

# MEDIEVAL CEMETERY FUNERARY EXCAVATION DYING ON THE EUROPEAN FRONTIER: LOST CHURCHES PROJECT



**TRANSYLVANIA, ROMANIA**  
**JUNE 12-JULY 2/JULY 3-JULY 23, 2016**



As the 15<sup>th</sup> century ends, the battle for Europe begins! The southeastern European frontier collapses in front of the Ottoman Turks. The heroes (and their legend) that held back the East have died: Vlad Dracula the Impaler, prince of Wallachia in 1476; Holy Stephan the Great, prince of Moldavia in 1504; Skanderberg (Iskender Bey), lord of Albania in 1468. The fall of Constantinople in 1453 and the united European defeat at the great Battle of Mohacs in 1526 opened the way for the Ottoman expansion into Europe.

As Europe redefines itself in the wake of the Ottoman invasion, the Transylvania frontier still holds fast against the Eastern invaders. However, during the 17th century, a series of churches in the region around Odorheiu Secuiesc cease to be used. In the aftermath of the crisis that shook the foundation of European identity, these churches disappear from collective memory.

The aim of this project is to explore how major political events physically impacted local populations. We are interested in the evolution of the population throughout the Middle Ages in the region, the changes in church architecture and burial patterns, and the variations of burial ritual during social, political and economic stress. The further study of the human remains in our osteology laboratory

**DURATION:** 3 week sessions

**COST:** US\$1475 per session

**IT INCLUDES:**

- Project registration fee, taxes, and most gear
- Housing in double/triple occupancy rooms in a newly renovated hotel
- Breakfast and dinner, Monday-Friday

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** [www.archaeotek-archaeology.org](http://www.archaeotek-archaeology.org)

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