

ICOHTEC Symposium, Brasov, 29 July-2 August 2014
“Technology in Times of Transition”

HALF DAY TRIP (3)
BRAN CASTLE

1. BRAN CASTLE

www.bran-castle.com/en

It was built between 1377-1378 by the citizens of Brasov to control the way through the narrow valley of the creek Turcu. It was used as a customs point. For a while it was owned by the Romanian rulers of Walachia like Mircea the Old and Mihail. After 1498 it was re-ceded to the Braşov community, and between 1622-1625 it was endowed by two new defense towers.

In 1920 it was donated by the municipality of Brasov to Queen Maria of Romania, as a reward for her and her daughters' dedication in nursing the wounded soldiers in the Balkan Wars and in WW1. The Queen remodeled the interior, together with the royal architect Karel Liman, with elements of the Art Nouveau so dear to her.

The legend of Dracula, which became a myth in the 19th and 20th century, was born due to the original historic figure of Vlad Tepes, who ruled Walachia between 1456 and 1462. Vlad Tepes, the Impaler, was famous for his unleashed cruelty. Impaling, one of the most horrible ways to die, was his favorite method of execution. The British novelist Bram Stoker brought his novel “Dracula” to the attention of the world readers of the 19th and 20th century and became one of the founders of the modern vampire mythology.

