

# UU Transylvanian Thanksgiving Economy Pilgrimage

Two life-changing weeks in Transylvania for under \$1,150!

September 21 - October 3, 2019

Beginning and ending in Kolozsvár/Cluj, this tour will take you to the region's most significant Unitarian holy places including Torda, Gyulafehérvár & Deva. You will also visit the frescoed Unitarian churches of Székelyderz (a UNESCO World Heritage site) and Homorodkaracsonyfalva, the spectacular 13<sup>th</sup> century castle at Vajdahunyad, the Saxon capital of Transylvania, Sibiu, the medieval walled city of Sighisoara/Segesvár, and the Saxon fortress church at Biertan (Segesvár & Biertan are both UNESCO World Heritage sites). You will spend 4 nights in your partner village sharing in the special Transylvanian Thanksgiving celebration, making new friends and revitalizing your partnership. If you do not have a partner in Transylvania, the UUPCC will arrange for you to stay in one of the many beautiful Unitarian villages with other pilgrims. *This is the same quality pilgrimage that the UUPCC has been facilitating for two decades – but at significant savings. To achieve this low price, we may replace some hotels with dorms & guest-houses, substitute village meals for restaurants, eliminate the long van ride from Budapest, and take advantage of “shoulder-season” rates.*

**In addition to the main trip, we also offer an optional 4 day/3 night pre-trip extension to Budapest, and/or a 6 day/5 night post-trip extension to Maramures & the Painted Monasteries of Bucovia.**

## **BUDAPEST**

**(OPTIONAL PRE-TRIP SEPTEMBER 18 – 21)**



- **Weds, Sept 18** Arrive/gather in Budapest. Transfer to your hotel. Group dinner. Overnight Budapest – Hotel Belvedere\*\*\*\* for all 3 nights. (BD)
- **Thur, Sept 19** Morning orientation on Budapest Metro system and suggested itineraries followed by bus/walking tour of Budapest including Castle Hill, Hero's Square, and the Jewish Quarter. Free afternoon/evening to take in the museum of your choice and indulge yourself at one of the city's famous thermal spas. Lunch & dinner on your own.
- **Fri, Sep 20** Morning check-in with UUPCC staff for advice on attractions and logistics. Optional morning visit to the grounds outside Parliament, and a stroll along the Danube to the new "Shoe

Memorial". Otherwise free day in Budapest to shop, stroll the city, and take in a night cruise on the Danube. Lunch & dinner on your own. |

- **Sat, Sept 21 TRAVEL DAY** Departure after breakfast for Romania by train or van TBD by group size. If by van, then traditional gulyas lunch en route. If train, lunch on your own. Evening arrival in Kolozsvár/Cluj, the Unitarian "Rome". Join base itinerary.

**4 days/3 nights land package \$585 double occupancy (add \$150 single supplement).** Includes 3 nights in 4\*\*\*\* hotel with breakfast, arrival dinner, English speaking tour director, half-day guided tour of Budapest highlights, transfers from airport, 2<sup>nd</sup> class train tickets or van ride (TBD by group size) from Budapest to Kolozsvár/Cluj. NOT included are gratuities, alcoholic beverages, airport/rail transfers, & personal expenses. Tour begins and ends in Kolozsvár/Cluj, and is intended to supplement travelers who will be participating in the September, 2018 Transylvania Thanksgiving Pilgrimage.

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## **TRANSYLVANIA PILGRIMAGE**

(main pilgrimage)

- **Sat, Sept 21** Gather in Kolozsvár/Cluj Romania. Kolozsvár is roughly equidistant from both Bucharest and Budapest. There are multiple inexpensive train and bus options daily to Kolozsvár from both cities. Kolozsvár/Cluj airport (airport code CLJ) is served by a number of air carriers including Lufthansa, Austrian Air, Alitalia, & some of the European discount carriers such as Wizzair. The UUPCC Pilgrimage service can assist you with schedules and transfer options. Group dinner & orientation. Overnight Kolozsvár - Hotel Victoria\*\*\*.
- **Sun, Sept 22** Sleep in. 11AM services at 1<sup>st</sup> Unitarian Church, the church which houses "THE ROCK" upon which Francis David is said to have stood when he converted the city to what became known as Unitarianism. Afterwards we visit with the minister to hear the story of the church and take photos. Group lunch followed by a walking tour of Unitarian Kolozsvár. We will visit St. Michael's Church where Francis David once preached, and the school where he once taught. Free evening to take in a movie or a concert, catch up on email, or just relax. Dinner on your own. Overnight Kolozsvár Hotel Victoria\*\*\*.
- **Mon, Sept 23** Morning visit to the HQ of the Transylvanian Unitarian Church which houses the office of the Bishop and the Consistory Room where the governing body of the church meets and deliberates before departing for Deva (3 ½ hours driving time). En route to Deva we will stop at the "Church of the Edict" in Torda, and have lunch in Gyulaferhervár after visiting the 1000-year-old church where the Unitarian King Sigismund and his mother Isabella are entombed. We end the day with a brief vesper service in the citadel at Deva where Francis David was imprisoned and eventually martyred. Group dinner. Overnight Deva – Sarmis Hotel\*\*\*.
- **Tues, Sept 24** Morning tour of the 13<sup>th</sup> century fairy-tale castle at Vadjahunyad. Afterward we depart Deva for the Saxon city of Sibiu (2+ hour drive) Sandwiches/snacks en route on your own. Hotel check-in & orientation in the old city center. Free afternoon and evening to explore and dinner on your own. Overnight Sibiu – Hotel Imparatul Romanilor\*\*\*
- **Wed, Sept 25** Free morning in Sibiu to shop and visit the museum(s) of your choice. Lunch on your own. PM departure for medieval walled city of Sighisoara/Segesvar (2 hours driving time). Time permitting, we will make a short detour to visit the Saxon fortress church at Biertan (a UNESCO World Heritage Site). Dinner & overnight Szekelykeresztur - Unitarian Guest House
- **Thur, Sept 26** Morning orientation in the citadel by UUPCC staff followed by free time to stroll the city, shop, climb the clock tower, and/or visit the museum of your choice. Lunch on your own. Dinner & overnight - Szekelykeresztur, Unitarian guest house.

