



CULTURAL HERITAGE AND UNESCO MONUMENTS IN VÂLCEA COUNTY

- **Vâlcea County** is located in the historical regions of Oltenia and Muntenia (which are separated by the Olt River), it is also part of the wider Wallachia region. Its capital city is Râmnicu Vâlcea.

- It has a population of 355,320 and the population density was 61.63/km². The county has a total area of 5,765 km².

- The North side of the county we have the mountains from the Southern Carpathians group - The Făgăraș Mountains and the Lotru Mountains. They are separated by the Olt River valley - the most accessible passage between Transylvania and Muntenia. Along the Olt River Valley there are smaller groups of mountains, the most spectacular being the Cozia Mountains.

- Towards the South, the heights decrease, passing through the sub-Carpathian hills to a high plain in the West side of the Romanian Plain.

- The main river is the Olt River crossing the county from North to South. Its main affluents are the Lotru River in the North and the Olteț River in the South.

- **The main tourist destinations are:**
 - On the Olt River Valley:
 - The Călimănești-Căciulata resorts
 - The Cozia Monastery.
 - The Turnu Monastery.
 - The Cozia Mountains.
 - Various small churches and fortifications.
 - On the Lotru River valley:
 - The town of Brezoi.
 - The Lotru Mountains.
 - The Voineasa Resort
 - The Vidra Resort
 - The Obârșia Lotrului Resort.
 - The city of Râmnicu Vâlcea.
 - The Băile Govora Resort.
 - The Băile Olănești Resort.
 - Horezu, City of ceramics.
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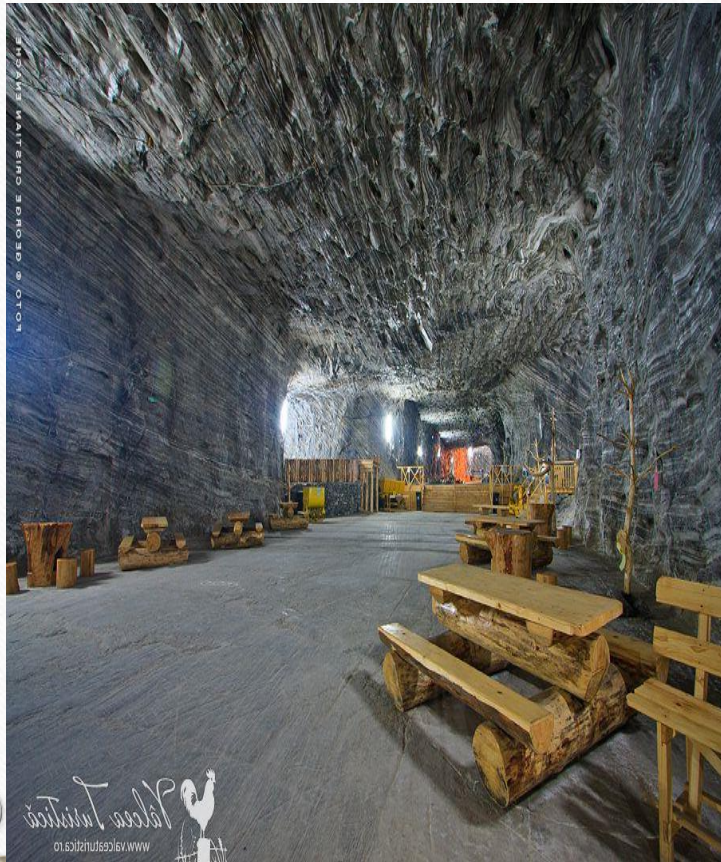
Vâlcea Village Museum

Also, another very visited tourist attraction is Vâlcea Village Museum. This is an open-air ethnographic museum, set up in 1974, in Bujoreni, in the form of a village that reproduces the image of a traditional settlement in this area. The museum covers an area of 8 ha and includes about 80 buildings.



Ocnele Mari Salt Mine

Located in Ocnele Mari, Vâlcea County, the salt mine was recently set up for visiting. The visiting area is arranged at approximately 225 meters above sea level and covers an area of 10,000 square meters. In the tourist park of the salt mine there is a church, a museum, a restaurant, children's playgrounds, but also football, basketball or tennis courts.



Trovants Museum

Also, at the entrance in Costești locality, there is the Trovants Museum, an open-air natural museum. Trovants are geological formations formed by layers of sand cemented over time, naturally. They are said to be several million years old. Trovants impress both by their antiquity and by their shapes and sizes.



