

# UU Transylvanian Pilgrimage

(On a budget)

**Pick the dates that suit you and your partner**

*A Group Tour for 10 - 25 people.*

***13 days, approximately \$800 - \$1,000 per person + \$150 registration fee. Final cost is based upon estimated number of registrants and location of partner village. Single supplement is not available. Includes ground transportation, meals (as detailed on itinerary below), lodging, guides, interpreters, and fees. Cost does not include international airfare and other travel to/from Cluj/Kolozsvar, Romania.***

2 life-changing weeks in Transylvania for around \$1,000! This is the same quality Unitarian pilgrimage that the UUPCC has been facilitating for a decade – but at 60% of the price. We have just replaced hotels with dorms & guest-houses, replaced some of the restaurant meals with village meals, and eliminated the long van ride from Budapest. Beginning and ending in Kolozsvar, this tour will visit the most significant of the Unitarian holy places including Torda, Meszko, & Deva. You will also visit the frescoed Unitarian churches of, Szekelyderz (a UNESCO World Heritage site) and Karacsonfalva, the spectacular 13<sup>th</sup> century castle at Vadjahunyad, the medieval walled city of Sighisoara/Segesvar, and the Saxon fortress church at Biertan (Segesvar & Biertan are both UNESCO World Heritage sites). You will spend a weekend with your partner congregation – make new friends and revitalize 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. For more details please review the tentative daily itinerary.

## **Sample Itinerary:**

- (Sat) Gather in Kolozsvar/Cluj Romania. UUPCC staff will be at the Unitarian HQ building in central Kolozsvar to check you, get you oriented and answer your questions. Kolozsvar is roughly equidistant from both Bucharest and Budapest. There are multiple train and bus options daily to Kolozsvar from both cities. You may also want to consider flying to either the Kolozsvar/Cluj (CLJ) or TG-Mures (TGM) international airports. Both are served by a number of air carriers including Lufthansa, Austrian Air, Alitalia, Malev, & some of the European discount carriers such as Carpatair & Wizzair. The UUPCC Pilgrimage service can assist you with schedules and transfer options. Because of the staggered arrival times everyone will be their own this day. Late evening reception & orientation. Overnight Kolozsvar – Unitarian Center for Students & Pilgrims (UCSP).
- (Sun) 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 visit to the Mathais Church where Francis David once preached, and 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. Free evening to rest or explore the city. Dinner on your own.

Overnight Kolozsvár – UCSP. (BL)

- (Mon) Depart Kolozsvár for Deva after breakfast. En route to Deva we will stop at the “Church of the Edict” in Torda, the “Alabaster Village” of Meszko, and tour the castle at Vadjahunyad. We will grab sandwiches along the way for lunch. Dinner will be a delicious sit-down meal hosted by the Reformed church of Deva. Overnight Deva – Melite Guest House. (BLD)
- (Tues) Morning visit to the ruined citadel at Deva where Francis David was imprisoned and eventually martyred. Brief prayer service at the cell and memorial inside the citadel walls. Afterward we depart Deva for the medieval walled-city of Sighisoara/Segesvár, purported birthplace of Vlad Tepes – aka Dracula. En route we tour the Saxon fortress church at Biertan (a UNESCO World Heritage site). Lunch in restored village square before arriving in Segesvár. Orientation session in the old city by UUPCC staff followed by free time to stroll the city, shop, climb the clock tower, and/or visit the museum of your choice. Dinner on your own. Overnight Segesvár – guest house TBD. (BL)
- (Wed) Free morning in Segesvár to continue your exploration of Segesvár. Depart 11AM for a guided tour of frescoed Unitarian church at Szekelyderz (a UNESCO World Heritage site) with traditional peasant lunch in 14<sup>th</sup> century bastion. After lunch we continue on to Homorodszentmarton which will be our base for the next 2 days/nights. Dinner & evening program. Overnight Homorodszentmarton - David Ferenc International Conference Center (DFICC). (BLD)
- (Thurs) We take in some of the nearby Unitarian villages and discover why everyone loves the Homorod Valley. Stops are planned in Homorodszentpaul for stork viewing and bird watching at the nearby lakes; and Oakland – to view the beautiful painted panels of the Unitarian church; and Homorodkaracsonfalva - where we will view the recently uncovered frescoes in the 13<sup>th</sup> century Unitarian church and visit the Harvest Hope dairy farm; and Homorodalmas – to see the tallest Unitarian church in Romania and take in the beautiful view from the hilltop before heading back down to Homorodszentmarton for dinner & overnight DFICC. (BLD)
- (Fri) Morning visit to the Unitarian church of Homorodszentmarton followed by a tractor ride & hiking in the nearby hillsides. We have a final picnic lunch before departing for your partner villages. Dinner & overnight with partner congregation – home stays. (BLD)
- (Sat) Village day. Relax and explore your partner village as an “honored guest”. Program details TBD by minister & pilgrims. Overnight in partner village – home stays. (BLD)
- (Sun) Morning worship services with your partner congregation. Afternoon/evening program TBD by minister & pilgrims. Overnight in partner village – home stays. (BLD)

- (Mon) Depart village after breakfast. (itinerary this day subject to change based on location of partner village). Trout luncheon and shopping stop in the “pottery village” of Korond. Visit to Szelykefurdo site of the annual Unitarian “Gathering” en route to Nyaradszentlaszlo where we will stay in newly constructed cabins. Evening discussion with other pilgrims to share village experience. Dinner & overnight Nyaradszentlaszlo.(BLD)
- (Tues) Morning tour of Marosvasarhely/TG-Mures including the Art Nouveau Cultural Palace, Mirror Hall, and the Teleki Library which houses one of the 7 remaining original copies of the US Declaration of Independence. Free time to shop, do email & explore the picturesque city center and citadel where the Edict of Religious Tolerance issued in Torda was reinstated in 1571. Lunch on your own before returning to Nyaradszentlaszlo for dinner & overnight. (BD)
- (Wed) Depart Nyaradszentlaszlo for Kolozsvar. En route we photograph fantastic “Gypsy Palaces” before stopping to hike & picnic in the scenic Torda Gorge (weather permitting). Evening arrival in Kolozsvar. Farewell banquet with fellow pilgrims and UUPCC staff. Overnight Kolozsvar – UCSP. (BLD)
- (Thurs) Depart Kolozsvar for the US or other destinations. UUPCC staff will help facilitate your travel plans & transfer logistics. (B)