Cover photo: Tîrgu Mureş - The Administrative Palace (stained glass)













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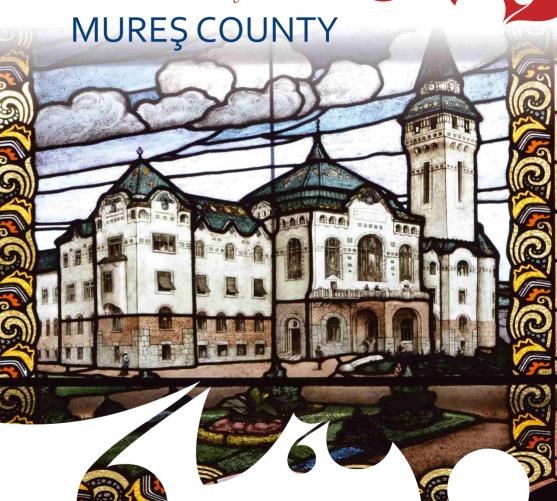
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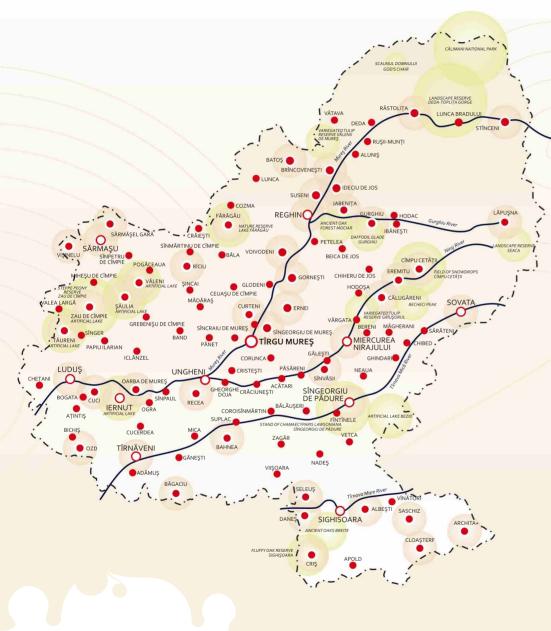




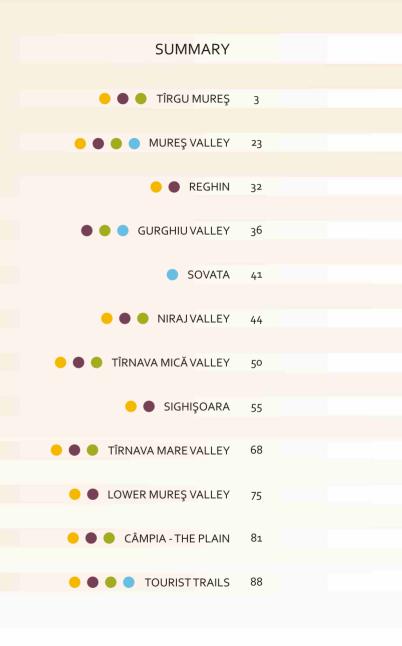
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MUREŞ COUNTY







Mureş County, with an area of 6,714 km², is located in the central area of Romania, being crossed by five rivers: Mureş, Tîrnava Mică, Tîrnava Mare, Niraj and Gurghiu. The administrative structure comprises 11 towns and 91 communes. Besides Tîrgu Mureş, the city residence, there are three cities: Reghin, Sighişoara and Tîrnăveni.

The history of the place and population goes back to very early times, the archeological excavations revealing relics from the Neolitical Epoch. Mureş County is documentary cited in 1409, when King Sigismund of Luxemburg detached this area from the Ciuc region, granting its own administration. In 1462, Matei Corvin strengthened Sigismund's decision by the Mediaş diploma, confirming, for its inhabitants, the right to choose their own judges and military leaders.

The county's surface unfolds on three levels, which decrease in height from the East towards West: to the North-East, two branches of the longest volcanic mountain chain in Europe, namely: Călimani Mountains (Pietrosul Peak, 2102 m) and Gurghiului Mountains (Seaca Peak, 1776 m), which display an enchanting and spectacular landscape with rocky slopes, covered with forests. The second altitude level consists of the sub-mountain high hills (Becheci Peak, 1080 m). Here, the clay, sand and gravel layers meet the salt layers, giving birth to lakes (Sovata, Jabeniţa, Ideciu de Jos) and salty water springs (Sîngeorgiu de Mureş). Around these, popular spa resorts were built; nowadays, they attract a large number of tourists. The third level comprises the Plain, with heights ranging from 400 to 650 m. Many regions in the county were declared protected areas, being genuine natural monuments.

The co-inhabitance of four nations within Mureş county - Romanian, Hungarian, Saxon and Roma people - led to a large variety of domestic use and craft objects, and of traditional folk costumes. The ethnical, cultural and religious fusions are reflected both in the religious architecture and in the typology of traditional houses.

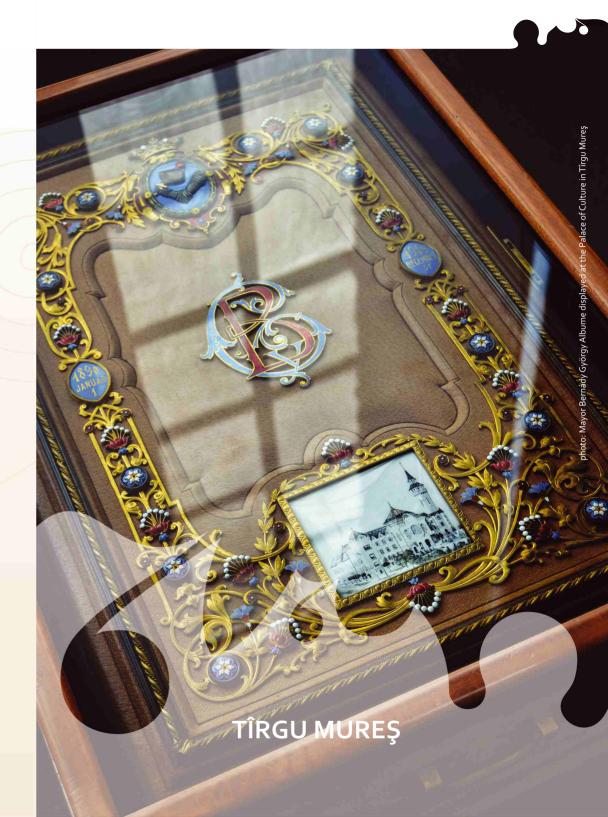
Natural beauties and folk traditions are complemented by historical sites, buildings from the XIIIth-XVIIIth centuries, influenced by the European architectural styles of those times: churches, medieval fortresses and castles.

A possible journey through Mureş county can begin right in **Tîrgu Mureş** city - the city of flowers. The settlement is cited for the first time in documents dating from 1332, under the name of Novum Forum Siculorum, namely the New Szekler Town. From the Medieval epoch, the city becomes the main economic center of the area, with a rich spiritual and cultural life.

The historical center of the city, with coloured buildings, church towers, the Medieval fortress, draw a very picturesque image. The architecture is similar to other European cities, and supplemented with specific local features.

Tîrgu Mureş is a place of cultural establishments: libraries, museums, theaters, musical institutions. It is a city of schools, gymnasiums and colleges, leading to higher education institutions: medical, technical, pedagogic, artistic, the educational history going back to the Middle Ages.

Nowadays, Tîrgu Mureş is a modern city, with various leisure alternatives, such as: Corneşti Plateau with the zoological garden and the narrow-gauge train for children, the Mureşul Leisure and Sports Facility (Weekend) and the Hippodrome.







The Reformed Church in the Castle

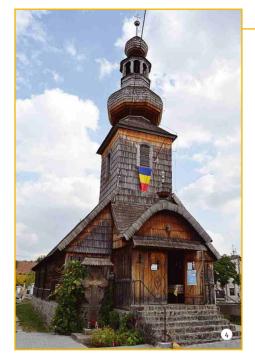
5, Bernády György Square

(photo 1, 2, 3)

It is the oldest church in the city, being built by the Franciscan Order from Tîrgu Mureş. The building belongs to the late Gothic, but its present interior is a result of numerous redecorations performed along the time.







Saint Michael Orthodox Church

- wooden church

13, Andrei Şaguna Street

(photo 4, 5)

The church, bearing the spiritual patronage of Saint Michael, is the oldest Orthodox church in Tîrgu Mureş. It was built between 1793 and 1794, harmoniously combining rural traditions of Maramureş with influences of the Baroque style.



Ascension Orthodox Church

- stone church

9, Andrei Şaguna Street

(photo 6, 7)

The erection of this church began in the spring of 1794. The tower, with its bulbshaped roof, reflects peculiarities of the Transylvanian Baroque. Exterior decorations are plain, bearing Doric style shapes.







► St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church

6o, Trandafirilor Square

(photo 1, 2)

Built by the Jesuite Order in the XVIIIth century, it is one of the most emblematic Baroque churches in Transylvania. The two façade towers frame a brace-shaped gable, decorated with two vaults. The Church's Parish House bears the oldest inscription in Tîrqu Mureş.





22 , Ştefan cel Mare Street

(photo 3, 4)

The construction of the church began in 1815 and was completed in 1830, by the erection of the tower; the church was consecrated in 1831. Its architectural elements place the church into the late Baroque style.





Sinagogue

23, Aurel Filimon Street

(photo 5, 6)

Known as the "Big Temple", it was built between 1899 and 1900 and is considered one of the most beautiful buildings of its kind in Romania. Its architecture is characterized by monumentality and harmonious Eclectic features, which combine Western European styles with the ones that are typical for the Muslim world.



▲ Ascension Orthodox Church (the Great Cathedral)

1, Trandafirilor Square

(photo 7, 8)

Built between 1925 and 1934, the church belongs to the Neo-Byzantine style. Due to its monumental dimensions and very large inner surface of mural paintings, it is one of the most important Orthodox edifices of worship in Romania.

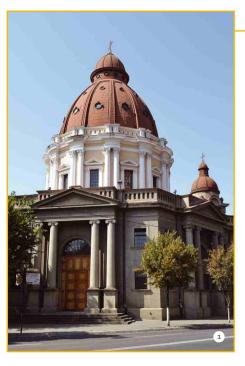








TÎRGU MUREŞ TÎRGU MUREŞ



Annunciation Orthodox Church (the Small Cathedral)

4, Victoriei Square

(photo 1, 2)

The church, under the Annunciation patronage, was built between 1926 and 1936 on the model of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Erected on a triangular area, it "closes" the Western side of the city's central square.



Unitarian Church

13, Bolyai Square

(photo 3, 4)

It was built in 1929-1930 in Neo-Gothic style, also including Romantic architecture tendencies that were specific to that time. Being placed in a crowded urban area, the plani-metrical solution that was adopted is non-typical: the longitudinal side of the church is alligned to the line of the existing houses, lying parallel to the street.





