



8 Days

# Romania

## An Environmental Science Expedition

Our Romanian science expedition is guaranteed to take you by surprise! In just 8 days you will experience by marine, coastal and mountainous environments. Starting in the enormous Danube Delta, Europe's second largest river delta system, explore the labyrinth of waterways by boat and kayak, spotting wildlife and learning from biologists. Next you'll be transported to east Romania's mountains to discover volcanoes, castles, gorges by car, bike and hiking. This is a wildlife conservation focused journey including wild horses, bears and countless bird species. Finishing off with a visit to Count Dracula's home and a city tour of Bucharest... join us and enjoy this action packed expedition.



# Recommended tour itinerary

Day  
1

## Arrive Bucharest

Welcome to Romania! Fly from London to Bucharest's Otopeni airport where you will be met by your local STC Expedition Leader and transferred directly to Tulcea. From here we travel by boat to Crisan, a small fishing village in the heart of the Danube Delta. After our welcome briefing, dinner will be served in our accommodation.

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Day  
2-4

## Danube Delta

The spectacular Danube Delta is the second largest river delta in Europe and the best preserved on the continent, often referred to as the 'last wilderness' in Europe. The mighty Danube River flows 1,788 miles from Germany's Black Forest and to the Black Sea. Just before reaching the sea, this enormous delta is home to 2,200 square miles of rivers, canals, marshes, tree-fringed lakes and reed islets. The next three days will be spent exploring this pristine wilderness by boat and return each evening to overnight in a floating hotel!

The Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve has the third largest biodiversity in the world with countless species of birdlife, fish, amphibians and reptiles. We spend time with biologists to learn about the protection and management of vulnerable species and habitats here and assist with current scientific data collection projects. This could be focusing on migratory bird species or fishing populations and how changes can impact the local communities. We will also visit Letea Forest to track herds of wild Danube Delta horses and learn of the efforts being made to control their growing population.

This is a bird watchers paradise. We will try to spot some of the 300 species on a birdwatching tour from a kayak, whilst exploring the labyrinth of channel lakes and ponds.

Each day we enjoy a packed lunch on the river banks and return to our floating hotel for dinner and spectacular sunsets.

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Day  
5

## Covansa Spa Resort, Mountain biking

Today we rise early to make our journey from marine coastal environment to the mountains of west Romania. It is a fairly long 5-6 hour drive, but on arrival, it's time to step up the tempo. Mountain biking out in to the countryside, following forest and mountain trails, we have been transported into a different mountainous world. We pass beautiful ancient churches and see rural life in this idyllic part of Europe. On arrival at Covansa Spa Resort, we can unwind in the mineral water springs, home to the Covasna-method of treatment.





Day  
6

## Bicaz Gorge & Red Lake

This morning we visit a volcano that produces yellow mud and mineral water and has been used as a public bath since 1881. We then begin a trip to the Bicaz Gorge and Red Lake (the largest natural mountain lake in Romania). The Bicaz Gorge is famous for its 1,000ft limestone rocks towering over the gorge below. The 3,780ft high Altar Rock dominates the skyline giving way to the Eastern Carpathian mountains in the distance. We're heading for the Red lake (Lacul Roșu) nestled in a steep valley overlooked by the Altar Rock. The lake is well known for the pine trunks standing out of the water and the secular remnants of an ancient forest; its name comes from the colour of the water stained by the minerals of the surrounding soil.

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Day  
7

## Bran, Bears & 'Dracula's Castle'

This morning we rise early to visit the bear sanctuary in Zarnesti. The sanctuary is home to a few of the oldest bear species in Romania which have been rescued from captivity and are sadly not able to be released back into the wild. There are 76 European brown and Tibetan black bears living here. Continuing south to Bran, we visit 'Dracula's Castle' which has a spectacular location on top of a rock, marking the one-time border between Transylvania and Valachia. The medieval castle is very striking in appearance and is the perfect Gothic fairytale image of a Transylvanian castle. Exploring the village, the castle and the museum gives us a chance to unravel fact from the myths of legends that surround this fascinating castle.

We continue to Bucharest, check into our hotel and enjoy a 'farewell' dinner in a traditional restaurant.

