

# Churches and Fortifications in Transylvania





**Fortified Churches Foundation (Editor):  
Churches and Fortifications in Transylvania  
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Gratisexemplar



**DEMOKRATISCHES FORUM DER  
DEUTSCHEN IN SIEBENBÜRGEN**

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## FORTIFIED CHURCHES FOUNDATION

The Transylvanian Saxon fortified churches belong to the Evangelic Church of Augustan Confession in Romania. After the number of members declined rapidly due to the emigration of the Saxons, the churches are rarely used for services. At the same time the villagers who maintained and repaired the fortified churches in their respective towns are missing.

As a reaction to this development the Fortified Churches Foundation was established and serves as an expert institution for the preservation and maintenance of this religious and cultural heritage. The Romanian President Klaus Johannis and the German Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier have taken over the double patronage of the Foundation.

The Foundation is financed through donations, funds and sub-foundations which are used for projects and practical work as well as for the build-up of the capital stock.

In Germany a Support Association has been founded simultaneously in order to assist the endeavours of the Fortified Churches Foundation.

Currently more than half of the over 160 fortified churches are threatened to different degrees. Rescuing and maintaining them will be the main objective of the Fortified Churches Foundation – a race against time. In the scope of the „roof programme“, the churches which are in severe danger are repaired with emergen-

cy measures in order to protect them from further damage. Beyond this programme domestic and international partners and institutions are involved in cautious restoration efforts on selected objects.

As the repairing of historic monuments is more reasonable and sustainable in case of further use of the buildings, certain concepts and model-projects are being developed in cooperation with engaged partners.

Through the training and formation of traditional craftsmanship the lack of specialists in the region is faced by providing well-educated personnel.

By working with universities, foundations and other expert institutions the Fortified Churches Foundation acquires further know-how for the challenges it faces in preserving the cultural landscape.

Philipp Harfmann  
(Managing Director)





## THE IMPRESSIVE LANDSCAPE OF FORTIFIED CHURCHES

Transylvania is famous for its over 160 legendary fortified churches. Originated in the late Middle Ages they went through modifications and were enlarged over the centuries. In those times they were the centre of all events in every Saxon village and have remained their landmarks until today. Here in Transylvania these medieval fortifications can be found in a unique density, diversity and preserved in their historical form.

In the 13th century the churches gained their new purpose as defense structures. At that time Transylvania was a hard-fought border region. This is why the churches, which were massive and strong constructions, were fortified with defensive structures and transformed into church castles. During raids the population of the villages found protection behind the strong walls and tried to fend off attacks – mostly with success. In addition, valuable goods were stored in outbuildings within the fortifications to protect them from looters.

The fortified churches of Transylvania highly vary with regard to building developments. While some of them are constructed as massive fortresses, others are only pro-

tected by a simple defense system due to the limited resources in the respective village.

Climbing on the church tower, visitors can enjoy fabulous views on traditional villages and surrounding hills and slopes. Very often the tower of the neighboring castle can be seen on the horizon – therefore the term “landscape of fortified churches” as this cultural heritage should not only be visited and viewed individually but also appreciated and valued as a whole.

In most of the villages further important buildings for the community were erected in close proximity to the fortified churches: parish houses, schools, church halls, city halls – all of these buildings form an ensemble in typical Saxon villages. In the last few years some of these neighboring historic buildings have been renovated and have found a reuse as guesthouses, museums, or for social projects. This means that visiting a fortified church can give also provide great insight into local and regional developments.

Furthermore Transylvania has become more and more popular for nature lovers or people

who prefer life at a slower pace than modern society allows. A variety of traditional craftsmen and workshops, organic farmers, producers of agricultural products (i.e. cheese, honey, cider, bread, liquor) and many artists have chosen to settle down here and are happy to welcome interested visitors who can develop a real understanding of these trades at first hand and purchase exclusive products.

We invite you to endeavor on your expedition of these numerous treasures that the Transylvanian landscape of fortified churches holds in store for its visitors – and hope you enjoy this unique precious place in its entire splendor.

Ruth István  
(Representative for Tourism and PR)

## PARTICIPATE

The Foundation is financed through donations, funds and sub-foundations which are used for projects and practical work as well as for building up the capital stock. The initial capital was provided by the Evangelic Church of Augustan Confession in Romania.

Due to the large number and variety of challenges, the preservation of the Transylvanian fortified churches remains a collective effort for which any help and support is welcome. For further information please contact our Foundation in Romania or the Support Association in Germany.

**Romania:** Donations in *RON*  
Account holder: Fundatia Biserici Fortificate  
IBAN: RO 02 BTRL RONC RT03 1735 8401  
BIC: BTRL RO22

**Romania:** Donations in *EUR*  
Account holder: Fundatia Biserici Fortificate  
IBAN: RO 49 BTRL EURC RT03 1735 8401  
BIC: BTRL RO22

**Germany:** Support Association (in *EUR*)  
Account holder: Förderverein Kirchenburgen e.V.  
IBAN: DE 37 3506 0190 1566 3690 16  
BIC: GENO DED1 DKD

Please specify an intended use – the name of a certain fortified church, a project or simply „Fortified Churches Foundation“ in case you wish to support our organization.

Donation receipts can be issued according to German and Romanian law. Please send us your contact information in order to receive a receipt: [office@kirchenburgen.org](mailto:office@kirchenburgen.org) - Receipts are issued on a quarterly basis.

*Trappold*





## AGÂRBICIU • ARBEGEN • SZ.-EGERBEGY

In the early 14th Century an early Gothic basilica was built in the middle of the village. The aisles were removed and the arcades were bricked up in 1500, when the church was fortified. Above the chancel a defence tower was erected. The chancel's polygonal closure was heightened with two defence levels and the buttresses were connected by arches, in order to build a machicoulis gallery behind them.

The ensemble was strengthened by a surrounding wall in 1502, completed by a gate building and an adjoining bacon Chamber on the north-west side . The tower was heightened in 1827 and received its striking pyramidal roof. At the same time its defence systems together with the defence level of the chancel were removed . The typical western gable of the church was erected in the same time with the renewal of the roof in 1854.

Inside the church the mainly 18th-century furniture is still preserved.



### CONTACT

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## AGNITA • AGNETHELN • SZENTÁGOTA

The 13th century basilica, initially built without towers, was rebuilt and fortified two centuries later when the chancel was completed with a defence level on arches with loopholes. This level was to be removed in the 19th century.

By heightening the aisles, the building became a hall church. The western potter's tower is equipped with a parapet walk built in the timber frame technique.

The ring wall was demolished, but the defence towers are preserved: the potter's tower, the gate tower also called the cooper's tower, the tailor's tower, the smith's tower and the cobbler's tower.

The techniques and details are impressive not only on the construction itself, but inside as well. The chancel boasts a well-preserved double winged altar from 1650, an artwork that echoes the pre-reformation Gothic winged altars.



### CONTACT

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## ALMA VII • ALMEN • SZÁSZALMÁD

At the beginning of the 14th Century a small hall church was initially erected. In order to defeat the many attacks the chancel is heightened and provided with machicoulis at the beginning of the 16th century. At the end of the same century, a wall boasting four defensive towers oriented towards the four cardinal points surround the church. The first floor of the bell tower was habitable, equipped with a smoke funnel. The second floor has small bays on every corner, each having three embrasures, a construction detail that can be found in Thuringia, Germany. Very interesting to visit is the gate tower, a massive structure on 5 levels, three of them equipped with defensive systems and a parapet walk on the highest level.

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## ALTĀNA • ALZEN • ALCINA

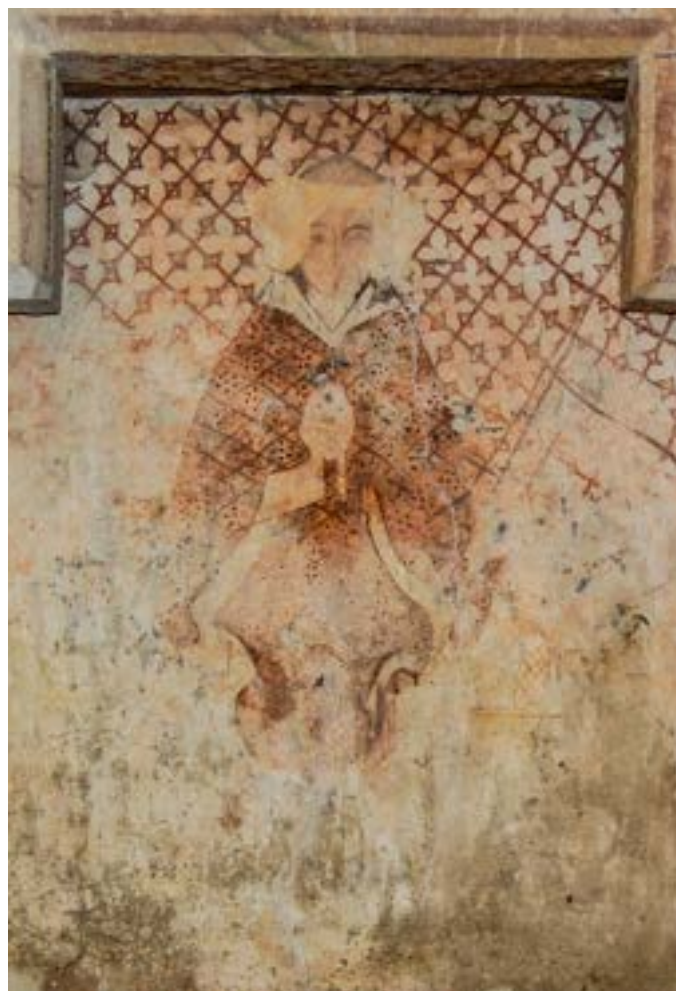
The 13th century Romanesque basilica went through numerous transformations throughout its history: the original apse was replaced by the current Gothic polygonal chancel, the southern aisle received a Baroque vault, the central nave was covered with a late Gothic lierne vault in the 15th century.

In the 19th century the bell tower with parapet walk was replaced by the current new Gothic one, built in the same time as the sacristy. The oval curtain wall was reinforced with an outer bailey and four defence towers located in the four cardinal points.

The northern tower collapsed at the beginning of the 20th century and parts of the ring wall and storage rooms were demolished.

### CONTACT

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## APOLD • TRAPPOLD • APOLD

The three-aisles hall church originates from the 15th century, when the aisles of the former Romanesque basilica were heightened. The chancel and the nave were vaulted, and the walls of the side naves were replaced with octagonal pillars. A tower was built for the first time on the western side of the church and together with the nave and the chancel it was strengthened by adding defence levels between 1504 and 1507.

From the fortification measures of the 15th and 16 century, the outer ring walls and three defensive towers have been preserved. The inner wall was demolished in the 19th century, but its path it is easy to track on the exposed foundations.

On the north side a storage building equipped with loopholes survived the centuries. The church boasts several treasures in its interior: the neoclassical organ altar from 1821, a Gothic tabernacle, the pulpit and wooden galleries built in 1760.



### CONTACT

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## APOLDU DE SUS • GROSSPOLD • N.-APOLD

The fortified church in Apoldu de Sus was erected after the demolition of the old Romanesque basilica preceding it. A church hall was built in 1836 and completed with a tower in 1867.

The interior is a nice example of a neoclassical church, where the altar from 1751 and the organ from 1816 are still preserved, both of them originating from the old basilica.

Only ruins of the old fortifications still remain. Nevertheless, one can notice the well-preserved structure of the traditional village, with narrow walk paths and typical farms on both sides of the main road.

### CONTACT

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## APOȘ • ABTSDORF/A. • SZÁSZAPÁTFALVA

The name Abtsdorf is connected with the Cistercian monastery of Cârța, which owned the village in the 14th century.

The hall church with polygonal choir was protected by a curtain wall in the Middle Ages. Still in the 16th century, further fortification works were carried out. Sustainable reconstructions took place in the 18th century: for example, the church received a tiled roof and new windows for the first time. Finally, in 1799, the separately standing bell tower was built under the direction of the master builder Michael Salzer from Biertan. The last remains of the medieval curtain wall were removed in 1913 in order to start the construction of the school building. The neo-Gothic altar, the baptismal font and the organ are 19th century works.

Today, the „Villa Abbatis“ equestrian farm, located in the former parsonage, takes care of the preservation of the church.



### CONTACT

Villa Abbatis  
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## ARCHITA • ARKEDEN • ERKED

Only the exterior walls of the central nave have been preserved from the former Romanesque basilica. The church was later rebuilt in the Gothic style and enlarged with a tower, followed by the defence systems in the 16th century: demolition of side aisles, addition of a defence level, addition of a battle platform on the tower. Two fortification walls with defence towers at the corners surrounded the ensemble by the end of the 15th century.

After a fire in 1748 that also destroyed the village, the church was built in its current shape. - The interior Baroque design originates from that period: the side and organ gallery, the organ itself, masterpiece of the famous organ builder Samuel Maetz, the altar and the pulpit created by master Philippi from Sighișoara.



### CONTACT

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## AȚEL • HETZELDORF • ECEL

The importance of the village of Ațel in the Middle Age results from its Gothic basilica which was built in several phases, boasting a transept, a sacristy, and a western tower.

The impressive stone carvings on the pillars of the middle nave originate from the first building phase in 1380, while the rich decorated western portal might have been added in the second building phase at the beginning of the 15th century, when the fortification wall was built.

In 1499 the third building phase was completed with the construction of the vaults above the naves, the heightening of the chancel and the building of the upper floors on the tower.

Inside the church, beside the magnificent capitals of the pillars one can admire, the late Gothic sedilia and the finely crafted portal of the sacristy are very remarkable. The chancel boasts a pew with carvings and inlay work dating back to 1516.



### CONTACT

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## AVRIG • FRECK • FELEK

In the 13th century, a Romanesque three-aisled pillar basilica dedicated to St. Catherine was built in Avrig. On the ground floor of the bell tower, which serves as a porch, there is a cross vault. On the remarkable west portal, remains of stone sculptures have been preserved, which remind us, for example, of Hosman. Around 1500, in the course of the reconstruction to a hall church, the side aisles were removed, the choir end was straightened and the bell tower was raised by one floor. In 1765, the choir and nave were given baroque vaults. Parts of an oval ring-wall and the remains of a gate tower are still preserved from the original fortification. The tower clock was a gift from the Gubernator Samuel von Brukenthal (1770).

The pulpit including the baldachin dates from the 18th century, the late baroque altar from 1805.

### CONTACT

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## AX. SEVER • FRAUENDF. • ASSZONYFALVA

The Evangelic church in Axente Sever is an important witness of the hard times the region had to bare. Therefore not only the ring wall was strengthened for defensive purposes, but the church building itself was also fortified.

The massive tower between hall and chancel, dating back to the 14th century has a parapet walk on the highest level and on the first and second floors simple, elongated loopholes that end as a niche towards the interior. Both the chancel and the nave were heightened with defence levels with loopholes.

The arches built between the reinforced buttresses on the western facade support the defence level. A portcullis, whose guiding slides are still visible today, protected the western portal.

Along the outer wall there are partially preserved and reconstructed storage rooms which are used as guest rooms today.



### CONTACT

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## BĂGACIU • BOGESCHDORF • BOGÁCS

The fortified church is located on the main street of the village. In the village center a church existed around 1420, which was secured with a ring wall, a gate tower, and three defence towers in the course of the 15th century.

Beside the gate tower, the north-eastern tower has also been preserved until today. At the end of the 15th century the church was enlarged with a bell tower, which shows a seven-fold staggered funnel-shaped portal. Shortly afterwards the church was fortified. Above the hall of the church and above the bell tower a defence level rests on buttresses. In the 18th and 19th century it was gradually removed, but the bell tower was rebuilt in 1973. The existing pew in the chancel dated 1533, is one of the most valuable of its kind in Transylvania.

### CONTACT

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## BĂLCACIU • BULKESCH • BOLKÁCS

The irregular polygonal shaped chancel of the church in Bălcaciu was erected in the 14th century and heightened with three defense levels in the 16th century.

Its upper level shows one of the rare wooden defence platforms that are still preserved. On the northern side a two level sacristy was built in the same period. The old church and the interior curtain wall were demolished and the materials were used to build the current three-aisle hall church with profiled pairs of buttresses and barrel vault.

In 1856 the spire tower was built. Four defensive towers and a gate tower that are still visible today strengthen the exterior circular ring wall.

The neoclassical interior of the church is decorated in white and gold with few stucco works. The organ built in 1820 by Samuel Maetz and the richly decorated canopy of the pulpit are both painted in the same colors.



### CONTACT

The keys are with Mr Friedrich Zikeli  
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## BĂRCUȚ • BEKOKTEN • BÁRÁNYKÚT

In the place of the demolished medieval church, two masters of Merghindeal built a hall church covered by suspended domes in the 19th century.

The bell tower with parapet walk and stairways to the upper levels built in the thickness of the walls originates from the 15th century.

It was easy for a single man to block the stairways which are only 60 to 70 centimeters wide.

The remaining fragments of the ring wall bear traces of two medieval defence towers and also boast the holes of the former beams supporting the parapet walk.

### CONTACT

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## BATOȘ • BOTSCH • BÁTOS

Significant parts of today's church originate from a Gothic church whose first construction phase dates back to the 14th century. The side aisles speak for this dating, suggesting that the church was originally a basilica. In addition, a parish priest in Batoș was first mentioned in a document as early as 1332. A major fire considerably damaged the church in 1728. Less damage was done to the bell tower built in 1638 in the southeast of the church.

The reconstruction of the church began in 1781 with the Baroque reconstruction. The nave was covered with late-Baroque sail vaults with Rococo-style ornaments and galleries were added on three sides. On closer inspection, Gothic details can still be seen today: the Gothic door-frame to the sacristy, the pointed arch of the triumphal arch or the two-part Gothic seating niche in the south wall of the choir.

The neo-Gothic altar dates from 1864; in its three niches, there are statues of Jesus and two



Apostles. Thirty panels from around 1700 have been preserved, which represent seasons and months symbolically, but also show biblical scenes.

### CONTACT

The keys are with Mr Roland Bierfeld  
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## BAZNA • BAASSEN • BÁZNA

Above the previous Romanesque construction, a Gothic hall church with polygonal chancel was erected in the first half of the 15th century. No tower was added to the church, but the hall was heightened by half its size and covered with a lierne vault. Above the chancel that boasts its groin vault, three massive defence levels and a timber frame parapet walk were built. In the 15th and 16th century the church was protected by a wall and several defensive towers, of which only the southern tower, serving both as a gate and a bell tower still exists. Later the town hall was even located here.

The defensive systems of the chancel were dismantled in the 19th century and replaced by a high-hipped roof. On the western facade the probably Romanesque painted portal was exposed. The organ, the pulpit and the altar were set up in the second half of the 18th century and the pews and the tabernacle are Gothic. The sedilia with round arches originate from the Romanesque construction phase.



### CONTACT

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## BEIA • MEEBURG • HOMORÓDBENE

In the middle of the village, on a slight hill, a hall church without a tower was built in the second half of the 15th century. At the beginning of the 16th century, the church was fortified and given a wooden fortified storey. At the same time a slender Gothic bell tower was built on the west side and a sacristy was added to the northern wall of the choir.