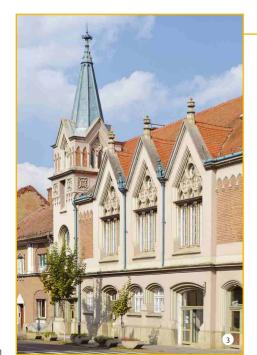


The Palace of Culture

1, George Enescu Street

(photo 6, 7)

Built between 1911 and 1913 from the initiative of Mayor Bernády György, its impressive decorative aspect makes it one of the most illustrative buildings of the Transylvanian Art Nouveau style. The interior structure serves the building's function as palace of arts and sciences. The Great Hall, placed on the ground floor, was designed as a concert hall with a capacity of 800 places, being also provided with an organ. The first floor hosts the Mirror Hall (photo 5), named after its triptych of Venetian mirrors, dedicated to chamber music and various types of reunions. The hall is decorated with mural painting and stained glass, inspired from Szekler folklore and legends. The cultural institutions hosted by this monumental building are: The Art Museum, the State Philarmonic, the History Museum, the County Library, the Art Galleries.











The Administrative Palace

2, Primăriei Street

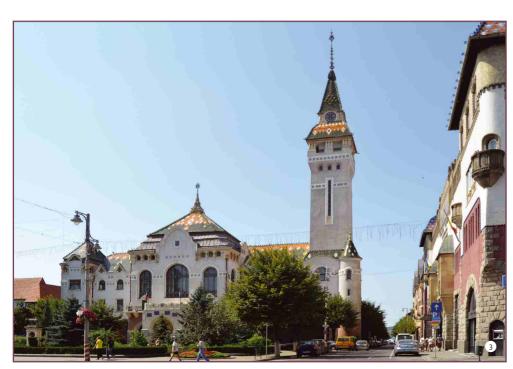
(photo 3)

The Administrative Palace was built in Art Nouveau style between 1907 and 1908 by Mayor Bernády György. Its roof displays coloured tiles, giving the impression of a folk carpet.

A special element is the palace's tower, with a height of 60 meters, which can be visited by tourists, offering an impressive panorama over the city. Compared to the outside, considered one of the most sober among Transylvanian Art Nouveau edifices, the interior (photo 1,2) exhibits a synthesis of decorative styles, with a special picturesque appearance.

The building presently hosts the Prefecture and Mureş County Council.

In the park in front of the Administrative Palace we can admire the Monument of Latinity.





The City Hall

3, Victoriei Square

(photo 4, 5)

The City Hall building is one of the most inspirational neo-Brancovan style edifices, built between 1936 and 1940. The dominant decorative element is the central loggia, which corresponds to the honour hall from the first floor. The roof has a complex structure, being built from many individual prismatic elements.



The National Theatre

1, Teatrului Square

(photo 6)

Built in 1978 on the site of an old Franciscan monastery, from which only the tower remaines (photo 7), the National Theater activates in a building that is harmoniously integrated into a realistic-socialist architectural ensemble. With its two theater companies, performing in Romanian and Hungarian in the same building, the theater is unique in Romania from this point of view.







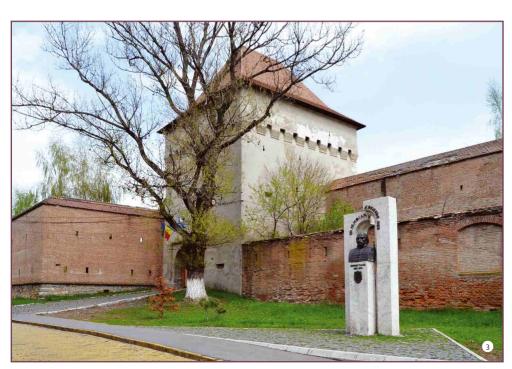


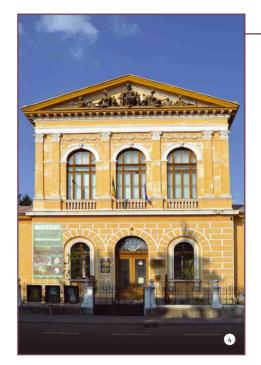
The Medieval Fortress

5, Bernády György Square

(photo 1, 2)

Built at the end of the XVth century and completed between 1602 and 1652 under the lead of judge Borsos Tamás (photo 3 - Borsos Tamás' bust), the architectural complex impresses by its historical and cultural value. It can be placed in the pre-modern fortification typology, representing the transition from the medieval military architecture model - corresponding to Gothic - to the modern one, which has appeared in the period of the Baroque style. The fortress has seven towers: the shoemakers', the furriers', the locksmiths', the coopers', the tailors', the butchers', Bathory's tower and the gate tower; which have been connected by walls, measuring 10 meters in height. One of the three access ways in the Fortress is the Rákóczi Stairs, built in 1902, which have 70 steps and link the Revolution Street to the Medieval Fortress. Nowadays, this site provides an appropriate ambiance for revelant cultural events.





The Museum of Natural Sciences

24, Horea Street

(photo 4, 5)

The edifice was built between 1890 and 1893 in Neo-classical style. The main exhibition of the museum entered the public circuit in 1988. The collection is structured on the following thematic sections: earth resources (minerals and rocks), paleontology, Mureş county flora and fauna, environmental protection.



11, Trandafirilor Square

(photo 6, 7)

Architectural monument typical for the Baroque style, it was built between 1759 and 1772, and it hosts the Ethnographic and Folk Art Museum. The main exhibition is an expression of inter-culturality, of the co-inhabiting of various nationalities and ethnical groups: Romanian, Hungarian, Saxon and Roma population.









Bányai House

12, Trandafirilor Square

(photo 1, 2)

Belonging to the Eclectic style, the Bányai House was built between 1904 and 1907. Between 1933 and 1937, the building served as lodging for Mayor Bernády György. We note the special shape of the roof.



The Apollo Palace (School of Arts)

5, Trandafirilor Square

(photo 3, 4)

The Apollo Palace was built between 1820 and 1822 under the initiative of Count Teleki Sámuel, who, at that time, was Chancellor of Transylvania. In the XIXth century, the house had turned into a place for famous social events in the city. Nowadays, the palace hosts the School of Arts.





Teleki House

2, Petőfi Sándor Square (photo 5)

One of the most relevant buildings of late Baroque style is the house that Count Teleki Domokos erected in 1803. In front of the building stands the statue of the first Mayor of Tîrgu Mureş, Bernády György.

Köpeczi House

1, Revoluției Street (photo 6)

Built in 1554 in Renaissance style by Köpeczi Nagy Tamás, a representative of the Transylvanian Principality, it was redecorated in Baroque style at the beginning of the XIXth century. It is the oldest multi-storey building in the city.

House with

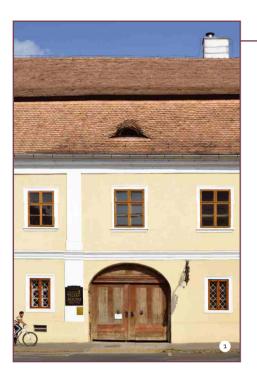
arcades

1, Călărașilor Street (photo 7)

The house dating from the XVth century was rebuilt in the XVIIIth century, when it received its Baroque appearance. The special aspect of the house is given by the sequence of arcades on which the building was initially erected.







Teleki-Bolyai Library

17, Bolyai Farkas Street

(photo 1)

Built in late Transylvanian baroque style in 1802, by Count Teleki Sámuel, it is the first public library in Romania. The building hosts one of the most important collections of old books in Transylvania. Its symbol is the owl, the bird of wisdom (photo 2).



The Pensioners' Palace

6, George Enescu Street

(photo 3, 4)

The Pensioners' Palace was built in 1909 in Art Nouveau style; it is placed between the Palace of Culture and the Administrative Palace, harmoniously matching their architectural traits. The building was erected for the public administration pensioners.





Bernády György Memorial House

31, Revoluției Street (photo 5)

The edifice was built between 1912 and 1913 in Art Nouveau style by Mayor Bernády György, being his residence.



Avram lancu Memorial House

23, Avram Iancu Street (photo 6)

The edifice was built in the 19th century, initially being a hospital. Between 1847 and 1848, the 1848 revolutioner Avram lancu lived in this house.



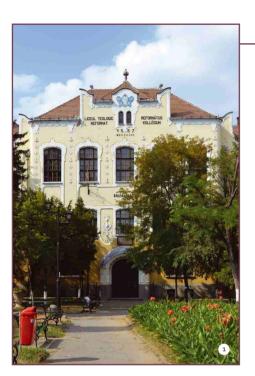
Pálffy House (University of Arts)

12, Bolyai Farkas Street (photo 7)

Built around 1640 by judge Tolnai János, it was bought by the Pálffy family in 1885. Today, it hosts the Music Faculty of the University of Arts.



16



Bolyai Farkas High School building

3, Bolyai Farkas Street

(photo 1)

Built in several stages, starting in 1802 and ending at the beginning of the XXth century, the edifice is one of the first Art Nouveau buildings in the city. The famous mathematicians Bolyai Farkas and Bolyai János (photo 2) studied at this high school, their statuary group standing in the park in front of the building.



University of Medicine and Pharmacy building

38, Gheorghe Marinescu Street

(photo 3, 4)

Built in Art Nouveau style between 1906 and 1907 during the mandate of Mayor Bernády György, initially served as a military school. The local medical education was initiated in 1945, at first within the Faculty of Medicine from Bolyai University of Cluj, and after 1948 - as an autonomous institute.







Al. Papiu Ilarian National College building

12, Bernády György Street (photo 5)

Built between 1912 and 1913 in Art Nouveau style by Mayor Bernády György. In front of the institution we ca find the bust of Al. Papiu llarian.

Building of the Union National College

17, Mihai Viteazul Street (photo 6)

This impressive architectural ensemble was built between 1903 and 1905 in Art Nouveau style.

Petru Maior University buildings

1, Nicolae Iorga Street 7, Bernády György Square (photo 7)

The university has two buildings: the first one, erected between 1908 and 1912, and the second one - in 1906. Both edifices belong to the Art Nouveau style.



18



Kendeffy House (Court Building)

str. Bolyai Farkas, nr. 30 (photo 1)

The impressive building in which the Tribunal functions was built in 1789 and harmoniously combines late Baroque elements with Neo-classical ones.



Building of the Court of Justice and Court of Appeal

1, Street Justiției (photo 2)

Built as the Palace of Justice between 1895 and 1897, it belongs to the Neo-classical style.



The Postal

Palace

2, Street Revoluției (photo 3)

The Postal edifice was built between 1910 and 1912 in Art Deco style and had the same destination from its foundation until now.







Events

Musical Days of Tîrgu Mureş - May

Days of Tîrgu Mureş - May

Peninsula Festival - August

 ${\bf International\ Festival\ of\ Classical\ Guitar}$

- August

International Canine Exhibition

- September (photo 6)

Constantin Silvestri International Festival

- October (photo 4)

Feast of Wine and Handicrafts - October

National Championship of two-horse carts

- October

International Festival of AlterNative Short Films - November (photo 5)



Corneşti Plateau with the zoo and the narrow-gauge train for children

57, Verii Street (photo 1)

Placed in the Eastern part of the city, the center provides various leisure opportunities, and a wonderful panorama over the city.



