

( ullet )

Comrat Wines

## FOLLOWING THE TRAIL OF GAGAUZ CULTURE, TRADITIONS AND CUISINE: **COMRAT - CEADIR LUNGA CYCLING ROUTE**

🏛 Slobozia Mare History and Ethnography Museum





- The craftsman's house "Tudor Bejenaru", Valen
- 👚 Eco-Village Valeni
- View Point Beleu Lake
- i Beleu Lake Reservation, Valeni





**FOLLOWING THE TRAIL** OF GAGAUZ CULTURE, **TRADITIONS AND CUISINE: COMRAT - CEADIR LUNGA CYCLING ROUTE** 

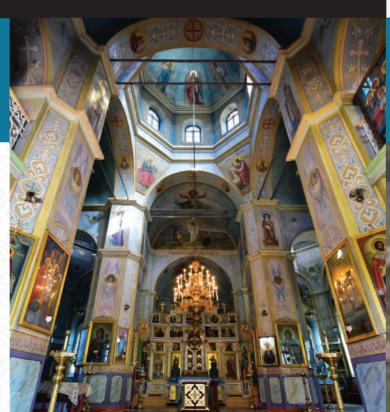
# **TIPS AND TRICKS:**

We recommend that you arrive at the bike rental points the day before your tour, to have the chance to taste wines and dishes specific to the region, but also to rest before a day on the bike.

The starting and ending points of the routes can be reached either by car or by public transport. Because the routes are marked in both directions, you can choose to go in any direction.

Do not take heavy luggage with you on the route. Just take the most necessary things in a small day pack that is easy and light to carry.

Find out what are the main attractions on the route, before starting your ride or you can download it to



- your phone by scanning the QR code attached to the route.
- On the way you will find poles that will confirm that you are on the right path, but also signs marked on trees and electricity poles every 350-400 m, as in the legend of the routes.
- Respect the privacy and property of the locals. Take the garbage with you to the nearest bin to preserve the beauty of the place.

These are just some of the tips that are worth following. We guarantee that respecting them will make your experience even more beautiful.









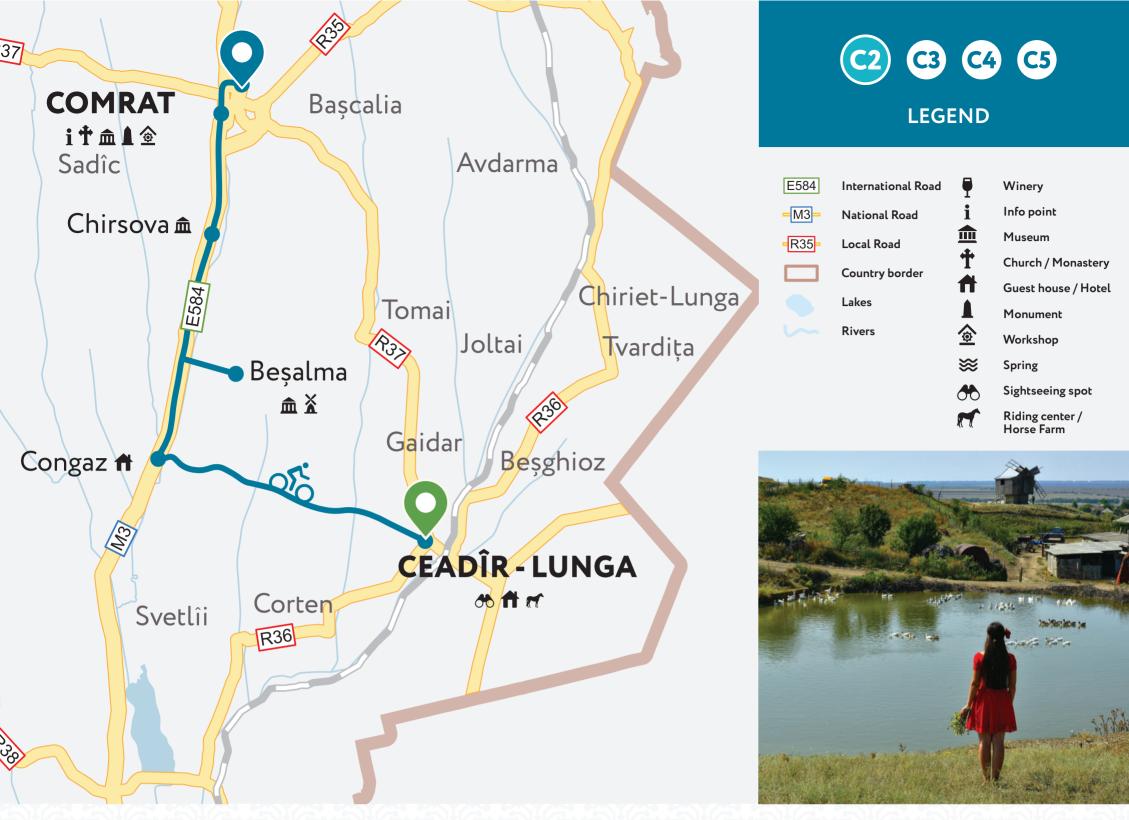
This publication is produced by the National Inbound and Domestic Tourism Association of Moldova (ANTRIM) with the support of Moldova Competitiveness Transition Activity, a USAID EDGE Buy-in project. This assistance is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

