

## On the Footsteps of the Romanian Artists

### Day 1

Arrival in Bucharest. Meet with our tour leader and transfer by car/minibus via Prahova Valley, at the foot of Bucegi Mountains - high compact blocks, edged by steep slopes, some of the highest mountains in Romania – 2509 m. In the evening we reach Brasov city (Kronstadt by the German name) one of the most beautiful Saxon towns in medieval Transylvania. Here you will meet your tutor and you will get a first idea about the program of the week.

Welcome dinner and accommodation in a 3\*\*\* hotel/pension in the centre of the city.

### Day 2

In the morning you will get acquainted with the city through a short city tour, during which you see the “Black Church”, “Biserica Neagra” – the largest gothic church between Vienna and Istanbul, the City Council Square, the ramparts erected in medieval times by the Saxon colonists and one of the narrowest streets in Europe, The Binder Street. The day continues with your first painting hours in Romania. At noon we have lunch in a restaurant, and then you return to your easel or just take a stroll in the city. In the evening return to the hotel for dinner and accommodation.



The ramparts in Brasov



The Council Square in Brasov



Bran Castle

### Day 3

After a 30 minutes transfer, we arrive in Bran village, in a wonderful scenery - a green wide valley between two high rocky mountains, Bucegi and Piatra Craiului. It is here that Bran Castle, also known as Dracula`s Castle lies - a beautiful 14<sup>th</sup> century castle, built by the citizens of Brasov to guard the passing way between Transylvania and Walachia. It was later restored, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, by the royal family of Romania. The castle`s gardens offer many spots with a good view over the castle.

In the afternoon we head towards Miclusoara village. Here we are accommodated in Count Kalnoky`s Guesthouses. These guesthouses date back to the 1800`s, although part of them are much older, as indicated by the presence of medieval shooting embrasures. The buildings have been carefully restored in order to preserve their original Transylvanian charm and character. They are beautifully furnished with antiques in the Transylvanian Szekler and Saxon style. Dinner with Szekler specialties.



Room in Count Kalnoky's guesthouses

#### Day 4

Miclausoara is a remote village, with little infrastructure, with unpaved and pot-holed streets, a great light over the romantic surroundings - in all, a great place for painting.

In the afternoon, transfer to Sighisoara city, housing the only medieval citadel in Europe continuously inhabited ever since its settlement, still keeping a very strong medieval atmosphere.

Dinner and accommodation in a 3\*\*\* hotel/pension in the citadel.



Sighisoara citadel

#### Day 5

Painting within the boundaries of the citadel. Lunch in a restaurant. Dinner and accommodation.

#### Day 6

We leave Sighisoara in the morning and head towards Moldova region. On the way, we pass through a region inhabited by the strongest minority in Romania – The Szeklers, then Lacu Rosu - The Red Lake resort, where we have lunch, and continue through Bicaz Gorges – some of the most spectacular gorges in Romania, with rock walls as high as 300m. From Bicaz we follow a scenic route on the shores of the largest mountain reservoir in our country, and, in the evening, arrive in the spiritual centre of Romania, a region in Neamt county where the concentration of Orthodox monks and nuns is higher than anywhere else in the world. Dinner and accommodation in a 3\*\*\* pension.

#### Day 7

In the morning we visit Agapia monastery, painted by a famous Romanian painter – Nicolae Grigorescu, at the age of 18. You can stay and paint within the walls of the monastery, or take a few more steps and head for the village's narrow streets. The inspiring, bucolic scenery of the region has attracted many Romanian artists over time, as a summer residence. In the evening return to the pension for dinner and accommodation.



Bostan Dumitru's watercolor – Agapia monastery

#### Day 8

After breakfast we head towards Tarpesti village. It is one of the cultural highlights of our trip, as we have the chance to visit the vast collection of popular artefacts belonging to Mr Popa, to see the archaeological finds that he personally uncovered in more than 20 sites he explored personally, to see his collection of

wooden and stone sculptures he permanently enriches, to meet the man himself (he is 89 years old) and his family and maybe to see him at work. We also have a tasty home made lunch, accompanied by local brandy and wine, in the laidback atmosphere of his garden.

In late afternoon we have about 1h transfer to Piatra-Neamt city. Dinner. It is a special evening with a small exhibition of the group's works.

Accommodation in a 3\*\*\* pension.



Mr. Nicolae Popa at work



Mr. Popa's house

### Day 9

Transfer from Piatra-Neamt to Bucharest for flying back home.

~ End of the program ~

**The price/person is: 1150 Euro**

**SGL room supplement : 190 Euro or 133 GBP or 266 USD**

**The price includes:**

- 8 nights accommodation in 3\*\*\* hotels and pensions
- Full board for all the period including the special meals
- Painting tutor for all the period
- Paints, brushes, canvas and paper, easel, stool
- All necessary transfers by car/minibus
- English speaking guide for all the period
- All entrances to monuments included in the program

**The price does not include:**

- air transportation
- medical insurance
- alcoholic beverage and personal expenses
- photo or video taxes during the visits
- anything not mentioned in "The price includes"