

Turda Salt Mine –

the world's most spectacular natural underground formation,
shaped by people

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T7XdRAI0ywE>



Location

- In Turda municipality, nearby Durgău-Valea Sărată area, part of micro-hollow region of Băile Sărate, part of **Situl Natura 2000 – Sărăturile Ocna Veche** natural site, an environmental protected area.



Historical time-markers

It was first mentioned in the documents in **1271**, when salt was **more precious than Transylvania's gold**, and the Teutons were rewarded for their services and loyalty by being paid in salt's giant boulders.

At the beginning of the 17th century, Turda Salt Mine became a strategic objective of Imperial Court of Vienna, due to the income brought to the imperial treasury by the mining.



About mine...

- The mine was built with primitive tools, by the experienced salt miners, while exploring and recovering one of the most valuable resource on Earth.
- After having seduced the Dacs and the Romans, and later on the Hungarian kings and the Habsburg Emperors, with its precious ores over the ages, now it came the turn of the tourists, from all over the world, to admire one of the most important monuments in Transylvania.



Let's step into the heart of the mine!

- **Franz Josef Gallery**
- **Rudolf mine**
- **Theresa mine**
- **Joseph Mine – Echo Chamber**
- **“The Crivac” Chamber**
- **The Registry Chamber with The Staircase of the Rich**
- **Anton mine**
- **Ghizela mine**



“The Crivac” Chamber



Theresa mine



Rudolf mine

Franz Josef Gallery

- **Franz Josef Gallery is the gateway to the entrance into the depths. An underground maze that invites us to another dimension.**
- **Realized between 1853 and 1870**, Franz Josef Gallery was built to achieve an easier and cheaper transportation of salt to the surface. During time, in the beginning, the salt was transported, first in bags placed on horsebacks, later on, starting with the end of the 19th century, with the help of wagonettes towed by horses.

A perspective view of a long, narrow underground gallery. The walls are made of rough, textured rock. The ceiling is supported by a series of dark wooden beams, with several long, rectangular fluorescent light fixtures mounted along its length. The floor is a smooth, light-colored surface, possibly concrete or polished stone. The lighting creates a strong sense of depth and perspective, with the lights and the walls receding into the distance.

Franz Josef Gallery

At its completion, Franz Josef Gallery was 780 m length, but, by the end of the 19th century, it was extended by another 137 m, reaching a length of 917 m.



Rudolf mine

Rudolf mine is the last place where salt was exploited in Turda.



- The trapezoidal dome of Rudolf mine is a true work of art.

172 steps lead you to the heart of the mine. We go down *13 floors*, at each resting bridge being marked on the wall the year when the respective level was exploited.