The contents are the responsibility of ANTRIM and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.









FOLLOWING THE TRAIL OF GAGAUZ **CULTURE, TRADITIONS AND CUISINE: COMRAT - CEADIR LUNGA CYCLING ROUTE** 



#### **About this Route:**

Starting in Comrat, the capital of Gagauzia, a semi-autonomous region, and cycling through the countryside and Gagauzian villages, you will feel the Gagauz vibe - unique with its ethnic Turkish origins and taste its traditional dishes, flavors and wine.

The Gagauzians are a small nation, but with a long and interesting history. Today they live primarily in the southern region of Moldova, preserving their culture and language. The origin of this nation remains unclear, but the very simple definition of Gagauzians is: Gagauz-speaking Christian Turks.

This southern Moldova cycling route from Comrat to Ceadir Lunga is all about immersing yourself in Gagauz history, culture, traditions and cuisine

#### **Cycling Route Highlights Comrat Wines**



workshops every day. They use a traditional potter's wheel for this, manually modeling from clay and plaster

Here, in an atmosphere full of harmony, you can create your personal souvenir from Gagauzia, and stay with unforgettable memories. Phone: +373 78 761 050

Address: Victoriei str, 43, Comrat Mon - Fri: 10:00 - 17:00

#### **Comrat Regional History Museum**

The museum exhibitions provide comprehensive material on all stages of the development of the history of the Gagauz people and their culture, and tells about customs and traditions, sports, medicine, and the development of the political life of the region, including Gagauz autonomy.

Address: Lenin str, 162, Comrat Phone: +373 29 823 356 Tue - Fri: 10 AM - 5 PM Sat - Sun: 10 AM - 2 PM Mon: Closed

#### Monument of Lenin, Comrat

Most of Lenin's statues have been removed in Moldova, but in the Gagauzia region you will find one in almost every village.

#### Museum of Living Bulgarian Traditions "Rodolyubets", Chirsova

This is not just a museum - it is a platform for demonstrating the traditions, rituals and hospitality of the Bulgarian people. Here you can taste the traditional "milina" with wishes and rakia - a strong plum sometimes. The locals say that several parts of the mill are made of acacia wood because it is very durable. Specific to the mill in Besalma is the wheel with which the miller rotated it from the side where the wind was blowing and rotated in a circle.

