2018: At Vatra Dornei are the headquarters of the main institutions and nongovernmental organizations specialized in mountain areas in Romania: the Mountain Area Agency (Ministry of Agriculture); CE-MONT Centre for Mountain Economy / "Costin C. Kiriţescu" National Institute for Economic Research / Romanian Academy; NGOs: the Romanian Mountain Forum, the Romontana National Rural Mountain Development Association and the Dorna Federation of Mountain Farmers, members of "Euromontana."
SCHEDULE for 25 September, 2018
➢ 7:45 AM Boarding the bus
➢ 8:00-8:30 Visiting the Ethnographic Museum of Bucovina, in Vatra Dornei
➢ 8:30-10:30 - Trip to the Poiana Ștampel commune: ON THE SCHEDULE -
  • Children orchestra and original creations. Forest fruits and local gastronomy expo, with tasting.
  • Traditional village museum of the "meadowers".
  • Visit to the new House of Culture and Town Hall. Evolutions after 20 years... (1995 - the first visit of “Euromontana” in Romania...)
➢ 10:30-12:00 Trip to the "Tihuța Pass". Visit to “Dracula’s castle” (Bistrița Năsăud county).
  • Meeting with “Count Dracula”.
  • Visiting the artisan and bee product fair. Coffee-break + "digestive" local "mountain product".
➢ 12:30-13:45 Agrotourism boarding house "Poiana".
  • Lunch - traditional ecologic products. Located in the Poiana Negrii village (Dorna Candrenilor commune)
➢ 13:45-15:45 Trip to the "Bistrița Arie" valley (river selected by gold seekers ..., XVII-XVIII centuries).
  • The Ciocânești "museum" village. Architectural tradition in the aesthetic of decorating the fronts of houses - something unique, which has become famous at European and world level.
  • The national museum of painted eggs.
➢ 15:45-17:45 Visit to Călimani National Park headquarters, Șarul Dornei commune. The park also includes a former sulfur mine, now closed (since 1990):
  • "Mountain products" farm (Cristi Țăranu family Panaci commune). The rebirth of “Emmenthal” cheese in the Dorna Country (a century of tradition). Tasting. Traditional parental home, refurbished, with a flower garden.
➢ 18:00 Return to Vatra Dornei at the headquarters of the CE-MONT Centre for Mountain Economy/"Costin C. Kiretescu" National Institute for Economic Research/Romanian Academy. Visiting CE-MONT.
➢ 18:30 ● Participating in the “Euromontana” General Assembly.
CIOCANESTI

This village is so attractively preserved that is considered a museum of Eastern European Village life. Ciocanesti is best known for these colorful houses, along with the National Museum of Painted Eggs.

THE „WOOD ART” MUSEUM

The richness and variety of the exhibits of eighteenth-twentieth centuries accompanied by maps, photographs and drawings, present the craftsmen's tradition in wood processing. It reveals a real cult of wood processing, highlighting the variety of locals' occupations on the lands of Rarau and Giumalau mountains.

THE INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM OF PAINTED EGGS „LUCIA CONDREA"

Of all the Romanian customs the one of painting eggs for Easter is by far the smoothest. The oldest and most suggestive painted eggs, carrying old symbols - pre Christian ones - are taken from the areas inhabited by those people called "hutuli". This tradition is at home here in Moldovita - Bucovina.
MOLOVITLA MONASTERY
THE BIBLE IN COLOUR

Moldovita Monastery, founded in 1532 is one of the best preserved monasteries included on UNESCO World Heritage list in 1993, being one of the five monasteries in Northern Moldavia with frescoes painted on the exterior walls. These paintings show a great artistic expressivity, being a masterpiece of the late middle ages. The predominant color of the murals is yellow.

STUDY TOUR SCHEDULE

➢ 8 AM - Departure from Vatra Dornei;
➢ 8,30 - Ciocaneşti - a real village museum;
➢ 9,30 - 10,30 - Travel to Campulung Moldovenesc;
➢ 10,30 - 11,00 - The Wood Art Museum;
➢ 11.30 - 12.30 - Travel to Fundu Moldovei (lunch);
➢ 12,45 - 13,15 - Travel to Moldovita
➢ 13,15 - 13,45 - The International Museum of Painted Eggs;
➢ 14,00 - 14.50 Rail Trip Mocaniţa Huţulca;
➢ 14,50 - 15,10 - Snack break
➢ 15,10 - Short travel to Vatra Moldoviţei;
➢ 15,30 - 16,00 - Moldovita Monastery;
➢ 16.00 - Departure from Vatra Moldoviței;
➢ 17,30 - Arrival at Vatra Dornei.

