Underground Europe: Understanding karst and cave environments (3 credits)

USF’s School of Geosciences offers a karst field class in cooperation with the Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj, Romania. The purpose of this travel-study program is to acquaint students with major cave and karst features in south-central Europe. By visiting caves and karst landforms in Romania and Hungary, students will explore three major themes: Karst and Sustainability, Hydrogeology, and Climate Change.

The cost of the Europe field course is ~ $500 and includes: accommodations (hostels, cabins & camping), part of the meals (in Romania), round trip airport/railway transfers in Budapest and Cluj, in-country transportation for group activities and course-related site visits.

Students are responsible for arranging their transportation to/from Budapest (~ $1,300), passport (~ $100), USF tuition fees, health insurance, most meals, and discretionary spending.

Tentative schedule:

- June 20 - meeting in Budapest Airport, Hungary
- June 21-22 - explore thermal caves under Budapest
- June 23 - travel by train to Cluj, Romania
- June 24-29 - explore/visit ice caves, thermal caves, and various landscapes throughout western Romania.
- June 29/30 - travel by train back to Budapest Airport. Back to the US

This is an intense field class, with early morning to dusk hours with a combination of daily lectures and field observations/visits. Entering protected areas of most caves on the itinerary involves rigorous travel.

Undergraduate and graduate students nation-wide are eligible to apply. Students with degree interests in Geology, Geography, and Environmental Sciences have priority, but other will be considered if seats are available. Only 7 seats; Permit required!

Sign up for a unique experience

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