

TOP 10

REASONS TO VISIT

MOLDOVA



Welcome to Moldova!

Noroc! This is how Moldovans greet our friends, and we extend the same warm welcome to you as you discover our beautiful and special country.

Moldova is a little known destination in Eastern Europe with a strong authentic travel experience to share with travelers, welcomed locally as guests. Curious travelers are rewarded with our incredible wine, ancient cultural heritage, delicious traditional cuisine, untouched nature, rural villages filled with traditional culture, and a genuine hospitality that makes Moldovans some of the most welcoming people on the continent.

Inside this brochure, you'll find just a few of the many reasons to visit Moldova, plus essential information, tips, contacts, and other details to help you plan your trip.

We look forward to seeing you soon here in Moldova – discovering the routes of life, wine tasting at one of our many wineries, immersing yourself in one of our many cultural events, hiking along the cliffs, or just watching the sunset over one of our many tranquil villages.

There will be no shortage of experiences where small, undiscovered Moldova will surprise you with its richness of spirit, beauty, and big heart.

You are always welcome here.

**All the best,
Moldova Travel Team**

What makes Moldova a unique destination?



GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

Located in Eastern Europe at a historic crossroads of civilizations and cultures.



QUALITY OF WINES AND CUISINE

Top 10 global wine destination with new wine and food tourism offers for a special and decadent holiday.



UNDISCOVERED...FOR NOW

Get away from the crowds for a personal touch and service.



AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

Endless opportunities to experience Moldova's genuine hospitality and spirit.



DYNAMIC CAPITAL CITY

From hip wine bars and restaurants to world famous opera and ballet, Chisinau has it all.



4 SEASONS AND 40 FESTIVALS

Cultural, wine and music festivals throughout the year. something special for each season.



MULTI-ETHNIC AND DIVERSE

Six distinct ethnic groups live here - we respect diversity and speak your LANGUAGE.



IDEAL FOR REMOTE WORK

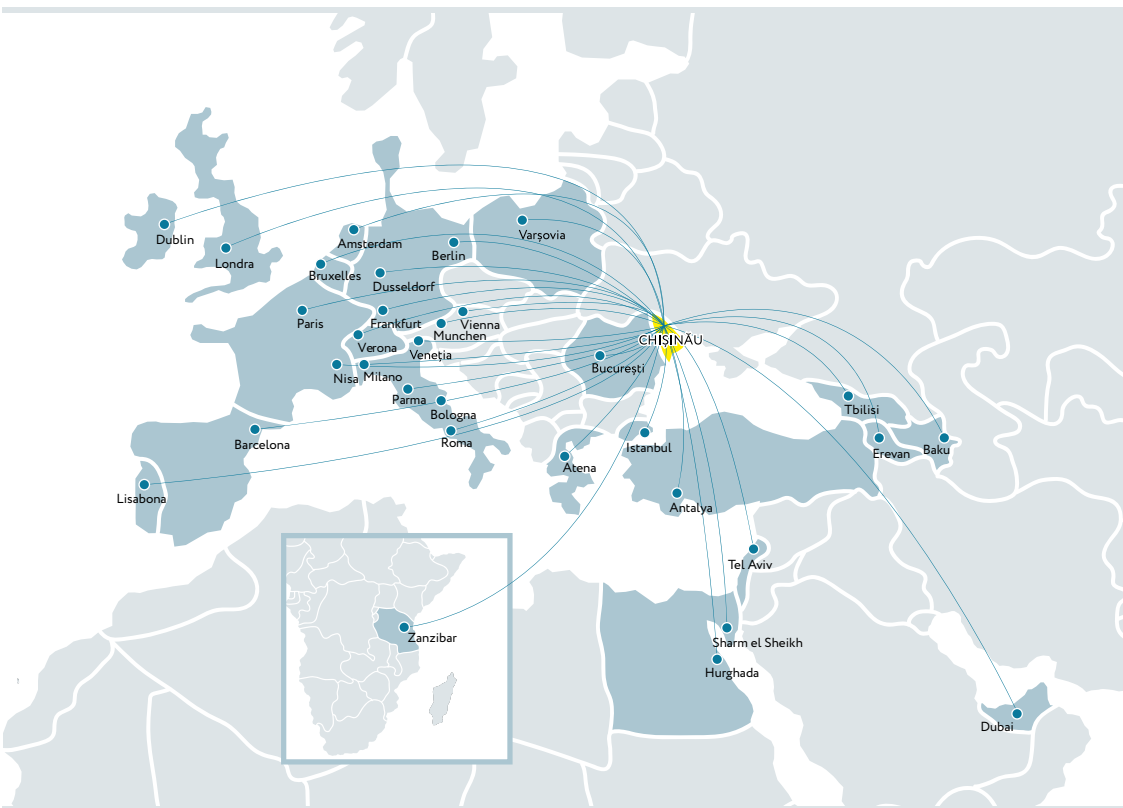
High-speed INTERNET and mobile data accessibility makes for a perfect remote workplace.

