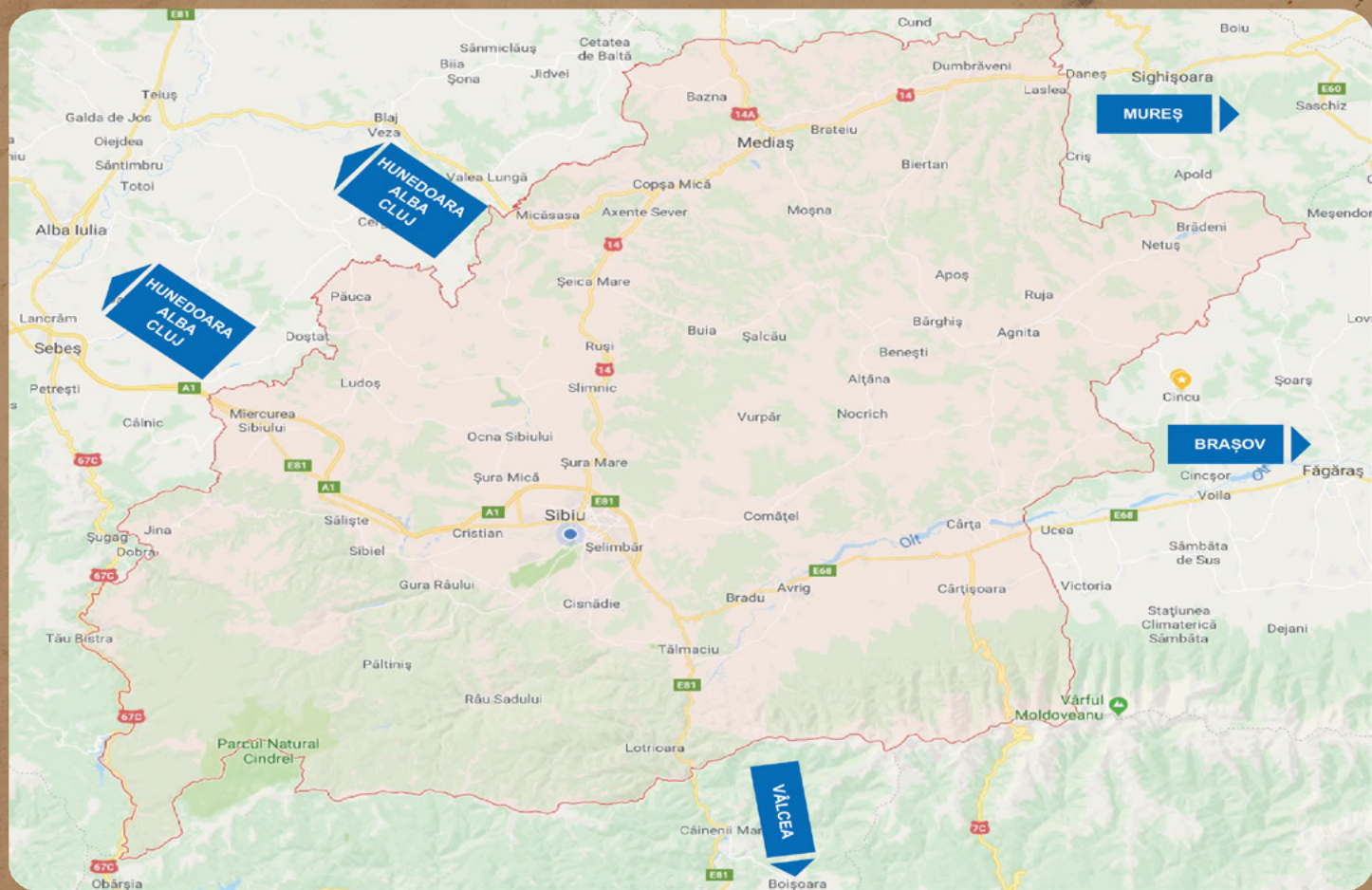




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NOBLE BOOK



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Tourist Attraction:

The Fortified Church of Biertan village

Location:

Biertan 557045, Sibiu County

Noblesse Boutique Hotel - The
Fortified Church of Biertan village:

73 km (one way)

Duration (round trip): 3-4h

For an authentic incursion into the world of Transylvanian Saxons, we recommend that you head towards Biertan, one of the first Saxon settlements in Transylvania. Start the day with an aromatic coffee and a delicious breakfast at the Noblesse Boutique Hotel restaurant, then head towards Medias - Sighisoara. Biertan village is documented since 1283, while the Fortified Evangelical Church was built in the 12th century and it is listed on UNESCO's list of historical monuments. The impressive church harmoniously combines the

Gothic and Renaissance styles, and it is surrounded by three walls of enclosure with medieval towers and bastions. The medieval architectural complex consists of the church and the fortification belt, being placed in the center of the settlement, on a hill. Among the countless notable elements of the fortified church, we have to mention the splendid shrine (the largest in the country), the carved stone pulpit, the choir strings decorated with gothic ornaments, and especially the sacristy door with a very intricate system of 19 locks, made by local craftsmen in 1515, and which aroused a special interest at the 1900 World Exhibition in Paris.

The access inside the church is gained via a covered stairway, 100 m long, which starts from the central square of the village, next to the watchtower. At the top of the stairs, a large boulder can be seen next to the church. Every Sunday, those who were doing evil during the week were left to stand on the boulder in order to be seen by the entire community. The community of Biertan had some very effective

methods of educating its citizens. Perhaps one of the most interesting aspects of the church in Biertan is the "prison" in the eastern bastion. Here, for two weeks, couples who were about to divorce were imprisoned. In the small room with a small table and a single bed, the Saxon community provided the couples with a single dish, a single cutlery item and a single cup for water. It is said that, under those circumstances, only one pair remained unwavering in their initial decision to divorce.

After your visit to this delightful monument, if you are eager to taste traditional dishes, we would love to recommend you to have a traditional, locally sourced and prepared lunch or dinner with one of the Biertan Village families. In order to organize this delicious meal, bookings are required 24 hours in advance. The team at the Noblesse Boutique reception is always available for more information.



