



Barza Valley

Bran Castle ("Dracula's Castle")

*Retrace the footsteps of Hutterite ancestors in the Transylvania region of Romania, home to the small Hutterite community of Alwinz for nearly 150 years. See the orphanage Jesuits built to house Hutterite children they planned to abduct. Envision the great escape that thwarted the Jesuit plan as the last 78 Hutterites, one-third of whom were children, fled over the Transylvanian Alps and miraculously escaped. Explore the rich heritage of the local people with whom the Hutterites interacted. Enjoy spectacular fall colours as you visit medieval castles, churches and villages. Scenic Transylvania is where the Carinthian Lutheran converts with the family names of Hofer, Kleinsasser, Glanzer, Waldner, and Wurtz, joined the Hutterite families of Wipf, Tschetter and Stahl to form the nucleus from which the rejuvenated Hutterites would grow and prosper. Tour leader Rodney Hofer is the author of "Hutterites in Romania: A Brief History and Guide."*

## Itinerary

### **Saturday, October 5 Sibiu**

Arrive in Sibiu and meet your fellow travellers. Optional afternoon activities could include a walking tour or visiting sites and attractions near your hotel. Receive a tour orientation over dinner.

### **Sunday, October 6 Sibiu**

Visit Casa Altemberger (Hermannstadt City Hall until 1948) where numerous Hutterites were jailed. Visit an orphanage built by Jesuits to house Hutterite children they planned to abduct. At the Hermannstadt Penitentiary Workhouse, remember Mathias Hofer and 3 Carinthian teenage girls who were imprisoned for 15 years. Visit the Brukenthal National Museum, Romania's oldest museum.

### **Monday, October 7 Sibiu**

At the Museum of Folkloric Traditional Civilization, gain insight into Romanian culture. Visit 2 of Romania's many fortified churches at Csnadie and Csnadioara. These strongholds protected villagers from Ottoman attacks until the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Depending on concert schedules, you may listen to an organ concert at the Evangelical Cathedral. This afternoon, explore on your own, shop for souvenirs, or relax at your hotel.

### **Tuesday, October 8 Deva**

Travel to Romos, the first village where the Carinthian Lutherans settled. Visit the Parochial house, now a museum, where the settlers hid during invasions. Be amazed by Hunedoara Castle, one of Europe's largest castles. Continue to Deva.

### **Wednesday, October 9 Alba Iulia**

Tour the ruins of Deva Castle, where 3 Carinthian Lutherans were imprisoned. Shop for quality leather and fur items at an outlet store in Orăștie. At Vintu de Jos (Alwinz), visit ruins of a castle where Hutterites were given sanctuary in 1622—but later the Jesuits used the castle as a prison for Hutterites. In Alba Iulia, one of Romania's oldest settlements, take a self-guided tour of the wide, tree-lined streets of the citadel and walk along the citadel walls.

### **Thursday, October 10 Alba Iulia**

Enjoy a special chance to see Hutterite codices on an arranged visit to the Baththaneum library. View the spectacular Changing of the Guard at the Alba Iulia Citadel. Visit the New Gate where Hutterite leaders were imprisoned. See the Roman Catholic cathedral which once had a bishop who was a

Hutterite landlord at Alwinz. Learn about Romanian Orthodox customs at an Orthodox cathedral.

### **Friday, October 11 Brasov**

Admire picturesque ruins of the Cârța Monastery. At Cincu (Gross Shenk), remember Carinthian refugees Johannes Hofer and Christian Nægeler who died here in 1760. Drive through Barza Valley, following the escape route of Hutterites. Tour the famous Bran Castle, aka "Dracula's Castle".

### **Saturday, October 12 Brasov**

Enjoy time to shop and explore Brasov (Kronstadt)—a fortified city which the Hutterites took great pains to avoid during their 1767 escape. Visit the impressive Black Church. Drive to Sinaia to tour Peles Castle, considered one of the loveliest castles in Europe, as well as the nearby Pelisor Castle. Take a winery tour at Azuga, known for providing the royal family with their favourite wines.

### **Sunday, October 13 Sighișoara**

Visit the best-preserved peasant fortress of Transylvania—the Prejmer fortified church, a UNESCO designated site. Driving through Brasov Forest, remember the Hutterites who endured a difficult crossing here in 1767. Continue to the Rupea Castle ruins where the Glanzer family and Greta Wipf were taken after being captured during the Great Escape. Hear more of their story at the

### **Fare per person:**

CAD: Double Occupancy \$3,989; Single Supplement \$695

USD: Double Occupancy \$3,141; Single Supplement \$547

### **Fare includes**

- All transportation by coach within the tour
- Group airport transfers
- Hotel accommodations, including portage
- All breakfasts, all dinners
- 1 lunch and wine-tasting
- Entrance fees included in the itinerary
- Expert tour leaders & local guides
- Gratuities for drivers, guides, and group meals

### **Fare excludes**

- International airfare & airport transfers
- Airport transfers outside of main group
- Most lunches; drinks with meals
- Travel medical (out-of-country emergency) and cancellation/interruption insurance

fortified church in Dacia (Stein) where they were imprisoned. Visit the Viscri fortified church, A UNESCO Heritage site unusual because it was not built by the Saxons, then end the day in Sighișoara.

### **Monday, October 14 Sighișoara**

Stop at the walled church at Crit (Kreuz) where Jesuits had Carinthian Lutheran converts imprisoned. Visit the Evangelical Church of Saschiz, a UNESCO World Heritage site built in the late 1400s. Return to Sighișoara, known for its well-preserved medieval Old Town. Relax, explore on your own, or join your tour leader for sightseeing.

### **Tuesday, October 15 Sibiu**

Explore Sighișoara's citadel, including the tower, and the Medieval Torture Museum. Visit two fortified churches—Mălâncrav, featuring rare well-preserved Gothic frescoes, then Biertan, one of Transylvania's largest and strongest churches. The Romani people (often referred to as gypsies) are the largest ethnic minority in Romania. Visit Romani craftspeople, either coopers (barrel-makers) or copper-smiths. Time permitting, see the fortified city of Mediaș. Over a final dinner, reflect together on your experiences.

### **Wednesday, October 16**

Say goodbye as you depart with new insights into Hutterite history and Romanian culture.

### **Insurance**

Travel medical (out-of-country emergency) and cancellation/interruption insurance are not mandatory but are highly recommended.

### **Payments**

Rates shown are in effect Nov. 2018. Though every effort is made to maintain established prices, TM reserves the right to adjust prices should it become necessary. The price is guaranteed when paid in full. We accept cheque and credit card payments. Credit card payments are charged a 3% fee.

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