The wall was fortified until 1677 with a hexagonal tower and three simple towers. The triumphal arch collapsed in 1702 as a result of an earthquake. In the second half of the century the wooden galleries were built in to the west, north and south. Her rural paintings show a naive-religious world of imagination with a multitude of allegories and symbols. In 1822 the church hall received its present vaults, which are decorated with classical ornaments. In the second half of the 19th century two of the simple towers as well as the weir floor and the west tower were demolished. Today's bell tower was built in 1892, the southwest tower and



part of the wall were demolished in 1900 and a school was built in its place. The eastern part of the ring wall collapsed in 1909. The hexagonal tower to the northwest and the southeast tower next to the former vicarage have survived. The pre-Reformation Gothic winged altar has been standing in The Hill Church (Biserica din Deal) in Sighișoara since 2005.

### CONTACT

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Please call well in advance



## BIERTAN • BIRTHÄLM • BERETHALOM

Biertan gained its importance as a marketplace in competition with Mediaş and Moşna during the Middle Ages and was the seat of the bishop of the Evangelic Church from 1572 to 1867. Therefore three mighty ring walls, two outer baileys and several defence towers protected the ensemble.

The towerless three-nave hall church, almost completely preserved was built in 1500 on the foundations of a previous Romanesque building. The chancel had two defence levels, but the wooden one was demolished in 1803. The interior, covered by lierne vaults with ribbing shelters great treasures such as the stone pulpit from 1523, decorated with relief scenes or the late Gothic winged altar with 28 panel paintings and a delicate truss frame. - The late Gothic sacristy door is a testimony of great craftsmanship. Richly decorated with inlay work, the door has a lock that was presented at the World Fair in Paris in 1889, a complicated system that centrally locks at 13 points simultaneously in order to safely keep the church treasure in the sacristy.



### CONTACT

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## BISTRIȚA • BISTRITZ • BESZTERCE

In place of the original church built in the 13th century, the present building was erected a century later. The economic prosperity of Bistrița at that time favoured the construction of a basilica with three naves, polygonal choir and two towers on both sides of the main entrance. The importance of the church for the community can be observed in the successive stages of reconstruction that followed: rebuilding in the shape of a Gothic basilica with the naves separated by octagonal pillars and transformation to a Gothic hall with a surrounding wall and a watch and defence tower for the city. Initially self-standing, the new tower, built in several stages, was included in the body of the church in 1487 and is the highest medieval church tower in the country. Today the church is a worthy representative of the architectural transition from Gothic to Renaissance. The tower, which was heavily damaged by a fire in 2008 was repaired and tourist may today ascend the 75m high tower by elevator in order to admire the panorama of Bistrița.



### CONTACT

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## BOD • BRENNENDORF • BOTFALU

The fortified church in Bod went through difficult times, strongly affected by fire and earthquakes.

The Romanesque basilica with a bell tower built in the 13th century was partially destroyed by fire only two centuries later. Starting with the late 18th century, the events precipitated: the bell tower collapsed only to be rebuilt nine years later. But after three years the church was massively destroyed by an earthquake, together with its fortification wall. The polygonal wall with outer bailey and defence towers was almost completely dismantled after this episode.

Today in Bod one can admire the church built in 1806, whose tower damaged by the earthquake in 1977 was subsequently stabilized. The interior of the church houses the altar from 1869, which forms a whole together with the organ built in 1816. Original bells, dating back to Catholic times were destroyed when the tow-



er collapsed. One bell that escaped the damages of war and further two bells made of bronze in 1922 accompany the Sunday service today.

### CONTACT

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## BOZ • BUSSD B. MÜHLBACH • BUZD

In the middle of the center square in the small village of Boz near Sebeş stands the late Gothic hall church surrounded by a low ring wall. According to the inscription the erection dates back to 1523.

The hall and choir of the church merge together in the same width. The vault of the hall has a decorative ribbed ceiling made of clay bricks. The facades are separated by buttresses. These and further consoles arranged in between are the support for the two defence floors. The crenels were accessible through the consoles of the lower defence level while the embrasures served as defensive systems in the second defence level. Both stories can be accessed through a spiral stairway on the north-eastern side of the church. Similar fortified churches can be found in Cloaşterf and Dupuş. The church of Cloaşterf was built by the famous architect Stephan Ungar and he is most probably also responsible for the other two churches.



A gateway tower with a wall-walk is on the northern side of the fortification. Besides the altar dating back to early Baroque the remaining décor in the interior is mostly from the 19th century.

### CONTACT

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## BRĂDENI • HENNDORF • HÉGEN

The entrance of today's church that was probably built in the 15th century from the remains of an older church, is located higher than it was initially. The floor of the nave was also raised by 2m, due to the repeated floods caused by a water stream which flows close to the fortification and which has brought over 3m of alluvial deposit over time, both inside the fortification and around it. The defence story comprises a first level built with stone, above which a second wooden level was raised and endowed with a parapet walk on buttresses and wooden consoles. The circular palisade that defended the church for 200 years was replaced in the 16th century by a fortified wall with defence towers.

Inside the church there is a fountain from which villagers and tourists can obtain clean drinking water.

More than 300 Saxon chests secretly doze in the attic of the fortified church. Although these medieval chests hide neither gold nor oth-



er treasures in their wooden wombs, they are considered to be of unique historical value in Europe.

### CONTACT

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## BRAŞOV • KRONSTADT • BRASSÓ

The most important church of the Gothic period in Transylvania is a result of several alterations of the two preceding churches, the first Romanesque building being destroyed by an earthquake.

Apart from the architectural importance of the church this is the place where the first protestant service in German language was held in 1642, this being the starting point for the reformation which was to spread throughout Transylvania. Several earthquakes during the 16th and 17th Century demanded renovation and structural support of the vaults and walls. Also the second originally planned tower at the western facade was not constructed due to the danger of earthquakes. But the heaviest damage of the church happened during the Great Fire of 1689, when it burned down completely, followed by the collapse of the vaults.

Since the reconstruction works which lasted until 1772, a composition of baroque and



Gothic elements hence shaped the interior of the hall church. Further renovation works, completed 1999, changed the outside appearance by cleaning the sandstone, thus making the name “black church” history. The facades show a rich decor of ornamental and figurative sculpture of sandstone, some of them having been replaced by copies to protect them from air pollution. One can see the originals inside the church.

On the interior walls there is a display of 104 oriental carpets that were brought to Transylvania through the broad trade relations of the Saxon merchants to the Middle East. They were given to the parish on the occasion of festivities and since then kept and cared for during the centuries.

## CONTACT

[www.honterusgemeinde.ro](http://www.honterusgemeinde.ro)

*Saint Martin's Church*



*Schei Church*





## BRATEIU • PRETAI • BARÁTHELY

Only few remains are still preserved from the Gothic basilica of the 14th century and today's church bears the signs of the changes it underwent in the 15th century. The aisles were subject to multiple transformations: the southern arcades were demolished and the wall was heightened. Particularly interesting are the arcades preserved on the northern side featuring profiled columns and various capitals. In order to stand against attacks, the church was fortified: a defence floor was built above the chancel and a battlement walk on the bell tower. Moreover the assembly was surrounded by defence wall with a five-level gate tower.

A community house was constructed later on in 1906 by using material left from the partial dismantling of the defence wall.

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Brateiu nr. 30





## BRUIIU • BRALLER • BRULYA

The initial Roman basilica from the 13th century went through numerous changes due to the many demolitions and reconstructions that occurred mainly in the second half of the 19th century, when the aisles were rebuilt with galleries and an apse was erected. Yet, a Romanesque door frame with a round arch was preserved on the southern facade.

A circular wall strengthened by a western tower with parapet walk surrounded the church. Another polygon-shaped ring wall was built around the first one, being endowed with 4 bastions and a 3-level parapet walk, whose traces – the 3 rows of loopholes – are still visible in the northern wall. On the south-eastern side, a long construction on 3 levels was used both for storage and accommodation purposes, strengthened by defensive systems.

### CONTACT

The keys are with Mr Michael Ehrmann  
Tel.: +40/269/586 515  
Bruuiu nr. 183 (side street)





## BUNEȘTI • BODENDORF • SZÁSZBUDA

The 13th century late Romanesque pillar basilica was early prepared for battle by demolition of the side naves and fortification of the central nave and the tower by adding defence levels.

The chancel was heightened in 1500 by adding a defence level with machicolations. The 1847 added tower marks the present image of the church. The interior impresses with its tall and narrow proportions, underlined by the two-story balcony on the northern side, erected between 1680 and 1775. The railings were painted by the Roessler family, grandfather and grandson.

The fortification wall, originating in the 14th century was strengthened by four towers and had grain storage rooms on the inside.

### CONTACT

The keys are with the Wagner family

Tel.: +40/268/248 702

and Mrs Ella Wagner, Tel.: +40/727/344 718

Bunești nr. 14







## BUZD • BUSSD B. MEDIASCH • SZ.-BUZD

Although the construction date of the church is unknown, its chancel was built in the late 14th century. In order to offer protection from the hillside, the chancel was fortified by adding three more defence levels, thus rising far above the nave. The upper fortification system can be accessed through a small spiral staircase and is situated above the rib vault.

The ring wall built one century later, once over 6m tall, was downsized and its gate tower converted to a house for the castle guardian. The western Gothic portal features stylistic characteristics specific for the Mediaş area.

A Neoclassic side gallery characterizes the nave's interior, while the Baroque altar dominates the chancel. Here, next to the Gothic tabernacle and dated to the same period, one can find the beautiful portal to the sacristy.

Another interesting characteristic is the wooden roofed staircase leading to the fortress.



### CONTACT

Keys are with Mr Nicolae Rafa who lives in the fortification, Tel.: +40/774/525 238



## CÂLNIC • KELLING • KELNEK

The Câlnic castle was built around 1270 and equipped with a residential tower, defence wall and a water ditch featuring a drawbridge.

After the castle was taken over by the Saxon community, it was expanded through the construction of a second defence wall and a southern tower.

For a better defence against sieges, granaries and several rooms were attached to the fortification wall, however they did not last to the present day. The fortress was provided with a small single-nave church featuring a semicircular apse towards the end of the 15th century.

During the construction of the second defence wall, the water ditch was covered up and the drawbridge replaced with a gatehouse featuring a portcullis.

Today, an association of the University of Cluj administrates the facility.



### CONTACT

The castle includes a museum and a shop. The evangelic church directly beside the castle can also be visited on demand.

Tel.: +40/258/747 220

Contact person is Mrs Codruța Davidaș

Tel.: +40/740/234 297



## CÂRȚA • KERZ • KERK

Not actually a fortified church, the ruins of the former monastery, which is considered the easternmost establishment of the Cistercians, still impresses with its appearance, erected according to the rules of the order. First it was built in the Romanesque style in 1202, but only after the first destruction in the 14th century it was completed. The monastery remained unfortified, therefore stood unprotected under the attacks of the Ottomans, which burned it in the mid 15th century. The last repair took at the end of the 15th century, then the order was dissolved and the city of Sibiu took it under protection. Starting with the 17th century, the buildings of the ensemble and the nave of the church fell into disrepair to a large extent.

The walls of the church ruins still bear traces of the basilica with three naves and transept. From the other buildings of the monastery only the eastern wall of the convent building still stands. Today, the chancel and the transept are used as a church.



## CONTACT

The keys are with Rev. Michael Reger in the  
parish house  
Tel.: +40/743/168 839



## CATA • KATZENDORF • KACA

A pier basilica, easily recognizable by its main features, constitutes the core of the fortified church in Cața. Inside, the pillars with arcades are a typical Romanesque construction to connect the side aisles to the nave. On the northern clerestory two uncovered false windows can be seen. The Romanesque chancel as well as the apse were rebuilt during the 15th century in Gothic style. The cross vault collapsed 1894 together with the western tower and it was replaced later on by a flat ceiling. The tower was never rebuilt.

The massive fortified curtain wall dating back to the 15th century still preserves four of initial six defence towers. The pentagonal “priest’s tower” offers views over the garden of the parish house. The assembly was provided with a second defence wall with outer bailey as early as the 17th century. Its northern side was demolished in 1884 and in 1937 for using the resulting material to build the school and the community hall.



### CONTACT

The keys are with the Markus family



## CENADE • SCHOLTEN • SZÁSZCSANÁD

The Gothic hall church in the formerly subservient village of Cenade originally dates from the late 15th century and until the middle of the 19th century also had a west tower. Fragments of the oval ring and the southern gate tower are still preserved today.

The dilapidated choir was demolished in 1906 and replaced by a new building. The Rieger organ with a Neo-Gothic façade dates from 1917.

In the 1930s, 1980s and 1990s, church and state authorities undertook extensive consolidation work and archaeological investigations of the church and the remains of the curtain wall.

### CONTACT

The keys are with Mr Simon Binder  
Tel.: +40/745/513 481  
and Tel.: +40/258/789 180  
Cenade nr. 75





## CHIRALEȘ • KYRIELEIS • KERLÉS

In 1790 the inhabitants of Chiraleș had to tear down their huts on the hill next to the old church and rebuild them in the valley, in the Saxon alley. The small, almost square late Gothic hall church itself was demolished in 1907 due to its deterioration. A part of the Gothic tracery with a fish-bubble motif was brought to the sacristy of the new church. A new building had been planned, but could not be realized for a long time due to the poverty resulting from the time of subservience, a terrible fire in 1870 and the construction of a new school building in 1875.

It was not until 1889 that the community decided to establish a church building fund. The licensing of the building order took place at Easter 1907, and construction began on May 31. One year later, the Neo-Romanesque hall church was built, whose nave was transferred with a barrel vault with lunette caps. The sacristy is located south of the choir. The bell tower is located on the street front. Since 1909,



the church has had a Neo-Gothic altar with a plaster sculpture of Jesus in its center, a work by Stefan Römischer from Unirea. The baptismal font with a stone triangular base from 1847 was taken over from the old church, and a basin was placed on it in 1909.

### CONTACT

The keys are with the Baca family



## CHIRPĂR • KIRCHBERG • KÜRPOD

In Chirpăr it is still possible to observe the original three aisles Romanesque basilica built in the 13th century. Without significant changes the chancel with groin vault and apse, the arcades to the side aisles and the western tower are still preserved until today. In the 15th century the assembly was surrounded by a polygonal fortification wall with outer bailey and six defence towers, which are not preserved.

Around 1500 a defence level was built above the western tower, but no military systems were foreseen for the church itself.

In 1862 the nave and the aisles were covered with a flat plastered ceiling and a lower roof was built above the nave.

The interior furnishing originates from the 18th century. The 1778 organ rests on the western masoned gallery. The 1795 altar was built in the workshop of the master Johannes Folbert in Sighișoara.



### CONTACT

The keys are in the city hall opposite the fortified church



## CINCȘOR • KLEINSCHENK • KISSINK

In the second half of the 13th century, a chapel erected in Cincșor was the core for building the actual church, which was completed in 1421. The church was fortified step by step in the 15th and 16th century, as testified by the timber frame structures. The chancel was reinforced with buttresses and widened along with the bell tower with a wooden parapet walk. In addition, the villagers built a fortification wall with 4 defence towers and an outer moat around the church. In the following centuries, the village faced difficult times. Among other things, it was burned down during an attack in 1599. The community flourished only after 1850, when not far away from the village a bridge was built for the first time on the river Olt.

### CONTACT

Groups are kindly asked to make an appointment with Mrs Carmen Schuster

Tel.: +40/744/373 090

The keys are with Mrs Iuliana Cseh

Tel.: +40/756/584 739







## CINCU • GROSS-SCHENK • NAGYSINK

From its very beginning the destiny of the Evangelic church in Cincu was to be a bastion of faith, both metaphorically and literally: the western tower was erected at the beginning of the 13th century, it was heightened and strengthened several times, gaining its current appearance after the works in the 18th century.

A large part of the two ring walls, which had bastions and defense towers, have been demolished. However, from all the fortified buildings two are still preserved: the so-called old town hall and a defensive storage building.

The interior nowadays has the appearance of a hall church, due to the heightening of the aisles to make room for installing the galleries. The wrought iron balustrade was added about a hundred years later. The interior furniture of the church shows an attractive mixture of styles: next to the chancel pews in the late



Gothic style there is the Renaissance pulpit, while the classicist organ dominates the Baroque font, epitaphs and pews of the guilds.

### CONTACT

The keys are with Mrs Brigitte Boghean  
 Tel.: +40/767/408 129  
 or Mr Constantin Boghean  
 Tel.: +40/784/451 853 or +40/268/244 112  
 Cincu nr. 423



## CISNĂDIE • HELTAU • NAGYDISZNÓD

Today the church still exhibits the basic characteristics of the three-aisle Romanesque basilica that originally had a six-level western tower. The ensemble was surrounded by a ring wall, which was fortified starting in 1430, when the Ottoman attacks occurred.

A second fortification wall was built, as well as several defence towers and a moat. The church itself was also strengthened: defence towers were built above the chancel and its apse and above the two side entrances. The western Romanesque portal is ornamented with typical interlace. The spire roof with corner towers was built as early as 1591. Especially valuable are the altars from other village churches, which are displayed inside. These were brought to Cisnădie for safety reasons.

### CONTACT

Parish Office Cisnădie  
Tel.: +40/269/564 597  
Str. Cetății nr.1





## CISNĂDIOARA • MICHELSEBG. • K.-DISZNÓD

The church on the hill, today part of the communal property, is one of the few unchanged testimonies of the Romanesque construction time in Transylvania. The small three-aisles basilica was probably built before 1223. The western funnel-shaped portal exhibits particularly beautiful stone masonry. The interior, which nowadays only contains a memorial dedicated to the soldiers fallen in the WWI, impresses by its contemplative style. From the former defence ensemble only rests of the ring wall and its towers are still preserved.



Equally remarkable is the village parish church, whose fortification system did not last until today, except for the western tower and its defence level. The single-nave Baroque church was built in 1764 on the foundations of a former Gothic building. The interior furniture, as the pews and the gallery, originates from different Baroque times and are ornamented with rural floral paintings.

### CONTACT

Church: The keys are with  
Mrs Marion Henning  
Tel.: +40/727/111 575  
Cisnădioara nr. 61

Fortress:  
The keys are with Mrs Carmen Kelber  
Tel.: +40/726/877 782



## CLOAȘTERF • KLOSDORF • MIKLÓSTELKE

After the old church was destroyed, a new construction was erected between 1521 and 1524 and finds itself in a well-preserved state today, as well as the polygonal ring wall strengthened by towers in each corner. The southern tower was replaced in 1819 with today's bell tower.

The aisle-less church with polygonal chancel was provided with defence level and machicolation between the buttresses from this construction phase.

The parapets of the 18th century three-side gallery inside the church are decorated with floral motives and paintings illustrating different fortified churches. The organ above the altar was installed in 1832 on the substructure of the original 1716 altar.

One of the oldest inscriptions from Transylvania can be found behind this altar: 1524 is the year when the construction works of the church were completed.



### CONTACT

The keys are with the Chercheș family  
 Tel.: +40/744/271 907 (Aurel)  
 and +40/741/733 475 (Elena)  
 Cloașterf nr. 99



## CODLEA • ZEIDEN • FEKETEHALOM

The bell tower dominates the fortified church in Codlea. Its walls reach a thickness of 5m after having undergone several construction phases. The church was built during the 13th century and was transformed into a Gothic single-nave church two centuries later.