Tourist Attraction:

The Fortified Church in Cisnădioara

Location:
Cisnădioara, Sibiu County

Noblesse Boutique Hotel - Fortified
Church in Cisnădioara: **14 km (one way)**

Duration (round trip): 2-3h

Discover the beautiful world of Transylvanian Saxon villages without straying too far from Sibiu by visiting Cisnădioara - a village located only 10 km from Sibiu, surrounded by wonderful hills and forests and with numerous cultural events, exhibitions or live concerts. Being so close to Sibiu, you can enjoy a long, resting sleep in the comfortable rooms of the Noblesse Boutique Hotel and then you can take your time to enjoy the delicious breakfast we offer. After this, start your journey to the Fortified Church of Cisnădioara, which is situated around

a rocky hill. During your visit, you can explore the Evangélical Church, which houses the oldest functioning organ with tubes in Transylvania, or the ethnographic exhibition, where you can admire the garments, ceramics and wood, made by the Transylvanian Saxons.

In Cisnădioara, in the second half of the 12th century, a Roman basilica was built. At the beginning of the thirteenth century, this became the property of King Andrew II and later it was donated to the Cistercian monastery in Cârța. The church is made up of three naves and it is surrounded by a wall of the enclosure that runs along the hill of Mihail (which gives Cisnădioara the German name - Michaelsberg - Michael's Hill). What makes this church different from other similar churches in Transylvania is that it did not suffer many changes over the years. It was reinforced with three towers: the South Gate Tower, the tower in front of the western portal and the eastern tower, 5 m outside the wall of the enclosure. The walls were about

4-6 m tall; a particular feature was the 8 arcades with doors on the guards' route. They were equipped with oak doors and could be locked from the inside; from there, stones were cast onto those who were trying to attack the fortification. Some of these stones can be seen inside. The church also hosts the funeral stones of the soldiers who died in this region during the First World War.

After a visit to this beautiful fortification, you will surely be tempted to taste some traditional dishes. The Noblesse Boutique Hotel is pleased to recommend you a local lunch or dinner with one of the Cisnădioara families. In order to organize this delicious meal, we will need a 24h advance booking. Our reception team is always available for more information.



Tourist Attraction:

The Clay Castle

Location:

**The Valley of the Fairies,
Porumbacu de Sus 557192, Sibiu
County**

Noblesse Boutique Hotel – The
Clay Castle: **45 km (one way)**

Duration (round trip): **3-4h**

If you've ever thought about a fairy tale, then you've definitely imagined the Clay Castle from the Valley of the Fairies. Located only 40 kilometers from Sibiu, this unusually shaped castle, which appears to have been built by hobbits, is made only from natural materials and its unique beauty has made this place one of the most popular tourist attractions in the last year.

To get to this dream-like place, you will have to leave Noblesse Boutique Hotel behind for a few hours and head

towards Brasov on the European road E68, without leaving Sibiu County. Before leaving, boost your energy with our superb breakfast and excellent coffee served at the hotel's restaurant. Go down the road towards the sharp ridges of the Fagaras Mountains, the giant sentinels that will rise higher and higher in front of your eyes as you approach the castle! At the exit of Porumbacu de Jos take a right turn and continue for another 9 km until you reach the unmistakable castle.

The Clay Castle from the Valley of the Fairies is made of natural materials, the walls being made of a mixture of earth, water, straw, clay and sand. The roof with thousands of slopes is made of spindle shingle and the towers are built with river stones. Despite the unusual forms of this structure, the Clay Castle is perfectly integrated with the surrounding area. The owner who built this wonderful and unique place confessed that he was inspired by the stories of the brothers Grimm, as well as by his own idyllic childhood in a village in the Fagaras area. Upon return,

enjoy the welcoming atmosphere of Noblesse Boutique Hotel and relax with a snack or a drink in our charming garden.





Tourist Attraction:

Medias Fortress - King Ferdinand I Square

**Location: Castle Square Street 2,
Medias, County Sibiu**

**Noblesse Boutique Hotel - Medias
Fortress: 56 km (one way)**

Duration of trip (round trip): 4-5h

Do you want to visit a nearby attraction while also having the experience of a new discovery and learning something new about the history of this area? Noblesse Boutique Hotel suggests you a short excursion to discover the Medieval Fortress in Medias - a beautiful fortified church surrounded by three impressive defense walls. The church was built at the beginning of the 12th century, and the three defense walls were raised at the order of Matei Corvin, most probably between 1440 and 1534. Upon completion of the construction, the premises around the church were named 'castle'.

The imposing defense system of 1736 had three large gates, four smaller gates, and 19 bastion towers. Unfortunately, after the 20th century, there are only 10 towers and a few fragments of the defense wall left standing. Enter the castle through the vaulted archway that serves as the main entrance and find the history and stories of the fortress. Discover the story of Turrepitz (Peter of the Tower), the statue that has watched the city for 300 years, and which is now exposed at the Municipal Museum.

Admire the Trumpeteers' Tower, one of the top 12 slightly inclined buildings in the world. The tower was raised with three more levels to rival St. Stephen's Tower in Vienna at the request of officials from 1495-1498 (while Medias was called "Civitas"). Thus its height reached 68.5 m. Due to the structure of the soil the tower has a deviation of 2.28 m. The 4 corner towers show the right of the city to pronounce and execute the capital punishment, including the burning of the witches, execution was held for the last time in 1752.

Since you are already in the town of Medias, in King Ferdinand I Square, we also recommend you visit some of the residences

with a rich architecture and an enviable history.

Schuller House is very special due to the Renaissance style it was built in, but also thanks to the restoration conducted by Hermann Fabini. It was documented in 1588 on the occasion of the meeting of that year in Medias, under the patronage of Prince Sigismund Bathory. During the restoration of 1995-1997, evidence has been found that the age of the house is much older. It was the residence of the Schuler family survivors, and for many years it was home to a pub and an inn. In the last century it belonged to Helmut Karres, and in 1993 the house went into the administration of the town hall. It is now being leased to the Democratic Forum of Germans in Medias, and it is used for cultural and artistic events, exhibitions or conferences.

The building is U-shaped, with its sides initially joined by arched walls. Upstairs there are two open-galleries, with cross-arches, made in the Transylvanian Renaissance style. Galleries in the courtyard feature semicircular arches supported on stone columns. The façade from the market features various Renaissance elements: springs in the center above the gate and windows, the upstairs

windows with stone framing. One of the most imposing elements of decoration are the pylons from the vaulted archway, on which are placed two stone lions, carved hierarchically. The lions are faithful copies of the originals found in the church of St. Margaret in the apse.

Schuster Dutz House, a house belonging to a famous Saxon poet, built around 1690 was repaired in 1813. Between 1783 and 1900 on the ground floor there was a pharmacy, which was later disbanded. The ceilings of the rooms are decorated with stucco.

