

Along Fagaras mountain ridge

(mountain ridge in central part of Carpathian mountains in Romania)

Expedition duration in mountains : 5 days

Total duration of the trip: 8 days

Departure from Chisinau at 10:00 on day 1 (Saturday)

Return to Chisinau on day 8 (Saturday), till 20:00.

Required personal gear:

Backpack 70-75 liters (ladies) and 85-90 liters (men), sleeping bag, dish and spoon for eating, cup, mountain shoes ("Vibram"), sport wear (long), sun-protective cover for head, woolen sweater, woolen sport hat, several pairs of socks, water proof cover / jacket.

Cost of the tour 250 Euro, including transport, food (cooking at gas stove or fire with woods), sleeping in tent, professional guide.

Description of the route **Through Fagaras mountain ridge**

Days 1-2 (Saturday-Sunday) – transport to Romania to the starting point of the expedition, entrance on the Fagaras ridge (Sebesul de Sus). On the way one night stop in tent approximately near Covasna.

Day 2, (Sunday)

15:00-19:00 – Ascending from Sebesul de Sus to the ridge close to the peak Tatarul (1890 m)

19:00 – Night stop on the edge of the forest, cooking on wood fire

Day 3, (Monday)

7:00 – Wake up

7:30-8:30 – Cooking and having breakfast

8:30-9:00 – Collecting the camp

9:00 – Leaving to the ridge

9:00–19:00 Passing the section: **Peak Tatarul (1890 m) - Saddle Suru (2110 m) - Lake Avrig (2011 m) - Saddle Scara (2146 m)**

The path avoids ascending those two peaks of the mountain Suru (Peak Suru - 2283 m, Head Suru 2274 m), heading towards NE to the Mountain Budislavu and arriving in Saddle Budislavu. To the right on the back of Barcaciui can be seen a refuge by the same name. We descend till Saddle Avrigu and then to the shore of the Lake Avrig (2-2 1/2 hours to this point). The path continues with ascent to the peak Scara (2306 m), after which heads towards East going around Peak Scarisoara till Peak Puha (2177 m), and finally descends into the Saddle Scara.

19:00 – Stopping for night in Saddle Scara, cooking on gas stove

Day 4, (Tuesday)

7:00 – Wake up

7:30-8:30 – Cooking and having breakfast

8:30-9:00 – Collecting the camp

9:00–19:00 Passing the section: **Saddle Scara (2146 m) - Peak Serbota (2331 m) - Peak Negoiu (2535 m) - Lake Caltun**

From Saddle Scara we ascend to the last peak of the Mountain Mazgavu (2212 m) - 1 hour from Saddle Scara. Descending till grassy Saddle of Serbota (2123 m) in order to have afterwards a steep ascent to reach the Peak Serbota (2331 m). Then follows a section of rocky blocks, several towers, and huge rock blocks. With great precaution we pass a series of obstacles in a chain, on top of the ridge, in order to get to the second highest peak of Romania - Peak Negoiu (2535 m). From Peak Negoiu descending about 10 minutes till we get into a small saddle where the path splits in two:

1. – through Strunga Dracului continues ridge path of red line, path spotted by cables on the tower Strunga Dracului (20-30 minutes);
2. – through Strunga Doamnei – blue line path – option that avoids difficult descent through Strunga Dracului, recommended to more cautious hikers or to those with heavy luggage (40 minutes).

Returning to the ridge, the path crosses a section of debris (hillside waste) and brings us to the Portita Caltunului (2180 m), from where we descend to the shore of the Lake Caltun where we find a refuge by the same name.

19:00 – Stopping for night near Lake Caltun

Day 5, (Wednesday)

7:00 – Wake up

7:30-8:30 – Cooking and having breakfast

8:30-9:00 – Collecting the camp

9:00–19:00 Passing through the section: **Lake Caltun - Peak Laitelul (2390 m) - Saddle Capra (2315 m) - Portita Arpasului - Saddle Podragu**

From the refuge Caltun we ascend spotted to the Peak Laitel (2390 m) where we can admire the wealth of peaks and glacier valleys of Fagaras. This is the reward for all the effort made to the top.

