

UU Pilgrimage Transylvania, Budapest & Vienna

Rev. Itinerary (06/01/08)

- Thursday, July 17 (Day 1) – Depart San Diego for Bucharest. Overnight in the air.
- Friday, July 18 (Day 2) Arrive Bucharest, Otopeni (OTP) airport. PM motor coach departure for Carpathian Mt. resort town of Sinia (2 hrs). Group dinner & orientation session with UUPCC trip leader & staff. Overnight Sinaia – Caraiman Hotel***. (D)
- Saturday, July 19 (Day 3) – Morning tour of Peles Castle, summer home of Romanian Royal Family. Free time in mountains before departure for Brasso. Group lunch. 1:30pm Departure for Brasso. 3pm dedication service for the new Brasso Social Hall & Unitarian Center. Reception & dinner with minister, host families, and visiting dignitaries. Afterward everyone will go home with their hosts. Overnight Brasso – home stays. (BLD)
- Sunday, July 20 (Day 4) – 10:30am services at Brasso Unitarian Church. Coffee & conversation afterward with members of partner congregation. Group lunch at the church. Free evening with host families. Dinner with your host family. Overnight Brasso – home stays. (BLD)
- Monday, July 21 (Day 5) – Morning walking tour of picturesque and historic Brasso city center with Rev. Mathe as our guide. We will tour the Black Church, the largest neo-gothic cathedral between Vienna & Istanbul, and home to the largest Oriental rug collection in Europe. Free afternoon to explore the city or relax at one of the many outdoor terraces. Lunch on your own. Farewell dinner at the church. Overnight Brasso – home stays. (BD)
- Tuesday, July 22 (Day 6). Depart Brasso after breakfast for the Szekelyfold. En route we will have lunch in Szekelyudvarhely followed by a tour of the 13th century frescoed Unitarian church at Szekelyderz (a UNESCO World Heritage site). Afterward we return to the charming little city of Szekelyudvarhely – home to two of the largest Unitarian congregations in Transylvania. Free evening to stroll the town, visit the market, check your email, or do laundry. Dinner on your own. Overnight Szekelyudvarhely – Hotel Kukullo***. (BL)
- Wednesday, July 23 (Day 7) Depart after breakfast for the medieval walled city of Segesvar/Sighisoara (a UNESCO World Heritage site) - the purported birthplace of Vlad Tepes – aka Dracula. En route you will hear the story of the Saxon people from their origins and their sad fate. Orientation session in the citadel of Segesvar followed by a free day to explore the town, shop for tasteless t-shirts and visit your favorite museum. Lunch & dinner on your own. Overnight Szekelyudvarhely – Hotel Kukullo*** (B)
- Thursday, July 24 (Day 8) Depart Szekelyudvarhely for Kolozsvar/Cluj. En route we will stop briefly at the Szekefurdo – site of the annual Unitarian World Gathering and then make a morning shopping stop in the pottery village of Korond for great deals on unique Transylvanian handwork. We then take a scenic drive to the former provincial Hungarian city of Marosvasarhely for a group lunch and then visit its fabulous Art Nouveau Cultural Palace and the world famous Teleki Library – home to one of the 7 remaining original copies of the US Declaration of Independence. Finally we stop in Torda to photograph the Church of the Edict where Unitarianism was born in 1568. Dinner on your own. Overnight Kolozsvar – Hotel Victoria*** (BL).
- Friday, July 25 (Day 9) Morning visit to 1st Unitarian Church in Kolozsvar which houses the rock upon which Frances David is said to have stood when he converted the city to Unitarianism following the debates in Gyulaferhervar. Travel day to Budapest. Lunch en route. Dinner on your own. Overnight Budapest – Hotel Fabius***. (BL)

- Saturday, July 26 (Day 10) Morning visit to Hero's Square & 2nd Unitarian church followed by orientation session with UUPCC staff. Free afternoon & evening to explore Budapest – shop, stroll, visit your favorite museum, indulge yourself in one of the city's famous spas, and take in an evening cruise on the Danube. Overnight Budapest – Hotel Fabius***. (B)
- Sunday, July 27 (Day 11) Optional morning services at 1st church in Budapest. Reception afterward with minister & members of the congregation. Free evening to continue your exploration of Budapest. Dinner on your own. Overnight Budapest – Hotel Fabius***. (BL)
- Monday, July 28 (Day 12) Depart Budapest for Vienna. En route we have lunch and a mini-tour of Bratislava, capital of Slovakia. Afternoon arrival in at Vienna Hotel. Free evening to relax or explore the city. Dinner on your own. Overnight Vienna – Hotel Ibis*** (BL)
- Tuesday, July 29 (Day 13) Morning orientation & bus tour of central Vienna. Group lunch followed by free afternoon/evening in Vienna to stroll and take in a musical performance. Dinner on your own. Overnight Vienna – Hotel Ibis*** (BL)
- Wednesday, July 30 (Day 14) Free morning & afternoon to continue your exploration of the city. Group farewell dinner in the charming nearby village of Grinzing. Overnight Vienna – Hotel Ibis*** (BD)
- Thursday, July 31 (Day 15) Transfer to airport for flight to US or extend your stay in Europe. UUPCC staff will be happy to assist with your arrangements and suggestions. (B)