

Paris to Sofia by Rail - EFIS

21 days: Paris to Sofia

What's Included

- G Adventures for Good: Magdas Hotel, Vienna
- Paris orientation walk
- TGV train
- Lausanne orientation walk
- Zermatt stay
- The Glacier Express train
- Salzburg orientation walk
- Vienna orientation walk
- Budapest orientation walk
- Romanian villages and countryside tour (half-day, from Sighisoara)
- 'Dracula's Castle' (Bran)
- Bucharest orientation tour
- Arbanasi village visit
- Sofia orientation walk
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and G Adventures. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

VALIDITY: Valid for all trips departing April 11th, 2017 and onwards

Itinerary

Day 1 Paris

Arrive at any time.

There are no planned activities until an evening welcome meeting.

Arrival Day and Welcome Meeting

1h

The adventure begins tonight. Feel free to explore before your welcome meeting, but make sure you're back in time to meet the group. After introductions, your CEO will review the details of your tour. Please note that normal check-in times apply at our start hotels, but you can usually store your luggage for the day if you arrive early.

Optional Activities - Day 1

Eiffel Tower Visit

Paris2h-4h

16EUR per person

Visit the most famous landmark in France, the Eiffel Tower. Opt to climb the stairs or take an elevator to the top for a stunning view over the city. Hang out at dusk and watch the tower light up.

Luxembourg Garden Visit

Paris1h-2h

Free

Stroll through the Luxembourg Garden, or Jardin du Luxembourg, built in the early 1600s outside the Luxembourg Palace. The garden is known for expansive lawns, flowers and tree-lined promenade, topped off with a Medici Fountain.

The Louvre Visit

Paris1h-5h

12-16EUR per person

Examine the massive collection at the Louvre, home to the Mona Lisa and the Winged Venus. While it might take a lifetime to view everything in the museum, one of the largest in the world, make the most of the time you have and try to spend at least a few hours wandering around.

Walk Along the Seine River

Paris1h-2h

Free

Stroll like a Parisian along the Seine. There are almost 40 bridges that cross over the river within Paris alone, if something on the right bank catches your eye, just cross over to explore. Stop to relax on the banks or bring a picnic.

Musée d'Orsay Visit

Paris1h-2h

11EUR per person

Tour through The Musée d'Orsay, a must-see museum in Paris. Housed in a former train station, the beautiful building is the perfect setting to display some of the world's most revered Impressionist art. Wander from room to room in awe at the works on display by Monet, Renoir, Cézanne and Gauguin. Marvel at Degas' ballerinas and Van Gogh's swirling colours.

Musée Rodin Visit

Paris1h-2h

7EUR per person

Spend some time at The August Rodin Museum, one of Paris' most enjoyable museums. With famous sculptures on display like the Burghers of Calais, The Gates of Hell, The Hand of God, The Kiss and The Thinker, you can wander through this former mansion, marvelling at the architecture as well as Rodin's best work.

Sacre Coeur Visit

Paris1h-2h

Free

Visit the Basilique du Sacré-Coeur, located in the Montmartre neighbourhood. This Roman Catholic church was completed in 1914 and stands on the highest point of the city. Climb up 200 stairs to reach the dome of the basilica to get an amazing view of the Paris skyline.

Palace of Versailles Visit

Paris3h-5h

18EUR per person

Monet's Giverny Gardens

Paris2h-3h

10.20EUR per person

Moulin Rouge Dinner & Show

Paris

175-185EUR per person

Napoleon's Tomb - Les Invalides Army Museum

Paris1h-2h

12EUR per person

Day 2 Paris

Spend the day with free time to visit dozens of museums, patisserie shops, sidewalk cafés or grand boulevards.

The Louvre, Musée d'Orsay and Rodin Museum are all worth a visit. Stop by Notre Dame or Sacre Coeur to add some spirituality to your day. Shop on the Champs-Élysées or explore the Left Bank.

Carte Blanche

Paris Full Day

There's plenty to see and do in Paris, and we wanted to make sure that you had some time to take it all in. Feel free to relax or try optional activities like getting acquainted with Mona Lisa at the Louvre, marvel at the architecture of the Notre Dame Cathedral, and visiting the Arc de Triomphe. Your CEO has more ideas if you need them. Just ask!

Optional Activities - Day 2

Monet's Giverny Gardens

Paris2h-3h

10.20EUR per person

Palace of Versailles Visit

Paris3h-5h

18EUR per person

Eiffel Tower Visit

Paris2h-4h

16EUR per person

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Paris1h-2h

Free

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Champs-Élysées Visit

Paris

Free

Wander past high end retail shops, cafés and theatres before reaching the famous Arc de Triomphe.

Sacre Coeur Visit

Paris1h-2h

Free

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Napoleon's Tomb - Les Invalides Army Museum

Paris 1h-2h

12EUR per person

Moulin Rouge Dinner & Show

Paris

175-185EUR per person

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 3 Paris/Lausanne

Take a morning TGV train to Lausanne, Switzerland. Spend the afternoon in this charming town.

Train

Paris - Lausanne 4h Morning

Climb aboard, take a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Orientation Walk

30m-1h Afternoon

Enjoy a brief walk with your CEO. He/she will give you some tips on finding things like supermarkets, main squares, and ATMs. For more specific or in-depth information, an official guided tour is recommended.

