



Ministry of Tourism of Romania



Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

9th Annual Advisory Forum
"Cultural Routes for Cultural Tourism"
2-4 October 2019, Sibiu (Romania)

Practical information and side events



Sibiu, Romania © Dragos Dumitru

MINISTERUL TURISMULUI | CUI: 36904080

e-mail: cabinet.ministru@mturism.ro | tel.: +4 021 303 78 75 | fax: +4 021 303 78 70

Bld. Dinicu Golescu nr. 38/ sector 1/ București/ România

Table of contents

- I- Presentation

- II- Logistics
 - i. Arrivals
 - ii. Local transportation
 - iii. Accommodation

- III- Side meetings
 - i. Governing Board meeting
 - ii. Certified Cultural Routes meeting
 - iii. Candidates for certification meeting
 - iv. Routes4U meeting

- IV- Side events and social programme

- v- Romania and the Sibiu region

I. Presentation

The Council of Europe Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (EPA) and the Ministry of Tourism of Romania are pleased to **invite you** to the **Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Annual Advisory Forum**, which will take place on **2-4 October 2019 in Sibiu, Romania**.

This year's Advisory Forum will consider "**Cultural Routes for Cultural Tourism**". The 2019 Sibiu Forum will be the opportunity to focus on ways in which Cultural Routes can continue to capitalise on the growing market for cultural tourism so as to profile the cultural heritage, traditions, experiences and connectivities of Europe; stimulate and support the development of local, regional, national and transnational tourist economies; encourage creativity and innovation in the cultural sector that can add to the tourist experience; create opportunities for exchange, new mobilities and inter-cultural dialogue across Europe and between Europe and the rest of the World.

The aim of the Forum is to stimulate debate between the Cultural Routes and the wider tourism sector and will examine the synergies between the public and private sectors in developing unique cultural tourism products; explore ways to access new markets within Europe and internationally for the Cultural Routes; discuss practical initiatives and develop productive networks for the effective marketing of the rich diversity of cultural products embodied in the Cultural Routes.

In the wake of the Forum, the Cultural Routes will give voice to a Declaration on Cultural Tourism that will signal their role in the development of a tourism that reflects the rich variety of Europe's past and the opportunities for innovation and creative development into the future and that will set an agenda for forthcoming working.

Over two days the Advisory Forum will feature interventions from representatives of National Ministries of Tourism, National Tourism Authorities and Tourism Organisations representing both the public and private sectors.

Forum webpage:

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/cultural-routes-staging/sibiu-forum>

Since 2011, 8 editions of the *Annual Advisory Forum of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe* have been organised and these contributed to the development of the programme. Its 9th edition in Sibiu, entitled "*Cultural Routes for Cultural Tourism*" will contribute to a growing visibility of the programme and further strengthen synergies between the Council of Europe Cultural Routes Programme, the Cultural Routes and candidates for certification and other international programmes on cultural tourism.

The tourist attractions in Romania included in the *Certified Cultural Routes* are:

- *St. Michael's* Roman-Catholic Cathedral in Alba Iulia (***Transromanica***).
- The Synagogue of Piatra Neamț built in 1766 which belongs to the Route no. 2 - Wooden Synagogues in Central and Eastern Europe (***European Route of Jewish Heritage***).
- Bellu Cemetery (***European Cemeteries Route***).
- The City of Oradea (***Réseau Art Nouveau Network***).
- Alba Iulia – Castrul Roman; Roșia Montană – Roman Galleries; Sarmisegetusa – Colonia Ulpia Traiana Augusta Dacica; Constanța – The Histria and Adamclisi Cities (***Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route***).

- The Hills of Dobrogea: Alcovin, Murfatlar, Clos des Colombes; The Hills of Muntenia and Oltenia: Galicea Mare, Segarcea, Starmina, Vânju Mare, Opişor; Terraces of the Danube: Ostrov, Zimnicea (***Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route***).
- The Sparkle House (The Free Press House), The Monument of the Heroes, The National Theater Ensemble, The New Civic Centre in Bucharest, Union Square in Iasi, Suceava Cultural House (***ATRIUM***).
- The Route of the Romanian Emperors and the Danube Wine (***ITER VITIS Route***).