The path continues with a short descend to the East till the Saddle Laita. From here the ridge becomes more accidental and narrower; in this way we overcome the Peak Laita located on our left and reach the Saddle Doamna (2294 m) - 1 hour from Peak Laitel. Afterwards we cross an area of cliffs, allow ourselves to be spotted from time to time by several cables on the right of Tower of Paltinu and soon reach the Saddle Paltinu.

Soon on the left we can see the path "blue line" which leads to Balea Lake – 50 minutes.

From Saddle Paltinu we continue the path "red line" till the Window of Balea and then above the Lake Capra reach the Saddle Capra (2315 m).

From Saddle Capra we descend to the shore of Lake Capra (2230 m), pass near the Monument to the Alpinists in order afterwards to reach without big effort another glacier bucket: Fundul Capei. From here we ascend to Portita Arpasului (from this place the path splits in two - another one is leading to cabana Podragu at Lake Podragel – "blue line").

In continuation, being spotted by chains, we cross a section called suggestively "Three steps from the death", climb near the Peak Arpasu Mic, make a short break near the Monument Nerlinger before attacking a difficult ascent to the Peak Arpasu Mare; passing under the Peak Mircii into another bucket, in order to finally get to the shore of the Lake Podul Giurgiului and

after a light ascent reaching in one hour the Saddle Podragu. (from here cabana and Lake Podragu are seen to the left (north) and if we leave the ridge path we can descend in 40 minutes to cabana – red triangle mark.

19:00 – Stopping for night near Saddle Podragu

Day 6, (Thursday)

7:00 – Wake up

7:30-8:30 – Cooking and having breakfast

8:30-9:00 – Collecting the camp

9:00–19:00 Passing the section: **Saddle Podragu - Peak Vistea Mare - Fereastra Mare a Sambetei**

From Saddle Podragu going around the Peak Tarita and Podul Giurgiului and descend into the Saddle of Ucea Mare. The ascent becomes then more tiring, snaking on southern sides of peaks Ucea Mare till into the Saddle Ucisoara (2321 m). From here under the peak Ucisoara (2418 m) the path goes above the abysses on the northern side till the Fereastra Orzanelelor. Here a short break helps us to conquer the 222 meters ascent to the Peak Vistea Mare (2527 m).

From here we leave our path marking and take a turn to the south on the “red point” path in order to reach the highest point of Romania - Peak Moldoveanu (2544 m) - 25 minutes from Vistea Mare.

After enjoying the splendid view from the peak Moldoveanu we return to Vistea Mare and continue the ridge path. It descends in serpentines about 30 minutes till Portita Vistei (2310 m). Here a sign shows the path “red triangle”, which leads to the North through Vistea Mare Valley into the town Victoria, and to the south (right) to the Valea Rea (Bad Valley) and further to Slatina. In the bucket of Valea Rea there is Salvamont refuge. From this intersection to the Fereastra Mare (Big Window) of Sambata we still have to go about 3 hours. We'll cross first the southern wedge of the peak Hatapa Ursului in order to enter into the bucket of Mioarele and further descend into the Saddle of Vistisoara (2291 m), from where we start the last ascent to the Galasescu Mare, whose peak (2471 m) we leave on the north in order to head a little bit to the South under the Peak Galasescu Mic (2410 m).

We ascend the Southern wedge of the peak Slanina till Fereastra Mare (Big Window) (2188 m). From here we take a turn to the North to cabana Sambata (1405 m) - “red triangle”. We begin ascending and reach the forest where we organize a camp for the night with wood fire and warm bath.

19:00 – Stopping for night near cabana Sambata

Day 7, (Friday)

8:00 – Wake up

8:30-9:30 – Cooking and having breakfast

9:30-10:00 – Collecting the camp

10:00–13:00 – Descending to the resort station Sambata to reach the transport

13:00-14:00 – Lunch

14:00 – Leaving to Chisinau

Day 8, (Saturday) before 20:00 – arrival to Chisinau

Pictures from proposed route



Lake Caltun



Custura Saratei

www.team-building.md



Peak Negoiu



Bilea Lake area /
Trans-Fagaras road

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