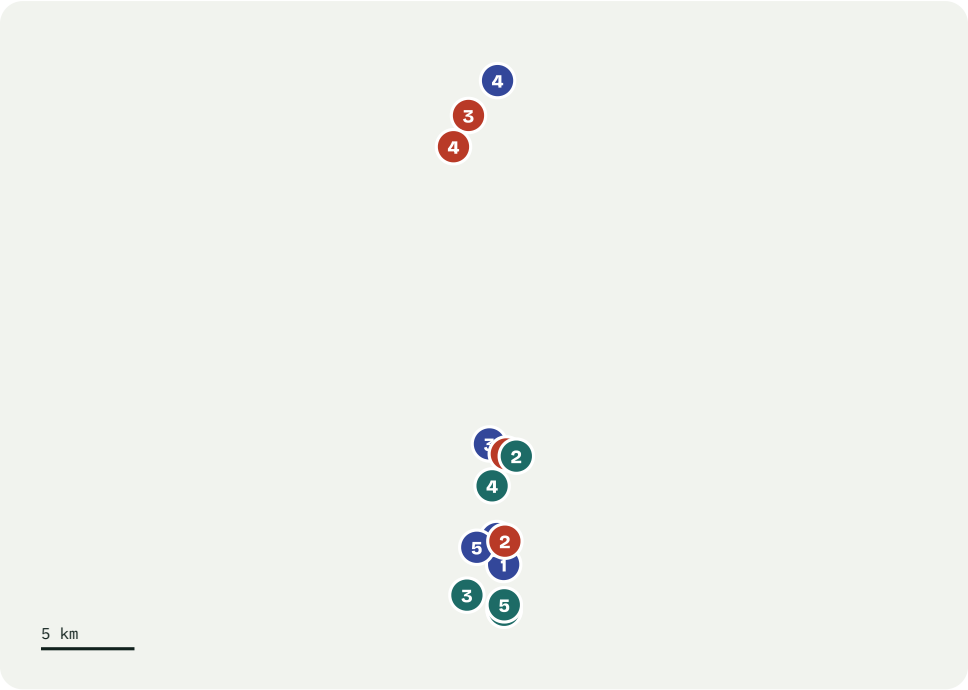
Arefu

The commune of Poienari Fortress and Vidraru Dam, at the southern gate of the Transfăgărășan: the road to the lake stays open in winter, the high section only in summer.



What to see · Where to eat · Where to stay

Sketch, not exactly to scale.

How to use this guide

For each category we picked five places, in the order we would recommend them. Map numbers match the list. On arges.info you'll find the interactive map, Google Maps links and the always up-to-date version.

`arges.info/en/arefu/`

What to see in Arefu



1 Cetatea Poienari

MEDIEVAL FORTRESS · CĂPĂȚÂNENII UNGURENI, PE DN7C, LA CIRCA 4 KM DE CENTRUL COMUNEI

It is the fortress tradition links to Vlad the Impaler, restored and reopened in April 2025.

The ruined fortress on Cetățuia peak, linked to Vlad the Impaler, reached by about 1,480 steps through the forest.

DN7C Transfăgărășan, Căpățânenii Ungureni (urcarea pornește de la drum) · Tel. +40 248 212 561 · Hours: daily 9–16



2 Barajul Vidraru

ARCH DAM · DN7C KM 62, LA CIRCA 8 KM DE CENTRUL COMUNEI

On the crest you drive or walk above a drop of more than 160 m, with the lake on one side and the valley on the other.

A 166.6 m arch dam on the Argeș river, in service since 1966; the Transfăgărășan runs right along its crest.

DN7C Transfăgărășan, Barajul Vidraru, Arefu · hours not confirmed



3 Lacul Vidraru

RESERVOIR · DE LA BARAJ SPRE NORD, PE DN7C, LA 8–25 KM DE CENTRUL COMUNEI

The Transfăgărășan follows its shore, with bays, bridges and places to stop by the water.

The reservoir behind the dam, about 10 km long, between wooded mountains, with the Transfăgărășan running along its shore.

DN7C Transfăgărășan, malul Lacului Vidraru, Arefu · hours not confirmed



4 Transfăgărășanul de sud: Piscu Negru – Capra

ALPINE ROAD · DN7C DE LA PISCU NEGRU (KM 104) SPRE TUNELUL CAPRA–BÂLEA, LA 41–50 KM DE CENTRUL COMUNEI

It is the hairpin climb you know from photos of the Transfăgărășan, with the Capra waterfall right by the road.

The high section of the Transfăgărășan on the Argeș side: hairpins up the Capra valley, the Capra waterfall and the entrance to the tunnel under the ridge.

DN7C Transfăgărășan, între Piscu Negru și tunelul Capra–Bâlea, Arefu · hours not confirmed

5 Canionul Valea lui Stan

CANYON TRAIL · PE DN7C, SUB BARAJUL VIDRARU, LA CIRCA 6 KM DE CENTRUL COMUNEI

It is a tight canyon fitted with ladders and footbridges right beside the Transfăgărășan, easy to combine with the dam on the same day.

A red-dot trail through a narrow canyon, with metal ladders, footbridges and cables, that loops back via Vidraru Dam.

DN7C Transfăgărășan, la capătul nordic al podului de peste Valea lui Stan, Arefu · hours not confirmed

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Where to eat in Arefu

1 Hanul Vrăjit

ROMANIAN RESTAURANT WITH TERRACE · CĂPĂȚÂNENII PĂMÂNTENI, PE DN7C, LA 1 KM DE CENTRUL COMUNEI

It scores 4.7 on Google from about 1,390 ratings, the best score among the commune's restaurants with many reviews.

