

## Three times Tapae and the birth of the name Decebalus

87  
ANNO  
DOMINI

One year after a Dacian attack south of the Danube, the Roman emperor Domitian sends his armies in Dacia. The Roman troops are caught in an ambush at Tapae. In one of the bloodiest battles of the history of Rome the leader of the expedition Roman General Conelius Fuscus and a big part of his army are slain by the curved swords of the dacians. The winning Dacians capture the Roman flags and war machines and the Dacian king Diurpaneus receives the name Decebalus "Strong as Ten Men" and emerges as king of all Dacians.

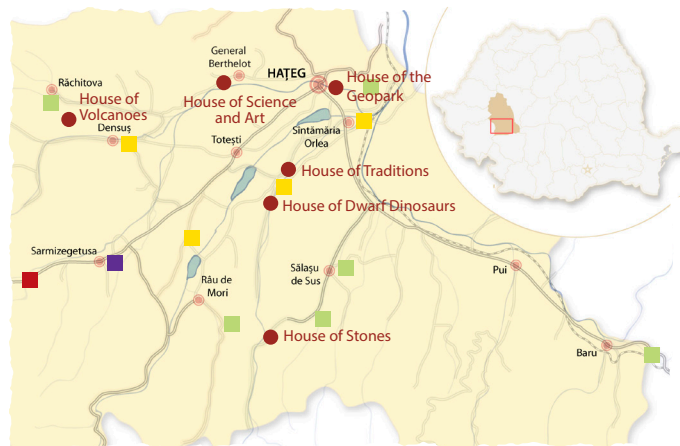
88  
ANNO  
DOMINI

Roman troops come back to Dacia. A new battle is fought at Tapae and this time the Romans are victors. However they can't continue to advance towards the Dacian capital and settle peace on terms that advantage the Dacians. Decebalus becomes client king of Rome receiving money, craftsmen and war machines to defend the borders of the Roman Empire.

101  
ANNO  
DOMINI

Decebalus fails to respect the peace treaty and uses the money received from the Romans to develop his own defensive system. Romans advance again in greater numbers with the Roman Emperor Trajan himself in command and a new battle is fought at Tapae. It is said that the Dacians held off the Romans but at the burst of a thunderstorm, believing it is a sign of the Gods they decided to retreat.

## Discover...



### Historical places:

- Roman ruins:  
Sarmizegetusa Ulpia Traiana, Sarmizegetusa
- Famous battles:  
Tapae, Sarmizegetusa
- Medieval churches:  
Densuș church, Densuș  
Ostrovul Mare church, Râu de Mori  
Sânpetru church, Sântămăria Orlea  
Sântămăria Orlea church, Sântămăria Orlea
- Ruins of Medieval fortresses :  
Colț fortress, Râu de Mori  
Hațeg fortress, Hațeg  
Mălăiești fortress, Sălașu de Sus  
Răchitova keep, Răchitova  
Sălașu de Sus medieval court, Sălașu de Sus  
Crivadia customs, Baru



Hațeg Country Dinosaurs Geopark  
UNESCO Global Geopark



Densuș

## Places and tales

Discover the Hațeg Country



## I antic ruins



Remains of Roman Columns, Sarmizegetusa

**Sarmizegetusa Ulpia Traiana** was the ancient capital of The Roman province Dacia. The Roman city was surrounded by tall walls and circular towers. Inside the walls, at the heart of the city was the public square, surrounded by the official buildings, temples and houses. The city extended outside the walls as well with other temples, public baths, an amphitheatre, houses and workshops. Later on, wealthy families have built country residences (*villa rustica*) all around the city.

The Roman ruins are today part of the villagers' life. The modern village lays over the antic city. Almost everywhere in the Hațeg Country you can find remains of ancient buildings incorporated in the newer constructions: wells, walls and churches.

## III medieval churches



Lions of stone from the ruins of Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa, now in the rooftop on the Densuș Church

The church from **Densuș** is a construction with a story not fully deciphered. Some say that at its beginnings it was a mausoleum dedicated to a Roman General whose wife was baptised Christian and turned it into a church. Others believe it was a Roman temple extended by the Christians in the 12-13th century. Today the church still puzzles with the combination of building materials and construction styles.

In the walls of the church lays a collection of river stones, tomb stones and bricks. In the church, the table from the altar is from a roman sarcophagus.

## f fortresses



Ruin of the Răchitova Keep

The **Răchitova Keep** is what remains from a modest feudal court built centuries ago from stone and remains from the Roman ruins. Located strategically on a high hill from where the area could be watched, the keep was easily defended. In time, a stockade was added to surround the keep. It seems that the small fortification also had a drawbridge that was lifted at night and in case of danger.

The corners and the windows still preserve pieces of rock, polished manually by medieval craftsmen.