

# PIATRA POPLARS ALLEY 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 km<sup>2</sup>.

- 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.

## ♦ THE TRAIL

The trail is located between Furceni and Piatra villages, it is recommended for easy hiking and cycling on the right bank of the Raut river.

## ♦ ACCESS

The trail runs along the Furceni poplar forest and through the village of Piatra. Although the trail is easy to cross and doesn't require strenuous activity, it is necessary to pay attention to the bridge between Piatra village and the Raut river bank.

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

## ♦ CULTURAL SIGHTS ON THE TRAIL AND NEARBY

- Lazo Family Mansion: a museum, dating back to the XIXth century. Accessible for visiting.
- Izvorul Morii Spring: a hydrological monument, located on the left bank of the Raut river. Permission from environmental authorities is required.
- Migla Rock: a natural monument of geological and paleontological importance, it is located at the end of the trail as you exit Piatra village. Accessible for visiting.

## ♦ TRAIL PARAMETERS

**Starting point:** the edge of Furceni village

**Ending point:** Lazo family mansion, Piatra village

**Distance:** 4 km

**Hiking time:** 1 hour

**Difficulty level:** easy

**Rest areas:** anywhere along the route

## ♦ BE AN AMBASSADOR

Use hashtags

#beourguest

#moldova

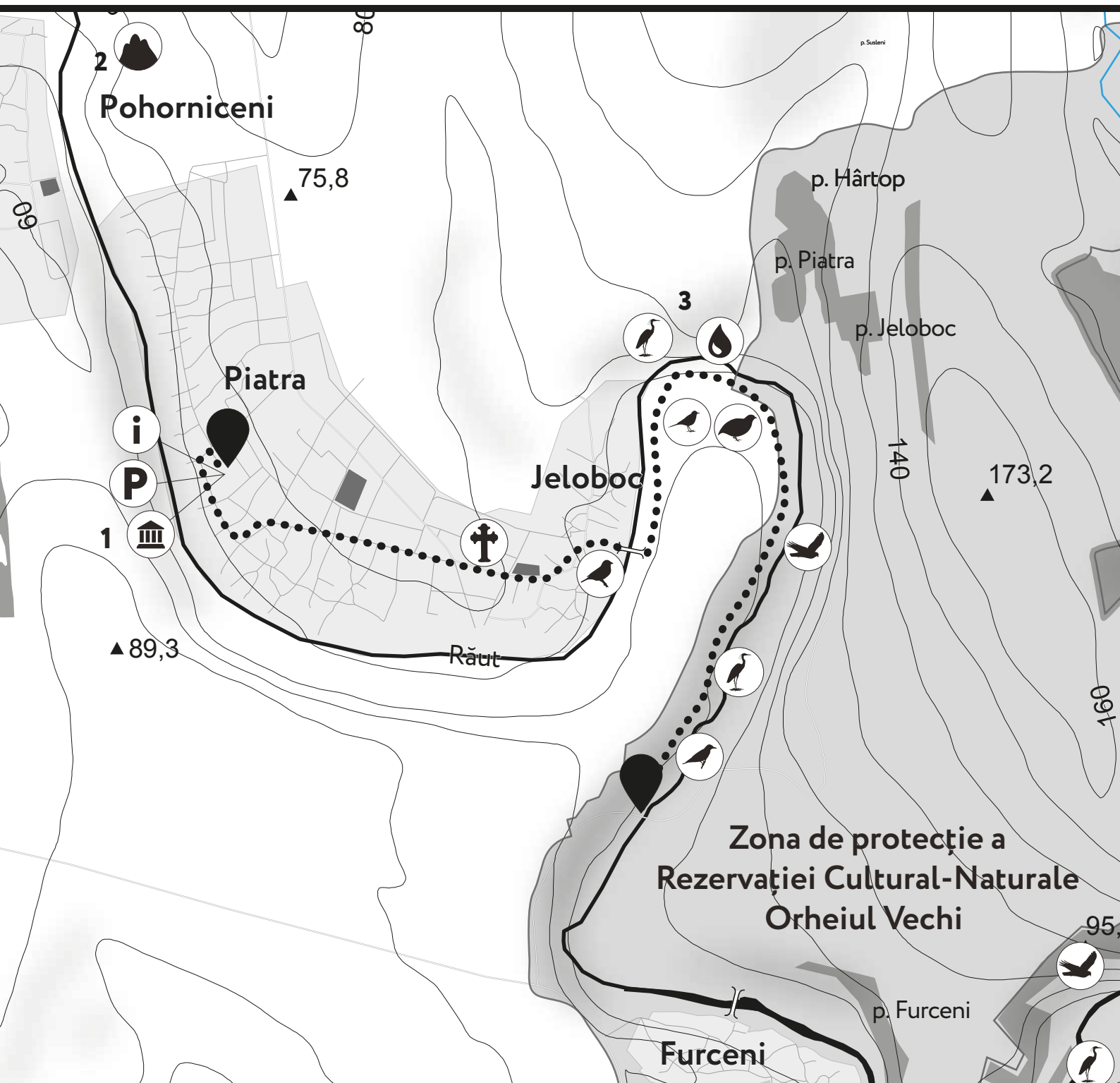
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# PIATRA POPLARS ALLEY TRAIL



