



TRANSYLVANIA & BUKOVINA

7 - 18 JUNE 2018

Ottoman Carpets, Post-Byzantine Textiles, Romanian Folk Kilims, Tuducs

www.transylvanianrugs.com

Day 1 - Thurs, June 7 (d)

Arrival in Bucharest

Arrival at international Otopeni airport (BUH) by individual flights. Meet our staff after the customs checkpoint. Transfer to the Boutique Hotel Amzei, located in the centre of the town; suggested walk to the nearby Amzei market;

4.30 pm - from the hotel: walking tour with Stefano: Romanian Atheneum and King Carol Square where the Revolution of 1989 took place, Kretulescu Church;

7:30 pm - Presentation meeting in the bar of the hotel with a glass of Italian Prosecco; every participant will receive the brochure of the tour with the itinerary in Transylvania and Bukovina; Dinner to be announced e turche.



The Romanian Atheneum

Day 2 - Fri, June 8 (b,l,d)

Bucharest

9:30 am - Depart for the Armenian Church and visit the parish museum; coffee.

Visit Antique Art Gallery run by one of the most experienced art dealers in Bucharest;

1.30 pm - lunch at Manuc's Inn, a historical restaurant in the old section;

3:30 pm - National Art Museum (open 11 am - 7 pm), Medieval Gallery: religious art, post Byzantine art, Ottoman textiles and costumes, ecc. Highlights of the European Art Gallery (not to miss the three paintings by El Greco).

Continue the city tour: Stop at the famous bier-house 'Carul cu Bere', founded in 1879. Visit the small Orthodox Church Stavropoleos with the small museum;

8:00 pm - Dinner to be announced.



Stavropoleos
Greek-Orthodox Church

Day 3 - Sat, June 9 (b,l,d)

Bucharest - Mogoşoia (50 km)

9:30 am - Depart for the Village Museum, which holds a collection of Romanian flatweaves. Stefano will present the museum and the main textile production areas: Oltenia, Transylvania, Moldavia and Bessarabia. Excellent museum shop; Craftsmen's fair with items (textiles, wood works, painted eggs, ceramics) from different regions.

12:30 pm - Depart for Mogoşoia Palace in the outskirts of Bucharest.

1:30 pm - Open air lunch in the garden of the Palace.

2:30 pm - Guided tour of Mogoşoia Palace, finished in 1702 by Prince Brâncoveanu, which houses about 300 items donated by the top Romanian art-collectors Liana and Dan Nasta including Kula, Gördes, Kirshehir rugs, Senneh and Erzurum kilims and an excellent collection of Romanian and Bessarabian *scoartze*.

5:30 pm - Tea at Buhara Gallery with passionate carpet collector Norbert Hauser and a few other friends, followed by some meze.

5:30 pm - Dinner with traditional food, *mititei* and eggplant salad.



An Oltenian kilim (*scoartza*)
Romanian Peasant Museum



The House of the Republic, Bucharest



The Mogoşoia Palace



Triumphal Arch

Day 4 - Sun, June 10 (b,d)

Buch. - Sinaia - Bran - Braşov (210 km)

9:00 am - Depart for Sinaia. Short presentation of the historical and religious background of the three regions of Romania: Walachia, Moldavia and Transylvania.

11:30 am - Guided visit of the Peleş Castle, former residence of the Royal family, which has retained original furnishing, including 18th. cent. Persian carpets.

1:00 pm - Open air snack at the coffee-shop of the Peleş Castle.

2:30 pm - Depart for Bran, home of the so-called 'Dracula' Castle, nestled in an idyllic valley. We'll view the Castle from the outside and stroll in the nearby market, sampling local grappa, delicious sheep's cheeses in fir tree bark, and Hungarian *Kurtos Colak* (twisty sweet bread thingy).

5:00 pm - Visit the Lutheran Church in Rosenau and learn about the history of this Saxon village founded by the Teutonic Knights, including the reason why Ottoman rugs survived in the Lutheran Churches.

7:00 pm - Accommodation at the four-star Hotel Ambient**** (fitness center & spa).

