

## **Unitarian Holy Places + Maramures & Bucovina**

*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 and architecture of Maramures and tour 4 of the most famous painted monasteries (Voronet, Humor, Moldovita & Suceavita – all UNESCO world heritage sites) with a knowledgeable guide. This 13day tour begins and ends in Kolozsvar/Cluj and includes a 4 night/3 day stay in Szentabraham.*

**Tentative Itinerary:** Hotels may change based on availability at time of booking. Assistance with European flight/train connections to/from Kolozsvar/Cluj (CLJ) is available upon request.

- **Day 1 – (Sat, Aug 2) Arrive Kolozsvar (train, airplane, car/bus) transfer to Hilltop Pensiune or Unitarian Center for check-in with UUPCC staff. Free afternoon for early arrivers to explore historic Kolozsvar. Evening welcome reception. Meals on your own. Overnight Kolozsvar - Unitarian Center for Students & Pilgrims (UCSP).**
- **Day 2 – (Su, Aug 3) Worship services at 1<sup>st</sup> Church in Kolozsvar which houses “The Rock” upon which Frances David is said to have stood when he converted the city to Unitarianism. After services we will tour the church and have a discussion with the minister. Group lunch. Afterwards we visit the Matyas statue and Catholic church where Francis David once occupied the pulpit. Free afternoon/evening to relax/explore and reconnect with old friends. Dinner on your own. Overnight Kolozsvar – UCSP (BL)**
- **Day 3 – (Mon, Aug 4) Morning visit to Unitarian HQ & High School before departing Kolozsvar for Maramures. We tour the Mara Valley wooden churches, visit the Village Museum in Sighetu-Marmatiei, and stop at the “happy cemetery” in nearby Sapanta before arriving in Vadu Izei for dinner & overnight \*\*\* (BLD)**
- **Day 4 – (Tues, Aug 5) We continue our tour of Maramures with a travel day across the back roads of Maramures visiting the wooden monastery at Birsana and taking in some breathtaking scenery. Dinner & overnight Gura Humorului – Voronet Pensiune\*\*\* (BLD)**
- **Day 5 – (Wed, Aug 6) Guided tour of painted monasteries of Sucevita, Humor & Voronet (UNESCO World Heritage sites). Return to Gura Homorului for dinner & overnight Gura Homorului – Voronet Pensiune\*\*\* (BLD)**
- **Day 6 – (Thurs, Aug 7) We depart Gura Homorului and begin our journey back to Transylvania. En route we visit the painted monastery at Moldovita (a UNESCO World Heritage site) and have a picnic lunch. Dinner at Corona De Aur (Golden Crown) restaurant in Bistrita where Joseph Harker was first warned about “The Count”. Overnight Bistrita – Hotel Diana\*\*\* (BLD)**
- **Day 7 - (Fri, Aug 8) Depart Bistrita for villages. En route we have lunch in Marosvasarhely and tour the spectacular Art Nouveau Cultural Palace & Mirror Hall. Late afternoon arrival in Szentabraham. Welcome reception/dinner with minister & host families. Overnight Szentabraham & Fiatfalva – home stays. (BLD)**
- **Day 8 – (Sat, Aug 9) Unitarian World Gathering at the Szekefurdo just outside of Szekelyudvarhely. Annual outdoor festival & reunion with music and worship. Picnic lunch on hillside before returning to village. Overnight Szentabraham & Fiatfalva – home stays. (BLD)**
- **Day 9 – (Sun, Aug 10) Morning services with partner congregation & visiting choir from Summit, NJ. Reception afterward. Afternoon program TBD. Overnight Szentabraham & Fiatfalva – home stays. (BLD)**

- **Day 10 – (Mon, Aug 11) Day trip to nearby Unitarian village of Enlaka (a UNESCO World Heritage site) and the pottery village of Korond to shop for unique crafts and handwork. Lunch in Simenfalva with Jakab Denes before returning to Szentabraham. Farewell dinner with host families. Overnight Szentabraham & Fiafalva – home stays (BLD)**
- **Day 11 – (Tues, Aug 12) Depart village for Homorod Valley. Morning tour of the frescoed Unitarian church at Szekelyderz (a UNESCO World Heritage site). Traditional peasant lunch afterward in the church bastion. Afternoon drive through scenic Homorod Valley visiting Unitarian villages & churches. Dinner & overnight Homorodszentmarton – Francis David Conference Center. (BLD)**
- **Day 12 – (Wed, Aug 13) Depart HSM after breakfast for Kolozsvar. En route we stop in the medieval walled city of Sighisoara/Segesvar (purported birthplace of Vlad Tepes – aka Dracula) where you will have free time to explore the city, shop, and visit your favorite museum or attraction. Lunch on your own. We also will stop in Torda at the “Church of the Edict” where the Edict of Religious Tolerance was issued in 1568. Evening arrival in Kolozsvar. Farewell dinner with UUPCC staff. Overnight Kolozsvar – Hilltop Pensiuene\*\*\* or UCSP (BD)**
- **Day 13 – (Thurs, Aug 14) Depart Kolozsvar for airport/train station for flight/train to US, Budapest, or elsewhere in Europe. (B)**

