

**Romanian Narrow Gauge
Exploratory Tour
August 2019**

**Blog 4
Cluj to the Criscior - Brad Narrow Gauge Railway**



Nice early morning light outside our hotel before 7 am as we loaded up the minibus for departure. We left early as we had an appointment with Georg Hocevar who is the driving force behind the narrow gauge tourist train revival

in Romania. Georg gave us a guided tour of the extensive site at Criscior with locos stored and being worked on everywhere. (Top) This was one of the first line ups to greet us and the Russian diesel (lower) was in one of the shops.





The chassis and the boiler from a Greek loco bought by an Israeli group that want to recreate a section of the Hedjaz Railway in Israel. This project has stalled. Georg finds storage space for several other stalled projects.





In the shadow of the cooling tower for the town central heating plant, among other things a standard gauge track vehicle on a narrow gauge transporter wagon.



An early (1907) AEG electric loco that Georg rescued. That's Georg right.

After the tour, there was just time to eat our packed lunches before our train departed. The following shots are of the two tourist train return workings to Brad.



Waiting to depart Criscior.



Orthodox church near Brad on the train route.



The Criscior - Brad train stops here.



The second return working leaves Criscior.



Crossing the only bridge on the line approaching Brad.



At the Brad end of the line at the former standard gauge station and standard/narrow interchange.

Two shots of the second return working at the church. I couldn't decide which shot I like best so I've included both.



We were expecting the train to stop but it steamed straight through making a memorable single video shot rather than probably a less inspiring arrival and departure shot.

Georg had alerted us that at 16:30 after the return of the second passenger train, an open coach would be loaded onto a truck to go to Moldovita. It will be in use there next week when we are there for their peak tourist season. It

turned out to be the open coach from our train today and the steam loco was used to cable it up the ramp onto the low-loader. They also drive steam locos up this ramp and onto the low-loader and can then transport them in steam to other railways! Video of this is on YouTube.

<https://youtu.be/-YY4LUZubyE>



Tomorrow we will ride the Abrud - Campeni narrow gauge tourist train.

John