8:00 pm - Dinner followed by a short walk to the medieval town-centre to admire the great Market Square, the City Hall and the Black Church by night.



The 'Dracula' Castle in Bran



The Peleş Castle in Sinaia



Peleş Castle: Oriental Room



Landscape near Bran

Day 5 - Mon, June 11 (b,d)

Braşov / Kronstadt (70 km)

9:00 am - Depart by bus to visit the Hungarian Lutheran Church of Braşov (4 rugs).

10:30 am - Private visit to the Black Church where almost 60 antique Ottoman rugs are displayed. Steffen Schlandt will present the historical organ of the Black Church and play a short concert. Stefano will deal with the history of the Church and outline some important examples of the carpet collection, including so called 'Transylvanian' rugs.

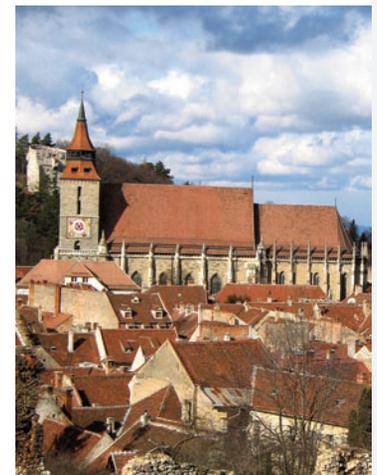
13:00 pm - Pastries, fresh fruit at Aldus Bookshop close to the Black Church.

3:00 pm - From the hotel, 5 min. walk to the charming Blumenau Church (13 rugs).

4:00 pm - Depart for the Saxon fortified Church of Petersberg / Sânpetru (5 rugs), in the outskirts of Braşov. Visit the Catholic Chapel. Return to the hotel by 7 pm.

7:30 pm - Depart for Poiana Braşov the nicest mountain resort in Romania (1.020 m).

8:00 pm - Dinner party at the 'Shepherd's House': local food (sheep cheese and lamb) and folk music. Return to Braşov and stop to admire the town by night.



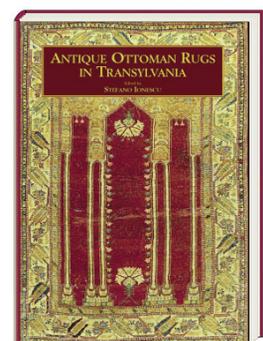
The Black Church in Braşov



The Hungarian Church in Braşov



Ottoman prayer rugs in the Black Church



Stefano Ionescu's book

Day 6 - Tue, June 12 (b,l,d)**Braşov - Agapia - Bukovina (350 km)**

8:30 am - Depart from the hotel. Stop at Sf. Gheorghe and visit the National Seckler Museum. Open air lunch by the Red Lake. Drive across the spectacular Bicz gorges.

3:30 pm - Visit Agapia Orthodox Monastery, including the small museum displaying kilims and religious items. Meeting sister Eufrosina at the weaving workshop.

7:00 pm - Accommodation in Voroneţ. Optional walk. Dinner at the hotel restaurant.



Nuns weaving kilims at Agapia Monastery

Day 7 - Wed, June 13 (b,l,d)**Bukovina****(130 km)**

9:00 am - After a rich breakfast, in the tradition of the region, we will first visit the charming Humor Monastery (founded in 1530); we will continue with the Folk Museum in Radauţi (25km). Then we will reach Suceviţa Monastery, built 1583 where Sister Mariami will present the 16th c. frescos of the 'Scale of Virtues' and the calendary inside the church. Not to miss the south wall showing Moses and the 'burning bush'. Our visit to this UNESCO site will end with the small Museum showing some outstanding early 17th c. emboided tomb covers and icons.

1:00 pm - Lunch with wild mushrooms and polenta at the nearby Popasul Bukovina;

In the afternoon we will visit Arbore monastery (1503) and finally the wonderful Voroneţ painted church, with the famous Last Judgement (1547); in the nearby market we can find some locally made textiles. Traditional dinner at the hotel restaurant.



