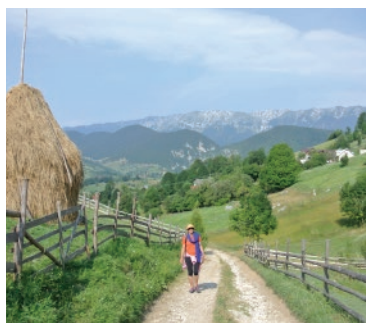




Europe

animal encounters in romania



trip highlights

Exploring Bran Castle and the legends of Dracula

Discovering unique villages

Walking along limestone ridges to take in the
stunning landscapes of Piatra Craiului

Experience genuine cultural exchange with the local people

Visiting the Libearty Bear Sanctuary

Visiting the Save The Dog and Other Animals shelter

World Expeditions will donate 10% of the trip
price per person to World Animal Protection



Trip Duration	11 days	Trip Code: WAR
Grade	Introductory	
Activities	Adventure touring and Hiking	
Summary	5 nights hotels and 5 nights guest houses	

welcome to World Expeditions

World Animal Protection -

- > ends the needless suffering of animals
- > influences decision makers to put animals on the global agenda
- > helps the world see how important animals are to all of us
- > inspires people to change animals' lives for the better
- > moves the world to protect animals

World Animal Protection and World Expeditions advocate for animals to be kept in the wild, safe from unethical tourism. But we realize that navigating the world of animal friendly travel can be puzzling at times. So, we've taken the guess work out of wildlife travel experiences, and joined forces to bring you four carefully crafted itineraries that offer the best wildlife viewing opportunities in Thailand, India, Romania and Kenya. If animal encounters are high on your list for your next adventure, and you want to make sure your experiences aren't harmful, then these adventures that have been appraised by World Animal Protection, are perfect for you. To top it off, World Expeditions will donate up to 10% of the sale of each trip to World Animal Protection.

why travel with World Expeditions?

When planning travel to remote and challenging destinations, many factors need to be considered. Our extra attention to detail and seamless operations on the ground ensure that you will have a memorable experience in Kenya. Our local partners take every precaution to ensure smooth logistics, our vehicles and equipment are of a good quality. Most importantly, our adventures have always sought to benefit the local peoples we interact with, safeguard the ecosystems we explore, and our Animal Welfare Code of Conduct ensures the well-being of animals we encounter. You will be accompanied by a guide whose knowledge and passion for Romania will add a unique dimension to your trip. Their experience and enthusiasm ensures that we maintain the leading edge in adventure travel and therefore providing excellent value for money. Our group size is small, rarely exceeding a maximum number of sixteen. Given our local knowledge, experience and excellent leadership, we are quite sure that this tour will be a trip of a lifetime and a fantastic adventure.



animal encounters in romania

An adventure in Romania for animal lovers



trip dates

2017 14 May - 24 May

trip cost

Joining Bucharest: \$2950

All prices are per person

options & supplements

As the trip price is based on twinshare, a single supplement is payable if a single room is required - or a single traveller supplement if you are travelling solo*. Please refer to the price options for costs or ask our office for details. Note regarding single rooms - The single supplement guarantees the privacy of your own room, however, rooms can at times be small and in some places may not enjoy the same facilities as double/twin rooms.

*The single traveller surcharge is only available on trips deemed suitable for solo travellers. It is usually more expensive than the single supplement due to the extra cost for luggage transfers and organisation.

