

ENJOY  
MOLDOVA

BY SOLEI TOURISM

# CULTURE, WINE AND GASTRONOMY TOUR



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Duration: 6 days/ 5 nights Group size: from 5 pax Board: FB

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TOUR:

- The travelers get a genuine taste of the country's culture and way of life of the Moldovans
- This tour offers a rich and authentic gastronomic experience and deep connection to wine
- Warm hospitality by the locals and the rural guest houses is an essential part of this trip
- Wine routes are always paired with iconic cultural sites
- Enjoy traditional Moldovan cuisine alongside the elegant wines
- Enjoy rolling hills, river valleys, scenic vineyards and countryside landscapes, especially around Orheiul Vechi
- Visit top estates like **Château Vartely** and the world's biggest wine cellars **Cricova** for guided tastings and food pairings
- A tour offers a deep insight into the Gagausian culture and a blend of Balkan traditions, Turkic language, and rich pastoral culture
- To truly understand the food and gastronomy, culinary master classes are offered
- Feel the Moldovan love and hospitality through the food and the portions' size
- A trip to a "living museum of Soviet culture," featuring Lenin statues & Soviet-era architecture- the self-proclaimed breakaway Republic of Transnistria
- Find yourself in a high-tech industrial facility that represents a blend of a laboratory and a giant aquarium "Aquatir" and witness the "Black Gold" production followed by luxury caviar tasting
- This tour traces the most significant Soviet heritage in Moldova and highlights "the living museum of USSR"



## DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN CHISINAU. (D)

Upon arrival at Chisinau International Airport, meet a guide and driver, transfer to hotel for check-in. First impressions about Moldova as a wine country at the wine bar and oenothèque "INVINO" – a first taste of Moldova.

Overnight in Chisinau.

## DAY 2: FIRST ACQUAINTANCE WITH CHISINAU & KINGDOM OF WINES CRICOVA (B/L/D)

Buffet breakfast at hotel.

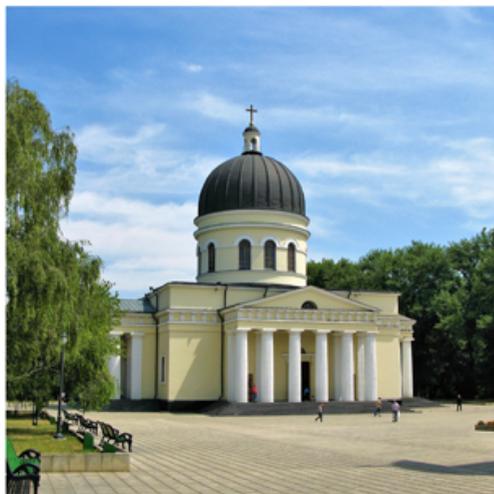
Meet the guide at the hotel and proceed for a 3h city tour of Chisinau.

During this tour you will get acquainted with the city history, will visit the historical part of our capital. You will make a stop at the monument of a great Moldova Ruler Stefan the Great and Saint, the Bell Tower, Lord Nativity Cathedral, the Triumph Arch, the Parliament, the Central Square "Stefan cel Mare", City Hall, visit the open-air food market and look into the city park "Valley of Mills".

Visit to the Archeology&History Museum in Chisinau.

Take lunch at city café "La Placinte".

In the afternoon, tour the underground tunnels of the wine cellars and see a large collection of exclusive wine, get acquainted with the process of wine and wine sparkling production.



The oldest wine to be stored there is a Jerusalem Wine (1902). Cricova is a unique place housing historic wines among which Goering's collection, the winery is proud for. Proceed for wine tasting and dinner in one of the tasting halls of Cricova wine cellars.

Overnight in Chisinau.

## DAY 3: ORHEI VECHI ARCHEOLOGICAL COMPLEX, CURCHI MONASTERY AND CHATEAU VARTELY WINERY (B/L/D)

Buffet breakfast at hotel.

