

## Visit the ancient wood pastures in Transylvania

Visit the wood pastures of Transylvania which are unique in Europe! Meet the ancient trees and this landscape that has formed since the Middle Ages as well as their traditional use and the cultural aspects related to it. Learn more about the threatening factors which affect them and the way you can participate in saving them.



*Ancient oak (foto: MihályLászló)*



*Prince Charles registering the first tree on "Remarkable trees of Romania" database (foto: Mihály László, 2015)*

During the trip you have the occasion to visit ancient wood pastures, remarkable trees and several winners of the Tree of the year competition accompanied by a specialized guide. During the visit you will find out more about the "Remarkable trees of Romania" initiative. The goal of the project is the conservation of wood pastures and is supported by Charles Prince of Wales. The participants will learn how to measure a tree and can participate in data collection to the database, which is a data source for ecological research. On request we offer a picnic with local products (speck, cheese, homemade bread, vegetables, etc.)

**Those interested can choose from three different destinations listed below:**

### 1. **Baraolt (Covasna county)**

Difficulty: easy - Duration: 3-4 hours

Distance: Baraolt- Căpeni 12 km by car and 6km walk

This is a wood pasture with beech and oak trees, it's part of the Bodoc-Baraolt Mountains Natura 2000 area (protected area network designated by the European Union) and the easiest access is from Căpeni. During the trip the participants can meet unique plants and animals (green winged orchid, stag beetle, yellow bellied toad, etc.), oaks measuring 500 cm, beeches of 454 cm and wild pear of 300 cm circumference. At the end of the tour we will visit the millennial lime tree in the church yard in Căpeni and the elm from Căpeni (7,3 m) which were the winners of the "Tree of the year" competition.

### 2. **Filia (Covasna County)**

Difficulty: easy - Duration: 3-4 hours

Distance: from Baraolt 15 km by car, 6 km walk

The wood pasture beside the Kormos stream is unique in this region because both pedunculate oak and sessile oak can be found in the same place. The largest ones reach the circumference of 590 cm. Another attraction of this place are the ruins of church and chapel of Dobo.

### 3. **Bixad (at the border of Harghita and Covasna county)**

Difficulty: medium - Duration: 3-4 hours

Distance: 1 hour by car from Miercurea Ciuc and 20-minute walk from Bixad

On wood pasture "Toberce" the visitors can meet some giant beeches (452 cm circumference) and scots pines with 300 cm circumference. The "Saint Anne" observation point is part of Ciomad-Balványos Natura 2000 area (the protected area network designated by the European Union) with extraordinary panorama to Bodoc Mountains and its surroundings. This trip can be completed with the visit of mineral water springs and baths in Balványos and/or Saint Anne lake and Mohos peat bog. Who is interested should visit the lime tree from Leliceni, the winner of the "Tree of the year" competition in 2010.

The program can be completed with harvesting of medicinal herbs and mushrooms, depending on the season. When requested the program can be extended to 6-8 hours.

Families and children groups are welcome.

#### **Other information:**

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