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BRAN CASTLE

THE CASTLE OF DRACULA



Bran Castle, situated near Bran and in the immediate vicinity of Braşov, is a national monument and landmark in Romania. The fortress is situated on the border between Transylvania and Wallachia, on Highway 73. Commonly known as "Dracula's Castle" (although the real Dracula's castle is in ruins), it is marketed as the home of the titular character in Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. There is, however, no evidence that Stoker knew anything about this castle.





Commonly known as Dracula 's Castle, the Bran Castle was originally a stronghold built by the Knights of Teutonic Order in 1212. The first documentary attestation of the Bran Castle is the act issued on November 19, 1377, giving the Saxons of Kronstadt (Brasov) the privilege to build the Citadel. The building started in 1378 as a defense against Turks and later became a customs post on the pass between Transylvania and Wallachia. From 1920 the castle became a royal residence until the expulsion of the royal family in 1948.

- Bran Castle is famous for its association with the Dracula legend. The 15th-century Wallachian prince upon whom the novelist Bram Stoker is (incorrectly) supposed to have his blood thirsty vampire connected to the Bran Castle. In truth, Dracula may have attacked and briefly captured the castle in 1460, during one of his raids on the Burzen Land.
- Between 1395-1427 the castle belonged to Mircea the Wise, grandfather of Vlad Tepes (Dracula). In 1441 the Hungarians defeated the Turks here. Vlad Tepes sought refuge for a few days in Bran on his flight from the Turks in 1462 following their attack on the Poienari fortress in the Arges Valley.

The castle is now a museum open to tourists, displaying art and furniture collected by Queen Marie. Tourists can see the interior individually or by a guided tour. At the bottom of the hill is a small open air museum park exhibiting traditional Romanian peasant structures (cottages, barns, etc.) from across the country .





















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