- **Fri, Sept 27** Morning guided tour of frescoed Unitarian church at Szekelyderz (a UNESCO World Heritage site). Afterward, we take in some of the nearby Unitarian villages and discover why everyone loves the Homorod Valley. Group lunch before departing for your partner villages. **Home stays begin with dinner & overnight with partner village congregational hosts.**
- **Sat, Sept. 28 – Mon Sept 30 VILLAGE DAYS!** Relax and explore your partner village as an “honored guest”. Sunday morning join Thanksgiving worship services with your partner congregation. Program details TBD by minister & pilgrims. Overnights in partner village – home stays. (BLD)
- **Tues, Oct 1** Depart villages for TG-Mures/Marosvasarhely. Departure times and lunch sites will vary based on your distance from TG-Mures/Marosvasarhely. Mealtime conversation with other pilgrims to share village experience. Dinner & overnight Marosvasarhely – Unitarian Guest House. *(Please note - there are a limited number of rooms in this facility. Single rooms cannot be guaranteed).*
- **Weds Oct 2** Morning tour of Marosvasarhely/TG-Mures including the Art Nouveau Cultural Palace, Mirror Hall, and the Teleki Library which houses one of the original copies of the US Declaration of Independence. Group lunch before departing for Kolozsvar. Late afternoon arrival in Kolozsvar. Farewell banquet with fellow pilgrims and UUPCC staff. Overnight Kolozsvar Hotel Victoria\*\*\*
- **Thurs, Oct 3** Depart Kolozsvar for the US or continue on to the Maramures Painted Monasteries tour.

**Base Trip is 13 days/12 nights: \$150 registration fee\* + \$1145 per person** (double occupancy - standard accommodations). **Single supplement fee is \$175.** Package includes ground transportation, meals (as detailed on itinerary above), lodging, guides, interpreters, and fees. *NOT included are international airfare, expenses incurred during free periods, departure hotel to airport transfer, and other travel to/from Cluj/Kolozsvar, Romania. (Note hotels and details may change per availability at time of booking)*

**IMPORTANT:** *Accommodations include hotels, guest-houses & dormitory style facilities and almost all of these require climbing stairs. Per the Mobility Statement, you should be able to climb two flights of stairs and handle your own luggage. **Travelers with mobility issues should stay home or select a different trip.***

(\*note) **REGISTRATION FEE IS NON-REFUNDABLE** and includes a one-year complimentary UUPCC membership (or next year extension if you are a current member), application processing, travel packet, and an “Impact fee” paid to the Transylvanian Unitarian Church.

## **MARAMURES & BUCOVINA: WOODEN CHURCHES & PAINTED MONASTERIES (OPTIONAL POST-TRIP OCTOBER 3 – 8)**

*Hidden away in these remote regions along the Romania/Ukraine border are some of the most spectacular scenery and picturesque religious treasures to be found anywhere. You will experience the unique culture, architecture and scenery of Maramures + tour 4 of the most famous painted monasteries (Voronet, Humor, Moldovita & Suceavita – all UNESCO world heritage sites) with a knowledgeable guide.*



- **Thur, Oct 3** Depart Kolozsvár after breakfast for Maramures via motor coach. En route group lunch and visit to wooden churches of the Mara Valley, including the tallest wooden structure in Europe. Evening arrival in Vadu Izei. Dinner & overnight Vadu Izei Lodge\*\*\* (BLD)
- **Fri, Oct 4** Continue our tour of Maramures with visits to the Village Museum and the Elie Wiesel House in Sighetu-Marmatiei. After lunch, tour world famous “Merry Cemetery” in nearby Sapanta before returning to Vadu Izei for dinner & overnight. Vadu Izei Lodge\*\*\*
- **Sat, Oct 5** Depart Vadu Izei for Bucovina. Morning tours of the wooden monastery at Birsana and the 12<sup>th</sup> century wooden Orthodox church at Leud (both are UNESCO World Heritage Sites). Enjoy group lunch with breathtaking scenery in the Carpathian Alps. Dinner & overnight Gura Humorului – Pensiunea Elegance\*\*\*\*
- **Sun, Oct 6** Guided tour of painted monasteries of Sucevita, Arbore, Humor & Voronet (UNESCO World Heritage Sites). Return to Gura Humorului for dinner & overnight Gura Humorului – Pensiunea Elegance\*\*\*\*
- **Mon, Oct 7** Depart Gura Humorului for Kolozsvár. En route tour painted monastery at Moldovita (a UNESCO World Heritage site) and lunch in Bistrita. Evening arrival in Kolozsvár. Dinner on your own. Overnight Hotel Victoria\*\*\*
- **Tues, Oct 8** Departures for the US or elsewhere in Europe.

**6 days/5 nights land package \$850/person double occupancy (add \$165 single supplement).**

*Includes accommodations, 15 meals as specified in itinerary, transportation, guide(s), interpreters, and entry to programmed events. NOT included are gratuities, alcoholic beverages, airport/rail transfers, & personal expenses. Tour begins and ends in Kolozsvár/Cluj and is intended to supplement travelers who will be participating in the September Transylvania Thanksgiving Pilgrimage.*

Click to read our [Mobility Statement and/or Register](#) for the Thanksgiving trip: