

FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN  
WESTON, UU



*OUR TRIP TO  
TORDA, ROMANIA*

*MAY 2023*





*MAY 8 – MAY 18, 2023*

# *OUR ITINERARY:*

- May 8 Depart Boston in the evening
- May 9 1<sup>st</sup> group Arrives Kolosvar in the afternoon
- May 10 2<sup>nd</sup> group Arrives Kolosvar. We meet Rev. Lojas Jozsa and his wife Emesa and travel to Torda by passenger van. We visit Torda Museum
- May 11 Tour Kolosvar, Tour Church and seminary there and visit Unitarian Church Headquarters
- May 12 Hike Torda Gorge, Visit Meszko Unitarian Church and the Balazs Ferencz Center  
Visit Torockó and Museum (in the mountains)
- May 13 Visit to the Citadel in Alba Iulia and Deva Castle
- May 14 Attend Sunday Service of the Torda Church and then visit the Torda Salt Mines
- May 15 Depart Torda for Budapest, Boston and Venice
- May 16 – 17 Tour of Budapest, Hungary (for six of us)
- May 18 Depart Budapest for Boston and elsewhere

# *ARRIVE IN KOLOSVAR*

aka Kluj-Napoca,  
Romania

- 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city in  
Romania
- Traditional capitol of  
Transylvania
- Population ~ 295,000



## *TORDA, ROMANIA*

### *TURDA / TORDA*

- Population of ~ 44,000
- Ancient history as a regional fort and salt mine for the Roman Empire (Potaissa).
- Site of the famous Edict of Torda, one of the First Declarations of Religious Freedom, in 1568
- Dirk and Larry Coburn attended the 450<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Ceremony of the Edict, in 2018





Torda Museum in front of most famous portrait of Francis David and the Diet of Torda, held here in 1568.

(Yes, most of us were jet-lagged.)

A wide-angle photograph of a town square. The square is paved and has a few people walking. In the background, there is a church with a prominent spire. The buildings are colorful and have a mix of architectural styles. The sky is blue with some clouds. The text "TORDA TOWN SQUARE" is overlaid in the center of the image.

*TORDA TOWN SQUARE*

*MONUMENT  
CELEBRATING  
THE 450<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE EDICT OF  
TORDA,  
INSTALLED IN 2018*





*FROM BARS TO BIRDS...*

*SCULPTURE  
COMMEMORATING  
THE 450TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
EDICT OF TORDA*





*IN TORDA,  
WITH THE  
UNITARIAN  
CHURCH  
STEEPLE IN  
THE DISTANCE*



*KOLOSVAR*

*ST.  
MATTHIAS  
CHURCH*

*KOLOSVAR  
UNITARIAN  
CHURCH*





*STATUE OF  
FRANCIS  
DAVID  
NEXT TO THE  
KOLOSVAR  
UNITARIAN  
CHURCH*



*UNITARIAN CHURCH IN KOLOSVAR*



*FRANCIS  
DAVID'S ROCK  
IN THE  
KOLOSVAR  
CHURCH*

*VISIT WITH  
THE BISHOP*

Rev. Istvan Kovacs  
with the Rev.  
Lojas Jozsa





*TORDA  
GORGE*







*JEFF TRYING  
OUT A  
TRANSYLVANIAN  
PULPIT IN  
MESZKO*



*TOROČKO*



Former Textile  
Center  
Current tourist  
destination in the  
mountains





A woman with grey hair, wearing a bright red jacket and a grey scarf, stands in the center of a room. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. The room is filled with traditional furniture and textiles. To her left is a wooden chair with a red and white patterned cushion. In front of her is a wooden table covered with a white lace tablecloth and a pink and white patterned runner. A dark, textured vase sits on the table. Behind her is a dark wooden headboard with circular patterns. The wall behind the headboard has a light blue patterned curtain. To the right, a framed picture hangs on the wall. The floor is made of light-colored wood. The overall atmosphere is warm and traditional.

*TOROCKO  
MUSEUM*



*REPLICA OF  
THE  
HUNGARIAN  
CROWN AND  
ORB*

AT ANOTHER MUSEUM IN  
TOROCKO





*EVENINGS AT THE PARISH HOUSE*



*BACK AT THE PARISH HOUSE THAT NIGHT:  
A SING-ALONG AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE*



*ALBA IULIA AND CITADEL*









*STAIRWAY  
TO DEVA  
FORTRESS*





*DEVA FORTRESS  
SITE WHERE FRANCIS DAVID WAS IMPRISONED AND DIED*



*CAREFUL  
OF THOSE  
ROMANIAN  
SNAKES!*

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Deva, viewed from a high vantage point on a hillside. The foreground shows a stone wall and lush green trees. The middle ground is filled with a dense urban landscape featuring numerous buildings with red-tiled roofs and some taller structures. The background shows a vast, hazy landscape under a cloudy sky. The text 'VIEW FROM THE TOP IN DEVA' is overlaid in white, italicized font on the left side of the image.

*VIEW FROM THE  
TOP IN DEVA*

# CASTELUL CORVINILOR

CORVIN'S  
CASTLE



## LEGENDA SILENTI

- 1. Turnul de poartă / The Gate Tower
- 2. Turnul vechi de poartă / The Old Gate Tower
- 3. Piața de armament / The Armament Square
- 4. Piața de război / The War Square
- 5. Curtea / The Court
- 6. Piața / The Plaza
- 7. Sala de consiliu / The Council Hall
- 8. Sala de tron / The Throne Room
- 9. Turnul de apă / The Water Tower
- 10. Turnul de vânt / The Wind Tower
- 11. Turnul de fum / The Smoke Tower
- 12. Turnul de apă caldă / The Hot Water Tower
- 13. Turnul de apă rece / The Cold Water Tower
- 14. Turnul de apă fierdă / The Boiling Water Tower
- 15. Turnul de apă dulce / The Sweet Water Tower
- 16. Turnul de apă sărată / The Salty Water Tower
- 17. Turnul de apă amară / The Bitter Water Tower



PLANUL CASTELULUI  
PLAN OF THE CASTLE

CASTLE  
CORVINILOR



*THE  
BRIDGE  
ACROSS  
THE MOTE!*



*“JUMP, JUMP,  
JUMP...”*

*THERE IS A  
VIDEO  
SOMEWHERE OF  
A GROUP DANCE...*





*TORDA  
CHURCH  
SERVICE,  
SUNDAY  
MAY 14TH*





*REV. LOJAS  
JOZSA  
PRESIDING*

*REV. JOSZA GIVING  
HIS SERMON IN  
HUNGARIAN AND  
THEN TRANSLATED  
INTO ENGLISH*



*PLAQUE IN  
TORDA CHURCH  
LOBBY*

*BUILT  
1791*

*STEEPLE  
ERECTED  
1801-09*

The church was built in the years 1791 – 1792, while the tower in 1801-1809 on the ground of the old Unitarian School in the time of István Sárdi's ministry and Zsigmond Balogh's curatorship. The internal furnishing of the church was finished in 1797. The church itself is a simple, large and light building. It is made of stone, brick and wood, and covered with zinc sheet iron. It was repaired in the years 1823, 1890, 1903, 1946. A reparation of note was carried out in 1903 designed by the unitarian architect Lajos Pákei.

Inscriptions: There is a marble table on the wall at the men's entrance with the following inscription: "It is built to the glory of our God in MDCCXII. It was restored in 1903 on the expense of the congregation and of the sacrifice of the believers, during the time of bishop József Ferenc, curator László Czako, minister Dénes Lőrinczy, according to the design of Lajos Pákei, by the master builder József Király."

The church originally was built by János Sándor master builder of Várfalva (Moldovenesti).

LŐRINCZI DENES LELEKESZSÉGE ALATT  
PAKELLA JOS MŰEPTÉSZ TERVE SZERINT  
KIRALY JOZSEF ÉPÍTŐMESTER ÁLTAL

• Templomunkat javítottuk az  
Úrnak 1999-ik esztendejében  
dr. SZABÓ ÁRPÁD püspöksége,  
FAZAKAS FERENC lelkészsége,  
FODOR BELA gondnoksága  
idejében az északamerikai  
WESTON testvér gyülekezet és  
hivelnk áldozatos hozzájárulásával.  
2000 május 21.

*PLAQUE IN  
TORDA  
CHURCH  
ENTRANCE*



# *TORDA SALT MINE*

*LAST DINNER IN  
THE PARISH HOUSE  
WITH OUR HOSTS*



*DEPARTING  
TORDA  
ON MAY 15*



*NAGYON  
KÖSZÖNJÜK ÉS  
VISSZATÉRÜNK!*



*MANY THANKS  
AND WE'LL BE  
BACK!*



# *BACKGROUND INFORMATION*

# *HUNGARIANS LIVE IN MULTIPLE COUNTRIES*

- As a result of the vagaries of history (including two World Wars), there are ethnic-speaking Hungarians living in western and central Romania (i.e., Transylvania) on lands that formerly were part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.
- Approximately 1 million people out of Romania's total population of 19 million are ethnic Hungarians.
- In 2010 when Victor Orbán was reelected as Prime Minister in Hungary, he granted citizenship to ethnic Hungarians living in Hungary's border states.
- Romania's million-strong Hungarian minority suddenly became voting participants in Hungarian elections. Since then, Transylvanian Hungarians have returned Orbán's favor. More than 95 % of them cast votes for his party in the last three elections.
- In 2021 alone, the government allocated 250 million Euros to Hungarian communities in Transylvania. Orbán used the money to close schools and organizations that he could not directly control—and then open new ones whose funding comes directly from his office.

