



Romania's memories are ours as well. And they will be preserved.



Up: "Aurul Apusenilor" mining history exhibition

Insert: The first fully restored building in the Roșia Montană historic centre which hosts the exhibition



The gold and silver deposits of the Golden Quadrilateral in the Apuseni Mountains have attracted many miners from different civilizations over the last two millennia.

From the Illyro-Dalmatians colonized in antiquity by the Romans, Saxon miners who settled here ever since the Middle Ages, Sicilian stone workers arrived here at the end of the 19th century and until today – the town gathered a fascinating collection of traces of the mining civilization.

In Roșia Montană, this cultural legacy lay virtually untouched until 2000, when, **in the context of the Roșia Montană Gold Corporation (RMGC) investment, started one of the largest archaeological research and rescue operations ever undertaken in Romania.**

Coordinated by the National History Museum of Romania, and funded entirely by RMGC (over **US\$11 million** between 2001 and 2006), the "Alburnus Maior" National Research Program has identified and researched **13 archaeological sites**, including two Roman public buildings, living areas, four sacred areas and over 1,400 graves in Roman incineration cemeteries.

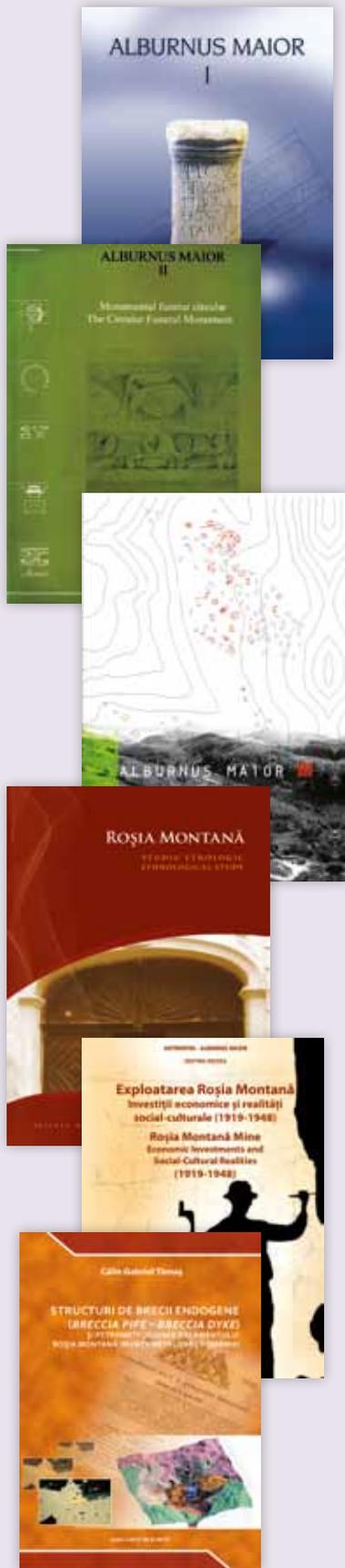
For the first time in Romania, there were researched 7 km of underground Roman mining galleries (discontinuous) out of a total of over 140 km of explored galleries dating back from medieval, modern and contemporary times.

Independent researchers from 21 national and 3 international institutions have been involved in this research. As results were obtained, they were presented by specialists to the National Commission of Archaeology and The Ministry of Culture and National Patrimony, which, depending on the nature of the findings, issued archaeological discharge certificates or settled protected areas. Thus, in addition to the **Historic Centre protected area**, objectives from the **Tău Găuri, Carpeni and Pietra Corbului protected areas** are preserved *in situ*, changing the limits of the industrial perimeter.

