



## Tourist circuits

### Semenic - Caras Gorges National Park Administration

Name	Cheile Carașului (Caras Gorge)
Route	Carașova – Poiana Prolaz (Prolaz Meadow) – Cetatea Carașului (Carasului Citadel) - Carașova (tourist trail Carașova - Comarnic, blue triangle and red triangle marking, DN58).
Lenght / duration	11,5 km; 6 h.
Time of year	May - october
Sights	<p>The Carașului Gorges are 19 km long, with a maximum depth of 200 m, and are formed by the Caraș River, which has eroded the Jurassic and Cretaceous limestone. The slopes are predominantly rocky, with karstic features such as lapiaz, vertical walls, and scree at the base. The river meanders, forming karstic springs and limestone ridges that descend from the edge of the gorges to the water. On the plateaus that border the gorges, there are numerous fields of lapiaz, sinkholes, and shafts, while on the slopes of the gorges there are over 400 karstic caves and springs. The slopes are partially covered with chasmophytic vegetation of shrubs such as Cornus mas, Carpinus orientalis, Syringa vulgaris, Ruscus aculeatus, or trees such as beech, oak, and hornbeam on the gentler slopes. Along the water, there is hygrophilic vegetation with associations of Petasites hybridus, while on the banks there are trees of the species Salix eleagnos. In the gorges and their tributaries, there are numerous species, with the Vipera ammodytes snake, the Bombina variegata amphibian, the Barbus meridionalis fish, the Austropotamobius torrentium invertebrates, the Myotis myotis, Lynx lynx, Canis lupus mammals, and the Aquila pomarina, Bubo bubo bird species being characteristic. The path carved into the rock has a few hundred years of age and is undated.</p> <p>The entrance portal of the Văleagă Cave, a small cave with three spectacular openings in the limestone wall, serves as a significant tourist landmark. The meadow and the suspended entrance 10 meters high to the Bat Cave in the rock wall are also important tourist attractions. The cave is over 600 meters long, with a unique gallery. The Caraș River with numerous rapids and pools, small trout banks, and clean water typical of mountain karst rivers. Limestone walls with numerous cave entrances on both sides of the river.</p>

Prolaz Meadow is a depression surrounded by cliffs and limestone cliffs, with a floodplain area, marshy areas, and thick trees on the banks of the Caraș River.

A path carved into the rock that climbs to the karst plateau from where the Prolaz clearing and Carașului Gorges can be observed represents a picturesque route with numerous vantage points.

Cetatea Caraș (Krasso', Krassofovar, Grat, Turcului) has an area of 1,000 square meters and an altitude of 380 meters. It is part of the medieval fortifications system in Banat, built at the beginning of the Angevin Kingdom (Hungarian) period, attested in 1323. It operated in the 14th-16th centuries, and from 1520, it was under Ottoman rule until it was abandoned. The walls of the fortress have an irregular polygonal shape, built on a limestone promontory at the edge of the Carașului Gorges cliff. On one side, in front of the entrance, two defense ditches are dug into the rock, and inside there are the foundations of buildings and a partially blocked water reservoir (well).

Among the castle lords of Carasova, the most prominent personality was Filipo Scolari, a Hungarian statesman and captain of Florentine origin. He became "Pippo di Ozora" after his marriage to Barbara di Ozora and "Count of Temesvár" (Timisoara) in 1407. The archaeological material consists of ceramics dating from the 13th-15th centuries and fragments of weapons. In the southeast of the castle, there is a viewpoint from where you can observe in the southeast the Caraș Gorges towards Prolaz Meadow, in the southwest the Caraș Gorges and the town of Carasova, and towards the south the Caraș River and the trail carved into the rock.

**Importance**

Natural Reserve and classified site, important from an archaeological/historical perspective.

**Included services**

Presentation of information about the visiting program or other activities that can be carried out during the meeting with tourists; Accompanying/guiding/orienting tourists in the visiting program and providing detailed presentations of the area, the objectives to be visited, providing detailed information (geographic, flora, fauna, historical, socio-human, ethnographic, architectural, gastronomic, conservation, etc.); Ensuring the safe return of tourists; Being available to tourists in case of medical emergencies or other types of emergencies and providing assistance within the limits of competence; Finding solutions for any problems or unforeseen situations that may arise.

**Excluded services**

Transportation, meal, accommodation, water, specific equipment.

**Booking**

Minimum 3 days before at the following address: [apnsc@gmail.com](mailto:apnsc@gmail.com) ; phone number: +40763276349 (Ifca Nicolae)

**Guide service fee**

70 RON / person.

**Guide service fee payment**

Cash at the guide during visit day.



