain Travel Sobek**

Unrivalled Expertise

MT Sobek started it all! Since our first Everest Base Camp trek in 1969, we've been leading award-winning adventures and building authentic connections in far-flung locations around the world. We were named Best Adventure Travel Company by Newsweek Readers' Choice Awards.

Unique Trip Design

Our adventures are perfectly paced, with incredible attention to detail — the right mix of fun, learning, and challenge that guarantees lifelong memories. Plan nothing, enjoy everything. We take care of all of the logistics so that you can have more time to do what's most important: relax, take in the experience, and enjoy!

Small Groups

We keep our groups intentionally small — usually fewer than 10 people. This allows you a more intimate experience with the people and wildlife you encounter. With a smaller group size, we can take advantage of many unexpected invitations and opportunities that would be impossible with larger groups.





Leading the Way

World-Class Local Guides

Our knowledgeable and passionate expert guides effortlessly create an immersive local experience for you. They are trained to the highest professional standards and are at the heart of everything we do. They make it possible to meet the challenges of adventure travel, and help create lasting memories and lifelong friendships... we can confidently say our guides are the best in the business.





Why take this trip with us?

REASON 1

MT Sobek has led hikers on Europe's most spectacular and enchanting hiking routes since 1975, scouting the best routes and ideally located stays for an authentic and enriching experience.

REASON 2

Our trip hikes through old-growth spruce forest to stunning views of Carpathian peaks, tracing the little-known yet completely captivating Via Transilvanica Trail between traditional villages and tiny hamlets.

REASON 3

Local expert guides lead you along delightful rural paths, giving deep insights into the diverse cultures and history of each region and fostering camaraderie along the way.

At A Glance

ACTIVITIES

Moderate to challenging hikes through spectacular landscapes, cultural encounters, and visits to UNESCO World Heritage Sites.



LODGING

Stay in village guest houses for an authentic experience with home cooked meals and warm Romanian hospitality. One night at a comfortable mountain hotel and one night in a historic 16th century Saxon house.



CLIMATE

Expect summer temperatures in the mid-50s to mid-70sF, with Carpathian wildflowers reaching their peak in June. Fall lows are generally 5 degrees cooler, and fall colors typically begin in September, reaching their height in October.



KNOW BEFORE YOU BOOK

Accommodation

The final night of the trip is in renovated traditional Saxon homes, all within a five-minute walk of each other. Each home accommodates two to six guests, typically with a shared bathroom.



Romania Via Transilvanica & Beyond Hiking

Village to Village Trails in the Carpathian Mountains

Roam Romania's wild heart on the Via Transilvanica, a trail designed to showcase one of Europe's last great wildernesses and the country's extraordinary cultural landscape. Hike through old-growth forests to painted churches and ramble through rolling hills to Saxon fortresses. Begin in Bucovina's forested ridges and fenced pastures, walking to Hutsul villages and visiting medieval masterpieces. Then cross over the rugged Carpathians into Transylvania's magnificent countryside to be awed by plunging limestone cliffs and traverse vast pastoral meadows dotted with sheep. The rustic farmhouses and fortified churches in Szekely and Saxon settlements have changed little over the centuries. Discover the most interesting sections of the Via Transilvanica, "the road that unites," on this village-to-village hiking adventure.

9 Days

Start: Bucharest, Romania

End: Bucharest, Romania

Departing: April, May, June, July, September, October

Activities: Hiking & Trekking, Cultural Discovery

Lodging: Comfortable Hotels, Rustic Lodging

Group Size: 6-16 Guests

ACTIVITY:



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I would highly recommend Mt Sobek for an amazing travel adventure. Every detail was taken care of- transport, luggage, meals, and of course hiking trails and accommodations. It made for a stress free trip and one where you can truly enjoy the beauty and culture around you.

Check mtsobek.com for date-specific pricing.

