



VISIT TO SIBIU- 2 DECEMBER 2019

ERASMUS+ PRomotion Of Identity, European Culture and Tradition

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KA2 - Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices

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Local cultural heritage in a European perspective and the Romanian National Day

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Sibiu

ANDREI VOINIC
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A short history of the city...

Sibiu was initially a Daco-Roman city called Cedonia. The town was refounded by the Saxons (German) settlers brought there by the king Géza II of Hungary.

In the 14th century, it was already an important trade centre. In 1376, the craftsmen were divided in 19 guilds.

In the year 2000 Sibiu was a dusty provincial town, which suffered a great deal because of the indifference of the authorities during the communist period. Both the historical center as well as the city districts needed extensive rehabilitation and modernization works. The local authorities understood this need and, starting in 2002, the amounts invested in such works constantly increased because they acknowledged the fact that a community, a city cannot evolve unless it benefits from a good and functional infrastructure, the statement being true in the case of the development of the touristic field as well.

10 REASONS TO VISIT SIBIU

SIBIU EUROPEAN REGION OF GASTRONOMY 2019: After being European Capital of Culture in 2007, Sibiu is ready to step up on the international culinary stage, as a holder in 2019 of the title "European Region of Gastronomy".

SIBIU OFFERS A GREAT NUMBER OF TOURISTIC ATTRACTIONS: A medieval city with 900 years' worth of history, Sibiu preserved many testimonies of the past which present a special interest for tourists. The walls of the old fortification belts, the towers named after the guilds of Sibiu, the central squares with their rich history, the old buildings abounding in stories which occurred throughout time and many, many more.

THE INTERNATIONAL THEATER FESTIVAL: Every year, in June, Sibiu hosts the third largest theatre festival in Europe – The International Theatre Festival. The Festival is a genuine celebration of the city, involving both theatre halls as well as non-conventional spaces, but most of all public spaces.

A MULTICULTURAL CITY: Sibiu is a multicultural city, the Romanian, Saxon, Hungarian and Roma minorities living together peacefully throughout centuries



CULTURAL EVENTS: With over 100 events spreading over the entire year, Sibiu offers a pleasant way to spend leisure time with very diverse events, for all ages and tastes.

THE BEAUTIFUL GREEN SPACES: You don't have to leave the city in order to enjoy clean air, because in Sibiu you can find two of the most beautiful parks in Romania: the Sub Arini Park and the Dumbrava Forest.

THE NATURAL BEAUTIES SURROUNDING SIBIU: Two natural reservations, seven natural parks as well as the Păltiniș resort, the oldest in Romania, can be easily explored from Sibiu, being situated in the close vicinity of the city

TOP SPORTS EVENTS: Every year, the city hosts the Tour of Sibiu, the most important bicycle race in South-Eastern Europe, Red Bull Romaniacs considered to be the toughest Hard Enduro motorbike race in the world, Sibiu Rally – a highly appreciated and interesting car race from the point of view of its routes and Sibiu Open, a tennis tournament which enjoys a growing quota

EXCELLENT ACCOMMODATION CONDITIONS: From 4 and 5 stars hotels to inns and hostels, Sibiu offers excellent accommodation conditions for any budget.

DISCOVER SOMETHING NEW WITH EACH VISIT: Regardless of the number of times you visited Sibiu, you will discover something new here. The beauty of this city also consists in the fact that it keeps offering new perspectives all the time.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT SIBIU

SIBIU WAS THE EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE IN 2007: Even before Romania adhered to the European Union, Sibiu was already being acknowledged as having a European character, from the point of view of its infrastructure, due to the fact that it is a cultural location and because of its European spirit.

SIBIU – THE CITY OF SUPERLATIVES: Sibiu is a city of superlatives, which recorded many premieres in this part of Europe. It was in Sibiu where the first hospital, the first library, the first school, the first pharmacy and many other institutions or specialized ultra-modern activities first appeared.

