



WORLD  
HORSE  
RIDING

GREAT HORSES. GREAT PEOPLE.  
[WWW.WORLDBHORSERIDING.COM](http://WWW.WORLDBHORSERIDING.COM)

---

# TRANSYLVANIA - ROMANIA

## IN THE DARK MOUNTAINS OF COUNT DRACULA...



# ARE YOU READY FOR YOUR ADVENTURE IN TRANSYLVANIA?

A ride backwards in time... Where moving around is still done on a one-horse-power basis, in a rural country going calmly about its business on the fields... A country that hasn't changed much in the last generations, a land where you eat well from healthy and organic farming. This is Romania. And this is Transylvania...



Come with me on a horseback riding adventure in one of the most beautiful places in eastern Europe! Get on your Hutzul horse and come see the Castle of Count Dracula...

## SMALL GROUPS, CARING GUIDES

My groups are hardly ever bigger than eight people, making it possible for each guest to feel not just like any other guest. Here in Transylvania we are cared for by our guides Julian Ross, an Englishman firmly rooted in this land since years, and Kelli Fremming Ross, a Native American descendant from the US. Both are passionate about horses and practitioners of Natural Horsemanship.

**Kelli and Julian will give us a new understanding of the horse, through a total immersion into Natural horsemanship, the new philosophy.**

## THE LOCAL HORSE

We will ride local horses, of different races: Hutzul, Lipizzan (but not the white variety, mostly brown or chestnut!), Semigreu and Arab crosses. Especially the Hutzul is interesting, as it is from these very mountains. He is intelligent, strong and active.



## A SPECIAL RIDE

Our adventure will bring us across the mysterious mountains of Transylvania, a land of shadows and fear. Or was it sun and smiling people? It just may depend on the day... For 2006 we are planning the following departures: May 13-21, May 20-28, May 27 - June 4, September 30 - October 8, October 7-15. Other dates are possible for groups of six people or more.

## RIDES OFFERED IN 2006:

May 13-21  
May 20-28  
May 27-4 June  
September 30 – October 8  
October 7-15

**With Julian and Kelli we will see the mountains from horseback – on horses that are here since hundreds of years.**



**WORLD  
HORSE  
RIDING**

GREAT HORSES. GREAT PEOPLE.  
WWW.WORLDBHORSERIDING.COM

World Horse Riding  
Via Bern Butinone 3  
IT-24047 Treviglio (BG) - ITALY  
**0363-30 14 34**  
info@worldhorseriding.com

World Horse Riding  
Östra Vallgatan 57  
SE-223 61 LUND - SWEDEN  
**046-14 52 25**  
info@worldhorseriding.com

# PRELIMINARY PROGRAM:

---

**Day 1 (Sunday)** – Arrive at Bucharest Airport, transfer to Lunca Ilvei in the afternoon, where our hosts, Julian and Kelli, will welcome you and take you to meet the horses. Dinner, and a night's rest in a local guesthouse.

**Day 2 – “Sheepfolds and farms”.** We start off riding eastwards across high pastures. After stopping at a sheepfold, we descend into an area of spread out farmsteads. We arrive in the village of Poiana Negri to spend the night in the new Poiana guesthouse.

**Day 3 – “Travelling to Dracula’s Borgo Pass”.** Today we ascend westwards through the deep forests of the Dorna Valley. We travel along a quiet forest road, alongside which bears’ tracks are sometimes seen. Coming out of the forest, we reach Bram Stoker’s Borgo Pass where we spend the night at Hotel Castle Dracula. As well as a good restaurant and a bar with a spectacular view, the hotel boasts a small museum about the fictional vampire.

**Day 4 – “The real Borgo Pass”.** Return to our host’s village of Lunca Ilvei along a succession of gentle peaks and saddles, with views stretching up to 50km. We cross a surviving Roman road and pass a monastery chapel at the hamlet of Ciosa. At our high lunch stop, views spread around in all directions as we survey a land of farmsteads and forests, peaks and valleys. We emerge onto a high ridge before dropping down to our guesthouse in Lunca Ilvei for dinner and a night’s rest.

**Day 5 – “The path of kings in days of old”.** We ride northwards over a high ridge, descend through ancient beech forest (home to wolves, lynx, foxes, deer and other animals) and drop down into a silent forested valley, then climb up to the pasturelands of Poiana Persa (“Persa Meadows”). This “obcina” (bare mountain crest) covers several square miles and is, in summer, home to up to one hundred mares and foals enjoying summer grazing. From here we follow the “Plaiul Moldovei”, the medieval riding route between Transylvania and Moldavia. Now a quiet trackway used by shepherds, this path was ridden by the kings and merchants of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. We descend the Plaiul Moldovei, past the remains of two medieval fortresses, down to the village of Sant where we spend the night in a local guesthouse run by the Grapini family.

**Day 6 – “The routes of Empress Maria Teresa”.** We return to Lunca Ilvei by a different route, stopping for lunch at the site of Habsburg fortress with fine views of the Rodna mountains. We travel along a Habsburg military road, now a little-used grassy track, but in the late 18th century important for defence of Empress Maria Theresa’s growing frontier. We arrive on a ridge overlooking Lunca Ilvei and descend sharply to arrive in the village. Back to our guesthouse for a final night, when possible including folk music played by two local musicians.

**Day 7** – Depart after breakfast.



# GENERAL INFORMATION

**Meeting place:** We meet at Bucuresti Otopeni Airport.

**Typical riding day:** This is a calm riding holiday, with 4-6 hours of riding a day, stopping for lunch at midday. The pace is from walk to trot and canter, up and down the mountainous trails and deep forests of Transylvania.

**Meals:** Everything we eat come from the local organic farming, it is tasty and healthy. Romania also has a great tradition for vegetarian dishes.

**Sleeping arrangements:** We stay in double, ensuite rooms in local B&Bs. We will also stay one night in "Bram Stoker's" Hotel Castle Dracula.

**Non-riding activities:** No specific activities, but you can learn how to drive a horse and carriage (under supervision). Great possibilities for walking, trekking, cycling, birdwatching and more. We can all meet up at lunchtime most days.

**Medical requirements:** You need insurance for accidents, no special shots required. Please advise us about special diets or physical conditions.

**Weather conditions:** Medium temperatures: May: 16°C, September 18°C, October 13°C. Add five degrees at midday and take away five degrees at night. It can rain, even if it is not very usual.

**Bring:** camera, good riding clothes – several layers to take off or put back on, depending on the weather, rainclothes, hat (in case you do not use a helmet), swimming suit, sunprotection cream, good riding boots, helmet recommended by most insurance companies.

A sportsbra is recommended for the ladies.

**Price:** 1 450 Euro per person

**Single supplement:** 110 Euro

**Riding ability:** Good, general physical condition, master the three basic gaits: walk, trot and canter. Some faster moments may occur.

**Weight limit:** 100 kg/220 lbs

**Age limit:** 18 years (12 years if already a confirmed rider and accompanied by tutor)

**Group size:** Average 6-8 riders

## Dates 2006

May 13-21

May 20-28

May 27-4 June

September 30 – October 8

October 7-15

Other dates possible for 6 or more riders.



## Included in the price

- Five days of riding
- Wine/beer with the meals
- Pick-up service at the Bucuresti Otopeni Airport
- Local and English-speaking guides
- Accomodation in ensuite double rooms in local B&Bs
- One night in Bram Stoker's Hotel Castle Dracula
- Full board – also fine vegetarian menus

## Not included

Airport taxes, trip to reach Bucharest, other drinks, tips, personal expenses such as telephone, fax etc.