



New Horizons Foundation

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Greetings from Romania!

Thank you for expressing interest in the off-campus program with New Horizons Foundation in Romania! We are excited to offer this program in partnership with Northwestern College.

Let me tell you why I think this will be a great experience for you.

First, the program is going to be culturally engaging. This is largely an experientially based program and there will be a lot of cultural excursions (castles, archeological ruins, etc.) and field trips but there will also be a raft of outdoor activities including ropes course training, caving, rock-climbing and an expedition in the beautiful Retezat National Park, one of the best hiking areas in the world.

Secondly, you are going to learn a lot and have your eyes opened. You will better understand why democracy is important both as a means and end of sustainable development and how Communism destroyed initiative and social capital. You will experience first hand how the ancient Eastern Church worships and their emphases on icons (they don't worship them!) and the Trinity as the heart of faith and how these items of faith can be leveraged for sustainable development concerns.

Last but not least, in ways that are culturally appropriate, you will show solidarity with the poor and help them re-envision and build a better future. Lupeni and the Jiu Coal mining valley is a stunningly beautiful, but very impoverished region with high unemployment and many social problems. You will get the chance to work closely with Romanian high school students and share love and life skills with them. You will experience how Communism systematically tried to destroy people's ability to work together for the common good and created a culture riddled by apathy and suspicion. New Horizons is rebuilding trust and these social, moral and vocational capacities in youth through the disciplines of adventure education and service learning. Your involvement with this off-campus program will further these life-changing disciplines in Romania and have a definite positive impact on concrete individuals as well as the local community.

So there you have it. A trinity of good reasons to come to Romania! We are eager to meet you and thank you on behalf of all of us at the New Horizons Foundation.

Dana and Brandi Bates and the New Horizons Foundation team in Lupeni, Romania.

