

BUTUCENI-PIATRA 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.

THE TRAIL

The trail is located between Butuceni and Piatra villages. It is recommended for hiking along the Raut river gorge and can be started from the start or endpoint. Parts of the route can also be crossed by bicycle.

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

TRAIL PARAMETERS

Starting point: Orheiul Vechi Exhibition Centre, Butuceni village/ Lazo family Mansion, Piatra village

Ending point: Lazo family Mansion, Piatra village/Orheiul Vechi Exhibition Centre, Butuceni village

Distance: 22.25 km

Hiking time: 7 hours 40 minutes

Difficulty level: medium

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

ACCESS

The trail area on the left bank of the Raut river, between the villages of Butuceni and Trebujeni, runs along an unpaved path, which at times can be very narrow. In the summer, after heavy rains, the path can be covered by vegetation. Use caution, as some snakes can be seen along the trail. It is necessary to pay attention to the bridge between Piatra village and the Raut river bank. Proceed with caution along the rocky area around Trebujeni, as there is a high amount of erosion and loose rocks 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 the Orhei medieval town dating back to the XIV and XVIth centuries.
 - o Tatar Bath Ruins: dates back to the XIVth century. Accessible for visiting.
 - o Caravanserai Ruins: remains from the XIVth century.
 - o Medieval Church Ruins: historic church remains from the XVIth century.
- ♦ 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.

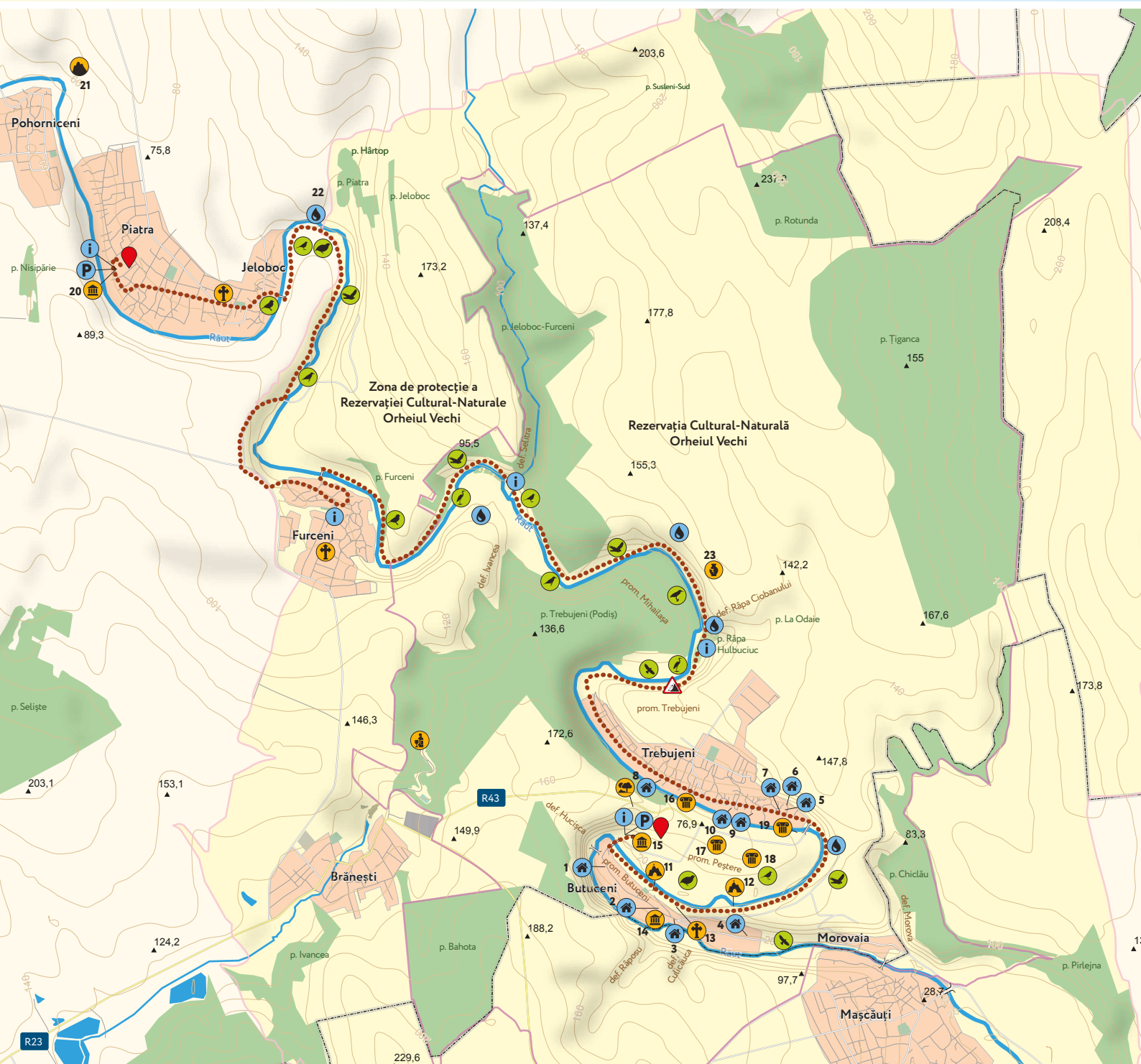
- ♦ Assumption Monastery: stone church, dating back to 1904, and Pestera cave complex with its church carved into the rock, where the monks resided since the XVIth c. Accessible for viewing along the trail.
- ♦ Medieval Spring: grab a drink of water fresh from the spring. Accessible for visiting.
- ♦ Trebujeni-Scoc & Piscul Ciobanului Archaeological Sites:
- ♦ Lazo Family Mansion: 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.