For competitive airfares and stopover ideas to join this adventure, contact our expert staff today to receive a detailed quote.

the trip

This all-encompassing itinerary includes a four day hike through Romania's mountainous landscapes and preserved medieval towns as well as provides a unique insight into the hard work that has been done in recent years to change the plight of Romanian bears and stray dogs. World Animal Protection has been working closely with the Asociatai Milione de Prieteni (Millions of Friends Association) to save bears across Romania from a life of torture to a life of safety and serenity at the high welfare bear sanctuary called Libearty. We visit the sanctuary in Brasov to see first hand the new life the bears enjoy. Following our time with the bears we explore the stunning mountain landscapes and soak up the unique culture of Transylvania on a four-day walk. Piatra Craiului, meaning 'royal stone', is a dramatic ridge which rises sharply from the forests and plains below, offering one of the best ridge walks in Europe. En route to the Bucegi Mountains, we explore the gorges and ridge tops of Piatra Craiului to experience exceptional views of the region. The Bucegi mountains are home to a diverse range of landscapes, from pine and beech forests to flower laden meadows and high limestone cliffs. It is also where you find Bran Castle, connected through folklore to the fictitious character, Dracula. Our trip culminates with a visit to the Save the Dogs shelter in Constanta, where the stray dog population is cared for, neutered and vaccinated to curb the ever-growing stray dog problem in Romania. World Animal Protection have partnered with Save the Dogs and Other Animals, to advise the government how best Romania can manage the dog population without going down the route of culling dogs.

at a glance

DAY 1	ARRIVE BUCHAREST
DAY 2	GUIDED TOUR IN BUCHAREST AND TRANSFER TO BRASOV
DAY 3	LIBEARTY BEAR SANCTUARY IN BRASOV
DAY 4	BEAR SANCTUARY IN THE MORNING, AFTERNOON WALK TO THE 13TH CENTURY SAXON TOWN OF VULCAN
DAY 5	START HIKE, WALK TO BRAN CASTLE
DAY 6	WALK IN THE FOOTHILLS OF THE PIATRA CRAIULUI MOUNTAINS
DAY 7	WALK TO BUCEGI'S MOUNTAINS
DAY 8	ASCEND THE BUCEGI MOUNTAINS WITH STUNNING VIEWS
DAY 9	TRANSFER TO CERNAVODA, EN ROUTE EXPLORE PELES CASTLE AND A VINEYARD
DAY 10	VISIT THE SAVE THE DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS SHELTER IN CERNAVODA, TRANSFER TO BUCHAREST
DAY 11	TRANSFER TO THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, WHERE TRIP CONCLUDES

what's included

- 10 breakfasts, 9 lunches, 6 dinners - Continental breakfasts are served and will often consist of breads, spreads, tea, coffee & juices. Picnic lunches will include fresh produce such as bread, spreads, salad and meats sourced from local hosts. Dinner is generally 3 courses consisting of entrée or soup, a main dish and dessert, including local and international dishes. Occasionally dinner is only 2 courses.
- 5 nights rural guest houses in twin share with ensuite facilities (shared facilities on one night)
- 5 nights in centrally located hotels
- English speaking Romanian guide from Day 1 to Day 10
- Airport transfers on days 1 and 11
- All transfer are by private vehicle, except day 10 Cernavoda to Bucharest by train
- Luggage transferred on hiking days between accommodations

animal encounters in romania

An adventure in Romania for animal lovers



detailed itinerary

DAY 1 Arrive Bucharest

Arrive in Bucharest and transfer to your hotel in the city centre. Overnight hotel in Bucharest.
meals: NIL

DAY 2 Guided tour in Bucharest and transfer to Brasov

Following breakfast we take a guided tour of Bucharest. Bucharest was once known as “the Eastern Paris” and today is an eclectic city with tree-lined boulevards and beautiful Belle Époque buildings. You will see influences from the Medieval period with its Ottoman occupation as well as the modern period with the influence of neoclassical French architecture and also of the communist period. After lunch, we drive for 3 hours to reach Brasov. Overnight in hotel in Brasov.
meals: B,L