Mureşul leisure and sports complex (Weekend)

2, Plutelor Street (photo 2)

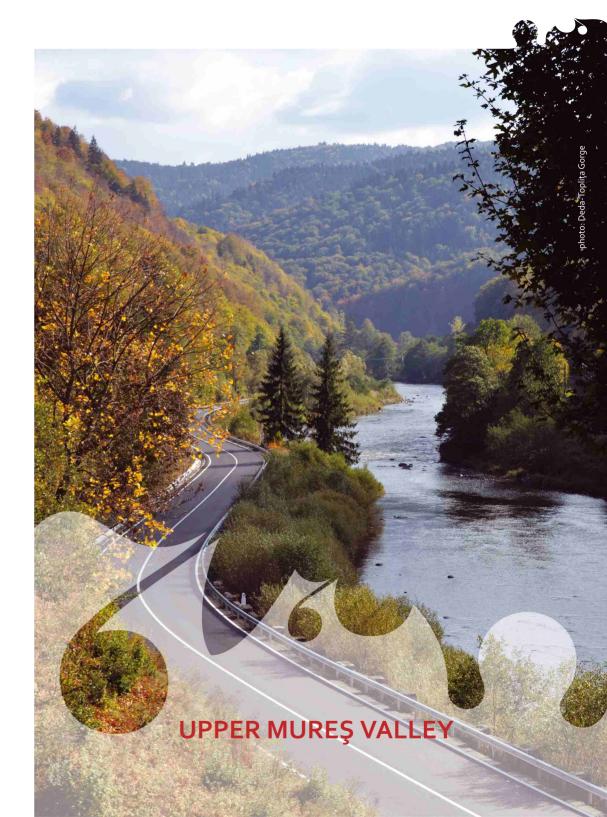
The sports complex provides facilities for practicing various sports: rowing, swimming, minifootball, basketball, handball, volley, tennis and other leisure activities.



The Hippodrome

1, Parcul Sportiv Municipal Street (photo 3)

The sports center organizes riding courses, as well as dedicated national and international equitation events.

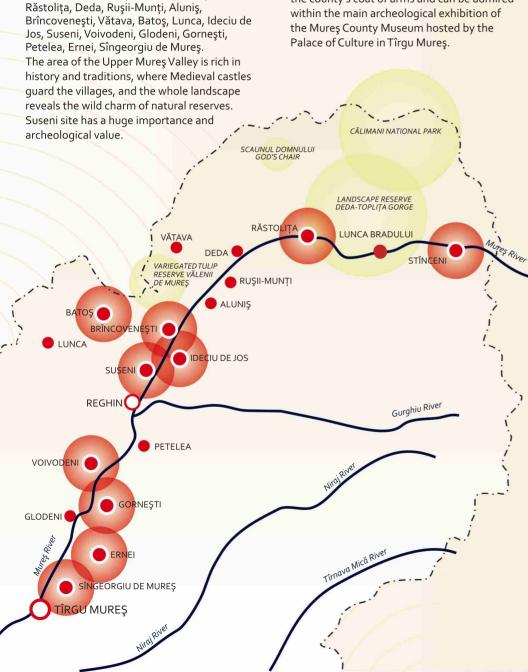


Upper Mureş Valley

Mureş River enters the county by the Deda-Toplita Gorge, passing through the following communes: Stînceni, Lunca Bradului, Răstolița, Deda, Rușii-Munți, Aluniș,



Here, the Suseni Fibula was discovered,, symbol of Mures county, which is placed on the county's coat of arms and can be admired within the main archeological exhibition of the Mures County Museum hosted by the





Kemény Castle of Brîncovenești

Brîncoveneşti commune, Brîncoveneşti village (photo 1, 2)

The Medieval castle was buit on the site of the old Roman castrum, and received its Renaissance form in 1557, due to Kendi Ferenc. Since 1648, for 300 years, it has belonged to the Kemény family. In 1926, it became the center of literary meetings for Transylvanian writers, most of them of Hungarian language.



Wooden Church of Răstolița

Răstolița commune, Răstolița village (photo 3, 4)

The old wooden Orthodox church from Răstolița, placed in the village cemetery, has a special artistic value. The church's plan reminds us of the architecture of the Moldavian wooden churches.





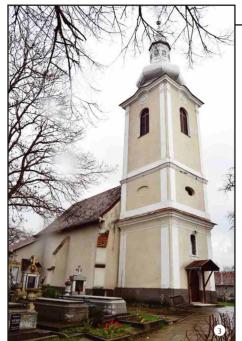




Sîngeorgiu de Mureş commune, Sîngeorgiu de Mureş village (photo 1, 2)

Placed 3 km North-East of Tîrgu Mureş city, the baths have been known since the 1880s. The rich content of minerals (iodine, calcium, magnesium, potassium and nitrogen) gives special therapeutic qualities to the waters. These waters have the highest content of iodine in Transylvania. Iodine is a chemical element said to have the property of "the key to longevity".

The salt waters of Sîngeorgiu de Mureş have remarkable effects in treating: rheumatism, post-traumatic conditions, neurological problems, disorders of the genito-urinary system, and children's illnesses. Mineral mud packs are used in the treatment of: rheumatic illnesses, gynaecological problems, post-traumatic disorders, hypoparathyroidism, pituitary dwarfism, and dermatological conditions.



Catholic Church of Sîngeorgiu de Mureş

Sîngeorgiu de Mureş commune, Sîngeorgiu de Mureş village (photo 3, 4)

Built in the XIVth century, the church is placed, from the architectural point of view, at the border between Roman and Gothic styles. The coffered ceiling was completed in 1750, its central element being the image of Saint George.



Ideciu Băi Spa Resort

Ideciu de Jos commune, Ideciu de Jos village (photo 5)

The commune of Ideciu de Jos is located on the left bank of the River Mureş, 5 km North of the city of Reghin.

The baths have been used for treatment since 1880. The spa resort at Ideciu Băi is famous for its salt water springs, salt lake and therapeutic mud.

Chemical analysis demonstrate the high mineralization degree of the waters in salts that are important for their therapeutic effects. Analytical results classify the waters of these lakes as ones with the highest concentrations of sodium chloride.





conditions.







Călimani National Park

(photo 1, 2)

Placed in the Western part of the Eastern Carpathians, the park occupies an area of 11,000 ha, from Mureş, Bistriţa, Suceava and Harghita counties. It was mainly founded for the conservation of flora and fauna biodiversity, maintaining the natural geographical profile, and the natural habitats.



Scaunul Domnului - God's Chair

photo 3

Scaunul Domnului - God's Chair, placed near Răstolița commune, is a mountain peak that dominates Mureş Valley, and reaches the height of 1,380 meters. From this altitude, one can admire the spectacular panorama of the valley. According to a local legend this is the judgement chair on which God will stay on Judgement Day.





Landscape Reserve Deda-Toplita Gorge

(photo 4, 5)

Placed on the Mureş River valley, the gorge passes through the Călimani-Gurghiu volcanic mountains, crossing the communes of: Deda, Răstolița, Lunca Bradului and Stînceni. The gorge forms a narrow corridor with spectacular landscapes, rocks, ridges and an enchanting valley. The gorge is arranged for car and railway transportation.



Variegated Tulip Reserve

Vălenii de Mureş

(photo 6)

Brîncoveneşti commune, Vălenii de Mureş village

The reserve spreads over a hill area, covering 2.25 ha. Variegated Tulips (*Fritillaria meleagris*) bloom in April-May, with a density of two to ten plants on one square meter.



Teleki Castle of Gorneşti

Gorneşti commune, Gorneşti village (photo 1, 2)

The castle, one of the most representative accomplishments of Transylvanian Baroque, was built between 1772 and 1803. It is placed in the close neighbourhood of the river Mureş , in an impressive dendrological park decorated with numerous allegorical statues. The castle has 52 rooms and 365 windows, symbolizing the weeks and days of the year.



Teleki Castle of Dumbrăvioara

Ernei commune, 340, Dumbrăvioara village (photo 3, 4)

The castle was built between 1769 and 1773 by Teleki Sámuel, Chancellor of Transylvania. He built the ground floor, the first floor being completed by his grandson. The edifice reached its final form in 1912, being one of the most beautiful Baroque castles in Transylvania, being surrounded by a dendrological park.





The Folk Dance Festival of Voivodeni - April

Festival of the Mureş-Călimani Communities - July (photo 7)

Cherry Festival at Brîncoveneşti - July

Apple Feast at Batoş - October (photo 8)



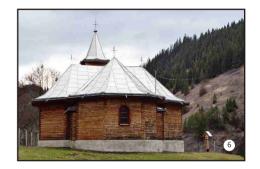


Stînceni

Stînceni commune, Stînceni village

(photo 6)

Stînceni village is placed at the entrance of the river Mureş in the Deda-Toplita gorge. The main natural resources are: mineral water, wood and andesite stone. The area, exquisitely picturesque, is the ideal place for practicing adventure tourism (photo 5), fishing and hunting.















Reghin

With a very favourable position from a strategic point of view, at the confluence of the rivers Mureş and Gurghiu, Reghin is documentary mentioned for the first time in 1228, under the name of Regun. The city is placed at the crossing point of two ancient and important roads, one on the Mureş Valley (Tîrgu Mureş - Reghin - Deda -Toplita) and the other one on the Gurghiu Valley, towards the Transylvanian Plain (Lăpușna - Gurghiu -Reghin - Crăiești). Reghin is nowadays famous in the world as a "violin city". The chords of the instruments created in this small town of Mureş county vibrate in famous concert halls all over the world (photo 1 - Violin monument).



51, Vânătorilor Street

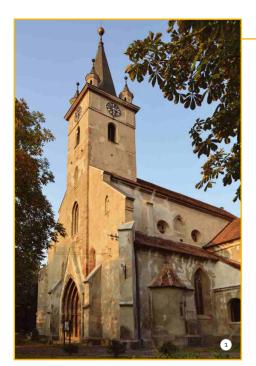
(photo 2, 3)

Placed at the crossroad of different ethnographical areas - Upper Mureş, Subcălimanilor area, Transylvanian Plain - the research area of the Reghin museum comprises over 600 rural settlements from Mureş county and around 300 ones from neighbouring counties.









Evangelical Church

1, Călărașilor Street

(photo 1, 2)

Built in Gothic style from 1330 onwards, with a 50m high tower, it is the oldest church in Reghin and also the city's symbol. The Church is dedicated to Virgin Mary, as we find out from the inscription placed in the choir, the oldest Latin inscription from a Transylvanian church.



Wooden Church

5, Măcieșului Street

(photo 3, 4)

Also known as the "Church of Petru Maior", the old small wooden church, placed under the patronage of the "Saint Archaengels", was built in the first half of the XVIIIth century. On the Southern side, a beautiful frame with traditional Romanian motifs carved in wood - the rope motif, the cross motif, the solar rosette - is preserved.



► The Roman Catholic Church

63, Mihai Viteazul Street

(photo 5, 6)

The Roman Catholic Church was consecrated in 1784. Its architectural style is Late Baroque. In the church's courtyard one can find a statue park, representing personalities of cultural and spiritual life.



