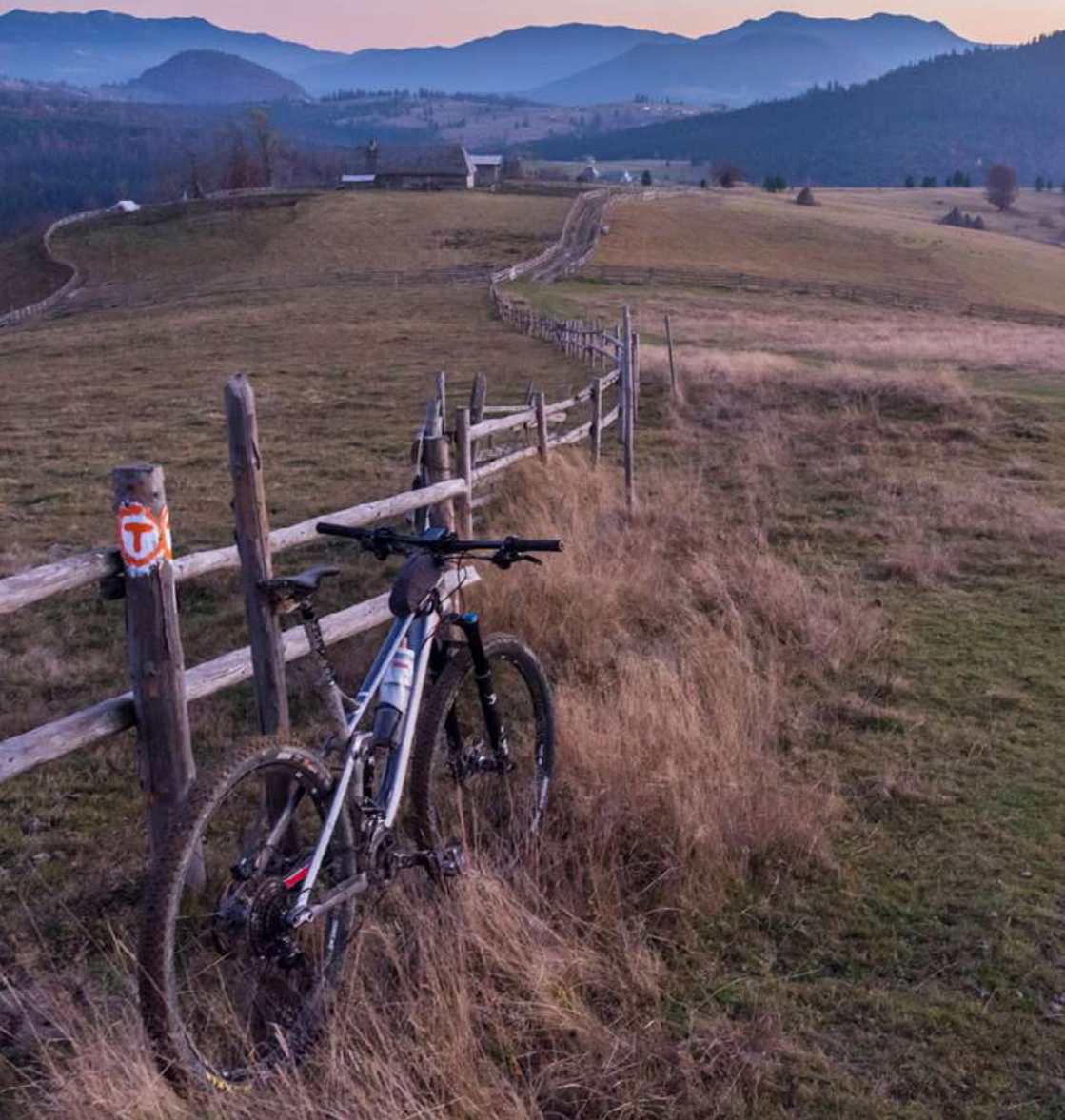


The GUIDE for BIKERS on  Via
Transilvanica



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The information in this guide, together with the description of the hikes and routes is the result of the authors' experience and has an orienting role. Use of this guide is at your own risk. To the extent of the applicable law, we will NOT be liable for any accidents or damages of any kind without a legal basis.

To make it easier for you to browse our guide, we've saved an interactive table of contents, which, just by selecting a title or page number, will take you to that part. You can go back to the beginning by clicking on the VT logo at the top of each page.

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FOREWORD

Via Transilvanica is a route of approximately 1,400 kilometers that reveals 2,000 years of Transylvanian history, from Putna to Drobeta Turnu - Severin. It is a project of the Tășuleasa Social organisation, an NGO based in Pasul TiHuța, in Bistrița - Năsăud County, which carries out educational, social, environmental, cultural, etc. activities.

This route can be undertaken at the discretion of the traveler, either in stages or in its entirety, on foot, by bicycle or even on horseback. The Via Transilvanica guide will provide details about accommodation and meals, as well as historical and cultural information of the different geographical areas.

Via Transilvanica is a trail that breaks down the barriers between generations and cultures because it is dedicated to those people who, regardless of age, experience or where they come from, are prepared to reduce their day-to-day activities and limit their personal belongings that are carried in their backpack to a necessary minimum. First of all, this kind of hiking can be a source of joy, soul healing or even meditation. Man has always needed stories that give meaning to life. The main reason for this trip is this aspect, of discovering new characters, stories and of course places, which can enrich and heal the soul and mind of the traveler.

Via Transilvanica is about diversity, from the blade of grass on the banks of the Danube to the ridges of the mountains, the landscapes that unfold as you go from one stage of the trail to another, which are as different as the people we hope to cross paths on this route. Thus, one can discover important landmarks related to the identity of our country and its inhabitants.

This guide is prepared with care and attention by those who were the first to travel this route and have come to know the real meaning of The Via Transilvanica Trail. We



realised what the most important needs are and we discovered the steps that must be followed in order for a trip on the Via Transilvanica to be made safe and to be a positive experience. You will find information about the route, markings, accommodation and food, geographical areas, places or attractions that are of interest and much more.

Via Transilvanica is constantly changing because new roads may appear, the guesthouses or hostels mentioned in the guide may close and at the same time new ones may open, so if you notice differences during the trip, we look forward to receiving your feedback on our social media pages Tășuleasa Social and/or Via Transilvanica.

Safe Travels!

General information

How to use the guide?

At the beginning of each stage, you will read a short description of a historical area from the seven that the trail passes through. They have been divided up by our team, e.g. Bucovina, Highlands, Terra daco-romana etc.
























In the chapter *Accommodation* and *Infrastructure* you will find information about accommodation possibilities and the trail. The icons used will help you find what you are looking for faster.

Accommodation is mentioned in the order in which they appear on the route. Information about the possibility of accommodation includes the price-quality ratio, depending on the facilities made available to travelers (washing machine, kitchen, etc.), possible price changes for the current year, addresses and contact details. It is good to know that in addition to guesthouses and hotels, families will also offer accommodation in the villages or towns, which is important to remember, especially in rural areas where tourism is not so developed. Accommodation for locals appears in the guide with a telephone number that must be called in advance (at least the day before), requesting the possibility of accommodation and the number of persons.

Under the title *Note* we have included in each chapter a short narrative description of the route.

Info - is the name of the subchapter in which information about the tourist and cultural - historical objectives is grouped. In the box with the altitude profile map you can find symbols related to infrastructure, distance between accommodation, important GPS points. Next to the title of each stage is the duration in hours required to complete the route. At each stage there is also its map on which we find the numbers next to the names of the localities mentioned in the narrative description (Note). The map comes to the aid of those who still prefer the traditional style of orientation with map and compass.

Explanation of signs

 Lodging	 Bar	 Bank	 Bus	 Belvedere	 Store
 Hotel	 Drinkable water	 Doctor	 Airport	 Local Accommodation	 Police
 Restaurant	 Internet	 Post office	 Church	 Pharmacy	 Touristic objective
 Camping	 Information	 Train	 Pass	 Souvenirs	

Infrastructure

For each locality that is mentioned on the route, the important things are presented in the list below. In small towns there are bus and train connections, but most of the time only once a day. The marked shops are usually simple, rural shops.

Pharmacies or medical points will be accessible with a prior notice because most have a short schedule. The marked springs have in principle mountain water, drinking water and are often maintained, otherwise water can be purchased from the locals and shops.

Road markings:andesite kilometer stones,orange and white arrows,Via Transilvanica logos, signs at intersections and pedestrian crossings, signs with other specifications.

Almost every village has its own patron saint of the church,which is usually a holiday among the locals. To this are added religious holidays that are kept and celebrated, especially during the work breaks by the Romanian peasants. In smaller villages, during religious holidays, the village store is open only a few hours a day, compared to normal times. It is recommended to speak to locals regarding the opening times.

List of holidays / free days 2021:

- January 1st, 2nd – New Year's Day
- January 24th – Day of the Unification of the Romanian Principalities
- April 30th (Good Friday), - May 3rd – Orthodox Easter
- May 1st – Labor Day
- June 1st – Children's Day
- June 20th - 21st – Pentecost/ Whit-Monday
- August 15th – Dormition of the Mother of God
- November 30th – St. Andrew's Day
- December 1st – National Day/ Great Union
- December 25th - 26th – Christmas

In each new geographical or historical area, culinary experiences can be very enjoyable so it is appropriate to specify in advance if local food is preferred. In the mountain and lowland areas,we almost always find fresh sheep cheese,which shepherds offer from time to time, however we recommend that they be paid to encourage tourism development.

More information about them will be received on the spot.



Duration of the route

Walking hours are specified in the subtitle of each stage of the route, adding a margin of error of +/- 30 minutes, depending on the terrain, your own physical condition and the weather.

The duration was calculated for an average speed of 8-9 km/h by bike, (Bucovina area only from Putna to Vatra Moldovitei - 6km/h, therefore much slower due to the difficulty of the route and bike stages).

Hiking on the VT

The VT Trail offers a real experience that may not be found elsewhere by putting the traveller in new situations. The thing that makes this route so special is the fact that the hike is enriched, not materially, but spiritually and culturally, thanks to the new personal experiences one gains and all the stories that will be shared by his new friends. From a cultural point of view, the traveler will have the opportunity to be led in a unique way, both through the history of Romania and through a modern reality. Thus, he will have access to a different approach to the known clichés and stereotypes and will have the opportunity to experience nature in an authentic way, from Obcinele Bucovinei, near the Călimani mountains to the depressions leading to the Danube port.

The Via Transilvanica guide offers as many details as possible about the accommodation network in the areas through which the trail passes and the possibilities they provide.

The trail also has very good signage, which gives the traveler a safe experience and reduces the chances of getting lost and veering off route. If you have suggestions and feedback regarding this, we look forward to receiving them on the social network pages Tășuleasa Social and/or Via Transilvanica pages.

By bike on the VT

Via Transilvanica can also be cycled or ridden. By bike, recommendations can already be made for existing marked routes and some tips can be offered.

The following parts of the trail will be updated accordingly with gps coordinates, route descriptions and new recommendations will be added.

Regarding the general image of biking on the VT based on tests of the route by a team from our organisation, we warn mountain biking enthusiasts that certain routes on the VT are extremely difficult and suitable for cyclists with good experience and fitness.

The "Bucovina" route is one that requires MTB equipment, the recommendation of experienced cyclists on the VT would be an MTB with front-rear suspension and safety helmet. After the Bucovina stage, the route will become gentler and the rear suspension will be just a matter of personal choice. Tires of at least 2.1 to 2.25-2.3 should be fitted. Disc brakes with 180 front/rear discs will make it easier to move, but smaller discs also work, but with more care.

The equipment must also contain: first aid kit and bicycle repair kit (pump, camera, wedge kit, etc.) Appropriate clothing, raincoat and specific equipment for MTB, or what is comfortable for each cyclist. This stage will mean that one will push one's bike 75% of the time from Putna to Vatra Dornei, while from Vatra Dornei to Lunca Ilvei it becomes less difficult..

Baggage will be at the discretion of each cyclist, depending on how many days are proposed on The Via Transilvanica. Between 2-3 days a rucksack should be 5-7 kg and for a longer period, more and heavier baggage will be needed. The weight of the luggage/backpack greatly influences the movement of the cyclist, especially in mountainous/hilly areas. For this reason, there is also the option of an accompanying car to carry luggage from one accommodation to the next, offering the freedom of cyclists to carry only what is strictly necessary on a one-day stage. In other cases or lack of car/driver, one could ask at the accommodation if a person could transport the luggage for a fee.

An **electric bike** is also an option on The Via Transilvanica Trail, although a bike stage is longer than a hiking route. Battery charging points can be found at every accommodation proposed for hiking or everywhere in larger towns.

There are several e-bike rental centers on the route, but they provide circuit tours with or without a guide.

On more difficult routes, the electric bike can be a torment, especially where there is a large amount of pushing or where whole islands of mud are formed, which will slow one down.

Thus, information about the weather is urgently needed, because if it rains in the mountainous and hilly areas there may be mud that can make the route difficult. In such cases, avoid muddy areas or return to the trail when it is dry.

Although the warnings and recommendations seem daunting, the bike route can be an unforgettable experience, a challenge that will be remembered and a wonderful adventure with nice and hospitable people from Bucovina. After Bucovina the trail becomes a more pleasant cycle for those who prefer cycling.

Other recommendations for cyclists:

The ideal cycling period on The Via Transilvanica Trail should be chosen based on temperatures, daylight and accommodation possibilities. For the time being, we do not recommend cycling in winter due to the difficulty of the route in case of snow and the lack of accommodation in the winter season. The best times would be May - October, with cool evenings and mornings. We must not forget that in mountainous areas the weather tends to be unpredictable. Prior weather information is required. If it has rained a few days before setting off on the route, we recommend a calculation of 2-3 hours margin of error compared to the time suggested in this guide, due to the muddy areas that take more time to pass.

We also recommend traveling during the day, when the days are longer and dangerous situations (for example: wild animals, wandering or injuries) are avoided. With the right equipment, temperatures should not be an issue (see equipment list).

For now, our suggestion would be to travel as a team with two or more cyclists, due to the fact that the route is new and some areas are quite wild or in case of an accident there is someone who can help in some way or another.

Man's best friend, the dog, can be an ideal travel partner except for the areas where there are sheepfolds, which are quite frequent. The only recommendation we have in these cases is the leash for your own dog (to be kept as close as possible to the owner) and the shepherd's warning to withdraw the dogs. At the same time, when passing by the sheepfolds, we recommend getting off the bike and behaving in a friendly manner towards barking dogs and communicating with them. If these things do not work, different methods can be used. The most effective are: "ȚIE LA OI !!!!!!" or "CHEAMĂ-ȚI

CĂNI!!!". However, for people who are afraid of sheep dogs, we also recommend pepper spray, ultrasound or other tools/ways to drive away animals.

It is best, in general, to have an average, if not, good physical condition to be able to cross the Via Transilvanica Trail by bicycle, but in the Bucovina area a good/excellent physical condition is recommended with suitable equipment. In the very hot periods, keep hydrated and in the rain use adequate protection, because we know that dehydration leads to tension / circulation problems and exposure to low temperatures leads to colds and flu.

Route planning

Via Transilvanica is divided into seven historical and cultural regions: Bucovina, Ținutul de Sus, Terra Siculorum, Terra Saxonum, Valea Mureșului, Terra Daco-Romana and Valea Cernei. The route also crosses ten counties: Suceava, Bistrița-Năsăud, Mureș, Harghita, Brașov, Sibiu, Alba, Hunedoara, Caraș-Severin and Mehedinți.

The traveller can choose to walk, bike or ride a region, a county, or set up a route of a few days. Of course, the option to complete the entire trail is also a possibility.

Orientation: The VT route is marked in specific colors: orange and white (orange arrow for Drobeta Turnu-Severin direction and white for Putna direction).

