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FOREWORD

The history of the people of Maramureş is told through the wood of their churches. Along the centuries, the area's foreign rulers did not allow the people living here to build long lasting stone churches, so instead, the local carpenters raised beautiful wooden churches to communicate with God. Wood became their best friend and companion. Despite many predictions to the opposite, the churches have resisted the ravages of time and still remain in this Northwestern Romanian land, sustaining the local populace and amazing visitors.

Eight wooden churches from Maramureş have been inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage list. These churches are to be found at: Deseşti (1770), Bârsana (1720), Poienile Izei (1604), Ieud-Deal (1364, according to some, 1611-1621, according to others), Budeşti - Josani (1643), Rogoz (1663), Plopiş (1811) and Şurdeşti (1766).

HOW TO USE THIS MAP-GUIDE

Dear visitor,

This brochure intends to highlight these eight wooden churches located along a circuit through Maramureş and is dedicated to those who visit the region by car. By following the route exactly, or in pieces, you can explore the World Heritage and beautiful countryside of Maramureş.

In order to maximize your visit in Maramureş, the guide also includes information on other tourism attractions located near the highlighted churches. The key feature of this guide is the large, fold-out, full color map to help you navigate easily around the suggested route. Also included is a brief history and general interesting information about Maramureş and short descriptions of each monument featured on the trail. In an effort to make your journey through this historical landscape easier and more enjoyable, directions and distances between each stop are described. The guide will also offer a few suggestions for accommodation and dining places.

This trail includes two major cities of significance in Maramureş County: the current county capital, Baia Mare and the former, historical one, Sighetu-Marmaţiei. Our approach to these cities is more detailed in order to reflect their greater significance and the larger variety of tourist objectives found here.

The last page of this guide provides details about the Tourist Information Centre in Baia Mare and other useful contacts, plus a very short phrase book.

Important Note

Before embarking on your tour it is advised that you call the phone numbers specified in this guide for each monument to announce your visit. There are only a few churches where the guardian can reliably be found on-site.

We wish you a pleasant trip!

BAIA MARE

Any tour of Maramureş should start with its capital, Baia Mare, the point of easiest access to the county. A mixture between medieval history and modernism, Baia Mare is a medium-sized city with many sights and points of interest for visitors to explore. One major unique feature of the city is the sweet chestnut tree reserve. This natural treasure is celebrated annually at the end of September during the three days of the Chestnuts Festival.

ACCESS TO BAIAMARE

The city is located in a depression in the Western part of Maramureş, approximately 80 km from the border with Hungary. Baia Mare's fastest connection with Bucharest is by plane and the airport is located 8 km outside of the city. Tourists arriving in Bucharest or Budapest may also fly to Satu Mare (70 km) or Cluj Napoca (150 km) and then travel via train, bus or car to Baia Mare.

Once you arrive in the city, you are welcome to visit the tourist information centre located in the Administrative Palace, on 46 Gh. Şincai St. (www.visitmaramures.ro).

HISTORY

Baia Mare has a rich past as a mining centre of gold, silver, copper and lead. The first written attestation of the town of Baia Mare dates back to 1329, when it was mentioned under the name of **Rivulus Dominarum** (River of the Ladies) in some documents issued by the office of King Charles I of Anjou. Over the following centuries, due to the fact that royal policies came to support mining activities, Baia Mare enjoyed several rights and privileges, becoming one of the richest medieval towns in the area. Names have changed over time: from Rivulus Dominarum, to Nagybanya, Frauenbach, Neustadt. After 1541, Baia Mare is transferred under the administration of Transylvania's princes and, beginning with 1691, the town is incorporated

into the „Partium”, a territory of the Hungarian Kingdom, until December-1st-1918 when Transylvania, including Maramureş, is unified to Romania.

Between the two World Wars, Baia Mare goes through a period of extended political, economic and cultural growth. After the years spent under Horthyst occupation during the Second World War, on October-17th-1944 Baia Mare is declared a free town. In 1968, Baia Mare becomes seat city of Maramureş district, a status it still retains.

PLACES TO VISIT

Recently restored, the **Historic Centre** is a nice testimony of the medieval history of Baia Mare and is the pride of the city's residents. Most of the architectural monuments and museums are located in this area.

- The town's emblematic building, the **Stephen's Tower**, has seen more than six centuries of very troubled history. Between 1347 and 1387 St. Stephen's Cathedral was erected and later on (1446-1468), a Gothic bell tower (Stephen's Tower) was added. In 1769 the church was struck by lightning and burned down. After several attempts to rebuild the church, each followed by another fire, the remaining walls were torn down in 1847 for use as construction stone. Of the whole church, today only the tower remains. From the top of the tower, there is a panoramic view over the city.



- Also located in the Old City Center (Libertății Square), the **lanca de Hunedoara House** was initially part of the former medieval castle built by Transylvania's ruler lanca de Hunedoara for his wife. The building was finished around 1468 by their son, King Matei Corvin.

Other architectural monuments of interest are: the **Franciscan Roman-Catholic Church** (1402), the **Holy Trinity Church** (1720), the **Butchers' Tower** (15th century, recently restored and opened for public), the **Old Inn** (18th century, today Millennium III building) and many other buildings from the 17th and 18th centuries. Among the modern buildings, one of the most appreciated is the **Prefecture Building** (Gh Șincai St.), inaugurated in 1969. Also close to the town's historical center, there is the **City Theater of Baia Mare** (www.teatrulbm.ro).

MUSEUMS

- The edifice on 1-3 Monetăriei St. houses the **Archaeology and History Museum** containing various collections including: archaeology, mining techniques, numismatics (coins, medals), stamps, seals, weapons, clocks, etc. (www.maramuresmuzeu.ro)

- The **Mineralogy Museum** (8 Traian Blvd) contains an extensive and interesting inventory of rare minerals and gems from the mining areas of Maramureș County, some of which (species of andorite, fizelyite, rhodocrosite, pyrrhotite, etc) are unique in the whole world. (www.muzeuminbm.ro)

- The **Ethnography and Folk Art Museum**, located at the foot of Dealul Florilor, reflects the traditional occupations, crafts, folk clothing and religious objects specific to the old Maramureș, while the nearby Village Museum covers the traditional architecture and technical installations from the four ethnographic regions of the county. (www.etnografiemaramures.ro)

- The **Art Museum** (1 Mai St.) contains a lovely collection of paintings, sculpture and graphics belonging to the famous Baia Mare painting school, founded in 1896 by the painter Hollosy Șimon. (www.muzartbm.ro)

- The **Planetarium of Baia Mare** (No. 16 George Coșbuc St., www.planetariubm.ro), inaugurated in 1969, gives daily presentations of the stars and other astronomical highlights.

