

Common borders. Common solutions.



Development and promotion of Active  
tourism in the Black Sea Basin -  
Escapeland



# DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF ACTIVE TOURISM IN THE BLACK SEA BASIN-ESCAPELAND

*This travel guide is developed within the project Escapeland -Joint Development and Promotion of Active Tourism in the Black Sea Basin, financed through the Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme 2014 - 2020*

[www.escapeland.ro](http://www.escapeland.ro)

The project "EscapeLand - Development and Promotion of Active Tourism in the Black Sea Basin, funded by the Joint Operational Programme Black Sea Basin 2014-2020, is implemented by the Galati County Council, having as partners in this project Cantemir District Council - Republic of Moldova, Kutaisi Local Council - Republic of Georgia, Constanta County Territorial Administrative Unit through the Constanta County Council - Romania and Vilkovo Local Council - Odessa Region, Ukraine.

The general objective of the project is to develop and promote the potential for active tourism in the Black Sea Basin, as a key factor in promoting local business and entrepreneurship.

The project aims to create and improve the infrastructure for active tourism, to jointly promote tourist objectives and products from the five partner regions and to intensify cross-border cooperation between public authorities and private sector in the Black Sea Basin.



Constanța Harbour

## CONSTANTA COUNTY - ROMANIA -

Constanța County serves as a principal access point to and from southeastern Europe. As the most urbanized region in Romania, it boasts about a population of 630,679, based on the 2022 census, and spans an area of 7,071.29 square kilometers.

### ROMANIAN BLACK SEA COAST

The spa and leisure potential of the coastal region has boosted the strong development of tourism and the hotel industry. Located between the parallels 45° 12' and 43° 43' north latitude, the Romanian coast is on the same geographic coordinates as famous European resorts such as Split, Rimini, Sanremo, Monaco and Nice.



Eforie Marina



The historic fortifications in Constanța County play a pivotal role in Romania's narrative. These sites allow visitors a captivating journey into the county's history and culture. They provide a window to ancient civilizations and their magnificent structures, reflecting the area's rich historical inheritance. A proposed trail of these ancient fortresses allows visitors to immerse themselves in the tales and battles of Thracians, Greeks, and Romans that shaped our history.

THE TIMELESS TOMIS CITY was established during the latter half of the 6th century BC by Miletus' Greek settlers. Initially, it served as a mere trading post, but by the late Roman era, it had become the capital of Scythia Minor.



Archeological Park Constanta



Archeological Park Constanta

The city's defensive structures Throughout history, Tomis' defenses have undergone numerous reconstructions and expansions. Currently, remnants of the enclosure wall constructed between the late 3rd century and early 4th century AD can still be seen. This wall followed a polygonal-trapezoidal path from NE to SW, surrounding the Peninsula area (the city's historical heart) between Mircea cel Bătrân Street and the Port's Gate 3.

Notable sites include the fortress' NE entrance (47 Mircea cel Bătrân St.), remains in the archaeological park (the Butchers' Tower at the NE corner, walls, and twin gates with square towers), and a tower's ruins on Termele Romane St.'s southern side, opposite the Court House, likely part of an early Roman port defense.



Roman Terme





**Roman Mosaic**

The Roman mosaic-adorned structure Unearthed in 1959, this is among Tomis' standout archaeological treasures. Positioned SW of Ovidiu Square, it lies just behind the History Museum (V. Canarache Street).

Constructed between the 3rd-4th centuries AD, the edifice had three levels organized in descending stepped terraces towards the harbor. The two base levels had 11 vaulted chambers each, used for storage. The topmost floor consisted of a vast continuous hall graced with a striking polychrome mosaic flooring featuring detailed geometric designs, reminiscent of an eastern rug. Of the initial 2000 sqm, only 100 sqm remain intact today. The structure that presently shelters the mosaic was constructed in 1972 and now functions as a museum.



**Roman Fortifications**

The Roman thermal establishments Positioned to the mosaic structure's south, they hail from roughly the same era. Excavations have shown a rectangular 300 sqm space, stone-paved and with three entrances. Beneath the flooring lay a

hypocaustum - an ancient underfloor heating mechanism made of channels and pipes.

**THE HISTORIC HISTRIA CITY** This stands as the most ancient urban site within modern-day Romania's bounds. Established during the latter part of the 7th century BC by Greek settlers from Miletus (present-day Turkey's SE), it swiftly rose as a paramount trade hub. From the 1st century BC, it fell under Roman control but maintained its administrative independence. The city's earlier fortifications from the archaic and Hellenistic times were succeeded by Roman and Byzantine defenses. The existing enclosure wall hails from the 4th century AD. The city's life came to a close in the 7th century AD due to Avaro-Slavic raids. Presently, the site hosts a museum and stands as one of Romania's most expansive and vital archaeological parks.

**THE LEGENDARY CALLATIS CITY** Unlike its Pontic peers, Histria and Tomis, Callatis emerged in the 6th century BC, established by Dorian Greeks from Heraclea Pontica (presently Karadeniz Ereğli, Turkey) which was a Megara offspring. Essentially, Callatis was a descendant of another settlement. It fell to Roman control in 71-72 AD, and witnessed a significant growth during the Roman era, flourishing for over a thousand years. The medieval era saw



**Callatis Archeology Museum**

its resurgence, but it only acquired its contemporary name in the 16th century.



**Defensive Wall**

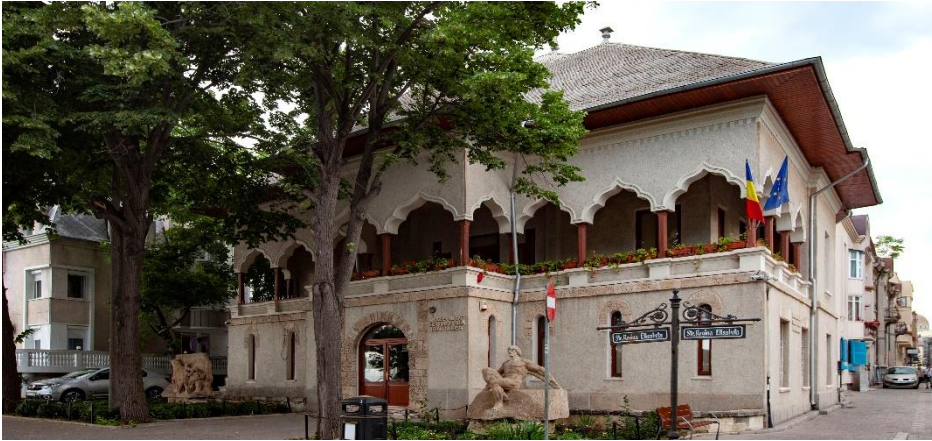
The Defensive Wall Sturdy barriers designed to repel invasions protected the ancient Black Sea Greek colonies. Within these protective structures, vital edifices were situated. Callatis boasted two ancient fortifications that, in contrast to those in Histria and Tomis, were superimposed, tracing roughly identical paths. One hails from the Hellenistic era (4th-3rd centuries BC) while the other has Roman origins, undergoing multiple refurbishments and fortifications in the 2nd century AD, 3rd-4th centuries AD, and so forth. Remnants of these barriers can be observed today along Constanța Road, close to the Archaeology Museum (fortress's NW corner), at the southernmost part of Emil Palade Street, and displayed at the “New Belvedere” ensemble.

