



Romania / Hungary Tour

December 10-20, 2019

Aaron Garber, Tour Coordinator; Emil Toader, Tour Director

DAY 1 - Tuesday, Dec. 10 (D)

We start our journey with a private bus taking us to Dulles Airport. Pickup locations will be SML, Lynchburg, and Roanoke. We are flying British Airways through London Heathrow to Budapest, Hungary on flights 216 and 868.

DAY 2 - Wednesday, Dec. 11 (B,D)

After arriving in Budapest, we check into the hotel and each tourist will be provided with a 48-hour bus & boat hop on and hop off ticket. This is an excellent way to see many of the sites in Budapest. You may tour on your own or let Aaron lead you around - your choice! Of note: Budapest has one of the best Christmas markets in Europe. We will stay in deluxe rooms in the legendary Hotel Astoria Budapest that opened in 1914 as one of the city's most elegant hotels and to this day remains true to its original character.

Lodging: Danubius Hotel Astoria - danubiushotels.com/en/our-hotels-budapest/danubius-hotel-astoria

DAY 3 - Thursday, Dec. 12 (B)

You can continue to explore Budapest with your hop on and hop off pass. Complimentary walking tours are included on both the Buda and Pest sides and so is a night tour. Dinner is on your own.

Lodging: Danubius Hotel Astoria

DAY 4 - Friday, Dec. 13 (B,D)

Emil joins us today as we go to Timisoara, Romania where we visit both the Victory and Union Squares and the Metropolitan Cathedral. We also visit the site where the 1989 Revolution began (Emil was there at the very start of the revolution).

Please note: during our stay in Timisoara, we may also spend time with the Romanian Rotarians. They are the ones who asked Aaron to compose the full opera about the revolution.

Lodging: Casa del Sole, Timisoara - hotel.casadelsole.ro

DAY 5 - Saturday, Dec. 14 (B,D)

We visit the 1989 Revolution Museum where we learn much about the facts of the revolution. More TBA.

Lodging: Casa del Sole, Timisoara

DAY 6 - Sunday, Dec. 15 (B,D)

Joining Emil for a Romanian church service in the morning is suggested. More TBA and then the OPERA PREMIERE in the Timisoara Opera House. It is on the balcony of this opera house where many important moments of the revolution occurred.

Lodging: Casa del Sole, Timisoara

DAY 7 - Monday, Dec. 16 (B,D)

We say goodbye to Timisoara as we head east and visit the mammoth Hunedoara Castle, also known as Corvin's Castle. It is a 14th century Gothic-style castle complete with drawbridge and towers. It was at this castle that Vlad Dracul, the father of Vlad Tepes or Dracula, was imprisoned for several years. We keep going east to the Sibiu area where we will enjoy a wonderful, traditional Romanian dinner.

Lodging: TBD in the Sibiu area

DAY 8 - Tuesday, Dec. 17 (B,D)

We tour downtown Sibiu, the European Capital of Culture in 2007. Sibiu is the former center of the Transylvanian Saxons and the old city of Sibiu was ranked as "Europe's 8th most idyllic place to live" by Forbes. There is much to see and do in this fabulous city that dates back to at least 1191. Next we visit the Biertan fortified church, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. The church was built between 1486 and 1524. Then it is on to the citadel in Sighisoara, another **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. This 12th Century Saxon citadel the only inhabited citadel still remaining in Europe! You will feel like you are taking a step way back in time as Emil takes us on a tour within the citadel walls.

Lodging: TBD in the Sighisoara area

DAY 9 - Wednesday, Dec. 18 (B,D)

You have free time to explore and have lunch on your own in Sighisoara. The Clock Tower and "Church on the Hill" are recommended. Then, we travel to Bran Castle (Dracula's Castle). This medieval dwelling dates back to the year 1211. We next head to the resort town of Sinaia where we will spend the night.

Lodging: Rina Sinaia - hotelsinaia.ro/english

DAY 10 - Thursday, Dec. 19 (B,D)

Today we tour Peles Palace, one of Aaron's favorite places in all of Europe. The inlaid wood, marble, and so much more have to be seen to be believed. Then we head to Bucharest, the capital of Romania where we will tour the Palace of the Parliament, Old Town, and Revolution Square.