II. Logistics

Participants shall cover their own travel and accommodation costs.

i. ARRIVALS

a) Arriving by train

All timetable information for local trains can be found at the following link:

<https://www.cfrcalatori.ro/en/>

Sibiu's train station's address is:

Piața 1 Decembrie 1918, Sibiu 550200, Romania

b) Arriving by plane

All information about routes and timetables can be found online at the following link:

<https://www.sibiuairport.ro/en/>

Sibiu's international airport address is:

Șoseaua Alba Iulia 73, Sibiu 550052, Roumanie

TEL: +4 0269 253 135, +4 0269 253 984

Should you be arriving in Bucharest airport, please visit the following link:

<http://www.bucharestairports.ro/en>

Train connections between Bucharest International Airport and Sibiu exist (3 changes, between 7 to 14 hours), participants are however recommended to arrive directly in Sibiu.

ii. LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

The air connections of the city are insured by the Sibiu International Airport, located on national road DN1, at 6 kilometres from the city.

Sibiu is a compact city, with relatively short distances between extremities. It is recommended that one visits the old city on foot due to the short distances and the beautiful local architecture. The local public transportation in Sibiu is ensured by Tursib, a company under the guidance of the Local Council of Sibiu.

There are 20 bus routes inside the city and 5 bus routes connecting the city with the airport: 11, 112, 116, 117 and 118.

• BUSES

There is a bus station near the airport entrance, allowing connections with various area of the city (bus lines no 11, 112, 116, 117 and 118).

You can buy a ticket from the dispenser placed near the station, but you need Romanian money. The ticket price is about 0,35 EUR.

- **TAXIS**

There is a Taxi station in front of the Terminal (on a dedicated lane). If there aren't available cabs or you prefer a specific company, our staff from the Information office (located in the public area) can make an order for you, free of charge.

Suggestion: use only cabs which displays the transportation license, the prices and are using taximeters.

We suggest having cash for the taxi as many don't take credit cards. We suggest changing 10 euro.

The ride to the city centre takes between 10-15 minutes depending on the traffic

Suggestion: use only cabs which displays the transportation license, the prices and are using taximeters.

TAXI 924

+40269/924; +40269/444444; +40758/924924

TAXI 942

+40269/942 ; +40724/242942 ; +40766/242942

TAXI 953

+40269/953 ; +40735/539953 ; +40766/953953

TAXI 949

+40269/222222 ; +40269/949 ; +40742/200222

TAXI 963

+40269/963 ; +40740/000963 ; +40720/963963

PFA/ Danciu Florentina

+40745/847139

PFA/Boariu Aurel - Werke von Dispatcher -953

+40745/837931

- **RENT A CAR OFFICES IN THE AIRPORT**

AVIS - Aviroms Rent a Car S.R.L.

tel: +4 0269 253007

fax: +4 0269 253007

e-mail: sibiu@avis.ro; sibiu.dt@avis.ro

Web: www.avis.ro

Agent Sibiu Airport

Ionela Cucu +4 0729 800393

EUROPCAR

tel: +4 0730 801060

fax: +4 0369 447811

e-mail: office@rentacar-sibiu.ro

Web: www.europcar.ro

SIXT Rent a Car - Car to Let S.R.L.

tel: +4 0742 277808

e-mail: sibiu@sixt.ro

Web: www.ro.sixt.com

iii. ACCOMMODATION

It is to be noted that accommodation costs are borne by the participants themselves. The booking of the hotel category is made directly by the participants.

Some hotel rooms have been specially negotiated for the Forum:

1. Hotel Ramada 4*

- 17 rooms available at the preferential price of 75 or 85 (depending on the confort: standart, executiv etc) Euro. Please make your booking until **15 August**. When booking the participants should mention they are from the European Cultural Routes.

<https://ramadasibiu.ro/>

2. Hotel Continental 4*

- 70 rooms available at the preferential prices between of 68 and 92 (depending on the confort: standart, executiv etc) Euro. Please make your booking until **15 August**. When booking the participants should mention they are from the Europea Cultural Routes.

<https://continental-forum-sibiu.continentalhotels.ro/>

3. Hotel IBIS3*

- 40 rooms available at the preferential prices of 59 and 67 (depending on the confort: standart, executiv etc) Euro. Please make your booking until **15 August**. When booking the participants should mention they are from the Europea Cultural Routes.

<https://ibishotels.ro/ibis-sibiu/>

A further list of hotels can also be found in the link below.

Accommodation information can be found at:

<http://www.sibiu-turism.ro/Accommodation.aspx>

iv. VISAS

The list of citizens requiring a Visa to enter Romania can be found online here:

<http://www.mae.ro/en/node/2040>

v. CONTACTS

MINISTRY OF TOURISM

38, Dinicu Golescu Blvd.