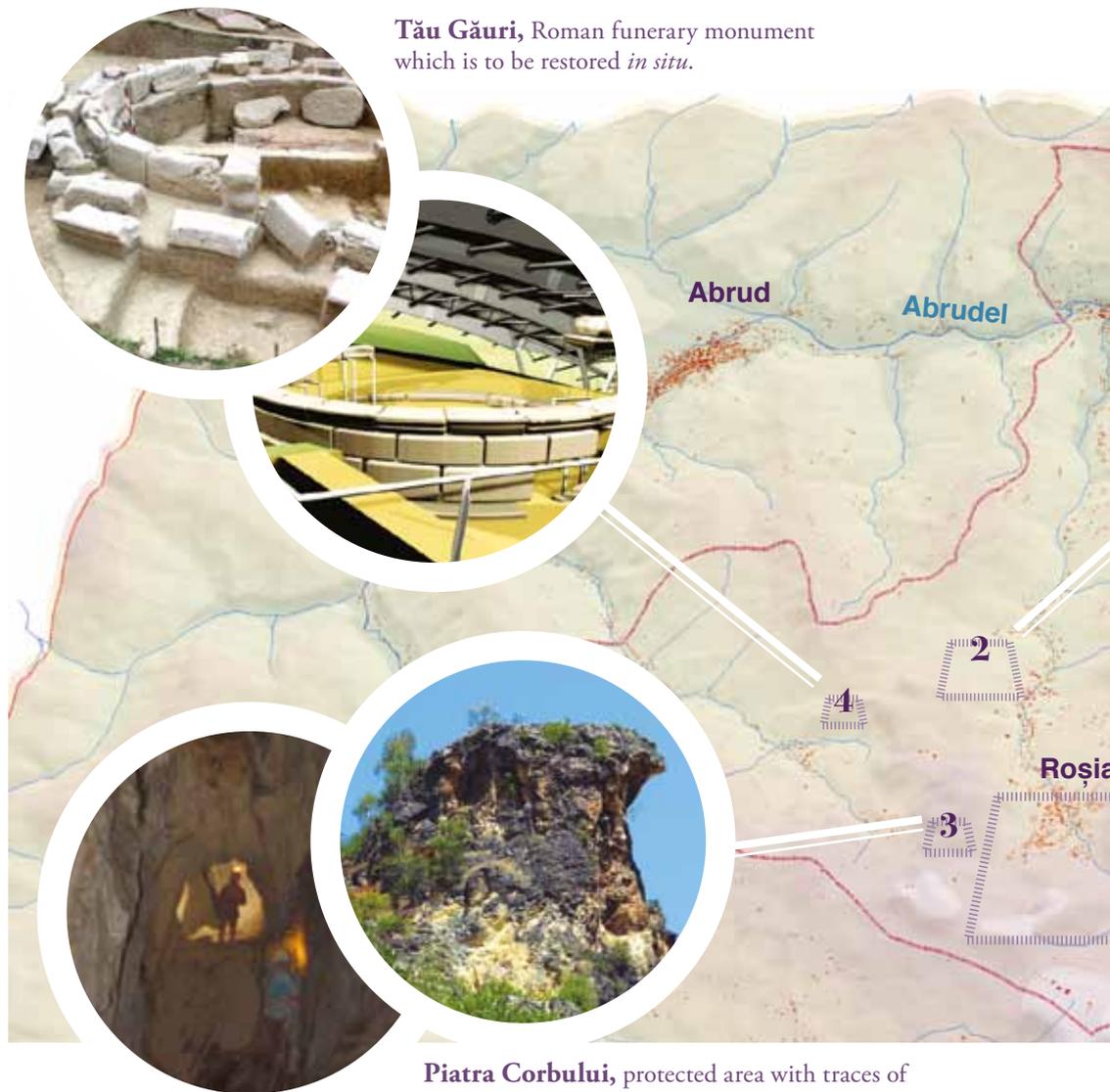
For the Roșia Montană cultural patrimony research and preservation program another **US\$70 million** is budgeted. The money will be spent over the life of the mining operation in order **to promote for tourism the buildings and the constructions in the area, as well as the archaeological findings.**

PUBLISHED STUDIES OF LOCAL CULTURE

Publications in the "Alburnus Maior" National Research Program (2001-2007), financially supported by RMGC.



