

COMM 2014 Trip

Bucharest – Curtea de Arges – Vidraru Lake

- The bus will leave at 8.00 AM from the National Military Palace, Bucharest.
- **The first stop** will be in Pitesti city for a short coffee break at hotel Ramada.
- **The next stop is at Curtea de Arges**, which is a small town located around 130kM from Bucharest. One of the oldest towns in Wallachia, Curtea de Arges was the capital of a small local state which was the start for the unification of the lands south of the Carpathians under the name of Wallachia. Here we will visit the Curtea de Arges monastery and the Royal Church.

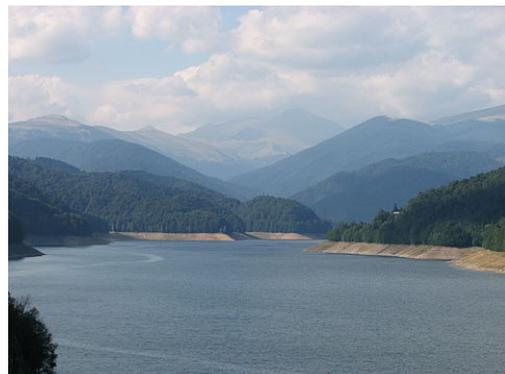
According to tradition, **Curtea de Arges Monastery**, was founded in the early 14th century by Prince Radu Negru. The town succeeded Campulung as the capital of Wallachia, hence its name Curtea (The Court). Another stunning architectural gem is the 16th century Curtea de Arges Monastery (Manastirea Curtea de Arges), topped with two towers spiraling in opposite directions. Romania's first two kings and queens are buried here.



The ruins of the royal court, dating from the 13th century, and of which two boyar house cellars are well preserved, are to be found in the centre of the town.

Biserica Domneasca (Royal Church) built by Basarab I, completely renovated in 2003-2004. It resembles a stone fortress, connected through catacombs to a guard tower on a nearby hill.

- **From Curtea de Arges we will go to the Vidraru Lake.** Lake Vidraru is an artificial lake in Romania. It was created in 1965 by the construction of the Vidraru Dam on the Arges River.



It lies in the shadow of the Fagaras Mountains, the highest mountains in the Carpathian - Moldoveanu peak (2,527 meters). From the Vidraru lake starts the Transfagarasan road, which climbs to 2,034 meters altitude, making it the 2nd highest mountain pass in Romania after Transalpina



- **The lunch** will be taken at Posada restaurant, near Vidraru Lake.
- **Winetasting at Stefanesti-Arges.** On the way back to Bucharest the trip will stop at Stefanesti vineyard The Stefanesti Winery is 10 km away from the town of Pitesti. First mentioned as early as the year 330 B.C., in a writing of the Greek historian Diodorus Siculus, the vineyard was referred to in several medieval chronicles of Wallachia since 1388. It mainly produces high quality wines like Feteasca Alba, Sauvignon Blanc, high quality red wines like Cabernet Sauvignon and Burgund Mare, as well as flavored wines like Tamaioasa Romaneasca. The visit will include a visit in the winery with the presentation of technology; a visit at the cellars and wine tasting and the art of tasting - presentation made by a sommelier. 5 wine samples will be tasted.



Trip price: EUR 50

Payment can be done upon registration at the National Military Palace, on May 29, 2014.