

## COȘTEIU



**Local Council Office:** Coșteiu no. 668, telephone 0256/326587, fax 0256/326500;

**Coordinates:**

45°44'10" N lat.;  
21°51'27" E long.;

**Historical landmarks:**

-1597 - a mention of the Coșteiu settlement, built around a medieval castle (**Kastély**), and a mention of the mayors of Coșteiu, Opincați and Baia;

- 1650 - the Romanian name of the village was recorded in a Ottoman ledger: **Valea Lungă**;

- 1759 -1760 the dam of Coșteiu was built;  
- 1860 - the Stăvilă House was renovated, declared a monument of the Romanian folk technical history;

-26 July 1938 - **Mircea Munteanu** was born in Coșteiu, teacher and important journalist of Radio Timișoara;

-2 September 1944 - **Viorel Marineasa** was born in Țipari, writer and journalist;

-11 December 1954 - **Ioan Cerbu**, Protopope of Lugoj, was born in Coșteiu;

-2002 - the commune of Coșteiu had 2,051 inhabitants;

-2008 - the building of the Romanian Orthodox Church began in Țipari;

**Total population on 1 January 2010:**

3,813 persons, of which:

- male = 1,807 persons
- female = 2,006 persons

**Number of households on 1 January 2010:** 1,368

**Member villages:**

Coșteiu, Hezeriș (1401), Păru (1723), Țipari (1881), Valea Lungă Română (1510);

**Educational institutions:**

- Elementary Schools (I-VIII): Coșteiu and

Țipari; The Baptist College: Coșteiu; Primary Schools (I-IV): Coșteiu, Hezeriș, Țipari; Kindergartens with normal hours: Coșteiu, Păru și Țipari;

**Health facilities:** Medical practices: Coșteiu (four); Dentist practices: Coșteiu; Drugstores: Coșteiu; Sanitary-veterinary practice and drugstore: Coșteiu;

**Cultural institutions:** Community centres: Coșteiu, Țipari, Păru, Hezeriș and Valea Lungă Română; Library: Coșteiu (founded in 1962);

**Fitness and sports facilities:** Sports grounds: Coșteiu;

**Churches and other places of worship:**

Romanian Orthodox Churches: Coșteiu (two: 1897, 1873), Hezeriș (1783) and Păru (1890); Greek-Catholic Churches: Coșteiu (1870); Valea Lungă Română (1875) and Păru (1890); Reformed Churches: Țipari (1890); Baptist Churches: Coșteiu (1996); Pentecostal Churches: Coșteiu (1993) and Țipari (1996); Seventh-day Adventist Churches: Coșteiu (1995);

**Annual Church Festivals:** Coșteiu (23 April - Saint George), Valea Lungă Română and Păru (8 September – the Nativity of Virgin Mary) and Hezeriș (15 August – the Assumption of Mary) - the Celebration of the village of Țipari (25-26 August);

**Citizens of Honour:**

His Holiness Nicolae Corneanu, Susanne Kastner.

## THE CITY HALL AND THE LOCAL COUNCIL OF COȘTEIU

<b>Carebia Petru</b>	<b>Mayor</b>	Jurjoni Sebastian-Daniel, LC member	LPD
<b>Marton Benjamin</b>	<b>Vice Mayor</b>	Lelescu Constantin, LC member	SDP
Barboni Petru, LC member	NLP	Neidoni Petrică Timuț, LC member	CP
Boitoș Dan, LC member	SDP	Paniovan Aurel-Viorel, LC member	NLP
Cireșan Viorel-Ioan, LC member	NLP	Petrucean Dumitru, LC member	LPD
Dragomirescu Nicolae, LC member	NLP	Podean Marinica-Dorinel, LC member	NLP
Ienci Adrian-Florin, LC member	NLP	Țăran Ionuț-Dănuț, LC member	NLP

