



# Erasmus+

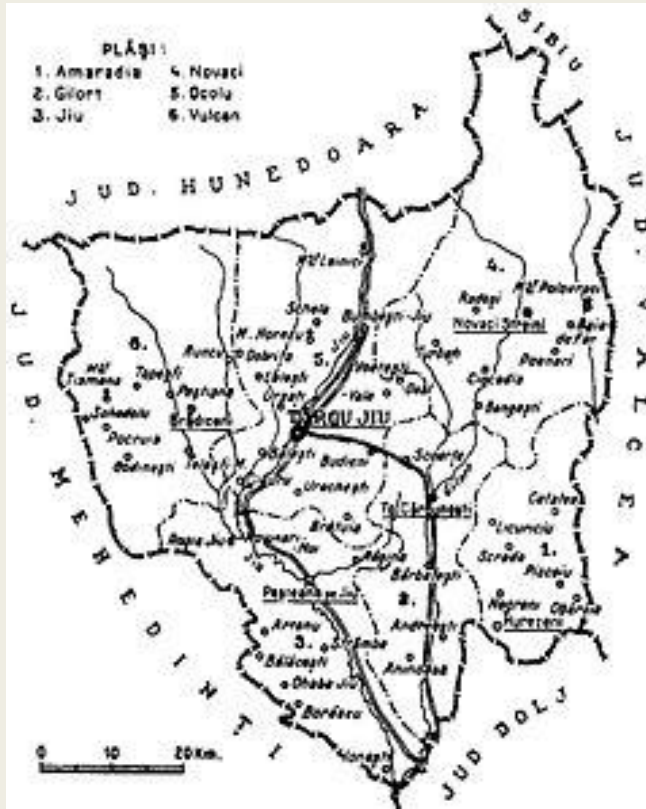
KA2 - Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices

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GORJ COUNTY

South-West OLTENIA

# Gorj



This county has a total area of 5,602 km<sup>2</sup>.

The North side of the county consists of various mountains from the Southern Carpathians group. In the West there are the Vulcanului Mountains, and in the East there are the Parâng Mountains and the Negoveanu Mountains. The two groups are split by the Jiu River.

To the South, the heights decrease through the hills to a high plain at the Western end of the Romanian Plain.

The main river, which collects all the smaller rivers, is the Jiu River.

# Rânca

Rânca is a recently developed [Romanian](#) resort, located at 1,600 m (5,250 ft) elevation, at the foothill of [Păpușa Peak](#) in the [Parâng Mountains](#).

It is located 17.9 kilometers away from [Novaci](#), [Gorj County](#), after passing on the [Transalpina \(DN67C\)](#) road through the [Parâng Mountains](#). There are views of the [Parângu Mare](#) peak and, when the weather is clear, one can see [Peleaga](#) peak of the [Retezat Mountains](#). During the winter, there are more than five ski slopes open ranging from low to increased difficulty.[\[1\]](#)

There are all kinds of accommodations, ranging from hotels to small family businesses. The shops that can be found in Rânca can provide supplies of food and some other necessities to backpackers and bikers.

Every year in September on the [Transalpina road](#) between Novaci and Rânca, the Rânca Stage of the National Rally Championship of Hill Climb is held.





# Transalpina

The **Transalpina** or **DN67C** located in the [Parâng Mountains group](#), in the [Southern Carpathians](#) of [Romania](#), is one of the [highest](#) roads of the [Carpathian Mountains](#). It connects [Novaci](#), south of [Parâng Mountains](#), to [Sebeș](#) in the north.

The road was built under [King Carol II](#) over an old [Roman](#) road and consolidated during [World War II](#) by [German troops](#). Also a story has it that [Nicolae Ceaușescu](#) had the [Transfăgărașan](#) Road (DN7C) built during the [communist regime](#) just to surpass the Transalpina.

The road has its highest point at the [Urdele Pass](#), where the elevation is 2,145m above sea level. Given the high altitude, the road is closed during the cold months of the year. Works began in 2007 in order to transform this spectacular road into a modern highway (148 km), allowing a rapid transit between [Oltenia](#) and [Transylvania](#).

[Râncea](#), a newly developed resort, is located towards the south end of the Transalpina road.

# Sohodolului gorges

Sohodolului gorges, cover an area of approximately 350 ha, is a nature reserve in category IV IUCN mixed their unique "tunnels" dug by the river.



Karst topography, name introduced worldwide by J. Cvijic karst science, specifically Sohodolului Gorge, formed by processes of corrosion, erosion and biochemical leading to the emergence of karst surface-Exokarst (Ditches, sinkholes, springs, gorges and karst valleys sohodoluri) and deep karst forms - endokarstic (inside caves "carved" erosion, corrosion and chemical precipitation).





# Muierilor(Women)Cave

- Muierilor Cave is located in Baia de Fier, Gorj County, on the territory of the Getic depression of Oltenia. The cave was carved into Mesozoic calcharele on the southern edge of the Parâng massif by Galbenul River. With a very rich history, the cave in ancient times sheltered during the wars, when men went to fights, many children and women, from where they were named. It is the first electrified cave in Romania.

# Tismana Monastery

- Tismana Monastery is placed on a cliff top, on Mount Stârmina, surrounded by wooded and rocky heights, near the mouth of the Cave of St. Nicodim and from under whose walls the water springs, rolling in the waterfall, with a fall of approx. 40 m in the Tismana River .
- The hoard of the monastery of Tismana was particularly large, but the damage to the monastery of ages made it lost. Some of the preserved valuables are found at the Romanian Art Museum. The monastery museum has a rich collection of murals (originating from the pronaos, painting from 1766), ancient icons on wood, objects of worship, old books, news, old doors of the Church (1782) and others. In the church is a silver brandy, executed by the plastic artist Gheorghe Stoica from Bucharest in 1980, which contains three parts of Holy Moaște: from St. Nicodim the forefinger of the right hand and the lead cross that wore to the neck, from the holy Ignatie the Theophany and St. John Mouth of Gold.





