



International hay making festival in Gyimesbükk Transylvania, Romania

Date: 11-18 August 2013.

Location: Gyimesbükk, Áldomáspataka (Ghimeș-Făget, Aldămaș [on the map](#)).

Organizers: Sárig Attila and Pogány-havas Association

Supporters: Barbara Knowles Fund and Naturvernforbundet i Buskerud from Norway



The Csángó people living in the Gyimes Valley possess a knowledge that represents an exceptional value for the whole of Europe. The ancient Csángós settled in a wild, remote valley in the Eastern Carpathians and in order to survive they had to develop a special life and land use style that was in harmony with nature.

Hay making is the most important activity in the Gyimes Valley because people here are mainly occupied with animal husbandry. Through decades of work they created some of the most biodiverse mountain hay meadows in the world.

The hay making festival in 2013 would like to introduce participants into this type of landscape-creating, nature-respecting lifestyle.

Nearly all the food served at the festival is organic because the ingredients are grown and produced by the Sárig family on their own farm by Csángó traditions. The family uses mainly human and animal power to produce food which means that machine usage is kept to a minimum. We hope that these are good reasons for our guests to spend a whole week in "Csánglia" with pleasure.

Participants at the hay making festival can contribute to the survival of this beautiful landscape that became so magical mainly because of traditional hay making. During the seven days of the event participants are also invited to get a personal insight into the world and lifestyle of the Csángós.

Everyone is warmly welcome!

Planned programme

The programme is subject to change according to the weather conditions!

11 August, Sunday: in the evening everybody shall meet at the Áldomás Guesthouse in Áldomáspataka village, Gyimesbükk municipality for welcome and dinner.

12 August, Monday: mowing starts from 6 in the morning, breakfast at 9, continue mowing from 10,

13-16:00 lunch and siesta, 16-17:00 mowing, 18:00 dinner.

13 August, Tuesday: breakfast at 8, 9-13:00 tool making with uncle Viktor, 13-15:00 lunch and siesta, 15-19:00 mowing competition, 19:00 dinner.

14 August, Wednesday: breakfast at 8, from 9 we turn the hay, 13:00 lunch, 14:00 making hay stacks, 19:00 dinner.

15 August, Thursday: 6:00 good morning, 7:00 cheese making at the kaliba, breakfast at 9 (fresh cheese and orda), 10 :00 picking mushrooms, 13:00 lunch, 18:00 dinner, 19:00 visitors' presentations and discussions.

16 August, Friday: from 7 gathering the hay stacks, breakfast at 9:00, 10:00 making of big hay piles from the hay stacks, 13:00 lunch and horse riding upon request, 15:00 finish making big hay piles, 19:00 dinner.

17 August, Saturday: breakfast at 8, excursion (places to be discussed). If the weather is nice we have lunch cooked in a cauldron and served outside. 19:00 dinner back at Áldomás Guesthouse, folk dance.

18 August, Sunday: breakfast at 8, after which farewell and everybody shall head home.

Participation fee: 35 EUR/person/day for participants from old EU member states and 30 EUR/person/day for participants from new EU member states. The fee includes simple village accommodation, breakfast, lunch, dinner and participation in the activities and programmes. Children welcome.

Registration deadline: 01 August 2013. The number of participants is limited to a maximum of 30. A 15 EUR deposit is kindly requested upon registration.

Practical information: this is a Hungarian ethnic region, bring a Hungarian phrasebook. Be prepared for any weather – it changes quickly in the mountains, wear layers, working clothes, sturdy shoes. Gardening gloves and a sun hat are recommended.

Nearest airports: Tirgu Mures, Bucharest; railway stations: Miercurea Ciuc, Ghimes

<http://goo.gl/maps/xOVjV>

Please visit these websites to learn more about our projects and efforts related to nature conservation and agriculture:

- Pogány-havas Association: www.poganyhavas.ro
- Hay meadow conservation project: www.mountainhaymeadows.eu
- Barbara Knowles Fund: www.treasuresoftransylvania.org

“Hay meadows provide an immense range of benefits to farming communities and wider society. They create some of Europe’s most spectacular scenery and cultural landscapes. Simply to watch this natural, environmental and cultural heritage disappear before our eyes is, surely, not an option we can consider,” said HRH the Prince of Wales in a message to our policy seminar at the European Parliament, Brussels, 2012. Watch the video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aGhHtbF6zKk>

Contact: For registration, transportation possibilities, optional tours before or after the event or any other detail please contact Barbara Knowles (barbara.knowles@yahoo.co.uk) or Robert Biro (biro.robert@poganyhavas.ro).