Constanța County stands as a testament to iconic ancient civilizations that have left an indelible mark on human history, bestowing abundant artifacts upon the region. Over recent years, these have been meticulously examined and are now showcased in museums, presented both traditionally and via engaging multimedia platforms. Beyond these, Constanța County also houses museums celebrating art, folklore, traditions, naval history, and natural sciences.



**Constanța History And Archaeology Museum**





Ion Jalea Museum

**THE CONSTANȚA NATIONAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM**  
Once serving as the city hall, this museum now showcases one of Romania's most extensive and captivating assortments of archaeological finds. The Neolithic era shines through its almost contemporary allure and distinctiveness of relics, implements, and idols from the Hamangia, Boian, and Gumelnița cultures. This era transitions to the Bronze Age, marked by the rise of the initial Thracian tribes, followed by the Iron Age, featuring a granite menhir depicting a Thracian-Scythian face and a bronze ceremonial cauldron from the 5th century BC. The Roman period narrative unfolds from the Adamclisi battle (Tropaeum Traiani) and stretches to the full annexation of Dacia and its eventual Roman departure. On display are a plethora of items such as ceramics, glassware, bronze artifacts, lamps, statues, inscriptions,



Constanța History And Archaeology Museum

milestones, Roman legion-stamped bricks, capitals, foundational columns, and aqueduct components.

**CONSTANȚA ART MUSEUM** The Art Museum stands as a nationally esteemed hub for showcasing, conserving, appraising, and delving into Romania's modern visual arts. Inaugurated in 1961, the Museum navigates visitors through a century of Romanian artistry in painting, sculpture, and graphics (roughly from 1840-1950), concurrently emphasizing the significance of Dobrudja's marine-inspired landscapes within the nation's artistic tapestry. The museum occupies two conjoined structures: one being Constanța's most ancient public school, built in a neoclassical design from



Constanța Art Museum

1895, and the other, a contemporary construction from the 1980-1982 period. Exhibits are chronologically arranged, providing an integrated overview of Romania's art journey. The artistic voyage commences with 19th-century artworks by luminaries such as Theodor Aman, Nicolae Grigorescu, and Ioan Andreescu, and sculptures crafted by figures like Ioan Georgescu, Frederick Stork, and Dimitrie Paciurea.



Romanian Navy Museum

**CONSTANȚA NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM** This museum boasts a collection of around 12,000 prized exhibits, with the most notable collections encompassing:

Navigational tools and gear: inclusive of anchors, propellers, and lighthouse optics.

Artillery, weaponry technology, and apparatus. Diving apparatus: showcasing various diving outfits, a comprehensive heavy diving ensemble, dive-related items, and a U.L.I.S. submersion suit.

Undersea weaponry: The museum takes pride in its possession of five torpedoes, methodically arranged based on their technological progression, alongside an array of mines sourced domestically or acquired by the Romanian military, predominantly from the world wars era.

Naval machinery and systems: With the decommissioning of certain iconic Romanian Navy vessels, specific components, primarily engines, were designated for display in the exhibition area.

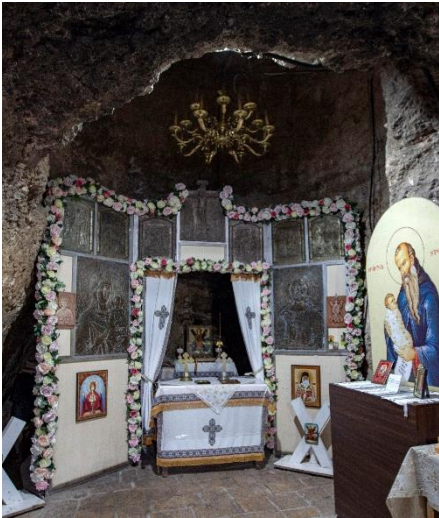
Additional collections span ship replicas, plaques, medals, emblems, seals, currency, uniforms and related accessories, metopes, photos, artworks, patents, certificates, records, and more

The museum dedicates special focus on the establishment of the triad of Greek cities: Histria, Tomis, and Callatis, and the cultural symbiosis between Greek settlers and the Dobrudja locals. There's a prevalent belief that numerous Getae from Dobrudja enrolled as mariners aboard Histrian, Tomitan, or Callatian vessels.



Museum Of Popular Art





**St. Andrew Monastery**

Based on the tradition of recent times, it's believed that the Apostle Andrew, accompanied by his disciples, journeyed through Dobrudja and took refuge in a cave near what is now Ion Corvin. This secluded cave amidst wild hills offered them both protection and a place of devotion.

The earliest tangible proof of Christianity in Dobrudja is traced back to Tomis from the 2nd-3rd century AD. Noteworthy artifacts

include a lamp adorned with early Christian symbols (such as the cross, dove, and dolphin) and a gem from a ring featuring the Crucifixion scene, now housed in the British Museum.

Documentary records from the early 4th century AD highlight the first Christian martyrs of the region, including St. Epictetus and Astion from Halmyris (Murighiol), and St. Bishop Titus, St. Zotikos, Attalos, Kamasis, and Filippus from Niculițel. Their sacred remains are cherished in various Dobrudja churches.



**Dervent Monastery**

Between the 4th and 6th centuries, Christianity flourished in the region between the Danube and the Black Sea. This is evident from the inscriptions, religious artifacts, graves, crypts, and predominantly from the Christian basilicas found in principal cities like Tomis, Callatis, Tropaeum Traiani, Histria, Axiopolis, Capidava, and Ulmetum.



**Sf. Mina Church**

In Tomis, by 381 AD, the oldest metropolis in present-day Romania was established, overseeing all the Black Sea territories from Crimea to Varna.

