

photo: Roman Friptuleac

WANDER FAR AND WIDE

MOLDOVAN FORESTS

The lands of Moldova are host to forests of well-preserved biodiversity. Some of them are protected by the state, forming 63 nature reserves covering a cumulative area of 8009 hectares.



CODRII MOLDOVEI

The Codrii Moldovei is the oldest and richest of the country's nature reserves, covering 5177 hectares, founded in 1971. Some 1000 plant species and over 10 000 insect species are protected here.

For those wishing to linger in this forest massif, the reserve has prepared lakeside rest areas, gazebos and accommodation.

PLAIUL FAGULUI

The Plaiul Fagului is habitat to over 142 bird species and 49 mammal species. The Ecological Information and Education Center here, launched in 2018, will provide you with interesting information on the ecosystems, flora and fauna of the reserve.

There are several lakes on the territory, in the vicinity of which there are gazebos where visitors can rest. Fishing is allowed by the lakes. There is also a small hotel with 12 places of accommodation.



photo: Roman Fripuleac

PADUREA DOMNEASCĂ

The Pădurea Domnească is the oldest forest massif in the county and one of the oldest meadow forests in Europe. The reserve was established in 1993 and 86% of its territory is covered by meadow forests.

It is home to 159 bird species, 107 of which are sedentary. The “Țara Bâtlanilor” – the kingdom of birds, is home to a distinct colony of moorland birds nesting in oak trees. The reserve is home to 5 bisons, for which 32 hectares of forest have been allocated.



photo: Maxim Chumash

WATER MEADOWS AND POOLS

RESERVE NISTRUL DE JOS

The Nistrul de Jos can be visited year-round and is the richest protected area in the country, with 83 species of fish, 288 bird species, 54 mammal species and 950 plant species. Ash meadow forests and tall-grass meadows are an ecosystem of pan-European importance.

The total area is 60 thousand ha and includes 18 natural complexes, archaeological and historical sites, wineries and tourist stops that will be of interest to every visitor to the reserve.



photo: Victor Garstea



photo: Victor Garstea

PRUTUL DE JOS

In the southern part of Moldova, where the Prut River flows into the Danube, lies the Biosphere Reserve of the Prutul de Jos. Since 2018 it has been part of the UNESCO World Network.

Beleu Lake is home to herds of pelicans every year and between May and July, white and yellow water lilies bloom here, which you can watch opening with the sunrise. To fully savor the beauty of this water basin, take a trip on the lake, the views from the water are incomparable.

CLIFFS

ORHEIUL VECHI

The cultural-natural reserve “Orheiul Vechi” is the most important cultural site in the Republic of Moldova and includes 5 promontories: Peștera, Butuceni, Potarca, Selitra and Scoc. Their territory preserves the ruins of fortifications, dwellings, baths, places of worship, cave monasteries dating from the Tatar-Mongol period (13th–14th centuries) and the Moldavian period (15th–16th centuries). Orheiul Vechi is one of the most

PROMONTORY, promontories, s. n. high, rocky strip of land jutting out into the sea or ocean. – From lat. promontorium, fr. promontoire.



photo: Andrei Paul

developed tourist areas in the Republic of Moldova, being attractive for tourists both for its impressive natural landscape and for the area's infrastructure, the network of hostels and tourist trails.



photo: Mihaela Alaiba

THE DURUITOAREA VECHE CAVE

The Duruitoarea Veche cave hosted prehistoric man 250-300 thousand years ago, and remains well-preserved to this day. From the bottom of this gorge you can hear the roaring of a stream, which also gave these places their name.



photo: Victor Gars tea

THE VĂRATIC GORGE

In the distant past, the current territory of Moldova was the bottom of the Sarmatic Sea. Experts say that at the base of the Văratic Gorge is a reef mass made of coral skeletons. The area can be explored on a river trip, by bike or on adventurous hikes.



photo: Roman Friptuleac



“EMIL RACoviȚĂ” CAVE

“Emil Racoviță” cave by length is the third largest gypsum cave in the world. It is located at the intersection of three countries: the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine. The only entrance to the cave is from the territory of the Republic of Moldova, near the village of Criva, Briceni district.

