

EXPERIENCE MOLDOVA: TRADITION, WINE AND GASTRONOMY

Day 1/ Arrival in Chisinau

Time	Activity
	Arriving at the Chisinau International Airport (RMO).
	Transfer from the airport to the hotel in Chisinau. Check-in at the hotel.
	Free time for dinner at the hotel or at local restaurant.



Day 2/ Chisinau City Tour – Capriana Monastery – Milestii Mici Winery (B, L)

Time	Activity
08:00 – 09:00	Breakfast at the hotel.
09:00 – 11:00	City tour of Chisinau. Visit the main objectives located in the downtown: “Nativity” Cathedral, central square where its situated the Government building, park of Stephen the Great with the alley of Moldavian classics, the Parliament building. Discover Chisinau’s architecture, historic landmarks like the Memorial of Military Glory, the historic railway station, Postal office for buying beautiful postcards with Moldova and the



	souvenir market.
11:00 – 12:00	Transfer to Capriana Monastery.
12:00 – 13:00	Visit Capriana monastery. Founded in 1429, it was later worshiped to the Zograf monastery from the Saint Athos Mountain. During a long period, Capriana monastery acted as the residence of the Moldavian archbishop. Being closed and devastated in the post-war years, it was one of the first monasteries that reopened in 1989, becoming soon the symbol of national revival.
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch at the local restaurant.
14:30 – 15:00	Transfer to Milestii Mici Winery.
15:00 – 16:30	Excursion and wine tasting at Milesti Mici Wine Cellars. Measuring about 200 km, all underground streets make up the largest network of caves ever dug by man. Due to the impressive collection of more than 2 million bottles, Milestii Mici was introduced in 2006 in the Guinness Book. <i>(wine tasting of 3 samples of wine)</i>
16:30 – 17:30	Transfer to Chisinau.



Day 3/ Gagauzia: Comrat – Gagauz Sofrasi - Besalma (B, L)

Time	Activity
08:00 – 09:00	Breakfast at the hotel.
09:00 – 10:30	Transfer to Comrat City in Gagauzia region.



10:30 – 11:30	City Tour of Comrat Enjoy the panoramic tour of Comrat – capital of the autonomous region of Gagauzia, located in southwest Moldova. This is a very interesting territory since the majority of its habitants are Gagauzians. These are the only representatives of Turkic origin that affiliated with the Eastern Orthodox Church. Gagauzians migrated from Bulgaria together with ethnic Bularians and settled in Moldova in XIX-th century.
11:30 – 12:00	Transfer to Besalma village.
12:00 – 13:00	In Besalma village there is a valuable Museum Of History And Ethnography “D. Cara-Ciobanu” . One of the personalities of this small nation was the writer D. Cara-Ciobanu, who spent his life promoting this culture. He founded this museum in memoriam, where one can find hundreds of exhibits of artistic and spiritual value from the Gagauzians who lived in Moldova for the last two centuries. The most valuable item in the museum is the collection of original films produced during the Gagauzian colonization of the steppe of Bugeac.
13:15 – 15:00	Lunch at a local agro-pension with traditional gagauzian dishes.
15:00 – 17:00	Transfer to Chisinau.



Day 4/ Cricova Wine Cellars – Orhei Vechi (B, L)

Time	Activity
08:00 – 09:00	Breakfast at the hotel. Check-out.
09:10 – 10:00	Transfer to Cricova winery.
10:00 – 12:00	Starting the day with visit to Cricova cellars , one of the most popular underground winery in Moldova, which contains the biggest collection of exclusive wines. There are only three cellars in Moldova placed in former limestone caves. This one is the biggest by size of its network, at a depth of 80 meters, and 160 km long. Here you will see over seventy streets covering an area of nearly 53 hectares, each bearing Bacchic names: Sauvignon, Cabernet, Cahor and you can



	admire the oldest wine bottle in Moldova, dating from 1902. <i>(Wine tasting of 3 samples of wine).</i>
12:00 – 13:00	Transfer from Cricova to Orheiul Vechi region.
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch at the local guesthouse including traditional local cuisine.
14:30 – 16:30	Explore “ Orheiul Vechi ” area with cultural and historical landscape. An area of outstanding natural beauty, shaped by River Raut as it cuts into the high rocky hills of central Moldova. In medieval times, the river Raut served as a travel route for merchants bringing international commerce from as far away as Mediterranean Greece. It was this river trade which led to the success of Orhei as a medieval city. The historic sites at Old Orhei (locally called “Orheiul Vechi”), have recently been included in the UNESCO “Tentative List of World Cultural Heritage”. If selected, Old Orhei will be the first site in Moldova to gain World Heritage Status.
16:30 – 17:00	Check-in at the Eco Resort Butuceni guesthouse , for 1 night.



