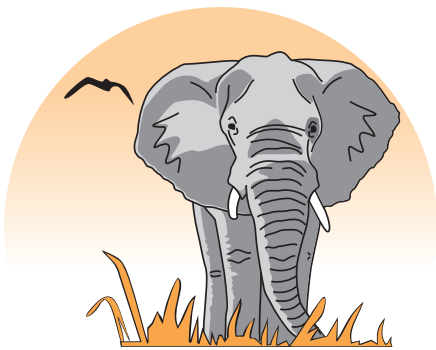


ROMANIA & POLAND



**INCREDIBLE
JOURNEYS**
TRAVEL INC.

ROMANIA - POLAND

Itinerary

Day 01 April 03

Your flights depart Calgary on Lufthansa Airlines at 1:05PM for Frankfurt where you have a brief wait before making your onward connection to Bucharest in Romania. Due to the change in time zones your arrival is early in the afternoon the next day.

Day 02 April 04

Upon arrival in Bucharest you will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel for check in and a chance to freshen up after the long travel. Later that afternoon you will have a brief look around this capital city before having dinner. This will be at "Caru Cu Bere" Restaurant, one of the oldest and best-known locations in the historical centre of Bucharest, now declared a National Historical and Architectural Monument.

Day 03 April 05

This morning you embark on a full day city tour of Bucharest which long ago earned the nickname "the Little Paris of the East".

The tour contains visits to the Parliament Palace - the second largest building in the world after the US Pentagon and the Village Museum - one of the world's most interesting ethnographical parks in open air with house samples gathered from all regions of the country. Other stops include The National Theatre; The Arch of Triumph; Victoria Palace (The Government); The Patriarchate Church; The Revolution Square; Romanian Athenaeum; and the Central Army House.

Later that afternoon you will depart for the city of Pitesti. On arrival you will get checked in and get some sleep before starting your project work the next day.



Day 04 April 06 to Day 06 April 08

The next 3 days you will spend at a local school in this provincial capital. Your project will involve building new washrooms for the school which are sorely needed plus building a playground for the kindergarten children

Day 07 April 09

It is time now to explore a little more of Romania. You depart after breakfast for Brasov, a medieval town called "The Romanian Salzburg", because of its admirable geographical location, at the foot of mountain (967 m high) and its remarkable cultural traditions, still alive.

On arrival you will have a half day Brasov city tour. This will take in the Old Medieval Brasov Market Place, Old City Hall, House of Guilders and visit the Black Church the largest construction in gothic style from Romania. You will also visit the Schei district with the Saint Nicholas Church and the First Romanian School.

Not far from Brasov lies Prejmer, the biggest fortified church in the Southeastern Europe built in the 14th century. The fortress has double walls and dungeons. Inside its walls there is a church, but the interesting thing here is the honeycomb like inner wall. Every family had one small room for sheltering in case the village was attacked. In peaceful times they used it as a storage room for food.

Day 08 April 10

After breakfast you will depart for Rasnov and Bran where you will visit two fortresses typical of Transylvania. The first is the Peasant Fortress at Rasnov. Built in stone and brick, it was erected in several stages starting with the 14th century and ending in the 17th century. It is one of the biggest rural fortresses in the country and somehow unique in that it was meant to be a place of refuge for the commoners from sieges over extended periods of time. As such it had at least 30 houses, a school, a chapel, and other buildings more commonly associated with a village. There is also a museum here, hidden behind the ancient walls.

After lunch it is off to Bran Castle. Built in 1378 atop a cliff it served as a custom check-point between Walachia and Transylvania and also had a strategic role in protecting the pass; nowadays, the castle is a museum and is included in most "Dracula" circuits as its legend was linked with the image of the



Vlad Tepes, the inspiring figure for Bram Stoker's character.



Day 09 April 11

This morning you depart back towards Bucharest. On the way you will stop in Sinaia, and visit Peles Castle - an old royal-residence and today a famous museum. It is one of the most precious monuments in Romania; built between 1875-1883, the castle contains many architectural styles, but prevalent is the German style. It is placed in the middle of a splendid park with beautiful terraces and includes 160 rooms with valuable decorative elements.

