

AHEA tour 2015

Hungary segment

July 5 morning – depart from Budapest. Travel to Eger, the county seat of Heves county. Sightseeing: baroque inner city, Roman Catholic Archdiocese cathedral and the famous castle, where, led by István Dobó the Turks were defeated (as portrayed in the well-known novel *Egri csillagok* by Géza Gárdonyi).

Afternoon to be spent in Mezőkövesd, visit to the Matyó Múzeum and time permitting, the local thermal bath.
Dinner and lodging in Miskolc

July 6 Morning: program at the University of Miskolc.

Afternoon – visit to the castle of Diósgyőr. A favorite residence of Knight King Louis the Great (Nagy Lajos lovagkirály). Historical exhibit, coinage shop, wax museum depicting medieval life.

From Diósgyőr travel to Lillafüred, the best known vacation place in the Bükk Mountains.

Walk at Lake Hámori, look at the terraced garden and the waterfall, then continue to Újmassa to see the old smelter.

Dinner and lodging in Miskolc

July 7 After breakfast excursion to Hegyalja (area of the Zemplén Mountains and the Bodrog river). Visit the Library and Museum of the 400 years old Reformed school In Sárospatak, a haven of Hungarian Reformation.

The other important landmark to see in Sárospatak is the Rákóczi Castle: the Red Tower, György Rákóczi's cannon casting shop, and the dungeons.

In the afternoon a drive to Széphalom, to the Hungarian Language Museum and the Kazinczy Memorial Hall.

Dinner and lodging in Sátoraljaújhely.

July 8 After breakfast leave for Debrecen, visit and program at the University of Debrecen, followed by sight-seeing: Kossuth Square, where the Great Reformed Church stands. (An enormous classicist style church, the symbolic center of Hungarian protestants.) Debrecen is referred to as the Rome of Calvinism.

In the afternoon visit to Hortobágy, to the Nine-hole Bridge, the Shepherds' Museum, and "Csárda" exhibit at the Inn operating since 1699.

Participating fee: 400 USD, including the bus fare as described in the above itinerary, lodging with breakfast and dinner both days, one day in Sátoraljaújhely, and one day in Debrecen in three star hotels.

Price is based on double occupancy, single occupancy extra.

MK 2/20/15

AHEA TOUR 2015

ERDÉLY (TRANSYLVANIA) SEGMENT

July 9 Travel from Debrecen to Kolozsvár via Létavértes, Nagyvárad, Királyhágó, Bánffyhunyad with stops en route.

July 10-11 AHEA Conference, Kolozsvár

July 12 Excursion to Válaszút, lodging again in Kolozsvár

July 13 After breakfast travel through Mezőség to Marosvásárhely, the largest Székely (Seckler) town. Sightseeing, walking on the long main square: Teleki Téka (I Count Samuel Teleki's famous library), The Palace of Culture, (Art Nouveau style building with Zsolnay ceramic ornamentations).

Traveling farther into Seckler Land (Székelyföld), the next stop is Szováta with the heliothermal, naturally salty lake, then to the Parajd salt mine. Visit the huge underground mineshafts, where a museum, chapel and asthma curing chambers are functioning.

Arrival to Korond late afternoon, browsing in the folk art market, a chance to shop pottery, embroideries, woodcarvings. An example of the Secklers' humor is their claim that Christopher Columbus first met Secklers when he landed in the New World.

Travel to Gyergyó Basin through the Görgényi „Alps”.
Dinner and lodging in Gyergyószentmiklós.

July 14 Visit Szárhegy near Gyergyószentmiklós, to see the Renaissance, one time castle of the Lázár family, where Gábor Bethlen, later Prince of Transylvania spent his childhood.

Continue to Gyilkos tó (Scatching Lake), on the curvy serpentines of the Eastern Carpathian Mountains. Walk and relax by the lake.

Continue to the spectacular Békás Szoros (translated Frog Cove). Enjoy the fresh air by the Pokol Tornáca („Porch of Hell”.)

Return to Gyergyószentmiklós, visit the Armenian Catholic, as well as the Roman Catholic Church.

