



# TRANSYLVANIA & BUKOVINA

6 - 17 JUNE 2019

Ottoman Carpets, Post-Byzantine Textiles, Romanian Folk Kilims, Tuducs

[www.transylvanianrugs.com](http://www.transylvanianrugs.com)

## Day 1 - Thurs, June 6 (d)

## Arrival in Bucharest

Arrival at international Otopeni airport (BUH) by individual flights. Meet our staff after the customs checkpoint. Withdraw some cash from the Unicredit ATM at the airport. Transfer to the Boutique Hotel Amzei, located in the centre of the town;

17:30 - from the hotel: walking tour with Stefano: Romanian Atheneum (opened 1888) and King Carol Square where the Revolution of 1989 took place.

20:00 - Presentation meeting in the bar of the hotel with a glass of Italian Prosecco; every participant will receive the brochure of the tour with the itinerary in Transylvania and Bukovina; Dinner with Balkanic menu.



The Romanian Atheneum

## Day 2 - Fri, June 7 (b,l,d)

## Bucharest

9:30 - depart for the National Art Museum (open 10:00 - 18.00), Medieval Gallery: religious art, post Byzantine art, superb Ottoman textiles and costumes, ecc. Highlights of the European Art Gallery: Brueghel - *The Four Seasons*; Not to miss El Greco's (Crete, 1541 - Toledo, 1614) work: *The Adoration of the Shepherds*, part of the high altar of the Dona María de Aragón collegiate church in Madrid.

12:30 - Depart for Brâncoveanu Palace. Open air lunch in the garden of the Palace.

14:30 - Guided tour of Mogoșoia Palace, finished in 1702 by Prince Brâncoveanu, which houses about 300 items donated by the top Romanian art-collectors Liana and Dan Nasta including Kula, Gördes, Kirshehir rugs, Senneh and Erzurum kilims and an excellent collection of Romanian and Bessarabian *scoartze*.

16:00 - Return to Bucharest for a City tour; Stop at the famous beer-house 'Carul cu Bere', founded in 1879. Visit the Orthodox Church Stavropoleos.

19.30 - Drink at Buhara Gallery followed by dinner.



Stavropoleos  
Greek-Orthodox Church



An Oltenian kilim (*scoartza*)  
Romanian Peasant Museum

## Day 3 - Sat, June 8 (b,l,d)

## Bucharest - Sinaia - Brașov (200 km)

9:00 - Depart for Sinaia. Short presentation of the historical and religious background of the three regions of Romania: Walachia, Moldavia and Transylvania.

11:30 - Guided visit of the Peleş Castle, former residence of the Royal family, which has retained original furnishing, including 18th. cent. Persian carpets.

13:30 - Open air snack at the coffee-shop of the Peleş Castle. Depart for

14.30 - Depart for Brașov where we will stay at Hotel Belvedere\*\*\*\*.

16:30 - Visit the Black Church, where almost 60 Ottoman rugs are displayed. Stefano will present the collection of Oriental carpets, including several 'Transylvanian' rugs.

20:00 - Dinner at the hotel restaurant.



The Mogoșoia Palace



Ottoman prayer rugs in the Black Church



Triumphal Arch

**Day 4 - Sun, June 9 (b,d)**

**Burzenland (70 km)**

9:00 - Depart for the Lutheran Church in Rosenau and learn about the history of this Saxon village founded by the Teutonic Knights. Here we will have the proof of the reason why Ottoman rugs survived in the Lutheran Churches.

Depart for Bran, home of the so-called 'Dracula' Castle, nestled in an idyllic valley. Visit the Castle and stroll in the nearby market, sampling local grappa, delicious

sheep's cheeses in fir tree bark, and Hungarian *Kurtos Colak* (twisty sweet bread thingy). Lunch to be announced. Return to Braşov;

17.00 from the hotel we will depart for the Lutheran Hungarian Church; with the coming of the Reformation the Hungarian population of Braşov and the surrounding area adopted the Lutheran confession, and for a long time formed part of the Evangelical Parish of the Black Church. But when in 1781 Joseph II's 'Patent of Tolerance' provided for freedom of worship in the Habsburg territories, the Hungarian community built their own church, with a small collection.