The specific marking is an orange T within an orange circle on a white background. Hikers will be guided by specific signs as well as warning signs on the route. At every kilometer one will find an andesite kilometer stone with the VT logo and a sculpture (made by student sculptors). This will keep one on the right track. The GPS coordinates, the website www.viatransilvanica.com or the free mobile application are also available for cyclists.

Access to the VT route is also possible by plane (the nearest airports are: Suceava, Cluj-Napoca, Târgu-Mureș, Sibiu, Brașov and Timișoara), car, train or bus to certain points from which one can start the route in the desired direction.

On foot, by bike or on horseback - this is the official description of how to do the VT Trail. By bike, the route is recommended for mountain biking, the traveller having to go through mountainous or rugged terrain (off road). Asphalt will be in some places but very rarely. It goes without saying that by bike, the time required to cover the route will be shorter, halving - compared to the one traveled on foot (approx. Two and a half weeks for the entire Trail).

Ideally, the day should start at 8am in order not to exceed the margin of error of the time allocated for each stage in order to be able to enjoy the landscape. It is recommended to leave the accommodation after one night in order to leave space for any hikers who are going to arrive at the same accommodation. We recommend reading each route description before heading out and scheduling in advance accommodation and meals proposed in this guide.

The costs will cover a minimum of expenses for the services offered locally which are approximately 40-80 lei/person for accommodation and 20-40lei for a meal. Most accommodation will also offer a traditional breakfast and dinner can be ordered in advance and during the day you can shop at local stores or dine in the larger cities.

Recommended equipment list:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle in the best technical condition | <input type="checkbox"/> Batteries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle repair kit (pump, chamber, wedge kit) | <input type="checkbox"/> External charger/battery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safety helmet and protection | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports towel (light) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small backpack | <input type="checkbox"/> Shower gel (in a small bottle) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rain coat | <input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush and toothpaste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal clothes (fleece, down jacket) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses, sun hat, sunscreen with high SPF |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Super dry t-shirts | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical kit (dressings, patches, magnesium/anti-cramps, antihistamines, anti pain, foot cream, disinfectant and personal medicines) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle pants | <input type="checkbox"/> Mosquitoes/Insect Spray |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shorts | <input type="checkbox"/> Pepper spray (for wild animals and dogs) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trekking socks (super dry) | <input type="checkbox"/> Matches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lightweight comfortable footwear (for possible visits around), optional | <input type="checkbox"/> Important documents (ID card/ passport, health card, emergency contact) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle shoes | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water bottle (camelback or other light) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Penknife/Knife | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Headtorch | |

Emergency numbers

112 - national emergency number

0 - SALVAMONT - +40 725 826 668 - Salvamont National Dispatch Office

Mountain accident alert system:

1. In case of emergency call the following telephone numbers: 112 - Inspectorate for Emergency Situations; 0 - SALVAMONT - Salvamont National Dispatch Office, ie +40 725 826 668. The operator of the Salvamont National Dispatch Office will take the call and direct it to the Salvamont formation in whose area of responsibility you are.
2. Alarm call information:
 - the personal data of the alarmer;
 - the nature of the accident or event (injured, sick, lost);
 - victim identification data;
 - the place and time of the event and the number of people affected.

After these steps, wait in an area with phone signal, wait for a call to check the situation

3. After the alarm call:
 - stay in the area with a telephone signal;
 - shelter and thermally protect the injured;
 - observe the state of the injured vital functions;
 Stray groups or individuals will stay in the signal area from where they called.

International signaling code in case of alarm:

- Signal emitted in case of danger: bright, visual and loud. Six signals are fired (one signal every 10 seconds for one minute, followed by a one-minute pause);
- Three signals per minute (one signal every 20 seconds) are used for the answer, followed by a one-minute pause;
- The signaling continues until the aid arrives.

Useful information

The proposed opening hours correspond to 2020 with possible changes, especially in terms of accommodation, which are open depending on the season.

Pharmacies: We recommend purchasing the necessary medicines from larger localities/cities, pharmacies in rural areas have a shorter schedule and simpler facilities.

Police: In Romania there are four types of units: Gendarmerie, Local Police, Traffic Police and National Police.

Banks/ATMs: Card payment is not always possible in rural areas (at guesthouses/locals homes), but in larger communities, ATMs to withdraw money can be found. We also recommend these services in larger localities/cities.

Internet: National mobile telephone networks have reasonably good, quick internet, Romania being 5th in top countries with the fastest internet in the world. However, the lack of signal also leads to the lack of internet. You can find WI-FI in some rural guesthouses - ask the hosts.

Telephone: Prefix Romania +40

Roaming operates according to the tariffs, terms and conditions of the European State, details and tariffs can be found here: https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/consumers/internet-telecoms/mobile-roaming-costs/index_en.html

In some places, away from the world, there may not be a telephone or GPS signal. In case of danger look for a place with signal at a higher altitude.

Shops: Rural, outside of national or religious holidays, usually have short opening hours before and after lunch.

Emergency call: 112 is the international call (possibility to speak in several languages).

Blisters

Blisters won't spare anyone! The following tips can reduce them occurring: rubbing should be prevented and avoided by tightening the boots firmly and keeping feet dry. During rest breaks, it would be a good idea to take off your boots and socks to let your feet breathe and dry. Using a new, dry pair of socks would be ideal. The wet ones can be hung with safety pins on one's backpack to dry. If one has special trekking socks, they will dry in a very short time. 100% wool or cotton are not recommended.

Cold mountain streams can be very comforting, but be careful: wet feet are always more prone to blisters than dry ones! At the first sign of discomfort (blister) apply several rows of plasters or patches on the sensitive place to further avoid rubbing. If a blister has formed, it will only pop if walking with pressure on it. Use a needle or nail clipper (risk of infection - disinfect the instrument) and make two holes so that all the liquid can drain. DO NOT remove the skin from the bladder!! Cover with several patches or a special one for blisters. In all cases, the wound must be protected from the risk of infection and kept

clean. Special patches for blisters are also very useful. If the patch comes off repeatedly, it can be fixed with strips of tape or plasters.

Hydration and nutrition

Hydration is very important both during and after the hike. Repeatedly fill your water bottle at the points indicated with the sign of spring or drinking water (from the first part of the presentation of the Trail). It is always best to have more water than less, especially when it is very hot. In some parts there are fewer localities along the trail, which means even fewer water sources. Water and supplies should be calculated based on the information in the guide description.

A light snack (energy bar, fruit, bread) is recommended if the stage is longer.

Magnesium is preferably taken in the morning, before the start of the hike every day. It helps prevent muscle cramps and tendonitis.

At most recommended guesthouses, with prior notice in advance, you can benefit from a hot meal (dinner/breakfast), costing between 40-60 lei/meal. We recommend the traditional dishes from the area - try to taste them. Local wines and brandies may be to the liking of many, but not everyone. However, they can be an interesting experience at the end of the route or the day.

Overnight possibilities

Via Transilvanica is a project that was born in 2018, which is why an extended network of accommodation for hikers, like those found on the Camino de Santiago Trail in Spain, has not yet been developed. It is possible, however, to spend the night in the locals' houses of those willing to offer accommodation and a room prepared for tired hikers. All the families from the communities crossed by our trail will be informed about what VT means. Overnight stays can be an opportunity for them to develop from an agro-tourism point of view.

There are several guesthouses along the way, which offer multi-bed rooms in a hostel (several people in a room) or parish houses happy to accommodate hikers from all over the world. The prices at the peasant houses (with a certain standard of cleanliness and comfort) are between 40-60 lei/person and the food (optional) between 20-40 lei/person. At guesthouses, the prices can be higher due to the services offered (washing machine, dryer, Wi-Fi, etc.), between 60-80 lei/person and at the parish houses the same prices. There will be places where the term "donation" is found in the price. This means that the hiker will leave as much reward as he wants.

The accommodation conditions in each of the cases presented above are: a clean bed, toilet, shower and any meals offered with local specifics. All accommodation should be scheduled in advance using the telephone numbers listed in the technical description of the route.

DOGS AND WILD ANIMALS

On the trail you will come across domestic or wild animals at almost every step of the way, either through the traditional villages, over the grazing lands or through forests. Animals will be present, even if we do not see them.

Domestic dogs are usually tied up or in the courtyard where they will not be a danger as long as they bark at us from behind the fence and you do not invade their territory.

Generally, the dog attacks if it feels threatened, it does its duty as guardian of the house / courtyard or sheepfold by barking.

Even though Sheepdogs can be man's best friend, they can be dangerous to the unfriendly, but there are ways to defend yourself or avoid conflict with them.

One of these ways is to bypass the territory it defends, where possible. We also recommend using friendly language which often calms them down, or calling for the shepherd to call his dogs back to the sheepfold. In this guide we try to support a more friendly approach with them, in many areas learning what and how to calm them down. Sprays, firecrackers, whistles or sticks are also recommended, but our team has never had to use any of these means. But let's not forget: fear is the dog's biggest enemy!

What do we do if we meet the bear?

We need to know that no matter what happens, it is not the bear that is responsible, but the human being, because we are the ones who can plan and anticipate, therefore, you cannot treat the situation as if you are dealing with a conflict with another person.

We emphasize that man is not part in the bear's food options and man is not attacked with predatory intent, but in defense. The intention to attack is not one of food or territory, but rather an intention that is caused by the feeling of fear, it is an aggressive defense mechanism to ensure the survival of his own species or that of his cubs. At the same time, some individuals can attack due to negative external influences (disorientation, illness, injury) and can have an aggressive, unnatural attitude towards man.

Specialists have also confirmed that from the points of view mentioned above, each meeting with a bear is unique and your behavior and reaction are dependent on each individual encounter and situation.

Therefore, if a man can learn, plan and think logically when encountering a bear, he must act in consideration of the bear's right to exist and to not forget about acceptance and coexistence.

One of the best preventions is walking/hiking in groups and avoiding the thick bushes and forests. If, however, we are alone, we must let our presence be known by making noise with the help of bells, whistles, singing, etc. Hunting observatories, dens and animal carcasses should be avoided as much as possible. Under no circumstances should food remains be left on the trail because food scraps attract wild animals. This is true both for camping and for our nature breaks. The bear identifies artificial food with humans, and because of this, many conflicts occur. Bear cubs should always be avoided, even if they seem to be alone. A mother bear never leaves her cubs and if she sees us nearby, she will surely attack.



Via  


Atentie la ursi dupa inserarea!
Beware of bears after sunset!
Via  Transilvania

One of the basic forms of avoidance, which is effective in 95% of cases is talking and making noise while hiking. The bear will leave the area if it perceives the presence of humans.

What do we do if we see a bear?

Respect the animal, keep a distance of about 30 meters and be aware of bear's warning signs (yawning, huffing, woofing, move their ears on their backs, blow or gnash their teeth) and move away slowly.

If it stands up on two legs, what happens?

If the bear stands up on two legs, it is just curious, like a person who stands up. In this case, we can warn him that we are people through speech and slow movements. Bears have poorer eyesight than hearing, which is why it is important to speak slowly. Do not behave threateningly in any case. We are not allowed to throw stones, wood or anything at it, because it will feel threatened and the chances increase of it being aggressive. They may also feel irritated due to photographers, especially at the sound of cameras, which are unusual sounds for them. Simply be aware of the animal's behavior and move away slowly.

If you hear some sounds that you think are from a bear, what should you do?

Stay calm. Probably the bear will leave the territory if it perceives the presence of man. We must make our presence known through sounds that gradually increase in intensity but not threatening. If the noise of the bear seems close, move in the opposite direction and it will hear the sounds becoming distant and it will not follow. Keep calm because, as we mentioned before, the European bear does not consider man as prey. It's defensive or threatening behavior is caused by fear or because he feels threatened. The exceptions are individuals who have been raised by humans, injured or dying.

Can we defend ourselves from a bear?

We can use bear/animal spray as self-defense. It can also be used against sheepdogs. It is larger than a normal aerosol that can be used several times and is effective at a distance of 6-10 meters. Its effectiveness is not guaranteed in all weather conditions or close encounters.

How to stay calm?

It is difficult to stay calm, even after ten bear encounters, but be mentally prepared according to the above is possible.

What if it attacks?

A bear only attacks if challenged. For example if it is annoyed by a dog and then the dog goes to the owner for protection. He also attacks if he is caught and pushed in a corner or if he is disturbed from feeding. It can attack and be extremely dangerous if it has previously been injured or scared by hunters. A bear attacks to protect her cubs. Besides, there are dangerous bears that are in the last phase of rabies, so they are sick and are no longer afraid of humans, these are rare cases of those that are accustomed to humans by feeding.

If the bear sees man as prey or as a danger, for various reasons, the bear will attack and injure him, as he has all the advantages. For the bear, man would be an easy prey. In some rare cases, the bear may launch a fake attack to drive the man away, but this generally does not happen through physical contact. In these cases, the most important thing is to keep calm. Never fight the bear, he will always win!!!

Slovenian experts have advised us to stay put, to lie face down with our hands on the back of our necks and to try to stay as calm as we can. Before we get up, we need to make sure the bear has left the area - there is no guarantee that this technique will work, as there are no sources who have experienced this.

Do not try to run, because that's how you only awaken the bear's hunting instinct and it's a better runner than you anyway. At long distances on flat terrain, it can run at a speed of 50kph.

Climbing a tree is a slightly better solution than running, but it is still a weak solution because the bear climbs better than you as well. Only then can you run if you only have a few steps to the car, for example.

What do we do with the dog? Shall we keep him tied up?

Keep the dog on a leash, a longer leash to have freedom of movement and control.

The dog has no chance against bears, it will just irritate and annoy them. If you let the dog go, he can even lead/ lure the bear to us.

Mosquitoes, ticks and other insects

If you are on the trail after a wetter, rainier period, you will face another unpleasant and painful problem: mosquitoes!

After a month and a half of rain in July, our team set off in extreme heat, a period that attracted millions of mosquitoes in the dark, cooler areas such as forests.

Our route often goes through grazing areas with sheepfolds, which also means that you will find ticks, especially where the sheep walk.

We recommend that in the morning, before hiking, first use a protective layer of sunscreen and then insect repellent. At the pharmacy you will find Autan for mosquitoes, ticks and other insects.

(Note that the portion described above about meeting the bear is partly a translated article from the online page of the Transindex newspaper, signed by G.L.)

Small survival dictionary:

Drinkable water - apă potabilă /'a.pə/ po'ta.bi.lə/

Non Drinkable water - apă nepotabilă /'a.pə/ ne. po'ta.bi.lə/

Blister - beșică /be'ʃi.kə/

Sanitizer - dezinfectant /de.zin.fek'tant/

Cramp - crampă /'kram.pə/

Dehydration - deshidratare /des.hi.dra'ta.re/

Diarrhea - diaree /di.a.re.e/

Headache - durere de cap /du're.re de kap/

Heatstroke - insolație /in.so'la.tsi.e/

Band-aid - leucoplast /le.u.ko.plast/

Pharmacy - farmacie /far.ma'tʃi.e/

Where is a pharmacy? - Unde este o farmacie? /'un.de/'es.te/ o /far.ma'tʃi.e/

Well - fântână /fin'ti.nə/

Spring/ stream - izvor /iz'vor/

Constipation - constipație /kon.sti'pa.tsi.e/

Magnezium - magneziu /mag'ne.zju/

Doctor - doctor, medic /'me.dik/

Where can I find a doctor? - Unde gășesc un medic? /'un.de/ gə'sesk/ un/'me.dik/

I need a doctor! - Am nevoie de un doctor! /am/ ne'vo.je/ de/ un/'dok.tor/

Danger - pericol /pe'ri.kol/

Dangerous - periculos /pe.ri.ku.los/

Leg - picior /pi'tʃjor/

Earplugs - dopuri de urechi /'do.puri/ de/ u'rekj/

Tendinitis - tendinită /ten.di'ni.tə/

Patch - platură /'plas.tu.re/

Knee - genunchi /dze.'nun.kj/

Sprain - entorsă /en'tor.sə/

Sling - fașă /'fa.fə/

Shoes - papuci /pa'putʃj/

We are looking for a free room for three persons, tomorrow night. - Căutăm o cameră liberă pentru trei persoane, mâine seară /'kə.u.təm/ o/ 'ka.me.r/ 'li.berə/ 'pen.tru/ trej/ per'soa.ne/ 'mi.j.ne/ 's æ.rə/

Do you have spare rooms? - Aveți camere disponibile? /a've'tsi/ 'ka.me.re/ dis.pə'ni.bi.le/



A story about the Traveler's Booklet

The Via Transilvanica road represents a journey everyone will remember in their own authentic way. This means that its story is one that rewrites itself with every new traveler that walks on this trail. However, we would like to have a common language of our recollections on Via Transilvanica, a collection of memories to highlight this road with its every region and every stage, each of them so special and unique. Thus, we would have a collection of memories that belong to all of us.

