



Viscri

Viscri (Deutschweisskirch) is probably the most well known of the Saxon villages in Tarnava Mare. This is partly through the involvement of HRH The Prince of Wales who has supported conservation activities in the area and also put a traditional Saxon house into the tourism circuit.

The iconic image of Viscri is the strongly fortified white painted church that gives the village its name. This stands proudly on the hill above the village. The church is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site as an outstanding example of the Fortified Churches of Transylvania.

It is largely thirteenth century Gothic, with fortified walls added in 1525, and an assortment of towers added after then. An interesting feature is the Lard Tower where due to its coolness, ham and bacon would be kept, the pieces each stamped with an individual houses seal to ensure that no slices were taken by others! The wall of the church also houses an interesting museum featuring costumes and other artifacts of Saxon life.

Many of the traditional Saxon houses have been restored to preserve the character of the village, some of which provide opportunities to stay in traditional Saxon houses, enjoying good home cooking with zero food miles and enjoying rural Transylvania at its best.

Traditional food products grown in the village courtyards are typical of this area and were the inspiration for the introduction of Slow Food into Romania. The first presidia (producer group) Saxon Village Preserves was established in this area and now the jams are world famous.

A highlight of a stay in Viscri is sitting outside one of the two shops that double as local bars and watching the daily cow parade, as the livestock returns from the meadows and makes their way home a few cows at a time to individual courtyards.

A local project to develop an income for women in the village has developed a cottage industry producing hand made products such as socks, sweaters and other knitted products. Many of these products are available in the small cafe just below the school that also is a pleasant place to sample a cool juice on hot days.



The village is on the Tarnava Mare Long Distance Walking Route and there are also circular walk opportunities around the village.

Details of accommodation facilities in Viscri and how to book them are available in the database. Saschiz Tourist Information Centre can arrange a variety of activities in Viscri or the surrounding villages, including horse and cart trips, visiting a shepherds Stana and seeing cheese making, meeting local artisans and guided nature walks in the meadows and forests of Tarnava Mare.

Viscri can be reached by turning of DN14 in Bunesti and following the road straight through the village and through the stunning countryside for several kilometres.