

# **ANZA-BORREGO DESERT** **NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION**

**PRESENTS**  
**A GUIDED TOUR OF**



# **ROMANIA**



**OCTOBER 4 - 16, 2026**



Join Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association on a grand tour of Romania, one of Europe's most underrated destinations. Romania has beautiful nature, charming medieval towns, stately castles, colorful monasteries, traditional rural areas, interesting history, and several UNESCO world heritage sites. The group will be led by GeoTours tour director Matt Ebner, geologist and ABDNHA board member Don Barrie, and an English-speaking Romanian guide.

**LAND COST** = \$3190 - includes lodging in a double/twin room at 3\* & 4\* hotels, breakfasts, private tour bus, English-speaking guide, and many entries/activities. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the ABDNHA. Single rooms are limited and cost +\$600. Discounts for ABDNHA-GeoTours trip alumni (up to \$100) and early registration (\$100 until November 17, 2025).

**NOT INCLUDED** – Airfare, lunches, dinners, drinks, tips to drivers and guides, shopping, personal expenses.

**AIRFARE** is additional, and costs approximately \$800 round-trip from the USA to Bucharest. GeoTours will provide flight recommendations. Participants can spend additional time in Romania or Europe on their own before or after the tour.

**REGISTRATION** opens at 8:00 AM on **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2025** at [WWW.GEOTOURS.US/TOUR/ROMANIA2026](http://WWW.GEOTOURS.US/TOUR/ROMANIA2026)

## **TRANSPORTATION, PACE, WEATHER, GROUP SIZE**

- This trip has a moderate pace. Participants must be able to walk up to 4 miles a day.
- Participants must have the physical and cognitive abilities to safely undertake and complete trip activities as outlined in the trip itinerary.
- Private tour bus throughout the trip.
- Typical bus travel time is 2-4 hours per day.
- The weather in Romania is cool in October: average high usually 60-65F, low 40-45F.
- Group size will be 15-25 people.

**TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS BY:**  
**GEOTOURS LLC**

[WWW.GEOTOURS.US/TOUR/ROMANIA2026](http://WWW.GEOTOURS.US/TOUR/ROMANIA2026)  
[INFO@GEOTOURS.US](mailto:INFO@GEOTOURS.US)



# ABDNHA ROMANIA 2026



**Sun 10/4/26 Depart USA**

Depart from USA to Bucharest, Romania

**Mon 10/5/26 Arrive in Bucharest**

Arrive in Bucharest, the capital city of Romania. Two nights in Bucharest at Hotel Berthelot (4\*), centrally located in a quiet neighborhood.

**Tue 10/6/26 Bucharest**

Tour Bucharest, including Revolution Square, the Palace of the Parliament, and the Village Museum - an open-air museum with old original farmhouses from all parts of Romania. Night #2 in Bucharest.

**Wed 10/7/26 Bucharest – Sibiu**

Leave Bucharest for Transylvania on a scenic route through the Fagaras Mountains, with superb mountain views & fall colors as the road climbs to an altitude of 6,700'. See Poienari Citadel, home to Vlad the Impaler ("Dracula") over 500 years ago. Descend to the medieval town of Sibiu, formerly the main center of the Transylvanian Saxons (Germans). Enjoy a guided tour of Sibiu's Old Town, followed by free time to explore on your own. One night in Sibiu at Hotel Continental Forum (4\*).

**Thu 10/8/26 Sibiu – Maramures Region**

Depart Sibiu for a guided tour of Turda Salt Mine, called the "most beautiful underground place on Earth". Brief tour of Cluj-Napoca, Transylvania's largest city. Continue to Maramureş (northern Transylvania), one of the most traditional areas of Europe due to its isolation. Enjoy two nights of home-stay accommodation in a quiet village in the Iza Valley. The group will be separated into different homes, each with modern guest rooms, beautiful views, and excellent home cooking.

**Fri 10/9/26 Maramureş Region**

Full day to experience the traditional culture and highlights of the fascinating Maramureş region. Take a walking tour of Iza village to visit an icon-on-glass workshop, the local plum brandy distillery, and a typical whirlpool used by local women to wash clothes. Visit the village of Sapanta, world famous for its "Merry Cemetery", where each wooden headstone is brightly colored and beautifully crafted with a witty epitaph about the person's life. In the town of Sighet visit the Anti-Communist Memorial – formerly a political prison in the Communist era. Return to the village for a home-hosted dinner and folklore show. Night #2 in a family home.



**QUESTIONS? Please contact:**

**Matt Ebner (GeoTours) – [MATTEBINER@GEOTOURS.US](mailto:MATTEBINER@GEOTOURS.US); 310-686-8171**  
**or Don Barrie (ABDNHA) – [DBARRIEGEO@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DBARRIEGEO@GMAIL.COM) - 619-208-6507**

**Itinerary continues next page →**



# ABDNHA ROMANIA 2026



## **Sat 10/10/26 Maramureș – Carpathian Mountains – Bucovina**

Visit Barsana Monastery, an excellent example of Maramureș wooden church architecture. In Dragomirești visit a museum devoted to the traditional lifestyle of women in the region. Cross the Carpathian Mountains through the picturesque Prislop Pass. Two nights in the Bucovina region at Best Western Bucovina (4\*) in the town of Gura Humorului.



