

MEDIEVAL TOWN TRAIL



ORHEIUL VECHI CULTURAL-NATURE RESERVE

Orheiul Vechi reserve is a natural, cultural landmark of national significance in Moldova. It is located in the center of the country, along the Raut river's gorge. It covers an area of 11k km².

- The reserve is categorized as Category IV through the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), for the protection of the reserves natural habitat.
- Due to its uniqueness, the Orheiul Vechi Archaeological Landscape is included in the UNESCO Indicative List.
- The reserve is part of the Orhei National Park.
- Home to about one-third of Moldova's bird population, the reserve provides shelter for more than 100 species of birds.

❖ LOOP TRAIL

Starting point: Orheiul Vechi Exhibition Centre, Butuceni village

Final point: Orheiul Vechi Exhibition Centre, Butuceni village

Distance: 6,4 km

Hiking time: 2 hours 20 minutes

Difficulty level: easy

Rest areas: Medieval Spring (Trebujeni village), the Trebujeni village guest house, as well as anywhere along the trail

❖ ONE-WAY TRAIL

Starting point: Orheiul Vechi Exhibition Centre, Butuceni village/Tatars baths ruins, Trebujeni village

Final point: Tatars baths ruins, Trebujeni village/ Orheiul Vechi Exhibition Centre, Butuceni village

Distance: 3,2 km

Hiking time: 1 hour 10 minutes

Difficulty level: easy

Rest areas: Medieval Spring (Trebujeni village), the Trebujeni village guest house, as well as anywhere along the trail

❖ CULTURAL SIGHTS ON THE TRAIL AND NEARBY

- Sehr al Cedid Ruins: built by Tatar Mongols, Golden Horde in the XIVth century and Orhei medieval town dating back to the XIV-XVIth century.
- Tatar Baths Ruins: dating back to the XIVth century. Accessible for visiting.
- Caravanserai Ruins: remains from the XIVth century. Accessible for visiting.
- Medieval Church Ruins: historic church remains from the XVIth century. Accessible for visiting.
- Bosie Cave Church: dates back to the XVIth century. Visible from the trail and accessible by climbing an unpaved path. Difficulty level: medium, slip risk.
- Assumption Monastery: stone church, dating back to 1904, and Pestera cave complex with its church carved into the rock, where the monks resided since the XVIth c. Accessible for viewing along the trail.
- Medieval Spring: grab a drink of water fresh from the spring. Accessible for visiting.

❖ THE TRAIL

The trail is located between the Butuceni and Trebujeni villages. It's recommended for an easy walk along the left bank of Butuceni and the right bank along the Pestera farmlands and the Raut river. There are options to complete the trail as a loop or the different start and endpoints.

❖ ACCES

- The trail area on the left bank of the Raut river, between the villages of Butuceni and Trebujeni, runs along an unpaved path at times very narrow. In summer, after heavy rains, the path can be covered by vegetation. Snakes danger;
- The trail on the right bank of the Raut river runs along the field road from the Trebujeni farmlands. Access without risks throughout the year.

Public transport to Chisinau and Orhei is available from Trebujeni village. More details can be found on <https://autogara.md>

