



APUSENI EXPERIENCE

DEDICATED TO THE MOUNTAINS

SUNCUIUS – VADU CRISULUI AREA

No.	Name of cavity	Characteristics	Time of visit	Observations	Degree of difficulty
1.	Ungurului Cave	-historical and antropologic importance, Neolithic ceramics, bronze pieces ; exhibition of discovered items. Unique mineral.	20 minutes; group: 15 persons	- electricity, tourist fittings ; guided tour; entrance fee	I
2.	Vantului Cave	- the longest cave in Romania – 45 km ; 4 levels, great diversity of speleothems, gypsum forms, parietal flowstone;	8 – 20 hours group: 5 – 10 pers.	- closed cave; - overalls, boots, light source needed	II
3.	Moanei Cave	L=1.170 m; underground river, waterfalls, meanders, speleothems; passages;	4 hours group: 5 – 7 pers.	- free access; - waterproof oversuit, boots, light source needed	II
4.	Ponoras Cave	L=3.851 m; level difference: 186 m; - a great diversity of speleothems, rimstone pools, waterfalls, Christalictites; narrow entrance; - sportive cave;	8 hours group: 5 – 7 pers.	- closed cave; - oversuit, boots, light sources, complete abseiling equipment	III
5.	Vadu-Crisului Cave	L= 1.000 m; - tourist cave, partially destroyed speleothems, 2 levels, underground river, breakdowns, thick soot	40 – 60 min. group: 5 – 15 pers.	- arranged cave (footbridges, ladders) ; guided tours ; entrance fee	I

		deposits;		- light source, sometimes oversuit and boots	
6.	Batranului Cave	L= 1.100 m; level difference: -68 m; - underground river, 10m pit at the entrance, 2 narrow paths, speleothemes, waterfalls, 2 siphons, relatively large rooms, argyle figures museum;	4 hours group: 5 – 10 pers.	- free access; - oversuit, boots, light source, harness and belay;	II

ROSIA AREA

No.	Name of cavity	Characteristics	Visiting time	Observations	Degree of difficulty
1.	Ciur Ponor Cave	L= 15.000m - the longest subterranean river in Romania: 10 km; - imposing chambers, waterfalls, lakes, siphons, easy passages; - 2 waterfalls: 5 si 14 m;	5 - 10 hours; group: 5 - 10 pers;	- waterproof oversuit, boots, light sources, complete SRT equipment for waterfalls; - neoprene for passing through the siphon;	III
2.	Ciur Izbuc Cave	L= 1.030 m; - 2 levels: active and dry; - palaeontologic relics: footprints of prehistoric man and ursus spaeleus; - rimstone pools, aragonites, floor and ceiling formations;	3 - 6 hours; group: 5 - 10 pers;	- closed cave (reservation) - is not difficult to cross - oversuit, boots, light source;	II
3.	Aven of Sohodol I	D= -102m; - sportive cave; - alternance of large pits and easy passages; - few speleothems;	5 - 7 hours; group: 5 pers;	- oversuit, boots, light source, complete SRT equipment; - good physical and psychological shape; - problems can appear in case of flood over the 3 last pits;	III
4.	Stanu Foncii aven	d= -339m; - sportive cave; parcurs sportiv;	5-12 ore grup: 5pers	- oversuit, boots, light source, complete SRT	III

		- succession of pits and passages;		equipment; - good physical and psychological shape;	
5.	Meziad Cave	L= 4.750m; - 3 levels, of which one is under water - large galleries, impressive entrance; - palaeontologic relics - ursus saeleus; - variety of speleothems: gours, columns, stalagmites, stalactites etc; large bat colonies;	3 - 8 hours; group: 5-20 pers;	- closed cave; only guided access; - oversuit, boots, light source; - no technical difficulties;	II

