

VISITING "CpC" ROMANIA

We are glad that you have arranged to visit the children's work in Romania run by Copii pentru Cristos ("CpC"). The involvement of the English and Scottish charities in your visit is limited solely to co-ordinating the timing of your visit so as to ensure that the work in Romania is not inundated with too many volunteers. As such neither charity accepts any legal responsibility for any aspect of your visit. With that in mind you will need to make sure that you have adequate insurance for the visit, including cover for any projects you may be involved in.

As soon as you have an idea of when you would like to visit the camp can you please advise Val White so that she can check if this is a convenient date. She can be contacted by e-mail at cfc.white@ntlworld.com

A number of volunteers have been to visit over the years and have asked if we could prepare a short presentation of what to expect both at camp and whilst travelling through the country. With that in mind we hope the following may be useful to you.

ROMANIA GENERALLY

Language - Romanian is the main language spoken. However many of the younger generation also speak English. At camp the main programme will be in Romanian. Sometimes one of the leaders (or sometimes one of the children) might be available to translate into English. The daily morning devotions for the leaders will similarly be translated. You are welcome to attend this time but are under no obligation to take part. The full time leaders at camp have very good English so language is only very rarely an issue.

Capital - The capital of the country is Bucharest which is situated in the east of the country.

Population - The population is approximately 22m. Approximately 1/3 of the population is involved in agriculture although the country is seeking to increase diversity in its economy.

Time Zone - Romania (at camp) is 2 hours ahead of the UK.

Average Temperatures - There are significant regional differences. The camp site is in the west of Romania. It should be remembered that the camp is at a higher elevation and so can be a little cooler. Summer temperatures at camp can vary from 15° C with wind and rain to 42° C in blistering sunshine and no wind. For the most part the summer temperatures are in the range of 30 - 35° C in the afternoon and during June & July can be accompanied with tropical storms. This is however "weather" and so nothing is guaranteed.

Currency - Romania joined the European Union in 2007 having been a communist state for many years. The currency is presently the New Leu (plural New Lei). The Bani is 100th of a New Leu. The symbol for the New Leu is RON. There is no Bureau de Change near camp but moderate amounts can be exchanged in the camp office at reasonable rates. It is most helpful if you bring preferable Euro's or secondly Sterling notes in new or very good condition.

Obtaining Currency - It is difficult to change into New Lei from outside Romania. There are many Bureau de Change within Romania. You will require your passport in order to carry out the transaction.

Exchange Rate - As at January 2011 the exchange rate is approximately 5 New Lei to 1 British Pound.

(Romania is anticipated to change to the Euro by 2015)

Visas - These are only required for nationals of certain countries. They are presently not required for visitors from EU countries.

Health Care - Health care is generally good in Romania but it should be remembered that the camp site is in a quite remote location. It is appropriate for your team to make appropriate arrangements if anyone in the party has special medical needs. Special care should be taken in regard to allergies and reaction to mosquito bites (non malaria type). The nearest major hospital is a 2 hour drive away. There are two doctors' practices very near to camp. If you are on regular medication do not assume that it will be readily available in Romania - take enough with you for the duration of your visit. It is advisable to contact your local surgery for advice before travelling.

Insurance - It is up to each individual to make the necessary insurance arrangements. You should consider arranging specialist travel insurance for volunteers carrying out projects. You are free to make arrangements through your own contacts. If it helps the following broker has experience in arranging such insurance but this is entirely your choice;

Masterpolicy Insurance Brokers
Hamilton House
152 Shortmead Street
Biggleswade
SG18 0BL
Attn Simon West
☎ 01767 - 318200
www.masterpolicy.co.uk

AT CAMP

Visit Ethos - The purpose of visiting the camp is to "serve". This is not primarily a holiday. As such the focus will be on the project(s) and the children. Having said that, attempts will be made, where the camp timetable permits, to arrange for you to experience some of the local sites and delicacies. In any event I am sure that you will find it a challenging but rewarding experience. Many folk end up returning time and time again, making good friends amongst the leaders at camp.