Free Time

Lausanne Half Day

Check out this sleepy but picturesque town.

Optional Activities - Day 3

Cathedral of Notre Dame of Lausanne Visit

Lausanne 30m-1h

Free

Stop at the Cathedral of Notre Dame of Lausanne to marvel at the impressive architecture and the detailed rose window dating back to the 13th century. Construction on the church started in the late 1100s, finally consecrated in 1275. The medieval architecture is stunning and stands out from the charming setting of Lausanne.

Cantonal Botanical Museum and Gardens

Lausanne 1h-2h

Free

Established in 1824, these gardens house over 6000 plants from around the world.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 4 Lausanne/Zermatt

Board another train for the journey to Zermatt, a tiny village in the heart of the Swiss Alps. Enjoy the afternoon in the car-free centre or hiking in the nearby mountains.

Train

Lausanne - Zermatt 3h Morning

Climb aboard, take a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Free Time

Zermatt Half Day

Get out and explore on foot by meandering through the town or setting out on an exhilarating hike. If you'd prefer to travel a little more leisurely, seek out of the local horse-drawn carriages used as cabs.

Optional Activities - Day 4

Hiking

Zermatt 2h30m-3h 10-11km

Free

Hit some mountain trails to stretch your legs and soak in the incredible Alpine views.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 5 Zermatt/Chur

Board the Glacier Express for a slow and stunning ride through the Alps. Pass meadows, rushing streams, bridges, villages and massive mountains as the train heads towards Chur. Arrive in the evening after a full day of soaking in the scenery.

Train

Zermatt - Chur 5h-6h Morning

Board the Glacier Express and enjoy the stunning view out of the domed glass roof.

Free Time

Chur Evening

Take some time to wander this scenic village. Stop for a delicious meal at a local restaurant or find a great spot for taking photos of the towering mountains.

Optional Activities - Day 5

Lunch on the Glacier Express

Zermatt

10-50EUR per person

Choose from a menu selection of meals prepared fresh with regional and seasonal produce. Adjust your budget upwards if you would like to order an alcoholic beverage.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 6 Chur/Munich

Take a full day to reach Munich, in the heart of Bavaria. Arrive in time for an optional evening out at a local brewery with a few steins of beer and some typical German fare.

Train

Chur - Munich 5h-8h

Climb aboard, take a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Optional Activities - Day 6

Hofbräuhaus Visit

Munich 30m-3h

Free-30EUR per person

Grab a stein and some local Bavarian food at the Hofbräuhaus, where local beer was brewed for the Duke of Bavaria in 1589. While the building has changed over the years it's still a favourite in Munich, for a good reason. With a capacity for 1300 guests, the space isn't exactly intimate, but with its rich history and local Bavarian-style music, there's no shortage of good fun.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 7 Munich

Explore the city or head further afield to visit Füssen and the famous Neuschwanstein Castle.

Free Time

Munich

Time's a wastin'. Get out and explore the city or use Munich as a hub to branch out and see nearby landmarks or villages.

Optional Activities - Day 7

Neuschwanstein Castle Visit

Füssen

51EUR per person

Visit the famous Neuschwanstein Castle. The castle is one of the many built by the eccentric King Ludwig of Bavaria, whose love of building extravagant homes for himself bankrupted Bavaria. This castle is the most well-known of the group, the beautiful colours and fairy-tale towers inspired the castle in Disney's Cinderella. Walk up the hill or take a bus to reach the castle, or feel like royalty yourself by taking a horse drawn carriage.

Bavarian National Museum

Munich 1h-2h

7EUR per person

Dachau Concentration Camp Visit

Munich

Take a sad but significant tour through this historical site that was used as a model for the other concentration camps of Germany and Poland. At the end of the subway line, located in a residential area, Dachau is a testament both to the evil of mankind and the overwhelming will to survive. Learn of the atrocities of war and come away with a great understanding of the not so distant past.

Alte Pinakothek Art Gallery

Munich 1h-2h

4EUR per person

Füssen Visit

Füssen

Take a stroll through the small village of Füssen. Pop into the ubiquitous pastry shops for unrivalled Bavarian baked goods and watch as old men in lederhosen and feathered caps walk through town.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 8 Munich/Salzburg

Travel to Salzburg, Austria. This charming city is brimming with history and character.

Known for the nearby salt mines, Mozart, and the setting for The Sound of Music, Salzburg has plenty to offer. Opt of visit the concentration camp of Dachau, right outside the city centre. Learn of the atrocities of war and the triumph of the human spirit.

Train

Munich - Salzburg 1h30m Morning

Climb aboard, take a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Free Time

Salzburg Half Day

Explore this lovely town.

Optional Activities - Day 8

Salzburg Old Town Visit

Salzburg 1h30m-2h

Free

Explore the Old Town of Salzburg, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most charming areas in Europe. Set on a river with picturesque bridges and diverse architecture, the pedestrian-only area is perfect for wandering and window shopping. Opt to walk the mountain paths to a fortress for panoramic views of the region.

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Meals included: Breakfast

Day 9 Salzburg

Make the most of a free day in Salzburg. Opt to visit the salt mines or take the famous Sound of Music tour.

Free Time

Salzburg Full Day

Get out and explore.