AFOOT THROUGH BAI MARE

Set inside a depression protected almost all the way around by mountains, the city of Baia Mare provides a generous choice of tracks for those who are passionate about hiking. A simple walk in the city park may at any moment transform into a more ambitious outing, as the paved alleys merge into a hilly area, covered by forests, hosting **Piatra Virgină** (the Virgin Cliff). Also, a visit to the Village Museum may be continued with a trip up to the **Piatra Șoimului** peak, returning along the **Firiza** reservoir, which provides an extraordinary view. The Borcutului Valley, Roșie Valley, Usturoi Valley also provide tempting tracks, both for walking and for cycling, and these are only a few of the available offers, located within the city or right next to it. By slightly extending the area you will be surprised by the diversity of landscapes surrounding the capital city of Maramureș county.



Stephen's Tower - Photo: Dan Carpoș

Accommodation and restaurants

EuroHotel

23 București Boulevard, Baia Mare
Tel. +40 262 222 405
<http://eurohotelbm.ro>

Romanița Hotel

Recea, 95 Europa St.
Tel. +40 262 287 000
www.romanitahotel.ro

Castel Transilvania

136l Mihai Eminescu St.
Tel. +40 744 363 665
www.casteltransilvania.ro

Mara Hotel

11 Unirii Boulevard
Tel. +40 262 226 660
www.hotelmara.ro

Rivulus Hotel

3 Culturii St.
Tel. +40 262 216 302
www.hotelrivulus.ro

PrimeraDruHotel&Spa

40 No.3 St., Tăuții Magherăuș
Tel. +40 722 643 322
www.primeradru.ro

La Fontana Guesthouse

11 Cloșca St.
Tel. +40 362 402 777
www.la-fontana.ro

Magus Hotel

4 Dura St.
Tel. +40 362 807 205
www.magushotel.ro

RESTAURANTS with Romanian Cuisine

Athos Restaurant

28 Valea Roșie St.
Tel. +40 744 782 055
complex.athos@yahoo.com

Bastion Restaurant

22 Valea Roșie St.
Tel. +40 754 625 760
www.hanbastion.ro

Millennium Crama Restaurant

5 Piața Libertății
Tel. +40 751 188 212
www.restaurantmillennium.ro

Lostrita - Păstrăvărie, Hotel & SPA

13B Blidari
Tel. +40 262 270 216
www.lostrita.ro





18 km away from the center of Baia Mare, beyond the Firiza Lake, the **Lostrița Complex** (www.lostrita.ro) welcomes its guests with its own trout farm, accommodation facilities, a restaurant and extended terraces.

Set at 10 km away North from Baia Mare, the town of **Baia Sprie** (Hungarian name: Felsőbánya) is a former mining town, with buildings of interest for tourists, mostly from the XVIII and XIX centuries. One of the attractions of Baia Sprie is the pottery workshop of the artist **Daniel Leș**, whom you may watch crafting clay objects, and in whose guesthouse you may rest over the night (www.casaolarului.ro). Starting in the town center, a paved narrow road leads up to the **Blue Lake**. After approximately 1 km, the road is continued through a forest. The Blue Lake, a natural reserve formed after the collapse of an old mining gallery, owes its intense color (blue-emerald green) to the dissolution of sulphates.

Also under the jurisdiction of the town of Baia Sprie, there is the **Chiuzbaia** village, starting point for several tracks leading up to the **Igniș Peak** (1307 m). Chiuzbaia is also home to a famous fossil reserve, having one of the most developed Pliocene flora. Tourists who visit the area of Chiuzbaia will get to see whirlpools that locals use for washing their blankets and carpets.

Back to the center of Baia Sprie and climbing up to the **Gutâi Pass** (Pasul Gutâi), the DN 18 national road will soon encounter an intersection. The way to the left will lead to Historical Maramureș, while the right one will lead to **Mogoșa** and **Șuior**, two well-known touristic locations in this area. Mogoșa (www.mogosa.ro) displays as main point of attraction the Bodi Lake, which tempts you into swimming on hot summer days. Accommodation and food are available at the lodge set on the lake shore. Another attraction is the possibility of making a trip up the Mogoșa Peak (1246m).

Close to it, the **Șuior Complex** (www.suior.ro) attracts tourists mainly due to its ski slopes, equipped with lighting system and artificial snow cannons. Accommodation is available in one of the three small hotels of the complex or in the wooden cabins at the 1000 m level.

Șuior is also one of the starting points towards **Rooster's Peak** (Creasta Cocoșului), a geological reserve consisting of a steep cliff of peculiar shape, probably the most popular destination for those interested in making a trip near Baia Mare.

DESEȘTI

The Wooden Churches Trail begins with a steep and winding ascent from Baia Mare into forest covered mountains. At the top of Gutâi Pass, the picturesque landscape opens up before you. Should you want to eat in a rustic ambiance, before entering the Mara village you can stop at the Alex trout farm. The road then continues down the Mara Valley towards Desești, the first World Heritage site on this itinerary, built towards the end of the 17th century.

Legend maintains that in 1717, the wooden church of Desești was set ablaze during a Tatar invasion and many villagers died trying to save the building. The legend continues to say that the location of the current church was chosen by the new altar stone. The consecrated stone was erected in several different places and each time it fell over. After five attempts, the stone remained upright and this way, the site for the church, called Pious Paraschiva, was established. According to the inscription on a beam of the pronaos roof, the interior frescoes date from 1780 and is the work of master painter Radu Munteanu from the village Ungureni in the Land of Lăpuș, and of his helper Gheorghe (from Desești).