Reformed Church

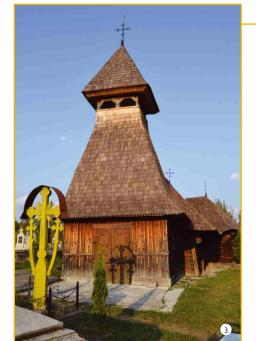
51, Mihai Viteazul Street

(photo 7, 8)

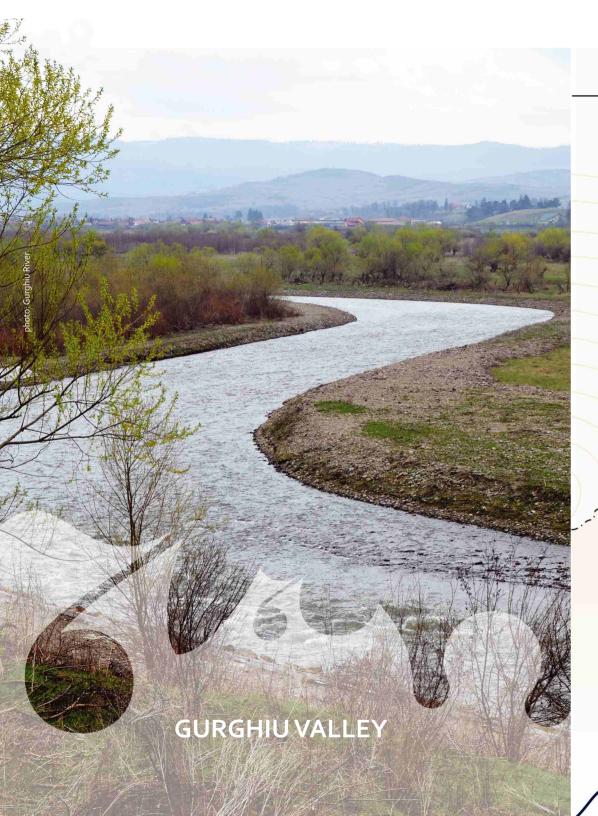
Placed near the Roman-Catholic Church, the Reformed Church was built in 1890. The carved wooden furniture is of a special artistic value. An exceptional element of the interior decoration is represented by the 180 painted wooden coffers, which illustrate the churches of the region.











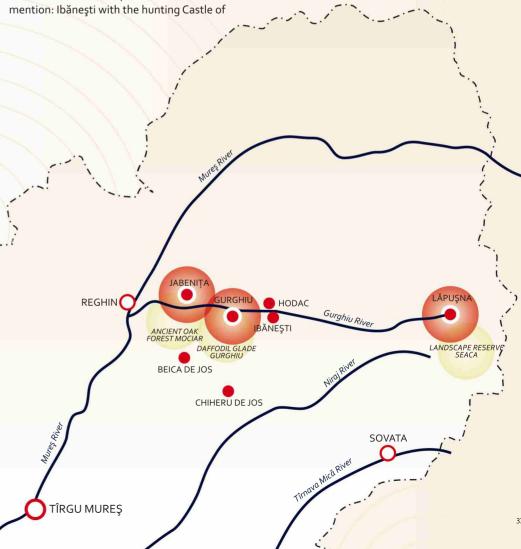
Gurghiu Valley

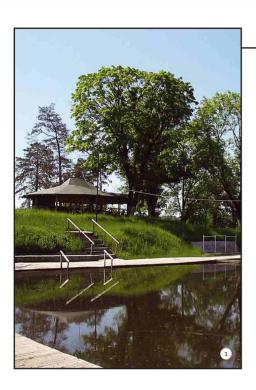
Gurghiu Valley appears as a secluded and quiet place, where one can redisvover the Romanian and Hungarian culture, their customs and traditions, in special natural surroundings.

The river Gurghiu, which springs from the homonymous mountains, at an altitude of 1200 m, into Mureş River near Reghin.

Nowadays, along Gurghiu Valley, covered in mountain snowdrops during spring, there lie numerous settlements, from which we mention: Ibăneşti with the hunting Castle of

Lăpuşna, Hodac, Gurghiu, with the castle and dendrologic park, Solovăstru with the Jabenița baths, Beica de Jos, Chiheru de Jos. The Daffodils Glade of Gurghiu, the Ancient Oak Forest of Mociar, Landscape Reserve Seaca are protected areas, constituting real natural "oases" by their value and reduced level of human impact.





Jabenita Salt Baths

Solovăstru commune, Jabenita village (photo 1, 2)

Placed 6 km East of Reghin, the baths are known as a spa resort since 1800, due to their high quality waters and mud. The water's high content in sodium chloride and iodine is efficient in curing rheumatical disorders. The water also has positive effects in arthritis, neuralgia, gynecological disorders, rachitis and tuberculous cervical lymphadenitis.



Hunting Castle of Lăpușna

Ibănești commune, Lăpușna village (photo 3, 4)

Placed in the Gurghiu Mountains, in a wonderful landscape, with a genuine Romanian architecture, Lăpușna manor displays a subtle mixture of elegance, style and good taste. The construction was performed during 1925-1926, the castle belonging until 1949 to Romanian kings Ferdinand, Carl the 2nd and Michael the 1st.







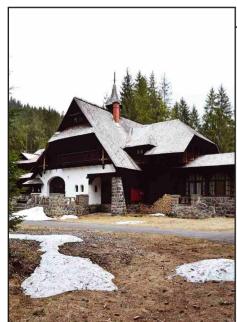
Bornemissza Castle of Gurghiu

Gurghiu commune, Gurghiu village

(photo 5)

The construction was initiated by Prince Gheorghe Rákóczi I between 1642 and 1643. In 1734, the estate came into the possession of the Bornemissza family, who completed the edifice in Baroque style, with Renaissance elements. The ensemble includes a Roman Catholic chapel (photo 6) and a dendrological park (photo 7).









Daffodil Glade

Gurghiu

Gurghiu commune, Gurghiu village (photo 1)

The botanical reserve of 3 ha is situated on the Western side of Gurghiu Mountains. The daffodils (*Narcissus stelaris*) can be admired in April-May. The reserve also hosts other 164 plant



The Ancient

Oak Forest Mociar

Gurghiu commune (photo 2)

The natural reserve, with a surface of 48 ha and situated near Reghin, is the oldest forest in the country. The oaks are 400 to 500 years old.



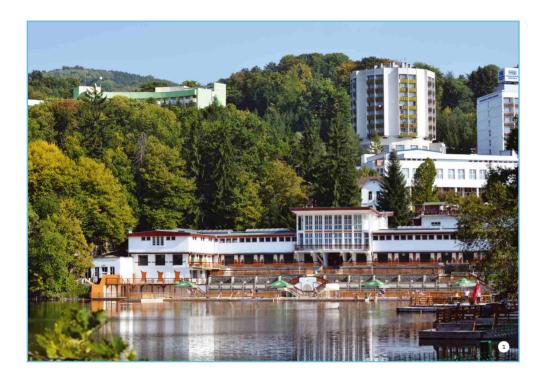
Landscape Reserve Seaca

Ibănești commune and Sovata (photo 3)

It is a botanical and forest reserve of around 7700 ha. Woods constitute the dominant eco-system of this protected area.











Sovata Spa

(photo 1)

Placed at the foot of Gurghiu Mountains, 60 km east of Tîrqu Mureş, it has been known since Roman times. On the ruins of a salt mine dating from that time, Lake Ursu was eventually formed. The salt waters form several lakes: Lake Ursu, Lake Aluniş, Lake Verde, Lake Negru, Lake Roşu, Lake Mierlei, Lake Paraschiva. The waters of these lakes are chlorinated with high concentrations of sodium, yielding the phenomenon of heliothermia which is unique in Europe - the water temperature increases with depth, which means that surface water is colder than the deep one. A very appreciated tourist attraction is the natural salt formation near Lake Verde, called the Salt Mountain (photo 2). 8 km from the resort, on a road that is accessible both in summer and winter, at an altitude of 1200 m, one can find a ski slope with 2 trails, each 1100m long, with an altitude variation of 350 m. The slope is provided with cable facilities, and an additional slope for beginners (photo 3).







Therapy in this resort is recommended for the treatment of: gynaecological problems (in particular sterility), rheumatism, post-traumatic disorders, neurological problems, endocrine disorders, cardiovascular illnesses, and dermatological conditions (such as psoriasis). At Sovata the visitor can benefit from: salt water treatments in the baths, the pool, or Lake Ursu; mud packs; physiotherapy through electrotherapy; thermotherapy; hydrotherapy, phototherapy, therapeutic massage; and therapeutic gymnastics.







Roman Catholic Church of Eremitu

Eremitu commune, Eremitu village

(photo 1)

The construction of the church started in 1783 and was completed in 1812. The church hosts a cross (photo 2) of a remarkable artistic value, dating from 1486, which, according to the legend, was brought to Tîrgu Mureş from the Reformed Church in the Castle during the Reform period.



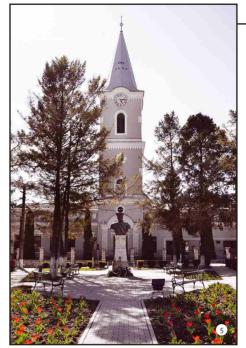
Unitarian Church of Sînvăsii

Găleşti commune, Sînvăsii village

(photo 3, 4)

The Unitarian Church was built during the XIVth and XVth centuries in Gothic style on the site of an older basilica from the XIIth century. The frescoes, discovered in 1896, date from 1497. Under the tower there is the tomb of the Sigér family, and near the church - the bust of Saint Basil.





The Reformed Church of Miercurea Nirajului

2, Nirajului Street

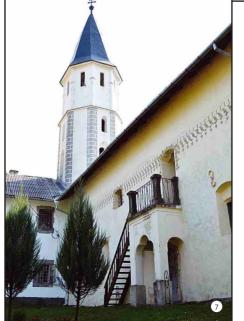
In front of the Reformed Church (photo 5), built in 1838, stands the bust of Prince Bocskay István (photo 6), elected at Miercurea Nirajului, on February the 21st, 1605, as prince of Transylvania, the town name entering thereby into history.



Franciscan Monastery of Călugăreni

Eremitu commune, Călugăreni village (photo 7, 8)

The Monastery was founded between 1666-1678 by Bosnian monks and the noble Toldalagi family, from the Transylvanian nobility. The architectural complex combines Renaissance and Baroque stylistic elements.







NIRAJ VALLEY



Cîmpu Cetății

Eremitu commune, Cîmpu Cetății village

Cîmpu Cetății village is placed on the upper Niraj Valley on a side road, between Eremitu village and Sovata town. The village name comes from the former fortress nearby. The attractions of the area are the trout farm (photo 1) and the snowdrop field (photo 2).



Variegated Tulip Reserve of Grîuşorul

Vărgata commune, Grîuşoru village

(photo 3)

Variegated Tulip, one of the most rare tulip specie in our country, can be admired during April and May in this natural reserve. The Latin name of the plant - Frittilaria meleagris means chess board.