Piriști School or Guggenberger House. The restitution of the Franciscan Monastery church in 1721 Roman Catholics determined the Catholic expansion in Medias. The monastic order of the „piristi” was intended for the spread of secular and religious education. Since 1790 the house has become a private property and after 1800 the house has been redecorated in neo-classical style. Inside there are vaulted crossed archways with two symmetrical stairs leading to the upper floors.

After such a demanding but enchanting day, your room at Noblesse Boutique Hotel is ready to spoil you for another night. We are waiting for your return!





Tourist Attraction:

Stolzenburg (Slimnic) Fortress

Location:

Slimnic 557240, SIBIU County

Noblesse Boutique Hotel - Stolzenburg
Fortress Distance: **16km (one way)**

Duration (round trip): **2h**

The Slimnic fortress is one of the most important tourist attractions of the Sibiu County, which is on the historical monuments list and is situated at the edge of the former Seat of Sibiu, before the hills separating it from the Seat of Mediaș. The fortification is entirely raised from brick with the outer walls supported by the stepped counter. In the past, around it, there was a lofty forest, known by the locals to be a refuge for outlaws. Initially, on the site of the present fortress, there was a smaller size fortification. This also belonged to the Gothic chapel north of the fortress, later transformed into a defense tower.

The first fortification made from raw stone was erected around the great Tatar invasion of the early 13th century. These first reinforcements were replaced by much stronger walls in the early fifteenth century, with the main building material being brick. Once raised, these walls formed two polygonal enclosures. The two precincts still exist today, the one in the south being seriously damaged at the beginning of the 18th century by Lerenz Pekri, who was in charge of Prince Francisc Rákóczi II. The tower of the enclosure in the north of the fortification had no ramparts, guard roads or throwing holes, but the walls had an impressive thickness of about 3.5 meters.

Local stories speak of the existence of an ancient royal palace on this hill, but the archaeological research carried out in the area mentions the existence of an old church that dominates the northern premises. As a result of severe deteriorations and armed destruction, to which only the choir and some portions of walls survived, a gothic hall was built in the center of the fortress, around 1450. Because of the existing land and its peculiarities, the church plan was trapezoidal and not rectangular. Because

of the Turkish invasions of the fifteenth century, the church was never finished, and the vaults that were meant to cover the walls remained at the project stage. As a result, instead of working on raising the church, the locals decided to strengthen the walls of the fortification.

The fortress was conquered several times, being first conquered by Ioan Zapolya in 1529, and in 1602 by Mosius the Szekler. Although it resisted the Turkish siege of 1658, as well as the pest pandemic, the city was devastated and burned in 1706 during the battles between invading tribes. By gradually losing any military role, the city was abandoned in the eighteenth century. Besides the fortress and the communal school mentioned in the 1394 documents, the evangelical church is also an important point of interest for tourists.

Choose this short route and you will not miss Noblesse Boutique Hotel for too long. We will be waiting for you with recommendations for a memorable dinner and the cultural events of the day in Sibiu so you can have a wonderful evening in the heart of our city!



Tourist Attraction:

Ocna Sibiului Natural Lakes

Location:

**Ocna Sibiului 555600, Sibiu
County**

Noblesse Boutique Hotel - Ocna
Sibiului Natural Lakes: **17 km (one
way)**

Duration (round trip): 2-3h

For a full day of relaxation and complete rejuvenation, Noblesse Boutique Hotel recommends you to confidently turn to Ocna Sibiului - a town located 12 km from Sibiu and one of the most important treatment centers in Romania. Among the many nature miracles used in the treatment of various diseases at Ocna Sibiului, we can mention the salty waters of the surrounding lakes, the sapropelic mud and the mineral water of the Horea spring. Following the restoration, the Ocna Sibiului Spa Complex has used its

architectural beauty to create a perfect complex for treatment and relaxation in an open and attractive setting.

At Ocna Sibiului there are 15 natural lakes, of which we mention the lakes Brâncoveanu, Red and Black Lake, which are the most salty in Europe, having a salinity of 415 gr/l. Also, Lake Avram Iancu is the deepest salt lake in Romania - 130 m. The bottomless lake is declared a monument of nature for its unique phenomenon of heliothermia. Microorganisms found in lakes called „artemia salina” form the fossil sapropelic mud recommended in especially for the treatment of rheumatism.

At the heart of the entire saline ensemble of Ocna Sibiului lies the Balnear Complex with its three lakes and springs - Horia, Cloșca and Crișan - of national and international notoriety. The Ocna Sibiului resort also has historical and cultural attractions, like the Brâncoveanu Church and the Citatel Church. And for nature lovers, there is the possibility of hiking and fishing. All this awaits you throughout

the year. The town also has a natural park with a deciduous forest covering an area of 15 hectares.

Beside the salt lakes, the Natural Lakes Complex offers you a saltwater swimming pool for children, freshwater pools, children's playgrounds, filigrees, hot and cold water showers, terraces and two parking lots with video surveillance. On your way back, return to your Noblesse Boutique Hotel where the relaxing jacuzzi shower, fluffy bathrobe and soft-soaked bed linen will make the perfect end of a SPA day or treat!



Tourist Attraction:

Păltiniș

Location:

Păltiniș 550001, Sibiu County

Noblesse Boutique Hotel - Păltiniș:
34 km (one way)

Duration (round trip): 4-5h

Regardless of the season, if you are passionate about mountains, expeditions or winter sports, Noblesse Boutique Hotel recommends you to venture out to Păltiniș - an interesting option for winter sports, but also for walks through the Cindrel Iezer natural park to the famous glacial lakes. Before leaving, do not forget to get an energy boost by serving a hearty and delicious breakfast in our restaurant. Once in Păltiniș, you can not get bored. You can ski, climb nearby wooded hills on accessible trails or just admire the wonderful panorama that opens up in front of you. The mountain climate,

with ozone-rich air, recommends the resort for relaxation and revitalization. The average annual temperature is +4°C (the average in July is +12°C and in January -6°C). Rains are frequent, but short-lived, and snow is present 120 days a year. The oldest mountain resort in Romania, situated on the northeast coast of the Cindrel Mountains (Meridional Carpathians), 32 km S-W from Sibiu, Păltiniș is also the mountain resort situated at the highest altitude in the country (1442m). From the original villas, the resort preserves historical monuments such as the Tourists' House (1894), the Doctors' House (1895) or the Monaco Hall (1898). An important tourist destination in the resort is the Hermitage, a small wooden church raised by craftsmen from Rășinari in the third decade of the 20th century and where the tomb of Constantin Noica is located.