❖ BE AN AMBASSADOR

Use hashtags

#beourguest

#moldova

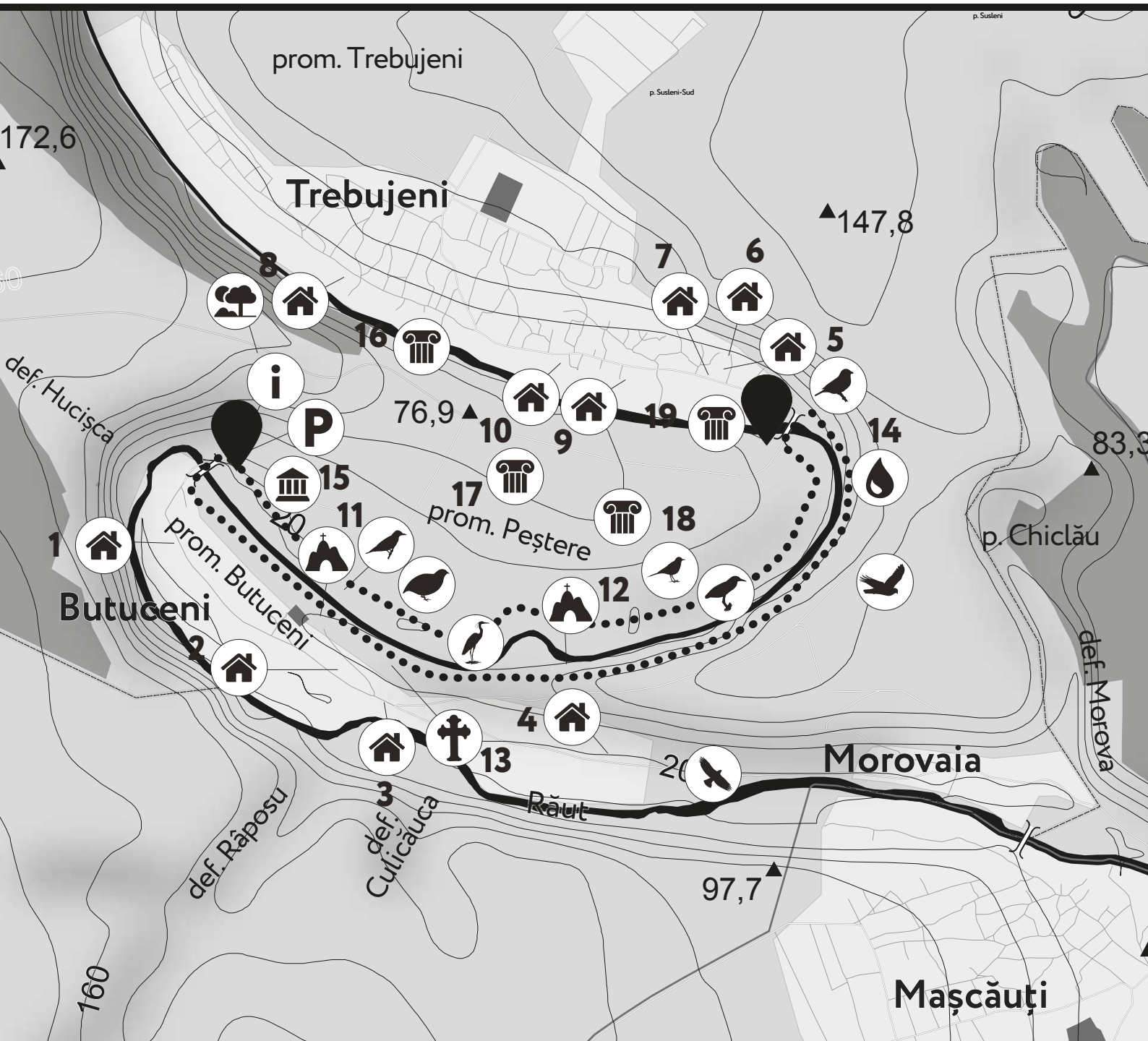
#discovermoldova

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MEDIEVAL TOWN TRAIL



LEGEND

BOUNDARIES

- Medieval town trail 6.4 km
- Starting point
- Ending point

- Boundary of the Orheiul Vechi Cultural-Natural Reserve Protection Area
- District
- Commune
- Village

TRAFFIC ROUTES

- National road
- Local road
- Street
- Secondary road
- Bridge

NATURAL FEATURES

- Level curves
- River
- Forest
- Altitude (m)
- p. - forest
- def. - gorge
- prom. - promontory

COMMON SPECIES OF BIRDS

- Anthropic species
- Aquatic species
- Red-backed shrike colony
- Meadow species
- Raptors
- Farmland species

PLACES OF INTEREST

- Tourist attraction
- Viewpoint
- Museum, Mansion
- Church, Monastery
- Cave monastery
- Guest House
- Spring
- Parking
- Infopoint

ACCOMODATION AND FOOD

- Guest House La Popas
- Guest House Eco Resort Butuceni
- Turistic complex Vila Etnica
- Guest House Reședința Rotundă
- Guest House Casa Verde
- Guest House Casa de sub Stâncă
- Guest House Vila Roz
- Guest House Casa din Luncă
- Guest House Anișoara
- Guest House Trei Stânci

MAIN TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

- Assumption Monastery: Pestera cave complex, XVIth c.
- Bosie Cave Monastery, XV-XVIIIth c.
- Assumption Monastery, stone church, 1904
- Medieval Spring
- Exhibition center of the Orheiul Vechi cultural-natural Reserve
- Medieval citadel ruins, XIV-XVIth c.
- Caravan Serai ruins, XIVth c.t
- Medieval church ruins, XIVth c.
- Tatar bath ruins, XIVth c.