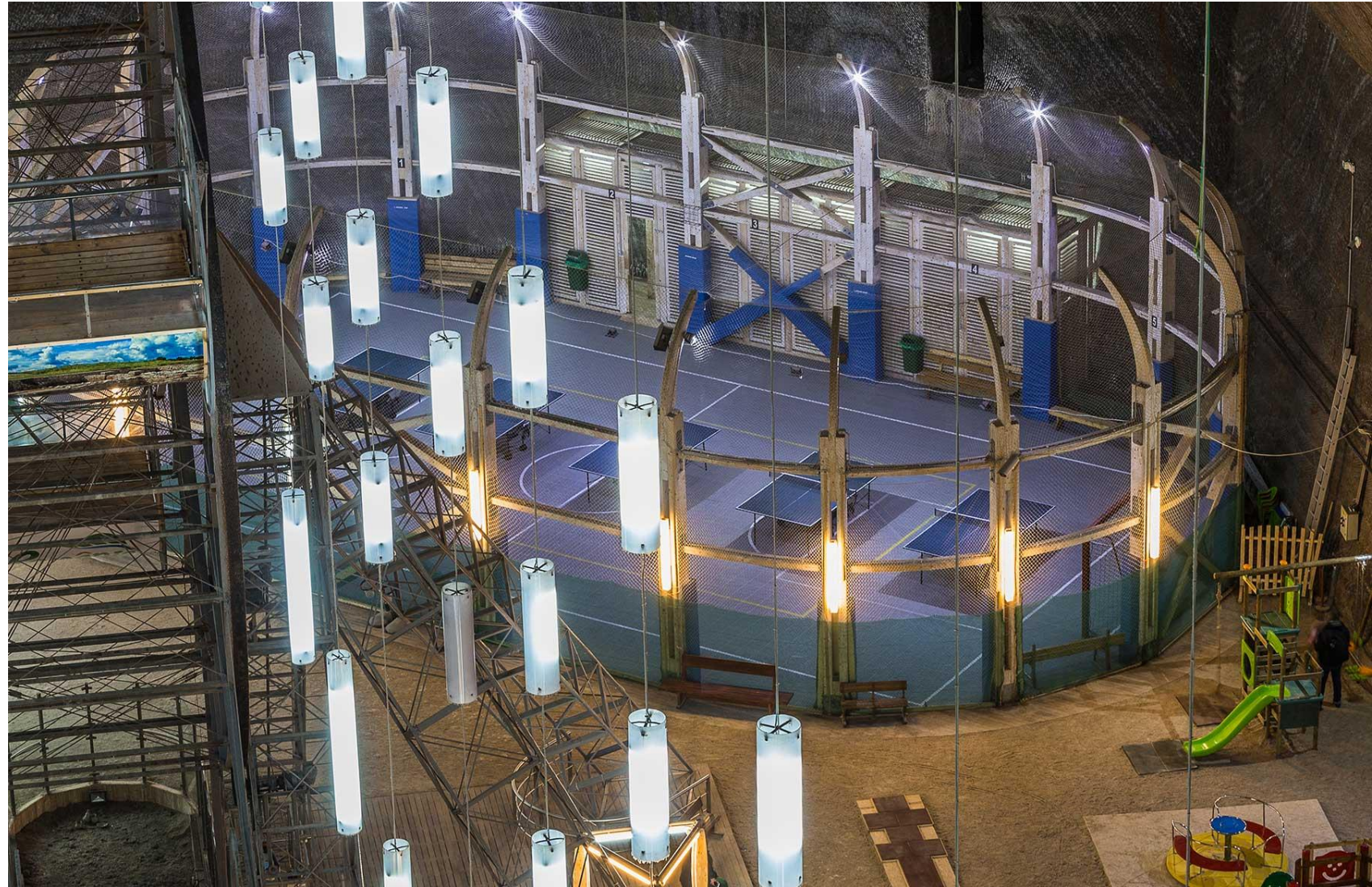
On the northwestern semi-ceiling, stalactites of salt have been formed over the years. The growth rate of stalactites is about 2 cm/year, and reaches a maximum of a stalactite length up to 3 m.



- The tourists can enjoy a multifunctional amphitheater that hosts all kinds of shows, sports play-grounds, such as: bowling, mini-golf, billiards (shooting-pools), and table tennis, but there is also a playground for children, with slides and mini-basketball boards.



- ***The panoramic wheel***, with a high of 20 meters, is also **unique**: it is probably the only underground panoramic wheel in the world.







explorati crădina carpaților

no smoking
no fire
no open flames
no smoking
no fire
no open flames

Visită Mina Ghineta



Theresa mine

It is the oldest mining work in the whole Turda Salt Mine ansamble, the salt being exploited between 1690 and 1880.

Theresa mine is below ground/surface at 112m (height of the shaft).



Tourists can enjoy a boat ride on the underground salt lake. They can also admire *the salt waterfall*, as well as stalactites and salt efflorescence, complete the inert balance of the huge bell.