PLATOȘ ARENA AND ARKA PARK

Platoș Arena is the newest ski and snowboard resort in Sibiu County, opened just a few kilometers from

Păltiniș resort. The ski school is one of the best in the country, with well-trained teachers who offer great results to all customers. There is also a ski kindergarten designed for the little ones and the rental center is equipped with high-quality equipment and a range of sizes from the smallest young skiers to the older, advanced skiers and snowboarders. The little ones have two beginner tracks where they can discover the secrets of ski and the Farytales Alley, a promenade where they can meet figurines from their favorite cartoons. The Arka Park Adventure Land is in the heart of nature, in the beautiful area of Păltiniș and aims to create an adventure experience for both children and adults, with plenty of adrenaline. This will be done by providing exceptional services, and by combining games and activities made available to all those who venture into Arka Park. On your return to Noblesse Boutique Hotel, after a day of adventure, come and enjoy a creamy and aromatic hot chocolate in our classic lounge setting.



Tourist Attraction:

Transalpina - The King's Road

Location: Parâng Mountains, DN67C

Noblesse Boutique Hotel -
Transalpina Stefanu Sheepfold: **155 km**
(one way)

Duration (return trip) **6-7h**

In the summer, Noblesse Boutique Hotel challenges its guests to take on a longer trail, but along which you will discover great beauties: Transalpina - The King's Road or the Road in the Clouds! We recommend that you start your early morning adventure with the unmistakable coffee full of flavour served at the hotel's restaurant. Then proceed with enthusiasm and courage on the road at the highest altitude both in Romania and throughout the Carpathian Mountains in Europe, the maximum altitude of the road reaching 2145m in the Urdele Pass. With plenty of tangled twists and turns and spectacular panoramas, driving is a real pleasure on this road found only a short distance from four of

the highest mountain peaks in our country. Although the road is closed during winter, during the warm season it is visited by tourists from around the world, eager to discover the wonderful sights and attractions along the road. Transalpina (DN67C) starts from Saliste, Sibiu County, 20 km from Sibiu and ends at Novaci, Gorj County, 45 km from Targu Jiu. The route passes through four counties and has a length of 138 kilometers. Transalpina was originally built by the Roman armies on their way to the Ancient Fortress of the Dacians - Sarmisegetusa. The road is also called "The King's Road", thanks to King Carol II who, after rebuilding it in 1938, took his royal family on a trip along the road for its inauguration. The fact that after the Second World War it became a difficult road to drive on with normal cars, has helped Transalpina to preserve its untouched wilderness and its charm. It is among the few roads in the country where the clouds can be reached and even surpassed by car.

We recommend that you do not hesitate to stop for a few minutes at Stefanu Sheepfold (DN67C, Voineasa). Every summer thousands of tourists stop daily at Stefanu Sheepfold in order to pamper their senses with the traditional shepherd's cuisine, to admire great

landscapes, and to photograph a beautiful scenery, filled with Romanian traditions.

Along Transalpina you can also admire other tourist attractions such as Lake Oaşa, Lake „Iezerul Muntinului” and The Beauty's Valley „Valea Frumoasei”.

One of the most beautiful sights on Transalpina is Lake Oaşa, whose contour is faithfully followed by the road. On the other side of the lake is Oaşa Monastery, a small place of worship where time appears to have stopped in its tracks. Another very beautiful place along the Transalpina is the Lake "Iezerul Muntinului" - an objective near the road with spectacular panoramas. As soon as you leave the beautiful scenery of Oaşa in the rearview mirror, you will end up in another beautiful area that impressed even the famous writer Mihail Sadoveanu. Valea Frumoasei - "The Beauty's Valley" is a special area along the Sebeş River, a small mountain stream that turns into a whirling river. The landscapes here are absolutely wonderful and we recommend that you even make a stop here.

After the evening, return to your room at Noblesse Boutique Hotel for another quiet night and a peaceful sleep that will give you the energy needed for a new adventure!



Tourist Attraction:

Transfăgărășan Road

Location:

DN7C, Cârțișoara, Sibiu County

Noblesse Boutique Hotel -

Transfagarasan Balea Lake: **80 km (one way)**

Duration of round trip: **4-5h**

Take a few hours and leave behind the comfortable room and the relaxing bed at Noblesse Boutique Hotel in order to drive on the road of Transfagarasan - one of the most popular roads in Europe, and also our heart's favourite, due to the height at which it was built, its length through mountains - 91km - with beautiful landscapes and numerous twists and turns. The road is spectacular because it crosses the Fagaras Mountains, the highest mountains in the country, and with a maximum altitude of 2042 meters, being the second road in Romania as altitude after Transalpina. No wonder that Jeremy Clarkson from BBC's Top Gear named this road as „The Best Road in the world!”

Also known as DN7C, the Transfăgărășan road links Transylvania to Muntenia and is 91 kilometers long, with 27 viaducts and bridges, and a 887-meter-long tunnel, the longest in the country, passing through Mount Paltinul. Due to the numerous serpentines the average speed is 40 km/h maximum. Also, due to the altitude, massive snowfall and avalanche risk, Transfagarasan is only open from July to October. Between 1st of November and 30th of June, the sector between km104 and km130 is closed to traffic. Access to Lake Balea during the period specified above is done only by cable car.

From the hilly landscapes, the road slowly climbs up to the mountains, the speed is slowing down, as the slopes open in front of you and the air becomes colder and cleaner and the wind blows stronger. The spectacular road was built between 1970-1974, at the orders of Nicolae Ceausescu, the country's president in the Communist era, with immense efforts from soldiers and workers who managed to create a path thorough the mountains. It was worked on throughout the year, conditions being made difficult by the alpine climate at over 1,600 meters altitude - with strong winds and abundant rain and

snowfall. The road was carried out with considerable material effort and at the cost of many of the soldiers' and workers' the official toll being at least 40 dead. The surviving workers are stating the loss was far more significant, the real death toll being somewhere in the hundreads. Although at that time Romania already had several passages of the Southern Carpathians from before the Communist period, the invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 by the Soviet troops determined the urgent initiation of the “Transfăgărășan” project - a strategic road linking the Pitesti and Sibiu garrisons.

Transfagarasan's attractions include Balea Lake and Waterfall, Vidraru Lake and Dam, Capra Waterfall, Capra Lake and Lake, and Poenari Fortress and many other mountain trails. These include the Ice Hotel in Balea Lake (open only during the winter) and the mountain trails around Transfăgărășan. Convinced that you have loved the day trip, on your return, we recommend you to order your favorite drink and snack at the Noblesse Boutique's restaurant and enjoy them in our beautifully lit garden or in the warm lounge atmosphere.