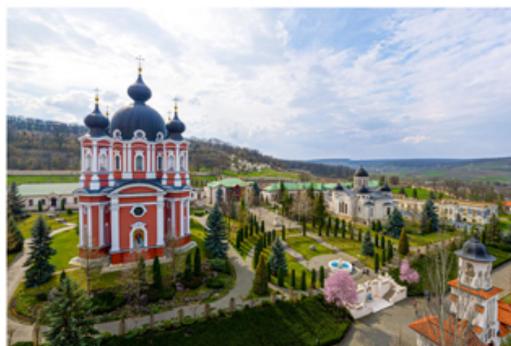
Meet the guide at the hotel. Departure to Orhei region.

Explore an open-air museum complex **Orhei Vechi (Old Orhei)** that presents the remains of different civilizations established between Nistru and Prut rivers.

The complex comprises caves, grottos, churches, Geto-Dacian fortress and hermitages. The open air museum represents a true natural fortress inhabited since ancient times. Walk into Orthodox Cave Monastery and feel the spirit of those times. Learn the way of living of the locals and visit a typical 19th cent. Moldavian house-museum.



Another interesting place to be visited on the route is the Moldavian village Butuceni where the style and traditions of the Moldavian architecture of the 19th century are preserved and carefully maintained – ornamentally decorated houses, gates, fences, wells with potable water, old cellars and others



Enjoy lunch at a local guest house and sample traditional dishes and home-made wine.

Later, visit the monastic complex Curchi located in one of the most picturesque areas in the center of Moldova, in Codrii forests and have a talk with a local monk about the daily life of the monks of the monastery.

Finally, tour the winery Chateau Vartely in Orhei town and enjoy fascinating barique light projection.



"Chateau Vartely" is a unique Moldovan project for producing wines according to classic European quality standards. This is the first winery in the country of complete cycle – from growing grapes to bottling – modeled on a French chateau.



Chateau is located on lands in the Central part of the country. The vineyards, in the vicinity of the river Nistru (region Jora-de-Sus), provide rich harvests of the finest white grapes, aided by the unique soil composition and comfortable climate conditions.



Chateau's vineyards lay over on plains, fact that provides an optimal lightening to vines. The vine is cared all year round and berries are handpicked.



We invite you to enjoy dinner in the winery restaurant.  
Drive back to Chisinau and just in an hour you'll be back at the hotel.

Overnight in Chisinau.

#### DAY 4: BACK TO USSR TOUR – TRANSNISTRIA/PRIDNESTROVIE (B/L/D)

After breakfast, departure to Pridnestrovie/Transnistria. This day you will have a full day trip to Transnistria and will learn the history of this self-proclaimed independent and unrecognized Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic that has its own currency, border guards and policy.

You will explore the 16th century Tighina fortress and visit the on-site museum. The first documentary mention of "Tighina Fortress" was in 1408. Its walls have survived to the present and offer an example of classic Moldavian defensive construction.

While in Tiraspol, you'll find yourself in a distinguished divine factory KVINT, tour the factory and taste some of the local divines of KVINT brand.



For all lovers of strong alcoholic drinks and those interested in divines' production, we recommend to pip into the KVINT distillery where the local guide will reveal the history and all secrets of manufacturing alcoholic beverages of the area that boasts fertile soil and river Nistru climate. The winery has its own vineyards with more than 30 grape varieties in the central and northern part of Transnistria and is proud for producing annually about 20 mil bottles of alcoholic beverages, among which 30 types of divines (cognacs). Divines tasting is followed by a lunch at Kvint tasting hall.

Proceed for sightseeing Tiraspol. During the tour you'll see the Drama and Comedy Theatre, the Lenin and Suvorov Monuments, the Parliament, the House of Soviets and have a walking tour along the river Dniestr. The city was founded by the Russian general Alexandr Suvorov in 1792, whose statue is rising on the central square in Tiraspol.

Finally, visit to a Sturgeon Fish Farm in Tiraspol "Akvatir", find out the way of growing sturgeon fish family and producing black caviar. Caviar tasting is a must.