Perhaps, the most unique of the frescoes is the depiction of The Last Judgment. In the painting, the sinners are individualized by their costumes: the Turks and the Tatars wear shalwars and tunics, the Germans wear cutaways and small hats, the “frânci” (an old name given to Westerners) wear tights, short tunics, very tall hats. Within the church's cemetery, among the old crosses (among which one may notice Celtic crosses too), there is a tall oak tree, 400 years old, the oldest one in this area.

Contact Info for visiting the church: Priest Ardelean Ioan,
Tel: +40 730 004715
Roman Vasile, Tel: +40 747 846442

The itinerary continues from Desești to Sighețu Marmăției. The section of the route along the Mara Valley ends at **Vadu Izei**, where the river Mara flows into the Iza. In Vadu Izei you can find several guesthouses, wooden gates, glass painting, weaving and wood sculptures workshops. From here, after another 2 km, you will reach Sighețu Marmăției.



Pious Paraschiva of Desești - Photo: Gabriel Motica

ACCOMODATION AND RESTAURANTS

Mara Guesthouse

332 Principală St., Desești
Tel. +40 0749 459 331
www.pensiuneamaradesesti.ro

Anca Guesthouse

286 Principală St., Desești
Tel. +40 724 468 182
www.pensiuneaanca.ro

Cununa Văilor

262A Principală St., Desești
Tel. +40 722 300 501
rnxnapostu@gmail.com web

Pintea Haiducul

336 Principală St., Mara
Tel. +40 768 822 622
luciabohotici@yahoo.com

Doina Guesthouse

75 Șugău St., Sighetu Marmăției
Tel. +40 730 117 052
www.pensiune-doina.ro

Teleptean Guesthouse

320 Principală St., Vadu Izei
Tel. +40 743 860 455
www.pensiunea-teleptean.ro

RESTAURANTS

Bică Haiducul

91 Principală St., Mara
Tel. +40 740 781 905
www.restaurant-bica-haiducu.business.site

Păstrăvăria Alex

89 Principală St., Mara
Tel. +40 749 990 042
www.pastravariaalex.ro



Festive day in Desești - Photo: Gabriel Motița

SIGHETU MARMAȚIEI

The county's second largest city, Sighetu Marmatei, is located at the confluence of the rivers Iza, Tisa and Ronisoara, at the North-West border of the country. It was the old capital of the historical province of Maramureş and written documents attest to the town as far back as 1326. In some specialists' opinion, the name of the town comes from the old Thracian word "Zeget", meaning "fortress". Another explanation for the name could be the Hungarian "Sziget", which means "island".

The inhabitants of Sighetu Marmatei proudly claim that they live in the very heart of Europe, since not far from Sighet (on land that today belongs to Ukraine), a landmark made by the Austrian-Hungarian geographical society at the end of the 19th century demarcates the geographical center of Europe. The former capital of Maramureş also maintains many traces of old traditions and costumes. Exemplary for this rich cultural heritage is the **Festival of Winter Traditions and Customs**, held annually in Sighet on the 27th and 28th of December, in which the town centre transforms into an open-air stage focusing on the unique traditions of the area.

Foreign travelers before World War II, described Sighetu Marmatei as a town with a strong Jewish component. The tragedy of the deportation to Nazi concentration camps that struck Jewish communities throughout Eastern Europe did not spare the local population here. Elie Wiesel, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, was born here and his work is a living piece of this tragedy.

PLACES TO VISIT

Sighetu Marmatei retains buildings that constitute historical monuments, most of which are grouped in the Libertății Square, built during the Middle Age and reconditioned during the 19th century. The Protestant church on Ioan Mihalyi de Apșa Street was built in the 15th century, in place of another building, constructed in early Gothic style, between 1050-1150. The list of other historical buildings includes: the Roman-Catholic Church (1730), the Ukrainian Church (1830), the Orthodox Church on Dragoş Vodă Street (1892), the Big Synagogue (1904) etc.



Children at the Festival of Winter Traditions and Customs - Photo: Florin Feitzes



The building at No. 1, Bogdan Vodă St. houses the **Ethnographic Museum of Maramureș** that displays a wide variety of objects related to folk culture: icons, agricultural tools, traditional furniture and costumes, rugs, ceramics, masks and architectural elements.

Tourists eager to learn more about the traditional wooden architecture of Maramureș are invited to visit the open-air section of the museum (the Village Museum), located on the Dobăieș Hill, just as you enter the town coming from the direction of Baia Mare. Both of the above-mentioned museums are equipped with audio guides in Romanian, English and French.

The Memorial of the Victims of Communism and of the Resistance is hosted by a building that was a prison between 1899 and 1965. During the interval 1950-1955, the place was transformed into a political prison, where representatives of the Romanian elite, people opposing the Communist regime were locked, tortured and killed. Today, the memorial is the most visited museum in Maramureș. (www.memorialsighet.ro)

Elie Wiesel's native House (1 Tudor Vladimirescu St.) has been transformed into a museum hosting an important collection of photos, pieces of furniture and other objects belonging to members of Sighet's Jewish community.