This is why we have created the Traveler's Booklet, a little book where the traveler can collect all of the Via Transilvanica stamps, specific to each stage of the trail that they manage to walk on (one stage = one day on the trail, all the days are described in this guide). These stamps are customized to the places they represent and the travelers can go to distribution points (see stamps distribution points attached at the description of every stage) where they only have to present the booklet and they will get a stamp representing the stage they have just finished.

It's easy. This booklet will accompany the traveler in their journey, being a visual representation of all the kilometers the traveler walks and eventually a souvenir that awaits to be completed with all of the stamps, one that calls for the traveler to return on the paths he's walked before and to explore the ones they haven't seen yet.

The Traveler's Booklet can be purchased from the Official Via Transilvanica Shop shop.viatransilvanica.com and from a few places along the route:

- Putna - Beautiful Market (the gas station shop in front of the entrance to Putna Monastery)
- Pasul Mestecăniș - The mini-market under Restaurant Mestecăniș
- Piatra Fântânele - Tășuleasa Social (also here you will find other VT products)
- Lupeni - Barangoló Panzió (accommodation recommendation in guide)
- Saschiz - Lime trees 70 m from the Fortified Church right on the VT
- Mediaș - Friends - Specialized Wine and Coffee Shop and Tasting Bar

You can see the lists of places where you can find the Via Transilvanica stamps divided by region on pages 40 and 61.

Safe travels and to many stamps acquired in your own Traveler's Booklet!

BUCOVINA

Via Transilvanica starts in Bucovina, from Putna, more precisely from the Putna Monastery, where the Holy Voivod Stephen the Great rests in the monastery he founded. In the north of the country, Bucovina is a bridge between Transylvania and Moldova.

The 136km route brings to light picturesque areas and unique historical monuments in the world. In front of the Putna Monastery, our path takes us to the Sucevița depression, then passing through Vatra Moldoviței, through Obcinele Bucovinei to Pasul Mestecăniș from Pojorâta commune, continuing slowly towards Țara Dornelor, which is embraced by Giumalău, Suhard and Călimani mountains. From there, the road winds over hills and meadows to Poiana Negri with its wonderful springs, stopping at Poiana Stampei, a town where the trail ends, in the historical region of Bucovina.

The people of Bucovina are the proud descendants of the brave Stephan the Great and they are known for their hard working and kind characters.

BEWARE!

Being a wild area, we recommend cyclists carry adequate equipment, enough drinking water and defense objects/warning against wild animals or dogs.

Out of respect for the locals, we ask cyclists to close all gates with the latch that they pass through. These gates usually mark the presence of pastures, so the farmers use latches so that animals such as cows cannot escape. Try not to leave evidence of your presence as one passes through. People that wish to mountain bike along this stage should know that this portion is particularly difficult as many parts of it require entire kilometers of pushing. Sometimes the mud, lack of drinking water, frequent and steep descents and ascents make this route a true challenge. Calculate a margin of error of 2-3 hours in addition to the calculated time, especially if it is or has been a rainy period.

The recommended equipment for this stage is: helmet, gloves, goggles, MTB equipment, multitool, powerlink, pump, inner tubes, patches, chain oil as a minimum of tools and spare parts. Footwear: walking shoes/boots as one will push one's bike a lot while climbing.

Trail: well marked, following a touristic trail marked with a blue band, easy, mainly through forests, 70% of it is on forest roads

Elevation difference: + 1,548 m

Critical spots: long and steep climb at the beginning of the route

Scenery: Rich in forest, half of the trail follows Putnișoara river, entering the Sucevița locality on a straight road which at first is macadam, but later asphalt, the trail also passes by some new and former forest exploitations. When leaving the locality (Sucevița), on an asphalt road (from the center about 3km), head towards Poiana Mărului.

Accommodation:

Putna (574 m alt.): At **Putna Monastery**, at **Xenodochium Mitropolit Visarion Puiu**, (monastery guesthouse), available all year round with previous reservation between 9:00 and 19:00, Monday to Saturday, phone number: +40 731 447 733 (Father Ioan), and at **Arhondaric Sf. Nicolaie**, phone number: +40 758 607 794 (Father Gherasim) price is up to the willingness of people (donation).

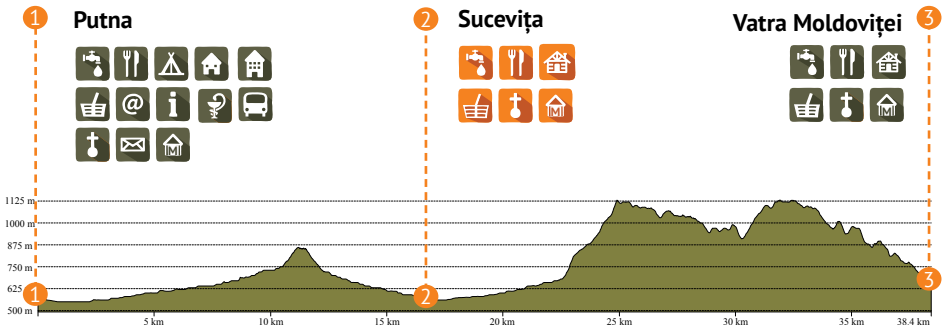
Sucevița (560 m alt.): **Hanul Mărioara/ Karisma Kriss**, 54 lei/person, breakfast and dinner can be arranged for extra fee, available all year round with previous reservation at the phone number: +40 747 771 341.

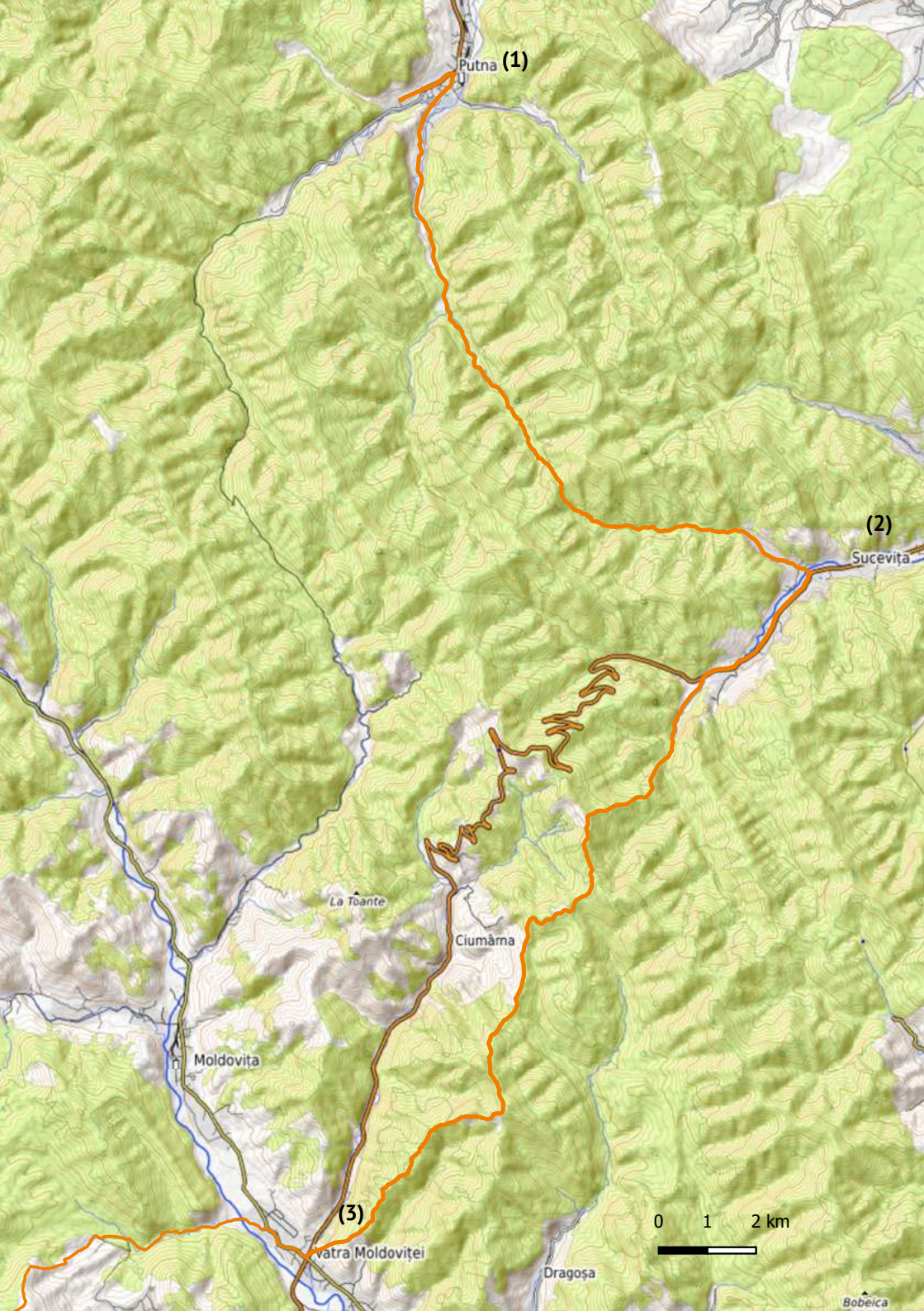
Good to know: At the xenodochium, of Putna Monastery, is expected to have an ecclesiastical conduct that respects the monastic life. It is entirely out of the question to exhibit a behavior that is anything but decent and respectful as the housing is provided by the monastery for pilgrims, thus it is not a regular hotel. Both Putna and Sucevița provide multiple accommodation options but in case the ones presented here are not available, we highly recommend searching for other possibilities on the internet.

Vatra Moldoviței (620 m alt.): **Crizantema Guest House**, 120 lei/duble, breakfast and dinner can be arranged for extra fee, available all year round with previous reservation by phone number +40 745 922 447;

Pensiunea Alexandra, 12 rooms, 120 lei/duble, 150 lei/triple, breakfast and dinner optional, with previous reservation by tel. +40 744 301 667 (Nicoleta Crețu) or at www.pensiunealexandra.ro;

Valcan Guest House, with a restaurant, available all year, with reservation by phone number +40 722 419 513;





Putna (1)

(2)

Sucevița

La Toante

Ciurârna

Moldovița

(3)

Vatra Moldoviței

Dragășă

0 1 2 km

Bobeica



Good to know: Vatra Moldoviței offers multiple accommodation options, available at all price ranges. However, in case there are no places at the above locations, we suggest searching for other possibilities on the internet. We recommend accommodation to be made as close to the trail as possible, to avoid having walking extra kilometers.

Infrastructure:

Putna: 

Sucevița: 

Vatra Moldoviței: 

Note:

Putna (1) is located in the northern part of Suceava County in Bucovina, having access by road and rail from Suceava - Putna. The closest airport is in Suceava and from Rădăuți there is public transport every hour to Putna.

Starting from Putna Monastery, the route follows the asphalt and the Via Transilvanica markings for about 1km until one reaches the town hall, from here turn right to the bridge at the edge of the village to a macadam road. On this part of the route, attention must be paid to the slope, located after the human-shaped landmark after the stream, where one will push one's bike for the first time. It is not a long section, but it is very steep and if there is heavy baggage on the bike and if there is mud, it may be necessary to interrupt the trip. Continue until the crossing of the stream where the climb in the forest begins. Riding on the forest road is like a dream that lasts around 6km. Then push up to a wooded hill from where the descent begins on the other side to Sucevita. The first part is technical and it is recommended to walk alongside one's bike if one has

no experience until the next long forest road, which passes among several fairly large patches of forest exploitation.

Sucevița (2) is located at the foot of Obcina Mare and is a scattered mountain village located along the DN17A, which connects the municipalities of Rădăuți - Câmpulung Moldovenesc. The closest airport is in Suceava and from Rădăuți there is public transport. From Sucevița Monastery the route follows the asphalt road from front of the Monastery to reach Poiana Mărului (about 3km on asphalt to Poiana Mărului Peak). On the left is the Poiana Mărului forest road where the route continues and is marked with a sign. After about 2km on the forest road to Poiana Mărului one leaves behind all the houses, boarding houses and hotels and one will reach an exploitation. Pass it taking a right to a barrier to the upper left on a tractor track. Here the route becomes more difficult. Perhaps the most difficult part as it is really steep and one will push one's bike for 1 hour - 1 hour 30 minutes to Poiana Ovăzului. The track leads to the exit of the meadow following the VT markings, leading to the Rija meadow that then continues for about 3km through the forest to Poiana Lupoiaia on the ridge. In the most probable case of an encounter with several shepherd dogs, it is recommended to keep calm and distant, especially since most of the time when they see people, the owners call them. From there it is cycleable with caution on the steep descents before the last ascent that precedes a descent to Vatra Moldoviței (3), which is also steep at the end.

Info:

Putna Monastery – named by Mihai Eminescu “Jerusalem of the Romanian people” is the first of the Stefanian foundations, being completed in 1469. It is an Orthodox monastic place of monks, one of the most important cultural, religious and artistic centers in Romania. Here the great voivode rests, together with several members of his family, including his son and nephew who succeeded him to the throne. On July 2 (Holy Voivode Stephen the Great) and August 15 (Assumption of the Blessed Virgin) of each year, important Orthodox pilgrimages take place in which thousands of people participate. At the monastery there are also the relics of the Metropolitan Bishop, Iacob Putneanul, the second great founder of the monastery (1755) and the one who printed the first Alphabet from Moldova (1755) and founded the first village school in Moldova (1759). For over 550 years, Putna Monastery has been a spiritual, historical and cultural landmark for Romanians and for all those who want to know the history and faith of Romanians. Putna has a unique place in the hearts and soul of Romanians, because here is the tomb of the greatest leader that the Romanian people had: the Holy Voivode Stephen the Great. After the Great Union, King Ferdinand prayed in Putna, in 1920, to Saint Stephen: “In your name and in your great deeds I have found the inexhaustible source of patience in times of humility and courage in times of hardship. It inspires in us the spirit of the holy union in our hearts, so that we may carry forward the heavy task of our united state”.

Saint Stephen the Great – Saint Voivode Stephen the Great (April 12, 1457 - July 2, 1504). He was one of the most important defenders of Christianity and of Europe in the face of the expansion of the Ottoman Empire. St. Stephen founded over 30 churches and monasteries. Putna was the first of them, built on an old hermitage. In 1982, under the foundation of the Royal House from the Stefanian period, the “yellow and beautiful” bones were found, with the scent of holy relics, of five hermits who had to work here before the foundation of the monastery. The Italian physician Matteo Muriano wrote in 1502 about Stephen the Great: “He is a very wise man, worthy of much praise, much



loved by his subjects because he is merciful and just, eternally awake and generous.” For these virtues, the Romanians called him “the good” and “the holy” shortly after his death. The glorious Voivode, “thoughtful country founder and zealous keeper of traditions”, will always remain in the consciousness of the people as “father of the Romanian nation”, being declared in 2007, through a national competition, the greatest Romanian. The chronicler Grigore Ureche: “And Ștefan Vodă was buried in the country with a lot of mourning and lamentation in the Putna monastery, which was built by him. He was so sorry that everyone cried like they had lost one of their parents, that they all knew that they had lost a lot of good and a lot of defense. After his death until today I call him sveti (saint) Ștefan Vodă”.