Bucharest, Romania

Phone: + 4021 303 78 75

www.mturism.ro

Mrs Steliana COJOCARIU

steliana.cojocariu@mturism.ro

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Abbaye de Neumünster Abbey

28, rue Münster

L-2160 Luxembourg

www.coe.int/routes

Mrs Marie SAUTIN

marie.sautin@coe.int

III. Side meetings

i. GOVERNING BOARD MEETING, 2ND OCTOBER 2019

An informal Governing Board meeting will be organised in the morning of the first day of the Forum to present to Member States the applications of candidate networks to the Cultural Route of the Council of Europe certification received in time for the 2019-2020 certification cycle. More information will be circulated directly to EPA representatives. This side meeting is only opened to EPA Member States.

ii. CERTIFIED CULTURAL ROUTES MEETING, 2ND OCTOBER 2019

A meeting with certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe representatives will take place in the morning of the first day of the Forum. More information will be circulated directly to Routes' representatives. This side meeting is only opened to Certified Cultural Routes.

iii. CANDIDATES FOR CERTIFICATION MEETING, 4TH OCTOBER 2019

A meeting with candidates to the "Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe" certification will take place in the morning of the last day of the Forum. More information will be circulated directly to interested parties.

iv. ROUTES4U MEETING, 4TH OCTOBER 2019

A meeting with the Routes4U staff, stakeholders, interested partners of the joint project between the Council of Europe and the European Commission (DG Regio) will be held on the morning of the last day of the Forum. More information will be circulated directly to interested parties.

Routes4U enhances regional development through the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in the Adriatic-Ionian, the Alpine, the Baltic Sea and the Danube Region. These EU macro-regional strategies encompass 27 countries with more than 340 million people. The project aims at very concrete tools to foster regional development through cultural heritage policies. Among the highlighted activities, the support for the certification of new Cultural Routes in the EU macro-regions, the identification and drafting of guidelines for transnational regional policies on Cultural Routes for local authorities and operators, the development of new competencies and skills through e-learning modules and development of tourism tools and products such as a Cultural Routes card and a trip planner.

IV. Side events and social programme

Wednesday, 2 October 2019

- 9.00 – 11.00 – Certified Cultural Routes meeting
- 10.00 – 11.00 – EPA Bureau meeting
- 11.00 – 12.00 – EPA informal Governing Board meeting
- 14.30 – boarding in coaches and travel to ASTRA Museum of *Dumbrava Sibiului*
- 14.45 – 16.00 – visit of the ASTRA Museum
- 16.00-19. 00 – Registration
- 16.00 – 16.30 - Swedish buffet and coffee
- 16.30 – 19.00 – **Official opening the 9th Annual Advisory Forum**
- 19.30 – 22.30 – dinner

Tuesday, 3 October 2019

- 08.00-10. 00 – Registration (continued)

The Forum programme can be found online: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/cultural-routes-staging/sibiu-forum>

Friday, 4 October 2019 – SOCIAL PROGRAMME

- 09.00 – 11.00 – Meeting for candidates to the “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe” certification
- 09.30 – 11.00 – Routes4U meeting
- 9.30 – 10.00 - visit to the center of SIBIU at the Metropolitan Cathedral (a small scale copy of *St. Sophia* Cathedral of Constantinople) and the Evangelical Church
- 10.00 – 10.40 – travel to ŞURA MARE
- 10.40 – 11.00 - visit to the Fortified Church
- 11.00 – 11.20 – travel to SLIMNIC
- 11.20 – 12.00 – visit to SLIMNIC Fortress
- 12.00 – 12.30 – travel to *Valea Viilor (The Valley of Grapevines)*
- 12.30 – 13.00 – visit to the Fortified Church (UNESCO Heritage)
- 13.00 – 14.00 – lunch in the city of MEDIAS
- 14.00 – 14.30 – travel to BIERTAN
- 14.30 – 15.00 – visit to the Fortified Church of BIERTAN (UNESCO Heritage)
- 15.00 – 15.30 – travel to DUMBRĂVENI
- 15.30 – 16.00 – visit to the Armenian Church
- 16.00 – 16.10 – travel to HOGHILAG
- 16.10 – 16.30 – visit to the tuberose plantations
- 16.30 – 17.00 – travel to SIBIU

V. Romania and the Sibiu Region



Municipality of Sibiu

Source: The Ministry of Tourism

WELCOME TO SIBIU – EUROPEAN GASTRONOMIC REGION IN 2019!