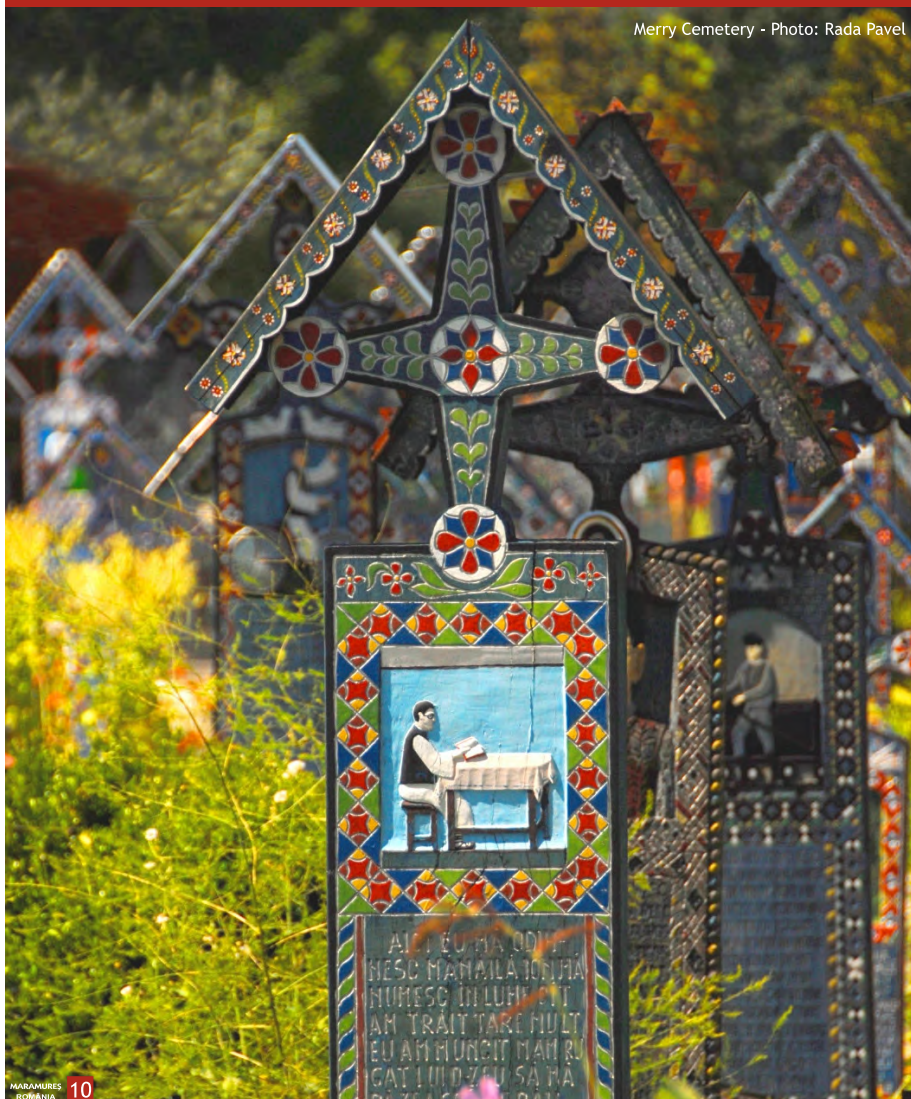
The museum house **Dr. Ioan Mihalyi de Apșa** (17 Ioan Mihalyi de Apșa St.) is hosted by the building that was home to the famous politics and culture figure from Maramureș. The ground floor exhibits art works. In the workshop at the top floor you can see Mihalyi's desk, his book shelves, paintings, original copies of various documents and the coat of arms of the noble family. Other museums of interest in Sighetu Marmăției are The History and **Archaeology Museum** and **The Museum of Natural Sciences** (No. 15, Piața Libertății).

Near Sighet, in the Tisa village, you can visit the Pipaș Private Museum, which displays an impressive collection of old artworks from Maramureș: from paintings, glass and wood icons, sculptures, drawings, furniture items and porcelain, to needle-works, woven fabrics, vintage clothing. (231, Tisa Village)

AROUND SIGHETU MARMAȚIEI

Less than 20 km away from Sighet is the village of Săpânța, famous for its truly unique “Merry Cemetery”, a must-see for anyone visiting Maramureș. The cemetery owes its name to the vivid colors of the headboards on which naively painted scenes and satirical epitaphs narrate the biography of the deceased. The rhymes are deprived of the usual clichés and remain fresh and original. The cemetery was created in the 1930s by the local craftsman Stan Ioan Pătraș. After his death in 1977, his work has been continued by his apprentices.

Merry Cemetery - Photo: Rada Pavel



Accommodation & restaurants

Grădina Morii Hotel&Restaurant

97 Mihai Eminescu St.,
Sighetu Marmației
Tel. +40 372 721 210
www.hotelgradinamorii.ro

Casa Iurcă de Călinești

Guesthouse & Restaurant
14 Dragoș Vodă St.,
Sighetu Marmației
Tel. +40 262 318 882
www.casaiurca.ro

Vila Royal

1 I. Mihali de Apșa St., Sighetu
Marmației
Tel. +40 262 311 004
www.vilaroyal.ro

Punct pe I

6 Simion Bărnuțiu St.,
Sighetu Marmației
Tel. +04 751 571 751
www.cazarepunctpeisighet.ro

Hotel Iza

88D Făget St., Sighetu Marmației
Tel. +40 362 803 896
www.hoteliza.ro

Plai cu Peri

84B Principală St., Săpânța
Tel. +40 751 197 214
www.plaicuperi.ro

La Conacul Vesel

775 Principală St., Săpânța
www.laconaculvesel.ro



Very close to Săpânța is the Peri Monastery. The church of the monastery, a new wooden construction, with a 78 m spire, is even higher than the previous record-setting tower of the church in Șurdești. The monastery is set in the middle of a century-old oak forest.

BÂRSANA

After visiting Peri Monastery, the trail returns through Sighet, continuing along the road South into Vadu Izei where you will turn left and begin the journey along the Iza Valley, through a series of small villages and hamlets set amidst rolling hills. 20 km from Sighet lies Bârsana, a village that was first mentioned in documents in 1326.



The signposted wooden church at Bârsana, known as the **“Holy Mother’s Entrance”**, was originally built in 1720 and later moved to its present location on Jbâr Hill in 1806. According to the legend, the Jbâr Hill used to be a cemetery for plague victims, buried here hurriedly, without a religious service. Tradition holds that religious services for the dead are of extreme importance and the relocation of the church would allow these unfortunate souls to rest for eternity in the shadow of the church.

A construction peculiarity of the church is the double-eaved roof. The interior frescoes were painted in the Baroque style. The side walls of the naos depict scenes from both the Old and New Testament. Of particular beauty are the flocks of angels and the touching depiction of

the cherubim with eyes covering their bodies.

Contact Info for visiting the church:

Priest Opreșan Marcel, Tel: +40747558575,
Moldovan Ileana, Tel: +40 766 680 075.

Another well-known attraction in Bârsana is the monastery dedicated to the **Synaxis of the Twelve Holy Apostles**, rebuilt after the year 1993, and boasting a 57-metres high wooden spire.

(www.manastireabarsana.ro)

Bârsana is also home to **Teodor Bârsan**, a famous handicraftsman in wood, whose work is renowned all over Maramureș and beyond. His son, Ioan Bârsan, has inherited his skillfulness and carries on the old handicraft to this day.