## **Sun 10/11/26 Bucovina Region**

A day to enjoy the magnificent monasteries of Bucovina, a region listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Visit Voronet monastery, known as the Sistine Chapel of the East for its beautiful frescoes. Next is Moldovita Monastery dating from the 1530s. Enjoy an egg-painting demonstration by a local artist in her home. Continue to the fortified Sucevita Monastery, surrounded by walls and towers. Night #2 in Gura Humorului.

## **Mon 10/12/26 Bucovina - Sighisoara**

Travel through dramatic Bicz Gorge, with an opportunity for a short hike. Visit Red Lake, set amidst a forest and formed by a landslide in 1834. Meet a local Romani family in their home and learn about their lives. Continue to the beautiful medieval city of Sighisoara, one of Europe's most charming towns and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Sighisoara was the birthplace of Vlad the Impaler ("Dracula") in 1431 and his home is now a popular restaurant. One night in Sighisoara at Hotel House with Antler (3\*) or similar.



## **Tue 10/13/26 Sighisoara – Brașov**

Morning tour of Sighisoara's old town, with an option to climb the Clock Tower for great views. Visit the fortified church in Viscri, a UNESCO world heritage site. Head south through Transylvania to Brașov, one of the most beautiful cities of Romania, with medieval architecture and a well-preserved old town. Two nights at Hotel Casa Wagner (3\*) on Brașov's main square.

## **Wed 10/14/26 Brașov**

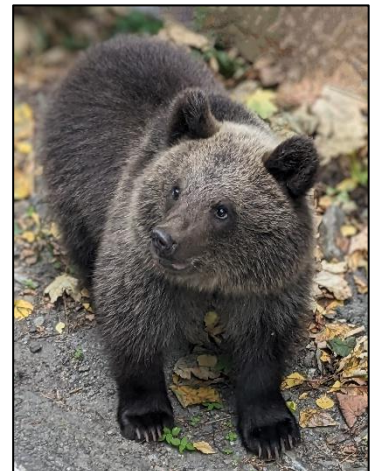
Morning tour of Brașov's Old Town. Free time in the afternoon to enjoy Brașov on your own, or opt to take a cable car up Mt. Tampa for beautiful views of Brașov. Option to visit a bear sanctuary to see Romanian brown bears. Night #2 in Brașov.

## **Thu 10/15/26 Brașov – Bran Castle – Sinaia - Bucharest**

Visit Bran Castle, built in 1377 and commonly called "Dracula's Castle". Continue to Sinaia and tour Peles Castle, Romania's most opulent palace and the former residence of the Romanian kings. Continue to Bucharest, with one night at Hotel Berthelot (4\*).

## **Fri 10/16/26 Depart Bucharest**

Depart Bucharest and arrive in the USA the same day. Or continue your travels on your own.



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# ABDNHA ROMANIA 2026

## TRIP COST

- \$3190 – ROMANIA land cost
  - Price based on sharing a room. Single rooms are limited; if available single room costs +\$600.
  - Includes 11 nights lodging in a double or twin-shared room, private transport, breakfasts, 2 dinners, Don Barrie & Matt Ebner as group leaders, English-speaking guide, many entries and activities.
  - A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association.
- Not included in trip cost: airline tickets, meals not listed, drinks, shopping, optional activities.
- Registration opens 11/3/25 at [www.geotours.us/tour/romania2026](http://www.geotours.us/tour/romania2026)
- Early Registration Discount - \$100 discount if registering with \$500 deposit by 11/15/25.
- GeoTours-ABDNHA Alumni discount
  - \$50 if you have done 1 GeoTours-ABDNHA international tour
  - \$100 discount if you have done 2 or more ABDNHA or GeoTours international tours.

## PAYMENT SCHEDULE

- Payments can be sent by check to GeoTours LLC, 1547 E. Puente St., Covina CA 91724, or online through Venmo or Zelle to [payment@geotours.us](mailto:payment@geotours.us) or 310-686-8171 (GeoTours phone #).
- 1<sup>st</sup> payment of \$400 is due within 7 days of registration.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> payment of \$600 is due on March 31, 2026.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> payment of \$800 is due on May 31, 2026.
- Final payment is due July 31, 2026.

## FLIGHTS

- The airfare cost is additional and participants will purchase their own tickets. GeoTours will provide information on recommended flights. Participants can travel on their own before or after the GeoTours trip, which will affect the dates and price of airline tickets.
- Approximate airfare is \$800 round-trip from Los Angeles to Bucharest (OTP). Participants do not need to fly from LAX.