Dobrudja saw the birth of church luminaries like St. John Cassian and St. Dionysius Exiguus. Moreover, in the 14th century, St. Hyacinth embarked on his journey from the Vicina fortress to become the inaugural metropolitan of Wallachia at Curtea de Argeș. From its inception, Dobrudja became a confluence of cultures and peoples. Over time, Romanians, Aromanians, Turks, Tatars, Greeks, Armenians, Italians, Germans, Lipovans, and Ukrainians contributed to the region's rich tapestry, fostering a harmonious coexistence.

Highlighting its religious diversity, Dobrudja is home to various worship sites - from Orthodox and Catholic to Muslim and Mosaic - which can be explored on a themed route across southern Dobrudja.

Famous for its sun-kissed vineyards, Constanța County is a haven for cultivating premier grape varieties. Dobrudja wines are renowned for their sweet fruity undertones and refined palette.



**Dobrudja Grapes**



**Dobrudja Wineries**

Prime grape varieties, thriving on sunlit hills with sandy terrain, include Fetească Regală, Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Gris, and many more. Their growth conditions ensure high natural sugar content and the soil attributes give the wines a smoother taste.

Prominent vineyards such as Murfatlar, Rasova, and Cernavodă, among others, produce acclaimed wines in the region. The wine varieties span across reds, whites, roses and also sparkling wines.



**Murfatlar Wineries**

Winery tours invite aficionados to experience tastings and savor exquisite cuisines that complement each wine. Every bottle tells a tale and the ambiance of these venues makes for an idyllic getaway. Autumn ushers in the grape harvest season, festivity tourists are encouraged to partake in.



**Sinoe Lake**



For nature lovers, the vast stretch between the Danube and the Black Sea in Constanța County offers unparalleled biodiversity. From rugged landscapes and forests to lakes and unique



**Danube Delta Fishing Boat**

ecosystems like the Movile Cave, there's much to explore. Unique sites such as the sea dunes in Agigea and the Marine Sanctuary at 2 Mai-Vama Veche are unparalleled in Romania. The Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve is a UNESCO protected site and Europe's second-largest delta, home to an array of rare flora and fauna.

**DANUBE DELTA BIOSPHERE SANCTUARY** The Danube Delta, Europe's second-largest river delta, stands as the continent's most pristine wetland. Bounded by the Black Sea to its east, the Chilia Branch to the north, and flanked by the Razelm-Sinoe Lagoon on the west, it spans 4178 kmp (1613 sqm) predominantly within Romania's borders.

A smaller portion, which encompasses the secondary delta, is situated to the north and east of the Kiliya Branch in Ukraine. This delta is segmented into two primary areas: the river and the fluvial-marine delta. Throughout the Danube Delta, various nature reserves with distinct protection levels have been established.



**Danube Delta**

**VADU, CORBU, AND CAPE MIDIA'S PRISTINE BEACHES** Vadu Beach offers an untouched seaside experience, devoid of any tourist facilities. Stretching for about a mile, Cape Midia Beach lies between Midia Harbor's breakwater and Corbu village. Corbu Beach, a segment of the Grindul Chituc nature sanctuary, is neighboring the beaches of Mamaia and Năvodari.



**Wild Beaches At Vadu, Corbu And Capul Midia**

## VAMA VECHE - 2 MAI NATURE PRESERVE



Vama Veche beach

This reserve, perched in Romania's southern coast between the localities of 2 Mai and Vama Veche and adjacent to the Bulgarian border, is a haven for diverse habitats and rare species. From sandbanks perpetually submerged in seawater to mussel-inhabited reefs, it's also a sanctuary for marine creatures like the bottlenose dolphin and porpoise.

AGIGEA COASTAL DUNES These dunes along the Black Sea coast are anchored by a dense vegetative blanket, deterring wind-driven

sand mobilization. A glance into the past, these landscapes exhibit the coast's state a century ago, populated by numerous scarce plant species. Due to wind actions, these dunes perpetually morph, adjusting their form annually.



Agigea Sea Dunes

AGIGEA MARINE DUNES There are sand dunes on the Black Sea coast fixed by a relatively compact vegetation carpet, which prevents the mobilization of sand by winds. We can see here how the seacoast was a hundred years ago, with most of the plants being very rare.

Under the action of the wind, the dunes are in continuous movement and change their structure slightly every year. This characteristic only allows plants adapted to sandy areas to develop here, where we now find very rare species.



Vama Veche



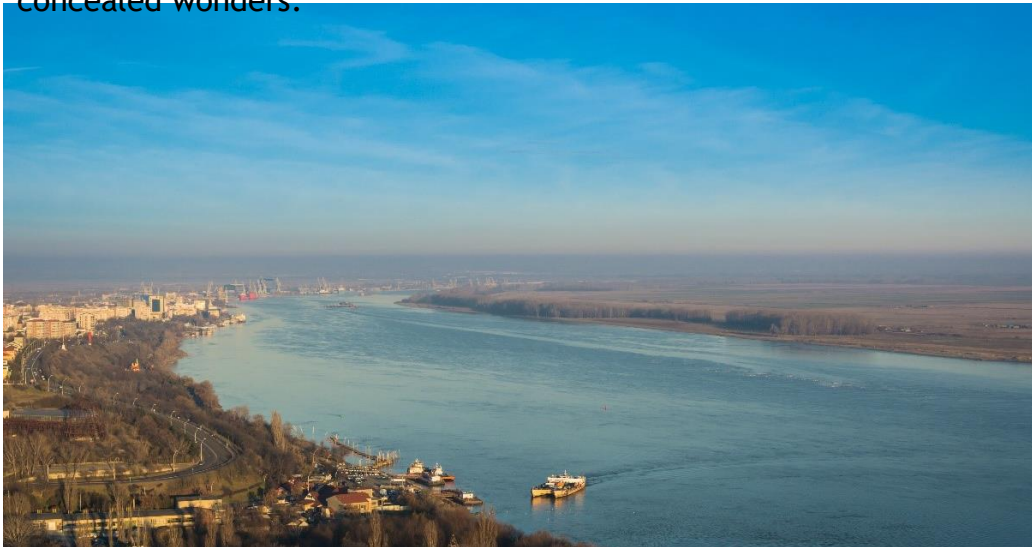
Marina Limanu



# GALAȚI COUNTY - ROMANIA -

Galati is nestled in Romania's southeast, where the Danube merges with the Siret and Prut rivers, not far from the Black Sea. Covering 4,466.3 km<sup>2</sup>, Galati County is home to 65 communities and approximately 627,000 people. The primary urban hub here is the municipality named Galati.