The Municipality of Sibiu was the capital of Transylvania during the 17th and 18th centuries and it was designated as the *European Capital of Culture* for the year 2007, along with the city of Luxembourg. According to Forbes Magazine, Sibiu is "one of the eight idyllic places in Europe to live in".

In 2019, the city of Sibiu was designated as "*European Gastronomic Region*" by the International Institute of Gastronomy, Culture, Arts and Tourism for the legendary and rich taste of gastronomy.

Sibiu is the only city in Europe where the medieval German of the old "Flandrenses" of Mosela that colonized the other side of Europe during the 12th century is still spoken.

In Sibiu you should visit: the Old Town (the historical centre) with some major attractions (for instance: the Council Tower, the Tower of Stairs, the Evangelical Cathedral, the Palace of *Brukenthal* National Museum, the Bridge of Lies, the House of Generals, the Haller House, the Blue House, the Lutsch House, the City Hall, the Roman Catholic Parsonage House, the Asylum Church, the Franciscan Church, the Catholic Church, the Orthodox Cathedral, the Reformed Church, the Ursuline Church, the Hermes House, the House of Arts) and the ASTRA Museum of the Traditional Folk Civilisation (open-air museum of Dumbrava Sibiului).



The Council Tower

Source: Ministry of Tourism



Piata Mare

Source: Focus Sibiu



Piata Mica

Source: Rares Helici

The ASTRA Museum of the Traditional Folk Civilisation

In Sibiu, just 4 km from the historical center, in an enchanting landscape you have the opportunity to live the living history and genuine experience of the Romanian village at the ASTRA Museum, a place where the heritage meets nature and tradition is at home

Opened more than a century ago, the ASTRA Museum of the Traditional Folk Civilization of Dumbrava Sibiului is the largest open-air museum of Romania and the second in Europe.

The ASTRA Museum is not an ordinary museum, it is a living world, a rare essence, an inedit experience of returning to the origins of the Romanian village in time. A simple walk through the 96 hectares of the Outdoor Museum in Dumbrava Sibiului create you the image of rural life through out our country, of a colossal diversity, in over 400 farmhouses, workshops, wooden churches, trotters, stalls, wine cellars, water and wind mills.

The tourists are waited to enjoy more than 10 km of alleys, a lake, leisure areas, two restaurants, two pensions, a tourist information centre and other venues for certain events. It stretches over an area of 96 hectares, out of which the actual exhibition occupies 42 hectares.



The ASTRA Museum

Source: The ASTRA Museum

In the proximity of Sibiu Municipality, several routes of distances between 10 km and 50 km can be travelled. For instance, the routes: Sibiu - Cisnădie (10 km one-way); Sibiu - Avrig - Cârța - Cărțișoara - Transfăgărășan - Bâlea Lac (90 km one-way) will be attended by the participants of the *Annual Advisory Forum of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe*.

Also, the participants of the Forum can travel on foot other routes that include UNESCO heritage objectives such as: Sibiu – Valea Viilor (*The Valley of Vineyards*) (UNESCO) – Mediaș - Biertan (UNESCO) - Sighișoara (UNESCO), along 110 km one-away.

Route 1: Sibiu – Cisnădie (10 km one-way)

The town of Cisnădie is situated in the southern part of the Sibiu County, at an altitude of 455 meters, on Cisnădioara Valley and consists of Cisnădioara locality, which is 3,5 km west of the town of Cisnădie at a distance of 1,5 km away of the city of Sibiu. The landform is marked by the presence of Cibin Mountains. From a geographic and economic point of view, the town is situated in the area known as *Mărginime*.



The Town of Cisnădie

Source: The Town Hall of Cisnădie

In 1204, the Town of Cisnădie was mentioned in a document of King Emeric under the name of "Rivetel" and in 1323 a document issued by King Charles Robert of Anjou revealed, for the first time, the German name of the locality "Heltau" under the name of "Civitas" (city).

In 1457 the first craftsmen'guilds began to see daylight contributing to the development of the town economy. At that time, the guild of sickles and scythes makers was set up and it will exist until the 18th century. Also in the 15th century, a strong guild of drapers is established and this will give the economic specificity of the locality which has become an important centre of the textile industry.

The tourist attractions of Cisnădie Town are: The Fortified Evangelical Church of Cisnădie, dedicated to *St. Walpurga* has three ships. It was built at the beginning of the 13th century and attested by documents in 1349; The Museum of the Textile Industry of Cisnădie is unique in Romania, and its existence is first of all due to the textile tradition existing in Cisnădie; The Urban Ensemble Historical Centre of Cisnădie.



