

# Discover some of Romania's beautiful landscapes – from Cluj Napoca to Southern Carpathians and the Apuseni Mountains



# Traditional travel versus non-conventional travel

Traveling is an important way to connect with others around the world. Choosing connection through travel is a great bonding experience with friends.

Lately, after several years of going on traditional trips organized by travel agencies in large groups and in very crowded tourist places, I changed my options and looked for unconventional trips., which allow you to make direct contact with the inhabitants of the visited area and get to know their customs and traditions. We experience it in person in a better way of the new cultures, traditions, inhabitants and food

There are many ways travel connecting us.

Today, I'll give you three different examples of the many trips I've taken this

1.Guided Tour “Culture intertwines with Nature “ in Cluj Napoca Botanical Garden connecting plants/ herbs lovers

2.The Land Oltenia under the Mountain connecting nature lovers

3.Thematic Trail “The Path of the Partisans from Apuseni Mountains” connecting history and democracy lovers

# 1.Guided Tour “Culture intertwines with Nature” in Cluj Napoca Botanical Garden

In this free guided tour organized by the Botanical Garden on October 1st, the International Seniors' Day, a lady botanist presented the garden from a different perspective, that of culture. She described us the many statues there are here and their history, how they came to be placed here.



# 1.Guided Tour “Culture intertwines with Nature” in Cluj Napoca Botanical Garden

The Botanical Garden in Cluj is famous for its very large number of plant varieties, over 10.000, and cooperates with many botanical gardens abroad in the exchange of seeds, including the Botanical Garden in Ulm.



## 2.Land Oltenia under the Mountain

On this trip I went with friends from my hiking group and stayed in a villa in a village at the foothills of the mountains. We also benefited from the pleasant company of a kitty called Botosel ( white shoes ).



# 2.Land Oltenia under the Mountain

Here, in the Land Oltenia under the Mountain we visited Buila Vânturarița National Park which is going to become a UNESCO Geopark under the name of "Oltenia under the mountain". This area is also known for pottery, Horezu ceramics being inscribed on the UNESCO intangible heritage list.



## 2.Land Oltenia under the Mountain

. As the pottery exhibition from Horezu was closed when we got there, we could still see the clay pots arranged according to the craftsmen who created them on the large windows of the building



## 2.Land Oltenia under the Mountain

Here there are a lot of monasteries: Arnota, Bistrita ( painted by Gheorghe Tattarescu , a famous Romanian painter – in my opinion it is a monastery exhibition ), Hurezi registered in UNESCO intangible heritage list. , Patrunga, Surpate, Dintr-un Lemn, etc.)





## 2.Land Oltenia under the Mountain

At the Patrunga ( Penetrated in English )monastery, situated at the top of the mountain, which can only be reached only on foot over a distance of 7 km or by donkeys, we were impressed by the way the firewood is stored for the winter



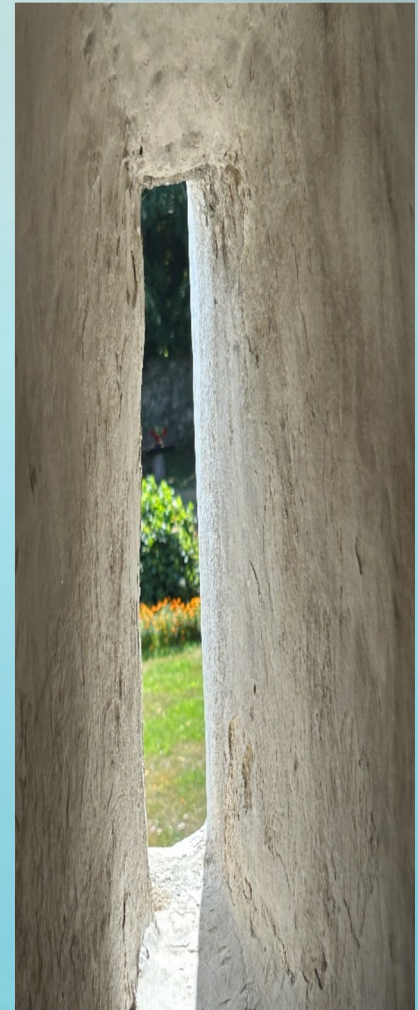
## 2.Land Oltenia under the Mountain

In the village of Costesti where we stayed we saw that in the yard of each villager there was, besides the house, a barn with animals, which above have a hayloft where the hay, the basic food for cows, sheep, goats, is stored in good conditions



## 2.Land Oltenia under the Mountain

In Oltenia under the mountain, in old times, the hostile attacks of the Turks coming from across the Danube or of the outlaws coming down from the woods stopped in the strong walls of the fortified rich men houses, named "cule".



