



*The green tourism and
the Danube unite us!*

The project "Develop and promote the green
tourism in the Danube sector of the Black Sea
basin (Cahul district, Republic of Moldova;
Reni Territorial Community, Ukraine; Galati
County, Romania)"



Common borders. Common solutions.

INFORMATION
BROCHURE

GREEN TOURISM IN THE
CAHUL • GALAȚI • RENI
CROSS-BORDER REGION

2023



The cross-border project “*Develop and promote the green tourism in the Danube sector of the Black Sea Basin (Cahul district, Republic of Moldova; Reni territorial community, Ukraine; Galați county, Romania)*” is implemented by the Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (IDIS) “Viitorul” in partnership with the Cahul District Council (Republic of Moldova), Executive Committee of Reni Town Council (Ukraine) and the “Dunărea de Jos” University of Galați (Romania). Joint Operational Programme Black Sea Basin 2014-2020 is co-financed by the European Union through the European Neighbourhood Instrument and by the participating countries: Armenia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Turkey, and Ukraine.

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IDIS “Viitorul” Foreword

A leading theorist in tourism research, Swiss Professor W. Hunzike defines tourism as *“the totality of relationships and phenomena resulting from the movement and stay of persons away from their place of residence (such as holiday or vacation, participation in various events, etc.), as long as the stay and movement are not motivated by a permanent settlement or some other gainful activity”*.

The word “TOURISM” derives from the English word “TO TOUR”, meaning a trip. Created in the 18th century in England, initially designating the act of traveling in Europe, this Gallicism in turn comes from the French word “TOUR” (travel, outdoor movement, walk, hike) and was gradually taken up by most modern languages. The French term ‘TOUR’ comes from the Greek word ‘TOURNOS’ and the Latin word ‘TURNUS’, respectively, and has the meaning of circuit, in the sense of traveling.

Green tourism is a concept that aims, in general, to orient tourism development towards ensuring the conservation of the natural environment through the sustainable use of the components of biological diversity. From this perspective, a long-term change in the way tourism services are provided is also needed. Identifying and maintaining the balance between the conservation of the natural environment and the development of the tourism business requires rethinking tourism activities in the natural environment and also the need to intensify the integration of green tourism into sustainable development policies at the country level.

Today green tourism or ecotourism is defined as “responsible traveling to natural areas, that conserves the environment, supports the well-being of local people, and involves both interpretation and education” (International Ecotourism Society (TIES), 2015). Education is meant to include both hosts and guests. (<https://ecotourism.org/what-is-ecotourism/>)

Ecotourism is about bringing together conservation, community, and sustainable travel. This means that those implementing, participating in and marketing ecotourism activities should adopt the following ecotourism principles:

- *Minimizing the negative impact on nature and culture that could destroy the tourist destination.*
- *Educational character, and respect for nature by raising awareness among tourists and local communities.*
- *Educating tourists on the importance of conservation.*
- *Emphasizing the importance of responsible tourism operators, working with the population and local authorities to meet the needs of the community.*
- *Providing funding for conservation and protected areas management.*
- *Emphasize the need for regional tourism zoning and tourist flow planning for regions or natural areas that will become ecotourism destinations.*
- *The need to use social and environmental studies and long-term monitoring programs to assess and minimize impacts.*
- *Striving to maximize the economic benefits of the host country, local communities and businesses, and especially the inhabitants of the protected and natural areas.*
- *Ensuring tourism development does not exceed a certain limit of social and environmental change.*
- *Using of infrastructure developed in harmony with the natural and cultural environment, minimizing the use of fossil fuels and conserving local vegetation and fauna.*

In our opinion, on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, natural tourist attractions generate the main motivations for traveling in the country. Thus, in Moldova, there are more than 300 significant natural areas, about 15 thousand man-made tourist attractions, more than 1000 protected architectural monuments, about 50 Orthodox monasteries, several thousand prehistoric resorts, about 400 Tripolitan saddles, about 50 ancient fortified gardens, about 500 early medieval saddles, 6 medieval stone fortresses, etc. In this context, ecotourism is useful in educating tourists and identifying funds for conservation, benefits the local economy and politics, and encourages respect for other cultures and human rights.

In this regard, I would especially like to thank the team of experts of the Project, guided with elegance and grace by *Lucia Căpățină*, IDIS “Viitorul” expert, who together with her colleagues, *Afanasie Prepeliță*, *Veaceslav Ioniță*, *Vlad Catlabuga*, *Olesea Vulpe*, *Oana Contoman*, *Liliana Ivanov*, *Halya Marataieva*, with determination, faith, and passion have

succeeded during the implementation of the project, traveling thousands of kilometers, to meet dozens of talented, energetic people who truly believe that on the Danube segment of the Cahul-Galați-Reni cross-border area, things can change for the better by developing green tourism and promoting those positive values and models of community development that deserve to be taken up and implemented in our communities. The achievements of tourism service providers in the Cahul-Galați-Reni cross-border area, however, inspire us and make us hope for a European, prosperous, and beautiful future in the field of green tourism.

“Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance you have to keep going forward,” **Albert Einstein** observed. IDIS “Viitorul”, for 30 years, has always sought to identify and promote good practices in the field of rural tourism, to serve as models for other communities, business people who intend to implement projects in the field of green tourism, relying on their own resources or attracting external financial resources, stressing the importance of the growth of responsible tour operators, who cooperate with the population and local authorities, to meet the needs of the community, minimizing the negative impact on nature and protected natural areas.

We strongly believe that the following pages will be for every reader passionate about green, gastronomic, ethnocultural tourism, etc., a useful reading and at the same time, why not, a stimulus to develop and implement projects that will bring more value to the process of Europeanization and socio-economic development of communities through ecotourism *minimizing the negative impact on nature and culture, maximizing the economic benefits of communities and local tourism companies and, in particular, of the inhabitants of natural and protected areas.*

Liubomir CHIRIAC
Executive Director,
IDIS “Viitorul”



What does this information booklet contain?

The informative tourist brochure has been elaborated jointly with local tourism experts from the 3 cross-border areas Cahul – Galați – Reni and includes useful and essential information for every tourist interested in exploiting the tourist potential of the given area.

The content of the tourist information brochure is intended in particular *for tourists passionate about green tourism, gastronomy, ethnocultural tourism, wine tourism, etc.*, but also:

- Local communities in the Cahul – Galați – Reni cross-border area,
- Travel agencies that develop and promote tourism in the Cahul – Galați – Reni cross-border area (or intend to include these destinations in their tourist offer),
- Local Public Administrations that have included tourism as a priority area in their local development strategy,
- Local Action Groups that have included tourism as a priority area in their development strategy,
- Providers of tourist accommodation, food, and leisure services in the Cahul – Galați – Reni cross-border area,
- Tour guides,
- Tourist Information Centres,
- Museums,
- Representatives of civil society (NGOs, associations of local people, etc.) who are interested in promoting sustainable development of the rural economy through green tourism, etc.



1

Green tourism in Cahul, Galați and Reni

Green tourism is responsible travel to natural areas, whether or not they are under protection, with minimal environmental impact. For the most part, protected natural areas are an important source for the development of green tourism, as they are best preserved. The Danube sector of the Black Sea basin, which includes the administrative-territorial units of Cahul (Republic of Moldova), Galați (Romania), and Reni (Ukraine), with a total area of approx. 6 800 km², is characterized by the presence of well-preserved natural landscapes, especially within the boundaries of protected natural areas such as wetlands of international Ramsar importance (Lower Prut Lakes, R. Moldova; Kugurlui and Kartal Lakes, Ukraine), nature reserves (Hanul Conachi Sand Dunes, Romania; Lower Prut, R. Moldova), Lower Prut Biosphere Reserve. At the same time, natural landscapes with preserved natural habitats continue in the vicinity of the Danube sector with the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, the Măcinului Mountains National Park, the Old Danube – Măcin Bay Ramsar area, which significantly enhances the green tourism potential of this area.



An important aspect of green tourism is focused on ensuring sustainable development by providing direct benefits to the local community by developing a fair and sustainable partnership between operators and consumers, thus promoting the general long-term interest.

The local community is given priority in the sustainable use of the natural area, being informed and educated about the possibilities and opportunities, but also the limits imposed on the practiced economic activities.

Green tourism is also a form of tourism that ensures the preservation of intangible cultural heritage; natural elements can be exploited through culture, for example by practicing various craft activities specific to tourist destinations: woodworking, plaiting, etc. At the same time, it is necessary to monitor the stages in the process of collecting raw materials in order to avoid overexploitation of the natural environment.

The Danube sector has significant potential for the development of green tourism, but it is necessary to ensure the development of an environmentally friendly infrastructure, the application of environmental standards in the process of developing tourist destinations, and the organization of training and information sessions for all key actors.



2

Cahul. General description

Cahul district is a relatively “young” tourist destination in the Republic of Moldova. However, it has the energy, places, and people that are sure to get your heart racing. You can delight yourself with a variety of traditional dishes, wines from the noblest vine sorts, soul-soothing landscapes, and stories of the people of the Prut Plain.

Geographically, Cahul district is located in the southern part of the Republic of Moldova, on the left bank of the Prut river.

Cahul is located 175 km from Chişinău and 60 km from Galaţi, Romania. The 1,200-metre stretch of the Danube coast provides access to the Black Sea and the Central and Eastern European water basin.