Events

Barn Theatre Days at Călugăreni - May -September (photo 7)

Days of Nirajului Valley Microregion - July

Bluberry Festival at Cîmpu Cetății - August (photo 6)

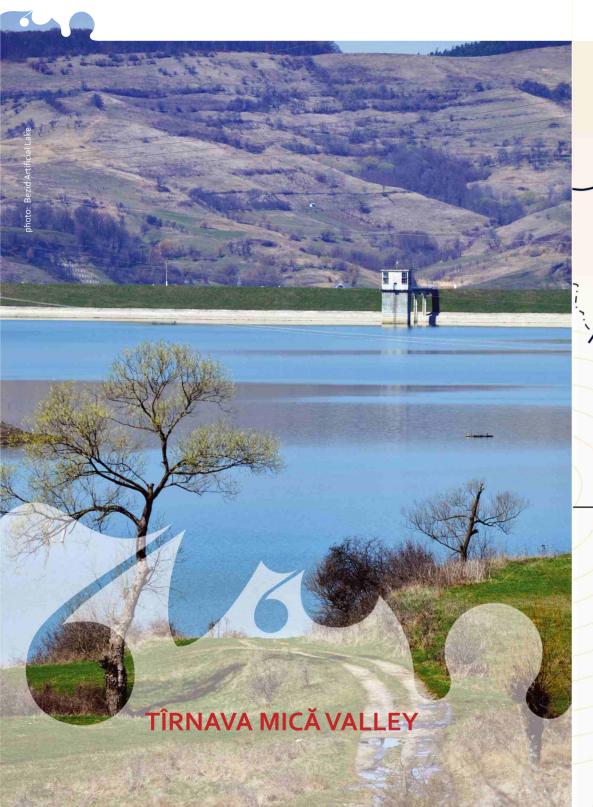
Festival of Hot Air Balloons at Cîmpu Cetății - September (photo 5)

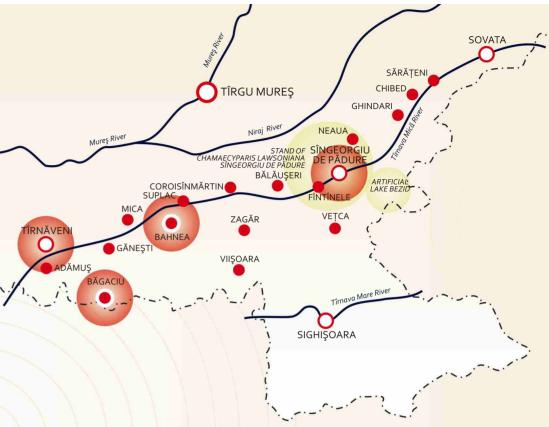




There are many access paths to the Becheci Peak of Gurghiu Mountains, one of them starting from the outskirts of Eremitu village, on a picturesque trail. On the mountain ridge we can find the Church of the Saint Cross (photo 4), accessible from the village of Şilea Nirajului. The peak, with a height of 1080 m, offers a superb panorama upon the Niraj Valley.







Tîrnava Mică Valley

Tîrnava Mică Valley is famous for its scented wines, known from ancient times.

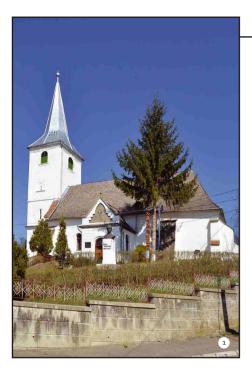
Due to vine cultivation on a large area, the region has been designated, even from Medieval times, as a genuine "wine region" and it has become the ideal place for a special holiday.

On the Tîrnava Mică Valley one can find the stand of Chamaecyparis Lawsoniana at Sîngeorgiu de Pădure, covering an area of around 5.80 ha, with a special scientific interest for the "California cypress" (*Chameaecyparis lawsoniana*), more than 75 years old.

From Sovata to Tîrnăveni, tourists can admire picturesque settlements as Sărăţeni, Chibed, Ghindari, Sîngeorgiu de Pădure, Neaua, Fîntînele, Bălăuşeri, Veţca, Coroisînmărtin, Bahnea, Mica, Suplac, Găneşti, Băgaciu, Adămuş, Zagăr, Viişoara.

The most important event in the region is the Autumn of the Tîrnava (Rivers), which takes place in October.

TÎRNAVA MICĂ VALLEY TÎRNAVA MICĂ VALLEY



L Unitarian Church of Tîrnăveni

9, Primăriei Square

The town of Tîrnăveni was documentary mentioned in 1278, but went through an urban development only at the beginning of the XXth century. The Unitarian Church (photo 1) was built in Gothic style at the end of the XIIIth century, going through transformations in the XVIth, XVIIIth and XIXth centuries. The bust of poet Sipos Domokos (photo 2) is placed in the church's courtyard.





Rhédey Castle of Sîngeorgiu de Pădure

The castle (photo 5), built in the XVIIIth century, has a Neo-Baroque aspect, with big vaulted halls and mural paintings, very well preserved. The Rhédey family noblemen were related to famous crowned families of Europe: Claudina Rhédey, the great-greatgrandmother of the Queen of Great Britain is buried in the crypt beneath the Gothic Reformed Church from the XIIIth century (photo 6).



Băgaciu - the Fortified Church / Wines

Băgaciu commune, Băgaciu village

The fortified church (photo 3) in late Gothic style was built in the XIVth century and fortified in the XVth century. One can notice the exterior sculptures, but also valuable interior decoration objects, such as the triptych Altar, unique in the region, displaying scenes with Virgin Mary. Băgaciu commune is also well known for its wine production (photo 4).





Bethlen Castle of Bahnea

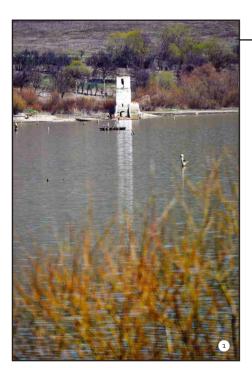
Bahnea commune, Bahnea village

(photo 7, 8)

The castle "owes" its existance to the Bethlen family, who settled here in 1441. It was originally built in Renaissance style in 1545, by Bethlen Farkas. The changes and new buildings added in time have confered the castle a special appearance, as a result of combining the Renaissance, Gothic, Romantic and Baroque styles.







Bezid Artificial Lake

The artificial lake (photo 2) is situated at approximately 2 km from Sîngeorgiu de Pădure, its surface measuring 157 km². By building the dam, Bezidul Nou village was flooded. The church's bell tower (photo 1) emerging from the lake water, has become a tourist attraction. The lake is appreciated for the ecological and leisure tourism practiced here and for the fishing competitions.



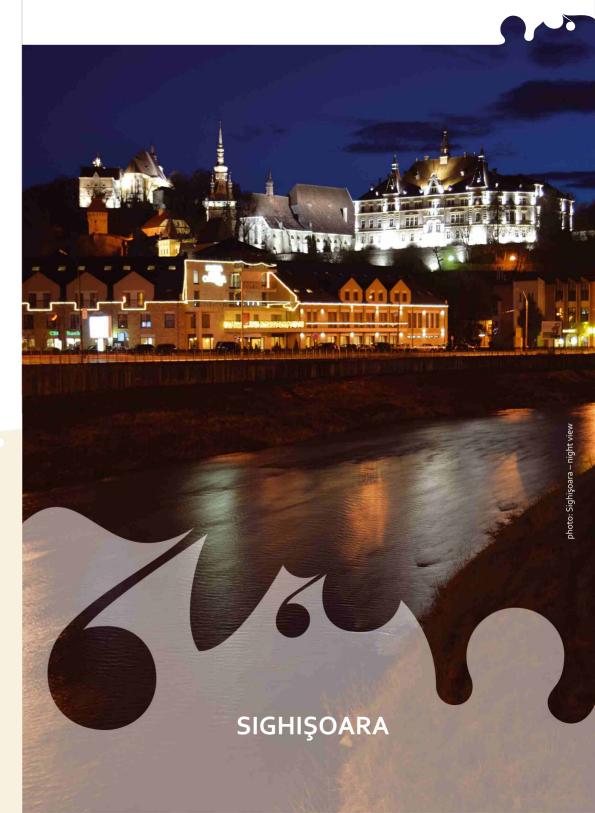
The Salt Road

Part of an eco-touristic program, the Salt Road is a "green" trail which crosses the county, passing through regions of a very special beauty. The Salt Road was the ancient commercial road along which salt was burdensomely transported, from the salt mines to the selling places, salt being, in those times, a very valuable product. The project aims at reconstructing the salt trail from the Sovata region towards Tîrgu Mureş along the path Sărățeni - Mătrici - Vărgata - Beu - Tîrgu Mureş.

TÎRGU MUREŞ

Presently, work is undergoing for preparing the trail so that tourists may benefit of the comfort that such a trail demands. Hikers will be able to walk on the old Roman road, 50 kilometers long, admiring the natural beauties and the cultural heritage of the region.





Sighisoara

The geographical position confers Sighisoara a key role on the Tîrnava Mare Valley, as a crossroad of main roads, and an important railway node.

Sighişoara was founded by German immigrants in the second half of the XIIth century, becoming a town in 1407. The first documentary mention of Sighişoara has come from 1298. The town was erected on a high plateau, serving as a refuge for the inhabitants of the foot-hill settlement. The town's epoch of glory is represented by the XVth-XVIIth centuries, when the "burg" becomes an artistic center. From the political point of view, Sighisoara gains an important position among the "Seven Fortresses" of Medieval Transylvania playing a main role in the relations with Vallachia. This rank explains the presence at Sighişoara, between 1431 and

1435, of the Vallachian Lord Vlad Dracul, member of the Dragon Order and father of Vlad Tepes.

Sighisoara fortress, one of the most spectacular and mysterious Medieval fortresses in Transylvania, represents a genuine historical monument which keeps alive the emotion of meeting the past, and where the traveler discovers a charming world.

A Medieval complex of military, civil and eclesiastical architecture of European value, Sighisoara fortress is the only entirely inhabited medieval fortress in South-Eastern Europe. Nowadays, it belongs to the UNESCO universal heritage.





The Clock Tower

Also known as the Gate Tower (photo 1), the Clock Tower is placed Eastwards and represents the main entrance into the fortress. Fascinating symbol of the city of Sighisoara, the tower dates from the XIVth century and is 64 meters tall. The fifth level hosts, since the XVIIth century, the famous clock with human characters (photo 2), created in "Rustic Baroque" syle. Full of significance, the embodiments of the main Roman and Greek gods lead to symbols from astronomy, astrology and alchemy. From the pavilion placed at the last level, a superb panaorama over the city and its surroundings opens. Since 1899, the tower rooms were dedicated to the city's History Museum (photo 3), being the only one in the country which reflects the craftsmen evolution in Sighisoara and whole Transvlvania. The Museum comprises thematic halls (archeology, ceramics, ethnography, furniture, crafts, clock making), respectively the Weapon Hall - placed in a nearby house, and the Torture Chamber in the former iail room.