The county is a treasure trove of cultural experiences. Those who wish to explore its deep history and rich culture will discover numerous institutions offering a peek into the county's concealed wonders.



The Danube River Flowing Through Galați



The Tomb Of Innocens

Additionally, Galati County features unparalleled cultural and tourist spots. Highlights encompass the tomb of Innocens from III-IV A.D., the pioneering Daco-Roman Christian site in Romania, and the operational 1898 De-Dion-Bouton vehicle.



De-Dion-Bouton Steam Vehicle

Galati prides itself on possessing the longest cliffs of the Danube, coupled with renowned museums, theaters, historical artifacts, and illustrious personalities. Adjacent to the cliffs is the "Precista fortified Church", remarkable for its internal defenses.



**Paul Paltanea History Museum**

The county teems with museums, making it a chronological exploration. The "Paul Paltanea" History Museum in Galati holds an invaluable collection of over 60,000 items from diverse fields, elegantly displayed for visitors.

Within the bounds of Alexandru Ioan Cuza's former familial abode is the "Casa Cuza Voda" Museum. Here, relics from the 19th century revive an earlier time.



**Smaranda Brăescu Parachuting  
And Aviation Pioneer**

Such a backdrop fosters traditional cultural events reminiscent of classical European towns. The erstwhile Tinc pharmacy, now the "House of Collections" Museum, houses exquisite collections like those of "George Maksay" and "Smaranda Braescu", all set in a building from 1900.

The building, built in 1900, was intended as a pharmacy, and at

the upper levels were the home of pharmacist Constantin Tinc and space allocated to the attending personnel.

The "Hortensia Papadat Bengescu" House in Ivesti is a tribute to eminent personalities of Ivesti, while the "Ion Avram-Dunareanu" Rural House in Suhurlui paints a vivid picture of traditional village

life.



**Costache Negri Memorial House**

The "Costache Negri" Memorial House envelops visitors in a 19th-century ambiance, revealing artifacts from Costache Negri's life.

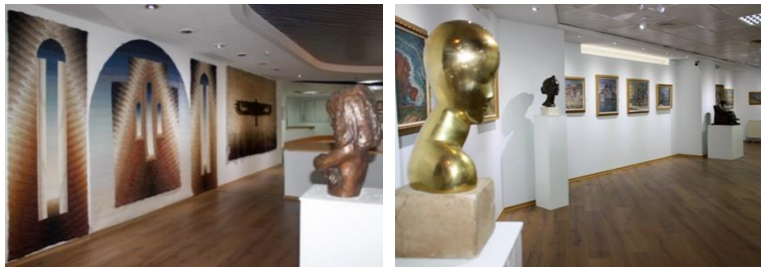
Furniture and decorative art pieces from famous European styles, paintings, photographs and documents relevant to the life and work of Costache Negri can be found in the seven exhibition halls.



**Costache Negri Memorial House**



The Museum of Visual Art in Galati is also an extremely popular tourist attraction, being the first Romanian museum of "contemporary art" to present to the public important works from different periods bearing the signatures of famous artists. The



**Museum Of Visual Art Galați**

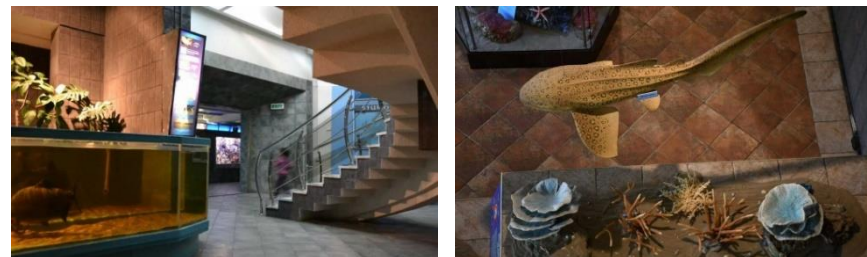
museum was inaugurated in 1967 and contains an impressive number of heritage works, that are regularly used in exhibitions organized by the institution. At the same time, the museum also organizes temporary exhibitions, creation camps and other types of events that promote Romanian and universal art and cultural values.



**Rasvan Angheluta Complex Of Natural Sciences**

Art harmoniously mingled with nature in Galati, including "Rasvan Angheluta" Museum Complex of Natural Sciences. It was founded in 1990 and comprises a variety of sections.

The Museum Section of the Museum Complex offers for visitation to the public, through permanent or temporary exhibitions, important collections of geology, mineralogy, Ichthyology and biology, which total more than 60,000 scientific pieces.



**Geology, Mineralogy, Ichthyology And Biology Exhibitions**

The aquarium is located at the semibasement of the Museum Complex building and comprises an impressive collection of fish species from the basin of the Lower Danube River, the Mediterranean Sea, as well as the tropical freshwater ichthyofauna. In short, a living world depicted in a wide range of shapes, colours and sizes.

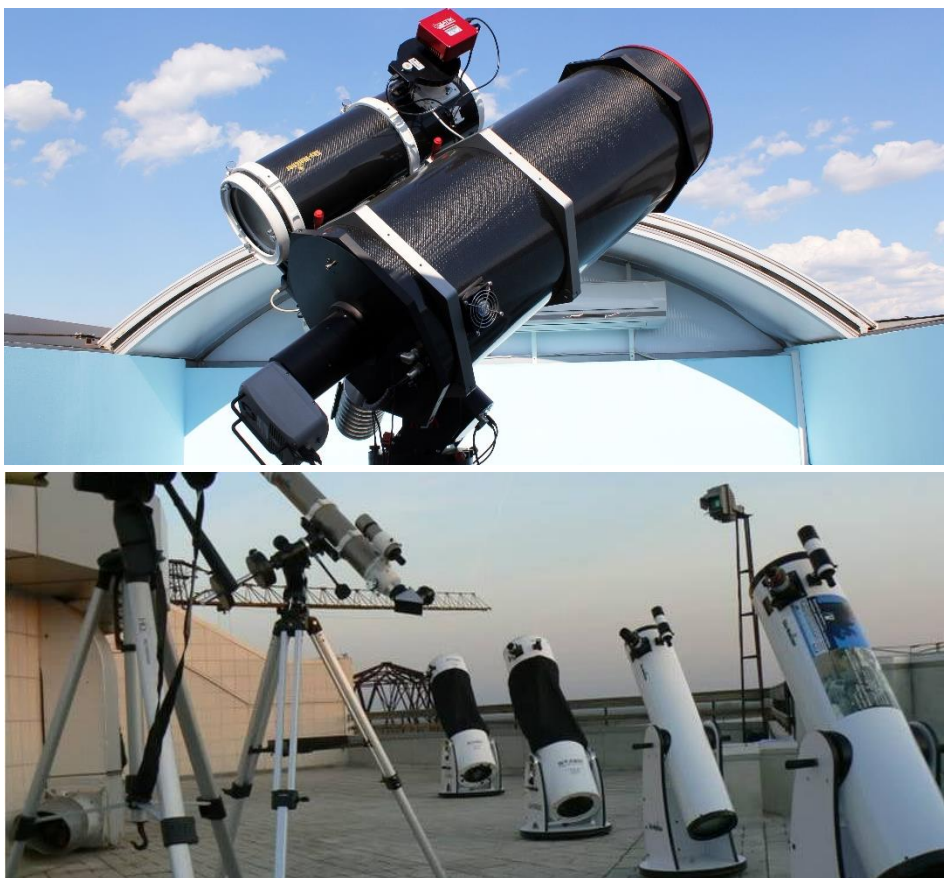
The Botanical Garden is a fascinating place, full of colour and