The Fortified Evangelical Church of Cisnădie

Source: The Town Hall of Cisnădie

Cisnădioara (in the Saxon dialect as *Mächelsbärch*, in German as Michelsberg, Michaelsberg, Michelsdorf, in Hungarian as Kisdisznód) is a suburb of Cisnădie located at 3.5 km away. Compared to Cisnădie, Cisnădioara has natural and anthropogenic resources as follows:

- The palaeontological reservation of national interest, the *Cretaceous Limestones of Cisnădioara* named by the locals *The Stone of the Frog* according to its shape has an area of 0.90 ha and the rock is about 65 million years old.



The Cretaceous Limestones of Cisnădioara *The Stone of the Frog*

Source: The Town Hall of Cisnădie

- The Fortified Church of *St. Michael*, a fortress with a Romanesque-style basilica, attested by documents in 1233, has fortifications made in the 13th century, the only ones of that kind in the Eastern Europe which have been preserved almost intact.



The Fortified Church of Cisnădioara

Source: The Town Hall of Cisnădie

- The Church of Cisnădioara completed in 1764, in Baroque style, shelters the oldest functional tube organ of Transylvania.
- The Ethnography Museum Exhibition of Cisnădioara was organized in 1971.

The coexistence between Romanians and Saxons for centuries in Cisnădie și Cisnădioara had great influences upon diversification of the culinary recipes.

The flavours of the Saxon cuisine are part of the heritage of Cisnădie și Cisnădioara zone handed over from one generation to the next. Besides the sour soups, soups, stews, polentas, stuffed cabbage rolls known as common dishes in our area, the Saxon dishes astonish through the names and picturesque ingredients less well-known in the rest of the country, such as pieplant and chervil, with the unique combination of fruit sauces and meat, a preference for sweet-sour taste and almost a culture of Austrian inspiration for delicious desserts.

The apple soup or the so-called sour soup of steak (Brodelawend), the sour soup of lamb with chervil served on Easter, the potato dumplings (Knodel), finely spiced liverwurst, apple sour sauces, sour cherries and gooseberries served with steaks, Hetschumpetsch, Hildenburg cake, different cakes and gingerbread with honey offered to the children on Christmas, the cremeschnitte or the steamed donuts served mostly on carnival, the spring cake with fresh rhubarb are some of the most delicious dishes not missing from the menus of the local Saxon and Romanian housewives.

Other strong points of the area are the existence of cultural and traditional events such as: "Days of Cisnădie Town", "Meeting of the Saxons", "Edelweiss Trophy", "Contest of the Roller Canary Singers", "Open Doors Days at the Evangelical Church of Cisnădie", "Airfield" - the only music festival in Romania with a hip-hop scene and the winter holidays.

In 2018 the Town of Cisnădie was certified by the Ministry of Tourism as a tourist resort of local interest.

Route 2: Sibiu – Avrig - Cârța – Cârțișoara – Bâlea Lac (90 km one-way)

The Avrig Town is 26 km away from Sibiu and is famous for Brukenthal Palace of Avrig, which was the summer residence of the Transylvania Governor, Samuel von Brukenthal. It was built in the late Baroque style of Viennese inspiration. The dominant building of the residential complex is located on a terrace over the Olt Valley, at the highest point of Avrig Town. The park of this summer residence is a unique monument garden in Southern Transylvania that has mostly preserved the original form.

Another important tourist destination is the the Evangelical Church of Avrig built in the 13th century. This is the oldest architectural monument in the locality and one of the oldest in the county.

The locality of Cârța is at 46 km away from Sibiu and the Cistercian Monastery of Cârța, founded in 1202 by the monks from Igrış, is essentially important for the introduction in Transylvania of an early Gothic style and its synthesis in a provincial form, specific to Transylvania.

The Commune of Cârțișoara, located in the South-Eastern part of Sibiu County at the foot of Arpașel, Bâlea, Valea Doamnei and Laița Mountains, is the North entrance point on Transfăgărașan. On the territory administrated by the commune is the Glacial Cauldron of Bâlea, which shelters the Bâlea Lake (4.6 ha, 2,034 m altitude), the most important centre of altitude sports in the Romanian Carpathians and Bâlea Waterfall, located at over 1,200 m altitude, the largest stepping waterfall in Romania with a 60 m drop which can be reached by cable car.

