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# 26<sup>th</sup> ENCATC Congress

Beyond EYCH2018. What is the cultural horizon?  
Opening up perspectives to face ongoing transformations

26-29 September 2018 in Bucharest, Romania

## GUIDED TOUR

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 Guided Tours.

### OPTION 3: Peles Castle

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Peleş Castle (Romanian: Castelul Peleş) is a Neo-Renaissance castle in the Carpathian Mountains, near Sinaia, in Prahova County, Romania, on an existing medieval route linking Transylvania and Wallachia, built between 1873 and 1914. Its inauguration was held in 1883. It was constructed for King Carol I.

The complex is northwest of the town of Sinaia, which is 48 kilometres from Braşov and **124 kilometres from Bucharest**. Nestled in the southeastern Carpathian Mountains, the **complex is composed of three monuments: Peleş Castle, Pelişor Castle, and the Foişor Hunting Lodge**.

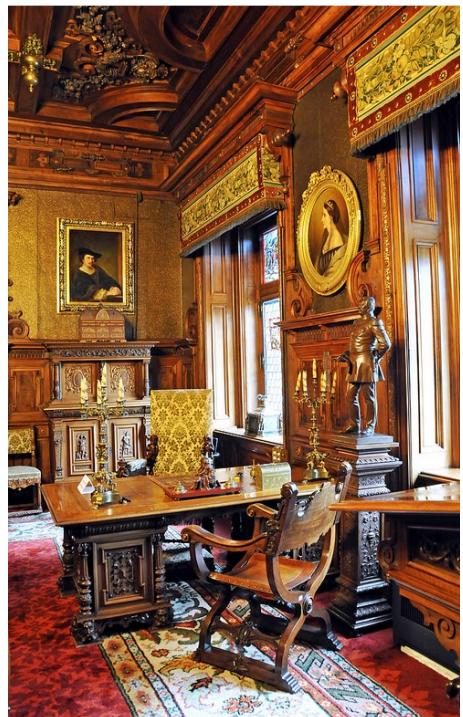
The King commissioned the construction of a royal hunting preserve and summer retreat on the property, and **the foundation was laid for Peleş Castle on 22 August 1873**. Several auxiliary buildings were built simultaneously with the castle: the guards' chambers, the Economat

Building, the Foişor hunting lodge, the royal stables, and a power plant. **Peleş became the world's first castle fully powered by locally produced electricity**.

The cost of the work on the castle undertaken between 1875 and 1914 was estimated to be 16,000,000 Romanian lei in gold (approx. US\$ 120 million today). Between three and four hundred men worked on the construction.

**Queen Elisabeth of the Romanians, during the construction phase, wrote in her journal:**

*Italians were masons, Romanians were building terraces, the Gypsies were coolies. Albanians and Greeks worked in stone, Germans and Hungarians were carpenters. Turks were burning brick. Engineers were Polish and the stone carvers were Czech. The Frenchmen were drawing, the Englishmen were measuring, and so was then when you could see hundreds of national costumes and fourteen languages in which*



Photos by Dennis Jarvis CC BY-SA 2.0

*they spoke, sang, cursed and quarreled in all dialects and tones, a joyful mix of men, horses, cart oxen and domestic buffaloes.*

By form and function, Peleș is a palace, but it is consistently called a castle. **Its architectural style is a romantically inspired blend Neo-Renaissance and Gothic Revival similar to Schloss Neuschwanstein in Bavaria.** A Saxon influence can be observed in the interior courtyard facades, which have allegorical hand-painted murals and ornate fachwerk similar to that seen in northern European alpine architecture. Interior decoration is mostly Baroque influenced, with heavy carved woods and exquisite fabrics.

Peleș Castle has a 3,200-square-metre (34,000 sq ft) floor plan with over 170 rooms, many with dedicated themes from world cultures (in a similar fashion as other Romanian palaces, like Cotroceni Palace). Themes vary by function (offices, libraries, armories, art galleries) or by style

(Florentine, Turkish, Moorish, French, Imperial); all the rooms are extremely lavishly furnished and decorated to the slightest detail. There are 30 bathrooms. The establishment hosts one of the finest collections of art in Eastern and Central Europe, consisting of statues, paintings, furniture, arms and armor, gold, silver, stained glass, ivory, fine china, tapestries, and rugs. **The collection of arms and armor has over 4,000 pieces, divided between Eastern and Western war pieces and ceremonial or hunting pieces, spreading over four centuries of history.** Oriental rugs come from many sources: Bukhara, Mosul, Isparta, Saruk, and Smirna. The porcelain is from Sèvres and Meissen; the leather is from Córdoba. Perhaps the most acclaimed items are the hand-painted stained glass vitralios, which are mostly Swiss. A towering statue of King Carol I by Raffaello Romanelli overlooks the main entrance. Many other statues are present on the seven Italian neo-Renaissance terrace



DISTANCE 130 km



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gardens, mostly of Carrara marble executed by the Italian sculptor Romanelli. The gardens also host fountains, urns, stairways, guarding lions, marble paths, and other decorative pieces. **Peleș Castle shelters a painting collection of almost 2,000 pieces.**

**DATE:** Saturday, 29 Sept. 2018

**TIME:** 08:00 - 15:30/16:00

**PRICE:** 51 € / person which includes transportation hotel-castle, castle-airport, airport-hotel by bus/minibus, AC, entrance ticket at the museum, English speaking guide. For an extended visit of the Castle, there is an optional fee of 7 EUR/person.

**MINIMUM NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS:** 10

**LOCAL CURRENCY:** It is strongly recommend by the local partner that all participants on this trip have Romanian currency if they want to buy souvenirs or to have lunch/coffee at the castle's restaurant. Ask your hotel for currency exchange before leaving for Peles Castle.

**IMPORTANT:** This tour includes a break for coffee or lunch (but it is not included in the price). Peles Castle has a [restaurant](#) on the domain. For an extended visit of the Castle, there is an optional fee of 7 EUR/person.

**WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CASTLE:** <http://peles.ro>

**VIDEO TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CASTLE** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UN7sPMz\\_zlg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UN7sPMz_zlg)

**SCHEDULE:**

**These times may change due to traffic!**



- Starting with 8 AM, participants will be picked up from their hotels.
- Transportation to the Castle: 90-120 minutes
- Arriving at the Castle: 10.30-11.00 at the latest
- Visiting the domain and the castle 90-120 minutes
- Around 13-13.30 departing from the Castle to the Hotels. NOTE: the bus/minibus will stop first at the Henri Coanda International Airport. Participants wanting to leave Bucharest can bring their luggage with them.
- Transportation from the Palace to the airport: 90-100 minutes
- From the Airport the rest of the participants will be dropped off at their hotels.

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