EQUUS JOURNEYS
HORSEBACK TRAVEL & EQUESTRIAN TRADITIONS SINCE 1972

+44 (0) 1905 388977 info@equus-journeys.com

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Carpathian Mountains

ROMANIA

On this **centre-based holiday** in Romania, you will be introduced to the **untouched nature** of Transylvania, in an area known for its teeming wildlife and gently rolling landscapes. Ride through the breathtaking landscapes of the **Carpathian Mountains** and experience **exhilarating canters** through ancient forests and idyllic meadows. This holiday includes a full sightseeing day to visit famous locations: the village of **Viscri** with its fortified church, and the medieval city of **Sighisoara**. This riding holiday is ideal for **intermediate riders** who enjoy nature and are looking for an **active ride** with mostly off-road riding.

Centre based holidays	**8 days/5 days riding**	**From £1,452**		Open to non-riders





ITINERARY

Highlights

- Visit the Stramba Valley forest and the Viscri village, both UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- Discover the cultural wonders of Sighisoara.
- This holiday includes one overnight camping experience!
- Reasonably good chances of spotting wild bear and other small mammals.

Day 1 — 1: Home – Bucharest Airport - No riding

Sinca Noua Guesthouse

Fly to Bucharest airport. Flights are not included but can be arranged upon request. Please make sure to book a flight landing before 4pm ready for your group transfer.

Upon arrival, you will be transferred from the airport to the accommodation (around 3h drive). At the guesthouse, you will be received with a welcome drink and a hearty dinner.

Overnight at Sinca Noua guesthouse.

Day 2 — 2: Stramba Valley - Approx. 3 hours riding

Sinca Noua Guesthouse

After breakfast, you will go on a short tour of the farm and meet the horses. Soon enough, you will take off on your first trail, a short introductory ride along beautiful hay meadows and ancient pastureland. The hills offer lovely sweeping views and the open meadows are conducive to a faster pace. You will cross an old beech forest, before making your way back to the guesthouse.

After lunch, you will drive up towards the famous Stramba Valley forest – a UNESCO World Heritage Site. From there, you will set off on a 2-hour hike to learn more about the ecosystem of the mixed mountain forests of the Carpathians.

Dinner and overnight at Sinca Noua.

Day 3 — 3: Mountain Exploration - Approx. 4/5 hours riding

Sinca Noua Guesthouse

Today you will head out on a full day ride along meadows and through forests in the mountain foothills. There are plenty of opportunities to trot and canter. No doubt that you will be impressed by the variety of wild flowers in the springtime, and with a little luck you might even come across tracks of bears or wild boar.

After lunch break, enjoy beautiful panoramic views as you make your way back to the stables.

Overnight at Sinca Noua guesthouse.

Day 4 — 4: Sighisoara & Viscri - No riding

Sinca Noua Guesthouse

Today horses and riders will have a deserved break while you go on to explore more of this rural area in Transylvania. After leaving Sinca Noua, and driving for a couple of hours, you will arrive at Sighisoara, one of the cultural centres of the Transylvanian Saxons. You will then visit the village of Viscri, known for its fortified church, yet another UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Transfer back to the accommodation, where a traditional Saxon meal awaits you.

Day 5 — 5: Forests & Camping - Approx. 4/5h riding

Sinca Noua Guesthouse

Today you will set off on a 2-day 50km roundtrip that will lead you through the endless forests of Transylvania. You will cross different meadows which will invite you to some long canters.
In the afternoon, you will head to the overnight location. Upon arrival, you will feel as if you travelled back in time. The inhabitants of the few mountain farms around rely on the horse to develop their crops, and have no access to electricity or running water.
The camp will be set up in one of the farms with breathtaking views over the valleys. Enjoy a rustic dinner cooked over the fire before calling it a night.

Please note that, if you don't fancy camping out in tents, the local team will pick you up after dinner (20 min walk is necessary) and drive you to the guesthouse for the night and back again the next morning. This transfer is free of charge.

Day 6 — 6: Wild Forests of Transylvania - Approx. 4/5h riding

Sinca Noua Guesthouse

In the morning, you will pack your belongings set out for another ride in the wild forests of Transylvania. It is quite common to find tracks of wolves or bear in this area – although actually spotting them is a more arduous mission!
Arrive at back at the guesthouse in the afternoon and spend the rest of the day at leisure.

Tonight, you may visit a hide in the forest where you have high chances of spotting bear. Depending on local conditions this might be offered on a different night.

Day 7 — 7: Dracula's Castle - Approx. 3h riding

Sinca Noua Guesthouse

After a lovely breakfast, you will set off on your last ride of the week, another 3h loop with the chance to enjoy a few more canters before returning to the guesthouse for lunch.
In the afternoon, you will ride towards the nearby Bran castle, also know as Dracula's castle. Here you will learn that the history is much more exciting than the legend…

After dinner at the guesthouse, you may watch a video about your hosts' conservation or enjoy the open fire for a drink.

