

Sightseeing in Covasna

1. "Mocanita" – Steam/diesel engine train trip (round trip distance 200 m, average estimated time 3-5 minutes)

Witnessing of one of the main activities in Covasna, namely log transport for wood processing, the two steam engines built in Reghin in 1982 made a substantive contribution to both the area and the country. Counting now as historic trains, the two narrow gauge trains known as "mocanita" whistled away and kept the wheels of life turning into the place for many years. Out of the two, one served as a prototype for the first steam engines of the kind in Romania; the other, the second used in Covasna, kept running on the narrow-gauge railway until 1999.

2. The Official Mansion (round trip distance 1 km, average estimated time 7-10 minutes)

Inaugurated before 1989, the mansion was built during the communist regime to serve as a hunting place for Nicolae Ceausescu. It was then used as an official presidential facility by later heads of state. It is administered by the National Ministry of Defence nowadays, which is why it is not open to visitors.

3. The Valley of the Fairies (round trip distance 2.5 km, average estimated time 25-30 minutes)

The valley and the plateau of the same name situated South-East of Clermont Hotel are inspired from a local tale about a fair princess (Ileana Cosanzeana in Romanian fairy tales) who lived surrounded by fairies in the fortress on top of the slope. The area is fashioned as a walking and picnic zone, enabling tourists to make the most of the beauty of nature and the strong negative ionisation of the air.

4. The Fairies Waterfall (round trip distance 2.8 km, average estimated time 40-45 minutes)

Part of the Valley of the Fairies, the waterfall in the course of Covasna River is a place to charge with positive energy, relax and clear the mind. Water erosion brought out the volcanic rock typical of the area and carved it out in spectacularly.

5. The Log Funicular – Stone Quarry (round trip distance 4 km, average estimated time 50-55 minutes)

Built after a unique model, the only one in Europe, the funicular used gravitational force to transport the logs on the narrow-gauge railway that connected Covasna to Comandau. An old stone quarry lies just opposite. Unfortunately cannot be visited.

6. St. Nicolae Orthodox Museum Church (round trip distance 4 km, average estimated time 50-55 minutes)

Built in the 18th century, the church served as a place of worship until after the 1989 revolution. Preserved and promoted as museum, this church dedicated to Saint Nicholas is deemed a monument of historical and religious importance.

7. Hero Square: Justinian Teculescu's Bust Sculpture – The Unknown Hero Monument – Ascension of the Lord Orthodox Cathedral (round trip distance 4.4 km, average estimated time 50-60 minutes)

Ascension of the Lord Cathedral was built during the 1990's. It dominates the urban landscape through grandeur and architectural style. The Unknown Hero Monument that hosts the commemoration ceremonies of those who died in wars for the country is located just opposite. Next to it there is the bust sculpture of Justinian Teculescu, the first Bishop of the Romanian Army, born in Covasna.

8. The Catholic Church (round trip distance 8.1 km, average estimated time 85-100 minutes)

The church is relatively close to the centre of the town. It is dedicated to Saint Steven.

9. The Central Park – Elvira Spring (round trip distance 8 km, average estimated time 100-115 minutes)

Located in the very centre of the city, the park is popular with tourists owing to the landscape, Elvira Spring and the Devil's Swamp (Balta Dracului)

Covasna area is well known for the health benefits of its countless mineral water springs. The best known is Elvira Spring. Its waters spring from two different mineral-rich sources, which is why balneologists recommend it in the treatment of different medical conditions. The spring facilities are open to the public so anyone can enjoy the benefits of its highly mineralised waters.

10. The Devil's Swamp (round trip distance 8 km, average estimated time 100-115 minutes)

Post volcanic activities are present all over in Covasna area, but the best proof that the city is built on a former volcanic crater is the Devil's Swamp. It is where strong CO₂ releases still continue causing a boiling effect in the water, hence its name, the Devil's Swamp.

11. The Town's Culture House (round trip distance 8.5 km, average estimated time 110-125 minutes)

It is the place where both locals and tourists can enjoy different social or cultural events.

12. Wooden Church and Covasna Panorama (round trip distance 10 km, average estimated time 2-2.5 hrs.)

The wooden church named "The Healing Spring" is one of the four Orthodox churches in town. The vista of the centre of the town is very interesting, especially during sunset.

13. Lorincz Zsigmond Ski Slope (round trip distance 11.2 km, average estimated time 150-180 minutes)

The ski slope is the perfect place for a good time during winter. Young and old, everyone can enjoy a good run on either the easy run or the average difficulty slope. In summer, the view from the top of the slope is simply breathtaking. The fresh air and the landscapes make the effort worthwhile.

14. The Dacian Fortress – The Castle of the Fairies (climbing trail, medium-to-hard difficulty; round trip distance 8 km, average estimated time 2,5-3 hrs.)

A settlement of historic and folkloric importance, the fortress was built during the 2nd century B.C. and rebuilt at the end of the 1st century B.C. It was destroyed by the Romans when they conquered Dacia. It offers an extraordinary panorama over the Valley of the Fairies.

According to legends, the fortress was the dwelling place of Ileana Cosanzeana, one of the most beautiful creatures on the face of the Earth, who lived there surrounded by fairies. The treasures they gathered are said to be hidden deep in the heart of the mountain, and only every seven years do the gates to the treasures open and they can be seen. However, legend has it, they stay open for only one night and they close once the rooster has sung, so one is trapped there forever if found inside at the time.

Time is measured at walking pace. Kindly ask for a map at the reception desk.