



The Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route

Bulgaria, Eastern Serbia and Romania

Romania, Bulgaria & Serbia: Charming Cities, Culture, History and an Enchanting Wine Village

Introduction:

This round-trip leads along 3 different Balkan countries endowed with rich culture, impressive Roman heritage sites, historical fortresses and an enchanting wine village.

After discovering Romania's elegant and dynamic capital, Bucharest, the route leads you further and further into the country with breathtaking nature and cultural richness. In undiscovered Eastern Serbia you will have an unforgettable culinary and cultural experience with outstanding hospitality making you forget the time in the Negotin wine region. You will also explore the remarkable UNESCO site "Gamzigrad-Romuliana, Palace of Galerius". In Bulgaria awaits you a mysterious fortress once built into the rock by the Romans, fascinating medieval architecture and Roman archeological sites surrounded by beautiful nature.

Itinerary: Bucharest > Braşov > Sibiu > Alba Iulia > Hunedoara > Sarmizegetusa > Baile Herculane > Kladovo > Rajačke Pimnice > Gamzigrad > Zaječar > Belogradchik > Vratsa > Pleven > Veliko Tarnovo > Svishtov > Ruse > Bucharest

Duration: 10 days

Best way of transport: rental car, private car, camper

More information about The Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route:

<http://romanemperorsroute.org/>

Day	Destinations
Romania	
1	<p>Arrival at Bucharest airport</p> <p>Bucharest</p> <p>Discover Bucharest, the bustling capital of Romania – formerly known as the "Little Paris". Stroll around tree-lined boulevards and lionize old architecture. Main highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House of the Free Press • The Arch of Triumph • Calea Victoriei • Revolution Square • The Romanian Athenaeum • Old Town Bucharest • Parliament Palace <p>In terms of traditional and modern cuisine there are plenty of restaurants. Enjoy a delicious dinner in a nice atmosphere in the old town of Bucharest. Overnight in Bucharest.</p>
2	<p>Bucharest-Braşov (183 km)</p> <p>Continue your journey to Braşov. If time allows it is worth visiting</p>

	<p>Peleş Castle in Sinai on the way – a neo-Renaissance masterpiece commissioned by Romania’s first king, Carol I. Take a walk through Braşov and do some sightseeing. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Square • Black church • Tampa Mountain • Black and White Towers • Catherine’s Gate and Brasov’s fortified medieval walls • Excursion to Rasnov Fortress <p>Dinner with local cuisine and overnight in Braşov.</p>
3	<p>Braşov-Sibiu (144 km) and Sibiu-Alba Iulia (74 km)</p> <p>Continue to Sibiu. Make a stopover in the former capital of Transylvania. Walk around this charming city and enjoy lunch in one of the diverse restaurants – from traditional to modern cuisine. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council tower • Brukenthal museum • The C.A. Evangelic church • Astra museum • Bridge of lies <p>Drive to Alba Iulia. Taste real Transylvanian cuisine for your dinner. Overnight in Alba Iulia. <i>Hotel tip: Hotel Transilvania.</i></p>
4	<p>Alba Iulia-Hunedoara (78 km)</p> <p>Explore the city on a sightseeing tour and walk around the largest citadel in Romania. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roman Castrum, city of Apulum/ Citadelle de Carolina Albia <p>Drive to Hunedoara and visit the impressive Hunedoara Castle – a Gothic-Renaissance castle and one of the largest castles in Europe. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corvin Castle/ Hunedoara Castle <p>Relax over a tasty Romanian meal and a glass of wine. Overnight in Hunedoara.</p>
5	<p>Hunedoara-Sarmizegetusa (45 km) and Sarmizegetusa-Baile Herculane (128 km)</p> <p>Continue to Sarmizegetusa. Here you can have a stopover to explore the ruins of one of the oldest cities in Romania, which used to be the Roman capital of Dacia. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa <p>Drive to Baile Herculane – the oldest spa town of Romania. Relax during a massage or breath fresh air at an excursion in the nearby national park. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cernei-Domogled Valley National Park • Spa visit

	Dinner and overnight in Baile Herculane. <i>Hotel tip: Grand Hotel Minerva Resort & SPA.</i>
Romania & Serbia	
6	<p>Baile Herculane-Kladovo (50 km) and Kladovo-Rajačke Pimnice (80 km)</p> <p>Drive to Kladovo. Take a nice walk along the Danube river or go on sightseeing in Kladovo. You can also visit the Archaeological Museum of Đerdap. In the vicinity you have many further possibilities to explore the region. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nearby archeological sites: Remnants of Roman Emperor Trajan’s bridge, Trajan’s table, Roman fortress Diana • Fetislam fortress • Golubac fortress • Iron Gate Gorge (boat cruise) • Đerdap National Park <p>Have lunch in a traditional fish restaurant close to the river.</p> <p>Drive to Rajačke Pimnice. And experience the impressive “pivnice” – the wine cellars in Rajac. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wine and local food in Rajačke Pimnice <p>Feel the hospitality, enjoy traditional Serbian food and local wine and experience a rural stay in this traditional wine village from 19th century. Overnight in Rajačke Pimnice.</p>
Serbia & Bulgaria	
7	<p>Rajačke Pimnice-Gamzigrad (62 km), Gamzigrad-Zaječar (11 km) and Zaječar-Belogradchik (59 km)</p> <p>Continue to Gamzigrad to explore UNESCO World Cultural Heritage “Gamzigrad-Romuliana, Palace of Galerius” from Roman times. After that visit the National Museum of Zaječar and admire mosaics, sculptures and architectural decoration of the imperial palace Romuliana. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Felix Romuliana archeological site • Roman exhibition in the National museum of Zaječar <p>Drive to Belogradchik. Here awaits you a breath-taking fortress surrounded by rocks. Built by the Romans and later expanded by the Byzantines, Bulgarians and Turks. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kaleto Fortress <p>Dinner and overnight in Belogradchik.</p>
8	<p>Belogradchik-Vratsa (107 km)</p> <p>Continue to Vratsa. Vratsa is a perfect stop to go on relaxed excursions into nature. You can choose from plenty guided tours or explore the nearby nature park on your own. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vrachanski Balkan Nature Park • Ledenika cave

