



# VISIT TO RETEZAT GUESTHOUSE AND STRAKA SKI RESORT- 30 NOVEMBER 2019

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**ERASMUS+ PRomotion Of Identity, European Culture and  
Tradition**

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**KA2 - Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good  
practices**

**KA229 - School Exchange Partnerships**

Short –term exchanges of groups of pupils – C3

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

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## RETEZAT GUESTHOUSE

Retezat Guesthouse, a modern guesthouse, classified with 4 stars, with facilities and facilities that satisfy even the most demanding tastes. The beauty of the area (regardless of the season), the peace and the fresh air will make you come back for sure! Located at the entrance gate of Retezat National Park, in the village of Câmpu lui Neag in Hunedoara County, our guesthouse is proud of the excellent accommodation conditions, a modern swimming pool, its own trout and a natural dream setting.

### The adventure park

We invite you to an adrenaline rush in the first adventure park in Hunedoara County, the second largest in the country. Built in the courtyard of our guesthouse, on an area of 2.5 hectares, the park is delimited in 2 activity areas: a special area for children and one dedicated to young people and adults. In the space dedicated to children, all the devices are within 2 meters of the ground. The little ones are welcomed at the entrance of a genuine Indian tent and they can balance on an obstacle bridge created from chains caught with chains, they can descend on the Tyrolean or they can cross the bridges in Indian style. For older people, all obstacles are created on a larger scale. Thus, the heights to be climbed are from 5 meters. The Tyrolean has a length of 40 meters, and the balance workshops, such as suspended stairs or beams with chains, measure 36 meters long. Everyone is provided with rifles and helmets. During breaks, both young and old, they can practice their skill at archery, slinging or throwing darts. Next to the guesthouse's swimming pool we have a tubing runaway and a climbing wall.

### Horse riding

Riding is a sport, but at the same time, a recreational activity, which manages to disconnect those who have this passion. It can be learned at any age, both adults and children, thus allowing themselves to be conquered by the pleasure of riding the horse. At Retezat Pension we have 4 superb horses, which you will love at first sight: Calipso (7 years, Nonius race), Frantz (8 years, Percheron race), Abalo (7 years, Nonius race) and Pascal (13 years, pure English blood). We also have a pony (Pegas), for children from 3 years to 6-7 years.

### The Black Bird Adventure Park

Because we want to wait for you with something new every year! Adventure and adrenaline lovers, we have prepared the most beautiful adventure park in the country!

Suspended above the Black River, the balancing workshops (such as stairs or beams with chains), trapped in the rock and the Tyrolean provoke you to courage, in a wonderful landscape. The total length of the park is 388m. The maximum height reaches 23.5m. The park is divided into 3 sections.



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Everyone is provided with rifles, harnesses and helmets. Climbing bridges without supervision and proper equipment is forbidden!

## STRAJA SKI RESORT

The Straja resort is located in Hunedoara county, at an altitude of 1445 meters, in the heart of the Valcan Mountains, in the Valea Jiului area, about 8 km from Lupeni municipality. The first dating of the locality of Lupeni is made 350 years ago. At that time, the main occupation of the inhabitants of these areas was animal husbandry and hunting. Starting with the 19th century, with the discovery of coal deposits, this area was intensely colonized, Lupeni becoming a powerful coal-fired industrial center of Romania. In this city is the largest underground mine in south-east Europe, Lupeni Mining Exploitation. The coal extracted here is of the highest quality, with a calorific power of up to 9000 kilo-calories.

The tourist complex consists of 210 cottages, holiday homes, pensions and villas. Of these, 70 are approved with 1, 2, 3 and 4 stars. Straja was declared a local tourist resort in 2002, according to H.G. 1110 of October 20, 2002.

In Straja there are 12 ski slopes, each equipped with cable transport (ski lifts). Five of them also benefit from the night installation, thus making it possible to use the slopes until late at night. They are maintained with the help of snow machines, rats, to keep them in the best ski conditions. Through the 12 ski slopes, the Straja resort totals approximately 26 km of ski area. Of these, 20 km are covered with artificial snow. The 11 cable transport facilities ensure easy access to all the slopes in the resort: 4 chairlifts, 6 ski lifts and the cable car that connects Lupeni with the resort. Due to the construction of the cable car and the chairlift on Straja Peak, new slopes appear, the longest being Straja Slope, with a length of 8.1 km. In the 2016-2017 season we inaugurated the chairlift on Constantinescu Slope. For the fluidization and development of cable transport, in 2018 the telescope 3 was dismantled, for the widening of the slope, this being relocated parallel to the chairlift 1, from Constantinescu slope. The most significant investment of 2018 is that of the four-seater chairlift, from the Cross area. It moves at a speed of 4m / s, over a length of 1300 meters. The detachable chairlift starts from the Cross of Heroes area and climbs to the end of the Mutu slope. For starters, the rolling carpet was replaced and positioned in the final version, on the Baloo slope, and to ensure the artificial snow layer throughout the season, five new guns were purchased, the total number of guns reaching 23, all being spread on the whole ski area. Another investment expected by tourists was the chairlift on the Straja Peak. Starting with the 2018-2019 season it will work and climb up to 1870 meters.

### The Road of the Cross



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The tourist resort Straja is also known also because of the procession "The Road of the Cross", organized on the Great Friday of Easter, on the distance between the Cemetery of Heroes and the Straja Chapel.

