



BUCHAREST– *the city of contrasts*

A city founded in the Middle Ages, Bucharest was the capital city of Wallachia and featured extensive fortifications in the Old Town.

One of the main people who influenced Bucharest was the ruler Vlad the Impaler. Delve into the legends surrounding Dracula and find out how he forever left his mark on Romanian history and culture. Explore the main landmarks in the oldest part of Bucharest, while also uncovering their fascinating stories. Medieval inns, colorful churches, cobblestone streets, brave yet cruel rulers in the City of Dracula! Splendid Belle Epoque structures standing on the Victoria Avenue, the first street in the world illuminated with oil lamps. Known as the Little Paris of the East by the travelers of the 19th century, Bucharest was occupied by foreign armies in World War I, heavily bombed in World War II, shaken by major earthquakes and finally came under the Iron Curtain

In the late part of the 20th century “The city of Joy” was surrounded by oppression, terror and hunger, under one of the strictest communist regimes in Europe.

In front of the intimidating Palace of the Parliament you will learn -how the second largest administrative building in the world was built.

Relive the Romanian Revolution by standing in the square where the most blood was shed in December 1989, which culminated with the death of a dictator that was streamed on National Television.

HIGHLIGHTS

- *Palace of the Parliament* – the second largest administrative building in the world.
- *Primaverii Palace* – the former dictator’s palace (Nicolae Ceausescu)
- *Cotroceni Palace*– the Royal family palace while they were in Bucharest



- *Public Gardens and Parks* – *Cismigiu Garden* (the oldest garden in Bucharest), *Herastrau Park*, *Botanical Garden*.
- *Emblematic buildings*– *National Theater*, *Romanian Athenaeum*, *Caru cu Bere Interbelic Restaurant*