# The Endless Column

- The Endless Column is a sculpture of the Romanian artist Constantin Brâncuși, and part of the Monumental Ensemble trilogy of Târgu Jiu, consisting of the Infinite Column, the Gate of the kiss and the table of silence designed and executed by him. Inaugurated on 27 October 1938, the column has a height of 29.35 meters and consists of 16 overlapping octaetric modules, respectively with the lower and upper extremities of half a module. The modules were called "beads" by their author, Brancusi.
- The Sculpture is a symbol of the Romanian southern burial columns. The original name was "the column of Endless gratitude" and was devoted to Romanian soldiers from the First World War fallen in 1916 in battles on the banks of the Jiului River.



# The Table of Silence

- Around The Table of Silence, in 1938, the round hourglass chairs were grouped, two by two, but the artist did not leave them, putting them at equal distance from the table and between them, stressing the imaginary presence of a significant circle.
- The table is a symbol of family reunification and meditation

# The Gate of Kiss

- The gate of the kiss, which is located in the alley at the entrance of the city park, is chised from porous stone, extracted from the quarries in the surrounding area, consisting of thick, parallelepipedic columns, supporting an architrave with more dimensions Larger than the columns, with a width of 6.45 m, height of 5.13 m and thickness of 1.69 m.
- On the faces of each column is found the symbol of the kiss, two half of a circle, so characteristic of Brancusi's work. The Architrava has also encrusted this symbol, as a kind of filigree. In addition, also in the watermark there are incrustations that bring with a kind roof of the gate, as if the door was covered with shingles. The gate vault has a delicate linear ornament: it is a continuity of small arches, and above, on three horizontal lines, we encounter the continuation of identical oval shapes, as if it were the contour of the face and shoulders.
- The gate of the kiss looks like a triumphant arch, symbolizing the triumph of life on death.





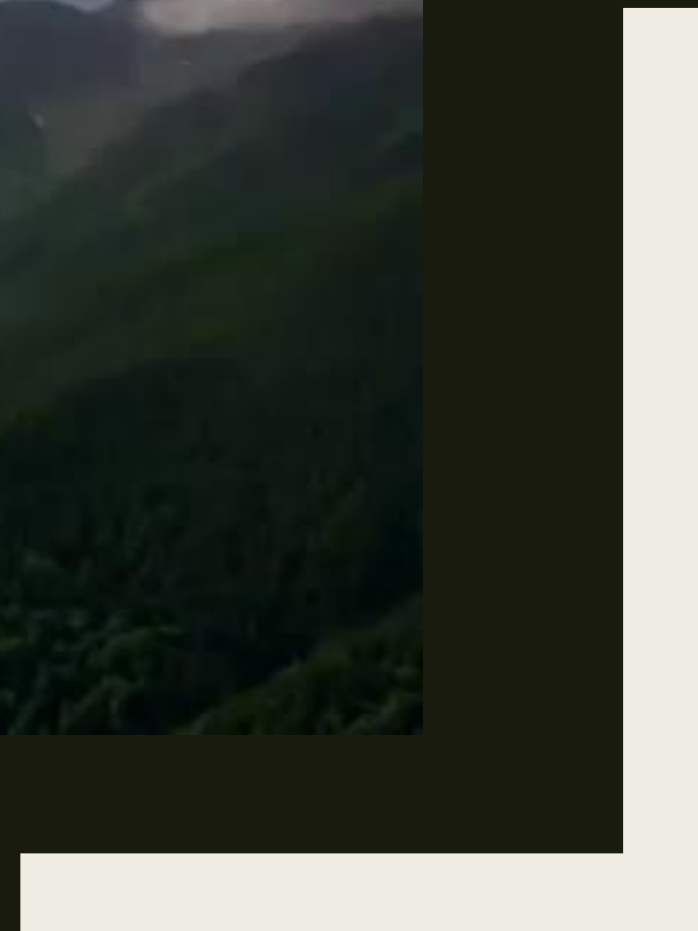
# Polovragi Cave

- Polovragi Cave is found in the mountain of the mountains, on the banks of the Olt, at an altitude of 670 m and 20 m above the river, in the commune of Polovragi between the towns of Horezu and the Baia de Fier Gorj County, Oltenia, Romania.
- Starting from the monastery of Polovragi, the one that sneers as a barrier to the end of the main street of the commune, we dare to climb the keys, initially along the Polovragi forest, protected natural Area for edible chestnut and the vegetation of type Mediterranean. Leaving the forest right, the steep right bank – the mountain of the mosques and the left guard – Mount Parâng, herald the entrance to the gorge of the Olteț. The Forest Road, public utility, climbs smoothly, parallel to the Olteț River, which, from its abyss, separates the two brothers mountains, still digging the true keys, with vertical walls, over the total length of 3 kilometers.

# JIULUI GORGE NATIONAL PARK

- One of the most spectacular roads in Romania is the GORGE of the JIULUI. This gorge is located between the mountains of Valcan and the Parang Mountains (between which they celebrate the sinuous waters of the Jiu River) and is part of the National Park of Jiului Gorge.
- At the same time, the gorge of the Jiul splits and the group of Mountains Parang of the mountains group Retezat – Godeanu. The gorge of the Jiului begins north of Bumbesti and continues until the Iscroni municipality (where the confluence of the 2 streams of the Jiu River) is held. In the middle of the gorge is located Lainici with the beautiful monastery of the same name. From here, there are numerous hiking trails through the Valcan Mountains to the Hermitage and the Parang Mountains.





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