Optional Activities - Day 9

Sound of Music Tour

Salzburg

40EUR per person

Join the Sound of Music tour to visit venues from the movie as well as an opportunity to see the landscapes of the surrounding areas. Listen to the soundtrack as you visit historical and architectural landmarks of the city and Lake District.

The route of the tour includes stops at Morabell Gardens, Leopoldskron Palace, Hellbrunn Palace (the gazebo), Nonnberg Abbey, Salzburg Lake District Area (from the picnic scene with wonderful views of St Gilgen and Lake Wolfgang), and Mondsee (the wedding chapel).

Salzburg Salt Mines Visit

Salzburg 1h30m-2h

16EUR per person

Visit the mines that give Salzburg its name. Suit up in overalls and learn more about the salt production of the area. Take the big slide and journey on Mirror Lake.

Salzburg Old Town Visit

Salzburg 1h30m-2h

Free

Explore the Old Town of Salzburg, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most charming areas in Europe. Set on a river with picturesque bridges and diverse architecture, the pedestrian-only area is perfect for wandering and window shopping. Opt to walk the mountain paths to a fortress for panoramic views of the region.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 10 Salzburg/Vienna

Continue by train to Vienna. Opt to visit the famous opera house, join a city tour or visit world-class museums. Stay overnight at a G Adventures for Good supported hotel that supports migrant workers.

Train

Salzburg - Vienna 3h Morning

Climb aboard, take a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Free Time

Vienna Half Day

Vienna's a great city to take a tour of famous landmarks or try some local specialities and enjoy a piece of strudel in a café.

G Adventures for Good: Magdas Hotel

The global refugee and migrant crisis has displaced more than 60 million people around the world, and it's estimated that well over 100,000 refugees have settled in Austria alone. Magdas Hotel is changing the lives of these newcomers and their families by employing a staff consisting almost entirely of refugees. Not only that, but the social enterprise was also decorated by renowned local architects and volunteer artists, who found ways to upcycle materials creatively while making a beautiful hotel.

Optional Activities - Day 10

Belvedere Gallery Visit

Vienna 1h-2h

19EUR per person

Learn some of the history of this beautiful palace and grounds and explore the impressive art collection. Of particular note, the museum's collection of 24 pieces by Gustav Klimt, including his famous 'Kiss'.

Vienna State Opera House Visit

Vienna

8EUR per person

Visit the famous Vienna Opera House and soak in its exceptional architecture. Opt for a guided tour to see the opera house's main features and learn about the history of the building.

Schönbrunn Palace Visit/Tour

Vienna 30m-1h

11-15EUR per person

Enjoy a guided tour of the stunning summer palace designed by Empress Maria Theresa herself. The palace gardens are free to all visitors.

View Lipizzaner Horses at Spanish Riding School of Vienna

Vienna

14EUR per person

Pay a visit to the gorgeous grey Lipizzaner horses of the renowned Spanish Riding School of Vienna. Witness the birthplace of "airs above the ground," or classical dressage, known for its highly controlled movements and jumps.

Saint Stephen's Cathedral Visit

Vienna

Free

St. Stephen's Cathedral is one of Vienna's main landmarks complete with a 343-step climb up a spiral staircase to look out over the city.

Vienna Boys' Choir Visit

Vienna 2h-3h

35EUR per person

Sit back and be transported by the sweet voices of the one of world's best known choirs. Founded in 1498, the Vienna Boys' Choir is made up of boys aged 10-14 from Austria and around the world. Attend a live concert and learn what it means to be moved by music.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 11 Vienna/Budapest

Travel to Budapest, Hungary this morning by train. Take an orientation walk upon arrival, then opt to enjoy a night out in this charming city.

Journey by train to Budapest, the 'Pearl of the Danube'. The city, split into Buda and Pest by the river, retains its eastern charm with Buda Castle and Turkish-style thermal baths.

Depending on arrival time, opt to visit some city sights or soak in one of the famous baths.

Train

Vienna - Budapest4h

Climb aboard, take a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Orientation Walk

30m-1h

Enjoy a brief walk with your CEO. He/she will give you some tips on finding things like supermarkets, main squares, and ATMs. For more specific or in-depth information, an official guided tour is recommended.

Free Time

Budapest Half Day

There is so much to see and do in this incredible city - start exploring.

Optional Activities - Day 11

Buda Castle Visit

Budapest3h-4h

1500HUF per person

Set on Castle Hill overlooking the Danube River and Pest, Buda Castle was once home to the Hungarian kings of Budapest. Admire the gorgeous architecture and visit its two museums; the National Gallery and the Budapest History Museum. Permanent collections depict the past 500 yrs of Hungary's art history, including Medieval and Renaissance stonework, Gothic wood sculptures, and Gothic altars.

Thermal Baths Visit

Budapest1h-3h

4200-5000HUF per person

Bring two towels, your bathing suit and an aching body and prepare to be healed in the largest medicinal bath in Europe. Built in 1913, you can test the waters of 18 different pools (15 of which are spring fed) amidst stunning neo-Baroque architecture. Play chess on floating chessboards, relax in the whirlpools and explore the wonderful mosaic domes of these historic thermal steam rooms.

Budapest Bike Tour

Budapest3h-4h

28EUR per person

Join a group for a guided city tour by bike. Buzz around the city on two wheels to cover more ground and get your blood pumping.