THE LARGEST MEDIEVAL URBAN ENSEMBLE IN ROMANIA: The historical center of Sibiu represents the greatest medieval urban ensemble in our country. The buildings which display various architectural styles, stand out through the shape of the skylights, the shape of the roofs, the jambs and the shutters.



FORTRESS WALLS- SIBIU

RAZVAN PARVULESCU

The Medieval Citadel of Sibiu was founded to protect the borders of the Hungarian Kingdom. The Saxons erected thick walls and strong towers to prevent the invaders from entering their city. Today, some of the walls are still standing as witness to immemorial times, while beautiful Renaissance and Baroque buildings have replaced the medieval houses.

We will start our tour on the Citadel's Street and follow the ramparts.

The Citadel's Street is actually a street, near the center of Sibiu in Romania, which has four of the last standing medieval fortification towers.

Thirty-nine towers, each protected by different guilds, watched over medieval Sibiu.

The remaining towers we are going to see here are:

- the Potters' Tower
- the Carpenters' Tower

CORPSE GATE

ADINA IFTENE

Here in the walls a break was made into the wall in order to allow the access of vehicles. This is where the former Corpse Gate used to be situated, opened in the wall in 1554 during the plague epidemics. Across the street from the gate, where the new wing of the hospital is located nowadays, there was a cemetery which functioned until the end of the 19th century.

It is assumed that the Corpse Gate along with the road to the old cemetery were arranged in 1554.



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The Carpenters' Tower

DIANA BOZEA

The Carpenters' Tower was built in the 14th century by the German carpenters in Sibiu. The tower was part of the 3rd fortification belt. It is the northernmost tower of the three on Fortress Street.

The present form of this tower probably dates from the beginning of the 16th century. The Tower of the Carpenters was restored between 1967-1972 and again in 2007.

The Tower of the Carpenters is built of stone and brick. It 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 holes between arches.

At the first level there are these holes of fire from the archers were drawn against the besiegers who reached 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 holes for throwing different objects to defend themselves.

POTTERS' TOWER

DENIS RADUCAN

DENISA PETRARU

The Potters Tower is located on Citadel's Street, between the Gunsmiths Tower and the Carpenters' Tower, being connected to the latter through a wall from the precincts of the third fortification of Sibiu.

The tower was built in the 14th century, being subject to several alternations and modification over the years. The current shape is dating since the 16th century.

The Potters Tower is made of stone and brick, having a rectangular shape at the base, after which the tower shrinks at the intermediate floor, only to end at the top through the classical protuberant portion supported by consoles with fire holes between the arches.



LARGE SQUARE

MIHAI DOANA
CRISTIAN TITIPLICA

We are in The **Upper Town**.

At the centre of the upper town are three beautiful squares. The Great Square is the site of the Roman-Catholic church and the Brukenthal Palace, where you will find one of Romania's most important art collections. The square is linked to the Little Square by a passage beneath the Council Tower, which is worth visiting for the excellent views over the town. The third square, Huet Square, is dominated by the Evangelical Cathedral.

The Great Square is the historic center of Sibiu, first mentioned in documents in 1411 as a cereal market, the square existing since 1366 when the third fortification belt of the city was finalized. Starting with the 16th century, the large square became the center of the old city. For hundreds of years the square was named Der Grosse Ring or Grosser Platz, between the two world wars it was called King Ferdinand Square, the communists named it the Republic Square and starting with 1990 it returned to its original name.

The northern side was formed initially by the construction of the Tailors's Guild building in 1466 as well as other medieval buildings, and later on, between 1726 and 1733 the edifice of the **Jesuit Church** and the adjoining seminar (today a parish house) was erected. On the west side, the **Brukenthal Palace** was built on the location of two houses, one of them having loggia. Finally, during the first years of the 20th century the Land Credit Bank building was erected, forming through its construction the present day Samuel von Brukenthal Street.