The cave is mapped over a length of about 91 km and comprises galleries and labyrinths, arranged in 3–4 levels. The cavern impresses with grand halls 60–100 meters long and 30–40 meters wide. In the karst voids of the cave there are more than 20 natural lakes and “wells” 16–20 meters deep. There are times when access to the cave is restricted, so we recommend that you check before you visit.

photo: speleo.md



Ukraine

Moldova

topography of Cernauti speleological club

FEEL

MOLDOVA



photo: Diana Spragor

VISIT WINERIES IN THE COUNTRY

There are 199 wineries operating in Moldova, 38 of which are open to tourists. Besides the classic tastings, many of them offer accommodation, guided tours with winemakers' stories, gastronomic workshops and many other experiences that will make you understand our culture and passion for the wine we produce.

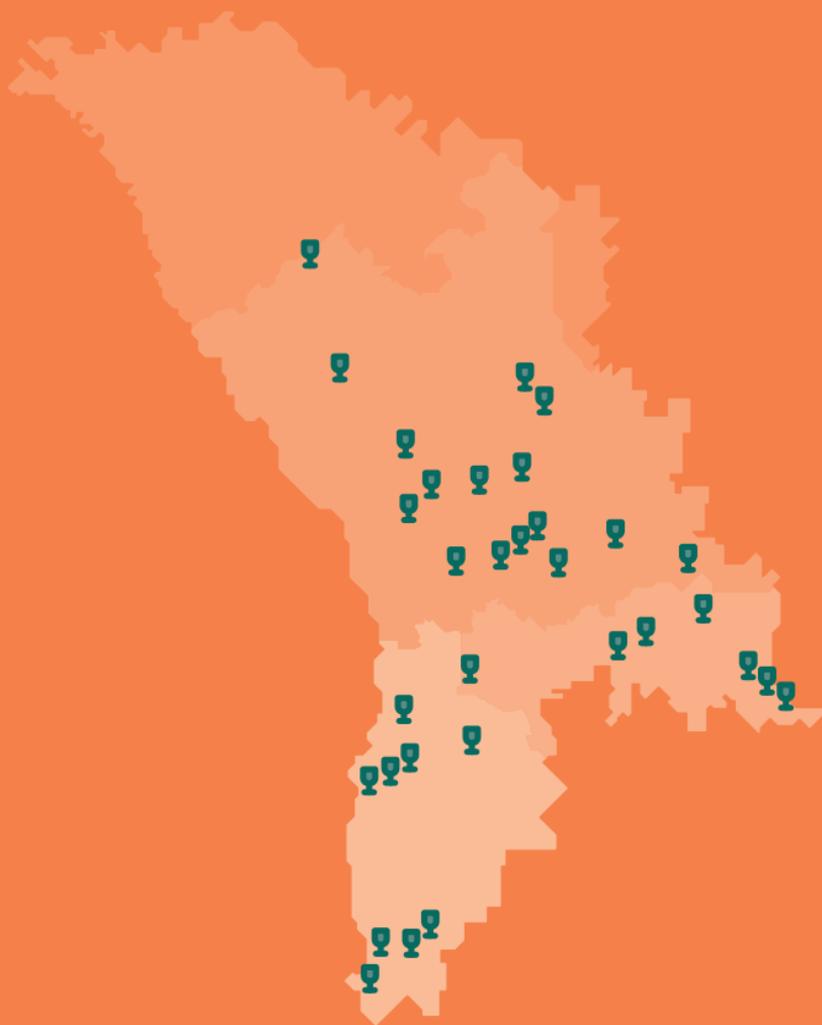


photo: Maxim Chumash

PGI REGION "CODRU":

1. Asconi Winery
2. Atu Winery
3. Barza Alba Wine and Cognac Factory
4. Branesti Cellars Winery
5. Castel Mimi Wine Resort
6. Chateau Vartely Winery
7. Chateau Cojusna Winery
8. Crama Mircesti Winery
9. Crama Tudor Winery
10. Cricova Wine Factory
11. Kvint Wine and Cognac Factory
12. Hincesti Winery
13. Mihai Sava Winery
14. Quality Wines Industrial Complex Milestii Mici
15. Poiana Winery
16. Tronciu Winery

PGI REGION "STEFAN-VODA":

17. Chateau Purcari Winery
18. Et Cetera Winery
19. Gogu Winery
20. Leuntea-Vin Winery
21. Salcuta Winery
22. Pripa Winery
23. Javgur Winery

PGI REGION "VALUL LUI TRAIAN":

24. Corbu Winery
25. Kara Gani Winery
26. Gitana Winery
27. Vinaria din Vale Winery
28. Vinia Traian Winery
29. Wines of Comrat Winery
30. Fautor Winery
31. Novak Winery
32. Podgoria Vin Winery

