

Bucharest City Tour

City tour on the 14th of October – included in the delegates and spouses program

Every visit to the eclectic city of Bucharest must include a city tour, in order to discover its 500+ years of history and all its stories. Bucharest is one of the youngest cities in Romania, yet the capital city and the most important economic, cultural and political center.

An important and an inspirational visit is definitely the **Parliament Palace**, the 2nd largest administrative building in the world, the heaviest building on the Earth and the largest communist symbol ever built, yet a symbol of democracy and freedom today. This was Nicolae Ceausescu's greatest goal and it was built in less than 8 years, it has a lot of records and it is impressive and controversial.

Pass by and admire Bucharest's major attractions like University Square, Romana Square, Victory Square. The city's main road is **Calea Victoriei** an important historical landmark

that stands witness to three centuries of city life and takes the traveler through different political times. The years of monarchy are very well represented and your tour will include the **Royal Palace** but will also emphasize almost 50 years of totalitarian regime. **The Revolution Square** is the most relevant place for the ending of the totalitarian communist regime, the starting place of the Romanian Revolution of December '89.

More than 10 different architectural styles and many other influences can be recognized along the walk. From French Neo-Classical Style, to Art-Deco to Romanian Style, it is a pleasure to discover them all.

The highlights of the visit include the **Romanian Atheneum**, house of the National Philharmonic Orchestra of Bucharest, galas and events venue. It is the place where the George Enescu International Classical Music Festival takes place, a symbol of Bucharest and its glory years of 19th and 20th Century.



It was built in 1888 by public donations and the main hall hosts an enormous fresco presenting the most important events of the Romanian history throughout centuries.

The most vivid area of the city and yet the oldest part, the **Old Town** has recently been renovated and can easily compete against famous old towns in the world. Formerly the Old Court of the Wallachian princes, it is the place where Vlad The Impaler (aka Dracula) lived.

Did you know that Bucharest was founded by Vlad The Impaler, the famous personality that inspired the book Dracula written by Bram Stoker? During the tour you will find out more about the legend and the reality, but also about Vlad's favorite torture punishments.