The Itinerary

DAY 01

Travel by Train from Bucharest to Bucovina

Meet your guide and group at the designated hotel in Bucharest, the bustling capital of Romania, for a brief orientation before your adventure begins. Romania is a complex patchwork of historical provinces and ethnographic regions, each with their own wild landscapes and centuries-old cultural traditions. Travel by train into the dense forest and rolling foothills of the rugged Carpathian Mountains, passing through Moldavia into Romania's northernmost historical province, Bucovina. Disembark at Suceava and transfer to the charming village of Sucevita, where many old houses built in the traditional local style with shingled roofs, wooden porches, and floral motifs are still in use today. Tonight, your accommodation is in a typical wooden house where you will enjoy a delicious welcome dinner of hearty Romanian dishes.

ACCOMMODATION: Casa cu Cerbi

MEALS: Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 6-hour train transfer, 1-hour private van transfer

DAY 02

Hike to the Painted Church at Sucevita Monastery

This morning, step onto the Via Transilvanica for a wonderful warm-up hike through pristine spruce and beech forests. Your guide will choose a scenic spot to enjoy a picnic lunch made with locally sourced produce while taking in the beauty of your surroundings. Continue along the trail, reaching a hilltop with gorgeous views of the Sucevita Monastery and its exquisite setting at the foot of the surrounding hills. The Bucovina province is best known for its UNESCO-listed painted churches—Byzantine-style masterpieces from the 15th to 16th centuries, whose external walls are covered in exceptionally well-preserved frescoes. Descend for a visit to the monastery and Church of the Resurrection, the best preserved of Bucovina's painted churches. Though it is still a functioning monastery and place of worship, the church's original 16th-century architectural structure and mural paintings have survived without their integrity being compromised.

ACCOMMODATION: Casa cu Cebri

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: 3-4 hours/5 miles of moderate hiking with 1,470' elevation gain and 1,300' elevation loss



DAY 03

Follow the Via Transilvanica Village to Village

Today's journey takes you deeper into the heart of Bucovina's scenic splendor. After a short transfer to Palma Pass, begin hiking on the Via Transilvanica trail towards the village of Moldovita. The day's walk offers a wonderful opportunity to learn about the flora and fauna of the region, with various bird species, wildflowers, and even glimpses of wildlife, such as deer and foxes. The trail traverses dense forests and dreamy open meadows, then descends to Ciumarna hamlet. From here, tackle a long climb to another picturesque hamlet, La Toante. After a picnic lunch with a fabulous view and a short rest in the shade of a fir tree, follow the trail down through the trees into the Moldovita Valley to your accommodations in the village. This area of the country is known for its traditional craft of egg painting—incredible kaleidoscopic designs created with wax “writing” and colored dyes. The Hutsul, who live in the northern Carpathians both here and in Ukraine, are renowned for their skill in this ancient tradition and you will see the process during your stay.

ACCOMMODATION: Local guesthouse, Moldovita

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: 6-7 hours/10 miles of moderate hiking with 1,840' elevation gain and 3,280' elevation loss



DAY 04

Hike on the Via Hutulca & Ride the Rails back to Moldovita

Today you'll swap the Via Transilvanica for the Via Hutulca—another beautiful long-distance trail, that draws its name from the Hutsul, who live in the northern Carpathians both here and in Ukraine. Climb a long, gentle slope through pastoral hay meadows and make your way to the rounded ridges of the Obcinile Bucovinei mountains. After some lovely beech and fir forest passages, descend to a grassy valley and the small village of Argel. From there you'll take a delightful narrow gauge steam train, built in 1888 for forestry purposes, through the scenic countryside back to your departure point this morning. In the evening, enjoy a traditional dinner prepared by your hosts.