Moldova is closer than you think

It's becoming easier and faster to travel to Moldova with an increasing number of direct flights to Chisinau Airport (RMO). This means that **Moldova is just two to three hours away from most major cities in Europe.**

You can reach Moldova with direct flights from 37 cities:

Bucharest, Athens, Vienna, Baku, Warsaw, Riga, Tel Aviv, Berlin, Dusseldorf, Munich, Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Cologne, Bologna, Rome, Milan, Parma, Verona, Venice, Paris Nice, London, Brussels, Dublin, Barcelona, Lisbon, Amsterdam, Istanbul, Tbilisi, Yerevan, Dubai, El Sheikh, Hurghada, Zanzibar.



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Reasons To Visit Moldova

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Reason #1

Experience the unexpected

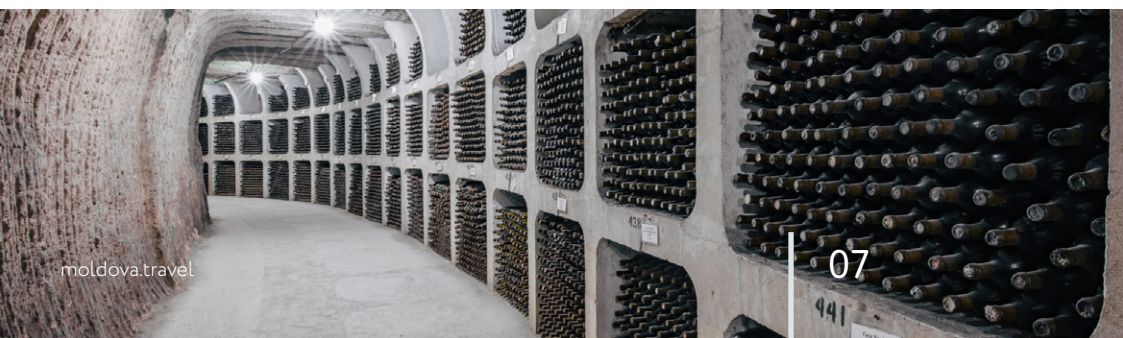
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Moldova is (until now) an undiscovered Eastern European destination where, the next adventure is always around the corner. This is not only because of the strong tradition of hospitality where local people want to share and take good care of their guests, but it's also due to the unexplored nature of the country that spurs exploration and discovery.

The country's long history and rich cultural heritage, from the Cucuteni-Trypillia culture that produced wine 7,000 years ago to the Soviet Union in the 20th century, have created a diverse, agriculturally (and wine) rich and dynamic independent Moldova today.

Maybe you choose to walk through the world's largest wine collection and its millions of bottles at the Milestii Mici Winery, discover the Gagauzian culture and cuisine, visit the Transnistrian Region to go back in time to the USSR, kayak in the Prut or Nistru Rivers, explore medieval cave monasteries at Orheiul Vechi (Old Orhei), cycle along the Lake Beleu in the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, taste Moldovan wine made from local grape varieties like Feteasca Neagra or Alba, stay in a rural B&B and learn how to cook traditional Moldovan dishes, or relax in Chisinau with its hip wine bars and prestigious opera house.

