

THE TOWERS OF SIBIU

Recently it seems that media has been invaded by dozens of articles about the little burg of Saxon origins from Transylvania- Sibiu. It is, without a doubt, for good reason that this happened, as Sibiu has flourished in recent years, becoming one of the most appealing holiday destinations for many tourists from our country as well as from abroad.

Part of its appeal is the charm this little town has, mostly through its architecture that one can admire during their strolls in the centre of Sibiu, as well the beautiful nature surrounding the town, the hospitality of its people and the amazing food one could never get tired of.

It is no wonder that once you step into our town most people feel at home, safe and ready to spend each day to the fullest, discovering just one more thing that eluded you the day before. The eyes from the roofs of our old, yet pretty and quite well preserved houses, as well as the towers guarding the old town, will keep us safe, like old friends one knows they can always count on.

Let's take a stroll around the old town of Sibiu, mainly focusing on the towers that have been guarding the old walls of the cities for over centuries.

THE COUNCIL TOWER

The Council Tower is one of the most famous landmarks of Sibiu which is visible from quite far thanks to its height. It was built in the 13th century, initially being used as the gateway to the second fortification belt (small market) of the city.

It has this name because it defended the entrance gate to the second enclosure, located in the immediate vicinity of the building that housed the city hall of Sibiu, mentioned in documents at 1324 (Small Square no. 31, rebuilt today).

Over time, the tower was given different uses. Thus was used as a gate tower, warehouse grain, as Fire Tower (viewpoint of fire), as imprisonment and even, for a time, as a museum of natural sciences (at mid-century. XIX). At this moment, the tower is used for different exhibitions and as a lookout point, from the top level of the tower visitors can see the whole city of Sibiu and the peaks of the Făgăraș mountains .

The Council Tower is a building with seven floors retracted successively, with the facades marked by narrow openings of the shape of some battlements. The building is supported by high buttresses, which retract in stages, on the sides from the Great Square and the Small Square.

In the ditch of defence of this enclosure, following an archaeological survey, a coin from the reign of Andrei II (1205 - 1235) was discovered.

On the ground floor there is a wide vaulted passage that connects the Little Square and the Big Square. Also, in 1930 a new vaulted passage under the tower was opened, on the right side, by demolishing part of the neighbouring building located in the Big Square no. 2.

If you are tired of walking, indulge yourself in a delicious meal at Pardon Restaurant, located on what is allegedly the most beautiful street in Sibiu- Cetății Street. It is here that you decide to visit the Museum of Natural Sciences, admire the stars celebrating various great names in the world of the theatre and filming



industry, or you can just continue your stroll while admiring other three towers- true knights guarding the city: Arquebusiers Tower, the Potters' Tower and the Carpenters' Tower.

THE CARPENTERS' TOWER

The Carpenters' Tower, built of stone and brick, has a circular shape (at the base), delimited by the next portion through a pronounced cornice, after which the tower takes the form of an octagonal prism, ended at the top through the classic protruding portion, supported by fire hydrants between arches. The tower was built in the 14th century by the Saxon guild of carpenters in the city of Sibiu. The tower was part of the third fortification belt of the city.

At the first level there are keyhole -shaped bumpers, made especially to allow the execution of the fire of arches . From these holes of fire, the archers were drawn against the besiegers at the base of the walls. The upper part of the tower is protruding and supported, like most of the Sibiu towers, on consoles in which connecting arches are provided with mouths.

THE POTTERS' TOWER



Another of the three defence towers among the least affected by the vicissitudes of the time is the Potters' Tower.

The dating of the tower was made taking into account the rectangular plan at the base, plan kept at lower proportions and at the higher level, as well as the position against the wall. However, some researchers argue that it is of more recent origin, from the middle of the sixteenth century.

But at that time the rounds of artillery or bastions were already rising, and the role of a tower of such proportions and, especially, thus placed would have been minor. The defence towers component of the 3rd enclosure were adapted to firearms, but their prismatic shape does not provide the best protection against the artillery in progress.

The Potters' Tower is built of stone and brick. It has a rectangular shape (at the base), after which the tower is withdrawn on the middle floor, to finish at the top through the classic outward part, supported by fire hydrants between arches.



At the first and second level there are keyhole -shaped tunnels, made especially to allow the execution of the fire of arches. From these holes of fire, the archers were drawn against the besiegers at the base of the walls. The upper part of the tower is protruding and supported, like most Sibiu towers, on consoles.



Sibiu has never disappointed anyone. No matter what you are looking for as a tourist, you can always be sure that in Sibiu you will be given more than you expected and so much more. Moreover, if you are not yet tired of walking, you can always let yourself carried away towards the lower part of the city, in search of those rather narrow cobbled streets that look so mysterious under the night lamps.

Cosy, picturesque, charming, this little burg is and will probably be on top destinations lists to be seen the coming years. It has it all, for all those in love with a more simple traditional kind of tourism- great food, both international and traditional dishes, amazing countryside and natural scenery around the city, pretty colourful buildings, as well as beautiful welcoming people who will always open their houses to anyone interested in visiting our country.

https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turnul_Sfatului_din_Sibiu

https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turnul_Olarilor_din_Sibiu

https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turnul_Dulgherilor_din_Sibiu

Fechete Alex
Blaga Mircea
Colegiul Technic Energetic Sibiu