To the delight of tourists, the climate is favorable for tourist activities: the climate is temperate-continental, with relatively mild winters and warm summers, being considered the warmest region in the country, where daily temperatures are 2-3 degrees higher than in other regions.

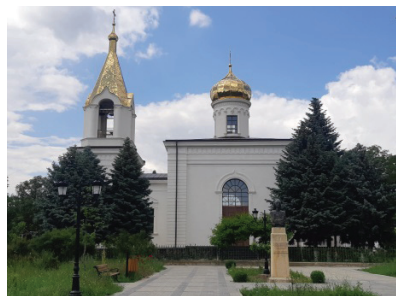


The district has a direct connection to the European Union through Romania. The connection is ensured through 2 customs points: Cahul-Oancea and Giurgiulesti-Galați. To the east, the district has a connection with Ukraine through 2 customs points: Palanca-Maiaki Udobnoe, including a railway – Giurgiulesti-Reni.

Giurgiulesti International Free Port is the only port in the Republic of Moldova accessible for maritime vessels on the Danube. The river itself and the Reni-Main-Danube canal create a river transport link between the Black Sea, the North Sea, and 14 European countries.

From a tourist point of view, the Cahul district attracts with its colorful villages, the beauty, and wildness of the landscapes, as well as the cultural values created by man over the centuries. These values are passed on through folk crafts, traditions, and local celebrations, which guests can learn about in museums, workshops of folk craftsmen, and even by chatting with local people.

In 1980 the city of Cahul received the status of a spa town and since 1986 a spa resort “Nufărul Alb” has been operating in the town.





Location:

Slobozia Mare village, Cahul district

tel.: +373 62 122 295,

rezervatie@gmail.com

<https://prutuldejos.md/>

THE “LOWER PRUT” RESERVE has had the status of a protected area since 1991, and since 2018 it has been included in the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves, becoming the first biosphere reserve established in the Republic of Moldova. It is located in the southwestern part of the Republic of Moldova, along the lower Prut River. The aim of creating this area was to protect, conserve and study the marsh and floodplain ecosystem and to create favorable conditions for the reproduction of rare, endangered, and other plant and animal species. The total area of the reserve is 1755.4 ha.

The universal value of the reserve’s natural heritage has been recognized by its declaration as a wetland of international importance, in particular as a waterfowl habitat – Ramsar Convention, “Lower Prut Lakes” (position 1029).

It can be said that with the impressive diversity of habitats and forms of life it hosts in a relatively small space, the Lower Prut Reserve is a true museum of biodiversity, a natural gene bank of inestimable value for the national and universal natural heritage. The variety of relief forms, the peculiarities of climatic and hydrological elements as well as the different nature of the rocks on the territory of the reserve are the elements

that have determined a rich and varied plant fund consisting of 310 species of vascular plants, including 10 species of trees, 11 shrubs, 5 lianas and 284 species of herbaceous plants. Among them, rare and endangered species included in the Red Book of the Republic of Moldova: white water lily (*Nymphaea alba*), white water flea (*Salvinia natans*), pond thistle (*Trapa natans*), pond fern (*Thelypteris palustris*), wood vine (*Vitis silvestris*), as well as rare species for the reserve such as: the rockrose (*Carex pendula*), water arrow (*Sagittaria sagitifolia*).

The possibilities of visiting the Reserve are varied and depend on the time available to visitors, their age category, and the hydrological level of Beleu Lake. During the flooding period, visitors can opt for the aquatic route; during the rest of the year for the terrestrial route. Binoculars are available for visitors to admire the view of Beleu Lake from the observation tower. Birdwatchers are also welcome.

Near the headquarters on Nuferilor Street, tourists can pitch their tents and spend the night in the heart of nature. There is a spring of drinking water and a gazebo where they can have lunch.

The Reserve's administration offers visitors two trails: land and water. On the hikes, you can admire a host of birds, some of which you've probably only seen if you've read the Red Book. You will also be impressed by the flora of the Prut Plain. Considering that the trail crosses sectors of the floodplain, visitors are required to wear suitable footwear, waterproof during the cold season; mosquito repellent spray; water that can be watered; sunglasses, and a sun hat.





Location:

Slobozia Mare village,
Cahul district
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<https://prutuldejos.md/>

BELEU LAKE is the main component of the ecosystem that makes up the “Lower Prut” Nature Reserve. From the point of view of its genesis, it is a relict of the Danube silts that were formed 5-6 thousand years ago as a result of the silting up of the Prut alluvium. It is one of the largest natural lakes in the Republic of Moldova with an area of 628 ha and represents an aquatic ecosystem of great scientific, cultural and aesthetic value. The width of the lake is about 2 km and the length is about 5 km; the average depth – is 0.5 – 1.5 m and the maximum depth – is 4.2 m.

In general, the hydrological regime of Beleu Lake is influenced by the water level of the Prut River and the Danube respectively. The water supply is twofold: in spring during the high water period and in summer during the rain floods. Such a supply regime compensates for water lost through evaporation, which is quite high in the summer months. Depending on the time of year, birds such as egrets, cormorants, gulls, ducks, geese, swans, pond crickets, cormorants, nuthatches, terns, and colonies of hundreds or even thousands of pelicans can be seen on the lake aquarium.

At the water’s edge, visitors can see the aquatic plant formations and the splendor of the fringed water lilies. With binoculars, they can view the water surface of the lake, the vegetation on the shore, and the flocks of birds in flight from a distance.



Location:

National road Chişinău-Giurgiuleşti between the villages of Crihana Veche and Vadul lui Isac

MANTA LAKE is a system of ponds, each with different surface areas and local names such as Bădelnicul, Dracile, Rătundul, Lişteavul, Bătcăriile, communicating through gorges such as Surda, Balacea, Ciortul. The total area of the water bodies is about 2100 ha, making it the largest system of natural lakes in the Republic of Moldova.

Everywhere on the lake, there are reed beds, oyster beds, or floating islands of reed roots and rhizomes, called „popânzaci” by the locals. It’s a haven for water-loving creatures such as the cormorant, the white stork, the egret, the wryneck, waders, wagtails, pochards, cranes, pelicans, gulls, swans, raccoons, otters, mosquitoes, foxes, wild cats, water snails, mussels, turtles, wild boar, deer, white water lily, yellow water lily, water mink and other species of plants and animals included in the Red Book of the Republic of Moldova, which can be found here.



Visitors can enjoy wonderful views in this area, and go fishing, sunbathing, and boating when the water level allows such activities.

THE NATURAL MONUMENT “VĂLENI OUTCROP” is a state-protected natural area, which is assigned to the category of geological or paleontological natural monuments. It is located about 0.5 km south of the village of Văleni and has an area of about 1 ha. The outcrop represents a series of deposits that have accumulated over millions of years in various environmental conditions and nowadays appear in the form of steep cliffs. Thus, at the base of the outcrop, as well as at the bottom of the gullies around these places, there are deposits of clays and sands of lacustrine and deltaic origin, over which lie alluvium of gravel and sand that have accumulated under the action of the waters of the Prut River, and above them, we have a thick sequence of loess clays to the formation of which, along with other sedimentation processes, the strong winds of the glacial epochs of the Quaternary period contributed.

Skeletal remains of animals (teeth, bone fragments) that lived in the past have been discovered in these deposits. The fossiliferous point in the Pliocene-age (4.8-3 million years ago) alluvium is of greatest scientific value, represented by the remains of large and small mammals attributed to a new faunal complex in this area – the **Moldovian**



Location:

National Road Chişinău-Giurgiuleşti, 0.5 km south of Văleni village



Faunal Complex, which has become a stratigraphic landmark of international importance. The osteological remains of large mammals found at this site belong to a new species of camel (*Paracamelus alexejevi*) and a species of the rhinoceros family.

Among other fossils discovered on these sites are a number of species of animals of the elephant family such as the Southern Elephant, the Stepe Elephant, the Woolly Mammoth, as well as a species of ancestors

of horses. Fragments of bones of these and other fossils can be seen in the museums of natural history or history and ethnography in Cahul district, Reni community and Galaţi county.

In this way, the Văleni outcrop is a valuable testimony to the geological and palaeoecological events and phenomena that took place in ancient times in this region.

In order to explore the unique landscapes caused by the presence of this natural monument, tourists are recommended to do tourist activities such as hiking; it is important to make sure you are properly equipped (shoes, hat, water supply, etc.). Also, for the convenience of visitors, the Văleni Town Hall has installed a sign with the necessary information about this fossil site.

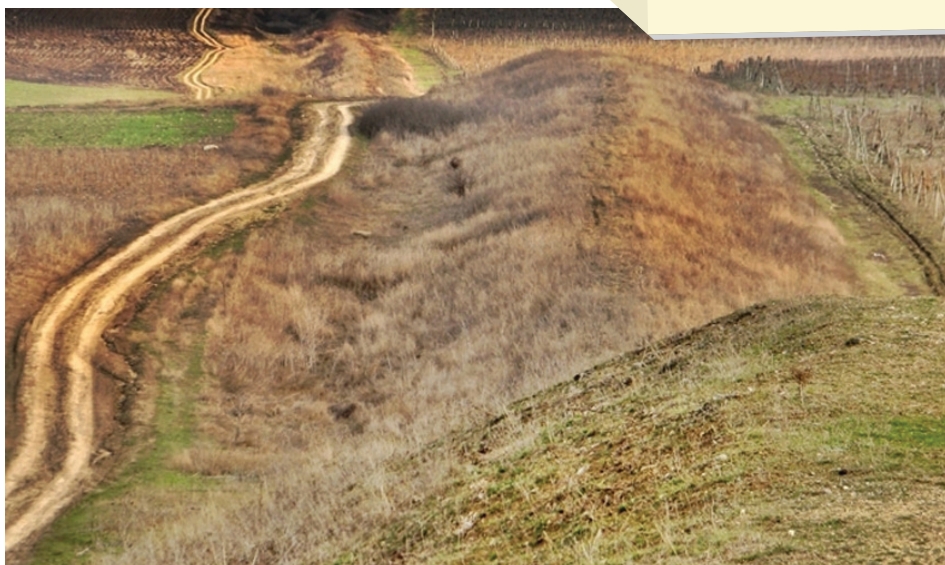


TRAJAN'S WALL is an archaeological monument of international importance, an objective that makes Moldova known worldwide. Trajan's Wall has two branches: the "lower" wall is 126 km long and stretches from the village of Vadul lui Isac to the town of Tatarbuniar on Ukrainian territory. The height of the wall does not exceed 1.5-3 m; the "upper" wall is 138 km long, between the towns of Leova and Tighina.

The building of the Lower Wall by the Romans is only one of the known theories, and there is no unanimous opinion as to the dating of this wall. In particular, there has been little research in the area. Scholars place the period of the wall's building between the 1st century BC and the 7th century AD. Some even speak of the late medieval period. There is an opinion that the Trajan's Walls are the remains of defensive constructions from the time of Emperor Trajan, or the demarcation line between the territories occupied by the Greeks, Geto-Dacians, and Trevingi tribes. So far there is no single opinion as to the origin, purposes, and functions of Trajan's Walls. Tourists can cycle or walk along any part of Trajan's Wall.

Location:

National road Chişinău-Giurgiuleşti at the exit of Vadul lui Isac village, on the left side





PETRU RAREȘ'S ROAD from the village of Valeni is a 9 km long trail that goes through the reed thickets, willows, and legends, leading to the other bank of the Prut.

It is precisely that road where Petru Rareș used to pass with the fish to Galați, also called “**Fish Road**”. Legend has it that this is where he was when he found out he was going to be crowned.

It is said that the great ruler of Moldova (1527-1538 and 1541-1546) used to wander around these places with his hunting party. Legend has it that on one of these hunts, Petru Rares dreamt of the Golden Hills of Valeni worshipping him, and the next day he heard the news that he would become the ruler of Moldavia.

Today, this route has remained a historical and cultural heritage of undeniable importance for the South of Moldova. On the trail, tourists can rest at the two rustic gazebos, the first one at the entrance of the tourist trail “Petru Rareș's Road”, near the fountain, and the second gazebo at the wooden bridge, also called Petru Rareș's willow.

Location:

National road Chișinău-Giurgiu-lești Văleni village, Cahul district
A guide is needed as the route is not marked.

Recommended: Svetlana Vodă;
contact details:
tel: +373 78 036 848

POTCOAVA VERDE IN THE VILLAGE OF SLOBOZIA MARE has its beginnings in the great passion of the Neagu family for horses and equestrianism. This passion resulted from the fact that on the territory of the village, the only equestrian school in southern Moldova was active until 1999. Having returned from the diaspora with the desire to improve things back home and revive this noble sport, the owners have launched in their native village some eco-recreational services, absolutely unique for the Prut Plain area. In the course of the activity, they have managed to expand, the initial point being a family-only organized rest area.

At the moment the “Potcoava Verde” recreation area offers guests a terrace where they can rest, cook their own food in a wood-fired oven, a rustic brick barbecue, a wood-burning stove, the opportunity to go horse riding (also for beginners), to ride by cart, ATV, motorboat or rowing boat in one of the most beautiful and rich natural areas of the Republic of Moldova, namely the Prut Plain, part of the “Lower Prut” Biosphere Reserve (included in the UNESCO heritage).

Also, those wishing to sleep under the starry skies have the option of camping on the riding center grounds.



Location:

National Road Chişinău-Giurgiuleşti, Slobozia Mare village, Cahul district
tel.: +373 696 89 393
potcoavaverde@yahoo.com



Location:

National Road Chişinău-Giurgiuleşti, Văleni village, 1, Morii str.

tel.: +373 60 775 173

complex.valeni@yahoo.com

www.complexvaleni.com

THE ECO VILLAGE TOURISTIC COMPLEX IN THE VILLAGE OF VALENI

offers its guests a wide variety of leisure services. Starting from the idea of a traditional museum, the complex has subsequently developed ecological accommodation (Casa Dorului Guesthouse), a rustic restaurant (Dor Restaurant) and a small family winery (Corbu Winery) with the aim of offering complex tourist packages to accommodate mixed groups of tourists, both foreign and local. Folk craftsmen's fairs, various family events (weddings, birthdays, etc.) are also organized here. Away from the hustle and bustle of the city, the cottages are worthy of the title "The Fairy Tale Cottage", decorated in the traditional spirit and built according to ancient rules out of clay, the cottages are waiting to welcome their guests.

Also here, guests can pamper themselves in the hammock with herbal steam treatments, in the hot water on cold evenings, with a glass of mulled wine by candlelight under the starry sky of the Prut Plain. In the warmer months of the year, they can sunbathe and cool off in the pool. Adventure-seekers can go on bike tours along the Petru Rareş and Colinele de Aur trail, or take a kayak trip.



THE “LA COTIHANA” LEISURE AND RECREATION BASE

is a green oasis on the outskirts of the picturesque village of Cotihana, 7 km from the city of Cahul. Through their activity, Nicolae and Ana Căpraru, attempt to bring beauty and happiness to everyone who visits them. Visitors can relax in the gazebos that are being rented out or wooden huts where they can rest for several days. The area has 7 furnished gazebos with a capacity of 15-60 people. One of them is a closed gazebo with a stove and is also active in the cold season, having a capacity 30 people. There are also 3 wooden cottages with all sanitary facilities that can accommodate a family of up to 3 members. Next to it is installed the hot water tank that can be ordered. During the summer guests can enjoy beer produced in Cahul municipality, in the shade of the willow trees at the beer stall set up for the warm season.

Location:

National Road Cahul –
Comrat, Cotihana village,
Cahul district
tel.: +373 68 865 666
bazadeodihna.lacotihana@gmail.com



The recreation base offers green space for wedding parties, photo shoots, etc. Guests can go boating, fishing, play football on the special grounds or cook their favorite dishes on the grill or in the cauldron. Whatever form of relaxation you choose, you are sure to have a wonderful time here.



THE MUSEUM OF CAHUL COUNTY was founded on July 30, 1958 and started its activity on August 1, 1958. It is the largest and most important museum in southern Moldova. In the museum's collections, there are about 40,000 objects related to the history of the county, which is divided into 3 compartments – history, natural sciences, and ethnography. Of particular interest is the Ethnographic Complex, opened in 1979, consisting of a peasant cottage, a hut, and a blacksmith's shop from the late 19th – early 20th century. This farmhouse is an open-air museum that recreates ethnographically the type of housing specific to the area and highlights aspects of village life in southern Moldova.

Location:

Cahul mun., 4,
Lev Tolstoy street
tel.: +373 299 21 471

The Cahul County Museum contains a valuable set of firearms, old documents, and books, clothing items, carpets, national fabrics – unique items that have invaluable artistic value. The museum complex impresses with the variety of old collections, as well as with its architectural style.

Here you can also get acquainted with wild animals and birds specific to the Prut Plain area.





MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND ETHNOGRAPHY "PLAI NATAL".

The museum building dates from 1941-1942 as the headquarters of the town hall. Over the years, the building has been used for several purposes: town hall, command of the gendarmerie unit, hospital for typhus and dystrophy patients, and classrooms for the middle school. In 1988 it became the building of the Museum of History and Study of the Land of Slobozia Mare.

The museum has several thematic rooms: the Beleu lake, the history of the village, handicraft objects, a room in memory of those lost during the famine and the Second World War, as well as a lot of information and documents about the social- economic, and cultural development of the locality.

Location:

National Road Chişinău-Giurgiuleşti, Slobozia Mare village, Cahul district
tel.: +373 299 61 878





THE BREAD MUSEUM IN VĂLENI VILLAGE

was created in 2007, arranged in a traditional style, specific to the localities of the Prut Plain. The “golden collection” of the museum consists of 18 kinds of traditional bread that are baked on certain holidays and used in certain rituals such as the poclon’s cake, bride’s quilt, groom’s cake, mother-in-law’s cake, etc. The guide is a housewife dressed in traditional clothes talking about the role and importance of each of them at different holidays.

The museum organizes workshops to prepare „colăcei” and „burnăcei”. Here visitors can get to know each other and be involved in the whole process, from kneading the dough to baking. After the choux pastries are browned, they are served with wine at the mouth of the oven according to the old custom of “călăhii”. Various rituals are also staged here with the participation of local artistic collectives.

Location:

National Road Chişinău-Giurgiuleşti, “La Gura Cuptorului” guesthouse, Văleni village, Cahul district
tel.: +373 795 75 622





TRADITIONAL HOUSE “LA MAMA CATIȚA”.

This is a museum house, which represents a paradise of local values translated into carpets, fabrics, embroidery, and traditional objects from the peasant's house. The house is managed by Mama Catița, who the locals say is a real encyclopedia. Mama Catița, a warm-faced woman full of wisdom, warmly welcomes guests and tells them about her life. In the courtyard, 3 houses have been preserved intact over time, the oldest dating from 1936. Each house and place in the household has a special history that you can learn about when you come here. In the house-museums, you can find old heirlooms made by Mother Catița's hands or inherited from her mother and grandmother. All the objects hide legends and stories about family life at different stages.

The most impressive things you can see in the house museum are the wedding dress, the shirt under the wedding dress embroidered by Mother Catia's hand, a tablecloth that is over 200 years old, old underwear, pillows and sheets, the dowry chest, and many other handicrafts. Particularly attractive are the carpets with purple flowers, as they were woven in the old days. The objects in the house were embroidered and woven at night, by the warm light of the lamp and humming songs, which helped Mama Catița to overcome her difficulties. Mama Catița meets her guests with traditional dishes of nalanghâte, honey, and compote made from fresh or dried fruit. Peace and quiet prevail in the Museum House, and talking with Mama Catița take you far back in history. The advice Mama Catița offers to each individual tourist is much appreciated.

Location:

National Road Chișinău-Giurgiulești, 5, Mircea cel Bătrân Street, Slobozia Mare village, Cahul district
tel.: +373 60 082 825
strelciucs@yahoo.com

DOMENILE PANĂ started its activity in 2019 when the first wines were produced. The vines were carefully selected – mature vines, at least 20 years old, from the micro area of Beleu Lake, from the villages of Slobozia Mare and Văleni, and later also the part of Slobozia Mare from the village of Cîșlița-Prut.

The name of the winery has its roots at the beginning of the Pană family, who came to Slobozia Mare at the beginning of the 19th century to set up a business in this picturesque and high-potential area. The Soviet period, however, canceled any form of private ownership, which made the results of about 120 years of hard work and efforts to be lost.

The current owner and founder of the winery, Nicolae Minciună, after a professional experience in large wineries in Moldova, Romania, and New Zealand, but also many study visits and specialized studies, decided to set up the winery; thus, in 2019, he returned to his native place to restore the fame of the area that was once the cradle of a strong wine industry. The varieties processed are part of classic European varieties – Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Traminer, Sauvignon Blanc, from local varieties: Fetească Albă, and Codrenskii is a new selection variety, obtained in the 60s of the last century.

In 2021 the first own vineyards were planted, with an area of 1.8 ha, mostly indigenous varieties, in the historical area of the Slobozia Mare village vineyards which is also the oldest one, historically speaking. The volume of grapes processed is 8 – 10 tons at the moment, with 3 – 4 tons of white varieties and 5 – 6 red ones. Since the wine is produced according to more special technological schemes, fewer bottles are produced than in the traditional production system. About 4000-5000 bottles are produced annually. The young vineyard has a production potential of 12000-15000 bottles. The mini winery is already attracting tourists who love quality and signature wines. Here you can taste wines and listen to the story of each one.



Location:

National Road Chișinău-Giurgiuiești, 37 Livezilor Street, Slobozia Mare village, Cahul district

tel.: +373 79 903 409

domeniile.pana@gmail.com



Location:

National Road Chișinău-
Giurgiulești, Slobozia Mare
village, Cahul district
tel.: +373 79 903 409

[https://www.instagram.com/
atelier.maria.minciuna/](https://www.instagram.com/atelier.maria.minciuna/)

THE GASTRONOMIC WORKSHOP “LA TANTI MAȘA” is a culinary story that begins more than 30 years ago, when Aunt Mașa started cooking in the kitchen of a brigade, then at the village high school, and finally became a cook, then a chef at the local camp. Being at retirement age, but with a young soul and eagerness for adventure, with the support of his family and a small grant from LAG LDPJ, the brand, and the small business was born. Over 30 years and thousands of weddings, weddings, and ceremonies at which she cooked a multitude of traditional and unusual European recipes, recipes inherited from her grandmother and great-grandmother, have made Aunt Masha a gastronomic master of the area.

The beginning of the pandemic brought the first tourists, but also the first steps for the registration of the rural house, where about 7-8 people can stay and enjoy a culinary treat with specialties that are only found in the Lower Prut Plain, and some only in Slobozia Mare, being reinvented or preserved by Aunt Masha. Fish dishes, lamb, poultry (and guinea fowl), local cheeses, specialties such as couscous, dumata, sweet or hot pepper sauce, zacusca made from baked (not fried!) vegetables from small local producers or from her own household, and last but not least the famous jams, which are created in Tanti Mașa's gastronomic laboratory, impress everyone who steps on the threshold of the farm.

With a bit of the southern warmth of the magnanimous soul with which southerners are usually endowed, all of this entices, attracts, and makes guests feel at home. Even the most discerning, with newer dietary convictions (vegetarians, vegans) find to their liking what Tanti Mașa prepares, who knows how to attract and pleasantly surprise everyone who comes here. Tanti Mașa is not only about food and accommodation services, about tourist resources on the banks of the Prut, Belevu Lake, or the Sărăieni hills, it's about feeling the uniqueness and warmth of the South, but also about being part of Southern life for a few days!

You can also find the **BEJENARU GRANDPARENTS** in the Prut Plain. More precisely in the village of Văleni. Haven't you heard of them? I certainly have. Who doesn't know "Grandma beats the drum"? She is Lidia Bejenaru or "grandma from Văleni", or "grandma from Zdob and Zdob", or "grandma from Eurovision", and her husband is Tudor Bejenaru, a famous drum craftsman, also called "Nea Dorică".

Nea Dorică's story begins in 1977 when Tudor Bejenaru came to Văleni from Slobozia Mare and the village lute players told him:

"Hey, make a drum and come with us, we have no drummer." At that time, with a drum and an accordion, the most beautiful weddings were held. They used to beat the drum all night long. The bride and groom wanted less voice singing, but more drumming and accordion playing. Nea Dorică then went to the drummer of the village at that time, Marin Mățăblândă, called "Patlagică". Badea Marin gave him a very old and broken drum, of which there was not much use. But it was on this drum that Nea Dorica learned the craft, making a new drum that played at all the celebrations throughout the Prut Plain. Then he continued to make drums for others. Soon, he became the drummer of the village, replacing Marin Mățăblândă. He makes drums from the skins of colts, calves, and sheep.

Together with his grandmother, they make a wonderful couple. Every guest who crosses their threshold is filled with good cheer, smiles, and energy. At the Văleni grandparents', you can taste a glass of wine made by the house owner himself, learn the craft of drumming, and get acquainted with the traditional song. You will also learn everything about the history of Văleni village, nature, people, traditions, and much more as they are a real encyclopedia about everything that means Lower Prut Plain.



Location:

National road Chișinău-Giurgiulești, Văleni village, Cahul district. Tudor Bejenaru and Lidia Bejenaru
tel.: +373 79 162 391,
+373 78 656 516



3 Galați. General description

Galați County has a privileged position in Romania and the future development of tourism must be based on this favorable location. The county is part of the South-East region of Romania, 240 km from Bucharest, 190 km from Constanța, only 67 km from Cahul (Republic of Moldova), and 23 km from Giurgiulești (Republic of Moldova) and 30 km from Reni (Ukraine). Due to its relatively short distances, the county is a point of attraction for tourists from all over the country and beyond. In terms of economic profile, Galați County is the fourth industrial center of Romania, with industry and construction (43%), services (38%), agriculture forestry, and logging (19%) as its main economic branches.

Galați County has a diversified tourist potential, represented by a picturesque natural setting, monuments of art, and architecture of great artistic value, some of them of international interest, as well as a valuable folklore and ethnographic heritage. On the territory of Galați



County, there are 14 Sites of Community Importance (SCI), 5 Sites of Special Avifaunistic Importance (SPA), 15 nature reserves, and a national natural park. These protected areas represent an important element in the development of sustainable tourism in Romania. Tourism can help justify the establishment of protected areas in marginal regions and contribute to the economic and cultural revitalization of local communities.

In Galați County there are 821 accommodation facilities, with 1674 places, among which 770 facilities and 1542 places are in urban areas, while 51 facilities and 132 places are in rural areas.

Green tourism is developing mainly in the area of protected sites. In the north and south of the county, in the area with protected forests, we find this type of tourism.

Galați County has a wealth of interesting and unique natural features, which are increasingly sought after by tourists from all over the world. Among other types of tourism, rural tourism/agrotourism is represented in several administrative-territorial units in the county. Several directions of development of this type of tourism can be distinguished, first of all, following the lines of force of the road transport infrastructure (along the Siret and the Prut), but also along the railway; cultural-religious tourism is well represented in the urban environment, but also in the rural environment, where anthropic elements related to culture and religious heritage are highlighted.



Location:

Suhurlui 807257, Galați county, Suhurlui commune (former Ferdinand), about 45 km from Galați, access to the Rural House – from DN24D to DJ255
tel: +40 236 330 006

RURAL HOUSE “ION AVRAM” DUNĂREANU (section of the Museum of History “Paul Păltănea”, Galați) – the name of the location is directly related to the one who was the spiritual but also material father of this place, the judge and man of culture, with notable concerns and achievements in the literary and artistic field, Ion Avram Dunăreanu.

In 1997, with what he had collected during his countless trips around the country, he opened an ethnographic museum at his parents’ house in Suhurlui, entitled “Suhurlui Rural House – Ethnocultural Amenagement”. Ten years later, in 2007, out of the desire for these goods to be part of the national cultural heritage and thus to be valued on a different scale, he donated the house with all the objects to the “Paul Păltănea” Galați History Museum, and on 10 October 2009 the “Ion Avram Dunăreanu” Suhurlui Rural House was inaugurated.

The good room, the big and beautiful one, as well as the living room, are two of the rooms, decorated in the traditional Moldovan style, where, along with pieces of furniture, there are also a series of decorative fabrics, as well as cult objects such as icons, placed on the eastern side. The small rooms and the back rooms were particularly important spaces in the house. The chimney stack was a special place where the family would gather in the evenings around the low round table on small wooden chairs, recounting the events of the day. The weaving loom room was another essential space for housewives. Here they made everything from articles used for decoration to folk costumes executed with fine craftsmanship, reflecting the material and aesthetic characteristics of these people, firmly cemented over the ages.

Along with the interior design, the basic exhibition also includes a blacksmith and carpentry workshop, where the visitor can see tools specific to these crafts such as sickles, pliers, anvils, saws, most of them coming from Suhurlui.



Location:

Costache Negri commune (former Mânjina), Galați county, located at a distance of approx. 40 km from mun. Galați, access to the Memorial House – from DN24D to DJ251
tel: +40 236 825 899

THE “COSTACHE NEGRI” MEMORIAL HOUSE (section of the “Paul Păltănea” History Museum, Galați) – the current exhibition of the Costache Negri Memorial House suggests sequences of the patriarchal daily life lived by people – artisans and witnesses of important moments in national history. The hospitality of the space is displayed by decorative art objects, photographs and family correspondence, works of fine art that belonged to Costache Negri, his daughter, the families of his sisters and other relatives, as well as friends, more or less known to the general public.

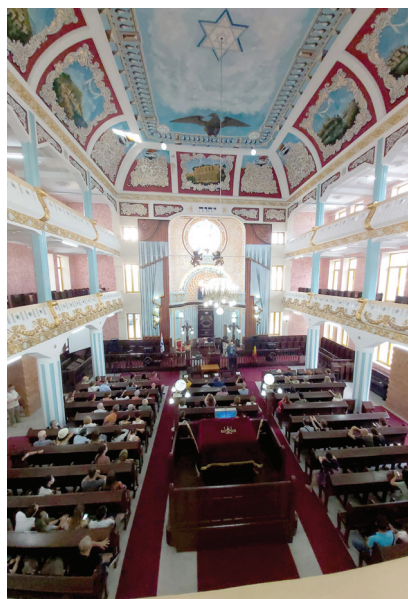
The halls for receiving visitors, musical auditions, and meals served during regular or festive meetings, followed by long conversations on various topics, are relevant to illustrate the traditional meetings at Mânjina, which were attended by Nicolae Bălcescu, Mihail Kogălniceanu, Vasile Alecsandri, Alexandru Ioan Cuza and others. Guests and hosts could also retire to various other rooms of the manor, depending on the time of day, for solving household problems; predominantly male conversation on economic-social or political topics; studying; playing cards or chess; writing correspondence; reading and music; female chat about the social life of the city salons, fashion, gastronomy; preparation for evenings, seasonal balls, traditional parties; siesta.



THE SYNAGOGUE – THE TEMPLE OF THE CRAFTSMEN OF GALAȚI
or the **TEMPLE OF THE SOCIETY OF ISRAELI CRAFTSMEN**

– a wide and tall building, situated in a courtyard, it resembles a public administrative building, similar to many buildings built in Romania in the interwar period, a building with three levels of slightly different heights. It comprises a wide, vaulted central nave and two double-story side aisles with galleries supported on pillars and ceilings. In the center is the bima, and the front shrine is at the eastern wall. The interior is decorated on all surfaces, including the ceilings, and very abundantly on the wall adjoining the ark, with decorations in the Baroque style, theatrical, light colors, murals of biblical settlements, etc. The furniture, arranged in a linear pattern, was made of solid wood.

What is unique about this monument is the contrast between its exterior and interior appearance. From the outside, we can see a monumental and sober edifice, but it's only when we step inside that we are taken aback. It's a feeling you get when you enter the great European domes: a very large space, impressive elevation, rich ornamentation, baroque frescoes, and vivid colors. In short, a sight that no one should miss whether from Galați or just passing through. It's what is referred to as a "must-see".



Location:

9 Dornei str., Galați mun.,
access – from DN2B to one
of the main streets of Galați,
Brăilei Street.
tel: +40 236 413 662

MUSEUM OF HISTORY “TEODOR CINCU” – the building in which the museum operates today was built in several stages since the end of the 19th century and is included in the list of historical monuments, category A.

In 1885, the building was mentioned as the property of Anton Cincu, a local politician and philanthropist, who left it to his son Teodor Cincu on July 22, 1894. From an architectural point of view, the Baroque style is remarkable, predominant in the first stage of construction, when access was from the south, a small tower on which the medallion with the family coat of arms was inserted piercing the entrance to the house. At the beginning of the 20th century, the facades of the house were altered, with the main entrance facing east and treated in a neoclassical style. A pediment supported by four Corinthian columns marks the main entrance. The windows are decorated with floral motifs, and a medallion similar to the one on the tower of the house, in which the family monogram is integrated, is inserted in the keystone of the arcade. Flowing baroque lines combine harmoniously with classical elements, expressing a refined taste in search of new designs.

Mayor of Tecuci between 1894-1896, 1898-1899, and 1902-1906, a deputy in the Romanian Parliament, Teodor Cincu belongs to the “family” of the patrons of Tecuci, together with his grandfather and father, Tudoran and Anton Cincu.



Location:

36, 1 December 1918 street,
Tecuci, access – from DN25
to the main street of Tecuci,
1 December 1918 street
tel: +40 236 811 672



Location:

Ivești commune, Galați county, 50 km from the city of Galați, with direct access from the DN25
tel: +40 236 866 222

THE “HORTENSIA PAPADAT BENGESCU” MEMORIAL HOUSE – on 20 of July 2009 the “Hortensia Papadat Bengescu” House, a section of the Galați History Museum, was inaugurated in the framework of the exhibition “Iveștian Personalities”. It contains documentary material and objects that belonged to the hostess and to some of the most important members of the culture and history of Ivești. Hortensia Papadat Bengescu was born in Ivești in the house that now bears her name, and lived with her family for the first two and a half years of her life, after which the family moved with the new military garrison of her father, D. Bengescu, to Tecuci.

With the closure of the last military subunit in Ivești, the Ministry of National Defence is giving up the old garrison headquarters, the building becoming part of the patrimony of the People’s Council of Ivești. Between 1956 and 1966, the current premises housed the Technical School of Viticulture for 4 years. From 1966 it became the seat of the Veterinary Dispensary of Ivești commune, a sanitary unit that functioned until 2006. During the same period, the building also housed the Ivești post office.

Since 2006, at the request of Prof. Gh. Frățiță’s request, the Ivești Local Council has agreed that the premises of the current “Hortensia Papadat Bengescu” house should become part of the patrimony of the Galați County Council and the Galați History Museum.





Location:

Tudor Vladimirescu village,
807295, Galați county, 40 km
from the city of Galați, with
access from DN25 or DJ251
tel: +40 236 828 781

VLADIMIREȘTI MONASTERY – located 4 km from Tudor Vladimirescu commune, between Galați and Tecuci, Vladimirești Monastery is a place of pilgrimage and soul nourishment for those who know its history or find it when they arrive here as visitors. A monastery of nuns with a large number of nuns (almost 200), it is currently the third largest monastery in the country in terms of the number of staff, after Agapia and Văratec monasteries, but the first largest monastery in the country. The large church, built on the site of the first apparition of God, in the shape of a cross according to Orthodox tradition, is dedicated to the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. To the east of the main church is the Paraclis (small church) and to the south – is the small summer altar.

The gate at the entrance to the monastery is typical of the Maramureș area and was worked in 1992. From here the road leads to the orchard, vineyard, and pond. The entrance to the enclosure is on a lane lined with lime trees, passing under the bell tower. On either side are the presbytery and the priest's dormitory.

The museum holds 106 old icons from the 18th-19th century. The wooden cross or “corn cross” with which the place of the Holy Altar was marked when the divine sign was shown is preserved here. There is also an icon of the Virgin Mary left to the Mother Superior by her mother on her deathbed. In the monastery’s presbytery, there are eight of the 12 solid silver chalices found in front in the main church (hidden by an unknown person when the monastery was closed).



“HANU CONACHI” SAND DUNES

are a reserve of botanical interest mainly, with a total protected area of 217 ha. The minimum altitude is 12 m and the maximum is 26 m. The biogeographical setting is in the steppe region. This site is located in the South of Moldova, administratively it belongs to Liești commune, Galați county. The climate is temperate-continental, characterized by a multiannual average temperature of 10,7 °C and a multiannual average rainfall of 396-404 mm. In summer, during midday, the temperature at the surface of the sand dunes exceeds 70 °C, and fairly high temperatures are recorded at depths of up to 25-30 cm. The protected area is located on Holocene (Quaternary) deposits represented by cross-stratified alluvial deposits, sands, and loess.



The relief in the protected area is in the form of dunes, with varying altitudes, of fluvial and aeolian origin. The Hanu Conachi Reserve is located at the contact of two geomorphological units – the Tecuci plain and the lower Siret plain. The soil type characteristic of the Hanu Conachi protected area is psamosoil. Psamosols are sands at an early stage of soilification. The sands tend to change into psamosols, and these tend to evolve into the genetic soil types of the area (sandy sandy loam, sandy loam, sandy loam).

From a botanical point of view, the protected area of Hanu Conachi represents a concentration of elements of the sandy flora unparalleled in Moldova and rare in the rest of the country: rye, scaly grass, hawthorn, prostrate knotweed, wood carnation, dwarf willow, sand pear, broom, goat's beard, pipirig, wild clover, St. Mary's thistle, poison ivy, pyre, beefsteak's fungus, asparagus, fringetree, *Dictamnus albus*, mockingbird's cap, shagbark, thick pyre, *apera spica-venti*. According to existing documentation, the protected area comprises four sites chosen according to typological criteria: 1. Oak woodland with hawthorn and acacia with a well-developed ground cover; 2. Mousetail and rye associations; 3. Birch stacks and *Brometum tectorial* associations; 4. The area of the dunes themselves with poor vegetation with elements of sandy flora mentioned above.

Location:

Hanu Conachi, Galați county, 43 km from the city of Galați, with access from DN25



THE MUSEUM OF HISTORY “PAUL PĂLTĂNEA”

is located in Galați mun., the most valuable collection of the museum is the Archaeology collection that allows the presentation of entire historical periods, of cultures and civilizations that have long since disappeared,

through chronologically dated materials in different eras, discovered by specialists of the museum or other institutions, during numerous archaeological research campaigns. In fact, scientific research has revealed that the area of Galați County has been an area where human civilisation has evolved continuously from the Palaeolithic to the present day.

The basic exhibition “Archaeological Landmarks on the Lower Danube” offers the visitor a substantial selection of cultural goods representative of the heritage of the Museum of History “Paul Păltănea” and which have been discovered in the last 50 years on the territory of Galați County and beyond. The exhibition also aims to show the work carried out on an archaeological site and has a photo- documentary component with images (including archival images) from important sites in the county. Most of the pieces in the archaeological collection come from the archaeological research carried out by Mircea Petrescu-Dîmbovița, Ion T. Dragomir or Mihalache Brudiu, in the sites of Stoicani-Cetățuie, Stoicani-Dealul de pe Râpă, Suceveni-Stoborăni, Cavădinești-Râpa Glodului, Galați-Tirighina (Barboși), Vânători-La Jolică, Vânători-Amiral and others. The exhibition also includes a Lapidarium area where tombs, sarcophagi, funerary stelae, fragments of building columns, votive altars and other large pieces discovered in Galați and Tulcea counties are exhibited.

Location:

2, Maior Iancu Fotea street,
Galați 800017, access is
from Brăilei Street towards
Domnească Street
tel: +40 236 412 408



Location:

6A, Regimentul 11 Siret street, Galați 800340, access from Brăilei street to Saturn street
tel: +40 236 411 898

THE BOTANICAL GARDEN, a section of the “Răsvan Angheluță” Natural Sciences Museum Complex – established in 1990 (the youngest botanical garden in Romania), when the Galați County Council management agreed and approved the takeover of an 18 ha area belonging to the municipality. During 18 years of planting, the living heritage of the botanical garden counted more than 80 000 specimens (planted) of 1300 taxa (species, subspecies, varieties, cultivars, forms) represented by: deciduous trees and shrubs, resinous trees and shrubs, hedges, subshrubs, lianas, tropical and subtropical plants, succulents and cacti, etc.

The Botanical Garden is organized by sectors: Flora and Vegetation of Romania – covers an area of approx. 5,2 ha being arranged on the right side of the main alley; Flora of the Globe – located on the left side of the main alley, the sector is composed of areas for the flora of Asia, the Far East, the Japanese Garden with an artificially created lake and waterfall; Flora of North America; Flora of the Mediterranean Basin; The Useful Plants Sector is located in the immediate vicinity of the botanical body and occupies an area of 10.000 m² ; Ornamental Sector (2,2 ha); The Rosarium is unique in Romania in terms of architecture and diversity of cultivated rose varieties; Sensory Garden Sector: running ecological education programs-Nature Therapy; Current greenhouse (conservation area).

Activities offered for tourists include hiking, outdoor photo sessions, visiting the temporary exhibitions housed here and night visits to the observatory in the museum complex.





CRAMA BRATU – SC Prestatorul SRL Tulucești was founded in 2000 by the three Bratu brothers: Neculai, Petrică and Adrian. Initially, the company’s activity was based on the provision of mechanized services in agriculture (including viticulture). The Bratu winery is a modern winery, built with European funds, was born in 2018-2019 and currently enjoys the production of high quality varietal wines, with IG Dealurile Moldovei, obtained from its own plantation, located not far from the winery. In 2021, Crama Bratu enjoyed real success, winning a silver medal at the International Rosé Championship in Krakow for its Pinot Gris Grand-Père Premium wine.

Location:

Fermelor street, Odaia Manolache, Galați county, 17 km from Galați, with access from DN26 to DC3A
tel: +40 743 216 363

In 2013, taking advantage of the programme for the reconversion of vineyards run by APIA, a replanting right was purchased from the national reserve, thus making a dream come true, namely the establishment with the help of European funds of a modern vineyard with an area of 44.63 ha. Moreover, in 2019, in order to bring more value to the vineyard plantation, also through European funds, the “CRAMA BRATU” was set up.

Crama Bratu wines are linked to tradition, the business itself being a soul project, where the word family has a strong resonance. Situated near the Gârboavele forest and the historical site Trajan’s Wall, the winery becomes a tourist attraction not to be missed. Visiting the winery, tasting wines and dining on traditional dishes can make a trip to Tulucești and Galați complete. Suggested tourist activities: tourists can do tastings or organize private events in this location.



4

Reni. General description

Administratively, Reni is a territorial community in Ukraine, in the Ismail district of the Odessa region. The administrative centre of the community is the town of Reni. The community was formed as a result of the administrative-territorial reform in Ukraine, by merging 7 villages and a town into a local town council. The territorial community of Reni was established on 17 July 2020. It is a tourist destination that is in the process of developing its own regional development strategies. Even though it covers an area of only 840.1 km², the diversity of the natural and cultural landscapes, determined by the colourful ethnic structures (Romanians, Bulgarians, Gagauz, etc.), contributes to the creation of unique tourist offers for this area.

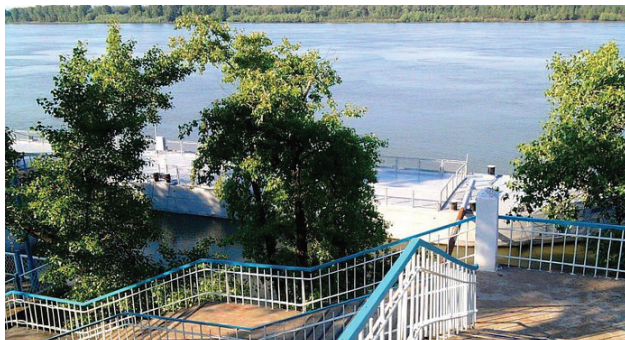
Another advantage of the Reni territorial community is the access to water resources, within its boundaries there are Cahul, Kartal, Kugurlui, Ialpuș lakes, the latter is also considered the largest freshwater lake in Ukraine, as well as the presence of Danube.



All these natural conditions have made Reni one of the most attractive areas for the development of green tourism, namely due to the preservation and conservation of aquatic habitat with rich biodiversity.

The unique natural setting, the multitude of aquatic species (birds, animals, amphibians, fish) has led to the conservation of these areas and their protection, including international protection. Among the best known protected natural areas are the Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance – Lake Kartal and Lake Kugurlui.

In terms of connection with the main cities of Ukraine, it is at a disadvantage in this respect, the nearest city being Odessa at a distance of 400 km by rail and 300 km by road; however, in the immediate vicinity of Reni are the towns of Galați (Romania) and Cahul (R. Moldova), which contributes to the intensification of cross-border cooperation on all dimensions, the tourism branch being the most advantageous from this point of view.





KARTAL LAKE – The Kugurlui-Kartal lake system is one of the most valuable wetlands in the Danube Delta, and is listed as Ramsar International Wetland Numbers 760 and 761; it was accepted into the Ramsar International Network in 1997 and was reassessed in 2021. The total area under protection is about 25,000 ha.

Location:

between the villages of Orlivka and Novosilske, Reni

The area presents favorable conditions for migratory bird species, a total of about 45,000 waterfowl have been recorded; the most attractive habitat for geese and wild ducks, there is a concentration of large numbers of grey and white-fronted geese on the wintering grounds.

Other rare species include *Aythya ferina* ducks, Dalmatian pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*), summer swan (*Cygnus olor*), etc. The Kugurlui and Kartal lakes are a real oasis for birds (both wintering and migratory species). Birdwatching and kayaking on the lakes are among the main tourist activities. Rare, endangered plants grow in abundance here: white water lily, and yellow water lily. Rare bats, ferrets, and white-toothed bats can also be seen. The sites also provide favorable conditions for the breeding of fish and amphibian species.

Observation of animal species in their natural habitat is another attraction of this site – for example, otter and European mink (*Lutra lutra* and *Mustela lutreola*) which, although endangered species, are very likely to be seen at these sites. From human activities: environmental conservation education, tourism, and recreation, fishing, agriculture. The last activity is continuously monitored as it poses a threat to the conservation and preservation of Ramsar sites.