DAY 3 Libearty Bear Sanctuary in Brasov

Following breakfast we visit the Libearty Bear Sanctuary. In 1998 a Romanian woman, Cristina Lapis, saw three bears in a small cage outside a restaurant in central Romania where they were used to attract customers. She later found more bears used in a similar way in other areas of the country. Her dream was to rescue these distressed animals and to change public attitudes to stop this cruel and illegal exploitation of one of Romania’s magnificent native animals. Her dream was realized in the form of Libearty Bear Sanctuary, with over 70 bears enjoying a new life in 70 hectares of oak and hazel forest in the Carpathian Mountains. Here, the bears climb trees, swim in the pools and forage on the vegetation. Since 2005, World Animal Protection has been working with Asociatia Milioane de Prieteni (Millions of Friends Association) to fund and build this high welfare bear sanctuary. Our group will take a guided tour of bear sanctuary to see the rescued bears enjoying life in the forested sanctuary areas and learn about the continued work being carried out by the local team and World Animal Protection to protect Romania’s bears. If time allows at the end of the day, we can take a short guided tour of the beautiful medieval city of Brasov. Overnight in hotel in Brasov.
meals: B,L

DAY 4 Bear Sanctuary in the morning, afternoon walk to the 13th century Saxon town of Vulcan

Following breakfast we visit the Libearty Bear Sanctuary for a few more hours. After a picnic lunch, we take a 2 hour walk through woodlands and large open green fields before entering beautiful old oak forests that are estimated to be 400 years old. Our final destination is the fortified church of the 13th century Saxon town of Vulcan where we’ll enjoy a traditional dinner cooked in a big pot on a wooden fire. Short transfer to Magura. Overnight in a guest house in Magura.
meals: B,L,D

DAY 5 Start hike, walk to Bran Castle

Following breakfast we begin our hike, walking on a small ridge to Bran Castle. This castle, built pursuant to a favour granted by Ludovic d’Anjou in the 14th century to the inhabitants of the region, always had a role of defence against the migratory peoples and later it protected Transylvania from the Ottoman invasions. The castle was also associated during a long time with the prince Vlad Tepes of Walachia. Born in Transylvania, he is at the origin of the fictional character of Dracula. (walk around 4h, 12 km, +350m, -600m). Overnight at a guest house in Magura.
meals: B,L,D

DAY 6 Walk in the foothills of the Piatra Craiului Mountains

Today we continue the hike in the foothills of the Piatra Craiului Mountains in this bucolic landscape in the middle of pastures, sheepfolds and woods. You will pass through scattered villages which seem not to care about time passing. You will see surprising landscapes in the surrounding

animal encounters in romania

An adventure in Romania for animal lovers



fast facts

Countries Visited:
Romania

Visas:
Please check visa requirements with
your reservations consultant*

Vaccinations:
Please consult a travel vaccination
specialist for up to date information

Singles:
A single supplement is available for this trip*

Leader:
Expert local leader

*Ask our staff for more information.

mountains. The Piatra Craiului Mountains are located in the Southern Carpathians and form a narrow and saw-like ridge, regarded as one of the most beautiful sites in the Carpathians. Overnight in guest house in Ciocanu. (Walk 4h 30mins, 13km, +450m, -450m).

meals: B,L,D

DAY 7 Walk to Bucegi's Mountains

This morning you leave the Piatra Craiului mountains and walk to the Bucegi Mountains. An easy walk with "picture postcard" landscapes to a traditional Romanian mountain village with small and ancient houses, at the foot of the Bucegi mountains. The inhabitants are livestock breeders and the village has a long tradition in cheese making. Overnight at guest house in Magura. (Walk 4h 30 mins, 14km, -150m, +250m.)

meals: B,L,D

DAY 8 Ascend the Bucegi Mountains with stunning views

A more strenuous day today as you ascend trails into the Bucegi mountains. A longer walk is possible along the meadow of Gutana and the vertical walls of the Bucegi's ridge, which offers beautiful views of the surrounding landscapes and over Piatra Craiului ridge. Overnight in guest house in Magura. (Walk 6hrs or 4.5 hrs, 18km, +650m, -900, or shorter).