There is a lot to discover in Moldova. And a lot will surprise you.



Follow one of the world's oldest wine-producing countries

With a wine heritage dating back almost 7,000 years, Moldova is one of the world's oldest wine-producing country. Moldovan wine remains the pride of our people today and it continues to play an important role in local culture and festivals, like the National Wine Day that is celebrated each year in the Great National Assembly Square of Chisinau the first weekend in October.

Perhaps it's not surprising to learn then that Moldova has the highest concentration of vineyards per capita and the largest collection of wine in the world at the Milestii Mici Winery, with over 2 million bottles. Yes, wine is a big deal here!

One of the best ways to learn about and enjoy Moldovan wine is to follow one of the Council of Europe's "Iter Vitis" Wine Routes that takes you deep into each of our wine regions, including Codru, Stefan Voda and Valul lui Traian. These Wine Routes combine the best of Moldovan wine and cultural heritage with recommended stops at wineries, monasteries, nature reserves, fortresses and other attractions. **Go wine tasting at one of the 40 wineries offering tours, enjoy a hearty meal and pairings at their restaurants, or even stay overnight at select wineries.**

We recommend you pair a traditional Moldovan meal with a local grape variety like Feteasca Neagra, Feteasca Alba, Rara Neagra, Feteasca Regala or Viorica. Noroc!! (Cheers!!)

Scan to see more
information



Immerse yourself into local culture and hospitality in Moldova's countryside

Our people and the hospitality they show visitors really are what makes our country special and your visit memorable. Travellers usually leave Moldova filled with stories of the people they met —about generous hosts from the countryside, a smiling and open winemaker or a craftsman excited to share their craft.

The best way to experience this hospitality and the feel of the countryside, where so many cultural and culinary traditions are preserved, is by staying in a family-owned rural bed and breakfast. Moldova has a network of over 50 such rural guest houses, many of which are in traditional country homes and offer home-cooked meals, usually with fresh ingredients from the garden or nearby farm. There is a peace and tranquility in the Moldovan countryside that allows you to recharge batteries and reconnect with nature, people and yourself.

The Valeni village from the south of Moldova awarded “Best Tourism Village” by UNWTO

Located in the Lower Prut UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, “Valeni offers a unique tourism experience, blending cultural immersion, Moldovan wine tasting, and natural adventures...reshaping its economy from unsustainable agriculture to sustainable practices.” - UNWTO



Reason #4

Create your own adventure in Moldova's nature

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Moldova's untouched nature, from its forests to its rivers and lakes, are the perfect place to get away from it all. A few of Moldova's unique natural sites include the Codrii forest and one of the longest caves in the world, the "Emil Racovita Cave." A truly special and peaceful place is Lake Beleu, part of the Lower Prut UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, in southern Moldova, which is a popular spot for pelicans and other birds migrating north or south. You can also enjoy finding over 100 different species of birds at Orheiul Vechi (Old Orhei) most of the year on one of its many bird-watching trails.

Moldova has also become a place for adventure travellers interested in cycling, hiking, kayaking, rock climbing and other outdoor activities. With over 500 km of newly developed cycling routes, newly marked hiking trails, and kayaking options along the Nistru and Prut Rivers, there are many different ways to immerse yourself in Moldova's nature and enjoy a bit of adventure.

Northwestern Moldova has become the country's latest adventure travel hub with a remarkable new 156 km ecotourism route called the "Prut Cliffs" with dramatic gorges and water-filled landscapes that also highlights the region's long history and cultural richness.



Join one of Moldova's annual festivals and events

Moldova is a country that loves to celebrate, and locals often extend invitations to visitors to join them in these festivities. Whether it's for one of our traditional Moldovan holidays like Martisor to welcome spring or Memorial Easter, or for one of the numerous festivals held throughout the year, there's always a warm welcome awaiting you. **Over 40 festivals and cultural events are part of the Tree of Life Cultural Touristic Agenda**, including music concerts, cultural festivals, sporting activities (like running through a wine cellar or vineyard), wine events and more.

