



14th True Life in God Ecumenical Pilgrimage Unity in the Heart *September 29th – October 5th, 2026*

We are sharing with you some remarkable places we will visit during our pilgrimage.

Cluj - City Center Tour

Cluj-Napoca is one of Romania's largest and most important cities, located in the historical region of Transylvania in the northwest part of the country. Known simply as Cluj, the city is a major cultural, academic, and economic center, home to one of Romania's oldest universities, a vibrant student population, and a rich multicultural heritage influenced by Romanian, Hungarian, German, and Jewish communities. The city's historic center features landmarks such as Piața Unirii (Union Square), St. Michael's Church, Banffy Palace, Museum Square, and Avram Iancu Square, showcasing a mix of Gothic, Baroque, and modern architecture.

During your tour, you will have the opportunity to see many things, including the beautiful Museum of Orthodox Icons Painted on Glass. This museum showcases a traditional Transylvanian folk art technique called reverse glass painting.



Sighisoara

Sighisoara's citadel is one of those places that genuinely earns the word "remarkable". Perched on a hilltop in the heart of Transylvania, it's one of the best-preserved medieval citadels in Europe. And one of only a handful of places people still actually live in, as they have since the 12th century. UNESCO recognised its outstanding universal value in 1999, and it's easy to see why.



Biertan

In Biertan, a historic village in Transylvania we will visit the impressive fortified Church which is also a UNESCO World Heritage site. Built mainly between the late 15th and early 16th centuries, the church was created by the Transylvanian Saxon community, German-speaking settlers who established towns and villages throughout the region during the Middle Ages. The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary and was the seat of the Lutheran bishop of Transylvania from 1572 until 1867. What makes it special:

- **A fortified place of worship:** Unlike ordinary churches, Biertan was designed to protect the local population during times of conflict. It is surrounded by **three concentric defensive walls**, several towers, and fortified gates.
- **Impressive Gothic architecture:** The church combines Gothic and late Gothic elements, including a large hall-style interior, stone carvings, and a beautifully decorated altar.
- **The remarkable altar:** The church contains one of the largest late Gothic polyptych altars in Romania, created in the early 16th century. It has numerous painted panels depicting biblical scenes.
- **The famous sacristy door:** One of the church's treasures is its 1515 sacristy door, known for its sophisticated locking mechanism with multiple bolts operated by a single key. It won recognition at the 1889 Paris World Exhibition for its craftsmanship.
- **The "marriage prison":** A small room in the fortress was traditionally used to keep couples who wanted to separate.



Salina Turda

Turda Salt Mine is one of the most spectacular tourist destinations in the world. It is the underground formation that people created in a special natural environment, in the depths of Transylvania, digging into the salt deposited

after the evaporation of the sea that covered the entire region millions of years ago.

The salt mine is considered very beneficial for the lungs, which is why there is even a children's playground on the lower level. At the deepest level, visitors can enjoy a boating area.



Gherla

Gherla's origins go back to the Middle Ages, when the area was part of the medieval Kingdom of Hungary and later the Principality of Transylvania. The modern identity of the city began to take shape in the **18th century**, when Armenian merchants and settlers arrived from the Ottoman Empire and were granted permission by the Habsburg authorities to establish a new town.

The Armenians transformed Gherla into a prosperous trading center. The town was planned in a **Baroque style**, with straight streets and organized squares, which was unusual for many settlements in the region at the time. Because of this heritage, Gherla became known as **Armenopolis** (Armenian City). The Armenian community played a major role in Gherla's development: They were active in **trade, crafts, and finance**. They built churches, schools, and important civic buildings.

We will also visit the Holy Trinity Cathedral, Gherla which is the famous Armenian Catholic church of **Gherla (Armenopolis), Romania**; one of the most important monuments of the Armenian Catholic community in Transylvania. The cathedral contains a painting traditionally attributed to Peter Paul Rubens, "**The Deposition from the Cross**," which was associated with the imperial collection in Vienna and later given to the Armenian community of Gherla. Its architecture reflects the wealth and cultural importance of the Armenian merchants who helped build Gherla.