During the middle ages, numerous important events in the everyday life of the city took place here, such as public gatherings and executions. The existence of a fountain in this location is mentioned in 1538, the pole of infamy is placed here in 1550 in the eastern side of the square, culminating with statue of Roland and the scaffold which was placed in front of the house at no. 15 and which would be removed in 1783. County administrator Johann Zabanius Sachs von Harteneck was beheaded here in 1703.

A "lunatic cage" was placed here between 1724 and 1757, in which the persons who disturbed public silence during the night were exposed here during the day.

"The eyes of the city", as the roof windows are known, must also be mentioned here because they are most visible from this location.

Roman-Catholic Church

SOO ERIKA

Jesuit Church (Romanian: Biserica Iezuiților) is a Roman Catholic church. Immediately adjacent to Brukenthal Palace, it is one of the most notable baroque churches in Transylvania.

The church is listed as a historic monument by Romania's Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs.

In the late 17th century the Austrian troops arrived to Sibiu also brought with them some worthy representatives of Catholicism, the Jesuit monks. The Austrian civil servants and dignitaries set their residences in the city's Large Square and formed a small catholic community. Their presence in the city and the free manifestation of faith implied the building of a catholic church. The edifice was consecrated in 1733 and in 1739 they also inaugurated the Jesuit Convent, which is nowadays the parish house.

When they built the church, the Jesuit monks also erected a statue of St. Nepomuk right in the Large Square. In 1948 the statue was removed from the square by the communists and today it may be admired in the churchyard.

The tower of the church has a representation of an arched alleyway, connecting the Large Square to the Small Square of Sibiu. The tower was finalized in 1738 and it has four tall stories and a dome. The tower clock with dials towards the two squares dates back to 1838.

Today the church holds religious services in Romanian, Hungarian and German.

Fountain with Iron Grid in Large Square

AURORA CATAN

The first fountain in Large Square is mentioned in 1538, but its existence is older, probably mid 15th century. In the basin around it the women were washing their clothes and from the troughs the animals were drinking water.



In 1797 these practices were prohibited it was decided that, as soon as the city has the money, the fountain will be fenced with a grid.

In 1798 the fountain is adorned with a wrought iron hat, donated to the city by the leatherman Anton Filek. Filek will also be the one that will finance the arrangement of a new basin in 1819.

The grid is confiscated during the First World War.

In 1920 the old iron fountain grid is reinstalled (donated by General Falkenhayn in 1916), having an egret with a snake in its beak in the top.

In 1948 the fountain with metal grille was demolished. The current fountain, opened in 2006, is a replica made in 2005-2006, located 10 meters southeast of the original location.

Brukenthal Palace

BIANCA BARLIDA- MUCENIC

Brukenthal National Museum is the first museum from Romania and also Central Europe (opened for public in 1817) owing its existence to one of the most important personalities from Transylvania, Baron Samuel von Brukenthal, governor of this province in the second half of 18th century.

Baron Samuel von Brukenthal (1721-1803) was the only representative of the Transylvanian Saxon community who acceded to high public office in the Austrian Empire under the Empress Maria Theresia (1717 – 1780), the first such office being that of Chancellor of Transylvania.

The years spent in Vienna, in this capacity, were the years when the Baron started acquiring his collection of paintings, mentioned in Almanach de Vienne (1773) as being one of the most valuable private collections and generally admired by the cultivated Vienna public of the time.

Appointed Governor of the Principality of Transylvania, a position that he occupied between 1777 and 1787, Samuel von Brukenthal built a Late Baroque palace in Sibiu, modelled on the palaces in the imperial capital.

- Brukenthal National Museum is a complex of six museums, which, without being separate administrative entities, are situated in different locations around the city and have their own distinct cultural programmes.



