

# Multi-Generational Transylvania Pilgrimage

April 12 - 23, 2018

## *DRAFT Itinerary*



*The timing of this pilgrimage is planned around the Massachusetts school vacation, and the desire for a multigenerational group with school children to spend two full weekends with our partners so our respective families can get to know each other and attend Sunday services with them. Luckily the local Unitarian school will be just back from Easter vacation so we will also be able to visit ~~the~~ it while it is in session, and meet teachers and students, including the ones helped by our scholarship program.*

*During our stay, the activities we do on any given day, will not necessarily be as depicted in the sample itinerary below. Representative activities are shown as examples so that prospective pilgrims can get a realistic flavor of what they may experience during our visit. Any specific activity may be scheduled on a different day or not at all, or a similar alternate activity or activities may be scheduled instead. We expect we will not get a detailed schedule until we arrive in Keresztúr, And, even that is subject to change depending on weather-related activities possibly needing rescheduling, or new opportunities making themselves known to our hosts .*

*Transylvania is slower paced - stay loose, be flexible, and r e l a x !!*

### **Thursday, 4/12- Friday 4/13 - Fly to Transylvania, Romania**

Leave FP around 1:45pm - **tentative flight details** - Total time: 12hr 15min

Depart 4:40 PM Boston, MA , Boston Logan Airport (BOS) Terminal E

Arrive: 5:40 AM Frankfurt , Germany, Lufthansa 423, 7hr -

1hr 5min between flights .

Depart 6:45 AM, Frankfurt , Germany, Frankfurt Int'l Airport (FRA) Terminal 1

Arrive 7:40 AM Munich , Germany, Lufthansa 92 - 0hr 55mi -

1hr 35min between flights

Depart 9:15 AM Munich , Germany, F.J. Strauss Airport (MUC) Terminal 2

Arrive 11:55 AM, Kolozsvár/Cluj(-Napoca)/Klausenburg, Romania Lufthansa 1670 - 1hr 40min  
Friday, 10/31 - Arrive Transylvania

12:30pm - Bus pick up at **Kolozsvár/Cluj** airport

**Lunch at restaurant in Kolozsvár**

**Visit the historic Unitarian headquarters and meet Bishop**

**Bus to Székelykeresztúr/Cristuru Secuiesc (“Keresztúr”) ~ 3 hours**

5:30pm – Arrive in Keresztúr - greetings at the Friendship House

7pm – Dinner

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### ***Saturday, 4/14 - Keresztúr***

#### ***Introductions and orientation***

Spend time with families  
Games, crafts, singing

### ***Sunday, 4/15 - Keresztúr Church Service***

Breakfast - Church service - Lunch - Relax -  
Eve - gather/eat/sing with Keresztúris

### ***Monday, 4/16 - Around Keresztúr - local sights - including any of the following***

Molnár Museum with old houses, farm buildings - like a mini-Sturbridge Village  
Petőfi Sándor (beloved Hungarian poet) memorial house  
hike in neighboring hills, fields and forests  
visit farms or see traditional tools, cooking and ways of life.  
Eve - gather/eat/sing with Keresztúris

### ***Tuesday, 4/17 - Day Trip<sup>1</sup>***

perhaps [Sighișoara/Schäßburg/Segesvár](#)

Go down into huge salt mines  
visit Bözödújfalú/Bezidu Nou - József Szombatfalvi's home village - inundated 1989  
Énlaka/Inlăceni - ancient hill country fortified church on site of Roman temple  
Evening - gather/eat/folk dancing with Keresztúris

### ***Wednesday, 4/18 - Keresztúr***

Relax  
Visit school and meet students.  
Local trip/sightseeing, perhaps with local families  
Eve - gather/eat/sing with Keresztúris

### ***Thursday, 4/19 - Day Trip - Sightseeing & Shopping***

[Székelyudvarhely/Odorheiu Secuiesc](#) - large Székely town - shopping

[Kóhalom/Rupea/Reps Fortress](#)

[Székelyderzs/Dârjiu](#) - UNESCO World Heritage Site Fortified Unitarian Church with  
"Bacon Tower"

Eve - gather/eat/sing with Keresztúris

### ***Friday, 4/20 - visit in Csehétfalva and other Unitarian villages in the Nyikó Valley***

Breakfast

Afternoon leave by bus for Csehétfalva for an overnight there  
Sightseeing in the valley, perhaps with a ride in a horse-drawn carts?  
Supper in common house at Csehétfalva camp