You will arrive in Bucharest in time for lunch and then afterwards you will visit the Museum of the Romanian Peasant. Opened in 1906, the museum features the richest folk art collection in Romania, with over 90,000 artifacts that trace the colorful and diverse cultural life of the Romanian people.

The **Pottery Collection** includes some 18,000 items, representative of the most important pottery centers in the country.

The oldest ceramic item found in the museum bears the inscription 1746. Equally impressive, the **Costume Collection** comprises almost 20,000 traditional folk costumes, some dating from the beginning of the 19th century, giving visitors insight into the styles and traditions of the Romanian peasants. The displays dip into all aspects of life in the Romanian countryside. Exhibits of agricultural tools, carpets, icons, furniture, photographs and films build up a complete picture of Romanian folk culture. In 1996, the museum was named European Museum of the Year.

Day 10 April 12

After breakfast you say goodbye to Romania as you head to the airport for the early afternoon flight to Poland. You will arrive into the former capital of the country, Krakow late that afternoon. After checking into the hotel, located right in the centre of the city, you have time for a walk around the Main market square.



Day 11 April 13

You get to stretch your legs a bit more as you depart after breakfast for a walking tour of the old city. Stops along the way include the Royal Wawel Hill. The Wawel Castle is Poland's greatest architectural treasure and a priceless national heritage monument. It was here that the Polish kings were crowned and buried. The Castle walls contain remains of pre-Romanesque, Romanesque and Gothic buildings, but its present-day style is that of the Renaissance. This appearance was given to the Castle by King Sigismund I the Old in the years 1507-36. Restored, the Wawel Castle compound consists of the Outer Court with the adjacent Cathedral Assembly, and of the Arcade Court surrounded by the Castle wings. The Castle is guarded by fortifications spiked with turrets. In 1978, UNESCO placed the Wawel Castle on its List of the World's Cultural and Natural Heritage. You will also see the Wawel Cathedral, Poland's national sanctuary with a 1000-year-old history, was the coronation site of Polish monarchs. Its present 14th-century walls shelter a great variety of top-class objects of art, from Gothic to Renaissance to Baroque to Classicist to Modern. It is also the burial ground of most Polish royalty as well as the greatest national heroes, two poets, four saints and countless Krakow bishops.

You get to experience lunch at one the many local restaurants before continuing your tour through the old town.

Day 12 April 14

Today you depart the hotel in the morning for the journey out to Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum and former Nazi concentration camp. This grim reminder of the holocaust takes you back to World War II and a time of Nazi terror and persecution of rights. To date, over 25,000,000 from all over the world have visited the Museum and Memorial. The famous crematoria of Auschwitz - now the Museum of Martyrdom - consists of brick barracks with tons of hair, shoes, glasses and other belongings of victims. At Birkenau, you will see hectares of wooden barracks and gas chambers.

Day 13 April 15

This morning you head off to the Wieliczka Salt Mine, one of Europe's oldest industrial enterprises, in continuous operation since the 13th century. Seven hundred years of uninterrupted exploitation has resulted in the creation of over 2000 chambers and tunnels of about 300km in length. You will see beautifully decorated chapels, underground lakes amongst the well preserved traces of mining operations.

Day 14 April 16

Your final day in Poland takes you for a morning tour to the site of Schindler's Factory and Krakow Ghetto. The afternoon will be free to soak in the atmosphere of Krakow's central area and catch up on any souvenir shopping that needs to be done. This evening you will be treated at a local restaurant for a traditional Polish Folklore dinner and entertainment as a send off for your last night of the trip.

Day 15 April 17

The journey ends today as you depart the hotel for your Lufthansa flight to Frankfurt. Again you have quick connections there as you transfer planes and home to Calgary. You arrive home late in the afternoon of the same day you left.

Includes :

- Airfare from Calgary including all taxes
- All accommodation and meals
- All activities, entrance fees as described
- English speaking guide throughout the trip
- Project costs and materials
- All local transportation
- Unlimited medical insurance
- Departure tax

Does not include:

- Cancellation insurance (optional cost at \$156.00)
- Items of a personal nature