Walk to the medieval town-centre to admire the great Market Square, the City Hall the Hircher House and the Black Church. Dinner to be announced.



The 'Dracula' Castle in Bran



The Peleş Castle in Sinaia



The Hungarian Church, Braşov



Landscape near Bran

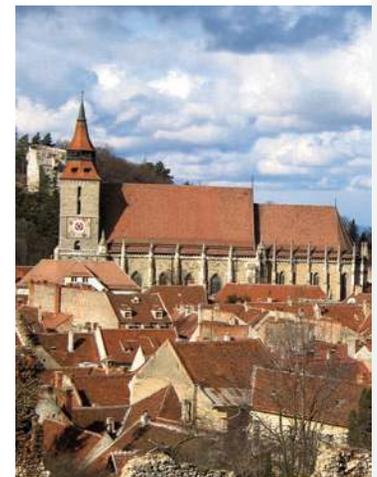
**Day 5 - Mon, June 10 (b,d)**

**Braşov - Harman - Poiana (70 km)**

9:30 - Depart for Blumenau Church (13 rugs) where we will meet Ing. Erwin Hellmann, a prominent member of the Saxon community, who will present the church. Then we will depart for Harman in the outskirts of Braşov. The fortified Church preserves a small but very interesting rug collection, which includes ten 'Lotto' rugs and a white-ground Selendi fragment with 'bird' pattern. The 'Lottos' show all three styles of field design, 'Anatolian', 'kilim' and 'ornamented', and five different border patterns. Also visit the Catholic Chapel and the defense system.

The nearby Evangelical Church of Sânpetru, owes a small but very valuable collection of six rugs that for many decades has not been accessible at all. The rugs are all very rare examples, in good condition: two outstanding 'Lotto' rugs, a rare white-ground double-niche 'Transylvanian' rug, and a unique prayer rug. Return to Braşov.

Depart for Poiana Braşov, 1100 mt. Dinner to be announced.



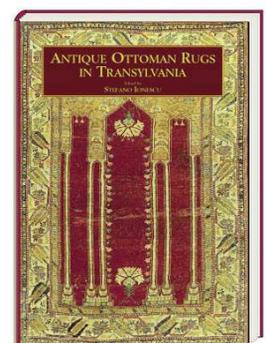
The Black Church in Braşov



Blumenau Church in Braşov



The Fortified Church of Harman



Stefano Ionescu's book

Day 6 - Tue, June 11 (b,l,d)

Braşov - Agapia - Bukovina (350 km)

8:30 - Depart from the hotel. Stop at Sf. Gheorghe and visit the National Seckler Museum. Open air lunch by the Red Lake. Drive across the spectacular Bicz gorges.

16:30 - Visit Agapia Orthodox Monastery, including the small museum displaying kilims and religious items. Meeting sister Eufrosina at the weaving workshop.

19:00 - Accommodation in Voroneţ. Optional walk. Dinner at the hotel restaurant.



Nuns weaving kilims at Agapia Monastery

Day 7 - Wed, June 12 (b,l,d)

Bukovina

(130 km)

9:00 - After a rich breakfast, in the tradition of the region, we will first visit the charming Humor Monastery (founded in 1530); we will continue with the Folk Museum in Radauţi (25km). Then we will reach Suceviţa Monastery, built 1583 where Sister Mariami will present the 16th c. frescos of the 'Scale of Virtues' and the calendary inside the church. Not to miss the south wall showing Moses and the 'burning bush'. Our visit to this UNESCO site will end with the small Museum showing some outstanding early 17th c. embroidered tomb covers and icons.

13:00 - Lunch with wild mushrooms and polenta at the nearby Popasul Bukovina;

In the afternoon we will visit Arbore monastery (1503) and finally the wonderful Voroneţ painted church, with the famous Last Judgement (1547); in the nearby market we can find some locally made textiles. Traditional dinner at the hotel restaurant.