Daniil Sihastru's cell – located one kilometer from Putna Monastery and is actually a cave dug by hand in the rock - here, according to tradition, lived the monk Daniil Sihastru before building the monastery and before moving to Voroneț, where he was buried.

Sihăstria Putna Monastery – a church dedicated to the Annunciation, former hermitage of Putna Monastery, was founded during the reign of Stephen the Great, by a Christianised Tartar and later a monk in the community of Putna under the name of Athanasius. The church houses the relics of Saints Silas, Paisius and Nathan, who were disciples of St. Jacob Putnean.

Dragoș Vodă Church – the oldest preserved wooden church in Moldova, founded in the 14th century by Dragoș Vodă, the one who founded the state of Moldova, it was moved by Saint Stephen the Great to Putna.

Sucevița Monastery – a nunnery, an important historical monument of our country was founded by the Movilești family at the end of the 16th century. The church “St. Resurrection” is famous for the predominant green color in the exterior painting and for the remarkable scene of the Stairs of Virtues.

Chapel on Furcui Hill – on this hill near Sucevița Monastery there was a hermitage in ancient times, so this chapel was recently built.

Angelica Flutur, a popular music singer. Born into a Huțuli family in the village of Ciumarna in Obcina Bucovinei. Angelica Flutur tells through music the fascinating story of the population that has lived in the mountains of northern Romania for hundreds of years. She confesses: "At the time of my debut, in 2005, I did not look like others and others did not look like me. I showed myself to the world exactly as I am and I think that in this way I managed to quickly reach the hearts of those who love folklore and, above all, the authenticity. Throughout my repertoire, I sought to capture as accurately as possible the traditions and way of life of the Huțuli, people of the Scythian mountain, who were first Romanised and then enslaved and came to Moldova in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. I searched for everything that was written about them and capitalised on what I knew already from living among them and being one of them." Angelica, as she said about herself, is a simple person, who received at birth a voice unmatched.

The Moldovița Monastery from Vatra Moldoviței, founded by Petru Rareș in 1532, is one of the 8 UNESCO monuments. The painting of the church is distinguished by the iconographic themes: the Siege of Constantinople, the Tree of Jesse and the Akathist Hymn. In the monastery museum there is the Golden Apple award, given by the International Federation of Journalists and Writers of Tourism.

The Museum of Decorated Eggs "Lucia Condrea" from Moldovița is named after the artist who took over and developed the art of decorating eggs. It is the largest museum with decorated eggs in the world, with a number of over 11,000 exhibits, arranged in 106 showcases, on various themes and made with various techniques. The collection places the author in the top of the world's best artists, her works can be found in the great museums of the world, private collections, Royal Houses, etc.

Mocânița "Huțulca" in Moldovița – is a fairytale train ride with a steam or Diesel locomotive, which crosses a picturesque route from Moldovița to Argel for 10.5 km and represents one of the unique attractions of Bucovina. The train operates on a narrow railway that was used from 1888 until 2001 to transport timber from the forest to the sawmill. Today it operates for tourist purposes only.

Huțulii – through the areas that the Via Transilvanica route passes, one can hear less common accents and find more Ukrainian family names. These are the Huțus who one may meet on the way. The Huțus or Hutans are an ethnic subgroup living in Bucovina, Maramures, Transcarpathia and Pocutia. The Huțus call the territory in which they live Huțulșcina (Гуцульщина), also called in Romanian the 'Land of the Huțus'. In Romania the Huțus live in the communes of Brodina, Breaza, Cârlibaba, Moldova uli Sulița, Moldovița, Izvoarele Sucevei, Vatra Moldoviței and Ulma (from Suceava County) and in the communes of Bistra, Poienile de sub Munte, Repedea, Rona de Sus and Ruscova (from Maramureș County) and in the related villages and hamlets. Many times the Huțus were officially considered a subgroup of Ukrainians. However, the Huțus do not appear to be an independent ethnic group. They seem to be related, more culturally than linguistically, to other Slavonic populations living in the Carpathian Mountains and Transcarpathia, namely the Boikis, Ruthenians, Lemkis and Gorals. The port is visibly distinct from that of the neighboring populations and their music has some elements in common with Hungarian music, while some customs find analogies to other Carpathian populations, such as the Romanian-speaking Maramures residents. The Hutus are the ones who carried on the fame of decorating eggs, inlays in wood and bone, but also the popular dress in the mountain areas. According to the historian Mihai Iacobescu, the name of the population would come from the term huțan, a name originally given to horses, then extended and used for the population.

Trail: difficult, steep with short climbs, forest, beautiful meadows to Sadova and from there to Fundu Moldovei it is of medium difficulty.

Elevation difference: + 1,427 m

Critical spots: Steep ascent from Spărturi village to Poiana Coreta (on the Jorești map), then the descent to Fundul Moldovei which is steep and caution is needed.

Scenery: Rich in forests, through meadows, the exit from the locality (Vatra Moldoviței) is on an asphalt road (from the center about 1km) to the Moldovița river that one crosses. From the meadows, the landscape becomes breathtaking as you begin to see the Rarău Massif with the 'Lady's Stones'.

Accommodation:

Spărturi (800 m alt.): **Florin Guest House**, 5 rooms, 100 lei/room with 2 beds, reservation by phone +40 761 388 519 (Anișoara Strugariu);

Sadova (711 m alt.): **Dor de munte Guest House**, 50-100 lei/person, breakfast and dinner options, available all year round with previous reservation at the phone number +40 744 390 365;

David Cabin (Cabana David), 100 lei/room with shared bathroom, 140 lei/room with bathroom, breakfast and dinner possibilities, available all year round with previous reservation at the phone number +40 745 174 180;

Ionescu Guest House, 100 lei/room with shared bathroom, breakfast and dinner options, available with a previous reservation at the phone number +40 744 957 251 (Elena Ionescu);

Good to know: Sadova offers multiple accommodation, available at all price ranges. In case there are no more beds available at the places mentioned here in the guide, we strongly suggest to search on the internet and always remember that accommodation should be close to the trail that needs to be done the following day.

Fundu Moldovei (734 m alt.): **La Moară Guest House**, 23 beds, restaurant, 280 lei/2 person. Reservations can be made at the following phone numbers: +40 726 870 400;

Luisenthal Mansion, double rooms, 200 lei/room, breakfast and dinner possibilities, available all year round with previous reservation at the phone number +40 757 462 589, +40 729 127 123.

Infrastructure:

Vatra Moldoviței:      

Sadova:     

Fundul Moldovei:      

Note:

From Vatra Moldoviței (1) one starts towards Cabana Valcan Guesthouse, in front of which the route passes before crossing the Moldovița river, where one might be lucky enough to see large birds fishing. One might even see a black stork cooling itself with its long legs in the river looking for tadpoles or frogs with its bright orange beak. Remember



(1)

Vatra Moldovitei

Dragos

Paltinu

Tomnătecu
1,302

Dăla

Curmătura Boului

(2)

Sadova

Munțelul
1,302

(3)

Fundu Moldovei

Pojorâta

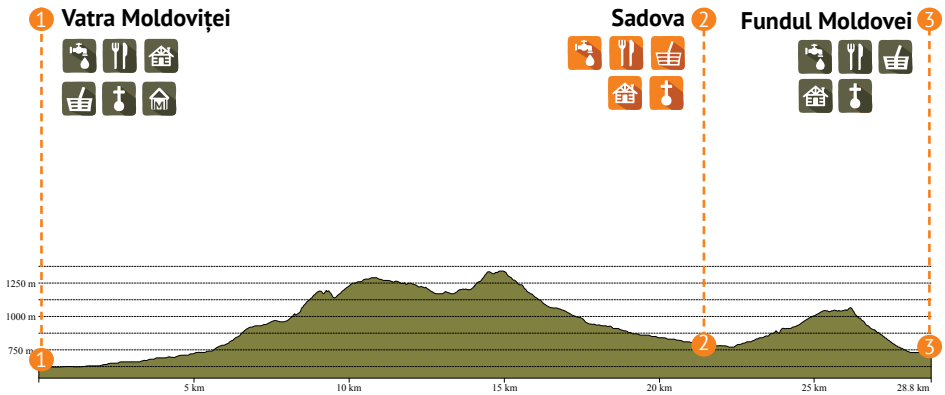
Măsură Buncului

Cămpulung Moldovenesc

0 1 2 km

Colaciu

Tea



that walking on this trail and reaching your desired final destination are both great targets, but natural beauties such as the ones described above should not be neglected while on the trail. Next, cross the bridge, keeping the Valcan stream on the right, until one comes across another bridge. After crossing this bridge and after about a kilometer, the forest road reaches a small intersection from where one follows the road up to the left, namely the Cremenești forest road. It climbs to the mountain village that slowly appears, called Spărturi whose houses seem scattered at random across the hills that in summer are full of flowers. From here follow the tractor tracks that are rather long and slightly steep, broken and washed out by water. Keep following the track through the dense spruce forest, climbing to the top of the hill. Here it will take one at least an hour pushing one's bike before enjoying a steep descent. Then again a climb with a little pushing, after which you reach a small alpine island where a solemn cross is erected in memory of an unknown soldier who fell in World War II and whose body was found by a local peasant and buried here.

From here on, the trail follows the hillside, until entering Coreta and Versnarka meadows. From the first meadow, Coreta, climb to the ridge and to the left in the distance you can see the Rarău Massif with its rocks, 'Pietrele Doamnei'. Here one has steep ascents and descents - be cautious. Once in the two meadows, there are three sheepfolds. Pass the first sheepfold where it is recommended to get help from the shepherd who will be happy to lend a hand to travellers to pass by safely and to protect them from his dogs. He may even be keen to share some of his cheese with you before reaching the second herd, where there are even more dogs than before. Here, we recommend a strategy. In order to avoid risks of any kind, we recommend going round the following herds, on the lower side of the hill, even though the owners might be there to help you pass by safely. Then, whatever the solution for passing through the 3 cattle herds was, the trail reaches the Pietriș Peak. You can get here by pushing for a short distance. From the top of Pietriș descend to Lake Iezer on a forest road, following it for 4 kilometers to Sadova (2).

At first, it is difficult, then the descent becomes easier and fast towards Sadova. Then from Sadova it is possible to cycle uphill (pay close attention again to the mud on the first part after leaving the village), but the descent to Fundul Moldovei (3) is very abrupt

and probably best to push for 80% of it. In the first part there is a steep descent and in the second it is through a rocky valley with a stream that flows into the center of the village.

Info:

The lezer Lake – Sadova is situated in Obcina Feredeului, at 937m altitude. This lake was formed due to landslides 400-500 years ago. The legend is that on the bottom of the lake there is a hidden treasure that belonged to the Tatars, which is protected by numerous vipers and the fish of the lake. The lake was recently cleaned and added to the touristic circuit. The beautiful view during summertime is only matched by the enchanting atmosphere during winter, when the lake is completely frozen for as much as 3-4 months. Another water pan is situated on the upperside of the lezer Lake and it is called Bolătău. This one is surrounded by thick spruce-tree forests, which makes it hard to notice from the distance. Its surface reaches roughly 0.5 ha and the depth is still unknown. This lake is protected by the mountains and it is defined by complete silence.

Sadova – The name of Sadova is supposedly deriving from the slav term "Sad-va" which means "two cheekbones". In all truthfulness it appears that the village was founded from the first few settlements that were built to guard the fruit trees during summer and autumn. Plum trees are found naturally growing alongside the Sadova Stream that flows into the village that is today known as "Prundul Lățișenilor" and "Coasta Botnari". These settlements which at first were only temporary became as time went by, permanent houses. The old parish house is registered as number 1 here in Sadova.

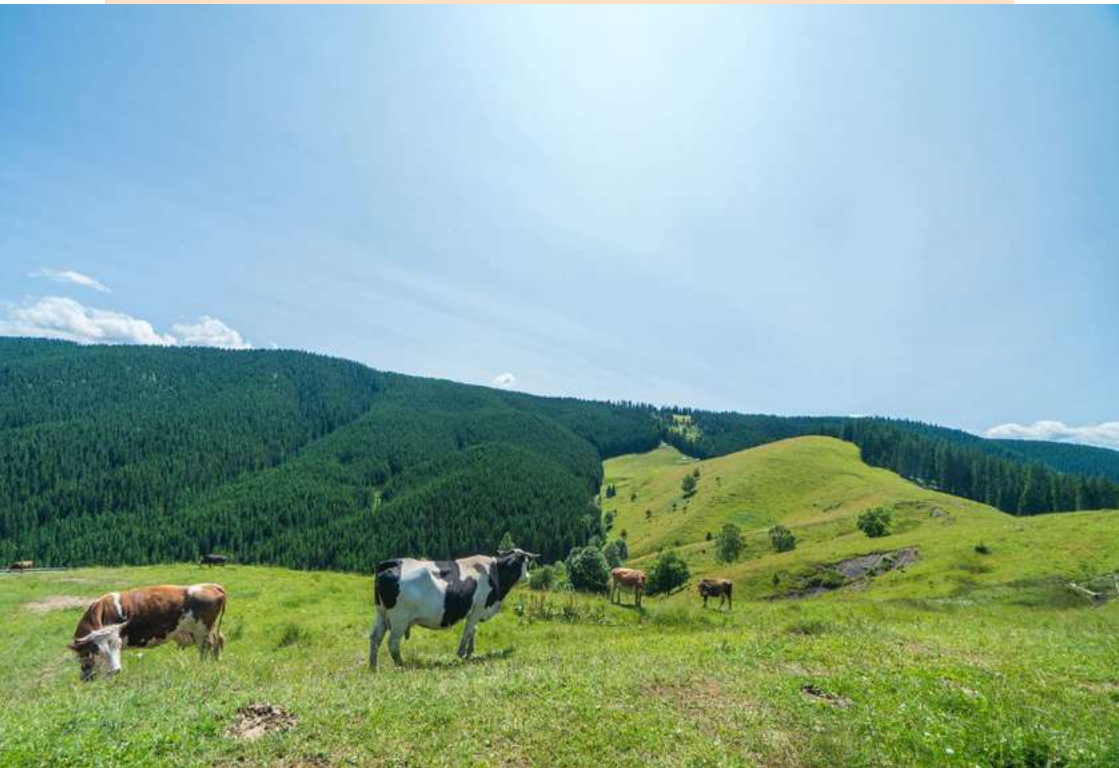
The legends of this area claims that in the place where the two streams, Sadova and Moldovița unite, people used to exchange goods. The people living in the south of Moldova came with carts full of cereals, while the local people had cheese and fish to



offer in exchange. The legend claims that with one particular occasion, a “fratello” from the Apennine mountains came to rest “At the Cross” and his name was Pizzelli. No one knows the reason why he travelled to this place but he was mesmerized by the beauty of this area, but more importantly by a local girl. The two got married and started one of the biggest families of this area, a family that still lives here today but whose name has slightly changed from the original one.

Another legend relating to a different stream in this area, that was later called the Zbrancani stream and now constitutes the access way to “Trei Movile” touristic point. This place attracted workers, that had built the Vatra Molodviței Monastery, to come and build a new settlement, Sadova.