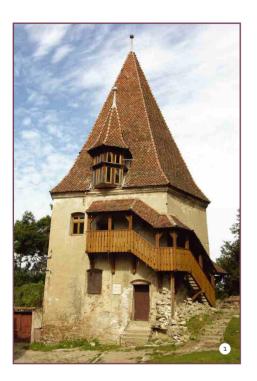






The Tailors' Tower

The second access gate into the fortress, also known as the Big Tower of the Rear Gate (photo 4), dates from the XIIIth –XIVth centuries, belonging to one of the richest guilds, the tailors' one. It is impressive by its simplicity and massive aspect. It has an entrance formed by two vaulted corridors. which had, in older times, oak gates and iron racks.













The Tinsmiths' Tower (photo 2) - dating from the XIVth century, with a height of 25 m.

The Blacksmiths' Tower (photo 3) - dating from 1631.

The Ropesmiths' Tower (photo 4) - dating from the XIVth century, today the lodge of the cemetery's keeper.

The Furriers' Tower (photo 5) - dating from the XVth century.

The Butchers' Tower (photo 6) - dating from the XVth century, built in Renaissance style.

The Tanners' Tower (photo 7) - dating from the XIIIth-XIVth centuries, one of the oldest towers of the fortress.











Fortress Square

Sighişoara Fortress

(photo 1, 2)

The fortress square was formerly known as Petőfi Square. It is surrounded by several houses which have once been residences of noble families of the city. These houses date from the XVth to XVIIth centuries and are displayed in a rectangular shape. The opulent aspect of these edifices is different from the modest craftsmen houses. The central fortress square formerly held trials and executions. Here, the pillory was installed where villains were tied with a six kilograms stone hung by the neck.

Nowadays, this generous space is a place where tourists can admire the city's beaty from stylish terraces, and where most of the city's cultural events are hosted.



Vlad Ţepeş also known as Dracula

Vlad Tepeş (photo 3), son of King Vlad Dracul, was born in 1431 in the fortress of Sighişoara. His father was, at that time, the military Governor of Transylvania. The name of Dracul is linked to his membership of the Dragon Order, a military order created by Emperor Sigismund of Luxemburg, for defending Christianity.

Vlad Ţepeş was an army leader, skilled diplomat and weapon handler, due to the skills he had obtained while being held hostage at the Ottoman Porte. The "Ţepeş" (impaler) name was given after his death in 1476 because of the way he punished Ottomans, by impalement.

Vlad Ţepeş, surnamed Dracula, remained a symbol of the protector of justice prince in the Romanian historical mythology, but also of the immortal vampire from the Western Gothic literature.



The House of Vlad Dracul

5, Cositorarilor Street

(photo 4, 5)

Dating from the XIVth century, it is one of the oldest buildings in the city of Sighişoara, preserved until today. It is placed in the central area of the city and it was a public building, belonging to the guards, as a guest house. Here, in 1431, the Vallachian ruler Vlad Ţepeş was born, son of Vlad Dracul, who lived in the city between 1431 and 1435.





The Stag House

1, Şcolii Street (photo 1)

The Stag House dating from the XVIIth century - is a building specific to the Transylvanian Renaissance, named after the stag head fixed to the corner of the building.



The Venetian

House

6, Muzeului Square (photo 2)

Dating from the XVIth century, it has a simple, two floor structure. It is named after the double windows whose framing style is inspired from the Venetian Gothic style. With its vivid exterior, it is a colourful spot in the city's ambiance.



The Covered Wooden Staircase

Şcolii Street (photo 3)

Also named the Pupils' Staircase, it was built in 1642, in order to facilitate children's access to the Hill School during winter. Consequent to the changes in 1849, it arrived from the initial 300 steps to only 175 steps.



The City Hall

7, Muzeului Square

(photo 4, 5)

The City Hall is one of the most beautiful buidings in the city, built between 1887 and 1888, in Neo-Renaissance style. Placed on the outer side of the fortress, near the Monastery Church, the building seems to watch over the Lower City. The Baroque hall from the first floor hosts the Academic Music Festival and many other concerts.



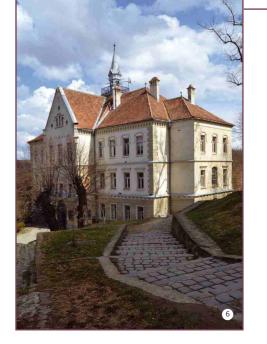
The Old School Building on the

5-6, Scării Street

Hill (Haltrich)

(photo 6, 7)

The School on the Hill was built between 1607 and 1608. Initially, it only had the ground floor and the first floor; but in 1901 other floors were added and a new façade - created. Presently, the high school bears the name of Joseph Haltrich, famous philologist and collector of popular Saxon legends.













(photo 1, 2, 3)

Built between 1345-1525, the church is one of the most representative eclesiastical buildings in the Gothic style in Transylvania and among the most important architectural monuments in the Fortress of Sighişoara. The value of this edifice is increased by the crypt beneath the choir, the only one of this kind in the area, with tombs from the XVIth-XVIIIth centuries.





Monastery Church

8, Muzeului Square

(photo 4)

Erected in the XIIIth century, the church belonged to the Dominican Order. The simplicity of the church's interior is revealed by contrasting with the Baroque Altar and organ (photo 5). The organ is still played at the numerous concerts which take place in the church.



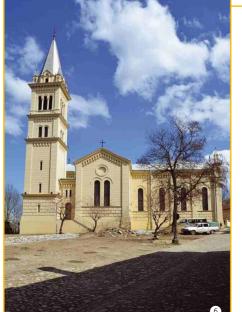
St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church

14, Mănăstirii Street

(photo 6)

The construction began in 1895 on the site of an old church. The edifice is characterized by an Eclectic style, within which Neo-Gothic and Neo-Roman architectural elements prevail. In the church courtyard, one can find the bust of the Blessed Bishop Apor Vilmos (photo 7), born in Sighişoara.

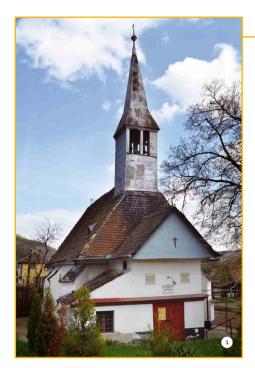






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SIGHIŞOARA SIGHIŞOARA



Lepers' Church

34, Ştefan cel Mare Street

(photo 1)

Placed in the "Lower city", the church is a Gothic monument from the 15th century. During 1647-1648, it was transformed into a church for serving the lepers' asylum - as its name stands; the pulpit in its Western part (photo 2) was used when preaching to the ill people.



► Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral

Nicolae Titulescu Street

(photo 3, 4)

Built between 1934 and 1937 in Neo-Romanian style, the Cathedral lies on the Northern bank of Tîrnava Mare. Here, on every 30th of November, Saint Apostle Andrew is celebrated and the Metropolitan Andrei Şaguna is honoured.





Events

International Blues Festival - February (photo 8)

Medieval Festival of Sighişoara - July (photo 7)

Festival of Academic Music - August







(photo 5, 6)

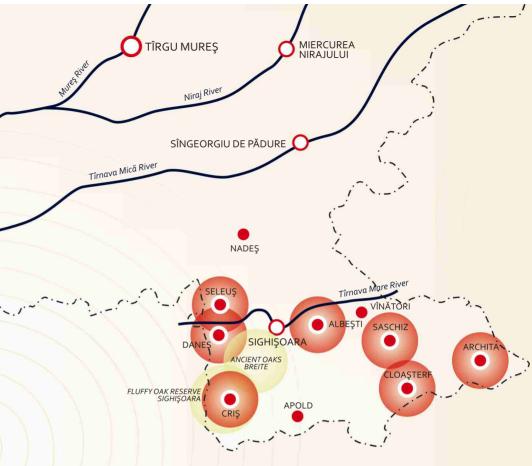
Placed at the foot of the Fortress, it was "born" in the XIIIth century, during the Middle Ages, being considered as a "suburb" of the Upper City. Nevertheless, it has developed taking into account several advantages, such as the wider area, accessibility and closeness to the Tîrnava Mare. Old houses, with light coloured and impressive façades were preserved here.











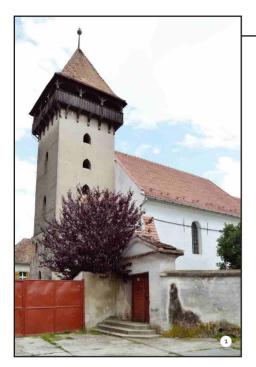
Tîrnava Mare Valley

This area, of a special charm, has as its central point the Sighişoara fortress. Along the Tîrnava Mare Valley, one can discover fortified churches, castles and fortresses rich in history, as well as natural reserves which fulfill the landscape.

Saschiz, as a top interest point, documentary mentioned in 1308-1310, is part of the UNESCO heritage.

The churches of Seleuş, Daneş, Criş, Apold, Cloaşterf, Archita, Saschiz, Nadeş, as a group, are remarkable; nowhere else in the world one can find so many fortified churches in such a small area, fact that proves the phenomenon's generality at the scale of a geographical and ethno-cultural area. Each village, by the Saxon-type architecture of the buildings, by the picturesque landscapes, is impressive for the tourist who steps into the adventure of discovering these places of miracle.





► Fortified Church of Daneş

Daneş commune, Daneş village

(photo 1,2)

The church was built in Gothic style at the beginning of the XVIth century. In the same period, as defense against the Turks, the gallery with ramparts and crenels was built. Only a small defence tower was preserved from the old church. The two bells steeple with wooden warder was built in 1927.



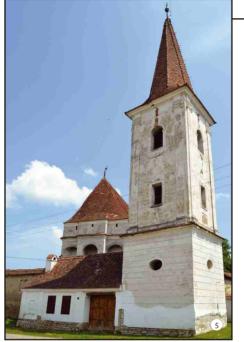
Fortified Church of Seleus

Danes commune, Seleus village

(photo 3,4)

It was built in 1476 in Gothic style and fortified in the XVIth century. Consequent to many renovations, its present form was reached in 1820. The Altar was built in 1713 in Baroque style. The entrenchments were demolished in the XIXth century. In the South-Eastern part of the fortress, the bell tower was preserved, with a defense corridor and two bells moulded in the XVth century.





Fortified Church of Cloaşterf

Saschiz commune, Cloaşterf village

(photo 5, 6)

It was built in Gothic style between 1521-1524. Unlike other fortified churches, it was conceived from the very beginning as a fortress-church, capable to face a small siege with fire weapons. The Baroque furniture with popular Saxon motifs has a special artistic value.



► The fortified church of Archita

Vânători commune, Archita village

(photo 7, 8)

The Gothic country fortress is very well preserved, with a double precinct that surrounds the Evangelical church. From the nine towers with pyramidal roof, seven were preserved, together with the defense gallery. The church from the XIIIth century, initially built in Roman style, was afterwards transformed into a Gothic church, around 1500, when it was also fortified.









The Fortified Church and the Country Fortress of Saschiz

Saschiz commune, Saschiz village

St. Stephen fortified Gothic church was built between 1493 and 1496. The church can be noted due to its techniques of construction and fortification. The country fortress (photo 1), completed in the XIVth century, and guarding the village from the nearby hill, architecturally belongs to the transition period from Roman to Gothic style.