Hungarian National Museum

Budapest1h-2h

1600HUF per person

Parliament Building Visit

Budapest

5200HUF per person

Take a guided tour of one of Hungary's crown jewels - the Hungarian Parliament building. Existing as the third largest Parliament building in the world, its Neo Gothic architecture also makes it a contender for one of the most beautiful. Tour the Hungarian Coronation Jewels in the Dome Hall, the Old Upper House Hall of the bicameral Hungarian Parliament, as well as the Lounge. Guided tours are mandatory for entrance and we recommend booking your tour in advance.

Great Market Hall Visit

Budapest

Free

Take a stroll though the oldest indoor market in Hungary.

Chain Bridge

Budapest

Free

Straddling the river Danube, the Chain Bridge suspension bridge is the first built to connect Buda and Pest, and is now one of Budapest's most iconic landmarks.

Hungarian State Opera House

Budapest 30m-1h

2900HUF per person

Constructed in 1873, the Opera House is one of Budapest's most stunning examples of Neo-Renaissance architecture. Take a tour around this stunning building to get a closer look at the ornate marble statues, frescos, and ornate tin work - to name a few highlights.

Danube River Cruise

Budapest

Float down the Danube for a better look at the picturesque sites along the river bend.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 12 Budapest

Enjoy a full day for exploration in Budapest. Opt to visit Buda Castle, the famous thermal baths or take a bike tour of the city.

Today, new travellers may join you for the rest of your adventure. You are welcome to join them at a group meeting this evening, followed by an optional dinner.

Optional Welcome Meeting for Travellers on Combos

You may be a seasoned pro at group travel by now, but there will likely be some new travellers joining the group. Sit in on the welcome meeting to meet the newest members of your group and learn about the next leg of your tour.

Carte Blanche

Budapest Full Day

There's plenty to see and do in Budapest, and we wanted to make sure that you had some time to take it all in. Feel free to relax or try optional activities like a visit to the Parliament, a walk around the Fisherman's Bastion, and marvel St. Stephen's Basilica. Your CEO has more ideas if you need them. Just ask!

Optional Activities - Day 12

Buda Castle Visit

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Day 13 Budapest/Sibiu

Take another free day to explore Budapest before boarding an overnight train to Sibiu.

Overnight train (beds)

Budapest - Sibiu 12h

Stretch out and get some well-earned rest en route to the next stop.

Free Time

Budapest Half Day

So much to do in this city - get out and explore!

Day 14 Sibiu/Sighisoara

Travel by train from Sibiu to the enchanting town of Sighisoara. Use your free time here to explore the cobblestone streets and medieval architecture.

Explore Sighisoara's medieval walled citadel with its cultural attractions and great restaurants and bars.

Sample some Romanian cuisine--the Casa Dracula (original home of Vlad, the model for Count Dracula) is now a restaurant specializing in hearty meat and game dishes of the region.

Local train

Sibiu - Sighisoara 2h30m 90km

Climb aboard, take your seat, and get around like the locals do.

Free Time

Sighisoara Afternoon

Take some time to explore medieval Sighisoara.

Optional Activities - Day 14

Clock Tower Visit

Sighisoara

Free

Enjoy a visit to the Clock Tower, also known as the Council Tower -- it's Sighisoara's main point of attraction. It was built in the second half of the 14th century and expanded in the 16th century. After a fire in 1676 when the town's gunpowder deposits located in the Tailors' Tower exploded, Austrian artists rebuilt the roof of the tower in its present baroque style and, in 1894, colourful tiles were added.

The Church of the Dominican Monastery Visit

Sighisoara

Free

Enjoy a visit to the Church of the Dominican Monastery. Built in the late Gothic style, it was last repaired in 1929, quite some time after it was first attested in a document back in 1298.

The History Museum (Muzeul de Istorie)

Sighisoara

5RON per person

Explore the Renaissance furniture, medical instruments, fine arts, and more in this museum located inside the Clock Tower -- it's been around since 1899!

Casa Dracula (Vlad Dracul Restaurant)

Sighisoara 15m-4h

10-50RON per person

You will not be digging your canine teeth into any humans at the Casa Dracula. Once the original home for Vlad the Impaler, who was the model for Count Dracula, it is now a restaurant specialising in the hearty meat and game dishes of the region.

Day 15 Sighisoara/Brasov

With a local guide, venture into the Romanian countryside to visit traditional villages. Get a true sense of life in this less-visited region. Visit charming Brasov.

Enjoy a half-day guided tour of Sighisoara's countryside. Take in the beautiful rolling scenery and visit medieval villages and fortified churches.

In the early evening, transfer to the city of Brasov, the best preserved medieval city in Romania.

Sighisoara Region Guided Tour

Sighisoara 5h-6h

Visit some of the city before heading further afield. Coast over rolling hills and into rural villages, learning about the life and folklore of olden times from our expert local guide.

Private Vehicle

Sighisoara - Brasov 1h36m 115km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 16 Brasov

Visit the picturesque Bran Castle and learn the history (and rumours) of this fascinating place.

Impressively situated on a rock outcrop and dominating the valley, this 14th century castle is steeped in history and folklore. Soak in the gorgeous countryside as you learn about the creepier side of Romania.

Bran Castle Visit

Bran 2h-3h Half Day

Visit the picturesque Bran Castle, impressively situated on a rock outcrop and dominating the valley. This 14th century castle is steeped in history and folklore and is an unmissable highlight. Sometimes called "Dracula's Castle", it served as a defense point to protect the border between Transylvania and Wallachia. Rumours abound regarding Dracula's interaction with the castle. You'll have to visit to find out the truth.