From the year 2000, the road traveled by the Savior Jesus Christ is restored, with the 14 stops, on a 10 km route. At each of these there is a bas-relief that symbolizes the scene of the respective stop made by the Savior on His way to Mount Golgotha. At each bas-relief, the priesthood of priests participating in the procession stops to pray, reading from the Holy Book the 12 Gospels. Year by year, about 4000 people and 20 priests participate in the procession of the Road of the Cross in Straja, carrying on the shoulders a cross in natural size, carved with images representing the 14 stalls, having embedded in it a piece of the holy wood of the cross carried by Christ. The cross has a weight of 100 kilograms, 4.40 m long and 2.20 m wide; she watches the altar of the Sketch for a year, then - the following year, also on Good Friday - is lowered to the Cemetery of Heroes and then restored to Straja.

### Nedeia Sânzienelor

In the Straja resort, every year, on the 24th of June, Nedeia Sânzienelor, a holiday related to the crop, the vegetation and the fertility, takes place. This is how to organize a crenellated nope, one of the most beautifully preserved, authentically, in this area of the country. At times, the locals from the mountain villages of the Jiu Valley were meeting on the mountain ridge with their brothers from Gorj.

The attraction of the holiday is represented by the horse competition, during which the rider must wear authentic Romanian folk straps, specific to the area from which he comes. According to a tradition of hundreds of years, the lads from the mountain villages, owners of sheep herds, are racing on a heavy route, in the mountains, riding the most important stallions, the great majority facing the challenges imposed by the route.

### Straja Hermitage

Besides the tourist attraction it enjoys, the Straja massif is also famous for the historical and religious load of the place. Moreover, the name of Straja has historical significance. In this place, during the First World War, over 800 soldiers died, some of them being buried in the heroes' graveyard in Lupeni.

At the Montana Cottage in 1996 a light was lit in a room in the evening, the lamp burned, and the filament flame printed a cross on the glass of the lamp. The light bulb was broken by one of the tourists, but at some time the second incident of this kind took place, another cross appearing on another light bulb. The second bulb was taken to the Lainici Monastery, who said that in those places there are people who died in World War I and are not buried Christians.



Thus it was decided to raise a cross, in memory of the heroes of the nation. Immediately after the construction of the cross, the initiator of this project, Emil Parau, decided, together with the Episcopate of Arad, to erect a Shrine near the Cross that would bring the place to peace.

## The Cross of Heroes

With a height of 18.6 meters and a wingspan of 9 meters, the Cross of Heroes rises above the Jiu Valley from an altitude of 1,485 meters. Being illuminated, it can be easily observed on clear evenings and on the national road that crosses and unites all the localities of the Valley.

Immediately after the construction of the cross, a decision was made to erect a sketch near the Cross, which would bring peace to the place.

The site of the future hermitage was consecrated on May 21, 1999, by the feast of Saint Constantine and Elena. Also in the same year, in August, even the total eclipse of the sun was consecrated and the bell. As a symbol that seems broken from the old Romanian stories, as a building that is dedicated to God requires a supreme sacrifice, at the time of the hermitage placement a sheep came and said that Constantinescu (a known sheep of the area) died there.

The church is made of wood, with a concrete foundation and is ship-shaped. It has a length of about 10 meters and a width of 7.5 meters, with space divided into the nave and the holy altar. The porch is open, around it being delimited with wood, 105 cm high. The altar has two windows that illuminate the room, the iconostasis is made of wood where the Last Supper, Angels, the Virgin Mary and the Holy Apostles were carved. Because most of the miners worked at the Straja Hermitage, near the iconostasis in the northern part is carved in natural size Saint Barbara, the protector of the miners. The sketch also has a balcony for the choir, supported by 4 thick pillars of carved wood, which is located on the west side of the nave. Also in this part is a large carved wooden cross that rises to the balcony of the choir. The bell tower is also found in the church tower. Since 2006 the entrance to the Straja Chapel is made through a 50-meter long tunnel on the walls of which the entire Church Calendar and scenes from the Old and New Testaments are painted. Every year, on the Great Easter Holidays, the Cross Road takes place in Straja.

Visiting the Straja Hermitage envelops you in a positive emotional charge that will last over the warmth of the soul of the visitor and you will definitely want to come back to these places.

The big snowfall of winter, the blizzard that blows hard and the snow blows, however, gave enough strength to those who were in charge of the wooden church and wished that people could come to this place of prayer at any time. This is how the idea of building a 54-meter long tunnel was built to connect the main road from the Straja resort to the wooden church. The construction of the tunnel was completed in 2006, and what resulted from the hands of the masters took the form of a special calendar, unique in Romania.



It took almost two years until the interior painting was finished. The orthodox calendar painted on the inside of the tunnel starts with September 1st, thus following the custom of the church year. Months of the year occupy the left side of the tunnel, from the entrance to the inner courtyard of the church, and scenes from the Old and New Testaments are painted on the ceiling. On the right side are represented 12 Orthodox feasts, along with the 10 Christian commandments.

A candle is always lit in this tunnel and is moved every day in front of the saint's icon that marks the current date in the calendar. People appreciate this unique tunnel of saints. He enters the tunnel on a large wooden gate, looks for his birthday and then sees the face of the saint of that day, as he is in the Orthodox calendar. After a few minutes they remember their close friends, family or friends, and look for their birthdays in their Christian arrangement.