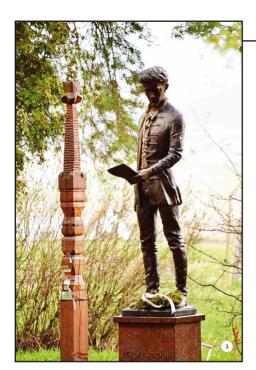
Bethlen Castle of Criş

Daneş commune, Criş village

(photo 4, 5, 6)

Built in the XIVth to XVIth centuries in Transylvanian Renaissance style, as a nobility fortified residence, the castle bears the mark of interest for culture, style and refinement specific to the Bethlen family. The most interesting elements are the loggia, the sequence of vaults and the cylindrical 5 level defense tower. The courtyard hosts a garden and a large English park.





Petőfi Museum of Albeşti

Albeşti commune, Albeşti village

(photo 2)

The edifice was built in Rustic style between 1897 and 1898 by Countess Luise Haller. The memorial house hosts an exhibition in the Honour of the great Romantic poet Petőfi Sándor (photo 1), hero of the 1848 revolution. Each summer, on the last Sunday of July, the Petőfi Feast is organized in order to commemorate the 1849 battle and the poet's passing into eternity.



The Fluffy Oak Reserve at Sighişoara

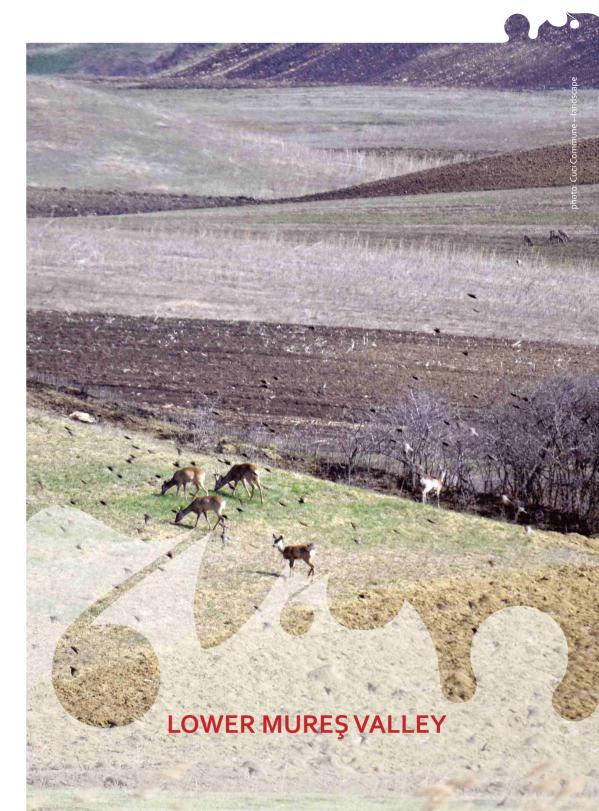
Daneş commune, Criş village

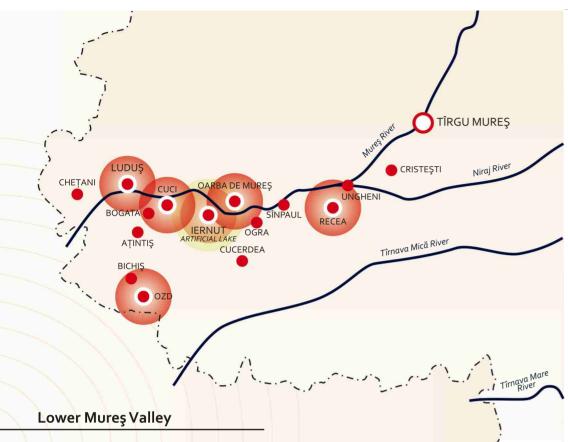
The reserve (foto 3), with an area of 11.9 ha, was created for protecting the fluffy oak Sub-Mediterranean specie (*Quercus Pubescens*) and also hosting other interesting species of plants and animals.



The Ancient Oaks at Breite

The natural reserve (photo 4) is placed on a hill plateau above the fortress of Sighişoara. It is one of the largest, most representative and well preserved forested lawns, with ancient oaks and holm-oaks from Central and Eastern Europe. Here, there are more than 600 old trees, some of them even older than 800 years.





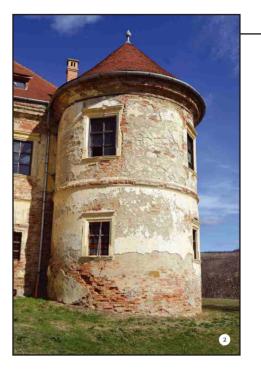
The route of the Lower Mureş Valley starts from Tîrqu Mureş to the East, until the river leaves the county, passing through the localities of: Cristeşti, Ungheni, Sînpaul, Ogra, Iernut, Cuci, Bichiş, Bogata, Luduş, Cheţani, Ațintiş, Cucerdea.

It is an area where religious tourism combines with the cultural one, an example being Ozd township, initially a Bishop center, today a small isolated village which hosts a former nobility residence - Pekri Castle.

The three towns which can be noted along the valley go back into history. Ungheni is documentary mentioned in 1264, lernut - in 1257 and Luduş - in 1330.

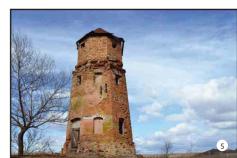
Iernut Lake is placed on the outskirts of Iernut town, on the E 60 European road, being arranged for leisure and competition fishing (photo 1).





Cuci commune, Cuci village

The Degenfeld family erected the castle (photo 4) in the XIXth century in Classical style. The building impresses with its beauty and good taste. The water tower (photo 5) which ensured supply of the manor was, at that time, rare in Europe. The edifice is surrounded by a dendrological park and an ornamental garden.



Pekri Castle of Ozd

Bichiş commune, Ozd village

(photo 2, 3)

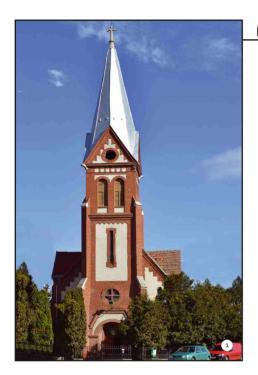
The castle belonged to General Pekri Lőrincz, who took part in the anti-Habsburg riot led by Rákóczi the 2nd. The nobility residence was built in 1682 in French Gothic style and rebuilt in 1732 in Renaissance style. The plan is rectangular, with four circular towers on the corners.











Roman Catholic Church of Luduş

47, Republicii Street

(photo 1, 2)

The Roman Catholic Church of Luduş was built in 1899 in Baroque style. The richness of the interior is mainly given by the liturgic objects, which are real works of art.



► The Reformed Church of Luduş

44, Republicii Street

(photo 3, 4)

It was built at the end of the XIXth century, most of the decorative elements placing it into the Neo-Gothic style. The clock and its mechanism were installed in the 43m high tower, which makes the church also known as the "Clock Church".



► St. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church of Ludus

Bisericii Street

(photo 5, 6)

The church was built from 1892 onwards, on the site of an old wooden church which burned in a fire. The stone church displays elements belonging to different architectural styles, from Classicism to moderate Baroque, of Viennese type; the interior holds an iconostasis painted in Vienna.



► Virgin Birth Orthodox Monastery of Recea

Ungheni town, Recea village

(photo 7, 8)

It is one of the biggest Orthodox monasteries in the county. Founded in 1991, the architecture of the monastic ensemble is a typical Romanian one, harmoniously combining the Moldavian, Byzantine and Brancovan styles.











Kornis-Rákóczi-Bethlen Castle of Iernut

Castel Street

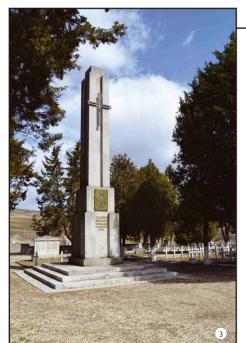
The castle (photo 1) was built by Bogáti Gáspár in 1545 and modified during 1650-1660; stylistically it is placed in the Renaissance style. From the large architectural ensemble, the gate building (photo 2), which displays architectural elements specific to the Baroque style, was also preserved.

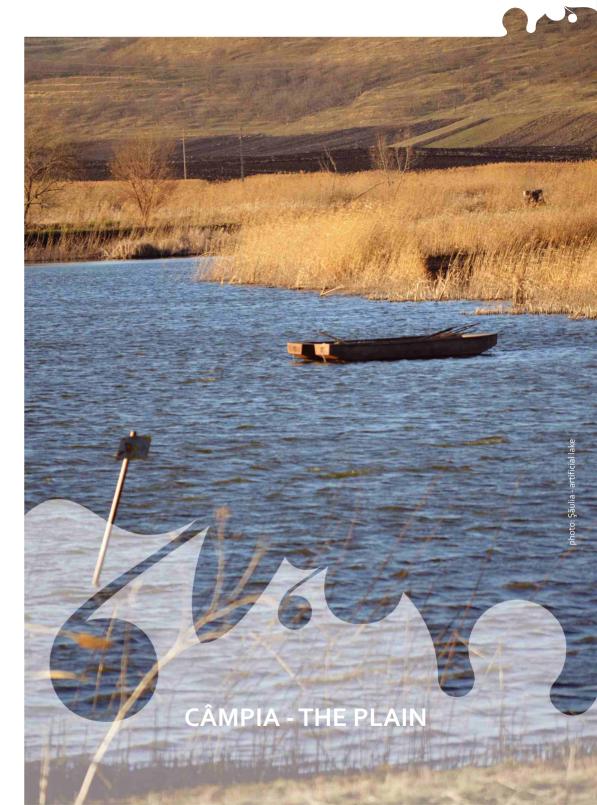


Oarba de Mureş

On a wild terrace near the Mureş bank, on May the 9th, 1949, a monument was erected (photo 3) in the memory of the eleven thousands soldiers fallen on the Oarba de Mureş battlefield in the Second World War. The monumental complex consist of the Heroes' Monument, the Heroes' cemetery and a series of sculpted works (photo 4) on military and religios topics, of a great historical and cultural value.







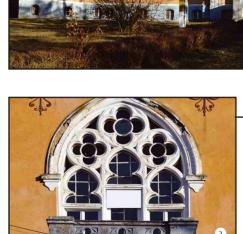
Câmpia - The Plain

The Transylvanian Plain, located North-West of the river Mures, is a lower region, formed of low hills, with an average height of 500 m. crossed by large valleys. The smooth slopes, with cultivated fields and pastures, include the hilly plain of Sărmaş, and the Hills of Mădăraş, Comlod and Luduş. The beauty of the landscape is completed by the chain of lakes from: Fărăgău, Şăulia, Văleni, Zau de Câmpie and Tăureni.

Sărmașu is one of the first places in Europe where industrial exploitation of methane gas begun. The first well in Romania (photo 1) dates from 1908, presently being declared a museal sight.









