

CULTURAL TOURS IN ROMANIA

CHOICE N°1: MOGOSOAIA PALACE

SATURDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2018

During the [26th ENCATC Congress](#) "Beyond EYCH2018. What is the cultural horizon? Opening up perspectives to face ongoing transformations", participants have the option to attend 1 of 3 Cultural Tours.



Mogoșoaia Palace (in Romanian: Palatul Mogoșoaia) is situated about **10 kilometres from Bucharest**, Romania. It was **built between 1698-1702** by Prince Constantin Brâncoveanu (ruling prince) in what is called the **Romanian Renaissance style or Brâncovenesc style**. The palace bears the name of the widow of the Romanian boyar Mogoș, who owned the land it was built on. After 1714, when Constantin Brancoveanu was executed with his entire family in Constantinople, all the family's wealth was confiscated by the Ottomans and the palace was converted into an inn. Rebought by Prince Stefan Cantacuzino, he returned it to Brâncoveanu's grandson Constantin, and remained with the family until the early nineteenth century.

The palace was devastated by the Ottomans during

the Russo-Turkish War of 1768-1774. Granted by prince Grigore to his daughter, Zoe Mavrocordat who had married George D. Bibescu, sovereign Prince of Wallachia. The palace remained within Bibescu family and was renovated by Nicolae Bibescu.

In November 1916, the palace at Mogosoaia was bombed by the German air forces. Bought from Marie-Nicole by her cousin (and head of the Princely house), Prince George Bibesco, the Palace was given to his wife, Princess Martha. He later deeded the land to her, too. Martha spent her private fortune for the reconstruction. In the late 1920s and the 1930s, the palace became the meeting place for politicians and for the international high society. When Prince George died in 1941, he was buried in the small, white 1688 church on the grounds of the Palace.

During the second world war, Prince Antoine Bibesco (a cousin of George Bibesco) and his wife Elizabeth Bibesco refused to flee the country. When Elizabeth died of pneumonia on April 7, 1945 she was buried in the Bibesco family vault on the grounds of Mogoșoia. Neither Elizabeth Bibesco's husband, Antoine, nor George Bibesco's wife, Martha, could be buried beside them, as they both died during the Communist regime. After 1945, the palace was forcibly nationalized by the communist authorities, and the owners, Valentina și Dimitrie Ghika-Comănești, were arrested.

Some of its precious art collections disappeared during this period. **In 1957, it eventually became a museum.** The Palace is now a popular tourist destination, but although the grounds and gardens are beautiful, the interior of the palace itself is under reconstruction and presently houses a museum and art gallery.

WEBSITE: <https://palatebrancovenesti.ro>

VIDEO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MmQLbjqLgM>

PRICE: 30 EUR

MINIMUM NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 10

DEPARTURE @ 9 AM

Estimated time of the tour: 4.5 hours

The price includes transportation by minibus/bus with AC, entrance ticket at the Palace, English speaking guide.

SCHEDULE: Departure from hotel(s) to the Palace (with a short city tour). Visiting the Palace and domain. Departure from the Palace to the hotel(s). **The minibus/bus can stop at Henri Coanda International Airport before reaching Bucharest. All participants interested can join this tour and after finishing it they can go directly to the airport.**

INFO: This tour includes a break for coffee or lunch (not included in the price). Mogosoia Palace has a restaurant on the domain.