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Day  
8

## Bucharest city tour & depart

Bucharest is Romania's largest city and became the capital in 1832. Our Bucharest tour begins in the political centre of the city, Revolution Square, which has witnessed most of the important events in Romanian history. It was from here in 1989 that dictator Ceausescu made his ill-advised rallying speech to a crowd that quickly turned on him, instigating the Romanian revolution. Surrounding the square are several other notable landmarks, including the former Royal Palace, the Athenaeum concert hall and Athenee Palace - the heart of espionage and intrigue in the years between the wars.

We'll spend time exploring the maze of passageways and paths of the old town in the heart of the medieval district, steeped in history where Ottoman pashas rubbed shoulders with Transylvanian princes, and churches and mosques stood side by side.

To end our tour we return once more to the modern part of the city heading along Victory Street, named after the spectacular victory of the new Romanian nation in the 1877 War of Independence. We'll try some covrig, a daily salty snack for most Romanians introduced in medieval times. Our final stop is the famous People's Palace the second largest building in the world (only the Pentagon is bigger) a standing monument to the Ceausescu's rule.

Finally we head back to the airport for our return flight to the UK.

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# Further information

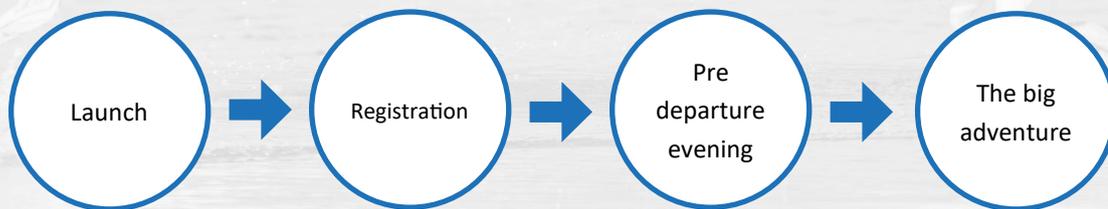
## Look what's included!

- International flights
- All accommodation
- All food
- All transportation and activities
- Bi-lingual, first-aid qualified local tour leader
- Parent and student trip launch evening
- Pre-departure preparation evening
- 1-day offsite safety INSET day for staff
- ATOL financial protection
- Medical Emergency / Repatriation Travel Insurance
- Group first aid kit and prescription meds pack
- BS8848 safety management and risk assessments
- Detailed pre-departure information and kit lists
- Comprehensive teacher travel packs
- Permanent operations team in your destination
- 24-hour UK operational support whilst overseas
- Carbon offsetting of all flights
- Free t-shirt for every participant and teacher

## What's excluded?

- Transport to airport in UK
- Drinks (advice will be given on purification of water)
- Visas or tourist cards if required
- Any required inoculations
- Personal spending money
- Tips for guides, drivers and porters
- Airport departure taxes paid locally
- Cancellation and personal effects insurance

## Your educational journey timeline



## Physical journey rating:



Some low level physical activities included in your trip, including walking on uneven terrain, maybe a morning/afternoon trek of two to four hours. That said, no physical preparation is required to make the most of the tour. High humidity and temperatures can occur at certain times of the year.

## Culture shock rating:



Expect to find local life broadly familiar to that in the UK, however aspects of the trip are likely to be in remoter areas where differences are more profound. Whilst English may not be the native language, you can expect it to be widely spoken. There may be some cultural differences and although western pallets should be well catered for there will be the opportunity to try new dishes.



# A journey of 1,000 miles...

Starts with a single step... Contact us now to start your educational journey.



## 1 Get your tailor-made proposal and further information

If this itinerary doesn't quite scratch your educational travel itch then let us tailor-make one for you. Our wealth of experience and expert in-country contacts means we can design an itinerary just for you. Contact us for more information and a detailed quote.

## 2 Ask for risk assessments and marketing materials

We can provide initial risk assessments and destination threat assessments to help you with your expedition approval process. Ask for posters and your pre-booking information pack too.

## 3 Arrange a trip launch evening at your school

This is a chance for students and parents to hear more about the planned adventure with a comprehensive information evening and an opportunity for questions.



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