ACCOMMODATION: Local guesthouse, Moldovita

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 1-hour train ride

ACTIVITY: 4-5 hours/8-9 miles of moderate hiking with 2,130' elevation gain and 1,800' elevation loss



DAY 05

Marvel at Moldovita's Painted Church & Cross the Carpathians to Transylvania

After breakfast, explore another sensational UNESCO-listed painted church at the more isolated and picturesque Moldovita Monastery. The Church of the Annunciation, while smaller than the one at Sucevita, has more vibrant and detailed frescoes. After enjoying this masterpiece, say goodbye to Bucovina and head south across the Eastern Carpathian Mountains and valleys, to the Hasmas mountains in Transylvania. This area of the range is home to the Szekely, a Hungarian subgroup who maintain a distinct culture and Hungarian dialect. Reaching Lacul Rosu (Red Lake), named for the reddish soils flowing from richly forested slopes into its waters, drop off your luggage before heading out on an exhilarating afternoon hike to explore one of the limestone outcrops overlooking the jaw-dropping 1,000-foot cliffs of one of Romania's most spectacular natural wonders, Bicz Gorge.

ACCOMMODATION: Hotel & Restaurant Lacu Rosu

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 3.5-hour transfer

ACTIVITY: 2-3 hours/2-3 miles hiking with 820' elevation gain and loss



Summit Hasmasul Mare in the Eastern Carpathians

This morning, rejoin the Via Transilvanica gorgeous and largely undiscovered Hasmas Mountains National Park. Set out through wide open meadows and pastures where flocks of sheep graze with their shepherds nearby. Climb through alpine forest and rock-strewn plains to the top of Hasmasul Mare at an altitude of 5,900'. Marvel at the breathtaking view over Eastern Transylvania and the Moldavian Carpathians. Here, white limestone spires and craggy cliffs contrast with dark spruce forest and green meadows punctuated by small lakes. Enjoy a picnic lunch in this spectacular scenery before descending from the ridge through the lower meadows, where your vehicle will be waiting at the end of the trail. Drive down through the mountains to the Saxon citadel of Sighisoara—a small, fortified medieval city whose historic center is inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

ACCOMMODATION: Hotel Sighisoara

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 3-hour private van transfer

ACTIVITY: 6-7 hours/9 miles hiking with 2,600' elevation gain and 3,940' elevation loss



Explore Stunning Sighisoara Citadel & Hike through Saxon Villages

Spend some time this morning strolling along Sighisoara's cobblestone streets amid pastel-painted burgher houses and watch-tower spires in this magical medieval town. Built by the Transylvanian Saxons, who settled here in the 12th century, it is Europe's only inhabited medieval citadel. The Saxons were known for their craftsmanship, which shows in the architecture throughout the region. Take a short transfer to Saschiz, a Saxon village historically known for its distinctive blue pottery and UNESCO-listed fortified church, where you pick up the Via Transilvanica route again and hike through glorious forests and fertile open pastures to storybook Saxon villages and hamlets that are part of the cultural landscape. The trail takes you past some of the region's outstanding fortified churches, offering a snapshot of Saxon history amid idyllic rural scenery. Finish your hike in Mesendorf, a traditional Transylvanian village that seems frozen in time and spend the night in an enchanting old parish house reimaged as a stylish boutique hotel.

ACCOMMODATION: Mesendorf Gasthaus

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 40-minute van transfer

ACTIVITY: 4-5 hours/10 miles hiking with 900' elevation gain and loss



Across the Forest from Mesendorf to Viscri

Depart on foot from Mesendorf for your final day on the trail and more spellbinding scenery. Hike over gentle hills and through verdant forests, past picture-perfect farms and shepherds tending their flocks. Your destination is one of the most beautiful villages in Transylvania, Viscri. Its centerpiece is the fortified church, originally built in the 12th century and now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The afternoon is free to enjoy Viscri's rural splendor, wandering its unpaved and cobblestone streets to admire the traditional tile-roofed houses painted in soft hues and marvelous church. Stay in a collection of historic country homes tonight, immersing yourself in the hand-painted furnishings and thick plastered walls. Toast to your wonderful adventure during a farewell dinner cooked and served by your delightful local hosts.

ACCOMMODATION: Traditional Saxon Houses, Viscri

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: 3.5-5 hours / 8-10 miles hiking with 900' elevation gain and loss



Return to Bucharest & Depart

Journey back to Bucharest together with your group this morning for your onward flight.

