

MEZIAD CAVE

The Meziad Cave, declared a natural monument and a speleological reservation, is only three kilometers away from Meziad village, Remetea commune of Bihor, in western Apuseni Mountains, more specifically in Padurea Craiului Mountains.

The Meziad Cave is one of the longest caves in Romania, with a length of nearly five kilometres and having more underground levels. Meziad is also one of the first arranged and electrified caves in our country for tourists' access.



The path to Meziad Cave

The Meziad Cave was explored, opened and mapped for the first time by Gyula Czarán (1847-1906) who joined his name to the mountain tourism of Bihor Mountains. So at the beginning of the XX century it was numbered between the biggest caves of Europe. In 1921 a caver team led by Emil Racoviță founded new galleries achieved over 35 km. It was between the first up built caves of the country. In the galleries were formed fossil remains of *Ursus spelaeus*. The limestone formations the stalactites and stalagmites let us fly to a fairy world.



Entrance of the Meziad Cave

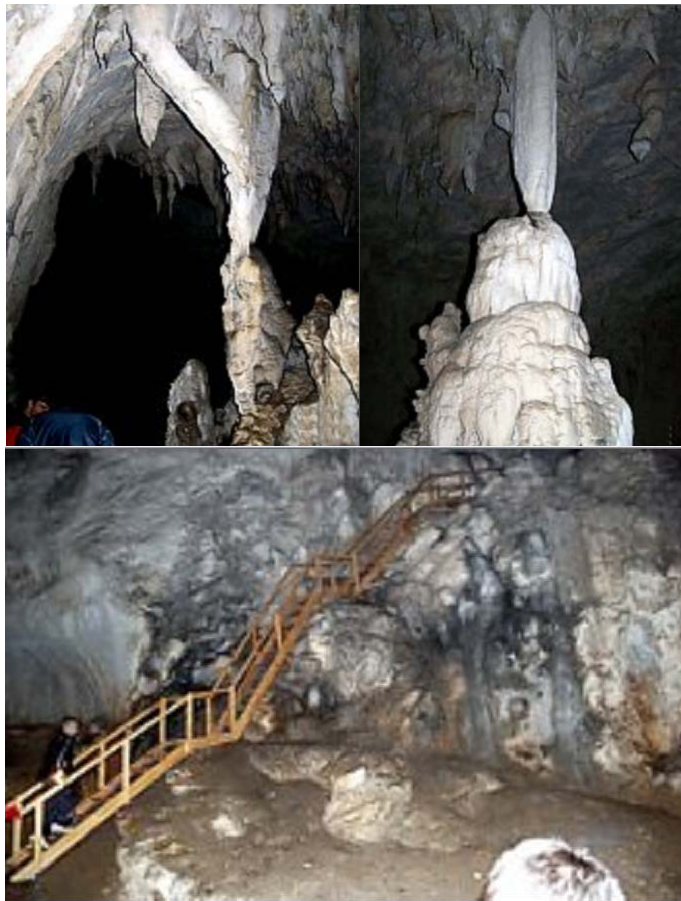
The cave is at 400 meters altitude, where it awaits its visitors with a huge wide open mouth, about 15 meters high and about 10 meters wide. Perhaps the most appreciated by visitors is the cave area where the two underground levels are one over the other (overlap one another), in the so-called Podul Natural (Natural Bridge) portion, where the cavern is up to 35 meters.



Inside Meziad Cave - View from the entrance

Regarding the two levels, the first, the lower one, stretches on 1.5 kilometers, and the second one is over 3 km long. At the lower level, in the first 400 meters, 20 meters high, spacious and impressive rooms open up. Then the cave narrows suddenly in front of delighted visitor's eyes, ending with two difficult to cross galleries, where the access as a simple tourist is banned anyway because you can get lost. The second gallery, the upper one, is divided into three distinct areas: the Descendant Gallery, the Galena Junction and the third with a meaningful name, Gatul Dracului (Devil's Throat), all making the connection to the lower gallery.





Detailed view of the inside of the cave

Thanks to these special features, people from ancient times found shelter in the welcoming cave. In addition, the fierce cave bear left its mark on the huge grotto. Nowadays, bears have disappeared from the cave, but instead it attracts thousands of tourists, and the only wild creatures that still inhabit Meziad cave are the bats.



The exit from Meziad Cave

PADIS NATURAL REZERVATION

Apuseni Mountains Nature Park was among 22 destinations to be designated a European Destination of Excellence in 2009 as part of the European Destinations of Excellence project's Tourism and Protected Habitats program. Launched by the European Commission, the project was implemented by the national tourism authorities of every participating territory. The most spectacular sights in the Apuseni Mountains, from both natural and cultural points of view, are found in this park. Its character is defined by its karst landscape, with sinkholes, deep valleys and gentle ridges alternating with rocky areas with canyons and gorges, above a network of more than 3,500 underground caves.

