



People and Traditional Life in Romania

Saturday 17th - Sunday 25th April 2027

9 days



Our photo tours focus on taking you to places which have unique appeal to photographers. We seek the beauty of landscape and seascape, the heritage of cultural diversity and the bustle of streets and marketplaces – effectively photography through geography. We also strive to promote eco photo tourism where we have a sustainable, un-intrusive, approach to our photography.



We strive to seek the best moments, light and opportunities to compose shots which reflect upon those inimitable moments. There is also great value in the immersion in local customs and culture, making the journey and photography more meaningful.

It is recommended that participants bring a laptop or tablet to enable us to review the images or get help with editing if wished.



We welcome participants, whatever their photographic experience, as well as partners or family members who simply would like to join in the journey!

‘It’s not what you look at that matters, it’s what you see.’ – Henry David Thoreau

The photography

It is said that Romania, and especially Maramures region, is the last truly rural place in Europe. Step back in time and capture the life of people in the bucolic villages of Maramures and the charm of old medieval towns of Transylvania. While wandering the country you will also get the chance to photograph beautiful countryside and landscape and to get in touch with handy craftsmen that carry on centuries old traditions.

The Itinerary

Day 1 Saturday, 17 April 2027

You will arrive in Cluj-Napoca and you will be transferred to the hotel located in the heart of the city. Depending on the time of your arrival you can have dinner and relax or you can explore the older part of the city.

You will also meet with your photo tour leader, local guide and the other photographers participating in the tour.

- Accommodation in Cluj-Napoca

Day 2 Sunday, 18 April 2027

The tour starts and ends in Transylvania, the most famous region of Romania. It is a region rich in history, traditions and culturally diverse. Most of the population is Romanian but there are also significant Hungarian, Roma and German minorities. We will start by getting to know the Hungarian minority through a photoshoot with locals dressed in traditional folk costumes.

We will then continue with a beautiful area with traditional barns in the Carpathian Mountains where we will take landscape shots.

- Overnight in the Apuseni mountain range of the Carpathians. Drive time 3h

Day 3 Monday, 19 April 2027

Early on we will have a sunrise photo shoot in a location where there is often mist. There we'll have traditional barns covered with hay and deep valleys making for very interesting compositions.

Then you will have an insight into the gypsy culture as you will visit a Roma family and learn about their unique traditions. The men are copper-smith and you will be able to photograph him and his family. We will then travel to an area with many fortifications and rolling hills so a very different landscape and photo opportunities. In the afternoon we will arrive in Biertan, a medieval village with well-preserved centuries-old buildings colorfully painted.

- Overnight in Biertan village in Transylvania region.
- Drive time: 3h

Day 4 Tuesday, 20 April 2027

For sunrise we will go up to the nearby hill to look at the village from above in all its splendour as the warm morning light touches the massive fortification set in the middle of the town. With great light this is a real postcard picture.

Next we will visit Viscri, a small village where we will find a charismatic blacksmith and photograph him in his workshop. Viscri is also a favorite of King Charles III who owns a house here. The village has attractive restored centuries old houses and an 800 year old fortified church which is a UNESCO site. On the way to Viscri and back we will also stop by shepherds who graze with their sheep in the fields.

An interesting stop will be in Sighisoara, a very well preserved and beautiful medieval town in the heart of the country, built by the German-Saxons in the 12th century. You will wander the narrow-cobbled streets in search of the best perspectives to photograph the colorful historic buildings.

- Overnight in Biertan village in Transylvania region.
- Drive time: 2h
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Day 5 Wednesday, 21 April 2027

You will leave Transylvania behind and you will travel to Maramures region also known as “the last peasant culture in Europe” and the land of wooden churches.

The first visit will be at a potter known for its meticulous clay artifacts. He is a very interesting character and you will have the chance to photograph him while working in his workshop. We will follow up with visiting one of the highest wooden churches in the world in Surdesti village.

