



Western Boundary Walk

Distance 9 kilometres – 5.5 miles approx. Mainly level or gentle gradients

This follows the old western estate boundary north from point A on the road between David and Talpa. Very extensive views especially towards the Carpathians. The largest and highest mountain in view is the Ceahlau, the sacred mountain of the Dacians and the abode of their Gods, at 1907 metres (6250 ft approx). Apart from a gentle slope at the beginning, the track is virtually flat all the way to the escarpment where the track peters out - point B. Be careful here, there is a sheer drop where water has carved a mini gorge and the edge is unstable.

Follow the edge of the escarpment to the Right; it climbs and turns North again. Note the remains of old trenches and gun positions at point C from which the main road (E35) was bombarded. Once over the crest, you will see the road. Make your way down to the road. In the steep bank alongside the road just before it steeply descends towards Tupilați can be found the nest holes of a colony of bee-eaters. Retrace your steps and follow the road towards Văleni for a few hundred metres. At point D turn Right and follow the track for a hundred yards or so and then turn Left onto a parallel track to the former estate boundary. Follow this south until it dips down into David. Walk straight through the village until you re-join the David – Talpa road at point E whereupon turn right and follow the road until you re-join the car.



Domeniul Styrcea

Walnut Grove and River View

Distance 3.5 kilometres – 2.25 miles approx. Mainly level or gentle gradients



Park on the verge just before the Forester's house at point A. (The forester is called Ciprian and his wife is Cristina – they are both delightful but neither speaks a word of English.) Then walk along the road in the direction of Tupilați until point B. Here leave the road and follow the forest/field edge (or in the forest if you prefer) until approximately point C. Here, cut the corner through the forest which comprises tall beech trees in this area and head generally to point D. There is no path through the forest but the walking is easy and obvious. At point D take a small diversion towards the cliff edge (beware - big drop and unstable edge) for a good river view and picnic spot. Just after point D is a small plantation of walnut trees. Carry on along the track which re-joins the Văleni – Tupilați road. Turn Left and you will shortly pass the forester's house and re-join your car.

Cetațuia

A circular walk with marvellous views that passes the site of a Dacian citadel at the highest point.

Approx 5 kms – 3.5 miles. Steepish climb between C & D; otherwise level or gentle descent



This walk begins from the Manor House. Walk down past the Bell Tower and the war memorial to the bridge and at point A take the track down to the communal pasture and along a raised causeway until you get to the stream. Follow the stream to the right where shortly there is a rickety bridge B. Cross the bridge and turn left and follow a track that after a brief jink broadly follows the south bank of the stream until you get to a wood. Just before the wood the track heads away from the stream to enter the wood. Continue along the track. As the track comes out of the wood, follow the pasture along the southern edge of the wood until, close to the corner, you find a path that re-enters the wood C and winds steadily uphill in a southerly direction until you gain the crest of the hill (the route of the path on the plan is indicative; it is clear on the ground). At this point, turn Right and follow the edge of the wood uphill until you reach the crest. Follow the path that keeps close to the edge of the escarpment above a wild area of landslip that is now grazed by cattle and sheep. There is a good picnic spot at point D. The path gently descends in a wide arc until it follows the edge of the forest at point E. Keep on this track – descending more steeply now until you rejoin the path you took earlier. Here you should turn Left which will bring you shortly to the rickety bridge and then retrace your steps back.

Field and Forest

A medium walk that combines fields, forest and glorious views

Approx 4.5 kms (2.7 miles) Some ascents and descents



Take the road north in the direction of Tupilati. Before you get to the end of the village you will see a small green to the right with a horrible plastic bus shelter. Park on the verge close to the shelter – A – and walk down the side road (Str. Eternitate) for a few yards until a farm track heads off L at 45 degrees. Follow it until you reach the edge of a large ancient orchard at B. Follow the edge of the orchard until you reach the forest edge at C. You will find a track that descends fairly steeply and then meanders through a predominantly beech forest interspersed with some massive cherry trees. After a while you will see a steep natural embankment climbing out of the forest at point D. From here, there are marvellous views. Thread your way to the track at point E and descend the track until you re-join the original path and retrace your steps to the car.