TREASURES OF ROMANIA AND MOLDOVA

DAY 1

Day 1: Arrival in Bucharest, Romania

On arrival at **Bucharest Henri Coanda International Airport**, you will be transferred to your accommodation in Bucharest. After settling in, you will have a **Bucharest walking tour - Victoria Avenue & old town,** by the guidance of a professional guide who will show you the most famous attractions in the city.

In the evening, you will have a **Welcome dinner** in a wonderful restaurant from Bucharest.

HIGHLIGHTS: Bucharest City,

DAY 2

Day 2: Discovery of Peles and Bran Castle

In the morning, you will travel to Sinaia where you will visit **Peles Castle** - a mountain resort located in the historical region of Muntenia. Named after Sinaia Monastery, the picturesque town is nestled between the Danube, the Carpathians (aka Transylvanian Alps), Moldavia and the Olt River. You will visit King Carol I's stunning Pele? Castle. This landmark dates back to 1873 and blends Neo-Renaissance and Gothic Revival architecture, with a heavily Baroque-influenced interior loaded with luxurious linens and intricately carved woodwork.

In the afternoon, you will have **lunch** at the local restaurant in Brasov.

The day will continue at **Bran Castle** that rises proudly between forested cliffs, its white walls and red rooftops glowing like a legend brought to life. Often called "Dracula's Castle," this medieval fortress holds far more than myths — it carries centuries of history, mystery, and romance. Wandering through its narrow corridors, hidden staircases, and wooden chambers feels like stepping into an old story whispered by stone.

After visiting Bran Castle, you will enjoy a **walking city tour of Brasov** where you will discover the most famous tourist attractions in the city with a rich history.

In the evening, you will have **dinner** at the local restaurant in Brasov.

HIGHLIGHTS: Peles Castle, Bran Castle, Brasov City,

DAY 3

Day 3: Visit of Sighisoara city, Red Lake and Bicaz Gorges

The day will begin with **Sighisoara city tour** - a small Medieval city that sits on top of a hill, peaked by a citadel on the highest summit and fortified by a formidable 930-meter ring of walls, 14 defense towers and five artillery bastions.

After city tour, you will have **lunch** at the local restaurant in Sighisoara.

Next, you will have a brief stop at the **Red Lake** - one of Romania's most enchanting natural wonders — a place where nature, legend, and stillness intertwine. Formed in the 19th century after a mountainside collapsed, the lake holds the silent remains of a petrified forest, its tree trunks rising eerily from the water like guardians of an ancient story. The lake's name comes from the reddish sediments carried by nearby streams, giving the water a mysterious glow at sunset.

The last stop of the day will be **Bicaz Gorges** - one of the most spectacular places in Romania. Part of the beautiful Cheile Bicazului-H??ma? National Park, this road certainly ranks as one of Romania's most dramatic; and the gorge's most narrow extreme is also known as "The Neck Of Hell".

In the evening, you will be transferred to Piatra Neamt where you will overnight.

HIGHLIGHTS: Sighisoara City, Red Lake, Bicaz Gorges, Piatra Neamt City,

DAY 4

Day 4: Discovery of Agapia Monastery and Iasi city in Romania

In the morning, you will visit **Agapia Monastery** - one of Romania's most beautiful and serene monastic sites. Surrounded by verdant forests and gently rolling landscapes, Agapia Monastery is not only a spiritual sanctuary but also a cultural treasure. The gentle hum of bells, the scent of candles, and the echoes of centuries-old prayers make it a place where history, art, and faith converge.

The day will continue with **lunch** at the local restaurant in Iasi city.

The journey will continue with the **city tour of Iasi**, during which you will see the Palace of Culture, one of the most remarkable buildings and a true symbol of the city's past. The Palace was built between 1906 and 1925 on the location of the former prince's palace and is a happy blend of several architectural styles: neo-gothic, romantic and neo-baroque. The Three Holy Hierarchs Monastery is another important attraction of Iasi included in the city tour, distinguished by its unusual quality of being completely dressed in engravings and decoration elements. The walls of this church are the reason why it is among the most valuable architectural monuments of the country.

In the evening, you will be transferred to Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, where you will enjoy a **Welcome traditional dinner** at "La Placinte" restaurant.

HIGHLIGHTS: Agapia Monastery, Iasi city,

DAY 5

Day 5: Visit Orheiul Vechi - a 40 thousand year-old natural amphitheater and Cricova winery - the pearl of Moldovan wine-making

The day will begin with a **Chisinau walking city tour** - the main administrative, scientific and cultural centre of Moldova. During the tour, you will discover most famous monuments and buildings in Chisinau, such as Bell Tower, Arch of Triumph, Stephen the Great Monument, the Parliament, Presidency of the Republic of Moldova, Chisinau City Hall and Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ's Nativity.

Next, you will visit **Orheiul Vechi (Old Orhei)** - a natural amphitheater revealing a territory which was first inhabited 40 000 years ago. The Cultural, Natural and Landscape Reserve Orheiul Vechi includes a series of historical and cultural monuments as well as natural landscapes in the gorge of the Raut River. Ancient fortifications, cave monasteries, monks and hermits – here you can follow the history of this region. The remnants of the first human settlements were found in the stone caverns from here. On the rocky hill, you will find the ruins of a strong Geto-Dacian fortification, which acted as a sanctuary for celebrating religious holidays and rituals in this prehistoric community. The originality of Orheiul Vechi landscape is due to the gorge of the Raut River, dug under the form of a canyon in the limestone layers of the former Sarmatian Sea, about 14 million years ago.