meals: B,L,D

DAY 9 Transfer to Cernavoda, en route explore Peles Castle and a vineyard

Following breakfast today we transfer to Cernavoda (approx. 5-6 drive). En route we stop in Sinaia to explore the exterior of Peles Castle, the summer residence of the former Royal family in Romania. The architecture of Peles Castle is magnificent and the surrounding environment is also very beautiful. We enjoy lunch at a vineyard and continue to Cernavoda. Overnight in a hotel in Cernavoda.

meals: B,L,D

DAY 10 Visit the Save the Dogs and Other Animals shelter in Cernavoda, transfer to Bucharest

Save the Dogs and other Animals was born to give an answer to the plight of stray dogs in Romania, where since 2001 thousands of animals are being brutally destroyed each year by the authorities. For historical and cultural reasons the phenomenon of stray dogs is totally out of control in Romania and represents a huge problem, causing both animal and human suffering. Save the Dogs and other Animals' main purpose is to fight the stray dogs problem through an integrated approach that includes:

- > the sterilization of stray and owned dogs
- > the identification and registration of owned animals
- > the national and international adoption of abandoned animals
- > education projects in primary schools
- > awareness campaigns that promote both a correct relationship between man and animals and responsible pet ownership
- > lobbying at national and international level, pushing for a legislation that protects pets at best and that controls by efficient and ethical means the canine/feline overpopulation.

Since May 2014, World Animal Protection have sponsored the mobile veterinary clinic run by Save the Dogs and other Animals in the region of Constanta. In the afternoon we transfer by train 2.5hrs to reach Bucharest. Overnight in hotel in Bucharest.

meals: B,L

animal encounters in romania

An adventure in Romania for animal lovers



responsible travel

The natural environments that you'll travel through are fragile; the cultures and traditions precious and often the communities we pass through are reliant on tourism. It is our responsibility as visitors to minimize the impact of our presence, protect what is precious and where we can leave a positive impact. Learn how you can do this by downloading the Responsible Travel Guidebook from our website.

World Expeditions adheres to a comprehensive Animal Welfare Code of Conduct that was developed in conjunction with World Animal Protection. To download the code of conduct visit the World Expeditions website and locate it under Responsible Travel / Animal Welfare.

trip grading Introductory

MODERATE – GRADE 3

The walking is moderate (3) grade with daily guided walks of around 4-6 hours. There are some more demanding stages during the walk with steep uphill, descents, and some sections of the trail require more care. The accent is on keeping a steady pace to with time to stop and take photos (subject to weather conditions). You will need a good level of fitness to participate fully in this adventure. The planned walks may change depending on the group level of fitness or weather conditions.

DAY 11 Transfer to the International Airport, where trip concludes

NIL

meals: B

This itinerary is subject to change with any change in Community regulations as well as Governmental changes and natural circumstances beyond our control.

country information

Romania is a country of contrasts. With all the trappings of the western world in the form of expensive cars, overt consumerism and mobile phones, there remains the vestiges of a recent past; in the countryside horse drawn carriages are common, as are potholed unpaved roads and cone shaped hay stacks, whilst in Bucharest you are reminded of the country's communist past by the incredible oversized monuments. In the Carpathian mountains one can find the national treasures of painted monasteries, unique wooden churches and farmhouses and incredible landscapes which are ideal for hiking in summer and skiing in winter.

Romania shares its borders with Moldova to the north and northeast, the Ukraine in the East, Hungary and Serbia to the west and Bulgaria in the south. It has just 209km of coastline in the southeast along the Black Sea. An arc of heavily forested mountain ranges known as the Carpathian Mountain System, cuts through the country's centre and north, surrounding the Transylvanian Plateau (366m above sea level). In turn, surrounding the mountains are the plains to the east, south and west which is where most of the farming, cities and towns are located. Mount Moldoveanu in the Transylvanian Alps is the highest mountain at 2543m, although typically the mountains range in height from 910m to 1800m above sea level. The Danube River flows 1400km through Romania to the Black Sea. The capital, Bucharest has a population of just over 2 million people which is around 10% of the country's 22 million.

