

IAȘI-BÂRNOVA-POIANA CU SCHIT- -POIANA CU CETATE – BÂRNOVA-IAȘI


Searching for the “Green Bridges” near Iași

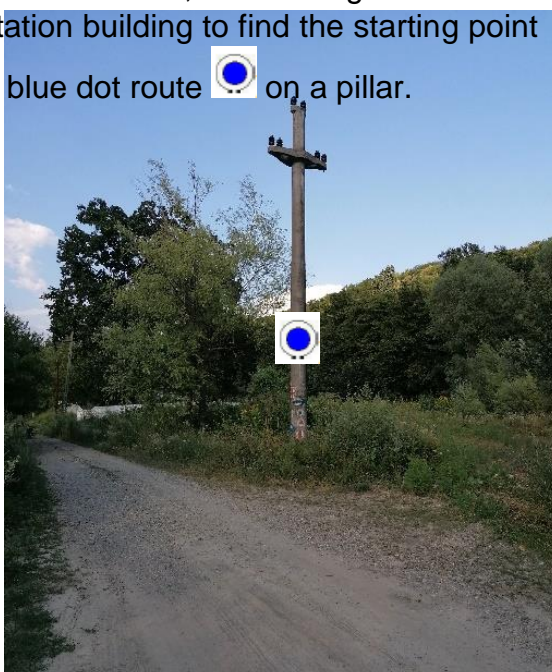
August 26th, 2020

I. BÂRNOVA-POIANA CU SCHIT

We, the Romanians have an old saying: “*The forest is the Romanian’s brother*”. As the forest has always served our ancestors as shelter and food supplies, during this pandemics people felt the forest’s calling more than ever.

After a thorough documentation on various webpages, Facebook or straight to the train station for accurate information and serious packing for a whole day trip, ASIE’s board members met at the main train station in Iasi in the morning at 6.30 and headed by train during 30 minutes towards south, precisely Bârnova station. We passed through the interesting old tunnel before Bârnova.

The station was almost deserted (except for some homeless dogs). Although we researched a lot, we had to go behind the train station building to find the starting point for the blue dot route  on a pillar.



We took a forest track on the right and climbed on a hill of max. 340m through the forest up to the asphalt and thus we have shortened the trail with more than 1.5 km.





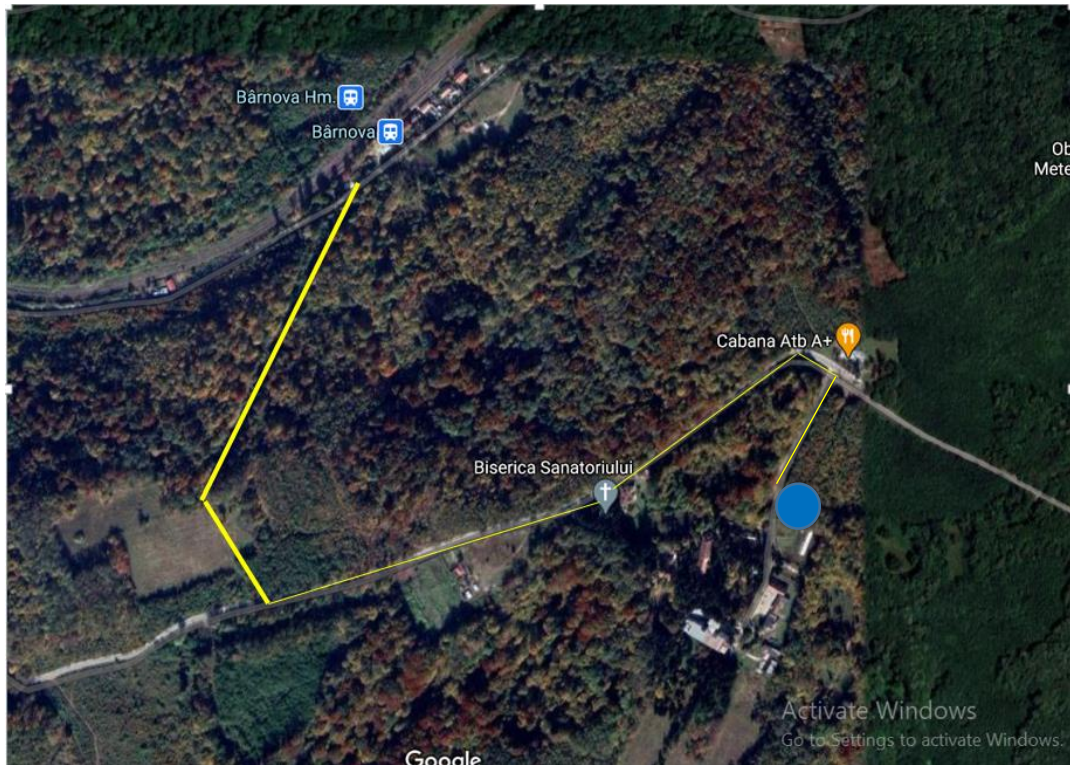
The huge beech trees created “green bridges” in front of us, the forest even offered us with a healthy breakfast, ripe darkberries of two types and green apples. What a joy!