Optional Activities - Day 16

Catherine's Gate (Poarta Ecaterinei) Visit

Brasov

Get ready to go back in history with a visit to Catherine's Gate, built in 1559 and the only original gate to have survived from medieval times.

Schei District Visit

Brasov 30m-45m

During the Saxon rule of Brasov, from the 13th to the 17th century, Romanians were forbidden from owning property inside the citadel walls and so they settled in the southwestern Schei district.

Walk up Strada Prundului to Piata Unirii and the beautiful St. Nicholas Church; then, wander around the small curving streets that gradually slope upwards against the hill. Continue to the southern end of Schei and you'll end up on the gravel road to the impressive Solomon's Rocks (Pietrele lui Solomon), a popular picnic area for locals during the weekend but relatively quiet all other times.

Black Church (Biserica Neagra) Visit

Brasov

8RON per person

The Black Church is the biggest church between Vienna and Istanbul. It's a famous landmark of the town of Brasov, is Romania's leading Gothic church, and has the largest church bell in the country, weighing a hefty 7 tons (6,350 kg)! Explore its beautiful interior, including stained glass windows and its collection of 119 Turkish carpets, the largest in Europe.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 17 Brasov/Bucharest

Travel to Bucharest and enjoy an orientation walk. Take time to explore the Soviet-esque architecture, the beautiful cathedral, or indulge in Bucharest's international cuisine.

Train

Brasov - Bucharest 4h

Climb aboard, take a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Orientation Walk

30m-1h

Enjoy a brief walk with your CEO. He/she will give you some tips on finding things like supermarkets, main squares, and ATMs. For more specific or in-depth information, an official guided tour is recommended.

Optional Activities - Day 17

National Village Museum Visit

Bucharest

Check out examples of Romanian rural architecture at this outdoor museum that's literally a park 10 hectares large. It boasts rural homes built in the styles throughout Romania as well as churches, outhouses, and mills -- you'll really feel like you're walking through a Romanian village. To give an even more authentic feel to things, many structures are filled with furniture and pieces from the eras they replicate.

National History Museum Visit

Bucharest

Boasting more than 650,000 items, the is museum, inaugurated in 1972, gives visitors a true understanding of Romanian culture. Housed in the former historic monument once known as the Palace of the Post, it is situated in the old historical centre of Bucharest.

Palace of the Parliament Visit

Bucharest

Enjoy a visit to the Palace of the Parliament, which contains both chambers of the Romanian parliament as well as the National Museum of Contemporary Art (MNAC). It's the world's largest civilian building with an administrative function, according to the World Records Academy; it's also the most expensive administrative building.

Bucharest Bike Tour

Bucharest 2h-3h

20RON per person

You can always cover more land on a bike! Get out and explore on two wheels.

Museum of the Romanian Peasant

Bucharest

Visit the Museum of the Romanian Peasant for an interesting look inside the rural culture of Romania. The museum displays a collection of costumes, artifacts of Romanian peasant life, and religious icons.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 18 Bucharest/Veliko Tarnovo

Enjoy some free time to explore more of Bucharest in the morning before travelling to Bulgaria and one of the oldest cities in the world, Veliko Tarnovo. Wander the medieval town, visit the museums, or sample your first taste of Bulgarian cuisine.

Enjoy this charming town and opt to visit the Tsarevets Fortress just outside the city.

Free Time

Bucharest Morning

Get out and explore.

Private Vehicle

Bucharest - Veliko Tarnovo 3h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 19 Veliko Tarnovo

Enjoy the morning in the medieval town of Veliko Tarnovo. In the afternoon, visit the hilltop village of Arbanasi. Soak in the views over Veliko Tarnovo.

Arbanasi Village Visit

Arbanasi

Enjoy a visit to Arbanasi. This hilltop village was the residence of choice for the wealthy Roman elite and is still a country haven for the high-flyers of modern Bulgaria. The views all around and down to Veliko Tarnovo are amazing.

Optional Activities - Day 19

Nativity Church Visit

Arbanasi

6BGN per person

Visit the 16th-century Church of the Nativity to see the amazing murals.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 20 Veliko Tarnovo/Sofia

Travel to Sofia and take an orientation walk of the capital city. Later, wander down the pedestrian street or visit the eclectic Ladies' Market.

A mix of western grandeur and Soviet bulk, Sofia boasts a gold-domed church and delicious international dining.

Sample modern takes on Bulgarian and international food, with some great trendy dining opportunities.

Orientation Walk

30m-1h

Enjoy a brief walk with your CEO. He/she will give you some tips on finding things like supermarkets, main squares, and ATMs. For more specific or in-depth information, an official guided tour is recommended.

Local bus

Veliko Tarnovo - Sofia 3h-4h

Climb aboard, grab a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Optional Activities - Day 20

Ladies' Market Visit

Sofia

Free

Enjoy a visit to the eclectic Ladies' Market - Sofia's biggest market for fresh produce, meats, fish, cheeses and spices.

Vitosha Boulevard Visit

Sofia 1h-2h

Free

Enjoy a stroll down Sofia's chic pedestrian area, Vitosha Boulevard.