**Galați Botanical Garden**

floristic diversity, a relaxing place where you actually feel like you are loading up on energy, an oasis of tranquility on an area of 18 hectares.

is the largest and most modern observatory in Romania. Equipped with a roll-off roof and telescope, it allows solar and nocturnal astronomical observations, and the projection room offers tourists the opportunity to imaginarily travel to all corners of the universe.



**Galați Astronomical Observatory**

The Zoo, located in the Garboavele Forest, Tulucești Commune, is home to a varied collection of animal, mammal and bird species from several geographical regions of the world (Europe, Asia and Africa).



**Galați Zoo**

Soon, the Complex's offer will be complemented by a greenhouse for tropical plants and a permanent exhibition for the Prut-Danube fishing area where, with the help of technology, visitors can take a virtual flight over the Prut and Danube Floodplain.





**Museum Of Christian History**

The building that today houses the Museum of Christian History, Culture and Spirituality on the Lower Danube was built at the end of the 19th century and was inaugurated as the Episcopal Palace in 1901. The museum

hosts a spectacular collection of garments, holy vessels, books and other personal objects of the lower Danube hierarchies, original liturgical pieces, icons, paintings etc.



**Episcopal Palace Of The Lower Danube**

**EscapeLand** " Adventure Park, nestled within the Gârboavele Forest, opened its doors in early May this year and quickly became a hotspot for adventure enthusiasts. This recreational spot perfectly blends the serenity of nature with exhilarating activities.

The Gârboavele Forest earned its status as a tourism hub of Galați County around the same time various attractions were developed, including the Zoo, the Fishery Museum, the Village Museum, and the barbecue zone. Now, with the addition of "EscapeLand" Adventure Park, it stands as a haven for relaxation in Galați, ideal for both young and old to unwind.

The park aims to deliver memorable experiences for those eager for adventure, and for those wishing to spend quality time with loved ones amidst nature. It enhances the recreational options available to the residents of Galați.

Boasting 15 varied routes that incorporate zip lines, ladders, floating platforms, and an array of interconnected challenges, participants can select a path suited to their fitness level, age, and skill.

Nearly 5,000 Galați locals, alongside visitors from across the country and overseas, have already tried and tested these routes. Kids seem to be the most thrilled participants, even those who



**Escapeland Team**





Park Routes

are quite young. The routes in the park are color-coded for easier distinction based on their difficulty. The Purple trails are the simplest, followed by Yellow, Green, and Blue. For those seeking the ultimate challenge, there's the Black route, tailored for seasoned athletes.

But Galati also means theatre or musical festivals for all ages: puppet performances for children, comedy, opera and operetta, as well as folklore and fanfare. All of these are just a few things Galati has to offer.



National Theater of Opera and Operetta "Nae Leonard"

## CANTEMIR DISTRICT - MOLDOVA -

Cantemir District in the Republic of Moldova boasts a diverse array of tourist draws: from religious and cultural experiences to forest adventures and wine explorations. Despite its scenic beauty, much of its tourism potential remains undiscovered. There's a pressing need to highlight the district's heritage, shine a light on the southern rural areas, and unveil the mystic tales of the Prut riverbank, transforming it into a magnet for travelers.



Prut Riverbank



Currently, the main tourist attractions in Cantemir district include:

### **Prut river**

The Prut is a 953 km long river, on Romanian territory the river has a length of 742 km, a hydrographic basin of 10990 km<sup>2</sup> and an average multiannual flow of 110 m<sup>3</sup> / sec (before its discharge into the Danube). The

Prut River was known in ancient times as Pyretus, and the Scythians called it Porata, meaning stormy water.



Prut River

### **Cantemir town**

The town of Cantemir is a town is the youngest town in the Republic of Moldova. It was first certified as an administrative unit in 1973, when this locality populated by cannery workers was named Cantemir, in honor of the ruler of Moldova, Dimitri



Cantemir Town Entry

Cantemir. The tourist objectives of the city that we can visit are: History Museum "Dimitrie Cantemir", monument "Dimitrie Cantemir", White House (City Hall), Obelisk of Heroes Fallen in the War in Afghanistan, Obelisk of Glory dedicated to Operation Iasi-Chisinau, etc.

### **Mausoleum Cathedral in the village of Cania**

The cathedral-mausoleum dedicated to "Saint Martyr Dimitrie" and "all the Roman Saints" in the village of Cania is a place of the Lord, dedicated to the heroes who fell in the Second World War. The cathedral is under construction.



Mausoleum Cathedral

### **Stoianovca**

Bulgarians are the fifth largest ethnic group in the Republic of Moldova, with 79,520 people according to the 2004

census, or 2.02% of the total population. The village of Stoyanovka was founded in 1902. Everyone likes the village of Stoyanovca, they honor the customs of tradition and their ancestors. The



Villagers Of Stoyanovca

traditions of celebrating the following holidays have been preserved for the costume: Babyan den (the day of the grandmother of the midwife) Zagovezni (Maslenitsa) the pre-Easter holiday Lazarov den, Velikden (Easter) Kolada (Christmas), etc.



Gotești Thermal Water

The spring with thermal water from Gotești is located in an area, which the locals from Gotești call "La flămânda". At first glance, it looks like a spring with ordinary water, but due to its composition, the water burns, literally. It contains many different salts - calcium, potassium, magnesium and others. All these compounds have a beneficial effect on the human body.

