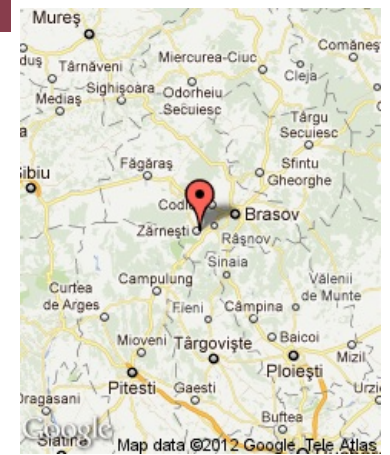


# Lynx & Wolf Watching Holiday



## Highlights

**This eight-day lynx and wolf watching trip is an extensive tour of the Carpathian Mountains in Transylvania. With an itinerary tailor-made for nature lovers, this is a great chance to see and track some of the rarest wildlife in Europe.**

Brasov county, located in central Romania, is an often over-looked nature hotspot harboring some of the most beautiful scenery in Europe. The Carpathian Mountains bordering the East of the region are home to the largest population of wild lynx in Europe (conservatively estimated at around 1,500) as well as rare birdlife, bears, wolves and chamois.

This lynx and wolf watching tour is an intense hiking holiday across rugged alpine and forest terrain. The scenery is as breathtaking as it is varied, and you'll get plenty of opportunity to see it all over the eight day period. Over this period of time, you have about a 60% chance of seeing a lynx in its natural habitat – they are incredibly well camouflaged and mainly nocturnal, so seeing these magnificent carnivores in the wild is something which few people can claim.

The chances of seeing wolves from a safe distance is also high, and if your luck's in you will also get to see eagles, bear and chamois. You will also be taken to a spot to look for beavers during your tour of the Carpathian forests. Your small group will be led by a local researcher who knows the best spots for seeing all of the above, so you won't be just wandering around the mountains clueless.

## Is it for me?

The tour offers a fantastic opportunity to see some of the most amazing animals in Europe, and certainly isn't an experience you'll forget in a hurry. However, the package is not for everyone.

Although the schedule is entirely customisable to each individual's needs, if you want to make the most of the trip you'll need to be prepared for a serious lack of sleep (wolves and lynx are both nocturnal) and some heavy hiking, so a good level of fitness and a passion for nature is essential. You'll also need to bring along suitable clothing to deal with the biting winter cold.

## Accommodation

Accommodation takes the form of an en-suite double room in either a one, two or three star guesthouse in the small town of Zarnesti.

Half board food is included for the duration of the holiday and comprises mainly of local dishes (almost too diverse a cuisine to summarize, an eclectic mix of various eastern European cuisines) and amazing wines (Romania is famed for its wine quality and is currently the 9th biggest global exporter.)

## Itinerary

**Day one** - Arrival in Brasov and transfer to chosen guest house (1\*, 2\* or 3\*) in Zarnesti. You'll probably want to get settled in and prepared for the week ahead, but there will be time to explore the village and meet some of the locals.

**Day two to seven** - The day will see you set off early (about 5.30am) to watch lynx or wolves. Together with the

Prices from

**1,209** GBP (8 days) per person

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wildlife researcher you will walk slowly to one of the numerous valleys teeming with wildlife looking for lynx and wolves, as well as other species like deer, wild boar or chamois. The early departure is to enable you to see the animals before they go to sleep.

As extra activities, during daytime you are free to do some hiking and wildlife tracking of your own or with your guide, visit some of the local historical places (such as Bran Castle, Peles Castle or the medieval town of Brasov), go by horse drawn sledge/cart on one of the beautiful valleys close by or just relax in the garden with a glass of home-made bilberry liquor or plum brandy.

After a delicious lunch in the afternoon there will be a short drive followed by a hike to special places in order to see lynx and wolves in their natural habitat. The chances are quite high (about 60% for both lynx and wolves), as the researchers know the perfect spots for wildlife watching. After dark you'll return to the guesthouse for a good night's sleep.

Day Eight - Transfer back to the airport for return flight home.

## Details

### Getting there

You'll be responsible for arranging a flight to Bucharest, where the tour operator will transfer you to Zarnesti

### Price includes

Seven days half-board accommodation in a double room, local transportation for the included activities and from/to airport, five days wildlife watching and tracking with a wildlife researcher (including photo fee.)

### When is best

This trip is not available in January or in the summer months.

### Comfort level

Reasonably comfortable (Inns, B&Bs, luxury camping etc.)

### Experience required

Not relevant