A few of our most popular annual festivals and events include:

- ♥ **DescOpera Classical Music Festival** (June): With the dramatic Orheiul Vechi's limestone gorge as its natural backdrop, it's hard to imagine a more beautiful setting for experiencing opera and classical music.
- ♥ **Ia Mania Festival** (June-July): Moldova's biggest festival of traditions, handicrafts, and of course "ia" (traditional embroidered blouses).
- ♥ **National Wine Day** (first weekend of October): A nation-wide celebration of Moldovan wine and wine culture with 70+ wineries taking over the center of Chisinau and events at wineries throughout the country.



Taste the rich flavors of traditional Moldovan cuisine

Traditional Moldovan cuisine will surprise you with both rich flavors and simplicity. This is due to the freshness of ingredients as Moldova is an agricultural country with fertile lands and the traditional recipes passed down through generations and still prepared in kitchens around the country. **One of the best places to taste Moldovan food is in the rural guest houses where you will enjoy home-cooked meals with ingredients from the garden or nearby farm.**

Be sure you try our soup called *zeama* made with homemade chicken broth and noodles, *placinte* prepared from a thin dough stuffed with a variety of savory or sweet fillings, *mamaliga* which is like a local polenta usually served with Moldovan cheese (*branza*), sour cream and braised pork, or *sarmale* which are cabbage leaves filled with a spiced rice and meat filling. Make sure you enjoy a glass of Moldovan wine and finish your meal with *baba neagra*, a spongy type cake prepared using a family recipe.

The warm and hospitable nature of Moldovan people will conquer you, as will its national cuisine. When combined, it can be difficult to walk away.



Reason #7

Embark on a unique European city break in Chisinau

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Located only a couple of hours away from most major cities in Europe by direct flight, Chisinau makes for a fun and discovery-filled city break getaway. Wander the streets of Moldova's capital city and you'll find yourself amidst grand Soviet architecture and boulevards, expansive green spaces and parks filled with cafes and local life, 19th century Bernardazzi buildings and modern urban design.

For culture and music lovers there is opportunity to experience opera and ballet at the renowned Maria Biesu National Opera and Ballet Theatre, take part in one of the many festivals and events or visit one of the city's museums.

Wine and food lovers will especially enjoy the new hip wine bars, fine dining restaurants using fresh local ingredients in innovative ways, and boutique hotels that have opened in the last few years. **You'll quickly discover how Chisinau has it all, often at lower cost than many other European cities, for a relaxing and unique city break.**

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Reason #8

Explore medieval cave monasteries and fortresses

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One of the best ways to learn about Moldova's long and rich history, as well as the importance of faith in the country's history and culture, is to visit its unique medieval cave monasteries that served as sanctuaries for monks to practice and live, especially during tumultuous times with different invaders. As you explore Moldova's medieval cave monasteries like Orheiul Vechi and Tipova, you'll find yourself humbled by both the tremendous faith and resilience of the human spirit. **Carved high in the cliffs, these medieval cave monasteries often were placed in rugged landscapes with beautiful views.**


Soroca Fortress' long history dates back to the late 15th century when it was founded by the esteemed Moldovan leader Stephen the Great. Standing watch over the Dneister River, the fortress played an important role in defending the region during different wars with the Ottomans and other invading groups. Thankfully, it survived so that travellers today can enjoy exploring this medieval fortress.


 over **1000** Churches & Monasteries

 **44** Monasteries

 **54** Wooden Churches

 **2** Medieval Fortresses

 **7** Cave Monasteries Tipova, Japca, Saharna, Orheiul Vechi, Cosauti, Calaraseuca, Molovata

 **7** Levels of a monastery carved underground into the rocks



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Reason #9 Celebrate Moldova's multi-ethnic diversity

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Moldova's location in Eastern Europe, at the crossroads between Romania and Ukraine at the intersection of the Danube River and the Black Sea, speaks to the country's rich cultural heritage. Romanian, Russian, Ukrainian, Greek, Tatar, Turkish, Jewish, Armenian, Polish and other ethnic groups have gathered and settled at this crossroads over the centuries, each contributing to the living history, culture and diversity you still find in Moldova today.