The terrace restaurant of the Spell hotel on the Transfăgărășan, with Romanian cooking and breakfast at weekends.

DN7C Transfăgărășan, nr. 189A, Căpățânenii Pământeni · Tel. +40 727 715 718 · Hours: Mo Closed · Tu Closed · We Closed · Th Closed · Fr 11–22 · Sa 8:30–22 · Su 8:30–18

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2 Posada Vidraru

HOTEL RESTAURANT BY THE DAM · LÂNGĂ BARAJUL VIDRARU, DN7C KM 62, LA CIRCA 8 KM DE CENTRUL COMUNEI

It is a short walk from the dam, the hotel and restaurant score 4.4 on Google from more than 3,200 reviews, and the trout gets frequent praise.

The restaurant of the Posada Vidraru hotel, about 200 m from the dam, with 120 seats inside and a 60-seat terrace.

DN7C Transfăgărășan, km 62+120, lângă Barajul Vidraru · Tel. +40 372 731 169 · hours not confirmed

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3 Conacul Ursului

MOUNTAIN LODGE RESTAURANT · PISCU NEGRU, DN7C KM 104, LA CIRCA 43 KM DE CENTRUL COMUNEI

It scores 4.4 on Google from about 1,450 reviews and stays open in winter, with a Christmas menu and snowshoe walks.

A lodge with a restaurant, bar and terrace on the Transfăgărășan, at about 1,285 m by the Capra stream, close to the road's winter barrier.

DN7C Transfăgărășan, km 104, Arefu · Tel. +40 752 877 877 · hours not confirmed

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4 Hotel Piscul Negru

MOUNTAIN HOTEL RESTAURANT · PISCU NEGRU, DN7C KM 102, LA CIRCA 41 KM DE CENTRUL COMUNEI

It scores 4.3–4.4 on Google from more than 1,400 reviews and stays open in winter, with packages for December 2026.

The restaurant of the Piscul Negru hotel, above 1,200 m at the top of the Argeș valley, below the high section of the Transfăgărășan.

DN7C Transfăgărășan, km 102, Arefu · Tel. +40 726 722 479 · hours not confirmed

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5 Transfăgărășan Treehouse Village

SMOKEHOUSE RESTAURANT · LACUL VIDRARU, PE DN7C, LA CIRCA 21 KM DE CENTRUL COMUNEI

It scores 4.3 on Google from more than 2,000 reviews and cooks something different from the rest of the area: slow-smoked meat.

A restaurant in the forest by Lake Vidraru, built around a Texas-style smoker, with a large terrace and a fireplace; it also has three treehouse cabins.

DN7C Transfăgărășan, malul Lacului Vidraru, Arefu · Tel. +40 740 046 607 · hours not confirmed

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Where to stay in Arefu

1 Pensiunea Bella Vista

GUESTHOUSE WITH RESTAURANT · CĂPĂȚÂNENII PĂMÂNTENI, PE DN7C, LA 1 KM DE CENTRUL COMUNEI

It scores 9.2 on Booking from more than 560 reviews and has a restaurant open all day, 3 km from Poienari Fortress.

A 3-star guesthouse on the Transfăgărășan in Căpățânenii Pământeni, with its own restaurant, a terrace and rooms with balconies.

DN7C Transfăgărășan, nr. 198, Căpățânenii Pământeni · Tel. +40 748 166 473

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2 Cabana Zimbru Transfăgărășan

LAKESIDE LODGE · LACUL VIDRARU, DN7C KM 73,6, LA CIRCA 20 KM DE CENTRUL COMUNEI

It scores 9.0 on Booking from more than 600 reviews and sits right on the lake, about 12 km beyond the dam.

A lodge with a restaurant and terrace on the Transfăgărășan at Lake Vidraru, with double rooms, a chalet and a two-bedroom apartment.

DN7C Transfăgărășan, km 73,6, Arefu

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3 Vila N&D

VILLAS WITH SAUNA · SATUL AREFU, LA CIRCA 5 KM DE CENTRUL COMUNEI

It scores 9.8 on Booking from more than 100 reviews and is in Arefu village itself, away from the Transfăgărășan traffic.

A cluster of villas in Arefu village: one large villa for groups and small cabins for two or three, with a garden, barbecue and sauna.

Strada Principală 166, Arefu

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4 Hotel Valea cu Pești

LAKESIDE HOTEL WITH POOL · LACUL VIDRARU, DN7C KM 70, LA CIRCA 17 KM DE CENTRUL COMUNEI

It has an indoor pool and a spa, useful in winter, and more than 850 reviews on Booking with a score of 8.2.

A hotel on the shore of Lake Vidraru with a restaurant, a bar, an indoor pool, a jacuzzi, a spa and a tennis court.

DN7C Transfăgărășan, nr. 200 (km 70), Căpățânenii Ungureni · Tel. +40 755 300 003

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5 Pensiunea Dracula & Spa

GUESTHOUSE WITH POOL AND SPA · CĂPĂȚÂNENII UNGURENI, PE DN7C, LA CIRCA 1,5 KM DE CENTRUL COMUNEI

It is one of the few places to stay in the commune with a heated indoor pool, and it has published offers for winter 2026–2027.

A complex on the Transfăgărășan, in two buildings on either side of the road, with a restaurant, a heated indoor pool, a jacuzzi, a sauna, a salt room and a campsite.

DN7C Transfăgărășan, nr. 190, Căpățânenii Ungureni · Tel. +40 745 473 381

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Checked in November 2026. Hours can change: check before you go.

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