

## Dobrovăț Trail – July 6th, 2020



After we checked the weather twice on many devices for the day of July 6th, A.S.I.E's members headed by cars to Dobrovăț as after documentation we found out no trains or buses go to this village from Iasi. On the European road E58, we drove through Bucium forest 10.6 km towards Vaslui city. The air quality changes quickly to better after you get out of the polluted city of Iasi.

At the cross road signalled as in the photo below, we took the first right on the County road DJ247 towards Dobrovat Monastery.



After 11.4 km of very inclined bends, we saw the Monastery in front of us. We parked the cars in a large parking and we entered a quiet and very old rock church in the style of Stephen the Great, with big walls surrounding it.







A monk told us the Monastery's history and story more detailed than what we have read on the internet and we were amazed of the historical treasure found so close to our city. We were never informed about this, nobody advertised it to the inhabitants of Iasi.

The church implies respect through greatness and antiquity. It was so silent, outside was a hot July day, but the indoor gave you chills due to the thick walls of the church. The walls were beautifully painted, with the original paintings as the church was never restored.

The natural environment is amazing. The forests on the hills surround the Monastery, as if they protect it.



After we left the Monastery, we walked towards a clearing surrounded by beautiful secular oaks; a small beck was delimitating the forest of the clearing. We headed up through

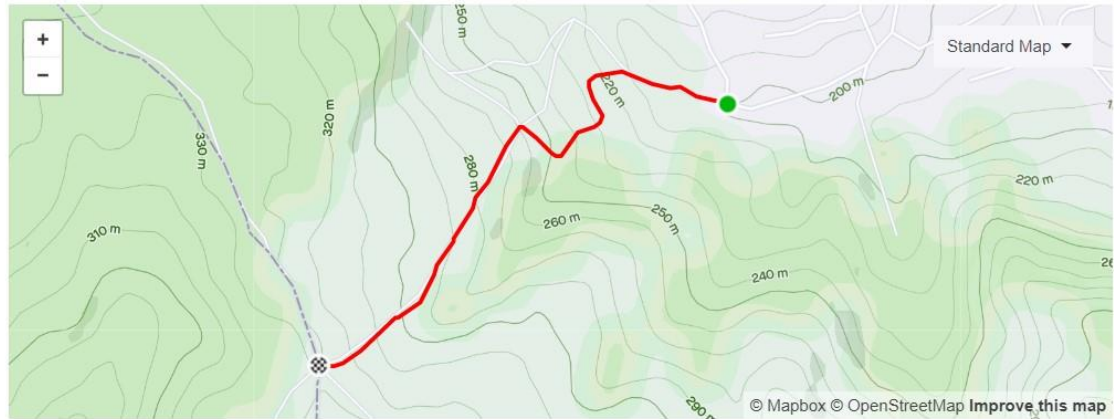


the beech trees for just 1.48 km. Due to dehydration, lack of phone signal or internet, lack of signs on the track, we had to go back to our basecamp in the clearing.

This is the climbing segment, recorded offline with Strava application.

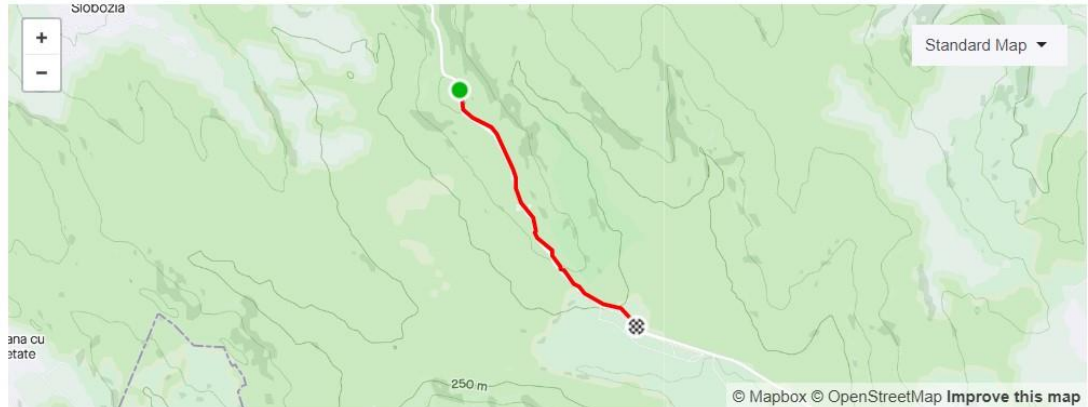
Ride Segment Dobrovăț, Județul Iași, Romania

Distance	Avg Grade	Lowest Elev	Highest Elev	Elev Difference	Climb Category
1.48km	8.8%	197m	327m	130m	4
351 Attempts By 165 People					



After proper feeding and hydration, we tried again, this time a woodland road with soft elevation, straight and easy to walk through.

Distance	Avg Grade	Lowest Elev	Highest Elev	Elev Difference	11 Attempts By 14 People
3.17km	-4.2%	228m	360m	132m	



The noon temperature was high and the forest road did not offer us shadow. We had to improvise





We were very disappointed to see many big forest areas being cut. Big poplars were on the ground looking freshly cut, with no official signs from the forest rangers.



We already knew about the intensive cuttings in the area since February. ASIE has been involved ever since in actions and activities regarding the improvement of protection of the forest of Dobrovat and other forests around Iasi. This was the reason why ASIE has made a partnership with Codrii Iasilor Association and many other similar NGOs in order to actively participate to save the little “natural” we have left.



The fauna we found was beautiful and diverse and covered a little bit the organisation flaws of the route we chose.

All in all, the Green Bridges objective was touched today. Dobrovat has created a perfect bridge between Iasi and its community & natural environment as all the participants fed their wellbeing and they will definitely come again during good weather and with better preparations.

***"Difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations. The best is yet to come." ~Zig Ziglar***