Camp Administration

Camp is operated by three teams. They are as follows:

Teaching Team: This team is led by Wilma Sommerville and Vio Jorza in conjunction with Dani Fasie and his wife Alexandra. This team is responsible for the overall ministry of the spiritual programme and the presentation of the Bible truths to the children.

Catering Team: This team is led by Vio, assisted by Casiana. They are responsible for all the cooking and cleaning arrangements at camp.

Maintenance & Construction Team: This is a small team of 6 local workers led by Marcel and they carry out both the ongoing development of the camp site and continued maintenance of the existing facilities. The overall person in charge is Harry Sommerville.

It is desirable that visitors plan their visit so as to be involved in one or more of these teams. In this way your visit will be of assistance to the ministry of the camp. Please ensure that the leaders of the teams are aware of which group you are working with so that your time is usefully and safely employed.

Accommodation - This is improving all the time. Although it is basic it is adequate. Don't take vast amounts of luggage as there is not a lot of room and it will tend to be single sex dormitory style in nature and so shared with other adults. A recent addition is some accommodation for married couples. You will need suitable "work" clothing appropriate to the nature of the project.

Electrical Power

In Romania generally the sockets are European 2 pin round with an earth. The voltage is 220 volts.

In camp the sockets are standard UK 13amp sockets 3 pin square and the voltage is 220 volts single phase.

Water

There is a good water supply which is drawn from the mains. Water usage is metered so if used sensibly it will keep the costs down. Therefore they ask visitors not to expect to be able to wash clothing or shower as frequently as at home. If possible take sufficient clothing so that you can have clean things; but be prepared to take your dirty laundry home at the end of camp.

Food

The food provision is budgeted at £9.00 per day. It is requested that visitors be prepared to contribute this amount into the camp funds. Over the summer they will be catering for between 70 and 90 people per day and sometimes up to 100 - that means between 210 and 300 meals every single day. Your contribution is greatly appreciated. If you have any special dietary requirements, you may need to bring some of your own supplies to supplement camp food._

Food "Supplements"

Sweets, chocolate and ice cream can be purchased from the camp Mini Shop each afternoon. If preferred these are some local shops just 10 minutes walk from the camp and these have a variety of sweets and drinks including Coca Cola.

Going Off the Camp Site

If and when time permits and you desire to leave the camp, for whatever reason, please leave word with your team leader or the camp leaders. This is to avoid confusion should there be an incident and heads have to be counted.

Community Relations -

This is a Christian camp and there are people in the village and surrounding community who look for opportunities to criticise and denigrate the work. For this reason we would ask visitors to respect the local customs and expectations. More specifically this means not going in to the village cafes and drinking alcohol (including beer); men are asked not to wear earrings or other sorts of jewellery. This may seem a little extreme to you but we have to understand that it is a very different culture in the Romanian countryside from the city.

Camp Times

The camp day is quite structured to meet the needs of the children. Meals, recreation, devotions etc are all timetabled and visitors are requested to respect these arrangements and to fit in with them. Morning devotions for leaders and visitors are held at 7.00am every day.

Daily Morning Devotions

The daily devotions take place at 7.00am each morning. This is for both the leaders and visitors to camp. The full time leaders at camp have very good English so language is rarely an issue. It takes place in both Romanian (which is generally translated into English) and English. You are very much encouraged to attend this time but are under no obligation to take part, but are welcome to do so if you wish.

Gifts for Children

You may feel you wish to bring small gifts for the children. If this is the case, then it is requested that you never single out any individual child for gifts. This causes many problems - those who have not received such attention will naturally wonder why. Many of these children face rejection in their lives at home and do not need to have questions raised in their minds. At camp all children are treated equally. If you do bring things please give them to Wilma or Vio so that they can be used as prizes for games or raffles.