Cherubim - Photo: Gabriel Motica



Accommodation

Iza Guesthouse

281 Principală St., Bârsana
Tel. +40 769 460 908
www.izamaramures.ro

Casa Bârsan

277A Principală St., Bârsana
Tel. +40 755 598 191
www.casabarsan.ro

Baiaş Guesthouse

233 Principală St., Bârsana
Tel. +40 765 512 384
loanbaias1978@gmail.com

Valea Muntelui

401A Principală St., Bârsana
Tel. +40 741 159 712
www.valea-muntelui.ro

Valea Brânzei

107 Principală St., Nănești
Tel. +40 755 651 490
www.valeabranzei.weebly.com

Sub Cetate la Matei

480 Principală St., Oncești
Tel. +40 762 633 708
subcetatelamatei@yahoo.com

POIENILE IZEI

After leaving Bârsana, the trail continues to follow the meandering of the Iza River. In the village of Rozavlea, you can visit the old wooden church erected around 1717-1720 on the site of an earlier house of worship that had been destroyed by the Tatars.

Once you reach the village of **Șieu**, home to another wooden church (1760), keep an eye out for the turn off towards **Poienile Izei**. Take a right turn off from the main road and follow the signs toward the next stop on the trail.

The UNESCO designated wooden church, at Poienile Izei, **Pious Paraschiva**, is one of the most beautiful and well preserved monuments in all of Maramureș. The church was built in 1604-1632 and is covered on the interior with spectacular frescoes. The scenes of the Last Judgment on its “pronaos” (walls) depict images of punishments for sins: the liar hanged by his tongue, the witch gored by cows for casting a spell on them, the farmer plowed by two devils for stealing his neighbor’s land, the mother forced to swallow her aborted baby and the person who sleeps while the priest is preaching, is forced to lay on a burning bed and endure the devil’s violin.

Contact Info for visiting the church in Poienile Izei: Mirela Smaranda, Tel: +40 726 387 120.

Nearby Poienile Izei is the quaint village of **Botiza**, which is famous for women’s artistry in weaving traditional rugs. In the centre of the village, there is a wooden church, built in 1699 at Vișeu de Jos, which was moved to its present location towards the end of the 19th century. Nearby, the traditional guesthouse of Mrs. Berbecaru invites you to step in and listen to the story of the traditional art items displayed in the rooms at the ground floor.

Pious Paraschiva of Poienile Izei - Photo: Rada Payel

Woman weaving - Foto: Felix Săteanu



Accommodation

Ionela Petreuş Guesthouse

198 Principală St., Poenile Izei
Tel. +40 0726 938 123

La Domnița

138 Principală St., Poenile Izei
Tel. +40 724 175 757
domnita_ilies@yahoo.com

Glodeanca

278 Principală St., Glod
Tel. +40 744 286 639
pensiuneaglodeanca@yahoo.com

Ancuța Guesthouse

222 Valea Sasului St., Botiza
Tel. +40 762 210 852

LEUD

Church Detail - Photo: Gabriel Motica

The trail now returns to Șieu, where a right turn back on to the main road continues its journey along the Iza River. The next point of interest is the village of leud, just off the main road from Bogdan Vodă. Situated at the foot of the Northern slope of the Țibleș Mountain, the village of leud was first mentioned in documents in 1364 and boasts two old wooden churches. The church on the Hill, inscribed in UNESCO's World Heritage List, is made of fir tree wood and has been for long considered to be the oldest wooden structure in Europe. However, dendrochronological dating established that the building was erected between 1611 and 1621, not in the middle of the XIVth century, as tradition has it.

The church is devoted to the Birth of Holy Mary, celebrated on September 8th. The interior frescoes were made by Alexandru Ponehalski, one of the most active church painters in Maramureș. The painting in the pronaos depicts the Last Judgment, where the blaze of the inferno is about to engulf the sinners. In the attic of this church, a document that is known as The Codex of leud was found. The document, dating from 1391, is generally considered to be the first example of written Romanian.

Contact Info for visiting the church:
Mrs. Brici Roxana, Tel: +40 744 581367

The lower church (leud Șes) was erected in 1718, just after the last raid of the Tatars. It is one of the largest wooden buildings in Romania.

Contact Info for visiting the church: Brândău Ioana, Tel: +40 760 728949

leud is also home to the unique Hemp Museum, hosted by the Pleș family, who changed a peasant household into a real ethnographic settlement.

Contact Info for visiting the Pleș Museum:
leud, No. 909, Tel: +40 262 336 104



Pleș Peasant Museum - Photo: Rada Pavel

Driving back to the main road, you soon reach Bogdan Vodă (formerly Cuhea), once the residence of the ruler Bogdan, who founded the feudal state of Moldavia. The wooden church in Bogdan Vodă was built in 1718-1754.

The next village along the trail is Dragomirești. About midway through the village, you will see a quaint house museum, focusing on the life of the Romanian peasant woman in Maramures. On display, here are traditional costumes, including wedding costumes, textiles, pottery and wood carvings.

Contact Info for visiting the Peasant

Woman Museum: Dragomirești, Mrs. Zubașcu, Tel: +40 752 301359

Dragomirești also hosts a monastery patroned by Saint Elijah and home to an icon believed to be miracle-working.

The last village on the Iza Valley is Săcel, famous for its unglazed red ceramics. Tanase Burnar, who learned the craft from his father, practices pottery using old techniques very similar to the ones used by the Dacians and a very old kiln, of Roman origin. Sacel is also home to Vasile Șuşca, the artisan who is known around the world for the traditional masks and to a famous woodcarver, Grigore Julean, specialized in making small wooden objects.

Accommodation

Casa Tradițiilor

794A Principală St., leud
Tel. +40 763 768 648
www.casatradițiilor.ro

Ileana Guesthouse

175 Principală St., leud
Tel. +40 754 455 202
pensiuneaileanaieud@yahoo.com

Pintioi Guesthouse

1139 Principală St., leud
Tel. +40 760 439 790
ioanachindris19@gmail.com

La Mosie Sub Obreja

1035A Principală St., leud
Tel. +40 771 067 960
ioangorzotrifan@yahoo.com

Lacrima Izei

1003 Principală St., Săcel
Tel. +40 757 058 350
www.lacrimaizei.ro

Seky Guesthouse

1 Cireșilor St., Săliștea de Sus
Tel. +40 742 776 304
www.seky.ro



Christmas in leud - Photo: Dan Comănescu

BUDEȘTI

Our World Heritage Trail continues by following the route back until reaching Bârsana once again, at which point you will need to turn left toward Călinești. Upon reaching Călinești (a village with two wooden churches, dating from the 17th and 18th centuries), turn left following the Cosău Valley. Shortly you will pass through the charming village of Sârbi. Many households in this village have preserved their carved wooden gates. It is worthwhile to stop briefly to examine the still operational water mill, located midway through the village. Sârbi is also home to a talented hat-maker, Vasile Borodi, who hand-makes hats from straws and sawdust which are integral to the male costume of Maramureș.