This time, the legend tells us of a family of peasants that ran away from the land of the monastery across the other Obcina because they were not content with the injustice they had to go through. They found shelter in this beautiful area, where there was no danger. One of the runaways was the constructor of the Jibranca Monastery who had a big family that is known as today as the Zbranca family.



Traseul: dificultate medie, de la Fundu Moldovei, apoi urcări abrupte dar scurte, pădure, poieni, apoi tot dificultate medie, multe coborâri prin pădure și pe drumuri forestiere stricate, poieni frumoase până în Vatra Dornei

Diferență de nivel: 1.150 m

Locuri critice: apoi coborârea în Pasul Mestecăniș care este lină dar lungă, se poate prinde viteză mare pe un drum forestier cu trafic și ultimii circa 3 km de coborâre până în Vatra Dornei – este pe drum de TAF distrus de ploii, cu gropi/crevase adânci

Peisaj: Din poieni, peisajul este demn de povestit la prieteni, se vede Masivul Rarău cu Pietrele Doamnei. Se poate numi traseul cu cele mai frumoase priveliști care să marcheze o epică, dar lină ieșire din Bucovina.

Accommodation:

Pasul Mestecăniș (1096 m alt.): **Lucafărul Guest House**, there are 24 available beds inside the bigger house and 25 more in smaller cabins, it is available all year round and it also has a restaurant. Prices range from 100 lei/double room in the bigger house and 70 lei/3 person for the cabin houses. Reservations can be made at the following phone numbers: +40 744 779 768, +40 744 383 573.

Mestecăniș Restaurant offers Via Transilvanica hikers a 10% discount for dining.

Good to know: In Pasul (Pass) Mestecăniș there are not many places that offer Accommodation. In case there are no beds to be found, we recommend finding transportation to Vatra Dornei to spend the night there so that in the following morning the trail can be started from where it was previously left off (this means more transportation is required).

Vatra Dornei (802 m alt.): **Elenuca Guesthouse**, 16 beds, 50 lei/ person, breakfast on request. Reservations at tel. +40 755 277 954 (Tatiana). Restaurant **Șura Brazilor** nearby.

Good to know: Vatra Dornei offers multiple accommodation options available at all price ranges. In case there are no free spaces, we suggest looking up on the internet and remember Accommodation should be close to the start of the trail for the following day.

Infrastructure:

Fundu Moldovei: 

Pasul Mestecăniș: 

Vatra Dornei: 

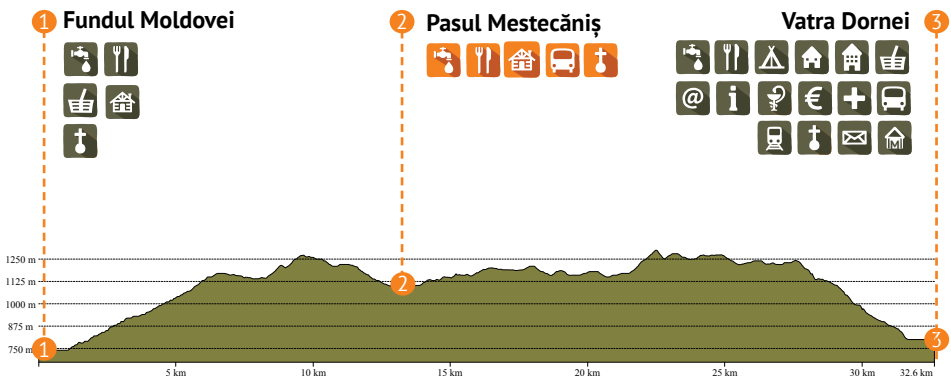
Note:

From Fundu Moldovei (2) the trail reaches a little road which takes a turn to the right, near some houses and fences and finally reaches a pub. From here, the town hall can be seen which one must pass by. A few hundred meters away from the town hall, on the opposite side of the road, is the "La Moară" Guest House. From here, the trail takes a right again on a road that follows the valley of the Arseneasa river. At the very beginning there are a few houses and, at times, even asphalt, but gradually they disappear until the road leaves civilisation all together and starts a new adventure through the thick and chilly forest following the Via Transilvanica markings which lead into some meadows for

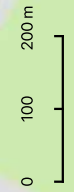
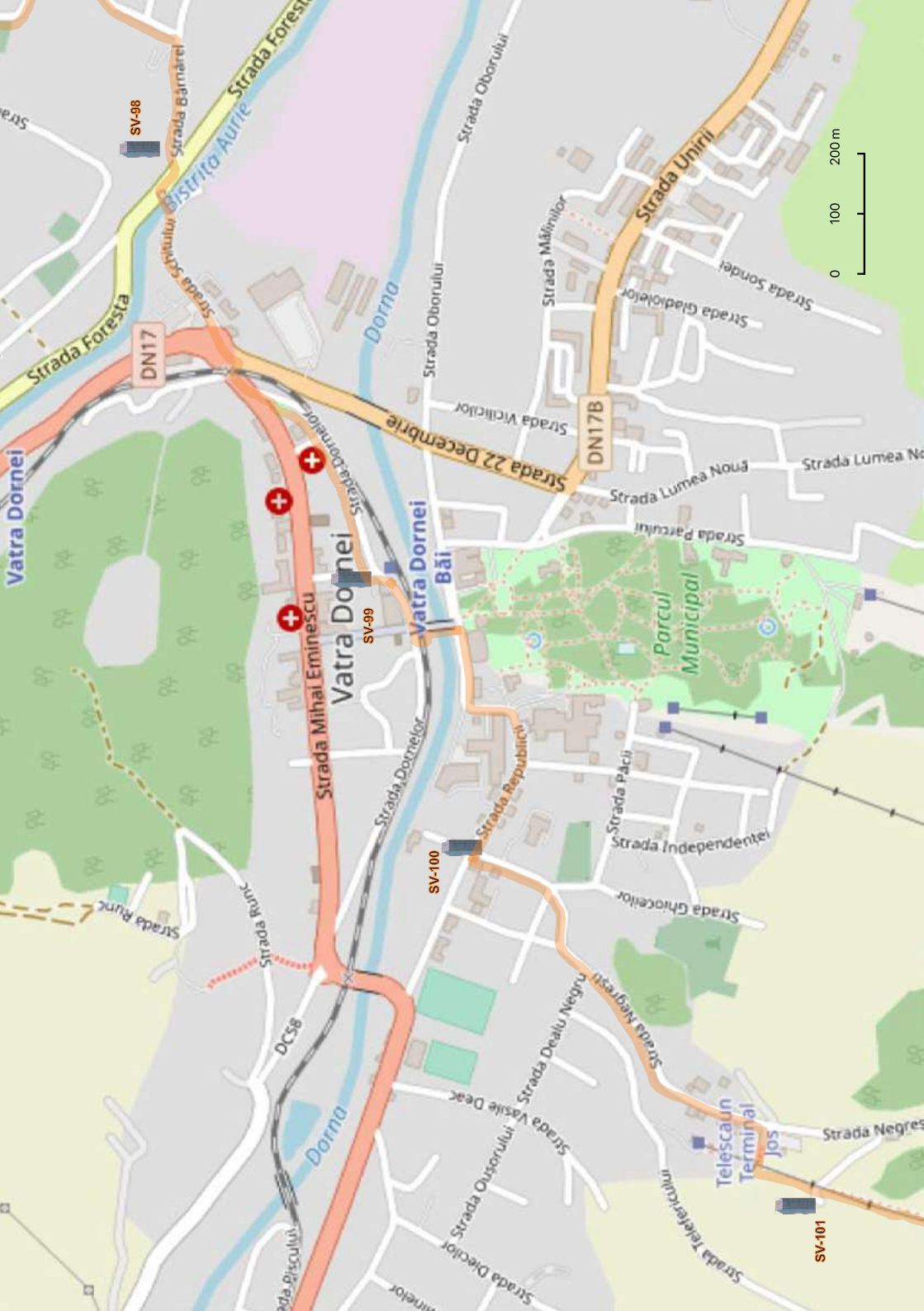
a distance of roughly 4 kilometers. Yet again, the road to the meadows climbs slightly. After reaching these meadows the trail follows the hillside as the beautiful scenery of the mountains or the cows that feed peacefully in the distance unveil themselves. At some point, The Arseneasa stream is left behind and after one more kilometer, on the hillside, the trail turns slightly to the right following a winding road without any other significant ascent or descent, until reaching Obcina Arseneasa and the Mestecăniș Peak. The trail passes by a military base and starts a slow descent to The Mestecăniș Pass (3). The last two kilometers are in a slightly shaded descent leading to the main road where the Mestecăniș Cabin is situated (it has a restaurant) and the Lucefărul Guesthouse is situated on DN17.

The red band touristic markings lead from Pasul Mestecăniș, slowly climbing for roughly 3.5 kilometers to the Saint Panteleimon Monastery. The trail leaves the shade of the young trees on the side of the country road keeping the monastery on the left and passes yet another monastery, Ascension of the Lord Monastery, when finally, the trail reaches a meadow where there are many sheepfolds which also means many dogs. Our recommendation for safely passing by these places is to keep calm and to ignore the dogs because they usually tend to treat people the same. Not to mention that usually the owners know to call them back to protect the travellers. After passing this area, the trail follows the Via Transilvanica markings and the touristic ones already found in the forest where a new complicated climb begins which, luckily, is not that long. The path is similar to some paths also found in some marshes. In the highest point of the forest, three touristic markings meet: red band, red cross and blue band. At this point the trail follows the Via Transilvanica markings which accompany the red cross. After roughly one kilometer, the trail reaches a meadow. The exit from the meadow is through the forest to the right and slightly into a valley, while on the left hand side of the road there is a wall of trees. This place offers a pretty view of the Giurnalău hills. Then the trail descends through the forest for sometime on beaten tracks and continuing on a forest road. From this point on, one should be able to see indicators towards Gigi Ursul Cabin. There, it is possible to have a meal, find accommodation and even water. However, after roughly 3 or 4 kilometers downhill one will find a water spring on the right side of the road.

There are high chances of meeting other tourists or gatherers that look for mushrooms, but only in certain periods of the year. After passing by the Obcina Mică and Obcina Mare Peaks the trail reaches a sudden descent on a road that has been eroded by rain and floods, with huge craters in the middle of the road, meaning that biking on this road







SV-98

SV-99

SV-100

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requires extra care. After this challenge, the trail crosses some fields where there are a few latched gates that can be easily opened and then closed. Then, the trail reaches the portion with the last houses of Vatra Dornei and passes near a small cemetery. This is where access to the town is possible, where there are stores, guesthouses, pharmacies and other places for finding different supplies for the road.

Info:

The limestone klippe at the Cailor Stream (the Horses Stream) (La Stâncă, translation: At the Rock) – it is a geological protected area with a surface of 1,000 square meters, situated in Obcina Ferdeului, on the valley of Cailor Stream in Fundu Moldovei village. The red limestone rocks preserve traces of the fauna and flora of the Triassic period, such as fish, shellfish and ammonites.

Fundu Moldovei – In order to reach the village Fundu Moldovei, one must go through a small gateway, where the name of the village has been carefully engraved in wood. The commune comprises of 7 villages situated roughly 50 kilometers from the border with Ukraine. This is one of the places where local people have carefully preserved all the customs and traditions. On Christmas Eve, children gather in groups and go from house to house bringing good wishes to the people and the local people offer them traditional pastries, pears, donuts and even coins. The children make sure they visit every house. They have the mission to announce that the old year is coming to an end and a new one is about to begin, so they wish everybody good health and luck for the year to come. This tradition is continued in the morning on the 1st of January which marks the religious celebration of Saint Vasile, when the same groups of children will visit all the houses again for good luck in the current year. Older children also use a type of instrument named "buhai" that is specific to this area and which makes harsh noises. The children leave wheat grains at every house because it is a sign that they will have a lot of bread in the year to come. Also, people prefer young boys to come and spread these seeds rather than girls, because the superstition says that boys must bless the place first. Throughout the singing ritual, the buhai instrument is said to be responsible for chasing away bad spirits. Children that plan on using this instrument, all gather together as early as the 1st of december to practice playing the buhai. They also take care of the traditional clothes that include marten fur vests, hemp made clothing, masks and, of course, the loud buhai instruments. For Easter, the people in Bucovina decorate eggs. During the Holy Week, starting from Tuesday until Friday, painting eggs becomes a ceremony for the people here. Besides painting little pieces of art on the eggs, women also continue the old traditional methods using wax. There is no other place in Romania where decorating eggs is such a big deal than right here in Bucovina.

Dr. Traian Popovici - The hero from Fundu Moldovei. He was named a local hero because he saved 25,000 jews from being deported in 1941. These jews were going to be deported to Transnistria. His grave is situated near the wooden church in Fundu Moldovei and it can still be visited today.

Vatra Dornei – It was once a small beautiful touristic town, but like many other towns alike, it is nowadays in a poor condition. However, there are still a few places that are worth a visit, even though the town has lost its past glory when, thanks to its mineral waters, it used to attract tourists all the way from Vienna. The Central Park has a melancholic vibe to it, as well as the Casino whose old building can be seen from the outside how it is slowly decaying. There is a modern ski slope that is open every winter. All of these, combined with the look in people's eyes, a look that shows pride, as well as regret towards what the town used to be, makes Vatra Dornei a nostalgic destination.

The Saint Pantelimon Monastery in Mestecăniș – A monk monastery that was built in 1999 because the mayor at the time had an aunt that had wanted to retire to a monastery during communism and could never fulfill her dream. The mayor built this monastery on a plot of land named Piciorul Lat (translation: The Wide Foot).

The secular forest Giumalău – it is a forest reservation that stretches over 309.50 ha, east of the Giumalău peak in Pojorâta commune. This forest is made up of trees such as spruce as old as 1.300 years, sycamore trees, poplar trees, blueberry bushes, juniper etc. Being one of the few forests of its type still standing, this area provides a good habitat for different fauna species such as the brown bear, the stag, the wild boar, the raven and many more.

Trail: Medium difficulty, a few ascents and descents through the forest and a lot of forest roads, a little asphalt and beautiful meadows

Elevation difference: + 1,109 m

Critical spots: From the city to Dorna Candrenilor there is no water source, possibility to see wild animals

Scenery: Pass the ski slope and then through many forests, you also go through meadows, many possibilities of adjacent/ optional routes.

Accommodation:

Poiana Negri (880 m alt.): **Poiana Guest House**, there are multiple room types available, prices range from 70 lei/person. There is a possibility to lodge in smaller houses, each having 3 beds, with prices ranging from 23 lei/person. Reservations can be made at the phone number: +40 741 249 766, +40 755 972 451. Available all year round;

Bella Vista Guest House, there are multiple room types available, prices range from 60-80 lei/person. Reservations can be made at the phone number +40 728 878 988 or +40 374 078 988. Available all year round and more information is available on the website. Accommodation at **Mrs. Măriuca**, rooms with shared bathroom, breakfast and dinner possibilities, reservations at the phone number: +40 741 162 711.

Good to know: Poiana Negri offers multiple accommodation options for all price ranges. In case all places are occupied, we suggest looking up on the internet and always remember that accommodation should be as close to the trail as possible.

Poiana Stampei (900 m alt): **Edera Guest House**, 22 beds, 100 lei/room with 2 beds, reservation by phone +40 747 450 756 (Manuela Iosif).


Florea Guest House, 12-14 beds, 100 lei/room with 2 beds, kitchen, store, camping, reservation by phone +40 740 415 273 (Sebastian Florea).