The first Ottoman invasion convinced the villagers of the necessity of a good defensive system. Thus an 8m high and 2m thick defence wall equipped with embrasure and machicolation surrounded the church. Granaries were also constructed in its interior, and so not only the lives of the residents were protected, but also their goods.

The interior of the church is dominated by the painted panelled ceiling, which was constructed at the beginning of the 18th century and consists of 252 panels.

Also impressive is the 1783 organ, one of the most valuable instruments in Transylvania built



by the craftsman Prause of Silenzia and decorated by the artist Oelhan.

### CONTACT

Parish Office Codlea  
 Tel.: +40/787/698 452  
 Str. Lungă nr. 110  
 or Mrs Hedda Bardon  
 Tel.: +40/747/169 859  
 Str. Măgurii Nr. 52



## COPȘA MARE • GROSSKOPISCH • N.-KAPUS

On the eastern hill above the village an early Gothic basilica with tower was first erected.

Around 1510 the church was fortified, thus the old chancel was demolished and replaced by a high chancel with polygonal closure strengthened by a defence level built in stone.

Due to its height of almost 11 meters and its defence systems the chancel protected the ensemble against the slope. A wooden defence level was built on the tower.

The chancel still preserves its stellar vault and the fine tracery on the windows originating from the construction time of the church, but the nave was rebuilt in 1795 in Baroque style.

On the northern side of the chancel stands the two-leveled sacristy dated 1519. On its second level a chapel was set up. Especially valuable are the Renaissance portal of the sacristy and the Neoclassical altar.



### CONTACT

The keys are with Mr Sebastian Ghiuri  
Tel.: +40/733/262 089  
Copsa Mare nr. 219



## CRISTIAN • NEUSTADT • KERESZTÉNYFALVA

The bell tower is the only remainder of the former Gothic basilica, which was entirely demolished in 1839 and replaced by today's neoclassical hall church. A pointed spire and four corner turrets were built on the tower in 1803.

Its portal and the rose window originate from an earlier construction phase. Pairs of pillars that support the domical vaults segment the church's interior.

The altar and the pulpit were built at the same time as the church. The assembly is still surrounded by a double defence wall, which was constructed, enlarged and endowed with nine defence towers across more than three centuries. Only eight towers still stand today.

Another remarkable building in Cristian is the neoclassical parish house opposite to the church, as well as the community center from 1926/1927 featuring a curve roof, called „Zollinger roof“ after the name of its inventor.



### CONTACT

The keys are with the Homorozan family  
Tel.: +40/744/681 074  
Please call in advance



## CRISTIAN • GROSSAU • KERESZTÉNYSZIGET

The second largest community from the Sibiu Chair (former administrative unit) brought important changes to the initial Romanesque church: in the 14th century a polygonal chancel flanked by two side chapels was added and the master-builder Andreas Lapidica coordinated the rising of the side aisles and the substitution of the central nave's arcades by piers. A late Gothic vault was unfurled over the central nave. The Romanesque western tower was heightened through the annexation of a defence floor, which was later on replaced by the present tower roof. The double defense wall encloses a small outer ward, which was completed on the northern side with a forecourt around 1550. The impressive inner furnishing dates back to the 18th century and is dominated by the richly decorated Baroque altar from 1729. Cristian is one of the first three villages to be repopulated starting with 1756, after the plague had decimated the residents, through the colonization of protestants – Landlers – forcefully sent in from the Catholic Vienna.



### CONTACT

The keys are with Mrs Maria Mărășescu  
Tel.: +40/751/146 061





## CRIT • DEUTSCHKREUZ • SZ.-KERESZTÚR

The neo-classical hall church with chancel and western bell tower was built between 1810 and 1813, after the collapse of the initial construction, first mentioned in documents from 1270. But there is no information concerning the aspect of this former church. It is, though, supposed to have been represented in a drawing on one of the church's pews, dated 1793. The interior hosts the altar with organ gallery, the pulpit and the font, which were made partially at the same time with the construction itself, but also in 1822. Only the ring wall and four defensive towers are still preserved from the 15th century fortification system, while the fifth tower collapsed in 1925 and was never rebuilt. On the southern side, next to the former kennel, only the ruins of the old Saxon school still exist today.

### CONTACT

Open daily during the summer months

The keys are with Mr Dietmar Depner

Tel.: +40/740/597 493

Groups are kindly asked to call in advance





## CUND • REUSSDORF • KUND

On the western side of the 15th century hall church a bell tower was erected in 1804. The pilasters of the tower show late Baroque features. From the original fortification wall almost nothing survived to this day, but the fence surrounding the yard of the church marks the initial perimeter.

The chancel still preserves its original late Gothic ribbed vault, while the paneled ceiling of the hall was replaced early 20th century by a flat plastered ceiling. The most valuable piece of the interior furniture is the pre-reformation winged altar depicting the Passion of Christ. Today this altar is displayed in Sighișoara inside the Hill Church. In the chancel one can admire the late Gothic pews from 1532.

### CONTACT

The keys are at the Valea Verde Resort  
(Mr Jonas Schäfer)  
Tel.: +40/265/714 399





## CURCIU • KIRTSCH • KÜKÜLLŐKÖRÖS

The church in Curciu has remained almost unchanged since its construction in the beginning of the 15th century. The remarkable value of the three-aisle basilica with polygonal chancel lies in its outstanding stone masonry. In the chancel the well preserved mullioned windows with tracery can be admired as well as the typical Gothic windows in the tower. The sculptures ornamenting the portals, tower, windows, buttresses, as well as the capitals, keystones, sedilia and the door of the sacristy date back to around 1427.

At the beginning of the 19th century the side aisles were heightened, thus obtaining a cross section of a hall church. At the same time both the main nave and the side aisles were covered with a flat, stuccoed ceiling. The tower's defence level was demolished and replaced in 1913 by the present, with zinc sheet covered spire. Today the ring wall with the gate tower initially used as entrance, as well as a Gothic chapel integrated in this wall still stands as part of the fortified ensemble.



### CONTACT

The keys are with Mrs Dana Crișan  
Tel.: +40/269/257 361 and +40/742/077 290



## DACIA • STEIN • GARAT

Already in the 13th century, a towerless three-nave Romanesque pillar basilica stood in stone. In the 15th century, this church was surrounded by a six to eight meter high defensive wall in the shape of an irregular quadrilateral. It can be assumed that another defensive wall once stood between this wall and the church.

When the church was converted into a fortified church around 1500, the side aisles were removed and the arcade arches of the central nave and the upper aisles were bricked up. In addition, the choir and the nave were given a battlement and a defense floor. A few years later, a barrel vault with lunette caps was built over the nave, on which the date 1517 can be read. In 1845 the inhabitants of Dacia extended the church to the west and removed the battlement and the arches between the buttresses. Once there were towers in the four corners of the curtain wall, but in more recent times it was decided to remove the southwest tower to make room for the construction of a hall and



the school. A fifth tower, the bell tower, collapsed during the 1738 earthquake, but was rebuilt in 1763.

While digging for the foundations of the bell tower, an inscription stone and the remains of a Roman road were found.

### CONTACT

The keys are with Mr Michael Konnerth  
Tel.: +40/740/491 797, Dacia nr. 327



## DAIA (MS) • DENNDORF • SZÁSZDÁLYA

The completion of the first hall church in Daia occurred in 1447 according to its mentioning on the keystone in the chancel. The church had no tower at the time, which was only added in the western part during the fortification works in the beginning of the 16th century. Later it was dismantled until it reached the height of the nave. In the same fortification phase, a defense level was built above the chancel and the church was surrounded by a ring wall, strengthened by two fortified buildings. The western one is nowadays a ruin, but the eastern one still preserves a good image of the typical storage construction equipped with defensive systems.

In the 19th Century the defensive systems of the ensemble were dismantled step by step, but outside the fortification an impressive free-standing neo-classical campanile, considered to be one of the highest in the country was built between 1829 and 1834. The hall of the church was covered with a flat ceiling in 1884, but the chancel still preserves its late Gothic ripped



vault. After the ensemble was closed for regular church service, only the galleries and the pews remained inside.

### CONTACT

The keys are with Mr Uwe Hann  
in the former parish house  
Tel.: +40/722/551 746  
and with Mr Constantin Curchi  
Tel.: +40/756/477 612  
Haus Nr. 76



## DAIA (SB) • THALHEIM • DOLMÁNY

In the 13th century, a three-nave Romanesque towerless basilica was built in Daia. The enclosure wall, the round-arched arcades and the walled up west portal have been preserved.

Around 1500, the choir received its polygonal end and a groined vault with lunettes. The simple sacrament niche, the side aisles and the buttresses of the choir also date from this period. The Baroque altar is dated 1797, the central picture shows the Crucified with Mary and John.

The mechanical organ was built around 1800 by Johannes Hahn junior.

The church is surrounded by a simple circular wall with an oval floor plan.

### CONTACT

The keys are with Mr Johann Hopprich  
Tel.: +40/269/584 325  
Daia nr. 182





## DANEŞ • DUNESDORF • DÁNOS

The small tower-less late Gothic church in Daneş was built in 1506. The tower was much later erected in 1927, as well as its defence levels, probably as a sign of self-assertion towards the 1918 new Romanian state and as a symbol for the 800 years of Saxon history in Transylvania.

From the original defence wall only a few remains on the south side and a gate tower with a small watchtower are still preserved. The inner furniture dates back to different time periods: the baptismal font and the pulpit are Baroque, the altar is from 1878 and the organ from 1920.

The vault covering the church's hall was built in 1868.

### CONTACT

The keys are with Mr Paul Gerhard

Tel.: +40/745/935 611

Daneş nr. 459

and with Mr Erwin Seiler

Tel.: +40/265/761 721

Visitors are kindly asked to call in advance





## DÂRLOS • DURLES • DARLAC

The small aisle-less church without tower from the 15th century is almost entirely preserved. The chancel was rebuilt in 1500 and the ceiling of the nave dates back to a construction phase from the 19th century. Nothing from the initial defense wall has remained. The importance of the church is given by its mural paintings and constructive details. Painting remains can be still seen on the western funnel-shaped portal, which features a fine crafted profile. The chancel is richly decorated with figures sculptured in stone placed on the consoles of the ribs. Tracery, the portal of the sacristy, the tabernacle and the sedilia are particularly valuable as well.

Conservation works have been carried out in order to preserve the ample paintings in the chancel, representing biblical scenes. The mural paintings on the exterior walls of the chancel are a unique testimony of the past: depictions of the Passions of Christ resemble the mural paintings on the monasteries in Moldavia from the beginning of the 16th century.



### CONTACT

The keys are with Mr Ioan Pușcaș  
Tel.: +40/740/853 830  
Haus Nr. 271



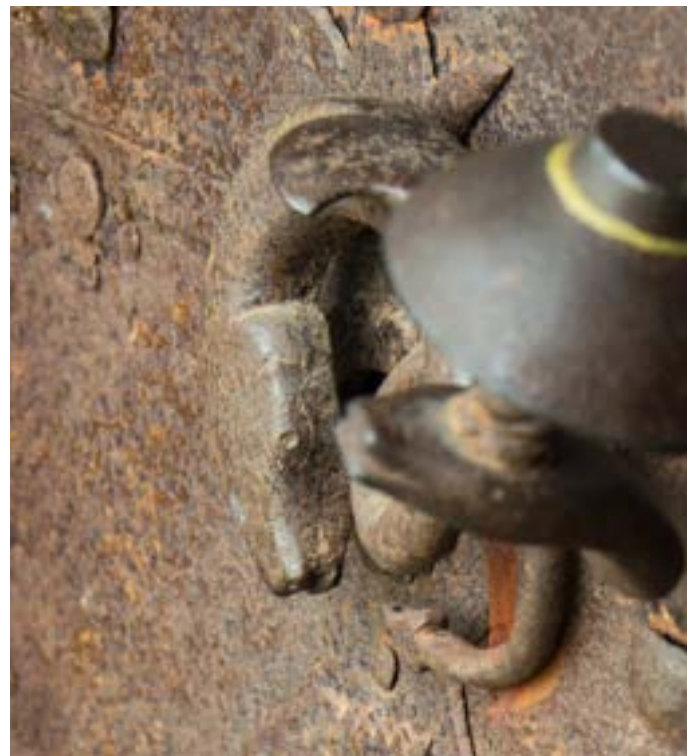


## DEALU FRUMOS • SCHÖNBNGB. • LESSES

The Romanesque three-aisles basilica originated from the 13th century and was re-shaped through fortification systems in 1500. On the original tower-less church a strong dungeon with defence level was built on the western side and the square chancel was strengthened with walls in such a manner, that it was possible to build another defensive tower there.

At the same time, the side aisles were heightened and the building became a hall church. The central nave and the aisles were covered with fine lierne ribbed vaults. In the course of this work the rectangular precincts wall with four corner towers were also built, possibly as a replacement for an older system.

The fortified buildings erected in the 16th and 17th century were used in part as accommodation. The ensemble was completed in 1914 by the construction of the community hall on the southern side. The pre-reformation crucifix above the triumphal arch was created in 1425.



### CONTACT

Ion Mincu University  
The keys are with Mr Martin Maurer  
Tel.: +40/749/519 312



## DEDRAD • DT.-ZEPLING • DEDRÁD

The old church of Dedrad was demolished in 1873, but had already been closed before because of the danger of collapse.

Michael Seyfried designed the hall church with bell tower and sacristy, built between 1876 and 1884. Its construction had to be interrupted in the meantime due to lack of money. The master builder was Johann Müller from Reghin. The church is illuminated by four large windows on the north and south walls. Under the windows are galleries, the organ gallery in the west is on two wooden pillars. A pointed triumphal arch separates the choir from the nave.

Bishop Georg Daniel Teutsch consecrated the church in 1884. The neo-Gothic altar with rich decoration shows Jesus walking on the sea in the central picture.

The organ made by the Wegenstein company in 1928 was destroyed during the Second World War.



### CONTACT

The keys are with Mr Johann Göttfert  
Tel.; +40/743/304 704  
Dedrad nr. 205



## DRĂUȘENI • DRAAS • HOMORÓDDARÓC

The Romanesque basilica with buttresses, western tower and chancel with apse was finished in the mid-13th century, thus replacing the former 12th century church. In the fortification phase of 1494 defence levels were built on the tower, nave and chancel. The chancel's walls were strengthened and heightened up to the nave's eaves and the side aisles were demolished. In the same period an 8m high defence wall with 5 bastions was erected and it is still preserved today. The Romanesque western portal is decorated with some of the most valuable stone carvings in Transylvania.

From the Romanesque construction time the twin blind-arcades, today functioning as windows, are still preserved as well as the walled up round clerestory windows. Ample restoration works have been carried out for several years now and have revealed frescoes on large areas. The valuable 1638 furniture was initially stored away because of the restoration works, but was later moved to a different church for safety reasons.



### CONTACT

The keys are with Mrs Ella Kosa  
Tel.: +40/724/456 899  
Drăușeni nr. 87



## DUPUŞ • TOBSDORF • TÁBLÁS

The construction of the small Dupuş hall church was probably finished in 1524 - at least this date is written on the west wall behind the organ. The church is dedicated to the patron Saint of the village, Saint Tobias. Above the hall and choir rises the battlement floor, covered by a solid hipped roof. A painted cornice can be seen at the base of the battlement floor. Access is via a stair tower with a spiral staircase in the northwest corner of the church.

After a fundamental renovation in 1741, further repair work followed in 1904/05 and in 1969 difficult consolidation work on the vault of the church was carried out. Originally, the church was surrounded by an approximately seven-meter high defensive wall, which the parishioners of Dupuş, however, partially removed in 1901 in order to build a new school. The remaining enclosure wall was thoroughly renovated in 1957. The bell tower, which collapsed in 1725, was replaced in 1902 by a smaller tower, which carries three pre-Reformatory bells. The middle



bell from 1491 has medallions with depictions of dragons and griffins. The pre-Reformation winged altar is dated 1522. The Baroque side parts are from the early 18th century.

### CONTACT

The keys are with the Mai family  
Tel.: +40/730/043 116  
Dupuş nr. 12



## FĂGĂRAȘ • FOGARASCH • FOGARAS

Before the present church was built between 1841 and 1843, there was a small, modest church on this site, from which the baroque pulpit lid and baptismal font are still preserved. In the foyer of the church, there are, among other things, three epitaphs and a statue of the Apostle Paul from the time before the church was built.

The construction of the new, classicistic hall church was financially considerably supported by Carl von Brukenthal (a grand-nephew of the Gubernator Samuel von Brukenthal), the „chief captain of the Făgăraș district“ at that time, whose gilded coat of arms adorns the choir stalls.

The organ was built in 1878 in the studio of the organ builder Wilhelm Hörbiger.

Since 1995 the pulpit and the Johannes-Prause organ of Felmer (both from the late 18th century) are in the Făgăraș church.



### CONTACT

Evangelic Parish Făgăraș  
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## FELDIOARA • MARIENBURG/B. • FÖLDEVÁR

The Evangelic church and the ruins of the Teutonic Knights' fortress, separated only by a ditch, are the pride of Feldioara. The 13th century Romanesque basilica with three aisles and a later added bell tower shows an interesting particularity, a vaulted gallery at the second level of the tower dedicated to the founder of the church. During the 18th century the tower is provided with a roof, constructed after the model of the Black Church in Braşov.

The interior of the church is covered with crossed vaults, which in the chancel are supported by half-column piers. Their capitals are decorated with vegetal, anthropomorphic and biblical motifs. From the pre-reformation altar only few parts were preserved and moved later to the Black Church. From the curtain wall only some remains still exist, while the boulder walls of the nearby Teutonic fortress still stand. The latter's defence walls were 4m thick and enforced with four towers. The remains of a chapel within the enclosure can still be seen today.



### CONTACT

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## FELMER • FELMERN • FELMÉR

Only the choir with its semi-circle apse and the central nave have remained from the original 13th century building located on a slope in the remote hills east of Făgăraș. Around the year 1500 the church was fortified for reasons of defence, the side naves were taken down and a defence floor was erected on the choir and middle nave. The church is surrounded by a ring wall which originally boasted three defence towers of which two still stand.

In 1795 the church received a tower on the west side and for this cause the ring wall was moved further westwards. The defence floor was taken down around 1800 and the central nave was vaulted with Bohemian caps that rest on sturdy wall structures. The today completely destroyed school was erected on the south side of the ring wall.

In the interior parts of the classicist features such as the pulpit and the altar without the altarpiece can still be found. The first oeuvre of



the organ builder J. Prause is the organ of Felmer from the year 1780 which was brought to the church in Făgăraș and can be visited there.

### CONTACT

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## FILITELNIC • FELLDORF • FÜLETELKE

In the 15th century a Gothic hall church with a bell tower and pointed windows was built. Over the centuries the building went through various repairs and modifications, among which is worthy to mention the renewal of the bell tower's roof in 1787 and full restoration of the church, of the surrounding wall, the bastion and the portal between 1580 and 1655. - The last repair took place in 1972, when the church and the bell tower were renovated and the fortification wall, the gate tower and the north tower were consolidated. Major damages to the church were already being reported in 1980 and since 1989 on the Sunday service is held in the parish house.