In Maramures we expect to still find locals traveling by horse carts and in late April already busy in the fields ploughing, clearing the fields or planting. As we find such interesting situations we will stop and approach them to observe and photograph them, they are usually very cooperative.

- Overnight in a village in Maramures region.
- Drive time: 5h

Day 6 Thursday, 22 April 2027

Today you will discover the traditional rural life and the people of Maramures region in the village of Sarbi. You will visit a brandy distillery so you can learn how the locals process the fruits to make the strong horinca (fruit brandy) and a natural whirlpool still functioning as they did hundreds of years ago.

In the afternoon you will travel to Sapanta where you will see the Merry Cemetery. Here the crosses are lively decorated featuring poems carved on their wood that tell the story of the deceased.

- Overnight in a village in Maramures region.
- Drive time: 3h

Day 7 Friday, 23 April 2027

On this day there will be religious mass for Saint George and in many villages in the region locals dress in traditional clothes to go to church. This will give us a chance to photograph them in their best clothing near and inside traditional Orthodox churches.

This will be a day dedicated to people and portraits very typical of Maramures. Here most elder women wear dark clothes and wear headscarves like women used to wear all over Europe a century ago. And when have their typical hats and rough faces where you can see the signs of hard rural life.

As an option, in the afternoon we can cross the border on foot to Ukraine to the border town and get a feel for this part of the world. (of course if considered safe at the time and if the group wants to).

- Overnight in a village in Maramures region.
- Drive time: 3h

Day 8 Saturday, 24 April 2027

The day will start with a sunrise shoot in the countryside followed by a shoot of one of the last fully-functional narrow gauge steam train in Europe known as the Mocanita. It's interesting to see the mechanics dealing with the trains, the passengers boarding the trains and as the train passes through the beautiful Vaser Valley, following the course of the river and along bright green forests.

As we leave Maramures we will also stop by a local market to see farmers and locals trading products and seasonal agricultural goods.

In the afternoon we will travel back to Cluj Napoca where our tour initially started. We will have one last group dinner, share our impressions of Romania

- Overnight in Cluj
- Drive time 4h30

Day 9 Sunday, 25 April 2027

This will be the departure day of our tour when you will take your flight back home hopefully with some great memories of Romania and wonderful pictures in your camera.



Caption

Services included

-Accommodation for 8 nights in standard double room (with private bathroom), breakfast included:

- o 2 night in Cluj (first and last), at 4* Hotel Beyfin (<http://www.hotelbeyfin.com>), has elevator.

- o 1 night in Apuseni Mountains at Villa Gherman rural guesthouse, 11 rooms, no elevator. <https://www.villagherman.ro>

- o 3 nights in leud village, Maramures region, at Casa Traditiilor rural guesthouse 12 rooms, no elevator. <https://casatraditiilor.ro>

- o We chose to stay in rural guesthouses as they offer a more traditional experience than large hotels and they are closer to where the good photo opportunities are. The rooms are comfortable and clean and have en-suite bathroom. The difference between a rural guesthouse and a hotel is that at a rural guesthouse usually there is no 24h reception, meals are served as a set menu (not a la carte), there is no bar, in some places internet works only in the dining area, towels are not changed daily or the room is not done daily, there is no AC (not needed since they are in mountainous areas), no elevators. By staying in those places you will feel like you are in Romania, not in any standard hotel in the world (except the hotels in Cluj which is quite standard. eSim's do work in Romania.

-Meals

- o 5 dinners on day 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7

- o Meals would normally include a main dish, a desert, water and coffee and a drink (a glass of juice, beer, wine). For the first dinner wine is also included.

- o Entrance tickets, including the additional fees for taking pictures:

- o Sapanta Merry Cemetery

- o Surdesti wooden church

- o Viscri fortified church

- o Visits to craftsmen, workshops and communities mentioned in the itinerary

- o Private transfers from the airport to hotel on the first day and from hotel to airport as guests come in and depart, even if they are arriving or leaving at different times.