Infrastructure:

Vatra Dornei: 

Dorna Candrenilor: 

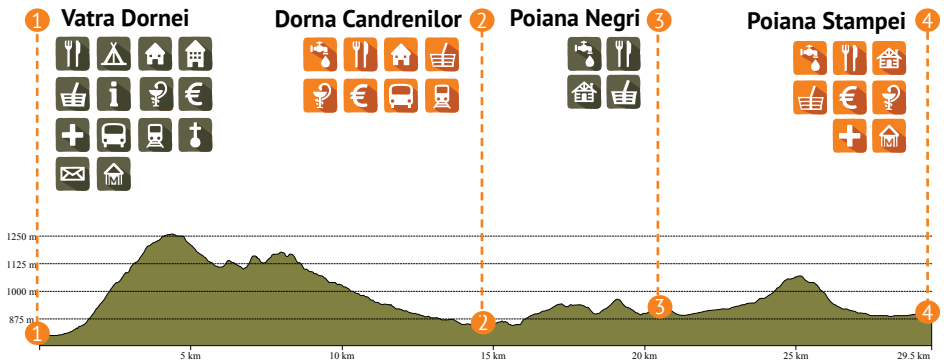
Poiana Negri: 

Poiana Stampei: 

Note:

From Vatra Dornei (1) the trail leads to the bottom of the ski slope. The VT markings start from the mountain rescue hut that can be found near the railway station and at the bottom of the slope, the orange "T" should already be visible. These markings follow the trail that climbs to the highest point of the mountain which is Șaua Zăurele. After 5 and a half kilometers one will reach the top of the mountain in the forest, from where the trail abruptly descends to Moara Dracului (translation: The Devil's Mill). From here, the trail enters the forest road Secul in a slight descent to Dorna Candrenilor (2). Then, the trail continues on the forest road for roughly 5 kilometers until reaching asphalt where an indicator can be seen reading Secu-Poiana Negri, 6km. A store can be found





here on the right of the climb. Then the trail turns to the left, slightly ascending. For the next 3 kilometers, the road follows the asphalt, passing by the houses of Secu in the direction of the Monastery. Shortly after, the asphalt transforms into a macadam road. A kilometer stone confirms that one is on the right path. One will pass a Via Transilvanica kilometer stone on the left, behind a fence, as one continues to an intersection. From here it follows a beaten path which climbs slightly to the left. The trail continues as the Via Transilvanica markings safely lead to the gates of the Bella Vista Guesthouse. The trail passes by this house and then after 150 meters, reaches the kilometer stone that depicts the Infinity Column and leads to Poiana Guesthouse.

Up to Poiana Negri (3) the route is perfectly cycleable, but sometimes it is possible to find many gates on the route that need to be opened and closed (the road next to the chairlift), but from certain points you can admire the plains of Dornel in its huge splendor. From here to Poiana Stampei (4) there is another climb worth mentioning which is quite steep, but the paved road is perfectly cycleable. Increased attention is needed on the last stretch before Poiana Stampei, where the route passes briefly through the forest, downhill. It is a macadam road that gives the impression of ball bearings. These will diminish over time, but until then, be cautious.

Poiana Stampei (4) is located on DN17 between Piatra Fântânele and Dorna Candrenilor and bikers can reach it by bike or public transport. Going in the direction of Vatra Dornei, in the center of the locality, on the main road DN17, the road takes a left, in the direction shown by the sign to Teșna / Tătaru. We cover about 4 km on asphalt and then on a macadam road, passing by VT markings and signs until we reach the top of the hill from Tătaru.

Info:

Moara Dracilor – situated between Vatra Dornei and Poiana Negri in the Secului Valley, the legend says that this is a strange place because it is the meeting place of many water springs, therefore very noisy. At times, people claim that the water flows in the wrong direction, defying gravity. Thus, this place was called “The Devil’s Mill”.

Dorna Candrenilor – The Dornelor Basin is surrounded by the ridges of the Suhard, Giuamău, Bistriței and Călimani Mountains. Dorna Candrenilor is 8 kilometers away from Vatra Dornei and it is the most important village of the commune with the same name. Other villages in the commune are Dealu Floreni, Simizi and Poiana Negri. The legend

has it that the name of the commune comes from an outlaw named Candruț and that is why even nowadays, a lot of people still bear the name Candrea. People around here have received recognition that their land was stretching over a great area ever since 1772. Their land goes from Măgura Calului Peak to Oușorului Mountain. The commune is especially known for its mineral waters which were used for touristic purposes from the year 1898 in an area named “La Burcuț”. The touristic area was destroyed by a fire in 1937 and was never rebuilt.

The architecture of the houses is very special because many of them are built from wood and have external decorations depicting flowers or geometrical patterns. Dorna Candrenilor grants access to the Călimani National Park, to the 12 Apostles reservation, as well as a hiking trail to the Oușoru peak of the Suhard Mountains (1,639 m), where one can admire the entire Dornelor Basin.

The 12 Apostles Reservation – It is a geological reservation where volcanic activity, erosion and the wind have all contributed to forming some amazing rocks. The group of rocks that are best known are the ones that have the same name as the reservation and these rocks look like they were man made, but instead, they are a true miracle of nature. With a little imagination, an old bearded man or a three faced men, even a bear with his head down and a woman that looks like Nefertiti can be spotted, hidden within these rocks. Besides these fantastic rocks, the western ridge is home to some amazing species of flora and fauna. The spruce tree and the zâmbru tree cohabit in harmony rarely seen in Europe.

Poiana Negri – A place known for its mineral waters, also offers multiple options for mountain tourism. Tourists can choose from hiking, rock climbing, rafting or even paragliding.





Places to find Via Transilvanica stamps:

Putna

- Putna Monastery, Metropolitan Archbishop Visarion Puiu, tel: +40 731 447 733 (Father Ioan)
- Peco / Beautiful Market (at the exit of the Putna monastery) M-Su: 7-19

Sucevița

- Tourist Info Point (near the Monastery Pharmacy)
- Hanul Mărioara/ Karisma Kriss, at tel. +40 747 771 341

Vatra Moldoviței

- Crizantema Guesthouse, tel. +40 745 922 447
- Valcan Guesthouse, tel. +40 722 419 513

Sadova

- Ionescu House, tel. +40 744 957 251 (Elena Ionescu).
- Cabana David, tel. +40 745 174 180

The Mestecăniș Pass

- Restaurant Mestecăniș
- Luceafărul Guesthouse, tel. +40 744 779 768 or +40 744 383 573.

Vatra Dornei

- Vatra Dornei National Center for Tourist Information and Promotion: L-D: 10-17
- Elenuca Guesthouse, tel. +40 755 277 954 (Tatiana)

Poiana Negri

- Poiana Guesthouse, tel. +40 741 249 766 or +40 755 972 451
- Bella Vista Guesthouse, tel. +40 728 878 988 or +40 374 078 988

A scenic landscape of a highland region. In the foreground, a path of dark, moss-covered rocks leads towards the background. The path is flanked by lush green grass and several tall, dark evergreen trees. The sky is bright and slightly hazy, with a sun flare visible on the right side. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

THE HIGHLAND REGION

Leaving Poiana Stampei behind, the trail also leaves the Bucovina region. It then follows the way to Lunca Ilvei, which is situated in Bistrița-Năsăud county, at the edge of the Rodnei Mountains.

The trail in Highland Region (in Romanian: "Regiunea Ținutul de Sus") crosses the mountains which offers an important lesson regarding the way the harshness of the scenery has taught the people living in this area to adapt to the natural conditions. The trail passes through a diverse scenery that changes from mountain tops to lowland forests, mild hillsides to infinite fields. This portion of the trail awaits travellers eager to discover its natural beauty and touristic attractions while the culture that has been influenced by a variety of ethnicities, adds value to how special this region really is.

POIANA STAMPEI - TĂȘULEASA SOCIAL (PIATRA FÂNTÂNELE) ROUTE

32 km
7 h

Trail: Well marked, easy, mostly through the forest, passing through a nature reserve, crossing under a viaduct from Lunca Ilvei then a little difficult due to the prolonged climb from the beginning of the route to Poiana lui Gălan and the climb from Drumul Romanilor to Rusu meadow, great differences, but absolutely beautiful landscapes.

Elevation difference: + 1,082 m

Critical spots: There are no drinking water sources at the beginning, from Lunca Ilvei to Poiana lui Gălan

Scenery: it starts with many meadows, then rich in forests, it passes by the Larion Tinov, with the possibility of visiting after a short detour from the trail, it passes by the railway (built in the Habsburg period) and by another nature reserve, the entrance to the locality is on a straight, macadam road in the shade of another dense spruce forest. From Lunca Ilvei, to the ridge of Gălan's meadow, where, when the weather is clear, you can admire the whole chain of The Rodna mountains, Suhardul, Oșorul, 12 Apostles, the whole chain of Călimani and Heni mountains that all have landscapes of stunning beauty.

Accommodation:

Grădinița (940 m alt.): **Forest Range Grădinița**, 8 beds, 80 lei/person, available all year round with reservation by phone +40 760 257 379 (Iacob Rus);

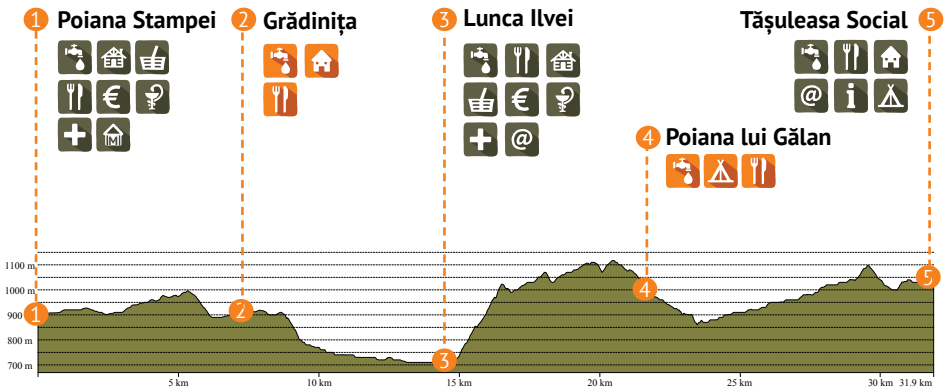
Lunca Ilvei (682 m alt.): **Forest Cottage Silhoasa**, 8 beds 80 lei/person, available all year round with reservation by phone +40 729 011 815 (Dan Negrea);

Monica Mureșan, therapeutic massage, +40 730 350 441

Teleski Cottage, in the center of the village on Teleski street, 80 lei/person, available all year round with reservation by phone number +40 753 332 741.

Maria Guesthouse, 7 beds, dinner and breakfast on request in the restaurant. Reservations at tel. +40 765 217 751 (Maria Slavoaca)

Gălan's Meadow (1,207 m alt): camping site for those who carry tents or the ones willing to sleep under the stars, during the months of May up until October, Gălan family can





provide a hot meal (25 lei/pers) with reservation with at least a day ahead at the telephone number +40 732 806 201;

Tășuleasa Social (Piatra Fântânele, 1,042 m alt.): 24 beds + camping site, meals, all come with a donation fee, WI-FI, available all year round and it provides facilities such as washing machine, drycleaner, printer, yard), easily accessible from the main road DN17, reservations can be made at the telephone number +40 741 545 201 (Ana Szekely);

In Piatra Fântânele, there are more alternatives for accommodation, such as:

Casa Maria (beyond Tășuleasa, is the closest point to the route): rooms and meals, information and reservations can be made at the telephone number +40 741 124 679;

Găbița Lodging: rooms and meals, reservations can be made at the phone number: +40 744 935 681 (more details can be found online);

Tihuța Retreat Lodging: rooms and meals, WI-FI (more details can be found online), reservations can be made at phone number: +40 757 545 974 (Vasile Boșca).

Infrastructure:

Poiana Stampei: 

Grădinița: 

Lunca Ilvei: 

Poiana lui Galan: 

Tășuleasa Social: 

Piatra Fântânele: 

Note:

Head in the direction of Vatra Dornei and through the center of Poiana Stampei (1) on the main road DN17, the road takes a left indicated by the sign to Teșna/ Tătaru. One will cover about 4km on asphalt and then on a macadam track passing VT markings and signs until one reaches the top of the Tătaru hill. Arriving in Tătaru (2), the route descends over the hills used for grazing. From the top of the hill, look in the direction of the route and towards Grădinița (3), you can see the dense pine forest of Tinovul Larion. This descent to Grădinița requires extra attention, especially in wet conditions. The path will encourage one to ride quickly down into the valley, but be cautious if the grass is wet. Down in the valley the path becomes much more wet and marsh like and even after a few hours of rain it will be passable.

Ahead of you and slightly to the left, one can see the beginning of Tinov Larion and straight ahead we have the Grădinița Station, but the road takes a right, crossing the railway on the Semenec forest road. After a kilometer, the road turns slightly left and continues on. The trail will run parallel to the railway at for around 700 meters. Enter the forest and after a few hundred meters, The Via Transilvanica trail will pass through the nature reserve "Sit natura 2000", which is also marked by an information board. This will be an area that needs more attention after leaving the Semenec forest road. The descent to the viaduct will be a single trail downhill. A good section for mountain biking, but in the mud it can become quite technical. Even in the dry it could be problematic for more inexperienced cyclists and / or with large bags on the bike. Then, the VT route turns right on the macadam road for three kilometers until

entering Lunca Ilvei (4). Along the way to the entrance to the village, there is another resting place with access to a spring. After 1.6 kilometers one will find both the Silhoasa Forest Chalet and the Forest Nursery at the entrance to the village. The trail reaches a crossroad indicator that reads „Piatra Fântânele” and „Vatra Dornei”, at which point the path makes a right - if you come from the center of Lunca Ilvei village. Leaving the village, in around 1km, on the left, one can notice a forest road going slightly uphill leading to Gălan’s Meadow (5) which stretches for about five kilometers. The first part of this stage will be next to one’s bike. After a steep climb, the path becomes grassy and can seem very unused. In case of heavy rain we recommend one is very cautious due to slippery grass or mud. From Poiana lui Gălan to Tășuleasa, everything is perfectly cycleable. Descending through the forest, one leaves the charming meadow and in a short time one will reach a forest road called “Pârâul Gălan”.

At the end of the forest road, the path takes a left onto the main road from Lunca Ilvei to Piatra Fântânele, a macadam road that one will follow for almost four kilometers until it takes a right and Via Transilvanica continues ahead, climbing the famous Roman Road. All these roads pass through cool spruce forests and the Roman Road, with a few pieces intact, winds through a slight climb to near Poiana Rusu. Here there will be a slightly more difficult section of the climb that reaches Poiana Rusu and the Roman Road that intersects with an asphalt road from Piatra Fântânele, which is about 200m on the left to the Iron Cross monument, then to the right, following the Roman Road for about 300m to the Tășuleasa Social campus (6).



Info:

The Great Marsh (“Tinovul Mare”) – It preserves the greatest peat reservation in România. The Marsh is situated in The Eastern Carpathians, in The Dornelor Depression and it stretches over 682 hectares. Peat is a type of soil that is rich in organic substances, which are little or not decomposed due to lack of oxygen.

Ilva Mica-Vatra Dornei railway station – The plans for the Ilva Mica-Vatra Dornei railway tracks were laid in 1898, during the Austrian-Hungarian occupation. It is one of the most complex constructions of its kind in România. 9 tunnels, 12 viaducts and 22 bridges were necessary to cross over the Carpathians in order to connect Transylvania to Bucovina. All of these were built with the help of people everywhere, especially those coming from Someș Valley and Țara Dornelor. Engineers were faced with great challenges in the swamp, as well as in the mountain areas. In 1938 it was inaugurated.

Larion Marsh – Larion is a very important natural site as it preserves a variety of species of both plants and animals. The protected area spans over 3,023 hectares and includes the natural reservation “Crovul de la Larion” (2.50 hectares). Coniferous forests, deciduous forests, transition forests, river banks, swamps, meadows and fields are home to many species of plants, trees and animals representative to the geographical area: spur tree, fir tree, beach, birch, poplar, wild animals such as bears, wolves, deer, mountain rooster and many more. The site has been under special protection since 2007.