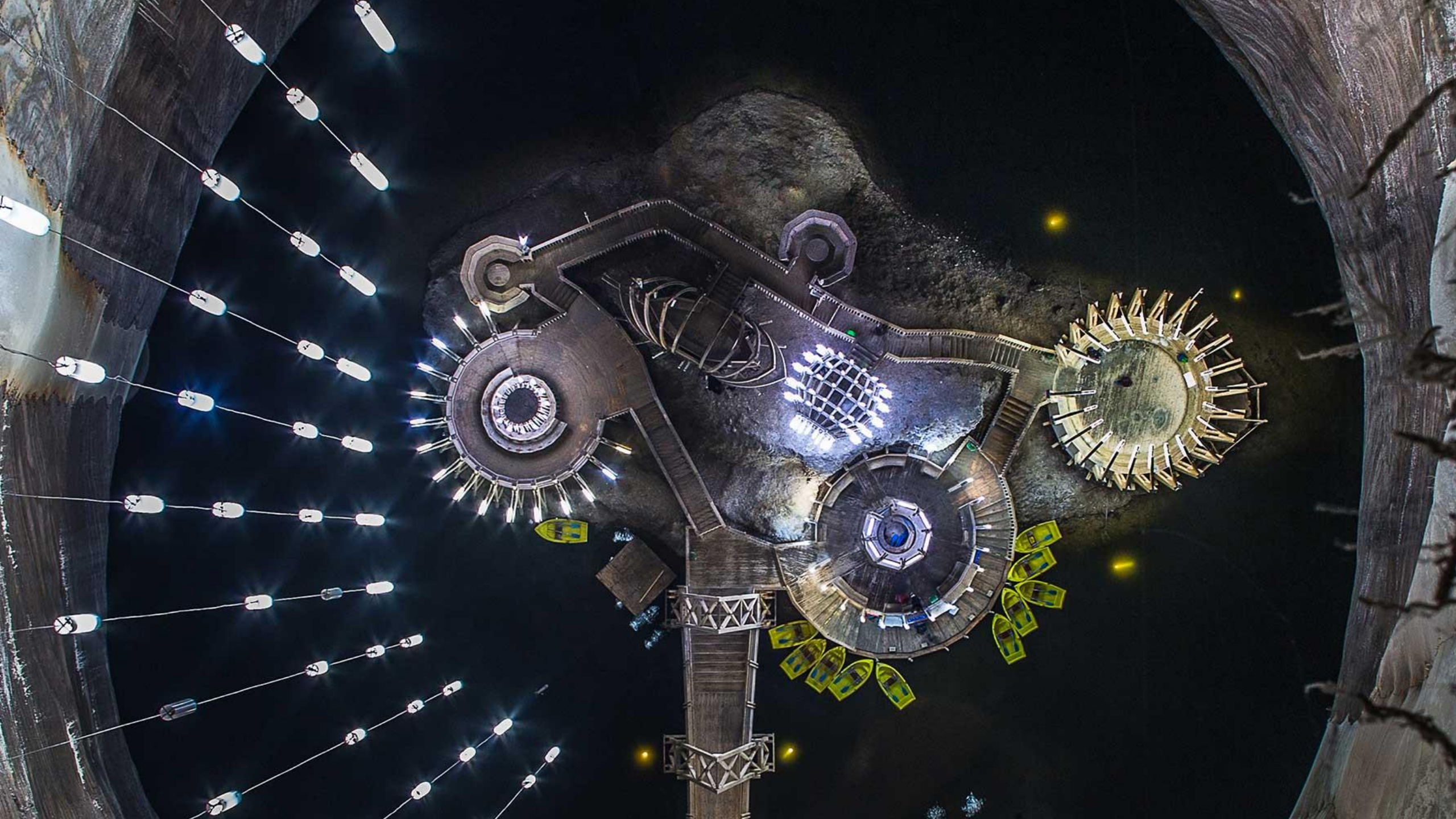






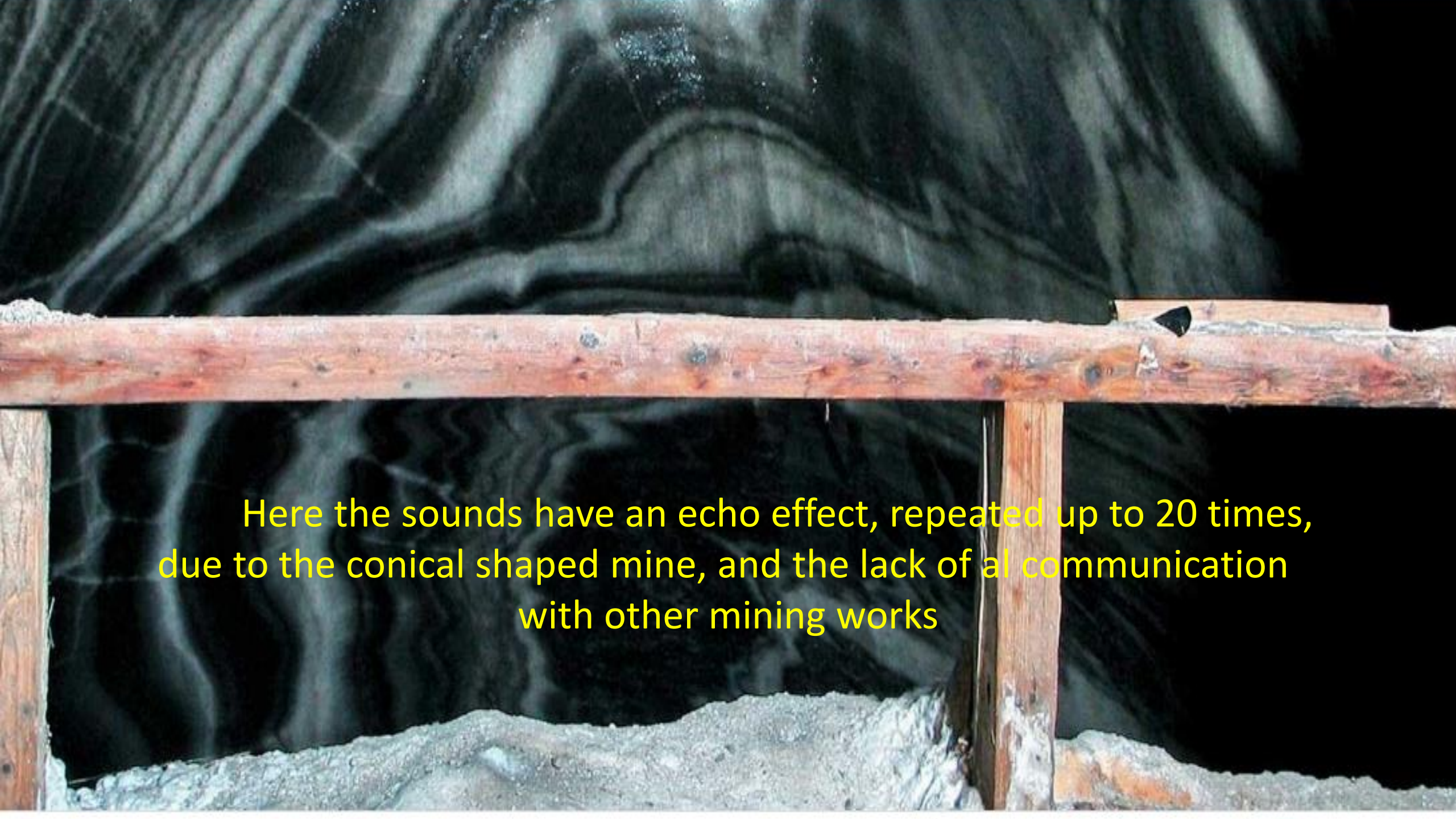






Joseph Mine – Echo Chamber

- **Joseph Mine started being exploited after the Theresa Mine.**
- It is a conical shaped mine that descends 115 m. deep from the surface
- **You can see it only throughout the balconies dug in salt, located at the level of the transport gallery.**

A photograph of a dark, conical mine tunnel. The walls of the tunnel are dark and show some texture. A horizontal wooden beam runs across the middle of the frame, supported by vertical wooden posts. The ground at the bottom is covered in a layer of greyish material, possibly dust or rock. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

Here the sounds have an echo effect, repeated up to 20 times,
due to the conical shaped mine, and the lack of al communication
with other mining works

