

Transylvania Trail, Romania

Itinerary

Saturday:

Arrive at Bucharest Otopeni in time for a mid-afternoon collection. The transfer to Equus Silvania is a journey of about three hours.

On arrival at Equus Silvania, settle into your room. Before or after dinner there will be a ride briefing and introduction to the horses.

Overnight at Equus Silvania.



Please note that local conditions, weather and the ability of the group can cause the itinerary to change, but always with your best interests in mind.

Occasionally it may be necessary to stay at different accommodation than outlined below, and the order of the villages you visit can sometimes change.

The following is the proposed itinerary.

Sunday:

Be introduced to the horses and leave Sinca Noua. Ride along the valleys and over the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains, making your way towards the plains of the Olt River valley. Pass the 'Daffodil Meadow' Nature Reserve and perhaps experience several long canters.

After approximately six or seven hours in the saddle and covering about 31km, arrive in the village of Mândra, where you will overnight in a guesthouse with a local family. Tonight there is usually only one bathroom for the whole group to use.

Monday:

Cross the Olt River at Halmeag and continue your journey into the rolling hills around the Felmer Valley. Today you ride for approximately 6 or 7 hours and the total distance covered is about 32km.



Later, arrive in the old Hungarian village of Cobor, in the middle of the Saxon area. Here the owners of Equus Silvania, Barbara and Christoph Promberger run a conservation project developing an organic farm, with an emphasis on biodiversity conservation. The project also aims to restore some of the village's traditional houses that have been abandoned by the Saxons.

Dinner and overnight in one of the restored houses in Cobor.

Tuesday:

Today there will be a full day's circular ride from Cobor. Explore the beautiful landscape of Transylvania, its stunning views and rich birdlife. Today you may be lucky enough to see bee-eaters, hoopoes, great grey shrikes, stone chats, or lesser spotted eagles.

After covering about 31km and spending approximately 6 hours in the saddle, arrive back at Cobor in the late afternoon.



Dinner and overnight in one of the restored houses in Cobor.

Wednesday:

After breakfast, you will set off on horseback. Today's route takes you over hills and through forests. After riding approximately 39km (c. 7 hours), arrive in Viscri during the late afternoon.

Viscrist is probably the famous most Saxon village in Transylvania with a stunning fortified church; both the church and the village are recognised as UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Overnight in simple guesthouses in Viscrist (the group will usually be split between a few different dwellings). Experience some traditional Saxon cuisine tonight.



Thursday:

This morning there should be the chance to visit the fortified church and explore Viscrist on foot. Perhaps learn about some projects of the Mihai Eminescu Trust, an English organisation under the patronage of Prince Charles. This Trust has done some fantastic work in the conservation of Saxon villages in

Transylvania and here in Viscrist, the Trust has restored the village in its original setting.

After you have seen some of the sights of this interesting village and had lunch, set off on horseback. It will be a shorter ride today (c. 3-4 hours) covering about 24km on horseback to Jibert. Tonight you stay at a simple guesthouse in a very beautiful setting.

Dinner and overnight in Jibert.

Friday:

Today there should be some good canters over the hills and through shady forests. Ride back into the Olt Valley. It is a beautiful trail along the ridge, before descending through the cool, dark forests towards Halmeag, where your ride ends and you have a light lunch.

The distance covered on horseback is around 34 km and the riding time is approximately 5-6 hours.

Later, be transferred back to Equus Silvaniam by vehicle (a journey of approximately 40 minutes). Dinner is usually a farewell BBQ but this may not be hosted if your guides are transporting horses.



Overnight at Equus Silvaniam.

Saturday:

After breakfast, say a fond farewell to your guides and then transfer as a group back to Bucharest in time for your afternoon flight home.