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Historical Museum Vratsa <p>After this active day relax with a glass of wine and traditional Bulgarian food. Overnight in Vratsa.</p>
9	<p>Vratsa-Pleven (106 km) and Pleven-Veliko Tarnovo (127 km)</p> <p>Drive to Pleven and make a stopover on your way to Veliko Tarnovo. Visit the wine museum, regional history museum, take a walk in the city centre and have some lunch or visit the nearby ancient Roman town. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wine museum Regional history museum Colonia Ulpia Oescus <p>Drive to Veliko Tarnovo – the medieval capital of Bulgaria with more than 7000 years of history. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tsarevets fortress Kaya Bunar waterfall Nicopolis ad Istrum (Roman and early Byzantine town) <p>Taste local wine and food in one of the many restaurants. Overnight in Veliko Tarnovo. <i>Tip for Gastronomy: Hadji Nikoli heritage restaurant.</i></p>
10	<p>Veliko Tarnovo- Svishtov (83 km) and Svishtov-Ruse (84 km)</p> <p>Continue to Svishtov. Make a stopover and discover an ancient Roman legionary base along the Lower Danube. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Novae Roman Fortress <p>Drive to Ruse – the charming town close to the Danube river. This city invites you to wander around and enjoy the relaxing atmosphere. Or make an excursion into nature. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexaginta Prista Museum of History Rusenski Lom Nature Park Ivanovo Rock-hewn churches (UNESCO World Heritage) <p>End the evening with a nice dinner and wine tasting, typical Bulgarian dish in the beautiful city centre or at the Danube promenade. Overnight in Ruse. <i>Tips for gastronomy and accommodation: Leventa Wine House and Hotel Anna Palace.</i></p>
11	<p>Ruse-Bucharest (92 km)</p> <p>Drive to Bucharest. Departure from Bucharest</p>



Further information

How to arrive to Bucharest and how to travel

- Non-stop flights to Bucharest, e.g. from Frankfurt, Berlin, Munich, Stuttgart, Dortmund, Hamburg, Amsterdam, Brussels, London, Paris, Warsaw.
- Car-hire is possible at the airport, for example at “Sixt – Rent a car” (make sure to book frontier crossing).
- When planning your trip keep in mind the time difference between Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania.

Tourist Information Bucharest

Website: <http://romaniatourism.com/bucharest.html>

Tourist Information Braşov

Website: <http://romaniatourism.com/brasov.html>

Tourist Information Sibiu

Website: <https://turism.sibiu.ro/index.php/de>

Tourist Information Alba Iulia

Website: <http://www.visitalbaiulia.com/>

Tourist Information Hunedoara

Website: <http://romaniatourism.com/castles-fortresses-romania-corvin-castle-hunedoara.html>

Tourist Information Kladovo

Website: tookladovo.rs

Tourist Information Belogradchik

Website: <http://www.belogradchik.bg/>

Tourist Information Vratsa

Website: <https://www.visitvratsa.com/>

Tourist Information Veliko Tarnovo

<http://www.velikoturnovo.info/>

Tourist Information Svishtov

Tourist Information Ruse

<http://en.visitruse.info/>



Departure from Bucharest

- Bucharest Henri Coanda International Airport is situated at 16,5 km distance from Bucharest down-town.

By car

- Access roads: The National Road DN 1

By Bus:

- 780 Express line connects Bucharest Henri Coandă International Airport with the Gara de Nord (main railway station).
- 782 Express line connects Bucharest Henri Coandă International Airport with Băneasa Shopping Center.
- 784 Express line connects Bucharest Henri Coandă International Airport with the city center (Unirea Square) – fast lane.
- 783 Express line connects Bucharest Henri Coandă International Airport with the city center. This line runs day and night. At night, the bus leaves every 40 minutes.
- The travelling time is approximately 45-60 minutes (depending on traffic).
- Price: 3,5 lei (one way), 7 lei (two ways)

Flights

- Non-stop flights from Bucharest, e.g. to Frankfurt, Berlin, Munich, Stuttgart, Dortmund, Hamburg, Amsterdam, Brussels, London, Paris, Warsaw.