Landscape in Bukovina



Suceviţa Monastery



Embroidered tomb cover of Prince Ieremia Movila, Suceviţa Monastery Museum

Day 8, 9 - Thur, Fri June 14, 15 (b,l,d) Bukovina - Sighișoara

Thursday: 8:30 am - Today we have a long but enchanting drive, about 300 km. Stop at Pasul Tihuţa (alt 1,200 m) between Transylvania and Bukovina;

12:00 am - Visit the Lutheran Church in Bistritza, with the highest tower in Transylvania and learn about the 50 rugs of the Parish, which are now in Nuremberg;

Stop in Gorneşti or in Tg. Mureş to visit a local collector.

7:00 pm - check in at Binder Buby Hotel**** Sighișoara; dinner at the hotel .

Friday: 9:00 pm - Sighișoara / Schässburg: walk to the Monastery Church, displaying about 30 rugs: a Star Ushak, several Lottos, a Bird rug dated 1646 and several double-niche Transylvanians. Then we will explore the citadel with the medieval walls and towers;

12:30 - Depart for Malâncrav and lunch in a private Saxon home; visit the wonderful Church with 15th c. frescoes; then we will drive to Biertan, former seat of the Saxon Lutheran Church (5 rugs), UNESCO heritage list. Return to Sighișoara.



Malâncrav Church



The Monastery Church in Sighișoara



The Lutheran Church in Biertan



St Margaret's Church in Mediasch

Day 10 - Sat, June 16 (b,l,d)

Mediaș - Sibiu (80 km)

9:00 am - Depart for Mediaș; visit St. Margaret's Church, probably the most beautiful Lutheran Church in Transylvania; the collection, about 40 rugs and fragments includes 4 Holbeins, 8 Lottos, 3 Çintamani, 10 Bird rugs and a rare Scorpion rug.

11:45 am - Drive to Sibiu, European Cultural Capital of 2007.

12:45 pm - Flash check-in at hotel Golden Tulip****. Lunch in the centre of Sibiu;

2:30 pm - Guided visit at the National Brukenthal Museum; walk to the great square, the 'Liers' bridge', the great Lutheran Church. Free time for shopping; Dinner t.b.a.

Day 11, 12 - Sun, Mon June 17, 18

Sibiu and return to Bucharest

Sunday: breakfast on the roof top restaurant; the program of the day, shown below, can be changed according your preferences;

9:30 am - Depart for Călnic / Kelling Călnic (75 km), a Saxon fortified church recently restored. Time allowing we will drive to nearby Sebeș and visit of the Church, (5 rugs)

1:00 pm - Lunch and return to Sibiu.

4:30 pm - Visit the open-air Museum of Folk Civilization ASTRA.

8:00 pm - Farewell Dinner at the hotel restaurant with magnificent view over Sibiu;

Monday: 8.30 am - Check out of hotel; depart for Bucharest (280 km). Journey across the spectacular Olt Valley. Visit the Orthodox Monastery of Cozia; inside the Church there are still some late 14th century frescoes. Lunch on the road.

14:30 pm - Arrive at Bucharest Otopeni airport in time to catch the return flights.

Transfer to the hotel for who is planning to spend an extra night in Bucharest.

End of the Tour.



Schwab von Wertinger
(about 1465-1533)



Double-niche 'Transylvanian'



Landscape in Sibiu



Cozia Monastery, 14th cent.

Day 13 - Tue, June 21 (b)

Breakfast and individual transfer to Otopeni airport in connection to the return flight.

Tour fee

Price per person: in double room: please ask.

Single room supplement: please ask.

Accommodation with breakfast in 4 star hotels, full meals as specified including drinks (mineral water, local wine or beer and slibovitz), individual transfers from the airport, private van with ac, entrance tickets, expert English guiding.

No insurance and no flights are provided as part of the fee.

This programme may be slightly changed according to traffic conditions or other unforeseen factors.

Tour leader Stefano Ionescu 0039 3737559784

stefano_ionescu@yahoo.it

The itinerary in Romania 2018