## LEGEND

### BOUNDARIES

- The Poplar Alley-Piatra trail 4 km
- Starting point
- Ending point

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

### TRAFFIC ROUTES

- R43 National road
- L311 Local road
- Street
- Secondary road
- Bridge

### PLACES OF INTEREST

- Museum, Mansion
- Church, Monastery
- Rock
- Spring
- Parking
- Infopoint

### COMMON SPECIES OF BIRDS

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

### MAIN TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

- Lazo family mansion, second half of the XIXth c.
- Migla Rock
- Izvorul Morii Spring

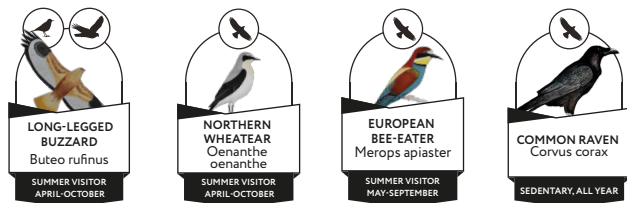
### NATURAL FEATURES

- Level curves
- River
- Forest
- p. - forest
- 116,2 altitude (m)

## 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.

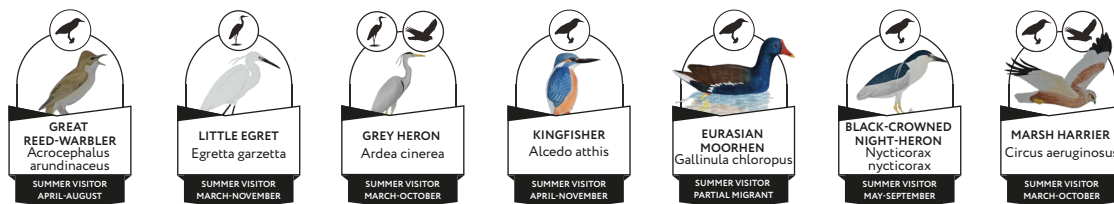
### AROUND THE ROCKS AND THE RAUT GORGE CAVES:



### IN THE MEADOWS OF THE RAUT RIVER:



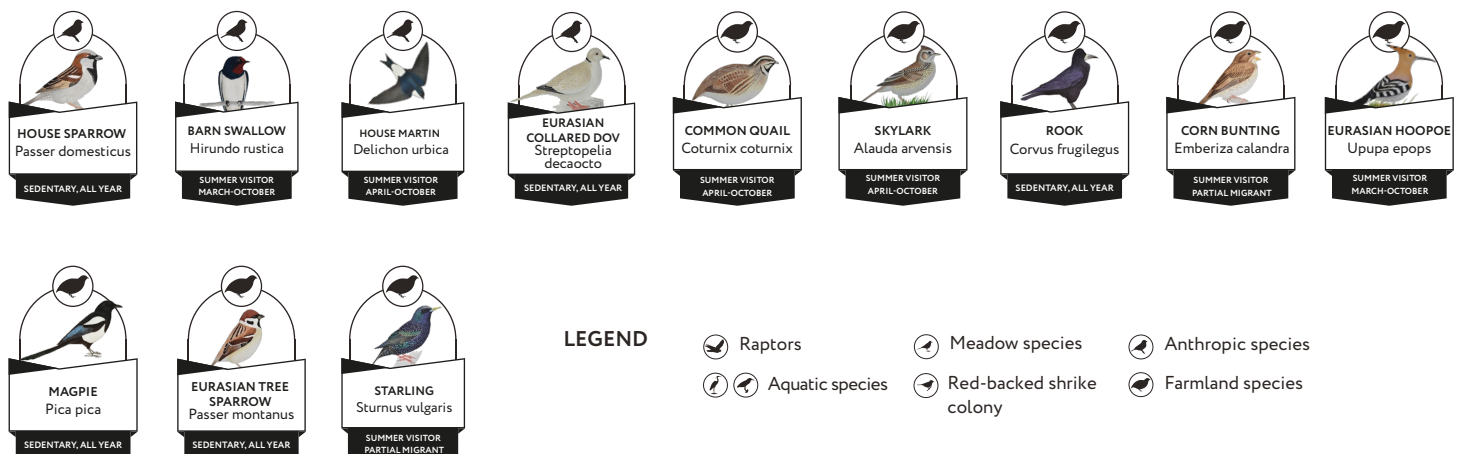
### ALONG THE RAUT RIVER:









### IN THE POPLAR ALLEY FOREST FROM THE RAUT RIVER BANKS:



### IN ORCHARDS, FARM LANDS AND GARDENS:



#### LEGEND

-  Raptors
-  Meadow species
-  Aquatic species
-  Anthropogenic species
-  Red-backed shrike colony
-  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!