Then we saw the Bărnova Sanatorium Church on the right, visited the church courtyard (the church was closed) and continued our road up until the Atb Chalet (Cabana Atb) – the chalet of the big pharmaceutical substances company, Antibiotice of Iasi

<https://www.antibiotice.ro/en/company/presentation>

Here we had some doubts as the route with the  is not so well organized. We did not see the sign anywhere. Neither on the left or on the right. The information from the other tourists who visited Poiana cu Schit said that from Cabana Atb we must turn right on a forest road and then we'll see the  on the left. 3 pairs of eyes have searched for the blue dot more than 10 minutes and we finally found it on a second row of trees, see the map below.



From here, the road continues just through the wonderful and silent forest, “disturbed” just by the morning tweets of the birds or our own steps and chirping as well. From time to time we checked if we kept the blue dot trail.





The view is amazing! The green is energizing and you really feel the joy that you are there, in the middle of the nature, just you and your friends discovering a treasure so well hidden and so close to our homes.

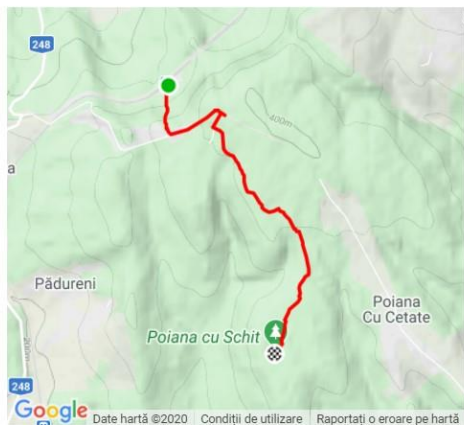
After almost 2 h of walking (5.60 km), we arrived to a clearing that we mistook for the Poiana cu Schit and after checking and we realized this is not our point of interest, we continued the blue dot trail and in 150 m we found the real clearing, Poiana cu Schit.



The green banner made by the Romanian Academy with the Forest Agency of Pădureni Village informs us: *"POIANA CU SCHIT, Floristic reservation, surface = 9.50 ha. The down of the Repedea-Bârnova type shall be protected along with its 200 species of anthophytes."*



Est. Moving Time: 30:26



We recorded the track with two apps as we did not know which will work. Both worked fine and showed us the time and length of the trail.

Note: The name of the point of interest, Poiana cu Schit is translated as The Glade with Hermitage. We realized this glade has also those statues we read about, so the name The Glade with Statues also fits.

1. The 14th century HERMITAGE

Very degraded, the ruins need restoration, they have no surrounding fence, no information on the antiquity of the site. After walking around the glade, we found a banner which was torn in 3 pieces and we reassembled it and found out that the old hermitage's name is Bârnova (Borosești Forest) attested since the voivode Alexander the Good times and left in ruins after the Greek monks left in 1863. The banner showed a lake, but instead of it we found just the vegetation typical for a swamp. The hermitage is well guarded by a secular oak tree whose shadow gave us the cool air we needed during a hot afternoon.



