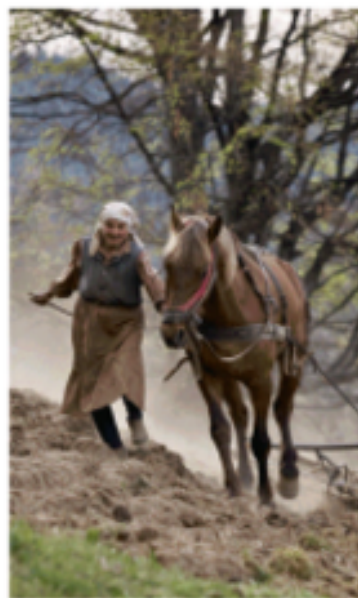




## Transylvania



Lying within the stone ring of the Carpathians, forming the very heart of Romania, Transylvania is a region where the civilisations of West and East meet. The region's tumultuous history has left behind a fascinating tapestry of dynamic cultural landscapes capable of shaping their future while never forgetting their past.

The present-day territory of Transylvania was originally part of the Carpathian-Danubian state of Dacia, and after 106 A.D., part of the Roman province of the same name and the cradle of the Romanian people and language. Despite pressure from migratory tribes, local statelets sprang up, such as that ruled by Gelou Dux Blachorum (Duke of the Vlachs). After 1000, the Kingdom of Hungary, an alliance of the migratory tribes that settled in the Pannonian Plain at the end of the ninth century, set about conquering the land beyond the forest, Transylvania. As a way of consolidating their rule, the Hungarian kings colonised them, encouraging

the Saxons, a group of mixed German and Walloon origin, and the Szeklers, a Hungarian-speaking ethnic group of Turkic origin, to settle in Transylvania. Most of the local Romanian rulers retreated to lands (terrae) at the edges of Transylvania, situated in depressions and river valleys. These islands of Romanian culture persisted over the centuries until Transylvania was unified with the Kingdom





### Satele cu biserici fortificate

Una dintre comorile Transilvaniei sunt așezările cu biserici fortificate, care conservă un peisaj cultural unic, păstrat din Evul Mediu. Solidele biserici-cetăți construite de sași începând cu secolul al XIII-lea evidențiază evoluția arhitecturii ecleziastice și militare europene timp de șapte secole și au influențat organizarea și arhitectura construcțiilor din jur.

### *The Villages of Fortified Churches*

*One of Transylvania's treasures, the villages of fortified churches preserve a unique cultural landscape that dates from the Middle Ages. Built by the Saxons from the thirteenth century onwards, these church citadels stand as witness to seven centuries of changing ecclesiastical and military architecture and influenced the layout and style of the lay structures built around them.*

Biserica fortificată din Saschiz >  
The fortified church at Saschiz