- Presenting initially the baron's European painting collection in one building, today the museum hosts a large diversity of valuable collection in 9 buildings, from which 5 are palaces built in different époques.
- The Brukenthal Palace and the collections put together by Baron Samuel von Brukenthal represent the nucleus of the present Brukenthal National Museum.
- The Brukenthal Palace is one of the most significant Baroque buildings in Romania, its construction taking place between the years 1778 and 1788. The building was raised to serve as the Baron's official residence and a worthy display case for his collections.
- Today, the Brukenthal Palace houses the European Art Gallery and the Brukenthal Library. The European Art Gallery reunites German and Austrian paintings, Flemish and Dutch Paintings and Italian Paintings and Masterpieces of Brukenthal Collection.

The City Hall of Sibiu

BERNAD INGRID

CHIUZAN IARINA

The building of the City Hall plays an important role in the life of the city, being located in an elegant edifice in the Large Square of Sibiu.

At the beginning of the 20th century the houses on the North-Western side of the Large Square, next to the tower of the Roman-Catholic Church were demolished in order to build the eclectic style edifice of the Land Credit Bank in 1906, with elements of Art Nouveau. After the First World War it hosted several institutions including the headquarter of the Communist Party. The building was transferred to State ownership during the communism period, accommodating various administrative and financial institutions. After 1990 these institutions were removed in turn and the edifice became the patrimony of the municipality and since 2006 it has been the headquarter of the City Hall of Sibiu.

The building is U shaped, consisting of basement, high ground-floor, two stories and a garret basement. The façade full of decorative elements is impressive as well as the Art Nouveau interior design.

There are two pedestrian accesses from the Great Square, two towards the Small Square and one towards Brukenthal Street.



The building impresses with its unique architecture in Art Nouveau style. The most interesting attractions are the stained glass window on the main interior staircase in 1900 style and the interior courtyard.

THE COUNCIL TOWER OF SIBIU

MIHAI ALEXENDRA

It is situated between the two main squares of Sibiu, the Great Square and the Small Square. Underneath it you can observe a tunnel which connects the two squares. It was built in 13th century, but over the years it was rebuilt multiple times, its architecture today being different from the initial one. It was initially used as the entrance to Sibiu's second belt of fortification. Over the years, the tower played different roles, being used as a wheat storage, as an observation point in case of fire, as a prison and now it is used only for exhibitions. If you go to the top level you can observe the entire city and also the Făgăraș Mountains.

SMALL SQUARE

SORANA VARGA

Formerly a place for merchants, workshops and Saxon homes, the **Small Square** (Piata Mica) is connected to the Grand Square and the Huet Square by some small streets and tunnels.

The Square is divided into two parts separated by Ocnei Street, which slopes under the Bridge of Lies towards the Lower Town.

The semicircular shape of the square is due to the construction of the current buildings (built between the 14th and 16th centuries) on top of the old fortress wall.

The northern and eastern sides of the square follow the contour of the second fortification belt, forming a circular shape. The buildings situated left of Ocnei Street have a concave shape and follow the contour of the first fortification belt, these buildings separating the Small Square from the Huet Square.

The buildings existing in the Small Square date from the 14th to the 16th centuries with one exception: they do not include the massive arched portal, characteristic for the Large Square and for Bălcescu Street. The loggia at the ground floor, arched and semi-opened towards the square, with semi-circular arcades sustained by supporting elements is characteristic for the houses



situated in the Small Square. The buildings in the Small Square hosted craftsmen workshops and the merchandise was displayed within these spaces.

The buildings are tall and include those lens-shaped skylights known as the "the eyes of Sibiu". The buildings in the Small Square date from the 14th to the 16th centuries, with subsequent modifications.

THE BRIDGE OF LIES

SAVU IONUT

STAN ROXANA

We are in **The Lower Town**- which comprises the area between the river and the hill, and it developed around the earliest fortifications. The streets are long and quite wide for medieval city standards, with small city squares at places. The architecture is rather rustic: typically two-storey houses with tall roofs and gates opening passages to inner courts.

