



# Global Village Trip Description

## Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Event Code: gv5469

June 21 – July 2, 2005

- *Make a lasting difference to Romanian families*
- *Visit historic and beautiful Transylvania*
- *Be part of a youth/adult/family build*

**Romania is a fascinating place** where medieval life meets modern times. While visiting, we'll discover a land with majestic, natural beauty; a rich cultural heritage; and a history still alive in and sometimes haunting the present. The Romanian landscape offers visitors scenic hiking trails, serene streams, pine-covered mountains, green hills and forests, as well as many other dazzling views. Narrow cobblestone streets winding through skewed medieval houses, stern gothic churches, rococo palaces, and painted monasteries nestled in rolling hills and green mountains reveal to guests a rich cultural heritage in full splendor. Ensnconced within the mysterious Carpathian Mountains, fortified towns scatter the countryside and, in the surviving unspoiled villages, rural Romanians preserve folk traditions that the rest of Europe discarded long ago.



The country also bears the scars of a rocky transition to a free market economy. Romanians are trying to make a go of it in post-communist Eastern Europe. Their many years under a tight-fisted dictatorship has kept them years (some think centuries) behind their soon-to-be EU neighbors. Make no mistake; poverty is apparent in a country struggling to catch-up.

**Our work** will be in the city of Cluj-Napoca, historic and present-day capital of Transylvania—a wonderful place steeped in medieval tradition mixed with Hungarian and Germanic cultural influences. With roots pre-dating Roman times, Napoca was recognized as a municipality by Emperor Hadrian in A.D.124, and a Roman colony by Marcus Aurelius (A.D.161-180).



**Accommodations** will be in a hotel, two to a room (with bathroom). We will work side-by-side with local homeowners and families building wood-framed, plastered homes.

**Our tentative itinerary** balances work with taking advantage of some of the incredible sights and history in the area.

June 22	Arrival and Orientation
June 23–25	Work days and local activities
June 26	Rest and explore day
June 27–June 30	Work days and local activities
June 30–July 1	Tour Sighisoara
July 2	Depart Cluj



Habitat for Humanity®

**Cost of the trip is \$1200**, not including airfare. Team members are free to make their own travel arrangements to and from Cluj. The trip fee itself covers all meals, transportation, accommodations, tour expenses, insurance, and a contribution to our HFH host affiliate in Cluj to help build more homes.

**Dave Kovac** is the trip leader, returning to Cluj for the 5th time. He's already been involved in helping build 15 of the 17 Habitat homes dedicated in Cluj since the affiliate's inception. Dave has also led trips to Alaska, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, and Mexico. Information about previous trip experiences as well as evolving plans for the upcoming build can be found at Dave's web site, by clicking the [Travel Portal](#) button.

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Last year's World Values Survey listed Romania as the least happy country in its poll of 65 nations. Our mission will be to change that placement by employing generous amounts of levity, humor, and fun to our work in Cluj. A healthy sense of humor is a prerequisite for participants in this project.

## Habitat for Humanity

The Habitat for Humanity vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live. This is an enormous challenge. We work around the world with volunteers from all backgrounds to help people build their own house. We are currently completing one house every 26 minutes and work in 100 countries.

Poverty housing reaches far beyond rickety walls and leaking roofs. It is unhealthy, dangerous and demeaning – and it keeps people poor. Without a decent home, the chances of finding work, getting an education or being able to improve your life are greatly decreased.

A *Global Village Trip* will involve you working alongside people in poverty housing around the world to help build simple, decent homes. No previous building experience is necessary.

By joining a *Global Village Team* you will become part of the solution to world poverty housing, bringing new hope to both families and communities. You will do this through working with low-income families who invest hundreds of hours of labor – sweat equity – into building their own house and the homes of their neighbors. And you will do this by taking up the challenge to support house building in the host country. The outcome will be new hope to families and communities.

Time and again Global Village team members experience transformation in their own lives as they work with people living with the indignity of poverty housing.

Mrs. Cira has eight children (9-22 years old) who are the apple of her eye. She had a husband, but he sold the apartment they lived in, took all the money and left the country.

“Home” for the members of the Cira family is a 15-sqm damp and musty barrack – a concrete floor, walls made of plywood and a roof covered with cement-asbestos sheets. The six children that go to school find little space to do their homework at the small table. The room is very low. The ceiling, if touched, moves and may fall any time. The walls are in a very bad condition, and Mrs. Cira had to cover the windows to conserve the heat better. It is very cold in the winter and all they have is a small wood-burning stove. There is no bathroom and the toilet is in the backyard.



When Mrs. Cira found out that she was selected for a Habitat for Humanity house, she burst into tears ... of happiness. She still watches her children sleeping in one bed and she still cries, but now she knows that they will have a new life. “I dream of seeing them sleeping in their beds in the new house and I soothe myself. Habitat for Humanity has given me hope and made me have confidence in life.”

**Turn Hope into a Home in Cluj, Romania for others like the Cira Family**