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BUCHAREST HALF DAY TOUR – Ceausescu’s Mansion



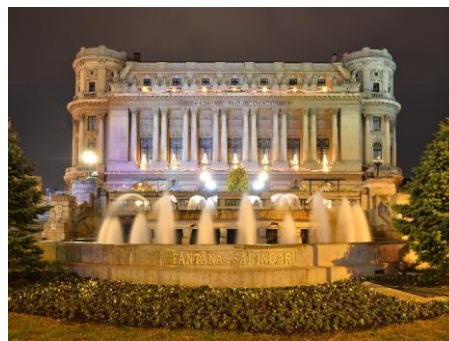
Bucharest - it is known as the city of joy, located between the Carpathians and the Danube. It is the capital of Romania and currently the largest city and the most important industrial and commercial center of the country. The first time the word Bucharest appeared was around 1459. It became the capital of Romania in 1862. Since then it has undergone a continuous transformation, being currently the most important Romanian artistic and cultural center.

In the period between the First World War and the Second World War in Bucharest developed an elegant architecture and an intellectual elite that made him deserve the pseudonym "Little Paris" or "Paris of the East".

13.00 – meet the English-speaking guide in the lobby of your hotel

13.00 – 14.00 – Panoramic City Tour

During the Panoramic City Tour, we will pass by Unirii Square, University Square, The National Theatre, Romana Square, Victoriei Square, Victoria Palace (The Headquarters of the Romanian Government), The Arch of Triumph, Victoriei Boulevard, The Romanian Atheneum, The Revolution Square, The Royal Palace, The Central Arms House, The Opera House.



14.00 – 15.00 – Visit Ceausescu’s Mansion

The “Ceaușescu Mansion” was for a quarter of a century the private residence of Nicolae and Elena Ceaușescu and of their children, Nicu, Zoia, and Valentin. Built in the mid-1960s and known at the time as the “Spring Palace”, the mansion was enlarged between 1970 and 1972.

For the interior ornaments of the “Ceaușescu Mansion” a variety of woods were used, both native (oak, sycamore, cherry, walnut) and exotic (mahogany, rosewood, African pear, Canadian cherry).

Inside the mansion there is an impressive collection of paintings signed by Octav Băncilă, Camil Ressu, Rudolf Cumpăna, Dumitru Ghiață, George Baron Lowendal ; a wide variety of handmade tapestries, plus a large number of mosaics designed by Prof. Olga Porumbaru and Prof. Florin Pârvulescu.

We want our visitors to see how Ceaușescu lived, not only as an internationally known head of state, but as a man in his own private life – the hobbies that he had, what his routine around the privacy of his home was, how he studied or what art collections he had in his house.



15.00 – transfer to the Bucharest Old Town

15.00 – 16.00 – Bucharest Old Town Tour

Known to most locals as Centru' Vechi (the Old Centre), Bucharest's Old Town is defined by the area bordered by the Dambovita river to the south, Calea Victoriei to the west, Bulevardul Brătianu to the east and Regina Elisabeta to the north. The area is more or less all that's left of pre-World War II Bucharest. What the war didn't destroy (and it destroyed a fair bit: allied bombing was fierce during the early part of 1944) communism did, most notably in the form of the grandiose Civic Centre project that saw almost a fifth of the total area of the city flattened to make way for Bulevardul Unirii and Casa Poporului. Indeed, that anything survives at all is little short of a miracle.

The Old Town of Bucharest is popular throughout the world for its nightlife. From trendy bars to Irish pubs, hedonistic clubs to steamy strip shows – you will find what you are looking for in Europe's party capital. What's more, Bucharest is safe: you will not have to worry about wandering the streets late at night.

In the Old Town of Bucharest, you can also find the Old Court, which was first built on this site in the second part of the 15th century by Vlad Tepes (Vlad Dracula). Next door to this palace, it is the Old Court Church, which is the oldest in Bucharest, dating from 1545.

16.30 – Transfer back to your hotel