Natural Park Apuseni is the biggest limestone complex from Romania. Maybe you heard about Transylvanian medieval fortresses... Well... here, in Natural Park Apuseni is an extraordinary, huge stone fortress. But it's nature's masterpiece: wild canyons, enormous sinkholes, tones of caves (some of them with glaciers), lost rivers, surfaces and underground waterfalls, lakes hidden from the day light, mysterious tunnels.

Always the same? Off course! Nature needs millions of years to work this kind of place. If you come back year after year you don't give it much time for big transformations.

Always different? How? The underground of Apuseni it's a network of tunnels. Speologists say that almost every cave is connected with other caves by this network. When it's raining tunnels fulfil with water. Then, the water rises to the sunshine light through every little hole.

In the heart of Apuseni Mountains lies **Padis Plateau** a natural reservation with splendid phenomena unique in Romania (Burning Fire Glacier, Goldenness Valley, Ponor Citadels, "The Lost World Karst plateau, Radesa citadels). **The Karst Plateau of Padiş** in Bihor Mountains is one of the most Spectacular Tourist Sites in Romania.



Karst Plateau of Padiş

The **Karst Plateau of Padiş** is situated in the North-West of Romania, the South-Eastern side of Bihor County bordering the counties: Cluj and Alba. From the physical and geographic point of view, the area is situated in the North-Central side of Bihor Mountains. A subunit of the Apuseni Mountains also borders the West the bow of the Romanian Carpathians. Thanks to its numerous reservations and natural monuments, the area has the highest density of Karst phenomena

per squared kilometer in Romania. The **Karst Plateau of Padiș** was included in the Natural Park of Apuseni Mountains on the West-Central side.

Situated at a medium altitude of 1225 m, the Padiș Plain represents a true karst plateau, almost flat, punctured by numerous dolines, some filled with water, others with clumps of spruce trees, through which the rainwaters are draining, before they emerge either in Poiana Ponor, through Ponor karst spring, or in Boga valley.



Padiș Depression

It lies between the Măgura Vânăță to the North, the Boga Mountain to the West, the Biserica Moșului peak to the East, and a series of smaller summits to the South (Tomasca, Rotunda, Răchita). Numerous karren fields are found on the hills around the plain.

In the part towards Măgura Vânăță there are many swallow holes in which the streams descending from the slope are lost.

The Western part of the plain is full of small dolines, some with turbid water because of the acid soil. Here, under the Boga Mountain, is the Padiș forestry lodge. Near the lodge is a spring, the only drinking water source.

In the Northern extreme of the plain, in the saddle that separates it from Vărășoia plateau, is the Padiș cave, which has a downward gallery under the Boga Mountain.



Vărășoia Glade

In the Eastern part, the plain is fragmented by Tranghies and Gârjoaba valleys, with the Padiș chalet lying on the plateau between the two.



The looping course of Gârjoaba River

The Padiș chalet area is dominated by Biserica Moțului peak (1458 m), a special view point, with large perspectives over the entire plateau, of the forested slopes of Măgura Vânăță and the “wall” of Cârligate – Piatra Arsă. Biserica Moțului is like a lighthouse of Padiș, landmark for the cabin area. Its Eastern slope is mild, with views towards Călineasa peak, Scărișoara plateau, Lost World plateau and Biharia Mountain (easy to spot due to the TV relay situated on Curcubăta Mare peak, at 1848 m).



Moțului Church Peak

In the Karst Plateau of Padiș, the Peak of Biserica Moțului located in the center, offers multiple valences from a touristic point of view.



Horses grazing on the northern side of Biserica Moțului Peak

The **Padiș**, meaning „**Light Tower**”, gives an excellent panoramic view of the entire **Karst Plateau of Padiș** and its surroundings. It also represents a touristic landmark for the tourists adventured on the numerous routes from the **Padiș area**, being perceivable from very remote places.

PENSIUNEA APUSENI RESTAURANT IN PADIS



The Apuseni Pension is situated in the Boga holiday village, 30 km from Beius, on the road that leads to the plateau Padis.

Boga village lies at the foothills of Bihar Mountains, through wonderful forests, mountain streams and cold springs, where you are offering a family atmosphere, a true comfort.

The unit has auto transport, ping-pong table, living room, TV room, wine cellar, gym, garden, parking, sports, pool, terrace, barbecue, patio, dining room and playground for children, restaurant, bar, conference room.