### Imperial Winery

Imperial Vin Winery was founded in 1977. Imperial Vin is a group of interconnected manufacturing and trading companies that offer a complete business cycle, including:

- Own vineyards - 205 hectares
- Collection and processing of up to 15 thousand tons of grapes per season

The winery is located in the south of Moldova, between the villages of Pleșeni and Hănăseni, Cantemir district, in the heart of the Valul lui Traian wine region. Imperial Vin Group produces

wines under various brands. We are one of the largest wine exporting companies in the Republic of Moldova.



Imperial Winery

### The spring of Stephen the Great from the village of Cociulia

Legend has it that Prince Ștefan Vodă Together with his army, coming from a battle, decided to quench their thirst this spring, letting the ruler bow and his hat fell off. In honor of this event, the inhabitants decided to name the village: Cociulia and erected a monument in the form of a hat. "Craft center" - model type from the village of Ciobalaccia, has been active since 2013, where folk craftsmen from the region can make works specific to the area: weaving, weaving It also organizes sessions twice a year to involve the local community.



Monument In The Form Of A Hat.





Tissue warfare is one of the oldest human inventions. It is a woodworking machine used in the manufacture of textile fiber fabrics.



**Traditional Tissue Warfare**

### **Folk craft doll**

The popular craftswoman Valentina Cemârtan from the village of Țolice, makes porcelain dolls. By making popular dolls, it promotes the national dress of Moldova country.



**Manufacture Of Textile Fiber Fabric**



**Valentina Cemârtan Porcelain Dolls Creator**



**Landscape reservation "Codrii Tigheci"**, a natural area protected by the state. It covers an area of 2519 ha, between the villages of Largața and Capaclia, the Cantemir forest district, Tigheci - Cantemir district. The landscape can be described as a forest-type natural forest on the watershed and steep slopes, with Pedunculate oak, sessile oak, hornbeam, ash, linden, and scorch.



**Tigheci Forest Reservation**

### **Fairies Fountain**

Legend has it that in the past there were three wells, three fairies, which were sisters. But now only the little sister's fountain has been preserved, unfortunately. It is said that if the young girls wash with water from that well, then they will get married soon.



**Young Woman Washing In Fairies Fountain**

### **Vineyards and wineries in Cantemir district**



**Viticulture in Cantemir district**

In the Cantemir district are produced wines made with from grapes with great responsibility. Viticulture is a basic branch in the economy of Cantemir district.

Hills with vineyards spread over hundreds of hectares, wineries with underground galleries, modern grape processing technologies to obtain wines, old viticulture traditions and customs preserved for many generations, old collection wines and sunny places are some activities that visitors can enjoy on a wine tour in the wine regions of Cantemir. In the Cantemir district, there are some places where the "drink of the gods" is a business card of great pride, due to the superior quality of the wines produced here.

**Gitana wines** are a real treasure inherited from the family through the fruit of flawless work over time and their perfection through perseverance, not in vain, are so appreciated internationally. Step by step, traditional winemaking practices have begun to be combined with modern technologies.



**Gitana Wine Bottle**



## Podgoria winery

Podgoria Vin is a winery that aims to develop the art of wine through ambition, talent and professionalism. Located in the south of Moldova, in the area with Protected Geographical Indication "Valul lui Traian", Podgoria Vin Vineyard creates wines that combine all the dedication of people and all the unique richness of the terroir. Here, European varieties are cultivated, such as Chardonnay, Cabernet-Sauvignon or Merlot, but also traditional local varieties, such as Viorica, Fetească Regală or Rară Neagră. Podgoria Vin Vineyard also has tasting rooms, where visitors can fully appreciate the uniqueness of the wines created here.

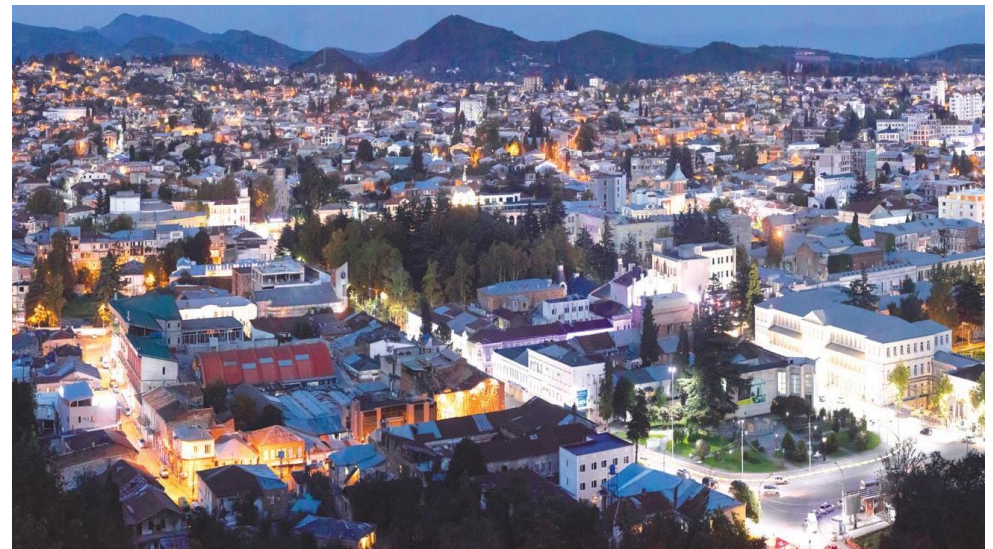


Podgoria Winery Cellar

## SELF GOVERNMENT CITY OF KUTAISI - GEORGIA -

Can you journey to a single city and delve into several days of memorable temporal exploration? Imagine initiating your voyage with authentic dinosaur tracks, ancient human cave homes, Jurassic sanctuaries, gorges, and cascades. Next, immerse yourself in an ancient metropolis, physically feeling artifacts from the 8th century BC, like ceramics and adornments.

The jewels known as “Medea’s Gold”, of the very Medea that you know from the famous myth of the Golden Fleece and the Argonauts.



Kutaisi City

Today, this past, antiquity and intensity is hidden silently in the old streets of Kutaisi, on the old balconies, signs and epitaphs of the colorful houses of the Catholic or Jewish districts.