PRESERVING THE HEART OF ROȘIA MONTANĂ. PROTECTE



Tău Găuri, Roman funerary monument which is to be restored *in situ*.

Piatra Corbului, protected area with traces of mining activities from Roman times

WE BRING THE PAST TO LIGHT

The results of the National Research Program are wide-ranging and include the following:

• Urban Patrimony

After an inventory and expert studies of all houses within the mining project's impact area, **the protected area of the historic centre was expanded from 53 ha to 137 ha**. This includes **35 historical monument buildings and three churches**.

The historic centre of Roșia Montană will be restored alongside the mining project. RMGC has begun the design work for restoring **110 buildings** in the historic centre of Roșia Montană (some of them classified as historic monuments). So far, **16 buildings have been restored by the company**. In the meantime, maintenance work is currently underway for all the houses situated in the protected area.

In total, over 300 buildings will enter the

program for the restoration/rehabilitation of the historic centre.

• Archaeological Patrimony

During The National Research Program "Alburnus Maior" **13 archaeological sites** were identified and researched - their preservation status varies depending on the extent to which they were impacted by later mining works.

Several Roman residential areas, including public buildings, have been identified and investigated in the Carpeni and Tăul Țapului areas, as well as settlements of Illyrian colonists located in the Găuri-Hop or Hăbad areas, all dating back from the second and third century AD.

The Illyrians and Dalmatians who lived in what is now Croatia and Serbia were skilled in mining and were brought in by the Romans to extract gold.

D AREAS:

Păru Carpeni, Roman hydraulic system for underground water drainage



Carpeni, archaeological reservation with habitation buildings and mining works from Roman times

North
→

Câmpeni

Arieș

Roșia Montană

1



The Historic Centre, area with monument buildings and mining landscape

Artificial lakes from the protected area, dating back to the 18th-19th centuries

Four sacred Roman areas, including 40 votive altars, have been identified and investigated.

Five Roman incineration cemeteries have been investigated (Hop, Tăul Cornei, Țarina, Pârâul Porcului and Jig); random funerary investigations have been conducted on similar sites at Valea Nanului and Carpeni (in the protected area).

A 2nd - 3rd century Roman funerary monument was discovered in Tău Găuri area, including two tombs with sarcophaguses made of brick. This funerary monument will be preserved *in situ* and developed by RMGC for public exhibition.

Large-scale mapping of the Roman medieval and modern galleries in Cetate, Cârnic, Jig and Orlea/Țarina massifs were conducted.

A digital map and database have been developed, showing and organizing all archaeological findings in the area.

Over 10,000 heritage assets are in the process of on going inventory and restoration.

• **Ethnography and oral history**
An oral history record was completed, including over 100 hours of personal interviews of locals, as part of a detailed ethnological and ethnographical study of Roșia Montană, Corna and Bucium.

The first 6 volumes of the monographic series "Alburnus Maior" and "Anthropos" have been published. A further 15 books are planned by various researchers, and at least 150 archaeological digging reports addressing various aspects of the project have been published.

The research activities are available to all people interested (students, tourists, experts) and a guided acces is provided for the researched areas.

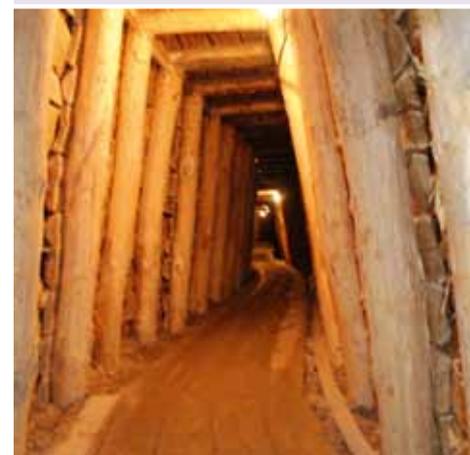


Up: Interior. House nr. 325

THE RESTORATION OF THE FIRST HOUSE FROM ROȘIA MONTANĂ

After two years and a half of complex restoration works, using traditional techniques and materials, house no. 325 returned to life in February 2010, as an exhibition of the gold mining history in the Apuseni Mountains. The project was possible due to the efforts of the local authorities of Roșia Montană, the National Romanian History Museum of Bucharest and the National Union Museum of Alba Iulia, in partnership with RMGC. Shortly after the inauguration, the building became a centre of events where information visits, workshops and specialized seminars in architecture, history or geology were organized. The exhibition is visited by more than 10,000 Romanian and foreign tourists every year. The building which started the restoration program for the Historic Centre will be one of the nine intended to host a Modern Mining Museum.

