



Romania & Bulgaria



Mark Baker, Steve Fallon, Anita Isalska

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**WOMEN IN ROMANIAN
TRADITIONAL DRESS**

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VELIKO TÂRNOVO,
BULGARIA P365

Romania & Bulgaria

0 100 km
0 50 miles

SLOVAKIA

Maramureş

Austerly beautiful wooden churches (p166)

● **Miskolc**

HUNGARY

Cluj-Napoca

Great restaurants, cafes, clubs and bars (p136)

Carpathian Mountains

Rugged plateaus and well-marked trails (p134)

Fortified Church

Majestic, Unesco-listed church in Biertan (p105)

● **Uzhhorod**

UKRAINE

Transfăgăraşan Road

A white-knuckle driving experience (p109)

● **Chernivtsi**

Bucovina

Painted monasteries with dazzling frescoes (p204)

● **Bran Castle**

A mass of turrets and castellations (p93)

● **Băileşti**

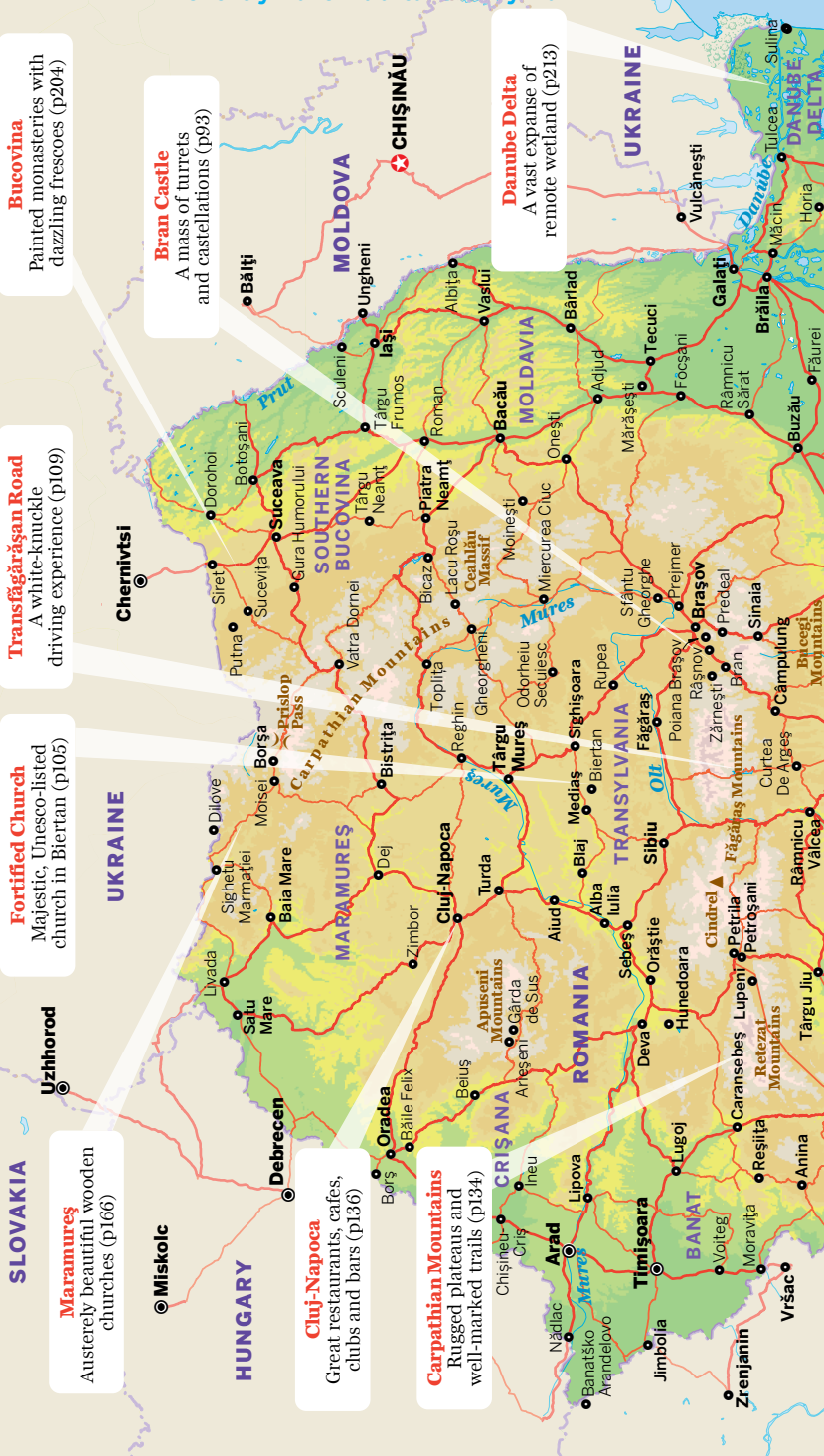
MOLDOVA

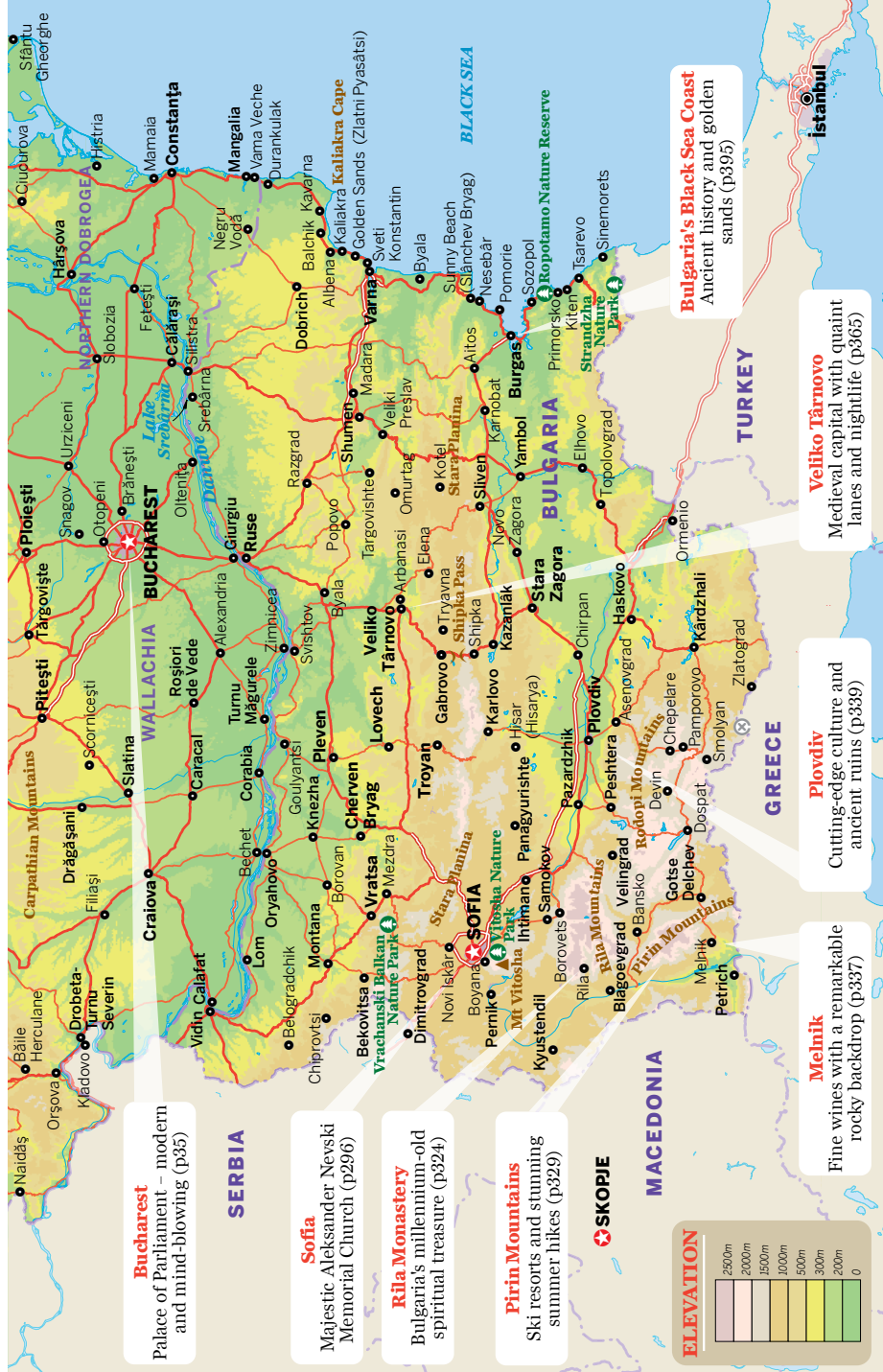
★ **CHIŞINĂU**

Danube Delta

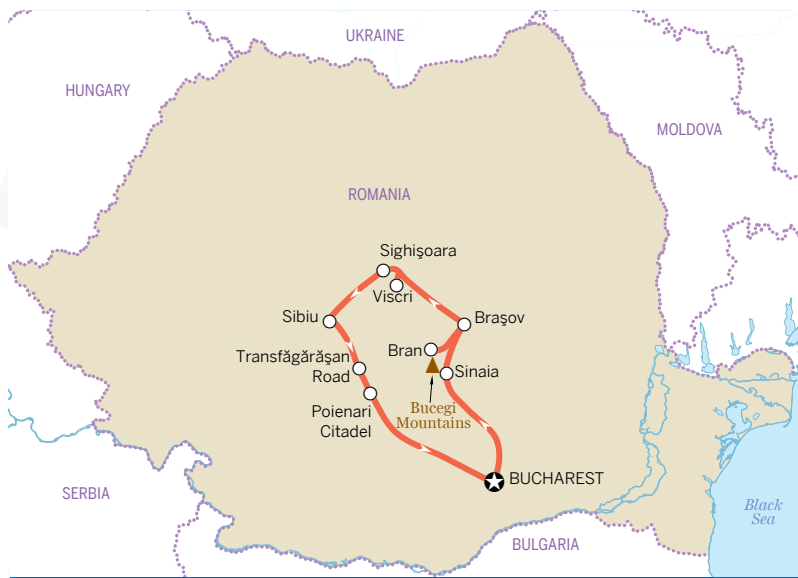
A vast expanse of remote wetland (p213)

UKRAINE





Itineraries



10
DAYS

Transylvania Castles & Cities

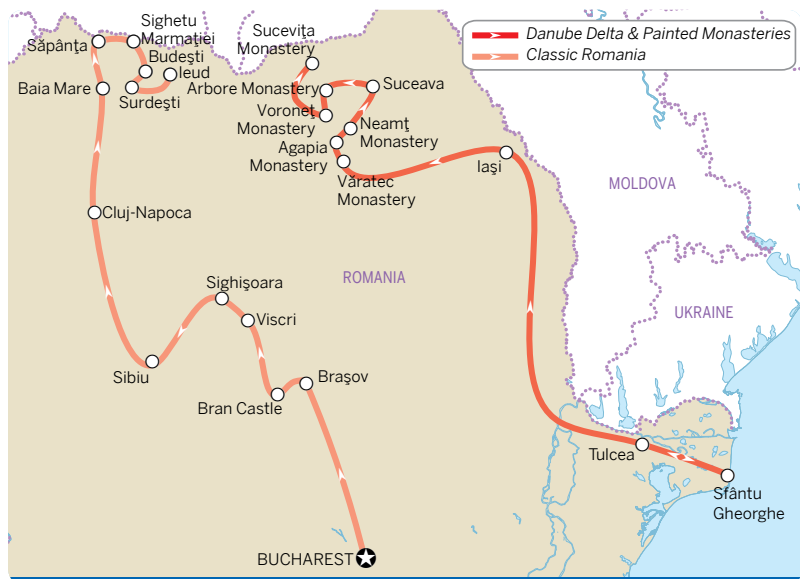
Transylvania is Romania's best-known region and arguably its most beautiful. It's filled with rocky mountaintops, haunting castles and lively historic cities. This classic route is designed for travellers for whom this region is the prime focus. The tour starts in Bucharest, where most international flights arrive.

Hire a car in **Bucharest** or hop a train northward toward the mountains, stopping in **Sinaia** for a couple of nights and checking out Peleş Castle. From here, take a cable car into the **Bucegi Mountains** for a hike.

Drive or take a bus north to spend a couple of nights in **Braşov**, a lively hub with a cobbled centre. Use Braşov as a base for a day trip to the infamous **Bran Castle**.

If you have a car, spend a night in the Saxon village of **Viscri** before continuing to **Sighişoara**, where the dramatic citadel offers creature comforts and Dracula's birthplace.