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## THE DAM

Ever since the first years of the Habsburg ruling in Banat, after 1716, Count **Claudius Florimund of Mercy**, high commander of Timișoara, began the rebuilding and the extension of the city of Timișoara, as well as of the entire field area: new roads were built, the swamps were dried, the Bega river became navigable, and the city benefited from a safe, drinkable water supply. The hydro-technical node of Coșteiu was built in 1758 under the guidance of Dutch engineer **Max Fremaut**, in order to direct the additional flow from the Timiș river into the Bega river, thus ensuring the floating, the navigation, the water supply for the river area, including Timișoara, the defense against the floods etc. Around the half of the XIX<sup>th</sup> century, **Constantin Rădulescu**, chief-engineer of the town of Timișoara, related to the Brediceanu family from Lugoj, had an important role in the city's modernisation. Among others, he is responsible for the training of the Timiș river, beginning with the dam from Coșteiu and ending with the Bega canal that crosses Timișoara. In 1902, a new law was adopted, stipulating that any excess of water from the Bega canal should be transferred to the Timiș river through the dam from Topolovățu Mic. The hydrotechnical node from Coșteiu is part of the Timiș - Bega connection system and consists of an overflow dam, an energy disperser located on the Timiș river and of the Timiș-Bega derivation canal, located on the right bank upstream from the dam, fitted with two openings. The Coșteiu-Chizătău canal starts from the Timiș river near the commune of Coșteiu and flows into the Bega river. On its way, it gathers the waters from the Coștei and Glavița rivers, deriving their flow into the Bega river as well. The Coșteiu dam, together with the Topolovăț dam, solved the flow training problem on the Timiș and Bega rivers, upstream from Timișoara, so that the city is still protected against flooding. The work from Coșteiu has a special historical interest, being associated with the evolution of the hydrotechnical civil engineering field in Romania over the last 260 years.



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## THE CHURCH FROM HEZERIȘ

Nobody knows exactly when the place of worship was built, but the local tradition says that it was built around 1743, on the site called "Roundabouts", located two kilometers west from the current village of Hezeriș. The systematisation of the settlement from the first years of the XIX<sup>th</sup> century brought the church in its current location. The place of worship was repaired before 1900. In 1960, the church was completely repaired: the shingle on the roof and the tower was replaced with zinc-coated sheets.



The building, according to the description of historian **Nicolae Secară**, "is made of oak beams supported by pillars, and the exterior walls are plastered with clay and painted with lime. It seems that the last restoration enlarged the windows and the access doors, which cut the interior paintings. The tower above the narthex is thin, prismatic, covered by a pyramid-shaped roof. The interior design, as well as the covering of spaces are common to all wooden churches." Around 1960, the 70-centimeter tall base and the quarry stone foundation (with lime mortar for the connections), were built. The painting of the church, nowadays in precarious status, was done by the mason Atanasie from Lugoj, dating around 1779.

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## THE CURSE OF MARIA SPINANTA

The teacher **Ioan Fenchea** from Coșteiu knows some stories from the area having a common theme: the curse of Maria Spinanta. Who was Maria Spinanta? She was a knyaz daughter from Coșteiu, who loved riding very much. While she was riding one day, she was caught by a hoard of Tatars who dishonoured and then killed her. Before her death, the daughter of Knyaz Spinanta cursed the ones who would hurt the local people to suffer the worst punishments possible. The legends say that after the occupation of Banat by the Soviet troops, around 1945 or 1946, four soldiers from the Red Army, arrived in Lugoj, dishonoured a women from Coșteiu or Hezeriș. After the terrible deed, the four villains got in their GAZ car, but after several kilometers they had an accident and died. Then, around 1958, some communists from Lugoj arrived in Coșteiu with orders to collectivise the commune. Only eleven people joined the agricultural production cooperative, and eight of them died a short while after ...

At the beginning of the '70s, another horrible deed took place. A tractor driver from Coșteiu was involved in the tearing down of the Greek-Catholic Church from the village. The man used the tractor to tear down the tower of the church and, some weeks later, he rode his bicycle and fell into a ditch, paralysing from the fall. The person helped by the tractor driver, a villager who built his house on the former church location did not escape the curse: the house was struck by lightening several times, thus the man left the village for fear of the curse of Maria Spinanta...

## PÖL OR PĂRU...

If the neighbouring village, Țipari (Szapárfalva - "The village with eels"), was founded through the systematic colonisation of Hungarian families in the area - in 1881, from Csanád county - the village of Păru was and remained a Romanian village, although the authorities of that time named it in many ways: **Pöl** (1723), **Poerul**, **Begakörtés**; the closest name to the one used nowadays being **Perul**, used since 1800. As if breaking through the hillside, the village has a very beautiful topview. A true Belvedere...