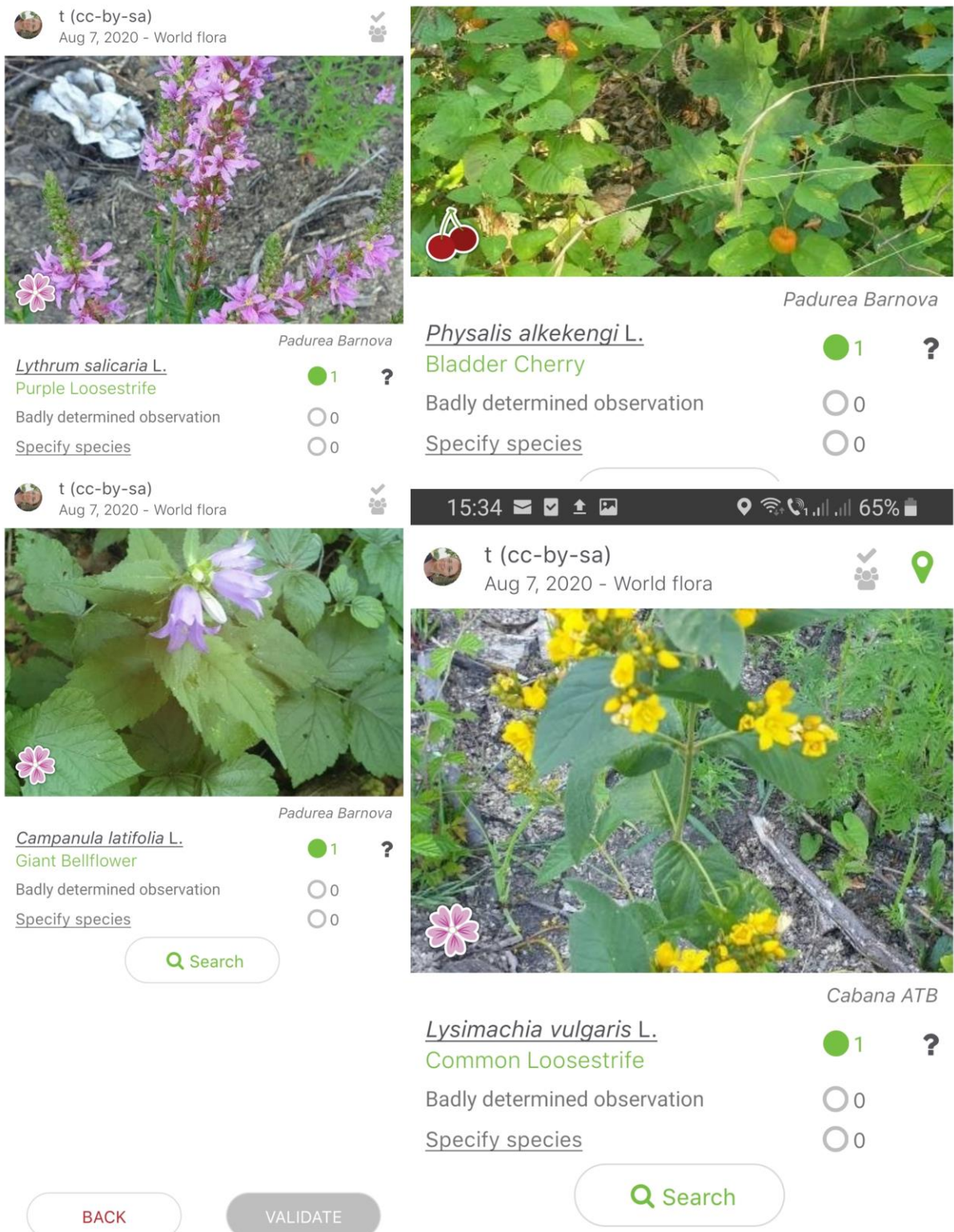
2. The 30 statues of stone

The statues are wonderful, we have visited each one and after reading the reassembled banner we found out the name, the sculptor and the year they were sculpted.




