As a Hungarian, I have a special connection to the people and culture of Transylvania. When I first saw this region, I was blown away by its natural beauty and rich history. The rolling hills, pristine forests, and sparkling rivers are unlike anything I have ever seen before. And the traditional villages, with their warm and hospitable locals, are a window into a bygone era. For me visiting Transylvania with my mother made this trip one of my all-time favourite travel experiences as we created memories that will last a lifetime, and connected with each other on a deeper level.

When you travel with your mom, you get to experience a different side of her and see her in a new light. You get to share experiences and explore new places together, and you get to grow closer and build a stronger relationship. Moreover, traveling with your mom provides a sense of comfort, safety, and security that is hard to find when you're traveling alone. There's something special about having your mom by your side, especially in new and unfamiliar environments. Allows you to gain a new appreciation for her, for her strength, her wisdom, and her unwavering support. It’s a time for you to reflect on all that she's done for you, and to express your gratitude in a meaningful way. I felt it important to mention this…

Our journey began in Hungary, where we packed up the car and hit the road for an adventure. We travelled 800 km to reach Harghita County. On the way we stopped to sleep in Cluj Napoca. Cluj-Napoca, located in the heart of Transylvania, is a city that constantly surprises its visitors. Upon arriving, I was taken aback by the mix of historical and modern architecture. The city is filled with towering skyscrapers, yet it still holds onto its rich cultural heritage and history.Cluj-Napoca is known for its vibrant cultural scene, with numerous festivals, concerts and events taking place throughout the year. It is also a hub for education, with several prestigious universities located in the city, including Babes-Bolyai University, one of the largest and oldest universities in Romania. Another interesting fact about Cluj-Napoca is that it was once part of the Dacian Kingdom, and there are several ancient ruins located in and around the city, including the remains of the Roman city of Napoca.

We stopped by Torda rift, also known as the Torda Gorge, is a stunning geological formation located in the Transylvania region of Romania. This unique landscape is a result of the movement of tectonic plates and erosion by the river that runs through it, creating a breathtaking valley with towering cliffs and walls. This area has been inhabited by humans for thousands of years and has been the site of many battles and conflicts throughout its history. We saw remnants of fortifications and other historic structures, which provide a glimpse into the past of this region.

For those who are visiting Torda Gorge, there is a tourist route that takes visitors through the heart of the canyon. The route is designed to showcase the most stunning parts of the gorge, and there are options for longer or shorter routes depending on the level of difficulty and endurance you prefer. During our visit to Torda Gorge, my mom and I chose the shorter route as I didn't want her to get too tired. Despite its length, the route was incredibly beautiful and we were amazed by the towering cliffs, crystal-clear streams and lush greenery.

Then we hit the road and didn't stop until we reached the Red Lake. It is a glacial lake and is one of the most famous natural attractions in the region, known for its stunning red-coloured waters, which are believed to be due to the high iron oxide content.

Nothing is more proof of the magic of Romania than the legends and myths that surround it. According to the myth of the Red Lake, the lake's red colour is due to the blood of a young girl who was murdered and thrown into the lake.

On the other side of the lake you find Bicaz Gorge which is part of the Carpathian Mountains, and was created by the Bicaz River, which carved its way through the mountains over millions of years. The walls of the gorge rise up to 300 meters, making it one of the deepest gorges in Romania. The road that winds through the gorge is considered one of the most beautiful roads in Romania and I can tell you the truth: it really is! An interesting fact I learned there is that in the past, the Bicaz Gorge was used as a strategic military route, and there are several fortifications and military structures along the way.

We stayed for the night at Glamping Suhardul Mic, next to Bicaz Gorge, which was the most amazing experience, I felt it was the crown for this journey with my mom. Even though it was September, and it was already chilly at night, we got a radiant heater which kept us perfectly warm in the barrel house. Imagine drinking your morning coffee on the terrace of a barrel house overlooking the Bicaz Gorge…

We had an early start back to Hungary the next day, unfortunately it was a short trip, but it was good to know that we will be back! It is no question, I am already planning the next trip, and of course, I’m going with mom!