

MOROVA GORGE 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 in the villages of Butuceni and Morovaia. It is recommended for cycling and an easy walk along the bank of the Raut river, the Butuceni village, and the Morova village and gorge.

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

Ending point: Orheiul Vechi Exhibition Centre, Butuceni village

Distance: 15 km

Hiking time: 6 hours

Difficulty level: medium

Rest areas: Guest houses in the villages of Butuceni and Morovaia, as well as anywhere along the trail.

📍 ACCESS

- The trail runs along country roads and unpaved paths, use caution as some areas may be slippery due to loose rocks. In the Morova gorge, the path is often covered by vegetation.
- This trail is exposed to the sun during summer, especially in the upper part, where there is almost no shade. It is essential to pack sunglasses, a hat and sunblock.

📍 CULTURAL SIGHTS ON THE TRAIL AND NEARBY

- Albu-Mascauți Cave Complex: Inaccessible, visible only from the outside.
- Ciucului Cave Complex: Inaccessible, visible only from the outside.
- Archaeological sites: Trebujeni Valea Tigancii and Mascauti - Poiana Ciucului. Conserved.
- 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 visiting.
- Butuceni Archaeological Complex: settlement from the IX-II century BC, fortified area of the Traco-Geto-Dacian culture. Conserved.
- Traditional Moldovan Home: dating back to the XIX-XXth century, part of the Exhibition Center of the Orheiul Vechi Reserve. Accessible for visiting based on ticket availability at the main Exhibition Center (10 MDL per person).

📍 BE AN AMBASSADOR

Use hashtags

#beourguest

#moldova

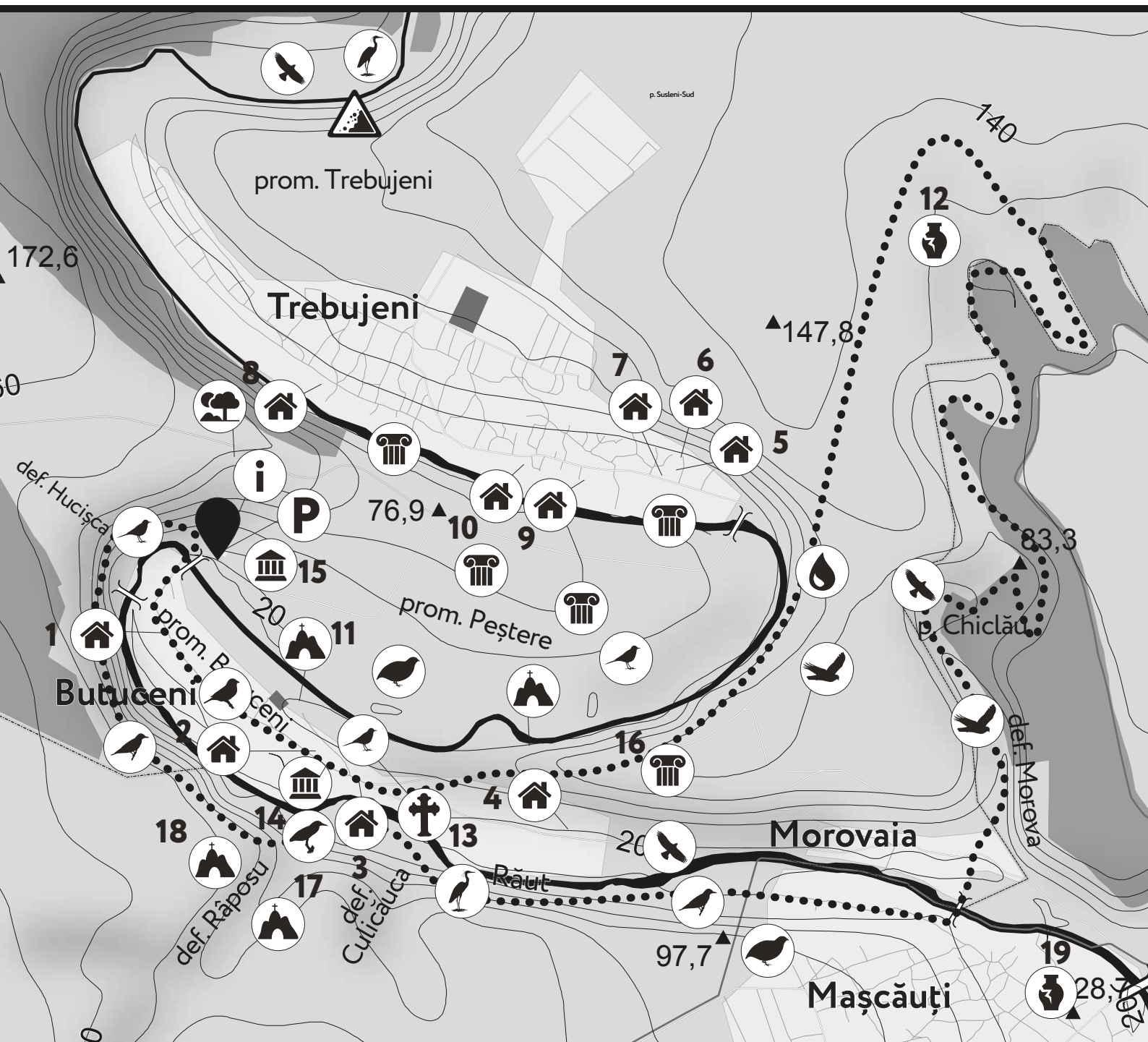
#discovermoldova

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MOROVA GORGE TRAIL



LEGEND

BOUNDARIES

- ● ● ● Morova gorge trail 15 km
- Starting point
- Ending point

Boundary of the Orheiul Vechi Cultural Natural Reserve

Commune

District

Village

TRAFFIC ROUTES

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

NATURAL FEATURES

- Level curves
- River
- Lake
- Forest
- 116,2 altitude (m)
- p. - forest
- def. - gorge
- prom. - promontory