Transfăgărașan is the most spectacular mountain road in Romania, starting from Bascov Locality, Argeș County and ending near the Cârțișoara Locality of Sibiu County. With a length of about 152 km, as a part of DN 7 C, the road connects the two historical provinces of Muntenia and Transylvania.

Route 3: Sibiu – Sura Mare – Slimnic - Valea Viilor - Mediaș – Biertan – Dumbrăveni - Hoghilag (86 km one-way)

The commune of ȘURA MARE is located at a distance of 8 km from the Municipality of Sibiu and it was attested by documents under the name of Magnum Horreum (the Great Barn) between 1332 and 1335. The first attestation of the Fortified Evangelical Church of Șura Mare comes from 1332. The present church is also very old and it was built at the end of the 12th century, this being evidenced by the old Romanesque style it was built, a very widespread style in Sibiu area.

This fact is confirmed by the presence of the eastern absidioles of the side ships, somewhat similar to those of Cisnădioara, Cisnădie and especially of Gușterița. The Romanesque Basilica was dedicated to the Virgin Mary. The construction is particularly long, having a three-storey bell tower on the western end of the central ship. From the original look, one can see today the three-ship system, which is divided by a series of arcades.

SLIMNIC is located in the southwest of the Transylvanian Highlands, in the centre of Sibiu County, at a distance of about 18 kilometers from the city of Sibiu (Hermannstadt).

The first documentary attestation of the locality is from 1282 and on the *Josephine Map of Transylvania* appears under the name of Stolzenburg from 1769 to 1773. The locality was situated on the northern border of the Royal Land, while being an important strategic place on the road leading from Sibiu to Mediaș, thus being an outpost of Sibiu to the north.

The Fortress of Slimnic (Stolzenburg) built in the 14th century is a fortified enclosure with towers, chapel, gate tower, bastion and annexes.

Located on the Hill of Burgbasch, the Fortress of Slimnic (Stolzenburg) was meant to defend the road Sibiu-Mediaş. The fortress stretches on the north-south above the entire hill. The oldest part is a Gothic chapel.

To defend against the invasions, a Gothic fortress church was built around the year 1450. Because of the Turkish invasions on the 15th century, the church was never finished and the vaults that were to cover the walls remained at the project stage.

From the initial structure of the cult edifice, only the outer walls and the north wall still last today. Although the structure is impressive due to the unusual plan as well as the high level of the choir that had underneath a tunnel that exits to the gate tower, the clues about the finality of the construction remain unknown.

The locality of Valea Viilor (*The Valley of Grapevines*) is located on the Valley of Târnave at 50 km from Sibiu. Here, in the 14th century, a Gothic church was built and at the beginning of the 16th century the edifice was fortified, nowadays being listed on the UNESCO World Heritage.

The ensemble of Fortified Evangelic Church of Valea Viilor is a UNESCO monument dating back to 1999, together with the *Valea Viilor* Village (18th-19th centuries), and consists of the Evangelical Church dedicated to the Holy Virgin Mary (14th, 15th-16th centuries) and an Enclosure Fortification, with three towers, gate tower and annexes (15th - 16th centuries).

Within the Ensemble of the Fortified Church there is a museum: The Museum of the Evangelical Church of Ethnography and Local History.

Due to its famous wines, the *Valley of Târnave* was also called "*The Wine Country*". In the ancient medieval heraldry, the most common symbol of the region is the grape. Sometimes, as a sign of great honour, the grape was golden.

The Municipality of Mediaş lying at 35 km far away from Sighişoara and 55 km from Sibiu, on the Valley of Târnava Mare River, was attested by documents in 1267 and in 1359, for the first time, Mediaş, an ex-medieval town was called city (*civitas*).

The numerous historical and medieval art monuments are surrounded by the old walls of the city fortress, such as the Fortified Evangelical Church of *St. Margaret*, one of the most important ecclesiastical Gothic edifices of Transylvania whose construction began at the end of the 13th century.

Also, an important objective to visit is the King Ferdinand Square with its historical monuments, but also the ensemble of the walls and towers of fortification.

A particularly important tourist attraction is the Ensemble of the Fortified Evangelical Church - the Castle (13th - 19th century) consisting of:

- *St. Margaret* Evangelical Church with the Trumpet Tower 1330 - 1340; 1437 - 1488, 16th - 19th centuries, 1927 - 1928;
- Former Evangelical Confessional School - 1713;
- House of Stefan Ludwig Roth - 1796;
- Preachers' House - 16th century, 1973;
- Evangelical Parsonage House - end of 15th century - beginning of 19th century, 1515 (the oldest building in Mediaş with Gothic and Neoclassic elements);

- Old Town Hall and the covered staircase – beginning of 17th century 1616 – The Town Hall, 1803 - the staircase;
- Inner Fortified Enclosure: Gate Tower, School Tower, Roofers Tower, Tower of Maria, Tailors' Tower, courtyards; External Enclosure, partially embedded in the walls of adjacent buildings (14th – 16th centuries).