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BUTUCENI-PIATRA TRAIL



LEGEND

BOUNDARIES

- Butuceni-Piatra Trail 22.25 km
- Starting point
- Ending point

- Boundary of the Orheiul Vechi Cultural Natural Reserve
- Boundary of the Orheiul Vechi Cultural-Natural Reserve Protection Area

- Commune
- District
- Village

TRAFFIC ROUTES

- R43 National road

- L311 Local road

- Street
- Secondary road
- Bridge

NATURAL FEATURES

- Level curves
- River
- Lake
- Forest
- altitude (m)
- p. - forest

- def. - gorge
- prom. - promontory

COMMON SPECIES OF BIRDS

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

PLACES OF INTEREST

- Tourist attraction
- Winery
- Viewpoint
- Museum, Mansion
- Church, Monastery
- Cave monastery
- Archaeological site
- Rock
- Guest House
- Spring
- Parking
- Infopoint
- Risk of falling stones

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

- Guest House La Popas
- Guest House Eco Resort Butuceni
- Tourist complex Vila Etnica
- Guest House Reședința Rotundu
- 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

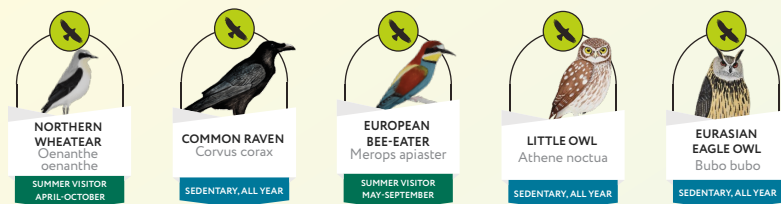
MAIN TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

- Assumption Monastery: Pestera cave complex, XVIth c.
- Bosie Cave Monastery, XV-XVIIIth c.
- Assumption Monastery, stone church, 1904
- Butuceni House Museum, XIXth c.
- Exhibition center of the Orheiul Vechi cultural-natural Reserve
- Medieval citadel ruins, XIV-XVIth c.
- Caravan Serai ruins, XIVth c.
- Medieval church ruins, XIVth c.
- Tatar bath ruins, XIVth c.
- Lazo family mansion, second half of the XIXth c.
- Migla Rock
- Izvorul Morii Spring
- Trebujeni-Scoc & Piscul Ciobanului Archaeological sites

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:



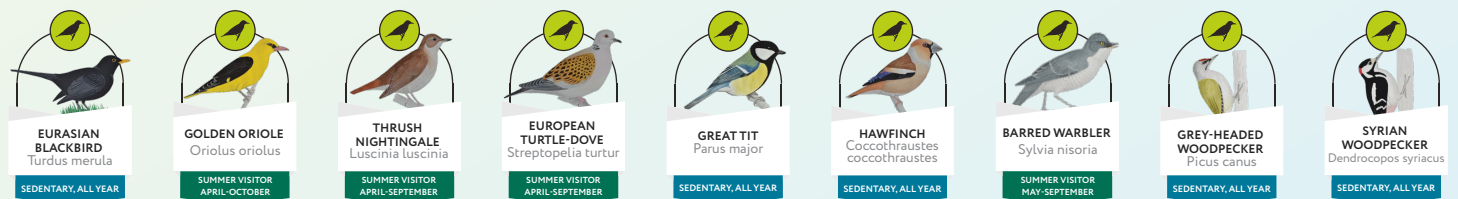
IN THE MEADOWS ALONG THE RAUT RIVER NEAR BUTUCENI, TREBUJENI AND MIHAILASA PROMONTORIES:



ALONG THE RAUT RIVER:





IN THE TREBUJENI-PODIS AND JELOBOC-FURCENI FORESTS AND FROM THE RAUT RIVER BANKS:







IN ORCHARDS, FARMLANDS AND GARDENS:



LEGEND

-  Raptors
-  Red-backed shrike colony

-  Aquatic species
-  Forest species
-  Meadow species

-  Rock species
-  Anthropic 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.