Every year the church showed more and more degradation. The roof of the chancel and then partially the roof of the nave became a ruin. But in 2010 the descendants of former inhabitants together with the Arcus Association in Târgu Mureş adopted the church and started to successfully repair it. Since 2012 the church has a new roof.



### CONTACT

ARCUS Association  
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## FIȘER • SCHWEISCHER • SÖVÉNYSÉG

The hall church erected in the 15th century was fortified at the beginning of the 16th century by surrounding the precincts with an oval wall with loopholes, five defence towers and with a later added outer bailey. In the same time two defence levels were built above the chancel, only to be demolished in the 19th century and replaced by a hipped roof. A bell tower with Baroque roof replaced the medieval gate tower in 1862.

Inside the church the organ built by Samuel Maetz in 1825 can be found, as well as the 16th century pews and font. The valuable late Gothic pre-Reformation altar, which was built in the 16th century, was brought to Saint John's Church in Sibiu.

In the 19th century the fast growing community required more space. Therefore, above the existing 17th century gallery, painted with floral typical regional patterns, another gallery was built. The later was then prolonged in the chancel, where another level was added under it.



### CONTACT

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## GÂRBOVA • URWEGEN • SZÁSZORBÓ

The castle was built in the 13th century to serve as refuge fort for the local noble family.

The rectangular fortification wall, its entrance tower and the donjon having residential function survived the centuries. Today the bells floor built in 1879 and covered with the distinctive pointed spire, flanked by four corner turrets stands over the vaulted lower floors of the tower.

The noble castle was later taken over by the community, which built the old school in the precincts.

Another important building is the Gothic parish church nearby, which was rebuilt in Baroque style after destruction and has a valuable Baroque altar.

It is also possible to visit the ruins of the originally fortified Romanesque church on the hill near the Evangelic cemetery.



### CONTACT

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## GHERDEAL • GÜRTELN • GERDÁLY

The church in Gherdeal, a small, secluded village in the valley of the Rohrbach River, is still surrounded by a well preserved defence wall with towers in all four corners. The southern tower was transformed mid 19th century into a gatehouse and served as a home for the castle guardian.

The initial medieval church in danger of collapse was completely demolished in 1850 and a new hall church with western tower was built in the contemporary style, as the simple composition of the tower's facade and the interior furnishing testify. Only the Baroque altar was saved from the old church and placed in the new one. The Baroque organ was built for the church in Cristian, but in 1842 it was brought and assembled here.

### CONTACT

The keys are with Mr Johann Ongerth  
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Gherdeal nr. 98





## GHIMBAV • WEIDENBACH • VIDOMBÁK

On the settlement founded in the 13th century by the Teutonic Order, the 15th century Gothic basilica evolved by altering the preceding Romanesque church. Later on it was fortified and surrounded by a curtain wall with five defence towers, an outer bailey, a moat, and the tower of the church was provided with arrow loops. After battle damages, the church was re-built in its original shape in 1658, but the vaults of the nave were added later in 1775. Remaining details of the Gothic period, besides the plan composition of the ground floor, are the Gothic cross rib vault of the chancel and the domical vault of the apse as well as the trefoil tracery windows. In the reconstruction phase the distinctive roof of the tower in form of a truncated pyramid with an open level for the bells was built.

The interior setting was created during the 18th and 19th century. Unique in Transylvania is the 1902 colourful floral and ornamental painting covering all walls and vaults.



### CONTACT

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## GUȘTERIȚA • HAMMERSDF • SZT.-ERZSÉBET

The church's architecture displays numerous characteristics of the Romanesque basilicas in the Sibiu area: a compact central nave, Gothic ribbed cross vaults at the side aisles, arcades with round arches resting on square pillars and arched windows at the clerestory, all dating back to the 13th century, same as the apsidal of the southern side aisle. The chancel was modified during the 15th century, when the pointed windows, the rib vault and a defence level were added. The defence wall was built in the same time and still features a small chapel on the eastern side. The penetrated barrel vault on transverse arches in the central nave was built in the 18th century.

The interior preserves the 18th/19th century pew and the paintings, which were restored in 1988.

### CONTACT

The keys are with  
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## HÄLCHIU • HELDSDORF • HÖLTÖVÉNY

In the 13th century, an early Gothic church was built in Hälchiu and consecrated to St. Andreas. A late Romanesque west portal has been preserved to this day. In the 15th century, a Gothic hall church was built instead. After an earthquake in 1802 it was replaced by a larger hall church, whereby the old foundation walls were reused in places. In 1894/95 the fortification was removed. The inner wall was nine and the outer wall six meters high. A drawing by Andreas Altomonte shows the fortified church in 1727 with an inner curtain wall and two fortification towers and the outer curtain wall with four towers.

Three bells from the church tower are made of sound steel and were consecrated in 1923. They replaced three older bells, which the Hungarian military had confiscated in 1916 for war purposes. The fourth bell dates from 1434 and is the oldest bell in the region. The double-wing altar was erected in 1528 and restored in 1975/76 by Gisela Richter from Braşov. The present organ from 1808 is by Johann Theiss in Râşnov, who



used parts of the organ destroyed in the earthquake. In 1839 the organ was rebuilt again.

### CONTACT

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## HAMBA • HAHNBACH • KAKASFALVA

Only the masonry of the tower of the hall church in Hamba originates from the Romanesque construction time. Most probably it was repaired after the destruction of the church in 1493 and it was strengthened with a wooden parapet walk. The church itself was not rebuilt, but surrounded by a ring wall.

A new construction erected in 1749 survived only until 1830, being replaced by the actual church.

The small neo-classical church of harmonious proportions stands empty today, as its inventory comprising the balconies, the pulpit and the pews has been moved to another location.

### CONTACT

Melikoleg Association

The keys are with Mr Wilhelm Tartler

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Hamba nr. 52





## HĂRMAN • HONIGBERG • SZ.-HERMÁNY

The three-aisles Romanesque basilica, already strengthened by a defence wall, was equipped with a bell tower on the western side in 1290. At the beginning of the 15th century, both the tower and the nave were adapted to the Gothic style and a second ring wall was erected. The first defence wall was heightened up to 12 m and strengthened by seven defensive towers and an outer bailey. A third wall, which did not survive to this today, surrounded the moat that was filled up in 1814. A parapet walk was built on the inside of the first defence wall, which is partially preserved today.

Remarkable are the granaries and the rooms attached to the southern side of the church. The western tower, the tallest in Țara Bârsei, was provided with a new spire in 1794. The inner furniture mostly dates back from the 18th century.

A pre-reformation chapel in the eastern tower is richly decorated with outstanding frescoes depicting the Last Judgement and the Punish-



ment of Sinners among others . The valuable mural painting requires restoration work.

### CONTACT

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## HERINA • MÖNCHSDORF • HARINA

A visit to Herina with its population of 500 and the Romanesque pillar basilica with three naves should be on every travel itinerary when in the region of Northern Transylvania. The Evangelic Lutheran church has two western towers and a western gallery and was built in the beginning of the 13th century and renovated only a few years ago. It stands solitary on a small hill slope and is a popular photo motive due to its situation and architecture.

The beautiful region of “Năsăud County” became historically significant thanks to its favorable geographic situation, the great condition of the soil, its lush forests and its abundance in natural mineral deposits and was always a highly desired terrain. Traces of the merchants and guilds who settled here are still visible today. - Visitors will find a number of touristic attractions in the area: especially recommended are trips to the numerous National Parks in the region and the participation in the very intensively and frequently



celebrated traditional festivals where guests are always welcome.

### CONTACT

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Herina nr. 85



## HETIUR • MARIENBURG/SCH. • HÉTÚR

Inside the small village a hall church was erected in the 15th century, its chancel being closed by a polygonal construction. A tower with defence level and spire was built on the western side of the today standing Gothic church.

As suggested by the buttresses, the interior of the church was most probably covered with vaults, which were later on replaced by a flat ceiling. Only ruins are preserved from the defence wall.

Inside the church the valuable works of two well known masters from Sighișoara can be admired: an altar built in 1789 by Johannes Folberth, and above it an organ with late Baroque prospectus that Samuel Binder built in 1850.



### CONTACT

The keys are with Mrs Maria Theiss  
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Hetiur nr. 147



## HOMOROD • HAMRUDEN • HOMORÓD

One of the mightiest defence towers in Transylvania features eight levels and is constructed above the initial chancel of the Romanesque basilica built in Homorod during the 13th century. The tower itself was built in 1550 in the church's fortification phase, when the chancel was detached from the nave and the smaller western tower continuing the side aisle was flanked by two side constructions.

Two defence walls protected the assembly: while the outer exterior had no towers, but an outer bailey, four corner towers strengthened the inner wall.

In 1784, under the pressure of a constantly growing community, the church had to be enlarged by building a chancel on the southern side. After the fire in 1792 the church received its valuable late Baroque furniture, the painted flat ceiling, the ornamented galleries and a richly decorated organ altar. The mural painting fragments which are preserved in the chancel



present depictions dating back to different eras, varying from 1270 to the late Middle Ages.

### CONTACT

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## HOSMAN • HOLZMENGEN • HOLCMÁNY

From the first basilica built in the 13th century the western portal is preserved – a most valuable testimony of the Romanesque architectural sculpture in Transylvania – as well as the pillars and arcades that once used to separate the central nave and the aisles. Looking carefully above the western portal, one may observe an immured sculpture representing two figures. Some argue that it is a depiction of the Baptism of Jesus, while others say it represents Adam and Eve. The observer is thus invited to solve this mystery by himself.

Around the year 1500 the bell tower was heightened and provided with a wooden battlement walk on consoles and the church's side aisles were demolished. The two defence walls of the assembly, which were built during the 15th century, are connected by the gate tower and still exhibit remains of the former battlement walk and embrasures, vestiges of a rough past.



### CONTACT

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## IACOBENI • JAKOBSDF./A. • JAKABFALVA

In the 14th century, the Gothic hall church dedicated to St. James was built.

At the end of the 15th century, a late Gothic net vault was added to the hall. The extension to a fortified church took place around 1500, when the massive tower with a wooden battlement corridor was added to the west. Above the sacristy, the church has another five-story fortified tower. Above the church there is a cantilevered fortified level resting on 15 arches.

In the 1990s, the church of Iacobeni was temporarily given to another religious community for use. During this time, construction measures were carried out, especially in the interior, which did not comply with the preservation order.

From the original inventory, however, among other things an epitaph of the pastor Michael Schullerus (1748) and the paneling of the galleries with paintings from the 18th century are still preserved.



### CONTACT

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## IDECIUD.JOS • NIEDEREIDISCH • A.-IDECS

A fire destroyed the old church of Ideciu de Jos in 1868. Reconstruction began in 1870, but open-air services were still being held until 1874. The congregation sat in a large circle on rafters, which were later to support the tower roof. The newly built hall church does not show any particular stylistic features: The room is divided into three vaulted bays separated by belted arches, the choir has a lunette vault and between the choir and the nave there is a round triumphal arch. The bell tower in the west collapsed in 1875 shortly before its completion because the old foundations could not support the heavy new building. In the tower, which was then completely rebuilt, there are two already very old bells hanging today, one with the inscription „Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum“ (from 1597), the other with the inscription „Anno Domini 1664“.



During the time of totalitarianism, the Reformed, Catholics, Orthodox and Protestants all used the church - a kind of ecumenism out of necessity.

### CONTACT

The keys are with Mrs Rosalia Kasper  
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## IDECIU D.S. • OBEREIDISCH • FELSŐIDECS

In the 15th century, a small Gothic hall church was built in Ideciu de Sus, consisting of a hall and a rectangular closed choir. The church received its present appearance with a flat, slightly rounded wooden ceiling in 1861. Its windows are large, wide and round closed. In the north and west there are wooden porches, the west portal has a pointed arch. In front of the southern entrance, there is a vestibule and a wide, round triumphal arch connects the choir and the nave. In 1842, a bell tower was added to the complex at some distance. It is equipped with large sound arcades and oval windows. On a stone slab on the west wall of the tower is the following inscription: „German loyalty and German diligence; Build to God in praise and glory; This tower - grandsons hear; Remains worthy of German ancestors. 1842 and 43“.

### CONTACT

The keys are with Mrs Gerda Lassel  
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Ideciu de Sus nr. 129





## IGHIŞUNOU • EIBESDORF • SZ.-IVÁNFALVA

The fortified church in Ighişu Nou was built in the 14th/15th century as a hall tower-less Gothic church with narrow chancel. The chancel was heightened in the late 15th century with an additional defence level.

A tower was constructed in the front hall, with the staircase built in the thickness of its walls. The small octagonal stair tower on the northern side has been built only later. Similar to many churches in the Mediaş area, this one also preserves some very valuable stone masonry: blooming roses on the impost of the tracery on the chancel windows and a very rich ornamentation on the profiled western portal. The massive western tower still maintains its original hip roof and the wooden defence level.

The church is surrounded by a complete defence wall with the remains of a fortified granary on the north side, as well as a horseshoe-shaped bastion on the southern side, which closes the narrow outer bailey.



### CONTACT

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## JIBERT • SEIBURG • ZSIBERK

First mentioned in documents in 1289 as „villa Syberg“, Jibert built a Romanesque hall church with a west tower with a round-arched portal, remarkable stonemasonry work on corbels in the choir and round-arched windows in the 13th century. The bell tower was extended to a massive defense tower around 1450. After the church had already undergone major reconstruction in the 17th century, the west tower was demolished first in 1859 and in the following years the entire building was finally demolished.

The laying of the foundation stone for the new church took place in 1868. During his visitation of the Rupea church district, Bishop Georg Daniel Teutsch reported in 1871 that the parish of Jibert was building „a new church in the pointed arch style, as it can be built here and now“. 15 years after the start of construction, the church was able to be consecrated. It is a spacious church with Classicistic interior. The Maywald organ originally comes from the



old church (1841/1850), but was rebuilt and extended for the new church by Joseph Nagy in the late 1870s.

### CONTACT

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## JIDVEI • SEIDEN • ZSIDVE

The Gothic church with doubled defence wall and three towers built on noble's land in the 15th century was completely transformed four centuries later, when the defence level of the gate tower was replaced by a spire.

The sail vaults that cover the interior of the church are supported by the walls on the southern side and by pilasters on the northern side. Between the pilasters basket arches were built to support the balcony covered with sail vaults.

The organ built in 1804 by Samuel Maetz can be found on the western balcony. The neoclassical pulpit, the 1801 font and the Gothic tabernacle complete the valuable interior furnishing.

### CONTACT

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## LIVEZILE • JAAD • JÁD

In the 15th century, the Gothic hall church with west tower was built in Livezile and consecrated to St. Stephen. Its western portal has a vault consisting of three bars and three grooves and is closed by pointed arches. Three pointed arches connect the first floor of the tower with the church interior. While the northern portal is made of ashlar and has pointed arch forms, the southern entrance has a profile consisting of an angular bar and a groove. The new vaulting of the nave by barrel vaults with walling arches was carried out around 1800. The windows were enlarged and the entrances were fitted with porches. The galleries on the round columns were built in 1831, the present belfry in 1860. The classicist altar from 1876 shows Jesus in Gethsemane in the main picture and is surrounded by Corinthian columns, vases and a pediment decorated with leaves.

### CONTACT

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## LOGIG • LUDWIGSDORF • SZÁSZLUDVÉG

In the years 1912 and 1913 a small hall church with Neo-Romanesque elements was built in Logig. Before that, the vault of the old larger church had collapsed due to a landslide. The bell house and the curtain wall were removed even earlier because of dilapidation. The new church has a panelled ceiling, a western gallery, a sacristy located in the north, a circular choir and a low western tower. The latter serves as a staircase to the galleries and leads over two floors to the belfries. The choir as well as the nave are illuminated by windows arranged in pairs. A bell from 1880 was taken over from the old, collapsed church, but it was recast in 1912. The new church was consecrated by Bishop Friedrich Teutsch in 1914. The organ was made by Samuel Binder in 1912, the altar in 1913. The main picture shows the crucifixion.

### KONTAKT

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## LOVNIC • LEBLANG • LEMNEK

In 1883/84 the old church of Lovnic, built in 1507, was demolished along with its simple curtain wall, as were the two defense towers in the northwest and northeast.

When this church was demolished, an old wall chronicle in German language from the period 1453 to 1542 was discovered. The foundation stone for the new church was laid in 1884. It was completed in 1886 under the supervision of the master builders Johann and Karl Letz from Sighișoara. It is a spacious, light hall church with a 47-meter-high bell tower to the west.

The old bell tower, also demolished in 1884, stood southeast of the church and was also the gate tower.

### CONTACT

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Lovnic nr. 31

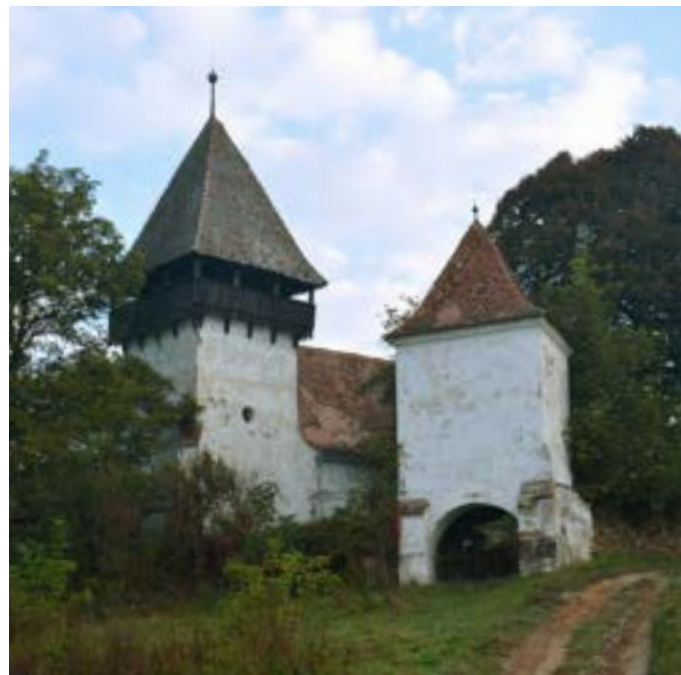




## MĂGHERUȘ • MANIERSCH • MAGYARÓS

On the valley slope, halfway up the hill above the village, stands the simple hall church of Magheruș. Free of certain stylistic features, it was probably built in the 16th century. The bell tower is made of massive stone masonry and is significantly older than the church. This assumption is supported by the narrow, long firing slits, which date back to before the appearance of firearms. From the third floor the tower is made of brick masonry, the fifth floor forms the open battlement on hanging trestles. The defense wall made of flat sandstone slabs is between three and four meters high. The gate tower probably also dates from the 16th century and was renovated in 1725 and 1814. The gate of the defense wall is open today and is overgrown by vegetation. The door to the church hangs diagonally in the hinges, windows are splintered and the plaster is crumbling.

The altar is a raw stone block, over the back of which a remarkable altarpiece rises. Remarkable not for its pictorial art, but for its minimalist



Protestant simplicity. The organ from 1912 was sold to Târgu Secuiesc in 1988.