## CANCELLATION POLICY

To cancel your participation, you must inform GeoTours in writing or by email. Cancellation date is the date when GeoTours receives your written notice. \*Cancellation penalty is the amount shown below PLUS any non-recoverable expenses already paid on behalf of the passenger, such as non-refundable tickets or non-refundable hotel rooms.

| <u>Date of Cancellation</u>     | <u>Penalty</u> | <u>Date of Cancellation</u> | <u>Penalty</u> |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| On or before November 30, 2025  | \$0            | April 1 – May 31, 2026      | \$500*         |
| December 1, 2025 – Jan 31, 2026 | \$200*         | June 1 – July 31, 2026      | \$600*         |
| February 1 – March 31, 2026     | \$300*         | After August 1, 2026        | No Refund      |

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

- Travel Insurance is STRONGLY RECOMMENDED since international travel has inherent risks for injury, sickness, or loss.
- Compare different travel insurance policies at [squaremouth.com](http://squaremouth.com).
- Trip participants should get Travel Insurance with Trip Cancellation, Trip Interruption, Medical Evacuation, Medical (for Covid or anything else), and Lost/Stolen Baggage.
- Cancellation coverage means that travel insurance will reimburse nonrefundable trip costs if you cancel for a covered reason, like getting seriously ill or injured before or during the trip. Cancellation coverage only works if you purchase the insurance BEFORE a sickness or injury forces you to cancel, and an insurance claim requires a physician's written advice that you should cancel your trip due to your illness or injury.
- **Tin Leg Gold** (found on [www.squaremouth.com](http://www.squaremouth.com)) costs about \$270 for a 65-year old, \$4000 trip cost (GeoTours price + airfare), destination Romania, October 4-16, 2026. The cost depends on age, costing more for older travelers.



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# ABDNHA ROMANIA 2026

## PARTICIPANT SAFETY

Participants in GeoTours/ABDNHA programs are required to possess the necessary physical and cognitive abilities to safely undertake and complete trip activities, as outlined in this trip itinerary. Alternatively, a participant may be accompanied by another participant who agrees to be responsible for the safety and well-being of the other person at all times. If they have concerns, participants are encouraged to discuss their abilities with trip leaders.

## HEALTH & COVID POLICY

- Romania does not have any Covid vaccination or testing requirements.
- ABDNHA and GeoTours recommend that trip participants are fully Covid-vaccinated with a recent booster shot/vaccine.
- Group travel in an airplane & tour bus carries the risk of contagious transmission of viruses: common cold, RSV, or Covid.
  - Trip members who become ill should mask themselves on the bus and other enclosed spaces, to prevent infecting others.
  - It is recommended that travelers carry well-fitting N-95 or KN-95 masks in their luggage along with Covid test kits.
- Trip participants who test positive for Covid during the tour will not be required to leave the group. They will decide their best course of action, in consultation with the trip leaders. Such actions might include leaving the group or continuing the trip with caution and responsibility: wearing masks, social distancing, and skipping group meals/activities.
- It is recommended that the group mask up if anyone in the group tests positive for Covid or has respiratory illness symptoms.
- If travelers test positive for Covid shortly before the trip, they should consider withdrawing from the trip and seek reimbursement through their travel insurance. An insurance claim requires a physician's written advice that you should cancel your trip due to your illness.
- While traveling to Romania and during the trip, travelers should consider wearing a mask in crowded or poorly ventilated indoor areas, on public transportation (e.g., on the airplane) and in transportation hubs (e.g., airports).
- Neither ABDNHA nor GeoTours will reimburse trip participants for Covid-related costs, and there will be no refund to participants who miss any activity or portion of the trip due to Covid or any other reason.
- Participants should seek reimbursement from their travel insurance for any Covid-related costs, trip cancellation, or trip interruption.

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS - Trip participants must agree to the Terms and Conditions below.

The program participant agrees that GeoTours LLC and Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association (ABDNHA) assume no liability whatsoever for loss of property, injury, accident, illness, death, irregularity, and delays during the duration of the tour. In addition, the program participant agrees to hold GeoTours LLC and ABDNHA harmless for damage, delay, or cancellation due to equipment problems, quarantine, pandemic, declared or undeclared war and insurrection, terrorist and criminal activity, revolt, civil disturbance, hostility, military action, strikes, labor unrest, any "act of God" or nature and for any act of any third party. The participant, by registering for this tour, agrees that GeoTours LLC and ABDNHA are not responsible for delays, rerouting, omission, and additional expenses resulting from the passenger's improper travel documents such as passport, visa, and health document. Any losses and expenses related to such circumstances are within the responsibility of the program participants and not of GeoTours LLC or ABDNHA. GeoTours LLC and ABDNHA are not responsible for acts of any government authority. GeoTours LLC and ABDNHA reserve the right to adjust itinerary and contents and to substitute accommodation providers as deemed necessary. GeoTours LLC and ABDNHA reserve the right to accept or decline any person as a program participant as well as to refuse to retain any participant's membership in the program. Participants that do not participate in an activity or entry, or who leave the tour early or arrive late, will not be entitled to any refund. By registering for this tour, the participant agrees to all such terms and conditions.



### TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS BY:

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