MOCANIȚA HUȚULCA

An example of how a narrow gauge railroad used in forestry during the past, can foster tourism development providing an authentic experience.
**MESTECANIS PASS**

A mountain pass at an elevation of 1096 m above the sea level, located in Suceava County, North-Eastern Romania.

**THREE MOUNDS PASS**

This pass connects picturesque villages, from the cradle of Hutsul population that still lives in these places.

**E85/ DN17**

Bucovina - Wuthering Heights

DN17 is a national road in Romania, linking Transylvania to Moldova through Bucovina over the Carpathians. It is part of E85, a road that departs from Vienna, crosses Slovakia, Ukraine, Romania, Moldova and reaches Rostov, Russia. In history it had an enormous importance, and great influence on development, facilitating economic and cultural exchanges among Austro-Hungarian Empire, Poland, Romania, Russian Empire, and also the Ottomans.

The Obcinele Bucovinei Mountains, as the entire area is called, represents more parallel mountainous crests that one can say without a doubt that to be the most spectacular of its kind in the country.

Three mounds is a mountain pass located in the Eastern Carpathians at 1040 m elevation on the National Road 17A, which crosses the Obcina Feredeului Mountains and connects the valley of the Moldova and Moldovița rivers.
The Wisent Country, Neamţ County

NEAMŢ MONASTERY

➢ It is an orthodox monastery of monks;
➢ It was first officially mentioned in 1407;
➢ The largest and oldest monastic settlement in Moldavia, has been declared an historical monument;
➢ Inside the monastery there is a church built in authentic Moldavian style, which is a result of bringing together byzantine (glazed ceramics, bricks and discs in various colours; green, yellow, brown) and gothic elements.

THE WISENT COUNTRY

➢ It is a protected area of national interest;
➢ The reserve represents a protected area for several rare animal species, in particular: the wisent (Bison bonasus);
➢ The purpose of the reserve is the species preservation through a growth and planned distribution of the wisent population, aiming to introduce them in the great forest ecosystems.

OUTWARD TRIP

Vatra Dornei ➔
Poiana Teiului ➔
Târgu Neamţ ➔

ESTIMATED TIME:
2.5 hours ➔

RETURN TRIP

Târgu Neamţ ➔
Gura Humorului ➔
Câmpulung Moldovenesc ➔
Vatra Dornei ➔

ESTIMATED TIME:
2.5 hours ➔
The Wisent Country, Neamț County

➢ „MIHAIL SADOVEANU” MEMORIAL HOUSE
- It is a museum dedicated to the writer Mihail Sadoveanu;
- It was established between 1964 - 1966;
- It preserves the ambience of the era and there are memorial objects on display: his parents’ portraits, a portrait and a bust sculpture of the writer, a XVIIIth century icon, a game of chess carved in ivory, his piano, a samurai sword, hunting and fishing objects, books, volumes of historical documents.

➢ THE MUSEUM OF THE POPULAR ARTIST, VASILE GĂMAN
- The artisan is practicing crafts such as wood sculpture, carpentry and wood carving, but he is also collecting tools and objects reminiscent of the Romanian village life;
- His craftsmanship can be admired in over 40 churches throughout the country, where he has carved the iconostasis and the choir stalls;
- The artisan has “embroidered” in wood the faces of Romanian rulers, such as: Burebista, Decebal, Traian, Ștefan The Great and Mihai The Brave.

➢ THE NEAMȚ FORTRESS
- It is a medieval fortress;
- It was part of the fortifications system built in Moldavia at the end of the XIVth century, at the time of the Ottoman menace;
- The fortifications system included fortified settlements (rulers courts, monasteries with high walls, as well as fortresses of strategic importance) built for defence purposes, strengthened with stone walls, moats and earth mounds.
MARAMUREȘ TRIP
The historical Maramureș

WITH

Mountain Farmers Federation “Dorna” (FAMD)
WHAT WE VISIT IN MARAMUREȘ:

➢ VATRA DORNEI – SĂCEL (2h45’)
   Săcel village: the whirlpool, the wool combing machine, the water-powered millstones and a traditional meal (bacon, white cheese, onion, traditional bread, brandy, water) – 1h30’

➢ SĂCEL VILLAGE – BĂRSANA (0h45’)
   Bârsana Monastery and lunch;
   Wood processing workshop (wood sculpture, Maramureș-style wooden gates, carved wooden crosses, furniture- Toader Bârsan and sons) – 2h30’

➢ BĂRSANA – PETROVA (0h30’) = 0h45’ coffee break and snacks.

➢ PETROVA – VIȘEU DE SUS (0h30’) visit to the narrow-gauge railway station– Mocănița

➢ VIȘEU DE SUS - VATRA-DORNEI (2h30’)

TOTAL = 312 Km (approx. 10 ore)