Tourist Attraction:

The Black Church

Location:

**Historic center of Brasov, Brasov
County**

Road distance: Noblesse Boutique
Hotel, Sibiu - Braşov: **145 km (one way)**

Duration of ound trip: 6h

After a restful sleep in the comfortable bed at Noblesse Boutique Hotel, dare to leave Sibiu for a few hours to discover the spectacular Black Church - one of the symbols of Brasov. Originally known as the Great Church, the present name was received after a huge fire that swept across the city in 1689 transformed the church into a ruin. It is the largest sacral structure in Romania, the largest hall church east of Vienna and one of the largest medieval worship places from St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna to Hagia Sophia in Constantinople. Discover

the delightful sounds produced by the 'Organ Buchholz', built during the early Romantic era - the largest mechanical organ in Romania. Every year its sound attracts organists both from the country and from abroad, who want to perform here. At the time of its construction, it was one of the biggest organs in Europe.

Also, except for Turkey, the Black Church possesses the largest collection of oriental carpets in Europe dating from the 15th-16th centuries, and the bell of the Black Church is the largest mobile bell in Romania, with a weight of approx. 6.000 kg. Inside the church, the visitor can discover countless art objects: the baptism bowl (1472), the mural painting of St. Mary (1476), the cloisters from the 18th-19th centuries attesting to the intense work of the city's craftsmen, the neogothic altar (1866) as well as many other pieces of gold and funeral stones of notable people. In the back of the church there are two permanent open exhibitions that tell about the history of the Black Church and the life of Johannes Honterus.

Until recently, the treasury of the dwelling was largely overlooked, until in 2002 the specialists discovered its true value. Including pieces of clothing from the Middle Ages, it matches the value of the great collections found in Danzig, Halberstadt, Brandenburg and Stralsund, but unfortunately it is currently not available to the public. In the following years the treasure will be restored by specialists and exposed. After a day full of cultural breakthroughs in Brasov, return to Sibiu at Noblesse Boutique Hotel and enjoy the warm atmosphere of our rooms, the tranquility of the garden and our wide range of delicious drinks and snacks!



Tourist Attraction:

Bran Castle

Location:

**Strada General Traian Moşoiu 24,
Bran 507025, Brasov County**

Road distance: Noblesse Boutique
Hotel, Sibiu - Bran Castle: **140 km**
(one way)

Duration of return trip: **6-7h**

Dare to explore the Bran-Moeciu area - one of the most popular tourist areas in Brasov County, with a wonderful landscape and hospitable locals. Start your day with a delicious breakfast served in the Noblesse Boutique's restaurant, alongside our fragrant coffee and head towards the mountains defining the horizon! It can be said that nature was generous with this area because it is surrounded by the impressive silhouettes of the Bucegi and Piatra Craiului massifs, two of the most important elements

of the Romanian mountainous tourist landscape. Bran Castle, situated on a cliff, stands majestically at the entrance to the Rucar-Bran passage, on the road that connects Brasov to Campulung, surrounded by the peaks of the Bucegi and Piatra Craiului Mountains. Bran is located less than 30 km from Brasov, on the DN73 national road.

Initially, Bran Castle was a fortress known as Dietrichstein, built by the Order of the Teutonic Knights in 1212, being conquered by Saxons towards the end of the 13th century. The castle was also owned by Sigismund of Luxembourg and Iancu de Hunedoara, and in 1920 it was donated to the Queen Mary of Romania. The Bran Castle then became the summer residence of the Queen. In 1948, the castle was nationalized and only returned to the royal family's descendants in 2007.

In the courtyard of the castle there is a village museum that presents the life of the peasants from the Rucar-Bran area, as well as their work and traditions. During the Halloween holiday (October 31st), Bran Castle is

the preferred destination for American and English tourists. In one of the chambers of the castle, there was even a "Bram Stoker" room, where the Legend of Vlad the Impaler (also known as Vlad Dracul) and the Dracula myth are presented. Visit the castle to find out the real story of ascension and connection between Vlad Țepeș and Bram Stoker's myth of Dracula's Vampire.

After such an expedition where legends and history blend together, we are waiting for you back at Noblesse Boutique Hotel with a tasty Romanian wine, mulled with aromatic spices or at the optimum temperature, or with a meal cooked with garlic, to ensure any vampire trace gets lost!



Tourist Attraction:

Făgăraș Fortress

Location:

**Strada Mihai Viteazul 1, Făgăraș
505200, Brașov County**

Noblesse Boutique Hotel - Fagaras
Fortress: **75 km (one way)**

Duration of round trip: **4-5h**

Noblesse Boutique Hotel advises you to return to the serenity of the mountains and discover the Fagaras Fortress - a medieval fortification in the city of Fagaras, strategically located - halfway to the commercial road from Sibiu to Brasov and in the vicinity of Wallachia whose history is closely related. The rule of the city was of major importance in the strategy of several princes and rulers of Transylvania. The center of one of the largest domains in Transylvania, which in 1632 included 62 villages, the fortress of Fagaras was, since the second half of the 16th century

and especially in the 17th century, a noble residence for the Romanian rulers. The first documentary evidence of the existence of the stone fortress dates from 1455, when a "castellan" is mentioned, and in the following year, Iancu de Hunedoara, writing to the Brasov, reminds us of "our city Fagaras".

At the end of the sixteenth century, all four sides of the old fortress were transformed into apartments and the four towers were built into them. At the same time, the first bastion was built, and in the 17th century the architectural transformations set the present form of the fortified complex from Făgăraș. Gabriel Bethlen rearranged both the interior walls of the castle and the exterior. The aesthetic taste of this prince, strongly influenced by the Italian Renaissance and skilled craftsmen brought from Italy, inspired elegance and beauty for a construction with a rather military purpose. The modernization works continued in the following centuries, with the city taking the mark of all the owners, one by one. Serving for military purposes in

the 18th-20th centuries, the castle and the fortress of Fagaras lost part of the former elegance and grandeur. In 1960 extensive restoration works began, aimed at rendering the fortified castle the appearance of the 17th century glory. The majestic and imposing city of Fagaras, which the great historian Nicolae Iorga considered to be one of the "jewels of the country", is quietly waiting for "recognition of its bold actions of the past". After a day full of history, we will welcome you back to Noblesse Boutique Hotel and we suggest to prepare for an evening filled with the vibrant atmosphere of Sibiu - our team is always ready to recommend varied venues for a delicious dinner or a drink, the fine cultural events of the day and the clubs where you can dance until dawn!

