

Travelling to medieval Romania

Now is 2056 year (1) and I want at last to tell about my favourite country, which language I have been learning since I was a teenager. (2)

It is Romania. People often answer "Why Romania?", "It's not popular!", "There are many disadvantages!" So I often ask that I don't know why. I just remember the moment from my childhood when I heard about this country and decided that it tempts me with its allure. In the far-off 2006 I was watching Junior Eurovision Song Contest which had place in Bucharest, the capital of Romania. Everything was so beautiful, every decoration, the scene, so I decided that it's the merit of the host country. Constantly I see many cartoons and films about Transylvania and werewolves, and vampires. It played an important role on my decision in choosing a favourite country.

Who hasn't known yet, Romania is a relatively young state founded in 1878. Recently there were dukedoms such as Wallachia, Moldova, and Transylvania.

I suppose, that everyone knows for what Romania is famous. And if not, I'll tell you. Legend has it that there was Dracula, the famous vampire. He didn't look like that (3), that (4), or even that (5). He was drinking people's blood for thousands years and he could be killed only with silver bullets or asp stake (6).

Maybe someone tells me that Dracula is only a character of the self-named novel of Bram Stoker (7). But no! Hardly anybody knows that he actually existed.

So, no comments anymore, let's just travel through the time. (8) (Don't be astonished, we are in 2056, a time machine is a normal phenomenon for everybody). It's in my garage. (9) Let's go to the past. One, two, three, think of what you can see there...

Now we are in the XV century.(10) This is medieval Romania, full of castles and mysteries..(11)

Look! Who's that? (12)

It's Vlad III, known as Vlad the Impaler or Romanian Vlad Țepeș. He was voivode (or prince) of Wallachia three times between 1448 and his death. He was the second son of Vlad Dracul (dragon), who became the ruler of Wallachia in 1436. His hard childhood taught him cruelty. During his period of rule he committed the atrocities for which he was best known. His penchant for impaling his enemies on stakes in the ground and leaving them to die earned him the name Vlad the Impaler (Romanian: Vlad Țepeș).

(13) In 1460 Turkish sultan Mehmet II wanted to invade the capital of Wallachia, Targoviste. When he achieved the town's walls, he saw an awful scenery.

(14) Vlad III was dining surrounding thousands of stakes with impaled people. They were exuding a detestable smell, their bodies were corrupting. A Turkish sultan was frightened to enter the town. That year Vlad escaped Ottomans. He inflicted this type of torture on foreign and domestic enemies. His famous phrase was: "Kill yours to frighten the others".

You may ask:" So what's the similarity between the real Dracula and the imaginary one?" (15) He drank blood of his enemies as well as a book character.

He was so savage, that the name Dracula would never be forgotten.

Despite his cruelty he was an extremely best ruler.

How have you realized, he was a real archetype of legendary Count Dracula. (16)

Here you can also see Vlad's castle named Bran Castle (17,18). Maybe the castle in the cartoon "The Hotel Transylvania" was created based on the Dracula's real castle. They're a little bit similar.(19)

Our travelling was a little bit fearful but very educational. [Let's go back to our future!](#)(20) Remember: [the history is a very mysterious and interesting thing!](#)