### CONTACT

The keys are with Paul and Paula Chisiu, farm behind the fortified church



## MĂIERUȘ • NUSSBACH • SZÁSZMAGYARÓS

In the 14th and 15th century, the people of Maieruș built a Gothic hall church with an adjacent bell tower. When the tower was raised to twelve meters in 1475, they walled up its arcades. Also still in the 15th century, they built a six to eight meter high defensive wall.

Today only remains of it can be seen, because it was largely demolished at the end of the 19th century for the purpose of building a school.

In 1573 the church was destroyed by fire and only repaired in a makeshift manner.

Between 1791 and 1793 the old choir was torn down and the hall, which was given a flat ceiling, was extended to the east. The latter was given a plaster ceiling with simple stucco ornamentation in 1900. In addition, wooden galleries were added to the north and west walls during the renovation work from 1791 to 1793, which was equivalent to a new building. The bell tower was raised one last time in 1842.



### CONTACT

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 Maieruș nr. 10



## MĂLÂNCRAV • MALMKROG • ALMAKERÉK

The Romanesque basilica built in the 14th century with three nave, polygonal chancel and west tower served as Maria's sanctuary until the Reformation. From the fortification system built in the 15th/16th centuries only the defence level on the tower and the ruins of the fortification wall are still preserved.

The defence levels above the nave and chancel were destroyed in a fire and dismantled in the 19th century. Today the church shows untypical non-plastered stone wall, as result of the restoration of 1913 that followed the tradition of the 19th century. In addition to the significant frescoes, the church shows many excellent carvings, as the tracery of the windows, the western portal and other sculptural details.

The interior of the church shelters one of the oldest Gothic winged altar, having the Mother of God as the central motif, and a late Gothic pew with carvings, coming from the workshop of Johann Reychmut.



### CONTACT

The keys are in the parish house directly next to the fortified church with  
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 with the Linzing family  
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## MARPOD • MARPOD • MÁRPOD

Like most churches in the Hârtibaciu Valley, the parish church of Marpod has its origin in a three-nave basilica. From this first church a Romanesque capitula has been preserved, which today is built into the first southern pillar of the church.

In 1494 and 1504, Marpod received support from the treasury of the Sibiu District of the Seven Chairs for construction works on the tower. From this period, parts of the side walls of the church hall and remains of the church castle are preserved. Between 1785 and 1798, the church of Marpod got its present appearance. The church is surrounded by a quadrangular fortified wall, in the corners of which four towers originally stood. The towers in the northeast and southeast are still preserved. The old town hall was added to the southern wall.

The three-part altar contains a significant central image, painted by Hans Hermann from Sibiu in 1926, flanked by two statues of Apos-



tles. The organ with Baroque prospect was built in 1762 by Johannes Hahn, repaired in 1817 by Samuel Maetz and restored in 1985.

### CONTACT

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Marpod nr. 314  
Please call in advance



## MEDIAȘ • MEDIASCH • MEDGYES

Among the town cathedrals of Transylvania, Mediaș stands out due to the fact that not only the church, but also the whole castle complex are entirely preserved. Today's appearance of the church dedicated to St. Margaret traces back to two preceding buildings, which had to undergo many alterations until 1482. The western tower on the other hand reached its full height only in the middle of the 16th century.

The interior of the church has an asymmetrical cross section, being a combination of basilica and hall church. By keeping the low height of the northern aisle, a series of outstanding medieval wall paintings were preserved on the wall of the nave above. The winged altar of 1485 is a masterpiece of the pre-reformation age. Furthermore there is a collection of important altars transferred from abandoned or endangered churches on display.

Inside the ring wall with its five towers the ensemble of Old Town Hall, school and parish



house is cuddling around the church. In the south tower St. Mary's chapel shows its well preserved pre-reformation frescoes.

education and administration. Even today the buildings of church, school and parish house serve their original functions.

The inner ward depicts the development of the civic life in a Saxon town shaped over centuries, featuring the elements of church and defence,

**CONTACT**  
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## MERCHEAȘA • STREITFORT • MIRKVÁSÁR

Of the Romanesque basilica from the 13th century, the nave and the square of the choir are preserved. In the 15th century, when the side aisles were removed and the arcades were bricked up, the basilica changed into a hall church. In addition, entrance halls were added on the north and south sides in more recent times. The church was once surrounded by a six- to seven-meter high defensive wall from the first half of the 16th century in the form of an irregular quadrilateral with towers in each corner.

Parts of the west side of the wall were already demolished around 1800 to build a town hall. A century later, the remains of the western defense wall and the southwest tower were also taken down to build a school building. The northeast tower and the gate were also demolished, leaving only the southeast tower. The north-west tower, which was converted into a keep, later collapsed; between 1848 and 1858 it was replaced by a bell tower. The bell from 1570 is a donation of the mayor of Mauritius Lud-



wigs from Rupea. Two wooden sculptures from pre-Reformation times have been preserved in Mercheasa: a Madonna with remarkable drapery from the first half of the 15th century and a large crucifix from the transition period from Gothic to Renaissance. The organ was erected in 1788 by Johannes Prause and in 1887 W. Hörbinger expanded it to ten stops.

### CONTACT

The keys are with Mr Andreas Walter  
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## MERGHINDEAL • MERGELN • MORGONDA

The Romanesque basilica from the 13th century has been largely preserved, as is testified by the connection between nave and side aisles. Two centuries later, during the fortification phase, a tower with later demolished parapet walk was erected above the chancel.

The defence level of the western tower and its timber frame parapet walk is still preserved. This type of church with two towers is also found in the neighboring village of Dealu Frumos.

The square ring wall with two defense towers had loopholes and parapet walks. From the last one only the insertion holes of the beams are still preserved. The gate tower was once home of the castle guardian.

### CONTACT

The keys are with Mr Marius Subțirel  
Merghindeal nr. 218





## MEȘENDORF • MESCHENDORF • MESE

The early Gothic hall church built in the 14th century with western tower and polygonal chancel was prepared for defence in 1495. The tower was fortified with a wooden defence level, as well as the nave and the chancel.

While the vaults of the church were removed because of the risk to collapse during the renovation work in the early 19th century, the tower has been preserved in its medieval form.

The fortification wall was protected with three defence towers, of which two are still preserved and an outer bailey was built in the 16th century in the south-western part. A part of this wall was demolished in 1888, allowing a school to be built in that space.

The three sides wooden gallery, decorated with Baroque paintings and the winged altar from 1693 above which the 1914 organ is installed, dominates the interior.



### CONTACT

The keys are with Mrs Doina Scoica  
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Meșendorf nr. 102



## METIŞ • MARTINSDORF • MÁRTONFALVA

The initial medieval church in Metiş was demolished in the 19th century and replaced by a neo Gothic building, one of the so-called Gustav-Adolf-churches. The association Gustav Adolf is the oldest Evangelic relief organization and made donations for building new churches in the Diaspora in the 19th century.

Only the western tower built in the 14th century was preserved from the first construction. The ring wall had three defence towers and an outer bailey, but only the northern tower with its timber frame parapet walk still stands today.

Later the parish house was built next to it. On the exterior of one of the 14th-century bells in Metiş the Gothic majuscules are still visible.

### CONTACT

The keys are with Mrs Johanna Hartmann  
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Metiş nr. 11





## MIERCUREA SB. • REUSSMKT. • SZERDAHELY

The Romanesque pier basilica built around 1260 was changed to a hall church starting in 1496 when the side aisles were heightened.

From the initial building only the walls and the tower remained, which has been integrated into the roof. In the attic of the side aisles the round Romanesque clerestory windows are still preserved, after being covered in 1783 by the construction of the nave's vault. During this period the chancel was enlarged and the interior decorated with Tuscan columns on the triumphal arch and next to the walls.

The interior furnishing date back to the 18th century. The defence wall with gate tower was built between the 13th and the 15th century. Almost its whole interior side is built with massive two-level rooms and granaries, and behind them the battlement walk. The cells were provided with a protruded pitched roof, for the protection of the villager's grain chests, which are still exhibited today.



### CONTACT

The keys are with the Nicoara family in the castle keepers house, str. Ilie Macelaru Nr. 25  
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## MOARDĂȘ • MARDISCH • MARDOS

The church in Moardăș was built in the 15th century as a Gothic hall church. The sculptures in the chancel are most valuable.

The vault ribbing rests on richly and very fine decorated consoles. Moreover, the beautiful traceries of the three Gothic windows add more value to the chancel. They have been repaired in stages since the year 2010.

These works are part of a project for preserving the fortified church, which started in 2008 on the initiative of the Fortified Churches Foundation (former Coordination Office) involving various partners. The repairs have been carried out especially on roof, walls and facades. The aim of this project is to prepare the church for further usage, and to organize different activities inside.

### CONTACT

The keys are with Mr Alexandru Stanila  
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## MORUȚ • MORITZDORF • ARANYOSMÓRIC

On a hill in the western part of the village, first mentioned in documents in 1291 as „terra Mauruch“, there is a small sacred ensemble that includes the ruins of the church and the new prayer room (19th century). The striking bell tower was originally the southwest tower of a Gothic hall church dedicated to St. Mauritius. Above the wooden battlement of the tower there is a pyramid roof made of sheet metal, which was repaired in 2019. The Moruț bells date from 1928 and 1929 and were made in Sibiu. After the collapse of the church nave, the congregation was able to build a prayer room with the support of the Gustav Adolf Society in 1886, where services have been celebrated since then. The altarpiece and the baptismal font (1883) of this hall were brought to Moruț in the 1960s from the parish of Sigmir, located west of Bistrița.

### CONTACT

The keys are with Mrs Coruț  
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## MOȘNA • MESCHEN • MUZSNA

From the first church built in the 14th century the western portal is preserved, as well as stones used to build the eastern pairs of pillars in the hall church from 15th century. The construction of the new church, whose size and architecture are testimony of the importance of the settlement, was accompanied by extensive measures to fortify the assembly: a defence level was added to the chancel, the northern and southern entrances were strengthened by towers provided with loop holes. A parapet walk on arches was built on the curtain wall, as well as several defence towers and an outer bailey, which is divided in two parts and protected by a small watchtower. - The interior of the church impresses due to its dimensions and excellent sculptures, as well as the Gothic lierne vault on pairs of stone pillars.

### CONTACT

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Moșna nr. 530





## MOTIȘ • MORTESDORF • MARTONTELKE

The Gothic hall church was built in the 14th century. Today the hall has a flat roof and the choir has preserved a Gothic vault with a groin vault. The ogival triumphal arch is non-profiled. In the 15th century, the church was rebuilt with a polygonal wall and reinforced by pre-built towers, three of which have survived. In the east tower the year 1648 can be read. Between 1832 and 1835, a fortification tower was converted into a bell tower by adding storeys. Parts of the circular wall were demolished in 1875 in favour of the school building. The preserved ring wall still reaches a height of three to four metres inside the castle courtyard. Compared to the neighbouring fortified churches in Valea Viilor or Moșna, the one in Motiș is modest.

Inside the church, in the second half of the 19th century, a gallery was installed on three sides of the church hall. A second gallery was erected on the north side. Before that, the hall was extended to the west in the first half of the 17th century. A sacramental niche has been preserved



in the choir. The nave and choir have separate roof trusses. The flat saddle roof of the church has a beautiful pointed gable in the west, which boasts the year 1718.

### CONTACT

Asociația Arca de la Motiș  
The keys are with Mrs Nina Laza  
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## MOVILE • HUNDERTBÜCHELN • SZ.-HALOM

On a hill in the center of the village of Movile, there is a strong fortified church whose foundation stone was laid in the middle of the 13th century. Only the western tower and the walls of the church's nave have been preserved from the former Romanesque construction.

The church was fortified around the year 1500 in late Gothic style. Two fortification walls strengthened by several defence towers surrounded the ensemble.

During the 19th century, under the pressure of an ever-growing community, the interior space of the church had to be enlarged by adding a gallery built on three sides.



### CONTACT

The keys are with Mrs Doina Atudorei  
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 Movile nr. 213



## NADEȘ • NADESCH • SZÁSZNÁDAS

A complaint to the Pope in 1309 casually mentions that the church of Nadeș is dedicated to St. Martin. In the second half of the 15th century, the church underwent major reconstruction. The nave was demolished around 1850 and a Neo-Classical new building was erected on this site by Samuel Teutsch until 1853, whose vaulting breaks through the eastern side of the defensive wall. According to the ground plan, the embrasures and the peaks, the curtain wall was built in the 15th century. At one time, five defense towers rose above the defense wall - until the parishioners of Nadeș demolished two of them in 1880. The bell tower on the west side has Romanesque features. In addition, a round vault on the north side of the tower, which has a simple cornice inside, indicates the existence of a Romanesque basilica on this site.

In the tower a small bell is preserved; it was cast in 1470 and bears the inscription „helf got maria berot“. It is the first known German inscription on a bell in Transylvania. On the evening of June



29, 2017, seven beams fell from the church ceiling above the western gallery and damaged the organ below to a large extent. The cause of the collapse was the roof, which had been leaking for many years, and consequently the rain, which fell at this very spot in the western part of the nave. Dry rot and woodworms spread undetected for a long period of time.

### CONTACT

The keys are with Mrs Katharina Eiwien  
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## NEMŞA • NIEMESCH • NEMES

In the late 14th century, the people of Nemşa built a Gothic hall church with a nave and choir in the west of the community. According to a record, at the beginning of the 19th century it was still written on the old parish pew that the church was consecrated on the last Sunday in Advent of the year 1400.

In 1733, the vaults in the nave, supported by two pillars, were removed; at the end of the century, the nave was vaulted again. The pilasters on the sidewalls carry strap arches that support the sail vault with lunettes.

Major repairs to the church were last carried out in 1954. In 1920, six rectangular areas with frescoes were uncovered in the choir; the Gothic minuscule indicates that the church was built in the 15th century. The six pictures depict Saints Catherine and Dorothea, Paul and Peter, as well as Jesus' capture and Jesus as Man of Sorrows. The Renaissance altar was created around 1520. The organ purchased in



1745 was sold to the parish of Zlagna in 1883. In the same year a small organ was made by Wilhelm Hörbiger from Sibiu. The large bell from the 15th century bears the inscription „O rex gloriae veni cum pace“ - „O, King of glory, bring peace!“

### CONTACT

The keys are with Mrs Katharina Gärtner  
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Nemşa nr. 59



## NETUȘ • NEITHAUSEN • NETUS

Documented for the first time in 1448, the Gothic hall church was erected without a tower.

During the fortification works in 1500, a mighty defence tower was built above the chancel and a second one on the western side. The chancel was encased with a 2 m thick wall, which separated it from the nave. The access from the nave went through a portal secured with portcullis. The church was surrounded by a wall protected by a gate tower, but only fragments are still preserved. The gate tower was later converted into a dwelling for the castle guardian.

In the 19th century the western tower of the church was replaced by a polygonal annex for the organ loft. On the eastern wall one can admire a rare example of pulpit altar, masterpiece built in 1770 by Johann Folbarth, sculptor and painter from Sighișoara. In the walled-up chancel, the Gothic vaults, the tabernacle, the sacristy portal and frescoes fragments are still preserved.



### CONTACT

The keys are with Mrs Irina Drăgan  
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Netuș nr. 126





## NOCRICH • LESCHKIRCH • ÚJEGYHÁZ

The 13th century Romanesque basilica was demolished at the beginning of the 19th century, after a new church had been built in the neighbouring precinct in the same time. Disregarding the canonical orientation, the construction was built on the NS direction, with the chancel northward and the bell tower southward.

The fortification, which was constructed in the 15th century around the old church, was enforced by five defence towers and had an outer bailey.

End of the 18th century the number of towers raised to seven, but only for a short time: just few years later a big part of the wall was demolished and the resulting material was used for the construction of several administrative buildings.

The interior furnishing of the church boasts a unitary neoclassical style. The original lining of the galleries is still preserved and it has the form of a shirred curtain.



### CONTACT

The keys are with the Scouts Association in the parish house beside the fortified church.

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## NOIȘTAT • NEUSTADT B. A. • ÚJVÁROS

In the village on the Hârtibaciu River, which was first mentioned in a document in 1355, a Gothic church was built in the 15th century, and later extended to become a fortified church. Of this ensemble, the stone church tower and the remains of the old curtain wall in the south are still preserved.

Below the cornice ledges, the openings for the wooden beams of the former battlement floor are still clearly visible on the tower.

After the removal of the fortifications and the nave in the 19th century, a new church with a semicircular apse was built in the east.

The Baroque altar (1792) is from the workshop of Johann Folberth from Sighișoara.

The organ, which is also Baroque, was built by Samuel Maetz and was reworked, modernized and equipped with a Classicist facade by Carl Leopold Wegenstein in 1926.



### CONTACT

The keys are with Mr Gabi Marin  
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Mrs Anca Marioara, Tel.: +40/763/281 128



## ORĂȘTIE • BROOS • SZÁSZVÁROS

The ring wall of the fortified church in Orăștie has an almost rectangular shape and was strengthened to the corners and at center of all lines with several towers, some of which have been preserved to this day. In the precincts two protestant churches stand side by side: the southern one, used nowadays by the Hungarian reformed congregation was built in the 14th century as a Romanesque basilica, later transformed into a Gothic basilica. A tower was built in 1400, about the same time as the chancel.

Between 1820-1823 the Evangelic congregation of Orăștie built a new church for their community. After 1839, when the common bell tower collapsed, each community built from the ruins one of their own.

### CONTACT

The keys are in the Parish Office Orăștie  
Tel: +40/254/241 961, Rev. Nick Fernolendt  
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## ORMENIŞ • IRMESCH • SZÁSZÖRMÉNYES

The village of Ormeniş was first mentioned in documents in the year 1319. It is part of the so-called “Kokelburger Komitat”, a kind of province or administrative area. Ormeniş belongs to a group of 13 villages from the region that made efforts to win a trial against their landlords in the 18th and 19th century as they felt their traditional freedom and rights were not being respected. The hall church was erected in the 16th century, boasts a polygonal choir, and has galleries on three sides which are supported by wooden pillars. The Baroque altar dating back to 1720 is subdivided by massive Corinthian pillars and shows a scene from the Last Supper on the predella and a scene from the Entombment of Christ on the top. The center of the middle part displays a picture of the Crucifixion with Maria, Maria Magdalena and John while the Saints Peter and Paul are shown on the left and right to complete the altar. The even older baptismal (1703) is made of glazed clay and has the form of a chalice. The organ with its 6 + 2 organ stops were brought to Or-



meniş in 1875. In the year 1937 the church was renovated. The almost oval ring walls and the bell tower with its wall-walk were most probably erected in the 17th century.

In 2017, inscriptions and wall paintings were discovered during security work carried out by the Fortified Churches Foundation.

### CONTACT

The keys are with Mr Liebhardt Maurer  
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Ormeniş Nr. 12



## PELIȘOR • MAGAREI • MAGARÉ

The small towerless one-nave hall church in Pelisoar was built in the 15th century and has remained almost unchanged until today. Only the nave was provided with a new stuccoed flat ceiling in the 19th century.

In 1500 a polygonal curtain wall was built and endowed with four defensive towers, of which only the impressive gate tower with battlement walk survived the centuries.