Rodnei Mountains – Rodnei Mountains are part of the northern side of the Eastern Carpathians. With its highest peak, Pietrosul, reaching 2,303 meters. Rodnei Mountains are the highest and most difficult to access in the Eastern Carpathians chain. Lunca Ilvei is situated at the base of the mountains surrounded by the three most important peaks: Ineu, Ineuț and Roșu.

Tășuleasa Social – The organisation and their volunteers are the creators of the project Via Transilvanica and is very important to them. They have invested all their knowledge and experience, accumulated over more than 18 years of organisational activity. It is an environmental NGO, known for tree plantings in autumn and spring, working with volunteers and they have organised many more projects concerning the environment, social, educational and cultural issues, such as: Via Maria Theresia Marathon, The Pedagogical Forest, The Christmas Truckers, The School of Hiking, The Good Day and The Day of Young Volunteers. The campus is situated in Piatra Fântânele, in Bistrița-Năsăud County and it is part of the Via Transilvanica circuit. They are more than happy to receive travellers from anywhere, to hear their stories and to do their best to fulfill their guests' needs.

The Iron Cross Monument – was built in 2018 by Tășuleasa Social NGO after the example of Cruz de Ferro Monument on Camino de Santiago Trail in Spain. This monument has been built in the honor of Via Transilvanica's hikers. They will be able to leave a stone at the base of the monument as a symbolic gesture for giving up their hardships and sins. Being 17m high, the monument can be seen from a long distance away, offering the hikers a much-needed motivation.

Dracula Castle Hotel – It is the first accommodation that was dedicated to the very popular Vampire, Dracula. It is situated in The Tihuța Pass, the exact same place where the house of the vampire from Bram Stoker's famous book is supposed to be. The atmosphere that sometimes can be lived here during some foggy early mornings, is reminiscent of the bloody stories surrounding the famous vampire, Dracula, who has become a symbol of Transylvania. Inside the hotel, his “tomb” can be visited.

The Roman Road – It is a road with significant historical value and it can be seen in some places along the Via Transilvanica Trail, almost intact. The old stones that can be seen are reminiscent of times long gone. It is situated in The Bărgăului Mountains and its origins are somewhat a controversy. Some historians say it was built by romans in the year 260 in order to extend the Empire to the north, towards the territory that is today's Bucovina. Others say that its history is more recent, from the Austrian-Hungarian occupation and it was supposed to be a frontier road and then a commercial road. It seems that this road was extended at the command of Empress Maria Theresa in the year 1760. To solve this question, we have collaborated with The Museum in Bistrița-Năsăud County in order to research the area and find the answer to the problematic origin of the road.



Trail: Medium difficulty. The natural landscape can be seen until the descent onto the DN17 road, which is crossed once, after which it follows a path for a few meters alongside the road, then a slight ascent from Mureșenii Bârgăului to Brazii Buni, which offers multiple viewpoints, hence medium difficulty due to the length of the route to Petriș, but perfectly cycleable;

Elevation difference: 1,436 m

Critical spots: Even if there is a special indicator at the pedestrian crossing, it is new and will require caution when crossing the road. The climb from Mureșenii Bârgăului to Brazii Buni is abrupt, therefore one will have to push one's bike for several kilometers. There are several sheepfolds along the way so be alert. Normally shepherds call their dogs back, so people should not be afraid of them (ignorance, kind words or even the specific cry for sheep dogs). From Bistrița Bârgăului, one must top up with more water because for about eight kilometers there is no spring. The stretch of route before Cușma up to the descent from Dealu Negru as there are increased chances of meeting wild animals (bears, wild boars), therefore, we recommend that one completes this section before nightfall.

Scenery: To Valea Străjii from Tășuleasa there are amazing views with traditional houses of the Bârgau area and shepherds who provide fresh cheese. In the second part of the route, about 4 kilometers after the DN17, the enchanting landscape reappears in a slight ascent and one's eyes are no longer tired of the natural beauties that are revealed. From Bistrița Bârgăului, one follows the Blidăreasa river, uphill, on an asphalt road and then on a macadam road among the houses of the locals, until one comes out of their shadows into a few clearings where there are landscapes from a picturesque past. A few dilapidated huts rest in the middle of the pastures, which you cannot entirely observe as the road ascends up the hill towards the thick and cool forest, which stretches for many kilometers through the forest with easy uphill and downhill.

Cazări:

Valea Străjii: camping site, restaurants and resting places.

Bistrița Bârgăului: *Ony Lodging:* 12 beds, 60 lei/person, kitchen, swimming-pool and terrace are all included, reservation for food and accommodation must be previously made at phone number: +40 723 193 925 (Popandron Felicia).

Cușma: Information: Updating.

Petriș: *Casa Țărăneasă* lodging, 8 beds, 80 lei per person (18 €), bed and breakfast and dinner, with booking by calling on the telephone number: +40 752 538 138 (Gavril Oltean); available during the whole year, equipped with washing machine and drier, kitchen, terrace and TV.

Accommodation at the locals: booking by contacting Lucian Tarniță on the telephone number +40 786 790 088 and +40 263 271 72/ +40 758 397 238 (Marius and Geta Tiniș), bed and breakfast and dinner, address: Petriș nr.98.

Bike Shop & Service - Bicycle repairs, replacement or rehabilitation of components, general overhauls. Str. Văișoara nr, 237, Prundu Bârgăului. Nr tel: +40 759 033 466 (Cristi), email: crissports.snow@gmail.com



Tășuleasa Social (1)

Miroslava 1665

Tureac

Tha Bărgăuului

Suseonii Bărgăuului

Milocieni Bărgăuului

Josenii Bărgăuului

Dumbrava

Rusu Bărgăuului

Valea Poenii

Dorolea

Piatra Săltina

Dealul Calului

Dealul Negru 1590

Dealul Tiganca 1660

(3)

(4)

Satu Nou

Petrîș

Dealul Bistriței

0 1 2 km

Călin Gabor - guide, photographer and mountain biker, offers guided bike tours, one day or several days, in Bucovina and The Highland Region. Contact: MTBBN.RO/ CarpathianDreams.com Mail: mtbbnguide@gmail.com, Telefon: +40 742 823 193

Infrastructure:

Valea Străjii:



Bistrița Bârgăului:



Cușma:



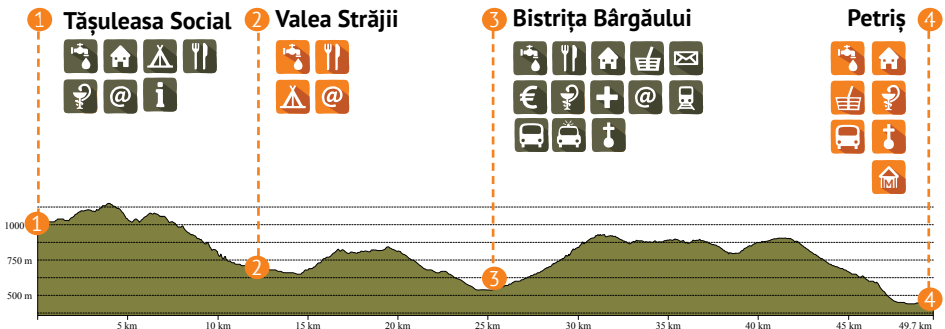
Petriș:



(the wooden church – 1800 and the Evangelical Church – 1300)

Note:

Leaving Tășuleasa Social (1) behind, follow the Roman Road that at one point will turn left towards a mountain called Zâmbroaia behind which the trail continues. The view seems surreal, surrounded by thick spur trees. From the highest point of the mountain and after passing by some traditional houses, the improvised path seems to get smaller and starts winding downhill into a sudden right curve. Keeping on this path, one will notice the majestic mountain Cășaru with somewhat feminine curves. By the side of the path there are sheepfolds and meadows and, as one goes on, the houses begin to appear more and more, giving the impression of a mountain village with no name, hidden from the heavy street traffic of the DN17. Descend to the left among the traditional houses for 3 kilometers to a macadam road, which leads to a pedestrian crossing. Turn right, keeping parallel to the road and a safe distance. The path crosses two streams through a small, thin forest before the well known "Valea Străjii" (2) appears in sight, where one can have a hot meal, like the famous stomach soup and rest for a while. The path goes through Bârgău River Valley, not changing direction, right into the camping site which bears the same name. Here is also a good opportunity to take advantage of the resting places. For around 2km the valley is not very spectacular and chances to find some shade from the sun are very small until Blajului Bridge. On the left side of the bridge the path continues ascending and one will enter the area belonging to the Mureșenii Bârgăului village. The VT markings lead one through yet another small part of the village which includes around 30 meters of asphalt to the intersection where one must turn left, on



a macadam road that goes slightly uphill above the village. Houses become more and more rare and the road turns into a smaller path to the top of the hill surrounded by nature, at Brazii Buni. From then on, one has 4 more kilometers of slight descent into Bistrița Bârgăului (3) village. On the road, one can admire the village that stretches until it touches the mountain that separates it from Colibița Dam.

From Bistrița Bârgăului and the Ony guesthouse, one turns left on the sidewalk and continues around 200 meters, then crosses the street and turns right next to the Blidăreasa river for several kilometers as the path slightly climbs. After exiting the village the path will cross some picturesque meadows and enters a thick and chilly beech-tree forest. After a few kilometers the road starts to descend slightly before climbing again as it repeats until close to Dealu 'Negru. Beware of traffic, cars or carts may suddenly appear on the road especially as it's a fast descent. Adapt one's speed and be cautious. At the Cușma indicator those who want to end their day can look for accommodation amongst the locals. If you continue on the trail, keep following the VT markings, crossing a bridge from which the path climbs to a viewpoint at the top of Dealul Negru. In the distance you can see several villages, the city of Bistrița and even fragments of distant mountains, such as Țibleș. On the right hand side of the road in the direction of Petriș (4) there are two heliports, that are remains from the time of the dictator Nicolae Ceaușescu who came to hunt regularly in this area. Further on, the Dealu 'Negru forest hut remains on the right hand side as the path passes in front of the gate of Ceaușescu's hut (which is now private) and descends towards the village of Petriș. The descent into Petriș is very steep and on asphalt making it a fast descent. Be cautious.

On these paths through the forest, you can often find traces of bears or in clearings, the loose earth of wild boars. One will also meet shepherds (some very talkative) who already



know about hiking in the areas one passes through. After four kilometers of easy descent, one will reach the first kilometer stone at the entrance to the village of Petriș, after which the markings take one through the heart of the lowland village with generous locals, with the old wooden church, fountains, shops, the old evangelical church and former Saxon houses, which amaze with their architecture. At the exit from the village, on the left hand side, near the last kilometer stone is the guesthouse “Casa Țărănească”. If the accommodation is fully booked, here the locals have offered to accommodate hikers or bikers for one night. Local specialties are curd, cheese and mutton, local wine (Jelna / whose winery is two kilometers away and can be visited) bacon, onions and fragrant tomatoes from the garden, which can not be missed. From Bistrița Bârgaului the route changes a little and becomes more accessible for even gravel cyclocross bikes. After a good climb the landscape opens up before descending again to the villages. The descents are fast and make you want to let the bike run, but we repeat, watch out for traffic.

Info:

Colibița Dam – Colibița Dam created lake Colibița where one can find an impressive recreational area. The dam was built between 1977 and 1991 for hydropower. Lake Colibița has an area of 270 hectares, 13 km in length and a volume of 65 million cubic meters and it sits at 900m above sea level. The creation of the lake is still subject of controversy, especially in this area of the county where people are known for believing in superstitions. Until the beginning of the 80's, the area was known for high concentration of ozone and iodine ions, recommended for treating pulmonary and heart diseases. Creating the lake meant flooding the village, so this gave birth to a popular legend according to which the lake is cursed and every year it choses a victim.

Via Maria Theresia – Via Maria Theresia is a historic road situated in Călimani Mountains, built hundreds of years ago, with the purpose of providing the military troops at the frontier of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire with ammunition and food. Nowadays, this road connects Bistrița-Năsăud County to Suceava County, but few people know that long ago, it was a frontier road between Transylvania and Bucovina. Besides the historical value, the road also has beautiful natural scenery. Tășuleasa Social has revived 42 kilometers of this road in 2014, properly marking it for hikers all year round. Moreover, Tășuleasa organises a trail running competition every summer. The trail unfolds beautiful natural and wild views as well as proves that the massive deforestation in our country is a real problem.

The Hut of Dealu' Negru (Ceașescu's hut) – The Dealu' Negru Hut was built in a very short period of time during the 80's, at the demand of the dictator Nicolae Ceașescu, who had just found out that the region was famous in Europe for its high concentration of brown bears. One of the factors that attracted these bears is the presence of fruit trees: apples trees and pear trees, which were planted during the Saxon time in România. Near the hut, there are three heliports. Ceașescu used the largest heliport when he came to hunt and the other two of them were destined for the Security. Nowadays, the area has the same purpose, namely hunting, even for foreign hunters.

The wooden church of Petriș – This is a historical monument, built most probably in 1748 and it has Saint Ilie (Elias) as Patron. The locals of Ilva Mare village donated the church to the Petriș community in 1900. Until that moment, the locals of Petriș did not have a church. One can reach this church on the VT Trail by following the sign that takes

one slightly uphill, passing a garden (which has a nut tree in front of the gate) and a graveyard.

The bell tower of the Evangelical Church – The gothic church dates back to the 15th century; the bell tower was built at approx. 20m southeast from the church, between 1820 and 1822. The stone carving over the west entrance, represents The Mother of the Skies with Jesus Christ and is invaluable. There were many Saxons living in the village until the evacuation to Austria in September 1944 and the majority of them returned in 1945. After their return came their exportation, the coercive work in concentration camps, the removal of their civil rights (until 1950) and finally the communist oppression. However, they rebuilt a strong German community. After 1970 their emigration started, mostly to Germany. The Evangelical Church was been sold to the Orthodox community and it has been renovated with the financial help of the Saxons from Germany

The beam of the master (house) – The Saxon architectural custom, which one can observe on the houses of many villages in Transylvania, was to build a beam above the entrance of the house, carved with the name of the family and the year in which it was built. Moreover, the carvings that can still be seen, even today, including religious references, thanks to those who brought help when building the house.



Trail: Medium difficulty - easy, macadam roads, paths over the hills and a little asphalt. The length of the route may be the reason why it has a medium difficulty, from Jeica it is easy, well marked, over hills and a little through the forest, crosses an asphalt road and continues on wide paths with slight ascents and descents, grazing areas and rolling hills.

Elevation difference: 1,084 m.

Critical spots: Lack of springs and wells from Orheiu Bistriței to Mărișelu (approx. 15km), it is not recommended to go through the forest after sunset. When biking in the woods, you need to pay more attention to wildlife. Caution is also required for sheep dogs, sheepfolds and cow herds.

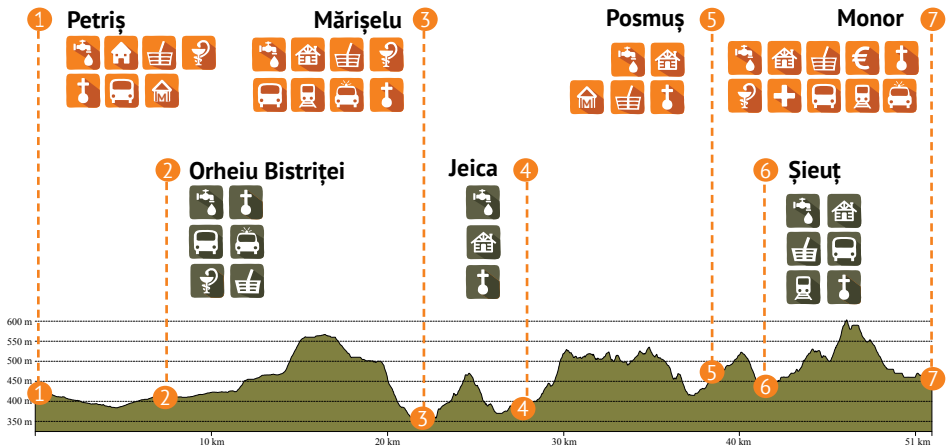
Scenery: Starting from Petriș and passing through Orheiu Bistriței, then at the foot of the hill called Măgura, the road crosses a landscape of lowland villages followed by straight fields covered with cereal, corn or oak forests (Șes Forest) planted by Saxons to keep the animals in shade. From the top of Măgura one has a view over the villages in the area. On this route the landscape is of a rare wilderness, which leads through dense forests and hills that can rise over 1,000m with peaks that give a 360 degrees view.