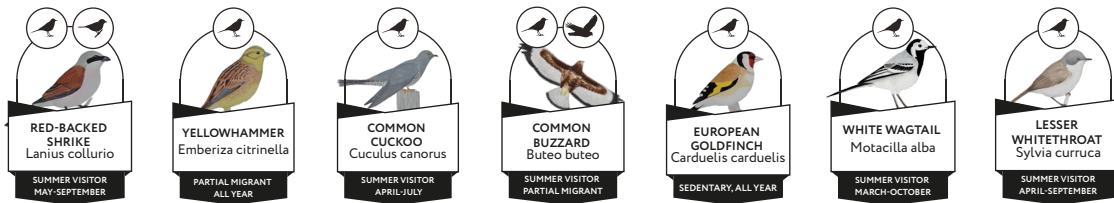
BIRDS TO SEE

Habitats: The trail provides an opportunity to observe birds in their natural habitats nestled in the rocks, meadows, water and agricultural fields. While the trail goes along the forest, you can view birds in their natural habitat.

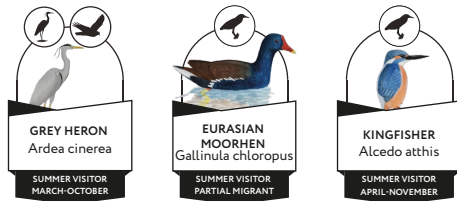
AROUND THE ROCKS OF THE BUTUCENI:



IN THE MEADOW ALONG THE RAUT RIVER FROM THE BUTUCENI AND PESTERA AREAS:



ALONG THE RAUT RIVER:



IN THE FOREST ALONG THE RAUT RIVER BANKS:



IN ORCHARDS, FARMLANDS AND GARDENS:



LEGEND



Red-backed shrike colony



Aquatic species



Anthropic species



Meadow species



Farmland species

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following gear is recommended for use while on the trail:

- Cap or bandana in the warm seasons.
- Hat and gloves in the cold season.
- Loose and comfortable clothes; dressing in layers is recommended: shirt, blouse, sweater, vest, jacket, depending on the season.
- Long hiking pants.
- Waterproof clothing.
- Field shoes (hiking boots or hiking sandals, depending on the season).
- Backpack.
- Water.
- Sunglasses.
- Sunblock.

EQUIPMENT

- Binoculars. Orheiul Vechi Reserve, as well as the Butuceni and Trebujeni village guest houses have binoculars for rent. Contact the reception desk for details.
- Riflescope.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Binoculars: <https://sppn.md/cum-alegem-binoclul-potrivit-pentru-birdwatching/>

Tent camping tips: <https://sppn.md/camparea-cu-cortul/>

Field equipment tips: <https://sppn.md/cum-ne-echipam-de-o-iesire-teren/>

Other birdwatching trails: <https://sppn.md/primul-traseu-de-birdwatching-din-republica-moldova/>

REMINDER

- Protect nature! Don't leave your trash behind - keep the trail clean!
- In the parking lot of the Orheiul Vechi Exhibition Center, you can find a dumpster where you can dispose of trash.



This information board was produced as part of the "Responsible Community for a conserved terrestrial landscape" project, developed by the Ecological Movement of Moldova with the support of the GEF Small Grants Program implemented by UNDP; and the Moldova Competitiveness Project funded by the USAID and Sweden. Acest panou a fost realizat în cadrul proiectului „Comunitate responsabilă-peisaj terestru conservat”, desfășurat de Mișcarea Ecologistă din Moldova, cu suportul Programului de Granturi Mici GEF, implementat de PNUD și cu susținerea Proiectului de Competitivitate din Moldova, finanțat de USAID și de Guvernul Suediei.

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