The day will continue at Butuceni guesthouse, where you will enjoy a **culinary masterclass** during which you will learn how to cook traditional “placinte” (pies) with sour cherries.

In the afternoon, you will have a **Traditional Moldovan lunch** at the Butuceni guesthouse in Butuceni. Here you will experience local specialties, as “zeama”, “mamaliga”, and “scrob”, along with traditional pastry and a glass of wine.

The journey will continue at **Cricova Underground Wine Galleries** – the pearl of winemaking in the Republic of Moldova and a "must" for guests visiting our country. During the excursion at Cricova winery in the tourist electric train, at a depth of 80 m, you will discover the wonders of this place. Cricova underground galleries are formed by over seventy streets covering an area of nearly 120 km, each bearing Bacchic names: Sauvignon, Cabernet, Cahors, etc. The jewel of the underground treasure is the National Collection, including over 600 types of wine totalling about 1 million bottles. Here you will admire the oldest bottle of wine - "Jewish Easter Wine", dating from 1902. You will also visit the unique production of sparkling wine, where a professional guide will tell you about all the process of producing sparkling wines using the famous French-style Méthode Champenoise. In one of the tasting rooms, the sommelier will explain the rules of wine tasting and help you better reveal the taste and bouquet of each type of wine.

After discovering Cricova winery you will be transferred to Chisinau.

HIGHLIGHTS: Chisinau city, Orheiul Vechi - a 40 thousand years-old natural amphitheater, Butuceni guesthouse, Cricova Underground Wine Galleries,

DAY 6

Day 6: Time travel in Tiraspol – Back in the USSR

In the morning, you will discover the oldest medieval fort of **Tighina Fortress** located in Tighina town and built in the 15th century by the prince of Moldova, Stephen the Great. Originally built as a small wooden fort, it was later fortified in stone by the prince of Moldova, Petru Rares. Occupied by the Ottomans in 1538 (in a campaign lead by the sultan Suleiman the Magnificent), the fort was strengthened in 1541 and became the center of an Ottoman "raya" (in which were included the surrounding Moldavian villages). In the 18th century, the fort was strengthened by Moldovan craftsmen under the direct supervision of Dimitrie Cantemir. Tighina Fortress is an architectural ensemble of irregular quadrilateral plan, surrounded by wide walls, 2-3 meters thick, made of limestone and brick.

The journey will continue with **Panoramic tour in Tiraspol,** where you will set off on a time travel. During the city tour, you will discover Vladimir Lenin's monument and the tank left from the Second World War. The city seems to be a vestige of the Soviet past.

In the afternoon, you will have a **soviet-style lunch** at the local restaurant in Tiraspol.

After lunch, you will visit one of the largest fish hatcheries in Europe – **Aquatir Sturgeon Complex**. The complex is equipped with the latest technologies and the fish can reach the size of a man. You will get the chance to see how is processed one of the most expensive culinary delights – caviar. You will have opportunity to taste caviar with a shot of vodka or a glass of sparkling wine.

In the evening, you will be transferred to Chisinau where you have free time for dinner.

HIGHLIGHTS: Tighina Fortress, Tiraspol city, Aquatir Sturgeon Farm,

DAY 7

Day 7: Discovery of Gagauzia

You will start the day by travelling to **Comrat** where you will enjoy a city tour. Comrat is the capital of the autonomous region of Gagauzia, located in southwest Moldova. This is a very interesting territory since the majority of its habitants are Gagauzians. These are the only representatives of Turkic origin that affiliated with the Eastern Orthodox Church. Gagauzians migrated from Bulgaria together with ethnic Bulgarians and settled in Moldova in 19th century. You will see such attractions as the Cathedral of St John the Baptist, Museum of Gagauz Culture, Gagauz Art Gallery, Gagauz National University and Alley of Gagauz Glory.

In the afternoon, you will have the excursion, wine tasting and lunch at **Vinuri de Comrat winery**, which is the oldest winery of southern Moldova. Here you will discover the tastes of Vinuri de Comrat wines and the specifity of Gagauz cuisine, while tasting Gagauz dishes. For over 100 years the winemakers of Comrat are preserving and transmitting from generation to generation the classical traditions of making fresh and naturally elegant wines based on the unique winemaking technology characteristic for the south of Moldova. Vinuri de Comrat is a modern complex processing 4 thousands tones of wine and spirits using closed-loop cycle, including production and processing of grape, production and bottling of dry, semi-sweet, desert, selected and vintage wine, production of wine spirit. Its portfolio lists more than 50 collections of wine, however, it is very famous for the Cahors wine.

Next, you will visit the **National Gagauz Museum of History and Ethnography "D. Cara-Ciobanu"** in Besalma village. The museum presents the history, culture and everyday life of the Gagauz people from ancient times until nowadays. One of the personalities of this small nation was the writer D. Cara-Ciobanu, who spent his life promoting this culture. He founded this museum, which features more than 6,000 exhibits,

including works by famous writers, poets and famous artists in Gagauzia. One of the most valuable item in the museum is the collection of original films produced during the Gagauz colonization of the steppe of Bugeac.

In the evening, you will be transferred to Chisinau where you have free time in the city.

HIGHLIGHTS: Comrat city , Vinuri de Comrat winery, National Gagauz Museum of History and Ethnography “D. Cara-Ciobanu”,

DAY 8

Day 8: Departure day

On departure day, you will be transferred from the hotel to **Chisinau International Airport**. If your flight is in the afternoon, you can visit Handicraft Souvenir Market, Central Market of Chisinau or some shops with traditional Moldovan products, like: wine, chocolate, dried fruits, walnuts and honey.