Every year in Mediaș a Medieval Art Festival is organized.



St. Margaret Fortified Evangelical Church of Mediaș

Source: The Ministry of Tourism

The Commune of Biertan is located at 20 km far away from Mediaș and 27 km from Sighișoara. For nearly three centuries, between 1572 and 1867, Biertan was the seat of the Saxon Episcopate, favouring the construction of one of the most powerful Peasant Fortresses in Transylvania, around the Fortified Church, which is included in the UNESCO World Heritage.

The Ensemble of the Fortified Evangelical Church of Biertan (15th-17th centuries) is a UNESCO monument dating from 1999 together with the Biertan Rural Site (16th-19th centuries) and consists of: the Evangelical Church, the Inner Fortified Enclosure with three towers, a bastion, a gate tower (15th century) the Median Fortified Enclosure, with a bastion (the guard house today) and a wooden staircase covered, a tower (16th century) and the External Fortified Enclosure with a tower, gate tower, zwinger (16th - 17th centuries),

The Evangelical Church (1490-1516) is one of the largest and most representative fortified churches in Transylvania, built in the late Gothic style, preserving remarkable pieces of sculpture, painting and furniture with Renaissance influences. The resistance piece of the church in Biertan is the polyptic altar, the largest in Transylvania, made up of 28 panels made between 1482 and 1513.

Fortification. The enclosure wall dating from the same era was consolidated during the 16th century with 8 towers, spiralling like a three-tower belt around the hill where it is located. The inner enclosure includes the southern tower, which has a former Catholic Chapel on the ground floor with wall paintings from the 16th century, the western tower - the former town hall and the northeast tower, today lapidary, which shelters remarkable funerary slaughterhouses from the 16th – 17th centuries. It is important to mention that due to the position and strength of this fortification, Biertan was chosen as a necropolis and seat of evangelical bishops between 1572 and 1867.

It is important to remember the Donarium of Biertan which is a Christian votive object containing the Latin text: *Ego Zenovius votum posui - I, Zenovius, I have given this donation.* This Donarium having the monogram of Jesus Christ and discovered in 1775 in the Chimdru Forest near Biertan is a proof of the existence of a Latin-speaking Christian population in Dacia after the retreat of the Romans in 271 AD.

The Biertan households are included in the Ecomuseum circuit that is part of the *Sibiu Regional Ecomuseum* project of the Sibiu Regional Ecomuseum Association. There are also included in this circuit the localities of Săliște, Gura Râului, Valea Viilor, Moșna and Săsăuș. The households from this circuit have kept their original exterior appearance, the courtyards are arranged in a traditional style, tourists having the opportunity to see various old objects (ex.: sleigh, waggon, press, loom, wooden table, oven).

Town of Dumbrăveni - Located in the north of Sibiu County, on Târnava Mare River, at about 20 km away from Mediaș, the other municipality of the county, the Town of Dumbrăveni has been identified for many years, in the past, with the greenhouse of vegetables and flowers that exist here. However, there are also other objectives in Dumbrăveni, such as the Apafi Castle, the Armenian Cathedral, the headquarters of the former Zonal Tribunal and of the Husar Barracks and the Monument of the Heroes.

A locality attested by documents in 1332 under the name of Ebesfalva, meaning the village of Ebes, probably after the name of a feudal, was inhabited since the Iron Age. Today, on the ground of the post office building, traces of human civilization dating from over 3,000 years were identified. All these reveal, without any doubt, the existence of the Dacian settlement of Dumbrăveni, a characteristic of the area being the ceramics processed between the 3rd and 1st century BC. In the town's hearth was also discovered a Dacian bread oven made of stones quarry.

During Romans domination, the road connecting Alba-Iulia (Apulum) with Sighișoara passed through Dumbrăveni, here being located the units of the 13th Roman Legion.