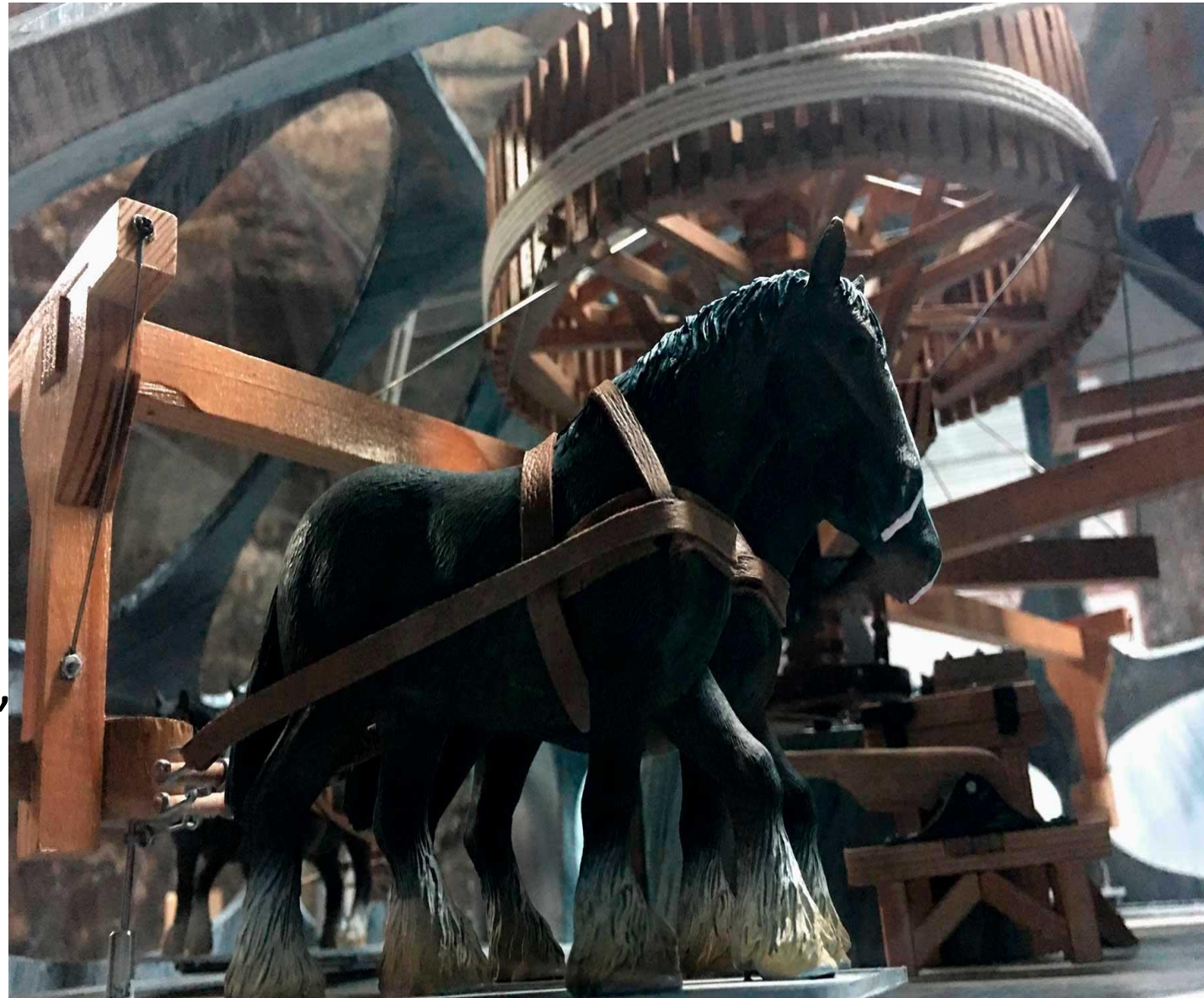
“The Crivac” Chamber

“The Crivac” Chamber is an octagonal room, which hosts a winch with a vertical axis, known as “the crivac” , “horse mill”, or “gepel”.

Built in 1881, The Crivac inside the Turda Salt Mine is the only machine of this type, among of all the salt mines in Europe, that is preserved in the place where it was operated.



“The Crivac”, an extraction machine, was operated by the force of the horses, and served for the vertical transportation of the salt exploited from Rudolf Mine, from the bottom level of this mine to the transport gallery level, through the extraction shaft, located in the neighboring chamber.



The Registry Chamber

It is called this way because this room was ideal for keeping track of the people entering and leaving Rudolf Mine.

In the Registry Chamber, the Staircase of the Rich reigns in all its splendor.



The Staircase of the Rich, served as access towards the Theresa and Rudolf Mines, before the completion of the construction works at the gallery for salt transportation.





It is the oldest wooden structure in the Turda Salt Mine, made of pinewood, with several advantages that recommend it for use in the saline environment.

Its resin neutralizes the salt and does not allow it to crystallize. Also, pinewood does not break at once: it is made up of several layers of wood, which warn in advance if there are tensions that can cause cracks.



Balneary Salt Mine

Turda Salt Mine is known for its curative properties, being an important spa-treatment destination. A simple walk through the salt mine can help you feel good.

The specialists recommend salt therapy as a very effective solution in the treatment of **respiratory diseases**, but also for **stimulating immunity**, supporting **the detoxification of the body** and helps to cure **skin diseases**, improving the functioning of the **digestive tract**, also helping to reduce the effects of **fatigue and stress**.

Thank you for watching our presentation and
you are mostly welcome to visit by yourselves
our natural wonders!