Budești - Josani Church - Photo: Gabriel Motica

Our next UNESCO monument is the oak church of **Budești-Josani**, built in 1643 on the site of an earlier church. Dedicated to Saint Nicoară, the old Romanian name for Saint Nicholas, the church was constructed from thick pieces of oak placed on a foundation of river stones. Inside the church, the chain mail shirt and armor helmet of Pinteș the Brave, the famous local “Robin Hood”, can be viewed. Tradition says that he brought these pieces here himself. Alexandru Ponehalschi painted the interior in bright, warm colors, around 1762. The church is also known for its collection of 17th century icons painted on glass and wood. An earlier icon from a 15th century church contains Slavonic inscriptions and depicts Saint John the Baptist.

Contact Info for visiting the church: Mrs. Godja Ileana, Tel: +40 764 206302

The other church in Budești (Susani Church, Tel: +40 769 983 330) was erected in 1760. Be sure to take a close look at the scenes from the Life and Passion of Christ and the panoramic depiction of the Paradise, swarming with sundry animals, quaintly blending the real and imaginary.

Once you are here, you shouldn't miss the chance to visit the neighboring village of

Breb, boasting a delightful location, authentic households, traditional artisans, a very old wooden church, welcoming guesthouses and many unique stories.

At a walking distance from Breb, you will find **Hoteni**, the village that each May hosts a famous and colorful ritual called “Tânjaua de pe Mara” and meant to celebrate the first plowman that spring.

The spouses Anuța and Ion Pop (Popicu), who have brought world fame to the Maramureș music, have arranged here, in Hoteni, a traditional home, with a house that is almost 200 years old, with a shed and a large wooden gate, all of which are 100% authentic for the spirit of Maramureș.

At short distance, **Ocna Șugatag** is a spa resort that has become an important touristic center, with a well developed network of bed and breakfast facilities and hotels. The old salt mines here collapsed and in their place are now eight salty lakes, which are among the most salty bodies of water in Europe.

From Budești, the trail follows the road to **Cavnic**, an old mining settlement, first mentioned in documents in 1455. Over the past years, Cavnic has evolved into a popular winter destination, due to its ski slopes (Roata and Icoana) and recently built chalets.

Accommodation

Soare-n Maramureș

266A Principală St., Budești
Tel. +40 757 219 419
<https://soare-nmaramures.ro/>

Casa din Vale Breb

211 Mocira Place, Breb
Tel. +40 733 436 656
casadinvalebreb@gmail.com

Breb's Cosy Barn

122A Principală St., Breb
Tel. +40 787 769 212
breccosybarn@gmail.com

The Village Hotel

349 Principală St., Breb
Tel. +40 723 223 059
www.villagehotelmaramures.com

Casa lu' Dochia Restaurant

204 Principală St., Breb
Tel. +40 740 260 687
casa.dochia@gmail.com

Marea Alpină

25 Ilie Lazăr St., Ocna Șugatag
Tel. +40 757 056 759
www.marea-alpina.ro

Super Ski Cavnic

22 Maramureșului St., Cavnic
Tel. +40 731 818 199
www.superskicavnic.ro/

Chalet 2B

1A Roata St., Cavnic
Tel. 0049 1522 581 1216
+40 756 800 097
www.chalet2b.eu/



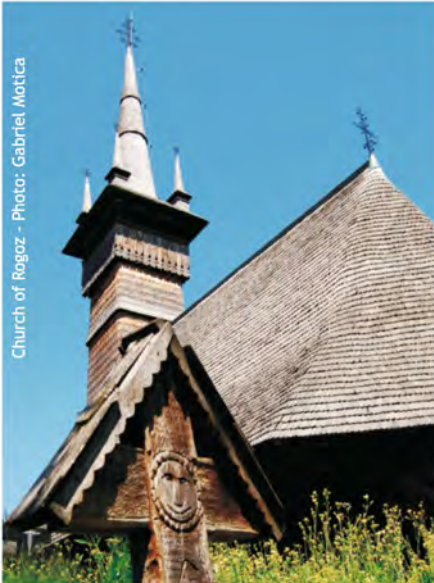
Photo: Ștefan Bela

ROGOZ

Shortly after passing the slopes of Cavnic, you will turn left and enter the Land of Lăpuș via the town of Strâmbu Băiuț. 25 km from Cavnic is the village of Lăpuș, located on a road surrounded by beautiful mountains and forests, where archaeologists have unearthed a tumular necropolis dating to the early Bronze Age.

A short distance out from Lăpuș is the small village of **Rogoz**, home to another UNESCO monument.

According to tradition, the church "**The Saint Archangels Michael and Gabriel**" was built in 1633 from two huge twin trees brought from Dealul Popii (The Priest's Hill). The church seems to have survived the Tartar invasion of 1717, as the Land of Lăpuș was affected less than the Historical Maramureș by the danger brought about by the Tatars. The interior frescoes, painted in 1785 by Radu Munteanu and Nicolae Man, remained only in the nave and in the pronaos, with some of the scenes split up and others faded.



Church of Rogoz - Photo: Gabriel Motica



The uniqueness of the church "Saint Archangels Michael and Gabriel" is given by its Southern entrance, asymmetrical roof and horse-head cantilever joints. The 'Elder's' table covered by the eaves on the Northern side of the church has markings corresponding to the families entitled to sit at it. On religious holidays, these families offered meals to the poor in memory of the dead.

Contact Info for visiting the church: Priest Hojda Florin, Tel: +40 765 833 333 or the small Peasant Museum near the church: Mrs. Mârzac Călina, Tel: +40 742 584 692.