Location:

Plavni village, reg.
Odessa, Reni

”CLAY PYRAMIDS” on the shore of the Ialpuș – this is what the locals call the specific relief north of the village of Plavni, which is a segment of the right shore of Lake Ialpuș – the largest natural lake in Ukraine. The shores in these parts are steep, steeply sloping in places, and fragmented transversely by gullies, some of which are up to 30 m deep. The ravines in the setting with steeply sloping banks rising above the water give these places a special charm, especially when viewed from above. Much of the relief is similar to the string of hills on the left bank of the Prut around Cahul, known as the ‘Golden Hills’.

This landscape is the result of the action of natural forces that have occurred over time and continue today. These include erosion processes caused by the action of water streams from atmospheric precipitation and wave action on the lake, as well as a number of associated processes such as landslides. The active manifestation of these processes has been made possible by the spread of specific deposits in the area, such as loess clays, which are soft, poorly cemented rocks composed of clay and sand particles, pale-yellowish in colour, rarely greyish-brown or brown. They are young rocks that formed under the action of surface water and winds in the cold climate of the Quaternary ice ages.

The rugged terrain in these parts is in some places a dose of spontaneous vegetation typical of the southern steppe of Bessarabia. Nowadays, this area called “Clay Pyramids” is used as a recreational area by the inhabitants of Plavni village.

This natural landscape with a mosaic of landforms, bordered by the waters of a lake, with banks covered with reed beds, in the setting of the ancient history of the village, with a community with authentic cultural traditions presents a valuable potential for green tourism. Recommended tourist activities are hiking, scientific excursions, and photography of plant species specific to the steppe area.



"STONE MOUNTAIN" or КАМ'ЯНА ГОПА is located 1.5 km from the village of Orlivka. From the top of the mountain, there is a beautiful view of the Cahul and Kartal lakes, as well as of the Danube and floodplains. According to scientific research, this location has been of interest to the population since the Copper, Bronze, and Iron Ages (early phase), about 9 human settlements have been discovered. Later, the Roman Empire also used this site as a strategic point, Al-iobrix. The Romans lived here until 270 AD, after which the hill has not been inhabited until today. In fact, today's modern road linking the villages of Orlivka and Nahirne represents the ancient route from the Eurasian steppes to the Danube. The Stone Mountain is of interest to tourists because of the reconstructed tourist routes of the Roman Empire, hiking, and trekking, but also because of its scientific value and spectacular scenery.



Location:

Orlivka village, reg.
Odessa, Reni, 68831



Location:

Kotlovyna village, Reni
<https://kotlovina.org.ua/>
https://www.instagram.com/destinatsiia_kotlovina/

KOTLOVYNA MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND ETHNOGRAPHY is located in the village of Kotlovyna (by Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR of 14 November 1945 the name of the village was changed from Bolboca to Kotlovyna). The museum is part of the Kotlovyna tourist destination which also includes a church, a camping area (Dalga camping), a complex of landscaped beaches called Bolboca, a horse-riding center, a house of culture, restaurants with traditional Gagauz cuisine such as “curban”, “patlajan mantosi” and “kiira”.

Tourists can learn about gastronomic secrets by participating in workshops on how to prepare dishes, but at the same time, they can buy authentic local products (kaurma, cheese, honey, etc.) or have visits to the almond orchard organized. The museum is of interest to tourists because it has preserved the traces of the earliest settlement of the Gagauz people in southern Bessarabia.

Objects of Gagauz tangible and intangible cultural heritage are kept in the museum, and in order to have the opportunity to perceive the cultural richness – annually, tourists are invited to participate in the Festival of Gagauz Culture, an event that focuses on the history, dance, folk costumes, and specific gastronomic traditions.

During the festival, tourists can buy the famous wool blankets made by local craftsmen. Folk craftsmen offer tourists the opportunity to get involved in workshops on making blankets.



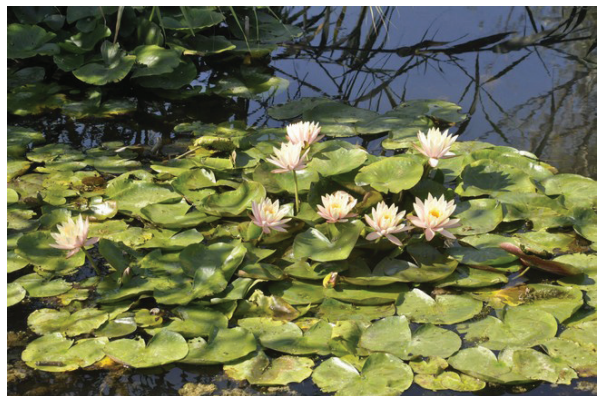


Location:

Novosilske village, Reni
tel: (067) 558-66-57 sau
(097) 549-95-22

THE RECREATION CENTER “DERVENT” is located at a distance of 3 km from Novosilske village, on the shore of Dervent Lake, considered the most beautiful reservoir in the Danube region. In 2021, by decree of the President of Ukraine, Dervent became part of the Kartal Nature Reserve, an area of national importance. Tourists who want a walk on the lake can rent a rowing boat and go out in the middle of the picturesque lake, and admire the white swans. Fishing enthusiasts can bring their rods, and the main species is pike; in fact, Lake Dervent is also called the Lake of the Pike.

Swimming in the lake itself is not recommended due to excessive algae growth. But a swimming pool has been built within the boundaries of the center for this purpose. Authentic gastronomy can be enjoyed and appreciated by every tourist at the food establishments located in the immediate vicinity, the most popular dishes being: fish soup, fish fillet, homemade sausages, and many other local dishes. Local products are used to prepare the dishes, for example, fish soup is prepared from 4-5 species of fish caught from Lake Dervent, served with spicy salami, garlic, and red peppers, and instead of bread – gezlemele (Turkish cakes with feta cheese).





Location:

28, Chervnya street,
Reni city, 68800

THE CATHEDRAL “ASCENSION OF THE LORD” is located in the central part of the town. Reni. It was built in 1857 with the financial support of Daria Gavrilovna Kovrigina, in memory of her son who died in the Russian-Turkish war. The cathedral was consecrated on 27 June 1858. The interior of the cathedral was painted by academician Pavel Piskarev, who was well acquainted with monumental and easel painting, in 2018 he started the renovation of the frescoes inside the cathedral. Above the entrance to the temple is the plot “The Appearance of Christ to the People”, interpreted by a painter, professor of drawing and painting, the greek Menzopol.

Emperor Nicholas II was the last of the dynasty to visit the cathedral in 1915; at that time, Nicholas II noted the development prospects of the town of Reni and expressed the belief that it would soon become “the second Odesa”. Since 2005, the Cathedral “Ascension of the Lord” in Reni has been an architectural monument of regional importance. The cultural-religious building is open to all tourists who love history, art, painting and religion.



Never before published photographic snapshots. Transboundary Photo Contest „Well with Nature in Cahul, Galați and Reni”



Nobility obliges. The teams from Moldova, Romania and Ukraine visiting the Rural House *Ion Avram Dunăreanu*, Suhurlui commune, Galați county



Nadejda Gudobetchi. The tree in times of drought is like the plowman of the south - it bends but does not break



Afanasie Prepețiță.
Heritage, tradition and color



Afanasie Prepețiță.
On the waves of time



Ana Znaceni. Alone in the face of love



Viorica Paladi. The gates to the green heaven



Irina Eliseiteva. Galina Zgurska visiting the sisters from Moldova



Mihai Turcanu. Olesea Vulpe reflects on the essence of the Latin saying
“In vino verita”



Natalia Ponomarev. The trade is not stolen, but learned



Natalia Ponomarev.
Delights from Auntie Maşa



Aristica Balaban.
Reflection by refraction



Mihai Turcanu. Women from Moldova, Ukraine, Romania:
Baking bread and praying for peace



Galyna Zgurska.
The emotions of the reunion



Galina Zgurska. Alexandra and her
little friend from Slobozia Mare



Viorica Paladi. Lucia took possession of the wolf-headed dragon



Nicolae Căpraru. The bridge that unites us



Liubomir Chiriac. Non-conformist trio

Eugenia Chiriac.
Thirsty for the sun



Eugenia Chiriac.
Under the imprint of time



CAHUL

*Useful information about events, sights,
accommodations and restaurants*

Cahul Tourist Information Centre

- Information about the sights in the district Mun. Cahul, Victoriei Boulevard 1-G
tel: +373 78 268 164

Cahul District Council

Culture Section

- Information about the sights in the district
tel: + 373 60 939 555

LAG Lower Prut Meadow

- Information about tourist attractions in the Lower Prut Plain
- Organization of tourist itineraries in the Lower Prut Plain
tel: + 373 79 818 449
galluncaprutuluidejos@gmail.com

VIA Cahul Tourism Cluster

- Information about tourist attractions in the district
tel: +373 60 082 825
proparteneriatdd@gmail.com

SRL S&I Project

- Tour operator in Cahul region
tel: +373 60 082 825
strelciucs@yahoo.com

Teleporttravel

- Itineraries and online guide
www.teleporttravel.com
hello@teleporttravel.com

Accommodation:

Tourist Complex “Eco Village”

Văleni v., 1, Morii street
tel: +373 607 75 173
complex.valeni@yahoo.com
www.complexvaleni.com

Guesthouse “Casa bunicului”

Pașcani v.
tel: +373 760 08 350
info@casabunicului.com
www.casabunicului.com

Rural house “La Tanti Mașa”

