

Transylvania's UNESCO World Heritage: Sighișoara & Viscri

Today we will visit two of the most spectacular sites in Transylvania: the unspoiled medieval city of Sighișoara and the picturesque village of Viscri (home to *the Mihai Eminescu Trust*, HRH King Charles III's project in Transylvania).

In the morning we will depart from the hotel and drive for a couple of hours towards Sighișoara. Along the way we will encounter numerous small villages that throughout the centuries have always been inhabited by a vast variety of ethnic groups: Romanians, Hungarians, Germans, Jews and Romani. We will eventually reach Sighișoara, a medieval city founded by German colonists in the 13th century and situated strategically on top of a hill, in order to protect it from invading enemy troops. Most of the fortification has been kept intact and armed towers still guard the city. The Clock Tower, the former Benedictine monastery, the Lutheran Church from the upper part of the city, the narrow streets, but also the supposed birthplace of Count Dracula, give the town its enchanting medieval atmosphere.

Leaving Sighișoara behind, we head towards Crit. Here we will be spoiled with some mouthwatering dishes, specially prepared for us by a local family. Homemade fruit brandy and local wine are also going to be part of today's treat.

Our next stop will be Viscri. This village has become well known due to the involvement of several charitable foundations in the preservation of the local culture and historical heritage of the area. One of these foundations, "the Mihai Eminescu Trust", is under the patronage of HRH King Charles III. The highlight of the village is without question the fortified church. Dating back to the 12th century, this church was fortified in subsequent centuries with strong walls and massive towers to protect the villagers from their enemies. Nowadays, the old towers have been turned into an interesting museum of the village. Not only the church, but also the village itself enjoys UNESCO World Heritage status. Almost all of the houses were built in the 15th and 16th century, so bible quotations, proverbs and family coats of arms can be seen on the facades. All restoration works have been carried out with local labor and materials. We invite you to take a walk through the most beautiful village ensemble in Transylvania, to visit the fortified church and take a journey into an almost forgotten world.

In the evening we will return to Cluj.