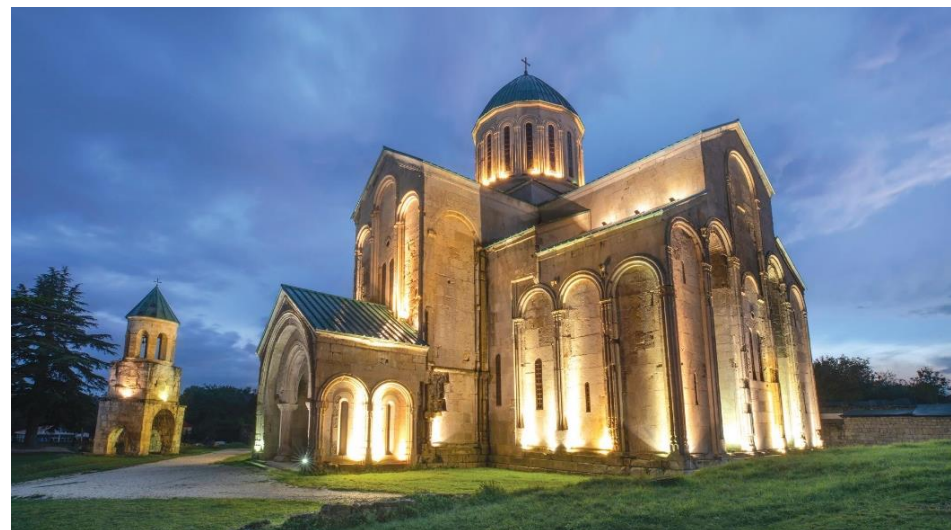
But, if your desire is the opposite, to lose track of time, escape from everyday life and concerns? Then, your place is definitely at the Imeretian table, where accompanied by excellent dishes, light Imeretian wine and sweet Imeretian song, you suddenly find yourself in the magical dimension of the famous Georgian table.



**Old Streets Of Kutaisi**

Kutaisi is the oldest city in Europe Kutaisi - Aia, Kvitaioni, Kutaia, Kutaisi. It is known that Greek historians and Greek mythology assign Kutaisi to so called “Minoan Age” or about the XIV century BC. Archaeological excavations and the artifacts discovered as a

result of them directly in and around Kutaisi, also confirm the existence of a highly developed culture in the ancient era in the area.



**Bagrati Cathedral**

The Cathedral of the Dormition known as the Bagrati Cathedral was built in the 11th century by King Bagrat III Bagrationi as a symbol of Georgia’s unification. Its consecration became an important event of that era. The king also invited distinguished guests from abroad. The Cathedral overlooks the city from the Ukimerioni hill, on which it is located, you can observe almost the entire city of Kutaisi. According to a legend, the most powerful king of Georgia, David Agmashenebeli (the Builder), was consecrated as the king at the age of 16 at the Bagrati Cathedral.



The royal district includes Okros Chardakhi - the palace of the kings of Imereti, six streets and thirty-eight buildings. It is the best place for a walk, to spend free time and to look for nice cafes and restaurants that offer local cuisine.



**Kutaisi Royal District**

Okros Chardakhi is located in the Royal District. Historical sources tell us that in the Middle Ages in Kutaisi, the royal residence was located on the left bank of the Rioni River. According to the travelers' records, it was a complex consisting of various buildings. We are talking about the area near the White Bridge. Today, only one of the buildings of various purposes is preserved, a two-storey building, the reception hall of the Imeretian kings, which is called Okros Chardakhi.

Kutaisi ropeway is located near the White Bridge in Kutaisi. It was built in 1961 and is one of the tourist attractions of the city. The ropeway connects the left bank of the Rioni



**Kutaisi Ropeway**

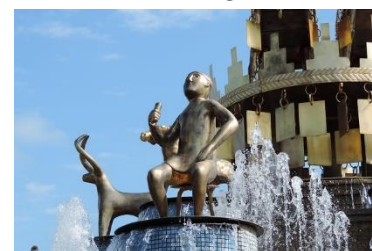
River with the hill on the right side of the river, where the children's amusement park named after the Georgian poet Besik



**Gabashvili Park**

Gabashvili is located. As you travel, beautiful views of the city from above will unfold before your eyes. That is why Kutaisi ropeway is one of the most popular places for local citizens (especially children) and tourists.

The Colchis Fountain is located on the central square of Kutaisi. (Author sculptor Giorgi Kikvadze.) The fountain presents upscale models of archeological artifacts discovered on the territory of Georgia - ancient gold items found during archeological excavations near Kutaisi. Among them you can see the statue of "Tamada" (toastmaster), which dates back to the 7th century BC. The famous golden lion is presented here, which is one of the



**Colchis Fountain**

masterpieces of Georgian goldsmithing of the Early Bronze Age. Other figures of animals from the museum treasures of Georgia. The main figure of the fountain are the horse-shaped temple rings, which are the magnificent examples

of Georgian jewelry art of antiquity and its original size is only 13 centimeters.

The Colchis Fountain of Kutaisi is a very beautiful landmark and at the same time gives us an idea of the ancient culture of Georgia.



**Colchis Fountain**

A piece of the 21st Century Architecture

A futuristic building by architects Alberto Domingo Cabo and Carlos Nazaro. In Kutaisi, the Parliament of Georgia functioned for 6 years in a futuristic building built by architects Alberto Domingo and Carlos Nazaro. This building is the first precedent for creative architecture of the 21st century in Kutaisi. The original shapes and unusual arrangement create an association with a spaceship.



**Parliament of Georgia**

Writer Dato Turashvili caught its likeness with a sketch of an elephant from Saint-Exupéry's "The Little Prince". In any case, the former parliament building is one of the must-see places for Kutaisi guests. Address: Irakli Abashidze Avenue 26.

Kutaisi Central Garden Kutaisi's central garden once was owned by princess Darejan, the daughter of Imeretian king Solomon the First. This garden was presented to her as a dowry when she married Kaikhosro Abashidze. The princess possessed the garden before 1820. After that time the garden experienced many transformations, but its significance had never changed as it still remains as the main gathering place for people living in Kutaisi. In the 19th century, people called the garden "Boulevard". The central garden was a location where prominent public figures, poets and writers were holding meetings and the country's main political issues were discussed.

Kutaisi Botanical Garden, which was founded in 1840, is located one kilometer from the central square of the city. It will be good if you walk this distance and follow the Rioni embankment from the historical chain bridge, on the other side of which you will see the landmarks

of Kutaisi, the historical Catholic Quarter of Kutaisi, their old church and Mtsvanekvavila Church. The garden dendroflora is represented by about 700 species of plants, trees and shrubs from all floristic regions of the world - 210



**Kutaisi Botanical Garden**



species of plants belonging to 80 botanical families. While walking in the garden, you will also notice squirrels in the trees. In the center of the Botanical Garden stands 400 years old oak tree. Inside the tree, you can find a tiny chapel, accommodating one or two people.