St Alexander Nevsky Cathedral Visit

Sofia 30m-45m

Free-6BGN per person

Don't miss the stunning gold-domed Alexander Nevsky church, honouring the Russian liberators whose contribution saw the end of Ottoman rule in Bulgaria.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 21 Sofia

Depart at any time.

Meals included: Breakfast

What's Included

G Adventures for Good: Magdas Hotel, Vienna. Paris orientation walk. TGV train. Lausanne orientation walk. Zermatt stay. The Glacier Express train. Salzburg orientation walk. Vienna orientation walk. Budapest orientation walk. Romanian villages and countryside tour (half-day, from Sighisoara). 'Dracula's Castle' (Bran). Bucharest orientation tour. Arbanasi village visit. Sofia orientation walk. All transport between destinations and to/from included activities.

Highlights

Travel across Europe by train, explore tiny villages and big capital cities, soak in gorgeous Alpine scenery from the window of the Glacier Express, sample cuisine across different countries, get spooked at "Dracula's Castle"

Dossier Disclaimer

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and the operator. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most

rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

Itinerary Disclaimer

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

Important Notes

1. LOCAL GUIDES

It is important to note that in Europe, all guiding is based around local guides all of whom are licensed to work only in a particular city. As such, our leaders are able to provide orientation walks which will show you the layout of each town and city as well as the location of local services such as post offices and laundromats, but are unable to legally share historical facts and figures in public places.

2. LUGGAGE

In Europe it is very rare to find elevators in train stations, hotels or other public places. We use public transport on this trip, which means you will need to carry your luggage from platform to platform, in and out of trains and buses etc. and also possibly up several flights of stairs. You will also need to be able to stow your luggage safely on trains and buses. It is therefore essential that you pack light and bring luggage which is compact and lightweight, and which you can easily transport. The carrying of your luggage remains your responsibility at all times.

3. ITINERARY CHANGES

Please note, on some departures the trip will visit Avignon and include the Palais des Papes and the Pont St Benezet as scheduled, but will actually stay overnight in the nearby historic cities of Nimes or Arles.

4. CUISINE

Vegetarians should be aware that the cuisine on the eastern portion of this trip on is predominantly meat-based. Although you will be able to find and enjoy vegetarian food, please be aware that there will not be the variety or range of choices that you would find at home.

5. COMBO

Please note that this is a combo of 2 G Adventures tours. As such, the staff and/or travel companions may depart the tour in Budapest. Likewise, new travellers may join the tour in Budapest and continue on for the duration.

Group Leader Description

This G Adventures group trip is accompanied by one of our group leaders. The aim of the group leader is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. They will provide information on the places you are travelling through, offer suggestions for things to do and see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends. While not being guides in the traditional sense you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects.

It is important to note that in Europe, all guiding is based around local guides all of whom are licensed to work only in a particular city. As such, our leaders are able to provide orientation walks which will show you the layout of each town and city as well as the location of local services such as post offices and laundromats, but are unable to legally share historical facts and figures in public places. If you wish to take a guided city tour in any location our CEO will do their best to help you arrange this and pay locally.

Group Size Notes

Max 16, avg 12.

Meals Included

17 breakfasts

Meals

Eating is a big part of traveling. Travelling with G Adventures you experience the vast array of wonderful food that is available out in the world. Generally meals are not included in the trip price when there is a choice of eating options, to give you the maximum flexibility in deciding where, what and with whom to eat. It also gives you more budgeting flexibility, though generally food is cheap. Our groups tend to eat together to enable you to taste a larger variety of dishes and enjoy each other's company. There is no obligation to do this though. Your CEO will be able to suggest favourite restaurants during your trip. The above information applies to G Adventures group trips. For Independent trips please check the itinerary for details of meals included. For all trips please refer to the meals included and budget information for included meals and meal budgets.

Transport

Train, public bus, metro, walking.

About our Transportation

Intercity transport on this trip will be by local bus and train. The bus and train systems in France and Italy are generally very good, often with seat reservations and toilet facilities. Inevitably travelling by public transport can involve delays and frustrations, though, and we ask you to keep this in mind. Unfold your map, pack in your phrase-book and mp3 player and get ready to enjoy the landscape and practice your French and Italian with the locals.

Between public transport and hotels you may be required to carry your luggage short distances (up to 20mins walk), in larger cities you may travel by metro or city bus, and occasionally the group will take taxis to and from hotels.

Solo Travellers

We believe solo travellers should not have to pay more to travel so our group trips are designed for shared accommodation and do not involve a single supplement. Single travellers joining group trips are paired in twin or multi-share accommodation with someone of the same sex for the duration of the trip. Some of our Independent trips are designed differently and solo travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

Accommodation

Hotels/pensions (20 nts), overnight train (1 nt).

My Own Room

Please note that if you have booked the "My Own Room" option for this tour, you will receive your own single room for all night stops

My Own Room Exceptions

Please note that if you have booked the "My Own Room" option for this tour, you will receive your own single accommodation for all night stops, with the following exceptions: Day 13 (overnight train).

About Accommodation

It is important to note that accommodation in Europe tends to be quite different to other areas of the world you may have travelled in. Buildings and rooms are generally old and may not have been renovated or maintained to the highest standard. Downtown hotels in Europe were not built to be hotels but rich owners' houses, which have been changed into hotels. Therefore unusual room sizes are common as large rooms have been partitioned in the past, resulting in rather "thin" walls. Reception areas, rooms and bathrooms tend to be very small as they were often added into an existing room, and may have a hand nozzle rather than a conventional shower head.

