

# ROMANIA

## MURES COUNTY



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The MURES county is located in the central-northern part of the country, covering an area of 6,696 sq. km (2.8% from the total area of the country). The population is of 584.089 inhabitants 309.192 of them living in urban centers.

The territory of the county is located in a depression between the Carpathians, slightly going down in steps from the volcanic peaks of Calimani Mountains (2,100m high) and Gurghiu Mountains to the central Transylvanian Plan (280 m) crossed by Mures Valley and fragmented by its subsidiary rivers.

The climate is temperate-continental.

Natural gas, rocks used as building materials, clorosodic mineral springs, forests, are the main natural riches of the county.

A rich fauna and numerous fish species, the flora of the natural reserves – the Romanian Peony at Zau de Cimpie, the Mociar Forest, the Daffodils' Glade and the Dendrologic Park at Gurghiu amaze the look of the tourist.

The castles in the baroque, gothic or Renaissance style such as Bethlen Castle (15<sup>th</sup> –17<sup>th</sup> centuries) – Italian Renaissance, Teleki Castle (18<sup>th</sup> century) – baroque style with traditional Transylvanian elements, Dumbravioara Castle and Brincovenesti Castle, the medieval citadels of Tirgu Mures (17<sup>th</sup> century) and Sighisoara (13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century) are as many invitations extended to those who love beauty and are interested in culture and history.

First 6 economic sectors of the county are: machine building, chemical industry, textiles, wood working, pharmaceutical industry, farm produce.

Mentioned in documents as early as 1300 as a “market town”, **Tirgu Mures** reminds of an ancient economic center of the area. The merchants and guild members got involved in economic activities as early as the feudal age. A powerful infrastructure helped the development of a powerful spiritual life. Today the county town is a developed economic and cultural center. The education system in Mures county includes 4 universities (Medicine and Pharmacy University, Technical University, Dramatic Art University, Ecological University).



Tirgu Mures is well known inside the country and abroad as an important medical center with outstanding achievements in the field.

**Sighisoara** is the only mediaeval citadel in Europe that is fully inhabited. Known as the “Pearl of Transylvania” since the last century, the citadel-town is located in the heart of Romania, in the south of Mures county.



The first document mentioning Sighisoara, called “Castrum Sex”, dates back to 1280, the Romanian name, that of Sighisoara, is for the first time mentioned in a document of Vlad III Dracula in 1431. Vlad Dracula (nicknamed Tepes/the Impaller), is supposed to have been born in Sighisoara. His name inspired Bram Stoker for his novel “Dracula”, the best known book after the Holy Bible.

Some 36,000 people live in Sighisoara today. The population is made up of Romanians, Hungarians and Germans.

The proposal has been advanced that the citadel of Sighisoara be added to the list of UNESCO monuments.

**Reghin** is known as the “Violin Town” or new Cremona” both names undoubtedly inspired by violin building. Young people from Canada and Germany learn how to make violins in Reghin., at different masters.

As a spa, **Sovata** has been known since 1884. It became a town in 1956. Here is the only heliothermal lake in Europe, named Ursu (the Bear).



Sovata offers now an accommodation capacity of 4,000 beds in six hotels, villas and camping sites. The spa is renowned for the efficiency of the treatment for various gynecological, rheumatic, circulatory, neurotic, lung and respiratory (excluding TBC) diseases, as well as for the beneficial effects of its air. The spa is propitious for walking, fishing, equitation in summer and skiing in winter.



The town of Tirgu Mures



▲ Symphony orchestra in



▲ The foyer of the National



Sighisoara



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