Although it can be appreciated that the human settlement at Dumbrăveni began to take shape even from the first century, it was only after the first wave of migrations the settlement could develop, acquiring the urban aspect of life. In 1552, the powerful feudal Grigore Apaffy, as the prefect of Dobâca County and replacing the Governor of Transylvania, bought all the estates existing in Dumbrăveni and built here the castle fortress, a real fortification with high stone walls, bastions and defensive ditches filled with water. In 1590, Nicolae Apaffy, the prefect of the county Cetatea de Baltă (Târnava), moved his official headquarters to the castle in Dumbrăveni.

After several uprisings of serfs and Szekely people, reaching the peak in 1562 when the feudal castle of Dumbrăveni was destroyed. In 1506 the locality was conquered and ruled by the army of Radu Șerban, the voivode of Wallachia. Another descendant of the Apaffy family, Mihai, installed as a prince, will ensure the hegemony of the Turks in the area, his reign between 1661 and 1690 considered to be an unfortunate one for Transylvania. The defeat of the Turks by the Habsburgs will lead the reorientation of Mihai Apaffy the Ist towards Vienna, which in 1685 will sign a treaty at Dumbrăveni. The treaty obliged him to make provisions for the imperial army, thus making this fair to have political and economic relations with all the three Romanian countries. Mihai Apaffy I had the most powerful interrelations with Constantin Brâncoveanu to whom, in 1672, he donated his estate and the castle from Sâmbăta de Sus, but also with the chancellor Cantacuzino. Known as skilled entrepreneurs and tradesmen, some of the Armenians of Transylvania receive a series of privileges from the Prince Apaffy and massively populate the city of Dumbrăveni. All these will lead to a strong development of the locality and in 1726 other Armenian centres of Transylvania and Moldova will be subordinated.

The eloquent proof of the well-being of Armenians with a developed commercial sense is represented by the Armenian Cathedral, a monumental edifice with an impressive interior, decorated with altars and organ, built between 1766 and 1783. In the enclosure, for almost a century, it is preserved the heart of Avedik Lukacs, one of the priests of the place of worship, who in 1896 edited in Hungarian the first monograph of Dumbrăveni. Towards the end of the 18th century Dumbrăveni is mentioned as an economic centre at the same level with Sibiu and Cluj, being among the 10 imperial towns of Transylvania. Being part of the free cities, the name of Ebesfalva will be permanently changed in Elisabetopolis, a name that will be preserved until the Great Union in 1918. A historical event is considered to be the visit to Dumbrăveni on the 1st of June 1773 of the future Emperor Joseph II when he was co-regent with Maria Theresa. Here, in 1871, the railway line and station were built and after 1875 the building of the Tribunal (today the Vocational School) and the Theoretical High School (nowadays *Timotei Cipariu* Agricultural High School) were built up.

The Commune of Hoghilag is located 79 km from Sibiu Municipality and 2 km from Dumbrăveni Town.

The Commune of Hoghilag is an old Saxon settlement that still keeps the imprint and inheritance received from the Saxon forerunners. Here for the first time in our country the tuberose flower has been cultivated this craft being preserved until nowadays.

Each year, an event called *Tuberose Night at Hoghilag* is dedicated to tuberose, the scented flowers used in international cosmetics industry this event being organized in the courtyard of the Evangelical Church.

Also in the commune of Hoghilag an equestrian event of the year *Transylvania Horse Show*, dedicated to horse and horsemanship lovers is organized. This event brings together competitors from 16 countries as well as officials from the national and international equestrian world because it is one of the most important horse contests in Romania.

The Fortified Evangelical Church in Hoghilag was attested in 1332. The bell tower was built in the 15th century. The church was fired in 1702 and 1724, after which it was rebuilt between 1724 and 1730 and between 1828 and 1834 the tower was demolished and rebuilt. The surrounding wall and annexed buildings were demolished between 1893 and 1906. The altar was built in 1828 and completed in 1860. The organ was built by Samuel Metz of Biertan between 1812 and 1813. The big bell was founded in 1827 and the other two smaller ones in 1927 and 1931.

Another tourist attraction in the village of Hoghilag is the Medieval Church of the Prod village, a Gothic-style building without a tower which was fortified in 1508 and resisted until 1902 when it was demolished. In its place, in 1904, was built the current neo-gothic church. The altar was built between 1780 and 1781 in baroque style. In its centre is the Holy Christ on the cross. The side statues describe Moses with the Tables of the Law and Paul with a sword. The front painting was created in 1906 by Arthur Coulin. Immediately after 2000 the church was renovated by a group of German believers.

Further information are available at:

<http://www.sibiu-turism.ro/About-us.aspx>;

<https://patrimoniul.sibiu.ro/en>