The flowers and all the other plants are spectacular, their scent cannot be felt unless you go there in the middle of the glade.





Due to an interesting app, we found out the Latin names of some of the protected species. Did you know we have *Physalis alkekengi* fruit in the Bârnova forest? I did not even know it grows in Romania...

Here ended the first part of our route and after a short break, we headed through the forest, this time following the red dot trail. (3,48 km) .

II. POIANA CU SCHIT – POIANA CU CETATE

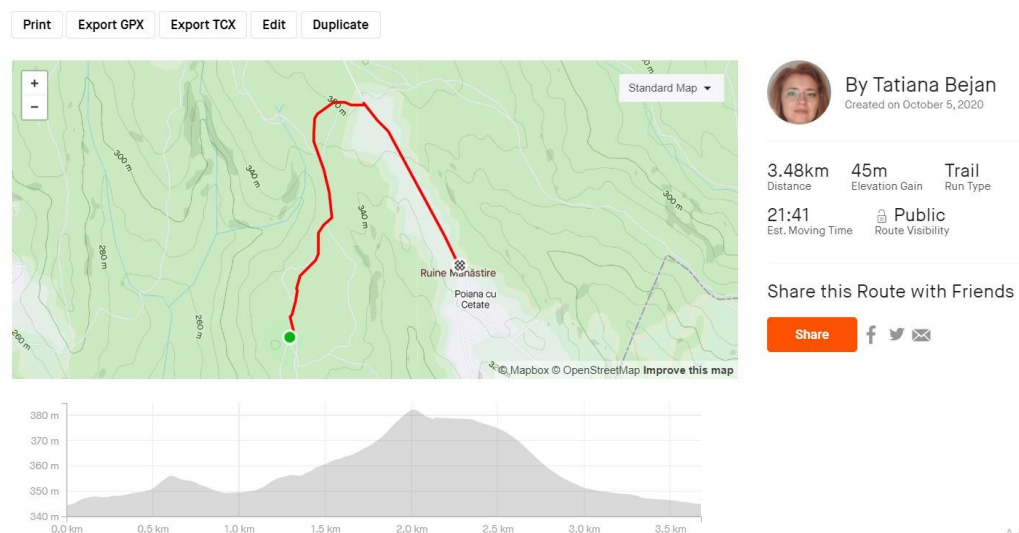


On the way towards Poiana cu Cetate we were lucky to see deer running in the forest. We did not have the time to take a photo, they are very quick. But their mere presence made us feel special and lucky. We quickly arrived at the end of the forest (21 min) and arrived to the asphalted road that goes through the Poiana cu Cetate village centre where is the Church of Cujba.



Below is the Strava track that tracks even when offline with no GPS signal.

