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The prettiest routes in Europe for the most epic road trip

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There's no travel experience quite like the [road trip](#). Unlike travelling by boat, train or plane, the road trip gives us control of our own destiny – to stop and gawp, to get lost, to pick [playlists](#), to pick fights with sat-navs, parking spots and one another. There is a reason there are so many metaphors about roads; so many [road-trip movies](#) and songs, from *Thelma & Louise* to Willie Nelson. They offer the tantalising possibility of a narrative, especially after a year when the prevailing narrative has been one of confinement. When you're ready to hit the road, here are 10 of the best road trips in [Europe](#). Happy driving.



TRANSFAGARASAN, ROMANIA

Approximately 90 minutes one way

It's only 56 miles long, and is often closed until late [June](#) because of snow in the Southern Carpathians' Fagaras Mountains – but the Transfagarasan, with its serpentine hairpins snaking up from historic Curtea de Arges towards the high Balea Lake, rivals the Stelvio Pass in northern [Italy](#) as the most renowned stretch of road in Europe. It was built in the 1970s by Ceausescu to give him a military advantage in case of a Soviet invasion, and hundreds of people are said to have died while building 'Ceausescu's folly', often from blasting dramatic tunnels through the mountains with dynamite. The brutal dictator wasn't thinking about 21st-century visitors, but the road provides an almost poetic connection between Wallachia in the south and Transylvania in the north. The charm of Transylvania's forested valleys and gothic castles is well-known, but the region is smarter than many expect, with cool cities including student-y Cluj-Napoca and more and more cool stays, such as the [Bethlen Estates](#), a gorgeous villa in an old castle caretaker's house in the country.

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