Landscape in Bukovina



Suceviţa Monastery



Embroidered tomb cover of Prince Ieremia Movila, Suceviţa Monastery Museum

Day 8, 9 - Thur, Fri June 13, 14 (b,l,d) Bukovina - Bistriţa - Mediaş

**Thursday:** 8:30 - Today we have a long but enchanting drive, about 300 km. Stop at Pasul Tihuţa (alt 1,200 m) between Transylvania and Bukovina;

12:00 - Visit the Lutheran Church in Bistriţa, with the highest tower in Transylvania and learn about the 50 rugs of the Parish, which are in Nuremberg since 1952. Lunch in Bistriţa with the Pastor Johan Kraus. Stop in Tg. Mureş to visit a local collector.

19:00 - check in at Binder Buby Hotel\*\*\*\* Mediaş; 20:00 dinner at the hotel.

**Friday:** 9:00 - Depart for Sighişoara / Schässburg: walk to the Church on the Hill; Visit the Monastery Church, displaying about 30 rugs: a Star Ushak, several Lottos, a Bird rug dated 1646 and several double-niche Transylvanians. Lunch in Sighişoara.

14:30 - Depart for Malâncrav Church, called th Sixtine Chapel of Transylvania.

17.30 - visit Biertan, former seat of the Lutheran Church (5 rugs); Return to Mediaş.

20:00 - Dinner in a Saxon home in Mediaş owned by Mr. Lurz Connerr.



Malâncrav Church



The Monastery Church in Sighişoara



The Lutheran Church in Biertan



St Margaret's Church in Mediaş

## Day 10 - Sat, June 15 (b,l,d)

## Mediaş - Sibiu (80 km)

9:30 - visit St. Margaret's Church, probably the most beautiful Lutheran Church in Transylvania; the collection, about 40 rugs and fragments includes 4 Holbeins, 8 Lottos, 3 Çintamani, 10 Bird rugs and a rare Scorpion rug.

12:00 - Depart for Sibiu; Lunch in the center of Sibiu.

15:00 - Visit the National Brukenthal Museum (open till 5 pm) and meet Dr. Alexandru Sonoc, the curator of the European Art Collection. Explore Sibiu guild towers the Liar's Bridge, the great market square and the great Lutheran Church, with a high tower. Free time to make some shopping or to visit some other objective in Sibiu.

Overnight at Golden Tulip Hotel\*\*\*\*. Dinner to be announced.

## Day 11, 12 - Sun, Mon June 16, 17 (b,d) Sibiu and return to Bucharest

**Sunday:** breakfast on the roof top restaurant of the hotel; Depart for Călnic, a Saxon fortified church, recently restored (UNESCO heritage List). Drive to Baița to visit the newly opened Museum of the Textiles organised by Florica Zaharia (MET Museum curator emeritus); Return to Sebeş and visit the wonderful Lutheran church with 5 rugs; stop at Cristian and watch the stork colony. Return to Sibiu by 19:00. Total distance 250 km Farewell dinner at the hotel restaurant.

**Monday:** 8.30 am - Check out of hotel; depart for Bucharest (280 km). Journey across the spectacular Olt Valley. Visit the Orthodox Monastery of Cozia; inside the Church there are still some late 14th century frescoes. Lunch on the road.

14:00 - Arrive at Bucharest Otopeni airport in time to catch the return flights.

Transfer to the hotel for those who will spend an extra night in Bucharest.



Schwab von Wertinger  
(about 1465-1533)



Storks in Cristian



Landscape in Sibiu - left the 74m tower of the great Lutheran Church



Cozia Monastery, 14th cent.

## Tour fee

**Price per person\*:** in double room: 1.600 €

**Single room supplement\*:** 250 €

\*Price is calculated for a minimum of 10 pax.

Accommodation with breakfast in 4 star hotels, full meals as specified including drinks (mineral water at lunch, local wine or beer and slibovitz at dinner), individual transfers from the airport, private van with ac, entrance tickets, expert Tour Leader and German local guiding.

No insurance and no flights are provided as part of the fee.

This programme may be slightly changed according to traffic conditions or other unforeseen factors.

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## The itinerary in Romania 2019



Tour operator ROVIAL, Brasov