

Horseback Riding in Călimani National Park



Călimani National Park is a very big natural reserve (24041 ha) covering the andesite plateau of Călimani Mountains, the highest massif in the Romanian volcanic chain.

Calimani Mountains represent the most grandiose volcanic complex of the Romanian Carpathians (Pietrosul Calimanilor Peak - 2102 m) and the youngest mountains of our country. There is a complex preserve aiming at protecting alpine landscape, flora and fauna represented by numerous rare species like edelweiss, ure ox, capercaillie, bear, lynx, wolf, Carpathians stag. There are geological reserves displaying strange volcanic-Karst phenomena: The Twelve Apostles, which are high rocks s high as 8-12 m, a real gallery of figures and the Repedea Valley, stretching on 7 km among the volcanic formations of the Calimani Mountains, its surface being scattered with impressive rocks of various shapes ("mushrooms", "apostles", "pillars") giving the place a unique charm.

Once, this mountain chain used to be the border of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Day 1

Arrive at the airport in Bucharest, meet our guide and transfer to the North of the country, to Bucovina region, in Vatra Dornei, a mountain resort situated in a tectonic depression rich in mineral water springs. Dinner and accommodation in a 3*** hotel. (D)

Day 2

In the morning, transfer to Gura Haitii village. Here we start our first day of horse trekking in Calimani National Park. First, we get acquainted to our horses, who are "Hutul", an aboriginal race, robust and very good for trekking in the mountains.

From Gura Haitii we start our adventure, on an easy village route, which becomes little by little a mountain path. After a few hours of horse trekking we reach the strange rock formations Pietrele Rosii – The Red Stones, at 1619 m altitude. This is an important historic point, as it is here that, until 1918, the frontiers of three states, Romania, Austria and Hungary, lied.

Our guides prepare a tasteful meal and, after lunch and a little time to rest, we continue towards The Springs' Meadow, which will be our camping place for the night.

Dinner by the fire and accommodation in tents. (B, L, D)



Day 3

We leave The Springs' Meadow and reach the route of Maria Theresa - the famous reigning Archduchess of Austria, the Queen of Hungary and Bohemia.

After a good lunch prepared by our guides, we pass at the feet of Pietrosu Peak (2102 m altitude) the highest peak of Calimani Mountains. We continue through Negoitul Saddle (1705 m altitude), quickly gaining altitude to Nicovale Saddle (1910 m altitude). We are now on the alpine plateau. In the evening we reach the meteorological station situated right near Retitis Peak (2021 m) which will be our resting place for the night.

Dinner and accommodation. (B, L, D)

Day 4

In the morning we take a forestry road towards Iezer Natural Reserve – situated at about 1800 m altitude, a natural dam lake, of 1300 sqm and 3, 5 m depth. It is the only lake that is to be found in Calimani Mountains.

We continue via Calimani Izvor and start descending towards Paltinis village, at about 1150 m altitude. Tonight we have dinner and sleep in a pension. (B, L, D)

Day 5

Today we have the possibility to observe life in traditional, small villages. In the morning we head on a country road to Dragoiasa village. After a good lunch and some time to rest we continue and reach in late afternoon Glodu (The Mud) village. Dinner by the fire and accommodation in tents. (B, L, D)



Day 6

We are already in Bistritei Mountains. They are not high mountains, but very wild, with hardly any tourist route. We pass through Neagra Brostenilor area and stop at Pasul Lupului (The Wolf's Pass) chalet. Lunch. From here we have about 15 km transfer to Brosteni town, then, following the shores of Bicaz Lake, the largest mountain reservoir in Romania, to Piatra-Neamt for dinner and accommodation in a 3*** pension. (B, L, D)

Day 7

In the morning we leave towards **Bicaz Gorges** – some of the most spectacular gorges in Romania, due to their limestone walls as high as 300 m. We climb the gorges by foot following the national road for about half an hour.

From here we enter Transylvania region, and pass through the Saxon and Szekely lands – the two strongest minorities in Romania. Lunch in the medieval town of Sighisoara, one of the few fortresses in Europe inhabited since its beginning till the present times.

In the evening we reach Brasov city (Kronstadt by its German name) – one of Romania's tourist hotspots. Dinner in a restaurant and accommodation in a 3*** pension. (B, L, D)

Day 8

In the morning, if time allows, we visit Bran castle, also known as Dracula's castle.

After that we leave towards Bucharest. Passing the impressive South Carpathians, we encounter at the foot of Bucegi Mountains one of Romania's tourist treasures - the royal resort of Sinaia.

Transfer to the airport for the flight back home. (B)

***Participants should be equipped with waterproof boots and raincoats.**

****It is advisable to bring your own sleeping bag.**

***** Upon request we can provide equestrian lessons.**

The price/person is: 999 Euro.

SGL room supplement 170 Euro.

The price includes:

- **2 nights accommodation in tents, 2 nights in pensions and 3 nights in 3*** hotels**
- **full board for the whole period**
- **horse and harness gear**
- **2 equestrian guides – for the horse trekking days, 1 English speaking**
- **1 English speaking guide for days 1, 7, 8**
- **tents for camping (for 2 persons)**
- **night camp set-up and dismantling**
- **all visits included in the program**
- **all necessary transfers in Romania by car**

The price does not include:

- **air transportation**
- **medical insurance**
- **personal expenses**
- **photo or video taxes during the visits**
- **anything not mentioned in “The price includes”**