Tourist Attraction:

Râșnov Fortress

Location:

Strada Cetatii 17, Rasnov 505400,
Brasov County

Noblesse Boutique Hotel - RÂȘNOV
Fortress: **150 km (one way)**

Duration of round trip: **5-6h**

Even if you may find it difficult to get away from the warm and immaculate bed of your room in the Noblesse Boutique Hotel, we promise you will not regret exploring the Rasnov Fortress. The first mention of Rasnov Fortress dates from 1335 when during a new invasion of the Tartars, the Barsa county population have retreated into the fortress of Râșnov that could not be conquered. Rasnov Fortress is a fortified ensemble built on the limestone hill, located south of Rasnov in Brasov County, one of the best preserved fortified ensembles in Transylvania. The oldest structures preserved date back to the 14th century, probably on the site of the wooden



fortification raised by the Teutonic Knights.

Through its strategic position, Râșnov Citadel controlled the access to Transylvania from the Râșnoavei Valley. Given the importance of the mountain pass to the South Carpathian territories, Bran's road was under military surveillance and after the chasing of the Teutonic knights, the Hungarian kingdom entrusted the fortification of Râșnov to the Knights of the Order of the Holy Cross. They were subordinated either to the Szeklers' committee or to the Transylvanian ruler. The Râșnov fortress was the first fortification near Bran's road after entering Transylvania until the 15th century. In 1427 the emperor Sigismund of Luxembourg visited the fortress of Râșnov, which he transferred into the administration of the local community granting the fortress the rank of a small town. The fortress is made up of an outer enclosure located in front of the eastern wall of the fortress and an inner enclosure surrounded by the city walls and towers.

Inside the fortress (the inner courtyard) were the houses of the inhabitants, which served as a shelter during the siege. A school was built on top of the hill, and in

1650 a chapel was built, the walls of which are still visible today. Due to the numerous military invasions, the fortress was named "the second hearth of Rasnov". The main drawback of this settlement within the fortress has been the lack of water supply for a long time. When the attacks were prolonging, and the water reserves were over, the refugees from the city came out at night on the main gate and brought water from a source known only to them. For effective defenses, the slopes of the city's hillside were grubbed down, and where the ascent could be done easily, trenches were dug in the rock.

When the guards noticed the approach of an enemy army or the outbreak of a fire, they would alarm the population of the fortress through the bells of the guard tower. And such situations were not rare in the history of Rasnov. After the invasion of 1335, we notice in 1421 the first siege executed by an Ottoman army. The fortress resisted the attack, leading the Turks to raise siege to the still unfortified city of Brașov which ended up being sacked terribly. However, the Turks successfully besieged the fortress of Râșnov during the campaigns of 1436 and 1441.

Within the Rasnov Fortress you can visit the feudal art museum where arms, weapons, galleries and vintage furniture are exhibited, but also some more unusual objects for our time but common in the 17th and 18th centuries, such as: a torture mask or a yoke for carrying prisoners. You can also try your archery skills on one of the paper targets or you can buy many souvenirs, art objects or books that refer to the history and traditions of the place. Tourists who want to offer something to the Râșnov Citadel can plant a rose in the inner courtyard. In return, the person's name will remain on a plaque alongside the planted flower.

We will stop here with the unveiling of Rasnov's history as we want to leave you the pleasure of discovering and finding out the stories and legends of this fortress. Upon your return, we hope that the adventure we suggested has been enjoyable! When you come back, relax and invigorate yourself in the waterfall of the Jacuzzi style shower at Noblesse Boutique Hotel and take advantage of the soft and warm bath robe, accompanied by a glass of noble wine from the minibar in your room.



Tourist Attraction:

Rupea Fortress

Location:

**Strada Cetatii, Rupea 505500, Brasov
County**

Noblesse Boutique Hotel - RUPEA
Fortress: **125 km (one way)**

Duration of round trip: **5-6h**

A new day brings you a new travel recommendation from the team at Noblesse Boutique Hotel. You can ask for the delicious coffee and breakfast to go and start early to the rustic Rupea Fortress, built on the Cohalm Hill, with an area of nearly 11ha with walls, towers and inner courtyards. Due to the dominant position it occupies near the E60 European road, near the city of Brasov, the citadel is a remarkable presence from a long distance. Despite speculations advanced by various authors, it is certain that its surface was used in prehistory, but not in Antiquity by the Dacians or Romans. It is equally certain that the stronghold is a

medieval creation, a fortification, a major architectural complex, with several levels resulting from five centuries of operation.

The first enclosure of the fortification system is the upper fortress, dating from the pre-feudal period, between the 10th-13th centuries. It includes the latest extensions, including the Bacon Tower, specific to the Saxon communities. Here you can also view the the 59-meter deep well. The upper fortress has an area of over 1,500 square meters. The stronghold's defense system is based on the walls of this enclosure, perfectly combined with natural rocks. The entrance to the upper citadel was made through a very narrow aisle, the gate under the Gunpowder Tower or the Bold-Tipped Tower. Inside the enclosure traces of rooms can be seen, which served as housing for the population taking shelter in the fortress during sieges. The most famous rooms in the upper citadel are the Chamber of the Judge and the Chamber of the Priest, but these are hardly identifiable today.

The middle enclosure of the fortification was built in the 15th century and modified to be enlarged in the seventeenth century. Here you can identify the Tower with grates,

the Chapel and another Pentagonal Tower, unique in Europe, hosting the entry gate to the middle fortress. During this period, the fortress was enlarged by the addition of an inner courtyard, in which the fountain of the fortress was excavated in 1623, to be 59m deep.

The Lower Citadel has been built around the 18th century. The military storehouse and the guard house date back to 1850. In the plans of the fortress there are also mentions of the Tower of the Servants, the Tower of Ungra, the Scouts Tower and Gate, the Royal Chamber, the Judge's Chamber and the Tower of the Writings. Rupea Fortress has the shape of an ascending spiral (snail shell). It is obvious that, unlike many other cities of Transylvania, Rupea had the chance of an exceptional preservation. In the first half of the eighteenth century, since the earliest credible documentary drawings made by the military, the degradations have always been linked to the disappearance of the roofs and the rapid collapse of the remaining unprotected masonry.

The first official records of the fortress are marked by a struggle between rebels among the Saxon elite, against the people

of the Transylvanian country (1324). After that, it is assumed that the fortress was abandoned after the Turkish invasion of 1421, being ruined at that time and left in the full possession of the Rupea county. In the 16th century a large part of the local community of the privileged Saxons moved within the walls of the fortress. Around that time, the stronghold must have looked like a miniature city, where hundreds of people lived. Its inhabitants had all the facilities: living quarters, communal administration spaces, chapel, place for supplies and weapons, fountain and a fairground. Perhaps its peak was in the seventeenth century, when most of the construction/repair inscriptions have been recorded. Due to the fortifications and the wisdom of its community, Rupea was not attacked, conquered or robbed in all these centuries.