For example, Chisinau has recently developed a series of cultural routes to help travellers further understand and explore Chisinau's history and diversity. These themed routes highlight the different ethnicities and people who contributed to the city and its development, including Armenian, Greek, Jewish, and Polish populations.

Another fascinating and unusual place to visit is Gagauzia in southern Moldova. Gagauzian people have their own language, culture, traditions and food that reflect the ethnic group's Turkic roots and deep history.



Enjoy business travel and remote working with fast internet

Another surprising aspect about Moldova is that it is an ideal place for business travel and remote work, whether you decide to stay in the capital city of Chisinau or choose one of the many rural B&Bs in the country with high speed internet. In addition to the availability of free wifi in hotels, cafes, restaurants, parks and even trolleybuses across Chisinau, mobile internet is available throughout Moldova with speeds ranked in the top ten in the world, along with Japan and Latvia. The fast speed, low price and wide coverage of our internet make it easy to stay connected, whether you're traveling or working.

In addition, the availability of coworking places in Chisinau also makes Moldova an ideal place for business travellers remote workers or digital nomads. A growing network of technology startups and creative industries professionals in Moldova provides an opportunity to cooperate and connect to an innovative and creative community.

The beauty of a good internet infrastructure and remote work setup is that it provides you the flexibility to work (or not) where you'd like. Perhaps this flexibility also allows you to explore Moldova along the way and experience everything it has to offer.

(c) Volker Kreidler, photographer



FACT SHEET

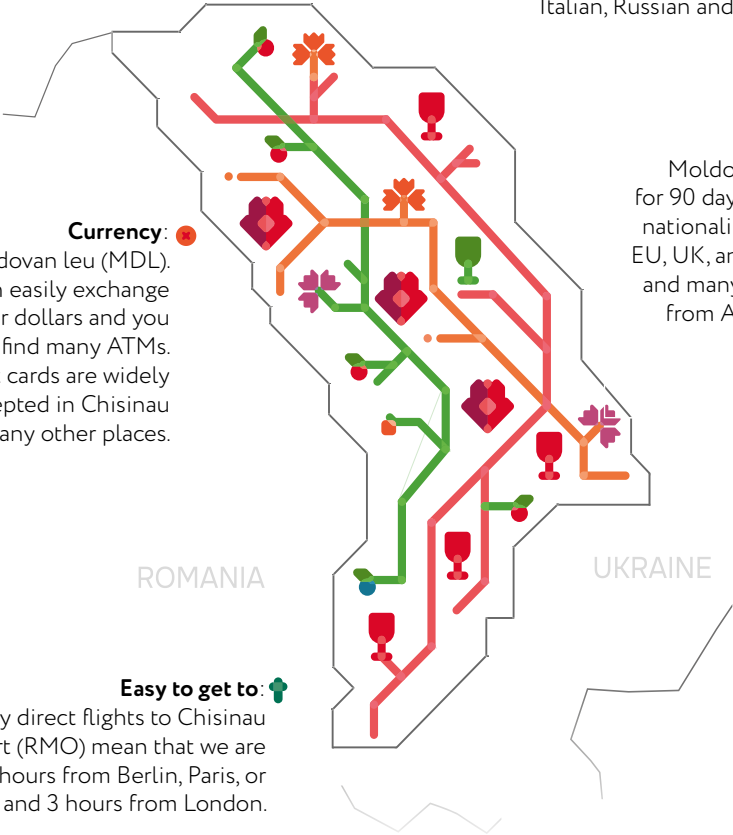
Population: 🍷
2,5 mil. people.

Languages: 🌸
Our official language is Romanian, but many people also speak English, Italian, Russian and other foreign languages.

Currency: 🍷
Moldovan leu (MDL).
You can easily exchange euros or dollars and you will find many ATMs. Credit cards are widely accepted in Chisinau and many other places.

Visa: 🌿
Moldova is visa-free for 90 days for over 100 nationalities, including EU, UK, and US citizens and many nationalities from Asia and South America.

Easy to get to: 🌿
Many direct flights to Chisinau airport (RMO) mean that we are just 2-hours from Berlin, Paris, or Istanbul, and 3 hours from London.



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