Slobozia Mare v., 12, Vierilor str.
tel: +373 607 69 004
<https://www.facebook.com/atelier.tanti.masha>

Rural house “La Bunica Clava”

Văleni v., 47, Ștefan cel Mare street
tel: +373 798 49 933
<https://www.facebook.com/LaBunicaClava/>

Leisure and recreation base “La Cotihana”

Cotihana v.
s. Cotihana
tel: +373 68 865 666
bazadeodihna.lacotihana@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/LaCotihana>

Guesthouse “Cocorii Albi”

Colibași v.
tel: + 373 606 05 047
zinaida_ernu@yahoo.com

Azalia Hotel

Cahul mun., 21, Mateevici street
tel: +373 299 26 546
+373 299 23 518
info@azalia.md
www.azalia.md
<https://www.instagram.com/azalia.hotel/>

Marco Polo Hotel

Cahul mun., 43, M. Eminescu street
tel: +373 299 32 705
+373 299 32 706
curdov_v@hotmail.com
https://www.instagram.com/marcopolo_cahul/

GALAȚI

*Useful information about events, sights,
accommodation and restaurants*

Galați City App

<https://galaticityapp.ro/>

54, Domnească street, Galați
800008

tel: +40 236 307 775

relatiipublice@primariagalati.ro

<https://www.primariagalati.ro/>

Blue Aqua Restaurant

75, Marea Unire Boulevard, Galați
827100

tel: +40 374 074 174

Teatris Restaurant

5 General Iacob Lahovary Street,
Galați

tel: +40 746 226 225

Complex Stejarul

Gârboavele Forest, Tulucești
800205

tel: +40 758 818 555

Cosmin Restaurant

79 General Eremia Grigorescu
Street, Târgu Bujor

tel: +40 236 341 628

Restaurant Floarea Salcâmu- lui-Popasul Hanul Conachi

Dn 25, Km 47, Liești, Romania

tel: +40 236 817 817

Must Travel Travel Agency

134A, Brăilei street, Galați

tel: +40 770 223 361

office@musttravel.ro

Entertainment in Galați:

Giv Boats- trips on the Danube:

tel: +40 756 765 664

<https://plimbaredunaregalati.ro/>

Discover nature on horseback:

tel: +40 740 873 738

[https://www.facebook.com/Lec-
tiiEchitatiePadureaGarboavele-
GALATI/](https://www.facebook.com/LectiiEchitatiePadureaGarboavele-GALATI/)

Danube Beach – Danube Boule- vard Galați

[plajadunarea@gospodarire-urba-
na.ro](mailto:plajadunarea@gospodarire-urbana.ro)

Deliria Complex:

tel: +40 754 858 161

Gârboavele Forest, 807300

<https://deliriagarboavele.ro/>

Protected areas:

- Gârboavele Forest, Tulucești Commune, Galați County
- Sand dunes of Hanu Conachi, Galați County
- Lower Prut Floodplain Natural Park, Cavadinești Commune, Galați county

Accommodation:**Mercure Galați Centrum Hotel******

12 Aleea Domnească, Galați
800035
tel: +40 731 840 505
hb637-fo@accor.com
<https://all.accor.com/>

Terra Clinique Hotel ****

4 Aleea Meteo, Galați 800198
tel: +40 336.911 (interior 2)
rezervari@terra-hotel.com
<https://terra-hotel.com/>

Ibis Styles Dunărea Galați Hotel***

13, Domnească street, Galați
800015800015
tel: +40 731 840 523
hb636-fo1@accor.com
<https://all.accor.com/>

Faleza By Vega Hotel***

1 Roșiori Street, Galați 800066
tel: +40 336 401 940
office@vegahotels.ro
<https://vegahotels.ro/>

Vega Hotel***

107, Marea Unire bd., 800329,
Galați
Tel: +40 236 306 080
office@vegahotels.ro
<https://vegahotels.ro/>

Orient Hotel***

3, Victor Valcovici Street, Galați
tel: +40 771 626 075
office@orienthoteliergroup.ro
<https://orienthoteliergroup.ro>

Belvedere Villa***

1, Șoimului Street, 800078, Galați
tel: +40 236 499 780
vilabelvedere@baurom.ro
<https://vilabelvedere.ro/>

Pescarul Guesthouse***

12, Cramei street, Tulucești
Village, Tulucești Commune,
Galați
tel: +40 743 216 362
receptie@pensiuneapescarul.ro
<https://pensiuneapescarul.ro>

Marginela Guesthouse

14 Crissoveloni Street, Talpău
Village, Ghidigeni commune,
807153, Galați
tel: +40 758 365 934
marianbadita3@yahoo.com

RENI

*Useful information about events, sights,
accommodation and restaurants*

Regional Centre of National Cultures

37 A. Kartashova Str,
Reni, Odessa Region, 68803
tel: +38 938 126 262,
ocnkreni@ukr.net
<https://www.facebook.com/ocnkreni>

Multinational cultural residence “Danube HQ”

Reni, Odessa Region, 68800
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100066668108186>

Tourist destination Kotlovyna

Village of Kotlovyna, Reni
e-mail: praskovyadolapchi@gmail.com
<https://kotlovina.org.ua/>, <https://www.facebook.com/iliadolapci/>
https://www.instagram.com/destinatsiia_kotlovina/

House of Grace Guesthouse

32 Muskatnaya Street,
Reni, Odessa Region, 68802
<https://www.booking.com/hotel/ua/house-in-reni.ro.html>

“Comfort” Hotel

St. Budigyana Street, 111b,
Reni, Odessa Region, 68800
<https://hotel-in-reni.hotelmix.com.ua/>

Hotel “South”

28 June 134, Reni
tel: +38 973 017 138
fedorkulia@mail.ru
<https://hotels24.ua/en/Reni/Hotel-Yujniy-9185.html>

Kolibri Hotel

177 Voznesenskaya Str,
Reni 68800
tel: +38 674 300 843
<https://kolibri-reni.nochi.com.ua/>

“Riviera” Hotel

27 Kartashova Street, Reni,
Ukraine
tel: +38 484 040 490,
+38 484 041 180
<https://rest.guru.ua/ua/reni/spa/2367/>

Offshore Café

23 Korabelina Street, Reni
tel: +38 735 959 501

**OLD TOWN Restaurant
(Old Town PUB)**

3 Gheroiev Ukraini Street, Reni
tel: +38 979 569 039

“South” Restaurant

134, 28 June street, Reni
tel: +38 635 238 507,
+38 632 205 685

“Admiral” Restaurant

Voznesenskaya Street, Victory
Park, Reni,
tel: +38 979 600 312

“Fortuna” Restaurant

Andriy Kartashov Street, 27b,
Reni
tel: +38 484 044 277

“Nostalgia” Café

138, 28 June Street, Reni
tel: +38 679 923 807

“Z.efir” Café

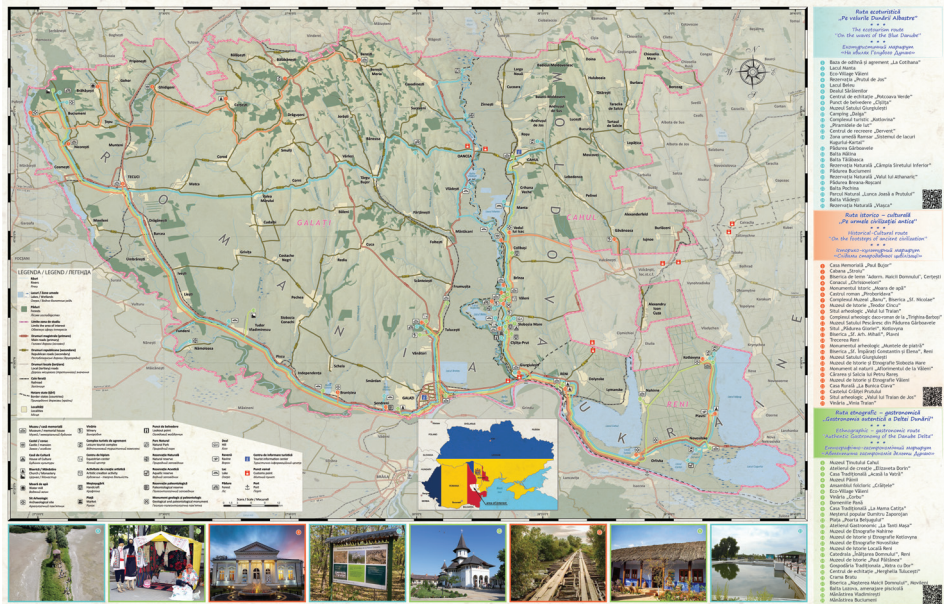
134, 28 June street, Reni
tel: + 38 679 923 807

“Chocolate” Café-restaurant

28 June street, Reni
tel: +38 933 629 285

“Rest” Café

Soborna street, Reni



Within the framework of the cross-border project BSB 817 “Develop and promote the green tourism in the Danube sector of the Black Sea basin (Cahul district, Republic of Moldova; Reni Territorial Community, Ukraine; Galați County, Romania)”, three tourist routes have been developed, which include some of the sights mentioned in this information brochure:

1. Ecotourism route “ON THE WAVES OF THE BLUE DANUBE”



2. Historical – Cultural route “ON THE FOOTSTEPS OF ANCIENT CIVILIZATION”



3. Ethnographic – Gastronomic route “AUTHENTIC GASTRONOMY OF THE DANUBE DELTA”