Upon arrival in Chisinau, proceed for dinner at city restaurant.

Overnight in Chisinau.



#### DAY 5: DISCOVER THE SOUTH NOTES – GAGAUZ AUTONOMOUS REGION (B/L/D)

Buffet breakfast at hotel.

Departure to the South of Moldova to learn the history, culture and traditions of Gagauzian people – people of Turkic origin confessing the Orthodox religion.

Sightseeing the capital of the Gagauz – Comrat that is situated in the southern zone of Moldova. During the city tour the tourists will visit the Central Orthodox Cathedral, pass by the History and Ethnography Museum, by the "Bashkanat" – the head office of the "Gagauz Head", the Turkish Library, the Central Food Market that boasts very fresh and high quality products.

And make a stop at the alley of Famous people of the region. Learn about the unique university where the rare Gagausian language is taught. Later drive to a nearby Beshalma village and visit a valuable Museum of History and Ethnography featuring the unique Orthodox people of Turkic origin. In 1966 the writer D. Cara-Ciobanu founded a museum of the culture of the Gagauzian population revealing their origin. Hundreds of artifacts were collected from all over Gagauzia are now exposed in the museum for the visitors. Continue to the village Congaz that is considered as the biggest village in Europe.



Before you tour the property "Gagauz Sofrasi", we invite to try yourselves at culinary master class and namely baking traditional pastry with sheep cheese "Giuzelema" which will be later offered for lunch alongside with other savory traditional dishes. At lunch, you will surely taste traditional dishes like "shurpa" – soup with lamb, "giuzelema" - salty pastry with sheep cheese stuffing and other local delicacies in the Gagausian yard. You'll visit the ethno yard called "Gagauz Sofrasi" where the locals will meet you with great hospitality, with bread and salt. Visit their museum and small airbrick houses with wooden furniture and natural clay walls.



And finally, find yourself in the winery "Comrat-Vin" located in the Gagausian capital - Comrat and have a chance to taste nice Gagausian wines which have special aroma of south region wines. Also, visit the



And finally, find yourself in the winery "Comrat-Vin" located in the Gagausian capital - Comrat and have a chance to taste nice Gagausian wines which have special aroma of south region wines. Also, visit the "Museum of forgotten things from USSR" from the winery collection.

Wrap up the day with dinner at the winery restaurant "Besarabia Province".

Overnight in Chisinau.

## DAY 6: FAREWELL TO MOLDOVA (B)

After breakfast you'll have some free time for doing shopping and bying souvenirs and Moldavian sweets which are truly delicious. Transfer to airport for the flight back home.

Short: B – breakfast, L – lunch, D-dinner



## TOUR PACKAGE PRICE PER PERSON (EUR):

CULTURE, WINE AND GOURMET TOUR MOLDOVA

4\* HOTEL

5\* HOTEL

5 pax

1.065 €

1.385 €

10 pax

868 €

1.188 €

15 pax

801 €

1.121 €

SSUP

205 €

375 €

### SERVICES INCLUDED:

- ✓ Shared accommodation in TWIN rooms at a hotel on BB basis, 5 nights; SSUP-supplement for SGL room (centrally located hotels)
- ✓ English Guide services as per program incl. airport transfers;
- ✓ Local guides in the wineries and museums;
- ✓ Transport services for the entire tour in Moldova
- ✓ Entrance fees to all mentioned sites (museums, fortresses)
- ✓ Meals: FB (3 course menu+water)
- ✓ Wine tours&tastings: "INVINO" oenothèque (6 wines), Cricova winery (4 wines), Chateau Vartely winery (4 wines), Kvint factory (5 divines), Comrat-Vin winery (4 wines)
- ✓ Activities: culinary class in Gagausia, caviar tour&tasting (2 types of caviar) in Tiraspol
- ✓ Meals for driver and guide
- ✓ Water: 0.5l per 1 pax daily

### TOUR RESERVATION AT

e-mail: [incoming@solei.md](mailto:incoming@solei.md)  
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+373 22 890 900

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