Zau de Cîmpie commune, Zau de Cîmpie village (photo 2, 3)

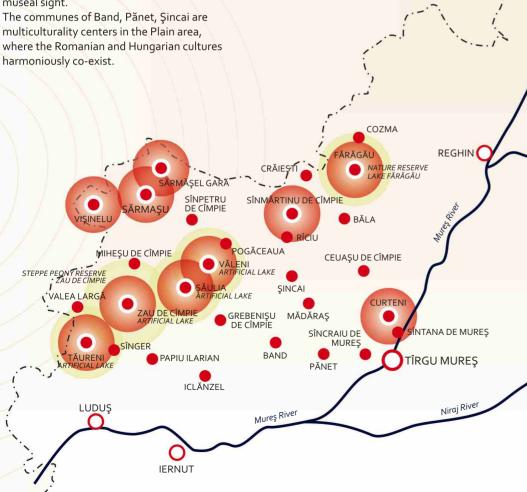
Built between 1909 and 1911 by Baron Ugron István, the castle reminds, by its architecture, of the French Medieval castles. It has a calendar-like structure with four towers, 7 balconies, 12 corridors, 52 rooms, 365 windows and a dendrological park.



Steppe Peony Reserve Zau de Cîmpie

(photo 4)

It is a protected area with a surface of 3.49 ha, spread over the territory of Zau de Cîmpie and Valea Largă. Here, 359 species of plants were identified, among which the steppe peony (Paeonia tenuifolia), which blossoms at the beginning of May.







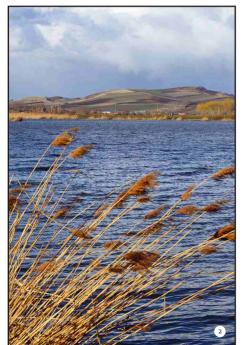




The Lakes of the Plain

These lakes are artificial, except for Lake Fărăgău, the only natural reserve lake on the Transylvanian Plain. The lakes are arranged for fishing and constitute an excellent refuge for a large number of bird species. From North to South, they are: Fărăgău (photo 6) - 38 ha, Şăulia (photo 1, 5, 7) - 48 ha, Văleni (photo 2) - 53 ha, Zau de Cîmpie (photo 4) - 133 ha and Tăureni (photo 3) - 53 ha.













Wooden Orthodox Church of Sărmăşel Gară

8, Republicii Street (photo 1)

The church dedicated to the "Saint Archaengels Michael and Gabriel" was built in 1692. Initially built in Dâmb village, it was moved here in 1936.

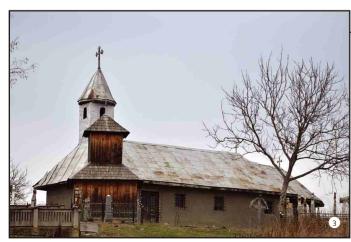


► Orthodox

Wooden Church of Sărmaşu

35, Sondelor Street (photo 2)

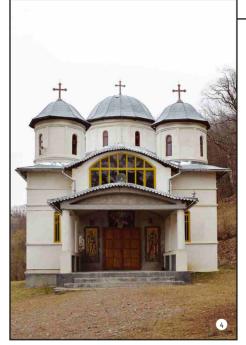
The wooden Church dates from the XVIIIth century and bears the patronage of "Saint Archaengels Michael and Gabriel"



Church of Vişinelu

Sărmaşu town, Vişinelu village (photo 3)

The church existed in 1733, but in 1839 it was moved and rebuilt on the present site. Then, it was consecrated to the "Assumption of Virgin Mary".



Events

Flower Fair at Curteni - May (photo 6)

Peony Fair at Zau de Cîmpie - May

Fish Festival at Zau de Cîmpie - August (photo 7)

Feast of Folk Costume and Customs at Câmpie - September



Orthodox Monastery Assumption of Virgin Mary from Sînmărtinul de Cîmpie

Rîciu commune, Sînmărtinul de Cîmpie village (photo 4, 5)

The monastery watches over the village from the nearby hill since the XIVth century. It was closed in 1782 and re-established in 1990. The monastery's precincts hosts a wooden church erected in the XVIIth century, under the patronage of "Saint Archaengels Michael and Gabriel" - a historical monument.





TOURIST TRAILS

Tourist trails through the county

Trail 1:

Day 1: Tîrgu Mureş > Sîngeorgiu de Mureş > Dumbrăvioara > Gorneşti > Reghin

Day 2: Reghin > Ideciu de Jos > Brîncoveneşti > Variegated Tulip Reserve of Vălenii de Mureş > Răstolița > Stînceni > Reghin

Day 3: Reghin > Jabenita > Pădurea Mociar > Gurghiu > Lăpușna > Landscape Reserve Seaca > Tîrgu Mureș

Trail 2:

Day 1: Tîrgu Mureş > Sînvăsii > Miercurea Nirajului > Variegated Tulip Reserve of Grîuşorul > Becheci Peak > Călugăreni > Eremitu > Cîmpu Cetătii > Sovata

Day 2: Sovata > Sîngeorgiu de Pădure > Bezid > Sighişoara

Day 3: Sighişoara > Albeşti > Saschiz > Archita > Cloaşterf > Ancient Oaks Reserve of Breite > Criş > Daneş > Seleuş > Sighişoara

Trail 3:

Day 1: Tîrgu Mureş > Recea > Bahnea > Băgaciu > Tîrnăveni > Iernut > Oarba de Mureş > Cuci > Luduş

Day 2: Luduş > Tăureni > Zau de Cîmpie > Şăulia > Văleni > Vişinelu > Sărmaşu

Day 3: Sărmaşu > Sărmăşel Gară > Sînmărtinu de Cîmpie > Fărăgău > Dumbrăvioara > Sîngeorgiu de Mureş > Tîrgu Mureş

M

St. Mary Pilgrimage

The St. Mary pilgrimage, which can be travelled on foot or by bicycle, links seven countries in Central Europe. It forms a network of trails that reach the main memorial and pilgrimage sites related to the Virgin Mary, but also highlights for the pilgrims the historical, religious, cultural, natural or architectural attractions.

The entire route from Mariazell (Austria) to Şumuleu-Ciuc (Harghita County) covers over

TUŞINU
SÎNPETRU DE CÎMPIE

POGĂCEAUA

FÎNAȚELE MĂDĂRAŞULUI

MĂDĂRAŞ

HĂRŢĂU

REMETEA

TÎRGU MURES

1,400 km, of which 500 km are in Romania, and can be travelled on foot from one end to the other in about 60 days.

The route enters Mureş County near the town of Sărmaşu, then after 104 km (4 days on foot) leaves the region at the Sărăteni border.

The most important sites through which the route passes are Tuşinu - Sînpetru de Cîmpie - Pogăceaua - Fînațele Mădăraşului - Mădăraş - Hărțău - Remetea - Tîrgu Mureş - Sîngeorgiu de Mureş - Tofalău - the border of Beu - Valea (lobăgeni) - Maia - Bereni - Măgherani - Sărățeni.

The demarcation of the route avoided roads with heavy traffic, and chose paths and tracks passing through quiet traditional regions with enchanting landscapes.

TOFALĂU BEU VALEA SÎNGEORGIU DE MUREŞ BERENI MĂGHERANI

Mountain trails

1. TRAILS IN THE CĂLIMANI MOUNTAINS

- Sălard > Poiana Obcinelor > Valea Fîntînei > Lunca Bradului (medium difficulty, return distance 20 km, 1-2 days)
- Lunca Bradului > Valea Ilva Mare > Şaua Negoiu > Vârful Pietrosu (medium difficulty, 1-2 days)
- Bistra Mureşului > Vârful Scaunul Domnului (medium difficulty, 1 day)
- Tihul Răstoliței > Şaua Tihului (medium difficulty, 1 day)
- Valea Ruscă > Vârful Tihu (medium difficulty, 1 day)
- Sălard > La Sărăcin (medium difficulty, 1 day)
- Tihul Ilvei > Vârful Tihu (medium difficulty, 1 day)
- Stînceni > Valea Zebrac > Poiana Zebrac (medium difficulty, 1 day)

2. TRAILS IN THE GURGHIU MOUNTAINS

- Răstolița > Vârful Listeş > Poiana Borta > Valea Iod > Valea Rusu > Poiana Rusu (return distance 23 km, medium difficulty, 1 day)
- Sălard > Valea Sălard > Valea Toplea > Culmea Fîncel (Vârful Gropsan) (medium difficulty, 1 day)
- Neagra > Părâul Schwarz > Poiana Cădăreni > Neagra (medium difficulty, 1 day)

3. TRAILS IN SOVATA AREA

- Sovata > Valea Sebeş > Vârful Saca Mare (high level of difficulty, 1 day)
- Eremitu > Vârful Becheci > Culmea Reștad > Sovata (medium difficulty, 1 day)
- Cîmpu Cetătii > Culmea Tîmpa > Eremitu (medium difficulty, 1 day)
- Cîmpu Cetății > Dealul Vardomb > Cîmpu Cetății (low difficulty, 1 day)

Biking routes

- 1. ONE-DAY ROUTE TO REGHIN (city bike): Sîngeorgiu de Mureş > Tofalău > Săcăreni > Icland > Căluşeri > Isla > Hodoşa > Sîmbriaş > Chiheru de Jos > Nadăşa > Beica de Jos > Reghin. The return journey can be done through Voivodeni: Reghin > Breaza > Voivodeni > Glodeni > Dumbrăvioara > Ernei > Sîngeorgiu de Mureş (70-80 km, medium difficulty, accommodation in hostels)
- 2. 2-DAY ROUTE TO PLAIN (CÂMPIE) AREA (city bike): Tîrgu Mureş > Voiniceni > Ceuaşu de Cîmpie (bell tower, Săbed Forest) > Rîciu > Pogăceaua > Vălenii > Şăulia > Bujor > Botei (field of peonies), return by Zau de Cîmpie (castle, lakes) > Şăulia > Grebenişu de Cîmpie > Band > Berghia > Nazna > Tîrgu Mureş (200 km, medium difficulty, accommodation in barn)
- 3. 2-DAY ROUTE TO SOVATA (first day on city bike, next day on mountain bike): Sîngeorgiu de Mureş > Tofalău > Săcăreni > Icland > Căluşeri > Isla > Dămieni > Eremitu > Sovata. Return via Sovata > Sărățeni > Măgherani > Bereni > Miercurea Nirajului > Şardu Nirajului > Sînişor > Livezeni > Tîrgu Mureş (130 km, medium difficulty on first day, high level of difficulty on second day, accommodation in hostels)
- 4. 2-DAY ROUTE TO SIGHIŞOARA: Albeşti > Ţopa > Boiu > Bîrlibăşoaia > Jacu > Jacodu > Veţca > Fîntînele > Gălăţeni > Păsăreni > Corunca > Tîrgu Mureş. Return via Tîrgu Mureş > Acăţari > Bălăuşeri > Coroisînmărtin > Zagăr (fortified church) > Viişoara > Dumbrăveni, Sibiu County (Roman Catholic church) > Sighişoara (180 km, high level of difficulty; between Bîrlibăşoaia and Jacu and between Fîntînele and Gălăţeni the route passes through a forest road; accommodation in hostels in Sighişoara)
- 5. 2-DAY ROUTE IN THE CĂLIMANI MOUNTAINS (on mountain bike): Lunca Bradului > Valea Ilva Mare > Vârful Reţitiş (possibility of accommodation at weather station) > Topliţa (70 km, high level of difficulty)