



Climbing and Conservation Adventure to Romania

May 15-24, 2022

May 15 th	Welcome	(Dinner)
	Today please make your international flights to Bucharest from the USA. Please arrive by 2 pm so we can transfer you to our hotel.	
6:00pm	Meet and Greet Orientation Session with Tree Monkey.	
7:30pm	Welcome Dinner with Traditional Romanian Food!	

(Overnight Bucharest in a 4 star hotel)

May 16 th	History and Cultural Overview	(Breakfast, Lunch)
8:00am	Breakfast	
9:00am	This morning we start our day with an invited historian who will share “Romania Past, Present, Future” with us.	
11:00am	Enjoy a City tour by bus and foot. We will walk along the Strada George Enescu and Strada Nicolae Golescutoward the Romanian Athenaeum, one of Bucharest’s most iconic buildings to the Calea Victoriei , one of the city’s central arteries and most historic streets. We continue to the Royal Palace , which is now home to the National Museum of Romanian Art , the country’s finest collection of artwork.	
1:00pm	Lunch	
2:30 pm	City tour continues at the Piața Revoluției, or Plaza of the Revolution, which commemorates the 1989 Romanian Revolution that ousted the nasty Communist dictator Nicolae Ceaușescu. The symbolism of the Memorial of Rebirth , the plaza’s most notable feature, is unclear among some locals, who sometimes refer to it as an “olive on a toothpick.” The buildings behind the plaza are the former Communist Party Headquarters where Ceaușescu gave his unpopular final speech before fleeing and being swiftly executed. We end the afternoon with a visits to the Stavropoleos Monastery, to the New St. George Church, and to the Museum of the Peasant (If reopened) with a collection of textiles, icons, ceramics, and other artifacts of Romanian peasant life.	

5:30 pm Return to the hotel and enjoy time to rest. Dinner and evening are free for you to explore on your own, but we will make a group dinner reservation within walking distance to our hotel.

(Overnight Bucharest at our 4 star hotel)

May 17th Ecology and Forest Management (Breakfast, Lunch)

8:00am Breakfast

9:00am Check out of hotel.

9:30 am Exchange with a representative of **Agent Green**, a local conservation organization representative to learn about the importance of Romania's forests and biodiversity.

11:00am Depart for Brassov and Zabola Estates with a visit to impressive **Bran Castle and its Torture Museum**, to learn about the history of Transylvania and the stories behind Dracula's Castle. We will have lunch along the way.

4:00pm Check in to our lodge where we will have a group dinner reservation and welcome words by the family about the history of Zabola Estates.

7:00pm Dinner reservations at the Estate.

(Overnight Zabola Estates)

May 18, 19 & 20 Forest and Climbing Immersion (Breakfast, Lunch)

Climbing days will be fluid depending on conditions and weather. A facilitated climb will be optional for people without climbing gear to experience tree climbing days 4 and 5. Experienced Climbers with gear may climb in other locations on the property. There may also be installations of monitoring devices by experienced climbers on the property during those days. Lunches will be packed and taken out in the forest, or maybe hot lunches. We have planned two of each.

8:00am Breakfast

9:00am Climb

12:00pm Lunch

1:00pm Climb

3:00pm Enjoy daily excursions. They will include *a visit to a local village and to the Haszman Pal Museum* <https://sznm.ro/sznme.php?o=filiacernaten> ; an exploration of *Smelly Mountain (mofetta, peatbog, mineral water springs, and hot springs to soak); an exchange with local crafts men and Kezdivasarhely* <https://sznm.ro/sznme.php?o=filiaguilds> ; and a hot springs soak at *Saint Anne Lake*.

7:00pm Dinner reservations at the Estate.

(Overnight Zabola Estates)

May 21 Forest Service Day (Breakfast, Lunch)

8:00am Breakfast

9:00am Today will be a trip to another old growth forest off site with tree climbing and device installation. Lunches also will be packed into the field. It is also celebration of Sanziene. Our local guide will share the meaning of this cultural tradition with us.

7:00pm Dinner reservations at the Estate.

(Overnight Zabola Estates)

<u>May 22</u>	<u>Ecotourism and Cultural Heritage</u>	<u>(Breakfast, Lunch)</u>
8:00am	Breakfast	
9:00am	Take leave of the Zabola Estates for the medieval town of Sighisoara . Designated as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, the town is full of cobbled streets and ornate churches and is the birthplace of Vlad Tepes or Vlad Dracula; the title translated to mean the son of Dracul. Sighisoara was founded in the 12th century by Transylvanian Saxons, but it's Dracula that has put the town on the map with visitors. After lunch we will visit the Vlad Dracul House is in Citadel Square, close to the Clock Tower, and is where he was born. The ground floor of the house is a restaurant serving typical Romanian food for a fair price and is also home to the Museum of Weapons. We will climb the clock tower and enjoy free time to explore the colorful streets.	
5:00pm	Evening free for local cultural activities.	
		(Overnight in a 4 star hotel)

<u>May 23</u>	<u>Wrap up</u>	<u>(Breakfast, Dinner)</u>
8:00am	Breakfast	
9:00am	Check out of hotel and return to Bucharest (about a four hour drive). We will stop along the way for lunch. Upon arrival we will have time to support local crafts persons at the Traditional Popular Art Gallery, the La Chambre Aux Bons Vins (Tuica), the Ki-Life Natural Store (Honey).	
4:30pm	Check in to hotel and enjoy some free time for rest.	
8:00pm	Farewell Dinner and Wrap – up Session.	
		(Overnight in a 4 star hotel)

<u>May 24</u>	<u>Farewell Tree Monkeys</u>	<u>(Breakfast))</u>
8:00am	Breakfast	
9:00am	Check out of hotel	
9:30am	Transfer to the airport or taxi on your own later.	

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