## **Fortified Churches Tour**

TIRGU MURES- SIGHISOARA - SASCHIZ - VISCRI - RUPEA - TIRGU MURES TOUR

Route: 260 km

\*plus additional 20 km depending on the preferences of tourists

On this adventure you"ll discover Romania's unbeatable mix of Medieval World charm and vibrant natural beauties. In this escourted day tour we visit, Viscri Fortified Church, Saschiz , and asthonishig Sighisoara Citadel, and also Rupea Citadell ..

We start the journey by traveling to Sighisoara's Citadell.The only citadell populated from Europe. We enter into Sighisoara citadel trough the main gate located under the Clock Tower wich is 64 m height, has for levels and is hosting the History Museum. But the main reason to visit it is the balcony from where you have an amazing 360 panorama. Few steps away is Medieval Weapons Museum and the Torture Chamber that we will visit also.Walking around the narrow streets we can admire, under the shadow of the old Clock Tower, the house where an uknown women gave birth to a child ,Vlad, who will become famous all over the world as Dracula.

The second stop is at Saschiz. The name of Saschiz comes from the word "KEZ" in Hungarian, which means hand (in terms of defense), as attested for the first time in 1309, as Kapitel Kisder and is located in the southeast part of Mures County,on road linking Sighisoara and Brasov.The evangelic fortified church was built at the end of the 15th century on the place of a 13th-century basilica. Saschiz is surrounded by crops pomicule, viticule and hops, hay fields, and forested hills.Traveling to Sighisoara, meet the Forest of the Hanged at the righ, but peasant fortress city on the hill dominates the landscape.

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If you asked long time ago a local people about the village location , he would have answered, so full of joy that would be forgotten the road description "Saschiz, with our beautiful church and the old peasant citadel is worth to be seen , you should really go together there". Saschiz village (UNESCO World Heritage), is renowned not only as home to one of Transylvania's finest fortified churches but also as a carpentry and wood-painting center. It was here that Saschiz blue pottery was born in 1702.

The third atracttion in this tour, one of the most interesting Saxon fortified churches (UNESCO World Heritage), wich was visited five times by Prince Charles, is located in Viscri village (Weisskirch in German). The name comes from the German Weisse Khirche, meaning white church. Unlike other Transylvanian fortified churches, Viscri was built around 1100 by the Szekler population and taken over by Saxon colonists in 1185. This explains why this unique gothic church displays a plain straight ceiling rather than a traditional vaulted one. In the 14th century, the eastern section was rebuilt and around 1525, the first fortification walls with towers were added. In the 18th century, the church from Viscri was endowed with a second defensive wall. Inside, you can admire a classic 19th century altar featuring Blessing of the Children, the masterpiece of painter J. Paukratz from Rupea. Another issue that deserves attention is the Bacon Tower. Here, due to low temperature, was kept (guarded continuously) bacon and ham supplies of all villagers, each peace beig inscribed with its owner's house number, to avoid any comfusion. Inside one of the towers is arranged an interesting small museum which exhibits traditional costumes, tools and other personal items donated by the Saxons who had left the Viscri village.

The last stop of this tour is fortification of Rupea Castle. It is made up in three stages. At first, older than the German colonization, was built above the city, the city was built in the middle of the century. 15 and enlarged at the beginning of the century. 17 and bottom-century fortress. 17, the city's current appearance is the result of many additions, changes and repairs. Rupea fortified castle was along time a place of refuge for people from surrounding villages during the Turks and Tartars.

## Prices (from Targu Mures):

1person= 99 euro,

2 persons = 83 euro/person,

3-7persons = 66 euro/person.

**Prices (from Sighisoara):** dependig of the group size ; price starting from 66 euro/person.

**Included:** Transport by car/van, driver, English speaking guide, permanent assistance.

Not include: Entrance fees, meals.

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