# Travel with The Met

May 28–June 7, 2020

## Castles, Churches & Collections of Romania: Bucharest to Transylvania

with Dr. Helen C. Evans,
Mary and Michael Jaharis
Curator of Byzantine Art,
Department of Medieval
Art and The Cloisters



THE MET

# Castles, Churches & Collections of Romania: Bucharest to Transylvania

Dear Members and Friends of The Metropolitan Museum of Art,

At the crossroads of ancient trade routes, Romania's splendid array of stately churches, colorful monasteries, and storybook castles reflects the diversity of its influences, from Romans to Saxons to Byzantines and Ottoman Turks. Join me next spring to discover this Eastern European nation's stunning treasures, many of them unknown to Westerners. As we journey from historic Bucharest to wonderfully well-preserved medieval towns in fabled Transylvania, we will cross picturesque mountains, experience a number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and delve into Romania's lively cultural legacy, which maintains a distinctly Latin character with Eastern elements.

As a scholar of Byzantine art who has traveled to this region many times for The Met, I am excited to share Romania's many fine examples of Roman/Byzantine art and architecture, including the glittering Stavropoleos Church. An extraordinary highlight will be our in-depth exploration of the painted monasteries of Bucovina, whose walls are magnificently adorned with Byzantine murals and frescoes that showcase biblical scenes. At the Voronet monastery, we will behold its exceptional *Last Judgement* fresco, which depicts earthly beings, from saints to animals, awaiting God's final verdict. This vignette springs to life against a marvelously unspoiled backdrop of the most vivid blue, made from pulverized lapis lazuli.

During this nine-day tour, we will enjoy special access to a variety of museums, including the National Museum of Art in Bucharest, as well as meet local experts, from a Romanian-language professor to a colleague of mine from The Met who has launched an ambitious art conservation project in a tiny village. I hope you join me on this thrilling voyage through a fascinating land.

Sincerely,
Dr. Helen C. Evans
*Mary and Michael Jaharis Curator of Byzantine Art*
*Department of Medieval Art and The Cloisters*
*The Metropolitan Museum of Art*



## Traveling with You

Dr. Helen C. Evans

Dr. Helen C. Evans is the Mary and Michael Jaharis Curator of Byzantine Art in the Department of Medieval Art and The Cloisters at The Met. Her exhibitions—including *Armenia!* (2018), *Byzantium and Islam* (2012), *Byzantium: Faith and Power* (2004), and *The Glory of Byzantium* (1997)—have explored the importance of Byzantine art and its connections beyond its borders. Dr. Evans received her B.A. with Honors from Newcomb College of Tulane University and her M.A. and Ph.D. from The Institute of Fine Arts, New York University.

## Trip Highlights

— Take an exclusive curator-led tour of the National Museum of Art of Romania, featuring an extensive collection of medieval and modern works and early masterpieces from pioneering Modernist Constantin Brâncuși

— Meet the director and co-owner of the Muzeul Textilelor, Dr. Florica Zaharia, a Conservator Emerita at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Admire her museum's collection of over 12,000 textiles and tools from around the world, part of her extraordinary conservational mission

— Join the director on a private exploration of the ASTRA National Museum Complex, home to the largest open-air ethnographic exhibit in Europe and to more than 400 exceptionally well-preserved structures including windmills, traditional houses, a pub, and a wooden church

— Gaze upon the stunning grandeur of Peleș Castle, the summer residence of Romania's first king, and marvel at its treasures including gleaming weaponry and elaborate frescoes from Gustav Klimt and Frantz Matsch

— Roam the UNESCO-listed, Byzantine-style monasteries of Bucovina, which are painted in brilliant colors and contain precious relics and frescoes including the richly detailed 16th-century *Last Judgment* scene at the Voronet Monastery



