



# 5th GPU Photo Festival 2019 July 13th to July 21st 2019.

## ROMANIA Cluj Napoca - Sighisoara - Turda - Maramures

Dear photo friends,

We are delighted to present you the 5th GPU Photo festival, which will take place in Romania, from 13th – 21st July 2019 (9 days).

We invite you, your families, your friends and everyone who is interested in, to join! This photo festival will give us the opportunity to gather for one more time, see and photograph the beauties of Romania, make new friendships and enhance the older ones!

The program will be as following:

**July 13th:** arrival in **Cluj Napoca** (airport Avram Iancu) transfer to the hotel.



The Cluj-Napoca Botanical Garden (1872)



Unic street intersection in Europe



St. Michael's Church,  
built in the 14th century

After our settling in the rooms, the opening ceremony of the festival will follow as well as welcome dinner ! There, we will have the chance to meet each other, and have a first insight into the photo festival schedule.

**July 14th:**

- 07:30 a.m: Breakfast

- 08:00 a.m: Departing to **Sighisoara** - located in the historic region of Transylvania. Sighisoara is a



popular medieval town, one of the best preserved in Europe. The walled old town, is listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. There we will have the chance to stroll and admire this intact 16th century

gem with nine towers, cobbled streets, burgher houses and ornate churches. In this town it is said that legendary Count Dracula was born where we can see his house, just one of the many attractions here. Others include the Church on the Hill with its 500-year-old frescoes, the 13th century Venetian House and the Church of the Dominican Monastery, known for its Transylvanian renaissance carved altarpiece, baroque pulpit, Oriental carpets and 17th century organ. In Sighisoara romance and mystery co-exist.

- 02:30 p.m: Lunch
- 04:30 p.m: Returning to Cluj Napoca
- 08:00 p.m: Dinner

### July 15th:

- 07:30 a.m: Breakfast
- 08.30 a.m. - 11.30 - General Meeting for the GPU members and free time to visit Cluj for all the rest participants of the festival who are not GPU members.
- 12:00 a.m: Lunch
- 13:00 We will departing to Turda and the famous **Salina Turda** salt mines - Since 1992, Salina Turda



has been a halotherapy center and a popular tourist attraction. In 2008, the salt mine was modernized and improved, worth six million euros. It was opened to tourism in January 2010. More than 2 million tourists have visited it so far. Salina Turda was ranked among the “25 hidden gems around the world that are worth the trek”.

- 05:30 p.m: Returning to Cluj Napoca
- 07:00 p.m: Opening ceremony of GPU Exhibition. Photos of participants that will participate in the photo festival will be exhibited.
- 08:30 p.m: Dinner

### July 16th:

- 07:00 a.m: Breakfast
- 08:00 a.m: Departing to **Marin**, Salaj County. At Marin we will go back in time, to see how the Roma-



nian and the Hungarian villagers lived in harmony. Marin is one of those few villages that in the 21<sup>st</sup> century are bringing back to life traditions, wonderful folk costumes and ancestral stories and skills that would otherwise completely disappear. Lunch at the same place.

- 06:00 p.m: Arriving in **Baia Mare**, the capital of Maramures (the county we are mostly visiting) and



check in to the hotel.

- 08:00 p.m: Dinner

## July 17th:

- 07:00 a.m: Breakfast

- 08:00 a.m: Departing to **Breb**, an incredible medieval village, a place that looks like time stood there.



People in Breb (as well as the whole area of Maramures) keep their traditions, which can give us inspiration for wonderful photos.

- 02:00 p.m: Lunch

- Later we will visit **Barsana**. The village of Barsana is well-known for the presence of a monastery



with a wooden church dating from 1391 ! The monastery is one of the landmarks of Maramures while the church is one of eight Wooden Churches of Maramures listed as an UNESCO World Heritage Site.

- 06:00 p.m: Returning to Baia Mare

- 08:00 p.m: Dinner

## July 18th:

- 07:00 a.m: Breakfast
- 08:00 a.m: Departing to **Viseul de Sus**. There we will get on the only fully functional narrow-gauge steam train in Europe, **Mocanita**, where we will be offered a fairy-tale like experience. The train



travels deep into the beautiful Vaser Valley, crossing the Natural Park of the Mountains of Maramures. All day!!! Lunch at the same place.

- 06:00 p.m: Returning to Baia Mare
- 08:00 p.m: Dinner

## July 19th:

- 07:00 a.m: Breakfast
- 08:00 a.m: Departing to **Sapanta - Merry cemetery tombstones**



The Merry Cemetery is famous for its colourful tombstones with naïve paintings describing, in an original and poetic manner, the people who are buried there as well as scenes from their lives. Over 600 wooden crosses bear the life stories, dirty details, and final moments of the bodies they mark. Displayed in bright, cheery pictures and annotated with limericks are the stories of almost everyone who has died of the town of Sapânta. The Merry Cemetery has become an open-air museum and a national tourist attraction. In the same village we will visit **Sapanta-Peri, the highest wooden church**

## in the world!

- 01:00 p.m: Lunch

After lunch we will explore the area around, and make stops to landmarks (villages/countryside)



06:00 p.m: Returning to Baia Mare

- 08:00 p.m: Dinner

## July 20th:

- 07:00 a.m: Breakfast

- 08:00 a.m: Departing to Cluj Napoca

We will stop in some Romanian traditional villages, meet the local people, explore their traditions.

- 02:00 p.m: Lunch on the way.

- 06:00 p.m: Arriving to Cluj Napoca

- 08:00 p.m: Gala Dinner.

## July 21st:

- 8:00 - 9:00 a.m Breakfast

- 9:00a.m -12:00 p.m Check out and Departures

The total cost will be **800 Euros** per person in a double room and **1200 Euros** for a single room, including everything from the moment the participant arrives at the Cluj-Napoca airport till his/her arrival back to the airport on the departure day.

All the hotels will be 3\*, 4\* or 5\*.

In the photo festival anyone can participate even if he/she is not a member of our association.

If you decided to participate, please fill out the participation form and send it to [gpuphotofestival@gmail.com](mailto:gpuphotofestival@gmail.com) till 15th of January.



## 5th GPU Photo Festival 2019

The area of Maramures is a very important area with high photographic interest, we definitely must visit. However, the hotels are limited and the number of beds is very small. Regarding these circumstances, we need to know soon enough who wishes to participate.

We absolutely need to avoid the problem we faced in Greece two years ago, when a lot of members wished to participate but they were very late and all the hotels and cruise boat were fully booked.

### **PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS:**

The total amount of / euros must be paid till 31 January 2019.

Send the money to:

- by wire transfer:

Global Photographic Union

Bank name: KBC

IBAN: BE 92 7340 2604 5923

BIC code: KREDBEBB

Account No: 734-0260459-23

Address: Snikbergstraat 139, 1701 Itterbeek, Belgium

- by PayPal (add 50 euros for PayPal expenses)

finance@gpuphoto.com

Every participant must write his/her name and the names for the participants he/she pays for and send a copy to the email: [gpuphotofestival@gmail.com](mailto:gpuphotofestival@gmail.com)

If someone else is paying for you, he/she should state your name in the payment, so we can avoid any possible confusion.

The deadline for the payment is 10. February 2019.

In case of cancelation:

Up to 30 days before the trip: 75% will be refunded.

From 30-20 days before: 50% will be refunded.

From 20-10 days before: 25 & will be refunded.

10 days or less: No refund.

**VERY IMPORTANT - VISA**

Please contact your countries embassies of Romania asking for visas details.

I hope to see you all next July in Romania!!!

**Metzakis Manolis**  
GPU President