

Julian and Horezu—Sister City Visit



There will be a tour to Julian's sister city, Horezu, in Romania in May 2016 to strengthen the Sister City relationship and help Horezu develop agro-tourism.

Horezu is a small town (about the size of Ramona) situated in the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains. Its agriculture is primarily small holdings with an emphasis on apple orchards. Horezu is known for its distinctive folk pottery and has a number of tourist attractions.

The tour will be led by Julian resident Kiki Skagen Munshi. Kiki lived in Romania while working at the US Embassy both under Communist Dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and later, after Romania became a democracy. She speaks Romanian, has a PhD in Romanian History and has led a number of tours to that country.

A description of the tour, tentatively scheduled for May 18-28 follows. If you are interested in joining it, please contact Kiki at kiki@skagenranch.com or 760 765 0484.

Please note that this itinerary is, in some parts, subject to change. One of the many problems in planning a tour of Romania is that there are so many beautiful places to visit and interesting things to do...so left off are items such as visits to artists' ateliers in Cluj, a visit to one of the original Lippizan stud farms, the beautiful mountainous Maramures, the castle of Hundedoara and many more sites. What follows may be changed but it will give you an idea of how the ten days will go. Things CAN be crafted to reflect specific interests in areas or subjects of participants.

Wednesday, May 18—Leave San Diego for Bucharest. You will need to arrange and pay for your own flight but we can help you with this.

Thursday, May 19 – Arrive Bucharest. You will be met at the airport and taken to your hotel. Piccolo Mondo is a mid-level hotel in a residential neighborhood, not too far from the city center and in walking distance from several museums, close to good restaurants....and with a peasants' food market down the street. We will eat together in the evening.



Friday, May 20 – A light day as you'll still be tired from the journey. In the morning we will visit the Peasant Museum and visit the weekly 'fair' that is held behind it. If the weather is good we'll eat lunch from the various stalls.



After lunch a rest before leaving for the downtown area of Bucharest for a sightseeing stroll and dinner at the famous Carul cu Bere.

Saturday, May 21 – Monday May 23 We leave after breakfast on Saturday for Horezu, the Sister City of Julian. We will spend three days in this small town and surrounding villages, visiting farm families, trying our hands at pottery making with the famous "Horezu" style of painting, and visiting the 17th C. monastery as well as fortified houses.

Tuesday, May 24 –Today we leave Horezu and follow the Olt River through the Carpathian Mountains to Transylvania, stopping on the way at the famous Cozia Monastery and an art glass factory. We'll go straight to Rasinari, a lovely small red-tile roofed village, and check in before going to visit the outdoor 'Astra' Museum— a wonderful collection of peasant houses and mills from around Romania.



Wednesday, May 25 – We will spend the morning in the German city of Sibiu then travel to Basna, a village renowned for its healing baths. A dip in a salty hot spring swimming pool will be possible for those with bathing suits and the desire to try out this ancient form of therapy.

Thursday, May 26 – Today we drive to the medieval fortress town of Sighisoara before continuing to Vlahita, a small town in the Hungarian speaking area of Covasna in Transylvania. The mayor of Vlahita is interested in agro-tourism and we will meet with him and others to discuss our experiences in Horezu and Julian.

Friday, May 27 – We leave Vlahita for another of the "Seven Cities"—the German towns of Transylvania, Brasov. On the way we will visit the fortified churches of Harman and Prejmer



Saturday, May 28 – We return to Bucharest via Bran Castle, the picturesque and 'total tourist' castle of Queen Marie and, by rumor and

stretching, Dracula. We'll stop in the resort town of Sinaia for lunch. For those with the energy there will be a visit to the opera or a concert in the evening.

Sunday—Bucharest/leave for the US or continue to the painted monasteries of Moldavia.

COST: This is not a package tour and I don't make money from it so it is difficult to give exact costs. Transportation is a major factor and that depends on how many people are traveling. If there are four or fewer of us, we can rent a car and drive ourselves; more and we need a driver and a larger vehicle. A working estimate, however, is \$125-150 per day per person which would cover lodging, meals, wine, museum admissions and incidentals plus airfare. Airfare will probably be about \$1,500 round trip (perhaps less) from San Diego to Bucharest.



There is the option of spending more time in Bucharest and/or arranging a tour to the painted monasteries of Moldavia. The tour would take four days and cost approximately \$600-\$800.

Contact me for further details or to reserve a place. Minimum two persons, maximum 7.

