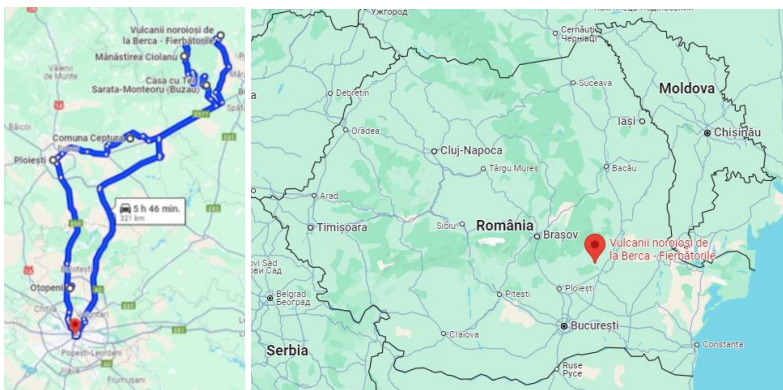


## Excursion 2 – Saturday, May 31, 2025: Expedition in the Buzău Land UNESCO Geopark – Mud Volcanoes

**Bucharest – Ciolanu Monastery – Mud Volcanoes – Sărata Monteoru (lunch – Casa cu Tei restaurant) – return to Bucharest via the Drumul Viilor (Ceptura, Urlați)**



*Excursion Route*

**07:45 AM:** Meeting at the bus

**08:00 AM:** Departure from Bucharest to the UNESCO Geopark Buzău Land

Buzău Land is a sustainable development territory located in the curve of the Carpathians, at the transition between hills and mountains. It is a completely rural area with a settlement tradition dating back to at least the Bronze Age. The UNESCO Global Geopark status was granted in April 2022. Buzău Land is where the mysteries of nature, the Earth, history, and local culture can be explored, or where a simple lifestyle, lost in the heart of nature, can be experienced.



*Mud Volcanoes, Fire Springs, Fossilized Volcanic Ash, Trovanți, Mountain Meadows, Salt Massif, Amber, Fossils, Cave Settlements, Remains of the Last Glacial Eras*

**10:00 AM – 10:30 AM:** Visit to the "Măgura" Sculpture Camp – Ciolanu Monastery

Ciolanu Monastery is a Christian Orthodox monks' monastery located in Buzău County, Romania. Near the monastery, the "Măgura" Outdoor Sculpture Camp exhibition is located on the meadows of the monastery. The "Măgura" Sculpture Camp – Ciolanu Monastery complex is the second most visited tourist attraction in Buzău County after the Mud Volcanoes. The camp honored 16 centuries since the first documented mention of Buzău, as well as the ancient local tradition of stone carving.



*Ciolanu Monastery, "Măgura" Outdoor Sculpture Camp*

**10:30 AM – 11:00 PM:** Travel to the Mud Volcanoes

**11:00 PM – 12:30 PM:** Visit to the Mud Volcanoes Reserve

The beauty of this natural landscape is fascinating, with lifeless lands ("badlands") and volcanic cones bringing cold and black "lava" to the surface with a lunar appearance. Being a region rich in oil and natural gas reserves, gas emissions from the earth push underground waters to the surface, which absorb clay from the rocks they encounter. This creates mud that results in permanent eruptions, forming small cones and craters.

The Mud Volcanoes are grouped into four areas: "La Fierbători," Pâclele Mari, Pâclele Mici, and Beciu.

The "Fierbători" are located in the northern part of Berca and are nearly circular craters containing liquid mud. Gases coming to the surface agitate the mud, creating the impression that it is boiling.

The Mud Volcanoes at Pâclele Mari are located in the central part of the Berca depression on a circular plateau where numerous active cones of 2-3 meters and fossilized cones of 6-8 meters have developed on a 22-hectare area. Here, the volcanoes expel viscous mud with traces of oil.

The Mud Volcanoes at Pâclele Mici are smaller and fewer in number, except for the central part of the plateau, where a prominent cone stands with two large active craters at its summit.

At Beciu, the volcanoes are situated on a small area near the Beciu-Arbanași road, with the activity mainly consisting of "boiling" mud.



*Mud Volcanoes*

**12:30 PM – 1:00 PM:** Travel to "Casa cu Tei" Guesthouse

**1:00 PM – 2:30 PM:** Lunch at the "Casa cu Tei" restaurant in Sărata-Monteoru

Sărata-Monteoru is a local interest spa resort, known for the healing waters of its salt springs. The area is also known for the Monteoru culture, an archaeological culture with sites dating back to the Bronze Age. In the interwar period, the only oil mine in Europe at the time was established in Monteoru, which remains a unique example on the continent, where oil was extracted from underground galleries at a depth of 240–320 meters. In this area, oil exists close to the surface, and the underground waters have high contents of oil, bromine, iodine, and salt, which is why locals only use bottled water, as well water is not

suitable for use. These waters are, however, used for medicinal treatments, flowing from 15 springs throughout the depression.



*Sărata-Monteoru – spa, mineral springs, oil mine, “Casa cu Tei” Guesthouse*

**2:30 PM – 5:00 PM:** Return to Bucharest via the Wine Road

The Wine Road is a network of tourist roads crossing vineyards and historical areas. The route recreates a small section of the ancient Roman wine road that crossed the continent from east to west, from the Black Sea to the Atlantic Ocean – the Bordeaux region. The most famous wine region in Romania is Dealu Mare, stretching across two counties and encompassing wine centers such as Tohani, Ceptura, and Valea Călugărească in Prahova County, and Pietroasele and Săhăteni in Buzău County.



*Wine Road*

***Registration for the excursions is done together with the registration for CLIPSAS.***

***Deadline: May 9, 2025***

***The excursions will be organized only if groups of at least 15 people are formed.***