Late afternoon travel to the village of Borzont to see the local Skanzen, excursion to the woods with horse driven carriages, accompanied by local folk musicians and enjoy biscuits (pogácsa) and brandy (pálinka) along the way.

Dinner with music at the „Basa Keresztváti” Inn, one Transylvania's most famous, over 100 years old inns. Lodging in Gyergyószentmiklós.

July 15 Travelling along the Maros River, crossing the Gréces Pass, reaching the Olt River Valley and arrive at the Felcsik. Region. Paying homage to the Seckler Bane (Székely Vész) at the Madéfalva memorial, remembering the massacred and fugitive Secklers as part of the coerced enlistments.

Next stop is Csiksomlyó, site of the memorable Maria Shrine and the Whitsun Pilgrimage. Visit the Shrine Church and the Franciscan monastery, the Triple Mound Altar and the Csángó Calvary.

In Csikszereda visit the local university.

Traveling further East, crossing the Gyimes Pass to Tatros Valley. We will go across many Gyimes-Csángó villages before reaching the Rákóczi Castle, at the old Hungarian border. Visit the Hungarian Railroads exhibit in the one time the Eastern most watchman's house.

Late afternoon, not far from the 1000 years old border, dinner at an intimate inn, listening and becoming familiar with Csángó folk music.

Lodging and for those still hungry dinner in Csiksomlyó.

July 16 Travel to Háromszék in Southern Secklerland. Clamber up with bus to Szent Anna Tó (Lake Saint Anna), one of the most beautiful attractions of the Eastern Carpathians. See the fascinating Mossy Turfs naturally formed in the volcanic craters.

In Bálványosvár a chance to walk to the Torda Stenchy Caves and find out about the world of the baths, called „mofettas”, established around the gas eruptions.

Kézdivásárhely – the county seat of Kovászna. Walk in the quaint Main Square, visit the Guild Museum.

Next stop Gelence, visit the Árpád age church. The interior walls of the church are adorned with murals from the 1300s depicting the legend of Sant Ladislaus (Szent László).

Alsócernát: visit the Pál Hasszmann museum, famous in distant lands for its technological, agricultural and folklore collections.

Traveling towards Brassó, we reach the one-time Saxon border. In Prázsmár visit one of the most famed Saxon fortress churches, built between the 13th and 15th centuries. Its main feature are the several hundred living quarters to house the local population fleeing from enemies.

Return to Csiksomlyó, through Sepsiszentgyörgy.

July 17 After breakfast say farewell to the Csik Basin, passing Hargita arrive at Udvarhelyszék. Short rest in the main square, where statues of great figures of Hungarian history stand. Continue to Székelyderzs, visit the Unitarian Fortress church. Very uniquely, local inhabitants store their dry goods in the church in wooden chests. Travelling through the Valley of Nagy Küküllő river, leave Székelyföld. Outside Segesvár, in Fehéregyház, see the statue and museum of Sándor Petőfi, who disappeared here in the battlefield. In Segesvár, the nicest Saxon town,

sightseeing. Clocktower, Citadel. Next, visit the Saxon fortress church of Berethalom, the one time bishop seat, government diets, and regal meeting place of the Saxons. Dinner and lodging in Gyulafehérvár, a former capital of Transylvania.

July 18 In the morning visit the Gyulafehérvár Castle. Marvel at the baroque castle gates, and the Romanesque and Gothic style Basilica of the Transylvanian Roman Catholic Archdiocese. Inside the church are tombstones of János Hunyadi, Queen Izabella, Prince János Zsigmond, cardinal diplomat György Fráter.

Next attraction is Vajdahunyad and the stately castle of the Hunyadi family.

In the afternoon set out to return to Hungary. In the Maros River valley the Castle of Tall Déva (Magos Déva) and the Castle of Solymos at Lippa can be spotted.

In Arad, paying homage to the thirteen executed generals' memorial, then see the amazing „Freedom” statue group by sculptor György Zala.

Crossing the border to Hungary at Nagylak, arrive to Budapest in the evening hours.

Participating fee of the Transylvania tour: 500 USD

Price is based on double occupancy, single occupancy extra.

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