#### Ethno-touristic complex "Gagauz Sofrası", Congaz

The Ethno-touristic complex "Gagauz Sofrası" is located in "the biggest village in Europe" - Congaz. Here you can experience Gagauz traditional dances and national Gagauz music, plus a diverse gastronomy experience. You can also take part in Gagauz wine tasting and enjoy it paired with cheese and Kavurma. Address: Lenin str, 141, Congaz village Phone: +373 60 534 969

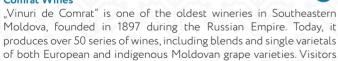
Email: gagauzsofrasi@gmail.com

#### The painted wall from Baurci

The painted wall from Baurci is the symbol of the village. On the walls are illustrated images that represent all the wealth of the village: wine, honey, football field, school, mill, etc. In total, the artwork is 70 meters long and is made by the artist Nick Kuru, together with the initiative group of Baurci village.

#### Ethno-Courtyard "Park-Hakikat", Ceadir Lunga

This is a unique place in Ceadir-Lunga that brings to life the Gagauz people and culture of centuries ago. The ethno-courtvard includes an open-air museum, an indoor museum, a wine cellar, a stove made in the national style and much more. You can taste wines and national Gagauz cuisine here, as well as find out more about the history of the





1

())









the modern production halls and historic cellar to wine tastings You can pick up your rental bike here. Address: Vinzavodscaia str, 1, Comrat **Phone:** +373 29 822 344 / +373 69 113 230 Email: vinacomrata@inbox.ru

to the winery can enjoy many wine tourism experiences, from tours of

#### **Tourist Information Center, Comrat**

The Gagauzia Tourist Information Center provides information about locations, events, accommodation, tours, itineraries and offers of tourist companies in the region. Address: Tretiakov str. 36. Comrat Phone: +373 67 744 700 Mon-Fri: 9:00 - 18:00 Sun - Sat: Closed

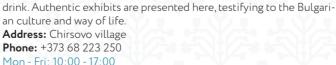
#### The Cathedral "St. John the Baptist", Comrat

The Cathedral "St. John the Baptist" is the symbol of the city of Comrat. It was built in 1856 and has a separate belfry with six bells. The church is distinguished by its mural and unique terracotta floor made in Poland. The cathedral was painted by the pupils of the famous Russian painter Viktor Vasnetsov - Frick and Yushkov.

Note: Women will be expected to cover their heads to enter the orthodox cathedral. If you don't have a scarf with you, you can borrow one at the entrance.

#### Handicraft center "Zaanat Evi", Comrat

The creative center for children and adults organize pottery



#### House Museum "Ana-boba Evi", Chirsova

The Museum of the Gagauz Language and Literature was opened in the parental home where the teacher of the Gagauz language Dmitry Christioglo lived. He said that no matter how rich a person is, his most priceless wealth is his native language and culture. Address: Chirsovo village

Phone: +373 69 920 783 Mon - Fri: 10:00 - 17:00

#### National Gagauz History and Ethnographic Museum, Besalma

This is the most important Gagauz museum, focused on their culture and traditions. Since 1988 the museum has taken the name of its founder D. Cara Ciobanu, writer and researcher of Gagauz origin. Address: Lenin str, 110, Besalma village **Phone:** +373 29 853 272 Tue - Fry: 09:00 -16:30 Sat - Sun: 09:00 - 14:00

#### The Besalma Windmill

The Besalma Windmill dates back to the 20th century when the mill made wheat and corn flour. It is still functional, and is even started

city and the people from this local family. Address: Zarecinaia str. 32, Ceadir-Lunga **Phone:** +373 79 705 433

#### Carir- Kraft Cheese and Winery, Ceadir Lunga

Recommended accommodation icon



( M

This is the official end point of the cycling route if you are coming from Comrat. If you still have some energy, take your bike to the nearby Sf. Dumitru monastery or At Prolin horse farm before dropping it off here.

Note: If you are starting the cycling route from here to Comrat then this is where you pick up your bicycle.

Address: 1 May str, Ceadir-Lunga Phone: +373 69 332 222

### "At Prolin" Horse Farm, Ceadir Lunga

"At-Prolin" is the only farm in Moldova specialized in breeding thoroughbred horses. At the farm you will find more than 65 thoroughbred horses. The most important farm activity is to train horses for the annual Gagauz festival held in April. Address: Lenin str. 91, Ceadîr-Lunga Phone: +373 68 105 777 Email: chelesconstantin@mail.ru

