

# twilight fan trips™

## The Origins Tour Volterra, Transylvania, Florence July 1-9, 2009

On The Origins Tour, Fan Trips.travel takes you to where it all began – Transylvania. You'll travel through this land of myths and legends where Vladimir and Stefan, the Romanian coven from Twilight, dwell.

Then, If Florence wasn't enough of a draw, now Twilight has given us another reason to travel to this stunning part of Italy. The Volturi, one of the oldest vampire covens in the world of Stephenie Meyer's Twilight, have chosen the perfect setting to spend their eternity in Volterra, a charming hilltop village in central Tuscany.

### Trip Highlights:

- Private guided tours of Volterra, Florence, Sienna, San Gimignano, Bucharest, Sinaia, Bran, Rasnov, Sighisoara
  - Vampire Myths and movie trailers discussion
  - Visit to Accademia to visit Michelangelo's David – Bella's Edward
- Lunch at medieval restaurant in Sienna – just like Carlisle  
Exclusive Gala Farewell Party at Palazzo Borghese in Florence  
Wine-tasting

Entrance fees to : Old Princely Court in Bucharest, Snagov Monastery and boat transfer across Snagov Lake, Peles Castle in Sinaia, Bran Castle, Rasnov Peasant Citadel, Black Church in Brasov, admittance fee for Sighisoara Citadel, Clock Tower, Medieval Weapon Collection and Torture Room in Sighisora, Accademia Gallery, Museo della Tortura

### Trip Itinerary

Wednesday, July 1, Bucharest

Welcome to Romania! Our English speaking guide collects you from Bucharest Airport. Prepare to immerse yourself in the myths of legends of Romania's most famous vampire, Dracula, immediately! Visit the Old Princely Court, built in the 15th century by Vlad Tepes, the Romanian ruler also known as Dracula. According to the local folklore, Vlad kept his prisoners in the dungeons of this court, dungeons which extended under the city. Still standing today are only a few walls and arches, tombstones and a beautiful Corinthian Column. The Old Court Museum dates back to 1972 when archaeologists discovered the ruins of the court along with the oldest document attesting to the city's origin under the name Bucharest issued and signed by Vlad Tepes.

Drive to Snagov to visit Snagov Monastery where, according to the legend, Vlad the Impaler, (Dracula), was buried after his assassination. The monastic establishment is located on a small island of Snagov Lake - so you'll also enjoy a boat trip across the lake. For dinner delight yourself with the delicious Romanian traditional cuisine in one of Bucharest's top traditional restaurants, Pescarus Restaurant.

Accommodation: 3\* hotel, located close to the city centre

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## **Trip Itinerary**

Thursday, July 2, Bucharest – Sinaia – Bran – Rasnov - Poiana Brasov

Thursday morning you'll travel to Sinaia, the pearl of mountain resorts in Romania, known as the Carpathian Pearl. Peles Castle has been, from the turn of the 19th century, the main point of attraction of the resort. The castle has 160 rooms, all of them opulently decorated in leather and wood from the most valuable tree species. Peles Castle is one of the best preserved and beautiful royal residences in Europe and has its share of ghost stories. The custodians report a strange smell of violets whenever the ghost of Queen Maria of Romanian (the niece of Queen Victoria of Great Britain) returns to her beloved residence.

Continue your journey with Bran Castle, Transylvania's legendary symbol. Also called Dracula's Castle, Bran owes its fame both to its unique charm and to the myth Bram Stoker created around Dracula. Documentary evidence of the castle dates back as far as 1377. A true fortress and once a fort guarding a commercial road, all its walls are made of stone and the rooms and narrow corridors form a labyrinth of hidden corners and secret chambers.

Enjoy lunch on your own in Bran village. Next we visit Rasnov peasant citadel. Standing on top of a hill and overlooking an incredible Transylvanian landscape, Rasnov is the best preserved peasant fortification in Transylvania and the largest one in Eastern Europe, first documented in 13 century.

Accommodation: PoAcasa La Dracula (House of Dracula) an outstanding medieval 4\* hotel built in 2005 as a DeLuxe standard hotel. The hotel is located in Poiana Brasov, the best winter resort in Romanian, located in a fairytale location at the foot of Postavaru Mountains, surrounded by dense pine woods. Tonight we'll share a medieval dinner in hotel's Castle Restaurant.

Friday, July 3, Poiana Brasov – Brasov – Sighisoara

Explore in the morning the medieval Saxon city of Brasov, a city with an outstanding medieval atmosphere which has played a vital role in Romania's history, both old and new. Three quarters of the city is surrounded by mountains, and it is one of the best preserved medieval cities in Europe. It is here that Vlad led raids against the Saxon merchants. Visit the most famous landmark of Brasov, the Black Church, the largest gothic edifice in southern Europe dating back to 14th century.

Next we will travel to the medieval Citadel of Sighisoara, Dracula's birth place. Founded by Saxons during the 12th century, Sighisoara still stands as one of Europe's most beautiful and still inhabited fortified cities with UNESCO World Heritage Site. Sighisoara is also the place where Vlad the Impaler, known as Dracula, was born. The building still stands and it was turned into a cozy restaurant where one can taste the delicious Count's dishes.