Down: RMGC has partially restored the well-known Roman gallery Cătălina-Monulești, which can now be safely visited.



THAT'S WHAT OUR SUCCESSORS WILL JUDGE US BY



The former City Hall of Roșia Montană has already been restored by RMGC. In the future, the building will be used as a hotel/a hostel, in order to sustain the local tourism. **Left:** the building before restoration. **Right:** the building after the works were completed.

At present, the protected historical area of Roșia Montană includes the historic centre of the town and the three great man-made lakes (“tăuri”) built in the 18th-19th centuries, traces of outdoors mining activities. The Roșia Montană mining project will enable the restoration and tourism development of these areas to the benefit of the local community.

Mining Museum: the long-term plan is to create a Modern Mining Museum in Roșia Montană, located in the historic centre of the town. It will include 3 main sections for geology, archaeology and ethnography. It will also include an underground exhibition - public access to the Cătălina-Monulești gallery, together with a series of models of key types of mine works throughout history.

Archaeological tourist attraction: the company will provide support for upgrading all infrastructure needed for tourism (roads, domestic systems, parking, restaurants and pensions). The protected areas of Tău Găuri, Carpeni and Pietra Corbului will also be restored for viewing.

“The RMGC project would appear to provide an economic basis for sustainable development of the whole area, with positive benefits on environmental and social as well as cultural grounds. From the cultural heritage point of view it might be seen as an exemplary project of responsible development.”

Edward O’Hara - General Rapporteur for Cultural Heritage, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, 2004.

INSTITUTIONS PARTICIPATING IN THE “ALBURNUS MAIOR” NATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAM:

National History Museum of Romania (Bucharest)

National Institute of Historical Monuments (Bucharest)

Vasile Pârvan Institute of Archaeology (Bucharest) of the Romanian Academy

Transylvania National History Museum (Cluj Napoca)

Institute of Archaeology and History of Art (Cluj Napoca) of the Romanian Academy

National Union Museum (Alba Iulia)

Dacian and Roman Civilization Museum (Deva)

Babeș-Bolyai University (Faculty of Biology and Geology, Cluj Napoca)

Institute of Cultural Memory (Bucharest)

Romanian Centre for Remote Sensing Application in Agriculture - CRUTA (Bucharest)

Systemic Archaeology Institute, “1 December 1918” University (Alba Iulia)

University of Bucharest (The History University)

Iulian Antonescu History Museum (Bacău)

Centre for Preparation, Permanent Training and Management in Culture Field (Bucharest)

Bucovina Museum Complex (Suceava)

Gheorghe Brătianu Oral History Museum (Bucharest)

GeoEcoMar

Gei-PROSECO

MHN EcoInvest

Intel91, INTERGIS

Doris Art

Toulouse Le Mirail University (France)

Technical University of Munich (Germany)

National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), France

The local architecture and monuments have also been investigated by the National Institute of Historical Monuments (INMI), Opus Atelier de Arhitectură, ASAR GRUP, CORINT GRUP, GENERAL GAME, BLIPSZ and KAMOS.

Photo: Roman lamp discovered in Roșia Montană



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Get informed:

In order to ensure that you receive clear and transparent information, RMGC invites all those who have an interest in the project to register as a stakeholder – to inform yourselves, to make up your own minds, to discuss aspects related to the project.

You do not have to register as a stakeholder to obtain information, but it does enable us to keep you informed directly of project progress, and upcoming events.

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