

Discover Transylvania 2009

Ottoman Carpets and Romanian kilims

Study tour organised by Alberto Boralevi and Stefano Ionescu

Thursday 28 May

Departure from US

★ p.m. Departure from US for overnight flight to Bucharest, Romania.

For participants arriving earlier we can provide guiding to other attractions of Bucharest, not included in the tour.



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Friday 29 May

1st day

Arrival in Bucharest

Arrival at the international airport of Otopeni (or Baneasa) and transfer to Bucharest. Accommodation at the Hotel Residence Oliviers**** in the most elegant area of Bucharest with magnificent parks near Lake Herăstrău.

★ 7:00 p.m. - Welcome meeting at the hotel; every participant will receive a set of maps and brochures.

★ 8:00 p.m. - Dinner at the Restaurant of the hotel with a selection of Turkish and Balkanic specialities.



Stavropoleos Church
Bucharest

Saturday 30 May - 2nd day

Bucharest

★ 10:00 a.m. - Visit to the MUSEUM OF THE ROMANIAN PEASANT (MRP), the largest collection of Romanian flatwoves. We will be introduced to the collection by Dr. Geta Roşu, director of the textile department.

★ 12:00 a.m. - Visit to the MUSEUM OF ART COLLECTIONS (MCC) in Bucharest, which houses some antique rugs from private collections (Schmutzler, Oprescu, Avachian): *Lotto, Kula, Ghiordes, Senneh*, Caucasian rugs, Turkish embroideries as well as some fakes.

★ 1:30 p.m. - Snack near the central market (Piața Amzei).

★ 2:00 p.m. - Antique shops and short tour of Bucharest.

★ 4:30 p.m. - Private visit to Dan Nasta's villa, the greatest collector of Romanian flatwoves, kilims, ikons; discussion on two fakes possibly by Tuduc.

★ 8:00 p.m. - Dinner in a traditional restaurant with Romanian menu.



A' scoartza' from Oltenia
MRP, Bucharest



The Museum of Art Collections, Bucharest



The Atheneum, built 1870



The art collector Dan Nasta

Sunday 31 May - 3rd day Buch. – Sinaia – Braşov (200 km)

- ★ 9:00 a.m. - Departure from the hotel. On the road S. Ionescu will present the itinerary in Transylvania; historical and religious background of the region.
 - ★ 11:30 a.m. - Stop at Sinaia, a famous resort in the Carpathian mountains. Visit to PELEŞ CASTLE, former residence of the royal family. Persian carpets as well as some locally made Caucasian rugs.
 - ★ 2:00 p.m. - Open air snack at the coffee shop.
 - ★ 3:30 p.m. - Departure for Braşov through one of the most spectacular valleys of the Carpathians.
 - ★ 6:00 p.m. - Accommodation at the Hotel****.
 - ★ 8:00 p.m. - Dinner in a Saxon tavern in Braşov.
 - ★ 9:30 p.m. - Walking tour through the medieval centre of Braşov.
- (Please find other info about Braşov on the site www.welcometoromania.ro/Brasov)



Kula prayer rug - formerly in the Lutheran Church of Rosenau



The Orthodox Monastery in Sinaia



Landscape in the Carpathians



The Peleş Castle in Sinaia

Monday 1 June - 4th day Burzenland (Braşov countee)

- Due to the Pentecost celebrations visitors are not admitted in the Black Church.
- ★ 9:00 a.m. - Visit to the ETNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM in Braşov which houses a large collection of Romanian and Saxon folk art.
 - ★ 11:00 - Departure for Bran; outside visit of the 'Dracula' Castle. Bran market.
 - ★ 12:30 p.m. - Trip to Moeciu through a fairylike landscape.
 - ★ 1:30 p.m. - Open air lunch and visit to a local producer of cheese.
 - ★ 3:00 p.m. - Visit to the LUTHERAN CHURCH OF ROSENAU (3 Ottoman rugs).
 - ★ 4:00 p.m. - Departure for the LUTHERAN CHURCH HÖNIGBERG (11 rugs).
 - ★ 6:00 p.m. - Return to Braşov.
 - ★ 7:30 p.m. - Departure for Poiana Braşov (alt. 1.100 mt). Visit of the market in Poiana. Dinner at the 'Sheppard's House' with lamb barbeque.