Day 5/ Saharna Monastery – Fromage Made in Moldova – Hanul lui Hanganu (B, L)

Time	Activity
08:00 – 09:00	Breakfast at the hotel.
09:00 – 10:30	Transfer to Saharna Monastery.
10:30 – 11:45	Saharna situated on bank of the Nistru (Dniestr) river boast very rich and picturesque nature and numerous waterfalls and cascades that the river Saharna forms on its way. Tired of travel, you can rest at the bottom of a cascade in the shadow of high hills and calmness. The monastery Saharna is surrounded by hills, partially covered with woods. In Saharna complex are kept the relics of Saint Cuvios Macarie. On the top of the Grimidon rocky hill in Saharna area you can see a little chapel, where, as the legend says, you may see the footprint of Mother of God who appeared in front of Saint Varfolomei.
11:45 – 12:30	Transfer from Saharna to Horodiste village.



12:30 – 13:45	"Fromage – Made in Moldova" is a remarkable project with a significant social impact, blending tradition with sustainability while supporting disadvantaged families in the village of Horodiște, Rezina. The inspiring story of Thierry Ernst, a Frenchman who initially came to Moldova to offer humanitarian aid and ended up settling in the country, serves as the foundation of this endeavor. Together with his wife and team, Thierry transformed an old school in Horodiște into an eco-friendly cheese factory, using cow and goat milk sourced from the village and nearby areas. Every week, they purchase up to 1200 liters of milk from local families to produce a variety of cheeses. This initiative has a profound impact on the local community, creating jobs for people in need and supporting around 15 families. The cheeses produced are 100% natural, free from chemicals, and combine French traditions with local Moldovan resources. Beyond the cheese factory, Thierry and his team managed to repair an old house, transforming it into a guesthouse where tourists can experience rural life and learn about the work of the locals. They also have future plans to build a placement center for disadvantaged children. This initiative not only supports the local economy but also promotes sustainability, preserves nature and traditions, and fosters responsible tourism in Moldova. After meeting a member of the family, guests will have the chance to sample locally produced cheeses.
13:45 – 15:30	Lunch at the "Hanul lui Hanganu" guesthouse. Located just a 15-minute drive from Horodiște, in the village of Lalova, you will find another family-run rural agropension. Here, guests can enjoy traditional dishes prepared with locally grown ingredients.
15:30 – 17:30	Transfer to Chisinau.



Day 6/ Transnistria: Tighina fortress – Tiraspol (B, L)

Time	Activity
09:00 – 11:00	Transfer from Chisinau to Tighina.
11:00 – 12:00	Visit of War Memorial and Bender fortress in Tighina town , where Charles XII stayed with his



	army, but now this territory is used by 14 Russian army.
12:00 – 12:30	Transfer from Tighina to Tiraspol
12:30 – 14:00	Sightseeing tour of Transnistria “capital” – Tiraspol . In Tiraspol you will have the opportunity to travel in time back to USSR. You will start by visiting the monument of Vladimir Lenin and tanks left from the Second World War. The city seems to be a ghost of the Soviet past.
14:00 – 15:30	Lunch at the cafe “Back to USSR” - <i>Ukrainian cuisine</i> . <i>This place offers a unique and immersive experience that transports visitors back to the Soviet era. With its nostalgic décor featuring busts of Lenin, vintage Soviet memorabilia, and an atmosphere filled with the essence of the past, provides not just a meal but a trip down history.</i>
15:30 – 17:00	Transfer to Chisinau.

Day 7/ Manuc Bei – Asconi Winery (B, L)

Time	Activity
09:00 – 10:00	Transfer from Chisinau to Hincesti.
10:00 – 11:30	Visit Manuc Bey Manor. The manor includes the following buildings: Manuc's Palace, Old Man's House, Countess's Building, Hunting Castle, Watchtower. Although the manor is named after him, it was not raised by the diplomat and merchant of Armenian origin Manuc Bei Mîrzaian, but by his successors - son Murat, who started the construction of the boyar villa, and the grandson of the diplomat, Grigore, who completed the respective works. The ceilings of the palace were painted by another Armenian - Hovhannes Ayvazyan, who later became known as the Russian painter Ivan Konstantinovich Aivazovsky , being at that time in celebration with his brother in Chisinau. The painting, unfortunately, has not been preserved until today.
11:30 – 12:30	Transfer to Asconi Winery.
12:30 – 15:00	Asconi Winery is a family-owned business established in 1994, with a mission to produce exceptional wines by combining modern technology with the deep-rooted winemaking traditions of the local people.