The most radical change of the fortress was during the restoration program of 2010-2012, when the fortress recovered and renovated much of its original dwellings, which had long been forgotten. On your return, the Noblesse Boutique Hotel welcomes you warmly, and your room invites you to relaxation.



Tourist Attraction:

Brâncoveanu Monastery

Location:

**DC79, 507267, Sambata de Sus,
Brasov County**

Noblesse Boutique Hotel -
Brancoveanu Monastery: **78km (one
way)**

Duration of ound trip: **3-4h**

If you want to extend your peace of mind and look for a sacred, mysterious place, Noblesse Boutique Hotel invites you to discover the special beauty of Brâncoveanu Monastery. Before you leave, you can enjoy a varied and tasty breakfast including vegetarian and vegan options suitable if you are fasting. Situated on the valley of the Sâmbăta River, at the foot of the Fagaras Mountains, the monastery is renowned as a place of silence and spiritual strengthening for believers and visitors praying or visiting this holy place. The

history of the Brâncoveanu Monastery dates back to the 17th century, when Preda Brancoveanu, a landowner from the Southern Carpathians, built a wooden church on the valley of the Sâmbăta River. In its place, around 1696, the first founder, ruler Constantin Brâncoveanu, ruler of Wallachia between 1688-1714, built an Orthodox monastery in stone, to demonstrate the unity and faith of the Romanians on both sides of the Carpathians.

The religious persecutions of the Austro-Hungarian rule have made thousands of victims among the Romanians and the Orthodox Christians have tried to resist, being helped primarily by their churches and monasteries. That is why the auspicious destruction of the monasteries and churches in Transylvania began. More than 150 monasteries were destroyed by the Viennese general Bukow. For a long time Austro-Hungarian administration did not reach the Brâncoveanu Monastery, until 1785 when it was totally destroyed at the request of the Austro-Hungarians after Constantin

Brâncoveanu was executed by the Turks. For 140 years of since the date of destruction, there have been many attempts to restore the monastery left in ruins. Finally, the Bishop Dr. Nicolae Balan managed to restore the monastery from 1926 and sanctified it in 1946, after the war.

The interior of the cross-shaped church is divided into altar, nave, pronaos and porch, and it is the division found in most of the churches built in the Brâncoveanu era. The paintings in the porch of the church are entirely new and they includes scehes from the Old Testament, as well as the Last Judgment, Heaven and Hell. The entry from the porch to the narthex is made through an oak door, fixed in a carved stone frame, and above the door there is the carved stone on a stone plate. On the western wall of the narthex, where the Virgin Mary is painted, there is the votive painting of the Brâncoveni founders. On your return, the Noblesse Boutique team will welcome you in the warm and peaceful atmosphere of our hotel.



Tourist Attraction:

The Corvin Castle

Location:

**Strada Castelului 1-3, Hunedoara
331141, Hunedoara County**

**Noblesse Boutique Hotel - Corvin
Castle: 135 km (one way)**

Duration of round trip: 5h

If you want to combine the adventure and history in a single expedition, then leave the comfortable bed at Noblesse Boutique Hotel behind for a few hours, treat yourself to the delicious aromatic coffee served at our restaurant, and head for the Huniazi (Corvin) Castle. It is one of the most important tourist attractions in Romania, with a special Gothic architecture, coming 2nd place among the most frightening-looking buildings in the world.

The Corvin Castle in Hunedoara is one of the most valuable monuments of medieval architecture in Romania. It

has been certified in documents since the beginning of the 14th century. Built by John of Hunedoara on a cliff at the feet of the Zlaști stream, the castle is an imposing structure, provided with towers, bastions and a donjon. Iancu of Hunedoara made radical changes by building a massive tower, a mobile bridge and a defensive wall - turning the old castle into a military fortress that could withstand the siege of a large army.

Access to the castle is done via a wooden bridge supported by four massive stone pillars, which crosses the Zlaști stream. At the entrance of the bridge is the statue of St. John of Nepomuk - the protector of the bridges and crossings over the water. As soon as you walk through the massive wooden gate, you discover a dark fairy tale world, as if taken from the pages of the Grimm Brothers' storybook. There are a lot of stories around the medieval fortress of Hunedoara. Discover the legend of the fountain that dominates the courtyard and was dug by prisoners. The castle also has its

own legend about the Corvins' Banner - a raven with a golden ring in the beak. On your return, the Noblesse Boutique Hotel is waiting for you to return to the warm and quiet atmosphere of our lounge where you can serve a scented hot tea or a glass of wine.





Tourist Attraction:

Fortress of Deva

Location:

**Strada Cetatii, Deva 337450,
Hunedoara County**

Noblesse Boutique Hotel - Devei
Fortress: **133 km (one way)**

Duration of round trip: **5-6h**

After a restful night and a hearty breakfast at Noblesse Boutique Hotel, discover a place where the legends blend with history and venture into the Fortress of Deva - one of the most important medieval fortifications in Transylvania. Owned by princes, rulers, counts and dukes, throughout the centuries this fortress was given as a gift, sold, attacked and even bombed, each event leaving behind pieces of history. Today, its ruins are visible from a distance, thanks to its strategic location, on a hilltop that dominates the Mures Valley and close to the

main link road between Romania and central and western Europe.

The local legends with fairies and golden-haired maidens who owned the most beautiful places in Hunedoara County have not passed by the Deva Fortress either. But that was happening in ancient times, and their deeds were narrated by the grandparents' grandmothers, sitting by the fireplace on cold winter nights. Thrilling testimonies about the dwellings on Citadel Hill have been found to be from the Bronze Age and the Neolithic. Then, surely, the Dacians built defense fortifications and an observation point from where they could see the Valley of Mureș, part of the Strei Valley and the Land of the Forests. The Roman conquerors took advantage of the location's potential and they strengthened the fortifications at the top of the Citadel Hill. The commercial road connecting with the rest of the empire, also called the salt road, passed right at the foot of the hill and this led to the area's great economic prosperity in those times. In 1269, the

Fortress of Deva appears for the first time officially in a donation act. Since then, the citadel belonged to several well-known princes, rulers and dukes, including the Corvin family. During the 1784 uprising, led by Horea, Cloșca and Crișan, the Deva Fortress was an important safety retreat for the nobles fleeing from the angry peasants and fierce miners.