Rogoz is also home to a master woodcarver, Mr. Șerban, whose sign-posted home and workshop can be found just up the road from the church.

The first town you will drive through after leaving Rogoz is Târgu Lăpuș, the region's oldest settlement and the starting point for various routes through the Land of Lăpuș. One of them is the Blue Track, dedicated to cyclists, with a length of 45 km, which crosses through villages, meadows, pastures and forests, starting at the foot of the Șatra Mountain, going all the way up and back.

A well-known attraction in the Land of Lăpuș is the **Monastery of Rohia**, situated 12 km South from Târgu Lăpuș. Rohia was one of the centers of spiritual resistance against communism and one of the most profound thinkers of contemporary Romanian culture, Nicolae Steinhardt, chose to follow the path of voluntary reclusion here, in 1980.

Accommodation

Preturii Guesthouse

21 Piața Eroilor St., Târgu Lăpuș
Tel. +40 262 385 671
www.hailanoi.ro/

Popasu' Guesthouse

959 Principală St., Suciul de Sus
Tel. +40 764103940
www.pensiuneapopasu.ro

Maramu' Lakeside

51 Stadion St., Târgu Lăpuș
Tel. +40 740 315 059
www.maramulakeside.com

Maria Guesthouse

80 Principală St., Rohia
Tel. +40 742 021 161
www.pensiuneamaria.com

Bike Ride through the Land of Lăpuș: Blue Track
Photo: Rada Pavel



PLOPIȘ

From Târgu Lăpuș, the trail continues beneath the quaint "Culmea Prelucii" Mountains. After 15 km, you will reach the commune of Cernești, that hosts another tourist attraction: at about 2 km away from the main road, in a meadow called Poiana Soarelui (The Sun Glade), there is an exhibition of sculptures made in limestone, andesite and marble. These works of art belong to Florean Museum, the first private museum of contemporary art in Romania. Moving further along the main road you will turn right once you reach Copalnic Mănăstur and continue on to the remaining two UNESCO wooden churches in Maramureș. First up is the church at Plopiș, located about 2 km off the main road. We are now in the Land of Chioar.

Just like the church at Rogoz, the wooden church of Plopiș is also devoted to the Saint **Archangels Michael and Gabriel**, whose celebration every year is held on November the 8th.

The village of **Plopiș**, situated in the Cavnic Valley, was first mentioned in documents in 1583, as a settlement belonging to the Chioar Fortress.

The inhabitants of Plopiș used to be renowned for their carpentry skills and the fruits of their labor can be found throughout the county. In 1798, the villagers began construction of a new church meant to replace their old house of worship. On the 12th of November 1811, to the joy of the 49 founder-families, the new church was completed. The information referring to the dedication of the church was extracted from a document drafted on the occasion of its dedication which was later found in the abutment of the altar. This is the place where 49 coins, deposited by each family of the village, were also discovered. According to tradition, the frescoes, the iconostasis, and the altar icon

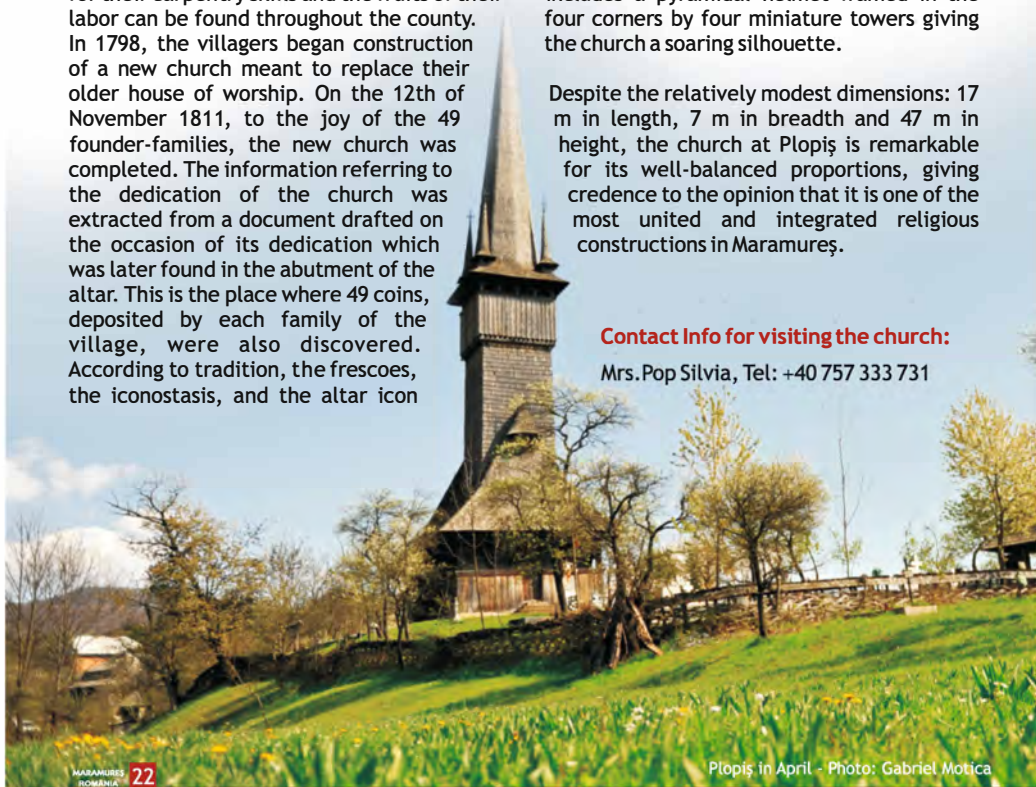
are attributed to Ștefan the Painter, and were completed between 1810-1811. The inscription at the back of the altar icon certifies this paternity.

The size of the church, the proportions of the body of the church, realized in the Blockbau style and the roof exhibit an exceptional sense of harmony. The steeple is raised above the pronaos with a robust structure that is imposed by its considerable height and includes a pyramidal helmet framed in the four corners by four miniature towers giving the church a soaring silhouette.

Despite the relatively modest dimensions: 17 m in length, 7 m in breadth and 47 m in height, the church at Plopiș is remarkable for its well-balanced proportions, giving credence to the opinion that it is one of the most united and integrated religious constructions in Maramureș.