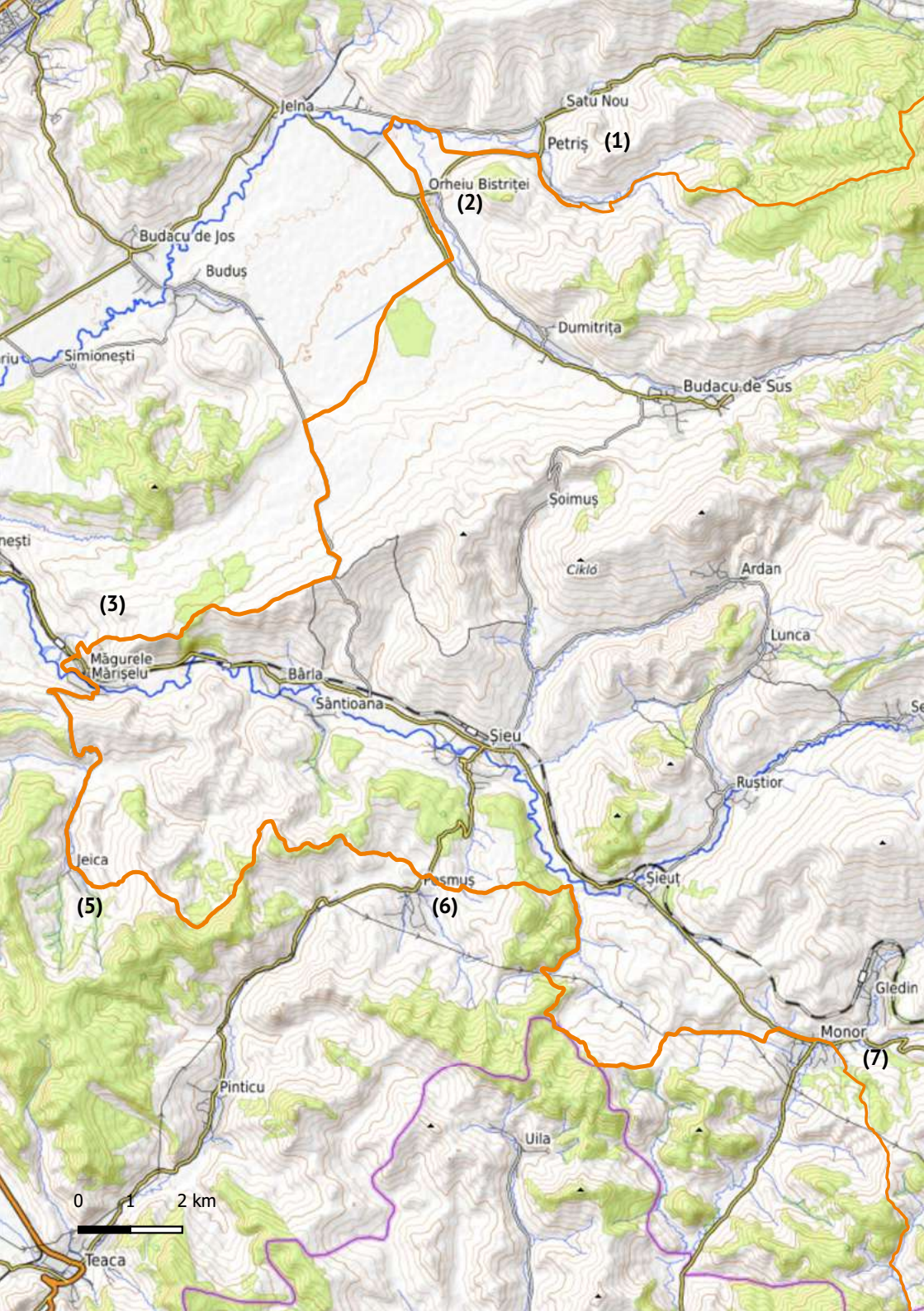
Accommodation:

Mărișelu: at the parochial house and at the locals, if you call beforehand at the phone number +40 769 825 051 (Father Aurelian);

Jeica: accommodation at the Parish, 10 beds, 40 lei/person (9 €/person), possible breakfast, available all year round, provides facilities (kitchen, WI-FI, landline, interior yard next to the church), reservations must be made beforehand at the phone number: +40 768 438 636 (Toth Zoltan, priest) or +40 263 272 612 (Szabados Ilona);

Accommodation at the locals: reservation must be made beforehand at the phone number: +40 768 438 636 (Toth Zoltan, priest) or +40 263 272 612 (Szabados Ilona), +40 740 666 063 (Mrs. Stanciu), +40 748 433 636 (Bezsnei Magdolna).





Posmuș: Accommodation is with locals with prior reservation: Tel: +40 760 749 526 (Ivan Mihai Pavel);

Șieuț: **Agro Tourism Guesthouse - Maria**, 10 beds, 50 lei/person, possibility of a hot meal, services (TV, terrace, courtyard), availability all year round, with prior reservation: Tel: +40 751 110 204 (Cotoc Marian);

Cabana Creangu, (2 km away from Pensiunea Maria), 10 beds, 50 lei/person, services (terrace, courtyard), availability all year round, with prior reservation: tel: +40 751 110 204 (Cotoc Marian);

Monor: Go to Gledin, Parish no. 242 (in the churchyard), 23 beds, 40 lei/person, breakfast, possibility of a hot meal, with prior reservation: Tel: +40 763 697 883 (Father Ion Titieni).

Infrastructure:

Orheiu Bistriței: 

Mărișelu: 

Jeica: 

Posmuș: 

Șieuț: 

Monor: 

Note:

When leaving Petriș (1) one will pass a VT kilometer stone on the left before joining a macadam road that will cross two rivers, one after another. Before the second crossing, the road turns left at the intersection and in front, one will see the Jelna winery (for visits one must call beforehand). 20m after crossing the second river on the left, there will be a road hidden by a cornfield where the Via Transilvanica trail continues. This will lead to the middle of Orheiu Bistriței village (2). Follow the path through houses to the village's center, where there is a 600 year old oak tree next to the school. When leaving the village, one will be between crops and after approx. 1km, one has to turn right and cross the asphalt road towards The Lowland Forest (Pădurea de Șes). From there, the trail will pass through a field for approx. two kilometers. After that there will be an intersection on the left ascending onto a macadam road, on Măgura hill. In summer, the surrounding meadows are full of cowherds. When one arrives on the top of the hill, the macadam road will be left behind and one will turn right, passing the next kilometer stone on the left. The ridge of the hill is paved by several meters of asphalt, which descends at some point to the left towards Bârla village. One must NOT descend on this road but continue straight on following the grass path and the ridge. After two kilometers the path passes through a deciduous forest after which one will arrive at another hill where one will see the next kilometer stone. The rolling hills are so much so that, in some places, one can see the next kilometer stone one kilometer away. Descending to Mărișelu (3) one will pass the edge of the village until the next kilometer stone. After a while, descending easily between houses, the road turns right towards a pedestrian crossing on the asphalt road. After that, there will be a railroad and the road will continue through Mărișelu village in front of the police station, the church, the stores and bars and crosses a bridge on the road that goes to Jeica (4). After a windy road of two kilometers, ascending, from

the kilometer stone one can see a small village, hidden in the valley. One ascends easily towards the village for 1km and one will pass by traditional Hungarian and Saxon houses. In the middle of the village there is a Lutheran church and a monument that testifies the age of the village from the year 1332.

From the kilometer stone in front of the church in Jeica (1) cross the bridge on the left and bike up the hill, continuing in the village where you will find the last houses on the left. One will see that the Via Transilvanica Trail continues through a field furrowed with cereals and corn fields with a slight ascent. The kilometer stones will become more and more visible in the distance. From the ridge of the first hill, the trail heads to the right and follows a path on the edge of the forest and, from time to time, goes in and out of the forest. The forest is deep, quiet and mysterious with old, secular beech trees. When leaving the forest, the path heads to the next landmark at the foot of a hill before a climb back to the edge of the forest again. The next kilometer stone stands at the entrance to the forest as the trail follows the treeline to the right. After entering a thicket, one will enter and cross the forest in about 500m before exiting out into an apple orchard. The path descends onto an existing road and after about 50m on the left, one will find a high earth mound deeply marked by the road where at the top there is a cross-shaped spruce tree. One will leave the mound behind to another peak. As one heads down the valley to the village of Posmuş (2), one will head towards the old castle (already visible for some time - the imposing castle of Count Teleky) on a smaller road and between the houses scattered along the main country road. From one of the kilometer stones one can see the asphalt road, where, after a short distance and with one's back to Teleky castle, one turns left. After 30m, cross and leave the road and continue up a slight climb over the hills.



Once one encounters the first kilometer stone, the path descends slightly in a left curve leading to a bridge that crosses a stream. Cross the bridge and follow the path to the right into a slight ascent following the curve of the hill. Once one reaches the edge of the forest, pass the kilometer stone and head right for 4km, after which a descent begins on a forest road. The Maria guesthouse is less than 200m away. To Șieuț (3), continue on from the Maria guesthouse and take the first road on the right through a forest until one meets another Via Transilvanica kilometer stone. Turn left and follow the main road until you pass a private building on one's right where one will see the Creangu Chalet that offers accommodation. Next, the route continues to the left until you leave the forest. Here, follow the edge of the forest to the left for a few hundred meters. The forest will remain behind you as one continues on. Cross the hill from which one will start to see landmarks in the distance and once on top of the hill, follow the path for a few hundred meters before descending slightly to the left towards the edge of the village which is marked by a fence (the passage between Șieuț and Monor). Continue past the corner of the fence and cross a stone path that climbs to the right. Continue straight ahead descending slightly into a green pasture. Looking to the right one can already see the roofs of several houses in Monor. After a slight descent on the cart track, one will see to the right the electricity poles and a gateway of several alder trees that separates a pasture from the rest of the surrounding hill. Walk through this and follow the direction of the electricity wires until you approach the entrance to the village where one turns left onto a cobbled path, bypassing the hill in front. Not long after, the road curves to the right where one reaches Monor (4), where today's stage ends on Via Transilvanica.

Info:

Pădurea de Șes (The Lowland Forest) – This forest is, firstly, important because it represents a natural reservation for the Snake's Head (*Fritillariameleagris*). It is an old forest of oak trees from the Saxon times as the old men say and which has something unique compared to other forests. Even though it is not a large forest (only 8.5 ha) it manages to outline a spectacular landscape. The forest has been planted by the Saxons in order for their animals to have enough shade.

Snake's head – Is a very rare plant from the tulip family, which, unfortunately, is on the list of endangered species. In România, snake's head is commonly found in Bistrița-Năsăud County, in Orheiul Bistriței, in Pădurea de Șes, an area which is protected by law. It also grows in other counties such as Gorj, Timiș and Maramureș, where the humidity is high. The flower blossoms in April.

Laleaua Pestiță Festival – After the snake's head disappears, in May, the local community organizes every year a rural feast where people of all ages gather around in order to celebrate, listen to folkloric music and enjoy nature's beauty.

Jeica – Jeica, formerly Șeica, Șelca (in the Saxon dialect Sälk, Schalk, in German Schelken, Schelk, in Hungarian Zselyk) is a village in Mărișelu area in Bistrița - Năsăud county, Transylvania, Romania, which was first documented in 1332. In the 19th century the village had a population of 800 inhabitants, mainly Hungarian, but this decreased drastically especially during the communist period due to deportations. Since 1981, neither the kindergarten nor the school has been open. Today, about 90 people over the age of 70, of Hungarian ethnicity, live in Jeica. Hidden in a valley with a beautiful Lutheran church and a parish house, over a century and a half old, located on a hill in the center of the village, Jeica is an oasis of tranquility, waiting to be discovered



and enjoyed by hikers and cyclists on the Via Transilvanica Trail. During the summer, in August, the village day takes place, an occasion when the villagers celebrate the local values through song, play, poetry and good cheer.

Teleki Castle in Posmuș – In the middle of the 18th century, instead of today's mansion, there were several dilapidated wooden buildings. Teleki Pál and Haller Borbála rebuilt the Baroque building. Teleki Pál and Haller Borbála were the ones who ordered the creation of the rectangular shape of the castle: on the sides were the warehouses, the stable and the prison, in the back, the main building was rebuilt between 1750 and 1752 and in front, the gate bastion was built around 1760. The gate bastion, a building with a chapel, was later used as a guest house. During the revolution of 1848-1849 the mansion was destroyed and Teleki Ferenc moved to his domain in Șomcuta Mare. After 1945, the property of the Teleki family was subject to nationalisation and was used as a State Agricultural Enterprise and as apartments. The mansion was surrounded by a vast forest and a park until the new "owners" cut down most of the forest, but there are still several secular trees left. There is also an oak tree that is more than 600 years old. A nursery has been set up behind the mansion. Apart from a building used as a house, the mansion is a ruin today, although funds were received for its renovation.

Monor village – Monor along with Gledin, is part of the Monor locality which is located on the upper side of the Luț Valley and belongs to Bistrița - Năsăud County. It is situated at the foot of the Călimani Mountains in the south-west. The Monor locality has a relief of medium to high hills at the transition between the Transylvanian Plain and the Călimani Valley. The main industrial activity of the locals is milk processing. In 1991 a modern milk

processing factory, Carmolact, was founded. It processes around one hundred thousand liters of milk purchased daily from private producers in the area and neighboring localities in Bistrița - Năsăud and Mureș counties. Tourist attractions of interest would be the Muddy Volcanoes of Monor - a protected area, the monuments of the heroes of Monor from the First and Second World Wars, the Revolution Monument from Monor from 1848, the Memorial Museum of the writer "Teodor Tanco", the Orthodox Church of Monor. The local events are: "Monor's Day", an annual event on the first Saturday and Sunday of September, the Country Fair from March 1 to 11, the Country Fair from May 2 to 21 and the Country Fair from September 3 to 25.





Places to find Via Transilvanica stamps:

Lunca Ilvei

- Teleski Cottage, tel. +40 753 332 741.
- Maria Guesthouse, tel. +40 765 217 751 (Maria Slavoaca)

Piatra Fântânele

- Țășuleasa Social, tel. +40 741 545 201 (Ana Szekely).

Bistrița Bârgăului

- Ony Lodging, tel. +40 723 193 925 (Popandron Felicia)

Petriș

- Casa Țărănească lodging, tel. +40 752 538 138 (Gavril Oltean)
- Petriș nr.98, tel. +40 263 271 725/ +40 758 397 238 (Marius and Geta Tiniș),

Jeica

- Parish, tel. +40 768 438 636 (Toth Zoltan, preot)
- Agro Tourism Guesthouse - Maria, tel. +40 751 110 204 (Cotoc Marian)

Șieut

- Agro Tourism Guesthouse - Maria, tel. +40 751 110 204 (Cotoc Marian)

Monor

- Gledin, Parish nr.242, tel. +40 763 697 883 (Father Ion Titieni)
- City Hall Monor



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