The fortress's ruins dominating the hill have long been a point of attraction for locals and travelers, who climbed the hill step by step to discover what was hiding inside the remaining walls or who were attracted by the extraordinary panorama that unfolds from the top of the hill. Today, access to the fortress is possible both on foot, on the old road or on the trails walked by locals, but you may also buy a ticket for the cable car, unique in this area of Europe. After this visit, return to your comfortable room at Noblesse Boutique Hotel and relax by ordering your favorite drink in the room.



Tourist Attraction:

The Alba Carolina Fortress in Alba Iulia

Location:

**Calea Motilor, Number 5A, Alba
Iulia, Alba County**

Noblesse Boutique Hotel - Alba
Carolina Fortress: **81 km (one way)**

Duration of round trip: 4-5h

Are you feeling so good and welcomed at Noblesse Boutique Hotel, that you're considering to extend your stay for another night? We would be thrilled to ensure that you have the most enjoyable experience, both in our hotel and in our beloved city of Sibiu, as well as in our neighboring cities. For this trip we recommend you visit the spectacular Alba Carolina fortress, the most important tourist attraction in Alba Iulia!

Built between 1714-1738, it is considered to be the most

representative Vauban type bastion fortification in Romania, and even in the south-eastern Europe. Giovanni Morando Visconti, the architect, put into operation the most advanced European principles for building the fortifications, building the star-shaped fortress with seven irregular corners.

Alba Iulia, the city of Romania's Great Unification, is also nicknamed "The Other Capital", a name worthy of the Fortresses' mesmerizing restauration work, recreated and redeemed in the Alba Carolina Citadel, the symbol and pride of the city. It is the most impressive and most visible tourist attraction, and it includes all the other fortifications between its walls. Its construction is justified by the historical conjuncture.

The fortress was placed on the site of older fortifications, and today they are also highlighted - it is the Roman Castrum of the Legion XIII Gemina and a rectangular medieval fortress - and it was endowed with everything it needed to fulfill its purpose for which it had been built: its own sewage system,

fountains, dusting, food storage, mill and repair shops.

There are many sights to visit within the fortress: the Princely Palace - where Mihai Viteazul, the Ruler of the Principality of Transylvania, lived for a short period, the Unification Museum and Hall - hosting the Great Bell of the Union, the bastions and ditches of the fortress, the vestiges of the Roman fortress, the statue of Mihai Viteazul [Michael the Brave], the cell in which Horea [a national rebellion hero] stood before his execution, the Monument of the Heroes or the Roman Catholic Cathedral.

Upon your return, Noblesse Boutique Hotel is waiting for you to come back to the pleasant atmosphere of our comfortable rooms. We invite you to enjoy a wonderful evening with a cold or hot drink served in the hotel garden or in the restaurant.



Tourist Attraction:

Sighisoara Citadel

**Location: Old Istroic Center,
Sighisoara 545400, Mures County**

Noblesse Boutique Hotel - Cetatea
Sighisoara: **93 km (one way)**

Duration of round trip: **5-6h**

Noblesse Boutique Hotel warmly recommends you head out to discover Sighisoara - one of the largest medieval cities in the world today. Although Sibiu is a wonderful medieval city and a superb example of architecture with Germanic influences, Sighisoara offers some unique attractions in the world and it is certainly worth leaving the pleasant atmosphere of our hotel a few hours to visit this city. It is a fortified stronghold located on the top of a hill, with entrances and secret passages, a clock tower dating back to the 14th century, as well as the house where Vlad the Impaler lived (also known as the Count Dracula, the Romanian ruler

served as inspiration for Brams Stoker).

The architecture of the buildings in the old center of Sighisoara undoubtedly has a strong Germanic influence. The buildings in the historical center of the city are specific, rich in color and lively. Once inhabited by great German and Romanian cultural personalities, they have been transformed over time into small craft and trade units. The visitor's view is delighted by the contrast of the pastel colors remaining relatively unchanged since the construction of the buildings. The richness and color of figurines and watermarks over vaults and windows complete their architecture and impress by their diversity.

The Clock Tower - It is the main point of interest of the city and is the symbol of the city. It was built to defend the main gate of the city and was given this name thanks to the unique clock it houses, known to be unique in Romania.

The Church of the Hill - It is the only evangelical church with an old crypt in Transylvania, and it shelters 60 graves inside its walls. It is one of the most valuable architectural monuments

of the city and is considered one of the representative buildings of the Gothic style in our country.

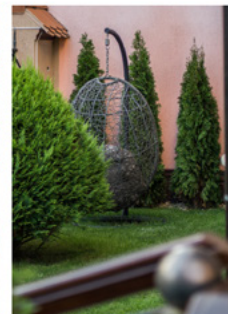
The House with Hart - It is located in the centre of the medieval fortress and its name is due to the exterior wall painting, represented by a hart in natural size with the head and the antlers mounted on the wall. It is one of the oldest buildings in Cetate and the most interesting architectonically.

The Covered Staircase or "The Pupils' Staircase" - It was designed to make it easy for students to go to school during winter. It was built in 1662 and was made up of 300 wooden steps protected by a roof.

You will have a full day, so after discovering Sighisoara we will welcome you back to your room at Noblesse Boutique Hotel where you can enjoy the classic design, with high quality and especially the comfortable furniture. You can even order a delicious snack and a drink to your liking at the hotel bar!

SIGHTS & LANDMARKS IN SIBIU

1. Large Square
2. Small Square
3. Huet Square
4. Bridge of Lies
5. The Brukenthal Museum
6. Tower of the Council
7. Evangelical Church
8. The Roman Catholic Church
9. The Metropolitan Cathedral
10. Synagogue
11. Ursulin Church
12. The Goldsmith's Passage
13. Franz Binder Museum
14. The History Museum of Pharmacy
15. Emil Sigerius Museum
16. Museum of Natural History
17. The Citadel Park
18. Tower of the Carpenters
19. Tower of the Potters
20. The Archery Tower
21. Gate Tower
22. Tower of Stairs
23. Sala Thalia
24. Celebrity Alley
25. Habermann Market
26. Radu Stanca National Theater
27. "Ion Besoiu" Cultural Center
28. Gong Theater
29. The Locomotive Museum
30. Bus Station
31. Railroad Station
32. The European Hospital Poliano (Medlife)
33. Zoo
34. Sub Arini Park
35. Arka Park
36. Arena Platos
37. The Sibiu-Rășinari Tramway
38. The Museum of Traditional Folk Civilization "Astra"
39. Shopping City Sibiu
40. Aria Spa Center
41. Sibiu International Airport
42. The Ocna Sibiului Natural Lakes



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