



Country

Romania is just a small dot on the face of the Earth, it's situated in the south-east of middle Europe. Romania's neighbouring countries are Ukraine in the north, Hungary in the north-west, Serbia and Montenegro in the south-west, Bulgaria in the south and in the north-east is the Republic of Moldova. Our country has 41 counties and they are split into 8 regions: Moldova, Banat, Muntenia, Dobrogea, Maramureş, Oltenia, Câmpia Română and Transylvania. Romania also has access to the Black Sea which connects us with Turkey, Georgia, Russia and also to the Mediterranean Sea. We have the Carpathian Mountains which divides Transylvania from the other parts of the country. We have rich forests, large areas of fields for agricultural reasons and the country is rich in minerals.

And now I am going to focus on Transylvania, because we live in the heart of it. Transylvania's most important cities are: Cluj-Napoca/Kolozsvár, Sibiu/Szeben, Alba Iulia/Gyulafehérvár, Târgu Mureş/Vásárhely, Oradea/Nagyvárad, Timişoara/Temesvár, Baia Mare/Nagybánya.

Transylvania is the home of many nations, here we can find Romanians and also minorities, like Hungarians, Saxons and Romas; and each of them cultivates and cherish their traditions. This land is home for many cultures, it has a rich history and it's the place of birth for fairytales and legends which are well known in the world. Besides the above mentioned treasures this region has exceptional natural beauties which charm tourists every day, here is a few wonder of Transylvania:

The Carpathians offer endless natural beauties, like :

-The Carpathians (Fogaras, Babele, Omu etc.)

-The Békási defile: It is a canyon located in the north-east part of the country and it was created by the water of Bicz River over time. This place is one of the main rock climbing sites in Romania.

-Babele: is a name for an area on the Bucegi Mountains plateau in Romania, within the Southern Carpathians. The name comes from some mushroom shaped rock formation, the result of erosion and varying hardness of the rock layers.

And also the Ciucas mountains

Proof of volcanic activities are:

-Saint Anna lake: is the only crater lake in Romania located in the volcanic crater named "Puciosul" (Büdös-hegy or Stinky Mountain) of the Eastern Carpathians.

-The Detunatas: they are basalt columns.

-The mud volcanoes: They belong to a geological reservation. The mud volcanoes create a strange lunar landscape, due to the absence of vegetation around the cones. The gasses erupt from 3000 meters-deep towards the surface, they push up underground salty water and mud, and they overflow through the mouths of the volcanoes, while the gas emerges as bubbles.

The very rich limestone give the varied carstic relief:

-Bear's Cave: It was discovered by accident in 1975 by an amateur speleologist group. The researchers found many bear skeletons, which were more than 10.000 years old.

-The Békás defile: It is a canyon located in the north-east part of the country and it was created by the water of Bicz River over time. This place is one of the main rock climbing sites in Romania.

-The Székelykő: It is a bare hilltop located east of Torockó. It's part of the Mountains of Torockó and dramatically rises over the village.

-The Gorge of Torda/Turda : the legend says that King László was retreating with his army from the Puns, and he prayed to God to save him and his men. God helped him by splitting the mountain in two manage

The salty lakes:

-Roman lake: is a recreational and curative area with 5 salt lakes and it's located in the north of our city.

-The salt mine in Turda/Torda : It is a veritable history museum of salt mining combined with modern tehnology.

Other geological wonders like:

-The Red steep: It is also a geological reservation. The hill is 125 meters high and 800 meters long and consists of an alternation of rocks.

And our architectural heritige:

The following castles tell the rich tale of different historical ages:

-The Corvin Castle: it is also called Huniazilor Castle or Hunedoara Citadel is a castle from Hunedoara, being one of the most important monuments of Gothic architecture in Transylvania.

-The Bran Castle: is a national monument and landmark in Romania. The fortress is situated on the border between Transylvania and Wallachia, commonly known as "Dracula's Castle"

-Peleş Castle: It is considered one of the most important historical buildings of the XIX. century in Europe because of its unique character and for its artistic valour.

-The Transfăgărășan highway: Built as a strategic military route, the 90 km of twists and turns run north to south across the tallest sections of the Southern Carpathians. The road connects the historic regions of Transylvania and Wallachia, and it's considered by Top Gear as the world's best road. ☺☺☺☺

The **Historic Centre of Sighișoara**: built in the 12th century by Saxon colonists under the Latin name *Castrum Sex*. It is an inhabited medieval citadel that, in 1999, was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site

The religious tolerance is showed by variety of churches:

-The Densuș church of Hunedoara/Hunyad: is one of the oldest Romanian churches still standing

-The Saint Mihail catholic church of Cluj/Kolozsvár : It is a roman catholic church which was built in gothic style. It is the second largest church in Transylvania

-The Wooden Church of Maramureș which are UNESCO patrimony buildings.

-The Black Church of Brasov: It was built by the German community of the city and stands as the main Gothic style monument in the country, as well as being the largest and one of the most important Lutheran places of worship in the region.

-The Nicula convent: is an important pilgrimage site in north Transylvania. Here craftsman Luca of Iclod painted the famous icon of Saint Mary which according to a report made by austrian officers has droped tears between february 15 and 12 march 1699.

The **Merry Cemetery**: is a cemetery in the village of Săpânța, it is famous for its colourful tombstones with naïve paintings describing, in an original and poetic manner, the persons that are buried there as well as scenes from their lives. The Merry Cemetery became an open-air museum and a national tourist attraction.

The different cultures existing in our country are linked together by religious and national events:

-Carnival in the end of February: It's an old pagan

- The pilgrimage of Csíksomlyó: Csíksomlyó became a pilgrimage site in 1567, and since then, this event has been commemorated by a pilgrimage when the believers gather on Pentecost every year. Beside its religious importance, the pilgrimage has also become a community event

-The days of Kolozsvár: -Unlike other cities in Romania, Kolozsvár haven't had a cities day before 2009. Since then the days of Kolozsvár is organized on a weekend in the summer.

And other fairgrounds:

The girl trade of Gaina mountain: according to a legend, there was a small hen on the Gaina mountain peak (in Romanian, "gaina" means "hen") which was laying golden eggs. Because of that, people started to protect her. The legend said the hen could be seen only once a year. It is a living tradition of the mountain-dwellers in the Western Carpathians called "maiden fair", when every year people gather on the top of the Gaina Mountain to enjoy the beautiful nature of the region.

But still Turda Torda is the closest to our hearts because is our hometown.

Földvári
Roland

Fodor
László

Kiss Csilla Boglárka

Fósika Miklós Elméleti
Lucum