Stavropoleos Church, Bucharest, photo by Joseph Ramon Garcia

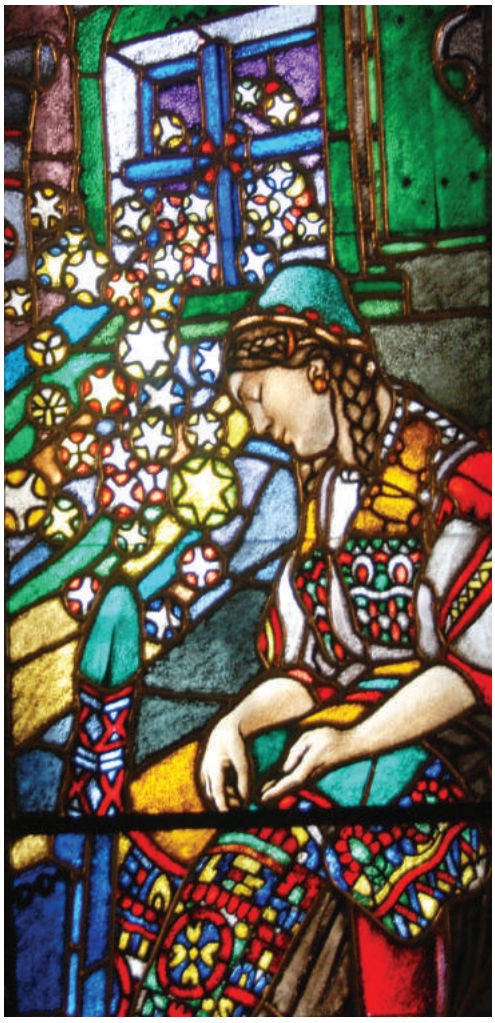










Photos clockwise from top right: regional map; Athenaeum, Bucharest; Palace of Cultures, Târgu Mureș, photo by Debra Journet; Peleș Castle, Sinaia, photo by Dennis Jarvis; Gate III, Alba Carolina Citadel, Alba Iulia, photo by Dan Lundberg; *Last Judgment*, Voronet Monastery, near Gura Humorului, photo by Gary Todd. Front cover: Peleș Castle, Sinaia, photo by Michal Kwasniak. Back cover: Old Town, Brasov, photo by Dennis Jarvis (top); Humor Monastery, Gura Humorului (bottom).

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ASTRA Museum, Sibiu, photo by Alexandry Ifrim

## Departure

Thursday, May 28

Depart for Bucharest on an overnight flight.

## Bucharest, Romania

Friday, May 29

Arrive at Henri Coandă International Airport and transfer to Bucharest, Romania's capital city. This afternoon, enjoy an orientation walking tour to see the Palace of Parliament (also known as the People's Palace), one of the world's largest administrative buildings, and visit the gracious Stavropoleos Church. This exceptional model of Brâncovenesc style combines local elements with Italian and Byzantine influences. Gather this evening for introductory remarks by lecturer Helen C. Evans, followed by a welcome dinner. D

## Bucharest

Saturday, May 30

A quarter century ago, former dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife, Elena, were toppled following a dramatic uprising across the country. It was a pivotal moment in Romania's historic transition to democracy. After a morning lecture, take a curator-led tour of the National Museum of Art, housed in the former royal palace. The Neo-Classical building is now home to an extensive collection of medieval and modern Romanian art, including a consistent group of early works by Constantin Brâncuși. Next, visit the exquisite Athenaeum, the majestic heart of Romania's classical-music tradition. This afternoon, stop at an elegant teahouse for a taste of local delicacies. Then, discover the eclectic and well-curated collection of the Cotroceni National Museum, housed in the eponymous 19th-century palace. Dinner is at leisure this evening. B, L

## Bucharest / Sinaia / Brasov

Sunday, May 31

When King Carol I of Romania visited the small village of Sinaia in the foothills of the Bucegi mountains in the 1860s, he was captivated by its scenic location and commissioned the construction of a palace there. The resulting fairytale-like Peleș Castle is one of the most stunning in all Europe. Today, tour this iconic Romanian landmark featuring lavishly decorated rooms filled with unique art treasures, including an outstanding arms collection. Lunch is at the nearby Azuga Rhein Wine Cellars. Recognized between the two World Wars as Romania's "Royal House Official Purveyor," currently they are the country's oldest wine cellars where sparkling wine has continuously been produced over time using the traditional champenoise method. Continue to the city of Brasov, the heart of Romania settled along one of the oldest trade routes between Wallachia, Moldavia, and Transylvania. B, L

## Brasov / Sighișoara / Sibiu

Monday, June 1

This morning, enjoy a walking tour of the well-preserved old town of Brasov, whose medieval squares are surrounded by small colorful houses and cobblestone streets. Highlights of the tour include a visit to the Black Church, with its impressive collection of Anatolian carpets, and a talk with a professor at the First Romanian School to learn more about the national language. In the afternoon, drive further into Transylvania to reach the city of Sighișoara, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. At the imposing Monastery Church, see the fine carved altarpiece. Continue to the lively 12th-century Saxon city of Sibiu, your home for three nights. B, L, D

## Sibiu

Tuesday, June 2

Begin the day with a stroll through the ASTRA Museum of Folkloric Traditional Civilization, an open-air museum stretching over more than 230 acres devoted to preserving all aspects of Romanian folk heritage, from musical and literary traditions to traditional house building. We plan to meet the director for an introduction and a tour of this remarkable site. This afternoon, set out on a walking tour of the old town, featuring the Baroque Roman Catholic Cathedral, the Evangelical Church, and the expansive Old Square, the center of this historic walled city. Enjoy some time at leisure, then gather for dinner. B, D