Moeciu seen fro the Rucăr Pass



The Lutheran Church in Hönigberg



The 'Dracula' Castle in Bran

Tuesday 2 June - 5th day

Braşov – Kronstadt

- ★ 9:00 a.m. - Short visit to the HUNGARIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH (6 rugs).
 - ★ 10:30 a.m. - Visit to the BLACK CHURCH where 104 antique Ottoman rugs are displayed (inside the Black Church it is forbidden to take pictures). Private viewing of 12 highly important examples, which are preserved in the storage rooms of the Parish including the famous *Ghirlandaio* from the 15th century and the blue-ground *Lotto* from Petersburg.
- Free lunch, shopping hours or return to the Black Church (opened till 3p.m.).
- ★ 3:00 p.m. - St. Nicolas Orthodox Church
 - ★ 4:30 p.m. - Blumenau Church (13 rugs).
 - ★ 8:00 p.m. - Dinner.



The Black Church in Braşov



Study of a *Ghirlandaio* rug



Stefano Ionescu's book showing over 300 rugs from Transylvania



Ottoman prayer rugs in the Black Church

Wednesday 3 June - 6th day

Braşov – Sighişoara – Mediaş (170 km)

- ★ 9:00 a.m. - Departure for Rupea and Sighişoara (120 km). On the road Stefano Ionescu will discuss about Tuduc and the rug collection of the Lutheran Parish of Rupea (Reps). The participants will be offered copies of the brochure *The Lutheran Parishes and their rugs: whereabouts unknown*.
- ★ 11:00 a.m. - Sighişoara: historical centre and the MONASTERY CHURCH (40 rugs).
- ★ 1:00 p.m. - Lunch in a typical restaurant called 'Wagner House'.
- ★ 2:00 p.m. - Departure for Biertan (25 km), a picturesque old village which was the Episcopal Seat of the Saxon Lutheran Church in Transylvania (5 rugs).
- ★ 4:00 p.m. - Departure for Mediaş (22 km).
- ★ 5:00 p.m. - Visit to ST. MARGARET CHURCH (about 40 rugs, including 4 *Holbeins*; this collection has the highest number of 16th century rugs in Transylvania). Short discussion on *Holbein* and *Selendi* rugs. Coffee in the Parish guest room offered by Pastor Guib, Archdeacon of the Mediaş district.
- ★ 7:30 p.m. - Accommodation at the Binder Buby Hotel**** (swimming pool).
- ★ 8:30 p.m. - Dinner with local wines tasting.



Unique Star-lattice rug, late 15th century, in Sighişoara



The Monastery Church in Sighişoara



The Lutheran Church in Biertan



St. Margaret Church in Mediaş

Thursday 4 June - 7th day Mediaş – Sebeş – Sibiu (160 km)

- ★ 9:00 a.m. - Departure for Blaj, Alba Iulia.
- ★ 10:00 a.m. - Visit to the Lutheran Church in Sebeş (9 rugs).
- ★ 12:00 a.m. - Visit to the Kelling fortified church.
- ★ 1:00 p.m. - Open air lunch.
- ★ 2:00 p.m. - Departure for Sibiu.
- ★ 3:00 p.m. - Visit to the NATIONAL BRUKENTHAL MUSEUM.
- ★ 6:00 p.m. - City tour and visit to the great Lutheran Church in Sibiu.
- ★ 7:00 p.m. - Accommodation in the hotel***.
- ★ 8:30 p.m. - Dinner.



The Lutheran Church in Sebeş

Friday 5 June - 8th day Sibiu – Bucharest (280 km)

- ★ 9.00 a.m. - Visit to the Teutsch House in Sibiu.
- ★ 10.30 a.m. - Departure for Bucharest. Journey across the spectacular Olt Valley and visit to the COZIA MONASTERY. Light meal on the road.
- ★ 15:00 p.m. - Accommodation in the hotel. Free afternoon in Bucharest.
- ★ 8:00 p.m. - Gala dinner.