In 1859 the old wooden pedestrian bridge over the Ocnei Street, which connects the old town to the new, was rebuilt by the firm Friedrich Hütte. It was the first-cast iron bridge in Romania and also the first without any pylons. Because of this last fact, it was also called the bridge that lays which sounds a lot like the bridge that lies and started four legends which were passed down from generation to generation. During the winter holidays, it is decorated with an arch made of Christmas lights.

Number one and my personal favorite legend: the lie detector. It is said that the bridge has the power to tell if somebody is lying at the moment of crossing it and makes strange noises as if it would collapse and punish the liar. I recommend you test this one out for yourself when crossing the bridge.

Number two: the Casanova myth. The Bridge of Lies supposedly earned its name because it was a meeting place for first dates. Cadets from the military academy would meet girls and make promises which they never intended to keep. So be aware of the promises you hear, when walking on this bridge!

And last and not least: the honest trader. Piața Mică (Little Square) was the center of all trade in Sibiu. The Bridge of Lies is situated at the edge of this square and rumors say that the swindling



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traders were unmasked in front of everybody on the bridge so no trader dared to be dishonest while trading here.

Sibiu has a lot of beautiful places but the Bridge of Lies is definitely one of its best earning its name from the legends that persevered through time.

Lutheran Cathedral of Saint Mary and Huet Square

DELIANA DINU
LAVINIA POPESCU

“**Albert Huet**” **Square** is located above the first precincts of Sibiu which served the defense community of Saxon settlers.

In the center (whose shape is unchanged from 1520) is the Evangelical Cathedral and the National College Brukenthal.

The Transylvanian bronze statue of Bishop Georg Daniel Teutsch (the most important personality of the Saxons in the second half of the nineteenth century) welcomes all who want to visit the Cathedral.

The Lutheran Cathedral of Saint Mary is the most famous Gothic-style church in Sibiu, Transylvania, Romania. Its massive 73.34 m high steeple is a landmark of the city. The four turrets situated on top of the steeple were a sign to let foreigners know that the town had the right to sentence to death. It belongs to the Lutheran, German-speaking Evangelical Church of Augustan Confession in Romania. The Sibiu Lutheran Cathedral was built in the 14th century on the location of another 12th-century church. For three centuries it served as a burial place for the mayors, earls and other personalities from Sibiu. This practice was banned in 1796 but one exception was made in 1803 when baron Samuel von Brukenthal was laid to rest in the crypt.

In 1671 a Slovakian craftsman built an organ to replace the previous one that was built in 1585. Today the newer organ is the largest in the southeastern region of Europe. During the summer, there are concerts every Wednesday night.

Holy Trinity Cathedral



ALBU OANA

The **Holy Trinity Cathedral, Sibiu** the seat of the Romanian Orthodox Archbishop of Sibiu and Metropolitan of Transylvania.

It was built in the style of a Byzantine basilica, inspired by Hagia Sophia, with the main spires influenced by Transylvanian church architecture and Baroque elements.

The idea of building an Orthodox cathedral in Sibiu began with Metropolitan Andrei Șaguna, who in the autumn of 1857 asked Emperor Franz Joseph I for permission to send a circular to his diocese requesting that priests and laymen give donations. He sent the letter before Christmas that year, and the first donor was the Emperor himself, who gave 1000 gold coins, followed by the governor of Transylvania with 50, Șaguna with 2000 florins, and many others. Donations continued to come in following Șaguna's death in 1873; the cornerstone was laid on 18 August 1902, when Ioan Mețianu was Metropolitan.

In order to free the space to build the cathedral, eight nearby houses had to be demolished, as well as the little Greek church built in 1797-1799 that had served as a cathedral.

Work began in 1902 and was finished in 1904, when the copper roof was done.

The exterior is in red and yellow brick. The spacious nave is bordered by smaller spherical roofs and four towers. The cathedral is 53.10m long and 25.40m wide in the centre.

The cathedral has undergone a number of restorations and improvements: the walls have been decorated with neo-Byzantine paintings and liturgical objects, vestments, books and a sound system have all been added. Divine Liturgy and Vespers take place daily, as well as other services when provided for.

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