- o English speaking tour guide services throughout the program (accommodation and meals are included).

- o Transfer by 8+1 minivan only for a group of up to 7 from April 18 to April 24

The tour costs €3900 and the single supplement is €400

The deposit to reserve a place is €1000

Services not included.

Alcohol (apart from that mentioned above), lunches and some dinners (see above). You will also need some extra money for tips.

I will send out medical forms, gear lists, additional information, travel liability forms at a later stage.

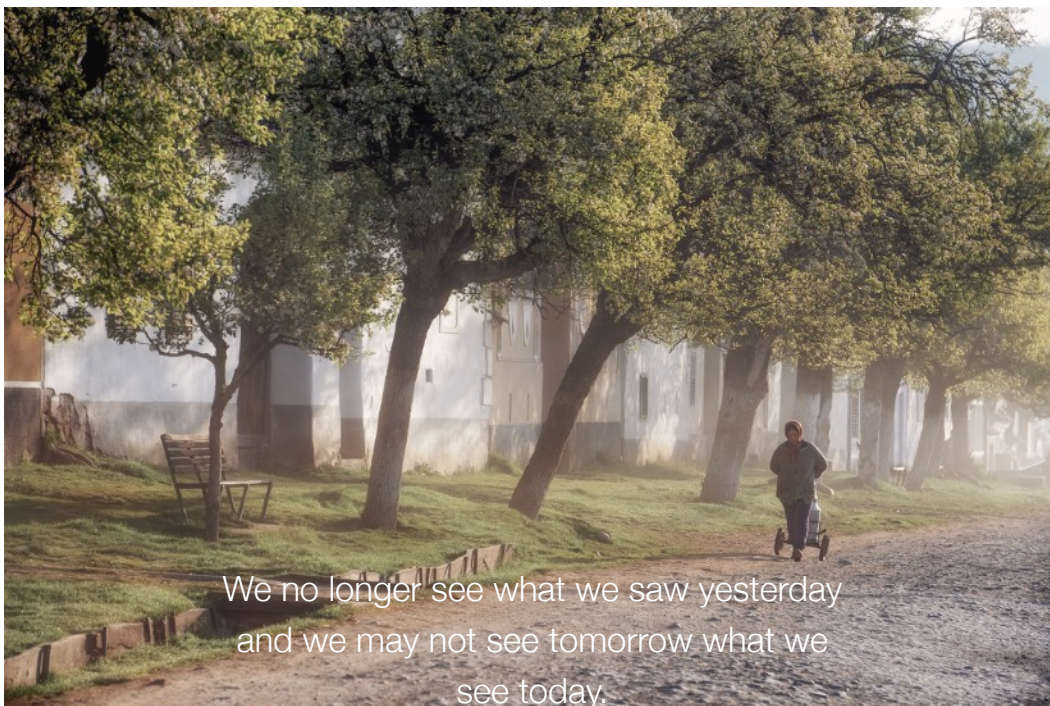
If you have any questions, please contact me by email trevcole1@me.com or phone/WhatsApp +353 872 82 5851

This is a cultural tour which focuses on photography by putting you in contact with interesting locals and also planning visits around the good times of the days to take pictures. This means that on some days you might wake up early for sunrise or stay up late for sunsets and the blue hour.

The tour plan is flexible and can be changed depending on weather conditions and photographic opportunities found on the way.

Besides the planned visits at places of interest and people I've also planned time for 2-3 stops/day as we drive around the countryside as there are always unplanned very interesting photo opportunities, especially focused on people.

Since there are visits to people's workshops and houses and those do not have a fixed schedule it is likely that during the trip we might need to make some changes and adjust the itinerary to their plans. With those people, because of the way they run their life we cannot make appointments with a long time in advance. But if we have to skip one of the visits included in the tour description we can make up for it by stopping in other places.





ROMANIA 2027