★ Poiana cu Schit - Poiana cu Cetate



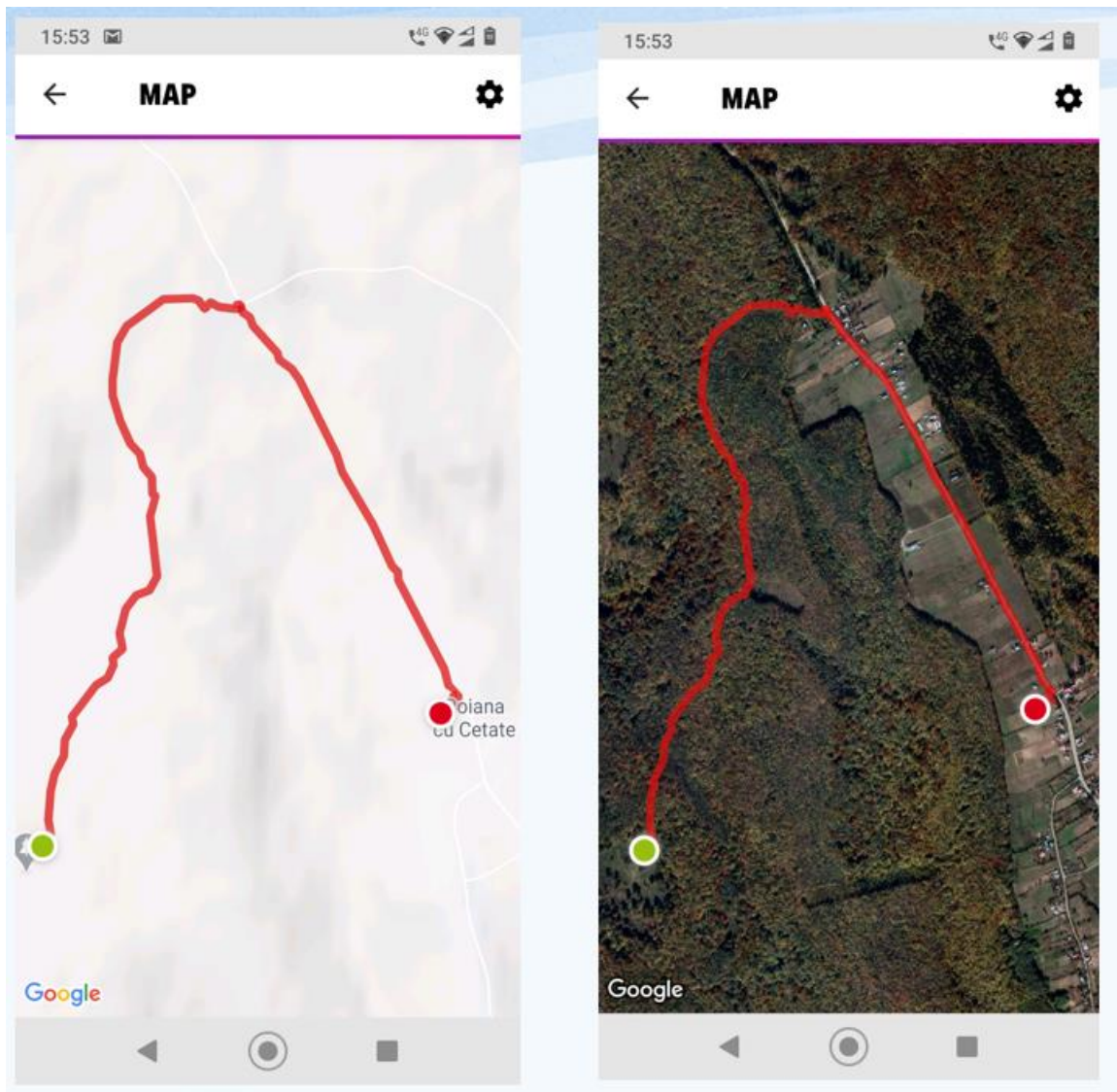
When you see with your own eyes you understand the similarities or differences and stop confusing names, although the two sightseeing places seemed the same. Poiana cu Cetate is a village that has in the old small cemetery the ruins of an old Church which belonged to the boyar Cujbă, built in 1609.



The church is wonderful, but in a continuous degradation state. No fence, no information, no people in charge. The cemetery is very small



When we got out of the village Poiana cu Cetate, we had a monumental surprise. Two secular oaks are guarding the entrance/exit in/off the village: they were measured and declared in 2011 natural monuments. One has the height 19 m, 4,239 m around and estimated age 433 years. The second oak 21 m high, 5,15 m around and 515 years old!



III. POIANA cu CETATE – GARA BÂRNOVA

This track lasted 32 min and was 5,25 km long. Although we were very tired, the forest gave us energy to finish the track in glory and arrive in due time to take the train back to Iasi.

This is not a whole day trip, but taking thousands of pictures and long pauses made us feel the wellbeing and extend the visit in the area.

★ Poiana cu Cetate - Gara Barnova

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By Tatiana Bejan

Created on October 5, 2020

5.25km

Distance

132m

Elevation Gain

Trail

Run Type

32:40

Est. Moving Time



Public

Route Visibility

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Activa

