

Capitals of Eastern Europe: Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria in 12 days



12 days | 3 countries | 9 cities

Departure months: May-Oct

Small groups
up to **15**
participants

tourradar™
5 ★/5

Would you like to cruise under the magnificent bridges of Budapest while listening to the famous “Blue Danube Waltz”, drive around the stunning nature of Transylvania and visit its mysterious castles, and learn more about the traditional rose oil production in Bulgaria? Then this is the right tour for you. With the correct dosage of touring around while still having plenty of time for individual exploring, this tour is the right way to get to know these three beautiful countries.



○ Start of the tour ● End of the tour ● Overnight ● Optional activity ● Sightseeing

Day 1. Welcome to Hungary

Arrive at Budapest International Airport, where our guide will meet you with a sign. He will assist with money exchange, check-in, city orientation, and sightseeing recommendations. You will also receive information about Budapest's history, culture, and main attractions to help you get acquainted with the city before setting off on your adventure.

Day 2. Explore Budapest

After breakfast, embark on a 3-hour city tour. Start with the stunning view from Gellert Hill, where you will enjoy a panoramic perspective of the city's two halves: Buda, the ancient seat of the Hungarian Kings, and Pest, the modern heart of Hungary.



Budapest

Explore Buda, home to the medieval castle, Trinity Square, Fisherman's Bastion, and Matyas Church. Snap photos of Buda Castle before crossing the Chain Bridge into Pest to admire the Hungarian Parliament, browse Vaci Street, and visit St. Stephen's Basilica. Walk down Andrassy Avenue and explore Heroes Square, where Hungary's most important historical figures are commemorated.

Enjoy traditional Hungarian cuisine, such as gulyas stew for lunch, or try other local specialties like stuffed cabbage or chimney cake. Spend your free afternoon at a thermal bath, such as the Széchenyi or Gellért Baths, where you can soak in mineral-rich waters. Alternatively, take a leisurely stroll along the banks of the Danube River. In the evening, opt for a Danube cruise under Budapest's bridges with champagne and music (not included).

Experience the city illuminated at night, making for an unforgettable experience.

Overnight: Budapest

Day 3. Goodbye Hungary, Hello Romania

After breakfast, depart for Szeged, Hungary's third-largest city, known for its Art Nouveau architecture and vibrant university life. Enjoy a guided walk around Széchenyi Square and admire landmarks such as the Votive Church and the National Theatre before continuing to Romania. With Romania's Schengen entry in 2025, we reach Timisoara quickly.

After check-in, explore why Timisoara is called "Little Vienna." Stroll through beautifully renovated squares, marvel at historical buildings, and visit landmarks such as the Orthodox Cathedral and Union Square. Sample traditional Romanian food for dinner, such as sarmale (stuffed cabbage rolls) or mice (grilled sausages).

Overnight: Timisoara

Day 4. Timisoara - Corvin Castle - Sibiu

After breakfast and check-out, take a city tour covering the Orthodox Cathedral, Victory Square, Union Square, and Liberty Square. Discover Timisoara's role in the 1989 Romanian Revolution and how it shaped the country's modern history. Enjoy lunch before heading east to Corvin Castle, a Gothic Transylvanian landmark with an imposing drawbridge and fascinating legends about Vlad the Impaler.



Corvin Castle

Continue to Sibiu, a medieval city founded by German settlers in the 12th century. Check in, refresh and embark on a walking tour covering the Large Square, Brukenthal National Museum, the Small Square, the Council Tower, the Bridge of Lies, and the Stairs Passage. Experience the city's charming blend of medieval and Baroque architecture.

Overnight: Sibiu

Day 5. The Transylvanian Triangle - Sibiu - Sighisoara - Brasov

Journey to Sighisoara, a UNESCO-listed town known for its colorful houses and fortified walls and as the birthplace of Vlad the Impaler. Visit the Clock Tower, Dominican Monastery, and the Tailors' Tower. Learn about the town's German heritage and its significance in Transylvanian history.



Sigisoara

Proceed to Brasov, a picturesque town with historical buildings and charming streets. Walk to the Black Church, Catherine's Gate, and the narrowest street in the world, Strada Sforii. Take in the medieval charm and enjoy a relaxed evening at a traditional restaurant, where you can try dishes such as "papanasi" (Romanian doughnuts) or tochtitura (pork stew).

Overnight: Brasov

Day 6. Hello Dracula - Brasov - Bran Castle - Peles Castle - Bucharest

Visit Bran Castle, known as Dracula's Castle, and explore its towers and staircases while learning about Vlad the Impaler and the myths surrounding him. Discover its connections to Queen Marie of Romania and the history behind its medieval architecture.

Next, visit Peles Castle, a Neo-Renaissance masterpiece built for Romania's Royal family. Admire the splendid gardens and the intricately decorated interiors featuring Venetian glass, elaborate woodwork, and

valuable paintings. Arrive in Bucharest for check-in and free time.

Overnight: Bucharest

Day 7. Explore Bucharest

Nicknamed “Little Paris,” Bucharest blends Belle Époque, Byzantine, and communist-era architecture. Visit significant sights: Parliament Square, the Arch of Triumph, the Romanian Athenaeum, Calea Victoriei, and Revolution Square. Learn about the country’s communist past and how it shaped modern Romania. Spend the afternoon exploring the city’s parks, bars, and terraces. Enjoy Bucharest’s lively atmosphere in the evening, perhaps at a local beer hall or wine bar.