Day 8 — 8: Bucharest – Home - No riding

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport. Please book a flight departing after 2:00 pm to allow time for your transfer.

DATES & PRICES

DEPARTURE	RETURN	PRICE WITHOUT FLIGHTS	STATUS
10/04/2027	17/04/2027	£1,482	Open
17/04/2027	24/04/2027	£1,482	Open
01/05/2027	08/05/2027	£1,482	Open
15/05/2027	22/05/2027	£1,482	Open
29/05/2027	05/06/2027	£1,482	Open
12/06/2027	19/06/2027	£1,658	Open
26/06/2027	03/07/2027	£1,658	Open
10/07/2027	17/07/2027	£1,658	Open
24/07/2027	31/07/2027	£1,658	Open
07/08/2027	14/08/2027	£1,658	Open
21/08/2027	28/08/2027	£1,658	Open
04/09/2027	11/09/2027	£1,658	Open
18/09/2027	25/09/2027	£1,658	Open
02/10/2027	09/10/2027	£1,482	Open
16/10/2027	23/10/2027	£1,482	Open
30/10/2027	06/11/2027	£1,482	Open

Price details

- Flights or transportation to your destination (international/domestic) are not included, but can be booked on request - please contact us for rates.

- Groups are composed of a minimum of 3 riders and a maximum of 6 international riders during the high season or 8 riders during the low season, plus guides.

- Rates are per person, based on two riders sharing a twin/double room.

- There is no single supplement if you are willing to share a room with another guest of the same sex. To guarantee your own room there is a single supplement of €125/£110/$145 in 2026/2027.
- Sleeping bags can be rented from the local team. There is a fee of approx. €15 per sleeping bag, paid locally.

- Scheduled transfers from/to Bucharest airport are included. On the first day, you should land before 4pm, and, on the last day, flights should depart after 3pm. Private transfers can be arranged for €145/£125/$170, per car, each way. 2027 rate to be confirmed.

- There is an optional Bear hide visit - this is included in the rate.

- Guests are kindly asked to contribute with a €40 donation to the CARPATHIA Conservation Project

- Non-riders are welcome and benefit from a special rate:

> Low season (April, May, October): €955/£830/$1125 OR €990/£845/$1145 in 2027
> High season (June- September): €1055/£915/$1245 OR €1090/£930/$1260 in 2027

- Accompanied young riders are welcome from 13 yo, provided they match the riding requirements.

Please Note
The itinerary may be modified at anytime for security reasons, meteorological or events beyond our control such as blocked roads, rivers in flood, drought, strikes and local holidays. Equus Journeys, our local partners and their local guides will always strive to find the best solution and will alter the itinerary as needed.
The names of the hotels and accommodation are given for information only and depending on availability, they may be modified without notice and replaced by another of a similar standard.

Price includes

SUPPORT TEAM

1 English-speaking horse guide

LOGISTICS

1 horse equipped with saddle and bridle per rider

INLAND TRANSPORT

Airport transfers (within the schedule)
Optional transfer to the guesthouse on day 5, and back to camp on day 6

ACCOMMODATION

Double room - guesthouse

MEALS

Full board from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 8
All drinks, except the ones from the bar

EXTRAS

Sightseeing visits mentioned in the itinerary
Bear hide visit

Price doesn't include

MEALS

Drinks from the bar and personal extras

TRANSPORT

International flights

EXTRAS

Tips to the local team
Donation to the CARPATHIA Conservation Project

INSURANCE

Visas and personal purchase
Cancellation and travel insurance are not included in the above listed price. Please note that insurance is mandatory. We recommend taking out an insurance policy as soon as your trip is booked to cover you in case of cancellation

Optional

ACCOMMODATION

Single room supplement

TRANSPORT

Airport transfers - outside of the regular schedule

EXTRAS

Sleeping bag

EQUESTRIAN INFO

Horses

There are around 40 horses available. They are a mix of Arab and Shagya-Arab, Kisberi, Gidran, and other Hungarian breeds. All horses have a good temperament and are both fit and surefooted.
They range in height from 15hh to 16,2hh.

You will ride different horses throughout the week – between 2-4 different horses.

Guide & local team

The local guides are experienced and professional. They are very familiar with all the trails and take great care of the horses and guests. Additionally, they have first aid training.
All guides speak English, while some also speak German and French.

Minimum riding ability

MINIMUM RIDING ABILITY

You must be an intermediate rider or above to join this holiday. You are able to walk, trot and canter on forward going horses, and comfortable riding out in open spaces.

Rider weight limit is 90kg/ 14st/ 198 lbs. If you are over this limit, please contact us.

PACE

The riding is active with long stretches of trot and canter.
Please note that you may be required to dismount and lead your horse downhill (up to 30 min.).

Most of the riding is done in single file.

TACKING ABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

You are responsible for tacking and untacking your horse. You are very welcome to help with grooming as well.