To submerge into the medieval atmosphere visit the main attractions: Clock Tower - built in 1360 and standing 60 meters tall on top of the citadel's hill, it hosts a museum and offers a great view over the citadel. The Torture Room –this interesting museum is housed at the foot of the Clock Tower in the same room where prisoners were tortured and confessions were ex-



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**Trip Itinerary**

Friday, July 3, Poiana Brasov – Brasov – Sighisoara

We'll enjoy dinner together on our last night in Romania at the Casa Vlad Dracul Restaurant (Vlad Dracul Restaurant), the very house in which Vlad was borne, delight yourself with Count's dishes and the Saxon cuisine

Accommodation: Sighisoara 3\* Hotel, with an outstanding medieval charm, located in the very heart of the medieval citadel.

Saturday, July 4, Sighisoara – Sibiu (Morning transfer to Sibiu Airport)

Upon arrival at Florence Airport you will be met by a Fan Trips™ representative. Our private coach will transport us from the airport to Volterra. Along the way we'll stop for lunch. Take the afternoon to rest from your journey at our hotel's swimming pool and spa.

In the evening, we'll enjoy a welcome dinner and discussion about our exciting days ahead.

Hotel – the 4-star Park Hotel le Fonti is nestled among the Tuscan hills and is just a 10 minute walk from the center of Volterra. It has two restaurants, an American bar, two outdoor swimming pools and air conditioned rooms.

Sunday, July 5, 2009

After breakfast we'll head off for a guided walking tour of Volterra. Maybe you'll be the first to identify the perfect location for the Volturi's lair. In the afternoon we'll take an excursion to locations surrounding Volterra.

You are free to explore Volterra on your own tonight for dinner but be sure to be back in time for our Vampire Movie Night. Snuggle down for a night of scary projections.

Monday, July 6, 2009

After breakfast, we'll enjoy a full day excursion Private coach for full day excursion to Sienna and San Gimignano. In Sienna we'll start off with a half day guided tour before our special lunch. Imagine how Carlisle would have dined at this medieval restaurant which serves food based on original recipes found in an old manuscript.

After lunch we'll travel to San Gimignano for a brief visit to the Museo della Tortura located, appropriately, in the medieval Torre del Diavolo (Devil's Tower). This small museum documents the collection with detailed descriptions of each instrument, its intended use and those used by the Italian Inquisition.

Return to Volterra where we'll have a break before dinner at the hotel.

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## **Trip Itinerary**

Tuesday, July 7, 2009

We'll enjoy breakfast and then set out for a day of exploration in Florence! You cannot visit Tuscany without sampling some of their fabulous wines. We've planned a stop enroute from our journey to Florence today for wine tasting at a local winery. Before settling into our hotel, we'll have a short panoramic tour of Florence to help orient you to this world-class city.

Enjoy Florence on your own this afternoon and have an early dinner before our evening activity.

As a special treat tonight we will enjoy a discussion about Vampire Myths from their origin to today by walking through a variety of books, movie trailers and the widely held popular beliefs and hearsay which made the myth itself intriguing and scary at the same time. Our lively discussion will be led by a University of Florence professor who is an expert in vampire myths.

Wednesday, July 8, 2009

After breakfast, we'll take time to gaze upon Michelangelo's David, preserved in the Accademia Gallery, and imagine the beauty that Edward is to Bella. Once we've had our fix of masculine magnificence, there is plenty of time to enjoy all the other art treasures which the Accademia holds.

The remainder of the day is yours to investigate the excellent shopping that Florence offers, unrivalled art museums, fantastic food and wine or just strolling in the historic streets and alleyways.

Tonight's Gala Farewell dinner at the Palazzo Borghese has been created especially for Twilight Fan Trips™. Forget those spooky images of vampires; tonight we will be treated to the "eye candy" image of vampires as envisioned by Stephenie Meyer. Imagine Bella's 18th birthday party without the broken glass. Don't forget your costumes for this unforgettable night!

Thursday, July 9, 2009

For those not extending your stay in Florence, we will provide one group transfer to Florence Airport for your return journey home.



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**TRIP INCLUDES :**

- 8-nights accommodations in 3 and 4-star hotels
- Flight between Sibiu, Romanian and Florence, Italy
- Exclusive Gala Farewell Party at Palazzo Borghese in Florence
- English-speaking guide throughout tour
- Private guided tours of Volterra, Florence, Sienna, San Gimignano, Bucharest, Sinaia, Bran, Rasnov, Sighisoara
- Vampire Myths and movie trailers discussion
- Vampire Movie night
- Wine Tasting
- Meals Included: 15 – 8 breakfast, 1 lunch and 6 dinners
- Entrance fees to: Old Princely Court in Bucharest, Snagov Monastery and boat transfer across Snagov Lake, Peles Castle in Sinaia, Bran Castle, Rasnov Peasant Citadel, Black Church in Brasov, admittance fee for Sighisoara Citadel, Clock Tower, Medieval Weapon Collection and Torture Room in Sighisora, Accademia Gallery, Museo della Tortura
- Transportation as noted in itinerary
- Taxes and fees

Trip Price : \$3399 per person/double occupancy

Transportation to Bucharest and back from Florence not included; flights between Romania and Florence are included