## THE PROSE WRITER

One of the most prolific prose writers from Banat is, without a doubt, **Viorel Marineasa**, born in Țipari, on 2 September 1944, in the family of notary public Vasile Marineasa. Viorel attended the courses of the elementary school from Lipova, the high school courses in Lipova and Timișoara (High School no. 5). He studied at the University of Timișoara, the Faculty of Philology, the specialty Romanian-German (1962-1968) and worked as a teacher at the Elementary School from Șoșdea, then as a methodologist (trainer, expert) at the Students' Cultural Centre of Timișoara (1973-1990). He is an editor at the "Horizon" magazine (1990 - present), an editor at the "Timișoara" newspaper (1990), editor-in-chief, manager of the West Publishing House from Timișoara

(1990-1993), editor consultant at the Marineasa Publishing House (1993 present), head of the cultural department of "The Reality from Banat" newspaper between 1995 and 1996, editor at the "Timișoara" newspaper (1996-1997), associated professor at the University of the West from Timișoara, The Faculty of Political Sciences, Philosophy and Communication Sciences, the specialty Journalism (1997 - present). He earned a Ph.D. in philology (Magna cum laude - 2004).



He is a member of the Writers' Union since 1990; a member of the Professional Writers'

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Association (ASPRO) since 1994. Published books: - the part entitled **"The Uncle"** - short stories) from **"The long way"**, "Facla" Publishing House, Timișoara, 1985; **"The White Letter"** (novel), 1988; **"Passing by"** (novel), 1990; **"Tools, weapons, instruments"** (short stories), 1992; **"Pentecost '51. Excerpts from the deportation to Bărăgan"**, a contemporary historical monograph, coauthor - Daniel Vighi, 1994; **"Dicasterial"** (short stories), 1995; **"The deportation to Bărăgan. Destines, documents, articles"**,

sequel of the monograph "Pentecost '51", coauthors - Daniel Vighi, Valentin Sămîntă, 1996; 1998; **"Fahrplan für die Sixties"** (essays), coauthor Daniel Vighi, bilingual, translation by Gerhard Csejka, 2003; **"The area. Prose writers and poets from Timisoara from the '80s and '90s"**, anthology drawn up together with Gabriel Marinneasă, 1997; **"The Generation of the '80s in short stories, anthology and bio-bibliographical notes"** - together with Gheorghe Crăciun, 1998, **"Pentecost '51. Excerpts from the deportation to Bărăgan (second edition, reviewed and supplemented)"**, 2004. **"Overbid tradition, rephrased modernity. The journalism activity of**



**Nichifor Crainic and Nae Ionescu, upon a new reading"**, Timișoara, 2004, **"Aspects of the editorial office secretary"**, 2004.

Distinctions: 1982 - the Prize for prose writing of the "Horizon" magazine literary circle and of the Writers' Association from Timișoara; 1992 - the Prize of the Writers' Association from Timișoara for short story writing (vol. "Tools, weapons, instruments"; 1994 - the Prize for prose writing of the Writers' Union from Timișoara (vol. "Pentecos '51"); 1995 - the Prize for Short

Story Writing of ASPRO (vol. "Dicasterial"); 1996 - the Prize for Excellence of the Writers' Union, Timișoara branch, for cultural journalism; 1996 - the Prize of the "Tomis" magazine and of the Writers' Association from Dobrogea for documentary literature (vol. "The deportation to Bărăgan. Destines, documents, articles"; 2004 - The Diploma of Excellence of the County Directorate for Culture, Cults and National Cultural Heritage of Timiș county (for promoting young poets and some works referring to the history of Banat); 2004 - Diploma of the Timiș County Council (for his entire activity and exceptional merits in promoting the art and culture of Timiș county).

## THE PROTOPOPE OF LUGOJ

On 11 December 1954, **Ioan Cerbu** was born in Coșteiu. He is a graduate of the Theological Seminary in Caransebeș (1976). He is a graduate of the Theological Institute for Higher Education from Sibiu (1981). He was ordained as a parish priest in the parish of Cliciova - The Archpriestship of Făget (1982), then he worked as the parish priest of the parish of Coșteiu (1989). He was appointed Protopope of Lugoj by the Eparchy Council of the Orthodox Archbishopry of Timișoara, for a period of four years (2000), reelected in 2004. The priest Ioan Cerbu (with the title of "Iconom stavroforos" received for exceptional church activity) is the president of the "Hope's Angels Foundation" Lugoj, which ensures assistance and social protection for the mentally challenged and persons with multiple disabilities from the south-east area of Timiș county. He was the president of the "Heroes Cult" (Association - Lugoj (2001-2009). He has been a member of the Lugoj Branch of the Historical Science Society from Romania since 2005.

The Protopope Ioan Cerbu serves at "the Assumption of Mary" Church from Lugoj (4,202 families with 12,606 believers) together with the priests **Bujor Damșa, Vasile Muntean** and **Nicolae Borduz** and the deacon **Cristian Cerbu**.