Contact Info for visiting the church:

Mrs. Pop Silvia, Tel: +40 757 333 731



ȘURDEȘTI

After leaving Plopiș, turn right once back to the main road for the trip to the village of Șurdești. The wooden church here, devoted to the Saint Archangels Michael and Gabriel, was built in 1721 under the direction of Toma Macarie. The church steeple is claimed to be the tallest old wooden structure in Europe. In the past, people believed that the taller the church tower was, the easier their prayers could reach up to Heaven.

The interior frescoes, executed by Ștefan of Șișești in 1783, were applied on canvas strips which in turn fill the gaps between the wooden beams. On Sundays this church is still used by the locals as a house of worship. As with so many of the churches in Maramureș, the one in Șurdești is an integral part of the village landscape. Apple trees grow in the courtyard and outside of the protective gates, firewood is stacked next door to provide heat in winter and barrels of harvested fruit await transport to the nearest “pălinca” (local brandy) still. church, return to the road and turn right.

Contact Info for visiting the church:

Carmen Tomoș, Tel. +40 766 011 444,
Bud Viorica Elena, Tel. +40 765 133 524.

This village is also known for its traditional spring custom known as “Udătoriu”. Every year, on the second day of Easter, the hardest working villager (“udătoriu”) is celebrated by all the locals. The church at Șurdești ends our itinerary of the UNESCO World Heritage Monuments in Maramureș.

Accommodation

Iz de Maramureș

388A Principală St., Șurdești
Tel. +40 740 287 589
ancamaak11@gmail.com

Hanul Teilor

167B Principală St., Dănești
Tel. +40 724 288 646
www.hanulteilor.ro

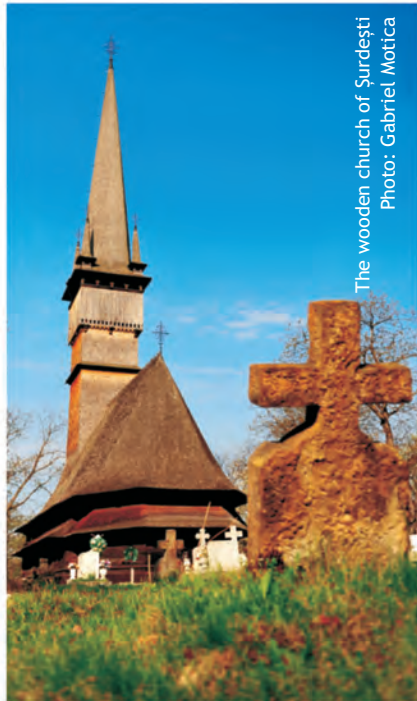
Secret Garden Hotel

61 Principală St., Dănești
Tel. +40 262 298 035
www.secret-garden.ro

Upon leaving the church, return to the road and turn right.

Then, once you reach the intersection with the main road, turn left, following the sign that shows the way to Baia Sprie. The next village is Dănești, a local spa with several mineral water sources. The village hosts a new tourist Complex, Secret Garden, situated in an outstanding location.

Following again the main road, you will soon reach the crossroad in the centre of Baia Sprie, where a left turn will return you shortly to Baia Mare, the starting point of our trip.



The wooden church of Șurdești
Photo: Gabriel Motica

TOURIST INFORMATION

VISIT MARAMUREȘ

46 Gh. Șincai St. Baia Mare, Room 20
Tel: +40 262 206 113 Fax: +40 262 206 114
Program L-J 8.00-16.30 V 8.00-14.30
email: turism@cjmaramures.ro
www.visitmaramures.ro

BAIA MARE TOURIST INFO CENTER

2 Crișan St., Baia Mare
turism@baiamare.ro
www.primariabaiamare.ro

BAIA SPRIE NATIONAL TOURIST AND PROMOTE INFO CENTER

1A Câmpului St., Baia Sprie
Tel. 0262- 211 003, Tel: 0362-803693
turism@cniptbaiasprie.ro
www.cniptbaiasprie.ro

BORȘA NATIONAL TOURIST AND PROMOTE INFO CENTER

46 Libertății St., Borșa, Tel/Fax: 0262 343973
email: birouturism@primariaborsamm.ro

SĂLIȘTEA DE SUS NATIONAL TOURIST AND PROMOTE INFO CENTER

136 Main St., Săliștea de Sus, Tel/fax: 0362 105 503
cniptsalisteadesusmm@yahoo.com
www.cniptsalisteadesus.ro

SIGHETU MARMAȚIEI NATIONAL TOURIST AND PROMOTE INFO CENTER

26 Pța. Libertății, Sighetu Marmației
Tel. 0371 347 133
Web. <http://www.turismsighet.ro>
Email: info@turismsighet.ro

TÂRGU LĂPUȘ NATIONAL TOURIST AND PROMOTE INFO CENTER

11 Liviu Rebreanu St., TârguLăpuș
Tel.: 0262 384 239
Email: cnipttargulapus@yahoo.com

VIȘEU DE SUS NATIONAL TOURIST AND PROMOTE INFO CENTER

22 December St., Vișeu de Sus
Tel: 0362 803 927
Email: cniptviseu@gmail.com
www.infoviseu.ro



visit
Maramureș.ro

SMALL CONVERSATION GUIDE

Hello - Salut
Good day - Bună ziua
Goodbye - La revedere
Do you speak English? - Vorbiți engleza?
Yes - Da
No - Nu
Please - Vă rog
Thank you - Mulțumesc
Excuse me - Scuzați-mă
Have a good trip - Drum bun
I don't understand - Nu înțeleg
Say again, please - Vă rog să repetați
Wooden Church - Biserică de lemn
Where can I find the key? - Unde pot găsi cheia?
Up / down - Sus / jos
Right / left - dreapta / stânga
Ahead / back - Înainte / Înapoi
Map - Hartă
Street - Stradă
It isn't far - Nu este departe
Where is ...? - Unde este...?
Can you show me on the map? - Puteți să-mi arătați pe hartă?
Do you have a room? - Aveți o cameră?
How much is it? - Cât costă?
Train station/bus station - gară/stație de autobuz
Where can I buy a ticket? - De unde iau un bilet?
Traditional Handicraft workshop - Atelier de meșter popular
Market - Piață

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Cover photo:

Gabriel Motica



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