TAKE HOME

WINE
DIRECTLY FROM
THE WINEMAKER

SPEND THE NIGHT IN A LUXURY BARREL

In order to really understand the passion people here have for wine and all the philosophy surrounding it, we had to tell you about this. One of the wineries in the country offers accommodation inside a wine barrel. For those who are afraid of tight spaces, we come to assure you not to worry, the barrel is 24 square meters and is equipped with a panoramic window, air conditioning, bathroom and balcony.



photo: Purcari

TRY SPA PROCEDURE BASED ON GRAPES AND WINE

We continue to evoke the love of Moldovans for vines and encourage you to try SPA procedures with care products made from wine and grapes. Jacuzzi, sauna, therapeutic wine tastings, massage with oil extracted from grape seeds and even wine baths, all to ensure maximum relaxation and invigoration.

TRAVEL BACK IN TIME

Fans of the Soviet era can visit the Transnistrian region, where little has changed in the last 30 years. The monuments to Vladimir Lenin, the hammer and sickle – the symbols of the communist party – and the wide, orderly boulevards of Tiraspol transport you into the atmosphere of the Soviet regime.

If you've ended up visiting these places, it's worth filling up with a bottle of divin produced in the region, along with a tin of red or black roe, to share the taste of your trip with those back home.



photo: Roman Friptuleac



photo: Roman Kim

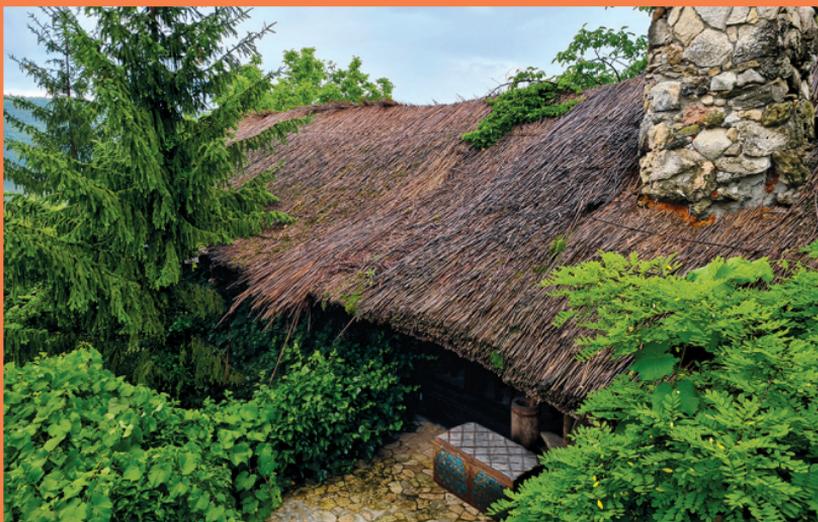
TAKE HOME

DIVINE
IN FANCY BOTTLES



GUEST IN THE “CASA MARE”

Rural Guesthouses offer experiences worth living. In Moldova, we highly value craftsmanship created with skill and grace. In the past, every “marriageable” girl had a dowry, which she and her parents carefully prepared for marriage, and until then she kept it in the big house.



DOWRY — All the material possessions that are given to a girl (or boy) when she (or he) marries and which are considered, for the duration of the marriage, as the property of the person who gave them.



CASA MARE — The house or largest room intended for guests. This is where the most prized possessions are kept and where family celebrations and sittings are held.



photo: Michele Grima

The objects once found in the big house have now become museum exhibits, but they are also found in plenty in national guesthouses. If you choose to stay in one, you'll see the result of long winter meals, the endless patience that goes into woven carpets, crocheted tablecloths, embroidered towels, inlaid windows and the walls of the houses.



WALK IN THE LAVENDER FIELDS

Fields of lavender flowers can be found in all regions of Moldova. Essential oil is extracted from them and is appreciated in many countries around the world.

When the plants are in blossom, the landscapes of the fields gather curious tourists, fashion bloggers and photographers, and sometimes all together in festivals of recreation and self-care.

☼ Lavender blooms 2–3 times a year from May to September.



VISIT A MONASTERY

Because we are a country with over 90% Orthodox Christians, holy places are numerous and well-maintained. Whatever your faith, a visit to a monastery can be of interest, as much for the tranquillity and beauty of the place as for the architecture and atmosphere.