MEALS: Breakfast

TRANSPORTATION: 4-hour private van transfer



Where You'll Stay

These accommodations may be subject to change depending on your date of travel.

Casa cu Cerbi

An authentic Bucovina farmhouse, Casa cu Cerbi has been beautifully restored in the Carpathian tradition. Clad in intricate woodwork and painted in bright green tones, the inn offers cozy, comfortable rooms with hand painted furnishings and regional textiles. Your knowledgeable hosts give you a warm welcome, hearty home-cooked meals, and delightful stories of the traditions and history of the region. Immerse yourself in a Romanian village.

Local Moldovita Guesthouse

Enjoy a true Romanian countryside experience in the picturesque village of Moldovita. Surrounded by rolling hills, pine forests, and traditional wooden homes, rooms at the family-run guest house have simple charm and handcrafted details. Relish homemade meals highlighting local specialties made from age-old Bucovinian recipes. Warm hospitality, peaceful surroundings, and a deep connection to local heritage are all parts of the guest house experience.

Hotel & Restaurant Lacu Rosu

Nestled in the forest, this alpine-style hotel is the perfect base for adventure in the Eastern Carpathians. Comfortable modern rooms have mountain views, connecting you with nature, and the hotel has free Wi-Fi, connecting you to the world. Savor traditional Szekely and Romanian dishes made with fresh, local ingredients at the popular restaurant, from rich stews and grilled trout to homemade desserts.



Where You'll Stay

These accommodations may be subject to change depending on your date of travel.

Hotel Sighisoara

Within the walls of the Saxon citadel, Hotel Sighisoara was once the city hall. The beautifully restored building dates to the 16th century and interior details such as coved ceiling and exposed beams remain. Each room is different in this historic hotel, with bright simple rooms looking out on the ancient city, beckoning exploration. Sip wines in the authentic brick cellar or check out the offerings at the onsite spa.

Mesendorf Gasthaus

This boutique collection of small traditional Saxon houses, barns, and modern lodges crafted in traditional style melds contemporary comforts and design on a historic property. Wooden floors and furniture, white walls, and beautiful textiles come together in a contemporary aesthetic with sleek modern bathrooms. The dining room is housed in a glass-walled barn, so you can enjoy the scenery while savoring top-notch meals made with fresh ingredients.

Traditional Saxon Houses

These beautifully renovated traditional homes, with their thick walls and tile roofs, have been reimagined as experiential homestays, complete with antique furniture and often with original tile stoves. Wood beamed ceilings, hand-painted chests, hand-loomed carpets, and shared bathrooms are typical. Each local house is unique, hosting two to six guests and reserved exclusively for your group. Meals will be enjoyed together at one of the houses.

Departure Dates

This trip is available to run in: April, May, June, July, September, October

Book early for a greater choice of available dates.

Once you book, your price is GUARANTEED!

June 11-19, 2026

July 10-18, 2026

September 3-11, 2026

October 8-16, 2026

What's Included

PRICE INCLUDES

- Expertise and services of our experienced adventure guides
- All accommodations as noted in the itinerary
- All breakfasts, almost all lunches and dinners as noted in the itinerary
- Snacks and water between meals
- Additional regional guides and experts on many trips
- Comprehensive Trip Planner with detailed pre-trip information
- Private guided tours at historic sites, museums, wineries and other select attractions as noted in the itinerary
- Special events and other select attractions as mentioned in the itinerary
- All gratuities at hotels and restaurants
- Equipment and experienced guides for activities as described in the itinerary
- Park and other entry fees (unless otherwise noted)
- Fares for trains, ferries and other modes of travel as listed in the itinerary
- Select transfers as mentioned in the itinerary
- Baggage transfers and portage

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International airfare, airport taxes, and excess baggage fees
- Alcoholic beverages (MT Sobek provides wine at select events)
- Gratuities for MT Sobek guides and guide-drivers
- Travel Protection Program
- Personal expenses



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