On this trip you can expect to stay in small family-run hotels or pensions (with the exception of the start and finish hotels, which are often larger city hotels), which will vary a little in standard and facilities: some may not have elevators, air-conditioning or English-speaking staff, but most importantly all are locally-run, with some traditional character, and in excellent central locations to

give you maximum time for exploring the sights. You can expect to find clean, safe, simple accommodation in convenient locations.

Staff can occasionally demonstrate less than perfect customer service. As accommodation is in short supply, especially during the summer months, hotels can charge a premium and there is sometimes little motivation to improve facilities.

Joining Hotel

For details of your joining hotel please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the G Adventures App or contact your travel agent.

Joining Instructions

Please note that day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned on this day. Upon arrival to the city on day 1 (or earlier if you have booked pre-accommodation with us), please make your way to the joining hotel (note that check-in time will be in the afternoon). Once you arrive at the hotel, look for a note or bulletin board in the reception with a note from your CEO. This note will give the details of your Welcome Meeting on day 1 (usually between 5pm and 7pm), where you will get a chance to meet your CEO and other travellers, as well as learn more about how the tour will run. If you don't see a note, please ask reception for details!

If you are arriving later and will miss the Welcome Meeting, your CEO will leave a note at reception for you with any information you may need, and with morning instructions for the next day.

Arrival Complications

We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier and contact us as soon as possible. If you have a pre-booked transfer, and you have not made contact with our representative within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, we recommend that you make your own way to the Starting Point hotel, following the Joining Instructions. Please apply to your travel agent on your return for a refund of the transfer cost if this occurs.

Emergency Contact

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call our G Adventures Local Office. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so they may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

G Adventures UK office: +447817262559

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local office, please call the numbers listed below, which will connect you directly with our 24 hour Sales team, who will happily assist you.

Toll-free, from calls within North America only: 1 888 800 4100

Calls from within UK: 0344 272 0000

Calls from within Germany: 0800 365 1000

Calls from within Australia: 1 300 796 618

Calls from within New Zealand: 0800 333 307

Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

For absolute emergencies after office hours please contact +44 7817 262559

If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

What to Take

We recommend using a backpack for your convenience, or a medium-sized suitcase if you prefer. A daypack is also essential for carrying everyday items. Space is limited on transportation, so there is a limit of one main piece of luggage per person. You will be responsible for carrying your own luggage. You must be prepared to carry your luggage up and down stairs, on and off transportation, and to hotels (max 15-20 mins.)

Checklist

Conservative Dress:

- * Modest clothing that covers knees and shoulders (Long pants, long skirts, shirts that cover shoulders)
- * Shawl or scarf (for temple visits)

Documents:

- * Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- * Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- * Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- * Required visas or vaccination certificates (required) (With photocopies)
- * Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)

Essentials:

- * Binoculars (optional)
- * Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)
- * Cash, credit and debit cards
- * Day pack (Used for daily excursions or short overnights)
- * Ear plugs
- * First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, bandaids/plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)
- * Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- * Fleece top/sweater
- * Footwear
- * Hat
- * Locks for bags
- * Long pants/jeans
- * Moneybelt
- * Outlet adapter
- * Personal entertainment (Reading and writing materials, cards, music player, etc.)
- * Reusable water bottle
- * Shirts/t-shirts
- * Sleepwear
- * Small travel towel
- * Sunglasses
- * Toiletries (Preferably biodegradable)
- * Watch and alarm clock
- * Waterproof backpack cover
- * Windproof rain jacket

Warm Weather:

- * Sandals/flip-flops
- * Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/skirts are recommended)
- * Sun hat/bandana
- * Swimwear

Laundry

Laundry facilities are offered by some of our hotels for a charge or ask your CEO where the closest laundromat is. There will be times when you may want to or have to do your own laundry so we suggest you bring non-polluting/biodegradable soap.

Visas and Entry Requirements

Contact your local embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your responsibility to have the correct travel documentation. While we provide the following information in good faith, it is vital that you check yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

All visitors to the EU (European Union) and EEC (European Economic Community) countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand passport holders do not need a visa to visit the Schengen area (see below), however they may not stay longer than three months in any 6-month period.

For other nationalities, travelling in Europe has been simplified with the introduction of the Schengen visa. As a visitor to the Schengen area (Austria, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Greece, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Portugal, Finland, Italy, Spain, France, Luxembourg, Sweden, Czech Republic, Hungary, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and Switzerland) you will enjoy the many advantages of this unified visa system. Generally speaking with a Schengen visa, you may enter one Schengen country and travel freely throughout the Schengen region during the validity of your visa. There are limited border controls at Schengen borders, if any at all.

Please note that the UK and Ireland are NOT part of the Schengen agreement.

A Schengen visa is applied for at the Embassy or Consulate of the Schengen country in which you will be spending the most nights on your trip to the Schengen space. If you are only visiting one country on your trip then you apply for your visa at the Consulate of this Schengen country.

