

Activities for Zalanpatak 2016

We run one guided tour per day for every day of the week. Guests are guided together as a group.



Monday

Village Day. Discover what remains of glass manufacturing, visit two chapels and an old fire shed, plus the volcanic site, get inside the local courtyards and stables, taste the varieties of local herbal teas, etc. Lunch at the guesthouse.

Tuesday

Walk to the high pastures. This is a longer walk up to the pastures from where beautiful views and scenery unfold. Picnic stop for lunch.

Wednesday

Horse & Cart ride to the shepherds. You will drive to the pastures where the shepherds milk the sheep at noon. Taste fresh sheep's cheese before the barbecue lunch. On the way back you will stop at the spring and taste natural fizzy mineral water.

Thursday

Walk to George's meadow. This walk is particularly interesting for wild flowers and ancient farming techniques. Strip farming allows for a great variety of different crops to grow in small spaces on the village's south-facing slopes. Scenery and hay-fields are magnificent. Picnic stop for lunch.

Friday

Walk to the forest. This walk leads through less used tracks in the forests. Sometimes you can meet deer, boar or other inhabitants of the woods. Picnic stop for lunch.

Saturday

Horse & Cart ride to the charcoal burners. This is a longer ride to the outskirts of the next village, in beautiful scenery. Barbecue lunch close to the river. On the way back you can stop at the charcoal burners and invite them for a sip of your caraway brandy if there is some left after lunch.

Sunday

Walk up the southern hill. This walk is shorter but a bit steeper and follows a path through a diversity of botanical habitats. It leads back to the village center. Picnic stop for lunch.

Walks are medium in difficulty, 4-10km long and cover up to 150m in difference of altitude. Guests carry their own portions of picnics.

Horse & Cart rides are on wagons without springs, so it can be a bit rough and shaky. You can get on and off the cart and walk alongside whenever you wish. Barbecue for lunch.

A *guide* will accompany you and point out features of the wildlife and of the surroundings. You can pick mushrooms and herbs, dry them at the guesthouse and take them back home in little canvas bags. The guide also carries a repellent against wild animals and dogs if need be.

The schedule is set and cannot be changed.

In *July* and *August*, 'All Inclusive' guests can also *make hay* with the locals, instead of the daily tours and at no additional cost.



Rainy Days

If the weather is too wet, you can try your skills at simple traditional crafts or prepare a special local cake under the shelter of the barns and covered terraces.

- *Felting* with wool.
- *Carving* walking sticks from hazel branches
- *Sewing* little canvas bags for dried herbs and mushrooms
- *Baking* the traditional Szekler pipe (or chimney) cake 'Kürtős Kalács'

You can keep and take home the results of your skills, and the cake will be served for dessert at dinner!

Winter Activities

In case of snow (altitude approx. 800m), instead of our regular activities we can also offer:

- Cross country skiing with our guide (please bring your own equipment!)
- Snow-shoeing. Follow the tracks of wild animals including bears and wolves without sinking into the snow. We have 3 pairs of snow-shoes on site including 1 for the guide.
- Horse-drawn sleigh ride. In winter we swap the cart for a sleigh, and provide blankets and mulled wine for the journey. A wonderful, unique experience reminiscent of Dr. Zhivago...
- Sledges. The hills on the property are an ideal playground for sledging. We have 2 sledges for 4 persons at the estate.

Extra Activities

In addition to the daily tours, we offer a choice of extra activities for a fee:

Riding

At the nearby village of Sepsikőröspatak / Valea Crișului
we offer **riding lessons, hacking** and **day-rides**:

Lessons for both adults and children on horses and ponies
(45 min.), hacking (1,5-2 hours), and day-rides (3 h with picnic).

Transfers (1/2 h one way) are available. Please book in advance!

Bicycles are for rent on the property (without guide).

10 EUR / person / day (5 bicycles are available on site).

** Please note that the itinerary is subject to change.



Milking cows (mostly for children) in a stable in the neighborhood.
 Milking time is usually around 7-8 PM. 5 EUR / occasion.

We operate a **wildlife hide** on the property which can be visited by bicycle with a guide at dusk or at dawn between April and October.

Bears can often be watched, as well as other large mammals like boar and deer.
 Price: 50 EUR if successful (bear), 20 EUR if no-show.

In the warm season (May–September) '**al fresco**' **sunset dinners** in the surrounding hills are being offered for a minimum of 4 participants at an extra charge:

- By horse & cart to George's meadow on the other side of the village (dinner price +20 EUR / person)
- By foot on the hill above house, accompanied by a pony to carry the load (dinner price + 10 EUR / person)



The Prince of Wales hopes that his guesthouse will encourage more people to visit Transylvania and in this way promote sustainable development.
Proceeds from the guesthouse go to The Prince of Wales Foundation in Romania, member of The Prince's Charities.