PADIS AREA

No.	Name of cavity	Characteristics	Visiting time	Observations	Degree of difficulty
1.	The Black Cave (Pestera Neagra)	d = - 178 m; L= 10.000m; - succession of pits, few formations, subterranean river, sportive cave;	8 - 10 hours group: 5 pers;	- high flood danger; - oversuit, boots, light source, full SRT equipment;	III
2.	The Karstic System "The Lost World"	L= 2.437 m; d= 140m; - subterranean active network; - access through 2 impressive avens: Black Aven: - 100m and Gemanata Aven: - 98m; - sportive cave, calcite deposits, lakes;	6 - 8 hours; group: 3 - 7 pers;	- difficulties in case of high flood; - waterproof oversuit, boots, light source, full SRT equipment; - good physical and technical skills;	III
3.	Ghetarul Focul Viu	L= 165 m; - 25.000 m ³ ice block; - lower level;	20 min; group: 5 - 20 pers;	- not difficult; - light source, adequate footwear;	

		- specific ice formations;		- for the low level: oversuit, full SRT equipment;	I
4.	Cetatile Ponorului	L= 7.500m; - impressive entrance; - subterranean river, succession of 14 lakes; - impressively decorated, waterfalls;	4 - 8 hours; group: 3 - 7 pers;	- neoprene suit, good physical and technical skills; - swimming skills; - problems if water level increases; small visiting groups;	IV
5.	The Ice Cave of Barsa	d= -112 m; - permanent ice at the entrance, moonmilk flows, erosion and corrosion forms; succession of pits, waterfalls and siphons; - sportive cave;	5 - 7 hours; group: 3 - 7 pers;	- oversuit, boots, light sources, full SRT equipment; - problems can appear on lower level if high floods are caused;	III
6.	Caput Cave	L= 1873m; - sportive cave; absolutely no formations; - in rainy periods a subterranean river is formed; - 2 (vertical) shafts: 10 and 30m;	2 - 4 hours; group: 3 - 5 pers;	- high flood danger; - oversuit, boots, full SRT equipment; ; - access in small groups; - the horizontal part of the cave is not to be visited in rainy periods;	III
7.	Piatra Altarului Cave	L= 3.000m - o mare varietate de speleoteme, cristale; - stramtori in zona de intrare; - cea mai frumoasa peștera din cadrul carstului romanesc.	5 – 10 ore; grup: 5 – 10 pers;	- closed cave (reservation); - oversuit; boots, light sources; oversuit and footwear to replace;	II
8.	Avenul Poienita	L= 7.500m ; d=- 280m; - parcurs sportiv - succesiune de puturi si stramtori; - parcurs foarte dur(al doilea din tara ca si dificulat);	8 – 20 ore; grup: 3 – 5 pers.	- waterproof oversuit, boots, light sources, full SRT equipment; - good physical and psychological state;	IV
9.	Peștera Humpleu	L= 35.000m; - 2 levels: dry and active; - impressive decorations; - great variety of speleothems; breakdowns;		- closed cave (reservation) - for the dry part: oversuit, boots, light source;	dry: II

		- on the subterranean river: lakes, slopes, waterfalls, moonmilk waterfall, calcite monocrystals; siphons;		- for the active part: full neoprene, oversuit, light source;	active: IV
10.	Pestera Rece (The Cold Cave)	- L= 2.000m; - o mare varietate de speleoteme; - 2 puturi la intrare; - stramtori, argila; - pestera foarte frumoasa	5 - 8 hours; group: 5 - 10 pers;	- closed cave (reservation); - oversuit, boots, light sources, full SRT equipment;	III

CHISCAU - SIGHISTEL AREA

No.	Name of cavity	Characteristics	Visiting Time	Observations	Degree of difficulty
1.	Micula Cave	L=7.316 m;den= + 165m; - impressively decorated, subterranean river, a variety of speleothems, subterranean lakes, waterfalls, siphons	5 - 20 hours; group: 5-10 pers.	- closed cave (natural reservation) - up to the siphon: harness, lanyard, oversuit and light source - from the siphon: complete neoprene suit, light sources, complete SRT equipment.	III
2.	Petit Tibi Aven	L= 241 m; depth = -159,75 m; - successive shafts and passages - 80 m shaft - sportive cave	10 - 12 hours; group: 3- 5 pers;	-- reservation - oversuit, boots, light source, complete SRT equipment - good physical shape and technical skills	III

