

Companions' Programme

FINAL PROGRAMME

Companions' Programme – Tuesday 4th September, 09.00 – 19.00

A visit to the countryside. Full-day tour. The Bears Cave (*Peștera Urșilor*)

(A minimum of 3 people is required for this Tour to take place)

Price: 40 € per person

Lunch is included in the visit.



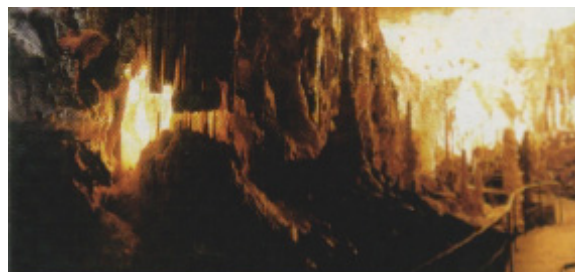
A visit to the museum and necropolis of the **Bears Cave** of Chișcău does not stop amazing the non-experimented eye of the traveller, as well as the documented eye of the scientist. Accidentally discovered in the autumn of 1975, through an explosion in the marble quarry of Chișcău, the Bears Cave was arranged



entering the touristic circuit at July 14, 1980. The first man who entered the cave was the mineworker Curta Traian, and the Speleologists Club from Stei performed the first complete exploration. Subsequently, the cave was full studied by Țării Crișurilor Museum, Oradea and the Speleology Institute of Cluj Napoca. Reason for continuous admiration, this cave is impressive through its dimensions (about 1,5 km), through agglomeration



and variety of the karstic formation as well as through its density, unique in Eastern Europe, of fossil residuals of the cave bear (*Ursus spelaeus*), considered to have disappeared 15 to 20 thousand years ago. Unique is also the skeleton of the cavern bear in situ, preserved in a perfect anatomical connection that can be found in the active inferior level. The cave is structured on two levels: a superior one, with a total length of 847 meters, arranged for touristic incursions, and an inferior one with a length of 700 meters, un-arranged, being declared scientifically reservation, its exploration being unfinished. Three big galleries form the superior level: the Gallery of the Bears, rich in skeleton formations of the cave bear, the Racovita Gallery and the Gallery of the Candles. The Mastodon, the Cosmic Racket, the Lake with Nenuphars, the Enchanted Palace, the House of the Dwarfs, the Witch and the Church Altar are only a few of the symbolical names the human mind



generated because of the striking similarity with objects from reality. The clear whirlpools guarded by calcite belts double the impressive spectacle of the calcareous formations, like in a game of mirrors. The entrance in the cave is done through a pavilion equipped with double doors (for preserving the cave's microclimate), at an altitude of 482 meters, and the exit through a fascinating gallery of candles, followed by the Old Mans Council hall.

11th International Conference on Microwave & RF Heating

Oradea, Romania 3rd September, 2007

Companions' Programme – Tuesday 4th September, 09.00 – 19.00

A visit to the city center. Half-day tour. The Gate of Transilvania (Oradea-Nagyvárad)

(A minimum of 3 people is required for this Tour to take place)

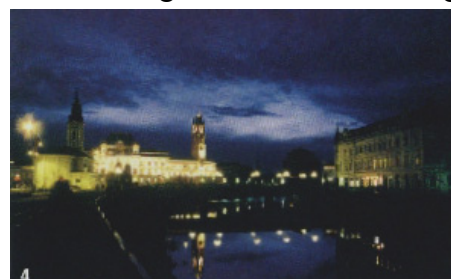
Price: 25 € per person

Lunch is included in the visit.



In the heart of Europe, Oradea is the largest city near the western border of Romania. It is the seat of government of Bihor county and has approximately 220.000 inhabitants, around two-thirds Romanians and one-third Hungarians. The city was built over time through the fusion of communities formed around the **fortress**, which conveyed its name since 1068. Situated right in the heart of the city, the citadel did not avoid the Mongolian invasion during

1241, described in the document of an incontestable European value Carmen Miserabile (A song of lamentation) in 1244. The citadel was also attacked by surprise and devastated in February 1474 by a Turkish army, which retreated but came back in 1660. After a difficult siege the Turks figured out how to empty the impressive aqueduct, situated under the level of the nearby river, and conquer the citadel. Later on the Austrian in 1692 (after a year of siege) took the citadel, which was instead able to reject another Turkish-Tatar siege and another from the Transilvanian Prince Francisc Rákóczi. The Romanian term Oradea is mentioned for the first time by the diarist Miron Costin, a witness of the Turkish siege in 1658. Oradea is established in an area where the great Panonic Plains unfold. At a distance less than 10 km from the Hungarian border, Oradea is even closer to the famous geothermal spas Băile Felix and 1 Mai.



History offered Oradea the title of 'The Gate of Transilvania', the city being positioned on the banks of Crișul Repede river, on whose stream one can reach, over the mountains, the Transilvania proper. The tour will visit: the **Central Plaza**, today Union Plaza, with the pedestrian statue of King Ladislau I, a Roman-Catholic Basilica and some remains from the Russian communist period, the obelisk and two cannons. The **Black Eagle Palace**, the most important secession building in Romania, built in 1907, serving today as a modern day commercial centre. The **Bazzar**,



designed and built by architect Rimanóczy Kálmán senior in 1900 as a bonus for accepting the project for the construction of the Theatre. The **Poyнар Palace**, built in 1907, the most elegant building within the Theatre Plaza, a masterwork of the same architect, portraying an authentic secession style. The **Church with Moon**, raised between 1784 and 1790 after a 72-year delay for approval by the Austrian king Joseph II, is considered an architectural jewel, a baroque construction adapted to the Orthodox cult, a majority in current Romania. The **Theatre**, built in 1899, is deemed as a gemstone of the local architecture, a magnificent building crowned a theatrical tradition retained since 1731. The **Roman-Catholic Cathedral**, with the headstone being placed on 1752, is the grandest and most imposing baroque church throughout Romania today.