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<sup>1</sup> See descriptions on page 4

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### ***Saturday, 4/21 - Csehétfalva & Keresztúr***

Breakfast

Explore village and its fields and woods

Lunch

**Bus ride back Keresztúr**

Eve - gather/eat/sing with Keresztúris

### ***Sunday, 4/22 - Keresztúr Church Service***

Breakfast

**Church service**

Pack

Farewell party

### ***Monday, 4/23 - Return to Boston via Kolozsvár & Munich***

6:30 am - Breakfast

7:30 am – Leave for Kolozsvár (3 hour drive)

Return Flight

***Tentative flight details*** - total time: 12hr 45min

**Depart 12:45 PM, Cluj-Napoca , Romania**

**Arrive 1:25 PM Munich , Germany, Lufthansa 1671 - 1hr 40min**

Change of planes. Time between flights: 2hr 15mi

**Depart 3:40 PM. Munich**

**Arrive 6:30 PM, Boston - Lufthansa 424 - 8hr 50min**

### ***Pre-/Post-Pilgrimage extensions***

There are possibilities for optional pre- and/or post-pilgrimage extensions. If you are interested in exploring these, please include your interests on your application. There is a stipulation that your use the same flight segments as on the group reservation, but just shifted to a different date, that is same flight number(s) and time(s).

### ***Mobility Issues*** (from the UUPCC's Travel Guide - <http://bit.ly/2vTuUTp> - a useful resource!)

*Eastern & Central Europe in general and Romania in particular are not easy to navigate for people with moderate to severe mobility issues. Entire sections (typically the most touristed) of some cities such as Budapest, Prague, and Vienna are closed to motorized traffic. Many streets are cobblestone or gravel and sidewalks are broken and uneven. Some of the hotels we use do not have elevators. None of the B&Bs, dorms or guesthouses have elevators. Many of the castles (Peles, Bran & Vadjahunyad), walled citadels (Sighisoara), and fortress churches (Biertan) are built on many levels and are often located on hilltops that require an uphill walk of 5-10 minutes to reach.*

*Wheelchairs or rolling walkers will NOT work for you in Romania. Canes and/or walking sticks are ok. If you like to sit when the group stops bring a cane that doubles as a folding stool. In general your condition needs to be such that you can climb 2 flights of steps and walk for 20-30 minutes without stopping to rest. UUPCC Pilgrimage trips to Romania are rated on the Elder Hostel scale at 3-4 depending upon your specific group's*

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*itinerary.*

Also see the Transylvania Wikipedia page at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transylvania>.

### ***Descriptions of some places***

*A few words about **place names** in the itinerary. Due to the long multi-ethnic history of Transylvania, places there commonly have two, three and even four names - Romanian, Hungarian, German and Latin. In this itinerary, the first time a place is mentioned, it is identified by its names in two or three languages, separated by forward slashes. Thereafter, the name commonly used by our Hungarian-speaking partners is used alone. Where the place is inhabited by a majority of Hungarians, the Hungarian name appears first (because it is the name our partners will use) followed by the Romanian name (e.g., Énlaka/Inlăceni). Where the place was one of the original German/Saxon places, the current Romanian name precedes the original German name followed by the Hungarian name (e.g., Sighișoara/Schäßburg/Segesvár). For more about Transylvania and its place names see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transylvania>.*

An excellent source for more information about Traveling in Transylvania, including many Unitarian sites, is the “Romania Travel Guide“ PDF found at <http://bit.ly/1IMtP1W>. Also see the Wikipedia page at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transylvania>. Additional information not included in either of the above is included below.

*Perhaps the best guidebook to Transylvania in print is the [Transylvania Bradt Travel Guide, 3rd edition January 2018](http://amzn.to/2xiTtJY) at <http://amzn.to/2xiTtJY> available in paperback*

### **Bözödújfalu.**

This was the birth village of our former (now retired) partner minister József Szombatfalvi. It was flooded by Ceaușescu’s communist government in the fall of 1989, the first and only one of over 8,000 villages that were planned to be demolished by the communists. Today the ruins of two churches rising above the waters is all that remain. This link <http://bit.ly/1cRJJQg> is the result of a Google search and includes a Google Maps link as well as some photos.

### **Énlaka.**

A small Unitarian village with a well-preserved fortified church built on the site of a Roman temple to Jupiter. Also in the ceiling of painted wooden panels is one with the ancient Székely runic script, called “rovásírás”, which is the origin of the current Hungarian alphabet - see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rovasiras>