3.	Pestera Ursilor (The Bears' Cave)	L = 1.500m; - great variety of speleothems, palaeontologic relics - ursus spelaeus, rimstone pools, parietal flows, drapes	30 - 50 min; group: 5 - 20 pers	- guided access only - arranged tourist cave - electricity - does not require equipment	I
4.	Corbasca Cave	L = 300 m - richly decorated, moonmilk flows, speleothems: stalactites, stalagmites, columns	40 min; group: 10 pers;	- not difficult - oversuit, boots, light source	II
5.	Magura Cave	L = 1.500 m; - great variety of speleothems, large chambers, palaeontologic relics, richly decorated	3 - 5 hours; group: 5 - 15 pers.	- not difficult - oversuit, boots, light source	II
6.	Coliboaia Cave	L = 1.060 m; - subterranean river, temporary lake, stalagmitical flows, calcite deposits, chambers, meanders.	2 - hours; group: 5 - 10 pers;	- no technical difficulties, - oversuit, boots, light source	II

GARDA AREA

No.	Name of cavity	Characteristics	Visiting time	Observations	Degree of difficulty
1.	Hoanca Urzicarilor Aven	d= - 286m ; - sportive cave, succession of pits;	10 - 12 hours; group: 3 - 5 pers;	- oversuit, light source, complete SRT equipment; - good physical shape and technical skills;; - beware of unstable breakdown cones;	IV
2.	Ghetarul de sub Zgurasti	L= 5.210m; - impressive entrance; - great variety of speleothems; - subterranean river and 2 lakes;	5 - 12 hours; group: 5 - 7 pers.	- oversuit, boots, light source, complete SRT equipment; - closed cave (reservation)	

		- vertical portions, lots of argyle;		- a boat is necessary to cross the lakes; - access can be restricted in rainy periods (a temporary lake at the entrance is formed);	III
3.	Scarisoara Ice Cave	L= 800m; - impressively decorated; - ice deposit of 75.000 m ³ - ice formations, biospaeologic reservation;	40 min. group: 5 - 20 pers;	- closed cave; guided access only; - paths are set up, electricity; - best visiting time: April-June; - no special equipment is required;	I
4.	The Aven of Sesuri	L= 2.500m; d=- 217m; - successions of pits and shafts; calcite flowstone, speleothems, impressive decorations, sportive cave, subterranean river, lakes;	7 - 8 hours; group: 5 - 7 pers.	- oversuit, light sources, boots, complete SRT equipment; - good physical shape and technical skills;	III
5.	Coiba Mica Cave	L= 270m; - subterranean river, lakes, waterfalls; - sportive cave;	1 - 2 hours; 5 pers;	- careful at logs to fall; - neoprene, oversuit, full SRT equipment; - chances of high flood;	III
6.	Coiba Mare Cave	L= 4.500m; - subterranean river with waterfalls and lakes; - formations; - sportive cave;	6 - 8 hours; 5 pers;	- neoprene, full SRT equipment; - to avoid visits in rainy periods;	III
7.	Vartop Ice Cave	L= 300m; - moonmilk flows, stalagmitic flows; - cave renowned for the footprint of the "Vartop man"; - great variety of speleothems;	30 min - 1 h; group: 5 - 10 pers;	- closed cave; - guided access only; - oversuit, boots, light source; - not difficult;	II
8.	Oilor Cave (Cave of the Sheep)	L= 545m; - subterranean lakes; rimstone pools, speleothems;	3 - 5 hours; group: 5 - 7 pers;	- oversuit, boots, light sources; - not difficult, except for the	II

		- does not include vertical passages;		final lake, where a boat is needed;	
9.	Hoanca Apei Cave	L= 1.839m; - subterranean river with lakes, 20 m waterfall; - intermitent spring (30 seconds) - palaeontologic relics (ursus spaeleus) - great variety of speleothems;	5- 8 hours; 5 - 7 pers;	- closed cave (reservation) - oversuit, boots, light sources, full SRT equipment;	II
10.	Sohodol II Aven	d= - 193 m; - lots of verticales; - large pits; - few speleothemes;	8 - 12 hours; group: 5 - 7 pers;	- oversuit, boots, light sources, full SRT equipment; - good physical shape and technical skills;	III