## Sibiu / Alba Iulia / Baita / Sibiu

Wednesday, June 3

Today travel to Alba Iulia's star-shaped citadel, one of Transylvania's most overlooked sights and the place where the proclamation of the union between Transylvania and the Kingdom of Romania was announced. The walls of this magnificently preserved citadel enclose grand monuments, museums, glittering churches, and archaeological treasures. Continue to Baita to meet Dr. Florica Zaharia, the director and co-owner of the Muzeul Textilelor, who is a Conservator Emerita of The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Learn about this private museum's mission and textile conservation, and admire a collection of over 12,000 textiles and tools. After the tour, transfer to a local farmhouse, where you will be served a delicious dinner before returning to the hotel. B, L, D

## Sibiu / Targu Mures / Gura Humorului

Thursday, June 4

En route to Gura Humoului, stop in Targu Mures, a city with a rich blend of Romanian

## More Travels with The Met

**The Pearls of the Po: From Venice to Parma Aboard *La Venezia*** May 9–17, 2020

**East Meets West: Treasures of Turkey & Georgia** August 30–September 12, 2020

**Phenomenal Iceland: Contemporary Art & Natural Wonders of Iceland** September 8–15, 2020

**Cruising the Mekong:**
**Treasures of Vietnam & Cambodia Aboard the *Jahan*** September 24–October 5, 2020

For details and more trip information, please go to metmuseum.org/travel

and Hungarian history. Our tour features the Palace of Culture, the synagogue, the Orthodox Cathedral, and the Teleki-Bolyai library, named after its founder Count Sámuel Teleki de Szék. Now a public library, this remarkable collection boasts over 200,000 books, maps, and scientific papers dating back centuries. Cross the Carpathians through the Tihuța Pass, a mountain pass which connects Transylvania to Moldova. Dine and spend the night in Gura Humorului. B, L, D

## Gura Humorului

Friday, June 5

After a morning lecture, spend the day exploring the Bucovina monasteries. Renowned for their arresting beauty and quality of artisanship, they are also among the most distinctive in all Christendom. Start with the Humor Monastery, unique with its original architecture and decorative diversity. During the 15th century, it was among the most important monasteries in the country. Next, visit Voronet Monastery, and admire the marvelous *Last Judgment* fresco, where against a vivid blue background, biblical figures, saints, and even animals await their judgment on passing to heaven or hell. Conclude with a tour of the stunning Moldovita Monastery. The monastery's small museum houses several fine tapestries, 15th-century manuscripts, and Prince Petru Rareş' original throne. Return to Gura Humorului for a festive farewell dinner. B, L, D

## Gura Humorului / Iasi / Bucharest

Saturday, June 6

Early this morning, visit the Patrauti Monastery, the smallest among the monasteries and the only one intended to be for nuns. Attend a choir performance before heading to the Dragomirna Monastery. Enjoy the hospitality of the local nuns for lunch, then continue to Iasi, also known as the cultural capital of Romania. Time permitting, take a walking tour of the city before transferring to the airport to fly to Bucharest for an overnight stay. B, L

## Bucharest / Return

Sunday, June 7

Bid farewell to Romania this morning, and transfer to the airport for flights home. B

**Activity Level:** Moderate

This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.

## Accommodations

JW Marriott Bucharest Grand Hotel

Hotel Aro Palace

Hilton Sibiu

Best Western Bucovina Hotel

Hilton Garden Inn Otopeni



JW Marriott Bucharest Grand Hotel

## Program Rate

**$7,599 per person, double rate**
**$7,999 single rate**

## Rate Includes

— Nine nights' accommodations as per itinerary

— Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner); bottled water and coffee/tea with all meals, local wine/beer at dinners

— Internal flight (Iasi/Bucharest)

— Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights

— Escorted sightseeing by private motor coach; entrance fees for included visits

— Enrichment program of lectures and talks

— Taxes, service, and porterage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

**Not included in rate**

International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

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Reservation Form

To secure your reservation, please call Arrangements Abroad at 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638); or complete this form and return it with your deposit of $1,000 per person (of which $500 is non-refundable for administrative fees), to be paid by debit card, credit card, wire transfer, or check payable to *Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd Floor, New York, NY 10018-3721.

Name(s) in full. Please print.

Address

City State Zip

Telephone (home) (business)

Fax Email

**Accommodations**

Hotel room preference ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds ☐ Single

I wish to share a room with

**Form of Payment**

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**Each participant must sign below. I/We have read, understand and agree to the Terms & Conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms and detailed in program documents. I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure.**

Signature (required) Date

Signature (required) Date

**For additional information, please call 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638) or to opt out from receiving mail, email travelwiththemet@metmuseum.org**

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**The Metropolitan Museum of Art**

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