Head southwest for a night or two in the cultural hub of **Sibiu**. If you have a car (and it's summer), drive south along the breathtaking **Transfăgărăşan road**. South of the pass, stop at the 'real Dracula's castle' of **Poienari Citadel**, before returning to Bucharest.

2
WEEKS

Classic Romania

Romania is a deceptively large country, with physical barriers (such as high mountain passes) that make it difficult to get around easily. This tour highlights the most popular province, Transylvania, but adds neighbouring regions, including capital Bucharest, to make the most of your time.

Spend the first two nights in **Bucharest**, taking in the Palace of Parliament as well as museums and restaurants. Take the train or drive to **Brașov**, and spend at least a day or two. Use it as a base for visiting **Bran Castle** and the Saxon town of **Viscri**.

Head north to **Sighișoara** and its historic citadel. Spend the night before heading south to **Sibiu**, an eye-catching former Saxon stronghold.

From here, head north through **Cluj-Napoca**, a big university town with an abundance of awesome cafes and clubs.

Push northward to the city of **Baia Mare** or to **Sighetu Marmatiei**, to use as a base for visiting the unspoiled region of Maramureș. Don't miss the Merry Cemetery in **Săpânța** or the pretty wooden churches in **Budești**, **Surdești** and **Ieud**.

1
WEEK

Danube Delta & Painted Monasteries

Eastern Romania receives the fewest number of visitors, yet possesses some of the country's most important natural and cultural attractions. For the former, look no further than the serene Danube Delta, a sprawling protected wetland that's perfect for birders. Northwest of here are the cultural wonders of the Bucovina painted monasteries.

The tour starts in **Tulcea**, the gateway to the Danube Delta. Stay overnight in Tulcea and enter the delta via boating day trips. If you've got more time, skip Tulcea and grab a passenger ferry to deeper, more scenic **Sfântu Gheorghe**.

After birdwatching and boating, return to Tulcea and take the bus or drive north to **Iași**, Moldavia's cultural hub and largest city. Spend a day taking in the sights. Use Iași as a base to explore the **Agapia**, **Văratec** and **Neamț** monasteries.

From here, it's a short hop to the regional capital of **Suceava**, which has good hotels and a number of companies offering tours to the nearby painted monasteries. Don't miss the **Arbore**, **Voroneț** and **Sucevița** monasteries.

Map Legend

Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours

- Bodysurfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping

Eating

- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment

- Entertainment

Shopping

- Shopping

Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

Geographic

- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- S-Bahn/Subway station
- Taxi
- T-bane/Tunnelbana station
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Tube station
- U-Bahn/Underground station
- Other Transport

Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book



OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Dublin, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS



Mark Baker

Mark is a freelance travel writer with a penchant for offbeat stories and forgotten places. He's originally from the United States, but now makes his home in the Czech capital, Prague. He mainly writes travel guides on Eastern and Central Europe for Lonely Planet as well as several other leading travel publishers, but finds real satisfaction in digging up stories in places that are too remote or too quirky for the guides. He also contributes to publications such as the *Wall Street*

Journal and *National Geographic Traveler*. Prior to becoming an author, he worked as a journalist for the *Economist*, Bloomberg News and Radio Free Europe, among other organisations. When he's not travelling, these days he's teaching Central European history and journalism at Anglo-American University in Prague or out riding his bike. He has a master's degree in International Affairs from Columbia University in New York.



Steve Fallon

A native of Boston, Massachusetts, Steve graduated from Georgetown University with a Bachelor of Science in modern languages. After working for several years for an American daily newspaper and earning a master's degree in journalism, his fascination with the 'new' Asia led him to Hong Kong, where he lived for over a dozen years, working for a variety of media and running his own travel bookshop. Steve lived in Budapest for three years before moving to London in

1994. He has written or contributed to more than 100 Lonely Planet titles. Steve is a qualified London Blue Badge Tourist Guide.



Anita Isalska

Anita is a travel journalist, editor and copywriter whose work for Lonely Planet has taken her from Greek beach towns to Malaysian jungles, and plenty of places in between. After several merry years as an in-house editor and writer – with a few of them in Lonely Planet's London office – Anita now works freelance between the UK, Australia and any Balkan guesthouse with a good wi-fi connection. Anita writes about travel, food and culture for a host of websites and magazines.

Read her stuff on www.anitaaisalska.com.

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