Rafting on the River Rioni - traveling down the mountain river in an inflatable boat, it is a fun adventure for extreme lovers. Streams, swings, swirls, obstacles in the form of boulders and logs, as

well as experienced instructors who are ready to make quick and correct decisions in times of difficulty. Along the 4 km long section of the river you will be able to observe the most impressive part of the city by raft and swim under the famous bridges of Kutaisi.



**Rafting on the River Rioni**

Cracked Lake Natural Monument is located in village Kumistavi and represents an existing location for extreme adventure lovers. The lake is located at the bottom of a wide fissure. The width of the fissure is 2-2.5 meters, and the depth - 25 meters. Note that access to the lake is impossible without special equipment.



**Cracked Lake Natural Monument**

Katskhi Column is a 40 meters high limestone monolith. It is become widespread to general public in 1944, when the first expedition topped the pillar. Researchers discovered the remains of churches and other buildings of the 5th-6th centuries on the top of the pillar.



**Katskhi Column**

According to the researchers the construction of chapels in such places is related to reclusiveness, which in the VI century was widespread in Asia and, first and foremost, in Syria, and Christian

Georgia had close relations with this later. Currently, a church is built on the Katskhi pillar, where a hermit monk lives.

Resort Sairme is located in a mountainous subtropical zone, south of Kutaisi, 950 m above the sea level and belongs to the Baghdati municipality. It is biggest resort in Europe and South Caucasus.

Green cover consists of 60 hectares. It is the only resort where four different therapeutic and one thermal springs are coming out and cure many diseases. Comfortable buvettes are arranged on the springs, each spring has its own purpose



**Resort Sairme**

## VILKOVO CITY - UKRAINE -

Vilkovo, nestled in the former Kiliya district of the Odessa region, lies within the Ukrainian segment of the Danube Delta, right on the frontier with Romania. Serving as the administrative hub of the Danube Biosphere Reserve, this city is part of one of Ukraine's four primary nature sanctuaries. The reserve is recognized globally, featuring in registers of the world's most esteemed landscapes. The city's contemporary name reflects the unique geography where the Kiliya estuary splits into three separate arms, resembling a "fork". With its myriad of man-made canals, known as "yerics", lining its streets, Vilkovo has also earned the moniker "Ukrainian Venice".

Established in 1746, Vilkovo was originally known as Posad Lipovansky. It was founded by the Lipovan religious group, a sect of Believers, who sought refuge in Dobrudja, the Principality of Moldova, and eastern Wolloschina to escape persecution from the Russian Church following the reforms instituted by Patriarch Nikon. As time went on, the Zaporozhian Cossacks also made their mark in the area, joining a diverse tapestry of ethnic groups including Moldovans, Romanians, Gagauzians, Bulgarians, and Albanians.



Vilkovo Region

Historically, an island way of life was formed here for a long time, with folk crafts, unique types of farming, and gastronomic traditions typical only of this area. The special charm of the city is added by the symbiosis of



Danube Herring

multinational folklore and cultural heritage, language dialects, features of the religious worldview, as well as the atmosphere of tolerance and harmony.



Danube Herring

The geographical position of Vilkovo has long determined the main area of employment of its population - fishing. The main commercial fish in Vilkovo is the Azov-Black Sea herring (local name "Dunayka") which enters the Danube to spawn from the second half of March to the end of July. Danube herring is depicted on the official coat of arms of the city and is considered its gastronomic souvenir.



Vilkovo is known for its ecologically friendly strawberries, which are grown on the islands of the Danube Delta. The unique combination of favorable climate (soft and humid), fertile soil and large reserves of fresh water allow you to cultivate early Dutch varieties of strawberries without adding the chemical fertilizers. Vilkove is the only place in the world where you can taste a special variety of wine "Novak" (linked the word "new"), which is made by a special technology tested for several generations. According to legend, the seedlings of the vine "noah" were brought to this region by merchants from the shores of the Amazon and gradually adapted to local climatic conditions.



Vilkovo Fishing

Given the rich historical tapestry and diverse ethnic influences that Vilkovo boasts, it's evident that the city holds immense potential to emerge as a gastronomic tourism hub in southern Ukraine. The area's unique blend of cultures has birthed a remarkable fusion of culinary traditions. From Moldovan mamaliga and Bulgarian kurban to Lipovan delicacies such as sturgeon and chicken soup, and even the authentic frog legs recipe, the range of

dishes on offer is vast. Each dish is more than just a meal; it encapsulates the essence of its respective culture, reflecting everyday values, traditions, mindset, familial warmth, religious beliefs, etiquette, and various other ethno-genetic elements.



Vilkovo Traditional Boat

The project cross-border activities aim to improve cooperation between local and international actors, stimulating active tourism potential and promoting a cross-border partnership of active tourism centers. The project will ensure a cross-border impact in the long run. The traditional tourism cooperation already existing at the "Lower Danube" Euroregion level, fostering sustainable projects from Romania, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine is now gaining a new partner from Republic of Georgia, all linked together by their goal to sustain the capitalization of the active tourism in BSB. The partners propose an innovative project that will jointly promote active tourism in the BSB using IT tools modern tools and methods. In order to ensure the cross-border impact, sustainability and multiplier effect, the project aims to create a BSB tourism development plan in the field of cross-border tourism for the eligible area, document that will be assumed at partners institutional level.

Project main results after implementation, will be:

- The Tourism Development Plan on Leisure and Adventure Segment
- Touristic circuit
- 3 training session in the field of tourism and culture
- Tourism and cultural events
- 1 Adventure Park constructed, equipped and ready for exploitation in Galati County, Romania
- 1 investment in the field of tourism and culture
- Investment in the field of tourism and culture

The editor of the material: Constanța County Council  
Address: Tomis Boulevard, 51, Constanța  
Phone: +40241.488.404  
E-mail: [consjud@cj.ro](mailto:consjud@cj.ro)  
website: [www.cj.ro](http://www.cj.ro)



Joint Operational Programme Black Sea Basin 2014-2020  
Constanța County Council  
2023

Joint Operational Programme Black Sea Basin 2014-2020 is co-financed by the European Union through the European Neighbourhood Instrument and by the participating countries: Armenia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Türkiye and Ukraine. This publication was produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of Constanța County Council and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.