TRIP CONDITIONS AND REQUESTED EXPERIENCE

You should be comfortable at all three paces.
The terrain is diverse, and includes mountainous sections that may be more challenging.

Due to the steepness of some sections of the trail, you will need to dismount and lead your horse for up to 20 minutes.

EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT

Endurance saddles. Saddlebags are provided.
Helmets are mandatory and you should bring your own.

TRAVEL INFO

COMFORT

Accommodation is in a guesthouse located in the same property as the stables. The guesthouse has nine en-suite rooms, some of which are suitable for families. On the ground floor, there is a spacious dinning room where meals are served. There is a lounge area with a bar and a fireplace so you can

relax in the evenings. Wi-Fi is available.

Between May and September, there is usually one night spent camping in the mountains in dome tents (a minimum of 3 guests is required). You can rent a sleeping bag locally (check “Dates&Prices for more details).

MEALS

On this holiday, you will experience a variety of Romanian dishes and western cuisine. All meals offer a wide variety of organic produce that are harvested directly from the property’s garden. The meat is also organic and locally sourced. Jams, spreads, breads and desserts are home-made.

Special diets can be accommodated. Please let us know in advance.

CLIMATE

In spring and early summer, temperatures are pleasant (20-25℃). This is a great time to enjoy the spring flowers in full bloom.
Summer may get rather hot (especially July/August). Riding hours during these months are often adjusted to avoid the afternoon heat.
Autumn is a nice season to visit and enjoy the beautiful fall colours (average temperature of 18℃).
The winter is somewhat unpredictable though there is usually a good chance of snow in January/February.

TIPS

Tipping is common in Romania. We suggest around €40 for the staff for a one-week stay.

PACKING LIST

Please pack carefully and sensibly: the following guide is here to give you an idea of what to bring. This list must be adapted depending on the season and individual needs.

Between May and September, there is usually one night spent camping in the mountains in dome tents. You are welcome to bring your sleeping bag. There are sleeping bags available for rental on-site.

Head
- Riding helmet
- Sunhat: cap for when not riding
- Sunglasses - with a cord attached so they don't fly off when riding
- Buff or bandana for protecting your neck and face from the sun and dust

Upper Body
- Thermals in case of cold weather (long or short-sleeved T-shirts)
- Short or long-sleeved cotton shirts (to provide protection from the sun) or T-shirt in a quick-drying material
- Lightweight fleece or jumper
- Warm polar fleece or equivalent (plus a spare in case one gets wet)
- Warm Goretex-style jacket (water-proof and breathable)

Legs
- 2 pairs of jodhpurs or long leather trousers
- 1 change of trousers (riding trousers or jeans)
- 1 pair of waterproof over trousers
- 1 tracksuit pants/comfortable walking trousers for optional hikes
- Cotton or synthetic underwear (non-irritant)

Hands and feet
- 1 pair of comfortable riding boots. We recommend short boots with half chaps but you may wish to take long chaps or long boots.
- 1 pair of hiking appropriate shoes (ankle-high shoes are ideal)
- Lightweight shoes or trainers for the evenings
- Several pairs of socks
- Gloves

Other useful items
- Water bottle
- Toiletries
- Ear plugs

Medical kit

- Sunscreen and lip balm - should be high factor
- Insect repellent
- Any medication you regularly take
- Vitamin C tablets
- Blister plasters in case of any rubs
- Antiseptic cream, plasters, aspirin, anti-histamine, insect-bite salve etc..
- 10cm wide bandage
- Painkillers
- Spare prescription glasses/contact lenses
- Eye drops
- Imodium or similar anti-diarrhoea medication
- Re-hydration sachets
- Antiseptic wipes
- Handwash gel

Our Recommendations
- Backpacks cannot be worn whilst riding. We recommend a small bumbag or a coat with pockets so that you can carry small items with you during the day (passport, camera, sunscreen, lipbalm etc)
- We recommend travelling in your riding boots and carrying your hat and some riding clothes in your hand luggage - then if your luggage goes astray you are still able to ride!
- You should also bring a copy of your passport/insurance in case you lose your documents. You can also save a copy into your mobile phone.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

1. Travel light. It's a little known fact, but the lighter you pack, the better for the environment as heavy bags will produce higher emissions (when flying a plane or driving a car!).
2. Reduce plastic waste. Take your favorite reusable bottle with you. Avoid single-use bags, cups, or straws.
3. Preserve nature. Always take your rubbish with you during the ride and recycle them. Leave all the flowers or plants as you found them, and never get too close when observing wildlife. Make sure to use eco-friendly products such as body wash or laundry detergent (if camping) to protect both your skin and the environment.
4. Choose your experiences carefully. Respect animal life by not participating in any activities that abuse wild animals (shows, elephant rides, etc.).
5. Support local populations. Buy local handicrafts, be respectful of customs, and learn about the culture of local communities.
6. Share! Raise awareness among your family and friends about sustainable tourism.

For more information please see this page.