Overnight: Bucharest

Day 8. Bucharest – Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo – Arbanasi – Veliko Tarnovo

Depart for Bulgaria, stopping at Ivanovo’s **UNESCO**-listed rock-hewn churches, carved by hermits in the 12th century. Admire the ancient frescoes preserved inside the caves.



Veliko Tarnovo

Stop in Arbanasi, a medieval village with 80 historic houses, then continue to Veliko Tarnovo, the “City of Tsars,” known for its fortress ruins and preserved architecture. Enjoy an evening stroll and sample Bulgarian specialties such as banitsa (cheese pastry) or kavarma (stew).

Overnight: Veliko Tarnovo

Day 9. Veliko Tarnovo – Etar Ethno Village – Kazanlak – Plovdiv

Visit the Etar Ethnographic Museum, featuring historical houses and water-powered installations showcasing Bulgarian crafts and traditions. Stop in Kazanlak to tour the rose fields and visit the Ethnographic Complex Damascena to learn about Bulgaria’s famed rose oil production. See the **UNESCO**-listed Thracian Tomb before

heading to Plovdiv, one of Europe’s oldest cities. Walk its charming old town, which features Roman ruins and 19th-century Revival architecture.

Overnight: Plovdiv

Day 10. Plovdiv – Koprivshitsa – Sofia

Tour Plovdiv’s Roman Stadium, Ancient Theatre, and Saint Constantine and Helena Church. Then, end your tour in Kapana, an artistic district with shops and galleries.



Plovdiv amphitheatre

Next, visit Koprivshitsa, a charming town with 19th-century architecture and ethnographic museums showcasing Bulgaria’s liberation history. Arrive in Sofia in the evening and enjoy a traditional Bulgarian dinner.

Overnight: Sofia

Day 11. Sofia City Tour & Optional Rila Monastery Trip

Take a walking tour of Sofia, visiting St. George Rotunda, St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, St. Sofia Basilica, and Serdica-Roman ruins. Enjoy the blend of ancient landmarks and modern life. Spend the afternoon at leisure or optionally visit Rila Monastery, a **UNESCO** World Heritage site and spiritual hub since the Middle Ages (40 EUR per person). Experience the stunning frescoes and peaceful surroundings.

Overnight: Sofia

Day 12. Depart Sofia

Breakfast, then transfer to the airport. End of services.

Prices per person:

	in double/ twin room	in single room	in triple room
Classic package	2,499 €	2,939 €	2,249 €
Upgraded package	2,675 €	3,189 €	2,405 €

Available dates: 13-24.05; 10-21.06; 15-26.07; 12-23.08; 16-27.09; 14-25.10.

Included highlights and must-sees:



Explore with Local Specialists:

Budapest, Szeged, Timisoara, Corvin Castle, Sibiu, Sighisoara, Brasov, Bran, Peles Castle, Bucharest



Visit Must-see Landmarks:

Gellert Hill, Buda Castle, Fisherman’s Bastion, Matyas Church, Chain Bridge, Hungarian Parliament, St. Stephen’s Basilica, Andrassy Avenue, Heroes Square, Széchenyi Thermal Bath, Corvin Castle, Bridge of Lies, Sighisoara Clock Tower, Black Church, Bran Castle, Peles Castle, Lipsyani Street, Parliament Square, Arch of Triumph, Romanian Athenaeum, Revolution Square.



Overnights:

2 nights in Budapest; 1 night in Timisoara; 1 night in Sibiu; 1 night in Brasov; 2 nights in Bucharest; 1 night in Veliko Tarnovo; 1 night in Plovdiv; 2 nights in Sofia



Meals:

11 x breakfast in a hotel

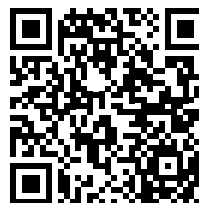


Tickets & Entrance fees:

Corvin Castle, Bran Castle, Peles Castle, Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo, Etar Open Air Museum, Arbanasi Historical Village, Rila Monastery, Thracian Tomb of Kazanlak, Rose Museum Kazanlak

Visit www.victortours.com for your full itinerary, sightseeing highlights, dates, and prices.

Alternatively, contact your preferred Travel Advisor.





John Peterson, USA

“Absolutely loved this trip! Every stop was packed with history, from the medieval castles to the stunning Parliament in Budapest. Corvin Castle was my favorite - it felt like stepping back in time. Our guide, Marko, was super knowledgeable and shared tons of great stories. The pace was fast, but with so much to see, I totally got it. Highly recommend for anyone into history!”

Claire Moreau, France

“If you love food, this trip is a dream. Every country had its own amazing flavors—Hungarian gulyas, Romanian sarmale, and the best papanasi in Brasov. Our guide, Nikola, always gave great food recommendations, and I really appreciated the mix of local spots and famous places. The only thing I’d change might be a little more free time to explore local markets. But overall, a delicious experience!”

Rajesh Malhotra, India

“This tour was a perfect mix of culture, history, and adventure. Walking through old towns like Sibiu and Sighisoara was like being in a fairytale. The visit to the rock-hewn churches in Bulgaria was an unexpected highlight. Also loved the music and vibe in Bucharest at night! Our guide, Ana, made sure we didn’t miss a thing. Just be ready for a lot of walking—it’s worth it, though!”

Emily Carter, UK

“As a solo traveler, I was a little nervous, but this tour was amazing! The group was fun, and our guide, Stefan, made sure everyone felt included. Budapest’s bars, the Danube cruise, and the old streets of Plovdiv were all incredible. The hotels were comfy, and I always felt safe. If you want a stress-free, well-planned adventure, this is it!”

“To travel is to live.”

*- Hans Christian Andersen,
a Danish author*