Cozia Monastery 14th cent.

Saturday 6 June - 9th day Departure from Bucharest

- ★ Breakfast and transfer to the airport. The participants who will stay longer will be assisted to organise their program in Bucharest.

Useful advice for the Journey:

This study tour aims to improve the preservation and the study of the Transylvanian rug heritage. The participants are warmly invited to donate rug-books to the library of the Brukenthal Museum or to inform the organisers of any other possibility of helping, stimulating or enhancing local rug scholarship.

The Romanian visa can be obtained at the airport (not necessary for US and EU citizens). The local currency is called Ron; the prices in Romania are lower than in western Europe, so for pocket money 100/200 euro should be enough.

Spring is the best season to visit Transylvania. In May and June the weather is usually fine but it may rain in Braşov. In the evening it is certainly cool. We advise the usual clothing for this season but also a raincoat and a wool sweater.

Your meals will be freshly prepared, the ingredients invariably organically grown or produced, without the use of chemical fertilisers or pesticides, often in the hosts' garden. Experience balkanic specialities, including 'sarmale' - rolls of soured cabbage or vine leaves stuffed with rice and minced pork flavoured with herbs such as dill, lovage and savory, 'mititei' - charcoal-grilled meat rolls served with mustard, 'ciorba' - soured soups, or 'tocanite' - meat stews, and 'mamaligă' - polenta.

Cost per person

for further information
info@transylvanianrugs.com

Double room: 1.300 euro

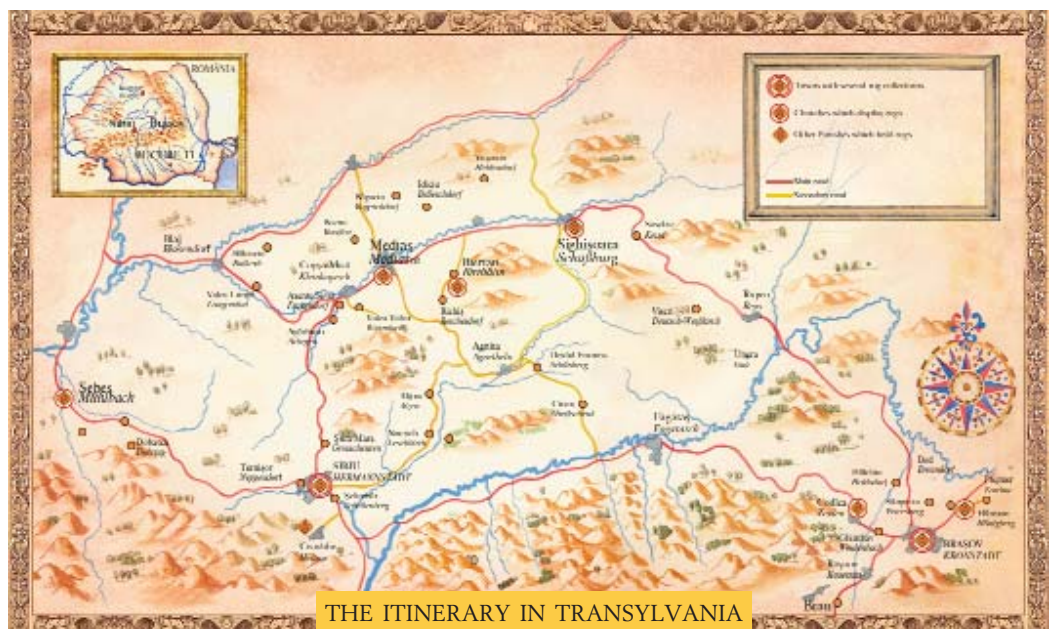
Single room suppl.: 300 euro

Accommodation with breakfast in 4 star hotels, meals including soft drinks and local wine as specified, transfer from/to the airports, private bus with wc, entrance tickets and English speaking guide. This programme may be slightly changed according to traffic conditions or other.

Air Costs: not included.

To register please contact:

info@transylvanianrugs.com



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