CURCHI MONASTERY



photo: Adrian Gojan / frimufilms

CĂPRIANA MONASTERY

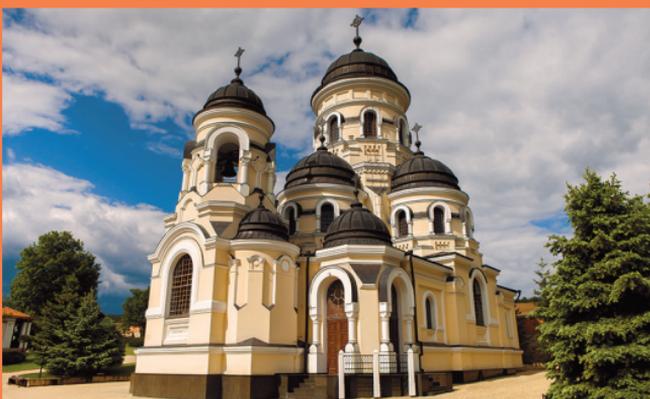


photo: Roman Friptuleac



photo: Rudi Monastery, Anastasia Sersun

ORHEIUL VECHI CLIFF MONASTERY



photo: Roman Rybaleov

ȚIPOVA MONASTERY



GO TO A FESTIVAL

Moldova is the country with the most unusual festivals. These are not the big festivals with multiple stages, days and nights of non-stop music — these are different, soulful festivals. The May–October period is very busy with events, well worth a visit.



NATIONAL WINE DAY

National Wine Day — the only national day dedicated to wine in the region (it lasts for 2 days on the first weekend in October).

If you have heard of Oktoberfest, it will be easy to imagine what National Wine Day is in Moldova. Over 20 years, the event has grown in scope with each edition. Moldovan wine is becoming more and more appreciated and this celebration has become a calling card of the Republic of Moldova. In addition to the big event with tastings and sales, where each winemaker presents its wine in the Great National Assembly Square, the Wine School, the Peasant Court, a number of smaller events are organized at wineries and wine cellars around the country.



photo: Castel Mimi

A large part of national festivals are dedicated to traditions and crafts. There is a whole movement to rehabilitate traditional costumes and handmade objects made by local craftsmen. Ia Mania, iProsop, Duminica Mare festival, Beautiful Basarabian Carpet, Day of Popular Costume, La Vatra Olarului Vasilii Gonciari, Coverul Dorului, Bâlcium Olarilor are just some of them.

photo: The National Office of Vine and Wine (ONVV)



MARIA BIEȘU

International Opera and Ballet Festival “Maria Bieșu” continues to mark an impressive cultural tradition in the heart of the Republic of Moldova. This special event has evolved into an emblem of national culture and has gained international prestige and recognition, bringing opera and ballet artists of the highest caliber to the forefront.



photo: tnob.md

BÂLCIUL OLARILOR

Bâlcium Olarilor (the Potters' Fair) is probably one of the oldest events in the country, and is held annually in September in the village of Iurceni in the Nisporeni district. This event brings together skilled craftsmen who come to show off their most beautiful pots, jugs and other clay objects. The fair is of course for sale. Make space in the trunk and watch out for bumps.



MĂRȚIȘOR

The International Music Festival “Mărțișor”. This festival aims to promote true national values. For this reason, the organizers prepare a diverse program, including the most talented national music and dance troupes as well as the most skilled craftsmen in the world of mărțișor.

photo: The National Palace “Nicolae Sulac”.



HEDERLEZ

A festival that has come down to us from the Turkic peoples and is meant to celebrate the rebirth of nature and the return of animals to the fields to graze. In early May, the horse farm in the town of Ceadâr-Lunga hosts the Hederlez festival. This is the day of the “Atîl At” equestrian sports competitions, during which you will have the opportunity to get to know the history of this place, the people here and their expressive and colorful culture.

photo: Tourism Informational Center Gagauzia



DESCOPERA

It is the only open-air classical music festival in Eastern Europe, held annually on the territory of the cultural-natural reserve Orheiul Vechi. The performances are held in a natural amphitheater, which provides an ideal sound for the symphony orchestra and the voices of opera soloists.



photo: ANTRIM

ETHNO JAZZ

This jazz music festival begins its history in 2002, when the members of Trigon, the leading jazz band in Moldova, decided to celebrate their first decade of activity with a beautiful anniversary concert, where they joined their colleagues from all over the world. The synergy and the beauty of this event brought it to its 22nd edition in 2024, and we are sure that it will ensure its continuity in the future.



photo: Iris Crețu