climate

The climate is a combination of temperate and continental with significant variations between the mountains and the south (Bucharest and the Black Sea coast). In Summer, temperatures average between 13-16 degrees Celsius in the mountains but can reach the 30's in Bucharest. Rainfall is common in the mountains where around 1000mm falls each year compared to 670mm in the south. Most rainfall occurs in Spring and Summer, but can be expected at any time of the year.

dietary requirements

Provided we are advised in advance of your departure we are able to cater for vegetarian diets and can assist with medically recommended diets (allergies and intolerances). Please ensure you discuss your requirements with us well in advance (at least 1 month prior to your trip) to determine whether we can cater to such dietary requirements on your chosen adventure. Please note that options are likely to be limited in very remote locations or alternatives may be more expensive or unavailable. There may be times when those with special requirements may need to provide their own food. We are unable to guarantee a peanut-free or allergen-free trip, and therefore, we strongly encourage that travellers with life-threatening or severe allergies take all necessary medical precautions to prepare for the possibility of exposure. Passengers must travel with all necessary medications for food allergies and be capable of self-administering these medications.

accommodation on the trip

During the trip you will be accommodated in rural pensions which are rated as 3 stars in Romania (except on Day 6 where we stay in a more basic pension), however would be closer to 2 stars when compared to similar properties in western Europe. These are traditional guesthouses which while simple, provide a unique dimension to the cultural experience of

animal encounters in romania

An adventure in Romania for animal lovers



adventure travel

By its very nature adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected. In remote and developing countries do not expect standards you are used to at home. Remote areas are sometimes unpredictable and itineraries may be altered. To get the most out of your adventure it is important that you are flexible, positive and eager to take on all the challenges that arise. If you are uncertain about your suitability for this trip we recommend that you speak with your consultant or travel agent.

important note

These trip notes represent the most current information for this itinerary, and may supersede any information in the current brochure, including but not limited to the itinerary and price. The itinerary should be seen as a guide only. This itinerary may change at any time due to inclement weather, forces of nature and other circumstances beyond our control.

travelling in Romania. Usually you will have a private bathroom, except on Day 06 where you will need to share a bathroom between 2 rooms.

equipment required

On hiking days you'll need to carry a small day pack of max 35L; 3-season walking waterproof boots with suitable ankle support; waterproof outer shell garment (breathable if possible!); sunglasses with UV protection; sunscreen lotion. (A comprehensive gear list will be provided on booking).

vehicles & safety

During the course of your trip, we will use a variety of vehicles, all of which are fit for purpose and the conditions encountered. It should be noted that laws governing transportation safety may differ from those in your home country and on occasion some vehicles may not have seat belts fitted. While game viewing within a national park could be one example, public bus transfers or specialised transport such as 'tuk-tuk's' could be another. Where seat belts are not provided we strongly recommend that you hold tight to a fixed part of the vehicle at all times.

what's not included

- Dinners on Days 1 to 3 and Day 10
- Travel insurance & VISA
- International airfares and taxed
- Soft drinks, beer and house wine can be purchased at the camps
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry, portorage, souvenirs, gratuities and tips

subscribe to our e-newsletter

To keep up to date with our new and exciting adventure opportunities, special promotions and adventure news, subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter! You can do this on line through our website, www.worldexpeditions.com or contact our office.

social networking

Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/WorldExpeditions>

how to book

To book a World Expeditions trip, you will need to complete a booking form and pay a non refundable deposit which you can do by using our online booking function for most trips, or if you prefer, download a booking form from the website and return to us by fax, or mail your booking form and deposit to your nearest World Expeditions office or travel agent. We can also help you with any additional arrangements that you require, such as competitive airfares to get you to your destination, stopovers, pre or post trip accommodation or any additional tours that you wish to take in conjunction with the main World Expeditions trip.