The assembly was strengthened on its western hillside with another wall with outer bailey built in 1600. The construction is still more than 10m high and preserves several defensive systems such as loopholes and embrasures.

The neoclassical white-golden altar consecrated in 1832 dominates the interior. The late Baroque organ however was moved to the evangelical church in Bucharest after restoration.



### CONTACT

P.A.T.R.U. Association

Mrs. Ligia Pop

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## PETREȘTI • PETERSDORF • PÉTERFALVA

During the 13th century a Romanesque basilica was built on a hill outside the village, but only the ruin of the bell tower covered in greenery and the remains of the surrounding boulder wall that was probably built already end of 13th – beginning of the 14th century are still preserved. On the southern side the ruins of a former bastion can still be identified.

The rest of the church was demolished in 1805, the resulting material being used to erect a new building inside the village. The neoclassical hall church is covered with penetrated barrel vault and has a bell tower on the western side. The neoclassical altar was built in 1877 by Fritz Reuschel from Sebeș and the Rieger company built the organ in 1895.

### CONTACT

The keys are with Mrs Annemarie Bacilă Dörr  
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please call 2-3 days in advance





## PREJMER • TARTLAU • PRÁZSMÁR

Due to its strategic location, the fortified church of Prejmer was particularly strengthened. The building of the church has been started by the Teutonic Knights in 1218 and continued by the Cistercians after their expulsion. The floor plan in the shape of Greek cross was modified between 1512-1515 by adding two unequal side aisles and by extending the main nave. Above the crossing a high bell tower was erected in 1461.

The church itself was never fortified, but protected by a surrounding 14 m high wall, strengthened by five towers, a kennel and a moat. A special feature, preserved until today as a whole is the four-story residential rooms and pantries, and behind them the parapet walk.

The simple interior of the church preserves no frescoes and the 19th Century painting was removed during late restoration. The highlight is the Gothic winged altar with the Crucifixion scene in the midfield.



**CONTACT**  
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## RÂȘNOV • ROSENAU • ROZSNYÓ

Nothing of the initial fortification systems of the church in the town of Râșnov has remained, since it was completely demolished in 1831. Today the assembly comprises an initial Romanesque basilica, which was rebuilt in Gothic style. In this regard, the aisles' arcades were modified and the chancel was rebuilt. On the northern wall, fragments of mural paintings depicting scenes from the Passion of Christ are preserved.

The tower was constructed in the Gothic phase. The interior furnishing with altar and organ originates in the 18th century and the flat ceiling was built in the 19th century.

High above the town, the villager's fortress is to be found. Partially in ruins, partially rebuilt, the fortification is nowadays a famous tourist attraction. The oldest part was built in the 14th century, but the fortress, functioning as such well into the 18th century, was demolished and rebuilt several times. Next to the remains of a church, the assembly still preserves many forti-



fication systems as well as several small chambers which today serve as souvenir shops and exhibition space.

### CONTACT

The keys are with Mr Georg Philipp  
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or in the Parish Office  
with Mrs Marianne Roemer  
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## REGHIN • SÄCHSISCH REGEN • SZ.-RÉGEN

The beautiful church of Reghin is one of the most significant buildings of the city and was built as a Catholic church in the year 1330 and dedicated to Saint Mary. The inscription that proves this fact is the oldest majuscule inscription in the entire region of Transylvania. The church became Evangelic Lutheran in 1551 in the course of the Lutheran Reformation.

In the following years the church was victim to a number of severe strokes of fate: during a revolt in the year 1708 a huge fire ruined the entire church, the parish house and the surrounding fortification. The building remained roofless for the following 70 years before the congregation began rebuilding it towards the end of the century. But it was not to be spared for long. Another 70 years later the whole town was raided and the church was set on fire once again. Only in the following years it could be renovated step by step.



Thanks to the support of the emigrated Saxons from Reghin as well as to the involvement and dedication of the remaining population, the church is now open again and welcomes visitors – it is a real jewel for the cityscape and home to a lively and active community.

### CONTACT

The keys are with Mrs Erika Bencze  
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## RICHİŞ • REICHESDORF • RIOMFALVA

The Evangelic church in Richiş is a special appearance in the landscape of Transylvanian fortified churches, maybe also due to the fact that for a long time a monastic order resided here. During the Protestant reformation, the monks were banished by the villagers, thus being forced to leave the church to the community.

The three aisles tower-less basilica was built in the 14th century and was protected with a curtain wall with two defensive towers and battlement walk.

It stands out from other similar village churches due to its rich decorations: the funnel-shaped western portal, the pillars and columns with capitals supporting the ribs of the vaults, the keystones decorated with masks, the tracery of the mullioned windows.

The doubled triumphal arch testifies that a tower was initially planned to be erected here.



### CONTACT

The keys are with Mrs Anna Gherghely  
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Mrs Toni Timmermann, Tel.: +40/741/183 404



## ROADEŞ • RADELN • RÁDOS

The fortification in Rodeş consists of the former aisle-less hall church with polygonal chancel and bell tower built in the 14th century. The church was fortified in the 15th century and the tower was surrounded by a massive wall, which enclosed the former open entrance atrium.

The chancel and the nave were provided with defence levels on buttresses and loopholes. Sideways a two-level sacristy was built and the tower was heightened by five levels and a defensive platform. Most of the defensive systems of the chancel, nave and the tower were demolished in the 19th century.

The church was surrounded by a curtain wall with outer bailey and five defensive towers. Only three of them still stand today. The interior features a late Gothic chancel vault, a partially two-level gallery painted with images of the Rodeş church in its Baroque phase, before the demolition of its defence levels, as well as the 1838 organ. The valuable winged altar



from 1533 has been moved to the Saint John's Church in Sibiu (see pg. 134). - In February, 2016 it came to a partial collapse of the tower.

### CONTACT

The keys are with Mrs Katharina Fritsch  
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Rodeş nr. 175



## ROANDOLA • RAUTHAL • RUDÁLY

Since the 15th century, a small Gothic hall church has stood in Roandola. The polygonal choir has net and cross vaults and is supported by buttresses.

In the south there is an entrance with an pointed stone enclosure. The hall, which is lit by three round-arched windows, must have been rebuilt at a later date. On the northern wall of the choir there are two wooden porches one above the other, and an organ loft on the west side.

The organ was built in 1857 by Samuel Binder. Its case shows Classicistic features. The Classicistic altar from the 19th century has a brick altar table above which the wooden altar rises. Since 1792, the church is flanked by a low bell tower.



### CONTACT

The keys are with the Decker family  
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## RODBAV • ROHRBACH • NÁDPATAK

On a hill, a Romanesque pillar arcade basilica was built at the beginning of the 13th century. Badly destroyed by the Mongolian storm, the church was rebuilt at the end of the 13th century as a Romanesque basilica with a bell tower. The bell tower is integrated into the western facade and takes up the entire width of the central nave. In the 15th century, the basilica was redesigned as a fortified church. The side aisles were demolished and a fortified floor was built over the nave and the choir. The west portal was walled up and the tower was given a battlement. In 1676, the hall church was provided with a barrel vault with lunettes. The vestibule of the tower has been connected with the church since 1784. The triumphal arch, choir and the battlement were removed and a new polygonally closed choir was built in 1834. Major restoration work was last carried out between 1965 and 1973. The tower was consolidated with reinforced concrete belts, the tower first floor was secured with a concrete mantle and the west portal was opened. Through the opening of the



portal, the preserved vestments and the tympanum of the portal are now visible. The defensive wall is closed in the east by a rectangular fortified building. In the southeast corner there is a shell tower open to the inside.

### CONTACT

The keys are with Mr Daniel Ongyert  
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Rodbav nr. 62



## ROMOS • RUMES • ROMOSZ

Since the 13th century, a Romanesque basilica has stood in Romos. Its reconstruction into a hall church with a polygonal choir, from whose vault two consoles have been preserved, took place around 1500 with the help of the Seven Chairs.

Between 1816 and 1819 the church was extended to the west and the Gothic south portal was bricked up. A bell tower was also built. During excavations in the cemetery in 1910, the remains of a strong curtain wall were uncovered; they can still be seen to the southwest today. The baroque altar was erected in 1740 and renovated in 1783. In 1865 Carl Fries from Sebeş carried out repairs and added two paintings by the painter Johann Reumann from Orăştie to the altar. During restoration work in 1902, two wooden sculptures of Peter and Paul were added to the altar.

### CONTACT

The keys are with Mr Johann Bauer  
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## ROȘIA • ROTHBERG • VERESMART

Even though the fortified church in Roșia still bears the marks of the past, it also keeps several elements of the initial 13th century Romanesque basilica: the chancel, the triumphal arch, the piers between the main nave and the side aisles, as well as the clerestory windows. The church was fortified during the 16th century, and two centuries later the majority of the windows were built, as well as the church's western entrance hall. The nave was covered with a vault buttressed by piers with capitals during the 19th century. The interior is dominated by a remarkable Biedermeier style painting above the triumphal arch. Greatly ornamental are the 1682 Baroque altar featuring six Corinthian columns and canopy, as well as the pulpit canopy from 1781.

### CONTACT

The keys are with Rev. Eginald Schlattner  
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and Mrs Ioana Maria Brădescu  
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## RUJA • ROSELN • ROZSONDA

As early as the 13th century, a Romanesque basilica was built in Ruja, of which nothing remains today. The church in its present, fortified appearance was built in the 15th century and is characterized by a massive west tower with a wood-covered battlement, a battlement floor above the choir, as well as cast iron embrasures and embrasures.

The ceiling of the church room is a barrel vault with lunettes, in the choir there is a clay ribbed net vault. The interior is mostly Classicistic: altar and pulpit date from the middle of the 19th century. The organ, which has a Baroque façade, dates from 1803 and was made in the studio of the organ builder Samuel Joseph Maetz. It has been rebuilt and repaired repeatedly.

In the period 2020 to 2022, extensive securing work on the nave, the tower and the churchyard will be carried out as part of a EU-funded project.



### CONTACT

The keys are with Mr Daniel Andree  
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Ruja nr. 106



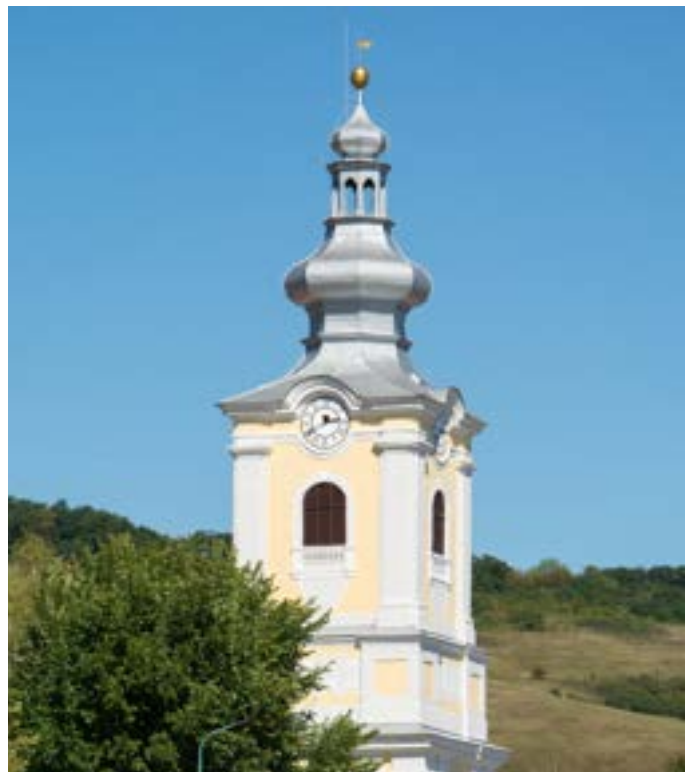


## REPS • RUPEA • KŐHALOM

In the 15th century a Gothic hall church was built in Rupea. The Gothic vault in the hall was replaced 200 years later by a coffered ceiling that was renovated in 1713, according to a Latin inscription. Roof truss works must have taken place in 1665, because on one of the beams there is the date May 1, 1665. Moreover, in 1727 the organ loft was painted.

In order to finance the repair works in 1930/31, the parish sold 16 Persian carpets. Part of the tracery on the west gallery is preserved to this day. The church windows still have their stone framing, only the northwest window has tracery. In addition, on the south wall above the gallery, there are remains of pre-Reformation frescoes, which show similarities to oriental paintings.

Also preserved is a late Gothic sacrament niche, the wooden door of which is painted in Saxon peasant Baroque. Today, 17 oriental carpets can be seen inside the church.



### CONTACT

The keys are with the Wagner family  
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Rupea nr. 82



## RUȘI • REUSSEN • RÜSZ

The land on which the fortified church in Ruși was built was not very merciful to the first building erected in the Catholic time, which collapsed and was replaced by a new church in 1636. Despite many repairs, the second church also collapsed in 1780. Still the weak foundation soil, as with the well-known tower of Pisa, will bring fame to the actual church erected in 1782, whose bell tower has a tilt of 1,50 m.

The hall church with square chancel and polygonal closure is home to many valuable Baroque pieces such as the 1641 altar, the 1764 canopy of the pulpit, and the 1805 organ. In 1785 Daniel Knobloch painted the railing of the gallery with Saints and the village's coat of arms held by two men wearing traditional costumes from Ruși.

### CONTACT

The keys are with Mr Andreas Hihn

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## SÂNPETRU • PETERSBERG • SZENTPÉTER

The church in Sânpetru was built in 1794, replacing a medieval basilica from the 14th century, which was demolished after its tower had collapsed twice. The new church was unusually provided with a western chancel and a tower was built in 1817.

The interior was endowed in neoclassical style, from organ and scarcely decorated pillars to the column- altar in the chancel.

Only ruins are still preserved from the exterior and second curtain wall. But the first fortification wall stands complete even today, preserving its five towers and the two level rooms built on its interior.

On the southern side of the assembly the old school and the old town hall were erected. The 13th century pre-reformation chapel was fortified in the 15th century by addition of two levels. Valuable mural paintings from 1400 decorate the chapel's walls.



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## ȘAROȘ/TÂ. • SCHAROSCH/K. • SZ.-SÁROS

Șaroș could probably pride itself during the 14th century with a large community who was able to build such an imposing three-aisles Gothic basilica.

Similar to all fortified churches, this one too was subject to a great number of changes over the course of time.

Out of spatial and security reasons, the main nave and chancel were fortified, the side aisles were demolished and the bell tower was built on the western side during the 16th century and was also provided with a battlement walk on wooden consoles.

Considering the constructive measures as well as the details, the fortified church shows many similarities to the Evangelic Cathedral in Sibiu.

Equally remarkable is the so-called “round bastion”, actually the remains of a Romanesque chapel.



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## SASCHIZ • KEISD • SZÁSKÉZD

The late Gothic aisle-less church was built between 1493 and 1525 replacing a Romanesque basilica. It was provided with a defence level sustained by high buttresses and extended over the nave and the chancel, which is only a little less narrow than the nave. The lierne vault of the nave was reconstructed in 1878.

The interior furnishing is mainly Baroque, except the Gothic pew in the chancel, which is richly decorated with carvings. On the exterior walls fragments of writings were preserved.

From the initial defence wall only the northern tower is still preserved. In 1677 it was provided with a distinctive spire, similar to the clock tower of Sighişoara.

### CONTACT

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## SEBEȘ • MÜHLBACH • SZÁSZSEBES

While admiring the scenery of Transylvanian fortified churches, the traveler should not miss the small town of Sebeș. In its center the fortified church bears the imprints of the past with dignity. The monument was built in the 12th century by Saxon colonists, was destroyed during the Mongol invasion 1241-1242 and later on rebuilt in Gothic style, fortified and provided with a defence wall. In the second half of the 14th century, a period characterized by a flourishing economy, an impressive chancel was constructed. For almost 40 years, starting mid 15th century, Sebeș was under Ottoman domination.

In the centuries that followed, agriculture lost its importance and the town became a center for craftsmen, who diligently brought a great contribution to the church's enhancement. However, WWI ended Sebeș's prosperity. The bells were confiscated, melted and turned into ammunition. They could only be replaced as late as 1925.



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## ȘEICA MARE • MARKTSCHELKEN • N.-SELYK

Built in the 13th century as an unfortified three-aisles basilica with apse, the church was protected through a curtain wall with defence towers since the 15th century. Later the church itself was fortified by dismantling the northern aisle. A brick-made barrel vault replaced the wooden ceiling of the nave. In place of the apse a chancel with polygonal end was erected in the middle of the 16th century. In addition it was heightened with two defence levels.

Some ornamental paintings have been preserved on the outside of their walls. In the year 1800 the church was extended to the west by one third, adding the bell tower to the western facade six years later. The fortification was demolished completely 100 years later. On the eastern side the school replaced the curtain wall.

The barrel vault of the nave and the cross vault in the aisle have been preserved until today. Well worth seeing are the Baroque pulpit and the altar of 1776.



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## ŞEICA MICĂ • KLEINSCHELKEN • KISSELYK

The former importance of the locality Şeica Mică is reflected by the size of the 14th century three-aisled pillar basilica.

The building was enlarged throughout the centuries and modified in Gothic style. It was provided with a western tower, which was later on heightened together with the chancel by adding of two defence levels. Two smaller towers were preserved, while the double curtain wall was partially demolished. The inner defence wall was secured on the western side by a gate tower. In order to protect the fountain which was vital to the villagers in case of besiege, the church tower and the western tower were merged through 14 m high wall, thus forming the so called “Fountain Yard”. Its enclosure walls were equipped all around with a battlement walk featuring watchtowers.

During the 18th century the church’s interior was extended by building galleries above the side aisles. The naves were covered with a flat



ceiling, while the chancel still exhibits its Gothic ribbed cross vault.

### CONTACT

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## SELEUŞ • GROSS-ALISCH • NAGYSZÖLLŐS

In the already free community by the end of the 14th century, a church hall in the late Gothic style was erected. In 1500 it was surrounded by an irregular defence wall, which still exists today. On the southern side there is the imposing gate tower, which serves as a bell tower at the same time, being endowed with machicoulis and a wooden defence floor, covered by a pyramidal roof.

At the beginning of the 19th century the church went through many changes: the building was extended to the west, the nave was covered with a stuccoed ceiling, while the chancel preserved its ribbed cross vault.

The interior furniture from the 19th century comprises the three side wooden gallery built on columns, the organ from 1843 and the beautiful neoclassical pew in the chancel. The painter Andreas Hermann from Sighişoara made the altar as early as 1713. The interior still keeps the strict sitting order of the Transylvanian Saxons, with places for men in the galleries, places for wom-



en in the hall's benches, according to their age, as well as places in the chancel for the candidates awaiting confirmation and the members of the Presbyterian committee.

### CONTACT

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## SELEUŞ(ULMIC) • KL.-ALISCH • KISSZÖLLŐS

The simple hall church with a round chancel and rectangular windows stands in the center of the village of Seleuş. Its hall has a simple wooden ceiling. Reconstructions took place in 1678 and 1795.

The bell tower stands southeast of the church and the ring wall and was built in 1758 under the supervision of master builder Johannes Rühn from Sighişoara. According to the inscription, the Baroque altar dates back to 1763, showing a crucifixion in the center flanked by sinuous Corinthian columns.