Spending Money

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

Money Exchange

Credit cards and debit cards are very useful for cash advances but you must remember to bring your PIN number (be aware that many ATM machines only accept 4-digit PINs). Both Cirrus and Plus system cards are the most widely accepted debit cards. Visa cards are the most widely accepted credit cards. While ATMs are commonly available, there are no guarantees that your credit or debit cards will actually work - check with your bank. You should be aware when purchasing products or services on a credit card, that a fee usually applies.

Do not rely on credit or debit cards as your only source of money. A combination of Euros and cards is best.

Emergency Fund

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD \$200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

Tipping

It is customary in Europe to leave a small tip for service providers, such as waiters, if you are pleased with the service (EUR1-2).

Tipping is an expected - though not compulsory - component of your tour program, and an expression of satisfaction with the persons who have assisted you on your tour. Although it may not be customary to you, it is of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels. There are several times during the trip where there is opportunity to tip the local guides. You may do this individually, or your CEO will offer to collect the money and tip as a group. Recommendations for tipping local guides would range from EUR3-5 per day, depending on the quality and length of the service; ask your CEO for specific recommendations based on the circumstances and culture.

Also at the end of each trip if you felt your G Adventures CEO did an outstanding job, tipping is appreciated. The amount is entirely a personal preference, however as a guideline EUR30-40 per person, per week can be used.

Optional Activities

Please see the itinerary for information on optional activities, descriptions and estimated pricing.

Health

Please note inoculations may be required for the country visited. It is your responsibility to consult with your travel doctor for up to date medical travel information well before departure.

You should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information well before departure. We recommend that you carry a First Aid kit and hand sanitizers / antibacterial wipes as well as any personal medical requirements. Please be aware that quite often we are in remote areas and away from medical facilities, and for legal reasons our leaders are prohibited from administering any type of drug including headache tablets, antibiotics, etc. When selecting your trip please carefully read the brochure and itinerary and assess

your ability to cope with our style of travel. Please refer to the Physical and Culture Shock ratings for trip specific information. G Adventures reserves the right to exclude any traveller from all or part of a trip without refund if in the reasonable opinion of our CEO they are unable to complete the itinerary without undue risk to themselves and/or the rest of the group.

Safety and Security

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewelery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your group leader has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it deemed necessary, due to safety concerns. Your Chief Experience Officer (CEO) will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy and explore at your leisure. While your CEO will assist you with options available in a given location, please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgement when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions.

Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards), have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our CEOs to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s).

Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk. [Read more about travel safety](#) for ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling.

Trip Specific Safety

Always keep an eye on your belongings especially in major cities, bus and train terminals.

Medical Form

Our small group adventures bring together people of all ages. It is very important you are aware that an average level of fitness and mobility is required to undertake our easiest programs. Travellers must be able to walk without the aid of another person, climb 3-4 flights of stairs, step on and off small boats, and carry their own luggage at a minimum. Travellers with a pre-existing medical condition are required to complete a short medical questionnaire, which must be signed by their physician. This is to ensure that travellers have the necessary fitness and mobility to comfortably complete their chosen trip. While our leaders work hard to ensure that all our travellers are catered for equally, it is not their responsibility to help individuals who cannot complete the day's activities unaided. Please refer to the physical ratings in this Trip Details document for more information.

Please note that all passengers traveling to Antarctica are required to fill out this questionnaire.

The medical questionnaire can be found online at www.gadventures.com/medical-form.

A Couple of Rules

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter, and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of prostitutes is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our group leader has the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they use prostitutes.

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your leader, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy we require that at a minimum you are covered for medical expenses including emergency evacuation and repatriation. A minimum coverage of USD200,000 is required. G Adventures can provide you with the appropriate coverage. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. Some tours include adventure activities that require extra coverage (e.g. crampon use); please review your itinerary and make sure that you are covered for all included activities. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number.

Planeterra-The G Adventures Foundation

The Planeterra Foundation planeterra.org is a Canadian non-profit organization that helps empower local people to develop their communities, conserve their cultures, and create humane and supportive systems for their endeavours. Planeterra provides capacity building and catalyst grants to get community social enterprises off the ground. These businesses address local challenges by providing benefits for indigenous people, empowering marginalized women, and granting disadvantaged youth access to education, employment, and brighter futures. Planeterra also works to ensure these businesses have a thriving customer base by integrating programs into G Adventures' itineraries globally.

G Adventures is Planeterra's largest corporate donor, covering all operating costs so 100% of your donation will bring opportunity to people in need.

Dollar-a-Day Program

G Adventures' Dollar-a-Day Program provides travellers with the opportunity to give back to the people and places visited on our tours by donating one dollar for every day you are on trip. 100% of these donations go directly to support community development projects worldwide that are implemented by Planeterra.

Feedback

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us that we'll give you 5% off the price of your next G Adventures trip if your feedback is completed on-line within 30 days of finishing your trip. Your tour evaluation will be e-mailed to you 24 hours after the conclusion of your trip. If you do not receive the tour evaluation link in the days after your tour has finished, please drop us a line at customerservice@gadventures.com and we will send it on to you.

Newsletter

Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from G Adventures, subscribe at www.gadventures.com/newsletters/

Stay current on how our company invests in our global community through our foundation - Planeterra. Sign up for [Planeterra's monthly news](#) to learn more about how to give back and support the people and places we love to visit.

Minimum Age

You must be 18 to travel unaccompanied on a G Adventures tour. For minors travelling with a guardian over 21 years old, the minimum age is 12.

International Flights

Check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.