COMMON SPECIES OF BIRDS

- Forest species
- Raptors
- Aquatic species
- Farmland species
- Anthropic species
- Rock species
- Meadow species

PLACES OF INTEREST

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

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 Valea Stâncii

MAIN TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

- Assumption Monastery: Pestera cave complex, XVIth c.
- Archaeological site: Trebujeni-Valea-Țigăncii
- Assumption Monastery, stone church, 1904
- Butuceni House Museum, XIXth c.
- Exhibition center of the Orheiul Vechi cultural-natural Reserve
- Butuceni Archaeological Complex
- Albu-Mascauți Cave Complex
- Archaeological sites: Mașcăuți - Poiana Ciucului
- Ciucului Cave Complex

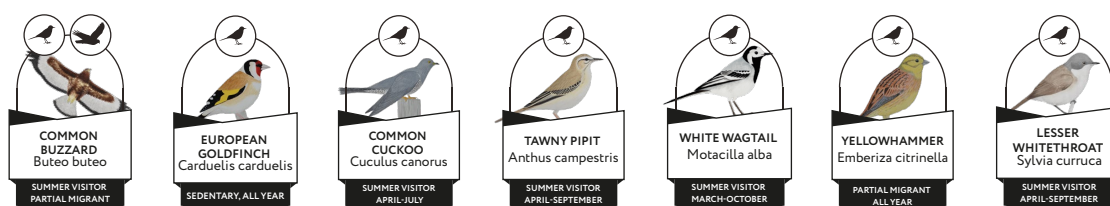
BIRDS TO SEE

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.

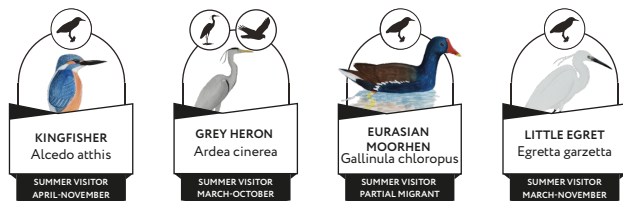
AROUND THE ROCKS OF THE BUTUCENI AND PESTERA POINTS, AS WELL AS AROUND THE MOROVA, HUCISCA AND CULICAUCA GORGES:



IN THE MEADOW ALONG THE RAUT RIVER:



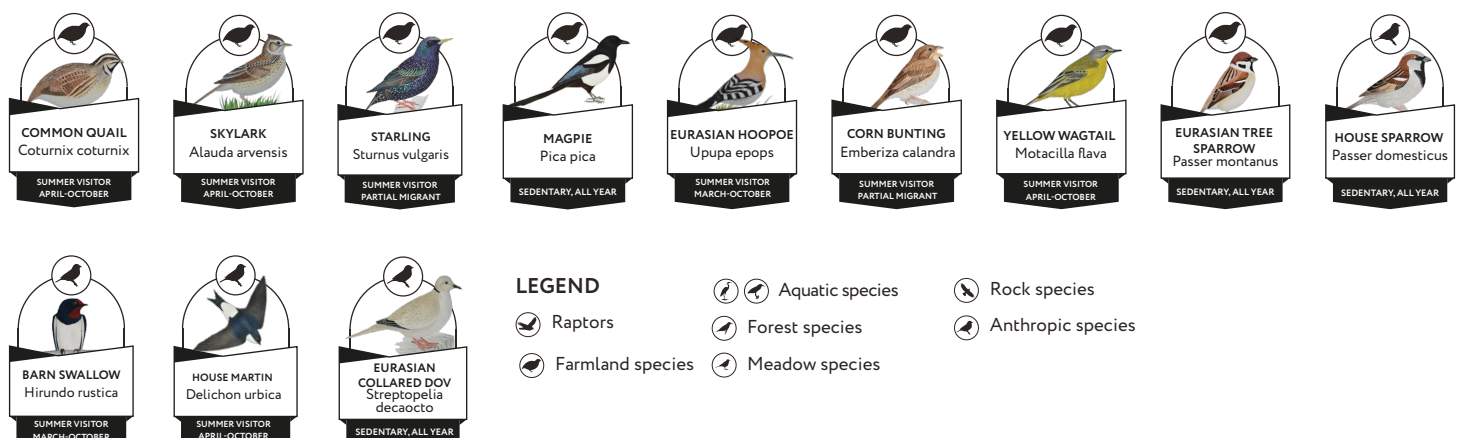
ALONG THE RAUT RIVER:



IN THE FOREST ALONG THE RAUT RIVER BANKS:



IN ORCHARDS, FARMLANDS AND GARDENS:




LEGEND

 Raptors

 Farmland species

 Aquatic species

 Forest species

 Meadow species

 Rock species

 Anthropic 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.
- Bicycles. The Butuceni and Morovaia village guest houses have bicycles to rent. Contact the reception desk for details.

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.

Mai multe informații găsiți pe moldova.travel / More information can be found on moldova.travel