The classical Samuel Joseph Maetz organ dates from 1830 and is decorated with gilded floral ornaments. It was restored or repaired several times in the 20th century.

### CONTACT

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## SELIȘTAT • SELIGSTADT • BOLDOGVÁROS

Although almost nothing of the fortification has been preserved, the church of Seliștat impresses as an example of an almost unaltered fortified church of the early 16th century. Situated on the top of a hill on the high plateau between the valleys of the river Hărtibaciu and Olt the one-aisle church without tower is said to have been built as early as the second half of the 14th century, probably on the site of an earlier building. Around 1500 the chancel was strengthened by adding buttresses, four more stories, and a wooden battle platform. Later the nave was fitted with a barrel vault and a defence level built of bricks and stones. Loops for pouring liquids were left between the buttresses and the wall of the church. Another defence building serving for storing grains has been preserved on the northern side of the site. On the southern side three more buildings were erected: Old and New School and the communal hall, today used as a youth hostel and community center. The modest interior of the church was renovated in 2010.



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## SENEREUŞ • ZENDERSCH • SZÉNAVERŐS

As early as the Middle Ages, there was a Gothic hall church in Senereuş, whose choir and hall were supported by buttresses and surrounded by a simple defensive wall and reinforced by three towers.

It was demolished in 1870 and replaced by a neo-Gothic hall church.

The spacious hall is covered with cross vaults separated by massive girder arches. On the north, south and west sides there are wooden galleries on columns. The gate and bell tower were probably built in 1568, as this date is written on one of the door wings. The southern tower has three floors with embrasures and a steep pyramidal roof. A third tower in the northeast was probably habitable, as indicated by the chimney and small windows.

In the center of the neo-Gothic altar from 1884 there is a painting by Carl Dörschlag from Sibiu, which depicts Jesus with chalice. The organ built in 1753 or 1755 by Johannes Hahn - in



1824 Samuel Maetz added two pedal stops - was sold by the parishioners of Senereuş in 1886 far below value to the comparatively poor church community in Idiciu. Already in 1881 they had purchased an organ from Wilhelm Hörbinger.



## SIBIU • HERMANNSTADT • NAGYSZEBEN

Today's appearance of the impressive parish church in the medieval city is the result of several alterations of the original Romanesque church, which was built near the first city wall. After its demolition in the 14th century the dimensions of the following Gothic church accounted for the growing population and the significance of the city.

Chancel, transept, and the lower part of the tower were completed in 1371, whereas the nave was finished only in 1445 after an interruption of the works. In 1448 the nave was enlarged to the west, thus surrounding the tower.

At the end of the 15th century the nave was changed to a hall church at the south side. The newly built gallery was covered with a lierne vault.

In 1494 the tower, measuring 73 m, including its distinctive spire was completed. Fi-



nally the northern part of the transept was extended by one bay and on the south side the entrance hall and the spiral staircase for the tower were added. The noticeable roofing made of colored glazed tiles dates back to the 16th century.

The interior is dominated by the towering piers and the Gothic rib vault in the nave and the light-flooded chancel.

Around 1900 during a general renovation the plaster of the interior walls was taken down completely leaving of the original decoration only a wall-painting showing the crucifixion on the northern wall of the chancel.

There is a collection of renaissance epitaphs of distinguished Sibiu citizens.



**CONTACT**  
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*Saint John's Church*





## SIGHIȘOARA • SCHÄSSBURG • SEGESVÁR

The three-aisled Romanesque basilica called The Hill Church (Biserica din Deal) evolved from the chapel of an early Szekler- or Noble castle. It had a bell tower at the western side, which was later incorporated into the new hall church during alterations in the 14th century. Soon after the reformation the church was not used as a parish church anymore but as a chapel for the Saxon school. Wooden vaults replaced the Gothic vaults of the chancel end of the 19th century. On the interior walls medieval paintings were preserved and they were uncovered during the restoration works financed by the Messerschmitt Foundation in 1995.

Remains of the original inventory are valuable Renaissance tombstones, the beautiful tabernacle and a carved Gothic pew. Today the church has been converted to a museum, where a variety of important altars from abandoned or endangered churches and a collection of storage chests dating to the 17th and 18th Century are on display.



The former Monastery's Church (Biserica Mănăstirii) of the Dominican order was used as parish church after the reformation as of 1555. The other buildings of the monastery were then converted to accommodate the town hall.

Later in the 19th century they were dismantled by the Hungarian administration. The Gothic hall church derived from an earlier Romanesque basilica first mentioned in 1298. The four-bayed nave is followed by the long narrow chancel, which still preserves its original Gothic vault.

Today the interior appears cramped because of the galleries that were built into the aisles. The

original inventory is reduced to the baptismal font of bronze dating to 1440 and the splendid baroque altar of 1680. Hanging on walls and galleries there is a collection of precious carpets originating from Anatolia in eastern Turkey dating back to the 17th and 18th century.

## CONTACT

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## SLIMNIC • STOLZENBURG • SZELINDEK

Erected in the 14th century on the northern borderline of the Royal land, the castle was, due to its strategic position, an outpost of Sibiu and secured the main road to Mediaş. The oldest part of the mighty fortification is the bell tower with three levels, boasting a Gothic chapel on its ground floor. The western wall of the castle with crenels and loopholes was built in the 15th century. On the precincts the construction of a Gothic church was started, but most probably it was never completed. Still preserved are the southern wall of the main nave and the ogival arches to the side aisle. The machicoulis on the western wall of the church prove that the attic should have been used as defence platform. The entrance to the castle leads through a tunnel in the north-eastern side of the assembly and further on a tower opens access to the fountain's outer bailey, an oval precinct partially collapsed in 1872. The villager's fortress was conquered in 1529 and 1706 and the attacks mainly destroyed a second ring wall, which also surrounded the parish church built in the 14th



century. The interior space covered with ribbed lierne vault it is endowed with valuable 16th century Baroque pieces, as the altar from 1773, the pulpit, the pews, the font and the organ. The villager's fortress was left deserted in 1719 when the plague stroke and in the 19th century it was used as a source of material for other buildings of the community.

### CONTACT

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## ȘMIG • SCHMIEGEN • SOMOGYOM

The church of Șmig, consecrated to St. Mary, was built in the 14th century as a hall church and rebuilt at the end of the 15th century.

After falling into dilapidation at the beginning of the first half of the 19th century, the building was repaired in 1859. In the course of this work, the wall paintings which were partially uncovered by restorers around 2010 and could be assigned to the 15th century, were whitewashed. A valuable, pre-Reformation winged altar with a sculpture of the Virgin Mary from the early 16th century was replaced at the end of the 19th century by a new one with a representation of Christ. The parish had the original altar transferred to the museum in Sighișoara, from where it was lent to the National Museum of Art in Bucharest in the 1950s, where it is still part of a permanent exhibition.

### CONTACT

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## ŞOALA • SCHAAL • SÁLYA

The church of Şoala is located on a hill in the middle of the small village, which consists of only one main street and a few side streets. In the 15th century, a late Gothic church with a polygonal choir was built here. It is dedicated to Saint Ursula of Cologne, who according to legend lived in the Roman Empire during the persecution of Christians. The curtain wall was probably built at the end of the 15th or beginning of the 16th century and reinforced with defense towers in the north, east and southwest, all three of which have been preserved.

On the inside of the ring wall, the battlements run on wooden hanging blocks. Transverse walls subsequently divided the castle courtyard. Major construction work on the church and choir is recorded for the years 1832 to 1834.

The church was extended by a little more than four meters to the west. The bell tower was repaired and raised in 1822, but had to be demolished in 1883 due to the danger of collapse. To-



day the bells hang in a wooden chair south of the church. Inside the church, the Classicistic altar program is structured around a crucifixion scene designed by Wilhelm Schadhauer in 1845. The organ, installed in 1851, is the work of Heinrich Meyerwald from Braşov and was renovated in 1931 by Andreas Scherer from Şomartin.

### CONTACT

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Parish house beside the fortified church



## ŞOARŞ • SCHAROSCH/F. • SÁROS

Build mid 15th century, it is possible that today's Gothic hall church with equally high chancel and nave replaced a former Romanesque basilica. As a rarity in the Transylvanian fortified churches, the church in Şoarş bears the remains of a jube at the base of its triumphal arch. The jube used to separate the chancel from the nave, just like the iconostasis separates the altar from the naos in the orthodox churches. The gallery, accessible by stairs, was the place dedicated to lectures on religious topics. - The fortified church still preserves the in the meanwhile lowered bell tower, but lost its defence wall, which was dismantled in the 20th century, the resulting material being used for the building of the in the meantime ruinous school. A fortified house formerly used as granary is preserved on the southern side.

### CONTACT

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## ȘONA • SCHÖNAU • SZÉPMEZŐ

Beginning of the 16th century a hall church with narrow chancel has been built in Șona. In the 19th century the church was rebuilt in Neoclassical style, but only after the bell tower has been erected southern from the church. The assembly was surrounded by a curtain wall with defence tower, of which only some remains are still preserved. The interior Neoclassical furnishing includes the organ from 1852 and the pulpit and altar from 1847. - A field called “At Martin’s Church” is located 2,5 km away from the church. There the remains of an old church were found, which might be the one mentioned in a document dated 1252. The report stated that the son of Count Martin sold part of its land between the two Târnava Rivers, where three villages and a Martin’s church were to be found, to another Count.

### CONTACT

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## ŞOMARTIN • MARTINSBERG • MÁRTONHEGY

In the 13th century, a three-nave basilica with a west tower was built on a hill in the middle of Şomartin. In 1520, the community received a grant from the treasury of the Sibiu Province to fortify the church. In the course of fortifying the church, a defense level was built above the choir. The best-preserved part of the Romanesque church is the western front with the portal and tower. In the 18th century, the basilica cross-section was altered by the addition of side aisles and the construction of bricked galleries. Since 1795, there is a porch in the south of the tower. Once the Şomartin church was surrounded by a rectangular fortified wall; in addition, a drawing by Martin Schlichting from around 1858 shows a smaller fortified tower north of the bell tower. In 1987, consolidation work was carried out on the bell tower and belfry. Due to improper hanging of the bells and due to fatigue of masonry and wood the tower started to vibrate. The damage was repaired by inserting reinforced concrete beams and consolidating the wooden structure. The central picture of the



Baroque altar is a scene of the Last Supper by the Sibiu painter Johann Martin Stock and is dated 1730.

### CONTACT

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## STEJĂRIȘU • PROBSTDF. • PRÉPOSTFALVA

In Stejărișu a small, well-preserved fortified church can be visited. The former church and its surrounding village located just few miles away had to be abandoned because of persistent flooding, the construction of the new house of God started in the 14th century. Directly on the riverside of Hârtibaciu the foundations of a church were discovered, which point to the historical location of the village.

A few miles away and slightly uphill, in the middle of the new village a church was erected and surrounded by two ring walls. The two defensive towers were supposed to offer additional protection. A defensive level was built in the timber frame construction technique above the nave.

Mid-19th century, the community dismantled the inner ring wall to use the stones for an extension of the church.

Due to many extensive repairs, the fortification preserves a good structural condition today.



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## ȘURA MARE • GR.-SCHEUERN • N.-CSŰR

The church, which still preserves many parts of the former Romanesque basilica, was built during the 13th century and fortified in Gothic style in the 15th century.

In the same time the Romanesque chancel was heightened by adding a defence level, a lierne vault was built above the nave and a ribbed vault in the chancel.

During its fortification phase the side aisles of the western tower were replaced by turrets, which were demolished later on. Its defence level was also replaced in 1854 by the current spire.

The interior is decorated with lively colored galleries.

The painted pews in the aisles were brought here for security reasons from the church in Drăușeni.

Almost nothing remained from the defence wall that was once surrounding the assembly.



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## ŞURA MICĂ • KLEINSCHEUERN • KISCSŰR

The church in Şura Mică remained almost unchanged after the construction phases between the 13th and 15th century. It was built as a Romanesque three-aisles basilica, destroyed in 1493 during the Ottoman raids and erected again before 1506. The chancel with mullioned windows and ribbed vault originate from that time. The central nave was covered with a barrel vault with a ribbing net and the western tower was equipped with a defence level. The western and northern portals date back to the same period, as well as the small defence tower above the northern entrance securing the church from the side of the valley.

Only some ruins of the defence wall built in the same time are still preserved.

The interior was only slightly changed as time went by. At the beginning of the 17th century, the church received its Baroque altar and the galleries. The pulpit and the organ however were only built later on, in 1913.



### CONTACT

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## ȚAPU • ABTSDF./M. • CSICSÓHOLDVILÁG

On a hill of the Zekesh highlands stands the church of Țapu. The oval curtain wall, but also the river stone masonry speak for an edification before the time of firearms. According to the Gothic sculpture, the church was built around 1400.

The ring wall, which is still over six meters high, bears traces of a two-story battlement. On the inside, you can see embrasures and holes for the beams that supported the battlement. In 1625, the Gothic windows of the hall were removed and possibly the tower was taken down. That a tower stood here can be seen from the thickness of the walls that close the rectangular space between the choir and the hall. The second reconstruction took place in 1838: a porch on the north side - in front of the present entrance - was built, the west portal was walled up and an unadorned south portal was created. In the Middle Ages a chapel was attached to the southern castle wall, which was demolished in 1852; its stones were used to build a new



school. The simply furnished church reflects the once weak economic conditions of the village. The simple Baroque altar was added in 1712.

### CONTACT

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## TÂRNAVA • GR.-PROBSTDORF • N.-EKEMEZŐ

The Gothic hall church of Târnavă was already built in the 14th century. It received its present appearance around 1500. The choir is transferred with a clay ribbed vault with seven lunettes. The windows are one-piece ogival windows and the stone frame of the sacristy portal also has an ogival end. An ogival triumphal arch, also with flattened edges, separates the choir from the hall, which is spanned by a cross-ribbed vault and supported by ten buttresses. In the 16th century, two carved wooden doors were inserted into the west portal. The southern portal, through which one enters the church, has a simple profile consisting of pear-shaped, coving and rectangular bars. The west gallery is supported by three pointed arch arcades and has a clay ribbed vault.

During the renovation in 1869, the south and west portals were supplemented with porches and the gable of the west front was partially removed and replaced by a crippled hipped roof. In a short distance from the church is the bell



tower, whose roof truss and battlement were removed in 1897.

During a flood twenty years earlier, earth masses accumulated around the church, so that today the church is buried about two meters high. At the beginning of the 20th century, large parts of the fortification walls were removed with the aim of building a parish hall. Remains of the curtain wall are still preserved in the south.

### CONTACT

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## TĂTÂRLĂUA • TATERLOCH • TATÁRLAKA

In the small village of Tătărlău, first mentioned in documents in the year 1332, stands the towerless hall church dating back to the 15th century. The nearly square-shaped central nave is completed by a long-stretched choir with polygonal closure, canopied by a late Gothic reticulated vault.

The central nave with its flat ceiling and the circumferential gallery are rather conservative and can be observed as quite a contrast. The bells are located in a separate wooden bell tower. No traces of the former defence system have remained.

Just as in Dârlos the outer walls of the choir still boast remainders of frescoes, in this case displaying depictions of Saint Christopher.

During recent exposure works there were also pre-Reformation frescoes found in the interior that were well-preserved under the protective plaster layer. The winged altar from the year 1508 was originally made for Jidvei but then sold to Tătărlău by the congregation in the



19th century. It shows depictions of the martyrs Demetrius and Valentine as well as scenes from the life of Mary on the high day side and pictures of various Saints on the weekday side.

### CONTACT

The keys are with Mr Ioan Szekely,  
house beside the church



## TEACA • TEKENDORF • TEKE

The old church of Teaca stood on a terrace north of the market place, where the cemetery is located.

Today's church is an early Gothic building from the 14th century, whose naves are separated by pillar arcades. Remains of the frescoes have been preserved in the southern side aisle. In the 15th century, the central nave was raised and fitted with tracery windows, and the side naves were given ribbed vaults. In addition, the parishioners of Teaca built a massive bell tower in the west of the church, which has loopholes on different floors.

In 1799, the bell tower was given an additional floor. Since 1753 the central nave has a Baroque barrel vault and to the north of the church there is now a porch.

In 1828 the aisles were equipped with galleries and in 1909 the old choir was replaced by a polygonal choir.



### CONTACT

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## TICUȘU VECHI • DT.-TEKES • SZ.-TYÚKOS

In 1494, the parish of Ticușul Vechi received support for the construction of the church of eight guilders from the treasury of the Seven Chairs. On a small hill in the centre of the village, it was fortified with an eight-meter-high defensive wall until 1520. There are no remains of the 14th century medieval church that once stood here.

During an earthquake in 1802, the church tower, the vault and the ring wall collapsed. After the repair of the church, the construction of a bell tower at the west end began. It has a pyramid roof with an onion-shaped top, above it a polygonal turret with point and knob.

Between 1823 and 1827, the church was converted into a hall church in the late Baroque style. Parts of the circular wall were demolished in 1895 for school construction. The altar of the church dates from 1772 and was made by Johann Folbarth in Sighișoara. Johannes Baumgartner's organ was originally intended



for the church in Ungra. A combined organ altar, the artistic highlight of the church, was created through reconstructions.

### CONTACT

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## ȚIGMANDRU • ZUCKMANELT • CIKMÁNTOR

The old church of the Țigmandru, situated on the noble soil of the region between the Târnavă Mare and the Târnavă Mică rivers, was demolished in 1851.

In the years 1865 to 1870 the new church - hall church with west tower and choir in semicircular apse - was built. The church has a wooden altar, in the center of which there is a painting made by Carl Dörschlag in 1869. It shows Jesus in Gethsemane with an angel. The organ with twelve stops, built in 1865 by Samuel Binder, also dates from that time. In the church there is a stone baptismal font. Among the bells of Țigmandru, the medium-sized one is of particular importance: it dates from pre-Reformation times and bears the Latin inscription „O rex glorie veni cum pace“. The other two bells are from more recent times. In the mid-1960s, the parish of Maieruș became a daughter parish of Țigmandru. In the 1990s, the church was renovated and finally re-inaugurated in 2002.



### CONTACT

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Țigmandru nr. 281



## TOARCLA • TARTELN • KISPRÁZSMÁR

The Romanesque basilica of Toarcla dates from the 13th century and is dedicated to St. Catherine. At the turn of the 15th to the 16th century, it was fortified.

It has two side aisles and a mighty west tower, which is as wide as the central nave. The choir with semicircular apse has a cross vault. The first floor of the tower also boasts a cross vault and carries the western gallery. Below the sound windows of the belfry of the tower, there are twin windows with round arches.

The Romanesque west portal of the church is significant. Its vestments are stepped six times and have three pairs of columns on bases stepped twice. Similar to the west portals of Hosman and Avrig, remains of sculptures can be seen in Toarcla. In the south, west and north, remains of the fortified wall are still preserved. The organ comes from the workshop of Johannes Prause (1796) and was purchased by the church community of Cincu in 1905.



