

Romanian Narrow Gauge Exploratory Tour August 2019

Blog 1

Pre-tour - our itinerary and map of locations

Tomorrow I head for Bucharest, Romania and then next day on to Cluj Napoca for the start of this tour. In this first blog, I'll introduce our itinerary and a map showing the places we will visit.

Itinerary

Day 1, 9 August: Arrival in Cluj Napoca

Make your way to the Hotel Agape for the start of the tour where you will have the accommodation for 1 night.

Day 2, 10 August: Cluj Napoca– Criscior Steam Train – Brad

Drive to Criscior. Travel by the steam train from Criscior to Brad (train ride and linesiding). Visit to the workshop at Criscior requested.
Accommodation for 2 nights in Brad.

Day 3, 11 August: Abrud Steam Train – Campeni

Travel by the steam train from Abrud to Campeni (train ride and linesiding).
Return to Brad

Day 4, 12 August: Brad – Viseu de Sus

Travel by car to Viseu de Sus. Visit Viseu de Sus yard and station.
Accommodation in Viseu de Sus.

Day 5, 13 August: Mocanita steamTrain

Travel by Mocanita the special steam train. Return in Viseu.

Day 6, 14 August: Viseu – Moldovita

Viseu de Sus part day morning steam departure and depot activity.
Accommodation in Humor, near Moldovita for 2 nights.

Day 7, 15 August: Moldovita – Argel steam train.

Travel by the narrow gauge line train from Moldovita – Argel with steam or diesel loco. Lineside the railway. Visit the Moldovita Monastery (time permitting).
Accommodation in Humor.

Day 8, 16 August: Moldovita – Teaca – Sovata

Moldovita linesiding, travel to Teaca, Teaca trolley ride, drive to Sovata.
Accommodation in Sovata for 1 night.

Day 9, 17 August: Sovata – Sibiu

Travel by the steam train from Sovata, visit Sovata depot, drive to Sibiu.
Accommodation for 2 nights in Sibiu

Day 10, 18 August: Sibiu – Rasinari – Sibiu on the "Cheese Express".

Travel by the tram from Sibiu to Rasinari. Visit Rasinari and taste some delicious cheese specialities. Visit the Sibiu Railway Museum
Accommodation in Sibiu

Day 11, 19 August: Sibiu – Cluj Napoca

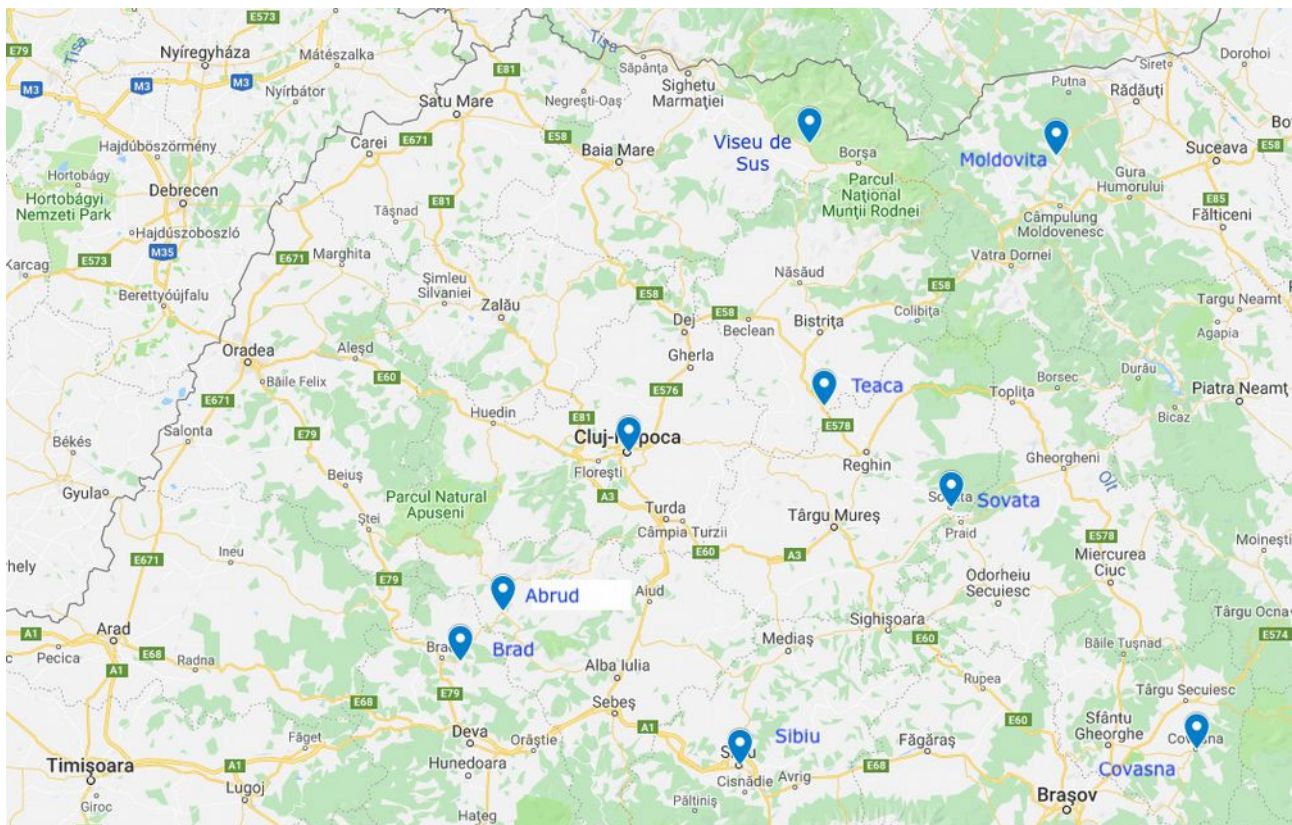
Travel from Sibiu to Agnita (Cornatel to Altana by trolley), drive to Cluj Napoca. Tram ride and tram photography in Cluj Napoca
Accommodation for 1 night in Cluj.

Day 12, 20 August: Return Voyage.

After breakfast, end of tour. Departure from Cluj by train or plane by your own arrangements.

Locations

The railways are all in the north west of Romania. This map shows the places we will visit from Cluj in the centre of the map and showing the area in relation to Timisoara and Brasov. We don't plan to visit Covasna on this trip as they are not operating the top section at Comandau nor using steam while we are in Romania. In 2019, we would have needed to visit on the first weekend of the month to achieve this.



Cluj Napoca

We start in Cluj. This is what CNN has to say about it:

<https://www.romania-insider.com/cnn-cluj-fewer-tourists>

Incidentally, it's the birthplace of Unitarianism. While studying at Manchester University, I stayed at the Unitarian College, Manchester. These days

Unitarians are known as very liberal Christians but the main difference seems to be that they believe in God but not the Trinity or that God, The Holy Spirit and Christ are one. We hope to have dinner on Friday night in the former Unitarian Bishop's Palace. See:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unitarianism>

if you are interested in reading more.

Blog 2 may also appear prior to our first narrow gauge steam ride on 10 August.

John