



## Transylvania (Bradt Travel Guide)

By Lucy Mallows

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**Transylvania (Bradt Travel Guide)** By Lucy Mallows

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A rural paradise, Bram Stoker called it 'one of the wildest and least known parts of Europe' and created the immortal Dracula from its reputation.

The Bradt guide details the many attractions of this warm and hospitable region – considered by many as the most beautiful in Eastern Europe. It covers popular tourist options such as staying in a Transylvanian castle, hiking trails, bear tracking, horse-cart driving plus Dracula, wildlife, cultural and historical tours.

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## Editorial Review

### Review

'(Lucy Mallows') passion for the place shines through the pages of her guide, generating interest and curiosity on the part of the reader.' The Budapest Times 'Mallows brought with her a defined sense of the historical and cultural context of all the places she wrote about.' The Oldie '... an informative and easy-to-use travel guide' Food & Travel magazine

### About the Author

**Lucy Mallows** is a freelance travel writer and translator presently working in Brussels and contributing to many international newspapers and magazines.

Travel guides she has written include the Bradt guides *Slovakia* and *Bratislava*.

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Saxons built **Bran Castle** on a cliff above the plains in 1377 to protect the gateway to Transylvania at the Bran Pass. The imposing construction with its solid, squared-off walls and reddish-brown roofs looks like a typical Transylvanian castle and it attracts a huge number of tourists who often come for the Dracula link. It is promoted as Dracula's Castle, but Vlad III Tepes, the real person behind the Dracula myth, spent only a few nights at the castle, probably when he was imprisoned by the royal Hunyadi family. The Gothic portals, narrow staircases carved into the stone, secret stairs and passageways, vaulted halls and arches make Bran an atmospheric and impressive destination. In the 1920s, Bran became home to Queen Marie of Romania (1875-1938) and she decorated the interior, importing much of the furniture from western Europe. The castle is now a museum (*tel: 0268 238 333; www.brancastlemuseum.com; [clock] summer 12.00--18.00 Mon, 09.00--18.00 Tue--Sun; winter 09.00--16.00 Tue--Sun; admission adult/child 12/6RON*) showing period furniture, carpets and a collection of weapons. In the grounds, an ethnological museum (same ticket as for museum) displays the way of life and architecture of the surrounding area. Beneath the castle is a vast collection of stalls selling mainly Dracula tat: T-shirts, mugs and jigsaws, in a heady ambiance of candy floss and burgers. Bran town is almost entirely made up of pensions and families letting out part of their homes to visitors.

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