Cozia Monastery

One of the most beautiful and old places of worship in Vâlcea County is Cozia Monastery. It was built between 1387-1391, is located in Călimănești and was founded by Mircea cel Bătrân, the voivode of Wallachia. The place of worship also has a cultural importance, here operating since 1415, for several centuries a school. Also here are written the royal deeds, important historical documents.



Transalpina

One of the two alpine roads in our country crosses a part of Vâlcea County. Transalpina is considered to be the highest road in Romania and is one of the old mountain roads that cross the Carpathians. This is known as the "King's Road" because, during World War II, Charles II ordered the restoration of the Transalpina.



UNESCO CULTURAL HERITAGE AT HOREZU FROM VÂLCEA

- Vâlcea County is, through two great spiritual entities, the only one in southern Romania on the UNESCO list. Both are located in the Horezu area, in the west of the county, a place of spiritual values - the church and pottery, respectively the Hurezi Monastery and the ceramics of Horezu
- Hurezi Monastery, founded by Prince Constantin Brâncoveanu, is, so far, the only historical monument inscribed individually on the list of world cultural heritage (in 1993, at the 17th session of the "World Heritage Community" - Cartagena, Colombia) and so far the only one in southeast of the country. In the others place of Romania the other objectives listed on the UNESCO lists consist of several historical monuments grouped under a certain category, such as the eight painted churches in northern Moldova, to which is added the Sucevita Monastery in 2010; the seven fortified Saxon churches in Transylvania; the eight wooden churches in Maramureș; the six ancient Dacian fortresses in the Orăștie Mountains; The historic center of Sighisoara, which is a medieval urban ensemble.



Monastery of Horezu

Founded in 1690 by Prince Constantin Brancoveanu, the monastery of Horezu, in Walachia, is a masterpiece of the 'Brancovean' style. It is known for its architectural purity and balance, the richness of its sculptural detail, the treatment of its religious compositions, its votive portraits and its painted decorative works. The school of mural and icon painting established at the monastery in the 18th century was famous throughout the Balkan region



- Also during the time of Constantin Brâncoveanu, in Horezu a special emphasis was placed on the development of the pottery craft, outlining what Horezu pottery is on the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage, in December 2012.

- The ancient craft of pottery experienced in the Brancoveanu era a revitalization, an increase in accuracy in execution and an increase in the symbolic and artistic value of the painted decoration.

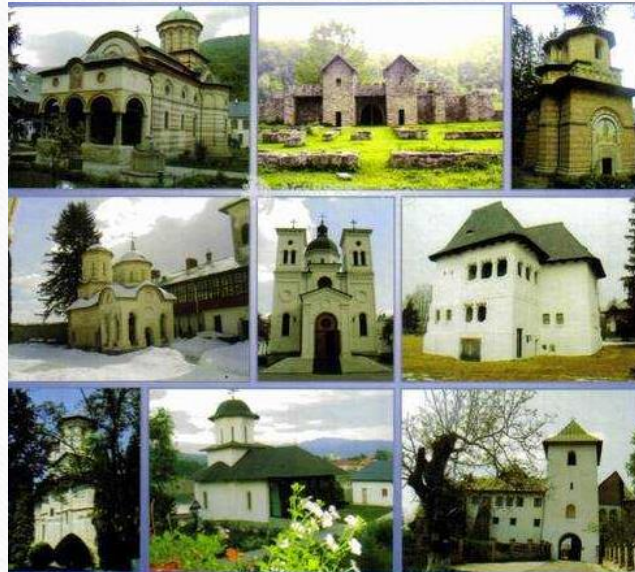
- During the second half of the twentieth century, respect for the preservation and transmission of archaic motifs and symbols (rooster, snake, fish, tree of life, sun) and creativity and freedom of individual artistic expression were stimulated, leading to a significant number of famous potters such as Vicșoreanu, Ogrăzeanu, Iorga, Mischiu, Popa, Paloși.



The town of Horezu is currently a tourist destination recognized and sought after both for the treasures of art and architecture preserved by the Hurezi Monastery, and for the mastery of potters. The town of Horezu is also the only one in Vâlcea that preserves the historical center of the old Brancoveanu fair.



Considering the inestimable patrimony of Valcea County, with a great diversity of tourist attractions, with a number of over 500,000 tourists annually, we can say that anyone who wants to enrich their personal culture should not miss this area full of history and ancient traditions.





THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !

Disclaimer

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