## 3. Thematic Trail “The Path of the Partisans from Apuseni Mountains”

- History and democracy brought us together connecting through a recent thematic travel, more exactly on 5 October, at the inauguration of the thematic memorial trail **The Way of the Partisans in the Apuseni (Sunset in English )Mountains**, a tribute to the anti-communist struggle in the Apuseni Mountains, part of the Western Carpathians, in Transylvania,.
- The Apuseni Partisan Trail is a memorial-thematic trail, being the first of its kind in Romania, and became part of the Ecomuseum of Motilor ( the name of people living in this area) Mountains.
- It is in the form of a 10-kilometers circuit and is dotted with 9 stops with panels that capture the story of the "Shusman" Group and the Mounts who resisted the communist dictatorship.
- As part of the inauguration event, **a hike of medium difficulty took place**, attended by lovers of history and democracy. The trail passes through places of remembrance where the partisans fought and died.

great-great-granddaughter

### 3. Thematic Trail “The Path of the Partisans from Apuseni Mountains”

The event was also attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Sofia, great-great-granddaughter of the **king Ferdinand** of Romania.

In 1925, Teodor Şuşman, the later **leader** of the partisan group in Apuseni Mountains, was received in audience, as a representative of the Mounts, by King Ferdinand of Romania, the great-grandfather of Princess Sofia. After this meeting, the villages of the Apuseni were to be provided with forests and grass lands..

# 3. Thematic Trail “The Path of the Partisans from Apuseni Mountains”

The lovers of history and democracy together on the thematic Trail - in a breathtaking landscape and wonderful weather



# **3. Thematic Trail “The Path of the Partisans from Apuseni Mountains”**

- On the trail we find panels with the stories of the partizans:
  - 1. The beginning and the End**
  - 2. The Saviour Mountain**
  - 3. The Faithful Tree**
  - 4. The Highlanders and Communism**
  - 5. Firey Valley**
  - 6. The Protective Cave**
  - 7. The Hut of Freedom**
  - 8. The Reckoning**
  - 9. The Sacrifice**

# 3. Thematic Trail "The Path of the Partisans from Apuseni Mountains"

The Partisans' trail even has digital support: interactive GPS map (this map that can also be used for not getting lost in the dense forest in areas where there is no internet signal by downloading the application specially created for this trail) and audio illustrations for each stop, which are made by actors and can be activated by QR code.





# 3. Thematic Trail “The Path of the Partisans from Apuseni Mountains

The route started here, from the “Troita”



# 3. Thematic Trail "The Path of the Partisans from Apuseni Mountains

All along the way we saw beautiful nature along the trail (forests with tall and straight firs and spruce, caves, ver deep limestone holes )



# 3. Thematic Trail "The Path of the Partisans from Apuseni Mountains

Here you can see the Shelter ( Hut ): Reconstitution of a mountain shelter, the one used by members of the partisans between November 1951 and April 1952





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**If you want to know where to plan a trip you can see more details through ViMA platform by accessing some of the interest groups created on the here where you can find descriptions of various trips:**

- **Describing sights of favorite places in Europe**
- **Discovering the Danube countries by a campervan**
- **Discovering the diversity of the Danube countries digitally!**
- **Everything about the Danube**
- **Nature near us - what nature means to us**
- **Travels**

**Important !**

**Each year we will collect on topics of interest (for each interesting group) what you wrote on VIMA platform and will put them in an e-book!**



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Conclusion: Internet is full of links of places of interest. Often it is travellers who share their experiences. But what gives authentic information about a place are **individual pictures and descriptions of those people who live that unique place**. You can see this on VIMA platform. By interweaving the experiences of residents and travellers, it intends to give you the opportunity to know which places should not be missed and create a collection of as many places and destinations in Europe as possible. Residents and travelers can get in touch here and combine their impressions. Some places are already listed also on the map created from Danect: "Discovery tours through Europe" on the site <https://danect.eu/discovery-tours-through-europe/> , here you can find further informations about the places.

# Thanks for your attention!

I conclude my presentation with an  
Invitation in  
**the Land of Travels**  
on

**VIMA platform, an open door for all:**



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*Elena Muste*

