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**PHOTO BOOK from a mystic land:
THE TWELVE MILLION YEARS OLD
STONE SPHERES OF
TRANSYLVANIA**

**How the most impressive of these enigmatic stone balls
are found in wilderness and some of them are used as
natural landscape decorations.**

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Until the middle of the 16th century **Transylvania** was a voivodeship in the Kingdom of Hungary, led by a voivode appointed by the King of Hungary. After the Battle of Mohács in 1526 (lost by the Hungarians against the ottomans), Transylvania became part of the Kingdom of Janos Szapolyai which, in 1571, was transformed into the Principality of Transylvania ruled by Hungarian princes. For most of this period, Transylvania, maintaining its internal autonomy, was under the suzerainty of the Ottoman Empire and than under the Habsburgs. After 1867, the Principality of Transylvania was abolished and its territory was included into the Hungarian part of the newly established Austro-Hungarian Empire. Following defeat in World War I, Austria-Hungary disintegrated, and Transylvania became part of Romania (after the *Proclamation of Union* of Alba Iulia which was adopted by the Deputies of the Romanians from Transylvania on December 1, 1918). In August 1940, at the beginning of World War II, Hungary gained about 40% of Transylvania by the Vienna Award, with the aid of Germany and Italy. That territory was assigned back to Romania in 1945 and this was confirmed in the 1947 Paris Peace Treaties.