



Maramureș

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Best Places to Eat

- » Millennium (p168)
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- » Hotel Perla Maramuresului (p180)

Best Places to Stay

- » Hotel Gabriela (p179)
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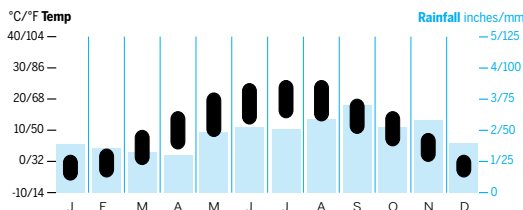
Why Go?

Widely regarded as Romania's most traditional region, scattered with gothically steeped wooden churches and villagers' homes fronted by ornately carved gates, Maramureș feels as if you are climbing into a horse-drawn time machine and heading back 100 years. Smaller in scale and softer in contour than neighboring Transylvania, Maramureș' tapestry of pastureland, peopled by colourfully garbed crone-faced peasants, jumps straight from a Brothers Grimm story. Welcome to the heart of folkloric, medieval Romania where the last peasant culture in Europe continues to thrive. But don't wait forever to visit: even here the 21st century is making inroads.

Medieval Maramureș exists in the Mara and Izei Valleys. Eight of its churches, in the villages of Bârsana, Budești, Desești, Ieud, Plopiș, Poienile Izei, Rogoz and Surdești, are on Unesco's list of World Heritage Sites.

When to Go

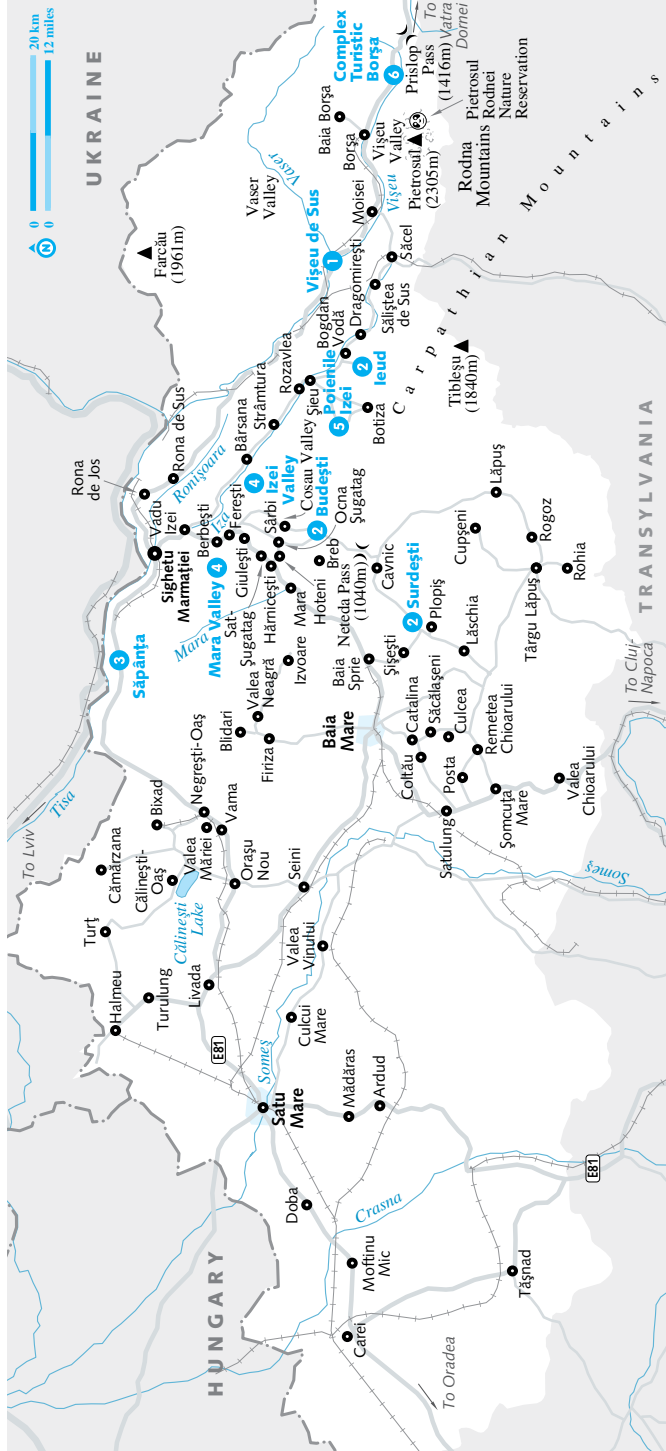
Baia Mare



May–Sep Warm temperatures, meadows vivid with wildflowers and excellent trekking weather.

Dec–Mar The best time for skiers to head to Romania's snowy slopes.

Jun–Aug Summer months are the perfect time to hit the beach and cycle in the Carpathians.



Maramureș Highlights

- 1 Chugging through the beautiful Vaser Valley in Europe's last forest steam train, from **Vișeu de Sus** (p.178)
- 2 Knocking on the wooden church doors of **Budești**, Satu Mare (p.175) and **Surdești** (p.169) and **leud** (p.178)
- 3 Wandering through the colourful, humorous forest of painted wooden crosses in Săpânța's **Merry Cemetery** (p.176)
- 4 Travelling back in time with a rustic homestay in the **Izei** (p.177) and **Mara Valleys** (p.174)
- 5 Witnessing the fiery visions of hell at **Poienile Izei church** (p.178)
- 6 Skiing crowd-free slopes at **Complex Turistic Borșa** (p.180)