### CONTACT

Schlüssel sind bei Frau Frieda Hodnogy  
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## TURNIȘOR • NEPPENDORF • KISTORONY

The Romanesque basilica in Turnișor originates in the late 12th century and impresses due to its massive tower built above the square of the chancel, whose walls on the corner pillars are up to 3m thick. The tower is probably older than the church, which was enlarged to the west to receive its actual Latin cross shape. Because of the troubled times in the Middle Ages the assembly was initially surrounded with a fortification wall that survived only as ruin.

In 1781 a wooden clock was installed on the tower only to be replaced in 1862 with an ironed one. The Baroque interior furniture of the church comprises the 1759 altar and the 1782 pulpit. The small bell and middle one were made in a workshop in Sibiu in 1922.

### CONTACT

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## UILA • WEILAU • VAJOLA

The towerless hall church in Uila is said to have been built in 1778. It shows features of the late Baroque period and has a short choir and a flat-ended choir screen.

The choir and nave are spanned by a wooden ceiling with segmental arches. The interior is divided into capitals by pilasters. On the side of the altar, there are doors that close off a gallery. The main picture, which shows the crucifixion with Mary and John, is a work of the Sibiu painter Carl Dörschlag from 1866.

The organ by Samuel Binder was installed in 1862, using the case, wind chest and pipe work of a predecessor organ. A special feature is the bell tower, which is not next to the church, but down in the village.

### CONTACT

The keys are with Mr Andor Barna  
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## UNGRA • GALT • UGRA

In the 13th century, a Romanesque basilica was built on the ridge above the village, of which the main nave with remains of old Romanesque twin windows and the west portal are preserved. Stones of Roman buildings from the area were used in the construction of the church.

The two aisles were destroyed during the Tartar invasion in 1658, and the fortified church itself was smoked and taken over. Traces of the arcades that once connected the nave and aisles can still be seen today. The thatched roof of the makeshift church was only replaced by a shingle roof in 1702. One hundred years later, in 1802 and 1829, two earthquakes destroyed the bell tower, which was finally demolished in 1843.

The circular wall appears heterogeneous: to the east, between the gate tower and the pentagonal tower, an older section, possibly from the 13th century, is preserved, while the three sides were built to the south, west and north in the 15th to 17th centuries. In more recent times a



school building was built in place of the southern ring wall. The Baroque altar dates from the second half of the 18th century. In addition, a crucifixion picture from the 16th century hangs in the nave. Today's organ was built in 1846 by Heinrich Maywald from Braşov.

### CONTACT

The keys are with Mr Karl Heinz Szöcs  
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## VALCHID • WALDHÜTTEN • VÁLDHÍD

The village Valchid is hidden in a quiet side valley of the river Târnava Mare. In this place a church was built in the 14th century in pre-reformation style and has been preserved until today. It is surrounded by a fortification wall and has several defence towers. From the beginning, history did not treat Valchid very well, but it is a typical example of the troubled past of the region. The very first documentary reference from the year 1317 relates to the attempted reconciliation of a dispute over land with a neighbouring village. The conflict flared up again and again over the next 450 years. In 1605 the village and the church were looted by passing troops. In 1776 the dispute over land was finally settled, but only a few years later a fire destroyed the entire village.

In the late 19th century the village made its living from viticulture and was heavy hit by the sudden invasion of phylloxera, which destroyed many vineyards. More than half of the inhabitants found themselves forced to emigrate.



### CONTACT

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## V.LUNGĂ • LANGENTHAL • HOSSZÚASZÓ

In the 14th century a towerless Gothic hall church was erected in Valea Lungă. It was fortified in the 15th century with an almost circular quarry stone wall and surrounded by six towers. The portal tower in the south and a tower reconstructed in 1981 with a reconstructed defence platform have been preserved.

The church was renovated in 1681 and major repairs were carried out in 1721 and 1722. In the process, the side walls of the nave were demolished and moved inwards by one wall width. The construction work was completed in 1725 with the installation of a coffered ceiling. The painted bridges and mirrors show floral and tendril motifs. The baroque altar was erected in 1766. The main image depicts Jesus crucified and is surrounded by a baroque border.

Hermann Binder built the organ in 1986 using parts of the organs from Monairu and Dumitra. The wall of the organ gallery is painted and bears the dates 1711 and 1766.



### CONTACT

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 Valea Lungă nr. 88



## V. VIILOR • WURMLOCH • BAROMLAKA

In place of the 14th century initial construction, a new church was built in the 15th century. Around 1500, during the fortification phase, the ensemble received its present appearance. The chancel was rebuilt as a tower featuring three brick defence levels and 1,5 m thick walls. The fourth level projects over the lower part and is supported by the arches between the buttresses. It has a battlement platform built in the timber frame technique. A defence level was constructed above the main nave and the northern and southern entrances were provided with defence systems. The bell tower is impressive through its numerous and manifold defence systems. The church was surrounded by a curtain wall with battlement walk on brick arches, two bastions and a tower, as well as a gate tower provided with a portcullis.

Inside the church a pew from 1528 was built during the transition phase between Gothic and Renaissance. The paintings of the altar were executed 1779 by Stephan Folbarth from Sighișoara.



Due to the great architectonic value and its almost entirely preserved defense system, the building was listed in 1999 as UNESCO World Heritage.

### CONTACT

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## VĂRD • WERD • VÉRD

Quarry stones were used for the construction of the Romanesque church of St. Marz in Vărd in the 13th century. The thickness of the walls indicates that not only a house of worship was built here, but also a structure that was intended to offer protection to the inhabitants in dangerous times.

The four-story stone bell tower, which is the same width as the church hall, was built a century later and was raised by another floor in the middle of the 19th century. Already from the 15th century, there is a rectangular curtain wall, six to seven meters high, with two towers to the southwest and east.

In 1660, the small fortified church successfully defended itself against the troops of George Rákóczy II. In 1924 the biggest part of the wall belt was taken down, but already in 1877 a part of the ring wall had collapsed. The fortification tower in the southwest was finally demolished in 1953/54. Inside the church, the people of



Vărd built galleries on the north and west walls in the 18th century, whose wooden paneled balustrades are painted with Rococo motifs. In addition, the hall and choir were spanned with a round belt vault.

In the church of Vărd there was once a Johannes Hahn organ from 1770, which today stands in St. Michael's Church in Cluj.

### CONTACT

The keys are with Mr Ion Avram  
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## VESEUD • ZIED • VESSZŐD

As early as the 13th century, a towerless Romanesque pillared arcaded basilica was built in Veseud. Of this church, the choir square, the perimeter wall and the pillars are still preserved. Besides the modest choir, the low triumphal arch, in the preserved inner choir wall, also conveys the original spatial impression.

Around 1500, the church was rebuilt and fortified with a rectangular wall belt and four fortification towers. The fortified tower built in the west of the church also served as a bell tower. All four towers as well as the ring wall were demolished in the second half of the 19th century.

In the course of the fortified reconstruction, for reasons of stability, the choir was sheathed in order to be extended with a massive five-story defensive tower as well as a half-timbered passage on hanging trestles. On the upper floor of the tower there is the bell chamber. In it hangs a bell cast in the 15th century with the inscription



tion „O rex glorie veni cum pace“. In 1784/85 the church was once again extended by a barrel vault and connected to the gate tower by a vaulted corridor. This gate tower has been preserved, as well as a section of wall 20 meters long and five meters high.

### CONTACT

The keys are with Mrs Lucretia Grenner of the Veseud Pension Guesthouse





## VESEUŞ • MICHELSDF./K. • SZ.-NAGYVESSZŐS

The hall church, built in 1504, stands on a slope in the west of the village.

On the south and west side of the flat-roofed church hall, galleries are built in. The Baroque reconstruction was carried out in 1794.

The bell and gate tower, which stands next to the church, was built in 1825 and renovated in 1886.

On the northern wall of the choir there is a late Gothic sacramental niche, which was built in the first years of the 16th century.

An organ by Johannes Hahn from Sibiu was installed in the church in 1748. In 1939, it was transferred back to Sibiu where today it stands in the Sibiu parish church.

A bell from 1557 bears the inscription „Da pacem domine diebus nostris“ - „Give peace, Lord, in our days!“





## VINGARD • WEINGARTSKIRCHEN • VINGÁRD

The towerless hall church in late Gothic style was built in 1461, according to an inscription on the west portal, which mentions Johannes Gereb de Vingard as the church patron Saint. The five keystones in the choir show the Hungarian imperial coat of arms, the heraldic animal of the Gereb family, the heraldic image of the Szilágyi family, the heraldic animal of the Hunyadi family and a stone decorated with vine leaves and vines, which refers to the name Vingard, German: Weingartskirchen.

Valuable stone carvings can also be found in the south portal and on the west façade. In the 18th century, the interior was redesigned in Baroque style. The Baroque barrel vaulting contains pilasters that correspond to the old buttresses. The Baroque altar dates from 1715, the rectory chair from 1461.

### CONTACT

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## VISCRI • DT. WEISSKIRCH • FEHÉREGYHÁZA

The fortified church in Viscri still stands as a striking example of Transylvanian defensive architecture. On the foundations of the former Romanesque basilica, built by the first Székely settlers a new chancel was erected after dismantling the apse. In 1500 the church was fortified. Therefore the hall was prolonged and connected with the western, until then freestanding, dungeon, which most probably belonged to an early extinct noble family. The tower was heightened with one level with room for bells and parapet walk and another defensive level with loopholes for arches was built in the roof. The defence level of the chancel was demolished in 1743. The 7 m high ring wall was built in early 16th century and during the 17th century was strengthened by fortified houses, defensive towers and parapet walk.

In the more peaceful times following 1743 grains storage rooms for the inhabitants replaced the parapet walk. The interior of the



church still preserves the paneled ceiling from 1743 and the sober furnishing.

### CONTACT

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## VULCAN • WOLKENDORF • SZ.-VOLKÁNY

Only the triumphal arch is preserved from the 13th century Romanesque basilica. A vault carried on stone ribs, which end on consoles decorated with face-masks, covers the late Gothic chancel that was built two centuries later. After the church was destroyed by the troops of Gabriel Báthory, the community needed more than 50 years until it started rebuilding in 1665. The vault of the chancel and the paneled ceiling of the nave were built in that time. More than a century later the bell tower was erected and in the same time the wooden galleries inside the church. On the baptismal font from 1741 two inscriptions in German and in Latin can be read. They are also mentioned in a church book dating back to the 18th century. A portcullis and a machicolation secured the entrance of the 14th/15th century curtain wall. The view of the main entrance is blocked by the town hall today.

Inside the fortification several good preserved granaries can be visited. An interesting visit can



be the one of the Evangelic cemetery located behind the church. The tombs sheltered on the perimeter under a common roof and the stories about those resting there are worth paying a visit.

### CONTACT

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 and Mrs Vasilica Fulea  
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## VURPĂR • BURGBERG • VURPÓD

The basic structure of the 13th century Romanesque basilica is still recognizable today. Furthermore, there are many details preserved from that time. The initial church had been later provided with a bell tower, which collapsed in 1602 and it was rebuilt only in 1750. The church with three aisles, square chancel and apse is covered by a 19th century flat ceiling, while the chancel was provided with a domical vault during the 18th century. The side-galleries were also built in that time.

The Romanesque clerestory windows are placed in the attic due to the new ceiling, however the northern portal dating back to the same era and bearing depictions of mythical creatures on its tympanum is still preserved. Only the curtain wall remained from the 14th century defense assembly.

The house of the castle guardian was built in 1720 on the western side, as well as the old school built in 1845.



### CONTACT

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## ZAGĂR • RODE • ZÁGOR

The simple hall church in Zagăr was built in 1783/84. No traces of the smaller Gothic predecessor church have been preserved. The flat ceiling is decorated with Baroque stucco ornaments.

The church is surrounded by a four to five meter high, square defensive wall. In three of the four corners, there is a fortification tower. The inscription 1653 can be seen on the northwest tower. At the same time as the church, a bell tower of 37 meters height was built in the west.

The Baroque altar from the year 1791 is the work of the master carpenter Daniel Petersberger from Mediaş. The central picture shows the crucifixion scene with two female figures, above it the resurrection.

### CONTACT

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## ZLAGNA • SCHLATT • SZÁSSZALATNA

Nothing is known about the construction of the small Gothic church in Zlagne. However, the stone masonry, the polygonal choir screen, the round-arched windows in the church hall and the round openings in the western façade suggest that it was built in the 15th century. There are no inscriptions on the walls and the parish archive does not provide any clues to the building's history. Later galleries were added on three sides and in 1793 the church was given a coffered ceiling. Two meters southeast of the church there is a bell tower, which received its present form between 1828 and 1830.

The central image of the simple altar from 1670 depicts Jesus in Gethsemane, at the foot of the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. The altar is flanked by two columns, crowned by two angelic figures. The baptismal font (stolen at Easter 1997) and the pulpit have no particular artistic value, but reflect the weak economic conditions of the village, which served various lords until the abolition of the feudal system.



### CONTACT

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*Vulcan, Mureș county*

*Attel (Saint Valentines Church)*







## FORTIFICATIONS OUTSIDE THE ECR

Whoever travels attentively through Transylvania today will also come across medieval churches and fortified churches that do not belong to the *Evangelical Church A. C. in Romania* (ECR). The most famous example is probably the fortified church of Dârjiu (Germ.: *Dersch* / Hung.: *Székelyderzs*), which was recognized by UNESCO in 1999 as a world cultural heritage site and dates back to the 14th century. It was built by the Hungarian-speaking Szeklers and today belongs to the *Unitarian Church of Transylvania*.

Examples of today's Protestant Reformed fortified churches can be found near Alba Iulia (Germ.: *Karlsburg* / Hung.: *Gyulafehérvár*). The churches of Cricău (Germ.: *Krakow* / Hung.: *Boroskrakkó*), Ighiu (Germ.: *Krapundorf* / Hung.: *Magyarigen*) and Șard (Germ.: *Schard* / Hung.: *Sárd*) were built by Transylvanian Saxons and after their emigration were taken over by Hungarian communities more than 500 years ago.



Until the end of the 19th century, the Hungarian-speaking Evangelical Lutheran congregations also belonged to the „Saxon“ state church. Especially near Braşov (Germ.: *Kronstadt* / Hung.: *Brassó*) are some of these villages. Little by little, however, they joined the newly founded *Synodal Presbyterial Evangelical Lutheran Church* (today the *Evangelical Lutheran Church in Romania*), most recently Copşa Mică (Germ.: *Kleinkopisch* / Hung.: *Kiskapus*) in the 1960s. In the towns of Aiud (Germ.: *Grossenyed* / Hung.: *Nagyenyed*) and Oraştie (Germ.: *Broos* / Hung.: *Szászváros*), the German-speaking Lutheran congregation shares the town church fort with the Hungarian-speaking Reformed congregation. There are two churches within the ring walls.

Finally, in Transylvania in the 21st century, we also find churches and fortified churches, which have been given to other religious communities for use since the 1970s and increasingly since the numerous emigration of Transylvanian Saxons in the 1990s. In these churches, of which there are many especially in northern Transylvania, other Protestant, Romanian Orthodox, Greek or Roman Catholic or even independent church services are celebrated today. The ECR maintains very good ecumenical relations with all these churches.



*Copşa Mică*

On the next page there is a selection of individual - mostly „Hungarian“ - churches and fortified churches that do not belong to the ECR, but which nevertheless deserve to be mentioned in this booklet because of their great historical and cultural significance. However, the editors make no claim to completeness.

Stefan Bichler (ECR Public Relations)



*Hălmeag*

# SELECTION OF MEDIEVAL CHURCHES AND FORTIFIED CHURCHES OUTSIDE THE ECR

NAME / German	Romanian	Hungarian
Aitau	Aita Mare	Nagyajta
Baierdorf	Crainimăţ	Királynémeti
Blumendorf	Belin	Bölön
Burgberg bei Mühlbach	Vurpăr	Borberek
Burglos	Dej	Dés
Dersch	Dârjiu	Székelyderzs
Feigendorf <i>bzw. Fägendorf</i>	Micăsasa	Mikeszásza
Großenyed <i>bzw. Strassburg am Miersch</i>	Aiud	Nagyenyed
Großrapolt	Rapoltu Mare	Nagyrapolt
Halmagen	Hălmeag	Halmágy
Ilgendorf	Ilieni	Illyefalva
Karlsburg	Alba Iulia	Gyulafehérvár
Kiewern	Cobor	Kóbor
Klausenburg	Cluj-Napoca	Kolozsvár
Kokelburg	Cetatea de Baltă	Küküllővár
Krakau	Cricău	Boroskrakkó
Krapundorf <i>bzw. Grabendorf</i>	Ighiu	Magyarigen
Lechnitz	Lechinţa	Szászlekenca
Mettersdorf	Dumitra	Nagydemeter
Neumarkt am Mieresch	Târgu Mureş	Marosvásárhely
Odorhellen	Odorheiu Secuiesc	Székelyudvarhely
Rodna, <i>Alt-Rodna bzw. Rodenau</i>	Rodna	Óradna
Sakadat	Săcădate	Oltszakadát
Salzburg	Ocna Sibiului	Vízakna
Schard	Şard	Sárd
Senndorf	Jelna	Kiszsolna
Thorenburg	Turda	Torda
Treppen	Târpiu	Szásztörpény

*Town church fort of Aiud*



*The fortified church tower  
of Lechința*





## ADDENDUM TO THE THIRD AND MORE EXTENDED EDITION

The literature on the Transylvanian Saxons, their culture, their history and present, has been enriched in recent years by several important and valuable publications. Interesting scientific and popular works on the relevant topics appear year after year, both in Germany and abroad. There are also fewer and fewer gaps in the travel literature section.

The booklet *Churches and Fortified Churches in Transylvania* has been published in its extremely practical small format by the *Fortified Churches Foundation* in the Sibiu publishing house Honterus since 2016, and in these four years it has gained a regular place in the pockets of many Transylvania-travelers interested in cultural history. The production is financially supported by the *Department for Interethnic Re-*



*lations in the General Secretariat of the Romanian Government, the Democratic Forum of Germans in Transylvania and the Bavarian State Ministry for Family, Labor and Social Affairs.* Thanks to this support, it is even possible to publish the booklet in three languages (German, Romanian and English), thus fulfilling even better its role as a guide through the landscape of fortified churches.

The revision of the texts already known from the first two editions refers almost exclusively to the contacts indicated. Through regular updates and checks in cooperation with the parishes and district consistories, the Fortified Churches Foundation was also able to compile

an up-to-date list of contacts for this edition of the booklet.

However, the present third edition is above all also a considerable expansion. The number of churches and fortified churches described has been increased from just over 100 previously, to 157, and is thus increasingly approaching a complete collection.

We wish all readers beautiful journeys through the landscape of fortified church and much pleasure in reading!

Stefan Bichler  
(co-author, public relations officer of the  
Evangelical Church A. C. in Romania)

### *Gusu*



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**Archives of the Fortified Churches Foundation:** 67 (bottom), 74 (bottom), 93 (bottom), 124 (bottom), 128 (bottom)

**Stefan Bichler:** 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 (top), 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 (top), 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 (bottom), 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58 (top), 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64 (bottom), 65, 66, 67 (top), 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74 (top), 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93 (top), 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124 (top), 125, 126, 127, 128 (top), 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154 (top), 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178

**Ruth István:** 27 (bottom), 34 (top), 64 (top)

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