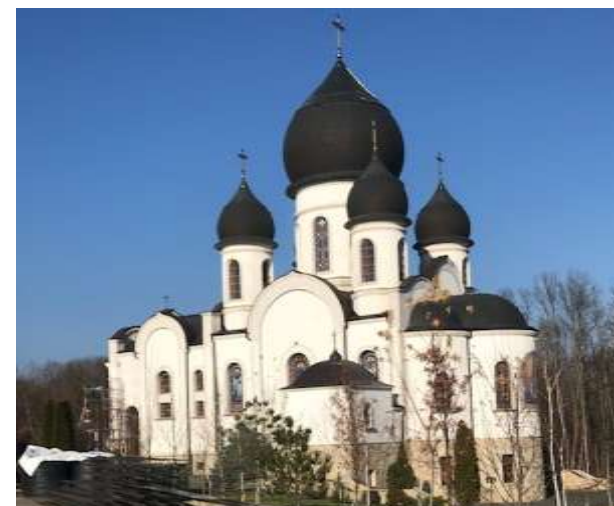


	As a family-run enterprise, Asconi Winery is more than just a production facility — it represents a home. The local community is at the core of its values, and local traditions are embraced as part of its heritage. Visitors are warmly welcomed to explore the winery, discover its wines, enjoy traditional cuisine, and share in its story. Regardless of where they come from, guests are made to feel at home at Asconi Winery. The winery is strongly committed to supporting the communities of Puhoi, where the winery is located, and Geamăna, home to its vineyards. Over 75% of the residents in both villages are employed either at the winery or in the vineyards. Asconi Winery strives to offer a positive and inclusive work environment, providing on-site accommodation for those in need. Driven by a genuine sense of care and responsibility, the winery's team collaborates annually with the Puhoi community to clean and maintain the access roads to the village. In addition, they regularly donate wine and food to individuals and organizations in need, demonstrating their ongoing commitment to giving back and supporting those around them. After the guided tour, the guests will have wine tasting of 3 samples of wine and lunch.
15:00 – 16:00	Transfer to Chisinau.



Day 8/ Marta and Maria Monastery – Purcari Winery (B, L)

Time	Activity
08:00 – 09:00	Breakfast at the hotel.
09:00 – 10:30	Transfer from Chisinau to Marta and Maria Monastery .
10:30 – 11:30	The Holy Myrrh-Bearing Women Martha and Mary Convent is located in a picturesque forest grove near the Hagimus village, Causeni district, Moldova, 75 km from Chisinau. It is a quiet place for prayer, reflection and retreat. Even though the monastery was founded recently, in 1997, it has become a cultural and orthodox centre in the South-East of Moldova, visited by many pilgrims. The complex includes 4 churches and 2 chapels. The icon of all spiritual patrons has been painted recently and can be seen in the summer church. There are several workshops in the Monastery where work harmoniously blends with prayer.



	Besides the Monastery, there is an Arts (music) High School for gymnasium graduates with musical skills, and in summer there are free Spirituality, Work and Leisure camps for students. Excursions for pilgrims can be organized during the year.
11:30 – 12:30	Transfer to Chateau Purcari.
12:30 – 15:00	Excursion, wine tasting (3 samples) and lunch at Chateau Purcari Winery In 1827, Emperor of Russia Nicholas I issued a special decree granting Purcari the status of the first specialized winery in Bessarabia. Two decades later, at the Agricultural Bessarabian Fair, Purcari received its first gold medal. Purcari wines are as popular as Bordeaux or Burgundy wines. The wine was served to Emperor Nicholas II as well as King George V and Queen Victoria of Great Britain. At the turn of the century, Château Purcari replanted 250 hectares of vineyards, and installed state-of-the-art technology at the winery. As Moldova's most prestigious export, Purcari lead the nation's international development by entering into over 25 markets including the US, Canada, UK, Norway, Czech Republic, China, Poland, and the Baltic countries.
15:00	Overnight at Purcari Winery.



Day 9/ Et Cetera Family Winery - Causeni Church – Mimi Castle (B, L, D)

Time	Activity
09:00 – 10:30	Breakfast at the hotel. Check-out.
11:00 – 14:00	Excursion and wine tasting (3 samples) at Et-Cetera Family Winery Continue the tour with visiting Et Cetera - a family-owned winery that embodies a passion for handcrafted winemaking. Set against a stunning backdrop, this winery prides itself on producing small-batch wines that celebrate the richness of local vineyards. With a commitment to sustainable practices and a focus on quality, each bottle tells a story of dedication and heritage. At the end of the excursion, wine tasting of 3 samples.
14:00 – 14:45	Transfer to Causeni..
14:45 – 15:15	Have a stop at Causeni church . As one of the most enigmatic constructions in Moldova, the church of the Assumption of the



	Virgin, has an important cultural impact and historical significance. According to legend, its semi-subterranean position is the result of a Turkish edict that no religious building could be higher than a soldier on horseback. 1.45 meters below ground level, it has a very simple exterior but exceptional interior frescos. It is the only church in Moldova that has all of its interior walls covered with frescoes.
15:15 – 16:00	Transfer to Mimi Castle.
16:00 – 18:00	<i>Excursion with wine tasting and farewell dinner at Castel MIMI.</i> <i>A top wine producer and tourist destinations in Moldova. Listed within the top 15 most beautiful wine castles in the world. Here took place the second Summit of the European Political Community, visitors can see the collection of wine bottles, through which the heads of the European states signed the history of Moldova's European integration. Visit the chateau's gardens and interiors, the historical wine cellars, the wine production area, the middle age garden and hedge maze. (tasting 4 types of wine + dinner)</i>
18:00 – 19:00	Transfer to Chisinau.

Day 10/ Departure (B)

Time	Activity
	Breakfast at the hotel. Check-out.
	Transfer to the Chisinau International Airport.

