

# Iași to Timișoara and reverse

By Apetrei Anca (Exchange Officer) IVSA Iași, Romania

During just two months we managed to realize a “double” group exchange, first us going to Timișoara and second they coming to Iași. Both teams decided to show each other the way their faculty looks and functions, but also the beauty of the two cities, each with its own interest spots.

**Iași to Timișoara** experience started with a 17 hours of train ride getting us to their lovely city early in the morning and, of course, exhausted. We began that day with a little nap and after we recovered our energy, we continued with a relaxing walk to the Mall, a big meal, a visit to the Zoo and ended up with a socializing pizza&beer evening.

Next day we started with a coffee with the Dean, who verbally presented us the faculty, in order to have the basic knowledge when we left to visit the school, labs, clinics and the campus. We stopped to eat at the faculty cafeteria and then began to visit the beautiful city with its cathedrals, old streets, museums and, not last, the clubs.

The next morning we participated at their labs and courses each year with the equivalent from Timișoara. Year one studied oral cavity's insides at the anatomy course, year two learned about the physiopathology of the organism when it is introduced in a too cold or too hot environment, this experiment has been made on a lab mouse which still lives, so we were as gentle as we could during that lab.

Year four practiced horse immobilization in order to apply a treatment or investigation. In the evening, we played bowling and had lots of fun and didn't care who won. We ended the night dancing and relaxing a bit after the “school day”.

In the morning of the 4<sup>th</sup> day we ate a delicious breakfast to have enough energy to swim for three hours in the thermal water pools from the SPA Center of Timișoara. We continued with a relaxing day, shopping and eating ice-cream and we closed with a throats warming for a karaoke session that some of us don't want to hear again due to the excellent voices among us, but the fun was absolutely worth it.



The last full day spent in Timișoara we all attended the surgery lab where we saw the fluorescein corneal abrasions exam and the retina exam. After lunch, we went for a paintball game that left behind bruises but also great memories of a really fun afternoon. In the evening, there was the last big party because it was March the 1<sup>st</sup> and is linked to a celebration we have in Romania of giving to each other symbols of fortune and luck together with a red&white stranded string called “Marțișor”.

Last day away from home we started again with a coffee in the company of the Dean to whom we told our opinion about how we felt there and, trust me, all opinions were more than positive. We had a great time, with great people and we left already waiting for them to come to Iași.

**Timișoara to Iași** experience came very soon along with the 17 hours train ride between these two cities located at two different ends of the country. We were so excited to see some of them again, not all unfortunately, so we began our schedule after their well-deserved free time during which I am pretty sure they slept like babies. We walked on Copou hill and we ended with a cooking evening in the hall’s kitchen. Dinner was a success, we didn’t burn down anything and it was also very tasty.

In the morning we introduced them to our Dean who talked about our faculty and gave them a little hint about the beautiful places near Iași they just could not wait to visit soon. Afterwards, we walked them through our faculty and showed them our animal base in which we have some chicken breeds (and my favorite, Japanese Silkie), peacocks, pheasants, rabbits and snakes, which unfortunately we didn’t have access to at that time.

The rest of the day we showed them the city: the Cathedral, the Ștefan cel Mare Boulevard, the Palace of Culture and some other key buildings, churches and streets. At night, there was a party in the hall room of a colleague of ours who celebrated her birthday.

The next morning we took our more or less rested friends from Timișoara with us to our courses and labs as they come: year 1 to anatomy and cellular biology and histology labs where they learned about lungs in animal range and the microscope view of the retina layers, year 2 physiology lab where they counted sanguine platelets, year 4 to parasites and obstetrics courses. In the afternoon we visited the Botanic Garden and the Copou Park, after which we relaxed at the House of Brewers with, of course, plenty of beer.





The upcoming day we left in an interesting and fun trip around Iași during which we saw and did some amazing things, not to mention hundreds of pictures that I couldn't accumulate in my computer yet because there are too many, but I sure will. We visited the Dumbrava stud farm where we admired many champion studs that belong to many breeds, an equitation sample was presented to us and our friends from Timișoara had the joy to ride some of those beautiful studs.

We climbed to the Cetatea Neamțului, we visited Mănăstirea Neamțului, a little Zoo where we saw some wild and beautiful animals. We happily managed to get to Cheile Bicazului where there was a frozen lake, at the time we went there, and some canyons, if I can say, that our colleagues really liked. After this trip we were all tired and we agreed to have a well deserved sleep so we can join labs and courses the next day.

After they attended the last classes in our way, with our professors, we drove them through town for a walk since we had a nice sunny weather and showed them what we missed at the last tour of the city. In the evening we filled an amphitheatre and watched a movie with many students of our faculty, from different years of study. After the movie we headed for a club where we danced until the morning.

The last full day they spent in Iași, we visited two museums, one being the Sciences of Nature Museum where we saw many species of animals, parts of ancient animals (ribs, teeth of mammoth). Up next was a wine tasting we all enjoyed, followed by a Mozart repertoire at the local philharmonic which was absolutely wonderful. Of course, the last night we spent was in a pub not far from the campus, where we danced on all sorts of music and took as many pictures as we could.

In the last day, we went to a colleague's home and had a barbecue, fresh made traditional pies called "poale în brâu" and we met her animals, not few by the way. Ponies, peacocks, dogs, cats, rabbits, chicken, one ostrich, bats we didn't see unfortunately, Guinea pigs, chinchillas fill her courtyard and make her smile every day. It was a great, relaxing day before the long...long road back home.

The exchange was, and I am sure I speak for everyone involved, absolutely great! It was a wonderful experience that we will never forget, we made new friends we will keep in touch with, we saw another faculty of Veterinary Medicine from our country. I believe these exchanges mean for IVSA members more than one might think, at least for me, it meant a lot, it was a new door opened in my life.