Lodging: TBD in the Bucharest area

DAY 11 - Friday, Dec. 20

We fly home from Bucharest to Dulles airport through London Heathrow on British Airways flights 885 and 217. Thank you for coming to support the premiere of the *Romania: Revolution 1989* opera and for spending time touring Romania and Hungary! Drum bun! (farewell in Romanian)

While changes to the tour are not likely, please realize that weather and site renovations could keep the tour group from any given site. The meals that are included on the tour are specified for each date: Breakfast (B) and Dinner (D).

Tour Costs

- **\$3,200** (per person) for a double occupancy room; single occupancy adds **\$400**
- **Tour Payments**
 - Make a deposit of \$200 per person to reserve your place on the tour
 - Final payment of \$3,000 per person for a double room and \$3,400 for a single room is due by September 10.

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- You may purchase your tour by sending a check to the address below, or you may pay by credit/debit card at www.internationaltourco.com. **A 3% fee is added on to all credit/debit card purchases.** Please make your check payable to International Tour Company and put 2019 Romania Opera Tour in the memo line.

Mail your check to:
International Tour Company
P.O. Box 23
Cloverdale, VA 24077-0023

- You need to read over the terms & conditions and complete the reservation form to send in with your deposit. This can be found at <https://internationaltourco.com/important-documents>

What is included:

- Roundtrip economy airfare from Dulles International Airport (one checked bag is included)
- Transportation to Dulles airport from Lynchburg/SML/Roanoke
- All lodging in 3 or 4 star hotels
- All ground transportation, including transfers to/from the airports in Romania and Hungary
- Breakfast every morning and dinners as noted on the itinerary
- Your ticket to the premiere of the *Romania: Revolution 1989* opera
- Entrance fees to the sites listed on the itinerary and the Budapest 48-hour hop on and hop off ticket.

What is not included:

- Travel insurance (highly recommended) - Aaron is an agent for Allianz Travel Insurance and will be pleased to help you find the insurance you need (cancellation and/or medical).
- Drinks other than water at meals
- Tips for the tour guide and tour driver – my recommendation is \$40 for the Tour Director and \$20 for the Tour Driver

Other Important Information

- I suggest bringing \$300 in cash or \$100 in cash if you choose to use a credit/debit card. Romania uses the Leu and Hungary uses the Forint. You can exchange money before you leave or even do this at an airport (not the best rate but we're not talking a lot of money). Visa and MasterCard should work most places on this tour. Make sure to contact your card company before you leave to let them know where you will be.
- You need a valid U.S. passport that expires no less than six months beyond our return date.
- You do not need a visa for this trip.
- No special shots or vaccines are necessary.

Tour Director Emil Toader



Emil is Aaron's brother-in-law and this is their eighth time leading a tour group together in Romania. I have lived in Timisoara, Romania my entire life. As a native of Romania, it is always my pleasure to lead groups around my beautiful country. There is a rich history and culture in this part of the world. You may have heard about Dracula, but believe me, there is so much more to Romania. Tourists on the previous seven tours I have led with Aaron Garber have marveled at the beautiful

countryside, and they have been fascinated by the variety of sites we have seen. I hope to meet you in my homeland soon.

*Emil Toader, Tour Director
International Tour Company*

Some of the places we will see include:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Budapest>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timisoara>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timisoara_Orthodox_Cathedral

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romanian_National_Opera,_Timi%C8%99oara

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romanian_Revolution_of_1989

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corvin_Castle

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sibiu>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biertan>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sighisoara>

<http://www.bran-castle.com/explore.html>

<http://visit.peles.ro>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palace_of_the_Parliament

Budapest: Chain Bridge on the left; Hungarian Parliament Building on the right



Metropolitan Cathedral and Victory Square in Timisoara. On the left, a free country. The same square on December 20, 1989 just two days before communism fell in Romania.



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Timisoara Opera House on the left; Hunedoara (Corvin's) Castle on the right



On the left, a view of Sibiu, which was the 2007 European Capital of Culture. On the right, an example of the “eyes of Sibiu” – a reference to the unique look of windows on homes in Sibiu.



The citadel in Sighisoara on the left; Bran (Dracula's) Castle on the right



Peles Palace on the left and the Palace of the Parliament on the right

